

# T Southern TIDINGS

JANUARY 2017

## *Hope* AND *Wholeness*

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ESPAÑOL  
PG. 32

SECURING THE BLESSINGS  
OF LIBERTY

STUDENT BENEFITS FROM  
SONSCREEN | IGNITE  
FILM FESTIVAL

FROM GROUP TO COMPANY  
— VICTORY!

# The Church, Violence, and Abuse



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

It could be argued that much of the Bible deals with violence. Accounts of biblical history frequently mention murder, military battles, and the blood of martyrs. Often the violence came because of the sinful acts of disobedient people whose lives were corrupt in the sight of God.

Abuse and violence have become so prominent within recent years that a number of professional counselors and community groups have turned their attention to prevention. Some communities have developed telephone hotlines to give immediate 24-hour access to people who are victims of abuse. The development of self-help groups can also be helpful for both victims and abusers.

Observers have urged churches to get involved by sponsoring educational events that will increase public awareness of abuse. Churches can host peer-support groups as many are doing. It is becoming more commonplace to develop or participate in telephone crisis lines, helping to establish safe shelters for battered women and their children, and urging schools, police departments, and other community agencies to consider educative and preventive programs. All of this could be helpful, both for intervention in abuse and for prevention. Here are some additional suggestions:

1. *Education.* Programs for preventing violence and sexual assault on college campuses have focused largely on providing information to both women and men. Assault is less frequent when students know how to protect themselves, what to do in case of an attack, where to report violence or suspected abuse, what is myth and what is factual about abuse, and where to get further information. Throughout the community, including the Christian community, public awareness is good prevention.

2. *Stimulate Individual and Family Stability.* Abuse, as we have seen, often occurs in families where there is intense stress, misunderstanding of husband-wife or parent-child roles, or an inability to cope with family pressures. By helping people deal with the demands of child-rearing, marital pressures, or the needs of elderly parents, we can reduce some of the underlying causes that lead to abuse. Research on delinquency prevention tends to support this conclusion. Children with close family bonds are less likely to experiment with delinquency. In contrast, violence, fighting, vandalism, and other forms of misbehavior most often come when children have been raised in homes where parents lack effective parenting skills. These may not be violent or unloving parents. Often they are parents who are overwhelmed by the demands of child rearing. When these parents get help, delinquency in their children is much less likely.

3. *Teaching Interpersonal Skills.* I've mentioned repeatedly that abusers often lack skills in effective communication, handling conflict, dealing with feelings, solving problems, negotiating when there are differences of opinion, managing stress, or coping with crises. Often the best way to prevent abuse is to help abusers and their victims handle life more effectively. Since victims of abuse so often become abusers, it could be beneficial to give special attention to abuse victims, teaching them how to cope when stresses arise.

4. *Social Action.* Ultimately prevention will have to focus on ways to eliminate some of the psychological and social environmental issues that stimulate abuse and battering.

All of this may seem far removed from the ministry of the local church. Throughout the Bible, however, there is an emphasis on helping the sojourner, the orphan, the widow, the poor, the helpless, and those who are in need. In today's society, surely no one is more powerless than the victim of abuse. The follower of Jesus Christ has a responsibility to give help and protection to those, who, for a variety of reasons, have become abused and abusers. 🕊

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SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 111  
Number 1 | January 2017  
Published monthly by the Southern Union.  
Free to all members.  
Periodical number: 507-0000  
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to  
*Southern Tidings*  
P.O. Box 923868  
Norcross, GA 30010-3868  
EMAIL: [idoce@southernunion.com](mailto:idoce@southernunion.com)



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Sharing the Bible

# SHARING *Hope* AND *Wholeness*

BY JIM DAVIDSON

**A**n unwavering hallmark of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has been a message of hope. Since our founding we have been a people who have espoused the hope that Jesus is coming back soon. We even have an unofficial theme song, “We Have This Hope.”

Hope — a simple four letter word. With it our life changes. Our outlook improves. Our disposition becomes sunnier. It is even being demonstrated that it can send disease into remission. But, without it the world becomes dark, destructive, and full of despair.

What a powerful little word. What a transformative concept. Hope changes lives!

At the Southern Union Session held in September 2016, a vision statement was introduced to the delegates present. This vision statement had been voted and adopted by the Southern Union Executive Committee. The statement says, “Our vision is to collaborate, lead, and reach the Southern Union through hope and wholeness.”

What an incredible privilege and responsibility God has given to each of us as Seventh-day Adventists to reach our world by sharing hope with hopeless humanity — to

*“Hope in a redeeming Savior ... hope in a healing Savior ... hope in a returning Savior!”*



be able to share ... *hope* in a redeeming Savior ... *hope* in a healing Savior ... *hope* in a returning Savior!

To provide hope in an often hopeless landscape is an awesome challenge. The vision of the Southern Union is to reach every person within our territory as fully and as rapidly as possible with this message of hope in Jesus.

In casting this vision, our Union president, Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., has challenged each one of our ministry departments to make sharing our faith, through evangelism and soul-winning, the litmus test of everything we do. To lead by example, he will personally be conducting five full evangelistic series in 2017. But, this challenge extends beyond the offices of the Southern Union. It is a clarion call to each of our 288,000 members to engage in sharing the hope of Christ.

This can be done in a multitude of ways:

- Public evangelistic meetings held by both clergy and laity.
- Personal Bible studies with neighbors, friends, and family.
- Reaching out in a kind, patient, and loving way to the many former or current members who have become disconnected and drifted away from the Church.
- Encouraging our children and young people to become active par-

ticipants in the life of the Church.

- Serving our communities by alleviating hunger, abuse, and poverty.

This list could go on and on. But, God has gifted and commissioned every one of us to be used as conduits of hope. We simply need to live our life constantly and intentionally looking for people and ways to share this wonderful hope.

A few days ago my wife, Bonnie, and I were walking along a trail in a beautiful park. As we walked we came upon another couple and fell into conversation. As we spoke the husband asked what my line of work was. I told him I was a minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. As I told them this, the husband looked at his wife and they both shook their heads. They said, “Just a couple months ago we began serving as the custodians for a Seventh-day Adventist Church. Now, it seems like everyone we meet is an Adventist. Even here, out on a forest trail, we’re meeting Adventists. You folks are everywhere!” This chance meeting started a long conversation about our Church, and gave us the opportunity to invite them to not only serve as custodians but to join in worship as well.

God will provide countless opportunities if we are open to His leading. Of course the beneficiary is not only the person with whom we share, but also ourselves, for as we share hope, it strengthens hope in our

own hearts as well.

That is why we have condensed the above vision statement to say, “Share Hope. Experience Wholeness.” When hope is shared, wholeness is experienced. Just as hope is a hallmark of the Church, so is wholeness. When a person begins to share hope, wholeness is also imparted. In fact, the *only* way we as Christians can experience wholeness of life is by sharing our hope in Jesus with others.

Listen to this profound statement from the Spirit of Prophecy: “That man might not lose the blessed results of benevolence, our Redeemer formed the plan of enlisting him as His coworker. God could have reached His object in saving sinners without the aid of man; but He knew that *man could not be happy without acting a part in the great work,*” (*emphasis mine*) *Counsels on Stewardship*, page 13.

The only way we can experience joy, happiness, and wholeness is to become involved in sharing Jesus. That is our vision, that every single member within the Southern Union be filled with the joy of Christ that only comes by sharing the hope that is found in Him.

Thousands of Southern Union Church members are already experiencing this joy. This past fall nearly 800 people were baptized in the Atlanta area as churches united to share Jesus. Hundreds more were baptized as the Southern Union Hispanic Ministries Department embarked on a caravan of reaping meetings across the Union. Thousands more are involved in churches and schools, both large and small, in countless ways of reaching out with the hope that only comes in Christ. Equal to the thousands of lives that are being changed through baptism are the thousands of lives within our own Church that are being changed as faithful Church members reach out to their communities and share Jesus.

I invite you to share in this vision. Share Hope. For when you do, you will experience wholeness. The work of God here on Earth will be finished, and we can all go home with Him. 🕊

**Jim Davidson** is the executive secretary at the Southern Union Conference in Norcross, Georgia.



Serving our communities



# SECURING THE BLESSINGS *of Liberty*

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

The preamble to the Constitution states without hesitation or restraint these words, “We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union ... secure the Blessings of Liberty ....”

Whether you love the election results, were standing with open mouth at the election results, or are planning to move to Canada because of the election results, I have news that blows the election results out of the water. No matter who rules here on Earth, God still rules the universe!

For many years our early Church leaders debated whether or not Adventists should engage in the political process of voting. As part of the second great awakening, our Church began during an historic, politically-troubled time. By the time we had officially organized as the Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1863, the United States was in the midst of our

first, and so far only, Civil War.

Our stand on voting, military service, and conservative protestant doctrines, as well as our understanding of prophecy, has left us with a very distinct denominational personality as viewed by secular and religious scholars. While we have become more diverse in our voting habits over the last 20 years, we have continued to be seen as more moderate in our political views. One of the biggest reasons for this hinges on our stand of religious liberty and our approach to government on this subject. We understand that religious liberty must be handled very delicately, as the balance to this first freedom is so precarious. Thus, our approach to this subject matter keeps us centered amid political debate and party strife.

The world once again got a view of the Church’s approach to religious liberty when they started questioning who

Seventh-day Adventists were during last year’s election. That election cycle held some very historic moments for Adventists. It was the first presidential election to ever have had an Adventist vying for nomination to president. And, for that moment in time, it gave the Church another opportunity to explain and remind the public, as well as ourselves, that Seventh-day Adventists believe keeping church and state separate are good for both.

Those who are engaged in the public affairs and religious liberty arena must always keep before us the goal of defending and preserving religious liberty. Remember, the First Amendment starts out, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ...” As the two political parties in America have become more polarized, we as Adven-



## TALKING TO A DEMOCRAT:

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Talk about the good things regarding separation of church and state. By keeping government secular, you safeguard both church and state from encroachment upon the individual's conscientious or the populace. Both remain strong when the two are separate. Speak to the importance of the establishment clause. If there is something we all agree on it is that we disagree about religion. An individual's tax dollars should not go to support someone else's religious beliefs and/or church or religious charity. Some Democrats are not receptive to the idea of free exercise, especially in light of gender and sexual orientation issues. Be sure you've found common ground before you would discuss a free-exercise approach to religious liberty.

## TALKING TO A REPUBLICAN:

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Republicans are very receptive to ideas about free exercise of religion, and therefore are big proponents of the "free exercise" clause of the first amendment. Speaking on behalf of free exercise, you probably want to list the good qualities of being allowed to follow your conscience in putting God first in your life. However, there are some first amendment principles many Republicans do not espouse, such as thinking there is nothing wrong with sharing tax dollars with faith-based community outreach, even though Adventists have traditionally seen this as endorsement of religion. Keep in mind that you never want to enter a discussion by complaining. Finding a way to address a shared interest will keep your listener engaged.



## SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS BELIEVE THAT ...

- Government is God’s agency to protect individual conscience and rights.
- Government funds should not go to support religion.
- A secular (civil, non-theocratic) government is the best way to defend and preserve the freedoms we are afforded today.
- Muslims, Sikhs, Buddhists, Hindus, Atheists, Protestants, Catholics, and much more should have the right to freely practice, believe, and share their beliefs with others here in this nation of religious freedom.
- Every child of God is valuable and should be treated according to the Golden Rule, regardless of culture, color, creed, or calling.

## THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY DEPARTMENT IS HERE TO ASSIST CHURCH MEMBERS IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- Help with Sabbath and religious discrimination problems.
- Provide letters for accommodation in testing and workplace problems.
- Provide “immigration non-combatant” letters for naturalization.
- Handle *Liberty Magazine* and subscription issues.
- Monitor state legislative activity for religious liberty issues.

tists should be first and foremost in and among our communities to bring people to common ground. We should be leaders in making friends and inviting those friends to sit at a table where all are represented and can find some consensus with our elected leaders. As Seventh-day Adventists we have been placed here for a purpose — and maybe even for such a time as this.

Students of prophecy know that we should never suppose for a moment that one political party will do better than another. Each party has issues, and as defenders of freedom we must safeguard against anything that endangers religious liberty in America today. Part of safeguarding those freedoms must include dialogue with opposing sides.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department engages in dialogue with your elected officials on a constant basis, but never in order to gain political power for ourselves or the Adventist Church. The goal for religious liberty advocates is to keep all sides talking and agreeing that religious freedom is important to all who reside within the borders of this great nation. We don’t believe you have to make America great again; we believe America is already great, and specifically because of her longstanding position on religious liberty.

Over the last year, I’ve encountered members who told me they never vote, others who say they always vote, and some who complained to me this year that for the first time they were refraining from voting. No matter your stand on voting, we all have a duty as future citizens of Heaven to make sure that liberty and justice are protected for all. We have been given the awesome responsibility of ensuring that God’s gift of free choice is preserved and defended for all mankind. Join me this year as we continue to protect this first freedom. 🙏

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**Amireh Al-Haddad** is the director of the Southern Union Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department.





PHOTO BY: MARTIN BUTLER

Attendees pause for a group photo during the 2016 SONscreen | Ignite workshop held August 13-14, 2016, at the Florida Conference office.

# Mom and Son Take Lead Roles in FAITH'S NOT DEAD

BY BRYAN LANKSTON

I attended the SONscreen | Ignite Film Workshop sponsored by the Florida Conference Communication Department on August 13-14, 2016. At this two-day event, excellent speakers covered every aspect of filmmaking for professional and local church use. This was the second year that my mother, Kathy, and I attended.

I am pleased to say that I was a member of the 2016 Mini Movie Challenge winning team. Our group consisted of members of my New Port Richey media team, a Florida Conference teacher from Altamonte Springs, and an actress from Fort Pierce, Florida.

During the workshop, we learned some great lighting techniques and networked with other attendees to improve what we were already doing in New Port Richey. We are using ideas we learned in the breakout sessions during our Sabbath School and church presentations.

My mother is working with her Adventist Christian Academy third- and fourth-grade classes on photography, and they are making a short film based on a modern day parable. Creating a desire to use media to further Christ's message has



## “AND THE WINNER IS...”

Bryan and Kathy Lankston (third and fourth from left) were on the Mini Movie Challenge team that won SONscreen | Ignite's Best Movie category for their production, *Faith's Not Dead*. Bryan served as producer, with assistance from Rodney Ramey (second from left). Kathy served as lead script writer, with assistance from Kari Nelson (fifth from left) and Bre Barclay (sixth from left). Bryan also worked on filming and editing, with assistance from Justin Rivera (not pictured). Also shown are Alondra Suarez, cast extra (second from right); Julio Muñoz (left), North American Division SONscreen Film Festival director; and workshop presenter Nathan DeWild (*The Adventists*), of Journey Films (right). The grand prize awarded to each team member was free admittance to the April 6-8, 2017, SONscreen Film Festival in Loma Linda, California, along with the invitation to enter *Faith's Not Dead* in the competition.

**Martin Butler**  
Communication Director of the Florida Conference

become a part of the Bible program in her classroom.

Thanks to some of the people we met at the workshop, we are also using media

and drama with the school choir that my mother conducts. We are striving to impact others and share the Gospel message with as many people as possible. 🙏

# FROM GROUP TO COMPANY — VICTORY!

BY DAVID HARTMAN



The Victory Mission Group began meeting once a month in Schlisner Hall at Madison Campus Church in December 2015. On Sabbath, March 12, 2016, after much prayer, planning, and searching, they opened the doors to their newly rented church home in the Donelson, Tennessee, area of Nashville with 140 in attendance, including 21 guests. Rich Kline joined the church by profession of faith that day, and shared his personal testimony during the sermon time. Spawned as a lay-led movement from the Madison Campus Church, Victory has been actively engaged in evangelism.

In April, Paul Yim, M.D., gave several health presentations during the Sabbath morning services, with a vegan lunch, take-home recipes, and an afternoon health seminar. This was followed by a dinner and Daniel Seminar by Chuck Young on Tuesday evenings through the month of August, using Russell Burrill's Daniel Seminar materials. Kline facilitated Neil Nedley's Depression Recovery

Seminar in July and August. And, Mike Strom, Young, and Yim conducted an Unlocking Revelation evangelistic series in September and October.

Six people have joined Victory as a result of the series, including two inactive members, a father and his nine-year-old daughter, and a young woman in her early 20s. At her baptism, Kelly Walker exclaimed, "I've been searching for the truth in many churches, but have not found it until now. Now I know where I belong." Haani Brock had joined the Adventist church at an early age, but later stopped attending. "The minute I walked through the door at Victory, everyone was so nice and accepting. I found my church family," said Brock. She was rebaptized at the end of the series.

Keith DiDomenico, lay pastor at Victory, recalls the SEEDS Church Planting Conference held in April 2015, where Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, urged the planting of new churches throughout the

Conference. That weekend, DiDomenico felt convicted to become part of a church plant. "Since that time, God has opened up doors and brought the right people together, and has worked one miracle after another." Kline remarks of his new church home, "I have grown a lot as a leader at Victory. When my wife and I attend there, it's not like we're just attending church, but we're going to see our family. It's also a place for us to get involved." The Klins recently invited the whole church over to their home for a fall festival and bonfire Vespers.

Victory currently has an average weekly attendance of 80. From the very beginning, Victory was formed for the purpose of preparing people for Christ's soon return. Every service, program, ministry, and outreach has its eye on evangelism.

On December 17, 2016, Victory transitioned from Mission Group to Company. Victory is anticipating becoming a full-fledged church, and then planting evangelistic churches. ●

# Dothan Church Opens Health Center



The Dothan First Church, Dothan, Ala., hosted its first Community Health Fair and the grand opening of their Community and Wellness Center on Friday, October 7, 2016. The event was held in collaboration with the Alabama Cooperative Extension System in Dothan. There were more than 20 health exhibitors and screenings, with more than 150 people in attendance.

The Community Health Fair featured Mike Schmitz, Dothan City mayor, who read a proclamation declaring October 7, 2016, as the Community and Wellness Center Day in Dothan. In addition, the mayor honored the partnerships with the Dothan First Church and Alabama Cooperative Extension Champion Nutrition Education Programs for hosting many outreach programs, including vegetarian cooking schools taught by Uchee Pines Healthy Lifestyle Center; chair exercise classes for senior citizens; herbs and natural home remedies seminars, by Mark An-

thony and Melody Prettyman; and spa day for the women using natural remedies with French green clay, by Tony DeMoraris, naturopathic physician. With a fast growing Hispanic Church, Spanish classes are also held weekly.

During the Community Health Fair, many senior citizens were honored during a special ceremony, and they stood proudly with Rosalind James, extension agent; Mike Schmitz, mayor; and Bob Ratcliff, pastor at Dothan First Church, as WTVY Channel 4 News captured footage of the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The Uchee Pines Natural Lifestyle Center medical-missionary students-in-training conducted health screenings outside for exercise. The students also conducted heart screenings, massage therapy, and blood pressure screenings. Vegetarian food tasting was provided by Florence Harris, Uchee Pines Lifestyle educator. ●

BY ROSALIND JAMES

# Rainsville Church Burns Mortgage



The Rainsville Church members, Rainsville, Ala., celebrated paying off their church property on Sabbath, November 19, 2016, with a mortgage-burning ceremony. Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States Conference, and Jaime Pombo, current pastor of Rainsville Church, led out in the service. Dan Thompson, former pastor of Rainsville, was in attendance as

well. Conference treasurer Brian Danese preached a powerful message about Jesus paying the ultimate price for salvation.

In 2005, the church members decided that it was time to move to a new location, and under the leadership of Kurt Threlkeld, pastor, plans were made. By 2006, with Thompson assuming the senior pastor position, the building project was finished. With

the support and assistance of members Ken and Donna Stroud, Adrian and Judy Aponte, and Tom and Arlene McFarland, the entire project was seen to fruition. Through God's providence, the church property was paid off in September of 2016. ●

BY JAIME POMBO

# Florida Hospital Awards More Than \$1 Million in Community Projects to Meet Needs of Underserved



Caregivers aboard the Osceola County Mobile Dental Unit prepare to provide low-income, uninsured residents in central Florida with quality dental checkups.

Florida Hospital has awarded more than \$1 million to community projects that provide important medical services to the underserved in central Florida, including a new mobile dental unit that will provide free or reduced care to Osceola County residents.

“We are passionate about serving others and improving the health of all central Floridians. By partnering with local organizations and supporting innovative projects, we can change — and save — lives,” said Yamile Luna, assistant vice president of Florida Hospital Community Impact. “Providing services at the appropriate time and setting also helps reduce medical costs and the overall financial strain on the health-care system.”

Florida Hospital’s Community Health Impact Council, commonly known as CHIC, announced its latest recipient projects today:

- **Osceola County Mobile Dental Unit** — The CHIC grant supports the Osceola County Health Department as

it launches a mobile dental program to serve low-income, uninsured residents in the Holopaw, Kenansville, and Narcoossee areas. The mobile unit will operate three days a week and provide free or low-cost services, beginning in January. (\$304,903)

- **Care Coordination at Florida Hospital** — This program provides patients with complex cases an advocate to ensure they receive proper support after discharge. The advocates will help patients make follow-up appointments, navigate community resources such as specialty clinics where they can receive free follow-up care, resolve barriers that prevent them from accessing health care, and help patients define their overall needs and goals. (\$142,300)
- **Asthma Project Connect** — The CHIC grant extends funding for this community-based asthma education and outreach program, which provides home visits, medication

management, and treatment plan assistance to minority communities in Orange County. (\$175,702)

- **Aspire Health Partners** — This navigation program provides a seamless transfer of patients in need of substance abuse or mental health services from hospital emergency departments to Aspire. (\$474,654)
- **Healthy Eatonville Place** — CHIC granted a request to roll over unused funds and allocate an additional \$25,000 to continue the services of Healthy Eatonville Place. The program seeks to improve the health of Eatonville by reducing the prevalence of diabetes, obesity, hypertension, and smoking.
- **Senior Care Companions** — The Osceola Council on Aging initiative provides chronically ill seniors with companions who help with their daily needs, such as transportation, emotional support, health education, and other assistance. (\$150,692)

Osceola Council on Aging CEO Beverly Hougland said the Care Companion program helps both low-income seniors who want to volunteer and those who are struggling with chronic illnesses. Senior volunteers receive a small stipend and mileage reimbursement, which not only makes it affordable for them to volunteer but the program also supplements their income, she explained.

“The senior clients who suffer from chronic health problems have a friend in their Care Companion, who encourages healthy behaviors and provide health education,” Hougland said. “But, they also help reduce social isolation, which results in an improved quality of life for the program patients.”

# Park Ridge Health Partners with New Shriners Hospitals for Children Clinic to Bring Expert Pediatric Orthopaedic Care to Western North Carolina



The Shriners Hospitals for Children Orthopaedics Clinic will bring convenient, expert, whole-person care to the region.

The new Shriners Hospitals for Children Orthopaedics Clinic - Hendersonville — a partnership between Shriners Hospitals for Children - Greenville, Blue Ridge Health, and Park Ridge Health — is now open and providing convenient care for children in western North Carolina.

“Our office in Hendersonville is the third offsite clinic of its kind for Greenville Shriners Hospital,” said Randy Romberger, administrator, Greenville Shriners Hospital. “This office will ultimately be open on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, reducing the travel burden for existing patients who drive the distance for regular appointments, and new patients alike.”

Greenville Shriners Hospital opened a similar clinic operating once per month in Bluffton, S.C., three years ago, and last month launched a daily clinic in Johnson City, Tenn.

“We recognize that access to care is extremely important, so we are doing our best to make the services we offer available to more kids,” said Michael Wattenbarger, chief of staff, Greenville Shriners Hospital. “Our team of pediatric orthopaedic surgeons is the largest in the history of the hospital, and that depth will enable members of our team with different specialties to rotate through the Hendersonville office.”

Blue Ridge Health, a non-profit community health center that provides general pediatrics as well as family medicine, behavioral health, and dental services, regardless of a patient’s ability to pay, is also proud to partner to bring the new clinic to Hendersonville.

“We are committed to providing comprehensive access for some of the most medically vulnerable in our region,” said Richard Hudspeth, chief executive officer, Blue Ridge Health. “Reducing travel barriers for

children in need of specialty services aligns well with our mission to provide affordable and accessible care for all, and we are excited to be partnering with Shriners Hospitals for Children to further that mission.”

Officials at Park Ridge Health say they are excited to have played a role in establishing this partnership to help families in the community have more convenient access to the comprehensive care offered by Greenville Shriners Hospital.

“Park Ridge Health is dedicated to providing whole-person care,” says Jimm Bunch, Park Ridge Health CEO. “That includes developing partnerships to help alleviate some of the added strains on families, such as travel and lodging costs.”

“Through our Imaging Center, that shares a building with Blue Ridge Health, we are providing X-rays for the Greenville Shriners Hospital patients who live in this community,” adds Todd Guffey, director, Park Ridge Health Diagnostic Imaging. “It will give them the information their physician needs to help them establish and reach the goals to experience their healthiest lives possible.”

# “2 Serve” Ministers Jesus’ Way



PHOTO BY: PETER COUSINS



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

Nijah and Jeremy

Peter Cousins (second from left) and students pray with a family whose property they helped clean up after Hurricane Matthew.

From September 28 to October 2, 2016, Tri-City Christian Academy hosted its third annual “2 Serve” Conference, which is sponsored by the Southern Union. Adventist Christian Academy of Raleigh, Greeneville Adventist Academy, Heritage Academy, and home school students from across the Southern Union participated in Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training. CERT trains people to be better prepared to respond to emergency situations in their communities. By the end of the Conference, nearly all the students received certification to participate in emergency response.

A couple weeks later the students were able to put that training into action when Tri-City was called to Florida to assist Heritage Academy in an emergency response to Hurricane Matthew. The 73 students were sent to two locations, Orange Cove and St. Augustine. There were three activities available for the students to participate in: food distribution, debris removal, and cleaning out homes that had received serious water damage from the storm.

While working in the neighborhoods, the students were able to see the residents’ re-

actions to their help. Many residents were moved to tears as an army of youth, rightly trained, descended on the scene of the disaster. The free debris and mud removal saved many of the residents thousands of dollars they simply did not have. As the work at each home was completed, the group of 10-12 responders, mostly high school-age students, gathered in a circle with the residents and had prayer. Afterward, a *Steps to Christ* was given with this explanation, “This is why we do what we do!”

At one house, where the students had to remove five fallen trees, the woman of the house, Kay, opened up to the students during a water break. She shared that she had suddenly lost her husband to brain cancer six months earlier. Since then, she struggled to make sense of everything and had given up on God. The group simply listened, since her tears and raw emotions were too painful to respond to verbally. When they finished their work, this group had prayer with Kay, gave her hugs, and left a *Steps to Christ*.

At church that Sabbath, Jen, a church member who is Kay’s friend, shared that she had been at Kay’s house when the storm

hit, and had assured her that her church would do something to help. Then on Friday, she had gone over to Kay’s house for dinner. When she entered the house, she saw Kay sitting in her chair, reading the *Steps to Christ* the students had given her earlier that day. Jen also shared that normally Kay would not pray with her at mealtime, but this night was different. When Jen paused and said, “Let me pray for my food before we eat,” Kay asked, “Why don’t we pray together?”

Jen’s eyes filled with tears as she told the students that Kay had never wanted to pray with her before.

It is truly amazing what happens when people minister the way Christ ministered. Not every visit ended this way, but this one experience made the whole trip worthwhile for everyone involved.

“2 Serve” blends the ministry skills of canvassing, teaching, and school administration in a unique way. Each family visited was open and receptive to prayer and literature after their physical needs had been met. In addition, students were eager to learn how to serve, and wanted to be actively involved in every aspect of service. What better way to teach young people to be the hands and feet of Jesus, while taking a message of hope to those who need it most? 🕊

BY PETER COUSINS

# Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting Held



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Leslie Louis (right), Carolina president, prays for Des Cummings as he begins his message.



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

**Umoja Church Choir**



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

There's nothing like a good old camp meeting to give you a spiritual boost, and reenergize you for life's journey. On October 22, 2016, while there wasn't any camping, and the only tent was for serving lunch, Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting still had the desired effect on those who attended. They were all blessed by the presence of the Holy Spirit.

Des Cummings was the speaker, and

the Greenville, N.C., Church was brimming with worshippers eager to hear what God had asked him to say. The music was provided by not one, but two choirs: The Umoja Church choir in their colorful garb delighted the audience during the early part of the service, and from the Asheville area came the Celestial Praise Chorale. The Chorale provided songs both during the worship hour and for the afternoon concert.

Children's programs were offered for the younger crowd, leaving their parents free to enjoy the presentations. An efficient, delicious lunch gave everyone physical sustenance to combine with the spiritual nourishment of the day.

Next year, the Conference will host Low Country Camp Meeting in Summerville, S.C. ●

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

# Florida Conference Workers Ordained in 2016



Ryan and Kayleigh Amos

**Ryan S. Amos**

Ordained—June 4, 2016

**Jacksonville Southpoint Church and Jacksonville Myanmar Mission Group: Senior Pastor**

Bio: [floridaconference.com/news/2016/06/ryan-s-amos-ordained](http://floridaconference.com/news/2016/06/ryan-s-amos-ordained)



Rodny, Maria, Rody Jr., and Mary Aquino

**Rodny Aquino**

Ordained—August 20, 2016

**Carol City Spanish Church and Miami Beach First Spanish Church: Senior Pastor**

Bio: [floridaconference.com/news/2016/08/rodny-aquino-ordained](http://floridaconference.com/news/2016/08/rodny-aquino-ordained)



Claude and Martina Hardcastle (children not pictured)

**Claude B. Hardcastle II**

Ordained—July 23, 2016

**Windermere Church and Emmanuel Church: Senior Pastor**

Bio: [floridaconference.com/news/2016/07/claude-b-hardcastle-ii-ordained](http://floridaconference.com/news/2016/07/claude-b-hardcastle-ii-ordained)



Matthew, Katia, Philips, Stephanie, and Alissa Mompremier

**Philips Mompremier**

Ordained—November 12, 2016

**Elim French Haitian Church, Bethesda Corkscrew Company, North Naples Mission Group, and Gosen Haitian Mission Group: Senior Pastor**

Bio: [floridaconference.com/news/2016/11/philips-mompremier-ordained](http://floridaconference.com/news/2016/11/philips-mompremier-ordained)



Jonathan, Amy, Noelle, Robert, Rebecca, and Evan Nickell

**Robert G. Nickell**

Ordained—July 25, 2016

**Florida Hospital Waterman: Senior Chaplain**

Bio: [floridaconference.com/news/2016/07/robert-g-nickell-ordained](http://floridaconference.com/news/2016/07/robert-g-nickell-ordained)



# Teens Witness During High School Bible Retreat



PHOTO BY: AILEEN VELAZQUEZ

High School Bible Retreat students created sidewalk chalk art to share inspiring messages and encouraging words with citizens of High Springs, Fla.

During an action-packed weekend, nearly 300 students gathered September 29 to October 2, 2016, for the annual High School Bible Retreat at Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Fla. Teens attended worships, participated in small groups, experienced solo/quiet time, learned from seminars, competed in a localized version of The Amazing Race™, mingled with an author and received a signed book, and performed community outreach/service.

On Sabbath afternoon, it was beautiful to watch young people reach out to the community of High Springs, where teams designed chalk art messages on city sidewalks to encourage people as they were passing by, baked cookies and delivered them to

the local police station, and delivered helium-filled balloons and personalized cards to residents in the nursing home.

Something the students tried for the first time was to stand at stop lights and ask for money. The objective was to ask for cash donations benefitting Samaritan's Purse, a nonprofit organization. What happened next was almost unbelievable. Armed with a good attitude, a collection container, and a feeling of the presence of an awesome God, several groups of students took the challenge to heart.

At the end of the afternoon, one group had raised \$100. Another raised \$40. The teens were super excited, and, collectively, they were able to look through the Samaritan's

Purse magazine where they chose to provide care packages for three orphans, blankets for six people, food for hungry babies, and emergency food.

These were Florida Conference young people asking God to bless their efforts as they made a difference in the lives of real people. Incredible things can happen when energy and innocence of young people is combined with the resources and experience of adults.

Please continue to pray for the young people, and, specifically, ask God to help you find ways to deploy/mobilize young people for service. 🙏

BY PEDRO PEREZ

# CAS Students Challenged to Evaluate Their Spirituality



PHOTO BY: CODY CLIFFORD

Students and teachers at Columbus Adventist School in Georgia spent a year studying the effects of media on their minds and bodies. They decided to bring those items to school and to destroy the media, ending the influence on their lives. They seek to spend more time with God.

The foremost goal as Christian educators at Columbus Adventist School (CAS) in Columbus, Ga., is to help the students develop a Christ-like character. This includes emphasizing the need to be good stewards of the limited time all have on this Earth. Students are encouraged to reflect on the many ways they spend their time, and then to evaluate if their choices strengthen their relationship with their Savior.

After a yearlong study of media and its effects on the bodies and minds, the students were invited to consider all that they had learned. They were encouraged to pray and ask the Holy Spirit to show them things in their lives that were serving as distractions from their relationship with God. Usually during the morning worship, the students are asked to clear their desk space of any items that may serve as a distraction from the message. However, one morning the students were asked to intentionally bring specific items which they

deemed “distractions” from their spiritual walk with God. The items that they were impressed and felt comfortable bringing to class showed up on their desks the following morning.

What would be the fate of such items? After all, some of them had great financial value. Other items held sentimental value. With the consent of each student in the room, it was decided that these forms of media could not be sold or given to someone else. Placing these items in the hands of another individual would only perpetuate the cycle of negative influences.

The teachers prayed for strength and wisdom on this issue, and allowed the students to openly share the reasons why they chose to bring the media they had selected. Time taken from God in exchange for worldly entertainment was just one factor. Students also honestly admitted that inappropriate images, language, and behaviors were being beheld.

“I know the time that I am spending

playing these games is taking time away from God.” –Brasen, 4th grade

“It’s very hard for me to give this up, but I know these video games are full of violence. I recognize that violence is not a good thing.” –Michael, 4th grade

“I know my little brother is watching what I do, and the choices I make in what I watch and play. I don’t want him to grow up to make these same choices.” –Michael, 7th grade

“I know that holding onto the things that glorify athletes rather than God is a problem.” –Darius, 7th grade

The only solution they could arrive at was to destroy these things that had been playing such a destructive role in their lives. All were led (teachers included) by the Holy Spirit to remove these things from their lives, and once they did so, they prayed that the void left inside would be filled with a love and appreciation for the Savior, and a sincere desire to share Him with the world.

The question they all needed to prayerfully ask is, “Why as Christians would we willingly take part in such entertainment?” Perhaps it’s due to the idea that, “The media I watch doesn’t affect me as long as I just view it and don’t act out in the same manner.” In the book of Matthew, Jesus provides clarification for all on this matter. He explains that sins such as lust and murder are committed in the heart, and not just through deeds.

When the students at CAS consider whether or not their media choices are up to God’s standard, they are asked to test it to the Word of God. “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report; if there is any virtue, and if there is anything praiseworthy, meditate on these things,” Philippians 4:8. 🕊

BY CODY AND RACHEL CLIFFORD

# Members Reach Out at Hacksaw Ridge Movie



PHOTO BY: PHOTO BY DEE ANN LECHNER

Ken Cooper and Rob Lechner, pastor of the Johnson City Church, hand out books to theater patrons attending the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*.

The Tennessee Johnson City Church personal ministries team wanted to reach out to the community during the opening weekend of the movie *Hacksaw Ridge*. Ken Cooper, personal ministries leader, spoke to the manager at the Carmike Cinema in Johnson City, and received permission for the church members to pass out the *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge* book to patrons in the theater on November 4-5, 2016.

On opening night, November 4, a table was set up in the lobby with the free books for anyone who was interested. A small team of church members were waiting outside the show room doors to pass out the books to those who had viewed the movie at 4 p.m.

Those who had just seen the movie were very moved, inspired, and eager to receive the book. They were very gracious and

thanked the church members. One woman said to church member Mike Saladino, "Thank you so much. I appreciate this. I will send my friends to see it." Many others stated they were veterans and appreciated the movie and the book. Still others were curious as to the group's connection to the movie.

That gave the church members an opportunity to explain that they were from the local Seventh-day Adventist church, and that Desmond Doss had been a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

They explained that the Adventist Church was offering the free book so that they could read about Desmond Doss' experience and learn more about his faith.

They gave out 200 books between the 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. showings on November 4. The movie was so popular that evening that

the 7 p.m. show was sold out and people were choosing to wait to see the 10 p.m. showing. The next day, Sabbath afternoon on November 5, the personal ministries team returned to the theater and passed out another 225 books, making a total of 425 books passed out in just a few short hours over a two-day period.

As Desmond Doss prayed, "Lord help me save one more, just one more." The Johnson City Church's prayers are the same: "Lord, one more, help us save just one more."

They also pray that the movie and book will make a big difference in people's lives, and not only one more, but many more people will choose to serve the wonderful Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ! 🙏

BE DEE ANN LECHNER

# Lawrenceburg Members Participate in Hacksaw Ridge Outreach

Members of the Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Church ordered 900 copies of the book, *Hero of Hacksaw Ridge*, by Boonton Herndon, to give away. For three weeks before the movie was released in theaters nationwide, Norman Henderson, M.D., and Lloyd Schomburg, pastor, aired a special 15-minute radio program once each week on local radio stations, talking about the life, faith, and convictions of Desmond Doss, and the newly released movie. Alan Salhany, another member, also advertised the movie on his weekly radio program. Neighbors and friends who read the Tennessean article about Doss, written by Nashville

pastor Melvin Santos, eagerly accepted a book.

When the owner of the local theater was asked if the movie would be shown in Lawrenceburg, the response was that it would depend on how well it was received in other places. Eventually, the theater owner decided to show the movie, and allowed the church members to stand outside the theater to hand out books. After the first showing, people exited the theater with tears in their eyes, eager to receive a book. In fact, the theater staff members came running out of the theater asking for a book. The first week more than 400 books were given away.

Due to the popularity of the movie, the theater owner extended its viewing time to two full weeks. The owner and staff became so excited about the response of the public that they eagerly chose to personally hand each viewer a book at the time they purchased a ticket, eliminating the need of a member to be at each viewing. What joy to know that each viewer would receive a book.

With heartfelt prayers of thanksgiving, the 900 books will never have an opportunity to collect dust in the church's personal ministries closet. 📖

BY LLOYD SCHOMBURG

# Evangelism Reaps Miraculous Deliverance



Pictured are those who joined the Paris Church after the meetings: Mary Winburn (left); Doug Goodrum; Heather Goodrum; Chuck Kohley, pastor; Austin Tyler; James Walker; Kieth Noll, evangelist; and Trina Wagers (seated).

It is always a blessing to see how God changes lives, saves marriages, and delivers His children from the bondage of sin. The following story testifies to a powerful, wonder-working God.

Two and half years ago, Doug and Heather Goodrum started Bible studies with Peter Lewis from Camden, Tenn. At the end of the studies, Lewis invited the Goodrums to be baptized. Though they declined, things went well for them as their faith grew.

In January 2015, Doug Goodrum suffered a paralyzing stroke. He was not aware of anything for the next three days. When he woke up, he began getting better and stronger by the day. But, he was left with a lot of pain, so much pain that he became dependent on pain medication. With

the medication came mood swings, which had a horrible effect on his family; and, he stopped reading the Bible. During this difficulty, torrential rains flooded his family's home, and they became homeless. Unable to find anything to buy or rent, they moved in with Goodrum's mother.

While living in his mother home, Goodrum, still dependent on pain medication

and now using other drugs, began praying and reading the Bible every morning. Things started improving, and in August 2016, Goodrum and his wife were able to purchase the home where they now live.

Five weeks before the meetings at the Paris Church, Goodrum began praying for deliverance from his addictions, and he and his wife decided to attend the meet-

ings. He is now free from addictions, and he and his family are starting a new life in Jesus Christ. He was baptized on Sabbath, October 22, 2016, and his wife joined by profession of faith the following Sabbath. Praise God for what He has done. 🙏

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BY KIETH NOLL

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## Highland Elementary Pre-kindergarten/Kindergarten Program Highlighted



Samuel Sinclair (bottom, left), Ayden Pulley, Misael Serrano, Joshua Leggett, Sage Garrett, CB Bagshaw, Ryland LaRoy (top, left), Blake Nasarenus, Julia Ayers

It was a day full of excitement as the students entered the classroom one Monday morning late in October 2016. Students entered the doors dressed in costumes from countries all over the world, bearing food samples and show-and-tell items from around the globe. After a monthlong unit studying about life on each continent, the students enjoyed a day culminating the

events by simulating one last visit to each continent. One student said, "When can we go in the airplane again, Mrs. Shoemaker? That was so much fun!" As each continent was revisited, the students took a pretend trip on Pre-K/K Airlines, traveling from one destination to the next. At each stop the students experienced food, games, and music, and enjoyed making a craft from

that particular continent.

The pre-K/kindergarten program at Highland Elementary (HE) is a daily adventure. Whether it's learning about the alphabet, seeing firsthand the stages of a butterfly, or taking an imaginary trip around the world, the goal at Highland is to instill a love of learning at an early age. Students are encouraged to approach learning with many hands-on experiences, including being inquisitive, creative, and investigative, all while in a safe, nurturing environment.

The combined pre-K/kindergarten program at HE has been in place since 2007. Highland received State of Tennessee approval for pre-kindergarten in 2015, which allows for many more pre-kindergarten students to enroll. Pre-kindergarten is offered as either a part-time or full-time program to help meet the needs of the families in the community.

For the teacher, the most important aspect of each school day is the ability to weave Jesus throughout the day in everything said and done. Each day, the Adventist message and the love of Jesus are shared with the students. It is the desire of the HE staff that the students have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, and a lifelong walk with Him. 🙏

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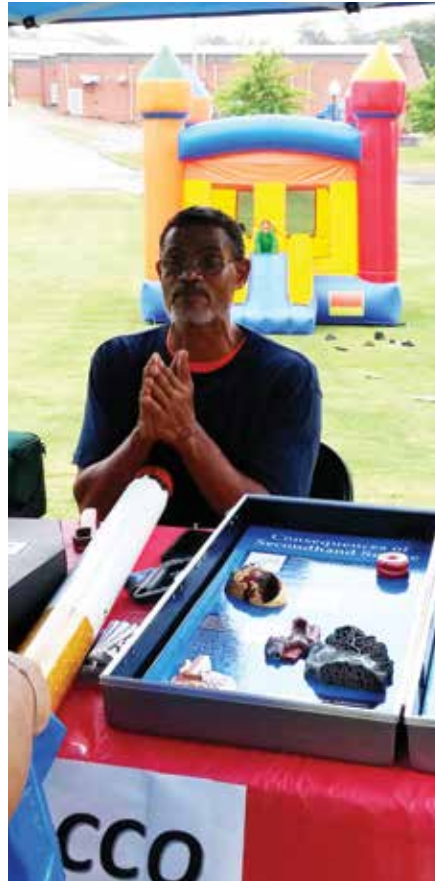
BY MELISSA SHOEMAKER

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# The Beacon of Joy Mission Hosts 9/11 Health Fair



Dwinderling Dennis, health ministries leader at Beacon of Hope Mission in Alexander City, Ala., addresses the community at the 9/11 ministry event. Gary Boles, pastor at Beacon of Hope Mission and Pine Hill Church in Sylacauga, Ala., is seated.



Gary Boles, pastor, exhibits the consequences of second-hand smoke at the Health Fair.



Willie Robinson, Alexander City police chief, addresses the community at the 9/11 ministry event.



Winfield and Elinor Burks share healthy eating and many other wellness tips.

The health ministries and evangelism teams of The Beacon of Joy Mission hosted a community Health Fair Day at Strand Park in Alexander City, Ala. Health ministries envisioned an outreach project that would actively demonstrate to the local community ways to promote healthier lifestyles, and the evangelistic team collaborated to successfully bring the vision to fruition. The teams started praying and acting on the guidance of the Holy Spirit, which resulted in selecting September 11, 2016, as the date, and beginning several months of preparation for the Health Fair. The theme was based on 9/11, which helped form collaboration with additional community leaders: first responders, mayor, Police Department, DARE,

Fire Department, and K-9 rescue teams.

Backed by support in keeping the community safe, the church members were able to point out their mission to actively inform the community as God's representatives of love, demonstrate His caring for their safety too, and also share their desire for all to be healthy. The members provided educational material, demonstrated healthy foods, gave healthy snacks, performed blood pressure and glucose checks, provided material for detoxing, shared relaxation techniques, and offered exercise and mental health strategies.

The fair provided educational materials and demonstrations for 150 people. Health professionals and other experienced vendors were

there to assist. Additionally, Earl Jones provided music to help the community receive the church members. The church family served well that day, and made an impact. Information was gathered for future health awareness events by using a South Central Conference Federation Community Survey.

The members now consider September 11 as a joyful day to be a blessing to the community. As a result of the Health Fair, they know of one life that was immediately changed, and commitments were made to change individual lifestyles. They pray for others as they prepare by God's grace for next year. 📌

BY DWINDERLING DENNIS

# Ebenezer Church Holds Second Annual City-wide Fest



PHOTO BY: EARL JONES

Ebenezer Church members shared a myriad of resources with the community during the event.



PHOTO BY: EARL JONES

David K. Jones, D.D., pastor, greets and prays for the city of Moss Point and declares, "Moss Point Shall Live and Not Die."



PHOTO BY: EARL JONES

Community leaders share greetings: Police Chief Art McClung (at the podium); Aldermen Houston Cunningham (seated left); Mayor Billy Broomfield; Sheriff Mike Ezell; Pastor Palma Chancellor from Call All Christian Fellowship Church; and Moss Point Superintendent of Schools Shannon Vincent, Ph.D.



PHOTO BY: EARL JONES

Ken Wetzel, pastor and director of New Life Disaster Relief in Biloxi, Miss.

In spite of the rain, 150-plus individuals showed up at The Moss Point Mississippi Community Services ministry event, which included fun and games for the children. The members shared the second annual city-wide fest on Sunday, August 21, 2016. They passed out school supplies for the youth, and Disaster Starter Kits for special needs children. The South Central Conference community services co-director, Lillie Buckingham, and disability ministries director, Nettie Henderson, set up their booths and shared a myriad of resources with the community that day.

This event had the support of city officials: Billy Broomfield, mayor; Susan White, economic development director; Aldermen Houston Cunningham; Kathy Keaton, community development director; Art McClung, police chief; Shannon Vincent, superintendent of schools; Tommie Posey, fire chief; and other guests, including many local pastors who offered support.

The week of August 21-27 was filled with activity as nightly services began on Sunday, and continued to the following Sabbath. Prentice Sorrells, pastor,

Harvest Church, Harvest, Ala., preached Spirit-filled messages echoing the theme, "Moss Point Shall Live and Not Die." The church members were inspired, and reminded that Jesus has a specific desire to see those at Moss Point abundantly blessed and filled with His power. In addition to the blessed services, the Lord increased His kingdom with three decisions for baptism. Candidates Alice Jefferson, Sheila Scott, and David Patton were the fruits of the harvest. They studied the Amazing Facts Bible Study course, and were later baptized by David K. Jones, D.D., pastor. ☛

# M.C. Strachan Youth Federation Serves Christ

So let us have the prayers ... that the message of truth may reach this large army of favored youth, and that some of them may be gathered out and hastily prepared to spread the message of the third angel," M.C. Strachan, *Gospel Herald*, February 1907.

Matthew Carpenter Strachan was a pastor who worked arduously to make the annual Florida Camp Meetings (prior to the organization of the South Atlantic Conference) a great success. During his time, the Florida Camp Meetings brought many, many visitors from other Seventh-day Adventist Conferences.

Remembering Strachan's good work in Florida, the name selected for the newly organized Youth Federation was M.C. Strachan Chapter. The life of this pioneer worker came to an end in the late summer of 1951.

Today, this Federation is one of four in the Southeastern Conference, and has a membership of 69 churches. Its emphasis is on youth leadership, and preparation for Christ's second coming.

The Southeastern Conference M.C. Strachan Youth Federation held its annual youth federation services in Orlando, Fla. The weekend was packed with dynamic worship services, powerful workshops, children's church, and community outreach activities.

The theme for the event, as well as for their calendar year, was "The Winner Within." The focus centered around an intentional request for the youth to be filled with God's Holy Spirit.

The Federation program began Friday night at Patmos Chapel, Winter Park, Fla. Young people from all over the Conference gathered for a praise and worship service that set the tone for the weekend. Byron Crockett, senior pastor of the Emmanuel Church in Orlando, Fla., and Mt. Pleasant Church in Leesburg, Fla., was the evening's speaker. His focus was re-



The late Matthew C. Strachan, pastor

defining the meaning of "winning." "Your definition of winning may not be my definition of winning, because if it's not with God, then it's not winning," says Crockett.

More than 1,700 individuals attended the Sabbath services held at the Majestic Life Ministries Church. The program featured an array of talented young people, inspirational music, and a powerful word from the Lord by his manservant, Georges Fleurimond, associate pastor of Palm Bay Church, Palm Bay, Fla. When the appeal was offered, the young people pressed forward together, and asked God to make them "winners."

The afternoon activities offered the youth a choice between workshops and an outreach activity. The title of the first







workshop was “The Faith Effect: Religion vs. Relationship with God (Practical Ways to Strengthen My Relationship with God in 2016),” by Lindsey Syeh, associate pastor of Patmos Chapel Church in Winter Park, Fla. The second workshop presented was “In It to Win It: 7 Steps to a Better Relationship with God,” by Elvis Epps, Ed.D., a national motivational speaker from West Palm Beach, Fla.

For the first time in a number of years, the Federation was able to have a community outreach project. This project was six months in the making, as support was enlisted of local AYMs to collect toiletries and gently used purses. Sabbath, May 14, 2016, the youth came together to organize and pack the toiletries into each gently

used purse and ziploc baggie. The evening program prominently featured the youth in a display of Bible bowl games, thought-provoking poetry, engaging drama presentation, and uplifting music. The night ended with an all-star basketball game, complete with medals and trophies for the victors.

On Sunday, all the donated items were brought to the Coalition for the Homeless in Orlando, Fla. While on site, a group of volunteers were prepared to assemble bag lunches for the women’s and children’s campus, while another group served meals to the men’s campus. The chaplains were on hand to offer a word of prayer and a devotional thought. More than 200 individuals were served.

M.C. Strachan functions primarily to support the local youth ministries of the territories from southern Georgia to Florida, engaging the youth in year-round Federation events, and offers community support, training, and numerous opportunities to volunteer. “If we can bless the lives of just one person and introduce them to Jesus, it makes what we do worthwhile,” says Sherrie Smith, Federation president. The Youth Federation invites you to participate and support their events. To learn more, visit [www.mcsyouth.com](http://www.mcsyouth.com) and follow them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. ●

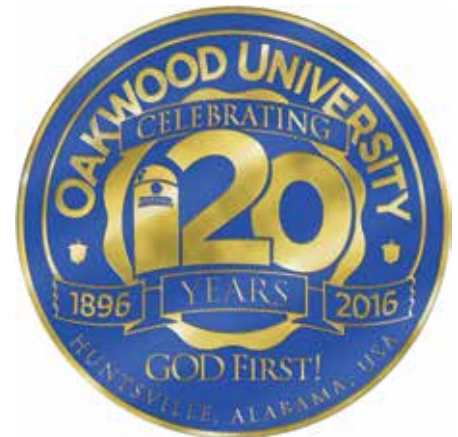
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BY KHANDI COOPER AND SHERRIE SMITH

# Oakwood University Celebrates 120 Years of Existence



These two cakes depict the Oakwood University iconic farm silos.



J.L.Moran, president from 1932 to 1945, was unveiled at Moran Hall; Moran was Oakwood's first African-American president.

Several alumni were the speakers for various services during the celebration, including Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., 1994; Anthony Bolden, 2015; MyRon Edmonds, D.Min., 1999; and Calvin Rock, Ph.D., 1954. A Gospel Music Fest took place on Sabbath evening, November 12, featuring the Aeolians and guest choirs from Bethune-Cookman University and Alabama A&M University.

On November 16, a "Happy Birthday, Oakwood!" social was held, complete with birthday cake and balloons, to celebrate. Mr. and Miss Oakwood encouraged all to wear Oakwood gear on Founder's Day in commemoration of the 120th birthday.

Founder's Day festivities concluded that evening, following Prayer Meeting at the Lawrence Jacobs Historic Silos Plaza, with hot chocolate, donuts, cider, and a fireworks display. 🎆

BY DEBBE MILLET

Oakwood Industrial School, Huntsville, Ala., opened its doors to 16 students on November 16, 1896. On November 16, 2016, 120 years later, Oakwood University concluded a week of celebratory activities that have been named Founder's Day.

On November 10, the E.E. Rogers Bibli-

cal Languages & Resource Center was dedicated, honoring Ernest E. Rogers, Ph.D., who served as Oakwood's first full-time professor of biblical languages, from 1945 to 1979. The Center fosters the learning and use of biblical languages, and provides computer-based resources for students.

Later that afternoon, a portrait honoring

# Oakwood Exceeds #GivingTuesday Goal



FOR SUPPORTING  
**Oakwood University**

GOAL EXCEEDED:  
**\$26,589 IN 1 DAY**

NOV. 29, 2016

**GIVING TUESDAY**



#OAKWOODGIVINGTUESDAY • [ougiving.com](http://ougiving.com)

Friends of Oakwood University demonstrated the spirit of giving and generosity by participating in #GivingTuesday on November 29, 2016, a global day of giving that kicks off the charitable season when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving.

Yesterday, Oakwood alumni, students, employees, and supporters around the world overwhelmingly helped Oakwood exceed its \$25,000 goal for the day. Ki-sha Norris, M.Ed., CFRE, executive director of advancement and development,

happily reported that #OakwoodGivingTuesday 2016 brought in a total of \$26,589.

Donors were able to go online and choose which fund they wanted to support. Some of the funds included Annual Fund, capital campaigns, UNCF North Alabama, endowments and scholarships, student philanthropy, 4HIM, and WJOU 90.1 FM.

Giving Tuesday was created in 2012 by the 92nd Street Y in New York City. Oakwood University is now one of

30,000 companies, non-profits, businesses, and universities involved in this selfless event.

Oakwood joined the Giving Tuesday program not only to get support for student scholarships, but also to instill a lifelong mindset of giving into current students. “We’re hoping that we can build in the minds of students to give back,” shared Lewis Jones, assistant director of development. 📍

BY **DEBBE MILLET**

# Student Forges Stronger Family Connection



Angelica Acevedo (right) teaches her father, Angel Acevedo, blacksmithing during the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee, October 12-16, 2016.

Pathfinders the art of blacksmithing. Acevedo decided that this would be the perfect opportunity to surprise her father, director for the Calhoun Cherokee Pathfinders, and tell him about joining the organization. The trip was only a month away, and Acevedo was brand new to blacksmithing. She was determined to learn the skills needed to accompany the club on the trip.

In the following weeks, whenever the blacksmith shop on campus was open, Acevedo was there, learning the trade from club sponsor Dusty Miller.

“I owe a lot of thanks to Dusty for all that he taught me in such a short amount of time,” Acevedo said.

After spending long hours in the shop, she was finally prepared to instruct Pathfinders in the blacksmith activity required to receive their honor.

Acevedo kept her attendance a secret from her father, but once she arrived at Camp Kulaqua, news quickly reached him that she was there for the camporee. He hurried over to Pioneer Village where the blacksmith booth was located to investigate. When he saw his daughter, he was ecstatic and brought his entire Pathfinder group over to Acevedo’s booth so they all could learn how to blacksmith and earn their honor.

“I also got to teach my father how to be a blacksmith,” Acevedo said. “It was really special, but it was also hilarious because the entire time he was acting like my father, insisting that I be careful. I had to remind him multiple times that I was the instructor and he was the student.”

Acevedo shared that it has been an amazing experience to connect with her dad on this level. They want to continue sharing this trade with each other, and plan to purchase an anvil for their home so they can work together during school breaks. 📍

Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn., has a unique distinction: It is the only Seventh-day Adventist university in the United States with a blacksmithing club. The Southern Smiths club has more than 20 members from a variety of majors, and continues to grow. Members enjoy demonstrating their trade for students and the community during different events throughout the school year. For some members, participation takes on added meaning.

Angelica Acevedo, a sophomore social

work major, joined the Southern Smiths at the beginning of the fall semester. She took up the hobby because she wanted to connect with her father, who is a passionate wood carver and very familiar with the tools and techniques used in blacksmithing. At the time, Acevedo didn’t realize that through the club she would be able to give her dad the surprise of his life.

Shortly after the semester began, Acevedo learned that select club members would be traveling to the Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee at Camp Kulaqua to teach

BY ABIGAIL KING

# Thatcher Farm Initiative Grows



Autumn Schillemon, associate English professor, picks up her CSA box from Thatcher Farm.



Rachel Corrigan, junior nursing and psychology double major, picks Thatcher Farm kale, which will be sold at a local market.

PHOTO BY: SETH SHAFFER

PHOTO BY: SETH SHAFFER

Thatcher Farm, Southern’s agricultural initiative, keeps growing and improving under the guidance of Seth Shaffer.

This year will mark the program’s first as part of Seed Savers Exchange, a collaborative organization in which farms nationwide sell to or exchange heirloom seeds and supplies with other growers.

As part of Seed Savers Exchange’s Community Seed Resource Program, Thatcher Farm has been designated as a seed bank, only the fourth in Tennessee. A seed bank is a place where seeds are stored and used to reproduce the crops, while providing the opportunity to research the seed production in specific re-

gions. The research results can serve as a resource for regional growers. Thatcher Farm will also provide community members with the resources to cultivate and collect their own heirloom seeds.

“It’s like a dream come true, the opportunity to get all of these varieties of seed for free,” said Shaffer, manager of the farm. “We now have access to a lot of different types of crops.”

Another first for Thatcher Farm, the staff is carrying out seed trials for Seedway, an international seed company. Shaffer has involved his student workers, as well as students enrolled in the sustainable agriculture course, in recording and performing the research for these seed

trials.

In addition to these new ventures, Thatcher Farm is expanding, having received five acres of additional land to be cultivated in the upcoming year. Although mostly self-sufficient, the farm also benefited from a recent donation that will aid in paying for a new high tunnel — a greenhouse-like structure — for the land.

Shaffer is grateful for the new land from the University and the support of the surrounding community, and hopes that the farm will continue to grow and thrive for years to come. ●

BY TIERRA HAYES

# 2016 Culminates in New Milestones for ADU



Russ Butler, Ph.D., stands in front of the newly opened Center for Population Health Research at Adventist University of Health Sciences in Orlando, Fla.



Charlotte Henningsen (third from left), professor, and her team at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Center for Advanced Ultrasound Education

Exceptional healthcare starts with exceptional healthcare education. Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU), Orlando, Fla., has spent 25 years maturing from an associate degree-granting institution into a full-fledged university, offering several bachelor's and master's, and one doctorate degree. ADU is always committed to serving the community and beyond by providing superior education to future healthcare professionals. Through constant improvement and innovation, ADU strives to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ.

Two centers of excellence have opened at ADU during the past year, the Center for Population Health Research (CPHR) and the Center for Advanced Ultrasound Education (CAUE). The CPHR will engage students and faculty in applying geographic information systems (GIS) technologies to medical geography research, incorporating current projects already in progress at ADU. Directed by Russ Butler, Ph.D., ADU professor of biology, students will gain hands-on research experience while developing skills in spatial thinking, quantitative analysis, and problem solving.

David Greenlaw, D.Min., president of ADU, is excited to expand the University's role in population-health research. "It is our goal to give our students and faculty the very best resources to nurture personal and pro-

fessional growth, and with this new research center they will be given the opportunity to produce results that will offer a positive impact on the community they serve."

The CAUE, under the guidance of Charlotte Henningsen, ADU professor, expands ongoing initiatives to provide opportunities for education beyond what is captured in current sonography programs at ADU. The Center offers continuing education training for the ultrasound community in central Florida, including emergency physician training, and training for the radiology physician residency program at Florida Hospital.

Henningsen and her faculty members are often invited as speakers to sonography conventions around the country. In addition, the Center consolidates efforts of department faculty and their contributions to the ultrasound education community.

Another exciting development at ADU recently took place when SACSCOC (The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges), its regional accreditation agency, visited the campus to review its application for a level 5 change. The campus received a positive report with no recommendations, as well as approval for the accreditation, pending a final review and formal approval at their June 2017 board meeting. Previously, ADU held level 3 accreditation, which

allowed the University to offer master's degrees. With the board's final approval for level 5, ADU will be able to offer up to three doctorate level degrees. This major achievement for the campus is a testament to the quality education that ADU students receive, and to the dedication of its faculty and staff.

"This decision confirms that we are fully qualified to grow our graduate programs through the doctoral level. I'm excited for the opportunities this next step will offer to our students," says Edwin Hernandez, Ph.D., ADU's provost.

ADU is celebrating its 25th anniversary of teaching healthcare as a ministry. The University's continued advancements show no signs of slowing down as faculty and staff look toward the future, expanding and developing campus facilities and degree programs to provide the greatest career prospects for its students. More than ever before, ADU embraces the Adventist philosophy of whole person healthcare, which measurably improves the vitality of the communities where ADU graduates live the healing values of Christ. Students equipped with these skills are able to fulfill the mission of Florida Hospital and Adventist Health System to extend the healing ministry of Christ. 📍

BY LISA ESSER

# Southern Adventist University

has resources just for you!

## JOIN US ON CAMPUS

### Concerto Concert, January 29

Southern's Concerto Concert showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the university's full Symphony Orchestra. The performance takes place at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

For more information, visit [southern.edu/orchestra](http://southern.edu/orchestra). To view the event live, visit [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).

### Southern 6 Trail Race, February 19

Come join us for the eighth annual 6K run through wooded trails on Southern's campus. Proceeds from the event will go directly to the university's Outdoor Leadership inner-city environmental education program.

To register, visit the Adventure Programs page at [southern.edu/outdoor](http://southern.edu/outdoor).

### A World in Miniature Exhibit

Our on-campus Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum offers a new exhibit — "A World in Miniature: Creation, Cosmos, Ecology on Seals from Biblical Times." It features more than 60 seals ranging in age from 3,000 B.C. to 500 B.C. and explores not only the seals but also the worldviews that they expressed. The exhibit will be open through the end of the school year.

For more information, visit [southern.edu/archaeology](http://southern.edu/archaeology).

## WE'LL COME TO YOU

We have abundant resources representing numerous areas of expertise. Let Southern help when planning for guest speakers, workshops, music, and drama programs at your church or school. [southern.edu/resourceguide](http://southern.edu/resourceguide)

### Visit Us

Southern welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern. For more information, go online to [southern.edu/visit](http://southern.edu/visit).



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# Caravana Más Esperanza 2016



Jorge era hijo de la calle. Rentaba un lugar para vivir, pero no tenía familia en este país. Luego de su trabajo su vida transcurría mayormente en la calle. Sus amigos representaban a su familia. Dice él, “ellos eran mis hermanos, padres, sobrinos, todo, hasta que escaseaba la droga. Allí todos competíamos por tenerla y nos convertíamos en nuestros peores enemigos.”

Durante un tiempo, Jorge se mudó con una familia que lo invitó a asistir a la iglesia de Wilson, en Carolina del Norte. Allí el Espíritu comenzó a trabajar en él, aunque no de forma visible. Su vida aparentemente continuó el curso que hasta ese momento estaba siguiendo, pero con pequeños lapsos en los que se planteaba cosas, hasta que tuvo un accidente. Fue como si Dios lo hubiese llamado de esa forma. En ese momento sintió la necesidad de buscar a Dios. Asistió a la Caravana Más Esperanza, y el viejo Jorge murió, naciendo a una nueva vida que ahora disfruta y trata de compartir con otros. Este es uno de los testimonios recogidos durante la Caravana de Cosecha Más Esperanza 2016.

Esta iniciativa se dividió en dos partes: La Caravana de Entrenamiento, que se llevó a cabo la semana del 18 al 26 de marzo, y

la de Cosecha, desde el 26 de agosto hasta el 10 de septiembre, que tuvo lugar en 20 congregaciones. En la primera parte se entrenó y motivó a los miembros de 20 distritos pastorales del territorio de la Unión. Se visitaron las iglesias con el propósito de demostrar la forma en que utilizando el método de Jesús se puede alcanzar los corazones de las personas que se quiere encaminar hacia el Reino de los Cielos.

Los directores del Ministerio Hispano de las Asociaciones participantes y pastores distritales de tales iglesias se preocuparon por mantener la llama encendida durante los meses siguientes, y como resultado se llegó a un numeroso grupo de personas, y los miembros compartieron su fe con sus conocidos aplicando los métodos aprendidos durante el entrenamiento. Una de las principales formas de trabajo fue la de los grupos pequeños. Este método permite interactuar con los interesados en la familiaridad de una casa, proveyendo una mejor forma de llegar a sus corazones por medio de la amistad.

Entre los testimonios recogidos durante la Caravana de Siembra, se destacó el de un Coordinador Hispano que comentó que una de las iglesias por donde pasó la caravana era fría, y los miembros nunca se involucraban en

ningún tipo de actividad. No obstante, poco a poco decidieron participar de la campaña, y su entusiasmo fue creciendo a medida que iban viendo los resultados. Al compartir su fe, su relación con Cristo crecía, y tenían más necesidad de orar y buscar a Dios en su Palabra. El trabajar por otros es muy saludable para la vida cristiana. Se podría comparar al ejercicio en referencia a la salud física.

Esperanza TV, representada por su director el pastor Rubén Merino, participó durante el recorrido en la etapa de cosecha final que duró 16 días y abarcó 5 estados, 7 asociaciones y una distancia de 4,800 millas. Su participación incluyó la publicación en diferentes medios sociales, de fotos, video clips de bautismos, entrevistas a recién bautizados, pastores, y coordinadores que relataban lo que estaba sucediendo en cada lugar.

Como resultado de esta iniciativa, 801 personas entregaron sus vidas a Dios por medio del bautismo y 307 tomaron la decisión de estudiar y bautizarse en un futuro cercano. Este proyecto ha sido el más ambicioso que el Ministerio Hispano de la Unión del Sur ha llevado a cabo en los últimos años, y el Espíritu Santo se hizo visible. ●

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA



# Culminación del 2016 en F.I.E.L



Vista parcial de los graduandos del área de Apopka



Pastor Allan Machado junto a un alumno graduado

El curso 2016 del Instituto de Evangelismo Laico de la Florida comenzó con un enrolamiento sin precedentes. Novecientos catorce estudiantes procedentes de las 13 áreas geográficas, incluyendo dos nuevas, Tallahassee y Avon Park, se unieron a las filas. La cantidad de

graduandos fue proporcional a la cantidad de matriculados. Novecientos alumnos recibieron sus diplomas en ceremonias locales, ya que debido a la cantidad de alumnos, no se puede llevar a cabo el evento en un solo lugar. En sus comienzos en el año 2014, se graduaron 185 alumnos, mientras que en el del 2015, el

número creció a 418.

El diploma recibido en el 2016, estuvo certificado por la universidad Andrews, ya que F.I.E.L ha sido incorporado a S.A.L, Instituto Adventista Laico.

Se ofreció la clase reglamentaria de Evangelismo, esta vez enfocada en el desarrollo de la iglesia primitiva. El estudio del desarrollo de cuatro doctrinas fundamentales en la historia de la iglesia en el siglo XIX, enriqueció el currículum en forma notable. Se pudo ver claramente que Dios está al control, y que aunque por momentos la iglesia estuvo dirigida por hombres sinceros que creyeron doctrinas erróneas traídas de sus antiguas religiones, Él siempre guió a su pueblo al conocimiento de la Verdad, como la luz de la aurora, que va en aumento hasta que el día es perfecto. Se ofrecieron también clases de evangelismo práctico por medio de videos.

Como corolario, la gran mayoría de los alumnos de FIEL se unió a los pastores locales en la campaña de la Caravana de la Victoria en octubre. Aquellos que no pudieron participar, lo hicieron en el mes de noviembre. Todavía se reciben informes de los resultados alcanzados por las iglesias en bautismos, como en crecimiento espiritual de las congregaciones. En Kissimmee, por ejemplo, 24 personas se unieron a la iglesia al finalizar el esfuerzo evangélico.

F.I.E.L se siente honrado incluyendo a hermanos de otras denominaciones que arden en el deseo de terminar la obra encomendada por nuestro Señor. Un ejemplo es Olga de Jesús, miembro de la iglesia Pentecostal, quien recibió su segundo diploma al finalizar su curso 2016.

Esta obra continúa, y sabemos que Dios respalda los esfuerzos de aquellos que desean dar a conocer su amor.

*Luego de años de arduo trabajo en diferentes países, el pastor Rolando de los Ríos se jubila dejando en su lugar como director de F.I.E.L al doctor Henry Barrios. Mariel Lombardi, Editora*

ROLANDO DE LOS RÍOS, DIRECTOR DE F.I.E.L

# Una Vida sin Excusas



Rebeca alegrando a los ancianos en el día de los veteranos



Rebeca junto a su mamá y uno de los coros de niños que dirigía

Rebeca Figueroa de Yero nació en Cuba, en 1956. Su niñez transcurría feliz. Ella disfrutaba de la música y la contemplación de la naturaleza. Sus padres se dieron cuenta de que tenía un talento especial, por lo que la llevaron a aprender piano a la edad de 6 años. Su capacidad de aprendizaje era sorprendente. Rebeca también disfrutaba del estudio de la Biblia. Su vida era perfecta, hasta que una mañana amaneció muy enferma. Sus padres la llevaron al hospital en donde entró en estado de coma. Los médicos vieron que su presión arterial era muy alta debido a que había contraído fiebre reumática. Hicieron lo imposible para revertir la situación y tuvieron éxito, pero en el proceso, la pequeña perdió la vista. Fue muy duro para la familia. Rebeca no obstante, demostró una actitud muy positiva en su vida. Daniel, su hermanito más pequeño, se convirtió en los ojos de su hermana. No obstante, rápidamente ella aprendió a ver con los ojos del alma. Prosiguió sus estudios por medio del lenguaje Braille, y su aprendizaje de piano lo continuó con un método especial ideado por sus maestros.

En Camaguey, asistía a la iglesia

pastoreada entonces por Rolando de los Ríos. “Nos admiraba verla caminar por los pasillos de la iglesia hacia el piano sin tropezar; se había aprendido el camino. Cierta vez, mi esposa y yo fuimos invitados a almorzar en su casa. El alimento fue preparado por ella, sin la ayuda de su madre. Me preocupaba que se quemara en la cocina, pero hizo todo perfectamente.” Relata el pastor de los Ríos. Allí se casó con su amigo de la infancia, Isidro, con quien estuvo unida durante 44 años. Tuvieron dos hijos: Ismael y Aile.

Los caminos del pastor de los Ríos y Rebeca se cruzaron nuevamente en los Estados Unidos, ya que ambas familias se mudaron a Orlando. “Cuando se encontraba conmigo me saludaba con palabras como estas: ‘¡Pastor, qué bien se ve!’ No hay dudas de que ella veía con los ojos del alma.” Comenta el pastor.

Rebeca era feliz. A pesar de su discapacidad, y de que la vida volvió a golpearla con la muerte de su hijo Ismael, ella nunca se quejó. Soportó la prueba con fe. Su risa era contagiosa. Estaba agradecida a Dios por el don que le había dado, que era su forma máxima de expresión, y sentía la necesidad de utilizarlo en Su servicio. Compuso más de

200 himnos, y llevaba a cabo un ministerio incansable. Dirigió varios coros de adultos y niños. En esas actividades se tomaba el tiempo para interactuar con las personas que participaban de las mismas. Desarrolló un ministerio personal de oración notable. Estas personas le contaban sus problemas, y ella siempre tenía palabras de aliento, y oraba sin cesar por ellos. Pasaba horas en el teléfono escuchando, orando, y trabajando por aquellos que estaban necesitados. Con amor y dedicación asistía a una casa de asilo para ancianos con regularidad. Organizó un coro para darles la oportunidad de cantar y alegrar sus vidas por medio de la música.

Rebeca dejó este mundo el pasado octubre. Su vida fue un ejemplo del deseo de un hijo de Dios de poner su vida a Su servicio, sin encontrar excusas de tiempo, distancia, discapacidad, etc. Ella se fue con la esperanza de que al abrir sus ojos, podrá ver el rostro de Cristo, conocer la cara de sus hijos, y disfrutar de lo que Dios tiene preparado para los que le aman. ❀

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA, CON LA COLABORACIÓN DE DANIEL FIGUEROA Y ROLANDO DE LOS RÍOS

# Escuela Para Niños y Padres

Siguiendo el consejo divino “Instruye al niño en su camino, y aún cuando fuere viejo no se apartará de él” Prov 22:6, el ministerio infantil de la iglesia de Canton, organizó una clase bíblica para niños que se llevó a cabo durante 2 meses. Se contó con la participación de 5 maestros. Cada sábado de tarde los pequeños asistían para recibir las lecciones infantiles del programa la Fe de Jesús. De acuerdo a la edad eran ubicados en diferentes cursos. Al terminar el programa, 15 niños obtuvieron su certificado de graduación el 3 de septiembre en una ceremonia a cargo del

pastor Richard Urdaneta.

Simultáneamente se ofreció el curso “Conducción del niño” para los padres, quienes también recibieron su certificado de participación. Al final de la ceremonia todos se comprometieron a continuar asistiendo durante la segunda etapa de la Escuela Bíblica Infantil.

Gloria a Dios por esta iniciativa del ministerio infantil que provee recursos espirituales para fortalecer la fe de la generación de futuros líderes de la iglesia. 📌

RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO



Grupo de niños que se graduaron

# Impartiendo Salud

El pasado 11 de septiembre la iglesia de Canton, GA, llevó a cabo una jornada de salud pública para la comunidad. El evento contó con la participación de más del 90% de los miembros de la iglesia que asignados en diferentes comisiones se unieron para atender a las 300 personas que se dieron cita en el lugar.

El programa contó con la unidad móvil de Southside Medical Center equipado con un laboratorio y cinco consultorios. Se instalaron más de diez cubículos en los que se dieron charlas sobre salud y remedios naturales, clases de cocina en las que se repartían muestras para la degustación de los asistentes, se ofrecieron cortes de cabello, masajes, consultas sobre temas de inmigración y transacciones inmobiliarias, y especialmente se oró y brindó consejería sobre temas de familia y de índole espiritual. Se repartió literatura y cestas de comida. A los efectos de que los adultos pudiesen aprovechar su visita al máximo, se ofreció atención especial para los niños.

En esta experiencia hubo personas tocadas por el Espíritu del Señor que recibieron alivio oportuno. Varios de los asistentes asistieron esa semana a la iglesia, para participar de las conferencias sobre familia a cargo del pastor Miguel Tirado.



Grupo de colaboradores frente a la unidad móvil



Uno de los stands de apoyo

Este emprendimiento se organizó con la convicción de que el cumplimiento de la misión de la iglesia se llevará a cabo no tanto por lo que sus miembros digan, sino principalmente por lo que hagan. Yendo

a donde se encuentran los necesitados, y mostrándoles lo que podemos hacer en su favor. 📌

RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

# Clases de Inglés Como Medio Ganador de Almas



Grupo de alumnos luego de terminar el curso de inglés.

Una iglesia hispana de Mableton organizó un programa misionero ofreciendo clases de inglés, con el objetivo de servir a la comunidad hispana y testificar acerca del mensaje de esperanza y salvación. La graduación de la primera promoción

tuvo un número de 14 estudiantes, quienes además de recibir su certificado, se llevaron como obsequio una Biblia con el curso bíblico. El pastor Urdaneta les animó a estudiar el lenguaje del amor de Dios a través de las Escrituras, con la dedicación con la que estudiaron el inglés.

Como resultado de este programa dos personas se han integrado a los servicios regulares de la iglesia, y muestran un alto interés por conocer más del mensaje de salvación. 📌

RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

# Proyecto de Fe en la Iglesia de Collegedale

Anthony y Nayeli Nix asisten a la iglesia Hispano-Americana de Collegedale, Tennessee, que se encuentra ubicada en el campus de la Universidad Southern. Esta iglesia está embarcada en un proyecto apoyado por la universidad. La cantidad de estudiantes hispanos ha crecido significativamente en los últimos años y esta universidad es la única que cuenta con una iglesia hispana en su campus. Esto permite que los jóvenes permanezcan activos, sirviendo en los diferentes ministerios. Esta es la etapa en la que se produce un mayor porcentaje de apostasía en la juventud. El involucrarlos en el liderazgo de la iglesia local y ofrecer programas enfocados en el crecimiento espiritual, es parte de la solución de este problema, ya que afirma su sentido de identidad religiosa.

El número de jóvenes que asisten a esta iglesia ha crecido notablemente. El templo es pequeño. Es por eso que se ha lanzado un proyecto de fe que incluye la construcción de un edificio con capacidad para 700



Familia Nix

personas, con un centro de producción mediática que pueda facilitar la misión de los estudiantes. Desde allí se planea grabar y transmitir programas de evangelismo. Para esto se está juntando dinero a base de compromisos financieros adquiridos por la hermandad, y de donaciones.

Este proyecto tomará tiempo, por lo tanto los miembros han decidido no esperar hasta

construir el nuevo edificio para continuar con su misión. Se están desarrollando campañas que se transmiten a través de las redes sociales, y se graban y distribuyen como materiales de evangelismo. Así se llega a muchos países del mundo hispano. Los estudiantes colaboran en dichas campañas, las cuales reúnen a más de 60,000 personas de todo el mundo hispano. En este contexto

es que se desarrolla la historia de Anthony y su esposa Nayeli.

Un sábado de mañana Nayeli se encontraba ayudando en una actividad del departamento de niños. Anthony estaba sentado solo durante el servicio de culto. Joel Barrios, el pastor de la iglesia, predicó un sermón apelando a la hermandad a colaborar en este emprendimiento en el que expresó que esto podría requerir sacrificios. Anthony escuchó con mucha atención y no se vio presionado por el sermón sino que fue lleno de un enorme deseo de poner tiempo y dinero en esta causa.

Siempre que toman una decisión financiera, Anthony y Nayeli no actúan hasta no estar de acuerdo. Esta vez, con un poco de temor por decidir en forma independiente, Anthony prometió a Dios dar aproximadamente un 90% de su sueldo de enero del 2017.

El hecho de no haber consultado con su esposa, tenía a Anthony un poco tenso. En su mente ensayaba la forma en la que le contaría a Nayeli sobre su decisión.

Nayeli es estudiante de tiempo completo, y él está estudiando Teología medio tiempo y trabajando en el supermercado de la universidad. Tienen tres hijos pequeños, y su sueldo, era el que se le paga a una persona para contestar los teléfonos, aunque las responsabilidades que había asumido desde que había comenzado este trabajo habían aumentado en forma considerable. A sus tareas se le había agregado trabajos de contaduría, de control de compras, etc. Dar esta noticia a su esposa no sería tarea fácil, pensaba él. Al hacerlo la respuesta de ella fue: “¿Cómo?” sin disimular su asombro. A los efectos de suavizar la situación, Anthony le propuso escuchar el sermón que el pastor había predicado, y ella no se opuso; lo escuchó con atención y al terminar le dijo: “Estoy dispuesta a hacer ese sacrificio, y me siento feliz de ayudar a que otros conozcan a Dios.” La felicidad de Anthony no se podía describir.

En esos días la gerencia del supermercado donde trabaja Anthony había cambiado. El nuevo gerente había evaluado las

responsabilidades de Anthony, y llegado a la conclusión de que su sueldo no estaba a la altura de las mismas. Generalmente los aumentos que se otorgan son de un 3% o 4% anual, lo cual equivale a unos \$500 por año. No obstante, para sorpresa de Anthony, el aumento que se le otorgó fue muchísimo mayor, superando por lejos lo que él había donado para el proyecto de la iglesia.

Dios no necesita nuestro dinero. Le dio a Anthony más de lo que él había donado. El Señor sólo quiere nuestra confianza, porque sabe que nosotros la necesitamos para transitar nuestro camino en paz, con la seguridad de su cuidado.

«Bendito el hombre que confía en el Señor, y pone su confianza en Él.

Será como un árbol plantado junto al agua, que extiende sus raíces hacia la corriente; no teme que llegue el calor, y sus hojas están siempre verdes. En época de sequía no se angustia, y nunca deja de dar fruto.» *Jeremías 17:7-8* ●

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MARIEL LOMBARDI

## Retiro de Ancianos

En un fin de semana extraordinario se participó de un retiro de ancianos con un equipo de siervos de Dios que están dispuestos a servir y trabajar para Él. El mismo se llevó a cabo en Creek Camp con una asistencia de 115 personas.

El tema principal se tituló: El Ministerio del Anciano Como Mano Derecha del Pastor. Fue presentado por el pastor Raúl Gómez.

Se contó con el valioso apoyo de los pastores Nathan Delima, Elim López, Sergio Monterroso y Carlos Pinto. ●

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ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Vista de la asistencia durante uno de los seminarios

# Retiro del Ministerio de la Mujer



**Damas asistentes al retiro**

Con una asistencia de 246 participantes, se llevó a cabo el retiro femenino que tuvo lugar en Nosoca Pines, Carolina del Sur del 11-13 de noviembre, organizado por Xiomara Poloche. La predicadora fue Xinia Bryan, esposa del pastor Bryan. Sus temas fueron

inspiradores y con su canto elevó los corazones al cielo.

Lady y Elizabeth Uribe estuvieron a cargo de la inscripción. Clarita y Eudy Granobles animaron cada sesión y dirigieron los cantos con entusiasmo.

Durante el evento cada participante recibió

su nombre tallado en madera. Se propuso que en el 2017 se realice un retiro de hijas de 13-16 años que asistirán con sus madres a un banquete de amor y amistad. 📍

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**EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL MINISTERIO HISPANO**

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# De Líderes Pentecostales a Líderes Adventistas

Raymond Reeves y su esposa Bertha, se encontraban cierto día conversando con una mujer acerca de una transacción inmobiliaria. La conversación era amena, y al poco tiempo se enteraron de que esta persona asistía a la iglesia Adventista de Lake Buena Vista, en Florida. Ella los invitó a asistir. Raymond

y Bertha eran líderes activos de la iglesia Pentecostal, pero gustosamente aceptaron la invitación. Una vez en la iglesia, se les presentó al pastor Aldo Morrobel, con quien iniciaron una hermosa relación. Luego de un corto tiempo, Morrobel les preguntó si les gustaría conocer un poco más acerca de las creencias de la iglesia Adventista

comparándolas con las de su iglesia y con la Biblia, lo cual aceptaron gustosamente.

El primer tema que les llamó la atención fue el estilo de vida saludable presentado en los escritos de Elena de White. Luego se concentraron en el sábado como día de adoración, y así poco a poco fueron asombrándose con las verdades



Raymond y Bertha dando su testimonio luego del bautismo

encontradas en las Escrituras. Llegada la campaña de cosecha Más Esperanza, decidieron bautizarse, e inmediatamente ambos comenzaron a involucrarse en las actividades de la iglesia. Raymond es una persona muy organizada. Su profesión como gerente de proyectos de una empresa local, le ha dado experiencia en el trato con personas y por supuesto en el desarrollo de proyectos especiales, por lo tanto su colaboración es altamente apreciada en la iglesia. Se espera que luego de un tiempo prudente de entrenamiento y adaptación al sistema adventista, podrá constituirse en un valioso anciano, que beneficiará a la congregación con su energía, organización, y principalmente con su gran deseo de servir a Dios y compartir con otros lo que Él ha hecho con él y su esposa. 🕊

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA

## Bautismos



Candidatos de bautismo en Lake Buena Vista



Candidatos de bautismo en Tampa

### Lake Buena Vista

El sábado 10 de septiembre, 19 personas aceptaron a Cristo en esta iglesia, bajo el liderazgo del pastor Abel Morrobel, demostrándolo por medio del bautismo. Esto fue parte de los resultados de la Car-

avana Más Esperanza.

### Iglesia Emanuel en Tampa

El jueves 8 de septiembre la iglesia vio a 16 personas descender a las aguas bautismales también como resultado de la Caravana Más Esperanza. Su pastor Reynaldo Ojeda,

está feliz de ver que hermandad continúa motivada en el trabajo por las almas. 🕊

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO





cover letter with statement of teaching philosophy, current CV, unofficial transcripts, and four (4) letters of reference to: Dr. Ileana Freeman, ileanaf@southern.edu. For a full description of position and requirements visit [www.southern.edu/hr](http://www.southern.edu/hr) [1, 2]

**DEAN - SCHOOL OF BUSINESS at Southern Adventist University** - The post requires a leader with a Doctoral degree in a field of business, a commitment to holistic student development, relating successfully with approximately 14 School of Business colleagues, ability to make timely and well-informed decisions, and oversight of undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology. *Submit curriculum vitae along with cover letter, and statement of administrative teaching philosophy to: Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu.* For a full description of position and requirements visit [www.southern.edu/hr](http://www.southern.edu/hr) [1, 2]

**MID-LEVEL PRACTITIONER at Southern Adventist University** - Mid-Level Practitioner assesses patients, diagnoses, and prescribes treatment and/or medication to Southern Adventist University's students and employees/families as per mid-level/physician protocol. Experience of five years in ED/urgent care and/or general family practice, successful completion of an accredited mid-level practitioner program with certification, BLS and ACLS certification is required. Scope of responsibility: Medical evaluation and treatment of students and acute care of employees and dependents within the accepted scope of practice for a mid-level provider. Medical oversight by supervising physician both remotely and on-site. Maintains total confidentiality in compliance with HIPPA. Attends continuing education annually and maintains certifications. Attends scheduled UHC staff meetings. Procedure competence: Laceration repair, burn care, wound management and follow up. *Submit resumes to Sarah Shelburne, sarahshelburne@southern.edu.* For a full description of position and requirements visit [www.southern.edu/hr](http://www.southern.edu/hr) [1, 2]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S** School of Visual Art and Design seeks **full-time professor of graphic design**. Must hold an MFA degree and demonstrate exceptional design skills, along with an advanced knowledge of design software. Professional expertise

in current production processes, comprehensive understanding of emerging design practice across a range of visual media, as well as extensive knowledge of typography, editorial layout, branding, and design theory are required. *Send letter of application, curriculum vitae (include statement of teaching philosophy), portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, School of Visual Art and Design, Southern Adventist University: rcraven@southern.edu.* P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370. Visit [www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu) for full posting. [1]

**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S English Department** is seeking applications for a full-time faculty member specializing in 18th or 19th century British literature. Preferred candidates will have a Ph.D.; a creative writing background is a plus. *Send CV with cover letter to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, lauej@swau.edu* [1, 2]

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

**UNION COLLEGE** seeks an **Art and Graphic Design professor**, beginning June 2017. Master's degree in art or graphic design required; MFA preferred. Responsibilities include teaching art and graphic design courses, academic advising, recruiting, and program development. Further information: [www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings](http://www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings). *Submit C.V. to Bruce Forbes, Fine Arts Division Chair, at b2forbes@ucollege.edu* [1, 2]

**WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY** has faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology, the Department of Computer Science and the Department of Chemistry. *For details and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.* We invite you to share this announcement. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: <https://wallawalla.edu/> [1, 2]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks a **Communication Faculty**. The Department of Visual Art, Communication, and Design is hiring a professor to teach public relations and general communication classes at Andrews University. The ideal individu-

al will be qualified to teach graduate and undergraduate level courses and mentor students in the area of public relations. PhD/doctorate in communication related fields preferred; preference is given to those with terminal degrees and emphasis/experience in public relations. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1217> [1]

**PROFESSOR (ASSISTANT/ASSOCIATE/FULL)** - Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a tenure-track professor to begin in 2017. The candidates should possess ethics training and a completed PhD, ABD accepted. *Please e-mail a cover letter, curriculum vitae, writing sample, and three professional references to Ethics Area Chair, Dr. Zack Plantak, zplantak@llu.edu* [1, 2]

**FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN:** Opportunity to join an established practice in Portland, TN, a rural community near Nashville with a freestanding ER and diagnostic center, nursing home, 3 SDA churches, SDA academy and elementary school. *Fax your contact information and CV to 615-325-7116, attn: Office Manager.* Phone: 615-325-6524. [1]

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**COMMUNITY PRAISE CENTER SDA CHURCH** of Alexandria, Virginia is seeking a full time **Executive Administrative Assistant**. Skill sets for this position include: a love for God and people, excellent speaking, writing, and technology skills, team building and multi-tasking skills. *Interested candidates please contact the administrative Pastor: L. Roo McKenzie at 301-310-7133 or at [roomckenzie@cpcsd.org](mailto:roomckenzie@cpcsd.org)* [1]

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**CITRUS FUNDRAISING** for your church or school. Hand selected citrus direct from the grove. Indian River Fundraisers. Please call 1-800-558-1998. [1]

**MISCELLANEOUS**

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\$3950. Phone: 931-213-1329. [www.butler-creekhealth.org](http://www.butler-creekhealth.org) [1]

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies) [1-5]

**FRIENDS OF SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** are invited to join alumni for a "Martin Luther and the Reformation-Celebrating 500 Years" tour scheduled for June 13-25, 2017. Visit major sites of the Protestant Reformation in Germany and Switzerland during this historic, milestone anniversary. Immerse yourself in European culture and breathtaking scenery with experienced tour leader, Bill Wohlers. The cost is \$3,950 per person and includes air fare, ground transportation by motor coach, lodging, breakfasts and dinners, as well as an estimated 20 sightseeing activi-

ties. Contact Alumni Relations by emailing [alumni@southern.edu](mailto:alumni@southern.edu) or by calling 423-236-2830 to learn more and to reserve your space before February 1. [1]

**HOST FAMILIES NEEDED:** Share your home and the love of Christ with an exchange student attending an Adventist school in Florida, Georgia or Tennessee. Enrich your entire family as you learn about a new culture. For stipend information, email [adventisthostfamily@gmail.com](mailto:adventisthostfamily@gmail.com) [1-6]

**ATTENTION FARMERS AND GARDENERS!** The Adventist Agricultural Association is holding it's 3rd annual conference at Camp Kulaqua, FL on January 25-28, 2017. This is for all seeking to understand and follow God's plan for agriculture. Go to [www.adventistag.org](http://www.adventistag.org) for registration and more information. [1]

**ADVENTIST DENTIST:** Dr. Shabo is a Loma Linda graduate very familiar with the Adventist school system; his mother and father were both Adventist school teachers. He has a passion for the Adventist community and wants to give you the best dental care possible. Call 423-894-4084 or go to [www.shabodentalcenter.com](http://www.shabodentalcenter.com) [1-6]

**MARRIAGEGOALWRITING.COM** - Car-ing heals us! Pursue the plans God has for us, April 12-16, 2017, North Myrtle Beach. [vanwykc@live.com](mailto:vanwykc@live.com), 859-338-3560, Charl. [1-3]

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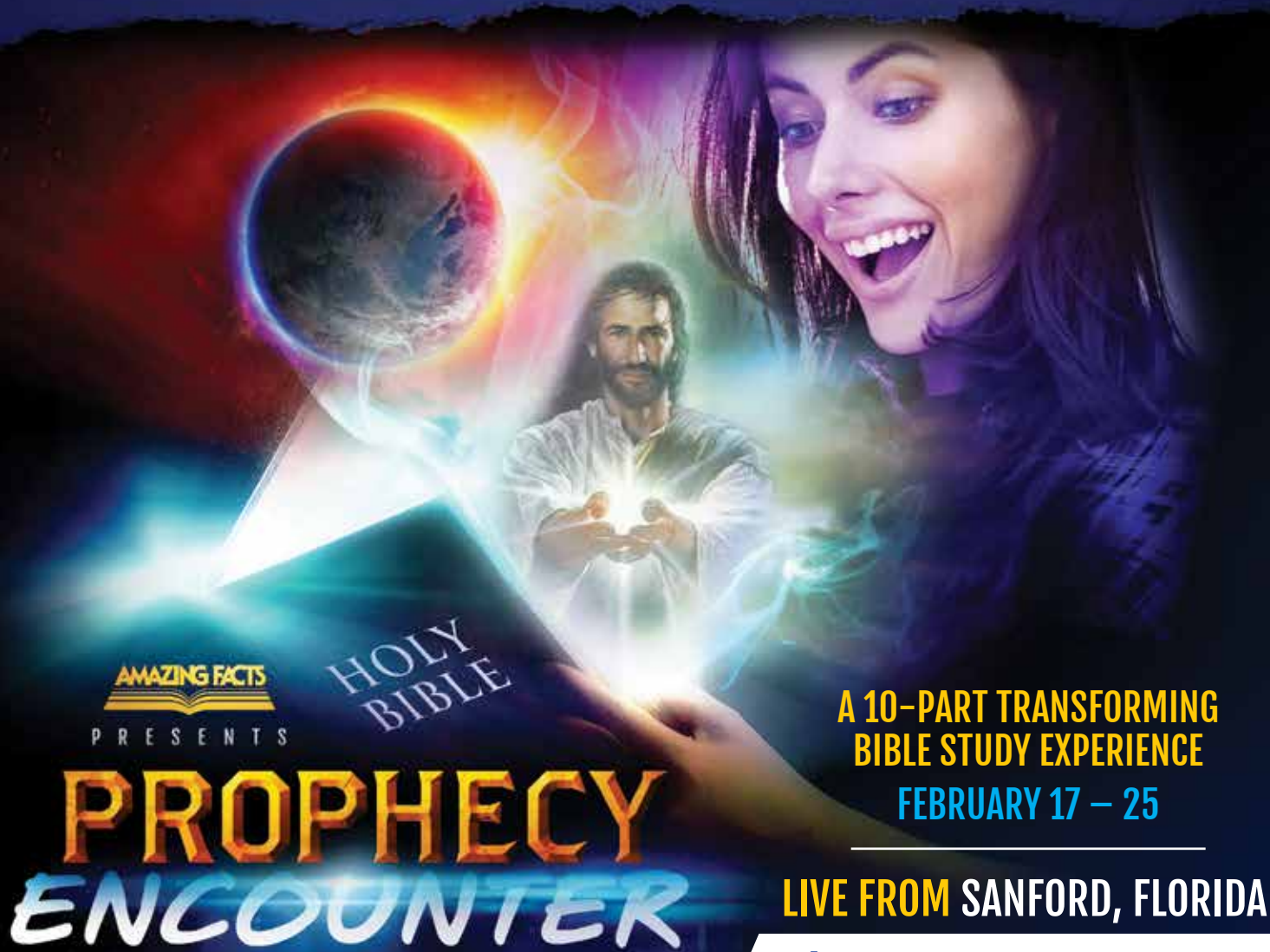
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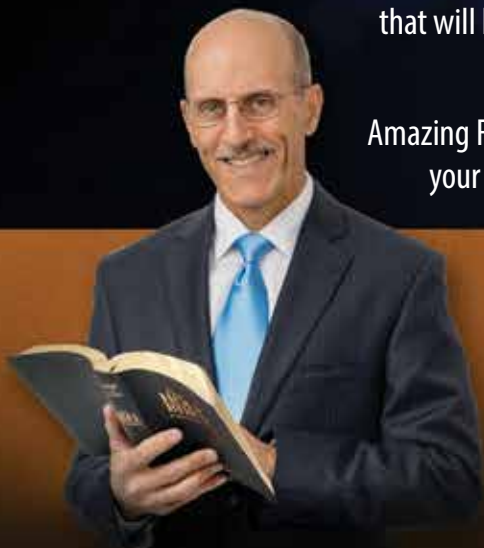
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## CAROLINA

**PATHFINDER COUNCIL** - Jan 6, 7. NPR.  
**VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR PROMOTION DAY** - Jan. 14. TBD.  
**CAROLINA EVANGELISM IMPACT** - Jan. 19-22. Myrtle Beach. For more information visit the Carolina Conference website at: [www.carolinasda.org](http://www.carolinasda.org).  
**VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR PROMOTION DAY** - Jan. 28. TBD.  
**VOLUNTEER LAY PASTOR PROMOTION DAY** - Feb. 4. TBD.  
**ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL WORKSHOP** - Feb. 11. Monroe SDA Church.  
**ENGLISH ROMANCE @ THE RANCH** - Feb. 10-12. NPR.  
**HISPANIC ROMANCE @ THE RANCH** - Feb. 17-19. NPR.  
**ELDERS'/DEACONS'/DEACONESSES SUMMIT CERTIFICATION** - March 31-April 2. NPR.

## FLORIDA

**COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE** - [florida-conference.com/events](http://florida-conference.com/events)  
**A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER** - Altamonte Springs: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: [floridaconference.com/abc](http://floridaconference.com/abc) or order by e-mail: [FloridaABC@floridaconference.com](mailto:FloridaABC@floridaconference.com)  
**Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule**  
 The old, faithful bookmobile vehicle has been retired. Until further notice, a van will make pre-ordered deliveries only. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon Thursday prior to Sunday delivery.  
 Jan. 15. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Pompano Beach, Ambassador, Sunrise, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Mount Olivet.)  
 Jan. 22. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.  
 Feb. 5. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.  
 Feb. 12. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)  
 Feb. 18. Tentative/TBA: Keys Camp Meeting at Scout Key.  
 Feb. 19. Tentative/TBA: Homestead.  
 Feb. 26. Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.  
**HEALTH SYMPOSIUM** - Jan. 24. 2-7 p.m.

Clearwater Church, 1445 Lakeview Dr., Clearwater, collaborating with Palm Harbor Church. Theme: Chronic Disease is a Lifestyle? Speakers: Evelisse Capo, owner of Food Pharmacy; Nelson Campbell, producer of PlantPure Nation; Hans Diehl, founder of Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). Cost: \$30 including a whole food plant-based dinner. Details/registration: [eventbrite.com/e/chronic-disease-is-a-lifestyle-tickets-29824433684](http://eventbrite.com/e/chronic-disease-is-a-lifestyle-tickets-29824433684)  
 Restore: A Conference on Mission - Jan. 30, 31. Forest City Spanish Church, 7601 Forest City Road, Orlando. A conference for church pastors, elders, and ministry leaders supporting transformation for mission. Featured speakers: Ed Stetzer and Michael Frost. Cost: \$150 or \$99 before Dec. 31. Details and registration: [restorethemission.com](http://restorethemission.com)  
**WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREATS** - Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: In My Sister's Shoes. Cost: \$47.25-\$236.25 depending on accommodation choice. Details and registration: [kulaqua.com/2017-sda-womens-retreat-kulaqua-retreat-and-conference-center](http://kulaqua.com/2017-sda-womens-retreat-kulaqua-retreat-and-conference-center)  
 Feb. 3-5. English-language. Featured speaker: Marti Jones.  
 Feb. 10-12. English-language. Featured speaker: Carolann De Leon.  
 Feb. 17-19. Spanish-language. Featured speaker: Carolann De Leon.  
**FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING** - Feb. 17-19. Camp Sawyer, 33990 Overseas Highway, Scout Key at MM34. Theme: Fill My Cup, Lord! Speaker: Jeremy Arnall. Musicians: Michael Harris, Laura Saladino. Program will be live broadcast at [whnj.org](http://whnj.org). Details: [prayingks@gmail.com](mailto:prayingks@gmail.com) or 305-743-4796.  
**AMAZING FACTS EVANGELISTIC SERIES** - Feb. 17-25. 7-8 p.m. Spring Meadows Church, 5783 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd., Sanford. Theme: TBA. Speaker: Doug Batchelor, presenting a brand-new live broadcast series. Details: [skollenberg@amazingfacts.org](mailto:skollenberg@amazingfacts.org) or 916-209-7228.  
**SEX, LOVE, AND RELATIONSHIP RETREAT** - March 3-5. Pine Lake Retreat, 21725 FL-33, Groveland. Age-appropriate Adventist information on real-life issues, suitable for ages 11-35. Cost: \$35. Registration: [conta.cc/2gEUpMI](http://conta.cc/2gEUpMI)  
**MEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION** - March 10-12. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Boots On the Ground. Featured speakers: Frank Gonzalez, Robert Hines, Newton Hoilette, Gervon Marsh. Cost: \$31-\$236.75 depending on meal/accommodation/commuter choice. Details and registration: [kulaqua.com/2017-sda-mens-retreat-at-kulaqua-retreat-and-conference-center](http://kulaqua.com/2017-sda-mens-retreat-at-kulaqua-retreat-and-conference-center)  
**NORTH AREA ADVENTURER FUN DAYS** -

Theme: Healthy Living Through Nature. Cost: Adventurers, \$10 online or \$12 on site; adults, no charge. Check in begins 9 a.m.  
 March 19, Zone A. Gainesville Spanish Church, 12909 NW 39th Ave., Gainesville. Registration: [conta.cc/2eQidOB](http://conta.cc/2eQidOB)  
 April 9, Zone B, Tampa First Church, 822 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa. Registration: [conta.cc/2eQjOU3](http://conta.cc/2eQjOU3)

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER DIRECTORS COUNCIL** - Jan. 15. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**PATHFINDER JUNIOR EVENT** - Jan. 20-22. Cost \$45, register by Dec. 19. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 2)** - Jan. 21. 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Atlanta Belvedere Church, Atlanta, GA.  
**ELEMENTARY BAND/STRINGS FESTIVAL** - Jan. 27, 28. Collegedale Academy, Collegedale, TN.  
**STAYING LEGAL: A TRAINING ON COPYRIGHT AND TRADEMARKS** - Jan. 29. 11 am to 2 p.m. (lunch included). Presentation given by Jennifer Gray, J.D., counsel for the General Conference. A free communication training, registration required. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.  
**OASIS HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT** - Feb. 3-5. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 3)** - Feb. 4. 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Calhoun Church, Calhoun, GA.  
**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION** - Feb. 10-12. Theme: Turning Hearts (Malachi 4:6). Speaker: Andrew Shurtliff. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICTS 4&5)** - Feb. 11. 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Chattanooga First Church, Chattanooga, TN.  
**WILL CLINIC WITH JEFF WILSON** - Feb. 12. Collegedale Church, TN.  
**PATHFINDER TEEN EVENT** - Feb. 17-19. Cost \$45, deadline to register Feb. 1. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**HISPANIC COUPLES RETREAT** - Feb. 17-19. Register by Jan. 31, 2017. Winshape Retreat Center, Rome, GA.  
**PRAYER CONFERENCE** - Feb. 17-19. Presenter Allan Walshe, associate professor of Christian Ministry and Director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Program at Andrews University. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**CONSTITUENCY PRE-SESSION MEETING (DISTRICT 6)** - Feb. 25. 4-5 p.m. Everyone welcome. Knoxville First Church, TN. Some events require pre-registration; details at [registration.gccsda.com](http://registration.gccsda.com).

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE**

- MINISTERS' MEETING** – Jan. 16-19. Location TBA on our website.
- KY-TN ACROFEST** – Jan. 26-28. Highland Academy.
- EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP** – Jan. 27-29. Indian Creek Camp.
- COUPLES GETAWAY** – Feb. 11. Indian Creek Camp.
- PATHFINDER 7-UP CAMPOUT** – Feb. 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.
- WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** – Feb. 26. Conference Office.
- EASTERN KY CAMP MEETING** – March 10, 11. Prestonsburg, KY.
- MUSIC FESTIVAL** – March 16-18. Highland Academy.
- LOUISVILLE FESTIVAL OF FAITH** – March 24, 25. Louisville, KY.

**ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES**

**COLLOQUIUM SERIES SCHEDULE:**  
 Jan. 4-Feb. 5. 7:30 p.m., *Blackberry Winter* – a play by Steve Yockey. Orlando Theater at the Orlando Shakespeare Theater.  
 April 6. 7 p.m., Philip Yancey, *The Question That Never Goes Away: Why*. Florida Hospital Church.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

- CLASSES BEGIN** – Jan. 9. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.
- ART EXHIBIT** – Jan. 26. The artwork of Chang Park will be on display in the John C. Williams Art Gallery of Brock Hall through March 10. Park has created work for clients such as TIME, The New York Times, and Penguin Books. The exhibit is titled "Vestiges." For more information, call 423-236-2732.
- CONCERTO CONCERT** – Jan. 29. 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 Church of Seventh-day Adventists, the event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**STAYING LEGAL** – Jan. 29. A communication training on copyright and trademarks at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office, 255

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

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

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

**LA SIERRA 95TH ACADEMY ALUMNI RE-UNION – April 28, 29.** 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside CA. Honor classes: 2's and 7's. Welcome reception: 7 p.m., Friday, April 28, LSA Library. Honor class services registration: April 29, at 9 a.m. Services at 10 a.m. Potluck luncheon. Alumni/Varsity Basketball at 8:30 p.m., on Saturday evening. Please update your contact info. JNelson@lsak12.com; 951 351-1445 x244; www.lsak12.com

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



	JAN. 6	JAN. 13	JAN. 20	JAN. 27	FEB. 3
ATLANTA, GA	5:44	5:50	5:57	6:04	6:11
CHARLESTON, SC	5:29	5:35	5:41	5:48	5:55
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:26	5:33	5:40	5:47	5:54
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:12
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:51	4:57	5:04	5:11	5:18
JACKSON, MS	5:11	5:17	5:23	5:30	5:36
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:38	5:45	5:53	6:00	6:08
MEMPHIS, TN	5:04	5:10	5:17	5:24	5:31
MIAMI, FL	5:45	5:50	5:56	6:01	6:06
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:14	5:21
NASHVILLE, TN	4:48	4:54	5:01	5:09	5:16
ORLANDO, FL	5:44	5:50	5:55	6:01	6:07
TAMPA, FL	5:50	5:55	6:01	6:07	6:12
WILMINGTON, NC	5:17	5:24	5:30	5:37	5:44



# SEE FOR YOURSELF

Students are extraordinarily friendly, professors are exceptionally caring, and the whole campus is focused on Christ.

But don't just trust our word. Arrange your own free visit to Southern's campus, or join one of our special events.

See Southern for yourself.

**FREE\*** PreviewSouthern event:

**March 23-24, 2017**



\*Includes free meals and lodging for students interested in attending Southern. Student families are encouraged to visit, too.



To arrange your visit, call 1.800.SOUTHERN  
or go to [southern.edu/visit](http://southern.edu/visit).

Collegedale, TN

