

# T Southern TIDINGS

AUGUST 2019



ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY  
LEADS STUDENTS TO LIVE, PRACTICE

## WHOLE-PERSON CARE

THE POWER OF  
“WE MINISTRY”

LEARNING  
THE JOY OF  
“EVANGELIVING”

REVELATION  
SPEAKS PEACE

GOD IS  
FAITHFUL

“FOR WITH THE  
MEASURE YOU  
USE...”

# Walls of Confidence



**Leslie Louis**  
*President of the  
Carolina Conference*  
  
*Guest Editorial*

Walls have been part of virtually every civilization for millennia. It is believed that the oldest walls found to date are those of the temple of Gobekli Tepe in Urfa in southeast Turkey. Other walls identified in biblical and historical accounts of which we have evidence today are the cities of Jericho and Babylon; the Great Wall of China; and the remains of the temple wall in Jerusalem, more commonly known to us as the Western Wall or the Wailing Wall. Walls serve as space dividers, protective barriers, and symbols of both physical and emotional security.

Walls have been on my mind recently because of the ongoing controversy over building a wall on the southern border of our nation. It is a polarizing topic, yet it has brought to mind some spiritual lessons.

When Nehemiah approached King Artaxerxes of Persia with a request to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, God's favor rested on him. This is evident from the positive response of the king to every single request Nehemiah made. Nehemiah presented his bold plan to the king with great confidence, which was based on his firm belief that God was able to give him success in rebuilding the walls of his beloved homeland city. His complete trust in God and resolve to stand firm, despite obvious obstacles, can inspire us to follow his example by...

- **Letting God fight our battles:** When we learn to lean on Christ, He will frustrate the plans of our enemy. Strong opposition may still occur, but just as Nehemiah's project was completed only because of God's help (see Nehemiah 6:16), we, too, must remember to place our complete trust in Him to defeat the enemy and work out His purpose in our lives.

- **Always praising God for His sovereignty and power:** The book of Nehemiah vibrantly demonstrates that God is all-powerful, and able to accomplish His will in each of us individually, as well as collectively, among the nations. The entire ninth chapter of this book is spent praising and exalting God.

God's power can bring great things to pass in our lives, but we must also rely on Him to sustain us. I've had the opportunity to visit a number of beautiful cathedrals in the United Kingdom, first in the early 1970s as a student at Newbold College, and most recently last summer. Construction on these magnificent structures began as many as a thousand years ago, yet it is an ongoing effort to keep the walls of these structures in good repair. Scaffolding in and around these ancient buildings seems to be just as prevalent as the icons they contain.

There is something about the walls of these cathedrals that is very much like us. We need the scaffolding of God's grace to support us as the ugly flaws of sins, bad habits, and prejudices in the walls of our lives are repaired or removed. Paul says it best in Philippians 1:6: "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus," NIV. Our walls of confidence in God will stand firm only when we fully believe that He will always keep His promises and complete the work He has begun in our lives. 🕊

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# *AdventHealth University Leads Students to Live, Practice*

# WHOLE-PERSON CARE

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

**A**dventHealth University's (AHU) mission to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ carries forward the Adventist tradition of providing superior healthcare and teaching communities to live abundant, whole lives. AHU is dedicated to that pursuit by bringing both together within a faith-affirming environment.

Whole-person care is the cornerstone of AdventHealth's patient care experience, and, as the primary University in its network of care, AHU strives to educate a workforce of confident, compassionate caregivers with that same philosophy.

Edwin I. Hernández, Ph.D., president of AHU, talks to his employees about the "responsibility we share to advance the science and practice of whole-person care through education." AHU seeks to show students how to "lead lives characterized by uncommon compassion."

To teach this, the University has interwoven those principles — caring for mind, body, and spirit — into all aspects of the student experience, from the curriculum to the faculty and staff and the campus resources. Everything is designed with this mindset.

In their first year of college, students often have a mandatory first-year experience course that instills good academic success skills, and educates first-time

college students on what campus resources are available to them. At AHU, this course is called philosophy of healthcare (POH). But, POH dives much further into the student's development. The second crucial goal of the course is to instill AHU's mission in the students, and ask them not only what they will do as healthcare providers, but who will they be.

This is the first step in the AHU student's whole-person care journey. The POH class instructor guides students to develop their own personal "philosophy of healthcare" by showing them how to recognize their assumptions, and then challenging them to approach each patient with equal compassion and without bias.

Courses are often taught by adjunct professors, many of whom are local pastors, so spirituality has a strong presence. With values of faith at the core of AHU's mission, it's critical to provide that guidance early in the student's journey. The course discusses the nature of humanity and "brokenness," and reaffirms the value of humanity. "Every person deserves equal care because we see everyone, including ourselves, as a child of God," said Janis Lowry, professor and manager of the POH course.

To ready students for the realities of being a healthcare provider, they must conduct a service learning interview. Each student interviews someone who has either given or received long-term care. They hear





Faculty and staff pray together on National Prayer Day. Open worship is welcomed, and students are encouraged to participate.



Edwin I. Hernández, Ph.D. (right), president of AHU, prays with a student in the University's Chapel.

stories that are sometimes unpleasant, but Lowry expressed the importance of introducing them early to the harsher aspects of the profession.

The stories that students read and hear during the course, whether from personal interviews or the extensive course reading list, are a key part of what makes POH successful. “Hearing stories inspires compassion in people,” said Lowry.

In addition to the instructor, each class is assigned an academic coach who will meet with students individually throughout the trimester to mentor them on building study skills. They also discuss the student’s goals, and help them dig deeper into the topics covered in class, identifying areas to improve.

The students build a strong rapport with their coaches. A comment from one student’s evaluation urged, “Keep the coaching.”

Feedback from the students has a common theme — the course had elicited deeper introspection and understanding of why they wanted to be a healthcare provider. One student wrote that it “helped me to see that my job as a surgeon will cover the physical human body and the nature of the soul.”

Another POH student commented that AHU was “the first place I’ve been told that my faith is a benefit in my job.” The University encourages students to openly express their faith, and embrace its role in their healthcare career. By learning and living the healing values of Christ, AHU graduates can provide compassionate care to all their patients.

Another component of whole-person care integrated into the student’s curriculum is the CREATION Health philosophy in the nursing program. Eight principles — choice, rest, environment, activity, trust, interpersonal relationships, outlook, and nutrition — provide direction to care for the whole person. This model is the foundation for their wholistic approach to care, and students are equally encouraged to follow these principles in caring for themselves and maintaining their optimal health.



The Garden of Miracles is a visual reminder of AHU’s mission to live the healing values of Christ.

“We are fortunate to have a model to encourage whole-person care that includes the spiritual needs equally as important as the physical and mental,” said Janice Lowden-Stokley, Ph.D., R.N., associate professor of nursing.

Students are given opportunities to practice these ideals through patient interactions in their clinicals. In the occupational therapy (OT) program, the Hope Clinic, which was developed by depart-

ment chair of OT, Tia Hughes, Dr.O.T., is a community clinic where students directly improve the lives of individuals who cannot afford care. Additionally, students complete a required number of service learning hours, which involves community engagement and outreach.

Outside of the classroom, AHU has created a campus that reflects Christ’s healing values and the ideal of whole health. The Garden of Miracles art in-



stallation is a centerpiece of the campus that represents the seven healing miracles of Jesus. Each monolith is a reminder that Christ can make whole what was once broken — not just in the physical body, but also the mind and spirit.

Students are taught to treat physical ailments, but also to provide support by soothing fears and anxiety. To train students to understand whole-person care, AHU starts by leading them to find

wholeness in their own lives.

For students experiencing emotional and spiritual dissonance, support is provided by campus ministries' chaplains, the Center for Academic Achievement's counselors and coaches, professors, and even each other. Many stories were shared about professors who go above and beyond to help students, who pray with them, and who check up on them. With a small, close-knit campus, a stu-

dent's absence is notable.

To engage students with a patient's spiritual healing, the Office of Mission introduced Caring Rounds, which gives students in certain programs the opportunity to shadow hospital chaplains during their rounds. This direct contact has allowed students to engage on a personal level with patients, not just as professionals. Healthcare workers, out of necessity, operate on a task-focused, fast-paced schedule, but rounding with the chaplains reminds students that patient care also requires active listening, empathy, and compassion.

Ernie Bursey, Ph.D., professor of religion at AHU, also expressed the importance of students becoming “respectful, sensitive, and aware” of other religions if they intend to effectively extend the healing ministry of Christ. Particularly for healthcare providers, it's essential they are comfortable caring for people of other faiths, as well as engaging with coworkers and supervisors with different cultures and belief systems.

In his world religions for healthcare professionals course, Bursey asks students to interview someone of another faith tradition to discuss how they find spiritual strength in their religion. He said that the exercise often ends with students reaffirming their own faith. AHU welcomes a diverse campus with students from differing beliefs, ethnicity, and socioeconomic backgrounds, but all drawn to the same purpose of healing.

Caring for mind, body, and spirit is an ethos shared by everyone at AHU, and especially with the students who choose a Christian-focused education. Guided by its values of nurture, excellence, spirituality, and stewardship, the University leads students toward a career that incorporates the whole-care philosophy. 🕊

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**Lisa Marie Esser** is the communications manager at AdventHealth University in Orlando, Florida.

# THE POWER OF “WE MINISTRY”

*How the AdventHealth Corporate Office  
Does Pastoral Care*

BY INGRID HERNÁNDEZ

Sergio Torres, pastor for corporate services at AdventHealth, sat down with Susan Bailey\*, as he had with many others before her, but he wasn't there to offer her the perfect formula for overcoming grief. He was there to simply listen — an important element of pastoral care.

In the course of their conversation, he

learned that her pain stemmed from both her mother's death and a disagreement she'd had with her brother over their mother's final wishes. She didn't want to address it, but the disagreement had made things worse.

“She told me she was not ready to talk to him about it,” Torres said. “That's when I suggested journaling her feel-

ings. It changed her completely. She had been carrying such a heavy burden, but through the process of writing things down she found a way to release it. You could see it in her face and sense it in her body language. She was starting to feel whole again.”

Though Torres had been the one to make the suggestion for journaling, he



Sergio Torres is the pastor for corporate services at AdventHealth.





Sergio Torres educates new hires.



Sergio Torres prays with a team member.

wasn't the one who initially noticed something was bothering Bailey. It was actually Clayton Alves, a member of his ministry team, who connected the two when he sensed her need for greater spiritual support. It is those kinds of connections that make ministry work, even in a corporate setting.

"We were walking toward each other one day, and the Lord revealed to me that something was different about her," Alves said. "I stopped and asked her about it, and she shared the news of her mother's death. I did nothing more than listen to her, affirm her feelings, and share insights from my past experiences with loss. But, given her questions, I knew Sergio would be of great help."

Torres agrees with Alves. Having a campus pastor is an important piece of the puzzle, but it's still only one piece. When you have a team working together, you can better care for the whole person, and, at the macro level, the whole campus.

"Those of us who serve on the ministry team are in positions where we work in close proximity to our peers, and know what is happening in their lives," Alves continued. "Sergio is not able to be as close to every single person, but we also recognize he has more experience and a deeper understanding of spiritual and emotional needs, so that's why our partnership is so important."

### A Different Kind of Congregation

Traditionally, pastoral care has meant

a pastor's care for his or her congregation, which could be represented by a church, a school, or even a branch of the military or government. For AdventHealth, a national Seventh-day Adventist health system, in most instances the congregation is within a hospital campus or medical facility. In this instance, it's in the organization's corporate office.

AdventHealth's roughly 3,500-employee corporate team is larger than the churches Torres has pastored. With a ministerial career spanning 40 years, he's held various roles, including Florida Conference associate director of public evangelism and associate director of youth ministries, as well as church pastor. Before transitioning to the corporate campus, he worked at AdventHealth Altamonte Springs, partnering closely with the hospital senior chaplain and serving as a pastor for team members. It was his first experience building a relational ministry among coworkers.

"At Altamonte, I realized you don't have much time for programs in the work environment," he said. "There was no time for it there and there's not much time for it here at the corporate office, so I've learned that two minutes of simply connecting with a team member makes a greater impact. I'm never in a rush to leave when I'm talking to someone. My priority is to be present in that moment."

That's the same kind of advice he likes to give his leaders during their meetings. Each month Torres meets with his corpo-

rate campus ministries committee, a group of cross-functional employee volunteers. Some are trained as spiritual ambassadors — AdventHealth team members who initiate, organize, and promote a culture of spirituality — and some are not. Some lead teams in managerial roles, and some do not. Despite these differences, they are all equally empowered to play their part to enrich the lives of their colleagues.

"I like to say that together we make a 'corp' because, one, the word is used as an abbreviation for corporate, and, two, it's the Latin [abbreviation] for body, the body of Christ," Torres continued. "The Church is the body, and here we spiritually take care of each member of that body."

This concept is guided by one of the committee's theme Scriptures, Ephesians 4:15, 16, NIV, which states: "...speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of Him who is the head, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."

Orlando "Jay" Perez, vice president of mission and ministry for AdventHealth, emphasized this point. "We are the 'corp,' the spiritual body," he said. "Sergio brings certain skills, but we are a family that serves together."

### A Shared Heart for Mission

Torres likes to call his team's work "We Ministry." While in a church set-



Sergio Torres meets with his corporate campus ministries committee.

ting ministry leaders may be in contact with their congregation for a couple hours each weekend, in the workplace campus ministries gets to interact and support theirs on a daily basis, five times a week, eight hours a day.

In order to foster a culture of spirituality and prayer, the corporate campus ministries committee coordinates domestic mission trips, Bible studies, intimate worship experiences, speaker-centered devotions, Christmas and Easter events, and programs that support the annual Week of Spiritual Renewal — a longstanding tradition at AdventHealth.

Yet, their efforts go beyond programs and activities, and deeper into the integration of mission within the operations of the organization. This intentional approach includes working closely with human resources to ensure mission education is embedded into the job candidate and new-hire experience, and ensuring there is a protocol in place for identifying crises at the individual and team levels.

“It’s important to have clear pathways for intentional integration and cultivation,” Perez said. “Unless you have mission embedded into your processes and

structure, the chances of successfully advancing that mission become harder to achieve. At AdventHealth, everything we do is out of a heart for mission.”

Having a heart for mission is exactly what keeps Torres going when he receives a call about a team member or team member’s relative who’s been hospitalized or has passed away. He visits them in the hospital, and is present during their funerals. He’s even done home visits for team members experiencing hardships within their family life.

Because these difficult moments touch more than one person, and impact other members of the “corp,” the body, Torres can also be found meeting with entire departments following a team member’s hospitalization or death, to help the group collectively process and express their emotions. He likes to ask three questions when he’s meeting with people:

1. What kind of support system do you have in your life?
2. What resources can you access to help you?
3. What is your relationship with God

like, and how can it be a source of strength for you?

During his meeting with Susan Bailey, Torres asked those same three questions. When they got to the last question, Bailey opened up about her faith in God’s strength, but her lack of faith in her own. It wasn’t until her experience of journaling that she was able to muster the strength to let go and forgive her brother.

“The most amazing part of my job is that people like Susan trust me with their stories,” Torres said. “The fact that people would have the courage to open up to me tells me that I am invited to be a part of their journey; that they don’t have to go through it alone; that not only can I enrich them, but that they can enrich me.”

That’s worshipping, growing, and serving together. That’s “We Ministry.”

To learn more about pastoral care services at your local AdventHealth facility, visit [AdventHealth.com/Find-A-Location](http://AdventHealth.com/Find-A-Location). 📍

*\*Name has been changed for privacy.*

**Ingrid Hernández** is AdventHealth’s senior communications specialist for corporate communications.

# Learning the Joy of “EVANGELIVING”

BY EMMA WINEGARDNER

Jody Schumacher knew she wanted to attend a school of evangelism; she just didn't know which one. Soul-winning And Leadership Training (SALT), a partnership between Southern Adventist University and It Is Written since 2011, is just one of many such programs around the world, but Schumacher was struck by the response she received from SALT. Instead of trying to convince her to join the program, Douglas Na'a, SALT director, and Janelle Dietrich, outreach coordinator at the time, offered to pray with her.

“They both had sincere prayers that God's will would happen, which was nice because they weren't pushing that I had to be there,” Schumacher said. “If that's where God wanted me, then that's where they wanted me to be, too.”

When she started SALT in the fall 2018 semester, she felt comfortable right away. “The whole team felt like a family,” she said.

One of the reasons for this is the program's structure, which groups students into cohorts for classes, and then pairs to go out into the community.

“It was really amazing to have worships with the same group of people every week, and to learn more about each other,” said Natalie Boonstra, junior public relations major and Schumacher's outreach partner in the semester-long program.

Rhidge Garcia, who was the 2018-2019 Student Association (SA) president and graduated in May with a bachelor's degree in theology, particularly valued his experience with his SALT outreach partner.

“Our car rides together were some of the most transformative moments of my life,” he said. “I got to open up to him about some pretty deep stuff in my heart. He was a spiritual mentor to me.”

## Foundations

SALT's purpose goes much deep-



SALT students participate in a trust-building exercise as part of their training.



John Bradshaw, speaker and director of It Is Written, teaches one of the SALT classes, which are held on Southern's campus.

er than simply creating a community of like-minded people.

“The goal of SALT is really ‘evangeliving’ rather than evangelism,” said Alan Parker, D.Th., religion professor and director of Southern's Pierson Institute of Evangelism, as well as one of SALT's founders. “It's the idea that no matter what profession you are in, you can learn skills so that you can share your faith without losing your friends.”

Over the course of the semester, each student receives a Bible-work certificate. While only 10 to 15 percent of SALT students become full-time Bible workers, the program's focus on living the call to evangelism means that graduates carry the Gospel into their daily lives.

“While serving as SA president, I was able to give Bible studies to one of my cabinet members, thanks to the preparation SALT gave me,” Garcia said.

In addition to hands-on experience, coursework helps equip students to spread the Gospel, including classes on leadership, prophetic study, Christian witness-ing, and Christian beliefs.

## Divine Appointments

Through SALT, students start to see that there are no coincidences as they

witness individuals' lives transformed by taking part in Bible studies.

“It showed me that God is truly real, first and foremost because of the divine appointments I saw going door to door,” Garcia said. “People's lives were changed with no explanation but Jesus.”

Schumacher met many people who told her they were seeking God in prayer just before she knocked on their doors.

“Some of the most amazing experiences were when people would say, ‘We've been waiting for you,’ ‘We've been praying God would send someone,’ or ‘You came just in time,’” she said.

Having completed the SALT program, Schumacher has returned to her home church, and is engaging church members in evangelism. This summer she used her Bible-work certification at summer camp in Alaska. She believes that SALT has helped prepare her for God's plan in her life.

“It really has changed who I am,” she said. “Whether I'm in North Dakota, Tennessee, or Alaska, evangelism is a part of my life.”

To learn more about the SALT program, visit [southern.edu/salt](http://southern.edu/salt). ●

**Emma Winegardner** is a recent English graduate of Southern Adventist University.

# Muslim Refugees Find Friends: SUMMER CAMP STUDENTS REPORT



PHOTO BY: JADA MILLS

Children make friends at the summer Peace Camp for Muslim Refugees organized by the Adventist Muslim Friendship Association (AMFA) in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

*High school students attending the revived 2019 Journalism Academic Summer Camp at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee, wrote this article as part of their camp experience.*

Maram's childhood innocence was shattered the day her father came home covered in blood.

He had been working for the United States Army, which perplexed the young girl growing up in war-torn Iraq. When Maram asked her father about his job, he refused to share his experience. Then, one day, she overheard her parents telling friends it was no longer safe to live in her homeland. She later learned that her father had received death threats be-

cause of his work with the Americans. So, in 2012, Maram and her parents fled to the United States to find peace.

"... My parents spoke English," said the Muslim refugee, who now lives in the U.S. with her two daughters, 2 and 5, while waiting for her husband's papers to be processed. "We heard a lot of good things about America!"



PHOTO BY: JOSHUA AMOROSO

Mothers attending the summer Peace Camp for Muslim Refugees in Chattanooga, Tennessee, learn to make purses, clothes, and pillowcases in sewing classes.



PHOTO BY: RACHEL RANEY

Ana Bechard, program coordinator at the summer Peace Camp for Muslim Refugees in Chattanooga, leads out in youth activities.

Maram is one of about 50 Muslim refugees who participated in a recent four-week summer Peace Camp in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Located at a local Seventh-day Adventist church, Peace Camp was organized by the Adventist Muslim Friendship Association (AMFA), a ministry started in 2013 by several local Adventists. The organization assists refugee families forced to flee their countries due to violence and political strife.

Gabriela Phillips is one of the founders of AMFA and director of Adventist Muslim Relations for the North American Division. She said a majority of Muslim refugees living in Chattanooga are from Iraq, while others are from Sudan, Somalia, Syria, and Kurdish areas of Iraq. After three years of helping refugee children during the school year, AMFA launched Peace Camp for Muslim Refugees in 2016 to prevent children from wasting time playing on the computer and watching TV during the summer months, Phillips said. Those who attend are from the same families who participate in the school program, which allows them to spend summer days with

their new family of friends and volunteers.

One day at Peace Camp, a group of children sat around a carpet for worship. Phillips emphasized God's greatness, as every day the children learned about one of the 99 names of God. She told them the story of Creation and ended worship with the dua, a prayer to Allah. Later, the children played "Steal the Falafel," and participated in other team-building activities, under the supervision of the Peace Camp's program coordinator, Ana Bechard, a graduate of Southern Adventist University. The children were very energetic and eager to learn.

Malak, a 9-year-old girl from Egypt, said her favorite part about Peace Camp was participating in all the games. She and her friend, 9-year-old Fatima, loved the opportunity they had to make friends. Fatima had a smile on her face as she compared her home country to the United States. She and her brother were both born in Iraq. Her father visited her uncle in Malaysia, and soon after the family joined him. From there they immigrated to the United States.

Now, Fatima loves to swim, some-

thing she was not allowed to do back home. She said living in the United States is like nothing she had ever experienced. Back home most women wore a head covering called a hijab, she said. However, she loved the way Peace Camp volunteers wore their hair in different styles. She said one girl's "hair is wonderful, like a pumpkin."

Maram said Peace Camp has been a blessing for her daughter. "She barely spoke any English before we got here," she said. "She started speaking English more than I knew she could."

Peace Camp not only helps children; it also gives hope to Muslim mothers. Derka, a mother of five, has lived in the U.S. for 7½ years. She grew up in war-torn Somalia but escaped to Yemen before coming to America. Living in so many different places, learning so many different languages (Somali, Arabic, and English), has given her a perspective that transcends local culture, she said. AMFA has helped her learn about Western culture and American society.

Randa, a mother of three, came to America in 2016 wanting to start a new life filled with new opportunities. Origi-

nally from Darfur, Sudan, Randa moved due to constant wars that started more than a decade ago. After only one day in America, she moved to Chattanooga to seek a life away from violence. She and her husband have attempted to create a better life for themselves and their children.

After joining the Peace Camp, Randa began thriving in her new environment. She learned the English language, giving her the ability to seek and interview for jobs. Randa and five other friends hope to open a business catering Middle Eastern food. She has learned how to sew and has made purses, clothes, and pillowcases thanks to AMFA.

Denise Smith is founder and executive director of Peace of Thread, an Atlanta, Georgia-based organization that helped AMFA with the sewing project. She was living in Lebanon for seven years when she met a group of Muslim refugee mothers. When she returned to Atlanta, she launched the program, which teach-

es the women how to sew purses, wallets, and other items. The women began selling the accessories to help them get on their feet.

Smith said the women, who came from different countries, started out as strangers, but eventually became friends, supporting one another in their new environment.

Other volunteers working with the refugees in Chattanooga said they are grateful for the experience. Kyle Plemons, member of a post-collegiate church group, said his favorite aspect of the ministry was the memories he made on a daily basis. He loved interacting with the children, and learning about their cultural backgrounds.

Watheq Z., a university student studying in the U.S., volunteered with AMFA for about a month. He worked with the children because he, too, grew up in a refugee camp — one he fled to because he was treated unfairly as a Palestinian. “It’s not easy to leave your house ... for

[the] sake of safety,” he said.

As a person with a culturally Arabic background, Watheq has experienced moments of disrespect and hatred. “It’s hard to keep on being positive,” he said, “in an age where Arabs are associated with terrorists.”

He volunteers to change that perspective. “[If these children are depicted as terrorists], their view of their world can be pessimistic,” he explained. “I want to change that.”

And, he does, alongside other volunteers — one child at a time.

For more information about AMFA, visit <https://www.amfa4refugees.com/> or send emails to [amfa4refugees@gmail.com](mailto:amfa4refugees@gmail.com).

## BEHIND THE SCENES — MEET THE YOUNG JOURNALISTS WHO COVERED THE STORY



PHOTO BY: JOSEPH HYDE

Twenty-five high school students produced the text and photos for this Muslim refugee story as part of the Journalism and Photography Summer Academic Camps at Southern Adventist University June 17-19, 2019. The two three-day camps, led by professors Alva Johnson and Pablo Fernandez, respectively, were organized by the School of Journalism and Communication. To cover the story,

the students stepped outside of their comfort zones and visited the Peace Camp on June 18. They interviewed and photographed mothers, children, volunteers, and organizers.

Professors Alva Johnson (back row) and Pablo Fernandez (second row, far right) were the instructors.

**Writers:** Russell Bond, Matthew Brown, Ella Griggs, Khani Holliday, Alana Jeffries, Samantha Livingston,

Kyah Miller, Lila Odhiambo, Gaielle Price, and Donovan Quiros-Crider.

**Photographers:** Joshua Amoroso, Maiya Banks, Joelle Bixby, Ashlyn Ford, Elijah Gloudeman, Mackenzie Hayes, Eliana Hounslow, Jade Kile, Carly Lowry, Jada Mills, Ellie Pleasants, Rachel Raney, Eryn Roper, Tifani Saladino, and Zach Thomas.

# Revelation Speaks PEACE

BY RACHEL BEAVER AND HASKELL WILLIAMS

After years of planning and preparation, the Revelation Speaks Peace (RSP) evangelistic meetings resulted in nearly 50 baptisms. Hosted in Raleigh, North Carolina, the RSP meetings were a collaborative, area-wide effort of the South Atlantic and Carolina conferences, the Voice of Prophecy (VOP), and the churches of the Raleigh-Durham area.

Glen Altermatt, evangelism coordinator for the Carolina Conference, first approached Shawn Boonstra, VOP speaker, and Alex Rodriguez, VOP evangelism coordinator, about conducting an area-wide meeting back in 2017. Though such requests are usually lined up for three or more years, an opening for 2019 became available when another event canceled.

During the next 18 months, Rodriguez and other VOP team members met regularly with pastors and church volunteers for training and mobilization. In September 2017, leaders from both conferences gathered with Boonstra for an RSP Rally at the ARC (Family Life Center) at the Raleigh Church. Hundreds of members committed to diligent preparation during the coming months. More than 65,000 invitations to enroll in Bible studies were mailed to residents of the area in March 2018, and teams began the follow up.

However, there was still a need for a suitable location. Hundreds of inquiries and searches proved fruitless, and so event coordinators decided to rent a tent the size of a football field and set it up on fairground property. The weather posed additional problems. Rainy weather necessitated the installation of a floor, so pastors and members rallied to install 1,100 sheets of plywood; 10 industrial space heaters were needed to heat the tent. Winds in the area one night gusted up to 39 miles per hour, but, thankfully, the tent never had to be evacuated.

The meetings kicked off with a week of



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

All of Shawn Boonstra's PowerPoints were simultaneously presented in English and Spanish.



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

Thanks to the prayers and funds of the Carolina Conference members, the translation equipment was upgraded to accommodate the ever-growing Hispanic membership.

archaeological explorations presented by Tony Moore, speaker for Biblical World. Each night Boonstra welcomed guests and introduced Moore, who presented the archaeological discoveries of Egypt, Israel, and Iraq (Babylon), and how they correlate with the Scripture record. On the fifth night, Moore invited Boonstra to share additional matters he had studied relating to ancient Babylon. At that point, Boonstra presented the first portion of Daniel 2, and invited the archaeology guests to come back Friday night to learn more.

Despite the cold and the rain, hundreds of members and guests continued to attend to hear Boonstra present biblical truths relevant to these times. Charles Haugabrooks and Christine Wollman were the featured musicians. In total more than 1,800 individuals attended, nearly 900 of whom were guests.

By the end of the meetings, more than

50 individuals had made the decision to be baptized. Many others are continuing to study with members so they can be baptized as well. The success of the event stirred a desire in many church members to continue doing evangelism.

“A large number of members of the 13 participating churches have become active in witnessing and sharing Bible studies,” said Haskell Williams, Carolina Conference ministerial director. “It is this involvement that will keep the outreach going. That is the largest goal and the best accomplishment.”

**Rachel Beaver** is a senior public relations major in the School of Journalism and Communication at Southern Adventist University and will graduate in December, and a summer intern at Carolina Conference.

**Haskell Williams** is the director of ministerial and personal ministries at the Carolina Conference.

# EMERGING WOMEN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP

BY SHIRLEY SCOTT

Collegiate Adventist women in the Southern Union Conference make a significant, positive impact within their peer groups and communities through their outreach activities and initiatives. In recognition of this, the Southern Union Women’s Ministries Department has created the Emerging Women Leadership Scholarship.

The mission of the Union’s Women’s Ministries Department is to support and encourage women in their Christian leadership journey. This mission is exemplified throughout the Scriptures in the stories of Deborah and Jael, Ruth and Naomi, and Mary and Elizabeth. The

purpose of the Emerging Women Leadership Scholarship is to support the work of outstanding collegiate women leaders in a tangible way.

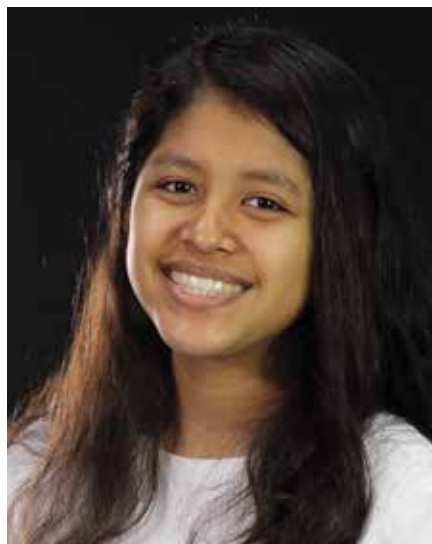
On an annual basis, a collegiate woman from each of the three Southern Union universities — AdventHealth, Oakwood, and Southern Adventist, who has aspired to provide Christlike leadership in student and civic activities, will be awarded a \$1,000 scholarship. This scholarship may be used toward tuition, books, and/or meals. In addition to the \$1,000, the recipients will receive leadership training and mentoring as they journey to discover and fulfill the

“thoughts” and “plans” the Lord has for them. Lastly, the three annual recipients of the scholarship will be featured at Union events, and in publications of their respective universities, the Southern Union, and beyond.

In research published by the Barna Group on how to engage millennials and keep them connected to the Church, five ingredients were identified: (1) develop meaningful relationships, (2) teach them cultural discernment, (3) make mentoring a priority, (4) assist them in matching their skills, abilities, and talents with God’s call on their lives, and (5) serve as facilitators of their connection with



Nailah Baker



Ellieny Farelás



Janelle Howell





## EMERGING WOMEN LEADERS



Kristina Huskey



Ashley Saint-Fleur

Jesus. By God's grace and power, the SUC Women's Ministries Department is desirous and committed to meeting this mandate among the 25 percent of the 18- to 29-year-olds who have chosen to stay connected to the Church.

Several emerging women leaders, ranging in age from 17 to 28 years old, were interviewed during the SUC Women's Spring Advisory meeting in April of this year. Ellieny Farelas is a first-generation Spanish American born in the U.S. and attending one of the academies. Kristina Huskey is 18 years old and a senior academy student. Ashley Saint-Fleur is a 26-year-old who is a full-time student with a full-time job. Nailah Baker is a university freshman who is active in her church as a member of the audio visual team, and newsletter and health ministries. Janelle Howell, 28, has earned her doctorate, and is a traveling physical therapist and speaker who still has time to mentor and motivate young women because she wants to pay it forward. Tori-Ann Holness, a college senior majoring in finance, is an international traveler and women's ministries coordinator in one of the SUC conferences. These young, inspiring women come from five of the eight conferences in the Southern Union, and they are just a small sampling of the tremendous emerging leaders the Southern Union is blessed to have in its midst.

It is young women such as these who will be assisted each year by awarding three scholarships to support them in their academic and leadership pursuits. Further information about the scholarship and application instructions can be found on the Union website at [www.southernunion.com/wmscholarship](http://www.southernunion.com/wmscholarship). Applications are sent to the conference where membership is held. A list of the conferences and directors' addresses can be found on the website as well. 📍

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**Shirley Scott** is the women's ministries director at the Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

# GOD IS FAITHFUL

BY RICHARD STEPHENSON

One of the great, majestic themes in Scripture is the faithfulness of God. We see it echoed from page to page in Scripture, ever reminding us that God is faithful. We read this anthem from Old Testament to New. A summary of this theme can be found in Lamentations 3:22-23: “The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; His mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; GREAT is HIS faithfulness!”

We can see God modeling faithfulness to us, so our faithfulness to Him is merely a reflection of His faithfulness to us. We find this in Luke 6:38 NLT, where Christ challenges us to “GIVE, and you will receive! Your gift will return to you FULL — pressed down and shaken together, to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap! The amount you give will determine the amount you get back!” We often rightly apply this promise of God’s incredible faithfulness on an individual level. But, could it apply to how we operate our businesses and our endeavors?

It was the first week of July 2018 when Laura Boldman, principal and grades 5-8 teacher at Josephine Edwards Christian School (JECS), a small rural Seventh-day Adventist Christian School located

in Ellijay, Georgia, gave the JECS school board a unique challenge. She had just returned from Georgia-Cumberland Conference meetings, where she had heard the testimony of another school that had begun returning tithing on their fundraising. She challenged us, as a school, to start returning tithing on our *increase* — to start tithing, effective immediately, on every dollar of fundraising and donations that the school received. A fundraiser had just ended the day before, July 4, which netted the school more than \$4,000. Do we really return tithing on that, we asked?

This was a BIG ask! We had just completed the 2017/2018 school year significantly over budget. We were financially unable to invest in needed capital repairs of our school building. Many of our students were on financial assistance, and we were in significant fiscal jeopardy. Of course, we were confident that God would supply for His school in Ellijay, just as He had for the past 50-plus years, but how could we tithe on our school’s fundraisers and donations? Would we really honor God by giving Him His own money back? The school desperately needed that 10 percent, with another 150 percent added to it!

In a step of faith (admittedly mixed

with some fear and trepidation), JECS began returning a tithe on the school’s increase. After all, this was HIS school! We are HIS children! We knew full well that He “owns the cattle on a thousand hills,” and were even convinced He owns the hills as well as the cattle, so we were sure He could provide for His school.

Our first challenge after making that decision was an unusually high number of requests for student aid. We didn’t know where the funds would come from, but we were confident God would provide. We put the situation squarely on Him, committing to more financial aid than was budgeted, and not knowing how we would raise the necessary monies. Our tithing faith walk had begun.

What happened next was truly a disaster, though. No more than a couple weeks after making that commitment, and just a week before school was to start, the entire A/C system — cooling for all three classrooms, the office, library, kitchen, bathrooms, and even the hallways — failed. And, the initial bids for repair were devastating. One bid to replace the entire system was more than \$34,000. How could we afford that? And how could we keep tithing as a school? More profoundly, how could it be that after we made this commitment to honor



Front view of Josephine Edwards Christian School



Laura Boldman in her classroom

PHOTO BY: JEFFREY SKAGGS

PHOTO BY: RICHARD STEPHENSON



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY SKAGGS

Josephine Edwards Christian School student body

God, and after we shared this commitment with our church and school communities (the majority of whom are not Seventh-day Adventists), that He would allow this? So, we did the only thing that we could do, and took this matter to the Lord in prayer. Our board prayed, our school prayed, our church prayed, our parents who are not Seventh-day Adventist prayed, and our conference prayed. We claimed the promises of God, especially Malachi 3:10, where God makes an astounding promise to us: “Prove ME herein, says the Lord. If I won’t open up the flood gates of heaven.”

Through a series of miraculous interventions that took us into the second day of school, we were referred to an OEM technician who could rehabilitate the entire system for 1/10th of the cost of a new system. Through divine providence, the cost of the repair was just the cost that we had just fundraised earlier in the summer, minus our tithe! God was proving Himself faithful! By day three of school, our classrooms were a cool and comfortable 70 degrees, just the right environment for reading, writing, arithmetic, and of course learning about Jesus!

That was just the beginning of our



Laura Boldman (left), JECS principal and grades 5-8 teacher, and Erin Skaggs, grades 1-4 teacher

PHOTO BY: JEFFREY SKAGGS

Luke 6:38 experience. The 2018/2019 school year saw an increase of students by 30 percent (three times our tithing). We witnessed the joys of student baptisms, we saw our precious young people giving their lives to Jesus — including my son! And, as the school practiced being faithful to God in tithe, we grasped the precious realization anew that God needs no practice in being faithful to us. Faithfulness comes naturally to Him!

There have certainly been challenges (and even some heartaches) through-

out the year, but this one thing we have learned again: **We cannot out-give God!** There is no question that each challenge that we faced along the way was just another opportunity for God to prove His faithfulness again and again and again. We have seen Luke 6:38 proved beyond a shadow of a doubt: “GIVE, and you will receive! Your gift will return to you FULL — pressed down and shaken together, to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap! The amount you give will determine the amount you get back!”

My friends, here is the great irony that only God could dream up. JECS finished the 2018/2019 school year with an unexpected surplus of funds, far outpacing all projections. God turned a faulty A/C system into an opportunity to demonstrate His Faithfulness! To God be the glory! May each of us take God at His Word, and put Him to the test today and every day. I am certain that we will find that **God is FAITHFUL!** 🙏

**Richard Stephenson** is the director of information technology services at the North American Division in Columbia, Maryland.

## Where Two Or Three

# [THOUSAND] ARE GATHERED

BY BRITTNY DESVARIEUX



PHOTO BY: JEREMY ARNALL

Ty Gibson, co-director of Light Bearers and pastor of the Eugene, Oregon, Church, was the featured speaker for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Camp Meeting. He shared creative new ideas that all Adventists should hear.



PHOTO BY: JEREMY ARNALL

The ordination candidates and their families were presented on Sabbath during Camp Meeting. Each candidate is typically ordained at their home church.

Growing old comes naturally to many. As days turn to months and then to years, many find themselves in an inevitable path that guides their feet further and further from their youth. But, is it possible to grow young?

An exciting long weekend filled with spiritual growth, captivating adventures, heart-felt worship, and authentic fellowship exemplified the annual Georgia-Cumberland Camp Meeting in Collegedale, Tennessee, which began May 29, 2019. Thousands of people of all ages gathered to participate in a weekend of extended worship with guest speaker Ty Gibson, co-director of Light Bearers and pastor of Storyline Church in Eugene, Oregon. Gibson spoke on the themed topic of the weekend, “Growing Young: How Discipling Youth and Christian Education Will Transform Our Church.”

“As I’ve listened to Ty’s presentations,” said Kristy Davis, Camp Meeting attendee, “I realized for the first time in my life what Camp Meeting is for. It’s about refocusing and centering a larger body of believers on what really matters — God’s unfailing love!”

In addition to Gibson’s appearance, the four-day Camp Meeting (May 29-June 1)

consisted of a variety of seminars, outdoor activities, book and food sales, and a Ministry Expo that gave attendees a chance to win prizes.

“Ministry Expo gave me the opportunity to just encourage people, and to develop a ministry in their church or community, but I also enjoyed the presenters that we had for family ministries. I felt that was a significant contribution to Camp Meeting,” said Jo Dubs, director of women’s and family ministries. This year there were multiple seminars on a range of topics, which included relationships, gardening, physical and emotional health, and spirituality. A popular seminar among them was the seminar on domestic violence.

Ruben Murieute, outreach coordinator and domestic violence seminar speaker, said, “If we are uncomfortable talking about domestic violence, then the perpetrators are comfortable doing it.”

For children through earlteen and youth, there were exciting activities, including a day trip to Cohutta Springs, a Sabbath afternoon hike, and educational science experiments with Ben Roy.

The post-collegiate group was a new addition to Camp Meeting. Members of

the group enjoyed a weekend of fellowship and worship, and Gibson’s live-streamed evening sermons. They were also given the opportunity to have a special Q&A lunch with Gibson, where the floor was open for anyone to ask any questions for which they wanted advice or clarity.

Moses Maier, member of the post-collegiate leadership team, said, “[Camp Meeting] was different, not only because I helped with the planning, but because the post-collegiate group became a reality. In the past, I would show up in the main gym for the divine service, say hello to a few people, and go home. This year, there was a space to meet many people my age and spend time with them, hear their stories, and worship with them throughout the week.”

According to Gary Rustad, vice president for administration, whose department oversees Camp Meeting, “This is probably one of the best Camp Meetings we’ve had.”

Gibson’s Camp Meeting sermons are available on the Georgia-Cumberland Conference website for free, or for purchase on DVD and Blue Ray. 📺

**Brittny Desvarieux** is the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Communication Department summer intern.

# “FOR WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE...”

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

One of the many reasons I like to go to the First Hispanic Church of Atlanta, Georgia, is Vicky. It feels as if she is everyone’s grandmother. She is tiny and short, but her hugs feel like bear hugs. She is always greeting people and making them feel at home. Never late, always enthusiastic no matter how much her legs hurt, she is an important icon at church. I am always looking forward to her hug and smile.

A couple of Sabbaths ago when the church was getting ready for Vacation Bible School (VBS), there was an appeal to donate money to the cause. We normally have many children from the community coming, and the people in charge make a great effort to make the best of this event. Of course, all this comes with a price, and the organizers were struggling to get everything they needed with the money they had this year. That was the reason for the appeal.

Vicky helps in every way she can with the church activities. This time was no different, but there was a problem. She only had \$20 until her next pay check. She had the money in her pocket, and she rubbed the bills as she thought of the children who would benefit from her offering. Intentionally ignoring her needs, she stood up to give her last \$20 to VBS. On her way to donate it, someone stopped her. “Vicky!” the person whispered. “I have been meaning to give you this, but I could not find you.” The person gave her an envelope, and if you think that miracles only happened during Bible times, then try to explain what happened to Vicky next. When she opened the envelope, she found \$20! Vicky started to shake. She could not be-



lieve her eyes. This \$20, though, was not just \$20. It came with interest, and it was the joy of experiencing in her life how the heavenly Father never leaves any detail unattended.

The church heard the testimony last Sabbath, and the joy was not only for Vicky to experience. Many could see what a loving Father God is, and how much He enjoys showing His presence and care, and His faithfulness in keeping His promises.

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you,” Luke 6:38, NIV. 🙏

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

# RETIREE FINDS PURPOSE *in Community Service*

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

When Rosalind James, member of the Dothan First Church in Dothan, Alabama, recently retired from the workforce, she struggled to find what her purpose would become. Having worked for the Alabama Cooperative Extension System as an urban regional extension agent, James had 15 years of experience with community development. James assisted in the advancement of events and fundraising for a variety of programs that, when implemented, improved the community by educating young people with practical skills. She applied for and acquired numerous grants that aided these endeavors. James also spent some time organizing events for Conference

youth federations, many of them with more than 3,000 participants. However, even with this background and skill set, James found it a challenge to implement these skills through regular ministry in her local church.

James began praying and asking God for direction in ministering for Him. Without too much of a wait, that prayer was answered, at least in part, when Elton DeSousa, pastor of the Dothan First Church, entered the district. DeSousa offered to train the church about Adventist Community Services (ACS), convinced that the practical features of ACS are some of the most useful resource vehicles for ministry in the Adventist Church. The local church obliged and

participated in the training, which included a survey of the available skills and interests of the local members. As a result, numerous projects were initiated, including a military veterans alliance which will provide a Christian support program for veterans and their spouses, and a homeschool coalition that will offer a host site for area homeschool students to occasionally come and learn together.

James was ecstatic about the training and future possibilities by implementing ACS in their church. She began utilizing her former work connections and skills, and was immediately able to positively impact their most recent event, free oil changes for women in need. Vehicles began to pull into the church parking lot on



Rosalind James, member of the Dothan, Alabama, First Church, prepares for a video interview.



Pathfinders participate in the event by washing cars.



Volunteers prepare for attendees at the parking lot entrance.



Elton DeSousa (second from right), pastor of Dothan First Church, speaks with volunteers at the inspection station.

Sunday, June 30, 2019, where drivers met friendly volunteers who took their name and confirmed their appointment for the day. Another volunteer drove the cars over to the temporary service area that the church set up, ready to work on up to five vehicles at once in separate stations. Each car went through a multi-point inspection, and then proceeded with the oil change if needed. After the service was completed, the car was moved to the car wash station where local Pathfinders provided a thorough hand wash. However, this free vehicle service was only part of the event.

While the women waited for their vehicles to be serviced, they were treated to a spa day in the church Wellness Center. Nicely decorated tables, free snacks, drinks, a makeover, manicure, massage, and childcare awaited the participants in the welcoming air-conditioning. The women also participated in a health

survey which will lead to an upcoming health and wellness event, specifically addressing the needs indicated in the survey. One-on-one prayer was also offered to anyone in need. The event was a major success, and many of the participants asked what other events the church hosts so they could make plans to attend them as well.

James was excited to see the event come across so positively. Leading up to the event, she went on the local television station's noon news program, and was interviewed about the event. Immediately following the airing of the program, James received numerous calls to pre-register, and was on the phone for four hours returning voicemails. Due to the overwhelming response, the event was full before it even started, and a waiting list was generated. In total, the church served 64 vehicles in a single day. The local news liked the idea of the

event so much, they sent a reporter the day of the event to cover the action.

James and DeSousa worked with their skilled elders, deacons, deaconesses, and church members to create partnerships for the event. Because of this effort, all of the oil, oil filters, and car wash supplies were provided by their local O'Reilly and AutoZone Auto Parts. Also, Walmart, Sam's Club, and other businesses and community members provided financial support to make the event a reality.

"I'm so excited. I'm just waiting to see what God is going to do [next]," said James. In response to how other churches can start something similar in their area, James says, "Believe, work together, and follow God's guidance."

Watch a video report of this event at [www.gscsda.org/gsc-today/acsdothan](http://www.gscsda.org/gsc-today/acsdothan). 📺

# The Life Journey of ROBERT LEE WOODFORK

Robert L. Woodfork's beautiful, powerful life created quite a journey worth celebrating! On May 25, 1921, Thomas and Odell (Arnold) Woodfork welcomed into their lives their only child, a baby boy. He passed on May 4, 2019, 21 days shy of his 98th birthday.

Woodfork grew up in Corona, Alabama, for the first four years of his life. After the death of his father, he and his mother moved to Columbus, Georgia, to be near her parents. His mother knew that her son would need a strong male role model to help him develop characteristics and tools for life, and Woodfork's grandfather was a professional and godly man who served as first elder and interim pastor. This example planted the seeds of ministry. In his book *My Journey in Ministry*, he said, "As I listened to my grandfather preach, I was impressed to become a minister." It was also in Columbus that Woodfork entered into the Seventh-day Adventist Christian education and met his lifelong friend, Walter Starks. Together they experienced grade school, and became college roommates, Adventist ministers, and conference presidents.

Woodfork was blessed to have another example of manhood and success in his mother's brother, proprietor of the largest black-owned dry cleaning establishment in the South, and owner of a shoe repair shop and ice cream parlor. His uncle, having no children of his own, wanted his only nephew to take over his thriving company, which included seven locations. Woodfork found himself at a personal crossroad — riches and wealth for a season, or the divine leadings of God in another direction. He chose the lead-



ings of God into pastoral ministry, and was blessed both in tangible and spiritual ways. Nevertheless, his mother, grandfather, and uncle left indelible impressions on his life, seen in his love for discipline, order, and organization, as well as his reputation for sharp haberdashery.

Woodfork attended Oakwood Academy, graduating as president of his class. He entered Oakwood Junior College in 1940, studying in the Ministerial Department where he was profoundly influenced by Calvin E. Mosely, chair of the Religion Department. In 1942 Woodfork was preparing to "depart to serve" following graduation from Oakwood Junior College, when he met Norma "Jean" Bedney. It was a brief meeting, but they became better acquainted in Birmingham when she visited relatives there.

Woodfork went on to Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in May 1944.

During that time the couple courted for three years via the mail.

They were the first couple to be married in the Beacon Light Church in Kansas City, Missouri, on February 22, 1945, by A. E. Webb. Woodfork earned his master's degree at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary (then in Takoma Park, Maryland), and was ordained on January 11, 1946.

More than being a lover of learning, Woodfork was a lover of Norma Jean. They called each other "Sweetheart." That is all their children ever heard, never a first name, only "Sweetheart." Son Bobby told the story for many years that he thought that was their first names. Friends and neighbors would refer to them as "Elder and Mrs. Sweetheart."

As Woodfork entered full force into married life, he also did so in ministry and evangelism, hosting many tent meetings in New Orleans, Louisiana, and Miami, Florida. He used his creative genius to make Ingathering fun and effective, raising large sums of money in a short amount of time. He was also asked to be the youth leader in the very beginning of the "black work" that was taking place in the Adventist Church. Woodfork was involved in the changes that brought about regional conferences, which were organized during the time he was pastoring in St Joseph, Missouri.

During that time, they had their first child, Bobby. However, Woodfork was not present for the birth because, with no family in St. Joseph, he had sent Jean to stay with her parents in California for the birth. It would be three months before Woodfork saw his firstborn, when he drove to bring his family home. He also



enjoyed meeting many of Jean's relatives for the first time, and it meant so much to him to gain three brothers because he always wanted siblings and a large family.

Soon Woodfork was called to pastor in Kansas City, Kansas, at Bethel Church. That is where he and his wife welcomed their second born, Kathleen Ann. Shortly after, he was called to Oakwood College as dean of men, professor in the Religion Department, and pastor of the Oakwood College Church. In December of 1955, Woodfork and his family moved to New Orleans to pastor the Ephesus Church, the largest church in the Southwest Region Conference. There he and his wife welcomed their third child, Ronnie. Woodfork reflects that Ronnie was born "after we had decided not to have any more children, since Bobby and Kathy were of school age and Sweetheart decided to go back to school and begin her working career. The congregation often let us know that no pastor has come to Ephesus without giving birth to at least one child. And so, their premise became a reality. We remained there for eight years, and this was the longest and perhaps my most successful pastorate."

Woodfork was a gentle giant and a strong family man, a man who cared for the well-being of black people during a time of racial unrest, and a man who cared for the work of God through the Adventist community. In 1963 he and his family moved from New Orleans to Miami to pastor Bethany Church, following the great leadership of Calvin Rock, Ph.D., who built the church. Woodfork exercised the spiritual and business sense he was taught growing up, and paid off the mortgage at Bethany. After Miami he went to Atlanta, Georgia, where for almost one year, July 1970 to April 26, 1971, he pastored at Berean Church. This pastorate was cut short when Warren S. Banfield was called to serve in the Southern Union, creating a vacancy in the presidency. Woodfork reflects, "I have discovered that whenever a person follows God's leading, God equips him for the task. The Lord has certainly done that for me and I give Him the praise."

With this mindset, he undertook the presidency of the South Atlantic Confer-

ence as the fourth president. In his nine years of service (1971-1980), he prioritized evangelism and church growth. One year, baptisms totaled 2,033. This is because "Evangelism was the watchword of the South Atlantic Conference." During the evangelism season, July to September, there could be as many as 19 evangelistic meetings being conducted. Woodfork was a president who was present and supportive for the pastors and churches. It was his practice to visit each meeting, usually putting many miles on the family car. Under his presidency, another priority was to redesign and reorganize the church assignments to reduce the number of churches that pastors served at one time. He created new positions, most notably changing the position secretary-treasurer to two separate positions. He executed the upgrading of living and dining facilities for campers and workers at the Hawthorne, Florida, Camp Meeting site, including a new pavilion for worship, the first of its kind in the regional conferences. He oversaw and supported the division of the South Atlantic Conference into two regions, creating the Southeastern Conference. Next, he then broke ground and completed the new Conference office complex and Adventist Book and Health Food Center, leading the way for one of the first and finest complexes among the African-American Adventist work during that time. Woodfork reflects, "In 1980, the South Atlantic Conference was enjoying perhaps one of its greatest years. It had become the largest conference in the Southern Union (membership wise), and it was financially sound." Woodfork was president nearly 10 years when he left South Atlantic after 18 years in this territory.

In 1980, he began two terms in the General Conference as a general field secretary, which included serving as liaison to the regional conference presidents and the regional departments of the Pacific and North Pacific unions; vice chair of the Oakwood College board and chairman of the executive board; chair of the Breath of Life board, coordinating the regional scholarships for postgraduate studies; recording secretary for the union presidents; and much more. From 1985 to

1989, he served as an associate secretary of the General Conference.

Woodfork retired on February 1, 1989, and he and Jean moved back to Atlanta after serving almost 45 years. He left required work life, and entered retirement work life, serving as chaplain at Smyrna Adventist Hospital in Smyrna, Georgia; interim pastor at Bethany Church in Miami; interim pastor for the Dublin and Milledgeville, Georgia, district; and assistant pastor of the West End Church in Atlanta.

After 56 years of marriage, Norma Jean passed on June 28, 2001. Woodfork lived in Maryland until 2003, and then returned to the South Atlantic Conference to become the liaison for senior affairs, where he served until 2015. He then relocated back to Maryland to be with his children and grandchildren. While in the Maryland/District of Columbia metro area, he served as staff chaplain at Washington Adventist Hospital, as well as mentor and pillar of ministry at Emmanuel Brinklow and DuPont Park churches in Maryland and Washington, D.C.

He leaves to mourn his passing one daughter, Kathleen (David), and one son, Ronald (Tammy). Grandchildren and great-grandchildren include Robert George Woodfork and daughter, Jasmine; Tiffani Glover (Terrell) and children, Tristan James and Tori; Richard Woodfork (Katie) and daughter Charley; Lauren Woodfork; Jason Thompson; Jordan Thompson and son, Tristan Anthony; Kristin Yirenyi (Daniel) and children, Renai, Daniel, Kahmyah, and Victoria; Kimberly Yirenyi (Richard) and children, Allen, Alyssa, Anya, Ansah, Alden; Dustin and children, Jasmine and Kavonte. Additional family and friends are his sister-in-law, Gloria Bedney and children, Cheryll, Donna, Judith, Joan, Donald, Brian, and David, their spouses, and children; Cadena Bedney and children, Kesi and Leta; Michael and Dayna Bedney; the Adams Family; and a host of other relatives, friends, and ministry colleagues. In addition to his wife, Woodfork was preceded in death by his son, Robert Jr. (Delavern). ●

# High Point Central High School Partners With Triad to Expand Food Pantry Ministry

The grand opening of the High Point Central Bison Market school pantry was held May 16, 2019. This school pantry is the only fully stocked school pantry in North Carolina. Students and staff members facing food insecurity now only have to walk down the hall to access fresh fruits and vegetables, protein-enriched choices, snacks, and other foods.

Data manager Tracy Hamlin, coordinator of the Bison Market, said she and other staff members consistently had students ask them for food. “For the last few years, students would come to my office because they wanted crackers or chips or water because they may not have had breakfast or they may not have had food at home the night before.” Hamlin stated that she and other staff members were providing the snacks out-of-pocket several times per week. With a student body numbering nearly 1,400, they soon realized they needed help.

This led to a partnership with Jo Williams, director of the Triad Food Pantry at High Point, N.C., Church. Williams created the food pantry at her church more than 10 years ago. At first she served no more than 25 people. Now she sees nearly 600 people in a few hours. She knows many by their faces, but more importantly, she knows their stories. They have no



PHOTO BY: REGINA LEE

jobs, little money, and lots of problems. They need a little hope when hope is hard to find. The HPC Bison Market school pantry is an extension of her expanding ministry, and is solely funded and supported by donations to Triad Food Pantry.

Laurentiu Serban, pastor of High Point Church, spoke candidly with WGHP FOX 8 News about his church’s commitment, mission, and purpose in combating hunger with healthy choices in the “food deserts” of High Point. As a result of his message and donations appeal, triadfoodpantry.com

received more than 400 visits within a few hours of his interview airing on the evening news.

The pantry includes a refrigerator and freezer stocked with a variety of meats, fruits, vegetables, and other items with a short shelf life. Students in the ProStart culinary class next door to the school write recipe cards with a meal idea for the ingredients included in that week’s box. The HPC Bison Market also includes items for students who are parents. Several infant mattresses have been donated, and the shelves are stocked with baby food, formula, and other essentials.

Hamlin encourages parents to come with their students to pick up their boxes. Students can pick up items by themselves using a book bag supplied by the school, but that limits the amount and types of foods that are given. For families who don’t have transportation, teachers have volunteered to deliver boxes to students’ homes.

At the market’s opening, Shelley Nixon-Green, HPC principal, thanked the Triad Food Pantry for making the HPC Bison Market a reality. Williams plans for Triad Food Pantry to open more school pantries in the coming year. 📍

BY REGINA LEE



PHOTO BY: REGINA LEE



PHOTO BY: REGINA LEE

# STEM Expo Held in Research Triangle Area



PHOTO BY: LAFAYETTE TRAWICK

Students and teachers display their awards and medals.

Three Adventist elementary schools from the Carolina and South Atlantic conferences partnered to hold a Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Expo and Regional Triangle Science Fair weekend in February 2019. Host school Adventist Christian Academy, Raleigh, N.C.; Five Oaks Adventist Christian School, Durham, N.C.; and Gethsemane Christian Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy, Raleigh, teamed up to give their students the opportunity to participate in a multi-school science fair.



PHOTO BY: LAFAYETTE TRAWICK

Judged categories include technology, life, environmental, and engineering.

Ben Roy, presenter for The Science Zone and for Kids' Time on 3ABN Kids, wowed the crowd on Saturday night with amazing, interactive, hands-on science experiments and demonstrations that emphasized the greatness of Creator God and His amazing designs.

On Sunday the students displayed their science projects, each aligning with one of four categories: "Technology," "Life," "Environmental," and "Engineering." Judges included STEM professionals from a wide variety of disciplines:

- Ben Roy – presenter, The Science Zone
- Debra Rivera – animal scientist
- Lucas Aponte Collazo – Ph.D. candidate, University of North Carolina at

Chapel Hill

- Cedric Taylor – engineering product management director, Trilliant
- Denise Hunter, M.D. – internal medicine and lifestyle medicine specialist
- Karis Graves – elementary science teacher, Sallie B. Howard School's 2017 Teacher of the Year

Ninety-four projects were judged, and a total of 10 projects were awarded first, second, or third place in the categories grade 2, grades 3/4, grades 5/6, and grades 7/8. The grade K-2 class projects earned group awards.

"The kids from every school did an exceptional job," said Ijeoma Nwannanu,

Gethsemane principal.

Steven Champion, Five Oaks principal, commented, "The projects are always student-initiated and led. They research a question that they want to know more about, and really exercise their brains."

"I hope the students are enthusiastic about science, and that they think outside the box and try new things," said Dewald Coetzer, Raleigh principal. "This is one way students can find out if they enjoy science, continue with it throughout their school years, and possibly pursue it as a career." ●

BY LAFAYETTE TRAWICK

# Sunrise Church Holds Annual Health Fair

For more than a decade, Sunrise Church's annual Health Fair has used the Bible, as well as other health mediums, to promote healthy living and a balanced lifestyle.

To prepare for the most recent one, March 17, 2019, nightly seminars and medical missionary classes were held during the week that led into a special sermon on Sabbath, and to usher in the fair on the following day. Guest speakers for these programs were from Abundant Life Wellness Institute in Sawyerville, Ala.: Anthony Paul, Ph.D., president; Marlo Paul, M.D., medical director; and Dewain and Lisa Williams, life-style counselors. They addressed health concerns for people struggling with high blood pressure and a variety of other physical illnesses.

Free food was distributed to all who at-



tended the fair. Nutritionists offered free meal planning advice with options for reducing the amount of unhealthy sugar and starch humans consume. Also on site were chiropractors, testing for HIV, dietary and weight lectures, and voluntary blood bank donations.

So that parents could take full advantage of the amenities, children were welcomed to enjoy the bounce house and other fruity

crafts in their KIDZ Zone. They also received popcorn and snow cones.

Law enforcement and firefighters were present to support the event. Natural alternatives and refreshments were given to snack on, including sugar cane, coconut water, and vegan food options.

"Overall, I feel that things like this help strengthen the community by showing we as a Church care about the well-being of not only our peers and love ones, but our extended family in the community," says Gregory Smith, communications department team leader at Sunrise Church, Lauderdale, Fla. "Ultimately, our main goal is to use this field to bring people closer to God through healthy living." 📍

BY BELINDA BREVIL

# Midport Church Celebrates 10th Anniversary

With praises and thanksgiving, Midport Church in Port St. Lucie, Fla., celebrated its 10th anniversary on May 18, 2019. It was with a leap of faith that in 2009 a small group of members of the former Jensen Beach Church decided to accept the challenge posed by Don Shaw, then pastor, to build a larger church in a new location with a 12,500-square-foot building with sanctuary capacity of 320, Sabbath School classrooms, and a fellowship hall seating 150.

It was a day of blessings for members and visitors who celebrated while reiterating some of the miracles God worked to bring this challenge to fruition:

- \$1 million property asking price was slashed in half when owner learned the prospective buyer was the Adventist Church, as she had been so blessed by her Adventist caregiver.
- Surveyor's charge would be \$30,000. On a bright, sunny, cloudless day, lightning



Some of the original members who started Midport Church 10 years ago

struck the property igniting a fire. The Forestry Department cleared trees and created roadways to fight the fire. When the surveyor returned, he charged \$1,500.

- Construction costs skyrocketed due to a boom in real estate, but when the group was ready to build, the market plummeted and building costs fell.

The message for the day, "God's Special People," was presented by Mike Cauley, former president of Florida Conference.

Dennis McOmber, current pastor, presented his outreach vision for the future. He noted

statistics from when the church opened 10 years ago: 50 members, four children, and one adult Sabbath School class. Now, the membership stands at 365, every classroom is full, and there are several ministries. Another monumental achievement was applying and receiving a license to operate a radio station at the church that now reaches St. Lucie County and north Martin County.

The celebration ended with a concert by singer and artist Charles Haugabrooks. 📍

BY H. ANESTA THOMAS

# North Lake Dedicates Church

Members and visitors packed the North Lake Church in Leesburg, Fla., on March 16, 2017, to dedicate the church and thank the Lord for His many blessings.

Today, the 149 members are a far cry from the group of 13 people who began a branch Sabbath School in Tavares, Fla., on July 22, 2000, as part of a church-planting initiative. Over the years, the group assumed several names as members sought a permanent place of worship.

Mission group status was attained on September 20, 2000; company status on April 1, 2001; and church status on January 19, 2002. The late Obed Graham and his wife, Coretta, donated five acres of land in February 2007 for a building site for the new church, and the grand opening was held on March 21, 2009.



PHOTO BY: JANICE GALAMBOS

North Lake pastor, assisted Florida Conference officials Tim Goff, executive secretary; Elisa Rahming, treasurer; and Orlando Lopez, vice president for pastoral ministries, in burning the note. Goff presented the dedication address entitled “Church Keys.”

Shortly after the church was opened, a gentleman came by and asked, “Would the church like to have a radio station?” Through many miracles, the members feel assured of God’s leading in establishing a radio station at the church, and the antenna placed on the church steeple provides extensive coverage for Lake, Marion, and Sumpter counties.

“From our humble beginnings in the year 2000 to the stunning sanctuary of the current North Lake Church,” says Bassett, “we can certainly testify to the faithfulness of the hand of God.”

Ten years later, the dedication of the church included the burning of the 20-year promissory note, which was paid back in a little less than 10 years. Norman Bassett,

# Harold and Velma Knox Celebrate 70 Years of Marriage

Harold and Velma Knox of Leesburg, Fla., celebrated their 70th anniversary on June 10, 2019.

Harold Knox was born on February 17, 1925, in N. Woodstock, Me. Velma Smith was born on April 24, 1925, in Newport, N.H. They were married on June 10, 1949, in Windsor, Vt., and soon joined the West Lebanon, N.H., Church. For many years, the Knoxes held various offices in that church including Harold being the church treasurer for more than 20 years.

In 1979, they moved to Union Springs Academy and began almost 38 years of working for the Church, full-time at first and later part-time. In those years they lived and worked on the campuses of Union Springs Academy, Garden State Academy, and Georgia Cumberland Academy.

They also lived and worked at Camp Winnekeag in Ashburnham, Mass., and Harold worked, often with help from Velma, as a local church auditor for the



Harold and Velma Knox (left) on their wedding day, June 10, 1949, and recently enjoying a walk through nature

Georgia-Cumberland Conference, the Southern New England Conference, and the Northern New England Conference. They finally retired at age 92, and moved to Leesburg, Fla., where they are members of the North Lake Church.

Harold and Velma have five children:

Terry Orr of N. Waterboro, Me.; Pam Hull of S. Barre, Vt.; Beverly Warren of Leesburg, Fla.; Barbara Trecartin of Leesburg; and Douglas Knox of S. Dartmouth, Mass. They also have 12 grandchildren and 18 great-grandchildren.

# Educators Attend Literacy, Inquiry Summit



SUBMITTED BY: SABRINA PATTON

Teachers attending the summer training event include Angela Walton (front center); Sabrina Patton (first row), Courtney Day, Kim Thompson, Diana Clemons, Valerie Hunt, and Michelle Laney; Briana Wever (back row), Monique Simpson, Carlene Green, Kimberly Keen-Maclure, Christina Harrison, Krystal Bishop, and Stephanie Heath-Nashy Day.

Summer break is a time all teachers (and students) look forward to. Yet, not all of summer is used for rest and relaxation. Many teachers take time to perfect the craft of teaching by attending professional development courses.

Cobb County School System in the Atlanta, Ga., area hosted a Literacy & Inquiry Summit on June 3 and 4, 2019. The theme was “Teaching for Change,” a collaboration of the English Language Arts and Social Studies departments.

The purpose of the summit was to recognize the important role teachers play as educators in reaffirming and supporting students’ civic health, social justice, literacy, and equity. Kim Thompson and Angela Walton, regional education directors, and Krystal Bishop, Southern Adventist University education professor, along with 11 other teachers, were in attendance.

The experience began with inspirational messages of student voices as part of a new program called “Project Soapbox: Amplifying Student Voice.” Students are challenged to stand up and speak out on issues they are passionate about. A teacher guides them through the writing process, and teaches them how to structure their speech in the most effective way. Then

they give their speeches using delivery techniques to ensure a powerful, persuasive presentation, thus transforming them into active citizens and leaders. They heard four middle school students present speeches.

The keynote presentation was from author Lester L. Laminack. He proposed the idea that balanced, authentic literature should be mirrors, windows, and doors. When teachers choose texts for their classrooms, students should be able to see themselves, broaden their views, and take action, or maybe change a behavior or thought.

The last keynote presenter was Rutha Mae Harris, a freedom singer who was part of the civil rights movement. She uses music as a way to empower and educate audiences on civil rights issues. Everyone listened intently as she shared experiences where she was arrested and, on occasion, assaulted as she courageously stood up for what she believed in. She moved participants with her powerful contralto voice as she included the audience in some of her songs.

In addition to the keynote presenters, there were more than 50 sessions available to attend: workshops, panel discussions,

presentations, and informal collaboration opportunities.

As the teachers attended the different classes, each reflected on how to translate this rich information to their classroom. Valerie Hunt, a teacher from Bowman Hills School in Cleveland, Tenn., says that after attending the class “Creating A Classroom Democracy,” she was inspired with ideas to use in her class meetings, and tools to create a positive, supportive, safe atmosphere for her classroom. Michelle Laney, also a Bowman Hills teacher, says that she plans to incorporate Project Soapbox in her elementary classroom by helping students determine what is important to them, and how to listen to and respect their classmates.

As Adventist teachers, many feel they have a responsibility to teach their students how to apply a Christian view to social and political issues, and how to make a strategic difference in society.

Please keep all Adventist educators in your prayers as they share the Gospel of Christ, and meet social needs as presented in Acts 2 and 4. 🙏

BY SABRINA PATTON

# President Ed Wright to Retire at the End of August

Ed Wright, D.Min., president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for the last 14 ½ years, has announced his intention to retire August 31, 2019.

“Serving this Conference has been an honor and a privilege, more fulfilling than I would ever have dreamed,” Wright reflected. “The health and growth we have experienced I attribute to strong leaders in our churches and schools, empowered by God’s Spirit. I am confident He will continue to bless and guide Georgia-Cumberland in the future, as well.”

Conference bylaws stipulate that the Southern Union president will convene members of the last constituency session nominating committee and the current Executive Committee to fill the vacancy.



PHOTO BY: JEREMY ARNALL

After more than 14 years as president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and 46 years of service to the Adventist Church, Ed Wright will retire August 31, 2019.

Wright began his ministry in 1973 upon graduation from Pacific Union College. After several pastoral assignments and ordination in the Central California Conference, Wright accepted an invitation to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in 1985. He served the Collegedale Church, on the campus of Southern Adventist University, for 20 years — first as associate pastor, and then 11 years as senior pastor. In 2005, he was invited to his present role. During Wright’s 14-year tenure, Conference membership has increased from 30,000 to 41,000.

Ed and Marilyn Wright have been blessed with four married children and (soon-to-be) 12 grandchildren. 📞

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

# Bristol Church Hosts Seminar on Diabetes Prevention

For the third annual diabetes prevention and reversal seminar held recently in Bristol, Tenn., about 35 people attended a weekend seminar in the conference room of the Bristol Public Library, which has an adjoining kitchen.

Because their small church doesn’t have the medical and allied health personnel necessary to offer a full six-week program, they opted to invite Stephen and Karen Wickham, creators of the ministry formerly known as Grundy Reversing Diabetes Seminars, to conduct a two-day condensed seminar. The Wickhams have renamed their health ministry to Lifestyle Makeovers, a newly approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

On Friday evening and Saturday afternoon, the Wickhams took turns presenting the various topics, sharing their own per-

sonal journeys in dealing with food addictions and “insulin resistance,” the precursor to diabetes.

An important selling point at this seminar was the delicious food samples, beautifully presented by Sarah Wickham Dixon and Peggy Richie, who spent a day in the kitchen tweaking the recipes to perfection. Imanuel and Cyndi Morenings assisted with food preparation and serving.

Two follow-up sessions, scheduled two weeks apart, included food samples prepared by a plant-based chef. These meetings gave participants an opportunity to share their progress and struggles with the group, and to watch video presentations which re-emphasized how regular exercise, adequate sleep, and the right foods can beat diabetes.

A parish nurse from a local church who attended the seminar was positive in point-

ing out that there are also spiritual resources offered in the Wickhams’ new booklet, *How to Reverse Type 2 Diabetes*, published by the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. 📞



SUBMITTED BY: PAULL DIXON

Stephen and Karen Wickham created the Grundy Reversing Diabetes program presented at the Bristol, Tenn., Church.

BY PAULL DIXON, MPH

# Piedmont Congregation Sponsors Church in Congo

While it is not uncommon for churches to donate to foreign mission projects, not many have the privilege of actually seeing the result of their giving. This past spring, Piedmont, Ala., Church members had a special opportunity to touch a congregation in need across the world by sponsoring the land, labor, and materials to build a church in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

Funds were donated to Train Them 2 Fish, an Adventist nonprofit in DRC focusing on training Bible workers, and establishing churches in this vast central-African country. While on a visit to the United States, Thomas Ongasa, Congolese pastor, was able to visit the Piedmont congregation this past June, and show pictures of the church building already in progress.

Also special for Piedmont, is the story of the believers this church building was gifted to. Shintoni grew up in a spiritually dark area of Congo, where superstition and witchcraft reigned. The young man wanted to know the truth about God, and prayed earnestly for direction. One night he had a dream where an angel told him that a stranger would visit the next day to show him greater truth. Sure enough, a stranger visited the following morning with the contact information and address of a Seventh-day Adventist pastor. Ultimately, Shintoni and many others from



Shintoni (left) speaks to his young church plant.

his village were baptized as a result. The young man went through Train Them 2 Fish's Bible worker course, and started a church plant. The new believers meet every Sabbath, previously holding services in an alley between several buildings.

The Piedmont members feel blessed and privileged to give Shintoni's church

plant a building to worship in. The congregation recognizes that they have an Adventist church family around the world, and that God has commissioned all to work together to fulfill the Gospel commission. 📌

BY ABIGAIL DUMAN

# Uchee Pines Members Minister to Panama City Following Hurricane

Following the devastation of Hurricane Michael in October 2018, it became evident that the relief effort would be ongoing for quite some

time. In December 2018, several members of the Uchee Pines Church reached out to Jay Rosario, pastor of the Panama City Church, to see how they might be

of help. Rosario was able to supply them with a list of people who still had immediate needs to be met. Everyone on the list was called, and several appointments





Uchee Pines Church members work to clear debris following Hurricane Michael.

were made, including a recently baptized older woman. The woman needed her handicap ramp repaired, and some tree limbs cleared from her yard. Uchee Pines members were able to assist numerous people like this during their December mission trip.

In May 2019, the group returned to the damaged area to provide more assistance. They were supplied with another list of names, and again called to make appointments. One of those appointments stood out from the rest. An elderly widow who adopted three of her great-grandchildren while they were infants due to drugs, also lost a daughter in the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. Additionally, her son was imprisoned, and her great-grandchildren, now teenagers, have rebelled against her. Her roof was still in need of repair, as a moldy blue tarp covered the damage.

Divine intervention became apparent to the Uchee Pines members when they were assisting “Leonard,” a Panama City member, before their appointment with the distraught woman. Leonard pays for television slots and plays Adventist media. At the conclusion of each time slot,



an offer is made for a free copy of the program. Leonard was processing these requests when one of the Uchee members noticed the name and address for the troubled woman they were scheduled to help the next day. They decided to deliver the media in person.

When they arrived the next day, the living conditions of the woman’s home were worse than they imagined. There were animals in the house that were not able to go outside as needed. The stench was noticeable from outside. They met the woman outside, and she was delighted to receive the DVD, exclaiming, “God

still loves me!”

Facing the terrible conditions, Amy Pershin, Uchee Pines member, struggled with the work ahead of her and her daughter. She began thinking to herself, “Lord, how can someone allow their home to get this bad? Why should I clean their filth?” Knowing these weren’t the thoughts she should be having, Pershin prayed. God responded by reminding Pershin of the filth He has rescued each person from, including her, all without deserving it. With tears in her eyes, Pershin continued.

After two days of arduous labor, the home was completely renewed. With windows now opened, each room cleaned, and fresh flowers decorating the table, the house had new life. The woman continues to contact the members who assisted her, continually grateful for the fresh start they offered her and her family. The teenagers, too, are now actively engaged with maintaining their clean home. 🙏

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Ministry Wins Souls for Jesus Through Vegetarian Restaurant



Daniel McFeeters, pastor, and Victoria Delaughter on the Sabbath she was baptized

Nearly 10 years ago, Kristina and Daniel McFeeters began holding monthly cooking classes in the small town of Whitley City, Ky. Through God’s providence, this simple ministry grew into a plant-based vegetarian restaurant and bakery called Kristina’s Kitchen. The restaurant is now a center of influence in rural eastern Kentucky, connecting with the community and sharing the love of Jesus through delicious healthy food. However, some may ask if health ministries are effective in winning souls for Jesus.

Victoria Delaughter started going to Kristina’s Kitchen because of her interest in health and herbs. Soon McFeeters developed a friendship with her, which continued for several years. McFeeters didn’t know that Delaughter had been watching *Amazing Facts* on television, and had found the Stearns Seventh-day Adventist Church. She had not visited the church, because she didn’t think she knew anyone who attended. One day, she drove by the church just as McFeeters was walking in. The next day, she went into the restaurant and asked McFeeters,

“Do you go to that church just down the road?”

When Delaughter realized she had a friend who was Seventh-day Adventist, she started to attend the church right away. “It’s been great!” she says. McFeeters began Bible studies with Delaughter, and on December 15, 2019, she was welcomed into the church family by profession of faith. 📌

BY DANIEL MCFEETERS

# Young Adults Serve Community During Camp Meeting



A new deck was installed for a community member during the Kentucky-Tennessee 2019 Camp Meeting.

Camp Meeting is filled with good fellowship and Bible study. However, many times pastors encourage listeners to go and serve in the community, while at the same time not providing an actual opportunity to serve the community. This year that changed during camp pitch when Bob Wint asked Ignacio Silverio, young adults' leader, if he would be willing to help with a side project he had in mind.

Realizing that there was a community member in need only a few short miles from the camp meeting site, the two decided to start the project which was eventually completed with the assistance

of the young adults. What was the result? More than 15 young adults worked together to frame and paint a deck needed by a community member. It took many hot, sweaty hours, but it was worth it. The young adults are looking forward to serving the community again next year.

The Apostle John wrote in I John 4:18-21 ESV, "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us. If anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God

whom he has not seen. And this commandment we have from Him: whoever loves God must also love his brother."

John is reminding followers of Jesus that they cannot claim to love God — an invisible being, while neglecting to love brothers in need — visible beings. Serving others requires willingness to see individuals in need as individuals created in the image of God. It requires loving God while loving others. ☛

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BY IGNACIO SILVERIO

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# Southern Films New Stewardship Video Series



Theo Brown (right), Southern alum and director of the new video series, talks with one of the actors between takes.

Film students at Southern Adventist University had a unique opportunity this summer, working on a new eight-part video series called “Smoky Mountain Rescue,” co-produced by the North American Division’s Stewardship Ministries and Southern’s School of Visual Art and Design. The first episode of the series will be screened at the Oshkosh International Pathfinder Camporee.

The series is adapted from Jan and John Mathews’ book, *Smoky Mountain Rescue*, and tells the story of Emily, a city girl who moves to live with her grandparents in the country, finds a lost dog named Jack, and goes on adventures in an attempt to return Jack to his owners. Each episode teaches her more about

what it means to be a good steward.

Members of the production crew had a broad range of experience levels. In addition to the eight current Southern students who worked on the project, several alumni and additional professional crew members made up the team; one of the participating alumni was part of the film program’s first graduating class.

“One of the cool things about this project is you have people who graduated 15 years ago, and then you have current students,” said Theo Brown, Southern alum and director of the series. “It’s a spread of experience spanning 15 years.”

The project was particularly valuable for students. Besides putting their classroom knowledge to work in the field,

they were able to participate in more technical aspects of production, such as working with live animals and filming a car crash.

“It was great for our students,” said Nathan DeWild, manager of Southern’s production company and producer for the series. “By helping us with projects like this, they already have real-world experience with professionals in the field before they graduate.”

The production team plans to release the series this fall, and hopes to make “Smoky Mountain Rescue” available on major streaming platforms. 📺

BY EMMA WINEGARDNER

# Southern, Oakwood Co-Host English Conference



Participants in this year's Adventist English Association Conference, co-hosted by Southern and Oakwood, enjoyed the opportunity to connect academically and personally with each other.

This summer, Southern's English Department had the privilege of co-hosting the Adventist English Association (AEA) Conference with Oakwood University. The theme of the Conference was "Diversity in Adventist English Education."

Formed in 1968, the AEA seeks to connect and develop professional interaction among secondary and post-secondary Adventist English teachers, holding conferences every three years.

"It's by teachers for teachers," said Linda Tym, Ph.D., associate professor of English at Southern and president of the AEA. "It's by lovers of literature for

lovers of literature who care about the Church and Christian education."

The 45 attendees represented 14 public and private institutions, and included six faculty from South American universities. Events included academic sessions, tours of the Oakwood and Southern communities, Sabbath worship together, and an AEA business meeting.

Tym has been AEA president for three years. She and her fellow board members — Kem Roper, Ph.D., vice president, formerly of Oakwood, and Clarice Nixon, assistant professor of English at Southern, communications representative — integrated diversity into every

level of the Conference. Besides seeking papers concerning issues of diversity in Adventist education, they also encouraged Adventist educators who work at non-Adventist institutions to attend.

"I had such a fantastic time," said Sari Fordham, M.F.A., associate professor of English at La Sierra University. "The theme was so well chosen. I'm always looking to bring in new voices in the texts I teach, and I got some helpful ideas from the presentations. And, as a Southern alum, it was fun to be back on campus!"

BY EMMA WINEGARDNER

**BLAYLOCK, EUGENE**, 88, born June 24, 1930 to William and Laurette Blaylock in Birmingham AL, died April 11, 2019. His early years were spent in Birmingham where he attended Ephesus Church. While at Ephesus, he cut his musical teeth learning a bit of piano, singing, and directing choirs. He was active in the church participating in evangelistic meetings as a tent master and chorister. It was during one of these meetings, that he met the love of his life, Florence Knight of Soso, MS, in 1947. Afterward he went on to attend Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) from 1949 to 1951, where he continued his musical legacy by becoming one of the first Aeolians under the direction of Dr. Eva B. Dykes. In 1951, he was drafted into the Army where he served for two years as a medic. He rekindled his courtship with Florence after his honorable discharge from the Army in 1953. He asked for her hand in marriage, and on October 10, 1954 at Ephesus Church, they were married. Shortly after, they moved to Los Angeles, CA, where they started their family. Eugene, Florence, and their children were active members of the University Church in Los Angeles. He was an active member of the music ministry, serving more than 20 years as the Sanctuary Choir director, and singing in the choirs for many years prior to that. His musical legacy spread well beyond the Adventist church, and was the choir director of the Redeemer Presbyterian Church for more than 20 years, and a guest conductor at several choir festivals around the city, including at Holman Methodist church. After retirement, he continued to share his talents. He was a member of the USM Symphony Chorus where he performed at the Lincoln Center in New York City. Eugene worked for the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center as an emergency medical technician and ambulance dispatcher until his retirement in 1989. In 1993, Eugene and Florence relocated to Soso to start the next phase of their lives—retirement and a life of leisure. In his spare time, he was an avid golfer with Advent Four. He was known as one who loved music and loved to read. He had a talent for “energy conservation” and mastered that talent. Also known for his deep thoughts, he was probably better known for his quick wit. If he shot one of his daggers at you, he really liked you. He was a member of the Soso Church, where he remained active as a deacon and Sabbath School teacher. Eugene, affectionately known as “Smoky,” “Bae Bruh,” and “Gene,” was loved by all he met, and was a great influence on all who surrounded him. One of his favorite soloists, Charles (Chuckie) Dickerson III, describes Eugene as one who “stood as a stalwart example of black male leadership on whose shoulders, the likes of Barak Obama, Andre, Russell, and myself stood, and continue to stand.” Eugene leaves his wife of 64 years to cherish his memory, Florence; children: Eddress

of Grand Prairie, TX, Deborah (Dunbar) Henri of Beltsville, MD, and Russell (DeeDee) of Allen, TX; four grandchildren: Cara (Brian) Henri-Wright of San Antonio, TX, Christopher Henri of Greenbelt, MD, Corporal Trenton Blaylock of the USMC, and Ethan Blaylock of Allen, TX; two great-grandchildren: Carter and Camryn Wright of San Antonio; one sister, Anna Greathouse of Pasadena, CA; a host of nieces, nephews; and cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Vern; and nephew, Andre.

**BRADWELL, SYLVIA JEAN**, 88, born Dec. 13, 1930 in Lena, IL, to George and Alfa Retzlaff, died peacefully April 8, 2019 at her home in Roan Mountain, TN. The family moved to Tampa, FL, where Sylvia went to grade school. Her high school years were spent at Forest Lake Academy in Orlando, FL. It was while Sylvia was in Orlando that she met and married Albert Bradwell. One Sabbath day the family, including Albert’s parents, Henry Albert and Addie Mae Bradwell, were in the Florida Central Seventh-day Adventist Church listening to a visiting preacher by the name of Glenn Coon. This preacher told the congregation, during the course of his sermon, that he had found a place that was “Heaven on Earth.” Well, those words sounded so interesting to Henry Bradwell that afterwards he went to Glenn Coon to find out just where this place was. That place was in Roan Mountain. It wasn’t too long before Henry and Addie Bradwell, along with Sylvia and Albert, headed to Roan Mountain. The year was 1962. Sylvia and her family were instrumental in starting the Seventh-day Adventist Church on Heaton Creek in Roan Mountain. Sylvia worked for the government (in Human Development) when she moved to Roan Mountain. After that she started “Craft Creations,” giving many people in that area a job. She also managed the “Silk Greenhouse” in Johnson City, which her son, Jere, owned. Sylvia was very active with the Covered Bridge Festival in Elizabethton, TN, and enjoyed being a member of the garden club in Roan Mountain. Quite a few years ago she was involved with what was then called Dorcus Society’ in the area, helping the community with such things as food, clothing, and other needs. In 1998, a devastating flood hit the Roan Mountain area, washing away homes and causing lots of damage in the area. Sylvia revived the Dorcas Society, which by then had been renamed Adventist Community Services, and spearheaded the rebuilding of the community. She worked with FEMA and Second Harvest as well as other entities to help provide food and clothing to those in need. Sylvia enjoyed working in her flower garden, even developing new varieties of hostas and day lilies. In her later years, her pets were her companions. Peppie, her parrot, would call out Sylvia’s name when someone would knock on the door. Sometimes Peppie would sing, “I left

my Heart in San Francisco.” Her cat, Smokey, kept her company in her home for many years. She loved horseback riding, and in her younger years would take groups on horseback riding adventures through the woods and all around the area. Sylvia was a faithful Seventh-day Adventist her entire life. Those who are left to cherish her wonderful memories include three sons: Jere Bradwell of New Hope, PA, Mark Bradwell of Roan Mountain, and Tere (Vickie) Bradwell of Cleburne, TX; four granddaughters: MacKenzie, Lexi, Chloe, and Ivory; one great granddaughter, Denise. She was preceded in death by her parents, George and Alfa Retzlaff; her grandson, Scott Bradwell; and her ex-husband, Albert Bradwell. Sylvia looked for and longed for the day when she would be reunited with loved ones in Heaven. Her desire was not only to find a “Heaven on Earth” but to meet Jesus in the Heaven above. There is no doubt that she considered her friends here on Earth as flowers in the garden of her life.

**BATTLE, WILLIAM (BILL) E.**, 97, born Dec. 22, 1921, died April 24, 2019. Bill was a faithful member of the Collegedale Church for 53 years, and served as a deacon and taught Sabbath School for many years. He was a true “Chevrolet and Apple Pie American,” having served his country during World War II, and being honorably discharged from the U.S. Army. Bill had a long, prestigious career in the Chevrolet industry, working for Citizens Motor Company for 18 years. He retired in 2007 from Newton Chevrolet at the age of 88, after 34 years of service as general sales manager. During Bill’s career, he received numerous awards and accolades from the GM Corp. Bill wrote a documentary for his sales team entitled “Only Basis for Success,” which is still used in the sales market today. After his retirement, Bill volunteered in the transportation department at Southern Adventist University, where he grew to dearly love the students he carried from place to place. Bill was an avid boater and enjoyed running the coastal highways as a hobby. He was a true believer in our Lord Jesus, and was blessed with many years of life. He was respected, trusted, and loved by his family and friends. He was a special man in many ways and a true missionary to everyone in need. He will be missed by everyone who knew him. Bill is survived by his wife of 13 years, Marguerite Ridley Battle; one daughter, Toni (Phil) Meyer of Ooltewah, TN; three grandchildren: Phillip, Hannah, and Will; many nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Roy O’Neal Battle and Gertrude Battle; two sisters: Genevieve McIntosh and Virginia Swabb; and one brother, Roy Battle. A service was held at Collegedale Memorial Park on April 28, 2019, with Pastor Ken Rogers officiating.

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**UNION COLLEGE** seeks **Clinical Director** for Master in Physician Assistant Studies Program. Responsibilities include organizing, monitoring and evaluating clinical experiences plus limited classroom teaching. Masters, NCCPA certification, and 3 years clinical practice required; teaching experience desirable. Contact Megan Heidtbrink [megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu](mailto:megan.heidtbrink@ucollege.edu) [8]

**IT IS WRITTEN** is seeking applications for a full-time office administrative assistant for Planned Giving. The candidate needs to be well organized, highly motivated, able to work alone and very detail oriented. NAD trust services certification is preferred but not required to apply. If interested, please visit <https://forms.adventistmediaministries.com/Forms/job-application> to apply or contact [othomas@iiw.org](mailto:othomas@iiw.org) with questions. [8]

**LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST** needed for the ProHealth Wellness Center at the Hulsey Wellness Center. Flexible schedule, good salary, friendly environment. New graduates welcomed, no experience required, willing to train. Part time and full time positions available. Email resume to [dkch7@yahoo.com](mailto:dkch7@yahoo.com) or call us at 706-625-3585. [8-12]

**STALLANT HEALTH RURAL HEALTH CLINIC** in Weimar California is accepting applications for a **Nurse Practitioner** or a **Physician Assistant**, as well as a **Licensed Clinical Social Worker.** Please contact Marva at [marva@stallanthealth.com](mailto:marva@stallanthealth.com) for further information. [8]

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**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) [8-5]

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**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. [8]

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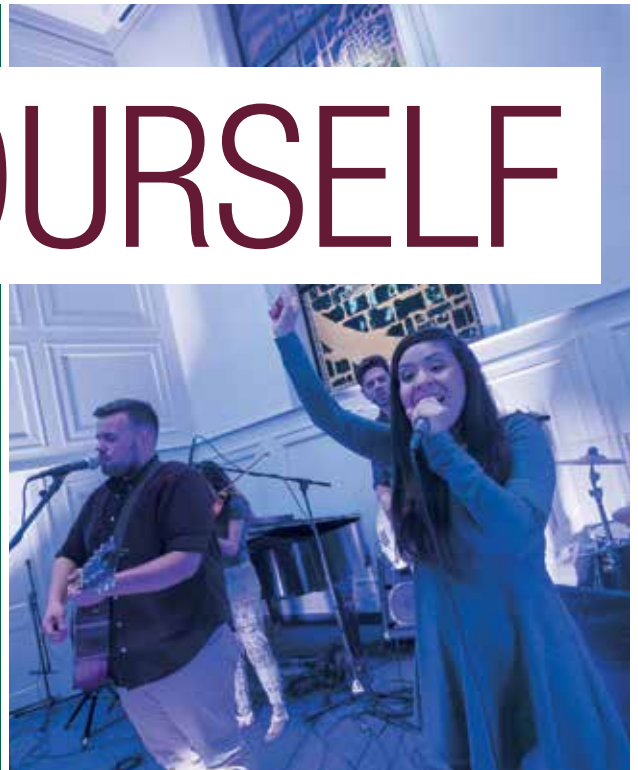
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## CAROLINA

Teachers' Convention - Aug. 1, 2. Carolina Conference Office  
 Welcome to the Family - Aug. 9-11. NPR.  
 Pathfinders/Adventurers Leadership Training Convention - Aug. 23-25. NPR.

## FLORIDA

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

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**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.

Aug. 4. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.  
 Aug. 11. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Aug. 18. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Aug. 25. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

Sept. 8. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

Sept. 15. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Sept. 22. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

**UNQUENCHABLE LOVE COUPLES' RETREAT** - Sept. 20-22. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Cost varies depending on married or unmarried attendee and accommodation choice. Details: campkulaqua.com or 386-454-1351.

**LIFE STYLE HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE RETREAT** - Oct. 11-14. Camp Kulaqua,

23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Special guests: Willy "Ghetto Preacher" Ramos, Nicole Stallings, Justin "That Christian Vlogger" and Emily Khoe. Cost: \$200. Details: floridaconference.com/lifestyle

**YOUNG AT HEART RETREAT** - Oct. 20-23. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212nd Ave., High Springs. Fellowship for ages 50+. Cost varies depending on married or unmarried attendee and accommodation choice. Details: campkulaqua.com/kulaqua-s-summer-camp/year-round-programs/young-at-heart

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLY** - Aug. 3. Discover the power God has promised for your life and for witnessing. Hear life-changing ideas for reaching your community for Christ. Everyone invited. Cherokee Church, Woodstock, GA.

**EQUIPPING FAMILIES FOR THE FUTURE** - Aug. 3. A free seminar that explains the cultural issues of living in America and shares Christ-centered budgets for living, saving, and giving. Calhoun Hispanic Church, GA.

**SOUTHERN DEAF CAMP MEETING** - Aug. 7-11. The speaker is H. Schubert Palmer, M.D., Interventional Cardiologist at White Memorial Medical Center in Los Angeles, CA. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**HEALTH RALLY** - Aug. 10. 2-5 p.m. Be inspired and motivated by scientific research in support of God's natural laws of health. Everyone invited. Hiram, GA.

**INTERNATIONAL PATHFINDER CAMPOREE** - Aug. 12-17. Oshkosh, WI.

**LIVING YOUR STRENGTHS LEADERSHIP** - Aug. 23-25. Discover your God-given talents and learn how to use them for growth and service. Invest in yourself. Take the time and energy to discover the God-given potential that already resides within you. Learn to live the life that God always intended for you. Find a sense of significance and purpose, and a new set of lenses with which to encounter the life-changing message of the Word of God! Registration deadline is Aug. 7; early bird deadline is July 15, save \$15. There are a limited number of reservations taken. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA. Register for events on the Conference website, www.gccsda.com.

## GULF STATES

**PRAYER SUMMIT** - Aug. 30- Sep. 1. Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL. Guest presenter: Michel Ro-driguez. Meals and accommodations are available. www.gscsda.org/events.

**GOSPEL WEEKEND** - Sep. 6, 7. Birmingham 1st Church. Do we have an understanding of the Gospel that goes beyond our kindergarten instruction? Join Brian Danese as we explore this most vital subject. www.gscsda.org/gospel.

**TEEN INVITATIONAL: CANOEING** - Sept. 8. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

**GOSPEL WEEKEND** - Sep. 20, 21. Huntsville Central. www.gscsda.org/gospel.

**"FACE TO FACE" YOUTH RALLY** - Sept. 28. Cody Road Church, Mobile, AL. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

**POSSIBILITIES MINISTRY** - Nov. 2. Community Church, Meridian, MS. How can we best reach and teach those with Aspergers, ADHD, or are on the Autism Spectrum? Come and learn from Larry R. Evans of the General Conference. www.gscsda.org/events.

**ELDERS'/DEACONS' RETREAT** - Dec. 13-15. Camp Alamisco. Sung Kwon, director of Adventist Community Services for the NAD, presents "Burst the Bubble: Finding Your Passion for Community Outreach." www.gscsda.org/events.

## KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

**50+ CAMP** - Aug. 6-11. Indian Creek Camp.

**MEN'S RETREAT** - Sept. 6-8. Indian Creek Camp.

**YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT** - Sept. 8. Kentucky Castle.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** - Sept. 13-15. Indian Creek Camp.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - Sept. 17. Conference Office.

**HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT** - Sept. 20-22. Indian Creek Camp.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** - Oct. 17. Conference Office.

## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**FALL CLASSES BEGIN** - Aug. 26. Southern offers a variety of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely

online. For more information, visit [www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu) or call 1-800-SOUTHERN. **PREVIEW SOUTHERN** - Oct. 10, 11. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email [visit@southern.edu](mailto:visit@southern.edu).

**HOMECOMING** - Oct. 24-27. Save the date! Highlights of the weekend include reunions for Die Meistersinger, Evangelistic Resource Center Missions (ERC), and Soul-winning and Leadership Training (SALT). Honor classes include: 1939, '49, '59, '69, '74, '79, '89, '94, '99, and '09. Visit [southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni) or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE -- SILENT SCREAMS: IS ANYBODY LISTENING - Aug. 23, 24.** River Oaks Conference Center in Orangeburg, SC. This Mental Health Conference will address the emotional/mental health issues that teens and children are experiencing. With an increase in depression, anxiety, and suicide with children and teens, we want to equip leaders and parents on what signs to look for, and how we can help them. Registration is \$69.99, and housing (separate) is \$59.00 (villa). Contact Marlene Edwards at 404-792-535, x111 to register, and Rosemary Graham at 404-792-0535, x503.

**BREVARD CHURCH 25TH HOMECOMING - Sept. 14.** The celebration will be in their beautiful sanctuary. Sabbath School - 9:20 a.m., Worship Service - 11 a.m., Fellowship Dinner following, and Concert - 2 p.m. Find Brevard Church on Facebook.

**PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 4, 5.** Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '70, '80, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10, '15. For more information, call 701-751-6177 ext. 212, or visit our website at [www.dakotaadventistacademy.org](http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org).

**FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 4-6.** FA Campus. Join us as we honor the class years ending in 4's and 9's. The Class of 1969 will mark its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy mission trip participants. Please update your contact information at [agibbs@fletcheracademy.com](mailto:agibbs@fletcheracademy.com), 828-209-6704. More details at: [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com).

**SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS 30TH ANNUAL CONVENTION - Oct. 17-19. SAVE THE DATE!** Celebrating 30 years of communication excellence! **SAC's Tagline:** "Purpose. Passion. Partnership." **Location:** Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals and university students from all around the North American Division for training, networking, and spiritual renewal opportunities. Additional details for the hotels and more at: [www.adventistcommunicator.org](http://www.adventistcommunicator.org).

**SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION - Oct. 24-27.** Myrtle Beach, SC. A weekend for great preaching, music, on-the-beach Vesper, praise and testimony, educational workshops, community outreach, vendor tables, and good ole fellowship with women

throughout South Atlantic and beyond. Hotel accommodations will be at Embassy Suites/Queensway Boulevard. All rooms are 2-room suites with adequate amenities and ocean views. Everything starts Friday morning, so make plans to arrive Thursday, so you won't miss anything. Workshop and vendor opportunities are available, but are moving fast. To register for the convention: [www.AdventSource.org](http://www.AdventSource.org). To make hotel reservations: <https://tinyurl.com/2019-SDA-Conference>. For more convention information, contact Currine Harris, 404-792-0535, or [charris@sacsda.org](mailto:charris@sacsda.org).

**IT IS WRITTEN ANNOUNCES NEW CHILDREN'S APP -** It Is Written's My Place With Jesus is excited to introduce a brand new mobile app designed to help children learn about Jesus and the Bible in a fun and interactive way. Players can customize their character, enjoy fun Bible lessons, hang out in the tree house with friends, earn badges for their backpacks, gather collectibles that unlock fun mini-games, and so much more! Explore a world of fun and learning with My Place With Jesus! Download it now free. Available for both Android and iOS devices. Details: Cassie Matchim Hernandez, Development Assistant, 423-62-5827.

SUNSET						
	AUG 2	AUG 9	AUG 16	AUG 23	AUG 30	SEPT 6
ATLANTA, GA	8:36	8:30	8:22	8:14	8:05	7:56
CHARLESTON, SC	8:17	8:10	8:03	7:55	7:46	7:37
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:25	8:18	8:10	8:02	7:52	7:43
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:42	8:35	8:27	8:18	8:09	7:59
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:47	7:40	7:32	7:24	7:15	7:05
JACKSON, MS	7:57	7:50	7:43	7:35	7:27	7:18
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:51	8:43	8:35	8:25	8:15	8:04
MEMPHIS, TN	8:02	7:55	7:47	7:38	7:29	7:19
MIAMI, FL	8:06	8:01	7:55	7:48	7:41	7:34
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:41	7:35	7:28	7:20	7:11	7:02
NASHVILLE, TN	7:51	7:43	7:35	7:26	7:17	7:07
ORLANDO, FL	8:15	8:09	8:03	7:56	7:48	7:40
TAMPA, FL	8:18	8:13	8:07	8:00	7:52	7:44
WILMINGTON, NC	8:12	8:05	7:57	7:49	7:40	7:30



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## **CREATION Life**

In the search for balance and restoration, we turn to the healing ministry of Christ as our example. As we walk the path to wholeness, **CREATION Life** principles serve as our guide. And that path to wholeness is marked for us all by the biblical principles of **Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook and Nutrition**. Life-affirming transformation happens when we dwell in the presence of God.