

T Southern TIDINGS

SEPTEMBER 2021

HAVING, DOING, AND BEING CHURCH



WELCOME HOME!
CELEBRATING THE
REUNION OF COMMUNITY

NORM MIDDAG, FORMER
PATHFINDER, ADVENTURER,
AND CAMP MINISTRIES
DIRECTOR, PASSES

HEALTH EXECUTIVES
PROVIDE GLOBAL
MISSIONS ASSISTANCE

Love's Action to Save



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

“He said unto him, Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine,” Luke 15: 31.

Poles apart, the two sons troubled the father: one so open and fun-loving, the other withdrawn and scheming. How could he help them find values that counted? What would make the younger care about others? How could the older see himself as totally self-centered and calculating?

The younger came stumbling up the path in rags. The father had thought this moment through, but this went beyond his worst dreams. Where had the gaiety of youth gone? Who had put fear in those eyes? His heart cried out for this sorry boy, back from a bitter lesson about life. “Run to him, then. Have compassion. Hold him to you.”

Later he would chuckle over the son who did not know how to connive and scheme, yet came with what he thought a cunning plan. Fool his father by asking to be a servant? The father read him before he ever uttered the words. He didn't need a job; he needed love and restoration.

He had no plan at hand to deal with the older boy. How could he have predicted the haughty, furious response? How could that scheming mind go so far as to reject brotherhood? Did he not see that if he had no brother, he also had no father?

Before the angry youth lowered his accusing finger, the father did all that he knew. He entreated him, reminding him of who he was and what he had in store for him. “Son you don't need a kid. You never were one for a party and friends. What you need is my love. Surely that should be enough.”

When the barriers go up, what can God do? He can see the need. He knows the devious thoughts. He reads the sorry defenses. Schemes of repayment or service to pacify the urgent sense of guilt, He brushes aside. He has the answer to them. Let Me give, He says. Don't you try to give just yet. Let me be the giver.

For those who will have nothing of the celebration of God's love, the task grows harder. The father entreats and goes on entreating. “All that I have is yours,” He says. “I am no poorer because I gave to your brother. I grow rich by giving my love. Won't you take your share?”

The greatest gift we can extend to our prodigal brothers and sisters, in our quest to reconnect, is the love of God. It never ceases to amaze me when I observe the great God of the universe at the creation of human beings. He didn't need to get His hands dirty. He didn't need to stoop by an unnamed stream. He had already proven what He could do. When He clapped His hands there was light. When He called, the trees jumped forth. At the will of His mind, the birds of the air and the beasts suddenly appeared. But, for you and for me, He stooped. Divine knees got dirty. Divine fingernails became clogged with clay beneath them while He, step by step, formed our nostrils and our high brows. Then He leaned His clean face next to our dirty one, made of the dust of the ground, and we became living souls. What an amazing demonstration of His love.

Finally, “The gift of Christ reveals the Father's heart ... He will spare nothing, however dear, which is necessary to the completion of His work,” *Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 254. -RCS 📌



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features

4
HAVING, DOING, AND BEING
CHURCH DURING THE PANDEMIC

10
NORM MIDDAG,
FORMER PATHFINDER,
ADVENTURER, AND CAMP
MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, PASSES

12
WELCOME HOME!
CELEBRATING THE REUNION OF
COMMUNITY

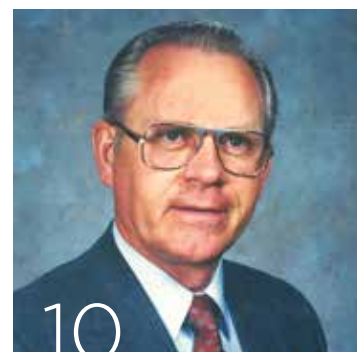
13
CALLED TO LEAD

14
HEALTH EXECUTIVES PROVIDE
GLOBAL MISSIONS ASSISTANCE

news

16 CAROLINA
18 FLORIDA
20 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
23 ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
24 GULF STATES
26 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
30 SOUTH ATLANTIC
32 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

34 OBITUARIES
42 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
47 EVENTS CALENDAR/
ANNOUNCEMENTS/
SUNSET
SCHEDULE



COVER DESIGN: O'LIVIA WOODARD

HAVING, DOING, AND BEING CHURCH

DURING THE PANDEMIC

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Without question, 2020 and 2021 have been tough years. In the eight states that compose our territory, the pandemic has led to 7,086,697 COVID-19 cases, and 123,900 deaths as of August 7, 2021. In addition, the same period has seen our nation tested by insurrection and a racial reckoning, along with deep divides over politics, vaccines, and mask wearing.

Since national affairs affect us as a Church, we wanted to know how our pastors and congregations have been affected. The *Southern Tidings* recently interviewed numerous pastors across several conferences in the Southern Union. We knew the tithe and offerings were strong, but what matters is you, so we wanted to learn how you, our readers, are. It was our way of asking, “How are you doing? Is everything alright?” After all, we are a caring Church. We worship and work together, but we also weep together.

Several conference presidents were asked to recommend pastors from small and large churches, as well as institutional churches. In these congregations were frontline workers, e.g., medical professionals, restaurant employees, and airport staff. There were also grieving

members who have lost relatives and jobs. In this article you will hear the voices of the pastors who responded.

We Asked Pastors

How have the pandemic and events of 2020-2021 impacted your congregation?

At the beginning of the pandemic, we tried to keep a count of members in our Union that died or who contracted COVID-19, but lost count. However, almost everyone knows someone that has been sick or died of COVID-19. The pastors who participated in this survey reported more than 100 cases of COVID-19 and numerous deaths in their congregations.

Anxiety, depression, caution stress, loss of jobs, a sense of isolation, loss of identity due to the loss of a job, family issues, grief, and the longing for fellowship has affected us emotionally.

Joel Honoré, pastor of the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Church, states, “Our church has experienced multiple emotional cycles because of COVID-19. At first, we experienced a combination of hyper-alertness and passive indifference. After numerous cases were experienced throughout the church, the



Joel Honoré, pastor of the Stone Mountain, Georgia, Church

sense of alertness prevailed. Since then, however, COVID-fatigue has begun to set in. There is a desire to get back to normal, with a realization that the new normal will be different than the past.”

Austin Humphreys, pastor of the Murfreesboro and Washington, North Carolina, District, says, “The pandemic has been hard on every member of our church. Even though ministry online was a success, our congregation still



Forest Lake Academy Church members held a Mother's Day drive-thru to honor mothers on Mother's Day during the pandemic.

suffered from the pain of not being able to fellowship together, or to celebrate the life of those who passed away due to the pandemic or for other reasons.”

Many of our churches have frontline workers among their congregants. These professionals are weary, anxious about

bringing infection home to their families, have experienced burnout, and some have been sick or died. But, they continue to place their lives on the line every day, often for people who presumptuously flout precautions, yet expect medical teams to save their life when they get sick.

“I’m aware of some nurses who have worked COVID floors throughout the country as travel nurses. They often worked 50-to-60-hour weeks,” says Honoré.

Troy Brand of Orchard Park Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, reports that one of his members volunteered in New York and then in Texas during the height of COVID-19.

Churches offered support for frontline workers. First Church of West Palm Beach, Florida, opened a Health Care Workers Support Group that serves numerous medical professionals in their congregation and community. Others prayed for all frontline workers and encouraged them.

new skills, such as using Zoom, turning social media into a ministry opportunity, editing video, and having their creativity stimulated, and more. Shane Vidal, pastor of First Church, says, “We saw that the Church is resilient.”

Church Services Reach Larger and Broader Audiences

While church members were watching the service, their relatives who had never attended the church, overheard and even stopped to join in the services. Also, because services were promoted on social media and streamed beyond the walls of the church to audiences on Facebook and YouTube, many churches around the Union reported larger attendances. Ralph Ringer, Southern Union director of church growth, evangelism training, and Jewish ministries, reports that one congregation with a membership of about 30 had virtual audiences of more than 200. Jermaine Nelson, who is assistant pastor to Drake Barber at Maranatha Church in Atlanta, Georgia, conducted a Parking Lot Crusade which was streamed to the Zambia



Austin Humphreys, pastor of the Murfreesboro/Washington, North Carolina, District

Positive Effects of the Pandemic

Pastors and members report learning

Union and resulted in 42 baptisms.

Tina Carriger, pastor of First Church in Springfield, Tennessee, says, “The pandemic has been a time to reshuffle the deck and focus on God’s priorities for our Church.”



Tina Carriger, pastor of First Church in Springfield, Tennessee

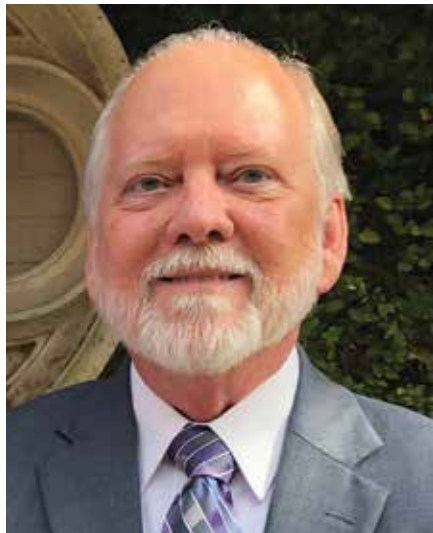
Spiritual and Emotional Effects: What Are You Doing for Self-care?

Most pastors indicated that ministry during the pandemic has been taxing. Most reported having to guard against burnout, and having to find ways to sustain their physical and emotional health.

“I live with the sense of not doing enough while being worn out by the amount that I do,” says Honoré. “I’ve been very intentional about increasing my physical exercise since the inception of COVID-19. Additionally, I’ve added a vitamin supplement regiment to my diet. I’ve also been vaccinated.”

Pastors Reach Out to God and Colleagues

Tim Nichols and Tina Carriger report that collaborative ministry helped them. Tim is pastor for Leadership Development at Forest Lake Academy. Their 11-member pastoral team constantly asked, “How are you doing?” The counselor on their team provided guidance



Tim Nichols, pastor of the Forest Lake Academy Church in Apopka, Florida

and support that was appreciated. Tina Carriger had to reach out to pastors of other churches. She reports that they talked shop, prayed together, shared video sermons, and preached for each other to lessen the strain.

Ralph Henderson, pastor of the Mills River and Brevard District in North Carolina, and his wife, were refreshed by hiking in the scenic mountains of North Carolina.

Shawn Jackson Moss says, “My hus-



Ralph Henderson, pastor of the Mills River/Brevard, North Carolina, District

band was able to work from home so we had more time together. He likes to cook so we shared household responsibilities, laughed together, and talked while we worked. We were like newlyweds again!”

Shane Vidal and his family, along



Shawn Jackson Moss, pastor of the Greenville/Belzoni, Mississippi, District

with the leaders of his church, found strength and healing through deep Bible study and prayer. He says the overflow of their collective experience with God was seen in the activities of the church. His wife started a 5 a.m. prayer call, and his children started a youth Daniel and Revelation Bible class.

Doing Church

The pandemic has affected pastoral ministry. How have you had to change yours?

“Everything! How we worship in general shifted,” says, Austin Humphreys. “We moved our church service from being on Zoom to streaming live on Facebook and YouTube, and that really benefited our ministry at large. It also allowed us, Pastor Kaggia Scott and me, to bring our districts together and collaborate on ministry throughout the week, which included Bible study, Sabbath School, and much more. It also allowed us to step into the world of technology, which ultimately was a major benefit for us.”



Shane Vidal, pastor of First Church in West Palm Beach, Florida



Travis Walker, pastor of Daytona Beach, Florida, Church



Marquis Jackson, pastor of the Greenville/Spartanburg, South Carolina, District

Shane Vidal shifted all the services, ministries, and meetings of his church to virtual platforms — Sabbath School, church services, Pathfinders, and Adventurers.

Travis Walker, pastor of the Daytona Beach, Florida, Church, was already deeply immersed in digital ministry as a podcaster when the pandemic began. He and the key leaders of his church were able to do Zoom Bible studies, and conducted an online Vacation Bible School and 40 Days of Prayer. He also held a live YouTube evangelistic meeting in the fall of 2020. With Sermonview as his digital platform, he was able to engage with his audience through texting and phone calls. He says, “We baptized more in 2020 than we did in 2019 before the pandemic.” A Detroit, Michigan, couple watched his series of sermons and contacted him about where they could find a church. He connected them with a church where they were baptized.

Shane Vidal, Travis Walker, and Tina Carriger also had to find ways to engage their online audiences that would move them from spectators to being participants, and ultimately making decisions for Christ and Church membership. Vidal’s technology team devised an electronic decision card to get decisions, and was blessed with 35 baptisms and

professions of faith for 2020.

“Beyond the organized, corporate worship services which saw social distancing, mask wearing, and shortened programs, some of the most meaningful ministry I’m involved in is outside of class and organization,” says Joseph Ottinger, chaplain at Mount Pisgah Academy. “Those moments were severely limited as I was not able to visit students in their dorms, and the masks were very successful at limiting effective communication.”

Marquis Jackson, pastor of the

Greenville and Spartanburg, South Carolina, churches, started a gardening ministry to promote health in his church and community.

Ralph Henderson and his church streamed their Blue Zone Project Cooking School, and changed their God’s Closet Ministry to a drive-thru God’s Closet, where people could purchase clothing for one dollar.

Overcoming Challenges

Finding ways to connect with mem-



In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, First Church of West Palm Beach, Florida, was still engaged in online evangelism. At the baptism, Shane Vidal (far right), pastor, and Evron Stewart (far left), associate pastor, baptized four candidates: Densmart Hayden (left), Owen McKenzie, and facing them are Brian Kerr, and his wife, Jurine.



The Brevard Church moved their Blue Zone Project Cooking School to Zoom during the pandemic. Vicki Held (left), Joni Henderson, and Kathy Brannan were presenters.



Troy Brand, pastor of the Orchard Park Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and other clergy pray together after washing each other's feet during a Truth and Reconciliation Ceremony to promote racial equality and condemn racism.

bers who do not have the technology to join in the services is a challenge that led Bryant Taylor, D.Min., new Southern Union associate director for communication, to write, "Connecting with the Unconnected." It is available at SouthernTidings.com.

Another challenge has been the endless proliferation of conspiracy theories and deceptions masquerading as the garments of truth. Pastors report having to preach more sermons to protect their congregation from falling prey to conspiracy theories, misinformation, and health practices that border on presumption, and to provide hope amid the racial tension and political turmoil.

Leading Members and Communities Through Social Unrest

The events of 2021 included racial unrest after the murders of Ahmaud Marbury, Breanna Taylor, and George Floyd. Wives and mothers were terrified as their husbands and sons went to work, jogging, or just running an errand to the store. Responsible pastors spoke up, comforted, and provided moral leadership to their congregants.

Clifton McMillan, pastor of the

Maranatha Church, Montgomery, Alabama, spoke about voting rights at the Shelby County Courthouse for the eighth anniversary of the *Shelby County v. Holder Supreme Court Decision*. Some of his members participated at rallies and peaceful protests.

During the social unrest around the brutal murder of George Floyd in 2020, Troy Brand of Orchard Park, along with several of the churches in Chattanooga,



Clifton J. McMillan Sr., pastor of the Maranatha Montgomery/Hurtsboro, Alabama, District

Tennessee, had relationships that allowed them to respond with a collective voice. They decided that, rather than protest, they would do a Truth and Reconciliation ceremony where there would be public confession of sins by the white churches, and public forgiveness by the black churches in the town square with the media present. The ceremony culminated with a foot washing service. After that ceremony, there was a desire for something that was not an event but a movement, so the LEAD Anti-Racism 40-day Challenge was created and launched on Martin Luther King Jr. Day in 2021.

Having Church

How will ministry and worship at your church be different going forward?

Pastors provided a laundry list of innovations and programs that will continue long after the pandemic is over: the use of social media to promote and stream services, virtual youth programs, micro-churches that meet in homes, a strong hybrid discipleship program, and hybrid services.

Being Church

We have discussed the way we "do" and "have" church, but there is the



Joseph Ottinger, chaplain at Mount Pisgah Academy in Candler, North Carolina

deeper dynamic of “being” church, being a healthy vibrant body of Christ. What do you think will be required for congregations to be church again?

During the pandemic we have heard a lot about the number of viewers, Google analytics, tithing gains, and strong offerings. These are all important metrics, but the real measure of healthy churches is love, unity, and community engagement through evangelism or social services.

Tim Nichols sums up what it means to be church: “Church, ekklesia, is about people and God coming together. It is people coming together because they need each other and God.”

According to Joel Honoré, “We intend to disassociate our church from our real estate. It is our goal to redefine church as spiritual social networks regardless of where they happen. We believe that will mean that some of our members will never set foot on our church property. Yet, they will be part of us inasmuch as they are part of our spiritual community With technology giving members access to an almost infinite selection of worship services to attend, the local church is challenged to build spiritual networks around its members.”

Tim Nichols feels that Sabbath School classes that operate as small groups that study the Word of God together, care

for each other, and do shared community ministry will be the centerpiece of spiritual networks. “The Sabbath School classes were the glue that kept our church together during the pandemic. Sabbath School is the backbone of the Church. We are going to invest much more in Sabbath School going forward.”

Fear is an issue that will need to be overcome, says Joseph Ottinger, “It’s the coming together as a family that makes the worship service meaningful. We have to find a way to gather without fear of each other. We have to find a way to lean in to the needs of each other again.”

Some churches are divided. The apostles Paul and John provide a path to unity for churches that have been divided over masks, politics, conspiracy theories, and other issues. “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus.” And, “I have no greater joy than to hear that my children *walk in truth*,” Ephesians 4:2-3, Philippians 2:3-5, 3 John 4.

Churches where members are grieving the deaths of loved ones and fellow members will need to plan their services to be places where members can voice their pain through the reading of lament psalms (see *Dark Clouds. Deep Mercy*, by Mark Vroegop), and singing songs that meet them in their place of pain — such as “Does Jesus Care?” “What a Friend We Have in Jesus,” and “Come, Ye Disconsolate.” Praise and worship teams will need to create playlists that meet worshipers at the emotional state they are in when they enter the sanctuary, and gently lead them through lament, to petition, and on to trust, hope, and praise.

“To be church again will require lots of prayer,” says Shane Vidal. “We must retrain all church officers, rebuild dis-

TIPS FOR MAINTAINING EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Clifton J. McMillan Sr.

1. Sovereign Mindset.

Recognize that God is present in everything we do and in control of every situation.

2. Push Away.

When overwhelmed, push away and take a deep breath.

3. Crisis Music Playlist.

Create a playlist of encouraging music.

4. Read.

Find inspiration and insight in reading that enriches the mind.

5. News Fast.

Spend as little time as possible listening to the news or on social media.

6. Godly Circle of Friends.

Develop a circle of loving, supportive, spiritual friends. (See 1 John 3:16.)

cipleship programs, train all officers to use virtual platforms, because hybrid services and virtual meetings will continue. And, it is going to take patience.”

Says Austin Humphreys, “I believe that we have to be the Church of Acts chapter 2! The Church grew because everybody was invested daily. We need that coming back into the building! We must be invested in God and invested in people. Invested is the new normal!” ●

R. Steven Norman III is the communication director and Southern Tidings editor at the Southern Union.

NORM MIDDAG

Former Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Camp Ministries Director Passes

Norm Middag, 91, born March 15, 1930, in Duluth, Minnesota, passed away June 23, 2021, in Apopka, Florida. He was an educator, pastor, conference youth director, camp director, and an administrator in the North American Division (NAD).

Middag was born into a family of seven siblings on an 85-acre vegetable farm with seven greenhouses. Though a heavy snow canceled services on the Sabbath her son was to be dedicated, Effie Middag offered her own dedicatory prayer over the son she cradled in her arms. "Bless this child, Lord. Let him grow to be a servant of God and a friend to man."

After being baptized at age 12 and voted senior class president at Cedar Lake Academy in Michigan, Middag enrolled at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, Michigan. He graduated in 1954 with majors in religion, education, and history. While at college, Middag met Barbara Popp, whom he married in 1952.

Though being a youth director was his goal, he was advised to first learn how to deal with young people. He began his ministry teaching grades 7 and 8 at Battle Creek Academy in Michigan. This was followed with service as a youth pastor at Battle Creek Academy, dean of boys at Adelphian Academy, and pastor of a church.

Southern California called him to be a youth pastor at Eagle Rock Church.



PHOTO BY: NAD YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRIES

Norm Middag, former Pathfinder, Adventurer, and camp ministries director, passed away on June 23, 2021.

He had phenomenal success building up the Pathfinder club and organizing a Master Guide class which invested 200 Master Guides.

For nine years, Middag served as

youth director for Florida Conference and director of Camp Kulaqua in the Southern Union. The Nature Center at the Camp became the first and only camp zoo in North America. In 1967



PHOTO BY: CAMP KULAQUA

Norm and Barbara Middag are pictured at the entrance to Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida, where the Nature Center was re-named as the Middag Nature Center.



PHOTO BY: RENEE BROWNLOW

Norm Middag is pictured in front of the 1992 float sponsored and decorated by Pathfinders for the Rose Bowl Parade. The float won the National Award for Best Depiction of Life in the United States.

Middag organized the first camp for the blind, attended the first year by 17 campers. Blind Camp attendance grew rapidly with 200 attendees only four years later. This program is still in existence today through the sponsorship of Christian Record Services of Lincoln, Nebraska.

When invited to join Potomac Conference in 1974 as youth director and director of Camp Blue Ridge in Virginia, he formed an innovative four-person youth department with an associate tasked to lead Pathfinders, senior youth, and outdoor education.

In 1980 Middag joined the NAD as assistant youth director, and became director of Pathfinders and camp ministries in 1982. Many resources are attributed to him during this time:

- Spearheaded development of ministry manuals for Adventurers, Pathfinders, and Teen Leadership Training.
- Chaired the Camporee coordinating committee and spearheaded organization of the first National Pathfinder Camporee in 1985 at Camp Hale near Leadville, Colorado. This later evolved into the International Pathfinder Camporee, held in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, since 1999.
- Coordinated the 1991, 1992, and 1993 Witness Through Rose Parade

award-winning floats sponsored and decorated by Pathfinders.

- Developed Association of Adventist Camp Professionals (AACCP).

Norm and Barbara Middag retired in 2001 in Florida. For 20 years, the retired Middags remained involved in many additional assignments. They became the heartbeat of North American camp ministry and worked tirelessly to stay connected to the camp directors via the Association of Adventist Camp Directors.

Middag created a variety of insightful and visionary programs in the conferences where he served, and his excellence is still memorialized. The Middag Award of Excellence is awarded to camps which demonstrate strong growth and evangelism; and Camp Kulaqua's nature center has been renamed the Middag Nature Center. His influence remains strong among NAD youth ministers.

"Norm was a personal mentor to me over the past 15 years," said Tracy Wood, NAD youth and young adult ministries director. "He always had words of affirmation and visionary ideas to share. There are literally hundreds of children, youth, and young adult ministry professionals around the world whom he has mentored. He was highly respected, deeply loved, and will be greatly missed by us all."

Middag was preceded in death by Barbara, his wife of more than 60 years, passed July 7, 2020, a few days after her 90th birthday. Barbara's career as an administrative assistant, French teacher, and mother was impactful in its own right, but her invisible contributions to Norm's ministry made his visible service possible and always successful.

Middag is survived by two sons, David (Tricia) and Loren (Joy); one daughter, Renee (John) Brownlow; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Some time ago, Middag began work on a book with his biographer, Bruce Coston, a former camper at Camp Kulaqua and a staff member at Camp Blue Ridge. The proceeds from *Far From the Norm: Norm Middag's Life in Ministry*, will be used for the Middag Nature Center at Camp Kulaqua.

Two days before his passing, Middag finished his last phone call with Coston, laid down his pen, and uttered the words, "Well, I guess that's that!" as the book was finished.

The memorial service, "Celebration of Life — Norm Middag, a Servant of God and a Friend to Man," was held on Sabbath, August 28, 2021, at Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Florida. 🕊

WELCOME HOME!

Celebrating the Reunion of Community

BY AUBRI DANCEK



Beryl Jackson's infectious smile shows how happy she is to return to Port Charlotte on Homecoming Sabbath.



PHOTO BY: BARBARA GOFFIN

Participating in a "Welcome Home" were LaDonna Blom-Antonio (left), Eddie Tucker, Cecil Baird, Troy Peterson, Tracy Morency, Richard Hilton, Dawn Hayes, and Robert Hayes.

A bright blue "Welcome Home" banner greeted Florida's Port Charlotte Church members as they entered on Homecoming Sabbath. The June 12, 2021 service, filled with music, food, and free giveaways, was an invitation for members to return to church for in-person services, as many have not been able to attend since COVID-19 began.

Dustin Hall, senior pastor, who moved to Port Charlotte during the height of the pandemic, used the time to prepare for the relaunch of the church. "We really put a lot of emphasis on preparing our hearts for when we would reopen, and we took care of things on the property that needed to be addressed," said Hall.

LaDonna Blom-Antonio, chair of the church board, shared that while most of the plans focused on celebration, it was decided that a special prayer be included in the program to acknowledge the

loss that many felt during the pandemic. Jamie Pombo, associate pastor, who lost his father to COVID-19 in January, was asked to lead in the special prayer.

"There are people who have lost families ... people whose lives were stopped. In this year, [the church can be] a healing agent," said Blom-Antonio. "We must do something to recognize what all of us have gone through, whether it was loneliness, missing events, or losing loved ones."

Homecoming Sabbath ended with a potluck where people enjoyed the food, but most of all were "hungry to be together," according to Blom-Antonio. The event was a success, as an additional 30-40 members who have not been coming in person joined in the festivities. Many have continued to attend weekly. The church hopes to have similar events throughout the year to encourage the message of community.

"People have been away for more than a year, so it's really about the relaunch and the reconnection."

—Dustin Hall, senior pastor of Port Charlotte Church in Florida

Hall encourages churches to be intentional as many are re-opening from COVID-19. "This has been an opportunity to do an outreach and reconnection event that we haven't had in decades. Don't miss out on that opportunity of celebration and worshipping together as a church." 📍

Aubri Dancek is lead reporter of Southern Accent at Southern Adventist University.

CALLED TO LEAD

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT

When Triniti Evans visited Southern Adventist University for the first time with her high school choir, she felt God calling her to attend the University. Little did she know the plans He had for her, including spiritual leadership opportunities more fulfilling than she could imagine.

Evans had led a spiritual group while in high school, so as a freshman at Southern, she hoped to find a similar opportunity for leadership and growth. From experience, she knew that involvement in a small group would challenge her to grow her relationship with God, while connecting with other like-minded students. Evans reached out to Anna Bennett, associate chaplain, for a job in the Office of Ministry and Missions.

“While interviewing Triniti, I immediately saw extraordinary talents for discipleship in her,” Bennett said, recalling what led her to hire Evans as a LifeGroup coach her freshman year — a position usually held by students with more experience in Southern’s student-led small groups.

There are more than 50 LifeGroups at Southern, and, as a coach, Evans mentored three group leaders. Each week she met with them individually to guide and support their spiritual endeavors, often incorporating fun activities such as painting at a local park or going out to get a snack together. She aimed to understand each individual’s personality and what would best help them succeed in their goals. Additionally, Evans spent time each week meeting with other LifeGroup coaches and the LifeGroup director, as well as joining the small groups led by her mentees.



Involvement with Southern’s LifeGroups inspired Nina Reno to be re-baptized by Joseph Khabbaz, vice president for spiritual life.

“The LifeGroup support chain is a fantastic system that allows everyone to not only help others but to be helped and grow themselves,” Evans explained. “The people I have gotten to know through LifeGroups have been the most phenomenal people I’ve ever met in my life. It is vital for me to have a spiritual grounding through mentors.”

Early in the school year, Evans met Nina Reno, junior allied health major, who was unsure about becoming a LifeGroup leader. With Evans’ encouragement, Reno decided to lead a group and ended up becoming Evans’ mentee.

“At the beginning of the semester,

Nina was afraid she wasn’t good enough to lead,” Evans said. “But, she inspired me in the way that she dived deep in conversation with her LifeGroup members and helped them work through the trauma in their lives. I was able to see her progress from not understanding the power in her testimony to allowing it to change herself and others.”

Reno had been baptized at the age of 14 but began to feel disconnected over time. When she joined the LifeGroup family, Reno gained new spiritual support and began falling in love with Jesus again.

“LifeGroups gave me discipline and opened my eyes to redefine what it means to be Seventh-day Adventist,” Reno said. “Through Triniti’s mentorship and the community I found in LifeGroups, I decided I had to be re-baptized — to outwardly say ‘I love you and I am yours’ to God.”

Evans and Reno are grateful that God brought them together to encourage and hold each other accountable. As the Fall 2021 semester begins, Reno plans to become a LifeGroup coach, and Evans, now a sophomore theology major, has decided to spend this year as a student missionary.

“As a leader, I have learned to take responsibility for my relationship with Christ and tune in daily so that I can allow God to use me,” Reno said. “In order to grow, we can’t always be comfortable.”

Madison Reinschmidt is a junior mass communication major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

HEALTH EXECUTIVES PROVIDE GLOBAL MISSIONS ASSISTANCE

BY SHANNON HILL

AdventHealth senior leaders volunteer their time and expertise to facilitate strategic long-term planning with select hospitals around the world. An executive sponsor is a leader with a passion for global missions whose primary responsibility is to share business expertise, and help identify areas of growth for medical institutions. In many cases, the sponsor holds meaningful ties to the locations they serve.

Extending Healing in the Philippines

Evie Lowe is a chief nursing officer in AdventHealth's Central Florida Division (CFD) and the executive sponsor for Adventist Medical Center Manila (AMCM) in the Philippines. Lowe's family originates from the Philippines, and her mother graduated from the Manila Sanitarium Nursing School, a predecessor of Adventist Medical Center Manila. Lowe is an American-born Filipina and saw executive sponsorship as an opportunity to give back to her heritage.

"Many underserved people in the Philippines do not have access to health care or are scared to go to the hospital," Lowe said. "Every Sunday, Adventist Medical Center Manila hosts an event called 'Five Loaves Ministry' where the team passes out bread and water to the homeless on the streets of metro Manila. The goal is to build relationships with the homeless population of the region."

In partnership with AdventHealth and



Evie Lowe, chief nursing officer at AdventHealth, and the team involved with Five Loaves Ministry in the Philippines

the local government in the Philippines, Adventist Medical Center Manila facilitated a free open-air primary and pediatric care clinic on a basketball court. Crowds of children and families lined up to receive free health care. Those requiring additional services were referred to the surgical team for services, including both general and plastic surgery, repair of physical ailments such as cleft palate for children, thyroidectomies, and gynecology services.

On this trip, AdventHealth worked side-by-side with the local health care team and taught local nurses, physicians, and pharmacists new techniques.

Since the pandemic, CFD has donated a new high-flow oxygen system, and Lowe has continued to be involved with Adventist Medical Center Manila by virtually sharing COVID-19 learnings with the intensive care unit staff.

Extending Healing in the Dominican Republic

The blessings experienced in the Philippines also extended into the Dominican Republic. About 200 miles west off the coast of Puerto Rico is the island of Hispaniola. Ron Jimenez, M.D., chief executive officer for AdventHealth Palm Coast, mentioned his desire to become an executive sponsor in the Dominican Republic because he is originally from Puerto Rico, which shares similar heritage and traditions. Dennis Hernandez, M.D., chief executive officer for AdventHealth New Smyrna Beach and the Dominican Republic's other co-executive sponsor, also wanted to give back to his heritage, because his family is from both Cuba and the Dominican Republic.

Their executive sponsorship relationship began in 2019 when AdventHealth



Open-air free primary care clinic where team members from AdventHealth work with local nurses and physicians to help the community in metro Manila



AdventHealth team member caring for children at the free open-air clinic



The initial signing of the agreement to begin an ongoing relationship between AdventHealth and Centro Médico Vista del Jardín

leaders traveled to the capital of Santo Domingo to sign the initial corporate agreement between AdventHealth and Centro Médico Vista del Jardín (CMVJ). Soon after, the AdventHealth team arranged a medical-surgical mission trip in February 2020, prior to when COVID-19 reached a global pandemic level.

While the world put a pause on overseas travel in March 2020, there were still many ways to assist during this time. One being through donations.

Hernandez and Jimenez continued to assist from afar during the pandemic, and learned that the hospital needed a CT scanner. AdventHealth sent the expedited equipment in addition to personal protective equipment (PPE) so the hospital could care for patients amid the current crisis. PPE such as gowns, face masks, and many other supplies are often expensive to purchase in the Dominican Republic.

“We have communicated with the executive team in the Dominican Republic over email and Zoom during the pandemic,” Hernandez said. “We put together a video to let them know we are thinking of them and continuously praying for their well-being.”

Both men express joy from trips to the Dominican Republic, and find value in the relationships they continue to cultivate with the hospital’s leadership team.

Extending Healing in Ethiopia

According to imaavillage.com, The

Kalala Learning Village is an organization in Ethiopia which was founded in partnership with the International Medical Academic Alliance (IMAA). The Kalala Learning Village is located about five miles outside of the capital city, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The village is in a rural location, and has provided resources to its community in the form of health care and education to young children.

Abel Biri, chief executive officer for AdventHealth Waterman, is the executive sponsor for The Kalala Learning Village.

“My family is originally from Ethiopia. I think that’s why I had a natural affinity to be involved at this location,” Biri said. “About 12 years ago, I went on a mission trip to Ethiopia prior to being an executive sponsor, and I learned about the need. One of the things that drew me to Kalala is its self-sustaining business model.”

The Kalala Learning Village helps its community through elementary and secondary education, health care clinics, health promotion, and micro industries. Micro industries provide resources like dairy, poultry, flour, vegetables, and bakery items to the community — resources that provide jobs for the community, entrepreneurship, educational opportunities, and revenue for the school. The aspiration for both the industries and the school is to generate enough revenue to offset student scholarship costs. Both entities could eventually serve a dual purpose and further

support the community.

On his first trip to Ethiopia as executive sponsor, Biri was involved in constructing roads that could fare in different types of weather. Addis Ababa is experiencing rapid advancement in economic growth from new buildings to new road development.

Biri remarks that his involvement as a sponsor for Ethiopia and The Kalala Learning Village has inspired him to think about how to do effective mission work.

“Since my family is from Ethiopia, I learned the native language, Amharic, at a young age,” Biri said. “I would see a child when I was in Ethiopia and I thought, ‘I am no better, I am no smarter.’ I had opportunities that were given to me. There is no genetic explanation, but I happen to be from a family that was fortunate to have an education. I did not choose what family I was born into, and I think the importance of mission work in my life is to acknowledge the opportunity that has been afforded to me and leverage that for the benefit of others.”

An AdventHealth Global Missions trip to Ethiopia was scheduled in 2021, however, the date has been pushed due to COVID-19. Future mission trips to Ethiopia are scheduled to resume in 2022. 📍

Shannon Hill is the corporate communications resident at AdventHealth.

Southern Student Starts Hiking “LifeGroup” on Campus

From exploring the Blue Ridge Parkway to hiking Bent Creek, Jake Miller loved growing up in Asheville, N.C., and partaking in all of the outdoor activities that surrounded him. A long-time member of the Foster Church, Miller loved to find ways to spend time in nature on Sabbath afternoons. When it came time to choose a college, he knew he wanted to go somewhere with a vibrant outdoor scene, and that was one of many reasons that he chose Southern Adventist University.

Miller settled in easily at Southern. The professors were encouraging and supportive, and the students were welcoming and friendly. He was thriving, but he still made it a priority to find time to recalibrate in nature. He wanted to share this experience with those around him, so he and his friend Caleb Raymond, a theology major, started the Hiking LifeGroup. Every Saturday afternoon during the school year, they met at the University’s Village Market and headed to different locations such as the Ocoee River, Benton Falls, or Raccoon Mountain. The group varied in size, some weekends reaching up to 30 people.

“I love to praise God in church, but I also love to listen to God outside,” says Miller, who is now a senior management major at Southern. “When I’m looking at a big waterfall or a beautiful sunset, it’s easy to get a glimpse into how God is working.”

Southern’s Office of Ministry and Missions provides support for more than 50 student-led LifeGroups that meet weekly, with hundreds of students participating. There are six different types of groups — activity-based, Bible study, book-based, grief support, needs-based, and topical — but all of them provide opportunities for students to connect with each other and with God in a small group setting.



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

The hiking group found a variety of ways to incorporate worship into their hikes. Sometimes they had a thoughtful icebreaker with a Bible verse. Once Raymond led in a discussion on John 1:12, “Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God.” The theme of that discussion was identities — how they see themselves versus how God sees them. Other times, they would pause their hike at a beautiful overlook for a spiritually themed discussion. The goal has always been to

lift each other up and remind each other of what is really important. As this new school year begins, Miller looks forward to getting back together with the group.

“In this LifeGroup, I learned that church isn’t a building; it’s a people,” Miller says. “Earth’s beauty is clearly by design. Spending time in nature reminds me that in spite of how big and powerful God is, He still cares about us.”

BY ANGELA BAERG

Man's Life Leads From Bible Boy to Ordained Minister

Phillip Roberts was ordained to the Gospel ministry in the Columbia, S.C., Midtown Church on Sabbath afternoon, June 19, 2021. It was both an arrival of a lifelong pursuit of serving God and the beginning of a wider ministry.

As a young boy, he was a Bible boy in the wedding of two-family friends. That role was symbolic and, at the time, he certainly didn't imagine that he would be standing before a congregation every week holding God's Word, and delivering messages of hope and guidance.

Born in Virginia, Roberts spent most of his growing-up years in the Carolinas. High school years brought him and his family to Fletcher Academy. By graduation, the natural thing was to serve in his father's business, selling and servicing medical equipment. From time to time he felt the nudging of the Holy Spirit to be about his Father's business. But, he quickly dismissed those thoughts because he was well positioned in a good business.

Roberts belonged to a small group where the participants prayed and studied the Bible seeking God's guidance while encouraging one another to faithfulness. During that time, God's nudges intensified and Roberts reached the point that he could no longer push them aside. He gave his father adequate notice and made plans to attend Amazing Facts College of Evangelism (AFCOE). As he waited for the session to start, God showed that Roberts was on the right track by graciously providing for his needs.

Alan Parker, D.Min., AFCOE director, connected Roberts with his first jobs — first with evangelist John Bradshaw in Memphis, Tenn., next in Ventura and Arroyo Grande, Calif., and then helping to train youth in Bible work in an ASI "Youth for Jesus" initiative in Mesquite,

Texas. Again, it was Parker who referred Roberts to Carlis Clinton, pastor of the Meridian, Miss., Church, to serve as a Bible worker and assistant.

Later, when Jaime Pombo, pastor of the adjacent district, left for seminary studies, he recommended that Roberts follow him as the district pastor. There was agreement from Mel Eisele, Leslie Louis, and Don Shelton (then president, executive secretary, and ministerial director of the Gulf States Conference). Roberts was appointed to pastor the district of Quitman, Miss./Gilbertown, Ala., with the mandate that he complete his college education. Four years of pastoring and obtaining a degree left him wearied, alone, and concerned about the help that his parents needed.

Back in Carolina, Roberts helped his parents, caught his breath, and found a helpmeet, Ellen, his companion in life and ministry. While in 'God's Waiting Room' he worked with Council on Aging in Henderson County. God wasn't idle; He was putting on the heart of Rick Hutchinson (a member who accompanied him as he conducted Bible studies back then in Meridian, and now trust services director in Carolina) to call Roberts to remind him of ministry, and urged him to call Leslie Louis (who was now president of the Carolina Conference) if and when he was ready to re-enter ministry.

With God's call still heavy on his life, he responded affirmatively and phoned Louis. Offered an invitation, he took hold of the plow and has been serving for nearly four years in the Columbia Midtown/Sumter, S.C. district.

On Sabbath afternoon, evoking the experience of Elijah and Elisha, Leslie Louis and Haskell Williams, Carolina ministerial director — and the person for whom he had served as Bible boy years before — placed the mantle of pastoral responsi-



PHOTO: CONTRIBUTED

bility on Roberts' shoulders with a prayer that a double portion of the Holy Spirit on Elijah would rest on his ministry. 🕊

BY HASKELL WILLIAMS,
MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR

Care Packages, Gift Baskets Bring Comfort Amid Pandemic

As the Christian world commemorated the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead on Easter Sunday, the pastor and elders of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church distributed free care packages to parishioners. The average care package contained hand sanitizer, a mask, chocolates, and the book *Finding Peace in a World of Worry*, by Doug Batchelor.

Children 10 and younger received a colorful gift basket containing a biblical coloring book, crayons, hand sanitizer, a

mask, and chocolates. Denise Thompson did the shopping for the gift baskets and gift bags, and spent a significant amount of time creatively decorating them. Similarly, Heather and Ludlow Bartley played a pivotal role in helping to package them. The pastor and board of elders donated the funds for the initiative for the 200 care packages.

Eight teams composed of an elder and spouse or the pastor and his wife visited congregants, dropped off the packages, and offered a short prayer at the front



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON

Doreen Hanna accepts her care package from Denise Thompson in the presence of her family at the front door.



PHOTO BY: JEFFREY THOMPSON

Sonya Brown's family smiles during the process of receiving their care packages.

door as they practiced social distancing. In the first quarter of 2021, the pastor and board of elders of Fort Lauderdale Church did a similar initiative by distributing a care package to every family in the church. They will repeat this program every quarter in 2021 and beyond.

“Fort Lauderdale Church is fully committed to supporting the well-being and safety of the community,” said Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor. “I want to thank Ludlow Bartley Sr. and Lola Walker-Griffiths, who came up with the idea of doing care packages for our members, and also a cadre of elders for invaluable support in bringing the concept to fruition.”

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON

Led by Member, Churches Share Love on Florida's Adventure Coast

When Judy Gebben moved in 2016 from Connecticut to Leesburg, Fla., she had no idea of the plans God had for her life. An avid pickleball player, her husband, Dan, met Scott Moore, an Adventist pastor, at the court. Soon, Dan taught the pastor's sons how to play the sport.

Months later, Dan was diagnosed with a terminal illness. "When Dan passed away, Leesburg Church loved me into the Adventist faith," said Gebben. "I had been praying for the Lord to put me into a church that believed in the Bible. His leading was clear."

For the next year, Gebben took Bible studies on Monday nights and attended a class on Revelation at the church on Sabbath mornings. In 2019, she was received into the Leesburg Church by profession of faith, and that was just the beginning for Gebben.

A retired agency administrator, she quickly became involved in helping to organize a program to provide meals for children over the summer. In three months, Leesburg Church served more than 700 meals. Eager to be of service, she also became involved with Bill and Gail Hix in creating Bags of Love for foster children.

Toward the end of 2020, Gebben decided it was time to move to be closer to family. Relocating to Brooksville, Fla., in the height of the pandemic, she was eager to find an Adventist church. She began watching the Brooksville services on Zoom, and the first day Brooksville Church reopened, Gebben was there.

Since that time, she has organized a Bags of Love program for Brooksville and Spring Hill churches. Members have cleaned out the former school building, put up shelves, brought in tables, and enlisted help for all aspects of the project. Three community quilting



Judy Gebben was loved into Leesburg Church, and she now shares that love with others in Florida's Adventure Coast.

clubs have become involved. Church members have donated flashlights, coloring books, and puzzles. Nine quilted bags filled with items for children from ages 2 to 17 have been delivered to a local agency. The love that was shown to Gebben in Leesburg now shines forth in her new community.

Information for starting a Bags of Love program at your church is available at imvo.org. 📍

BY SANDRA DORAN

Lakeview Food Pantry Provides Food to Community



The Lakeview Church Community Food Pantry has been in operation since September 2007. They serve communities in northwest Georgia. At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, many families lost their jobs. Children were home because schools were closed. Lakeview decided to keep their food pantry open so they could continue to provide much needed food assistance to the families of the community.

The members were not fearful of the pandemic. God said trust Him, and He will deliver from “the snare of the fowler and from the noisome pestilence,” Psalm 91:3. Like soldiers, they put on their armor of prayer and claimed Isaiah 41:10, “Fear thou not for I am with thee; be not dismayed for I am thy God.” They girded themselves with mask and gloves as required by the CDC, and changed their method of food distribution from client choice to drive thru.

They noticed an increase in the number of families coming to the Food Pantry to get food. They needed more food, and God said He would supply all their



needs according to His riches in glory. Their partner Food Bank started delivering large amounts of food every week. They also made arrangement for Lakeview to get boxes of food from another donor. With an increase in the amount of food, plus donations of regular donors, they were able to distribute food to the families six times per month. A summary of what was accomplished during the first six months of the year, January 1 to June 20: 6,273 households were served, 23,855 families were fed, and approximately 400,000 pounds of food was distributed.

“If it was not for this Food Pantry, I don’t know how the families of this community would survive,” said Marie, a client, grateful that Lakeview is a lighthouse in the community.

God kept all His promises, and they can always trust Him. They had enough food to distribute to all the families. None of their hardworking team members and volunteers contracted COVID. The members thank God for His faithfulness and loving care. 🕊

BY MONICA MITCHELL

Marietta Church Hosts Neighborhood VBS



What happens when Vacation Bible School (VBS) goes outside the walls of the church? What happens when the people of the church take Jesus directly to their neighbors?

Eight families of the Marietta Church hosted a daily VBS from June 7 to 10, 2021, and invited children and parents in their neighborhood to join them in their yards. The week's theme "Brave," went through the stories of Noah, David and Goliath, Queen Esther, and Gideon, showing children that God can help them be brave no matter what they face. From crafts to games to singing, each family, along with

additional church volunteers, was able to connect with the people who live closest to them, and be the light of Jesus.

Alex Moffitt, one of the VBS hosts, said, "When we first decided to host a VBS, we thought it would be just another fun activity, but as we've come through this week and experienced it, we've seen that God has brought us so much closer together, not just to each other, but to Him as well."

The VBS week culminated in a party at the church's gym. What was supposed to be an outdoor extravaganza was brought inside because of rain, but that didn't stop the enthusiasm and

sense of fun from all who attended. About two-thirds of those who came to the party were not church members, but rather the neighbors who had attended VBS. Bounce houses, ice cream, and conversation ruled the evening.

"It's very cool to see a church that is on God's mission," said Matt Smith, pastor.

The Marietta Church looks forward to continuing to connect with neighbors, especially through next year's neighborhood VBS. 📍

BY JACKIE PAYNE

Atlanta Adventist Academy Expresses LOVE in the Time of COVID

The night before Atlanta Adventist Academy (AAA) students left for the Post-Hurricane Relief Bahamas 2020 Mission Trip, the trip was cancelled. COVID-19 had become a reality.

Providentially, a group of adults, organized by Angel Amaro, Duluth, Ga., Church pastor, was already on site, so with the help of local members and the mission trip funds, they were able to complete all the jobs planned for the

Grand Bahamas Academy that week. The reality of COVID's medical devastation, the side effects of isolation, and the country's racial and political unrest could be felt as the 2020-2021 school year began. The Campus Min-



Students and local church members learn about leverage and cribbing during CERT training.



A group of students restored a deck.

istries team chose the theme “LOVE on the MOVE,” recently used by Pioneer Memorial Church, and challenged themselves and the student body to effect change in their environment, and be the hands and feet of Jesus.

Jebari Richards, Student Association spiritual vice president, shares, “The Campus Ministries team planned service chapels. We would look for a need either in the community or in the school itself, and we dedicated chapel time to

meet that need once a semester.” AAA is blessed to have connected campuses and learners from as far as Korea to Maine to Missouri, to nearby in the southeast, and everywhere in between. Acts of selfless service included assembling backpacks and supplies for young refugees, moving families to new homes, helping with post-tornado debris, supporting local churches with COVID-times outreach, making masks, praying for and calling home-bound elderly, designing encour-

agement/get-well cards, cleaning and helping the local elementary schools, assembling dental bags, delivering care packages to a local shelter, picking up garbage, washing cars, visiting and singing to sick people, doing lawn care, and alleviating teachers’ loads. And, in all the hustle and bustle of service, they found that as they served others, God blessed them with a joyful heart.

“AAA also took certain measures to prepare to meet a future need,” Richards adds, “such as disaster relief and first aid. We did so by offering a ‘CPR, Disaster, and Safety’ class. We also partnered with 2Serve.life and hosted a 20-hour training in the spring to prepare volunteers to ‘do the best for the most people’ as part of the Community Emergency Response Team (FEMA CERT) in times of disaster.” They plan to continue to offer this training every year.

Because international travel was still difficult, mission trip plans changed. “With the help of Pastor Keele and Pastor Cook, we decided to go to Coalfield, Tenn., to partner with the local church to rebuild a handicap ramp for two elderly women, and make two small ramps for the church’s community service sheds. It was hard work, but it was worth it, and still an amazing experience.” Jebari closes his report with these words: “Our theme for this school year was “LOVE on the MOVE” because there seemed to be an extreme lack of love in this country and in the whole world, so we decided to be the opposite force, and show love in our actions.” And, a show of God’s power it was!

“With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world!” Ellen G. White, *Education*, 271. AAA staff and students are looking forward and working toward that day. 📌

BY RAIZA DE LOS RIOS-FERNÁNDEZ AND JEBARI RICHARDS

AHU Summer Camp Engages the Future of Health Care

“Hi kids, welcome to the show,” is the way the AdventHealth University (AHU) Summer Science Expedition Camp participants from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida back in 2016 were first addressed, when AdventHealth University’s (AHU) Office of Community Engagement introduced its first science day camp. Over the past four years, AHU has had the immense pleasure to serve four different local branches of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Central Florida before the COVID-19 pandemic cancelled the 2020 camp. Previous campers have had the opportunity to visit the AHU campus for seven hours a day for an entire week, and explore all the possibilities that health care education can offer young imaginations and future goals. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive each year and the camp remains one of AHU’s primary community-focused projects.

Organizers were heartbroken to not offer camp in 2020, although it was the safest and most responsible decision that could be made. With no programming to provide throughout 2020, the Office of Community Engagement started brainstorming in very early 2021 about the possibilities for a new year, and what the face of a beloved camp would look like if 2021 was still not the year to invite the community back onto the campus. Kendra Presley-Van Houten, director of community and student engagement at AdventHealth University, and the chair of the science camp, pulled together the planning committee and started discussing options.

“I just couldn’t imagine another year without some sort of camp program for the Boys and Girls Club kids, so I asked the committee what they thought about a virtual camp,” recalled Presley-Van Houten. “Our science camp committee treated this as a labor of love, open to



Edwin Hernandez, Ph.D., AHU president, addresses Boys and Girls Clubs of central Florida children as part of the University’s Summer Science Expedition Camp.

new ideas and eager to try new things that would be meaningful as it is imperative to the fulfillment of our mission that we serve our community with uncommon compassion.”

The committee worked tirelessly for months developing curriculum, testing different modes of delivery, and brainstorming ways to engage the campers to participate in all the activities, just as they had in person. The committee opted to use Zoom as its platform and reduced the camp to two hours per day, three days a week. Two student ambassadors, Sydney Mathis and Joshua Kuchenreuther, served as the camp hosts each day, transitioning the participants from one task to the next. They also ran trivia and asked questions about each segment to allow the participants the chance to win points and prizes at the close of camp. The camp also engaged the participants through live experiments in the areas of chemistry, occupational therapy, radiography, nursing, and 3-D print technology administered by AHU faculty, staff, and students. One other interactive highlight was the “Choose Your Own Adventure

Tour,” a virtual tour of the University and its programs that was entirely directed by the participants’ voting on which program to view next.

AdventHealth University leadership also played a major role by introducing the University on the first day and concluding the camp on the last day. Sandra Dunbar-Smalley, AHU Provost, addressed the participants on the opening day of camp, reminding them to follow their dreams and connect with the University through their club directors. As a tradition, the AHU Summer Science Expedition Camp ends its final day with a graduation ceremony, where the participants are addressed and congratulated on camp completion. AHU President Edwin Hernandez offered an encouraging closing speech about the importance of health care education and careers and the value each participant has within the local community. He concluded with great optimism to see the participants back on the AHU main campus in summer 2022.

While it was a different experience and an adjustment, the AHU Virtual Summer Science Expedition Camp more than doubled the amount of children served through the program from the traditional, in-person model. Adding a virtual component to the traditional model is an idea the Office of Community Engagement will consider as a supplement in the future, allowing Boys and Girls Clubs in more remote locations to participate in portions of the programming.

Whether virtual or in-person, AHU’s Office of Community Engagement is always eager to meet and greet the future of health care, and start planning today the next time they can say, “Hi kids, welcome to the show!” ●

BY ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY NEWS

College Drive Expands Community Services

The College Drive Church in Pearl, Miss., recently announced construction plans to expand their main building structure. The new addition, expanding the eastern walls to utilize an area that is currently landscaped, will allow for more space to accommodate the growing ministries of the church.

While the church has a long history of community service, having remodeled homes previously, among other things, they recently revitalized their food services. This revitalization arises from the leadership of Murvin Camatchee, local pastor, and his wife, Corrine, and the lay leadership from Lee Miller and Greg Heisser, church members. Part of the revitalization included expanding the food service to accommodate more people and improving how the service is organized. For example, clients of the service register in advance, so the church is aware of the family size. Then, an inventory of food is kept up to date, and bags are pre-filled before the clients come to pick up almost every two weeks.

The food ministry bags are separated into categories and named after the readily available plastic grocery bags, white and brown. Each day that the ministry operates, a new fill sheet is created based on the inventory on hand. Additionally, the client sheet, which lists each family's bags and in what quantity, is newly generated for each service.

Following the success of the improved food ministry, the church looked for other ways they could assist their neighbors, and a clothes closet was developed. Led by Mary Miller, church member, the closet is promoted to the clients of the food ministry and offers clean and organized clothes for free to those in need.

At present, between these two ministries alone, two church classrooms and a board room are being utilized to store,



Patricia Roane organizes fresh produce in preparation for the food distribution.



Murvin Camatchee, pastor, meets with a client to arrange their food delivery.

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER



The church will expand its main building to the east in order to accommodate the growing ministries.

sort, and organize for the ongoing services. The need for more space became quickly apparent, and the church began working on ways they could expand its reach. A solution was found through an addition to the existing building and classrooms. This addition extends the building's footprint to the curb of the current parking lot, and will add a new point of entry to the church.

These ministries, along with a third that takes place simultaneously, a literature outreach program, draws a significant number of church member volunteers along with their families. As the

ministries grow, more volunteers are getting involved, and the leaders continue to encourage even more to participate. "You won't regret helping," says Heisser, "you'll feel more blessed to give than the people receiving the gift."

Learn more about the community service ministries of College Drive and see it in action at www.gscsda.org/gsc-to-day/collegedrive. 📍

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Adventurers, Pathfinders Assist With Memorial Service

Willie Maie “Billie “ Clark was invested as a Master Guide in the mid-1970s, so it seemed right for the Pathfinders and Adventures to participate in her memorial service.

Some of Clark’s friends and family have different ideas about what happens after death; therefore, Lenora Clark, daughter-in-law, wanted to take this opportunity to explain what death is, according to the Bible. Believing that most people are more attentive when children present something, she asked the Hattiesburg, Miss., Hawks Pathfinders and Eagles Adventurers to help.

Jacqueline McFarland and Courtney Golden sang “Goodnight And Good Morning,” which reveals that when



Musical selections that contained Biblical depictions of the state of the dead were chosen to be performed.



PHOTO BY: SYLVIA RUIZ

Pathfinders led the Scripture reading and other significant portions of the service.

someone dies, they sleep until God wakes them up. Aalyah Golden read Genesis 2:7, which explains that the combination of the dust of the ground and God’s breath constitutes a living soul. Adam was not given a soul; he became a soul. Then she blew up a balloon with a face on it, and Charity Jarman read Genesis 3:2-4. Satan told Eve, “You won’t surely die.” Jarmen then showed a cheese sandwich and explained that the pieces of bread plus the cheese equals a sandwich. It wasn’t given as a sandwich; it became a sandwich. When the cheese is removed from the bread, it doesn’t go anywhere; it just stops being a sandwich. “When the breath is no longer in our bodies, we don’t go anywhere; we just stop living,” said Jarmen. Then Golden let the air out of her balloon.

Joel Mung read Ecclesiastes 9:5-6, “The living know they’ll die, but the dead don’t know, or do, anything.” Erick Ruiz read Ecclesiastes 12:7, “The

dust returns to the ground and the spirit, or breath, returns to God.” Ruiz took a disc out of a DVD player. The disc doesn’t play while it’s out of the player. Like the disc, God doesn’t forget people when they die. He keeps a record of who they were. Then Josue Ruiz read John 5:28-29, “All will be called out of their graves, and be rewarded according to what kind of life they lived.” Then Ruiz put the disc back in the player.

Alex Mercer read 1 Corinthians 15:54-55, “Death is swallowed up in victory.” Then Pao Mung, local pastor, shared a few words with the crowd. The service concluded when Joy Mung read 1 Thesalonians 4:16-17, “We will meet Jesus in the clouds, and be with Him forever,” followed by Esther Ruiz singing “Jesus is Coming in Clouds of Pure White.”

BY LENORA CLARK

New Church Mission in Lexington Meets Lack of Adventist Presence

The day before Independence Day, Parsons, Tenn., Church leaders conducted the grand opening of the Lexington, Tenn., Mission Church on Saturday, July 3, 2021. This new mission marks the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the area, where the Spanish and English community will have a place of worship and a multipurpose center for outreach.

The vision for a church plant began in 2017 when Daniel Spencer, Parsons Church pastor, saw the need for outreach among the Lexington community. Lexington has a population twice as big as the surrounding districts of Lobelville, Tenn., and Parsons combined, according to a statistic report by Data USA.

“Lexington is a big city, yet there was no Adventist presence in between our churches in the district,” Spencer said. “The next Adventist Church, which is in Jackson, is about one hour away.”

The new church was also made to accommodate the growing Hispanic community, and to open the door for outreach ministries in the area. Church board members unanimously voted to rent a building right across from Lexington City Hall, according to Spencer. One side of the building will be used for church services, conducted in Spanish and translated to English, while the other side will be reserved for outreach programs such as cooking classes and activities for children.

“The plan of this new church is to be a light and to go out and search,” said Josue Lopez, Bible worker for Lexington, Tenn., Church. Lopez was heavily involved in starting the community connections at Lexington and finding the building for the church. “Our mindset is that though we may be starting here, we won’t finish here. We want to work with people, make friends, and help in the community. We want to go out and serve.” The grand opening program was led by Parsons



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAYSI PRADO

The audience joins leaders in dedicatory prayer during the opening of the Lexington Church. Currently, the new church is aiming to start with an attendance of around 30 individuals each week.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAYSI PRADO

Luisa Lopez (left), Josue Lopez, Armando De León, Daniel Spencer, and Sarah Spencer stand in front of the new church which will be led by Josue Lopez and 12 volunteers, guided by Daniel Spencer and other Parsons Church leaders.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF DAYSI PRADO

Armando De León, Kentucky-Tennessee Hispanic ministries coordinator, joined by Josue Lopez (left), pastor, and Daniel Spencer (right), pastor, led the ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the grand opening of Lexington Mission Church. This new mission marks the first Seventh-day Adventist church in the Lexington area, and it will serve both the Spanish and English community.

Church members. Armando De León, Kentucky-Tennessee Hispanic ministries coordinator, gave the message and, joined by other leaders and participants, conducted the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Lexington Church will be led by Lopez, along with 12 volunteers and the guidance of Parsons Church leaders. Currently, the church is aiming to start with an attendance of around 30 individuals each week.

“To me, this is a great blessing and dream come true,” Spencer said. “I’ve seen how God has His timing and works things for good I am happy we are [in Lexington], and I do believe there’s a lot of potential here.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Milano, Sozinov, Banos Ordained, Accept Call to Ministry

During the end of April and mid-June 2021, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference conducted four ordination ceremonies. Brian Milano was ordained at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church on May 15. Oleksandr Sozinov was ordained at Franklin, Tenn., Church on June 5. Bryan Banos was ordained at Taylor Mill, Ky., Church on June 19.

called to share the everlasting Gospel. After serving as the first elder for several years, he had the opportunity to go abroad and participate in evangelism.

Milano pastored churches in Waterville and Norridgewock, Maine, and Rutland, Vt., prior to accepting a call to ministry in the Murfreesboro and Tullahoma district in Tennessee.

began serving in the Franklin and Boulevard churches in Tennessee. Sozinov joins the ministry with his wife, Lana, and two daughters, Yana and Adeliia.



PHOTO: COURTESY OF STEVE HALEY

Steve Haley (left), Brian Milano, and Mike Hewitt pose for a picture after Milano's ordination program. Milano was ordained at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church on May 15, 2021.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Oleksandr Sozinov shares his testimony following his ordination ceremony. Sozinov was ordained at Franklin, Tenn., Church on June 5, 2021.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Bryan Banos speaks to the audience during the program of his ordination ceremony. Banos was ordained at Taylor Mill, Ky., Church on June 19, 2021.

Bryan Banos

Banos was living in Miami, Fla., when he realized his call to ministry after being mentored by the late Miguel Angel Ramirez. He got baptized in August of 2009. The following year, Banos stepped down from culinary arts and enrolled at Southern Adventist University to pursue a B.A. in theology.

Banos was called to work by Kentucky-Tennessee in 2013. In 2014, he enrolled at Andrews University to pursue a master of divinity. Following his M.Div., Banos began working in the Lexington, Ky., Church, and moved to serve as pastor for the Taylor Mill, Ky., Church. During his years of service, Banos has led the development of a vibrant youth group and the foundational stages of a church plant. 📍

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Brian Milano

Before accepting the Lord's call to ministry, Milano spent 22 years in various law enforcement roles throughout New Hampshire. He served as a police chief, a detective with the Merrimack County Sheriff's Department, and a training officer. His diverse law enforcement experience helped him prepare for pastoral ministry.

Milano, and his wife, Michelle, first came into the Seventh-day Adventist faith after extensive Bible study with Cliff Gleason, pastor. Milano fell in love with the Adventist message and felt

Oleksandr Sozinov

Sozinov was born in Ukraine on June 27, 1979. In 1990, his mother found a Bible study correspondence in a newspaper and signed up. The entire family started taking lessons, and Sozinov was baptized on June 8, 1996.

After graduating high school, Sozinov and his family started a small group in their village which soon turned into a church. In 2000 he attended the Seminary at Zaosky Adventist University.

Sozinov moved to the United States in 2013 to complete his M.Div. at Andrews University. He graduated in 2017 and

Young People Enjoy Privilege of Canvassing for a Greater Mission



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

The group of canvassers at Taylor Mill, Ky., during a ten-week program, sold books, like *History of Freedom* and *In Search for Peace*, with the goal to share a message of hope.

It was a warm Thursday evening. A group of young people found themselves in the parking lot of a Lowe’s retail store. Each of them carried a black satchel bag filled with books about health, history, and hope. Among the group was Juan Hernandez. Like his friends, Hernandez was a canvasser with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

The day for Hernandez was not going too well. He was having a hard time selling books, facing rejection after rejection instead. Standing under the heat, Hernandez felt disappointed.

“God, send me the right person at the right time,” Hernandez prayed.

On the surface, that is the job of a canvasser — to go door to door, or person to person, selling books. During a ten-week program, these young students approach strangers and offer a selection of books for a monetary donation.

The days are packed, working Sunday through Thursday and following an organized schedule from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. The

team, composed of 23 canvassers and 5 leaders, cook, clean, worship, and train together.

“The days are very systematic and purposeful,” said Ivan Martinez, leader of the canvassing program at Taylor Mill, Ky. “We want to make sure that our students are thoroughly furnished and properly prepared for the work that’s before them.”

But beyond selling books, canvassers have another, more meaningful, goal: to share a message of hope. Among the list of inventories are *History of Freedom* and *In Search for Peace*, also known as *The Great Controversy* and *Steps to Christ*, respectively. Canvassers also carry books promoting the health message, like *Live Life to the Fullest* and *Something Better* — books with tips and recipes for improving health.

“Selling books is hard, you know? But, it’s a privilege,” said Neri Rivera, a canvasser who came all the way from Belize. “Because we are rejected, we are being a witness for Jesus.”

Heisler Aguilar, a 16-year-old can-



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Jamal Grant smiles for the camera while holding a copy of *In Search for Peace*, also known as *Steps to Christ*. Grant is one of the 28 canvassers at Taylor Mill, Ky.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Andrew Stoica knocks on the door of a residential home in the hopes to sell some books. On the surface, that is the job of a canvasser. But more than raising money, canvassers have another, more meaningful goal: to share a message of hope.

vasser from Laurelbrook, Tenn., Academy, says he always tries to put on his best smile when knocking on someone's door, even if the previous house was not interested.

"We are out here not to just sell books, but also to manifest Christ through our character," Aguilar said. "Maybe their encounter with us is the only connection they've had with the church, and thinking that I might see someone in Heaven because of the work I'm doing here keeps me going."

According to Martinez, canvassing is also an opportunity for the students involved to grow their relationship with God. Martinez, who started canvassing in 2018, says his role as a leader includes meeting students in their spiritual walk.

"The most rewarding part is when you have students telling you that their lives are completely different because of our programs," Martinez said. "Seeing God work and transform [the canvassers'] lives make everything worth it. Because this isn't only about the people out in the community, it's about the kids that we have here."

Hernandez was still in Lowe's parking lot when he heard someone calling him out.

"Hey, are you Richard?" the stranger asked. "No, my name is Juan," Hernandez replied.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Anique Fayette presents the book *A Better Way of Life*, to a resident in Taylor Mill, Ky. The books that the canvassers offer include messages of history, health, and hope.

And as simple as that, the two began a conversation. Hernandez explained to the man how he was selling books to raise money for school and explained what each book was about. The man did not seem interested at first, but his attention peaked when Hernandez presented him *History of Freedom*. Without saying much, the man took out \$10 from his wallet and gave it to Hernandez. Hernandez thanked him and the man went on his way.

"As I saw him walk away, I remembered my prayer just a few minutes before," Hernandez said. "It was amazing, because God sent the right person when I needed the encouragement. I wasn't looking for him. He came to me. The thing is, when your faith is tried, that is when your faith grows." 📖

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Dream Comes True for Sara Rozier, 91



Arthur Hudson (left) and Melvin Henry are Bible students; Stephan Davis, New Bethel pastor, presented certificates to the Bible students; Sara Rozier holds the mission in her home; and Alice Lytes and Rhonda Barron are Bible workers.

In 1977 Sara Avant Rozier, who is now 91 years old, qualified to manage the first home provider program for persons being discharged from Georgia State Mental Health/Mental Retardation institutions. By 1978, her home was designated as Avant's Home for Mentally Retarded (Intellectual Disability) Citizens.

In 1989, these citizens became eligible to live in their own independent supervised apartments. As time passed and program names continued to change, Rozier received her Georgia State certification and became the director of Avant's Community Resource Agency with the help of Calvin Smyre, state representative.

Rozier continued to provide various services in the community and never forgot God. She was raised a Baptist, and had completed a two-year seminary training course. One day she heard about a Revelation Seminar being held at the Columbus First Church in Columbus, Ga. She decided to attend. Shortly after reading her Bible at the Seminar, she learned that Saturday in the Bible is "the Sabbath of the Lord," Exodus 20:8-11,

and it's the seventh day of the week. As she reflected, she remembered that her father had always referred to "Sunday School" as Sabbath School. After learning many other truths, she was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and has remained faithful for more than 40 years. Rozier became so excited about Bible truths that her lifelong dream was "to have Bible studies conducted in her home to win souls."

After her state certification expired, Rozier's home became a home mission. She continued advocating for the handicap and transporting the homeless to apply for services and benefits. She always moved into houses that had at least two or three extra bed rooms to provide temporary shelter to the homeless and those who were displaced.

In 2015, at age 85, Rozier's home mission was moved to 3105 Baldwin Street. She invited Keith Trumbo, her pastor at Columbus First Church, to bless the home. Prior to his prayer, he stated, "Sara, we do not know what specific services you will provide,

but we know God will bless it." Gary Proctor, also from Columbus First Church, worked closely with her. Since the 1970s, Shepherd Drive, now New Bethel Church Community Service volunteers, continues to provide support and even now assists in taking food to Valley Rescue Mission monthly. Stephan J. Davis, Rozier's current pastor at New Bethel, made a visit to her home mission on May 1, 2021, and presented congratulation certificates to Rozier and two others who live with her for completing the Amazing Facts Bible studies that were conducted weekly in her home. One person, with other potentials, has already been baptized during the COVID-19 pandemic. Rozier's dream of having Bible studies conducted in her home mission finally came true, and should be an encouragement to all who are working for the salvation of many who may be perishing. 🕊

BY WESLEY B. JONES

South Atlantic Adapts “Finishing Strong 2021” School Evangelism Program

At a time when students have become untouchable due to pandemic mandates, it’s nothing short of a miracle that approximately 4,500 school-based viewers each day were *touched* by the unmasked Gospel of Jesus Christ during “Finishing Strong 2021” — a South Atlantic Conference school-based evangelistic initiative, hosted by It Is Written, in conjunction with the North American Division’s Department of Education.

For the second consecutive year, May 3-6, 2021, thousands of school-aged children in the North American Division and Canada set aside the ABCs of algebra, biology, and chemistry to tune in to a week of virtual spiritual emphasis, hosted by John Bradshaw, president and speaker/director of It Is Written. Watchers tuned in directly to Itiswritten.tv, the South Atlantic Conference’s website, YouTube, and Facebook, for a total of more than 20,000 views. Breath of Life hosted the nationwide school evangelistic effort, May 2020.

The Finishing Strong program was initiated out of an urgent need to reach children and youth who had suddenly been displaced by being forced out of buildings with teachers who love and care for them, to continue learning at home, often alone, with nothing more than a virtual screen. “The smallest victims are the children,” says Kim Gaiter, vice president of education at the South Atlantic Conference. “I just knew we couldn’t let the school year end without giving them a sense of hope and, with intentionality, an opportunity to give their hearts to Jesus. I deserve no credit for coming up with the idea of a nationwide Week of Spirit-



tual Emphasis. It was God who said, ‘It must be done.’”

During the course of the Week of Spiritual Emphasis, Bradshaw shared lessons from Bible greats such as Daniel, Joseph, Gideon, Joshua, and Caleb. Correlations were made as to how they each faced trials that seemed insurmountable, yet they each finished strong. Many Seventh-day Adventist schools across the country participated with music, submitting questions, and reading Scriptures. Praise God that 45 children in the South Atlantic Conference alone made decisions for baptism!

Bradshaw shared the story of Sylvia Potts, an Olympic runner who, 15-feet before the finishing line, fell, leaving the runner without medal or rank in that race. There’s a story of yet another Olympic runner, who collapsed at the finishing line, this time, only inches before meeting the mark. Hayley Carruthers had not the strength to get up, following her collapse, but instead crawled across the

finishing line, beating her own personal best, and finishing strong.

For the South Atlantic Conference Department of Education, 2021 was a year filled with extreme challenges, devastating blows, tragedies, and setbacks. But, that is not how the year will be remembered. It will be a year remembered for having met the difficulties head-on. The department has gotten up, dusted off, regrouped, reconfigured, reinvented, kept on pushing on, and triumphed! Academic benchmarks were met and exceeded. Science fairs, spelling bees, graduations, Bible Bowls, and baptisms all took place amid the horror of ICU stays, isolation, and brushes with death. Every child still received the Three Angel’s Messages, and all were offered the hope of eternal life in Christ.

Like Hayley Carruthers, some have crawled across the finishing line, but all have finished strong. To God be the glory, great things He has done.

As for 2022, as the song says:
“Many things about tomorrow,
I don’t seem to understand.
But I know who holds tomorrow,
And I know who holds my hand.”
- Ira Stanphill, 1950

“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us. Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith,” Hebrews 12:1, 2. 🕊

BY VINETTE BROWN DYE, EDUCATOR

New Partnership Helps Hispanic Students Attend Southern

Southern has launched a partnership with Equal Chance for Education (ECE), a Tennessee-based scholarship program that helps provide Hispanic individuals with an equal opportunity to achieve the American dream by completing college. Incoming college students may qualify for an ECE scholarship of up to \$6,000 per year if they have a GPA of at least 3.0, are ineligible for federal funding, and have a defined career goal.

This partnership came about thanks to scholarship recipient and incoming freshman Julena Camarena. When Camarena applied for an ECE scholarship and was accepted, she was disappointed to find that her dream school — Southern — was not partnered with ECE. She asked if ECE would consider working with Southern, and to her surprise, they agreed.

Since then, Southern and ECE have formed a partnership that will help financially insecure students find the funding they need to pay for college expenses.

“Working with this program will help Southern find financial resources for programs and scholarships that support diversity on campus,” said Stephanie Guster, senior advisor for diversity at Southern. “This program shows that there are highly capable students who want to be in higher education — who choose Southern — but who aren’t eligible for federal funding. It’s exciting to have a resource to assist those students!”

As a freshman at Southern this fall, Camarena will be studying clinical psychology as she begins her journey to becoming a surgeon.

“I am a first-generation college student, so this scholarship is really im-



Recent high school graduate and first-generation college student Julena Camarena will be attending Southern this fall thanks to a new partnership with Equal Chance for Education.

portant to my family as I build a future for myself,” Camarena said. “Through ECE and Southern, I can see God’s will working in me. I know this scholarship program will help others who are in the

same situation have an opportunity to attend an Adventist university, too.”

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT

Southern Professors Contribute to Book About Seeing God's Hand in Nature



Southern science professors Lucinda Hill Spencer (left), David Nelsen, and Mitch Menzmer contributed to *Design and Catastrophe: 51 Scientists Explore Evidence in Nature*.

Three science professors from Southern Adventist University contributed to a book released this summer titled *Design and Catastrophe: 51 Scientists Explore Evidence in Nature*. Published by Andrews University Press, the book includes a variety of short essays written by men and women of faith from a wide range of scientific disciplines. While not attempting to prove the biblical accounts of origin and a global flood, *Design and Catastrophe* invites readers to search Scriptures for an explanation of discoveries found in nature, and the meaning and purpose in life.

Lucinda Hill Spencer, M.D., a professor in Southern's Biology Department, contributed "The Amazing Gift of Hearing," a chapter that explores the design of the ear and the complex mechanisms es-

sential to the ability to hear and respond.

"Because of the powerful agenda to push evolutionary theory today, many people struggle with their faith in God and in the Bible," Hill said. "*Design and Catastrophe* examines the scientific evidence, and covers a variety of topics that are helpful in thinking through issues and strengthening our faith."

David Nelsen, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, was happy to participate in a project that combines his passions, faith, and science. He wrote the chapter titled "Design, Spiders, and 'Integrated Wholes.'"

"In this essay, I discuss how my worldview allows me to think about organisms and biology differently than many of my secular colleagues," Nelsen said. "I hope people can appreciate that it is possible

to be passionate about both science and faith — you don't have to choose one over the other."

Mitch Menzmer, Ph.D., a professor in the University's Chemistry Department, enthusiastically shares the wonders of divine handiwork at the molecular level in the chapter "A God of Law, Order, and Beauty."

"Accepting the evidence of design in nature as coming from an intelligent Creator is absolutely essential to the Christian faith," Menzmer said. "Understanding what God is capable of through creation of the physical universe gives me assurance of what He can do in my life and in the lives of those around me." ●

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT



DI MEMMO, BRIGITTE J. JAHRIG, 80, born March 6, 1940, in Seifhennersdorf, Germany, died April 3, 2020 in Cleveland, OH, from health complications. She was the daughter of the late Heinrich and Elsa Schneider Jährig.

In 1955, at the urging of her parents, Brigitte escaped from communist-controlled East Germany to West Berlin. Two years later, at the age of 17, she immigrated to the United States. In 1959, she met and fell in love with Frank. They were married on Oct. 22, 1961, and later blessed with two daughters, Sonia and Carrie. A decade after arriving in the United States, Brigitte became a citizen on June 13, 1967. She valued and made use of the opportunities she found in her new country. Her gift of languages—German, Russian, English, and Spanish—enabled her to work in a variety of settings that included McKinsey & Company in Washington DC, Florida Hospital in Orlando, FL, and Southern Adventist University (SAU) in Collegedale, TN. Brigitte retired from SAU in 2006, after 26 years of service in various departments, including the School of Nursing, the

Development Office, and the School of Religion. Brigitte was always eager to embrace new technology, and she became known among her colleagues as the go-to computer guru on campus.

Brigitte also became a second “mom” to many students over the years, a number of whom lived with the Di Memmo family. She always welcomed them into her home and fed them well. Brigitte’s love language was service to others. She was selfless and dedicated to her family.

Despite being close to graduating herself, she set aside her own educational goals to support her husband and daughters through college and graduate school. Brigitte’s selflessness was not limited to family.

As a volunteer for Bridge Refugee Services in Chattanooga, TN, she provided translation services and served as secretary to the advisory board for a number of years. Brigitte loved hiking, bird-watching, gardening, and reading. She was multi-talented and excelled at many activities. While self-taught in most things, she trained as a competitive gymnast in East Germany, and later taught gymnastics in the U.S.

She is survived by her devoted husband of 58 years, Frank Di Memmo; two daughters: Sonia (Steve) Wrate of McDonald, TN, and Carrie (Roger Hammond) Di Memmo of Ooltewah, TN; and four grandchildren: Kristiana (Ian) Carney, Jennifer (Tony) Thao, Francesca Di Memmo, and Nico Di Memmo; four sisters-in-law; four brothers-in-law; many beloved cousins; nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her six elder siblings: Irmi (Joe) Stiegler, Heinz (Ursula) Jährig, Ilse (Martin) Kastner, Otrid (Fini) Jährig, Rita Jährig, and Irmtraut (Nick) Wasylina.

FLETCHER, JERRY JAMES, 77, of Newnan, GA, born in 1943 in Melville, LA, to Willie James and Mayrease Boudreaux Fletcher, died Jan. 14, 2021 surrounded by his family after a fatal brain hemorrhage.

After college he took a job in Alabama where he met Sandra Hughe. They married in 1965 and had four children: Amy, Jerry Jr., Emily, and Kelly.

Jerry began his career as an inside salesman for Nunn Electric Supply before the Lord called him into the ministry as a literature evangelist. His success led him into various leadership roles including publishing director, where he worked for 22 years. In 1996, he transitioned into pastoral ministry serving four congregations over the years, until his retirement in 2010. Throughout his tenure, his calling led him to reside in many cities including Baton Rouge, LA, Shreveport, LA, Columbia, MD, and then back to Shreveport, Prairieville, LA, and Lake Charles, LA.

After retirement in 2010, Jerry, and his wife, Sandra, made Newnan their home. However, those who knew him would agree that he never stopped ministering to others. Jerry’s charismatic, friendly nature meant he never met a stranger. He made friends with his neighbors, served as vice president, and later president of his HOA, and would regularly preach and lead worship services for local churches.

Because of the way he connected with others, close friends, and even mere acquaintances would often request that he officiate at their life events. Throughout his career, he performed more than 20 weddings (including his children’s ceremonies) and 55 funerals. He also performed more than 176 baptisms.

Jerry was a walking witness for Christ and exhibited the virtues of love and acceptance. His favorite pastimes were walking, spending time with his family, and talking about football and Jesus (he could quote Scripture and sports statistics at the drop of a hat).

He is survived by his loving wife, Sandra Hughes Fletcher; his daughters: Amy Fletcher Cromer, Emily Fletcher, and Kelly Fletcher Broussard; his son, Jerry Fletcher; three sons-in-law: Rodney Cromer, Justin Long, and Kenny Broussard; one daughter-in-law, Cheryl Fletcher; eight grandchildren: Fallon, Ryan, Jacob, Fletcher, Ethan, Allie, Alex and Kathryn; one grandson-in-law, Michael Murdoch; three great-grandchildren: Brendyn, Lily, and Mason; one sister, Leona Fletcher Keiser; two brothers-in-law: Leo Keiser and Art Mooney; one sister-in-law, Sylvia Mooney; four nieces; and four nephews. Jerry was preceded in death by his parents: Willie and Mayrease Fletcher; and his sister, Judy Fletcher Copeland. Jerry was loved and respected by all who knew him, not least of whom is his loving family who will miss him more than words can express.





JANSSEN, CAROLYN ANN, 90, born Aug. 1, 1930 to Joseph T. and Amy Wilson in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, died Feb. 20, 2021 in San Antonio, TX, where she lived with her daughter.

Most of her growing up years were in Haney, British Columbia. She graduated from Auburn Academy in Auburn, WA, in 1949. She married Robert Janssen on Sept. 3, 1950. The family moved to La Sierra, CA, so Robert could complete his ministerial education. During the '50s, Carol had three sons and finished the family in 1960 with a daughter. In 1961, the family moved to North Dakota where she enjoyed many years as a full-time mom. Robert's career took the family to Beach, Goodrich, Harvey, and Fargo, ND.

During the North Dakota years, she organized the Primary program for Camp Meeting for several years and helped with Pathfinder clubs in several churches. She was a teacher's aide and then became a full-time surgical tech. She enjoyed her hospital work the most, but was eager to get involved in anything that needed creativity and leadership.

In 1974, Carol moved with Bob and the two younger children to Zanesville, OH. She continued to work as a surgical tech, and help her husband in ministry. Later moves took them to North Olmstead and then Galion, OH. In Galion, she managed the church-owned Citrus Co-op and developed it into a top performer for the Citrus Company. She enjoyed her many chances to witness to the customers of the co-op.

After a short assignment to the Collingswood Park Church in Tinton Falls, NJ, in 1992, Robert took a retired pastor position in Middletown, CA.

Carol worked as a surgical tech at St. Helena Hospital in Deer Park, CA. After her retirement, she was again a teacher's aide at the Middletown Church School in CA. In 2001, Carol and Robert moved to Elmshaven in St. Helena, CA, where they became the live-in curators and caretakers of the historic Ellen White home. Carol loved taking people on the tours and sharing the stories of angel visitors with the guests. She helped produce and is a featured story teller on the souvenir DVD available in the gift shop.

In 2009, Carol and Robert retired to the Florida Living Retirement Center in Apopka, FL, and became members of the Florida Living Church in Apopka.

Carol quickly helped organized the "Bags of Love" program which provided bags of toys and a blanket to children taken from their homes by county Social Services. During her last decade, she sewed hundreds of quilts and bags, literally until her eyesight no longer permitted it.

In late 2020, Carol and Robert moved to San Antonio, TX, to live with their daughter. Carol's health was in decline, and she passed to her rest Feb. 20, 2021. Some of her last words were, "Yes, Jesus, Come quickly!" The family had a Zoom memorial service a few days after her death.

Carol is survived by her husband of 69 years, Robert; three sons: Douglas, Wes (Nancy), Ken (Pam); one daughter, Lynette; her grandchildren: Jennifer, Tim, Jim, Amy, Kristi, Sarah, Jason, Mark, Meghan, Ashley, and Lindsey; and 11 great-grandchildren.

JOHNSON, PATRICIA "PAT" ANN, 88, born Jan. 20, 1932 in Monon, IN, died April 14, 2020 while visiting her son and daughter-in-law in Lake Park, GA. Pat was born at home to Orville and Elizabeth Victoria Blankenship, the fourth child of seven siblings. The family eventually moved to Pimento, IN, where Pat attended school, graduating from Pimento High School in 1950. Pat stayed in touch with her high school friends throughout her life. She was one of the three remaining of her classmates when she attended her high school reunion in 2018 with her brothers and her daughters. Following graduation, Pat took business courses and worked as a secretary and bookkeeper for Downy Hatchery. She married William Earl Johnson on March 20, 1954 in Terre Haute, IN. Pat was a charter and active member of the Terre Haute Church. She and Earl participated in the actual building of the church.

She achieved the status of Master Guide as a Pathfinder leader. In 1966, the Johnson family relocated to Collegedale, TN, as Earl had accepted a position with McKee Baking Co., the manufacturer of Little Debbie Cakes. Although physically relocated, Pat's heart always held a special place for the Hoosier State and her extended family and friends in Terre Haute, IN. For many years, Pat, Earl and children traveled to Indiana for Thanksgiving and summer visits. Pat greatly enjoyed those visits, spending time with her sisters and brothers, visiting antique stores, shopping, picking berries, and reminiscing. Pat was employed at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN, eventually becoming the executive director of housekeeping for Thatcher Hall until her retirement.

Hundreds of the college students throughout the years worked for "Mrs. Johnson" at Thatcher Hall. When the City of Collegedale incorporated in 1968, Pat also worked part-time as the first employee hired by Chief Bud Platt, of the newly formed Collegedale Police Department. She was issued a police dept. uniform and had her own "police patrol" badge. She was a familiar figure for several years, carrying her stop sign, as the crossing guard in front of Spalding Elementary school, rain or shine.



In 1979, Earl completed the building of their new home on eight acres in rural Apison, where they resided the rest of their lives. Pat enjoyed the mountainous terrain, wildflowers, wildlife, growing flowers, and decorating their home. She looked forward to family visits and lunching with her longtime lady friends. She was a member of “Seasons of Change” after Earl passed away in 2017.

Pat will always be remembered for her thoughtfulness, never forgetting a family birthday. She sent cards to her siblings, children, grandchildren, cousins, nieces, nephews, and close friends—usually with a letter, handwritten note, and a few dollars. There are many people who will miss receiving a card in the mail from Pat Johnson on their birthday and Christmas.

She will be sorely missed but not forgotten by her brothers, Norval (Sonny) Blankenship and Arthur Blankenship; sister, Carole Elwell; sons, Dr. Lester (Cindy) Johnson, William “Bill” (Danielle) Johnson III; daughters, Donna “Dee” (Jerry) Shelton and Beth (Ryan) Glick; seven grandchildren: Sean Shelton, Leslie Broschay, Daniel and Cameron Johnson, Austin and Sydni Glick, and Patti Dacosta; four great grandchildren; two great, great grandchildren; a number of nieces and nephews; and her little black dog, Lucy. Pat was lovingly cared for by her children and their spouses the last two years of her life. She was predeceased in death by her parents; husband of 63 years, William Earl Johnson; brother, Norman Blankenship; sisters, Dolores Bandom and Barbara Lawrence; and grandson, Loren Johnson. Thanks also go to caregivers, Kadian Houde and Pruitt Health Hospice. A private graveside service and interment was held at Collegedale Memorial Park with Pastors Fred Fuller and Cherie Smith officiating.



RICE JR., LAWRENCE J., 95, born Jan. 20, 1925 in Charlotte, MI, died Oct. 16, 2020 at Erlanger East, Chattanooga, TN. He was a printer for the College Press in Collegedale, TN. He is survived by his daughters: Diane (Daryl) Crane and Cheryl Peasley; brother, Lavern (Linda); sister-in-law, Lana Rice; 11 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Lawrence J. Sr., and Martha (Avery) Rice; his wife of 58 years, Delores (Satterlee) Rice; brother, Nevin Rice; and sister, Lenna Mae MacIvor.

VINCENT, RONNIE “RON” MARSHALL, 76, born Sept. 26, 1944 in Roanoke Rapids, NC, died March 6, 2021. He was the son of Bennie and Stella (Barnes) Vincent. He was a member of the Douglasville Church. Ron was baptized in 1958 into the Roanoke Rapids, NC, Church. He graduated from Roanoke Rapids High School in 1962, after which he spent a year working in a women’s pajama factory. In the fall of 1963, he attended then Southern Missionary College (SMC). In 1965 he met Cecilia, and they dated for two years before marrying on June 4, 1967. He graduated the following year in 1968, with a major in physical education and a minor in history and religion.

Lovingly known by his students as “Mr. V,” Ron was a great teacher with a big impact on students’ lives. His career as a P.E. teacher spanned 28 years and included schools in Nashville, TN; Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, MD; schools in Rocky Mount, NC; Cedarvale Junior Academy in Raytown, MO; Atlanta Adventist Academy in Duluth, GA; and the Douglasville Church School in Douglasville, GA. He retired from teaching in the summer of 1996 and started a pressure washing and painting business.

In his spare time, he loved fishing, especially in the Rome, GA, area, where he loved to fish for crappie and striped bass. Ron was also an avid golfer, and you would often find him hitting the greens. Ron was a wonderful and godly husband, father, and grandfather. He never met a stranger and would talk to any and every one he met.

With a zest for living and known for being a jokester, he was funny and loved to make people laugh. You could recognize him by the white nautical hat he always wore. In January 2006, Ron’s kidneys failed, and he was on dialysis for 10 months. In November of that year, Cecilia donated a kidney to him at the University of Alabama. Then in November of 2020, he was diagnosed with congestive heart failure.

Those left to cherish his life are his beloved wife of 53 years, Cecilia Jean Vincent; daughter, Julie (Mac) Vincent Moore; sons: Marshall Todd (Kelli) Vincent, and Travis Shane Vincent; two brothers: Bennie Ray Vincent and Shelby Gene Vaughan; four grandchildren: Gabrielle Elizabeth, Marshall Colt, Jordyn June, and Mavric Marshall; as well as other family members; and many friends. He was preceded in death by his parents; and seven siblings. A memorial service was held March 13, 2021 at the Douglasville Church with Pastor Hal Peggau officiating.



ADCOCK, NANCY SUE, 80, born Aug. 11, 1940 in Linden, TN, died June 30, 2021 in Goodlettsville, TN. She worked for about 20 years in house-keeping at Madison Hospital. She and her husband maintained a large vegetable garden for many years, and generously shared their produce with others. Through the years they also opened their home to care for children in a loving environment. She was a faithful member of the Ridge-top, TN, Church. Survivors include her husband of 55 years, William Adcock; two children: David Adcock and Linda Webb; three grandchildren: Anthony Adcock, Abriel Webb, and Jessica Williams; two great-grandchildren: Carson Lee and Connor Moore; four siblings: Cora Pevahouse, Mary Burks, Lorene England, and Christine Dunn; many nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents: Robert and Alice Pevahouse; two brothers: Kyle Pevahouse and Clyde Pevahouse; one sister, Betty Pevahouse; and one grandson, Cody Adcock.

COOLIDGE, CAROLYN M., 77, born May 24, 1942, in Takoma Park, MD, died Feb. 28, 2020, in a local health-care facility. She was the third child of the late Harvey C. and Lona Williams. She graduated from Little Creek Academy, attended Madison College, and graduated as a registered nurse from the Hinsdale Hospital School of Nursing in Illinois. She served in hospitals in Michigan, Virginia, and North Carolina. She is survived by her loving husband of 54 years, Herbert Coolidge; daughter, Cynthia (John) Jones; son, William Coolidge; sisters, Ellen Spencer, Flo (Fred) Parkhurst; step-grandchildren, Torey Jones, Josh Jones, and Bryanna Lamphear; and two friends from nursing school, Sharon Anderson, and Mary Bruckner. She was preceded in death by her sisters: Alice Treece and Betty Allen; and brother, Richard Williams. A funeral service was held on March 3, 2020, at the Collegedale Church with Pastors Cherie Smith and Dwight Herod officiating. Burial followed at Greenelawn Memory Gardens in Greeneville, TN, on March 4, 2020.

CORWIN, GARY WILBUR, 69, born Feb. 19, 1951 in Long Island, NY, died March 14, 2020 peacefully at his home after a long, courageous fight with cancer. He was the son of Wilbur and Ann Corwin. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1969-1975, during the Vietnam War. Not only was he the "all time pitcher" for family wiffle ball games, he was also an avid fisherman, and loved spending hours in his woodshop and harvesting vegetables from his garden. He is survived by his best friend and wife, Kathy Pusins Corwin; six children: Les (Amanda) Reaver, Chris Reaver, Kelly (Joe) Wall, Jody (Scott) Henderson, Carrie Corwin, and Molly (Josh) Hatcher; seven siblings: Joan, Cheryl, Cathy, Laurie, Dale, Beverly, and Timothy; 15 grandchildren whom he nicknamed: Kattera, Colleen, J.J. (Emilee), Stoney, Maddisoonie, Matt Matt, Iner, Little Man, Babby, Boonakin, Billy, Red, CL, Reno, Cody; five great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews. A celebration of life service was held on March 19, 2020, and burial with full military honors followed at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

CULPEPPER, JUDITH ANN CLARK, 83, born March 27, 1938 in Alton, IL, died July 15, 2021 in White House, TN. When she was two years old, her parents moved to Worthington, OH, and later to Hinsdale, IL, and Crossville, TN, before settling in Collegedale, TN, where Judy graduated from high school in 1956. Judy married the love of her life, James Clarke Culpepper on June 19, 1960, at the home of her parents in Collegedale. After Jim graduated from Southern Missionary College in 1962, she moved with him to Denver, CO, and they began their life work together. The couple retired to the big city of White House, TN, where Judy lived until her death. She loved Jesus with all her heart and is now asleep in Him awaiting His return. Judy is survived by her husband, Jim; her daughter, Lori Beth Ballew (Tom); and their two daughters: Adrienne, and Chrystal; as well as great-grandchildren: Collin and Elly; her son, James Gregory Culpepper; and their two daugh-

ters: Bailey and Taylor. Her older brother, William Mackel, preceded her in death.

EVANS SR., FREDERICK KREIDER, 84, born May 21, 1935 in Hershey, PA, died April 28, 2020. He graduated from Hershey High School, received a Bachelor of Science degree in aeronautical engineering from Penn State University and a Master in Science degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Michigan. Frederick was a career civil servant for the CIA. He joined the CIA in 1964 as a charter member of the Special Projects Staff. He worked on the Corona Program, one of the first spy satellites, which later became an exhibit at the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. Though he was extremely proud of his distinguished CIA career, he was most proud of his family and the lifelong friendships he enjoyed. He loved to travel and explore new places, spent as much time as possible at his beloved beach house in Ocean City, MD, was an avid golfer and skied every winter until he no longer could. Frederick was a man of unmatched character and loyalty. His family is heartbroken by his loss but comforted knowing he is at peace. He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Helen Evans, and sister, Margaret Hurley. He is survived by his wife of almost 50 years, Dell O. Evans; three children: Frederick (Lee) Evans Jr., Stephanie (John Dever Jr.) Evans, and Wilguens Joachin; three grandchildren: Ethan Evans, Madeleine Evans, and Brooklyn Dever; two siblings: Patricia (Gerald) Tomlin and Elizabeth (William) Hennings; and brother-in-law, David Hurley. A private graveside services was held at Hamilton Memorial Gardens.

GREATHOUSE, TIFFANY MARIE HARDER, 33, born May 26, 1987, died Oct. 12, 2020. She was a lifelong resident of the Chattanooga/North Georgia area and a member of the Collegedale Church. Tiffany enjoyed reading, cross-stitch, and puzzles. She treasured time with her family. She is survived by her loving hus-

band of six years, Billy Greathouse; son, Kyle Greathouse; parents: Lee and India Harder; mother-in-law, Lula Greathouse; grandparents: Herman and Odessa Owen of Chattanooga, TN, and Lyndon and Linda Harder of Greenwood, SC; aunts: Crystal (Jeff) Knittel of McDonald, TN, and Vanessa (Steve) Owen Holley of Cohutta, GA; uncles: Jeffrey Owen of Chattanooga, TN, Laurel Mead of Augusta, SC, Lloyd Harder of Brazil, and Lyndon Harder of Anchorage, AK; and cousins: Andrew Knittel, Rachel Carithers, Rex Goeckeritz, Karen Fischer, Julia Harder, and Alex Harder. Funeral services were held Oct. 15, 2020 at Heritage Funeral Home & Crematory in Ft. Oglethorpe, GA, with Pastor E.W. Dempsey and Elder Jimmy Akins officiating. Interment was in the Standifer Gap Church Cemetery.

GRIFFIN, ROBERT (ROBBIE) ANDREW, 70, born July 21, 1943 in Jefferson, IN, died June 2, 2021 in Nashville, TN. He retired from Dupont in 2004 after 39 years of service. He was baptized and joined the Ridge-top, TN, Church in 2015. He loved the Lord, his family, and his church. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Elinor Davis Griffin; two sons: Robert Andrew Griffin II and James C. Griffin; three stepchildren: Deborah Felts, Jimmy Felts Jr., and Troy Felts; two brothers: Charles Griffin and David Griffin; seven grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; and nephews. In addition to his parents: James and Ann Griffin; Robbie was preceded in death by his sister, Ann Griffin Burnett; and four brothers: James Edward Griffin Jr., William Joseph Griffin, Patrick Thomas Griffin, and Michael Eugene Griffin.

HINCY, DAVID, 67, of Hickman, TN, died June 28, 2021. He is survived by his wife Peggy Hincy; their two sons: Jared and Nate Hincy; his mother, Gennelle VanSickle; and two sisters: Twila Hensel and Kim LaBelle. He was a business owner of Modern Electrical for over 35 years. Hincy loved people, loved projects, and loved his Lord.

KHAN, ZANAB, 91, born March 23, 1929 in Tapiala Punjab, Pakistan, died May 17, 2020 at the William Childs Hospice House. She was a member of the Collegedale Church. She moved to Brevard County in 2018 from Chattanooga, TN. Zanab graduated from Nuzvid School of Nursing in Andhra Pradesh, India. She was a nurse for more than 40 years in India, Pakistan, and New York City. She is survived by her two sons: Wesley C. Khan and Philip Y. Khan; daughter, Gloria Khan Raizada; seven grandchildren: Natasha (Raizada) Agarwal, Yasmin Khan, Deepak Raizada, Neelam Khan, Samuel Khan, Emma Khan, Chloe Khan; two great-grandchildren: Jiya Agarwal and Ayva Agarwal; and two daughters-in-law: Agnis Khan and Monya Khan. Burial was in Montecito Memorial Park, Colton, CA.

LEET, BONITA "BUNNY" WILLIAMS, 74, of Floyds Knobs, IN, born April 19, 1947 in Louisville, KY, to the late William Eugene Williams and Virginia Rose Sinkhorn Adams, died July 16, 2021. She was a member of First Church and was an employee at First Urology. Those who knew Bunny over the years know she was passionate about many things in life, including Nascar and several charitable organizations associated with the sport, as she had a heart for those less fortunate. In years past, she also volunteered at a rape crisis center, helping women through one of the most difficult adversities and violations a person can experience. Bunny is survived by her husband, Jesse Leet; a son, Bryant Vest; a brother, Kelly Bryant Williams; three stepdaughters: Jessica Renee Batla, Lori Ann, Tonn and Kimmy Rose Diehl; two grandchildren: Stella Tonn and Nathan Tonn; several nieces; and nephews. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by a brother, Gary Gene Williams.

LILES JR., AUBREY HAMILTON "BUBBA", 91, born April 29, 1929 in Birmingham, AL, died May 10, 2020. He was the son of Aubrey and Mary

Liles. He graduated from Broadview Academy in Chicago, IL, in 1948, where he learned to ice skate and enjoyed playing in the saxophone quartet. He then obtained a degree in accounting at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1952. It was there he met the love of his life, Barbara June Carden, and they were married on Aug. 14, 1949. After serving in the U.S. Army, they moved to Atlanta, GA, in 1954, where they raised three children, Sandy, Joni, and Aubrey, III (Chip). Aubrey established Medical and Dental Management in Atlanta, where he serviced the accounting needs of physicians and dentists in the southeast for more than 50 years. He was very active in the Beverly Road Church as an elder, treasurer, and a member of the choir, and assisted with the transition to the Atlanta North Church, where he continued to be involved until they relocated to Chattanooga in 2010 to be closer to family. Aubrey's "hobbies" revolved around his family and friends. He loved getting his children and their friends out on the lake for skiing and tubing. There were regular trips to Panama City Beach, FL, for playing in the surf and meals at Captain Anderson's. Anyone who knew Aubrey knew he was a car guy from day one, starting with his 1940 Dodge affectionately known as "Ginny Pooh," followed by many others. He was a dapper dresser who loved dogs and babies, didn't know a stranger, and brought life to any gathering. He is survived by his loving wife of 70 years, Barbara; his three children: Sandy (Shane Tisdale), Joni (Bob) Hamilton, and Chip (Laurie); sister, Jane Liles King; six grandchildren: Georgia (Sean) Tunstill, Jacque (Heath) Bennett, Ashley (James) Fedusenko, Jordan Evans, Haley Hamilton, and Dillon Hamilton; five great-grandchildren; beloved nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents: Aubrey and Mary Liles; and his sister, Ann Liles Hoyt.

LILES, BARBARA JUNE CARDEN, 90, born July 8, 1930 in Knoxville,

TN, died Nov. 12, 2020. She was the daughter of Harley and Gladys Carden. After completing Inskip Elementary School, Barbara graduated in 1948 from Central High School, where she was one of the piano accompanists for the school choir. She then attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN, where she met the love of her life, Aubrey H. Liles Jr. They literally made beautiful music together, as she frequently accompanied his saxophone solos on the piano. They were married in 1949, at which time Barbara left school to work at the Tennessee Valley Authority to put Aubrey through college for an accounting degree. Aubrey was drafted to the U.S. Army in 1952 and had active duty in Camp Pickett, VA, and Fort Sam in Houston, TX. Their stint in the Army was completed in 1955, so they moved to Atlanta, GA, where Aubrey started his accounting firm. Barbara stayed very busy as a stay-at-home mom to their three children, but also helped Aubrey in his office, especially during tax season. She was very active in the Beverly Road Church as a pianist, organist, and also sang in the women's trio. She was an excellent cook and hostess, a true southern lady who also knew how to chop the head off a snake that got too close for comfort. She will be missed greatly by her children: Sandy (Shane) Tisdale, Joni (Bob) Hamilton, and Chip (Laurie) Liles; six grandchildren: Georgia Liles Tunstill, Jacques Liles Bennett, Ashley Evans Fedusenko, Haley Hamilton, Jordan Evans, and Dillon Hamilton; five great-grandchildren; Dean Tunstill, Ruth Bennett, Lewis Tunstill, Augusta Fedusenko, and Aubrey Bennett; sister-in-law, Jane Liles King; brother-in-law, Deryl Hoyt; nieces; and nephews. She was predeceased by her parents: Harley and Gladys Carden, her sister, Mary Ellen Carden Byrd, and her devoted husband, Aubrey. A private service was held for the family on Nov. 19, 2020.

MANSFIELD, DAVID G., 85, born April 27, 1934 in Stoke-on-Trent, England, died March 28, 2020 peacefully at Life Care Center of East Ridge, TN. He was a high school music teacher for 30 years until emigrating with his wife and two sons to the United States in January 1983. In the summer of 1983, he bought East Ridge Bicycles, where he worked up until his retirement at 75. After his retirement, his sons Wayne and Garth took over the business. He was an organist at the Chattanooga First Church until the age of 80, when his Parkinson's disease prevented him from continuing this much-loved service for the Lord. He is survived by his wife, Susan; two sons: Wayne (Cheryl) Mansfield and Garth (Janna) Mansfield; three granddaughters; and five great-grandchildren. A small family service was held April 3, 2020 at the Collegedale Memorial Park with Pastor Jerry Arnold officiating.

MOORE, GWENDOLYN PAGE, 86, of Frankfort, KY, died Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at Harborview Dover Nursing Home in Georgetown, KY. Gwendolyn was secretary for Moore's Frankfort Chemical and a member of the Shelbyville, KY, Church. She was the daughter of Clarence and Virginia Foster Page. Survivors include her two daughters: Kelta Muntz and Mary Evelyn Goins, both of Frankfort, KY; two sons: Kevin Moore of Frankfort, and Michael Moore of New Smyrna Beach, FL; seven grandchildren; and 10 great grandchildren. Gwendolyn was preceded in death by her husband, Melvin C. Moore; and daughter, Betty Baxter.

O'QUINN, DAVID EUGENE, 72, born May 10, 1948, died May 29, 2020 at his residence. He was a lifelong resident of Appling County; a retired truck driver of 20 years with Trucks Inc. of Jackson, GA, and a member of the Waycross Church. He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Debbie O'Quinn of Surrency, GA; five children: Randy (Lisa) O'Quinn of Surrency, Melisa (Kyle) Hannigan of Cocoa Beach, FL, David Troy O'Quinn of Baxley, GA, Brandon

Johnson of Baxley, GA, and Charli O'Quinn and Max Sanders of Surrency; six grandchildren: Reese O'Quinn, Ashton O'Quinn, Preston O'Quinn, Kaylyn Scarborough, Harmony Johnson, and Marleigh Sanders; two sisters: Sandra (Henry) Padgett of Baxley, GA, and Tammy (Bob) Overstreet of Collegedale, TN; two brothers: Charles (Shelia) O'Quinn of Surrency, and Ronnie (Renee) O'Quinn of Odum, GA; nieces; nephews; and other family. He was preceded in death by his parents: Herbert Eugene and Thelma Burke O'Quinn; and one brother, Teddy O'Quinn. A private family memorial service was held at the Nobles Funeral Home and Crematory Chapel with Pastor Glynn Marshall officiating.

PACE, JUDY ANN, 67, died May 22, 2020 in a Chattanooga hospital. She enjoyed collecting Barbie dolls and spending time with her grandchildren. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. She is survived by her husband of almost 47 years, Bob Pace; son, Chad (Anna) Pace of Apison, TN; daughter, Jessica (Matthew) Brunson of Boston, MA; sister, Sue McCleary of Dayton, OH; and four grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, Mack and Ruth McClain McCleary.

PACE, BOB, 66, died June 15, 2020 at a Chattanooga hospital. He was a lifelong resident of the area who enjoyed collecting Corvette memorabilia and spending time with his grandchildren. He also enjoyed working on cars. He is survived by his son, Chad (Anna) Pace of Apison, TN; daughter, Jessica (Matthew) Brunson of Boston, MA; sister, Barbara Pace Smith; and six grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of almost 47 years, Judy Ann Pace; and parents: Frank and Martha Alyne Miller Pace.

PLATT, NAOMI VIRGINIA WALKER, 101, born July 13, 1918, died Feb. 20, 2020. She was the daughter of James and Jennie Walker. Naomi married William "Bill" Platt in 1939 and between 1942 and 1947, the cou-

ple welcomed three children. She worked at Hamilton Memorial Hospital in Dalton, GA, for more than 20 years. She was a member of the Collegedale Church. Naomi is survived by her children: Bud (Barbara) Platt, Nonie (James) Nichols, and Ginger (Bob) Foxx; seven grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and her sister, Wanda Harvey. She was preceded in death by her husband, William Platt; granddaughter, Melody Foxx; parents; and six siblings. A memorial service was held Feb. 25, 2020 at the Collegedale, TN, Church..

RIGSBY, BURTON LLOYD, 92, born Oct. 3, 1927, died June 17, 2020 at his residence. After serving in the Merchant Marines and stationed in both Atlantic and Pacific oceans during World War II, Burton worked as an electrician in the Chattanooga, TN, area. Burton loved his grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. He spent many hours pushing swings and teaching life's lessons over a checkerboard. Never one to shy away from a piece of chocolate or a game of solitaire, he knew how to enjoy a good joke and valued time spent with his family. Burton will be lovingly remembered by his wife of 66 years, Ruth (Pruitt); children: Christopher Rigsby, Michael (Rhonda) Rigsby, Cheryl (Barry) Pohle, Melinda (Robert) Helton, and Cary (Avery) Rigsby; grandchildren: Jennifer (John) Cantrell, Jessica (Matt) Spears, Daniel Rigsby, William (Vickie) Duchene, Nathan Irwin, Nick (Giselle) Helton, Ashley (Evan) Montgomery, Bess Helton, and Makynna (Jered) Luke. Burton was preceded in death by his parents: Lloyd Ray Rigsby and Fannie Mae (Kester) Rigsby; daughter-in-law, Terry (Houston) Rigsby; and granddaughter, Emily Ruth Helton. A private funeral service was held on June 23, 2020 at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

SHUPE ORVILLE LEE, 81, born Aug. 7, 1938 in Brookfield, MO, died March 27, 2020. Orville was the son of the late Norton and Mary Shupe. He was a resident of the Chattanooga/north

Georgia community for more than 40 years, working in the insurance profession. Orville was an active member of Chattanooga First Church, where he led the choir for many years. He enjoyed sharing time with his family, sailing, traveling, camping, and taking walks along the beach. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Carol Shupe; sons: Dan (Julie) Shupe of Ooltewah, TN, and Shane Shupe of Chattanooga, TN; daughter, Dawn (Allan) Valenzuela of Chattanooga, TN; step-sons, Chris (Jordan) Cramer of Collegedale, and Jeffrey (Rachael) Cramer of Harrison, TN; step-daughter, Lori (Steve) Akins of Ringgold, GA; 22 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his brother, Jerome Shupe; and sister, Juanita Goldman. A private graveside service was held at the Collegedale Memorial Park with Pastor Dwight Herod officiating. A celebration of life service was held at a later date.

SPRUILL, ARLEEN M., 101, born April 20, 1919 in Mankato, MN, died April 28, 2020 in a local healthcare facility. She was the daughter of the late Clarence and Elsie Camp. Arleen was a member of the Collegedale Church. Survivors include her sons: John A. (Janice) Spruill of Apison, TN, Steven G. (Nancy L.) Spruill of Arlington, VA, and Timothy E. (Karen) Spruill of Orlando, FL; grandchildren: Jennifer L. Johnson, Janae R. Pellington, Zechariah N. Spruill, and Lauren E. Li; and great-grandchildren: Sidney G. Pellington, Brooklyn R. Pellington, Rylie S. Johnson, Isaiah J. Spruill, and Sebastian Spruill. She was preceded in death by her husband, John C. Spruill. A memorial service was held with interment at Bedford Township Cemetery in Michigan.

THORN, JULIE ANN, 68, born July 18, 1951 in Jackson, MI, died May 31, 2020. Julie enjoyed crocheting, and one of her greatest joys was spoiling her grandchildren and animals. Survivors include her husband of 48 years, Gary Thorn; children: Brian (Christina) Thorn, Melissa McColl, Darrin (Rachel) Thorn, and Car-

ly (John) Kerkhoff; father, Robert Twomley; sister, Peggy Jo Frank; grandchildren: Isabella, Faith, Kristofer, Ethan, Carolyn, Savannah, and Emilia. She was preceded in death by her mother, Carolyn Twomley. Funeral services were held June 4, 2020, at the North Chapel of Chattanooga Funeral Home with Pastor Tabor Nudd officiating. Interment followed in Hamilton Memorial Gardens.

VanBEUKERING, JAMES ANTHONY "TONY," 50, born Sept. 30, 1969 in Kalamazoo, MI, died March 6, 2020. He was the son of Jim and Vicki VanBeukering. Tony graduated from Collegedale Academy, and graduated as a registered nurse from Southern Adventist University. He previously worked at Memorial Hospital, Tenova Healthcare, and Erlanger Medical Center. Nursing was his beloved profession. Tony is survived by his children: Elizabeth VanBeukering of Harrison, TN, and Christopher VanBeukering of Oxford, OH; brother, Michael (Jodie) VanBeukering of Huntsville, AL; parents: Jim and Vicki VanBeukering of Harrison, TN; niece, Jessie (Christopher) Strothman of Huntsville; and nephew, Jacob VanBeukering of Huntsville. A celebration of life service was held March 22, 2020, in the Gospel Chapel at the Collegedale, TN, Church, with pastor Jim Moon officiating.

VOLLBERG, DR. CARLTON RONALD, 79, born April 3, 1941 in Pittsburgh, PA, died Nov. 24, 2020. Since retiring to Collegedale, TN, in 2016, he had been a member of the Collegedale Church. Dr. Vollberg practiced family medicine for 30 years in Port Charlotte, FL, and attended the Port Charlotte Church. Survivors include his wife, Antonia M. (Giarrusso) Vollberg; son, Dr. Carlton M. Vollberg; daughter, Lisa L. (Vollberg) Klein; and five grandchildren. He will be remembered for his invaluable service in the medical community and for being a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

WERNICK, MARY S., 100, born Feb. 3, 1920, died June 2, 2020.

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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Technician - Plant Services, and Carpentry Technician - Plant Services. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs [9]

ATTENTION - The King's Heralds are accepting audition cds/dvds for a 2nd Tenor position. Please submit to: *The King's Heralds, P.O. Box 654, Portland, TN 37148. www.khqofficial.org* [9]

MARKETING DIRECTOR sought at It Is Written in Collegedale, Tennessee. Successful applicant will be energized by evangelism, enjoy working in a dynamic environment, and will effectively connect the ministry and resources of It Is Written with those seeking to know Jesus and His word. This soul-winning role will grow God's kingdom and reach hearts with the gospel. Qualified individuals are invited to apply at iiw.us/marketing [9]

CREATIVE DIRECTOR needed at It Is Written in Collegedale, TN. Successful applicant will be responsible for the visual representation of It Is Written and its resources. Will demonstrate excellence in a wide variety of design fields. Qualified individuals are invited to apply at iiw.us/creative [9]

DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR sought at It Is Written. Successful applicant will lead dynamic ministry advancement team. Will direct fundraising to enable soul winning, will understand and support evangelism, and will coordinate ministry representation at events. Qualified individuals are invited to apply at iiw.us/development [9]

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 on online at <https://1844casketsforadventists.com> [9]

NEW BOOK! Ever wondered what day God wants us to worship on or if He really cares? *The Lost Thread of God's Love* by Phyllis Gruesbeck, traces

Sabbath's history from creation to the new earth. Great for ministry and new members. Available at <https://1ref.us/9456891> or through your ABC. [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 [9-12]

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.infbooks.com for used books and your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com for new book releases. [9-4]

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 [9-5]

CAREFULLY CONSIDER EVERY MOVE - "Let everyone take time to consider carefully; and not be like the man in the parable who began to build, and was not able to finish. Not a move should be made but that movement and all that it portends are carefully considered -- everything weighed... To every man was given his work according to his several ability. Then let him not move hesitatingly, but firmly, and yet humbly trusting in God." Selected Messages Book 2, Page 362. Advent Construction Services (ACS) is here to help you carefully consider your options as you transition out of the cities 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, website: <https://adventconstruction2.wixsite.com/website> [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 digtheadventure.com or contact Stefanie at selkins@andrews.edu [9, 10]

2022 GREAT CONTROVERSY PROPHECY TOURS, March 18-31 or June 17-30 with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt retired professor of Andrews University. See prophecies of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Reformation sites in Italy, the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, France. A most exciting experience! Call 269-815-8624, or email gctours@mac.com [9]

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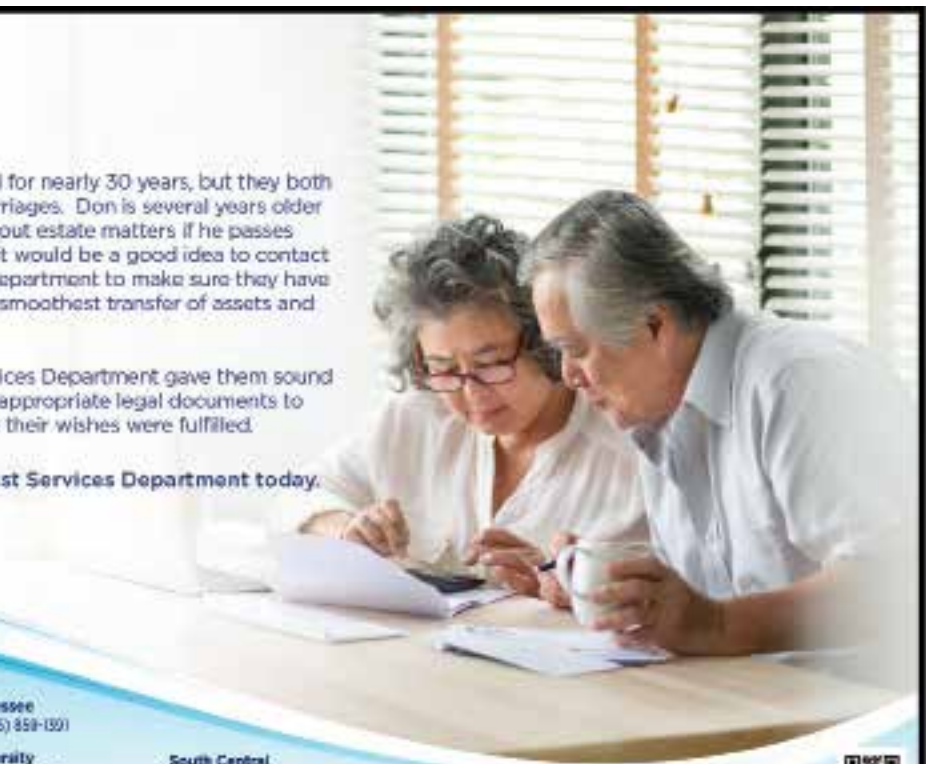
CELEBRATE NATIONAL BREAKFAST MONTH!

Peace of Mind

Don and Betty have been married for nearly 30 years, but they both have children from previous marriages. Don is several years older than Betty, and she is concerned about estate matters if he passes before her. They both decided that it would be a good idea to contact their conference's estate planning department to make sure they have an estate plan that provides for the smoothest transfer of assets and avoids any conflicts.

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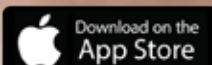
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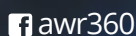
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CAROLINA

- Virtual Prayer Meeting** - Sept. 10. 7 p.m.
- Fullness of Joy Virtual Women's Seminar** - Sept. 11. 3 p.m.
- Men's Retreat** - Sept. 24-26. NPR.
- MPA Alumni** - Sept. 24, 25.
- Fullness of Joy Women's Retreat** - Oct. 1-3. NPR/Virtual.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

- Adventurer Ministries Convention** - Sept. 10, 11. Adventurer Ministries Convention is our yearly Adventurer staff training event. All Adventurer 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. Cleveland, GA, Church. Please check our website for the latest information: www.gccsda.com

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Art Gallery Opening Featuring Elena Burykina - Sept. 30. The public is invited to the opening of a fine art show, titled "The Joy of Life," at 6 p.m. in the John C. Williams Art Gallery.

The showcase will feature the creativity of Elena Burykina, a local artist who specializes in portraiture. The gallery is located on the second floor of Brock Hall on Southern's campus, and will be featuring Burykina's work through January 10, 2022.

- Symphony Orchestra Concert** - Oct. 3. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 6 p.m. at the Collegedale Commons. To learn about more School of Music events, visit southern.edu/musicevents.
- Wind Symphony Concert** - Oct. 10. Southern's Wind Symphony, with Ken Parsons conducting, will present an evening of music at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SOUTHERN UNION WOMEN'S MINISTRIES EMERGING WOMEN LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE** - Sept. 15. Applications at www.southernunion.com/wmscholarship.
- LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN SDA CHURCH HOMECOMING** - Sept. 18. Home church of the late Desmond T. Doss. Song service, 9:15 a.m.; Sabbath School, 9:30 a.m.; and Worship Service, 11 a.m. A delicious fellowship dinner (bring your favorite dish) and music program at 2 p.m. 5501 Highway 157, Rising Fawn, GA 30738, on top of Lookout Mountain. Visit LMSDA.org or call 706-398-7030 for details.

Visit the website for details and updates: unionspringacademy.org.

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.

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

MADISON ACADEMY'S ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 8, 9. Join us to celebrate the music groups, Acro and athletic teams, and campus clubs through the years. Visit our website at madisonacademy.org for details.

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Nov. 5-7. FA Campus. Celebrating 111 years! Join us as we honor the class years ending in 6's and 1's. The Class of 1971 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to those connected to our School of Nursing. More details at: fletcheracademy.org

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

SUNSET

	SEP 3	SEP 10	SEP 17	SEP 24	OCT 1	OCT 8
ATLANTA, GA	7:59	7:50	7:40	7:30	7:20	7:11
CHARLESTON, SC	7:41	7:31	7:22	7:12	7:03	6:54
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:46	7:36	7:26	7:16	7:06	6:56
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:03	7:53	7:43	7:33	7:23	7:13
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:09	6:59	6:49	6:39	6:29	6:19
JACKSON, MS	7:21	7:12	7:03	6:53	6:44	6:35
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:08	7:57	7:46	7:35	7:24	7:14
MEMPHIS, TN	7:23	7:13	7:03	6:53	6:43	6:33
MIAMI, FL	7:37	7:29	7:21	7:14	7:06	6:59
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:06	6:56	6:47	6:38	6:28	6:20
NASHVILLE, TN	7:10	7:00	6:50	6:39	6:29	6:19
ORLANDO, FL	7:43	7:35	7:27	7:18	7:10	7:02
TAMPA, FL	7:47	7:39	7:31	7:23	7:15	7:07
WILMINGTON, NC	7:34	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:55	6:45

A Personal Invitation from Shawn and Jean Boonstra

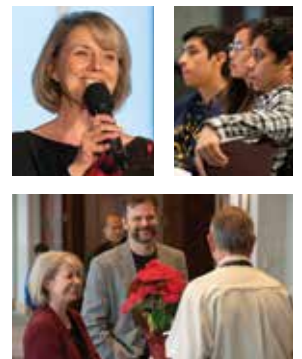


Join us on October 2* in Chattanooga or November 6* in Orlando, for Sponsorship Connections, a one-day celebration of God's faithfulness to His people and the Voice of Prophecy.

*In the event of a cancellation due to COVID-19, a virtual event will be made available.

This Fundraising Event Will Feature:

- An inspirational message by Shawn Boonstra
- A report of ministry progress
- Soul-stirring music
- A catered vegetarian meal
- A *Discovery Mountain*-themed children's program



Event Locations:

Chattanooga

Chattanooga Marriott Hotel Downtown
Two Carter Plaza
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402

Orlando

Sheraton Orlando North Hotel
600 North Lee Destiny Road
Maitland, Florida 32751

Learn more on how you can become a sustaining supporter and register for the event at vopsponsors.com | 1.800.429.5700