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TIDINGS

APRIL 2022



SNELL BRINGS
NEW INITIATIVES TO
BREATH OF LIFE

MEMBERS GO ON MISSION TRIP
INSIDE THEIR CONFERENCE

UNTAPPED
POTENTIAL

GOD CALLED THREE
POLICEMEN INTO HIS SERVICE

A Case for Rejoicing



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

“Let us eat, and be merry: for this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry,” Luke 15:23, 24.

The shriveled, malignant soul of Satan finds no joy in those who live for God. The evil one sneered at the status Job enjoyed with God. “You have put a hedge around him and his house,” Satan claimed. You have blessed the work of his hands and have made him prosperous,” (see Job 1:10).

What Job had been before he found God, we do not know. We do know that he sensed deeply his sin and need of God. We know that, like all God’s children, he sought the obedient, faithful life. Satan’s scorn left Job vulnerable, but in the end, his faith triumphed.

In the parable of the lost son, the older brother scorned his brother’s repentance, grew angry at the favors the father gave him, and demanded to know what right the father had to treat the younger brother thus. He raised the same excuse as Cain did when he murdered Abel. He had no responsibility for the prodigal. The wayward one was “your son,” not “my brother.” In one of my favorite books, *Christ’s Object Lessons*, we learn that the older brother showed by his attitude that he needed reconciliation with the father as much as did the prodigal.

In the repentant attitude of the wayward son, we understand the secret of the father’s joy. In order, the prodigal declares (1) his sin against God, (2) his sin against the father, (3) his loss of sonship, and (4) his determination to serve faithfully in the father’s house.

On such contrition, the father based his hopes for the future. He saw in the son that which he had always wanted for both his children — a desire to serve from the love they had for him.

In the parable, the father represents God; the younger son — all who repent and seek reconciliation. The father’s joy as he prepares to celebrate the son’s return matches the heavenly Father’s.

God’s joy over Job appears in the final chapter as Job understands how much he owes to God and God gives His blessing. In the parable of the lost son, the father who “makes merry” helps us understand what it is that makes the heart of God glad.

As I contemplate the prodigals throughout this vast Union geography, many are attitudinally poised to acknowledge ... their sin against God, their sin against the church, their loss of status as a member of the body of Christ, and their intention to serve God and His church faithfully if the opportunity is presented again. This year of multiplying our membership through reconnecting people who once walked with us builds the case for rejoicing.

I wish to thank every member of the Southern Union for your manifested partnership with us in the business of redeeming people.

“All the resources of Heaven are at the command of those who are seeking to save the lost,” *Christ’s Object Lessons*, p. 197. –RCS



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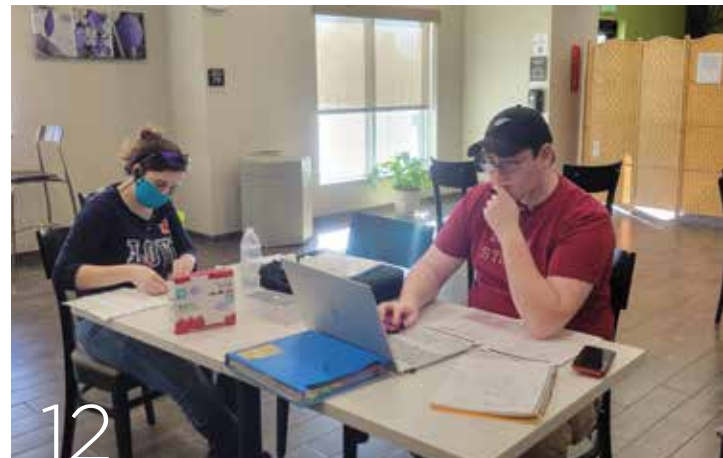
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FRONT COVER: DEBLEAIRE SNELL,
SPEAKER/DIRECTOR FOR THE BREATH OF
LIFE TELEVISION MINISTRY



SNELL BRINGS NEW INITIATIVES TO BREATH OF LIFE

BY DEBLEAIRE SNELL

The Breath of Life (BOL) Television Ministry has a long and storied history.

Breath of Life was conceived under the creative and visionary leadership of Walter Arties, pastor. Its initial design was to create a media vehicle to reach the inner cities, and help evangelize urban communities. The ministry exploded under the legendary leadership of the late Charles Brooks, pastor. Brooks brought a unique preaching presence that captivated audiences of all ages and races.

After Brooks retired, Breath of Life was led by the legendary hands of the late Walter Pearson, pastor. Through the ministry of Pearson, the reach of Breath of Life was able to expand. He brought a creativity to the preaching moment, and the simplicity that made the Gospel relatable and attainable to all people.

Just over 12 years ago after Pearson retired, the ministry was placed under the very capable stewardship of Carlton Byrd, D.Min. Byrd was the first speaker/director to host Breath of Life from a local church context. Beginning at the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church in Atlanta, Georgia, he eventually began to host the ministry from the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville Alabama. During his leadership tenure, thousands of individuals were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and the ministry was able to connect with the unchurched in ways we never thought possible.

I've personally been impacted by all three of my predecessors, as the Lord used them to help transform communities and to build the body of Christ. I count it a tremendous joy to share in such a rich and sacred legacy. I hope to continue the tremendous evangelistic



legacy of making Jesus Christ known through the preaching of the Gospel.

The Path Forward

We celebrate God's goodness to the Breath of Life Television Ministry in years past. As we forge ahead by faith, my prayer is that we would be able to function as a spiritual branch that provides nurture for the body of Christ. We would like for Breath of Life to help nourish our churches spiritually, evangelistically, and through equipping and training. My mission over time is to make sure that the contributions our churches make to Breath of Life are outweighed by the benefits they receive.

Evangelistically

We hope to continue the excellent

traditions of evangelism started by Charles Brooks, and continued by Walter Pearson and Carlton Byrd. In the next two years, we have evangelistic revivals planned for Charlotte, North Carolina; Huntsville, Alabama; Bermuda; Seattle, Washington; Los Angeles, California; and Miami, Florida. In addition to full evangelistic crusades, Breath of Life will be hosting a number of weekend revivals, reaping meetings, and leadership trainings.

Educationally

We believe it is critical for Breath of Life to reproduce itself. In the fall of 2022, we will be launching our Breath of Life Media School. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, a strong online presence is critical. Since the

“We want to make serious contributions to the spiritual life of our Breath of Life family.”

start of the pandemic, many of our smaller churches have struggled to have an online presence. This year's media cohort will focus on small churches. We hope to train pastors and



PHOTO BY: B NICOLE PHOTOGRAPHY

Debleaire Snell is the speaker/director of the Breath of Life Television Ministry as well as the senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. He is married to the former Gianna Norman, and they have three children, Jadon, Brooke, and Braydon.



PHOTO BY: GIANNA SNELL PHOTOGRAPHY

Debleaire Snell, pastor, preaches weekly at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama, and his sermons are aired worldwide on the Breath of Life Television Ministry programs.

AV leaders of churches that have less than 50 people in attendance. We hope to share the value of having a social media presence, appropriate lighting, website, management, and worship production. We want to share the competencies that are present at Breath of Life so that all of our churches are able to thrive.

We will also be launching the first semester of our Breath of Life School of Evangelism. We will be initiating a cohort for pastors who want to grow in the area of evangelism. Those with a hunger for evangelism will be given the tools for effective evangelism. Our hope is that this assists in giving our churches an evangelistic jumpstart. It is critical for traditionally strong churches to add to their growth, but the work cannot be completed until

more of our churches are able to add to the God's Kingdom.

Spiritually

We want to make serious contributions to the spiritual life of our Breath of Life family. Through the preaching of the Gospel, we hope to make Jesus Christ known through our weekly television and streaming ministries. We also hope to multiply the content that our BOL app provides. Too often Seventh-day Adventists have to go to websites like U-verse or crosswalk.com to have day-to-day devotional needs met. We want our app to function like spiritual Walmart. Over the next couple of years, we look forward through our app to providing a verse for the day; Bible reading plans; prayer challenges; print and video devotionals for men, wom-

en, couples, and children; and topical spiritual content. We want to provide thoughtful doctrinal material along with spiritual content created by Seventh-day Adventists to help nurture the practicing Seventh-day Adventists. We ask for your continued support of Breath of Life. First, we ask for your prayers. Secondly, we ask that you would spread by word of mouth the things that BOL is doing that are impactful to you. Lastly, we request your continued financial support. BOL is a donation-based ministry. Your gifts allow us to fill up the airwaves and internet streams with the Glad Tidings of salvation. 📌

Debleaire Snell is the speaker/director for the Breath of Life Television Ministry.

UNTAPPED POTENTIAL

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

With more than 21 million Adventist Church members globally and a growing list of media and outreach resources, our Church has all the components to reach the entire world right now.

After sharing in a local Gulf States church the statistic that there are only about 365 people in the world to every one Adventist (compared to our start in 1863 where the ratio was one Adventist for every 3,000,000), a local church member reached out to me. He shared that he had started a numbered list of people he had intentionally reached out to in one way or another. The purpose of his list was not to reach 365 influences and then stop, but to be more deliberate regularly in how he interacted with others to make a positive impact. It was a tool to help him be more accountable with his influence.

With the virality of how messages spread today, even impacting a thousand people as an individual shouldn't feel out of reach. Our potential to influence others positively is excellent. When it comes to marketing, particularly in our digital world, there's a simple formula for something to go "viral." First, each person who views the content should share it with at least one more person. Next, each second set of viewers shares it with at least one more person in their sphere of influence. The longer that continues, the more people are exposed to the

content. Eventually, the various algorithms that determine which content to promote on front pages and in the digital feeds of people may select it to gain even more prominent exposure.

The original content needs to be interesting, of course, and easily shareable. From a physical standpoint, that's what makes GLOW tracts more shareable than large paperback books. You can carry more of them, both in quantity and in variety, to meet specific needs, and you can put them in more places. They're also much easier to open and read because of the short-form writing. From a digital perspective, it should be something on a platform most people are familiar with, like a website that is viewable on all devices or apps like YouTube or Facebook, even Instagram, and TikTok. Similar to GLOW tracts, shorter videos and blogs are easier to digest, which makes them more shareable.

There are two things our Church needs the most right now, people to make content that speaks to those with similar interests, and even more people to share content that already exists. When it comes to creating content, we shouldn't negate the opportunity that comes from simply creating good, wholesome content that speaks to shared interests that others may share. For example, my family follows a travel YouTube channel that features a family with young children and the

"With our strength in numbers, there's no reason our global Church shouldn't be able to take any of our best content and make it viral."



different places they travel to and their adventures. The channel's content is not overtly spiritual; however, the family is not particularly shy about their church and how this shapes their belief and lifestyle. The result is that it paints a positive perspective of their church because the channel's content is pleasant, uplifting, and enjoyable to watch. Adventists could create these kinds of channels on any number of subjects, from cooking instruction to crafting with wood or almost any other hobby. It just needs a touch of personality so that viewers can see Jesus in you and a commitment to connecting with others in the comments, so they realize you're a real person. Be genuine. This type

of positive influence can win people's confidence and allow you the opportunity to share invitations personally.

The second need is for more people to share the content already out there. With our strength in numbers, there's no reason our global Church shouldn't be able to take any of our best content and make it viral. To do that, we would need to work together, and all be focused on promoting the same pieces of content simultaneously. Today, this is possible through an official app from the Adventist church called Adventist Teams. In the free app, which is available for Apple and Android at www.adventistteams.org, users follow step-

by-step missions that help them do things like watch Adventist YouTube videos for at least three minutes, like the video, and leave a comment. These missions raise the video in the algorithms and increase the potential for higher search results. The tool also allows users to search for content related to a particular topic to share it directly with friends and acquaintances. The app is structured with teamwork and discipleship in mind. Users create their teams through invitations, and work together to complete the missions.

We have had great initiatives in the Adventist Church for many years, including the current campaign of I Will

Go (www.iwillgo2020.org). However, the essence of these initiatives rightfully remains the same; we need more church members to be more active. With that being said, I believe the on-ramp to activity is easier and more scalable now than it has ever been. Take the skills and gifts God has given you and prayerfully put them to His use. Together, let's reach the entire world right now. 📌

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



You are the greatest resource our Church has to reach the world right now.

GOD CALLED THREE POLICEMEN INTO HIS SERVICE

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Before receiving his call to ministry, Mike Hewitt, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference vice president for administration, worked as a police officer from 1994 to 2003. In 2000, he was assigned as a traffic officer and a fatality investigator in Roanoke County Police Department in Roanoke, Virginia. One evening, Hewitt was called to investigate a car accident report involving two teenagers. Nothing could've prepared him for the scene he was about to witness.

The car was hanging from a telephone pole. The headlights had been knocked out, but the taillights and marker lights were still flickering. The two victims, a teenage boy and girl, had been killed almost instantly. As Hewitt approached the scene, his heart broke and a question entered his mind: Were they ready to meet Jesus?

Though Hewitt had been raised a Seventh-day Adventist, he had strayed away from the faith and was no longer attending church. As he continued to report on the accident, a new question started to bother him.

"My mind kind of went from, 'were those kids ready?' To me having to ask myself, 'am I ready?' And I knew the answer was no. I was not," Hewitt said.

God Calls Hewitt

Shortly after this incident, Hewitt began studying the Bible and watched video tapes of evangelistic seminars. With the guidance of his mother and grand-



Steve Haley, Brian Milano, and Mike Hewitt pose for a picture after Milano's ordination at Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church. Though in different places and at different times, the three men felt their call to ministry while serving in law enforcement.

mother, Hewitt made the decision to come back to God. At the same time, he started to feel a call to ministry.

"I got pretty excited about it," Hewitt said. "I started to tell my coworkers and they thought I'd lost my mind. They would say 'Mike, you're going to be a detective,'... but once I sensed the call to become a pastor, law enforcement just wasn't good enough anymore."

Hewitt's story does not stand alone. Though in different places and at different times, God was also working in the lives of two other police officers. Steve Haley, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference president, and Brian Milano, pastor at Tullahoma and Murfreesboro, Tennes-

see, Church, also felt their call to ministry while serving in law enforcement.

God Calls Haley

Haley served as a patrol and traffic officer from 1978 to 1981 in Rockville, Maryland.

"I was always interested in law enforcement," Haley, who joined law enforcement as soon as he turned 21, said. "I think I liked the perception of excitement and flashing lights and sirens and catching bad people."

During his last year as a police officer, Haley was assigned to work in a hospital on the weekends. His responsibility included handling the release of dead bodies from the morgue, some of which had been murder victims. Haley recalls the experience as sobering.

"I would come home to my apartment, and I just started thinking about deeper issues, like, 'what's life all about?' And 'what do I want to do my whole life?' Haley said. "Behind the scenes, I think the Holy Spirit was talking to me."

After a few months, Haley decided to take his life in a different direction. He resigned from his police job and accepted God's call to ministry.

God Calls Milano

Milano worked as a part-time officer for a few years before starting his lifelong career of law enforcement. He became a full-time policeman in 1990 and

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE HALEY

served until he retired in 2012. He held various positions, including patrol officer, police chief, and detective.

Milano carried a Bible in his police car that he had taken from a hotel, but he had never opened the book. One night as he was patrolling the streets, he felt the urge to read this Bible.

“I had a very skewed understanding of how God worked and how a person obtained eternal life,” Milano said. “In my mind, if your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds, then you’ll be in Heaven. As I read the Scriptures that night, I realized that wasn’t true. And so, the Holy Spirit impressed me to go into the police station and make a phone call.”

Milano took the phone book and searched the number for a Seventh-day Adventist Church—the church that his twin siblings and aunt attended. After speaking with a pastor and, later receiving Bible studies, Milano was baptized in 2003.

The Transition

Hewitt, Haley, and Milano all had different journeys in their transition from law enforcement to ministry, but God was guiding each of their stories.

Hewitt, who obtained an associate degree in criminal justice, recalls wrestling with his call to ministry when he recognized it meant change.

“I realized that I would have to give up my steady income to go to school...” Hewitt said. “At one point, I was talking to one of my professors who told me ‘God has called you,’ and I replied ‘Well, let him call somebody else because I’m not sure that I’m up for this.’”

However, Hewitt could not shake away that call and instead accepted it with joy. He began working as a pastor in 2005, and eventually earned a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership and a master’s degree in pastoral ministry from Andrews University.

Haley took a different route. He worked as a student religion teacher at Georgia-Cumberland Academy first. Then, in 1985, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference decided to sponsor him to



Mike Hewitt, Kentucky-Tennessee vice president for administration, served as police officer and traffic officer from 1994 to 2003 in Roanoke, Va.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MIKE HEWITT



Steve Haley, Kentucky-Tennessee president, served as a patrol and traffic officer from 1978 to 1981 in Rockville, Md.

PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE HALEY



Brian Milano, pastor at Tullahoma and Murfreesboro, Tenn., Church, served as patrol officer, police chief, and detective from 1990 to 2012 in Merrimack County, NH.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN MILANO

pursue his master’s in divinity from Andrews University.

“All I knew is that I wanted to do something for the Lord,” Haley said. “I wanted to do something where my life mattered for ministry and for people.”

Milano became actively involved in his church as soon as he got baptized. While he was still in law enforcement, he received a call from the New England Conference to pastor the Rutland Church in Rutland City, Vermont.

“So, I did that bi-vocationally,” Milano said. “I worked full-time as a detective, finishing my time for retirement, and then on the weekends I would go to Vermont with my wife and kids. I would preach on Sabbath and visit church members on Sunday.”

When Milano retired from the police force in 2012, he made the decision to become a full-time minister. On May 15, 2021, Milano was ordained at Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Church.

“I actually never got to experience retirement because I never stopped working,” Milano said. “I didn’t go looking for it, but the Lord opened the doors and made it very clear that that’s what He wanted me to do.”

The Blessing

Hewitt, Haley, and Milano all agree that their time in law-enforcement helped them prepare for ministry. According to Hewitt, his time in the police force taught him about working with people and having compassion. Haley emphasized how law enforcement showed him the importance of partnering with God. Milano adds that as a police chief he learned about budgeting and strategizing to meet goals, both skills which he says are useful for working with a church.

Though the trio had different experiences, they recognize that God had a plan all along.

“I really enjoyed and was blessed in my years in law enforcement,” Milano said. “I would not change my career choice. I learned an awful lot about a lot of things... and when the time was right, the Lord used those skills and opened the door for pastoral ministry.”

Paola Mora Zepeda
is Kentucky-Tennessee’s media ministries director.

MEMBERS GO ON MISSION TRIP INSIDE THEIR CONFERENCE

BY NOAH BANKS AND RACHEL BEAVER

Members from the Standifer Gap Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, went on a mission trip in November 2021 to south Georgia, in partnership with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference’s Leads program. The program helps connect churches with those who have requested Bible studies or Adventist literature through various media ministry channels. This trip in particular was important for reaching an area of Georgia that does not have much of an Adventist presence, but still has many people who are hungry for the Lord. Participants also visited the local Seventh-day Adventist churches to facilitate Bible work training.

Starting in May of 2021, the Standifer Gap Church was assigned more than 120 contacts from as far back as 2016 to early 2021. Looking to organize the program, Standifer Gap Church hired Bible work coordinator Noah Banks to help train the church members in Bible work. David Sitler, Standifer Gap pastor, and Banks began to formulate creative ideas for how to reach these contacts and their communities. One of these ideas developed into the mission trip. After getting the trip organized, the dates were set for November 17-21, 2021. Four college students, two Bible workers, two conference Bible workers, Banks, and Sitler went to southern Georgia to work in God’s mission field.

“Standifer Gap partnered with Douglass and Waycross churches to help



Noah Banks, Bible work coordinator at Standifer Gap Church, and Moriah Shadley, both master’s students at Southern Adventist University, prepare materials for Bible study contacts in south Georgia. Over five days, a 10-person team contacted nearly 100 people who had expressed interest in Bible studies.

provide assistance virtually with individual and group Bible studies, but follow-up was difficult online, so mission trips were needed,” says Lavinia Collins, Conference Leads program coordinator. “We had assumed that since the population was lower in these areas that there wouldn’t be as many leads, but hundreds responded. Chattanooga has the opposite problem; we have many soldiers who want to do Bible work, but there aren’t as many leads. Douglass and Waycross are both smaller churches as well, so they don’t have the resources or the workers needed to connect with all those leads,” says Collins. This opened an opportunity for Standifer Gap members to do mission work outside their immediate communi-

ty, even when COVID restricted travel.

When the team arrived, they began scouting the areas of Jesup, Alma, Baxley, and Hazlehurst. They were concerned with how these people would respond to strangers from Chattanooga knocking on their door, but the response was overwhelmingly positive. Over the course of five days, the group visited between 90 and 100 people. All of them were friendly and welcoming, and the studies were well-received. The team also did Bible work training for members of the Waycross Church. Many members assisted with the door-to-door visits and seemed eager to learn.

The Standifer Gap team has already planned additional trips with an even greater list of connections. Currently, there aren’t any plans to plant a church in these areas, so the Leads program wants to make sure that these individuals aren’t forgotten.

“We don’t fully understand where this will lead,” says Collins, “but we are responding to their spiritual needs. We want to keep them warm until more sustainable plans are put in place.”

Noah Banks is the Bible worker for Standifer Gap Church.

Rachel Beaver is the assistant communication director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

PHOTO BY: DAVID SITLER

Adult Degree Completion Program Offers Second Chances

This winter, Southern Adventist University launched its new Adult Degree Completion program. Designed for individuals age 25 years and older who have earned some college credits but not a four-year degree, this program provides an opportunity to fulfill lifelong goals and improve career opportunities.

For Pam Burchard, business administration major, entering the program meant returning to Southern after 34 years. Burchard first attended Southern in the 1980s, where she met her husband, Sam, and earned a two-year office administration degree that the University no longer offers. After graduation, the couple stayed in Tennessee and raised a daughter together.

Over time, Burchard observed that a four-year degree would open more doors for advancing in her career. When she learned of Southern's Adult Degree Completion program, Burchard jumped at the opportunity.

"I had been thinking and praying about



After 34 years, Pam Burchard (right) is completing her bachelor's degree at Southern with the support of her husband, Sam, and daughter, Katlyn.

going back to school, so when I got an email about the program, I responded to it immediately," Burchard said. "It was a God thing."

The classes Burchard is taking build on what she learned decades ago as well as her years of work experience. Created with working adults in mind, the program offers flexibility with eight-week sessions, re-

duced tuition, and the option of completing coursework online or in person. More information is available at southern.edu/adc.

"My goal for each student in this program is not only that they will finish with a degree," said Cynthia Wright, program director, "but that they will be able to have the career of their choice."

Burchard is excited by the possibilities that lay ahead of her. Once she completes her bachelor's degree, she plans to pursue her long-time dream of serving as a high school administrator.

"It's never too late to go back to school," she said. "The first few weeks were quite tough, but once I got into the routine of things, it's actually easier than I thought it would be. And, once you've earned that degree, no one can ever take that away from you." 📍

BY STEFANIE GREEN

Business Students Benefit From Alumni Mentors

Students in Southern's School of Business can gain valuable career insights by working one-on-one with alumni mentors. Started as a partnership between the Academic Department and the Alumni Association, the goal of the program is to connect current students with alumni who have experience in their field of interest.

"Mentorship can help students develop their career path, build a professional network, improve important life skills, and encourage their spiritual growth," said Moses Maier, a 2017 finance man-

agement alum who was involved in establishing the program in 2020.

Both students and alumni participants have expressed appreciation for the program.

"My mentor challenged my thoughts about a career, and I always left our meetings feeling encouraged and validated to move forward in a way that is outside of the box," said Alyson Zapara, senior business administration major. "He provided excellent ideas to help me with personal projects and professional struggles, and I greatly appreciated his time and assistance."

"I've enjoyed meeting with my mentee, Andrew, and it has been a blessing to be able to share some experiences I've had, and to hear about his ideas and goals for the future," said Collin Petty, a 2011 and 2014 business management alum who has served as a mentor. "It gives me great hope to know that God continues to utilize the people of my alma mater to prepare the next generation for the joy of service." 📍

BY STAFF WRITER

Ministerial Spouses Retreat Focuses on Support for Each Other

Carolina Conference ministerial spouses had the opportunity to pause for a weekend of rest this past December 10-12, 2021, at the annual MSA (Ministerial Spouse's Association) retreat, themed "Warmth for Our Hearts." The event featured music and relevant presentations by counselor Jennifer Jill Schwitzer, and created space for rest, recharging batteries, and connecting with other pastors' wives. "I feel so loved and so pampered — I'm ready to get back to my life," commented one participant. Several attendees expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to connect with other spouses.

"Being a pastor's wife can be lonely," said Carole Louis, director of the MSA.

"I want them to be able to connect with others who understand and give them a place to feel loved and appreciated." Louis started the yearly retreat in 2014, and the event has had up to 40 attendees at a time. "I am grateful for the support of the Carolina Conference and the team of women who help make this possible," Louis said.

The retreat is held at Nosoca Pines Ranch, where director Rick Faber and his staff go the extra mile to ensure the experience is comfortable. Participants can choose to enjoy a variety of activities, or to simply unplug and have some personal downtime in their own private room. Activities typically offered include presentations, devotionals, music,

group prayer, pontoon boat rides, hayrides, crafting, games, and massages.

This year, Schwitzer spoke on anxiety, depression, and abuse in the Church, providing helpful tools for dealing with these challenges at a variety of levels. Judith Flores, ministerial spouse from the Charlotte Central Spanish Church, spoke on Psalms 3, drawing several object lessons from the sunflower, and reminding participants that God is faithful to sustain them and hold their heads up if they keep their eyes on Jesus, the Son of Righteousness. 📍

BY ALICIA PALACIOS



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Romance at the Ranch 2022 Held



PHOTO BY: HENRIQUE GOMES

Fifty-two couples descended upon Nosoca Pines Ranch the weekend of February 11-13, 2022, for the Carolina Conference’s annual marriage retreat, Romance at the Ranch. Attending couples ranged from being married just four months to 67 years. This year’s theme was “Escape to Italy.” Several couples are regular attendees who make Romance at the Ranch a must-attend annual event. One couple shared as they were leaving Sunday morning, “This is our first marriage retreat we have ever attended. We want to do it every year!”

Eli Rojas, D.Min., and his wife, Loida, presented five sessions on having an intentional marriage. Eli Rojas serves as the Chesapeake Conference ministerial director, and also serves on the North American Division Family Ministries Committee. It was a homecoming of sorts as they served several churches in the Carolinas before joining the Chesapeake Conference. The Rojas’ messages were timely and encouraging, and their presentations were fun and engaging. It was a blessed weekend.

On a sad note, Jayme Rouse, the administrative assistant for family ministries in Carolina, announced that this



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

was her last Romance at the Ranch as she is retiring at the end of the year. After teaching in church schools and working in many departments over the years, Rouse has served in the Family Ministries Department for the past eight years. Because of her love for people, her warm personality, her organizational skills, and her natural giftedness at taking a theme idea and transforming the camp cafeteria into a romantic getaway, Rouse will be sorely missed. Eric Bates, D.Min., and his wife, Ann Marie, Carolina Conference family ministries directors, shared with the couples that “a department such as family ministries



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

is only as good as its administrative assistant, and Jayme is the best!”

Just days from this writing, another 42 couples will arrive at Nosoca Pines Ranch for the Spanish language, Hispanic Romance at the Ranch where the Rojas will return for another blessed, rich weekend.

Couples of the Carolinas are already looking forward to 2023’s Romance at the Ranch (English), February 10-12, and (Spanish), February 17-19. ●

BY ERIC BATES, D.MIN., DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

Plant Care Packages Bring Hope for New Year Amid Pandemic

As the Christian world was busy celebrating Christmas on December 25, 2021, the pastor and elders of the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., Church were preparing to distribute care packages in the form of plants grown in their backyards for their parishioners. Deliveries were made during the last week of December 2021 and the first week of January 2022. “A plant is symbolic of a new beginning,” says Ludlow Bartley, church elder.

Amid the pandemic, Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor, decided to plant some aloe vera plants in his backyard in a raised bed garden that he built since aloe vera is well known for its healing properties for the skin. He watered the plants heavily once every two weeks.

The pastor encouraged his elders to plant a flower or plant to give to parishioners by the end of 2021. They excitedly accepted the idea and grew a variety of plants. During the holidays, eight teams composed of an elder and his spouse or the pastor and his wife, visited congregants, dropped off the plants, and offered a short prayer at the front door as they practiced social distancing.

Guests, including Mary Jane Lunas, also received a plant as they visited the church on January 8, 2022. Lunas had contacted Fort Lauderdale Church via Facebook and expressed an interest in attending in-person worship at the church, having never worshiped in an Adventist church. “The sermon was just what I needed,” she said after her dream became a reality.

During the first and second quarters of 2021, the pastor and board of elders of Fort Lauderdale Church did a similar initiative of distributing a care package to every family in its church amid the pandemic. ❶



PHOTO BY: DEANGELO THOMPSON

Jeffrey Thompson, Ph.D., senior pastor, raised aloe vera plants in his back yard as part of a plant-giving program for each church family and guests to begin a new year.



PHOTO BY: JAMES COOKE

Mary Jane Lunas (center), a guest at Fort Lauderdale Church, was presented with a welcome gift of a plant by Colette Cooke (left), first elder, and Jeffrey Thompson (right), senior pastor.

BY JEFFREY THOMPSON, PH.D.

Chaplain Commissioned at AdventHealth New Smyrna Beach Business Center

**Loréal-Angelique Moïse—
January 7, 2022**

Loréal-Angelique Moïse, chaplain, is an inspirational speaker who is passionate about providing an empathetic presence to others through spiritual and emotional support. She was born and raised in Mobile, Ala., as the eldest of two children and grew up in a non-conventional, blended family environment. Moïse is a high-spirited individual, with boundless enthusiasm, practices positive reframing, and is committed to her life's passion of caring about the real inner person who others may not see.

At 11 years old, Moïse began to recognize sociocultural factors that were impacting her body image. She was then determined to address these life stressors which propelled her into an interdisciplinary approach to education — mind, body, and spirit. Moïse completed her Bachelor of Arts in theology (spiritual component), a minor in food and nutrition (body component), and five units of clinical pastoral education (CPE) (mind component).

Seeking to understand holistic healing, Moïse accepted the Lord's call into clinical ministry where she received sponsorship from AdventHealth. She completed her Master of Divinity at Andrews University Theological Seminary, with a concentration in pastoral counseling. During her CPE residency, Moïse discovered specialized strategies for spiritual and emotional wellness in double-minority populations.

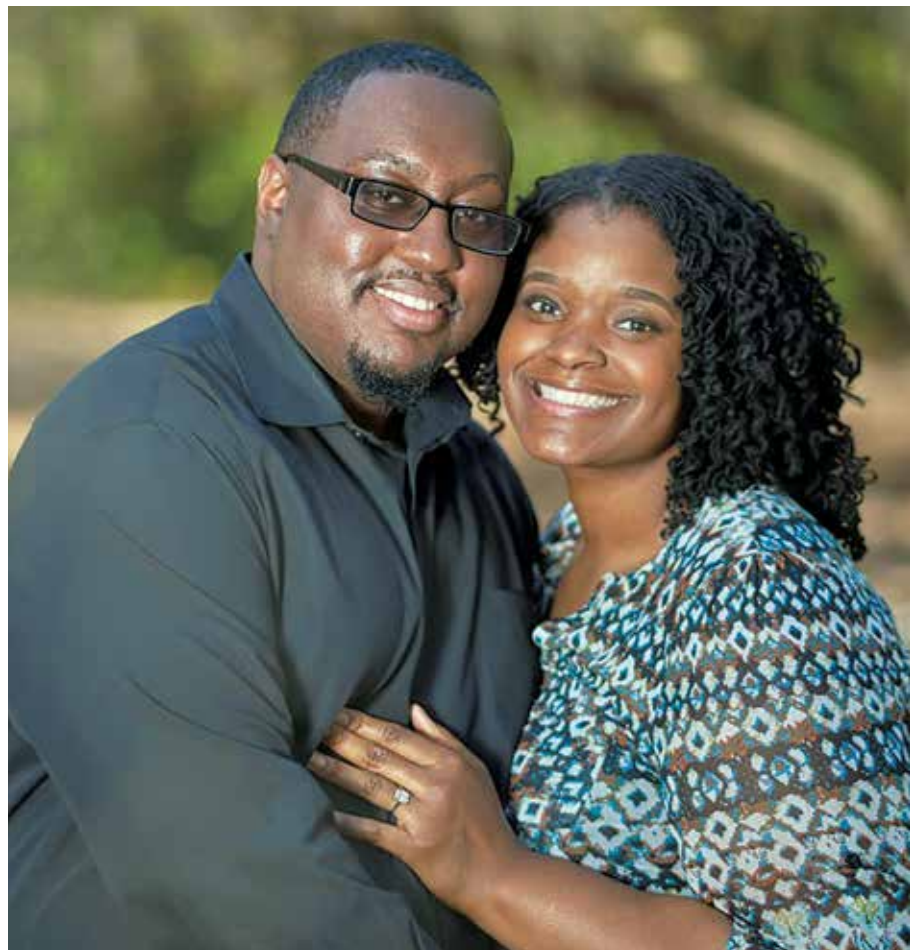
Moïse advocates for the teachings of Genesis 2:7, which explores cultural influences on body image and addresses stress eating, as an outcry for emotional

and spiritual hunger. In her community, she seeks to promote body positivity by instilling hope to those who desire to make peace with their body.

For six years, Moïse has been a chaplain. Outside of work, she enjoys being the wife to Karl Moïse, publishing student leader for Southeastern Conference in Mount Dora, Fla. She also enjoys socializing with friends and family, cre-

ative artistry, weightlifting, walking, singing, traveling, speaking, laughing, and having fun.

Her personal mission comes from the Scripture in 2 Corinthians 1:4, to comfort others with the comfort received from God, which ignites her to transparently live out loud — her greatest joy. 📍



Karl Moïse and Loréal-Angelique Moïse, chaplain

Jo Dubs Retires from Georgia-Cumberland Conference

After nearly 20 years of service, Jo Dubs has retired from her position as director of family and women’s ministries at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Dubs’ heart for ministry is reflected in her impact at Georgia-Cumberland.

“It’s hard to pinpoint exactly when I felt called to ministry,” says Dubs, “because I think it started when I was a kid. I always had a heart for others. My grandfather would tease me and ask if I was going to become a nun, but that was because even then he saw something in me.”

Dubs says that she always felt a sense of longing for God — a calling that she belonged to Him. Her sensitivity to others manifested during her years working as a nurse, where she also worked with high-risk families. As the wife of a pastor, she gained leadership experience in ministry working as a shepherdess for pastoral wives for the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. This led to organizing retreats and speaking at various events. While working as a nurse,



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

Jo and Ted Dubs speak to attendees of the 2021 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Marriage Retreat at Lanier Islands. Jo Dubs is retiring after nearly 20 years of serving as the Georgia-Cumberland’s family and women’s ministries director.

Dubs prayed for a full-time position in ministry. She served as a Bible worker in Knoxville, Tenn., for a year before applying for the women’s and family ministries position at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, which at the time wasn’t full-time.

But, God blessed the ministry and it grew to the full-time ministry it is today.

When asked about the most rewarding aspect of her time at Georgia-Cumberland, she said, “Being aware that there have been times when God has used me to help others see a better picture of Him. It has been my personal mission to help others see their own potential and calling.”

While Dubs is retiring from her position at Georgia-Cumberland, she prefers not to use the word “retirement,” instead, she refers to this as her transition into her “second act.”

“My ministry isn’t over,” says Dubs. “I see life as an adventure, and I want to continue living life to the fullest. My story is still being written. During my time at Georgia-Cumberland, God has allowed me to use my creativity to share God with others. It has been an adventure, and I’m looking forward to my second act.”

BY RACHEL BEAVER

Knoxville First Church Sponsors Addiction Recovery Event

In recent years, the region of eastern Tennessee has been challenged with a major opioid addiction crisis. In response to this challenge, the Knoxville First Church held a special community event, entitled “Prevention Starts with All,” to discuss the issue of drug and alcohol addiction, and provide information on local resources that specialize in addiction recovery. This special event was held with the express hope that people who struggle with the disease of

addiction, or who know someone facing this challenge, might find encouragement and help by having access to important information about local community organizations that can provide much-needed education and treatment against addiction.

The chosen keynote speaker for this event was Chris Herren, a former McDonald’s All-American high school basketball player from Fall River, Mass., who was recruited by the na-

tion’s top colleges. He was drafted into the NBA in 1999, and played for the Denver Nuggets and Boston Celtics before losing his career, and nearly his family and his life, to the disease of addiction. As someone who has been in long-term recovery since 2008, Herren has spoken to millions of students, athletes, and community members across the country, seeking to inspire people to engage in a candid conversation about addressing the disease of ad-



Chris Herren, former NBA player, shares his story of overcoming addiction to approximately 220 people at the Knoxville First Church in Knoxville, Tenn. The region has been challenged by a recent opioid addiction crisis, and the church held this event to be a beacon of hope and light for those who are struggling with addiction.

diction through prevention, recovery, wellness, and faith.

On the wintery evening of January 20, 2022, approximately 220 people braved the elements to attend a recovery resource fair in the Knoxville Adventist School gym, where 25 community organizations that specialize in addiction recovery were represented, and then filled the Knoxville First Church sanctuary to hear Herren share his inspiring testimony.

Marcus Bates, pastor of Knoxville First Church, believes that, given the emphasis the Seventh-day Adventist Church places on physical and spiritual

wellness, the Church could be more intentional about addressing the disease of alcohol and drug addiction. “This would provide hope and encouragement to people who are struggling with this issue,” says Bates. “By promoting a combination of faith and treatment, and partnering with local community resources, our Church can be a beacon of hope and light for those who are struggling with the disease of addiction.”

BY **MARCUS BATES**

New Church Organized in Atlanta Suburb

A very special day for the Braselton-Hoschton Seventh-day Adventist House of Prayer was January 22, 2022, as it officially was recognized as a church.

Several years back, Lydia Mohorea, a member at the Auburn, Ga., Church at the time, felt inspired to speak with Dale Tunnell, pastor, and open the church early on Wednesdays for prayer. It was then that the small group decided to pray for the city of Braselton, a small town about 20 minutes from Auburn. Not long after, they came up with the idea to establish a church near the I-85 corridor to be easily accessible to the surrounding community.

Tunnell presented the idea to Jeff Westberg, Auburn pastor, and later the Auburn Church Board voted to sponsor the birth of the new mission group. Worship meetings took place at the community hall located in the local police department with future Prayer Meetings at a park, recalls member Linda Carling. One day, Tunnell announced that the funeral home in town was going to allow the congregation to meet there.



Abby Radu signs her name to become a charter member of the Braselton-Hoschton Church charter. The church was officially organized on January 22, 2022, as the 181st church in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZIMMER

About a year and one-half ago, the congregation began renting the church building where worship on Sabbath is currently held. Little by little God opened more doors and opportunities for this special church family.

The service in January featured the church’s pastor, Dale Tunnell, who started off by sharing with the congregation a his-

tory of the church. The morning was celebrated through special music and testimonials from church members and official organizing actions led by Georgia-Cumberland Conference’s administration.

Chester Clark III, vice president for administration, invited the members to join the sisterhood of churches by signing the church’s charter. Kurt Allen, vice president for finance, and Kevin Kossick, vice president for education, also gave a special presentation, and the service ended with a cheerful, warm welcome into the Georgia-Cumberland Conference by Gary Rustad, Conference president, and a benediction by Victor Maddox, vice president for pastoral ministries and evangelism. Following the service, church members, their families, and friends enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner. Please keep this growing church in your prayers as it continues to work for the glory of God.

BY **LAURA CLARK**

3ABN Evangelist Presents in Phenix City

For three weeks in August 2021, Ryan Day, presenter for 3ABN Television Ministry, powerfully preached the Gospel at the Phenix City, Ala., Church. “Amazing Revelations in Prophecy” was presented to a faithful nightly crowd of nearly 50 people from August 1 to 21.

“We had a chance to do a full evangelistic series,” said Day, “diving deep into Scripture, talking about Bible history, prophecy, and last day events, all to reach the hearts and minds of people and draw them to Jesus Christ. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn together, to grow together, laugh together, and even cry together.” Several attendees have signed up for further Bible studies, and many children have begun baptismal studies as a result of the evangelistic campaign. Deloris Vaughn was baptized, and Rita Mendoza was re-baptized at the conclusion of the series.

Vaughn was invited to the meetings by a good friend and neighbor who is a member of the church, but recalled having some concerns when the evangelistic series first began. She says, “Some people were telling me that I should stay away, that Seventh-day Adventists were a cult. But, that’s not what I was seeing, so I just kept coming. Being thirsty for God’s Word is one thing, but God says that He’s going to show up if we keep seeking.”

Regarding the series of meetings, Vaughn says, “Ryan was awesome. He made the atmosphere each night very pleasant. He just talked and laughed and made me feel so comfortable. I want to be around people who love the Lord and what they do, and love sharing and caring about others. Someone just asked me what I was going to do with the rest of the day. I said, ‘I’m going to go home and study and meditate about how good God is to me.’ I’m a cancer survivor,



PHOTO BY: RICHARD CECERE

Ryan Day preaches during the three-week series in Phenix City, Ala.

and I survived three tours in combat; I walked away without a scratch. God just keeps on blessing me.”

Mendoza was looking for a new start, a new chance in her relationship with God. “For so long, I was the person everyone leaned on. And what happened was I left God out of the equation too much. I was reading my Bible, and I was sitting in the pews, but I was just going through the motions. The relationship I wanted so desperately to have with my heavenly Father was lacking so much. But, listening to Ryan talking about renewing your life, I had to take a really good look at myself,” says Mendoza. “There was one particular night when he was speaking about the saints of God and who God would recognize in the end. At that moment, I had the feeling that God wasn’t even going to take a second look at me. He’s not going to know me. And I knew I wanted to do something different.

There were too many other things in my life that I had made too important. So, I asked God to take control right at that moment, and I felt Him touch my heart and say, ‘I’m still here. I’ve been waiting all this time. You’re 65 years old, Rita, and I’m still here. I never left your side.’ And I just started to cry, and I knew I wanted to be re-baptized.”

Dwayne Campbell, senior pastor at Phenix City, considered the event a success for the church members and visitors. Campbell stated, “The Amazing Revelations in Prophecy series has been a great blessing to our church and the Phenix City community around us. God has used Pastor Ryan to give us Bible truths that will prepare us to go faithfully through the end times and to be ready for the second coming of Jesus.”

BY RICHARD CECERE

Birmingham Advances in Pathfinder Bible Experience

Six Pathfinders teams representing four Gulf States clubs assembled at the Gulf States Conference office in Montgomery, Ala., on February 26, 2022, for the Conference level Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE). The North American Division-wide 2022 PBE will conclude April 22-23, 2022, in Eugene, Ore.

The morning started with Michel Rodriguez, Gulf States youth director, presenting for worship with a message to encourage all the teams that their presence at the event and their interest in studying the Bible already proved them to be winners. The Youth Department decorated Eisele Hall with PBE banners, and provided each participant with a printed name badge.

Of the four clubs represented, two participated for the first time: the Sand Mountaineers of the Floral Crest Church in Bryant, Ala., which sent two teams, and Gedeón of the Oxford Hispanic Church in Oxford, Ala. The Birmingham Highrisers of the Birmingham, Ala., First Church, sent two teams, and

Warriors of Christ of the Montgomery, Ala., Hispanic Church, were also in attendance. “This is a very challenging event, and we were so excited to see the clubs that participated for the first time do so well,” said Elizabeth Rodriguez, administrative assistant for the Gulf States Youth Department.

During the event, Pathfinders are tested over the assigned study books and the *SDA Bible Commentary* introduction to each study book. Each team that scores 90% or more of the test questions correctly advances to the next level of PBE. For this event, the first team of the Birmingham Highrisers succeeded and will advance to the Union level of PBE.

The Youth Department provided lunch for the event attendees and presented awards to the participating clubs. “We’re excited with how this event turned out this year, and are looking forward to more clubs participating next time!” stated Elizabeth Rodriguez. 📍

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



Michel Rodriguez (left), Gulf States youth director, presents during the worship service.



Registered attendees received a printed name badge upon arrival.



Pathfinders begin arriving and registering on Sabbath, February 26, 2022.



Team members take their places before the Pathfinder Bible Experience begins.

Ministerial Director, Administrative Assistant Retire After 42 Years of Service

Kieth Noll, Kentucky-Tennessee ministerial director, and Marjie Noll, Kentucky-Tennessee Trust Services Department administrative assistant, retired March 29, 2022, after 42 years of faithful denominational work. The couple spent 14 of those years serving in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Kieth and Marjie were both raised in Kansas and were brought up in the Catholic faith. The couple met in a nightclub in 1974 and got married four years later. In 1979, they found out about a six-week evangelistic series taking place in St. Joseph, Mo. Despite the 100-mile daily drive, the couple attended most sessions. At the end of the series, on May 13, 1979, the two were baptized.

Shortly after, Kieth left his job as a manager at a meat locker plant to follow his dream of sharing the Gospel. Throughout his career, he served as a literature evangelist, publishing director, pastor, evangelist and, eventually, ministerial director. In addition to Kentucky-Tennessee, he served in various conferences, including the Kansas-Nebraska Conference, Chesapeake Conference, Iowa-Missouri Conference, and the Washington Conference.

“I always felt a call from God,” Kieth said. “As a child, I had thought of being a Catholic priest or a Mormon missionary. Even as a teenager when I got into the party scene, God was working in my heart I just wanted to share the Gospel.”

During the first few years of their ministry, Marjie stayed home to raise their daughters, Jesslynn, Amanda, and Shannon. Later, she worked as a legal secretary, a doctor’s office assistant, and an executive assistant at a financial plan-



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Marjie Noll and Kieth Noll pose in front of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference office building. The couple retired on March 29, 2022, after 42 years of faithful denominational work.

ning firm. She joined the Kentucky-Tennessee team in 2014 as the administrative assistant for the Ministerial and Publishing departments, and moved to the Trust Services Department in 2018.

“Overall, I just found it very rewarding to be in ministry alongside my husband,” Marjie said. “I love the role of pastor’s wife because it’s really a privilege and a blessing. I’ve found that people want to know that you love them and care about them. I think if you do that, you’re going to have a wonderful experience.”

The couple plan to move to Memphis, Tenn., for their retirement. Kieth had been a pastor at the Memphis First Church from 1999 to 2003. Marjie says she is excited to be closer to her grand-

children. The duo is also looking forward to being in the countryside as they both share a passion for gardening.

During retirement, Kieth says he plans on preaching evangelistic series at least once a year.

“There’s nothing I love more than winning souls for God,” Kieth said. “To me, evangelism is my favorite part of ministry.”

As of the writing of this article, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference has not appointed a new ministerial director. Visit the website, kytn.net, for additional updates. 📧

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Highland Academy Displays God's Love While Serving in Hawaii

Highland Academy students and three sponsors traveled to Hawaii for a 10-day mission trip experience starting January 30 and concluding February 9, 2022. The mission trip, which followed the theme “Restoring Paradise,” was filled with many forms of community service.

Before the pandemic hit in 2020, mission trip organizers originally wanted to do a mission trip in Africa. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the mission trip was postponed until this year, and organizers decided to do something locally instead. With the assistance of Praying Pelican Missions, an organization that plans short-term mission trips to serve local churches, the team was able to connect with the Lawaii Valley Church and the Kapaa Church in Hawaii.

“When you tell people you're on a mission trip to Hawaii, everybody laughs because they think that's a vacation, not a mission trip,” said Will Labrenz, chaplain at Highland Academy and mission trip sponsor. “But, the students were actually really involved in helping the local community during our time there.”

Students participated in various forms of community service, including painting walls, gardening, cleaning houses, doing door-to-door ministry, and even harvesting taro roots — a plant used to make the famous Hawaiian dish, poi. Since some of the students are part of Gymnix, Highland Academy's gymnastic team, the group also put on a short gymnastic performance for a local elementary school.

“I think something that stood out to me the most was that, for the entirety of the trip, our main goal was to highlight the Christian character,” Highland Academy senior James Smartt said. “Even when we took a break or when we were trying to just have fun, our goal



PHOTO BY: PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL LABRENZ

Highland Academy students pose along with their sponsors after an afternoon hike in Hawaii. The group visited the island for a 10-day mission trip filled with various forms of community service.



PHOTO BY: PHOTO COURTESY OF WILL LABRENZ

Gymnix, Highland Academy's gymnastic team, put on a show for the Kapaa's Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School. During the mission trip, the group connected with the Lawaii Valley Church and the Kapaa Church in Hawaii.

was always to spread the Word of God and act the way Jesus would.”

The trip was attended by seniors, juniors, sophomores, and one freshman.

The theme for the mission trip was “Restoring Paradise,” as a way to acknowledge that even in the most beautiful places in the world, people still need to know God's love. According to

Labrenz, each evening students gathered for worship and discussed the ways in which they had seen God worked throughout their day.

“[This trip] showed me that God's love doesn't have frontiers,” said Yudieth Rios, a senior at Highland Academy. Rios came up with the mission trip theme. “There is work that needs to be done everywhere, even in these beautiful places like Hawaii. Everybody needs God ... to have this privilege in your hands, that God is using you, it's just perfect and powerful.”

Highland Academy is planning to do another trip next school year, and though a final decision has not yet been reached, Andy Wade, mission trip coordinator, said they are hoping to continue with their original plan to visit Kenya.

“Service is a large part of our program here at Highland Academy,” Wade said. “Whether it's in our communities or abroad, we feel that it is an important part in our mission to develop Christ-like characters.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Successful Auction Raises More Than Expected for Adventist Ministries



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILKE HUBBARD

A crowd starts to gather for the auction held on Tuesday, February 1, 2022. During the event, auctioneers oversaw the sale antique furniture, personal items, cars, and a 133-acre property. All profits of the auction are proceeds to support a variety of Adventist ministries.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SILKE HUBBARD

More than 100 people showed up to the auction, despite it being held on a Tuesday. At the end of the day, auctioneers described the event as a “textbook-perfect auction.”

Before Frances Davis passed away on August 8, 2021, she made the decision to have a Last Will and Testament prepared that gave all her possessions to various Adventist ministries. Six months later, when the auction of her assets finally took place, God provided a successful day filled with blessings.

When Silke Hubbard, Kentucky-Tennessee trust services director and Davis’ chosen executor, started planning for the auction day, she was faced with a challenge. The auctioneer originally wanted to have the event take place on a Saturday, saying that it would attract more potential buyers. Hubbard refused.

“I told him that Mrs. Davis and I are Seventh-day Adventists, and we honor God by keeping His Sabbath,” Hubbard said. “We did not want anyone working on a Saturday.

The auction was finally set on Tues-

day, February 1, 2022. That day, despite the cold weather that characterized the previous weeks, temperatures reached mid-60 degrees Fahrenheit. More than 100 people showed up, some staying the entire time from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

On the morning of the auction, the auctioneer still expressed his doubts as to whether the turn-out was going to be successful because it was taking place on a weekday. Hubbard assured him that this auction was “God’s deal,” and He would see to it that it succeeded.

“Before the auctioneer opened the auction, he explained to everyone present why we weren’t having the auction on a Saturday,” Silke said. “So, he basically was preaching to all who came.”

Five auctioneers came to help on the sale. Together, they oversaw the sale of antique furniture, personal items, cars, and a 133-acre property. Many of these

things sold for a higher price than what was expected. At the end of the day, the auctioneers described the event as a “textbook-perfect auction.”

The auction raised more funds than was expected — God took care of the day and its success. Following Davis’ wishes, the money will go to support different Adventist ministries, including the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, Holbrook Indian School in Arizona, ADRA, and It Is Written.

“I believe that [Davis’] money will come to the right causes just at the right time,” Hubbard said. “I’ve seen that over and over again in my job. God uses people in many ways during their lifetime and even after they’re gone.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



ALLEN, LLOYD EDWARD, 93, of Portland, TN, born Aug. 11, 1928 near Columbia, MO, to the late Edward S. and Macie O. (Watson) Allen, died Jan. 6, 2022 after a period of declining health from Multiple Myeloma and a short bout of COVID-19. He met and married Carolyn Terry in 1955, and they soon moved to Evansville, IN, where their children were born and raised. They were members of the Evansville First Church, where he was elder and Ingathering leader. It was very important to them that their children be brought up in the Adventist school system, and they worked hard to put all three in Adventist schools. Lloyd worked for 30 years and retired from Mead Johnson (later Bristol Myers) in 1985. Upon retirement, he and Carolyn moved back to their hometown of Columbia, MO, joining the Columbia Church, and working both as elder and running the elementary school fruit program.

In 2000, they moved to be closer to their daughter in the Asheville, NC, area, where he worked for many years as a part-time hospital chaplain at Park Ridge (later Advent) Health. After being diagnosed in 2016 with Multiple Myeloma, they moved in 2017 to Portland, TN, and joined the Highland Church. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Carolyn; three children: Terry Allen, Linda (Larry) Ashcraft, and Molly (Roger) Hainey; eight grandchildren; three nieces; and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents; and brother and sister-in-law, Donald and Nickie Allen.

HOOKER, ESSIE M., 99, born May 10, 1922 in Providencia Isla of Columbia, South America, died Jan. 16, 2022, in The Villages Hospital, The Villages, FL, surrounded by her family after a bout with COVID-pneumonia. She was a member of the Ocala, FL, Church. She began her nursing career at Andrews Memorial Hospital in Jamaica, WI, as a diploma nurse. She also served as a nurse at Booth Memorial Hospital Medical Center in New York for 10 years. Her last positions were as an RN at Florida Hospital, Altamonte, FL, and Florida Hospital, Apopka, FL. She will be remembered for her smile, sweet ways, youth, and her faithful service as a nurse. She is survived by her husband of almost 70 years, Desmond Ralph Hooker; two sons: Ralph Hooker of Altamonte Springs, and David (Carol) Hooker of Silver Spring, MD; one daughter, Cheryl (Keith) Rilea of Summerfield, FL; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her brother, Bender Archbold, former president of Inter-American Division. A memorial service will be held at the Ocala Church on May 7, 2022, close to what would have been her 100th birthday. Her memory will be cherished by all those lives she touched.



HOPKINS, WANDA M., 81, born Aug. 12, 1940 in Lumphrey's Mills, New Brunswick, Canada; died Dec. 28, 2021, in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka for 42 years. She was employed at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka; Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (now AdventHealth University) in Orlando, FL; Greater Boston Academy, Stoneham, MA; and La Sierra Academy in Riverside, CA. She is survived by her daughter, Heather Hopkins. A memorial service will be held in March at Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

KENYON, GERALD R., 91, of Rutherfordton, NC, born Jan. 22, 1930 in New London, CT, to the late Donald E. Kenyon Sr. and Dorothy (Rogers) Kenyon, died Oct. 26, 2021 at Rutherfordton Regional Health System. A lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Gerald graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1954 with bachelor's degrees in business and religion. He served in various capacities throughout his career at Forest Lake Academy, Orlando, FL; Carolina Conference, Charlotte, NC; Indiana Conference, Indianapolis, IN; and Oak Park Academy, Nevada, IA, retiring in 1995 as treasurer of Trust Services for the Carolina Conference. With a passion for history, after retirement Gerald began volunteering with Adventist Heritage Ministries for the next 20 years, and traveled to the historic William Miller farm at Low Hampton, NY, for a couple weeks each year to serve as caretaker/tour guide. Additionally, he was very active in his church, the Rutherfordton Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he was head elder. Gerald is survived by his wife of 36 years, Jean Kenyon; two



sons: Paul (Carol) Kenyon of Sturgeon Bay, WI, and Doug Kenyon of Steamboat Springs, CO; one daughter, Gayle Kenyon of Auburn, KY; three stepsons: Ron (Brenda) Conner of Waynesville, NC, Jerry (Anna) Conner of Hendersonville, NC; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents: Donald and Dorothy Kenyon; and his brother, Donald E. Kenyon II. A memorial service for Gerald was held Dec. 11, 2021 at 3 p.m. at the Arden Church, Arden, NC, with Pastor Don Gettys officiating.



MYERS, DAVID ARTHUR, 78, of Hartford, born in Ohio County to the late Theodore and Marian Nabours Myers, died Jan. 7, 2021 at Signature Healthcare of Hartford. He was a retired teacher having taught at Seventh-day Adventist Church Schools, and he also worked in a Seventh-day Adventist Hospital and Health Food Store. Survivors include his son, Stephen Myers of Owensboro; one brother, John (Martha) Myers of Beaver Dam; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

ODDIE, JOHN BURTON, 83, born Jan. 30, 1938 in Oldham, England, died Oct. 24, 2021 at home surrounded by his family. Following his high school years at Oldham School of Art, he attended Newbold College. After completing mandatory National Service at a hospital in Coventry, he attended nursing school and obtained an SRN (RN in USA). He completed a post-graduate course in surgery techniques at Charing Cross Hospital in London in 1964, and at that time felt a call to ministry, and then attended Newbold College and graduated in 1968 with a B.A. in theology. In 1975, he graduated from Andrews University with an M.A. in theology. In 1964, he married Hazel Everett, a nurse in Sheffield, England, and four children were added to the family over the next few years. John began his ministerial internship in central London in 1968, and his first pastorate two years later in the Cambridge and Ely SDA churches. In 1971, he accepted a call to be station director at Jabesa Idjeta Clinic in rural Ethiopia. In 1974, he moved his family to Andrews University to continue his studies before serving churches in Wyoming, West Virginia, Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Maine. He retired to Florida in 2005, and joined the Orange City/DeBary SDA Church. He became a member of the Avon Park SDA Church in 2010. Although John suffered from dementia during the past few years, he is remembered for his positive outlook, sense of humor, kindness, caring, and compassion to others. His commitment as a Christian could be seen through his servant leadership and passion for evangelism. John is survived by his wife, Hazel; two daughters: Dawn Heather Tritch and Suzanne Thompson; and two sons: Duncan Oddie and LeRoy Oddie and their spouses. He had four grandchildren: William and Neville Tritch and Slade and Ellie Thompson. He will be so greatly missed. We look forward to being reunited with him at Jesus' soon return.



VANSICKLE, ANNIE M., 92, born Jan. 18, 1929 in Dakeville, AL, died Dec. 14, 2021 in Longwood, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 10 years. As the daughter of Thomas Oline Godwin and Jimmie Verlon Sammons, she was born and raised in southeast Alabama. She lived most of her life in the Stroudsburg, PA, area where she settled with her husband, Meredith "Micky" VanSickle, who died in 2005. She was employed by the Shawnee Press, a music publishing company, sold real estate, and worked for the Florida Conference and the General Conference. She is survived by her daughter, Lori VanSickle Zill of Apopka; her son-in-law, Kenneth Zill of Apopka; two granddaughters; several nieces; nephews; and cousins. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Steve Sherman at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. A graveside service was conducted by Pastor Jose Elvir of the Pocono Grace Church in Stroudsburg. Interment was in Laurelwood Cemetery in Stroudsburg.

WRIGHT, MYRNA L., 94, born May 15, 1927 in National City, CA, to William C. and Edith Moore Jensen, died Jan. 6, 2022 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka. Her high school years were blessed when her Aunt Em provided train fare to ride to CA. She spent her senior year with Aunt Em and Uncle Harold and graduated from Lynwood Academy in Lynwood, CA. She attended college at Washington Missionary College (now

Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, MD, and studied nursing. The school was affiliated with John Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and it was there she met her future husband, Burton Wright, through friends Tom and Betty Ashlock. After she finished college they were married. Burton gave her a silver dollar to remind them of their marriage motto: In God We Trust! They spent 17 years as missionaries in South Africa, Malawi, and Zimbabwe. Myrna served as teacher, nurse, and in children's ministries while in Africa. She loved to tell children about Jesus. In 1976, they returned to the states to be closer to their children, who were attending college, and to attend their weddings. Myrna and Burton retired in Avon Park, FL, and spent 30 more happy years in service to their community. She enjoyed sharing her many talents: beautiful painted murals in the children's department of their church and at Camp Kulaqua, passionately leading out in Vacation Bible Schools (VBS), and traveling to Ukraine, the Philippines, and Cuba to provide VBS and children's ministries programs. Her mission in life was to lead children to Jesus.



Myrna always served her Savior and Redeemer with a caring, loving heart, and longed for His soon return to be reunited with her family and friends who she loved so dearly. She was an amazing wife, mother, sister, aunt, Grammy, and friend to all she knew and loved. She is survived by her husband of 70 years, Burton Wright; two sons: Jim Wright of Kingman, AZ, and Jon (Dawne) Wright of Battle Ground, WA; two daughters: Judy (Jim) Clarke of Orlando, FL, and Jeannie Bankston of Jupiter, FL; four grandchildren: Jared (Marlissa) Clarke, Julie Clarke, Jaime Wright, and Jordan Wright; and one great-granddaughter, Isabella Clarke. She was predeceased by her parents, William and Edith Jensen; and two brothers: Bob Jensen and Bill Jensen. A joint celebration of life service for Myrna and her husband, Burton, who died 10 days later on Jan. 16, 2022, will be held at the Florida Living Church in Apopka on April 16, 2022, at 3 p.m.



WRIGHT, BURTON L., 93, (picture attached) born April 16, 1928 in Union Springs, NY, to Kenneth and Clara Wright, died Jan. 16, 2022 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka. His three-year-old sister, Aunt June, prepared shredded wheat and warm milk for her new brother after he was born. At the age of five, he developed a high fever due to mastoiditis and pneumonia—his physician advised he would not live, unless there was a miracle in his behalf. He was anointed that night and through a very special miracle, he was healed during the night. The fever was completely resolved by morning. His physician then advised his parents if they wanted their son to live, they should move to a warmer climate, as his immune system couldn't tolerate the cold. His parents moved to Florida in 1936, and his father served as an educator in the Florida Conference. They later moved to Atlanta, GA, where his father served in education at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. At the end of 1943, they moved

to Southern Junior College in Collegedale, TN, where his father became president. Burton enjoyed working on the college farm with Don Pierson. He was very mechanical and thoroughly enjoyed working on cars ... old or new. He spent a year at La Sierra College in Riverside, CA, and then came back to Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), Collegedale, TN, to graduate in 1951 with a degree in education and religion. Through best friends, Tom and Betty Ashlock, Burton was introduced to Myrna L. Jensen. Their friendship developed into romance, and they were married July 29, 1951 in Takoma Park, MD. Burton taught at Spencerville Junior Academy in Spencerville, MD, and then at Forest Lake Academy in Apopka as the Bible and history teacher. In 1963, he received a call to serve as a missionary in the Trans-Africa Division. He was ordained as a minister of the Gospel in 1963. Then the family started their first overseas voyage on the MS Nordholm, and traveled to the beautiful city of Cape Town, South Africa. This began their 17 years of dedicated mission service in Africa. They served at Bethel College, Malawi, and Solusi College as a seminary instructor. Burton's goal was to teach seminary students how to become ministers, and he served with love and compassion. They returned to the states and served at Holbrook Mission School as well as in Kentucky before retiring. They moved to Avon Park, FL, and lovingly served their community for 30 years in retirement. He served as chaplain in the Civil Air Patrol for 12 years, as well as chaplain of prison ministries and providing Meals on Wheels. A project dear to his heart was assisting in building the Chickamwazi Church in Malawi, Africa. They moved to Apopka, to be closer to family in 2018. Burton moved into the Florida Living Retirement Community to be close to Myrna at her Care Center. He served as an elder of his church and was blessed meeting many new friends. He is survived by his two sons: Jim Wright of Kingman, AZ, and Jon (Dawne) Wright of Battleground, WA; two daughters: Judy (Jim) Clarke of Orlando, FL, and Jeannie Bankston of Jupiter, FL; four grandchildren: Jared (Marlissa) Clarke, Julie Clarke, Jaime Wright, and Jordan Wright; and one great-granddaughter, Isabella Clarke. He was predeceased by Myrna, his dear wife of 70 years, who passed 10 days before Burton; his parents: Kenneth and Clara Wright; and his three siblings: June Frame, Walter Wright, and Kenneth Wright. A joint celebration of life service for Burton and his wife, Myrna, will be held at the Florida Living Church in Apopka on April 16, 2022, at 3 p.m.

ADAMS, CHERYL THARPE, 77, born Dec. 12, 1944, died Dec. 24, 2021. Cheryl was a member of the Dyersburg, TN, Church. She is survived by her family and friends.

ANDERSON, ELIZABETH ANN WEAVER, 89, born July 21, 1932 to George and Mary Weaver in Nashville, TN, died Jan. 13, 2022 in Hendersonville, NC. 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. Anderson Jr (Amanda) of Nashville, TN; Cheryl A. Griffin of Columbus, NC; grandchildren: Chelsea Anderson of Denver, CO, P.J. Anderson (Blair) of Nashville; Ricky Owen of Columbus; and Sheri Gordon (Robert); and great-grandsons: Tre', Eli, and Owen of Flat Rock, NC, and Randal Sanderson (Kelsey); great-granddaughter, Frankie of Mount Juliet, TN; Anna Pacheco (Christian); and great-granddaughter, Gianna; great-grandson, Daniel; many nieces; and nephews. Elizabeth was preceded in death by her husband of 70 years, Paul E. Anderson Sr.; and by her daughter, Tammy Sanderson; brother, Allen Weaver; and sisters: Mildred Reed and Martha Grace Randalls. Interment was a private family service in Mount Juliet.

ANDERSON, WILLIAM GWYN SR., 77, of Portland, TN, born Aug. 9, 1944 to the late Gwyn Anderson and Ruby Trimble in Mt. Airy, NC, died Oct. 20, 2021 at Tri-Star E.R. of Portland. Anderson is survived by his wife, Barbara Jane Marchant-An-

derson; five children: Kathleen Anderson of San Diego, CA, Kristen Anderson, William (Kim) Gwyn Anderson Jr. of Portland, James (Fareen) Russell Anderson of Fairfax, VA, and Joshua (Katie) Charles Anderson of Baltimore, MD; and 12 grandchildren.

CAUDILL SR., JAMES L., 94, born Feb. 12, 1927 in Crossville, TN, died at his home in Chunky, MS. He is survived by his daughter, Rachle Ann and son, John Allen; one daughter-in-law, Teresa; two granddaughters: Terry Lou (Jeremy Hopkins) and Rita Marie (Phil Ray); one great-granddaughter, Lauren Marie Hopkins; two brothers: Luther and Roger; sisters-in-law: Doris Caudill and Bobbie Caudill. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Billie Rachle Turnage Caudill; parents: Carrie Dine Caudill and Laura Francis Wells Caudill; three sons: James Leon, "Jimmy" Jr., and Leland Curtis; four brothers: Walter Ray, Floyd Donald, Billy Norman, and Richard Lee; one sister, Barbara Bullion.

FLOWERS, CLAYTON "Chip," 62, born Sept. 7, 1959, died Dec. 14, 2021 in Brookville, MD. He was a member of the Dyersburg, TN, Church. He is survived by his wife Lana Flowers.

GARRICK JR., GEORGE WALTER, 81, born Dec. 3, 1939 to the late Margaret Kathryn Allison Garrick and George Walter Garrick in Mount Pleasant, PA, died Oct. 25, 2021 in Rutherfordton, NC, after battling COVID for several weeks. George is resting after years of dedicated, faithful service to his Lord and Savior. Now he's awaiting the call from his heavenly King on that glorious resurrection morning. George loved evangelism. This love started at an early age and continued until his death. He and his father were literature evangelists during summer months when he was a young man. He graduated from Mt. Pisgah Academy in Asheville, NC, and went on to Collegedale, TN, and studied X-ray technology. He became a successful business entrepreneur,

owning two medical labs in North Carolina. He also bought and sold medical equipment. Years went by and his lay evangelistic endeavors continued to be important in his life. He and his wife, Charlotte, helped to spread God's Word in many ways such as giving Bible studies, community concerts, and helping to plant numerous churches in the Carolina Conference. He and Charlotte were invited to help with the Bill Waters' evangelistic team for two years, and the Harmon Brownlow evangelistic team for two years. They were able to travel to Moldova in 1992 with the Brownlows after the Soviet Union fell presenting the Gospel to many who had never heard the truth. Then he served with Ron Halvorson's team for 12 years. In addition, he also worked with Mark Finley and Shawn Boonstra. George often said, "Once you feel the joy of evangelism, you will never want to do anything else." He served in two churches in the Arizona Conference for 12 years. During this time, he was ordained to the Gospel ministry in June of 2007. He is survived by his wife, Judith Ann Smith Garrick; daughter, Vickie Klumb (Steve) of Hendersonville, NC; siblings: Carolyn Landrum of Blairsville, GA, Mary Link (Jim) of Orangevale, CA, Maureen Woodard (Warren) of Murphy, NC, and Mark Garrick of Cleveland, TN; grandchildren: Sheflon Clay and Dylan Moody, both of Asheville, NC; stepchildren: Renata Ballard of Loma Linda, CA, and Paula Howerton; and five step-grandchildren. George was preceded in death by his wife, Charlotte Brown Garrick; daughter, Lorie Rice; and brother, John Garrick.

HIMMELWRIGHT, GARY SCOTT, 72, born Aug. 5, 1949 in Saint Paul, MN, to Author (Art) and Helen Jill Gill Himmelwright, died Aug. 25, 2021 in Baneberry, TN. Gary worked primarily as a mechanical engineer with a degree from Georgia Institute of Technology in 1982. He also held an advanced degree in systems management from the University of Southern California in Los An-

gees. He received his professional engineer's certification in 1986. He retired from Volvo on Aug. 5, 2015. Gary married Dianne Russell Himmelwright in 1979, and celebrated 42 years of adventures together in June of 2021. Gary's love for camping and hiking took him from the major mountain peaks in the United States and South America to the summit of Kilimanjaro, and even to the base camp of Mount Everest. Gary started the High Point, NC, Pathfinder Club which has not only grew substantially, but added adult members to the church. He was privileged to baptize many of his Pathfinders. It was a goal to lead as many to Christ as possible, and show by example that a Christian can live a full and fun adventurous life. Gary was privileged to go on mission trips to South America, Cuba, and several places in Africa. After retiring, Gary and Dianne moved to Tennessee where Gary became head elder of the Newport, TN, SDA Church. He loved that little church and spent most of his time devoted to it and its members; especially the shut-ins. He preached many sermons and gave many Bible studies. The day Gary died, he had given a Bible study to his hired exterior painter during lunch. His favorite subject was the Second Coming and now he is awaiting that glorious event on a hill next to Dianne's father and mother, Ray and Miriam Russell, in Valle Crasis, NC. Gary is survived by his wife, Dianne Russell Himmelwright; sister, Wendy Simpson; brother, Brad Himmelwright; brother-in-law, Randy and his wife, Colleen Russell; brother-in-law, Donny and his wife, Julie Russell; Gary was a "favorite" Uncle of Sean Himmelwright, Major Himmelwright, Care Russell, Candle Russell, Chris Russell, Bradley Russell, Mac Himmelwright, and Maddie Himmelwright. Gary and Dianne also had a very special pretend adopted daughter, Tami Doty, along with many other children adopted along their journeys. Gary's Celebrations of Life service was held on Sept. 11, 2021 at the Newport, TN, SDA Church, and

also on Sept. 25, 2021 at the High Point, NC, SDA Church. Both can be viewed online at YouTube under the name of the church.

LOMBARD, DR. R. ELIZABETH, 100, of Rockwell, born Feb. 21, 1921 in Macon County to the late Oly Ernest Lombard and Beulah Dillard Lombard, died Jan. 26, 2022 at Big Elm Retirement and Nursing Center in Kannapolis. Dr. Lombard graduated from Walhalla High School in South Carolina in 1937, and from Baroness Erlanger School of Nursing in Chattanooga, TN, in 1940. She then graduated from Washington Missionary College in Takoma, MD, in 1949 with her Pre-Med degree, and from there she graduated from Loma Linda University in Loma Linda, CA, with her Doctor of Medicine. Dr. Lombard worked as a family practitioner with Dr. J.A. Oliver in Rockwell from 1954 until she retired in 2005. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Salisbury, Rowan County Medical Society, North Carolina State Medical Society, the American Medical Association, as well as the American Academy of Family Practitioners. Dr. Lombard enjoyed her work and patients, and her family and her church. In retirement, she loved gardening, cooking, trips to the beach, and Disney World. She is survived by 49 adoring nieces and nephews over three generations, each made to feel as they were the 'only one,' through visits, remembered birthdays, and time together. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings: William Oly Lombard, Jack Lombard, Lewis Leon Lombard, Ruth Oliver, Dorothy Yates, and Kathryn Vielle. The funeral service for the public was held at Jan. 30, 2022 at Powles Staton Funeral Home in Rockwell, NC, conducted by Pastor Scottie Deal. Burial followed at Brookhill Memorial Gardens in Rockwell.

MATHIS, PATRICIA J. W., 86, born July 19, 1935 in Waycross, GA, died Jan. 14, 2022 in Waycross. She was a member of the Waycross Church.

She is survived by Pamela (David) Byers, Janet Leggett, Susan (Tony) Smith, and Diana (Eric) Edwards; nine grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; three great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; nephews; and cousins. Pat was preceded in death by her husband, James; and three siblings: Mary Smoot, Emily Stewart, and Henry R. Wynn; and most recently, two sons: David Leggett and James Mathis II.

MERKEL, NATHAN M., 95, born Nov 20, 1926 in Coeur d'Alene, ID, died Dec 14, 2021 in Ringgold, GA. He served 16 years as a missionary in South America where he was president of the Bolivia and Ecuador Missions, and principal of the Ecuador Mission Academy. He also served 23 years as teacher and pastor in the Upper Columbia Conference, academy teacher and departmental secretary in the Texico Conference, superintendent of schools in the Washington Conference. He is survived by his wife of 74 years, Phyllis; one son, Clifford; one daughter, Carol; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. He was a member of the Bowman Hills Church in Cleveland, TN.

MOSS, PAUL T. SR., 87, born Oct 21, 1934 in Dyersburg, TN, died Jan. 16, 2022. He was a member of the Dyersburg, TN, Church. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo; one son, Paul T. Moss Jr.; two daughters: Karen Knight and Tracy Jackson; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

MULLINS, ROBERT, 85, born March 16, 1936, died Nov. 23, 2021 at home in Dyersburg, TN. He was a member of the Dyersburg, TN, Church. He is survived by his wife, Barbara Mullins.

PEARLES, BARBARA CHERYL, 76, born Dec. 4, 1945 in Turlock, CA, died Jan. 29, 2022 in Nashville, TN. Cheryl married her husband, Joe, in 1964 after dating for five years. They moved to Tennessee in 1985 and joined the Ridgetop Church. Cheryl dedicated her life to her fam-

ily. Later, she worked at a law firm as the law librarian, event planner, and hostess. She is survived by her husband, her son, Jeff (Linda) Pearles, and her daughter, Laura Brock (Dale); three grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; two sisters; and one brother. She was predeceased by her parents, Clifford and Barbara Reuss Green.

POMEROY, RICHARD (RICK) E., 71, born in 1950 in Martinsburg, W.VA., he was the son of Harold and Minnie Pomeroy, died from COVID Sept. 23, 2021 in Spokane, WA. He met his wife, Meredith Smith, at Southern Adventist University, where he graduated in 1973. Rick then obtained a Master's Degree in Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. He and Meredith served as missionaries in Nicaragua. He taught Industrial Arts at Union Springs Academy, Union Springs, NY, for four years. He then taught at Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL, for 21 years. Rick was loved by his students and fellow staff members for his knowledge, sense of humor, and kindness. He worked as an aircraft inspector before his retirement in 2019. He is survived by his wife of 50 years, Meredith; one daughter, Christine Pomeroy; and one son, Kris Pomeroy, both of Spokane, WA; two grandchildren: Joey Pomeroy and Jillian Pomeroy; his brother and sister-in-law, Harold S. and Linda Hendrickson Pomeroy; and one niece, Retha Pomeroy Knave; many dear friends, former students, and co-workers who will miss him sorely. Rick was keenly interested in aviation and enjoyed flying. A skillful craftsman and mechanic, Rick helped many with his talents. There are no services planned at this time.

RAMEY, CLAYTON, 80, born March 13, 1941, died Dec. 9, 2021 at home. He drove the Carolina Conference truck moving ministers and teachers from 1969 to 1972, and Southern California Conference truck from 1972 to 1974. He also drove a truck for Versitron Industries in California delivering food and supplies to Ad-

ventist schools and hospitals. Later he worked at hospitals and nursing homes as the maintenance and grounds caretaker. The last several years before retirement, Clayton was employed with Walmart. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Anne Deerwester Ramey; son, Rodney (Celia) a teacher for the Carolina Conference; and seven grandchildren. Preceded in death by two children: Rita and Rickey. A memorial service was held at the Salem SDA Church in Salem, SC, on Dec. 18, 2021, with Pastor Daniel Bran and Pastor Bob Grant officiating.

SCARBOROUGH, FRANKLIN D.R., 82, born April 23, 1939 in Madison County, GA, died Dec. 13, 2021. He was a member of the Waycross, GA, Church. He is survived by two sisters: Betty Gillen and Alva (David) Hayes; four daughters: Penny Nunn, Shera Tyner, Teresa (Chris) Wiles, Melissa Scarborough, and Gladys Grady; six grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; two great-great-grandchildren; a number of nieces; and nephews.

SCHROEDER, JESSIE LEONA COSTERISON, 94, born July 21, 1927 in the small town of Lavalle, WI, to Fred and Jessie Costerison. She was born 6th in a family of 8 children. She has outlived them all. Only one brother surpassed her in age. He was 98. She married Harold Otto Schroeder, Oct. 29, 1944, in a quaint church in Ironton, WI, at the age of 17. Together, Harold and Jessie Schroeder were truck farmers for 57 years in the township of Oakland, WI, until Harold's death in 2003. At that time her daughter took her to North Carolina. There Jessie had a little home of her own that she loved, nestled in the mountains. She was a member of the Roan Mountain SDA Church in Roan Mountain, TN. She will be buried in the cemetery at the Oakland SDA Church in Wisconsin beside her husband, Harold, and near her baby boy, Richard. Together, they will rest until Jesus wakes them in the resurrection. Left to treasure her memories are three sons: Roger (Elaine)

Schroeder, Ronald (Annette) Schroeder, and Harold Schroeder, better known as Harry, all from Wisconsin; one daughter, Joanne (Bruce) White from Elk Park, NC; 10 grandchildren; and 26 great-grandchildren. Mother loved the Lord with all her heart and passed away with the blessed hope that when the Lord returns, she will be raised up to spend eternity with Jesus.

SHAFER, ESTALEVA L.C., 95, born Nov. 6, 1926 in Blair, NE, died Jan. 30, 2022 in Collegedale, TN. She was a member of the Chattanooga 1st Church in Chattanooga, TN. She is interred at Floydsburg Cemetery in Crestwood, KY. LaVon, as she preferred to be called, was a nurse but also served with her husband, Edwin, as a pastoral team for 62 years. She is survived by six children: Edwin (Connie) Shafer, David (Kitty) Shafer, Rose (Fred) Fuller, Sam (Marina) Shafer, Joseph (Carrie) Shafer, and Rebekah (David) Manley; 23 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; and nephews. LaVon was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Edwin; daughter, Ruthi Shafer; great-granddaughter, Skylar Fisher; daughter-in-law, Jeannine (David) Shafer; and four sisters.

SHEM WELL, JENNIE, 85, of Hartford, KY, born Aug. 9, 1935 in Muhlenberg County to the late Martin Joseph and Mamie Russell Luckett, died Dec. 27, 2020. She retired from the Ohio County Circuit Court Office. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She enjoyed quilting, crocheting, knitting, ceramics, and antiques. Along with her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Kelly Rhoades, and her grandson, Michael Woosley. She is survived by three children: Gwen (Ron) Hillard, Teresa Woosley, and Tim Shemwell; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

SZITASY, THELMA "GAYLE," 72, formerly of Steger, Ill., died Oct. 27,

2020 at home with her family by her side after a seven-year battle with pulmonary fibrosis, in which she donated her body to science. She was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and friend. She had a passion to cook and bake. She also enjoyed the outdoors. She was an honest Christian woman loved by most. She was an active member of Ohio County Church in Kentucky.

THOMPSON, DOROTHY JANET (JAN) ROBERSON, 79, born April 2, 1942 and was adopted by William and Lydia Langley. Known as Janet, she attended school at Smithfield Elementary, Middle and High Schools, graduating in 1960. She attended Southern Missionary College, now known as Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN, obtaining an associate degree in business in 1964. On June 26, 1966, she married her sweetheart, Jerry Grant Thompson. Their daughter, Heidi, was born in 1969. Jan was employed by fellow church member Dr. David Roberts in Gibsonville, NC. She loved traveling, and visited 10 countries and 14 U.S. states and territories. She assisted with ShareHim in Togo and Guyana. Jan had been an active and integral member of the Greensboro, NC, SDA Church for decades. She was known for her warm heart and generosity. Over the years, Jan wore several hats as deaconess, Sabbath School teacher, church board member, and school board member. Whenever the church had an event, she was there: midweek studies, evangelist meetings, and prayer times. She attended the yearly Camp Meetings as well. She supported women's ministries, stop-smoking clinics, delivered mission reports, worked in the ABC store, started a bread ministry, and oversaw the kitchen during potlucks. In addition to her church commitments, she was involved with The Guilford Battle Chapter DAR, and Jan Grafton's Animal Rescue, transporting dogs. She is survived by her daughter, Heidi Marie Amash and son-in-law Jim Amash; sisters: Betty O'Neal and Deb Thompson; brothers-in-law: Bill O'Neal, Teddy Griffin,

and John Thompson; 27 nieces and nephews; and extended family. Jan was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Jerry; sisters: Joyce Bales and Peggy Roberson; brothers: Donald Ray (Duck) and John D. (D) Lynch.

UFFINDELL, DENNIS, 90, born Feb. 15, 1931 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England, died Dec. 9, 2021 in West End, NC. Dennis began his ministry in England, including service with the V.O.P. at Stanborough Park. He moved to Newfoundland in 1976 and served there as a pastor until 1981, he then moved to Ontario where he continued in pastoral work from 1981 to 1988. He was called to the Ontario Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in 1988 to serve as the secretary until 1991. He retired in West End. He is survived by his spouse, Julia; daughters: Jennifer (Stephen) Bonney of Fletcher, NC, Sarah Uffindell of West End, and Mary (Stephen) Millmine of Fletcher; brothers: Roy (Penelope) of Bridgewater, NC, and Stephen of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire; sister, Ruth (Ivan) Abbott of West Bank, BC; sisters: Jean Land of Broadstone, Dorset, U.K., Shirley Kemp-Tucker of Exmouth, Devon, U.K., and Beryl (Peter) Bayliss of Newport, U.K.; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his parents, Roland Herbert and Amy Uffindell; his brother, Arthur; and sister, Pauline.

WIER, M.D., FRED EUGENE, 74, of Connelly Springs, NC, born Oct. 4, 1947 to the late Dr. Vernon St. Clair Wier and Lucy Schultz Wier in San Antonio, TX, died Jan. 18, 2022 at Frye Regional Medical Center in Hickory, NC. After graduating from Union College in Lincoln, NE, with a Bachelor of Arts in chemistry, Dr. Wier received his medical degree from Loma Linda School of Medicine in Loma Linda, CA, and concluded his medical training by completing a general surgery residency at Kettering Medical Center in Dayton, OH. He began his practice of surgery in Columbus, NC, prior to relocating to Troy, NC, where he

practiced for eight years before finally settling in Roanoke Rapids, NC, where he practiced for 30 years prior to retirement. He founded Roanoke Valley Surgical Associates in Roanoke Rapids where he cared for the Roanoke Valley community and surrounding areas. While practicing surgery at Halifax Regional Medical Center, now Vidant North, he served as chief of surgery and later as chief of the medical staff. He proudly supported the educational system and the local emergency medical service by serving 12 years on the Roanoke Rapids Graded School District Board of Trustees, and serving two years on the Halifax Emergency Medical Services Board. He enjoyed nothing more than spending time with his family. His hobbies included traveling, photography, canoeing, reading, and more recently playing Sudoku on his Kindle. He was a loving, dedicated husband and father, and will be missed immeasurably. He offered selfless service to his patients and was known for being kind, gentle, and compassionate. He is survived by his beloved wife of 39 years, Rhonda Walker Wier; daughters: Heather Ann Wier Weese and her husband Dan of Franklin, TN; and Laura Ashlock Wensell and her husband Max of Midway, TN; sons: Justin Paul Wier and his wife Kendall of Colorado Springs, CO; Jason Lee Wier and his wife Erin of Wilmington, NC; and Ryan Lee Ashlock and his wife Laura of Hendersonville, NC; grandchildren: Katherine Ashlock, Lia Ashlock, Madeline Ashlock, James Wensell, Eli Wensell, and Grayson Weese; siblings: Carol Wier, Alice Zabudsky, Vernon Wier Jr., and Rick Wier; nephews: Don Zabudsky and family, Keith Wier, and David Wier and family; niece, Pam Zabudsky Humphreys and family. He was preceded in death by his stillborn daughter, Marissa Danielle Wier. A service for Dr. Wier was held at Fletcher SDA Church on Jan. 30, 2022. A memorial service will be held in Roanoke Rapids at a future date.

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PROPERTY AVAILABLE

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ADVENTIST REALTOR - Do you want to sell your home? Do you want to buy a home in North Georgia or South East Tennessee? I can help you achieve your goal. Call me today: Pierre at RemaxREC 423-987-0831 Cell or office 423-664-67644 [4-6]

FLORIDA SDA REALTOR -Would you like to BUY or SELL in Orlando, Florida or surrounding cities? I look forward to helping you! Sandra Da Silva, Realtor: 407-840-8500 (call/text). Service provided in English & Spanish.[4-12]

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY - Acct/Econ/Finance To teach finance and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2. [4]

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS FACULTY VACD The Visual Art, Communication & Design Department seeks a Professor of Communication to teach undergraduate and graduate courses in communication skills, persuasion, gender communication, group dynamics and leadership, communication in the classroom, and magazine feature and article writing. This faculty member will also academically advise students as well as be an active and participating member of the department faculty. LINK: https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_16 [4]

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 [4-6]

UNION COLLEGE, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA, seeks candidates for Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Coordinator for the International Rescue and Relief program. Masters degree in relevant discipline preferred. Responsible for teaching and developing the EMS curriculum and attending/assisting the IRR Summer Program each summer. See full job description at www.ucollege.edu/employment. Contact Rebecca Lovelace at rebecca.lovelace@ucollege.edu for information.

MISCELLANEOUS

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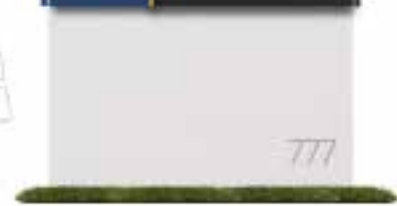
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Spirit of the Pioneers

John Nevin Andrews, a Millerite, later accepting the Sabbath, and mostly self-educated, became known to early Seventh-day Adventists as "The Ablest Man in Our Ranks." Pouring out his life as evangelist, editor, General Conference President and our first Adventist Missionary, he exemplified the sacrifices of our pioneers. After the death of his wife, he left for Europe with his son and daughter and one small trunk of belongings. Living in the most austere manner, they learned the languages of Europe and started not only the first publishing work but helped give birth to the total European Adventist church. His daughter died at 17 and he at 54. Both died of tuberculosis. One of his last acts was to sign over his remaining \$500 to be used in the Lord's work in Europe.

The Spirit of the Pioneers is not dead but still resides in many members right herein the Southern Union. Planned Giving and Trust Services is designed to help all our members to further the causes they believe in as well as to adequately provide for the needs of their family. You are invited to contact for counsel and services the Conference or University Planned Giving and Trust Services department of your choice listed below.

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Fletcher **10:45 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.**

Seventh-day Adventist Church

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CAROLINA

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

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.
 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 20 (Wednesday). Palm Coast, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
 April 24. Inverness, Homosassa, Brooksville, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.
 May 1. North Lake in Leesburg, Marion Oaks in Ocala, Ocala, Perry, Tallahassee.
 May 8. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Tampa First, Brandon, Palmetto, Sarasota, Port Charlotte.
 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

Nominating Committee - April 3. Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
Hispanic Women's Retreat - April 8-10, Cohutta Springs Retreat Center,

Crandall, GA.
How to Conduct a Reversing Diabetes Seminar - April 9-10, Collegedale Community Church, Collegedale, TN.
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.
ACS Donation Operations Training - May 13-15, Cohutta Springs Retreat Center, Crandall, GA.
Collegedale Camp Meeting - May 1-5, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.
 Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

E.O. Grundset Lecture by Douglas Axe - April 7. The Southern Adventist University Biology Department invites the community to a talk by Douglas Axe, Ph.D., at 7:30 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. As part of the University's E.O. Grundset Lecture Series, Axe, a renowned scientist and author, will discuss his book *Undeniable: How Biology Confirms Our Intuition That Life Is Designed*.
Wind Symphony Concert - April 9. Southern's Wind Symphony, with Ken

Parsons conducting, will present an afternoon of music on the theme "How Deep the Father's Love for Us," at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. This and many other musical events are also broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.
Symphony Orchestra Concert - April 24. With Laurie Redmer Cadwallader conducting, Southern's Symphony Orchestra will perform Gustav Holst's *The Planets* at 7:30 p.m. at the University's Goliath Wall (weather permitting). To learn about more School of Music events, visit southern.edu/musicevents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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						
	APR 8	APR 15	APR 22	APR 29	MAY 6	MAY 13
ATLANTA, GA	8:04	8:09	8:15	8:20	8:26	8:31
CHARLESTON, SC	7:46	7:51	7:56	8:01	8:06	8:11
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:51	7:57	8:03	8:08	8:14	8:20
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:08	8:13	8:19	8:25	8:31	8:36
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:14	7:19	7:25	7:30	7:36	7:42
JACKSON, MS	7:26	7:31	7:36	7:41	7:46	7:51
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:14	8:20	8:27	8:33	8:40	8:46
MEMPHIS, TN	7:28	7:34	7:39	7:45	7:51	7:56
MIAMI, FL	7:41	7:45	7:48	7:52	7:55	7:59
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:11	7:16	7:21	7:26	7:31	7:36
NASHVILLE, TN	7:16	7:22	7:28	7:34	7:40	7:46
ORLANDO, FL	7:48	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:04	8:09
TAMPA, FL	7:52	7:56	8:00	8:04	8:08	8:12
WILMINGTON, NC	7:39	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:01	8:06

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