



T Southern  TIDINGS

OCTOBER 2021

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SHARING THE GOSPEL THROUGH

LITERATURE MINISTRIES
IN THE SOUTHERN UNION

PERCEPTION IS REALITY

A BLESSED SUMMER

HEALTH EQUITY
HIGHLIGHTED

He Lost Control



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

“The prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me,” John 14:30.

Make no mistake about it. Jesus is talking about a defeated foe. In the previous verses, Jesus had talked to the disciples about the peace and comfort the Spirit brings. The promise of the Spirit looks to the future and what God will do for His children. Satan has fallen from his position of power. The moment Jesus began His ministry, Satan had lost. He found no toehold in the character of Jesus.

You can mark the point where Satan knew his defeat. When Jesus came out of the water of baptism, the voice of God acknowledged Him as Son. The Holy Spirit descended on Him. From that time forward the Victor had taken control.

Not only do the wilderness temptations show how Jesus triumphed where humanity failed, but they also show Jesus as Victor over the devil. True, he will lie in ambush to menace Jesus. During His passion, the evil one sought His destruction. But, from the moment of His baptism, the battle was joined, and the victory has gone to Christ.

The cross led to the resurrection. Satan could not hold Jesus in the tomb. He rose victorious.

A few years ago, I was privileged to visit Australia. I learned that before the winter sun rises there, the sky may take on extraordinary beauty. Brilliant shafts of blue and pink fan from the hidden orb and fill the heavens. The display lasts a few minutes and then vanishes as the sun emerges.

From the resurrection, shafts of light fan with hope across the sky of faith. The Sun of righteousness has risen and brought life to all.

In the word pictures of the Bible, Satan rules in darkness. Those whom he controls sit in darkness. But darkness flees the rising Sun. The Word calls Jesus the Light of the world. The Gospel declares that Jesus has brought light to all nations and dispelled darkness. The devil cannot abide the Light that lightens everyone who comes into the world.

Just as darkness cannot live with light, so Satan loses control when the Light enters. His defeat is known and published through the lives we live in the power of Jesus Christ. The tyranny is broken. Jesus lives. Jesus rules.

“They knew that the destruction of sin and Satan was forever made certain, that the redemption of man was assured, and that the universe was made eternally secure,” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 764.

Because of Satan’s loss of control of this world, I am compelled as your chief servant of this Southern Union of Seventh-day Adventists to remind us of what is recorded in the book *Evangelism* on page 31: “The days in which we live are solemn and important. The Spirit of God is gradually but surely being withdrawn from the Earth. Plagues and judgments are already falling upon the despisers of the grace of God. The calamities by land and sea, the unsettled state of society, the alarms of war are portentous. They forecast approaching events of the greatest magnitude.”

Yes, Satan has lost control of the destiny of this world; but, he is throwing an end-time tantrum intended to thrust as many people as he can into eternal separation from God. Please join us in our Southern Union quest to reconnect people to the church. –RCS



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COVER ART: ADRIA WARE

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF SHARING THE GOSPEL *Through Literature Ministries in the Southern Union*

BY WILLIAM SMITH AND KEITH REID

Before the South heard the first Adventist preacher, silent preachers arrived, convicting hearts and converting souls. And, these silent Gospel books and tracts have been preaching in the Southern Union territory for more than 150 years. Join us now as we look at the procession of printed preachers and people who have carried the Gospel.

Imagine being an Adventist who lives up North, who sees an ad in the *Advent Review* that said, “Packages of Tracts,” *Advent Review and Sabbath Herald*, January 14, 1868, p. 79. You respond by ordering the tracts and sending them to a rural village in the post-war South called Edgefield Junction, Tennessee.

We don’t know who sent the tracts to Edgefield Junction, but we do know the powerful effect they had on that community. When Elbert Lane, the first Adventist minister to preach in the South came to preach an evangelistic meeting, he reported, “After a few days’ preparation, I came to this place, Edgefield Junction, near Nashville, Tennessee. Here are a few keeping the Sabbath who desire baptism. They embraced the truth from reading publications, having never heard a discourse from one of our ministers,”

The Advent Review and Herald of the Sabbath, May 2, 1871.

Ellen G. White saw the power of the printed page when she wrote in 1880, “Our publications are now sowing the Gospel



In 1871, Elbert Lane, the first Seventh-day Adventist minister to preach in the South, found those who embraced the truth and desired baptism from reading truth-filled publications.

seed, and are instrumental in bringing as many souls to Christ as the preached word. Whole churches have been raised up as the result of their circulation,” *Review and Herald*, June 10, 1880.

In 1874, the General Conference Committee formally organized the General Conference Tract and Missionary Society of Seventh-day Adventists, later renamed The International Tract and Missionary Society (ITMS). It encouraged every member to be involved in the wide distribution of literature. In 1882, ITMS agents and branches were working in Bladon Springs, Alabama (C. O. Taylor), Edgefield Junction, Tennessee (C. Owens), and Knob Lick, Kentucky (J. B. Forest), per the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, 1883, p. 5.

In 1883, a report for 1882 was given covering Kentucky and Tennessee. It shows the Kentucky Conference with 84 total members, of which 43 were International Tract and Missionary Society members. They distributed 28,425 pieces of literature, along with 1,418 periodicals. The Tennessee Conference had 54 total members, of which 40 were ITMS members. They distributed 1,192 pieces of literature, along with 1,349 periodicals, per the *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook*, 1883, p. 39.

While the International Tract and Missionary Society agents were making headway giving away literature in the South, canvassers were on the move selling literature in the North, East, and West areas of the United States in the 1880s and 1890s. Canvassers, later known as colporteurs and literature evangelists, filled their briefcases with tracts, pamphlets, periodicals, and books, and went out knocking on doors, making friends, introducing their publications, taking orders, and praying for their customers. The relationships they made led to Bible studies and prepared people for meetings, baptisms, and new church plants.

In 1885, two canvassers came to the Atlanta field to sell Gospel literature, George King and Charles F. Curtis of Iowa. Curtis returned to the North full of enthusiasm, and came back to the South with his bride in 1887 to continue working for the Lord.

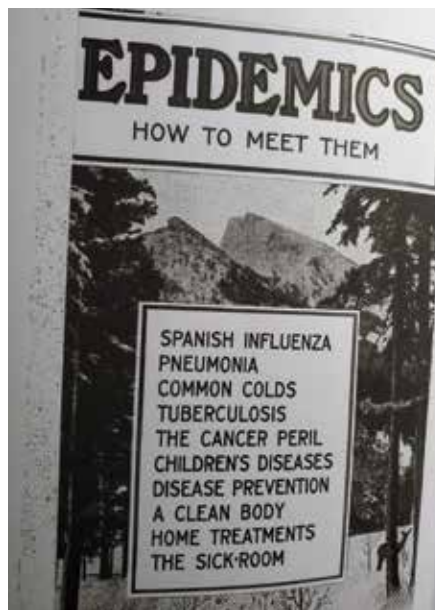
In 1888, the General Conference sent companies of canvassers to the South to see if they could be successful selling books there. The results reported at the 1889 General Conference session were so positive that they pushed canvassing forward in those areas, *General Conference Bulletin*, p. 4, 1889.

That year, canvassing state agents (similar to conference publishing directors today) were assigned to Alabama/Mississippi (Daniel Graber), Georgia (Chas Curtis), North Carolina (C. O. Wolf), and Tennessee (J. H. Dortch) to help organize the work. In 1889, A. F. Harrison was voted canvassing district agent, a position similar to today's union publishing directors. He was assigned to assist the state agents in General Conference District 2, covering the South.

As the work grew in the South, The Review and Herald Publishing House opened a branch in Atlanta, Georgia, in 1889. Before the days of rapid transportation, it was considered an economy measure to establish depositories, or branches, in strategic areas, like Atlanta, for the more convenient distribution of books.



In 1885, George King was one of the two canvassers who first came to the Atlanta, Georgia, field to sell gospel literature.



In 1895, Edson White, took the Morning Star down the Mississippi River to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and began printing and distributing literature, especially for people of color. Connected with the steamer was a company of young men who canvassed using the publication *The Gospel Primer*. Edson wrote it to convey, in a clear, simple way, the messages of the Bible; help illiterate people to read; and to help finance his mission-

ary venture. He and his canvassers canvassed cities along the river such as Ottawa, Illinois, and Memphis, Tennessee, and Friar's Point and Greenville, Mississippi, having great success. By 1908, *The Gospel Primer* was reported to be in one million homes across North America. Edson also, through an onboard printing press, published a journal called *The Gospel Herald*, which encouraged and evangelized African-Americans in the South.

Edson established the Gospel Herald Publishing Company. He moved it to Nashville. It was taken over by the Church and renamed to the Southern Publishing Association in 1901. The Atlanta branch of the Review and Herald was brought into this location to strengthen operations.

When the Southern Union was organized in 1901, there were 65 canvassers in the South. In the newly organized Southern Union Conference, canvassers began distributing publications using a cash-on-delivery (COD) business plan. Orders were taken for books like *The Coming King* and *Bible Footlights*. Deposits were made by customers, contracts were drawn up, and these were shown to the Book Store manager, who would advance books to the canvassers during the delivery time. Once the customers paid, the books were delivered and the remaining amount owed to the company would be paid.

By 1907, the canvassing work was progressing in sales throughout the Union. According to the *Report of Progress* (a bi-weekly periodical that later became the *Southern Tidings*), August 13, 1907, there were 63 canvassing agents in the Southern Union, who delivered \$3,560 worth of literature in the month of July. The books they sold included *The Coming King*, *Bible Footlights*, *Seer of Patmos*, *Daniel and Revelation*, *New Testament Primer*, *Best Stories*, *Bible Readings*, *The Gospel Primer*, and *The Great Controversy*.

God used church periodicals like *The Report of Progress* to keep the publish-

ing ministry and its accomplishments before the members.

Earnest Haskell, a canvasser, reported how his work was progressing near Springville, Tennessee, in 1907. His report gives you a feeling of how these missionaries worked, made a living, and prepared the way for future soul winning efforts. He reported, “I have canvassed on Walden’s Ridge near Spring City. On the mountain delivery, I had a very unusual experience in this respect; I had 55 orders for miscellaneous publications, and delivered 112, or 200 percent. This surpassed anything I have ever known in my canvassing experience, not in value of orders, but in the percentage of books delivered. I find the people very kind and hospitable as a rule, and there are good openings for meetings in several localities,” *Report of Progress*, p. 14, July 16, 1907.

To get a glimpse of the experience of women canvassers during this period, B. A. Philpott wrote on July 2, 1907, “Have just finished canvassing this town (Fayetteville, Tennessee), and tomorrow will go to Lewisburg, Tennessee, to canvass that place. It has seemed to me while working here that this place was fully ripe and ready to receive our books. How many places are waiting to have the truths contained in our good books brought to them? The people here have treated me very kindly, and have wished me success as I leave this place for another town,” *Report of Progress*, page 5, July 2, 1907.

In 1919, during the period when the Spanish influenza took the lives of an estimated 50 million people around the world, The Review and Herald Association decided to publish a little health book called *Epidemics: How to Meet Them*. Canvassers and members sold the book for 25 cents. Between October 3, 1919, when the first copies came from the bindery, until December 25, 1919, the total sales amounted to 210,000 copies.

In the decades that followed, Southern Union Session sales reports made it clear that God was leading, providing for, and prospering our canvassers.



In 1895, Edson White took the Morning Star Steamer down the Mississippi River to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and began printing and distributing literature, especially for people of color.

From 1902 to 1957, Southern Union canvassers worked on a cash-on-delivery business model. However, in January 1957, a new Home Health Education Service (HHES) pay-by-mail program was introduced by Eric Ristau, Southern Union publishing director, which he and Odell W. Mackey, associate director, developed.

With this program, the literature evangelist sells on credit and leaves his literature in the homes of the people immediately upon receipt of a small down payment. The balance of the account is collected by mail through the HHES office. The LE receives his commission in advance with a weekly check. The program became a success and in 1960, the Southern Union reached the \$1 million mark in sales. The HHES top selling books have been *The Bible Story Set*, *The Bible Reference Library*, and the *Health Sets*. Presently, the HHES pay-by-mail headquarters is based in Dalton, Georgia.

In 1974, the publishing directors of the regional conferences in the Union — Theodore Smith for South Atlantic Conference, and Joseph Hutchinson for South Central Conference — adopted a new ministry and business model called Family Health Education Service (FHES). FHES helped regional conference LEs to be more successful in both

sales and soulwinning through more personal contact with customers, and updated collection practices. The FHES top selling books through the years have been *Bible Readings for the Home*, *The Heritage Family Bible*, *Free At Last*, and the *Message* magazine. E. Earl Cleveland, evangelist, wrote *Free at Last*, *Ask the Prophets*, and other message books with African American pictures and stories to help literature evangelists have more favor in Black communities.

The Union constructed a new Publishing HHES building next to its new Memorial Drive office in Decatur, Georgia, in 1974. The new building included plenty of space for storage and shipping of books, meetings, and publishing offices. With new models of business, new facilities, new books, dedicated leaders, strong administrative support, and new recruits, God blessed sales and baptisms from LE contacts to soar through the decades.

Adventist Book Centers (ABCs), formerly called Book and Bible Houses from 1925, have also been key players in literature ministry for decades in the Union. They have provided members with tracts, Bible studies, and books to share with their communities. Members have also been equipped with wholesome literature for their own holistic growth.

With the online ABC feature, www.adventistbookcenter.com, and the new store setups, the following statistics show the success our Adventist Book Centers have experienced by God's grace.

Literature evangelism has thrived in the South, to a large extent due to strong student participation. Spiritual youth have used their energy and zeal for the Lord, to knock on doors and reach precious souls in public places. Thousands have signed up for Bible studies through the efforts of students. In 1996, Bill Beckworth, Southern Union publishing director, brought Larry Carter, youth publishing leader to the Southern Union leadership team. Carter was one of the founders of the new Magabook ministry model that has had much success for the past 25 years. Later, Rocky Davis was appointed as the youth publishing leader, and Magabook programs reached new levels of excellence with God's help.

Publishing ministry has encountered many challenges through the years in and outside the Church. We've had to face no-soliciting ordinances, arrests, delinquent accounts, internet violations, racism, lack of support, cuts in leadership, cuts in subsidies, violence and fear in the cities, poor leadership, and unconverted workers. However, through it all, God has kept His army of literature workers advancing.

One family from Chattanooga, Tennessee, has contributed a combined 150 years plus in literature ministry. Brothers Theodore Smith and Robert Smith Sr., along with Robert's sons, Robert Smith Jr. and Anthony Smith, have been used by God to win hundreds of souls, plant churches, and train literature evangelists around the globe. While Theodore and Robert Smith Jr. served as the Southern Union publishing associates for years, Robert Smith Sr. eventually served as the North American Division publishing director and the Review and Herald Publishing House president. Two of the churches this family publishing team helped raise up are the Decherd, Tennessee, Church, and the Mountain-



Alfredo Gonzalez, pastor, for the past 41 years has served as a literature evangelist and leader in the Florida Conference, baptizing hundreds of souls and planting churches in Florida.

side Church in Decatur, Georgia.

For the past 41 years, Alfredo Gonzalez, originally from Cuba, has served as a literature evangelist and leader in the Florida Conference. The Lord blessed him and his team to baptize hundreds of souls and to plant three churches in Miami, with help from Fernando Pauli, pastor, and Fausto Rodriguez. The three churches are Hialeah Springs Spanish Church, Miami Beach Spanish Church, and Normandy Spanish Church, often referred to as, "The LE Church." Literature evangelist Carmen Perez was also instrumental in getting the Miami Beach and Normandy churches started. The method that Gonzalez used was to have group canvasses in an area where there was no Seventh-day Adventist church. The literature evangelists and Bible workers would follow up on the interests generated from the LEs, and then the pastor would partner with them, leading to baptisms and a church plant.

For the past 150 years, God has led

out in His publishing ministry. Business models have changed, some methods have changed, many books have changed, and leadership models have changed, but God and His mission for literature evangelists and church members have never changed.

With our Southern Union Publishing BLAST Initiative voted in 2013, our emphasis is now on expanding the vision of literature evangelism to include the full spectrum of publishing. Components include total member involvement, technology, small sharing literature, big books and periodicals, free and sold literature, part time workers, full time workers, and student workers. Along with engaging Union and conference publishing leaders, the BLAST Initiative has more than 60 BLAST event coordinators who are helping to reach the masses gathered together at large events. We encourage you to join our teams and make an investment of your time, energy, and resources to make a difference where you live.

We thank God and show the warmest appreciation for all of our literature ministers! Through the efforts of these faithful workers through the years, the Southern Union has reached millions, baptized thousands of blood-bought souls, and raised up many churches for the glory of God! Who knows how many will spend eternity with Christ because you did what you could in sharing the love of Jesus.

For more information on how you can get involved, contact your conference's publishing director.

Additional content for the October cover feature will be available at www.southerntidings.com ●

William Smith is the publishing ministries director at the Southern Union Conference.

Keith Reid is the associate publishing ministries director at the Southern Union Conference, contributed to this article.

PERCEPTION IS REALITY

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

When was the last time you took inventory of the brand equity of your local church? Posed another way, what do people in your church's area of influence think about your church and its people? Do they believe you're honest? Do they think you are kind, concerned, apathetic? When it comes to brands and entities that we interact with, like restaurants, car dealerships, and services, we can usually share our thoughts and opinions on them quickly.

For example, in my opinion, Taco Bell is cheap, but so is the quality of the food. Of course, that doesn't mean I never eat at Taco Bell, but those are my expectations if I go there. What about car dealerships? I think my local Subaru dealership is really nice. They seem to have been honest with me in their service department, my interactions with each employee have been positive, and they have even given me a bag of produce from the garden they keep behind the building. If someone asks me where to get a car or have a Subaru serviced, I'd recommend them without hesitation.

What does this have to do with your church? If someone knows about your church, they probably have some type of opinion or perception about the church and what it's about, just like I have an idea about Subaru. I know that Subaru values family, safety, longevity, and animals. How do I know this? Because that's what they tell me through their promotions and advertising. What values do Seventh-day Adventists have? What are we promoting and advertising?

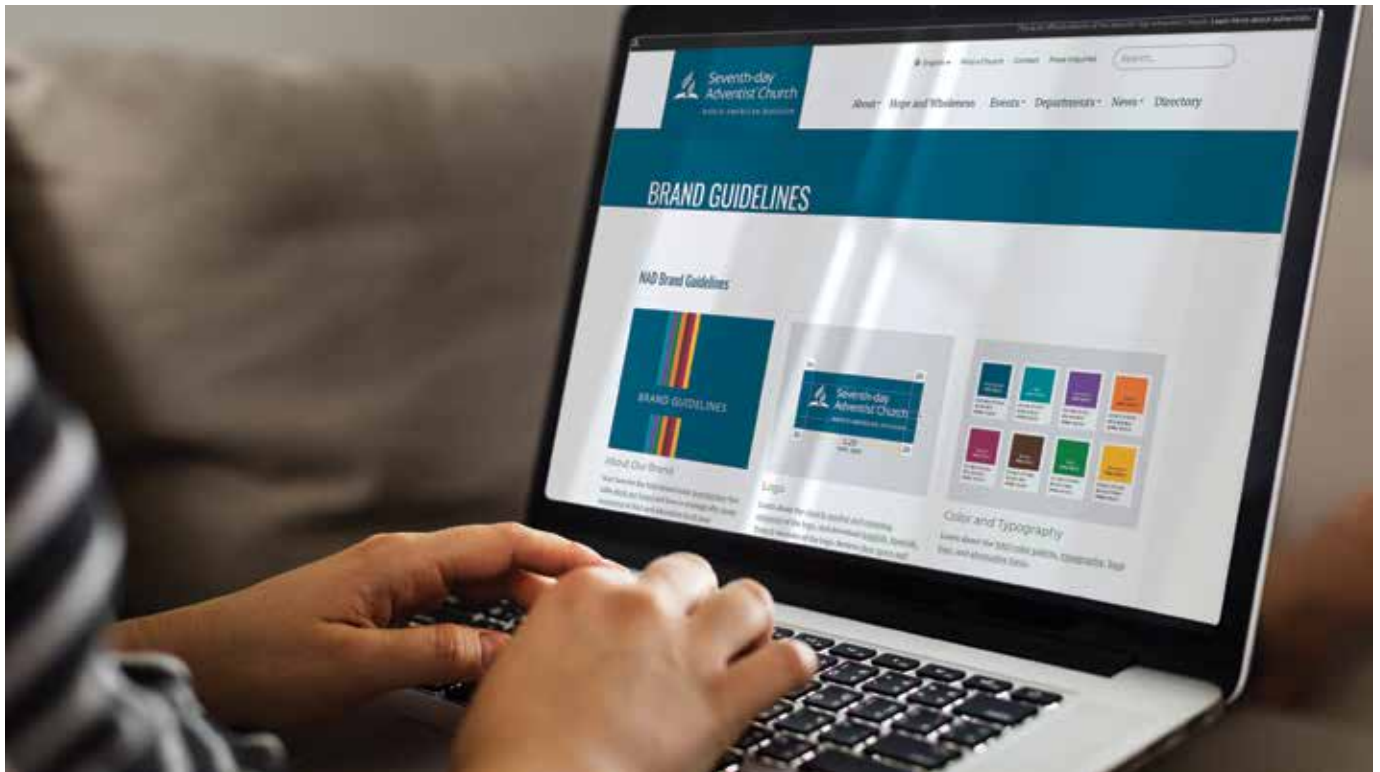
In his book, *The Viral Gospel*, Jared Thurmon says, "We're not telling our



Advertisers should be telling our own story in advertising, promoting our positive attributes.



When we present a visually united front, advertising at every level — locally, nationally, and globally — will reap greater rewards.



Utilizing a brand identity helps the potential impact of all Adventist churches.

story. Therefore, we're not in control of our story. We're just allowing people's imaginations to run wild." I think it's time we start to promote our own story rather than let others determine who we are. To what end? So we can improve the potential impact we have with other people by clarifying our intent and purpose.

In 2009, my wife and I were Bible worker coordinators in Ritzville, Washington. As we began going door to door, presenting religious community surveys in the small town, several people asked which church we represented. For many, when I told them we were working with the local Adventist church, they opened their door wider and invited us in. We learned that an Adventist doctor served the local hospital and positively impacted many people's lives in the town. But, unfortunately, when I sought him out to thank him for his ministry, I learned he had passed away almost 10 years prior. Not only did he make a positive impression, but it was a lasting one.

What others think of your Adventist church, and its people, is determined by

their interactions with you. In turn, it is also determined by their interactions with other Adventists. What should we do? How should we behave? Daily ask God for His guidance, for His will to be done, and regularly consider how the things you and your church do comes across to others.

We don't need to reinvent the wheel each time we think about our strategy to present ourselves to our community. In fact, if more of our churches adopted a standard, high-quality marketing method, then the good each church did in their community would benefit Adventist churches in other communities. This is only possible, however, if we stand in unity.

Particularly in appearance, when you travel from one Adventist church to another, you will see a big difference in the church sign design, use of the official logo, font choices, and more. By comparison, people are hardly ever confused as to whether or not they're in a Chipotle parking lot. People should be able to know they're at an Adventist church relatively

quickly, based on their appearance.

Organizations achieve this kind of unity and brand equity by creating brand strategies, identity guidelines, and design standards. All of these things already exist for the Adventist Church and can be easily found at www.nadadventist.org/brand-guidelines and www.identity.adventist.org.

We can utilize the best strategies available to make a positive difference for the work God has called us to do. By endeavoring to unite under one banner of brand consistency, the positive ministry impact of some will help many. With God's help, we can make a good name for ourselves as Adventists. We can be "that kind neighbor that lives down the street" or "that friendly coworker that brightens everyone's day."

For more information and resources on this subject, visit www.gscsda.org/adventistpromise. 📍

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

A Blessed Summer: *Indian Creek Camp Completes Another Successful Summer Evangelism Program*

BY GREG TAYLOR



PHOTO BY: IRELAND KROLL

One hundred seventy decisions were made for baptism during summer evangelism at Indian Creek Camp.

There is truly nothing else like summer camp evangelism. This past summer was my fifth summer serving as the director of Indian Creek Camp. Each summer is filled with long hours and challenging circumstances. Most importantly, though, each summer is filled with opportunities for our campers to meet Jesus. Jack's story is just one example of this.

As an assistant counselor at Indian

Creek Camp, Jack Wheeler had put in a full week of work during Junior Camp of 2021. After missing the summer of 2020 due to COVID-19, the children were excited to be back at camp and had brought all the energy they could muster to make the most of this week-long summer adventure. Jack found himself doing his best to encourage his campers to participate in singing, focus on the program, and stay awake for the

program. One camper in particular had been a bundle of energy and enthusiasm throughout the week, and Thursday night was no different.

The theme for the summer had been the "Ultimate Promise," based upon the life of Moses. In this particular program, Jesus met with Moses on the mountain prior to Moses' death to tell him about the Messiah to come. The life of Christ was then depicted as a powerful sil-



The Cheeks family celebrates two baptisms.



Indian Creek Camp had 15 baptisms this summer.

PHOTO BY: IRELAND KROLL

PHOTO BY: IRELAND KROLL



Friday night silhouette play on the life of Jesus

PHOTO BY: IRELAND KROLL



Morning worship at the campfire bowl

PHOTO BY: IRELAND KROLL

houette play, demonstrating Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection.

As the play began, Jack's camper continued to ask a multitude of questions such as, "What's going on? Who is that? Why did that happen? Is that in the Bible?" At first, Jack was a little frustrated with the onslaught of questions, and he didn't realize what was happening. But, at the scene of Jesus' crucifixion, the questions started becoming more serious. "Wait, why are they hurting Jesus? Jack, did he die?" Jack, why did He die? He didn't do anything wrong!" At this point, Jack realized that his camper was experiencing the story of Jesus for the first time. Wiping his own eyes from the emotion, Jack encouraged his camper, telling him that Jesus loved him so much

that He died for him so they could be together in Heaven. As the program ended and an appeal was made, the campers were then dismissed to their cabin meetings to talk more about Jesus' love. Later that evening, many of the campers made decisions to dedicate their lives to Jesus — many for the first time.

It is stories like this that continue to bring me back to summer camp ministry. Our campers experience new adventures, make lifelong friends, and draw closer to Jesus. This summer was no exception. Every week provided opportunities for our young people to meet Jesus. Over the summer, 170 decisions for baptism were made. There is just something incredibly powerful that happens for both our campers and our

camp staff who give their summers for this incredible form of evangelism.

Stories like this happen all across our nation each summer as our young people are disconnected from their devices, and reconnected to God through nature and the ministry of our camp staff. Thank you for your prayers. Thank you for your financial support. Thank you for your commitment to summer camp evangelism. 🙏

Greg Taylor is the youth director at Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

HEALTH EQUITY HIGHLIGHTED AS TOP PRIORITY

BY AMA AKOTO-BOATENG

The World Health Organization has, since its inception in 1948, endorsed health as a fundamental right for all, regardless of race, religion, political belief, economic status, or social condition. Falling short on this foundational concept results in health inequity, where unjust health outcomes negatively impact certain people groups. AdventHealth's Conference on Mission 2021, therefore, provided an avenue for discussions around the state of health equity within the organization, as the topic remains one of the key pillars underpinning AdventHealth's mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.

"Today, we will embark on a journey of self-reflection and removal of our own unconscious bias," said Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO, in his opening remarks. "We will address critical areas of health equity through exploring examples like social determinants of health, statistics, actionable next steps, and what we can do to promote health equity in our communities. We want to explore the complexity and discomfort in solving problems that will raise awareness of experiences and stories that do not look like our own."

The two-day virtual conference, held August 27 and 28, convened more than 300 people composed of AdventHealth Board members, executives, health eq-

uity experts, and mission and ministry leaders, as well as Seventh-day Adventist Church leaders across the country.

The inspiration for the conference theme, "Healing Together," was drawn from Apostle Paul's words in Galatians 3:28: "We are all one in Christ Jesus," which depicts Christ's expectation of relating with one another beyond differences.

Joseph Betancourt, M.D., the keynote speaker on the first day of the conference, shared his top three lessons from leading health equity efforts in a conversation with Shaw. First, he emphasized that leadership buy-in is essential. He also mentioned that analyzing data is paramount to achieving health equity, and added that a strategic plan is always necessary to move aspiration into execution.

Commenting on the state of health equity within AdventHealth, Alric Simmonds, M.D., chief health equity officer for AdventHealth, revealed that everyday discrimination among minority groups causes chronic stress, which in turn has a physiological impact on life expectancy.

"Compared to white women, the cumulative effect of the chronic stressors that affect Black women reduces their life expectancy by 7 1/2 years," he said. In central Florida alone, research has proven that Black women have less access to prenatal care, leading to pre-term

births with low weight, and consequently resulting in high infant mortality rates. Based on these daunting statistics, Simmonds called on health care providers to join the cause of making it easy for underserved populations to access care at AdventHealth.

Julie Zaiback, executive director of community advocacy and health equity for AdventHealth, noted that the disparities index, a technical indicator used to identify and measure the impact of health care disparities within communities, was helping AdventHealth to take action on issues arising within the communities it serves.

For the first time at Conference on Mission, the Sabbath requiem featured the AdventHealth Orchestra, which performed Samuel Barber's "Adagio for Strings" in honor of those we've lost to COVID-19. The musical group is the first of its kind at AdventHealth and is solely made up of AdventHealth team members, some of whom have felt the pressure of the front lines since the pandemic hit.

"Talking about others who are different from us isn't an easy conversation to have," said Ted Hamilton, M.D., senior vice president and chief mission integration officer for AdventHealth. "This year's conference has brought attention to the significant work we still need to do in the health equity space as we strive to



AdventHealth leaders engage in a Q&A discussion during the organization’s virtual Conference on Mission 2021.

emulate Christ’s healing ministry.”

Several were recognized for exceptional commitment to AdventHealth’s mission during the awards ceremony:

Christian Service Award

Anita Cornett, M.D., chief medical officer for AdventHealth Manchester

Carolyn Pass, M.D., head of internal medicine at AdventHealth Lake Wales

Trustee of the Year Award

Mary Kliewer, board member for AdventHealth Central Texas

Ken Kulig, M.D., board member and medical director for Porter Adventist Hospital

Crystal Angel Award

David Ottati, newly appointed president and chief executive officer for AdventHealth’s West Florida Division

Sandra Johnson, executive vice president and chief administrative officer for AdventHealth

The conference concluded with a Sabbath sermon by Zina Jacque, retired pastor of the Community Church of Barrington. She entreated the AdventHealth team to become the healers God has called them to be. Based on the words from John 3:1-2 and John 4:2-7, she said, “No matter who you are and your role at AdventHealth,

you are called to be a healer and to be concerned about the body, mind, and spirit. To heal is to offer your service. So, whether you are performing a surgery or opening a door, you are providing healing to someone. And, you do this enabled by the Spirit of God, not your own ability.”

Ama Akoto-Boateng is a corporate communications intern at AdventHealth.

“Finding Hope” Expands Health Care Equity in Community



Panelists of the second installment of the Finding Hope series by AdventHealth discuss health equity efforts in the community.

AdventHealth hosted the second installment of its “Finding Hope” panel series supported by the mission and ministry team. The Finding Hope series got its starts on National Day of Prayer 2021, as a way to bring together health care professionals and community leaders with different perspectives for a thoughtful discussion on the intersection of worldviews and medicine. The panelists and discussion of the first installment focused on the pursuit of hope amidst the pandemic.

This most recent second installment focused on health care equity and health disparities in our communities. Although health disparities have long existed in the U.S., the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated a host of vulnerabilities, especially for minorities and underserved populations.

To help address this issue, AdventHealth professionals across the system and diverse faith leaders came together for a live, virtual discussion to lay the foundation for solutions on how we can work together to achieve greater health equity in the communities AdventHealth

serves. AdventHealth Altamonte Springs CEO Tim Cook served as a co-moderator for the discussion alongside David Sinclair, M.D., chief medical officer for AdventHealth Altamonte Springs.

Panel members included Aminah Hamidullah, co-founder and director of Knowledge for Living, a non-profit focused on providing quality education to underprivileged communities; Gabriel Salguero, president of the National Latino Evangelical Coalition and pastor of The Gathering Place, who also served on the White House Faith-Based Advisory Council; James T. Morris, pastor of the historic Carter Tabernacle CME Church, who has oversight of 13 regional congregations; and Alric Simmonds, M.D., AdventHealth’s chief health equity officer who is working on ways AdventHealth can better serve, understand, and support communities most often associated with disparities in health outcomes.

Some key issues discussed in the panel included health disparities, generational change/relationship building, faith development, financial literacy,

economic development, and access to behavioral care. To watch the full panel discussion that addresses health, faith, and diverse communities, visit [Vimeo.com/589518245](https://vimeo.com/589518245).

While there were many key challenges discussed from a variety of perspectives, the discussion ended on a high note with a shared, positive outlook for the future.

“I’m very hopeful from our discussion today,” said Simmonds during the closing of the panel. “We need to keep the conversation going. We can do so much more together to focus our collective efforts on health care to benefit all members of our communities, despite our challenges.”

AdventHealth’s mission and ministry team is committed to continuing this panel series and connecting health care leaders with diverse faith and worldview leaders to discuss important issues consumers, team members, and communities face, and how they can collaborate to build solutions. 🗨️

BY ADVENTHEALTH NEWS

Physician Assistant Students Provide Care for Florida County Athletes

AdventHealth University's (AHU) Physician Assistant (PA) Program participated in the Volusia County, Florida, annual pre-participation sports physicals event. Held at the Daytona International Speedway, the event gave AHU students hands-on field experience with members of the community.

The pre-participation sports physicals were for student athletes grades 6-12, and included free medical screening, a vitals screening, an electrocardiogram (EKG/ECG), and an assessment of functional movement.

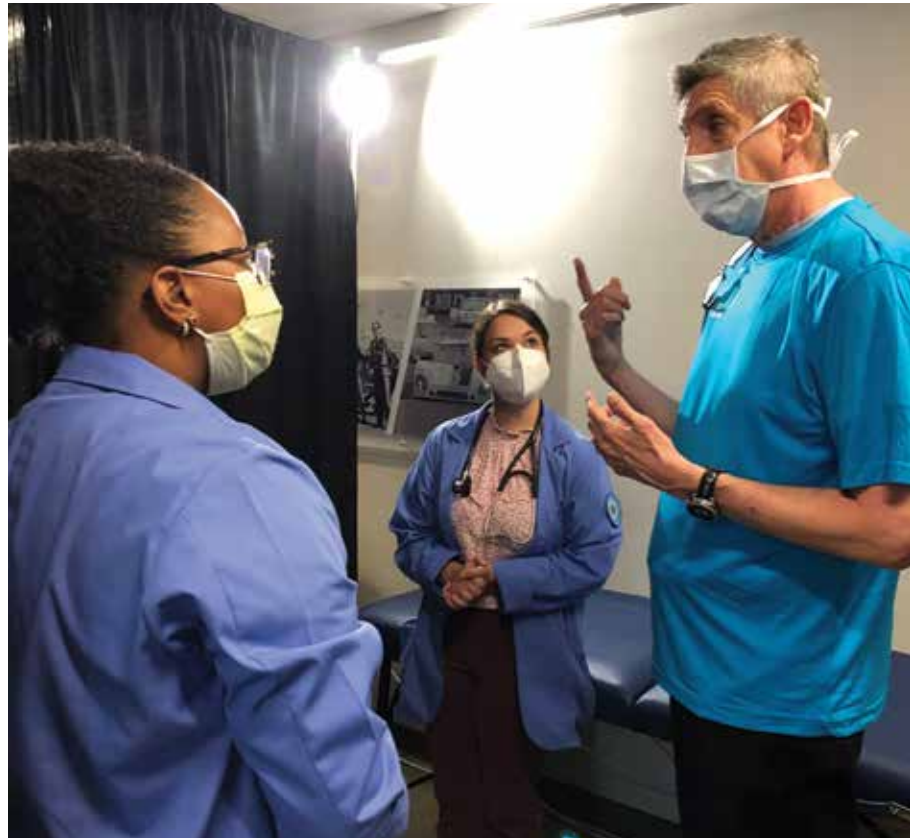
"To have AdventHealth University jump on board and say, 'We'd love to be involved' was an answered prayer," said Erik Nason, manager of sports medicine partnerships at AdventHealth, who helped organize the event.

As a part of their training, AHU's PA Program requires students to attain 40 community service hours. Typically, the program helps with pre-sports physicals for Jones High School at the Camping World Stadium in Orlando.

For this year's event, Nason sent an internal email requesting volunteers, and Ann Marie LeVine, M.D., PA Program medical director, responded by offering her students.

AHU's PA students took part on the last day of the three-day event where more than 800 student athletes were registered for a physical. The PA students helped approximately 350 of those athletes. Although there were other volunteers at the event that day, the AHU volunteers were the main group providing physical examinations.

"I am thankful not only to have had this learning experience, but to also take part in serving the community using skills that I have learned during my time at AdventHealth University in PA school," said



Jonathan Bohner, PA student.

"It was an excellent experience for our students. They were able to perform the physical exams independently," said LeVine. "They left there feeling very good about what they did for the day and how they touched so many people."

LeVine said that the PA program will continue going to the pre-participation sports physical event at the Daytona International Speedway. It will not only serve as a good experience for the students of AHU, but for community students as well.

PA student Ysatis Hernandez enjoyed the hands-on physical examinations and teamwork she experienced that day.

"Daytona Speedway came as an opportunity for our class to achieve outreach

service hours within our community, but it was so much more than a simple service hours 'check-off,'" said Hernandez. "It felt as if each family happily entrusted AHU's PA students with the care of their children. It was as if they were actively training the providers of tomorrow to grow, learn, and compound knowledge in a stress-free environment."

Through participation in this event, the AHU PA Program actively followed its calling of educating knowledgeable and compassionate health care providers who embrace a mission of service to others and to Christ's healing ministry. 📍

BY GIANNI ARROYO

Retreat is an Answer to Prayer

Beth Grissom shares her prayer experience.

Prayer, one of the most incredible privileges that Christians have, is too often overlooked, under appreciated, or complicated. Prayer meetings, prayer retreats, and phone prayer lines are often under-attended. Add a pandemic, and planning for a prayer retreat seemed like an insurmountable challenge. After much prayer I decided that I would step out in faith, pray, and plan as best I could. I prayed for 50 attendees. Fifty was a number that allowed for safe distance between attendees, and yet it was more than attended the previous retreat. Three weeks before the event, only 16 people had registered. In my prayers that night, I prayed for wisdom, wisdom to know how to plan a retreat that would make it incredibly special for the 16 attendees. I prayed that our guest speaker, Tamyra Horst, would still feel the importance of her calling, with so few in attendance. Then I prayed He would send those who needed to come, whatever the number would be. One week before the event, I checked the numbers and we had 52! Isn't that always the way He works?

In a world where we all seem to be at each other's throats about everything, this weekend was like a breath of fresh air. No one complained, everyone was so excited to be there together, and there was just an overall spirit of joy and peace. There



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

were families, parents with their children, sitting at tables, learning together, praying together, and singing together. There is nothing better than watching families praying together. New friendships were formed, and testimonies were shared.

Guest speaker Horst challenged the attendees and encouraged them all weekend, preaching from Philippians 4:4-7. She led them in quiet individual prayer and prayer together as a group. She shared with an open heart, and all left filled with overflowing joy!

There are tough times many are living in, and I have the solution for it all: PRAYER! From navigating relationships, to planning events, or figuring out how to do ministry, or even in times of grief and mourning, prayer, the ability to communicate with God Himself, is everything! 🙏

BY BETH GRISSOM, CAROLINA CONFERENCE PRAYER MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Hickory Hispanic Church Holds Mortgage Burning Ceremony

It was a joyful day for the Hickory, N.C., Hispanic Church on August 7, 2021. Members, community friends, and the administrators of the Carolinas Conference participated in the special ceremony of burning the church mortgage. This event marks the conclusion of one stage and the beginning of a new one for this

dynamic church. In the early '90s a group of Hispanic families began to meet in the facilities of the English-speaking church in Hickory. They eventually acquired their own church in Morganton. This move forced many members to travel more than half an hour to worship, which made it diffi-

cult to minister to the community where they lived. Evangelistic campaigns were carried out in the English church of Lincolnton, which was a little closer. In 1998, under the direction of Domingo Paulino, pastor, the possibility of relocating the church to Hickory began to be studied in order to more effectively reach the com-



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

munity with the message of the Gospel. In the summer of that same year, the current property — whose facilities included the sanctuary, gymnasium, and a parsonage — was found and the application process for the loan began. Unfortunately, the church was unable to qualify to purchase the entire property, so the parsonage could not be included in the

original purchase. Thankfully, this could be done years later. After completing the purchase procedures and making some modifications to the platform, the inauguration was carried out. The ceremony was led by then-Carolina Conference President Ken Coonley. Through the years, God has confirmed that the decision to relocate

this church was a successful one, and one that was in accordance with His will to advance the work of salvation in the city of Hickory and its surroundings. 🕊

BY MOISES SAUZA AND DOMINGO PAULINO,
CAROLINA CONFERENCE PASTORS

Mount Olive Spanish Church Burns Mortgage

It was a day that Mount Olive Spanish Church in Mount Olive, N.C., had been working toward since they first planted their group in 1996. It was the day they burned their mortgage, July 24, 2021. The beginnings of this congregation came from several men in the area who met for Bible study. In 2000, they began meeting in a converted trailer, but as their numbers continued to grow, they started looking for a more permanent meeting place. Now a company, they purchased a lot of land and began construction on a new building. The church facility, which was completed in January 2010, has a capacity for more than 420 people and includes a new sanctuary, gymnasium, and kitchen, as well as Sabbath School classrooms. After the worship service on this special Sabbath, the members migrated from the



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

sanctuary to gather in a large circle on the front lawn to burn their mortgage. They did not let this time pass without lifting their voices in a prayer of thanksgiving to the Lord for helping them complete this goal. The ceremony was led by their pastor, Jonathan Mairena; Chad Grundy,

Carolina Conference undertreasurer; and Ricardo Palacios, Carolina Conference Hispanic ministries director. This will be a day that lives on in the memories of Mount Olive members. They are already planning future projects, including planting more churches in their surrounding area. 🕊

BY COURTNEY HEROD

CORRECTION:
THE CAROLINA CONFERENCE NEWS ARTICLE ON PAGE 21 IN THE AUGUST 2021 *SOUTHERN TIDINGS* - "LICENSED COUNSELOR DISCUSSES FOSTERING HEALTHY MIND" - PUBLISHED CRIS CAZARINE DUTRA AS "HIS" TALK; IT SHOULD HAVE SAID "HER" TALK.

Florida Treasurer/CFO Commissioned Into “Ministry, Numbers”

Elisa Rahming, August 7, 2021

Elisa Rahming was born to Edmund and Emily Rahming, as the youngest child in a family of three in Nassau, Bahamas. She learned about Jesus and His love for her in her early years at home, in Sabbath School at Hillview Church, and in school at Bahamas Academy. She was baptized in the ocean at the age of 12.

Rahming grew up in a business-oriented home and received a B.A. in business administration with a concentration in accounting from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., and an M.B.A. from Georgia State University in Atlanta, Ga. She is also a certified public accountant (CPA). She is currently pursuing a master of pastoral ministry from Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

After six years of accounting experience



in the private sector in Atlanta, Rahming providentially was led to take a position as assistant treasurer at Florida Conference in the Orlando area, followed by a stint as associate treasurer. She assumed her present position as treasurer/

chief financial officer (CFO) for Florida Conference on December 5, 2017.

Mission trips, especially evangelistic, are meaningful to her. She has taken trips to Brazil, Peru, Malawi, and Guam. While on the trip to Brazil, she experienced her first taste of pastoral ministry in sharing truths, preaching her first sermon and ministering to members.

Rahming has a passion for what she refers to as a “mix of ministry and numbers.” She enjoys “encouraging people with their relationship with God and others, encouraging dreams, and sharing biblically-based financial principles.” She has heard God’s call to use her further and deeper in ministry, and feels God’s leading as she preaches, teaches, and shares God’s love with others. ●

Dunnellon Church Welcomes Visitors, Converts



Liezl Jones, at the podium, sang during the Veggie Picnic in the church portico.

July 4th Veggie Picnic Visitors

July 4th was a special day at the Dunnellon, Fla., Church. After several months of having a food giveaway each Monday, the church decided to invite people who were coming for food to a July 4th Veggie Picnic.

Gospel singing was provided while guests ate their lunch in the shady church portico. Church members were also invited in order to get acquainted with the guests.

Dee Forsyth is the community service leader. Everline and Steve Burrowes are among those who have been in charge of bringing food to the church

PHOTO BY: FILNA DAVIS



PHOTO BY: GLENDA BATES

Kevin Messina (left), Dunnellon Church pastor, offers a prayer of dedication following the baptism of new members Liezl Jones, Michele Pittman, and David Pittman.

three people join the church by baptism: David and Michele Pittman, and Liezl Jones.

The Pittmans, a church-going couple, decided to start studying the Bible in earnest. One day David was reading and told Michele, “We are going to church on the wrong day!” Together, the Pittmans studied further and decided to look for a seventh-day-Sabbath-keeping church, and found Dunnellon Church.

“It was an awesome and memorable day,” said Michele Pittman on their baptism day. “We are blessed! So thankful to have found this church!”

Liezl Jones was rebaptized after leaving her home country and resettling in the Dunnellon area.

All three new members have already become active workers in the church. The church family prays that this witness will be an encouragement to others to study the Bible for themselves and see what God's Word really teaches. 📖

BY GLENDA BATES

for the weekly food giveaway. Karima Ramoutar, church treasurer, has been organizing the food distribution each week with help from a number of faithful volunteers.

Not only has food been given each

week, but literature and many smiles are shared. A number of the food recipients have requested prayer.

New Beginnings for Three Members

Dunnellon Church is blessed to have

June Donihi Celebrates 100 Years



June Donihi enjoys a 100th birthday celebration with church members, friends, and neighbors.

June Donihi was quite surprised on June 12, 2021, to be taken by friends to the Lake Placid Church fellowship hall for a 100th birthday celebration.

Margaret June Grazier was born in Pennsylvania on June 12, 1921, and was soon known as June. Growing up on a farm, she helped by keeping track of everything. June and her husband, Donald, moved to Lake Placid in the early 1970s.

After the death of her husband, son, and nephew, a neighbor, Shellie Hobson, and her two daughters, Contina Hobson and JaSara Worley, now try to help. “I’ve got this! I don’t need

any help,” June often replies. This 100-year-old woman takes no medications except for vitamins.

The surprised spaghetti luncheon was organized by Brenda Lowder. Almost 60 church members, friends, and neighbors joined in singing “Happy Birthday” while Antonio Roa, M.D., played the piano. 🎵

BY BRENDA LOWDER

Three Baptized in Panama City



Candidates prepare for baptism at Panama City, Fla., Church.

Panama City Church members rejoiced when Eddy Nunez, local pastor, baptized Keith Sibanda, Lola Blake, and Aida Aiken on May 22, 2021. Aiken and Blake are both originally from Jamaica, but for Sibanda, it had been an exceptionally long journey.

Sibanda was born in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, 40 years ago. When he was about five years old, he started having problems seeing. His family was told that Sibanda had a condition called retinitis pigmentosa (RP), a rare condition that eventually causes blindness.

As Sibanda's condition worsened and he began to realize what was happening, he was devastated. "I felt buried alive, like I had been crushed and disposed of," he explains. "I was afraid, because I knew the condition led to blindness, and yet I still had so much I wanted to give and to achieve."

Sibanda questioned, "Why? Why

me?" He thought maybe it was witchcraft or his diet or lifestyle. But, he says, "I gradually accepted my condition, though it took a toll on me." He concludes, "God allows things to happen, just like He allowed Job to be tested. Only God is my hope for healing." Sibanda's family attends a church whose beliefs are like the Baptist church. He says, "One day two book salesmen came to our house, and while they showed my father their books, they talked about Saturday being the Sabbath." He continues, "After that, I always felt that the seventh day was the true Sabbath." Later he remembers that a maid who worked at their house was a Seventh-day Adventist. "She would talk to me about her church," he says. Later he was able to attend an Adventist church. During an altar call at that church, Sibanda went forward, but the church elder told him he was not ready

to be baptized. Sibanda began to question whether he should be baptized.

Sibanda decided to come to the United States because of the economy in his home country. "It came to a point where there were no employment opportunities. There was nothing for me to do even though I was a skilled worker."

When he came to America, he still wanted to attend an Adventist church, but he had no transportation. He was working at a Walmart store in Panama City when he met Aikens, their team supervisor. One day at work, Sibanda heard Aikens mentioning something about going to the Adventist church. Aikens was glad to take Sibanda and his friend, Blake, to church. When an altar call was made, they all three came forward. ❶

BY REBECCA GRICE

College Drive Hosts Science Summer Camp



Ben Roy (right) guides his volunteer assistant with a glowing fluid experiment.



Campers enjoyed the hands-on experience at the nature station.

PHOTO BY: AMY HOCHSTETLER

PHOTO BY: AMY HOCHSTETLER

The College Drive Church in Pearl, Miss., hosted a daytime summer camp for children in their community from July 26 to 30, 2021. Open to children aged 5 to 12, the science-themed summer camp provided activities and entertainment from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, absolutely free of charge. The church also offered breakfast and lunch to the campers and staff for the entire week.

Murvin Camatchee, local pastor, and his wife, Corrine, worked with their team of volunteers to orchestrate a Vacation Bible School-styled system of child groups and stations. Children were divided into various age groups, each containing around 12 children, and assigned a chaperone or guide leading them from station to station. There were volunteers at each station, which included crafts, baking, sports, remote control truck racing, water slides, animals, and more.

As the theme was focused on science, the keynote or main presenter at the beginning and end of each day was Ben Roy from



Campers experimented in the kitchen by baking mini muffins.

PHOTO BY: AMY HOCHSTETLER

Go Science Zone. Roy has been a regular host of sciencing programming on 3ABN kids television and was also the host on WTVC Newschannel 9 Science Theater. Roy presented exciting science experiments, and frequently requested volunteers to participate in making the investigation come to life. In addition, Roy implemented balloons, air, fire, light, and more to make science fun and en-

gaging for the campers. Roy was also intentional about including God in the creation-science-based presentations. Apart from the main presentations, the camper-favorite activity was the giant water slide, making for a refreshing and cooling splash. 🌊

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

‘Piensa en Grande’: Plenitud La Radio Celebrates Seven Years of Ministry, Growth



Francisco Amaya, Plenitud La Radio director, explains what it's like working with the radio. Amaya became director in 2018 and, together with his team, helped rebrand the ministry by changing the name, transferring to different streaming platforms, and creating new programs.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Francisco Amaya looks through the scheduled programming for Plenitud La Radio. Amaya, who became the director in 2018, says this broadcasting ministry is important for him because of the testimonies he gets to hear.

Plenitud La Radio, a broadcast ministry that began in Springfield, Tenn., in 2014, will celebrate its seventh anniversary on October 22 and 23. Plenitud La Radio focuses on sharing the Gospel through a wide range of programs which reach a global audience.

This radio ministry, which was originally known as “Piensa en Grande” (Think Big), was started by Nathan Delima, pastor, who was working at Springfield Hispanic Church during that time. In their first year, Delima, with the support of his church and the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, organized broadcasting classes for volunteers, built the radio’s studio, and rented airtime on WSGI 1100 AM in Springfield.

In 2018, Francisco Amaya, church member at Madison, Tenn., Hispanic Church, took over as the director for Plenitud La Radio. Emilio Perche, pastor at Madison Hispanic Church, is the president. The new team worked on rebranding the radio by changing the name, transferring to different streaming platforms, and creating new programs.

“The transition took us about a year,”

Amaya said. “We did a lot of research prior to it and consulted with experts ... it was a lot of work, but it was a blessing.”

Plenitud La Radio now broadcasts 24/7 in seven different platforms including MIXLR, TuneIn and their website. According to Luz Resendiz, assistant director and church member at Maranatha Hispanic, Ill., Church, the radio has received more than two million streams in MIXLR, and has a global audience with listeners across the U.S., Mexico, Chile, Italy, and more.

“Really, anyone who has internet access can listen to [Plenitud La Radio],” Resendiz said. “We have a lot of platforms, so our reach is wide. For me, I am just touched that so many people get to hear about the love of God.”

Plenitud La Radio is all done by volunteer work. There are 13 announcers in Tennessee, California, Missouri, and Illinois – all which prepare their own programming. The programs include daily devotionals, Bible studies, health seminars, and music sessions. In addition to volunteering their time, announcers also help finance the ministry.

“We have an agreement to contribute a

monthly amount to help pay for the budget [of Plenitud La Radio],” Resendiz said. “We do it with great pleasure because it’s a ministry that we believe in.”

To celebrate Plenitud La Radio’s anniversary, the team is preparing a special event that will be livestreamed on October 22 and 23. During this weekend, organizers will also conduct a fundraiser that will help pay for the yearly licensing fee of the streaming platforms.

“What keeps me going is hearing all the testimonies of the people who met Jesus or got rebaptized because they came across our radio,” Amaya said. “This is my first time working in Christian radio and I do not receive any payment. But, what better payment is there than knowing that a soul gave itself to Christ?”

To find out more about Plenitud La Radio, visit their website at plenitudlaradio.com, email 12companerosdelcamino@gmail.com, or contact Amaya at 615- 582-2018. 📞

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Pastor Buys, Drives Bus to Provide Children with Adventist Education

Thang Mang, pastor at Bowling Green Zomi, Ky., Church, wanted the children in his congregation to receive an Adventist education. However, the closest Adventist school was an hour away: Highland, Tenn., Elementary. Without a way of transportation, the church families could not send their children to this school even if they wanted.

For two years, Mang used his own van to drive six children from his church who were enrolled in Highland Elementary School, but he wanted to do more. “I spoke with my church family and found out they were willing to commit [sending] their children to a private Adventist school,” Mang said. “So, I went from having to drive six students to 16. So, you know, I needed a bigger van.” After prayer and research, Mang was able to get support from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, an anonymous donor, and his church to purchase a \$7,500 minibus. According to Mang, the



Thang Mang is the pastor at Bowling Green Zomi, Ky., Church. He volunteered to drive the children at his church to Highland, Tenn., Elementary, so they could receive an Adventist education.

PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Thang Mang, pastor at Bowling Green Zomi, Ky., Church, poses with students in front of their church’s minibus. Mang, who says he believes in the importance of an Adventist education, drives the minibus Monday through Friday, about 20 hours each week, so that the children in his church can attend Highland, Tenn., Elementa-

minibus’ insurance is paid through his church’s budget, while parents split the bill for gas, which ends up being more than \$1,000 a month. Every week from Monday to Friday, Mang drives a total of four hours a day to pick up and drop off the children. “[Driving the bus] is a very important ministry to me,” Mang said. “I believe Adventist education makes a dif-

ference. The Bible says that if you teach a child the way of the Lord, even when they grow up, they will not be estranged from His path I drive 16 children in my minibus. My hope is each will accept Jesus as their Savior.” 📖

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Madison Campus Church VBS Places Focus on Three Angels' Messages

Madison Campus, Tenn., Church hosted its annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) from July 26 to 29, 2021. This time, however, the program had a twist. Instead of buying the VBS package from Lifeway, organizers drafted their own program to teach children about the three angels' messages.

The idea came after Kristin Fulton, advancement coordinator at Madison Academy and Madison Campus Church VBS coordinator, read a passage from Ellen G. White's *Testimonies for the Church*.

"In a special sense, SDAs have been set in the world as watchmen and light bearers," the passage, found in Vol. 9, Chapter 2 reads. "... They have been given a work of the most solemn import — the proclamation of the first, second, and third angels' messages. There is no other work of so great importance ..."

After discussing this text with Kris Fuentes, Madison Academy principal, the school decided to purchase Sandra Doran's "Three Angels for Kids," a lesson plan designed to teach children and teens about the three angels' messages. The curriculum will be used during the Bible classes at Madison Academy and Madison Campus Elementary.

"And so, I thought, 'you know what? I can start [the lessons] in VBS,'" Fulton said. "The whole goal is to teach kids from a young age, so they can begin to learn the three angels' messages."

Fulton and her team adapted the curriculum to match the structure of VBS. On the first day, during story time, children learned about the story of Jesus. On the second and third day, they learned about the first angel's message. On the fourth day, teachers shared about the second angel's message and introduced the third angel's message. "These kids were so excited and eager to learn," Fulton said. "I was thrilled to see that they were so into



PHOTO BY: RYAN HASLAM

Children listen to the story of the day during Madison Campus, Tenn., Church's Vacation Bible School. This year, organizers drafted their own program to teach children about the three angels' messages.



PHOTO BY: RYAN HASLAM

A boy writes the first angel's message in his notebook. According to Kristin Fulton, advancement coordinator at Madison Academy and Madison Campus Church VBS coordinator, children were excited and curious to learn about the three angels' messages.



PHOTO BY: RYAN HASLAM

A girl poses with her notes from story time. On the first day of VBS, children learned about the story of Jesus and His sacrifice for them.

it. They asked questions, memorized the verses, and listened so attentively. It was amazing." More than 100 children joined the VBS program. Madison Academy will start teaching the curriculum at the beginning of the fall semester and Madison Campus Elementary will follow later. "There is a calling to teach [the three angels' messages] to this generation now," Fulton said. "These kids are ready We could probably list 10 to 20 reasons

as to why, but it all just comes down to the Lord wanting them to learn this message." To learn more about "Three Angels for Kids," go to threeangelsfortoday.org; If your church has questions about adapting the three angels' messages for VBS, contact kfulton@madisonacademy.com. 📍

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Tullahoma Adventist Christian School Starts Organic Agriculture Program



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MILANO

Students of Tullahoma, Tenn., Adventist Christian School, learn about organic agriculture. This program was just added to the school's curriculum in an effort to advance holistic Adventist education.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MILANO

Brian Milano, pastor at Tullahoma and Murfreesboro, Tenn., churches, built a greenhouse with the help of students. The greenhouse measures 30 feet by 12 feet, and Milano says he hopes to build another one during the new school year.

During the 2020-2021 school year, Tullahoma, Tenn., Seventh-day Adventist Christian School started an organic agriculture program. The curriculum, led by Brian Milano, pastor from Tullahoma and Murfreesboro, Tenn., churches, aims to advance holistic Adventist education.

“My understanding of what Adventist education is supposed to incorporate, as Ellen White puts it, is mind, body, and spirit,” Milano said. “[With the agriculture program] students can spend time outside, draw spiritual lessons, and learn practical skills that they’ll be able to use their entire lives.”

Together with Milano, students built a 30-foot by 12-foot greenhouse on the school’s 8-acre campus. They have

planted a variety of vegetables, such as tomatoes, carrots, cucumber, peppers, and kale.

The program was funded through the donations of church members. Milano says he hopes that the school can build another greenhouse this year and eventually transform the program into a self-supporting project.

“I’m hoping that our program can make some money to sponsor students and support the school,” Milano said. “I also want students to come out of this embracing organic agriculture and our health message.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MILANO

Plants continue to grow in the Tullahoma greenhouse. Students, led by Brian Milano, pastor, have planted a variety of vegetables, including tomatoes, carrots, cucumbers, pepper, and kale.

Temple Gate Revival Culminates in 70 Baptisms



PHOTO BY: RAQUEL MILLER

Baptismal candidates

This past summer at Temple Gate Church in Selma, Ala., Cody Miller, pastor, ended a two-week revival series culminating in 70 baptisms. Because their church motto is “Our Gates are Always Open,” experiencing a global shutdown made it difficult to stay connected with their community to whom their gates were now closed for the foreseeable future. Although Temple Gate consistently gives food and clothes, their members believe that, above anything else, sharing the love of Jesus with the community is a priority. Thus, a revival entitled “Walls Torn Down” was a deliberate effort by the church and its leadership to safely and responsibly preach the Gospel to the residents of Dallas County.

Miller worked with a ministry called In His Word, which has pioneered a socially distanced form of evangelism. Thanks to the efforts of the Bible workers calling and making sure people came or viewed online, many Selma residents were able hear the nightly messages. The workers included Alfred and Anya Miller as coordinators,



PHOTO BY: RAQUEL MILLER

Cody Miller, pastor, preaches during the “Walls Torn Down” revival.



PHOTO BY: RAQUEL MILLER

Family in the baptismal pool prepares to be baptized.

Paul and Hattie Garrett, Jody White, and Debbie Hicks. These individuals were sent into the community with masks and other essential items to protect themselves as they conducted Bible lessons socially distanced.

On baptism Sabbath it was a great and glorious day as 70 individuals went

down into the water. One by one, the Lord added to Temple Gate Church men, women, boys, and girls. The church took a risk, but God received the reward. ①

BY TYRELL SPECTOR

First Church Food Program Serves Community

First Church in Springfield, Tenn., is a small, family church right outside of Nashville, Tenn. It is located in front of the only hospital in Springfield, and across the street from a major car dealership. First Church also sits on three beautiful acres of land. This church is a gold mine with great visibility, a world of opportunity, and a rich history of tremendous pastors, including Patrick Vincent, current pastor/evangelist. But, it's not enough to be a shining church on a highway if an impact is not made in the community.

Though the pandemic was hard for all churches across the North American Division, what it did allow for was Temple members refocusing their time, talents, and financial resources to serving the community. As they have moved forward in faith, God has given them favor. They have a partnership with Second Harvest Middle Tennessee Food Distribution, which helps them to give away free groceries and gas cards to anyone in need. They've obtained grants that have allowed them to upgrade their physical plant, as well as purchase equipment and supplies to enhance their food program.



Volunteer prepares to welcome visitors.



Volunteer sets up the water station.

Through this initiative, every month they have a growing database of individuals who are requesting Bible studies and want to know more about the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Usually, Adventists are known for what they don't do, but God is using them to show the community that they do love Jesus and they do love His people.

Matthew 25:40 NASB says, "And the King will answer and say to them, 'Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it for one of the least of these brothers or sisters of Mine, you did it for Me.'" 📖

BY TINA CARRIGER



Cars line up for food distribution.

South Central Celebrates Years of Service of Carlton Byrd, D.Min.



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Benjamin Jones Jr. (left) thanks Carlton Byrd, D.Min. (right), for his service to South Central Conference, while Sonja Crayton, Conference chief financial officer, and John Nixon Sr., D.Min., Conference executive secretary, look on.

The Oakwood University Church had the privilege to thank God for the leadership of their former senior pastor, Carlton R. Byrd, D.Min., on August 14, 2021. For nearly a decade, Byrd led the Oakwood University Church congregation, where the congregation saw spiritual, financial, and numeric growth. His leadership not only impacted the Oakwood University Church congregation, but also the South Central Conference.

Byrd's pastoral leadership resulted in him receiving the South Central Conference's "Pastor of the Year" award three times. His hunger for evangelism has allowed Byrd to lead the Conference in soul winning. During his previous time with South Central, he planted the South Nashville congregation and led the Conference in evangelism then. The Conference administration wanted to acknowledge the accomplishments of Byrd, and present him and his family with a token of appreciation.

"This is personal for me," said Benjamin Jones Jr., South Central president, continuing, "People think the energy, passion, and the excitement they saw here started here, but I have been with you in



John Nixon Sr., D.Min., and Sonja Crayton present Carlton Byrd, D.Min., with a commemorative crystal.

PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE



Danielle and Carlton Byrd, D.Min.

PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

SoSo, Miss., Tuscaloosa, Ala., and South Nashville, Tenn., and you have never stopped. The love for the Lord, the passion for evangelism, you brought with you in every place." Jones thanked Byrd for the accomplishments achieved during his leadership of the Oakwood University Church, especially the completion of the Oakwood Academy, the erection of the Family Life Center, and the passion for evangelism demonstrated within the church. John Nixon Sr., Conference executive secretary, and Sonja Crayton, Conference chief financial officer, presented Byrd with a plaque to commemorate these accomplishments.

While serving as the senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church, Byrd also served as the Breath of Life Television Ministry speaker/director. Byrd was elected president of the Southwest Region Conference, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, on May 23, 2021. The Conference will miss Byrd and his family in South Central. They thank God for their ministry. 🕊

BY ROGER R. WADE

Freshmen Start School Year With Service

Nearly 600 freshmen at Southern Adventist University started the year off by participating in Freshman Service Day, carrying out projects on campus and in the local community. According to Julie Devlin, local engagement coordinator in the Office of Ministry and Missions, the aim was to set a spiritual tone for freshmen as they began their Southern experience.

“We were called ‘Southern Missionary College’ back in the day,” Devlin said. “So, we continue to exemplify what our school is all about and truly live the mission, which is to reflect Christ and to go out into the community and serve those who are in need.”

Southern partnered with 21 local orga-



During Freshman Service Day, Ken Shaw, University president, worked with students to build bunk beds for children in need.

nizations on a wide variety of projects, including cleaning animal stalls, packing blessing bags for those in need, constructing garden spaces, and much more.

Mandy Velez, freshman nursing major, helped build beds for children in need and appreciated the experience, saying, “It makes you feel like you’re part of something, even if it’s something small.”

Devlin was blessed by the positive feedback from participants and is glad to be part of organizing this meaningful event.

“We want the freshmen to be reflecting on that experience,” Devlin said. “Our hope is that they will see the joy of giving their time and their talents to honor the Lord.”

BY AMANDA BLAKE

Graduate Students Also Benefit From Free Counseling to Community

Graduate students in Southern’s Professional Counseling program provide free Christian counseling sessions to community members through the University’s Southern Center for Counseling and Emotional Wellness. Each session is strictly supervised by licensed professionals.

“The things I love most about counseling are the connections I make and seeing people grow emotionally and mentally,” said Katie Cramer, a master’s student completing a dual specialty in the Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling programs. “Counseling is an art to learn, and not every session will go the same way. It helps people realize different perspectives in their life and start the healing process.”

During the school year, approximately



A group of freshmen served in the University’s food pantry, preparing items for distribution.

15 counselors are available to help clients with issues such as mental health, relationship conflicts, and more. Housed in the School of Education and Psychology, the

program is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP).

“In addition to helping the community, these services benefit our counselors-in-training,” said Ileanna Freeman, Ph.D., professor and director of Graduate Studies in Professional Counseling. “The counseling practicum prepares students to practice counseling after graduation and teaches them to be responsible professionals, including how to follow the code of ethics and the normal procedures of counseling centers.”

Anyone may sign up for a free in-person or virtual counseling session by calling 423-236-2492.

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT



BLEDSON, HELEN SHERRELL, 86, of Cleveland, TN, formerly of Collegedale, TN, born in Atlanta, GA, to Oakland and Geneva Sherrell on April 23, 1934, left this world unexpectedly on March 17, 2021.

She graduated from high school in Collegedale, and earned her Bachelor in Nursing in Takoma Park, MD. Helen first worked in Atlanta as a nurse, where she caught the eye of a charming former Marine, who became her husband in July 1959. Helen and Wayne moved to Dalton, GA, where they started their family. After a short return to Atlanta, they finally settled in Collegedale in 1975. She was a long-term member of the Collegedale Church. Helen remained at home with her children during their elementary school days, but returned to work afterwards on the campus of Southern Adventist University: first at the Village Market, then as Conference Center Manager, retiring as an Assistant Dean of Women. She was a piano player, who passed on a love of music to her children and grandchildren.

Visits to Mexico, Hawaii, and especially England provided her many memories.

She is survived by her children: Gavin Bledsoe (Sheri Peck), Darren Bledsoe (Angela), Erin Bledsoe, Shea Yeager (Jeffrey); her grandchildren: Julia Francis, Holly Loa (Jorge), Meghann Bledsoe, Jay Yeager, Cody Dennis (Courtney); two siblings: Robert Sherrell (Ginger), Boots Lighthall (Tom); three nephews; one niece; and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and her husband, Donald Wayne Bledsoe.

BOGCESS, ALYCE D., born March 15, 1938, in Amsterdam, OH, died June 20, 2021 in Caselberry, FL. She was a member of the Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, FL.

Alyce was the daughter of a coal miner and his wife in Amsterdam, OH. In her high school years, Alyce, and her best friend Judy, helped provide food for the thrashing crews working on the farms around the community. One of these farms was the Boggess farm where she met Bob Boggess, her future husband. High school sweethearts, Alyce and Bob started dating on Aug. 6, 1955, and were married two years later on Aug. 8, 1957.

They moved to Takoma Park, MD, where Bob attended Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University). Life was not always easy for the newlyweds. Both Alyce and Bob had to work to fund their education. Making ends meet was always a test of their faith, but God always provided the things they needed. While living in Takoma Park, Alyce and Bob welcomed their first two children: Robert Wilson Jr. and John David.

Shortly after the birth of their second son, they moved to Berrien Springs, MI, where Bob enrolled in the Seminary at Andrews University. After Seminary, Bob began to pastor for the Michigan Conference. Over the next couple of years, Alyce and Bob welcomed two more children to the family: MariAnne and Thomas Nathaniel. Not long after the birth of Tom, Bob was asked to move to the Iowa Conference and pastor a small church in Mason City, IA. While there and in a subsequent church in Davenport, IA, Bob began evangelism work for the Conference. Alyce went back to school and completed her education becoming a registered nurse. Alyce worked days, managed the house when Bob was away, and helped with evangelism on the weekends. This began a lifelong love of evangelism that both Bob and Alyce pursued.

When they moved to Des Moines, IA, Bob became a full-time evangelist. For the next few years, travel became a standard part of family life. When school was in session, Alyce worked and watched over the house while Bob commuted from home to his meetings. When school was out, the whole family moved to the meeting location: Bob organized and coordinated the activities of the local pastor, Alyce organized and managed the volunteers helping with the meeting, and the children helped dad preach from the back row (they knew all the words). Moving was also becoming routine as Alyce and Bob moved to the North Pacific Union where Bob worked as an evangelist, and again four years later when they moved to the Northern Union (now Mid-American Union). Alyce and Bob moved to New Jersey in 1979, where Bob moved into conference administration. Alyce worked for a time as an RN, work she had enjoyed doing ever since getting her degree, but after some time, she went to work for the Conference as an executive secretary. Even though Alyce and Bob now worked on the administrative side, they continued doing evangelism, both locally and internationally. Seventeen years after moving to New Jersey, they moved back to the North Pacific Union to work in the Washington Conference.

Bob and Alyce moved to Miami, FL, in 1998, where they returned to local church ministry at the Miami Temple Church, a place they would stay until they retired. They did retire and move to Orlando, FL, but in 2010, Bob was once again asked to pastor a church close to their home, the Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, FL. Alyce and Bob ministered at the Spring Meadows Church until Bob retired once again (for real) in 2020.

Alyce enjoyed working in ministry with Bob, but she very much enjoyed the additional time she could spend



with him when they retired: more time to do the things they wanted, to visit children, to visit grandchildren, and by this time, visit great-grandchildren.

After spending a fun weekend with friends and her family, Alyce went to sleep in the arms of her best friend Jesus on June 20, 2021. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Bob; three sons: Bob (Joy) Boggess, Dave (Cindy) Boggess, and Tom (Alisha) Boggess; one daughter, MariAnne (Cody) Burns; one brother, Jim Baxter; eight grandchildren: Dori, Megan, Nicholas, Rachael, Ashley, Amy, John Robert, and Quinton; three great-grandchildren: Jordan, and two on the way.

Alyce is missed by those who love her, but we know we have a God in Heaven who loves her more than we can understand, and would never permit something to happen that was not good for her and those she loved. One day soon we will be with her again in a world that has no pain or sorrow, and with a life that never ends.



CLARK, DR. ANN RORABAW, 93, of Collegedale, TN, passed away Jan. 16, 2021. She worked for many years in the English Department at Southern University.

Ann was a tiny giant who touched the hearts of many in the community. She was a member of the Collegedale Church.

Survivors include her two children, Alice Clark, of Franklin, TN, Daniel (Wendy) Clark, of Chattanooga, TN, eight grandchildren, Tommy, Cheryl, Andrew, Ramona, Natasha, Leslie, Spencer, and Nicholas, two great grandchildren, Drake and Emilia, and several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, Jerome L. Clark; and son, Jerry W. Clark.

The graveside service was held Jan. 21, 2021, at Collegedale Memorial Park.

DODD, LYNETTE ELAINE MAY TARR, 85, of Ooltewah, TN, born May 1, 1936 in South Africa to the late Dr. Wilfrid Fletcher and Jewell (Ward) Tarr, died Aug. 23, 2021.

Elaine came to the U.S. in 1941, attended school in California, Nebraska, Maryland, and Michigan, earning a B.A. in English from La Sierra University in California, just before her marriage to Dr. W. Duane Dodd in 1958.

Elaine was a secretary, teacher, and writer while her husband practiced family medicine in Illinois, Wyoming, and California, where she was appointed public relations director for the It Is Written International Telecast. They retired in 1998, traveled by RV, then moved to Tennessee in 2000.

A founding member of Friends of Collegedale, TN, Public Library, Elaine also served seven years on the board of the WSMC radio station. An active member of Collegedale Church, she also served as Sabbath School superintendent, Social Committee chairperson, Bereavement Dinner Ministry chairperson, ESL teacher, church board member, and other volunteer work.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Duane; two sons: Dale (Mahealani) Dodd of Rio Rancho, NM; Dennis (Kathy) Dodd of Apison, TN; one daughter, Joelle Dodd of Oregon, IL; one brother, Dr. Donald F. (Carole) Tarr of Mountain City, TN; one sister, Lorraine Otis-Dawson of Collegedale; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; cousins; nieces; and nephews. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by her sister, Sylvia; and one grandson, Derek Ikaika Dodd.

The Celebration of Life Service was held Aug. 28, 2021, at 5 p.m., at the Collegedale Church with Pastor Dave Ferguson officiating. A graveside service was held August 29, at 11:30 a.m. at Collegedale Memorial Park.



EDER, ERROL L., 73, passed Aug. 2, 2021. Errol served the Seventh-day Adventist church as a financial administrator and ordained minister for 37 years. He enjoyed mentoring both students and colleagues to grow as financial professionals and thrived as the manager of the Collegedale Credit Union. He served the community as both a member and president of the Kiwanis Club. Additionally, he provided conservatorship and financial services to families. His strength and joy came from his walk with God, friends, and family.

Survivors include his spouse, Bonnie Eder; sister, Maurine and spouse, Everett Schlisner; two children: Justin Eder, and Jeffrey Eder and spouse, Dana; two grandchildren: Ryker and Cadence. He was predeceased by his parents, Henry and Ruth Eder. Dr. Gordon Bietz conducted the memorial service on Aug. 14, in the Collegedale sanctuary.

HARTMAN, CARL LEE, 90, born Dec. 21, 1930 in Pottstown, PA, died Aug. 13, 2021. Carl and Betty Hartman were married on Dec. 27, 1951, and spent almost 66 years together.

They served in pastoral ministry for more than 40 years in Maryland, Virginia, Florida, Alabama, North Carolina, and Iowa. Upon retirement, they moved back to Andrews, NC, where they built a retirement home and lived for 20 years. They loved serving their community through smoking cessation programs, cooking schools, and exercise classes. They also helped coordinate the monthly MANNA food program in Andrews for 10 years. Because of Carl's devoted service to the community, the Chamber of Commerce honored him with the Citizen of the Year award for Cherokee County at an awards ceremony on Sept. 23, 2014.

Due to failing health, Carl and Betty moved to an assisted living center near Nashville, TN, in Oct. 2016. Shortly after Betty's death, Carl moved to another assisted living center near Collegedale, TN, in June 2018. A memorial service was held Aug. 28, 2021 at the Ooltewah, TN, Church. Interment followed in Collegedale Memorial Park. Carl is survived by two sons: David (Judi) Hartman of Ooltewah, TN, and John (Harriet) Hartman of Knoxville, TN; two grandchildren: Matthew (Lis) Hartman of Brentwood, TN, and Beth (Ben) Crerar of Ooltewah, TN; and three great-grandchildren: Maxwell Hartman, Miles Hartman, and Shepard Crerar.



LAURENCE, MAE ELOIS, 98, born June 29, 1922 in Omaha, NE, to Evangelist Joseph Hermannus Laurence and Geneva Quincy Wilson Laurence, died June 9, 2021. She was the fifth of six siblings: Hermannus (wife Greta), Genevieve (husband Clarence T. Richards), Jocelyn (husband Joseph Dent), Dorothea (husband Fredrick Risker), and younger brother Carty (wife Bethany). She is predeceased by her parents, all of her siblings and their spouses, her niece, Daria Laurence, and nephew, C. T. Richards Jr.

Elois completed high school at Indiana Academy, and completed Oakwood Junior College in 1943, and Emmanuel Missionary College in 1945 with a major in English. She later completed her master's degree from Western Reserve, and additional graduate study at Purdue University.

Elois was a career educator in Cleveland, OH, beginning as a teacher and principal at Ramah Junior Academy, a Seventh-day Adventist elementary school. She continued her career as chairman of the English Departments at Rawlings Junior High and subsequently John Hay High School, where she spent the majority of her teaching career. She also taught a year in the English Department at Oakwood College. Upon retiring as an educator, Elois worked as a travel agent, a health products entrepreneur, and a Severance Hall usher.

Elois was an active participant in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Church governance. Baptized at the Hartford Avenue Church in Detroit, MI, she was a member of the Glenville Church in Cleveland, Ohio for most of her life, and recently a member of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, AL. She has been a church school board chair, a member of the Allegheny West Conference Executive Committee, and a member of the Columbia Union Executive Committee. She has held various offices in other volunteer organizations that supported student scholarships and Black businesswomen.

A life-long church organist and choral director, Elois was a lover of music. She played the pipe organ for more than 50 years at the Glenville Church, and also was organist and choir director for East View United Church of Christ in Cleveland. When she moved to Huntsville, she became a pianist for the Oakwood College Church, and was a member of the OUC Chorale, then later the organist for the Harvest, AL, Church.

A life-long learner, Mae Elois was an avid reader and writer. She loved poetry, art, history, and biographies. She had interests in philately and collected greeting cards. She was a life-long vegetarian, had interests in ecology, exercise and health, and tried to keep up with the latest technology. She was known for her impeccable style in clothing and trademark high heels. She shared with her brothers a love for cars, and her quintessential favorite was her classic black '57 T-bird hardtop. An engaging conversationalist, skilled in the art of listening, Mae'lois connected with anyone she met, regardless of categorical differences. Her playful spirit, easy laugh, encouraging support, attention to detail, and characteristic sense of style have endeared her to the many family members, friends, and associates that continue to celebrate her life.

It is impossible to distill into the constraints of this setting the elements of a multifaceted life encompassing nearly a century of experiences. Mae'lois leaves five nieces: Carmen Duncan, Kerri (Charles) Williams, and Mar-

garet (Delmas II) Whitlock; nephews: Philip (Holly) Richards, and Carty Laurence Jr.; eight grand-nieces and nephews; five great-grand nieces and nephews; cousins; and a host of friends who miss her presence.

NEALL, DR. RALPH E., 93, of Collegedale, died unexpectedly on June 11, 2021. He and his late wife, Beatrice (passed Dec. 8, 2019), were residents of Collegedale since 2005. More recently Dr. Neall was living in Garden Plaza in Ooltewah, TN. His career included periods as pastor (Upstate New York and Bermuda), missionary (Cambodia, Vietnam, Singapore), and professor of theology (Lincoln, NE).

He is survived by his two children: Cheryl Johnson and Randolph Neall; and acquired family, including Ngoc and Thang LeVo and their two children: James and Gregory.

A memorial service was held at the Collegedale Church on July 11, 2021.

Ralph Neall was a gentle soul, and will be missed by all who knew him.



RIMER, PASTOR FREDERICK AARON, 79, born May 28, 1941 in Salisbury, NC, died Jan. 17, 2021 in Greenville, SC, due to complications from COVID-19. He was a member of the Westminster Church at the time he passed. Fred was a graduate of Parker High School in Greenville, and in the Class of 1959 where he sang with the group “The Confederates.” A popular group, they were in demand and performed for college fraternities, high school proms, and at the Myrtle Beach Board Walk. He was also a graduate of Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) where he majored in theology. He began his life in ministry in Gulfport, MS, and for the next 10 years he pastored nine Adventist churches in Mississippi and Alabama before being called to the Gulf States Conference office in Montgomery, AL, in 1989. There he served in the role of ministerial director for 11 years, and then as Conference executive secretary for an additional six years before retiring for the first time in 2006

Shortly thereafter, the Carolina Conference called him back into pastoral ministry to pastor the Pickens and Anderson churches in South Carolina. He served those churches for six years and then retired for a second time in 2012.

Fred had many hobbies and talents and lived a rich, full life. He was blessed with a great voice, and loved directing music for Camp Meetings. He was also able to perform concerts in many churches in Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. Fred was also a private pilot and dearly loved flying. He was fortunate to own a Cessna and a Piper during the course of his flying years. In addition, he enjoyed model railroading and was a member and chaplain of the Centerville Model Train Club, where he provided content for the newsletter each month. He loved traveling in Europe and Asia, he loved eating, and he loved planting plants, especially tomatoes, and watching them grow. And of course, Fred spent much of his time studying his Bible and sharing God’s love.

Fred is survived by his loving wife and high school sweetheart, Joyce Parham, whom he married on Dec. 28, 1962. They had just celebrated their 58th wedding anniversary in Dec. of 2020. Fred and Joyce had two beautiful children, their daughter, Angela (Kelly) Williams; and a son, Todd, who was killed in a motorcycle accident while attending Southern Adventist University; his brother, Pastor Jerry Rimer, who officiated his graveside service; his grandchildren were the love of his life, and he had a very special relationship with Kelsi and David, and he always looked forward to their visits, cards, photos, phone calls, and Facetimes. He is preceded in death by his son, Todd; his parents: Wilbert James and Kate (Oddie) Rimer; and his brother, Pastor Harry Rimer.

All who knew him, loved him. His heart was equal to his persona. He never met a stranger, and he blessed all who knew him with his laughter, love, and gregarious nature. We all look forward to seeing him in Heaven and hearing his voice once again as he will surely be singing with that great, heavenly choir. In the meantime, as his grandchildren said, “Rest easy, Papa.”

RUF, HELEN DEAN KNITTEL, born Nov. 26, 1929 in Plainview, TX, to Albert and Orene Dean, died March 31, 2021. She attended Ozark Academy in Arkansas.

After attending colleges at Southern Missionary and Madison, she received her Associate Degree from Union College in 1953. She completed her undergraduate work at Andrews University with a Bachelor’s degree in Secretarial Science. One of her first jobs was working in the treasurer’s office for the Iowa Conference.

Moving to Boulder, she accepted a position in the Colorado Conference office. Helen met Frank Knittel, a doctoral student at the University of Colorado. In 1956, the couple married and began a decades-long partnership during which they served at several SDA universities. At Andrews University, while husband Frank served as dean of students, Helen earned a Master of Arts in Teaching degree (English) and taught business classes. Their children, Jeff and Sherry, joined their family in Berrien Springs as well. She loved entertaining friends, gardening, reading, music, and animals.



In 1967, the Knittels moved to Collegedale, TN, where Frank served as Academic Dean and later president of Southern Missionary College. Helen was always active, holding teaching positions in the Business and English Departments, managing the Adventist Book Center, and graciously hosted many faculty events for guests.

In 1983, the family moved to California where Helen worked in academic administration at Loma Linda, as registrar at La Sierra Academy, and as a professor for La Sierra and Loma Linda University. In 2005, the Knittels moved to Alvord, a small town in north central Texas. It was in 2013 that Helen and Frank moved back to Tennessee, to be closer to their children. They joined the Collegedale Community Church. Two years later, Frank passed away. In 2016, Helen married Rolland M. Ruf, a retired minister from the Collegedale University Church. They spent 4½ years together before Helen passed away after a short battle with cancer. Her family, students, and a large circle of friends remember Helen as a caring mom, a personable professor, and an elegant woman with a beautiful smile and kind eyes. She made each person she met feel valued. She enlivened every event with her warmth and conversation.

She is survived by husband Rolland; son, Jeff (Crystal) Knittel; daughter, Sherry (David) Campbell; stepchildren: Rolland (Tina) Ruf Jr., Warren (Jane) Ruf, and Stephen (Jodi) Ruf; grandchildren: Joseph Drew, Jessica (Simon) Barrera, Jacob McNeal-Drew, Andrew (Erin) Knittel, and Rachel (Joshua) Carithers; step-grandchildren: Adam Ruf, Becca (Travis) Donaldson, Sarah Ruf, and Amanda Ruf; six great-grandchildren; sisters: Dorothy (Bill) Moon and Cheryl (Richard) Carpenter; several nieces; and nephews.

ANDERSON, CORRINE MOORE, 94, born Nov. 26, 1926 to the late Abraham Lincoln Moore and Endie Lee Moore in Brooks County, GA, died July 15, 2021 at home. She was the first born of 13 children, feet first and not breathing. With much effort and prayer by her grandmother, the late Ella Franklin, she survived. Later she would say “The Lord was not ready for me; He saw down the road my marriage to James and the birth of three daughters.” She married the late James Anderson and moved to Brunswick, GA, in 1950. At an early age, she accepted Christ as her personal Savior. As a member of Temple of Truth Free Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brunswick, she served faithfully for many years. She was secretary and treasurer for General Assembly of Free Seventh-day Adventist Church, served as deaconess, and taught pre-school at Temple of Truth School. She moved to Stone Mountain, GA,

in the late 1980s and soon joined Atlanta Belvedere Seventh-day Adventist Church. She served as deaconess, was a member of the Garden of Prayer, and taught the children Sabbath School class. She truly loved family and friends, and never met a stranger. She believed that God, through His mercy, grace, and love left her here to do His will. She read her Bible many times during the day, and was a prayer warrior. She leaves to celebrate her home going, two daughters: Zaneta and Janet Anderson both of Stone Mountain, GA; two brothers: Henry (Equilla) Moore of Valdosta, GA, and Samuel Moore of Woodbridge, VA; two sisters: Frances Mathis of Adel, GA, and Alavon (Alphonso) McPherson of Valdosta, GA; a special nephew, Calvin (Cynthia) Walthour of Valdosta, GA; Mary and Erin Wells (she called daughter and granddaughter) of Decatur, GA; and a host of nieces; nephews; other relatives;

and friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Anderson; beloved youngest daughter, Ella Denise Anderson; her mother, Endie Lee Moore; her father, Abraham Lincoln Moore; and eight siblings.

BURTNETT, HELEN ELIZABETH HOOVER, 89, of Ooltewah, TN, born Dec. 9, 1931, in Louisville, KY, the daughter of Ralph Hoover and Lilian (Lambert) Hoover Lester, died Jan. 23, 2021, in a local hospital. Helen retired from Parkview Memorial Hospital in Brunswick, Maine, as director of Medical Records. She was also a member of the Collegedale Church. She is survived by her son, Douglas (Rae) Horton; and twin granddaughters: Marie and Shannon Horton. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Burtnett; and daughter, Dana Burtnett, and son, Steven Burtnett. Funeral services were held Jan. 31, 2021, at the Collegedale Church, with Pastor Da-

vid Ferguson officiating. A private burial for the family followed at the Collegedale Memorial Park.

CRAREY, HUGH, 99, born May 17, 1921, died Sept. 26, 2020 in Miami, FL. He was a member of Kendall Church in Miami for more than 25 years. He is survived by one sister, Joyce McCalla of Miami. Service and interment were held at Woodlawn Park South in Miami.

CRONJE, ALICE MARIE, 81, of Ringgold, GA, born Oct. 14, 1939, died May 8, 2021.

EBERHARDT, EMMA, died March 2021 in Homosassa, FL. She was a member of the Homosassa Church.

FOSTER, PAULINE E., 77, born Jan. 10, 1944 in Miami, FL, died Feb. 14, 2021 in Miami. She was a member of Kendall Church in Miami for 10 years. She is survived by her husband of 57 years, George; one son, David Foster of London, England; two daughters: Sandra Martin of Jamaica, and Sharon Foster of London, England; and seven grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Laton Smith at the Woodlawn South Memorial Park in Miami. Interment was at Woodlawn South in Miami.

GRAVES JR., DR. CHARLES, born June 4, 1925 with a surprised twin birth to his parents, died July 20, 2021 at home in Dunlap, TN. Memphis was home, but being drafted in WWII changed Charles's world. As an Army medic, from 1944 to 1946 in Germany and France, watching physicians bring healing to the wounded, Charles was inspired to become a medical doctor. He attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine, where he met a beautiful nursing student, Mary Lou Ekvall; romance blossomed and they married June 11, 1951. Although offered a lucrative California practice,

they chose Dunlap, TN, as home to meet medical needs in underserved communities and to raise their growing family. Dr. Graves' words, "You can never out give the Lord" were reflected in his 50-year medical practice, helping to build the Dunlap Church and school, local business ventures, and working tirelessly to bring healing to many. He's survived by his four children: Dr. Charles Graves III, Louella Freeman, Nancy Billington, and Dr. George Graves; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; his twin sister, Louella Schleifer. His beloved wife, Mary Lou Graves, died Oct. 31, 2017. Dr. Graves' Memorial Service will be held Oct. 23, 2021 at Dunlap Church at 3:30 p.m. CST.

GRIGGS, JACKIE FRANK, 76, of Ooltewah, TN, born July 19, 1944, died March 11, 2021, lovingly known as "Coach." He was a Seventh-day Adventist all of his life and always shared the Lord in his own way. Jack made the world a kinder, brighter, and better place. He loved all sports, especially the Notre Dame fighting Irish. He was a mentor and friend to all of the children he coached. He was one of the greatest contributors to the beach volleyball scene at Silver Beach in St. Joseph, MI. Jack was the original founder of the Phi Slatma Jamma. Naturally gifted in sales, Jack spent his career in various roles selling Industrial Equipment in Michigan and Indiana. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Donna Griggs; one daughter, Dr. Heidi (Wally Herzog) Griggs; one son, Steven (Gladys) Griggs; grandchildren: Camden Griggs, Ella Griggs, and Tanner Griggs; two brothers: E.W. (Sally) Griggs, and Clifford P. Griggs. He was predeceased by his parents; and three siblings.

HART, WILLIAM "BILL" STOCKARD, 89, of Cleveland, TN, born June 11, 1932, died July 13, 2021 in

a Chattanooga, TN, hospital. He was the son of the late Roy and Ada Hart, and was preceded in death by two sisters, June Siler and Wanda Davis. Bill was a veteran of the U.S. Air Force. In his early years he worked as a residential building contractor. Prior to retirement he worked as a property manager for Trade Bank International. He was a member of the Collegedale Church. Survivors include his wife, Dianne Hart; three daughters: Amanda (Brandon) Souther of Chattanooga, Angela (Hal) Smedley of Apison, TN, and Marsha (Mike) Watterson of Hixson, TN; two sons: Roy Hart of Cleveland, and Billy Hart of Chattanooga; five grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and four nephews.

HEBERT, IRENE LOUISE, born Sept. 2, 1965, died May 19, 2021 at home with her husband and daughter after battling lung cancer for several years. Irene was a loving person always thinking of others before herself, be they family, friends, coworkers, acquaintances, or even pets. She was an accomplished business woman and worked with finances as a director at Skin Cancer and Cosmetic Dermatology Centers in Georgia and Tennessee. She was devoted to her family, and loved her daughter and husband with a selflessness that will never be forgotten. Her devotion to her work ethic was such that she worked at her position up to the week before she died, where her smile and gentle character was displayed always. She will be sorely missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her husband, Michael Hebert; and their daughter, Tiara Hebert; along with her sisters: Karen Vose, Kristine Clement, Kathleen Amidon, Carolyn Lonergan, and Dorothea Coutu; and one brother, Kenneth Charles Blood. Irene was predeceased by her parents: Kenneth and Irene Blood.

HEROD, JAMES VERNON, 94, of Collegedale, TN, born Nov. 9, 1926, died March 13, 2021. James was a WWII Navy Vet, and a member of the Collegedale Church. He is survived by his children: Carolyn Shupe, Dwight (Janita) Herod, Douglas (Donna) Herod; one brother, Gene Herod; one sister, Ann Travis; grandchildren: Jodi Steele, Courtney Herod, Amanda Mason, Jason Herod, Lori Akins, Chris Cramer, and Jeff Cramer; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his loving wife of 68 years, Roberta Herod; parents: Bradford and Martha Herod; three sisters: Marie Scronne, Margaret Cunningham, and Mildred Gilwreath; and three brothers: Edward, Jerry, and Victor Herod. A graveside service with military honors was held March 19, 2021 at Chattanooga National Cemetery with Pastors Fred Fuller and Dwight Herod officiating.

HILL, EDWARD R. "ED", 92, of Savannah, TN, born June 8, 1928 to the late Julius and Gertrude Mae Hill in Grand Island, NE, died Feb. 7, 2021 at Herbert Hills Nursing Home in Savannah. He was a member of the Ridgetop Church, and proud to serve in the United States Military. Hill is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Darlene F. Hill; his children: Ken Hill, Pattie Barnum, Jim Hill, Ron Hill, Dave Hill, and Connie Boler; seven grandchildren: Lauren Troxel, Ben Troxel, Carime Reid, Katie Graves, Corey Hill, Heather Wasson, and Shannon Crane; 28 great-grandchildren; two great-great grandchildren; and one brother, Bill Hill. He was preceded in death by his daughter, Ruth Ellen Hill; and two sisters: Emma Ann Ballard and Evelyn Wood.

LAKE, CONSTANCE LEONORA GUMBS, 82, born May 19, 1938 in San Nicholas, Aruba, died Jan. 23, 2021. She was the second child

of Octavia Gumbs and Sheffield Spanner. She was later adopted by her stepfather, Oswald Sprott, and received her education on the island of Saint Eustacius. Nora joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church at 14 years old. At the age of 16, she moved to Aruba to live with her father. One day, while visiting with her cousin in Curaçao, she met the man that she would later marry, Rodrigue Lake. They were joined in holy matrimony on Nov. 9, 1961 in Anguilla. Rod and Nora migrated to St. Thomas, USVI, in 1963. Due to a clerical error, her first and middle names were switched, and she became Leonora Constance. Rod and Nora's union produced three children: Vida Belinda (1965), Rodrigue Elwaldo (1970), and Cassandra Chamita (1971). By 1973, they moved to Orlando, FL. Every other year, the family moved to a new city, from Orlando to Augusta, GA, then to Lakeland, FL, then to Miami, FL, then to Huntsville, AL, and then back to Miami. In 1983, they relocated to Atlanta, GA. The family became members of the Belvedere SDA Church where Nora participated in various ministries, including hospitality, choir, and deaconess. In 2004, she witnessed the birth of her grandchild, Chyna Adrienne Brown. During her older years, she was an active participant in the Jet Setters, a seniors' ministry at the Decatur SDA Church. After living in Atlanta for 32 years, the family relocated to Dallas, TX, in 2015. Nora had already begun exhibiting signs of cognitive decline, and was eventually diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. This disease would ultimately take her life. Nora enjoyed music, shopping, traveling, doing needle work, and cooking. She was especially known for her macaroni and cheese and johnny cakes. Her exquisite taste can be applied to more than just food. Nora loved fine clothes and linens. A fash-

ionista in her own right and the ultimate home-maker. Over the years, Nora provided child care services for numerous children where she became affectionately known as "Mama Lake." She is survived by her husband of 59 years, Rodrigue Lake; children: Vida B. Lake, Rodrigue E. Lake, Cassandra C. Lake; granddaughter, Chyna A. Brown; sibling, Clemence de Mey, other family members, including Patricia Morgan, Oliver Baptiste, Anthony Lespier, Anna Miller; numerous nieces; nephews; cousins; relatives; and friends in the U.S., various Caribbean islands and Europe. Nora was preceded in death by her parents; and her siblings: Rosa Kaspers, Sheffield "Puncho" Gumbs, and Elme Berke.

LuePHANG, KENNETH PATRICK, 79, born May 26, 1940 in Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, died May 6, 2020 at a hospital in Washington, D.C., after a brief illness. Ken spent two-and-a-half years in Hong Kong, and six months in China from ages 8-11. He then returned to Jamaica and graduated from high school at Saint George College in Kingston. After high school, he came to the United States and earned his Bachelor of Science degree in civil engineering at Louisiana State University in 1961. At the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, he earned his Master of Science degree in industrial management in 1967, and completed all course work for a Ph.D. in environmental engineering in 1976. He worked for the Tennessee Valley Authority for 18 years in Knoxville and two years in Chattanooga. For the next 30 years, Ken served as a diplomat with the United States Agency for International Development in the countries of Islamabad and Lahore, Pakistan; Cairo, Egypt; Manila, Philippines; Kenya, Africa; Antananarivo, Madagascar; Abuja, Nigeria; and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and during that

time he also served in Washington, DC, for two years. Ken was an enthusiastic traveler and loved his family. He always had a beautiful smile and was willing to help anyone. He spent most of his life dedicated to advancing global health, economic prosperity, and promoting democracy and governance to Africa. He was awarded a Heroism Certificate by the United States Secretary of State in 1998 for providing help after the U.S. embassies were bombed in Tanzania and Kenya. He was knighted by the President of Madagascar and bestowed the title of Medaille de Chevalier de l'Orde Nationale for dedicated and unselfish service. He is now resting in the arms of Jesus, awaiting the great resurrection when Jesus comes in the clouds of glory. Survivors include his loving wife, Julia; son, Kenneth Matthew; daughters: Shelley Elizabeth and Susan Lynn; brothers: Joe, Freddie, and Stanley; sisters: Margaret, Catherine, and Patricia; many nieces; nephews; friends; and colleagues from all over the United States, Tanzania, Canada, Jamaica, and around the world. A private graveside service was held at the Matthews Cemetery in Georgetown.

MEADER, VIRGINIA RUTH STERN, 96, born Nov. 11, 1924 in New London, WI, died June 2, 2021 Stevensville, MI, at the Hanson Hospice Center. She graduated from Emmanuel Missionary college in 1950, and with a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Chattanooga in 1969. She taught elementary school for 34 years in the Catooza County schools in north Georgia. She was a member of Pioneer Memorial Church, and was a fifth generation Seventh-day Adventist. She is survived by her sister, Carol Stern O'day; her brother, Richard Stern; two daughters: Marlene Legg Rich, and Ellen

Legg Larsen; four grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her father, Dell Stern; her mother, Myrtle Haney Stern; her former husbands: Raymond Huffaker, David Legg, and James Meader; and her son, Jonathan Legg.

MITCHELL, ALPHONSO, 85, born Nov. 28, 1934, the second of three children born to Daniel B. and Mary Lee Mitchell, died Sept. 22, 2020 at Northside Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL. Everyone knew him as "Mitch." He was a young musician playing several instruments including the piano and saxophone. His love for photography also started at a young age, and later developed into a professional career. After graduating from Oakwood College Academy in 1953, Alphonso matriculated through Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University and obtained a Bachelors of Pharmaceutical Science degree in 1958. A Member of the Florida Pharmacy Association and the National Pharmaceutical Society, Alphonso was the co-owner of the first black-owned pharmacy in St. Petersburg, Doctor's Pharmacy. He retired from Walgreens Pharmacy following his tenure at AARP Pharmaceutical Services where, in addition to his obligations, he was a contributor to their circulating bulletin. Outside of pharmacy, Alphonso was an accomplished photographer opening Mitchell's Photography, a wedding and portrait studio. He was a member of The Florida Photographers Association, Tampa Area Photographers Association, and Pinellas Photography Association. He also found himself in front of the camera as a model for Murphy Robes, a pastoral and choir robe company. Alphonso served his community as a member of the Building Committee of the Melrose YMCA and was the first African American to obtain full membership

on the city's major as vice chairman of the Zoning Board of the City of St. Petersburg. Alphonso was a dedicated member of the Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa, FL. He served as an elder, Sabbath School teacher, and was the official church photographer. His ministry in videography and photography was not just used at the local church, as he also shared his talent with the Southeastern and Southern Union churches. In his spare time, Alphonso enjoyed other hobbies including fishing, golfing, reading, gardening, and traveling. His greatest accomplishment was being a dedicated husband to his wife of 46 years and three months, Ozzie Mitchell; and devoted father to his three children. The special bond he shared with his family was one to cherish. The nightly routine of a soft kiss and "I love you" is one that sustained the union between Ozzie and Alphonso. He is survived by his wife, Ozzie Mitchell; children: Marlon D. Mitchell, Cindy L. (Kenneth) Washington, and Lisa Mitchell (Kihe) Page; grandchildren: Mehan Mitchell, Kendrick Washington (Tirzah), Zeek Page, Josh Page, Kyrsha Page, and Khori Page; great-grandchild, Atum (Sean) Alexander; his sister, Jacqueline Y. Powell; nieces and nephews: Andrea (Charlie) Cheney, Peyton N. Powell, Mark Powell, Terrance Powell, and Ryan Powell; his in-laws: Rosie Perdue, Cora (Tim) Mury, Glenda Waters, Angela Grayes, Ben Grayes, Freemon (Mae) Grayes, Richard Grayes, Willie Grayes, Robert Grayes, Bobby (Precious) Grayes, and James Grayes; he is lovingly remembered by close family and friends: including the Earle family, the Grayes family, the Forde family, the Danley family, the Gross family, the Bassett family, the Taylor family, the Wims family, the Hardemans, Art Jackson, Janet Clark, Margarette Nelson, the Nicks family, and Sevell Brown III

and family. He was preceded in death by his parents: Mary Lee and Daniel B. Mitchell; and his brother Maurice M. Mitchell.

MOON, (GENE) MELVIN EUGENE, 87, born Sept. 12, 1933 in Avon Park, FL, to the late David and Martha Jones, died June 21, 2021 in Fort Meade, FL. He was a member of Fort Meade, FL, Church for more than 60 years and served as a deacon. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army during the Korean War. He retired after many years of service with Exxon Mobil in Polk County, where he was a heavy equipment operator. He is survived by his loving wife, Rebecca; one son, Lanner (Barbara) Moon of Gainesville, FL; two daughters: Wanda (John) Brown of Fort Meade, and Anita (Guy) Bass of Fort Meade; four grandchildren; numerous great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. A graveside service was held at Evergreen Cemetery in Fort Meade.

MUNDELL, MARJORIE M., 98, born April 5, 1922 in Kingston, Jamaica, died March 21, 2021 in Miami, FL. She was a member of Kendall Church in Miami for more than 25 years. She is survived by three sons: Gary, Alrie, and Dave Mundell all of Miami; one daughter, Beverly Mundell of Miami; one sister, Sylvia; nine grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. The service and interment were held at Woodlawn Park South in Miami.

NELSON, DR. ETHEL READ, 97, born in 1923 in San Diego, CA, died Jan. 28, 2021. She was the daughter of Schuyler and Olive Read and had two siblings, Mariah and Frances. Ethel was a pathologist, and her husband, Roger Nelson, was a surgeon. She and Roger met while attending Loma Linda University School of Medicine and married in 1946. In 1951, they found their calling and became missionaries in Bangkok,

Thailand. There they started a family and raised their three children, Laurel, Orlyn, and Theodore, while working at the Seventh-day Adventist Mission Hospital. In addition to pathology, Ethel also practiced general medicine, including obstetrics, during their time in Bangkok. While there, Ethel started a school of medical technology and trained students from all over Asia. Ethel was not only an accomplished pathologist but also a loving and beloved mother. Although very busy with her work as a medical missionary, she always made time for her three children and often planned creative family vacations to exotic places. On one occasion, she planned a family trip with other missionaries and their families that had them take bamboo rafts down a river doing medical clinics for the remote villagers. The family trips she planned often made such an impression that many have become stories that her children have passed down to their own children. Their first mission trip to Thailand ended in 1968 when she and Roger moved their family to Reading, MA, so that their children could attend college in the United States. There she and Roger practiced at New England Memorial Hospital until 1978, when they returned to their mission work in Bangkok after their children finished college. In 1983, they left Thailand for good, having spent more than 22 years there, and settled in Dunlap, TN. Her research-oriented mind was ever curious, whether working on a medical mystery like hemorrhagic fever (Dengue) or working with Chinese characters. She was a prolific writer not only in the medical field, where she wrote many published research papers, but she had many published books on her passion—ancient Chinese characters and their relationship to the biblical story of Genesis. Her most recent

book being the co-written Oracle Bones Speak. In addition to these, she also wrote health books, such as 375 Meatless Recipes and Burkitt Cancer Fiber, a biography of Dr. Denis Burkitt. When not writing on these subjects, she enjoyed writing and illustrating storybooks for her grandchildren, bringing to life stories from her family's time in Thailand. Ethel was an energetic, creative, and optimistic woman who took on projects big and small. She was known for her big heart. She and her husband helped many people over the course of their lives through their medical work, and by taking them under their wing, whether by encouragement, opening their home to them, or paying for their education. She is survived by her three children, Laurel Damsteege, Orlyn Nelson, and Theodore Nelson, and their spouses, as well as her six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

PRICE, RAYMOND, 59, born Aug. 3, 1960 in Miami, FL, died May 14, 2020 in Miami. He was a member of Kendall Church in Miami for 13 years. He is survived by one son, Christopher Price of Miami; and one daughter, Raeana Price of Miami. The service was conducted by Pastor Laton Smith at Woodlawn-Palms in Miami. Interment was at Woodlawn-Palms.

RAY, KIMBERLY SUZANNE (NEE WILSON), 58, of Lewisburg, TN, died Aug. 7, 2021. She was a church member at Madison, TN, Church. Ray was a loving mother. She was always quick to say how proud she was of even the smallest accomplishments. She demonstrated the values she wanted her children to learn, including service, compassion, and kindness. As a nurse, she was beloved by patients and their families for her warm manner and endless empathy. She was also a Flight Nurse in

the U.S. Air Force Reserves, and was thrilled when her son, Trey, entered the same branch of service after college. Throughout her life, Kim excelled at everything she put her mind to – she was a state champion long-distance runner in high school; she put herself through college as a young mother of two and graduated with honors; and she won several awards for her skill as a nurse. Her laugh was loud and genuine, and her love for others was boundless. Kim is survived by her daughter, Julie, and grandson, Aidan; her son, Trey; her mother, Mary Jane; and her brother, Rick. She is also survived by her former husband and dear friend, Walter.

ROSE, NANCY REID, 74, of Ooltewah, TN, born Jan. 4, 1947 in Jackson, MS, died July 25, 2021. Nancy was a passionate gardener and burgeoning artist. She loved to go dancing and hiking, but there was nothing she loved more than spending time with her precious grandchildren, Jordan and Shelby. Nana Banana (as her grandchildren affectionately called her) participated in Pow Wows together, hiked the trails of Red Clay and Ocoee, and traveled around the world together walking on many different beaches. Survivors include her two daughters: Xiomara Romine and NaJuana Lee; her two grandchildren, Jordan Romine and Shelby Romine Ingold; and the love her of her life, James R. Maxwell. She was preceded in death by her loving parents: Sidney Shelton Jones and Audrey Russell Jones. A memorial honoring the life of Nancy was held August 8, 2021 at the Collegedale Church.

ROYALTY, SYLVIA, died Nov. 22, 2020. She was the mother of Sonja Johnson; grandmother of Tanya Jansen, Greg Johnson, and Eric Johnson; and great-grandmother to seven.

SILVER, BOB WADSWORTH, born Nov. 12, 1932, died Jan. 9, 2021.

SIMONDS, ALAN MICHAEL, 58, born March 8, 1962 in Ipswich, England, died Oct. 7, 2020 in Nashville, TN, due to complications related to COVID-19. Alan proudly served in the U.S. Army for five years. He was a veteran of Desert Storm. For almost 40 years, he worked as an automotive technician and considered his vocation a calling. Toward the end of his career, he mentored student mechanics, one of his most rewarding experiences. Alan would often donate his time and resources to help those in need. Wherever he went, Alan was affectionately known as “the Adventist mechanic.” In 2011, he met and married the love of his life and best friend, Gordana Jakovljevic Simonds. Alan instantly bonded with her sons, Alexander and Nicholas Killian, and loved them as his own. Although their time together was short, they made amazing memories traveling, hiking, camping, and laughing. A deeply spiritual man, Alan had a burden to share his faith with others. He served as a Pathfinder chaplain and was dedicated to ministering to young people. He was quick to offer a prayer and point you to his personal Savior, Jesus Christ. Alan yearned for the second coming of Jesus. It was his sincerest hope to be reunited with his loved ones on resurrection morning, when all pain and suffering will cease for eternity. He is survived by his wife, Gordana Jakovljevic Simonds; sons, Alexander and Nicholas Killian; parents: Roy and Marlenea Simonds; siblings: David (Cathy) Simonds, Sharon (Mark) Learned, and Stephen (Fawn) Simonds; many nieces; nephews; and their children; and his in-laws: Dragan Jakovljevic and Mara Tutus. He was preceded in death by his mother-in-law, Elvira Sanchez Bietz, and sister-in-law, Frances Ja-

kovljevic. Funeral services were held Oct. 16, 2020, followed by a private burial service.

SPIVA, LYLE EDWARD, 70, born Jan. 12, 1949 in Brawley, CA, went to sleep in Jesus on Dec. 25, 2019 at his home in Collegedale, TN, surrounded by family and friends. A memorial service was held on Jan. 5, 2020 at the Collegedale, TN, Church.

TOPPIN, LEROY, 88, born Jan. 30, 1933 in Roxborough, Tobago to the late Henry and Letitia Toppin, died June 5, 2021. Recently taking residence in Ooltewah, TN, with his wife, Eutil Toppin, their path to the Chattanooga, TN, area nearly four years ago follows a winding road from sunny Tobago, West Indies, to St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, then Queens, NY, and Ellicott City, MD, before settling in his final resting place of Ooltewah, TN. What Leroy lacked in formal education, God generously compensated with incredible optimism, social insights, biblical wisdom, and a keen business sense. His favorite text being Proverbs 3:5-6, there were countless couples, family members, friends, co-workers, and even strangers, who eagerly sought out his shrewd counsel. Leroy was a natural encourager, and had “a way” of making others feel valued while creating a “safe” space to talk. He had a genuine love for people, especially the littlest ones – black, white, old, young, cat or dog; you would not remain a stranger for long. His generous heart and personal testimonies of faith fueled a life of service and philanthropy, always bearing a strong witness to anyone he encountered of how God has led in his life, and of his soon return. As a tradesman, with an undying affinity for construction and real estate, Leroy purchased several homes and rental properties, led a number of construction

and renovation projects, and retired as a Facilities Supervisor for New York State over the course of his life. Leroy enjoyed healthy discussion in Sabbath School, serving on various committees and as a deacon at several churches. His real passion was singing! He loved to sing in the choir and sang first tenor in many groups and church choirs. His favorite genres were hymns, traditional gospel, and spirituals. He need only hear a voice singing, and he would quickly join them with a sweet tenor harmony. Nothing buoyed his soul like family and worship. His favorite hymn was Under His Wings, which he heard family members sing, even as he drew his final breath. Leroy also held a strong value for education, and encouraged every young (and even not-so-young) person to pursue his or her degree or learn a trade. As he shared his personal challenges with school, his words were often, “study your books,” “stick-to-it,” and “you can do it!” Married June 24, 1965, he is survived by Eutil Toppin, his wife of nearly 56 years; three sons: Dilano Toppin, Hovis Thomas, and Andy (Jean) Toppin; and one daughter, Teshia (James) Price; eight grandchildren: Anna Toppin, Alexandria Schultz, Sabrina, Lauren, and Sean Toppin, Jamme, Isaiah, and Gaielle Price; siblings: Ursula Caruth, Grenice Gay, Hamilton James, and Carol John; a host of beloved nieces; nephews; cousins; and cherished friends. Siblings who preceded him in death: Ursilla Delancy, Darolyn Davidson, Pearl Blackman, Franky Toppin, Joe Toppin, Hendrickson Toppin, Eudanie Allen, and Nehemiah Toppin.

WESTCOTT, IRIS MULL, 86, born Feb. 8, 1934 in Morganton, NC, died Feb. 28, 2020. Iris graduated from Southern Missionary College with an associate in science degree in secretarial sci-

ence. She married her college sweetheart, Gerald Paul Westcott on Dec. 18, 1955. The couple were owners of Westcott Printing and Photography in Tallahassee, FL, where she managed business operations for the company. She left Tallahassee in 1998 and moved to Atlanta, GA, where she resided until 2011 when she moved to Ooltewah, TN. She was an active member of the Collegedale, TN, Church, and of local senior women’s groups. She was a devoted grandmother who participated in the upbringing of her four granddaughters. Iris was excited to welcome two new great-grandchildren in the fall of 2019. She is survived by her son, David (Ruth Ostman) of Nashville, TN; daughter, Connie (William) Brackbill of Ooltewah, TN; grandchildren: Ashley (Thomas) Erickson, Courtney (Jeremy) Wampler, Lauren Brackbill, and Meredith Brackbill; great-grandchildren: Adalyn Erickson and James Wampler; and sister, Elgiva Mull Sykes. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald Paul Westcott. A graveside service was held at Arlington Memorial Park in Sandy Springs, GA, on March 3, 2020. A celebration of life service was held at a later date.

WILLIAMS, JUDY HOWARD, 69, born May 1, 1951 to the late Luther and Mary (Foust) Howard, quietly slipped into her rest Oct. 10, 2020 at her home in Charlotte, NC. Judy grew up in Charlotte’s Brooklyn neighborhood, and was the second born and oldest girl in a family of eight children. Because of her position in the family, she was looked upon to be a role model at an early age. She became the first in the family to attend college, where she studied apartment management and criminal justice. She attended Central Piedmont Community College early in her career, but

was determined to complete her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Pfeiffer University, which she did later in life. While Judy was the mother of five children: Bethel, David, Trinace, Etienne, and Ianna, she also was a foster mother to several other children, Stawntana and Quantana, whose lives she influenced. She was extremely involved with the nurturing and care of her grandchildren, many times to fill the gap for her children. She has also done the same for many other children within and outside of her family. She was a woman of great faith and believed in hard work. She was a devoted, second-generation member of Charlotte Berean Church, where she was baptized at an early age and continued to serve for many years. Her service to the church includes Elder, Treasurer, Youth Leader, Choir Director, Finance Team member, and many other roles. In 1975, Judy became the resident manager of Kingspark Apartments located on Charlotte’s west side. Hired by the late William Trotter, a longtime trailblazer in the real estate and housing industry, Judy learned the ends and outs of apartment management under his leadership. She was more than just an employee; she became a second mother to many in the community and helped generations of families. She founded the KINGSPARK KIDS CLUB which met twice weekly, and many times in her own living room. Many of the children she mentored have gone on to have successful careers in banking, business, politics, and professional sports. They are forever grateful to her for being there to guide their paths. Early in her career, Judy dreamed of becoming a judge. This was made possible last year when she was sworn in by the Mecklenburg County Clerk of Courts as an Honorary Mag-

istrate. Surrounded by numerous fellow judges, the Mayor of Charlotte, family members, and friends, she took the oath of office, and became the first and only person to receive this honor. Judy's community service was also recognized by numerous community awards and honors she received including the 2019 MLK Keeper of the Dream Award, and being named a 2017 Charlottean of the Year. Judy lived out her desire to travel by watching her loved one's travel around the world, and asking only for a refrigerator magnet as a souvenir. However, in October 2016, Judy fulfilled a lifelong dream when she attended a reception hosted by President and Mrs. Obama on the south lawn of the White House to welcome His Excellency Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy, and his wife, Mrs. Agnese Landini. She attended the event with her son David, and his wife, Mary. The three followed that with a tour of the White House the next day. It was the experience of a lifetime. Judy was a natural born entrepreneur and idea generator. The interest over the years included everything from baking, sewing, wedding planning, gadget inventor, song composer, notary public, and realtor. Judy also loved music and loved to sing. She passed her love for music on to her children for sure. Those left to cherish her memory are her children: Bethel Henderson, David (Mary) Howard, Trinace Howard, Etienne Harris, and Ianna Howard, all of Charlotte; her sisters: Mary (Luis) Rodriguez of Grovetown, GA, and Carolyn Miller of Charlotte; brother, William Howard of Charlotte; sister-in-law, Ann Howard (late Johnathan) of Charlotte; 10 grandchildren: Marketa (Hans) Byers, and Chandler Snipe both of Charlotte, Shawna Howard of

New York, NY, Alashya Harris of Winston-Salem, NC, Amare Harris, Alexi Harris, Austyn Harris, Chase Howard, Dorian Howard, Daylan Howard, all of Charlotte; three great-grandchildren; a host of nieces; nephews; and godchildren.

WILSON, CHARLENE PADEN, 74, born Jan. 19, 1946 in Wilksburg, PA, died March 6, 2020 at the Hospice Care Center with family and friends at her side. She was the daughter of Marion Paden and Helena (Herrell) Paden. Charlene graduated in 1964 from Forest Lake Academy in Altamonte Springs, FL. She attended Southern Missionary College (Southern Adventist University) and started working at Little Debbie to pay her way through school. While working there, she met Thomas R. Wilson. She graduated from Southern in 1969, and on Nov. 16, 1969, she and Thomas were married. They moved to Pittsboro, NC, where she taught while he finished his time in the Army. She taught at Triangle Junior Academy until 1971. They moved back to Chattanooga, TN, and Charlene taught fourth grade at Cloud Springs Elementary from 1972 until retirement. In 1981, the couple was gifted with the birth of their only child, Wendy, who Charlene loved with all of her heart. Charlene loved all animals but especially all of the dogs they owned throughout the years. She was very involved with her church as a deaconess for many years, and anytime someone was needed to go and sit with a sick friend or member of the church, she was there. Charlene's faith in God was very important to her; she was a member of the Collegedale Church for more than 50 years. She will be deeply missed by her husband of more than 50 years, Thomas R. Wilson; her daughter, Wendy Wilson (Houston) Roe; brother, Clifford (Betty) Paden;

lots of cousins; nephews; a host of coworkers; and friends. Charlene was preceded in death by her parents; and multiple aunts; uncles; and cousins. All who knew Charlene will remember her smile, laughter, and huge heart and spirit. She touched everyone she met. You could feel the love that she exuded, and she will be dearly missed by anyone who she encountered. A celebration of life service was held March 31, 2020 at the McDonald Road, TN, Church.

WRIGHT, LEANORA, 76, born Nov. 2, 1942 in Spanish Town, Jamaica, died April 25, 2019 in Miami, FL. She was a member of August Town Church in Jamaica for 54 years. She was an attendee at Kendall Church in Miami. She is survived by one son, James Wright in London, England; four daughters: Norma Wright Henry, Pearline Sands, Greta Wright Reid, and Donneta Wright; and seven grandchildren. The service was conducted with Pastors Laton Smith and G. P. Williams at Kendall Church in Miami. Interment was at Caballero-Woodlawn in Miami.

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ENJOY WORRY-FREE RETIREMENT- at Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, NC. Spacious apartments available now. Ask about our limited rental units and villa homes. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet when you tour. *Call Lisa at 1-800-249-2882 or 828-209-6935 or visit www.fletcherparkinn.com* [10-7]

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job description at www.ucollege.edu/employment. Contact Debbie Eno at debbie.eno@ucollege.edu for information. [10]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduate-studies [10]

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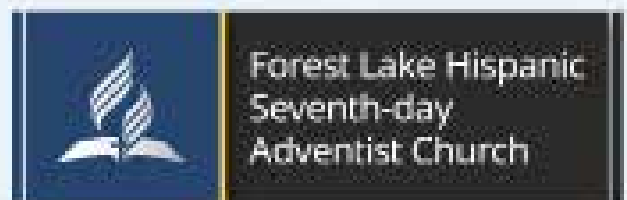
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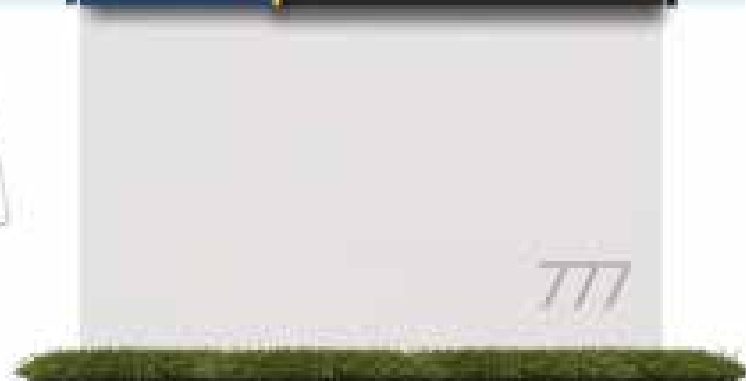
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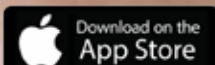
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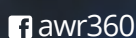
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNNYDALE ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEK-END 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 SAVE THE DATE - Sept. 8-11, 2022. Orlando, FL.

CAROLINA

Low Country Harvest IMPACT - Oct. 15-16. Summerville, SC.

IMPact Youth Rally at MPA - Nov. 5-6. Mount Pisgah Academy.

Family Ministries Retreat - Nov. 12-14. Nosoca Pines Ranch.

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Program - Dec. 12-Jan. 6.
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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

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.

Symphony Orchestra Concert - Nov. 7. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform at 7:30 p.m. at the Collegedale Church. To learn about more School of Music events, visit southern.edu/musicevents.

	OCT 1	OCT 8	OCT 15	OCT 22	OCT 29	NOV 5
ATLANTA, GA	7:20	7:11	7:02	6:54	6:47	6:41
CHARLESTON, SC	7:03	6:54	6:45	6:38	6:30	6:24
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:06	6:56	6:47	6:38	6:31	6:24
COLLEGEDALE, TN	7:23	7:13	7:04	6:55	6:48	6:41
HUNTSVILLE, AL	6:29	6:19	6:10	6:02	5:54	5:48
JACKSON, MS	6:44	6:35	6:27	6:19	6:12	6:06
LOUISVILLE, KY	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:54	6:46	6:38
MEMPHIS, TN	6:43	6:33	6:02	6:15	6:07	6:01
MIAMI, FL	7:06	6:59	6:52	6:46	6:40	6:36
MONTGOMERY, AL	6:28	6:20	6:11	6:03	5:56	5:50
NASHVILLE, TN	6:29	6:19	6:10	6:01	5:53	5:46
ORLANDO, FL	7:10	7:02	6:55	6:48	6:42	6:37
TAMPA, FL	7:15	7:07	6:59	6:53	6:47	6:42
WILMINGTON, NC	6:55	6:45	6:36	6:28	6:20	6:14

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