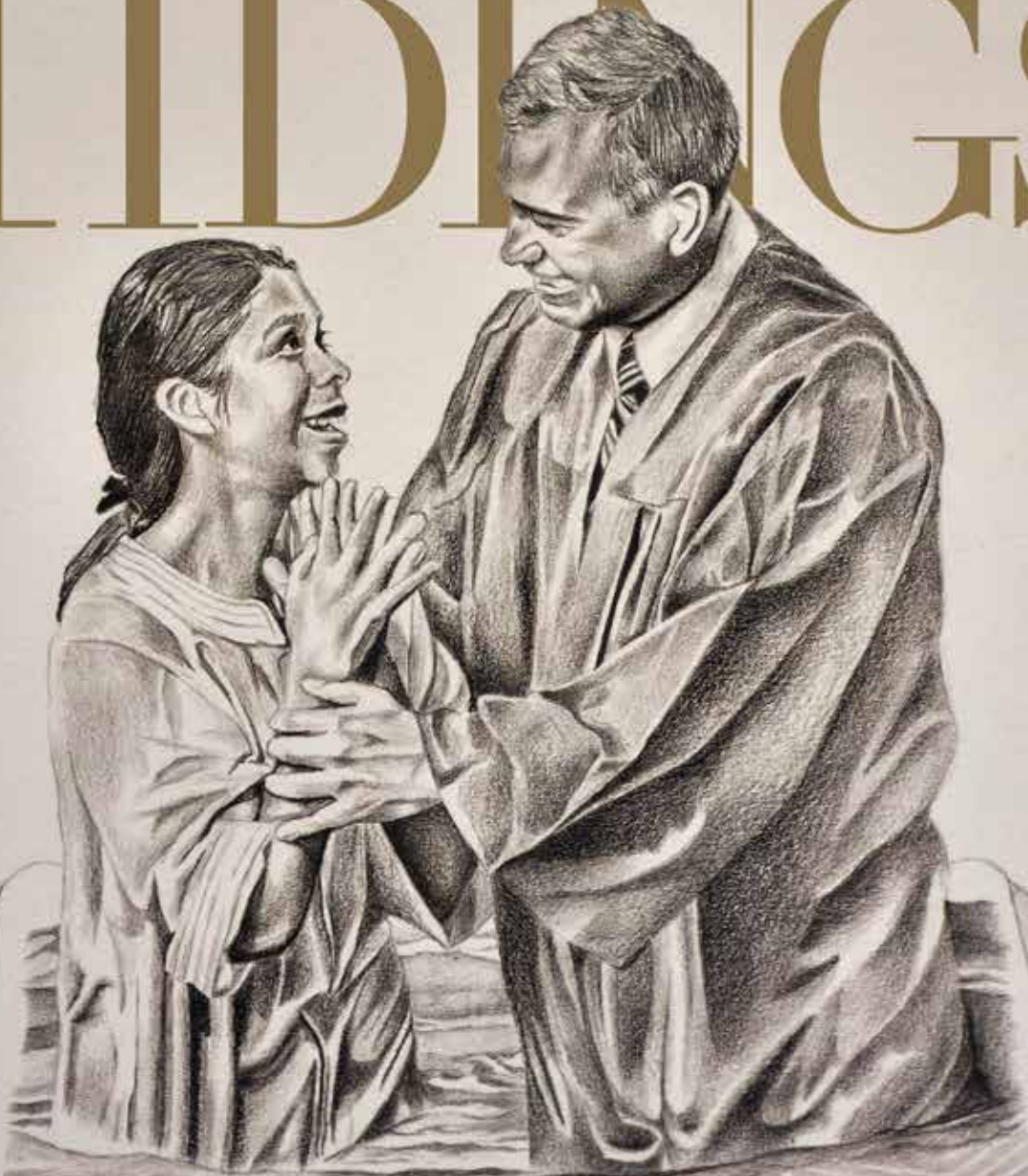


T Southern TIDINGS

JUNE 2021



GO. DISCIPLE. BAPTIZE.

BREATH OF LIFE

HOPE IN
DARKNESS

BIND UP THE
BROKENHEARTED

IT IS WRITTEN

Evangelism: God's Imperative for Regeneration



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

“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, ‘Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God,’” John 3:3.

Nicodemus was a prominent man, a Pharisee, a ruler among the Jews, and a member of the Sanhedrin. He had credentials and no doubt looked the part. But, he was so sensitive and so protective of his standing in the world that he came to Jesus at night. He was seeking the answer to a nagging question. He wanted to know how to regenerate his stagnant spiritual experience.

Jesus did not hesitate to speak candidly. He said, “Ye must be born again.” Supposedly mystified, Nicodemus asked, “How?”

Jesus replied, “Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.”

When Nicodemus still couldn't quite comprehend, the Savior told him, “Marvel not.” In other words, accept it by faith. Experience the new birth. Then you will understand. The revitalization of his spiritual life became his. Nicodemus got the answer and the results he sought.

Although the Savior told this sincere Pharisee to “marvel not,” it is difficult not to ponder the wonder and the mystery of the new birth.

Nicodemus was thinking of natural birth. Christ was illustrating spiritual rebirth. The figure is apt, for there are similarities. There is quickening in both cases. In spiritual birth there comes a marvelous quickening of conscience, a renewed sensitivity to right and wrong, a new way of living, coming into being. No other experience is remotely like it. This is the miracle of conversion.

Natural birth, as we know it, is wonderful. It is emergence from compressed quiescence. From close confinement in darkness, the tiny creatures come into a colorful world, the yellow sun in an overarching sky, the Earth in its mantle of green, the prospects of growth. So it is with human birth — a new life, a new member of the human race. The newborn baby is a person, a personality, an adult in embryo.

We ponder the deeper significance of this discipline of childbirth: of pain and weariness intermingled with joy and gladness. Its mystery quite eludes us. But, it is never so marvelous as that inner awakening, the mysterious spiritual regeneration by which we come to belong to the eternal world through Jesus Christ the Lord.

Amazing opportunities have been presented to us during the COVID-19 pandemic for the regeneration of thousands of people around us unto everlasting life. Multiple virtual evangelistic series have resulted in thousands of people being baptized within the territory of the Southern Union.

God never has, nor will He now, do what we can do — but neglect to do — in the task of giving the Gospel to the world. It is only as we carefully organize and carry out a systematic program of sowing, cultivating, and reaping that we will see the results that we all desire. Evangelism, God's imperative for regeneration, is the goal to be reached. -RCS



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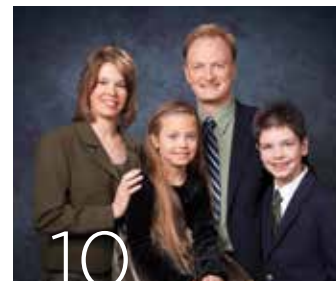
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COVER ART: **Adria Ware**

GO. DISCIPLE. BAPTIZE.

BY RALPH RINGER

A historical overview of the methods of teaching and doing evangelism

The First Evangelistic Meetings Held in Southern Union

The first meetings were in April of 1871 by Elbert B. Lane at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee (just north of Nashville), in the railroad depot. It was a meeting for everyone, but whites met in one room and colored in another room. The crowds overflowed to the freight room and platform. Five were baptized and a bi-racial church was started, the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southern Union. A Black Baptist minister, Harry Lowe, was one of those baptized. Lane came back in 1873 and increased the church membership to 13.

The Big Challenge for Evangelism in the South

It was shortly after the Civil War and southerners were distrustful of northerners and northerners were reluctant to go south to hold evangelistic meetings because it could be dangerous. Feelings were still raw for many on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line.

Evangelists Were Church Planters

Most evangelists held meetings in places where there were no churches. Evangelists for many years pioneered the Seventh-day Adventist Church work in most areas in the South.

Union and conference leaders were evangelists holding meetings. They held meetings in new areas to plant churches,



ART BY: ADRIA WARE

and they held meetings where churches had been planted to build them up. They also held meetings where a few or even a single member lived, to try to plant a church there. Many times they would use a member's home to hold these meetings or a school, hall, or tent.



A drawing of an early tent meeting held in Nashville, Tennessee, by pastors Alonzo Barry and Franklin Warnick: Tents were regularly used for evangelistic meetings for more than 100 years. (Source: Southern Missionary)

Camp Meetings and Conference Constituency Meetings were connected with and held where they wanted to hold an evangelistic meeting to build up a church or plant a church. They would bring in a big tent for these meetings, hold their meetings during the day, and have evangelistic meetings at night. They would leave the tent there to continue the evangelistic meetings.

Literature evangelists were key in spreading the message to prepare an area for meetings. Also, they helped to follow up the meetings. *The Watchman* and *Signs of the Times* were used widely in evangelism.

The Report of Progress, the forerunner of the *Southern Tidings*, started July 2, 1907. Literature evangelism and evangelistic meetings were highlighted. It also covered the news for the Southern Union.

Early Methods

W. H. Granger's tent meeting in 1907 used house-to-house work of giving everyone in the community the *Family Bible Teacher Lessons*, which were summaries of the previous night's sermon. Bible workers would deliver the lessons to everyone in the community

and invite them to the nightly meetings, which built the attendance, and most said they would read the lesson. Thus, they reached the entire community with a message that could help plant a new church or help grow a church.

Bible workers were used in preparation, during, and as follow-up of evangelistic meetings. They gave Bible studies which helped prepare for the meetings. Their work increased baptisms during and following the meetings. They helped plant churches and helped stabilize new members.

New members became foot soldiers for evangelism. They were trained to give and sell literature, visit, give Bible studies, and assist in evangelistic meetings.

House meetings were a common place to hold meetings, especially where there was no church building. The house of a member or a willing interest was used when it was in an area they wanted to plant a church.

Tabernacles were built for winter evangelistic meetings and when halls were not available or too costly. Many times, when the meetings were over, they used the lumber of the tabernacle to build a church. Three- to 12-month meetings were often used to plant churches.

Lay evangelism persons were trained to hold meetings. In some places the number of lay meetings equaled or exceeded the number of meetings held by ministers.



Sometimes evangelistic tent meetings were held in connection with Camp Meetings. The South Central Conference held tent meetings in connection with Camp Meetings for several years, which resulted in many baptisms.

Later Methods

Bible School was launched in 1950 in the Southern Union Conference by E. L. Cardey.

Fordyce Detamore's three-week meetings included intense pre-work of getting names of former and inactive members, family, and interests. He used extensive visitation and calls that gave the Holy Spirit plenty of time to reach the heart.

Earl E. Cleveland preferred the "long campaigns," 12 to 14 weeks. He said, "It provided greater opportunity to win those who may initially resist." He believed meetings should meet the needs of the whole person; therefore, service to the community, with food, clothes, and medical care to those in need, was part of his meetings.

Operation Dixie was a Southern Union evangelism program during 1959. It involved all 435 churches in the Southern Union. All departments and members were involved with their pastor in the pre-work, and the revival/decision meetings.

Mission 72-77 had all churches in the North American Division (NAD) hold a coordinated evangelistic meeting with materials provided by the NAD, and involving all the departments of the Church.

Revelation Seminars was a seminar style of doing evangelism that a great number of pastors and laypersons used.

Kenneth Cox used a four-screen multimedia presentation, music, and organized visitation with emphasis on Gospel presentations.

Les Pratt preached warm, heart-warming sermons that uplifted Jesus, using only the Bible and visitation to build relationships.

ShareHim trained laypersons to hold evangelistic meetings. The original idea from Robert Folkenberg was training laypersons of all ages to hold meetings in countries where the Church was growing fast and evangelism was exciting. They could experience God's power, then bring back that experience and do evangelism at home. Later there was emphasis on homeland meetings with "bootcamps" training laypeople to prepare for, hold a meet-

PHOTO BY: STEVEN NORMAN



Field Schools of Evangelism started in the Southern Union by J. L. Shuler. In 2006, Southern Adventist University and Andrews Theological Seminary held a joint field school in Mobile, Alabama, led by Jac Colon and Ralph Ringer.



PHOTO BY: STEVEN NORMAN

Alejandro Bullón, training laymen in central Florida, was involved in the 2015 evangelistic Caravan.

ing, and follow up with discipling new members. ShareHim, begun in Carolina Conference, still is a ministry there, and has impacted and been shared with the rest of the NAD.

Roger Hernandez —Found new methods during the pandemic to do social media evangelism via Zoom, YouTube, and Facebook.

Field Schools for Evangelism for Students

Oakwood College’s (now Oakwood University) first Field School for Evangelism was held July 1907. It was held in connection with summer school in tents in Huntsville, Alabama. The Field Schools have continued to train pastors and future pastors to do evangelism. Some of the greatest evangelists in the Seventh-day Adventist Church have been involved in them, like Earl E. Cleveland. Currently, Jesse Wilson, D.Min., is the leader.

Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) started holding Field Schools for Evangelism shortly after its founding. Various professors were involved in the Field Schools. Bruce Johnston was an outstanding evangelist, and was one of those professors that held many of Southern’s Field Schools. The Southern Union was always involved, but got more involved when Ron Halvorsen

was called to the Union in 1986. He, along with a professor from Southern, led out in the Southern Union Southern Adventist University Field School for Evangelism for 17 years until he retired. Ralph Ringer took Halvorsen’s place at the Southern Union, who, with Carlos Martin, Ph.D., from Southern, and Halvorsen, started a new method. An experienced evangelist would teach students and preach a series, and the students would preach in churches in the area at the same time. Roger Hernandez now works with SAU in its Field School.

Evangelists Held Field Schools for Pastors During Their Meetings

J. L. Shuler had Double-Header Sunday nights with reserve tickets in Raleigh, North Carolina, November 1932. People filled the hall, and 200 new members were brought in where no congregation had existed. He held a Field School in 1937, in Greensboro, North Carolina, for young pastors. Shuler’s book, *Public Evangelism*, was published in 1939, and was used to help so many of the evangelists from that day until today.

Fordyce Detamore held daily classes for two or three hours for pastors to inform and train them in his three-week series. He also assigned them names of those attending to work and visit with.

Earl E. Cleveland always had a burden

to train and mentor pastors in evangelism. He trained and mentored hundreds of pastors, including Charles D. Brooks (both were natives of the Southern Union). In his meetings he gave pastors “on the job training in evangelism.” When he was a Southern Union evangelist, 1950-1954, he also held classes on evangelism, called by the Union, including an evangelism council. He taught pastors of all races about evangelism. He continued this training when he moved to the General Conference, and for the rest of his life.

The basic method of Spanish evangelism was and is small group Bible studies, followed by one-week reaping series at the church. There were four new strategies Jorge Mayer, director of Hispanic ministries for the Southern Union, brought in: 1. “Festival of the Laity,” where laypersons were trained, motivated, and equipped to do personal and public evangelism. 2. Reaping Caravans, where a well-known evangelist goes from church to church to give a sermon to get decisions for baptism and hold baptisms. Later there were two Caravans per year, one early in the year to train, motivate, and equip; and one later in the year to reap. 3. Three outreach movies were made: “The Window,” to bring people to Christ; “The Return,” to bring back former members; and “Marked for Death,” for decisions

for baptism — 10,000 to 20,000 each in the Union, and 60,000 in the NAD. 4. Youth Congresses, are held Thursday through Sunday for the youth. They are asked to get their friends (non-members) to come with them to Youth Congress, and see on-the-job training bringing youth to Jesus and discipleship. The Southern Union pioneered these four, and most of the NAD has adopted them.

The outreach to Jews uses a new method marking the feasts of Leviticus. We make friends with them; invite them to join in the celebration, which all points to the Messiah; and then study the Scriptures with those who are interested.

Southern Union Evangelism Council (Now EC3)

The Southern Union had evangelism councils from time to time, but it wasn't until 1970 that the annual Southern Union Evangelism Council was started by Harold Metcalf, then ministerial secretary. It was for full-time evangelists, to inspire, give training in many areas to help them be more effective evangelists, show them the latest technology, and bring in professors and scholars to help the evangelists to be true to the Bible and grow in their scholarship. There was also time for evangelists to share what they were doing and have fellowship with other evangelists. The evangelists were honored for their work.

Ron Halvorsen took over leadership in 1986. He continued most of what was being done at the Southern Union Evangelism Council (SUEC), but he brought some changes. The most notable change was that he opened the SUEC to pastors who were interested in evangelism.

In 2003, Ralph Ringer took over leadership of the SUEC. He continued what the SUEC had been doing, but broadened it. The target attendees were evangelists, pastor/evangelists, lay evangelists, and administrators interested in evangelism. New services were added, such as a free professional portrait for their handbills, for all who attended.

In 2015, Roger Hernandez took over



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

The late Ron Halvorsen preaches in a hall meeting in Ovens Auditorium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

leadership of the SUEC. It was renamed EC3, an acronym for the Evangelism Council, the 3 is for the three "P's," Preparation, Proclamation, and Preservation. It is the only annual meeting that focuses solely on evangelism.

Oakwood Evangelism Council (Now PELC)

Earl E. Cleveland was the major force in its birth and growth. It was designed to inspire, train, and equip Black pastors in evangelism. It was broadened to also cover other areas of ministry and all pastors. Therefore, the name was changed to PELC, Pastors' Evangelism and Leadership Council, and it is led by Jesse Wilson, D.Min.

Radio and Television Evangelism in the Southern Union

It Is Written (IIW) and Mark Finley presented NET '95 in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in February 1995, and uplinked live via satellite to 676 churches across North America, resulting in more than 5,000 baptisms. A second series, NET '96, was uplinked from Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Florida, in October 1996. There were 1,900 churches involved in the NAD with 17,000 baptisms.

Under John Bradshaw's leadership, IIW, partnering with Southern Adventist University, started SALT (Soul-winning

and Leadership Training School), a Bible worker and evangelism training program in 2011, as well as online resources for evangelistic training called SALT365.

In 2014, IIW relocated to the Chattanooga area and continues its involvement with the Southern Union.

Breath of Life (BOL) was started by evangelist Charles D. Brooks in 1974. During the 23 years he led BOL, the ministry had 15,000 baptisms and planted 15 Breath of Life churches. Breath of Life's current speaker/director is Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min. He is the lead pastor of the Oakwood University Church, while leading BOL and holding evangelistic meetings in the Southern Union and world.

Other media ministries not based in the Southern Union territory include the Voice of Prophecy, Faith For Today, 3ABN, and Amazing Facts. These ministries have helped the Southern Union grow through radio and television programs, evangelistic meetings, and Bible School.

To view more images and history, visit the SouthernTidings.com website. 📷

Ralph Ringer is the director of church growth/evangelism training and Jewish Ministries at the Southern Union Conference.

BREATH OF LIFE HISTORY

BY AMALIA DESHAY

It was after the first series of riots in Southern California in the 1960s that the vision to develop a ministry to reach the Black community was born. Breath of Life emerged at a time when social frustration and unrest were at an all-time high. There was a lack of Black programming, coupled with the racially biased stereotypes presented by the television networks. Thus, a refreshing, religious television option to “fill the gap” came into being. Breath of Life was designed to service the needs of North America’s then largest minority — the Black community. It was born to bring a “Breath of Life” to people of color, the oppressed, disinherited, and disenfranchised.

Walter Arties, a gifted musician singing for Christian Talent Associates and appearing in Billy Graham crusades, as well as various religious programs in Los Angeles, California, joined KHOF, a religious radio and television station in Southern California. KHOF had developed an interest in Arties’ music ministry, and invited him to join the staff as well as represent the station in area concerts. When the opportunity presented itself, Arties spoke with the manager and suggested the development of an ethnic television program to reach the Black community in South Central Los Angeles. The manager thought it was a good idea and recommended a meeting with the production personnel in order to develop a pilot program.

Arties then sought the services of the late evangelist Samuel D. Meyers, to work with him. At the time, Meyers pastored the University Church in Los Angeles,



Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., is speaker/director for the Breath of Life Ministries and Oakwood University senior pastor.



Walter Arties (left), Charles D. Brooks, Walter Pearson, and Carlton Byrd, D.Min.

which at that time was the largest Black Adventist church in California. Myers was an evangelist well known throughout North America, and able to immediately grasp the vision of “Breath of Life.” He wrote the sermon for the pilot program, and the pilot aired on KHOF, receiving many favorable responses.

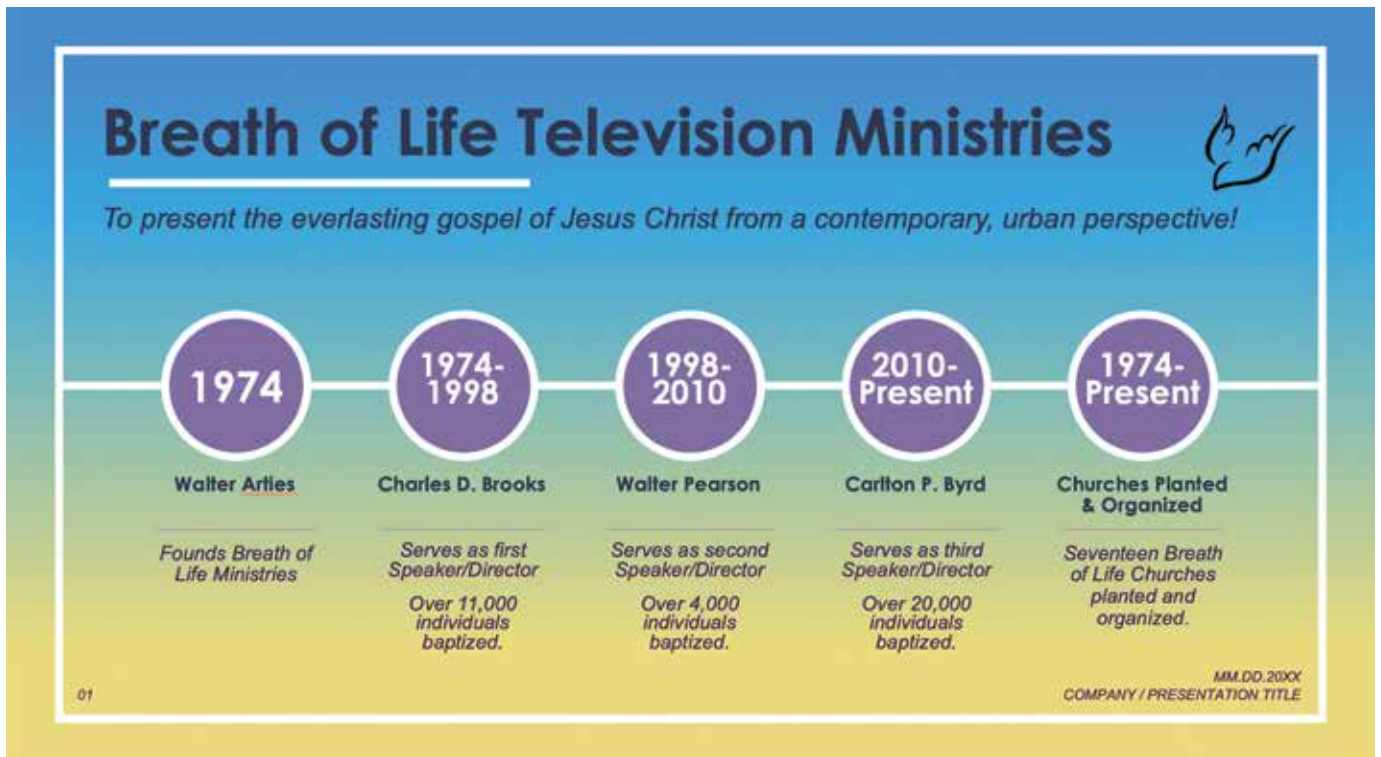
The concept was then reviewed with

local Adventist Church leaders, and it was evident that there was a need for a religious program to attract Black America. Revivals and tent efforts were being conducted, but the need to reach the masses via the television airwaves was apparent.

In 1973, Harold Calkins, president of the Southern California Conference, and the Executive Committee visited KHOF to view the pilot program at the invitation of Arties. The thought was if Breath of Life could be endorsed by the local conference, and recommended to the Pacific Union Conference, the General Conference would then be able to assist in developing and funding the overall concept.

After the pilot program aired on KHOF, Arties was invited to attend a communications advisory being held at Hinsdale Sanitarium. Once again, the pilot program was shown, and the advisory enthusiastically recommended the concept of Breath of Life to the World Church leaders of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was suggested at that time to request Charles D. Brooks, pastor, to serve as the speaker for the program. He had presence, was a successful pastor/evangelist and scholar, and had a good command of the teachings of the Adventist Church. Brooks accepted the position, and in 1974 the first programs went on the air.

During the early years of Brooks’ tenure as speaker/director, a quartet was organized to provide music for the program. This original quartet was composed of Walter Arties, first tenor, who also served as program producer/coordinator; Clyde



Allen, second tenor and a contractor by trade, who used his various talents to oversee the mechanics of the stage and to operate the sound system; Shelton Kilby, baritone and gifted accompanist, who accepted the responsibility of directing the music; and James Kyle, M.D., who sang bass and also served as field services director for public relations and the Bible School. As time progressed, Reginald Robinson served as associate speaker/director to assist Brooks with preaching responsibilities.

During the 24-year period of Brooks' leadership, 13 churches bearing the name "Breath of Life" were born, as well as several additional churches started. Most importantly, more than 11,000 persons were baptized into the Adventist Church.

In 1998, Walter L. Pearson Jr. became the speaker/director for Breath of Life, and continued the legacy begun by Arties and Brooks. Preaching the Word of God with power was characteristic of Pearson's ministry at Breath of Life, inclusive of serving as the featured speaker for the North American Division's Net 2004 initiative, which was entitled,

"Experience the Power." Uplinked to approximately 1,100 sites in North America, with another 1,000 in the Caribbean and tens of thousands around the globe, more than 4,000 individuals were baptized as a result of the Net 2004 campaign. During Pearson's tenure, he was assisted by Malcolm Taylor, who served as associate speaker/director.

At the close of 2010, the mantle of leadership for Breath of Life was passed to Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min. Since the beginning of Byrd's tenure as speaker/director, more than 20,000 souls have been baptized through Breath of Life's evangelistic efforts, including the massive 2020 evangelistic campaign in Tanzania, Africa, where 16,806 individuals were baptized. Additionally, four new Breath of Life churches have been planted and started under Byrd's leadership. Also, under Byrd's leadership, Breath of Life, in collaboration with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission and NBC and ABC Television respectively, has produced six national holiday television specials which have been aired nationally across the United States in 90% of NBC and ABC television affiliates.

In addition to his Breath of Life responsibilities, Byrd also serves as the senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama, which is the largest Black Adventist church in the North American Division, and situated on the campus of Oakwood University. This special arrangement affords the Breath of Life Telecast to be "church-based," as the weekly telecast is now produced within the framework of a local church setting akin to the national trend of church-based television ministry in the 21st Century urban religious programming.

Breath of Life started with the God-ordained dream of one individual, and, true to its name, it continues its tradition of providing "life" through passionate, powerful preaching rooted in evangelism. The outlook for Breath of Life is bright as it seeks to reach mass audiences of all ethnicities through evangelistic and religious media tailored to the urban context.

Visit the SouthernTidings.com website to view the Breath of Life video. 📺

Amalia DeShay is the manager for the Breath of Life Ministries.

IT IS WRITTEN CELEBRATES 65 YEARS OF MINISTRY

BY CASSIE MATCHIM HERNANDEZ

In March of this year, It Is Written celebrated its 65th anniversary. When George Vandeman, pastor, founded It Is Written in 1956, he surely did not anticipate that we would be on the Earth 65 years later. Although we don't know the exact date that Jesus will return, the signs show that He is coming soon. It Is Written continues to share the Good News around the globe while we wait. Read about the amazing ways God has led this work in the following timeline.

1956 – It Is Written airs its first known broadcast March 25, and later becomes the first religious television program to air in color. George Vandeman films the initial It Is Written programs in New York.

1958 – George Vandeman conducts evangelistic series in Fresno, California, and Washington, D.C., in order to follow up with contacts established by the TV program.

1970s – It Is Written produces more on-location programs, increasing viewership.

1971 – It Is Written moves from New York to the Adventist Media Center in Thousand Oaks, California.

1975 – It Is Written establishes the Revelation Seminar as a means of follow-up with television program viewers.

1981 – “Teleseminar '81” becomes the first live satellite uplink evangelistic presentation of its kind, reaching 22 U.S. and Canadian cities.

1990 – It Is Written films an eight-part series in the Soviet Union called “Empires in Collision.” It becomes the first TV program produced in the Western Hemisphere to be given a time slot on Soviet television.

1992 – George Vandeman retires at age 75, and is succeeded by Mark Finley.

1993 – Mark Finley preaches at the Kremlin and the Moscow Olympic Stadium to follow up on Russian media interests.

1994 – Escrito Está, the It Is Written Spanish-language ministry, begins in April.

1995 – Featuring Mark Finley, Net '95, an evangelistic series available via satellite and the largest series of its time, is broadcast from Chattanooga, Tennessee. Net '96 follows from Orlando, Florida, reaching millions around the globe.

2000 – ACTS 2000, a new evangelistic series, broadcasts via satellite in Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and South America.

2005 – Shawn Boonstra becomes It Is Written speaker/director.

2006 – Video podcasts are made available on iTunes.

2008 – It Is Written begins *My Place With Jesus*, a ministry especially for children.

2011 – John Bradshaw becomes It Is Written speaker/director.



Bradshaw family

2011 – “Every Word,” the It Is Written daily devotional, launches.

2011 – SALT, Soul-winning And Lead-



That's a wrap! "The Hope Awakens" production crew poses on the final night, May 16, 2020, for a photo.

ership Training, begins as a joint effort between It Is Written and Southern Adventist University, providing training in evangelism and Bible work.

2012 – It Is Written launches the evangelistic series Revelation Today, the first to stream live on mobile devices. Revelation Today has since been held in numerous major cities around the United States.

2013 – It Is Written establishes Eyes for India, giving sight to thousands each year in India.

2014 – It Is Written moves from California to temporary quarters in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

2014 – *Every Word* is made available in American Sign Language.

2014 – The *It Is Written Bible Study Guides* are released in English, and soon followed by translations in Spanish, Arabic, Farsi, German, Hmong, Italian, Korean, Mandarin, and Turkish.

2014 – It Is Written Missions is established with medical missionary clinics

and evangelistic initiatives in India. This ministry has since expanded to countries such as Ethiopia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Lebanon, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Zimbabwe.

2015 – It Is Written publishes the first issue of *Impressions*, the ministry's quarterly magazine.

2017 – It Is Written introduces the *My Place With Jesus Bible Guides* for children.

2018 – It Is Written TV, the 24/7 It Is Written channel, launches on itiswritten.tv, Roku, Apple TV, Google Play, and Amazon Fire TV. Programs such as "Conversations," "Line Upon Line," and "In the Word," are added to the lineup.

2019 – The It Is Written team moves into permanent ministry headquarters in Collegedale, Tennessee.

2020 – It Is Written begins airing a weekly Sabbath School program, the only program of its kind featuring the authors of the weekly Sabbath School lesson.

2020 – 100,000 people register for "Hope Awakens" and other virtual series

conducted in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

2020 – It Is Written launches ACTS 20:21 — a full-cycle evangelism program held by hundreds of churches across North America.

2021 – Buried Treasure, the children's evangelism program from My Place With Jesus, launches.

To learn more about what It Is Written has been up to lately, visit itiswritten.com/impresions. 📍

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



ADVENTHEALTH PARTNERS WITH CHURCHES TO PROVIDE COVID-19 VACCINES

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

More than a third of Americans reported they were unlikely or unsure to get a COVID-19 vaccine, in a study published earlier this year by the journal *Vaccine*.

AdventHealth has been actively working to reduce these numbers by taking vaccines directly to the heart of many communities — the local church. Houses of worship hold a special regard for millions of American believers. For many, the church is where families celebrate meaningful milestones like weddings, baby dedications, baptisms and more. It's where generations gather together (even virtually, as the pandemic has shown) for encouragement in the toughest of times.

"The church is the place that many people trust," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., chief mission integration officer for AdventHealth. "Generations trust the church and generations attend the same church — grandparents, parents, and children. It's where they go to be together and to be comforted. Churches make a wonderful social vehicle for the delivery of important messages."

In Leawood, Kansas, AdventHealth Shawnee Mission teamed up with the Church of the Resurrection to vaccinate seniors every week through May. The large United Methodist Church congregation has seating for up to 3,500 attendees. During the first COVID-19 vaccine event

hosted by AdventHealth, about 2,000 seniors, ages 65-plus, got their shot.

"We are grateful to be a resource to the community and assist our local health officials with the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine," said Sam Huenergardt, chief executive officer for AdventHealth's Mid-America Region. "Church of the Resurrection is a wonderful partner, and we appreciate the opportunity to join together in service to the community — working toward the shared goal of overcoming the virus and reinvigorating hope."

While vaccine hesitancy is an issue across the American population, the numbers are higher among people of color.

As of March 31, 2021, AdventHealth has surveyed 195,000 consumers on their vaccine readiness. Of those consumers with survey data on race/ethnicity demographics, 70% of Black participants reported a positive likelihood of getting a vaccine, compared to 77% of white participants. The data show an upward trend on vaccine readiness across race/ethnicity since October 2020, but a gap still exists.

Vaccine hesitancy, fueled by both historic and modern-day examples of medical bias and harm suffered by Black people — coupled with issues of access to the vaccines — has been shown to slow the rate of vaccinations among the Black population.



Vaccination event at Greater New Zion Baptist Church

"The challenge with minority groups is that there's a great level of distrust with the medical establishment. We understand the fears and the hesitancy of why people would be skeptical about this vaccination," said Alric Simmonds, M.D., AdventHealth's chief health equity officer. "We have formed a vaccine hesitancy subcommittee as part of our vaccine task force, and we're now looking at how we can partner with churches, fraternities, sororities, and the like to see if we can get vaccines into those communities."

One of the churches AdventHealth partnered with to help get vaccines to



The national health system is seeing the value and effectiveness of partnering with churches to drive efforts.

Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church

these communities of color is the historic Black Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church in Zephyrhills, Florida. AdventHealth Zephyrhills vaccinated congregants ages 65 and over during an event in February. Geneva Bourne was one of those congregants.

“I’ve had friends who’ve been impacted by [COVID] and that’s one of the reasons I’m here today, to make sure I don’t get it,” she said. “I think we need to bring the vaccine into our neighborhoods, bring it to the people, and educate them on what it’s about, and then they’ll be able to get it.”

Also in West Florida, AdventHealth North Pinellas partnered with the historically Black Mt. Hermon Missionary Baptist Church for an event in Tarpon Springs.

In Fletcher, North Carolina, AdventHealth Hendersonville hosted a clinic at another historically Black congregation, Greater New Zion Baptist Church, which has been in the community since 1927. This event took place on Martin Luther King Day, making it especially meaningful to church leaders and members.

“It means the world to us — the church and our community,” said Greater New Zion’s Bishop Lionel Smith. “I understand and most of us understand the history of what has taken place within



Vaccination event at Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church

our community and within our people. And, there are many that are reluctant to take the vaccine, so I am ecstatic to be the first one and set an example for my church and my community as well.”

AdventHealth Hendersonville also hosted a small clinic at the Biltmore Church en Español campus in Asheville, North Carolina. Biltmore Church is a multi-site church with the en Español campus, one of seven in the region.

With vaccine eligibility expanded, AdventHealth Hendersonville and its

sister facilities across the country hope to continue to work with local clergy to set up clinics in local churches.

“Pastors of churches hold a position of respect and esteem that’s right up there with doctors and nurses,” said Hamilton. “I think the circles can overlap more for the good of the community.”

Ingrid Hernandez is the stakeholder communications manager at AdventHealth.

EVANGELISM IMPACT 2021 IN A VIRTUAL AGE

BY HASKELL WILLIAMS

I want to talk with you about the priority and the burden of evangelism, and even the blessings that are afforded to us, even in this very rare and strange season in which we find ourselves..."

Thus began Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church in Huntsville, Alabama, as he shared the keynote address of Evangelism Impact 2021, February 19-20, 2021. Indeed, this is a "rare and strange season." Merely 12 months ago, the Carolina Ministerial Department had hosted more than 1,000 attendees at the fourth annual Impact at the Landmark Resort in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

Leaders Glen Altermatt, Samuel Romero, and Haskell Williams, were determined that Evangelism Impact must continue in 2021, even during the pandemic. "How can we effectively minister in these uncertain times?" Glen Altermatt, evangelism director, asked, "I believe this is a question all churches have been asking this past year. The decision was made to present the fifth annual Evangelism Impact virtually. While our message remains the same, the methods needed to be modified to meet the needs and the times. Experienced evangelists were invited to share what they were doing in the middle of this shutdown. "When this thing hit us ... none of us were prepared for it," Snell shared candidly. "We didn't rightly know how to quantify what was happening. We couldn't rightly predict what was going



PHOTO BY: TANK BROOKS

Tank Brooks and Rebecca Carpenter manage live streaming and live Q&A's.

to happen. And we all found ourselves in a season of having to adjust, having to adapt."

"Learning as we go" was a consistent theme of each of the speakers. Richie Halversen, pastor of the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, Tennessee, concurred, "We're all figuring this out. We don't have all the answers. But we do know Who does have all of the answers."

Even in this uncertainty, Snell offered a word of encouragement. Parodying a biblical truism in Ecclesiastes 9:11, he said, "The race isn't given to the swift, or the battle to the strong, but to those who endure to the end."

He continues. "The most impactful thing that can happen to somebody is not education, it is not for them to receive wealth, it is not for them to be a part of social programs — the most transform-

ing, powerful thing that can happen to a man or a woman is for them to encounter the power of Jesus Christ, and to have the truth of the living God anchor their hearts and their souls We have a truth that is designed to reach the world in these dark and evil days."

Ruben Casabona, pastor and digital specialist, and Rebecca Carpenter, Carolina communications director, teamed with Elias Sandoval, ITS director, and Tank Brooks, along with the Ministerial Department, as a multi-discipline unit to present Impact virtually from the Carolina Conference studios.

English and Spanish tracks were taking place simultaneously in the same studio, and streamed on YouTube and Facebook. Additionally, the Spanish presentation was also carried on the Carolina-based internet channel, Luz Para Hoy.



Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church in Huntsville, Alabama



Roger Hernandez, director of evangelism and ministerial at the Southern Union



Abdiel Del Toro, pastor and general vice president at the Florida Conference



Richie Halversen, pastor of the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, Tennessee

With the multiple outlets, it is difficult to determine viewership, but the numbers reached close to last year's in-person meetings, and keeps climbing due to online archiving of the messages. Hispanic presenters included Henry Barrios, pastor and ministerial associate for Hispanic Ministries, Florida Conference; Abdiel Del Toro, pastor and general vice president, Florida Conference; and Roger Hernandez, Southern Union evangelism and ministerial director, who also spoke for the English track.

Most of the sessions featured a Q&A session as the final portion of each presentation.

Referring to the disciples' experience on the Lake of Galilee (Luke 5:5), Halversen reflected, "Maybe you've toiled all year and taken nothing Maybe nothing your church tried (even before COVID) seemed to work. I believe Jesus is telling us what He told Peter, 'I want you to let down your net again.'"

In his welcome Sabbath morning, Leslie Louis, president of Carolina Conference, referenced Joseph Kidder's book, *The Big Four*, and underscored prayer as the primary part of four big factors in church growth. He then shared the heart-felt passion of Ellen White:

"A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer. While the people are so destitute of God's Holy Spirit, they cannot appreciate the preaching of the Word, but when the Spirit's power touches their hearts, then the discourses given will not be without effect," *Selected Messages*,

Book 1, p. 121.

Roger Hernandez emphasized the same theme: "Prayer does not guarantee that the other person is going to change. But it does make it harder for them to remain the same ... because we are deploying Heaven's army."

It would be a waste — you just lost an hour of your life if you just listen to this and say, 'that's nice,' and went back to your prayerless life. You don't have to stop your life to pray; you can pray as you live your life. You can infuse prayer into what you do.

When you wake up in the morning, start by saying, "God, help me to have some divine appointments today. I'm open. How can I interact?" So you start your day with a perspective that is different — Today I am after lost people... So when you scan your social media feed, when you interact with people that cut your hair, or the person at the gas station, the person that fills your groceries, people that you work with... you're going to start listening for people who are hurting. It's 'other-centered' ministry... "Who can I bless today?" "Who can I help today?"

It just changes your perspective. You're not praying for more stuff. You're praying for more people to be in the Kingdom. Then you infuse prayer throughout the day. Then you start feeling and sensing the lostness...

Prayer puts us in touch with God's heart. And the prayer that God always answers is the prayer for lost people.



Henry Barrios, pastor and ministerial associate for Hispanic ministries at the Florida Conference

I just want us to be people of prayer. There is a direct connection between revivals in human history and prayer. Revivals result in human beings deciding to follow Jesus. If you want to be effective about evangelism, it's about time we pray Just start praying Just pray!

Snell concluded his message with a prayer, "May this gathering be that moment... that we would look back and say this is where Pentecost happened. This is where things changed. This is where the history of our Conference was rewritten."

Glen Altermatt says, "I hope to see you in person next year in Myrtle Beach! The dates are January 27-30."

If you missed this year's presentations you can view them on the YouTube link of Carolina Conference's website. 📺

Haskell Williams is the ministerial director at the Carolina Conference.

JAIL MINISTRY HELPS LOCALLY, INVOLVES EVERYONE

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON



SUBMITTED BY: BRENDA COOPER

Thirty children decorate the Summerville Church to-go boxes for the Chattooga County Jail inmates. The meals are provided each Sabbath.



SUBMITTED BY: BRENDA COOPER

Maritza McKinney (left), Summerville Church personal ministries leader; Charlie Long, parole and probation officer, jail staff and inmates; and Michael Cooper (far right), take food to the Chattooga County Jail in Summerville, Georgia.

Wondering what she and her husband might do to make a difference in their community, Brenda and Michael Cooper, members of the Summerville, Georgia, Church learned about jail ministry at their local Chattooga County jail.

Jail ministry works with people who are incarcerated locally serving possibly only 48 hours, a week, or more, according to Cooper. These individuals in the local jail are only served two meals per day. “The sheriff’s office only needs to meet a set calorie count,” she added.

After learning from a friend who serves meals in the jail on Sundays, in March 2021, Cooper started serving lunch on Saturdays. The first Sabbath they serve Italian food, the second and fourth Sabbaths are pizza from Little Caesars, and

the third Sabbath they offer a meal of haystacks. “We also provide one dessert, drink, a plate, and spoon, which are the only utensil allowed,” added Cooper.

“Ever since EW showed me a VHS tape of baptisms in a jail in east Tennessee, and I heard the prisoner’s testimonies. I have been hooked on prison ministry,” said Cooper. “But this jail ministry is so different in that the whole church can be involved from kindergarten to the elderly. And the people you are reaching out to are short term in jail and live near your church! This is what really excites me.”

In jail ministry people are needed to cook the food, to sort the to-go boxes with meals and books or other materials, children could decorate the boxes, and someone needs to deliver the meals. “For smaller churches this is a great

ministry,” said Cooper. “You are a witness right in your own town.”

If you would like to start a jail ministry in your town, EW Dempsey, adult ministries director, says to first check with your local sheriff to determine what is allowed. He also recommends going to the North American Division website for online training to learn the rules for this outreach.

“Large city and county jails may have more comprehensive rules than smaller jails. Please check on procedures and guidelines for visiting,” said Dempsey. If you have questions please call Dempsey at the Conference office, 800-567-1844. 📍

Tamara Wolcott Watson is the communication director at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

HOPE IN DARKNESS

BY LARRY AND BECKY OWENS

The following letter was written in 2014, and was most recently presented at the funeral service of Cathy Rueff on February 20, 2021, in Columbus, Mississippi.

“I was all set to commit suicide in late 2010, due to circumstances in my life that I never dreamed I would have to face. I was 3,000 miles from family, and although I had wonderful Church family and friends around me, I felt so terribly alone. I had planned to take my life one afternoon because I couldn’t see past the horrible betrayals and pain caused by the people closest to me at the time. Letters of farewell were all written, addressed, and stamped to specific family and friends. All I had to do was drop them in the mailbox on my way to my appointment of ‘escape.’

“Then a treasured friend asked me to come and meet with her that day, just two hours before my self-committed ‘appointment.’ I felt so free knowing I was soon going to be relieved of my pain that I happily went to see her. As I walked in, she greeted me with a smile and a big hug. Then she sat me down and told me that she just wanted to commend me for ‘being such an example of faith’ to my three children by holding on to God during this difficult time for my family. She said, ‘Your children will see this example and know they can make it through difficult times in their own lives with God’s help.’

“It was at that moment that the Holy Spirit broke through to my heart, and for the first time, I was able to see past the hurt, the pain, the devastation, the fear, the anger, and the betrayal of all I held dear to my heart. I was able to see how my actions would look through my children’s eyes if I were to carry out my plans of taking my own life.



Cathy had plans in motion to commit suicide that day, until a friend invited her for a visit.

“I said nothing to my dear friend. I only wept on her shoulder as I had done many times during the preceding weeks. She had no idea I was weeping because of the love that I had just allowed to envelope me from my Heavenly Father through her kind words. I left her office where we met and immediately shredded those letters that were ready to be mailed. I prayed and asked God for the forgiveness of my actions and thoughts and asked Him to lead me in His way and His time, and to show me how to best be an example to my children of leaning on Him for strength to survive.

“My friend had no clue what her words had done to me and for me that day until I thanked her in a Christmas card that year by telling her of her gift to me and to my children, for her allowing the Holy Spirit to use her to reach my heart and save me with His love.

“So, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ, let us not forget to encourage one

another every day. You never know what impact your seemingly small gestures of kindness and love may mean to a struggling soul. We need each other, and we need to share the love of Jesus with everyone. This life is too short to allow our brothers and sisters to be tormented by the darkness of this world. Jesus has a better way. Let’s encourage each other — it can be the difference between life and death in this world and in the world to come.” —Cathy Rueff.

Cathy Rueff passed away in early 2021 from causes associated with COVID-19. Her wish, and that of her friends and family, was that her note of inspiration could encourage others. 🕊

Larry and Becky Owens
formerly pastored in the Gulf States Conference and are now serving the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

THE MADISON FARM

BY JENNI ADAMS

In Madison, Tennessee, tucked away on the campus of Madison Academy, you will find The Madison Farm. The original farm, founded in 1904, was surrounded by 440 acres of agricultural land and was known as Madison College. In time, much of that original land shifted and changed into what is now the campus of Madison Academy, serving grades 9 through 12.

In 2018, two teachers, Jenni Adams and Shannon Wilhelm, began a dream of creating an agricultural revolution for the surrounding schools and community. That year, they broke ground and began the journey of revitalizing the land to its original purpose. The Madison Farm is now a non-profit organization operating a one acre, year-round, bio-intensive produce farm following sustainable and organic practices.

The Madison Farm works in partnership with Madison Academy and Madison Campus Elementary to integrate agriculture with education through experiential learning, field trips, service projects, and the application of practical skills in God's creation. The Madison Farm is blessed to work alongside Madison Academy, under the leadership of Kris Fuentes, providing an agricultural/gardening class to academy students. Gardening students are enveloped in the mental, physical, and spiritual applications that gardening and farming entail. Students learn while working alongside Jenni Adams who connects students to the natural world through a specialized curriculum, Acquainting Agriculture, developed to apply academic standards to God's first educational design of a garden. Students such as Molly Alsip have described the class as "a place where I don't only learn new things, but I learn them in new and deeper ways." The Madison Farm believes, as stewards of God's



Madison Academy students Lily Gustafson (left), Georgette Valdespino, Taylor Bell, Alexandra Diede, and Lola Crecelius work in the garden.



Georgette Valdespino (left), Lola Crecelius, Alexandra Diede, Chase Gustafson, Lily Gustafson (second row, left), Jennie Adams, and Molly Alsip

creation, we were designed to care for the Earth and one another. The opportunity to connect students to that knowledge is vital to our future. Kris Fuentes, principal of Madison Academy, states, "The Madison Farm is a vibrant reminder of our historical purpose. The vision of these women mirrors the Madison design and prepares a new generation to be seekers, scholars, and servants."

Jenni Adams and Shannon Wilhelm are the farm managers at The Madison Farm.

For more information about the new ag-

riculture curriculum developed by the Adventist Agriculture Association (AdAgrA), you can visit: acquaintingagriculture.org or email: curriculum@adventistag.org.

For more information regarding The Madison Farm and Madison Academy, please visit www.themadisonfarm.com and www.madisonacademy.com 📍

Jenni Adams and Shannon Wilhelm are the farm managers at The Madison Farm.

BIND UP THE BROKENHEARTED

BY JANELL HULLQUIST

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics describes social workers as “helping people solve and cope with problems in their everyday lives.” At Southern Adventist University, the School of Social Work provides a Christ-centered foundation for this important work. Graduates and professors alike practice this approach to helping others, leaving a lasting impact that the local community recognizes and appreciates.

This spring, one of these graduates was honored by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year. Tracy Nalory, M.S.W., worked in the child welfare field for more than

20 years, earning her master’s degree at Southern in 2011. Now Nalory runs a private practice, where she works with individuals experiencing anxiety, depression, grief, trauma, and relationship challenges.

“I see this work as a calling, given to me through God’s Word,” she said. “Isaiah 61:1-3 says that ‘the Lord has anointed me to proclaim Good News to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted.’ That Scripture is what I live my life by and how I see the definition of social work. I believe the skill and the resource that I am for my community is all God-given.”

Nalory first realized this calling as a

high schooler, but attending Southern launched her current career path.

“I had no desire to do clinical work; I just wanted to do the administrative side,” she explained. “But Southern required both, and once I got into the clinical part, I fell in love with it. If not for that, I don’t know that I would have my own private practice or be doing anything I’m doing now.”

Another Southern social worker to receive recent recognition is Kristie Wilder, J.D., professor, who graduated from Southern in 2003, and has taught in the department for 10 years. For the last five years, she and the School of Social Work have partnered with the Chattanooga Police Department (CPD) on a research project aimed at providing evidence-based victim services. This spring, the CPD honored Wilder with the Community Partner of the Year Award.

“We could never have anticipated the trajectory of growth that our department would experience as a result of her research, support, and mentorship over the years,” said the CPD spokesperson during the award ceremony. “Because of Dr. Wilder’s work, our department has now implemented revisions to our community immersion program ... our department is all the better for having known her as a community partner and as a friend.”

Wilder hopes that her efforts contribute to building trust between the community and law enforcement as well. ①



Southern alum Tracy Nalory was honored by the Tennessee Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers as Social Worker of the Year.



Police Chief David Roddy presents Professor Kristie Wilder with the Chattanooga Police Department’s Community Partner of the Year award.

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

AdventHealth Announces Details for New Riverview Hospital



Leaders for the AdventHealth West Florida Division have announced plans to build a 209,000-square-foot, four-story hospital in Riverview, Florida. The health care system will break ground on the project beginning Fall 2021 and plans to open the hospital Spring 2023.

“We are excited to continue our growth strategy to meet the fast-growing needs of southern Hillsborough County,” said Mike Schultz, president and CEO for the AdventHealth West Florida Division. “This hospital is another addition to our robust network of connected care that we’re providing in this area including primary care, specialty care,

emergency services, outpatient imaging and more. We want to make it easy for people to have convenient access to the expert care they need, when they need it, and help close the gap in health care services in our community.”

The first phase of the new Riverview hospital will include 80 beds at opening and additional space for future expansion to accommodate over 200 beds as the community’s demand for health care grows. The full-service hospital will provide emergency, cardiology, obstetrics and gynecology (including labor and delivery), gastroenterology, orthopedic and urology services.

The hospital development follows

AdventHealth’s recent growth and expansion plans including the Taneja Center for Surgery opening later this year, the opening of two new offsite emergency departments in Westchase and Brandon, the opening of an AdventHealth Imaging Center in Brandon, and the recent acquisition of an Ambulatory Surgery Center (ASC) formerly known as Tampa Bay Surgery Center and Exodus Women’s Centers located throughout greater Tampa Bay. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH WEST
FLORIDA DIVISION

Southern Launches New Graduation Tradition



Student club members Soko Paongo (left), George Ambroise, María José Morán, Issac Abraham, and Julia Scriven model cultural stoles representing the Oceania Islander, African/Black Christian Union, Latin American, Asian, and European clubs. Not pictured is the Native American stole.

Students graduating from Southern Adventist University this past May helped launch a new tradition, with many opting to wear one of the University's new cultural stoles as part of their graduation regalia. With an increasingly varied student population, Southern was ranked most diverse regional University in the South by *U.S. News and World Report* in its 2020 report, along with recognition by other ranking sites. The new stoles help celebrate the vibrant mix of students who make up the campus family.

At the request of David Smith, Ph.D., president, and Stephanie Guster, M.S.W., senior advisor for diversity, worked with presidents of the various cultural clubs on campus to develop six designs, which were approved by Academic Administration. Cultural club members then had the option to purchase a stole to wear for graduation.

"The stoles being based on our cul-

tural clubs represent so much more than the garment," Guster said. "They represent the fabric of what makes us a diverse community and family. They represent the student leaders who serve, who advocate, who plan ways to showcase how God made us different, while at the same time expressing gratitude for the love that unifies us. I believe they represent the divine tapestry that God Himself created."

This initiative is the culmination of efforts by students through the years, including Danielle Allen, '18; Phillip Warfield, '19; and many others. For example, during a student competition held in 2019 as part of a University project called Studying Our Attitudes Racially (SOAR), a team of students that included Warfield submitted a proposal for cultural graduation regalia, which was one of three winning ideas.

"Seeing the stoles being implemented is fulfilling to me," said Issac Abraham,

senior nursing major and Asian Club president. "I was part of the SOAR competition, and when another team pitched the idea of having cultural stoles, I thought it was a great idea. Seeing this finally happen makes me believe that Southern is a great platform for cultural development."

Guster explains that the project was heavily inspired by Revelation 7:9-10, which reminds her of how diverse God's creation is while coming together in unity under Him: "After this I looked, and there before Me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: 'Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb.'" 📖

BY STAFF WRITER

ACA Holds Easter Walk Through

On the afternoon of Easter Sunday 2021, faculty, parents, and more than 60 students from Adventist Christian Academy in Charlotte, N.C., presented the final days of the life of Christ in a multi-scene, walk-through production on the properties of the school and the neighboring Sharon Church.

Visitors were guided through the different scenes, beginning with the Last Supper in the upper room, through the Garden of Gethsemane to the courts of Pilot, and then on to the crucifixion, the resurrection, and finally, the ascension. The children were troopers, remaining in character for nearly five hours, and acting out their lines every few minutes for a new group of onlookers.

Principal Misty Stein greeted guests



PHOTO BY: COURTNIIE HODGINS



PHOTO BY: COURTNIIE HODGINS



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: COURTNIIE HODGINS

as they arrived, and shared some background for the event before each tour began. A small Bluetooth speaker hung from the belt of each guide, and as he or she led a tour, the music and voices of the children were amplified to be easily heard. The script was written by Stein, an original score was composed by Winston Alvis, and props for each scene were designed and built by Alma Perez.

Local Fox Charlotte affiliate channel 46 came to report on the walk-through

play, calling it a “message of hope” to the community. Truly, to share that hope of salvation was the goal of all involved. It kept them going during long rehearsals for months on end. It kept them energized through a very long day of performances, and it gave them an immense sense of satisfaction from doing their part in sharing the Good News of Easter. 📍

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

STEM Classroom Dedication

Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) dedicated their brand-new Louie Parra STEM Laboratory on April 2, 2021. Several years ago, Louie Parra, Adam Littell, and Ed Pelto created the vision for a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) class at MPA. It was soon determined that a dedicated space would be required to properly educate young people for God’s service through STEM. Waller Hall was chosen as the preferred location and the old, under-utilized area was turned into a bright, usable, highly functional space. During the last two years, a team of volunteers from the community, and MPA’s faculty, have worked to make this space a reality. Lucy Hall, MPA’s development director, requested funds from a variety of organizations through grants. The Versacare grant was matched by two donations, one from the JoAnn Cross-Coon Foundation for \$5,000, and the second from the Carolina Conference, who donated another \$5,000, amounting to \$20,000 total to help MPA start this journey.

MPA was thankful to have Leslie Louie, Rick Russell, Gary Moyer, Chad Grundy, and Gary Rouse in attendance during their dedication. Louie provid-



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

ed a beautiful, dedicative prayer for the room, praying that it would be used for God’s glory. Rouse also spoke to the importance of providing excellent education for students.

Today, the new STEM laboratory is fully equipped with computers for coding, robotics equipment, two 3-D printers, soldering equipment, and more! In creating this facility, no one worked harder than Louie Parra and his wife, Nancy. MPA wants to give special recognition to this incredible couple who arrived on

campus 23 years ago, and continue to be positive Christian role models for students, while also helping with a variety of improvement projects. Therefore, in recognition for their hard work, the new classroom has been named the Louie Parra STEM Laboratory. MPA encourages you to come visit their campus and see their new classroom in-person. 📍

BY ABBY KING, MPA DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT

Plymouth-Sorrento Church Conducts Weekly Outreach

Plymouth-Sorrento Church conducts an outreach ministry at Renningers Flea Market in Mt. Dora, Fla. The booth is open on Sabbath and Sunday with two teams from the church manning the booth each day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon.

Since COVID, the interest in books and Bible studies has increased exponentially. The Holy Spirit can be seen working on the hearts of the people, causing them to stop at the booth.

On average, 50 to 60 books and magazines are given out each weekend, and requests for Bible studies have risen to more than 40 per weekend. At the present time, there are approximately 500 active Bible studies sent by mail and some by personal delivery.

The church goal is to especially focus on making sure the people who stop at the booth receive the *Great Controversy*. This follows the counsel of God to scatter His literature as the leaves in autumn. Although the fruit of labor here on Earth may not be seen, we pray that many souls will be won to Jesus and saved in His Kingdom.

About five years ago, the Church started the outreach ministry under the able leadership of Terry Heinz. When Heinz could no longer lead, Dave Sanders stepped up to take over the leadership. The church was blessed that Sanders had just moved to Florida and had experience in running a booth at a flea market in Indiana.

God blessed the members' efforts, and more than 1,000 Bible studies have been mailed out so far. There have been positive comments from the people receiving the Bible studies, along with requests to continue on with advanced Bible study lessons. 📖



PHOTO BY: RYAN & CINDY PETERSON

Plymouth-Sorrento Church hosts a literature evangelism program at Renningers Flea Market in Mt. Dora, Fla., overseen by Dave Sanders (right).



PHOTO BY: RYAN & CINDY PETERSON

Dave Sanders presents a brief Bible study with a customer at the flea market.

BY PAUL RAU

Pastor Encourages Daily Bible Study

Blake Jones, pastor of Fort Myers Church, started a unique plan of daily Bible reading, testimonies, and witnessing. Each member receives a daily Bible reading, and the pastor’s message each Sabbath is focused about the reading of that week.

Before the sermon, the pastor interviews someone who was touched by the Bible reading and/or received the message through the witnessing of a church member. The plan is to equip disciples, to grow in Christ, and to follow Jesus’ example of service. As Christians, there is an all impelling need to follow Jesus and to be fruitful: “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free,” John 8:31.

The Christian lifestyle is to love one another and to make disciples. This min-

istry of Jesus must be deeply ingrained in the life of every Christian. As the Bible is read daily, it is the hope that each church member will be prepared by an encounter with Jesus and be touched by the great responsibility to share it with families and neighbors. “You cannot share something you don’t have,” said Del Delker, former contralto singer with Voice of Prophecy.

John says, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another,” John 13:35. That love should reach those who are seeking the truth. As members witness for the Lord, Fort Myers Church is seeing a revival with people surrendering their lives to Jesus and being baptized! 📌

BY LEO RANZOLIN



PHOTO BY: ANDREW FRASER

Actively participating in the Church Bible Reading Plan dramatically transformed the spiritual life of Kelsey Higgins, who shared her testimony with Blake Jones, pastor of Fort Myers Church.

Reaching Out to the Neighborhood

Great things have happened at University Church in Orlando, Fla. Directed and guided by the Holy Spirit, Newton King, pastor, encouraged the outreach team to participate in a *Steps to Christ* project.

Before and during the pandemic, 7,000 copies of *Steps to Christ* books were mailed to community residents around the church. Due to this distribution, 62 people have requested Bible studies. The team is also giving virtual Bible studies. Preparation is underway to mail the third round of *Steps to Christ* books to the remaining homes around the church radius.

University Church has planned for new construction. When the church opens its doors, the members would love for neighbors in the community to be part of this home church.

There is great excitement in spreading the Good News of salvation! Please pray



Members of the University Church outreach team have mailed 7,000 copies of *Steps to Christ* to residents in the church community.

for University Church and its ongoing outreach project. 📌

BY STEPHANIE AND ELIAS ACEVEDO

Women Called to Lead Teen Girls' Virtual Bible Study

As a response to COVID-19 and the changes taking place Women's and Family Ministry, Jo Dubs, director, created a Teen Girls' Virtual Bible Study that meets twice a month on Friday evenings. The on-line Bible Study started in February with leaders Kristiana Carney, a travel emergency room nurse in Portland, Ore., and Jenny Wheeler, a biology teacher for Monterey Bay Academy in Watsonville, Calif.

When asked why she wanted to co-host an online Bible study, Carney said her younger cousin has increased anxiety from COVID. "I'm hoping that it's a way I can continue to disciple my cousin and some of her friends and other girls who have joined us who I would have never met." She also had young couples mentor her as a teen, and it had a huge impact.

Wheeler loved the idea of co-hosting. "I felt called to do more for God, especially with the ability to reach people through technology," she said. "This little Bible study allows us as adults to show how we live godly lives in our different careers and share our experiences. It also allows the girls to take an introspective look at their own lives and see who they are to God."

Carney says she feels blessed.

This is "allowing me to continue to do ministry while I'm not in one particular location," she said. "Also, some of the girls who have joined are really on fire for God and wanting to be used by God where they are, and it's super encouraging to hear their stories and dreams, and it's fun and exciting to encourage them in their dreams."

"We don't just study the Bible, but we spend time getting to know the girls, their likes and interests, etc., and then also study the Bible, relate it to our lives,



SUBMITTED BY: JO DUBS



SUBMITTED BY: JO DUBS

Kristiana Wrate-Carney (left), a travel nurse from Portland, Ore., and Jenny Wheeler (right), a biology teacher at Monterey Bay Academy in Watsonville, Calif., both felt called to serve as co-leaders for the Virtual Teen Girls' Bible Study offered by Women's Ministries for Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

and hope and pray — literally — that it encourages them, and close with prayer requests and prayer," said Carney.

The leaders did survey those interested to determine what Bible study topics participants to cover. According to Carney they have studied the story of Jesus walking on water, Elijah in the cave experiencing God (life's storms, and God being with you in the storms, and preparing for storms), Jonathan and his armor bearer defeating the Philistines (asking who do you influence, and who influences you), and personal stories from the members' lives relating to those stories.

Wheeler is enjoying the connection. "God has blessed me in this experience because it really makes me feel like I'm a part of something bigger than my little corner of the world. With this kind

of Bible study, Kristiana and I really try to give the girls lots of opportunities to share, so I've really appreciated hearing their perspective on the topics and verses we've talked about."

The Bible study group is geared toward girls in grades 8-12, and meets twice a week on Friday through May. They enjoy Bible study and small group activities, including cooking, baking, and crafts; and they foster a community that is honest and accountable, all online using Zoom. For more information or to register to attend, email Dubs at mdubs@gccsda.com. 🔔

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT WATSON

Collegedale Community Reaches Out Locally



SUBMITTED BY: GWEN WOLFF

Collegedale Community Church members drop off donations at the Welcome Home of Chattanooga. From left are Gwen Wolff, Collegedale Community Church member and event organizer; Sherry Campbell, director of Welcome Home of Chattanooga; Michelle Goble; and one other Welcome Home of Chattanooga staff member.

Gwen Wolf, a member of the Collegedale Community Church in Collegedale, Tenn., and her team decided to seek out ways to help active local charities.

In February they decided on two organizations to collect items for, including the Chattanooga Room in the Inn, a residential program for homeless women and children, and Welcome Home of Chattanooga, an organization that provides shelter and loving care to the homeless and those who are suffering from a terminal illness, often partnering with local hospice for medical care.

The church members' chose to have a month-long collection campaign. They began by having some of the team's children attach wish lists of needed items to brown paper bags. The kids then handed out the wish list brown bags to church members at the conclusion of services.

During the month-long campaign, people would return their filled bags to the church lobby. Most of the items collected were typical things that could be purchased during a grocery shopping trip. People also had the opportunity to donate funds if they preferred.

Wolf had been praying for the Holy Spirit to lead in this ministry, and said "... never could I have imagined the outpouring of support we would end up receiving from our church!"

The Collegedale Community Church members were very generous in their donations. Several truckloads of items were delivered, and a monetary donation went out to Welcome Home of Chattanooga, Y-CAP, and Chattanooga Room in the Inn from the funds contributed. Some church members have even started volunteering at these organizations.

Wolf had church members comment

sharing that they believe this is what the church should be doing. Other said to let them know if more assistance is needed. People were excited to be involved!

Additionally, the church's quilting ministry stepped up to make quilts for Welcome Home of Chattanooga's beds, and a couple brought in two boxes of handmade hats, scarves, and pillow covers for the homeless.

Wolf recently spoke with the employees at Welcome Home of Chattanooga as well as the Chattanooga Room in the Inn during item drop-offs, and they were both very grateful for the generous support. 📌

BY GWEN WOLFF

Gospel Preached at Outdoor Camp Meeting

After many months of planning, the 2021 Gulf States Camp Meeting at Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, Ala., began on Friday, April 2, 2021. Conference staff and church members were excited to be together again under the covering of the open-sided gymnasium at Camp Alamisco. While the weather was somewhat on the brisk side in the evenings and early mornings, the sun shone beautifully throughout the day on Sabbath.

Clifford Goldstein was the keynote presenter for Camp Meeting, and he shared several presentations related to the Gospel, following the year's theme. He began Friday evening by sharing his personal testimony and the signs God used to win his heart to Christ. Goldstein continued with two more presentations on Sabbath. Many in attendance remarked positively on the presentations, and were excited to share the spiritual experience with their friends and family at camp.

Lunchtime on Sabbath was a delight as Ranger Todd Ward and his wife, Shelley, along with their kitchen crew, prepared and served alongside the Conference administrative staff an excellent haystack spread. Four serving lines were arranged, and almost 300 in attendance were served in a short time. Attendees sat on the folding chairs, their own lawn chairs, or in the grass around the gym to eat their meals. It didn't take long for a loud, chattering hum to begin as conversations were striking up throughout campus.

Following lunch, Micki Glenn presented her shark attack survival story and subsequent spiritual struggle and recovery. During the shark attack, her husband was also in the water photographing the sea life, and managed to capture an image of the attack in progress while coming to her aid. Many were moved by her experience and appreciated the spiritual details she shared regarding her near-



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Clifford Goldstein, Sabbath School Quarterly editor, presents three different viewpoints on the Gospel.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Micki Glenn shares her shark story while showing the photo her husband was able to capture during the attack.

death experience.

The attendees were grateful to participate in an event with some likeness of normalcy, which the outdoor event allowed. All are looking forward to Camp Meeting back at Alamisco in 2022.

Video and audio recordings of the presentations are available at www.gscsda.org/campmeeting. 📺

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Young Adults Meet for Spring Refresh



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Gabe Johnson tells the story of his first paintballing experience, and how he recognized that having both young and older players working together brought the most success.

A week after Camp Meeting, Camp Alamisco hosted another event, this time supporting young adults and young families with a relaxed spiritual retreat.


Attendees started the weekend with a homestyle specialty dinner from Ranger Todd and Shelley Ward on Friday, April 9, 2021. The Wards mentioned their enjoyment of making smaller quantities of food for events like these because they can try new things and pay special attention to the finer details of each dish. The attendees weren't disappointed.

The event's goal was to build on the Young Adult retreat's success at the end of 2020. That event had a small number of attendees, but the experiences were

rich and meaningful. This year, when the young adults were polled to determine what type of event should be held in the spring, they wanted more of that same kind of experience.

Although the weekend started with a massive downpour of rain, it quickly cleared up on Sabbath, allowing for nature walks and a relaxing cruise around Lake Martin on the camp boats. Gabe Johnson, pastor for Georgia-Cumberland Conference and current student at Andrews University, was the keynote presenter for the weekend. Johnson met Rick Woodruff, young adult coordinator of Gulf States, while Woodruff was a student at Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio and Johnson was serving as a task

force dean. Johnson was happy to accept Woodruff's invitation to present for the weekend, and offered engaging presentations throughout the weekend, incorporating personal stories while he spoke. "I like Pastor Gabe," said an eight-year-old attendee, "What he says makes sense." Other older attendees were also grateful to participate in the weekend that also featured live music led by Chris Feldmann and Ashlyn Riley.

Learn more about young adult ministries in Gulf States at www.gscsda.org/yam. 

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

District Pastor Daniel Spencer Ordained

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference administrative officers Steve Haley, president, and Kieth Noll, ministerial director, joined the Lobelville, Tenn., congregation on Sabbath, April 3, 2021, in celebrating the ordination of district pastor, Daniel Spencer.

Spencer's journey into ministry began when, as a youth, both family and church leaders in his native country of Portugal predicted that a day would come when he would serve the Church as a pastor. As a youth, Spencer did not share the same confidence that he would ever be a pastor, as his vocational interests were in the areas of music, graphic arts, and video production. Eventually, sensing God's leading, Spencer began his service and ministry working for the publishing ministry in Portugal, but in time began to be drawn



Kieth Noll and Steve Haley join Daniel and Sarah Spencer and their three children, Joel, Rebekah, and David, in celebrating the ordination of Daniel Spencer to the Gospel Ministry.

into the areas of preaching and evangelism.

After marrying Sarah, who grew up in Brazil and shared a deep desire to serve the Lord, the Spencers traveled throughout Central and South America conduct-

ing evangelistic meetings and prophecy seminars. In an unexpected yet divinely provided opportunity, the Spencer family, which included their three children, were invited to provide part-time pastoral support to the Lafayette, Tenn., congregation. After demonstrating the skills and calling of effective pastoral ministry, in 2018, Conference administration offered Spencer the opportunity to pastor the Lobelville, Parsons, Camden district in Tennessee. The ordination service in April was a fitting recognition of the positive contributions Spencer and his entire family have made in being used by the Lord to shepherd His flock, and to lead people to Christ. 📌

BY STAFF WRITER

Highland Members “Walk Across America”

What do you do for fun and exercise when a virus holds you hostage at home, and going to work and school are intermittent, if not non-existent? You Walk Across America, of course! That is what the Highland Health/Fitness Ministries Committee (HHFMC) invited Highland Church members to do. “We talked about a variety of things to encourage healthy living, but were limited since we weren't able to gather together,” said Iris Clute, leader. The committee members suggested walking across America. Member Nichole Beck found a website, worldwalking.org, already set up for that purpose. It takes at least five participants to form a team.

Individuals may join, but they are put on a random team. The Highland members formed a team, Highland Walkers.

The walk began January 1, 2021, with 13 regular walkers. Their steps were entered on the website worldwalking.org, which also converts biking miles to steps. It added the steps and mapped the team's progress. It is 5,932,665 steps, or 2,500 miles, from Savannah, Ga., to San Clemente, Calif. Highland Walkers reached San Clemente on March 7, 2021. “It helped being part of a team, even if we weren't together. We encouraged each other and challenged ourselves to keep up and keep going,” Clute said. Diana Drusky said, “I enjoyed the walk very much. I checked our prog-

ress every night, and I'm very surprised at how fast we made it with so few people.” Stephanie Thornton added, “It went so fast. I enjoyed it. I checked our progress often, and I liked the group aspect.”

The next event for the Highland Walkers is a two-team race down the Pan American Highway, a network of roads starting in Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, running south, and ending in Ushuaia, Argentina. It is known as the longest road in the world because it connects two continents north to south, approximately 35,292,325 steps, or 30,000 miles. 📌

BY IRIS CLUTE

Highland Students Participate in Mission Trip to Alaska

Highland Academy strives to give its students as many opportunities as possible to be of service to others, and yearly mission trips are a longstanding tradition in achieving that goal. Because of the pandemic and travel restrictions in place, the planned trip to Kenya was changed to a trip to Fairbanks, Alaska.

Students were able to help at several different locations including the Fairbanks Rescue Mission and the North Pole Summit Church and School. At the Fairbanks Rescue Mission, students helped prepare and serve food to the residents, organize and sort clothing, and help stuff envelopes for their annual mailing. At the Summit Church and School, the students led the children's program and chapel, moved and organized their cold weather clothing area into its new home, painted, and helped organize school supplies for students



Katie Castillo-Perez (front row, left), Amayah Crisp, Brooklyn, Caroline Bridges, Moses Lane, Ian Tidwell (back row, left), Tyler Hillebert, Elisha McKenzie, Sam Keener, Bailey Darrell, Adriel Garcia, Emma Bassham, and Kimberly Roth participated in the 2021 mission trip to Alaska.

who are not able to afford them without assistance. In addition, the students were able to lead out in the church services and Sabbath School at the Fairbanks and North Pole churches.

The trip included an opportunity to experience some unique Alaskan adventures, including dog sledding, snow machining, swimming at Chena Hot Springs, seeing the Northern lights, viewing the local wildlife like moose and musk ox, hiking in the snow, and exploring the Castner Glacier Ice Cave.

The mission of Highland Academy is to develop Christ-like characters and lifelong learners. This mission trip gave young people the opportunity to actively engage in serving those in need and becoming more like Jesus. They also had the chance to visit and learn about other places and cultures, and thus engage in lifelong learning. 📍

BY KIMBERLY ROTH,
HIGHLAND ACADEMY ADVANCEMENT
DIRECTOR

Alumni Return to Highland to Serve

For those who have attended Highland Academy (HA), most would list feeling like they are part of a family at the top of their favorite things about the school. The staff and students find many opportunities to form a close-knit community, such as being part of faculty families, doing outreach in the community together, and participating in mission trips and intramural sports. By the time a student graduates, he or she usually has formed connections with others that continue long into adulthood.

This year at HA, one-third of the staff are alumni. Seven staff members chose to come back to serve in many different capacities, including teaching, coaching,

being deans, accounting, and grounds management. For some, it was their first job after graduating from college, while others returned specifically to give their own children the opportunity to experience being part of the HA family. All of them returned, however, because they want to help young people draw closer to Jesus and experience a relationship with Him. Their passion, dedication, and love for the school they graduated from adds to the warm, family-like atmosphere that makes students love to be at HA. 📍

BY KIMBERLY ROTH,
HIGHLAND ACADEMY
ADVANCEMENT DIRECTOR



Melissa McCoy Weisner (sitting, left) '89, guidance counselor, English, and ACT test preparation; Lilly Groft Lopez, '02, math; Christen Case Thomas, '09, science; Linda Allen Ashcraft, '76, business office; Will Labrenz (standing, left), '94, chaplain and Bible; Steve Rogers, '11, assistant dean and Gymnix; Andy Wade, '01, landscape services and woodworking.

Carolina Adventist Academy Participates in Community



God is steadfast, and as the world experiences the uncertainties of COVID-19, Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA) remains steadfast in God’s love, mercy, and grace: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost,” Matthew 28:19.

“Fisher of Men” is a community outreach focused on God’s eight laws of health: N.E.W.S.T.A.R.T. This initiative is designed to encourage people to participate in outdoor activities and get fresh air, sunshine, and exercise with their family members.

CAA and its community have fully embraced this evangelistic platform as “Fishermen.” Beginning November 6,

2020, CAA parent and guest speaker Melanie Black provided an informative lesson about salt and freshwater fishing. Subsequent events on November 15 and December 6 were well-attended. Additionally, Walter’s Chapel Methodist Church and Whiteville Adventist Church joined the CAA School Board and Praise Tabernacle Adventist Church in support of the Fishermen event.

Ultimately, relationships are at the core of evangelism, and these events provide opportunities for students to build relationships with friends and family while participating in recreational health activities. 🎣

BY ANGELIA MAHONE, CAA PRINCIPAL



Carolina Adventist Academy Takes Part in Fit Classroom Initiative

Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA) students have been engaged in a real-world, problem-solving initiative with national health implications, “Fit Classroom.” CAA students and staff have designed a learning environment which encourages activity throughout the school day.

Students monitor water intake; take a

brisk 15-minute class walk (3,500 steps); and use three-mini-cycles, two-standing desks, and a desk cycle.

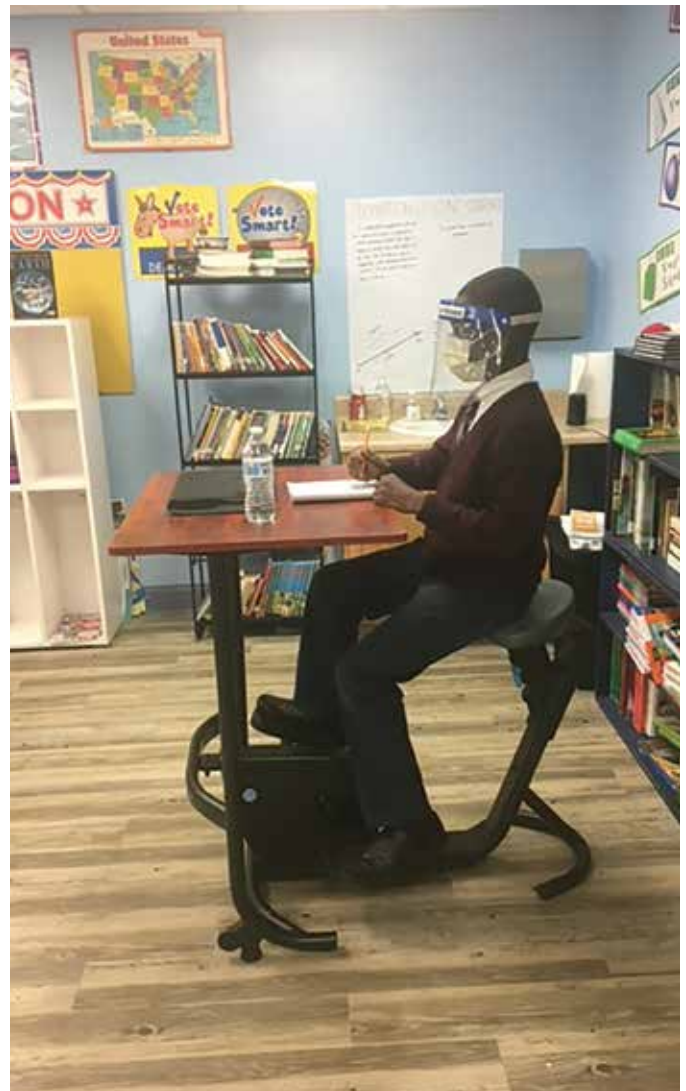
Additionally, the students are participants in research as the impact of these lifestyle changes within the school are being measured five days each week, by monitoring their resting and aerobic (i.e., high intensity group and low inten-

sity group) heart rates: Trial #1 - Control Group; Trial #2 - a five-minute rest with instrumental music prior to resting heart rate measurement; Trial #3 - Group A - 64 ounces of water daily, and Group B - 32 ounces of water daily. 📍

BY ANGELIA MAHONE, CAA PRINCIPAL



Standing desk



Bike desk

Youth Congress “Unstoppable” Held Virtually

The South Central Conference Youth Department launched its first ever virtual Youth Congress on Thursday, March 11, 2021. Traditionally, Youth Congress is hosted each year in person at a location within the constituency. It is a highlight of youth ministries programming, and an event that typically draws hundreds of youth and their families. Last year the event was postponed due to tornadoes in Nashville, Tenn., and then COVID-19 hit. Everyone wondered when they would be able to get together again. Between the COVID spikes across the nation, and continued caution for safety and social distancing, it didn't seem like Youth Congress for yet another year would take place. Thankfully, with a little help from technology and a lot of help from God and the youth team, the idea for a virtual and interactive Youth Congress was started. A good idea became a God idea, and the 2021 Youth Congress, themed “Unstoppable,” was a huge success with

more than 250 attendees and almost 200 delegates.

The theme “Unstoppable” was taken from Romans 8, which reminds all that nothing can separate from the love of God, and that through Him many are more than conquerors. Throughout the weekend, youth were reminded that although 2020 was a difficult year, filled with lost loved ones, missed graduations, virtual classrooms, pandemics, storms, and more, they survived it, and with God they are unstoppable.

The virtual event kicked off with each delegate receiving a custom gift box delivered straight to their door. Boxes included snacks, a meal gift card, youth congress T-shirt, facemask, and a personalized note for each one from their youth team. The youth loved receiving their boxes, which gave a personal touch to a virtual, no-contact event. Each night they focused on an aspect of being unstoppable from Romans 8. The weekend event featured speakers Claudia Allen, Aaron Abernathy, and Max Gomez, and was hosted by two collegiate youth, Salome Montague from Birmingham, Ala., and Brian Dublin Jr. from Huntsville, Ala.

The four-day event, hosted on Whova, gave each young person their own profile to be able to interact through chats, virtual meet-ups, participate in live polls, and even attend a virtual game night. One of the highlights of the weekend was the Saturday workshops that focused on social justice, becoming business owners, learning how to have a relationship with God, mental health, and learning about the various personality types to have better friendships. There were even workshops offered for parents and youth leaders that helped them develop healthy relationships with their teens and addressed burnout in youth leadership. Zoe



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

Attendees sport Congress T-shirts.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

Kyah Miller was the second place winner of the picture contest.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

Delegate “swagg” box



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

Sabbath speaker, Max Gomez, pastor, delivers his sermon.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

The Friday night teens-only relationships forum meets online.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

Musical guest Koryn Hawthorne presents during the Saturday night concert.

Newsome said, “Thank you to my youth directors for this amazing event. You all really did a good job.” Ethan Jones exclaimed, “I never thought Youth Congress would be so fun.”

A high point of the weekend was the Saturday evening concert highlighting the talents of the youth through a talent competition called “Bless the Mic,” where each youth submitted a 90-second song that was judged by an actual recording artist. The winner of the contest was Aniah Harden, who won \$100 for the best gospel rap song.

The evening finished with a personal interview and concert featuring Koryn Hawthorn, a world-renowned gospel artist who did a virtual concert just for the youth of South Central Conference. The youth were able to enjoy the concert as if they were right in the building with her. The weekend ended with a Conference-wide scavenger hunt.

Taking a once in-person event and making it a live experience was something that all who attended enjoyed. It was uniquely crafted, intentionally engaged, and Spirit filled. Ministering in

a pandemic has caused youth leaders to make shifts on uncommon ground, but the Youth Congress is proof that God is able to do extraordinary things through ordinary means, and as a result they celebrated more than a dozen youth who responded to the call for Bible study and baptism. The South Cental Youth Department is innovating, and is constantly proving that with God they are unstoppable. 📌

BY KIMBERLY MANN, YOUTH DIRECTOR

Oakwood Church Serves as COVID-19 Vaccination Site

Responding to the continuing mission to serve humanity, the Oakwood University Church partnered with Huntsville Hospital in Huntsville, Ala., on Monday, April 19, 2021, in providing COVID-19 vaccinations to eligible Madison County residents, at the Oakwood University Church Family Life Center. Persons who met vaccination eligibility requirements were to register with the church office prior to the aforementioned vaccination date. Yet, because the demand for vaccinations was so high, the deadline had to be extended to afford additional individuals the opportunity to receive the vaccine. On vaccination day,

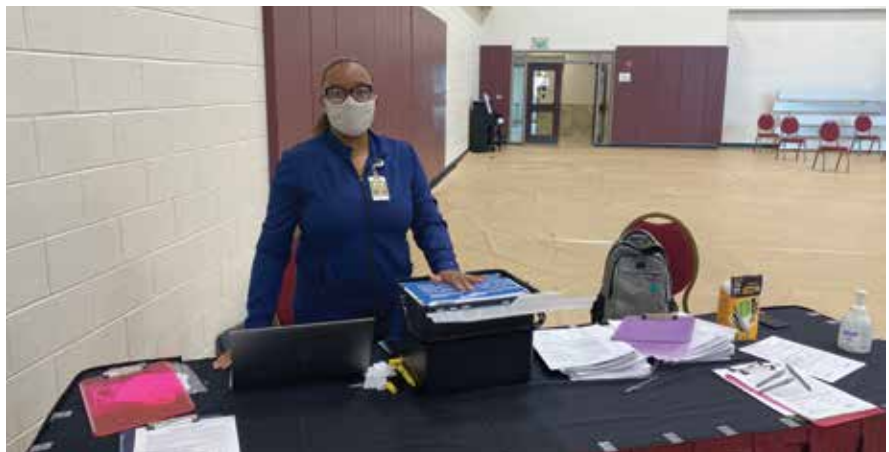


PHOTO BY: JASON NORTH

Greeting visitors at registration table



PHOTO BY: JASON NORTH

“We believe that we have a responsibility to help relieve the suffering of humanity enabling them to be in a better position to receive the Gospel of salvation,” said Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., Oakwood University Church lead pastor and speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Ministries. “Moreover, the church, particularly in our current environment, must identify relevant ways where it can still connect with the community. Ellen White said it best, ‘Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men (and women) as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, Follow Me,’” *The Ministry of Healing*, 143.

Those individuals who received the first dose returned in May to receive their second dose. ●

A Huntsville Hospital nurse administers the vaccine.

BY PAUL R. GOODRIDGE

following strict COVID-19 protocols, nearly 200 individuals received their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

This is not the first time the Oakwood University Church has sought to meet the felt needs of its community. Each week the church distributes 150 food baskets to community residents experiencing food shortages. Additionally, the church has served as a COVID-19 testing site on numerous occasions, and is a voting precinct for local, state, and federal elections; and, the Oakwood University Church Health Services Center, located in the Family Life Center, provides medical services to those in the community who need increased access to healthcare.

Earlier this year, in February and March, the church, in conjunction with Breath of Life Television Ministries, also spearheaded initiatives to donate more than 150,000 bottles of drinking water to residents in Houston, Tex., and Jackson, Miss., to address the water crisis both cities were experiencing due to the devastating winter storms in 2021.



PHOTO BY: JASON NORTH

After receiving the vaccine, recipient and nurse are all smiles.

Churches, Schools Mobilize to Help Jackson Community



PHOTO BY: OPC PHOTOGRAPHER

The U-Haul truck is being loaded with water.

In the midst of the global pandemic, another disaster occurred when a region of the Southeast was rocked by a winter storm in February 2021. The aging water system in Jackson, Miss., collapsed, leaving thousands without water for about a month. Residents were advised to boil any water they needed to consume. In Chattanooga and Collegedale, Tenn., the Orchard Park Church, Avondale Adventist School, Southern Adventist University, and First Baptist Church mobilized to help.

Orchard Park organized a water drive, and donations started pouring in. Avondale solicited donations and secured trucks and drivers to transport the much-needed water. Southern put out notices throughout the campus to participate, and donated one of the trucks with a driver, a passenger van, and funds. After his church collected funds to purchase water, the pastor from First Baptist Church in Chattanooga reached out



Church members start to load pallets of water to take to Jackson, Miss.

to Orchard Park, and then gave them the funds that were collected to purchase more water.

Troy Brand, lead pastor of Orchard Park, reported that he was shocked at

the generous response and community support. “What we thought would be one truck full of water, what we thought would be a nice deed, became three U-Haul trucks,” he said. Brand recalled the generous outpouring of donations Chattanooga received when several communities were destroyed by a tornado this past April.

Three trucks left on Sunday, March 14, 2021, and arrived in Jackson the next day. Two trucks were delivered to the E.E. Rogers Adventist School, and the third truck was delivered to Greater St. James Missionary Baptist Church.

“People just helped us out here in Chattanooga. It becomes reciprocal, especially when you know something is going to be lasting a long time. I think it was critical to give them some help,” Brand said. 🕊

PHOTO BY: OPC PHOTOGRAPHER

BY LYDIA ROSE

Eva B. Dykes Library is Refreshed



During National Library Week, the Eva B. Dykes Library celebrated its “refresh” with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on April 6, 2021. In attendance were members of the Oakwood University (OU) administration, led by Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president; vice presidents Colwick Wilson, Ph.D., Sabrina Cotton, Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., Karen Benn Marshall, Ed.D.; David Knight, vice president of student services; Jordain Thompson, USM president; and the library staff. Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., Oakwood University Church senior pastor, offered the prayer of dedication.

Built in 1973, under the directorship of Jannith Lewis, Ph.D., whose time at Oakwood spanned 50 years, the Eva B. Dykes Library quickly became the center of study and research, and a place

where many a student-worker learned to shelve books, file catalog cards, and acquired great customer service skills. Before the turn of the century, there were some changes made to the lower level, which now houses the Archives, Computer Center, Ellen G. White Research Center, and the Anna Knight Center for Women’s Leadership Center and Museum.

When Paulette Johnson assumed the role of director of Library Services in 2003, she realized that in this technological, collaboration and innovation-centered time, some changes would have to be made to bring the library to the 21st century. She had a vision of what the library could be, and started making plans and applying for grants. Although Johnson was not there when her vision was realized, God brought Ruth Swan, Ph.D., back

to Oakwood as the library’s interim director, from 2019 to 2020, to direct a great work.

With plan in hand, ideas of her own — some fueled by previous library surveys; the approval and allocation of Title III funds from Colwick Wilson and OU administration; and the work of Handel Fraser, Ed.D., project manager, and Ade Adewoye of Brooks Architecture, the library has been refreshed. Fraser reports that the following areas were included in the refresh:

- Remediated or removed mold in the lower level.
- Shaft replaced in the elevator.
- Replaced fluorescent lights with LED lighting on the main and mezzanine floors.
- Replaced ceiling tiles with special acoustics and design.
- Repainted the entire main and mez-

zanine levels with a color that enhanced the brightness of the library.

- Replaced carpet with herringbone pattern on the main floor, and another pattern on the mezzanine level.
- Added electrical outlets for users to plug in their devices.
- Designed new furniture to create a learning and collaboration space for students.
- Added new pavers at the front of the library with special plumbing below the pavers.

To create the large open spaces, the stacks and shelves were relocated from the main floor to the mezzanine, and the reference and children's collections were relocated to the northeast side of the main floor. This, with a little help from Two Men and a Truck and Applewhite Movers, was done by the members of the library staff: Odalys Miranda, Stella Mbyirukira, Evaline Otieno, Elaine Parker, and Barbara Stovall, D.B.A. The spring 2021 student-workers were assigned the task of shelf reading.

Leslie Pollard commented, "The \$5,000,000 renovation of the library is a timely investment in creating an up-to-date space for student research and study. The Eva B. Dykes Library renovation joins the lineup of historic buildings on our campus that have been modernized — Carter Hall, Cunningham Hall, Ford Hall, Cooper Science Complex (Department of Biological Sciences), Peterson Hall, Moran Hall, Blake Center, the Dining Hall, and the 4920 University Square building — with more to come." He concluded, "We are getting there, step by step. Our commitment is to make sure that our students experience Oakwood's best!"

As you enter the refreshed library, you are drawn to the open space, the brightness and ambience of the center that draws you to study, research, or collaborate. You can choose between the individual cubby section on the mezzanine level, or you may want to go to the collaboration/innovation section where there are movable tables and chairs; or, perhaps you prefer standing (or sit-

ting in the bar chairs) at one of the high semicircular tables. It's your choice. There are also "group" study rooms that are available for groups to work on projects once the pandemic is manageable.

In addition, there's new signage, created by graphic designer Ron Pride, that is popping up in various places of the library. No need to worry about overcrowding because, once proper arrangements have been made with library administration, there is still plenty of space to house rotating departmental displays of student research or artwork.

All in all, the Eva B. Dykes Library refresh is outstanding! The Oakwood family is praising God for all who worked to make this refresh possible for the educational and research hub of the beloved Oakwood University. 📖

BY HEATHER RODRIGUEZ-JAMES,
DIRECTOR, EVA B. DYKES LIBRARY

Oakwood University Professor Receives Prestigious Grant



Eva Michelle Wheeler, Ph.D.

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) has selected Oakwood University professor Eva Michelle Wheeler, Ph.D., as a recipient of research funding in the 2021 cycle of its Summer Stipends Program.

Wheeler, associate professor of Spanish in the Department of English & Foreign Languages at Oakwood, is a sociocultural linguist whose work interrogates the intersections of language and race in society. The research project that will be funded by the federal grant is titled "When Black Stories Go Global," and the project is a critical analysis

of how racial language is rendered in translations of African American literature and film.

The NEH's highly competitive Summer Stipends Program supports new research in the humanities, and the program funds fewer than 10% of the applications that it receives each year. 📖

BY OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY IMPR STAFF



BEERS, ARDITH ANN, 84, of Lawrenceville, GA, born March 8, 1937 in North Olmsted, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland Ohio, passed away April 1, 2021. She graduated from Mt. Vernon Academy in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, and then attended Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD. While there, she met and married her loving husband, Lee D. Beers Jr. They both worked at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Takoma Park, MD, for several years. While there, two children were born to the couple, one son, David, and one daughter, Laurie. In 1974, the family moved to Decatur, GA. Both were employed at the Southern Union Conference. Ardith retired from the Southern Union Conference in 2007. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Lee D. Beers Jr.; one daughter, Laurie Butler; two granddaughters: Kathy and Sarah Butler; and two grandsons: Lee D. Beers IV, and Adam Beers. A celebration of life service was held April 18, 2021 at Auburn Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ardith will be interred at Juniata Memorial Park in Lewistown, PA.

BOYKIN, WILLIAM (BILL) BRUCE, 88, born May 19, 1932 in Bangalore, India, to missionary parents, Charlie and Helen Boykin, and fell asleep in Jesus on Dec. 8, 2020. He was a member of the Dunlap SDA Church, and helped in the Whitwell SDA Branch. Grade school and high school years, Bill attended Vincent Hill School in northern India. College: two years respectively for each of the following: Southern Missionary College, (Southern Adventist University), Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University), and Wildwood Medical Missionary Institute, and served in the U.S. Army as a conscientious objector medic, including one year in post-war Korea.



Bill and his wife, Nellie Ann Miller, met at Wildwood, consummating their marriage in 1958. Early on, choosing to be home and foreign missionaries, two children were born to this union Stephen Bruce, and Esther Ann.

Together the Boykins served approximately 20 years in foreign missions: Mexico, Honduras, Africa, and India, and short-term mission trips to Dominican Republic, Honduras, and Ukraine. Bill served as chaplain for many years and associate pastor of the Wildwood Church, and later pastor of New England and St. Elmo churches. Bill's enjoyment of nature showed. He could identify various constellations, trees, flora, birds, and ocean life (snorkeling). His vegetable garden, greenhouse, and fruit trees were his renowned hobby where he would experiment with various plants and methods of growing.

He loved traveling and adventure, taking his family on many interesting and exciting vacation trips. Family was important to him, and he tried to make weekly engagements with his family, no matter how busy his schedule might be. Music exuded from Bill. From his first waking moment, he could be heard singing praises to His maker. He often sang special music: solos or with others. Playing the trumpet (learned from famed missionary Eric B Hare (Dr. Rabbit) violin, piano, and the saw!

He spent much time in the Word, reading/memorizing or on his knees pleading for himself and others. By far his greatest delight was in seeking for thirsty, weary individuals that he could impart hope and truth to them... He was known as the "visiting pastor."

Bill leaves behind his precious wife of 62 years, Nellie Boykin; son, Stephen (Suzanne) Boykin; daughter, Esther (Jody) Zimmerman; and four grandchildren: Leilana Bearce, Alicia Arthur, Michelle Boykin, and Jeremy Zimmerman; six great-grandchildren: Athena and Dominic Arthur, Weston and Jesse Bearce, and Katalina and Hans Zimmerman; twin sister, Virginia (Ed) Bagwell, older sister, Joyce Pifer; many nieces; and nephews.

Esther shares a memory: "Around the age of 10 and Steve 12, we were quarreling quite a bit. Daddy called us into his office and shared how this was affecting his ministry, and that he might have to leave his pastorate. We were shocked, 'what would you do?' As we knew God had called him to be a pastor! He replied, 'I don't know, just get a job like others, I guess. But you children are my first priority and I want you to be in Heaven.'" This deeply impressed me of his love and personal interest, as this was the first time in recollection that he had referenced to our influence on his work! (He did impart to us that we had a Heaven to win and a hell to shun, and to want to do right to please Jesus, but not because of how it made him look!) Daddy gave us a beautiful example of humility, patience, faithfulness, and love. It is my desire to be faithful and to see dear Daddy again with a brand-new body!"

BROWNLOW, MARGARET J., 92, born April 14, 1928 in Greensboro, NC; died April 9, 2021 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 49 years. She spent her childhood in Greensboro, and her family joined the Adventist church during her teenage years. She graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN. Her plans



to always be a career woman changed upon meeting Harmon Brownlow. After their marriage, they began their ministry in Carolina Conference. When Harmon became an evangelist, Margaret stayed home to raise the children while supporting his ministry with her secretarial and organizational skills. They served in Carolina, Kentucky-Tennessee, Georgia-Cumberland, Southern California, and Florida Conferences.

From 1975-1985, Margaret was a beloved typing teacher at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka. After the children were grown, Margaret joined Harmon in his evangelistic meetings throughout the Mid-America Union.

They retired from active church ministry in 1991 but continued to plant a church in Boone, NC, and preach where needed. In 1992, the General Conference asked them to conduct an evangelistic meeting in Moldova, which culminated in their financial support of building a beautiful church in Kischniv.

She is survived by two sons: Joe (Evelyn) Brownlow of Altamonte Springs, and John (Renee) Brownlow of Apopka; one daughter, Jeanie (James) Boyd of Apopka; one sister, Francis Ammons of Marietta, GA; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Harmon Brownlow.

The service was conducted by Pastor Jim Coffin at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka. Interment was at Highland Memorial Gardens in Apopka.

DUBOSE SR., ROBERT E. 90, born Sept. 9, 1930 in Frostproof, FL, died Jan. 30, 2021 in Fletcher, NC. His parents were migrant workers, and the family moved shortly after his birth and frequently thereafter following crops across the country. His sister Anita was born two years later. When he was 15, he met the love of his life, Joyce Evelyn Pope, in Tampa, FL. They married less than four years later, and raised four boys while he worked in the printing business for 12 years. Bob had long felt the call to ministry and at the age of 30, with his family in tow, moved to Collegedale, TN, where he completed a degree in Theology. He later returned to ministry with the Florida Conference, pastoring churches in Tampa, Winter Haven, Lakeland, Melbourne, Altamonte Springs, and Avon Park. The last 16 years of his ministry were spent as an evangelist throughout Florida, holding 100 campaigns, and leading many to Christ.

Bob and Joyce retired to Hot Springs, NC, in 1997, and enjoyed the beautiful mountains of North Carolina until moving to Fletcher, NC, in 2016. They were active members of the Hendersonville Church, and Bob continued his ministry of connecting with people and handing out books anytime he could.

His dear wife, Joyce, fell asleep in Jesus on Dec. 6, 2020, after a long illness, and less than two months later, Bob contracted COVID-19 and succumbed to the illness in three weeks. He had been active and very healthy prior to this. Bob is survived by his four sons: Bob Jr, and wife, Denise; Rich, and wife, Linda; Steve, and wife, Cindy; Dan, and wife, Karen; 16 grandchildren; and 23 great-grandchildren.



SANKY SR., JIMMIE LEE, 92, born March 22, 1928 in Montgomery, AL, to Roosevelt and Rosezena Sankey, died Nov. 7, 2020. He was a member of Mt. Sinai Church in Orlando, FL. In earlier years, Jimmie actively served as a deacon and layman in the church. He had a passion for sharing Christ with others which led him to print and distribute thousands of copies of Bible literature, and to give Bible studies to individuals in communities where the Seventh-Day Adventist churches were underrepresented. As a result of his efforts, individuals were baptized into the Church. Jimmie served in the United States Army as a medic in Germany and received an honorable

discharge. He retired from Kristen and Son printing as a pressman in bindery. As a visionary, Jimmie stepped out on faith and became the proud owner of Sankey Services. For more than 30 years, Sankey Services serviced the Orlando area with essential printing and janitorial services. Jimmie was recognized for printing many of the homecoming souvenir journals for the Mt. Sinai Church, printing thousands of writing pads and booklets for evangelistic meetings locally and around the country. Jimmie was a good role model for his family; he instilled respect and good work ethics. He lived by the motto, "A job worth doing is worth doing right," and he emphasized

the importance of being on time for all occasions. Along with his spiritual life, family life, and work life, Jimmie enjoyed photography, carpentry, gardening, playing softball, traveling, spending time with family, and celebrating his birthday. Attending religious services at church, Camp Meeting, the General Conference Sessions, as well as traveling in his recreational vehicle (RV) with the camping club were his favorite pastimes. He is survived by six children: Jimmie L. Sankey Jr., Marsha Lynn Sankey Motley, Ivan Emil (Theresa) Sankey, Stephen (Edna) Sankey, Lisa Sankey Cone, and Dr. Jennifer Sankey; nine grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

SANKEY, SUSIE MAYS, 92, born Oct. 6, 1927 in Greenville, MS, to the late Erischor Mays and Ada (Bessie) White Mays, died May 26, 2020 in Orlando, FL. She was a member of the Mt. Sinai Church in Orlando. In earlier years, Susie faithfully served as a Sabbath School superintendent and teacher, treasurer's assistant, stewardship leader, community services member, deaconess, and as a King's Daughter in the church. Susie attended Roosevelt High School in Gary, IN, graduating in the upper 10 percent of her class as an honor student, and her entrance exam score for the University of Indiana was highest in the class. In 1954, she moved to Orlando. Susie retired from Florida Hospital Orlando, now AdventHealth Orlando, after more than 25 years of service in the laboratory, where she worked for several years as the supervisor of the secretaries and as the administrative assistant for the School of Medical Technology. When Susie's children reached the employment age, she encouraged them to apply for jobs, and each child was hired in various departments at Florida Hospital. As a result of Susie's remarkable Christian values and guidance of instilling good work ethics, the Sankey family, currently, has more than 200 years of combined service with AdventHealth. Susie's love for God and others motivated her to spread the Gospel of Christ. She placed religious tracts in the envelope with her bills; purchased Bibles for friends and family members; and used Revelations 22:14 for her voicemail message. Susie penned, "My greatest joy is found in my friend JESUS whom I met in Gary at a tent meeting. He has been my best friend for more than 67 years. I know His voice when He says, 'This is the way, walk ye in it.' It has been wonderful seeing the fulfillment of the Bible Prophecies about knowledge increasing in the time of the end. All these and other signs let us know that Jesus is soon to take us to the mansions that He has gone to prepare for us." Susie left a rich legacy of a youth-

ful life that was well-lived. She is survived by six children: Jimmie L. Sankey Jr., Marsha Lynn Sankey Motley, Ivan Emil (Theresa) Sankey, Stephen (Edna) Sankey, Lisa Sankey Cone, Dr. Jennifer Sankey; nine grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one sister, Ella Morris.

SMALL, JAMES SAMUEL "SAM", 77, passed away peacefully on Jan. 8, 2021 at his home in Murfreesboro, TN, after a long fight with multiple myeloma cancer. He was surrounded by his wife, children, and grandchildren. He fought valiantly for more than 13 years with the final battle beginning three years ago. God granted him eight years of remission from symptoms after stem cell treatment in 2009. He was born in the mountains of east Tennessee, at his ancestral home near Parrottsville to James and Katherine Small. He grew up in Harriman, TN, where his family attended the Harriman and Coalfield churches. Sam was a lifelong member of the SDA Church, and had the distinct privilege of earning his Master Guide in the Pathfinder group as a teenager. He attended Collegedale Academy in Ooltewah, TN, graduating in 1961. He also attended Madison College, where he met and married the love of his life, Jackie Kunau on Sept. 19, 1963. He was accepted into the nursing program at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) where he had the privilege of being a member of SMC's first graduating class with an associate degree in nursing. He was accepted into the Madison College School of Anesthesia under the tutelage of director Bernard Bowen. He graduated with a Certificate of Anesthesia in 1969. He began his anesthesia career in Texas. In 1986, Sam and Jackie moved to Murfreesboro, TN, where Sam had accepted a position at the Alvin C. York VA Medical Center. In 1993, he caught the adventure bug, and decided to do travel anesthesia. Sam and Jackie enjoyed traveling together for 15 years. He thoroughly enjoyed mentoring student nurse

anesthetists, and had many years of wisdom to share. Sam reluctantly retired at the age of 72. He loved his profession. Sam was very proud to be the second of three generations of CRNAs (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist). His father, a World War II veteran, graduated from Madison College School of Anesthesia in 1952, and Sam's daughter, Vanessa Schulz, is still practicing anesthesia for the Murfreesboro Anesthesia Group. Sam taught Sabbath School classes, was Pathfinder leader, a deacon, served as an elder, and head elder. He willingly filled many positions while serving the Lord. Upon retiring and returning to Murfreesboro, TN, Sam and Jackie were the visionaries and co-founders of the Gold Leaf Outreach Ministries. He personally shared thousands of books and literature. Sharing the love of Jesus was what he did best! One of his greatest joys was having prayer with so many who stopped at their Wilson County Fair booth during the four years it was under their leadership. Mary E. DeVasher, former director of Madison College School of Anesthesia (now Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia) and classmate of Sam, states: "He was willing to share his faith in every situation. A highly respected CRNA. He is resting peacefully awaiting Jesus' return." Sam is survived by his beloved wife, Jackie Small; his children: Wisa (Richard) Bane, David Small, Michael (Tammy) Small, and Vanessa (David) Schulz; his grandchildren: Joshua, Laramie, Drew, Megan, Morghin, Elizabeth; two brothers: Clarence (Ginger) Small and Jay (Donna) Small. He is preceded in death by his parents: James and Katherine Small.

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is currently seeking teaching faculty in the following: School of Education and Psychology-Counseling, Chemistry Department, Biology/Allied Health

Department, School of Visual Art and Design, History and Political Science Department, English Department, and School of Nursing. *For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs* [6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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School of Business is seeking **adjunct Course Developers** to build 8-week teaching modules for adult learners. These positions are part-time, and the courses being built will be designed for undergraduate adult learners who are 25+ years old enrolled in the Adult Degree Completion (ADC) Program at Southern. Previous experience building courses or teaching adult learners is preferred, but not required. Courses for ADC students will be taught hybrid and online. Master's degree required with at least 18 graduate semester hours in Business. *For more information and to apply, please visit www.southern.edu/jobs or email cwright@southern.edu* [6]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S

School of Business has openings as **adjunct teaching positions**. These positions are part-time, teaching undergraduate adult learners who are 25+ years old enrolled in the Adult Degree Completion (ADC) Program at Southern. Courses being taught will consist of 8-week modules. Previous experience teaching adult learners is preferred, but not required. Courses will be taught hybrid and online. Master's

degree required with at least 18 graduate semester hours in Business. For more information and to apply, please visit www.southern.edu/jobs or email cwright@southern.edu [6]

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln, NE seeks candidates for **Business Program professor** to prepare professional for Christian service in the business world. MBA or master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Please view job description and instruction for application under faculty jobs at <https://ucollege.edu/employment> [6]

STALLANT HEALTH, a rural health clinic in Weimar, Calif., is accepting applications for a **family practice physician**, and an **NP or PA** to join the team. Interested individuals should contact Marva by email: marva@stallanthealth.com [6]

FOOD SERVICE COORDINATOR opening at Glacier View Ranch, Ward, CO. Job description and application link <https://www.rmcsda.org/job-posting-food-service-coordinator> [6, 7]

LAURELBROOK ACADEMY in Dayton, TN, needs **School Principal, Teachers, Secretary, Assistant Farm Manager, Cook, Deans, and Accountant**. Apply at www.laurelbrook.org [6]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [6-5]

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CHARLOTTE, NC ENROLLMENT FOR 2021-22. Cornerstone Adventist Academy is open for Fall enrollment in Grades 1-8. We have in-classroom and distance learning capability as appropriate. Please visit our website at www.cornerstoneadventistacademy.org or call 704-549-8007 for more information. [6, 7]

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GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp options for June and July.

DiscipleTrek - June 6-27. Junior II and Paintball Camp II, June 13-20.

Adventure Camp - June 20-25.

RAD Horse Camp and Wakeboard Camp I - June 20-27. Junior/Tween and Paintball Camp III - June 27-July 4.

Teen I and Basketball Camp - July 4-11.

Teen II and Wakeboard Camp II - July 11-18. www.cs-yc.com. Crandall, GA.

Hispanic Women's Ministries Retreat - June 18, 19. This event is free but registration is required. Online.

Retiro de Damas del Ministerio Hispano - 18 al 19 de junio. GRATIS - Registración es requerida. Online.

Women's Ministries Leaders'

and Their Team Meeting - June 22, 6:00-7:30 p.m. Online.

Father/Son Appalachian Trail Adventure - June 24-27. A 4-day backpacking trip across the Roan Highlands of northeast Tennessee on the Appalachian Trail brought to you by **Men's Ministries Register** by June 18. Roan Mountain, TN. Cherokee National Forest.

Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

PreviewSouthern - June 17. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, and have a one-on-one financial appointment with an admissions counselor. Two nights of lodging and some meals will be provided. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

SmartStart Begins - July 26.

New students at Southern can earn three credit hours for free during the summer — a savings of \$2,145. To learn more, visit southern.edu/smartstart.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION

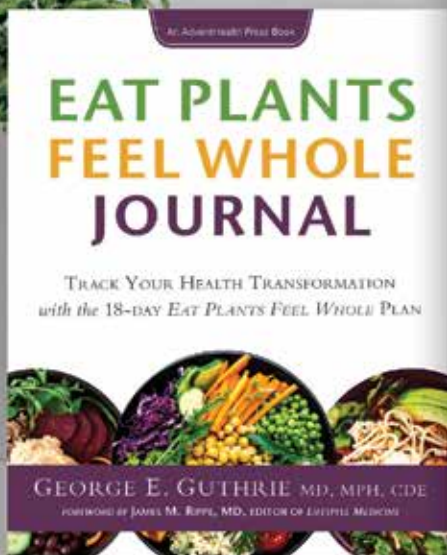
- Sept. 8-11, 2022. Orlando, FL.

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S CARE, ICC

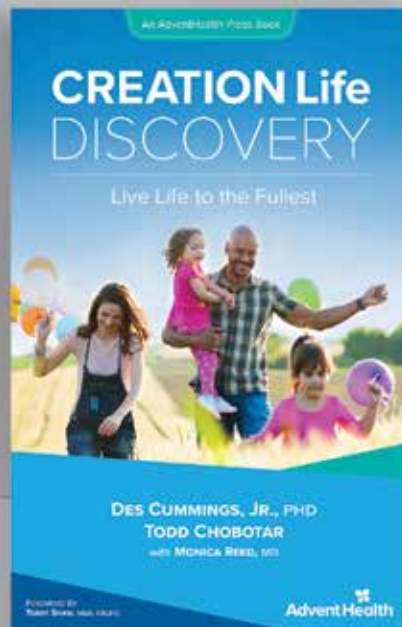
a member of the General Conference Adventist Possibilities Ministries, operates in 13 countries providing high-quality care, including Christian education, for orphans and vulnerable children from infancy through University. To learn more, contact ICC Southern Union regional coordinator, Deborah Zirakian, at 423-647-1826, or deborah@ForHisKids.org.

	JUNE 4	JUNE 11	JUNE 18	JUNE 25	JULY 2	JULY 9
ATLANTA, GA	8:45	8:48	8:50	8:52	8:52	8:50
CHARLESTON, SC	8:25	8:28	8:30	8:31	8:31	8:30
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:34	8:38	8:40	8:41	8:41	8:40
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:51	8:54	8:57	8:58	8:58	8:56
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:56	8:00	8:02	8:03	8:03	8:02
JACKSON, MS	8:04	8:08	8:10	8:11	8:11	8:10
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:03	9:06	9:09	9:10	9:10	9:08
MEMPHIS, TN	8:11	8:15	8:17	8:18	8:18	8:17
MIAMI, FL	8:09	8:12	8:14	8:15	8:16	8:15
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:49	7:52	7:54	7:56	7:56	7:54
NASHVILLE, TN	8:01	8:04	8:07	8:08	8:08	8:06
ORLANDO, FL	8:20	8:23	8:25	8:27	8:27	8:26
TAMPA, FL	8:23	8:26	8:28	8:29	8:30	8:29
WILMINGTON, NC	8:20	8:24	8:26	8:27	8:27	8:26

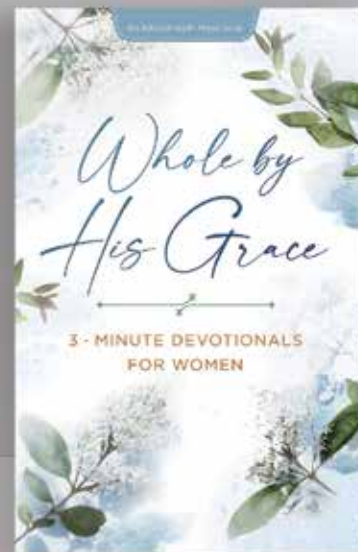
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