

T Southern   
TIDINGS

MARCH 2019



**FROM THE OLIVE TREE  
TO THE NEW  
JERUSALEM**

CHURCH AND  
POLICE UNITE TO  
MAKE COMMUNITY  
SAFE

MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

“SHEMA  
YISRAEL, ADONAI  
ELOHENU, ADONI  
ECHAD”

GOD REWARDS  
FAITHFULNESS

WHERE TWO  
OR THREE ARE  
GATHERED

# Fulfilling the Great Commission



**Steve Haley**  
President of the Kentucky-  
Tennessee Conference

Guest Editorial

It was a startling command to those who first heard it from the lips of Jesus: “Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to everyone,” Mark 16:15 NLT. What did the disciples initially think when Jesus gave them this invitation? Likely they experienced the same emotions that we have when we consider our personal response to the Great Commission. We want to be obedient to this command of Christ. We want to have a part in leading others to the feet of Jesus. We want to experience personally the joy of seeing someone in the Kingdom who will say to us, “Thank you for inviting me here!” Yet, when we take personal inventory of our abilities, we’re not sure we are able to teach others the Bible truths as trained and gifted evangelists do. The encouraging reality is that reaching the world for Christ demands many different approaches. A recent community event supported by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference illustrates this truth.

Ellen White wrote, “I have been instructed by my guide that not only should those who believe the truth practice health reform, but they should also teach it diligently to others; for it will be an agency through which the truth can be presented to the attention of unbelievers,” Letter 1, 1875, in *Evangelism*, p. 514. Recently, a diverse group of church members from middle Tennessee responded to Ellen White’s invitation. Early Friday morning, October 19, 2018, two dozen motivated adults and youth gathered at Four Corners Bulk Food & Deli in Morrison, Tennessee. This was not the ordinary venue to hold a NEWSTART health expo. Instead, it was an intentional focus, a first in Warren County, Tennessee, designed to reach into the sizable Amish community in the area. Many parts of rural Kentucky and Tennessee have Amish communities, and quite often our Amish friends are challenged in the area of practicing good health habits. The reasons for this include an absence of news sources in their community that would allow them to be knowledgeable in the areas of preventative disease and lifestyle choices. Two church members, Darla Wolf and Erin White, recognized this need and saw an opportunity to respond to the Great Commission.

Darla and Erin recruited willing volunteers to offer health screening procedures at each of the eight screening booths. Providing additional support were several medical professionals, including doctors, nurses, a massage therapist, an architect, young people ages 10 to 18, homemakers, a carpenter, a teacher, a social worker, and several from other occupational backgrounds, some of whom traveled more than a hundred miles to be present. The common bond among this diverse group of health evangelists was a shared commitment and a passionate desire to serve by attractively communicating the Adventist health message.

Upon completion of the various health screenings, individuals were referred to the health-counseling booth where licensed physicians interpreted their Health Age Report. The physicians also reviewed each personal health record, summarized their results, suggested any areas where the individual might be at risk, and encouraged them with literature and information on healthy living. The several dozen attendees were receptive and thankful for the ministry extended them, and new friends were made as a result of the Expo. The church members who contributed their time to this event might never stand in front of an audience and preach, but collectively they united their unique talents for ministry, and in so doing, responded faithfully to the Great Commission.

2019 is the Year of Evangelism in the Southern Union. Our passion to win souls for the Kingdom will take many forms, one of which can be the blessing of sharing the health message with our communities. 📌

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ADVENTHEALTH  
**Robyn Edgerton**  
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY  
**Lisa Marie Esser**  
CAROLINA **Rebecca Carpenter**  
FLORIDA **Gladys Neigel**  
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND  
**Tamara Wolcott Fisher**  
GULF STATES **Shane Hochstetler**  
HISPANIC **Maribel Lombardi**  
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE **Denise Pope**  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY  
**Kenn Dixon**  
SOUTH ATLANTIC  
**Carl McRoy**  
SOUTH CENTRAL  
**Roger R. Wade**  
SOUTHEASTERN  
**Keitha Hatcher**  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
**Janell Hullquist**

CONFERENCE/  
INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

CAROLINA (704) 596-3200  
P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, NC 28215  
FLORIDA (407) 644-5000  
351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3824  
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND (706) 629-7951  
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001  
GULF STATES (334) 272-7493  
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117  
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE (615) 859-1391  
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088  
SOUTH ATLANTIC (404) 792-0535  
P.O. Box 1688, Decatur, GA 30031-1688  
SOUTH CENTRAL (615) 226-6500  
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202  
SOUTHEASTERN (352) 735-3142  
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056  
ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM  
(407) 357-2083  
900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH  
SCIENCES (800) 500-7747  
671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803  
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (256) 726-7000  
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896  
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
(800) SOUTHERN  
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370

SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 113  
Number 3 | March 2019  
Published monthly by the Southern Union.  
Free to all members.  
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to  
*Southern Tidings*  
P.O. Box 923868  
Norcross, GA 30010-3868  
EMAIL: idouce@southernunion.com



# features

4  
FROM THE OLIVE TREE TO  
THE NEW JERUSALEM

8  
CHURCH AND POLICE UNITE  
TO MAKE COMMUNITY SAFE

9  
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

10  
“SHEMA YISRAEL, ADONAI  
ELOHENU, ADONI ECHAD”

12  
GOD REWARDS  
FAITHFULNESS

13  
WHERE TWO OR THREE  
ARE GATHERED

# news

- 14 CAROLINA
- 16 FLORIDA
- 18 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- 20 GULF STATES
- 22 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- 24 SOUTH ATLANTIC
- 26 SOUTHEASTERN
- 28 ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
- 29 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
- 30 OBITUARIES
- 34 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
- 37 ANNOUNCEMENTS
- 39 EVENTS CALENDAR

march 2019



# FROM THE OLIVE TREE TO THE NEW JERUSALEM

BY RALPH RINGER

Worshippers gathered in the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on October 27 2018, for Sabbath services. Just before 10 a.m., a man rushed in shouting anti-Semitic insults and firing a semi-automatic rifle. Eleven worshippers were killed, and many were wounded in the rampage. According to the Anti-Defamation League, this attack was “the deadliest against the Jewish community in U.S. history.”<sup>1</sup>

NPR’s coverage of this horrendous event, highlighted the ways that anti-Semitism is systemic, and crossing political and religious boundaries.

This article offers 11 ways that ordinary people can overcome anti-Semitism in the Church and in our society. It includes a short history of Jewish persecution and replacement theology, which highlight the need for and context of the 11 ways to address this systemic problem.

This deep-seated anti-Semitism has a long history in the Bible. The king of Egypt tried to destroy the Hebrews by killing all the newborn Hebrew boys (Exodus 1:15-22). Haman wanted “to destroy all Jews” (Esther 3:6). He instigated a decree “to destroy, to kill, to annihilate all the Jews” (Esther 3:13). If Queen Esther had not intervened, it would have happened. In Matthew 2:16, Herod killed all the Jewish boys two years and younger in Bethlehem and all its districts.

The root of anti-Semitism since early Christian times is replacement theology, which teaches that the new Christian faith and Church totally replace the Jews.

The history of replacement theology started sometime after

Gentiles started to come into the early church, 34 A.D. Romans 11:1-5 speaks directly against it. In Romans 11:1, Paul counters replacement theology: “Has God cast away His people? Certainly not!” In Romans 11:2, Paul repeats, “God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew.” Paul shows that Gentile Christians do not replace the Jewish believers through the olive tree that symbolizes God’s people in Romans 11:16-26. In Paul’s olive tree analogy, the tree was not cut down or a new tree planted; the natural and grafted branches are part of the same tree, which is rooted in Christ. The book, *The Power of a Promise*, explores

replacement theology through Paul’s olive tree in greater depth. Briefly, “Paul’s point to the Gentiles was, you have been grafted into a tree that was already established and that helps to sustain you. The branches that were broken off were broken off because of unbelief.” In addition, he warns, “Do not be haughty, but fear. For if God did not spare the natural branches, He may not spare you either.”<sup>2</sup>

Paul’s olive tree uniting Gentile and Jewish believers is under attack from the Roman government because it looked at the early church as a sect of the Jews. Therefore, the Romans persecuted the church along with the Jews for the Jewish resistance to Rome.

By the second century, Gentile believers outnumbered the Jewish believers in the church and no longer wanted to be persecuted for the Jewish rebellions against Rome. They wanted to be separated from the Jews. The easiest way for them to be separated from the Jews was to change the day of worship away from the Sabbath.

The Gentiles had worshipped on Sunday before they accepted



Nelson Jansen is immersed in New Port Richey, Florida.

<sup>1</sup> *USA Today*, Oct. 29, 2018.

<sup>2</sup> *The Power of a Promise*, p. 68, Ralph L. Ringer, Pacific Press.



The Torah is lifted up to exalt God's Word.

Jesus. Jesus rose on Sunday and the Holy Spirit descended on Sunday, they reasoned, so they could return to Sunday. From the second through the fourth centuries, church leaders and politicians negotiated a way not only to stop the persecution, but also to become the state religion. Constantine made this happen in the fourth century.

In the compromise, the church was to worship on Sunday and abandon the Sabbath, celebrate some pagan holidays, accept the use of images in worship, and be the state religion.

The church leaders started calling Sunday the Lord's Day,

saying Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday and the Holy Spirit descended on Sunday; church leaders called Saturday the "Jewish Sabbath." They claimed the church replaced the Jews as God's people, and that all the promises and privileges that were given to the Jews now belonged to the church (replacement theology).

They also claimed that only the clergy could interpret the Bible and apply what it said, thus applying the Levitical priesthood to the church, bringing separation between clergy and laity, and giving all authority to the clergy to make the change of the Sabbath to Sunday.



A Passover Seder was held in New Port Richey, Florida.

This process fanned anti-Semitic feeling like throwing gas on the fire, bringing 17 centuries of intense persecution of Jews that resulted in between seven and 15 million Jews being killed. Therefore, when Hitler brought the holocaust, he only sped up the process that had been going on for 17 centuries, and almost no one spoke up.

That is why Pope John Paul II apologized to the Jewish people and the nation of Israel.

Let us look at the five types of replacement theology:

1. Horrific attacks against Jews, like the one at the Tree of Life Synagogue.
2. Justifications for attacking the Jews.
3. Beliefs that the Church totally replaces the Jews; that all the promises and blessings now belong to the church, as they are exclusively God's people.
4. Beliefs that the Church replaces the Jews as God's visible people; Jews must convert to be His people.
5. Beliefs that Jews need to be "Christians" not "Jews," because being Jewish is only a religion. All Jews are ethnically Jewish, but not all Jews are part of the Jewish religion. There are Jews who are atheist, Buddhist, new age, messianic, those not involved in religion, Christian, etc. Accepting Christ as Savior does not



A group in Israel at the Western Wall

take away one's ethnicity. Therefore, when a Jewish person accepts their Jewish Messiah, we have no right to say they are now Christian and no longer Jewish. We do not say someone is no longer Spanish, African, etc., when they accept Christ.

Neither replacement theology, nor the teaching that God saves the Jews differently than Gentiles, are biblical (Malachi 3:6, Hebrews 13:8). Like the olive tree in Romans chapter 11, God has one tree symbolizing His people. All of the Jews and Gentiles are God's people; only branches that remain on the tree are God's remnant that will be saved.

As Seventh-day Adventists, what can/should we do in light of the Bible, history, and prophecy in our current environment?

Here is what our church is doing to fight anti-Semitism. The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists (NAD), on October 29, 2018, made an official statement on the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting, showing support for "our Jewish brothers and sisters." All three NAD officers signed the statement.

The Jewish Ministry of the Southern Union, the NAD, and General Conference are working to bring love, care, accep-

## 11 WAYS TO TURN ANTI-SEMITISM INTO LOVE

---

1. Stand up for and with them when anyone speaks or does anything against the Jews, and condemn those who commit these actions.
2. Celebrate all the common beliefs from the Scriptures we share with Jews, and do not try to distance ourselves from them.
3. Reject all types of replacement theology. Replacement theology is not part of our 28 Fundamental Beliefs. It was started by the papacy to help change the Sabbath, caused millions of Jews to be killed and persecuted, and inflamed anti-Semitic hatred around the world.
4. Support Jews who celebrate their ethnicity.
5. Make friends with Jewish people.
6. Do not participate in generalizations like “Jews are rich,” etc. If we should not say it about African-Americans, Hispanic people, or any other people group, we should not say it about the Jews.
7. Do not tell or laugh at jokes that put down or are derogatory to Jews.
8. Emulate the love that Jesus has for His people.
9. Remember that Satan has caused hatred for the Jews because he knew Jesus would be and is a Jew. He knew that hatred for the Jews would minimize the power of love and salvation that Jesus would/does bring.
10. We need to love Jesus more, and as we do, the more we will love the Jews and all people.
11. We should not say, “The Jews rejected Jesus.” Historically that statement is not true, and it forms the basis for replacement theology and Christian anti-Semitism. Tens of thousands of Jewish people, possibly 25 percent of the Jewish people in Jerusalem, accepted Jesus as the Messiah as recorded in the book of Acts. Probably a higher percentage of Jewish people accepted Him than the percentage of Gentiles that did during that time.


tance, and importance of the Jewish people in our church and in the world.

We have established Jewish Adventist Congregations where Jews who believe in their Jewish Messiah can be a part of and keep/celebrate their ethnicity. The worship style is Jewish and the theology is Adventist. These congregations are a place where Jews can celebrate and learn more of their Jewish heritage and the Jewish Messiah in Scripture. They are a place where they can worship the God of their fathers and see the important role the Jews had/have in Scripture, and can share with

those who are interested. There are five in the Southern Union, 25 in the NAD, and about 65 in the world.

In Cornelia, Georgia, Tina and Matt Munson lead a unique congregation that seeks to bring Jews, messianics, Adventists, other Christians, and those who are searching together for worship and Scripture study. The Munsons have interacted with a local Reform Jewish Synagogue by working together on community projects and attending each other’s services.

We support the Shalom Adventure web magazine, [shalomadventure.com](http://shalomadventure.com), which

highlights a broad range of Jewish life and interest. We also support the Shalom Learning Center, which teaches the Hebrew Scriptures and Hebraic Roots of Christianity. By these means, we can help overcome anti-Semitism. 

---

**Ralph Ringer** is the director of church growth, evangelism training, and Jewish ministries at the Southern Union.

**Laurie Ringer**, Ph.D., professor of English at Burman University, and **Jeff and Barbara Zaremsky** contributed to this article.

# CHURCH AND POLICE UNITE *to Make Community Safe*

BY JOEL HONORÉ



Stone Mountain, Georgia, Church members hosted the Community-Cop Talk with the DeKalb County Tucker Precinct police during the annual event.



Joel Honoré (left), senior pastor, presents a plaque to Major Gregory Padrick, a police officer in DeKalb County.

If you had visited the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Church on Sabbath, October 20, 2018, you would have seen uniformed police and worshipers singing, praying, and eating fellowship dinner together. What was going on, and why? It was the third annual Community-Cop Talk Day.

The annual event began in the aftermath of the 2016 police shootings of Alton Sterling and Philando Castille. Cop Talk was a community dialogue initiated at a time of heightened tensions between black communities and law enforcement departments across the country.

The names of Eric Garner (Staten Island, New York, 2014), Michael Brown (Ferguson, Missouri, 2014), Laquan McDonald (Chicago, Illinois, 2014), Tamir Rice (Cleveland, Ohio, 2014), Walter Scott (North Charleston, South Carolina, 2015), Freddie Gray (Baltimore, Maryland, 2015), and Sandra Bland (Prairie View, Texas, 2015), cases of excessive use of force by law enforcement, were much too common in the media.

At that time, the Stone Mountain Church sought to address the issue of oppressive policing. Simultaneously, Major Gregory Padrick, commander for the Tucker Precinct of DeKalb County Police, was seeking to ameliorate community relations within his precinct. Consequently, an open conversation

was started at Stone Mountain Church with the police department and the public. The result has been an ongoing relationship between the church, the community, and the police.

Community-Cop Talk serves to humanize, rather than objectify, both residents and law enforcement officers. The meetings allow residents and police to engage each other under non-threatening circumstances. Organizers have sought to familiarize the police with the community in order to minimize unnecessary incidents of violence. By worshipping and eating together on Community Cop-Talk Sabbaths, the Stone Mountain community is given the opportunity to have positive interaction with its police force.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in Heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust,” Matthew 5:43-45.

With those words, Jesus taught His followers how to neutralize the oppressive powers who governed them. In the same spirit, Community-Cop Talk has given

Stone Mountain Church the opportunity to demonstrate love to those who have been painted as the enemy. At Stone Mountain Church love is defined as, “Acting in the best interest of the other party.” That is a formidable challenge when the other party is seen as a threat.

By providing non-threatening contexts for enabling familiarity, Community-Cop Talk serves to reduce violence by and to police officers. The reckless and criminal acts of some police officers throughout the country have created distrust and resentment throughout many minority populations. Such distrust has incited fears and increased the likelihood of further violence. Love and civility serve to calm anxieties, expose evil, and foster understanding.

It is the desire of both the Stone Mountain Church and DeKalb County Police Tucker Precinct to have zero incidences of unwarranted shootings within its sphere of influence. Each entity is committed to using its influence to better its environment. By continually bringing people together for safe and cordial interactions, both parties see themselves improving their communities. ●

**Joel Honoré** is the senior pastor of the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Church.



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

BY KAREN KNOWLESS

**M**other Teresa once said, “Not all of us can do great things. But, we can do small things with great love.”

A small group of students and adults are making a difference in each other’s lives in Candler, North Carolina. Students from Mount Pisgah Academy regularly visit adults at their homes in the community, helping with light housework and yard work. Others offer companionship during visits to residents of a long-term care facility. These students are part of Assist, a mentoring program facilitated by Seventh-day Adventist academies and Southern Adventist University.

Typically, the mentors are senior citizens, and they enjoy the companionship of young people. They might need help around the house or yard, or they may simply want to make a difference in a student’s life. They are role models providing a safe environment in which to encourage the student with school and life. They might share a hobby with the student. When possible, the senior teaches a new skill while working alongside the student.

Friendships are formed that sometimes last years after a student graduates and moves away. One mentor in the independent senior living community smiled as she told me about her former students. She still stays in touch with them. More than one mentor has exclaimed to me, “The student you gave me is the best one!”

Southern Adventist University has created the Assist program to benefit both the student and their senior mentor. Assist donates money to student accounts to help with the cost of their tuition at the academy. A scholarship is awarded to each student who later chooses to attend Southern Adventist University. It is based on the number of semesters that the student



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

participated in Assist. The senior mentors benefit from having a student help them at no cost to themselves, thanks to the grant which is provided, and from the generosity of individuals donating directly to Mount Pisgah Academy for the Assist program.

Intergenerational relationships are formed that are mutually beneficial. It is making a difference! Visit [www.pisgah.us](http://www.pisgah.us). 📍

**Karen Knowless** is Mount Pisgah Academy Assist coordinator/supervisor.

# “SHEMA YISRAEL, ADONAI ELOHENU, ADONI ECHAD”

*“Hear Oh Israel, the LORD Our God, the LORD Is One”*

BY JEFF ZAREMSKY



Outside lighting of the menorah during Chanukah



Survivor Rene Hammond speaks at the Holocaust Remembrance Service in New Port Richey.

Phil Bova was enjoying his life to the fullest. In addition to his career as an entertainer, he was also a lay cantor for several years for a large synagogue near Cleveland, Ohio. A major stroke at the age of 29 greatly affected his speech and voice, as well as his body. He could no longer drive a car, or run, or sing, or be active in any of the ways he once was. With a whole new physical challenge, he had no idea what would happen next.

Sitting alone in a hotel room, Phil decided to read the Gideon Bible placed in the room. Being Jewish, Phil had never read the Gospels nor knew anything of the life of Y’shua. Phil’s whole life changed as he accepted Y’shua as his Messiah. Phil now had the power to cope with the losses he experienced.

Many years later, Phil met Ralph Ringer, the evangelism coordinator for the Florida Conference during that time, now the director of church growth, evangelism training, and Jewish ministries at the Southern Union. Together with Jeff and Barbara Zaremsky and a few others, they began praying and planning how to reach the Jewish people in the Florida Conference with the same message of God’s love that had transformed their lives.

A book of Bible studies was developed under the title of *Jewish Discoveries*. Congregations were planted in Florida, first in Hollywood, then in St. Petersburg, and followed by one in New Port Richey.

## Jewish Discoveries

The *Jewish Discoveries* book contin-

ues to impact lives, such as the young woman in her early 20s who was cutting herself and suicidal. After reading the book, she was finally able to truly forgive. She is now very active in Jewish outreach and telling others of God’s amazing love.

## Synagogues

The congregations continue to minister to people with a Jewish style of worship and a full-Bible message.

“Sydney,” coming from an orthodox background, struggled with the idea of accepting the Messiah. When he saw he could still be Jewish and accept the Messiah, he was happy to do so. Not only was he immersed, he was married under a chuppah at the age of 89 in the synagogue in St. Petersburg.



Tour group overlooking Jerusalem from the Mount of Olives



The last shofar being blown at the end of Yom Kippur



Jim and Gloria Converse chose to hold their 50th anniversary recommitment ceremony under the chuppah in the sanctuary.

## Media

*Shalom Adventure* is an online magazine that posts new articles, music videos, sermons, recipes, and Bible studies. Tens of thousands of people have visited the magazine and watched or read the new posts that are added daily.

Videod Hebrew lessons are very popular. Almost anyone can learn to read Hebrew in just 10 minutes a day for two weeks.

Another popular video, *Ultimate Passover*, is a docudrama filmed in Israel, Egypt, and the United States. Three Passovers are reenacted and overlapped in the video, the original Passover in Egypt, Y'shua's last Passover in the upper room, and a modern Passover.

All three Passovers show that not much has changed since the first Pass-

over. All three point to Y'shua as the ultimate Passover Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

A full *Daniel & Revelation* series was filmed live and has helped many people see the prophecies from a Jewish perspective. It helped "Oscar and Beverly" so much that they have bought multiple copies to share with others. Several people have come to the synagogue as a result of Oscar's and Beverly's efforts.

## Israel Tours

Dan-to-Beersheba tours to Israel are conducted every couple of years, including one scheduled for this spring. This tour is unique, as it covers more of the sites and land of Israel than most tours. It gives tourists the ability to see Bible history from a Jewish background with

a full-Bible understanding, and takes its pilgrims to places where they can relive the experiences of the Bible.

One Israeli tour guide was so impacted by this particular tour that he allowed the tour leader to immerse him into the family of Messiah in the Jordan River. Many of the pilgrims have had an indelible spiritual impression placed upon their souls as a result of this tour, never to be the same. 🕊

**Jeff Zaremsky** is the spiritual leader of two congregations in Florida Conference: *Beth-El Shalom* in New Port Richey and *Beth-El Shalom* in St. Petersburg. He is a speaker and author, and spearheads an online magazine, *shalomadventure.com*.

# GOD REWARDS FAITHFULNESS

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

Jaely Vargas, a 20-year-old young woman who attends the Atlanta, Georgia, First Hispanic Church, works for “Leila” and her husband to take care of their child, and she teaches him Spanish. Jaely is a biology major who is studying to achieve her bachelor’s degree so that she can continue her education in medical school. Jaely and her parents and siblings are very active in church. Her boss, Leila, respects her religious beliefs, and never questions the fact that she does not work on the Sabbath.

I have had the privilege of watching her grow in the Church, and have noticed that she enjoys what she does for the Lord. She participates in the Youth Department Vacation Bible School and at First Hispanic, sings in the church choir and the praise team, and has been active with Pathfinders for many years. This is a real blessing at a time when so many young people have lost interest in what the Church has to offer. She is a millennial who does not let that label rule the way she serves the Lord, and uses the talents He has given her for His service.

One day, while she was driving to school, a driver rear-ended her car. That caused her to hit the car in front of her. Fortunately, she was not hurt but her car was totaled. Now she did not have a vehicle to go to work or school. The family she works for was on vacation during the first few days of losing her car, so she did not have to struggle with how she would get to work. However, when they returned, it was complicated. She left her problem in God’s hands, trusting that He was going to do whatever was good for her.

One Friday, Leila called Jaely to ask if she could come to work. Jaely told her that she did not have a car, and no one was



Jaely Vargas

available to give her a ride. Leila replied, “Do not worry, I will pay for an Uber ride, and when you get here, I will rent a car for you.” Jaely was happy and thankful to see her boss show appreciation and willingness to help her. When they went to the car rental company, they learned that Jaely was not old enough to rent a car. Plan A did not work. While they were trying to come up with a plan B, Leila asked her how much money she had to buy another car, Jaely told her \$2,000, but that the car insurance payment also has to be taken from that money. Leila asked Jaely to wait for her, because she was going to talk to her husband. When she came back, to Jaely’s surprise, Leila said, “Tomorrow, Saturday, after your sunset, we want you to come to our house. We are going to add \$3,500 to your \$2,000 so you

can buy a better car.” Jaely did not know what to say, she was so happy!

Sabbath came, she went to church as usual, and during the day, she received a text from Leila, letting her know that she and her husband had decided to give her \$5,000 instead of \$3,500. That evening Jaely went to pick up the money but did not accept the larger amount. Those people had been very good to her and she felt she had no way to pay that money back to them. Once again, God worked His ways. They told her she would never have to worry about paying a penny back, and gave her the \$3,500.

Jaely shared her testimony with the church. She kept saying over and over again, “God is Good.” With a big smile she told us that her new car, much better than the one she had before, was parked in the church’s parking lot that Sabbath.

As I listened to this testimony and saw how much she wanted to share what God had done for her, I thought of God’s faithfulness. He has promised so many times that if we let Him be our God, He will always be by our side because he treasures us (Exodus 19:5). He just wants our hearts.

Jaely gave her time and talents to the Lord. She trusted him, and as usual, He did not fail her.

“Oh, that their hearts would be inclined to fear me and keep all my commands always, so that it might go well with them and their children forever,” Deuteronomy 5:29 NIV. 🕊

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

# Where Two or Three Are GATHERED

BY JANELL HULLQUIST

Fellowship was important to Jesus. The gospels make it clear that while large crowds followed Him during His earthly ministry, Jesus specifically called 12 to be closest to Him, “that they might be with Him and that He might send them out to preach,” Mark 3:14, NKJV. At Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, LifeGroups provide one way for students to follow this example, drawing closer to each other and to Him.

Typically made up of a dozen students or less, approximately 80 campus groups meet together regularly to dig into the Bible, explore challenging topics, pray, and experience life together. As members form friendships with each other, they also find a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus. According to Anna Bennett, associate chaplain, the mission of LifeGroups is to provide opportunities for Southern students to “belong in spiritual, small group communities; behold God intimately and personally; and become changed, transformed, and empowered as disciple-makers of the Great Commission.”

“My LifeGroup is a place where I feel comfortable talking about the Bible and biblical topics,” said Autumn Dunzweiler, junior mass communication major. “One of the special experiences we’ve had as a group was when one of our members got baptized. It was so meaningful for her, but also for us because we all had a part in her decision.”

These student-led groups are as varied and unique as the students who gather together. Some delve into the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, others focus on gaining a deeper understanding of the men and women God wants them to be; one group of guys meet for an intense mountain bike ride that ends sitting in a circle, unpacking what God is doing in their lives. Other groups, like one for returning student missionaries (SMs), serve



LifeGroups give students an opportunity to develop lasting friendships and a sense of community as they build a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus.



These student-led groups are as varied and unique as the students who gather together.

a special role for students who may feel different than their peers.

“It can be hard for SMs coming back from a rich mission experience and settling back into ‘normal’ life,” Bennett said. “It helps to be with others who have had similar experiences and to find a sense of belonging.”

People of all ages can benefit from the fellowship of a spiritual small group. As Ellen White said, “The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort is

a plan that has been presented before me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members but for unbelievers also,” *Evangelism*, p. 115.

While participating in a small group may feel awkward at first, senior social work major Rosaly Ambrose felt God’s assurance that she was in the right place.

“My first LifeGroup meeting, I was nervous and scared to walk in,” she said, “but it just so happened that the topic they were discussing fit my exact situation and left me with an overall feeling of peace, and in that moment, I knew that it wasn’t a mistake joining this group.”

“For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them,” Matthew 18:20. ●

**Janell Hullquist** is the editorial manager at Southern Adventist University, where she graduated in 2005 with a degree in mass communication.

# Awaken Conference Reconnecting Youth with God

Ryan Hodgins, associate pastor at Sharon Church, shares his testimony.

With the epidemic of young adults leaving our churches, and inspiration from the Growing Young movement, we have recognized the desperate need to bring ministries to the forefront that will inspire and equip our young adults to have active, thriving relationships with God.

As the youth and young adult pastor of the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Charlotte, N.C., I sat down with some young adults and ministry leaders to brainstorm what we could do to help in this area. We started an area ministry called Psalm704, and out of this ministry came the Awaken Conference, which took place December 28-30, 2018.

Our theme was “Fully Devoted,” focused on impactful worship and equipping seminars. One of the biggest highlights from this event was the music and worship. As a church, we have a powerful and inspiring message to offer: The Spirit of the living God



PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTED BY AWAKEN CONFERENCE



PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTED BY AWAKEN CONFERENCE

can come alive in us.

When we read about how passionate the worship is in Scripture and in Heaven, we recognize that as a church we’ve fallen short. We can’t help but see that Gen Z and Millennials need to be moved in their worship by the Holy Spirit. We brought in Markis Zarate from Florida, and a local band called 7-Day to bring life and passion to our worship.

Craig Groeschel says, “To reach people we aren’t reaching we have to do things that we aren’t doing.” If we believe our message is true, we need to act like it, and put together the best worship sessions and raise our heart to God

with the passion that pours from our souls.

God moved this weekend through our worship, through our speakers, and through all the amazing details that made this a highly impactful event.

The next Awaken Conference will be February 7-9, 2020, in Charlotte. We are already planning for God to show up in a big way and inspire the great things that are going to happen. Through this event, we expect more. For more information, follow us on Instagram @psalm\_704, or check out our websites: awakennc.com and psalm704.com. 📍

BY RYAN HODGINS

# Generous Living Summit Held in Raleigh

The fourth annual Generous Living Summit, with the theme “Enough? The Secret to Being Content,” was held in Raleigh, N.C., at Raleigh First Church on January 19, 2019. The term “Generous Living” was adopted in 2012 by the Carolina Conference as the title of their stewardship program, advocating a holistic, all-in approach to living for Christ as a generous person.

Glen Altermatt, Carolina Conference evangelism coordinator and associate ministerial director, started the day as the morning presenter during Sabbath School. His interactive style of teaching had everyone participating in the discussion of the lesson.

Following Sabbath School and an inspirational song service, John Mathews, stewardship director for the North American Division, stood up to speak. The Summit was the last official appointment he accepted before



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

hanging up his mantle in retirement at the end of January. In his sermon he shared several stories of miracles that happened only because people were willing to be used. The point was simple: God would have been unable to work if His servants had not shown up, so be there to be used.

Scottie Deal, pastor of the Salisbury and Concord, N.C., churches, was on hand to share his singing talent as the musical guest, and also gave his incredible testimony to a captivated audience. As a young man he had been delivered from a life of drugs and other bad influences. His decision to accept God’s offer of salvation turned him into a powerful warrior for the truth.

The afternoon program also included a short but powerful presentation by Henry Johnson, Conference associate youth director for young adults and secular campus ministries. His topic was on how to have true contentment, using King David as an example of someone for whom contentment was elusive until he truly let God control the course of his life. 📍

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

# Hope Channel Hosts Celebration of Hope in the Carolinas

Guests were warmly greeted by Hope Channel staff member “Carmen” as they entered the Mountain Laurel building at the Ridgecrest Conference Center campus near Asheville, N.C. The air was filled with excitement and anticipation as people arrived for Hope Channel’s second Celebration of Hope event of 2018.

Celebration of Hope is a powerful weekend event where donors and their families are able to witness firsthand how the lives of Hope Channel viewers around the world are being transformed by their faithful support. Recognizing that Hope Channel’s donors are essential in sharing God’s Good News, this event is designed to thank donors for their generosity, as well as inspire them to continue in their partnership with Hope Channel in ministry.

After receiving their welcome letter and a badge, guests were encouraged to relax in their hotel rooms, each with a window overlooking the stunning scenery of the Blue Ridge Mountains, before attending dinner.

At dinner the guests were greeted not only by a friendly wait staff and a delicious menu, but by individuals many had only ever seen on screen. Several hosts of Hope Channel’s most popular programs mingled with the crowd.

“Hi, Dr. Nerida! It’s such a pleasure to meet you. Your advice on ‘Go Healthy for Good’ has been such a help for me and my health.”

“Is that Season and Mario from ‘Let’s Pray’? I love that program!”

“Pastor Morris, we watch ‘Hope Sabbath School’ every week — we never miss it!”

Soon after dinner, the weekend activities commence. The screen is brought to the stage with “Hope Sabbath School” live, giving attendees not only a sneak peek at how things run behind the camera but the chance to participate on the discussion panel.



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

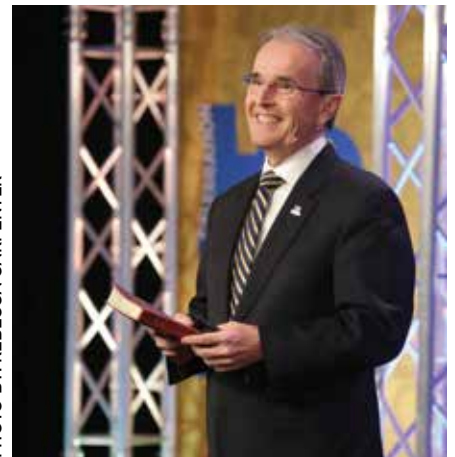


PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

The rest of the weekend is filled with powerful messages, beautiful music, video testimonies of viewers from around the world, and even a live testimony of the impact of Hope Channel. It was also filled with the apprehension of snow.

Despite the 16 inches of snow that fell Sabbath evening, God blessed Celebration of Hope with funds that will allow Hope Channel to share the Gospel even further.

“What a blessing it was to have been

here and hear all the wonderful works God is doing through Hope Channel,” said one donor. “Thank you for a wonderful weekend, and remain faithful in the work!”

Hope Channel looks forward to returning to Asheville October 18-20, 2019, for another blessing-filled weekend. ●

BY JULIANA BAIONI

# Inflatable Heart Tent is Focus of Health Expo



The inflatable heart tent was an attention getter at the Fort Lauderdale Church Health Expo.

An inflatable heart tent for children was the focus of the 21st Annual Health Expo, held November 4, 2018, on the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church grounds. “Race to Wellness” was the theme for the Expo, with more than 50 displays by providers.

Ariston P. Awitan, M.D., retired orthopedic surgeon and author of *200 Diseases*, officially opened the festival that included free health screenings for hundreds of Broward County residents. “It is a remarkable achievement that your church has been able to offer this important event to the community for 21 years,” wrote Dean J. Trantalis, mayor of Fort Lauderdale, in a congratulatory letter.

The inflatable heart tent allowed children to play, have fun, and learn as they colored and labeled the parts of the heart and its chambers. “[We] hope to use this heart tent to enhance future health fairs,

and increase awareness on heart disease for children and adults,” said Lola Walker-Griffiths, D.N.P., Expo coordinator.

The prospect of having an inflatable heart tent for children instead of the usual bouncing castle or bouncing house seemed impossible because of the cost. After much prayer, the health committee succeeded in raising the funds needed from local businesses and church members.

The health weekend commenced on Sabbath, November 3, when Robert Stevenson, principal at Sawgrass Adventist School, presented a sermon titled “The Powerful Choice.” The highlight of the day was the official recognition of Linval Henry for the pivotal role he played in supporting the Health Expo from its inception. He was presented with a plaque by Health Expo founder Ardith Clayton Wright.

Health Expo 2018 was co-sponsored by



PHOTOS BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON

Young and old attended the 21st Annual Health Expo at Fort Lauderdale Church.

Broward Health, One Blood, Holy Cross Hospital, Simply Health Care, Primary Medical Health Care, Broward Health County Health Department, and Broward Community Health Center.

“Health Expo 2018 was one of the best I have ever witnessed. I would like to commend nurse Marseille, Lola Walker-Griffiths, Elder Derk Green, and their team for their professionalism and collaborative effort,” said Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor at Fort Lauderdale Church. 📍

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON, PH.D.



# Southpoint Church Hosts Security, Safety Awareness Workshop



Certified master anti-terrorism specialist Jeffery Johnson conducted a security awareness workshop at Southpoint Church in Jacksonville.



PHOTO BY: WANDA JENKINS

Jacksonville Southpoint Church

specialist, and to provide church safety awareness training. Area churches and the community at large were invited to take advantage of this interactive, 21st century, specialized training. Johnson, an ordained Adventist elder, spoke at the Sabbath morning worship service, and presented a Church Safety and Security Awareness workshop in the afternoon, “When Guns Are NOT Enough.”

Johnson’s experience as part of the security details for two former United States Presidents and Vice Presidents provided insight on his expertise in the field and God’s mighty protection of his life. He shared best practice measures all churches can take to be more proactive in keeping the doors open while protecting members and guests inside.

Johnson spent nearly two hours in a closed-door session with the security team and select church officers from four Jacksonville churches, including two Southeastern Conference churches.

The very next Sabbath, Ryan Amos, pastor, reported that an unknown individual carrying a 9” knife in a holster had visited Southpoint Church. Thankfully, leaders were able to detect and resolve the situation following the protocol learned in the church safety training. 🕒

BY WANDA JENKINS

In light of the rise of church shootings in the United States, the Jacksonville, Fla., Southpoint Church, under the direction of Eddie McDaniels, security team leader, hosted a security awareness workshop on November 10, 2018, for churches in north Florida. This workshop provided security awareness knowledge and tools for overall safety for members and the community.

In 2017 there were 174 church shootings in the United States, and in most of these situations, the assailants knew their targets. According to Adventist Risk

Management, “Statistics indicate that the trend for violence against houses of worship has increased over the years, and shows no sign of decreasing.” This is evidenced by the deadly mass shooting at the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pa., which occurred as they, too, were worshipping on the Sabbath day.

Southpoint’s security team invited certified master anti-terrorism specialist Jeffery Johnson, president of True North Strategic Consultants from Billings, Mont., to come and share his 20 years of experience as a high-risk protection

PHOTO BY: THOMAS ROHTSALU

# Duluth Eighth-graders Pray for Class Trip to Florida

**M**elissa Young, middle school math and science teacher and eighth-grade homeroom teacher at Duluth Adventist Christian School (DACS) in Duluth, Ga., had some very special news she recently wanted to share with her eighth-grade class.

Months ago, she had applied for the class seeking a scholarship to cover their class trip costs. They wanted to plan a very nice four-day trip to Florida, and were working tirelessly to raise the money to be able to go. The students were excited about the idea of travel and often prayed hoping to receive this scholarship. Unfortunately, in December Young received word that they had NOT received the scholarship. She also found out that they did not have enough money for all the students to participate in the trip.

The students felt much disappointment when she had to tell them that they could no longer go to Florida for their class trip, and that after all the months of hard work, there just wasn't enough money for the special trip.

Young personally also felt a huge loss. This was months of lack of sleep, letter writing, wreath selling, and car washing. She tried to keep a good attitude about it, especially for the students, but she was very discouraged.

Even though the eighth-grade class trip is essentially a vacation, it is also a learning opportunity which many of her students haven't had because they have never had the chance to travel like this. DACS works with a diverse group of students from many backgrounds, and many who do not have all the resources and opportunities that some households might have.

Young had a lot of long conversations with God asking for peace of mind because she just did not believe that her students weren't going.

Miraculously, Young recently received



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: MELISSA YOUNG

The eighth-grade students at Duluth Adventist Christian School prayed for the opportunity to take a special class trip to Florida. Working hard to raise the funds, they also applied for a scholarship to help fund the trip.

an email from the scholarship agency stating that they had made a mistake. It turns out her entire class DID receive the scholarship! Not only that, but they were awarded the maximum amount that can be awarded — \$5,000! The agency who awarded the scholarship is called the SYTA Foundation, and they awarded the Duluth eighth-grade class what is called the Road Scholarship.

The SYTA Youth Foundation (SYF) established the Road Scholarship program in 2002 to award funds to youth who are unable to afford the cost of student group trips. Based on the belief that travel is essential for a complete education, it is SYF's goal to make a positive difference, through travel, in the young

lives of global citizens. Scholarships are awarded to nominees by the SYF Board of Trustees after reviewing applications submitted by educators.

Young is so excited that all of her students are now able to participate in their class trip, and they will even have some money left over. She feels it is truly a miracle and a gift from God that is too good not to share! Young was also touched when her students, after learning that their school did receive the scholarship, said a prayer for the other schools who did not receive any rewards. 🙏

BY MELISSA YOUNG

# “Mobilize” to Engage Young Adults in Church



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Mobilize, a training to mobilize young adults for the Kingdom, took place January 26, 2019, at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference office. One pastor, Mark Waters, with the Adventist Fellowship Church in Albany, Ga., brought his entire church board. Don Keele Jr. (right), director of young adult and ACF ministries, presented.

Mobilize, a training to help churches attract, engage, and mobilize young adults for the Kingdom, took place Sabbath, January 26, 2019, at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference office. About 40 people came to learn more about being intentional to engage young adults.

Don Keele Jr., director of young adult and ACF ministries, says, “When we look at the data on young adults, we find that one of the largest points of exodus from the church corresponds with graduation from college. Somehow we haven’t been good at helping young adults transition across from collegiate life to life as a young adult member in the Church. Not content with this finding, we have set out to do something about it. So, we have developed a yearly training we call Mobilize to help teach any who care in the Church, how to reach out and engage young adults for the sake of the Kingdom.”

Nate Elias, pastor of the Peachtree City Church in Atlanta, Ga., and presenter, said, “Young Adults (YAs) aren’t nearly as difficult to attract as it may appear. Open to learning about spiritual matters, YAs thrive in exploring spirituality even with Church members. When we share we care, includ-

ing meaningful equipping, empowering, and mentoring, YAs will recognize we care. YAs want to make their communities a better place, and this includes the Church.”

Elias shared three easy tips for attracting young adults:

- Invite YAs into your ministry service (mentor).
- By the third Sabbath, invite young adults into ministry involvement (participation).
- Listen to know young adults’ passions for service and empower them in service (empower).

Courtney Mills, young adult and member of the North River Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., said her pastor asked her to attend the training because she was recently named the new youth and young adult leader. She said it was “important to come with an open mind, and there is a lot to gain from the training.” She says it is a major issue for the Church, and it is important to take initiative.

Another presenter, Justin Yang, pastor of Atlanta Korean Church, shared that he was recently at a gas station wearing a jacket with young adult ministries embroidered on the front. The cashier asked Yang what this meant, and it was exciting for him to

share that his church wants all young adults to come to church and be part of the family. Then Yang went back to his car and wept, for fear that if these young adults attended an Adventist church they might not be welcomed. “So many today are seeking family, something that is lacking, and our churches could easily fill that,” says Yang.

Yang did a social experiment where he dyed his hair purple, wore tattoo sleeves and ripped jeans, and went to different churches. “As I was walking up and opened the door, a lady asked, ‘What are you doing here?’” Yang was only welcome at six out of 36 Adventist churches over a 12-week period. He says we must cultivate a warm welcome, and create a church family where everyone is welcome.

Tanya Leon-Thomas, a member of the Fayette, Ga., Church, believes that there is an age segment missing from the Church, those who are 23-35. “We got a lot of food for thought today. This focus on young adults is desperately needed. Glad we are taking this on as a Conference,” says Leon-Thomas. 🙏

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

# Ramirez Ordained to Chaplaincy Ministry

**G**ulf States Conference officers joined Mateo Ramirez on January 16, 2019, at the Conference office in Montgomery, Ala., to ordain Ramirez to chaplaincy ministry. Ramirez was born and raised on a farm in the Dominican Republic. At 12 years old, he felt God’s call to become a Seventh-day Adventist, though his family practiced a mixture of Catholicism and witchcraft. His commitment to worship on the Sabbath rather than work on the farm eventually led to young Ramirez being forced to leave home. God remained faithful to him, and local church members provided homes for Ramirez for the remainder of his school years. Upon graduating high school, the way was opened for him to go to the Adventist University of the Dominican Republic where he studied theology. While there, Ramirez was deeply involved in his local church, where his commitment and personal efforts were instrumental in the establishment of a new Adventist church congregation in that community.

Ramirez graduated with a degree in theology, and soon after he moved to the United States where he worked as a literature evangelist in New York City. A short time later, he accepted a call to Grand Rapids, Mich., to help establish a church plant which quickly grew to more than 70 members. His next call was to



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

Mateo Ramirez’s family — daughter Hadassah (left), wife Marla, Mateo, and daughter Elena — pose together at the Gulf States Conference office.

Green Bay, Wis., where he established and ministered to a Hispanic church family for several years. God’s call came next in 2001 to Fredericksburg, Tex., where Ramirez not only planted a new church family but started his own, marrying his wife, Marla, in 2003. They continued their ministry together in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in 2005, by working in a church plant in Berryville, Ark., and helped to open

another church in Huntsville, Ark., a few years later. Ramirez pastored in the Gulf States Conference from January 2017 to December 2018 in the Meridian and Forrest district.

The Ramirezes, along with their daughters, Hadassah Hildalis and Elena Deborah, continue to seek the Lord’s will as they pursue the chaplaincy ministry. **📌**

BY RICK WOODRUFF

# Church Members Revisit Fundamental Beliefs

**L**ay members at the Piedmont, Ala., Church have taken a deeper plunge into God’s Word in an exciting new project. Inspired by the attendance of a newcomer in the congregation, Rick

Blythe, retired pastor, delivered a core message on the inspiration of Scripture for a Friday night service. However, a new idea was dawning as Blythe welcomed in the Sabbath. “Our church could benefit

from a refresher on our Adventist beliefs too,” he pondered. “Why not encourage the members to explain doctrine from God’s Word for themselves?” A sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall began to



Deborah Stubbs presents a message on "The Holy Spirit."

fill with names as members, sometimes partnered with each other, committed to present a fundamental belief before the church each month. The messages proved to be a blessing to both the speakers and the congregation. "My topic was on the Holy Spirit," says Debbie Stubbs, a church member who presented. "I studied a lot, and Pastor Rick helped

me pull a sermon outline together. I was more than blessed; there are no words to describe it. After the message, a young person approached me, visibly touched. The Scriptures had been taken to heart. I realize that my words are inadequate, but God's Words are eternal." 📌

BY ABIGAIL DUMAN

## Baptism Sabbath Reaps Results

The Community Church in Meridian, Miss., celebrated the baptism of their newest family member, Willia Thomas, on the first Sabbath of January 2019. Thomas joined the church as a result of several evangelistic efforts, a meeting series, small groups, and friendship. However, it was through faithful scheduling of "Baptism Sabbath" that made her decision to be baptized easier.

Baptism Sabbath is a pre-determined date when the baptistry will be filled and ready for use, regardless if anyone is scheduled to be baptized or not. Samuel Riemersma, pastor, shares the reasoning behind the plan: "I learned about Baptism Sabbath from a presenter at the Southern Union Evangelism Conference (EC3). The idea is that our purpose as a church, our business or job, according to Matthew 28, is to baptize people. If we aren't baptizing people, we aren't doing our job, and our mission will fail. Imagine ... if a McDonald's didn't sell any hamburgers for a year or longer, that location wouldn't stay open for long." As these Baptism Sabbaths are advertised and promoted in the church, it gives visitors an opportunity to ask, "What is baptism? What does it mean?" And, it also makes it easier for those who were already considering baptism to take the next step and commit.

By faith, Community Church has scheduled these special Sabbaths to take place every two months. When asked



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Willia Thomas (left) stands with Samuel Riemersma, pastor of the Community Church, as he prepares to baptize her.

what will happen if the baptistry is filled and no one is scheduled to be baptized, Riemersma answered, "It should cost us if we are not doing what God asked us to do — the monetary cost of water expense, as well as the experience of seeing the tank filled yet no one to participate in it. But, we shouldn't fear failure; if we do what God wants us to do, we can't fail. Even if there is no baptism, that can be turned into

a teaching moment."

Following this year-opening Sabbath with a baptism and announcing the next Baptism Sabbath for March, the church is working with four more individuals to prepare for baptism. Implementing this faith-based plan is yielding exciting results for Community Church. 📌

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Pastor Dennis Altrogge Retires



Dorothy and Dennis Altrogge

The Paducah, Ky., and Murray, Ky., churches in Kentucky-Tennessee Conference celebrated and honored the retirement of Dennis Altrogge, pastor, along with his wife, Dorothy, on December 22, 2018. The retirement reception included a special potluck meal, followed by speeches of thankfulness given by the members, and ended with a slideshow presentation of pictures and memories. It

was a special time to honor Altrogge and his wife for their almost 40 years of ministry, which began in 1979.

Altrogge's ministry career has included working for four unions, Southwestern, Lake, Mid-America, and Southern; and five conferences, beginning in Texas, followed by Indiana, Minnesota, Dakota, and Kentucky-Tennessee. In all, he has been the pastor of 24 churches. He also served on the

conference committee in Indiana, and two terms on the academy board in Minnesota.

One of the biggest strengths of the Altrogges is their ability to connect and form relationships with their members. They have made it a point to return to and visit each district they've been in, some more than once. This is something they plan to continue into retirement.

The Altrogges plan to move to Tallahassee, Fla., so they can be closer to family. With a son, daughter-in-law, and grandson in Washington state, as well as a daughter, son-in-law, and two more grandsons residing in Georgia, they will no doubt fill their time with traveling and visiting. They also have a love for the outdoors, and hope to spend much time in God's creation. Altrogge is a talented woodworker and handyman, with plenty to keep him busy in his shop.

The lives touched during his ministry career are countless in number, and the members wish them both blessings and fun during the next stage of their lives. ❀

---

BY RACHEL BROCKMAN

---

# Louisville First Church Experiences Season of Change

For everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven," Ecclesiastes 3:1. Louisville, Ky., First Church has been on a journey of growth for more than three years. "At one time there were some with the opinion that we were a dying church," says one church member. "We were not meeting budget, our facility was in need of repair and better care ... things had to change." To make that happen, a vision-casting meeting was held in 2015, and plans were made with much time spent in prayer.

Fundraising efforts for refurbishing the church in phases began. First, the sanctuary and hallways were painted, moving next to new carpeting, new pews, and new decorations. The fellowship hall flooring was also redone, and upgrades to the audio-visual capabilities were implemented. Services are now live-streamed for those who are unable to attend church.

Stewart Lozensky, pastor, encouraged all members to discover their spiritual gifts and find a place to be involved. Church family groups were formed, headed by the elders. God's hand can be seen

in these actions through growing attendance, increased giving, and more local members.

Four different evangelistic campaigns have been held during the last three years by Kieth Noll, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference ministerial director; Louisville First Church members; Ezequiel Leyva, Bible worker; and most recently Amazing Facts evangelist Dakota Day. Several Bible workers helped follow up on Bible study interests. Before each series members took part in 40 days of fasting and prayer, signing up on a calendar so that



PHOTO BY:

New church members: Nathaniel Vaughn (left); Lamontez Harris; Patricia Moran; Patsy and G.W. Keown; John Jackey; and Denise and Glenn Ray; with Anna and Dakota Day, evangelist; and Stewart Lozensky, pastor.

BY LIANNE MCCONNELL

each day was covered. Dozens of new church family members were baptized or joined by profession of faith as a result.

Louisville First Church is a vibrant, diverse group of people from across the age spectrum, all walks of life, and many countries of origin. It continues to grow, adding new ministries, and reaching out to the community to share the love of Jesus. God has blessed His people with an incredible opportunity to spread His Word and minister in ways that are changing lives every day. 📍

## Leach Church Breaks Ground on Basket Sabbath



Groundbreaking participants were Bill Davis (left), elder; Joe Castro, elder; Betty Wallace, church treasurer; Kieth Noll, ministerial director; Ric Shoemaker, owner of RES Construction; John Baker, pastor; and Aaron Sirk, head elder. Not pictured: Paul Stanley and Todd Pierce of Stanley Roofing & Construction.



Basket Sabbath

It's not often that two important and intentional events are planned for the same day. However, that is exactly what transpired on a bitterly cold, rainy December 8, 2018. Members of Leach Church in Cedar Grove, Tenn., chose to break ground for a new fellowship hall on "Basket Sabbath." Basket Sabbath is a bi-annual endeavor distributing fruits, food staples, and a sharing book throughout the greater com-

munity to families in need. The baskets allow members to visit individuals who are unchurched, recently widowed, or economically disadvantaged.

The new fellowship hall will be roughly two-and-a-half times the size of the old one. The hope is that the newer building, constructed by RES Construction and Stanley Roofing & Construction, both of Jackson, Tenn., will serve the communi-

ty's needs more effectively when it comes to accommodating dinners, funerals, and wedding receptions. Additionally, the larger space will offer more options to accommodate its ever expanding summer Vacation Bible School program.

The building is expected to be completed by late January. 📍

BY JOHN BAKER

# Berean Crusaders Pathfinders Serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday



PHOTO BY: ALICIA ALEXANDER

PHOTO BY: AMINGA BRACY

Color guards, front row: Michael Smith (left), Marilyn Shaw, Aminga Bracy, and Marvin Bracy. Back row: Reuben Spann (left), Jolee St. Victor, Kamiliyah Griggs, Jasmine Gardner, Rebekah Shaw, Rachel Edd, Michael Coffee, Mikhail Bracy, Lia Sanchez, Nkosi Constant, Benjamin Edd, Kyla King, Aminah Daniels, and Ashton Smith.

WRXL Radio interview with TLT Mikhail Bracy, Michael Coffee, and Lia Sanchez

The Berean Crusaders Pathfinder Club meaningfully celebrated Martin Luther King Jr., Ph.D., holiday by serving their community and representing God and their church and club in unprecedented ways. Members of Berean Church in Atlanta, Ga., and Sherwin Jack, Ph.D., senior pastor, were present.

On one end of the city, the jump rope team performed for more than 4,000 runners at the 2019 MLK 5K Drum Run in 28-degree weather at Piedmont Park. The jump rope team consists of 15 Pathfinders and staff. In the words of their coordinator and coach, Master Guide Maime Pruitt, “WE ARE TROOPERS representing what our motto is: Fun, Fitness, and Fellowship.”

At the other end of the city, the color guards were afforded the high honor of posting flags for King’s annual commemorative services at the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta. As members of the congregation concluded singing the “Battle Hymn of the Republic,” the church’s doors swung open to the command, “Pathfinders, forward march!” by King Center representative and Master Guide Darrel Palmes.

Following the command, the color guards marched down the aisles into the sanctuary with the American flag leading front and center. The Christian and Pathfinder flags followed closely at quarter step intervals behind. The color guards were accompanied by a team of Master Guides, who marched closely behind.

From the far left and right aisles, 12 Pathfinders marched alongside them carrying the national flags, while two Master Guides remained behind to assist them.

Without commands, the Crusaders halted after the American, Christian, and Pathfinder flags took their rightful places and concurrently executed “Present arms!” They remained in this position until “America the Beautiful” was sung and a spirited saxophonist’s rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” echoed throughout the edifice. Berean’s color guards then executed the “Order arms!” command and exited the sanctuary to a rousing applause before the audience took their seats.

In so doing, members of the Berean Crusaders Pathfinder Club seized this





PHOTO BY: AMINGA BRACY

**Berean Crusaders jump rope team includes Isabel Adams (left); Leah Hall; Tundra, security guard; Sophia LaDonis; Gabrielle LaDonis; Avionne Hall; and Jolee St. Victor.**

opportunity to bear witness and lighten their world. Three Pathfinders demonstrated their readiness to witness during an interview with WRXL FM 102 radio. The club's director, Michael Smith, Ph.D., was interviewed and stated, "The Pathfinders were great. We are truly proud."

The cause of Christ was well represented by the Pathfinders. Both the jump rope team and color guards echoed the Great Commission, and fulfilled the Pathfinder Aim. Color guard coordinator, Master Guide Marvin Bracy, said, "Berean Crusaders Pathfinders were willing and ready. They represented the club

well, answered the Great Commission's call, and fulfilled their Pathfinder Aim, 'The Advent message to all the world in my generation.'"

Positive feedback worldwide was portrayed on social media from Canada, Europe, South America, and the Caribbean. One British spectator described it well by stating, "Finials gleaming on top of the poles, correct alphabetical placement of the national flags: PERFECT!"

To view the Pathfinders presentation, visit <https://youtu.be/NwxjSki2Ev4>. 🎧

BY AMINGA BRACY

# Stephan Davis Installed at New Bethel Church

It was a high day for members of New Bethel Church in Columbus, Ga., on Sabbath, October 6, 2018. Crawford Humphrey, former pastor, had retired three months earlier, and at last a new pastor was preparing to take leadership. The South Atlantic Conference representative, Ralph Franklin, shared greetings from William L. Winston, Conference president, with the congregation, followed by the sound of the shofar, and the invitation for Stephan J. Davis to stand with his wife, Patricia, and come to the podium, along with all local, active elders and their spouses. It was a joyful sight as Franklin read the litany for the pastoral installation.

Davis is a native of Newark, N.J., and he learned to serve the Lord while living in Marion, S.C. He has been married for 30 years to the former Patricia Hill of Manning, S.C. Their union gave birth to two daughters, Stephanie Joye and Alexandria. Davis holds a bachelor of science degree from South Carolina State University in Orangeburg, S.C., and a master of divinity from Andrews



**Kenneth Bonaparte (left), first elder, and Ralph Franklin, South Atlantic Conference representative, led in the pastoral installation of Stephan J. Davis, and his wife, Patricia, at New Bethel Church in Columbus, Ga.**

University in Berrien Springs, Mich. He has a humble spirit, yet not without a passionate, demonstrative, and proven ability to lead. He has pastored 10 churches during the past 25 years, and his previous church was Ebenezer Church in Augusta, Ga.

Following his Spirit-filled message, one person came forth. The service was

followed with a welcoming reception in a fall-colored, decorative fellowship hall where the Davises were showered with gifts, and a tasty vegetarian meal was provided for all. 🎧

BY WESLEY B. JONES

# Mount Calvary Collaborates with “Mount of Mentoring”



PHOTO BY: ALTHEA TRUMAN

Mentors on the Mount include Valarey Anglin (left), Nereen Allen, Althea Truman, and Glenore Fraser. Protégés develop designer skills and are guided to use those skills to develop self-expression, self-efficacy, self-esteem, and self-sufficiency. They develop trust and team spirit, respect, and restoration, together with discipline and dignity in the hope and wholeness process.

Mentors on the Mount perpetuate a Mount Calvary Church mission-driven Sabbath School in its community in Tampa Bay, Fla. Under the guidance of Althea Truman, Sabbath School superintendent, Mount of Mentoring collaborates with civic, local government, and religious organizations, including Hillsborough House of Hope; Miracle House; and One Church One Child in conjunction with Eckerd, Big Brothers, and Big Sisters, to purposefully express hope and exemplify wholeness.

On the Mount, mentors establish meaningful relationships with protégés. They pray for and pray with program participants. They teach, inspire, and encourage them. They meet at Mount Calvary or at Brandon Public Library every other Tuesday to plan, practice, and streamline moral, professional, financial, and spiritual resources for psychosocial, socioeconomic, and psychospiritual empowerment to protégés.

In collaboration with Project Watch Care and One Church One Child, Rosa Kennedy, assistant superintendent, holds up the praying arm of Mount of Mentoring for a group of 10 youths in foster care to receive permanent families and safe homes. “Prayer-2019” starts for a sibling group of five: Sierra, 16; Kaye, 14; Cala, 12; Jimmy, 10; and Lilymae, 9. These siblings are separated and longing to be together as a family. Mentors take the oath to pray every day — 6 a.m., 12 p.m., and 6 p.m., and as the Spirit leads — that God would grant this crucial desire of their young hearts.

Mentors also assist protégés in meeting challenges of physical and emotional abuse, abandonment, incarceration, separation from family, and the grave experience of assimilating into a group home environment with the accompanying stigma at school or work. Although some of the teenagers may have been rescued

from abuse in the home, and others rescued from trafficking the streets, living in a group home does not shelter them from the harsh reality of living away from family, being in a strange place with strange neighbors, and being robbed of individual liberties of home life. Truman has utilized clinical pastoral internship skills to lead her team in providing empathetic listening, comfort, spiritual support, awareness, and other coping strategies to protégés. Mount of Mentoring especially rejoices with Joy Streeter, assistant superintendent, as her protégé graduates from the program at Hillsborough House of Hope and enters society as a productive citizen.

As Truman reflects on Mentoring on the Mount, she says, “Jesus looked upon the masses with compassion, fed them, healed them, and then bid them follow Him. And, so it is with the Mount of Mentoring!”

BY ALTHEA TRUMAN

# Mount Zion, Mission-driven Church, Burns Mortgage



PHOTO BY: JOANNE MAYERS

Participating in the mortgage-burning ceremony were Pierre Hunt (left), local elder; Lewis W. Edwards, D.Min., pastor; Robert Patterson Jr., CFO; Michael Clarke, head elder; and Shelman Alexander, local elder. Mount Zion Church testifies that there is nothing too hard for God.

The mortgage-burning service on November 17, 2018, will forever be etched in the members' memories. They came together to accept the vision and challenge given to them after the arrival of their new pastor, Lewis W. Edwards, D.Min., in October 2012, to become debt free. They were happy to pay off their mortgage nine years ahead of schedule. On that day, the members of Mount Zion Church in Kissimmee, Fla., along with friends and other supporters, experienced what God desires for His people, deliverance from financial bondage (Proverbs 22:7).

The congregation was blessed to have Robert Patterson Jr., CFO of Southeastern Conference (SEC), to be their keynote speaker. His subject was "What Now?" He challenged the members and guests

with the directions that all are to follow based on Micah 6:8; which are to do justly, love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.

Gregory Mack, SEC president, along with Conference administrators and the SEC Executive Committee in 2016, offered an incentive for the churches in the Conference to become debt free. The incentive initially included paying the churches mortgage balances of \$15,000, and it was increased to \$30,000, with the Conference providing that as the final payment.

It was 1960 when the work began in the Kissimmee area. In 1974 a decision was made to start the church, and it was organized in 1979 as the Kissimmee Church. In 1985 the name was changed to Mt. Zion Church. In 2000 the church and gymnasium were dedicated. However, in 2007 the church borrowed approximately \$400,000

for other projects, which included buying adjoining property, fencing in its property, and making tremendous upgrades to its computer technology department.

This special mortgage burning service brought joy to the members young and old, and to their visitors and friends. They experienced seeing the prayer of Christ being answered, "That they all may be one; as Thou, Father, art in Me, and I in Thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me," John 17:23. There is nothing too hard for God to do when His people unite and work together with Christ!

Mt. Zion members adopt the Mission Motto of "Sharing Hope and The Everlasting Gospel!"

BY NATASHA MCCOY

# AHU Student Project Aims to Reduce Iron Deficiency in Haiti

**A**dventHealth University (AHU) has a distinctive mission to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ. But, what do those healing values look like in practice?

As part of their graduation requirements, AHU students must complete a Capstone Project in their final year. They are free to choose the focus of their study, and many students design their projects around personal passions. For Melissa Molina, an AdventHealth University (AHU) physician assistant (PA) student, this passion was nutrition, which she had pursued for her bachelor's degree before coming to AHU. This interest led to her involvement in a study to reduce iron deficiency anemia in Haitian communities.

As Molina was considering topics for her Capstone Project, her teacher, Ann LeVine, M.D., AHU's PA medical director, connected her with Stacy McConkey, M.D., a pediatrician at AdventHealth, and her partner, Catherine Loe, M.D. Both women have been going to Haiti for mission work for several years. They told Molina about the dietary challenges in Haiti, and about a product called Lucky Iron Fish that had been used successfully in other iron-deficient communities.

The Lucky Iron Fish is a small iron cooking tool that is added during the cooking process. It infuses the meal with natural iron and is reusable, making it a more affordable way to increase iron in your diet. After researching the company and its product, Molina agreed that it would be the most cost-effective and safe solution to use for her project.

To instruct the cooks in the orphanages she planned to visit, Molina looked for Creole-translated materials through the Lucky Iron Fish company, but found that none existed. Her solution was to create instructional video and printed handouts



**Melissa Molina (left) and Catherine Loe, M.D., pose with a child from a Haiti orphanage.**

in Creole with the help of a translator. The video was uploaded to YouTube where the link could be easily shared.

From December 3 to 8 of 2018, she joined Global Missions Initiatives' Project Operation Sunshine in Haiti along with Loe to visit seven orphanages. Molina described her experience as humbling. "The community lacks many basic needs like electricity and the resources needed to access nutritional food sources." As she had learned from McConkey and Loe, many children were iron-deficient.

At each facility, she met with cooks and workers to demonstrate how to incorporate the Lucky Iron Fish into their cooking. She showed the instructional video she created and provided laminated handouts with more information. She worked with an interpreter and distributed surveys after she had finished her demonstrations. She prepared quizzes

for them to confirm they understood the process and could repeat it without her help.

The feedback was overwhelmingly positive. The workers found Molina's instructions easy to understand and implement. She recounted the emotion she felt when the cooks expressed gratitude for her efforts, thanking her sincerely and saying, "God bless you."

For Molina, it was a new experience to see the results of her work firsthand. She said, "I've been busy with school, and most of my work so far was behind the scenes at a computer. It was rewarding to see the real-world impact for myself."

In addition to her Lucky Iron Fish demonstrations, Molina also performed health check visits under the supervision of attending physicians and/or medical residents. To complete the research, Molina will return to the orphanages after a year to check the hemoglobin levels of the people there. She's also retained contacts for each facility so that she can be reached if they have questions.

Loe followed up with Lucky Fish after the successful trip, and were intrigued by the materials that Molina had created. The company was impressed with her work, and even expressed interest in sharing her materials through social media and wider distribution channels.

Molina is excited to see the project grow. "Creating the video and materials led to more ideas for how we could further develop the project." She is currently completing her last trimester with AHU, but she said that she sees herself staying with the project and creating more educational materials for other communities in need. 📌

---

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

---

# School of Journalism and Communication Takes Learning to a New Level

Over the past year, Southern Adventist University's School of Journalism and Communication (SJC) has made it a priority to offer students a next-level educational experience. From extensive renovations to innovative new classes, these efforts support the department's long-standing goal of sparking intellectual hunger and challenging students to succeed.

As part of this commitment, the SJC team applied for and received a grant to research other flourishing journalism departments across the country. In an industry that is constantly changing, Rachel Williams-Smith, Ph.D., dean of SJC, found the comparisons beneficial in helping her team to identify new, effective methods of incorporating current technology and honing relevant skills.

SJC added several new classes, including courses on social media and media ministry. As a result, Jacob Fisher, senior journalism major (with an emphasis in digital broadcast), received a unique opportunity to apply his skills; through a class outing to J103, a local Christian radio station, Fisher landed an internship producing advertising spots for the station.

"It has been an incredible experience! I'm constantly learning new things, and I'm having a great time," Fisher said. "I appreciate how SJC integrates spiritual matters with real-world applications."

This past fall, two new professors joined the SJC team: Pulitzer Prize nominee Alva Johnson and award-winning film maker Pablo Fernandez. With his broadcast experience, Fernandez brought a fresh approach to the age-old speech class, introducing a TedTalk-style learning experience.

One of the most visible changes to SJC has been a complete remodel of the department. This included adding several new classrooms, a state-of-the-art pho-



Students like Natalia Perez, senior mass communication major, enjoy hanging out in the new SJC lounge area.



Assistant professor Pablo Fernandez utilizes one of the new SJC classrooms that features integrated technology and versatile furnishings.

tography studio, and a lounge area where students can relax and watch the news. Boards showcasing student work now line the halls, inspiring creativity and success.

"The remodel has made the department more welcoming," said Lizzie Williams, senior public relations major. "The large couches and comfy chairs encourage us to come together, and the new study spaces

help us grow academically."

Lorraine Ball, associate professor of journalism and communication, has taught at Southern for 18 years and witnessed dramatic changes in the field. She and her fellow SJC professors encourage students to be the best that they can be both academically and in personal character, despite negative perceptions that some may have of the industry in an era of "fake news."

"Ethics are a huge part of what we teach," Ball said. "We try to weave values and principles into every class. We model them, we teach them, but ultimately it's up to each student to embrace a strong moral code." 🗣️

BY RACHEL BEAVER



**HENDERSON, DR. NORMAN LEROY**, 88, born Aug. 19, 1930 at Martin Hospital in Seattle, WA, died Jan. 18, 2019 at Williamson Medical Center in Franklin, TN.

Growing up in Washington State, he attended Walla Walla Elementary School Academy and Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University). He received his medical degree in 1956 from Loma Linda College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA.

He married Barbara Lyndell Jones on Nov. 13, 1956. He then served two years in the United States Air Force at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

After visiting many rural areas in the South, Dr. Henderson and family moved to Lawrenceburg, TN, where he became one of the key physicians in the community, and was instrumental in developing Lawrenceburg Sanitarium and Hospital into Scott Memorial Hospital.

He was a member of the Lawrenceburg Seventh-day Adventist Church, and blessed many people with his beautiful tenor voice. He served on local bank boards and was as member of the Lion's Club. He was so proud to be at the opening of the Lions Club Ophthalmology Clinic at Vanderbilt. He was president of The Tennessee Academy of Family Practice, and served on the board of Primary Care for the State of Tennessee. He retired from a long career in Family Practice Medicine in 2002.

He is survived by two brothers: Gordon (Mary) and Clyde (Donna); five children: Cindy (Charles) Kildgore, Linda (Keith) Terrill, Teri (Karlen) Bailie, Mark (Cindy) Henderson, and Scott (Leslie) Henderson; 14 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Norman was preceded in death by his parents: Carl and Edith (Landaus) Henderson. A Memorial Service was held Feb. 23, 2019 at the Lawrenceburg Crockett Theater.

**RAMSAY-JONES, MARVEL NAUREAN**, 59, of Davie, FL, born Feb. 8, 1959 on the island of Jamaica, to Astley and Gertrude Ramsay, died Nov. 10, 2018. At just eight years old she knew her life's calling would be nursing. Her first patient was her sick grandmother. Several sick neighbors and church members in Harrison Town district also benefited from her youthful care. Marvel attended Ferncourt High School in St Ann for a few years, and transferred to St. Jago High School in St. Catherine where she received her high school diploma. She then went on to attend Northern Caribbean University, formerly West Indies College, where she majored in nursing. In 1980, her family migrated to the United States, and Marvel transferred to Andrews University in Michigan. In 1982, she graduated with her bachelor's in nursing (BSN). Later, she got married and the union produced two delightful, God-fearing children, Kahilah and Kellon. Marvel later became a member of the Andrews University Board of Nursing. As a high achiever, Marvel strove to be the best at whatever she did. She was not satisfied unless she was at the top, so she attended Long Island University and earned her master's degree in 1985, and a doctoral degree in human resources from Barry University in 2012.



Marvel worked at several hospitals in New York and Miami, but one of her greatest accomplishments was the opening of her own businesses — Homebound Care Nursing Agency and Lemar Home, an assisted living facility in Miami, FL. Being an entrepreneur was challenging, exhilarating, and very stressful at times, but Marvel knew God was with her, and Isaiah 40:31 was her mantra.

Marvel was diagnosed with stage 4 lung cancer in 2014. This was shocking, because she never smoked, and always maintained a healthy lifestyle. Marvel, however, did not give up. She fought relentlessly. During this period God allowed her to plan her daughter's marriage to Pastor Jovan Whyte, set up prayer groups, and take many trips all over the world. She always felt the Lord would take care of her, and in her last days, she was heard repeating the words of Tramaine Hawkins, "I Never Lost My Praise."

Marvel was an active member of Norland Seventh-day Adventist Church in Miami, FL, and later became a member of Plantation Seventh-day Adventist Church in Plantation, FL. During her illness, several pastors and church members visited her at home and in the hospital where she was anointed and prayed for. The celebration of her amazing life was held Nov. 25, 2018, at Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Miami, FL. Many of the pastors who visited and prayed with her during her illness participated in the service. Her son-in-law, Pastor Jovan Whyte, delivered a powerful, uplifting homily. Marvel will always be missed and remembered for her warmth, generosity, and her commitment to God. She treated everyone with boundless love, fairness, dignity, kindness, and unfailing generosity. She was a mighty prayer warrior who impacted the lives of people all over the world through many prayer groups. Her award winning laughter is indelibly etched in our memories.

Marvel is survived by her parents: Astley and Gertrude Ramsay; daughter, Dr. Kahilah (Jovan) Whyte; son, Kellon; sister, Valrey (Dr. Creaton Francis) Francis; brothers: Elrado and Dr. Raymond (Merna) Ramsay; nieces; nephews; grandnieces; grandnephews; cousins; and many other family members and friends.



**ROLFE, RHEA (BECKY)**, 91, died Nov. 28, 2018 from cancer in her home in Longwood, FL. She was preceded in death four and a half years ago by her husband, Dr. Cecil Rolfe. Both retired in 1993 from Southern Adventist University where Becky was a guidance counselor and Cecil taught in the Business Department. In retirement, they lived in a condominium on the beach in New Smyrna Beach, FL. They loved living on the beach. Becky baked cookies and gave them to residents and guests of the condominium complex, and was fondly known as the “cookie lady.” When Cecil’s health declined, they moved to Longwood, and only spent summers at the beach. Becky is survived by her children: Rob Rolfe and Carolyn Bottomley; grandsons: Robert Rolfe, Andrew Rolfe, Jackson Bottomley, and Nicholas Bottomley; and her sister, Helen Christoffel.

**FAITH, RICHARD A.**, 76, born Feb. 19, 1942, died Dec. 2, 2018. He was a member of the Louisville First Church in Louisville, KY. Richard began distributing Discovery Bible guide invitations in 2003. At one point, he was distributing 360 to 1,300 invitations every month. Richard leaves to cherish his memory, two daughters: Sandra (Rolando) Amuedo and Tonya (Ted) Ameredes; eight grandchildren: Amanda Kennedy, Lauren (Aaron) Oliver, Joanna (Kevin) Reasons, Zachary Kennedy, Malachi Ameredes, Tyler (Chandler) Faith, Alicia Faith, and Erika Amuedo; seven great-grandchildren: Gabrielle Kennedy, Eli Kennedy, Dawson Vance, Auriah Reasons, Raven Reasons, Everett Bushman, and Noah Kennedy. He is predeceased by one son, Terrance M. Faith.

**GREENE, GEORGE “WALDO,”** 85, born April 30, 1933 to the late George Carl and Lela Annie Greene, died Nov. 21, 2018 in Asheboro, NC. Waldo served in the National Guard for nine and a half years. He attended Gardner-Webb University for two years and Fruitland Baptist College for two years. In 1966, he began his ministry as a Baptist pastor. As he carefully studied his Bible, he was convicted of the Sabbath truth and became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Soon after becoming an SDA, he was invited to become a pastor

in the Carolina Conference. He served several churches until his retirement in 1995. He is survived by his children: Karen (Bob) Green of Harris, NC; Steve (Susan) Greene of Tallahassee, FL; Kay (Marty) Hayes of Randleman, NC; and Ray (Linda) also of Randleman; son-in-law, Danny Greer; and adopted daughter, Lori Morris; 17 grandchildren; and 20 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Onetta; eldest daughter, Denise; brother, Don; and son-in-law, James Morris.

**HARLAN JR., GEORGE WILLIAM,** 68, born on Sept. 17, 1949 to the late George William and Millie Harlan, departed this life on Sept. 5, 2018. At an early age, he confessed Christ and joined the Meharry Boulevard Church in Nashville, TN. He was a graduate of Pearl High School. After graduating, Bill went to Dallas, TX, where he enrolled in a fashion and design school. He designed clothes and modeled them himself. In search of his destiny, he enlisted in the United States Army. During his stint in the Army, he married Gail Randolph, his high school sweetheart. To this union, God blessed them with three children. After being discharged from the Army he was employed by Riverside Hospital where he worked for several years. Upon leaving the hospital, Bill started his own painting business where he painted

buildings — like Raphael painted pictures. Bill was multitalented. He went to cosmetology school and learned how to style hair. He was a gregarious person, full of laughter. In his early years, it appeared that he missed his calling, all evidence pointing to him as a standup comedian. Whenever he entered the room, he had a commanding presence. When he was younger, he would jump off the porch with a cape on his back like he was Superman, and believe it or not, for the longest time, his nephews thought he was Superman. Through all of Bill’s ups and downs, God was preparing him to work in His vineyard. Bill wanted to work for South Central Conference (SCC). While attending Camp Meeting one summer, he approached President C. E. Dudley about employment with SCC. Bill was admonished to go pray and return the next day, which he did. When Elder Dudley asked him, “What did the Lord say?” During the next few years, his health would begin to decline. Yet Bill remained faithful to God. From this point on, every moment of his life was one of gratitude and thankfulness. At this juncture in his life, he didn’t want to spend his life alone. Hence, God would send someone to fill that void. Bill was magnetized by the winds of love, and on Feb. 18, 2005, a loving young woman, Margarita Rivera, became the love of his life and spoiled him immensely. With

exceeding joy, he shared his love with her three wonderful children: son, Angel Luis Rivera, and daughters: Edith Dolly Jennings and Becky Annette Rivera; four grandchildren: Elena Louise Jennings, Sabrina Lynn Jennings, Abigail Marisol Rivera, and William Nathaniel Rivera. He and Margie, as we affectionately call her, began to embark upon many adventurous feats that included traveling to various places across the USA and Puerto Rico. He was an avid lover of nature. His favorite animals were birds, squirrels, lions, and deer. One of his most endearing birds was a cockatoo. He named her "Gorgeous." He kept her for 18 years, and today she still calls his name religiously, "Bill! Bill!" His favorite pastime included visiting antique stores and collecting rare coins for his extensive coin collection. He loved to shop and explore new eating places. He loved to engage in the consumption of chocolate cake and ice cream. He loved uplifting music. Gospel was his preference. His favorite song was Amazing Grace. To our surprise, his quest for adventure led him to teaching himself how to play the harmonica. Bill and Margie moved to Jackson, TN, in 2017. In the quietness of the countryside they found peace and solace with God. The sweet gentle breezes from the trees had a calming effect upon them. The chirping birds and the visitation of animals in their yard was a blessing from God as they shared their last peaceful moments together in the quietness of their home. They shared memorable moments as members of the Maranatha Church in Jackson, TN, with Curtis Hall as their pastor. Bill was a prayer warrior. His spiritual life was crystallized in God. In the stillness of his office, Bill would be found in prayer, meditation, and reading. His favorite author was E.G. White. During the quietness of the evening, Bill and Margie would spend time reading. Angels fascinated him. One of the last

books that they shared together was the book entitled *Angels: We Never Walk Alone*. This was the last book that Margie read to him. The chapter entitled, "To Know God," prefaced by John 17:3 exclaims, "And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent." His favorite Scripture was 1 Corinthians 15:54 (NKJV), "So when this corruption has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?" Bill's calling and election was sure. His final prayers were that His wife, children, and grandchildren would be saved. He is survived by his wife of 13 years, Margarita; two daughters: Tina Devon and Brandy Jean Tia; four grandchildren: Kayla Nicole Collier, Harold Wayne Shaw, Israeya Sarai Thieklin, and Killian Sarai Thieklin; four siblings: Preston (Hattie) Brown, Joyce (Cleveland) Houser, Victoria (Darnell) Fletcher, and Milton (JoAnn) Harlan; a host of nephews; and nieces. Bill was preceded in death by his son, Kevin DeWayne; and two brothers: John Merritt Brown and Melvin Douglas Harlan.

**LLEWELLYN, CLARA ELIZABETH (SHARAM)**, 82, born July 23, 1936 in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, Canada, to the late Lilian and David Percy Sharam. Married to the late John Llewellyn who died Nov. 18, 2018 in Hendersonville, NC. Graduated from High School and Nursing School in Charlottetown, Canada. Met John Llewellyn while in nursing school, became a Seventh-day Adventist, and married John in September 3, 1959. They were married for 58 years. Clara and John worked with The Key Encounter, FL, with Juanita Kretschmar. As a registered nurse, Clara worked as an ER nurse at Mountain San-

itarium in Fletcher, NC. She retired from Park Ridge Health (AdventHealth, Hendersonville). She's survived by daughters: Linda Llewellyn of Asheville, NC, and Kim Llewellyn of Fletcher, NC; granddaughters, Heather (Billy) Brittain of Fletcher; and Holli (Ryan) Lemons of Hendersonville; great-grandchildren: Colton, Caylee, Ainsley, and Blythe; sisters: Emma Shaw of Nova Scotia, Canada, and Joan MacKay of Murry River, PEI, Canada; and brother, Henry Sharam of Nova Scotia, Canada.

**RYAN, JOSEPH "JOE" ZETTLE**, 86, born July 25, 1932 in New Hampshire, died October 23, 2018 in Rutherfordton, NC. He was preceded in death by his wife Margery. He graduated from College of Mining and Technology where he received a degree in chemical engineering. He then went on to MIT to work and study nuclear physics and earn his master's degree. He spent two years in the Army, and was stationed in Japan. He's survived by his children: Jonathan Ryan of Chattanooga, TN, and Jennifer Milligan of Nova Scotia, Canada; two brothers: John Paul Ryan of Colorado and Mark Ryan of Alaska; many nieces; and nephews.

**TODD, JEANIE**, 76, born June 2, 1942 in Alexandria, LA, died Jan. 22, 2019 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Community Church in Meridian, MS. Jeanie is survived by her husband, Gerald Todd of Chunky, MS; and her children: Michael Norwood and Glenna Norwood of Midland, TX. The service was conducted by Pastor Samuel Riemersma and Reverend Phillip Gandy. Interment was at Mississippi Veterans Memorial Cemetery.

**WATSON, MANDY MAE MYLES**, 92, born Dec. 12, 1925 to Cleveland and Chanie Myles, died Nov. 20, 2018, surrounded by loved ones. Her adoptive



parents were Arthur and Mattie Lockett. She grew up in the Mount Mariah community in Edwards, MS. She received her early education at Mount Mariah community school and Edwards Junior High School, where she was a member of the basketball team. She later attended the Holy Ghost Catholic School in Jackson, MS. She was married to Len Arthur Watson of Learned, MS, who preceded her in death. From this union she gave birth to nine children. Mandy furthered her education by receiving a certification from the Post Graduate Correspondence School of Nursing in June 1967. She received her high school equivalency in April 1969. She attended Hinds Junior College from 1980 to 1981 for her LPN training, and attended Southern University in 1983 for coursework in dietetics. Mandy worked hard to help support her family. She worked several years at the Jackson Steam Laundry, Jackson Public Schools (Sally Reynolds), Millsaps Food Service, Hudspeth Rehabilitation Center at Whitfield State Hospital, and the New Heights Child Development Center. She traveled extensively throughout the country as counselor for the Medgar Evers Freedom Choir, the Voices of Faith Choir, Inc., the Canton Fellowship Choir, and the Canton Gospel Soul Children. In 1970, Pastor Henry M. Wright baptized her into the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was one of the founding members of the New Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, where she served as Bible instructor for more than 25 years. She has also actively served as head deaconess, literature evangelist, Sabbath School superintendent, and Community Services director. She was a faithful member of the Sanctuary Choir and the Pathfinder Torchbearer Club. Preceding her in death were her sisters: Carrie Allen, Johnnie B. Hudson, and Rosie Lee Brown; and two brothers: Cleveland Percy Myles and Tommie Myles. Celebrating the life

and legacy of Mother Mandy Watson are her children: Arthur James (Ouida) Watson Sr. of Jackson, MS; Randolph Watson of Canton, MS; Fannie W. Surrell of Jackson, MS; Althea (Clarence III) Lewis of Jackson, MS; Evelyn W. Adams of Madison, MS; Michael L. Watson of Henderson, NV; Donald (Mary Ann) Watson of Jackson, MS; Harry L. (LaTonda) Watson of Madison, MS; and Eric (Taheti) Watson of Clinton, MS; six sisters: Alberta Fisher of St. Louis, MO; Belinda (Jeffrey) Gilyard of Shiloh, IL; Barbara Wolfe of Cahokia, IL; Debra Myles of East St. Louis, MO; Jossie (Louis) Brinkley of Fairview Heights, IL, and Bertha Johnson of Belleville, IL; one brother, Charles Luster of St. Louis, MO; 21 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; a host of nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends.

**WRIGHT, ANNA M.**, 96, born Sept. 17, 1921 in Philadelphia, PA, died July 28, 2018 at Hospice of the Comforter, Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member for 28 years of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. At age 3, Anna's mother died of TB leaving her and her 18-month old sister, Doris, to be raised by their grandmother and aunt in Philadelphia. The family attended the Salvation Army Church with a variety of programs for children. As a teen, she enjoyed Bible stories and singing around campfires during summer camp. She attended public grade school through Kensington High School where she excelled in typing and shorthand, and skipped a grade to graduate at age 17. She met Ernest (Ernie) Wright Jr., while he was in the military service in Maryland, and they were married on May 1, 1939 in Bel Air, MD. In September 1940, their only child was born in Maryland. Two years later, the family moved to Philadelphia. Anna signed up for Bible studies when an Adventist Bible worker visited the family in 1947. She took the Bible studies for one

year and listened every Sunday morning to radio speaker, H. M. S. Richards Sr., and music of the King's Heralds Quartet and solist Del Delker, who were positive influences on Anna's decision to be baptized. She enjoyed membership in the Chestnut Hill Church in Philadelphia for 32 years and was active in various positions: Sabbath School secretary, superintendent, church treasurer, and elder. She became a team member as a part-time secretary and materials organizer for a couple of years for a Stop Smoking series. After joining the Adventist church, Anna decided to send her daughter to a Christian school, and sent her to Philadelphia and Blue Mountain Academies. She began a 34-year career for the Home Insurance Company of New York located in Philadelphia in the same building where the USA Liberty Bell stands. Anna and her husband moved into an apartment at Florida Living Retirement Center in Apopka in 1997, and she continued to live there after his death. She is survived by her daughter, Doris (Ken) Beane; one granddaughter, Pam (John) Peterson; and one great-grandchild, Kailley Peterson. She was predeceased by her husband of 58 years, Ernest Wright; one sister, Doris DeMey; and one nephew, Captain John DeMey, who was killed in Vietnam, June 1969. A Celebration of Life memorial service was conducted by Pastor James King at the Florida Living Church in Apopka.



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](http://www.southern.edu/jobs)* [3]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks a **Director of Institutional Research and Planning**. The director coordinates a comprehensive, university-wide program of data evaluation and analytics to support the evaluation of success in achieving the institutional mission, vision, values, and goals. A master's degree is required, doctorate preferred, with course work in higher education, research and statistics, educational research, data analytics, or related field. Applicants must evidence strong research, analytical, technical, and evaluation skills; possess a solid grasp of issues and trends in higher education; and demonstrate competencies in oral and written communication and interpersonal relations. The successful candidate will be a member in good and regular standing of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. *For more information and to apply for the position contact: Robert Young, Senior Vice President for Academic Administration, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370 Collegedale, TN 37315.* [3]

**LAURELBROOK ACADEMY** - Looking for a new ministry? Available positions: electrician, grounds, auto mechanics, auto body teacher, cooks, teachers, CNA's, CNA instructor, nurses and more. *Visit [www.laurelbrook.org/positions](http://www.laurelbrook.org/positions) or call 423-244-5430.* [3-5]

**OUACHITA HILLS ACADEMY AND COLLEGE** is accepting applications for the following positions: Food Service Director, IT Director, college English instructor, education instructor, and religion instructor. Our website is [www.ohc.org](http://www.ohc.org). Contact Magda Rodriguez at [info@ohc.org](mailto:info@ohc.org) or call 870-342-6210 ext. 223 for more information. [3, 4]

**FLETCHER ACADEMY, INC.** is seeking an experienced leader to serve as **Director of the Lelia Patterson Fitness & Aquatics Center**. This position reports to the CEO, and is responsible for the general management of a business entity, including operations, strategic planning, marketing, administration, staffing, and financial performance. This position will supervise adult and student staff, and independent contractors. A Bachelor's or higher degree in Business Administration, Wellness Management, or an equivalent program of study, and relevant experience, including demonstrated leadership capability, is required. Prior experience managing a fitness, wellness, and/or aquatics center, and/or facilities is preferred. Candidate will be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in good standing, and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. *Send cover*

*letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO. Email: [gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com](mailto:gcarlson@fletcheracademy.com)* [3]

**THE GENERAL CONFERENCE (GC)** of SDA's Office of General Counsel is seeking a **law student** for an 8-10 week paid summer clerkship. This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and is best suited for 1Ls. Duties include legal research and other projects, emphasis is on religious liberty and First Amendment work. Must be SDA church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be applicant's responsibility. *Send resume, writing sample, and transcript to Karnik Doukmetzian at [karnikd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:karnikd@gc.adventist.org)* [3, 4]

**ARE YOU A PHYSICIAN** with the desire to serve with mission and passion? Providing a unique opportunity in the breathtaking Palouse region of Washington State and Idaho, Total Health Physician Group is seeking to find a progressive, conscientious, and lifestyle focused physician. Prioritizing the optimal health of our patients and providers, Total Health Physician Group is innovatively developing a digital health platform and insurance system to focus on value based outcomes. *To learn more about this exciting mission and opportunity go to <https://www.totalhealthphysicians.com/jobs>* [3]

**NEED CARING WOMAN** to live with & provide care for a 91 year-old woman in her home, London, Kentucky. 606-682-5890. [3, 4]

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**

**SCRIPTURALLY ACCURATE CALENDAR** runs spring to spring. Years based on observation of Israel's barley crop. Months based on computed projection of first possible observation of Israel's crescent moon after conjunction. Invaluable tool for supporting 7th Day Sabbath & other SDA truths: nullifies Sunday sacredness, proves 31AD Friday crucifixion is possible, resolves hypocrisy of a "sola scriptura" church using a calendar of Roman Catholic tradition, explains how our 1844 pioneers came up with the Day of Atonement date (Oct 22) that was a whole month later than Jewish calendar date (Sept 23), refutes lunar sabbath position, helps stem ecumenical draw of Roman Catholic calendar, and more. *Call Scott 404-509-8338, [torahisgoodnews@gmail.com](mailto:torahisgoodnews@gmail.com)* [3]

**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](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist)* [3-12]

**THE CLERGY MOVE CENTER™** at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is The Way To Move™ from state to state! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we

extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Contact our dedicated Move Counselors for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800-248-8313. *Learn more at [www.stevensworldwide.com/sda](http://www.stevensworldwide.com/sda)* [3]

**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](http://www.TeachServices.com), used SDA books at [www.LNFBooks.com](http://www.LNFBooks.com)* [3, 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](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies)* [3-5]

**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.* [3-8]

**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](mailto:Sharons@uccsda.org)* [3, 4]

**ISRAEL TOUR** with Pastor Jim Gilley and friends. November 17-25, 2019. \$3,295.00. Includes air, breakfast and dinner buffets daily, all tips, taxes. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles, other departure cities available. Call Maranatha Tours at 602-788-8864. [3-8]

**SAVE THE DATE** - Uchee Pines Institute's 50th Anniversary, June 23-29, 2019. Speakers include Mark Finley and John Bradshaw. *[ucheepines.org](http://ucheepines.org) or 877-UcheePines.* [3-5]

**WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER:** Reversing Disease Naturally with Lifestyle Medicine for almost 80 years. Receive natural treatments for cancer, diabetes, hypertension, obesity, stress, depression, anxiety, etc. *Call today 800-634-9355 or visit us @ [wildwoodhealth.org](http://wildwoodhealth.org).* Use promo-code ST0119 for your special deal! [3]

**LAURELBROOK ACADEMY** - Learning Through Doing. Training missionaries using Madison model. Academics, vocational training, mission trips. Boarding high school located on a 2,000 acres property in Dayton Tennessee. Most affordable academy. *Call 423-244-5430 or visit [www.laurelbrook.org](http://www.laurelbrook.org)* [3-5]

# SHOW AND TELL



## Preparing for an ever-changing job market?

Learn HOW to think, not just WHAT to think. At Southern, students all over campus are encouraged to expand their horizons through research. Twice a year they share their findings on Research Day. Last year alone, **856 students participated**, presenting a broad range of topics from exploring the synthesis of new chemicals to the etymology and usage of languages.

Learn more about how Southern prepares you for life.

[southern.edu/showandtell](https://southern.edu/showandtell)



SOUTHERN  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Power for Mind & Soul

# CHRISTIAN RECORD

SERVICES FOR THE BLIND



Legally blind?  
*Available now!*

Discover  
Bible Study Guides  
Large Print | Braille

402.488.0981 | info@ChristianRecord.org

Provide services like this and more.  
Donate Now!



# MOVING?

Need to change your address for *Southern Tidings*?

Mail in the label from the back of your last *Southern Tidings*, or fill-in the information below and mail it to:

SOUTHERN TIDINGS, ADDRESS CHANGE,  
P.O. BOX 923868, NORCROSS, GA 30010-3868

NAME:

OLD ADDRESS:

NEW ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

HOME CHURCH:

## Donating to God's Work

Mr. Davis is over 80 years old. He suffers from some mobility difficulties and has no family to care for him. Because of this, he will soon move to an Assisted Living facility for the elderly. He has a robust, strong faith in the Lord, and wants to do all he can to benefit His work.

Mr. Davis asked to meet with his Southeastern Conference Planned Giving Director and decided to donate his home and let the Conference sell it and use the funds to further God's work.

► To learn how you can donate your assets to God's work, contact your local Planned Giving and Trust Services Representative.

### Carolina

Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

### Florida

Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

### Georgia-Cumberland

Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951

### Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

### Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

### Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

### South Atlantic

Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535

### South Central

Robert Chandler (615) 226-6500

### Southeastern

Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142

### Southern Adventist University

Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



SUSDAGift.org

## CAROLINA

**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  
**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/  
**A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER** - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com  
**FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY SCHEDULE** - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.  
 April 2. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)  
 April 7. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.  
 April 9. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.  
 April 14. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)  
 April 16. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.  
 April 23. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)  
 April 28. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton,

Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.  
 April 30. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

**CENTRAL AREA ADVENTURER FUN DAY** - March 24. South Brevard Church, 8465 Babcock St. SE, Melbourne. Registration begins 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: TEENS** - March 28-31. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. A healing educational retreat for teens who've been sexually abused as children. Cost: \$150 all-inclusive. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/event/hope-for-hurting-hearts-teens/

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**FAITH AND FINANCE FOR FAMILIES SEMINAR** - March 9, 2 p.m. A free seminar by Grateful Living to educate and inspire families to live, save, and give with the freedom that God intended. Sweetwater Company, Austell, GA.  
**REGENERATE (YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT FESTIVAL)** - March 16. A high Sabbath featuring academy choirs, mission reports, a variety of music groups, expression session, and speaker Mark Witas, pastor of the Pacific Union College Church in California. The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA.  
**PATHFINDER PRECISION DRILL TEAM DAY** - March 17. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Soddy Daisy High School, TN.  
 Hispanic Women's Retreat - March 22-24. Retiro Espiritual de Fin de Semana para todas las damas y jovencitas desde los 10 años en adelante. Costo: Depende del alojamiento que escoja. Información: 706-629-7951 extensión 391. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**HEALTH RALLIES BY EW DEMPSEY, CONFERENCE HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, 2-5 P.M.:**  
 March 23, Harrison, TN, Church.  
 April 6, at the Rogersville, TN, Church.  
 April 13, Waycross, GA.  
 Everyone is invited to learn God's ultimate plan for longevity.  
**REGIONS 3 & 4 ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN DAY** - March 24, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Duluth Adventist Church, Duluth, GA.  
**REGIONS 1 & 2 ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN DAY** - March 31, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. McDonald Road Adventist Church, McDonald, TN.  
**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND** - April 5-7. Calhoun, GA.

**REGION 5 ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND** - April 5-7. Friday 5 p.m.-Sunday, 11 a.m. Adventist Fellowship Church, Albany, GA.

**WOMEN'S & TEEN GIRLS' SPRING RETREAT** - April 12-14. Women's speaker is Camille Brace. Early bird deadline is March 4; final deadline is March 28. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**ATLANTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI SABBATH** - April 13. 40 years of Walking By Faith. Register online: <https://www.aaa.edu/alumni-sabbath>. Carver Bible College, Atlanta, GA.

**HOW TO CONDUCT A REVERSING DIABETES SEMINAR** - April 14. A training for health professionals, health leaders, and others who want to learn how to present this effective, award-winning six-week program. Register by March 25, fee \$25. Presented by Stephen Wickham, MPA, RN, and Karen Wickham, RN. Pooler, GA.

Register for events on the conference website, [www.gcsda.com](http://www.gcsda.com)

## GULF STATES

**CROSS EXAMINATION YOUTH RALLY** - March 16. Big Cove Christian Academy, Owens Cross Roads, AL. [www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events](http://www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events)

**BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND** - March 29-31. [www.bmasda.org/alumni-friends](http://www.bmasda.org/alumni-friends). BMA Alumni Golf Tournament, visit [www.bmasda.org](http://www.bmasda.org) for details.

**ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN WEEKEND** - March 29-31. Camp Alamisco. [www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events](http://www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events)

**ALAMISCO CAMP MEETING - HOPE HEALS** - April 5-6. John Bradshaw of It Is Written will be the keynote speaker for this weekend event at Camp Alamisco. [www.gcsda.org/events](http://www.gcsda.org/events)

**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** - April 11-14. Camp Alamisco. [www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events](http://www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events)

**BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY DAYS** - April 26-28. Bass Memorial Academy. [www.gcsda.org/events](http://www.gcsda.org/events)

**BASS CAMP MEETING - HOPE HEALS** - May 22-25. Mike Tucker will be the keynote speaker for this event at Bass Memorial Academy. [www.gcsda.org/events](http://www.gcsda.org/events)

**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING** - May 31-June 2. Bass Memorial Academy [www.gcsda.org/events](http://www.gcsda.org/events)

**SUMMER CAMPS** - June 2-July 12. Camp Alamisco. [www.campalamisco.org/summer-camp](http://www.campalamisco.org/summer-camp)

**TEEN INVITATIONAL: CANOEING** - Sept. 8. [www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events](http://www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events)

**FACE TO FACE YOUTH RALLY** - Sept. 28. Cody Road Church, Mobile, AL. [www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events](http://www.gcsda.org/youth-ministry-events)

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CERTIFICATION** - March 1, 2. Highland Academy.  
**EASTERN KENTUCKY CAMP MEETING** - March 8, 9. Prestonsburg, KY.  
**PRAYING FOR YOUR HUSBAND** - March 10. Conference Office.  
**MUSIC FESTIVAL** - March 14-16. Highland Academy.  
**LOUISVILLE FESTIVAL OF FAITH** - March 22-23. Pewee Valley, KY.  
**LEADERSHIP TRAINING** - March 24. Lead Like Jesus. MCC Fellowship Hall.  
**PASTORS'/ELDERS' RETREAT** - March 29-31. Indian Creek Camp.  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - April 2. Conference Office.  
**BOARD OF EDUCATION** - April 11. Conference Office.  
**HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD** - April 25. Highland Academy.  
**YOUNG ADULTS RETREAT** - April 26-28. Indian Creek Camp.  
**MOTHER/DAUGHTER DAY** - April 28. Paradise Ranch.  
**CAMP MEETING** - May 24-June 1. Highland Academy.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT** - March 17. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.  
**PREVIEW SOUTHERN** - March 21, 22. 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. Free meals and lodging available. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN, email visit@southern.edu, or visit southern.edu/preview.  
**YEAR OF THE ADVENTIST COMPOSER CONCERT** - March 25. Starting at 7:30 p.m. in Ackerman Auditorium, the concert will include individual performances of works by Seventh-day Adventist composers. For more information, call the School of Music at 423-236-2880.  
**ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE** - April 1. Scott Stripling, D.Min., provost and professor at The Bible Seminary and director of excavations for the Associates for Biblical Research, will give a talk titled "Go Now to Shiloh: Have We Found the House of God?" at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**LAURELBROOK ACADEMY ALUMNI - April 5-7.** Honor classes: '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, and '14. For questions, email alumni@laurelbrook.org or call Jean Talley at 423-599-4682.  
**HOOVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL/BRAKEWORTH JR. ACADEMY ALUMNI SAB-BATH - April 6.** All alumni/attendees and former staff are invited. Details are available by calling 205-987-3376 and visiting www.hooverchristianschool.org or Hoover Christian School's Facebook page.  
**ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 12, 13.** Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, KS. Honor Classes/Graduating Years ending with 4s and 9s. For more information email: ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or check the school website: ea-gpa-alumni.com  
**ACADEMY DAYS AT OKLAHOMA ACADEMY - April 12-14.** If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be the place for you; attend Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also, visit www.oklahomacademy.org.  
**MIDPORT CHURCH CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY - May 18.** "The Faith of

the Few," is the theme for the celebration including: 9:30 a.m., Sabbath School Lesson; 10 a.m., history of the church with speakers, slides, and musical interludes; 11 a.m., worship service with former conference president, Mike Cauley; 12:30-2:30 p.m., luncheon; and 3 p.m., Charles Haugabrooks concert. Address: 1800 SE Veterans Memorial Parkway, Port Saint Lucie, FL 34952. For further information, call 772-398-3225 or 772-209-1030.

**"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY RE-UNION - June 7, 8.** For alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969. For further information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5181 or visit http://www.glaa.net.

**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 Jan. 18 to adventistenglishassociation@gmail.com. Early bird registration closes March 1.

	MAR 1	MAR 8	MAR 15	MAR 22	MAR 29	APR 5
ATLANTA, GA	6:34	6:40	7:45	7:50	7:56	8:01
CHARLESTON, SC	6:17	6:22	7:27	7:33	7:38	7:42
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:19	6:25	6:31	7:36	7:42	7:48
COLLEGEDALE, TN	6:36	6:42	7:48	7:53	7:59	8:05
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:42	5:48	6:54	6:59	7:05	7:10
JACKSON, MS	5:58	6:03	7:09	7:13	7:18	7:23
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:36	6:43	7:50	7:57	8:03	8:10
MEMPHIS, TN	5:56	6:02	7:08	7:13	7:19	7:25
MIAMI, FL	6:22	6:26	7:29	7:33	7:36	7:39
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:43	5:48	6:53	6:58	7:08	7:08
NASHVILLE, TN	5:42	5:48	6:54	7:00	7:06	7:12
ORLANDO, FL	6:25	6:30	7:34	7:38	7:42	7:45
TAMPA, FL	6:30	6:34	7:38	7:42	7:46	7:49
WILMINGTON, NC	6:08	6:14	7:19	7:25	7:30	7:35

# MASTER'S DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

Facilitate Positive Change in People's Lives



**Southern Adventist University's Master of Social Work program prepares you for excellent service and leadership in the social work profession.**

**It's convenient.**

A unique hybrid class schedule gives you the best of both worlds—the flexibility of online learning combined with in-person instruction, feedback, and peer interaction on our campus (all day Sunday, twice a month).

**You'll be ready.**

In addition to gaining hands-on skills and experience in social work practice while you're in school, you'll also benefit from our faith-inspired, advanced generalist program with a Christian worldview.

**Master of Social Work**

With a multi-disciplinary approach and a variety of emphases, a master's degree in social work from Southern prepares you to serve a wide variety of people in need.

**Call or visit online to find out how to get started.**



**1.800.SOUTHERN • [southern.edu/graduatestudies](https://southern.edu/graduatestudies)**