

T Southern TIDINGS

MARCH 2020



It Only Takes A SIGN

MENTORING
WOMEN IN THE
21ST CENTURY

BEST-KEPT
SECRET:
RECHARGE!

MAKING AN
IMPACT ON
PUBLIC CAMPUSES

WAKE UP YOUR
CHURCH WITH
PRAYER

Church Revitalization and the Difficulty of Change



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

Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us," Ephesians 3:20 KJV.

I've been exposed to two broad categories of change that are of significant interest to committed church members, church officers, pastors, and conference leadership. Reactive changes and proactive changes are worth identifying in the context of church life.

Firstly, reactive changes are those that come into our lives from the outside and require a response. Challenges that creep upon us without warning can be the most dramatic examples; but, the people we worship with and who are with us in church, are most often in need of help in responding to issues such as disappointments, financial setbacks, interpersonal conflicts, loneliness, or the need to make important decisions. These are often referred to as reactive changes because they usually come as a reaction to some event or situation in life.

Secondly, proactive changes, in contrast to reactive changes, are the changes we are trying to make happen — being a better parent, supporting the church through more consistent attendance and committed stewardship, losing unwanted weight, or initiating a positive development activity for younger people. These two types of change can and often do overlap.

As we quest to revitalize our challenged congregations, we begin to observe that change is very difficult even when members declare they want it. The question is asked: Why do people resist change even when they say they want it? There are many reasons, but a few have been identified as being among the most common.

People resist change because:

- They are unwilling to give up what is safe, predictable, and familiar.
- They have no real conviction that change is better than the status quo.
- They have a fear of what life might be like if the change takes place. Often it feels safer to stay where they are, even though they are miserable, than to risk making changes and facing what could be unpredictable, unfamiliar, and potentially threatening.
- They lack the skills, knowledge, abilities, experience, or resources that would make change possible and likely to last.
- The proposed changes are not realistic or practical.
- They may hold a conviction that change is not possible, so they are less motivated to try.
- There is no trusted person available to give support, understanding, encouragement, and guidance during the change process.

No matter what we face in our quest to make changes in our plateauing or declining congregations that can foster revitalization, it is the awesome power of God that brings lasting change which might never come otherwise. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul gave glory to God because, by His mighty power at work within us, He is able to accomplish infinitely more than we would ever dare to ask or hope (Ephesians 3:20). The apostle prayed that from God's glorious, unlimited resources, He will give us mighty inner strength through His Holy Spirit. The radical and lasting change in Paul's own life direction was an example of his belief that human effort was of limited value, but that he could do everything with the help of Christ who continually gave him the strength he needed.

As impossible or improbable as resurrecting a dead or non-responsive church may seem, let us never forget that the limited resourcefulness of ours linked up with God's omnipotence can bring positive and effective change to our congregations. --RCS 📌

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It Only Takes A SIGN

BY NATHAN ZINNER

When Maria Gonzales* moved to Conyers, Georgia, she wanted to find a church she could feel comfortable in, one where the people spoke her language. One day while driving through town she noticed a highway directional sign for the local Adventist Church. That Saturday, she stepped inside an Adventist Church for the first time in her life. What led the way? A simple sign!

Efrain Poloche, pastor of the church, as well as the South Atlantic Conference Hispanic ministries director, has been a longtime advocate of churches having good directional signage. One of the first things he does at each church he pastors is ensure people can easily find the church. This often involves purchasing new signs from the Southern Union sign engineer.

Several years ago, Danny McDonald, the previous Southern Union sign engineer, offered to show Poloche how to install a sign, and provided insights on effective sign placement. This is a service the Southern Union sign engineer can offer churches for free, and Poloche has never forgotten what he learned and continues to apply those skills to the churches he pastors.

Earlier this year, the Southern Union Church Identification Service updated the design of the directional signs. This

new design not only reflects the new branding guidelines established by the North American Division, but it also provides strong color accents for high visibility.

But, directional signs are only one of several signs available to churches at reduced pricing.

Robert Boram, an elder at the Morehead, Kentucky, Church, understands the importance of visitors being able to find the church. Morehead Church is located on one of the busiest roads in town, but had been using a banner as their church sign.

One week, a conference administrator was scheduled to be at the church and drove by several times trying to locate the facility. Following this unfortunate event, and the suggestion that the church needed a sign, the church members decided it was time to address the issue.

Last year, they purchased a large yard sign through the Southern Union sign program. All the members had to pay for was the sign and materials, which cost less than if they had purchased it locally, and the sign engineer installed it for free.

Their new sign allows them to place messages inviting the community to church events, or phrases that attract the attention of passersby. Boram says this exposure gets local residents thinking about the Seventh-day Adventist message.





Reggie Mattison, Southern Union sign engineer, prepares to install a highway directional sign.

PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER



Yaime Cordova, customer service representative for the Southern Union Church Identification Service, processes a new church sign order.



The new marquee sign for Warner Robins Church, Warner Robins, Georgia, receives quality control checks at the factory before being shipped to the church.

PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

PHOTO BY: REGGIE MATTISON

Another benefit of the new sign is it better represents the worldwide Church and the Seventh-day Adventist name.

“In our community, Seventh-day Adventist is a good brand,” says Boram. “The church is active in the community and the community knows who we are. This sign helps people identify the location with the people of the church who have been active in the community and helping out in many different community projects.”

Edward Bryan, pastor of the Macon, Georgia, Church, says, “The sign has a lot to do with the first impression of the physical building and campus.”

“We want it to be something that is more inviting and appealing to see what is going on inside,” says Bryan.

Located near the Warner Robbins Air Force Base, the town has a constant flow of new air force personnel and visitors. Being engaged with the community is an important focus for the church, and the church regularly has community and evangelism events.

“Most of our evangelism we do

through connecting with the community, doing community and social types of events,” says Bryan.

When the church holds an event that is specifically evangelistic in nature, there is a large pool of contacts the members can connect with. Bryan is excited that the new digital sign will “be able to have the same visual at the front of the church that they saw online, on social media, or got in a flyer.”

In addition, the old sign “has been a real eye-sore and doesn’t give a good presentation of our Church,” Bryan says. The Church stresses evangelism and inviting people to church, and an appealing sign can be an important part of a visitor’s experience.

While the new sign isn’t installed at the Macon Church yet, the members have already completed some other renovations to the campus. It has received several comments on how much better the church is looking.

The work the church members are doing is not just improving the curb appeal.

Says Bryan: “People feel like there’s new life in the church and there’s a lot of excitement going on.”

The timing of the church renovations allowed it to implement the new branding for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The updated branding provides ways for churches to have a more cohesive visual brand.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church enjoys a certain amount of name recognition. However, according to a recent audit conducted by a third-party group and commissioned by the North American Division, “we could benefit from greater consistency in church identity and branding.”

Why is branding consistency important? Visual disconnection is often perceived as unreliability. This lack of visual consistency can cause the very people you and your church are trying to reach, to see the church as unreliable.

Aristotle sums up this sentiment when he stated, “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.”

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Why not visit www.SouthernTidings.com and add it to your list of favorite sites? It's one more way you can be inspired of how God is working, from your local church to the entire Southern Union territory and beyond.



The new design standard provides some guidelines on how a church sign should look, such as the colors used and layout of the logo. While Bryan understands the new brand standard did limit their design choices, he says it simplified their process, while giving the church full creativity over content on the LED sign.

"We have the most beautiful message, and I think that needs to be reflected in all elements of the way we show face to the community," says Bryan.

Signs are an important way visitors know who you are and where you are located. When you think about your church's signage, will a first-time visitor see them easily? Will they help the visitor easily find your church? Are the signs attractive and inviting?

Next time you think "it's just a sign," remember, you never know who will see it or what impact the sign may have. Hopefully, your church's signage will help your church have a greater impact in the community, and help fulfill the Adventist Church's mission. 📌

*Maria Gonzales is not her real name.

PHOTO BY: ROBERT BORAM

The marquee sign at the Morehead, Kentucky, Church provides better visibility and branding for the church. The church has plans for additional landscaping around the sign to further improve the church's curb appeal.

Nathan Zinner is the associate director of communication at the Southern Union Conference.

MENTORING WOMEN IN THE 21ST CENTURY

BY SHIRLEY SCOTT

As we launch the Year of Revitalization, women's ministries' focus is on mentoring young women, ages 18-30. In November 2019, the Women's Ministries Department took the findings of the 2013 report, *5 Reasons Millennials Stay Connected to Church*, to heart. We made a commitment to encourage and support emerging women leaders who demonstrated excellent leadership skills, and who were deeply committed and active in their faith. According to the Barna Group's research, this group represents one-fourth of the young people who formerly attend church.

In response to the findings of the Barna Group, we set forth a number of objectives, the first of which was the establishment of the Annual Emerging Women Leader Scholarship Award. Three \$1,000 scholarship awards are given each year to female students, one from each of the universities in the Southern Union Conference. Our goal is to develop meaningful relationships with them during and after their college life.

We are delighted to announce three emerging women leaders for 2019:

Vantonise Coley, a student at Advent-Health University in Orlando, Florida, is a nursing major from the Florida Conference. She volunteers for an organization that serves the homeless population in downtown Orlando. The organization provides food, clothing, and



Vantonise Coley

health screenings, as well as housing and job placement. Coley also uses her leadership skills to mentor other nursing students. She enjoys the satisfaction of giving support and encouragement to her classmates in a mentally challenging discipline. When asked how the institution and Church could make a positive impact on females, she advocated for resources that provide mentoring opportunities to students in their chosen field of study. This is what the Barna Group calls "vocational discipleship." The provision

of grants/scholarships would also be tremendously helpful, according to Coley. She expressed gratitude for the Emerging Women Leaders Scholarship Award, as it will help her with educational costs.

Jessica Davidson, a student majoring in the field of health science at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, is a member of the South Atlantic Conference. Davidson utilizes her God-anointed leadership skills in a variety of venues, including her church, community, and school. As early as middle school, she has served in leadership positions. Those who recommended Davidson spoke highly of her ability to lead and inspire others, and viewed her as an excellent role model. She has served as a presenter and exercise instructor for the Healthy Choices initiative at Oakwood University. Concerning her philosophy about leadership, Davidson believes that empathy, teamwork, and integrity are critically important. She also believes that the contributions of women in various ministries need to be recognized and extended into the mission field.

Joi McClellan has led out in various ministries while attending Southern Adventist University. She believes that ministering to others has had a profound impact on her personal and spiritual growth. As a member of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, she is involved in the campus organization GYCSE, a youth initiated movement united in a common commitment to serious Bible



Jessica Davidson



Joi McClellan

study, intense prayer, uncompromising lifestyle, and boldness in sharing Christ with others. She serves as programming coordinator. This campus group hosts bi-annual conferences focusing on relevant topics that encourage students in their spiritual walk with Jesus. When asked what Bible story she would use to describe the Emerging Women Leaders initiative to support and encourage women, she reflected on Timothy: “Though not a woman,” she admits, “Timothy’s entire life story was an example of how the church community poured into the lives of others.” She likens the Emerging Women Leaders Scholarship to Timothy being mentored by Paul. It reflects the spiritual community to which she belongs seeing value in her and encouraging and supporting her to pursue the calling God has for her life. McClellan would love to see more mentoring and discipling from the local churches.

We, the Southern Union Women’s Ministries Department, believe that Titus 2:3-5 is one of our mandates. We are admonished as older women to teach the younger women to live godly lives. We live in challenging, yet exciting times. God has already given us a glimpse of what a dynamic mentoring process looks like through the biblical stories of Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Elizabeth, and yes, Paul and Timothy.

The Women’s Ministries Department is committed to effectively ministering to the needs of our young women, and inviting them to work along with us to change the world for Christ. We recognize that to accomplish this, we must change. We can no longer talk or hope in terms of passing the baton of leadership from one generation to another. We must be intentional and illustrate our commitment to do so with tangible actions. To revitalize our ministry in ways that are relevant, vibrant, and attractive to the young, we need their innovative ideas, energy, and perspectives. To have a ministry that represents women of all ages, races/ethnicities, and cultures with the diversity of skills and talents in our Union, we need to stand and work with each other, side by side. Women’s ministries is excited about the exponential possibilities of mentoring women in the 21st century. It is our prayer that it will have revitalization power, and will bridge the gap between generations. College women who desire to apply for the Emerging Women Leaders Scholarship Award, can find the information and application by visiting our website. Applications must be submitted by September 15, to the women’s ministries director of the student’s local conference where their church membership is held.

In preparing to meet the challenges faced by the 21st century women, we included

formal training on mentoring at our Union departmental meeting in November 2019. Sonia Paul, who has served as a lifelong mentor, is the former women’s ministries director for the South Central Conference, and former coordinator of the mentoring program for women at Oakwood University, was the presenter. In her dynamic presentation, she presented a 10-Step Process in developing a church mentoring program. She recommended that the conference directors develop an objective statement for which the outcomes could be measured (e.g., developing self-esteem, self-confidence, and communication empowerment). A Mentor Me Survey template was also provided for women’s ministries leaders as they lead out in their congregations. Each conference director received the book, *Together: A Mentoring Guide for Mentors and Mentees*, by Nancy Lindgren. The book contains 12 sessions that lead mentors and mentees through conversation starters, encouragement starters, and prayer starters. In her book, Lindgren succinctly states our vision in the following passage:

“We need to come together — to be intentional, to be available, to give our genuine presence to one another.” “We need to be together — united in purpose and growing into the fullness of who God has made us to be, each with our own unique story, life experiences, personality, and giftings.” “We need to move together — in the direction of God’s best plan for us.” It is our prayer that each Women’s Ministries Department in our local churches will join us in the work of revitalization by supporting the next generation of emerging women leaders.

The Union director welcomes the opportunity to hold women’s forums to discuss ideas and action plans. Churches interested in ministering women for the 21st century can find resources on our website at www.southernunion.com/womens-ministries. Join us in this exciting adventure of revitalization. ●

Shirley Scott is the women’s ministries director at the Southern Union Conference.

“TOP RURAL HOSPITAL”

AdventHealth Manchester Keeps Mission Central

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ



AdventHealth Manchester in Kentucky, one of AdventHealth's 15 facilities to receive a 'Top Hospital' designation, extends its mission beyond hospital walls.

AdventHealth Manchester, named a Top Rural Hospital by the nonprofit health care ratings organization The Leapfrog Group, is recognized nationally for its quality and patient safety. But in Clay County, Kentucky, the community knows the hospital for so much more.

“Our team at AdventHealth Manchester is very familiar with the struggles of the people in this region,” said James Couch, assistant vice president for administration at AdventHealth Manchester. “We’re called to mission. It’s more than a job for a lot of us, and that’s why we move into the flow of people’s lives.

We’re in the grocery store with them, we’re in their home with them, we’re improving their conditions.”

Couch is referring to the facility’s various community projects which take leaders and team members inside local homes, churches, and businesses to make a difference. AdventHealth Manchester



As part of the Healthy Homes project, a team from AdventHealth constructs a ramp to improve a resident’s access into their home.

is actively involved in several community projects: construction and repairs in the homes of patients living in unhealthy conditions, a proliferation of kiosks that provide clean water to residents, a Christian academy, a homeless shelter, and an outdoor youth organization.

“AdventHealth is probably our most active community member,” said Daniel Finley, president of the Manchester – Clay County Chamber of Commerce and first vice president of the Clay County Historical Society. “They are really involved in community activities and groups. They donate to various worthy causes. They are interested in being a partner, and have a legitimate concern for their team members.”

In a rural community hard-hit by high rates of unemployment, poverty, food insecurity, and substance abuse, this sort of active civic engagement is vital, especially as health and policy leaders continue to connect the conditions in the places where people live, work, and play — the social determinants of health — with health risks and outcomes.

AdventHealth Manchester finds various opportunities to combat social maladies and care for the underserved,



AdventHealth Manchester helped build two water kiosks to improve access to clean drinking water in the Manchester, Kentucky, community. The hospital is planning to partner with other organizations to build two more.

many times with the help of other non-profit organizations. For instance, the hospital supports Ken Bolin, pastor, and the Manchester Baptist Church with the Warm Souls for Worn Souls Homeless Shelter. To date, two water kiosks have been built to improve access to clean water, with the help of the University of Tennessee, Red Bird Mission, and the Oneida Baptist Institute. It’s also

partnering with the faith-based outdoor program development organization Impact Outdoors Adventures to convert a property dubbed “Miracle Mountain” to a home for youth sports and outdoor activities.

“We live in one of the unhealthiest places in the country in terms of diabetes and heart disease,” said Joe Farmer, local insurance agent and Manchester activist who approached AdventHealth with the idea for Miracle Mountain. “This project fits well with my mission to do outreach and get kids outdoors and active, and AdventHealth’s mission to extend Christ’s healing ministry.”

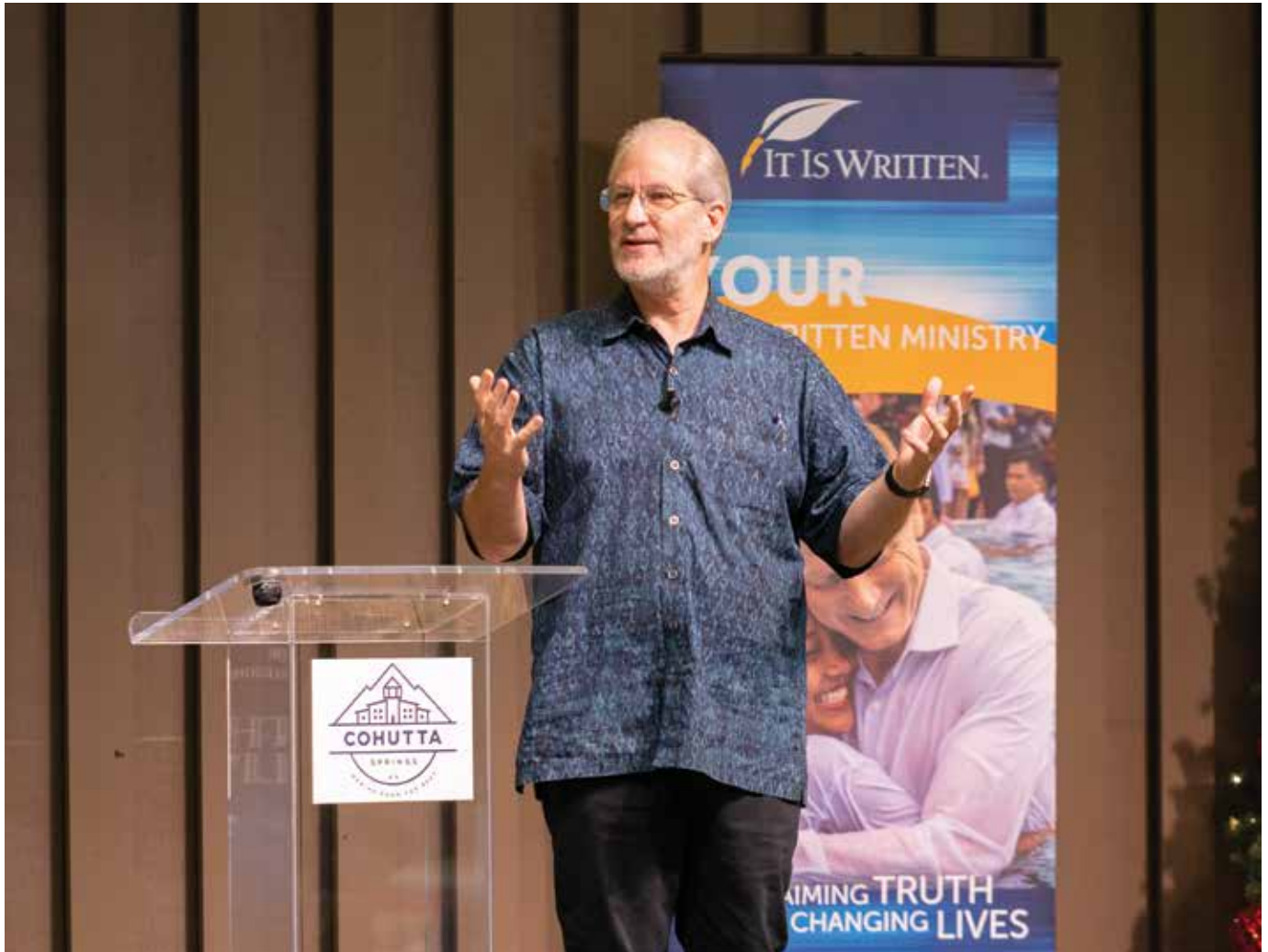
And, even when the challenges seem too great, the community does not lose faith.

“Whatever our community needs, God has the resources to provide it. We just have to knock and seek,” Bolin said. “AdventHealth has been such a blessing with that.”

Ingrid Hernandez is the stakeholder communications manager at AdventHealth.

Best-kept Secret: RECHARGE!

BY YVES MONNIER



Keynote ReCharge speaker, Bill McClendon, executive vice-president for administration at the North Pacific Union Conference, presents at the ReCharge Conference.

Evangelism is the very front line of Christian warfare. That's where amazing victories are secured, but also where bitter defeats are endured because the devil does push back. And, all can be a significant emotional toll for those involved in soul-winning. That's

why in 2018, It Is Written inaugurated ReCharge, an annual evangelism retreat, designed specifically for those in the thick of the battle for lost souls. It is a time to recharge, and then to go back out invigorated to charge on for the Lord.

Our most recent ReCharge took place

December 15-17, 2019, and included church leaders, pastors, and members from 16 conferences. At the serene Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia, the group was inspired by the timely presentations of Bill McClendon, Alan Parker, and Eric



Attendees enjoy the presentation.

Flickinger, all veteran evangelists, as they focused on church revitalization through evangelism. However, the best part about the time together was the fellowship, a time of sharing and encouragement.

One of the pastors in attendance shared a little bit about his journey in evangelism. He opened up about the struggles he faced leading his church from complacency to church growth. Everybody felt and related to the raw emotion. What he was going through was exactly what so many others present were going through as well. When he was done, the group paused and prayed for divine intervention. It was a powerful moment.

The three days went by way too quickly. Everybody departed energized to start a new year, 2020, with God's wind in their sails. The departing comments were encouraging. One attendee said in reference to the experience, "It recharged me with renewed energy to keep going and not give up." Another person shared that "the combination of specific leadership and personal experiences helped me greatly to incorporate the learning into my own situations. I loved sharing some of my story and praying



Karen Matambo (center, right), shares information on evangelism resources.

with others." Another person put it like this: "I'm so happy I took the time to come. This must be one of the best-kept training event secrets."

It Is Written is already planning for the next ReCharge retreat at the end of 2020, December 13-15. We pray for an even larger group to be present, and that

ReCharge will no longer be a best-kept secret. Jesus is coming soon, and more than ever we need to fulfill the Great Commission entrusted us. ●

Yves Monnier is the evangelism director at It Is Written in Collegedale, Tennessee.

Children Pick Two Toys During TOY GIVEAWAY

BY JUAN RODRIGUEZ



Figuring how a new toy works is fun, but sharing it with a friend is even better!



So many toys to choose from as each child is allowed to pick two at the Clewiston, Florida, Toy Rally.

On a balmy 79-degree December afternoon, children and parents from the Clewiston, Florida, Spanish Company neighborhood began strolling onto the church grounds. More than 75 children took advantage of the opportunity to join in a toy giveaway and select two toys of their choosing.

Florida Conference youth and young adult ministries hosted the toy rally for underprivileged children living next to Lake Okeechobee in Clewiston. Each child (ages 1-12) was able to pick two toys from the large amount of collected toys. Toy donations came from Miami, Florida; a toy drive held at the Florida Conference Office; and from Florida Adventist Motorcycle Ministry Team.

Before the toy rally, Freddy Rodriguez, associate director, and Juan Rodriguez,



A mother shares in the joy of a new toy with her child.

director of Florida Conference youth and young adult ministries, led out in worship services for those people already on the grounds. A few people took advantage of the invitation and stepped into an Adventist Church for the first time.

This rally was part of an annual toy rally that in 2018 was held in Immokalee, Florida. “Last year, we gave gifts to over 300 kids in Immokalee,” said Juan Rodriguez. “Next year, plans are being made to hold a big rally in central Florida.”

Juan Rodriguez is the director of youth and young adult ministries for Florida Conference.

MAKING AN IMPACT

on Public Campuses

BY NELSON SILVA



The last meeting of 2019 for Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF)* ended in the assigned meeting room. However, after the meeting, the students moved to an open space with chairs and tables where informal conversation happened, as well as spontaneous laughs and bonding among friends and acquaintances. In other words, the students were “hanging out.”

If I were asked when does the most important part of student gatherings happen, I would answer, without hesitation, “when students hang out.” When adults are included in those informal conversations and the titles and awkwardness of formality are dropped, then heartfelt issues and real life conversation may take place. That is often experienced on mission trips. There are no agendas, or phones ringing, or rushing to be somewhere. As a result, people turn to each other for conversation and, not surprisingly, friendship flourishes and intimacy happens. In fact, many in that group had

experienced that level of friendship a few months before on a Cuba Mission Trip.

In a goodbye ritual that drags out for minutes, in this case, but for what seemed to be hours, someone shouted, “Wait! We haven’t taken a picture yet.” Intuitively, a student asked a stranger who was also hanging out to take a picture of the ACF group. She graciously stepped up and began to give directions to the group in order to achieve the best possible picture. After many laughs and an acceptable result, the conversation continued. Now, this perfect stranger is at the center. We learned about her life, ethnicity, and academic journey. Shortly after she left, she returned to the group with another student by her side. She introduced him as someone who should be a part of this “religious group.” It turned out that this student grew up in a missionary Christian family, but made bad choices that landed him involved with drugs. In fact, he carries around his neck multiple roundish color-coded keychains that represent a month of sobriety.

At the first ACF meeting of the new year, I was thrilled to see students I did not recognize, pastors who attended the meeting in support of the students, and the two perfect strangers met the prior month in the lobby of MTSU outside the meeting room.

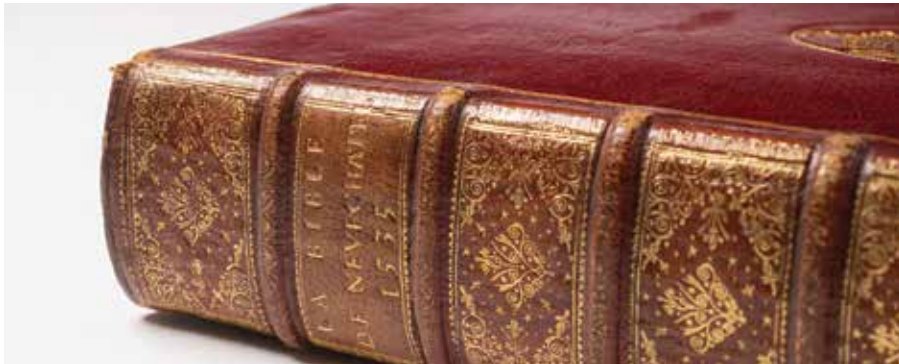
Public Campus Ministries is, arguably, the most strategic mission field. Today’s students will be tomorrow’s leaders, entrepreneurs, and professionals who will direct the affairs of this world and influence many in the United States and the world. Would you consider hanging out with your group of students today? A friendly smile, a plate of food, or even a ride may make the difference for eternity.

*ACF is a student-led small group on public campuses, and registered as a student organization that is supported by local congregations. 📍

NELSON SILVA is the associate youth director at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Celebrating the History of GOD'S WORD

BY TIERRA HAYES



On display in the “From Script to Scripture” exhibit at Southern, the Olivitán is a pre-reformation French Bible from 1535.



On a replica of the Wittenberg doors hangs an original printing of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses.

PHOTO BY: TERRY HENSON

PHOTO BY: RYAN PIERCE

To access the Bible today, you might download a free app to your smartphone, visit a free website, or purchase a printed Bible on Amazon for as little as \$1.99. Yet just a few hundred years ago, only Catholic priests could access the printed Word of God, and millions of individuals sacrificed their lives to make the Bible available to the common people. Inspired by this sacrifice, Southern Adventist University opened a new temporary exhibit titled “From Script to Scripture,” bringing this history to life through original rare Bibles, manuscripts, art, and more.

“I’m very excited about this particular exhibit because to me it highlights the reason why we are here as an institution, as a church,” said Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D., director of Southern’s Institute of Archaeology and curator of the Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum, where the exhibit is located. “It shares the legacy of the millions of people who gave up so much of their freedom, and even their lives, to preserve the Bible so that we could have it today.”

With approximately 80 items on display, visitors take a journey through the history of printing the Bible, and explore the innovations of the alphabet, the printing press,



Michael G. Hasel, Ph.D. (center), curator of the museum, answers visitors’ questions.

PHOTO BY: RYAN PIERCE

and modern technology that have made the Bible the best-selling book of all time. They can view a 1535 pre-reformation French Bible called the Olivitán, a complete 1611 King James Version Bible, and leaves from a Gutenberg Bible and from the first Bible ever printed in North America. Also featured are many works significant to the Protestant Reformation, including an original printing of Martin Luther’s 95 Theses on a replica of the Wittenberg doors.

The exhibit opened to the public on January 15, 2020, and will remain on display until April 2021. Individuals and school groups alike are welcome to visit for free; more information, including museum hours,

is available at southern.edu/archaeology.

Emely Mejia, a senior art therapy major who works at the museum, feels that the display can expand any visitor’s walk with God.

“If the Bible is something that we as Christians say we believe,” she said, “then we should know its history.”

For Hasel, the exhibit directly aligns with the mission of Southern as it highlights the lives of reformers and agents of change, such as John Calvin and Martin Luther, who were not much older than the average Southern student when they impacted the course of history.

“I hope the exhibit will inspire young people,” Hasel said. “Sometimes we think that in order to do something great for God we have to be older or we have to have more experience, but it’s very exciting to see that many of these thinkers, many of these revolutionaries or reformers, were young people who were very convicted by the Word of God to create change that would bring about hope and light.”

Tierra Hayes, originally from Athens, Georgia, is a senior mass communication major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

DAVID M. JONES

Honored for Pastoral Service

BY JAMES LAMB, PH.D.

David M. Jones, pastor, affectionately known as “D.M.,” was recently the South Atlantic Conference’s honoree at the Pastors’ Evangelism and Leadership Conference (PELC), held annually on the campus of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, for his many years of full-time active ministry. And, there are no signs of him slowing down.

Jones was born in Jacksonville, Florida. His parents believed in Adventist Christian education, and he attended Ephesus Junior Academy in Jacksonville, for elementary and junior academy. Afterward, he attended Pine Forge Academy for high school, and then Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) where he received a bachelor of arts degree in theology. He continued his studies at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan; the Institute of America in Bible Philosophy, Kansas City, Missouri; and the Georgia Baptist College & Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia, where he received an honorary doctor of divinity.

During his ministry, he has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a literature evangelist, Bible worker, pastor, teacher, and evangelist. His service also includes director of security and medical for the Southern Union Conference, North American Division (NAD), and the International Pathfinders Camporee. He served in the South Atlantic Conference as director of Sabbath School and children’s ministries, safety officer, and vice president for administration (the first to serve in this capacity in the Conference). Currently, he serves as director of health ministries and archivist/historian for South Atlantic.

During his ministry, he organized and built several churches, as well as a new



William Winston (right), president of the South Atlantic Conference, presents David M. Jones, Conference director of health ministries and archivist/historian, with a plaque from the Pastors’ Evangelism and Leadership Conference, held annually on Oakwood University’s campus in Huntsville, Alabama.

school building. He has served on numerous committees and boards. His professional emphasis has not only been in pastoral ministry, but health and safety as well. He is an NAD certified lifestyle consultant, served as the chairperson of the Offender Aid and Restoration-Eastern Division of North Carolina, and has been a member of the Mayor’s Minority Affairs Committee in several cities where he’s pastored. He has served the community as a chaplain for the police or sheriff’s office in each of his districts, and presently serves the Newton County, Georgia, sheriff’s office.

The highlight of his ministry was baptizing his mother, father, and aunt during one of his evangelism crusades. He has also baptized individuals who

later became Adventist pastors.

Jones is married to the former G. Delores Monroe of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They have three adult children, Denise, Darlene, and David II; and three grandchildren, Desiree, Darkari, and Daylin.

Jones loves people and enjoys being called “pastor.” He believes when you are called to be a minister of the Gospel, you do it to make history, not to make money. Jones appreciates his calling and has baptized more than 2,500 individuals for the Kingdom of God. ●

James Lamb, Ph.D., is the human resources director and communication director at the South Atlantic Conference in Decatur, Georgia.

FIRST 2020 REGENERATE CONFERENCE

Held in Montgomery

BY RALPH L. RINGER

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, was the keynote speaker on Friday, January 24, and presented the Sabbath sermon on the 25th. His message, “From Broken Spirits to Burning Hearts,” set the tone for the Maranatha Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

Joe Grider, D.Min., ministerial director for the South Central Conference, was the speaker during Sabbath School. He dealt with relationships in families, churches, and community.

On Sabbath afternoon, John Boston II, evangelist and associate director for evangelism for the North American Division Evangelism Institute at Andrews University, presented “Strengthen What Remains.” He led two workshops: “Core Values of the Connected Church” and “The Pastoral Care Plan for Church Revitalization.”

Two other presenters offered workshops in the afternoon: Olin McGraw, pastoral associate in ministry at West End Church in Atlanta, Georgia, with “Revitalizing Churches Using Vacation Bible School;” and Clifton McMillan, pastor of the Maranatha Church in Montgomery, and Christ is the Answer Church in Hurtsboro, Alabama, with “Church Healing and Discipleship.”

Ralph Ringer closed with “Challenges and Opportunities.”

McMillan said, “This Conference is a



Clifton McMillan Sr. (center), pastor of Maranatha Church in Montgomery, Alabama, prays for the revival for his church and the ReGenerate Conference.



The ReGenerate team includes Olin McGraw (left), Ralph Ringer, Clifton McMillan, John Boston II, and David Fulford, lay pastor at the Camden, Alabama, Church.

powerful tool to refocus the Church on its reason for existence. It helped Maranatha and the other churches in the area to receive motivation, encouragement, and concrete tools for the revitalization of a mission-driven focus.

“The presenters brought both strategies and practical experience in evangelism and church growth. The emphasis on prayer and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in conjunction with a willingness to plan and execute effectively, challenged us all to go.

“This Conference was an explosive

testimony of what can be done when the Union, conferences, and churches partner together for a revitalized work. I would recommend this Conference for every region of the Division looking for revitalization and a clear focus to reach a 21st Century world with the timeless Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

There are several more ReGenerate Conferences in the Southern Union this year. The next four scheduled:

- March 6-7, Macon, Georgia
- March 20-21, Hendersonville, North Carolina

- April 2-4, Memphis, Tennessee
 - April 10-12, Ringgold, Georgia
- For more details, visit www.regenerateconference.org. 📍

Ralph L. 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.

WAKE UP

Your Church With Prayer

BY DAVID A. LONG

Are we as a Church asleep? Is it okay to be asleep in times like these? Is it okay for the members and pastors of churches to not expect any baptisms? Is this a hypnotic state that blinds members and leaders to relax in turbulent times?

John had a vision in which Jesus was walking among the seven candlesticks (seven churches) inspecting them. After the vision, John wrote a letter to each church with Jesus' diagnosis and prescription. To the church of Laodicea, Jesus said, “I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot So then because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth.” This is a stern diagnosis, but then comes the prescription for a second chance: “Therefore be zealous and repent,” Revelation 3:15, 16, 19 NKJV.

To the churches today that are asleep, the summons from Scripture is this: “And ... that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now, our salvation is nearer than when we first believed,” Romans 13:11. Along with this heavenly call, the Southern Union and all local conferences have designated 2020 as “The Year of Church Revitalization.”



Therefore, pastors and members are being asked to pray for personal revival and church revitalization. Many are using 10DaysOfPrayer.org as a guide for personal and small group prayer. Through prayer, each of us can be zealous, repent, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. On this foundation of prayer, Spirit-led church boards will be able to decide on a few measurable steps for church growth and community engagement that will be consistently implemented and prayerfully evaluated.

Our churches *can* experience more vi-

tal. Our churches *can* receive a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Our waning churches *will* be revived! It begins with prayer. Many are already praying for personal revival. Will you pray for the revival to begin with you? You can start by recommitting your life to Jesus today, and each day from now on. 📍

David A. Long is the director of stewardship, personal ministries, Sabbath School, prayer ministries, and prison ministries at the Southern Union Conference.

Oakwood University Partners With Huntsville Hospital and AdventHealth for CHAPLAINCY TRAINING PROGRAM

BY OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY IMPR STAFF

The School of Religion at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala., recently announced that it has partnered with Huntsville Hospital on the local level and AdventHealth on the national level, to begin a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) program.

Through this dynamic partnership, Oakwood University will be providing classroom training and clinical learning opportunities in conjunction with the spiritual care team of Huntsville Hospital for pastors interested in earning their CPE. After 400 hours of training, 100 in the classroom and 300 in the field, students will be prepared to serve people from all faith traditions in a variety of venues.

“As a former community chaplain, I was blessed to serve women and men in their deepest valleys. In our city, and in our nation, the need for spiritual care and support is undeniable. In higher education, corporations, professional athletics, hospitals, criminal detention centers, the military, and across all populations, people are dealing with great



Administrators from Oakwood University, AdventHealth, and Huntsville Hospital commemorate the new partnership: David Spillers (seated, left), CEO of Huntsville Hospital Health System, shakes hands with Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., president of Oakwood University. Standing are Colwick Wilson, Ph.D. (left), provost of Oakwood University; Derrick Whitlow, Th.D., chaplain at Huntsville Hospital; and Cory Rowe, D.Min., chaplaincy/CPE coordinator at Oakwood University.

difficulties. Chaplains are trained to help persons navigate challenging and stressful circumstances,” said Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., president of Oakwood University. “Along with the support of our partners, we will equip students to fill this great need,” he continued.

“Huntsville Hospital has provided full

time chaplaincy services for our patients and staff for more than four decades. We’re very pleased that we can work with Oakwood University and AdventHealth in the training of more certified chaplains for organizations across this state and nation,” said David Spillers, CEO of Huntsville Hospital Health System.

In the first stage of implementing the CPE program at Oakwood working toward its own accredited program, AdventHealth is lending its accreditation to establishing the new program. “We are happy to begin to receive applications from potential students, and look forward to a meaningful relationship of learning and community service together,” said Ramona Reynolds, BCC,

ACPE educator, executive director, ministry education and research at AdventHealth Orlando, Institute for Ministry Education and Research at AdventHealth University.

To learn more about the new CPE program or to apply, please visit: www.pastoraleducation.org 📍

AHU Student Educates, Encourages Low-income Population

Driven by a vision to teach spiritual healing and whole-person care, AdventHealth University's (AHU) program curriculums incorporate service-focused, practical learning. Students in the master of occupational therapy (MOT) and occupational therapy assistant (OTA) programs complete this requirement through their Matthew 25 courses, which requires mission-focused clinical work that serves the underrepresented population of the community.

AHU's MOT program has a permanent partnership with the Wayne Densch Center, a nonprofit housing program in Orlando, Fla. The partnership was established by MOT department chair Tia Hughes, Dr.O.T., in 2017. The Center provides low-income housing for homeless individuals with chronic physical health, mental health, and/or substance abuse issues, for a period ranging from 30 weeks to a maximum stay of two years. Each resident has their own apartment, where they are required to meet standards of living.

Students in AHU OT programs will complete coursework at the Center, but Anna-Kate Reed was selected as an intern at the Center for three months in 2019. "The residents are still asking about her. They're asking [the Center] to hire her!" said Milly Rodriguez, OTR/L, AHU clinical faculty, and the person who hand-picked Reed for the internship.

One of Reed's internship objectives was to increase socialization among the residents of the Center. Many of the residents have been homeless for several years, and often have a mental health diagnosis. "A lot of times they felt very isolated and alone," explained Reed. Reed's goal was to get them to come out and participate in activities. She organized classes like an introduction to Spanish, since some of the residents mainly spoke Spanish. "I was trying to build more community there," she said.

She also helped them become more

active. She elaborated, "Every day, I led some kind of physical activity: taking walks, playing games like volleyball or kickball. One time we made a human-sized chutes and ladders game."

Since her internship took place over some of the hottest months in Florida, she also planned indoor activities like board games to get the residents together. She even learned how to play chess from one of the



Anna-Kate Reed at her 2019 graduation from AdventHealth University.

residents. "It was a lot of fun," she said.

Her efforts paid off. By the end of her internship, she said that "people were coming together and hanging out with each other — people who hadn't even said hi to each other at the start."

In addition to her socialization activities, Reed had the opportunity to work with residents for in-home evaluations and life skills education. Students from different MOT cohorts would visit weekly, led by Rodriguez, to provide weekly support.

These opportunities gave Reed a chance to work with residents on an individual basis. The Center's "fragile housing"

population often face physical and mental challenges that make daily life tasks like home maintenance difficult. She and her fellow classmates often assisted residents, who would schedule an appointment in advance, with cleaning their homes.

"One...amazing thing with this whole experience was seeing the importance of listening," said Reed, "Things they really needed got overlooked or they didn't feel heard, so just sitting down, listening, and asking 'what do you need help with?' could have the biggest impact."

AHU students are taught to practice whole-person care, and the importance of empathy in a patient's healing. That, even when under pressure, taking a moment to talk to a person about their mental and emotional state can greatly improve their care. "Being in the therapy field, we can take the time to stop and see how they're doing to improve their stay and help them heal faster," commented Reed.

Like many healthcare careers, this role isn't for everyone. To adjust your way of thinking when communicating with a population that often struggles with behavioral and social challenges, requires a certain personality and ample patience. Reed said, "You have to be open and nonjudgmental. There's a bit of human nature where sometimes we think we're better than others, when, really, we're all the same."

Reed's plans now include passing her board exams, and working toward a job at a pediatric extended care facility. She said she would also like to work in home health care, due to her experiences at the Center.

Reflecting on her internship, Reed seemed as positively affected as the residents were by her. "A lot of the residents are amazing. I really enjoyed them ... I taught them a couple things," she said, "but they taught me so much more." 📍

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Three Angels Company Has Big Outreach Project

The Batesburg-Leesville, S.C., Three Angels Seventh-day Adventist Company is a small church located in the western section of the state. Nearly all of its 60 members live outside the geographic area, some traveling up to an hour to attend services, but that doesn't stop the enthusiasm and love for outreach the members have. Its members love the Lord, and desire to spread His last day message of love and hope to the community.

On some Fridays, you will see members come together, led by the head deacon, to cut grass, clear overgrown shrubs, and generally spruce up yards for the elderly and those who cannot afford to pay for their yards to be cleaned professionally. Under the umbrella of the church's community services program, and in conjunction with the town's code enforcement officer, the members have helped many individuals who could not otherwise have had their yards cleaned, and, because of their efforts, the community is a better place as well. The church was recently recognized by the town's newspaper, *The Twin City News*, for its community service project. Another outreach project sponsored by the church assists primarily single mothers. Having one's oil changed can be the last thing on a list of "to-dos" for a single mom who is running out of time and money. Recognizing this, the members have partnered with a local vendor to provide oil changes for



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

preselected women who fit the criteria for the program. The evangelism team works with state and local agencies to find individuals who have a need for the program. This keeps the cars running a little longer for the women in the community, helps the members to make friends with the single-parent families, and eventually, through other programs like Vacation Bible School, may help these individuals to see how much Jesus loves them and their children.

For the past three years, the members have provided food baskets for needy families of children attending the Batesburg-Leesville Primary School. This year was no exception. The members prepared 30 food baskets for primary school families, and included those in the community who were assisted through other outreach programs like the community services yard-cleaning program. They found it a huge blessing to help others.

Among additional evangelistic programs

are the church's classes on last day events, Daniel and Revelation seminars, and seed-sowing through Project Steps to Christ mailings and Bible studies. The members have an active nursing home ministry and visitation program. They also support international mission projects throughout the world, and publish a weekly article in the Twin City newspaper that presents a short story with a spiritual application.

In addition to all the current outreach programs, the members are embarking on a worldwide mission project to reach the world for Jesus. It has begun an internet radio station, available at www.777radio.org. The new station has many programs on Bible prophecy and health and wellness, children's programs, sermons, and soothing Christian music to spark interest in the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. The company requests prayer for 777 Radio.

God's blessings are abundant at Three Angels, and the members give God the glory for all He has done, and will do, as He continues to grow the company. They have not reached full church status yet, but the group continues to move ahead in God's strength, and they believe that mighty things are happening. 🕊

BY HELEN KOON,
EDITED BY SUSAN BALCERZAK

Rowan Helping Ministries Homeless Shelter Active More Than 30 Years

This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you," John 15:12. The ultimate demonstration of love is to serve. Serving others as Jesus did means to do something

for someone else without expecting any reward or gain. Members of the Salisbury, N.C., Church have been answering the call to love and serve in their community at Rowan Helping Ministries Homeless

Shelter for more than 30 years.

On the third Sabbath evening of odd months, church members come together to provide a home-cooked meal to an average of 70 men, women, and children



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO BY: JOHN KLAVER



PHOTO BY: JOHN KLAVER

seeking shelter. Members use this outreach opportunity to provide not only a meal but to share God’s love with those who are going through a difficult time. Each shelter guest is served with respect, patience, and kindness.

Three years ago, to further their outreach opportunities, women’s ministries and Pathfinders began offering a “Spa Day”

once a quarter. Guests visit various rejuvenating, self-esteem building spa stations: face masks, hand scrubs, nail painting, and foot soaking. Also provided is a special prayer table where the members actively pray with those who ask for prayer. Guests can also leave prayer requests, and take GLOW tracks, a devotional, and a personal hygiene kit with them.

The members have built a relationship with the guests and RHM Management through the years, and were able to offer an eight-week CREATION Health seminar in the spring of 2019. The members will continue to share God’s love to every individual in their community. ●

BY JOHN KLAVER

55 Take Stand for Christ at Palm Springs Church

Palm Springs, Fla., Church has grown exponentially by adding 55 new members since July 2018. Sabbath, December 14, 2019, Omar A. Palmer, senior pastor, gave an engraved trophy to each new parishioner. He challenged the new adherents to become disciples for Christ.

Evangelism is alive at Palm Springs Church. For instance, Palmer led out in the Life of Victory Evangelistic Series, October 5-26, 2019, which brought 15 individuals to Christ. However, Levi and Claudette Stewart, who attended the series, didn't get baptized, because they first wanted to be joined in holy matrimony. They were married December 8, 2019, and baptized December 14, 2019. Collectively, 31 new converts joined via baptism, and 24 by transfers since July 2018.

One of the unique features of the service was a spontaneous testimony slot. Palmer interviewed families about their spiritual journey. Jorge Gough recounted the tragic story of his 14-year-old "A" student son, Jaime Rodrigo Gough. He was killed 14 years ago by one of his classmates at the



Levi and Claudette Stewart are shown being baptized by Omar A. Palmer, pastor.



The Gough family displays their trophies.

Southwood Middle School in Florida. The family was, however, able to forgive the assailant.

Another feature of the church service was the dedication of Nathan and Jacqueline Anderson's baby.

To culminate the activities for the day, the Pathfinder club, which has experienced a 100% growth, from 9 to 19 in one year, led out in a unique program.

"Pastor Palmer and his leadership team must be highly commended for their re-

markable evangelistic initiatives," said Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., who attended the service while on vacation. "As I watched the service unfold, I thought of 2 Corinthians 2:14-16, 'But thanks be to God, Who in Christ always leads us in triumph [as trophies of Christ's victory] and through us spreads and makes evident everywhere the sweet fragrance of the knowledge of Him.'" ❶

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON, PH.D.

Lake Wales Church Choir Spreads Cheer

Lake Wales, Fla., Church choir treated the patients and staff of AdventHealth Lake Wales with melodious carols on December 22, 2019. Under the leadership of Glen Phillips, the 15-member choir sang in the emergency room, and then on three other floors of the hospital.

Smiles and thanks greeted this first visit of the carolers, and they look forward to this becoming an annual event. The choir also performs an outreach program every third Sabbath at the Grace Nursing Home in Lake Wales. ❶

BY ROSALEE CARTER



Glen Phillips (left) leads the Lake Wales Church choir in singing carols at AdventHealth Lake Wales.

Florida Conference Workers Ordained, Commissioned in 2019

CLAUDIO DIAZ
December 14, 2019 — Ordained



Westchester Church — Associate Pastor

Born in Cordoba, Argentina, Claudio Diaz emigrated to the United States in 2000. In Orlando, Fla., a community of friends supported his spiritual growth, he was convicted to be a pastor, and he met Elivette Potter. They later married and have two children: Franco and Natasha.

During college, he worked as a Bible worker through the Hispanic ministry of Upper Columbia Conference. After graduating, he became pastor of the Yakima district in Washington, and focused on development of Hispanic youth ministries. He then received a master of divinity at Andrews University. He serves as associate pastor at Westchester Church

PEDRO R. FERNANDEZ
October 19, 2019 — Ordained



AdventHealth East Orlando — Senior Chaplain

Pedro Fernandez clearly heard God’s call to ministry at 9 years old in Puerto Rico. His ministry experience includes pastoring in Puerto Rico and doing missionary work in the Philippines. While completing an M.Div. degree at Andrews University, he worked as a phone chaplain for Amazing Facts, Hope Channel, and It Is Written. After completing his clinical pastoral education, he joined the military serving as a chaplain, and he’s currently serving in the Navy Reserves.

He is married to Silvia, and they have three children: Asher, Aziel, and Sofia. His desire is to serve others, whatever the calling or need might be.

FARZAD NOURIAN
August 30, 2019 — Ordained



AdventHealth Central Florida Division North — Executive Region Director

Born to a Persian family in Iran, Farzad Nourian was sent to America for an education. He began delving into his faith in Islam and began reading a Bible given to him by a Christian friend. He gave his heart to the Lord, and became the first in his family to leave Islam. He obtained a master of divinity in chaplaincy from Liberty University.

After teaching, preaching, and doing seminars, he was called into chaplaincy ministry at AdventHealth, where he currently works as the executive region director for Central Florida Division - North. He and his wife, Kimberly, have three sons: Anthony, Saxon, and Max.

DAVID RILO CASTRO
August 31, 2019 — Ordained



Avon Park Spanish and Sebring Spanish Churches — Pastor

David Castro grew up in the beautiful city of A Coruña, Spain. When he was 10 years old, his mother met Jesus in the Adventist Church. This was a turning point in his experience with God. During an evangelistic campaign in the Dominican Republic, he met Angie, the person God chose for him. They have a son, Daian, and a daughter, Laia.

After completing a master of pastoral care at Sagunto Seminary in Spain, he received a call to pastor two Hispanic churches in Columbus, Ohio. He feels God’s continual leading as he pastors Hispanic churches in Avon Park and Sebring.

JOCELYN SHAW
August 16, 2019 — Commissioned



AdventHealth for Children — Senior Chaplain for Children

Jocelyn Shaw completed a B.A. in pastoral care at Southern Adventist University, a chaplain residency in 2013 at AdventHealth, and further clinical pastoral education. At Andrews University, she earned a master of divinity alongside her husband, Martin Shaw. They have one son, Arthur.

She has a passion for working in the cross section of healthcare and spirituality. Providing psychosocial, emotional, and spiritual support to patients, families, and staff members are top priorities for Shaw, and what brings the greatest meaning to her work. She serves as a senior chaplain for AdventHealth for Children.

CHRISTIAN TAYLOR
August 28, 2019 — Ordained



AdventHealth — Chaplain

The first 12 years of Christian Taylor’s life were ideal in Huntsville, Ala., but then life brought him back to his birthplace in Cleveland, Ohio, where distressed neighborhoods squeezed out his youthful curiosity. At 16, he dropped out of school and began searching for God’s purpose in his life. His life turned around when he met Rachel. He began to glimpse God’s plan for his life: to heal and help heal. They have two children: Elias and Charlotte.

After an M.Div./CPE residency at then Florida Hospital, he studied at Andrews University’s Theological Seminary. He serves as a chaplain with AdventHealth.

Chattanooga First Has 10 Years Providing for the Homeless



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY JUDITH P. NEMBARD

Members from the Chattanooga, Tenn., First Church have served the homeless in Chattanooga on the second Sabbath of the month for the past 10 years.

For months, the Chattanooga First Church Homeless Ministry team, led by Alma Sasser, tirelessly promoted their goal of distributing 100 Christmas bags to the homeless in downtown Chattanooga, Tenn. On the afternoon of December 14, 2019, working across the street from the city’s Community Kitchen, the team handed out 101 “Bags of Love,” each containing a hat, gloves, a fleece blanket, a small pillow, a survival blanket, hand warmers, toiletries, and a Bible.

The ministry began when Sasser, along with four Chattanooga First members and three friends, felt a need to do something for the homeless in the city. They consulted the head of the Adventist-operated Samaritan Center, Tony Dahlberg, who gave them suggestions. May 29, 2010, they met in the home of Laura Powers, prepared sandwiches, and took them downtown to the homeless. Powers, who had experienced homelessness living with her single mother in their car, was an early motivating ministry force.

Church members and friends heard about the small group’s activity, and many joined in, contributing fruit and water in addition to the sandwiches. A red barrel was provided at the church for members to contribute clothing. Some donated toiletries and personal care items. Others added literature, and still others prepared a prayer box for the homeless to place their prayer

requests. A few individuals even took their families and sang while the distributions were being made. Students from Southern Adventist University at times brought fruit and literature. Everyone was welcome to do whatever they could as often as they



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY JUDITH P. NEMBARD

could. For nearly 10 years now, the second Sabbath afternoon each month has found Sasser and a dedicated group of members and friends out among the homeless, serving them in love.

Contributions of clothing and blankets became so large that storage posed a problem, but a solution was found when a mem-

ber of the Floral Crest Adventist Church in Bryant, Alabama, provided space in her storage shed. Socks were added to the collection. “Charity races such as the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association, the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and the Iron Man Competition have been extremely generous,” Sasser says. “All have donated hundreds of T-shirts, so many that we’ve sent some overseas to missions.”

On the first Sabbath of each month, Sasser distributes to each Sabbath School class a green envelope with the words FEED THE HOMELESS in large letters on it, and members contribute to the outreach ministry.

From its small beginning, the homeless ministry has found a firm place at Chattanooga First. Concerning that December afternoon when the “Bags of Love” were handed out, Sasser says, “We took time to talk with [the homeless] and share with them the love of Jesus.” Everyone at Chattanooga First is on board with this ministry. This includes interim pastor, Douglas Jacobs, who came to the church in May 2019. Having recently guided a relative through a difficult period of personal challenges, including homelessness, Jacobs says he realizes how essential such a ministry is. “It is fulfilling the basic function of what Jesus called us to do.”

BY JUDITH P. NEMBARD

“Yes, We Can!” Says Fayette to CREATION Health



PHOTO BY: SUBMITTED BY JOSEPH REDLEY

Pictured are the church members from the Fayette Church in Fayetteville, Ga. They recently said “Yes, We Can!” to the CREATION Health program. It was exciting for them to see how lives were changed using the program, and three people were baptized with many others taking Bible studies.

“Yes, we can!” is the theme shared amongst the CREATION Health Ministry leaders at Fayette Church in Fayetteville, Ga. They have witnessed healing from diabetes, improved blood pressure, weight loss, baptisms, and more.

It started in February 2017. Several members had experienced other health awareness programs, but were impressed with the comprehensive scope and the Bible’s creation week foundation of the CREATION Health program. With a main coordinator, an activity coordinator, five table leaders, and 26 eager students, they launched their first CREATION Health seminar.

The program was received with great enthusiasm as participants enrolled. For eight weeks they engaged in open discussions and active participation, expanding on each letter of the CREATION Health acronym — **C**hoice, **R**est, **E**nvironment, **A**ctivity, **T**rust, **I**nterpersonal relationships, **O**utlook, and **N**utrition.

Participants held each other accountable, and many confessed that it was this

accountability component of the program that helped them reach their goals.

Church members, as well as guests from the surrounding communities, spoke highly of the program and shared stories of how the program impacted their health and quality of life. They spoke of weight loss, normalized blood pressure, lowered cholesterol level, doctors discontinuing insulin prescriptions, and doctors even requesting information on the program.

On the first evening, participants underwent biometric screening. Individuals were anxious to have their blood tests done to determine their baseline. Weight and height were measured, and BMI (Body Mass Index) was calculated. These tests were then repeated at the program’s conclusion. Several participants were elated to see positive changes in their blood pressure; some saw weight loss; and others had improvement in their blood pressure, glucose, and cholesterol readings.

One key component of their CREATION Health seminars was the cooking demonstrations. Although nutrition is the last of the acronyms, it was a focus

throughout the entire eight weeks. They taught proper nutrition and how to prepare nutritious, attractive, and tasty plant-based meals. Meal preparation was demonstrated at each session, with attendees participating during four occasions. On the final day of class each participant was invited to make and bring a dish of their choosing for the entire class to sample.

Following the eight-week CREATION Health series, members decided to add a four-month follow-up. They met twice per month, and added Bible study to health and wellness using the Bible and health lesson series from the Ministry Mission Education Evangelistic Training (MEET). They praise God for three baptisms and several individuals in Bible studies as a direct result of their outreach utilizing the “right arm of the Gospel.”

CREATION Health is just scratching the surface with what church members who take advantage of Total Membership Involvement (TMI). They invite all to join them and say, “Yes, we can!”

BY JOSEPH REDLEY

North Bay Overcomes Adversity



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Luke McCutcheon, 11, plays the piano for the evangelistic series.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

North Bay Church evangelism teams pray before the start of the evening program.

For the last four years, the North Bay Church in Panama City, Fla., has encountered numerous obstacles to public evangelism. Death in the family, recurrence of cancer, an automobile accident, and a hurricane are just a few examples of what has affected pastors and local leadership. Any time the church began to make plans for some substantial public outreach, another tragedy struck.

Despite the enemy's attempts, the church pressed forward. North Bay Church embarked on a five-week series that emphasized understanding prophecy on January 10, 2020. "It was a big deal to get this series going," said Bill Gager, pastor. "Last year, on the way to our second planning session for this series, one of our lay leaders was in a severe car accident." After some time for recovery, the member rejoined the local team, and plans were made.

The series incorporates two additional presenters apart from the pastor, Jonnie Shipbaugh, local elder, and Julia Lewis, communication director for North Bay. With alternating presentations, the series



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Julia Lewis presents during the evangelistic series at North Bay Church.

is presented as a team and incorporates other members in various roles, from childcare to greeters, snack preparation, and even a young pianist to accompany the opening and closing songs.

The members have been blessed to

participate and attend the series. It has helped lay people to realize they each have a role to play in evangelistic work. "I never thought I would be up behind a pulpit, but here I am," says Lewis. "It would have been a crazy thought a few years ago."

Lewis grew up an Adventist, but departed from the Church for a time. After she married, an opportunity presented itself for her to return to the Adventist Church, which she did and brought her husband. "I felt like God was calling me to share with others about this renewed relationship with Him." She had that opportunity shortly after that at the baptism of her husband.

John Tremont, a member of the lay leadership team, "is 'thankful the series is finally underway,' and that it will help the church members to 'get back into a cycle of both personal and public evangelism year-round. The Bible tells us to 'resist the devil, and he will flee,' and that is what happened here in this church and our evangelistic efforts." 🕊

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Disaster Offers Witnessing Opportunity



The group from Uchee Pines checks in at the City Hall in Smiths Station, Ala.

Tornadoes swept through Smith Station and Beaugard, Ala., on Sunday, March 3, 2019. In response, members of the Uchee Pines Church in Seale, Ala., volunteered in the area the following Friday. Upon checking in with the local volunteer management organizers, and because they had members that were under 14 years old, the Pershin family was assigned to assess the damage of each home in the path of the tornado, and fill out forms with the needed information. As they made their way through the volunteer screening, they encountered several people who were familiar with their church and ministry. They were happy that each of these encounters was positive, and it helped them to see the importance of being present because of the difference it can make to other's ideas of the Adventist Church.

As the family proceeded from door to door, many opportunities for prayer and



Volunteers are trained before being sent out to participate in the relief effort following the tornadoes.

spiritual discussions presented themselves. One particular respondent recognized them from a different community service project that had benefitted his mother in another part of town at an earlier time. After conversing for a time, they gave him a Bible, and he responded

in amazement that, “just yesterday I gave my Bible away to a 9-year-old girl that didn’t have one, and now I’m getting one back!”

Because they had such a good experience, the Pershins decided to return the following Monday. When they went to the volunteer check-in, the person who checked them in told them about the many different people coming to offer their help from cities all over Alabama, and from several other states. “Some came by themselves, some with their own tools, some only with their hands, but all with the same purpose: they just wanted to help,” she said. “It restored my faith in humanity.”

More divine appointments that day gave reassurance that meeting people’s needs strengthens more than just faith in humanity, but faith in God as well. ●

BY AMY PERSHIN

South Memphis Hispanic Church Dedicated



Present for the dedication are Armando De Leon (left), Conference Hispanic coordinator; Steve Rose, Conference vice president for administration; Steve Haley, Conference president; Sandra, Ivana, and David Fagre, pastor; and Silke Hubbard, Conference trust services director.

When children of God come together exercising faith to work for the mission of the Church, God will pour blessings from Heaven until they overflow, notes the South Memphis Hispanic Church. After years of work and prayer, they had the privilege of dedicating their new church. They found it to be a powerful demonstration that when commitment and human faith unite with the power of God, impossible things can happen.

The members enjoyed the dedication of their new church on December 7, 2019. They had the privilege of having the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference administrators present, and Steve Haley, president, preached a powerful sermon.

People were motivated to have Christ as the unwavering foundation of South Memphis Hispanic Church.

The members believe their beautiful new church will become a blessing to the surrounding community. Their desire is that dozens of people come and are transformed, families are restored, and young people are redeemed. This will be the best reward that the members can receive for trusting in God's faithfulness. They hope the experience of their church serves as a motivation for those who fight for the same dream. 📌

BY DAVID FAGRE

Four Conferences Participate in 2019 Southern Union Literature Evangelists' Retreat



Attendees of the 2019 Southern Union Literature Evangelists' Retreat

Early this past January, the Home Health Education Service literature evangelists gathered in Pigeon Forge, Tenn., to celebrate God's

success in circulating the printed page during 2019. Four conferences participated: Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland, Gulf States, and Kentucky-Tennessee.

There was fellowship with one another as many literature evangelists from the participating conferences rekindled their friendship and camaraderie with each

other. It was also very exciting for them to see the many new faces of those joining the literature ministry.

Morning and evening devotionals given by various publishing directors set the tone for the weekend. The devotionals focused on a relationship with the Saviour, and renewing commitments to the publishing ministry. The blessings were without number. The guest speakers were Dwight Hall from Remnant Publications, and Ed Wright, former president of Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

This year, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference has two joining the publishing ministry, Ivan Martinez and Zane Williams. Martinez will be joining as the youth outreach coordinator. He will aid

in the advancement of the student Magabook ministry with Rocky Davis. Martinez and Davis will be providing fundraising opportunities for church schools and academies, as well as recruiting and running a summertime Magabook evangelistic YOUTH SUMMIT team. Zane Williams will be joining as a fulltime literature evangelist working in the Murfreesboro, Tenn., district.

There are several districts with a need for fulltime literature evangelists in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. For more information about these opportunities, please contact the Conference Publishing Department. They are happy to provide information about the Heaven-ordained colporteur ministry. Many

individuals throughout the Southern Union territory are providing a substantial income for their families, while being engaged in reaching souls for the Kingdom of God.

The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference asks for prayer for the literature evangelists and students who carry the invitation from Jesus door to door. 📍

BY ROCKY DAVIS

Cole Marcus Presents at Madison Campus Church

Cole Marcus, a musician, vocalist, and actor, has one goal. That goal is to glorify God. At 21, he is doing just that. Ken Wetmore, Madison Campus Church senior pastor, recently interviewed Marcus. Following are portions of that interview.

While still an infant, Cole Marcus' parents realized that he had been born with the rare gift of perfect pitch and total recall. At 10 months he began playing the drums, and at 4 he won America's Most Talented Kid. Even though he was only 4, Marcus began receiving offers from agents and producers, most of whom his parents turned down.

When Marcus turned 18, the types of roles he was offered radically changed. Many of the offers were roles he did not want. Down on his knees, he told God, "I'm done with this." Then I got the call for I Can Only Imagine," Marcus said. "Once I sent in my tape, I pretty quickly got the part of Robby ... and that was a blessing. I think the biggest blessing that came out of the role was it taught me, on set, and in



Cole Marcus (left) is interviewed by Ken Wetmore, Madison Campus Church pastor.

the moment, to keep my morals intact The devil throws out his 'bear trap,' right? He thinks, 'Maybe he won't see this one.' Right when you step in it, God puts His hands in it, opens it up and goes, 'Nope, nope, I've got you, just keep walking.' It is that beautiful idea that somehow, through God's Holy Word, I've been able to kind of preserve my thoughts and my relationship with Him. I believe filming I Can Only Imagine strengthened my walk with God."

When asked what he would say to someone about how to thrive and stay connect-

ed with God, Marcus replied, "I was on tour ... and they wanted me to play at this one venue where I just thought, 'Whoa, no way. But, they are paying me a lot of money as a retainer.' That is when I had to call my youth pastor. I said to him, 'Bro, they want me to play at this place, and it's just not godly.' He asked me, 'Well, what does God say about it? Where are you spiritually? What would Jesus do?' I went into prayer mode. I said, 'Lord if you want to take me there, if that's where your evangelism through me has to be, then so be it.' About a day before we were to play at this place, I got a call from the tour manager. He said, 'Hey, you know what, the whole thing has been canceled. We're just moving on to the next performance.'"

Giving encouragement to those in attendance that Sabbath, Marcus said, "Stay true to what you know, stay true to your morals, stay true to the Word of God, and He will direct your paths and keep you on the straight and narrow during all of it." 📍

TRANSCRIPTION OF INTERVIEW

Palm Bay Church Dedicates Fully-Equipped Handicapped Church and School Bus



PHOTO BY: LISA HAMILTON

Theophilus Hamilton, quadriplegic due to an accident when he was a youth, testified of his appreciation to church members who encouraged him as he boarded the local transit to attend church each Sabbath. Now, because of the new handicap bus, he shares the joy of regular attendance at Sabbath services and fellowship with his church family.



PHOTO BY: JOYCE HOSPEDALES

Palm Bay Church and School bus. After five years of hard work and dedication, the goal was accomplished and the prayers answered in the form of a brand new, fully-equipped, handicap-accessible, 26-seater bus.



PHOTO BY: HAROLD MYRIE

Participating in the Sabbath dedication ceremony were Doris Brown (left); Veta Ploche; Wintley A. Phipps, D.D., pastor; Elease Calder; and Joyce Hospedales, disabilities ministries director. The day marked the beginning of a new era for the disabled and those in need of transportation.

Wintley A. Phipps, D.D., senior pastor of the Palm Bay, Fla., Church, and its members were recently blessed with exceedingly more than they had requested of the Lord. Under the leadership of both Joyce Hospedales, disabilities ministries director, and Doris Brown, elder and former principal of the Palm Bay Adventist Elementary School, a fundraising venture was launched toward purchasing the church's first handicapped

bus. Initially, it appeared to be a most challenging and financially impossible endeavor, but they were reminded that what is impossible for man is a perfect opportunity for the Lord to reveal Himself in a mighty way.

The project extended over several years as members reached out to friends, relatives, and loved ones, as well as private and corporate members of the community, on behalf of the needed project. Many vol-

unteered their time and valuable resources, while others contributed financially, some of whom did not live to see the fulfillment of the dream. The members are extremely grateful to Tuesday morning and Wednesday evening prayer, and the Palm Bay school board, and believe the Lord rewarded the combined efforts marvelously. They received funds from individuals near and far, even from the local Walmart and other local businesses. After five years of

hard work and dedication, the goal was accomplished and the prayers answered in the form of a brand new, fully-equipped, handicap-accessible, 26-seater bus.

A ceremony was held Sabbath, May 4, 2019, for the dedication of the bus, and there was much celebration and rejoicing. Phipps' message highlighted the perseverance of those who did not waver in faith, but continued to trust God when "their eyes have seen His glory." The celebration extended into the evening's service that included songs of praise and psalms, accompanied by stringed instruments and harmonicas.

There were special renditions by the male chorus and the Palm Bay School children's choir, there were puppets, and a solemn prayer of official dedication of the new bus by Phipps. The day marked the beginning of a new era for the disabled and those in need of transportation.

Theophilus Hamilton, a quadriplegic due to an accident in his youth, testified of his appreciation to church members who encouraged him as he boarded the local transit to attend church each Sabbath. Now, because of the new handicap bus, Hamilton shares the joy of regular atten-

dance at Sabbath services and fellowship with his church family. Hospedales and the disabilities ministries committee — Eran and Roger Daniels, Samuel SinClair, Veta Ploche, Doris Brown, Naden Germain, and Elise Calder — are all grateful for the prayers and the support of the Palm Bay Church family. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wondrous works to the children of men!" Psalm 107:31. ①

BY JOYCE HOSPEDALES

Bethel Church Serves the Needy



PHOTO BY: CAROL SMITH

PHOTO BY: CAROL SMITH

For the past four years, Bethel church in Orlando, Fla., has been serving Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day from 8 to 11 a.m. Each dinner included an Amazing Facts tract attached to the food container. The members provide physical and spiritual food.

More than 200 people in the Orlando, Fla., area were served Thanksgiving dinner. Church members prepared the food, brought it to the church, and it was distributed in designated places to feed the homeless or those who needed a meal on Thanksgiving Day.

For the past four years, Bethel Church in Orlando, Fla., has been serving Thanksgiving dinner on Thanksgiving Day from 8-11 a.m. Each dinner includes an Amazing Facts tract attached to the food container. The members give physical food as well as spiritual food.

More than 200 people in the Orlando, Fla., area were served Thanksgiving dinner in 2019. Church members prepared the food and brought it to the church, and

it was distributed in designated places to feed the homeless or those who needed a meal on Thanksgiving Day.

Morris Scott, community services director, states, "We have so many people that are homeless that do not have food — especially at the holiday time. It is good to share and shower them with God's blessings."

The Bethel Community Service Center is open on Wednesdays and Sundays to help the community. Matthew 25:35-40

states, "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me." The members are ready to do God's work. ①

BY CAROL SMITH

MLK Service Day Tradition Continues at Southern for 27th Year

This Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Southern Adventist University students, employees, and alumni continued the University's tradition of honoring King through service to the community. More than 1,000 participants came together for Southern's MLK Service Day to serve local organizations and community members within the Chattanooga, Tenn., area.

This year, Southern partnered with more than 50 organizations, including

the American Red Cross, Chambliss Center for Children, Chattanooga Community Kitchen, and the Samaritan Center. Daniela Trejos, junior liberal arts education major, volunteered with approximately 100 other students to host a street store with the Salvation Army. The team helped those in need pick out warm clothes, while also talking and praying with the visitors.

"It was wonderful being able to build relationships and share hope with people

who are experiencing homelessness in Chattanooga," Trejos said. "I really appreciate the fact that Southern provides us with endless opportunities to serve, and I look forward to participating again next year."

One of the exciting new partnerships this year was with Erlanger Health System. Various musical groups performed at Erlanger Medical Mall, bringing hope and cheer to the patients, employees, and visitors. Students from Southern's



PHOTO BY: KEYANNA SCHULTZ

Diana Alarcon, sophomore fine arts major, visits with Grace, a resident at Garden Plaza of Greenbriar Cove in Collegedale.



PHOTO BY: CALVIN SERBAN

Leann Montaque, freshman nursing major, plays games with children at the Chambliss Center for Children in Chattanooga.



PHOTO BY: CALVIN SERBAN

Students spread mulch in animal enclosures at the Chattanooga, Tenn., Zoo.

School of Music participated, as well as other individuals from across campus who have a passion for spreading the love of Christ through music.

“I’m always on the lookout for new ways that students can serve, so they can find something they really enjoy doing,”

said Jennifer Carter, Southern’s Christian service director and coordinator of MLK Service Day. “I choose partnerships that help those in need, and highlight the talents of our students.”

BY STEFANIE GREEN

Concerto Concert Highlights Talented Student Musicians

Six winners of Southern’s annual Concerto Competition were accompanied by the University’s Symphony Orchestra as they performed for a live audience on January 26, 2020. The winners represented Southern and other local schools, as well as Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

To compete, student musicians from across the country submitted videos of themselves playing one movement of a concerto. A panel of six judges then invited 14 students to a live audition. From that group, six were selected as winners, who were invited to perform in concert as soloists accompanied by Southern’s

full orchestra.

Among the winners was Isabella Showalter, who graduated from Southern in December 2019 with a degree in health science. With a passion for playing violin since middle school, she performed the first movement of Samuel Barber’s Violin Concerto, op. 14, I. Allegro molto moderato. Showalter had auditioned for the previous Concerto Competition but was not selected, so she spent the following 11 months practicing this piece of music for this year’s competition.

“Isabella was a member of the first violin section of the orchestra for four years, and I was thrilled to be able to fea-

ture her as a violin soloist,” said Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, orchestra director.

“I had seen people come and win the Concerto Competition, and had admired them since my freshman year,” Showalter said. “In doing this, I really surprised myself by how much I was able to connect with the music under pressure, and I learned a lot about how much it takes to be a solo performer.”

BY TRISNEY BOCALA



BOTIMER, ROBERTA MAE, 99, born Dec. 10, 1920 in Berrien Springs, MI, died Jan. 7, 2020 in Chattanooga, TN. She came within 11 months of reaching 100 years old. She was the daughter of Arthur and Belle Strickland, and was married to Laurence Botimer on Sept. 17, 1942. They met at Emanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University).

While Laurence was in the military, he got a three-day pass so he could get married, and they were married for 65 years. She was a homemaker, supporting her late husband who died in 2007, and taught at Washington Missionary College in Washington, D.C., La Sierra College in California, Caribbean Union College in Trinidad, and the Weimar Institute in California.

They moved to Collegedale, TN, from Weimar in 1998 to be close to their daughter and grandchildren. Roberta was deeply involved in her husband's ministry of teaching by volunteering for the church and school as a deaconess, hostess at the church, and hostess at home for students and faculty. She led out in helping students who were poor, and she was a cooking

school teacher. Roberta spent the last 7.5 years of her life in the Southern Oaks Assisted Living Center, where she made many friends. She is survived by two daughters: Cynthia Botimer Bietz of Nashville, TN, and Laurella Poulson of Battle Creek, MI; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. A memorial service and interment were held at Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale.

BURCHARD, RUBY JANE (ALDER), 85, of Lookout Mountain, GA, went quietly to sleep in the Lord on Aug. 8, 2019 at her home. She was born near Barnesville, MN, and was the seventh of nine children, with three sisters and five brothers. Ruby was a long-time member of the Lookout Mountain Church.

She graduated from Hylandale Academy near Rockland, WI, in 1952, and received her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Madison College in Madison, TN, in 1956. She retired from nursing in 1996, and provided loving care for different family members in her home over the next 20 years.

She was an avid gardener with the ability to plant anything and make it grow! She loved her family and friends, and some of her greatest joys were attending family and church reunions, and gospel musical programs. After the death of her husband, her sister Lorraine took her to Africa on a mission trip, which she enjoyed immensely, and she was able to walk beside lions, a lifelong dream of hers.

She is survived by her sons: William (Sharon) Burchard of Louisville, KY, Wayne (Lynne) Burchard, and Glenn (Isabel) Burchard, both of Lookout Mountain, GA; six grandchildren: Candice, Bridget, Aimee (Bruce), Aaron, Trevin (Dany), and Allison; three great-grandchildren: Kenneth, Kaitlyn, and Kassadee; three sisters: Roseileen Gillian of Millington, MD, Darlene (Stanley) Maulsby of Tomah, WI, Lorraine Ueek of Delta Junction, AK; one brother, Clifford Alder of Audubon, MN; four sisters-in-law: Daisy Alder of Callaway, MN, Sharon Alder of Colstrip, MT, Ann Burchard of Hendersonville, NC, and Carol Magboo of Cleveland, TN; many nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband of 56 years, Henry Burchard; her parents: Alton Willis and Mabel Alvida Peterson Alder; four brothers: Willis, Ron, Eugene, and Clarence; sisters-in-law: Donna Alder and Tommie Sue Burchard; and brothers-in-law: Kurt Ueek and Bob Burchard. The memorial service was held at the Lookout Mountain Church on Sept. 14, 2019.



DIDER, MARTIN ANDREW, 80, born Dec. 12, 1938 in Elkhart, IN, died Oct. 25, 2019. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He was a beloved husband, father, and grandfather. Martin excelled in athletics and science in high school, and graduated from Andrews University in math and chemistry.

After teaching school for a number of years, he and his family moved to Collegedale in 1983. He was known throughout the community for his smile and cheerful disposition. He always abided by Boy Scout Law #8: Be Cheerful.

He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Edna Geraldine Bond Dider; his son, Martin A. Dider II; two daughters: Sonya Leigh Dillard and Dawn Lynea Clonts; and two grandchildren: Krista Rae Dawn Dillard and Alex Thomas Clonts. Martin was preceded in death by his parents: Glen Everett Dider and Ruth Elizabeth Martin Dider. A graveside service was held Oct. 29, 2019 at the Collegedale Memorial Park with Pastor Dúane Schoonard officiating.

FILOMENA, CAROL HOLLINGSWORTH ELDRIDGE, 85, born Oct. 28, 1934, died Dec. 2, 2019. She was the daughter of the late Vernon C. Hollingsworth and Abbie Bernice Harrison. Carol grew up in Arcadia, FL, before leaving to attend high school at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL. She then attended college at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN, and graduated from La Sierra College (now La Sierra University) in Riverside, CA, with a degree in elementary education. After graduation, she taught elementary school. Later in life, she obtained her master's degree in special education at Stetson University in DeLand, FL, and subsequently taught children with learning disabilities. Carol enjoyed travelling, was a voracious reader, and had an insatiable curiosity and zest for life. She enjoyed walking in nature, flower arranging, gardening, and creative crafting. She never met a stranger, and was always interested in learning as much about them as possible. She was an active member of the Adventist Church, and led singles and senior ministries for many years. She also went on several mission trips to various parts of the world. She is remembered for her generosity, and the joy she brought to others through giving thoughtful cards on special occasions and tokens of friendship and appreciation. Carol is survived by her sons: Greg (Hilary) Eldridge of Cumming, GA, and Cary (Terrie) Eldridge of Mt. Vernon, TX; her daughter, Debra (Ronald) Amick of Alpharetta, GA; her sister, Nancy Sue Turner of Moultrie, GA; six grandchildren: Aaron, Jaimie, Michael, Autumn, Chase, and Brooke; and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Anthony Filomena; and brother, Vernon Clyde Hollingsworth Jr. The funeral service was held Dec. 8, 2019, at the Adventist Church in Arcadia, FL. Interment followed at Oak Ridge Cemetery.



RICHES, ROSEMARIE (NICHOLSON), 78, born Oct. 24, 1940 in Belfast, Ireland, died Sept. 27, 2019. She attended primary school in both Belfast and Dublin, Ireland. She then attended Newbold College in Bracknell, England, as well as East Hampstead Teacher Training College, where she received degrees in education and home economics. She also earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from Fairfax University in the United States.

During her time at Newbold College, RoseMarie met and fell in love with a handsome young man named Rex Riches, and they married in Belfast, Ireland. They began their ministry for the Adventist Church with Rex pastoring churches in Colchester and Weston-super-Mare in England. Two daughters made their family complete with the birth of Ann-Marie in 1964 and Katrina in 1967.

When Rex began working for the South England Conference, RoseMarie began her tenure at Stanborough Park Secondary School, where she taught history and home economics, and served as vice principal. Her "summer job" was as a cook for Rex's youth camp in Wales. In 1979, Rex was called to be president of the Sri Lanka Union, where RoseMarie was his secretary, right hand, encourager, and partner in ministry. After three years in Sri Lanka, Pune, India, became home. Rex was the director for the Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and RoseMarie was a secretary in the Literature Evangelism Department. RoseMarie would often travel with Rex to various parts of southern Asia, and they enjoyed the opportunity to minister to others, as well as to spend time together. Rex and RoseMarie moved to the Carolinas in the United States in 1984. This was a precious opportunity to be closer to their girls, who were soon married and beginning families of their own. Rex was returning to the ministry of smaller churches, which gave RoseMarie the opportunity to return to a first love as teacher and to be principal of Rex's church schools. 2001 brought retirement in Chattanooga, TN. During this time, Rex and RoseMarie spent time with their children, grandchildren, and friends from all over the world, and traveled to places they had always wanted to go. RoseMarie was also able to experience the joys of helping to home-school two of her grandchildren.

In 2007, RoseMarie lost Rex, her best friend, partner-in-crime, and love of her life. In more recent years, she continued to be active in her church as Sabbath School social leader, Bible study group leader, part of the bereavement committee, and by visiting friends and those unable to attend church. She also enjoyed time meeting up with friends, arranging get-togethers, and organizing parties for holidays and special occasions. Her greatest joy was to spend vacation time and holidays with her girls and their families; playing games and laughing until her sides hurt.

She sleeps peacefully having known, without a doubt, that very soon she will hear the trumpet sound and hear her name being called by her Savior. She is survived by her daughters: Ann-Marie (John) Reichert of Berrien Springs, MI, and Katrina (Michael) McClung of Apison, TN; and three grandchildren: Nic, Christian, and Karlen. RoseMarie was preceded in death by her parents: William and Sarah Nicholson; and her beloved husband, Rex. A memorial service was held on Oct. 2, 2019, at the Collegedale Church.



NEALL, BEATRICE, 90, born Feb. 12, 1929, died Dec. 8, 2019. A native of New York City, she had been a resident of Ooltewah, TN, for 14 years.

Beatrice served as a missionary's wife and college professor with her husband, Pastor Ralph Neall, from 1957 to 1974 in Southeast Asia. They also taught together at Union College in Lincoln, NE, from 1977 to 1994.

She authored two books, one of which was translated into 10 languages. She was also a member of the African Violet Society.

Survivors include her husband, Ralph Neall; one son, Randolph "Randy" (Kathy) Neall; one daughter, Cheryl (Mark) Johnson; one sister, Ellen Oblander; one brother, James Gordon Short; several nieces; and nephews. The family will hold a memorial service in the spring.

SAULS, HELEN E. (BRAAT), 87, born Nov. 5, 1932 in Cleveland, OH, died peacefully Dec. 29, 2019 in Fitchburg, MA. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church before she and her husband, Lynn Sauls (B.A. from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), recently moved to Massachusetts to be near their son, Dr. Raymond Sauls.

After graduating from Mount Vernon Academy in Ohio, she attended Southern Missionary College in Collegedale. There she met and married Lynn and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education. Before receiving a master's degree in classroom teaching and supervision from the University of Iowa, she was elected to the Pi Lambda Theta Honor Society for Women in Education. Helen began her teaching at the one-room Standifer Gap Church School, where she had 29 children in grades 1 through 7.

She then taught in four other Southern Union Church Schools, including four years at A.W. Spaulding Elementary. She also taught methods of teaching at Atlantic Union College for 17 years. While there, she served several years on the North American Division Curriculum Committee. Before retiring, she spent three years teaching in the College of Education at Andrews University, and seven years in the School of Education at Southern. She often said that a great reward from teaching was seeing many of her students become effective teachers, school principals, and education superintendents.

Another great reward was being mother to her one and only child, Dr. Raymond Sauls. She enjoyed seeing him grow up, give his heart to Jesus, choose a good Christian to be her daughter-in-law, become the father of her three granddaughters, grandfather of her three great-grandchildren, and become a physician loved by his patients. When Helen taught at Atlantic Union College, she and two other members of the College Church were the first Adventist women to be ordained as local elders.

She and Lynn enjoyed a 67-year marriage. They liked tent camping in The Smokies; watching beavers on Long Pond in Royalston, MA; swimming in the Gulf of Mexico at Naples, FL; reading books and studying the Sabbath School lesson together; and traveling to such places as Mexico, Alaska, England, France, and the Netherlands, the country of her Braat ancestors.

She is survived by her husband, Lynn; her son, Dr. Raymond (Cherri) Sauls; three grandchildren: Stephanie (Edward) Butler and their two children, Henry and Simone; Elizabeth Sauls and her daughter, Rayanne MacMillan; and Jillian (Jason) Wailgum. She was preceded in death by her parents: Raymond James Braat and Alviina Laura Reinke; and her brother-in-law, Eddy Sauls. Helen is resting in peace at Collegedale Memorial Park overlooking Southern's campus, awaiting the resurrection. The motto "Trust God" will be engraved on her bronze grave marker.



ACUFF, JO ANN FRYE, 89, born Oct. 20, 1930 to the late Jairus and Ethel Frye in Hickory, NC, died Oct. 25, 2019 in Morganton, NC. She was member of Table Rock SDA Church. She is survived by her children: Susanne Marie (Ed) Maggart of Asheville, NC; Calvin C. (Lisa) Acuff Jr. of Glen Alpine, NC; David Mark (Maxine) Acuff of Glen Alpine, NC; Lori Rene (Roger) Jarrett of Sumter, SC; April Joy (Hans) Enderle of Asheville, NC; Gene Christopher (Patty) Acuff of Atlanta, GA; 10 grandchildren: Jessica, Calvin III, Carrie, David, Levi, Heather, Chris-

topher, Charlotte, Joseph, and Lauren; and three great-grandchildren.

ADAMS JR., HOWARD "ELLIS," 77, born 1942 in Mobile, AL, to Howard Sr. and Marguerite Adams, died May 21, 2019 in Brandon, MS. He was a member of the College Drive Church in Pearl, MS. He has lived in the Florence, MS, area for more than 45 years. He worked for the U.S. Treasury Department for more than 37 years before retiring in 2010. Ellis loved cars and considered himself to be a car aficionado. He also

enjoyed classical pipe organ music. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Barbara Adams of Florence; one daughter, Kelli Denise Simmons of Florence; and one granddaughter, Emily Renae Simmons. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Sinclair McCoy Adams.

ARANY, BARBARA LEE, 76, born Nov. 16, 1943 in Wisconsin, died Dec. 1, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. She was member of the Arden SDA Church. She's survived by her husband, Tom Arany; one sister, Carol Meert; two sons: Steve

and Ken Arany; and three grandchildren: Alex, Spencer, and Lydia Arany.

CLEMENTS, REBECCA L., 82, born Aug. 17, 1936 in Seneca, MO, died July 4, 2019 in Edgewater, FL. She was a member of the New Smyrna Beach Church for 10.5 years. She was employed in hotel management and as a book store manager during her lifetime. She is survived by two sons: Brian (Bridgette) Clements of Mims, FL, and Eric (Malonna) Clements of Georgetown, TN; four daughters: Jennifer Clements of Edgewater, Roxie Clements of Tampa, Kris (Bill) Homes of Wesley Chapel, FL, and Cyndy (Joe) Graham of Titusville, FL; one sister, Loretta Romero of Newburg, OR; 17 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor John Gray. The service and interment were at Sea Pines Memorial Gardens in Edgewater.

DAVIS, BERNETT S., 73, born March 21, 1946 in West Palm Beach, FL, died Sept. 22, 2019 in Valdosta, GA. She was a member of the Madison, FL, Church for 39 years. At Madison, the family found a loving, supportive church family, where Bennett grew and developed into a faithful servant of God. Her light glowed brightly as she served the Church in numerous capacities. She is survived by her husband of 42 years, Jamie Sr.; three sons: Jamie Jr. (Grace), Jamaine, and Jeramine of Huntsville, AL; two brothers: Jonah and Waddell Lindsey of Maryland; and one grandson. The service was conducted by Pastor Billy Hughes at the Madison Church.

DOOLITTLE, FREDRICK RICHARD, 93, born July 24, 1926 in Muncie, IN, to the late Lloyd and Bessie Doolittle, died Nov. 7, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of Fletcher, NC, Church. Fred and his five brothers served in the military at the same time. Fred joined the navy in 1944, and served until 1946. He was a quartermaster on a Landing Ship Tank (LST) 1075 ship. He attended Ball State University, IN. He married Madelyn Luzadder in 1948. He worked in the grocery business until transferring to Madison, TN, in 1962, working at the Madison Hospital until 1968. In 1962, Fred and his family were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He's survived by his wife of 71 years, Madelynn Doolittle of Hendersonville; three sons: Frederick Richard Jr., and his wife, Barbara, of Walnut Creek, CA; Terry Greg of Silver City, NM; Kirk Russel, and his wife Carol of Chocowinity, NC; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; one sister, Barbara Mueller of Muncie, IN.

FARNHAM, ARLENE, 87, born Sept. 17, 1932 in Providence, RI, died Oct. 20, 2019 in Dunnellon, FL, after a lengthy illness. She was one of the charter members of the Dunnellon Company. She

is survived by her niece, Krista Peckham.

GARLAND, GERRY A., 73, born in Sept. 20, 1946 in Norridgewock, ME, died Dec. 2, 2019 in Gainesville, GA. He was a member of the Dunnellon, FL, Church. He served his country in the U.S. Navy. Gerry and his wife spent many hours helping with church maintenance. He was an excellent carpenter/repairman and kept the church and the grounds in good repair. He was always a blessing to work with. Gerry is survived by his wife of 52 years, Sandra; his mother, Ida Garland; one son, Gary (Monica) Garland of Sheboygan, WI; one daughter, Priscilla (Bobby) Gilman; one brother, Edwin (Jeanette) Garland; one sister, Rita (Jim) Jones; and three grandchildren.

HOLCOMB, ARLIE ALFRED, 77, born Dec. 25, 1941 in Chickamauga, GA, died Dec. 1, 2019 at his home in Cleveland, TN. Al's early childhood was spent at the Methodist Children's home in Decatur, GA, subsequently moving with his family to Chicago, IL. He spent several decades there before returning to the South. Al enjoyed music, horses, football, motor sports, and a good donut. His jobs included riding instructor, baker at Dunkin Donuts, apartment maintenance, and plant and auto mechanic. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He is survived by his wife of 24 years, Tanya W. Holcomb; his sister, Francis Imajean Ramsey; four step-children; several nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: James Theodore Holcomb and Leola Almeda Holcomb; his sister, Emma Jewel Oswalt; and brother, James Edward Holcomb. A celebration of life service was held Dec. 8, 2019 in the chapel at Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with Pastor Tim Cross officiating.

JOHNSON, SIDNEY GRACE, 85, born Aug. 14, 1933 to the late Franklin Coppage Singleton and Creola Blanche Roberts Singleton in Pitt County, NC, died Oct. 8, 2018 in Easley, SC. She is survived by her four children: Dianna Gail Hall of Erwin, TN; Elizabeth Collins (Barry) of Greenville; Theo "Butch" Edwards of Gatlinburg, TN; and Theda "Bunnie" Norris of Brevard, NC; two grandchildren: Marshall Collins and Amanda Collins; 11 other grandchildren; numerous great grandchildren; and one sister, Hilda McGraw. She was predeceased by her parents; her husband; one son, Amos Lee Edwards; and one daughter, Anita Edwards; one brother, Sonny Singleton; and sisters: Judy Wade, Martha Singleton, Cora Lee West, and Kathleen Royale.

KEEFE, LOIS DODD, 98, born Jan. 31, 1921 in Columbia, SC, to the late William and Vinery Dodd, died June 26, 2019. She was an active member of Columbia First SDA Church for 70 years, she was preceded in death by her husband

of 63 years, Charles Edward Keefe. She is survived by her children: Van Stephen Keefe, Chuck (Charleen) Keefe, and Kitty L. (Sam Nunamaker) Keefe; one brother, William (Sandra) Dodd Jr., three grandchildren: Terry (Clay) Gains, Sherri (Matt) Campbell, and Dustin (Angie) Keefe; four great-grandchildren: Brittany Gains, Bethany Gains, Tucker Campbell, and Owen Campbell.

KOPPEL, DR. ALBERT CHARLES, 101, born Nov. 26, 1918 to the late Karl and Katherine (Dontinulle) Koppel in Brooklyn, NY, died Dec. 14, 2019 in Hendersonville, NC. He was member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He graduated high school from Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market, VA, in 1935. While there he met his wife to be, Sarah Elizabeth (Betty) Adams. They were married in Atlanta, GA, in 1942. Albert served two years in the United States Army during the Korean War, and was stationed in Germany due to his fluency in German. The Koppel's were instrumental in creating the Koppel Special Care Dentistry Center at Loma Linda University School of Dentistry. They retired to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC, in 2001. He is survived by his daughter, Karla Rae Koppel (Jeff) Morrill; and his daughter, Marsha Fae Koppel (Lewis) Nagel; one granddaughter, Kathy Burgess Corby; and one grandson, Andre Nagel. He was preceded in death by his brothers: Ural and Lawrence Koppel, and his wife, Sarah Elizabeth Adams Koppel.

KUPCZYSZYN, SONIA BEATRIZ, 54, born Jan. 1, 1965, in Diamante, Entre Rios, Argentina, died Sept. 16, 2019. She was the daughter of Miguel and Erna. In 1986, Sonia graduated with a bachelor's degree in tourism from the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste in Corrientes, Argentina. Four years after giving birth to her daughter, Natalia, Sonia moved to the United States, where she had her son, Kevin. While living in the U.S., Sonia worked as an elementary teacher and as an ESL translator. She was a vibrant, loving, funny person, with a spirit that would light up any room she walked into. She was very friendly with a God-like unconditional love that would not discriminate against anybody. Sonia enjoyed doing many things like singing, baking cakes, and painting portraits. She was known for always putting the needs of other before her own, and for constantly surprising others with presents. Sonia had many talents that included playing music by ear, speaking up to five languages, and any form of art. She was a strong believer in God and in His promise of the second coming. She is survived by her two children: Natalia and Kevin; two brothers: Sergio and Rolando; and one sister, Nancy. Sonia was preceded in death by her father and mother. A memorial service was held Sept. 29, 2019 at the Collegedale, TN, Church.

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

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PROPERTY AVAILABLE

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

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249-2882 or 828-209-6935 or visit www.fletcherparkinn.com [3-7]

COLLEGEDALE AREA - 5 minutes to SAU offering 4100 sqft, basement living space, 2 double garages, large lot \$445,000. New construction home in Ringgold, GA only 14 minutes to SAU with unfinished basement, hardwood floors and beautiful finishes. Pikeville dream homesite awaits! 5 acres of mountain top views \$140,000. *DixonTeam.com, Keller Williams office: 423-664-1800, call the Wendy Dixon Team for info: 423-702-2000.* [3]

TN/GA REALTOR - Buying or selling a home in the Collegedale, Chattanooga, North Georgia or surrounding areas? *Howard Karst: 301-332-8471, tsrak@msn.com, Realty Specialists: 423-238-7325, is your best partner for experienced professional service.* [3]

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U.S? I look forward to helping you! *Sandra Da Silva, Realtor: 407-840-8500 (call/text).* Service provided in English & Spanish. [3-7]

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a **full-time faculty member for the School of Computing.** The ideal candidate will have an earned doctorate in computer science, information technology, information systems, or a related area. Qualified candidate would teach graduate and undergraduate courses, develop course materials, advise students academically, serve on university committees, and perform other duties expected of full-time faculty. *For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit: southern.edu/jobs [3]*

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Faculty - Behavioral Science.** The successful candidate will champion the cross-cultural perspective of anthropology in the general education program of the university, in our

graduate program in community and international development, and to students and fellow faculty in a multi-disciplinary department offering programs and courses in psychology, sociology, geography, criminal justice, emergency preparedness, anthropology, and community & international development. Areas of instruction and advising will include general anthropology, development anthropology, and research methods, and community & international development. Candidates with Ph.D. in cultural anthropology (preferred) or a related field are especially encouraged to apply. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_3 [3]

LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST needed for the ProHealth Wellness Center at the Hulsey Wellness Center. Flexible schedule, good salary, friendly environment. New graduates welcomed, no experience required, willing to train. Part time and full time positions available. Email resume to dkch7@yahoo.com or call us at 706-625-3585. [3-6]

DENTIST NEEDED - This is a fantastic opportunity, part-time or full-time, for private practice associateships in Centerville or Lawrenceburg, TN. Provide high level/modern care, enjoy rural TN and make a great income. Visit us at www.wellnessfamilydentistry.com. Contact Erik Andersson at anderssonabe@hotmail.com [3, 4]

COUPLE NEEDED as **Assistant Managers** for cottage rentals. Located near Hendersonville, NC. Housekeeping, laundry, reservations, maintenance and construction knowledge. Free housing & utilities. Some duties

are paid. Supplemental income necessary. Ideal for early retirees. 828-693-5174. [3]

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist [3-12]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [3-5]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in biology; cinema, religion, and worldview; education (including special education); and social work. Flexible completion times and in-person, hybrid, and fully-online

formats may be available. Financial aid may be available. For more information call 509-527-2290 or visit wallawalla.edu/grad-studies [3-6]

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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 [3-6]

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SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE LEGAL NOTICES

12th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 12th regular session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at Camp Hawthorne, located at 1771 US Highway 20 E., Hawthorne, Florida 32640, on Sunday, April 26, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Saturday night, April 25, 2020, at 8:00 p.m. (sunset). This constituency session is called for the purpose of electing officers and for transacting any other business as may properly come before the membership. Each church in the conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one (1) additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. For the Organizing Committee, each church is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one (1) additional delegate for each 500 members or major fraction thereof.

Gregory O. Mack, President
Michael K. A. Owusu, Executive Secretary
Sheree N. Brown, CFO/Treasurer

12th REGULAR SESSION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the 12th regular session of the Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet at Camp Hawthorne, located at 1771 US Highway 20 E., Hawthorne, Florida 32640, on Sunday, April 26, 2020. The delegates to the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Gregory O. Mack, President
Michael K. A. Owusu, Secretary
Sheree N. Brown, CFO/Treasurer

Fostering a Legacy

With a love for young people and a desire to foster their academic and spiritual development, Pastor Milton Young, and his wife, Ramona, presented a substantial annuity and bequest to Oakwood University. These resources were used to establish nursing and ministerial student scholarships.

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CAROLINA

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, NC, Spanish Church.

COMMUNITY SERVICES RETREAT - March 20-22. NPR.

RE-GENERATE! CAROLINA SEEDS CONFERENCE - March 20, 21. Hendersonville, NC.

COMMUNITY SERVICE BOARD MEETING - March 21, 22. NPR.

ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL RETREAT - March 27-29. NPR.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events

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

MEN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION - March 13-15. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212th Ave., High Springs. Theme: Ready for Takeoff. Cost: depends on accommodation and meal choice. Featured speaker: Robert Stevenson. Registration: campkulaqua.com.

FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY SCHEDULE - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery. April 1. West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie.)

April 5. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, Port Charlotte.

April 8. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

April 15. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Jacksonville LifePoint, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

April 19. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Maranatha in Miami Gardens, Sunrise, Midport.

April 22. Deltona Spanish, Daytona, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

April 26. Inverness, Homosassa, Brooksville, Spring Hill, New Port Rickey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

April 29. Leesburg, Lady Lake, Ocala, Perry, Tallahassee.

126TH ANNUAL FLORIDA CAMP MEETING -

April 16-19. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212th Ave., High Springs. Theme: Live to Serve. Featured speaker: Carlton Byrd. Youth speaker: Gabriel Cardona. Details/registration: floridaconference.com/campmeeting

CAMPESTRE HISPANO (SPANISH-LANGUAGE CAMP MEETING) - April 24-26. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212th Ave., High Springs. Theme: Vive para Servir. Featured speakers: Tony Anobile, Gamaliel Feliciano. Youth speaker: Andrés Peralta. Details/registration: floridaconference.com/campestre

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

ADVENTURER REGION 3 & 4 FAMILY FUN WEEKEND - March 15.

MOBILIZE CONFERENCE-SOUTH GEORGIA - March 21. This event will help you learn how to find young adults, win them, and build them into resilient disciples of Jesus. Wimbish Road Church, Macon GA.

PATHFINDER PRECISION DRILL TEAM DAY - March 22.

ADVENTURER REGION 1 & 2 FAMILY FUN WEEKEND - March 29.

WOMEN'S & TEEN GIRLS' SPRING RETREAT - April 3-5. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

ADVENTURER REGION 5 FAMILY FUN WEEKEND - April 3-5.

HEALTH RALLIES BY EW DEMPSEY, ADULT MINISTRIES DIRECTOR - April 4. 2-5 p.m. Lookout Mountain, TN, Church.

April 18. 2-5 p.m. Ellijay, GA, Church.

GRATEFUL LIVING MISSION TRIP TO WOLKITE, ETHIOPIA - April 13-26.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT - April 17-19. TBD.

ATLANTA BRAVES FAMILY GAME DAY - April 19. Truist Park, Atlanta GA.

PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - April 23-26. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

COHUTTA SPRINGS FOUNDATION WEEKEND - April 24-26. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

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

GULF STATES

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

REFLECTIONS ON THE GOSPEL-PENSACOLA - March 19-21, Floral Crest Church. The Gospel as a Center of Conflict. Presented by Elder Brian Danese. www.gscsda.org/gospel

CROSS EXAMINATION YOUTH RALLY - March 21. Big Cove Christian Academy, Huntsville, AL area. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events.

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

CAMP MEETING-ALAMISCO - April 3, 4. Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL. Guest pre-

sender: Clifford Goldstein. Details: www.gscsda.org/events

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT - April 9-12. Camp Alamsico, Dadeville, AL. www.gscsda.org/yam

PATHFINDER FAIR - May 1-3. Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events

BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY GRADUATION - May 15, 16. Lumberton, MS. www.bmasda.org

CAMP MEETING-BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY - May 20-23, Lumberton, MS. Guest presenters: Dr. Ron C. Smith, Charles Haugabrooks, and more. Details: www.gscsda.org/events

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING - May 29-31, Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS. www.gscsda.org/hispanic

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

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.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - April 7. Conference Office.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - April 9. Conference Office.

HISPANIC PATHFINDER DISTRICT CAMPOUT - April 9-12. Paradise Ranch.

PASTORS'/ELDERS' MEETING/SEEDS CONFERENCE - April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.

MOTHER/DAUGHTER RETREAT - April 19. Paradise Ranch.

HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD - April 23. Highland Academy.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT - April 24-26. Indian Creek Camp.

CAMP PITCH - May 19-22. Highland Academy.

CAMP MEETING - May 22-30. Highland Academy.

SOUTHEASTERN

YOUTH MINISTRIES PRESENTS GLOBAL YOUTH DAY SOUTH FLORIDA TAKEOVER RALLY - March 13. 7 p.m. Tabernacle Church, 8017 NE 2nd Ave., Miami, FL. Come and be motivated to join many in rendering acts of kindness and sharing God's love to the world. Good music, great fellowship, and powerful preaching. Refreshments will be served.

COMMUNITY SERVICES PRESENTS MEGA CONFERENCE-WIDE ACS SOUTHEASTERN FEDERATION - April 4, 5. Mt. Calvary Church, 4902 N 40th Street, Tampa, FL. Guest speaker: Pastor James Doggette Sr. Featuring 7th Element in concert.

ACS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE CONFERENCE - NAD Grant Application. Training. Resource Materials. Free to everyone. Details: online registration at www.secsda.org.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT - March

8. With Laurie Redmer Cadwallader conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. at Collegedale, TN, Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

PREVIEW SOUTHERN - March 26, 27. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, find out about scholarship options, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga, TN. For more information, email visit@southern.edu or visit southern.edu/preview.

WIND SYMPHONY CONCERT - April 4. Southern Adventist University's Wind Symphony, under the direction of Ken Parsons, will present a concert on Saturday, April 4, at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale, TN, Church. The event will feature works on the theme "How Deep the Father's Love for Us." All are welcome to attend free of charge. For more information call 423-236-2880 or visit southern.edu/musicevents.

SOUTHERN UNION

REGENERATE CHURCH REVITALIZATION 2020 CONFERENCES:

Jan. 24, 25 - Montgomery, AL
 Feb. 14, 15 - Nashville, TN
 Feb. 28, 29 - Charleston, SC
 March 6, 7 - Macon, GA
 March 20, 21 - Hendersonville, NC
 Details: www.regenerateconference.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

MICHIGAN BOARDING ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - March 7. Please join us for a lunch hosted by Great Lakes Adventist Academy at the Florida Living Retirement Community Dining Hall in Apopka, FL. Enjoy food and fellowship with your fellow alumni from Adelphean, Cedar Lake, and Grand Ledge. Details: Call Tracy Morgan at 989-427-2460.

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. The address is 4824 Second Avenue South, Sunshine City, St. Petersburg, FL 33711. Call: 727-350-3531 / www.elimfl.adventist-church.org. Sabbath School-9:15 a.m. Divine Worship Service-11 a.m. Guest speaker: U.S. Senate Chaplain Dr. Barry C. 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.

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.

BRAKEWORTH JUNIOR ACADEMY/HOOVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - April 4. Celebrating 73 years of quality Adventist Christian education in Birmingham, AL. Join us in celebrating this achievement during Alumni Day. Honor classes are: 1960 (60 years), 1970 (50 years), 1980 (40 years), 1995 (25 years), and 2000 (10 years). Call 205-987-3376 for details.

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 4-12. Begin to make and solidify your plans to attend the makings of a historic Oakwood Alumni Homecoming 2020. The theme is "Remember..." The first weekend, Sabbath, April 4, will be the Pre-Alumni Celebration. On the second weekend, April 11, only for the second time in Oakwood Alumni Homecoming history, an anointed woman of God will be speaking the Word for the Sabbath Divine Worship Service. To celebrate and focus on our current talented students in the Department of Religion & Theology, for the first time, we will showcase a student speaker during the Sabbath Vesper service. Alumni Homecoming is going to be a blessed and amazing time of fellowship!

ENTERPRISE/GREAT PLAINS ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 10, 11. Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, KS. Honor classes graduating years ending with 5s and 0s. For more information, email: ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or check the school's website: ea-gpa-alumni.com.

COLLEGEDALE ACADEMY'S 17TH ANNUAL CA GOLF CLASSIC TOURNAMENT - April 17. An annual fundraiser during Alumni Weekend for the Athletic Program and the Worthy Student Fund. Details: msilverstein@collegedaleacademy.com or 423-396-2124, x5017.

OKLAHOMA ACADEMY DAYS WEEKEND - April 17-19. Find out if this is the place for you

during our Academy Days Weekend. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also, visit www.oklahomaacademy.org.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - April 24, 25. Mark your calendars, call your classmates, and start planning for this weekend now! Honor classes: 1950, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 1995, and 2000. Location: N. Aurora Church, N. Aurora, IL. Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch, and afternoon musical program. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses. Send questions or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley, bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com, or call Dale Rollins at: 224-407-0233. Details, visit: www.broadviewacademy.org.

COLUMBIA ADVENTIST ACADEMY'S 100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY - April 25. All former teachers, students, parents, and supporters of Columbia Adventist Academy (formerly Columbia Junior Academy) are invited to the school's Centennial Celebration, at the Columbia First SDA Church, 243 Riverchase Way, Lexington, SC. Sabbath School at 9:30 a.m. Divine Worship at 10:45 a.m. Lunch will be served in the school gymnasium. RSVP by April 17 at info@columbiafirst.org or 803-791-1135.

"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY RE-UNION - June 5-7. For alumni and schoolmates of 1970 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, MI. Honor classes: 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970. Details will be sent by mail. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989-427-5181 or <http://www.glaa.net>.

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.

SUNSET						
	MAR 6	MAR 13	MAR 20	MAR 27	APR 3	APR 10
ATLANTA, GA	6:39	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05
CHARLESTON, SC	6:21	7:27	7:32	7:37	7:42	7:47
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:24	7:30	7:35	7:41	7:47	7:52
COLLEGEDALE, TN	6:41	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:09
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:47	6:53	6:58	7:04	7:09	7:14
JACKSON, MS	6:03	7:08	7:13	7:17	7:22	7:27
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:42	7:49	7:55	8:02	8:09	8:15
MEMPHIS, TN	6:01	7:07	7:12	7:18	7:24	7:29
MIAMI, FL	6:25	7:29	7:32	7:35	7:38	7:42
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:47	6:52	6:57	7:02	7:07	7:12
NASHVILLE, TN	5:47	6:53	6:59	7:05	7:11	7:17
ORLANDO, FL	6:29	7:33	7:37	7:41	7:45	7:49
TAMPA, FL	6:33	7:37	7:41	7:45	7:49	7:52
WILMINGTON, NC	6:13	7:18	7:24	7:29	7:35	7:40

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