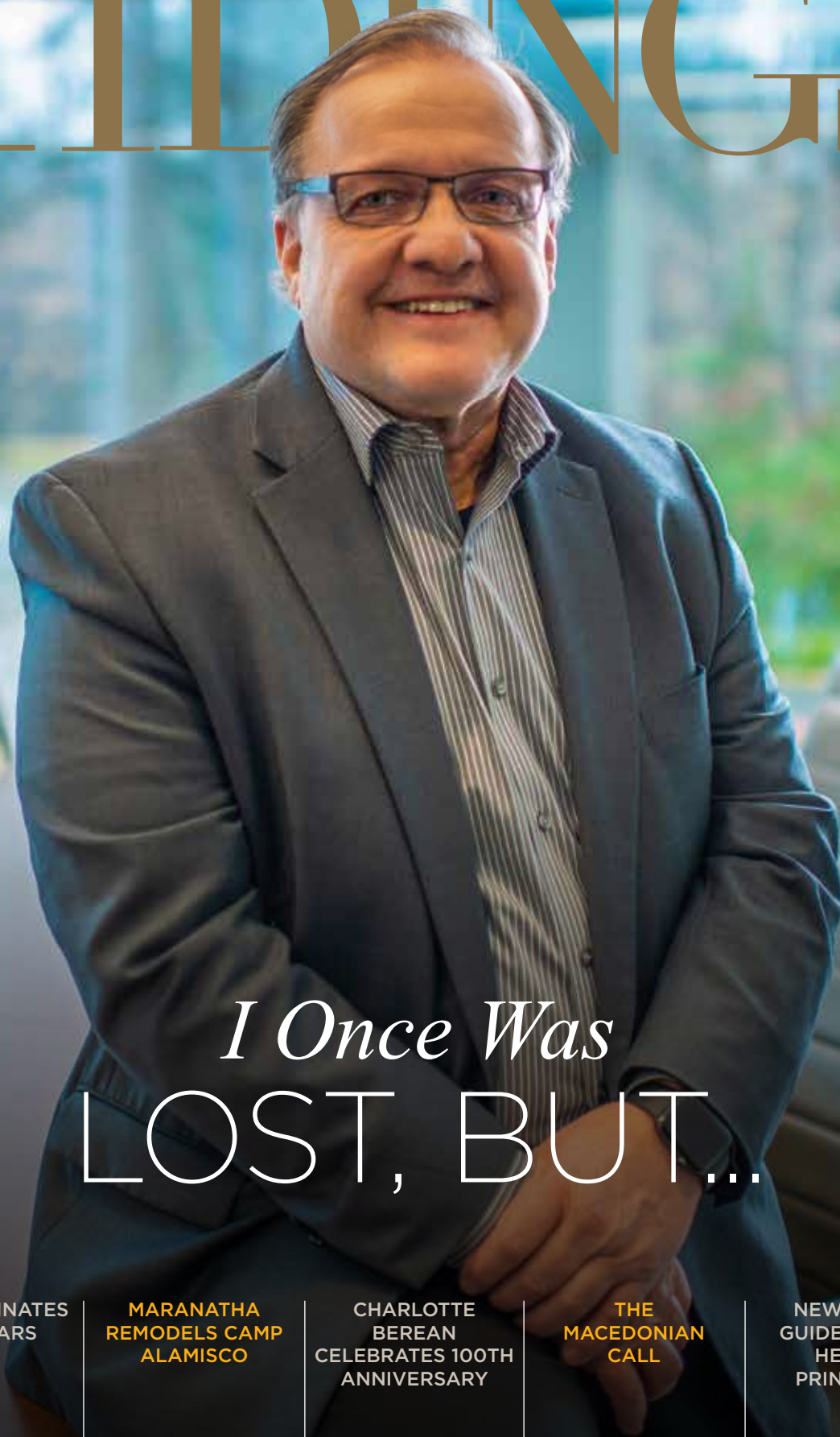


T Southern 

# TIDINGS

APRIL 2020



*I Once Was*  
LOST, BUT...

SEED GERMINATES  
IN 20 YEARS

MARANATHA  
REMODELS CAMP  
ALAMISCO

CHARLOTTE  
BEREAN  
CELEBRATES 100TH  
ANNIVERSARY

THE  
MACEDONIAN  
CALL

NEW STUDY  
GUIDES TEACH  
HEALTH  
PRINCIPLES

# A Coordinated Effort for Revitalization



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



**Diane Ruff**



**Rose Thomas, Ph.D.**



**Jorge Mayer, D.Min.**



**Julio Chazarreta**

The Southern Union Conference will be assisted in its revitalization ministry for churches by the addition of two new employees: the associate director of elementary education and the director of Hispanic ministries. Just before Christ returned to Heaven, He repeated His commission, “Go ye therefore and teach all nations .... And lo, I am with you always, even until the end of the world.” The question persists: How could they do this? The secret is found in the 18th verse of Matthew 18, when Jesus said, “All power is given unto me in heaven and earth.” This power, which we are in dire need of in the Southern Union, was poured out upon the waiting disciples on the day of Pentecost. It was within the span of a single day that 3,000 people were converted and baptized, and the Church began her conquest of the then-known world. Our missional undertaking in the year 2020 is no less daunting. We are assured of the power God provides to see us through. Our churches will be strengthened, revitalized, and refocused for mission because of our feeble efforts united with God’s omnipotence. I am delighted that Dr. Rose Thomas, the associate director of education, and Elder Julio Chazarreta, director of Hispanic ministries, will be pivotal to our success in the revitalization of our churches and institutions.

We’re thankful for the many years that Diane Ruff, former Southern Union associate director of elementary education, has served with distinction. With her many years as educator and administrator, many young people have been educated, and, in the process, have found their way into the arms of Jesus. We will miss her passion and commitment to excellence in elementary education, and pray for God’s blessings on her and her family during retirement after 43 years of service, 13 of which were for the Southern Union.

We are delighted to introduce Dr. Rose Thomas, who holds a Ph.D. from Andrews University in curriculum and instruction. Her multiple years of teaching and educational administration position her to take elementary education in the Southern Union to a new stratosphere. Dr. Thomas is a fluent speaker in English, Creole, Spanish, and sign language. She holds multiple professional certifications, which predisposes her for capable, spiritual, and efficient leadership. We welcome Dr. Rose Thomas.

Dr. Jorge Mayer has served multiple years as pastor, evangelist, and conference administrator, and for many years has served as director of Hispanic Ministries for the Southern Union. It is under his leadership that the Southern Union has realized unprecedented growth through his evangelistic initiatives. We pray for a blessed and joyous retirement for him and his family after 40 years of denominational service, 18 of which were for the Southern Union.

Finally, we want to welcome and appreciate Elder Julio Chazarreta, who is an ordained pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is an evangelist at heart and is passionate about seeing others receive Christ as a Friend and Savior. Elder Chazarreta has a broad spectrum of experience, inclusive of serving as marketing administrator at Pacific Press, evangelist at Oregon Conference, and successful pastor/evangelist, leading hundreds of souls to Jesus Christ.

We welcome his personable, dynamic, and efficient leadership to the office of director of Hispanic ministries in the Southern Union.

Because of the combined efforts of God Almighty, a committed Southern Union constituency, and the leadership teams across our vast territory, the Gospel will be carried to the uttermost parts of our borders. It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit will be poured out and thousands will be converted in a day. May God bless the Southern Union’s coordinated effort for revitalization. –RCS



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**COVER PHOTO:** David Freedman is the treasurer of the Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

**PHOTO CREDIT:** R. Steven Norman III

# *I Once Was* LOST, BUT...

BY DAVID FREEDMAN

**A**mazing Grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me; I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind, but now I see."

I think about those words often. You see, I was on a journey many years ago that was about me, my life, my future: what college degree I was going to earn, how much money I was going to make ... me, me, me. Then my brother, who was baptized the summer before, told my younger brother and me about an evangelistic series that was going to start in a matter of weeks, and that he wanted us to attend. Since we thought we were fine

without religion, we told him we had absolutely no interest.

Not taking no for an answer, he brought 10-15 evangelistic brochures into our house and put them in every room. Somehow the Holy Spirit used my older brother and numerous brochures to spark interest in our hearts. We attended these meetings, accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, and shortly thereafter were baptized. That decision changed my life and continues to change my life every day.

That's why tithe and offerings are never just money to me, and they never will be. Someone paid for the evangelistic

brochures my brother placed throughout the house. When I drove to the church, I parked on a paved lot, and walked into a church building that someone else paid for. Someone paid for the electricity and the air conditioning expenses. Someone paid for the evangelist and pastor. The point is, because others before me were faithful in giving their tithe and offerings, I had the opportunity to hear the Gospel and accept Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe the same is true for you.

You've heard of the "Circle of Life." I believe in the "Circle of Giving." God is love, and God so loved that He gave.



SUBMITTED BY: NATE DUBS

Autumn and Logan Jach, members of the Collegedale Community Church, Collegedale, Tennessee, were baptized September 7, 2019, in Harrison Lake near Chattanooga, Tennessee. The siblings were influenced by several ministries, including Adventist education, summer camp, and Pathfinders.





PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

David Freedman is the treasurer of the Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

The giving always starts with God and flows to everyone, and His followers are to continue this practice of giving for future generations. I believe, in a large part, that you had the opportunity to hear the Gospel because others before you were faithful in the giving of their tithes and offerings. Whether it was through an evangelistic series or you consider yourself born into the Church, the influences that led to your decision for Christ, in the Church or Church school setting, were opportunities available in part through the financial faithfulness of others.

The process is simple. God richly blesses His people. His people, you and I, then return a faithful tithe and in addition, give our offerings. Those funds go far and wide toward the proclamation of the Gospel. Most of these funds sup-

port our pastors and teachers, who dedicate themselves to full-time ministry in the churches and schools. We also fund many ministries, from summer camp to evangelistic efforts. We also purchase school and church buildings. Why do we do all this? We do this because all of our lives have been changed, and we want others to be given that same opportunity. What a legacy!

Last year in the Southern Union, there was a special emphasis on the “Year of Evangelism.” Almost 10,000 precious souls said YES to Jesus to change their lives, and were baptized or joined the Church by profession of faith. Jim Davidson, executive secretary of the Southern Union, and I had the privilege to spend a few nights with Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern



Bethany Church in Miami, Florida, hosted the Breath of Life Net '19 and Beyond Revival. One hundred and eight individuals gave their hearts to the Lord and were baptized on Sabbath, August 3, 2019. The revival was a collaborative effort between Bethany and other churches in District 5 of the Southeastern Conference and Breath of Life Ministries.

## FROM C'S AND D'S TO SALVATION



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Melody Allison struggled to find a better school for her youngest grandchild, Kayla. That changed when she discovered Brakeworth Junior Academy (now Hoover Christian School in Hoover, Alabama). After enrolling, Kayla transformed into a successful student, trading C's and D's for A's and B's in grades.

Allison decided to incorporate many of the school's spiritual components, such as reading the Bible and praying, into her daily routine at home. The regular attendance of school functions at the church also led her into Bible studies, and she was eventually baptized.

Today, Allison is the lunchroom coordinator at the same school that transformed her granddaughter. Adventist education changed Allison's life; she cannot imagine where she would be without the blessings God has given her through it.

PHOTO BY: NOEL GRANT



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## SUMMER CAMP INFLUENCES, MENTORS, TRANSFORMS

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PHOTO BY: ARIC TURLINGTON

“I am going to work at Camp Kulaqua, and I’m going to be a counselor,” exclaimed 12-year-old Theresa Stride to her mother on the way home from four summers at the Camp. That summer she had given her heart to Christ.

After returning at age 17 to work at Kulaqua, Stride’s friends asked her what Adventists believed. She and her family were Baptists, but she began to pray and study on her own. Through her studies, personal time with God, and staff members who became her mentors, she was led to the Adventist Church.

Today, Theresa Stride is the summer camp director and she’s in charge of year-round programming at Camp Kulaqua. Yes, camp ministry does transform lives.

Pictured is Stride when she was the junior camp director.

Union, during each of his evangelistic crusades last year. Listening to his presentations and seeing the people’s response is a great reminder to me that tithe and offerings are about giving others the opportunity to change their lives forever.

The eight conferences and three universities of the Southern Union were all involved in evangelistic endeavors last year. Administrators, support staff, pastors, and lay members held public evangelistic and reaping meetings. The Word was proclaimed with much power, and people in our communities were given the opportunity to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. There are many ways to do outreach, but one thing for sure: growing churches do evangelism, serve their communities, and are outward focused.

We have more than 150 Seventh-day Adventist schools and universities in the Southern Union that bring a Christ-centered, academic education to almost 17,000 students on a weekly basis. Our dedicated teachers and support staff bring God into everything they say and do. Besides my attendance at our seminary, I never had the opportunity to attend Seventh-day Adventist schools like many of my colleagues. In my public educational experience, God was not the center. God never even entered the picture nor even a cursory dialogue. Praise the Lord for our strong Seventh-day Adventist, Christ-centered education system. Please make sure your children are attending our schools.

I also had the opportunity to visit the Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, August 12-17, 2019. There were more than 65,000 people in attendance, and more than 10,000 were from the Southern Union, under the leadership of Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth ministries director. Our children fellowshiped with other young people, earned honors, and listened to and watched testimonies and skits. Best of all, praise God, more than 1,000 were baptized. It’s a once-every-five-years meeting worth experiencing.

The Southern Union and conference publishing departments and their team members distributed more than two million tracts last year. The Lord uses the publishing ministry to put His Word in the hands of individuals who may never step inside a church. Seeds are being planted inside the souls of individuals, and we may never know the results this side of Heaven. But, we must keep planting the seeds.

AdventHealth reaches millions of people every year with the healing ministry of Christ. Providing the best wholistic care, at the best price, to people who come at their most vulnerable time is their ministry. In addition, they provide support to our universities, who provide future leaders to our health care system.

The Southern Union — all eight conferences; AdventHealth, Oakwood, and Southern universities; our many AdventHealth hospitals and clinics; all 1,350 churches and companies; and more than 150 schools — is working to proclaim the love of God. We have more than 300,000 members in Southern Union, whose mission is to lift up Jesus.

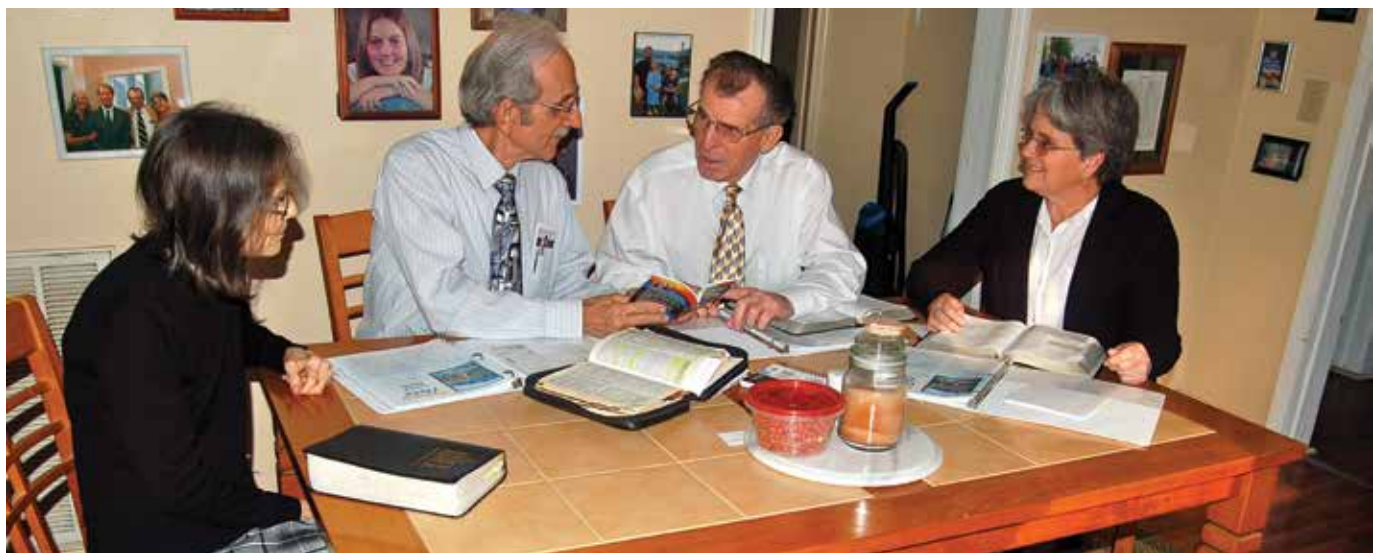
I have been a pastor and in conference treasury/administrative work for more than three decades. I’ve been treasurer of the Southern Union for the last year. To me, tithe and offerings will always be about changing lives, starting with my own. By being faithful to God in the giving of our tithe and offerings, we are giving others the opportunity to hear the Gospel, and to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. If they accept that invitation, we know their lives will be changed forever. That brings God joy, with celebration in Heaven and celebration on Earth. That brings me joy, which makes me a cheerful giver. 🙏

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**David Freedman** is the treasurer of the Southern Union Conference in Peachtree Corners, Georgia.

# SEED GERMINATES IN 20 YEARS

BY TERESA COOPER



SUBMITTED BY: TERESA COOPER

Our God is an awesome God. He can plant the seeds of His Kingdom in the hearts of men and women, and 20 years later they bear fruit. Newly baptized members George and Ellen Andrews (right) study the Bible with Jean and Lonnie Mabley in their home.

One Sabbath afternoon, a couple walked into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Benton, Tennessee, and asked to see the pastor. Upon meeting him, the first thing they said was, “We have been studying. We know that Saturday is the Sabbath, and we want to know how to join your church. We want to know the truth.”

George and Ellen Andrews’ story actually began 20 years earlier. George had rented a house from an elderly Adventist couple — Jim and Jeanette Connors — whom he grew to love and respect. At that time, the church in Benton was under construction and George helped with some of the work. However, life went on and the seeds planted in George’s heart lay dormant for the next 20 years.

Yet, the Life Giver brought other people to water those seeds, until George and his wife, Ellen, gave their hearts to



George and Ellen Andrews (left) stand with Joe and Teresa Cooper. Joe Cooper serves as pastor for the Benton, Tennessee, Church where the Andrews were baptized and eagerly serve.

Jesus and began studying the Bible in earnest. At Benton Church, they were so excited to meet Jackee McCallum — the daughter of that dear couple whose kindness and consistent Christian witness had made such an impression on George 20 years earlier!

George and Ellen were eager to study

more of God’s Word, and began Bible studies with Lonnie and Jean Mabley. When challenging Bible truths were anticipated, the Mableys always found that the Holy Spirit had been there ahead of them, and that George and Ellen had already been convicted in that area. George and Ellen sealed their commitment to Christ and the Adventist Church in baptism on Sabbath, September 7, 2019.

“Since they first arrived,” says Joe Cooper, pastor at Benton Church, “George and Ellen have been a blessing to the church and its mission. They are in attendance at every meeting and activity of the church, eager to be involved and share the love of Jesus with others.”

**Teresa Cooper** serves as the church clerk at the Benton, Tennessee, Church.



# Maranatha Remodels CAMP ALAMISCO

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Fifty-three volunteers from 17 different states of the United States and one volunteer from Brazil descended upon Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, Alabama, February 3-21, 2020. The volunteers were part of a Maranatha Volunteers International mission group that was organized to assist in remodeling the main lodge of the camp, a project that consisted of demolishing and rebuilding the living quarters on two stories on the west side of the building.

The volunteers were eager to work, and during 18 days they were able to complete 562 days worth of labor. Working alongside camp staff and some hired contractors, the workers demolished the living spaces, and even replaced the studs and rearranged the plumbing. Part of the overall plan for the project involved removing the internal door access to the rooms and eliminating the hallway. The new layout allows for more space inside the room, with access to each room coming from an external door under a covered walkway. Each room is outfitted with a custom-tile shower, which is more spacious and more comfortable to use than the former prefabricated units. Among other improvements, including a robust overhaul of the electrical system in that area, each room now also features a mini-split A/C and heating unit. These units are much more efficient than the former window-style setups, and are capable of being linked to a single condenser to support multiple rooms.

The onsite volunteers possessed a variety of skills for the project, and many were willing to share their skills with others as they each contributed to finishing the job. The newly learned skills are something each volunteer takes home with them. “One volunteer built her own shed at home after gaining the necessary skills from Maranatha projects,” said Evelyn Close,



PHOTO BY: EDWARD JENSEN

Maranatha Volunteers International members worked at Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, Alabama.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

The lodge at Camp Alamisco receives much needed remodeling across two stories on its west side.

project manager. “God always brings the right people for the project.” While sitting at lunch, a conversation about needing skilled concrete labor was met with “I know how to do that” from another volunteer seated at the table. The scenarios of personal experience being directly applicable to a project need are a common occurrence on these missions.

While Maranatha is known best as an overseas-focused ministry, they also have domestic projects every year. “There are just as many needs here in the States as

there are overseas,” says Ernie Riles, construction supervisor. “This was a pretty big project, eight rooms to make liveable in a short time.” However, both Close and Riles referred to the volunteer group as a family, a hard-working family who trusts God and completes projects. Maranatha worked closely with the camp staff and the Gulf States Conference to make this mission a success.

This project is just one of several that have been taken on by Todd and Shelley Ward, camp rangers, and their staff over the last several years. Camp Alamisco is springing with new life and a brand new era of high-quality construction in a beautiful natural setting. Renovation of the central lodge area, among many more exciting improvements, is scheduled for later this year. See a short video clip of the volunteers in action at [www.gscsda.org/gsc-today/maranatha](http://www.gscsda.org/gsc-today/maranatha) 📺

**Shane Hochstetler** is the communication director at Gulf States Conference.

# CHARLOTTE BEREAN

## *Celebrates 100th Anniversary*

Charlotte Berean Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, celebrated 100 years of existence with a historic Sabbath anniversary service on November 2, 2019. The event brought national and local dignitaries, former pastors, guest speakers, and special musical guests to the church.

Alma Adams, U.S. Congressional representative, commended the members for their “stewardship and steadfast commitment” to the inner-city community. She added, “I want to thank you for the work you’ve done, and I know you will continue to forge ahead in serving in the image of Jesus Christ.” Vi Lyles, Charlotte City mayor, echoed Adams’ sentiments in commending the members for their health ministry, food distribution, and day academy. She especially thanked the members for raising young people to do what is right, pointing to the example of Charlotte Berean member David Howard, a former city council member who now works in the North Carolina governor’s office.

A proclamation recounted the story of colporteur William White bringing the three angels’ messages to Charlotte. A tent meeting was conducted which resulted in 220 individuals being baptized and the start of Berean in 1918.

Many of the former pastors attended including 103-year-old E.E. Rogers, Ph.D. Also present was Frederick Russell, Sabbath guest speaker, and William L. Winston, South Atlantic president.

The anniversary celebration, which took place over five days, was actually the culmination of a year-long recognition of the church’s 100 years. A special



George Dunlap (left), Mecklenburg County commission chair; Kelly Alexander Jr., North Carolina House of Representatives; Justin Harlow, Charlotte City Council member; Velma Leake, Mecklenburg County commissioner; Alma Adams, U.S. Congressional Representative; Vi Lyles, Charlotte City mayor; Julie Eislet, Charlotte mayor pro tem; and David Howard, North Carolina Department of Transportation chief deputy secretary, were among the dignitaries who brought Sabbath greetings.



103-year-old E.E. Rogers, Ph.D., is the oldest living former pastor of Charlotte Berean Church.



George Dunlap (left), Mecklenburg County commission chair, reads the proclamation recognizing Charlotte Berean’s 100 years of existence, with Vi Lyles, Charlotte City mayor, and Godwin Mitchell, pastor of Charlotte Berean Church.

anniversary committee included current Berean pastor Godwin Mitchell, Deborah Johnson, and Donald Robinson.

The celebration ended Sunday morning, November 3, with a heart-warming message and video remembrance of

more than 350 members who have gone to sleep in Jesus over the 100 years.

“Faithful Then, Faithful Now, Faithful Until He Comes” was the anniversary theme that church members vowed to carry until Jesus Christ returns. ●



# THE MACEDONIAN CALL



PHOTO BY: JOHN GARCIA

Robert Moore Jr. (left), Southeastern Conference community services/disaster relief director; David Peay, assistant to the president; and Prince Lewis, youth director, flew to the Bahamas on September 17, 2019, in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian. Gregory O. Mack, Southeastern Conference president, commissioned the team to go survey the damage and assess the needs of the Bahamian people.



PHOTO BY: ROBERT MOORE JR.

Evelyn Adams (left), Ricardo Daphnis, Colonel White, Lola White, and Peggy Bostic were some of those who responded to the Macedonian Call. During the weekends of September 20 and 27, 2019, within the Southeastern territory, seven containers were filled with new clothes, water, food, beds, mattresses, canned goods, batteries, non-perishables, generators, diapers, and blankets for the people of the Bahamas.

Now when they had gone throughout Phrygia and the region of Galatia, and were forbidden of the Holy Ghost to preach the word in Asia, After they were come to Mysia, they assayed to go into Bithynia: but the Spirit suffered them not. And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas. And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, come over into Macedonia and help us," Acts 16:6-9 KJV.

There is a mobilizing passage in a song well known in the African American heritage that states: If I can do my duty as a Christian oft,

If I can bring back beauty to a world up wrought,

If I can spread love's message that the Master taught,

Then my living shall not be in vain!

This Christian mandate was realized when Hurricane Dorian struck the residents in the country of the Bahamas between August 24 to September 10, 2019. The hurricane left death, devastation, and much uncertainty about the future of its countrymen. One of the first people to reach out to the Atlantic Caribbean Union president, Peter Kerr, was Southeastern

Conference president, Gregory O Mack. Mack commissioned Robert Moore, disaster relief director; David Peay, assistant to the president; and Prince Lewis, AYM director, to go survey the damage and assess the needs of the Bahamian people on September 17.

During the meeting with Peter Kerr and Eric Clarke, North Bahamas Conference president, they heard stories of hope, miracles, faith, protection, and the providence of God's love during the storm. They ascertained that the destruction to the Abaco Island was going to be a very long-term recovery project. They agreed that their plan of action should be to help gather goods to send to the Grand Bahamas; that would help relieve the immediate needs there.

On the weekends of September 20 and September 27, within the Southeastern territory, seven containers were filled with new clothes, water, food, beds, mattresses, canned goods, batteries, non-perishables, generators, diapers, and blankets. This disaster relief effort was led by the local Adventist Community Services staff, pastors, and general membership of the Southeastern Conference. The Florida church sites used for collection and packaging

were Northside Church in Miami.; Pilgrim Spanish Church in Hialeah; Mt. Sinai Church in Orlando; Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa; Sinai French Church in Plantation; Ephesus Church in Jacksonville; and Ephesus Church in West Palm Beach.

In any disaster response scenario, you need people who are logistically knowledgeable in the area of shipping and receiving. If it were not for Daniel Perez, a former truck driver who lives in Tampa, who has a heart for hurting people, the shipping of the seven containers to the Bahamas would have been a lot more difficult. Perez took the lead in the shipping of the containers, and partnered with a trucking company, Bronco Trucking. Bronco dropped containers at all seven church locations, and went back to each church to pick them up, free of charge!

Hurricane Dorian could have devastated them emotionally, physically, and spiritually like it did to the landmass of the Bahamas. Instead, it galvanized them together as fellow countrymen, human beings, and brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. When asked, they can answer in the affirmative that yes, they faithfully responded to the Macedonian Call! 🙏

# NEW STUDY GUIDES TEACH HEALTH PRINCIPLES

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

International media evangelism ministry It Is Written has partnered with AdventHealth, a faith-based, nonprofit health system, to develop study guides for groups interested in learning about health from a biblical perspective.

“Health care is an important ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” said Ted Hamilton, AdventHealth’s senior vice president and chief mission integration officer. “AdventHealth has the expertise and credibility, and therefore an important calling to collaborate with the Church so that together we can make a bigger impact in the delivery of wholeness.”

The CREATION Life Study Guides incorporate AdventHealth’s whole-person health philosophy in a welcoming and easy-to-remember approach based on the CREATION Life framework. The “CREATION” acronym stands for Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition.

“Many people simply have no idea that the Bible has a lot to say about good health. The way the CREATION Life Study Guides are written and designed provides a wonderful opportunity for sharing faith in a very positive way,” said John Bradshaw, pastor and speaker/director of It Is Written. “The guides draw on the excellence and expertise of AdventHealth, a trusted name in health

care that commands respect.”

Over the years, AdventHealth has developed an array of whole-person health materials that’s been used by a variety of institutions, congregations, and ministries. When AdventHealth got the call for



A partnership between AdventHealth and It Is Written, the CREATION Life Study Guides feature eight Bible-based studies for achieving optimal health.

this opportunity, the health system gave It Is Written permission to use its existing CREATION Health Bible Program as the foundation for the new studies. CREATION Health is the former name of the CREATION Life framework, and as materials are rebranded, churches and

communities can expect to receive new resources this year.

“I learned about the study guides at an AdventHealth Executive Board meeting,” said Ron Carlson, president of the Kansas-Nebraska Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. “I was deeply impressed with them, and ordered enough sets to share with all our pastors at our January meeting. They will be placing an order through us soon in order to put them to use in various ways.”

Pastors and ministry leaders expect the guides to be an effective tool for witnessing in a more accessible way.

“People care deeply about health and wellness, and the Bible seamlessly dovetails with these subjects,” Bradshaw said. “It’s a gentle yet extremely effective way to build bridges; to offer real, practical help; and to win the confidence of people. The CREATION Life study guides do that. They’ve already become very popular. We’re going to see God do great things through this resource.”

The CREATION Life Study Guides are available now at ItIsWritten.com and in the future through the It Is Written Bible study app. AdventHealth plans to make them available to team members next year. 📌

**INGRID HERNANDEZ** is the stakeholder communications manager for AdventHealth.



# AdventHealth Waterman Receives National Breast Cancer Accreditation



**A**dventHealth Waterman has received a three-year accreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons (ACS).

AdventHealth Waterman received this designation for meeting national standards of excellence for providing comprehensive, patient-centered, multidisciplinary care, and demonstrating high-quality clinical outcomes for patients with breast disease.

“We are very proud to be the first and only accredited breast center in Lake County,” said Abel Biri, AdventHealth Waterman CEO. “Our breast care team is passionate about providing outstanding care to breast cancer patients, and this is

demonstrated in achieving this national recognition for quality care.”


NAPBC-accredited centers demonstrate excellence in program leadership, clinical services, research, community outreach, professional education, and quality improvement.

Patients receiving care at an NAPBC-accredited center have access to information on clinical trials and new treatments, genetic counseling, and patient-centered services, including care navigation.

“Our cancer care navigators help patients by coordinating appointments with our breast care team specialists, providing personalized education about cancer treatment and follow-up care, and assisting with access to resources such as psychosocial support, nutritional counseling, and financial

assistance,” said Leslie Maxwell, AdventHealth Waterman Cancer Institute director.

In addition to care navigation, receiving care at an NAPBC-accredited center like AdventHealth Waterman ensures that patients have access to:

- Comprehensive care, including a full range of state-of-the-art diagnostic, and treatment services.
- A multidisciplinary team approach to coordinate the best treatment options.
- Information about clinical trials and new treatment options. 

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BY LINDSAY CASHIO, DIRECTOR  
OF COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE  
ADVENTHEALTH CENTRAL FLORIDA  
DIVISION - NORTH REGION

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# Scottie Deal Ordained to Gospel Ministry



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Special guests include Rick Russell (left), Carolina Conference treasurer; Leslie Louis, president of Carolina Conference; Jim Davidson, executive secretary of the Southern Union; Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference secretary; Fred Rogers, retired former Native American director at the Southern Union; and Haskel Williams, Carolina Conference ministerial director.



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

Rebecca and Scottie Deal

The church was standing-room-only, Sabbath evening, February 29, 2020, as friends and visitors traveled to the ordination of Scottie Deal. This drug-dealer-turned-Baptist-preacher, now in front of a packed Seventh-day Adventist church, was ordained to the Gospel ministry as Carolina Conference and Southern Union officers, along with several ordained ministers, laid hands on him.

It has been an interesting journey for Deal, as explained by Jim Davidson, executive secretary at the Southern Union, as he shared the history of this member of the Native American Lumbee tribe. Immediately after graduating from high school, Deal entered the workforce in the construction trade. After several years in a destructive lifestyle, he surrendered his life to Christ in 1997. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry under the Freewill Baptist Association on July 17, 2000.

One day on the worksite, he met a fellow worker, Wayne Tinsley. Deal noticed this new acquaintance was different than the others. Tinsley, a Seventh-day Adventist, introduced Deal to the Amazing Facts Bible lessons. The lessons changed Deal's life, and he began preaching the new discoveries in his church. This

didn't go well for him. Deal explained that he was persecuted for teaching what he'd learned, and as a result, was "exited out of the church." For the next couple of years, he didn't have a home church, and he found himself worshipping on both Saturday and Sunday. Deal was later baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in August of 2002. Earlier that year, he married Rebecca Locklear, on January 19, 2002.

In the summer of 2003, Deal met Fred Rogers, retired former director of Native American ministries for the Southern Union. Rogers was in the process of establishing Free Clinic, that would serve non-insured Native Americans. Then, together, Rogers and Deal conducted a church plant in the clinic. In July of 2006, Deal was employed by the local church as a full-time lay pastor for the new church plant.

It was laid on Deal's heart to conduct a tent meeting on the same ground where he once sold drugs, near the town of Pembroke, N.C. The meeting was a huge success for this new Adventist. Area churches even closed their churches on Wednesday night and bused their members to hear Deal sing and preach at the nearby tent meeting.

At the close of the meetings in May of 2010, Deal needed a place for the new members to worship. He was impressed to contact the Carolina Conference to ask permission to reopen the nearby Pembroke Seventh-day Adventist Church, which had been closed for years. Permission was granted, and he served as the pastor in the reopened church.

In July 2012, Deal was employed by the Carolina Conference. That fall he began his five-year track of education. While living and studying at Southern Adventist University, he, along with his wife and two children, India and Luke, traveled back every two Sabbaths to minister to the members at Pembroke.

Deal graduated magna cum laude, top in his class, December 14, 2017. It was around that time he answered the call to become the pastor of the Concord and Salisbury district in North Carolina. During his time in ministry, he has baptized more than 50 individuals, served as a featured guest on 3ABN Television, held meetings in Africa, and has been featured as a keynote speaker for several Camp Meetings throughout North America. 📌

BY RON QUICK



# Myrtle Beach Adventist School Participates in MLK Jr. Parade

For the past three years, the students at Myrtle Beach Adventist School have made posters to wave during the Martin Luther King Jr. annual parade in downtown Myrtle Beach, S.C. This year, Rebecca Cain, head teacher, was looking for a way to get her students more involved in this time-honored tradition of remembrance. She decided to enter a float in the parade. Combining the efforts of the students and children from the Myrtle Beach Church who attend other schools, they creatively designed and built the display.

School and church members prayed for this project throughout the months it took to plan and build the float. “We chose the theme of ‘Free at Last,’ a play on words off of Dr. King’s ‘I Have a Dream’ speech,” Cain said, “as well as our stance as Christians, that in Jesus we are ‘free at last.’” The float also featured the Bible verse John 8:36, “If the Son sets you free, you are free



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CAIN

indeed.” One onlooker pointed at the text and shouted, “That’s where true freedom comes from.”

In addition to riding on the float, some of the children walked in front of it carrying a banner with the name of the school and church. Others walked alongside throwing candy out to the parade watchers, while singing the song “Free at Last.” Those not throwing candy passed out bags stuffed with information about the school and Myrtle

Beach Church to the adults along the parade route.

The day before the parade, as the participants were making final tweaks to the float, local news channel ABC-affiliate News15 came out to package a story about the students and their preparations. Cain states, “This was great exposure for our church and school, but most importantly, people along the parade route were reminded that through Jesus they truly are ‘Free at Last.’” The experience was unlike any the children and volunteers had ever had. Some commented that they felt the Holy Spirit throughout the process leading up to and at the parade.

Plans are already being made for the 2021 float, and prayers are solicited for the church and school members as they embark about reaching their community for the Gospel. 🙏

BY REBECCA CAIN AND COURTNEY HEROD

# Awaken Conference Holds Second Annual Event

More than 100 young adults gathered in the Charlotte, N.C., area for the second annual Awaken Conference, January 31 to February 2, 2020. The conference originated from a desperate need for programming that equips and empowers young adults for real life outside the church walls. Most of the attendees were young professionals from the southeast, and some came from as far as Texas.

The beauty of God’s Kingdom was seen there, as is often seen in this age group, a mix of early-20s to mid-30s. It was a diverse, loving crowd from many different backgrounds and professions with one obvious connection: they were there for a reason.

The theme for the year was “On Purpose,



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

with Purpose, for Purpose.” Everything at the event was intentional, from the breakout sessions to the keynote speaker, Benjamin Lundquist. In this generation, there is such a longing to find purpose. Lundquist pointed out that, “Our purpose is found in being loved by God. Too often, we think of purpose as being our profession, when, in real-

ity, our job is a vehicle in which we do life. However, we find fulfillment and meaning in a relationship with God.”

The weekend was a great success, and in all the work to put the event on, there was a huge benefit in hosting for the second year. One attendee said, “Such a great event! Awesome speaker, thought-provoking breakout sessions, talented music team; a well-rounded, powerful weekend!” Another said that it was, “Spiritually refreshing! We believe our young adults have the vision to push this Church and Gospel message forward, but we need to empower and equip them to do so. Together we can change lives.” 🙏

BY RYAN HODGINS

# New Dynamic Program Benefits Primary Children



PHOTO BY: BLAK WALTERS

First- through fourth-graders experience Science Wonders with helpers Lindsey Ottati (left) and Adrian Prieto, and “Ms. Sherri” Bond leading the new Primary Praise and Worship room of the Children’s Ministry Center at Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Fla.

Primary Praise and Worship is a new dynamic program for first- through fourth-graders, under the direction of Jennifer Bergherm, at Forest Lake Church in Apopka, Fla. Part Sabbath School and part Children’s Church, the children come together each week in the worship room of the new Children’s Ministry Center to praise the Lord and learn more about Jesus.

Children enter the worship room transformed into “Praise and Worship Town” every Sabbath. The praise and worship music is led by teen leaders using Vacation Bible School style music. One Sabbath a month, live music is provided with camp songs with “Mr. Scott” and “Ms. Jessica,” where children sing and move to summer camp-style songs surrounded by a fun

camp atmosphere complete with tent and campfire props. Each month is also based on a theme, including worship, service, community, and grace.

Programs rotate from week to week:

1. **Science** with “Ms. Sherri” is a fun and engaging way to connect the children with everyday science lessons and the beautiful world the Lord has given them.
2. **Games** with “Ms. Corey” provides a fun and engaging time for children to connect and play while learning about the monthly program theme.
3. **Mission Spotlight and Object Lessons:** With Mission Spotlight, a new church/community member will come in and share with children how

they served the local community or in the world mission field. This helps children to understand how they, too, can serve. Object Lessons with “Ms. Misty” further connect children with the monthly theme.

The new Children’s Ministry Center has provided “a sacred place for worship, a sacred place for forgiveness, a sacred place for growth, a sacred place for love, and a sacred place for Jesus Christ to become known to children and families as friend and Savior,” says Barbara McCoy, who has worked for children’s ministry/family life for more than 30 years at Forest Lake Church. 📍

BY JENNIFER BERGHERM



# WholeLife Church Holds Plant-based Potluck



Attendees at WholeLife Church in Orlando, Fla., enjoy making new friends and greeting visitors as they wait to be served at a plant-based potluck.

WholeLife Church in Orlando, Fla., formerly Florida Hospital Church, recently began holding a plant-based potluck. The plant-based diet is a staple of the Adventist health message and is likely the best diet for good health, the environment, and the welfare of animals. Adam and Eve ate it, and Daniel also.

More and more, friends and family are posting on social media about loved ones dealing with various illnesses and conditions, many of which may have roots in or be helped by lifestyle choices. Jason Bingham noticed this in the lives of many of his friend's friends, families, and people he worked with in health ministry. Switching to a plant-based diet, along with decreasing processed sugar intake, helped so many people move forward in their health journey.

This is why Bingham and members of the WholeLife Church put on a plant-based potluck six times a year in alternate months. They have found it to be a great way to get to know new friends, share recipes, fellowship with visitors, and talk about ways to use lifestyle choices to represent the health message in a positive and powerful way.

What's fun about this church? There are so many families who come from dif-



Dishes from around the world complete the bountiful food tables at WholeLife Church in Orlando, Fla., and visitors and members alike are introduced to a buffet comprised of plant-based food.

ferent parts of the world and will often bring representative dishes. Long gone are the days when people saw "vegan" food as bland and boring. These days a

plant-based meal plan can be rich with flavor and variety. 🍴

BY JASON BINGHAM



# Chester Clark Named Vice President for Administration/Secretariat

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference is excited to announce that Chester V. Clark III has been selected as the new vice president for administration/secretariat. He has been serving as pastor for the Dalton, Ga., Church. “Though I never would have expected to serve in this capacity, I can see that my experience in both lay ministry and pastoral ministry has given me a unique perspective on the needs and opportunities of both,” said Clark.

“I am thrilled that Chester has agreed to serve as our vice president for administration,” said Gary Rustad, Conference president. “He brings a grace-inspired leadership perspective, as he is grounded in the Gospel, and filled with a wealth of experience and knowledge. Our administration team will be stronger with Chester.”

When Clark was a small child, his parents were inspired to leave California to plant a church in Arkansas. There Chester Clark Jr., M.D., and his wife, Harriet, raised their family in a rural environment, planting churches in Arkadelphia and Amity, as well as establishing a church school that later grew into a self-supporting high school, Ouachita Hills Academy. As an adult, Clark would work at Ouachita Hills for 15 years in numerous capacities. He would also serve as an officer of Adventist-Laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI), and have the privilege of working with members and church leaders from around the world.

A self-proclaimed introvert who also loves people, Clark has pastoral experience in Southern California, Illinois, and Georgia. He has worked with newly planted churches as well as established congregations. Although he originally



Chester V. Clark III is the new vice president for administration/secretariat. Clark has served as a pastor, ASI officer, and Bible teacher. He and wife, Jane, have three daughters, Ella, and twins Mabel and Marilee.

had planned to pursue medicine, Clark felt a growing conviction that he was being called into ministry. When he learned that Ouachita Hills Academy needed a Bible teacher, he returned home to teach and coordinate missions and evangelism.

Clark’s wife, Jane, is a practicing physician in Dalton. The couple has three girls: Ella, age 3, and 1-year-old twins, Mabel and Marilee. Clark says that Jane has been God’s greatest blessing to his life and ministry. “I am continually humbled as I see her self-forgetfulness and love for others,” he says. “She’s a tremendous balance to my personality, and so supportive of the ministry to which God has called me.

“God’s leading in my meeting Jane, coming to Georgia, pastoring in Dalton,

and now accepting this new role, has been profoundly clear at each step of the way,” adds Clark, “and this gives me assurance that He’ll keep leading in the future.”

As someone who grew up on a farm and has mechanical and construction experience, Clark enjoys working with his hands in his spare time. He is also a commercially rated pilot.

“Nothing is more liberating than knowing that you are in the center of God’s will,” says Clark. “It gives peace in the midst of conflict, courage when things are going poorly, and confidence when you realize you’re not humanly qualified for the challenges at hand.”

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON

# Country Life Store, Restaurant Celebrates 50 Years

Country Life Natural Food Store and Vegan/Vegetarian Restaurant in Columbus, Ga., celebrated 50 blessed years of service last October. This outreach ministry was launched in the mid-1960s, after physicians Calvin and Agatha Thrash grew dissatisfied with the results they were seeing in their practice, and began to search for natural methods of helping the sick. As a first step, they opened a small store that would carry the items and serve the foods that they were learning would help people regain their health.

Today, they also operate a restaurant that seats 44 inside and 10 outside. A different entrée is offered each day, along with several sides, soups, and vegan desserts. In 2018, they served more than 35,000 meals.

The store now fills four rooms of the house and carries more than 4,500 items, including a full room of supplements, herbal teas (more than 300 varieties, including culinary spices), and essential oils. A second room contains packaged foods and health and beauty products, including various items with the Uchee Pines label, such as bar soaps, salves, lip balms, tinctures, lotions, bath salts, and deodorants. A third room offers more than 200 varieties of bulk and bagged foods (most being organic or certified chemical-free) and perishables (frozen foods/nondairy items). A fourth room features snacks and literature, including vegan cookbooks, books, encyclopedias on natural remedies, and a large selection of titles on spiritual health, including the Spirit of Prophecy.

“We offer a comfortable, homey atmosphere that people enjoy returning to, in some cases daily,” says store manager Richard Cecere. “Many of our patrons have become not merely customers, but honorary family. We’ve celebrated recoveries, graduations, and children’s successes with them, and also mourned loss and relocation.”

Throughout its history, Country Life has served the community through various public



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY C. KODIMER

Country Life Natural Food Store and Vegan/Vegetarian Restaurant in Columbus, Ga., started 50 years ago. They offer a wide variety of food options, and a 55-item salad bar. In 2018 they served 35,000 meals.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY C. KODIMER

Country Life serves the community through a variety of public programs, including Lunch n’ Learn and Dinner with the Doctor. Country Life serves about 1,000 people per week, and was named by local residents as the city’s “Best Health Food Store” and “Best Health Food Restaurant” for multiple years.

programs, including Lunch n’ Learn, Dinner with the Doctor, a screening of Forks Over Knives, and participation in city government health fairs. Country Life also offers a large

variety of free pamphlets and magazines on health, and a naturopathic doctor/herbalist is available by appointment for consultation. Active and retired military personnel are eligible for a 10 percent discount.

Staff volunteer Stephanie Hamilton appreciates the immense blessing she has received from her time at Country Life. “The hours spent every day in this ministry are never unfruitful,” she says. “I have learned here the happiness that comes from serving others. This is really the most fulfilling time I’ve ever had in all my life.”

Store manager Cecere believes one of the ministry’s greatest strengths is that, on any given year, “we use more than 50 different volunteers to staff our store and restaurant, mostly from countries all over the world.”

Country Life is a nonprofit ministry, staffed by volunteers and trainees from Uchee Pines Institute who are doing mission service. Country Life also offers on-the-job training courses in retail management and restaurant management. 🍷

BY RICHARD CECERE



# Conference Hires New Treasurer

The Gulf States Conference executive committee voted to hire Gwen Speak as the new treasurer for the Conference in November 2019. Speak has most recently served as the associate vice president for finance for the Mid-America Union Conference in Lincoln, Neb., and formerly as associate treasurer for the Dakota Conference in Bismarck, N. D.

With almost 20 years of experience in finance, Speak brings a tremendous skill set to Gulf States, and the Conference administration is looking forward



Gwen Speak, new treasurer at Gulf States Conference.

PHOTO BY: MID-AMERICAN UNION CONFERENCE

to continued growth and success in their territory. When not crunching numbers, Speak enjoys spending time with her dog, cooking, and exploring photography. Speak has completed her move to the Montgomery, Ala., area, and started work at the beginning of 2020. Brian Danese, former vice president for finance, has fully transitioned to a role he assumed in 2018, vice president for church development. 📍

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# University Parkway Church Holds Reunion

A glimpse of our grand heavenly reunion,” was the most frequent comment of members and visitors who attended University Parkway’s Reunion Sabbath program on February 15, 2020. Approximately 140 visitors, including former members who had moved away, came to the special event, which honored them and their relatives who had passed away. James Mangum, former pastor, led out with the sermon, “The Reunion of All Reunions.” A highlight of the service was an “In Remembrance” video, featuring photos of 76 members who had passed away since the church was dedicated in 1992. The video was produced by long time member Bert Rickles. Rickles said he found a song he had been looking for: “Wonderful Peace,” back in October of last year, and prayed about how he could use it. “I was inspired by a similar moving service at Loma Linda that featured a memorial video.” For the last four months, Rickles has reached out to family members to obtain photos of their loved ones and let them know about the reunion pro-



Guests make their way to their seats for the reunion Sabbath at University Parkway.

gram. “The response to our service has been overwhelmingly positive.” Besides Mangum, who now pastors the Old Westbury Church in Long Island, N.Y.,

Milton Hallock, retired former pastor, and his wife, Margaret, attended. Longtime member Gywin Black said it was the “best service [he had] ever attended





James Mangum (right), former pastor, visits with a guest at the fellowship meal.

at our church.” His late wife, Ann, was among the video honorees. Assisting Rickles with planning the reunion was his wife, Mary, Jan Hussong, and Manny Siverio. Hussong said the experience has been very gratifying. Diane Erwin Kuutti, who visited from Atlanta, Ga., told her about “what an incredible blessing the service was to her... ‘It offered me some kind of closure and more peace than I have had since the deaths of my parents,’” Hussong said Kuutti shared.

“Planning and carrying out the program was a wonderful experience,” Hussong said, but noted that the greatest blessing for her was seeing the young people who had gone to the church school in past

years. “Some are not Adventists, and some may have shown little interest in religion, but they came back .... Overall, it was a tremendous success.”

Robert Meneses, newly appointed pastor, provided a brief welcome video. He and his family will move to Pensacola, Fla., to begin his ministry at University Parkway Church in April. A lavish fellowship meal followed the service, where members and guests mingled and caught up. The day ended on a solemn but fitting note with a memorial service for church member Ronnie Winslow, who had passed away the previous week. 📍

BY GLENDA HASS

## Acts of Peace Hosts Children’s Christmas Party



PHOTO BY: AMY MAPP

A portion of the 268 children who were served at the “One Hundred Children Plus” party, pose for a group photo.

Acts of Peace, a ministry of compassion of the Montgomery, Ala., First Church, and coordinated by Bernell and Amy Mapp, and Petra Parker, sponsored a Christmas gift party for needy children in the community. The ministry is called “One Hundred Children Plus.”

This is the second year Acts of Peace has sponsored the party. Over the last eight years, gifts were delivered to the children with a company of carolers. However, as the numbers grew, it became apparent that they could be better

served if a party with trimmings was planned for them.

Acts of Peace, partnering with local community volunteers, Toys for Tots, and the area food bank, was able to host 90 families with 268 children this year. Each child received at least three wrapped gifts and refreshments, and enjoyed fun and games. Each parent received a food box and gifts. A gift store was also opened, where parents and children could shop for free gifts of clothing, shoes, toiletries, and miscellaneous items. Acts of Peace pro-

vides food for more than 900 individuals each month. In operating this regular ministry, it became apparent that many children are among those affected and were in need of a special event.

A Vacation Bible School (VBS) was planned as a follow-up last year and was well attended. Acts of Peace plans to continue a VBS program and Mother’s Day Out Sabbath afternoon program once a month. 📍

BY AMY MAPP

# Acrofest 2020 Held at Highland Academy

Students in grades 5-12 from across the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference came together for the 25th Annual Acrofest at Highland Academy, with the Southern Adventist University Gym-Masters serving as the clinicians for the weekend on January 30, 2020. During the three-day clinic, participants had the opportunity to work on their tumbling skills; work together as a team to create pyramids and other formations; participate in athletic competitions; be inspired by singing and worship talks; and perform, watch, and cheer in Saturday night's Acrofest Show.

The theme for this year was "Rock Solid." The Sabbath worship service included the Gym-Masters acting out a dramatization of one of their former teammates, Daphne Knecht. They portrayed her experience with the team, battle with cancer, family's struggles, death, the legacy she left behind, and how she never let go of Jesus even through her darkest hours. Students were encouraged to build a rock solid faith



Pictured are Sophia Garcia (left), Camden Watkins, Kaitlyn McKenzie, Brooklyn Nazarenus (top, left), and Amy Severance.



Learning and practicing new skills.

on Jesus which cannot be shaken.

The Acrofest Show was the culminating event that began with each school walking out as a team. Then the participants performed the pyramids and routines they created during the clinic. Next, the students participated in competitions, including headstands, handstands, hand-to-hands, and butterflies. They also showed off their tumbling skills with cartwheels, round-offs, back handsprings, and flips. To wrap

up the show, the elementary and academy teams from various schools performed their routines followed by an amazing Gym-Masters performance. The students returned home with new skills, confidence, strengthened friendships, great memories, inspiration to continue their journey in gymnastics, and most importantly, a rock solid faith in Jesus. 🕊

BY KIMBERLY ROTH

# Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School Presents Christmas Program

Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School (RAES) held their annual Christmas program this past December 2019, during the Sabbath worship service. The students worked hard in the weeks leading up to the program to learn their different parts. During the program a skit about the birth of Jesus was presented, the chime choir performed beautiful music, and the students sang some of their favorite Christmas carols. The church members, as well as people from the community, were there to support the school, and expressed that they were touched and blessed when the students brought the nativity scene to life.

The blessings did not stop there. The following week, the group traveled to the local nursing home. There were smiles



Pictured are Alison Martinez (left), Marisol Guzman, Abdiel Chingo, Skylar Ramsey, Eduardo Morales, Darius Andino (second row, left), Daniel Martinez, Mia Smith, Marri Raines, Caleb Chingo, and Noah Nelson.

and laughter as the students brought a little Christmas joy to the residents.

God calls all to be beacons of light in

this world. In Matthew 5:14-16, He says, "You are the light of the world. A city set on the hill cannot be hidden; nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven." That is what the students and teachers like to do at RAES. They like to shine the light of Jesus as much as they can. They give glory and praise to God, knowing this was only possible through Him, and they invite you to watch how He continues to use RAES going forward. 🕊

BY HELEN KELLY, BRAHIANA CHINGO, AND MICHELLE LAM

# Conference Executive Committee Makes Two Appointments

Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, was recently pleased to share with the Conference constituents two voted actions made by the Conference Executive Committee.

The Conference Executive Committee has appointed Pegi Flynt, Ed.D., to the position of superintendent of education, effective immediately.

Haley states that, "Drawing from many years of service in the elementary, academy, and university settings, Flynt brings to this ministry a great depth of leadership experience. During the past year of serving as our associate superintendent, she has demonstrated wisdom and skill in the myriad of complex challenges our educators and schools are facing. Her great love and respect for our teachers and for the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, combined with her background in a variety of education ministry settings,



Pegi Flynt, Ed.D.



Matt Pacer

has more than equipped her for this task. She values your support and prayers in this new assignment."

With the transition of Flynt to the superintendent position, the Conference Executive Committee has taken a second action and appointed Matt Pacer, principal of Highland Elementary, to the position of associate superintendent of education, effective at the conclusion of the

school year in May.

Pacer has been both teacher and principal at Highland since 2009. His previous experience includes serving as a student missionary/teacher in Guam Micronesia, as well as teaching in the Michigan and Indiana conferences. His professional accomplishments include earning a master of elementary education from Ball State University. His skill set includes demonstrated leadership in curriculum development, public relations, and marketing and strategic planning. He has earned a reputation as a kind, considerate person, and is much loved by students and parents alike. Pacer also greatly values prayers for God's blessings as he begins this new role.

The Conference thanks the constituency for welcoming Flynt and Pacer to these new roles of service. 🙏

BY STEVE HALEY

# Kentucky-Tennessee Hires Human Resources Director

For years, employees in various offices of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference have carried out the human resource responsibilities. With the need to stay current regarding policies, regulations, and personnel issues, and to bring the multitude of documents and procedures into one office, ADCOM and the Executive Committee recognized the need for a professional human resources director. The position criterion included having a bachelor's degree in human resources (HR) from an Adventist college or university, and prior HR experience.

Carissa Haley graduated from Southern Adventist University in December 2012, with a bachelor of business administration, HR management degree. She was hired by



Carissa Haley

the North American Division in HR, where she served from May 2013 to October 2015.

She then relocated to Nashville, Tenn., where, since then, she has consecutively worked for two corporations, first as an HR coordinator, and then as an HR generalist.

The administrators are pleased to announce that on February 1, 2020, Haley accepted the invitation to bring her rich experience and expertise to the Conference, and become the human resources director. Her assumption of HR responsibilities will significantly enhance HR efficiency, and bring together the pieces that have been carried by Janice Hall, Aaron McNulty, Xiomara Mercado, Denise Pope, and Steve Rose.

The Conference invites all to praise God with them and welcome Haley! 🙏

BY STEVE ROSE



# Orlando Concert Joins Community for Evening of Musical Worship

AdventHealth University (AHU) was proud to co-sponsor the “Worthy is the Lamb” concert, a large-scale ensemble of sacred-based acoustical music on February 22, 2020, at the First United Methodist Church of Orlando. The concert was part three in the second chapter of the “Power and Glory of God Through Music” concert series, which was conceived by AdventHealth employee, Mark Babienko. AHU sponsored the concert to provide faculty, staff, and student musicians an opportunity to create an inspirational experience for the Orlando community.

Each concert features a grand program of glorious music performed by a combined mass choir and orchestra. This year, musicians from several local and out-of-state churches, local schools, and the Orlando community and surrounding areas participated. In total, the concert was composed of 80 voices and 45 instrumentalists, and accompanied by the largest pipe organ in central Florida. In addition to co-sponsoring the event, many of AHU’s own faculty, staff, students, and alumni were among this year’s performers.

Babienko views the concerts as a type of ministry outreach, saying that “music is a universal language that speaks to anyone.” The 2020 concert represented 17 churches from seven denominations collaborating for one purpose, to “return a musical offering to the Lord.”

Babienko, a brass player, participates as one of the performers himself. He also wears many hats in the event’s production, ranging from logistics and design to audio and video editing. He came up with the concert idea in late 2012, while finishing up work on recording music albums for several groups at the Markham Woods Church. “The idea hit me: Wouldn’t it be cool if we could have a concert that combines all these groups?” he explained. From there, an even more ambitious plan grew. Why not bring many churches together and make big ensemble music that couldn’t be accomplished individually?

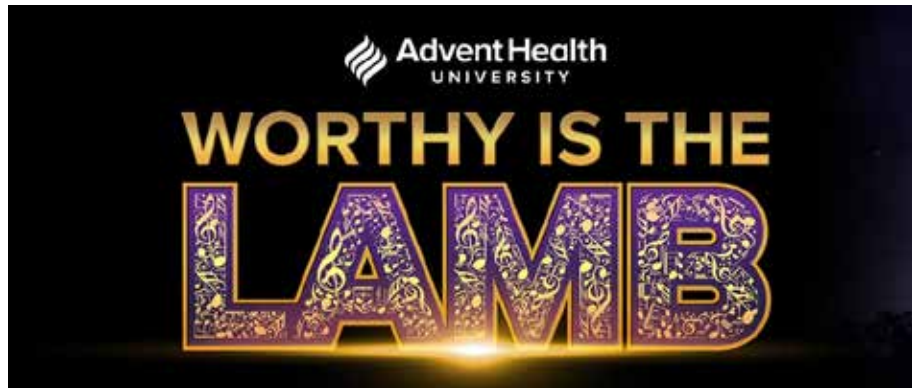


PHOTO BY: DAVE MAGNO

The “Worthy is the Lamb” concert brings together musicians from several churches and schools for a grand program of sacred, uplifting, and awe-inspiring music.

The concerts are free to the public and everyone is encouraged to attend. The theme of each concert is highlighted by the music choices, with each piece specifically chosen to compliment the current theme, and then woven together with short narration interludes.

The series is split into chapters, with three concerts in each. The 2013-2015 concerts made up the first chapter, “The Divine Trilogy,” and focused on each member of the Trinity. The current chapter, “Music of the Redeemed,” has now concluded with “Worthy is the Lamb.” This year’s concert theme focused on the Savior of the world, the Son of God.

Babienko said, “Every concert is a once-in-a-lifetime happening, a fully unique experience that is never repeating.” Blending the choral and orchestral talents of many congregations, the result is an amazing experience for both the musicians and audiences. But, it also presents challenges.

One of note is the relatively short rehearsal schedule. Split into several sessions that equal just 13 hours, a group of musicians are brought together for the first time to produce performance ready music that includes master works from composers such as Handel, Haydn, Tchaikovsky, and more. “This speaks to the commitment and musicianship of those assembled,” commented Babienko.

These challenges would seem limiting to many, but Babienko has found a way to co-

ordinate an incredibly successful series. He credited many people in helping his vision become a reality. One, Linda van Niekerk, the series’ organist/pianist and harpist, has “been foundational in coordinating the music side of things,” according to Babienko.

He called van Niekerk “a musician of the highest caliber,” and was “confident in saying [if] it wasn’t for her involvement these programs wouldn’t have happened.” In addition to her musical talents, her connections at the Methodist church enabled them to secure it as a venue, and she provided a critical introduction to William Shortal, the concert’s current music director.

Ultimately, Babienko credits the event’s success to its sacred purpose. “These concerts happen for the glory of God,” said Babienko. He added, “We assemble as humble musicians before our Creator and Savior ... that we might return a musical offering. I believe God honors this and blesses us beyond what we could accomplish otherwise.”

AHU develops skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ. Sponsoring this concert provided a healing oasis of inspiration and meditation for the community they serve.

For footage of the concert, visit [centralfloridamusical.com/](http://centralfloridamusical.com/).

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

# South Atlantic Holds Singles' Ministries Retreat



Attendees at the singles' ministries retreat

Singles' Ministries is often viewed as the ministry for young adults, desperate individuals, and undesirables. But, who is Singles' Ministries actually for? What is the purpose of Singles' Ministries? Singles' Ministries is for individuals who are divorced, widowed, single, and interested or uninterested in marriage.

Singles' Ministries is not a hook-up ministry or a prerequisite for marriage ministry. Seamona Stewart, South Atlantic Conference's (SAC) Atlanta coordinator for Singles' Ministries, believes the purpose of the ministry is to give Christian singles in the Church a safe place to serve in active ministry with like-minded singles. Stewart spear-headed this year's singles' retreat in Gatlinburg, Tenn. The theme was "L.I.F.E." (Living in Full Effect). The purpose of the retreat was to give singles a place to get away, recharge, and fellowship with fellow Christian singles while living life to the fullest, the way God intended.

Sabbath morning began with morning manna, an early morning worship experience; breakfast; and part one of a two-part



series presented by the retreat's speaker, Jon Remitera. Remitera's sessions reinforced the retreat's theme, L.I.F.E., as he delivered sermons that promoted self-love, personal development, and God's desire to see His children live wonderful, happy lives.

After group ice-breakers, individuals engaged in various conversations ranging from raising children and hyphenating surnames, to what individuals expect from their spouses. At sunset, the group enjoyed

a few rounds of laser tag, miniature golf, funnel cakes, and a night of relaxation in the cabin's jacuzzi. Sunday, the group participated in snow tubing and skiing.

The retreat proved to be a rejuvenating, enjoyable experience for the attendees seeking to Live in Full Effect and serve in ministry with like-minded Christian singles. ●

BY MELVIN CONRAD



# Oakwood University Church Members Volunteer, Distribute Food



Oakwood University Church members who volunteered to distribute food to the community.

Heaven's Storehouse is a food distribution ministry of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Ala. Each year the volunteers make it possible for families to have a Thanksgiving meal.

In November of 2019, the volunteers, who were assisted by other church members and students from Oakwood Adventist Academy, filled 260 large bags with food for distribution to community families who needed assistance. God has provided the means for this outreach ministry to have food items for Huntsville residents in need. The financial support of the church and individual contributions from its members supports this effort annually, as the number of families receiving food increases each year.

On a weekly basis, Heaven's Storehouse volunteers distribute food each Monday to those in need. Frances Calhoun, director, and associates Elton Lester, Vern Joyner, and Linnie Dixon lead in this initiative, and are supported by 25 dedicated volunteers.

Benefiting from Heaven's Storehouse are individuals who are attempting to extend their resources to feed their fam-



Volunteers assist in food distribution.



Oakwood Adventist Academy students help fill 260 large bags with food to distribute to the community.

ilies, single-parent families, University students, and those who are a part of the Huntsville homeless community. Recipients also reflect different ethnic groups and individuals over the age of 18.

When individuals enter Heaven's Storehouse, in addition to seeking food assistance, they are often looking for a smile, hug, or words of encouragement. Many of them comment about the Breath of Life Telecast, and are familiar with Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of Oakwood University Church and director of the Breath of Life Ministries. As Seventh-day Adventist Christians, the contact with those in need through Heaven's Storehouse is an opportunity to share God's love and compassion through giving and service. The words of Christ are the impetus for this ministry: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me," Matthew 25:40. 🕊

BY LINNIE DIXON

# Southeastern Hosts First “Growing to Serve” Spiritual Retreat



PHOTO BY: SEC COMMUNICATION

Southeastern Conference administrators and some retreat attendees stand outside the Conference office after a weekend of workshops and activities. Attendees were reminded that God owns everything, grows relationships, expects money management, and supports Christian stewardship, which results in their spiritual growth.

Christians, from newborn believers to mature disciples, seem to realize that giving is intrinsic to being a Christian. The need to give arises from believing that God sent His only Son to all to make Him known, and His Son gave His life for all. His love is unconditional, and giving is a grateful response to Him. Martin Luther, the great Protestant reformer, once said that every Christian goes through three conversions in life — first the heart, then the head, and finally the purse. For God to really be first in the lives of Christians, all three are necessary.

The stewardship and treasury ministries at Southeastern Conference hosted the first stewardship leaders and treasurers spiritual retreat, “Growing to Serve,” on February 21-22, 2020. The event drew more than 60 pastors, elders, treasurers, and stewardship leaders from all over Florida, and some from Alabama and Georgia. Michael Owusu, D.Min., Southeastern executive secretary, gave the Friday Vesper thought, “Chosen to Serve.” He reminded all that no matter what many have, it all belongs to God. He [Jesus] chose to give all life, health, and strength



PHOTO BY: SEC COMMUNICATION STAFF

The Southeastern stewardship and treasury ministries hosted their first stewardship leaders and treasurers spiritual retreat on February 21-22, 2020. More than 60 pastors, elders, treasurers, and stewardship leaders from all over Florida, and some from Alabama and Georgia, attended.

to accumulate what all think is theirs.

Mithra Williams, Southeastern director of prayer and women’s ministries, set the pace on Sabbath with a devotional and workshop on “Growing Relationships,” and taught 10 ways to grow a relationship. David Long, Southern Union Conference stewardship director, presented two powerful and timely workshops: “First things First,” giving back to God what’s rightfully His; and “What Happened to My Money?” which focused on how money is divided after you give. Sheree Brown, CFO, spoke on Christian stewardship, which transitioned smoothly into South-

east President Gregory O. Mack’s sermon on “Growing Spiritually.”

As Seventh-day Adventists, many believe that a consecrated life will manifest the joy of dedicating to God the whole being, and the gifts He has given. The Planned Giving and Trust Services departments are available to provide consulting services to any church or individual. The goal is to help congregations develop zeal to give as an answer to the goodness of God without a second thought. 📌

BY SEC COMMUNICATION STAFF



# Southern, Oakwood Come Together for 20th Annual DEEP Retreat



Alayna Hunt (left) and Andrew Merideth from Oakwood and Daniela Trejos (front) and Angie Edwards from Southern enjoyed getting to know each other during DEEP Retreat.

This past February, 20 students from Southern Adventist University and 20 students from Oakwood University were invited to come together for the 20th annual DEEP (Diversity Education Exchange Program) Retreat. Under the theme “20/20 Vision,” the Southern Union-sponsored program included discussion and fellowship, a service event, and opportunities to enjoy nature.

The group spent a weekend in Cordle, Ga., where each student roomed with someone from the other university. They also had the chance to get to know each other by kayaking on the surrounding lake; sitting together in talks by Roger Hernandez, ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union; picking up trash at a nearby state park; and engag-



2020 DEEP Retreat participants enjoyed seminars, discussion, service, and fun together.

ing in deep discussions about diversity.

“The main goal of DEEP Retreat is to bring together students from different cultures and backgrounds,” said Stephanie

Guster, Southern’s senior adviser for diversity, who coordinated this year’s event. “In another setting, they may not get the opportunity to room with someone who is



Korean or Tongan, Cuban or Ethiopian, or get to know them on a personal level.”

According to Guster, the most frequent sentiment expressed by attendees was that they wished they had more time with each other.

“I was tremendously blessed by the seminars, and I want to make it my mission to break down social barriers,” said Sokopeti Paongo, senior nursing major at Southern. “The weekend went by so fast,

and I wish we could have stayed longer.”

“My favorite aspect about the retreat was truly being able to engage in meaningful conversations with students from Southern about their life perspectives and cultural background,” said Grace Wainaina, senior finance major at Oakwood. “The informal sessions during the retreat were so enlightening.”

Guster was pleased to see students forging

new, culturally diverse relationships over the weekend, fulfilling the goal of the event.

“Getting students together allows them to see that they have more in common than they realize,” Guster said. “I hope this event helped to nurture Christian diversity and develop a new understanding between students of Southern and Oakwood.”

BY TIERRA HAYES

## Chinese Church Plant Develops Under Student Leadership



The student-initiated church group has grown to nearly 130 attendees.

In 2016, Dennis Li uprooted his family from China and moved to the United States to study theology at Southern. He quickly realized that “God sent us to this country to do more than complete a degree,” and felt called to start a Chinese church on campus. In September 2017, two or three families and several students began meeting in Brock Hall for Sabbath morning church services.

Despite small beginnings, the group quickly outgrew its space, developing into an international community of nearly 130. Recently, working through the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, the congregation moved into its own church building not far from Southern, and adopted the official name High Point Seventh-day Adventist Fellowship.

Li, who graduated from Southern in

December 2019, plans to continue leading the diverse group of families, students, and community members. As they grow, Li emphasizes the importance of inviting young people to participate, and enthusiastically says, “Our goal is to open our arms wide and welcome anyone to worship with us.”

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

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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

## God's Countless Blessings



Lena Hodges Owens, the third of 11 children, was a fourth generation Adventist. Her great grandfather, Larkin Townsend, helped establish the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the South, the Dutch Creek Church, founded in 1882, near Valle Crucis, North Carolina.

All her life, Lena loved the mountains, God's Word, and the Banner Elk Church. Through her Will, Lena very generously provided for her Conference, the Banner Elk Church, and other Adventist ministries.

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**PATHFINDER AND ADVENTURER SPRING COUNCIL MEETING** - April 18, 19. NPR.  
**CORE - CAROLINA OFFICERS' RETREAT FOR ELDERS** - April 24, 25. NPR.  
**MPA ACADEMY DAYS/HOMESHOW WEEKEND** - May 1, 2.  
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## 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  
**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 Richey, 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/camp-meeting

**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

**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 18. 2-5 p.m. Ellijay, GA, Church.  
April 25. 2-5 p.m. Battlefield Community Church, Ringgold, GA.  
May 16. 2-5 p.m. Newton County, Social Circle, GA.  
**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.  
**MASTER GUIDE BIBLE BOWL** - May 2. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.  
**PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLY** - May 9. 2-5 p.m. North Knoxville, TN, Church.  
**HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT** - May 15-17. For women age 10 and up. Register by April 14. River Terrace Resort, Gatlinburg, TN. For more Camp Meeting Schedules, see page 39 in the April Southern Tidings. Register for events on the conference website, www.gccsda.com.

## GULF STATES

**CAMP MEETING-ALAMISCO** - April 3, 4. Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL. Guest presenter: Clifford Goldstein. Details: www.gscsda.org/events  
**YOUNG ADULT RETREAT** - April 9-12. Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL. www.gscsda.org/yam  
**PATHFINDER FAIR** - May 1-3. Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL. www.gscsda.org/youth-ministry-events  
**BASS MEMORIAL ACADEMY GRADUA-**

**TION** - 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

**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.  
**HISPANIC CAMP MEETING** - June 5, 6. Highland Academy.  
**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** - June 9. Conference Office.

## SOUTHEASTERN

**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. More information and online registration www.secsda.org.

## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**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/musicvents.  
**SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA CONCERT** - April 19. With Laurie Redmer Cadwal-

leader conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This free musical event and many others are also broadcast live at [southern.edu/streaming](http://southern.edu/streaming).

**SUMMER CLASSES BEGIN** - May 11. Numerous online courses are available for both undergraduate and graduate curriculums. Prospective students must apply and be accepted before registering. Start the process at [southern.edu/apply](http://southern.edu/apply).

**ACADEMIC SUMMER CAMPS** - June 15-17. Southern is hosting 13 camps for high school students. Topics include: automotive repair, chemistry, creative writing, computing, filmmaking, graphic design, media ministry, multimedia journalism, outdoor adventure leadership, photography, pre-med, psychology, and vegetarian culinary arts. For more information or to register, visit [southern.edu/camps](http://southern.edu/camps).

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**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](mailto: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.

**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](mailto:ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com) or check the school's website: [ea-gpa-alumni.com](http://ea-gpa-alumni.com).

**TRIADELPHIA CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION - April 11.** Fifty years ago members purchased the land where the church sits today. All former members and friends are invited to celebrate with us God's blessings through the years. Address: 12950 Brighton Dam Road, Clarksville, MD 21029. For details, visit: [www.triadelphiachurch.com](http://www.triadelphiachurch.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](mailto: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.oklahomacademy.org](http://www.oklahomacademy.org).

**SINGLES: ANNUAL SPRING RETREAT - April 17-19.** Fall Creek Falls, Tennessee, State Park. For additional information, contact SinglesMinistry at [southerninglesministries@gmail.com](mailto:southerninglesministries@gmail.com).

**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](mailto:bva.alumni.cte@gmail.com), or call Dale Rollins at: 224-407-0233. Details, visit: [www.broadviewacademy.org](http://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](mailto:info@columbiafirst.org) or 803-791-1135.

**"YE OLDE" CEDAR LAKE ACADEMY REUNION - 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](http://www.gccsda.com/singles-ministries/home).

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

SUNSET							
	APR 3	APR 10	APR 17	APR 24	MAY 1	MAY 8	
ATLANTA, GA	8:00	8:05	8:11	8:16	8:21	8:27	
CHARLESTON, SC	7:42	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:02	8:07	
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:15	
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:04	8:09	8:15	8:20	8:26	8:32	
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:09	7:14	7:20	7:25	7:31	7:37	
JACKSON, MS	7:22	7:27	7:32	7:37	7:42	7:47	
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:09	8:15	8:22	8:28	8:35	8:41	
MEMPHIS, TN	7:24	7:29	7:35	7:41	7:46	7:52	
MIAMI, FL	7:38	7:42	7:45	7:49	7:52	7:56	
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:07	7:12	7:17	7:22	7:27	7:32	
NASHVILLE, TN	7:11	7:17	7:23	7:29	7:35	7:41	
ORLANDO, FL	7:45	7:49	7:53	7:57	8:01	8:05	
TAMPA, FL	7:49	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:04	8:08	
WILMINGTON, NC	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:51	7:56	8:02	



## 2020 CAMP MEETING SCHEDULES

**CAROLINA**

Portions of Camp Meeting will be viewable at [www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting](http://www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting)  
 English ... May 24-31...Theme: *Seeking His Face*.....Lake Junaluska, NC  
 Sunday-Wednesday Speaker: Kameron DeVasher  
 Thursday-Sabbath Speaker: John Bradshaw  
 Hispanic.....Sept. 11-13...Christian Valerio de Jesus.....Ridgecrest Convention Center...  
 Ridgecrest, NC  
 Eastern Carolina ... Sept. 19...Greenville North SDA Church..... Winterville, NC  
 Speaker: Ron Halverson Jr.

**FLORIDA**

English.....April 16-19.....Theme: *Live to Serve*  
 Speaker: Carlton Byrd, D.Min.....Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL  
 Accommodation/meal registration and live online broadcasts:  
[floridaconference.com/campmeeting](http://floridaconference.com/campmeeting)  
 Spanish.....April 24-26.....Theme: *Vive para Servir*  
 Speaker: Tony Anobile and Gamaliel Feliciano.....Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL  
 Accommodation/meal registration and live online broadcasts:  
[floridaconference.com/campestre](http://floridaconference.com/campestre)

**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND**

Details: [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)  
 Theme: *Called to Serve*  
 Korean.....May 15-17 Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Speaker: Choi Kyung  
 English Youth Speaker: Chester Clark  
 Collegedale.....May 29-June 2.....Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN  
 Theme: *Called to Serve*  
 Speaker: Karl Haffner  
 Upper Cumberland.....June 4-6.....Meister Memorial Church, Deer Lodge, TN  
 Theme: *Called to Serve*  
 Speaker: Richie Halversen  
 Deaf Fellowship.....July 29-Aug. 2.....Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Theme: *Lest We Forget*  
 Speaker: Alan Meis  
 Hispanic.....Aug. 2-9 Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA  
 Theme: *ConectA2*, Workshops on Health, Spirituality, and Mental Health  
 Northeast Tennessee.....Sept. 18, 19.....The Oaks Retreat, Greeneville, TN

Theme: *Called to Serve*  
 Sabbath in the Smokies.....Sept. 25, 26.....Cades Cove, TN  
 Theme: *Called to Serve*

**GULF STATES**

Details: [www.gscsda.org/campmeeting](http://www.gscsda.org/campmeeting)  
 Theme: *The Gospel: What Must I Do to be Saved?*  
 Speaker: Clifford Goldstein.....April 3, 4.....Camp Alamisco  
 May 20-23.....Bass Memorial Academy  
 Wednesday and Thursday Speaker: Jim Davidson  
 Friday and Sabbath Speaker: Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE**

Theme: *Guided by the Word*.....Highland Academy, Portland, TN  
 English.....May 22-30  
 Speakers: Gordon Bietz, Mike Ryan, and Robert Folkenberg Jr.  
 Hispanic.....June 5, 6.....Highland Academy, Portland, TN

**SOUTH ATLANTIC**

June 4-13.....River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

Theme: *Thy Kingdom Come*  
 Latino.....May 23-25.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
 Haitian.....June 7, 8.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
 English.....June 9-13.....Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL

**SOUTHEASTERN**

English- Adult/Main Pavillion.....July 16-25.....Hawthorne, FL  
 Youth Pavillion .....July 16-25.....Hawthorne, FL  
 Haitian Camp Meeting/Main Pavillion.....July 29-Aug. 1.....Hawthorne, FL

## 2020 SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES

**CAROLINA**

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC  
 Register online at [www.nosoca.org](http://www.nosoca.org)  
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-11).....June 14-21  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-13).....June 21-28  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16).....June 28-July 5  
 Family Camp (all ages).....July 13-17  
 Specialty Camps  
 Lifeguard Camp (ages 15-40).....May 31-June 5  
 SIT Camp (ages 16-17).....June 7-19  
 Horsemanship Camp I (ages 12-16).....June 14-21  
 Horsemanship Camp II (ages 12-16).....June 21-28  
 Water Sports Camp (ages 13-16).....July 5-12

**FLORIDA**

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL  
 Details: [campkulaqua.com](http://campkulaqua.com)  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9).....May 1-June 7  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12).....May 1-June 7  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17).....May 1-June 7  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (girls ages 11-16).....May 1-June 7  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9).....June 7-14  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12).....June 7-14  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17).....June 7-14  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (girls ages 11-16).....June 7-14  
 Cub Camp (ages 7-9).....June 14-21  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-12).....June 14-21  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-17).....June 14-21  
 Horsemanship Specialty Camp (girls ages 11-16).....June 14-21  
 Family Camp.....Sept. 4-7

**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND**

Cohutta Springs Youth Camps, Crandall, GA  
 Online registration and details at [www.cs-yc.com](http://www.cs-yc.com)  
 Camp Staff Training .....May 28-June 7  
 Regular Camps

Adventurers (ages 7-9).....June 21-26  
 Junior I (ages 10-12).....June 7-14  
 Junior II (ages 10-12).....June 14-21  
 Junior/Tween (ages 10-13).....June 28-July 5  
 Teen I (ages 13-17).....July 5-12  
 Teen II (ages 13-17).....July 12-19  
 Family Camp (all ages).....July 21-26  
 RAD Camps  
 Paintball Camp I (ages 13-17).....June 7-14  
 DiscipleTrek Camp (ages 15-18).....June 7-28  
 Paintball Camp II & Ultimate RAD Camp (ages 13-17).....June 14-21  
 S.I.T. Camp (ages 15-18).....June 14-21  
 RAD Horse Trip and Wakeboard Camp I (ages 13-17).....June 21-28  
 C.I.T. Camp (ages 15-18).....June 21-28  
 Paintball Camp III (ages 13-17).....June 28-July 5  
 Lifeguard Camp (ages 15-18).....June 28-July 5  
 Basketball Camp and Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17).....July 5-12  
 Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17).....July 12-19  
 WIT Camp (ages 15-18, every week except June 21-28).....June 7-July 19

**GULF STATES**

Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL  
 Details: [www.campalamisco.org](http://www.campalamisco.org)  
 Aquatics Camp (ages 13-17).....June 14-21  
 Adventure Camp (ages 7-11).....June 14-21  
 Junior Camp (ages 10-13).....June 7-14  
 Teen Camp (ages 12-16).....May 31-June 7  
 Family Camp 1 (all ages).....June 29-July 5  
 Family Camp 2/Young Adult (all ages).....July 2-5

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE**

Indian Creek Camp, Liberty, TN  
 Staff-in-Training (ages 15½-17).....May 31-June 5  
 Junior Camp 1 (ages 8-12).....June 7-14  
 Junior Camp 2 (ages 8-12).....June 14-21  
 Teen Camp (ages 13-16).....June 21-28

Family Camp 1 (all ages).....June 30-July 5  
 Family Camp 2 (all ages).....July 5-12  
 Family Camp 3 (all ages).....July 12-19  
 Family Camp 4 (all ages).....NEW .....July 19-26  
 Lifeguarding Camp (ages 15-17).....July 22-26

**SOUTH ATLANTIC**

River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC  
 Junior Bible/Summer Camp (ages 8-17).....TBD

**SOUTH CENTRAL**

Camp Thunderbird, Chattanooga, TN  
 Orientation/registration/details: [www.scc-adventist.org/summercamp](http://www.scc-adventist.org/summercamp)  
 Camp Staff Training .....TBD  
 Cub Camp (ages 6-12).....TBD  
 Friendship Camp (ages 8-17).....TBD  
 Sports Camp (ages 7-17).....TBD

**SOUTHEASTERN**

Southeastern Conference Campground, Hawthorne, FL  
 Junior/Summer Camp.....June 7-21

# FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

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

## Freshman Academic Scholarship

**\$8,000 TO**

**FULL TUITION**

awarded over four years based on GPA and ACT score

## Freshman State Scholarship Replacement

**\$12,000**

awarded over four years for students from most Southern Union states

## Freshman Leadership Scholarship

**\$10,000**

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

## Freshman Lightbearer Scholarship

**\$8,000**

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

For complete details about Southern's scholarships and other financial aid, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit [southern.edu/scholarships](http://southern.edu/scholarships).

P.O. Box 370 • Collegedale, TN • 37315-0370  
1.800.SOUTHERN • [southern.edu](http://southern.edu)



**SOUTHERN**  
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