

T Southern TIDINGS

JANUARY 2020



R CHURCH REVITALIZATION — 2020 —

A BEAST,
NOT A LAMB

IT IS WRITTEN
WELCOMES MORE
THAN 500 GUESTS
DURING GRAND
OPENING

BUILDINGS
FACILITATE
MINISTRY

FULLFILLING
DREAMS IN
LOUISVILLE

Organize to Revitalize 2020



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

At the outset of this New Year, in the context of myriad resolutions and positive intentions, I must seize the opportunity to affirm and appreciate the extraordinary missional efforts put forth by each of the conferences, administrators, pastors, and members during our 2019 Year of Evangelism in the Southern Union. Because of God’s grace and empowerment of our feeble efforts, the Southern Union achieved unprecedented growth last year. Congratulations for ending the year strong. The membership of the Southern Union surpassed the 300,000 mark as a result of many hands on deck for the salvation of men, women, boys, and girls. Again, on behalf of the Southern Union Administration, I say thank you for tremendous exercised faith in God and superlative teamwork.

This year the focus of our mission to reach souls for Jesus will sustain, but we will place an emphasis on the revitalization of plateauing and declining churches. There are multiple churches across the eight conferences of the Southern Union that are battling for legitimacy and survivability. Resources which foster vibrant ministry within many of our congregations are waning or have dried up. People who have enthusiastically joined our worship centers are missing. Those members who have stayed by the church through active membership are discouraged. Others are overwhelmed, exhausted, tapped-out in energy, and downright disheartened as they quest to hold on. I’m committed to bringing help to as many marginalized churches as God would give us the resourcefulness with which to partner. This is our primary fixation for 2020.

The Union and conference ministerial directors — coupled with the eight conference presidents, three university presidents, and AdventHealth executives — have committed themselves to the required missional integrity to tackle a meaningful church revitalization initiative within the Southern Union borders.

Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial director, has commissioned the Southern Union administration in our varied spectrum of travel itineraries to factor in as many small churches (100 members or less) as possible. This is a challenge we have accepted. While multiple reaping meetings will continue, it is our intention to strengthen congregations through preaching, training seminars, continuous evangelism, and incessant exposure to help resources that are identified.

One of my favorite authors, Tod Bolsinger, in his book *Canoeing the Mountains*, points out:

“The culture is changing rapidly, and churches are facing change on an unprecedented scale. Churches and church leaders are becoming increasingly irrelevant, even marginalized. We have to learn to lead all over again.”

With the increase in immorality and violence, the waning of the church, the obsession to acquire material possessions by professed Christians, there seems to be no way that God’s Church will be able to accomplish the task given to it. As we review the manner in which the early Church met these same obstacles and came out victoriously, we will find hope for the revitalizing of our churches and winning the world for Christ. Jesus came to this world to reveal God’s love to lost human beings. He established a Church through which He was able to reach every person who has ever lived with the story of salvation. --RCS

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2020 ... THE YEAR OF CHURCH *Revitalization*



BY RALPH RINGER

The Southern Union Conference has chosen 2020 as the Year of Church Revitalization. This is part of the five-year plan for the Southern Union — to use many methods and forms of evangelism to grow the Union in a balanced way.

Eighty percent of the churches in the Southern Union are plateaued or declining. This is in line with churches across America. A plateaued church is one that the membership, tithes, and attendance have stayed about the same for several years or more. A declining church is one that the membership, tithes, and attendance have been declining for the last several years or more. There is a great need to revitalize our churches.

All of our churches could benefit from church revitalization, because we all can be better.

What Jesus Sees

To bring true revitalization to our churches, we need to look at what Jesus told John to write about the seven churches in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. We need to look at the situation of our churches and our needs through the eyes and heart of Jesus. If we look at what Jesus says to the seven churches, we can see what He is also saying to us. Jesus loves us with unconditional love, and He demonstrated that by dying for us “while we were still sinners,” Romans 5:8. He wants us to love Him with all our



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Austin Humphreys, pastor of Maranatha Church in Washington, North Carolina, baptizes 9-year-old Keimikeal Moore and his mother, Brittney Thompson, during the 2019 Abundant Life Revival. They are two of 15 individuals baptized in a 13-member church that has grown to 38 members in the past two years.

hearts for eternity in an everlasting covenant relationship.

Messages for All Churches

In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, there were seven churches in what is now Turkey. These seven churches had their own challenges, according to Jesus. These churches represented seven periods of time in Christian history, until Jesus comes again, and the challenges the churches face. Jesus says, “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches,” at or near the end of His message to all seven churches. Therefore, there is a message for all members of all churches until He comes again.

Promises to Overcomers

There is a promise to the ones who “overcome” in Jesus’ message to all seven churches. This promise is always applied to those who hear and do what the Holy Spirit says to the churches.

This shows there is hope for all the churches and all its members.

Left Your First Love

Jesus says in Revelation 2:4, “You have left your first love.” He says this to the church at Ephesus, which means desirable. This church is the closest to the time of Jesus and the apostles. The only fault that Jesus says to them is, “You have left your first love.”

Therefore, it seems that the first step toward plateauing, and then declining, is a church that loses their first love, even while it is working and growing. It seems they are too busy to spend much time with Jesus personally. That’s why Jesus says, “Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works.” It is vital for a church and its members to keep that first love in their relationship with Jesus, and do their work out of love for Jesus, not just out of a sense of duty.

Repent

Jesus says “repent” twice to the church in Ephesus, and a total of six times to the seven churches of Revelation chapters 2 and 3. The first step of making our churches be what Jesus wants them to be, is to face the fact we are not there yet. There are things that need to change in our churches and their members. What needs to change is doing things Jesus’ way instead of our way. We need to, in our board meetings and committee meetings, ask, “What does Jesus want us to do ,and what would Jesus do?” As members, we need to ask ourselves the same questions. When we have that first love relationship with Jesus, He will show us what to do. Then we need to do things Jesus’ way, not our way.

Hold Fast

Jesus says “hold fast” three times in seven churches of Revelation. He points that Satan and evil men will try to take you

away from Jesus and his truth. Therefore, he says hold fast to Jesus, His truth and doctrine, works of love, the promises to the overcomers, and what the Holy Spirit says.

Lukewarm and Did Not Know

The church of Laodicea of Revelation 3:14-22, is the church that symbolizes the church in the time we live in today. The lukewarm works of the Laodicean church were nauseating to Jesus. This is the condition of plateaued and declining churches. The worst thing about their condition is they do not realize their true condition — that they were “wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.”

Jesus Says Three Things Needed

Jesus says they need three things: 1. “Gold refined in the fire,” a symbol of true faith in Jesus so they are rich, 2. “White garments,” a symbol of Christ’s righteousness, so they would not be naked, and 3. “Eye salve,” a symbol of the Holy Spirit Who shows truth, so they could see and follow truth.

Jesus Rebukes and Chastens Those He Loves

Jesus says those He loves, He rebukes and chastens, therefore be zealous and repent, in Revelation 3:19. In verse 20, He is knocking at our door. If we open our door, He will come in and dine with us. He wants a close relationship with us now and in Heaven, verse 21.

Revitalized

Maranatha Church in Washington, North Carolina, is a small church that had little to no growth for 25 years, and the youngest member was 62. That changed in 2018, and it is now a church actively growing and impacting the community in a major way!

In 2018, once a month on Sabbath, they started a service called “Community Saturdays.” This was a dressed down Sabbath with only an hour-long service; then they gave out large food bags for every family that came. Each family registered so that they could be on the mailing list. Every month they mailed out flyers and postcards that were tailored to meet several community needs. Community Saturdays allowed the Maranatha Church to meet a wide range of people in the community, and gain positive relationships with them.

With these relationships, it gave the members the knowledge of other needs in the community, which allowed them to expand their outreach methods. The needs include free job and resume training, free interview clothing, free haircuts, a homework assistance program, free family portraits, and much more. They wanted to do things in their church that the community would benefit from and was interested in. The free haircuts were huge for them because there were many single-parent homes in need of that assistance.

All of these different programs and services built trust with the people in the community, and eventually many started coming to regular services. This would have never happened if relationships were not cultivated with them first. Later that year, 10 individuals were baptized during their summer revival, the most baptisms that the church had ever seen.

In 2019, God continued to bless their efforts with successful evangelistic initiatives and programs. Their plan was to specifically target the young people in the community by starting a partnership with the Boys and Girls Club of Beaufort County in Washington. This partnership opened up the door for youth development programs, mentorship, parent empower-



PHOTO BY: GOODSALT.COM

Jesus’ letters to the seven churches of Revelation reveals His love for our congregations, and what He says that can revitalize our congregations.



Austin Humphreys (left), pastor of Maranatha Church in Washington, North Carolina, stands with newly baptized members Robin Little, Jimmy Harper, and Shawanetta Earl, who were baptized during the 2019 Abundant Life Revival conducted by R. Steven Norman III (right), Southern Union communication director.

ment classes, homework assistance, and a community-wide block party with more than 150 people in attendance.

In September 2019, R. Steven Norman III, Southern Union communication director, was the evangelist for the Abundant Life Revival. For two weeks we experienced powerful preaching of life-changing principles. God blessed with 12 baptisms (with more to come), and a brand-new children's program called "Kids Zone." This new program was significant because the church has not had children for many years, and now they have programming for children every Sabbath and Wednesday night.

They not only gained new people, but this increased their hunger to continue innovative evangelistic methods to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In February 2020, they will open their newly renovated family life center. The center will have a free community computer lab that will be a source for homework assistance, GED preparations, ESL classes, and much more.

Southern Union Plans

The Southern Union, working in harmony with the eight conferences and the churches in the Union, is planning to help apply the principles Jesus gave to the seven churches in Revelation by the following:

1. Encourage each conference to partner with the Southern Union by sponsoring one ReGenerate Church Revitalization Conference — a weekend event that inspires, trains, and equips pastors and church leaders in revitalizing their churches, and is tailored to the needs of each conference.

2. Hold revival/evangelistic meetings in each church, so all our members can regain that first love experience with Jesus.

3. Hold church growth seminars throughout the Union.

4. Train pastors and elders to use the 11 a.m. service to grow their churches.

5. Give elders the book *Steps to a Vibrant Church – A TURNAROUND GUIDE FOR CHURCHES IN A PLATEAU OR DECLINE*, by Brad Cauley.

6. Help inspire and encourage all the departments in the conferences and churches to be part of the revitalizing team.

7. Train elders to grow their churches through the Elder Certification Training. ①

Ralph Ringer is the director of church growth, evangelism training, and Jewish ministries at the Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia, and the director of Jewish ministries for the North American Division in Columbia, Maryland.

ReGenerate 2020 Church Revitalization Conferences:

January 24, 25 – Montgomery, AL

February 14, 15 – Nashville, TN

February 28, 29 – Charleston, SC

March 6, 7 – Macon, GA

March 20, 21 – Hendersonville, NC

Details: www.regenerateconference.org

HOW TO GROW YOUR CHURCH

1. Commit to prayer.
2. Have faith-based optimism that God will grow your church and use you to do it.
3. Commit to become a healthy church.
4. Make evangelism the number one priority in the church.
5. Maintain continuous seed-sowing and outreach programs.
6. Hold at least two reaping events per year.
7. Conduct 11 a.m. evangelism pointers.
8. Involve as many members as are willing.
9. Disciple all new members.
10. Nurture all members.

A BEAST, NOT A LAMB

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

It does not take a historian to explain why America has experienced such a long and unprecedented history of religious freedom since the inception of our nation. Born out of the ideas of men who wanted to experiment with a different kind of democracy, the republic in which we live separated the religious from the political within the governmental sphere they were building. Growing up as a Seventh-day Adventist, my parents, church, Sabbath School teachers, and

pastors instilled within me an understanding that what we have in America is special. While no one knows the mind of God, we like to believe the birth of this nation, with its constitutional measures to separate church from state, was more than mere chance; it was part of

God's great design plan for salvation. Some might even suggest that America is key to the cosmic war being fought here on Earth. As Seventh-day Adventists, we have long celebrated and defended the divide of religion from government.

Revelation 13 lays down a key element in our understanding of America in prophecy. It explains why religious liberty has been important to the Seventh-day Adventist Church for more than 175



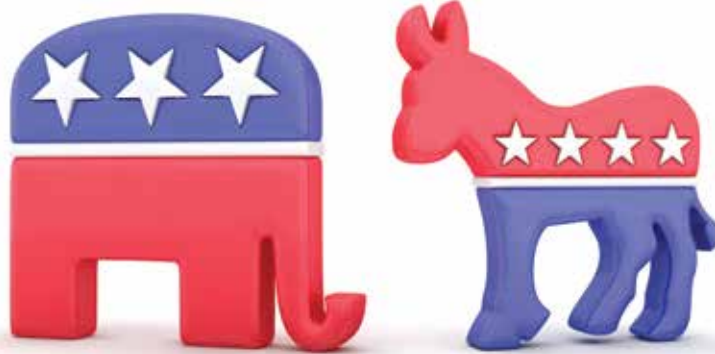
years. And, finally, it makes our work to preserve the separation of church and state a moral imperative when coupled with our understanding that the United States government should never become an agency of religious redemption.

“Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon. And he exercises all the authority of the first beast in his presence, and causes the earth and those who dwell in it to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed,” Revelation 13:11,12 NKJV.

It is interesting how often I hear church members refer to this beast as a “lamb-like beast with horns.” John is not seeing a lamb. John sees a “beast” with horns like a lamb. The lamb-like qualities that John sees are two-fold; the horns of this beast are small (there are only two horns), and therefore do not initially pose a threat, especially as the beast appears to be young as having just sprung forth from the Earth. Traditionally, we also associated the lamb-like character of the beast’s horns with the Lamb of God, Jesus. Ellen White, without question, sees this beast to be a government power, arising from the Earth (not the sea-like beast in Revelation 12), and giving the initial impression of Christ (the Lamb). Ellen White understands the beast of Revelation 13 to be a new governmental power who will work with the beast of the sea (the dragon). “One nation, and only one, meets the specifications of this prophecy; it points unmistakably to the United States of America,” Ellen G. White, *The Great Controversy*, p. 440. There are traditionally two ways we interpret those horns; one interpretation is that they represent Protestantism and republicanism. The other interpretation, which is generally more accepted, is that

they represent the separation of church and state. No matter which interpretation you choose to accept, they both point to the beast representing America.

It is a heavy responsibility to safeguard liberty of conscience. If you believe in the prophecies of Revelation 12 and 13, then simply by being American or living in the United States, Adventists bear a much higher level of responsibility for understanding this portion of prophecy, and being the watchmen for the rest of the World Church. As Adventists, we have believed this task to be as important as serving the poor and needy or caring for the sick and dying. We also believe that the defense of religious freedom is directly tied to our sharing the



Gospel with others.

If you follow current news and associated trends, you will find that over the last few decades there has been a growing wave pushing evangelicals toward the shores of the ideas found in Nationalism. To be clear, Nationalism and Patriotism are not the same thing. You may be patriotic because you love this country, and believe it to be the best in the world, and you wish to defend its principles. Patriotism does not mean that you force those values or ideas upon other people. Nationalism is quite a different idea. It seeks to control and move its power to govern in order to promote its own interests, even to the exclusion (and very often the persecution) of others’ in-

terests. Nationalism seeks to gain power over the government in order to move its own interests. The most egregious case of Nationalism in the 20th century was the Nazi Party’s rise to power.

As watchmen for religious freedom here in America, we have a growing concern that current trends among evangelicals to take control of the government in order to bring about a more Judeo-Christian-friendly state would lead to Christian Nationalism. We have seen the birth of a program called Project Blitz, whose main goal is to protect the free exercise of traditional Christian beliefs. On the front end, this seems like good news; after all, it is what the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department does. The difference is that the Religious Liberty Department does not try to promote Christianity through the aid of the state. We believe that people of different beliefs should be able to practice their faith according to the dictates of their conscience, just as Christians do. That growing movement in this nation would work to combine religio-political

powers, that prophecy seems to regard as dangerous, in helping to form the image of the beast. To anoint one political party or a nation’s government with the nomenclature of being “godly,” and the other as being “wicked,” plays into these prophecies’ warnings. It also demeans God and Christianity in a way that is not only sacrilegious, but possibly idolatrous as well. Well documented Church archives reveal to us that the Adventist Church in Germany was just as susceptible to the Nationalist movement going on in the 1930s as all other churches in that nation at the time. Oh, that the watchmen would have sounded a call back then! I believe that, today, we are also in danger of falling under the spell

of Christian Nationalism in an attempt to make sure Christ is King within our nation.

The beast that comes out of the Earth in Revelation 13 shows its wickedness in verse 11 as it grows into something far less “lamb-like” and much more beastly, as it “causes the Earth and all those who dwell in it to worship the first beast...” There is compulsion against the will in what the beast does. It is why Public Affairs and Religious Liberty is always on guard for issues that would create a scenario where compulsion in religious matters against conscience are in play.

There is danger in trying to pinpoint when prophecy will be fulfilled. Sometimes it is also just as difficult to try to predict how prophecy will be fulfilled. You have probably heard this tag line before, “If you see something, say something.” We see a growing and worrying trend with Christians pushing Nationalism because of our understanding of prophecy. It does not mean that we predict Nationalism to bring about persecution in the end. We simply know that God does not need government to grow His Kingdom. In the coming year, we want to point out what we see, and ask if you are seeing the same thing too.

Need a devotional idea for this month? I encourage you to read Revelation 12 and 13. Also, read *The Great Controversy*, chapter 25, “God’s Law Immutable.”

Want up-to-date religious liberty news? Subscribe to *Waymarks*, free newsletter of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department. Email ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com. 📧

Amireh Al-Haddad is the director of public affairs and religious liberty for the Southern Union Conference. She encourages people who are experiencing religious liberty problems to contact the department, Monday-Thursday, at ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com or 770-408-1800.

ELECTION YEAR PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS WITHIN CHURCHES

In a campaign year that looks to be as heavily religious as it does political, it is every member’s duty to be cautious and protect the Church’s tax exempt status. While there is currently an executive order directing the IRS to ignore campaign prohibition violations by churches, the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America has intentionally decided that our churches exist for the spiritual and not the political. We urge churches to continue to obey these rules.

- Under IRS code all 501(c)(3) organizations (churches) are prohibited in a very strict manner from participating either directly or indirectly with any political campaign on behalf of any candidate or elected public official. This includes any official running in local, state, or federal elections.
- Prohibition goes beyond candidate endorsement. Prohibition includes contributions to campaign funds, as well as public statements of position, either written or verbal.
- Allowing a candidate to use the church’s assets or property (facilities) is also prohibited.
- Church leaders cannot make partisan statements in publications (including websites or social media connected with the church office) or at functions.
- In an election year, always check the IRS rules for specific issues involving candidate appearances in your church.
- The IRS rules detail what is permissible and prohibited.

This is not an exhaustive list of prohibition. The Church only has one tax exemption. We all share it; every church, pastor, and member are connected. It is important to remember that when you violate any one of these rules, you risk jeopardizing the Church’s tax-exempt status. If you have questions, you can always contact the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department or check the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

The Best Advice:

Concentrate on the spiritual realm rather than the political realm when at church.

Student Missionary Finds Her PURPOSE IN AFRICA

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT

The clinical team approached the soon-to-be mother for about the 32nd time during 16 hours of hard labor. The members felt exhausted, but it was imperative that the mother's vitals were checked every half hour. The team included student missionary Melanie Ramirez. She was excited to assist in the labor process, but it seemed the baby girl would never arrive. Finally, the moment came, and Ramirez helped deliver her first baby, thousands of miles away from home in the remote country of Zambia.

Ramirez has been traveling for the majority of her life. She was born in California, but lived in Michigan, Texas, and Arizona before finally settling at Southern Adventist University her freshman year. While growing up, she was influenced by her father, who pastored throughout the United States. Comfortable with people and public speaking, she felt a strong sense of leadership at a young age.

When arriving at Southern, Ramirez declared biology as her major and began developing a love for the medical field. During her freshman year, she went on her first uQuest Mission trip to Cairo, Egypt. The summer following her sophomore year, Ramirez again decided to spend time as a missionary — this time in Palau.

Tina Smith, Southern's project planner for marketing and university relations, reflected on her time with Ramirez and other students in Palau.

"All of the college students on the trip were strangers to my husband, Bo, and me," she said. "It amazed both of us how quickly we became a team and a family. I remember Ramirez asking me if it was okay for the students to call me 'Mama T,' which I absolutely loved."

Both of those mission trips were enjoyable to Ramirez, but it was not until



Melanie Ramirez poses with the first baby girl she helped deliver.

her third trip that her outlook on life began to change. In her junior year, uQuest Missions coordinator Melissa Moore approached Ramirez about becoming a student leader on a new mission trip.

Months later, Ramirez found herself drifting down a Brazilian river, hopping from village to village to provide medical care for those in need. She fell in love with the fulfillment she received from smiling faces; most of all, though, she fell in love with the plan God had for her life.

She also started seriously considering mission work, and was soon presented with an opportunity to spend 11 months in Zambia. She took it. When Ramirez's mother heard of her next adventure, she responded by saying, "Oh, here she goes again." Her parents were nervous about the possible dangers, but they supported her every step of the way.

As Ramirez embarked on her new mission, she felt overwhelmed. "It was all really nerve-wracking," she said. "I was being thrown into a new culture thousands of miles away with only one friend, Carolina Lopez."

However, Ramirez's fear did not stop her. In Zambia she worked as a clinical nurse, a lifeguard, and a Sabbath School teacher.

When asked about the most difficult part of her trip, Ramirez responded, saying, "The cultural divide: Only a small percentage of Zambians speak fluent English, and there were four main dialects of the language I had to learn during my time there."

During her first month of working at the clinic, Ramirez saw a variety of field injuries. However, the most memorable moment arrived when she helped deliver the beautiful baby girl. "Although I didn't have any medical experience or qualifications, I was presented with opportunities as a student missionary that I couldn't have gotten anywhere else," Ramirez said. Later on, when Ramirez helped deliver another girl, the parents named the new baby after her.

During her fourth month in Zambia, a Bible worker asked Ramirez and Lopez to share their testimonies with future Bible workers. Although shocked by the request, the pair spoke in front of a room full of men for seven hours. Though intimidated by the experience, they shared their relationships with Jesus. After speaking, several men came up to Ramirez, saying that her story had inspired them profoundly. She is still in contact with them to this day.

Today, Ramirez is a senior at Southern finishing up a biology degree. Her experiences around the world have affirmed her passion for the medical field, and she now wants to work as a medical missionary.

"God calls all passions," she said. "Each person has a specific skill set that can be used by Him. The beauty of service is seeing the impact you can make."❶



PHOTO BY: IT IS WRITTEN

Aerial shot

It Is Written Welcomes More Than 500 Guests During GRAND OPENING

BY CASSIE MATCHIM HERNANDEZ

It Is Written hosted a grand opening of its new ministry headquarters in Collegedale, Tennessee, on Friday, November 22, 2019, from 12 to 3 p.m. Despite rain, It Is Written welcomed more than 500 people to the event. The event was broadcast via livestream on the It Is Written Facebook page, and featured a dedication, a ribbon-cutting with the local Chamber of Commerce, ministry tours, giveaways, and refreshments. John Bradshaw, president of It Is Written; Katie Lamb, mayor of Collegedale; David Smith, Ph.D., president of Southern Adventist University; Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division, and others spoke during the dedication. There was a self-guided tour at the conclusion of the ceremony. Employees were on hand to provide department highlights. Guests could film their own television spot in the studio, and heard about ministry activities around the world.

After 63 years, It Is Written, a media evangelism ministry of the Seventh-day

Adventist Church, finally has its own home. Previously headquartered in leased space in California, the ministry moved to Tennessee in 2014, and began leasing separate office and warehouse spaces in Chattanooga. In September 2019, after two years of construction, employees moved into the new building. The building allows for office, studio, and warehouse space to all be under one roof. The



It Is Written's attendees

space greatly expands and improves the efficiency of studio capabilities, and provides room for future growth.

“Another major advantage is the increased ministry effectiveness this move brings us,” said Bradshaw. “We can not only do more than ever for God, but we can also now be more efficient than ever.”

The building site was originally slated for a hospital, but red tape curtailed the plans. Several property owners later, It Is Written is humbled to offer hope and spiritual healing to people around the world from its new headquarters.

Each space in the building is dedicated to ministry. The ministry staff begins the day in the Ruth McKee Worship Room. The ministry’s 40 local employees join in person, with field representatives joining by video.

Upstairs, today’s president, Bradshaw, uses ministry founder George Vandeman’s desk, continuing to share with the world the same message of hope in Jesus.

PHOTO BY: IT IS WRITTEN



PHOTO BY: IT IS WRITTEN

Ed Wright (left), D.Min.; Jesse Johnson; Ken Denslow; David Smith, Ph.D.; Katie Lamb; John Bradshaw; Melissa Bradshaw; Vaughn Berger; Gordon Pifher; Rusty McKee; Ellsworth McKee; and Sharon McKee participate in the ribbon-cutting ceremony.



PHOTO BY: IT IS WRITTEN

Many attended It Is Written's grand opening ceremony.

Next door, My Place With Jesus, the It Is Written children's ministry, offers a smartphone app, a children's Bible, Bible study guides and other study materials, a children's evangelism program, and other material just for children.

Continuing upstairs, the ministry's evangelism staff works with churches and conferences all over the world to arrange evangelism campaigns, mission trips, and SALT education, and to provide evangelism resources.

Also upstairs, the Creative Department focuses on ensuring that ministry materials are well-designed and present the Gospel in an enticing and cost-effective way. Next door, the Information Technology Department designs ministry applications and maintains the ministry's databases and servers.

Downstairs, a large classroom will be used for training and education seminars, and is currently housing the ministry's ingest project, where the archive of It Is Written programs, as well as other ministries' programming, is being digitized for It Is Written TV.

Across the hall, the George E. Vandeman Studio A and Art & Irma Wilson Studio B provide the studio space where the media production department films, produces, and edits It Is Written programming distributed via broadcast and radio stations and It Is Written TV. On average, It Is Written produces more than 650 videos each year.



PHOTO BY: IT IS WRITTEN

John Bradshaw, It Is Written president, speaks at grand opening ceremony.

Nearby is the Escrito Está team, who have been reaching the Spanish-speaking world for 25 years. Through evangelism campaigns and television, radio, online, and print content, Robert Costa, speaker/director, and his team work tirelessly to make the Gospel message available to as many people as possible.

Close by are the ministry's Development and Planned Giving departments. Nearly 98 percent of the funds that support It Is Written's ministry endeavors come from outright gifts, estate plans, or investments. Funds for this building have been raised in addition to annual funds supporting the ministry efforts.

Next door, the Publishing Department provides spiritual resources to people all over the world. One of the many ways the new building allows for greater productivity is that all inventory and storage are

under one roof. Thousands of free offers are sent from this department, along with Bible studies in multiple languages and other resource material.

As one exits the building, one will pass the Roy & Leona Berglund Museum and Resource Center. For the first time, It Is Written offers an on-site resource center, where customers can purchase It Is Written DVDs, books, and evangelism resources. This space also doubles as a museum and features original media production equipment, archive documents, and other items from the ministry's history.

Tours are still available for anyone who missed the grand opening. Please call ahead to schedule at 844-WRITTEN. Pictorial and video tours are also available online at itiswritten.build.

About It Is Written

It Is Written is an award-winning media evangelism ministry sharing the everlasting Gospel worldwide for 63 years. The first religious television program to broadcast in color, It Is Written is the ninth-longest running television program in the United States. It Is Written is impacting lives for Christ through satellite and digital television, websites and mobile apps, global evangelistic ministry, and faith-sharing resources. 📺

Cassie Matchim Hernandez is the marketing assistant at the It Is Written headquarters in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Buildings Facilitate MINISTRY

BY MARTIN BUTLER

Buildings do one thing: they facilitate ministry! They are not ministry in and of themselves,” emphasized Bob Henderschedt, previous board chair of Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Florida, as he addressed those who gathered October 12, 2019, to celebrate the grand opening of the church’s new Children’s Ministry Center.

Henderschedt shared a commitment made by Sabbath School leadership “to move programming for a new generation to a new way of doing worship, study, and learning.” Allan Machado, Florida Conference president, included the audience in his declaration: “We dedicate people and resources to educate our children to make an impact, and that is what you are doing today.”

Presently, more than 400 children attend the programming provided for them each week, but this is a long-term story as well. “Some of the kids right now in these different classrooms might end up being the future leaders of this community,” said Geoff Patterson, senior pastor of Forest Lake Church. “The perfect example is Pastor Juan [Martinez], who was once a child in this church. Pastor Barbara [McCoy] baptized him. He served in Pastor Mark’s [Reams] youth ministry, and, now, he’s the young adult pastor in this church.”

Ever since the idea of a building for the children was first introduced, much time has passed. Many people have led out in the fundraising, the planning, and the visioning. These individuals were recognized and/or remembered for what they accomplished. Designers and contractors were also given words of appreciation.

The building’s reception lobby is secured with electronic check-in for the children, and check-in is required for



PHOTO BY: JAMES SEKFFORD

Grand opening of the Children’s Ministry Center at Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Florida.



PHOTO BY: ROLAND THOMSON

Victoria Fulbright and Christian Farrell cut the ceremonial ribbon at the Children’s Ministry Center grand opening on Sunday, October 12, 2019.

NEW CHURCH LOBBY

Simultaneously with the building of the Children’s Ministry Center, a new church lobby attached to the existing church structure was constructed. “This lobby represents an opportunity for fellowship and togetherness,” said Geoff Patterson, senior pastor.

all volunteers. The 10 state-of-the-art classrooms have screens and electronic equipment available.

“God has given us an amazing foundation for our children and families to build upon,” said McCoy, who has worked with children’s ministry/family

life for more than 30 years at Forest Lake Church. “Forest Lake Church members have actually built a sacred place and a Kingdom Kid’s Center for children to know Who Jesus Christ is.”

FULFILLING DREAMS

in Louisville

BY WALKYR MONTILLA

It all began on April 1, 2017. Together with the evangelistic meetings held by the Louisville, Kentucky, Hispanic Church, the support of the church elders, and the assistance of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, a project of growth and evangelism in the city was proposed. At that time, there was one organized church, one company, and one mission group. The dream was to have seven Hispanic congregations, with three of them owning their facilities; the congregations at that time were renting.

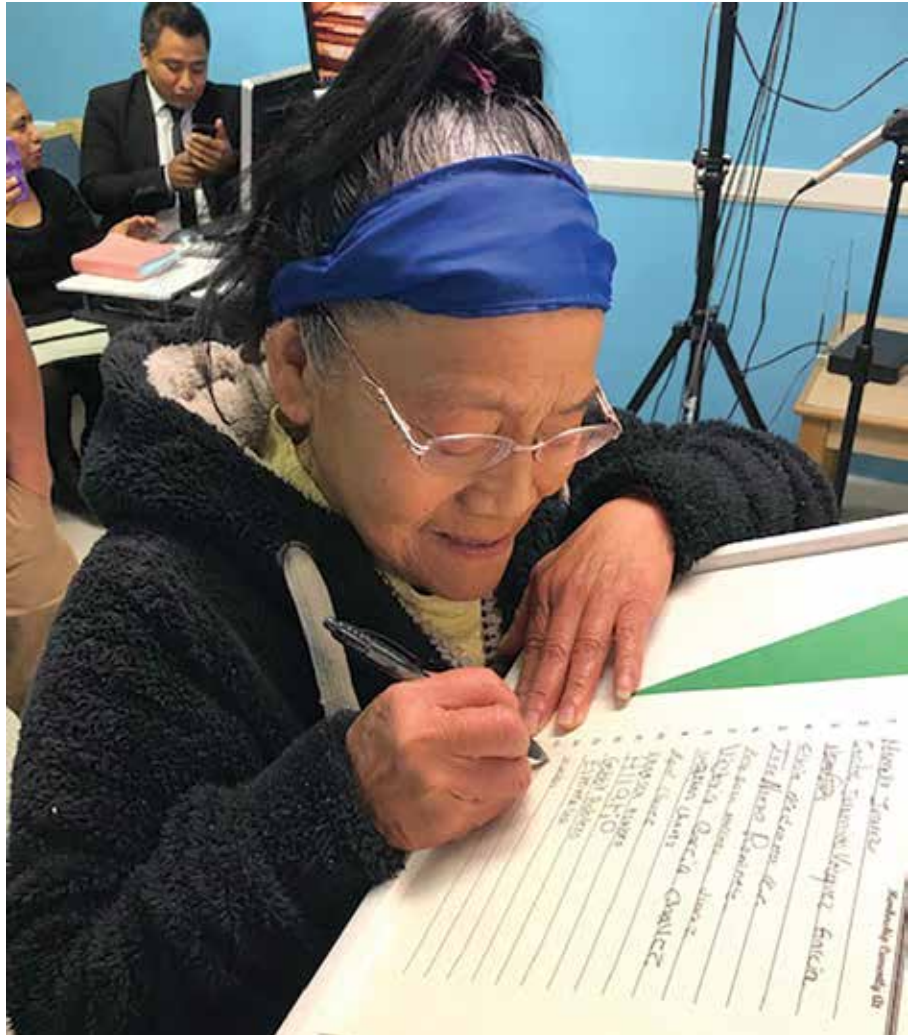
When the people of God pray, trust in God's promises, and act in faith, they witness the miracles of the Lord. The sanctuary of the Louisville Hispanic Central Church was inaugurated on April 28, 2018. The Louisville South Hispanic Church was purchased on February 28, 2019. Later, on September 30, 2019, the Louisville Southeast Hispanic Church was acquired. Today, by the grace of God, the dream is a reality. In addition to the three churches that are owned, there is one company and three new mission groups.

God always keeps his promises. The Shelbyville Mission Group was organized as a company with 26 members on Friday evening, November 1, 2019. The next day, November 2, the Louisville Southeast Company attained church status with 81 members.

All these miracles led to a greater commitment to God. The members place themselves every day in His hands, and under the direction of His Spirit they continue forward as the champion team of the Lord, Jesus Christ.

The members thank the administration of the Conference for supporting the missionary plans of the Louisville Hispanic members, and, with the help of God, they will continue advancing until the coming in glory of Christ Jesus. 📌

Walkyr Montilla is the pastor of the Louisville, Kentucky, Hispanic district.



Signing the charter for Shelbyville Mission Group.



Shelbyville Mission Group



Louisville Southeast Church leaders

AdventHealth Leaders Talk Mission, Consumer-Focused Care at Press Ganey's National Client Conference



Terry Shaw, president/CEO for AdventHealth, and Daryl Tol, president/CEO for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division, presented about the organization's mission, culture, and transformation journey during the executive leadership portion of the conference.

Press Ganey, a health care performance improvement company, recently held its 2019 National Client & Executive Leadership Conference in Orlando, Fla. The conference brought together more than 3,000 health care professionals to celebrate top performers

and share strategies for addressing the industry's biggest challenges and opportunities to transform care.

More than 100 AdventHealth team members were in attendance to represent the organization during the event. Notably, Terry Shaw, AdventHealth

president/CEO, and Daryl Tol, Central Florida Division president/CEO, served as guest speakers during the executive leadership portion of the conference, where hundreds of industry executives learned first-hand about the organization's mission, vision, values, and ser-



Terry Shaw (middle), AdventHealth president/CEO, and leaders representing Guardian of Excellence Award winners honored for achieving the 95th percentile or above for performance in patient experience: AdventHealth Gordon Outpatient Oncology, AdventHealth Palm Harbor ER, and AdventHealth South Overland Park ER.

vice standards, as well as its journey to provide transformative care that fosters wholeness through a consumer-focused approach.

The conference also featured an awards program to honor top performers for providing an exceptional experience for patients, including three AdventHealth facilities named 2019 Guardian of Excellence Award winners. The facilities — AdventHealth Gordon Outpatient Oncology, AdventHealth Palm Harbor ER, and AdventHealth South Overland Park ER — earned the recognition for achieving the 95th percentile or above for performance in patient experience.

“We strive to provide a consistent and exceptional experience for consumers across all of our care settings, and it is an honor to have these facilities recognized among the top performers in patient experience,” said Pam Guler, chief experience officer for AdventHealth. “As we work to foster wholeness, we will continue to emphasize making the experience of our patients a focal point of their overall care journey.”

The Press Ganey Guardian of Excellence Award is a nationally recognized symbol of achievement in health care. Presented annually, the award honors clients who consistently sustained performance in the top five percent of all Press Ganey clients for each reporting period during the course of one year. The 2019 awards are based on quarterly performance between May 2018 and April 2019.

“Congratulations to these facilities for receiving the Guardian of Excellence Award,” said Patrick T. Ryan, executive chairman of Press Ganey. “This honor reflects their unwavering commitment to improving the safety, quality, and experience of care.”



More than 100 team members represented AdventHealth at Press Ganey’s 2019 National Client & Executive Leadership Conference.

BY MARIO ROBERTS, ADVENTHEALTH SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Mount Pisgah Academy Purchases a New Bus



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

During the 2018-2019 school year, the staff at Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) realized that the school was in desperate need of a new bus to transport students. Although MPA has been blessed to own three buses for the past several years, some of the older buses continue to have mechanical issues. Lucy Hall, director of development, was able to secure a \$50,000 grant for matching funds from AdventHealth. Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference, heard about this issue and began encouraging constituents to donate to this worthy cause. As a result of many prayers and petitions, \$50,000 was raised and the grant was earned. Additionally, MPA received a bequest from a Carolina donor's estate, which was a great help in the fundraising process. As of mid-October, MPA had received \$220,000 in donations toward the Transportation Fund.

Once the funds were raised, it was important to consider which vehicle would best serve the school's needs. With the help of alumnus Ryan Piercy ('97), who works at Prevost (Volvo), MPA was able to navigate the purchase of this huge asset. Vehicles of this nature are quite costly, even if previously owned, and Piercy was able to ensure that MPA was treated fairly during the purchase. John Knowles, director of maintenance and



Leslie Louis (right), Carolina Conference president, and Remy Guenin, Mount Pisgah Academy principal, cut the ribbon on the new bus after the prayer of dedication.

PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

plant services, aided in the negotiation for and procurement of the bus.

A dedication ceremony for the newly purchased bus was held October 14, 2019. Representatives of the Carolina Conference officers, pastors, and teachers attended, as did the entire MPA student body. During the dedication, many thanks were given to the donors who gave generously to the fund, as well as to Piercy for his help in acquiring the vehicle. Following the recognitions, everyone was asked to place their hands on the vehicle while Louis offered a prayer of thanksgiving and

dedication for the new bus. In his prayer, Louis spoke of how God had blessed so greatly and requested that safety be upon all those who utilize the vehicle. After the prayer, Louis and Remy Guenin, principal of MPA, cut a ribbon on the door to the new bus. Visitors and students were then invited to view the inside of the vehicle. Some of the features that are especially appreciated are charging outlets, enclosed storage compartments, and even game tables in the back. MPA staff and students were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate this milestone in the school's development, and were especially pleased that so many could be in attendance.

Since acquiring the new bus, MPA has been able to utilize it for transportation on the junior class history trip to New England; the View Southern trip for the senior class to Chattanooga, Tenn.; and the senior class trip to Florida. Additionally, parents of MPA students enjoyed the bus on a drive through the Blue Ridge Parkway to a hiking spot during Parent Open House Weekend in October.

Although MPA has acquired the bus, they are still in need of two 15-passenger shuttles. 📍

BY ABBY KING

Fourteen-year-old Pathfinder Initiates Thanksgiving to Remember



PHOTO BY: SANDY BECKER



PHOTO BY: SANDY BECKER

A 14-year-old Pathfinder had a vision to provide a Thanksgiving feast for those who had no plans, but wanted to enjoy a good meal and the company of friendly folks.

Kevin Gil, a member of the Irmo Fellowship Church, Columbia, S.C., decided he wanted to meet a need he saw among members and visitors of his newly planted church, people who had attended God's Closet Columbia's shopping event to receive free children's clothing, and visitors to the Bible studies held each Tuesday evening.

Kevin's enthusiasm and passion for this ministry was contagious. Members joined Kevin's mother, Linda Gil, who is the Pathfinder leader, to make it happen.

With only a flyer and word-of-mouth advertising, the church was able to serve 44 people a huge buffet of a traditional

Thanksgiving meal. Everyone left completely full, and some took food home!

What began as a service project became a way of ministering to the surrounding community. Attendees included people who had never visited the church, including the pastor's family, guests, and family and friends of church members.

The Irmo Fellowship Church began having services in January of 2016 with just seven members. Among them were Ron Sturkie, volunteer lay pastor; his wife, Sandra; and Cary McDaniel who owns the shopping center where the church currently worships at the Quail Valley Plaza, 6801 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, S.C. This fellowship of believers meets every Saturday at 10 a.m. for Bible study and 11 a.m. for worship. Every week, a free lunch is provided for all attending.

This small but active group offers to the community free of charge, cooking classes, money management, health, and Bible prophecy seminars.

God's Closet Columbia is one of the ministries that has greatly impacted the community with free children's clothes, shoes, and bedding for children newborn to teen. The last event attracted more than 300 families, who each left with several bags of clothes. So far, this ministry has been able to provide clothes for more than 2,000 children.

Kevin proved you are never too young to make a difference! 🙏

BY SANDY BECKER

Podcast Evangelism Leads to New Convert in Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach Church recently celebrated the addition of new member Jordan Fuller by profession of faith. He became convicted through podcast evangelism, a new form of evangelism being used by the local pastor, Travis Walker.

Fuller discovered a podcast, *Adventology*, through the church's Facebook page and, subsequently listened to every episode over a period of two days. He became convicted of the need to attend services the following Sabbath.

After attending the service, he immediately informed the pastor of his desire to join the church. Since that time, Fuller has become one of the church's most active members and has already begun sharing what he has learned with his friends and family.



After listening to every episode of the *Adventology* podcast, Jordan Fuller (right), was convicted to join Daytona Beach Church. He is shown with Travis Walker (left), local pastor and host of *Adventology*.

The podcast does not replace Bible study. It serves as a catalyst toward inquiry and deeper study, but in a format readily available from any smart phone and easily used by those always on the go. Whether through social media or through the simple business card, members can invite their friends to listen and learn at *Adventology.com* without pressure and on their own terms.

While the podcast reaches out all over the world, the primary impact of it has been local. People are visiting the church as a direct result of listening to the podcast. 📌

BY TRAVIS WALKER

Silver Springs Shores Church in Ocala is Mission Driven



Gary and Narissa Saint Fleur, directors and founders of Kingdom Goals Christian Academy, are mission driven and share that love with others, in the U.S. and abroad.

Silver Springs Shores Church in Ocala is mission driven, locally as well as in the world field. On specific Sundays, soccer games are held at the church, and the community is invited to attend. These opportunities for service were originally started by a young couple attending the church who had an interest in soccer and in mission, Gary and Narissa Saint Fleur.

This young couple also got members involved in trying to make changes for the better in the lives of children in Haiti through giving money to improve their educational opportunities. Last summer, 16 young people from the church took a mis-

sion trip to Haiti to assist with various projects, including construction, at Kingdom Goals Christian Academy, under the guidance of directors and founders Gary and Narissa Saint Fleur.

Originally, the Saint Fleurs began an after-school program at the home of his parents in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, after seeing school-aged children wandering the streets or playing soccer during school time. The couple handpicked 24 children to learn English, Bible, soccer, health, and music.

Space soon became insufficient as more and more students requested admission. Eventually, the school

moved to a rental property, and then in 2017 became Kingdom Goals Christian Academy.

In the fall of 2019, enrollment at Kingdom Goals Christian Academy grew to 139 students, including pre-K through third grade. There are also 20 students who attained scholarships and are now in upper primary school and high school.

Through the generosity of sponsors like the members of the Silver Springs Shores Church, provision for additional resources and better success in educational needs in Haiti will continue to grow. 📍



Students enrolled for the 2019 school year at Kingdom Goals Christian Academy in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, gather on the school grounds.

BY NORMA HENRY

Orlando Brazilian Church Holds Feast of Thanksgiving



Orlando Brazilian Church Pathfinder Club celebrates a high Sabbath when 10 Pathfinders were baptized, and six more decided to prepare for the next baptism.



Pathfinder Pedro Rodrigues was baptized by Rafael Martins, pastor.

PHOTO BY: FERNANDA COSTA

in continuation of the theme of the International Pathfinder Camporee. Samuel Cardoso, pastor, provided the message while The Disciples, a Brazilian singing group, performed special music. A lot of emotions interspersed with crying, laughing, applauding, confetti, and messages from Brazil were part of the feast, but the main part was the joy of teenagers and juveniles surrendering their lives to Christ.

Orlando Brazilian celebrated with a feast, but the greater feast was in Heaven. They hope that this feast can inspire all to be a part of the greatest feast in Heaven, where everyone will be Chosen! 📍

September was a memorable month at Orlando, Fla., Brazilian Church, with the greatest baptism in its history. Ten Pathfinders surrendered their lives through baptism, and six more decided to be prepared for the next one.

The ceremony concluded seven weeks of prayer and fasting. Since August 19,

2019, the whole church had participated in a movement to claim the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Each day, at least one member of the church was fasting and praying for the revival of the whole church. The baptism closed this wonderful experience of the church members.

The weekend was called Chosen,

PHOTO BY: FERNANDA COSTA

BY RAFAEL MARTINS

Samaritan Center Teaches Students Financial Planning

The board of directors for the Samaritan Center thrift store and donation center in Ooltewah, Tenn., recently approved funding for a one-year pilot program to teach financial planning skills to grade school students.

This program, titled the Fin Lit Project (FLP), will be directed by the Samaritan Center’s senior case manager, Stephanie Pyke. Since 2015, Pyke has been offering financial literacy classes in area elementary schools, and hopes the new FLP will provide education for students, as well as help parents and teachers to understand what the Samaritan Center offers.

Pyke’s goal is to present a 45-minute to one-hour class once a semester in local elementary and/or middle schools. The frequency of her visits will be at the discretion of teachers. In her presentation, she will provide packets highlighting local resources for those in need for students to take home.

“I have a passion for this project because I’ve seen how needed it is,” said Pyke. “I continually hear from parents,



Stephanie Pyke, senior case manager for the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn., offers financial education to students through a pilot program.

teachers, my interns, and volunteers, bankers, and community members how much they wish a program like this, focusing on financial literacy, existed.”

Pyke’s interest in teaching financial literacy grew out of what she experienced as a case manager for the Samaritan Center: “My clients’ issues, time and again,

came down to a common root issue,” Pyke says. “They lacked proper financial education.”

With that thought in mind, she volunteered as an instructor for Who Wants to Be a Millionaire, an interactive money management program for 11th-graders. She then focused on helping elementary and middle school students by adapting classwork prepared by the Council for Economic Education to their level.

This past summer Pyke developed Money Lit, a five-week summer camp where third- through sixth-graders learned financial literacy in a fun, interactive environment. With the continued support of the Samaritan Center’s many donors, they are able to pursue their goal to provide “Help for Today, and Hope for Tomorrow.”

SUBMITTED BY: KINDSEY CALVERT

BY KINDSEY CALVERT

Robbins Couple Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Larry and Martha Robbins of Cleveland, Tenn., celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on November 24, 2019, at Bowman Hills Church.

Their relationship began in South Lancaster, Mass., amidst the 1969 moon landing and the Vietnam War. They met on the rural Atlantic Union College campus.

Larry’s work history started in the cafeteria, ending with 44 years teaching for the Adventist Church. Martha’s work began as a worker in a nursing home, and ended as an administrator for Kennebec

Valley. Larry retired in 2016 and Martha in 2002.

Larry and Martha have three children, Larry Jr., Matthew, and Aaron, and eight grandchildren. They are thankful for the places the Lord has directed them, and for finally leading them to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference where they feel the most at home.



Larry and Martha Robbins were married 50 years ago.

BY AMBER ROBBINS

SUBMITTED BY: AMBER ROBBINS

Auburn Church Partners with 50 Businesses in “Let’s Move Day!”



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY SHELLI-ANN JACKSON

Gail Devers, three-time Olympic gold medal champion and inductee of the National Track and Field Hall of Fame, joined the fun last September at the Auburn Church Let’s Move Day. The Georgia church members have actively involved their town and community in Let’s Move Day even offering their first free outdoor clinic with a variety of health tests.

Through prayer and perseverance, the Auburn, Ga., Church members hosted another completely free “Let’s Move Day!” on September 15, 2019. They partnered with the city of Auburn officials and 50-plus local businesses. The goal was to host a completely free health and fitness event as an outlet for families, and to provide a variety of community resources by having 27 sponsors onsite for the big day.

The Let’s Move Day offered fitness alternatives, outdoor family fun, food, and health education; literature was distributed, and one or two health screenings were available. Outdoor fun included volleyball, soccer, kickball, basketball, hula-hoop, jump rope, tug of war, group fitness, obstacle courses, bounce houses, a fortnite dance-off, toddler games, and a citywide water balloon challenge.

In addition to their standard offerings and physical activity, they wanted to offer more, and so provided job recruitment

and increased accessibility to clinic services. They partnered with licensed medical professionals and held their first free outdoor wellness clinic. Free medical services offered during the Let’s Move Day include massages; HIV testing in a mobile unit; hepatitis C testing; a life coach and mental health; various health screenings, including spine, scoliosis, posture, blood pressure and blood sugar; thermal scanning for nervous system assessments; pulmonary function testing for asthma/COPD screening; and nutrition and health supplements (Arbonne) station.

Gail Devers, a two-time Olympic gold champion in the 100 meters who won her third gold in the 4 x 100 meter relay in 1996, joined the fun at the Auburn Church Let’s Move Day as a special guest. Devers is also the 1993 World Champion in the 100-meter and a three-time world champion in the 100-meter hurdles. In 2011, she was inducted into the National Track and Field Hall of Fame. For fun, Devers accepted the race

challenge from children at the event.

Members of the First Baptist Church and other local churches participated all day helping the Let’s Move event, providing more awareness to the benefits of physical fitness and health. Additional highlights included E.W. Dempsey, Georgia-Cumberland Conference health ministries director, who participated by leading physical fitness activities.

The Lord has truly blessed the Auburn Church’s Let’s Move Day ministry that began in 2014 with one simple request from Jeff Westberg, pastor, to accept the call to reach out to the Auburn community through participation in the North American Division initiative called Let’s Move Day. As a small church, its members are proud to sustain this event with the generosity of their sponsors; and, excitedly, for the fifth year, they offered Let’s Move Day!

Special thanks to the 2019 Let’s Move Day partners and sponsors.

Partners:

- City of Auburn
- Boy Scouts Northeast Georgia Council-Troop 750
- Black Women Leaders in Nursing

Gold Sponsors:

- Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists
- Adventists In Step For Life
- Northeast Georgia Medical Center Barrow
- Barrow County Health Department
- Noire Nail Bar
- Posh Hair Salon
- Kumon Math and Reading Center
- Edee’s Place BBQ
- Hue Graphics & Apparel
- Allstate Namon Collins Agency

BY SHELLI-ANN JACKSON

State Line Church Burns Mortgage

After nearly 25 years in existence as a congregation, the Gulf States Conference administration participated in the burning of the church mortgage of the State Line Church in Ardmore, Ala., on October 19, 2019. Under the leadership of Isaac Olatunji, pastor, the church purchased the current building in 2015, which they had been renting for more than a decade. The “Old Funeral Home,” as it was called, was transformed into a sanctuary for the Lord, and in just four years was paid off in record time.

The day of the mortgage burning ceremony began with a blackout in the Ardmore area, where the church’s electrical power was off for several hours. The outage time ran into the Sabbath School and church worship programming, but it did not deter the worshippers. It also didn’t stop Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States, from preaching a powerful message. While the congregation worshipped with no electricity, they experienced the power of the Holy Spirit. Amazingly, after the church service ended, the lights came back on.

Livermore; Brian Danese, vice president for church development and Conference treasurer; and Johnny Mosquera, founding pastor of State Line Church;



PHOTO BY: GREG CAREY

Johnny Mosquera (left), former pastor; Wendell Curry, head elder; Isaac Olatunji, pastor; Richard Miller, deacon; Dave Livermore, president of Gulf States; and Brian Danese, vice president of finance for Gulf States, celebrate the goals the church has achieved.



Brian Danese twists the burning paper to complete the ceremony.

along with a packed house of members and visitors, participated in the ceremony. Olatunji stated, “I want to thank the Gulf States Conference administration along with the faithful supporters of State Line,

and most of all, the Almighty God who made this possible.” As was stated in the event program, “State Line continues to be a blend of people, where we all work together for the Lord, using the various talents the Lord has given us. It has been 24 years since the Lord impressed Hazel Radford to start a work for Him in the portion of the field the Lord put her in — a bean field. Today, Sabbath, October 19, we celebrate the power of God in the lives of those who chose to do His will.”

PHOTO BY: GREG CAREY

BY ISAAC OLATUNJI

Gulf States Hosts Possibilities Ministry Sabbath

Members from several churches across Gulf States Conference came together on November 2, 2019, in Meridian, Miss., for the first-ever Possibilities Ministry Sabbath. The event was sponsored by the Conference, and hosted at the Meridian Community Church. Larry Evans, assistant to the General Conference president for special needs, was the keynote presenter, and noted that this was one of the first events of this type in the North American Division. Evans, along with George Hamilton, Gulf States disability ministries coordinator,



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Larry Evans, assistant to the General Conference president for special needs, presents on Asperger’s and ADHD.

and Rosemary Graham, South Atlantic disabilities director, presented on various aspects of disabilities and how they can be accommodated. Challenges such as hearing or mobility impairment could be better addressed in many local churches, allowing more people to participate in church services.

During his opening presentation, Evans shared a world mission report where individuals were able to baptize thousands by merely presenting their messages in sign language to those with hearing impairment. Offering ways to transport or visit



Reid Soria of Autism Sings, presents a spiritual concert.

those who are shut in has also been quite successful in world mission. Evans shared that these success stories don't need to be limited to world mission; they could lead to success locally as well.

Following the worship service and provided lunch, Reid Soria, vocalist for Autism Sings, presented a spiritual concert. Soria sang numerous songs to background tracks, speaking between each song to present the next one. Soria's mother, Jo Ann Soria, shared about the challenges of raising a child on the autism spectrum, but also the joy she experiences in the numerous ways that Soria has overcome all odds. Soria's father, "Chief," also travels with them on their performance tours.

The overall message of the event is that despite there being challenges, they can be overcome, and the Adventist Church is a great place to make that happen. Learn more about this event and the possibilities that disabilities provide at www.gscsda.org/possibility. 📍



Martin Fancher (left), Gulf States executive secretary and event organizer; "Chief" Soria; Reid Soria; Jo Ann Soria; and Larry Evans gather together at the close of the event.

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Community Christian School Adds Pre-K Class

When the Community Christian School board approved the addition of a pre-K classroom for the 2019-20 school year, the faculty, staff, and volunteers knew that they were in for a very busy summer in Meridian, Miss. And, a busy summer it was! First, they needed to find a locally-funded, part-time teacher. Next, while space wasn't an issue, the 30x30 classroom needed some minor carpentry and renovation. Finally, there was the task of outfitting and decorating the classroom with all the fun stuff that makes for a great pre-K experience.

Throughout the spring and summer, the Meridian Community Church joined the effort as super prayer warriors, with



Ginny Perez (right) engages with students during outdoor activity time.

the pre-K classroom at the top of the prayer list. Marie Harmel, school administrator, reflects on the experience, "The room is adorable, and so are the students! Our heavenly Father opened the windows of Heaven and met all our needs."

Indeed, the program is off to an excellent start with six eager students enrolled. One of those students enthusiastically proclaimed, "I don't want to go home. I love it here." Ginny Perez, teacher, is doing an excellent job, and she's looking forward to God's continued blessings as this ministry begins to impact Meridian. She states, "I am excited to spend each day with these happy, energetic students whose laughter is so contagious."

In addition to Harmel, the leadership team of the school includes Joy McElroy, board chairperson; Samuel Riemersma, pastor; and Michelle Seth, principal/teacher. 📍

BY STAN HOBBS

Victory Company Organized to Church Status

In the summer of 2015, a group of members from the Madison Campus Church began a small mission group in the Donaldson/Hermitage area of east Nashville, Tenn. The commitment and vision of the group was to establish and grow God's Kingdom in a previously unentered area of metro Nashville. The Hickory Bend United Methodist Church was rented for Sabbaths, and history was made. There had never been a Seventh-day Adventist church in that area. The little group prayed for God's guidance, and soon they became a company and continued to grow.

Fast forward to November 2, 2019, the Victory Company was officially organized as Victory Church.

Led by Victory quartet, the congregation sang with pride, "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee," "Faith is the Victory," "Victory in Jesus," and other songs. Kieth Noll, Kentucky-Tennessee ministerial director, prepared to preach the sermon, "Being the Church Christ Intended Us to Be." First, he called Alton



The sanctuary was full as Victory Company was organized to church status.



Children who were anxious to hear the children's story.

Cantarutti, head elder, forward and presented the church with a beautiful plaque that reads, "In Commemoration of Establishment of the Victory Seventh-day Adventist Church on November 2, 2019, by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists."

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and,

lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world," Matthew 28:19, 20.

After worship, visitors and members enjoyed a wonderful, healthy potluck meal in the fellowship hall. A total of 130 people joined the celebration as Victory became church number 101 in the conference. 📍

BY STEVE VARRO

Chelsea English Commissioned to Gospel Ministry

Chelsea English, Madison Campus Church (MCC) youth pastor, was commissioned into the Gospel ministry in Madison, Tenn., on September 21, 2019. Doug English, her father, presented his daughter. The message was given by Ken Wetmore, MCC senior pastor, and Ignacio Silverio, MCC associate pastor. Steve Haley, president of Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, gave the commissioning prayer, and Steve Rose, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference vice presi-

dent for administration, delivered a call to ministry.

English began her official youth pastor ministry in 2015, but had been serving in youth ministry since 2003, when she began working at summer camp. During the summers, English served at four different summer camps: Camp Heritage in Missouri; Timber Ridge Camp in Indiana; Camp Wawona in California; and Camp Waianae in Hawaii. The camp service added up to 10 summers. It was while English was a camp counselor that

she first felt God's call to work with teenagers.

English graduated from Southern Adventist University (SAU) in 2010 with a degree in English and secondary education. God soon opened a door for her to serve as a task force assistant chaplain/youth pastor at Upper Columbia Academy in Washington State with Ken Wetmore. A few years later, English began serving as the full-time chaplain and Bible teacher at Sacramento Adventist Academy in California. In 2015, she was



PHOTO BY: MARK DENMAN

Ken Wetmore (left), Madison Campus Church senior pastor; Steve Rose, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference vice president for administration; Chelsea English, MCC youth pastor; Steve Haley, president of Kentucky-Tennessee Conference; Julie Vega, MCC chaplain pastor; and Ignacio Silverio, MCC associate pastor



PHOTO BY: MARK DENMAN

Chelsea English (center), Madison Campus youth pastor, stands with her parents, Doug English, Rocky Mountain Conference planned giving and trust services director, and Susan English, Rocky Mountain Conference accountant.

called to serve at MCC as youth pastor. In 2016, English began a master's degree in religious studies at SAU. She takes summer intensives that allow her to

study while continuing to work as youth pastor at MCC. English's greatest desire is that the youth she serves fall in love with Jesus,

and spend their lives loving God, loving people, and serving the world. 📌

BY DENISE POPE

Youth Spring Into Action in Aftermath of Hurricane Dorian



PHOTO BY: PRINCE LEWIS

After Hurricane Dorian, Prince Lewis, Southeastern Conference youth director, galvanized 20 missionaries on a mission trip from October 27 to November 3, 2019, the team was stationed in Freeport, Bahamas. More than 230 boxes and care packages were distributed to families affected by the storm.

In the devastating aftermath of Hurricane Dorian, the Southeastern Conference took immediate action by spearheading relief efforts. As conditions stabilized on the affected islands of the Bahamas, Prince Lewis, Southeastern youth director, galvanized 20 missionaries on a mission trip. From October 27 to November 3, 2019, the team was stationed in Freeport, Bahamas, providing much needed aid and support.

Urgently, the Conference shipped seven containers of goods and supplies to the region. For three days the team worked at a local warehouse, unloading containers from trucks and sorting items for distribution. Committed volunteers packed food and water for the church

community and those in dire need of supplies. Toiletries, non-perishable goods, and essential commodities filled bins. More than 230 boxes and care packages were distributed to families affected by the storm.

Southeastern provided physical and spiritual enrichment. The group of missionaries conducted Wednesday night prayer meeting and Sabbath worship on the island. Sabbath services were held at Freeport Bahamas Church, where Lewis delivered the sermon. A week of prayer followed at the Grand Bahama Academy. During school hours, sessions were led by Alex Madrid, campus minister. Counseling services were also made available for church and academy members, as

many continue to cope with the traumatic effects of the devastating storm.

Amid vast destruction, Southeastern provided a ray of joy and comfort for those living in seemingly hopeless conditions. From the worship services to the care packages filled with love, God's grace was felt in a palpable way. Burdened with loss and a great desire to alleviate despair, Lewis and the team of missionaries were the hands and feet of Jesus, spreading hope and the Good News of the Gospel. 🕊

BY DANIELA JEAN

Hispanic Evangelism 2019 Brings Individuals to Jesus



PHOTO BY: NOEL GRANT

From the south to the north, throughout the state of Florida, the impact of the Gospel with a Christ-centered message of hope, restoration, and wholeness made a difference in the lives of 150 people who surrendered to Jesus through baptism.

Net 19 was the Southeastern Conference's evangelistic initiative to reach communities through social media. This was the third effort in the Hispanic ministries evangelism strategy for the year 2019, which was promoted as the Year of Evangelism.

The first evangelistic crusade for 2019 was a combined effort between Oakwood University and Southeastern Conference Hispanic ministries. Theology students and professors from Oakwood came to the territory to join Southeastern pastors in the endeavor. The Lord blessed their efforts, and churches and communities

were revived as the Good News of salvation was shared.

The follow-up evangelistic project, under the direction of the Southern Union, was Special Forces. Leaders were trained, and small groups were organized in preparation for Net 19.

Net 19 was the last evangelistic effort, held October 12-19, 2019. An international evangelist, Julio Chazarreta, pastor and marketing director for *El Centinela*, the Pacific Press magazine for the Hispanic community in North America, was the speaker chosen by the Southern Union for this evangelistic project. From

the south to the north, throughout the state of Florida, the impact of the Gospel with a Christ-centered message of hope, restoration, and wholeness made a difference in the lives of 150 people who surrendered to Jesus through baptism.

The Conference praises the Lord for His amazing grace and great faithfulness, and commends the leaders for their vision of a mission-driven Conference. They are thankful for the unwavering support as they continue to strive together to advance God's Kingdom. 🙏

BY ROGER ALVAREZ

Southern Introduces New Mission, Vision, Values



David Smith, Ph.D., president of Southern Adventist University, welcomes new students with a smile and the offer of homemade cookies.

Over the course of 2019, the leadership of Southern Adventist University worked to revise the University’s official mission, vision, and values. A vote by the University’s Board of Trustees on October 6, 2019, finalized the new statements:

The Mission

Grounded in Jesus Christ and dedicated to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we equip students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service.

The Vision

Southern Adventist University’s vision is to:

- Model the love of Jesus in every interaction

- Invite students into a saving relationship with Jesus
- Inspire each student to engage with God’s Church and the world through service and witness
- Provide each student with an exceptional learning experience that equips them to thrive in a fluid, global job market

Core Values

As Southern Adventist University employees, we:

- Embrace a Seventh-day Adventist worldview and Fundamental Beliefs
- Love others as God loves them
- Act with integrity
- Live prayerfully
- Serve others generously
- Follow God’s calling

- Pursue excellence
- Exercise responsible stewardship

Offer an Exceptional Learning Experience

“These new statements define the heart of who and what we are as an institution and also who and what we plan to be in the future,” said David Smith, Ph.D., president of Southern Adventist University. “Our goal is to clearly express, particularly to our employees, what we expect from their service, as well as sharing with our students and constituents what we expect to deliver.”

BY STAFF WRITER

Student Credits God With Marathon Pace



PHOTO BY: GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE

John Kent placed third overall in his first-ever marathon, giving credit to God for the inspiration and strength.

John Kent, a freshman theology major at Southern, placed third overall in the 7 Bridges Marathon in Chattanooga, Tenn., which is sponsored by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. This was his first marathon.

For Kent, running is as much a spiritual exercise as it is a physical one. In addition to being a hobby, it is also time he spends with God in prayer. Initially he only signed up for the half-marathon, but couldn't get the idea of running the full marathon out of his head.

"It was like God was saying 'Why not the marathon, John?' It was as if He wanted to run the full race with me,"

Kent said.

While he did not do any special training for the event, Kent felt that God indirectly prepared him through his usual runs. Without fully realizing it, he found himself closer to the front of the race than he had expected, finishing with a time of 2:57:44.

"When I was running the marathon, I felt this energy and strength that I have never felt before," he explained. "I did feel tired near the end of the race, but even then, I knew that I could finish strong. I thank God, because He gave me that energy and strength. I was running for God's glory, not for a medal or to beat

others. He and I ran it together."

Kent says his inspiration comes from the concept in the Bible of running the race, particularly Isaiah 40:31 NKJV: "But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint". ●

BY RACHEL BEAVER

AHU Staff, Faculty Come Together for Monthly Fellowship



PHOTO BY: MARTIN RODRIGUEZ

Chaplain Nieshe Steinke (left) and part-time chaplain and AHU alumna Karen Razon lead a song of worship for the First Friday Faithful gathering.



PHOTO BY: MARTIN RODRIGUEZ

Attendees of the First Friday Faithful bow their heads in prayer, including Reynold Acosta (front left), chaplain, and Edwin Hernandez, Ph.D. (front center), AHU president, along with other professors and staff members.

AdventHealth University (AHU) serves an engaged student body of more than 1,600 individuals. Regular mission-focused events for them include a weekly prayer breakfast, Sabbath worship services in the dormitory, and monthly mid-day worship services. However, the need for spiritual growth avenues for faculty and staff was apparent on campus.

In the fall of 2018, a new initiative was started to ensure that campus employees also had opportunities to gather and share their faith. With the assistance of Reynold Acosta, chaplain, First Friday's Faithful was launched in the campus chapel on the first Friday of every month. This early morning worship service has provided a monthly expression of song, faith, prayer, and support for faculty and staff. Music is supplied by students, alumna and occupational therapist Karen Razon, or student life

coordinator Jennifer Galeana, followed by a devotional from a staff or faculty member volunteer, and group prayer.

The topics have been rich with personal and touching experiences, such as dealing with the illness or loss of a loved one, applying God's encompassing love to one's earthly parenting, and preparing for a new trimester through God's promises in His Word. The opportunities for employees to share in this experience is enhancing the spiritual life on campus. Marie Smith, clinical coordinator in the Imaging Sciences Department, feels that it benefits her by giving "a Friday morning boost of inspiration and encouragement." She states that "listening to others share something that has deep meaning to them also reminds me that we are in this big world together and can lean on each other when in need."

The small group campus ministry is an extension of biblical examples of "house"

ministry. "And they continued daily with one accord in the temple and house to house ... with gladness and singleness of heart," Acts 2:46. There is a different type of engagement when groups outside of large church fellowship meet together in His name. This personal, intimate time among colleagues with God is an opportunity for spiritual growth. William Boekestein, in his article on the benefits of group worship, indicates that without small group ministry, it is difficult for the Christian to reflect God's ideal of community.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them," Matthew 18:20. God is blessing the monthly worship services, whether a few attend or the room is full. Connections are made, prayer requests are heard, and there is a positive start to the day on First Fridays Faithful at AHU. 🕊

BY SANDRA DUNBAR-SMALLEY, D.P.A.

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DANIEL


Donating to God's Work

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

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

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employment or call 615-732-7674. [1]

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2020-21 ADVENTIST TOURS - Israel in Jesus' Steps May 25-June 2, 2020 and June 9-17, 2021 (optional Jordan/Egypt); Africa Safari & Service May 18-25, 2020; Thailand July 14-24, 2020; New Testament Alive (7 Churches, Patmos, Greece, optional Rome) June 17-27, 2021; Germany 500: Luther to WW2 June 27-July 7, 2021. All tours are Adventist-led. \$1750+/person. *For full info, contact tabghatours@gmail.com or [facebook.com/TabghaTours](https://www.facebook.com/TabghaTours) or call 423-298-2169.* [12, 1]

EGYPT TOUR: December 28, 2020 - January 6, 2021 with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the Pyramids ,the Valley of the Kings, the Exodus, a Nile cruise and much more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations \$2,565 plus airfare. *For information contact info@adventtours.org* [1-6]

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JOIN US ON CAMPUS

Concerto Concert, January 26

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

Southern 6 Trail Race, February 23

Come participate in the 10th annual 6K run through wooded trails on Southern's campus, open to anyone age 10 and older. For free registration, visit the Adventure Programs page at southern.edu/outdoor.

From Script to Scripture Exhibit

Southern's on-campus Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum features a new exhibit—"From Script to Scripture." Beginning January 15, come explore the history of the alphabet, the transition from scrolls to books, and the role of the written word—particularly the Bible—during the period of the Reformation and beyond. This exhibit features rare, original Bibles such as a copy of the 1611 King James Version, the Vulgate, and a translation by Martin Luther.

For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

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Southern's weekly vespers programs, held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary, are broadcast live each Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

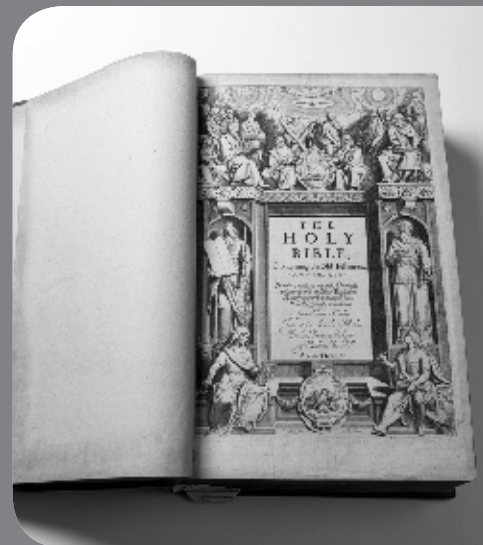
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More Information to Come!

CAROLINA

- AWAKEN YOUTH CONFERENCE** - Feb. 1, 2. Sharon Church.
- EVANGELISM IMPACT** - Feb. 6-9. Myrtle Beach, SC.
- ROMANCE @ THE RANCH** - Feb. 14-16. NPR.
- HISPANIC ROMANCE @ THE RANCH** - Feb. 21-23. NPR.
- VBS WORKSHOP** - Feb. 23. Carolina Conference Office.
- ALIVE YOUTH RALLY** - March 7. Spartanburg, SC.
- MPA SPRING BREAK / MISSION TRIP** - March 12-22.
- PATHFINDER WORK-BEE CAMPOUT** - March 13-15. NPR.
- HISPANIC CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP** - March 15. 10 a.m. Charlotte Spanish Church.
- COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT** - March 20-22. NPR.
- RE-GENERATE! CAROLINA SEEDS CONFERENCE** - March 20, 21. Hendersonville.
- COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD MEETING** - March 21, 22. NPR.
- ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL RETREAT** - March 27-29. 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.
- Jan. 5. Deltona Spanish, Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)
- Jan. 12. Inverness, Homosassa, Brooksville, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.
- Jan. 19. Leesburg, Lady Lake, Ocala, Perry, Tallahassee.
- Jan. 26. West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie)
- Feb. 2. Kissimmee, Winter Haven, Avon Park, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh

- Acres, Naples.
- Feb. 9. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, Port Charlotte.
- Feb. 15. Florida Keys Camp Meeting at Big Pine Key.
- Feb. 23. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
- March 1. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Maranatha in Miami Gardens, Sunrise, Midport.
- WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREATS** - Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212th Ave., High Springs. Theme: Dare to Share / Atrévete a Compartir. Cost: depends on accommodation and meal choice. Information and registration: floridaconference.com/wretreat
- Jan. 31-Feb 2. English. Featured speaker: Lola Moore Johnston.
- Feb. 7-9. Spanish. Featured speaker: Elizabeth Talbot.
- MEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION** - March 13-15. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212th Ave., High Springs. Theme: Ready for Take-off. Cost: depends on accommodation and meal choice. Featured speaker: Robert Stevenson. Registration: campkulaqua.com.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

- HISPANIC WOMEN MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CONVENTION** - Jan. 12. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
- PATHFINDER TLT CONVENTION** - Jan. 17-19. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES' REGIONAL TRAININGS** - Jan. 18, 9 a.m. Augusta Spanish-American Church, GA.
- HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES' REGIONAL TRAININGS** - Jan. 19, 9 a.m. Albany, GA.
- MOBILIZE, YOUNG ADULT CONFERENCE** - Jan. 25. Helping churches attract, engage, and mobilize young adults for the Kingdom. Register by Jan. 15. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
- MIDTERM REPORTS** - Hear reports on what is happening in your Conference, and ask questions of administration. Midterm Report sessions are open to everyone, and offered in several locations. -Jan. 11, 4 p.m., at the Atlanta Korean Church, Duluth, Ga.; Jan. 25, 4 p.m., at the North Knoxville Church, Knoxville, Tenn.; Feb. 1, 4 p.m., at the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, Tenn.; and Feb. 8, 4 p.m., at the Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church in Calhoun, GA.
- HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES REGIONAL TRAININGS**
Jan. 25, 9 a.m. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.
Jan. 26, 9 a.m. Knoxville, TN.
- CLOSING THE GAP, COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP** - Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Carolina Conference communication team with Rebecca Carpenter, director, and Courtney Herod, associate director, is going to share what they've learned in trying to close the gap between the Adventist Church and the tech-driven people of modern society. There will also be a tips and tricks section to be effective in your ministry. Registration is free, but if you want lunch, register by Jan. 21. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
- OASIS, A BIBLE CONFERENCE FOR ADVENTIST HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS (GRADES 9-12) WHO ARE NOT ATTENDING ADVENTIST SCHOOLS** - Jan. 31-Feb. 2. The speaker will be Luke Steen, youth pastor for the Marietta, GA, Church. The early bird deadline is Jan. 8, final deadline, Jan. 22. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- MASTER GUIDE LEADERSHIP CONVENTION** - Feb. 1-2. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
- ELEMENTARY BAND AND STRINGS FESTIVAL** - Feb. 6, 7. Students in grades 5-8 (including home school students) who play a band instrument or a string instrument are invited to participate. To register, contact Mark Torsney at GCA at 706-625-7138 or mtorsney@gccsda.com. To order music, contact Sheila Flores at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference at 706-629-7951, x372 or sflores@gccsda.com.
- CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION** - Feb. 7-9. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
- HISPANIC MEN'S MINISTRY LEADERSHIP CONVENTION** - Feb. 9. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
- CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING SEMINAR** - Feb. 9, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.
- PATHFINDER TEEN EVENT** - Feb. 14-16. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- PRAYER CONFERENCE** - Feb. 14-16. The speaker will be Derek Morris, president of Hope Channel. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
- HISPANIC CHURCH TREASURER TRAINING SEMINAR** - Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.
Register for events on the conference website, www.gccsda.com.

GULF STATES

TEEN INVITATIONAL: CAVING - Jan. 31. Tumbling Rock Cave, Fackler, AL. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL-PENSACOLA - Jan. 31-Feb. 1. University Parkway Church. Do we have an understanding of the Gospel that goes beyond our kindergarten instruction? Presented by Elder Brian Danese. www.gscsda.org/gospel.

THE SPIRIT-FILLED SABBATH SCHOOL TRAINING EVENT - Jan. 31-Feb 2. Camp Alamisco. Features training for adult teachers, as well as children's instructors in both English and Spanish. Guest presenter LaVerne A. Barnett. Learn more at www.gscsda.org/sstraining.

ADVENTURER FAMILY FUN DAY - Feb. 16. Camp Alamisco. This is a day of fun for the whole family! Activities, learning about Jesus, games, and a parade! www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

Battleship Lock In - Feb. 29, Mobile, AL. Boys only, ages 10 and up! Spend one night on the USS Alabama. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

TEEN INVITATIONAL: BACKPACKING - March 6-8. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - March 27-29. www.gscsda.org/events.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

PASTORS' MEETINGS - Jan. 20, 21. Indian Creek Camp.

ACROFEST - Jan. 30-Feb. 1. Highland Academy.

EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP - Feb. 7-9. Indian Creek Camp.

7UP CAMP - Feb. 14-16. Indian Creek Camp.

HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD - FEB. 27. HIGHLAND ACADEMY.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CERTIFICATION/VBX TRAINING - Feb. 28, 29. Highland Academy.

KYTN MUSIC FESTIVAL - March 5-7. Highland Academy.

EASTERN KENTUCKY CAMP MEETING - March 13, 14. Prestonsburg, KY.

MEMPHIS FESTIVAL OF FAITH - March 27, 28. Memphis, TN.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

PREVIEW SOUTHERN - Jan. 17. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, find out about scholarship options, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, email visit@southern.edu or visit southern.edu/preview.

Black. Enjoy a sumptuous fellowship dinner, we would not be comfortable having you to attend the concert Sabbath afternoon / evening on an empty stomach. It would be our pleasure to have you presented during this august occasion.

CONCERTO CONCERT - Jan. 26. This event begins at 4 p.m. and showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the University's full Symphony Orchestra. Held in the Collegedale Church, the event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC POPS CONCERT - Feb. 15. Southern's Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Steel Drum Ensemble, and Ringtones handbell choir will perform in concert at 8 p.m. in Ackerman Auditorium. Admission is free. For more information, visit southern.edu/musicevents or contact 423-236-2880.

UNION COLLEGE HOMECOMING - April 2-5. Honor classes are 1950, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, 2000, and 2010. For more information, contact the alumni office at 401-486-2503, 3800 S. 48th St., Lincoln, NE 68506, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

SINGLES: Bible study, hikes, socials, banquets, retreats, bowling, cooking class, and more! Check out the Calendar of Events at www.gccsda.com/singles-ministries/home.

IT IS WRITTEN 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ELIM CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY - March 28.

All are invited to this very special once in a century event. Please, clear your calendar of any scheduling assigned for this time; Save the Date!!! You would be doing yourself and us a disservice by not being here. Address: 4824 Second Avenue South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711 (the Sunshine City). Call: 727-350-3531 or www.elimfl.adventistchurch.org. Sabbath School - 9:15 a.m. Divine Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. Guest speaker: U.S. Senate Chaplain Dr. Barry C.



SUNSET

	JAN 3	JAN 10	JAN 17	JAN 24	JAN 31	FEB 7
ATLANTA, GA	5:41	5:47	5:54	6:00	6:07	6:14
CHARLESTON, SC	5:26	5:31	5:38	5:44	5:51	5:58
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:58
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:41	5:47	5:53	6:00	6:08	6:15
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:48	4:54	5:00	5:07	5:14	5:21
JACKSON, MS	5:08	5:14	5:20	5:26	5:33	5:39
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:35	5:41	5:49	5:56	6:04	6:12
MEMPHIS, TN	5:00	5:07	5:13	5:20	5:27	5:35
MIAMI, FL	10:04	5:47	5:53	5:58	6:03	6:08
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:52	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:17	5:24
NASHVILLE, TN	4:45	4:51	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:20
ORLANDO, FL	5:41	5:47	5:52	5:58	6:04	6:09
TAMPA, FL	5:47	5:52	5:58	6:03	6:09	6:15
WILMINGTON, NC	5:14	5:20	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:47

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