

Southern 

# TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2018

GROWING YOUNG ADVENTISTS:

# OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

PROVE ME  
NOW ...  
A COVENANT  
OF LOVE

ALMOST HIT BY  
A CABBAGE

WHAT IS  
WHOLE-  
PERSON CARE?

WHAT MY  
YOUNG  
STUDENTS HAVE  
TAUGHT ME

REVEALING  
REVELATION

# Oh, We Are the Pathfinders Strong...



**Ed Wright, D.Min.**  
*President of  
 Georgia-Cumberland  
 Conference*

*Guest Editorial*

If reading those words reminds you of a song, it undoubtedly means that you were (or are) a Pathfinder.

As a child growing up in Hawaii and Arizona, some of my fondest memories involve Pathfinders. Granted, my father was a conference youth director, so I grew up at summer camps and camporees, always watching from the sidelines. Eventually, however, I proudly became a Pathfinder myself. Now I had my own uniform, worked hard to earn honors for my sash, and eagerly applied myself to the JMV (Junior Missionary Volunteers eventually became AJY) progressive classwork. We camped and hiked, practiced survival skills, engaged with community service projects, and learned new skills and hobbies. Where else would I have learned leathercraft, lanyards, and “hammered copper craft”? Amidst all the activity, I found myself watching the adult club leaders closely, and found myself deeply influenced by them — to this day. In Pathfinders, leadership was taught, modeled, enabled. And, I found myself tied ever closer to Jesus and the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Since the early 1950s when the Pathfinder organization was birthed, our Church has invested significant time, energy, and resources in this undertaking. Why this emphasis? Wouldn't a strong Sabbath School program be enough to engage our children? And look at how much we invest in Christian education! Why, then, do we still think a Pathfinder club is so important? From my own experience, several reasons come to mind.

### **Pathfinders...**

1. **Embraces wholesome action, challenge, and adventure:** Sitting still and listening has its place. But what child isn't naturally attracted to action and adventure?
2. **Builds character:** Pathfinders reinforces the message of the home, church, and school through applied life lessons and the balanced development of physical, mental, and spiritual aptitudes.
3. **Teaches practical life skills:** Many are through honor patches or coursework. The variety offered goes beyond the skillset of most family systems.
4. **Builds appreciation for nature and the out-of-doors:** So much can be learned from “God's second book.” Becoming knowledgeable is the first step toward becoming comfortable, both in the outdoor world of His creation, and then with the Creator Himself.
5. **Cultivates intergenerational bonding:** Increasing the number of caring adults who engage and genuinely befriend young people has a grounding effect, especially needed when key parental roles are damaged or absent.
6. **Grows leadership:** Taking responsibility first for self, then for tasks, finally for others creates a natural cycle for leadership development. The Teen Leadership Training (TLT) program makes that process even more intentional and effective.
7. **Ties young people to Jesus and the Church:** Spiritual lessons and applications, when verbalized by respected adults, carry more weight than when read from a book. Jesus incorporated into life brings meaning and purpose. Pathfinding expands the number of connecting points for young people, helping them feel needed and valued in today's church, and giving them more ways to contribute to coming generations in tomorrow's church.

Thanks for what you are doing to strengthen the Pathfinder club in your local congregation. Next August, Pathfinders from around the world will converge on Oshkosh, Wisconsin, for the **Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee**, an event held only once every five years. Thanks for helping your club get there.

Pathfinders represents a huge investment in our youth — one that I am convinced will yield eternal benefits. 🙏



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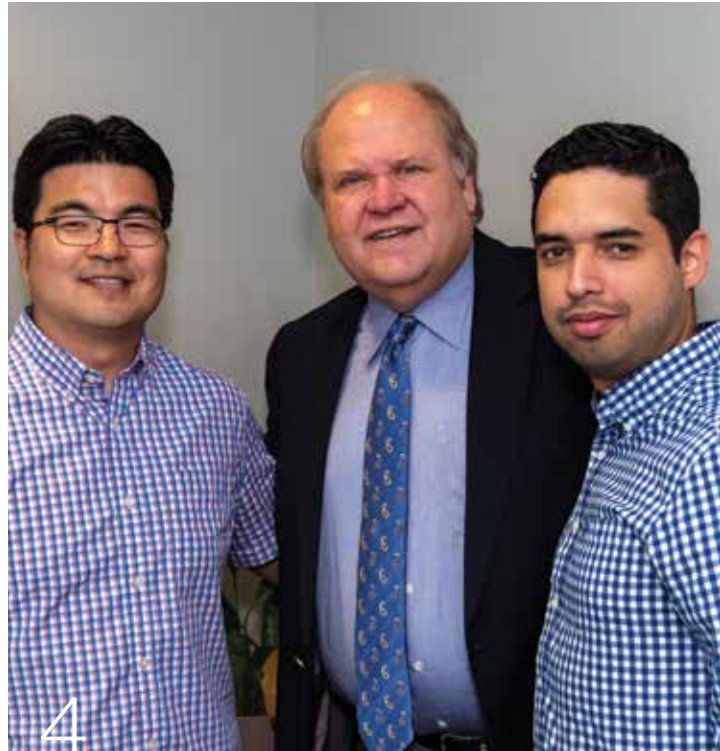
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## Growing Young Adventists:

# OUR FUTURE DEPENDS ON IT

BY KEN ROGERS

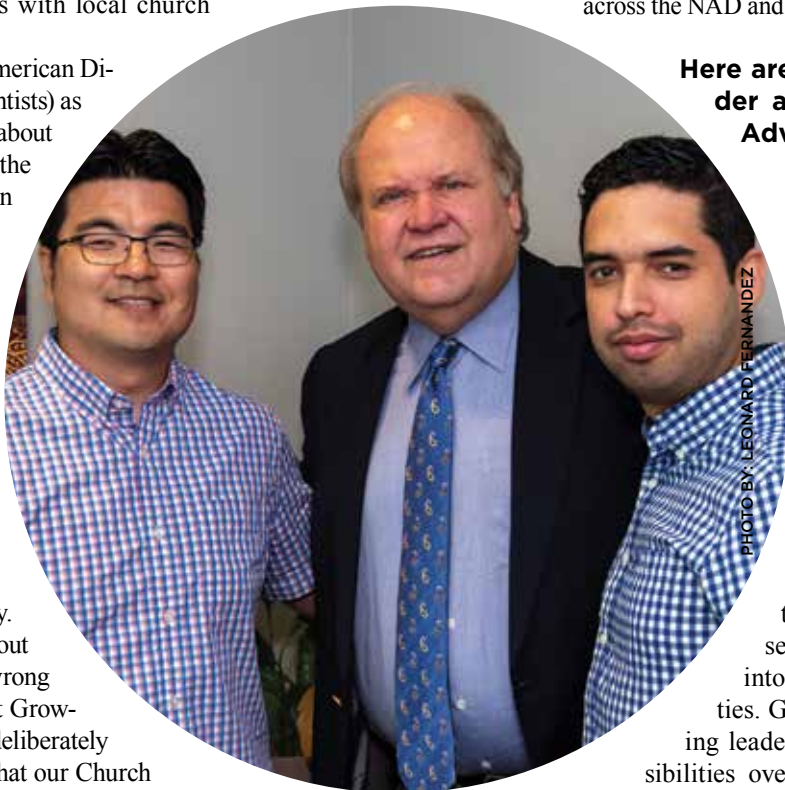
Our churches are growing older. Some are reporting that our average membership age is 60 years or more. It's not that there is anything wrong with that age, but the outlook is not promising if we just continue to age without engaging younger generations in meaningful relationships with local church communities.

"Churches in the North American Division (of Seventh-day Adventists) as a whole really need to think about where we want to be in the next 20, 30 years," said Justin Yang, senior pastor of Atlanta Korean Church. "If we don't do something about reaching the next generation, we will become obsolete."

The Growing Young Adventists (GYA) philosophy is not primarily concerned about age, but rather about hope. No major Christian tradition is growing in the United States today. Much has been written about what the Church is doing wrong with the next generation, but Growing Young Adventists is deliberately committed to discovering what our Church can do right to grow the Kingdom of God.

Directors and researchers at Fuller Youth Institute (FYI) conducted groundbreaking research on more than 250 churches in the United States that are engaging younger generations and retaining young people in active church discipleship and mission. When FYI published their refreshing research, interviews, observations,

and analysis in the book *Growing Young*, it caught the attention of the North American Division (NAD). The NAD created an initiative to join FYI in cohorts to train Growing Young-certified speakers who could lead the Seventh-day Adventist Church in building vibrant church communities. The momentum is growing across the NAD and here in the Southern Union.



**Here are some things to ponder about Growing Young Adventists**

*Some in church leadership might be concerned that engaging young people more actively in the Church will cause major changes, such as different styles of worship and perhaps less theological substance.*

First, GYA is not a "program." Rather, it is a type of culture change that seeks to develop churches into vibrant church communities. GYA is not about just handing leadership and worship responsibilities over to younger generations, but it involves intentional mentoring and collaboration with all generations of Church leadership. Over the years as a Church, we have witnessed many programs come and go. GYA is focused on achieving sustainable strategies that will generate multi- and inter-generational leadership in local church context.

**Where would a local church community begin to adopt a process to change from “growing old”?**

Every congregation wants to love and be loved by its young people. The Church needs its young people, and the young people need the Church. Without each other, the Church is not complete. The churches across North America that demonstrated vibrant fellowship and younger generation retention in FYI’s research were not based on the following:

1. Congregation size
2. Trendy church location or region
3. Church age
4. Denominational affiliation
5. Age or “cool status” of pastor
6. Large or modern building
7. Size of church budget
8. Contemporary worship services
9. Watered down theology and teaching
10. Hyper-entertaining ministry programming

So, we can begin by not repeating strategies which we may have traditionally believed were necessary to grow young.

**What strategies did the FYI discover in churches that were vibrant and growing young?**

Fuller research discovered that there are six core commitments found in churches that are growing young. The commitments are not sequential, but progressive. No one commitment is more important than the other one is. Surprisingly, the six are not revolutionary, in that the concepts are not new, but synchronized in a practical church life application.

**SIX CORE COMMITMENTS FOR GROWING YOUNG**

1. Unlock keychain leadership. Pray for God to raise up leaders. Decentralize authority, and intentionally entrust and empower others. Share power with the right people at the right time.
2. Empathize with today’s young people. It starts with listening, and seeking to understand
3. Take Jesus’ message seriously. Asks, “What impact is Jesus making on my life here and now?”
4. Fuel a warm church community, a safe place for questioning and acceptance.
5. Prioritize youth and young families with a tangible church commitment of resources, and programs.
6. Be the best neighbors, to love and identify with local community and globally.

These commitments surround a Jesus-centered community and provide a sustainable platform for growing young.

Do we have any SDA churches where these commitments are being adopted into church leadership practice?

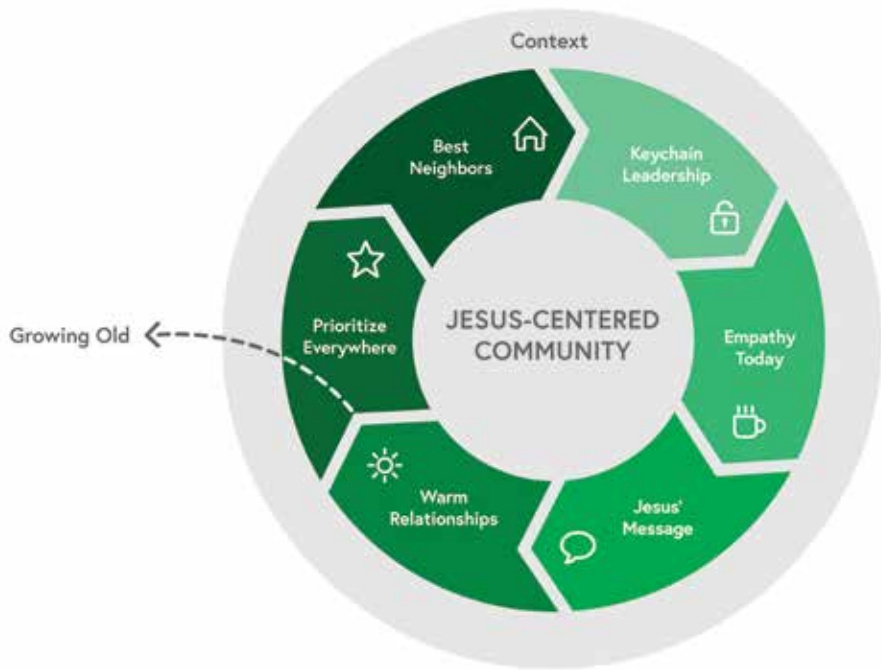
Yes indeed, and increasingly in our Southern Union territory. The Florida Conference Ministerial Department provided the book *Growing Young* to every pastor. Juan Rodriquez, Florida Conference youth director, and his team conducted nine convocations entitled “Legacy of Hope” throughout Florida, with more than 2,000 leaders in attendance and 1,500 *Growing Young* books distributed. To date, 17 Florida Conference churches have committed to implementing the Six Core Commitments promoting change. Some are taking advantage of the church assessment tools offered through FYI.

“The main thrust behind Legacy of Hope was helping Church leaders see the importance of leaving a legacy to the next generation,” said Rodriguez. “The main component or essential from the book *Growing Young* that we focused on was keychain leadership: giving the keys to the next generation, investing in them with our time, and helping them takeover churches.”

Michael Polite, associate chaplain of faith development at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, agrees with this approach.

“Any faith movement requires the believer to feel ownership, of not only the traditions, but the long-term health of that movement,” said Polite, who works closely with youth. “So, the only way to instill ownership is if you start communicating to a demographic at a very young age that this is theirs too.”

In the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, the Atlanta Korean Church is a pilot church embracing the Core Commitments and their journey is exciting to witness. Yang and Alex Candelaria, associate pastor, are leading the elders and church leadership in new directions with amazing results.



Jesus Centered Community





PHOTO BY: LEONARD FERNANDEZ

Ken Rogers (left), youth ministries director at the Southern Union, discusses the Growing Young Adventists concepts with Justin Yang, senior pastor at Atlanta Korean Church in Duluth, Georgia; and Alex Candelaria, associate pastor at Atlanta Korean Church.

“There is an active pursuit to reach the next generation, really delegate the leadership to the next generation,” said Yang. “Now, many of the members are willing to walk alongside them, and empower and equip them for the ministry.”

David Kwak is a member of the Atlanta Korean Church who is studying theology at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. The 18-year-old, who was a children’s pastor at the church, said he encourages young people to glean wisdom from their elders.

“For me, personally, I gain so much wisdom from hearing the generations before me, especially at my church,” said Kwak.

Elsewhere, Gulf States Conference recently conducted a Growing Young Adventists retreat at Camp Alamisco for young adults. Books were distributed, and participants went home with plans to incorporate their learning at their home churches.

### ***What does the future hold for our Adventist churches that want to grow young?***

Growing Young Adventists is a learning journey encouraging our churches to

love next generations well. We want to cheer, support, and resource congregations who desire the vitality of our young people and foster the relationships that breathe life into the Church family. Focusing on a Jesus-centered community that seeks to make Jesus better known and better loved will attract all people groups.

There is a growing network of churches seeking change. Churches and leaders are gaining insights from continuing conversations and networking best practices for growing young.

We can be confident in the leading of the Holy Spirit as we genuinely seek to become congregations that unashamedly uplift Jesus as Lord and Savior, and grow Church communities that develop lifelong disciples in a thriving environment. And, there’s no better place for that to happen than in our local churches. Growing Young Adventists is about HOPE! 🙌

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**Ken Rogers** is the youth ministries director at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

## RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES INTERESTED IN GROWING YOUNG

- Invite a Growing Young Adventists certified speaker to your church for a presentation/discussion. [krogers@southernunion.com](mailto:krogers@southernunion.com), GYA
- Start a book club within your local church. Books are available at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)
- Online: [Growingyoungadventists.com](http://Growingyoungadventists.com)
- [Facebook.com/GrowingYoungAdventists](https://Facebook.com/GrowingYoungAdventists)
- [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org)
- [Churchesgrowingyoung.com](http://Churchesgrowingyoung.com)
- [growingyoungadventists.wordpress.com](http://growingyoungadventists.wordpress.com)

# Prove Me Now ... A COVENANT OF LOVE

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

The consequence of God's covenant of love is a real testimony of what He did in the life of the Morales family, church members in the Fayetteville, North Carolina, district. Amos Morales describes his arrival to this country in 2006 as a moment of intense struggle.

Without money, in a non-advantageous condition, he had to break through the challenges presented by his search for the American dream. However, his heart was full of hope and his spirit was strong. Most importantly, he kept in mind the powerful Bible lessons that his parents had transmitted with love. He met Josefina in this country, and she is now his wife and they have two children, Jassanny and Samuel. Amos worked hard to cover expenses and provide sustenance for his family. One day while sitting in his living room, he was staring at one of his Bibles that was on the coffee table. He picked it up, opened it, and his eyes fell on a verse in Malachi.

"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it," Malachi 3:10 KJV.

He focused on the promise of that verse. As he repeated the reading, God's desire to bless His children became clearer. He thought, "The time has come to try and see." He decided to become a partner with the Lord who owns everything. Not only would he tithe his salary, but also he made a pact to give 15 percent of his income in offerings. "At first, it was not easy to fulfill that promise," said Amos. That total of 25 percent



was an important number; their financial demands had become even more severe, as they had decided to educate their children in Adventist schools. However, he and Josefina decided not to fail their promise.

One night while they were sitting quietly at home, an armed criminal entered the house and threatened them. He looked extremely nervous and desperate to find money. He moved quickly, searching everywhere he could. Frightened, perplexed, they feared a fatal outcome. Suddenly, without a visible reason, he turned around and left the same way he had come. The family remained in shock. They knew a miracle had occurred, and God had shown His protection one more time. What they did not know was that behind that miracle, the Lord would give them another surprise and they would understand the reason of this dangerous incident.

The next day Amos went to see a lawyer to describe what happened and ask him

what should be done about it. They were also trying to regularize their immigration status in a process that would be complicated. When the lawyer heard what happened, to their surprise he told them that because of this incident, they now qualified for a different immigration status, one which would facilitate their process. They could not believe it. What happened was none other than God opening the windows of Heaven just as He promised.

Amos looks to his past grateful. Presently, their children are receiving a Christian education, they have peace of mind to continue working without fear of visa expiration, and God has doubled their income.

"We continue to be faithful to our promise," says Amos, "and proclaim vehemently, 'prove and see.'" ■

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



# ALMOST HIT BY A CABBAGE

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

Robert Williams' family moved to Mexico when he was 14 years old. After a few years, his parents decided to return home to the United States, but Robert stayed because he had already started college.

As a young man, his finances were not solid and he counted on his parents' help for food and rent. They faithfully sent him money on a monthly basis, though sometimes the funds failed to arrive on time. At the end of one month, as he was struggling to make ends meet, he found himself with very little food. He was concerned, but certainly hoped the monthly allowance would arrive the following day. He opened his refrigerator, and only saw one potato, one onion, and a piece of chicken. He thought, "I will bake the potato and the chicken, and pray that the money arrives tomorrow." To make things worse, his dog was anxiously waiting to get a little bit of that dinner too. As he was ready to eat, he heard a knock on the door, and when he opened it, he found a woman with a baby in her arms. She seemed desperate, and told him she had nothing to eat. Robert asked her to wait and he went back inside, and looked at his dinner knowing that he had nothing else to eat, but made a plate for her, covered it with aluminum foil, and gave it to the young woman. He later made a peanut butter sandwich.

He decided to walk his dog after his frugal dinner. They passed by an empty lot, and his dog went straight to it. As he was sniffing and looking around, Robert glanced a shiny paper. He got closer, and to his disappointment, he saw his dinner untouched, still warm, laying on



Robert Williams

the ground. The woman obviously only wanted money from Robert. His dog, however, was very happy and ate it all. Robert was certainly depressed.

Near the place he lived, there was a big fresh market. The main road to that market was a few blocks away. Trucks loaded with vegetables and fruit were always going back and forth. As he was going to cross the street, there was a big

truck full of cabbage coming his way. He stopped at the curb. As the truck passed by, he looked at it without paying too much attention, just thinking of what had just happened. In the back of the truck, at the top of the load of cabbage, there was a boy staring at him with mischief in his eyes. As if disturbed by the look on Robert's face, he grabbed a cabbage and tossed it to him in a very mean way, trying to hit him hard. Robert was shocked. He did not expect it, but caught the cabbage in the air. The truck disappeared, and there was Robert in the middle of the street, with his dog, no money, an empty stomach, hit by a cabbage.

After recovering from what had just happened, Robert picked up the cabbage, and thought, "This literally came from above." His mood suddenly changed. He was grateful. He enthusiastically went back home, cut and sautéed the onion, chopped the cabbage, put it in the frying pan, added some salt, and had the most delicious cabbage he had ever eaten. The following day, his allowance arrived.

Many years have passed, and Robert, now an elder at Atlanta First Hispanic Church in Tucker, Georgia, still remembers this story vividly. The Lord never fails his promises!

"Those who give to the poor will lack nothing, but those who close their eyes to them receive many curses," Proverbs 28:27, NIV. ●

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

# What Is WHOLE-PERSON CARE?

BY ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS

As Adventist Health System transitions to the unified AdventHealth network, we're also redefining what it means to provide our community with health care. It's about more than mending what's broken and healing what hurts. It's about compassionate, lifelong, whole-person care for you and your family.

Whole-person care is what our Seventh-day Adventist founders believed in more than 150 years ago when they began their first health care program. It's also what set them apart. In the simplest terms, it's our continued brand promise of caring for you as an individual — in body, mind, and spirit.

"They recognized back then that you were created as a 'whole' person, and that your mind, body, and spirit all needed to be nurtured and cared for to have an abundant life," says Terry Shaw, president and CEO of AdventHealth. "So, when we treat people, we want to treat them from a whole-person perspective."

Each and every person is complex and unique. Your needs differ from day to day, moment to moment, and when you undergo a health change, it's more than just your physical body that requires healing. Whole-person care means that while we fight your cancer with advanced treatments and cutting-edge technologies, we also fight your fears and anxieties with encouraging support groups and personal chaplain visits.

It means that no matter what you're facing, team members will guide you through your entire health care journey



It takes more than a healthy body to truly feel your best.

— making appointments, answering questions, and putting your mind at ease.

At AdventHealth we believe uncommon compassion is as important as any medical credentials. When you're treated with dignity and kindness from world-class experts, you'll not only heal, but become your best self again.

We believe each person is equally deserving of quality medical attention and unconditional love. "Every person, no matter who they are, has infinite value," says Shaw.

"Our organization wants to be a place where the whole person gets care every

day, all the time. We want to be the go-to choice for every step in your health care journey."

The AdventHealth mission, extending the healing ministry of Christ, is about meeting you wherever you are with the kind of support you need. We're constantly seeking new ways to serve you better and make your health care experience easier.

Our name change is just the start of this new and exciting chapter. We may have a new name, but we still know yours. ●



# *DiscipleTrek Grows Campers as* TRUE DISCIPLES

BY KALEIGH BENGE

As our group of 30 climbed to one of the high points on Cohutta Springs Youth Camp's (CSYC) property in Crandall, Georgia, I found it hard to believe that our three-week journey was already coming to a close. Gathered round a cross as the sun disappeared behind the neighboring hill, I listened to the most beautiful words a young person could ever speak — a personal declaration to be a disciple of Jesus Christ!

This summer CSYC offered a new camp program called DiscipleTrek. It was geared toward teens who desired to deepen their relationship with the Lord, learn about His beautiful truths, and grow their confidence in sharing the Adventist message. Summer after summer, campers dedicate and rededicate their lives to Christ. While this is good, the CSYC camp director, Rob Lang, recognized the need for a next step for young believers to become teen disciples.

In addition to the leadership staff and counselors, the DiscipleTrek program had outstanding guest presenters. Dee Casper came the second week, and Ricky and Stephanie Schwarz the third week. The campers put into practice creatively sharing truth with each other in the form of song, poetry, drama, and testimony, and participated in an outreach day to the Clarkston, Georgia, refugee community. Each day was specially designed to promote personal spiritual growth, and collaborative learning and sharing of the Adventist fundamental beliefs.

"It was so neat to be in an environment that was so positive, and geared toward growth and transformation," says camper Emilianne Cross. "I left with a clearer picture of God's character of love because it was made the focal point of every one of our Adventist beliefs."

As the weeks progressed, the campers



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY: KALEIGH BENGE

About 30 teens spent three weeks at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp in Crandall, Georgia, intentionally learning how to be disciples of Jesus in a new program called DiscipleTrek. The students studied Adventist beliefs as well as putting Christianity in action with an outreach to the Clarkston, Georgia, refugee community.

moved from the critical lessons found in Genesis, to the covenant, through the plan of salvation, and on to the Sanctuary and prophecies that all are especially privileged to know as Adventists. Camper Kevin Zapata found the studies in Revelation most inspiring and applicable to his life today.

"During our third week we studied the Three Angels' Messages," says Zapata. "This was most meaningful because this is why we are here — to spread this Gospel! This is the most important thing we can do."

At the close of DiscipleTrek, the pioneer group evaluated the program, rating statements from strongly agree to disagree. The leadership staff were thrilled and humbled by the feedback. To the evaluation statement, "After my time in DiscipleTrek, I am more inclined to partner with God in sharing the Three Angels' Messages," 22 out of 27 agreed and strongly agreed, with the remaining five responding somewhat

agree. This is a remarkable outcome.

"Each summer we see fun-loving campers become young believers," says Lang. "Now we're seeing them becoming teen disciples who are ready to partner with God to be remnant leaders. What could be more exciting than this?"

"I feel called to go back to Collegedale and spark a new type of Adventist," says Camden Griggs, longtime camper. "I feel that it's my duty to bring young adults back to the Church and teach them what God is really about."

"DiscipleTrek was one of the best three weeks of my life," reflects camper Lauren Gerath. "There are so many people in this world that haven't met Him. I want God to guide and direct me to share His Word with as many people as I can." ●

**Kaleigh Benge** is the director of DiscipleTrek.

# What My Young Students HAVE TAUGHT ME

BY JENNIFER GENNICK

Jennifer Gennick shares her personal testimony.

I have been a teacher for 17 years, with the last six in a K4/K5 classroom. Currently, I am serving the Mobile Junior Academy in Mobile, Alabama. Every year I learn new lessons about kids, about God, and about myself.

My students come from many backgrounds, cultures, and different experiences with God. They come to me having different levels of knowledge and understanding. Those first few weeks of school always bring interesting experiences as I get to know my little charges. They are each so unique and have different needs, fears, and abilities. I find myself listening and paying close attention to them as we get to know each other. Bringing these individuals and myself into a little community, or family, is my goal for those first few weeks of school.

Time and time again, I am reminded that God is right there, ready to help me through the day. When I forget to bring my little worries and troubles about my classroom to God, I become a bit hopeless. But, when I work, saying little prayers throughout the day, He never fails, whether it's a prayer for patience, wisdom, or knowledge to help these little people work out their problems or to give me the help that I need for each situation.

Some folks may believe that Pre-K and kindergarten classrooms are not important to our Adventist schools. Today, though, so many families must have a dual income, and the little ones need a safe, happy learning environment that helps them get to know Jesus when they are unable to be with their families. Jesus said in Matthew 19:14, "Let the little children come to me, and forbid them not." Kids need to know that God has a purpose and a plan for them. The earlier they can



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Mobile Junior Academy students enjoy the variety of activities available in their classroom.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Low teacher-student ratio and hands-on learning contribute to student success.

come to believe that God loves them and that they are a part of His family, the more hope and assurance they and their families will have.

Adventist school teachers are a part of an evangelistic effort nine months of every year. Moreover, that effort is not just for the older children.

I am not just a K4/K5 teacher. I am a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist K4/K5 teacher. What a humbling, awesome privilege that is. 🙏

**Jennifer Gennick** is a K4/K5 teacher at Mobile Junior Academy in Mobile, Alabama.



# REVEALING REVELATION

BY CYNTHIA WILLEY

In January and February of this year, the Lexington, Kentucky, Church held a “Revealing Revelation” evangelistic series. Carlis Clinton, church pastor, presented the topics. The meetings, held three nights per week and during the worship service, were also filled with musical selections, question and answer sessions, drawings for free items, and delicious snacks. Nearly 60 guests attended the first meeting, along with many church members.

In interviews following the meetings, guests mentioned hearing about the meetings through a coworker, friend, family member, or mailed flyers. One topic mentioned as very interesting was “Mark of the Beast.” A guest commented, “I have always wondered about that.” Other comments included how the health topic was eye opening, the Bible details presented were helpful, and they just really enjoyed getting back into the Word.

The topics were the original draw to the meetings, but when asked, “What is your favorite thing about coming to the meetings?” the most common responses were the people, warm greetings, handshakes, friendliness, family atmosphere, and fellowship.

One of the last guests interviewed was a homeless gentleman. The first and only night he attended was the final presentation. The topic was “Heaven.” What he said about his impression of the meeting can resonate with all. “My favorite part was being reminded of my permanent residence in Heaven. No matter what I face on this Earth or the things I have been through, or the people that have let me down, what gives me hope is that this



Carlis and Kristina Clinton during a Q&A session



Clinton baptized Mitch Thompson during a worship service shortly after the close of the series. He was one of seven baptisms from the meetings.



The Lightkeeper's Quartet shares a musical selection

world is not my home. I have a permanent home...in Heaven.”

“For here we do not have an enduring city, but we are looking for the city that

is to come,” Hebrews 13:14, NIV. 📌

**Cynthia Willey** Lexington Church  
Assistant Communications Secretary

PHOTO BY: CONNER SCHELL

PHOTO BY: CONNER SCHELL

# Spiritual Well-Being Important to Maintain

**S**piritual wellness acknowledges the search for deeper meaning in life. When people are spiritually healthy, they feel more connected not only to a higher power, but to those around them. They have more clarity when it comes to making everyday choices, and actions become more consistent with beliefs and values.

Whole health requires care and attention for not only the physical body, but also the mind and spirit. The benefits of spiritual well-being are numerous — from more compassionate relationships to a deeper sense of inner peace.

## From Chaos to Clarity: A Contemplative Practice

Hectic days filled with long to-do lists leave little room for down time and reflection. No matter the environment, minds are constantly buzzing with thoughts and responsibilities. As someone moves from one task to the next, they can become consumed by the craziness of their lives, and begin to lose sight of what they're most passionate about.

Without a clear sense of direction, it is possible to slip into feelings of apathy and hopelessness. How can one prepare for future challenges with courage? How can daily challenges be handled with calm optimism? Slow down, reflect, reenergize, and cultivate purpose in life to rediscover this. Many spiritual practices have a long history of using inward reflection to increase spiritual connection, compassion, empathy, and attention.

**Purposeful Reading:** Select a daily reading book — the Bible, a book of quotes, daily devotionals — whichever best meets needs. Take time to try to connect with the words and reflect on them. It might help to read the passage several times. To get in the right mindset quickly, it helps to make this part of an everyday routine and do it at the same time and place each day.

**Prayer:** Praying helps stay connected to and rooted in faith. Through prayer one is able to dive deeper into what he or she may



Learn how a small change to your daily routine could make a huge impact in your life.

have been put on this earth to do. Not only does prayer help develop skills like gratitude and compassion, it can also be a calming source, a way to fully relax by handing worries to God, trusting that He will always come through.

**Meditative Reflection:** Meditating and reflecting provide greater understanding of self, helping people to view themselves from the inside out, so to speak, and with space created for reflection and self-awareness. Even 10 minutes of reflective meditation allows for thoughts to be harnessed, and the person to walk away feeling more calm and ready to take on whatever comes.

**Keeping a Journal:** Journaling can help bring a state of mindfulness. Past frustrations and future worries lose their edge in the present moment. Journaling can also help people recognize unhealthy habits or feelings they may be holding onto. An honest journaling session can be especially cathartic during a challenging time, allowing full processing and release of feelings.

## From Clarity to Purpose

Each person should pause for a minute to

take a bird's eye view of their life. Growth and change have happened over the years, but are they the best version of their self? If the answer is no, they should not worry — each person is a work in progress. But, it takes work to stay on the journey of self-improvement.

By periodically stepping away to reflect, individuals are better able to tap into their deepest potential. They become aware of the choices they're making in every moment, and how those choices shape who they are and affect those around them. Cultivating a sense of self can both ground and inspire people to become who they were meant to be: their best and truest self.

Spiritual health is critical to whole health. Prayer, reflection, and mindfulness not only make individuals feel better — and sometimes even heal faster — they help them become better people. Each person should challenge themselves to form a new habit for spiritual well-being. 🕊

BY ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM COMMUNICATIONS



# Spiritual Care Important in Health Care



Patients who are spiritually strong may be better able to manage their conditions.

Spirituality is a personal aspect of life. It may inspire individuals to pray throughout the day, take time for quiet mindfulness, or reach out to others as a volunteer or mentor. Whatever form spirituality takes, it is part of what makes a person unique. That's why Adventist Health System feels that spiritual support is an important part of the healing process for every person they serve. Even if an individual is seeking help for a physical ailment, the person's whole health — body, mind, and spirit — is what matters, which is why Adventist Health System (AHS) trains team members to meet the spiritual needs of patients, wherever they may be in their journey.

Patients who are spiritually strong may be better able to manage their conditions, trust in their care providers, and have a positive outlook. With this in mind, AHS team members — from physicians and

physical therapists to urgent care clinicians and imaging centers techs — are trained by the Clinical Mission Integration (CMI) team.

Through training, care teams are learning spiritual care and how to best provide it to their patients and coworkers. Care teams take pride in connecting to AHS's mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ, which leads to more personal healing and wholeness for patients.

As a result of these trainings, AHS has added screening questions like "Do you have a source of joy in your life?" to enhance patient questionnaires.

Powerful things come from asking these questions and can lead to continued discussions with a member of the organization's care team. The CMI program is shaping the spiritual support of nearly 20,000 outpatients seen every day. This is one way Adventist Health System ensures

whole-person care, which touches both the consumer and health care providers.

As well as the outpatient setting, spiritual care lives within the walls of the organization's hospitals, hospices, and skilled nursing homes with the support of 110 chaplains who serve across the country. Chaplains are available to provide spiritual guidance through prayers, rituals, sacraments, or connection to a patient's religious community.

AHS wants every person who uses its services to have a spiritual encounter when they interact with its caregivers. Whether it's comforting someone's anxiety, sharing a favorite prayer, or offering reassuring Scriptures right when someone needs it the most, the organization will help patients explore, expand, and lean on their faith. 🙏

BY ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM  
COMMUNICATIONS

# First “Revive” Youth Rally Held

*Ryan Hodgins, pastor of Sharon Church in Charlotte, N.C., shares his personal account of the Revive Youth Rally effort.*

The story behind the “Revive” Youth Rally begins with an email. A young adult sent this email to Bryan Aalborg, senior pastor of the Charlotte Sharon Church, asking about a youth rally. He was sad to tell her they had no such event planned. Then a short time later, I was hired to be Sharon’s youth and young adult pastor. After much prayer, it became apparent that God wanted us to start something big for the young people in our church and surrounding area.

Taking a leap of faith, we scheduled a youth rally for the end of the summer, and with only four months until the event, the planning ramped up quickly. Miracles happened, money was raised, and it became more and more apparent that God wanted this event to happen.

The first task was getting a speaker. Ron Sydney, pastor of the 24/7 church in Bellevue, Wash., seemed a great choice; however, it was unlikely that we could get him on such short notice. But when I called, he was excited for the opportunity, even taking time out of his vacation to come and share with our young people.

Registration for Revive launched in May 2018, at Camp Meeting, and people started signing up. With less than two months until opening night, we entered crunch time. We booked praise teams and hired a graphic designer to make everything look good. Volunteers, including a team of young adults, came out to help transform the Adventist Christian Academy gymnasium into a youth worship center.

When organizing events for youth, I tend to get nervous because I want the event to help them connect with God and show how much He longs for them to choose Him. But, on Friday, August 10th, at 5 p.m., when the doors were opened to the first ever Revive Youth Rally, my nerves were finally calm. I knew that we had done our best to



Guest speaker Pastor Ron Sydney

accomplish the task God had given us.

That Friday night more than 180 people attended, and on Sabbath there were more than 250. It turned out to be a very exciting weekend. When Sydney spoke, they listened. When the praise teams played, the young people were singing. When the panel had their discussions, the kids were engaged. Yes, there were a few technical glitches, but God prevailed. After a weekend of great music and connective messages, a call for commitment was made, and almost everyone in attendance came forward to surrender to God.

It’s powerful to see what happens when so many of God’s workers pour their hearts into service for Him. And, it’s even more powerful to see our young people committing to follow their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One of the main reasons we held this event was to teach the youth to have a connection with God. Connection starts with surrender. This generation has the power to do unfathomable things for God. God is powerful, and the future is exciting. We are looking forward to next year when we launch “Revive: Do it Again,” July 19-20, 2019. Look for more information at [www.reviveyouthrally.com](http://www.reviveyouthrally.com).

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

BY PASTOR RYAN HODGINS



The afternoon panel discussion and Q&A

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

# Project ReFRESH: Huge Media Program for Young Adults Launches in Carolinas

**B**eginning in October, the Carolina Conference Communication Department is launching an online venture to connect with youth and young adults. As with many other denominations, there has been a generational divide between the younger and older church members in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and recently those differing views have created tension, a lack of trust, and as a result, a loss of communication. The absence of young adults within the Church has been noticed and felt, and the Conference wants to let them know they are cared about and missed.

Carolina Conference has developed Project: ReFRESH, a digital platform which speaks of the Church family’s values within the relevance of a young person’s experiences, and ministers to them on a real level.

Visit the website at [theprojectrefresh.org](http://theprojectrefresh.org) to find a variety of content designed for youth and young adults. There are currently five video series in production and six podcasts, as well as a blog, forward, and a myriad of social media content. They include:

- **The Loop:** A vlog about “adulting” provides how-tos that take the mystery out of tasks such as buying a car, dealing with insurance, and creating a budget.
- **Tiny Chair Talks:** This video series with host Ray Gray takes a head-on approach to “elephant in the room” subjects, but with a twist.
- **Echo:** A simultaneous podcast/video series, Echo brings together different viewpoints, but finds common ground on difficult topics. This series features Ryan Becker as host.
- **As I Am:** This video/podcast series highlights individuals whose gripping testimonies prove that no matter who they are, all have struggles, but through Christ can overcome. Series one focuses on Carolina Conference leadership.



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

New web series entitled “As I Am,” testimonials of our Conference staff and church members.



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

“Tiny Chair Talks” is a video series with host Ray Gray takes a head-on approach to “elephant in the room” subjects, but with a twist.

- **Walking Free:** A podcast aimed for young men, Walking Free offers encouragement and support, as well as tools to navigate the landmines surrounding today’s Christian.
- **Kathy’s Kids Storytime:** This popular podcast provides simple Christian stories for young children.

A conference-wide young adult/youth event calendar and an online survey to give input on the content that should be created has been designed, and will facilitate feedback on young people’s experiences and interactions with the Church and Adventist beliefs. The goal is simply to get to know them better. The support and feedback of youth/young adult directors or ministry leaders are solicited as well.

Hopefully Project: ReFRESH will initiate personal conversation and dialogue among all ages everywhere with the ultimate goal of inspiring revival and reunion within the Church family. Join to make a difference, communicate — and be heard — as together members and Conference prepare for the common goal of going home with the Lord when He returns. This is just the beginning.

Those interested in volunteering to assist with the creation and/or management of media content, can contact the Communication Department at [communication@carolinassa.org](mailto:communication@carolinassa.org) or call 704-596-3200. 📞

BY CHEVON PETGRAVE AND BECKY CARPENTER



# Health, Wellness Sabbath Held at Punta Gorda Church



**Teresa Lucas, R.N., health educator and nutrition instructor, demonstrates how to cook using plant-based foods.**



**Keith Williams, M.D., pain management specialist, spoke on various ways to manage pain.**

PHOTO BY: THALIA SALMON

PHOTO BY: THALIA SALMON

Health ministries of Punta Gorda Church recently hosted a Health and Wellness Sabbath, with 78 members and guests in attendance. The goal was to highlight healthy living in today's times.

A special Sabbath School program began the day with a presentation titled "Healthy Choices, Better Living." Attendees were encouraged with poems and songs to choose healthy foods and to exercise in order to live better, healthier lives. The audience also viewed two poignant video clips about the impact of good versus bad health choices in the lives of two men.

Ian Forbes, pastor, was the guest speak-

er for the worship service. His message, "The Battle is Not Yours," emphasized dependence on God as challenges are faced.

After a fellowship luncheon, Teresa Lucas, R.N., health educator and nutrition instructor, talked about eating plant-based foods. She demonstrated a dairy-free recipe for spinach tofu ricotta-like filling. Stuffed shells containing this filling were sampled during the fellowship luncheon. An additional afternoon presentation by Keith Williams, M.D., pain management specialist, featured ways of treating and controlling pain.

Later in the day there was a roundtable discussion about prevention and treatment of cancer, diabetes, and hypertension. The

panel guests were Justino Silvestre, M.D., oncologist; Eltanya Patterson, M.D., hospitalist; Andrea Walton, specialist on natural remedies; Cleveland Bloom, insurance consultant; Susan Stuto, breast cancer survivor; Cecil James, husband of breast cancer patient; and moderator Thalia Salmon, R.N., director of health ministries at Punta Gorda Church.

The roundtable discussion ended with a question-and-answer session and hands-on interaction with essential oils, natural curatives, and a health screening of blood pressure and blood sugar. 📌

BY SUSAN STUTO

# Alexander Voigt Ordained at LifeSpring Church

Alexander Voigt was ordained to the Gospel ministry on August 4, 2018, at LifeSpring Church in Wesley Chapel, Fla., where he serves as pastor.

Raised in a multi-generational Adventist family, faith was inculcated from birth, yet didn't take root in a deep way. While on an academy mission trip in Romania, God created circumstances requiring Voigt to get on a flight to preach in New Zealand. On this flight, he not only had to write his first sermon, but he was forced to grapple with his relationship with God. This trip was a turning point in his relationship with God, and focused him on his path to ministry.

Voigt attended Southern Adventist University where he studied theology and began dating Ruth, an elementary education

major. He became involved in a small country church as a student pastor, and, in his senior year, became president of the Student Ministerial Association.

The couple married in the summer following graduation and went to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., where Voigt completed a master of divinity degree at the seminary, and his wife earned a master's degree in school administration.

Voigt then served for four years as associate pastor of Port Charlotte Church, and Ruth Voigt taught first grade at the church school. Shortly after their son Liam's birth, they received a call to serve at LifeSpring.

Alex and Ruth Voigt's total and complete desire is that they be examples of servitude to the Lordship of Jesus and an inspiration for others to become His disciples. 🙏



# Scott Cronin Ordained at Daytona Beach Church

Scott Cronin was ordained in Florida at Daytona Beach Church on August 11, 2018. He serves as chaplain at Florida Hospital New Smyrna Beach.

He grew up in the mountains of Western North Carolina with his mother, Marlys, and grandmother, Judy. Through his grandmother, God brought Cronin to the Mount Pisgah Academy Church, Candler, N.C. After Bible studies with Don Dronen, associate pastor, Cronin dedicated his life to God through baptism on April 2, 2005.

Sometime later, Dronen asked Cronin what he wanted to do with his life, to which he replied that he hadn't decided. Dronen then asked, "Don't you think God's calling you to the ministry?" This was the beginning of a journey which ended, through much prayer and searching, in Cronin accepting God's call and beginning his theology studies at Southern



Adventist University, Collgedale, Tenn. Cronin continued his training for ministry at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.

After finishing the Seminary, Cronin moved to Florida where he pastored churches in Tallahassee, Crawfordville, and Celebration. During his ministry in Celebration, God led him into hospital chaplaincy, and he completed his clinical pastoral education.

Cronin and his wife, Summer, have two boys, Mikael and Kaden. They are currently expecting their third son. "I am excited to see how God will lead our family," he says.

Cronin is grateful for God's leading in his life and how God has worked through many friends, family members, teachers, leaders, and acquaintances to bless his life. 🙏



# 103-Year-Olds Meet, Celebrate Their Birthdays



Dorothy Harp (right) and Martha Glennie met and celebrated on their 103rd birthdays, August 18, 2018. Alvin Klein, retired pastor, was instrumental in orchestrating the event.

**D**orothy Harp and Martha Glennie were born on the same day in 1915 — 103 years ago, August 18, 1915. They met for the first time on August 18, 2018, in Calhoun, Ga., on their joint 103rd birthdays!

Dorothy Harp and her husband, Bill, were members and strong supporters assisting Alvin Klein, retired pastor, during the construction of the Marietta, Ga., Church from 1966 to 1970. Klein and his wife, Doralee, have been in touch with Dorothy through the years. When the Kleins moved to Calhoun in 2000, they discovered that a member of the Calhoun Church, Martha Glennie, was born on the same day as their friend, Dorothy Harp.

Klein was excited to discover this and set in motion a way for these two women to meet, and it was even sweeter because it happened on their 103rd birthday. Harp and Glennie were so thrilled to meet each other. They chatted, laughed, and shared stories for nearly two hours.

Harp was born in Indiana, and Glennie in Michigan. Harp presently resides in a basement apartment in the home of her daughter, Joan Harp Auld, in Loganville, Ga., near Stone Mountain. Glennie lives in her own home across the street from her daughter and son-in-law, Marilyn and Dave Lee, in Calhoun, Ga.

Dave Lee and Auld worked for many years with Klein to bring about this unique meeting. Those present for this special birthday occasion included Dorothy Harp, Martha Glennie, Al and Doralee Klein, Don and Doris Starkey, Dave and Marilyn Lee, and Joyce Young who had made a surprise visit to Glennie for her birthday. 📍

PHOTO BY: DON STARKEY

PHOTO BY: DON STARKEY



Dorothy Harp (right) and Martha Glennie chatted for about two hours.

BY ALVIN KLEIN



# Gainesville Church Dedicates, Opens New School



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY: MANUELA RADU

It was a high day in Gainesville, Ga., when they dedicated and opened their new school with 10 students. Opening a school takes time and they were excited to see this dream become a reality under the careful management of the church members.

A very special day for 10 students, one teacher, two paraprofessionals, a pastor, and the Gainesville, Ga., Church family was August 15, 2018. It was the first day of the new school year, in a new school building, in a new church, after several years of praying and planning — the beginning of the Gainesville Adventist Christian School (GACS).

Gainesville Church dedicated the opening of their new church school in August 2018. Church members are encouraging children and their families to choose Christian education, as the Adventist school system has been recognized worldwide for excellence in academics. Members hope to also make their new school available to the local families of Hall County. Gainesville members enjoy a recently built church building constructed in 2011. The church building was intentionally shifted to the left during construction to create space for a future school building near the gym.

At the time of the building, there were fewer than six children attending the church.

The members looked faithfully ahead, desiring to add new families with children to the local membership. Ellen White advises that “in localities where there is a church, a school should be established if there are no more than six children to attend. A teacher should be employed who will educate the children in the truths of the word of God,” *Private Testimonies*, May 6, 1897. Many faithful prayers were and are still lifted up to Heaven!

Under the former pastor, Don Jehle’s, leadership in 2016, the church board unanimously voted to explore the possibility of starting a church school. John Radu, church elder, led the school council and the school board in this important mission.

The board prayed for God’s leading in hiring a dedicated teacher, and prayers were answered when Giovanna Wells felt God’s calling, and accepted the position as the new teacher and principal at GACS.

Kim Thompson, Conference associate superintended, was an integral part in bringing GACS together. She led the dedication service, praying that the new school year would bring to Gainesville



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY: KIM THOMPSON

Just for fun some of the new students at the Gainesville Adventist Christian School excitedly pose to celebrate their first day of school.

“the best year ever.” Church members ask God’s blessing on the school and those who support it. 🙏

BY MANUELA RADU AND KIM THOMPSON

# Baptist Pastor Joins Roebuck Church

During the morning worship hour on Sabbath, August 18, 2018, Kelvin Brewster joined the Birmingham Roebuck Church, Birmingham, Ala., by profession of faith. Brewster loves the Lord Jesus, and he is a trained, ordained, lay pastor in the Baptist church with credentials to preach and teach, conduct weddings and funerals, and provide care to church members, as well as to his adopted congregation at the Presbyterian Manor Senior Living Community where he has served for five years. A student of the Bible, Brewster discovered the truth about the seventh-day Sabbath six years ago. Deeply convicted to honor God's holy day, following the example of Jesus, Brewster began to keep the Sabbath and to share this Bible truth with his friends, family, and others — including the senior pastor of his congregation.

At first the senior pastor stated that he too believed the seventh-day Sabbath truth and that soon he would begin teaching the congregation the importance of keeping the fourth commandment. But, the pastor stated, "The congregation would need to take baby steps toward making the change."

Neither the teaching nor the change ever occurred. And, as often happens, the senior pastor and many in the congregation, including some of Brewster's family, began to subtly snub him as a result of his enthusiastic conviction to keep and teach the Sabbath truth.

Brewster has been influential, especially in speaking to his sister and brother-in-law about the importance of the Sabbath. On Facebook he began seeing posts from his sister saying things like, "Happy Sabbath." On further inquiry, Brewster discovered that his sister and brother-in-law had joined the Adventist Church in Missouri. His sister had beat him to the punch, so to speak, and joined the Church before he did.

God works in mysterious ways!

Brewster knew he must find a Sev-



Randy Mills (left), pastor; Pam Mills; Sherletta Brewster; and Kelvin Brewster stand together following Kelvin's profession of faith.

enth-day Adventist church in Birmingham. In his Google search, he discovered the Birmingham Roebuck Church. The Sabbath he walked into the building, the Holy Spirit spoke to his heart. He knew, he says, that, "This is the church I've been looking for."

"I had the privilege of following up with Kelvin on his conviction about keeping the Sabbath and becoming a member of the Church," says Randy Mills, pastor. "We spent hours going over the 28 Fundamental Beliefs. When we finished, Brewster simply said, 'This

is what I believe.'"

Mills then gave Brewster the profession of faith certificate to take home and give it more thought. Two weeks later, he returned the signed certificate saying, "I've signed it, Pastor Mills. I'm ready to join the Church." What a wonderful day!

Brewster looks forward now to becoming an active member of the Birmingham Roebuck congregation, using the gifts and calling with which God has blessed him. 🙏

BY RANDY MILLS



# Gulf States Launches Health Video Series



The new video series is available on any device through YouTube, Facebook, and the Gulf States Conference website.



Mark Sandoval prepares his next presentation during a break in the recording studio.


Health and wellness resources are reaching new audiences through social media channels. Mark Sandoval, M.D., president of Uchee Pines Institute and assistant director of health ministries for the Gulf States Conference, has recently spent some time in the studio at the Gulf States office. The result is a new, 13-part, weekly video series which explores many of the ways one can improve their physical, mental, and spiritual health. The videos tie practical health guidance with biblical principles in just a few minutes of time.

Sandoval is no stranger to health media production. While doing mission work in Trinidad and Tobago, he recorded many health-centered audio clips for radio dis-

tribution as part of the mission effort for their territory.

The new video series launched on August 6, 2018, through the Gulf States Facebook, YouTube, and website channels, with links to the videos posted on Twitter. The impact has been remarkable. According to Facebook Insights, the first video post has reached more than 6,000 people organically, which means the content wasn't boosted through paid advertising. The original post was shared more than 70 times, each time bringing the material in front of new groups of Facebook friends. The three-minute long video, which introduces the series by connecting health to God's Word, had more than 19 hours of watch time in the first three weeks. Ad-

ditionally, English and Spanish subtitles have been added to each of the videos, increasing their shareability and potential reach.

At three to five minutes in length, each video is proving to be a great way to share a quick health tip with a friend or loved one that connects sound health practices and Scripture. Videos can be viewed and shared by going to [www.gscsda.org/healthnugget](http://www.gscsda.org/healthnugget) or on Facebook at [facebook.com/gulfstatesconference](https://facebook.com/gulfstatesconference). To receive a notification when a new video is posted, subscribe to the Gulf States YouTube channel at [gscsda.org/youtube](https://gscsda.org/youtube). 

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



# Kentucky-Tennessee Makes Changes

**K**ieth Noll served as interim ministerial director during the summer months at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, and was recently named ministerial director. The decision to transition Noll to permanent status was voted by the executive committee on the recommendation of the administration.

Noll began his denominational employment in 1979, serving the Kansas Conference as a literature evangelist (LE). He also served in that capacity in the Kansas-Nebraska and Chesapeake conferences. From 1983 to 1988, he served as the assistant publishing director in the Illinois, Michigan, and Kansas-Nebraska conferences. He became a pastor in 1988, and was ordained on June 5, 1993. He served Iowa-Missouri, Kentucky-Tennessee, Washington, and Oklahoma conferences before returning to Kentucky-Tennessee in 2012 as evangelist/trainer for the Conference.

Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, commented, "I have appreciated Kieth's commitment to the support of our pastors, his passion for evangelism, and his broad range of skills arising from long tenured service in ministry to God's Church. The Conference, pastors, churches, and the advancement of the mission of the Adventist Church in our



**Kieth Noll**



**Marshall McKenzie**

Conference will continue to flourish under his leadership."

Kieth and Marjie Noll have three adult daughters, Jefflynn, Amanda, and Shannon, and five grandchildren.

**Marshall McKenzie** last served as director of Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism in Sacramento, Calif. As of September 1, 2018, he joined the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as director of church growth with emphasis in church planting, church revitalization, and part-time public evangelist. His earliest ministry experience included LE leadership in the Southern Union in the 1990s. He interrupted his college career to serve as an Adventist Frontier Missions missionary to India. Following college, he

served briefly as LE director and outreach coordinator in the Montana Conference.

In 2001, McKenzie was appointed as publishing director in the Michigan Conference, and in 2004 began pastoral ministry in Michigan before transitioning to Wisconsin where he served as both a pastor and church plant coordinator.

In 2012, the General Conference (GC) appointed him to the Middle East and North Africa Union to begin a publishing program. Three years later, the GC invited him to begin the publishing work in Ukraine/Russia.

Marshall and Rosemary McKenzie have three children, Elisha, Isaiah, and Kaitlyn. ☛

BY STEVE HALEY

# Parsons Members Share Healing Ministry

**M**embers of the Parsons, Tenn., Church undertook an interesting community service on Sabbath, August 11, 2018. Henderson County Board of Education planned Family Day at the local public high school. Public organizations could advertise their activities and local programs at the event.

The Parsons members decided to have a display table full of information about the benefits of the eight laws of health. They even gave out samples of fresh vegetarian butter and whole wheat crackers, and free paperback copies of



**The Parsons Church table at the Henderson County Board of Education Family Day**

Ellen White's *Ministry of Healing*.

Although the assigned display table for Parsons was located at the very end in the gym, it still drew more visitors than most tables. Interest by the attendees from the community was excellent. Twenty-five visitors signed a list to be called when the church holds their next vegetarian cooking class. Plans to have a display table at the next Board of Education's Family Day will start soon. ☛

BY STEVE BLAND

# Lebanon Hispanic Church Burns Mortgage

The Lebanon, Tenn., Hispanic Church celebrated a momentous occasion on Sabbath, July 21, 2018. The congregation of more than 100 active members had paid off their church mortgage of more than \$260,000.

Two founding members, Luis Alva and Johanna Valdez, presented the history of the church. For several years, the congregation rented various buildings until they purchased their first building in 2009. They quickly outgrew the space and began looking for a new church home. In 2015 they purchased their current location at 8145 Hwy 109 in Lebanon. Through miracles and the faithfulness of the church members, the mortgage was paid off in three years.

The message was given by Steven Haley, D.Min., president of the Kentucky-Tennes-



Congregation of the Lebanon Hispanic Church

see Conference, encouraging the congregation to build their faith on a firm foundation. Many of the young people provided beautiful music throughout the service. The church service concluded with a note-burning ceremony followed by a special fellowship meal.

The congregation is excited about the future, and they are making plans to reach more of the Hispanic population in that area. ●

BY SILKE HUBBARD

# LEs Enjoy Weekend Retreat

Dedicated literature evangelists descended on the grounds of Penny-rile State Park in Dawson Springs, Ky., for a weekend of rest and rejuvenation. On Thursday evening, August 9, 2018, the early arrivals gathered for a delicious meal served by Colleen Miller. Friday brought the opportunity to explore the beautiful scenery on one of the many hiking trails, or partake in water activities: kayaking, canoeing, and swimming.

As twilight bathed the park, recreation ended, and the participants convened for the first sacred service of the weekend. Lively singing interspersed with testimonies of God's goodness began the meeting, followed by an exciting student canvasser's testimony of how God changes hard hearts. To conclude the night, Keith Reid spoke on the importance of maintaining a lifestyle of witnessing.

Sabbath morning, James Hord led a profound discussion of the Sabbath School lesson. The divine worship service commenced



PHOTO BY: CASSIA REID

Participants who attended the literature evangelists weekend retreat.

with a testimony from overseas of how God has people just waiting to embrace the truth. Steve Rose, Conference vice-president for administration, presented practical tips on preparedness for the latter rain. Later that afternoon, the literature evangelists and their families spent time with God in nature and Bible study.

As the Sabbath hours ended, the group gathered for one last sacred convocation, featuring testimonies from Bible workers and a vision for unity that would bring the coming of Jesus ever nearer. Tim Barker spoke on the

man at the pool of Bethesda, and the importance of not just leaving books behind, but helping those in need along the way. Everyone thanked Rocky and Rachel Davis who hosted and organized the event.

After the meeting had ended, many individuals spent time basking in the joy of what God had accomplished. The next morning, everyone went home rejuvenated and ready to do the work the Lord called them to do. ●

BY CASSIA REID



# South Atlantic Conducts Vacation Bible School Expo



Leontine Howard interacts with the VBS class.



Children dressed for "Footprints of Jesus" VBS.

The Sabbath School and Children's Ministries Departments at the South Atlantic Conference conducted a Vacation Bible School Expo during Camp Meeting in Orangeburg, S.C., June 2018. The theme was "Footprints of Jesus." The goal was to introduce the children to Christ by sharing what a day in the life of Jesus might have been like.

It was a joy to combine the Vacation Bible School theme with authentic items direct from Israel. Souvenirs gathered by Darryl Howard, Conference youth director, during his tour of the Holy Land, were

on display for the children. The young people's imaginations were stimulated by object lessons gleaned from a replica of the "widow's mite"; fresh virgin oil from an old-fashioned olive press; water from Jacob's Well and the Jordan River; rocks collected from Nazareth, Jerusalem, Bethlehem, and other locations of interest; hand-crafted blankets and clothing; replicas of the lanterns and vases used by the wise virgins of Jesus' parable in Matthew 25; and many other displays.

A creative dance group from Whiteville, N.C., called Men of Honor, inspired the

children and adults. The dedicated staff, led by Leontine Howard, Aleya Willis, John and Maria Newlove, Sandra Zachariah, Denisha Claxton, Zellima Howard, and many others, were such a blessing that words could not fully express. The children really enjoyed eight days of biblical interaction as they learn how Jesus lived as a child, and the team prays that the experience will help lead the children to see Him face to face. ❀

BY DARRYL HOWARD

# McClellanville Church Holds Mental Health Symposium

Members of the McClellanville, S.C., Church, area clergy alliance, community members, and representatives from mental health agencies gathered on Sabbath, August 11, 2018, for their first mental health symposium — "Erasing Mental Health in the Church." The church is quaint and has a small membership with only 10 rows of seats (five on each side), but

that Sabbath it was almost full.

Special guests included Jean Lambert, community resource director for Mental Health America, Columbia, S.C. Lambert brought 11 guests with developmental disabilities who live independently and work jobs. Other guests included Eric Hansen, president of National Alliance for Mental Illness, Charleston, S.C.; Kelly Troyer, fa-

cilitator for Ending the Silence, National Alliance for Mental Illness, Charleston; Cheryl Simmons, staff chaplain at AnMed Health Hospital, Anderson, S.C.; Brian Anderson, addiction recovery and peer support specialist, Atlanta, Ga., and Stassi Anderson, Ph.D., poet and autoethnographic researcher, Atlanta, Ga.

The day was filled with personal testimo-

nies and presentations on aging and depression, understanding children and youth with mental illness, how to cope and address grief and depression, and overcoming addictions. Rosemary Graham, South Atlantic Conference (SAC) disabilities ministries director, gave the keynote sermonette. Jean Lambert and Eric Hansen spoke of the programs and services their agencies provide to the community.

The pastor's wife, Sheryl Cousins, and the members provided a tasty lunch. One man commented, "I have been in this church 52 years, and this is the first time ever I've seen a full program that addresses mental health issues. Please keep bringing the awareness to our churches."

The South Atlantic Conference is active



Jean Lambert, guest presenter, during the mental health symposium.

in promoting mental health awareness to its pastors, church leaders, and members in the local church and conference events. Those interested in developing a mental health

ministry for their church should contact the SAC Disabilities Ministries Department. 📞

BY ROSEMARY GRAHAM

## Sabbath School Training Event Held



Both Spanish and English joint Sabbath School workshops were offered.

The South Atlantic Conference Sabbath School Department conducted a seven-hour training event on April 21, 2018, in Atlanta, Ga. This was one in a series of certification tracks that empower the local Sabbath School superintendents and teachers to effectively engage their churches in weekly lesson study and Bible discussion. Approximately 200 Sabbath

School leaders and teachers, along with children's ministries directors, gathered to be infused with biblical leadership principles. Attendees came from North Carolina, South Carolina, Florida, and Georgia.

For the first time in South Atlantic history, both Spanish and English workshop tracks were offered. More than 60 attendees were Hispanic Sabbath School and

children's ministries leaders. Two South Atlantic pastors, John Newlove and Ismael Uribe, led out in one of the workshops. Trina Ware, children's ministries leader at the South Central Conference, along with Carolyn Lamb and Robin Galgon from the North American Division Children's Ministries Department, were the special guest presenters for those who minister to the little ones. David Long, Southern Union Sabbath School, prison ministries, prayer ministries, and stewardship director, and R. Steven Norman III, Southern Union communication director, conducted workshops specifically for adult Sabbath School leaders and teachers.

Local elders Richard Watkins and John C. Alberty, Ed.D., showed extraordinary leadership by bringing 29 delegates from Ebenezer Church in Augusta, Ga. Additionally, Alberty blessed all by writing a theme song. It is sung to the tune of "Onward Christian Soldiers," with this refrain: *We're the church at study, feasting on God's word. Sabbath School is where God, teaches us to serve.* 📞

BY DARRYL HOWARD



# Chaplaincy Ministry Assistants Earn Certification

Thirty-four men and women of all ages and religions came together July 7, 2018, to graduate as chaplaincy ministry assistants under the International Alliance of Chaplains Law Enforcement organization. Seeing the program for the first time in New York, Lieutenant Colonel Freddy A. Sanchez, D.Min., introduced the idea of starting a satellite program in Florida to Arnaldo Cruz, pastor of Pilgrim Hispanic Church in Miami Springs, Fla., and Roger Alvarez, Southeastern Conference Hispanic ministries director. Shortly thereafter, they began to contact pastors in both the Florida and Southeastern conferences to find recruits.

To earn their certifications, the future chaplaincy ministry assistants had to participate in a 10-hour training that was held at Pilgrims Hispanic Church. Their education consisted of six major subjects: (1) evacuation, (2) natural disasters, (3) emergencies, (4) spiritual support, (5) hospital and general chaplaincy, and (6) security and terrorism.

Officiating the ceremony on Sabbath was Luis Paniagua, D.Min., commander in chief of the alliance. Also lending support to the event was Hiran Ruiz, director of the Inter-American Division chaplaincy ministry; David Peay, assistant to the president of the Southeastern Conference; Roger Alvarez; Arnaldo Cruz; and Freddy A. Sanchez,



PHOTO BY: LAURA CRUZ

Chaplaincy ministry assistants celebrate a successful training with Southeastern Conference officials and leaders of the International Alliance Chaplains & Law Enforcement. These volunteer ministry assistants received intensive training in the dynamics of providing spiritual support in secular settings.

director of the alliance for Florida.

The graduates marched into the sanctuary in their uniforms, followed by the officers of the alliance. A short ceremony highlighted the work of chaplaincy, and then the graduates received their certificates and motivation from the commander in chief. Later, Paniagua and Peay received a medal for their service to Southeastern Conference and the community.

Each graduate exited the sanctuary with new responsibilities. From that moment, they would be required to be available through the Church to help the community

in cases of natural disasters or emergencies. They must dedicate their time and effort to serving the community in any way possible; provide spiritual support to those they see in need, collaborate with law enforcement to ensure the safety of others; and carry joy, hope, and love into jails and hospitals — and most importantly, to lift their voices in prayer for their brothers and sisters in Christ, and ask for heavenly wisdom and courage to carry out these tasks as soldiers in God’s army. 📌

BY LAURA CRUZ

# Soaring for Jesus at Southeastern Junior Camp

Summertime has come and gone. In the Southeastern Conference, one major highlight of summer is Junior Camp. Every July, Camp Hawthorne opens its gates to more than 100 junior campers. Old friends are reunited, new friendships formed, and long-lasting memories made.

During Camp, campers participate in a variety of activities that teach the love of Christ. These activities include the Camp’s newest features — a rock climbing/ziplining wall (Jacob’s Ladder), and waterfront activities (canoeing and paddle boating). All activities help promote team building

and personal growth while having fun. The Camp staff work to ensure that the experience leaves a positive impression of Christ in each camper’s life.

The theme for Junior Camp was “Soaring for Jesus.” For Prince Lewis, Southeastern youth director, the main focus for

each camper is spiritual growth. This year's Junior Camp chaplain, Navy veteran and Oakwood University theology graduate Alexis Madrid, equipped the campers with engaging lessons on making right choices, and about a God Who loves them. This love was best reflected at 2 a.m., when Chelsea Bethel and Brian Hunt woke Lewis and requested to be baptized. This was a moment that Bethel, Hunt, and all their fellow counselors will never forget.

With each year's success comes various challenges, yet Camp never fails to leave an unforgettable mark on every camper. Each camper leaves with a better understanding of who God is and what He requires of them, in addition to laughs and great memories. Junior Camp 2018 has come and gone. One can only wonder what next year will have in store. 🙏

BY MARC DOLCY



PHOTO BY: MARC DOLCY

Campers Ezra Madrid (left) and Cole Anson take a breather while climbing the Camp Hawthorne mountain climbing wall and obstacle course. Summer camp is a time for youth to build relationships with peers as well as a relationship with Jesus.

## Maranatha Apopka Encourages Women to Build Faith

AIMing to bring hope and wholeness to the women in the community, the Maranatha Church in Apopka, Fla., held their women's ministries weekend on July 14-16, 2018. Personal invitations were sent to more than 90 individuals whose names were received from Amazing Facts Ministry.

Sabbath was welcomed with a Vesper service led by Nadine Cenafils. The weekend's theme, "Be Still and Know," was presented with an emphasis on several aspects of faith by Raquel Morel and her team, and guest speaker Shaton Monique Glover-Alves, Ed.D. Friday evening's theme, "Be Still and Know. . .God's Rest," reinforced the necessity of Sabbath and a life of faith. All attendees were presented with a "Be Still and Know" devotional prayer journal.

The single women participated in a seminar, "Survival Kit for Single Women." The kit included networking, acceptance, faith, hope, guidance, and friendship. "Be Still and Know. . .Women of God!" was Glover-Alves' message to



PHOTO BY: SHATON GLOVER-ALVES

Shaton Glover-Alves, Ed.D., guest speaker, reminded the attendees to "Be Still and Know. . .God's Provisions." Maranatha Church women's ministries team reached out to their community through worship, fellowship, and witness during the women's emphasis weekend.

the congregation as she expounded from Psalm 46:7-11, and reminded the attendees to "be still — stop complaining and keep your focus on Jesus!"

Lauretta Bivens led an afternoon seminar to remind the women to "Be Still and Know. . .God's Provision." One special guest, Mae Walden, a stage-four cancer survivor, shared her story of God's healing through prayer and commitment to the laws of health. Mithra Williams, Southeastern women's ministries director, shared about the keys to "Dealing with Grief and Loss." On Sunday, the attendees gathered again for inspiration from Glover-Alves as she shared about the need to "Be Still and Know. . .God's Peace." One attendee who was invited because of her communication with Amazing Facts voiced her appreciation for the invitation and has begun to attend weekly church services. 🙏

BY DIANE MOORE BARCLAY



# Adventist University of Health Sciences Will Change Name to AdventHealth University

For more than 25 years, Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) has prepared thousands of graduates to pursue their dream of health care with confidence and compassion. Its vision to shape the future of health care by transforming students into practitioners of whole-person care has been the University's guiding light.

ADU revealed the next step in its journey to fulfill that promise on August 14, 2018: The University, uniting with Adventist Health System (AHS) and its

vast network of care, will align with the announced rebranding to AdventHealth and become AdventHealth University (AHU). There will be a period of transition lasting from now until AHU's rebranding is complete in March 2019.

When informed of AHS' name change, Edwin Hernández, Ph.D., the University president, requested and received permission from the ADU Board of Trustees to align the institution's name with its corporate parent. Hernández commented, "This change will align us closer with

the nationwide AdventHealth brand, and reaffirms our mission to provide health care education in a faith-based environment, focusing on whole-person care."

The word "Advent" is welcoming and inclusive to many faith traditions, with roots in Adventist tradition going back to the early days of the Second Great Awakening when, before becoming the Seventh-day Adventist denomination in 1863, those reformers often referred to themselves as the Advent movement. In fact, the early Adventist church preferred



this word when naming its first official publication, *The Second Advent Review* and *Sabbath Herald*.

Advent describes an event of hope for all believers and is synonymous with arrival, dawn, emergence, and other hopeful terms. In the Christian faith, it echoes the Second Advent — a longing for Christ to return and bring healing to a divided world. Similarly, patients experiencing pain and suffering long for hope and healing from compassionate, highly-skilled health care providers.

Health is more than a state of being free from illness or injury. True health

encompasses wholeness in mind, body, and spirit. The name "AdventHealth" embraces the healing, wholeness, and hopefulness that comes from Christ's healing ministry, which reflects the mission of the University. As the University sharing AdventHealth's name, AHU's graduates are trained to provide that sense of relief through whole-person care and innovative mindsets.

ADU will soon be AHU, but will remain the same diverse, close-knit campus of passionate leaders and educators. It will also be part of the larger AdventHealth community of more than 80,000

employees across the nation, one that shares the University's same promise of forward-thinking whole-person health and education.

AHU is a place of beginnings, transformation, and the pursuit of purpose, where students can fulfill their dreams of providing whole-person care. Its campus is open to students of all faith traditions who seek to understand and embrace the mission to develop skilled professionals who *live* the healing values of Christ. <sup>1</sup>

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

# Computing Students and Faculty Develop Adventist Giving App

This year Southern’s Center for Innovation and Research in Computing (CIRC) developed a mobile giving app for the North American Division (NAD). The goal was to increase the ease of making tithe and offering donations.

The app, called Adventist Giving, is currently available for download from the Google Play Store and Apple’s App Store. Church members from any participating NAD church can utilize this tool.

Thomas Manu, senior computer science major, works for CIRC and helped develop the app, gaining invaluable experience in the process.

“CIRC allows me to write code every day, outside of my regular programming homework,” Manu said. “Creating the app seemed like a big hurdle to pass through, but I’m happy that it’s out there, and it’s going to help a lot of people.”



The Adventist Giving app, developed at Southern, aims to streamline the process of giving tithe and offering.

Run by the University’s School of Computing, CIRC is a learning opportunity for students to gain internship-level comput-

ing skills while still on campus. According to Michael Babienco, lead programmer for CIRC during this app’s development, the program is a great way for students to reinforce what they are being taught in class.

“Students go through the whole process, from starting with an idea to watching it being used by others outside of our organization,” Babienco said. “This helps provide context for things that they learn in class, while making them better programmers, ready for the workforce.”

The CIRC program has produced many projects for various organizations, such as a devotional app for the Pacific Press Publishing Company and a website for Southern’s School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness. ●

BY TIERRA HAYES

# Southern Connects With Educators

Southern Adventist University joined educational professionals from around the United States for the Seventh-day Adventist North American Division Teachers’ Convention in Chicago, Ill., to “Encounter Jesus, Experience Excellence.”

Beginning August 6, 2018, the event welcomed nearly 6,000 educators to the McCormick Place convention center for a series of breakout sessions and various exhibitions. Southern hosted a booth with higher education information and curriculum resources for educators seeking a master’s degree in education, re-certification opportunities, and lessons on how to implement a biblical foundation teaching model into their curriculum.

Hundreds of people visited the booth during the four-day convention, including alumni and their family and friends.

“We were happy to be there and connect with educators,” said Isaac James,



director of marketing and university relations. “Southern is proud of our alumni and wants to make sure they have great resources as they are working both in and out of Adventist education.”

President David Smith, along with vice presidents, staff, and students, hosted an ice cream social for alumni to reconnect

with each other and their alma mater.

“It is fun to network and catch up with people that I have taught and worked with throughout the years,” said Faith Laughlin, professor in Southern’s School of Education and Psychology. ●

BY OKSANA WETMORE



# Probad y Ved.” Un Pacto de Amor

La consecuencia de este pacto de amor fue un testimonio real de lo que Dios hizo en la vida de la familia Morales, miembros del distrito Fayetteville en Carolina del Norte. Amós describe su llegada a este país en el año 2006 como un momento de lucha intensa. Sin dinero, en una condición no ventajosa, se tuvo que abrir paso en medio de los desafíos que presenta la búsqueda del sueño americano. No obstante, su corazón estaba lleno de sueños y su espíritu de vigor y lo más importante, de las valerosas enseñanzas de la Biblia que sus padres habían transmitido con amor. En este país conoció a Josefina que ahora es su esposa y con quien tuvo dos hijos: Jassanny y Samuel. Amós trabajaba arduamente a fin de cubrir los gastos y proveer el sustento para su familia. Cierta día, sentado en su casa tomó la Biblia y al abrirla sus ojos se posaron en Malaquías 3:10. Básicamente se concentró en la promesa de ese versículo. A medida que repetía la lectura, más claro se le hacía el deseo que Dios tiene de bendecir a sus hijos. Es así como se dijo: “Ha llegado el momento de probar y ver.” Decidió convertirse en socio del Señor dueño de todo. No sólo diezmaría su sueldo, sino que haría un pacto de dar el 15% de sus entradas en ofrendas. Al principio no fue fácil



**Amós y su familia**

cumplir esa promesa, dijo Amós. El 25% es un número importante y las demandas financieras se habían hecho más severas aún, ya que habían decidido educar a sus hijos en escuelas adventistas. No obstante, él y Josefina decidieron no fallar a su pacto.

Una noche, mientras se encontraban tranquilos en las actividades habituales luego de regresar de sus tareas cotidianas, un delincuente armado ingresó a la vivienda y los sometió bajo amenaza. Todos estaban en estado de shock. Asustados, perplejos, temían un desenlace fatal. El delincuente buscaba desesperadamente dinero. Estaba nervioso, se movía con rapidez. De repente, sin causa aparente, se dio media vuelta y salió por donde había entrado. La familia

supo que había ocurrido un milagro y Dios había demostrado su cuidado. Lo que no sabían era que detrás de ese milagro Dios les daría otra sorpresa, y ellos entenderían el por qué de este peligroso incidente.

Al día siguiente Amós fue al abogado que se ocupaba de sus asuntos legales a fin de describirle lo sucedido y preguntarle qué debían hacer. En esa época ellos estaban cambiando su estado inmigratorio en un proceso que era complicado. Cuando el abogado escuchó lo sucedido les dijo que debido a este incidente aparentemente desafortunado, ellos ahora calificaban para un estatus inmigratorio diferente que les facilitaría su proceso legal. No podían creerlo. Lo sucedido no era más ni menos que Dios abriendo las ventanas de los cielos tal como lo prometió.

Amós mira hacia atrás agradecido. Sus hijos pueden disfrutar de una educación cristiana, ellos de la tranquilidad de poder continuar trabajando sin el temor a vencimientos de visas, y Dios ha duplicado sus ingresos.

“Nosotros continuamos siendo fieles,” dice Amós, “y proclamando con vehemencia ‘Probad y Ved’.”

**ELIAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO**

# Resultados del Evangelismo Infantil

El sábado 12 de mayo la iglesia de Fayetteville recogió con alegría los frutos del trabajo de evangelismo infantil. Luego de disfrutar de interesantes actividades que mostraban las enseñanzas bíblicas de una manera ilustrativa, 6 niños decidieron con entusiasmo y libertad unir sus vidas a la del Salvador Jesucristo.

Las actividades fueron planificadas por Tina Muñoz, quien también ofició de evangelista, y Marylin Nater, directora del ministerio personal. Ellas contaron con la valiosa colaboración de Doris González, Elba Fuster y Carmelo González.

Las reuniones tuvieron lugar en el hogar



**Pastor Sandoval junto a Tina, acompañando a los niños antes del bautismo**

de Tina todos los miércoles por la tarde. Durante más de 12 semanas las puertas

de su casa se abrían puntualmente a fin de recibir a padres e hijos deseosos de aprender más de Jesús. El equipo de evangelismo infantil trabajó con dedicación y esmero. Las lecciones se presentaban en forma amena y práctica. Se incentivó las mentes de los pequeños para sentir el deseo y necesidad de servir y amar a Jesús. Al ver la participación y el empeño de cada niño, los maestros se llenaron de energía y el Espíritu Santo los inspiró a levantar a Jesús para que Él atraiga a todos a Sí.

**ELÍAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO**

# Encuentro Distrital “Amadas sin Medida.”

El sábado 12 de mayo el distrito misionero de Fayetteville compuesto por las iglesias de Fayetteville, Saint Pauls, Raeford, Bladenboro, Lumberton, Red Springs y la naciente filial de Shanon tuvieron el primer encuentro distrital celebrado en honor a las madres. El lema fue “Amadas sin Medida”. Este programa planificado con dedicación fue dirigido por Adlai Aler músico vocalista y compositor miembro de la iglesia de Fayetteville. Estuvo acompañado por Zuly y Giselle Rodríguez, de la misma congregación. En este evento de agradecimiento a Dios por las madres también participaron otros grupos musicales y el coro de niños de la iglesia de Saint Paul’s.



Momento en que los niños rendían homenaje a las madres presentes

Como toque especial se reconoció a la madre más reciente, la de mayor edad, la que tiene más hijos, y la que visitaba por primera vez la congregación. Cada una recibió una canasta con obsequios. El

encuentro finalizó invitando a todas las madres a participar de una deliciosa cena preparada especialmente para ellas. 📍

ELÍAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

# La Música: Un Medio de Alabanza y Atracción a Cristo

David Bárzola es uno de los pastores de la iglesia de Hollywood, en Florida. Entre los dones que Dios dio a él y a su esposa Nancy está el de la música, que ambos han dedicado a la alabanza a Él. Al comenzar su trabajo en esta iglesia decidieron crear un pequeño conjunto musical de bronce y eventualmente de cuerdas si es que conseguían suficientes interesados. Con este fin ofrecieron clases de diferentes instrumentos. Para poder enseñar tuvieron a su vez que aprender a tocar algunos de estos instrumentos, ya que ellos no tenían experiencia con todos. Al principio estaban felices porque 5 personas se mostraron interesadas en la actividad. Al avanzar en la misma y comenzar a tocar en algunos eventos, varias personas comenzaron a acercarse preguntando si podían traer a un hijo, pariente o amigo aunque no

pertenecieran a la iglesia, para participar de esta que hasta el momento era una pequeña orquesta. Por supuesto, ese era el fin de esta actividad: que la gente sienta el deseo de unirse en alabanza a Dios. Poco a poco el grupo comenzó a crecer. Personas de la comunidad se acercaron para participar. Amigos, parientes, miembros de iglesia, todos se unían sin importar procedencia ni credo. Comenzaron a tocar no sólo en actividades de la iglesia, sino en bodas y eventos comunitarios. Hoy, al cabo de un año y medio de haber comenzado, esta orquesta cuenta con 20 instrumentos de viento, 60 de cuerda y 50 personas más estudiando en la escuelita de música de David y Nancy. Varios de ellos se han unido a las filas de la iglesia por medio del bautismo, y otros participan de todas las reuniones y actividades aunque no se hayan bautizado. Todos tienen un común

denominador, y es el deseo de levantar a Cristo por medio del don musical que Él dio a cada uno. David y Nancy invirtieron su don, y Dios lo multiplicó. 📍



La orquesta tocando en un culto de adoración en el mes de junio. Varios de los músicos tocaban por primera vez

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA



# “Su Casa Church” Extiende sus Paredes

uego del devastador terremoto de Ecuador que tuvo lugar en el 2016, quedaron cientos de familias sin hogar. El gobierno acudió al rescate proveyendo entre otras cosas carpas para cobijarlos. Joao Abadía, un joven arquitecto, recorría con tristeza este escenario y observaba cómo la vida de estas personas se había trastornado. Vivían amontonados, sin privacidad. Su mente creativa comenzó a trabajar movida por la compasión. Fue así como diseñó un sistema de construcción de casas que no requiere de mano especializada. Estas casas tienen una vida útil de hasta 15 años. Por este medio logró que con muy poco dinero cualquier persona pueda levantar una vivienda. Joao conoció la iglesia junto a su familia cuando tenía 11 años y pensó que esta idea sería muy útil para ADRA, y así fue. Cuando las embajadas alemana y estadounidense conocieron el sistema, decidieron solventar el proyecto y ADRA pudo construir muchas viviendas y ayudar a numerosas familias. Esto fue una bendición para esta institución de ayuda, y muchos conocieron del amor de Dios por esto. Joao estaba satisfecho por haber usado su talento para ayudar a tanta gente. No obstante, su felicidad se vio seriamente opacada cuando diagnosticaron a su madre con cáncer. Paralelamente tuvo otra situación crítica también a nivel personal, y estaba muy desanimado. En ese momento una persona amiga le recomendó que se conectase por Internet con ‘Su Casa Church’, el sitio de la iglesia hispana de Collegedale, Tennessee, en el campus de la universidad Southern, y así lo hizo. Durante 2 años escuchó los mensajes. Hace unas semanas tuvo que viajar a Knoxville, Tennessee, por motivos personales. Mientras estaba allí se enteró de que Su Casa Church se transmite a pocas millas de allí y quedó sorprendido. Inmediatamente decidió comunicarse con el pastor Barrios para hacerle una visita. Además, le expresó que se había dado cuenta de que su experiencia



Joao y el pastor Barrios en momentos de la ceremonia bautismal

con Dios había cambiado debido a que su conocimiento de Él se había profundizado al escuchar los mensajes presentados por Internet, y por lo tanto deseaba rebautizarse. Así fue. En julio, Joao fue rebautizado por el pastor Joel Barrios, sellando así un pacto nuevo de amor con Dios. Además, comentó que todo esto había despertado otro proyecto en su mente creativa: con el mismo sistema de construcción, va a diseñar iglesias que puedan construirse a un costo de aproximadamente 8,000 dólares. De esa forma, cada vez que se forme un nuevo grupo en Ecuador, las personas podrán plantar una nueva iglesia, construir el templo, estudiar la escuela sabática entre ellos y a la hora del sermón escuchar las predicaciones que se ofrecen en Su Casa

Church cada sábado. Joao está feliz y lleno de energía trabajando en esta nueva idea. La familia de la iglesia de Collegedale está también feliz, ya que sus paredes parecen no tener fronteras. Desde varios países han llegado noticias de que grupos pequeños, o nuevas congregaciones hacen exactamente lo mismo. Esto representa una gran bendición ya que los pastores en lugares de habla hispana muchas veces deben atender hasta 10 iglesias y el plantar nuevas congregaciones y atenderlas implica un desafío.

No se tiene dudas de que Dios bendecirá este proyecto, ya que cumple con lo que dejó encomendado a su pueblo. ●

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA

## Lebanon, Libre de Deuda

El sábado 21 de julio fue un día inolvidable para la hermandad de la iglesia de Lebanon, Tennessee. En un acto lleno de gratitud a Dios se realizó la ceremonia de quema de la hipoteca del templo que alberga a esta fervorosa y dinámica hermandad. El evento fue conducido por los pastores Steve Haley, presidente de la asociación, Kieth Noll, director ministerial y Armando de León, coordinador hispano. Se contó además con la presencia de Sielke Hubard, encargada del departamento de fidecomisos, Nathan Delima, previo pastor de la iglesia, y Sergio Monterroso, pastor actual. La deuda fue cancelada en aproximadamente



Oficiales de la Asociación en momentos de la ceremonia

seis años con la bendición de Dios y el sacrificio de amor de los hermanos, el tesorero, y los líderes locales. 🕊

ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

## La Iglesia Orión Abre sus Puertas

La iglesia de Memphis tuvo el gozo de trabajar en la formación de la compañía a la que se llamó “Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día Orión.” La misma se encuentra en los contornos del centro de la ciudad de Memphis. Todos estaban felices al llegar la hora de la celebración de apertura llevada a cabo el 14 de julio, y alabaron el nombre de Dios por haberlos acompañado hasta ese momento. El evento contó con la presencia del vicepresidente de la asociación pastor Steve Rose.

Fue inspirador recordar los milagros que Dios hizo por medio de los ministerios organizados para servir en el hospital, la prisión, entre los necesitados a través del departamento de Dorcas, y otros más que han dado hermosos resultados para honra y gloria a Dios. Estos ministerios no cesarán hasta ver a Jesús viniendo por segunda vez. Confiando en las promesas de Dios, la iglesia se ha embarcado también en la tarea de iniciar dos nuevos grupos misión para expandir el evangelio en esta gran metrópoli. Los miembros y líderes de las iglesias hispanas de esta asociación están dispuestos a cumplir



Vista parcial del interior de la iglesia Orión y la asistencia a la ceremonia inaugural

el mandato bíblico de enseñar a otros el evangelio eterno, seguros de que Dios ha permitido que se abra un nuevo lugar para que muchas personas conozcan a Cristo por medio de su Palabra y sean

salvos. Oran para que nada los pueda separar del amor de Dios. 🕊

ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



# “El añadió a la iglesia los que habían de ser salvos.” Hechos 2:47

**Conway, Carolina del Sur:** El 23 de junio, 8 personas fueron bautizadas debido al trabajo del 4 grupos pequeños liderados por miembros de la iglesia. Los mismos se reúnen semanalmente para estudiar la Palabra de Dios. Cabe destacar la capacidad de organización que tienen los miembros de esta congregación, que obedece al deseo profundo de cumplir con la misión encargada por Jesús. La semana anterior al bautismo, la hermandad estuvo unida en ayuno y oración reclamando la promesa de Mateo 28:19 y 20 “Por tanto, id, y haced discípulos a todas las naciones, bautizándolos en el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo; enseñándoles que guarden todas las cosas que os he mandado; y he aquí yo estoy con vosotros todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo. Amén.”

**Iglesia Central de Atlanta:** El pastor Uribe, líder de la iglesia Central de Atlanta y pastor de las iglesias Maranata, con sede en Morrow; del Este, en Lilburn; la iglesia de Carrollton y una nueva congregación que surgió hace tres meses en Ellenwood, trabaja arduamente junto a los miembros de las congregaciones en el crecimiento de la hermandad. El sábado 4 de agosto se unieron 2 personas a la familia de la iglesia Central, en una emotiva ceremonia bautismal.

**Iglesia de Dublin, Georgia:** el 23 de junio se llevó a cabo una ceremonia de 10 bautismos al finalizar el ciclo de evangelismo que comenzara el 15 de junio a cargo del pastor Jorge Baez, de Orlando, Florida. Efraín Poloche, quien también se desempeña como pastor de esta iglesia, trajo un bautisterio portátil desde Atlanta, Georgia. Esta compañía está creciendo a pasos agigantados y sus miembros trabajan confiados en que pronto serán organizados como iglesia.

**Iglesia de Clinton, Carolina del Sur:** Esta congregación fue bendecida con 2 bautismos el 9 de junio, en una ceremonia oficiada por el pastor Mota.



Candidatos de bautismo en Dublin

**Compañía de Greenwood, Carolina del Sur:** Greenwood estuvo de fiesta el día 2 de junio, cuando 10 personas se unieron a la familia de Dios en el bautismo. Su pastor, Abraham Acosta, ha sobrepasado los 40 bautismos desde que comenzó el 2018. Su distrito está compuesto por 8 congregaciones: La Iglesias de Columbia/Cayce, de Conway/Hemingway, Saluda, Pageland, las compañías de Greenwood, Newberry, Rockhill y Batesburg.

**Compañía de Batesburg, Carolina del Sur:** La compañía de Batesburg, cerró una semana maravillosa de evangelismo donde 7 almas sellaron su pacto de amor con Jesús a través del bautismo. Esta fiesta espiritual llevada a cabo el 26 de mayo fue producto en gran parte de la iniciativa que la iglesia tiene de trabajar con grupos pequeños. Cada miembro se ha involucrado en la misión (inclusive los más pequeños). Los corazones se han fortalecido, y el Señor ha bendecido con frutos de salvación.

**Iglesia de Adairsville, Georgia:** El pastor José Reyes bautizó 2 personas en Adairsville, el 26 de mayo. Su distrito comprende las congregaciones de Dalton 3 Ángeles, Calhoun, Cartersville y Adairsville.

**Iglesia de Seven Springs:** La iglesia de Seven Springs tuvo la bendición de llevar a cabo una ceremonia bautismal el 4 de agosto, en la que 4 personas se unieron a la familia de Dios. El Pastor Mota cuyo distrito está compuesto por las iglesias de Seven Springs, Warsaw, Clinton, Goldsboro, y las compañías de Wallace, Burga, y Wilmington/Leland, fue quien ofició la ceremonia. Estos bautismos fueron cosecha de una semana de evangelismo a cargo de Mota, que tuvo lugar desde el 28 de julio al 4 de agosto, y en la que se tocaron temas Cristo céntricos y de decisión. 🕊

EFRÁÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



# Actividades Juveniles

## Camporee de Conquistadores:

Con una asistencia de 471 conquistadores y líderes, el fin de semana del 25-28 de mayo los conquistadores participaron del camporee anual que llevó el lema “Conéctate con Jesús”. Los asistentes fueron delegados de 17 iglesias, y se graduaron de 8 especialidades, a la vez que disfrutaron de actividades espirituales, musicales, sociales y deportivas. Estas actividades tienen el propósito de atraer los jovencitos a Cristo, e incentivarlos para que trabajen por otros. Fue emotivo ver que 6 participantes fueron bautizados el sábado en la noche en la piscina, y 11 decidieron prepararse para hacer lo propio en la próxima ceremonia.

El Pastor John Newlove y su esposa María estuvieron a cargo de la coordinación del evento, la recolección de pagos y la asignación del hospedaje. El pastor Ismael Uribe y su esposa Lady manejaron la parte audio visual, presentaron algunos devocionales, y dirigieron el servicio de canto en cada reunión. El pastor Abraham Acosta tuvo a cargo los temas centrales del evento y algunos devocionales también. El pastor Poloche presentó una clase sobre formas de predicación y ayudó en la parte audio-visual.

## Camporee de Aventureros:

Más de 180 niños asistieron al camporee de aventureros del 17-19 de agosto en Liberty Hill, Carolina del Sur. Uno de los aventureros fue bautizado y varios respondieron al llamado a hacerlo en un futuro cercano. Se otorgaron honores y hubo dramas que inspiraron a los niños a meditar y aprender de la Palabra de Dios.

El pastor John Newlove y su esposa María fueron quienes coordinaron este evento y con la ayuda de los líderes de cada club, lograron una excelente programación para los niños que alegraron el fin de semana con su presencia.

## Retiro de Jóvenes

Los más de 400 jóvenes asistentes al retiro organizado para ellos del 10-12 de agosto tuvieron el privilegio de



Aventureros orando



Bautismo de los Conquistadores



Iglesia de Chamblee con su candidato de bautismo

presenciar 2 bautismos que fueron la nota distintiva del evento. Estos jóvenes representaban las iglesias de Georgia, Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur.

La organización de la programación estuvo a cargo del pastor Ismael Uribe junto a los jóvenes de la Federación de Jóvenes del Sur de Georgia. El capellán del evento fue el pastor John Newlove, quien tuvo a cargo las predicaciones. María Newlove se encargó del hospedaje, e hizo una tarea impecable. Se contó con la presencia de los pastores Quintana y Poloche, coordinador general del evento.

En el concurso bíblico que se llevó a

cabo, la ganadora fue Heidi Pérez de la iglesia de Carrolton, Georgia.

En una de las reuniones se separó un momento para reconocer públicamente las labores de Elizabeth Chaparro, quien organizara campamentos anteriores y de Desy Ardila, quien fue la autora del dibujo que adornaba la plataforma.

El evento culminó el domingo a las 7 de la mañana con un devocional presentado en la playa. ●

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

# Graduación de Niños Asistentes al VBS de Fort Myers



Ceremonia de graduación

El pastor Daniel Olaciregui, su esposa María y líderes de la iglesia de Fort Myers, vieron con alegría que sus esfuerzos fueron bendecidos por el cielo con la asistencia y graduación de 61 niños a la primera Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones organizada por esta congregación. La misma fue un impacto para la comunidad, atrayendo no sólo a niños, sino también a sus padres que ahora pueden continuar en contacto con la iglesia, y representar un elemento de trabajo misionero para el enriquecimiento espiritual de la hermandad. 📌

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

# Curso La Fe de Jesús

El sábado 30 de junio en momentos del cierre del campestre de la asociación, 50 personas asistentes a los grupos pequeños organizados por las iglesias hispanas del distrito de West Palm Beach, se graduaron del curso La Fe de Jesús. La hermandad no hispana asistente al campamento fue conmovida por el resultado del trabajo de este distrito hispano. 📌



Vista del grupo de graduandos del curso la Fe de Jesús

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

# Nuevos Capellanes



Grupo de flamantes capellanes luego de recibir su certificado

El pasado 7 de julio, 33 personas se graduaron como capellanes voluntarios en una ceremonia que tuvo lugar en la iglesia Los Peregrinos. El programa estuvo a cargo del doctor Freddy Sánchez quien es también Teniente Coronel. El pastor Peay, asistente del presidente de la asociación, el doctor Hiran Ruiz, capellán de la DIA y el doctor Paniagua director de este programa, apoyaron la ceremonia con su presencia. 📌

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



# Estudiantes Dominicanos Trabajan Para Pagar Sus Estudios

Las iglesias del sur de la Florida contaron con la colaboración de estudiantes provenientes de la República Dominicana, que vienen a colportar durante sus vacaciones para costear sus estudios universitarios. Es una bendición para las iglesias contar con su presencia, y para ellos sentirse como en casa por la calidez de los hermanos cuando se encuentran lejos de sus hogares, trabajando para forjar su futuro, y prepararse para servir a Dios. ①



**ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO**

Grupo de jóvenes entusiastas que trabajan para prepararse para el servicio a Dios

# Actividades Estudiantiles que Motivan la Adoración y el Servicio

## Una Comunidad de Adoración

Merge fue fundada con un concepto comunitario en mente. Reginald Horton, profesor adjunto del departamento de religión, vio la necesidad de que los estudiantes tuviesen la opción de un nuevo lugar donde adorar en el campus. Junto con otros empleados de Southern, seleccionaron estudiantes para formar un equipo de músicos de góspel y líderes de adoración.

“Merge ofrece la oportunidad de que los estudiantes adoren a Dios en un lugar conocido de culto,” dijo Horton. “Nuestro propósito es proveer un servicio inclusivo y multicultural. Queremos que sea dirigido y liderado por estudiantes. La idea es que los jóvenes ministren entre ellos mismos.” De esta forma, algo que empezó como un servicio que se ofrecía una vez al mes con una asistencia de unos 50 estudiantes, ahora se lleva a cabo dos veces al mes con una participación de aproximadamente 150 alumnos provenientes de diferentes experiencias e idiosincrasias. Después de cada servicio



**Miembros de Merge y consejeros de una escuela primaria local trabajan juntos para motivar los estudiantes.**

se lleva a cabo un almuerzo.

“Yo he visto a nuestros estudiantes crecer como una comunidad,” dijo Horton. “Se les ha dado el beneficio de diseñar sus propios servicios de adoración, incluyendo los sermones y la música. Sienten el culto como propio y han crecido en asistencia, comunidad, y conexión.”

## Estudiantes de Southern Motivando Alumnos de Escuela Local de Bajos Recursos

A principios de este año, un grupo de seis estudiantes y profesores de la Universidad Adventista Southern participaron en un evento especial de servicio comunitario en una escuela primaria local de bajos ingresos. El equipo de Merge—un servicio de adoración multicultural en el campus—organizó una fiesta para homenajear a cerca de 25 estudiantes de la escuela primaria de Woodmore que tuvieron asistencia perfecta. En la misma se sirvió pizza y refrigerios. El objetivo fue incentivar a los niños para que continúen asistiendo a la escuela, y así tocar las vidas de estos alumnos.

“Creemos que el hecho de socializar con estudiantes de más edad que están luchando para graduarse en un nivel de educación superior, puede motivar a los jovencitos de la escuela primaria a trabajar para tener éxito también,” dijo Jucinta Rome, alumna e instructora en el campo de trabajo para el departamento de trabajo social de Southern, y coordinadora del evento. ①

NATALIA PÉREZ, EDITORA



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## CAROLINA

**LAY-LEADER & FAMILY RETREAT** - Oct. 5-7. NPR.

**COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT** - Oct. 12-14. NPR.

**ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL RETREAT** - Oct. 19-21. NPR.

## FLORIDA

**COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE** - floridaconference.com/events

**A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER** - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

**FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY SCHEDULE** - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.

Oct. 14. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

Oct. 21. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Nov. 4. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Nov. 11. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Nov. 18. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Ft. Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

Dec. 2. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

Dec. 9. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Dec. 16. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

**NORTH/WEST ADVENTURER FAMILY CAMPOUT** - Oct. 5-7. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Details: path.adv@floridacon-

ference.com or 407-644-5000 x2423.

**HOPE FOR HURTING HEARTS** - Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. A healing, educational retreat for those who've been sexually abused as children. Cost: \$150, all inclusive.

Oct. 25-28. English language. Details: floridaconference.com/event/hope-for-hurting-hearts-2/

Nov. 8-11. Spanish language. Details: floridaconference.com/event/esperanza-para-corazones-dolidos/

March 28-31. Teen Track. Details: floridaconference.com/event/hope-for-hurting-hearts-teens/

**FAMILY LIFE LEADERSHIP CERTIFICATION** - Oct. 27. 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. Florida Conference, 351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs. Free event includes workshops, resources, and lunch. Details: floridaconference.com/event/family-life-leadership-certification/

**LEGACY OF HOPE - FORT MYERS** - Nov. 17. Fort Myers Church, 3451 Ortiz Ave., Fort Myers. Details: floridaconference.com/event/legacy-of-hope-ft-myers/

**DELIVERANCE 2019 - WOMEN'S CONVENTION** - Jan. 4-6. Caribe Royale Resort & Convention Center, 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando. Cost: varies depending on accommodations/commuter and meal choices. Details: floridaconference.com/event/deliverance-2019/

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**BLOOD BROTHERS MEN'S RETREAT** - Oct. 5-7. In a world filled with hate and racial divides, we are called to be united in our love for Christ and our love for one another. Speaker: Dr. Joe Martin, founder, speaker, director for Real Men Connect. Seminars include: Guarding Your Heart, Leading with Humility, Strength Through Brotherhood, Purity Through Holiness, Wisdom Through Wise Counsel, and Living with a Mission. Register at: [http://blueprintformen.org/?event=georgia-cumberland-conference-mens-retreat-2&event\\_date=2018-10-05](http://blueprintformen.org/?event=georgia-cumberland-conference-mens-retreat-2&event_date=2018-10-05)

Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND** Oct. 5-7. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Oct. 26-28. Cohutta Springs Youth

Camp, Crandall, GA.

**HEALTH RALLIES' PRESENTER: EW DEMPSEY**

Oct. 6. 2-5 p.m. Smoky Mountain Church, Sevierville, TN.

Oct. 20. Ringgold, GA.

Nov. 3. Cohutta, GA.

**MENTAL HEALTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING** - Oct. 6. 3-6 p.m. Presenter: Tuwan Ussery, MSW, MMin, LM, professor and chaplain. Learn the churches role in mental health ministry and obtain resources. Wimbish Road, Macon, GA.

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING** - Oct. 19-21. Theme: Todo Miembro Involucrado (Total Member Involvement). Clarence Brown Conference Center, Cartersville, GA.

**PRAYER MINISTRIES DAY** - Oct. 20. Tifton and Moultrie, GA, Churches.

**PATHFINDER REGIONAL EVENT** - Oct. 19-21. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**7 BRIDGES MARATHON** - Oct. 21. It's not too late, join the church challenge, you can walk or run distances from marathon, half marathon, 5K, or kiddie 1K. Prizes involved. Chattanooga, TN.

**ACF (ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP): LEADERSHIP REBOOT** - Oct. 26, 27. A leadership-training weekend for ACF chapter presidents, vice presidents, treasurers, advisors, and pastors. Register by Oct. 11. Contact Betza Valle, [bvalle@gccsda.com](mailto:bvalle@gccsda.com), or call her 706-629-7951, ext. 382. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

**PATHFINDER TEEN CHALLENGE** - Nov. 2-4. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**SOUTH GEORGIA BLITZ** - Nov. 10. Administrators and directors from the Conference preach and present at our churches in south Georgia.

**MINISTRIES TRAINING** - Dec. 1. 3:00-8:30 p.m. There will be a wide range of trainings held from ACS/Disaster Response, ACF, Audio Visual, Children's Ministries (including several Sabbath Schools), Church Treasurers, Communication, Deacon/Deaconess, Family Ministries, Health Ministries, Human Resources & Safety, Men's Ministries, Pastors & Elders, Personal Evangelism, Prayer Ministries, Prison Ministries, Stewardship, Women's Ministries, Young Adult Ministries, and Youth Ministries. Calhoun, GA, Church.

**GULF STATES**

**CAMP ALAMISCO 50TH ANNIVERSARY EVENT** - Oct. 5-7. [www.campalamisco.org](http://www.campalamisco.org).

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE**

**HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT II** - Oct. 5-7. Indian Creek Camp.

**ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP RETREAT** - Oct. 12-13. Indian Creek Camp.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** - Oct. 18. Conference Office.

**ADVENTURER CAMPOREE I** - Nov. 2-4. Indian Creek Camp.

**HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD** - Nov. 8. Highland Academy.

**ADVENTURER CAMPOREE II** - Nov. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.

**ELDERS' CERTIFICATION TRAINING** - Nov. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - Dec. 4. Conference Office.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

**WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT** - Oct. 7. Southern's Wind Symphony, with Ken Parsons conducting, will present an evening of music at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists. To learn about more School of Music events, visit [southern.edu/musicevents](http://southern.edu/musicevents).

**ARCHAEOLOGY MUSEUM LECTURE** - Oct. 8. Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D., professor and published author from Southern's School of Religion, will give a talk titled "The Rise of the Kingdom of Judah in the Tenth Century BC: The Emerging Picture from the Ancient Past," at 7 p.m. on campus in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For more information, visit [southern.edu/archaeology](http://southern.edu/archaeology).

**PREVIEW SOUTHERN** - Oct. 18, 19. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email [visit@southern.edu](mailto:visit@southern.edu).

**HOMECOMING** - Oct. 25-28. Save the date! Highlights of the weekend include a Gym-Masters Reunion, Parade of Nations, and Missions Expo. Honor Classes include: 1938, '48, '58, '68, '73, '78, '88, '93, '98, '08. Visit [southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni) or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - OCT. 5, 6.** Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '79, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, and '14. Details: 701-751-6177, x212, or visit our website at [www.dakotaadventistacademy.org](http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org).

**FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - OCT. 5-7.** FA Campus. Join us as we honor the class years ending in 3's and 8's. The Class of 1968 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy choir members. Please update your contact information at [agibbs@fletcheracademy.com](mailto:agibbs@fletcheracademy.com), 828-209-6704. More details at: [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com).

**SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION - OCT. 18-20. SAVE THE DATE** — Celebrating 29 Years of Communication Excellence! "Purpose. Passion. Partnership." This year's convention will be held at the North American Division Headquarters, 9705 Patuxent Woods Dr., Columbia, MD. Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals and university students from all around the North American Division for training, networking, and spiritual renewal opportunities. Additional details for hotels and more: [www.adventistcommunicator.org](http://www.adventistcommunicator.org).

**WEIMAR INSTITUTE 40TH HOMECOMING - NOV. 2-4.** We are celebrating 40 years of God's blessings at Weimar Institute this year! If you attended academy or pursued higher education here, please join us. Honor classes: '83, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, '13. For more information: 530-422-7964 or <http://weimar.edu/alumni/>

**SUNSET**

	OCT 5	OCT 12	OCT 19	OCT 26	NOV 2	NOV 9
ATLANTA, GA	7:16	7:07	6:58	6:51	6:44	5:38
CHARLESTON, SC	6:59	6:50	6:42	6:34	6:27	5:22
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:01	6:52	6:43	6:34	6:27	5:21
COLLEGEDALE, TN	7:19	7:10	7:01	6:53	6:45	5:39
HUNTSVILLE, AL	6:24	6:15	6:06	5:58	5:51	4:45
JACKSON, MS	6:40	6:31	6:23	6:16	6:09	5:04
LOUISVILLE, KY	7:19	7:09	6:59	6:50	6:42	5:35
MEMPHIS, TN	6:38	6:28	6:20	6:11	6:04	4:58
MIAMI, FL	7:03	6:56	6:49	6:43	6:38	5:34
MONTGOMERY, AL	6:24	6:16	6:07	6:01	5:53	4:48
NASHVILLE, TN	6:24	6:15	6:05	5:57	5:49	4:43
ORLANDO, FL	7:06	6:58	6:51	6:45	6:39	5:34
TAMPA, FL	7:11	7:03	6:56	6:50	6:44	5:40
WILMINGTON, NC	6:50	6:41	6:32	6:24	6:17	5:11



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