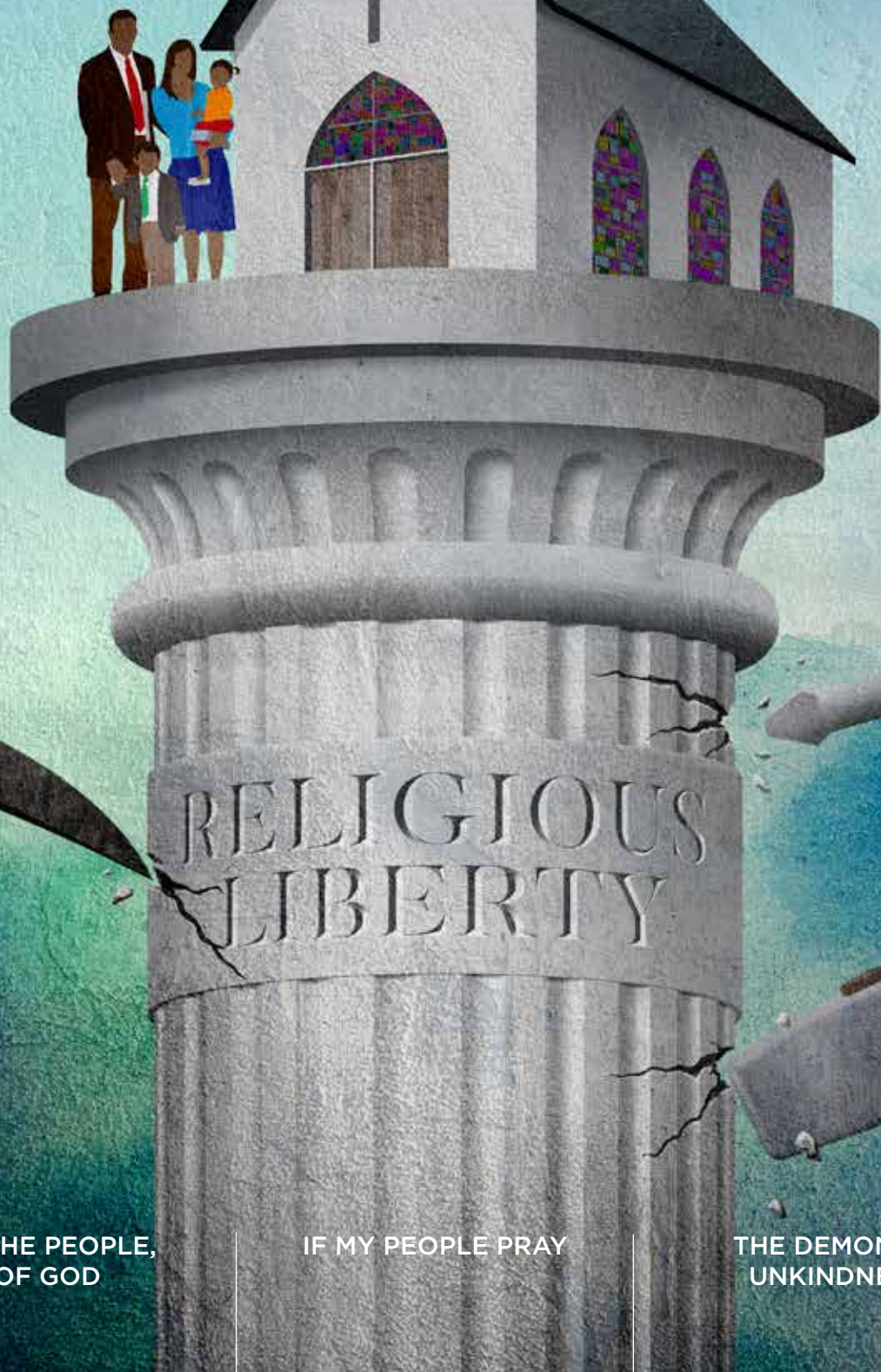


# T Southern TIDINGS

JANUARY 2022



MAN OF THE PEOPLE,  
MAN OF GOD

IF MY PEOPLE PRAY

THE DEMON OF  
UNKINDNESS

# The Reward of Reconnecting



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

“And when she hath found it, she calleth her friends and her neighbors together, saying, ‘Rejoice with me,’” Luke 15:9.

The tiny brick-and-mud house has only a door for an opening. Freshly laid rushes cover the hard dirt floor, providing warmth underfoot and comfort when sleeping. One room serves as kitchen, bedroom, and workplace. Busy around the room, the housewife lays aside her headdress. Ten coins hang from it: the dowry to her marriage. This substantial gift must be kept in a safe place. Ten coins had strained her parents’ resources.

Picking up the headdress again, she fingers the coins. Her heart leaps. She counts again. Nine! One has fallen off. The lost one must be somewhere in the house. Somewhere in the reeds and dirt lies one-tenth of her dowry.

Jesus has us by the ears with this story, just as He must have charmed His listeners so many years ago. We know what it is to lose something precious and to search desperately for it.

The woman lights a lamp, an extravagance at any time, justified now only by the importance of the quest. She peers into corners, bends to examine the rushes. Then driven by desperation, she pulls the reed mats out of the house and shakes them, watching all the time. Nothing. Now she takes a bundle of twigs. Dust flies out the door. The whole village knows her plight.

A dull gleaming in a corner. A shout of joy. She found the coin. And for this one coin, she throws a party! How could she share her joy without food or drink? Unthinkable. The party costs far more than the value of the coin, but no matter. The joy of finding must be shared.

Magnify this woman’s desperate search to God-size and you will begin to understand how earnestly God searches for the sinner. He lights the lamp of His love. He scrambles among the dirt and trash of the human home. Turning from a universe of riches, a galaxy of adoring subjects, He searches for this one lost coin as if it were all He possessed. You are that one lost coin! At your repentance, at your finding, God and the angels shout for joy.

There is an opportunity to participate in the great work of pursuing people who are currently displaced. We often refer to them as missing members. The truth is that it’s difficult to be missing in the 21st century. Through social media platforms and electronic search engines connecting us through the push of a button to the World Wide Web, every human being can be located. As we embark upon the formal launching and rolling out of the Southern Union’s strategy of “Reconnecting through Multiplication” for the year 2022, join the Southern Union Council of Presidents and the ministerial leadership teams of each conference and university in praying for the reward of rejoicing for finding lost people.

“At the foot of the cross remembering that for one sinner Christ would have laid down His life, you may estimate the value of a soul,” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 196. -RCS ①





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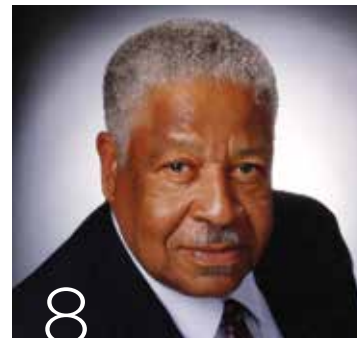
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# THE CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

Looking back over the last two years of religious liberty challenges and triumphs has brought sobering thoughts about the work the Adventist Church does in this field. As Seventh-day Adventists we should all take time to reflect on the reality of where we are in history today.

In my early years of religious liberty work, I learned the importance of keeping the scales balanced when it comes to both the separation of church and state and the free exercise of religious liberty. One reason we as Seventh-day Adventists have valued religious freedom is because we recognize how quickly it can become unbalanced. To put it plainly, our right to religious liberty is not an absolute. The Constitution does not guarantee that, no matter what our religious beliefs may be, they will be allowed. Additionally, religious liberty does not operate in a vacuum. All these issues have been brought

into focus during the pandemic.

A perfect example of the limits to religious liberty can be found in what happened last year with church closings in several states and cities. We experienced a changing attitude by the courts as the pandemic rolled through month after month, and judicial review garnered different decisions — even within the same courts — as time went by. The question remains: Can your church be closed down by the government? The answer still is not a definitive “No,” even though multiple churches won hard fought lawsuits, and some state legislatures have even passed laws in this last term prohibiting church closures.

More was on the horizon. Transitioning from church closings to mandated vaccinations has meant the religious liberty department has been handed a double workload. While attention of late has been focused on the federal mandates,

“The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has stated that employers have the responsibility to keep the workplace and employees in the workplace safe.”





"A Time for Vigilance" by Clayton Kinney



in truth, the first mandates issued came from employers themselves, especially medical facilities and universities — not the government.

Many have asked whether companies have the right to make employees get vaccinated. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has stated that employers have the responsibility to keep the workplace and employees in the workplace safe. So, how do we balance our personal freedom and/or religious freedoms when juxtaposed against a workplace requirement? We continue to encourage members to seek the help of the religious liberty department when faced with these challenges.

Mandated vaccinations are nothing new. If you are a parent who has ever enrolled your child in public school or Church school, you had to present proof of vaccination to the school before your child could be accepted in the system. Yes, this mandate includes Seventh-day Adventist school systems.

Pandemic issues such as these are creating challenges for religious liberty. Clearly, partisan fighting has now become one of the biggest threats to re-

ligious liberty in the last 30 years. Partisan bickering and discord have changed the landscape of religious liberty in America today. But, it has also changed the landscape in many of our churches. We have gone from a group of believers who felt you should not become engaged in secular politics within the church, to a people who gift wrap our political stance so it looks nice when we bring it to Sabbath School.

The delicate balance of religious liberty I mentioned earlier is both intricate and necessary to American life. True religious liberty means that everyone may have a different understanding of religious beliefs, but, in a diverse society, one belief does not take precedence over others. In the religious liberty department at the Southern Union, we believe that Americans can hold opposing beliefs, and society should not fall because of the differences. Yet, another truth about religious liberty in America is that churches actually have the right to discriminate against differing religious beliefs. Both these examples give proof to how difficult it is to keep religious liberty in balance.

“Mandated vaccinations are nothing new. If you are a parent who has ever enrolled your child in public school or Church school, you had to present proof of vaccination to the school before your child could be accepted in the system.”



One of the ways we keep that balance is to defend the rights of those who believe differently from us. It is why the union conference religious liberty departments across the North American Division have assisted church members who claimed personal religious belief





in asking for a religious accommodation against the mandated vaccinations. The Adventist Church does not teach a need to refuse the vaccine, but the religious liberty department believes you have the right to hold a personal religious belief separate from an official Church stance. And, if your belief can be vetted as true, you should be accommodated in the workplace — unless doing so creates an undue hardship, just as in Sabbath work accommodation. Defending differing religious beliefs is one of the best ways to defend religious liberty for all. But, when society starts to believe that there should be only one common belief to defend, there will be trouble ahead.

Another threat also looms. The landscape is changing in how — and from whom — we defend the Establishment Clause, the portion of the First Amendment that gives birth to an understanding that church and state will be separate. As Christians feel they are losing ground in what they have always considered “Christian America,” the driving force for many politicians going forward will be to cater to those who believe America should be a Chris-

tian nation. Many Adventists also feel this diminishing of Christianity within our nation, but are concerned as we hear statements such as Michael Flynn made in a November 2021 speech: “If we are going to have one nation under God, which we must, we have to have one religion.” This rhetoric has become common and so dangerous to religious freedom. Adventists know, in light of our understanding of prophecy, that the more times people hear an idea such as this, the more likely they are to believe it and demand it. This is sobering.

As Christians we are commissioned to spread the Gospel to the world. We are to go and make believers of others. But, Jesus’ command to us in Matthew 28:19 is merely to teach others, not to compel others to believe ... and certainly to never leave this task to the government.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department urges you to stay aware. Remove all issues, left or right, from their political context, and evaluate them in the light of Bible prophecy. As the landscape changes, we continue to stand fast to the true principals of religious liberty — separate from political creed. Call us when you need help or

clarifications with religious accommodations in the workplace. And, continue to love your neighbors into the true religious freedom of Jesus’ arms. 📍

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

## FACING A RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATION PROBLEM IN THE WORKPLACE?

Contact the Religious Liberty Department  
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8:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m. (ET)

Email: [ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com](mailto:ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com)

Phone: 770-408-1800

# MAN OF THE PEOPLE, MAN OF GOD

BY **BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.**

Charles Edward Bradford, pastor, mentor, scholar, writer, the first president of the North American Division, a man respected in any boardroom and welcomed in any home, passed away on Thursday, September 9, 2021, in Huntsville, Alabama. He was 96.

He was born July 12, 1925, in Washington D.C., the eighth and youngest child of Robert Lee and Etta Elizabeth Bradford. It was the combination of his parents' influence, his obsession for reading and his God-given gifts of a prodigious memory, a charming wit, keen intuition, a commanding voice, and arresting communication skills, that fashioned him as the stellar pastor, preacher, counselor, author, and administrator that he became.

He was a living link to the generation of Black pioneers of Adventism. His mother, Etta Elizabeth Littlejohn-Bradford, who accepted the Gospel from the decks of the Morning Star boat, was one of the original students at Oakwood in 1896, and was a nurse attendant for Ellen G. White.

There were obvious indications through high school and junior college of ministerial gifts. In his sophomore year at Oakwood the call to ministry was acknowledged and accepted. "Over the years, we in the Oakwood community have been blessed every time Elder Bradford came to the pulpit, either for a speaking engagement or to give re-



Charles Edward Bradford, Ph.D.

marks. His deep love for the Church was always evident, as well as the wisdom of one who had a role during the civil rights movement, the urban crisis, major doctrinal and institutional challenges, and new technologies and emerging, postmodern generations," shares Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University.

Upon finishing Oakwood College in 1946, he was hired by the Southwest Conference where he pastored churches in Louisiana and Texas. While there he received mentoring from his two primary clergy heroes and tutors, W. W. Fordham,

Conference president, and Willie Lee, pastor. However, his chief inspiration came from the love of his life, Ethel Lee McKinzie of Jacksonville, Florida, whom he wed May 28, 1948. Ethel's secretarial and musical talents, her friendly but dignified bearing, blended perfectly with his skills and personality, and they were off to a 72-year marriage filled with romance and productive service.

His years in the Southwest Conference were followed by ministry in the Central States and Northeastern conferences, where he also spent time in departmental leadership and evangelism.

Charles Bradford's administrative services began in 1961 when he assumed the presidency of the Lake Region Conference. "Elder Charles Bradford was a genius of a man in the pulpit and in the boardroom. However, if you were fortunate enough to sit across from him in his den and listen to him 'pontificate,' then you saw the classic Charles Bradford in his rarest and purest form. Absolutely amazing!" shared William Winston, president of South Atlantic Conference.

He was called from this position in 1971 to become the associate secretary of the North American Division, and soon after to be one of the associate secretaries of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. On January 7, 1979, he was elected vice president for North Ameri-





**One of Bradford's early evangelistic tent efforts: After preaching he does what he loves — shaking hands, talking, thanking people for attending, and encouraging them. Connecting with people was one of the traits that made him so loved by people.**

ca. In September of 1986, he became the president of the North American Division. Thus, he became not only the first Black to hold that title, but the first of any lineage. He retained that position for 11 years until his retirement in 1990.

G. Alexander Bryant, president of the North American Division, says, “He is the ‘Jackie Robinson’ of the Adventist Church, for he paved the way for those who followed; he is a spiritual giant among us, a consummate powerful preacher, an abled theologian, a gifted administrator, but most importantly, a man of God who served faithfully and with distinction.”

While very approachable, many viewed him as a celebrity, “The first time I ever saw him I could hardly breathe because I was in awe of this great man, and I think we should not be afraid to identify those in our midst who are great — and he was a great one,” says Daniel Jackson, retired president of the North American Division. “Anytime he stood up to speak he always delivered it with eloquence and humor. His sharp wit, the music of his speech, the poetry of his words, the resonance of his voice made him in my opinion the most effective communicator that I’ve ever been around.”

Charles Bradford is the author of six books: *Preaching to the Times*, *The God Between*, *Find Out About Prayer*, *The Pastoral Epistles*, *Sabbath Roots-The African Connection and a Biblical Perspective*, and *The King is in Residence*. These books, in addition to chapters provided in major theological works, the *SDA Bible Commentary*, volume 9, and numerous articles in publications such as the *Adventist Review*, *Message Magazine*, and the *Regional Voice*, ensure that his voice will remain a current and perpetual blessing to God’s people.

Among Bradford’s major citations are the Certificate of Merit given by Oakwood College in 1968, the doctor of divinity degree by Andrews University in 1978, the citation for Humanitarian Services by the Capitol-area Division of the



**The members of Berean Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pose for a photo with their young pastor, Charles E. Bradford (front row, center). This was his first pastoral assignment. While there he built this church building.**



Charles and Ethel Bradford easily light a room with their radiant smiles.



Ronald Reagan was one of the many United States Presidents Charles Bradford had the privilege of meeting. Bradford presents Reagan with a book from The Review & Herald Publishing Association.

United Nations in 1980, the American of the Year Award by the American Religious Town Hall of the Air in 1982, the induction into the Martin Luther King Jr. Board of Preachers and the Scholars of Morehouse College in 1992, and the honorary Ph.D. degree from Oakwood University in 2018. He would tell you, however, that the greatest blessing of his life was none of these, but rather the souls he won to Christ, and above all, the loving family God gave him — Ethel and their children: Sharon, Charles Jr., and Dwight.

As highly decorated as Bradford was, he still took time to mentor Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union. Smith noted, “There are three principles Elder Charles Bradford poured into me: firstly — do not pray for



The Bradford family poses for a photo in the new North American Division building. They attended the naming ceremony of the Charles E. Bradford Chapel.

an easy life, pray to be a stronger man; secondly — do not pray for tasks equal to your powers, pray for powers equal to your task; and lastly — do not try to do miracle performances, instead allow God to make your life a miracle.”

Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist says of Charles Bradford that he was “a giant in so many ways, faithful follower of Christ, wonderful preacher, diligent Bible student, dynamic intellect, experienced administrator, a caring pastor, a loving husband and father, an encouraging brother in Christ, and a longtime friend.”

There is an honor placed on preachers of high regard who are also highly respected in the field and the craft, such as Charles Gilchrist Adams, D.Min., known as the Harvard Hooper, and the late Gardner Taylor known as the dean of preachers. Charles E. Bradford was affectionately known as Brad. While it was colloquial, it was in no way disrespectful, but quite the opposite: it was a high honor such as the terms Rabbi, Prophet, or Priest would be regarded.

Although he was seen as larger than life, Calvin Rock, Ph.D., retired vice

president for the General Conference, reminds us, “He was not selfish; he shared his wisdom and goods. He was not money hungry; I never heard him complain about ministerial salary. He was not political; he did not elbow his way to prominence and authority. He was not intimidated and he was not critical. He was not a doubting man; he never doubted his Church, he never doubted his God. He was supremely equipped by God, and divinely anointed to be and faithfully serve as an instrument of the Most High.”

Those closest to him now left to continue in cherished memories and ardent hope of “that better day” are his devoted wife, Ethel; his daughter, Sharon Bradford (James) Lewis; his son, Charles Jr. (Ann-Marie); his son, Dwight Lymon (Janet); his three grandchildren, James Lewis II, Marquita Bradford (David) Brown, and Dwight (Tiffany) Lymon Jr.; his four great-grandchildren, David Brown Jr., Dwight Lymon III, Harper Loraine Bradford, and Craig Payne. ❶

**Bryant Taylor, D.Min.,** is the associate director of communication at the Southern Union.



# IF MY PEOPLE PRAY\*

BY GLADYS M. NEIGEL

Annie Pérez, Ph.D., prayer ministries and women’s ministries director for Florida Conference, was invited to join with a group of leaders from diverse faith communities on the steps of Orlando City Hall for a day of prayer and fasting against COVID-19. Jerry Demings, mayor of Orange County, and Robert Stuart, commissioner, were also in attendance.

“The faith community has played a key role in our community’s pandemic response,” stated a proclamation set forth by Buddy Dyer, Orlando mayor and city commissioners. “The power of prayer and reflection can help provide strength, hope, and guidance as we continue to face challenges from COVID-19.”

The pandemic has been felt in some context by everyone. In Orange County alone, more than 220,000 individuals have tested positive for the virus with the resultant deaths of more than 2,000 people.

“Every faith leader shared a prayer for the community,” said Pérez. “It was an honor to pray for the city of Orlando. What a great experience!” 🙏

\*2 Chronicles 7:14.



Annie Pérez (second from right), Florida Conference prayer ministries and women’s ministries director, joined a group of faith leaders to pray for the City of Orlando.



Annie Pérez joined with leaders from diverse faith communities to offer a prayer petition against COVID-19 at Orlando City Hall.

*Gladys M. Neigel is the contributing editor for Florida Conference content.*

# THE DEMON OF UNKINDNESS

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Something has been infecting us lately, and it isn't just COVID-19. It's been around for much longer and has led to more death and destruction than even an epidemic. You can't mask against it, and there is no tangible medical solution for it. To make it appear, you just need to read or hear the right word or two: Vaccine, Government, Democrat, Republican, Social Justice. Do you feel that? The disease is anger.

This disease is spreading farther and faster, on every news channel, in casual conversations, everywhere and anywhere we can think, maybe even inside your church. Anger, on any side of any hot topic, is infecting us. We have the disease, and we've been infected. I dare say we may even be possessed. The enemy is succeeding.

Listen to this: "When a man professes to be sanctified, and yet in words and works may be represented by the impure fountain sending forth its bitter waters, we may safely say, 'That man is deceived. He needs to learn the very alphabet of what constitutes the life of a Christian. Some who profess to be servants of Christ have so long cherished the demon of unkindness that they seem to love the unhallowed element and to take pleasure in speaking words that displease and irritate ...'" *The Sanctified Life*, p.16.

Today, Christians are more callous toward one another and non-Christians than I believe God is pleased with. How did we become this way? Matthew 13 alerts us to the fact that, indeed, the enemy has planted something in us. Where there is supposed to be something good, has instead something bad growing up in it. This isn't



the way Jesus exemplified we should live.

What can we do to fight this disease of anger, the demon of unkindness? James chapter one has the answer. The essence of the first part of the chapter is that there are positive things we should be gaining when we face trials. In part, this means that properly dealing with issues when they come helps us to be ready for more significant problems when they present themselves later. If we aren't fairing so well with this trial of anger, perhaps we missed something beforehand. However, fear not. We should not be without hope.

Noting the problem, we can understand there is a solution. James 1:19-20 reads, "So then, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath; for the wrath of man does not produce the righteousness of God." Be swift to hear or quick to listen. There's a lot of world problems that could be solved by implementing this tactic. But we can utilize it to help in the areas we have influence. To be quick to listen means we should take an interest in what other people are saying, even if we don't agree with them.

Our lack of listening ability is actually a significant contributor to why many young adults are leaving the Church at present. Learn more about that at [www.growingyoungadventists.org](http://www.growingyoungadventists.org)

[growingyoungadventists.org](http://www.growingyoungadventists.org)

Step two in the three-step process from James 1:19 tells us that we should be slow to speak. The acronym THINK is helpful here. Before we say something or post it online, we should ask whether it is True, Helpful, Inspiring, Necessary, and Kind. By following these two steps, step three becomes easier: be slow to wrath or anger.

Minimizing our anger maximizes our ability to be winsome to others. Satan knows this, which is why he pushes everyone to fall for it, regardless of where we stand on any given topic. A key component to his deception and infection is corrupting our view of who other people are. When someone doesn't think the way we do, we automatically think less of them. This, again, isn't the way Jesus showed us.

Matthew 25:31-40 contains a powerful reminder that those who we might consider "strangers" are indeed very important people. Chapter 70 of the book, *The Desire of Ages*, entitled "The Least of These My Brethren," is your prescribed assignment. Read this chapter, dear viewer, and I believe you will have a renewed understanding of the heart of God. Mind you, the people referred to in this chapter are those that have hearts that are "... in need of consolation." There are a lot of people, everywhere, that have hearts in need of consolation. Those people are Republicans, and they are Democrats, they are independents, they wear masks, they don't wear masks, they get vaccinated, they refuse the vaccination. Every one of them need the love of Jesus, not the demon of unkindness. Which will you show them? ●



# A DIFFERENT TYPE OF COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

BY ROGER R. WADE

In late winter of 2019, at the request of Troy Brand, pastor of the Orchard Park Church, Chattanooga, Tennessee, the Sheriff of the Hamilton County, Tennessee, Sheriff's Office started the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office Minority Relations Community Taskforce. The purpose of the taskforce was to begin solutions-oriented conversations with the Sheriff's Department as one response to an excessive use of force incident that occurred on December 3, 2018, between a Sheriff's deputy and a Hamilton County citizen. Brand, along with four Orchard Park Church members and five community members formed the task force.

The taskforce had six meetings with the Sheriff's Office officials and 20 meetings on their own. In those meetings they discussed community engagement policies and programs that would improve relations between the department and Hamilton County minority citizens, and hiring and recruitment of minorities to the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office (HCSO). The taskforce had a day-long orientation into the workings of the Sheriff's Department, which afforded them a better understanding of and appreciation for the work the department does, and helped foster new relationships between the department and the community.

After a second excessive use of force incident, the taskforce made three rec-



Community clergy participated during the community prayer walk. Troy Brand, pastor, is second from left.

ommendations to the Sheriff's Office.

1. Create opportunities for more contact and dialogue between Sheriff's deputies and community members; have a community meeting as soon as possible that allows for a constructive exchange of ideas.

2. Be deliberate about educating citizens about the risks, challenges, and procedures of police work through school programs, community meetings, the newspaper, and social media.

3. Participate in community bridge project in partnership with local churches and nonprofits in the county as a demonstration of the department's willingness to serve its citizens.

The recommendations were received but not acted upon. Due to the pandemic,

the taskforce was suspended. However, Brand continued to work on reforming the department. He joined the Chattanooga Clergy for Justice — a group of ministers from various denominations who seek to support and hold accountable the HCSO. Since joining the Clergy for Justice, the organization has made several attempts to meet with the Sheriff to discuss differences and solutions to resolving use of force incidents. Unfortunately, the Sheriff declined to meet every time. As a result, the Clergy for Justice filed a pattern-or-practice investigation with the Department of Justice and is currently waiting to hear back from them.

Brand does this kind of work in the community because he believes that mission embraces the Church's double vocation of service to be "the salt of the Earth" and "the light of the world." The Orchard Park Church's congregation has set goals to turn down the volume in people's lives so they can hear the Gospel clearly, be embedded in the city in a way that directly or indirectly influences everything that happens in the city, and be a congregation that has engaged pastors, members, and ministries. Working with the taskforce and the organization, Clergy for Justice falls in line with those goals. 📍

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**Roger R. Wade** is the communication director for the South Central Conference.

# AdventHealth Recognized for Navigating Supply Chain Challenges Amid Pandemic



AdventHealth’s supply chain team has been recognized in the Gartner Healthcare Supply Chain Top 25 for 2021, ranking 10th on the renowned list.

This year’s ranking identifies, celebrates, and profiles health systems that are effectively navigating the pandemic’s impact through excellence in supply chain management. Gartner’s top 25 ranking is determined by independent panels and quantitative data composed of IBM Watson Health Scores and bond ratings. Along with the ranking is a report that highlights what organizations’ supply chain leaders are focusing on, where they are pivoting their resources,

and how these lessons can help other health systems.

“The pandemic has helped us reimagine our supply chain strategies and strengthen our ability to get the materials we need to protect our teams, treat our patients, and serve our communities across the country,” said Marisa Farabaugh, chief supply chain officer for AdventHealth. “Our supply chain teams have had to collaborate in new ways and innovate to meet the demands of a quickly shifting landscape, all while keeping our caregivers and patients at the center of what we do.”

Learning from the PPE shortages seen through the pandemic, AdventHealth has

made significant investments in strengthening its supply chain to lessen the impact of any future catastrophes on its ability to properly protect and treat people.

“Since the onset of the pandemic, we have vetted more than 100 new suppliers, and invested millions in bringing back PPE production to US-based companies to ensure we have domestic suppliers ready to manufacture the medical equipment we need when crisis strikes,” Farabaugh said. ●

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BY ADVENTHEALTH NEWS

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# Imaging Studies Students Receive Prestigious National Scholarship

Victoria Browder and Jasmina Kozenjic somehow never met each other.

They attend the same Christian university, AdventHealth University (AHU), in Orlando, are both imaging studies students, and are two out of only 16 national recipients of a prestigious Lambda Nu scholarship.

“We are so pleased that two of our students were honored for their hard work, dedication, and sense of mission,” said Liz Duncan, MSHS, CNMT, RT(CT), chair of the Imaging Sciences program, AdventHealth University. “Our Imaging Sciences program strives to teach our students to become professionals who live the healing values of Christ.”

Both Browder and Kozenjic took an indirect route to imaging studies at AdventHealth University.

Browder, who is scheduled to graduate in April 2022 from AdventHealth University’s Diagnostic Medical Sonography Cardiovascular program, originally considered going into forensics.

“I love to help and care for people. I also love science. I came across cardiovascular sonography in my search for a career, and the more that I learn about it, the more I love this field,” said Browder, 20.

Kozenjic came to the United States from Germany when she was 5. The Bosnian War had recently ended and her parents were looking for better opportunities for their children.

“My parents came here. It was the American dream. They wanted to find a better life for us,” said Kozenjic, who learned English during elementary school.

Throughout high school, Kozenjic dreamed of working in a job where she could help people.

“I’m a huge empathetic person. It’s a fulfilling feeling seeing people happy or better.”



Victoria Browder



Jasmina Kozenjic

She earned her undergraduate degree in biology at Utica College, and pondered a career as a physician assistant or optometrist. She learned about AdventHealth University’s radiography program through her brother, a neuroradiologist at AdventHealth Orlando, and she and her husband moved to Florida so she could begin taking classes. Kozenjic, who has a 3.96 grade point average (GPA), is set to graduate in April 2022, and hopes to work as an X-ray technologist.

“I like the one-on-one time with pa-

tients, who are often at their worst. You are often the first person they see, and can make a connection with them.”

She was impressed with the whole-person care philosophy taught at AHU and practiced at AdventHealth. “They are motivated to be with the patient, to be in the moment.”

Lambda Nu is the national honor society for radiologic and imaging sciences. AHU is a member of the Florida Alpha Chi Omega chapter of Lambda Nu, with 18 current student members. To become a student member of Lambda Nu, students must have a 3.5 GPA, be recommended by a faculty member, and demonstrate excellence in their field. More than 56 students applied for the \$500 scholarship this year, according to Lambda Nu.

“First and foremost, I am thankful to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, for blessing me with this opportunity,” said Browder, who lives in Sanford, Fla. “I am thankful for all of the help and support that was given by my family. I appreciate them more than they will ever know. I am also thankful to have such kind-hearted professors who are always willing to help and offer encouragement to us. From the beginning of the program, you are able to see that they truly want you to succeed.”

AdventHealth University’s imaging studies program offers associate’s degrees in radiography and diagnostic medical sonography (cardiovascular track and general track); bachelor’s degrees in imaging sciences and nuclear medicine technology; and certificates in vascular interventional radiography, MRI, and CT. Its Denver, Col., campus also offers associate degrees in diagnostic medical sonography and radiography. 📍

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BY ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY NEWS

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# Myrtle Beach Church Holds “ReFresh Our Heroes” Ribbon Cutting



CONTRIBUTED



CONTRIBUTED

The Myrtle Beach, S.C., Church “ReFresh Our Heroes” mission ribbon cutting was a beautiful success on November 3, 2021. Community dignitaries, church members, local business leaders, and the Pathfinders attended the 11 a.m. ceremony commissioning their truck and trailer for ministry. First responders in the area were represented by the fire department crew and their equipment. As the sun came up, the local news TV station highlighted the celebration with four prime time spots of the events taking place at the church that morning.

The ReRefresh mission is to provide effective and meaningful community services in their area in good times and during times of natural disasters. Their three-fold mission approach is first to provide groceries and other tangible assets to poor and needy individuals and families; second, to provide a mobile kitchen for Pathfinder campouts and youth mission activities; and finally, to serve in times of natural disaster (e.g. hurricanes and flooding) to deliver meals, refreshments, and respite to first responders and victims.

Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, commended the ReRefresh Team and church for their mission. He presented a \$2,500 check to David Peters, ReRefresh director, in support of



CONTRIBUTED

their ministry. Ken Johnson, ReRefresh assistant director, urged everyone to support the Charity Golf Tournament through financial giving, volunteering, and prayer.

David Graham, pastor and Adventist Community Services director, shared the scope and commitment of the Adventist Church to be the hands and feet for Jesus, showing God’s love for neighbors and all in need. He sought God’s blessing, praying for the first responders for their courage, safekeeping, and wisdom when

serving in emergency and or disaster. Peters gave an overview on God’s development of the ReRefresh mission. He illustrated how God has led with the story of how they were able to purchase the truck through His intervention. He concluded by focusing on the diversity of the team of volunteers serving and the mission to serve all people.

Patricia Rivas prayed for the mission of ReRefresh in Spanish. The ReRefresh truck and trailer were then commissioned and christened by Carmen Gonzales, recognizing first responders and breaking a bottle of sparkling juice on the tongue of the trailer. The ceremony ended with the ribbon-cutting, which was followed by refreshments for all attendees.

Many challenges have come and gone from the onset of Refresh, but encouragement was found by Peters reaffirming God’s faithfulness in leading this ministry. The Matthew 25:40 emphasis is the centerpiece of this ministry serving others: “Inasmuch as you have done it to one of the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me.”

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BY PASTOR DAVID GRAHAM, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

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# “Care Church” Resurfaces

Beaufort, S.C., Church has been renowned as a small church with a big heart. Like the sentiment of the rest of the world, this congregation almost lost sight of their calling due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The title “Care Church” originates from about 20 years ago when the church was well-known for their “I-Care Center” that provided clothing, food, and resources for anyone in need in the community. After relocating, the church has been seeking to recreate an atmosphere of refuge within their community.

The Adventist Youth (AY) Ministries of Beaufort Church bolstered a local neighborhood of need by hand-delivering “Care Packs” to each home. Prior to delivery, the members collected face masks, hand sanitizer, tissue, individually packaged herbal tea, and other items that can aid in the new reality. AY members filled the bags with these items and small health pamphlets from the Adventist faith. The families warmly received the Care Packs from youth and elders. Powerful prayers of AY members permeated their hearts, bypassing screen doors and dismantling the distance of six feet. Within an hour, the church bus emptied a total of 100 Care Packs.

The following Sabbath, on October 9, 2021, Beaufort Church hosted a “Praise in the Parking Lot” concert. The concert included members from the church and musical guests from surrounding churches in the area. Sixty-plus people attended, and were seen nestled in their cars or with hands lifted in the church’s parking lot. Some of the neighbors who received the Care Pack a week before reunited with the church in praise. The parking lot was packed, and music rendered from all ages invited the community to unite in

acknowledging all that God has brought them through during unprecedented times.

Beaufort Church rejoices that the AY ministry has led the church to resurface their mission of care. They aim to continue to employ their gifts of hospitality and music in conveying the pledge of Adventist Youth Ministries, “... doing what (they) can to help others and to finish the work of the Gospel in all the world.”

BY DEARRA WALTERS



RONESTO PINEDA & DEARRA WALTERS



RONESTO PINEDA & DEARRA WALTERS

# Family Life and Children's Ministries Pastor Ordained

**Andres David Palacios —  
October 2, 2021**

Andres Palacios' call to ministry began when he felt the Lord calling him at Greater Miami Adventist Academy. At his home church, Glenn Aguirre, pastor, disciplined and encouraged him toward full-time ministry.

In his first year at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn., he decided to pursue a B.A. in theology. While at Southern, he met Katherine Schuen, his best friend, and now his wife.

After receiving a call to work in Florida Conference, Palacios then went on to complete a master of divinity from Andrews University.

After two years of being happily married to his beloved Katie, Micah David Palacios was born and is the joy of their lives. Palacios' passions include spending time with his wife, playing with his son, and meditating on God's Word. They are expecting their second child in February 2022.

Palacios joined Markham Woods Church in Longwood, Fla., initially as youth pastor, then served as interim senior pastor. He is now family life and children's ministries pastor.

He is grateful for the experience of growing spiritually while serving Markham Woods Church. He is extremely grateful for the people who continue to support him and his ministry to families. 📍



**Katherine, Andres, and Michael David Palacios**

# Ordinary Celebration of Life Service Becomes Extraordinary

A memorial service held for John Kossick at Florida Living Church, Apopka, Fla., followed the normal pattern with music, prayer, and words of comfort from Alan Jones, pastor, and numerous memories from relatives and friends.

"Both my father and mother were on the school board of a church sponsored elementary school," shared Kevin Kossick, superintendent of education for Georgia-Cumberland Conference. "At a board meeting, the chairman stood up and began to speak, 'There is a single mother of three girls who has applied to enroll them in our school. She has been sacrificing a long time by driving her girls from Akron to Cleveland to another Adventist school where they stay all



**John Kossick's words and actions helped the Wimbish sisters attend Church school. He is pictured with his wife, Betty.**

week with an aunt. Each week, she takes them on Sunday and gets them on Friday.

Now, she must make plans to have them attend locally, so they won't need to enroll in public school.'

"Several protests went up from school board members, then silence until John Kossick spoke, 'I think we need to call the teacher who will be instructing these girls and ask her what she thinks about it.' With a telephone in the room, John strode right to it and called the teacher who graciously responded, 'I'd be delighted to have these girls.' The teacher's reply settled the matter."

At the memorial service, an unexpected voice was suddenly heard as an attractive woman stood and reached for the microphone, "I was one of those three little girls who began attending that Church school," said Osceola Howard. "We fin-



ished elementary school there and went on to academy and college.” All three of those little girls became teachers. Wynona Preston ended up in library media until she retired. Osceola Howard left teaching and began volunteering in the chaplaincy department. Desiree Bryant is now North American Division ministerial spouses leader.

Satan’s plan to destroy these little girls’ Christian education experience was foiled thanks to John Kossick’s words and his actions that day in the school board meeting. God’s will was accomplished. Kossick set an example of “love your neighbor as yourself!” 📌

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BY CHET JORDAN

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The Wimbish sisters finished school, became teachers, and married ministers. From left: Osceola, whose husband, the late Roscoe Howard, D.Min., was one of the vice presidents for what was known as Adventist Health System; Desiree is married to G. Alexander Bryant, D.Min., North American Division president; and Wynona is married to Calvin Preston, South Atlantic Conference vice president for ministerial and evangelism.

# AdventHealth University Professor Ordained

**Andy Lampkin, Ph.D. — August 21, 2021**

Andy Lampkin’s ordination service was unique in nature and diverse in participants. Representatives from Florida Conference, Southeastern Conference, AdventHealth University, and AdventHealth collaborated with the assistance of the North American Division and a female pastor from Southeastern California Conference.

“This program was an example of the best of Adventist institutions coming together: pastoral ministry, education, and healthcare,” said Lampkin. “The diversity of the participants — ethnic, gender, and age — provided a glimpse into God’s idea for humanity, and a picture of the beloved community.”

After surrendering his life to Christ at 10 years of age, Lampkin became active



Sharleen and Andy Lampkin

in church as a teenager and took on many leadership roles. Feeling a deep sense of calling and God’s unyielding nudge, he enrolled at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), Huntsville, Ala., to

major in theology. At Oakwood, his call to the ministry was clarified, and there he met his wife, Sharleen. The family now includes a son, Darius.

Lampkin’s graduate education was obtained at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn., where he earned two master’s degrees and a Ph.D. in religion, specializing in Christian ethics. During this time, he was called into professional ministry at South Central Conference.

Lampkin has since served the religion faculties of Oakwood and Loma Linda universities, and currently teaches Christian bioethics at AdventHealth University in Orlando, Fla. He believes that Christian theological education is sacred work, and that it is a privilege to pastor the next generation of Adventist Christians. 📌

# Knoxville Area Celebrates Service

It felt so good to worship together with members of other churches!” This was the shared sentiment as members and participants gathered in person at the Maryville, Tenn., Church on Sabbath, November 13, 2021. This particular Sabbath marked the conclusion of a 40-day “Season of Service” where local churches were intentionally involved in serving their distinct communities.

Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial director, not only blessed but challenged attendees to continue to serve because service is never out of season. “We don’t stop our life to serve, we are to live a life of service. We don’t get to decide who we will serve because it’s not about us!”

A collage of pictures in a slide show conveyed a visual review of what churches had done in the 40 days. Some churches had donation drives, gathering coats for the cold or food for the hungry. Other churches offered health and wellness fairs, financial training, and parenting classes so that the communities could be healthier, wealthier, and wiser. The scope of service rendered was varied and broad, much of it not dependent on large



RICK GREVE

Children at Hope Central, a safe house for children, enjoy a snack and a story from one of the Knoxville area church members.

outlays of money but definitely funded by personal love and effort.

Mariesa Tinkham from the Knoxville Grace Church concluded the service by singing “Broken Vessels, Amazing Grace,” expressing that all are broken people set free to be God’s hands and feet to serve the hurting and lost.

Following the morning service and a fellowship meal, members were dispersed out into the community, going door to door, sharing food. Backpacks were prepared to take to the Department of Child Services, filled with fleece blankets, stuffed animals, and personal care kits. Another group met at Hope Central, a safe house where children can go to have healthy snacks and enjoy uplifting activities to build their faith in God’s love. A hot haystack meal was prepared to share with people at Water Angels, a ministry dedicated to helping the homeless get off the street through prayer and Christian counseling.

The Sabbath concluded with a time of testimony at the Knoxville First Church.

Those gathered reflected on the joy of serving on this high and happy Sabbath.

The Season of Service continues because service is at the heart of the Gospel. Jesus provided the example saying that “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many,” Matthew 20:28.

The Knoxville area churches will continue to collaborate on into 2022, as they prepare to host the Field School of Evangelism with Roger Hernandez and Southern Adventist University. An ongoing slate of training events and activities will be part of this experience, encouraging members to get involved using their time and talents to grow the Kingdom of God.

Churches involved include Knoxville First, Knoxville North, Knoxville Grace, Knoxville Trinity, Maryville, Lenoir City, Smoky Mountain, Newport, LaFollette, and Oak Ridge. 📍



RICK GREVE

As part of the Celebration of Service weekend, members distributed bags of food to needy members in the community.

BY RICK GREVE, GEOGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE NORTHERN REGION MINISTERIAL DIRECTOR



# Conference Provides Grant for Northern Caribbean University Facilities



Workers at Northern Caribbean University Church lay bricks for the new building. Georgia-Cumberland Conference provided a grant to help fund this project, recognizing how important NCU is to Conference pastors and members.

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) Administrative Committee (ADCOM) voted to support the building project for the Northern Caribbean University Church (NCU) complex in Mandeville, Jamaica, by funding a \$75,000 grant. The University has had a need for new and updated facilities for quite some time. Neil Reid, D.Min., central region ministerial director and former NCU pastor, wrote an email on behalf of GCC pastors of Caribbean descent. The email expressed concern for the work “back home.” This work was particularly important to these Conference pastors since many of them can trace their own conversions back to the work of missionaries in the Caribbean more than 100 years ago.

NCU is the oldest private tertiary institution in Jamaica. Reid first experienced NCU in 1994. He described it as “thriving,” but unfortunately they had no home building.

“In 2003, when I returned [to NCU] as pastor,” says Reid, “the congregation was still utilizing borrowed spaces. The dream for a fixed worship space started to materialize when the congregation broke ground in 2005. However, one year later, work ceased and remained dormant for 15 years. It appears that the island-wide COVID shutdown was God’s moment of destiny to restart the project.”

The appeal made to the Conference made ADCOM realize the importance of NCU to GCC pastors and members. The grant will go to the completion of the sanctuary, School of Religion, and community complex at NCU.

“We appreciate the NCU Church for how it has contributed to growth in our Conference,” says Kurt Allen, vice president for finance. “They have had such an impact and influence on so many of our pastors in Georgia-Cumberland. This grant is just a small way we can give back and say thank

you.” Ellen White wrote in 1901, “Not all are called to personal labor in foreign fields, but all can do something by their prayers and their gifts to aid the missionary work.” The grant from the Conference represents a clarion appeal to the alumni of NCU whose lives were transformed and livelihoods established on the foundation of the education they received. The Conference’s decision was another investment in alignment with Ellen White’s counsel that, “the prosperity of the home work depends largely, under God, upon the reflex influence of the evangelical work done in countries afar off.” Part of the Conference’s mission is to “share the everlasting Gospel through personal and public evangelism.” The grant will help provide NCU with the facilities and resources needed to fulfill that mission. 📌

BY RACHEL BEAVER AND NEIL REID, D.MIN.

# Belisario, Campbell, and Rodriguez Ordained to Gospel Ministry



Ramon Rodriguez (second from left), poses with his family.



Jorge Belisario (second from right), pastor of the New Albany, Tupelo, and Pontotoc Hispanic churches, stands with his family.

Three Gulf States Conference pastors were ordained to the Gospel ministry in October and November 2021. Jorge Belisario, Dwayne Campbell, and Ramon Rodriguez participated in ordination services in local churches with Brian Danese, president of Gulf States, presenting the candidates at each service.

Belisario and Rodriguez shared their service at the New Albany Hispanic Church in New Albany, Miss., on October 30, 2021. Belisario accepted Jesus in a small town in the province of Las Tunas, Cuba. In 2000 he was called to pastor the church he had previously helped plant. Later, in 2006, he was sent to the Theological Seminary of Cuba, where he continued in pastoral ministry at a church near the seminary. Belisario emigrated to the United States in 2010, where he served in various roles as a layperson until Upper Columbia called him to serve as a Bible worker coordinator. In 2012 Belisario enrolled at Oakwood University to continue his theological studies. During the next several years, he completed his bachelor's and master's degrees while pastoring Oakwood's Hispanic Church. Belisario joined Gulf States in 2019, where he pastors three churches alongside his wife of 31 years, Margarita.



Dwayne Campbell, pastor of the Phenix City and Auburn-Opelika churches, stands with his wife, Donna, near the Auburn-Opelika Church.

Rodriguez was born to Puerto Rican parents in Brooklyn, N.Y. Rodriguez grew up loving cars and pursued a degree in auto mechanics, graduating with the high honor of receiving the Labella award for automotive excellence. After giving his life to Jesus in 1985, he was eager to serve in his newfound faith and became a deacon at his local church. He held numerous positions in the church before ultimately enrolling at Atlantic Union College to study theology. Rodriguez has ministered in the Adven-

tist church for the last 29 years in various roles, from the local church to conference office and university settings. His latest duty was pastoring the Olive Branch and Corinth, Miss., churches. Cesarina, his wife of 33 years, has ministered alongside him, with their two daughters.

Campbell's service was held on November 13, 2021, at the Auburn-Opelika Metro Church in Opelika, Ala. Campbell is a native Jamaican with fond memories of growing up in the community of Portmore. Campbell started in ministry by preaching on public buses, and later tent crusades, and in various churches. Campbell became a pastor for the Central Jamaica Conference for five years before enrolling at Andrews University, where he completed his master's degree. Campbell married Donna in 2017. She holds a master's in youth and young adult ministry, and is also a master of social work. Together, the Campbells have served numerous states, including New York and Florida, but presently lead the ministries of the Phenix City, Ala., and Auburn-Opelika Metro churches. 📍

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



# Laurel Celebrates Rummage Sale Legacy

Jerry Black, elder at the Laurel, Miss., Church, has led the rummage sale ministry for the church for more than 10 years. While Black didn't start the ministry that has been operating for 21 years, he took a particular interest in it that inspired others to do the same. Black will often be found at the rummage sale house on the church property. This metal structure building was constructed to clean, organize, and store donated goods that will later be sold to support various ministry projects. Black and his wife, Carolyn, spend many weekdays working there, washing clothes, sorting, and organizing them, repairing miscellaneous furniture and other donated goods, and constantly moving items around to make room for more. Numerous other individuals also help with the ministry, but Black's consistency and leadership helped the large sales succeed.

The rummage sale was started as a creative way to raise funds to support youth and family ministries in the church. One of its primary purposes was to sponsor children to go to summer camp at Camp Alamisco. The church set lofty goals and often met them, funding more than 500 young people to have a whole week at camp. The rummage sale has also been utilized to pay down the mortgage of the family life center. In total, more than \$100K has been raised through the rummage sale ministry.

The ministry operated two large sales each year and required all hands on deck to complete the transport and set up to make it work. "I have never seen any thrift store cleaner and more organized than this church rummage sale," says Marcelo Mansur, pastor at Laurel Church. "They offer an exceptional value to the community and a nice shopping experience." However, these large sales take a lot of effort, which has led



Marcelo Mansur (right), pastor at Laurel Church, presents Jerry Black with a gift to recognize his years of service.



Volunteers work to open the rummage sale.

the ministry to take a new look at how it could be utilized. For example, Melanie Valentine, a local church member, recently organized a "pop-up shop" style rummage sale that lasted only a day but raised more than \$1,000 to assist the Laurel youth in their trip to the Generation.Youth.Christ Conference.

The Laurel Church set aside time

to thank Black for his efforts in the rummage sale ministry on October 17, 2021, and extended thanks to God for the blessings that the ministry has brought to the youth and family ministries of the church. 🕊

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

# Madison Academy, Elementary Host Veterans Day Parade in Honor of Local Veterans

Students from Madison Academy and Madison Campus Elementary assembled by Academy Road for a Veterans Day Parade on November 11, 2021. This is the seventh year the schools have hosted an event to

honor the veterans in their community.

More than 200 people attended the parade. Students and teachers, who wore blue and red, stood by the road and cheered as the veterans drove down the path in their cars. Students also waved their flags and showed their appreciation with handmade posters.

Kris Fuentes, Madison Academy principal, says the schools started planning for the parade two months in advance. According to Fuentes, some of the veterans they contacted for the event included church members and alumni.

“I feel strongly that [Veteran’s Day] is a national holiday for a reason,” Fuentes said. “These are some pretty amazing people who have sacrificed a lot, and their families have sacrificed a lot. For us to just treat it as any other day doesn't honor their sacrifice.”

Madison Academy senior Ethan Jones agrees and says it is important to honor the men and women who have served.

“We easily disassociate ourselves from the sacrifice veterans do,” Jones said. “So, when we do something like this it is nice to remember and be in awe of someone who served your country.”

Madison Academy freshman Chloe Armstrong says she is happy she got a chance to show her appreciation.

“I just think it's really important to honor [veterans] and their sacrifice,” Armstrong said. “We can’t thank them enough for the courage they had to risk their lives just to keep everybody safe.”



PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Madison Campus Elementary students wave U.S. flags and applaud veterans during their annual Veterans Day Parade. In collaboration with Madison Academy, this is the seventh year the schools have hosted an event to honor the veterans in their community.



PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Included in the parade were two Madison Academy students dressed as Uncle Sam and Betsy Ross. The rest of the students, as well as teachers, wore blue and red.



PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

A car with written names and rankings of the local veterans, drives down Academy Road as students cheer. Some of the veterans who attended the school’s parade included alumni and Madison Campus Church members.

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



# Women's Ministries Director Leads Bible Study, Becomes Friends With Ireland Women



PHOTO COURTESY OF GAIL MCKENZIE

A screen capture shows the last meeting Gail McKenzie, Conference women's ministries director, had with the women in Ireland. The group started meeting on October 7, 2021, and studied Thomas Nelson's Bible study plan, *Love God Greatly*.

During October and November, Gail McKenzie, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference women's ministries director, completed a Bible study series with a group of women in Ireland. According to McKenzie, the meetings led to newly formed, long-distance friendships and future plans to meet in person.

McKenzie came in contact with the Irish group after she was asked to lead their spiritual online retreat back in June of 2021. The original speaker had to back out due to personal reasons. After the retreat ended, the women wanted to continue meeting.

"During the retreat, Gail spoke all about digging deeper into the Bible," Pamela Petersen, church member in Coleraine and Londonderry churches in Ireland, said. "...That sparked an interest among the ladies. So, [Gail] offered to do some Bible studies with us."

The group started meeting on October

7, 2021. The hour-long sessions, which were at 1:30 p.m. CT for McKenzie and 7:30 p.m. GMT for the women in Ireland, followed the Bible journal by Thomas Nelson, *Love God Greatly*.

"My friend gave us 20 of these journals, and so we shipped it over there," McKenzie said. "It was a gift. We just wanted to give them something that they could keep and follow, which I think they really loved."

According to McKenzie, the group, which averaged seven to ten participants per meeting, followed the structure described in the acronym SOAP (Scripture, Observation, Application, and Prayer). During the meetings, the women shared their insights from the week's Bible study.

"[The women] enjoyed the fact that this was a safe place to speak," Petersen said. "So, they shared their problems. They shared how the verses have impacted their lives, and maybe even how they

struggled with it. It was like an outlet to really voice the deeper concerns that they wouldn't be sharing in public otherwise."

The Bible study meetings ended on November 18, 2021, but McKenzie says they are planning to pick up a new series in 2022. In addition, McKenzie and Petersen are planning a retreat for the women of Kentucky-Tennessee to visit Ireland in 2022, and for the Irish women to join the Conference's 2023 Women's Ministries Retreat.

"I know that would be extraordinary for them," McKenzie said. "I think it will just deepen their faith and broaden their view. It will give them a world picture that they're not alone. Though they may be a small [group], they're not alone. They have [Ky.-Tenn.] sisters that are praying for them and want to connect." 📍

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

# Highland Elementary Students Go on History Field Trip



PHOTO COURTESY OF HEATHER DRUSKY

Highland Elementary students and teacher pause to rest before the long climb up to the Tennessee State Capitol building.

Seventh- and eighth-grade students from Highland Elementary, Tenn., went on an educational field trip on November 9, 2021, to some of Nashville’s historic locations. The trip was organized by their teacher, Heather Drusky, and was designed to teach students about the U.S. Constitution and government, and how those were influenced by Christian values.

To prepare for the field trip, Drusky contacted William Lamberth, Sumner County majority representative, who helped Drusky work out the itinerary for the day. The class visited six different sites: Sumner County Criminal Court, Sumner County Jail, Tennessee Bicentennial Mall, Tennessee State Museum, Tennessee State Library and Archives, and the Tennessee State Capitol.

“[The trip] brought to life many concepts that we’re learning in history class,”

Drusky said. “Most recently, the Bill of Rights, states vs. federal rights, how bills become laws ... and we were able to see that in action.”

During their visits to these locations, the students met with prominent government figures, including Lamberth, Criminal Court Judge Dee Gay, Republican Senate Leader Jack Johnson, and Governor Bill Lee.

“I found it inspiring that Judge Dee Gay upholds biblical standards in his courtroom,” said Emmaline Litchfield, one of the 8th-grade students. “[He keeps] his 80-year-old family Bible with him for constant guidance.”

Lamberth personally took the class on a tour of the Tennessee State Capitol, where the students had the opportunity to sit in the representative seats and use the voting system for a mock bill. He also presented each student with a signed co-

py of the *Tennessee Blue Book*, a manual of information about Tennessee’s government and history.

According to Drusky, in addition to learning about Tennessee’s history, the trip was a great opportunity for students to learn from firsthand accounts about the various duties government officials perform.

“Our students know that a big part of being a Christian is being of service to others,” Drusky said. “After meeting the different government officials that serve our state, the students better understand what a noble burden it is to represent the morals and values of a people.”

In an upcoming field trip, Drusky’s class will be touring the Portland Municipal Airport as part of the class’ self-directed study. ●

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



# Send Your Pastors to Division-wide CALLED Pastors Family Convention



CALLED Family

The CALLED Pastors Family Convention, is slated for June 19-22, 2022, in Lexington, Ky. This event, which usually only happens once every five years, will allow your pastor to join with fellow church-based clergy and chaplains from around the North American Division for a special ministry experience. The CALLED Convention is planned carefully and prayerfully by the North American Division Ministerial Association to support the work and calling of pastors and their families. This convention is an opportunity for your pastoral family to come aside and restore the fire that first sparked their call to ministry.

The convention will emphasize serving, and the theme “Together in Mission — I Will Go,” will encourage pastors as they fulfill their commitment and calling to ministry. At the convention more than \$120,000 will be given away to pastors/churches to use in evangelism. The list of topics to be explored at the CALLED Convention focuses on the core qualities of an effective pastor. Seminars cover character qualities, technical gifts such as speaking, the opportunity to learn about study tools to deepen sermon preparation, communication networks to keep the church connected as a community, how to engage as an Adventist Christian

with current issues the world is facing, and the list goes on.

Conferences and unions are working together to support the funds needed to get your pastor there, but you can support too. Encourage your pastor to go, understand that it may be time away from your church, but the church will reap the benefits. The next time you see your pastor ask, “Pastor, will you be attending the CALLED Convention?” 📍

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BY HEATHER CREWS

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# Prayer Results in \$60,000 Miracle



The Great Controversy Project team includes Ephraim Pembleton, pastor and personal ministries leader at Trinity Church, Athens, Ala.; Sandra Price, Ph.D., personal ministries leader at Athens Ala., Church; Isaac Olatunji, Ph.D., pastor at Stateline Church; Matthew Sandvik, pastor at Athens Church; and Roy Rugless, retired pastor and Conference director.

How in the world can the work of God get finished? Roy Rugless, retired pastor and department director for the South Central Conference, received an advertisement from Remnant Publications in Coldwater, Mich., with an invitation to join them in getting the book *The Great Controversy* to the nation. Rugless got excited and enlisted Ephraim Pembleton, personal ministries leader for Trinity Church in Athens, Ala., and Sandra Price, Ph.D., personal ministries leader at Athens Church in the same city, to plan and initiate mailing the book to the entire county of Limestone, Ala.

The group decided to respond unitedly to the invitation of Remnant Publications. Both churches would work together; however, it would take \$60,000, more than what these two small churches could handle. It was then suggested that instead of trying to do all the zip codes of the county at once, to just do one or two in increments, and perhaps the project could be completed within a couple of years. But, God had another plan.

A prayer group in Athens, who have been together for a couple of years, took on the need as a major prayer

point. Members of the churches gave sacrificially, but it wasn't enough. The church members solicited their friends who were not members to support the initiative. The Stateline Church in Ardmore, Ala., joined the effort. Believe it or not, what was thought would take 2-3 years to complete, was accomplished in 4½ months. The \$60,000 was raised! The church families praise God and give Him the glory for the great things He has done. 🙏

BY PASTOR ROY RUGLESS



# Orchard Park Members Hold End-of-Summer Block Party

Last summer, on Sunday, August 8, 2021, the Orchard Park Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., hosted its annual end-of-summer block party. For six years they have been hosting the block party as a ministry initiative to connect the church with the community. There was food, fun activities for children and adults, and several community organization vendors that offered resources to the community.

Even during a global pandemic, the result of the event exceeded expectations for all involved. Orchard Park decided to change things up a little. To maximize



Community resident chooses items to take home.



Social Services station



Attendees chose from free items to take home.



Orchard Park Church's block party booth

on building social capital with the community and community vendors, a giveaway was added to the event. The church obtained a truck load of food, small appliances, fans, vacuum cleaners, health and beauty aids, clothes, shoes, and more. The items were free for the attendees in exchange to a visit at the vendor's tables. At the conclusion of their visit, the attendees were given two or three tickets that allowed them to select from the wide array of giveaway items.

When each guest registered, they re-

ceived three white tickets redeemable for free food, drinks, a snow cone, and a bag to fill with all the shelf staple foods the bag could hold. There were also two vendor booths with blue tickets worth five points each. One booth signed people up for Bible studies, and the other signed people up for the anti-poverty program Getting Ahead. Attendees who registered at the two church booths received

two blue tickets. Approximately 70 people submitted their contact information for Bible studies, and close to 40 did the same for Getting Ahead. An on-site COVID vaccine station gave free shots to about 12 people.

The day went down as a great success, with more than 300 community residents in attendance. 📍

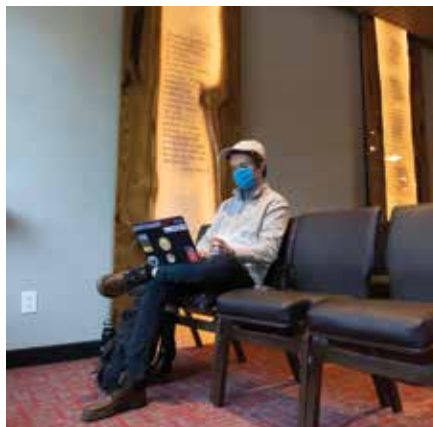
BY PASTOR TROY BRAND

# Student Center Receives Design Awards

The new Bietz Center for Student Life at Southern Adventist University has won four awards from the Association of University Interior Designers (AUID), a national organization. Most notably, wall art in the Bietz Center’s Jack Blanco Chapel won “Best in Show.” Entries were submitted by universities across the country and were independently judged by professionals in architecture and interior design.

“The ‘Best in Show’ almost put me in tears,” said Becky Djernes, interior design and real estate coordinator at Southern. “Never in my wildest dreams would I have expected that a spiritual project would win. When it did, I just smiled and said, ‘God, you win. You always win.’”

The chapel was named in honor of Jack Blanco, Ph.D., a retired dean of the university’s School of Religion. In planning the winning wall art, Djernes had asked Blanco, “If you had only four Bible verses to share the Gospel with someone, what



RYAN PIERCE

The award-winning wall art in Southern’s Jack Blanco Chapel encourages visitors to reflect on the Gospel message.

would they be?” His answers (Jeremiah 29:11, John 3:16-17, John 14:1-3, and Revelation 22:1-3) are printed in their entirety on large panels. Additionally, the backlit panels showcase copies of Blanco’s handwritten Bible study notes that eventually

became The Clear Word paraphrase.

The Blanco Chapel wall art also won first place in the “Specialty” category. Additional Bietz Center awards included second place in the “Specialty” category for metal wall art in The Hangout, and third place in the “Renovations \$50,000-\$150,000” category for the Southern Shoppe.

The awards were announced during this year’s AUID annual conference, which was held in Chattanooga, Tenn., not far from Southern. As part of the conference, more than 20 AUID members toured the University’s campus. Attendees expressed appreciation for Southern’s beautiful grounds and cohesive architectural theme. Djernes was thrilled by the response, saying, “What really made me happy was having several people say, ‘You can see evidence of God across your campus.’”

BY AMANDA BLAKE

# New Laboratory Equipment Expands Research Potential

Southern acquired new laboratory equipment this school year, expanding the scientific research possibilities. For students seeking preparation for a competitive job market or graduate school application process, this type of hands-on training provides a valuable advantage.

Students now have access to a beamline device in the Physics and Engineering Department — worth more than \$280,000 — on loan from Vola Andrianarijaona, Ph.D., a professor who joined Southern’s faculty in 2020. According to Andrianarijaona,

this equipment can replicate interstellar physical conditions, and create particles of astrophysical interests by guiding an ion beam through a vacuum.

“You can see what happens between stars when these kinds of particles collide,” Andrianarijaona said. “There are so many applications, so many things we can do.”

Arian Dovald, Physics Club president and junior physics major, is excited to work on the beamline: “It will be challenging, but we’ll learn so much from the experience.”

The Biology Department also acquired new equipment, upgrading its centrifuge. This device, which separates substances based on their density, will be useful for other departments on campus as well.

“The centrifuge is a critical instrument in biological and biochemical research,” said Rhonda Scott, Ph.D., chemistry professor. “It is important to have new equipment for students to use.”

BY AMANDA BLAKE



**ARMANTROUT, KATHERINE (KAY)**

**LAVONNE COX**, 89, born Oct. 17, 1931 in Burt County, NE, died Aug. 10, 2021 in Springfield, TN. She lived a full, active life, working as an administrative assistant, professional horse breeder, real estate broker, and airplane pilot. In 1950 she married Burton D. Cox, who returned to school to study medicine. He established a family practice in Kansas, where Armantrout managed the office. The couple established a church in their small town and were active in the local community. Their marriage ended in 1982. Kay later moved to Missouri to be near her aged parents. While there she met and married Dr. James Armantrout. This union added several step-children and a number of step-grandchildren to her family, which was a great joy for her. They later relocated to north Georgia to be near family. Later, due to declining health, she and Jim moved to Springfield, TN, to be near his son Douglas. The couple then became members of the Ridgeway, TN, Church. She is survived by her husband, James Armantrout; one sister, Margaret Rouse; one brother, Warren Thomas; one son, Burton D. Cox; step-children: Pat Wright, Diane Kehm, Douglas Armantrout, and Jeff Armantrout; grandchildren: Elias Cox, and Hannah Cox Karrels; step-grandchildren: Micah Armantrout, Ben Armantrout, Chris Armantrout, Ryan Armantrout, Brandi Tucker, Justin Wright, Michelle Grayum, Brian Wright, Nick Kehm, and Amanda Kehm, and 18 great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Kathrine Susan, and step-grandson, Aaron Armantrout.

**BOSTIAN, DONALD (DON) FRED**

88, born Feb. 19, 1933, in Northumberland, PA, to Fred Geyer and Myrtle Marie Mertz, who were devout Lutherans, died Aug. 21, 2021 at his home in Fletcher Park Inn, Hendersonville, NC. 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 Sev-

enth-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 to 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 in Takoma Park, MD, in January 1950, to work his way through college as he studied to become a minister. Donald married Dorothy (Dot) Walker during his senior year on December 29, 1955. Don was invited to intern for the Potomac Conference with Elder Stuart at the Richmond, VA, Patterson Ave SDA Church. He graduated from the Seventh-day Adventist Seminary in August 1958. On June 24, 1961, Don was ordained to the ministry at the Potomac Camp Meeting. Don 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 Herald Church in Hyattsville, MD, with a medical clinic (1962 - 1964). - Worthington SDA Church, near Columbus, Ohio (1964 - 1969). - Atlantic Union college Church (1969 - 1972). - Kettering Memorial Church, Kettering, Ohio (1972 - 1977). - Vallejo Drive Church, Glendale, CA (1977 - 1983). - Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL (1983 - 1991). - Walker Memorial Church, Avon Park, FL (1991 - 1996). Don and Dot retired in Aug. 1996 and moved to New Market, VA, where family lived. In 2010, they moved to Fletcher Park Inn in Hendersonville. A memorial service

for Don was held October 2, 2021, at the Fletcher, NC, Church. Elder Bill Knott, editor of the Adventist Review, who was baptized by Pastor Don Bostian on May 10, 1969, at the Atlantic Union College Church, spoke at Don's memorial service. Surviving Don are his wife of 65 years, Dorothy Walker Bostian of Hendersonville; sister, Elizabeth Harris of Chattanooga, TN; brother-in-law, Bill Wetherell of Hendersonville; sister and brother-in-law, Joan and Charles Ripley; five nieces; seven nephews; and 12 great nieces and nephews. Preceding Don in death are his parents, Fred Geyer and Myrtle Marie Mertz Bostian; his brother, Robert; and sister, Beatrice Wetherell.

**BURGER, RACHAEL ANN**

51, of Athens, TN, born March 13, 1970, in Athens, TN, died Aug. 16, 2021, preceded by a stroke one year prior. Rachael was raised in a Christian home, was a member of the Athens, TN, Church, and was educated in the Seventh-day Adventist school system, including Fletcher Academy, Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Southern Adventist University, UTC, and Cleveland State. Rachael had been employed many years by CPA's Warren and Jackson. She is survived by her parents David and Peggy Burger of Englewood, companion, David Roberts of Athens; sister, Dawn B. Powell of McMinnville; two nephews: Coley and Caleb Gunderson; special friends, Nancy Crabtree, Brenda Marshall, her cat Olga; and many aunts and uncles. She was preceded in death by her paternal and maternal grandparents; her sister, Amy Jean Burger; and several aunts and uncles. A memorial service was conducted with Pastors David Wendt and LeClaire Litchfield officiating. A private interment will be conducted at a later date in Athens. Smith Funeral Home in Athens was in charge of the services.

**DRAKE, ANGENIE TALAROC**

47, born Aug. 1, 1974 in Tudela, on the southern Philippine Island of Mindanao, to Angelito Canedo Talaroc, a professional fisherman and Ruby Janolgue Talaroc, Angie died Oct. 13, 2021 in a local Chattanooga, TN, hos-

pital due to sudden and unexpected complications from Rheumatic Heart Disease. The funeral was held in the McDonald Road Church, followed by interment in the Collegedale Memorial Park Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Robert Drake; mother, Ruby Talaroc; brother and sister-in-law, Regie and Alice Talaroc and their three children: Vienz, Alisha Mae, and Vance. As a teenager, Angie was a member of the Taboc Sur SDA Church in Oroquieta City, Mindanao, where she joyfully served as a popular AYA leader, and frequently lent her beautiful voice to sing praises to God with local music groups and as a soloist. She worked her way through Mountain View College, graduating in 1999 with a B.S. degree in secretarial administration. She then served a year as a volunteer stenographer for her hometown police department which opened the door to her first “real” job working as a legal secretary for the Philippine Department of Justice, Office of Corporate Council in Manila. After being on the job for about four years, Angie met her future husband, Robert Edward Drake online in the Adventist Options website. They immediately sensed a kindred spirit between them. A short but intense courtship followed their initial meeting, which involved hundreds of emails, text messages, and video calls covering every topic and point of view imaginable. After prayerful consideration, and much council from local US-based Filipinos, Robert popped the question at midnight on Dec. 31, 2004 by long distance phone call. Angie immediately replied with an enthusiastic YES while watching the local New Year’s Eve fireworks display. Five months later, Robert flew across 12 time zones and 12,000 miles to the Philippines to meet and marry the love of his life. Angie’s father proudly marched his radiant daughter down the aisle at a beautiful seaside resort to Robert’s waiting arms on May 19, 2005. There were well over 250 family members and guests in attendance, complete with a full honor guard of high-ranking police officers from the local, district, and regional police departments, several of whom signed Robert and Angie’s Wedding

Certificate. The next two years were spent negotiating all the trials and tribulations of immigrating to the U.S. But finally, on Sept. 20, 2007 Angie set foot on U.S. soil in Chattanooga, to be Robert’s wife, team-mate, and best friend for life. The happy couple served in several positions at the McDonald Road SDA Church, and made their home on the outskirts of Southern Adventist University’s campus in Collegedale, TN. They could be seen frequently walking close together, hand in hand, in church, or out on the sidewalks and trails around Collegedale on Sabbath afternoons and evenings. For the last 11 years, Angie found a rewarding career in the U.S. working 2nd shift at the McKee Foods Plant #2. She frequently volunteered to learn new skills and fill-in for missing people, which combined with her excellent attendance and cheerful work ethic, made her quite popular with her coworkers and supervisors. Angie’s beautiful smile (inherited from her mother) could light up her surroundings no matter where she found herself. And her ability to network with her many family members and friends, both here in the U.S. and around the world, was nothing short of fantastic. But best of all, she was an incredibly loving, affectionate wife to Robert. She always expressed a grateful attitude for their many blessings together as a couple. They had complementary personalities and fit together extremely well. Together, they had meticulously planned a thorough house renovation, much traveling in the U.S., and some singing, teaching, and preaching in the Philippines for Robert’s retirement years. While those plans are on hold for now, Robert firmly believes he will see Angie’s radiant smile again on resurrection morning. Instead of a renovated house on this old Earth, they will walk hand in hand into a beautiful mansion in the New Jerusalem. And instead of traveling the U.S., they will travel God’s magnificent universe together. Their solid faith in the promises of the Lord Jesus Christ and their commitment to serving and praising His name virtually, guarantees it. Even so, Lord Jesus come quickly!

**LEWIS, ELEANOR M.**, 97, born June 28, 1924 in Panama City, FL. She was a member of the Apison, TN, Church, and is interred at Collegedale Memorial Park in Collegedale TN. She is survived by her three children: Wayne Lewis of Dayton, TN, Sharon (Steve) Foister of Tumwater, WA, and Evonne (Bill) Richards of Collegedale; daughter-in-law, Jeanne (Glen, deceased) Lewis of Tunnel Hill, GA; 16 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. Eleanor was preceded in death by her husband, Stanley Lewis.

**POLIVKA, RICHARD (RICH) EDWARD**, 77, of Hendersonville, NC, born Oct. 13, 1943 in Chicago, IL, to the late Frank and Mildred Polivka, died Oct. 8, 2021 after a period of declining health. Upon graduating from high school, Rich volunteered to serve our country in the United States Marine Corps. He was proud to be a Vietnam Veteran. After his time in the Marines, Rich was employed as an installer and repairman for Bell Telephone Company. He retired at the age of 54. Rich was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church, where he enjoyed being a deacon for the past 45 years. He loved his family and enjoyed spending time with his grandchildren. He is survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Shirley Miller Polivka of Hendersonville; three children: Lora (Jeremy) Patton of Hendersonville, Dawn (Kris) Christianson of Jasper, IN, Richie Polivka of Hendersonville, grandchildren: Jordyn and Ciara, Stephen, Nick and Cassidy; brother, Terry (Trish) Polivka of Naperville, IL; and numerous nieces and nephews. Richard is predeceased by one brother, Frank Polivka. Rich was buried at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Hendersonville.

**ROSS, ROBERT (ROB)**, 72, born April 20, 1949 in Acushnet, MA, to John and Mary (Freitas) Rose, died Sept. 3, 2021. He grew up in New Bedford, MA, where he graduated from New Bedford High School in 1967. He went on to St Joseph’s Hospital in Providence, RI, graduating with a degree from the School of Cytotechnology in 1971;



then Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA, where he received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1981. He then went on to Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor, ME, to receive a Master's of Divinity Degree in 1990. Robert loved photography, the outdoors, landscaping, and people. He met Rosalee Boykin while working at Sturdy Memorial Hospital in North Attleboro, MA. They married in 1976 and resided in Bangor, ME, for many years where they joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He ministered in the Gulf States Conference and Northern New England Conference. Robert is survived by his wife of 45 years, Rosalee. He will be remembered for his gentle, loving spirit, and desire to share the love of God with others. He fought his battle with dementia and auto immune neuropathy with grace knowing his Savior's love while residing in a local healthcare facility for more than two years. A memorial service was held Oct. 9, 2021 under the pavilion at Persimmon Ridge Park in Jonesborough, TN, with Pastor Paull Dixon officiating.

**SWAFFORD, BEVERLY JOYCE DEAN**, born July 2, 1951, at St. Helena, CA, died Sept. 3, 2021 from a deadly bout with COVID-19. In 70 years, she crossed paths of many families and friends as a wife, mother, nurse, and business woman. She was the daughter of Dr. Cyril F. Dean (d. 1998) and Norma Jean Hubbell Dean (d. 2021) of Chattanooga, TN. The family moved to Collegedale, TN, in 1962, where her father was a professor of physical education at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). While attending Collegedale Academy, she was introduced to Carl Swafford, her future husband. High school sweethearts, the couple started dating Feb. 14, 1968, and were married five years later on May 11, 1973. Beverly had finished her A.S. degree in nursing at Southern Missionary College and Carl was set to return and finish his degree in the fall. Since the couple didn't have a house, and Beverly was waiting for results from her nursing boards, they decided to take an extended honeymoon. It was the best trip ever and a great

way to start their marriage. Three and half months later they returned to Collegedale. Beverly started work at Parkridge Hospital in Chattanooga, and Carl returned to finish his degree. This was the start of a life of travel and camping and spending time in nature. Because Carl was a teacher, they had the summers free to travel. It was not unusual for them to drive 5,000 miles in the summer touring 49 states, Canada, Costa Rica, Panama, and Mexico. In 1974, Carl was called to teach biology in Knoxville, TN. Beverly worked as a night nurse at Park West Hospital. On her days off she would help at the school with picnics and special events. One time she served as a substitute teacher in first grade. In 1977, they returned to Collegedale. There they welcomed two sons Christopher and Corbin. Beverly decided to pause from nursing and be with the boys until they started school. Beverly loved animals. Throughout her adult life she kept horses, sheep, goats, dogs, cats and other furry friends. A friend gave her a pair of canaries. From that pair she started a hobby of raising cage birds. Eventually her flock grew to 2,500 birds in their basement with more than 36 different species. Beverly entered her canaries in shows around the eastern United States. She organized the first Cage Bird Show in Chattanooga, and supplied 18 pet stores in the tri-state area with the young birds that she raised. Once the boys started school, Beverly returned to nursing at Parkridge Hospital in Chattanooga. There she worked on the orthopedic floor, GI Lab, and finished in Day Surgery. She loved working with patients. In 2007, her first granddaughter was born. She worked part time at the hospital and cared for the baby on her days off. In 2011, Beverly went into property management with her son Corbin. She continued to work part time at the hospital and take on the duties of property manager. In 2013, she retired and worked full time with her son. Community service was part of her daily life. The people loved her and she loved them. For Christmas and holidays, she did special community activities and provided meals for those in need. Her hobbies included

reading, horses, koi fish, and searching for Christmas items and antiques. She loved decorating for holidays, especially Christmas. Her house was also filled with beautiful violets. On her 10-acre rural property near McDonald, TN, the grandchildren could fish in their two-acre pond or enjoy her outdoor koi pond with dozens of colorful Japanese fish. Despite the responsibility for her mother in convalescent care and her sister Shirley, Beverly always had time for family and friends, especially her grandchildren. She loved Indian food especially and feasting with her family and friends. The Swafford's are longtime members of the Collegedale Church, and Beverly went to her rest to wait for the second coming of Jesus Christ, her Savior. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Dr. Carl Swafford, former dean of graduate studies at Southern Adventist University; son, Christopher, an educator, and wife, Jodie, a nurse, of Cooranbong, NSW, Australia — they have two children: Sadie and Jackson; son, Corbin, a property manager, and his wife, Julie, a physical therapist, live in Yucaipa, CA — they have two children: Ryder and Sophie. Services were held Dec. 12, 2021.

**WILKINSON, DONALD EUGENE**, 84, born Feb. 17, 1937, the son of the late Roland A. and Bertha Haefeli Wilkinson, died Wednesday, Sept. 15, 2021 at his home. Donald was a farmer where he formerly worked at Greenwood Dairy Farm and was a member of 2nd SC 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 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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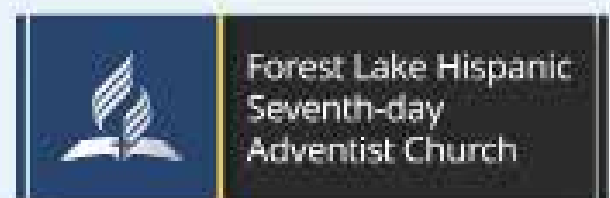
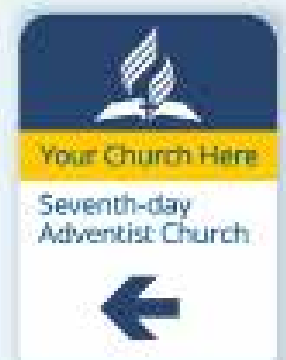
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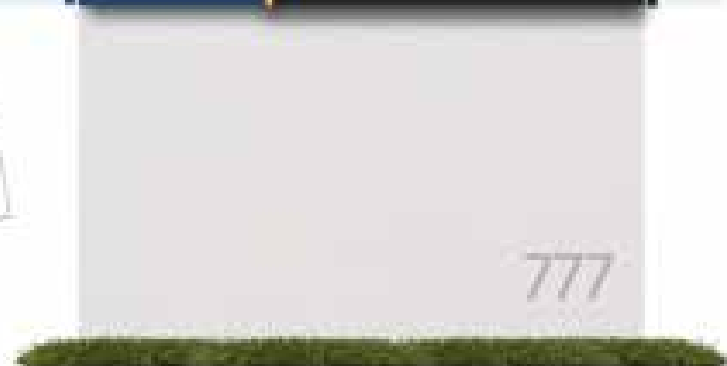
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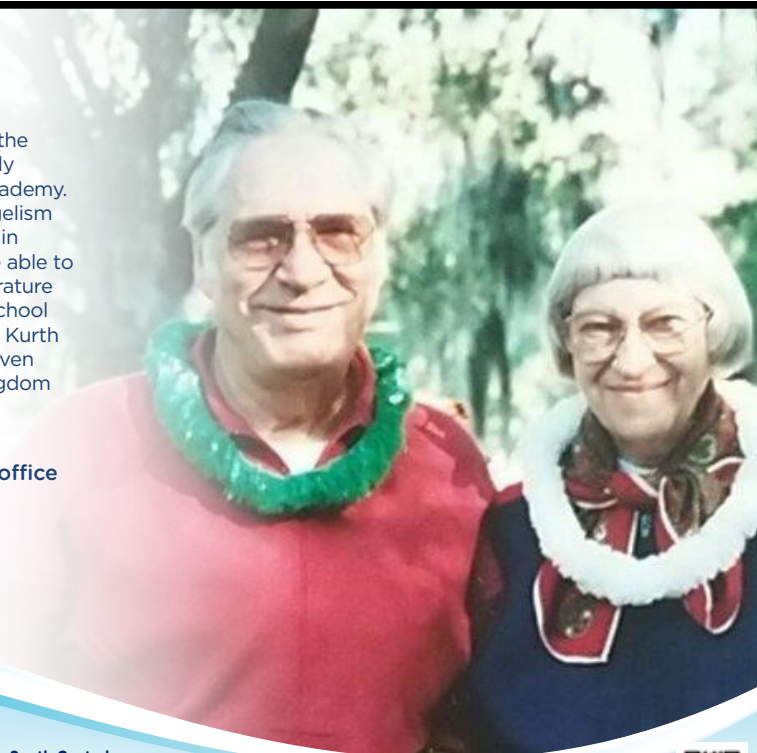
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Elder Robert Kurth and his wife Janet, attended the Gadsden Church for several years. They faithfully supported students going to Bass Memorial Academy. Elder Robert and Janet passionately cared for evangelism and planned appropriately to see the work continue in Gadsden. Lay pastor, Mike Duman reports, "We were able to have an evangelistic crusade, purchase plenty of literature to pass out, and finally set up an It Is Written Bible school operating from our church." We praise God for Elder Kurth and Janet's faithfulness to support the Lord's work even after their deaths. We believe souls will be in the kingdom because of their sacrifice. May God be praised!

► For more information, call your Planned Giving office



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## JOIN US ON CAMPUS

### Symphony Orchestra Concert, January 30

Under the direction of Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, Southern's Symphony Orchestra and guest harpist, Bridget Kibbey, will present a special selection of music in the Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists beginning at 4 p.m. This event is free and open to all. For livestreaming information and other School of Music events, visit [southern.edu/musicevents](https://southern.edu/musicevents).

### Hiking and Mountain Biking Trails

Free and highly rated, Southern's nearly 40 miles of on-campus hiking and biking trails are open to everyone. The trails are suitable for everything from a peaceful Sabbath walk to a muscle-toning endurance workout. For more information and trail maps, visit [southern.edu/trails](https://southern.edu/trails).

### From Script to Scripture Exhibit

Southern's on-campus Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum features a temporary exhibit titled "From Script to Scripture." Explore the history of the alphabet, the transition from scrolls to books, and the role of the written word—particularly the Bible—during the Reformation and beyond. This exhibit features rare, original Bibles such as a 1611 King James Version and a translation by Martin Luther. For more information, visit [southern.edu/archaeology](https://southern.edu/archaeology).

## JOIN US ONLINE

Southern's weekly vespers programs, held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary, are broadcast live each Friday evening at 7:30 p.m.

To view online, visit [southern.edu/streaming](https://southern.edu/streaming).

## WE'LL COME TO YOU

We have abundant resources representing numerous areas of expertise. Let Southern help when planning for guest speakers, workshops, music, and drama programs at your church or school. [southern.edu/resourceguide](https://southern.edu/resourceguide)

### Visit Us

Southern welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern. For more information, go online to [southern.edu/visit](https://southern.edu/visit).



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**CAROLINA**

- Winter Magabook Program** - Dec. 12-Jan. 6.
- Academy Prayer Conference** - Jan. 19-22. Camp Kulaqua.
- Carolina Evangelism IMPACT** - Feb. 3-6. Myrtle Beach, SC.
- Romance at the Ranch (English)** - Feb. 11-13. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
- Romance at the Ranch (Spanish)** - Feb. 18-20. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
- Awaken: Young Adult Rally** - Feb. 18-20. Charlotte, NC.
- Music Festival** - March 3,4. Mount Pisgah Academy.
- Pathfinder Work-Bee Campout** - March 18-20. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
- Carolina Pathfinder Camporee** - March 23-27. Camp Barnhardt.
- MPA Alumni Weekend** - April 8,9. Mount Pisgah Academy.
- Adventurer Fun Day #1** - April 9,10, Nosoca Pines Ranch.
- Adventurer Fun Day #2** - April 23,24, Nosoca Pines Ranch.
- MPA Academy Days** - April 29,30, Mount Pisgah Academy.

**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND**

- Pathfinder TLT Convention** - Jan. 14-16. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.
- District 1 Pre-session** - Jan. 15, 4pm. Macon Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA.
- Hispanic Children's Ministries Leadership South GA Training** - Jan. 15. Augusta Hispanic Church, August, GA.
- Mobilize Conference** - Jan. 15. Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
- District 2 Pre-session** - Jan. 22, 4pm. Atlanta North Church, Dunwoody, GA.
- Hispanic Children's Ministries Leadership Atlanta Training** - Jan. 22.
- Pathfinder Bible Experience Regional Level** - Jan. 22.
- District 3 Pre-session** - Jan. 29, 4pm. Calhoun Church, Calhoun, GA.
- Hispanic Children's Ministries Leadership North GA & TN Training** - Jan. 29.
- Hispanic Men's Ministries Leadership Training** - Jan. 30.
- Oasis High School Retreat** - Feb.

- 4-6. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- Master Guides Winter Camp** - Feb. 4-6. Roan Mountain Park, Roan Mountain, GA.
- Children's Ministries Convention** - Feb. 11-13. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- District 4&5 Pre-session** - Feb. 12, 2022, 4 p.m. Collegedale Community Church, Ooltewah, GA.
- Pathfinder Teen Event/Teen Challenge** - Feb. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- District 6 Pre-session** - Feb. 19, 2022, 4pm. Knoxville First Church, Knoxville, GA.
- ACF Connect Retreat** - Feb. 25-27. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- Pathfinder Bible Experience Conference Level** - Feb. 26.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

- 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.
- Symphony Orchestra Concert** - Jan. 30. Under the direction of Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, Southern's Symphony Orchestra and guest

harpist, Bridget Kibbey, will present a special selection of music in the Collegedale, Tenn., Church beginning at 4 p.m. For livestreaming information and other School of Music events, visit southern.edu/musicevents.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING - Feb. 18-20.** You are invited to a special weekend Camp Meeting with Sean Boonstra in the beautiful Florida Keys. Come 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. For information, please contact Laura Saladino at 423-972-7694. See you at Camp Meeting!

**SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Aug. 24-27, 2023. Orlando, FL.** The convention had to be rescheduled from the Sept. 2022 date to the Aug. 2023 date.

SUNSET						
	JAN 7	JAN 14	JAN 21	JAN 28	FEB 4	FEB 11
ATLANTA, GA	5:46	5:52	5:59	6:05	6:12	6:19
CHARLESTON, SC	5:30	5:36	5:43	5:49	6:56	6:02
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:28	5:34	5:41	5:48	5:56	6:03
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:45	5:52	5:58	6:06	6:13	6:20
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:52	4:59	5:05	5:12	5:19	5:26
JACKSON, MS	5:12	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:44
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:40	5:47	5:54	6:02	6:10	6:18
MEMPHIS, TN	5:05	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:33	5:40
MIAMI, FL	5:46	5:52	5:57	6:02	6:07	6:12
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:57	5:03	5:09	5:16	5:22	5:28
NASHVILLE, TN	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:18	5:25
ORLANDO, FL	5:45	5:51	5:57	6:02	6:08	6:14
TAMPA, FL	5:51	5:56	6:02	6:08	6:13	6:19
WILMINGTON, NC	5:19	5:25	5:32	5:39	5:46	5:52



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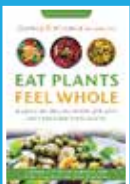
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