

T Southern TIDINGS

DECEMBER 2017

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AHS HOSPITALS
ACROSS FLORIDA
OFFER FINANCIAL
RELIEF TO
HURRICANE IRMA
VICTIMS

COLUMBUS
STUDENTS PLANT
FAITH AND WATCH
IT GROW

CONFERENCE
ORDAINS
THREE

THIS PILGRIM'S
JOURNEY: HOW ONE
PASTOR BREAKS
DOWN BARRIERS
AND BREAKS NEW
GROUND

GOSPEL MEDICAL
MISSIONARY
MOVEMENT

2019 ... The Year of Southern Union Lay and Pastoral Evangelism



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

The final message spoken by Christ to His followers is our fixation in a fresh, relevant way across the eight territories of the Southern Union. According to Mark 16:15 (KJV), we are admonished by Jesus to pursue lost people through these words: “Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature.” Combustible growth and expansion of membership is taking place in Florida, Georgia, the Carolinas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, and Kentucky. We are thankful to God for the innovations, exploits, and creative initiatives currently designed to introduce people to Jesus. Each conference within the Southern Union has already signed onto a grand approach to reach people for Jesus through a coordinated and concentrated “full court press” soul winning strategy. We have all agreed that our Union can establish a more robust evangelistic program. We are hoping and praying that every member, pastor, church, conference leader, student, teacher, academic institution, healthcare employee, and Union leader will engage in the pursuit of hurting, hopeless people to join us in a meaningful relationship with the Prince of Peace.

The 2009 Year of Pastoral and Lay Evangelism, initiated by the North American Division (NAD), yielded record baptisms in the Southern Union. The Southern Union led the way in the Division. Because of the blessings of God in 2009, the Southern Union Presidents’ Council and the Southern Union Executive Committee have voted to declare the year 2019 (the 10-year anniversary of the NAD evangelism initiative) as the Year of Southern Union Lay and Pastoral Evangelism.

In the wake of multiple distractions within the organizational structure of our Church, and in the wider culture of our nation and world, we in the Southern Union choose to sustain our unwavering focus on the mission of reaching women, men, girls, and boys for Jesus. We will share significant information with our Southern Union constituents during the next 12 months; however, please indulge my quest to share this counsel with you today from the Spirit of Prophecy:

“Every member of the church should be instructed in a regular system of labor. All are required to do something for the Lord. They may interest persons to read; they may converse and pray with them. The minister who shall educate, discipline, and lead an army of efficient workers will have glorious conquests here, and a rich reward awaits him/her when, around the great white throne, he/she shall meet those saved through his/her influence,” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 5, 308.1.

“There should be no delay in this well-planned effort to educate the church members,” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, 119.2.

“The best help that ministers can give the members of our churches is not sermonizing, but planning work for them. Give each one something to do for others... Let all be taught how to work,” *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 9, 82.2.

“The example of Christ in linking Himself with the interests of humanity should be followed by all who preach His word, and by all who have received the Gospel of His grace. We are not to renounce social communion. We should not seclude ourselves from others. In order to reach all classes, we must meet them where they are. They will seldom seek us of their own accord. Not alone from the pulpit are the hearts of men/women touched by divine truths. There is another field of labor. It is found in the home of the lowly, and in the mansion of the great; ...and in the gatherings for innocent social enjoyment,” *Desire of Ages*, 152.2.

Thank you for Partnership! I am praying for the commitment and engagement of all. WE NEED YOU!

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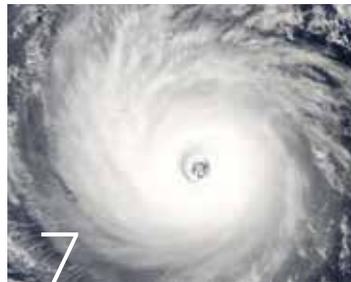
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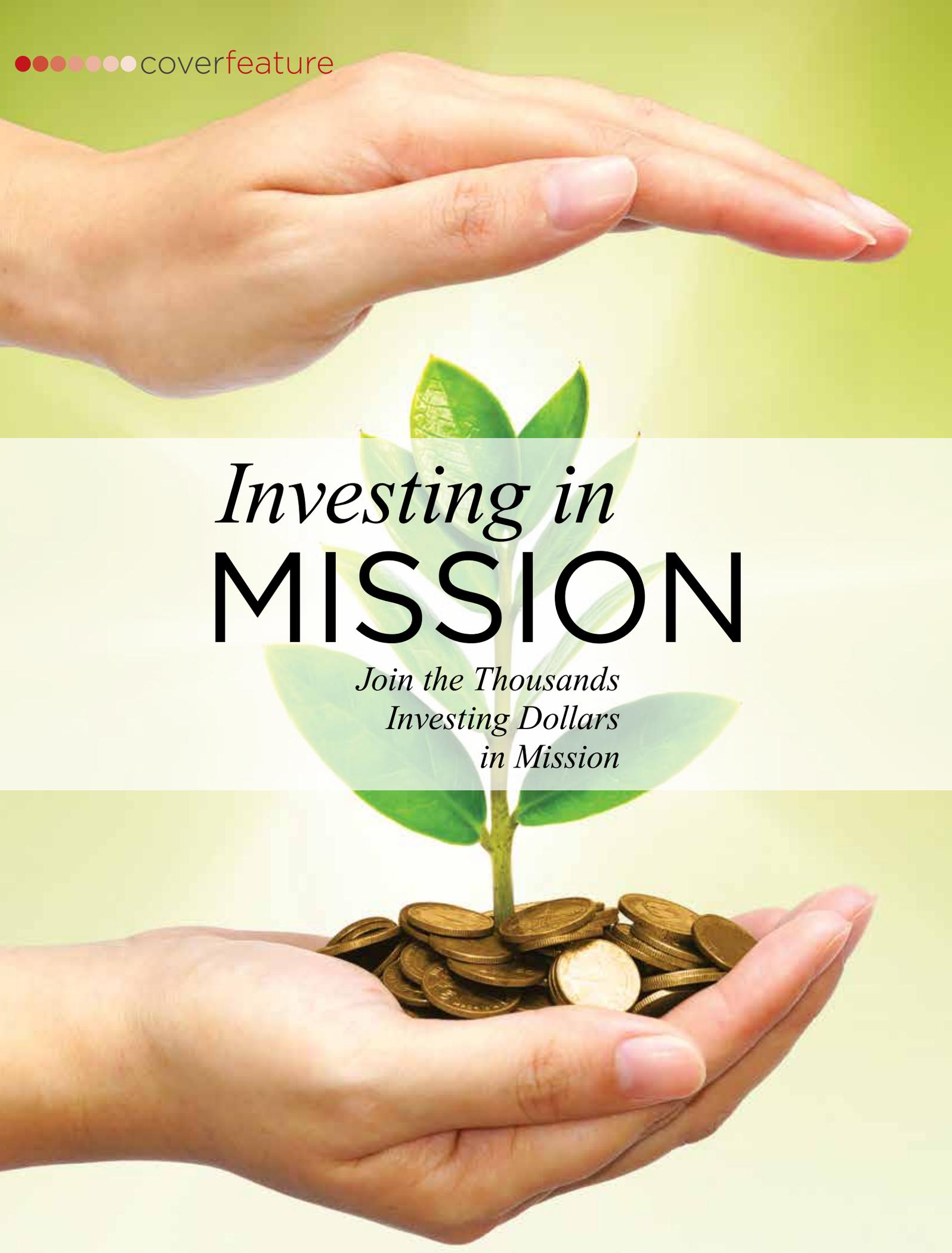


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FRONT COVER DESIGN: Licci Zemleduch



Investing in
MISSION

*Join the Thousands
Investing Dollars
in Mission*

BY CARLOS SALAZAR

You may not be able to travel as a missionary to foreign lands. You may not have the stamina to distribute tracts. You may not have the skills to physically help construct an academy or church. But if you invest in the Southern Union Revolving Fund (SURF), you can help build God's Kingdom.

Currently, nearly 2,000 investors have chosen to invest their funds in SURF. It is an investment where the greatest immediate reward is the knowledge you have partnered with God and fellow Christians in ministry. Additionally, the financial reward is receiving an interest rate higher than any bank is currently paying.

The family of investors in the Southern Union has made SURF the largest Revolving Fund in the North American Division, providing loans in the millions — and without losing any invested funds in its history! It is a ministry reaching out across the Union territory that is open to every member, whether a person or a denominational entity.

SURF Makes Loans for Churches and Schools

SURF provides low interest loans to churches and denominational entities for building projects such as construction, acquisition, and renovation within the Southern Union territory.

Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference, says, "Our University City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, stands as a shining example of the mission of Jesus to His remnant followers. It has fostered the establishment of six new church plants, lighthouses to reach the lost, more than any other single church has accomplished in the Carolinas. This was made possible through the support of SURF."

The Oakwood University Church is currently building a Family Life Center that is partially funded through SURF.

"The Southern Union Revolving Fund has been a huge blessing for our church as we pursue relevant ministry to our church and community alike," said Carlton Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor at Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. "With

our newly constructed Family Life Center, we will have youth and senior adult programs, after school activities, family life initiatives, a barber shop, a vegetarian food market, recreational activities, and much more! Mission is what we're about, and SURF has helped us achieve this."

Currently, SURF is holding loans for 351 projects in the Southern Union with original principal amount of \$150,018,340, of which \$111,940,014 is outstanding (also known as receivable). During the last quinquennium, SURF released \$61.6 million in loans payable in 15 to 20 years.



Why Churches and Schools Benefit from Loans Through SURF

There are advantages to the church entities that choose to borrow money through the Southern Union Revolving Fund as compared to borrowing through a bank and/or savings and loan institution.

1. No payment of points — When a church makes a loan through SURF, the church does not pay a fee for the privilege of borrowing money. This can save a church tens of thousands of dollars. Typically, property buyers will pay between two and five percent of the purchase price of the property in closing fees. So, if the property costs \$1,000,000, the closing cost is between \$20,000 and \$50,000. That's a lot of savings!

2. Lower interest — The current rate of interest for loans is 3.25 percent.

3. Shorter loan processing time — If the loan meets the North American Division policy, the loan may be processed faster than with a bank. This speeds along the building project.

A church may borrow up to a maximum of four times its average annual tithe, and the local conference underwrites the loan. Currently, the borrowing interest rate is 3.25 percent (maximum term of a loan is 20 years). Loans of more than \$99,999 require a mortgage, which is held by the Southern Union Revolving Fund, Inc.

"We loan up to a maximum of 80 percent of available funds, keeping the remaining 20 percent in liquid investments," said Randy Robinson, Southern Union treasurer. "In addition, we keep another 25 percent equivalent of loaned funds on hand as a 'just in case of an emergency' fund."

How Can Members Invest?

You can be a part of this unique and exclusive ministry. It is open to anyone, but it is unique and exclusive because it takes a person committed to God's cause to see the blessings of providing funds for properties, equipment, and physical structures that will enhance worship to God, fellowship with others, and educational advantages for children and youth.

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the eight states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee, as well as organizations affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in those eight states, may invest in the Southern Union Revolving Fund.

A SURF investment can be Adventist individuals living in the Southern Union. Revocable trusts can be invested in SURF, and other Adventist entities, such as churches and organizations, may also invest. Interest is compounded monthly and paid quarterly. You can open a regular investment account with SURF through your local conference. A minimum of \$1,000 is all that is needed.

Are My Investments Safe?

Investors in SURF have continually appreciated the safety of their funds. Debt obligations of SURF, as evidenced by the notes offered, are unsecured obligations of the Southern Union Revolving Fund, Inc., and are not secured by a pledge or mortgage of specific assets.

Nevertheless, local conferences guarantee all loans, and various other criteria designed to reduce default risk are in place. Eighty percent of notes' proceeds are invested in loans to institutions. Unloaned SURF funds (a maximum of 20 percent of available funds) are invested in fixed income instruments, the majority of which are government, corporate, and foreign issued.

Financial managers have marveled at SURF's investor safety since its inception. During the country's economic slump, SURF investors showed economic gain. The financial advisors and fund managers used by SURF exercise extreme prudence. The safety of the fund is in the secured loans guaranteed by the conferences.

"Where else can you get this kind of safety with a 1 percent interest rate?" Robinson said. "This kind of security on the market would yield at most a quarter percent. SURF is currently paying 1 percent." The mechanism is built with redundant safety nets: safe investments, "just in case funds," and conference backing. Despite these incredible precautions, the returns are way more than market rate, and the greatest reward of all is knowing these funds are being invested in ministry, and ministry is happening.

However, even with the safety of SURF investments, investors are reminded that any investment comes with a certain amount of risk. The investment is unsecured, non-negotiable, and non-transferable. A SURF investment is a 90-day demand note, but withdrawal requests are usually fulfilled in less than a week.

Conference Presidents are Grateful for SURF

Speaking about SURF, Leslie D. Louis, president of the Carolina Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina, says, "I am truly grateful for how our gracious Lord has blessed His work in the Southern Union with a Revolving Fund that is second to



Carlton Byrd (right), D.Min., senior pastor at the Oakwood University Church in Hunstville, Alabama, discusses the progress of the Family Life Center with the church treasurer, Harold Jacobs. This project is one of the 351 projects that the Southern Union Revolving Fund has provided financing for.



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Leslie Louis (left), president of the Carolina Conference, addresses the University City Church, Charlotte, North Carolina, members as they prepare to break ground for their new school and fellowship building. With Louis are Rick Anderson, Carolina associate education superintendent; Rick Russell, Carolina vice president for finance; and Chad Grundy, Carolina undertreasurer.

none in North America! Our members of the Carolina Conference place a high degree of trust and value in this wonderful investment of God's resources. It has especially been of inestimable advantage to our church-planting and growth initiatives. I praise God for their vision and passion! I praise God for the amazing blessing of SURF in partnering with us to advance this work in His name!"

William Winston, president of the South Atlantic Conference, says, "The Southern Union Revolving Fund has been a steady and reliable partner in the growth of the South Atlantic Conference. Much of our ex-

HOW DO I BECOME A SURF INVESTOR?

Individuals may participate in the mission by investing in SURF through their local conference. To open a SURF account, a minimum of \$1,000 is required with a commitment to keep it for at least one year before deciding to request a withdrawal. Moneys in SURF are loaned out for long-term projects, mostly with terms between 15 and 20 years.

If you enter into a revocable trust agreement with your local conference, you may request that they invest your money in the Revolving Fund.

www.southernunion.com/article/74/services/revolving-fund

pansion — churches, schools, campground — has been financed through SURF. We are thankful to all who have deposited/invested in SURF and in us. Your continued deposits will help provide for the work of the Gospel, and the hastening of our Lord's return."

As you consider ways you can help advance God's Kingdom, we encourage you to consider joining the more than 1,800 members and denominational entities that have chosen to invest in mission by investing with SURF. ●

Carlos Salazar is the director of the Southern Union Revolving Fund.

Adventist Health System Hospitals Across Florida Offer

FINANCIAL RELIEF TO HURRICANE IRMA VICTIMS

BY MARIO ROBERTS



Adventist Health System patients experiencing financial hardships following the storm can receive payment relief on medical bills.

As the state of Florida recovers from Hurricane Irma, its widespread effects on people and property, including Adventist Health System employees and facilities, will not be soon forgotten. Natural disasters like Hurricane Irma, which bombarded Florida with severe weather, not only threaten lives and damage property, they can also lead to hardships that place financial burdens on families and communities.

To help ease the financial load that many are experiencing in the aftermath of the storm, Adventist Health System hospitals across the state of Florida are offering relief to patients and their families through the opportunity to modify their payment schedules for services rendered at the respective facilities.

“Hurricane Irma was devastating and hurt so many Floridians, so we are offering some financial relief to help our patients and communities heal,” said Terry Shaw, president/CEO for Adventist Health System. “In this stressful time, we want patients to be able to focus on their recovery efforts and restoring a sense of normalcy to their lives.”

As part of the relief that is being offered, patients can request up to a 30-day pause on financial collections, and their payments will be adjusted accordingly. Depending on their respective situations, patients may be eligible to receive further adjustments to payment schedules, potentially including an additional 30-day extension, fee waivers, or other appropriate hardship arrange-

ments. Patients may also be referred to services that can help provide resources to rebuild, recover, and be made whole again.

Across the state, there are 26 Florida Hospital campuses, more than 30 Florida Hospital Centra Care urgent care facilities, 10 home health and hospice centers, and hundreds of physician practices.

To learn more about taking advantage of these payment options, patients should call the customer service phone number provided on their statement, and speak to a patient financial services representative. 📞

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

Columbus Students

PLANT FAITH AND WATCH IT GROW

BY ELIZABETH GLASS

As principal of Columbus Adventist School (CAS) in Columbus, Georgia, Cody Clifford is seeing many of the visions he had for this small school finally come to fruition. Like many Georgia-Cumberland Conference teachers, Cody, and his wife, Rachel, have been actively working to provide a quality Adventist environment for families. This past summer, much of their time was focused on partnering with Atlanta Adventist Academy (AAA) in Duluth, Georgia, to establish a distance learning high school program. The dedicated faculty from AAA and CAS have allowed those students who want to remain in Columbus, yet continue their educational journey in an Adventist school, to do so.

Clifford shared his thoughts on becoming a partner campus with AAA TRUeConnect: “We felt impressed that the students deserved another option in the city of Columbus after graduating from the eighth grade. Admittedly, there have been

some bumps in launching this program. At some points it appeared all doors were closing, but God worked it all out according to His plans and in His timing. For this, we are immensely blessed.”

CAS sits on a 12-acre church campus. With the ample space, the Cliffords have decided to integrate subject learning through hands-on experiences. In reading *Adventist Home*, they’ve been inspired to implement teaching practices that are simple, yet engaging. “Let them each have a piece of ground of their own; and as you teach them how to make a garden, how to prepare the soil for seed, and the importance of keeping all the weeds pulled out, teach them also how important it is to keep unsightly injurious practices out of life,” *Adventist Home*, 146.1.

This year, the students helped their teachers construct and design their own raised beds. Each student partnered with another, and productively worked as they utilized wheelbarrows to transport organic soil up a hill to their raised bed. They weeded, filled

the beds with soil, planted, and prayed earnestly for their gardens. Prior to planting, Clifford taught about the effects of weather and the different seasonal plants. Although cool crops were suggested for ideal results, a few of the children decided to test the seasons and plant warm weather crops instead. With autumn underway, many of the seedlings have sprouted. The students have been learning invaluable lessons in science, faith, service, and patience while tending their gardens.

The students at CAS are growing in more ways than one, and it’s evident that the children have been enjoying the entire gardening process. “Let the children and youth learn to recognize in natural things the workings of divine agencies, and they will be enabled to grasp by faith the unseen benefits,” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, 80.1. The Columbus Adventist Church family are so grateful for teachers who point the students to Jesus inside and outside of the classrooms! 🌱



PHOTO BY: CODY CLIFFORD



PHOTO BY: CODY CLIFFORD

Students at Columbus Adventist School took advantage of their 12-acre church campus, and are enjoying the entire process of gardening. Each student partnered with another to actively grow a variety of produce, learning lessons in science, faith, service, and patience.

CONFERENCE ORDAINS THREE

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



Claudine and Christopher Atkinson



Peter Trzinski (left), Gulf States ministerial director; Ethan and Laura Muse; Elida and Robert Meneses; and David Livermore, Gulf States president

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Christopher Atkinson was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Sabbath, October 14, 2017, at the Phenix City, Alabama, Church. Atkinson and his wife, Claudine, were born on the island of Jamaica. Atkinson was saved from a life of gang violence at the age of 16. Atkinson became infected with the bug of evangel-living, and developed a particular burden for ministry to inner city gangs.

These experiences urged him as he ministered as a street preacher, an itinerant evangelist, and an acapella singer for the succeeding seven years. He accepted the Holy Spirit's call and received training in pastoral ministry at Northern Caribbean University in Mandeville, Jamaica. While at the University he continued to serve as an evangelist and Bible missionary, locally and internationally. God's passionate call on his heart also led him to serve as campus ministry coordinator, high school teacher, colporteur, youth director, radio and television talk show host for the University, and Collegiate Quarterly contributor.

Christopher and Claudine Atkinson were married in 2006. God led them to accept a missionary call to the Upper Columbia Conference in 2011, when she received her doctorate of philosophy Fulbright scholarship to Washington State University. There he served as a missionary Bible coordinator and assistant pastor in the Moscow church district. Since 2013, the Atkinsons have ministered as the pastoral couple for the St. Elmo district,

and presently for the Phenix City Church district in the Gulf States Conference.

Earlier in the year, at the 2017 Gulf States Camp Meeting, Robert Meneses and Ethan Muse were also ordained to the Gospel ministry.

Meneses was born in Lisbon, Portugal, but spent the majority of his time growing up in Tampa, Florida, with his parents, Joel and Lucia, and two sisters, Ruth and Eunice. He earned his B.A. in biomedical science, and was looking to be a physical therapist when he answered the call from God to be a minister of the Gospel. He received his B.A. in theology from Southern Adventist University in December 2011.

In January of 2012, he joined the Gulf States team working as the pastor at the Summit, Brookhaven, and Vicksburg district in Mississippi. Presently, he is serving as the pastor for the Cullman and Decatur district in Alabama. He is also pursuing a master's degree in pastoral ministry from Andrews University.

He has a passion for connecting people with Christ, to get others to understand the Word of God, the Seventh-day Adventist movement, and Bible prophecy. He is convicted that preaching and living the three angels messages, centered in Christ and His love, is the message the world needs to get ready for the soon coming of Jesus. He currently lives in Alabama with his wife, Elida, whom he married on July 24, 2011, and their son, Robert Jr.

Born in Jackson, Mississippi, Ethan Muse

began his ministry as a literature evangelist while still a student at Great Lakes Adventist Academy in Cedar Lake, Michigan. Following eight years of literature evangelism (1992-2000), Muse accepted a call to serve the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference as a bi-vocational pastor. He pastored the small church in Vivian, Louisiana, from 2000 to 2003, where he was the first pastor to bring new members into the Church through baptism in years.

In January 2006, Muse enrolled at Southwestern Adventist University, where he graduated with a double major in history and theology. While at Southwestern, Muse was employed by the Texas Conference to pastor the Cross Timbers Church in Eastland, Texas. He later moved to pastor in the Arizona Conference before returning to Gulf States in February 2016. During his time in Gulf States, he graduated with a master in biblical and theological studies from Knox Theological Seminary in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

In 2015, Muse befriended Laura Brus, a hospital chaplain from Iowa with an M.Div. from the seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan. During the next several months, their friendship blossomed into something more, and they eventually married on February 23, 2017. They have since moved to minister in Kansas. ●

Shane Hochstetler is the communication director at the Gulf States Conference.

THIS PILGRIM'S JOURNEY:

How One Pastor Breaks Down Barriers and Breaks New Ground

BY **FREDERICK BUSSEY**



Danielle Pilgrim displays the award she received for Youth Pastor of the Year at the Gospel Choice Awards in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 25, 2017.

If you'd asked a young Danielle Pilgrim growing up on the Caribbean island of Trinidad and Tobago whether she could envision herself becoming a pastor, the answer, more than likely, would have been an emphatic "No!" followed by a hearty laugh. Life, however, has a way of taking us places that we never imagined. After moving to the United States at the age of 14, she was introduced to the Adventist faith a few years later. Today, not only is she still active in the Church, but she is an associate pastor at one of the most recognized churches in North America, Atlanta

Berean in Atlanta, Georgia. Recently, she became an award-winning pastor too.

Pilgrim was recognized as the Youth Pastor of the Year at the 23rd Annual Gospel Choice Awards in Atlanta, Georgia, on September 25, 2017. This prestigious honor has been bestowed upon many other leaders of note, and Pilgrim joins a long list of luminaries in ministry. In attendance were her fellow pastoral staff members, including Fredrick Russell, senior pastor; her family; and many members of the Berean congregation.

Pilgrim is a powerhouse in ministry, having already accomplished much in such a short period of time. A published author, she has written a biblical word search puzzle book, in addition to several thought pieces, like the article "Church Beyond Walls" in Spectrum Magazine, that have caused a shift in thinking for thousands. She has served in pastoral leadership in churches in Chicago, Illinois, and South Bend, Indiana. She especially enjoyed serving as the youth and young adult ministries leader in South Bend.

Prior to receiving her master of divinity degree from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, Pilgrim received her bachelor of science in community health education from City University in New York. This informs her passion for taking the impact of the Church beyond the four walls of the building, and making it felt where it matters most — where the people truly live. She has created several initiatives to effect the change needed in communities, and joined forces with others who are actively working to make a difference.

One example is the Atlanta Berean summer program, Purity Camp, which

she is rebranding and broadening to Youth Leadership Camp. She and her team are extending the two-week program to a month-long initiative, and expanding the topics beyond sexual purity to empowerment, self-awareness, and a host of other subjects that will help the young people in the community to be well-rounded and rooted in a more solid foundation. Cesar Mitchell, Atlanta City Council president, was the 2017 Purity Camp guest speaker.

Pilgrim has also launched her own foundation, Happy Feet, which seeks to provide relief for individuals who are homeless and in need of clean/new shoes and socks. Pilgrim is also an active leader in The And Campaign, a non-denominational community organization that seeks to bridge the divide between social justice advocacy and faith-based groups.

"We have a calling to do so much more than feed the sheep that are already within the fold," Pilgrim says. "Our commitment to spreading the Gospel means showing up in places where the Light of Jesus seldom shines. It means doing things to expose the Heart of Christ that makes us vulnerable and transparent. It means being as authentic in our service as we are in our worship. That means being real Christians, and showing real love to real people in the real world!"

With a name like Pilgrim, is it any wonder that she is a groundbreaking trailblazer in her own right? Her primary determination is simply to take Jesus where He isn't, so that He can be fully represented and fully known for Who He is. Whether winning souls or winning awards, Pilgrim is all in for God's Kingdom! 🙏

Frederick Bussey is the communication director at Berean Church in Atlanta, Georgia.

Gospel Medical

MISSIONARY MOVEMENT

BY BILL DANIELS



Gospel Medical Missionary graduates Maryse Hilaire; William Drake; Renata Drake; Nesline Damas; Martha Chapple; Lucious Brown; Albert Blake; Mandy Andrews; Lydia Andrews, Ph.D. (Class of 2015); Bill Daniels, B.S., co-facilitator; Louise Daniels, B.S.N., R.N., co-facilitator; Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Oakwood University Church senior pastor; Mabel Hoyte; Cheryl Jones; Edwina Lee; Carrie Logan; Audrey McGriff; Princess Humphrey, M.D.; Lydia Simmons; and Celeste Walker. Graduates not pictured are Angella Blake, Natarcia Chisholm, Marjorie Cooper (a nonagenarian whose birthday was the same day, and who was honored later that morning by Carlton Byrd, D.Min., and the Oakwood family), Rosselda Dixon, Esther Mackey, Deborah Starks-Ragler, and Catherine Hicks.

The Seventh-day Adventist Gospel Medical Missionary Movement of the Tennessee Valley (GMMMTV) has been active since 2005. It began in 2003 when Wildwood Health Evangelism School graduate Jim Ayodo, accompanied by Wildwood medical doctors Ervin Davis and Scott Grivas, started training classes at the New Life Church in Huntsville, Alabama, when Harold Goodloe was the pastor. Graduates of that class coalesced to form the nucleus of what is now the Gospel Medical Missionary Movement of Greater Huntsville. The movement consists of health ministry leaders, health professionals, lay pastors, ordained elders, and others who desire to see the Lord's closing work done, and to hasten His return.

The main goal is to advance the cause of gospel medical missionary work in cooperation with duly ordained gospel ministers, in accordance with the prophetic writings of Ellen White (see *Counsels on Health*, pages 557, 558). GMMMTV has, in cooperation with Oakwood, Southern Adventist, and Andrews universities, co-sponsored medical missionary conventions at each of these schools. It wants to revive this important and often neglected work, and would like to see the youth, older members, ministers, and every member to embrace this work, according to the Spirit of Prophecy (*Testimonies*,

vol. 7, page 62).

GMMMTV has trained gospel medical missionaries in America and Africa. In 2012, a training course was conducted at the Mt. Calvary Church in Huntsville, under the leadership of Marcel Wip, pastor, and Joy Cavins, health ministries leader.

To advance the educational mandate, the movement has trained interested students in gospel medical missionary work, what the North American Division Health Ministries now calls Comprehensive Health Ministry. GMMMTV wants students to be able to go back to their churches and be out in the community doing health evangelism. In 2015 and 2016, the Mt. Calvary Church, under the supportive leadership of Rupert Bushner, D.Min., senior pastor, hosted the training classes. This year the venue for the training was at Oakwood University Church, under the visionary leadership of Carlton Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor. GMMMTV had a teaching faculty of 16 teachers and a balanced 12-week, 72-hour curriculum, culminating in a certificate ceremony on July 1, 2017, at Oakwood Church.

Lydia Andrews, Ph.D., a graduate of the class of 2015, is — like Lydia in the book of Acts, and Andrew, Jesus' disciple — an inspired facilitator. She arranged for GMMMTV to be at Oakwood Church on a

Sabbath afternoon panel on heart health last year, and for representatives to speak to the Tuesday Prayer Band at Oakwood in January this year, where several members decided to take the 2017 training class. Andrews mentioned the 2017 class having to meet in Gurley to Byrd, who immediately offered Oakwood as a more convenient venue. She has also regularly facilitated the setup of the classroom at Oakwood, Sunday after Sunday, and was a part of the 2017 faculty.

GMMMTV wants to commend the faculty and students of the Class of 2017 for their commitment to excellence in health evangelism. The certificates they earned are not the end, but the beginning of a new adventure in the Gospel of Grace.

Those who would like to be part of the Gospel Medical Missionary Movement are offered the opportunity to take the 18-hour hydrotherapy workshop, as well as the standard 72-hour general training course.

Now under the leadership of Louise Daniels, president, B.S.N., R.N., C.M.T., GMMMTV presents for service to the world, the Gospel Medical Missionary Training Class of 2017! 📍

Bill Daniels is the coordinator of the Gospel Medical Missionary Movement for the Tennessee Valley.

MARANATHA! JESUS IS COMING SOON!

Conferencia Amplía

TERRITORIO CON NUEVAS IGLESIAS

BY ROGER ALVAREZ

Following the mission-driven theme of the Southeastern Conference administration, and the evangelistic vision of the Southern Union, Hispanic ministries is pleased to report the birth of three new congregations during 2017. To God be the glory!

The first church was planted in the beautiful city of Pompano Beach, Florida, under the leadership of Milkos Hidalgo, pastor. According to the most recent census, Pompano Beach has a population of 99,845, out of which 15.54 percent are Hispanics. The Lord has blessed with a very vibrant, faithful group of 40 members, ready to become an organized company.

The second church was planted in the Tampa, Florida, area, under the leadership of Abel Morrobel, pastor, and Plinio Cruz. Tampa is a city located on the Gulf Coast of the state of Florida. Today, they are blessed with the birth of

Es muy grato para nosotros la comunidad Hispana de la Conferencia del Sureste, plantar tres nuevas congregaciones durante el año 2017. En nuestro objetivo no estamos solos, pues la Unión del Sur y la administración de la Asociación del Sureste nos han apoyado financieramente, proveyendo las herramientas que necesitamos para lograr este gran sueño.

Nuestra primera iglesia fue plantada en la ciudad de Pompano Beach, Florida bajo el liderazgo del Pastor Milkos Hidalgo. Pompano Beach es una de las ciudades del condado de Broward. Según el más reciente censo, el total de la población es alrededor de 99,845 habitantes de los cuales el 15.54% son Hispanos. El Todopoderoso nos ha bendecido con un hermoso grupo de 40 personas listas para ser promovidos al nivel de compañía.

La segunda iglesia fue plantada en la parte Sur de la ciudad



PHOTO BY: ROGER ALVAREZ

Members of the new Maranatha Hispanic Church in Fort Meyers, Florida, gather for worship. Maranatha has also secured a permanent place for worship.

another church with 30 dedicated members, eager to spread the Good News of salvation, and looking forward to becoming an organized company during the month of December.

The third church was planted in the city of Fort Myers, Florida, with a population of 77,146, out of which 32 percent are Hispanics. Under the leadership of Daniel Olaciregui, pastor, 28 mission-driven disciples are impacting their community with a message of hope. By the grace of God, they are looking forward to becoming an organized company next year.

All of the Hispanic members are thankful for the prayers and support from the Southeastern administrators and the Southern Union Hispanic Ministries Department. 📞

de Tampa, bajo el liderazgo del Pastor Abel Morrobel y Plinio Cruz. Tampa es una ciudad situada en la costa Oeste del estado de La Florida. Hoy contamos con una iglesia naciente con 30 personas, y esperamos que también esta segunda compañía sea inaugurada en el mes de diciembre.

La tercera iglesia fue plantada en la ciudad de Fort Myers, con 77,146 habitantes de los cuales el 32 % son Hispanos. En estos momentos está naciendo nuestra nueva iglesia Hispana con 28 personas bajo el liderazgo del Pastor Daniel Olaciregui. Por la gracia de Dios estaremos celebrando nuestra ceremonia de inauguración como compañía el próximo mes de enero del próximo año, 2018.

Apreciamos sus oraciones. ¡Maranata Cristo viene pronto! 📞

Roger Alvarez is the Hispanic ministries coordinator for Southeastern Conference.

PREPARING FOR A FLUID JOB MARKET

BY DAVID SMITH, PH.D.

For decades, most Americans have agreed that the primary purpose of college is to prepare students for a job. Understandably, parents would like their children to earn a college degree that leads to gainful employment in the least amount of time, and in the most economical way. Affordability is perhaps the biggest issue in higher education today.

Yet, recent trends are changing the landscape of higher education, including Adventist higher education. Numerous articles and research studies indicate that today's college graduates will hold eight to 14 different jobs between their graduation from college and their 40th birthday. The fluidity in the job market is pronounced; many young people don't expect to remain at any given job longer than two or three years.

Employers — who are scrambling to hire, train, and retain college graduates — decry applicants' lack of "soft skills." While recent graduates are entering the workplace with a measure of necessary technical knowledge, many of them lack some of the most basic traits employers are seeking: critical thinking, problem solving, communication and interpersonal skills, analysis, and teamwork.

Add to this picture the observation that many college graduates will end up working in jobs outside of their fields of study, and it raises the question: How prepared are they to adjust to the demands of employment in a variety of work settings? Currently, employers give graduates low marks in this area, resulting in an increasing number of employees in the workforce who are unable to advance in their work setting because of deficient soft skills.

Not long ago I ran into a recent graduate, and I asked the young lady what she was doing now. She told me that right after



Increasingly, employers seek college graduates with skills such as critical thinking and teamwork.

college she had started working in the career field she had prepared for, but now she was doing something entirely unrelated to her college major. She said her current job had been too good to pass up, despite the fact that when she was in college she would have never dreamed of going that route. Her husband had the same story, and their experience was not an anomaly. Rather, it reflects a national trend.

Another way of looking at the multiple career paths facing today's college graduates is to consider that by the time current students receive their diplomas, there will be hundreds of career paths available to them that did not exist when they started college. So, how can a college education prepare students for jobs that don't yet exist?

Southern Adventist University is committed to helping prepare students for the

fluid job market awaiting them. As a liberal arts University, Southern students receive an education that enhances "soft skills" and expands their horizons beyond their degree field, including opportunities for all majors to participate in music, travel, art, physical fitness, and more.

Of equal importance, Southern is committed to doing this in the most affordable way possible. The single largest portion of the current capital campaign, the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning, is focused on increasing the endowment and student scholarships to help students afford the education that will unlock their future. You can learn more by visiting southern.edu/webelieve. 

David Smith, Ph.D., is president of Southern Adventist University, where he also served as a professor for 17 years.

HAZEL MARIE GORDON

A Lifetime of Service for Her Lord

BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Hazel Marie Gordon, former first lady of the Southern Union, and wife of former president Malcolm Gordon, passed to her rest on October 8, 2017, in Paramus, New Jersey. The Gordons served as an administrative team in the Carolina, Florida, and Southern Union conferences.

Hazel first felt a sense of belonging to the family of God, when at the age of five she happily gave a penny tithe on an allowance of 10 cents a week. This sense of belonging only increased when she was baptized at nearly 10 years old.

“The most exciting and thrilling memory from my childhood was Camp Meeting,” said Hazel. Another memory was her wish to be a minister’s wife. During a youth evangelism effort, she became engaged to Malcolm Gordon. They were married in 1954 in her home town of Allegan, Michigan.

After attending Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Michigan, Malcolm and Hazel began a ministry of service spanning 47 years. Their pastoral ministry in Michigan and North Dakota led to departmental duties in North Dakota. Malcolm then accepted departmental positions, and Hazel office responsibilities in the Southern New England and Carolina conferences.

Malcolm’s presidency at Carolina, Florida, and the Southern Union conferences followed. As first lady, Hazel traveled with him and shared her joy wherever she went. She opened her heart to each of her readers through her columns in *Florida Focus* and the *Southern Tidings*. She also shared herself through music, and often sang a duet of “People Need the Lord” with her husband.

“I admired the beautiful way in which she and Malcolm modeled team ministry,” said Cheryl Retzer, who followed Hazel as first lady. “She also demonstrated a genuine love for ministerial spouses.”



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Hazel Gordon

Hazel had a burning desire for the women of the Church, and served as Florida Conference’s women’s ministries director. She encouraged the placement of women’s ministries directors in each church, and helped plan the first Florida Conference women’s retreat. She served as the Southern Union women’s commission advisor from 1990 to 2003.

“Our moves have taken us north, south, east, and west,” she wrote in 1985 in *Florida Focus*, “but the move I’m really excited about is the move up to the waiting arms of our dear Savior, up to our heavenly home Jesus has so lovingly prepared. Won’t you plan to move with me?”

She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Malcolm; two daughters, Melodee Oster and Merrilee (George) Miller; three grandchildren; one brother, John Groves; and one sister, Betty Jean Amelang.

There will be a memorial service for Hazel Gordon at Kress Memorial Church, 746 Formosa Avenue, Winter Park, Florida 32789, on December 23, 2017, at 4 p.m. ●

Gladys Neigel is the Florida Conference contributing editor for *Southern Tidings* content.

A TRIBUTE TO MY FRIEND, HAZEL

By Jacquelyn C. Ross

I met Hazel when she became first lady of the Southern Union. Malcolm Gordon was voted in as president, and his gracious wife, Hazel, was voted in with him. What a precious woman of God: she was kind, generous, engaging, musical, an awesome hostess, fashioned, and loved hats. I knew then that she and I would be friends.

Hazel and I made music together. She and I traveled to Utrecht Amsterdam for the General Conference Session, and sang on the giant stage to thousands of attendees; it was a holy moment. You see, for us it was not just black and white singers singing, it was two friends bonded by God to witness love to His people!

Hazel and I, along with our pastor husbands, Malcolm and Dennis, and William and Gale Murphy, traveled to Canada as a witness. What a fantastic trip; we had so much fun! It would be difficult to find two more precious saints than Malcolm and Hazel Gordon.

God instructed me to form a ministers’ wives gathering at our home, and the purpose was to encourage, pray, fellowship, share testimonies, be transparent, and, at the conclusion of that heartfelt time, have a great brunch and give the ladies a gift of love. This took place the second Sunday of every month. Pastor Ross and I sponsored these events, and Hazel came faithfully! Attendees included Francine Long, Delores Davis, Raquel Morel, Modil Morris, and Hazel Gordon.

As we visited in their home, welcoming and kind, we stayed and stayed at their request. As Hazel became less active, we would take one of her favorites, lentil soup and homemade bread; although she ate like a bird, she would taste a little in our presence.

Hazel, kind, loving, engaging, talented both on piano and vocally (amazingly talented in both genres), woman of God, stylistically put together; yet, humble and teachable.

I will ever cherish our times together. She will always be my friend, Hazel!

Carolina Holds Women's Retreats



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Shelley Quinn took time to hug each woman who attended the 2017 Carolina Women's Retreat.

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God," Ephesians 2:8.

It is one thing to know that grace is a gift, but quite another to accept this beautiful gift. Yet this is exactly what more than 650 women and teen girls had the opportunity to experience recently at the annual Carolina Conference Women's Retreats at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty Hill, S.C.

This was a record year for the Hispanic Women's Retreat, October 6-8, 2017, with more than 350 women in attendance. Guest speaker Elizabeth Talbot, Ph.D., gave an in-depth Bible study on the life of Jesus. Talbot is the speaker/director of the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, and has authored several books. She brought one of her books for each woman, and made time to autograph each book.

Each of her presentations was more delightful than the last, captivating the women. Many of them expressed that they had never had a study like this before. During the Sabbath worship, Talbot began by asking the question, "How many coats do you have?" She had a pile of coats and scarves on the platform with her, and began to put one on

after another. After several layers, she revealed the coats as a metaphor for sin. She reminded the women that no matter how many layers of sin one might have, Jesus' blood covers them all, and that is the undeserved gift of God's grace.

Shelley Quinn, who serves as the program development manager for Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) and co-director for Word Warrior Ministries, was the keynote speaker for the English-speaking weekend, October 15-17, 2017. As she explored God's plan of salvation by grace, she shared that she often encounters women who are weary from their own efforts, and haven't given God permission to change them. Sometimes they are afraid to talk about grace because they feel that somehow relaxes God's requirement of obedience. Quinn reminded the women, from God's Word, that there is no chance of working their way to Heaven — it is through a personal relationship with the Father that all receive power to obey Him. God enables everyone to live powerfully if they will just accept His gift of grace.

An added bonus was a teen track for girls ages 13-17, which was hosted by Erica

Jones, assistant director of women's ministries for the North American Division. Her passion is working with teens and developing resources especially for them (see www.gorgeous2god.org).

Throughout the weekend, hearts were stirred by the inspiring talent of the retreat musicians, Carolina Heart Song. Sabbath morning Marlene Nunnaley led an interactive Sabbath School where the women came up front to open the various "beautiful gifts" emphasized in her presentation.

Breakout seminars on Friday and Sabbath afternoons featured a wide range of topics. God's Closet is a ministry of the North American Division that distributes children's clothing, bedding, and shoes four times a year, and several women from God's Closet chapters in the Carolinas shared their experiences (see www.godscloset.com). Dianne Wagner and Antionette Duck presented a seminar on helping young people understand the reality of abortion and experience God's redemptive healing (see www.mafgia.com). Erica Jones held a seminar titled, "Love Me First," about engaging the youth in the Church.

The Sabbath evening message closed with a beautiful cross ceremony. The women were invited to come to the foot of the cross to accept the spiritual gift of grace, as well as a special token in the form of a wooden whitewashed plaque with the word "Grace" hand-stenciled on it. As many made their way to the cross, bagpiper John Cantrell played the beloved hymn "Amazing Grace."

Thanks is expressed to all who attended and made these retreats a very special memory for all. Plan now for next year's "Connections," the Southern Union Women's Ministries Convention at the Convention Center in Chattanooga, Tenn., September 6-9, 2018.

You can listen to Shelley Quinn's presentations on the Carolina Conference podcast channel (available on Google Play, iTunes, and Stitcher). 🎧

BY CINDY MERCER

Students Break Ground For New School



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Students, school board, and Conference officials break ground for new school building.

The University City Church in Charlotte, N.C., continues to expand as Cornerstone Adventist Academy students and Carolina Conference officials broke ground for a new church school and family life center on October 15, 2017. Located near the University of North Carolina Charlotte campus, this rapidly growing church is in its second year of operating a church school. The church's location in the ever-expanding University City area has proved to be a tremendous blessing. Leslie Louis, Conference president, reminded the group that the University City Church has planted more churches than any other church in the Conference. Including the five church plants, total membership is more than 500. Rick Anderson, who represented the Carolina Education Department, shared that it is a unique event when a church establishes a school in this day and age. "In the past 20 years over 15 percent of Adventist elementary schools have closed their doors," he stated. "You're to be commended for establishing this school and family life center for our young people." He also commented,



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Officials sign documents: Pictured are Rhonda Miller (front row, left), head deaconess; Chad Grundy, Carolina Conference undertreasurer; Bernie Dilgert, general contractor at Maple Leaf Design & Build, Inc.; Amy King, chair of design committee; Chris Grissom (standing, left), head elder; Rick Russell, Carolina Conference vice president for finance; Mark Kendall, head of audio-visual; Ryan Ashlock, pastor; Paul Scroggins, head deacon; and Brian King, church treasurer.

"Statistics show that if you keep your kids in an Adventist school, there's an 80 percent chance of children remaining faithful to the Church, whereas only 35 percent remain who don't have the Adventist education experience." In its highly visible location on University City Boulevard,

the church and its new school and family life center are poised to begin a new phase in outreach to this rapidly growing area of Charlotte. ●

BY RON QUICK

Pastor Translates Seminar into French Creole for Members



Temple Adventiste de West Palm Beach, Fla., Church officers met for a training seminar on September 2, 2017. Kneeling in the front row are Varilus Pierre Jr., pastor and sponsor/translator (second from left); and Jeffrey Thompson, seminar presenter (third from left).

Temple Adventiste de West Palm Beach, Fla., under the leadership of Varilus Pierre Jr., pastor, sponsored a church officers training seminar to commence the new church year on Sabbath afternoon, September 2, 2017. In addition to

making this seminar available, Pierre, who is trilingual and fluent in French, Creole, and English, translated the seminar into French Creole for the benefit of his members.

Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor

of Ft. Lauderdale Church, and his wife, Denise, were the featured presenters. The seminar began by focusing on the duties and responsibilities of church board members in the context of the local church, including the importance of confidentiality in whatever is discussed. “As a member of the church board,” Thompson exhorted, “you must also be faithful in your stewardship responsibilities in the context of time, talent, and financial means.”

Duties and responsibilities of the various church positions were also covered in the seminar.

At the culmination of the various presentations, the floor was opened for questions. “As one of the presenters,” said Thompson, “I would like to commend Pastor Pierre for his initiative in organizing this practical seminar, which was educational and met felt needs.”

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

Reynold Acosta Ordained to Ministry

Reynold Acosta was ordained July 15, 2017, at Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) in Orlando, Fla. Born in Havana, Cuba, to Jesus Rene and Naomi Acosta, he grew up in Long Island, N.Y., with his two brothers, Jesus Rene and Reinaldo.

In 1988, he married fellow New Yorker Linda Melkun, and moved to Orlando. They were blessed three years later with a daughter, Rebekah, followed by their son, Joseph, and daughter, Nicole.

From a young age, Acosta could be found working in his father’s restaurant. Business is in his blood, and he had several ventures before opening a Cuban restaurant in downtown Orlando in 2000.

At the age of 13, Acosta’s passion for God and ministry began at the Huntington

Church, Huntington Station, N.Y. Later, he became youth leader at the Old Westbury Church in New York. After moving to Florida, Acosta served as youth leader in Altamonte Springs, Apopka, and Forest Lake churches for a combined total of nearly 30 years of service.

In 2004, he accepted a call to professional ministry, and became a part-time chaplain at what was then Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences, now ADU. The following year, he sold the restaurant and joined the college full-time.

He has faithfully continued to serve students, faculty, and staff of ADU for the past 13 years. He lives the values of Christ in his own life as he walks along with students who are learning to do the same.



Reynold Acosta (center) and his family

Children’s Ministries Holds Advanced Leadership Training



Attendees at Children’s Ministries Advanced Leadership Training enjoy the Craft Lab.



Everyone received a puppet to use in their ministry.

Advanced Leadership Training for Children’s Ministries occurred on September 16, 2017, at Florida Conference headquarters in Altamonte Springs.

The lack of electrical power for six days in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma could not dampen the spirits of more than 75 children’s ministries leaders and assistants as they attended this event.

Judy Smith, Florida Conference director for children’s ministries, welcomed everyone and outlined a fast-paced day of advanced creative ministries courses to be taught by team members.

Darren Casteel’s opening prayer for God to “help us expand Your Kingdom,” set the aim high for every children’s ministries teacher, leader, craft person, and musician. Casteel, a kidmin specialist, stressed the importance of the seeds they are planting. “If you don’t get hearts at the age of a kid, you won’t get the heart later on.”

His talk encouraged everyone to begin a relationship with their children because,



Judy Smith, Florida Conference children’s and family ministries director

“We show God’s love through the love we share with them. This is only possible if you first believe in what you are doing.”

The enthusiasm of the keynote devotional speaker carried over into the next section when each attendee was presented with a puppet. Casteel’s son, Breyer Casteel, soon had everyone working with their puppets as they repeated Philippians 4:13 NKJV, “I can do all things through Christ Who strengthens me.”

These two previous presentations were

included in the curriculum for advanced certification, which also included course work in the following areas:

- Diversity in children’s ministry
- Understanding challenging kids
- Involving children in ministry and service
- Current trending in children’s ministry
- Teaching children to pray
- Safety issues for children’s leaders
- Memorization without tears
- Kitchen Bible adventures
- Craft lab

Attendees course records, initialed by each presenter, were presented at day’s end to receive a Certificate of Completion for Advanced Leadership Training.

“I enjoyed all the presenters,” said Carmen Nelson from Cooper City Church. “Their passion for ministry is shown through their presentations. They love what they do, which motivated me to keep on moving forward.”

BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Fannin Church Evangelizes Using Health

Members of the Fannin Church in the Blue Ridge area of Georgia have had a busy year evangelizing to their local community with an emphasis on health. Most recently, on October 6, 2017, the church members gathered for their third annual Health Expo.

Thirty-seven people from the community benefitted from medical, dental, chiropractic, essential oils, and massage services. One participant commented, “Thanks for all you do for us. Thanks for loving God.”

Of those who participated, 13 people expressed an interest in receiving Bible studies, and 10 people wanted to receive



PHOTO BY: CHRIS FANNON

Thirty-seven people from the Blue Ridge community took advantage of a health expo provided by the Fannin Church in Morganton, Ga. They offered medical, dental, chiropractic, essential oils, and massage services.

health classes. In response to the requests, “Dinner with the Doctor” was held October 12, and an evangelism team will fol-

low up with the Bible study interests. 📌

BY MARK CADAVERO

Men Give Bible Studies to Sunday Believers

Adairsville, Ga., Church member James Burch shares his testimony.

For years I have had a burning desire to witness to Sunday churches. Raised in the Methodist church, I understand that there were always truths which I never knew in my early years, even though my family were adamant Christians. It was one Sunday morning after church that the associate pastor told me, to my surprise, that Sunday was not the Sabbath, that Saturday was the true Sabbath day (Exodus 20:8-11). Of course, being a young adult at the time, I asked, “Why do you continue going to church on Sunday?” His response was going to church on Sunday is something he has always done (Colossians 2:8, KJV). A few months later, I joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Five years ago I started Bible studies in Sunday churches, and in October 2016 the

Lord impressed me — on methodology and with the Holy Spirit’s guidance — to get into Sunday churches with a plan and a partner.

Ted Gilbert recently joined the Adairsville, Ga., Church, and was raised in the Baptist faith. Gilbert’s high energy to witness to others was encouraged when I asked him how he felt about going out to Sunday churches and giving Bible studies.

The first Bible study started in March 2017, and have been in a Sunday church every month since. When God is the Orchestrator, there will be no failure. Since June 2017, Gilbert and I, through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, have developed a structured Bible study with the theme following Matthew 24:14, KJV.

It is so important that the Adventist community recognize that as a Church we have a mission, and that is to spread the everlasting Gospel, and the three angels message in Revelation 14:6-12, KJV. 📌



SUBMITTED BY JAMES BURCH

Rick Naus, James Burch, and Ted Gilbert from the Adairsville, Ga., Church help with Bible studies in approximately seven churches who worship on Sunday.

BY JAMES BURCH

Eclipse Provides Opportunities for Tellico Plains



SUBMITTED BY ANNETTE MICHAELS

The Tellico Plains, Tenn., Church members saw the recent two minutes and 38 seconds of a total eclipse as an opportunity to get involved. Wearing their bright green shirts, members were helping everywhere, including parking, concessions, post-cards, comfort tents, and at their own space giving away water and free godly magazines.

As news that the eclipse was coming to their area, Tellico Plains, Tenn., Church members got excited. They were to have a full two minutes and 38 seconds of total eclipse. People from all over the world were coming to this sleepy little town.

The members began to pray and think about how they could use this event to touch lives for Jesus. When the town announced there would be a town meeting to discuss eclipse events, they saw opportunity.

Members prayed that God would open doors. In the past, the town people have not wanted the church involved. But, members had been making friends and getting involved. Church outreach coordinator Annette Michaels went to the town meeting sharing, "I'm from the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and we want to help!" The event coordinator for the town got very excited, saying, "We need help with concessions and parking. We so appreciate your church volunteering." Michaels says, "She added that she knew Saturday is our Sabbath, confirming that we would help Sunday and Monday. God took care of protecting Sabbath in such a beautiful way."

As Tellico Plains continued to meet and plan, the town coordinator asked if churches could offer comfort tents with big fans, chairs, and water so people could get out of the heat, rest, and cool down. Michaels volunteered the Tellico Church, and they were told, "Be sure to wear your church T-shirts, and display your church banner!"

When God opens doors, He opens them wide! They also had permission to share a magazine, *The Day of the Lord*.

Would the church have enough volunteers? They prayed. God knew. Harold and Linda Pomeroy had company from Florida, the Pensantes. All six volunteered. Jimmy and Cindy West were visiting Jimmy's mother. Women from the community sign language class volunteered to help. Joe and Theresa Cooper from the Benton Church gave a helping hand.

Next problem to pray for: where to get enough water for thousands of people, and how to keep it cool. Ron Michaels, pastor, remembered that Crystal Geyser had donated water to the company he worked for. Ron and Annette Michaels prayed, then made a visit to the Crystal Geyser office.

Before they even left the parking lot after

completing the request form at the Crystal Geyser office, Ron's phone rang. "Can you haul that water, today?"

The next morning, two pallets of water were loaded on the truck. A company out of Knoxville donated ice. A church member bought a freezer.

During the eclipse events, the Tellico Church's fluorescent green shirts were seen everywhere helping with parking, concessions, postcards, comfort tent, and more. Thousands of people drank water and thanked them.

At the end of the event, after giving out water to thirsty guests, the church members still had almost as much water as they began with. They wanted to pass on the blessing, and donated half the water to the local senior center, and the other half to the Monroe County family resource center for the lunches given to children in need.

The Tellico Plains Church is now getting many opportunities in the community to be involved.

Their motto is "Serving God by Serving Others." 🙏

BY ANNETTE MICHAELS

Conference Trains Lay Pastors



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Stephen Bauer, Ph.D., presents to the lay pastors.

David Livermore, president of the Gulf States Conference, welcomed 11 lay pastors to the Conference office meeting room on Sunday, October 22, 2017, for long anticipated

lay pastor training. Livermore shared part of his testimony, reflecting on his former career working on the railroad while also serving his local church as an active elder. The lay pastors hold a variety of occupations, from a registered nurse to a manager for a trucking company, but despite their differences, they all share the same call to serve their local churches and communities.

Guest presenter Stephen Bauer, Ph.D., gave an encouraging seminar on biblical exposition and presentation. Bauer informed the pastors that the churches could avoid many of the spiritual and theological pitfalls they may face through a simple, yet purposeful study of God’s Word. Martin Fancher, Gulf States

executive secretary, and Brian Danese, Gulf States treasurer, along with other Conference support staff, were present to provide additional training and guidance for the pastors.

These pastors are vital in filling the territorial gaps in ministering to the people within Gulf States. Because of their commitment, many who volunteer their time, numerous churches can hold weekly services and be a light to their communities. This event was the beginning of what will become a semiannual meeting for the lay pastors in Gulf States. 📌

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Media, Early Childhood Addressed

Teachers need to understand how media culture is affecting children and families, and to find effective ways to promote children’s healthy development in today’s media-saturated environment,” states Diane E. Levin in her book *Beyond Remote-controlled Childhood: Teaching Young Children In The Media Age*.

Early childhood directors, teachers, and education superintendents from nine schools and early childhood centers in the Gulf States and South Central conferences gathered September 27, 2017, for the annual Southwest Early Childhood Education (SWECE) meetings at the Gulf States Conference office in Montgomery, Ala. Tamara Libonati, Southern Union associate director of early childhood education, and Eugene Brewer, Ed.D., retired development specialist from the Southern Union, concluded a four-part workshop for teachers to help parents understand the well-documented negative effects of media on the future



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Gene Brewer, Ed.D., retired development specialist from the Southern Union, speaks to early childhood educators.

academic and emotional development of young children. Through discussions and a “think-tank” forum, teachers discussed ways of helping parents rethink the amount and type of screen time they permit for their young children. The biannual meetings provide early child-

hood teachers a unique opportunity for specialized professional development and collaboration as they seek to create Spirit-filled educational centers for their young charges. 📌

BY SUZY GLOUDEMAM, M.S.

Columbia Church Participates in Festival

The Columbia, Miss., Church participated in the Heritage Festival at Friendship Park on Sabbath, October 7, 2017, as a part of their community outreach. For a relatively small church, it remains very active in the community and uses events like the Heritage Festival to build a reputation of church involvement in their town. Some of the members have lived in Columbia for decades, and know many of the townspeople. Using this event as representatives of the church gives these members an opportunity to connect their acquaintances with a spiritual message.

Members passed out 500 *After the Storm* booklets, 200 *Love Letter From Jesus*



PHOTO BY: DUANE POWELL

Participating in Heritage Festival booth were Payton Brazell (left); Shelby Brazell; Jimmy Brazell, pastor; Jacob Brazell; Wilda Powell; L.D. Hunt; and Lynne Powell. Participants not pictured include Michael Bogle and Al Gene Webb.

tracts, WSJC Radio cards, *Spiritual Vigilante* books, and *The Great Controversy*. Additionally, the church also gave away “No Jesus, No Point” pencils, and the crowd favorite, 288 bouncy balls for the children.

Many registered for their quilt giveaway, which the church primarily used as an opportunity to talk to attendees as they slowed to fill out the form. Because of their participation in the festival, the church was able to answer many questions, make new friends, and present Jesus’ truth to the attendees. 📌

BY LYNNE POWELL

Church Recognizes Survivors, Pastor

Just as Jesus brought the multitudes together, Bass Memorial Church and Academy set the same scene when all gathered for outdoor church overlooking the lake at Paul B. Johnson State Park.

The wonderful Sabbath and hillside fellowship included singing and discussion about the love of Jesus with friends, church members, students, faculty, and members of other churches.

While enjoying the scenic nature that God has given, they were also able to recognize that October is Breast Cancer Awareness and Pastor Appreciation Month.

In recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness, the church family was asked to “Pink Up” each week of the month to show support to those who are breast cancer survivors or those who have lost a loved one. Phenomenal support was shown every Sabbath, leading up to the final week of the month at outdoor church, where pink ribbons were handed out.

They also took time to appreciate their pastoral family, Larry and Becky Owens,



PHOTO BY: KATHERINE SZAMKO-BOWES

Attendees pose for a group photo in front of Geiger Lake.



PHOTO BY: KATHERINE SZAMKO-BOWES

David Perkins (left) and Scott Bowes, principal of Bass Memorial Academy, present Larry Owens, pastor, and Becky Owens with pastoral appreciation gifts.

showering them with gifts of love, and recognizing what they have done for the Bass community. Jeremiah 3:15 says, “And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.” 📌

BY VALYNDA BAILEY

Life More Abundant Group Reaches Out

Over the past two years, the Life More Abundant group from Murfreesboro, Tenn., has participated in literature outreach at the Wilson County Fair in Lebanon, Tenn. God has truly blessed their efforts richly. The group has engaged in much prayer concerning the best ways to reach the public directly with the timeless and distinctive truths of the Gospel. This year the emphasis was placed on books given to interested individuals, in hope that they would be a perpetual witness in the home. Approximately 2,000 books were handed out, consisting of a combination of the Spirit of Prophecy, gospel oriented books, and Daniel and Revelation prophecy books. These books were geared toward a wider audience of age and interest levels.

Little wooden cross puzzles, which have been a hit since inception of the booth, were given again this year. Rocky Davis, Conference literature evangelist director, displayed the new Bible study series for children,



Hans Smars and Wisa Bane



Irvin Barber, Yante Sajedcki, and Susan Warren

Conflict of the Ages series, and many more. During the past few years, more than 1,000 homes have been visited by literature evangelists from contacts begun by the Life More Abundant group.

The group plans to team up again in 2018

with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at the Wilson County Fair. Prayers for this ministry are appreciated as they continue to reach out to the public and spread the Word. ❶

BY TODD AND RENEE VAN CLEVE

Elizabethtown Church Reaches Community Through Health

The Elizabethtown, Ky., Church was looking for ways to interact with their community, and decided to hold a Better Living class in the spring of this year. The class was led by Carly Hadley, with the help of several other church members. The program consisted of food samples, demonstrations on how to prepare healthier food options, and lifestyle lectures.

The class was held on Monday evenings for four weeks, and had an attendance of 21 individuals from the community. Those who attended were from prior connections, as well as respondents from advertising at community events in town.

At the end of the class, a survey was

distributed to find out what areas of interest people had for future programs. There was a strong interest in learning more about better food preparation and lifestyle habits. The members decided to hold a meeting on the first Monday of each month with food samples, video presentations on health, and books available for those interested.

Monthly attendance from the community has averaged about six people each night. Friendships and connections are being made as the members share the light of the health message with the community. ❶

BY BRIAN HADLEY



Better Living class participants

Hilliard Serves Four Decades



Doug and Debbie Hilliard



Doug Hilliard, earlier in his career in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

Doug Hilliard graduated from Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University, on May 30, 1971. While he was attending college, he married Deborah Willson on August 10, 1969. Hilliard served the Collegedale Fire Department and planned to make firefighting his career. However, God had other plans, and Hilliard began denominational work on May 4, 1976, as an accountant for the South Dakota Conference.

During their time in Tennessee and South Dakota, the Hilliards had twin boys, Douglas and Duane, and a daughter, Desiree.

In 1981 when the Dakota conferences combined, Hilliard became the treasurer assistant of the newly formed Dakota Conference. After six years, he became treasurer, a position that he held for two years before accepting a call to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as treasurer.

Hilliard served the constituents of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference for nearly 28 years, retiring on December 1, 2017. When he accepted the position, the Conference was struggling financially and borrowing money to make payroll. Today, the Conference is in a positive financial position. When Hilliard is given credit, he is quick to say that it was all made possible through trust and faithfulness to God and listening to His guidance. Through his many years of service, he has been faithful, trusting, and dedicated first to the Lord, but also to many in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. 🕊

BY DENISE POPE

Gethsemane Members Host Annual Coronation Ball

The seniors' ministries, People of Wisdom, at Gethsemane Church in Raleigh, N.C., hosted their 10th annual Coronation Ball in the multipurpose building on Sunday, September 25, 2017. The outgoing king and queen are retired pastor Victor L Brooks and his wife, Sandra "Snookie" Brooks. The incoming king and queen for this year are Willie and Ann Smith, both elders. The Smiths were presented with crowns, scepters, and capes. Larry Johnson, pastor, and his wife, Carol Johnson, performed the ceremonial crowning of the king and queen.

Vivica Smith delivered a sermonette on the topic of "The Seven Get Ups." It was a call to promptly act upon the desires God has placed in your heart, no matter what your age is.

One of the highlights for the event each year is an elaborate fashion show, with categories for children, wedding attire,



Larry Johnson (left), Gethsemane Church pastor; Shirley Spivey; Willie Smith, elder; Ann Smith, elder; Carol Johnson; and View Henderson

and semi-formal dresses. The members had fun sauntering down the runway, and had pictures taken of their outfits. Special thanks is extended to Sherwood

Fisher for being the designated photographer for the event. 📷

BY TAJUANA LORDEUS

Raleigh Gethsemane Church Hosts "Let's Move" Day

The health ministries team and Sabbath School Department of Raleigh Gethsemane Church in Raleigh, N.C., celebrated Let's Move Day at Anderson Point Park in Raleigh, on September 17, 2017. Let's Move is a campaign established in 2010 by the former first lady of the United States, Michelle Obama, to create awareness of and promote ways to combat childhood obesity. The North American Division designates one Sunday in September annually, as a day for churches to encourage all members and friends to get moving and increase activity to help decrease childhood obesity in the nation. Additionally,

Stacy Fisher, health ministries leader, collects the steps taken by members each month, and reports them to the Adventists InStep for Life Program.

This year's event started at 8 a.m. and ended at noon, and provided a real boost to the church's monthly steps. Approximately 30 members and friends brought their bikes, participated in a Zumba class, or simply enjoyed walking the trails. The sponsoring departments provided a scrumptious breakfast to ensure nobody was running on empty. 📷



Let's Move leaders Stacey Fisher and Brenda Buie

BY TAJUANA LORDEUS

NCSAM Holds Annual Gathering



Shelby Voice of Hope Seniors Choir perform at the 2017 North Carolina Seniors Affairs Ministries Federation.



Godwin Mitchell, pastor of Charlotte Berean Church in Charlotte, N.C., encourages the seniors at the 2017 North Carolina Seniors Affairs Ministries Federation.

Every year seniors of western North Carolina area churches rotate locations as they gather to give outreach reports, provide uplifting music, dine and fellowship, and share from their well of wisdom and expertise. This year, Charlotte Berean Church hosted the annual gathering of North Carolina Seniors Affairs Ministries (NCSAM) on August 18, 2017.

Churches represented this year were the Charlotte-Trinity (Trail Blazers), Shelby Voice of Hope (Sun Setters), Gastonia Ephesus (Golden Circle), Asheville Bethel (Progressive Club), and host church Char-

lotte Berean (Golden Age).

Seniors cannot travel to every church's senior days, but an idea from the founding member, James McCullough Sr., elder, to establish an area day where churches within 40 miles or less can come together once a year, combining their funds to have one big senior day. This year was the seventh year doing so, and it continues to grow. Huey Rowe-Anderson, Ph.D., is NCSAM Federation president, and his goal in 2018 is to organize other churches throughout North Carolina into districts that will do likewise.

The speaker this year was Godwin

Mitchell, pastor of Charlotte Berean. The presence and leadership of Ralph Peay, South Atlantic liaison for senior/adult ministries, and Huey Rowe-Anderson, Ph.D., helped celebrate all seniors in attendance. All members who were 90 years and older were honored.

None of this would have been possible without planners Margaret Harris, Rachel Stockton, Angelia Gains, Viola Williams, Norman Poora, and Toni Coes. 📍

BY BARBARA L. GRIER

Emmanuel Members Honor Loris City Officials



Joan S. Gause, Loris, S.C., council-woman, displays her plaque.

It was a high day on Sabbath, September 2, 2017, at Emmanuel Church in Loris, S.C., as Loris city officials were honored. Henry L. Nichols, who made history as the first African-American to be elected mayor of the city, and Joan S. Gause, councilwoman, who also serves as mayor pro tempore, were both honored for their public service.

Nichols and Gause were given plaques; and, to commemorate the 500th year of the Protestant Reformation, a large-print, illus-

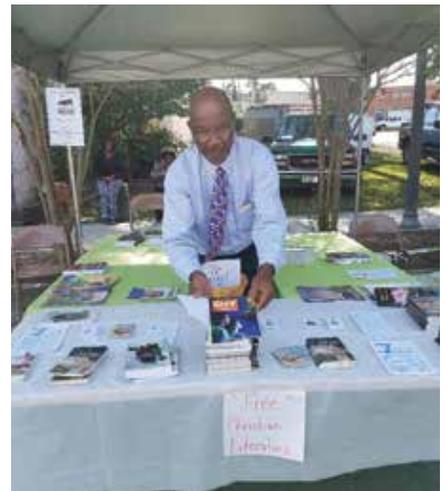
trated copy of *The Great Controversy* was also presented to them. Nathel Moody, elder, Sabbath School superintendent and religious liberty leader, was instrumental in bringing the day to fruition. Nichols was unable to attend due to an illness; however, Gause graciously accepted on his behalf with a few remarks of appreciation and well wishes from the city. 📍

BY JAMES L. REID

Emmanuel Members Offer Free Literature at Bog-off



Emmanuel children help hand out free Christian literature.



Nathel Moody gives away free Christian literature at Emmanuel Church's booth.



Loris Bog-off stage area

The small city of Loris, S.C., roughly 25 miles north of Myrtle Beach, population 2,400, grew to more than 35,000 on October 21, 2017, as it welcomed visitors to the 38th annual Loris Bog-off Festival.

The Bog-off, as it is known locally, began as a chicken bog cooking contest and morphed into a large festival of entertainment, vendors, and family fun. Chicken bog is a dish originating in the Horry County area of South Carolina — made of chicken, rice, spices, and other ingredients. Many believe the name describes the chicken being bogged down in the rice.

With thousands of visitors coming to town, Emmanuel Church in Loris took the opportunity to offer a spiritual feast of truth-filled literature to the passing throng. The crowd walked by many booths with vendors selling their merchandise, until suddenly they came upon a booth with a sign that read, “Free Christian Literature.” There was something to spark the interest of everyone struggling in this world — tracts, books, and magazines on topics such as second coming, death, last days, health, the Sabbath, Bible studies on various topics, and materials for children.

It would be a major task for a small church to cover the territory of 35,000 residents, but when the people literally walk up to you, it presents a wonderful opportunity. Claiming the promise that God’s Word will not return unto Him void, a blessing was prayed over the literature and for the people who would receive it. Every item was stamped with Emmanuel Church’s contact information, and the Lord blessed the members’ efforts as they distributed several boxes of literature on Sabbath. 📖

BY JAMES L. REID

ADU Online Blends Mission, Education for Distance Students

As a faith-based healthcare University, Adventist University of Health Sciences' (ADU) mission is to develop skilled professionals who *live* the healing values of Christ. And, for students who will be future healthcare providers, it's essential they are comfortable caring for people of other faiths, as well as engaging with coworkers and supervisors with different cultures and belief systems. ADU students enjoy a diverse campus with many religions represented, and the omnipresent feeling of faith and worship is reinforced in everything from campus ministries' activities to the Garden of Miracles art installation.

ADU Online is the school's distance learning extension with programs designed for working healthcare professionals, including nurses, sonographers, and radiographers. This poses a challenge: How do students who may never step onto ADU's campus experience the same mission-focused culture as those who do? Three ADU professors with online religion courses, Andy Lampkin, Ph.D., Zdravko Stefanovic, Ph.D., and Ernie Burse, Ph.D., shared their methods on incorporating mission.

Burse, who teaches world religions for healthcare professionals, expressed the importance of students becoming "respectful, sensitive, and aware" of other religions if they are meant to extend the healing ministry of Christ. One of his projects asks students to interview someone of another faith tradition on how they find spiritual strength in their religion. In this way, online students can still engage directly with other beliefs while re-examining how they practice their own religion.

"Biblical Perspectives: Lessons on Living" is the course led by Stefanovic, who emphasized its purpose to be an intense immersion into biblical material in a practical way. He forgoes a traditional



A professor corresponds with a distance learning student via live video chat.

written final exam for what he calls an "Exploration Project." Students are required to attend one addiction recovery meeting of their choice, such as drug or alcohol abuse, gambling, or eating disorders, among others. Then, the students reflect on their experience and connect it to their course learning. This project allows even an online student to engage with the course material in a personal, intimate way, bringing the experience away from their computer and into their life.

Lampkin teaches two biomedical ethics courses, and his online students are largely working professionals, leading to a unique dynamic. The ethical issues discussed in class are often ones they've already confronted in their job. "They may have had an experience that week that led to debate in their clinic about what should be done," he said. For those

students, the discussion boards become a much-needed forum to talk about that situation in an academic context.

In the classroom, there is a benefit to the immediacy of discussions — they're more spontaneous as issues come to the table fresh. But, online discussion boards allow students more time to reflect before posting. They can dive more deeply into each post to continue conversations that limited classroom time would not allow.

The courses have been successful, according to surveys taken by ADU Online alumni. Graduates agree that the courses have positively impacted their interactions with patients, helping them grow as healthcare professionals to become better leaders, co-workers, and care providers. 📍

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Word of Life Church Holds Free Health Clinic

The Word of Life Church in Memphis, Tenn., partnered with Remote Area Medical (RAM™) — the largest provider of mobile medical clinics in the country delivering free medical, dental, and vision care to underserved and uninsured individuals, children, and families — on June 17-18, 2017. The target areas were the Frayser and Memphis communities in Tennessee. This was Word of Life’s first extension clinic, a part of its Mission2Memphis outreach.

The church members joined together for prayer, planning, and promotion. They felt that God provided, the Holy Ghost presided, and Jesus was pleased. More than 200 volunteers were involved during the two days. Approximately 50 percent of the patients received vision assistance; 46.6 percent dental services; and 30.5 percent received medical aid. God provided services for 383 patients, which calculates to \$114,403.

Two women drove almost seven hours from Oklahoma, arriving on Friday before setup was complete, to be the first ones in line. While the numbers tell of the clinic’s success, the immeasurable impact on the community told the story. Comments included the following. “Pastor, all of your members are so kind and helpful. You all have gone above and beyond,” said a RAM™ volunteer. A patient stated, “I got all 11 of my teeth pulled. Now I can afford to get dentures!” Another patient said while leaving the clinic, “I can see!”

The need for more outreach ministries persists as the exit surveys confirmed, and the Mission2Memphis outreach is committed to following up to address the interests of the community. 📍

BY LINDA ANDERSON



Fred Batten Jr., D.Min., pastor of Word of Life Church in Memphis, Tenn., stands next to the Remote Area Medical van.



Christal Hall (left), D.D.S., and LaShay Brown, N.C.M.A., serve patients from the community.

South Central Holds “Luke 14” Banquet



Close to 100 people were in attendance at the “Luke 14” Banquet.

People with disabilities and special needs were showered with abundant love and special honor at the first “Luke 14” Banquet in the South Central Conference territory. The concept of the Luke 14 Banquet originated with Joni and Friends. The purpose of it is intentional outreach to people excluded from the full Gospel of Jesus Christ, and those who are marginalized. The South Central Conference sponsored the banquet on Thursday, April 13, 2017, at the Goodwill Easter Seal-Mitchell Auditorium in Mobile, Ala. The use of the auditorium was donated to disabilities ministries for three and a half hours by Jean Gardner, vice president of operations.

The Luke 14 Banquet is based on the parable found in Luke 14:21-23, which admonishes Christians to “... go quickly out into the streets and lanes of the city and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord it is done, and yet there is room. And the Lord said, Go, out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled.”

Under the direction of Harold Goodloe, pastor of Emmanuel Church in Mobile, Ala., and Emmanuel’s disabilities minis-

tries coordinators, Lubertha McKinney, Patricia Davis, and Brian Johnson, members took to the streets of Mobile to do compassion ministry, extending a heartfelt invitation to those who qualified to attend the Luke 14 Banquet. Many with special needs and disabilities were registered to participate. Close to 100 people were in attendance at the banquet. They were welcomed by Nettie Henderson, South Central director of disabilities/special needs ministries, and Goodloe, who addressed them with inspirational remarks.

Henderson was the mistress of ceremonies. She gave a warm welcome and explained the name and purpose of the banquet. “The Bible tells us to love people with special needs and disabilities because we are all of the same body of Christ. We have made a commitment to be intentional about loving you, embracing you, and making you our friends. We want to develop a relationship with you. We want to call you on the phone, pray a short prayer with you, talk about Jesus with you, invite you to church events, and invite you to outings in the park such as health fairs and community events. We want to be your friend and would like you to want us as one of your friends,” said Henderson. Several

people volunteered immediately to be a friend, and signed up to be called on the phone with subsequent home visits. Gifts were given to all attendees, and an additional gift was given to those who voluntarily signed a disabilities survey form for weekly contacts. The guests were eager to share their spiritual gifts with solos, congregational songs, and poems. They pulled names from a container for gifts, and they were kind and Christ-like. The food was delicious and fellowship was awesome. Some individuals were members of other churches, but were all on one accord during the event. The celebrated event was followed with Disabilities Awareness Sabbath, which included health and mental health awareness, and a concert. The theme for the weekend was “The Church Outreaching in Love and Unity.” The Sabbath message, presented by Henderson, educated and sensitized members to disabilities-related issues from a church perspective.

The Luke 14 Banquet was a big success, and will be an annual event at Emmanuel Church for inclusion of people with disabilities in all things. 📞

BY NETTIE HENDERSON

Adventist Military Chaplain Shares Hope After Irma



Naval chaplain Kyron Bell (left) greets hurricane Irma disaster responders in Key West, Fla. The U.S. military deployed nearly 21,000 federal service members to the area following the storm.

was quickly deployed to the Naval Air Station at Key West to begin emergency response operations. “It was truly a ghost town,” Bell recalls. “There was no power. Food was scarce and every business was closed.” Residents were dislocated and nearly everything they owned was destroyed. In addition to supporting the work that the military, state, county, city personnel, and first responders did to save lives and restore essential resources, Bell’s mission was two-fold.

For two weeks, Bell worked with federal government agencies to distribute supplies, while also providing encouragement and pastoral care to service members and local civilians most in need. Bell does more than simply serve his country in the military. He serves God first, and daily answers the call to offer hope. “My priority is humanity. When humanity is in distress, spiritually or emotionally, as a Bible-believing Christian and minister of the Gospel, my role is to walk that person through the stress and share the blessed hope that God holds their future.”

BY NATHANIEL LYLES

Hurricane Irma slammed into Key West, Fla., on September 10, 2017. Days before Irma’s arrival, as thousands of Floridians were responding to evacuation orders, nearly 21,000 military personnel were preparing for deployment to the impacted region. Among those

to be deployed was Lt. Kyron D. Bell, a Seventh-day Adventist Naval chaplain stationed at the Naval Air Station at Jacksonville, Fla., and member of First Coast International Church in Jacksonville.

After Irma hit landfall and veered northwest, Bell, along with other federal forces,

Apopka Church Feeds 1,200 Families

Hurricane Irma developed in the warm waters of the Caribbean, and quickly became a category five hurricane headed for Florida. All news media reported preparations for catastrophic impacts, and all of Florida braced for the worst. Members of the Mt. Olive Church in Apopka, Fla., prayed for the storm to be averted, and hoped for the best. Members worried that if the storm was downgraded, there could still be devastating effects.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Irma,



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON

Members of the Apopka, Fla., Mt. Olive Church hurry to fill vehicles of community residents with food items. Cars lined up for multiple blocks, and residents were served with a drive-thru style system.

thousands of Floridians were left without electricity, food, and water. Also, many families could not return home due to rising flood waters.

Amid desperation, the Mt. Olive Community Services Department, headed by Olive and Lenworth Gray, orchestrated an effort to feed hundreds of residents in central Florida who were left without food. More than 45 members of commu-

nity services, along with Carl Ware Sr., pastor of the Mt. Olive Church, assembled to distribute food, and help pack items into cars and trucks that were lined up for several blocks.

WESH 2 News of central Florida was on the scene to capture the event as people poured into the church parking lot to fill up their trunks. More than 1,700 people were provided with packages contain-

ing perishable and non-perishable food items. Mt. Olive community services is no stranger to community involvement. They have been distributing food every other Wednesday at the church for more than 10 years. It is their hope to share God's love through giving. 📍

BY VENEICÉ BARNES

Conference Campground Converted to Shelter

Southeastern Conference opened its doors to Conference constituents as well as residents of Hawthorne and Palatka, Fla., and the surrounding communities on Saturday, September 9, 2017. Under the leadership of Southeastern's president, Gregory O. Mack; the ACS disaster response director, David Peay; and the Southeastern disaster response coordinator, Ella Thompson, Southeastern welcomed 11 families on day one, and 19 families on day two.

Keeping with the mission and vision of the Southeastern Conference, "Sharing Hope, Restoring Wholeness," they demonstrated this by providing shelter and meals to evacuees. Thompson responded to these efforts saying, "There was a loving and compassionate spirit at all times. The clients were the kindest people that I have served! Meal time was fun, and quiet time was quiet. I truly enjoyed operating this temporary shelter and would do it again."

Although Irma tried to cause disaster, the disaster team expressed they felt that God was diligently looking after His people. Evacuees took shelter in the campground main pavilion and the campus dining hall. Every participant returned to their homes after the storm passed with no major damage to the campground, and without having lost electricity for any amount of time. As a result, the shelter closed earlier than anticipated. The



PHOTO BY: NATALIE WOOD

Disaster response volunteers Clementine Duncan (left) and Marilyn McNeely-Williams are stationed to register evacuees. The shelter housed 30 families during Hurricane Irma.

team gives God the glory!

The Southeastern Conference disaster response ministries team is ready and waiting on their next call to share hope

and restore wholeness throughout the Southeastern territory. 📍

BY VEL PYE MCKENZIE

Continued Hurricane Relief Efforts Take a Musical Turn

With the ongoing need for assistance in hurricane-devastated regions, young people continue to find creative ways to help. Southern Adventist University faculty, students, and alumni joined the Suzuki Strings for the Greater Collegedale School System in a play-a-thon, raising \$4,596 for hurricane relief on October 22, 2017.

Standing in downtown Chattanooga, Tenn., young violinists, violists, and cellists took turns performing for 12 hours, alone and in groups. The youngest participant was 2 years old! Parents, grandparents, teachers, and friends also joined in. That Sunday, 82 musicians took time to make music together, totaling 84 playing hours. One young man, age 9, took the prize for the longest playing time — more than four hours throughout the day.

Co-organizers Ellen Francisco, adjunct professor at Southern, and Tami King, director of Suzuki Strings, were overwhelmed by the turnout. Students and instructors from eight different studios across Collegedale and Chattanooga joined in.

“What started as a studio recital alternative became a gathering for a variety of



For 12 hours, 82 musicians took turns making music for a good cause.



Several of the tiniest music students walked the Walnut Street Bridge with their violins, serenading listeners, and encouraging them to donate.

musicians, a real meeting place for kids from all over the area,” Francisco said.

The participating studio teachers included three Southern alumni and two Southern professors; a number of current Southern students also took part.

The students raised funds by asking sponsors to make pledges for every quarter-hour of music played. In addition, passers-by found open violin cases ready to take their contributions.

“These students need to know their music has a purpose,” King said. “Since the play-a-thon, I have seen a marked improvement in their attitudes toward music, and their desires to share their music with others.”

The funds raised were contributed to the hurricane relief efforts of the Samaritan Center and the Adventist Development and Relief Agency. 📍

BY ELLEN FRANCISCO

Southern Provides New Career Tool

This fall, Southern Adventist University introduced a new career assessment service available to anyone with a Southern email account. The University is collaborating with jobZology, an online tool that will be used alongside existing career services offered on campus.

The jobZology site offers users assessments on their interests, values, and personality, and then matches that information with career fields that are best suited to them. It also provides relevant articles about effective networking, crafting resumes and cover letters, and excelling in interviews.

Daniel Olson, Career Services coordi-

nator at Southern, hopes that through jobZology more students will prepare for their futures careers.

“Career development is vital for all students,” Olson said. “Last year, our department worked with about 300 students, but we have 2,600 undergraduate students on our campus. This is an opportunity to reach those students who haven’t yet made it to our office.”

Marrina Bachina, senior corporate community wellness management major, was one of the first Southern students to give jobZology a try.

“It seems very well rounded,” Bachina said. “It didn’t just take into account my career inter-

ests; it looked at who I am. The results matched perfectly with what I am interested in.”

However, career development involves more than finding a dream job.

“Career development is a lifelong process,” Olson said. “Our goal is to help students start that process while they are here at Southern.”

All Southern alumni, current students, and employees are able to utilize jobZology. Those with a Southern email address can visit southern.jobzology.us to access the career assessment website. 📍

BY GELISSA LEVEILLE



CHEN, DR. GIDEON HSIASNG, 82, died Oct. 24, 2017 in Flat Rock, NC. Dr. Hsiasng attended Union College and graduated from Andrews University in 1966.

He worked as a medical technologist at Hinsdale Hospital and Berrien Center. He met Viola McPherson at Hinsdale and married her in 1963. Dr. Hsiasng received his medical training in Cebu City, Philippines. He specialized in acupuncture and practiced in Waco, TX, until he retired. Gideon and Viola retired at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher Church. He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Viola (McPherson) Chen of Hendersonville; Brett (Diane) White of Beaverton, MI; Dori Trivette of Ooltewah, TN; Lori (Charlie) Hammer of Columbia, SC; Kelly (Todd) Werner of Scottsdale, AZ; Steven (Darcy) Chen of Bakersfield, CA; one brother, Dr. Zeno (Chris) Chen of Arcadia, CA; and 14 grandchildren.

FILLMAN, GERALD MELVIN, 91, born Oct. 20, 1925 in Vinita, OK, died Aug. 26, 2017 in Madison, TN. His parents were Gettis and Charlotte Parsons Fillman. He was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison.

When Pastor Fillman was 11 years old, he lost sight in his left eye from an accident involving fence wiring. He attended both Jetchum Junior Academy and Ozark Adventist Academy in Gentry, AR. In 1945, he began studying theology at Union College in Lincoln, NE. It was during his second semester there that he met Naomi Jensen and they started dating. They were married on August 17, 1947.

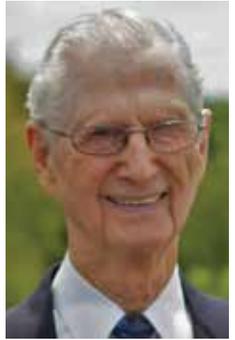
Pastor Fillman began service for the Church as a teacher in the Missouri Conference. He taught school, was a singing evangelist, and pastor. He worked in the Kansas, Missouri, Texico, Iowa, Kentucky-Tennessee, and Pennsylvania conferences. He retired in the Pennsylvania Conference after serving as a pastor for 43 years. Retirement was not the end of his pastoral ministry. He continued to serve as an associate pastor at Madison Campus Church until he retired a second time in 1999.

Even in retirement, Pastor Fillman continued to love God, love people, and serve the world. He volunteered at Tennessee Christian Medical Center Portland as a chaplain and at the Community Service Center. He sang in the church choir and prepared all week to teach his Sabbath School.

Pastor Fillman kept a learning spirit his entire life. He was very thankful for John 3:16, 17. He especially liked the part in verse 17 where it said that God did not send His Son to condemn the world, but to forgive and save us!

On Wednesday August 16, Pastor Fillman drove himself to the emergency room where he was told that he had suffered a heart attack. On Thursday, August 17, the Fillmans celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary. On Sabbath, August 26, Pastor Fillman passed away in the hospital.

He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Naomi; three daughters: Rita (Jerry) Wagner, Debra (Gray) Coyner, and Kathleen (Jim) Brummett; one son, Gary (Melissa) Fillman; 10 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; three brothers: Donald (Dolly) Fillman, Gene Fillman, Noel (Dianne) Fillman; two sisters: Melveana Johnson and Bernice (Alvin) Lee; a host of nieces; nephews; and cousins.



MADISON, MOSEL COOPER, 91, a native of Crawfordville, FL, hailing from the Cooperwoods, born Sept. 30, 1925 to the late Mose and Minnie Gavin, entered her rest on Dec. 23, 2016.

After graduating from high school and Florida A&M University, she worked as a teacher and principal in Marion County for several years. She later pursued and was awarded a Master of Science degree from the University of Florida, after which she was employed with the state of Florida until her retirement.

She was a member of Maranatha Church where she served in many capacities, including a deaconess, treasurer, youth leader, community service leader, and assistant site coordinator for the construction of the church facility. Additionally, she served as president of the M.C. Strachan Youth Federation, an auxiliary of the Southeastern Conference. She was a community activist, but most importantly, a deep admirer and supporter of youth.

She is survived by her daughter, Ruth Cooper (Ennis) Jacobs; and two sons: Jimmy (Patricia) Cooper of Crawfordville, and Andrew (Asalean) Madison Jr. of Tampa, FL; two special relatives, Patricia

(Rhumel) Smith and Ann Jones, whom she raised as daughters; seven grandchildren; a host of beautiful grandchildren; great-grandchildren; devoted nieces; nephews; other family members; friends; and colleagues.

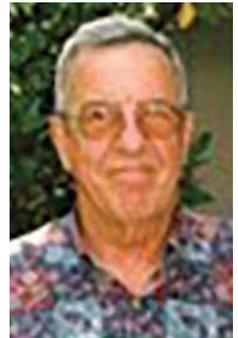
The service was held January 8, 2017 at 11 a.m. at Maranatha Church in Tallahassee, FL, with burial at Mount Olive No. 2 Cemetery in Crawfordville. Strong & Jones Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

SUTHERLAND, DR. W.S., 89, died Sept. 28, 2017 at Norton Brownsboro Hospital in Louisville, KY. He was a native of Madison, TN, and a retired physician. He was a member of the Lawrenceburg, KY, Church. Dr. Sutherland was also a member of the Southern Medical Association, Lawrence County Medical Society, American Academy of Family Physicians, Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, and Diplomate of National Board of Medical Examiners.

Doc, as some of his neighbors called him, served in the U.S. Army as a medical technician in 1946 at the 49th General Hospital in Japan. In 1950, he was a laboratory and X-ray technologist at Madison College and Hospital. In 1952, he received his B.S. degree from Southern College in Collegedale, TN. In 1957, he received his medical doctorate degree from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA. From 1957-1958, he interned at Orange County General Hospital in Orange, CA.

Dr. Sutherland came to Lawrenceburg in Dec. 1959, where he was associated with the old Lawrenceburg Sanitarium and Hospital that his grandfather helped found in 1911. He served as chief of staff and administrator there. He also served as chief of staff and on various committees for Scott Memorial Hospital. His practice consisted of family practice which included major and minor surgery, obstetrics, and general medicine for 45 years.

He is survived by two daughters: Yolanda (Randy) Elkins and Heather (Leslie) Butterfield; two sons: Christopher (Kendra) Sutherland and Edward A. (Carla) Sutherland; two brothers: Duke Sutherland and Dan Sutherland; two sisters: Donna Shell and Angie Fusia; 13 grandchildren; a host of nieces; and nephews. Dr. Sutherland was preceded in death by his wife, Mavis G. Savage Sutherland; his parents: Joseph E. and Dorothy Peterson Sutherland; one son, Corby Shaen Sutherland; two brothers: Edward A. Sutherland and Robert W. Sutherland; and one sister, Judy Moore.



BACCHUS, LEON B., 62, born July 16, 1955 in St. Vincent, West Indies, died Sept. 29, 2017 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Evelyn; one son, Gary Bacchus; three brothers: Rutherford (Mary) Bacchus of Virginia, Ricardo (Lise) Bacchus of Georgia, and Sylvester (Becky) Bacchus of Virginia; one sister, Celia Kydd of New York; and one grandchild. He was predeceased by his daughter, Jennie Bacchus. The service was conducted by Pastor Kerri Kerr at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. Interment was at the Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

BARBER, KATHLEEN, 87, born April 21, 1929 in Pierce County, GA, died March 5, 2017 in Hall County, GA. She was born to the late James Randall and Effie Laura Powers Dowling. Kathleen was owner and operator of Barber's Interior Design. She loved the Lord and her family. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She enjoyed gardening. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one son, Steven Stone; one brother, Elroy Dowling; and two sisters: Doris Hunt and Louise Stone. She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Robert Barber; two sons: William Michael Boggs of East Palatka, FL, and Charles Gary Boggs of Murphy, NC; one daughter, Dawn Charleen Jakska of Murphy, NC; one brother, Junior Dowling of San Mateo, FL; four grandchildren: Kimberly Miller, Michelle Brockinton, Joshua Hawkins, and

Daniel Boggs; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild. Funeral services were held on March 9, 2017 at Murphy Church with pastor Valentin Rusu officiating. Burial followed in the Memory Hill Cemetery.

CHASTAIN, SHIRLEY LEONE, 93, born March 14, 1924, died Aug. 5, 2017. She was the daughter of the late Genoa and Ellen Howe Zollinger. She worked for many years in the family business and was a vital part to its success. Everyone who knew Shirley knew that she had a kind, genuine heart that was always eager to give. Her generous hospitality and her love for working with children were always wonderful traits that were observed by all those around her. She will be dearly missed. Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings: George Zollinger, Glen Zollinger, and Eddie Zollinger. She is survived by her loving husband of 69 years, Andrew Chastain; four children: Bettie (Ric) Griffin, Don (Lucia) Chastain, Ken (Karen) Chastain, and Jeannie (Marty) Hefner; four grandchildren: Tara Hills, Mandi Gane, Bekki Wade, and Tyler Hefner; eight great-grandchildren; three brothers: Le Zollinger, Bob Zollinger, and Beecher Zollinger; one sister, Betty Ashlock; numerous extended family; and friends. The family held a private celebration of life graveside service in the Collegedale Memorial Park.

DODD, BOB, 82, born March 2, 1934 in Lutie, OK, died Feb. 13, 2017 in Wister, OK.

He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. He is survived by his wife, Bobbie Nowlin Dodd; three daughters: Diana (John) Goff of Sumpterville, Patti (Michael) Palsgrove of Avon Park, and Debbie Dodd of Zephyrhills; two sisters: Peggy Hull and Dolores Anderson; 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Donna Green Dodd. The service was conducted at the Evans Chapel of Memories in Oklahoma, and the interment was in the Summerfield Cemetery in Oklahoma.

EWING JR., RALPH P., 82, born May 11, 1934 in Aurora, IL, died April 27, 2017 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park Church. The family moved to Avon Park in 1969 in order to live in the country, in an Adventist community, and live close to a church school. He worked at Sears Catalog store in Sebring, FL, for 10 years, and then he became the plant operator at Sebring High School where he retired after 20 years of service in 1996. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Ruby Mende Ewing; two sons: Glen (Cindy) of Spokane, WA, and Floyd (Donna) Frostproof, FL; two daughters: Helen (Rick) Faber of Liberty Hill, SC, and Brenda (Bill) Williams of Avon Park; one daughter-in-law, Judy Ewing of Liberty Hill, SC; 13 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. A message of hope was presented by his son-in-law, Rick Faber, at the Avon Park Church.

FRANCE, LAVERNE “JIMMIE”, 95, born Jan. 14, 1922 in Henry County, died at her residence on May 11, 2017. She was a member of the Paris, TN, Church, and retired from Holley Carburetor in Paris. She was preceded in death by one son, William “Bill” Cooper; and three sisters: Christine Foust, Rheudine Calk, and May Sue Marshall. She is survived by one daughter, Fran Shelton; four grandchildren: Anthony (Deborah)McElroy, Cassandra Tyler, Heather Cooper, and Maria Cooper; several great-grandchildren; great-great grandchildren; nieces; nephews; great-nieces; and nephews.

GREER, HAROLD L., 79, born Aug. 28, 1937 in Monmouth, IL, died July 2, 2017 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for 7½ years. He pastored churches in Illinois and Georgia, served as a military chaplain, and served as a chaplain in hospitals and other medical institutions. Music was his great love. He was an accomplished musician on piano, organ, and trumpet. He sang second tenor with groups including his favorite, The New Communion in Indianapolis, IN. He held active leadership in ministerial associations and the Rotary. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Janice Greer; two sons: Gregory Greer and Douglas Greer; one daughter-in-law, Donna Danielle Greer; one brother, John Abbett; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The service and interment was held for family and friends on his birthday at the Greer family farm in Illinois.

HOSEK, KENDRA J., 69, born April 27, 1948 in Fort Morgan, CO, died July 12, 2017 in The Villages, FL. She was a member of the North Lake Church for seven years. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Dan; two daughters: Amanda Durham of Redstone, CO, and Katie Hosek of Arvada, CO; and two grandchildren. The service was conducted by Norman Bassett at the North Lake Church. Interment was in Fort Morgan, CO.

HUDSON, BETTY ANN SELLERS, 80, born Feb. 28, 1937 in Atlanta, GA, died peacefully on July 26, 2017 with her family at her bedside at Church Home for the Aged in Perry, GA, after a brief struggle with congestive heart failure and pneumonia. She was the daughter of the late Dupree Sellers and Carolyn Lewis Sellers. A lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Betty Ann graduated from Forest Lake Academy in

Orlando, FL, class of 1955. She was an accomplished and gifted musician in piano, organ, and voice. By the age of 8, she was playing classical piano in recitals and was teaching piano and voice at age 12. Her music career spanned seven decades. Notable performances of Betty Ann include the Metropolitan Opera with Jerome Hines (1981), Birmingham Concert Chorale (1975-1992), and with Danny Gaitner at the Festival of Sacred Music (1983). She was president of the Allegro Music Club in Birmingham, AL (1977-1982), and a member of the Hymn Society of America. She held director of music positions throughout the years at numerous churches in Cleveland, TN, Birmingham, AL, and West Monroe, LA. From 1990 to 2012, in West Monroe, LA, she served at St. Paschal’s Catholic Church, Highland Presbyterian Church, and Westlakes Seventh-day Adventist Church. After moving to Warner Robins, GA, in 2013 to be closer to her children and grandchildren, she served as music director for Faith Lutheran Church for two years. Before moving to Georgia in 2013, Betty Ann was a member of Westlakes Church in West Monroe, LA, for many years and was very active in the Sabbath School programs, church music ministries, and regional prison ministries. Betty Ann was preceded in death by her younger sister, Sylvia Jean Sellers McEndree. She is survived by two daughters and one son: Catherine (David) Norwood of Marietta, GA; Kimmy (Jerry) Brown of Panama City, FL; and Dr. Jeffrey (Jeni) Hoffman of Byron, GA; six grandchildren: Natasha Ferguson, Amber Hoffman, Jonathan Norwood, Mary Ellen Norwood, Benjamin Norwood, and Hannah Brown, who knew her affectionately as “Granny B;” and three great-grandchildren.

JOHNSTON, ELVIN (BUCK), 85, born Feb. 22, 1932 in Alexandria, VA, died Sept. 21, 2017 in LeCanto, FL. He was a member of the Dunnellon Company where he served as a deacon for many years. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Patricia; three sons: David of Oswayo, PA, Rick of Bradenton, FL, and Brian of St. Augustine, FL; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

MOUNTZ, RICHARD LARRY, 79, born July 19, 1938, died away July 22, 2017, with family he loved by his side. He was one of six children born to Harold and Mary Mountz Sr., of Mohnton, PA. He graduated from Philadelphia Academy, attended Washington Missionary College, and later graduated

from Dunsmore Business College. In 1958, he married Delores Jean Rhodes, and they made a home in Takoma Park, MD, Dayton VA, Worthington, OH, and finally, Collegedale, TN. Throughout his career, he worked at the Washington Sanitarium, Walker Manufacturing, Worthington Foods, McKee Foods, Shoffner Industries, Morning Pointe, and Garden Plaza. He possessed a great entrepreneur spirit and never met a stranger. He had the ability to build or fix anything. He enjoyed the water, fishing, painting, cooking, and music, even singing in a barbershop chorus and the Covenant of Praise. Most recently, he served as the president of the Greenbrier Cove Community Homeowners Association. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Delores; two children: Richard “Rick” Mountz, Jr., and Cindy (Dennis) Burtnett; four grandchildren: Mallory, Brennan, and their mother, Pam Mountz, and Brittney and Courtney; one brother, Mark Mountz; and one sister, Marcia Stamm. He was looking forward to the fall wedding of two of his granddaughters—Mallory to Jeremy Westbrook and Brittney to Drew McMinn. He was preceded in death by his parents; and three brothers: Harold, Ronnie, and Leonard. He was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who will be greatly missed. A celebration of life service was held Aug. 12, 2017 at the Collegedale Church, where Richard was a long-time member. He now rests awaiting the trumpet call of his Lord’s second coming.

ONUSKA, WILLIAM HENRY, 90, born March 13, 1927 in Midland, PA, died Oct. 11, 2017 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Arden, NC, Church. Bill was a Navy Seabee during WWII. He retired from Montgomery Ward after 31 years. His interests included piloting, astronomy, and watching NASA flights. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Carol; five children: William (Jaya) Onuska Jr., James (Joyce) Onuska, Pam (Gary) Hicks, Kevin Hirsch, Carol Michelle (George) Personius; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; nieces; and nephews.

RUGLESS JR., OSWALD “OZ” S., 68, born Aug. 20, 1949 at Andrews Memorial Hospital, Kingston, Jamaica, died Sept. 8, 2017 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Altamonte Springs Church. He married Erlinda Parchment, the love of his life, on April 15, 1981. His life was never the same after his wife died in 2014. He was a Microsoft certified professional, traveled

nationally and internationally as a computer consultant/instructor, and enjoyed helping his corporate clients learn and succeed. He created professional and artist publications for many clients. He lived his life committed to God. Many lives were touched by his love and care for others, his kind heart, and his godly example. He is survived by his two brothers: Sherwin (Florence), Tony (Fely); one sister, Lori-Ann; and one nephew, Richie. A memorial service was held at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

SELF, HERVEY ETTA MCCLURE, 93, born May 11, 1924, died Aug. 27, 2017. She was the daughter of Warner and Caroline McClure. She was a secretary, homemaker, and caregiver. Hervey was a longtime member of the Mobile, AL, Church and was most recently a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. She enjoyed reading, crosswords, and sewing. She is preceded in death by her husband, Amos C. Self; six brothers; and one sister. She is survived by her children: Charles C. (Amelia Wilbanks) Self, Robert D. (Ruth Crouch) Self, Donald R. (Beverly Moon) Self, Lisa Annette Self (Johnny Woodruff); one brother, Charles McClure; 10 grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; nephews; and several sisters-in-law.

SHENEMAN, GEORGE, 89, born March 23, 1928 in North Carolina, died June 23, 2017 in Gainesville, FL. He was a member of the Gainesville Church for 34 years. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; two sons: David and Michael; one daughter, Lynn Searles; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Daniel Graham. The interment was in Gainesville.

SIMMONS, DOROTHY LANELLE, 83, born Aug. 3, 1933 in Tulia, TN, died in Westmoreland, TN, on April 30, 2017. She was a member of the Highland, TN, Church. She is survived by her husband, Charles Simmons; two sons: Mark Simmons and Mike Simmons; two daughters: Vicki Denise Nelson and Deborah Lynn Escandon; two brothers-in-law: Jess Simmons and Mike Simmons; 11 grandchildren; three step-grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents: Leon and Cora Cantrell Drake; one brother, Stanley Drake; and one sister-in-law, Delores Maham.

SMITH, MARCIA A., 78, born Sept. 27, 1938 in Dowgiac, MI, died Aug. 25, 2017 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 13 years. She worked at the Forest Lake Academy for more than 15 years, and she worked at Adelphian Academy in Holly, MI, for almost seven years. She loved working with young people, and taught Sabbath School and helped with Pathfinders. She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Carl Richard Smith; two sons: Dale (Myrna) Smith of Bradenton, FL, and Don (Melodie) Smith of Apopka; one daughter, Deanna Bozman of Maitland, FL; one brother, George (Jean) Haley of Sister Lakes, MI; one sister, Myrna of Dowgiac, MI; five grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held.

STANFORD, ELIZABETH "LIZ" ALLEN, 75, born March 10, 1942, died Sept. 1, 2017. She was a member of the Louisville First Church in Louisville, KY. She is survived by five children: Vicki Shuck, Charles "Jamie" (Patti) Gaddie, Tina Riggs, Melissa (Alan) Campbell, and William Stanford; six grandchildren: Elizabeth, Michael, Angela, Sarah, Brandon, and Morgan; four great-grandchildren: Jasmyn, Jordyn, Cameron, and Allen Jr.; one brother, Robert "Bob" Allen; and two sisters: Louis Master-son and Shirley Brinkman. She was preceded in death by her mother, Helen Murphy; one son-in-law, Paul Shuck; two sisters: Betty White and Bonnie Lucas; and one brother, Clifford Allen.

STEVENS, RUTH ELIZABETH, 91, born April 18, 1926 in Ripley Township, OH, died May 13, 2017 in Anderson, SC. In 1963, Ruth moved to Charlotte, NC, to work for the Carolina Conference. She is a member of the Greenville, SC, Church. It was here that she met her husband, Clarence E. Stevens. After moving around the country, she moved back to the Carolinas where she helped Clarence run the Anderson Learning Center, and then worked as a secretary for AnMed Hospital until she retired. She is survived by her children: Joel R. Brown and Deanna L. Brown; grandson, Jonathan E. Brown; and three nephews: Dr. Larry (Ruth) McCullough of Nashville, TN, Lee (Bonnie) McCullough of Wheaton, IL, and Ronald (Norma) Russell of Mansfield, Ohio. Ruth was predeceased by her parents: Gilbert and Irene McCullough; her sister, Lou-

ise Russell; her brother, Dan McCullough; and her beloved husband, Clarence E. Stevens (Dec.'03).

SWAFFORD, JULIE ANNE STURTEVANT, 48, born Nov. 8, 1968, in Brunswick, ME, died April 2, 2017 at Hamilton Medical Center in Dalton, GA, after spending the weekend with friends at their 30th class reunion at Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Calhoun, GA. Julie grew up in Richmond, ME, and loved the ocean, family, and friends. Her family moved to Tennessee, where she completed her education. She became a certified draftsman from Chattanooga State Community College, and was also a certified nursing assistant. She lived in Monteagle, TN, for 12 years prior to moving to Whitwell, where she had lived for 17 years. Julie was an advocate against human trafficking, serving as co-director of ProtectHER, a non-profit that works to raise awareness of human trafficking and domestic abuse in Marion County, TN, and surrounding areas. She also had a text-message prayer ministry. Each morning during her devotions, Julie would message several friends and ask, "How may I pray for you today?" After learning of their prayer requests, she would then text back a beautiful prayer, lifting that person's need up to the Lord. She was a member and leader in the Jasper, TN, Church, assisting with music and Bible study, serving as director of the food pantry, and leader of "praise and testimony" time, where she always shared a positive testimony of how God was blessing in her life. She is survived by her parents: Paul and Mary Sturtevant; her husband, Gary Swafford Sr.; two daughters: Peige (Douglas) Vaughan and Gabrielle Swafford; one son, Daytona Swafford; one step-son, Gary (Katie) Swafford Jr.; one sister, Rebecca Sitz; one niece, Jenna Sitz; two grandchildren: Payton and Devyn Vaughan; uncles; aunts; many cousins; and extended family. A memorial service was held April 22, 2017 at the Jasper, TN, Church with an overflow attendance of friends and family. During that service, her family was presented with a book of Julie's prayers, submitted from friends who had saved them. To read more of Julie's story, visit www.yumpu.com/en/embed/view/sQZSiCg3RB1xOomf

TACHENKO, MARVELLA J., 88, born Sept. 24, 1928 in Algona, Iowa, died March 31, 2017 in Sebring, FL. She was a member

of the Avon Park, FL, Church. She was the former director of Volunteers and Gift Shop manager at Walker Memorial Hospital for eight years. She was dedicated to her family, her church, and the Lord. She is survived by her husband, Michael; one son, Alan (Jackie) Harmon; one daughter, Jayne (Robert) Miller of Avon Park; and one brother, Robert McDanel of Marshtown, Iowa. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor George Brown at Avon Park Church.

TATE, MARY MARGARET HODGES, 83, born May 4, 1934, died Oct. 7, 2017 in Flat Rock, NC. She was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She attended Southern Missionary College (Southern Adventist University) before attending Madison College, Madison, TN, where she graduated with a nursing degree, and then attended the School of Anesthesia. Margaret retired from Park Ridge Hospital in 2007 following 12 years of service as a nurse anesthetist. She was a very active volunteer with various organizations in Henderson County. Margaret is survived by her daughter, Cynthia (Don) Allen of Hendersonville, NC; two grandchildren: Mary Victoria Allen and Clifton Brandon Tate of Hendersonville; one brother, Lester S. (Becky) Hodges of Hendersonville; a number of nieces; nephews; aunts; uncles; and cousins. She was preceded in death by her parents: Lester and Rosa Horney Hodges; her husband, Herbert F. Tate; her son, Clifton W. Tate.

TORKELSON, JACK C., 70, born Jan. 9, 1947 in Noblesville, IN, died July 25, 2017 in Greenbrier, TN. He was a long-time member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. He graduated from Atlantic Union College with a degree in biology. He later studied X-ray at Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA, and became an X-ray technician. He served two years in the U.S. Army. He was a member of the American Chestnut Foundation and the Tennessee Native Plant Society. He is survived by his wife, Elizabeth Dyer Torkelson; two sons: Andrew Teton (Leslie) Torkelson, and Timothy Walden (McKenzie) Torkelson; two grandchildren; and one sister, Jill (Richard) Harbour. He was preceded in death by his parents: Oscar and Laura Torkelson.

TSCHICKARDT, WARREN M., 80, born Jan. 16, 1937 in Baltimore, MD, died Aug. 18, 2017 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in

Apopka, FL, for two years. He had served as a deacon for many years at the Tampa First Church. He was always involved in music and played the trumpet. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Jacyra (Jackie); one son, Michael (Sherrie) Tschickardt of Corpus Christi, TX; one daughter, Monica Tschickardt of Altamonte Springs; and three grandchildren. The family service was conducted at sea near Clearwater.

WEIMER, GWENDOLYN LOUISE CORBETT, 90, born Nov. 1, 1926 in Orlando FL, died June 24, 2017 in Flat Rock, NC. She studied nursing at Southern Missionary College and rained in Florida Hospital. She studied at Andres University and earned a BSNE degree in 1952. Gwendolyn worked at Florida Hospital, Walter Reed Army Hospital, and taught nursing in Georgetown, Washington DC. She moved to Fletcher Park Inn in 2000, and enjoyed entertaining and encouraging people. Gwen also loved to travel. She was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She is survived by her husband, Edwin Weimer of Hendersonville; Robert Weimer of Chantilly, VA; Lori Weimer of Glendale, CA; one nephew, Kenneth Zervos; and one niece, Helen Adair. She was preceded in death by her sister, Esther Ellen Corbett Zervos Brown.

WESTBROOKS, EDDIE, 73, born June 6, 1943 in Columbus, MS, died May 3, 2017 in West Point, MS. At the age of 14, he was baptized into Salem Adventist Church as a result of an evangelistic effort conducted by Elder Earl Howard. Eddie attended the Columbus public schools, and moved to Chicago the day after his high-school graduation. In Chicago, he joined Hyde Park Church, where he served as a deacon and choir member. In the late 1970s, Eddie relocated to Columbus and reunited with Salem, where he continued his service to the church as an elder and personal ministries leader. After marrying his sweetheart, the former Pearl Greer, he transferred to the newly established Lee Memorial Church in West Point. In addition to his service as elder, he also was a Sabbath School teacher, family life director, religious liberty director, men's ministry president, and chaplain of North Mississippi ACS Federation. He also was involved in prison ministries. From his childhood until death, Eddie lived a life of faithful service to God and man. After retiring from Ellis Steel Company in 2005, his

service in the church increased even more. In January 2017, he prepared three sermons in anticipation of delivering them to his local church later. January 28 will long be remembered by the members present that Sabbath morning, when Eddie taught the adult class while obviously experiencing health challenges. His determination to finish teaching the lesson was exemplary of his commitment to his obligations. On May 3, God allowed Eddie to take a peaceful, but brief rest. Cherishing his memories are his wife, Pearl; two daughters: Valerie Westbrooks and Terrilyn Murray; two sons: Derrick and David Westbrooks; five siblings: William James, Linda Humphrey, Brenda Wilson, Jon Wilson, and Keith Wilson; nine grandchildren; and a host of other relatives. He was preceded in death by his parents: Eddie Westbrooks and Johnnie Mae Wilson; and siblings Felix, Bruce, and Patricia.

WRIGHT, JEAN MARIE, 93, born Feb. 16, 1924 in Devil's Lake, ND, died Sept. 28, 2017. Jean worked at Chevron and DuPont in Delaware, and was a secretary for the plant manager at Rohm & Hass in Louisville, KY, when she retired. She was a member of the Louisville First Church. She is survived by one nephew, Gene (Sharon) Roberts; and two great-nieces: Elizabeth Hayden and Mary Tyler. Jean was preceded in death by her parents: Francis Eugene Wright and Annette Barnes; and one sister, Frances Roberts.

YOST, DAVID, 63, born Oct. 29, 1953 in Pittsboro, NC, died May 2, 2017 in Tavares, FL. He was a member of the North Lake Church for five years, where he was most noted as a finish carpenter who built, finished, and installed the matching stained hand rails for the church platform. He spent his lifetime as a professional craftsman, painter, and furniture finisher, as well as a building construction worker. He will be missed by his second love—his many animal friends. He is survived by his wife, Cheryl; one brother, Kenneth of Everett, WA; one aunt, Ruby Yost of Forest City; and his church family at North Lake Church, Leesburg, FL.

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If so, we invite pastors and church leaders from all conferences, to join us for inspiration and encouragement in renewing your church's sense of purpose and mission on Friday, February 23, 2018, 7:00-8:30 p.m. Sabbath, February 24, 2018, 9:30 a.m.-7:00 p.m., at the Spartanburg Seventh-day Adventist Church, Spartanburg, S.C. Lunch and supper will be provided.

Keynote Speakers: Daniel R. Jackson, president of the North American Division, and Bill McClendon, pastor of the Ellicott City Seventh-day Adventist Church, Baltimore, MD. **Breakout Seminars:** with Melvin Santos, Stewart Lozensky, and Bill McClendon. Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union; Ralph Ringer, Southern Union director of Church Growth/Evangelism Training/Jewish Ministries; and Brad Cauley, Carolina Conference director of Church Growth and Church Planting; will share challenges and opportunities. There will also be testimonies of those who have turned their churches around or made a positive difference. This will be a good place to network with those involved in regenerating their church.

Come see how God can give you and your church vision, direction, guidance, and empowerment, so that your church can be blessed and filled.

Register online at www.carolinasda.org by January 28, 2018. If you have any questions, please call the Carolina Conference at 704-596-3200, and ask for the Church Growth Department.

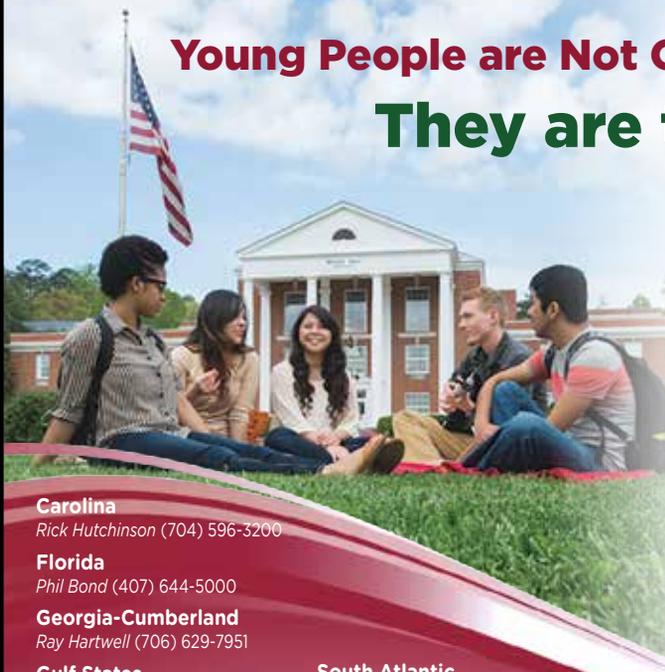
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Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391
- Oakwood University**
Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

- South Atlantic**
Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535
- South Central**
Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500
- Southeastern**
Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University
Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818

► Go to www.southern.edu/lastinglegacy to read the Cottons’ full story.



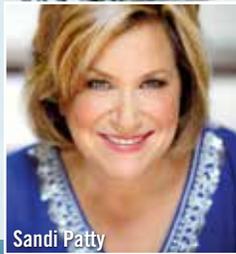
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Speaker/Director

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COLLEGEDALE - Ringgold, Georgia 7.78 acres of pristine land for sale, 15 min to SAU, beautiful site for your next home, Keith Rd MLS# 1265628. Cleveland luxury home \$585,000 on 2.5 acres, almost 5000 square feet. Only 12 minutes to SAU. Visit www.DixonTeam.com. Wendy Dixon, Dixon Team, Keller Williams Realty, 423-602-7653. [12]

SOUTHERN TINY LIVING proudly presented by Southern Adventist University.

The Tiny House features 300 square feet of living space, high ceiling with two lofts, fully equipped kitchen, full-size bathtub and shower, fully furnished. Offered at \$65,000. For more information call: 423-236-2537 or email: tprice@southern.edu [12]

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NEW SUBDIVISION close to Southern Adventist University: Custom design your new home with DreamTech Homes. Call Davanzo Real Estate for information on the many floor plans available & lot information. Jon Davanzo - 423-834-4545, or Lyle Spiva - 423-421-3456 or DJ Kimmel 423-509-5200. [12]

16.9 ACRES, LAND - 3200 square foot, well insulated warehouse plus 2 cabins and fruit trees, with 2 wells and vegetable garden for only \$139,000. Call Janet, Benchmark Realty at 615-202-5672. [12]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY seeks full time professor to teach **graduate outdoor education** courses. Responsible for: engaging in activities of department including research; providing leadership to graduate assistant; providing academic advising; and serv-

ing on university committees. Qualifications: earned doctoral degree in leadership, education, or other; familiarity with online programming, and wiliness to obtain pertinent outdoor certifications. Send cover letter, CV, statement of philosophy as it relates to outdoor education, and three references: Dr. John McCoy, Dean - School of Education and Psychology, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 or via email: jmccoy@southern.edu [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a part-time professor and a full-time professor for the **History and Political Studies Department** (starting June 1, 2017) to teach American history, develop courses, advise/mentor students, engage in service activities, and sustain a research and professional growth agenda. Must be able to teach courses in Atlantic history, topics in African history, and African-American and or Latin American pop culture; with a combination of expertise and strong knowledge in at least one of the two regional/cultural areas. PhD in History preferred. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to Dr. Mark Peach, peach@southern.edu and Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [12]

SOUTHERN'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY seeks full time professor to teach undergraduate **methods courses and teacher education courses**, as well as teach graduate level education courses. Also responsible for: academic advising, serve on university, department, and Teacher Education Program committees, and engage in activities of the department, including research and scholarly activities. Requirements: earned doctorate in education or related field, committed to Christian higher education and the integration of faith and learning, experience with online learning, mathematics background and successful teaching in public and church school preferable. Send cover letter, CV, statement of philosophy of Christian education, and three references: Dr. John McCoy, Dean - School of Education and Psychology,

Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 or via email: jmccoy@southern.edu [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks applicants for **Associate Vice President for Academic Administration**.

This leadership role provides direction for academic strategic planning, curriculum development, instructional methods, grading practices, admission standards, registration procedures, and graduation requirements. Additional responsibilities include: providing oversight to Institutional Research and Online Learning; chairing/or serving on committees; approving exceptions to academic policies and serving as liaison for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACS-COC) and the Adventist Accrediting Association (AAA); facilitating the administrative processing of program review; and serving as the administrative liaison to first-year experience, the honors program, and all extension programs. Qualifications: Earned doctoral degree with at least five years of successful, full-time teaching experience in higher education; the ability to effectively chair meetings and lead groups; strong verbal and written communication- which includes writing accurate technical reports; and professional tact and skill to interact with students, parents, faculty members, and administration. *To apply: Send letter of application, CV, and three references via US Mail or email Dr. Robert Young, Senior VP for Academic Administration, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315, ryoung@southern.edu. For full description of position visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]*

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Professor for its School of Journalism and Communication**

to teach undergraduate courses and advise in journalism, with a focus in print, broadcast, or new media. Master's Degree required, doctorate is preferred; with five years of professional experience and three years of teaching experience. *To apply: Send CV via US Mail or email to Dr. Rachel Williams-Smith, Dean for School of Journalism and Communication, PO BOX 370,*

Collegedale, TN 37315, rwilliamssmith@southern.edu. For full description of position visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Chemistry Department seeks **full-time faculty**

with expertise in organic chemistry, biochemistry, and/or chemical education, effective June 1, 2018. Responsibilities include courses for non-majors, chemistry for nursing and allied health majors, and organic chemistry labs. Additional responsibilities will be assigned depending on the qualifications and interests. Will be expected to substantially contribute to the development of the department's undergraduate research program by engaging students in lines of research that complement the research interests of the current faculty. Qualifications: Master's or doctoral degree (Ph.D. preferred) in areas of organic chemistry, biochemistry, and/or chemical education is required, with demonstrated knowledge and experience in applying best practices for teaching chemistry at the undergraduate level, and a commitment to teaching from a Biblical foundation. *Send cover letter, CV, statement of teaching philosophy, brief description of research interests, and three references to Dr. Brent Hamstra, Chair of Chemistry Department, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN or email: bhamstra@southern.edu. For full description of position and application procedure, visit www.southern.edu/jobs [12]*

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks an **Adjunct Instructor of German**

for its Modern Languages Department. Must be an experienced educator, hold an MA in German (with 18 graduate credits hours in German) and be familiar with ACFTL National language guidelines. Must also be willing to participate in professional development activities ensuring awareness of goal-oriented and student centered instruction. *Send CV to Dr. Adrienne Royo-Chair, Modern Languages Department via US Mail or email to: aroyo@southern.edu, PO Box 370 Collegedale, TN 37315, Att. Dr. Adrienne Royo. For full description of position visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]*

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **Director of Clinical Education (DCE)**

for its Physical Therapist Assistant Program. The DCE holds a full-time faculty appointment and has administrative, academic, service, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of Southern Adventist University. This individual demonstrates competence in clinical education, teaching, and curriculum development. In addition, the DCE's primary responsibilities are to plan, coordinate, facilitate, administer, and monitor activities on behalf of the academic program and in coordination with academic and clinical faculty. Minimum Qualifications: Must be a physical therapist (Master's or higher preferred) or a PT Assistant (Bachelor's required in a related field, Master's preferred); hold or be eligible for Tennessee state licensure; 3 years of clinical experience as a physical therapist assistant or physical therapist; 2 years of clinical teaching and/or clinical coordination experience; and strong communication, organization, interpersonal, problem-solving, and counseling skills. Must also be able to meet the faculty requirements as stated in the Standards and Required Elements for PTA programs. Preferred: teaching experience in a physical therapist academic program or equivalent coursework; active in clinical practice and professional activities; and an earned status as an APTA Credentialed Clinical Instructor. *Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, and three references to Dr. Christopher Stewart: cbstewart@southern.edu, or to PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 Att: Dr. Christopher Stewart. Position will be posted until filled. For full description of position visit: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]*

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

PUC is seeking a candidate for **Facilities Associate Director** in our Facilities Management Department. Preference for experience in planning, budgeting, maintenance of college facilities, in addition to strong leadership/interpersonal skills/team leader. Responsibilities in roads,

building safety, HVAC, water distribution/treatment, general building maintenance, compliance for hazardous materials, etc. For more information or to apply, please call 707 965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings> [12]

PUC is seeking full time positions in our Facilities Management Department. Looking for positions of **Tradesman Supervisor-Painter, and Tradesman 1- Carpenter**. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting, and carpentry. For Painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For Carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, able to be team player, handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call 707-965-6231 or visit <http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings> [12]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is seeking an **online adjunct professor/s** to teach part-time courses in newly organized **Senior Living Management Certificate** program through the Department of Business. *Submit cover letter and current CV/resume to denise.rivera@swau.edu*. Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference given with prior teaching experience. [12, 1]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is looking for a **full-time English professor** with a Ph.D. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty will be considered. *Send a CV to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, Chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest Street, Keene TX 76059 or lauej@swau.edu* [12, 1]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Psychology**. The Assistant Professor of Pastoral Care and Psychology will teach a full load of courses in pastoral care, counseling, advise and provide mentorship to Seminary students, provide spiritual, and therapeutic counseling services to seminarians, direct the psychological screening of applicants to

Seminary, provide advocacy and leadership in the area of pastoral care and counseling to the Seminary community, participate in Seminary and University life and carry regular faculty responsibilities related to teaching, service, research, publication, and administration. <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty> [12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS A UNIVERSITY FACULTY-ARCHITECTURE. The **Assistant/Associate Professor of Architecture** holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture & Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching, and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2 [12]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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

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more. *Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.com* [12-5]

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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* [12-5]

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ADVENTIST TOURS - Israel June 3-12, 2018; German Reformation/WWII July 1-11, 2018; British Reformation & Christianity July 11-21, 2018; Bethlehem to Rome (including Revelation's 7 churches) June 2-19, 2019; Ellen White in Europe June 20-30, 2019; Africa Safari & Service July 18-26, 2019. \$1990+/person. *Contact tabghatours@gmail.com or www.Faceboc.com/TabghaTours for full info.* [12]

CELEBRATING MESSAGE MAGAZINE 120th anniversary cruise, August 19-26, 2018, sailing from Orlando to Haiti, Jamaica and Mexico. Presenters: Include Barry Black, Willie & Elaine Oliver. Special Events: Pre-Cruise Power Weekend - discussions on incarceration, renewal of marriage vows for couples, mission outreach in Jamaica. *To register call: 917-734-4859. Email: newarc@aol.com, website: adventisttravel.com, message-magazine.com* [12]

CAROLINA

Prayer Conference - Dec. 1, 2. Morganton Church. Prayer Conference "Come to the Altar." A weekend of prayer and praise. Sabbath morning services and afternoon seminars. Meals: Lunch and supper will be provided on Sabbath. Location: Morganton Church, 2187 Jamestown Road, Morganton, NC 28655. Key-note speaker: Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union.

Evangelism Impact - Jan. 25-28. Crown Reef Beach Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach. SC. Register at www.carolinasda.org. Guest speakers: Ty Gibson, Ritchie Halvorsen, Roger Hernandez, Jose Cortez Jr., and Sung Kwon.

Pathfinder Bible Experience Testing - Feb. 3. Raleigh and Spartanburg churches.

Romance at the Ranch - Feb. 9-11. NPR.

Pathfinder Bible Experience Testing - Feb. 11. Charlotte University Church.

Hispanic Romance at the Ranch - Feb. 16-18. NPR.

REGENERATE! Church Revitalization Conference - Feb. 23, 24. Spartanburg Church.

Generous Living Summit - Feb. 24. Columbia First Church.

VBS Workshop - Feb. 25. Carolina Conference Office.

MPA Mission Trips - Feb. 25-March 11.

FLORIDA

Complete calendar online - florida-conference.com/events

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Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a location as scheduled below. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before 5:30 p.m. on the

Thursday before a scheduled Sunday delivery.

Delivery schedule resumes in January. Contact the ABC for dates/locations.

Women's Ministries Retreats - Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: God in Me. Cost: depends upon meal/accommodation choice and early-bird discount.

Feb. 2-4. English-language. Guest speaker: Tamyra Horst. Details: florida-conference.com/events/2018-womens-retreat

Feb. 9-11. English-language. Guest speaker: Janet Page. Details: florida-conference.com/events/2018-womens-retreat-0

Feb. 16-18. Spanish-language. Guest speaker: Damary Ramirez-Lebreault. Details: floridaconference.com/events/2018-retiro-de-mujeres

Men's Ministries Convention: 25th Anniversary - March 9-11. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 202 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Thy Kingdom Come. Guest speakers: Claudio Consuegra, Shian O'Connor, Ron Smith. Cost: depends upon meal/accommodation choice and early-bird discount.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Hispanic Elders' Training II - Dec. 15, 16. **Pathfinders/Adventurers Christmas in Clarkston** - Dec. 17. Clarkston, GA.

NAD Day of Prayer - Jan. 6. We encourage all churches to highlight the importance of prayer in their service, and to petition Heaven for God's power as we begin a new year of ministry and evangelism.

Singles' Ministries Hike to Glen Falls in Chattanooga, TN, and Game Night - Jan. 13. From 7-10 p.m. Contact Judy DeLay at 423-504-6528 or email jdelay@southern.edu.

Children's Ministries Convention - Jan. 12-14. Registration deadline is Dec. 20. More than 35 workshops on how to help leaders minister to our children, including VBS, Sabbath School, and children's evangelism. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder TLT Convention - Jan. 19-21. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

GULF STATES

Elders' and Deacons' Retreat - Dec. 1-3. Camp Alamisco.

Ordination of Pastor Sean Day -

Jan. 27.

Education Fair at Bass Memorial Academy - Jan. 28, 29.

Sabbath School Training for Adult and Youth Departments - Feb. 2-4. Camp Alamisco. www.gscsda.org/sstraining

Teen Invitational: Caving in North Alabama - Feb. 2-4.

SEEDS Church Planting Conference - Feb. 9, 10. Birmingham First Church.

Teen Invitational: Paintball - Feb. 11. Raymond, MS.

Pathfinder Bible Experience: Conference Level - Feb. 17. Pensacola, FL.

Hispanic Couples' Retreat - Feb. 23-25. Destin, FL.

Mad About Marriage Seminar - Feb. 23, 24. Panama City, FL.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

Executive Committee - Dec. 12. Conference Office.

KYTN Acrofest - Jan. 25-27. Highland Academy.

Highland Academy Board - Feb. 8. Highland Academy.

Couples' Retreat - Feb. 10. Paradise Ranch

Young Women's Valentine's Day - Feb. 11. Conference Office.

7UP Pathfinder Campout - Feb. 16-18. Indian Creek Camp.

CREATION Health Seminar - Feb. 21. Conference Office.

ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES

Adventist University of Health Sciences' Inauguration Ceremony - Jan. 11. For the new president, Edwin Hernandez, Ph.D., at the Calvary Orlando Church, 1199 Clay St., Winter Park, FL 32789. The Inauguration's Installation Ceremony starts at 2:30 p.m. Parking is available onsite. The event can also be viewed via live-streaming at www.adu.edu/inauguration.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble Christmas Pops Concert - Dec. 2. Under the direction of Ken Parsons, Southern's Wind Symphony

and Jazz Ensemble will present their annual Christmas concert at 8 p.m. in Iles P.E. Center. Admission is free. For more information, visit southern.edu/music or call 423-236-2880.

School of Music Christmas Concert - Dec. 9. Southern's School of Music will host its annual Christmas concert featuring the Symphony Orchestra, Choral Ensembles, and Brass Ensemble at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. The event, which will feature many holiday favorites for the whole family, is free and may also be viewed at southern.edu/streaming.

Concerto Concert - Jan. 28. This event begins at 4 p.m. and showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the University's full Symphony Orchestra. Held in the Collegedale, TN, Church, the event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER RETURNS 2018 - Jan. 10-20. With the theme, "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more information and to sign up your church, visit www.tendaysofprayer.org.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING - April 5-8. Honor classes: 1948, 1958, 1963, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, and 2008. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503, 3800 S. 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 27, 28. Honor classes: 3s and 8s. Welcome reception, Friday at 7 p.m., LSA Library. Sabbath services: registration at 9 a.m. and Homecoming Service at 10 a.m., LSA Gym. Potluck, campus tours, reunions, and varsity basketball. Please update/email contact information to: JNelson@lsak12.com; www.lsak12.com; alumni office: 951 351-1445 x244.

SHIRLEY C. IHEANACHO'S book signing occasion for her book, *God's Incredible Plans for Me: A Memoir of an Amazing Journey*, at the Pastoral Evangelism Leadership Council, Dec. 3-6, at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, AL.

RESCHEDULED: The Natural Remedies & Hydrotherapy workshop

scheduled for Aug. 6-11 at Andrews University has been rescheduled for spring 2018. Details will be provided as they become available. For more information, email chis@andrews.edu.

JOIN TRAIN THEM 2 FISH, a non-profit outreach ministry, for its third evangelistic meetings in Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). Join us in reaching out to the 12-million-plus souls in Kinshasa, many who have never heard the Gospel. Help us spread the Lord's message by volunteering to speak at evangelistic meetings or helping at a free medical clinic. For more information, please contact Karolyn Leonard at 828-551-7172 or Email: kleon2893@bellsouth.net<<mailto:kleon2893@bellsouth.net>>

SUNSET

	DEC 8	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 29	JAN 5	JAN 12
ATLANTA, GA	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:38	5:43	5:49
CHARLESTON, SC	5:14	5:15	5:18	5:23	5:28	5:34
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:11	5:13	5:16	5:20	5:25	5:32
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:38	5:44	5:50
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:35	4:37	4:40	4:44	4:50	4:56
JACKSON, MS	4:56	4:57	5:01	5:05	5:10	5:16
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:23	5:24	5:27	5:31	5:37	5:44
MEMPHIS, TN	4:48	4:50	4:53	4:57	5:02	5:09
MIAMI, FL	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:40	5:44	5:49
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:40	4:42	4:45	4:49	4:54	5:00
NASHVILLE, TN	4:32	4:34	4:37	4:41	4:47	4:53
ORLANDO, FL	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:38	5:43	5:49
TAMPA, FL	5:35	5:37	5:40	5:44	5:49	5:54
WILMINGTON, NC	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:11	5:16	5:22



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Freshman Lightbearer Scholarship

\$8,000

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



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

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