

T Southern TIDINGS

JANUARY 2019

RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, THE FAITH OF JESUS



**HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION: HUNTSVILLE
FIRST CHURCH WELCOMES
RETURNING CITIZENS**

**MEMBERS ON A
MISSION FOR GOD**

**12+1+1+30 = 12
PRECIOUS SOULS**

2019, Year of Lay and Pastoral Evangelism



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

Please permit me to introduce to the Southern Union constituency once again Sister Jessie Guillaume, who is actively engaged in leading men and women into an active relationship with Jesus Christ. Her effective approach to evangelism serves as a model for those who quest to use innovative approaches to winning souls for the Kingdom of God. Please allow Sister Jessie to explain her program. -- RCS

The mission of Hope Ministry Project, Inc., a non-profit 501(c)(3), is to provide communities in south Florida and Haiti experiencing a growing homeless population with access to services and supplies, and to alleviate pressing short-term housing needs. Our work is about building stronger communities, neighborhoods, and lives, and we believe that outreach and engagement with individuals dealing with housing issues is an important part of sharing Christ's love. HOPE is an acronym for "Helping Oppressed People Everywhere," and it gives a brief snapshot into our mission.

We have been feeding more than 150 people weekly on the streets of Miami for the past 19 years, and providing them with clothing, shoes, blankets, sleeping bags, and toiletries, as well as sharing God's love. Since 2005 Hope House Miami has been providing transitional housing and various support services to homeless individuals and families for up to six months in order to facilitate their move to independent living. Hope Ministry also volunteers at the Broward Outreach Shelter, providing Bible study twice a week and educational sessions on mental health issues.

Hope Ministry has been supporting the homeless in Haiti for several years, making donations of money and food to help people on the street. In 2017 we also became involved with an orphanage. The needs at Le Jardin D'Eden Orphanage were brought to our attention by a board member who was living in Haiti. The orphanage was founded in 2000; however, seven years ago they encountered great difficulties and lost their financial support. The orphanage found itself in a place of dire need. Though loved and physically cared for by the dedicated staff, the children were subsisting on inadequate food supplies (only two meals a day composed primarily of canned fish), lack of everyday essentials (bedding, utensils, plates, etc.), intermittent electricity, broken plumbing, and water safety issues.

Hope Ministry took over their care and administration of the orphanage in August 2017. Through the generous support of our donors, we were able to:

- provide three nutritious meals a day to the children and staff;
- provide a reliable source of electricity through the purchase of 16 solar panels and 16 batteries;
- resolve water safety issues by installing three water reservoirs, restoring electricity to allow us to pump clean water from the well, and replacing broken plumbing components;
- provide essentials for daily living including clothes, kitchen appliances for food preparation and storage, and adequate bedding; and
- establish a relationship with a local physician to provide healthcare services for the children, including preventive and emergency care.

The purpose of our next visit to Haiti is to establish a small business to allow the orphanage to work toward financial self-sufficiency. In addition, we are developing available space to accommodate trade school courses that will allow the older orphans to acquire skills to be self-supporting when they leave the orphanage. These courses also will be available to the community.

But most importantly, four children have committed themselves to the Lord, and wish to be baptized during our next visit. This special event also will be commemorated by the dedication of the orphanage, as a Seventh-day Adventist institution, to serve the community and further the work of the Lord. It is our sincere desire that, through our efforts to restore and bring hope to these dear ones, we can present them with the truth as outlined in the Word of God, thus bringing many to faith in Christ.

The work of the ministry is labor- and cost-intensive. We are thankful to our donors and volunteers for continuing to enable the ministry to do this important work. However, we continue to struggle with enough funds to provide nutritious meals, tuition costs, funds to develop a local business, and trade tools for educational purposes (sewing machines, welding machines, and mechanical tools for auto repair training). Those who share our burden for the unloved and forgotten in Miami and Haiti are welcomed to visit our websites at www.lejardin-deden.org and www.hopehousemiami.org. 📍



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RELIGIOUS LIBERTY: THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, THE FAITH OF JESUS

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

Alabama voters approved a statewide constitutional amendment to allow the posting of the Ten Commandments on government and other public property on November 6, 2018. The specific issue involved a church-and-state question that has the potential to impact the separation that has long kept religious liberty in balance. The amendment passed with 71 percent of the voters in favor, more than any other ballot amendment received.

While the Seventh-day Adventist Church never seeks to tell members how to vote, the Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty has been established to provide valuable insights when the issue of separation of church and state are at stake. More telling than anything else may be the sheer number of voters who were in favor of this amendment. It is ironic that while 71 percent of voters cast a ballot in favor of the Ten Commandments, these same voters are constantly telling me (and maybe you, too) that I don't have to keep the Fourth Commandment (The Sab-

bath Commandment) because Paul says we're under grace and not the law. So why push so hard to pass a Ten Commandment amendment?

For more than three decades, a cultural war has intensified between American Christians and Secularists. As the culture of society changes, many Christians have felt that their faith is threatened by a secular worldview that often clashes with religious tenets. As the battle between religious rights and other civil rights has been waged, the courtroom being the battlefield, people of faith feel an ever-increasing loss of ground and influence in the cultural war. Alabama's Statewide Amendment 1 was a response to that sense of loss of many Christian traditions so deeply a part of American heritage and life in the past. The display of the Ten Commandments on public property is seen as a bulwark against the threatening tide of secularism.

Supporters of religious liberty have always maintained that the beauty of the constitution is its protection against government sponsorship and support of religion, while the freedom to practice

one's faith is promoted and protected. Maintaining the constitution, as it currently is written and buttressed by the First Amendment, provides the limits in which government becomes involved in the realm of faith. Nevertheless, there is an increasing desire to breach that metaphorical "wall" that puts a safety

check on government's relationship to the church.

Back when the Constitution was fresh from the quill of the founders, some feared that this notion of separation of church and state would be a bad influence upon the morals of Americans. By 1819 the Father of the Constitution,

James Madison, in a letter to Robert Walsh, said this:

"It was the universal opinion of the century preceding the last that civil government could not stand without the prop of a religious establishment, and that the Christian religion itself would perish if not supported by a legal provision for its



clergy. The experience of Virginia conspicuously corroborates the disproof of both opinions. The number, the industry, and the morality of the Priesthood, and the devotion of the people, have manifestly increased by the total separation of church from the state."

Does Christianity need the help of the government to prosper? Not according to the early experience of the nation. Then why seek to have the arm of the

state indoctrinate Judeo-Christian beliefs in our public schools as a means to educate our youth in the ways of right and wrong? Religion is a family matter, not a government one. In order to insure equality among a very diverse citizenry, the state needs to remain neutral toward religion when it comes to its facilitation.

History's record has shown that when the state is utilized by religion to promote religious dogma, religious free-

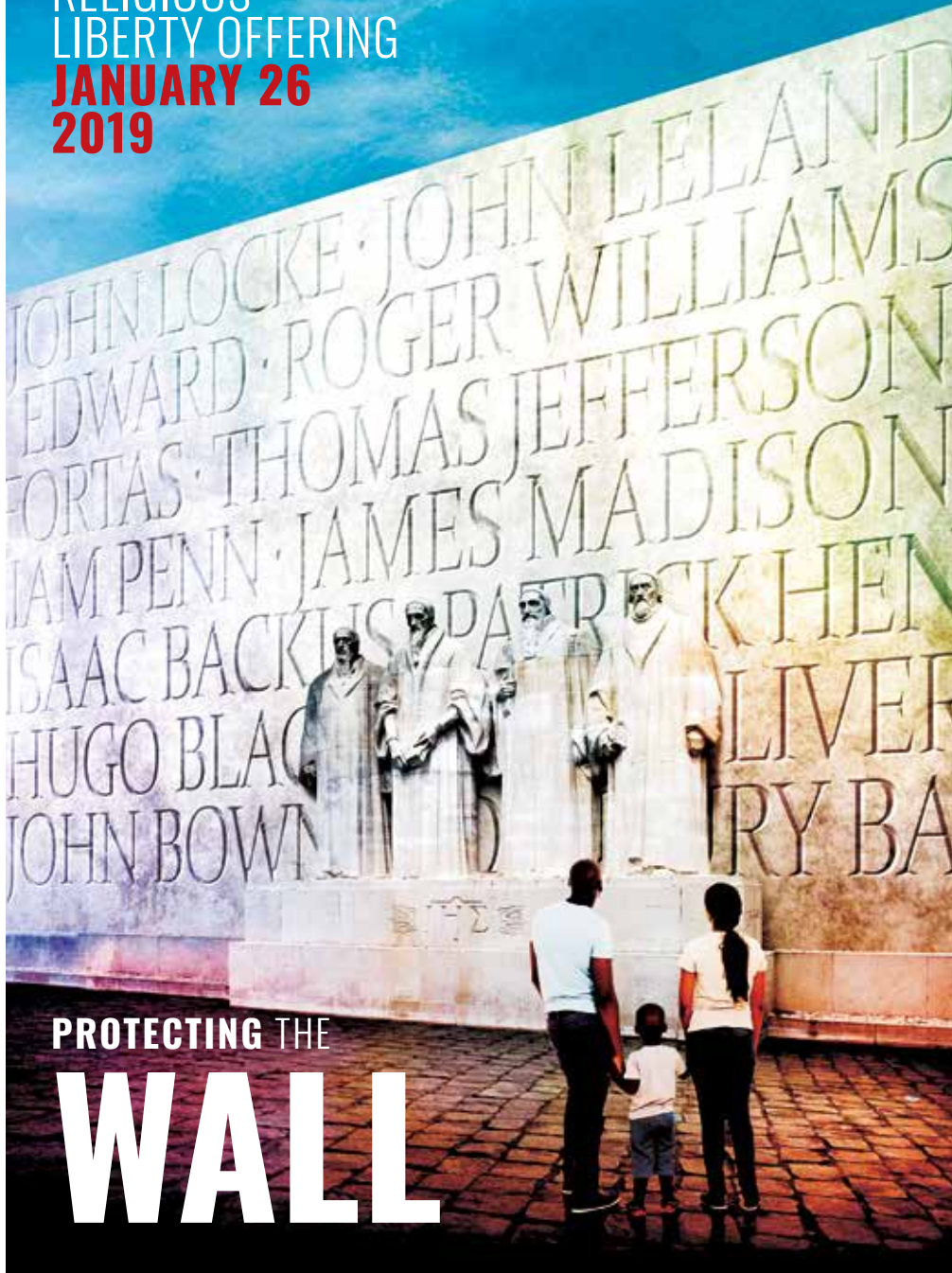
dom suffers. In fact, the use of the state to support the church reveals a weakness — not in the state, but in the faith. Ellen White sums it up quite eloquently in this passage from *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, p. 126:

"From the Jews in Christ's time to the Christian church throughout the ages, whenever the church loses the grace of Christ, whenever the church finds herself destitute of the power of love, she

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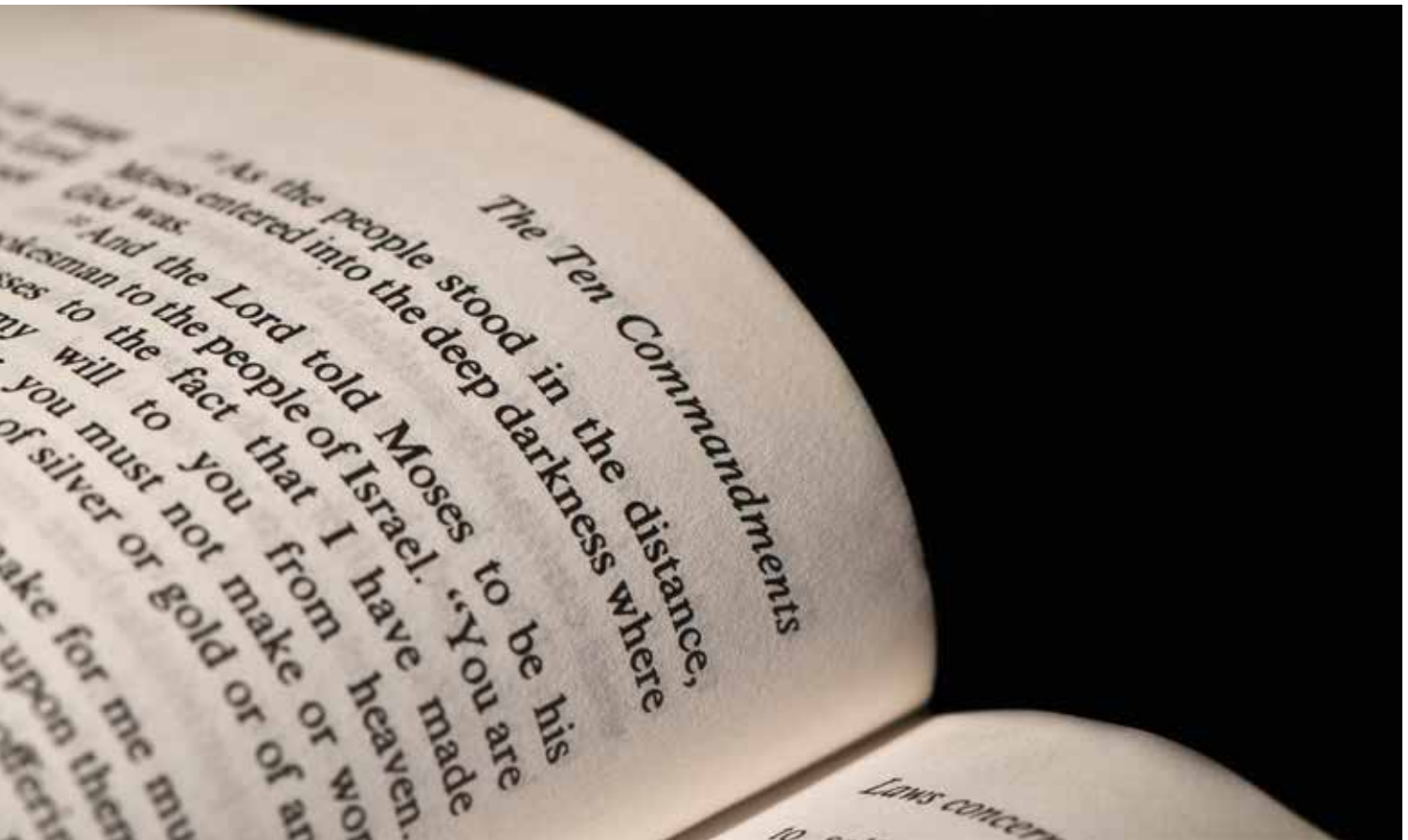
PROTECTING THE
WALL

has reached out for the strong arm of the state to enforce her dogmas and execute her decrees. Here is the secret of all religious laws that have ever been enacted.”

The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty seeks to promote the preservation of individual rights of conscience. It also has the responsibility in upholding the protections granted to us through the U.S. Constitution in the gift of separation of church and state. The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department seeks to engage both our members and the public on important matters involving the First Amendment.

To change a constitution is always a serious measure, especially when that change is being made in a manner that would affect religious liberty. Supporters of the amendment in Alabama encouraged people of faith to ignore the voices that strove to protect religious liberty and/or the separation of church and state. Rather, they called upon all people of faith (or at least Christians) to insure that religious traditions are given legal standing in the display of the Ten Commandments in public areas.

It represents a very specific Adventist viewpoint to the issue of religious liberty and prophecy. Current events happening in our world today act as a thermometer in taking the temperature of society and the attitudes of temporal things that have a spiritual effect. Whether you live in Alabama



or not, legislating the Ten Commandments certainly seems like the first step down a road that is foretold to lead to persecution for those who actually follow the Ten Commandments.

Interestingly, Dean Young, who led the grassroots movement to pass the amendment called those who opposed the bill the “bad guys.” He refers to those that oppose such an amendment as enemies of God-fearing people who want to teach children about right and wrong. Young also refused to engage Adventists in discussing the issue of the fourth commandment and the Sabbath.

Ellen White in the book, *The Great Controversy*, Chapter 36, “The Impending Conflict,” p. 592, says this:

“Those who honor the Bible Sabbath will be denounced as enemies of law and

order, as breaking down the moral restraints of society, causing anarchy and corruption, and calling down the judgments of God upon the earth. Their conscientious scruples will be pronounced obstinacy, stubbornness, and contempt of authority. They will be accused of disaffection toward the government. Ministers who deny the obligation of the divine law will present from the pulpit the duty of the yielding obedience to the civil authorities as ordained of God. In legislative halls and courts of justice, commandment keepers will be misrepresented and condemned. A false coloring will be given to their words; the worst construction will be put upon their motives.”

The religious liberty department stands firmly by and in full support of

God’s divine directives, the Ten Commandments. We actively applaud those who keep all the commandments. Yet, we do not believe it is the government’s job to do what we as Christians are called to do. There is a proper way to hang the Ten Commandments in the public sphere. That way is God’s placing into willing hearts His law. The true display of the Ten Commandments is found in the lives of God’s people. Every other display of the Ten Commandments is merely superficial decoration, and the vain attempt to instill righteousness that cannot be done in human strength. 🕊

Amireh Al-Haddad is the director of public affairs and religious liberty at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

ADVENTIST DISCERNMENT

in Regards to Ten Commandments Legislation

The Church does not tell members how or whom to vote for, but we have been tasked to sound the watchman's cry when we see issues that could negatively affect religious freedom here in America. While a witnessing opportunity may be presented by raising the issue, we should never overlook the danger to religious freedom such legislation holds.

1. While Seventh-day Adventists hold the Ten Commandments up as the law of God, we do not strive to enforce religious dogma upon the state or the citizens in the state.
2. Both state and federal constitutions have long protected against any single religion from rising to the top. Preference to Judeo-Christian teachings is dangerous to minority religions, and thus an impediment to true religious freedom to all.
3. Supporters of 10 Commandment amendments have stated in their promotional videos that they want to return to teaching the Ten Commandments in our public schools among students holding widely diversified religious traditions (Hindus, Sikhs, Muslim, Catholic, Buddhist, non-faith, etc.). Due to these varied beliefs among the student body, our government has long decided that the teaching of religion should take place in the home under the direction of parents/care givers, in accordance with the religious traditions of the home.
4. Those that seek to display the Ten Commandments make the argument that they are "historically" part of the rich religious/legal heritage of the country. They place the Ten Commandments among documents like the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, Mayflower Compact, even the Magna Carta. In effect, they devalue the sacred/divine origin of the Ten Commandments, written by the finger of God no less, raising the other documents to its level of importance.
5. The display of the Ten Commandments on public properties, without the representations of other faith groups that make up our citizenry, gives the message that Christianity is the most favored religion in America. This is bad for minority religion. (Lest you forget, Sabbath keepers are in the minority of religion.)
6. As a people of prophecy, we have long believed in and protected the separation of church and state for prophetic reasons that reflect upon the true character of God. The prophecies of both Daniel 7-8 and Revelation 13 point to a beast with two lamblike horns. Adventist interpretation identifies the beast as representative of the United States. The two horns represent Republicanism (government without a king) and Protestantism (freedom of conscience, religion without a Pope).
7. Revelation 12:17 says, "the dragon was enraged with the woman, and he went to make war with the rest of her offspring, who keep the commandments of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ." In the last days, the final test will be between God-loving, commandment-keeping followers of Jesus, and those that reject the truth. Revelation 14:12 states, "Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus."

HOMECOMING CELEBRATION:

Huntsville First Church Welcomes Returning Citizens

BY DEBLEAIRE SNELL

When I was about 12 years old, my dad taught me how to shoot a basketball. His instructions were as follows. He told me to make sure that my feet and shoulders were square. My right hand would be placed in the middle of the ball, while my left hand was to be placed on the left side of the ball. I was to focus my aim just above the front end of the rim. I was taught to make sure the ball had plenty of arc on it once I let it go. He stressed repeatedly the importance of follow-through once the ball was released. Once the ball was released, I was to keep my hands extended toward the rim, as if holding a pose. This practice is called follow-through. He stated it does not matter how sound your stance, or how good your aim; you will never get the desired outcome if you don't follow through.

I believe that lesson has many implications for our Church and for our ministries. Our churches have great stance, our ministries have great aim, but we struggle in the area of follow-through. Whether it is in evangelism, outreach, or community service, many missions never reach their full potential because we don't follow through.

Our Church has many soldiers of the cross, who boldly walk into centers of incarceration to minister to men and women whose souls languish behind bars. They nobly answer the call of Jesus to take the Gospel where very few

are willing to go. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, many souls receive Jesus Christ in an unconventional way. They did not walk down a church aisle with "I Surrender All" playing in the background. They met Jesus in a prison chapel or a cellblock, and all of Heaven rejoiced.

And yet, the transition back into daily life once their time has been served can be debilitating. Many are not welcomed home. As a result of repeated mistakes, some family members actually loathe their return. They have been told to go out and work hard, but the stigma of being an ex-offender makes it very hard to do. Some leave with the aspiration of living a different life, but starting over is harder than it seems. With no car, no employment, often homeless, and without even a Social Security card required to fill out a job application or apply for an apartment, the sense of desperation can be overwhelming.

Often, the only people glad to see them are the former friends whose influence led them into trouble in the first place. It is this confluence of toxic circumstances that create a high likelihood of returning to old life habits, and unfortunately, an increased recidivism rate.

This is where our Homecoming Celebration came in. Our goal was to create an environment where returning citizens would find affirmation, love, tools, and a cheering section. First Church in Huntsville, Alabama, held its first Homecom-



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY LANGFORD

Human resource director from a local temp agency conducts a job interview with a returning citizen.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY LANGFORD

Debleaire Snell (left), senior pastor of First Church in Huntsville, Alabama, and Alfonzo Greene (right, red T-shirt), associate pastor, welcome returning citizens to the Homecoming Celebration.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY LANGFORD

Community volunteers help returning citizens register for Social Security cards.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY LANGFORD

A team from Faith in Action Alabama (pictured in blue shirts) wave pom-poms as a returning citizen excitedly enters the celebration.

ing Celebration on August 16, 2018. We put the word out through radio, social media, and word of mouth that we would be hosting a special celebration for any returning citizen who was released from incarceration in the last five years.

When returning citizens came on the premises that Sunday, they were met by the sound of festive music, along with the aroma of a barbecue meal prepared by our hospitality team in their honor. When they walked inside the church fellowship hall, they were met by a two-sided reception line filled with smiling faces waving pom-poms, and shouting, “Welcome Home!” Our goal was to celebrate them as people, to communicate that the faith community was not there to judge or stigmatize them, but cele-

brate and support their transition back into everyday life. After they finished eating, there were a number of meaningful booths set up to help their transition back into society.

First, we had an employment services room. We were blessed to partner with 10 different employers, including Buffalo Wild Wings and McKanite Granite Company, that came to conduct job interviews and begin the hiring process on the spot. We also had three temp agencies.

If an individual did not have appropriate interview attire, they were able to stop by the First Church Clothes Closet, which was set up by our community services team. They were able to get access to new and gently used business attire,

so that they could go into the employment services room with confidence, as they prepared for their job interview. Our third room was the counseling center. Studies show that returning citizens are deemed more employable if they can demonstrate that they are involved in some type of ongoing counseling. We were blessed to partner with three certified counselors who were willing to donate time to make major emotional deposits into our returning citizens.

We were also very excited to have a prayer ministry team in place. Individuals were not required to go in, but many individuals decided to stop by to have men and women of faith intercede for their journey back into society.

We were able to partner with the



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY LANGFORD

Debleaire Snell (right), pastor, prays with a returning citizen at the Homecoming Celebration.

Southern Law Poverty center to establish a voter restoration clinic. Returning citizens are encouraged to fully participate in society, while being denied the basic American right to vote because of their felony records. We cannot expect them to function as citizens if they don't have the basic rights shared by all citizens. We were also blessed to partner with the Social Security Administration, so that our brothers and sisters were able to begin filling out their Social Security card applications on the church premises, which is a key step in the process of integrating back into society.

We were blessed to serve 140 returning citizens. We had about 12 individuals to gain employment that day, and another seven individuals enrolled in

the Jobs for Life program through The Cornerstone Initiative. They graduated from the program in November. We had several families who decided to make First Church their spiritual home, because they were overwhelmed by the loving touch and warm affirmation they received.

There were so many blessings in the room that cannot be numbered. I saw hardened men whose eyes swelled with tears as we shouted "Welcome Home!" I saw the entire disposition of one woman blossom, as she was able to get appropriate clothing to step with confidence into her job interview. I prayed with a man who found Jesus while incarcerated, but had lost hold of his faith through the repeated obstacles he faced once he

left. He stated tearfully that, "Today's program has renewed my faith in God and reminded me that I am still loved by Him."

This was one of the most meaningful ministry initiatives I have had the privilege of being a part of. My heart is anxious to continue to serve more of God's children, whose pasts are overshadowed by the glorious future plans He has for them. 🙏

Debleaire Snell is the senior pastor of First Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

MEMBERS ON A MISSION FOR GOD

BY CHRISTOPHER C. THOMPSON, D.MIN.

It's 9:30 on Sabbath morning, and Alethea Truman is already on her way to the newly planted Breath of Life Church in Tampa, Florida, where she is set to participate in the divine worship service. But, she is not simply reading Scripture or collecting the offering. On this particular Sabbath, she is scheduled to deliver the sermon. Most people would be terrified to stand in front of a crowd and deliver a message, but not Truman. She is a local elder at the Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa, and she is emboldened with a passion to speak for God.

After the sermon, Truman grabs a quick bite to eat, and then she hits the street with another member of the Mt. Calvary Church, Peach Brooks. Together, they are visiting contacts from the recent Breath of Life summer evangelistic revival who were never baptized. Although the revival netted 117 baptisms, they continue to follow up with those who may still be willing to make a decision to accept Jesus as their personal Savior and join the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

After conducting home visits, they head back to church for an afternoon Bible study with newly baptized members of the church and other individuals who are candidates for baptism. Following the Bible study, they talk to the new members about getting involved with evangelism.

These are just two of the many members who demonstrated a commitment to ministry and evangelism during the Breath of Life summer revival in Tampa. While Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., Breath of Life speaker/director, was the nightly revival speaker, local members from the various Adventist churches in Tampa and the surrounding area leagued together to execute



Peach Brooks (left) and Alethea Truman gather after canvassing the neighborhood before the afternoon Bible study. Their Bible study group is preparing candidates for baptism and nurturing new members.

PHOTO BY: C.C.THOMPSON, D.MIN.

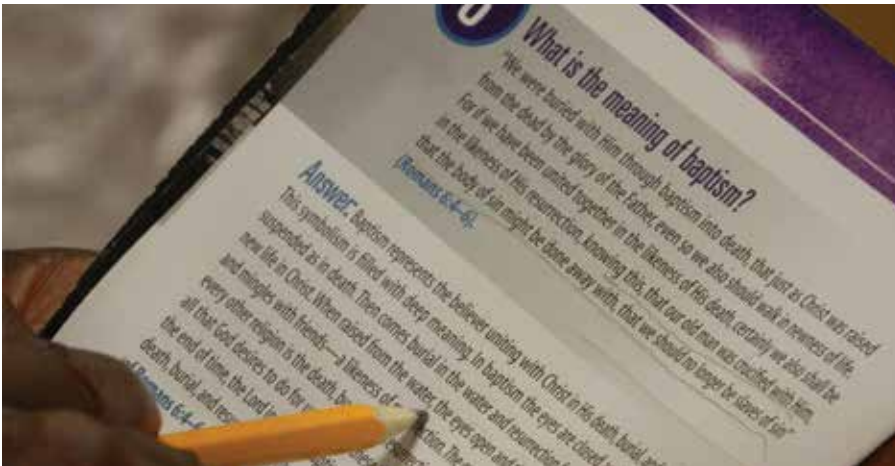


PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON, D.MIN.

PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON, D.MIN.

The Tampa afternoon Bible study group spends an hour studying the biblical doctrine of baptism. The group uses simple Bible study guides to make the study interactive and easy to follow.

Alethea Truman is an elder and active member of the personal ministries team at the Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa, Florida. Truman started an initiative to encourage local church members to start small group Bible studies in their homes.



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON, D.MIN.

While walking through the neighborhood near their church, Alethea Truman (left) and Peach Brooks stop to reflect on how the Breath of Life summer revival helped activate the members. Truman and Brooks knock on doors weekly, paying special attention to attendees of the summer revival who were not baptized.



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON, D.MIN.

The Sabbath afternoon Bible study prepares prospective members for baptism and nurtures new church members. The study time includes prayer and personal testimonies directly related to the study subject.

the multiple ministry needs that were present before and during the revival.

Truman and Brooks, aligned with Breath of Life Bible instructors, went door to door “fishing” for prospective attendees for the revival. They then worked with the candidates and prepared them for baptism after the candidates made decisions to follow Jesus.

Additionally, lay ministry leaders from the Tampa area churches led in other ministry functions — children’s, ushers, greeters, and prayer ministries. Pat Smith, who led prayer ministries, coordinated with other area church prayer ministries leaders, and developed a prayer schedule

and strategy for the revival, which included praying with visitors as they attended the revival about the specific needs they had come to seek God for.

Although it has been several months since the revival ended, these local church members are still on fire for the Lord. Brooks remarked, “The revival started a fire in Tampa that just won’t go out!” In harmony with this statement, these three women connect weekly with potential members who attended the summer revival. Truman has suggested that each member enlist their friends and neighbors in a Bible study course. Smith and Brooks have positively responded and begun a Bible study each Tuesday evening

with about 10 individuals in Smith’s home.

At the conclusion of the Bible study series, they will hold a special graduation ceremony for Bible students at an upcoming Community Guest Day at the church.

These members have an infectious passion for ministry and evangelism. Their faces light up when they talk about ministry and soul winning. Brooks summed up their energy succinctly, saying with a gleaming smile, “I’m mission-driven!”

Christopher C. Thompson, D.Min. is the communications and marketing director for Breath of Life Ministries in Huntsville, Alabama.

12+1+1+30=12 PRECIOUS SOULS

BY EVAN TYLER FOX



Youth for Jesus held an evangelistic series in Avon Park, Fla., where 12 were baptized.

Twelve Adventist youth, one family of evangelists, one loving and committed church, and only 30 days: The result? Twelve individuals committed their lives to Christ through baptism during the Youth for Jesus program under the direction of Adventist-layman’s Services and Industries (ASI).

The youth, some coming from as far away as Chile and British Columbia, spent their summer vacation in Avon Park, Florida, sharing Jesus through community service and GLOW tract distribution, giving Bible studies, and even preaching an evangelistic series themselves. In spite of their lack of knowledge or experience, God still gave a great increase.

One example of God’s blessing is in the story of “Michelle,” who had battled one thing after another. She had been widowed, diagnosed with cancer, and experienced a debilitating car accident. Everyday life was a struggle, and there didn’t seem to be much hope. God saw her pain, had compassion, and sent this group of young people her way.

One Youth’s Experience

Anna Whiting —

“All these things I was taught since

I was real little.

Coming here to this program, it made me really experience

it firsthand, rely on

God, and dig into

His Word for what I needed.”

One of the Bible workers knocked at Michelle’s door and soon began Bible studies. Michelle not only needed to hear the Gospel, she needed to see it in practice. Because of her situation, her yard had been left to suffer, and a thorough landscaping job was needed. Though the young people did not have much skill, Youth for Jesus sure had plenty of energy. They mowed, used weed eaters, weeded the garden, moved brush, and even knocked down a dead tree. More importantly, they found their way into Michelle’s heart through demonstrating the love of Christ. After repeatedly thanking the group while shedding tears, Michelle promised to begin attending the evangelistic series, and came every night thereafter.

By experience these young people now know it is truly better to give than to receive. Youth for Jesus is confident 2019 will be even better. ❀

Evan Tyler Fox coordinated ASI’s Youth for Jesus program, hosted at Avon Park Church in Avon Park, Florida, where he is a member.

AHU Cultivates Healing Values of Christ in Graduates



An AHU student studies on one of the benches located in the University's "Garden of Miracles" installation.

Developing skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ is the mission motto of AdventHealth University (AHU). Its development was one of the important steps the University took to align itself more closely with its corporate parent, AdventHealth (formerly Florida Hospital and Adventist Health System), whose mission is to *extend the healing ministry of Christ*.

AHU believes that when graduates extend these values to others, they can measurably improve the mental, physical, and spiritual vitality of the communities they serve. With AdventHealth's increased focus on whole-person care, AHU's motto provides a framework where the University can equip and prepare future healthcare professionals to care for the whole person. Approximately 80 percent of AHU graduates work in AdventHealth's network of

care, where they practice whole-person care and extend the healing ministry of Christ.

"As our students graduate and are employed by the system, we feel it is incumbent upon us as AdventHealth's University to impart to our students a deep understanding of Christ's healing values, so they are equipped to extend his healing ministry," said Edwin I. Hernández, Ph.D., AHU's president.

To this end, the University has defined 17 healing values chosen from the life and teachings of Jesus and based on passages from the Bible, including *healing with compassion, healing with faith and hope, healing as you would for yourself*, and more. These principles are interwoven at all levels of the institution, from the curriculum that incorporates the ideologies of CREATION Health, to the focus on ser-

vice to the community, and the learning outcomes that include aspects of treating individuals with care, respect, and dignity.

Students are required to take certain courses that will help them learn, practice, and embody these healing values as they progress from school into their careers. One course, *Biblical Perspectives: Lessons on Living*, is an example of how AHU's curriculum bridges biblical values into real-world applications, so that students see how Christ's teachings are present in everyday life. Zdravko Stefanovic, Ph.D., has taught this course for more than five years, and describes it as teaching "practical biblical wisdom" and focusing on the "art of living a good life."

His course covers several books of the Bible, including the books of Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and others. However, his exams are nontraditional. Rather than end the semester with a standardized test, he directs students to choose an addiction meeting to go and observe. Then they write a reflection that connects this experience with what they've learned in the course.

The University's "Garden of Miracles" occupies the center of campus, and serves as a daily visual reminder of its mission. It includes seven glass monoliths that stretch 14 feet tall, each with a stylized depiction of a miracle performed by Jesus. From the raising of Lazarus to healing the lepers, and even to the calming of the storm, each monolith is a reminder that Christ can make whole what was once broken in mind, body, and spirit.

"The missions of the University and AdventHealth are complimentary, and work in perfect alignment," explained Lonnie Mixon, vice president for marketing, public relations, and enrollment services. "You could say that AHU is where whole-person care begins." ●

BY ERIC CADIENTE

Generosity Guides New Initiative



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

The Carolina officers, along with the Generous Living director, communication director and associate, one pastor, and one lay church member, gather every Monday at 8:30 a.m. for prayer.

In 2013 when the idea was formed for Generous Living, the officers and staff who made up the small committee tasked with creating a different picture for stewardship in the Carolinas really didn't know what to expect.

One thing they did know: It was time for a change. The word "stewardship" has generally become, at best, a stale and stagnant term, and at worst, something to be avoided (because it usually means you'll lose some of your cash). The Generous Living team, as this committee came to be known, wanted to turn that stigma on its head, and give a fresh look and approach to what can often be seen as a "just-give-us-your-money" campaign.

As all new initiatives should, they started with prayer. Each team member committed to a devotional/prayer time every Monday morning to start the week. During this brief moment, they bring the cares, worries, situations, and praises of



the members before the Lord, asking for guidance and protection over His people in the Carolinas. They also pray for a generous spirit to pervade the Conference.

Next, the Generous Living team set about the task of redefining generosity. It's not all about money, it's also time, health, love, kindness, and friendship. Stories began pouring in of God's providence in reaction to true generosity of spirit, and the team shared these stories in the form of flyers, posters, articles, and social media.

The last phase of the new Generous Living plan was to bring Carolina members together physically to experience and learn what it means to live generously. The first Generous Living Summit was held in January 2014, and one has been held each year since. The next one is in Charlotte, N.C., on January 19, 2019.

Five years later the Generous Living team, consisting of the four Conference officers, the Communication Department, the Generous Living (formerly stewardship) Department director, a pastor, and a layperson, continues to meet every Monday morning to pray over the Conference. If you ask any of them, they will tell you this is the most important thing they do each week, because the benefits of God's guidance and leadership can never be measured. 🙏

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

Arden Requests Prayer for Biggest Losers

The Arden, N.C., Church recently started Life Groups, a once-a-week study group focused on certain topics relevant to their members. It's a six-week program designed to build stronger relationships with each other. The ultimate goal is to branch out and continue the meetings with others from the community, gaining more knowledge and practical applications for their Christian walk with Jesus Christ. Jerry and Pen Sturgis joined the Health Life Group, where they began studying Ellen G. White's *Counsels on Diet and Foods*. For the first time in Pen Sturgis' life, she was reading this powerful book and asking herself, "Why haven't I been asked to read this book before?" Even more importantly, "Why aren't we, as Seventh-day Adventists, taking advantage of this remarkable information?"

It is safe to say the senior generation of the Adventist Church is very familiar with White's books. Sturgis is a third-generation Adventist, and she grew up hearing Ellen White's name mentioned many times in church, but not as much in recent years, and certainly not on *Counsels on Diet and Foods*. As she was reading the book thoroughly, she began to realize that many are too afraid to share the information with fellow members, much less those in the communities. The more information shared, the more changes many may have to make in order to apply these valuable lessons in their personal lives.

The Sabbath potlucks, for example, can be a far cry from White's instruction on Sabbath meals. "We should not provide for the Sabbath a more liberal supply or a greater variety of food than for other days. Instead of this, the food should be more simple, and less should be eaten, in order that the mind may be clear and vigorous to comprehend spiritual things. A clogged stomach means a clogged brain," *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 46. Having been heavy for nearly two decades, Sturgis has taken this message



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

The Sturgis family

to heart, and along with her husband began a walking exercise program designed not only to help them lose weight, but become better examples of their Christian faith. She is proud to be a Seventh-day Adventist, and loves the Church. She loves the health message, or at least what she thought she knew of the health message.

Their family goal is to become Arden's "biggest losers." As a family of four, they are dedicated to losing more than 100 combined pounds. If this concept works on TV, why couldn't they apply it to their lives? Shouldn't the church members be proud to spread this health Gospel to a dying world of overweight, diseased people?

Health meetings have been held at Arden in the past, and the Sturgises have attended them. They didn't make any major health changes until Jerry Sturgis' recent stroke. That was their wake-up call. He is only in his 50s. They decided this was their time to make changes, and they are doing exactly that. They are walking away pounds daily.

If there are those in your community who are exercising and losing weight, they may be the best ones to lead out in your health meetings, because they can relate

to the audience — they've "been there," and can understand firsthand what it's like to be overweight and overcome stigmas. Arden Church has found it's best to be a fisherman before teaching someone how to fish, and experience is still the best lesson and instructor; preaching about exercise doesn't get as much results as actually exercising with someone.

The Sturgis family doesn't mind being known as Arden's biggest losers as long as the ultimate goal is to be God's best winners. They strive to not only continue losing the weight, but also to tell others how and why they are doing it. The Sturgises want to become health ambassadors of Jesus Christ, spreading His love to their community by telling others His plan for their lives. "The work of health reform is the Lord's means for lessening suffering in our world and for purifying His church," *Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 77.

The Arden members ask for prayers, and invite all to contact them at the Arden Church to keep up with their progress. Pen Sturgis' new motto for 2019: Add Jesus to your walk and talk! 🙏

BY PEN BRAISTER-STURGIS

New Port Richey Holds Back-to-School Rally



A week prior to the Back-to-School Rally, members of various ministries, including community services and Pathfinders, joined Uplift Praise to stuff 1,000 backpacks.

Uplift Praise, an outreach ministry of New Port Richey, Fla., Church, partnered with Florida Hospital North Pinellas for a Back-to-School Rally on August 5, 2018. “It was truly amazing to see how the Lord put all of the details together to reach our goal of providing 1,000 backpacks to families in the community, including the generosity of our church members, and the partnership with Florida Hospital North Pinellas on this event,” re-

flects Jonathan Pawson, church pastor.

More than 500 backpacks filled with school supplies were handed out during the five-hour event. Ministry booths included refreshments, prayer coordinators, and representatives of the Pathfinder Club and Christian Adventist Academy.

It was an answer to our back-to-school prayers! God truly provided for the kids that day. We were so excited to come to the church on August 11, and fill a van



Kelly Rossi thanks church for backpacks.

PHOTO BY: MARC DOLEY

and an SUV full of stuffed backpacks! We took them directly to our west Pasco offices and stocked the shelves. This church and the hospital made the first day of school a great one for so many foster children in Pasco County, and I cannot thank you enough!”

“We were happy to partner with the church on its initiative to provide backpacks and school supplies to children in need,” reflected Jason Dunkel, CEO of Florida Hospital North Pinellas. “Supporting our community’s youth and their education is important to our hospital, and we were pleased to provide the children with items that will help with their success in the school year ahead.”

BY TOBI PAWSON

Miami Central Church Witnesses Through Community Programs



Miami Central Church conducted a successful evangelism event for kids in Little Havana.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration

Miami Central Spanish Church is located in Miami, Fla., in the heart of a community known as Little Havana. More than 600 people attended a Hispanic Heritage Celebration on a recent Sunday with more than 400 people attending from the community itself.

This is a very diverse church population made up of more than 24 nationalities. The church members used their different backgrounds to celebrate diversity and unity in Christ, while holding an event to include the surrounding community.

Vacation Bible School

Each year the Miami Central Spanish Church family prepares to share the Gospel of Jesus in a beautiful and peculiar way through a whole week of evangelism for children of the Little Havana community.

More than 100 families were impacted by the recent 2018 Vacation Bible School program. Every evening the average attendance would reach 170 children from the community, in addition to 350 adults composed of volunteers and parents of the children. The entire church got involved by using whatever talents they

had, and donated their time, water, and food each evening.

“The most amazing kid’s program,” said one visitor when reviewing the church online. “The Vacation Bible School is second to none. It’s better than anything else I’ve seen around. They really go all out here. You will be impressed with the building, the programs, and the people. Genuine efforts are being made here.”

Two families are now coming to the church as a result of the 2018 program. ●

BY ROLANDO MORGADO

Loganville Members Mingle for Christ

The Loganville, Ga., Church members wanted to get more members involved in the easiest witnessing opportunity there is. “Christ’s method alone will bring success”: they started mingling!

They decided to involve members in interesting seminars where they could bring neighbors, friends, and family who aren’t church members. They used no “hooks.” They did not ask visitors for names, phone numbers, or addresses. They only used “bait,” free literature available in the lobby.

They wanted people to feel free to return for future seminars and realize that Adventists are welcoming people concerned about their lives.

The church members first surveyed the interest of their fellow members with a comprehensive list of presentation possibilities from all known acquaintances. This assures that members will come to their personal interest, and hopefully invite others.

After the interests were obtained, a seminar schedule and suggested presenters were shared with the church board for date and content approval. Once approved, contacts were made and time slots were filled. Fortunately, the Atlanta area has many qualified



SUBMITTED BY: DENNIS MILLBURN

The Loganville, Ga., Church decided they wanted to make a difference in their community. They surveyed their members for input, and turned their fellowship hall into a community center, offering seminars free to their community on a variety of topics.

professional presenters, some church members and some not.

A banner was created and installed above the fellowship hall, temporarily renaming it the “Community Center, Free How-to Seminars.”

The seminars are scheduled on Sundays from 2 to 4 p.m., to allow Sunday church members to attend. A cookie and juice break between each one hour seminar also enables mingling. There was also a music concert as

a kickoff. The monthly seminars included the following:

- Personal Finance
- Golfing Basics
- Exercising for Life
- Family History 101
- Waldensian Valley Travelogue
- Sketching
- Fire and Personal Safety
- Identity Theft and Safeguarding Online Use
- Holy Land Travelogue
- Gardening
- Reversing Diabetes with Diet
- Free Plant-based Meal

Two to four weeks prior to each seminar, colorful handouts were placed in the bulletin with extras in the lobby for members to distribute.

Overall, each seminar had at least one visitor. Medical and health seminars were popular. Presentations were excellent, and people were glad they came. It may take a few years for all to understand Christ’s method as the best way to reach others, so the members will keep mingling. ①

BY DENNIS MILLBURN

Colburns Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage



SUBMITTED BY: PHIL COLBURN

Philip and Beverly Colburn

In the fall of 1965 at Andrews University, Philip Colburn and Beverly Wernick met. Phil was a theology major and Bev was taking pre-nursing. The couple were married on September 1, 1968, at the Fort Wayne, Ind., Adventist Church. Phil earned his master of divinity degree at Andrews University Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Mich., and Bev worked in surgery at St. Joseph’s Memorial Hospital. They were sponsored by the Illinois Conference, and their first churches were Aurora and Sheridan. Their 42-plus years in pastoral ministry were spent in 16 churches and three conferences (Illinois, Michigan,

and Georgia-Cumberland). They have three sons: Doug, and his wife, Anika, and their sons, McMillen and McKinnon; Dave, and his wife, Marlene, and their three children, Elliott, Enoch, and Elizabeth; and Mike, and his wife, Jeni, and their twin girls, Juliana and Olivia.

Their children put on a recommitment wedding ceremony, followed by a reception on September 2, 2018, at their home church, Meister Memorial Church, Deer Lodge, Tenn. Phil and Bev continue to serve the Lord in ministry. ①

BY PHIL COLBURN

Savannah First Members Appreciate Voters

The Savannah First Church in Pooler, Ga., made good use of a witnessing opportunity during the recent election day. The church has served as a polling location for a number of years, but the number of voters on November 6, 2018, far exceeded the number in previous years. The line of voters ranged from 300 to 700 feet all day. At times, the line wound around the aisles of the sanctuary in an effort to get everyone inside ahead of rain.

All of these voting individuals lived within range of the church's new low power radio station, WYAW, FM 93.5, so it seemed an ideal time to do some marketing for the station and distribute business card size "invitation-to-listen" announcements inviting people to tune in and enjoy the station. Nearly 1,000 cards were given out.

The pastor's wife, Vonnie Womack, and Carroll and Ruth Baker also distributed bottled water and individual bags of gummie fruit snacks to the hot and hungry voters. Several voters showed their appreciation for the church members' efforts by



SUBMITTED BY: RUTH BAKER

When Savannah First Church members noticed that large numbers of voters were coming to their polling location, they got creative and reached out.

returning with cases of bottled water for distribution later in the day. Voters often came directly from work in the late afternoon, and were in line more than three hours. They were offered small wedges of pizza as they exited.

The voting officials noted with amazement that despite the long wait, the crowd

remained on their best behavior. The church members knew why. They had been praying all day that the voters in their precinct would be blessed from having been in the Savannah First Church. ☛

BY RUTH BAKER

Bowman Hills Pathfinders Collect Cans for Needy

The Pathfinder Club at Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, Tenn., spent their Halloween eve collecting food for those in need. Every year, the Bowman Pathfinders go door to door passing out bags for individuals to fill with canned and dried foods for donation. This year, the day to collect the bags fell on Halloween. Instead of going door to door collecting candy, the children and teens put on their Pathfinder uniforms in lieu of a costume, and went trick-or-treating for a greater purpose.



PHOTO BY: RACHEL BEAVER

The Bowman Hills Pathfinder Club in Cleveland, Tenn., collected cans in lieu of candy this past Halloween.

"It gives the kids a chance to give back," said Pathfinder club director Steve Cooley. "We've had a lot of positive feedback from the community about what the kids are do-

ing. I think that's what being a Pathfinder is all about."

Publix, Food Lion, Food City, and Cookes all donated the brown paper bags that the Pathfinders used to collect the food. This year, they collected 155 bags full of food and received \$120 dollars in donations. The items collected are given to the church's Manous Center, which puts together baskets for families in need. ☛

BY RACHEL BEAVER

Roberto Solórzano Ordained in Birmingham



Gerson Sanchez (left), Gulf States Hispanic coordinator; Martin Fancher, Gulf States executive secretary; Roberto Solórzano, pastor; Silvana Solórzano; and Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States, participate in the ordination service.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Ordained elders lay hands on Solórzano while Livermore (standing) prays and Ruwie Vazquez-Juarez (right) translates into Spanish.

Roberto Solórzano was ordained to the Gospel ministry on Sabbath, November 10, 2018, at the Birmingham, Ala., First Church.

Born in the city of Guatemala on July 27, 1955. Solórzano was raised in a low-income Adventist home, but one that was full of love from his parents, the late Roberto and Cony Solórzano, and his sisters, Ana Belinda and Rita Regina and a younger sister who passed at the age of 23.

Solórzano studied at El Progreso Adventist School, where his passion for the Gospel was born, an example that his mother gave him. He graduated as a physician and surgeon at the University of San Carlos De Guatemala in 1980.

In 1979 he married the love of his life, Silvana. Together they accepted the call to serve as missionaries at the Adventist Hospital in Honduras, where they were trained as servants of Jesus. While helping in

Honduras, the Lord gave them two beautiful children, Miriam and Roberto. They, too, grew up in a home where serving God was the main task. Today they are adults and have given their parents four beautiful grandchildren, Nicolás, Santiago, Mateo, and Matías. The two Solórzano children also live their lives in the admonition of the Lord, desiring that their children see Jesus return in the clouds of Heaven.

God brought the Solórzanos to the United States at the beginning of 2011, and it was here that God called Solórzano to the most important ministry of his life. No more medical prescriptions, no more clinical work, now God would put him where He had planned before Solórzano was born, where step by step He prepared and led him to be ready to preach the Gospel with passion and joy in a full-time pastoral position. It was God's time for Solórzano to share the Good News of the Gospel, and now to see

how the power of the Holy Spirit heals sick hearts that lack faith and hope.

His ministry started in the English-speaking church at Olive Branch, Miss., with a Hispanic group of 15 members. The blessing of God became evident, and God brought many souls to the feet of Jesus. A year later, he was called to work in the district of New Albany, Miss., where the Lord's hand was manifested again. Solórzano currently serves in the Hispanic district of Birmingham, Ala., where the Lord leads him in such a way that his walk is full of teaching and experiences that keep him at the feet of Jesus.

Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States; Martin Fancher, executive secretary of Gulf States; and Gerson Sanchez, Hispanic coordinator of Gulf States, presided at the event. 📍

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

More Than 1,000 Attend Hispanic Camp Meeting



PHOTO BY: SAMUEL GONZALEZ

Attendees who originated from Mexico take pride in their heritage during the evening program.

More than 1,200 people from around the Gulf States Conference met in Meridian, Miss., October 26-28, for the 2018 Hispanic Camp Meeting. This year's theme was "Encuentro de Naciones" or "Meeting of Nations." Hispanic churches in America are incredibly diverse, and this powerful event brought everyone together.

Throughout the weekend, event hosts would engage the crowds to make noise when their country of origin was called out.

Living in the United States where speaking English is a second language to many, trying to assimilate to a different culture can be difficult. Momentarily clapping or letting out a shout for your country and for what is familiar to you and those around you, can be comforting. This immediately revealed the range of people and their countries of origin. Although diverse, there was also a feeling of unity as so many people from many countries were all brought to the same place by one God. While the weather proved to be chilly, and the majority of the campers stayed in tents

overnight, their spirits were high as they participated in various activities throughout the weekend.

The main presenters included Gulf States administrators, accompanied by a live translation into Spanish. Each session also featured a special visiting musician or musical group. The lineup included a male vocal quartet, two quartets of acoustic guitarists, a quartet on a marimba, and bilingual vocalist Hugo Yin. On Sabbath afternoon, each group participated in a concert, taking turns every few songs. In its entirety, the show displayed a wide variety of Hispanic musical culture.

Sabbath evening concluded with each attendee grouping up with their fellow countrymen, many dressed in the traditional clothes of their respective cultures. Each country was then called to the stage, accompanied by their national anthem or another appropriate song, and briefly interviewed on stage. They were asked questions about what made their countries unique and some of their favorite parts of it. In total, more than 13 countries were represented. ●



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Hugo Yin, concert musician, performs on Sabbath afternoon.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Gerson Sanchez (left), Gulf States Hispanic coordinator, and Libni, Obed, and Karol Sanchez pose in their traditional outfits from Nicaragua.

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Young Women EmPOWered by CHRIST

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference hosted their 2018 Young Women's Retreat at Paradise Ranch in Springfield, Tenn. Forty young women from 14 to 18 attended, including students from Highland Academy (HA), Madison Academy (MA), Tullahoma Christian School, and Woodbury School, and homeschoolers. The theme was "EmPOWered by Christ!" with a goal to mentor the young women, and enable them to become everyday heroes in their homes, schools, and communities.



Praise and Worship

The praise team, composed of HA student Jenna Crittenden, and homeschool family Mackenzie Arant, Brooklyn Arant, and Lauren Arant, led songs of worship and praise. The worship team reminded everyone that God is big enough to solve any problem.

Sharolyn Synder, Paradise Ranch owner, told an inspiring story of using her super powers to train wounded and rescued horses as equine therapists for people with special needs and spinal cord injuries in the Nashville, Tenn., area. Chelsea English, pastor at Madison Campus Church, talked with the girls about how precious they are in God's sight, and how much they can accomplish if they put their trust in His strength and power. Her dog, Zoe, served as an illustration of how trusting God and letting Him lead can help you do more than you thought possible.

EmPOWERment Sessions

"Ride Like a Hero" leaders were Rod and Lisa Schwindt and family. The girls lived the thrill of the chase and the exhilaration of jeeping through the woods. They learned there is no obstacle they can't overcome with Christ at the wheel of their lives.

"Rescue Relay" was led by Michelle Arant and Chelsea English. The girls were shown how to work together as a team. They took turns leading and following through simulated disaster situations, such as leading a group through a crumbled building, or through a field of debris without the benefit of eyesight or hearing, or passing water along a bucket brigade without the use of their hands. Each team showed remarkable patience, ingenuity, and grace as they worked together.

"God's Emergency Response Team" was led by Sarah Hillebert, HA girls' dean. The girls learned basic first aid and lifesaving skills. Hillebert showed the girls how to apply emergency response principles to their spiritual life. They were empowered to be prayer warriors for their friends in spiritual as well as physical distress.

"Defender's Alley" leaders were Jenna Crittenden and Mackenzie Arant. The girls were taught how to defend themselves and others from dangerous situations. They were also taught to have a basic awareness of their surroundings, and to make smart choices to keep themselves safe at all times. They were shown basic self-defense moves to protect themselves and others from physical attacks. They were then reminded that prayer and Bible study are the greatest weapons from spiritual attack.

"Warriors Recharging" was led by Chelsea Moore, Windi McKenzie, and Menié Bell. After a grueling day of learning to serve and protect, the girls were shown healthy techniques in natural beauty, and how to serve each other in chair massage techniques. Warriors and heroes need down time in their busy-ness to listen to God's calling, and "be still and know God." ❏

BY CRISTA CRITTENDEN

Hohenwald Church Has Unique Seed-Sowing Ministry

The Hohenwald, Tenn., Church, with a membership of 52, has a unique ministry. The ministry began in 2006 after Dick and Jeanette Spencer began working at Buffalo Valley, Inc., an alcohol and drug rehabilitation facility in Hohenwald. Dick

Spencer picks up clients from all over Tennessee, and takes them back following their treatment. During the drive to the facility, he establishes a rapport with the passenger and invites him to church the following Sabbath. Jeanette Spencer, operations assistant,

posts invitations in the buildings and gives personal invitations. Each Sabbath, with the permission of the Buffalo Valley administration, the men who wish to attend church are picked up and returned after a potluck meal.

Scott Baker and Keith and Angela

Archibald lead a special Sabbath School class developed for the men attending from Buffalo Valley. They intersperse their testimonies and wisdom on how to overcome harmful habits and live better lives.

Buffalo Valley visitor attendance varies, with an average of 11. Each person is given a bag containing an Adventist magazine and select Ellen G. White books. One attendee asked where he could get more literature. He read *Steps to Christ* many times and was so impressed he wanted more.

During the sharing and prayer request period, many of the men participate, asking for prayer to help them overcome their addictions, for relatives, and thanks for their experience during church visits. One man commented, "This is my first time ever attending church." Another said, "I want to



Jeanette and Dick Spencer

learn more about Seventh-day Adventists. I feel that God is pulling me in this direction."

The women of the church have incorporated a weekly Sabbath potluck as part of the outreach. Afterwards, many of the men from Buffalo Valley comment on the good food.

This is the unique seed-sowing ministry for Hohenwald Church — outreach to the Buffalo Valley men, with spiritual food for the soul, healthful food for the body, and friendly church fellowship. The men are encouraged to look up an Adventist church when they return home. Hopefully, they will follow through so that local church can nurture the "seedlings," eventually reaping and enjoying the fruits of Hohenwald's seed-sowing. 🌱

BY JEANETTE SPENCER

Pulaski, Hohenwald Church Members Enjoy Special Nursing Home Visit

Members of the Hohenwald, Tenn., Church arrived at the Pulaski, Tenn., Church for Sabbath services on August 25, 2018. The seven visitors received big smiles from the members of the Pulaski Church, who were delighted when they discovered that among the Hohenwald visitors came a pianist. The Pulaski pianist was unable to attend that morning. After the 11 o'clock worship service, the visitors enjoyed conversation and the warmth of new friends around a potluck lunch. Following the meal, about 20 members from both congregations traveled to the local nursing home.

The Pulaski Church schedules a monthly worship service at the nursing home, and invites residents to a room where there is a piano. The residents of the nursing home are especially delighted by the song service that is usually lively and animated. That afternoon one of the residents, thrilled by a hymn, asked that the group sing it again. After a sermonette by one of the elders and



a few more songs, the visit came to an end.

The smiles and expressions of thankfulness from the residents brought joy to those who participated in the worship service. Some residents in the nursing home get few visits and seldom leave their rooms, so the worship service gave them a feeling of contentment. It was a good Sabbath, and the visit to the nursing home added a special sense of fulfillment and satisfaction for

the visitors that can only surface when one gives of oneself in the service of others.

The Pulaski Church, a very small congregation, often feels that they are the only Adventist in the state. They were glad to have visitors join in making some older people of the Pulaski community happy. 🌱

BY CIRO SEPULVEDA

“Fit For the Fight” is Winter Youth Federation Theme

The 2018 winter Youth Federation for South Alabama/North Florida was an amazing experience for many youth, including youth from Bethany Church in Montgomery, Ala. Being able to represent Bethany Church in such a great number made them feel like they were a part of something very special. They all agreed on certain nuances that made the Federation effective in its ministry.

The weekend kicked off with a talent show titled “Adventists Got Talent.” A variety of talent was displayed, including original poetry readings, a presentation of native songs and instruments, praise dancing, an excerpt reading from a literary work penned by Sean Williams and Elijah Wilson, and much more. After displaying God’s talents, the youth were presented with a game of “Bible Baseball” (Jordan Street church, also in attendance) and a skit titled “Do We Really Need to Go to Church?” (Bethany) for Sabbath School. The skit’s message, that the church is a community of believers who confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, was taken from Hebrews 10:25. The skit was well received by everyone.

The music ministry of Young and Unafraid (Bethany) and UVOP (Jordan Street) prepared the attendees for the worship service through song. Cody Miller, pastor of Temple Gate Church, truly connected with the audience of youth with his relatable, humorous message titled “Hunger.” He made the sermon personable for everyone. “He really helped me realize that we need to put God first and be purified,” said Madison Purifoy. Miller reiterated that all are humans of error, but should never “trade the rare for the common.” As a young pastor, he afforded the opportunity to interact with him, not just as the speaker, but also as a real person. He took time to answer questions individually, and was genuinely interested in the stories and helping many to succeed.

After lunch many gathered for the service



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Winter Youth Federation attendees



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Youth Federation speaker Alexander ‘Cody’ Miller, pastor of Bethany Church in Selma, Ala.



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Youth collect non-perishable items to help Hurricane Michael victims in Panama City, Fla.

project, “Make a Difference — Donate.” The mission was to collect non-perishable items to be delivered to the Panama City Church for members who were victims of Hurricane Michael. Keldrick Purifoy said,

“The community service was fun. It was a great way to help others.”

At the completion of the service project, the group capped off the night at Pensacola, Fla., Beach. They enjoyed walking along the beach, playing in the sand, wading in the water, and taking pictures to capture the excitement of being on the beach. Many friends enjoyed hanging out together on the beach. They ended the night with a song service, and prayer by Yvens Melidor, pastor and South Alabama/Northwest Florida Youth Federation president.

Being a part of this Federation is, for the youth, like being a part of an incredible community of people who are in church sharing the same joys and frustrations. This community stands by each other’s side no matter the cause. The Federation committee members were visibly available and mingled with everyone. They were a part of all the festivities, every step of the way. Overall, Youth Federation was a great blessing to everyone. Prayerfully, attendance will increase, and more lives will be touched. 🙏

BY SEAN WILLIAMS

“TRANSFORMED!” is Latino Camp Meeting Theme



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

South Central Latino Camp Meeting attendees

The 2018 Latino Camp Meeting of South Central Conference was a special event where the Latino constituents gathered to fellowship and worship together. During Memorial Day weekend, May 2018, many Latino families headed to Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., to celebrate Camp Meeting under the theme “TRANSFORMED!”

The main speaker was Hermes Taveras Bueno, pastor from Greater New York Conference. Bueno is known as one of the biblical scholars of modern times in the Seventh-day Adventist Hispanic world. Bueno had the attendees delve deeply into the Bible through his powerful preaching.

More than 1,200 people attended and were engaged in all the activities planned. This year a children’s church was planned where children ages 4 to 12 worshipped with age-appropriate worship style. In addition, Sonia Paul, women’s ministries director for South Central Conference, presented a seminar for the women.



Benjamin Jones Jr., president of South Central Conference, addresses the Latino Camp Meeting attendees.

Felipe Andino, pastor, delighted all with his music ministry, and presented seminars on family life. The youth and young adults were not forgotten; a forum

was planned where Andino provided key strategies for them to navigate living in their world. The encampment was serenaded by Wonder Bello’s music ministry.

Every year baptism is a high point of Latino Camp Meetings. Three were baptized, including Adrián Melo, son of the multicultural ministries director and pastor, Dorian Melo.

Benjamin Jones Jr., president of South Central, encouraged South Central Latinos to move forward in preaching and sharing the Gospel. He also restated his unwavering support and commitment to empowering each member in accomplishing the goal.

The Latino community of South Central will continue to celebrate this great festival every year. It is their hope and goal that God will allow them the opportunity to see the attendance grow to more than 1,500. ●

BY DORIAN MELO, MULTICULTURAL
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

South Central Staff Wear Pink for Breast Cancer Awareness



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

South Central office staff wear pink in recognition of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

South Central Conference office staff celebrated co-workers, family, and friends who survived the devastating breast cancer disease. For the month of October, the morning worships spoke to overcoming sickness and setbacks, and experiencing the healing power of God. Information was shared to educate about preventative measures and practices to help identify symptoms and points that one can talk about with their doctors when concern of cancer is present.

Early detection is known to increase survivability. Each staff member also wore a pink lapel pin and pink T-shirts in support of Breast Cancer Awareness month.

To culminate the month-long educational and celebration efforts, the office provided a delicious meal and presented each attendee with a Breast Cancer Awareness medallion. During the meal, a moment of silence was observed in honor



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Benjamin Jones Jr., president of South Central, stands with Laurene Brown, administrative assistant and breast cancer survivor.



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

South Central staff walk for Breast Cancer Awareness.

of family and friends who had lost their fight with breast cancer. A gift of gratitude was presented to Laurene Brown, survivor and administrative assistant to Benjamin Jones Jr., Conference president. Brown shared her appreciation for the honor, and thanked God and her co-workers for the

support given during her fight. The office staff culminated the month-long celebration with a symbolic walk-a-thon. Every worker walked around the office complex in honor of all survivors. ●

BY ROGER R. WADE

Southern Partners With Police to Break Down Barriers

Southern Adventist University's School of Social Work conducted its first poverty simulation this past October in partnership with the Chattanooga Police Department. In total, 75 students, alumni, community partners, and police academy cadets participated in the exercise, which demonstrated what it would be like to live in poverty for a month.



Cadets work together in a simulated family, trying to survive in poverty.

Held at Chattanooga's Family Justice Center, the three-hour exercise consisted of tables managed by Southern students representing different entities of a community, including a bank, social services offices, schools, stores, and law enforcement. In the center of the room, cadets, students, and community members each received a scenario card and an assumed identity; their goal was to survive while facing social challenges, such as being denied funding by the bank or threats of eviction from their home.

"This simulation made me realize that there are so many people who are just trying to get by, and our communities take advantage of people living in poverty," said Denise Angel, senior social work major. "As

a social work student, it helped me see all the outside factors that impoverished people experience, and gave me resources to use so I can help them in my future career."

Having spent more than three years researching law enforcement in Chattanooga, Kristie Wilder, J.D., dean of the School of Social Work and facilitator of the simulation, saw this as an ideal way to provide soft skills training to cadets.

"Our research has informed us that members of law enforcement want more trainings on soft skills," she said. "Our goal is to respond to this data by providing a training program that is interdisciplinary, and that positions everyone as teachers and learners. The poverty simulation is just one tool that will aid law enforcement and social workers with their

interactions with people of poverty and color in a way that dignifies victims and offenders without compromising community safety."

Caroline Huffaker, victim services coordinator for the Chattanooga Police Department, emphasized the importance of exposing cadets in the police academy to diversification, and helping them become well-rounded police officers.

"This is our first cadet class that has gone through a poverty simulation, and we have received great feedback," Huffaker said. "Moving forward, we will continue to partner with Southern to conduct simulations that will help our cadets." ❶

BY OKSANA WETMORE

Church Community Helps Send Student Missionary Care Packages

Every Christmas Southern's Student Missions team sends gift boxes to student missionaries who are serving internationally and are unable to be home for the holidays. This year members of the Collegedale, Tenn., Church joined in the fun.

Each care package is tailored specially for an individual missionary, with gifts and notes from friends as well as snacks, clothes, and toiletries. Those teaching overseas also receive decorations and teaching materials from the School of Education and Psychology.

"The fact that there were people on this

campus who cared about me enough to ensure I received a little token of appreciation was amazing," said Jared Powrie, senior computer science major, who served as a student missionary in Indonesia in 2015. "The notes that were included in the package were especially meaningful, and I still have them to this day."

This semester 70 student missionaries are serving in approximately 20 countries around the world, including Peru, India, Poland, and the Marshall Islands. After the Student Missions team packed and labeled all 70 boxes, they brought them to the

Collegedale Church on Sabbath morning, where willing individuals could pick up a box to ship to the intended recipient.

"We were overwhelmed by the response," said Samantha Yoon, senior nursing major who works in Student Missions. "By the time the second church service began, half of the packages had already been claimed."

"We had more people willing to participate than we had packages," said Christian Bunch, Student Missions director. "We'll definitely be doing this again!" ❶

BY RACHEL BEAVER

Una Tarea Noble



Uno de los bautismos en Florida



Grupo de candidatos que se bautizaron en el campestre hispano de la asociación Georgia Cumberland



Uno de los bautismos en la asociación South Central

José Martínez había sido arrestado debido a su estatus migratorio en este país. Cuando su esposa Esther se enteró, suplicó a sus amigos que oraran por su libertad. Sabía que esto era algo imposible y solo se podía esperar un milagro. En su niñez Esther había asistido a la iglesia adventista con su abuela e incluso se había bautizado. Luego, al venir a los Estados Unidos, la adaptación al nuevo país y todos los problemas que normalmente aparecen en esta situación la habían alejado de Dios. Mientras José esperaba en prisión la decisión sobre su caso, conoció a un adventista arrestado por la misma razón. Hasta ese momento este hombre se había desempeñado como anciano de su iglesia. El nuevo amigo comenzó a orar por José. Le pedía a Dios que le devolviera la libertad para poder reunirse con Esther y su hijita de dos años. Luego de algunas semanas le ofreció estudios bíblicos. José no mostró mucho interés pero aceptó y poco a poco comenzó a interesarse. La pasión que este hombre mostraba por compartir el amor de Dios impresionó su alma atormentada.

Dos meses más tarde este amigo fue deportado. Antes de partir le dejó su Biblia y el juego de lecciones que habían estado estudiando juntos. Así se despidieron.

Las semanas continuaron corriendo y luego de un tiempo, el oficial a cargo

repentinamente le dijo a José que saldría al día siguiente. En su pobre inglés él entendió que saldría de prisión pero no estaba seguro si es que esto significaba que podría quedarse en este país o debía regresar al suyo. Tenía miedo de preguntar. Esa noche oró con mucho fervor. No importaba lo que sucediera, su petición era que su esposa e hijita estuvieran bien. Con la seguridad de la protección de Dios juntó sus pertenencias y la Biblia que había recibido. En la mañana fue llevado a la puerta de entrada y alguien le dijo las palabras mágicas: eres LIBRE. Esa palabra era muy clara para él, y el hecho de que lo sucedido era un milagro era aún más claro. Cuando finalmente se reunió con su familia, Esther y José decidieron seguir a Dios.

Mientras estaba en prisión, uno de sus vecinos había cuidado de Esther y su hija. Este hombre era el anciano de la iglesia Breath of Life church en Memphis, Tennessee. Ellos acordaron seguir estudiando la Biblia con él y el día 20 de octubre, este hombre tuvo el gozo de bautizarlos.

Este fue uno de los muchos testimonios del trabajo de los ancianos de iglesia. Uno de ellos tenía el deseo de compartir el amor de Dios en su corazón, aún estando en prisión. El otro, se ocupó de las necesidades de una madre y su hijita, y luego presentó el mensaje a través de la Biblia. El resultado, la

salvación de una familia.

Cuando el apóstol Pablo instruyó a Timoteo en el tema de los ancianos de iglesia y los diáconos, no se enfocó en las tareas que debían cumplir. En lugar de esto, resaltó las cualidades de carácter que debían buscarse en la elección de estos líderes (1 Timoteo 3). Él estableció claramente que quien aspire a esta posición debe saber que esta es una tarea noble, y la misma debía ser ocupada por alguien digno de confianza. Además de describir al anciano como modelo a seguir en lo que se refiere a familia y sociedad, dice que debiera ser apto para enseñar y digno de respeto. En el contexto de los escritos de Pablo, una persona digna de confianza y respeto es aquella cuya vida está escondida en Dios y por lo tanto, sus obras son las obras del Maestro. La pasión de Jesús en esta tierra fue testificar acerca de su Padre a través de su vida y sus enseñanzas. Esta entonces debiera ser la tarea más importante y la pasión de quienes se encuentran frente a las iglesias.

El departamento hispano de la Unión del Sur y los departamentos afines de las asociaciones que la comprenden, han estado abocados a la tarea de grabar este concepto en las iglesias. A través de retiros y seminarios preparados especialmente para ellos, se ha difundido una cultura de servicio y preparación espiritual. La idea es que no se perciba la tarea del anciano meramente

como quien está a cargo de la organización de los servicios sabáticos, los anuncios y eventualmente la visita a los enfermos. Quien ocupa esta posición tan noble debe tener un profundo deseo de traer almas a los pies de Cristo y ser una motivación para la congregación en este aspecto.

Con esta visión en mente, los departamentos hispanos de varias asociaciones de la Unión del Sur hablaron con los administradores locales para presentarles un plan que contó con su aprobación. El sábado 20 de octubre fue designado como

día de bautismo de aquellas personas que vinieron a Cristo como resultado del trabajo dedicado de los ancianos, y ellos tuvieron el privilegio de oficiar la ceremonia. Se llevaron a cabo bautismos en varias localidades. Fue un día de gozo e inspiración. Los testimonios presentados en cada uno de los eventos trajeron lágrimas de emoción a muchos de los asistentes y permitieron que todos fueran testigos del gozo que estos ancianos experimentaron al ver el trabajo del Espíritu Santo en ellos, y en las personas para quienes trabajaron.

El sábado 20 de octubre hubo alrededor de

130 bautismos llevados a cabo por ancianos de iglesia en el territorio de la Unión del Sur. El acto final de poder participar activamente en la ceremonia en la que aquellas personas por las que trabajaron con dedicación sellan su pacto con Dios los ha motivado a continuar este trabajo de amor. Todos ellos desean traer más almas a Jesús en el 2019. Si continúan dejándose guiar por el Espíritu, muchas personas vendrán a los pies del Salvador. 📌

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA

Generación Poderosa

El sábado 18 de agosto las iglesias Fayetteville, Saint Pauls, Raeford, Bladenboro, Lumberton y Red Springs lideradas por el pastor Elías Sandoval, se dieron cita en la iglesia Saint Pauls para celebrar el primer congreso de jóvenes del distrito titulado “Generación Poderosa.” El pastor Nimrod Acosta fue el orador del fin de semana y enfatizó aspectos de suma importancia para la activa juventud actual. Entre ellos, el hecho de estar dispuestos a testificar acerca de Jesús y orar por poder para estar dispuestos a transformar este mundo por medio de su testimonio. Esto, unido a una relación con Jesús los convierte en una



Candidatos del bautismo de septiembre
generación poderosa.

El comité de jóvenes, apoyado por los líderes de cada iglesia, fue responsable de la programación que abarcó desde la escuela sabática hasta el culto de la puesta de sol del sábado. Prepararon cada parte del programa minuciosamente y se aseguraron de que los mensajes

cumplan el propósito para el cual serían presentados. El evento resultó de alta motivación espiritual y promovió la camaradería entre los asistentes. Por esta razón el comité ejecutivo y logístico se encuentra ya preparando con entusiasmo el segundo congreso que llevará como título “¿Una Vida Con Propósito?.” Se abordarán temas como el joven y su relación con Jesús, el joven y el estudio de la Biblia, etc. La iglesia de Bladenboro será la anfitriona de este evento. 📌

ELÍAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Frutos de la Mochila Misionera

El sábado 1 de septiembre la iglesia de Fayetteville en Carolina del Norte, tuvo una gozosa celebración sabática que estuvo adornada con la visita de muchos amigos que se unieron al evento. El motivo fue presentar los frutos cosechados como resultado del programa “La Mochila Misionera”.

La directora misionera de la iglesia Marilyn Nater y su colaboradora Elba Fuster trabajaron arduamente y estudiaron esa semana con los familiares de Marcelino Gordian, miembro de la iglesia, con el

propósito de invitarlos a entregar sus vidas a Jesús. Siete de ellos respondieron a la invitación y se unieron a la familia de Dios. La iglesia estuvo gozosa al presenciar el bautismo de estos nuevos hermanos en la fe.

Nater y Fuster continuaron promoviendo y trabajando en el programa “La Mochila Misionera” y juntamente con el apoyo de laicos comprometidos prepararon nuevas almas para el bautismo. Con ansias se esperó recoger los frutos de este trabajo durante la campaña evangélica que tuvo lugar en el mes de diciembre, donde el Espíritu de Dios se



Vista parcial de la asistencia al congreso de jóvenes

manifestó bendiciendo la obra y añadiendo nuevas almas para el Reino Eterno. 📌

ELÍAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Caravana 2018

Durante el mes de octubre 6 laicos de la iglesia de Westchester emprendieron una Caravana Evangelística que para gloria y honra de Dios culminó con bautismos.

La Caravana se llevó a cabo con la participación de 30 alumnos que han estado activamente practicando lo aprendido en las clases sobre discipulado auténtico y el libro de Romanos, ofrecidas por el Instituto Laico FIEL. Estos laicos planificaron, coordinaron y dirigieron la caravana ya sea como oradores, trabajando en la recepción, el sonido, repartiendo regalos o anunciando las partes del programa. Cada uno cumplió su función con esmero e invirtiendo amor en su tarea.

Al igual que el año pasado, la Unión del Sur



Candidatos de bautismo de la iglesia de Westchester

y la Asociación de la Florida patrocinaron el Día de Bautismos por los Ancianos de Iglesia. En el 2017 Rogelio Llaurado, anciano de la iglesia de Westchester bautizó

cinco personas a quienes tuvo el privilegio de presentarles el evangelio de salvación. Este año, nuevamente tuvo el gozo de preparar y bautizar otras cuatro.

Los laicos que participaron en este evento ya están planificando hacerlo nuevamente en la Caravana 2019. Han adquirido una rica experiencia al trabajar en equipo para hacer posible la entrega de almas preciosas al amante Señor Jesucristo. La directiva del departamento hispano felicita a estos laicos y agradece a Dios por plantar amor en sus corazones. 🙏

ORLANDO LÓPEZ PADRE, PASTOR DE LA IGLESIA DE WESTCHESTER Y LUZ BEDOYA, ASISTENTE ADMINISTRATIVA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Semana de Evangelismo en el Distrito de Knoxville

Jorge Alberto Miramontes creció en un ambiente de pandillas en el estado de California. Su hermano mayor fue asesinado por personas de este medio. Jorge llevaba una vida esclava de vicios, resentimiento y rencor. José Velázquez, miembro de una de las iglesias del distrito de Knoxville, Tennessee, se preocupó por él y le brindó amistad. Por medio de su simpatía y ayuda desinteresadas, poco a poco fue enseñándole acerca del perdón y el amor de Cristo. Jesús dijo que si lo ponemos en alto, es decir, si mostramos su carácter por medio de nuestra vida y palabras, Él atraerá a todos a Sí.

Y así fue. José no se resistió al amor del Maestro. A la culminación de la semana de evangelismo “Hay Esperanza en Jesús” presentada por los pastores Edwin Prada, de Colombia, y Richard Urdaneta, pastor del distrito de Knoxville,



Algunos de los que se unieron a la iglesia en Knoxville

Tennessee, se presentó lleno de gozo por la liberación que experimentó en Cristo, con una apariencia que condecía con la paz que siente, y se unió a la iglesia por medio del bautismo junto a otras

6 personas y a 10 que lo hicieron por profesión de fe. 🙏

RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Ayuda en ÈPOCA de Crisis

La Escuela Práctica de Obreros Cristianos Adventistas (EPOCA) y el Instituto Hispano de Preparación Laica de la universidad Andrews (SAL) dieron inicio al curso de certificación de capellanes auxiliares en Nashville Tennessee el pasado 28 de octubre. Más de 100 estudiantes de ambos sexos, representando los seis distritos de los estados de Kentucky y Tennessee se hicieron presentes a tempranas horas de la mañana para recibir el primer curso titulado “Introducción a la Capellanía” por el capellán y doctor Julio Juárez. Los participantes recibirán 9 cursos en este programa que abarca más de 100 horas de capacitación teórica y práctica. Como requisito de graduación tendrán que demostrar que saben aplicar los conocimientos básicos para ayudar en momentos de crisis y en diferentes contextos como cárceles, hospitales, hospicios, departamentos policiales e iglesia. Allí la presencia de un capellán puede marcar una diferencia.

El director, pastor Elim López comentó: “hoy vivimos en crisis constantemente y debemos prepararnos para ayudarnos a nosotros mismos y en especial a las personas de nuestra comunidad.”

El programa tendrá una duración de 7 meses, y se planea llevar a cabo la



Vista parcial de la asistencia a los cursos de entrenamiento

ceremonia de graduación durante el campamento del departamento hispano que se llevará a cabo en el mes de junio del 2019. Los instructores imparten las clases en tres sedes que se han elegido para facilitar a los estudiantes su asistencia y reducir sus gastos de viaje.

Por medio de este entrenamiento el departamento hispano pretende capacitar

a su personal voluntario y así ampliar su círculo de influencia y servicio. Sin lugar a dudas, un ejército de obreros comprometidos iniciará una nueva ÈPOCA en la forma de trabajo misionero de la asociación. 📍

ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Retiro de Parejas

Un buen número de parejas hispanas de la asociación fueron bendecidas por medio de los mensajes presentados por el pastor Roger Hernández y su esposa Kathy en el retiro de parejas hispanas de la asociación. Los esposos Hernández desafiaron a los asistentes a NO RENDIRSE (Never Give Up), presentando el amor como principio y no emoción, en el contexto de una relación estrecha de la pareja con Dios.

El evento fue organizado por el pastor Nathan Delima y su esposa Sofy y fue la despedida de los mismos, ya que han aceptado un llamado para ir a trabajar en



Parejas asistentes al retiro

una iglesia en Texas.

Gracias a Dios por los momentos vividos y las enseñanzas impartidas. 📍

ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Retiro de Hombres

Del 19 al 21 de octubre del año en curso se llevó a cabo el tercer congreso de hombres esta vez titulado “Hombres de Valor.” En esta oportunidad se contó con los servicios del pastor Carlos Craig actualmente presidente de la Asociación de Texas y la doctora en psiquiatría Mercedes Perales.

El evento tuvo una asistencia de 130 personas, miembros de los seis distritos hispanos de la asociación. Los pastores de distrito y el personal colaborador de Indian Creek Camp prestaron su valiosa colaboración en la planificación y el funcionamiento del evento. El pastor Craig abordó temas que demostraban en forma práctica cómo



Vista de un tercio de los asistentes en momentos de oración

convertirse en hombres de valor en el hogar, el trabajo y la iglesia. La doctora Perales habló sobre la depresión, tipos, causas y soluciones. También presentó instrucciones claras acerca del suicidio y de cómo ser instrumentos de Dios para ayudar a personas en crisis.

Fue un evento extraordinario en donde la presencia de Dios se hizo sentir a través de su Espíritu Santo. Los presentes salieron desafiados y a la vez motivados a ser hombres valerosos para Dios en este tiempo de desafíos mientras se aguarda el retorno del Señor y Dios Jesucristo. ①

ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Evangelismo en Nashville Norte



Candidatos de bautismo en Nashville Norte

Con un hermoso resultado de 19 bautismos concluyó el esfuerzo evangelístico llevado a cabo desde el 27 de octubre hasta el 17 de noviembre en el distrito de Nashville Norte, Tennessee, compuesto por las iglesias de Madison, Springfield y Elkton.

Cabe destacar la masiva participación de la hermandad que superó el 80 por ciento en cada una de las congregaciones.

Los pastores Daniel Gonzalez y Wilfredo Villamizar fueron utilizados poderosamente por el Espíritu Santo en la proclamación de la Palabra.

Como cierre de la campaña y con gran entusiasmo, el sábado 17 de noviembre se hizo el relanzamiento de los grupos pequeños y la consagración de sus respectivos líderes, los cuales se comprometieron en el fiel cumplimiento

de la Misión. La campaña concluyó en un ambiente de notable gozo no solo por las 19 personas que se unieron al Reino de Cristo, sino también por la actitud misionera que se respira actualmente en las congregaciones. ①

EMILIO PERCHE, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Niños de Bautizan en Festival Infantil FISH

El distrito central de Carolina del Norte celebró el primer Festival Infantil (FISH) el sábado 3 de noviembre en la iglesia de Smithfield, Carolina del Norte. Más de 80 niños asistieron al evento que fue titulado “Yo Creo en Ti”.

El programa contó con el apoyo de los líderes del ministerio infantil de cada iglesia del distrito, de los padres, y de todos los asistentes. La banda de la iglesia de Washington ejecutó la música que alegraba el evento. Los niños cantaron,

tocaron instrumentos, recitaron porciones de la Biblia, repasaron las 28 creencias fundamentales de los adventistas, hicieron manualidades disfrutaron de una rica merienda y un regalo como recuerdo del programa. La hermana Daylet Espinosa fue quien organizó y coordinó el evento.

El programa fue un éxito. Cuatro niños de la iglesia de Wilson fueron bautizados por el pastor Luis Espinosa el 3 de noviembre y un coro infantil de más de 40 voces cantó el canto lema junto a Jennifer Cruz de la iglesia Durham Emanuel. 📍



Los 4 niños que fueron bautizados junto al pastor Espinosa

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Distrito Bendecido



Pequeños celebrando gozosos el día de su entrega a Jesús



La congregación acompaña a los candidatos de bautismo en este momento feliz de sus vidas espirituales.

Jovencitos Celebrando su Entrega a Jesús

En la iglesia de Dalton del distrito conformado también por las iglesias de

Calhoun, Cartersville, Adairsville e Hiram, 3 jovencitos celebraron su bautismo junto a la congregación gozosa. Al finalizar la ceremonia pública de entrega a Jesús, todos

compartieron un pastel y disfrutaron de momentos de amistad. Esta ceremonia fue la culminación de una semana de conferencias organizadas por el pastor distrital José Reyes, con el pastor Elías Santana de orador.

Fiesta Espiritual

La compañía de Calhoun, Georgia, presenció el bautismo de dos personas el sábado 29 de septiembre. Este distrito activo está viendo los resultados de su trabajo y se siente motivado a continuar en la tarea de salvación. 📍

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Crecimiento en la Iglesia de Gainesville

El 22 de septiembre fue un sábado especial para el grupo hispano en Gainesville, Georgia. Cinco personas fueron bautizadas al finalizar una semana de conferencias a cargo del pastor Bartutis, procedente de California.

Al finalizar la ceremonia 2 personas más manifestaron su deseo de entregarse a Dios y sellar su entrega por medio del bautismo. Gainesville es una de las 4 congregaciones

ministradas por el pastor Efraín Poloche, quien además dirige el departamento hispano de la asociación. Este departamento está compuesto por 45 congregaciones distribuidas en los estados de Georgia, Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur. 📍



Pastor Bartutis bautizando a una de las candidatas de bautismo en Gainesville

MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITORA

Caravana de Evangelismo Termina Exitosa



Tres de los cinco candidatos de la iglesia de Doraville junto al pastor Roger Álvarez (izquierda) y Efraín Poloche (derecha)

El 31 de octubre comenzó en Charlotte, Carolina del Norte, la caravana de evangelismo a cargo del pastor Roger Álvarez, de la asociación Southeastern. La misma concluyó en Dalton, Georgia, el día 3 de noviembre.

El evento contó con la activa colaboración de los pastores y laicos de la asociación, y tuvo un total de 25 bautismos. Cinco de los candidatos fueron resultado del trabajo de la iglesia de Doraville, 9 de la iglesia de Marietta, 1 de Forest Park, y 5 de la iglesia de Dalton. Todas estas congregaciones pertenecientes al estado de Georgia.

Se agradece profundamente a quienes colaboraron en el evento, y al pastor Jorge Mayer y el departamento hispano de la Unión del Sur que prestó su apoyo y ayuda financiera. 📌



Candidatos de la iglesia de Marietta, Georgia

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

No a la Violencia de Género

El Ministerio de la Mujer Hispana de la asociación, dirigido por la doctora Nahomy Báez de Pérez, organizó una concentración en la iglesia de Gadsden, Alabama, que llevó el título “Ya No Más” La misma se dedicó a tratar el tema del abuso y la violencia de género, que está siendo presentado a nivel mundial en la iglesia.

Los oradores invitados, pastor Dorian Melo, director del departamento hispano de la asociación y Estefanía Howell, maestra, recalcaron la importancia de comprender que cada una de las asistentes tiene valor ante Dios y la sociedad y por lo tanto debe rechazar cualquier tipo de abuso y violencia. Presentaron varios ejemplos de situaciones en las que Cristo valoró a las mujeres, tratándolas con respeto en una sociedad que no les atribuía el valor que merecían. 📌



Asistentes al evento contra la violencia de género

DAYAMI VALDESPINO, ASISTENTE ADMINISTRATIVA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

El Evangelio Rompe Barreras Culturales

El 10 de noviembre, luego de una semana de evangelismo presentada por el pastor Roger Álvarez en Tampa en una iglesia de cultura Tzotzil, 5 personas de esta rama de la cultura mejicana entregaron sus vidas a Dios. Este grupo cuyos antepasados son los indígenas Mayas, reside principalmente en la zona de Chiapas. Se caracteriza por ser originalmente bilingüe, ya que hablan español y tzotzil. Al llegar a este país deben incorporar también el inglés. Este evento fue otra muestra de que para el evangelio no hay barreras culturales que no sean franqueables. El Espíritu Santo penetra los corazones de todos y los atrae a Jesús.

“Porque El mismo es nuestra paz, quien de ambos pueblos hizo uno, derribando la pared intermedia de separación,” Efesios 2:14 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Grupo de personas totziles antes de bautizarse

Trabajando por los más Pequeños

Con mucha alegría el pastor Daniel Olaciregui, su esposa María y el grupo de laicos que colaboraron en la Escuela Bíblica de Vacaciones de Fort Myers, Florida, participaron de la ceremonia de graduación de un número importante de jovencitos y pequeños que asistieron fielmente a las clases que se presentaron. Estos eventos se organizan con el propósito de ocupar esas mentes frescas en cosas que los ayuden a crecer en lo físico, social y espiritual durante los meses en los que no tienen actividades escolares. Es una oportunidad tanto para los niños de la iglesia como de la comunidad. Además de ser de beneficio para los más pequeños, se espera atraer a sus padres y



Ceremonia de graduación

familiarizarlos con la hermandad para que se sientan cómodos en el medio y deseen continuar la relación. 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ADVERTISING

(1) Have your pastor or local church elder write "Approved" and his signature on the sheet of paper containing the advertisement, (2) write your name and address on the same sheet, (3) specify how many times the ad is to run, (4) send the approved ad to your conference office 6 weeks in advance of the publication date and (5) don't forget to enclose payment in full for each month the ad is to run. Make checks payable to SOUTHERN UNION.

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PROPERTY AVAILABLE

SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE

- An Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities, and transportation, as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. *Website: <http://summitridgevillage.org> or Bill Norman 405-208-1289.* ©

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SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST SENIOR CARE

near Raleigh, NC — Harrell House specializes in individualized care, vegetarian home cooked meals, activities planned for SDAs, a lovely country home, and medical care as needed. *Call Diane Crane, RN BSN for more info at 410-707-7071 and a brochure.* Tell us what you need and we will see how we can accommodate you! [1]

COLLEGEDALE HOME/LAND FOR SALE:

Collegedale luxury airport home awaits! Over 7000 sq ft with mother-in-law apartment and oversized airplane hangar alongside Collegedale Airport, \$799,000. Pikeville Land: 5 acre mountain top, bluff view land with breathtaking views. Great location to build your dream home, \$140,000. Pikeville Land: 10 acre wooded lot. Great location to build your dream home with plenty of privacy, \$50,000. Hangar Lot: 1 acre wooded lot with private access to Collegedale Airport runway. Great location to build a pilot's dream home and hangar, \$115,000. *Call the Dixon Team-Keller Williams Realty at 423-702-2000 for more info (Office: 423-664-1800).* [1]

SOUTHERN TINY LIVING

proudly presented by Southern Adventist University. The Tiny House features 300 square feet of living space, high ceiling with two lofts, fully equipped kitchen, full-size bathtub and shower, fully furnished. Reduced: now only \$49,500. *For more information call 423-236-2537, email: tprice@southern.edu or visit www.southerntinyliving.com* [1]

COUNTRY LIVING PROPERTY:

At the foothills of the Smokies in east Tennessee near Greeneville lies a valley with 8, 15, 24 or all 35 acres farmhouse (under remodel), greenhouse and barn. Great building sites, garden spots, with pasture and woodlands. \$7900 an acre. *Call Gregory at 770-359-8433.* [1]

SDA REALTOR IN FLORIDA

- Searching to buy or sell in the Orlando area? I look forward to helping you! *Sandra Da Silva, Realtor: 407-840-8500, sandra.dasilva@floridamoves.com* Service provided in English, Spanish or Portuguese. [1]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks **Dean for the School of Education and Psychology** (SEP) and responsible for planning, organization, staffing, direction and evaluation of the academic disciplines of the SEP. The SEP Dean is also responsible for continuous development of the SEP's strategic plan. An earned doctorate in the field of education or psychology is required. *Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs* [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks full-time teaching **faculty for the School of Music**. This position will provide curricular oversight to and teach lower- and upper-division courses in area of primary expertise - either music history or music theory. Master's degree in Musicology, Music History, or Music Theory required, doctorate preferred. *Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs* [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY School of Nursing

seeks a full-time faculty to join a mission-focused team. Teaching responsibilities will be primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility, and commitment to Adventist nursing education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. *Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to search committee chair, Christy Showalter at cshowalter@southern.edu.* SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. For full job description please visit www.southern.edu/jobs. [1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time teaching faculty for the Chemistry Department.

Teaching responsibilities may be expected to include organic chemistry lectures and labs and chemistry for nursing and allied health majors. A master's or doctoral degree (Ph.D. is strongly preferred) in organic chem-

istry (or a closely related field) is required, with demonstrated knowledge of and experience in applying best practices for teaching chemistry at the undergraduate level, and a commitment to teaching from a Biblical foundation. *Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs* [1]

UNION COLLEGE invites applicants for a **Computing teaching faculty** position beginning Fall 2019. Qualified applicants will have a Master's degree and excellent communication skills and should be a committed member of the SDA Church. PhD, teaching/business experience desirable. *Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa Forbes at Lisa.L.Forbes@ucollege.edu.* [1]

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist, **full-time nursing faculty member**. Teaching and/or clinical experience in medical-surgical nursing and pathophysiology preferred. Additional information can be found at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. *Send CV and references to Dr. Nicole Orian, nicole.orian@ucollege.edu* [1, 2]

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, NE seeks applicants for **Director of Records/Registrar**. The Director will ensure the integrity, accuracy and security of academic and educational records of students and ensure compliance with regulatory agencies. *Contact Dr. Frankie Rose at frankie.rose@ucollege.edu or call 402-486-2501 for more information.* [1, 2]

UNION COLLEGE seeks applicants for the position of **Swimming Pool, Custodial, and Facility Maintenance Manager**. This is a full-time, exempt position. This individual is responsible for all the functions of the pool during business and closed hours each day of the week. *Please see the full job description at <https://www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings> and submit requested materials to Ric Spaulding at ric.spaulding@ucollege.edu* [1, 2]

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist* [1-12]

AUTHORS OF COOKBOOKS, HEALTH BOOKS, CHILDREN'S CHAPTER AND PICTURE BOOKS, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. *Find our new titles at your local ABC or www.TeachServices.com, used SDA books at www.LNFBooks.com* [1-4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. *For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies* [1-5]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY Department of Sustainable Agriculture offers you a \$5,000 Scholarship! Feed the world with a degree in Agribusiness. Change the world with a degree in International Agriculture Development. Beautify the world with a degree in Landscape Design. *For more information: <https://www.andrews.edu/agriculture>, agriculture@andrews.edu, 269-471-6006.* [1]

SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED? Meet compatible SDA's from USA ages 18-98. Each provides: birthday, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized, lots more! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! *For information, application and current catalog, send \$25 to: SDA Pen-Pals, PO Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513.* [1-3]

NAD HEALTH SUMMIT 2019 - "Healing of the Nations." Designed to provide training, networking, and inspiration for anyone involved with or interested in

health ministries. January 20-26, 2019, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Register at www.nadhealth.org. *For more information contact 443-300-8845 or summit@nadhealth.org* [1]

I HAVE A BOOK MINISTRY in which I send a quality hardback Great Controversy to pastors. My goal is to send one to every pastor in the U.S. I've been working on this for several years. There are a number of different ways that you could be involved. *If interested, contact Gary Pyke, evenings, at 931-582-6669.* [1]

SYCAMORE ACADEMY - Enroll your student in a collaborative, interactive learning environment with online courses taught by certified, live, SDA instructors. Convenient and accredited homeschooling for grades 3-12. Classes Monday through Thursday. Self-paced. Project based curriculum. Open enrollment. *Call 817-645-0895 or email info@sycamoreacademy.com. Enroll at sycamoreacademy.com* [1, 2]

EGYPT BIBLE TOUR: December 12-22, 2019 with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the land of the Pyramids, the Pharaohs, and the Exodus, including a Nile cruise and more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations only \$2,425 plus airfare. *Contact Sharon Searson at Sharons@uccsda.org* [1-4]

2019 GREAT CONTROVERSY TOUR: June 21-July 3, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy, and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! *Call 269-815-8624, email gctours@mac.com* [1]



John Bradshaw
speaker/director
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JOIN US ON CAMPUS

Concerto Concert, January 27

This event showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the university's full Symphony Orchestra. Held in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists and beginning at 4 p.m., the event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

Archaeology Lecture, February 18

Thomas Davis, PhD, professor of archaeology and biblical backgrounds at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will give a talk titled "St. Paul in Cyprus: Out of the Comfort Zone" at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

Southern 6 Trail Race, February 24

Come join us for the 10th annual 6K run through wooded trails on Southern's campus. Proceeds from the event will go directly to the university's Outdoor Leadership inner-city environmental education program.

To register, visit the Adventure Programs page at southern.edu/outdoor.

JOIN US ONLINE

Southern's weekly vespers programs, held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary, are broadcast live each Friday evening at 8 p.m.

To view online, visit southern.edu/streaming.

WE'LL COME TO YOU

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

Visit Us

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




SOUTHERN
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CAROLINA

PATHFINDER WINTER COUNCIL - Jan. 4, 5. NPR.

GENEROUS LIVING SUMMIT - Jan. 19. Raleigh.

CAROLINA EVANGELISM IMPACT - Feb. 7-10. Myrtle Beach, SC.

ROMANCE AT THE RANCH - Feb. 8-10. NPR.

HISPANIC ROMANCE AT THE RANCH - Feb. 15-17. NPR.

REGENERATE! CHURCH REVITALIZATION CONFERENCE - Feb. 22, 23. University City SDA church.

MPA SPRING BREAK - Feb. 28 - March 10.

ALIVE YOUTH RALLY - March 8-9. Spartanburg SDA Church.

PATHFINDER WORK BEE CAMPOUT - March 15-17. NPR.

MPA FATHER & SON/MOTHER & DAUGHTER WEEKEND - March 22, 23.

COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT - March 22-24. NPR.

MPA MUSIC FESTIVAL - March 28-29.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events

YOUTH EVANGELISM CATALYST EVENTS - Inspiring, motivating, and energizing youth to partner with their church family in spreading the Gospel.

Jan. 25-27. Weekend Retreat. Lake Placid Camp and Conference Center, 2665 Placid View Dr., Lake Placid. Cost: \$50-\$140 depending on duration of stay and accommodation choice. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/youth-evangelism-catalyst-retreat/

Feb. 2. One-day Event. Forest City Spanish Church gymnasium, 7601 Forest City Rd., Orlando. Cost: \$25. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/youth-evangelism-catalyst-one-day-event-central-fl/

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 plac-

ing 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.

Jan. 13. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

Jan. 20. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Jan. 27. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Feb. 3. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port Saint Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Feb. 10. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

Feb. 16. Florida Keys Camp Meeting at Big Pine Key.

Feb. 17. Homestead.

Feb. 24. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

FORT LAUDERDALE CHURCH FUNDRAISER WALK-A-THON - Jan. 27. Snyder Park, 3299 SW 4th Ave., Fort Lauderdale. Raising awareness and benefitting chronic pain sufferers. Proceeds will benefit the US Pain Foundation. \$25 minimum cash donation plus \$1 per hour park cash admission fee at gate. Registration begins 8:45 a.m., walk begins at 9:15 a.m. Details: floridaconference.com/event/walk-a-thon/

BLAZE MINISTRY TRAINING - Feb. 15-17. Pine Lake Retreat, 21725 CR 33, Groveland. Weekend will cover advanced and beginner preaching, Bible studies, literature evangelism, and community ministries. Cost: \$99 per Pathfinder/Adventurer including all materials, lodging, and meals; \$60 per chaperone. Fees due by Nov. 30 (no on-site registration). Sponsoring churches requested to sponsor 2/3 of each student's fee. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/blaze-ministry-training-2019/

CENTRAL AREA ADVENTURER FUN DAY

- March 24. South Brevard Church, 8465 Babcock St. SE, Melbourne. Registration begins at 8 a.m., program at 9 a.m. Cost: \$10 per child by March 10, \$12 on-site. No charge for adults and children age 3 and under. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/central-area-adventurer-fun-day/

HOPE FOR HURTING HEARTS

- March 28-31. Teen Track. A healing, educational retreat for those who've been sexually abused as children. Cost: \$150, all inclusive.

Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Details: floridaconference.com/event/hope-for-hurting-hearts-teens/

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

10 DAYS OF PRAYER - Jan. 9-19. <https://tendaysofprayer.org/>

PATHFINDER TLT CONVENTION - Jan. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Crandall, GA.

Hispanic Children's Ministries Training - Jan. 19, Central GA; Jan. 26, North GA/TN; and Feb. 2, South GA. Contact Waleska Gozalez at 706-629-7951, x391, or wgonzalez@gccsda.com for details.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. HOLIDAY - Jan. 21. The Conference Office will be closed in observance of this holiday.

MOBILIZE CONFERENCE (HELPING CHURCHES ATTRACT, ENGAGE, AND MOBILIZE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS FOR THE KINGDOM)

- Jan. 26. Register by Jan. 14, for this training and answer two questions: What can be done? What should be done? If you want to change the culture of your church to engage, attract, and mobilize youth and young adults, this training is for you. Training is free, registration required, and lunch is provided. Conference office, Calhoun, GA.

ELEMENTARY BAND & STRING FESTIVAL

- Jan. 26-26. For students in grades 5-8. Collegedale Academy, TN.

THE MANY HATS OF PR - COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP

- Jan. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presenters: George Johnson Jr., assistant vice president of communications & marketing for Claflin University; and Jamie Domm, digital strat-

egist for the North American Division. Training is free, lunch provide. Please register by Jan. 17. Conference office, Calhoun, GA.

OASIS HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT - Feb. 1-3. A Bible Conference for students not attending an Adventist school. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR HEALTH AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES - Feb. 2, 3-6 p.m. A training for health and personal ministry leaders and their teams. No registration required. Wimish Road Church, Macon, GA.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION - Feb. 8-10. Theme is Heaven Bound, speaker will be Carl Martin, author of Heaven, Think on These Things. Josh Denhart is a special presenter and the creator of Science VBS. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

HISPANIC MEN'S MINISTRIES LEADERSHIP CONVENTION - Feb. 10.

PATHFINDER TEEN EVENT - Feb. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

PRAYER CONFERENCE THIRSTY FOR YOU - Feb. 15-17. Presenter James Shires, president of the Oklahoma Conference, has a deep passion for our churches to be transformed into houses of prayer. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Register for events on the Conference website, www.gccsda.com

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP - Jan. 11-13. Indian Creek Camp.

MINISTERS' MEETING - Jan. 21-24. Pigeon Forge, TN.

KYTN ACROFEST - Jan. 24-26. Highland Academy.

7 UP CAMPOUT (7TH GRADE AND UP PATHFINDERS) - Feb.15-17. Indian Creek Camp.

HISPANIC PASTORS'/ELDERS' RETREAT - Feb. 22-24. Indian Creek Camp.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CERTIFICATION - March 1, 2. Highland Academy.

EASTERN KENTUCKY CAMP MEETING - March 8, 9. Prestonsburg, KY.

KYTN MUSIC FESTIVAL - March 14-16. Highland Academy.

LOUISVILLE FESTIVAL OF FAITH - March 22, 23. Pewee Valley, KY.

PASTORS'/ELDERS' RETREAT - March 29-31. Indian Creek Camp.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

CLASSES BEGIN - Jan. 7. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

PREVIEW SOUTHERN - Jan. 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, TN. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

CONCERTO CONCERT - Jan. 27. This event begins at 4 p.m. and showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the University's full Symphony Orchestra. Held at the Collegedale, TN, Church, the event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE - Feb. 18. Thomas Davis, Ph.D., professor of ar-

chaeology and biblical backgrounds at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, will give a talk titled "St. Paul in Cyprus: Out of the Comfort Zone," at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

ANNOUNCEMENT

ADVENTIST ENGLISH ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE (AEA) - JUNE 20-23. Southern Adventist University and Oakwood University will address the theme "Diversity in Adventist English Education." How is the Adventist English teacher's work impacted by the current social, political, and religious context? Don't miss your chance to join the conversation! If you are interested in attending or presenting at the Conference, visit our website adventistenglishassociation.org and see the Call for Papers, and submit your proposal by January 18 to adventistenglishassociation@gmail.com. Early bird registration closes March 1.

SUNSET

	JAN 4	JAN 11	JAN 18	JAN 25	FEB 1	FEB 8
ATLANTA, GA	5:42	5:48	5:55	6:02	6:08	6:15
CHARLESTON, SC	5:27	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:52	5:59
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:24	5:31	5:37	5:44	5:51	5:59
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:41	5:48	5:55	6:02	6:09	6:16
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:49	4:55	5:02	5:08	5:16	5:23
JACKSON, MS	5:09	5:15	5:21	5:28	5:34	5:41
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:58	6:06	6:14
MEMPHIS, TN	5:02	5:08	5:14	5:22	5:29	5:36
MIAMI, FL	5:43	5:48	5:54	5:59	6:04	6:09
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:53	4:59	5:05	5:12	5:18	5:25
NASHVILLE, TN	4:46	5:52	4:59	5:06	5:14	5:21
ORLANDO, FL	5:42	5:48	5:53	5:59	6:05	6:10
TAMPA, FL	5:48	5:53	5:59	6:06	6:10	6:16
WILMINGTON, NC	5:15	5:21	5:28	5:35	5:42	5:49

FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

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

Freshman Academic Scholarship

\$8,000 TO

FULL TUITION

awarded over four years based on GPA and ACT score

Freshman State Scholarship Replacement

\$12,000

awarded over four years for students from most Southern Union states

Freshman Leadership Scholarship

\$10,000

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

Freshman Lightbearer Scholarship

\$8,000

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

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

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