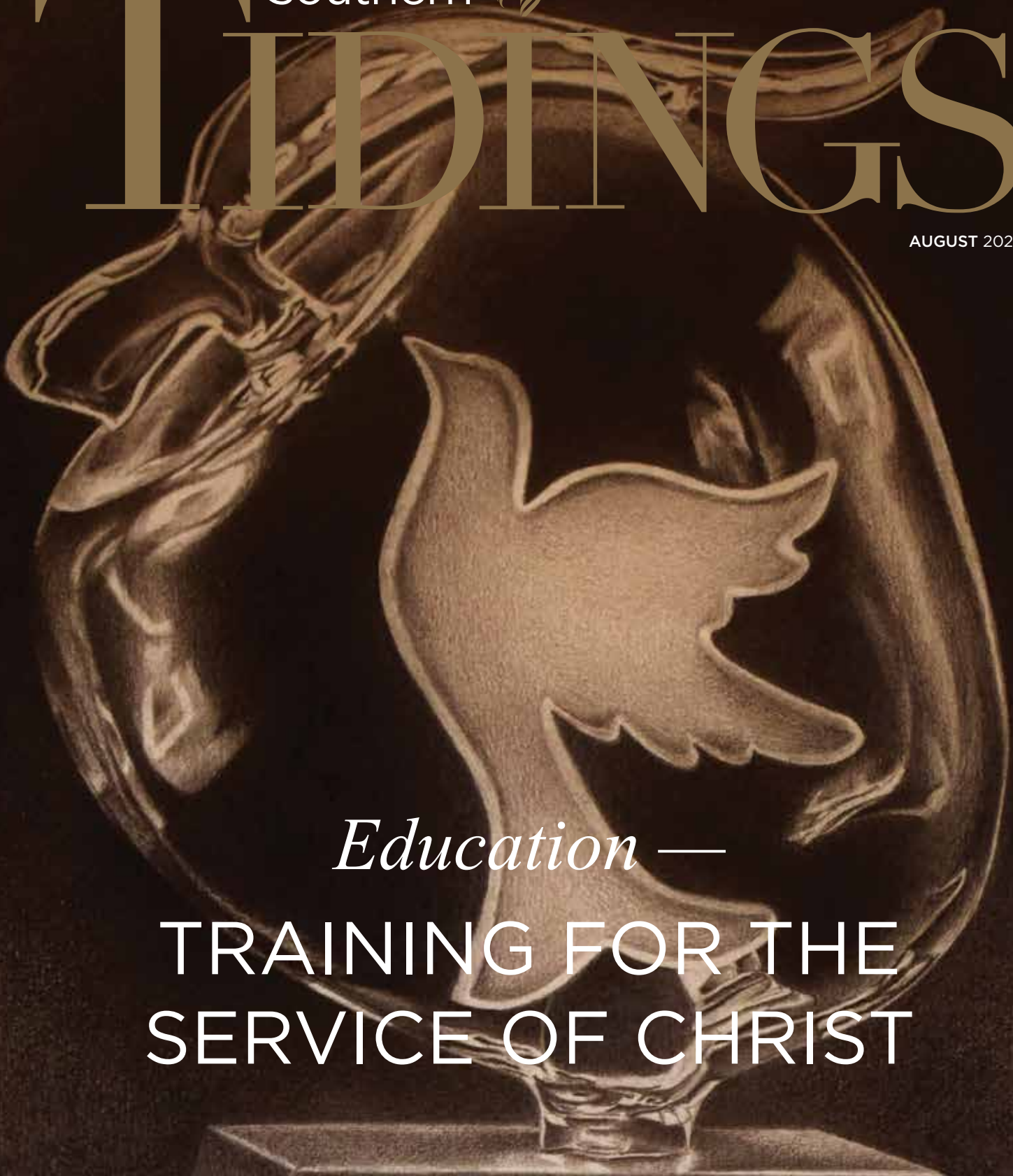


# T Southern TIDINGS

AUGUST 2021



*Education —*  
**TRAINING FOR THE  
SERVICE OF CHRIST**

ADVENTIST  
EDUCATORS  
SERVE WITH LOVE

WATCHMEN ON  
THE WALLS

LOVE, JOY, PEACE:  
STORIES OF  
SPIRITUAL CARE

FREELY YE HAVE  
RECEIVED...

# Freedom



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

“Thou in thy mercy hast led forth the people which thou hast redeemed: thou hast guided them in thy strength unto thy holy habitation,” Exodus 15:13.

These refugees from Pharaoh’s oppression had a dangerous start to their flight. Untrained in war, taking with them women and children, the old and the very young, they trekked off toward the Red Sea. In a matter of hours, Egyptian armies raised dust on the western horizon. Would Israel’s flight be nothing more than an excuse for slaughter, plunder, and rape before their former masters herded them back to the clay pits and brick kilns?

Relief workers among refugees talk of the terror of escape and the torture of the captured displaced by national and international conflict. Media outlets have reported and documented multiple atrocities performed against innocent people as they have fled to freedom.

We know how God redeemed Israel. For generations, their prophets and poets sang of that deliverance. Egypt came to epitomize spiritual oppression by satanic forces. God still called His people out, but now He would deliver them from sin.

As the song of victory went up on the far side of the Red Sea, the people chorused in unison, “The Lord is a man of war.” Later they would remember this. The prophets urged the people to let God fight for them, spiritually as well as physically.

When Jesus came, He came as Deliverer. He would set the captives free. He would save His people from their sins. The imagery of escape and deliverance dominates what the Bible says about salvation. Word pictures record the universal plight of a race captive to its own inadequacies and weaknesses.

Only as we realize how strong are the shackles that bind us to sin, how awful the slavery to which disobedience condemns us, can we understand how great is the deliverance God has given. Joy breaks out among the redeemed when they see how great their escape, how hard-won the victory.

With the increase in immorality and violence, the waning of the church, the obsession to acquire material possessions by professed Christians, there seems to be no way that God’s church will be able to introduce society to the freedom that God provides to these troublous times. As we review the manner in which the early church met comparable challenges to ours, we find they came out as more than victors. Therefore, we find great hope in our assistance in bringing the deliverance people need in this challenging age. Our Redeemer came to this world to provide emancipation from sin for the human race. Our responsibility, as members of the Southern Union, is to reveal God’s love to a lost world.

The enemy waits to savage our souls in this COVID-19 pandemic environment. He lusts for our submission to his will. Every day the Lord sets our feet on the other side of the Red Sea and reminds us that He has defeated the foe. In the joy of redemption, we walk toward the land of promise and freedom from the blight of our era.

“He who died for the sins of the world is opening wide the gates of Paradise to all who believe on Him,” *Prophets and Kings*, pp. 731, 732. –RCS 📖



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COVER ART: ADRIA WARE

COVER CAPTION: The Adventist EDGE logo represents the essence of Adventist Education. The Holy Spirit is the Guide that helps ensure students receive a God-centered education that prepares them for a life of service now and throughout eternity.

# Education — TRAINING FOR THE SERVICE OF CHRIST

BY DEBRA FRYSON

**S**eventh-day Adventist Christians hold beliefs and a worldview that are distinctively Bible-based. Because of this we have felt that our children should attend schools that teach those same distinctive Bible truths. Just as denominations differ in beliefs, schools also have different belief systems.

Seventh-day Adventist schools teach the Adventist worldview, which accepts the Bible as the standard by which everything else is measured. This biblical worldview embraces four concepts: “Creation—What is God’s intention?, Fall—How has God’s purpose been distorted?, Redemption—How does God want us to respond?, and Re-creation—How can we be restored in the image of God?”<sup>1</sup> From the very beginning, Adventist education has understood that the “work of education and the work of redemption are one,”<sup>2</sup> and that its ultimate goal is to transform teachers and students alike so they reflect the image of Christ.

Beginning in the 1800s, a common theme from the pen of inspiration was the importance of training for the service of Christ. In 1903 Ellen White wrote, “True education means more than the pursual of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers.

It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come.”<sup>3</sup> What better way is there to reflect Christ than through a life of service?

## 1800s

In 1888 Mrs. White “spoke in positive terms of the importance of an energetic effort for the establishment of church schools;” then, in 1890 a school was opened in Louisville, Kentucky. It was the first school to open in the territory that would later become South Central Conference.<sup>4</sup> In 1891 the General Conference called Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Colcord to leave the educational work they had established at Milton Academy (forerunner of Walla Walla) and come at their own expense to open a school at Graysville, Tennessee. For a classroom, Colcord rented a room above a general store. The school opened in 1892 with 23 students, each paying \$4 per month tuition.<sup>5</sup> The Graysville School became the forerunner of Southern Adventist University, whose mission is to equip students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue spirit-filled lives of service.

In 1892, a company of believers opened a school in Springfield, Tennessee. The first Adventist school in Florida began in Terra Ceia. Mrs. L. T. Crisler was probably the first teacher. The next year, 1893, a school was started at Eu-



Loulie Horn taught at Terra Ceia for three years beginning in 1900. Her salary was \$15 per month plus her room and board.

stis, Florida, and then in 1895 in Punta Gorda, Florida. In 1895, a night school and then a day school for African-Americans opened on the ship *The Morning Star* at Vicksburg, Mississippi, for about 150 students. The teachers were James Edson White, and his wife, Emma, along with a few others. It was the first Adventist school in Mississippi.<sup>6</sup>

In 1896 Oakwood Industrial School, located on the site of a 380-acre former slave plantation in Huntsville, Alabama, opened its doors on November 16, with



ART BY **ADRIA WARE**

16 students. Solon M. Jacobs of Fontanelle, Iowa, served as the first principal. In harmony “with the SDA philosophy of education, the school aimed to develop the total man, so that he might understand the true values of life and his proper relationship and duty toward his God and his fellow men, and to teach the students how to think and act for themselves, to master circumstances, to develop breadth of mind and clearness of thought.”<sup>7</sup> The Oakwood Industrial School became the forerunner of Oakwood University, whose mission is to transform students through biblically-based education for service to God and humanity, and whose motto is “Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.”

### 1900s

In 1904, acting on their convictions to educate and evangelize the South, Ellen G. White, Percy T. Magan, and E. A. Sutherland boarded Edson White’s river steamer, *The Morning Star*, on the Cumberland River near Nashville, Tennessee. Under Mrs. White’s visionary leadership, they purchased the Nelson Farm in Madison, Tennessee, and in 1906 the Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute opened its doors. The school was founded to train home and foreign missionary teachers, and soon after its establishment began sending out self-supporting workers. The Nashville Agricultural and Normal Institute became the forerunner of Madison Academy that equips students to be “Inspired Seekers, Empowered Scholars, and Devoted Servants.”

In the years that followed, nearly 40 small Madison “units,” which included schools and sanitariums, were started. Both self-supporting and conference-operated schools that began as “little Madisons” still are in existence today. These include Fletcher Academy, Harbert Hills Academy, Heritage Academy, Laurelbrook Academy, Highland Academy, Mt. Pisgah Academy, and Georgia-Cumberland Academy.<sup>8</sup>

Also in the early 1900s, the Southern and Southeastern Unions of Seventh-day Adventists engaged Anna Knight (a for-



mer school teacher and nurse) to coordinate Black Adventist educational work in the South. As a result of her efforts to raise the consciousness of Adventists regarding the state of Black Adventist schools and her work in standardizing curricula, Black Seventh-day Adventist schools were opened in several southern cities. Included among these schools was the elementary school in the Nashville area. The forerunner of F. H. Jenkins was the Nashville Mission School which started in the home of Anna M. Nicholas, but formally opened in the fall of 1905.<sup>9</sup> During the 20th century, Adventist teachers throughout the Southern Union continued working to accomplish the mission of preparing students for the joy of service. Enrollment grew from 854 pupils in 1902 to 11,422 in 1999, and from 30 to 219 elementary and secondary schools.<sup>10</sup>

Perhaps one of the most exciting things that happened in January of 1990 was the adoption of a K-16 educational system by the Southern Union Conference Executive Committee. This action established the first kindergarten through college education system in the North American Division.<sup>11</sup> Then, just before the close of the decade, an associate director for early childhood education position was established, along with the development of an organized approach to operating child development centers. This expanded the

education system to include birth-16, and enabled the Southern Union to be in harmony with 1904 counsel to the Church to provide for the training of younger children in situations where parents work out of the home and/or find themselves lacking in parental skills. (See Sanitarium Church School Board Minutes of January 14, 1904; “Counsel on Early School Attendance,” *Review and Herald*, April 24, 1975.)

With the 20th century coming to a close, launching the school system into the age of high technology became a priority. Preparation for a 21st century education included promoting the purchase and use of computers, educating teachers and students in the use of classroom technology, developing curriculum tools to assist instruction, and exploring options for technology-based distance education.

### 2000s

The early 2000s saw the establishment and development of the Adventist EDGE, a Southern Union initiative for continuous improvement aligned with the North American Division Journey to Excellence. In order to provide **GREAT** education, the following organizational goals were identified:

- **God-centered** — Integrate Seventh-day Adventist Christian principles with learning to anchor students in a relationship with God and prepare them for a joyful life of service.

• **Results-oriented** — Establish measurable objectives, then monitor and assess results to ensure that student performance and teacher expertise is cultivated to the highest possible level.

• **Environment that is Safe and Nurturing** — With the teacher as a servant-leader/coach, create an environment where students master relevant and meaningful concepts, individual learning needs are met through student-centered teaching strategies in a collaborative atmosphere, diversity is celebrated through respect for other's differences and uniqueness, and plans are implemented to ensure the safety and security of students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

• **Aligned with Adventist and National Standards** — Implement Adventist and national standards which identify the high expectations of what students should know and be able to do to attain academic, spiritual, physical, and social-emotional success.

• **Team Effort** — Foster collaboration among all stakeholders — parents, teachers, college and university educators, administrators, board members, pastors, and church members — to develop, promote, and maintain a successful educa-

tion program that equips students to excel in faith, learning, and service.

In 2019, a strategic growth planning committee consisting of educators from all levels birth-16, pastors, conference administrators, and conference and union education leaders, set as a priority the need to recruit, develop, and retain high quality, talented, and engaged educators. The goal was to attract more teachers and to be intentional about creating a culture of growth and support as teachers work to fulfill the mission of the Master Teacher. A first step was to develop a rubric that sets standards and norms for what talent, energy, and engagement looks like. Across the Union, teachers have helped refine the rubric so that it adequately describes a joyful, passionate, collaborative, professional, learner and disciple who is a story for Jesus in words and actions.

In order to attract young people to the ministry of teaching, the Teacher in Training Scholarship has been established. Its purpose is to provide scholarship funding for qualified students graduating from a Southern Union academy who desire to become a teacher in a Seventh-day Adventist school, and who subsequently enroll at an Adventist college or university. Over a four-year period, a student may be awarded up to \$8,000 if annual funding requirements are met.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

These 23 students have all been baptized through the joint ministry of the Maranatha Child Development Center and the William A. Kirlew Junior Academy, and many of their parents are now strong supporters of Adventist education. Standing with them on the left, second row are Theslyn Brown, director of the Child Development Center; and Hermine Thompson, principal of the Junior Academy. On the right are Newton King, senior pastor, and Guibert Etienne, associate pastor.

## The Future of Adventist Education

To follow Jesus' example of selfless service, students over the years have engaged in outreach and numerous service and mission projects to help others at home and abroad. As they build churches and schools, feed the homeless, help the elderly with yard work, serve on disaster relief teams, or perform other acts of kindness, they serve as the hands and feet of Jesus, reflecting His image. As they matriculate through the Adventist school system, they learn to develop a life of faith in God, and to use their knowledge, skills, and understandings to serve God and humanity. The ultimate aim of this training is to prepare students to enroll in the school of the hereafter where they will sit at the feet of the Master Teacher, where "all the treasures of the universe will be open to the study of God's children."<sup>12</sup> ①

1 North American Division Office of Education, *Journey to Excellence through Curriculum: Mapping the Core of Adventist Curriculum*, 2011.

2 Ellen White, *Education*, p. 30.

3 *Ibid*, p.13.

4 Walton J. Brown, *Chronology of Seventh-day Adventist Education*, Washington, D.C., Department of Education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1972.

5 *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia*, pp. 1394-1395.

6 Walton J. Brown, *Chronology of Seventh-day Adventist Education*, Washington, D.C., Department of Education, General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, 1972.

7 *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, Revised Edition*. Review and Herald Publishing Association. Washington, DC, 1976.

8 *Ibid*

9 *The Gospel Herald*, February 1906, p. 7.

10 *General Conference Bulletin*, April 9, 1903, p. 1ff.

11 *Southern Tidings*, v. 85, no. 9.

12 Ellen White, *Education*, p. 307.

**Debra Fryson** is the recently retired director of education at the Southern Union Conference.

# ADVENTIST EDUCATORS SERVE WITH LOVE

BY GREG HUDSON

From the largest school with many students and multiple rooms, to the lone teacher instructing a handful of young people, teachers in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference have been influencing students to serve Jesus for a long time. While teachers once only wrote on chalk boards in small church rooms, they can now reach their students even at home through a video chat. Whatever the technology, learning has continued in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for almost 130 years. In spite of COVID-19, the 2020/2021 school year reported 209 teachers instructing 2,289 students in 37 schools (including three academies).

It is easy to forget that the Department of Education at Georgia-Cumberland Conference had very humble beginnings. In 1876, on the rocky slopes of the Cumberland Plateau, the Mt. Gilead Church was formed near Pikeville, Tennessee. This was the first Adventist church in what is now the Georgia-Cumberland territory. As more Adventist churches formed across the southern states, Adventists in the region began clamoring for a school close to home.

Church and community leaders from several locations in Georgia (Atlanta,



PHOTO BY: ADVENTIST DIGITAL ARCHIVES

W. O. Colcord led the first Adventist school in the South in 1892 in Graysville, Tenn.



PHOTO BY: ADVENTIST DIGITAL ARCHIVES

R. M. Kilgore selected Graysville to be the site for the new school.

Marietta, and Alpharetta) and Tennessee (Chattanooga, Dayton, and Graysville) expressed a willingness to develop a new school. After touring these locations, R. M. Kilgore, district leader, selected Graysville to be the site for this new school, as well as the District

2 headquarters. Under the leadership of W. O. Colcord, this first Adventist school in the South opened in 1892 with 23 students. By 1893, Graysville Academy had 60 students. It soon transitioned to a boarding school. In those early years, Graysville Academy of-



ferred primary, intermediate, and high school courses, along with a teacher training program.

This education center soon became known as Southern Industrial School (1897). Along with several other name changes, the school also changed locations. In 1916, a wagon train carried the school equipment and personnel to Collegedale, Tennessee, re-opening as Southern Junior College. It continues to this day in the form of Southern Adventist University, as well as the neighboring Collegedale Academy school system.

While the school in Graysville was first, it was certainly not the only school in those early days of Adventist education in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Even before a conference of churches was formed, schools were sprouting up in multiple locations, including many that continue to thrive today.

One of these early schools was started by the newly formed church in Gainesville, Georgia, becoming the first Adventist school in Georgia. On November 19, 1893, W. A. McCutchen, church pastor, and Elmer Keck, first principal, were preparing the schoolhouse for the first day of school the next morning. In the midst of arranging the benches for class, these leaders were arrested for working on Sunday, facing a penalty of a \$55 fine, or 90 days of labor. The case was eventually dismissed, and the city was sorry for the incident. One year later, the city of Gainesville provided electric lights and water for an Adventist Camp Meeting ... free of charge. It was at this Camp Meeting in 1894 that a vote was taken to begin the process of organizing a conference, although the formation of the Georgia Conference did not take place until 1901.

Adventist education also has a long history in Knoxville, Tennessee. In 1905 a church school opened with eight students, with Irene Campbell serving as teacher (at \$15/month salary). Although there were several years

with few students, records indicate there has been an Adventist school in Knoxville ever since.

In 1912 a group moved from California to Reeve, Georgia, to establish Hurlbutt Farm School, an industrial school in rural Georgia. The school manager was W. G. Wilson (grandfather of Ted Wilson, current president of the General Conference). The first pastor/principal was A. W. Spalding, who was also a student in the early days of Graysville Academy, and who went on to be a renowned Adventist historian, teacher, and storyteller. The school (and later sanitarium) on this property reached the community and even started schools in other locations such as Dahlonega, Georgia. It went through several changes before eventually being purchased by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and transformed into Georgia-Cumberland Academy, opening in 1965.

As early as 1920, the General Conference recommended opening a 10-grade school in Atlanta, Georgia, with money being given in 1928 for a two-room school. Adventist churches have operated several schools in the Atlanta area through the years. Currently, Georgia-Cumberland Conference oversees six schools in Atlanta, including the multi-campus Atlanta Adventist Academy.

These are just a few of the stories of the many schools that have ministered to thousands of students in Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina. Each of these stories represents more than a school building, but are really personal narratives of teachers leading young people to grow in knowledge, and in their walk with Jesus.

Dixie Owens has been teaching at Adventist schools for almost 40 years. Serving in Georgia-Cumberland Conference since 1983, she is one of the longest serving teachers in the Conference, currently leading out in fourth grade at Collegedale Academy Elementary. When asked why she has continued teaching so long, Owens says, "I love



PHOTO BY: BRIAN YOUNG

**Dixie Owens, fourth-grade teacher at Collegedale Academy Elementary, has been teaching at Adventist schools for almost 40 years.**

the kids, watching them grow and teaching them about Jesus. It is the place to be. Everyone has to love what they do ... and that is why I do it."

Kevin Kossick, Georgia-Cumberland vice-president for education, says, "We are reminded in *Selected Messages* Book 3, page 320, that waymarks were to be set up as a method of reminding Israel of their past history so that children would inquire as to their meaning and the stories would be retold and repeated. Thus, it is important that we be reminded of God's great generosity toward the Georgia-Cumberland Conference by blessing us with 38 centers of learning and evangelism for young people in grades pre-K-16 (including Southern Adventist University)." 📌

**Greg Hudson** is the church life pastor for Collegedale Community Church.

# WATCHMEN ON THE WALLS

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

**Note to reader:** *After you read this article, I invite you to read a more detailed current analysis of the issues around the rise of Christian Nationalism. You can find this in the special edition of Waymarks Newsletter on our website: **God's Remnant Church and the Danger of Christian Nationalism – A Call for Unity Around Seventh-day Adventist Prophetic Identity.** Be sure to check out the newsletter and the other resources we have listed here.*



A big part of what the Department of Public Affairs Religious Liberty does is to act as watchmen on the wall, sounding the alert to dangers we see approaching. Christian Nationalism poses concerns to the separation of church and state that some members may not grasp. We realize that many Adventists are being

influenced by Christian Nationalism and are not aware of it. Since it has a Christian veneer, its nature goes largely undetected.

Being drawn away from the roots of Adventism's understanding of religious liberty and our prophetic call is not as difficult as it may seem. Modern technology brings information gathering at the speed of a stroke on a keyboard. The overwhelming amount of disinformation is hard to sort through and sort out. Hence, very non-Adventist ideas of religious freedom have crept into our churches, creating a branching away from the Adventist understanding of religious freedom in light of prophecy.

Few people argue that religious liberty has become politicized by both parties here in the United States. Each party is doing its part in tearing down the first amendment guarantees to liberty of conscience. We must avoid party politics and make certain we are listening to the voice of our Master, Jesus, and be clear headed about where our freedoms really originate.

Our Church has a long and honorable history with our approach to liberty here in America, and it is needed more today than at any other time. Over the last 30 years, the changes in our culture and society have been dramatically and adversely affecting views of what religious liberty is. The Church is

## RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- *The Great Controversy*, Ellen G. White (especially chapters 35-38)
- *Was America Founded as a Christian Nation*, John Fee
- *The Power Worshipers: Inside the Dangerous Rise of Religious Nationalism*, Katherine Stewart
- *One Nation Under God*, Kevin Kruse
- *The Myth of a Christian Nation*, Gregory Boyd
- *Taking America Back for God: Christian Nationalism in the United States*, Andrew L. Whitehead and Samuel L. Perry
- *A Beast, Not a Lamb*, Amireh Al-haddad
- *Southern Tidings*, January 2020, pages 8-10



en, not here on Earth. This prophetic truth means that Adventists understand that no earthly government will save you in the end. And, as a result, our historic defense of freedom of conscience has been rooted in the free exercise of religion and the separation of church and state. Adventists do not feel it our mandate to compel people to accept Christ or Christianity, and it is not the government's job to do so either.

It is easy to spot the theological holes in political parties that lean to the secular left of the divide, but much harder to spot the scriptural holes camouflaged by Christian rhetoric. If this article has sparked an interest in learning more about the problems with Christian Nationalism, we would recommend some additional reading on the issue.

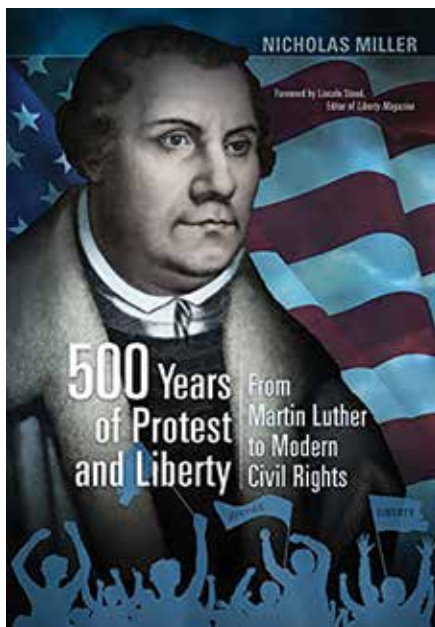
We have picked a reading list that will engage you with authors who are themselves Christians, and who have at their core an understanding of a balanced view of religious liberty. Ellen White's prophetic understanding has placed the *Great Controversy* at the top of the list. 📖

struggling during this time to keep its members on track with Adventist prophetic understanding of liberty's true importance. Leaders have spoken for decades about how delicate the balance of religious liberty is and how best to protect that balanced approach.

There are gross exaggerations perpetrated by both sides of the of the political divide. The dangers of the extremes are still real and we need to address those that tend to get overlooked because of our deep, godly commitment to God's law and His plan in our lives.

As a watchman Church, we believe that forewarned is forearmed. Christian Nationalism is chained to an idea that the salvation of America will come through the political process, heedless of Jesus' own words in John 18:36, "My kingdom is not of this world .... But now my kingdom is from another place." In protestant churches across our nation, Revelation 20 is taught from an understanding that the saints will spend the millennium on earth with Christ ruling in the Jerusalem. This misinterpretation means that Christians are com-

elled by their faith to prepare Earth for Christ's rule. As Adventists we believe the millennium will be spent in Heav-



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**Amireh Al-Haddad** is the director of public affairs and religious liberty at the Southern Union Conference.

Scan QR Code with cell phone camera or QR scanning app for your free "500 Years of Protest and Liberty" book.



# NATURAL CHURCH DEVELOPMENT INSPIRES PHENIX CITY

BY RICHARD CECERE AND LAREE DANIEL

How healthy is your church? The members of the Phenix City Seventh-day Adventist Church in Phenix City, Alabama, wanted to know. So, they embarked on a journey through Natural Church Development (NCD) to determine which areas of their church needed to be strengthened to continue vibrant health and growth.

The endeavor began in February 2021, with a survey of 30 regularly attending church members, which asked them to rate the church's success in the eight quality characteristics of growing churches: Empowering Leadership, Gift-based Ministry, Passionate Spirituality, Effective Structures, Holistic Small Groups, Inspiring Worship, Need-Oriented Evangelism, and Loving Relationships. The survey results ultimately revealed that the church's lowest-scoring quality, known as the minimum factor, was Inspiring Worship.

Once the minimum factor was revealed, two focus group meetings were held. In the first meeting, an affinity exercise was utilized to determine the top three to five issues contributing to

the Inspiring Worship quality characteristic score. The focus group members were highly engaged, with post-it notes flying and a steady buzz in the room. They did outstanding work and set the stage nicely for the second focus group meeting, the Action Planning Workshop, which was focused on identifying solutions that would best address the issues.

A CHIP (Church Health Implementation Plan) team, consisting of Dwayne Campbell, pastor, and elders Ray Daniel, Angel LaSalle, Richard Cecere, and Laree Daniel, was selected to take the input from the focus group and narrow down the ideas to the top few. Next, they completed a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis to finalize the assessment. Once this was achieved, the team was ready to present the list of recommendations to the church.

"Of course, 2020 was a challenging and difficult year for churches all over the world," said Campbell. "And, because our regular church services were altered for most of last year, it's not all that surprising that Inspiring Worship

was our lowest score. The worship service is the most important part of our congregational experience, and we want that experience, along with the other seven qualities of healthy churches, to be the absolute best it can be."

"The survey results clearly indicated that our members were desperately missing all of the things they hadn't been engaged in due to restrictions related to the COVID-19 pandemic, such as the weekly fellowship meal, in-person afternoon programs and Bible studies in the church, singing in the choir, and various children's activities," said Laree Daniel, team lead and coach. "But, the survey also revealed some important areas of the weekly worship service that needed to be improved regardless of a worldwide health crisis, such as more active participation from the members, a greater variety of music, more timely and practical sermons, and enhanced audio and visual performance from the tech ministry." The recommendations of the CHIP team were approved by the church at an April 2021 business meeting. Utilizing the SMART (specific, measurable,



Church leaders and members came together to take an honest look at their church and make it better.

actionable, relevant, and time-bound) process, a rolling timeline for implementing the various initiatives was established. The first initiatives were scheduled to begin in May, and the last one was scheduled to start in September 2021. To receive the maximum benefit from the NCD process, the church plans to retake the survey every 12-18 months to properly assess their overall growth and health, with the goal being to see lasting, positive change.

As the characteristic of Inspiring Worship improves due to the efforts of the Phenix City Church over the coming year, another one of the eight

qualities will become the lowest polling characteristic, which will then become the next focus of improvement. This ongoing process ensures that the church will always be committed to its members' and visitors' spiritual growth and health.

"This has been a very rewarding process thus far. I'm grateful for the participation and enthusiasm of our church members as we move forward with the goal of making our worship experience and our church as a whole, healthier and stronger in 2021, and beyond," said Campbell.

To learn more about bringing the

Natural Church Development program to your church, contact the North American Division Evangelism Institute at 269-471-8303 or visit their website at [www.nadei.org](http://www.nadei.org). ●

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**Richard Cecere and Laree Daniel** are members of the Phenix City Church.

# God Provides: FRANKLIN CHURCH CELEBRATES NEW PROPERTY

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

A little over three years ago, Franklin Church in Franklin, Tennessee, did not have a meeting place that they could call their own. Members gathered at an elementary school that they rented for the day. Each Sabbath, volunteers had to arrive early to set up the room for the worship service. By 1 p.m., they had to wrap up, clean up, and leave the building.

“Sometimes, the school had games in the gym, like basketball,” said Maria Bracaglia, a member and Sabbath School superintendent for Franklin Church. “So, because the gym was right next to us, we were trying to have Sabbath class with the bouncing of the basketball tournaments happening at the same time.”

There was another problem, too. The church’s lease with the school was

about to expire without a possibility to renew the contract. Though Franklin Church, which at that time was called North Chapel, owned a property not too far from the school, the area was underdeveloped. Construction of a new building was going to be expensive and slow.

## God Provides

Around the same time, leaders became aware of a church property that was coming to the market near the same area. The selling price was \$1.7 million, a sum that Franklin Church did not have. Though it seemed like an impossible goal, members gathered faithfully to pray and ask God to open doors as He saw fit.

“After conferring with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, it was determined that our church should pursue the purchase of this property,” said Charles Valdez, Franklin Church member.

Franklin Church used all of their savings as a down payment, and a matching donor contributed to the amount, according to church treasurer Betty Chapman. Their old property was sold for \$800,000 and that money was added to the deposit. After all that was completed, Franklin



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Franklin Church pioneers burn mortgage note to celebrate paying off their new church property. Franklin Church was able to secure the property with a \$550,000 mortgage loan, which they were able to pay off in three years. Pictured are Bizhan Ghavami (left), JoAnne Ghavami, Betty Chapman, Oleksandr Sozinov, Eileen Oakley, Tom Oakley, and Maria Bracaglia.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Franklin Church members participate in the mortgage note burning ceremony. The ceremony was a way to thank God for providing them with a new church property and helping them pay off the mortgage loan.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Franklin Church's new property: They moved in three years ago after they were able to secure the property with a \$550,000 mortgage loan. By December 26, 2020, Franklin Church announced during the Sabbath service that the loan was finally paid in full.

Church was able to secure the property with a \$550,000 mortgage loan.

"The mortgage, which was \$2,041 each month, would have taken us 20 years to pay off at that rate," Chapman said. "So, it seemed like a lot because we were a small group ... [but] from the beginning God showed us that He would provide."

### Giving Hearts

After transferring to the new property, Franklin Church's membership grew immensely. The church started averaging more than 120 attendees each Sabbath — prior to that it was just 30. Church members were faithful in their offerings and eager to meet the set goals to pay off the mortgage. By the second year, the Franklin Church members owed only \$100,000.

When COVID-19 hit, worship was moved online for three months. Leaders were pleasantly surprised that during this time individuals were still giving donations. Each month, the church provided the congregation updates on the progress.

"People just got behind it and were so excited," Chapman said. "And I know that some people sacrificially gave in order to do that."

After merely three years since the mortgage was taken out, Franklin Church announced during the Sabbath service on December 26, 2020, that the loan of \$550,000 was finally paid in full.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Judit Manchay, Franklin Church associate pastor, shares the story of the new property with the church members. Manchay also held a dedicatory prayer saying, "Our goal was never to simply pay off a loan .... Our mission is to love one another, and to share God's love with our community."

### Thanking God

Church members were amazed and thankful at how God had opened doors. Following the worship service on June 5, 2021, Franklin Church had a note burning ceremony. This ritual celebrated the incredible milestone that was reached, and thanked God for bringing them to that point.

"When miracles like this happen, it in-

creases our faith by knowing that God's timing is perfect," Bracaglia said. "He knew exactly when to give us a church. He knew our lease was going to expire and that we were going to have to start looking for another place. He provided and brought us closer in faith."

Franklin Church continues to set new objectives for expanding the church's mission. During the note burning ceremony, Judit Manchay, Franklin Church associate pastor, held a prayer to dedicate the new building and the congregation.

"As we celebrate this milestone of paying off that mortgage, we also recognize that it's an opportunity for more," Manchay said during the event. "It is time that we ask ourselves, 'what other goals does God have in store for us?' Because our goal was never to simply pay off a loan .... Our mission is to love one another, and to share God's love with our community." 🕊

**Paola Mora Zepeda**, *Kentucky-Tennessee Conference media ministries director*, is a recent graduate from Southern Adventist University, with a B.A. in broadcast journalism and a minor in missions and print journalism. Mora Zepeda started working with the Conference in June of 2021.

# LOVE, JOY, PEACE:

## *Stories of Spiritual Care at AdventHealth*

BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

In health care, referrals are understood as transfers of care to medical specialists such as cardiologists or gynecologists. But, at AdventHealth referrals are also made to spiritual caregivers, a testament to the organization's commitment to whole-person care — body, mind, and spirit. In fact, since the inception of AdventHealth's clinical mission integration program in 2018, nearly 35,000 spiritual care referrals have been logged.

The referrals originate in the patient room, whether that's physical or virtual, with a spiritual wholeness screening based on fruits of the Spirit love, joy, and peace in Galatians 5. Patients are asked three questions that are integrated into the electronic health record:

- Do you have someone who loves and cares for you?
- Do you have a source of joy in your life?
- Do you have a sense of peace today?

A "no" answer to any one of the questions triggers a referral. In the inpatient setting, the referral goes to one of the hospital chaplains; in the outpatient setting, it goes to the patient's provider who has the option to personally address the issue during the patient visit, or to place the referral for the E-Spiritual Care Center, a team based at the corporate headquarters that specializes in conducting spiritual needs assessments, creating individualized spiritual care plans, providing spiritual counseling, and more.

"We're all human. We all experience loss, failure, loneliness, anxiety about the future, broken relationships, disappointment," said Ted Hamilton, M.D.,

AdventHealth's chief mission integration officer. "We don't always know where to turn or have ready access to spiritual resources. This program provides that resource."

Because of the program, spiritual caregivers like Keith Harding have had the opportunity to witness pivotal moments in patients' lives, like making the decision to forgive or reconcile with someone who has offended them, reaffirming their faith, committing to find a church home, even praying for the first time.

"Providing spiritual care is a special ministry for me," he said. "It's broadened my scope and helped me deepen my listening skills. It's helped me to better perceive the emotional and spiritual needs of all those to whom I minister."

Following are three stories, told from the perspective of spiritual caregivers, of patients who were referred to the E-Spiritual Care Center for support, comfort, and encouragement. In order to maintain patient confidentiality and trust, spiritual caregivers take special care to avoid any protected health information when recording these mission moments.

### **A Voice That Cares**

The notes from the provider's referral read, "Patient has a speech impediment." I prepared myself mentally and dialed Sarah's\* number.

When I began talking with Sarah, I noticed right away that the impediment was rather severe; her voice was very shaky and would come and go. It took

a bit of concentration on my part, but I found that, with some patience, we could communicate just fine.

So, Sarah began sharing her story with me. She stated that she was lonely and depressed and felt empty. She said that no one ever calls her, so she very much appreciated that I had.

Then she stopped and asked, "What is your name again?" I replied to her and she became apologetic for having assumed, based on my voice, that I was a woman instead of a man. I told her that it was quite alright and that I'm used to it. Those I talk with over the phone often make that mistaken assumption. And I laughed. Which invited her to laugh with me.

And then I made the statement that cemented our bond. I said, "No one gets to choose their voice."

Almost immediately, Sarah lost any self-consciousness about hers. She said, "While I don't get to talk with people, I talk a lot with God." I told her how wonderful that was and shared how I can't sing, but I still sing to God because He doesn't mind. In fact, He rather likes it. Then she asked me if I was familiar with a certain hymn. I was not, but she said it was one of her favorites. And then she sang it for me.

Without exaggeration, she must have thanked me six times for being willing to talk with her. I told her that it was my joy in life to do so.

### **Words of Comfort**

The phone rang several times until a female voice came across the line. After I explained the reason for my call, she



said, “Thank you so much for dialing! My mother has been waiting for your call.”

The woman who had picked up the phone was one of Margaret’s\* daughters who had taken on the role of primary caregiver for her mother. Margaret was going through medical treatments that were taking a toll on her physical strength. When her daughter passed her the phone, I noticed that Margaret’s voice was muffled, and she took many pauses between words. She shared she was extremely exhausted and struggled to speak.

I offered to call her back at a more convenient time, but to my surprise, she replied, “No, please stay. Just recite the words of God. Remind me of His promises.”

For the next 20 minutes, that’s exactly what I did.

I read the Bible slowly and listened to Margaret’s gentle voice whispering, worshipping, and praising God. At that moment, all she wanted was to be comforted.

I was thankful that I could bring her those words of comfort.

## Not Alone

I introduced myself to JoAnn\* and gave the reason for my call. Then she began to tell her story.

She said she felt very nervous about her pending surgery. She said it would not be her first procedure, but that it would be her first one without her husband by her side. Due to COVID-19 restrictions at the hospital, he was not allowed to join her inside the facility.

But as the minutes passed and I gave JoAnn the opportunity to express her feelings and concerns, I noticed her voice became calmer, and she began to tell me about her experience meeting her surgeon. JoAnn told me, “Don’t feel bad about what I am going to tell you, but when I saw the doctor, I was very concerned because she looked so young. I remember asking her if she had performed this surgery before. I also told her that I was worried that she was so young.”

JoAnn laughed and continued recounting the meeting: “For a moment I even thought that the best option would be to



AdventHealth spiritual caregivers share hope with patients referred for spiritual services.

cancel everything and look for another doctor with more years and experience, but her words remained engraved in my mind. She told me, ‘I understand your concern and I respect it. But if you will allow me to tell you something, even though I do not have many years of experience, I assure you of this: my patients are my passion and I will not be alone in that surgery room, because it will not be my hands, but Jesus.’”

After almost an hour of conversation with me, JoAnn concluded that, even though anxiety visits her at times, and even though her beloved husband would indeed not be with her during surgery, the words from her surgeon ring true: “Not my hands, but Jesus.”

How wonderful it is that our providers and our E-Spiritual Care Center can support our patients, together.

These stories represent how the spiritual wholeness screening is allowing

AdventHealth caregivers to move beyond patient interactions to patient relationships, addressing deep spiritual needs that otherwise would go unnoticed and untreated.

“These are real voices of real people for whom a visit to one of our offices or hospitals provided an opportunity to be touched spiritually for the first time in a really long time,” said Hamilton. “What a responsibility, what a privilege, that poses on us to bring healing to people.” 🕊

*\*An alias used for storytelling: Patients’ real names are never recorded in mission moments.*

**Ingrid Hernandez** is the stakeholder communications manager at AdventHealth.

# FREELY YE HAVE RECEIVED...

BY **MARIEL LOMBARDI**

“Freely ye have received, freely give,”  
Matthew 10:8.

For 18 long years the church in Warsaw, Poland kept land to build a temple, but its plans never seemed to come to fruition. When Kircio Mota, pastor, arrived in that district, he asked the members about it. They told him that they didn’t want to waste time explaining their past plans, as they had been enthusiastic about building their church many times, and had received no support from anybody. The pastor insisted that they take him to see the lot, to which they responded: “You are new here, and as any politician, you are going to promise us your support, we are going to get excited, and that will be the end of it.” Mota ignored what they said, and during the Sabbath church service, he announced that Sunday would be a day of land clearing. He said that if anybody wanted to help him, they should come with their tools to carry out the plans. The next day, not knowing what to expect, the pastor went to the lot. Little by little people began to arrive with picks, shovels, pruning shears, and saws, prepared for a hard day’s work.

Seeing the ground clean was an injection of hope for the membership, and soon they all embarked on the project of building a house for God. Each one did something on their part to move the project forward.

One Sabbath, the pastor made an appeal: \$20,000 was needed for one of the project’s expenses, and the church did



not have it. The congregation was made up of 20 families, so the pastor said: “It would be nice if each family could donate \$1,000.” Several attendees joined the pastor’s wish, and promised a donation of that amount.

“Darín,” and his wife, “Araceli,” were watching what was happening attentively. At one point, Darín asked Araceli, “What should we do?” to which she immediately responded, “Let’s give that offering.” Darín wanted with all his heart to give, but he knew that \$1,000 was the only money they had. Giving it would leave them with nothing. However, taking their eyes off the circumstances and placing them upon the Giver of all, they decided to give.

The temple was completed with the financial effort and work of the membership. God blessed them. This is part of the story.

Darín and Araceli lived in a trailer. He worked for a construction company, and while all this was happening, he was part of a group that was building a house that did not have much left to finish. When the work came to an end, the owner of the company told him, “The house you have been working on is for you and your family to live in. As long as you work for me, you will not have to worry about housing. You will not pay rent, and only be responsible for the electricity, water, and gas bills.”

With immense joy, Darín went to tell his wife, and both did not stop thanking God for that enormous demonstration of love. Soon they were living in a brand-new house. Their trailer times had come to an end. Talking with Mota, they told him that now they planned to rent their trailer to have a small extra income. The pastor suggested, “Since you received such a great blessing, consider blessing another person by charging a small amount for rent.” The couple did not hesitate to consider; they immediately decided to be a blessing to someone else. ●

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

# A Legacy of Service and Healing: AdventHealth Manchester Turns 50

2021 is a milestone year for AdventHealth Manchester. In May, the facility opened a new \$16.3 million surgical center as it gears up to celebrate 50 years at its current hospital site.

In total, AdventHealth's capital investments in new construction and enhancements for AdventHealth Manchester have surpassed \$26 million in the last four years, and plans for additional expansions are in the works.

"I'm so excited for 2021," said Chris Self, AdventHealth Manchester president/CEO. "We have the tools in place to continue to grow for our community — to expand our services. We're investing a lot of resources into this market and we're so proud that, 50 years later, we're still continuing to extend the healing ministry of Christ."

AdventHealth Manchester is located in the scenic eastern Kentucky region, rich with Appalachian culture and history. Over the years, the hospital has partnered with local organizations, officials, and community leaders to improve the health and well-being of residents in surrounding rural areas. To have reached 50 years in this effort is a testament to its commitment to the community.

According to a January 2020 Pew Charitable Trusts report, at least 163 rural hospitals have closed since 2005, more than 60% of them since 2012. Residents in rural America often suffer from poorer health due to lack of access resulting from hospital and clinic closures.

From its earliest days, AdventHealth Manchester has worked to improve access to care for the Appalachian people. Opened in the late 1920s as Oneida Mountain Hospital, the early institution closed when it ran out of funding in 1952. That's when the community called on the Seventh-day Adventist Church to operate Oneida Mountain Hospital through its



AdventHealth's presence in Manchester, Ky., reaches a significant milestone as care and services continue to expand in the community.

Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. Herb Davis, who was appointed administrator in 1963, oversaw a major relocation and construction project which led to the current hospital's founding in 1971.

AdventHealth Manchester is one of AdventHealth's 50 hospital campuses and one of 10 AdventHealth Global Missions footprints — the only one located in the U.S. The spirit of mission and service extends beyond hospital walls to care for people in their homes and places of work and play.

"Over the years, AdventHealth Manchester has become more involved in the community, finding ways to help people, and to build and develop things with and for the community. It really connects the hospital to people's needs," said former CEO Erika Skula, who now serves as president/CEO for AdventHealth Carrollwood in Tampa, Fla.

AdventHealth Manchester directly connects to people's needs through a variety of community projects, such as the Healthy Homes initiative, where hospital teams conduct a wholistic assessment — body, mind, and spirit — of local residents and find solutions to

make their homes healthier places to live through construction, repairs, and other improvements.

Other ongoing projects include the installation of water kiosks to improve access to clean water, stocking and supporting a food pantry and homeless shelter, and providing recovery resources for substance misuse and addiction.

Back on the campus of AdventHealth Manchester is the AdventHealth Primary Care Clinic, a Rural Health Clinic (RHC) that is filling the high demand for specialty services in the region. One of three locations now, the strategy is to grow new RHC locations in outlying rural areas in addition to establishing a home visit program for patients with limited transportation.

Whatever the challenge, the AdventHealth Manchester team sets forth on finding a solution with and for their community — a legacy of extending Christ's healing ministry that is 50+ years in the making. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

# Worker Moves From Bible Teacher to Ordained Minister

It was a high Sabbath for the Hendersonville, N.C., Church on May 1, 2021, for it saw the ordination of their much-loved associate pastor, Brian Hindman, who joined their pastoral team January 2016, following 18 years of teaching Bible and history at Georgia-Cumberland Academy and Mount Pisgah Academy.

Hindman grew up in a pastor's home, son of Charles and Linda Hindman. After graduating from Mount Pisgah Academy, he majored in religious education and minored in history at Southern Adventist University (SAU), graduating in 1998. While at SAU, Hindman married Teresa Jones on July 27, 1997. Their son, Jacob, is studying theology at Weimar Institute.

In 2012, Hindman began sensing God's call to pastoral ministry, and after much prayer, in 2015, he resigned from teaching to attend The Amazing Facts School of Evangelism. In late 2015, Hendersonville Church found themselves in need of a second pastor, and lead pastor David



PHOTO BY: JEFF HAFFNER



PHOTO BY: JEFF HAFFNER

Wright was asked to consider Hindman. After Hindman's interview, the board voted to accept him.

While at Hendersonville, Hindman has conducted several evangelistic series, utilizing his knowledge of history to enliven Bible prophecy. His series, Brian Hindman Revelation, is on YouTube. Hindman's love of evangelism was evident in the baptism and altar call he incorporated in his ordination.

Ordination participants included Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, and his wife, Carol Louis; and Ted Wilson, General Conference president,

who presented the main message.

Hindman is grateful for God's patience, love, and guidance through the years; for the godly example of his parents and Christian teachers who nurtured him during his formative years; and for the many students he's been blessed to associate with as a teacher. His greatest desire is to "follow Jesus' example in seeking to save that which was lost, wherever they may be found." ❶

BY PAULETTE LOVE

# Mount Pisgah Academy Recognizes God's Providence Throughout COVID-19

When the COVID-19 pandemic arrived and negatively impacted the United States in March 2020, Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) quickly shifted to distance learning via Zoom for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year. As the months passed and a new school year drew near,

the administrators at MPA stepped out in faith to open its doors for in-person learning beginning in August 2020. Without the incredible and dedicated teachers, this endeavor would not have been possible. Every MPA teacher courageously stepped into the classroom in August to provide in-person instruction to students.

Although mask-wearing, social distancing, and regular sanitizing occurred, it did not guarantee the safety of staff and students. However, they were willing to return for an incredible school year.

MPA had multiple students who chose to continue distance learning for most of the school year, creating an addition-

al challenge for teachers accustomed to instructing students in person. Teachers found creative ways to incorporate distance learning students into their classroom and daily instruction. All staff rallied together to ensure that the school doors remained open. The mission of Mount Pisgah Academy is to love, educate, and disciple students for God’s service, and the staff supported that mission.

Although some students and staff did test positive for COVID-19 throughout the school year, the virus remained contained to a few individuals so that MPA remained open for in-person instruction every school day. MPA stood firm during the storm, and God has now calmed the storm through His faithful-



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING



PHOTO BY: ABBY KING

ness. The students and staff at MPA are excited for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year, when the school will again be open for in-person instruction. Additionally, MPA is planning to be fully functional. The need for masks and social distancing has come to an end,

which will allow them to see everyone’s smile and be able to allow the students and staff to breathe free again. Praise God for His bountiful blessings. 🕊

BY ABBY KING, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT

# Licensed Counselor Discusses Fostering Healthy Mind

*Cris Cazarine Dutra shares his talk with Ric Griffin.*

Our society has demanded so much from every person, even the young ones. We are overworked, over-studied, overwhelmed, exhausted, and still we think we are never doing enough — even in the Christian community, where the desire to be a good Christian has added yet another layer of stress. Although we all should strive to be more like Christ, sometimes we have to take a step back and analyze what we are doing to our minds. In addition to these things which we have taken as normal life, the COVID-19 pandemic and civil unrest have taken away many individuals’ sense of security and stability. Thinking about all of these issues and our need to “Be Kind to Our Mind,” I invited my friend, licensed professional counselor, Ric Griffin, for a chat on my YouTube channel. This was a delightful, informal conversation

giving practical tips on how to foster and keep a joyful healthy mind.

The reality is that we are not able to completely change our society, but what we can do is change the way we confront everyday challenges. In our conversation, Griffin emphasized the importance of having a clear mind to think and make choices before responding to whatever situations come at us. While our lives are going a million miles per hour, the mind can be clouded and decisions are often rushed.

“The mind is an emergent self-organizing embodied and relational process that regulates the flow of energy and information,” says Griffin.

The mind is able to organize and reorganize in different situations. The difficulty that we are having is that we are not allowing our mind to do what it is capable of doing. The overload of information, activities, and worries does not allow the mind to rest.

Griffin offered some very simple, yet extremely effective coping mechanisms:

Pay attention to your body, your rest, your heart rate, and your mind racing. Our bodies talk to us; you just need to pay attention. Our mind is made of three parts: our brain, our heart, and our gut. When all three are doing well, we are at peace. Also, pay attention to stress triggers. Take note of what is triggering your mind that makes you overthink, stressed, afraid, or have some physical reaction. Avoid multitasking. Although you are capable of doing it, it is not healthy. Take your time to accomplish what you need, one thing at a time. And finally, take time for yourself.

If you want to help others that might be having mental health issues, don’t assume that you know what they need. Spend time with people, ask what they need, and direct them to God. The One that truly knows what people need. Take time to seek God. He is kind to your mind and He will guide you to do the same. 🕊

BY CRIS CAZARINE DUTRA, DIRECTOR OF HEALTH MINISTRIES

# Praying Woman Puts God to the Test, Joins Adventist Church

Edeline Morisset, a member of an evangelical church, moved to Florida with her husband after a destructive fire presented the opportunity to be near family. There, she sent a secret prayer to God. While searching for the right evangelical church, Morisset agreed to attend the Columbia City Seventh-day Adventist Company in Lake City, Fla., with her husband.

Another Adventist church, approximately 15 miles away, was beginning a Revelation Seminar series. Receiving the flyer, the Morissets joined two Columbia City friends in attendance. After only three meetings, social distancing went into effect with COVID raging, and the series was discontinued.

While attending those meetings, the Holy Spirit breathed hope and faith into this praying woman who put God to the test. If the Adventist church was the one to choose, Morisset asked God to have an entrance ticket be selected for a door prize. The meetings had to close down, but not until this woman's tickets had won prizes on all three nights.

Doctrinal Bible studies began weekly with friends via telephone, but the same secret prayer ascended to the heavenly Father: "What church to cross over to?" The heavenly Father heard the plea of this honest heart, and a special dream was given: Morisset was on her knees praying in Columbia City, and two boys were being baptized. She then received an impression that she should be baptized next.

Morisset debated and bargained with God:

"When?"

"Maybe in six months."

"More signs, Lord!"

The clincher came when an Andrews University student from the congregation was home on leave and presented a sermon. "Wait no longer to cross over"



Edeline Morisset was baptized on Sabbath, March 20, 2021, by George Worrell, pastor of Columbia City Company in Lake City, Fla.

was the thread of encouragement given from this message. It was settled. This was the key phrase she had presented to God for more than a year. Assurance in the Adventist faith was given, and Morisset crossed over in baptism on March 20, 2021.

And who was that Andrews speaker? He is the son of a member whose mother sits today with two grandsons in the

pew — the boys Morisset saw in her dream. Morisset and the Columbia City family give all glory to the one God and Father of all! 🙏

BY SANDY LAFAIVE

# Kress Memorial Church Holds Spring Women’s Retreat

The hymn, “Come Let Us Worship Our King,” led by an eight-member praise team, greeted participants entering Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Fla., on the evening of April 23, 2021. Kress Memorial Church combined with the Northern New England Conference to plan this special women’s retreat. “What is a favorite song this evening?” Oldies as well as more recent hymns were played from memory by pianist Rebecca Murphy.

A giant boat, tossed by angry waves, with lightning flashing, and thunder crashing, typified the theme for the women’s ministries spring retreat. “Anchor in the Eye of the Storm” was prepared by Kress Church decorators Mike and Nancie Nickless.

Wanda Davis, a senior chaplain at AdventHealth East Orlando, was presenter for the retreat. Friday evening, Davis regaled everyone with an experience as a survivor on the Diamond Princess cruise ship in Japan at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sabbath evening, the great storm on the Sea of Galilee was the theme. When the disciples forgot Jesus’ request to go to the other side of the lake, also forgotten was that Jesus was there in the boat. All anyone could see was the great storm, the boat filling with water, and the watery grave that awaited. It took a flash of lightning to see Jesus peacefully sleeping with the knowledge and confidence that nothing could happen unless the Father allowed it.

Her 37 years as a chaplain have given Davis spiritual insights everyone needs when experiencing storms. It is important to ask Jesus to be in control of the day-to-day challenges.

Snowbirds Louise (LuLu) and Wayne Sanders have been helping at Kress Church for the past three years. With



PHOTO BY: MARY AYUSO

Wanda Davis, a senior chaplain at AdventHealth East Orlando, was the presenter for a Spring Women’s Retreat at Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, Fla.



PHOTO BY: MARY AYUSO

An eight-voice praise team which took requests consisted of Louise Sanders (back row, left), Karen Austin, Sonia Hernandez, Ann Mair, Suzi Ann Brown (front row, left), Ginny Jewell, Sarah Boada, and Carol Perez.

the encouragement of LuLu Sanders, who is the women’s ministries secretary for Northern New England Conference, members experienced the first ever women’s ministries retreat for Kress Church.

Seven people came from Maine, including women’s ministries leader Sanders and two assistant women’s ministries leaders, Ginny Jewell and Kelly Chirnash. Watching online were women from Canada, Ver-

mont, New Hampshire, and Maine.

“All of it was great,” said Nola Anderson, one of the attendees. “I especially enjoyed the presenter and the opportunity to see other women that I had not seen recently.”

BY VERNA M. TRAVIS

# Southern Fellowship Holds Virtual Evangelism for Deaf

Southern Deaf Fellowship in McDonald, Tenn., held a virtual evangelistic series in American Sign Language this past April using Zoom to share God’s message of hope and salvation with the deaf.

The series, titled “What’s Happening With the World?” ran every evening from April 18-23, 2021, and the final meeting was held on Sabbath morning, April 24. Jeff Jordan, pastor of Southern Deaf Fellowship, presented the messages.

The series opened with a review of the catastrophes that have recently plagued the world, such as COVID-19, natural disasters, and unrest, and explained how the Bible predicts that intensified disasters will happen in the end times of Earth’s history. The meetings focused on the end times, the great controversy, law and grace, the plan of salvation, and explained the state of the dead, the seventh-day Sabbath, and other topics. On Sabbath, attendees joined the church live stream on the Southern Deaf Fellowship website for the final presentation, which focused on the blessed hope of the second coming of Jesus, Heaven, and the new Earth.

The name and focus of the series had a specific purpose.

“The theme was chosen because of the events we just witnessed: the virus, protests, elections, natural disasters, to list a few,” said Jordan. “I think people would want to know the answers.”

The meetings were well attended by eager participants, with an average attendance of 52 connections on Zoom. Attendees from across the United States joined the meetings, along with some international guests from other countries as far away as the Philippines and Indonesia.



SUBMITTED BY: CARIN BARTLETT



SUBMITTED BY: CARIN BARTLETT

Jeff Jordan (top), pastor for the Southern Deaf Fellowship in McDonald, Tenn., recently offered an online evangelism outreach for the deaf community. The theme was “What’s Happening with the World?” and was presented in American Sign Language.

After the series concluded, Jordan has continued Bible studies every Monday evening with those who are interested in further study.

The recordings of the What’s Happening With the World? meetings are

posted on the Southern Deaf Fellowship website, [deafchurchonline.org](http://deafchurchonline.org) 📍

BY CARIN BARTLETT



# Douglasville School Conducts Kids Forest Camp

Most children eagerly look forward to summer vacation each year and the freedom it brings. For some it may mean sleeping in, going on vacations, or having more time for video games or other indoor play, but for a group of children in the Douglasville, Ga., community freedom was found in the forest. Eight children enrolled in the first summer Kids Forest Camp, the week of June 7-11, 2021.

The morning started off with a devotion by Yuki Lewis, head teacher, grades 3-8 for the Douglasville School, that made a spiritual connection to the theme of the day. The children were then given time to engage in free play in the forest area. For some of the attendees, a highlight of the week was playing in the mud and puddles generated by recent heavy rainfall. They were not only allowed to get muddy, but even encouraged to do so as they explored the outdoors.

Later, Amanda Mason, grades K-2 teacher for the Douglasville School, read aloud a story centered on the daily theme. Next a craft or activity was offered that also corresponded with the theme. Daily themes included exploring the forest, animal tracks, animal homes, bats, and rocks.

While the play and discovery were fun, the most important aspect of the week was when participants had the opportunity to learn more about God the Creator during their time outdoors. His fingerprints were discovered as they explored the fields and forest area at the school. They were encouraged to be life-long lovers and protectors of nature, but most of all they were led to see the Lord's hand in the world He made. 📌

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BY AMANDA MASON

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PHOTO BY: ALYSSA KEEHN AND AMANDA MASON



PHOTO BY: ALYSSA KEEHN AND AMANDA MASON

The Douglasville, Ga., Adventist School offered a summer Kids Forest Camp in June. Eight children spent time playing in the mud puddles with encouragement from the teachers.



PHOTO BY: ALYSSA KEEHN AND AMANDA MASON

# Bass Graduates 18, Strengthens Endowment

**B**ass Memorial Academy (BMA) in Lumberton, Miss., started the graduation weekend on May 14, 2021, with a consecration address from Bruce Lane, science teacher for BMA. While the year included the standard COVID-19 precautions and the challenges they presented, the staff and students had more experience following the 2019-2020 school year.

This year's graduation ceremony allowed for more attendees than last year, with graduates being able to include more immediate family members. Additionally, all services were held in the gymnasium, where more space was available for attendees. Each component of the weekend services was also live-streamed to the BMA YouTube channel.

Steven Ferguson, school chaplain and academy church pastor, presented the Sabbath morning baccalaureate address. The AmBASSadors, the select music group for BMA, presented opening music and special music, and led a hymn of commencement.

Saturday evening during the commencement, 18 seniors graduated, 10 of whom were four-year seniors, and six made the National Honor Society. Scott Bowes, principal of BMA, gave



PHOTO BY: MATT EVENS

2021 Bass Memorial Academy graduates celebrate their scholastic achievements.

the commencement address. This presentation would be his last as principal because Bowes accepted the position of education superintendent for the Gulf States Conference. Bowes started in this new position on July 1, 2021. Bowes' wife, Katherine, also took a position at Gulf States as director of human resources. During the May 15 commencement, students, graduates, and staff presented farewell gifts to the Bowes family.

Brian Danese, president of Gulf States,

also announced during the weekend that the Bass endowment fund, which restarted in 2019 with a value of \$800K, has now risen to \$3.7M in value. This fund aims to financially support the future of the school from the dividends of an investment account. An article about this project is posted at [www.gcsda.org/gsc-today/bassendowment](http://www.gcsda.org/gsc-today/bassendowment).

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



PHOTO BY: MATT EVENS

Rick Brace, left, dean of boys, presents Scott Bowes, former principal, with a plaque of appreciation from the school staff.



PHOTO BY: MATT EVENS

Graduates march during one of the weekend events at Bass Memorial Academy.

# Camp Meeting Returns to Bass

Canceling the Bass Academy Camp Meeting in 2020 due to COVID-19, left a large opening in the traditional spiritual experience offered by Gulf States. However, the administration and executive committee of Gulf States moved forward to make plans for the 2021 event, and were happy when local restrictions were lifted to allow the event.



PHOTO BY: MARCELO MANSUR

Jim Davidson, executive secretary for the Southern Union, presents the opening sermon on Wednesday night.

The 2021 Camp Meeting started on May 26, with Jim Davidson, executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference, as the evening presenter. The following days included a variety of seminar presenters in addition to the main auditorium presentations. Throughout the event, all main auditorium presentations were either live-streamed or recorded and uploaded later. These presentations are available at [www.gscsda.org/campmeeting](http://www.gscsda.org/campmeeting)

The new Conference mobile app was utilized throughout the event to provide quick event updates and notifications about the Adventist Book Center openings and Senior Store deals. Additionally, a direct link to the live stream was quickly accessible from within the app

For the weekend meetings, Ron Smith,



PHOTO BY: GWEN SPEAK

Students in the primary class engage with Michel Rodriguez, right, pastor for Gulf States, during the children's programming at Camp Meeting.



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Children participate in the shorter kids fun run during the 5K event Friday morning, with proceeds from the race benefitting worthy students at Bass Memorial Academy.

D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union Conference, presented the main keynote presentations. On Sabbath afternoon, Micki Glenn, who also presented at the 2021 Alamisco Camp Meeting, shared her story of shark attack survival. Also, on Sabbath afternoon, Ronnie Richardson, president of the Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) alumni association, and Katherine Bowes, music teach-

er for BMA, led a traditional hymn-sing in place of a musical concert.

Following the Saturday night presentation, Brian Danese, president of Gulf States Conference, announced the theme for Camp Meeting 2022, "Lest We Forget." ●

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Conference Mourns Death of Beloved Highland Academy Dean

Family, friends, and students were saddened to hear the news on June 16, 2021, that Steve Wilson, Highland Academy dean of men, passed away after battling COVID-19 for several months. Those who knew Wilson described him as a loving man, caring teacher, and selfless friend.

“He knew no strangers,” said Rhonda Wilson, his wife for more than 41 years. “He was friends with everybody, and he was helping people all the time.”

Since the beginning of his career more than 40 years ago, Wilson taught in the Adventist education system throughout different conferences of the North America Division (NAD). In 2015, he was called to serve as the dean of men at Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn.

“[Wilson] was a joy to work with,” said Chadd Watkins, Highland Academy principal. “He was a great mentor and friend to the students on campus. In fact, the students had a lot of nicknames for Steve ... [like] Grandpa, Pop, Old Man, or things like that; those were all said in terms of endearment.”

Many of Wilson’s past and current students, like Gabriel Barreda, Highland

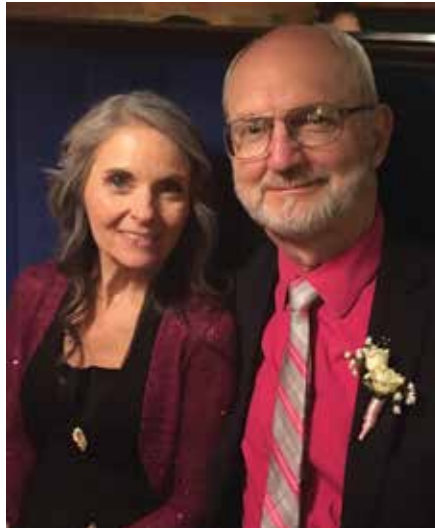


PHOTO COURTESY OF RHONDA WILSON

**Steve Wilson and his wife of 41 years, Rhonda Wilson: Many were saddened to hear the news that the beloved Highland Academy dean passed away on June 16, 2021, after battling COVID-19 for four months.**

Academy senior, have expressed condolences and have said they will miss the man who inspired them time after time.

“Dean Wilson was the wisest person I’ve ever met,” Barreda said. “I could trust him with my problems, and he

would always give the best advice. He was loving; and as I got closer to him, I consider him to be part of my family.”

Wilson loved nature, gymnastics, and water skiing. But, his number one passion, according to his wife, was to bring souls to feet of Jesus. Wilson was scheduled to speak during the senior consecration program at Highland Academy on May 21, 2021, but when graduation weekend came, he was too weak to talk.

“I asked my daughter to ask him what he would want to tell the senior class of 2021,” Rhonda Wilson said. “His words to them — he wrote on a whiteboard — were ‘Never give up Jesus.’ That was the life he lived. He never gave up on Jesus, never in his life.”

Wilson’s memorial service was held on June 26, 2021, at Highland Church. Kentucky-Tennessee Conference’s Department of Education presented his wife with the Seventh-day Adventist Educator Memorial Medallion and Certificate of Service to honor Steve Wilson’s faithful work in Adventist education. 🕯

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

# George Crumley is Welcomed as New VP of Finance

Conference administration is pleased to announce that, after much prayer and consideration, the Executive Committee extended an invitation of employment to George Crumley to become the new vice president of finance. He joined the Conference staff in July.

Crumley was born in Spokane, Wash.. He graduated from Andrews University in 1983 with a B.A.A. degree in accounting and a minor in religion. He started his work at East Pasco Medical Center as an accounting supervisor. Following this position, Crumley gained an extensive background in nonprofit financial

leadership within an organized Church structure. He served a number of years as a treasurer for the Indiana Conference, and a business manager at Great Lakes Academy in Michigan. Most recently, Crumley served as vice president of finance for the Rocky Mountain Conference, where he and his wife, Rhonda,

have lived and ministered for the past nine years.

Crumley is widely considered to be among the most experienced and valued treasurers within the North American Division. Additionally, as several of the departmental staff who have served in the same organizations where Crumley has been can attest to, he is known for his wisdom, authentic spirituality, and leadership acumen.

“I look forward for the opportunity to

work in a new conference and meet new people,” Crumley said. “I am excited to see how the ministries are functioning, and see what we can do to advance the Gospel in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.”

The Conference looks forward to welcoming George and Rhonda Crumley to the Kentucky-Tennessee family. 📍



PHOTO COURTESY OF GEORGE CRUMLEY

George Crumley joined the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as the vice president of finance in July.

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

# Reconnected: Campestre Hispano Concludes Successful Weekend, Inspires Intentional Witnessing

**K**entucky-Tennessee Conference’s Hispanic churches concluded the annual Campestre Hispano on June 11-12, 2021. It was a weekend revival full of worship prepared for the Spanish-speaking community. More than 200 individuals attended in person at the Nashville First Hispanic Church, and an additional 43,866 joined online.

This year’s Camp Meeting theme was “Reconecta2” (Reconnected). It was chosen in an effort to revitalize the church after a year full of challenges.

“Due to the pandemic, unfortunately, we have found that many people have disconnected from the church,” said Armando De León, Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator. “There are many things that are hindering the church growth, so we wanted to encourage and reunite the community.”

Guest speakers included Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director, and Kathy Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism coordinator. The Hernandezes used the acronym RAMP (Revising,



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director, speaks to the crowd during this year’s annual Campestre Hispano. Campestre Hispano is a weekend of revival prepared for the Spanish-speaking community of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Abandoning, Ministering, and Preparing) to illustrate how church members need to make active efforts in reaching out to those who no longer attend church.

“We need to be intentional to look for those who left ...,” Roger Hernandez said. “Many left because they did not

find the support and love they needed in the Church. We need to apologize and send them a message that we want to change. We want to improve.”

The program was livestreamed on Facebook, YouTube, and Ross Video. A video series can also be found on Hernandez’s YouTube channel, @Roger Hernandez.

Andrés Pérez Alonzo, Nashville First Hispanic Church deacon, says the program inspired him to take action.

“[The message] made me to think of my friends who got baptized in the Church but no longer come,” Alonzo said. “I’ve been praying, and I’ve actually started contacting some of them.”

De León says he hopes the impact of the meetings are longterm.

“Our target was that each individual allows Jesus to become a reality in their life,” De León said. “[Moving forward], the goal is that we reconnect with one another, God, and the mission of the Church.” 📍

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

# Ephesus Learning Center's Village: A Parent's Perspective

*A parent shares her experience in an interview.*

I know we have all heard the African proverb that says, "It takes a village to raise a child," and I am blessed, along with other parents, to have Ephesus Learning Center, Winston Salem, N.C., as part of our children's village. The Center is a haven where our children spend most of their time each day, and are nurtured, loved, and taught of the Lord. This education begins in the infant room and continues through the toddler and 3- to 5-year-old class.

From the day you sign your child up, you get that "at home feeling" because this is how Joyce Hairston, director of Ephesus Learning Center, makes you feel. She's the children's grandmother, one can say, while they are at school. Hairston not only takes care of the children but the parents as well, having a word of prayer or sharing some encouraging words with you before going off to work. Supportive, caring, and loving are characteristics of this leader that are demonstrated with each interaction within the Center, and are apparent within all staff. I know that Hairston has been in childcare for a long time, so I asked her to tell me her journey and this is what she shared.

She began with the Scripture Jeremiah 29:11, which says, "For I know the plans I have for you declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." She then shared, "I guess one will say God's plan started with me caring for my younger siblings. Both of my parents worked, and being the "big sister," that was my responsibility to take care of them. At the age of 20, I was hired for the infant room at Macon Daycare Center in Raleigh, N.C., which I affectionately call the owner



Joyce Hairston is the director of Ephesus Learning Center in Winston Salem, N.C.

"Mama Macon." Hairston then went on to pursue a nursing degree, and after finishing nursing school, she was hired at Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, again caring for children. After 20 years, she retired from the hospital and became an entrepreneur. And yes, here again, God continued His plans for her, and she opened Joyce Cribs Child Care Home, caring for children birth to 18 months from 2001 to 2009.

God was not finished with her, because in November 2010 Ephesus Church asked her to be the director for Ephesus Learning Center, which is a 4-star daycare. She explained that she has learned a lot over the years, but mostly how not to be biased. This principle became a reality for her when she married her husband of 41 years as of July 6, 2021.

They became a blended family, with her husband bringing four children into the marriage, ages 5, 8, 11, and 13, to join her two children, ages 6 and 8. She explained that she learned there was not any room for unfairness in her family. She described that being a director of a daycare is like having a blended family, and there is no space for being biased. Children just want to be loved and nurtured, and to know that you care. When we as parents receive correspondences from the Learning Center, she always reminds us that it truly takes a village to raise a child, and we are grateful to have the Center as part of our children's village. She ended with a smile on her face and stated, "His plans for me have been a remarkable journey, and I've been blessed with the opportunity to care for His little children."

## Toddlers class teacher, Nicole Chiles

My son, Anthony Jr. (AJ), has been at the daycare since he was a few months old. As parents you need to leave your new baby with someone you trust is invaluable, and this was my husband's and my experience with the staff of the Center. Each teacher brings a unique style of instruction to the classroom. AJ started in "Mrs. Nicole's" classroom, where he began the journey of learning, which includes circle time with prayer and Bible stories, singing, and basics like colors, shapes, and letters. AJ was being taught and not just being babysat. This was apparent one evening before he turned 2 years old, and he began telling me colors and shapes while I was reading a book to him, and he recited in his little developing speech, The Lord's Prayer. My mind was blown, and I knew at that moment that he was in the right place.

**3- to 5-year-old class teacher, Regin Marshall**

This October AJ will matriculate to the 3- to 5-year-old class with “Ms. Regin,” where he will continue to build skills. In this class the students learn about their heritage as well as expand on basics, which include learning through play in art and outside activities. The children are taught many different areas, including the traditional letters, colors, and numbers, but most importantly, they are taught about the love of Jesus.

These are just some of the activities that the children enjoy at Ephesus Learning Center.

The activities of the Center are not only internal, but also extend out into the community. Each year the parents and staff participate in the Wee Care outreach, collecting boxes of cereal for families within the community who are in need. This introduces the children and reminds the parents of the importance of helping the least of these. This year 79 boxes were collected, which was a blessing as we were in the pandemic and enrollment was low. But, as Hairston would say, “To God be the glory,” because the Center did not have to close due to COVID-19.

I am grateful for the staff at Ephe-

sus Learning Center, and I feel that our children are in a safe, caring, God-centered environment. It truly takes a village to raise a child, and as a parent, I feel that the Center is a blessing, not only to my family, but to all the families of children who attend. I am thankful for the village that God has surrounded my son with. 🙏

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BY ANITA M. LEE

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Joyce Hairston teaches the children at Ephesus Learning Center.

# U. S. Naval Academy Graduate Cites Faith, Work Ethic as Critical to Success



PHOTO BY: LESLI AHONKHAH

Omoikhoje “Khoje” Ahonkhai (left); Anthony Winston, lieutenant commander; and Joshua Haith, naval graduate



PHOTO BY: LESLI AHONKHAH

Pinning Ceremony participants include Elder Ahonkhai (left, Khoje’s father); Omoikhoje “Khoje” Ahonkhai; and Anthony Winston, lieutenant commander.

Jerry L. Demings, Orange County mayor, hosted in the Orange County Government Chambers a special graduation and commissioning recognition for two hometown Naval Academy graduates on May 22, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic last year, the United States Naval Academy canceled the traditional festive graduation week activities. Demings felt it was important to celebrate the accomplishments and milestones of these graduates. Ensign Omoikhoje “Khoje” Ahonkhai was one of the honorees.

Ahonkhai grew up in the Orlando area and attended Seventh-day Adventist schools from pre-K through 12th grade. He was active in youth ministries and volunteer work while attending Mount Sinai Orlando Church in Orlando, Fla.,

and reflects favorably about his experiences in the Southeastern Conference attending Pathfinder camporees, youth convocations, and AYM services.

Ahonkhai attributes his success and resiliency at the U. S. Naval Academy to his unwavering faith, strong work ethic, and family support. He is thankful for the unprecedented accommodations given to him to observe the Sabbath even during “Plebe” summer. Ahonkhai was recognized at the academy as “a man of faith dedicated to service.”

After graduating from Forest Lake Academy with highest honors, Ahonkhai started his naval career by attending Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University in Kerrville, Tex., as a U. S. Naval Academy Foundation Honor Scholar. After one year at Greystone,

he earned a congressional nomination and subsequent appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md. During his time at the Naval Academy, Ahonkhai’s leadership roles included battalion midshipman information systems liaison officer, squad leader, and ADEO (alcohol and drug education officer). He also participated as a member of the rugby, crew, and boxing teams at different times throughout the four years at the Academy. Ahonkhai graduated from the U.S.N.A. with a bachelor of science degree, and currently serves his country with faith and honor as a naval officer. 📌

BY SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE  
YOUTH DEPARTMENT



# AHU Alumna Embodies Servant Leadership

**D**iana Ventura, a recent alumna of AdventHealth University (AHU), currently works as a graduate research assistant in the Center for Population Health Research at the University's Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences. Many alums return to the University and make their impact as leaders and professors, but Ventura's legacy thus far is the lasting impact she's had on her academic program as a student.

The irony of her story is that she originally had no plans to attend AHU. After attending Shenandoah Valley Academy for 3 1/2 years, she moved back home and graduated from high school in New York City. At first, Ventura attended college in Brooklyn, but then followed her family when they moved to Florida.

Her father suggested that she enroll at AdventHealth University, which at first she resisted. He was persistent and even went as far as filling out her college application, financial aid application, and transcript requests. She eventually agreed to enroll and quickly fell in love with the school, in part due to its welcoming environment. She also loved the smaller class sizes, faculty that genuinely cared, and the friends she made in class.

Ventura excelled as a pre-med student in the Department of Biomedical Sciences. Her natural leadership honed over years in church youth groups began to shine on campus. She led the AHU pre-med club, became an excellent researcher, and was instrumental in developing a peer-to-peer student mentoring program.

It was while leading the pre-med mentoring program that Ventura and three of her classmates discovered a gap in the curriculum — specific to graduate school preparation — that could help students applying to post-baccalaureate programs. She, along with those same student peers, designed and launched a

student-to-student biomedical science mentoring program.

“The result of Ms. Ventura and the group's efforts are that MCAT scores rose significantly for AHU pre-med students, grad school admissions rose by an average of approximately 35%, and her efforts increased student confidence, as well as their understanding and recognition of the demands and pathways to be successful. She is one of our star graduates and is a wonderful example of servant leadership,” said Russ Butler, Ph.D., professor of biology and director of the Center for Population Health Research.

Butler also noted Ventura's work as an undergraduate research assistant. The Center for Population Health Research specializes in medical geography. Ventura's specific projects involved building a collaboration with the Orange County, Fla., division of the Florida Department of Health (FDOH). Orange County FDOH was monitoring hepatitis A infections in homeless populations. Ventura was instrumental — as an undergrad, even — in constructing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with FDOH, the first ever for the center. In addition to this excellent work, which contributed to an understanding of hepatitis A distribution in the county, she also contributed to spatial analyses of breast cancer, public transportation networks, and fast food restaurant distributions. All part of efforts to better understand local population and social factor correlates of public health.

During her senior year in 2019, Ventura participated in a mission trip to Grand Bahama Island as it was rebuilding from the devastation of Hurricane Dorian. It was after that trip that she felt the Lord open her eyes and heart toward a different goal. Ventura decided to


switch from applying to medical schools to applying to a graduate program in positive developmental psychology.

“I felt moved that God had a plan for me that didn't involve medical school,” she said. “I felt He wanted me to help others find purpose in their lives, and to instill confidence and resilience in themselves and their communities.”

Ventura has applied and been accepted into an M.A./Ph.D. program in positive developmental psychology. She was also a recipient of the 2019 Newman Civic Fellowship Award for her efforts in restoring neighborhoods and working to better the community. Ventura is currently working with Anael Santos Jr., Ph.D., chair of AHU's Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences, to incorporate the initiative she created with her fellow colleagues into a sustainable solution for future students in the department.

“I didn't do this alone. My faculty mentors really encouraged me along the way. They were always so attentive. I benefitted from classmates that wanted to collaborate rather than compete,” said Ventura. “My mother was always praying for God to lead me on His chosen path. My family, friends, and faculty members really encouraged me along the way.”

AHU has four values that guide the University and all who interact with the organization: nurture, excellence, spirituality, and stewardship. Ventura is an embodiment of those values.

“My being here at AHU is a ‘God thing,’” said Ventura. “I believe that God wants us to collaborate with Him so our passions and characters can grow, so we can instill purpose and joy back into our communities.” 

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BY ERIC CADIENTE

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# Professor's Research Explores More Efficient Weight Loss

Only 25% of calories are burned during exercise, so professors and students at Southern Adventist University have been researching methods to improve an individual's metabolism to more efficiently burn the other 75% while resting. An article documenting their results is currently being peer-reviewed for publication this summer.

Harold Mayer, Ph.D., professor in the School of Physical Education, Health, and Wellness, has made this topic his life work. Before joining Southern's faculty 18 years ago, he worked at Lifestyle Center of America, where he used the technique of intermittent training to help recovering heart patients regain their strength. Four times per day, the patients would spend half an hour repeating the pattern of exercising for 30 seconds and then resting for 30 seconds.

Inspired by the successful results he had witnessed in those patients, Mayer decided to dive deeper at Southern. As part of their research, Mayer and his co-researchers tested 44 females between the ages of 25 and 54 to see if their bodies were efficiently burning fat or inefficiently burning carbohydrates.

"Your carbs are just the spark of the system," Mayer explained. "What happens when someone lives on that spark? They quickly burn out the source."

Utilizing state-of-the-art equipment in Southern's Human Performance Lab, the team was able to measure physiological processes for each individual, which is more accurate than using theoretical numbers based on age, gender, height, and weight.

After initial testing, the research subjects followed a plant-based diet for 14 days to control for nutrition differences. After the two weeks, they were retested and, while continuing the diet, they followed a low, moderate, or high intensi-



Professor Harold Mayer, Ph.D. (right), works with a student in Southern's Human Performance Lab.

ty walking for eight weeks, after which they were tested a third time.

The research provided a unique understanding of participants' metabolism by measuring the oxygen composition of the air they exhaled during exercise, among other calculations. The results showed that exercising in the cellular respiration "sweet spot" helps to train cells to burn fat at rest.

"I hope someday portable breath analyzers will be available for the general population so that, during exercise, people can read their own breath composition at the cellular level," Mayer said. "Our research validates the original hypothesis that working smarter, not harder, gives better results; moderate activity

combined with a negative energy diet achieves the best results."

Noah Humphrey, who earned his bachelor's degree in health science in 2020 and is currently in Southern's pre-physical therapy program, was one of the students involved in running the lab during the metabolism study.

"My responsibility was to conduct many of the health tests and collect data," Humphrey said. "It was awesome to see scientific theory genuinely impact people and to witness the difference for some participants in both their data and their confidence levels." 📍

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

## NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or local programs, and extracurricular programs.

### CAROLINA CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Mt. Pisgah Academy, Candler, NC

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Adventist Christian Academy, Charlotte, NC  
Adventist Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC  
Asheville-Pisgah School, Candler, NC  
Blue Ridge Adventist Christian School, Waynesville, NC  
Brookhaven SDA School, Winterville, NC  
Charleston SDA School, Charleston, SC  
Columbia Adventist Academy, Lexington, SC  
Cornerstone Adventist Academy, Charlotte, NC  
Eddlemon Adventist School, Spartanburg, SC  
Five Oaks Adventist Christian School, Durham, NC  
Mills River SDA School, Mills River, NC  
Myrtle Beach SDA Christian School, Myrtle Beach, SC  
Poplar Springs SDA School, Westminster, SC  
Salisbury Adventist School, Salisbury, NC  
Silver Creek Adventist School, Morganton, NC  
Tri-City Christian Academy, High Point, NC  
Tryon SDA School, Lynn, NC  
Upward Adventist School, Flat Rock, NC  
William Johnston Elementary, Hickory, NC  
Wilmington SDA School, Wilmington, NC

### FLORIDA CONFERENCE ACADEMIES

Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL

Greater Miami Adventist Academy, Miami, FL

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Beryl Wisdom Adventist School, Orlando, FL  
Deltona Adventist School, Deltona, FL  
East Pasco Adventist Academy, Dade City, FL  
Forest City Adventist School, Orlando, FL  
Forest Lake Education Center, Longwood, FL  
Gateway Christian School, Mt. Dora, FL  
Gulfcoast SDA Elementary, St. Petersburg, FL  
Indigo Christian Junior Academy, Daytona Beach, FL  
James E. Sampson Memorial School, Ft. Pierce, FL  
LifePoint Academy, Jacksonville, FL  
Living Springs Academy, High Springs, FL  
Miami Springs Adventist School, Miami Springs, FL  
Naples Adventist Christian School, Naples, FL  
New Port Richey Adv. Christian Academy, New Port Richey, FL  
North Tampa Christian Academy, Wesley Chapel, FL  
Okeechobee Adventist Christian School, Okeechobee, FL  
Orlando Junior Academy, Orlando, FL  
Osceola Adventist Christian School, Kissimmee, FL  
Port Charlotte Adventist School, Port Charlotte, FL  
Sawgrass Adventist School, Plantation, FL  
Tallahassee Adventist Christian Academy, Tallahassee, FL  
Walker Memorial Junior Academy, Avon Park, FL  
West Coast Christian Academy, Bradenton, FL  
West Palm Beach Junior Academy, West Palm Beach, FL  
William A. Kirlow Junior Academy, Miami Gardens, FL  
Winter Haven Adventist Academy, Winter Haven, FL  
Z. L. Sung SDA Church School, Gainesville, FL

### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE ACADEMIES

Atlanta Adventist Academy, Atlanta, GA

Collegedale Academy, Collegedale, TN  
Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

A.W. Spalding SDA School, Collegedale, TN  
Adventist Christian School of Maryville, Maryville, TN  
Algood Christian Elementary School, Cookeville, TN  
Atlanta North SDA School, Atlanta, GA  
Adventist Christian School, Augusta, GA  
Bowman Hills SDA School, Cleveland, TN  
Carman Adventist School, Marietta, GA  
Collegedale Adventist Middle School, Collegedale, TN  
Columbus SDA School, Columbus, GA  
Douglasville SDA School, Douglasville, GA  
Duluth Adventist Christian School, Duluth, GA  
Dunlap Adventist School, Dunlap, TN  
Faulkner Springs Christian School, McMinnville, TN  
Gainesville Adventist Christian School, Gainesville, GA  
Greenville Adventist Academy, Greenville, TN  
Inez Wrenn SDA School, Crossville, TN  
Jasper Adventist Christian School, Jasper, TN  
Jellico SDA School, Jellico, TN  
John L. Coble Elementary School, Calhoun, GA  
Josephine Edwards Christian School, Ellijay, GA  
Knoxville Adventist School, Knoxville, TN  
Learning Tree Elementary School, Dalton, GA  
Lester Coon Adventist School, Apison, TN  
Living Springs Christian Academy, Gray, TN  
Misty Meadows SDA School, Ringgold, GA  
Lighthouse Christian Academy, Morristown, TN  
Murphy Adventist Christian School, Murphy, NC  
Oglethorpe SDA School, Oglethorpe, GA  
Ooltewah Adventist School, Ooltewah, TN  
Savannah Adventist Christian School, Pooler, GA  
Shoal Creek Adventist School, Sharpsburg, GA  
Standifer Gap SDA School, Chattanooga, TN  
Valdosta Christian Academy, Valdosta, GA  
Wimbish Adventist School, Macon, GA

### GULF STATES CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Adventist Christian Academy, Panama City, FL  
Bass Christian Elementary, Lumberton, MS  
Big Cove Christian Academy, Owens Cross Roads, AL  
College Drive SDA School, Pearl, MS  
Community Christian School, Meridian, MS  
Emerald Coast Christian School, Fort Walton Beach, FL  
Faith Christian Adventist Academy, Summit, MS  
Floral Crest Junior Academy, Bryant, AL  
Hoover Christian School, Hoover, AL  
Mobile Junior Academy, Mobile, AL  
Pensacola Junior Academy, Pensacola, FL

### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE ACADEMIES

Highland Academy, Portland, TN

Madison Academy, Madison, TN

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Appalachian Christian Academy, Manchester, KY  
Bill Egly Elementary School, Lawrenceburg, TN  
Centerville Christian School, Centerville, TN

Highland Elementary School, Portland, TN  
Lexington Junior Academy, Lexington, KY  
Louisville Adventist Academy, Louisville, KY  
Madison Campus Elementary, Madison, TN  
Memphis Junior Academy, Memphis, TN  
Ridgetop Adventist Elementary, Ridgetop, TN  
Taylor Mill SDA Church School, Latonia, KY  
Tullahoma SDA Elementary, Tullahoma, TN  
Woodbury SDA Elementary, Woodbury, TN

### SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, Atlanta, GA

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Atlanta Adventist International School, Jonesboro, GA  
Berea Junior Academy, Sumpter, SC  
Berean Christian Junior Academy, Atlanta, GA  
Berean Junior Academy, Charlotte, NC  
Bethany Junior Academy, Macon, GA  
Carolina Adventist Academy, Whiteville, NC  
Decatur Adventist Junior Academy, Stone Mountain, GA  
Ebenezer SDA School, Augusta, GA  
Emanuel SDA Junior Academy, Albany, GA  
Ephesus Junior Academy, Winston-Salem, NC  
Gethsemane SDA School, Raleigh, NC  
Greater Fayetteville Adventist Academy, Fayetteville, NC  
Lithonia Adventist Academy, Lithonia, GA  
New Bethel Christian Academy, Columbus, GA  
Ramah Junior Academy, Savannah, GA

### SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Oakwood Adventist Academy, Huntsville, AL

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Avondale SDA School, Chattanooga, TN  
Bethany SDA Academy, Montgomery, AL  
E. E. Rogers SDA School, Jackson, MS  
Emma L. Minnis School, Louisville, KY  
Gulf Coast SDA Christian Preparatory Academy, Mobile, AL  
Ephesus Junior Academy, Birmingham, AL  
F. H. Jenkins Elementary School, Nashville, TN  
Greater Memphis Adventist Academy, Memphis, TN

### SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE ACADEMY

Miami Union Academy, N. Miami, FL

#### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Bethel Elementary SDA School, Florida City, FL  
Bethel Junior Academy, Riviera Beach, FL  
Broward Junior Academy, Plantation, FL  
Daughter of Zion Junior Academy, Delray Beach, FL  
Elim Junior Academy, St. Petersburg, FL  
Ephesus Junior Academy, Jacksonville, FL  
Ephesus Junior Academy, West Palm Beach, FL  
Mt. Calvary SDA School, Tampa, FL  
Mt. Olivet Jr. Academy, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Mt. Sinai Junior Academy, Orlando, FL  
New Hope SDA School, Ft. Lauderdale, FL  
Palm Bay SDA School, West Melbourne, FL  
Perrine SDA School, Miami, FL  
Shiloh SDA School, Ocala, FL

### UNIVERSITIES

AdventHealth University, Orlando, FL  
Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL  
Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN



**ANDERSON, MARJORIE J.**, 95, born Nov. 2, 1925 in Uree, NC, died May 13, 2021 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL. Her denominational employment includes secretary to the president at the Inter-American Division in the 1950s; and secretary to the treasurer at the Florida Conference, Orlando, FL, in the 1960s. She was also employed at the Corporate Group Service (Ins.) in the 1950s. She is survived by one son, Wesley M. (Jann) Hall of Apopka; one daughter, Reba Hall (George) Crawford of Apopka; one sister, Lylyan Wynn Burns in Umatilla, FL; and two grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 45 years, Howard M. Anderson. The service was conducted by her son-in-law, George M. Crawford Jr., at the Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home in Altamonte Springs. Interment was at Woodlawn Cemetery in Gotha, FL.

**CANOSA, ELDER LOUIS**, 89, born Jan. 7, 1931 into a large Italian family in Manhattan, NY, died Nov. 6, 2020. He was one of 11 children born to Jack and Mary Benevento Canosa. Both parents migrated from Southern Italy.

Louis' education included attending P.S. 135, DeWitt Clinton High School, Atlantic Union College graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in English, earning a Masters at Andrews University, and a Law Degree from the School of LaSalle. All too soon he was drafted into the Army where he joined the White Coats. Operation White Coat was a biodefense medical research program carried out by the United States Army at Fort Detrick, Maryland. The purpose of the research was to defend troops and civilians against biological weapons and warfare. The soldiers would become inoculated with known pathogens to determine how effective an investigational treatment would be. He became extremely sick with raging fevers and needed to be quarantined for a period of time. Also, during his Army career, Louis worked at Walter Reed Medical Center. Our President at that time was Dwight Eisenhower, and his administration set up a function on the White House lawn for injured soldiers coming home from Vietnam to meet President Eisenhower and to shake his hand. Louis was working that day and assigned to push the wheelchair of an injured soldier. He often spoke how that event impacted his life.



About that time, mutual friends introduced Louis to Irene Misenko. After meeting in Sept., their courtship lasted a full three months before deciding to marry on Dec. 11, 1955. Their nearly 65 years of marriage was a tribute and example of a Christian couple loving each other, praying together, staying together, and weathering the storms life threw them. Soon they added a daughter, Carole, to their family and 16 months later a second daughter, Elizabeth, was born. Louis' first job was teaching elementary school in Worthington, OH. Soon he was assigned principalship there, and with his great leadership abilities, he was then asked to join the faculty at Mt. Vernon Academy where he taught English and journalism. Seven years later, the family headed to Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI, where Louis earned a Master's Degree. The Pennsylvania Conference offered him the position of educational superintendent in Reading, PA. After nine productive years in Pennsylvania, the Carolina Conference called him to Charlotte, NC, to be their educational superintendent. Louis liked to challenge himself intellectually, so he decided to learn another area of work with interest in wills and trusts. He enrolled in the School of LaSalle and took law school by correspondence earning his law degree. The Wills and Trust Director position opened up in the Carolina Conference, and he worked there until retirement. In 1995, Louis and Irene moved to Candler, NC, in the beautiful hills of western North Carolina, where Louis continued working part-time for 16 more years, putting in approximately 50 years of service to his Church.

His lasting attributes were the perpetual smile he maintained, his positive attitude, his warm and caring way of helping his fellow man, his sense of humor, his obvious love of people, his friendliness, his Christian leadership, his husband legacy, and his fathership abilities. Louis could pray the most beautiful prayers, as if talking face to face with his Lord. Even after the horrible disease of Alzheimer's/Dementia took his speech and he grew silent, he was still able to pray aloud. He is resting now in the Lord and awaiting the call on Resurrection Day. Louis was dearly loved and greatly respected by all his family and those who knew him. Truly a life well lived.

He is survived by his wife, Irene Misenko Canosa; daughter, Carole (Dan) Livingston; daughter, Elizabeth Canosa-Maize; three grandsons: Joel (Kari) Sholtes, David (Laura) Sholtes, and Jesse (Savannah) Maize; and five great-grandchildren.

**DEATON, RALPH BENTON (BENNY)**, 87, born June 15, 1934 in Erlanger, KY, to Edward and Sarah Deaton. He survived his parents; two brothers, James Edward and Keith Albert; and sister, Luvenia Adella Deaton DeGraw. Benny passed away at home in Murphy on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

Benny attended church school in Covington, KY, until his junior year enrollment at Mt. Pisgah Academy in Candler, NC. Seeing Mt. Pisgah from his cabin, he fell in love with the mountains.

A music lover with a clear tenor voice, Benny sang first tenor in the Mt. Pisgah Quartet. Singing for churches and Camp Meetings was customary for him. Back home, Benny, his brother, Keith, and sister, Luvenia, the Deaton Trio,



did the same. The trio once won first place in a local talent show aired on radio. Finances dictated that he finishes school at Highland Academy in Portland, TN. He also loved this rural setting and the many lifelong friends he made there.

Benny joined the U.S. Army as a medic in 1958. After training at Fort Sam Houston, he was sent to Germany just after his marriage to Barbara Kautz. The two had a daughter, Kimberly Ann, and a son, Kevin Forest.

After the marriage failed, Benny graduated as a registered nurse from Kettering College of Medical Arts. He then joined the psychiatry staff at Kettering Medical Center. While there, he met and married Janice Elaine Gammenthaler. The two worked at Kettering for 20 years — she as a writer/editor, and he as a nurse in psychiatry. (Later, she also became a registered nurse.)

In 1994, Benny and Janice moved to Murphy, where they worked for some 20 years at Murphy

Medical Center.

Benny, a Seventh-day Adventist Christian, treasured a relationship with Jesus and believed in the imminent return of the Savior.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Janice; daughter, Kimberly Ann (Murphy); son, Kevin (Lucy) Forest of Warsaw, KY; brother-in-law, Jack DeGraw (Luvenia, deceased) of Forest City, FL; brother-in-law, Sam (Loretha) Gammenthaler, M.D. of Tangerine, FL; sister-in-law, Pamela Gammenthaler (Robert, deceased) of Ooltewah, TN; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; nephews; and nieces.

**HUENERGARDT, HOWARD D.**, 91, born Feb. 4, 1930 in Medford, OR, died at home on May 12, 2021 in Zellwood, FL. He was a member of the Plymouth-Sorrento Church in Apopka, FL. Howard grew up in Medford where he graduated from Rogue Valley Adventist Academy and then enrolled at Walla Walla College (now Walla Walla University) in Walla Walla, WA. His second year of college he attended Madison College in Madison, TN, where he took radiology. While at Madison, the chief radiologist encouraged him to take medicine and offered to loan him the money for the last three years of medical school if he could manage the first year. He took his pre-med classes at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). He was accepted into the medical school and graduated from Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, CA, in 1957.

He moved to Smyrna, GA, where he enjoyed a busy family practice. In 1961, he met Charlotte Eldridge from Orlando, FL, and they were married in 1962 at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park, FL. After the birth of their fourth child, Howard decided to take an orthopedic residency which was completed in Columbus, SC.

Just before he finished the residency, the General Conference called and asked him to fill a position for an orthopedic surgeon at the Adventist Hospital in Bangkok, Thailand. So, it was off to Thailand with four children, all eight years and under. It was two years later when the family returned to the U.S. that they brought over Chananan, their Thai cook's daughter, to raise with their four children, which made the family a perfect 7. Once in the U.S., Howard joined a practice in Modesto, CA., and remained in California for more than 20 years. He retired in 1998, and they moved to the Orlando area.

Howard is survived by his wife, Charlotte; their five children: Jim, Carole, Janet, Chuck, and Chananan; and seven grandchildren.



**JENNINGS, MARGIE SUE TEMPLES**, 79, born Sept. 22, 1940, died Jan. 25, 2020. Margie graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1962, went on to earn her master's degree from Loma Linda University, and was in the process of obtaining her doctorate from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. Margie worked as a nursing instructor and became the director of the nursing department at Washington Adventist University (formerly Columbia Union College) in Takoma Park, MD. Margie later worked for 15 years as the director of nursing at Brooke Grove Retirement Village in Silver Springs, MD, and retired from Hillhaven Assisted Living in Adelphi, MD. Margie was preceded in death by her parents: James and Lorraine Temples. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Jerry H. Jennings; three step-children: Thomas (Theressa) Jennings of Thornburg, VA, Heidi Belcher of Kauai, HI, and Melissa (Brian) Rogers of Ooltewah, TN; two sisters: Ruth (Joe) Stanley of Saluda, NC, and Patsy Zerne Temples of Hendersonville, NC; three nieces: Nicole Zerne (Perreaout) Daniels, Lydia Zerne, and Lori Stanley (Kenneth) Cairnes; and one nephew, Joe (Cindy) Stanley Jr.

**KOSSICK, JOHN S.**, 92, born Dec. 30, 1928 to Stephan John Kossick and Minnie (Markov) Kossick in Akron, OH, died June 23, 2021 in Longwood, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL.



Johnny, as he was known, attended David Hill and Howe Elementary School and South High School in Akron. He attended Mount Vernon Academy in Mount Vernon, OH, for one year which left him with treasured memories. At age 18, he joined the United States Army, serving in the U.S. Air Corps in Arkansas as a member of the fire-rescue team.

After he left military service, he worked for San Hygiene Furniture Company in Akron. On April 23, 1949, he met his future wife, Elizabeth Anna "Betty" Kasper. On April 23, 1950, he married his sweetheart at the Akron First Church. To this union were born their daughter, Stephanie Elizabeth, and son, Kevin John. John, his wife, and children were actively involved with the Akron Adventist Church and in community services.

After learning the electrical trade and working for 25 years at Portage Machine Company in Akron, he took employment with Kettering Medical Center, Kettering OH, as an electrician. He later accepted transfers as the electrician supervisor with White Memorial Medical Center, Los Angeles, CA; Shawnee Medical Center, Shawnee Mission, KA; and later returned to Kettering Medical Center from which he retired in 1993. His main thrust of work for the Adventist Hospital System was problem solving as an electrician troubleshooter.

After retirement, John and Betty moved to Michigan, Florida, Georgia, and later returned to Florida where he and Betty resided at Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka for seven years, until health issues made it necessary to obtain private home health care the last two months of his life.

His favorite area of Christian service was giving Bible studies; yet, he enjoyed all his roles, ranging from teaching children and adults in Sabbath School to serving as an elder. Throughout John's adult life he was a regular blood donor until aging and illness prevented it.

John Kossick is survived by his wife of 71 years, Betty; one son, Kevin (Gwen) Kossick of Georgia; and one daughter, Stephanie (Wayne) Moore of Indiana; two brothers: James (Denise) Kossick and Thomas (Tina) Kossick; one sister-in-law, Joanne Green; five grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Alan Jones at Florida Living Church in Apopka. Interment will be at Georgia National Cemetery, Canton, GA, with Gary Rustad, president of Georgia-Cumberland Conference officiating. "What I will miss most about Johnny will be his prayers," says his wife, Betty. "He served as priest of our home. His most urgent daily prayers were to see his friends and our family united in Heaven with an unbroken circle."



**LIZARDO, PASTOR SAMUEL FELIPE GARCIA**, 72, of Dalton, GA, born Nov. 21, 1948 in Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic, died June 8, 2021. He was a retired pastor for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

He is survived by his loving wife of 50 years, Nelly Gonzalez de Garcia; two children: Henry (Karina) O. Garcia of Nashville, TN; and Sally (Eduardo) E. Garcia-Garrido of Chatsworth, GA; daughter-in-law, Lizzie Garica; nine grandchildren: Jason, Andrew, Adriel, Anthony, Alexander, Sophia, Keevan, Anderson, and Jasmine; three brothers: Jacobo (Zunilda) Garcia, Josias (Eneida) Garcia, and Cesar (Sara) Garcia; one sister, Doris (Joseph) Morales; a host of aunts; uncles; nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends from the church and the community. He was preceded in death by his son, Samuel F. Garcia Jr.; mother, Josefa Amantina Lizardo; and father, Jacobo Antonio Garcia.

**LOPEZ, VINCENT**, 71, born July 27, 1948 in Rio Piedras, a suburb of San Juan, Puerto Rico, died Feb. 1, 2020. He was the son of Vincent Lopez Sr. and Carmen Rivera Lopez, and brother of Neftali and Evelyn. The family moved to New York, where Vincent graduated from Roosevelt High School in the Bronx and immediately enlisted into the Army during the Vietnam War. He was stationed in Germany and trained as a medic. From a young age, Vincent was determined to be a "Daniel" and stand up for what he believed, even when facing harsh consequences.



His dogged determination to stand for and represent God was his armor throughout his life. In the spring of 1976, he and his wife, Melodie, began their lives together in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, which would last for the next 44 years. He graduated in 1986 from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI, with a degree in biology. In the early years, they lived in the warmth of Miami and then Gainesville, FL, where he worked in medical sales.

Their family grew with the arrival of Chad Jairo in 1980, and Amber-Tiana in 1982. Vincent worked as director of development and alumni at Forest Lake Academy (FLA) in Altamonte Springs, FL. He later taught chemistry at FLA,

both in the classroom and on the internet through their new cutting-edge virtual classroom. He would also continue to do something he loved—drive big vehicles.

He obtained his commercial driver's license and began driving tour busses for Disney parks part-time, enabling him to meet and greet people from all over the world and from all walks of life. He also drove for many school events, such as choir and band tours. After 30 years in Florida, the family moved to Tennessee. Vincent continued to teach while working with Berkshire Hathaway Realty. He also drove Southern Adventist University's tour busses.

His calm, careful, patient, and quiet-yet-approachable demeanor made him loved and trusted by faculty and students, and he was one of the most requested drivers. Devastated by his loss, the family is comforted with the love and support they've received from so many. He is survived by his wife, Melodie, who warmed his heart and life; son, Chad (Nicole); daughter, "Mamita," Amber-Tiana; grandson, Caleb; brother, Nephthali (Neira) Lopez; sister, Evelyn "Cuca" (Tony) Oriole; mother-in-law, Sheila Hall, whom he adored; his "little brother," Mark (Millicent) Hall; cherished nephews and nieces; numerous cousins; and old friends and new friends. When the trumpet sounds "in that great gettin-up morning," Vincent will be able to travel farther than ever before and once more meet and greet new friends, as he often did. Until then, "Fare thee well, fare thee well."



**MERCHANT, AGNES LUCILLE B.**, 95, born in Michigan. She was a devout, life-long Adventist. With her husband of almost 73 years, Robert, they worked for Adventist schools in Michigan, Arkansas, Texas, and Tennessee. Agnes was the second of eight children and the oldest girl. She grew particularly close to her mother while helping to raise the younger children. Times were tough during the Great Depression, especially when her builder/carpenter father couldn't find work. She loved teaching, helping, and playing with young children, so she later taught Bible classes to the young children at church. She and Robert had four children of their own. In one of her jobs, she worked at McKee Bakery, making Little Debbie cookies. She later became an educational loan officer at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN.

She also researched genealogy records to build the family tree. Robert and Agnes were active in the Collegedale Church, school, and community for 55 years. They were leaders in the Marriage Encounter program, that promoted more effective communication between spouses.

Agnes had many good qualities, including honesty, helping others, love for every relative, and accepting her children's friends into their home, meals included. Agnes always wanted everything to be perfect for her family and taught her children the virtues of hard work and attention to detail.

She is survived by her brothers, Ralph and Roy; daughters, Judy (Kris) and Rita (Gordon); sons, Jerry and Dan (Amy); grandson Michael (Christina); granddaughters, Emily and Abby; and great-grandchildren, Meraiah and Canaan. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert; two brothers: Kenneth and Russell; three sisters: Leota, Ardis, and Carole; and one granddaughter, Valerie.

**RUCKLE, DIANNE**, 75, of Portland, TN, born 1945 in Madison, TN, died May 9, 2021. She completed her college studies at Southern Missionary College for nursing. In 1961, she met Ralph Ruckle, and they wed in 1967.

She and Ralph moved to Portland, TN, in 1976 where Ralph was a family practice physician for more than 40 years. Dianne helped in the office, was an infection control nurse for Highland Hospital, worked for Sunbelt Home Health, and as a hospital chaplain. She was an active member of the Highland Church. She loved being a mother. Her passion was to share Jesus Christ to her family and friends through prayer ministries and through her involvement in the life of church. She enjoyed walking in nature, cooking healthy food, and loved watching birds at her bird feeder.

She is survived by husband, Ralph Ruckle; sister, Annette Wiles; brother, David Parker; three children: Brian Ruckle of Indianapolis, IN, Brent Ruckle of Georgetown, IN, and Laurie Schlisner of Hampshire, TN; seven grandchildren: Golda, Lydia, Emma, Elena, Elijah, and Kathryn, and Aldrin. A Celebration of Life Memorial Service was held on May 30, 2021 at Highland Church.



**BLACKWELL, LOU ANN**, 83, born Dec. 30, 1936, died July 26, 2020. She was the daughter of the late Sam and Lillian Harding. Lou Ann was an executive assistant with McKee Foods for many years. Survivors include her loving and devoted husband of 61 years, Larry Sr.; two children: Larry Jr. of Murfreesboro, TN, and Lori Ann of McDonald, TN; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; brother, Sam (Annette) Harding of Hendersonville, TN; several nieces; and nephews.

**BURG, DEBORAH JO**, 62, born Oct. 17, 1958, died May 5, 2021 in Jackson, MS. Deborah worked for many years with the Mississippi division of Medicare. She loved going to the mountains, music, helping people, and was a treasured member of the Community Adventist Church in Meridian, MS. Deborah is survived by her husband, David Burg of Decatur, MS; father, C. L. Richardson, and his wife, Doris; and her brother, Ronnie Richardson, and his wife, Jeannine, all of Bogue Chitto, MS; sister-in-law, Kathy Richardson; a host of nieces; and nephews. A funeral service was held May 15, 2021, at the Meridian Community Seventh-day Adventist Church, with Pastor Stanley Luntungan and Elder Brian Danese officiating.

**COVRIG, NALONNA**, 53, died Aug. 23, 2020, at her home.

**DEBOOY, HILDUR CARSON GRIFFIN**, 94, born Nov. 15, 1926 in Salem, SD; died Jan. 18, 2021 in Walla Walla, WA. She was a member of the Florida Conference for 28 years and a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 14 years. Hildur and Nobel Carson, her husband of 40 years, were natives of the Dakotas. They served their careers in grades one to 12 in Adventist schools beginning in South Dakota, North Dakota, and Iowa. They went as teachers to the Southern Union in 1951: Bristol, TN; Columbus, GA; Avon Park, FL, where Noble was principal of Highland Lakes Jr. Academy; Miami, FL; Pewee Valley, KY; and the Tri Cities Jr. Academy near High Point, NC. Their teaching careers then took them to: Spencerville Jr. Academy, Spencerville, MD; Little Creek Academy in Tennessee; Mankato, MN; Harbert Hills Academy, Savannah, TN; Boys World

in California; Groveland Academy in Florida; and the SDA Indian School, Holbrook, AZ. After Nobel died in 1985, she married Kenneth Griffin of Dade City, FL. After his death, she married Pastor Paul DeBooy, and they made their home in Altamonte Springs, FL. They moved to Walla Walla in 2013 to be near her son and family. She continued to live in Washington after Paul passed away in 2014, but she retained her membership with the Forest Lake Church. She is survived by her four sons: Dennis (Ann) Carlson of Clearwater, FL, Gary (Janice) Carlson of Hendersonville, NC, and Gregory (Michelle) Carlson of Hebron, MD; eight grandchildren; and 13 great grandchildren. She was also predeceased by an infant daughter, Susan. A graveside service was conducted by Kevin Carlson. Interment was at the Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

**DIETRICH, TERRILL ROBIN**, died March 19, 2020. Terrill was a resident of McDonald, TN, at the time.

**ESCOBAR, ARDITH**, 87, died June 9, 2020 in a Collegedale healthcare facility.

**FERNEYHOUGH, JACK**, husband of Laura, died March 3, 2020.

**JEAN-BAPTISTE, JOCELYNE**, 67, born March 11, 1953, died June 2, 2020. Funeral services were held June 14, 2020 at Chattanooga Funeral Home, Crematory & Florist-Valley View Chapel. Burial followed at Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale, TN.

**LaFAVE, ELSIE H. OLSEN**, 85, died June 25, 2020. Survivors include her husband, Pastor Ralph LaFave; daughter, Christie Jennings; two sons: Phillip and Daniel LaFave; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren.

**MARTZ, SETH TOM**, 76, born July 10, 1944, died April 14, 2021. From Nashville, TN, he was a member of the Madison Campus Church. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Rachel; two daughters: Bonnie Marino and Cindy Wallace; two sons: Jonathan Martz and Melvin Martz; one brother, Jim Martz; and seven grandchildren. Tom loved reading, visiting parks within the

community, nature, history shows, and watching the six o'clock news. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Seth's wish was to be cremated with no formal services.

**YOST, RUBY W. B.**, 96, born on Feb. 24, 1924 in Arpin, WI, to John and Verena Blatt as the last of eight children; died Jan. 3, 2021 in Orlando, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL, for more than 25 years. The family lived in Arpin for more than 20 years. After high school, Ruby attended a nursing school in Ohio. When World War II began, the three-year program closed after two years, and she joined her family who had moved to Bremerton, WA.

Ruby met Stephen J. Yost Jr., a sergeant in the Army, at church in Seattle, WA. One month later she was engaged to Stephen and married him on Dec. 2, 1944. A weekend honeymoon was the extent of their celebration because Stephen received ship out orders the following week. When Stephen was discharged and returned to the USA in Dec. 1945, he was met by Ruby and a three-month old son named Stephen III.

After earning a degree in education at Emanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, MI, her husband spent the next 25 years teaching and being an administrator while Ruby did nursing in various places and was a homemaker. They served at Onway, MI; Bethel Junior Academy, Arpin; Lewis County Adventist School, Chehalis, WA; Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, MD; Seattle Junior Academy in Seattle; Wisconsin Academy in Columbus, WI; and Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, FL. For 10 years, they did pastoral work in Florida at Naples, Boynton Beach, and Cocoa. In 1990, they retired and moved to Florida Living Retirement Center in Apopka. She is survived by one son, Stephen (Stephanie) Yost III of New Smyrna Beach, FL; one daughter, Sheryl Yost Reed of Howie-in-the-Hills, FL; two grandchildren: Syndee (Benji) of New Smyrna Beach, and Sy (Ciera) of Ormond Beach, FL; and two great-grandchildren: Stella and Wyatt. She was predeceased in 2017 by her husband of 75 years, Stephen Yost Jr. A graveside service was held for the family, and interment was in Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.



**LEGAL NOTICES**

**The Gulf States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists**

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular constituency session of the Gulf States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at Gulf States Conference Office in Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet there on Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. This constituency session is called for the purpose of electing its officer, its departmental directors, and the members of the Executive Committee for the next quinquennial term of five years. This meeting will also transact any other business that is warranted by the constitution or the Executive Committee. Each church is entitled to (1) delegate for the church and (1) one additional delegate for every 30 members or major fraction thereof. For the Organizing Committee, each church is entitled to one representative.

D. Brian Danese, President  
 Martin Fancher, Executive Secretary  
 Gwen Speak, Treasurer

**The Gulf States Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular constituency session of the Gulf States Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet at Gulf States Conference Office in Montgomery, Alabama, on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 10:30 a.m. The delegates of the Gulf States Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will serve as the constituents of the corporation.

D. Brian Danese, President  
 Martin Fancher, Executive Secretary  
 Gwen Speak, Treasurer

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

#### FLORIDA LIVING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY

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#### ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT-

at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, NC. Spacious apartments available now. Ask about our limited rental units and villa homes. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet when you tour. Call Lisa at 1-800-249-2882 or 828-209-6935 or visit [www.fletcherparkinn.com](http://www.fletcherparkinn.com) [8-7]

#### GREAT BUILDING LOT FOR SALE

- Only 10 min to SAU, this lot is permitted to build a 3 bedroom home and is nestled amongst stately homes. McDonald, TN with low Bradley County property taxes. \$69,900. Wendy Dixon Team-Keller Williams Realty, 423-664-1800; [DixonTeam.com](http://DixonTeam.com), or call direct, Wendy Dixon Team, 423-702-2000. [8]

**SDA REALTOR** - Are you looking for country-living property? Let me help you find the perfect place. I work in the North Georgia and Southeast Tennessee areas. Give me a call today! Pierre Potgieter, REMAX, 423-987-0831. [8, 9]

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sq. ft. on 2 acres. Only 15 minutes from downtown Chattanooga and 25 minutes from Collegedale, for only \$325,000. Call Pierre at Remax REC: 423-987-0831 cell, or 423-664-6644 office, for more information. [8]

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**FLORIDA SDA REALTOR** - Are you interested in buying or selling in Orlando, Florida or surrounding cities? I look forward to helping you! Sandra Da Silva, Realtor: 407-840-8500 (call/text). Service provided in English & Spanish. [8]

### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**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, School of Nursing, School of Social Work and School of Business. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs) [8]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following **salaried staff positions:** Vice President for Advancement-Advancement and Associate Director of Catering Services-Food Services. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs) [8]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S** 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](http://www.southern.edu/jobs) or email [cwright@southern.edu](mailto:cwright@southern.edu) [8]

#### 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](http://www.southern.edu/jobs) or email [cwright@southern.edu](mailto:cwright@southern.edu) [8]

#### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is currently seeking an adjunct German Instructor

in the Modern Languages Department. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs) [8]

#### SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following **hourly positions:** Master Mechanic - Transportation, Waste-Water Collection Systems Operator - Plant Services, HVAC Master Technician - Plant Services, Plumbing Master Technician - Plant Services and Crew Supervisor - Service Department. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs) [8]

#### OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty for the Department of Psychological Sciences.

Ideal candidates have earned a doctorate in psychology or sociology. Candidates would teach undergraduate courses, develop course materials, advise students academically, serve on university committees, and perform other duties expected of full-time faculty. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit [www2](http://www2).

[oakwood.edu/human-resources](http://oakwood.edu/human-resources) [8]

**UNION COLLEGE**, Lincoln NE is seeking candidates for **Vice President for Academic Administration** to provide strategic direction, leadership, and oversight for the college's academic programs and fulfillment of strategic goals. Earned doctoral degree required. Apply at <https://ucollege.edu/employment> [8]

**PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE** is seeking a full time **Associate Vice President of Finance for Financial Administration**. Major duties include provision of leadership and guidance for all financial aspects of PUC and Howell Mountain Enterprises, ability to develop and implement long and short term financial goals consistent with the mission of PUC, budget and balance analysis, and development of strategic tools and systems for critical financial and operational goals. Also must work in conjunction with the Vice President of Financial Administration in engaging the Board of Directors and other members of cabinet in matters of finance, auditing, and investment issues. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources at 707-965-6231 or visit our website at [www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings](http://www.PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings) [8]

**LOOKING TO START A LIFESTYLE CAMP** for disabled youth who have a desire for country living and medical missionary work. Married couple or single, prefer someone with carpenter/handyman skills. Room and board, stipend available. Contact *Marlene Pittman, Enville, TN, 224-595-8765, ladymyp@aol.com* [8]

**SEEKING A SDA FEMALE CNA** or nurse to sit with and provide assistance to widow in Rogersville, TN. Housing and utilities provided along with weekly compensation. Call or email *Tim Luttrell: 423-754-3004, tluttrell@lstaff.com*. Background and reference check required. [8]

**ADVENTHEALTH HENDERSONVILLE** located in the beautiful mountains of western North Carolina, AdventHealth Hendersonville is actively seeking a candidate for **Director of Pastoral Care**. This individual will be responsible for monitoring all aspects of patient care and managing the administrative functions of the Pastoral Care/Chaplaincy Services Department. Requirements: Must be an ordained minister of a recognized faith organization that provides ecclesiastical endorsement for Chaplaincy, a minimum

of two units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE), minimum of six years' Pastoral Care/Chaplaincy Services experience, two years' Pastoral Care management experience (preferred). Join our mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ in a place where you can grow and thrive spiritually, professionally and personally. *Interested candidates should email their resume to [mark.murrill@adventhealth.com](mailto:mark.murrill@adventhealth.com)* [8]

**MERCHANDISE FOR SALE**

**CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS** - High quality 20-gauge steel, includes 2nd coming picture, Ten Commandments, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 and 3 Angels message displayed on Casket. Priced under \$800.00 Text / call 865-382-1834. [8, 9]

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving + Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist)* [8-12]

**NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS:** TEACH Services helping authors publish their book, including editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. Visit [www.lnfbooks.com](http://www.lnfbooks.com) for used books and your local ABC or [www.TEACHServices.com](http://www.TEACHServices.com) for new book releases. [8-4]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies) [8-5]

**SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED?** Meet compatible SDA's from USA ages 18-98. Each provides: birthday, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized, lots more! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! For information, application and current catalog, send \$30 to: *SDA Pen-Pals, PO Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513.* [8]

**SEEKING COUNTRY ADVENTIST SCHOOL** with forest school emphasis? A Good Christian Elementary and

its constituent church are located on 30 wooded acres near Cookeville, TN. Forest School is a year-long part of the Christ-centered curriculum. *Now accepting applications for 2021-2022 school year at 931-854-0259 or [algoodchristian.org](http://algoodchristian.org).* [8]

**"THE TIME HAS COME**, when, as God opens the way, families should move out of the cities. The children should be taken into the country. The parents should get as suitable a place as their means will allow. Though the dwelling may be small, yet there should be land in connection with it, that may be cultivated... Many will have to labor earnestly to help open the way. But until it is possible for them to leave, so long as they remain, they should be most active in doing missionary work, however limited their sphere of influence may be." Selected Messages Book 2, Page 360. Advent Construction Services (ACS) has the construction management solutions needed to transition you "into the country". With over 20 years of construction experience, we are prepared to streamline the planning, design, and construction phases while minimizing the headaches and hardships associated with developing a residential or commercial building site, renovating an existing house/structure, or building a new dwelling/facility from the ground up. Please let us know how we may serve you. Thanks. *Phone: 205-910-2552, email: [adventconstructionservices@gmail.com](mailto:adventconstructionservices@gmail.com), website: <https://adventconstruction2.wixsite.com/website>* [8]

**RETIRED R.N.** caring for elderly ladies in spacious, peaceful home with view. Private bedroom, shared bathroom with durable medical equipment. Vegetarian home-cooked meals. Transportation if needed to appointments/church. Located in central Florida. Easy access to hospitals, churches, shopping. Fair pricing/references. 407-773-3250. [8]

**CALLING ALL BLUE MT. ACADEMY ALUMNI** to "Reconnect" on September 18, 2021 at the Collegedale Community Church. 10AM alumni SS, social/lunch at 1PM. See "*Reconnect BMA South*" Facebook page or text 615-390-8217. Text Ron Reading: 423-902-3439 if interested in a golf outing on Friday. [8, 9]

**EXPEDITION EGYPT 2022** - Timeless Tours invites you to join two experienced Biblical archaeologists, Drs. Bob Bates and Stefanie Elkins, next March 16-27 for an unforgettable tour through ancient Egypt. For more information visit [dightheadventure.com](http://dightheadventure.com) or contact Stefanie at [selkins@andrews.edu](mailto:selkins@andrews.edu) [8-10]

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# Fostering a Legacy

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

While Pastor Young and his wife have both passed, their love for young people will live on through the philanthropic legacy they have established.

▶ To learn how you can have your values live on, contact your local conference or university Planned Giving and Trust Services professional.



**Carolina**  
 Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200

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 Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

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 Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

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November 12-14, 2021

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With **Derek Morris**, president of Hope Channel International,  
and **Lonnie Melashenko**, guest speaker

**CAROLINA**

**Virtual Lay Pastor Training** - Aug. 6-8.  
**LE Retreat** - Aug. 12-15. NPR.  
**Pathfinders/Adventurers Leadership Weekend** - Aug. 27-29. NPR.  
**Virtual Prayer Meeting** - Sept. 10, 7 p.m.  
**Fullness of Joy Virtual Women's Seminar at NPR**  
 Sept. 11, 3 p.m.  
 Oct. 1-3  
**Men's Retreat** - Sept. 24-26. NPR.  
**MPA Alumni** - Sept. 24, 25.

**GEROGIA-CUMBERLAND**

**Southern Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting "Lest We Forget"** - Aug. 11-15. Guest speaker: Alan Meis, a teacher at Battle Creek Academy and son of deaf parents who grew up signing. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**Conversations with Elizabeth Talbot (Elders' Consortium)** - Aug. 14, 4-5 p.m. Join a Conversation with Elizabeth Talbot, director of Jesus 101, and Mickey P. Evans, president of the Georgia-Cumberland Adventist Elders' Consortium. Online.  
**AYMT (Adventist Youth Ministries Training) for Pathfinder Leaders** - Aug. 20-22. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Health Rallies with E.W. Dempsey**  
 Aug. 21, 2-5 p.m. Roan Mountain, TN, Church.  
 Sept. 11. Waycross, GA, Church.  
**ACF ReStart/Connect** - Aug. 27-29. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Hispanic Couples' Retreat** - Aug. 27-29. Retiro de Parejas 2021. 26 al 28 de agosto de 2021 en Cohutta Springs. Precio: \$400 por pareja - Hay planes de pago. Cupos son muy limitados. Último día para registrarse: 13 de julio de 2021 o hasta que se llenen los espacios. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.  
**Health and Personal Ministries Leadership Training** - Aug. 28, 3-6 p.m. Ooltewah, TN, Church Fellowship Building.  
**Young Adult L.I.F.E. Retreat** - Sept. 3-5. For Young Adults age 21-35. Cohutta

Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Adventurers Ministries Convention** - Sept. 10-11. Adventurers Ministries Convention is our yearly Adventurers staff training event. All Adventurers directors need to attend, and club staff members are also highly encouraged to come. Here you and your staff will be able to attend workshops to learn vital skills that will strengthen your ministry in your club. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Conversations with Anthony Kent (Elders' Consortium)** - Sept. 11. Join a conversation with Anthony Kent, G.C. Associate Ministerial Secretary and new editor of Elder's Digest, and Mickey P. Evans, president for the Georgia-Cumberland Adventist Elders' Consortium. Online at gccsda.com.  
**Northeast Tennessee Camp Meeting** - Sept. 17-18. Speaker Norman McNulty, M.D., is a board-certified neurologist practicing in Lawrenceburg, TN. Prior to starting his neurology practice, he served for two years as a missionary at the Adventist hospital in Trinidad. He will be speaking on the theme "Together Again." The Oaks Retreat, Greeneville, TN.  
**TLT Kickstart** - Sept. 17-19. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.  
**Personal Ministries Rally with E.W. Dempsey** - Sept. 18, 2-5 p.m. Discover the power God has promised in your life and for witnessing. Clevel-

land, GA, Church.  
 Please check our website for the latest information: [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERISTY**

**Fall Classes Begin** - Aug. 23. Southern offers a variety of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information visit [southern.edu](http://southern.edu) or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**JOIN UNION SPRINGS - Sept. 17-19.** Celebrating 100 years of ministry, service, and blessings at the Centennial Alumni Weekend. Honored speakers include Ted Wilson, GC president; Bill Knot; Gary Blanchard; Robert Burnette; and John Thomas. Visit the website for details and updates: [unionspringsacademy.org](http://unionspringsacademy.org).

**SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Sept. 8-11, 2022.** Orlando, FL.

**SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND CELEBRATING 75 YEARS - Oct. 1-3.** Call 573-682-2164, x200, for more information.

		SUNSET					
		AUG 6	AUG 13	AUG 20	AUG 27	SEPT 3	SEPT 10
ATLANTA, GA	8:32	8:25	8:17	8:08	7:59	7:50	
CHARLESTON, SC	8:13	8:06	7:58	7:50	7:41	7:31	
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:21	8:13	8:05	7:56	7:46	7:36	
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:37	8:30	8:21	8:12	8:03	7:53	
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:43	7:35	7:27	7:18	7:09	6:59	
JACKSON, MS	7:53	7:46	7:38	7:30	7:21	7:12	
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:46	8:38	8:29	8:19	8:08	7:57	
MEMPHIS, TN	7:57	7:50	7:41	7:32	7:23	7:13	
MIAMI, FL	8:02	7:57	7:51	7:44	7:37	7:29	
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:37	7:31	7:23	7:14	7:06	6:56	
NASHVILLE, TN	7:46	7:38	7:30	7:20	7:10	7:00	
ORLANDO, FL	8:11	8:05	7:59	7:51	7:43	7:35	
TAMPA, FL	8:15	8:09	8:02	7:55	7:47	7:39	
WILMINGTON, NC	8:07	8:00	7:52	7:43	7:34	7:24	

# SCHEDULE

# A VISIT

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During your visit to AdventHealth, our team members will ask you questions to better know you and care for you as a whole person:

- Do you have someone who loves and cares for you?
- Do you have a source of joy in your life?
- Do you have a sense of peace today?

Whatever your needs, our team members are here to support you in your journey to feel whole.