

TIDINGS

Southern 

NOVEMBER 2021



EQUIPPED AND CALLED

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
WELCOMES KEN SHAW, ED.D., AS THE
27TH PRESIDENT

SIGNS FROM
THE LORD

CARRYING ON
THE LEGACY

GULF STATES HOLDS
33RD CONSITUENCY
SESSION

Our Mediator



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

“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession,” Hebrews 4:14.

Follow the reasoning of the author of Hebrews. Israel never achieved the spiritual rest God promised. They did not even have the land rest that God wanted to give them in Canaan. Joshua led the people, but he could not deliver what God had promised. Not that the record faults Joshua. Israel brought conflict and delay through their own unbelief.

Unbelief continually denies God’s children their potential. The Word of God measures belief and, like a sword, determines motives as well as monitors deeds. Don’t think that anyone can hide from His discerning Word. We all lie before Him like open books.

What should we do then? Take advantage of the new Joshua, who has already gone ahead to the promised inheritance of the saints. Jesus will lead His people into the presence of God, where true rest waits.

And so the book of Hebrews brings us to the Great High Priest. Jesus our Captain not only defeats evil and provides a better hope, but also intercedes at the right hand of God to give His people rest from sin.

From here on, the book of Hebrews looks again at the sanctuary service. If Jesus ministers in the heavenly sanctuary, what does that mean to those who put their faith in Him? From beginning to end, the writer urges us to consider Jesus, the better One.

One by one the great of the Old Testament pass before us: Moses, Aaron, Joshua. Jesus gathers into Himself all the promises and qualities they represent, and goes beyond anything they could do or be.

He does the same with the Old Testament system of sacrifices and priests. Jesus offered Himself as a sacrifice, and what can compare with that? He then takes His own sacrifice and ministers it on our behalf. He does this on His authority as God’s appointed High Priest. His sacrifice excels because He knew no sin. His position excels because He holds the office of High Priest in the heavenly sanctuary.

In Christ, you have the best God can do for you. With Him all is hope. “Jesus has opened the way to the Father’s throne, through His mediation the sincere desire of all who come to Him in faith may be presented before God,” *The Great Controversy*, p. 489.

What a dynamic message we as Seventh-day Adventist Christians have to share with the world. People do not know what will happen in the future. But, we have assurance that, because of Christ’s mediatorial ministry for us, God promises us hope. Even in the midst of COVID-19 related sorrows and sufferings accompanied by agony, starvation, and sorrow, we can have hope. Such hope helps us not to worry about tomorrow because we know that Jesus continually ministers to us and on our behalf. Let’s not give up; but, stand with Jesus until the end. –RCS 📍



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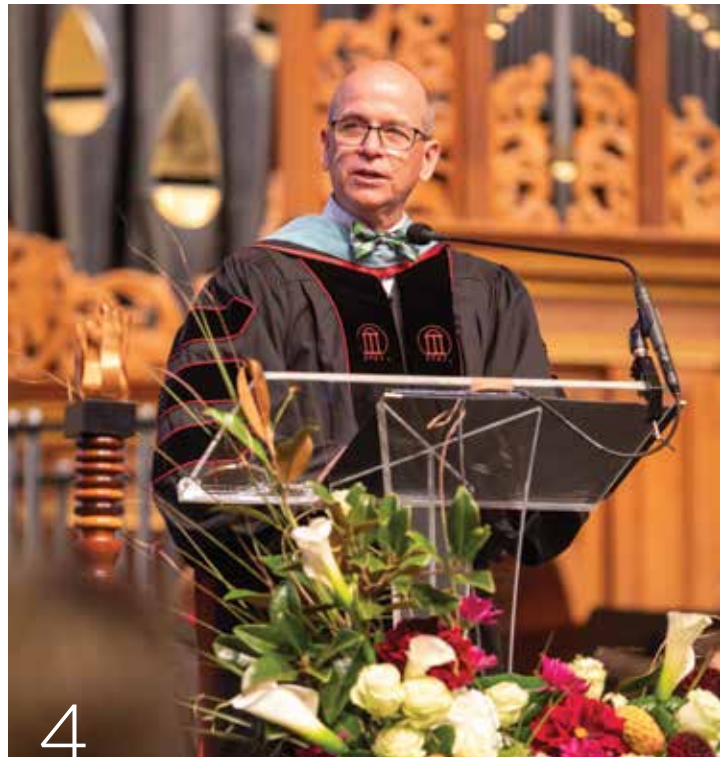
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COVER CAPTION: Ken Shaw, Ed.D., was inaugurated as Southern Adventist University's 27th president on September 30, 2021.

EQUIPPED AND CALLED

Southern Adventist University Welcomes Ken Shaw, Ed.D., as the 27th President

BY JANELL HULLQUIST

As Ken Shaw, Ed.D., entered the presidential office at Southern Adventist University on June 1, 2021, he found himself coming full circle. His Southern experience began 45 years earlier, when he attended Southern with his future wife, Ann, graduating in 1980 with a degree in mathematics. Now, after decades serving in higher education, God has brought Shaw back to Southern as the first alum to serve as the institution's president.

Shaw was chosen unanimously by Southern's Board of Trustees on February 28, 2021, after an extensive search process. As Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., chairman of Southern's Board of Trustees and president of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, expressed, "The unanimous decision of the board is strong evidence that the will of God has been executed. We thank the Lord for His providential leading and anticipate His blessing in the Southern community as a result of Dr. Shaw's acceptance."

Southern held an inauguration ceremony to officially install Shaw as Southern's 27th president on September 30, 2021. Representatives from sister



During his inauguration, Ken Shaw, Ed.D., challenged Southern's employees and students with 1 Corinthians 15:58: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord," (NKJV).



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D. (left), chairman of Southern's Board of Trustees and president of the Southern Union, presented Ken Shaw, Ed.D., with the presidential medallion.

schools, friends of the University, faculty and staff, students, and family members joined together to seek a divine blessing on Shaw's leadership, and celebrate the beginning of his tenure at Southern.

Following God's Call

Shaw enters this chapter in his career with confidence in God's ongoing guidance.

"We were comfortable where we were, but we sensed God's calling in our lives," Shaw said. "Sometimes He puts you in places you never thought you'd be, but when He calls you, He will enable and equip you."

Shaw comes to Southern with a wealth of experience. Most recently he served as president at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. Previously he worked at Florida State University for 25 years in various capacities, from assistant professor of mathematics education to campus dean of Florida State Univer-

sity Panama City and academic dean of the College of Applied Studies. His track record as a leader in higher education includes increasing enrollment, establishing new academic programs, and improving institutional financial stability.

After completing his bachelor's degree at Southern, Shaw went on to earn his master's degree in mathematics from Middle Tennessee State University, and a doctoral degree in mathematics education from the University of Georgia.



School of Music ensembles performed several selections during the ceremony.



Ken Shaw, Ed.D., president, enjoys meeting students all across campus.

The learning environment holds a special place in Shaw’s heart. As a professor, he enjoyed the challenge of finding different ways to express an idea in order to connect with each student.

“I loved seeing students’ lightbulbs come on as they had ‘I get it’ moments,” he remembers.

Forward Thinking

In addition to his passion for teaching, Shaw is an advocate for community partnerships, and has presented papers on their importance. While in Texas, he regularly wrote a column for the *Cleburne Times-Review*, and in Florida he served with various groups that were recruiting industry to the area and helping grow small businesses. As a leader and mathematician, Shaw values strategic thinking and analyzing metrics to optimize results.

“It is important for a university presi-

dent to always be thinking ahead, planning where the school should be in three, five, or 10 years,” Shaw said. “But, in order to effect change and keep the University moving forward, it’s critical to surround yourself with wonderful people and leaders, and I’ve been impressed with the faculty and staff at Southern. Hats off to my predecessors for building a strong team!”

Ultimately, it is Shaw’s relationship with God that grounds him and provides the basis for his leadership.

“I enjoy my spiritual devotions every morning, taking time to reflect on a few Bible verses which provide a strong foundation for my day,” Shaw said. “We all have busy, complex lives, but when we pause and spend time with our God, relying on Him, He can carry our burdens and recharge us to do what we need to do each day.”

Shaw’s favorite Bible verse is Isaiah 40:31: “But those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint,” (NKJV).

“There are many headwinds in higher education, but I see every challenge as an opportunity,” he said. “This isn’t my school, this is God’s school; He directs us as we carry on the important mission of Southern Adventist University, transforming lives for eternity. Nothing is too big for God to handle.”

Coming Home

As a Southern student in the late ’70s, Shaw participated in the band — where he played baritone — and enjoyed exploring the surrounding area with Ann. The two were married prior to his senior year at Southern and had two children, who later also graduated from Southern.

The Shaws describe returning to Southern now as “coming home” and find that while clothing styles and technology may have changed, much remains the same.

“I can still smell the Little Debbie’s being baked across the street, and the grounds and buildings are very familiar, although updated,” Shaw said. “More importantly, I



Ken and Ann Shaw are both Southern alumni and fondly remember walking across campus together as students.

sense that campus culture is still similar to when I was a student. There is a sweetness that goes beyond the smell of Oatmeal Cream Pies baking — a sweet spirit on campus. People are friendly and pleasant, and it speaks well to Southern’s legacy of providing Christian education.”

As president, Shaw aims to increase efforts to make Southern more accessible to all students. He hopes to grow the University’s endowment fund in order to make more financial aid available, while strengthening the school’s financial foundation. His vision is to continue providing a solid Seventh-day Adventist education for all Southern Union constituents, while making it widely known that the University’s doors are open to students from all denominations.

“Students are the life blood of the institution,” he said. “I love meeting as many of them personally as possible, listening to their stories and how God is leading them. For 129 years, Southern has offered a wonderful Christian education, and any student who has a desire for that experience is welcome here.”

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

BIETZ CENTER FOR STUDENT LIFE OFFICIALLY OPENS

As part of Ken Shaw’s inauguration week, Southern held the grand opening for its newest building on October 1, 2021: the Bietz Center for Student Life. Alumni, donors, students, and employees participated in the ribbon-cutting festivities for this long-awaited addition to campus, which was fully donor funded.

At more than 42,000 square feet, the facility brings together many student-focused services and resources under one roof, including chaplains, outreach coordinators, career and mental health counselors, and many more personnel who are eager to help students thrive and succeed in college and beyond. Additionally, the Bietz Center features lounge areas, game rooms, an eatery, study



rooms, a store, a prayer room, and a chapel, plus offices for the Student Association and student publications.

Named in honor of Southern’s 25th president, Gordon Bietz, D.Min., and his family’s long-standing dedication to Seventh-day Adventist education, this new facility underscores the fact that students are the reason Southern exists.



Southern’s Board of Trustees joined the ribbon-cutting festivities for the Bietz Center for Student Life.

SIGNS FROM THE LORD

BY RACHEL BEAVER

S hari Leader, a member of the Lighthouse Adventist Fellowship, Fuquay Varina, North Carolina, was in the middle of preaching an evangelistic series in 2020 when COVID-19 began to take a turn for the worse. There were several attendees who were really benefiting from the series, so Leader was determined to finish the series, eventually resorting to using Zoom. She did another series in the fall when it seemed like things were beginning to go back to normal, but the infection numbers rose again during the holiday season.

“In January, I was concerned about whether we should do it again. I had the money to do it, but I didn’t have money to waste,” says Leader. “I can’t see the future. So, I took it to the Lord.”

Leader prayed and asked God to show her whether or not she was to do the series. That very afternoon, Leader received a call from a woman who had received a brochure for the previous series but hadn’t been able to attend. She wanted to know if they were going to do it again.

“Sometimes we think that the Lord tells us stuff because it’s what we want to hear. So I asked the Lord again. ‘Okay, Lord. I know I’m being a pest, but I need to know for sure. Did You tell me to do this? Or am I twisting what you told me?’ That very afternoon, I got a second phone call.”

The second call came from Arizona. A woman had contacted the caller to inquire on behalf of her brother, who wanted to attend an evangelistic series. The problem was, the brother lived in Raleigh, North Carolina, not Arizona. So,



they contacted Leader to see if she was planning a series there.

This was it — the confirmation Leader needed to move forward with the series.

The venue was reserved, and brochures ordered from Seminars Unlimited in Texas. Two weeks before opening night, Leader received word they were in the middle of a freak ice storm.

With no answers or options, Leader once again put everything in God’s hands. The following Monday — the day the brochures were scheduled to hit the local post offices — Leader got a call from Carl Johnson, president of Seminars Unlimited. He told her that the post offices were closed, and he had been trying to find a way to get the brochures to Leader, but it

was going to cost an extra \$4,000. Leader didn’t have the money and was ready to forget the brochures altogether. But, God was not surprised. Knowing how important these brochures were, Johnson rented a Penske truck, loaded up all the brochures, and drove straight through — all the way to Raleigh. He then went to every post office and talked to every postmaster, explaining the situation, and showing that the postage was already paid. Every one of the postmasters accepted the brochures, and they were out in the mail the next day.

To top it all off, the governor of North Carolina lifted a lot of the COVID restrictions on the very day the series was supposed to start. In fact, the lift went into effect one hour before the series was scheduled.

Leader’s testimony is a beautiful reminder that God is always in control, and He’ll always make a way if people put our trust in Him. 🕊

Rachel Beaver is the communication intern at the Carolina Conference.

CARRYING ON THE LEGACY

BY SANDRA DORAN

When Eric Doran graduated from Andrews University Theological Seminary in 1980, he drove to upstate New York to discover his new church in the midst of a building project. “I was 25 years old, straight out of seminary, and the only thing I’d ever bought was a used car,” he says.

Walking around the building site, Doran was surprised to see a car pull up. A woman approached and asked, “What kind of church will this be?”

“Seventh-day Adventist,” Doran replied.

“Then I want to become a member,” she said.

True to her word, Alysse Douglass was the first to appear when Saratoga Springs Church opened its doors. She explained that she had recently lost a dear friend named Annie. Before Annie’s death, Douglass promised she would join the church whose tenets Annie so joyfully shared.

Eagerly, Doran prepared for the first Bible studies in his new role. Each week, he was met by an enthusiastic student, exclaiming, “Oh, I already know about that. Annie told me all about it.” In short order, Douglass became the first person to join the newly built church.

Four decades of ministry and many baptisms later, Doran once again found himself reaping the harvest of a faithful witness who had gone before.

Raised Seventh-day Adventist by a God-fearing mother, Charles Bishop stopped attending church when he left home. “My mother never gave up hope. She would always tell me, ‘Charles, get back to church.’”

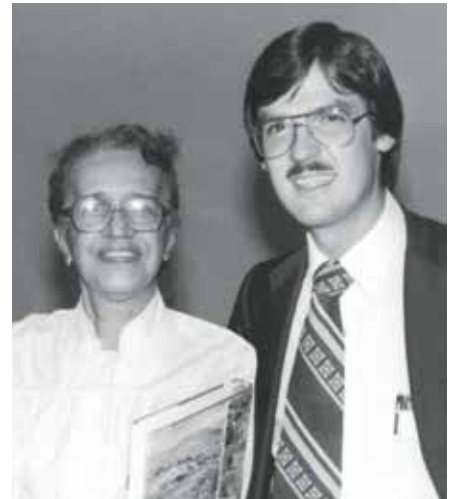
In 2018, not having entered an Adventist church for 35 years, Bishop appeared

in the foyer of Brooksville Church. “At that moment, I knew this was where I wanted to be,” he said.

Several months later his wife, Victoria, joined him, and the two began studies with Eric Doran, pastor.

“I was searching for a Bible-based church,” said Victoria Bishop. “As soon as the pastor began explaining things, I knew I had found it.”

On his last day in the district, before preaching his retirement sermon, Doran led the Bishops into the waters of baptism. And so, the ministry that began with a baptism culminated with a baptism. A fitting ending to a career marked by carrying on the legacy of faithful saints.



Alysse Douglass (left) shares the joys of baptism in 1980 with Eric Doran, pastor of Saratoga Springs Church in New York.



Charles (left) and Victoria Bishop are in the baptistry with Eric Doran, pastor of Brooksville Church in Florida.

GULF STATES CONFERENCE HOLDS 33RD CONSTITUENCY SESSION

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

The 33rd Gulf States Conference Constituency Session was held on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at the Gulf States Conference Office in Montgomery, Alabama. Members representing churches from around the territory attended this quinquennial session in record fashion, with more attendance than any previous session over the last 20 years. Out of a possible 623 delegates, 419 came to do the business of their collective organization.

Among the business to be accomplished at the session was the election of Conference officers, departmental directors, executive committee members, and several other sub-committees of the Executive Committee; and voting on updates to the Conference's constitution and bylaws. Conference officers reelected were Brian Danese, president; Martin Fancher, executive secretary; and Gwen Speak, treasurer.

Leading up to the session, administrative and departmental reports were made available online at www.gscsda.org/session. These reports included a video and written version of the report, which allowed constituents and delegates to be fully informed about the mission activity of the Conference before the September 26 meeting. The session website also



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Organizing committee members work on selecting names for the nominating committee.

contains helpful information regarding the proposed constitution and bylaws updates. Additionally, numerous virtual town hall sessions were held in August as an orientation meeting for delegates to the general session. At the town hall meetings, delegates had the opportunity to ask questions of the administrative officers about any of the general session agenda items or other business of the Conference. A contact form was also made available on the session website for any constituent to use and ask questions of administrators and directors.

Because of these readily available transparent reports, there was no need for them to be shared at the in-person session on September 26. Martin Fancher, executive secretary for Gulf States, organized the agenda of the general session to be streamlined in several ways, which allowed all of the business to be conducted in less than five hours. Included in the schedule were a 45-minute lunch break, which was an exceptional offering from Todd and Shelley Ward and the staff of Camp Alamisco, and a devotional from Clifford Goldstein, edi-

tor of the Sabbath School quarterly.

The delegates approved all updates to the constitution and bylaws, including the proposal to add a virtual option to future hybrid meetings, allowing for those who prefer to join via a virtual, yet secure, method. In-person attendance at future meetings will continue to be encouraged. Additionally, delegates approved a change to the constituency representation from one delegate for 30 members to one delegate for 50 members. This change allows for the number of church representatives to be closer to the spirit of the original constitution, which sought a ratio of three lay people to one employee.

At present, while church membership continues to rise, church attendance numbers aren't growing as quickly. This means that a church with 500 members that may only have an attendance of 200 people would have to send 18 delegates — finding 18 willing members among an attendance of 200 that includes members, children, and guests, tends to be a challenge. This challenge is evident in that while a record number of delegates attended, there were still more than 200 available delegate slots that either weren't filled or the delegate didn't come to the meeting. The danger is that a quorum of 50% plus one is required to conduct business. While it didn't pose an issue at this particular meeting, it has come close to being problematic at pre-



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

Delegates make their way through registration at the Conference office.

vious meetings. It would have continued to be challenging for future meetings because of growing membership. Learn more at www.gscsda.org/session

Departmental directors reelected were Josh Murillo, ministerial director; Scott Bowes, superintendent of education; Gerson Sanchez, Hispanic ministries coordinator; David Sigamani, trust services and publishing director; Michel Rodriguez, youth and young adult director; and Brian Halley, internet technology and auditing director. In addition, the position of communication director was deferred to the executive committee.

The meeting was conducted on the

grounds of the Conference office, primarily under large tents set up on the north parking lot of the office. At the time of meeting closure, around 3 p.m. Central Time, the weather was at its hottest at 84 degrees. However, the majority of the day was sunny and less than 80 degrees with a light breeze. In general, delegates appreciated the efficiency of the meeting, which allowed most to travel and arrive home at a reasonable hour. ●

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



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

Clifford Goldstein presents a devotional message during the session.



PHOTO BY: MARCELO MANSUR

Gwen Speak (left), treasurer; Brian Danese, president; and Martin Fancher, executive secretary, were reelected to their respective positions at the general session.

Redmond Regional Medical Center Joins AdventHealth



The hospital will be part of the organization's Southeast Region.

Redmond Regional Medical Center in Rome, Ga., has joined AdventHealth, one of the largest faith-based health systems in the U.S. The purchase includes the 230-bed hospital, as well as its related businesses, physician clinic operations, outpatient services, and all issued and outstanding equity interests. AdventHealth is also welcoming more than 1,500 new employees into the organization, and more than a dozen providers who will be part of the AdventHealth Medical Group.

“We are blessed to have the opportunity to serve this community, and look forward to offering whole-person care to more people through this outstanding facility,” said Terry Shaw, president/CEO for AdventHealth.

Redmond Regional Medical Center will join the health system’s Southeast Region, which includes AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray in northwest Georgia, AdventHealth Hendersonville in North Carolina, and AdventHealth Manchester in Kentucky.

Mike Murrill, president and CEO for the Southeast Region of AdventHealth, will also lead Redmond Regional Medical Center as president and CEO. Murrill had been serving as president and CEO for AdventHealth Gordon and AdventHealth Murray, and has worked for AdventHealth for nearly 20 years in progressive finance and leadership roles.

“Redmond Regional Medical Center is a high-performing hospital with long-tenured leaders, team members,

and physicians who care deeply about this community,” said Murrill. “I look forward to building on the facility’s legacy of clinical excellence, being active partners in the community, and working with this team to care for our neighbors for years to come.”

AdventHealth plans to rename the facility AdventHealth Redmond in January 2022. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH NEWS

Audrey Gregory Named President/CEO for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division

Audrey Gregory, Ph.D., has been named president/CEO for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division, North Region, which includes the AdventHealth facilities in Volusia, Lake, and Flagler counties. Gregory assumed leadership on October 25, 2021, and reports to Randy Haffner, senior executive vice president and president/CEO for the Central Florida Division.

Most recently, Gregory served as the group chief executive officer for Detroit Medical Center (DMC), which is part of Tenet Health. The Detroit Medical Center is a leading regional health care system that operates eight hospitals and institutes, including Children's Hospital of Michigan, Detroit Receiving Hospital, Harper University Hospital, Huron Valley-Sinai Hospital, Hutzel Women's Hospital, Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan, Sinai-Grace Hospital, and DMC Heart Hospital.

"Audrey is a dynamic and transformational leader who understands how to lead provider and care teams toward operational excellence," said Terry Shaw, president/CEO for AdventHealth. "She is a champion of health equity and committed to ensuring all members of a community have access to equitable health care, which connects seamlessly to AdventHealth's mission and promise of wholeness."

In her new role, Gregory will oversee the strategic direction, development, and execution of key strategies that support the total network of care; and will help build influential relationships with key constituents, community partners, and consumers in Volusia, Lake, and Flagler counties.

"Audrey is a highly respected health



Audrey Gregory, Ph.D., is president/CEO for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division, North Region.

care leader whose passion for patient-centered care shines through from the moment you meet her," said Haffner. "With her leadership and expertise as a clinician, I am confident we will be able to further our delivery of faith-based, whole-person care in the communities we serve in Volusia, Flagler, and Lake counties."

Before DMC, Gregory was with Tenet Health's Saint Francis Healthcare system in Memphis, Tenn., where she served as market CEO and CEO for Saint Francis Hospital, Memphis. Gregory worked with Tenet for more than 17 years in a variety of senior leadership roles, including chief nursing officer, chief operating officer, and CEO for Placentia-Linda Hospital in Southern California. She is a recipient of three Tenet Circle of Excellence awards, recognizing her leadership in operational excellence, managed care

volume growth, and growth of high-margin product lines.

"I'm honored to join AdventHealth, a faith-based health care system that sets a bold vision for more equitable and consumer-centric care," said Gregory. "I look forward to building relationships and partnering with our leaders, providers, and care teams as we continue 'Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ' to our surrounding communities."

Gregory earned both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in nursing and a master's degree in healthcare administration from Georgia Southern University Armstrong Campus in Savannah, Ga. In 2011, she completed her doctorate in global leadership from Lynn University in Boca Raton, Fla. She served on the Michigan Health & Hospital Association's Board of Trustees and was appointed by Gretchen Whitmer, Governor of Michigan, to the Michigan Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities. Gregory also served as a member of the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women Executive Leadership Team and as a board member for the Detroit Regional Chamber.

In 2020, she was recognized by Modern Healthcare as one of the nation's Top 25 Minority Leaders in Healthcare and was named as one of 70 African American leaders in healthcare to know by Becker's Hospital Review.

Gregory takes joy in reading, traveling, mentoring others, and spending time with her family. She and her husband, Owen, have three children: Olivia, 24, Owen, 19, and Omari, 14. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH NEWS

Maranatha Has Summer Project at Mount Pisgah Academy

Three years ago, Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA), Candler, N.C., sent an application to Maranatha requesting help with the girls' dorm renovations. The project was scheduled for this past summer, June 2-23, 2021. Having a welcoming, comfortable environment, and excellent food, resulted in some happy volunteers. The volunteers became like a warm and loving family who worked well together. As one of the volunteers said, "We were all here to do God's work." It was a joy to have them on campus, and the MPA family wants to thank all the volunteers and the Maranatha organization for their hard work.

Ernie and Jeanice Riles, from Sylva, N.C., have been volunteering with Maranatha for more than seven years. The school was blessed to have an experienced and knowledgeable project manager and volunteer coordinator assigned to the project. Maranatha had 68 volunteers helping with the painting, electrical upgrades, new flooring, reinstalling curtains, and debris removal. Some of the volunteers worked with Kristen James, cafeteria assistant director; and, Laurie Worth, former cafeteria assistant director, returned to help James provide delicious meals for the volunteers and staff.

Maranatha volunteers travel from all over the world to help others. Some volunteers participate in two or three projects each summer. A few of the volunteers brought their RVs, but most slept in the boys' dorm. Dean Boyd and Nancy Parra worked with Jeanice Riles, volunteer coordinator, to ensure they all had what they needed and got a good night's rest. The daily worships were given by the volunteers, offering their testimony with inspirational stories. They also had special guest speakers, including Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president.

Cutting in and prep work are essential



steps and not for the faint of heart. Ann and Tom Wedel were volunteers from Charleston, S.C. Tom Wedel came back after the volunteers left and helped with some other upgrades. Mary Johnson, from Antioch, Calif., spray and roller painted rooms. Johnson is a Spanish teacher and usually volunteers for two Maranatha projects each summer. One of the most unexpected blessings came from two of the Maranatha volunteers, David and Denise Scroggs, from Buchanan, Mich. This amazing couple not only volunteered for the entire time, but came back with their RV to help MPA during this school year. Denise is a retired registered nurse, now serving as MPA's school nurse, and David helps with landscaping and other duties.

MPA thanks the Maranatha volunteers, local volunteers, staff, and the many donors who made this transformation of new, beautiful, and comfortable rooms for the girls happen. They praise God for the group that came this past summer. They were such a blessing! 🙏

BY LUCY HALL, DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Hendersonville Church Members Tackle Different Kind of Mission Work Within Conference



In August of 2021, the Hendersonville, N.C., Church did some mission work a little closer to home by helping the Hilton Head, S.C., Church with needs of their own.

In the fall of 2020, the Hendersonville Church made plans and began to budget to sponsor a mission trip in 2021. At the time, the church members thought the effects of COVID-19 would be calming down and life would be going back to normal. In addition, the members received a stimulus check from the Carolina Conference to be used as needed for the local church. They decided to put that money toward their mission trip. However, it was soon made evident that normality would take a little more time,

and foreign travel was still unsafe due to the pandemic. The members had been made aware of needs at the Hilton Head Church. The pastors met and discussed Hendersonville's proposal to assist with the maintenance and beautification of the Hilton Head property.

A mission team of 22 people completed 13 projects over the course of three days. The tasks included disposing of debris, spreading mulch, painting the exterior of the building, repairing door locks, and many more miscellaneous projects. The team was very busy during the day, but they spent the evenings socializing and doing group activities with Hilton Head members.

“While the Hilton Head church’s phys-

ical properties benefited, so did the relationships that were developed between the two churches,” says Lynn Johnson, mission leader at the Hendersonville Church. “The Hendersonville team was also blessed by interacting with its own members they don’t get to see on a regular basis. The group came to the realization you don’t have to go to a foreign country to be blessed while participating in a mission project.”

BY RACHEL BEAVER,
COMMUNICATION INTERN

Magabook Students Excel in Summer Program



Magabook students contacted more than 300,000 people during this past summer in Florida Conference, and they raised \$500,000 in scholarship donations.

Florida Conference had a tremendous Magabook program this past summer with 70 students from 13 universities and academies. The students raised \$500,000 in scholarship donations and contacted more than 300,000 people.

The program was nine weeks long with a two-week extended program for those students who wanted to stay. As exhausting as a whole summer of canvassing can be, God rewarded the students with many beautiful experiences.

One of the experiences was in Miami, Fla., with Magabooks student Oscar Medina. He was canvassing in a Walmart parking lot and approached a man who got very upset and rude with him and told him to go away. Medina did not like the way the man talked to him. He told the man he would leave but only after saying a prayer.

After this short, but not exact-



Oscar Medina (left) explains the Magabook program to a potential customer.

ly heart-felt prayer, Medina left and continued canvassing. Soon the man pulled up next to him in a truck and handed Medina a \$20 bill. He then said, "You have no idea how important your prayer was to me. I was about to take

my life. That's why I was at Walmart getting gas. I was going to burn down my house, but your prayer showed me that God still cared for me."

Medina then had a heart-felt prayer with this man. He discovered that God can touch people with both difficult prayers and heart-felt prayers. Medina was greatly moved by this experience, realizing that God can use you to reach people even when they don't act like they want you there.

Many students had similar experiences, where people said that they were praying that God would send someone to encourage them and show them that God still cared. And then — Magabook students showed up! 📍

BY LES MCCOY

Florida Pastor is Ordained

Ruben Joseph graduated from Southern Adventist University with a bachelor’s degree in theology and a minor in biblical languages. He is currently pursuing a master’s degree in biblical counseling at his alma mater.

He is husband to Kédare Joseph, a godly, loving, and beloved life companion, whom Joseph declares he loves with all of his being. His wife holds a Ph.D. in higher education. Joseph is the proud father of Belle and Ruby, his two “little princesses.”

Joseph is a prayer warrior and an international evangelist, Bible teacher, recording artist, songwriter, screenwriter, actor, pastor, and author of four Christian books: *Why Are the Young People Leaving the Church?*, *My Shepherd and My King*, *Ice Cream or Timeout*, and *Yahweh*, his most recent publication.

Joseph is currently serving in the Florida Conference as senior pastor of New Generation Church of North Miami and North Miami Beach Church. 📍



The Joseph family: Ruby (left), Ruben, Kédare, and Belle

Church Changes Lives in Community

Lauderhill, Fla., Church hosts a grocery distribution event at the church grounds on the first and third Mondays of each month. Members of the community are gifted with free grocery items. Those with vehicles can drive up and have the groceries placed in the car trunk.

Lauderhill Church has been a part of the community for more than 40 years with the aim to meet the needs of the community, spiritually and otherwise. The grocery distribution event was established to serve and connect with community members. 📍

BY ALATHEA JONES



Underprivileged Children Escape at Camp



SUBMITTED BY THE SAMARITAN CENTER

SUBMITTED BY THE SAMARITAN CENTER

Paintball is one activity at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp where underprivileged campers can temporarily leave behind the hardships in their life. The Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn., partners with the Camp to turn daydreams into reality for children of the Center's social services clients.

Campers at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp enjoy bonding time with each other and their camp counselor. Camp provides the underprivileged campers, sponsored by the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn., with opportunities to develop lasting friendships and build a foundation of faith.

For underprivileged children of the Samaritan Center's social service clients, summer camp only happens in daydreams. However, through dedication and prayer, the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn., works to bring those dreams to life. Because of their partnership with Cohutta Springs Youth Camp in Crandall, Ga., children from Bethel Bible Village, a Hixon, Tenn., home for children and teens in crisis, were given the opportunity for an unforgettable camp experience.

"Cohutta is a fun place and I enjoyed it so much! I'm so happy that me and God is getting closer. There was a lot of things I didn't know about God," said Ashley, a 2021 camper.

Before coming to Bethel Bible Village, the life these children experienced was a stark contrast to the positive, uplifting environment at Bethel and Cohutta Springs. Children and teens at Bethel are given a safe harbor and professional sup-

port to overcome the hardships in their lives. Bethel has helped children with parents in prison; homeless children; and children of single mothers, of parents lost to drugs, and from broken homes. The support they receive at Bethel helps them cope with past trauma and behavioral issues. Regardless of their pasts, the children are given a safe, loving environment where they can heal.

While at camp, the children stay in cozy cabins surrounded by quiet woods overlooking a sprawling lake. Nature, fellowship, and rest provide the children with the opportunity to be a kid for a week.

"It felt so good to be myself without being judged. I met new people and made friends," said Portia, a 2021 camper.

The Center's camp program has lasting and measurable impact on young people's lives. Because of dedicated and loving counselors, lasting friendships and a foundation of faith have been established for many campers.

"Several of our kids had a tremendous time at camp," said Rosalind Connor, president and CEO of Bethel Bible Village. "We saw God move in a powerful way in their hearts. Life-changing decisions were made, including one young lady who realized what she was hearing was the Truth, leading her to put her faith and trust in Jesus Christ. As the children returned to Bethel's campus, I was thrilled to hear the incredible stories of how God worked," said Connor.

The Samaritan Center is incredibly grateful to be a small part of the everlasting impact camp has had on these children's lives. They are thankful to be able to share in this joy as they work to meet the basic physical, spiritual, and social needs of people in the community using the ministry of Jesus Christ as their model. ●

BY JAMIE COLLIER

Science is More Fun at Camp

This summer, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Education Department partnered with Cohutta Springs Youth Camp to create a new, science-based educational activity for afternoon rotations at summer camp. The

program's focus allowed campers to draw object lessons about God from science experiments like milk kaleidoscopes, fog bubbles, sun-print paper, and more. The program was facilitated by Anna Estep, a junior elementary-education major at

Southern Adventist University, who was assisted by Kim Thompson, associate superintendent for the Conference Education Department, and Jonathan Montes, pastor and CSYC director.

The majority of the campers who went through the "Super Science" afternoon rotation were eager to participate and very engaged in the activities. Some of the junior and teen campers even delved into several advanced scientific and spiritual topics during the debrief time that followed each experiment. The feedback that campers gave was very encouraging. During Junior II Camp, one young man said, "I'm not a fan of science in school, but Super Science is my favorite afternoon activity! I wish there could be more 'camp science' in school." Estep said she was "a bit uncertain about how the campers would receive something so educational (and potentially 'boring') as a camp activity, but the majority of the campers who came through the afternoon rotation seemed to genuinely enjoy the science experiments."

Overall, the first summer including Super Science as an attraction at Cohutta was a huge success. Campers and staff alike shared nothing but positive feedback, and all those involved in the planning and executing felt that the endeavor was an exciting achievement. Because this summer's science activity was so well-received, there are plans in the making to bring Super Science back to Cohutta next summer. It is the hope and prayer of all involved that campers will continue to grow academically and spiritually through this educational camp activity. 🌱



PHOTO BY:

One of the experiments campers participated in as part of the Super Science activity at summer camp, was making fog bubbles. The hands-on experiments provided participants not only with moments of being awe struck, but also with opportunities to draw object lessons about God.

BY ANNA ESTEP

Conference Welcomes New Directors



Luis Biazotto



Nathan Zinner

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference office family is excited to welcome two new directors to the Conference team.

For the past several years, it has become evident that there was a huge need around the Conference for a coordinated Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response effort. This past April, after hearing the vision from Conference administration, the Executive Committee approved an ACS/Disaster Response director position to begin meeting the needs in this area. God led us to Luis Biazotto. Biazotto previously served seven years as the ACS/Disaster Response director in the Greater New York Conference. Over and over, a similar strain of comments was received about Biazotto: “If you want somebody who can strengthen or grow ACS/Disaster Response, Biazotto is your guy!” Biazotto has already

jumped right in reaching out and assisting in multiple disasters, both in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and around the Southern Union. He is looking at training locations for 2022 where ACS/Disaster Response training can happen so stay tuned. He would love to hear from any who have a Food Bank or Clothing Closet at your church. You can reach him by emailing lbiazotto@gccsda.com or by calling the GCC office.

The new communication conference director is Nathan Zinner. Zinner is joining the Conference team from the Southern Union, where he was the associate communication director. Zinner is no stranger to Georgia-Cumberland as he did his internship there, and has lived in Atlanta, Ga., for the past 13 years. When the search committee met, they prayed that God would lead them to the right individual with the specific gifts needed,

and Zinner’s name rose to the top. Zinner brings a wealth of video and editorial knowledge to the team. He looks forward to working not only with departments and ministries, but also churches and schools across the Conference to reach those with the unique Seventh-day Adventist Christ-centered message of hope and wholeness. Zinner is always looking for stories from the Conference churches or schools. If you have a story, share it with him by emailing nzinner@gccsda.com.

God has indeed blessed Georgia-Cumberland with both of these dedicated directors, and that He has special plans as they lead the ACS/Disaster Response and Communication departments respectively. 📌

BY GARY RUSTAD, PRESIDENT, GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE

Floral Crest Teacher Has Unique Teaching Style

Floral Crest School on Sand Mountain in Bryant, Ala., has a long, proud history. The school was established in 1905, and many students have gone there to receive an education. During the last four years, there have been many stories of people who have given their time and energy to help Floral Crest School become what it is today. Brenda Grimm, teacher at Floral Crest, states, “I would like to thank all the dedicated educators who have come before me. Thank you for setting a high standard of education for our students, but, most of all, thank you for teaching each one of your students about our wonderful Savior.”

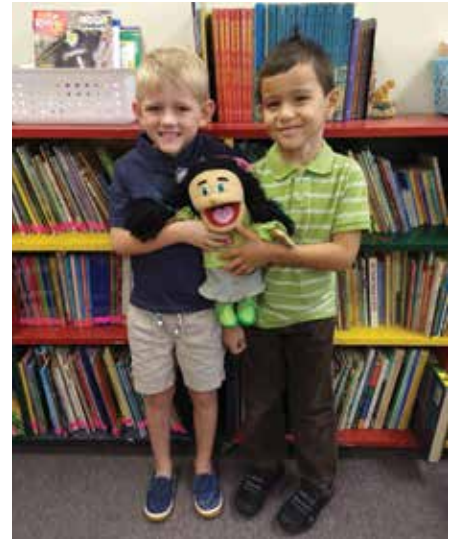
This year the pre-K/kindergarten theme revolves around the question “How Big is God?” The students are learning the answer to this and many other questions in a very unique way.

Every morning the students rush to put their backpacks away and sign in. Then they sit down and wait for Grimm to start singing. They sing songs about David and Goliath, Jesus, and Zacchaeus. And, almost every day they sing “Soon and Very Soon,” a favorite of Omar, a Floral Crest student. Then the students listen as Grimm tells them stories about Noah, David, Esther, and Jonah. Finally comes the moment they have all been waiting for; in fact, it is their favorite part of the day. They all take a deep breath, and yell very loudly, “Good Morning, Miss Maria!”

Who is Miss Maria? Miss Maria is a puppet. Grimm started using Maria during her first year there on the mountain as a prop once in a while to teach students how to get along or how to take care of books. When the children started asking, “Where is Miss Maria?” Grimm would say she is in the box under her desk. They didn’t like the answer and wanted to know why they couldn’t see her every day. “I started to ask myself how I could incor-



Ava writes to Maria during “kid writing” time.



Mason (left) and Omar pose with Maria the puppet.

porate Maria into our daily curriculum, but there was one thing holding me back from wanting to use Maria at all. I am not a ventriloquist.” says Grimm, “I thought the kids would say, ‘Oh, it’s just you, Ms. Grimm, you’re making her talk,’ and get bored with Maria, but they kept asking about her so I decided to give it a try.”

“That summer my niece helped me make a house for Maria, so she could be right beside me every morning,” says Grimm. Now Maria helps them sing songs about the days of the week and months of the year. She helps them practice their memory verse and teaches them about rhyming words, syllables, and putting their ABCs in order. And, this year she taught them how to write letters to friends and family.

Every day Miss Maria reminds the students to use the words they are learning to praise their classmates. “It is so nice when I hear, ‘please, thank you, great job, you’re welcome,’ and ‘may I use that when you are done?’ coming from the lips of my students,” says Grimm, “And when my students forget their manners,

Miss Maria gently reminds them, and they ask each other in whispered tones, ‘How did she know?’”

The students like Miss Maria for different reasons. “Azalea told me she likes Miss Maria because she is funny. Omar says, ‘I like it when Miss Maria sings with me.’ Ava thinks ‘Miss Maria is fun.’ Mason asked me one day, ‘Why does Miss Maria talk about Heaven so much?’ I told him that Heaven is my and Miss Maria’s favorite subject, and Maria and I talk about Heaven whenever we get a chance.”

“The amazing thing about this adventure with Miss Maria is that my students love her. They know she is not real. They know that I am the one making her talk, but when she talks, they focus on her. Now Miss Maria is such a big part of their lives that my students go home and talk about Maria. Then I have parents asking me, ‘Who is Maria. Is she a new girl at school?’ When I tell them that Maria is a puppet, they want to ‘meet Maria’ and many of them have come to visit the classroom just to see Maria in action,” says Grimm.



Brenda Grimm uses Maria to help students with a variety of subjects and learning objectives.

Last year several of the students did not want to participate in “kid writing” activities. Kid writing is an opportunity for a student to write any way they want, without having to worry about spelling or handwriting. This year Maria is helping with kid writing. “I added a mailbox to Miss Maria’s house and ‘kid writing’

letters have been flying back and forth between my students and Miss Maria since the first day of school. It keeps me very busy responding to all the letters every night, but I love seeing my student’s writing skills grow!” exclaimed Grimm.

Grimm concludes, “I praise the Lord that my students are learning to love

learning. I praise the Lord for the songs they sing when they think no one is listening. I praise the Lord for the kind words and praises they have for each other. Most of all, I praise the Lord for giving me the idea to use Maria in my classroom every day. Thank you, Lord.”

“Oh! And thank you, Miss Maria.”

Grimm has been teaching at Floral Crest School since August 2018. She loves teaching so much that she has been teaching since her own first day of school when she came home and taught her siblings everything she had learned that day.

Grimm has taught all grades from pre-k through eighth grade during her 24-year teaching career. When Grimm is not teaching, she likes to spend her time reading, writing stories, making cards, scrapbooking, gardening, and crocheting. 📖

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Camatchee, Carlson, and Semillano Ordained to Gospel Ministry

Through the month of September 2021, three separate ordination services took place in Gulf States Conference churches. Murvin Camatchee, Jason Carlson, and Darry Semillano, pastors in Gulf States, each participated in an ordination service at a local church in their district. Brian Danese, Conference president, and Josh Murillo, ministerial director, participated in each service.

Camatchee’s ordination was September 4, 2021, at College Drive Church in Pearl, Miss. Camatchee is a native of the Republic of Mauritius. Corrine, his wife for more than 13 years, is also a native of Mauritius. After high school, Camatchee completed a bachelor of

science in physics at the University of Mauritius, followed by a master of business administration at the University of East London, UK. After a brief passage in the tourism sector, he was called by the Mauritius Conference in August 2008 to be an administrator; he served over a period of seven years as treasurer, executive secretary, and youth director.

In 2014, being impressed by the Holy Spirit, the Camatchees decided to explore the possibility of pursuing pastoral studies. In April 2015, after being accepted by the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University, they flew to Berrien Springs, Mich. Three years later, in May 2018, Camatchee

graduated with a master of divinity, and was hired by Gulf States.

The Conference administrative team met again on September 18, 2021, at the Floral Crest Church in Bryant, Ala., for the ordination service of Jason Carlson. Carlson is supported by his wife, Krista, and their two daughters, Amber and Esther. Previous to joining Gulf States, he trained thousands of members in literature distribution, and disciplined hundreds of young people over the 10 years he served as publishing director for the Arizona Conference.

Carlson began working for the church in 1995, when he joined Home Health Education Service in the Lake Union.



Murvin and Corrine Camatchee, pastor of the College Drive Church in Pearl, Miss.



Jason and Krista Carlson (third from left) with their daughters

During his 21 years as a literature evangelist, he has canvassed in 16 different states and even the Philippines. Carlson has also preached the Gospel in numerous countries, when he participated in mission trips to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, and Panama.

An ordination service took place for Darry Semillano at the Blue Angel Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla., on September 25, 2021. Semillano was born and raised in the Philippines. He is one of five siblings. He did not consider himself a religious person growing up, until he found Christ when he was of high school age. His parents have a huge influence in his spiritual journey. He is more than grateful that his father made a crucial decision to follow Christ and biblical truth alone. Because of that, it made a promising impact on the Semillano family.

In 2008, Semillano joined the One Thousand Missionary Movement, an Adventist institution that trains and sends young people to different parts of the world. He was sent to Rizal, Laguna,



Darry and Jennifer Semillano, pastor of the Fairhope, Blue Angel Parkway, and Milton churches in Florida

Philippines, and helped to plant a church. He was also sent to South Korea, serving as a missionary for three years. There he met his beautiful wife, Jennifer, who was serving as a missionary teacher from the United States. In 2015, he decided to continue his studies and went to Andrews

University. He pursued a master of divinity degree and graduated in August 2018. Today they both serve Gulf States, Darry as a pastor, and Jennifer as a teacher. 📧

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Church Responds, Reaches Out to Families Affected by Flood

Richard Davis, a member at Dickson, Tenn., Church, stood by the window of his double-wide house, keeping an eye on the nearby creek. It was barely 8 o'clock in the morning, Saturday, August 21, 2021. Torrential rain poured down nonstop, and the fear of flooding was becoming more real.

Waking up two of his sons, the trio went outside to try to move their cars out of the driveway. But, it was too late. Within a matter of minutes, the creek had overflowed and the cars could not be moved anymore. Back inside the house, the family tried to save some of their possessions before the water inevitably got it. Davis, who had surgery six weeks prior, could only watch as the water gushed in their home.

"We had about 30 inches of water in the house," Richard said. "The walls were buckling in, and the floor was buckling in. After a while, we climbed out the window of one of my son's bedrooms onto the back porch. And we stayed out there for about three hours."

Not too far away, Melody Davis, a member at Dickson Church and Richard Davis' sister, also struggled with the flash flooding taking place. She was in her mom's house, located on the same property as the houses of her two brothers, Richard and Gary. Having moved to the second floor of the house, she looked out the window trying to see if her two brothers were okay.

"The window faced the creek," Melody Davis said. "I couldn't see what was going on with [my brothers] at all. I didn't know if our cars were safe. I didn't know if they were safe. I didn't know what was going on."

The scene following the flood was heart-breaking, Richard Davis said. The cars were totaled, houses were destroyed, and most of their possessions were damaged.

This was the case for many families



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHADD WATKINS

Highland Academy students pick up debris from the flood. More than 30 students, plus additional church members, joined efforts in removing damaged possessions and cleaning soiled items from homes and garages.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MELODY DAVIS

Melody Dixon's mother's house shows the aftermath of the flooding. According to AP News, more than 509 homes were damaged or destroyed during the August 21, 2021, flooding in Waverly and McEwen, Tenn.

across the communities in Waverly and McEwen, Tenn. According to AP News, the flooding reached a record high of 17 inches of rainfall, with more than 509 homes damaged or destroyed. Humphrey County officials reported 20 fatalities during a press conference on August 25.

Dickson and Bordeaux, Tenn., churches, led by Mike Foraker, pastor, have taken an active role in helping the affected areas. Through the donations of church

members, the Bordeaux Church was able to hand out Walmart gift cards to help individuals buy everyday necessities lost in the flood. Dickson Church members also volunteered to deliver food and water to those in need.

Four families from the Dickson Church, including those of Richard and Melody Davis, lost much of their possessions during the flood. Dickson Church responded by providing temporary hous-

ing, food, water, and clothing; and by conducting regular visits to the families.

“We’ve received multiple calls from people in the church asking if we need anything,” Richard Davis said. “It’s just been a constant reach out from [church members] trying to help us. Whether it be with money, supplies, totes to put stuff in, clothes, or just anything — they have been there.”

Dickson Church coordinated with Harbert Hills, Tenn., Academy and Highland, Tenn., Academy to help in projects such as the removal of damaged possessions and clean-up of soiled items from homes and garages. More than 30 students, plus additional church members, joined these efforts.

At the request of the Volunteer Organization Active in Disasters (VOAD), Adventist volunteers also managed a warehouse for donations in the Waverly area.

“I really appreciate that wonderful spirit of our church family who are willing to help,” Foraker said. “I’m sure it’s going to take all the donations, plus more, to help these people in our church family rebuild.”

Melody Davis says her mother’s house can be salvaged, but it will take months before things go back to normal. Her brother’s house, his family home for the past 20 years, cannot be restored. He and his wife are planning to relocate.

“Despite all that has happened, I feel really blessed,” Melody Davis said. “I just really think that God has been

watching over us. He kept us safe. He kept our lives.” ●

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



Nashville Church Thanks Firefighters with Surprise Breakfast

Members from Nashville First, Tenn., Church volunteered Saturday morning, September 11, 2021, to distribute breakfast across local fire stations. The gesture, idea of Nelson Mercado, pastor, was made as a way to thank firefighters for their service and honor the memory of the 9/11 first responders.

Prior to becoming a pastor, Mercado served as a firefighter and paramedic from 1997 to 2008. Mercado says that this connection inspired him to search



PHOTO COURTESY OF NELSON MERCADO



COURTESY OF NELSON MERCADO

Firefighters pose after receiving a breakfast surprise from members at Nashville First, Tenn., Church.

Firefighters pose after receiving a breakfast surprise from members at Nashville First, Tenn., Church on September 11, 2021. The gesture was made as way to thank firefighters for their service, and honor the memory of the 9/11 first responders.

out ways for his church to reach the first responders’ community.

“I spoke to my personal ministry’s leader, and I told him about wanting to do something special for the [firefighters] in our community,” Mercado said. “He loved the idea. So, we told a few people and recruited a few helpers.”

A group of nine volunteers drove around Nashville delivering a variety of Panera bagels and cream cheese to a total of 15 fire stations. More than 200 bagels were distributed. Inside each bag, organizers also included copies of *Steps to Christ*.

Mercado says the firefighters he spoke to were thankful for the food and the kind

gesture; he hopes to make this a yearly tradition. In the future, Mercado also wants Nashville First Church to prepare a special meal for police officers.

“This was just a small token of appreciation,” Mercado said. “I can tell you, having worked as a firefighter and a paramedic, that unless something drastic happens like at the events of September 11, it is a thankless job. And so, again, this is just a small way of showing our gratitude.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



PHOTO COURTESY OF NELSON MERCADO

Volunteers from Nashville First, Tenn., Church prepare early Saturday morning to distribute breakfast to fire stations across the area. Volunteers went to a total of 15 fire stations and distributed more than 200 Panera bagels.

NAD Holds First “Zomi Adventist Youth Combined”

Zomi Adventist Youth from across the North American Division (NAD) gathered at Bowling Green, Ky., Zomi Church for the first ever NAD Zomi Adventist Youth Combined on September 4-5, 2021. The purpose of the event was to connect young people and inspire spiritual renewal.

The meetings followed the theme “Arise, Shine, for Your Light Has Risen Upon You” — a promise found in Isaiah 60:1. According to Thang Lian, member of Bowling Green Zomi Church and theology junior at Southern Adventist University, a lot of the discussions centered on how young people can use their talents for God.

“The main target was to let the youth know that they can be a light for other people,” Lian said. “They don’t have to study theology or be a pastor ... they can be a light in their school, workplace, or university.”

About 70 young people traveled from across the country to join the event. Some of the states represented included Florida, Georgia, Michigan, and Oklahoma. An additional 200 guests joined



PHOTO COURTESY OF THANG LIAN

Daniel Sian Pi, from Battle Creek, Mich., responds to the altar call made by Kim Siang Mung, NAD Zomi Adventist youth director. More than 15 aspiring professionals, including those looking to get into health care, ministry, business, engineering, and education, responded.

from Bowling Green, Ky., and Nashville, Tenn. Bowling Green Zomi members hosted the out-of-state visitors in their homes, and provided meals for the event.

The program was organized by Kim Sian Mung, NAD Zomi Adventist youth director and master’s student at Andrews University. The guest speaker was Bill

Wells, ASAP Refugee coordinator. In addition to the sermons, the event also included discussion panels, a prayer session for Myanmar, and games.

“It’s been hard to get together since [COVID-19] hit,” Mung said. “So, the program composed of spiritual emphasis, but also social and physical emphasis. I think this was very significant, and I heard that people were blessed by the fellowship.”

On Saturday afternoon, Mung made an altar call for those who wanted to dedicate their talents for God. More than 15 aspiring professionals, including those looking to get into the health care, ministry, business, engineering, and education, responded.

“God gives us different talents,” Lian said. “We need to use them for His glory, not for our own desire or just to live a comfortable life. We need to use [our talents] to proclaim the Gospel.”

According to Mung, NAD Zomi Adventist Youth Combined will be hosted again this coming October in Tulsa, Okla.

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

It Is Written Welcomes New Evangelism Director

It Is Written welcomes Wes Peppers as the ministry's new evangelism director. Peppers replaces Yves Monnier, who accepted a call to serve as the ministerial and evangelism director for the Pennsylvania Conference. Peppers began his new position in August 2021.

Peppers joins It Is Written from the Michigan Conference, where he served for 10 years as pastor, personal ministries director, evangelism coordinator, and associate ministerial director. He also has experience in international media evangelism from his time with Amazing Facts.

"We're thrilled to have Pastor Wes Peppers join our team," said John Bradshaw, It Is Written president. "He is an unusually gifted speaker and evangelist, and has been extremely successful in pastoral and evangelistic ministry, as well as in administration. He has a love for souls that is obvious and infectious. It is a privilege to have someone of his caliber join us at It Is Written."

As evangelism director, Peppers will handle the creation and execution of the master plan of evangelism for It Is Written. Having done mission work in 35 countries, he is ready to lead the evangelism team as It Is Written continues to reach souls around the world with the Gospel.

"I love It Is Written, because it focuses exclusively on proclaiming the everlasting Gospel, and reaching the lost for Christ," Peppers said. "One of my greatest passions in life is sharing Christ with others through preaching, Bible study, and media programming. I love to train churches and members how to share their faith with others. I am looking forward to using the gifts and experiences God has given me to minister around the world through It Is Written while personally living in His grace and strength each day."

Peppers, and his wife, Marion, felt a clear call from God to take the position. "Over a two-month span of time, there were a se-



Wes Peppers is the new evangelism director at It Is Written.

ries of miraculous events that finalized our decision," he said. "After several weeks of fasting and wrestling in prayer, God overwhelmingly confirmed that His will was for us to serve at It Is Written. We have all the confidence in the world that we are exactly where God wants us to be!"

Wes and Marion, a musician, have been married for almost 17 years and are

joined in ministry by their two children, Levi and Liana.

For questions or evangelism resources, contact evangelism@iiw.org or 844-WRITTEN (844-974-8836). 📞

BY **CASSIE MATCHIM HERNANDEZ**,
MARKETING ASSISTANT

Blood Donation Held at Walmart

Mt. Pisgah Worship Center (MPWC) and LifeSouth Community Blood Centers collaborated on a life-saving mission, on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at Walmart in Troy, Ala. According to data, every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. Blood is essential for surgeries, cancer treatment, chronic illnesses, and traumatic injuries. Whether a patient receives whole blood, red blood cells, platelets, plasma, or white blood cells, this life-saving care starts with one person making a generous donation.

Tammy Ferguson, LifeSouth’s coordinator, stated the blood donated during

MPWC’s drive has the potential to save 51 lives. Members of MPWC were also able to share and distribute approximately 500 pieces of literature containing the Good News of Christ and His gift of eternal life.

Each blood donor received an e-gift card, LifeSouth t-shirt, and a Lifesaver gift package containing five Glow Tracts. Other literature distributed included Our Little Friend, Primary Treasure, Guide Lesson Studies, *Steps to Christ* booklet, *Sharing God’s Love* Bible study lessons, and an MPWC Connect Card.

Donors also enjoyed hot dogs, nacho chips with cheese, snacks galore,

and refreshing beverages. This was MPWC’s first community engagement since the COVID-19 pandemic under the leadership of Nathan Cook, pastor. MPWC was delighted to be part of such an important community event. This is an example of how one small gesture can impact so many lives: “Love your neighbor as yourself,” Mark 12:31. The gift of life was given as well as the knowledge of Christ and His eternal gift of life. Mission accomplished! 🙌

BY TONJIA R. COOK



PHOTO BY: TONJIA R. COOK

Church member Harriet Jones donates blood.



PHOTO BY: TONJIA R. COOK

Donor James Thompson cheerfully gives blood.



PHOTO BY: TONJIA R. COOK

Tammy Ferguson, LifeSouth coordinator, registers a donor.

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Honored for Decade of Distinction

Oakwood University Church (OUC) officially closed the chapter on a decade of distinction on August 14, 2021. The church said goodbye to its senior pastor of 9½ years, Carl-

ton P. Byrd, D.Min., and family.

Byrd began his ministry at OUC on January 14, 2012. He served the church with distinction until he was appointed president of the Southwest Region Con-

ference in Dallas, Tex., on May 23, 2021.

Upon coming to Oakwood in 2012, Dana Edmond, then president of South Central Conference, gave Byrd a three-fold mandate: grow the church financial-



PHOTO BY: OUC CHURCH MEDIA TEAM

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., and family



PHOTO BY: OUC CHURCH MEDIA TEAM

Tommy Battles, Huntsville's mayor, honors Carlton Byrd, D.Min.

ly and numerically, engage the Oakwood University students, and build a high school for Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA). Byrd far exceeded expectations. During his tenure, more than 800 persons joined the Church through baptism or profession of faith, and he increased the church's tithe revenue from \$2.6 million annually to \$4 million annually. He also gave opportunities for students to preach and participate at church. Additionally, he built a high school, middle school, gym, and cafeteria; renovated the elementary school for OAA; and built a family life center, including a gym, health clinic, classrooms, health food store, barbershop, and community services warehouse for the church.

The farewell service began with the OUC Christian Crusaders Pathfinder Drum Corps and Color Guards posting the flags and colors. Byrd's final pastoral duties started with conducting a baby blessing for five babies. His duties continued as he baptized nine individuals, including his daughter, Carissa.

The church and special guests took the time to recognize Byrd and his family. These guests included Tommy Battle, mayor of Huntsville, Ala., who declared

August 14, 2021 "Dr. Carlton P. Byrd Day" in the City of Huntsville; Benjamin Jones Jr., South Central Conference president, and other Conference administrators; Dana Edmond, Office of Regional Conference Ministries director; and the shepherdeses in the Huntsville area, who gave special recognition to



PHOTO BY: OUC CHURCH MEDIA TEAM

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., was honored by the Oakwood University Church members.

Danielle Byrd for her dedicated service as a minister's wife. During his acceptance remarks, Byrd was overcome with emotion as he expressed his thanks to the church, the church officers, and the pastoral team. He also remarked how much he loved the church, and how it was hard for him to leave.

The Aeolians of Oakwood University, along with an orchestra, shared their music. Special musical guest Donnie McClurkin sang "Stand" to Byrd as encouragement in his new assignment. Byrd's farewell message, entitled, "It's a Marathon, Not a Sprint," was taken from Hebrews 12:1-2. He admonished the church to continue working for the Lord while getting rid of excess baggage, training over time, and enduring to the end.

Following the service, the church held a COVID-19 compliant "drive-by" opportunity for members to say goodbye to Byrd and his family. While Byrd will be missed, his legacy will not be forgotten. To read more about Byrd's legacy at OUC, visit www.oucsda.org/news. 📍

BY PAUL GOODRIDGE

UAB Partners with OU to Help Recruit Students to Medical School

The University of Alabama, Birmingham (UAB) School of Medicine is partnering with Oakwood University (OU) for a new Early Assurance Program (EAP), offering qualified students early acceptance to the School of Medicine, along with shadowing and research opportunities.

Oakwood is the first HBCU in the state of Alabama to partner in this way with UAB School of Medicine. “We felt partnering with Oakwood was a great fit because of the University’s mission, and with the School of Medicine’s presence in Huntsville,” said Craig J. Hoesley, M.D., senior associate dean for medical education at UAB School of Medicine.

Robert A. L. Blake, M.D., assistant professor of pediatrics on the School of Medicine’s Huntsville Regional Medical Campus and Oakwood alumnus, approached Karen Benn Marshall, Ed.D., vice president at Oakwood, about the program. Marshall is now administrator for the Memo of Understanding with UAB. “The Early Assurance Program provides an excellent opportunity for the UAB School of Medicine to ensure a pipeline of high-caliber trainees, and for Oakwood University students to solidify their academic futures,” Blake said.

Oakwood University is the nation’s 11th-ranked producer of undergraduate Black applicants to medical schools, and the only university or HBCU among the top 20 universities in the state of Alabama, according to the Association for American Medical Colleges. Oakwood’s STEM program has been ranked 4th of small HBCUs to graduate Black STEM students, and has consistently ranked in the top 15 for matriculating Black students to medical school. The biology program also has a strong record of matriculating Black students to other professional and graduate programs.



The University of Alabama, Birmingham selected five Oakwood University students for the Early Assurance Program: David Reid (left), biochemistry major; Durell King, biology, pre-med major; Jayda Caldwell, biology/pre-med major; Andisa Labossiere, biology/ pre-med major; and Christyn Byrd, biology/pre-med major.

The Early Assurance Program is open to current Oakwood students who have completed their sophomore year. Applicants must have a minimum 3.5 undergraduate grade point average and a minimum 3.5 grade point average in their science courses. Preference is given to Alabama residents. “Ideal qualifications for candidates include diverse experiences and perspectives, career potential for leadership, maturity, strong letters of support, and a passion for service,” said Christina J. Grabowski, Ph.D., associate dean for admissions and enrollment management in the School of Medicine.

The first Oakwood students in the EAP began this fall and can enroll in the School of Medicine in the 2023-2024 academic year. After review, five students were chosen for the EAP: Christyn Byrd, Jayda Caldwell, Durell King, and Andisa Labossiere, all biology/pre-med; and David Reid, biochemistry.

“Four of the five students are graduates from Oakwood Adventist Academy, and had participated in the dual enrollment program. I am so proud of them!” said Elaine Vanterpool, Ph.D., Oakwood’s faculty EAP liaison and professor and chair of biological sciences.

“The Early Assurance Program is a key partnership for Oakwood University. The early reward for such remarkable work by our student-scholars is a gift to their parents, families, peers, and professors. Congratulations to Christyn, Jayda, Durell, Andisa, and David. You have made us proud!” said Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., Oakwood University president. 📍

BY STAFF WRITER,
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY INTEGRATED
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

Former Adult Learner Directs Southern's Adult Degree Completion Program

As director of Southern Adventist University's new Adult Degree Completion program, Cynthia Tate-Wright has a unique empathy for students enrolling in the program. Having dropped out of college to raise a family, she was 38 years old when she returned to higher education, completing her bachelor's and master's degrees.

"I was an adult learner, so I understand the struggles," Tate-Wright said. "I have felt the things they're nervous and embarrassed about, their financial challenges and all the responsibilities that come with being an adult learner, and I want to encourage them. Getting a degree is doable."

The Adult Degree Completion program, which is currently enrolling for the January 2022 session, is designed for adults age 25 and older who have earned some college credits but not a degree. Each student can complete a bachelor's degree in business management, communication, or integrative studies in as little as 18 to 24 months. To provide additional flexibility, the program will give students the option to complete coursework fully online in eight-week sessions, and tuition is discounted from traditional undergraduate course fees.

Tate-Wright knows firsthand the need for flexibility and reduced costs. As a single mother, she worked hard to put her two daughters through school, prioritizing Adventist education, and sending them to Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Calhoun, Ga.

"I hardly had money to buy groceries," Tate-Wright said. "We really struggled, but God always impressed me to keep my girls in a Christian school. And today, all three of us are doing really well."

After her youngest daughter grad-



As an adult learner, Cynthia Tate-Wright (left) graduated side-by-side with her daughter Camesha Tate.

uated from high school, Tate-Wright enrolled at Columbus State University in Georgia, where, despite continued financial challenges, she completed her undergraduate work. Then, at the age of 45, she graduated alongside her oldest daughter, Camesha Tate, with a master's degree in public health administration — both summa cum laude.

Years later, when the Adult Degree Completion position opened at Southern, Tate-Wright was immediately interested.

"I wanted to be in a leadership role at

Southern mainly for this reason: to make a difference in the lives of adult learners," she said. "I don't know anybody who has ever regretted going back to school and getting a degree. It is a sacrifice, and there are some hard days, but in the end, it is so worth the effort, time, and money that you put into it."

More information is available by visiting southern.edu/ADC. 📞

BY AMANDA BLAKE

BEDDINGFIELD, BONNIE, 84, born Sept. 6, 1936 in Clark County, MS, died Sept. 5, 2021 in Meridian, MS. Bonnie was a faithful member of the Community Church in Meridian. She is survived by her three daughters: Sheila (Paul) Watkins, Ann Maxwell, and Debbie (Brian) Ash; one son, Charles (Teri) Beddingfield, all of Meridian; one sister, Jewel Thompson; one brother, Gene Davidson, both of Meridian; 12 grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren. Interment was conducted at the Magnolia Cemetery by Elder Roger Burke of the Community Church.

BLACK, MARYLOUISE BREEDLOVE, 95, born Nov. 29, 1925 in Princeton, WV, passed to her rest in her Fletcher Park Inn apartment, Aug. 26, 2021 in Hendersonville, NC. Marylou and her husband, John, moved to Fletcher, NC, in 1949, with their daughter, Cookie. Marylou had many interests and occupations. She taught business classes at Fletcher Academy. She was the executive secretary to the president of Stencil Aero Engineering and office manager for Dr. Jack Powell's surgery practice in Asheville, NC. She collected many books on people, history, and health. She loved to travel and visited many European countries, Russia, and Egypt. She was passionate about genealogy and ancestry research. She was a member of Colonial Dames and Daughters of the American Revolution. She was a member of the Fletcher SDA Church for more than 70 years. Marylou loved her family and her friends. She will be remembered for her many talents and independent spirit. She was always greeting everyone with her infectious smile, and was always happy to help others. Her favorite phrase was, "How 'bout that!" Marylou was buried beside her deceased husband, John, at Shepherd's Memorial Park in Hendersonville. She is survived by her daughter, Nena Louise (Cookie) Black Zeman and her husband, Daniel R. Zeman of Ridgefield, CT; three grandchildren: Stephanie (James) Zanvettor, Jeremy (Lauryn) Zeman, Jonathan (Laura) Zeman; four great-grandchildren: Zoe and Avery Zanvettor; Kai Zeeman (son of Jeremy and Lauryn), and Reece Zeman (daughter of Jonathan and Laura); two brothers: Hugh Breedlove Jr., of Charleston, WV, and James Breedlove, of Collegedale, TN. Marylou was preceded in death by her parents: Hugh Lloyd and Eva Gladys Breedlove, and her husband of 66 years, John E. Black.

DAVIDSON, TREVOR, 95, born Feb. 15, 1926 in Belfast, Ireland, died Aug. 20, 2021 at his home at Fletcher Park Inn,

Hendersonville, NC. His sons and one of his granddaughters were at his bedside when he passed. Trevor graduated from Newbold College in England, and immigrated to London, Ontario, in 1951. In 1952 Marie and Trevor were married in London, Ontario. In 1957, they immigrated to Loma Linda, CA. Trevor worked for Loma Linda University Medical Center as the technical director of nuclear medicine. Trevor was an avid coin collector and a recognized authority on British Maundy Coins. Trevor was a kind, giving, accepting man, a loving father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. He was dedicated to Marie Elizabeth, the single love of his life. Trevor's last words were, "Where is Mom? Please tell her how much I love her." Trevor had a deep commitment in his Adventist faith. While he didn't speak of his commitment, we all saw him live and demonstrate his beliefs. Trevor and Marie moved into a villa at Fletcher Park Inn in 1992. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Marie; three sons: John of Webster, NY; Peter (Linda) of Bismarck, ND; Michael (Karen) of Loma Linda, CA; six grandchildren: Mandy, Christina, Maurie, Liam, Ethan, and Ewan; and four great-grandchildren: Emma, Dax, Tully, and James. Preceding Trevor in death are his parents: Thomas and Anne; and five siblings: Francis (Bert), Thomas (Tom), Hugh, Harold, and Edwin.

DIEDE JR., ROBERT LLOYD, 58, born Oct. 3, 1962 in Lincoln, NE, died Aug. 13, 2021 in Springfield, TN, after a courageous battle with Neuroendocrine Carcinoma. He is survived by his loving wife, Denise; his daughters: Danielle, Erin, and Alexandra; his parents: Robert Sr. and Eileen; and his sisters: Lori and Jodi. Rob was passionate about his faith, his family, and his work. He will be missed by all who knew him.

IVANOV, MIROSLAV, 84, born April 17, 1936, died Aug. 18, 2020. Our beloved husband and father worked unceasingly to help our church brothers and pastors in Serbia. He often phoned them and asked how many Bibles and other books they needed to assure that all visitors to the many evangelistic programs over the years would have their own copies of Scriptures and resources. He also helped here in the United States, giving generously to ADRA, World Radio, It Is Written, VOP, Blind Children Association, and Holbrook Indian School. It was his will to continue to help as many as possible, but he passed away suddenly in the Lord. We know that God will soon welcome him home to Heaven, and say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant." We pray

to God that we all will continue to follow Miroslav's wonderful example of spreading the Gospel of Jesus' love.

LOBBAN, LENA E. RICHARDS, 79, born July 23, 1942, Jamaica, West Indies, died Sept. 7, 2021 at her home in Dunnellon, FL. She was a member of the Dunnellon Church. Oldest of nine children born to Vernon Richards and Florence Matthews Richards, she was the quiet, but helpful daughter to her parents and loving sister to her siblings. Lena realized her dream early when she arrived in England, where she trained and became a registered nurse. She later immigrated to the United States where she worked as a nurse for 40 years. After she retired, she moved to Dunnellon. She was a long-time member of Mamaroneck Church in New York and Dunnellon Church. Her contribution to the church was immeasurable as Sabbath School superintendent, prayer coordinator, children's department leader, head deaconess, chorister, and other positions. She enjoyed working in her garden. She loved flowers of all kinds. She was a gifted cook. Lena assisted many people with little or no rest for herself. She was a blessing to many people. She was survived by her three children: Jackie, Joanne (Joan), and Richard; and her beloved grandchildren: Jesse, Micah, Benjamin, Bethany, and Valerie.

MATHERLY, GEORGE PHILLIP "BIG GEORGE," 75, born Aug. 9, 1946 in Danville, VA, died Sept. 2, 2021 and is sleeping in Jesus waiting for Him to come to raise him to eternal life. He married Marilyn (Kroeger) Matherly on April 3, 1966. George was a Vietnam war veteran, serving in Panama between 1966 to 1968. He served with the 508th 82nd airborne division. After leaving the army, he became a bricklayer by trade. In 1977, he hired on to the railroad as a conductor with L&N (now CSX). He then became a railroad engineer operating engines from Louisville to Cincinnati, and Owensboro and the old road to Lexington. He was promoted to Road Foreman of Engines in 1994, and retired in 2010 from CSX with 33 years of service. He thoroughly enjoyed running train engines and missed it after he retired. He loved and collected old classic cars and enjoyed this hobby with his son. He enjoyed attending the Street Rod Nationals and car shows held around town. "Phillip" attended several Seventh-day Adventist schools throughout the Southern Union. Among those: Pewee Valley Junior Academy, Pewee Valley, KY; Echo Valley Academy, Wytheville, VA; Fletcher Academy, Fletcher, NC; and graduated

from Highland Academy, Portland, TN, in 1964. Phillip was a fun-loving individual and made friends easily of both faculty and students. He was a Seventh-day Adventist and attended Middletown Church and Pewee Valley Church. He loved to volunteer in many activities with the church. He had many friends in the community. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; his son James Phillip (Samantha) Matherly; his daughter, Renee (Mark) Hayden; five grandchildren (he loved his kids and grandchildren dearly and enjoyed spending time with them): Christina, Cody, and Cassidy Matherly, and Nash and Jamison Hayden; his mother, Coretta Matherly; one brother, Danny (Abby) Matherly; two sisters: Frances Peterson and Diane (Edward) Wofford; several nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his father, Harold Matherly; and brother, Richard Matherly. The celebration of life service was held October 10, 2021, in LaGrange, KY.

MERZ, GEORGE C., 80, born Jan. 11, 1940 in Cleveland, OH, died March 10, 2020 at The Laurels in Hendersonville, NC. He retired after 20 years of service in the U.S. Navy as a master chief, including multiple active campaigns. He then earned his master of science in nutrition from Andrews University, and worked as a registered dietician until he retired. He is survived by his wife of almost 42 years, Nancy Fulfer Merz; daughter, Elsie Merz (Larry) Hodnett; son, Robert Merz; granddaughter, Laila Merz; sisters: Laurel Hixson and Barbara Gonzalez; numerous nephews; nieces; cousins; and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, and brother, John Merz.

MITCHELL, VIRGINIA P., 89, born Dec. 28, 1931 in Powder Springs GA, died Sept. 1, 2021 in Austell GA. Virginia loved the Lord and looked forward to His return. She loved her church family; she met on Mondays with her dear friends to study God's word. She was loved, and will be missed by many. She is survived by her sister: Jo (Frank) Hughes; her sons: Michael (Toni)Pope, Steve (Angie) Pope; stepson, Jimmy (Kathy) Mitchell; and her daughter, Jan Pope; her granddaughters: Michelle (Philip) Sinyard, Alexis Pope, and Katie Pope; her great-grandchildren: Dillon Sinyard and Madison Sinyard; a host of nieces; nephews; and step-grandchildren. Interment was held at Powder Springs Cemetery.

MYERS, GARY L., 80, born June 15, 1941 in Boston, MA, died Sept. 7, 2021 in Chattanooga, TN, with his son at his side. He was a member of Collegedale Communi-

ty Church in Collegedale, TN. He worked in manufacturing and after retirement assisted with recycling. He also spent time traveling with his wife to church school visits throughout Georgia-Cumberland Conference as part of her administrative career in education. He enjoyed bowling, NASCAR, and hanging with his Cruiser Classic Car friends. He is survived by his son and daughter-in-law: James and Christina Myers of Sanford, FL. He was predeceased by his wife, Carol; and his parents: George and Juanita Myers. The graveside service was conducted by Pastor Ken Studer in Kirtland, OH, where he was laid to rest next to his loving wife of 53 years, to await the call of Jesus.

PRENIER, BARBARA JEAN HEARTSILL MANGES, 94, born Dec. 15, 1926 in Greenwood, AR, died July 22, 2021 in Flat Rock, NC. She was a member of the Fletcher Church in Hendersonville, NC. She was a devoted mother and grandmother. After retiring from secretarial work, she especially enjoyed caring for babies of working parents. Barbara ensured that her daughters received a Seventh-day Adventist education, and set an example of healthful living. After the death of Paul, her husband, she moved to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville at the age of 74. She found family and blossomed there. She loved being with her church family. While living at Fletcher Park Inn she met and married Gordon Prenier. Gordon was involved in mission work and wanted to share with his new bride some of the Maranatha projects he was involved in, so they traveled to all kinds of places. The highlight was visiting a church Gordon pastored in the Cayman Islands. They were invited back for an anniversary celebration of the church, and quickly agreed to go. She is survived by her daughters: Mary (Bruce) Edwards of Washington, PA; Paula Means (Wayne) Flannigan of Bakerstown, PA; and Linda Williams of Blude Ridge, GA; stepdaughters: Gloria (Dallas) Pfeiffer of Oregon; Betty Smith of California; and Carol (Roger) Peden of Tryon, NC; grandchildren: Mathew Fritz, Marcus (Delma) Fritz, Todd (Angela) Means, Shannon (David) Fawley, and Evan Crow; and great-grandchildren: Lawson, Leah, and Lauren Fawley; and Sarah Fritz. She was preceded in death by her parents: Harris B. and Grace Bassett Heartsill; her husband for 49 years, Paul Manges; and her husband for 7 years, Gordon Prenier.

STANAWAY, BARBARA, 87, born 1934 in Washington County, OK, died Sept. 9, 2021 in Nashville, TN. She graduated from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN, with a degree in elemen-

tary education, and from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga with her graduate degree in education. Barbara taught grades 1-8 in the Oklahoma and Georgia-Cumberland conferences. She retired from A.W. Spalding Elementary School in Collegedale after more than 30 years of being a professional educator in elementary schools; and at Southern Adventist University where she modeled excellence in education and mentored many future teachers. Each of her three children had Barbara as their elementary school classroom teacher for at least one year. Consistent with Barbara's generosity, her principles of service to God and others, and her promotion of education, she arranged for her body to be donated to medical science through the Vanderbilt University Medical Center Anatomic Donations Program. She is survived by her beloved children: Amy Johnson, Gay Knapp, and Ian Stanaway; her grandchildren: David Knapp, Nathan Stanaway, Amy McHenry, Elisabeth Zeller, Luke Stanaway; and her beautiful great-grandchildren. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents: Walter and Audrey Sears.

THOMAS, JEAN ENA EVADNE, 89, born Sept. 27, 1932 in Manchester Village to Florence Butcher and Alfred Thomas. Both of her parents were villagers of Manchester Village, Corentyne, Bernice, and Guyana S.A. She was the sister of the following siblings who had preceded her in death: Lydia Macculum, Buzzett Thomas, Syll Sandy, and Baby Skestte. She is survived by Waveney Ainsworth, Gerald Thomas, and Othille Joseph. As a child, Jean grew up in Manchester Village and attended Manchester Primary School. After graduation, Jean pursued careers in several areas including dress making, teaching, professional singing, and international cuisine. Jean was very famous for her fried rice and chicken-in-the-ruff skills while she worked at the Penguin International Hotel in New Amsterdam, Bernice, and Guyana. Jean has brought into this world eight beautiful children, in order of seniority: Clephane Burgess, Hazel Harris, followed by and after her marriage to Edward David in 1958, Conrad David, Amanda Campbell, Phillip David, Deyonne Goldson, Regnah Williams, and Odo David. She has been blessed with 29 grandchildren and 47 great-grandchildren; three sons-in-laws; and four daughters-in-law. We are all part of Jean's family circle. Jean was a loveable, kind hearted and friendly person who never missed an opportunity to help any of her siblings, friends, and extended family who were in need. She will be missed.

Degree Completion Program, Business Finance Fundamentals-Adult Degree Completion Program, Management Fundamentals-Adult Degree Completion Program. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs

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MISCELLANEOUS

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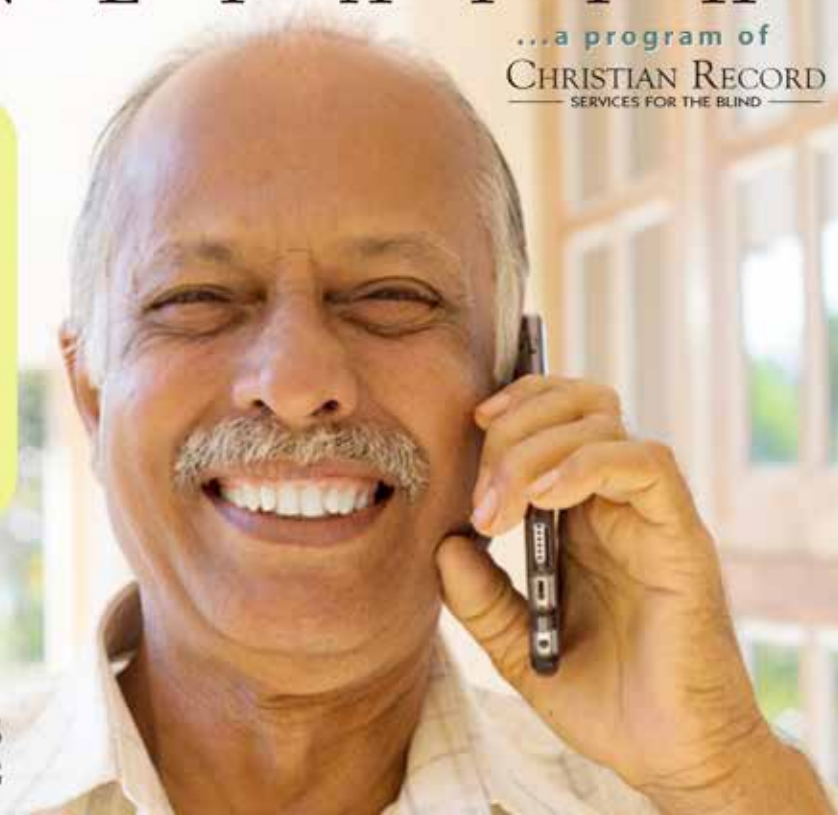
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people who are blind

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CHURCH SIGNS CONNECT YOU WITH THE COMMUNITY

How easy it is to find you and know they have arrived at the right place?

Inadequate signage causes missed opportunities. Focus on the mission, while we assist you getting a new sign.

Your church sign represents the church body. It is the first structure associated with your church that most people will see, a powerful evangelistic tool.

Our sign engineer will help you selecting the sign that meets your needs. We have two main types of signs and several options on Monumental designs.

Visit our website to learn more about the ordering process, sign types, and customize options.

SouthernUnion.com/signs

Highway Directional Signs
Assist to locate your church

Monumental Signs
Identify your church



CAROLINA

IMPACT Youth Rally at MPA – Nov. 5, 6. Mount Pisgah Academy.

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

MAGABOOK Winter Student Program – Dec. 12-Jan. 6. TBA.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Symphony Orchestra Concert – Nov. 7. With Laurie Redmer Minner conducting, Southern’s Symphony Orchestra will per-

form at 7:30 p.m. at the Collegedale Church. To learn about more School of Music events, visit southern.edu/musicevents.

Classes Begin – Jan. 10. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOME-COMING WEEKEND – Nov. 5-7. FA Campus. Celebrating 111

years! Join us as we honor the class years ending in 6’s and 1’s. The Class of 1971 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to those connected to our School of Nursing. More details at: fletcheracademy.org

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

SUNSET

	NOV 5	NOV 12	NOV 19	NOV 26	DEC 3	DEC 10
ATLANTA, GA	6:41	5:35	5:32	5:29	5:28	5:29
CHARLESTON, SC	6:24	5:19	5:16	5:14	5:13	5:14
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:24	5:18	5:14	5:12	5:11	5:11
COLLEGEDALE, TN	6:41	5:36	5:31	5:29	5:28	5:28
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:48	4:42	4:38	4:36	4:35	4:35
JACKSON, MS	6:06	5:01	4:58	4:56	4:55	4:56
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:38	5:32	5:27	5:24	5:22	5:23
MEMPHIS, TN	6:01	4:55	4:51	4:49	4:48	4:48
MIAMI, FL	6:36	5:32	5:30	5:29	5:29	5:30
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:50	4:46	4:42	4:40	4:39	4:40
NASHVILLE, TN	5:46	4:40	4:36	4:33	4:32	4:32
ORLANDO, FL	6:37	5:33	5:30	5:28	5:28	5:29
TAMPA, FL	6:42	5:38	5:35	5:34	5:34	5:35
WILMINGTON, NC	6:14	5:09	5:05	5:02	5:01	5:02

SEE FOR YOURSELF

Students are extraordinarily friendly, professors are exceptionally caring, and the whole campus is focused on Christ.

But don't just trust our word. Arrange your own free visit to Southern's campus, or join one of our special events.

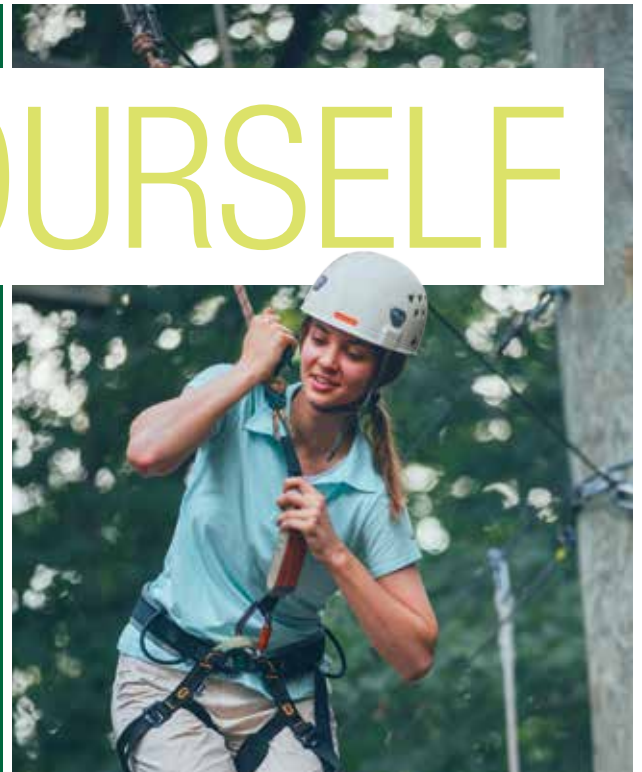
See Southern for yourself.

Upcoming **FREE*** PreviewSouthern events:

November 4-5, 2021

February 21, 2022

March 24-25, 2022



**Includes free meals and lodging for students interested in attending Southern. Student families are encouraged to visit, too.*



Power for Mind & Soul

To arrange your visit, call 1.800.SOUTHERN
or go to southern.edu/visit.

Collegedale, TN



Meet Maftuha Adem

Maftuha is a pharmacist at AdventHealth. She's also a volunteer for AdventHealth Global Missions, which offers team members an opportunity to live out our mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ and culture of generosity by extending care around the world.

Through the COVID-19 crisis, AdventHealth has continued to support our international partners. A major project in Peru helped acquire oxygen-generating plants for two hospitals. Donations of personal protective equipment and other supplies have protected staff and patients in countries around the world.

Working together, we'll get through this pandemic.

Learn more at [AdventHealth.com/AdventHealth-Global-Missions](https://www.adventhealth.com/adventhealth-global-missions).