

T Southern TIDINGS

MARCH 2022



Seventh-day
Adventist Church



STARKE

1 MILE

CONVERSION AT SUMMER CAMP

NO LIMITS ON GOD

The Drawing Power of the Cross



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

“And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me,” John 12:32. The double play on words does not really come through well in English. John has chosen a word that in the Greek has two meanings. In this text, it means to lift up a person on the cross for the purposes of execution. It acquired that technical meaning as the gruesome practice of crucifixion spread through the Roman Empire.

But, the word has a second meaning. The emperor’s enthronement also was spoken of as a lifting up. Thus, the word has the meaning of the exalting or lifting up of a ruler for crowning.

Did John have this in mind as well? Yes, it would appear that he did. Jesus saw the cross as a path to glory He would share with the Father. Exalted through the cross, He would unite with the Father and reign with Him.

With such a glory in view, He prayed, “Father, glorify thy name,” John 12:28. The Father’s voice replied, “I have both glorified it, and will glorify it.”

Because Jesus’ act on the cross would pass judgment on the world, Satan had lost his dominion (verse 31). In the cross, Jesus received the right to rule. He would share the glory of the Father and the adoration of His people. The cross would attract, not as a horror spectacle, but through it the true King of the world now reigned.

When we consider the cross, remember that it stood alone and unused a few hours later. When we think of the garden tomb, remember also that it lay open and empty a few hours later. The cross carried the guilt of the world, but it also ignited the glory of resurrection and deliverance.

The drawing power of the cross continues. The cross bridged the way to Heaven. Now our Lord draws men to Him through His sacrifice and through the glory of His resurrection.

As self dies at the cross, one knows what the future may hold. There, too, the way to glory appears for each of us. Like Jacob’s ladder that spanned from Earth to Heaven, the cross raises us to Heaven itself so that we might reign with the Lord.

Every evangelistic initiative within the Southern Union this year, whether it’s a Gospel proclamation campaign, a Bible study group, literature distribution, or any community service undertaking, must include the showcasing of a “high and lifted up” Savior on the cross. Multiplying our membership through reconnecting with circumstantially dislodged people is enhanced when the optic of the cross is front and center.

I am so thankful to God for the wonderful community of believers in the Southern Union who keep their hands on deck for the recovery of our brothers and sisters, through the drawing power of the cross, who have been victimized by pain and atrocities of this 21st century age.

Remember, “Christ looks upon His people in their purity and perfection, as the reward of His humiliation, and the supplement of His glory—Christ, the great Center, from whom radiates all glory,” *The Desire of Ages*, p. 680. —RCS 📌



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COVER PHOTO BY: R. Steven Norman III

COVER CAPTION: Reggie Mattison, Southern Union sign engineer, stands next to the new style directional sign.

Reggie Mattison, Southern Union sign engineer, stands next to the new style directional sign.



Seventh-day
Adventist Church



STAR

1 MIL

YOU HAVE ARRIVED

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

I was visiting a city and was looking for a specific place. I stopped and asked if I was near my destination. The individual told me I was close to it. The directions I received were simple: “Go down the street, at the light, make a left, and continue down that road a short distance and you’ll see it; you won’t miss it.” I faithfully followed the directions, and sure enough, there it was. Before I saw the building, I knew I was at the correct location long before reading the letters. I knew I was there because of its branding and its identifiable logo. It was the sign. Signs let us know that we have arrived at the desired location. Signs are more than address holders; signs also serve as landmarks to inform us that we have reached the destination for which we are looking.

Church signs are even more vital. I was the guest preacher at a church. I was given the address and made my way there for the Sabbath service. I drove to

“Signs are more than address holders; signs also serve as landmarks to inform us that we have reached the destination for which we are looking.”

Bryant Taylor, D.Min.

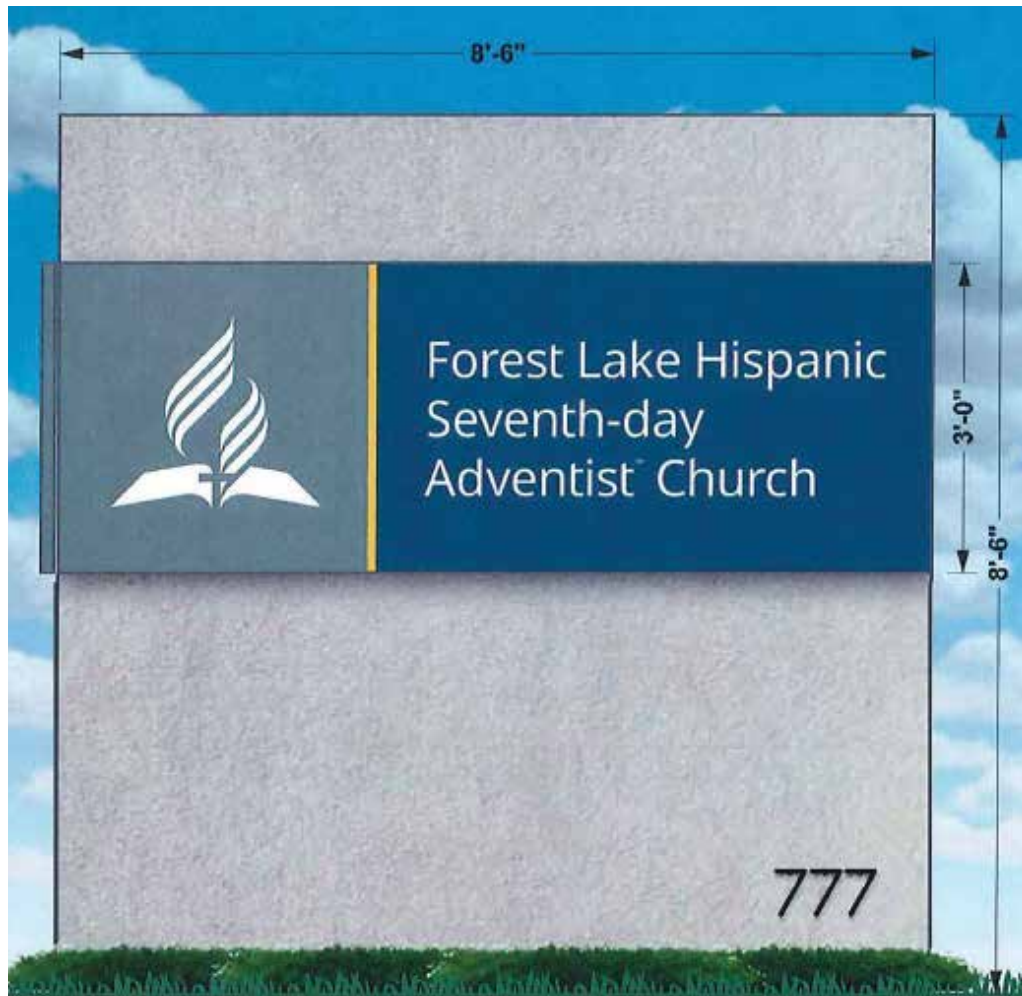
the address I was given, and clearly, it was not the church I was looking for, nor any other church. It was a home in a residential neighborhood. I chuckled as I

thought of the term “house of worship,” but this was not it either. I began to try to figure out what the mix-up could have been. Perhaps I drove past it, and I kept driving up and down the street and did not see it. Realizing I could not figure out where it was, I made a phone call and discovered I had been given the wrong address. I had actually driven by the church two times and did not know it. There was no landmark to identify I had arrived at the place, no branding, and no identifiable logo to let me know this was the right place. There was no sign to assure me I had arrived.

The Southern Union recognizes the value of a branded and logo identifiable sign, and has a service for that. Signs are important landmarks. They identify the location, display the name, and the recognizable logo. They make it easy for a first-time visitor to see, identify, and know they have arrived.

Signs share another message; they convey to the viewer messages about the experience they will have inside. My wife and I are gastronomes — we love good food, and we seek new restaurants to try. Sometimes when we arrive at a suggested or Google-searched restaurant, we do not get out of the car, but keep driving to look for a different place. Why? The sign, the chipping paint, missing or dangling letters, the trash all around the base gave us a glimpse of what we would find inside, and that was a risk we were not willing to take. Just as we did, people will judge what your church offers and what they will receive based on the sign. They look at the church sign and wonder, is the service as old and lifeless as the sign, will the members welcome them, are the facilities modern and accommodating? So many snap judgments are made based on the church sign. Are your church signs attractive and inviting?

The Church Identification Service offers three sign options: monument, highway directional, and billboard. The Southern Union is invested in each church acquiring church signs, making



“There was no landmark to identify I had arrived at the place, no branding, and no identifiable logo to let me know this was the right place.”

Bryant Taylor, D.Min.

the process easy. Understanding the challenges of finances and cash flow and a desire to make acquiring a sign affordable, Church Identification Service has a great relationship with a top sign manufacturer. With a 50% deposit, the Church Identification Service orders the sign and contacts the local municipality to begin the permit process. Once the permit is received, an additional 25% is due. When the site visit is complete, the arrangements for installation are made. When the sign is complete, the remaining 25% is due. Once the Church Identification Service receives the sign from the factory and delivers it, it’s installed. Voilà! The church, has a new, branded, logo-identifiable sign. The site <https://www.southernunion.com/ministries-services/communication/church->



MONUMENT WITH CHANGEABLE LETTER

A classic church sign fits your church's budget. A 5' 6" W x 8'6" H, with changeable letters.



MONUMENT

A structural steel frame with aluminum exterior skin coated with a powder finish, this sign won't rust, is virtually hail proof, and lasts forever: A 5' 6" W x 8'6" H monument sign starting at \$5793



MONUMENT WITH LED

Turn heads your way with a versatile digital billboard. The 5' 6" W x 8'6" H monument sign has a durable LED screen for improved graphics, and starts at \$17,830



DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

Help them find you with the highway/street directional signs. These are eye-catching signs that meet the sign standards and are long-lasting.



WALL CABINET

signs/ provides the information needed " ...hopefully it tells

The pandemic disrupted life and nearly brought the supply chain to a halt. Cargo ships lined up outside the top three U.S. ports: Long Beach, Los Angeles, and New York/New Jersey, accounting for 50% of U.S. shipping traffic. The ocean traffic jam resulted in goods, parts, and supplies slowly reaching their destination. The problem was shipping, but the workforce was severely affected by a shortage of workers. The challenges in the supply chain impeded Southern Union's Church Identification Service as well.

Reggie Mattison, Southern Union sign engineer, gives an inside perspective. "Over the past two years, sign production has run slightly longer, municipalities are taking longer to process permits, and parts are taking longer to receive," says Mattison. In the midst of the pandemic and the challenges that came with it, however, 2021 still saw 15 monument signs and eight highway directional signs installed.

The Church Identification Service cares about the appearance of the church sign for this reason. Mattison annually cleans and performs wear and tear maintenance on each sign. In the

the visitor that have arrived at a warm and welcoming place to meet Jesus."

Bryant Taylor, D.Min.

interim, a how-to video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8PvB6VFRJpI>) is available to assist the deacons in keeping the sign well maintained. Mattison is available to assist with repairs. In 2021, Mattison provided maintenance service for 170 of the signs across the Southern Union.

Take a look at your church sign. What message does it give? Hopefully, it tells visitors they have arrived at a warm, welcoming place to meet Jesus. 🕯

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

CONVERSION AT SUMMER CAMP

BY PHIL YOUNTS

The story I want to tell you is about the power of the Holy Spirit working in today's youth.

I was in my office one afternoon at Camp Kulaqua when I received a call from a grandfather. I knew the grandfather, and when he said, "I want to tell you what happened to my grandkids at camp this summer," I grimaced. I was expecting the worst, but I shouldn't have.

"My grandkids had a wonderful summer enjoying all the activities, the food, and their counselors," he said, "but my grandson had a special, wonderful experience."

His grandson told him that he met a new friend in his cabin he did not know before the summer. As the counselor shared cabin worship and talked about Jesus, his new friend said, "I believe in science. I don't believe in God."

"I believe in science also," the grandson responded, "but I believe God created science."

As the week progressed, they talked and listened to the counselor and the camp pastor as they shared Jesus with the campers. Then came Friday night, which is always special, and the pastor normally makes a call.

"When the call came, I knew that I loved Jesus and accepted Him as my Savior," said the grandson. "I didn't need to go down front, but something compelled me to go down. As I stood there in front of the pastor, I felt someone take my arm from behind. To my amazement



Summer campers at Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Florida, experience the joy of baptism in God's beautiful spring.

when I turned around, there was my newfound atheist friend!"

"I was wrong," exclaimed my friend, "I need Jesus!"

The cabin of teen campers gathered around this young man and had prayer that Jesus would come into his heart, and Jesus did. The young man who came to camp as an atheist left as a Christian because a teen camper was willing to speak up and allow the Holy Spirit to use him.

Praise God for Christian youth speaking for Jesus! Wow! What a summer! 📌

Phil Younts is camp ministries director for Florida Conference.

SUMMER CAMP REOPENS 2021*

Theresa Stride, summer camp director, and Phil Younts, camp ministries director, began asking the Lord at the beginning of 2021 if they should reopen Camp Kulaqua. "God impressed us it was time to open camp so that hundreds of young people could meet Him in His creation and draw closer to Jesus," says Younts.

Summer Camp 2021:

- More than 900 campers attended.
- More than 400 campers gave their hearts to Jesus.
- 75 campers were baptized.

More Summer Camp information is available at campkulaqua.com.

*In 67 years of operation, summer camp at Camp Kulaqua was closed for the first time in 2020.

NO LIMITS ON GOD

BY STEFANIE GREEN

Bree Adams packed her small SUV full of backpacks and school supplies and began the drive from Collegedale, Tennessee, to Mayfield, Kentucky. Adams, who is currently pursuing her master's degree in social work at Southern Adventist University, had been inspired to take action after seeing firsthand the devastation caused by strong tornadoes in December 2021.

Shortly after the storms, Adams spent a week in Mayfield with 2Serve, a disaster response organization; the group cleared debris, cut up trees, tarped roofs, and distributed food. They focused on helping a lower-income community that had been hit especially hard and lacked the resources to recover.

Adams initially connected with 2Serve while earning her bachelor's degree in social work at Southern, participating in a 2018 University-sponsored trip to help with hurricane recovery in the Carolinas. Additionally, she took the opportunity to get Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training on campus. While the trip to Mayfield was Adams' fifth time participating in disaster response, it had a profound impact on her.

"Seeing how the tornados took everything from these people was really heartbreaking," Adams said. That's why, when her week there was over, Adams decided she could do more to help.

During the trip, she had noticed that most of the school buildings had not been hit hard — meaning that classes would resume — yet many of the chil-



Following devastating tornado damage, Bree Adams coordinated help for more than 160 children in need of school supplies.

dren had lost their belongings in the disaster and would be returning to school empty handed. Adams was inspired to buy a few backpacks and school supplies and give them to a school in that community for whoever needed them.

Originally, she planned to donate five backpacks, but felt impressed to invite her family and friends to get involved. As word spread, donations and support began to roll in. She posted to social media, which led to several organizations offering to promote the cause or serve as drop-off locations for donations.

"Multiple people told me that they had been looking for a way to help out and

that this cause was an answer to prayer," Adams said.

She set a new goal of filling 100 backpacks with school supplies, but after surpassing 150, she realized that she could not put a limit on what God could do. In the end, Adams was able to deliver 164 backpacks for children in need to a school in Mayfield this January.

"I don't take any credit for what I did," Adams said. "It was all God's work; I was just boots on the ground."

As a social worker, Adams plans to make serving others her career. Her classes and professors at Southern are equipping her with the skills she needs to be an effective and compassionate leader in the real world.

"We are incredibly proud of Bree! She really embodies the mission of our social work program," said Laura Racovita, Ph.D., dean of the School of Social Work. "She has a heart for giving and a level of compassion that few have. Through this project, she saw a need and exceeded all expectations, making a tangible impact and helping to restore dignity to those affected by this disaster. Combining her skills and passion in partnership with a Higher Power, Bree will accomplish big things in life!"

Adams encourages everyone to find ways to make a difference: "If serving others is on your heart, God's got a plan to make it happen." 🙏

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

Volunteers Participate in “Operation Candy Cane 21” Outreach

Denton, N.C., is a small town located about 30 minutes south of Thomasville N.C., and is where a church plant was started in May 2021 from the Thomasville Adventist Church. With the urgency of end times and the desire to reach Denton and the surrounding areas, the church plant’s Religious Liberty Department started making plans to do just that, and came up with “Operation Candy Cane 21.”

The plan was to distribute 1,000 bags with a copy of *The Great Controversy* and a *National Sunday Law* book in each bag, along with a candy cane. The

list grew to include miscellaneous Glow tracts, magazines, DVDs, books, and whatever sharing materials members had at their homes. The only thing missing was health-related material, but just then Hope for Health said they would donate to the outreach, and the need was filled.

Beautiful green and red gift bags were purchased, and a welcome letter was written inviting people to come to the Christmas program on December 11, 2021. There was also a bookmark put in each bag with church meeting times and the address. The actual cost, after the many donations, was only about \$2.00 per bag.

After a fellowship meal on Sabbath, November 27, 2021, about 52 people gathered to distribute the bags. People of all ages participated in the Operation, even 4-year-old Nathaniel Barnes. Some were even visitors from Florida and Georgia who were in town for another seminar. About 40 people went to Asheboro, N.C., a larger city about 25 minutes from Denton. Another 12 people went to downtown Denton to distribute bags.

Several connections were made with people sharing their phone numbers to stay in touch, and telling members how much they appreciated the bags. One member, Erick Perjuste, shared that at a gas station he approached a woman in her car and gave her a bag. After handing out more bags, Perjuste walked past her again and she stopped him. She shared that she had been praying that someone would come up to her. She ended up needing some gas, so Perjuste put gas in her car. The woman was moved to hug Perjuste and he prayed with her. She was crying by the end of the prayer, and gave him her contact information for the church to contact her.

To see the assembled bags covering all of the pews in the church was emotionally moving. Members experienced a wonderful feeling knowing they could play a part in blessing someone and possibly leading them to Christ. The Denton Church plant and all who were involved are praying for the recipients to be blessed by the reading of the truth-filled literature that was in each bag. Most of all, they pray to see them in the Kingdom, and to join them in saying, “Praise the Lord for Operation Candy Cane 21!”



BY LEE GRIFFIN

“Salvation Bags” Given to Community

Sonja Eberhart, head teacher at Cornerstone Adventist Academy (CAA) in Charlotte, N.C., decided to create an ongoing mission project to reach out to the homeless in their community who were begging on the street corners. The idea for “Salvation Bags” came from Beth Hoosier, another teacher in the Carolina Conference. “Salvation Bags” are zip-lock bags filled with personal care items, pre-packaged food, GLOW tracts, and Pocket Signs of the Times to be handed to the homeless on street corners. When Eberhart shared the idea with her students, she asked them to suggest names for the project. The students originally chose the name, “Salvation Baggies,” which was changed to “Salvation Bags.”

“The Salvation Bags are a very good way to spread God and help the homeless,” student Emma Sorrells comments. “I saw a man wandering through the street with a sign, and I got to stop and give him my Salvation Bag. I was happy when I saw the man’s smiling face and heard how generously he thanked me. Every Friday at CAA, we get to package a Salvation Bag and take it home with us. We have a table in the back of the room specifically for this.”

Students make additional bags to share with the church family so that they can also help reach their community. Sorrells adds, “Now with the help of our church, we can pass out even more. They also have helped with donations to buy the snacks and things.”

Another student, Rosalina Eberhart, says, “Every time we give out a bag to someone, they say ‘God bless you!’ Our goal is to hand out 96 bags. So far, we have made 72 bags to hand out, which means over 400 GLOW tracts.”

Landan Montiel, also a student, states, “My classmates and I are doing a mis-



sion project to give the underprivileged something without giving money that they could use on drugs. The bags include GLOW tracts, water or juice, pre-packaged snacks, and toiletries. We also put in a business card for our church

so they can come and learn about God and be a part of our family.”

BY SONJA EBERHART

Alive Gardens Created by Academy Student

Caitlyn Keller, Forest Lake Academy (FLA) junior, met with a team of AdventHealth executives, FLA administration, and Florida Conference representatives to commemorate the groundbreaking of her community project, Alive Gardens, on December 6.

Also in attendance were fellow students in the Innovation Lab program. This magnet program is incorporated into several Florida Conference schools, most notably FLA. Members of the Innovation Lab program work through personalized courses based around their passions. Keller, interested in helping those who face food scarcity in the community, decided to start a garden so that she would have food available for those in need.

“Through my research on healthy eating,” says Keller, “I discovered a

great need in Apopka and surrounding communities who are food insecure. This need is right here, locally, and I want to do my part by focusing on a topic that I am passionate about, and that is healthy food. I am so pleased that we have begun.”

The service began with the reading of Isaiah 58:10 by Keller herself: “Feed the hungry, and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness and the darkness around you will be as bright as the noon.” Keller explained that she hopes to share her light and passion for healthy eating with the community around her as her gardens grow on campus.

For the second year in a row, the Alive Gardens initiative has partnered with Taylor Apartments in order to provide low-income residents with a sustainable source of accessible vegetables. The ex-

pansion of this initiative would mean greater access to healthy foods in areas previously many miles from nearby grocery stores.

Rob Deininger, CEO of AdventHealth’s Quaternary Hub, expressed his support and willingness to partner in further Innovation Lab endeavors. Representatives from the Florida Conference Office of Education also congratulated Keller on her project and willingness to assist the community around her.

The event fueled excitement, pride, and hope in both Innovation Lab students and the representatives involved, excitement and pride for the student whose dreams have just now been made a success, and hope for the possibility of a future of compassion through Innovation. ●

BY Leif Bromme, FLA Freshman



Caitlyn Keller, project manager of the Alive Gardens project at Forest Lake Academy, is shown in front of some of the beds being prepared for planting.



Rob Deininger (left), CEO of AdventHealth’s Quaternary Hub; Caitlyn Keller, project manager; and Robert Henley, Innovation director for the Florida Conference Office of Education and the director of the Florida Conference Innovation Lab at Forest Lake Academy, took part in the Alive Gardens ribbon-cutting ceremony in front of already flourishing garden beds.

Youth Bring Adventist History to Life



PHOTO BY: EDDIE RIVERA

Youth Department members of DeBary-Orange City Church presented a Vesper program on the beginning of the Adventist denomination.

The Youth Department of DeBary-Orange City Church in Fla. portrayed pioneers of the past in an afternoon vesper program in remembrance of October 22, 1844. This day was a date...no, *The Date*, of a crucial event 177 years ago that has come to define Seventh-day Adventism as not just another church, not just another denomination, but a people specifically fulfilling prophetic destiny.

Joseph Bates, Uriah Smith, Hiram Edson, and Rachel Oakes brought history to life that impacts every single Seventh-day Adventist alive today as these pioneers shared their stories with those who had come to hear the answer to the question: How did we get here?

Tuesday, October 22, 1844, was a day filled with unparalleled anticipation for thousands of Christians fully expect-

ing Jesus Christ's return to earth to take them to heaven. As the dark hours slowly passed, closing in on and then passing midnight, hopes became crushed and solemn clusters of disappointed believers dispersed to their earthly homes, thoroughly defeated. Jesus had not returned. What had been a Great Expectation turned into a very Great Disappointment.

And yet, it became the foundation upon which the looked-for Lord of Heaven was able to lead a humble people to knowledge beyond their wildest dreams. Knowledge that, shared with the world, glorified Bible prophecy in the lives of a new faith that has been carried down 177 years to 2022.

An additional distinct treat for attendees was a short black-and-white turn-of-the-century film clip (provided and presented by one of Ellen White's cur-

rent living descendants) showing Willie White and other family members playing together on the grounds of White's home in Elmshaven, Calif. It truly outshone any B&W still photos ever seen!

"Thank you for such an amazing program," said a participant. "It helped me understand a little more about our church history, and it also helped me see the White family in a different light. What a blessing! Loved it!"

"We have nothing to fear for the future," said Ellen G. White, "except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and his teaching in our past history." *Life Sketches*, p. 196. 📌

BY DeBary-Orange City Church
Communication Dept.

Tale of Transformation by Jesus Told

When Ginger Brooks moved home to Tennessee to be close to the hills, friends, and family after 30 years in the Chicago, Ill., area, she was desperate. Her health had tanked. She was obese, had congestive heart failure, borderline diabetes, and a balance dysfunction that had been causing her to fall multiple times per day. But those were merely symptoms of Brooks' deeper problems.

Brooks had memories of only a few fleeting childhood experiences of believing that God's love and acceptance were for her. Those had happened in Sabbath School when she learned that Jesus loves the children, but the joy had been crushed when someone repeatedly told her that Jesus could not love her because she was so bad.

At a very early age, Brooks began having a recurring dream. In her dream, Jesus was coming. She could see him on the cloud. She saw those around her lifted to be with Him, but she would be left behind. She would wake up in a cold sweat with her heart pounding.

Year after year, the dream would repeat every few months. She became totally convinced that she was irreparably lost.

During her years in Chicago, she came to the conclusion that she needed to move to a place of peace. After moving back to Tennessee, Brooks renewed an old friendship with Steve and Karen Wickham, who shared principles of health from their Reversing Diabetes program. She consulted with her doctor and began weaning down off some of her medications. She added beans to every breakfast, limited her desserts, and started walking in the hallway after each meal. She began feeling more stable on her feet and graduated from using her walker. Within a few weeks she was able to join a staff member and walk down the hill and back after meals rather than in the level hallways. By continuing to stay active, her weight continued to melt.



Ginger Brooks experienced many personal and spiritual challenges, but through friends, prayer, and God working in her life, she was rebaptized in September 2020. She is now active in her church and follows up with Bible study interests, starting as many as eight Bible studies a week.



Since making changes to her lifestyle, including improved diet and regular exercise, Brooks has lost more than 100 pounds, and reduced the amount of medications she takes.

After finding rest in an atmosphere of acceptance and involvement, and always bathed in the prayers of family and friends, Brooks was able to address her deep spiritual longing. She started by reading her set of Uncle Arthur's Bible Story books and the *Jesus Storybook Bible* by Sally Lloyd-Jones. Soon, she asked her friend, Sarah Dixon, to pick her up and take her along to Bristol Church where Dixon's husband, Paull, is the pastor.

Brooks agreed to study the Bible with Dixon, and the two of them met once a week for several months. Brooks always came over-prepared — with the lesson and Bible answers typed along with additional questions. Each session found them laughing and reminiscing, celebrating God's goodness in rekindling their friendship after many years, but also weeping for joy over the sweet assurance Jesus has given in His Word.

One day when Dixon came for their study, Brooks was excited and almost speechless with emotion. She said, "I had the dream again! I saw Jesus coming, on-

ly this time I felt myself being lifted. I was taken directly to Him. Oh, Sarah, that face! Those eyes! Those kind eyes! I got to talk to Him. I woke up with a deep peace in my heart. It is still there. I have no more anxiety. The jitters are gone!"

Soon Brooks began planning to be rebaptized. She brought with her a friend whom she had nurtured for Jesus, and the two of them were baptized together at the Bristol, Tenn., Church. She currently serves as the bulletin secretary and as an adult Sabbath School teacher.

During a recent medical visit, Brooks' doctor was astounded that her anxiety is gone. She is maintaining more than 100 pounds of weight loss. There is no trace of diabetes or congestive heart failure.

Brooks is always happy to share her testimony that Jesus' love, acceptance, and transforming grace are the best medicine. He delivers His gifts in the context of loving, dependable relationships. Her disturbing dreams are gone — swept away in the assurance of forever life in Jesus. ❶

BY SARAH DIXON

Cirigliano Named Conference Women's, Family Ministries Director

Amy Cirigliano is the newly appointed Georgia-Cumberland Conference women's ministries and family ministries director.

"Amy's ministry experience and commitment to our mission and message will allow her to continue to expand the impact of this department," says Chester Clark III, vice president for administration. "She loves and connects well with people of all ages, and is a collaborative leader. I am thrilled that she has accepted this new role."

Cirigliano joins the Conference with experience both in the communication field and in pastoral ministry, completing a B.A. in public relations from Southern Adventist University and an M.Div.



from Andrews University. She became a commissioned minister at the 2004 Collegedale Camp Meeting.

Most recently, Cirigliano served as the associate pastor at the Calhoun, Ga., Church.

Cirigliano has always loved sharing the Good News of the Gospel, and believes in the Church's special message to share

with the world. Ever since her first days of ministry, little girls have always found their way to her asking for studies and baptism. She feels a calling to share the joy in walking daily with Jesus, both in life's struggles and blessings. In her new role, two of Cirigliano's goals are to help empower women to share Jesus with other women, and help support families as they navigate life issues. Cirigliano said, "I am excited to see what the Lord will do in the lives of families and women in this ministry." Cirigliano and her husband, Joe, have three children, Sophia, 20, Joey, 18, and Sara, 15. ●

BY **NATHAN ZINNER**

Gariepy Accepts Position as GCA Principal

Serge Gariepy has accepted the position of principal at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA). Gariepy has been a faculty member at GCA for 14 years, the last eight of which he served as vice principal. He is prepared to step into the new role when current principal Greg Gerard retires at the end of the school year.

Gariepy is a product of Adventist education and says his experiences attending boarding academy led to his decision to become an educator himself. He earned a degree in mathematics from Southern Adventist University, and later obtained a master of education from Pacific Union College. He is currently enrolled at Andrews University as a doctoral student.



Prior to working at GCA, Gariepy spent six years teaching at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy in Healdsburg, Calif., and also served as vice principal for two years. He enjoys spending time with students in all aspects of school life, whether in the classroom, on the

basketball court, or serving together on mission trips.

"I love connecting with students and helping them build better relationships with Jesus," Gariepy said. "We are on a great path with incredible support from our parents, local churches, the Conference, and alumni and friends of GCA. There are always areas in which we can improve, but it's my hope that we can stay focused on our mission and aligned with God's will for our school."

Gariepy, wife LeAnn, and their three children enjoy calling GCA home. ●

BY **JODI HEROD STEELE**

Christmas Concert Draws Members, Friends, Community



After only three months of working together, the church choir performed several songs at the Christmas program.

More than 250 people attended the “Light of the World Christmas Concert” held at the Panama City, Fla., Church on December 10, 2021. Including those who watched online, more than 300 people were blessed by the program.

The Adventist Christian Academy in Panama City, Fla., students sang several songs. Since the school has a number of students who are not church members, many of their friends and families attended the church for the first time. Robert Meneses, pastor of University Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla., presented a devotional.

The concert was free, but people were encouraged to bring toys to give to foster care children from the Life Management Center in town. More than 100 toys were donated. A photo booth was a popular place where families could take pictures. In addition, many free books were displayed for people to take home.

The 35-member church choir performed twice during the program. In October, Eddy Nunez, pastor of Panama City Church, announced that the church



Students from the Adventist Christian Academy in Panama City, Fla., took a significant part in the holiday program.

was having a Christmas concert for the community, and invited all who wanted to join the choir to meet at a particular time. It was a leap of faith for the church and the pastor since it had been seven years since there had been a choir.

Nunez explains, “Since people’s hearts are more open to partake of church-related events, Christmas has always been a special time for evangelism throughout my ministry.” Nunez continues, “In addition, the concert was a great opportunity

to get everyone involved, especially in a situation like we had where the choir was formed by our members for the purpose of outreach to the community.”

One of the best blessings came when Krush Brown decided to join the choir and, as a result of the experience, decided to give her life to Jesus. She was baptized a week later. ❶

BY REBECCA GRICE

Uchee Pines Selects New Medical Director

I love the operating room (OR),” says Kaylene WeirCox, M.D., the new medical director for Uchee Pines in Seale, Ala. “I’ve loved it ever since I was a surgical tech in New Jersey and Alabama, where I went to Oakwood for undergrad. So, once I got a chance to get into the OR, I knew that was what I wanted to do.”

WeirCox comes from a family of medical personnel; her mother and several aunts and cousins are nurses. There’s at least one nurse practitioner in the family. WeirCox’s sister is an internal medicine doctor, and another cousin is a liver transplant surgeon.

WeirCox was born in the Bahamas and is of Jamaican and Cuban descent. WeirCox and her family moved to New York when she was young, and that is where she grew up. Her mother worked the night shift for 30 years to allow WeirCox and her sister to receive an Adventist education.

WeirCox completed medical school at Ohio State University, an opportunity she believes was “definitely arranged by God.” Regarding her school experience, WeirCox says, “One thing that I’ve learned and was reinforced during med school is that we are not self-made or independent. Yes, we may work hard, and we should work hard, but that hard work is not the only factor.” She continues, “Frankly, it’s impossible to pull ourselves up by our own bootstraps, so we shouldn’t expect other people to pull themselves up without help either. Whether we acknowledge it or even recognize it, someone else, through God’s providence, helped us get where we are.” WeirCox acknowledges the late Frank W. Hale Jr., Ph.D., John Stang, M.D., and David Denning, M.D., as instrumental in her beginning and completing medical school and residency.



Kaylene WeirCox, M.D., is excited to join Uchee Pines to share the love of God and relieve the suffering of humanity.

WeirCox went into private practice as a general surgeon in South Carolina, with her husband running the business component. Later, and immediately leading up to her call to Uchee Pines, WeirCox traveled as a locum tenens surgeon, meeting the needs of underserved communities mainly in rural America and sometimes in urban hospitals.

“I’m passionate about the health message because as a surgeon I like to see results, and God’s health message consistently and persistently gives good results,” says WeirCox, “In a lot of the surgeries that I do, I’ve found that

so many of the problems are lifestyle-disease related. And so, now I have the privilege and honor of joining in with a great group of people that work every day to bring relief to the suffering, not just physically but spiritually as well, teaching people to improve their health one choice at a time.” 📌

BY RICHARD CECERE

Springfield II Hispanic Church Celebrates Growth

Members of the Springfield II Hispanic, Tenn., Church, along with the pastor, Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, and Conference officials, rejoiced in a special dedication service as the mission transitioned to a company on January 15, 2022.

The Springfield II Hispanic Church was established September 26, 2020, after Kieth Noll, Conference ministerial director, and Armando De León, Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, raised the possibility of opening a new Hispanic congregation in Springfield. District pastor Emilio Perche and the Springfield Hispanic church board accepted the opportunity.

“The potential to reach the Hispanic community in Springfield is tremendous,” Perche said. “[The Springfield Hispanic Church] had grown so much that we began holding our meetings outside. We did not fit in our temple anymore.”

Earlier that year, a church building, with all the necessary facilities for operation, had been made available to the Conference. The building was given to the mission, and three families accepted the pioneering roles of leading the Springfield II Hispanic Church.

Since its conception, Springfield II Hispanic Church has held various activities such as weeks of prayer, family camps, retreats for married couples, and missionary visits. Subsequently, new members have been added through baptism, profession of faith, and transfer of membership — giving shape and passage to the new status of “company.” Currently, the company has more than 30 baptized members plus additional regular visitors.

During the dedication service, Noll preached about the importance of evangelism, and Mike Hewitt, Conference vice president of administration, held a dedicatory prayer. The audience was also reminded of the church’s history and ac-



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILIO PERCHE

Armando De León, Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, and Kieth Noll, Conference ministerial director, hold a dedicatory prayer for the congregation of Springfield II. During the dedication service, Noll preached about the importance of evangelism, and De León challenged the company to continue growing through faith in God.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILIO PERCHE

Emilio Perche speaks to the congregation of Springfield II. “For now, the history of this group of the faithful is short but very significant,” Perche said. “We believe that, with God’s blessing, the complete history of this congregation will be told in Heaven, as a testimony of what God can and wants to do with all His churches around the world.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILIO PERCHE

Springfield II Church members, pastor, Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, and Conference officials pose for a group photo after the dedicatory service of the company. The Springfield Hispanic Church was established September 26, 2020. Currently, the company has more than 30 baptized members and additional regular visitors.

cepted De León’s challenge to continue growing through faith in God.

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gregation will be told in Heaven, as a testimony of what God can and wants to do with all his Church around the world.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Sharing Jesus Through Food: Plant-Based Restaurant Makes a Difference

Victoria Delaughter was driving down the road when she saw a familiar face opening the doors of the Stearns, Ky., Church. Delaughter had been studying the Bible with Amazing Facts for four years, but had not yet attended a Seventh-day Adventist church. She had planned to visit, but only if she knew someone there.

The familiar face was Kristina McFeeters. Delaughter knew her from Kristina's Kitchen, a plant-based restaurant and bakery in Whitley City, Ky. The next time Delaughter visited Kristina's Kitchen, she spoke with McFeeters and made plans to attend a church service. She was welcomed with open arms.

This was the goal when McFeeters opened her restaurant seven years ago: to reach people in her community. McFeeters had been involved in health ministries for 12 years, but wanted to have a location that would be more accessible to the public.

"[Kristina's Kitchen] is just a place to network and connect with the community," McFeeters said. "It's a place of influence. I tell everybody I share Jesus through food."

The vegan restaurant offers a variety of meals, including soups, pastas, haystacks, Asian dishes, and sandwiches. In addition, Kristina's Kitchen has a bakery that sells things such as bread, muffins, cookies, and granola. According to McFeeters, almost everything is made from scratch.

Kristina's Kitchen also serves as a community center in Whitley City. In the past, it has been used by the city's chamber of commerce, board of tourism, and farmer's market. Other local organizations have also used it for their meetings.

According to McFeeters, Kristina's Kitchen has opened the doors for friendship evangelism. Since COVID-19, nine



Kristina McFeeters is in the process of making some homemade bread to sell at her restaurant, Kristina's Kitchen. The goal of this vegan restaurant is to reach the community in Whitley City, Ky.



Matthew Divine, Victoria Delaughter, Kristina McFeeters, and Daniel McFeeters are at the Healthy Taste of Knoxville. Delaughter started attending the Stearns Church due to her connections with Kristina's Kitchen. Now, she is not only a faithful Seventh-day Adventist, but she also uses her part-time job in Kristina's Kitchen as an opportunity to share God's love. Divine is also studying

new people are attending Stearns Church on a regular basis, and four individuals have started Bible study for baptism. These new visitors were regular customers at Kristina's Kitchen.



Brunch is served at Kristina's Kitchen. The plant-based restaurant offers a variety of healthy meals, including haystacks, pastas, enchiladas, salads, soups, sandwiches, and veggie burgers. In addition, Kristina's Kitchen also bakes bread, muffins, cookies, granola, and gluten free goodies.

"Kristina's Kitchen is where we make friends for Jesus," McFeeters said. "Once we make friends, then we invite them. We may invite them to a Bible study, we may invite them to church, or we may invite them to social events. But, through our friendship, we share Jesus with them."

Delaughter joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church by profession of faith in 2018, and has been attending the Stearns Church for five years now. Last August, Delaughter began working part-time at Kristina's Kitchen and now uses this opportunity to share the joy she found in Jesus.

"I don't see it as a job, but as a chance to get the [Good News] out," Delaughter said. "I believe that [Kristina's Kitchen] is not just something people want, but it is a ministry that is needed in our county." 📌

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Murfreesboro Church Dedicates Renovated School Building

After closing school operations for 18 years, the Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church restarted its school program in September 2020. Two years later, on February 5, 2022, the church held a dedicatory ceremony for the recently renovated school building.

Murfreesboro School had originally opened in 1973, but a decline in enrollment forced the school to close in 2002. According to Brian Milano, pastor, the members and church board of Murfreesboro wanted to see the school functioning again.

“They wanted [the school] to be part of the mission that I brought as a pastor,” Milano said. “And of course, I have always embraced Adventist education. By September of 2020, God miraculously opened the doors to fulfill this dream.”

With the guidance of Pegi Flynt, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference superintendent, the Conference approved opening the school in August 2020. Two weeks later, the Murfreesboro School was operating again.

Though the school had a building of its own, it was in desperate need of renovation and needed to be brought up to code. For a year-and-one-half, students met in the church’s fellowship hall.

Murfreesboro Church only had

\$2,300, but they calculated that it would cost more than \$60,000 to complete all repairs. Through the donations of church members and support of the Conference, funds were raised, and all renovations were completed by Christmas of 2021.

“The total cost was nearly \$62,000, and we actually had \$2,800 leftover,” Milano said.

The renovation provided the school with new floors, windows, doors, cabinets, counter tops, bathrooms, and fixtures, as well as a new library. During the 2021 Christmas break, volunteers helped Linda Dickinson, head teacher, move to the remodeled classrooms.



The seven students of Murfreesboro School pose with the head teacher, Linda Dickinson. The group is standing in front of a book-shelf in the school’s brand new library.

“I know the church was just very dedicated to seeing [the school] open,” Dickinson said. Dickinson began her education career in 1981 in the Murfreesboro School and returned from retirement in 2021 to help the school again. “There has been a lot of volunteer work as well as financial and spiritual support. We have been very blessed.”

Currently, the school has seven enrolled students. Milano says the goal is to eventually have 20 to 25 students.

Murfreesboro Church held a special church service on Sabbath, February 5, 2022, and Milano talked about the importance of Adventist Education. This was followed by a special fellowship meal and a school tour. Matt Pacer, Conference associate superintendent, conducted the dedicatory ceremony and prayer.

“[Long-term], I would like to see our school filled to capacity with young people that want to learn about Jesus,” Milano said, “because that has to be the goal: It’s not just about educating them for careers, but educating them for eternity.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



Church members bow their heads during the dedicatory prayer of the Murfreesboro’s recently renovated school. According to Brian Milano, pastor, the church members were very determined to reopen their school despite it being closed for 18 years.



Students hold hands during the dedicatory prayer for their school. During the program, students shared what they loved about Murfreesboro School. Some of the things they mentioned included the friendships, the agriculture program, and learning about God.



Matt Pacer, Conference associate superintendent, talks about the importance of Adventist Education during the church service at Murfreesboro Church. After the service, church members took a tour of the recently renovated school building to hold a dedicatory prayer for the school.

AdventHealth Gordon Makes Significant Advances in Cardiology Care

After three years of preparation and planning, AdventHealth Gordon now offers PCI and STEMI services in the facility's cardiac catheterization labs (cath labs) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in partnership with Harbin Clinic Cardiology.

PCI (percutaneous coronary intervention) is a procedure that improves blood flow to the heart during a STEMI (ST-elevation myocardial infarction), a serious type of heart attack during which one of the heart's major arteries is blocked. Harbin Clinic cardiologists work hand in hand with the AdventHealth Gordon cath lab team to diagnose and intervene acute coronary events.

"I haven't stopped smiling since we went live on December 2," said Destiny Howe, nurse manager of AdventHealth Gordon's cardiac catheterization lab. "My team has worked so incredibly hard over the last three years to build a second cath lab, hire more team members, and go through extensive training. They are now taking turns being on-call to provide these services to our community. ZIP code no longer dictates access to heart care in northwest Georgia."

The day AdventHealth Gordon's 24/7 PCI and STEMI services went live, Kenneth Hand visited the emergency room with severe chest pain.

Hand travels between Calhoun and Nashville weekly. While in Calhoun, he tends to his local business and spends time with his father and family before heading back to Nashville where he resides with his wife, Kim. Hand began experiencing pain and nausea several days before coming to AdventHealth Gordon, and the day his pain came to a head, he happened to be in Calhoun.



AdventHealth Gordon Cath Lab1

Once Hand was in AdventHealth Gordon's emergency room, he was taken back for an evaluation immediately, and soon found out he was having a heart attack. That's when Harbin Clinic cardiologist Andrew McCue, M.D., assured Hand that everything was going to be okay.

"I was very concerned because of what I have experienced with my father and his heart issues," said Hand. "But when Dr. McCue came in to see me, he told me he was going to take good care of me. After that, I had a sense of peace come over me."

Heart patients can expect excellent care at AdventHealth Gordon that addresses their physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. The cath lab team promises to deliver individualized whole-person care to every patient every time.

"We want to show our patients just how much we care about them," said Howe. "They did not ask to become a heart patient, but we want to come alongside them and walk the journey with them."

After being diagnosed with a heart attack, Hand was quickly taken to AdventHealth Gordon's cardiac catheterization lab to have a PCI procedure and two stents placed to restore blood flow to his heart.

"They explained to me exactly what was going on and what was going to happen next," said Hand. "Since I was awake during the procedure, I expected to experience some crazy pain, but I didn't have one bit of pain. I was very comfortable thanks to the staff."

After the procedure, PCI patients are closely monitored in the ICU. A cardiac rehabilitation nurse will visit patients at the bedside and work on a plan to reduce the risk factors that led to the heart attack and provide education on their new diagnosis. After being discharged, patients begin the necessary medications, and are enrolled in AdventHealth Gordon's cardiac rehabilitation program to address medication assistance, lifestyle changes, and focused care.

With the addition of AdventHealth Gordon's 24/7 PCI and STEMI services, many lives have already been saved. The cath lab team has worked tirelessly to open blockages and restore blood flow to 100% for those in or at risk of cardiac arrest. Offering these services close to home eliminates the need to transfer patients to other facilities, saving heart muscle function and lives.

"Families can rest assured that they now have access to life-saving heart care at AdventHealth Gordon," said Howe. "If the time comes where they need care emergently, we will be here to offer the best in our area. We want our community to be healthier because we are here."

"These new services are absolutely life-saving," said Hand. "You don't have to drive out of town to get the services you need. This team is going to save many lives." ●

BY ADVENTHEALTH GORDON NEWS

Ramah Junior Academy Celebrates Success

Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little and together we can do so much.” These words reflect the growth at Ramah Junior Academy (RJA) in Savannah, Ga., RJA is one of the premiere schools in the South Atlantic Conference. Paula Blackwell, principal, and the school board have embarked on a mission to revitalize Ramah. Their mission is to provide a Christ-centered learning environment where faith and knowledge meet. They believed in revitalizing Ramah in order to support their students by providing them with quality tools, resources, and a learning environment that supports their education.

This past year RJA received a donation from the family of Helen Bennett who was a member of the West Broad Church in Savannah for many years. The family donated more than \$20K for technology upgrades needed at the school. This gift launched the mobile MacBook lab for the students. In addition to the technology upgrades, the classrooms have been outfitted with brand new Promethean Boards partially paid for by the Versacare grant which RJA won during the previous school year.

This year marks Ramah’s 108th school year, and the administration is full steam ahead. The leadership set out to revamp the school, and much has been done to the campus. New paint for the classrooms and school building. The science lab was renovated with new paint, and new equipment was purchased and old furniture was repurposed. Now the space can host the morning announcements, music, and science. Ramah’s new Innovation Lab was dedicated by Savannah Mayor Van Johnson. This momentous occasion was shared virtually with the community.



Ramah has almost doubled their enrollment since the 2019-2020 school year. The school has focused their efforts on revamping the classrooms, the facility, and reconnecting with the community with various community projects and partnerships.

Two of Ramah’s latest partnerships are with local State Representative Derek Mallow and the Boys Club of Savannah. The Boys Scouts of America is sponsoring a STEM Club at Ramah this year. The club pays all of the fees and equipment for the entire club. The curriculum this year covers middle school modules: “Microbiology Coming into Focus” (microbiology), “Criminal Case Files” (forensic science), “Science Behind the Sport” (from West Virginia University),

“Star Traveler” (astronomy), and “Reactions in Action” (chemistry, in partnership with American Chemists Society).

The elementary club includes “Flying, Falling, Fluid” (aerodynamics, partnership with iFly), “Into the Wild” (wildlife biology), “Engineering” (mechanical, biomedical, chemical, and environmental), “Micro:bit” (computer programming/coding, Eduporium), and “Digging into History” (archeology).

The school family is excited about the progress God has made at Ramah, and they look forward to His continued blessings. 🙏

BY SANDRENE FOSTER AND PAULA SANDERS BLACKWELL

North Orlando Church Holds Community Outreach Baby Blessing

As new residents of Orlando, Fla., Omar and Sherese Blagrove recently contacted the North Orlando Seventh-day Adventist Church and requested to have their infant daughter blessed. North Orlando's senior pastor, Olinto Groce, was delighted to accommodate the new members of the community and asked Dora Kendrick-Jones, church clerk, to make the necessary arrangements. However, there was one condition. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Blagroves requested to have the baby blessing service at their home, which is located very near to the church.

Winston Hamilton, elder, substituting for Groce, who was on vacation, conducted the blessing on Sunday, December 19, 2021. Assisting Hamilton were deaconesses Delores Buchanan and Dawn Robinson. Also in attendance to witness the beautiful occasion was Dora Kendrick-Jones, family members, and close friends.

Hamilton began the service with the singing of the hymns "Jesus Loves the Little Children" and "Happy the Home," which was followed by a reading from the book Child Guidance, then the prayer of dedication.

Groce also sent warm greetings to the family and expressed his appreciation to them for reaching out to North Orlando to have their baby dedicated to the Lord, as North Orlando continues to meet the needs of the community. 📌



Norman Robinson (left); Opal Robinson; Omar Blagrove (holding Somarah); Sherese Blagrove; Marion Carberry; and Steve Savory



Omar Blagrove (left); Sherese Blagrove; and Winston Hamilton, elder

BY DORA KENDRICK-JONES

South Central Publishing Department Reports Success

South Central Conference’s Publishing Department is grateful to report that the literature ministry is still alive and well, even amid COVID-19. In 2021, eight young people participated in the summer canvassing campaign from May 10 to August 1, in Nashville, Tenn. The Lord blessed mightily, and they were able to distribute more than 2,500 pieces of literature, such as *Steps to Christ*, *Christ Object Lessons*, and *The Great Controversy*, as well as a variety of children’s and health books. Students also prayed with individuals and passed out hope-filled tracts throughout the communities in which they canvassed.

During the winter campaign, which commenced November 28, 2021, and ended January 2, 2022, a total of seven students participated. These young people pressed through the chilling weather in Nashville, and the Lord blessed them yet again. More than 500 pieces of literature were distributed. Collectively, the summer and winter campaigns raised more than \$42,000 in student scholarships. By the grace of God, every student who participated in the canvassing program was financially cleared to begin their semesters at their respective educational institutions.

South Central desires to continue spreading the Gospel throughout the territory of the South Central Conference and regions beyond. They will continue to support Adventist Christian education by providing opportunities for the young people to be engaged in the mission of the Church, as well as raise funds for their school’s tuition.

In 2022, the literature evangelists are

geared toward another successful year in literature ministry. Their theme for 2022 is “We Have This Hope,” inspired by 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17. They are engaged in a ministry that will “prepare a people to meet God,” *Colporteur Ministries*, pgs. 3,4. 📌

BY DIMITRI SCAVELLA



New Life Members Feed the Neighborhood

It has been asked, “If your church closed down, would the community miss you?” New Life Church in downtown Chattanooga, Tenn., has taken this quote to heart. New Life is striving to make a difference in its community. Every second and fourth Tuesday of

the month, rain or shine, dozens of cars fill the parking lot of New Life waiting for food boxes that can sustain a family of four. A faithful team of volunteers, dressed in their blue community service T-shirts, diligently prepare food boxes for the Highland Park locals in an effort

to bring hope to a family in need. Robert Grissom, former community service leader, and Douglas Paris, current leader, realize that New Life volunteers are the hands and feet of Jesus in a world starving physically and spiritually for bread to feed the body as well as the

soul. Remembering the role that they play in feeding those who are in need pushes the volunteers to work vigorously and untiringly to meet the ever-growing demand of the necessity of food.

Nathan Williams, New Life pastor, stands in line directing cars, and takes note of the repeated statement shared by those coming to be served, “God bless you for what you are doing.” Williams shares that he can’t take credit for the success of this ministry and that he is just blessed to be a part of something that is making a major difference in the community. He notes that “this ministry was a well-oiled machine before I arrived at New Life, and will continue after I am gone.”



PHOTO BY: NATHAN WILLIAMS

Volunteer distributes food boxes to community residents.

Along with providing food boxes every two weeks, New Life currently partners with local grocery stores that seek to help New Life fulfill its vision of making a positive impact in their neighborhood. Last year, the church was able to supply more than 4,200 boxes of food to those in need. This translates to around 45,000 meals provided for the community — all of which took place while navigating through the pandemic. New Life Church remains prepared to nourish those who need physical and spiritual assistance. 📍

BY NATHAN WILLIAMS

Snell Installed at Oakwood University Church

The 22nd senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church was recently installed. Debleaire and Gianna Snell, along with Jadon, Brooke, and Braydon, were welcomed as the senior pastoral family. Snell, who also serves as the Breath of Life Television Ministry speaker/director, was introduced by Benjamin Jones, president of the South Central Conference. Jones challenged Snell: “Despite all the titles and roles you and Gianna will have at Oakwood University Church, please remember you are a shepherd.” He went on to share three things sheep need from a shepherd — a shepherd with a caring heart; a shepherd that provides good food; and a shepherd with a strong hand.

Snell follows Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min, who accepted a call to the Southwest Region Conference last May. Snell recently served as senior pastor of the two campuses of First Church (First Church and The Bridge) in Huntsville, Ala. His dynamic ministry has enhanced the members and the community during the past 11 years.



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Debleaire Snell, lead pastor of Oakwood University Church

Debleaire Snell is happily married to his wife of 18 years, the former Gianna Norman of Nashville, Tenn., and they are the proud parents of miracles Jadon, Brooke, and Braydon.

The Oakwood University Church pastoral staff shared welcome gifts and pledged strong support to the leadership that Snell will bring to the church. 📍

BY ROGER R. WADE



PHOTO BY: ROGER R. WADE

Benjamin Jones and other ministers pray for Debleaire (center) and Gianna Snell.

Oakwood University Explores Social Justice in New Program on OU Broadcasting Network

Oakwood University celebrated a special block of Friday evening programming with a unique broadcast called “Windows on the Word,” hosted by Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., president of Oakwood University. Pollard, holding earned doctorates in both New Testament scholarship and preaching and worship, served as host/facilitator.

Pollard commented, “For 125 years, Oakwood University has populated both business and industry, as well as churches and communities, with graduates delivering service to God and humanity. We celebrate our 125 years of service by expanding our global reach with the launch of the new broadcast “Windows on the Word.”

“Windows on the Word” is an inspirational and informative weekly broadcast designed to highlight voices and contributions to mission and faith from communities around the world. The programming embraces the weekly Adult Bible Study Guides of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; however, it will not limit itself to those alone. “Windows on the Word” shows how they can be supplemented and expanded by faith perspectives from around the world. Special features will include student voices, women’s voices, voices of the elderly, and children’s voices, as they explore the journey of faith by diverse groups.

Beginning Friday evening, February 4, 2022, the first four tapings for Black History Month explored the topic “Social Justice in the Word of God.”

BY OU STAFF WRITER, INTEGRATED MARKETING & PUBLIC RELATIONS



Debleaire Snell (left), Oakwood University Church senior pastor and Breath of Life Ministries speaker/director; and Ifeoma Kwesi, D.Min., Oakwood University School of Theology religion professor; discuss social justice in the Old Testament with Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., Oakwood University president.



Gilbert Ojwang (left), Ph.D., Oakwood University School of Theology New Testament professor and department chair; and R. Clifford Jones, D.Min., Oakwood University School of Theology dean; discuss social justice in the New Testament with Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., Oakwood University president.

A Life of Excellent Service Rests

In 1967, Claude Thomas Jr. — a New York born and bred city boy — found himself at a small college in the deep South. Accepting the invite from then president Frank Hale to serve as dean of men, Thomas left his job as a parole officer and relocated his family to Alabama. Thus began his 32-year employment at Oakwood College (now Oakwood University), impacting and influencing the lives of hundreds of students.

After two years as dean, Thomas took a study leave to attend Andrews University, earning a master's degree. Upon returning to Oakwood, he held positions as director of development and then dean of students. After another leave to engage in doctoral studies at Andrews, Thomas returned to head Oakwood's Counseling and Testing Center as its director.

During his doctoral studies, Thomas became fascinated with the relationship between the compatibility of individuals and successful marriages. Marriage and family became a specialty area of study for him and, subsequently, a huge



In their self-published book, *Becoming a Professional Lover: A Weekly Devotional for Learning to Love God's Way*, Claude and Jocelyn Thomas offer 52 tips from their personal experience on building strong marital and family relationships.

part of his counseling practice. Before "The 5 Love Languages" and other relationship tests that are now common, Thomas integrated the use of personality, loving style, and spiritual gifts tests in pre-marital and marriage counseling.



Claude Thomas Jr., served hundreds of students at Oakwood University over the course of his 32 years of service at the institution.

Thomas and his life partner, Jocelyn B. Thomas, established the Institute for the Biblical Study of the Family, sharing their relationship expertise with church congregations and other groups across the nation for more than 30 years. They were known for unabashedly using their personal experiences as a couple and parents through which to teach valuable relationship lessons. Thomas also shared his knowledge and experience with students who took the marriage and family course that he taught at Oakwood.

Because of his work in family ministry, Thomas was ordained as a minister in the South Central Conference by then president Charles Dudley, fulfilling Thomas' life-long dream.

After retiring in 2002 from full-time employment at Oakwood, Thomas served as a special assistant to the vice president of student affairs for several years. He also continued presenting relationship workshops with his wife until a decline in his health prohibited travel. But, that didn't stop their family ministry. In 2017, the Thomases self-published a book, *Becoming a Professional Lover: A Weekly Devotional for Learning to Love God's Way*, offering 52 tips from their personal experience on building strong marital and family relationships.

Claude Thomas Jr., finally succumbed to health challenges that had plagued his body for many years on January 20, 2022. Pre-deceased by his parents, siblings, and one grandson, Thomas leaves to celebrate his legacy his wife of 56 years, Jocelyn B. Thomas; five children; 11 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and adopted children and grandchildren; Oakwood alumni; and community members and friends.

Patrice T. Conwell is the daughter of Claude and Jocelyn Thomas. 📍

BY PATRICE T. CONWELL, APR

Students Receive Film Award at Windrider Summit During Sundance Film Festival



The award-winning short film “Knock Knock” was created by three Southern students.

Three senior animation majors in the School of Visual Art and Design at Southern Adventist University received the “Best Undergraduate Student Film Award” during the Windrider Summit & the Sundance Film Festival Experience 2022. The Windrider Summit, which was held virtually this year, is an official partner of the Sundance Institute. Christian students and leaders from around the world come together for screenings and thoughtful conversations around faith and film.

Mugi Kinoshita, Avery Kroll, and

Ruth Perez were recognized for their short animated film “Knock Knock,” which they created during the 2020-2021 school year. It tells the story of two masked elementary students who communicate by knocking on the plexiglass that divides them and writing sticky notes to each other.

The film previously won “Best Animated Short,” “Best in Festival,” and “Audience Choice Award” at the 2021 Sonscreen Film Festival, an annual event for Christian filmmakers.

“We wanted to find a way to show that there can be a connection even

when there are certain limitations,” Perez said. “I know the connections I’ve made here at Southern will play a major part in my future goals.”

To view “Knock Knock” and other student projects, visit southern.edu/animationshowcase. 🎬

BY STAFF WRITER

Southern Expands MLK Service Day Tradition



PHOTO BY: ELIAS ZABALA

For one project during the MLK weekend, Ken Shaw (center), Southern president, and 74 other volunteers joined “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” to build 75 beds for children in need.

This year, Southern expanded a tradition it began in 1993, moving from one day of service honoring the memory of Martin Luther King Jr. on MLK Day to spending the entire weekend putting words into action. Southern students and employees helped at assisted living facilities, schools, animal shelters, and much more. In fact, approximately 900 volunteers participated in more than 60 service projects over four days.

One project involved collecting and distributing groceries to those facing food insecurity in the area around Southern. As an ongoing partnership between Southern and the Chattanooga

Food Bank, community members in need are invited to campus twice a month to receive groceries. Over the MLK weekend, volunteers gathered more than 6,000 food items from community members, packed bags of groceries, and distributed them to those in need at a drive-through location.

“The most impactful part for me was talking to the people who came for groceries,” said Bailey Krall, senior music major, who helped coordinate the project. “Several of them opened up about their challenges, such as job loss, health problems, and debilitating accidents. Everyone was so gracious, and their kindness left an impression on me. This

experience helped me recognize our shared humanity.”

“It is my great desire for Southern students to know without a doubt that they are uniquely called to serve,” said Melissa Moore, director of Humanitarian Engagement at Southern. “It is the privilege of my office to walk alongside students in that calling. We want to create opportunities where students can get excited to continue this kind of service after they graduate.”

BY STAFF WRITER

ANDERSON, ELIZABETH ANN WEAVER, 99, of Hendersonville, NC, born July 21, 1932 to George and Mary Weaver in Nashville, TN, died Jan. 13, 2022. She graduated from Hume-Fogg High School in Nashville, where she met and married Paul E. Anderson Sr. in Aug. 1950. Elizabeth was an executive secretary, and was blessed with every move of her Seventh-day Adventist minister husband to find employment. Those moves were from Tennessee to Michigan, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, North Carolina, South Carolina, and back to Tennessee once again, and then to North Carolina. Elizabeth was a blessed musician who loved playing the piano and organ and was found most Sabbaths playing either the piano or organ at one of the churches where her husband was the pastor. She is survived by her children: Paul E. (Amanda) Anderson Jr. of Nashville, TN; Cheryl A. Griffin of Columbus, NC; grandchildren: Chelsea Anderson of Denver, CO, P.J (Blair) Anderson of Nashville; Ricky Owen of Columbus, NC, Sheri (Robert) Gordon; and great-grandsons: Tre', Eli, and Owen of Flat Rock, NC, and Randal (Kelsey) Sanderson; great-granddaughter, Frankie of Mount Juliet, TN; Anna (Christian) Pacheco, and great-granddaughter, Gianna; great-grandson, Daniel; and many nieces; and nephews. Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Paul E. Anderson Sr.; by her daughter, Tammy Sanderson; brother, Allen Weaver; and sisters: Mildred Reed and Martha Grace Randalls. Interment will be a private family service in Mount Juliet, TN, at a later date.

BURGER, DAVID RAY, 77, of Englewood TN, died unexpectedly following a heart attack on Jan.

17, 2022 at Starr Regional Medical Center in Athens, TN. He was a lifelong resident of McMinn County and was a son of the late Millard and Dorothy Ray Burger. He was a lifelong member of the Athens Church, where he served in various capacities through the years including deacon, elder, Pathfinder director, and Primary Sabbath School teacher. He was a 1961 graduate of McMinn County High School. He retired from Athens Stove Works/Electrolux, working there for more than 38 years. He was a devoted husband and father, and could often be heard commenting on his beautiful and talented daughters. He loved working on his tractor, mowing yards, planting sweet potatoes to give away in the fall and chopping wood to also give away. He had a calm, loving way and tried to be helpful to everyone he came in contact with. He is survived by his loving wife of almost 58 years, Peggy Coleman Burger of Englewood; a daughter and son-in-law, Dawn and Kent Powell of McMinnville, TN; grandsons: Coley Gunderson of Nashville, TN, and Caleb Gunderson of Chattanooga, TN; sister, Katye (Don) Hunt of McDonald, TN; brother, Steve (Kathy) Burger of Athens; sister-in-law, Edna Burger of Salisbury, NC; numerous brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by daughters: Rachael Ann Burger and Amy Jean Burger; brothers: Larry Burger and Joe Burger. A funeral service was conducted on Thursday, January 20, 2022, with Pastor David Wendt officiating. Internment was at McMinn Memory Gardens. Family and friends served as pallbearers.

CLARKE, BETTY, 78, born Feb. 6, 1943, died Sept. 6, 2021. Betty was a member of the North An-

derson, SC, Church since 2001. She was dearly loved, her bright blue eyes sparkling as if she had a secret. She had been a helper at the church school, which we had several years ago, she often talked of "her students" who are now grown. She was the one who sent bulletins to missing members and "shut-ins" with little notes on them. She was constantly looking for something to do to help someone, having sales at her house, taking care of a teenage boy and his little sisters and teaching them. She was always cheerful and loved it when you called her, "Betty Boop." She was one of 10 children, six brothers, and three sisters. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bob Clarke, her parents, Solomon Israel Hatcher and Les- sie Deene Kinzer Hatcher, and her brother, Fred. She is survived by one daughter, Missey; and three grandsons. Betty will sleep in Jesus until He comes, and I know she would say, "I'll see you in Heaven." Let's all plan to be there.

GIBERSON, GEORGIA (JOY) MARIE, 77, born July 7, 1944 in Chelsea Memorial Hospital in Massachusetts, died Nov. 19, 2021 in High Point, NC. She succumbed, not without a fight, to a rare and aggressive cancer in Hospice care. She is survived by her sister in-law, Doris Giberson; three nieces: Linda Lee, Kimberlee, and Amanda; many great-nieces; nephews; two adopted daughters: Joan Morris and Jean Judith; and two stepsons: David Jr. and Mark. She was preceded in death by her parents: Kenneth and Ethel; and her brother, Harry (Hap). Georgia's memorial service was held Jan. 16, 2022 at 2 p.m., at High Point, NC, Church.

IZNAGA, OLGA MARIA ANDERSON, 86 of Ooltewah, TN, born

Sept. 14, 1934 in Havana, Cuba, died Jan. 31, 2021, with her family by her side. She was a loving wife, mother, and grandmother. Olga was the youngest of four children born to the late Joseph Anderson and Maria Schwyer. Although she didn't receive a formal advanced education, she was a woman of many talents and gifts. Olga was a superb cook, and all who knew her were blessed by her culinary delights. Like her mother, Olga was a gifted seamstress who crafted an assortment of beautiful clothes. She was a wonderful teacher too, of which she aspired. Olga could recite full chapters of the Bible from memory. She was a devout and active Seventh-day Adventist who truly loved the Church and her Lord. On Sept. 27, 1957, she married the love of her life, Juan P. Iznaga, and out of that union two lovely daughters were born. The young family migrated to the U.S. in 1961, and first resided in New York, and then Florida. When the daughters went away to Southern College (now Southern Adventist University), Juan and Olga moved to Collegedale, TN, and have resided in the area for more than 40 years. They were founding members of the Collegedale Spanish Church. Olga often hosted students from Southern Adventist University and welcomed them to her house. It became a home away from home to many students. She is fondly remembered for her hospitality and care of these students. Olga is survived by her husband of 64 years, Juan; two daughters: Maria Iznaga (Jim) Medley, and Marta Iznaga; her four grandsons: Miguel Monzon, Mitchell Monzon, Eddie (Rayana) Monzon, and Erik Thomas; her great-granddaughter, Reagan Monzon; many nieces; nephews; and a grand assortment of friends and loved ones. Her siblings: Samuel, Jose, and Mercedes preceded her in death.

KLEIN, DORALEE M. GRIFFITH, 89, born Sept. 3, 1932 in Andrus, WI. She was a member of the Calhoun, GA, Church and is interred at Gordon Memorial Cemetery in Calhoun. Survivors include her husband of 70 years, Alvin Klein; their children: Theresa (Larry) Doran, Eddie (Debbie) Klein, Kay (Barry) Mann, and Lorinda (Myron) Mills; sister, Birdie (Edward) Burnside; brothers: Wilber (Carole) Griffith and Dale (Rosalie) Griffith; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and many cousins. Doralee was preceded in death by her sister, Verna (Neil) Hadley.

PETERSON, JOHN G., 60, born Dec. 3, 1961 in Hinsdale, IL, died Dec. 28, 2021 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka for more than 30 years. He was a self-employed brick and block mason and a handyman. He is survived by his wife of 30 years, Pamela; one daughter, Kailey (Benjamin) Musselman; one brother, Scott Peterson of Anna Maria Island, FL; and two sisters: Laura (Gerald) Hasty of GA; and Julienne Lohman of Apopka. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Barbara McCoy and Pastor Mark Reams at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

ROSE, 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.

SPALDING, DORRIS NATHAN, 82, born May 24, 1939, died Dec. 25, 2021. He loved spending time with family and good food. He could fix anything and was always willing to help his children or neighbors when he was needed. Nathan was a master plasterer and retired from Allstate Plastering after 21 years. He was a member of the Madison Church. He is survived by his wife, Marisa Jo Spalding; children; and grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents: Jessie Webb Spalding and Granville Tyree Spalding; and his brothers: Lloyd Wayne Spalding and Joe Everette Spalding.

URSIN, ROY, 91, born Jan. 3, 1930, died Dec. 24, 2021 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is currently seeking teaching positions in the following Faculty: School of Education and Psychology, School of Business, and School of Social Work. Adjunct: German Instructor-Modern Languages Department, Business Analytics Fundamentals, Business Finance Fundamentals, Management Fundamentals, and Economics Fundamentals. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs[2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following staff positions Salaried: Counseling Services Coordinator, Security Analyst-IT, WSMC Radio Account Manager, Director of Humanitarian Engagement & Christian Services-Office of Ministry and Missions. Hourly: Deli Supper Cook, Patrol Officer-Campus Safety, Master Mechanic, Deli Assistant Department Manager, Landscape Supervisor, Procurement & Merchandising Assistant, Administrative Assistant, and Whole Foods Plant Based Eatery Manager. For a full list of job openings, summaries, and qualifications please visit southern.edu/jobs[2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY - Computing (emphasis in cybersecurity) The position holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Department of Computing and of Andrews University. The Department of Computing has programs in Computer Science, Information Systems, Informatics, Data Science and Cybersecurity. For more details and to apply, please visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_3. [2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY-Assistant Professor / Associate Professor of Practice / Professor of Architecture The Assistant Professor, Associate Professor of Practice or Professor of Architecture holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service, professional practice, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture & Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching of assigned lecture courses, and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For more details and to apply, please visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_1 [2]

IT IS WRITTEN is seeking a motivated individual to serve as a Trust Officer serving the southeastern United States. The successful applicant will join a professional team of dedicated trust officers and will be enthusiastic about public evangelism and soul winning. For more information or job description visit us at iiw.us/trustofficer. [2]

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IMPACT HOPE is seeking an enthusiastic Development Director with expertise in fundraising and major donor relationship-building, who can bring creativity and resourcefulness to the fundraising operations of a mission-driven nonprofit that supports refugee youth in Rwanda. Email liz@impact-hope.org. [Impact-hope.org](http://impact-hope.org) [3]

DECATUR ADVENTIST ACADEMY EARLY LEARNING CENTER, Stone Mountain, Ga the center board is currently, seeking qualified candidates for the following salaried staff position: Director/Administrator for the ELC. For a full list of qualifications, visit www.daelcsda.com Resumes/CV may be sent to daelc30@gmail.com[3-6]

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try work. Call 334-855-4764 or visit www.uchee-pines.org[C]

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LEGAL NOTICE

Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Session

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular session of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene on Sunday, May 1, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at the Wally Fox Wellness Center on the campus of Georgia-Cumberland Academy. The purpose of this session is to receive reports for the five-year period ending December 31, 2021, elect officers, departmental directors, and the Conference Executive Committee, revise or amend the constitution and bylaws, and to transact any such other business as may properly come before the delegates. Each church in the Conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) delegate for each fifty (50) members or major fraction thereof.

Gary B. Rustad, President
Chester V. Clark III, Vice President for Administration/Secretariat

LEGAL NOTICES

12th Regular Session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the 12th regular session of the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at a location to be determined, on Sunday, April 24, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. The Organizing Committee will meet on Saturday night, April 23, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. (sunset). This constituency session is called for the purpose of electing officers and for transacting any other business as may properly come before the membership. Each church in the conference is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one (1) additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. For the Organizing Committee, each church is entitled to one (1) delegate for the church and one (1) additional delegate for each 500 members or major fraction thereof.

Michael K. A. Owusu, President
Carl E. Ware Sr., Associate Executive Secretary
Sheree N. Brown, CFO/Treasurer

12th Regular Session of the Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the 12th regular session of the Southeastern Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet at a location to be determined, on Sunday, April 24, 2022. The delegates to the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Michael K. A. Owusu, President
Carl E. Ware Sr., Associate Secretary
Sheree N. Brown, CFO/Treasurer



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► For more information, call your Planned Giving office

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*For more research, visit southern.edu/100reasons.

Collegedale, TN



CAROLINA

- Pathfinder Work-Bee Campout** - March 18-20. Nosoca Pines Ranch.
- 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.

FLORIDA

- Men's Ministries Convention (English)** - March 11-13. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs, FL. Theme: Undefeated. Keynote speakers: Henry Wright, Mike Tucker, Newton King, and Newton Hoilette. Details/registration: men.floridaconference.com, floridaconferencemen.org/convention-2022, campkulaqua.com, or kulaqua.com.
- A Better Choice / Florida Adventist Book Center** - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: myfloridaabc.com or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com
- Florida Adventist Book Center Express Delivery Schedule** - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to

be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.

March 20. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, Port Charlotte.

March 27. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Jacksonville LifePoint, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

April 3. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Maranatha in Miami Gardens, Sunrise, Midport.

April 10. Deltona Spanish, Daytona, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Melbourne, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

April 24. Inverness, Homosassa, Brooksville, Spring Hill, New Port Rickey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

May 1. North Lake in Leesburg, Marion Oaks in Ocala, Ocala, Perry, Tallahassee.

May 15. West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie.)

May 22. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Pathfinder Junior Event - March 11-13.

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA

Hispanic Women's Retreat - March 18-20. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

Adventurer Family Fun Weekend - March 25-27. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Nominating Committee - April 3. Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Pathfinder Camporee - April 21-24. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

33rd Regular Constituency Session - May 1. Wally Fox Wellness Center, Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA. Please check our website for the latest information at www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

PreviewSouthern - March 24-25. Interested students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga, TN. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIVE OAK SDA CHURCH MESSIAH'S MANSION - March 19-26 and Spring Convocation March 25-27 in Live Oak, FL. Free Tours daily from 1-5 p.m. Register for the free tour or get more information at messiahsmansion.com/liveoak

HOOVER CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (formerly Brakeworth Junior Academy) will hold its Alumni Sabbath on April 2. Following morning services at Birmingham First Church (next door). There will be an alumni potluck at the school. Come reconnect with old friends, share memories, and pictures! Contact the school at 205-987-3376 or office@hooverchristianschool.org for more information or to tell us you're coming.

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Aug. 8-11, 2023. Orlando, FL. The convention was rescheduled from the Sept. 2022 date to Aug. 2023.

SUNSET						
	MAR 4	MAR 11	MAR 18	MAR 25	APR 1	APR 8
ATLANTA, GA	6:37	6:43	7:48	7:54	7:59	8:04
CHARLESTON, SC	6:20	6:25	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46
CHARLOTTE, NC	6:22	6:28	7:34	7:40	7:45	7:51
COLLEGE DALE, TN	6:39	6:45	7:51	7:57	8:02	8:08
HUNTSVILLE, AL	5:46	5:51	6:57	7:03	7:08	7:14
JACKSON, MS	6:01	6:07	7:12	7:16	7:21	7:26
LOUISVILLE, KY	6:40	6:47	7:54	8:00	8:07	8:14
MEMPHIS, TN	5:59	6:05	7:11	7:17	7:22	7:28
MIAMI, FL	6:25	6:28	7:32	7:35	7:38	7:41
MONTGOMERY, AL	5:46	5:51	6:56	7:01	7:06	7:11
NASHVILLE, TN	5:45	5:52	6:58	7:04	7:10	7:16
ORLANDO, FL	6:28	6:32	7:36	7:40	7:44	7:48
TAMPA, FL	6:33	6:37	7:41	7:44	7:48	7:52
WILMINGTON, NC	6:11	6:17	7:23	7:28	7:33	7:39

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