

TIDINGS

Southern 

DECEMBER 2021

EVANGELISM THROUGH YOUTH MINISTRIES

A KINDNESS
REPAID

MACS CONTINUES
TO GROW

CELEBRATING THE
MUSIC OF ADVENT

SHARING JESUS'
LOVE



United to Multiply



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

“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service,” Romans 12:1.

In its state symbolism, the Roman Empire emphasized the need for unity. One symbol showed a bundle of sticks tied together and an ax head attached at one end. Each stick by itself would snap. No one stick could carry the weight of an ax head. But, tied together by a common cause, they could control the world.

By the time of Christ, many wrong ideas had taken over in Judaism. In one common error, the believing Jew trusted in the community to find his salvation. He expected God’s acceptance through temple and Torah. His very Jewishness gave him an unbeatable lead in the race for God’s favor.

Jesus turned around the thinking of His compatriots. For the Jews, the person of faith looked inward to the community to find life. For the Church, faith looked out to the world to bring it hope in Christ.

When Paul says, “Christ in you, the hope of glory,” he uses “you” as plural, not singular. Not you the person, but you the Church, display Christ, the hope of glory.

In our promise, Paul does not see a host of single sacrifices to God, one for each person in the community of faith. Rather, one corporate sacrifice of our bodies represents our reasonable service. The Bible will not let us escape from the togetherness through which the Spirit can create Christ’s presence in the Church and through it in the world.

In 1 Corinthians 6:19, Paul actually says, “your (plural) body (singular) is the temple of the Holy Ghost.” He does the same with “your body” in verse 20.

We must not overlook the great passages such as Romans 7:7-25, where the individual is in focus. However, in Christ we are for one another. The two or three or more that gather express best the power of Christ.

When one is alone with self, the facts of sin and self weigh heavily. Through the presence of Christ, the Church comes alive to God. To be for Christ is to be for one another — not just in the sense of the community of faith, but because in our togetherness we share God’s favor.

“The grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ and His tender relationship to His Church on Earth are to be revealed by the growth of His Work,” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 113.

As we extend our quest to reconnect with men, women, boys, and girls who have disconnected from our community of faith, the composite and individual sacrifices of “Church business as usual” will be replaced by a deep-seated hunger to retrieve and snatch (in some cases) many from the clutches of Satan.

The Southern Union conferences (all eight), our three universities, and the highly effective ministerial force of our wide geography are poised to partner with the North American Division of the World Church to foster one of the most dynamic years of multiplying members in 2022. I’m so excited by the evidenced commitment of so many. Let’s pull together as we allow Christ to be the hope of glory in us. -RCS 📍



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COVER: Tatiana Davidson is pictured at the 2009 South Atlantic Conference Pathfinder Camporee. A Pathfinder since the age of 10, she is now a Master Guide, graduate of Oakwood University, and is currently a fourth-year medical student at Loma Linda University.



EVANGELISM THROUGH YOUTH MINISTRIES

BY NATHAN ZINNER

When you think of Youth Ministries, what comes to mind? Is it Pathfinders and Adventurers? Maybe it's summer camp. Or maybe it's youth conventions. But did you know, the youth program in the Southern Union used to be overseen by the Education Department?

Formally beginning in 1907, Missionary Volunteers or MV, as it was called, emphasized three main areas: devotions and daily commitment to God, education on the Church's doctrine and history, and missionary efforts. These tenets continue to be evident in youth ministries to this day!

The connection between Adventist Education and the youth work could often be seen in how MV programs were coordinated. One example of this dates to a January 1925 MV convention at Oakwood Junior College, now Oakwood University. While most of the program took place during Sabbath hours, the Sunday program was structured so that school responsibilities wouldn't keep students from participating in the program's community missionary work.

In 1944, the Southern Union Conference Committee believed the growth of both the Education and MV program necessitated these programs being overseen by their own secretaries. With the

creation of the MV Department under the leadership of C. H. Lauda, partnerships with other departments continued.

Missionary Volunteers regularly partnered with the publishing works, and young people were often engaged in distributing tracts and literature as part of their regular missionary work. While it may not sound like a lot in today's dollars, E.F. Hackman, Southern Union president, noted in his 1947 quinquennial report that young people "have sold thousands of dollars' worth of our largest subscription books."

Growing out of MV societies were Master Guides. Throughout the history of youth ministries, the role of Master Guides has been one of leadership and mentorship. In July of 1951, the first Southern Union Youth Camp was held at Kings Mountain Park, North Carolina. One purpose of the camp was to help Master Guides develop their leadership acumen.

But 1951 wasn't the first year of camps for youth held in the Southern Union — 1951 was actually the 25th anniversary of junior camps in the Southern Union. It was also in 1951 that the first senior camp for ages 16-30 was held with a capacity of 150 campers. The cost? Only \$15!

Just two years later, in 1953, there was another first when the first official Pathfinder Clubs started in the Southern



PHOTO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED
APRIL 24, 1963.

In 1963 one of the most important aims of the Southern Union Missionary Volunteers Department was to challenge, inspire, and train capable youth leadership in the local churches. From 1958 to 1962, more than 1,200 individuals received training course certificates for completing Missionary Volunteer training programs in the senior and junior levels.

Union. But the idea and development of Pathfinders, one of the most globally recognized youth programs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, started many years earlier, with deep roots in the South.

In 1919, Arthur Spalding started "Mission Scouts" in Madison, Tennessee. The group of boys, which included his two sons, combined camping with activities like woodcraft and a pledge to maintain high moral standards. In developing the program, Spalding studied the Boy Scouts organization and rules while be-



PHOTO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 24, 1963.

The summer camp program of the Southern Union is no doubt one of the greatest evangelistic endeavors carried on during the summer months. Between 1958 and 1962, 7,289 young people attended these havens of spiritual retreat, and 1,641 made decisions to look forward to baptism.



PHOTO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 1992.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy, along with two public high schools, participated in the Gordon County and Calhoun Civic Olympic Flag Ceremonies in September 1992. Runners included Georgia-Cumberland Academy students Joni Self and David Shinn, who ran through parts of Gordon County with the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Flag and a 1992 Olympic Celebration flag.



PHOTO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 1970.

The music maker from the South Central Conference helped a lively camporee in September 1970 by performing on his slide trombone. The camporee was held at Stone Mountain Park outside Atlanta, Georgia, and was attended by 1,400 Pathfinders.

ing intentional on aligning his “Mission Scouts” with Adventist doctrines and the denomination’s spiritual goals. Spalding’s work in this area became the foundations of the Junior Missionary Volunteers or JMV, the precursor to Pathfinders.

In 1950 the General Conference officially adopted the Pathfinder name, and by 1952 the first clubs in the Southern Union were formed. By 1954 there were 59 clubs with 1,408 Pathfinders.

The growth of the MV program was also evident when in 1954 two Youth Congresses were held with a combined attendance of more than 10,000. But, it wasn’t these attendance numbers that excited members and leadership the most. It was the impact on evangelism that these youth were having that created excitement and continued to grow the effect youth were having across the South.

From 1951-1954, there was substantial growth through multiple facets of evangelism. For example, youth distributed nearly 2.5 million pieces of literature, brought in more than \$323,500 for In-gathering, and had nearly 710,000 missionary contacts, a 121% increase from the previous four years. These, among other efforts, resulted in 3,157 youth being baptized between 1951 and 1954. It was also during this time that summer camp programs were beginning to take the next step, with Florida and Georgia-Cumberland conferences purchasing their own property to host these camps.

As youth ministries was growing across the South, the focus on evangelism and partnerships continued. One example of this is, in 1956, the Southern Union Bible School prepared a special issue of Trick or Treat, which offered enrollment in the Bible School. These tracts were to be distributed by Path-

finders with the goal of generating 5,000 Bible study interests.

Another example of partnerships is when the MV society at Southern Missionary College, now Southern Adventist University, organized a Voice of Youth evangelistic meeting in 1958. The planning for these meetings was led by college students with the support of L. M. Nelson, Southern Union MV secretary, and H. V. Hendershot, associate pastor of the Collegedale Church. Following study period, dorm students gathered in several rooms praying for these meetings.

While the scope of youth ministries started shifting from solely being about Missionary Volunteers, the emphasis on spiritual growth and evangelism did not. Between 1959 and 1963, Bible conferences were started, there were 11 Voice of Youth evangelistic series, 1,641 youth made decisions for baptism at summer camps, and more than 30,000 Bible studies were given by youth.

By 1967 there were 2,500 Pathfinders across the Union. This growth of Pathfinders was also the start of something new: Union-wide Pathfinder camporees, with the first recorded camporee at Stone Mountain Park in September 1970.

Under the leadership of Don Holland, the emphasis on evangelism continued.



PHOTO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED MAY 2000.

Danieyle Jackson, youth speaker at the Mega Youth Congress in Augusta, Georgia, emphasizes she has all the answers: “They’re in the Book.” Hosted by the South Atlantic Conference, more than 3,000 teens attended the January 2000 Congress, where more than 200 surrendered their lives to Christ.

From 1971 to 1975, the result of youth-led outreach and evangelism in areas such as youth evangelistic meetings, Voice of Prophecy Wayout teams that generated and followed up on Bible study interests, and conducting evangelism in dark counties, led to 5,830 people being baptized. The growth of the summer camp program, which many considered to be one of the most important evangelistic outreaches to youth, had nearly 94,000 young people in attendance during these years as well!

Seeing the growth and importance of summer camps to youth across the Union, Clay Farwell, Southern Union youth director at the time, organized the first Camp Rangers’ Seminar. This seminar for summer camp directors and rangers was a precursor to the resources and accreditation now provided by Association of Adventist Camp Professionals or AACP.

In 1979, South Central Conference held the first United Youth Congress, led by Joseph McCoy, South Central’s youth director. This congress, with the purpose of inspiring youth to draw closer to God, has grown to become a nationwide event for regional conferences across the country.

While Pathfinders has deep roots in the Southern Union, so too does the Adven-

turer program. Developed by visionary leaders in the Carolina, Florida, and Gulf States conferences, the first Adventurer Club in Florida, then called Trailblazer, was organized at the Florida Hospital Church in 1987. Within only three years, several clubs were formed and gathered for the first Adventurer fun day at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Florida.

When the 1988 Pathfinder Camporee was held at Camp Kulaqua, the number of Pathfinders had grown substantially. More than 4,000 Pathfinders attended this camporee where they could participate in 85 hours of activities ranging from drilling and marching, to honors, to outdoor living skills. With all these activities offered, though, the focus of spiritual growth was not lost; 77 Pathfinders made a decision at the camporee to follow Christ.

By 1990, the Southern Union had 491 Pathfinder clubs, the largest of any union in the North American Division (NAD). There were also 6,173 Pathfinders and 1,931 volunteer staff, the largest volunteer base across the NAD. This active involvement and engagement in Pathfinders was only one example of youth being involved in their church and communities though.

Leading up to the 1996 summer Olympics in Atlanta, Georgia, Madison Academy and Georgia-Cumberland Academy both participated in ceremonies that took place in their respective communities. Both schools had two students who were designated runners carrying the Olympic flag through their communities.

Southern Union Pathfinders also participated in the Pathfinder floats at the Tournament of Roses parades from 1991 to 1993. While many Pathfinders were needed to help decorate the float each year, only a select number of Pathfinders were selected to ride it during the parade. Riders from the Southern Union include Shunnita Killings from August, Georgia, in 1991; Jeremy Allen from Winter Park, Florida, in 1992; and Sharon Wickham from Chattanooga, Tennessee, in 1993. These floats were seen by hundreds of millions of people



PHOTO ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED SEPTEMBER 2011.

More than 5,600 Pathfinders salute during the Sabbath morning service at the 2007 “Called to Serve” Southern Union Pathfinder Camporee. At the time, this camporee, held at Camp Kulaqua in Apopka, Florida, was the largest Union Pathfinder Camporee held in North America.

around the world each year, and provided witnessing opportunities to bystanders and fellow participants.

But the Tournament of Roses isn’t the first joint initiative the Southern Union has been involved with. While many Pathfinders today know about the International Pathfinder Camporees that have taken place in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, since 1999, these camporees got their start at the 1985 Camp Hale Camporee in Leadville, Colorado, and the 1989 Friendship Camporee in central Pennsylvania.

“Friendship is important to these Pathfinders, because they associate friendship with the Church,” said Alan Williamson, Southern Union youth director at the time, and a member of the Friendship Camporee planning committee. “When [Pathfinders] come to a camporee, they realize they are part of a larger family, and then they go back to the churches with a broader vision.”

Five years later at the Dare to Care Camporee in Denver, Colorado, 1,750 Pathfinders from the Southern Union attended, the largest delegation from any Union in North America. But, for Jason Stump from Morganton, North Carolina, it wasn’t about the numbers.

“I enjoyed the push carts because you had to learn about teamwork,” said Stump.

Alongside Pathfinders were additional programs designed to help youth grow



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Pedro Perez, Florida Conference Pathfinder director, baptizes a Pathfinder from the West Palm Beach Pathfinder Club at the 2014 Forever Faithful Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. The International Pathfinder Camporees are a highlight for Pathfinders with hundreds of Pathfinders choosing specifically to be baptized at these camporees, and many more Pathfinders making decisions for baptism.

spiritually. By 2000, the Union Youth Department was organizing two conferences a year specifically for academy students. Every January academy students could attend a prayer conference with the intention of those students going back to their schools to be spiritual leaders on their campus. Alternating every fall was a leadership or Bible conference, again with a focus of not only deepening the student's spiritual life, but also to help develop spiritual leaders on the academy campuses.

This is evidenced by baptisms taking place at almost every one of these conferences since they started. For Lacie Apple, as a student from Mount Pisgah Academy in Candler, North Carolina, the September 2000 Bible Conference was the catalyst where she gave her heart to Christ, and was one of three students that were baptized at the conference. "The evening meetings really touched me," she said, "and I realized that God loves me no mat-



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

The Greenville North Stars from Greenville, North Carolina, discuss the answer to one of 90 questions during the 2018 Southern Union Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) playoffs. By memorizing books of the Bible, the goal of PBE is to deepen Pathfinders' understanding of the Bible and grow their relationship with Christ.

ter what and I can always trust Him. He is always there for me."

But the training of youth has not been the only area of training. From 2001 to 2006, 25 training events were held in several areas of children and youth ministries, including for Vacation Bible School (VBS). During this time frame, 1,100 VBS programs were conducted that resulted in more than 45,000 children being taught biblical lessons and witnessing Christ's love in action.

The commitment to developing spiritually strong youth is also evident in Bible Bowl and Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). Bible Bowl began in the early 1980s in the regional conferences, and many consider this ministry to be the precursor to the Pathfinder Bible Experience. While Bible Bowl is open to participants 10 and older, PBE is for Pathfinders only. However, both programs encourage in-depth Bible study and memorization with the purpose of deepening Pathfinders' understanding of the Bible while growing their relationship with Christ. With the first Southern Union-sponsored PBE taking place in 2013, the program has grown to include more than 1,000 Pathfinders across the Union.

The growth of youth ministries can be most demonstrated by looking at the growth of Pathfinders, one of the longest running and most widely known programs in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From its humble beginnings of 1,408 in 1954, more than 6,000 Pathfinders attended the 2016 Southern Union Camporee, led by Ken Rogers, current Southern Union youth director, and more than 10,000 attended the 2019 International Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisconsin. Through this growth, the emphasis on deepening a youth's relationship with Christ remains the focal point. Baptisms are a regular occurrence at many youth events, with some youth planning specifically to be baptized at summer camp or Pathfinder camporees. In 2016, nearly 40 percent of baptisms across the Southern Union were youth related!

The partnerships and mentorships evident at the beginning of youth work in the Southern Union are still integral to the success of youth ministries today. 📌

Nathan Zinner is the communication director at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

A KINDNESS REPAID: LOVE TIES CONGREGATIONS TOGETHER FOR 25 YEARS

BY RICK GREVE

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Jesus shared an interesting concept with His listeners. He said: “Here is a simple, rule-of-thumb guide for behavior: Ask yourself what you want people to do for you, then grab the initiative and do it for them. Add up God’s Law and Prophets and this is what you get,” Matthew 7:12, MSG.

In Greene County, Tennessee, only one-third of a mile separates Riverview Community Seventh-day Adventist Church from Victory Church of God. And now, the two congregations are sharing a single worship space! Here’s the story behind how two churches of different denominations have allowed the love of God to perpetuate uncommon grace between their congregations.

Back in 1992, a small group of believers within the Church of God in Greene County began to sense that God was calling them to plant a church. They prayed for a way to move forward and also for a place to meet. One member felt impressed that they should talk to the local Adventist church, so they approached Riverview Community and asked David Brass, pastor, about renting space for their Sunday services.

Brass quickly convened a church business meeting to discuss the proposal. Without a single dissenting vote or moment of hesitation, his congregation approved the request. A rental contract specified a nominal fee of \$200 per



The Riverview Community Church in Greeneville, Tennessee, was hit by lightning and burned to the ground on August 17, 2021. Members are meeting at a nearby church they had rented from Riverview nearly 30 years ago when they were needing a place to worship.

month to help defray utility costs for use of the sanctuary, classrooms, and fellowship hall. Brass explained, “We wanted them to feel welcome and not feel burdened financially while they were in the process of building their new place.”

This arrangement began in 1992 and continued until 1997. On occasion, Riverview Community members would arrive on Sabbath morning to find fresh gravel spread across their parking lot, an unexpected gift from their renters. From time to time, they’d receive a check with a generous amount added to the regular rental fee. The sanctuary was always spotlessly clean and ready for Sabbath worship.

Eventually, Victory Church of God had a new facility that was ready for occupancy. When the time came for the renters to move into their new sanctuary in August of 1997, they offered this note as part of their celebration:

In Appreciation...

Dear South Greene [Riverview’s original name] Seventh-day Adventist congregation,

We, the Victory Church of God, proudly recognize the congregation, leadership, and Pastor David Brass of the SDA Church for your wonderful show of love. We have been fortunate in using your church building since 1992.



PHOTO BY: RICK GREVE

Gary Rustad, Conference president, gives a message of comfort and encouragement to Riverview members meeting for the first time at the Victory Church of God.

Jesus says in Matthew 25:35, “I was hungry, and ye gave me meat. I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in.”

We can interpret this Scripture in another way, because we were looking for a place to worship. You, a congregation of wonderful people, took us into your arms of fellowship.

We praise the Lord for our Adventist brothers and sisters, for your thoughtfulness and kindness. We will forever be grateful for the things you have done for our church. God bless you, our special friends. We welcome you always to join our services.

Thank you so very much.

In Christian Love,

Victory Church of God

The church was finished but not fully furnished. To help the congregation celebrate, Riverview Community Church refunded all of the rent money it had collected during the previous five years. It was enough so that Victory Church could acquire choir chairs for the loft.

Fast-forward 24 years. A violent lightning strike at Riverview Community caused a destructive surge through the electrical system on Tuesday, August 17, 2021, and sparked a fire that quickly spread. More than 20 rescue and fire squads came to battle the blaze, but the church was already engulfed in flames when they arrived. The building could

not be saved without endangering human lives. Fortunately, no one was in the building at the time of the fire, and none of the firefighters suffered injury.

As emergency crews doused the hot spots with water, Jim Fillers, pastor of the Victory Church of God, came out with several of his members to offer support and to supply food for the first respond-



Lyndon Gallimore, Riverview's head elder, reads a message of comfort and support from Jim Fillers, pastor of the Victory Church of God. After the fire that destroyed Riverview's Church building, Victory Church of God immediately offered their facility to the Adventist congregation. Riverview had previously rented their facility to Victory Church of God nearly 30 years ago when they needed a place to worship.

ers. John Duroe, a retired former pastor of the Riverview Community Church, was among the group of members viewing the catastrophe. Fillers found Duroe and said, “You don’t have to look for any other place to worship this coming Saturday, John. It’s payback time! Come, meet at Victory Church of God!”

And so they did. The members of Riverview Community arrived August 21, 2021, to study and worship, filling up the sanctuary and classrooms with praise. Gary Rustad, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, provided words of comfort and encouragement to the group. During the testimony time, John Duroe said: “Praise God. He gave us a better church this Sabbath!”

That’s what God can do! He can restore and rebuild anything the enemy tries to destroy.

Kindness is the catalyst that ignites and unites us as Christian brothers and sisters.

Galatians 6:9-10 says: “And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith,” NKJV.

So far, Victory Church of God has donated \$2,000 toward the rebuilding of Riverview Community Church. Other churches in Greene County have contributed nearly \$20,000, as well. If you would like to exercise a similar kindness and contribute to the Rebuilding Riverview fund, please send your checks (Note: Fire Rebuilding) to Riverview Community Church, c/o Ginger Small, 400 Sanford Circle, Greeneville, TN 37743. Online contributions can be made through the church website, www.rcsdachurch.com, or through Adventist-Giving.org (type in Riverview Community SDA). 📞

Rick Greve is the ministerial director for the Northern Region of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

MACS CONTINUES TO GROW, DISTRIBUTES THOUSANDS OF POUNDS OF FOOD

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

After five years of operations, the Manchester Adventist Community Services (MACS) continues to grow the reach of its food pantry through partnerships and the work of its volunteers. Since COVID-19 hit in 2020, the pantry has grown from serving an average of 80 families a week to 300.

MACS is a food pantry ministry started by the Manchester Church in Kentucky in 2016. In its beginning, the

pantry operated through the donations of church members and food drives conducted by its Pathfinder club. Eventually, organizers partnered with God's Pantry Food Bank in Lexington, Kentucky, which helped the ministry serve more community members.

Since 2020, the pantry started distributing an average of 250 to 300 boxes of food per week, depending on the date of the month. This ends up being about



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM KYSER

Food racks at the Manchester Adventist Community Services storage facility hold items for distribution, including fresh produce, canned goods, rice, and pastas.



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM KYSER

God's Pantry Food Bank delivers groceries to the Manchester Adventist Community Services (MACS). Since COVID-19 hit in 2020, MACS' food pantry has been serving an average of 300 families a week.

12,000 to 15,000 pounds of food.

"When COVID hit, we realized we couldn't let all these people be in line," said Dawn Wardecke, member at Manchester Church and volunteer at MACS. "So, we had [the people] stay in their cars, and started bringing the boxes to them instead, kind of like a drive-thru."

The items distributed include fresh produce, canned goods, rice, and pasta.

In addition to the help received from God's Pantry Food Bank, MACS has also received support from the North



PHOTO COURTESY OF TOM KYSER

MACS volunteers hold boxes of food. MACS is a food pantry ministry started by the Manchester Church in Kentucky back in 2016.

America Division, AdventHealth Manchester, and anonymous donors. The Business and Professional Foundation (BPF), an organization by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference that financially supports evangelistic outreach, also aided MACS by providing funds for a new storage facility.

At the beginning of each month, MACS

volunteers personally hand out copies of *Signs of the Times* magazine. Sometimes they also include copies of *Steps to Christ* or *The Great Hope* — an abridged version of *The Great Controversy*.

“So, there is not just a physical impact, but also a spiritual impact,” said Tom Kyser, Manchester Church pastor. “Sometimes we get the magazine late, so

some of the people come and ask, ‘Well, where is our magazine? I look forward to reading that every month.’”

According to Kyser, the food pantry has opened the way for Bible studies in the community as well as with some of the volunteers.

During Thanksgiving and Christmas, organizers prepare special baskets with foods to match the season. Moreover, Manchester Church Pathfinder and Adventurers, led by Wardecke and her sister, visit Bridge Street, Kentucky, to distribute hot meals for the homeless people.

“It’s as much a blessing to me as it is to them,” Wardecke said. “They’re getting food and they’re getting a contact with our church. I just feel like this is an outreach that is needed in our community.”



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

CELEBRATING THE MUSIC OF ADVENT

BY AMA AKOTO-BOATENG

Every Advent season Christians look back in celebration and gratitude to Christ's first coming while eagerly looking forward to His soon return. The season is usually filled with gifts and decorations, quality family time, and, of course, the melodies of beloved Christmas carols and songs.

While these musical traditions may seem like simple annual occurrences,

there is more that music does to the body, mind, and spirit than meets the eye. Particularly for an occasion like Advent, music serves as the bedrock on which the joy and good tidings of the season thrive.

For team members at AdventHealth, Advent represents more than just an event. It calls out the essence and foundational meaning of the AdventHealth brand. Advent signals the arrival of

something or someone of great significance, and so, drawing from this foundational meaning, the AdventHealth brand represents the arrival or beginning of health and expresses a strong and clear connection to the healing that God has promised.

The AdventHealth story is one of hope. It tells how God created us, how Christ's ministry on Earth restored us from our brokenness, and how the



The AdventHealth Orchestra is a first-of-its-kind musical group composed of AdventHealth team members and physicians.



AdventHealth's video message series, "The Music of Advent," will be distributed weekly between November 29 and December 20.

promised return of Jesus Christ signals ultimate restoration. This hope of eternal promise is infused in the way AdventHealth team members provide care to their communities.

Every year to mark the Advent season, AdventHealth observes a month-long event that features inspirational video messages from Terry Shaw, president/CEO. This year, over the course of the four-week period spanning from November 29 to December 20, AdventHealth team members and other stakeholders and friends will also be treated to soulful musical pieces centered on the themes of hope, peace, joy, and love performed by members of the AdventHealth Orchestra and other musicians.

The AdventHealth Orchestra is composed of musically talented team members and physicians who are deeply committed to bringing healing and wholeness through music. The first of its kind at AdventHealth, the musical group's performance will be the second after its first appearance at the 2021

AdventHealth Conference on Mission, where a tribute was made to those who lost their lives to COVID-19.

Commenting on his expectations for the Advent series, Richard Hickam, director of music and the arts for AdventHealth, said, "Music seems to be more prominent in this season for many people. Due to the pandemic, many people have not had the opportunity to experience live Christmas music for two years. I believe this season will add an extra measure of joy."

Rob Roy is an orchestra musician and also senior vice president and chief investment officer for AdventHealth. He shared a deeper meaning of music that personally resonates with him. He said, "Music is a universal audible language through which much can be communicated directly, and much can be interpreted by the listener. I chose to be part of the orchestra because it allows me to both appreciate the group working together and to express my feelings. Through the var-

ious performances, I hope that we can add another dimension of healing after a challenging two years."

Time-old favorites that will be featured in this year's Advent series include "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" and "Joy to the World," among others. To sign up to receive the message series and links to the musical performances, visit AdventHealth.com/AdventSeries. 🎵

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

SHARING JESUS' LOVE

BY STEFANIE GREEN

Mornings start early for Evelin Velinova, a senior film production major at Southern Adventist University who is spending the year as a student missionary (SM) at Familia Feliz orphanage in Bolivia. She tries to fit in exercise — often a run — and devotional time before the children she takes care of wake up. Spending time with God is a priority for Velinova because it gives her strength for her day. By 7 a.m., she heads to the group home to spend the day with “her” children.

“We have worship and breakfast together like a typical family would,” she explains.

Velinova helps care for a group of 16 boys and girls ranging from ages 1-17. Throughout the day, she keeps an eye on those who are too young to be in school, helps the older students with their homework and chores, assists with meals and evening worship, and in general is there

for the kids. After a full day, her shift ends by 8 or 9 p.m.

However, her role goes beyond childcare. In the nine months she plans to be in Bolivia, she aspires to be a positive influence on those around her. Through her gentleness and patience, she is showing the children Jesus’ love, and she finds that the love she extends is reciprocated many times over.

“The children pour out their love to us volunteers,” Velinova says. “I may never see the impact I make on these kids in the long run, but that’s okay, as long as I did my part.”

Additionally, Velinova is making use of her film production major while there, gaining experience in her field and capturing the work she and other SMs are doing. Currently, she is helping to create a professional promotional video for the Familia Feliz website as well as videos the SMs can send to their churches back home.

“The kids love being in front of the camera!” she says. “They get so excited to have their pictures taken or to be part of a video.”

Velinova is one of 50 Southern students currently serving around the world as SMs. It is a life-changing opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus while making lasting friendships and meaningful memories. As Velinova interacts with the children and other volunteers, she feels God’s presence at Familia Feliz.

“He is helping me to be there for the kids in the way that they need me to be,” she says. “I don’t know what He has planned right now, but I know that as long as I keep seeking His guidance, He will accomplish His will through me.”

Stefanie Green is a junior public relations major at Southern Adventist University.



Student Organizations Serve Local Refugees

In response to an increased need in the Chattanooga, Tenn., community, two student-led organizations at Southern Adventist University have partnered with local non-profits working with refugees.

The Middle Eastern Club, which formed last school year, joined with Adventist Muslim Friendship Association to hold a family fun day for refugee families in the area.

Approximately 25 refugee families from various Middle Eastern countries participated, along with 15 Southern students. The students, who took part in cultural training beforehand, visited with the families and helped facilitate games for the children.

Southern's Adventist Peace Fellowship chapter, also a student-run orga-

nization, recently began volunteering with Bridge Refugee Services. Isabella Eklund, junior social work major and club president, explains that the students felt impressed to partner with a refugee agency after Taliban militants took over Afghanistan early this semester.

"After seeing how quickly people's lives can get uprooted, we decided we wanted to help care for refugees," Eklund said. "We want to be a welcoming community for them."

So far, the group has helped Bridge Refugee Services organize storage and conduct a charity drive to collect basic household items for refugee families entering East Tennessee.

"Serving those who have been dis-



Southern students have enthusiastically gotten involved to help local refugees this school year.

placed is so important, Eklund said. "We want to maintain our care for the community through this critical work." 📌

BY AMANDA BLAKE

Students Conduct Research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory

This summer, two Southern physics majors helped conduct research at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL). Vola Andrianarijaona, Ph.D., a physics and engineering professor at Southern, invited senior Timothy Suzuki and junior Arian Dovald, both physics majors, to help with two of his research projects. Located in Eastern Tennessee, the laboratory is the largest (by size) science and energy national laboratory in the Department of Energy system. Research access is mostly reserved for those working at the doctoral level.

"This is a big deal for undergraduate students," Andrianarijaona said. "These students will be likely to write a science poster with the research results from their own work, not just the results of



Physics students Timothy Suzuki (left) and Arian Dovald gained valuable hands-on research experience at Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

someone else's work. That's real-life experience for the researcher."

During their time at ORNL, the students worked on two main projects: building a specific square wave using multi-pulse generator to ensure that the ion beam

would send a specific number of pulses, and achieving an ultra-high vacuum environment within the merged ion beamline while checking for leaks in the system to reach desired vacuum pressure.

"This is an important step toward entering the world of physics research, and it inches me closer to the graduate school of my choice," said Dovald.

"This opportunity granted me valuable experience," Suzuki said. "The most important lesson that I learned was that in real life, problems do not have simple solutions, and that to overcome these challenges, a flexible mind is absolutely necessary." 📌

BY MADISON REINSCHMIDT

West Lakes Early Learning Center to Enhance Health Care Access for Community



West Lakes Early Learning Center

In-house health center to offer pediatric medical care to students and neighbors.

AdventHealth for Children's West Lakes Early Learning Center (ELC) has opened its own in-house clinic for children and local families in the historic community near downtown Orlando's Camping World Stadium to provide easy access to health care for children in the West Lakes community.

The clinic will serve up to 150 students at the ELC and throughout the immediate West Lakes community, and will be operated by Community Health Centers, a longtime AdventHealth partner.

Operated by AdventHealth for Children, the West Lakes ELC provides high-quality and affordable early childhood education and comprehensive health, wellness and social services for children 6 weeks to 5 years of age, and their families. Offering a blended cur-

riculum based on Primrose Schools' research-based Balanced Learning® curriculum and AdventHealth's CREATION Kids curriculum, the ELC empowers children to thrive physically, mentally and spiritually. The ELC is made possible through a generous gift from the Bainum Family Foundation.

"Convenience of community access to quality health care will lead to better, healthier outcomes," said Rajan Wadhawan, M.D., senior executive officer for AdventHealth for Children. "By encouraging and providing access to medical care in this innovative model, including regular wellness checks and proper nutrition and preventive guidance, we will be able to improve the overall health of the West Lakes community, beginning with its youngest residents."

The ELC is part of a multipronged ef-

fort supported by the nonprofit Lift Orlando — bringing together government, the private sector, residents and nonprofits — to drive investments that strengthen the historic West Lakes community near Camping World Stadium.

"The Community Health Centers team is excited to provide quality and compassionate primary health care services in the West Lakes community," said Debra Andree, M.D., president and CEO for Community Health Centers, Inc. "We look forward to serving the pediatric patients and families in a patient-centered medical home embedded within the preschool setting." ❶

BY ADVENTHEALTH
CENTRAL FLORIDA NEWS

Recent AHU Grad Hired for Competitive Position

Just three months after graduating from AdventHealth University (AHU), Shannon Riley has landed a position that normally requires at least five years of work experience.

It's an accomplishment she attributes to the preparation she received at AHU.

"The way that AHU approaches education and patient care made me a better occupational therapist," said Riley, who works for Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Greenville in South Carolina.

Finding Her Way to Occupational Therapy

A Winter Park native who graduated from The Geneva School, Riley first became aware of occupational therapy (OT) after her grandfather was diagnosed with dementia. Several health care providers attended to him, but it was his occupational therapist who made the greatest impact.

"The OT was the only practitioner who could really get through to my grandfather," Riley said. "Half of occupational therapy is being able to establish a relationship and rapport. This particular OT just had that special touch. It really made a mark on me," Riley said.

By the time she went off to study at Furman University, however, Riley had decided to pursue a career in special education. It was during an internship at a special education school that occupational therapy once again captured her attention.

"There was an occupational therapist there working with the children," she said. "I didn't realize that occupational therapists work with such a wide range of patients, from elderly patients with dementia to school-age children."

As she learned more about the field, Riley made a life-changing decision, switching majors from education to health sciences.



Shannon Riley

"It was my junior year. It wasn't easy to make the switch so late in my education, but it was worth it," she said.

Choosing AdventHealth University's Mission

After graduating with her bachelor's degree, Riley began looking for graduate school options, and AdventHealth University soon rose to the top of her list.

"I had a couple friends who had gone to AHU and said good things about their experience," Riley said. "But what really stood out for me was the mission of AHU, and that they approach health care as a mission field. Patient care gets exponentially better when you approach it as something you're not doing just for you or your patients, but for God."

As a student in AHU's Master of Occupational Therapy program, Riley was trained to take a "top-down" approach to health care delivery.

"This means seeing the whole person, not just the condition and the treatment plan. When you approach the patient as a whole person, you take the time to understand their beliefs, values and goals for leading a fulfilling life," Riley said.

"I might be treating a young man who wants to be able to ride a motorcycle or

play football again, or I might be treating a grandmother who wants to be able to garden and read to her grandchildren. It's important to have the whole picture to develop the most effective treatments."

Just as Riley was trained to see the "whole person," AHU also saw her as more than just another student.

"Everyone was so receptive and understanding," she said. "They took the time to get to know me for me."

Making a Difference for Her Patients

When she applied to Encompass Health, one of the nation's leading rehabilitation hospital systems, Riley knew she would have tough competition, but she also felt confident in the preparation she'd received from AHU.

The Encompass hiring team felt the same, and Riley was offered a position that normally requires at least five years of experience.

"I'm the only new grad on the team," she said.

After Riley accepted her position, her supervisor gave her a card that read in part, "Your energy and skill will be a great contribution ... Let's work hard to make a difference in our patients' lives each day."

Making a difference is exactly what Riley is doing, and she's loving every minute of it.

"It's a great feeling when I see my patients start to make progress," she said. "I love what I do."

AdventHealth University's Master of Occupational Therapy program is designed to be completed in 27 months, and prepares students for national board certification. Visit AHU.edu to learn more about the Master of Occupational Therapy program. 📍

BY ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY NEWS

Mount Pisgah Students Flood Community With Service

The Greater Asheville, N.C., area experienced severe rainstorms and torrential rain on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Mount Pisgah Academy (MPA) students and staff experienced minimal power outages and minor flooding. Meanwhile, staff who had errands to run off campus had increased travel times due to flooding that caused closures on Smokey Park Highway, the main road off which MPA is located. The flooding forced all residents living off Monte Vista Road to travel along one road, causing major slow-downs and delays. However frustrating power outages and traffic are, though, MPA was blessed compared to other areas in the Asheville area.

Homes in Canton and Haywood County experienced the most damage, with severe flooding caused by the river that flows through town. Residents had flood waters rising in their homes, while vehicles and trailers floated away. As the waters receded, the devastating damage became more visible. Mount Pisgah Academy students and staff wanted to help with the efforts. MPA juniors and seniors volunteered to



PHOTO BY: REMY GUENIN

travel to Canton on Friday, August 20, to assist with flood clean-up. The students cleaned out mud from homes and washed the outside of houses. With so much left to do, more students headed out on Sabbath to assist in the local area.

Not only were the residents grateful for the help, but the experience changed the perspectives of the students. It can be easy to become frustrated with minor power outages and having to walk to class in the rain. Meanwhile, others are suffering from damaged homes, while

the students have dry dorm rooms. One student shared her outlook on the experience.

“Seeing all the furniture and items outside of the houses was surreal. On campus we had been complaining about the stairs and sidewalks being flooded, but that was nothing compared to this,” said Emma Boughman, ’22. 📍

BY ABBY KING ACKERMAN, DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND RECRUITMENT

Kaptivate Studios Spreads His Message Through Faith-based Apparel

Jennifer Cordero has been sharing the Gospel by selling modern and trendy faith-based apparel. Cordero was born in Mayagüez, Puerto Rico, but she grew up in North Carolina. She attended Johnson & Wales University where she graduated with an A.S. in bak-

ing and pastries, and a B.S. in entrepreneurship. However, after graduating she found that the culinary industry could be quite toxic, and found herself straying from God as a result. She prayed that God would send her in a new direction where she could use her talents to glorify Him.

During that time, Cordero noticed her graphic T-shirts from college were getting a fair amount of attention. From the grocery store to the park, her shirts were ice breakers to start a conversation with someone. This is where the idea for faith-based apparel came from. Cordero felt

that the designs for Christian apparel that were already out there weren't very relatable. With the support and encouragement from her family, she decided to follow God's leading and give the business a try.

"My goal is that whatever it may be that I sell, it may glorify and honor God," says Cordero. "The slogan of my shop is 'Live every day captivated by the word of God,' and that's what I want for my own journey of life and for others to have as well — for God to use my shop for whatever He sees fit."

Running a small business comes with its share of challenges. Cordero currently works part-time to support her business and wishes that she could be more hands-on with the final product. But, the moments where she sees how others are blessed by her products make it all worth it.

"One time I saw that a customer had requested to add a special message to



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

her order. The package was a gift for her friend, who was having a hard time. She had purchased a notebook with the verse Psalm 91:4 printed on it I was touched

by her gesture and how much she truly cared for her friend, and I wanted to help her out. I was able to add the special message as well as some tracts along with a verse card to the package. Sometime after, the customer reached out to me and told me how grateful she was that the extra goodies were added to the package and how much her friend loved the notebook. I felt blessed to help her with this special gift. In the future, I want to be able to do that more often to create those connections with others."

Cordero continues to sell her products and says she has grown in her spiritual walk with God because of it.

"I truly desire to live every day captivated by the Word of God. My inspiration and motivation comes from Him, His word, my family, and friends." ●

BY RACHEL BEAVER

From Hospital Administrator to Movie Producer: Retirees Meet During Challenging Times

Carolina Retirees Association Northwest (CRAN) recently met at Fletcher, N.C., Church for their annual Fall Retreat. What was different this year was the fact that a three-day event at Nosoca Pines Ranch was going to be a risk due to the resurgence of the Delta variant. The retirees instead had a safely held local event at Fletcher Church on September 20 and 21, 2021.

For Samuel Leonor, president of CRAN, the challenges were never-ending. The previous year, 2020, was a total shut-down due to the pandemic. However, for this former hospital administrator, planning an event during a total shut-down proved to be just another cre-



PHOTO BY: RON QUICK

ative challenge, as this hospital-administrator-turned-movie-producer planned and produced both the Fall Retreat and the Christmas program on video. These productions then were broadcast on YouTube and on the Carolina Conference Roku channel.

This year's event held at Fletcher Church included devotionals by Charles Ferguson, faith stories with Barry Mahorney, health topics with David White, and the feature presentation by Randy Tryon, M.D., of AdventHealth.

Members of the Carolina Conference who are 55 years and older may want to join this active group. They will have the opportunity to join in on picnics, special retreats, and Christmas programs. For further details, check out the Carolina Retirees Association Northwest (CRAN), website: <https://www.cransda.org>. ●

BY RON QUICK

Fire Lit in Central Florida Church



PHOTO BY: RALUCA MCROBERTS

Excellent attendance at the three-week-long series was consistent.

DeBary-Orange City, Fla., Church opened its doors for the first of an intense 3 1/2-week nightly prophecy seminar, on July 9, 2021, conducted by youth for Jesus, an ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries) youth summer program, presenting messages on the theme, "Everything is About to Change!"

The seminar was the culmination of almost two years' efforts by church members to saturate the local area with personal visits to people in their homes and businesses: informational material, invitations to various programs, taking surveys of community interests and needs, running health programs and cooking classes, doing yard work, conducting a Christmas parade, and providing Thanksgiving blessing bags. Under the SHINE evangelistic team, a coordinated group of dedicated lay workers from home and neighboring churches, the seminar effectively touched the lives of all who participated in any capacity.

Stimulating topics describing how current world history is rapidly fulfilling thousand-year-old biblical prophecies were skillfully delivered on alternate nights by two youth presenters. The small church sanctuary swelled to capacity with attendees of varied faiths thirsting for



PHOTO BY: RALUCA MCROBERTS

Newly baptized members LeRoy (left) and Kathy (center) Mosher, and Carol Morgan (second from right), pictured with youth presenters Anthony Sandoval and Isabelle Santos.

more of what was being revealed and returning night after night in large numbers. Quizzes, health and wellness tips, tasteful live instrumental and vocal music, printed handouts, and the Amazing Facts 27-part Bible lessons were part of the nightly fare for each attendee. A program and activities for children were also provided while adults attended the meetings.

The final night, August 3, included a baptism of three individuals, and graduation with certificates for 27 students who had completed the Amazing Facts series.

Another attendee was baptized in September, and more are continuing to study and prepare for baptism.

Truly a fire of interest and the desire to learn from God's Word was lit during the months of July and August 2021 in central Florida, and God's Spirit is still burning in hearts, drawing souls to truths previously unknown to them. 🕯️

BY DEBARY-ORANGE CITY COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

Lake City Man Called into His Marvelous Life

David Meyer's search for that something missing in life culminated in baptism at Columbia City Church, Lake City, Fla. The two- to three-year search had intensified as his sight reached legally blind status and an infected leg required an amputation. Meyer also could not continue in work as a communication tech and was physically challenged so as to no longer be a volunteer fireman nor EMS.

After moving closer to family, Meyer began surfing through Roku channels for Christian programming. Finding half-hour programs on an unfamiliar station, "Amazing Facts," along with "Prophecy Hour," "Questions and Answers," and other weekly programming, the purpose of life became clear. Truth was presented in a different manner than the familiar — using total biblical evidence and current and historical facts. After hearing Doug Batchelor's conversion story and the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Holy Spirit left the impression to join this Church.

Next, he sought a church to fulfill his desire to be baptized. Via phone, Meyer contacted a local church requesting a visit to discuss baptism during the midst of the COVID pandemic. Unfortunately, the doors of the church were closed for services and visits were not an option. After returning to Google to find another Adventist church, Meyer was greatly surprised to discover one only a mile away!

The following Wednesday, Meyer and his wife found themselves in the parking lot of Columbia City Seventh-day Adventist Church. No one was present. A phone call brought the discovery that prayer meeting was on hold. However, a plan was put in motion for church members to provide transportation to enable the couple to attend Sabbath services.



David Meyer is baptized by George Worrell, pastor of Columbia City Church in Lake City, Fla.

Following the first Sabbath-day service, Bible studies were planned twice a week using the series published by Amazing Facts. The enemy placed bumps in the road that presented hard choices, including a partial finger amputation, but August 7 became the baptism date.

A "walking sermon" of the text: "Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therein to be content," Philippians 4:11. Meyer naturally shares what he has seen

and heard about Jesus to any family and friends who will listen.

What a blessing Meyer has become while waiting to find a place in service for the Church and for the One who called him into His marvelous light! ●

BY SANDY LAFAlVE

Coach Wally Fox, Friend to All, Passes: May 21, 1946-September 15, 2021

Mark Twain wrote, “No man is a failure who has friends.” Coach Wally Fox certainly proved this statement true in his 49 years as an Adventist educator.

In 1975, Fox, along with his wife, Mary Ellen, and their daughter, Jennifer, moved to Calhoun, Ga., where Fox became the physical education teacher at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA). Prior to his arrival in Georgia, Fox served six years in the same role at Maplewood Academy in Minnesota. Very quickly, he endeared himself to both staff and students as an educator who loved people and was especially skilled at building relationships.

Fox influenced many young lives at Maplewood Academy and Georgia-Cumberland Academy, but his influence spread beyond these schools. Fox regularly attended professional meetings for Adventist physical educators and was regarded as an expert in his field. In 2017 he was recognized with the Service Award from the Seventh-day Adventist Health, Physical Education, and Recreation Association at meetings in Stoneham, Mass. He was also recognized as an educational leader in the Southern Union, and during his successful tenure at GCA, the athletic program grew to include varsity sports in basketball, volleyball, and soccer. In addition to his educational expertise, Fox successfully attracted donors to the sports program through his deep connections to people. Fox’s balanced approach to sports emphasized character development and sportsmanship more than winning. He wanted his students to have fun and, at the same time, develop skills that would enhance physical health throughout life.

In 2018, the new gymnasium/cafe-teria complex at Georgia-Cumberland



Wally Fox

Academy was named the Wally Fox Wellness Center to honor the legacy of this man who gave 43 years of his life to mentoring and loving young people at GCA.

After retiring in 2018, the Foxes shared their time between Calhoun, Ga., and Palm Coast, Fla. It was in Florida this past summer where Wally and Mary Ellen became ill with COVID-19. While Mary Ellen improved, Wally’s health declined enough to be hospitalized. Fox went to sleep in Jesus on September 15, 2021.

While it is difficult to truly describe the work, impact, and connections that made up the life of Wally Fox, we can safely say this of him. Most importantly, he was a man of God. Fox demonstrated God’s love and daily lived out what he believed. He was also a dedicated family man. Wally and Mary Ellen were happily married 54 years at

the time of his death. In addition, he was a devoted father and grandfather to daughter, Jennifer, and his grandchildren, Gage and Gracie. Finally, he was a true friend and mentor to thousands.

While reflecting on the impact of Coach Fox, his kindness and thoughtfulness toward all are the traits for which he is most consistently and fondly remembered. Melanie DiBiase, former student and colleague said, “Wally was a great example of how to prioritize the most important things. When I think of the many years I had the privilege of observing him and learning from his example — first as a GCA student and then as a GCA staff member — I feel blessed! I witnessed Wally enact and consistently attend to his mission to introduce students to Jesus through his ever-generous spirit, his approachable demeanor, and his open heart.”

Greg Gerard, GCA principal, summed up Fox’s life and work as an educator. “Wally Fox understood and lived that central concept of what it means to be a follower of Jesus Christ and what it means to be a teacher. He practiced what Ellen White urged Christian educators to do: ‘If they would oftener gather the children about them, and manifest an interest in their work, and even in their sports, they would gain the love and confidence of the little ones, and the lesson of respect and obedience would be far more readily learned; for love is the best teacher.’” *Fundamentals of Christian Education*, pg. 58.

Coach Wally Fox certainly understood and lived the idea that “love is the best teacher.”

BY NANCY GERARD, GCA DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AND DEVELOPMENT

McDonald Road Church Volunteers Bring “Sweet Dreams” to Chattanooga Children

Seventy volunteers from the McDonald Road Church in Tennessee, joined together in the church gymnasium on Sunday, October 3, 2021, to build 50 beds for their local community, standing with the Sleep in Heavenly Peace charity to say: “No Kid Sleeps on the Floor in Our Town!”

The Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn., joined the effort by donating all of the sheets and comforters to go with the 50 beds. They also donated about half of the pillows, with members of McDonald Road Church donating the other half.

The project began during the church’s Vacation Bible School (VBS) program, June 14-18, 2021. With the theme “Treasured,” the children spent the week embarking on an epic quest through ancient ruins, caves, and thick jungles looking for God’s biggest treasure. At the end of the week, they learned that the biggest treasure God created was not gold, silver, or diamonds — but them!

The VBS families were challenged with the goal of raising \$5,000 to support the Chattanooga chapter of the charity Sleep in Heavenly Peace. Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) is a national nonprofit organization that works to end child bedlessness. All children deserve to have a comfortable place to lay their heads at night; without this their happiness and health are affected. According to a study conducted by SHP, 2-3% of American children sleep on the floor every night; that is roughly 1-2 million children nationally.

As an added incentive for meeting the \$5,000 goal, VBS leader Wyatt Good volunteered to shave his thick, luscious locks, and Geoff Starr, McDonald Road Church youth pastor, volunteered to shave his beloved beard that he’d been



PHOTO BY: ELLIE BALTODANO

Seventy volunteers from the McDonald Road Church in Tennessee came together to build 50 beds for needy children in the local community.



PHOTO BY: ELLIE BALTODANO

Fred Fuller, McDonald Road senior pastor, stacks completed ends for the beds built by the volunteers.

growing for a year. Needless to say, not only did they raise enough to result in the shaving of beards and heads, McDonald Road Church raised \$6,000!

“It was awesome to be involved with such an amazing organization, Sleep In Heavenly Peace. We made the goal of \$5,000 the first day of VBS. And when we all decided it was too high, I volunteered to shave my beard if we made it. I thought we’d never make it. I really didn’t want to. But, I’m glad we did and I’m thrilled we were able to raise more than \$6,000

and build 50 beds for young people in our community. I was so happy to see how many volunteers we got to come out and help build the beds,” said Starr.

“It was amazing to see so many people working together, volunteering their time to give local kids a better life. It was worth it to wake up earlier on a Sunday morning if it means I can help someone,” said Elyse Baltodano, a teen from McDonald Road Church. The volunteers worked in an assembly line sanding, drilling, measuring, marking, staining, and branding hundreds of planks of wood that were eventually built into bed frames. What started as a pile of raw lumber became ready-to-deliver beds for kids in need. This project was open to volunteers of all ages, giving an opportunity to even the youngest of members to give back to their community. Each bed that is built comes with a handmade frame, sheets, and a pillow, all delivered for free and funded by donations from the local community. 📌

BY ELANI BALTODANO

Adventists Reach Out at Sturgis

Adventist Motorcycle Ministry (AMM) of the Guntersville, Ala., Church teamed up with Sabbath Keepers Bike Ministry for the 2021 Sturgis Bike Rally in South Dakota. More than a half-million people showed up for the 81st year of this event from August 6-15, 2021. Joan Price, AMM and Guntersville Church member, says that their ministry “tried to follow the guidelines found in *Ministry of Healing*, page 73.” It reads, “Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with people as one who desired their good. He showed sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’”

The AMM group, composed of about 20 people, passed out approximately 5,000 books, pamphlets, and CDs. *The Great Controversy* is the leading book that was dispersed. Price continues the *Ministry of Healing* quote, “We need to come close to the people by personal effort; if we would give less time to sermonizing and more time to personal ministry, greater results would be seen.”

Next to their booth were two giant replicas of the beasts of Daniel 7 and Revelation 17. These replicas drew a lot of attention from the old, young, and even the media. As people stopped to look and take pictures of the beasts, members asked them, “Do you know what these mean?” and most would say “no.” Members then handed them literature that explains what the beasts stand for, and started several meaningful conversations. “Many seeds were planted on this 10-day event, and we hope and pray that the Holy Spirit will water these seeds and our Father be glorified, and His children find out that He loves them,” says Price.

“We want to thank the Gulf State Conference for their support and outpouring of love. We would also like to thank all



Members distribute literature near the giant replicas of beasts from Daniel 7 and Revelation 17.

who donated to make this mission trip possible; God bless you all! Please pray for our ministry and all of the seeds that were planted,” concluded Price.

If you would like to learn more about AMM Ministry or help out in future out-

reach events, please get in touch with Eddie and Joan Price at 916-243-9032 or 256-508-2079. 📞

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Uchee Pines Dedicates Six Students as Lifestyle Educators



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY KODIMER

Cheyenne Williams (left), Hadassah Clark, Nasaya Acuna, Amalee Sandoval, Anisha Sukumaran, and Daniel Careno celebrate their dedication as lifestyle educators.



PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY KODIMER

Students practice massage therapy as part of the training program.

Medical missionary work brings to humanity the Gospel of release from suffering. It is the pioneer work of the Gospel. It is the Gospel practiced, the compassion of Christ revealed,” *Medical Ministry*, page 239.

For more than 50 years, Uchee Pines Institute has offered medical missionary training programs to give students the knowledge and tools to help those suffering from disease and sickness of body, mind, and soul.

In June 2021, six students gathered from all areas of the United States and became the newest graduates of the “Lifestyle Educator” course. This course provides six months of intensive instruction in preventive medicine, natural remedies, and Gospel evangelism designed to give individuals a better understanding of God’s methods for health ministry.

The classes are offered in six, four-week blocks, with chapel class and one medical missionary class occupying one half of the day, and work experience in various campus departments occupying

the other half of the day. There is also dedicated time set apart for personal devotions and Bible study.

The chapel classes each weekday morning offer the trainees an opportunity to gather together to study and seek God’s will on various inspirational topics, including how to study the Bible, Christian finance, prophecies of Daniel and Revelation, and more.

“Throughout my time here, I learned over and over again that God works through His missionaries, and that the greatest blessings come from truly serving others,” said Cheyenne Williams, a recent graduate.

Daniel Careno, a student, agreed, “Now that I’ve finished the first course, I know more about the principles of a healthy life and how to practice simple home remedies. I’m grateful to God for what I’ve learned here and for the great friends I’ve made. They have become like my family.”

“Being at Uchee Pines has taught me many things,” said Nasaya Acuna, “from biology classes which reveal

the beautiful complexity of the human body, to the amazing benefits afforded through herbs and hydrotherapy.”

After completing the lifestyle educator classes, some students will continue with an advanced course of study, known as the “Lifestyle Counselor” track.

Uchee Pines also offers a “Healthcare Provider Internship,” which is a one-year training program for healthcare providers such as medical doctors, doctors of osteopathy, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, and chiropractors. This course is designed to give expertise in utilizing lifestyle change, natural remedies, and spiritual/emotional interventions to prevent and treat health conditions within the scope of one’s practice or in public settings.

Learn more about Uchee Pines and its future programs at www.uchee-pines.org or call 334-855-4764. 📍

BY RICHARD CECERE

Boulevard Church Experiences Revitalization Through Week-Long Evangelistic Series



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX SOZINOV

Alex Sozinov and Roger Hernandez presented during the September Evangelistic Series at Boulevard, Tenn., Church. The series, made in collaboration with the Southern Union, concluded with six baptisms.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEX SOZINOV

Roger Hernandez preached at the Boulevard, Tenn., Church during evangelistic series titled, "We All Have Hope." Hernandez was the guest speaker. Each night, he talked about a common problems people face and aligned it with a doctrine of the Church.

The Boulevard, Tenn., Church hosted an evangelistic series September 11-18, 2021, to revitalize and grow their church community. The series, made in collaboration with the Southern Union, concluded with six baptisms.

Prior to hosting this evangelistic event, members from Boulevard Church attended training programs led by Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director. The training sessions, hosted through Zoom, focused on prayer, Bible studies, and reaching out to individuals who have left the Church.

"[The Southern Union] has actually been working with eight churches who have under 100 people in attendance," Hernandez said. "We worked with the churches for about a year and provided them with support and resources that, sometimes, smaller churches don't have."

In addition to the training programs, Boulevard Church received help from Bible worker Bobby Andrews.

The evangelistic series followed the theme, "We All Have Hope." Each night, Hernandez talked about a common problem people face, like financial burden and death, and aligned it with a doctrine of the Church. About 50 individuals attended the program each night, and an additional 100 watched online.

"These were topics that were easy for all kinds of Christians," said Alex Sozinov, pastor at Boulevard Church. "[The sermons] were understandable for new people and church members alike I was listening, and I was blessed every night."

Six people were baptized on Saturday, September 18. According to Sozinov, two were regular members at Boulevard Church, two were former Seventh-day

Adventists, and two were completely new to the faith.

"I think one thing that this series showed is that people will still respond to evangelism," Hernandez said. "Evangelism is not dead. My hope now is that [the Boulevard Church members] will not think it's over. Evangelism needs to be a lifestyle, not just an event."

According to Sozinov, Boulevard Church plans to expand their community service and Bible studies efforts throughout the following months.

To watch recordings of this evangelistic series, visit Boulevard Church's Facebook page @BoulevardSDA. 📺

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

A “New” Church Congregation: Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship Continues to Create an Online Community

As COVID-19 closed in-person church services in 2020, pastors from Middle Kentucky wanted to find a way for their church members to remain connected. Joining efforts, they created the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship — a group dedicated to bringing spiritual encouragement and community. More than a year later, the group remains active, and recently held its first-ever in-person event.

The idea of the group came from Jon Remitera, pastor at Danville, Somerset, and Grove churches in Kentucky. Remitera, who was new in the area, wanted to start a daily devotional series that would be live streamed on Facebook. After speaking with Tom Kyser, pastor, and Daniel McFeeters, pastor, the group created the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship Facebook group, which published 15-minute devotional thoughts.

“That provided a space for our church members, in the midst of the pandemic, to find community,” Remitera said. “I’ve personally drawn closer with a lot of my fellow pastors in my area, and other members of their churches that I otherwise would not have met had it not been for the [Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship].”

After a few weeks, pastors Mykal Ringstaff, Kevin Shearer, and Christopher Langston also joined the fellowship. The six pastors would take turns sharing devotionals. Eventually, they started live-streaming weekly Vespers services as well, which received about 50 unique views per video.

“I think the most exciting part of this program was actually just seeing our



Esther LaCelle and Jon Remitera pose during the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship 2021 Chili and Cornbread Festival. This was the first in-person event for the group since its creation in 2020.

church members forming, if you will, a new church congregation,” McFeeters said. “[Church members] were seeing themselves as part of something bigger than just one local church, and seeing the church as more than just a place we go on Sabbath morning.”

Through the year, the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship also held a revival series. The devotional, sermons, and revival series were all programs conducted online. But, on August 29, 2021, Somerset Church hosted a Chili and Cornbread Festival — the first in-person event of the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship.

The festival was well attended with more than 75 guests, many of whom were not part of the Adventist Church. Remitera says the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship will continue to plan



Amber Kyser runs video mix during the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship revival series, which was livestreamed on Facebook. The group was created as a result of COVID-19 by pastors in the Middle Kentucky area who wanted to bring spiritual encouragement to their churches.

events to connect churches and serve its surrounding community.

“We’re better together,” Remitera said. “So often, we do ministry in isolation, and even in competition with one another So, we’re trying to break from that mold because collectively we can do so much more.”

To see the work of the Middle Kentucky Adventist Fellowship, look for @MidKAF on Facebook. 📺

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Packaging Love in a Bag: Owensboro Church Ministry Reaches Children in Need

Eight years ago, Helga Wade, a head deaconess at Owensboro Church in Owensboro, Ky., was devastated. Her husband had just passed away, and she felt displaced. Despite the hard times, Wade made a decision to use her time to help someone else instead.

“I told myself, ‘I’m not going to sit here on a couch and get depressed or get sad and upset. I’ve got to find something to do,’” said Wade.

That’s when she learned about It’s My Very Own (IMVO), a nonprofit organization that creates care packages called Bags of Love for children in need. With the support of the Owensboro Church, Wade began a new chapter of IMVO in Daviess County.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLENE PITT

Ready-to-go Bags of Love at Owensboro, Ky., Church are each filled with handmade quilts, toys, and toiletries according to age.



PHOTO BY: PHOTO COURTESY OF MARLENE PITT

Helga Wade poses with Bags of Love prepared by her and other volunteers of the Owensboro, Ky., Church. Wade learned about It’s My Very Own (IMVO), a nonprofit organization that creates care packages called Bags of Love, for children in need. With the support of the Owensboro Church, Wade began a new chapter of IMVO in Daviess County.

The church reserved two rooms for volunteers: one for storage and one for work. Each Wednesday morning, volunteers meet to prepare the items for the care package. Each Bag of Love is filled with handmade quilts, toys, and toiletries according to age.

“Many of the children that we help do not have much with them,” Wade said. “Sometimes they are taken from their homes and can’t bring anything. So, with [Bags of Love] children get something that they can call their own.”

Wade receives requests for bags from foster agencies, child advocacies centers, shelters, and churches across the area. Each order differs in size, some needing just one Bag of Love, and others needing up to 40.

When COVID-19 hit, Wade began meeting the request from The Owensboro Medical Center Chaplaincy Program, who wanted the handmade quilts for terminally ill patients, and the Bags of Love for children in urgent care.

“Every time a child gets in a helicopter and the parents cannot go with them, [hospital staff] give him or her a bag,” Wade said. “It helps them get their mind off of the helicopter while they are being transferred to another hospital.”

Each bags costs around \$40 to \$50 to make. This money comes completely from donations and, according to Wade, sometimes people donate stuffed animals or cloth for the quilts instead. Before sending each Bag of Love, the volunteers pray for the children who will receive it.

“The main thing we want to do is show the children that they are loved and wanted,” Wade said. “My hope is that [this program] will continue to grow and touch lives.”

Any church interested in starting a chapter of “It’s My Very Own” Bags of Love can contact Susan Schnell at 423-408-3142 or susan@imvo.org

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Church Member Creates Podcast as Tool for the Medical Community

David Gargner, Ridgetop, Tenn., Church member, recently launched a podcast miniseries called Eternal Medicine Podcast. This is a self-started ministry meant to serve as a tool for medical professionals who want to better meet the spiritual needs of their patients.

Garner, who currently works as an occupational therapist at Tristar Skyline Hospital in Nashville, Tenn., was inspired to create the podcast after he realized there was little training available for medical professionals trying to

address the spiritual worries of a patient. According to Garner, this was something he personally struggled with.

“When you’re in the hospital, you’re away from family and friends,” Garner said. “You may be getting a medical diagnosis that may be long term or possibly even terminal. So, I was thinking, how I can help patients beyond their physical needs in an ethical way?”

In his podcast, Garner interviews different people in the medical field such as nurses, doctors, mental health counselors, and physical therapists. The miniseries,



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF DAVID GARGNER

The Eternal Medicine mini podcast series is currently available in all major streaming platforms, including Apple Podcast, Spotify, and Google Podcasts.



David Gargner poses with the equipment he uses to record his podcast, Eternal Medicine. Garner says his podcast is meant to serve as a tool for medical professionals wanting to better meet the spiritual needs of their patients.

which was launched on September 24, 2021, will have a total of eight episodes.

Garner says the hardest part of this project has been finding the time to conduct the interviews and edit the podcast, which has taken a bit over six months to produce. The podcast is currently available in all major streaming platforms, including Apple Podcast, Spotify, and Google Podcasts.

“I have heard back from a couple of listeners who told me they were blessed by it,” Garner said. “I was excited to hear that because I want [the podcast] to make a difference.”

Eternal Medicine Podcast currently has three live episodes, with the remaining five coming out weekly until the end of November. Garner says his next project is to start a Sabbath morning devotional podcast. 🎧

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

West End Community Services Show Compassion in Time of Crisis



West End Community Services

The West End Community Services Department has been ministering to the needs of the homeless community of West End Church in Atlanta, Ga., for more than 30 years. Throughout the years, the Community Services Department has provided aid to many who are struggling to survive. In 2020, the world was shaken by the devastation of the pandemic. The spread of COVID-19 made life challenging for the church as well as for Community Services, but it never stopped them from serving God’s people.

While many sheltered in place, under the leadership of Ralph Peay, pastor, the members went out with masks on for the Lord. On the first, third, and fifth Sabbaths of the month, the Community Services Department continued to work. During these Sabbaths, members went into the community to minister to the homeless. Lunches, clothes, shoes, and hygiene/toiletry kits were distributed, and prayer and words of encouragement were shared with those in need.

During the Thanksgiving holiday season, the Community Services Department met the needs of the West End community



by handing out gift cards to Kroger, Publix, and Walmart as a token of love.

They did not stop there. The Community Services Department partnered with the Women’s Ministries Department, and delivered more than 100 toiletry and snack-filled backpacks to local men, women, and children shelters.

This year, they ventured out and tried something new. For the first time, the Community Services Department had the pleasure of sponsoring an outdoor community flea market. During this won-

derful event, they were able to recognize frontline workers. At the flea market, masks, clothes, shoes, books, bookbags, and household items were distributed.

The Community Services Department introduced a new program called “Caring for Our Own,” on June 26, 2021. With this program, they provided an inspirational card and a cooked meal that was delivered directly to the seniors and sick and shut-ins of West End Church. The new program was well received. Many of the seniors expressed their gratitude for the act of love and kindness during the current challenging times.

This year the Community Services Department has done some amazing things under the leadership of Michelle White. God has blessed her with a dedicated team that strives to serve under the call and duty of Christ. Please continue to support and pray for the Community Services Department, as they continue in His service to minister and win many for the cause of Christ. 📌

BY LAURA HOUSTON

Conference Pastor/Chaplain Deployed on Humanitarian Mission



Freddy A. Sanchez, D.Min.

Freddy A. Sanchez, D.Min., was commissioned into the U.S. Army with the rank of second lieutenant in April 2010, as a candidate for chaplain at Ft. Buchanan, Puerto Rico. In 2011, he completed the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership course. In 2020, he completed the Captain Career course in Ft. Jackson, S.C. During 2021, he has been the specialized instructor as family life for military families, combat support training, security and national defense, and anti-terrorism. Sanchez has been part of special units of the Army, such as Combat Support Unit, Instructor Unit, Operations and Intelligence Unit, and Engineering Unit at the battalion and brigade levels.

He has been recognized with the Army Service Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army National Defense Service Med-

al, War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Army Reserve Component and Achievement Medal. He received the rank of major in South Dakota on June 11, 2021, in the midst of joint training with the National Guard. He was recently called to participate in a military humanitarian mission, based in Kuwait, to support the Middle East Region as a chaplain of the 448th Engineering Unit — First Mission Support Command who are based in Puerto Rico.

Sanchez is an ordained minister, and endorsed as an Army chaplain by the General Conference. He is currently a pastor in the Southeastern Conference for the district of Immanuel and Renacer churches. He also serves as a chaplain (major) in the U.S. Army Reserve.

During his 25 years of pastoral ministry, he has specialized in ecclesiology, missiology, strategic planning, leader-

ship, discipleship, church planting, chaplaincy, and youth. He is the author of two books, *Becoming a Missional Church* and *The Pathfinders Club ... More Than a World of Adventures*, the latter published in four languages — Spanish, English, Portuguese, and French. His passion is to see the Church grow in a missional way to advance the Kingdom of God.

He is happily married to his sweetheart, Celeste, and they are blessed with two children, Mariddy Celeste and Freddy Anmiel.

The Southeastern Conference family is praying for a successful, safe, blessed journey as he shares God's love, and ministers to men and women with a message of hope and wholeness in Christ! 🕊

BY ESMERALDA GUZMÁN

Conference Holds Youth Federation Day

Youth Federation happens twice a year, but during this year of change, the youth directors were forced to rethink how to celebrate youth in this season of physical distancing and health concerns. The youth leaders came up with a Joint Federation Youth Day. The federations in the north (Kentucky, middle Tennessee, east Tennessee, and Mississippi) federations, and the south (central Alabama, south Mississippi, south Alabama, and northwest Florida) federations planned to gather to allow youth to connect with each other.

Youth ministries planned this weekend as their first in-person event in the midst of the pandemic. The youth and youth leaders desperately needed fellowship beyond the computer screen and Zoom meetings, so God led the federation leadership team to put it on the youth director's heart to do an outdoor, COVID-safe joint Youth Federation Day. Youth came together from Tennessee, Kentucky, and north Alabama, five federations in total!

“Can I brag on God for a moment?” said Kimberley Mann, pastor and youth director. “We had to postpone the original date due to weather, and when we checked the weather this time, it was supposed to be cold and rainy again. Our team was working overtime to find rainy day/cold weather solutions, and we wondered if this was God saying to stop, but the prayers of the righteous availeth much.” Mann continued that “on Monday before youth day, the rain chance was almost 60%. So, I asked God to give us a clear sign on how to move forward, and when I woke up the next morning, the chance of rain was completely gone, but it was supposed to be cold. We began to pray that the day wouldn't be too cold. You know what? The day was a gorgeous fall day, filled with bright sunshine, warm weather, and fun. Won't He do it!”



Youth Federation Activity Station

PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN



Cotton Candy and Hot Chocolate Station

PHOTO BY: KIMBERLY MANN

There was a live DJ, picnic atmosphere, drill competition, drums exhibition, catered meals, hot cocoa, and hands-on spiritual activities focused on spiritual endurance, social justice, health principals, and more. It was a great day!

The Youth Federation leaders and their planning teams' goal was and is to do things differently — no more seating youth in church for hours upon hours filled with announcements and pomp and circumstance, just to call it Youth Day.

The Federation thanks everyone who came out; churches, pastors, parents, and youth; those who prayed, supplied food and personal protective equipment, volunteered, brought tables, and tied balloons; and those who learned how to make cotton candy in less than five minutes. The youth who preached, sang, danced, and helped were all amazing! It couldn't have been done without any of them. 📍

BY **KIMBERLY MANN**



PHOTO BY: **KIMBERLY MANN**

Pastors Mann, Bryant, and Herbert welcome the attendees.



PHOTO BY: **KIMBERLY MANN**

Activity Station

Korean Pastor is Welcomed, Mortgage Burned

The South Central Conference was pleased to invite and welcome In Sik An, pastor, and his family to pastor the Alabama Korean Church in Opelika, Ala. An joined the Conference work force from California in June 2021.

The church has been established to minister to the Korean population in the Opelika area. The Korean ministry coordinator of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists reached out to the South Central administrators about 10 years ago to help in recommending a Korean pastor for the new group. The group met in the same location of the English-speaking church, and in 2017 purchased their current church building.

With the commitment and zeal of the members, they were able to pay off the mortgage in less than five years. The congregation burned their mortgage on September 18, 2021, and welcomed their new pastor that Sabbath. 📍

BY **ROGER R. WADE**



Alabama Korean Church members pose with the South Central Conference administrators.



PHOTO BY: **SONJA CRAYTON**

A church elder welcomes their new pastor, In Sik An, and his family to the Korean Church in Opelika, Ala.



PHOTO BY: **SONJA CRAYTON**

In Sik An, pastor, shares remarks.

Oakwood University Renovates Historic Peterson Hall

As a result of collaboration between Oakwood University and the Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering (ASCTE), Oakwood's historic Peterson Hall has been completely renovated. As of July 2021, it is now the Peterson Hall and University Conference Facility.

Originally constructed in 1955, Peterson Hall is named for Oakwood's second African American president, Frank L. Peterson, who served as president of the institution from 1945 to 1954. One of the grandest buildings on Oakwood's campus, the large columns and grand staircase remind visitors of Oakwood's rich history.

The "E"-shaped structure was originally completed in 1955, and featured student rooms for approximately 170 students, a second-floor chapel, staff offices, an infirmary, two deans' apartments, and an expansive ground-floor recreation hall. Although originally constructed to serve as a residence hall for freshmen students, Peterson Hall has also served as temporary office space as recently as 2011.

Similar its purpose in 1955, the renovated building is designed to give its residents comfort, modern convenience,

and proper study environs. The updated facilities will include 52 private rooms, four suites, meeting rooms, an auditori-

um, a business center, laundry and vending areas, a Swedish-style sauna, and exercise room.



Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A. (center), president of Oakwood University, prepares to cut the ribbon for the Peterson Hall and University Conference Center, surrounded by Tommy Battle, Huntsville Mayor; Mark Massey, president of ASCTE; and members of the Oakwood University and ASCTE administrative teams.



Peterson Hall and University Conference Center is a \$7 million renovation.



Community Health Action Center is a \$4.1 million facility.

A ribbon-cutting program for the renovated building was held on July 19, 2021, and attendees were able to tour the Peterson Hall Residential and Conference Facility, which will serve as a temporary residence for ASCTE students for the remainder of this academic year.

The \$7 million renovation of Peterson Hall is part of Oakwood University's comprehensive Capital Action Plan. In spite of uncertainties created by the pandemic, construction of the Oakwood Farms Market and the Community Health Action Center have also been completed within the last two years. 📍



Oakwood Farms Market is a \$3.6 million facility.

BY STAFF WRITER, OFFICE OF INTEGRATED
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS

New Provost Named at Oakwood University

The Oakwood University Board of Trustees named James Mbyirukira, Ph.D., the new provost for Oakwood University on October 18, 2021.

“We are delighted to have an academic of Mbyirukira’s experience, history, and reputation providing guidance to the academic program of the University,” said Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University. “His 21 years of service to Oakwood University, his hands-on leadership of our Department of Education, his experience as a university dean, his advanced terminal training in education, his experience as an Adventist Accrediting Association site-visitor, and his leadership in regional accreditation will greatly benefit our institution for years to come.”

Mbyirukira’s career at Oakwood began as a professor in the Department of Education, followed by 13 years as chair of the Department. He has participated in



James Mbyirukira, Ph.D.

program and course development activities, as well as participating in the Adventist Accrediting Association visits to Solusi University, Zimbabwe; Bugema

University, Uganda; Union College, Lincoln, Neb.; North Caribbean University, Jamaica; and Pacific Adventist University and Sonoma Adventist College in Papua, New Guinea.

In 2017 he was appointed as the dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences at Oakwood University. He holds a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction, with a concentration in secondary education from the University of Iowa.

Mbyirukira was born in the Democratic Republic of Congo to ministerial parents. He has been married for 39 years to the former Stella Ryamukuru, and they have three adult children and five grandchildren.

The Oakwood University community welcomes Mbyirukira to this new responsibility with prayer and best wishes. 📍

BY STAFF WRITER, INTEGRATED
MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS



BROMME, JOAN DORIS (nee' Frederickson), 83, born March 27, 1938 in Lake Lillian, MN, passed to her rest in Jesus on Sept. 21, 2021. She was a resident at Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville, NC. She married Bill Bromme, who survives her, on Aug. 16, 1959. Joan was a registered nurse, serving in hospitals, nursing homes, and home health agencies in Kansas, Texas, and Maryland. Her long nursing career ended with many years of service at Adventist Healthcare in the latter state. She also shared the ministry of her husband on the campuses of South-western Adventist University, Enterprise Academy, Champion Academy, Highland View Academy, and Spencerville Academy. She was a loving mother to Jeff, Shayne, and Ginger, all of whom, with their spouses, Nichole, Rick, and Jeff, survive her. She cherished her grandchildren as well, Max, Juliet, Andrew, Kari, Nathan, Nicholas, and Leif, all of whom survive her. Joan was a person of many gifts, interests, and talents. Her family and friends will remember most her kindness and committed faith.

BROWNING, EDGAR RAYMOND, 87, of Hendersonville, NC, born Sept. 10, 1933 in Topeka, KS, he was the son of the late Ralph Edgar Browning and Lois Vena Bullock Lewis, died July 29, 2021 at his home surrounded by family.

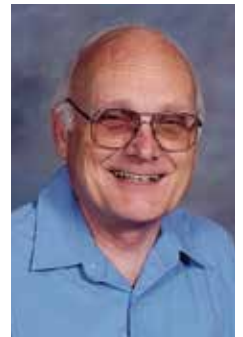
He attended Walla Walla College in Walla Walla, WA; Union College in Lincoln, NE, where he received a bachelor of arts in religion; and Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI, where he received a master of arts in teaching in the field of math. Edgar began his career in the role of combination pastor/teacher in a Seventh-day Adventist church and school in Texas.

It was early in his career that he discovered his passion for educating young people. In his more than 50 years teaching, he taught in Texas, Oklahoma, California, Iowa, Colorado, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Missouri. He taught students in grades K-10 throughout his career. Edgar loved music and served as church pianist and organist for many years. For a few years there were two organs (his instrument of choice), a piano, and various other instruments in his home including recorders, clarinets, a coronet, and a musical saw which he learned to play from his father.

Several of his teaching assignments included serving as choir and band director. He loved his church and was proud to tell people that his father was a minister. He often accompanied his father on the piano for church music. Later it was his joy to do music with his wife and children, and he particularly enjoyed performing organ/piano duets with his son, Tim.

Other hobbies included watching baseball, playing softball on church or school leagues, walking, reading, working Sudoku puzzles and spending time with his children and grandchildren. His love for children was shown as he and his wife, Etha, opened their home to many foster children in need of their loving care.

Edgar is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Etha Rae Harris Browning; daughter, Laura (Lonnie) Hetterle of Denver, CO; daughter, Robin (Steve) Fosler of Como, CO; daughter, Barbara (Gary) Lawson of Wenatchee, WA; son, Jonathan (Tabitha) Cooney of Cleveland, TX; daughter, Carol (Carl) Cosaert of Walla Walla, WA; son, Roy Edgar (Kristen) Browning of Spokane, WA; son, Timothy (Rebecca) Browning of Hendersonville, NC; 24 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; a host of other family; foster children; and students who loved him dearly. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Shirley Riggan Browning; sister, Shirley Browning Kharns; brother, Howard Browning; sister, Doris Browning Sanders; son, Leonard Cooney; and granddaughter, Mindy Cosaert.



FLERL, FRIEDA BEATRICE, 92, born April 1, 1929 near Chattanooga, TN, died June 19, 2021 in Hendersonville, NC. She was a member of Fletcher Church in Hendersonville. Frieda taught nursing at the Fletcher Hospital School of Nursing in Fletcher, NC. She enjoyed the classroom contact with students more than any other work. She also worked as a nurse at Park Ridge Hospital (AdventHealth, Hendersonville), and retired from working in the ICU stepdown unit at the same hospital. In 1964, Frieda and her late husband moved from Chattanooga to Fletcher in order for their four children to attend an Adventist school while living at home. Captain Gilmer Christian School and Fletcher Academy offered this opportunity. Frieda unexpectedly passed away at her home, where she lived for 49 years. The day before she passed, she was well enough to do chores in her home. In her retirement years, Frieda volunteered at Fletcher Church for several years in the Community Services Thrift Store. Grieving her death are her surviving children: Judy Flerl, Bill Flerl, and Frieda Jean Kubis; her grandchildren; and great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, James; her eldest child, James E. Flerl Jr.; and her four siblings.

KEPPLER, DOROTHY VIRGINIA PARKER, 91, born Feb. 25, 1930 in Bunnell, FL, died May 13, 2021 in Fairview, NC. Dorothy grew up in Florida, the second of three children of Carl Parker and Ida (Mos-by) Parker.

She acquired her strong work ethic from her parents who kept food on the table, and a roof over their heads through the depths of the Great Depression. She also inherited a sweet, patient disposition that she maintained throughout her life. While attending college at Southern Adventist University (then Southern Missionary College), Dorothy met C. Burton (Burt) Keppler whom she would marry on Aug. 17, 1950. Dorothy and her husband would both go on to attend and gradu-

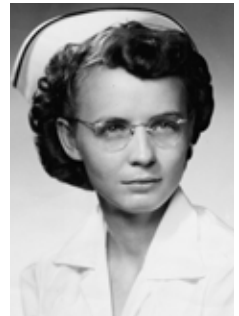
ate from the Ad-ventHealth University School of Nursing (then Florida Sanitarium & Hospital School of Nursing). Dorothy graduated in 1951 after which she worked as a registered nurse to support Burt while he finished his nursing degree. Dorothy and Burt would welcome Brenda to the fledgling family on Oct. 24, 1952. Susan would follow on Jan. 5, 1954.

In 1955, Dorothy and Burt made the decision to serve the Lord and their fellow man in Bolivia where they worked as medical missionaries for the next three and a half years. While in Bolivia, Dorothy put her nursing skills to good use, often being pressed into service in physician roles when nobody else was available. In addition to frequently administering anesthesia, she performed countless deliveries including many that would be classified as high-risk, in facilities that ranged from clinics to dirt-floored huts.

Upon completing their mission service in 1959, Dorothy and Burt brought their family home to the United States. Dorothy supported the small family as Burt pursued his dream of becoming a physician. After Burt received his medical doctor degree from Loma Linda University School of Medicine, the family would again cross the country and settle in Greenville, SC. There, Burt opened his medical practice where Dorothy served as administrator, accountant, nurse, and receptionist. On June 29, 1968, a third daughter, Karen, was added to the family. On Dec. 9, 1969, Dorothy and Burt would welcome their fourth and final child, a son, Benjamin.

In 1984, Dorothy and Burt would make their final move to the mountains of western North Carolina where Burt founded Park Ridge Anesthesiology. With their youngest two children attending Mount Pisgah Academy, she could devote more of her time and energy to her grandchildren, vegetable and flower gardening, sewing, quilting, and her church.

As lifelong Seventh-day Adventists, Dorothy and Burt would again serve in the mission field on multiple short-term assignments, often providing medical care to those who had none available in such diverse locations as Mexico, Panama, Thailand, the Solomon Islands, and Guam. They would also be privileged to visit Russia, Ukraine, China and Australia. A highlight for Dorothy was fulfilling her lifelong dream of visiting Switzerland to see its beautiful spring flowers. Dorothy continued to maintain her cheerful, caring disposition until her death.



NELSON, RAY AIDEN, 78, born Oct. 7, 1942 in Hamilton, Bermuda, the oldest son of missionary parents, Carlyle A. and Thelma (Ray) Nelson, died August 7, 2021.

From an early age, Ray inherited his gentle caring pastoral spirit from his pastor father and nurse mother. The eldest of four children (Harland, Meredith, and Carlyle deceased.) Ray was always a student of learning and graduated from Atlantic Union College (B.A.), S. Lancaster, MA, in 1964; Andrews University Seminary (M.Div.), Berrien Springs, MI, in 1968; and Loma Linda School of Public Health (M.S.P.H.), Loma Linda, CA, in 1973.

Ray met his sweetheart and best friend Valerie Kay Schneider during the summer of 1970 in New York City when they both helped with the music at a series of religious meetings. They were married at Pioneer Memorial Church on the campus of Andrews University on August 1, 1971. Ray passed away six days after celebrating 50 years of marriage with his wife, Valerie, and family. They became the proud parents of Vaughan Aldwin in 1973, Renita Ann (Saliba) in 1976, and Vanessa Marie in 1980.

Together Ray and Val formed a team dedicated to supporting Ray's ministry as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor and health educator for more than 50 years from California, to Connecticut, Vermont, Maine, and Maryland. Ray's passion for recovery ministry helped to guide the development of a church Addictions Program that he continued to support and champion through his retirement.

Ray will be remembered as a pastor, husband, father, grandpa, uncle, friend, neighbor, counselor, health advocate, and trusted confidant. His legacy of ministry, servant leadership, addictions and health education, and his relentless dedication to the values and principles of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will forevermore be cherished.

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 elementary 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.

She is survived by her beloved children: Amy Johnson, Gay Knapp, and Ian Stanaway; five grandchildren: David Knapp, Nathan Stanaway, Amy McHenry, Elisabeth Zeller, and Luke Stanaway; and her beautiful great-grandchildren. Barbara was preceded in death by her parents: Walter and Audrey Sears.

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



BOSTIAN, DONALD (DON) FRED, 88, born Feb. 19, 1933 in Northumberland, PA, died Aug. 21, 2021 in his home, at Fletcher Park Inn, Hendersonville, NC. He was born to Fred Geyer and Myrtle Marie Mertz, who were devout Lutherans. His love for basketball made him the top point maker for his high school district, and won him a scholarship to play basketball for Penn State University. During his first semester at Penn State, his older sisters, Elizabeth (Liz) and Beatrice (Bebe), who had become Seventh-day Adventists, began sending him literature on the Sabbath. Don wanted to keep the Sabbath, but was at a crossroad, because he had basketball practice and games on Friday nights and on Saturdays, as well as a class on Saturdays. He tested God by going to the Academic Dean's office to have the class changed. The dean laughed and said that is what everyone would like be at home on Saturdays. Dejected, Don was about to exit the building, when he was called back. The dean was writing a note stating, "Please schedule Donald Bostian's class irregularly." Don had his answer. It was difficult to face his coach and father with his decision not to play basketball anymore. At the end of the semester, Don headed to Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, MD, in Jan. 1950, to work his way through college as he studied to become a minister. Donald married Dorothy (Dot) Walker during his senior year on Dec. 29, 1955. He was invited to intern for the Potomac Conference with Elder Stuart at the Richmond, VA, Patterson Avenue SDA Church. He graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in Aug. 1958. On June 24, 1961, Don was ordained to the ministry at the Potomac Camp Meeting. He was a student of God's Word, which he loved to share with his churches. He enjoyed reading books and manicuring his yard. Don served as pastor for the following Adventist hospital and college churches for 39 years: Lynchburg / Yellow Branch churches in Virginia (1958-1962); The Review and Her-

ald Church in Hyattsville, MD, with a medical clinic (1962-1964); Worthington SDA Church near Columbus, OH (1964-1969); and Atlantic Union College Church (1969-1972).

EVENS, NORMAN DEAN, 74, of Portland, TN, born Dec. 4, 1946 in Vinton, IA, died Oct. 17, 2021, after an extended battle with Alzheimer's Disease. Dean graduated from Oak Park Academy in 1965. He was drafted in 1966 serving two years as a medic at Fort Sam Houston before being honorably discharged in 1968. He was married to his loving wife, Linda Evens, for 30 years. Dean worked as caretaker at Camp Mivoden, ID, and Big Lake Camp, OR, before moving to Portland, TN, to work at Highland Hospital. He later became a well-respected framing contractor in the surrounding area. Dean served as a head deacon and elder at Highland and Hendersonville, TN, churches. He is survived by three siblings: Dennis Evens, Phyllis McMillian, and Warren Evens; two daughters: Marcy Bieber and Shauna Reynolds; four stepchildren: Eric Weisner, Bryan Weisner, Kelly Weisner, and Kimberly King; 15 grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; and a multitude of "adopted" grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his father and mother: William and Neva Evens; two sisters: Violet Etherton and Norma Gregory.

GETLINGER, STANLEY L., 68, born Nov. 30, 1952, died Jan. 14, 2021 in Fort White, FL, when he succumbed to what appeared to be a massive heart attack. Stan, as he was affectionately known, was a complete Christian, the perfect husband, and a consummate professional in the many crafts he practiced. Stan was everybody's right hand and offered his expertise to whoever sought his help. At New Port Richey Church, New Port Richey, FL, where he and his wife, Martha, invested more than 20 years of faithful, dedicated service in the work of the Lord, they were deeply loved and widely admired. Upon their retirement, Stan and Martha relocated to Fort White and became members of Columbia City Church in Lake City. His contribu-

tion to the thriving congregation was so significant that the church board voted to name the fellowship hall in their honor. Stan is survived by his wife, Martha; one son, Christopher; his 93-year-old mother, Carol Mae Getlinger of Wisconsin; two brothers: Gerald and Daniel of Wisconsin; and three sisters all of Wisconsin: Kathy (Al) Hill, Jenny (Jackson) Kuske, and Sarah Jane (Jeffrey) Kamin; and an innumerable host of loved ones whose lives he touched with his spirit of altruism and a deep love for his Lord. He was laid to rest Jan. 19, 2021, with the eulogy presented by Pastor George C. Worrell, under the title "Unfinished Business." Three weeks later, a memorial service was conducted at Camp Kulaqua where Stan volunteered his services on a weekly basis. These services were well attended by church members, friends, families, and well-wishers. We look forward to seeing our beloved brother again when Christ comes to claim His own.

HANSCOM, DR. ALFRED CARLETON, 95, born Feb. 17, 1926 in Rochester, NH, the son of the late Victor H. and Charlotte A. (Tauber) Hanscom, died July 1, 2021 in Flat Rock, NC, surrounded by family members. He spent his childhood in the town of Chatham, nestled in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and graduated with high honors from Fryeburg Academy in 1943. His college years were interrupted by his service as an Army surgical tech in World War II, from early 1945 until October 1946, in both the Pacific and Atlantic theaters. Following his return, he graduated from Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA, in 1949, and went on to earn a medical degree from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA, in 1953. On Nov. 22, 1951, he was married to Julianne Weaver. He was board-certified in Family Practice, Anesthesiology, Internal Medicine, and Emergency Medicine, and cared for countless numbers of patients during his nearly 50 years of practice. He was a skilled diagnostician and was well known for spending whatever time was needed for each and every one of his patients. He was a prolific reader, an adventur-

ous traveler, and a remarkable conversationalist. Even with advanced age, his intellectual curiosity never dimmed. He was a lifelong and dedicated member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and a strict vegetarian for his entire 95 years. He is survived by four children: Dr. David A. (Barbara Yohai) Hanscom of Oakland, CA, Alan C. Hanscom of Salem, MA, Robert B. (Diane) Hanscom of Andover, MA, and Carol Hanscom (Thomas) Haney of Fletcher, NC; nine grandchildren: Nicholas (Christina) Hanscom, Elisabeth Haney (Devin) Henson, Laura Haney (Joshua) Sutton, Matthew (Tasha) Haney, Rachel Hanscom, Michael Hanscom, Alexander Hanscom, Amelia Hanscom, and Jasmine Yohai; and six great-grandchildren: Abigail Sutton, Keira Sutton, John Thomas Sutton, Jameson Hanscom, Harper Hanscom, and Sawyer Haney. He had been eagerly looking forward to the birth of a seventh great-grandchild due this coming Sept. In 2007 he was preceded in death by his wife of 56 years, Julianne; his parents; both of his brothers: S. Gordon Hanscom, who died in a fall in 1941, and Lieut. Argyle E. Hanscom, who was killed in World War II in 1944. A funeral service was held at Wood Funeral Home in Fryeburg, Maine, on July 16, 2021, and a burial in the Chatham Center Cemetery, Chatham, NH, where his wife, parents, brothers, and five generations of the Hanscom family have been laid to rest.

LONGLEY, JEAN KENNY, 85, died Aug. 17, 2021, at her residence. She was a member of the Mount Pisgah Academy Church. A native of Miami, FL, and a resident of Haywood County for 59 years, she was the daughter of the late Levon and Lola Ezell Kenny. Jean dedicated the course of her life to the care and support of the assisted living community. She followed in the footsteps of her mother, working as both owner and administrator of Silver Bluff Village, and even built upon this legacy by adding Silver Bluff skilled nursing, Arrowhead Cove assisted living, the Bluffs independent living, and onsite child day care. Jean was committed

to providing quality, person-centered care and to helping other organizations improve the care of the elderly. She was appointed by N.C. Governor Jim Hunt to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. She retired in 1998 knowing that her daughter, Lisa Leatherwood, and the support of the entire family, would maintain the excellent care standards she established. Jean enjoyed traveling, cooking, entertaining, and loved her grandchildren whom she called "her girls." She is survived by her husband of 64 years, Max B. Longley; three daughters: Lisa (Bob) Leatherwood of Waynesville; Jodi (Guy) Pierce of High Point, NC, and Lia (Neal) Clemens of McKinney, TX; seven grandchildren: Kaelyn Pierce, Hailey Pierce, Zoë Leatherwood, Ally Leatherwood, Brandon Clemens, Emily Clemens, and Jordan (Ashley) Pierce; and two great-grandchildren: Jane and Henry Pierce. She was preceded in death by her brother, Don Kenny.

LOPEZ DE GONZALEZ, MARTHA M., 96, born to Maria Julia Lopez and Jesus Maria Lopez on Aug. 9, 1924 in Havana, Cuba, died Jan. 5, 2021 in Apopka, FL, at the home of her daughter, Marti, and son-in-law, Don Jones. She was a member of the Apopka Spanish Church. She became the youngest of six surviving children following the death of her baby sister, Caridad. She grew up in a very joyous and loving family though there were heartaches, including the death of her father in her childhood. Her mother became a Seventh-day Adventist before she was in grade school, and her mother's home became the location of a church meeting place for the growing membership. Some years later, she became one of the early students to attend the (Adventist) Colegio de Bartle, Oriente, the precursor of the Colegio de las Antillas in Santa Clara, Cuba. In 1939, when she was only 15 years old, she married Gerardo Careaga. The marriage only lasted a few years, but did provide to Martha the joy of her first child, Cita (now Marshall), born in 1941. Martha then returned with her toddler to her mother's

home for several years. In 1948, she met and married V. Alvaro Sauza. Following the birth of a son, Alvaro, in 1950, and twins, Ramon and Marti, in 1951, she left her homeland in 1952 and settled with her family in the United States. It was here that two additional children were born, Gloria (now Zuchowski) in 1955, and the baby, Maudi, in 1963. Her family became her love, her life, and greatest joy! Her children called her Mami Linda (Pretty Mommy). And, even following the tragedy of divorce, she felt fulfilled in life with her children. It was not easy raising so many children, but her sisters, Gloria and Carmen, along with her mother, always lived near her and were a tremendous support. Martha dedicated herself to her family and spent 42 years both raising and enjoying life with her children and then her grandchildren. The family enjoyed many outings including camping, which was a favorite. Martha was an amazing cook like her mother and sisters. Whether food was served at home or in the woods, it was always delicious. Martha was a seamstress and also worked in alterations. She was very artistic and loved to design clothing. She had learned to sew from her sisters, both wonderful seamstresses/tailors. The three sisters enjoyed many hours of creating and sewing for the family and others. She was gifted with a lovely singing voice and with great artistry and eloquence in both speaking and reciting. She used these talents as she served in her church. She had a special place in her heart for her church and the many friends there. Martha participated as a Sabbath School superintendent and in Dorcas ministries. She found her true love at the age of 80, when she reconnected with Pastor Israel Gonzalez at a church Camp Meeting event. They had known each other years earlier in Cuba. They were always good friends, and so it did not take long for Israel to propose to Martha. They were married Nov. 7, 2004, and they were blessed with 16 loving years of marriage. Her family happily welcomed Pastor Gonzalez and his daughter, Ada, and her husband, Roger Swain, into the family

circle. Martha is survived by her husband, Israel; seven children and their spouses; 11 grandchildren and their spouses; and 16 great-grandchildren. One grandson predeceased her. A Service of Remembrance officiated by Pastor Abel Paulin was held at the Apopka Spanish Church. Internment was held Aug. 9, 2021 at a graveside service officiated by Martha's son, Pastor Alvaro Souza, at Mt. Hope Cemetery in College Place, WA.

MOFFIT, ARTHUR G., 81, born April 15, 1940 in Manton, MI. He was a graduate of Andrews University, and chose the occupation in masonry construction, which he used to build churches and schools for Maranatha and other Seventh-day Adventist groups. He is survived by his wife, Carol of Camano Island, WA, daughter, Dawn Moffit of Camano Island; son, Chad (Noelle) Moffit of Fletcher Academy, NC, son, Seth (Shauna) Moffit of Stanwood, WA; and four grandchildren.

MURPHY, JEAN KATHRYN SUNDERLAND, 95, born Oct. 8, 1926 at Washington Sanitarian, in Takoma Park, MD, to Janet Morris and Clyde Mills Sunderland, died Aug. 13, 2021 in East Flat Rock, NC. Jean was raised and schooled in Takoma Park and graduated from Takoma Academy in 1944. She attended both Emmanuel Missionary College (Andrews University) and Washington Missionary College (Washington Adventist University). During her senior year in academy, she met and fell in love with Harvey Wright Murphy and they married on April 27, 1947. Jean moved to Harvey's home town of Wilson, NC, where they had three children. Later she attended Atlantic Christian College (Barton) and graduated in 1963 with a music major (organ performance). Jean devoted her life to her family, her church, and her music. She was a substitute organist in most Sunday churches in Wilson, as well as being the music director in the Adventist church in Wilson. Later she was involved in music ministry in Roanoke Rapids, NC, and Atlanta North Church in Georgia. She also was in Pathfinder leader-

ship and directed children's vocal choirs. She became an outstanding English handbell director from the early 1980s until she had to retire due to Parkinson's disease in her late 80s. Travel was a great joy for her. She traveled around the world making many friends and serving in short term missions. After Harvey died in 1993, Jean moved to live with her daughter Joan and her family in Fletcher, NC, where, she was involved in volunteering with the gift shop at Park Ridge Hospital, and became manager there for a number of years. She loved Fletcher Church where she worked in music ministry and prayer groups. She is survived by her children: Joan Murphy Taylor (Dennis, d. 2009), S. Blair Murphy (Diane), and Lynn Murphy Ortega; grandchildren: Jyll Taylor Skinner (Tom), Dane A. Taylor, Lynn Taylor Beatty (Caleb) and Madison Murphy Roberts; three great-grandchildren; brother-in-law, Lorry Show; nieces; nephews; and many devoted friends. She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Harvey; and her sister, Phyllis Sunderland Show.

MOFFIT, ARTHUR G., 81, born April 15, 1940 in Manton, MI. He was a graduate of Andrews University, and chose the occupation in masonry construction, which he used to build churches and schools for Maranatha and other Seventh-day Adventist groups. He is survived by his wife, Carol of Camano Island, WA; daughter, Dawn Moffit of Camano Island; son, Chad (Noelle) Moffit of Fletcher Academy, NC; son, Seth (Shauna) Moffit of Stanwood, WA; and four grandchildren.

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 Community 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, NA-

SCAR, 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 of 53 years, 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 to await the call of Jesus.

PAYNE, DR. HORACE, 73, born Feb. 17, 1948 in Montego Bay, Jamaica. He was the first child of four children born to Ella and George Payne and grew up in Bickersteth, St. James, Jamaica, died August 14, 2021. Horace enjoyed having four sisters to play with and also discovered that he loved learning at an early age. Throughout school, he always sought to earn high marks and demonstrated aptitude and passion for reading, writing, the art of calligraphy, building and designing, woodworking, and mathematics. At the age of 11, Horace took the Common Entrance exam and was one of the first two students to be awarded a full scholarship for college, allowing him to attend Cornwall College, a high school for boys in Montego Bay. After graduating from Cornwall College, he worked for the Jamaica Telephone Company for several years before migrating to the United States in 1976. In the U.S., Horace continued his educational pursuits, earning an Associate of Science degree in Electronics from New York City Community College in 1978. In 1980, he earned a bachelor's of science degree in Electro-Mechanical Engineering from the City College of New York (CCNY) in New York City (NYC). In 1987, Horace married Shirley Thomas and together raised their three adopted daughters: Natasha M., Lacesia, and Natasha A. Payne. Sharing 34 years of marriage, they devoted their lives to their church, vacationed on cruise ships, and participated in family reunions, graduations, picnics, and weddings. Horace had the honor of walking his eldest stepdaughter down the aisle and presenting her to her waiting groom. Every year they enjoyed an

anniversary trip for a week traveling to a different state each time. In February 2016, Horace and Shirley 'flew south' to McDonough, GA. On the quiet streets of his neighborhood, newfound friends were used to seeing this friendly man on his daily six-mile walk, day or night, rain or shine. They enjoyed commiserating with him as he shared Scripture and his love for the Lord. Not only did they learn of his passion for all things about his faith in God, but about a wide array of his interests including politics, local, national, and worldwide current events, psychology, science, health, and anything else that might pique his interest in his daily research and life-long quest for learning. His passion and acumen for technology and information kept him up-to-date on the last trends. In addition, his love for nature and being outdoors - found expression in lawn care and gardening. A devout Christian, Horace at a young age was introduced to the Presbyterian faith. He joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church through baptism in 1982 in Vermont, USA. As the last baptismal candidate of Pastor Mitchell who was soon to retire, Horace felt compelled to continue Pastor Mitchell's ministry through faithful service to the church. Dr. Payne employed his many gifts to serve Trinity Temple SDA Church in Poughkeepsie, New York, Atlanta Belvedere SDA Church in Decatur, Georgia, and Grace Tabernacle SDA Church in Jonesboro, Georgia. Horace faithfully executed his duties in various offices including ordained elder, treasurer, Finance Committee chairman, Risk Manager, Sabbath School teacher, and food pantry volunteer. He applied his vast business skills for the work of the Lord as treasurer in the early stages of Grace Tabernacle SDA Church. At Belvedere, Dr. Payne loved attending Sabbath afternoon Bible class, and readily participated in the discussion. He was dedicated to the work of the Lord and was not always at the forefront of programs or activities because he enjoyed working behind the scenes, however, what he was involved in, expectations were high because excellence was his

standard. One of his favorite texts was Hebrews 11:1, "I walk by faith and not by sight." During the final weeks and months of his illness, he relied on his faith and trust in God. He looked forward to the day when he would meet his precious Lord and Savior. He is survived by his devoted wife of 34 years, Shirley Payne; daughters: Natasha M. Payne of Nashville, Tennessee; Lacesia (Jerome) Knight of Milford, Pennsylvania; and Natasha A. Payne of McDonough, Georgia; stepson, Scott Thomas of Williamsburg, Virginia; stepdaughters, Kimberly (Robert) McLean of McDonough, Georgia; and Shelia Thomas of McDonough; grandchildren, Caleb, David, Kamile, and Joshua McLean of McDonough; Bryana Johnson of Poughkeepsie, NY; Miles Thomas-Payne of Nashville, TN, Dante Thomas of Maryland; Nehemiah Knight of Mitford, PA; Kendall Thomas of Williamsburg, VA; and Alayah Miller of McDonough; sisters: Bernice Payne-Thompson of Tampa, FL; Jean Payne of Miami, FL; Laura Payne-Gauntlet of Tampa; and Joan (Glen) Payne-Gordon of New Jersey; nephews; nieces; brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law: Annie Allen of Richmond, VA; James (Dorothy) Patterson of Huntsville, AL; Dorothy Warren of Richmond, VA; Jacqueline Ferguson of Richmond; Carla Richardson of Richmond; Michael (Vivian) Patterson of Poughkeepsie, NY; Cynthia (Charles) Hogan of Richmond; Velma (John) Brooks of Richmond; Candace Patterson of Richmond; and Freda Patterson of Richmond; a host of relatives; and friends. Horace was predeceased by his parents: Ella and George Payne; and grandchildren: Arielle Miller and Uriah Knight.

SUÁREZ, GERVASIO, 79, born June 19, 1942 in Cuba, died Sept. 13, 2021 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park Spanish Church for 39 years. He was a kind man who was loved and liked by all the church members. He retired after working in maintenance at Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, now Advent-Health in Sebring, FL. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Ada; one

son, Joel (Grace) Suárez; and seven grandchildren. The service was conducted by David Rilo, pastor of the Avon Park Spanish Church, at the Fountain Funeral Home in Avon Park. Interment was in the Lakeview Memorial Gardens in Avon Park.

VILLALTA, SILVIA M., 60, born July 17, 1961 in San Salvador, El Salvador, died July 26, 2021 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park Spanish Church for 28 years. Silvia was a kind, loving woman who was always caring for others. She was a dedicated housewife and loving mother. She is survived by her husband of 39 years, Juan Gilberto Villalta; one son, Gilbert of Avon Park; two brothers: Carlos (Glenda) Medina of Miami, FL, and José (Raquel) Medina of Los Angeles, CA; and four sisters: Sonia (Justin) Childer of Chattanooga, TN, Esperanza Macias of Avon Park, Daisy (Francisco) Hidalgo of Sidney, Australia, and Norma (Saúl) Guzman of Los Angeles. The service was conducted by David Rilo, pastor at the Avon Park Spanish Church. Interment was in the Bougainvillea Cemetery in Avon Park.

WILKINSON, DONALD EUGENE, 84, born Feb. 17, 1937, he was the son of the late Roland A. and Bertha Haefeli Wilkinson, died Sept. 15, 2021, at his home. Donald was a farmer where he formerly worked at Greenwood Dairy Farm and was a member of 2nd S.C. Continental Regiment. He was a member of Greenwood, SC, Church. He is survived by his wife, Ruth Hayes Wilkinson; his children: David Wilkinson of Tyron, GA, Eva Fegarido, and Robert Wilkinson, both of Sharpsburg, GA; stepchildren: Frederick Myers of Ninety Six, Rose Myers of Greenwood, Charles Myers of Ninety Six, Andrew Myers of Fort Mill, and Joel Myers of Greenwood; one sister, Jeanette Reese of Coudersport, PA; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. Services were held at Kinard United Methodist Church with the Rev. Jerry Gladson, Rev. Alex Romanov, and Rev. Arthur Gamble officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

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ries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs[C]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following salaried staff position: Pathways Coordinator-School of Business. and Admissions Counselor. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs[C]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is currently seeking adjunct faculty for the following positions: German Instructor-Modern Languages Department, Business Analytics Fundamentals-Adult 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[C]

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ciology. Candidates would teach undergraduate courses, develop course materials, advise students academically, serve on university committees, and perform other duties expected of full-time faculty. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.2oakwood.edu/human-resources [12]

UNION COLLEGE, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, seeks candidates for a Health and Human Performance Professor. Doctoral degree preferred, Master's required. This person will teach courses that may include Concepts of Wellness, Personal Training, Healthy Eating, Intro to Allied Health Professions, and physical activity classes. Target date January 1, 2022 See full job description at www.ucollege.edu/employment. Contact Shawntae Razo at shawntae.razo@ucollege.edu for information. [12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY - seeks staff- Assistant Director Counseling & Testing. In collaboration with the Director, provides leadership in the clinical services of the Counseling & Testing Center, including clinical supervision and the coordination of the clinical internship program. Available for after office hours clinical consultations and student crises interventions. Provides individual, couple, and group counseling. Participates in outreach presentations to assist students in achieving more effective personal, social, educational and vocational development and adjustment. Maintains an assigned case load, and provides consultations on issues related to mental health. Reports to the Counseling & Testing Center Director. Must have a doctorate (PhD, PsyD, or EdD) in Counseling or Clinical Psychology with full license as Counseling or Clinical Psychologist or license eligible in the State of Michigan. http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_2 [12]

MISCELLANEOUS

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduate-studies [12-5]

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day Bible texts, Amazing. Facts web links (SabbathTruth.com, etc), beautiful art, fantastic results. Sponsors needed for Knoxville or your town. Evangelismbillboards.com, Evangelismbillboards@gmail.com, or 423-839-3091, Don Reed. [12-1]

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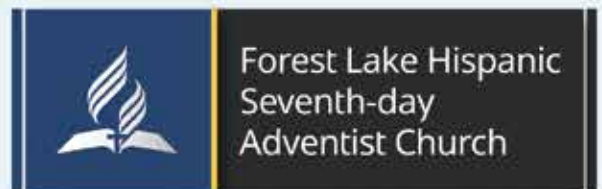
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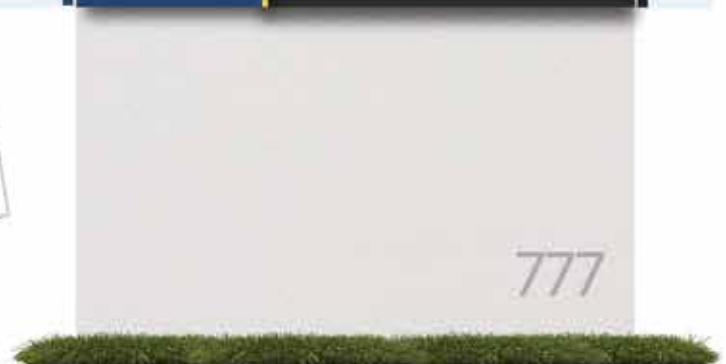
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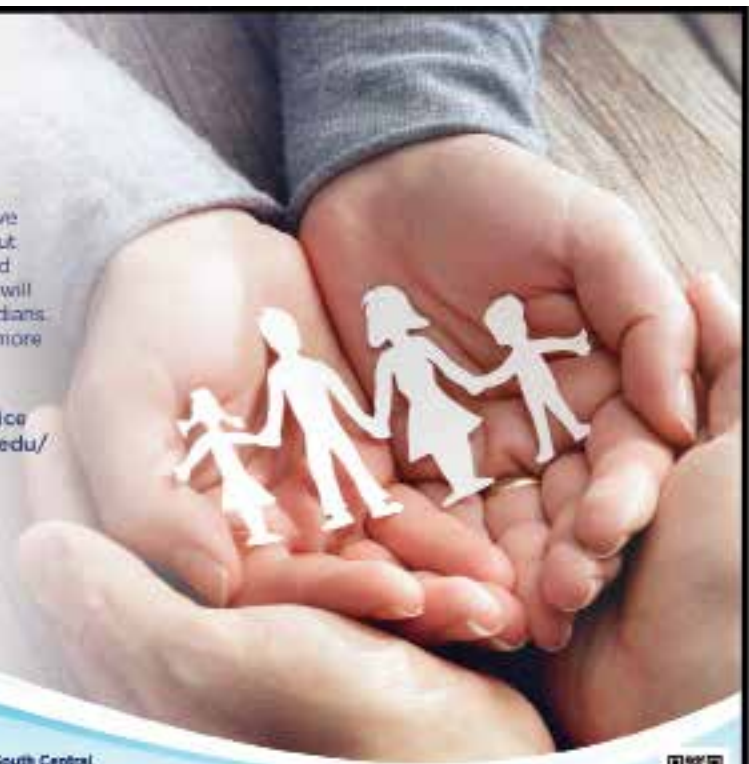
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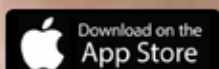
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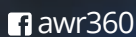
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CAROLINA

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

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Christmas Pops Concert - Dec. 4. Under the direction of Ken Parsons and Keith Lloyd, Southern's Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, and Steel Band will present their annual Christmas concert at 8 p.m. in Iles P.E. Center. Admission is free. For more information, including a streaming link, visit southern.edu/musicevents or contact 423-236-2880.

School of Music Christmas Concert - Dec. 11. Southern's School of Music will host its annual

Christmas concert featuring the Symphony Orchestra and Choral Ensembles at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. The free event, which will feature many holiday favorites for the whole family, may also be viewed at southern.edu/streaming.

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.

join us for a weekend of spiritual revival and time of renewal. Enjoy waterfront nature and beautiful weather as we open God's Word together all weekend long. Bring your favorite vegetarian dish for Sabbath fellowship dinner and a comfortable chair. You can stay in the available rental housing or pitch a tent on the campground (reservations required). Camp Meeting starts Friday, Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m., and continues until Sunday, Feb. 20. Camp Sawyer is located on Overseas Highway, Mile Marker 34, Oceanside, and does not allow pets. For information, please contact Laura Saladino at 423-972-7694. See you at Camp Meeting!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING - Feb. 18-20, 2022. You are invited to a special weekend Camp Meeting with Sean Boonstra in the beautiful Florida Keys. Come

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

SUNSET

	DEC 3	DEC 10	DEC 17	DEC 24	DEC 31	JAN 6
ATLANTA, GA	5:28	5:29	5:31	5:35	5:39	5:44
CHARLESTON, SC	5:13	5:14	5:16	5:19	5:24	5:29
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:11	5:11	5:13	5:17	5:21	5:26
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:28	5:28	5:30	5:34	5:39	5:44
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:35	4:35	4:37	4:41	4:46	4:51
JACKSON, MS	4:55	4:56	4:58	5:02	5:06	5:11
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:22	5:23	5:24	5:28	5:33	5:38
MEMPHIS, TN	4:48	4:48	4:50	4:54	4:59	5:03
MIAMI, FL	5:29	5:30	5:33	5:36	5:41	5:45
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:39	4:40	4:42	4:46	4:50	4:55
NASHVILLE, TN	4:32	4:32	4:34	4:38	4:43	4:48
ORLANDO, FL	5:28	5:29	5:32	5:35	5:40	5:44
TAMPA, FL	5:34	5:35	5:37	5:41	5:45	5:49
WILMINGTON, NC	5:01	5:02	5:04	5:08	5:12	5:17

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