

# T Southern TIDINGS

AUGUST 2022



ROGER WADE



LOUIS BAKARI



## T Southern TIDINGS NEWS

SOUTHERN UNION LIVE  
@ General Conference

SOUTHERN UNION LIVE



COME FOR THE  
ADVENTURE

COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
THROUGH VBS

IT'S ABOUT TIME: 2022 CAMP  
MEETING EMPHASIZES CHURCH'S  
MISSION, GOD'S SECOND COMING

# We Are Outnumbered?



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

“The Lord stirred up ... the spirit of all the remnant of the people; and they came and did work in the house of the Lord of hosts, their God,” Haggai 1:14.

The idea of a faithful remnant who completes God’s work against overwhelming odds grew out of Israelite history. In one long-remembered incident, the Midianites covered the plain like a plague of locusts. But 300 faithful and true men defeated them.

If God’s people waited until their numbers matched those of their opponents, they would never act for God. Yet, so many of us do nothing. “I’m the only Christian at my work.” “Everyone around me worships differently.” “No one wants to hear about God anymore.”

The term “force majeure” has been used, which means, “the threat of superior,” and holds others in check. Satan would have us think that he has the superior force; God rules otherwise.

God stirs up the spirit of the remnant through the unexpected opportunity of a sudden threat. If there are 100,000 people in your city knocking at the church’s door, we must answer the stirring of the Spirit. If God can add a thousand every day to His Church, then the time has come for action.

In the face of a small band of dedicated people, the so-called superior force may suffer defeat. Only a comparatively small band of people continued their trust in prophetic truth following 1844 and its disappointment. But, they were enough for God’s purposes. Out of that small band has grown the globe-encompassing judgement-hour message.

Feeling small and isolated places us under a tyranny of fear. As we have taken on a five-year strategy that includes multiplying our membership through reconnecting with them, providing mentorship for younger church leaders, developing enhanced media for the propagation of the Gospel, planting new churches, and structuring additional support for Christian families in our Union jurisdiction from 2022 to 2026, we — through the accompaniment of the Holy Spirit — will suffocate the tyranny of the evil one. To overthrow this tyrant, we will look to the Spirit of God, who will give us powers we never imagined.

Pentecost turned a remnant into a city-shaking force. Prayer and the Spirit can do it again where we are, alone or few though we may be.

In the plan of God, a faithful remnant will not only preserve His name on the Earth, but will witness to the whole world. The operative word is faithful, not remnant. The faithful believe that God can accomplish wonders. Because He has done it for them, He can do it in the world, in the community, at home.

I invite you to place your hands on deck with the hundreds of thousands of other members within the Southern Union, to reconnect with our prodigal sons and daughters who have been circumstantially displaced. As a deer pants for the brook of water, let us ask God for the burning desire to bring them home. We have more numbers from glory on our side than we may be able to see.

“God is always a majority,” *The Acts of the Apostles*, p. 590. –RCS



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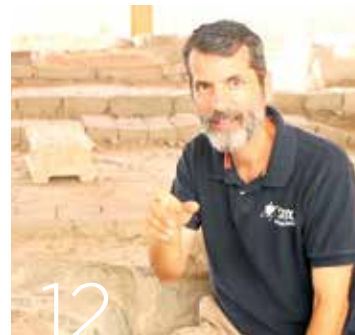


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SOUTHERN UNION LIVE  
@ General Conference

St. LOUIS 2022  
SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE



Roger R. Wade, SCC



Louis Bakari, WAD



Elder G. Alexander Bryant | NAD President



ROGER WADE



LOUIS BAKARI

SOUTHERN UNION LIVE  
@ General Conference

Southern  
**TIDINGS**  
**NEWS**



SOUTHERN UNION LIVE



# SOUTHERN TIDINGS INAUGURAL NEWS SHOW SHINES AT GENERAL CONFERENCE

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

A bit of history was made during the 61st General Conference (GC) Session of Seventh-day Adventists, held June 6-10, 2022, in St. Louis, Missouri. For the first time, *Southern Tidings*, the official publication of the Southern Union Conference, hosted a daily GC News Show that was broadcast to the Southern Union and the West-Central Africa Division (WAD) during the four days of the GC business session.

The show, which was livestreamed from the Southern Tidings Facebook page and YouTube Channel, was hosted by Roger Wade, South Central communication director, who pitched the idea of a talk show to R. Steven Norman III, communication director for the Southern Union, and Louis Bakari, communication director for WAD. Wade and Bakari interviewed church leaders and laymen to gain their perspectives regarding the GC experience and how the various voting actions will impact members and churches.

“We relayed the presentation on our social networks in Africa and more specifically on Hope TV Ghana,” said Bakari. “Each night’s program was recorded and sent to the channel for re-broadcast. Despite the time difference,

many stayed awake very late in the night to watch the show. People from many countries around the world commended us for the multicolored and multicultural perspective we brought to our analysis at the end of each day.” Bakari added that the “Africa-America axis” the show created was helpful in the achievement of missionary goals.

“I believe that we should not walk

alone,” he said. “There is an African proverb that says, ‘If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.’ I just love the way we worked together with the Southern Union Conference team. My sincere wish is to see more and more church ministries team up to give the best they can through the power of the Holy Spirit, and thus prepare the world to meet the Lord.”



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

The Oms and Hagele families of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference worshipped together during the General Conference Sabbath service. Traci Oms was a delegate for her conference.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Hosts Roger Wade (left), South Central communication director, and Louis Bakari, West Central Africa Division communication director, interviews Jim Davidson (center), Southern Union executive secretary, during the Monday edition GC Daily News Show at the 61st General Conference Session in St. Louis, Missouri. Watch all four episodes on the Southern Tidings YouTube Channel.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Bryant Taylor (right), D.Min., Southern Union associate director, goes over the GC Daily News run sheet with Benjamin Jones Jr. (left), South Central Conference president, and Dingindawo P. Shongwe, president of the Trans-Orange Conference in South Africa.

The show was produced by Bryant Taylor with assistance from Kirk Nugent, expert livestream coach and accomplished content creator. Daily man-on-the-street interviews were made by Daniel Claudet, communication director for the Gulf States Conference.

Guests on the show included newly elected North American Division President G. Alexander Bryant and Southern Union Conference presidents: Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference; Steve Haley, Kentucky-Tennessee; Benjamin Jones, South Central; Allan Machado, Florida; Gary Rustad, Georgia-Cumberland; Brian Danese, Gulf States; William Winston, South Atlantic; and Martin Fancher, executive vice president of the Gulf States Conference. Other guests were Dingindawo P. Shongwe, president of the Trans-Orange Conference in South Africa; Debleaire Snell, Breath of Life speaker/director; Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary; Jennifer Patterson, the youngest South Central Conference delegate; and Terry Shaw, president/CEO of AdventHealth.

Guests specific to the West-Central Africa Division were Elie Weick-Dido, pastor and former president of the WAD; Emmanuel S.D. Manu, pastor and former treasurer of the WAD; and Solace

Asafo, communication director of the Southern Ghana Union Conference.

Among some of the highlights of GC, delegates on day one voted not to add the issue of vaccination to the General Conference Session agenda after a delegate made a motion to amend the agenda to add the item.

By way of explanation, the delegate cited that it was necessary to discuss the position the Church has taken on vacci-

nation specifically relating to the 2015 and 2021 statements of the Church. He indicated that many people have suffered because of the position the Church has taken. The delegate also mentioned having a document signed by 25,000 Seventh-day Adventists in 138 countries asking that the Church reconsider its stance on vaccinations.

Before the vote, Ted Wilson, General Conference president, asked the body not to put the item on the agenda since the issue of vaccination did not constitute as an item pertaining to the Church's constitution or bylaws, fundamental beliefs, or the Church manual. The vote: 1,579 delegates chose not to put the item on the agenda, and 203 voted in favor of the addition.

On day two, in the morning session, delegates elected seven general vice presidents of the General Conference. The individuals elected to serve for the next term are Gulliermo Biaggi, Abner De Los Santos, Thomas Lemon, Geoffrey Mbwana, Artur Stele, Audrey Andersson, and Maurice Valentine. Five of the seven elected previously served as general vice presidents and were re-elected.

According to the Church's bylaws, a general vice president is "elected to as-



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Velino Salazar (left), president of the Southern California Conference, and Allan Machado, Florida Conference president, takes a moment to talk during a break in the Monday morning business session of the 61st General Conference Session.



Daniel Claudet (right), Gulf States communication director, films a news release by Solace Asafo (left), Southern Ghana Union communication director, and Louis Bakari, West Central Africa Division communication director. The Southern Union Communication Department collaborated with the West Central Africa Division to broadcast daily news to the Southern Union and Africa.

sist the president with the general administrative work of the General Conference.” In relationship to the divisions of the World Church, the general vice presidents serve as “liaisons between the General Conference president and the divisions,” “administrative resource counselors,” and to “strengthen the bond of the World Church.”

During the evening session of day two, delegates elected the departmental directors of the General Conference who will serve for the next term:

- Ivan Omana, director of GC Adventist chaplaincy ministries
- Williams Costa, director of GC communication
- Orathai Chureson, director of GC children’s ministries
- Lisa Beardsley-Hardy, director of GC education
- Wilbert Oliver, director of GC family ministries

- Elaine Oliver, associate director of GC family ministries
- Peter Landless, director of GC health ministries
- Ramon Canals, ministerial secretary of GC ministerial association
- Aurora Canals, associate secretary, pastoral spouses, and family of GC ministerial association
- Ganoune Diop, director of GC public affairs and religious liberty
- Almir Marroni, director of GC publishing ministries
- James Howard, director of GC Sabbath School and personal ministries
- Dennis Carlson, director of GC planned giving and trust services
- Marcos Faiock Bomfim, director of GC stewardship ministries
- Heather-Dawn Small, director of GC women’s ministries
- Busi Khumalo, director of GC youth ministries

On day three, delegates elected 13 division presidents of the General Conference who will serve for the next term. Eight of the individuals invited to serve are incumbents, including Bryant, who began serving as president of NAD in July 2020.

Robert Osei-Bonsu was elected president of the West-Central Africa Division. He currently serves as dean of the Theological Seminary at the Adventist University of Africa.

Visit Facebook or YouTube to view the “180 Seconds Around the Southern Union” news reports, as well as stories submitted by your local conference and our institutions such as AdventHealth, Oakwood University, and Southern Adventist University. You are encouraged to like, share, and subscribe to these sites. 📌

**Lucas L. Johnson II** is a freelance writer and communications strategist who lives in Nashville, Tennessee.

# COMMUNITY OUTREACH THROUGH VBS

BY RACHEL BEAVER

School is out and the weather is warm, which means that it's time for many kids' favorite part of the summer: Vacation Bible School (VBS). Not only is VBS a fun, Christ-centered summer activity, but it's also a way to get young people involved in their church. It also provides a unique outreach opportunity to the local community.

"Of course our own children attend and that's a wonderful thing," says Michelle Song, VBS director for the Collegedale Korean Church. "But we've been able to reach non-Adventist families who, as a result of our VBS program, have become members of our church."

Song has been working with the Collegedale Korean VBS program for more than five years. She's helped in many different areas, including music, teaching, and doing Bible lessons with the younger children, but this year is the first time she's directing the VBS program. She says that every year, they have many community and non-Korean children who can't wait for their program. She also shares that 16% of the children who attend their VBS program are children from the community.

"There was one year where they were giving testimonies and two of the non-Adventist kids talked about how, of all the VBS programs they've gone to, they loved ours the most because they

felt it was the most Christ-centered and they see Christ in the people here."

Recognizing the evangelistic impact of VBS, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Children's Ministries Department helps to provide financial support

to churches who host VBS programs.

"It is more than just monetary reimbursement," says Fernando Verduzco, children's ministries director. "It's a recognition that Vacation Bible School is one of our best evangelistic tools that



VBS at the Ringgold, Georgia, Church attracts a large number of teens, in addition to children.





Collegedale Korean Church intentionally plans their VBS program with community children in mind. Nearly 20% of their attendees are non-members.

churches have.”

The Ringgold, Ga., Church is another church that has also seen the evangelistic reach of their VBS. At Ringgold, the VBS program caters to teens as well as young children. In fact, it’s usually their biggest group every year. Becky Hansel has been working with her church’s VBS program for 10 years, seven of which were as the director of the program. Making sure there was a teen program was something she was passionate about, including when she took over as director.

“We had one [teenage] girl who is supposedly an atheist who came with a friend one year,” says Hansel. “She

told her friend that she’d go but that she didn’t believe in God, and she wasn’t going to have fun. And she came every single night, and the last night she said, ‘If I could go to a church that was as kind as this, I might believe in God.’”

Hansel says she simply wants children to look back at fond memories in the church, and think about the lessons they shared in learning about Jesus. She says that Ringgold’s VBS program also brings in a lot of visitors from the community.

“We serve a whole meal every night during VBS, and we usually plan for about 30 to 40 children. One evening, as I’m filming the program, someone taps me on the shoulder and says ‘We have

67 people here; we don’t have enough food.’ I turned around and looked at all the people and said, ‘Oh, wow! Well, I’ll head to the store.’”

Whether a church has two children or 20, VBS programs are an important part of children’s programming. This summer alone, many lives have been touched through these programs — from the children, to their parents, to the greater community. 📍

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

# IT'S ABOUT TIME: 2022 CAMP MEETING EMPHASIZES CHURCH'S MISSION, GOD'S SECOND COMING

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

When COVID-19 hit in 2020, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, like many other conferences around the country, were forced to transition its annual Camp Meetings online. This year, Kentucky-Tennessee was blessed to meet in person once again. From May 27 to June 4, Conference members worshipped God by following the theme, "It's About Time," which emphasized Jesus' second coming and the mission of the Church: sharing the Good News.

Prominent guest speakers, including Derek Morris, Hope Channel president; John Bradshaw, It Is Written president; and Hans Diehl, CHIP founder, came to present throughout the eight-day long event. The Conference was also blessed to welcome Richie Halversen, Southern Union church growth and revitalization director; Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director; and Vinnie MacIsaac, Solid Rock, Virginia, Church pastor.

## A Time of Fellowship

The long-awaited event drew in more

than 1,000 guests. While most attendees were members of the Conference, some visitors were coming from other conferences, and some were traveling from abroad.

"The program was vibrant and engaging," said Daryl Gay Atiteo-Tanamal, who was visiting from the Philippines. "The sermons had wonderful biblical reflections. I learned that Jesus cares and He is in control. [As Christians,] we must anchor on Him alone."

In between sessions, friends, some who had not seen each other since the 2019 Camp Meeting, caught up and fellowshiped with one another. Each day, children, earliteens, youth, and young adults also enjoyed programs prepared specifically for their age group.

"[My] biggest takeaway is that we're not alone," said Jon Remitera, pastor, who led the young adult group. "There are those who still believe in the mission of the Adventist Church. Each person is a leader in the movement. I witnessed fellowship in the thought-provoking and challenging discussions about church,

ministry, and bearing the torch of leadership for the next generation of leaders."

## A Time to Learn

One of the highlights of Kentucky-Tennessee's Camp Meeting was the daily seminars prepared by a wide



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Roger Schmidt, pastor, baptizes Sara Curp from the Lighthouse, Tennessee, Church, on the final Sabbath of the English Camp Meeting. In total, five individuals declared their love for God through baptism at the end of the English and Spanish Camp Meetings.



PHOTO BY: JOEL MONTERROSO

Hispanic pastors pose together following the divine worship of the Hispanic Camp Meeting. More than 700 people joined the event, not counting those who tuned in to the online livestream.

range of speakers. Attendees had a variety of classes that they could choose from, including a class for Bible journaling, preaching, digital media, and even a hands-on lesson on how to build a greenhouse and grow tunnel.

In addition to the seminars, ministries from across the country, like It Is Written and Voice of Prophecy, set up booths with pamphlets and other gear to showcase their work and the services they have available. Similarly, Conference ministries, like the Health and Youth departments, also got the chance to advertise their upcoming events and available resources.

### Un momento en Español

Following the weekend of June 4, 2022, the Hispanic churches hosted their own Camp Meeting sessions from June 10 to 11. The theme, translated in Spanish to “El Momento Es Ahora,” remained the same.

With more than 700 visitors, not counting those watching online, the crowd was blessed to hear from Homero Salazar, Florida Conference evangelism coordinator. On Saturday evening, they



Derek Morris, Hope Channel president, leads closing prayer during the divine service of the first Sabbath of Camp Meeting. This year’s KYTN Camp Meeting theme was “It’s About Time.” It was chosen as a reminder of God’s second coming and the Church’s mission to share the Good News.

PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

also enjoyed a concert by well-known Christian singer Hugo Yin.

“[During these meetings] God manifested Himself teaching, motivating, and instructing His people,” said Armando De Leon, pastor and Conference Hispanic coordinator. “The most beautiful moment was seeing how God touched

the hearts of several people who attended the Hispanic Camp Meeting.”

### A Time for God

“What can we do less of so we can do more of evangelism?” John Bradshaw asked the crowd during his June 3 presentation at the Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting. “What can we waste our time less talking about so we can talk more about Christ?”

Throughout the entirety of Camp Meeting, attendees were reminded that the Church’s mission is to lift high the cross and seek the lost. Each day, the crowd was blessed to remember that God is waiting for them with open arms.

The most incredible testimony to come out of Camp Meeting was that, at the end of both the English and Hispanic sessions, five individuals declared their love for God through baptism. ●

**Paola Mora Zepeda** is a Southern graduate and has been serving as the media ministries director for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference since 2021.

# COME FOR THE ADVENTURE

BY GLADYS M. NEIGEL

The invitation to “Come for the Adventure” piqued the interest of YouTube followers and other social media buffs as a four-minute trailer for Hope Channel’s newest program recently premiered.

“Shalom Adventure TV’ is now airing throughout the North American Division,” announced Rabbi Jeff Zaremsky, director and a minister in the Florida Conference. “Many religious shows are sermons, or a few people talking to each other, while ‘Shalom Adventure TV’ is a 30-minute magazine-style variety show filmed on location in Israel and the United States.”

This new outreach ministry is geared for Jewish and Gentile viewers alike to

help them grow closer to God. Episodes will include important biblical sites in Israel, a visit to a life-sized model of the tabernacle Moses built in the wilderness, a Hebrew word for the day from a Hebrew teacher, music, humor, testimonies, and so much more.

The other part of “Come for the Adventure” is and “Stay for the Shalom!” According to *Strong’s Concordance*, Shalom means “completeness, wholeness, health, peace, welfare, safety, soundness, tranquility, prosperity, perfectness, fullness, rest, harmony, and the absence of agitation or discord.”

Viewers who came for the adventure are already receiving the Shalom blessing and are sharing the experience:

“Loved the TV program. Looking forward to the others,” –*Fran*.

“We watched the first episode of ‘Shalom Adventure TV’ today on the Hope Channel! We loved it! Great job! So very excited!” –*Blanca and John*.

Each episode changes weekly and is shown Friday, Sunday, and Monday. The show can be viewed wherever Hope Channel is available. Please check the Channel’s listing schedule for your time zone.

Come for the Adventure, and you will stay for the Shalom! 📍

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



Rabbi Jeff Zaremsky, director and creator of Shalom Adventure TV, is shown on site in Israel. He is a minister in the Florida Conference for Beth-El Shalom in New Port Richey and Beth-El Shalom in St. Petersburg, Florida.



Barbara Zaremsky tells the story of a tree planted to honor Corrie Ten Boom, on the Avenue of the Righteous Gentiles at Jerusalem’s Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial, for her and her family’s efforts to hide Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

# RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

BY ALEXIS SCHULTZ

Throughout my time as a resident at AdventHealth, I have come to learn that everyone has a personal journey that has led them to a pivotal next step in their lives or career. For me, that journey started a long time before I became a resident. Growing up in central Florida as a Seventh-day Adventist, I learned from a very young age about AdventHealth, a health system that has since become one of the largest non-profit, faith-based health care systems in the United States, with more than 50 hospitals and more than 1,200 care sites in nine states. As with many of my friends and classmates, it seemed that we all had a connection to AdventHealth. If your parents didn't work there, chances were someone you knew did.

Ever since I can remember, I've felt a calling for health care and joining the AdventHealth team. However, I thought my passions were on the clinical side, perhaps as a physician. After taking several personality tests to learn more about myself, I discovered my interests were focused on the administrative side of health care. A few years later, I would get the privilege to intern at the AdventHealth West Florida Division offices and intern virtually during the pandemic. I felt blessed to join the 2021 residency cohort with an emphasis on strategic planning and marketing.

The last year and a half of my residency at the AdventHealth Leadership Institute has been beyond anything I could have imagined. The residency lasts three years. During this time, I will rotate through multiple teams in the marketing and strategy areas of AdventHealth. It can be a little overwhelming since marketing and strategy encompasses many things, but that is also what I see as the biggest blessing. As a resident, I have the oppor-

tunity to be involved in different areas of work, such as developing regional business plans, and building out the consumer experience for a new AdventHealth ER as part of an alliance with Walt Disney World Resort, as well as corporate strategy management, event production, and creative marketing projects.

In addition to tactical projects, I've also had the honor of working alongside talented leaders who come from many unique backgrounds. When I joined this company, one of the biggest factors that guided my decision was the mission and culture of AdventHealth. Through my experience, I have seen the mission come to life in the work we do, the way we interact with our team members and patients, and how we think about the future of care delivery at AdventHealth. This is my first time working with an organization long-term, and it has been very fulfilling as I continue to develop connections with the teams I work with in a way that extends beyond the workplace.

A pivotal moment happened during my first few months. My rotation supervisor set up weekly meetings with me to talk about my experience and see how I was doing personally. This was unexpected given his busy schedule and the fact that I was new to the organization. This set the precedent that has carried on throughout my experience of ensuring the people around you feel cared for. To feel connected to the people you work with is critical, and I see this in practice every day.

The Leadership Institute teaches residents the principle of "Lead Self, Lead Others, and Lead Results," the three main pillars to guide our thinking in our development as leaders. The philosophy behind this idea is that one must take care of the body, mind, and spirit before lead-



Alexis Schultz

ing and influencing others. By leading others, you are also taking care of them, and that is when you drive true results. I try to always emulate these principles as I move from team to team. I "Lead Self" by intentionally taking care of my body, mind, and spirit. I get the opportunity to fully "Lead Others" when I'm given autonomy over a project, or when I help onboard new residents and interns and share a glimpse into the deeper meaning behind the work we do and how we can adapt it to the small things we do. Each pillar of this framework is connected. By successfully doing the first two, you can achieve the third: "Lead Results."

Serving as a resident has been a blessing, and I can't think of a better way for me to extend Christ's healing ministry to others around me. 📍

**Alexis Schultz** is an AdventHealth leadership resident in marketing and business development.

# Jesus Feeds the 200,000

In May 2022, hundreds of volunteers from AdventHealth and the Celebration, Fla., community gathered on a Sabbath afternoon to pack food to help people affected by the Ukraine crisis. The event was a success. But, most don't know about the many miracles behind the scenes that made it possible.

Javier Cordero, chaplain at AdventHealth Celebration, was inspired by a previous food packing event he attended. He wanted to plan a similar event in his location for those in Ukraine, but wasn't sure where to start. In speaking with Carol Campbell-Norris, another chaplain from AdventHealth Celebration, he connected with Adriana Pasos, spiritual ambassador coordinator for AdventHealth in Central Florida, who had coordinated similar events in the past.

They quickly identified several major obstacles: they needed a venue, funds to purchase the food, volunteers, and a way to transport the meals to Ukraine.

Pasos connected with the AdventHealth Global Missions team to get their help to fund the packing of 25,000 meals because there were no funds yet.

The team challenged Pasos to think bigger. "They said, 'If we can get the funds together, would you be willing to host the event outside of the hospital and to plan for *more* meals?'" How much more? Pasos asked. "100,000," they said. Pasos was unsure. If they didn't have funds for 25,000 meals, how would they get funds for four times that amount?

Pasos and the chaplains' team agreed, and they continued planning in faith, knowing God would provide. They approached the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Celebration to request a space and some volunteers. The church, which worships at the Nicholson Center each Sabbath, was excited to help and offered their Sabbath afternoon time, allowing the event to take place free of charge. **That was miracle number one.**

The lack of funds was the next hurdle,



Javier Cordero, chaplain at AdventHealth Celebration



but God provided again. AdventHealth Global Missions called Pasos and shared that the funds were secured through team member donations. News quickly spread to the community, reaching a previous anonymous donor who called the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists to propose a plan. "They said they would be willing to donate a matching gift if the Conference would be willing to donate as well," said Pasos. With these collected funds, they connected with No Child Hungry, an organization AdventHealth has worked with for the last five years, who then purchased the food to be packed. "What started out as just an idea became 200,000 meals that would be packed through \$75,000 raised in a matter of days," said Pasos. **That was miracle number two.**

A venue was secured, the funds had been raised, but there were still a few more hurdles. Many meals to be packed

could only be achieved with many volunteers. Would enough volunteers show up on a Sabbath afternoon? "I just thought, 'God, only You can do this,'" said Pasos.

During this time, AdventHealth Celebration executives reached out, expressing the desire to supply snacks for the volunteers. So, Pasos advertised the event and registration with the church and community, hoping to get at least 500 people for the 200,000-meal goal to be met.

Once again, God provided, and more than 600 people registered and showed up for the volunteer event. **That was miracle number three.**

The chaplains' team and Pasos now focused on the transportation of the packed meals. They discovered No Child Hungry had available cargo space on a plane that would transport the packed meals to Ukraine in June. **That was miracle number four.**

On the event day, it took less than four hours to pack the meals, surpassing the 200,000-goal mark. People of all ages and backgrounds from the community and surrounding areas showed up. It was a day of celebrations as they watched a large projection on the wall tallying up the meals they packed. Updates came every 15 minutes and as they saw the numbers shoot up, there were shouts of joy and excitement.

"I think that my voice was gone after that event!" said Pasos. "To me, the greatest miracle was that it began with an idea in one of our chaplains' hearts. Then suddenly it bloomed, and God provided everything — the space, the funding, the people, the Celebration Adventist Church, a generous donor, and the Florida Conference. We had people from everywhere, families from the little children to the grandmothers. God just multiplied the loaves and the fishes — literally." 🕊

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BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

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# AHU Professor, Alumna Deliver Critical Medical Supplies to Ukraine

**W**eeks after the war broke out in their native Ukraine, Julia and Oleg Kostyuk, whose family still resides in the country, embarked on a personal humanitarian mission to deliver much-needed medicine and medical supplies to Ukraine in May 2022.

“Once the war started in Ukraine my heart was breaking. I am originally from Ukraine; I have family and friends there. To see them go through so much pain, so much devastation really touched my core. So, I knew I had to do something,” said Julia Kostyuk. “We started to do fundraising to send money to Ukraine. Then we wanted to do more.”

Kostyuk, who works as a family nurse practitioner and is a graduate of AdventHealth University in Orlando, Fla., was eager to help. She contacted some doctors in Ukraine, which in turn resulted in connecting with the medical team members at the Angelia Clinic, a Seventh-day Adventist health facility in the capital Kyiv, which is now operating an annex site in the western city of Chernivtsi, far from military operations.



Julia and Oleg Kostyuk (both far left), spent six days on a humanitarian trip to Ukraine in late April 2022.



During their mission trip to Ukraine, Oleg Kostyuk, a religion professor at AdventHealth University, and his wife, Julia Kostyuk, an AHU alumna, visited an orphanage camp.



Julia Kostyuk, an AdventHealth University alumna, brought much-needed medication and medical supplies to Ukraine, donated by AdventHealth Global Missions.

“The staff at the Angelia Clinic spoke about the huge need for medication like insulin, antibiotics, and sleeping medication to help the people sleep after so much trauma, as they have lost their homes, their lives have been broken,” she said.

The AdventHealth Global Missions team donated the critically needed and lifesaving medication.

“We knew we needed to partner with Julia and Oleg; it was an easy decision,” said Monty Jacobs, director of AdventHealth Global Missions. “This was an opportunity for us to be able to provide the aid to someone from our Central Florida community, who was going to deliver the supplies directly to the people in need.”

The couple traveled to Romania and then crossed the border into Ukraine on foot as thousands of refugees streamed in the opposite direction. During the six-day trip, they visited two Adventist clinics, as well as a refugee facility and an orphanage in Ukraine.

“The trauma that we see, especially when it comes to children, is significant and is so immense,” said Oleg Kostyuk, a professor of religion at AdventHealth University. “We needed to do something about it. Not just pray, not just provide emotional and spiritual support: We needed to act and be the feet and hands of Jesus.”

As the invasion of Ukraine continues, the need for critical medical supplies and financial donations will continue to grow.

“We may be an ocean away, we may be far from Ukraine, but together we can make a difference, and a small deed is a very big deal for someone in Ukraine right now,” said Julia Kostyuk.

The Kostyuks are planning to return to Ukraine with additional aid later this year.

To learn more about AdventHealth’s relief efforts, please visit [AdventHealth.com/UkraineRelief](https://AdventHealth.com/UkraineRelief). 📍

BY JOSE LUIS DIEPPA

# Camp Meeting Finally Back in Person

After two years of virtual events due to the pandemic, Carolina Conference members were delighted to meet for their annual Camp Meeting\*, May 29-June 4, 2022, at the beautiful Lake Junaluska with the theme, “The Gospel Changes Everything.”

While not in pre-pandemic numbers, the campus of Lake Junaluska surged to life as old friends reunited and new friends quickly became old friends. Up and down the rose walk that lines the lake — from the Adventist bookstore to Stuart Auditorium — you could tell everyone was glad to be back.

A stellar line-up of speakers and presenters were led by the evening speakers, Don MacLafferty and Derick Morris. All were equally blessed by the



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

midmorning speaker, Elizabeth Talbot from Jesus101 and Hope Channel.

The mornings started at 6:30 a.m. with a prayer walk around the lake, ending at the Stone Chapel for morning prayer service. Each morning Beth Grissom, Carolina prayer ministry director, would assign a different focus for the group to contemplate, praise, or pray for as they walked.

The children’s programing was engaging and packed with fun activities for all ages. The kids could not wait for their meetings to start. One new family in attendance commented that they could not believe how many details went in to making an educational and worshipful experience for their child.

Even with attendance being lower than previous years, the week ended with an increase over last Camp Meeting’s giving for evangelism.

Next year’s Camp Meeting is scheduled for May 28–June 3, 2023. But, the prayer of the Conference is that instead of the shores of Lake Junaluska, they will be meeting on the crystal-clear shores of the River of Life.

\*If you missed any of the presentations, you can find them on all major podcast platforms by searching “Carolina Conference Camp Meeting.”

BY COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



# Youth Live Gospel in Action

The youth program at Camp Meeting is a much-anticipated event for the teens of the Carolina Conference. Each year, this group of young people are taken on two outings: a rafting adventure and a community service outreach project. If there is one unifying characteristic of the young people, it's their love for outreach and community involvement.

This year there were two outreach projects to choose from. While very similar projects, they were at different locations. Their mission was to help fix up two homes — one in Waynesville, N.C., and the other just down the highway in Canton, N.C. The teens did their handyman best and repaired a front porch and water sealed it, replaced siding, and even painted the house.

This act of service emphasized the overall Camp Meeting theme, “The Gospel Changes Everything.” The teens were demonstrating the Gospel in their actions. Let us not forget Christ’s words in Matthew 25:35-40, “For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.” Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord,

when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.’” (ESV).

The Carolina Conference youth have learned that their actions do not have to be large and boastful for people to see Christ’s love shining out to the neighboring world. 🕊

BY ROSS KNIGHT AND COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: ROSS KNIGHT



PHOTO BY: ROSS KNIGHT



PHOTO BY: ROSS KNIGHT



# Church Members Share His Incredible News Everywhere

**S**HINE, “Sharing His Incredible News Everywhere,” fittingly describes the DeBary-Orange City Church evangelism team. Members spanning an age range of 80 years spread cheer and the love of Christ in a variety of ways with those who need to know Him and those who need a boost in their walk with Him.

The SHINE team meets regularly to plan upcoming events, which differ from month to month. A typical outreach Sabbath begins with team members dividing into groups for a specific purpose. One group might visit homes door to door, inviting residents to cooking classes or a prophecy seminar, or praying with those desiring prayer. Another group may sing at a nursing home or hospital. Occasionally, a group will stay at the church to prepare gift bags, write letters to prisoners, or assemble “Welcome to Our Church” packets for new visitors.

But, always — always — a very special group remains at the church the entire time teams are in the field. This group prays specifically for safety, protection, and wisdom for the team mem-

bers as well as those receiving a visit. Every house, business, and street is petitioned for angelic presence beforehand, so that contacts will be receptive to the blessings that may be theirs.

The SHINE team is growing in numbers and in creative ways to draw souls to Christ. DeLand Neighborhood Center, which provides food for the hungry and shelter and life-guidance instruction for the homeless through their ongoing Bridge program, is benefitted by SHINE members preparing and serving a meal

to the Center’s residents two Sundays a month. At the DeLand Flea Market, free literature is provided by a dedicated SHINE team member. Matthew 5:16 is literally being carried out via SHINE volunteers who are living the words, “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.” 🙏

BY DEBARY-ORANGE CITY CHURCH COMMUNICATION DEPT.



PHOTO BY: RALUCA MCROBERTS

Brothers wearing their SHINE team shirts with “Welcome to Our Church” packets



PHOTO BY: RALUCA MCROBERTS

Praying at the church for visiting team members and those receiving the visits



PHOTO BY: MYRTHA LOUIS

Nursing home singing band team

# Lauderhill Members Rejoice in Evangelistic Harvest

Historically, Lauderhill Church has consistently sustained growth and development from its founding in 1978 by a small group of Caribbean immigrants. A daughter church congregation was organized in Sunrise, a community daycare center was opened, and a local food bank was established.

In keeping with the tradition of community outreach, the leadership of the church embarked on a spiritual, community-targeted evangelistic program called System for Survival from September 7-28, 2019, with Southern Union Conference president, Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., as speaker. During the three-week series, church members prayed for, called, visited, and invited their target list. Smith presented the truths of God’s Word that would enable survival in this modern age. Seventy-one people were baptized while others recommitted their lives, and were accepted upon profession of faith.

Just five months later, COVID-19 would introduce an economic and health disaster, as well as social and emotional isolation in the world. God had inspired and delivered the necessary tools for what would become a worldwide pandemic. The Lauderhill congregation had heeded the commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:19, “to make disciples of all nations,” and God had prepared members and community for the hardship ahead.

While the pandemic rendered community outreach impossible in 2020, Garry Gordon, senior pastor, launched a two-week series in August 2021. For the first time, only program participants could physically attend due to social distancing requirements. The pandemic was on its third peak, but

God was teaching His servants how to maneuver outreach, and to develop new and innovative paradigms that contributed to the successful collaboration of 12 churches in the Footprints of Hope series in October 2021, led by Glen Samuels, president of West Jamaica Conference.

It was a high day on December 18, 2021, as first responders from Fire Station #30, under Captain Shuch, and the CEO from Florida Medical Center were recognized for caring for the community. Smith presented the morning sermon.

Sylvia Noble, who had attended the System for Survival meetings and wrestled with the seed planted by Smith, had

not requested baptism at that time. Now, two years and three months later, she was baptized by Gordon.

In obedience, the members had planted and God had watered the seed of His Word, and all rejoiced in the reaping of the harvest. ●

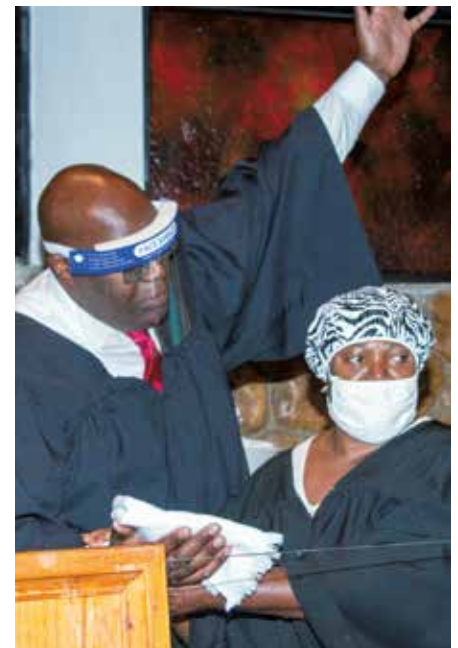
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BY BEVERLY MATTOCKS

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Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union Conference, presented the Sabbath sermon at Lauderhill Church in December 2021.



Sylvia Noble was baptized by Garry Gordon, senior pastor, two years and three months after the seed was planted in her heart at the System of Survival meetings.

# Collegedale Academy Students Serve in Honduras

Every other year the students at Collegedale Academy's high school (CA) are given the opportunity to serve others outside of their community. CA's guidance counselor, David Djernes, and IT director, Michael Peel, plan the mission trips. "Their passion and expertise in providing a meaningful mission trip for our students is excellent," notes CA's high school chaplain, Chris Massengill. For 2022, Djernes and Peel had originally planned to take a group of students to Siem Reap, Cambodia, to assist the Butterfly Paradise school and orphanage, the location of CA's previous mission trip. However, once COVID-19 intruded, plans were changed. Djernes and Peel, through the Lord's guidance, chose a new location: a tiny cay off the coast of Guanaja, Honduras, known as Bonacca.

In October of 2021, the cay experienced a fire that wiped out nearly one third of the buildings. The Adventist school burned down, as well as parts of the English-speaking Adventist church. The Adventist community there wanted assistance rebuilding their facilities, and Djernes and Peel volunteered the CA team.

After the CA students' arrival, it was discovered that the church's work crew was behind schedule in getting the floor and foundation poured for the new school. Because of this, other needed projects were identified as work continued on preparing the foundation. During the day, the students shoveled gravel, painted the outside walls of the church, and tied rebar for the foundation of the school, among other tasks.

During their time on the island, the students of CA were able to meet many new people and experience the culture of the members of the Guanaja community. After a few days working, a group

of local kids began hanging around the worksite and mingling with the students. Many of them even offered to help with the work, and they shared laughs with the CA students.

After a hard week's work, the students attended church on Sabbath, and participated in the service. Paul Smith, pastor from McDonald Road Church, one of eight constituent churches of CA, gave a beautiful sermon. After lunch, everyone went on a hike on Guanaja, and made more friends along the way. Once the group got to the destination (a secluded beach), they enjoyed a couple of games together and a sunset worship.



Collegedale Academy students spent their spring break helping to rebuild the Adventist school in Bonacca, Honduras. The school, along with parts of the English-speaking church, had previously burned down.



Collegedale Academy students spent their spring break to help rebuild the school which, along with parts of the church, had been lost to a fire.

After a brief boat ride, the students were back on Bonacca, participating in evening group activities provided by the church members.

To end their trip, the students of CA took a 15-minute boat ride to a private island called Graham's Place. They spent one day on the island, lounging about and enjoying the warm sun.

Overall, the trip was a huge success. The group worked to ensure that the community of Bonacca would soon have

a school again. CA students knew that they would always remember their time in the Caribbean helping the church and school, in addition to making memories that would last a lifetime. Trips like these, designed to serve others, take the support of many people, say CA leadership. The CA students wrote letters to raise money for their experience and for the project, and organizations in the area also supported the rebuilding project. Peel notes, "Mission trips are a blessing to all who are

involved – the participants who travel to do the project, the hosts for the trip, and those who support the work that is being done through financial means.”

Since returning from the trip, the school’s leadership has found ways to continue the relationship between CA and the church, school, and community of Bonacca. In addition to a multi-year plan for the high school students to re-

turn annually to help with the needs in Bonacca and surrounding area, the K-8 students will have opportunities to serve. CA’s K-8 chaplain, Tabor Nudd, who was on the trip shares, “It’s our intention for Collegedale Academy to continue a close relationship with them and to be a sister school. Our plan is for our K-8 students to help from afar with various forms of support ,including pen pals, on-

line student interaction, teacher collaboration, and local fundraising for several projects to help their school.”

CA feels blessed by this opportunity to have a schoolwide effort to serve. The prospect of the longterm helping, relationships, and connections is exciting! 📍

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BY CHEYENNE ROTH AND HANNAH BOYD,  
STUDENTS FROM THE CLASS OF 2022

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## Summit Builds Leaders and Fathers

**G**od built men for action and leadership. On the weekend of April 22-24, 2022, more than 40 men trekked to Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga., for the first Southern Union Leadership Summit. Marty Miller, founder of Blueprint for Men, was the main speaker. Miller said the key to leadership was understanding one simple truth: “Every person desires to be accepted and loved for who they are.” Happy homes, vibrant churches, and powerful men’s ministries all thrive when relationships grow in atmospheres of acceptance.

Miller shared the seven steps leaders must take to grow their men’s ministries:

1. Know God.
2. Know who I am.
3. Know the men.
4. Rebuild those men.
5. Build them into leaders.
6. Build community together.
7. Build a movement that transforms our country.

Miller also gave the men tools to use in fostering new friendships. One of many skills the men learned at the Leadership Summit is the conversational model F.O.R.M., which stands for Family, Occupation, Recreation, and Message of encouragement. To practice, the men got into pairs and asked about each other’s families, jobs, and hobbies. Then they affirmed each other with specific words of encouragement related to their conversation.

Participants also enjoyed early-morning



**Fathers and daughters create precious memories together during a recent men’s ministries campout in the Hiwassee wilderness of eastern Tennessee.**

hikes around the peaceful lake, good food, and worshipping as brothers in Christ. Twenty-eight men volunteered to lead or join a small group, and everyone took home a renewed sense of their responsibility as leaders. Their commitment to faithful service will open doors of blessings.

The very next weekend, Blueprint for Men hit the trails again and led the popular father-daughter campout into the beautiful Hiwassee wilderness. Dads cooked, camped, and canoed with their girls. Miller encouraged the men to remember Proverbs 18:21, “The tongue has the power of life and death.” A father’s words can build a powerful hedge of protection around his daughter. The highlight for everyone was the Ceremony of the Father’s Blessing, a unique three-part message from dad to daughter:

1. I love you because...
2. I am proud of you because...
3. You are becoming a beautiful young lady. I am here for you and give you my blessing for your journey.

Each dad spoke words of life to his daughter, creating a precious moment that both rugged dads and tender daughters will cherish forever.

Creating memories such as these is why Blueprint works so hard to engage and equip Christian men. When men step up and lead a small group or bless their daughters, it makes a real-life difference. This country struggles because many men have given away their responsibilities and lost their strength. Blueprint for Men believes in men, and so does Jesus. God built men for action and leadership, and the Adventist men in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference are answering that holy calling. 📍

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BY GRANT GRAVES

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# Conference Supports “Readers Make Leaders” Community Outreach

Martin Fancher, Gulf States Conference executive secretary, was among several invited dignitaries who attended the Readers Make Leaders Awards Ceremony on May 25, 2022, at Slingluff Elementary School. Readers Make Leaders is an enrichment program that gives incentives for student to increase their interest in reading, and improve reading comprehension and written and oral communication skills. Students were required to read up to 15 books, write a book report, and were interviewed by local community volunteers. Rosalind James, Bright Key resource coordinator for Slingluff Elementary School and project manager for the Readers Makes Leaders Program, recruited community volunteers and tutors to conduct the student’s interviews. Volunteers ranged from retired teachers, librarians, local business leaders, foster grandparents, and ministers from various denominations.

During the awards program students heard inspirational messages on the benefits of reading shared by Fancher; Mark Saliba, Dothan City mayor; Dexter Grimsley, state representative; Michelle Dandridge, CEO of Dandridge Family Dentistry Practice in Dothan; and Lauren Bradford Miss Alabama, magna cum laude from Auburn University, and first runner in the Miss America Pageant in 2021.

The program ended with each student’s name acknowledged and presented with certificates of achievements, Readers Make Leaders medallions/ribbons, and cash awards followed by a firm hand shake given by all dignitaries.

In addition, Rosalind James also recognized more than 30 adult volunteer tutors and 60 students who participated in the Bright Key Academic Dream Room tutoring program. A reception was held in honor of the dignitaries and volunteers.



As the Bright Key resource coordinator, James looks forward to next school term to plan and implement a Parent University, designed to include three educational models: “Setting Goals for Family Success,” “Academics: Helping Your Child Succeed in School,” and “Guides to Positive Parenting.”

James is extremely excited to plan the first Bright Key Parent’s Health and Wellness Fair for the Dothan City Schools, to be held on October 28, 2022. Health Educators from Uchee Pines will conduct their Health Expo. Local hos-

pitals and health service agencies will be participating. Tony DeMorais, CEO of Rebuild, Restore, Recover LLC, will present an exhibition on the use of herbs and natural home remedies.

The Readers Make Leaders program was sponsored by Rosalind James, who serves on the Gulf States Conference Executive Board, and Michelle Dandridge, member of Dothan, Ala., Church. 📍

BY ROSALIND JAMES

# Phenix City Church Seeks to Develop “Amazing Disciples”

What does it mean to be a disciple? How can one effectively witness for Christ? Who has time to fit a weekly Bible study into their already overcrowded schedule? How does anyone even do “outreach”?

These were just some of the questions members of the Phenix City Church asked themselves in the fall of 2021, as they were finalizing their plans for the new year. The answers came in the form of the “Amazing Disciples” program, a 13-week DVD series and lesson study from the team at the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism.

Each of the lessons consisted of inspirational and educational video presentations designed to empower disciples of Christ with confidence that they, too, can win souls for His kingdom. These powerful keys for personal evangelism have proven to be successful in reaching others by using Jesus’ method of soul-winning:

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me,’” *The Ministry of Healing*, page 143.

Nearly 50 people went through the 13-week course either in person or on Zoom. Many were very impressed by the practicality and winsomeness of the various presentations, and felt that they could now lead a Bible study, and properly answer some of the difficult questions that people may have.

Richard Cecere, elder, was most impressed with the practical counsel about reclaiming missing church members. “Baptizing new believers is always a great blessing, but what do we do when

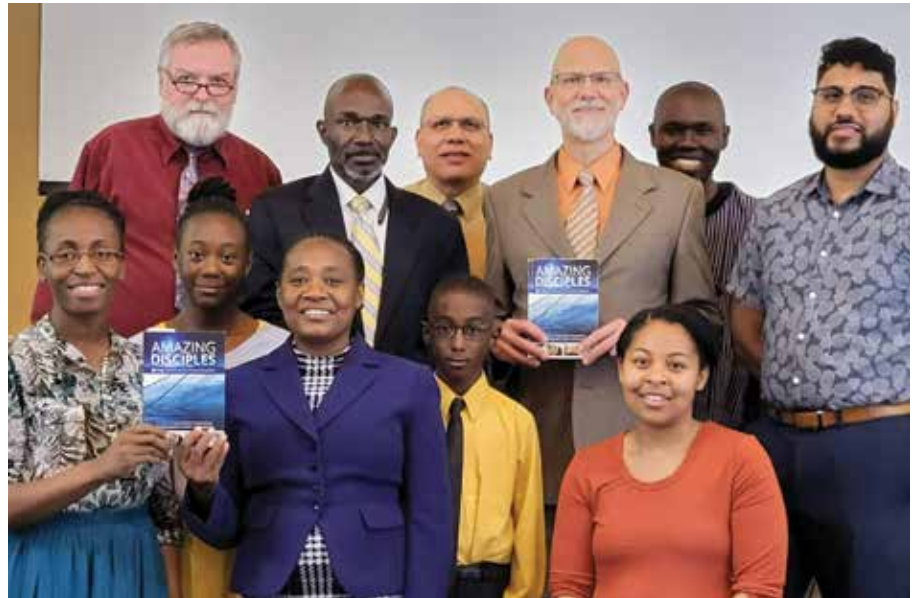


PHOTO BY: JOSEPHINE JOSEPH

Amazing disciples group

some of them inevitably stop coming to church and Sabbath school? How do we win them back? The ‘Amazing Disciples’ program taught us how to do that in a practical, Christlike way.”

“I was really struck by the value of using your own story as a testimony to engage others and draw their attention to Jesus and His word,” said Stephanie Hamilton, health ministries leader for Phenix City Church. “But it makes sense, because what is a better testimony than your own personal experience with God?”

Dwayne Campbell, pastor, noted that the church is excited to put into practice what they have learned in preparation for their annual evangelistic series in the summer.

“It was an amazing 13-week experience as experts shared how we can use Christ’s method alone, which is the most effective method to create com-

munity impact and win others to Christ. The experience and study have significantly prepared us for our upcoming evangelistic series, as we give Bible studies with confidence and meaning. The experience has also enriched our devotional life. May God bless us as we strive to become amazing disciples for Him.”

BY RICHARD CECERE

# Middletown Church Reaches Community Through Plant-based Cooking Classes

**B**arbara Hagele, member of the Middletown, Ky., Church, was looking for a way to reach her community. Hagele wanted to offer a unique service — something that would benefit attendees and help her church stand out.

“We are in the shadow of a mega church, just a few blocks from us,” Hagele said. “So, we were thinking, how do we compete with that kind of influence? We realized that something special the Seventh-day Adventist Church has is our health message. Rather than trying to duplicate anything that a mega church is doing, the [health message] was our ace in the hole.”

In 2018, the Middletown Church offered its first annual Vegetarian Taste Fest — a festival where community members came to try plant-based dishes. Those interested could get a cookbook

with the recipes of the food they had tried, as well as sign up for additional plant-based cooking classes.

Since then, Hagele and her team have been teaching the cooking class once a month. They demonstrate three to six different plant-based dishes per session, depending on how complex the meal is. Yvonne Mickens, who also helps instruct the class, says they try to make conventional comfort foods: casseroles, sandwiches fillings, salads, desserts, and more.

“We also pick themes for each class, which is based on the season,” Mickens said. “We’ve done Thanksgiving and Christmas dishes, summer foods, and even back-to-school meals for those who have children.”

Before COVID-19 hit in 2020, Mickens says they had a steady attendance of 30 to 40 individuals, most of



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA HAGELE

Yvonne Mickens helps at the Middletown Church annual Vegetarian Taste Festival. The Festival was started as a church initiative to reach its community, and it is followed by monthly plant-based cooking classes.



PHOTO BY: SCREENCAPTURE

The screen capture of Yvonne Mickens (right) and Barbara Hagele (left) is from the Great Day Live morning talk show on March 4, 2020. During the show, the duo promoted their annual Vegetarian Taste Festival, and taught audiences how to make a vegan lasagna.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BARBARA HAGELE

Middletown Church Pathfinder Club acts as servers for the church’s Vegetarian Taste Festival. During the festival, attendees can enjoy conventional comfort foods such as casseroles, sandwiches fillings, desserts, and more.



who were not church members. With the pandemic, the team continued to live stream classes and email recipes. According to Hagele, this allowed them to reach audiences in Canada, Great Britain, and Australia.

Though attendance has dropped slight-

ly this year, Hagele is still excited to offer this service to the community.

“I think these [cooking classes] have shown our community that we really care about them and their health,” Hagele said. “We have some of the same people coming back every month,

and we’ve just been so blessed to be able to interact with them and make new friends.” 📍

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BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

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# Beloved Elementary Teacher Emyria Furman Retires

**E**myria Furman, 4th grade teacher at Madison Campus Elementary (MCE), retired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. An Oakwood University graduate, she taught for 14 years at MCE, both in 4th and 5th grades beginning in 2008. Furman retires with a total of 25 1/2 years in Adventist education; 2 years for Allegheny West Conference, 9 1/2 years for South Central Conference, and 14 years at MCE. She has two adult sons, and her formerly retired husband, Fred Furman, is now the direc-



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYRNA CLOSSER

Madison Campus Elementary teachers pose with former colleague Emyria Furman, who retired at the end of this school year. “Emyria was a delightful friend and coworker...” said Myrna Closser. “Her devotion to God and heart for ministering in love to her children was what I appreciated about working with her most.”



Emyria Furman is honored at the 2022 Camp Meeting for her 25 1/2 years of service in the Adventist education system. Furman retired at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

tor of the After Care Program at MCE, and plans to continue for the upcoming school year.

Precious memories that will go with Furman are all her children, her class’ Living Wax Museum biography presentations, pairings with 6th graders in reenacting the Israelites Crossing of the Red Sea, field trips to Long Hunter State Park for Native American powwows, participation in Oregon Trail Day, trips to the Nashville Capitol, and visiting Opryland Hotel every Christmas.

“Emyria was a delightful friend and coworker as we taught together many years,” said fellow MCE teacher Myrna

Closser. “Her devotion to God and heart for ministering in love to her children was what I appreciated about working with her most.”

Furman looks forward to spending time with her family in Cleveland, Ohio, and subbing at MCE when needed. The school and Conference thanks Emyria Furman for her godly presence in the Church’s schools, for being a prayer warrior, and for answering the call to instruct God’s children all these years; and wishes her a wonderful retirement! 📍

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BY CAROLYN ANGELO

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# South Atlantic Holds Grief Retreat

Many constituents around the South Atlantic Conference have experienced death in their families, but many have not attended an official grief seminar that is sponsored and conducted by Seventh-day Adventists who are professional in the field.

The South Atlantic Family Ministries Department, under the direction of Melvin Preston, facilitated a grief seminar at the River Oaks Convention Center in Orangeburg, S.C.

Juleun Johnson, D.Min., chaplain at AdventHealth, assured all attending of the goals, including inspiration, education, application, and transformation. The content and methods shared would

equip those grieving to help manage their grief. Some practical tips were presented by grief counselors Charles and Chris Crosby.

They shared that grief is a natural response to a significant loss. It is the last act of love we give to those we loved.

The five myths about grief — pain will go away if you ignore it; it is important to be strong; if you do not cry, it means you are not sorry; grieving lasts for about a year; moving on with your life means forgetting — were dispelled.

The stages of grief were presented. Also, the four steps of mourning were introduced by William Worde, and practical strategies for surviving special days were shared with the attend-

ees. Of course, prayer for divine help is primary.

The presenters encouraged all to seek support from family and friends, church leaders, and support groups, but to also acquire professional help if needed.

Upon evaluation at the final general meeting, all agreed that their goals had been reached, and they were thankful for an impactful meeting.

It was unique, historic, practical, and very much needed. 🕊

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BY RALPH PEAY AND MELVIN PRESTON

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Grief retreat attendees were impacted in a positive way as they departed.

# Member Leads Ministry From the Heart

When asked to lead prison ministries for West Broad Church in Savannah, Ga., Sharon Parris knew without hesitation that God was calling her to this ministry. Her family had seen both sides of the prison ministries fence. Having battled with addiction and incarceration, Parris shares her story to help others facing the same battle. She knew this ministry would allow her and her family to be transparent about their journey.

With much prayer and the support of her husband and children, Parris set out to do all that she could to make a difference in the lives of those behind bars and their families.

Parris led out in West Broad Church, joining the Angel Tree Family, a program where the children of incarcerated parents receive Christmas gifts donated by partic-

ipants in the name of the incarcerated parent. For the past seven years, West Broad Church has participated. Each year the number of children helped has increased. In the beginning 20 children were a part of the program, which has now increased to 60. Not only were West Broad members involved, but, using her connections, Parris had community organizations donating gifts as well. One year a community organization donated so many gifts that enough remained to take to the county jail, and were given out as children were leaving the facility after visitations.

As another part of prison ministries, at the beginning of the 2021 school year, the members of West Broad Church participated in a back-to-school drive for children of incarcerated parents. The church members went beyond Angel Tree, and purchased school supplies that

were individually packed and ready to distribute to the children.

Through prison ministries, Parris desired to bond with the families of those incarcerated. She reserved a gymnasium and had a prison ministries family and friends' day, inviting the children and their caregivers. Games were played, food served, and lots of great fellowship was enjoyed. Parris also keeps in touch with the children and caregivers throughout the year.

Parris expressed that one of the highlights of her ministry is witnessing the parents release from jail and being able to return to their children and families. As a result of this ministry, many amazing witnessing contacts and friendships have formed. ●

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BY BEATRICE BANKS

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Sharon Parris, prison ministries leader, is assisted by her husband, Otis Parris.



Many children left with smiles on their faces, and were grateful for school supplies that were given to them from the West Broad Church Prison Ministries Department.

# Church, Junior Academy Doubly Blessed

*Sandra Fletcher, Southeastern Conference education superintendent, shares her testimony.*

The Bible says that, “Children are a heritage from the Lord...,” Psalm 127:3 NIV, and as such they should be given priority in preparing them to serve their Creator, Redeemer, and Lord.

Four students from Mt. Calvary Junior Academy in Tampa, Fla., made the commitment to follow Jesus all the way on May 14, 2022, and walk into the watery grave of baptism. Among the students were seventh-grader Aliyah Currington, and eighth-graders Jaida Percy and twins Ruthney and Jhiems Vernet. This occasion was even more special, for the eighth graders would go on to graduate from middle school the following week. Edson Jarvis, school principal and grade 7-8 teacher, worked with his staff to intentionally study the fundamental beliefs from the Bible with these students, so they would be ready when the day came to surrender their lives to Jesus.

The glorious day for Mt. Calvary school and church is a testament to the results of true Adventist Christian Education: providing a Christ-centered environment where youth are guided in the development of meaningful relationships with God and their fellowmen.

Witnessing these blessings has reminded me of how Seventh-day Adventist Christian education has impacted me personally, and how I came to give my life to Christ as a young student as well.

Growing up, I did not know about the Seventh-day Adventist Church or its educational mission. I was a faithful member of the St. Paul’s Anglican Church Sunday School in my hometown of Westmoreland, Jamaica. The exposure I had there to read the Bible and study the beliefs stim-

ulated my desire to want to know Christ more. The Holy Spirit guided me safely to Delveland Seventh-day Adventist Church, where I got baptized at 9 years old. From that day I made the everlasting covenant to faithfully follow my Lord.

Soon after conversion, I received the blessed gift of becoming a teaching missionary. This opportunity allowed me to follow my interest to have children “taught by the Lord,” Isaiah 54:13 NIV. My classrooms were mission fields. Later, as an



Students Jhiems Vernet (left), Aliyah Currington, Jaida Percy, and Ruthney Vernet with Edson Jarvis, Mt. Calvary Junior Academy principal, prior to their baptism.



Sandra Fletcher (left), Southeastern Conference education superintendent, stands with students Jaida Percy, Jhiems Vernet, Ruthney Vernet, and Aliyah Currington.

administrator, my schools became mission fields. One by one, many of my students gave their hearts to God in baptisms, and established church memberships. It was exciting and common to have student baptisms on the Sabbath following graduation ceremonies. Sometimes the students were the presenters of the divine service messages, and then they walked out of the preacher’s pulpit into the sinners’ baptistry.

As a mother, I deeply understand that children have a keen desire to know Christ and to follow His teachings. They are as curious to learn about God and Heaven as they are to explore the arts and sciences. They desire to be saved and to make disciples among their friends for Jesus. My

husband and I supported our children to learn of God and to make commitments to follow His principles of living victorious lives. As a result, our three children got baptized between ages 7 and 9. Today, they faithfully follow Jesus and give their services to the building up of God’s Kingdom.

Families and churches are more likely to experience hope and wholeness when our children are taught to give their hearts to God. Jesus is coming soon! The Southeastern Conference Office of Education will passionately share this Good News with our children and youth. 📌

BY SANDRA FLETCHER

# Children Work in Garden With Jesus

*Joyceline Poole-Dudley shares her testimony.*

The Lord blessed Ephesus Junior Academy in Jacksonville, Fla., with Opal Lattimore, who moved to Jacksonville to be with her son and his family.

Lattimore operated a successful community garden in Tampa, Fla., for years before moving to Jacksonville. This move brought a wonderful community service project to the children at Ephesus Junior Academy. After much prayer and research, a program was established for the school, and each week Lattimore would meet with the classes to teach the proper techniques of growing, maintaining, and harvesting a home or community garden. As the children learned about gardening, they loved it. Planting gave the children joy and satisfaction because they were able to take home to their families what they planted, which was exciting.

Little did I not know that Lattimore volunteering at the school would help me personally during a time of need; planting vegetables and adopting healthy eating habits became a practice that would get me through the unforeseen pandemic that was to come.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, schools suddenly closed, and as an administrator, I, like all other educators, had to continue school virtually. Communities shut down, and people were encouraged to stay home. This closure encouraged creative ways to develop untapped talents and personal hobbies, and spend quality family time with each other so as to not lose our minds.

It was then that I got the idea to test my green thumb and start a small vegetable garden at my home. I called Lattimore, and she excitedly helped me get started. I ordered six raised garden boxes and was ready to start my spring garden. I plant-

ed squash, zucchini, string beans, corn, tomatoes, okra, eggplant, and bell peppers, and to my surprise, I loved every minute of it. As my garden expanded so did my harvest of fresh, organic vegetables. It produced so much that we could not eat it all, and we shared our harvest blessings with family and friends.

My love for nature returned and I enjoyed getting out of the house and into my garden every day. Soon my new-found hobby became a family activity, which included my two daughters. My oldest daughter, Kristen, encouraged me to create a YouTube channel to show how easy it was to start an organic garden from scratch, right in your backyard, while sharing my gardening tips with family, friends, the community, and the world.

I was hesitant at first; then something unexpected and wonderful happened. It quickly became bonding time for us. My daughter patiently and lovingly began coaching and recording me in the garden. Her research and guidance taught me how and what to say every time we recorded, and how to share it on social media. Our final task was to name my garden, so after much thought and prayer, Resha's Garden was born.

You know the popular hymn, "I Come to the Garden Alone"? Well, each morning and evening that I water my garden, I find myself in sweet communion with God as I sing and talk to my plants. I understand better now what Ellen White was talking about in the book *Prophets and Kings*, chapter 2, page 51, which tells us this, "They [Adam and Eve] held converse with leaf and flower and tree, gathering from each the secrets of its life." It is my joy and pleasure to meet with Jesus every day in my garden. 🌱

BY JOYCELINE POOLE-DUDLEY



Joyceline Poole-Dudley (left) and Opal Lattimore



Vegetables from Joyceline Poole-Dudley's garden.



Joyceline Poole-Dudley displays collard greens from her garden.

# Southern Group Serves Ukrainian Refugees

In June, a group of 24 Southern Adventist University students and employees spent a week in Bucharest, Romania, helping Ukrainian refugees. Southern partnered with Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) to provide medical and emotional aid to Ukrainians who had fled their homes due to the ongoing war in their country.

Southern's volunteers helped set up an outdoor medical clinic and assisted the medical and dental professionals. Additionally, they organized activities for the children, prayed with patients, and participated in health and spiritual talks. Every day, Southern's team came together to pray over those who had visited the clinic.

"I was so proud of our students. Their spirit of service, leadership, and hard work was evident from the beginning, and I saw the love of Jesus shin-



PHOTO BY: ARON MARIANO

**Southern students assisted medical and dental professionals in providing care for Ukrainian refugees in Romania.**

ing through them," said Sandra Araujo-Delgado, the University's annual giving manager and trip chaperone. "I was also moved by the heartbreaking stories of loss from the refugees and their sincere gratefulness for everything, from dental care to a simple gift for their children."

For Aron Mariano, junior music ma-

yor, working with the refugees left a big impression, and he realized the fragility of life.

"Many of the people who sat on our makeshift dental camping chairs were people with college degrees," Mariano said. "One of our patients was a lawyer. Others were doctors, pastors, and teachers who were employed before being driven out of their homes. I learned not to take our houses, families, and jobs for granted."

"As Southern students take part in mission trips like this, they learn firsthand what it's like to serve others, and it changes them," Araujo-Delgado said. "I love that these opportunities are part of shaping our students for a life of service and eternity." ●

BY ANAYA MILLER

# Special Vespers Connects Students With Churches

During the last 50 years, 34,385,004 individuals were baptized as Seventh-day Adventists, according to the Adventist Office of Archives, Statistics, and Research. Of that number, 40% have since left the Church, many of them as young adults.

Southern strives to help young people develop strong connections with the Adventist Church. As part of this effort, the Office of Ministry and Missions holds a special Next Step Vespers near the end of the school year, accentuating the importance of the local church in the mission of Christ.

As part of the event this year, guest speaker and alum Allan Martin, Ph.D.,

'90, a pastor from Arlington, Tex., shed light on the myths and facts about churches that successfully reach the current generation. He emphasized the importance of students in the Church.

"Jesus does not simply want students to go to church," Martin said. "He calls them to be the Church."

Martin's words resonated with Ethan Wu, senior computer science major.

"I want to serve in my local church when I move back to Maryland after graduation," Wu said. "Tonight helped me see how I can be of greater support to my congregation."

Students also had the opportunity to interact with representatives from vari-

ous Adventist churches in the local area and across the country. Joseph Khabbaz, vice president for spiritual life and campus chaplain, hopes that this recurring event makes a lasting impact.

"Our prayer is that each student, especially those graduating, will know that there are church bodies throughout our denomination who care, and who seek to provide young adults with ministry opportunities. These members of our faith community see Southern students as the future leaders of Adventism." ●

BY ANAYA MILLER

**The South Atlantic Conference  
Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that the 26th regular session of the South Atlantic Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet at the River Oaks Praise & Worship Center, in Orangeburg, SC, Sunday, September 11, 2022. The Organizing Committee will meet Saturday night, September 10, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. The Association will meet after lunch on Sunday, September 11, 2022. The delegates to the South Atlantic Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

William L. Winston, President  
David A. Smith, Executive Secretary  
Merkita Mosley, Treasurer

**Legal Notices  
The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Session**

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular session of the Kentucky- Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, September 25, 2022. The session will begin at 10 a.m. This session is called for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing term and for transacting any other business that may properly come before the session. Each church in the conference is entitled to one delegate and an additional delegate for each twenty-five members or major fraction thereof.

Steven L. Haley, President  
Mike L. Hewitt, Vice President for Administration

**The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc.**

Notice is hereby given that the 33rd regular session of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a corporation, is called to meet in the Madison Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church, 607-B Larkin Springs Road, Madison, Tennessee, Sunday, September 25, 2021. The session will begin at 10 a.m. The delegates to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are the constituency of the corporation.

Steven L. Haley, President  
Silke Hubbard, Trust Services Director

**BLOMELEY, HELEN JOANNE WITTSCHIEBE**, 89, born in New York state on April 6, 1933 to Charles and Violet (Doll) Wittschiebe, a long-time resident of Mill Spring, NC, passed away peacefully on May 18, 2022. She soon found herself the child of Seventh-day Adventist missionaries in China. During WWII, the family (now including younger sister Jeannine) was imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp near Manila for 3-6 years. They were eventually liberated by General Douglas McArthur during his campaign to retake the Philippines. After returning to the US, Helen attended Collegedale Academy in Tennessee, where she met her teenaged future husband, of whom she was not enamored at the time. She later graduated from Washington Missionary College with a B.S. in nursing, and then received a Master's of Science in nursing from Catholic University. In August of 1956, she married Charles P. Blomeley, who had pursued her single-mindedly for the better part of 10 years. She taught nursing for seven years at Catholic University while he attended college and medical school. In 1964, they welcomed a daughter (Heather). In 1966, Charles completed his internship and they welcomed a son (Kevin) and relocated to Columbus, NC, where he partnered with Dr. Roy Morgan in family practice. In 1969, they welcomed a second son (Geoff), and in 1974 they moved from Columbus to a 75-acre farm in Mill Spring, where she resided until her death. Helen worked at St. Luke's Hospital for more than 30 years in multiple roles, including surgical nursing and the emerging specialty of infection control (she was known as the "Bug Lady"), and was pivotal in the implementation of the Medicare Swing Bed Program there, a venture that many credit with the survival of the hospital in the 1980s and 90s, before retiring in 2008. She and her husband were passionate lifelong naturalists, and pioneering wildlife rehabilitators in the region, well known for their extensive and constantly changing collection of critters. She is survived by her sister, Jeannine Showalter and husband Stan of Three Oaks, MI; brother, Liston Steele and wife Nancy of Huntington Beach, CA; daughter, Capt.

Heather I. Blomeley (USNR, retired), an anesthesiologist of Mill Spring; son, Detective III Charles Kevin Blomeley (LAPD, retired) and wife Jennifer of Mill Spring; son, Geoffrey S. Blomeley and wife Ashley of Blue Ridge, GA; and four grandchildren: Ava Rushford, Emma Blomeley, Ryan Blomeley, and Autumn Blomeley. In 2013, she was preceded in death by her husband of 57 years and the love of her life, Dr. Charles P. Blomeley. A memorial service was held on June 5, 2022, at 4 p.m., at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tryon, NC.

**BUTLER, MARY JANE**, 91, born Aug. 7, 1930 to the late Earl Leon Fricks and Anna Lou Brown Fricks, went to sleep in Jesus on June 24, 2022. She was the third of three girls. She grew up in the West End of Birmingham, AL. She attended Fletcher Academy in North Carolina and then went on to Southern Missionary College where she met the love of her life, James Howard Butler. She worked hard to help his business of importing flowers to grow and flourish which later became Butler Imports and Importer's Warehouse. They had two children: Peggy Jill Butler Bryan and James Jackson Butler. She was always known for her great cooking abilities, and always made sure everyone had plenty to eat. She was one of the original charter members of the Roebuck Seventh-day Adventist Church. She is survived by her daughter, Jill Butler Bryan; son, James Jackson Butler (Candi); grandchildren: Victoria Butler Nafie (John), Rhett Jackson Butler (Rebecca); and two adorable great-granddaughters. She was preceded in death by her husband, James Howard Butler. A funeral service was held June 28, 2022 at Trussville Ridout's Funeral Home. We longingly await the day of Jesus' soon coming when we will be reunited forever! We are thankful she is peacefully sleeping in Jesus until that day.

**FORD, BARBARA ELLEN**, 82, born Feb. 29, 1940 in Richmond, VA, died March 12, 2022 in Goodlettsville, TN. She was a member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. Barbara and her late husband were active in the Ridgetop Pathfinder Club. She had a love for children and was employed for many years as a daycare worker for Opry-

land Hotel. She is survived by her son, James (Johnna) Ford; grandchildren: Dustin (Rachele) Ford and Derek Ford; and brother, David (Sharon) Wheeler. Besides her parents, Barbara was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Lee Ford.

**FULFORD, SHARON LEE SHADLE**, 75, born Sept. 16, 1946 in Anderson, IN, the daughter of Wayne and Nellie Shadle, died March 10, 2022 in her sleep of natural causes at her Tennessee home. She graduated from Indiana Academy and then from Indiana University with a degree in nursing, and practiced her profession for more than 30 years. She married Bob Fulford of Wrightsville, GA, in 1969, and they lived happily together for more than 52 years. Sharon retired to the mountains in Reliance, TN, in 1999. She lived her dream life of residing in the country growing vegetables and being out in nature. In retirement, she started a second career as an apprentice carpenter under Ray Goforth, and helped build a custom home for Pastor Derek Morris using only the resources off the land. This experience gave her so much joy and enabled her to perform many home repairs. She was an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church where she taught Scripture, played the organ, and held cooking classes for healthy eating. She was an amazing woman, wife, and mother who lived and taught what she believed. Her purpose in life was to assist people with their health challenges and received great joy in accomplishing this. Many friends have expressed she always had a smile on her face, was always positive, and full of spunk and vigor. She became a second mom to many of her children's friends and others she met in the community and church. Sharon's greatest passion was for her family. She dedicated her life to her family and taught her sons to love the Lord. She is now sleeping in Jesus awaiting the resurrection. She is survived by her husband, Bob; brother, Eric Shadle, M.D., and his spouse; their two sons, Kevin Fulford, M.D., and his spouse, and Jeff Fulford, M.P.T., and his spouse; one stepson, Bobby Fulford, and his spouse; one stepdaughter, Lisa Fulford; several grandchildren; multiple



nieces; nephews; and cousins. A memorial service was held in her honor at the Benton, TN, Church on April 29, 2022, with Pastor Derek Morris officiating. Graveside services were held in Wrightsville, GA, on April 30.

**GATELEY, "MARTHA" JANE**, 79, born Dec. 25, 1942 in Memphis, TN, died May 29, 2022. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church. Jane married at the age of 18 and had four children. Years later, as a single mom, she worked multiple jobs and went back to school to become a medical assistant. Jane was affectionally called "Mama Jane," and she found her biggest joy being around family, friends, and caring for others. She loved gardening, music, animals, and nature. She is survived by her sister, Anita Lynn (Pearl) Morsette; brothers: Howard Gene Pearl and George Douglas; her children: William "Todd" Wimmer, Tonya Renee (Wimmer) Flint, Jeffrey Owen Wimmer, and Dara Lynn (Gateley) Quilty; nine grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents: June Helen Douglas and Henry Davis Pearl; brothers: David Pearl, Bill Pearl, and Michael Douglas.

**MORRIS, LUCY A.**, 81, born May 20, 1940 in Cobleskill, NY, died March 31, 2022 in Dunnellon, FL. Lucy was a devoted Christian and a member of the Dunnellon Church. Her love and amazing talent for art showed in every sketch, drawing, craft, and arrangement she created. Lucy was a full-time mother along with parttime employment. She obtained a child care credential, and worked in that field. She had a deep love for her husband of 60 years, Byron Junior (BJ) Morris, who passed away Dec. 1, 2020. She is survived by two sons: Roy (Priscilla) Morris, and Shawn Morris; two daughters: Gwen (Gordon) Jolly, and Wendy Sue Hansen; one brother, Everett (Lee) Brown; one sister, Mary (Ed) McGowan; eight grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She was the center of her family and will be kept in their hearts until they meet again with Jesus in Heaven.

**MULLINS, RUTH JOYCE STORY**, 82, born May 26, 1939 in Goodlettsville, TN, died May 8, 2022 in Cotton-

town, TN. She joined the Ridgetop, TN, Church after taking Bible studies from her brother and his wife, Earl and Janice Hall. She had a beautiful voice and used her musical gifts at the local church as a song leader. She will be fondly remembered as a kind, gentle, and loving individual. Joyce is survived by her daughters: Pixie Story, Robyn Bain (Terry), and Ree Moses; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; her brothers: Douglas (Donna) Hall and Earl Hall. She was preceded in death by her husbands James F. Story and Glair C. Mullins; sisters: Dorothy Mae Carpenter and Lillie Marie Byrum; and brothers: James Arthur Bowers and Andrew Lee Bowers Jr.

**OWEN, PAULETTE MARIE MYZEL**, 63, born Sept. 20, 1959 in Flint, MI, died April 12, 2022 in Lake Mary, FL. She was a member of the Fletcher Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hendersonville, NC. Paulette was a graduate of Adelphian Academy and went on to Southern Adventist University where she studied business. She worked in a variety of positions at AdventHealth

in Florida. Over her 40-year career ending as director of volunteer services, which she retired from on Nov. 19, 2021. She is survived by her husband, Randy Owen; and many dear friends. Preceding her in death are her siblings: Kathy and Gene. Services were held in Altamonte Springs, FL.

**PUTERBAUGH, LOLITA TOWNSEND**, 78, born Aug. 24, 1943 in Banner Elk, NC, died April 18, 2022. She was a lifelong Adventist and a member of the Spartanburg, SC, Church. Through the years, she held many different church positions. Lolita graduated from Fletcher Academy, Madison College, and Rollins College. She retired as director of human resources from Potomac Conference. Lolita was an extraordinary cook and baker. She was known for her cookies and pound cakes, which she shared and blessed everyone with. No one ever left her table hungry or without a take home package. She is survived by her husband of 27 years, Neal Puterbaugh; and one son, Chip Puterbaugh of Asheville, NC.



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### PROPERTY AVAILABLE

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### POSITIONS AVAILABLE

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**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** is seeking qualified candidates for the following staff positions: Salaried position—School of Business Graduate Studies Coordinator. Hourly positions—Patrol Officer (Campus Safety), Cafeteria Floater (Cafeteria), Office Manager (Transportation), Cafeteria Worker (Cafeteria), Deli Supper Cook (Village Market), Deli Staff (Village Market), Deli Salad Supervisor (Village Market), CK2 AM Shift Supervisor (Food Services), Cook Coordinator (Cafeteria), The Garden Assistant Manager (Food Services), Millwork Technician

(Plant Services), Records & Procurement Manager (Plant Services). For a detailed description and qualifications, see [southern.edu/jobs](http://southern.edu/jobs). [8,9]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY SEEKS VICE PRINCIPAL ACADEMY GENERAL** Reporting to and supporting the Principal, the vice principal has responsibility for daily operations involving academics, student life, and administrative functions for Andrews Academy. [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff\\_salary#job\\_1](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_1) [8]

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**"JOIN US:** Fletcher Academy, Inc. is accepting applications for a full-time Senior Accountant in Corporate Finance with a degree in financial accounting and a minimum of (7) seven years of experience in all areas of accounting. This role is for an experienced candidate and offers a Mon-Fri office schedule, competitive salary & expansive benefits package, and the opportunity to partner with an experienced team of mission-minded professionals. Interviews are being scheduled; visit [www.fletcheracademy.org/career](http://www.fletcheracademy.org/career) to apply right away for this important role in our ministries." [8]

**DENTIST NEEDED.** If you are a dentist living in the Chattanooga area or have been wanting to relocate to the area of beautiful Southeast Tennessee or North Georgia but waiting for the door to open for you and your career, please contact Dr. Joel Davis. The position is available immediately. Competitive

compensation and profit sharing opportunities included! Seeking a humble and hungry dental provider who is aligned with our core values of Growth (mindset), Integrity (do the right thing) & Compassion (connecting with others and caring for the whole person). Call 423-580-2218 See our website at [www.TrueDental.care](http://www.TrueDental.care)[8,9,10]

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving + Storage has a national account with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the best! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visits us at: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist). [C]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on campus programs. financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/gradutestudies](http://www.southern.edu/gradutestudies) [8-4]

**SHOP FOR NEW/USED ADVENTIST BOOKS: TEACH SERVICES** offers used

Adventist books at [www.LNFBOOKS.com](http://www.LNFBOOKS.com) or new book releases at your local ABC or [www.TEACHServices.com](http://www.TEACHServices.com). AUTHORS let us help publish your book with editing, design, marketing, and worldwide distribution. Call 800-367-1844 for a free evaluation. [8-4]

**CASKETS FOR ADVENTISTS.** High quality 20-gauge steel, includes 2nd coming picture, Ten Commandments, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, and 3 Angels message displayed on Casket. Priced under \$800.00. Text / call 865-382-1834 on online at <https://1844casketsforadventists.com> [8-12]

**#1 NC & SC Allstate Insurance Agency.** SDA owned and operated. Call today for a free quote for auto, home, renters, boat, motorcycle, or life insurance. Agent is UCSDA Church Treasurer & Elder. Exclusive Agent, Brian King. 704-844-2572 or [jbrianking@allstate.com](mailto:jbrianking@allstate.com) or visit us at [www.allstate.com/jbrianking](http://www.allstate.com/jbrianking) [8-7]

**SEEKING TO PURCHASE** two original 12 Chapter Steps to Christ and two sets of genuine leather 5 Vol. Conflict of the Ages. Contact Pastor Byron K. Hill at 120 Natalie Jane Dr. Hazel Green, AL 35750. Call (256) 746 - 3255 or email [byronhill5153@me.com](mailto:byronhill5153@me.com). [8,9]

**IMPACT HOPE!** Bringing HOPE & EDUCATION to REFUGEE youth in Rwanda. Your monthly gift of \$50 empowers a young refugee to create a brighter future through receiving a Christian education. 100% of your donation goes directly to sponsorship, including school fees, access to medical care, living arrangements, and three meals a day! [Impact-hope.org](http://Impact-hope.org) 503-673-3905 [8-10]

**CLERMONT CHURCH.** When in the Orlando area, Pastor Jim Gilley invites you to visit Clermont Church, 498 Montrose, Clermont, Florida, 34711. SS 9:30, Church 11:00. [8-12]

**GEORGIA SDA COUNSELOR:** No stigmas here! We can all benefit from professional counseling. I'm Tamara, a licensed therapist, and I treat issues of anger, anxiety, depression, stress, grief, and family matters. Call for your free 15-minute consultation, and let's start the process. 678-203-8680 [www.newbridgecounseling.net](http://www.newbridgecounseling.net) [8-1]

**FOR SALE - MAUSOLEUM CRYPT:** Tandem entombment space (Ideal for husband and wife) in a Mausoleum in a quiet cul-de-sac at Highland Memorial Gardens, Apopka, FL. \$12,000 discounted price. Call or text Mae (407) 616-3285. [8]

**Giving That Returns To Benefit You**

Over a number of years, I have purchased several charitable gift annuities from the Florida Conference Association. Because of my age at the time of purchase, I have received a higher fixed rate with each annuity.

I am very pleased with the income I receive, and I enjoy a positive relationship with the personnel in Planned Giving and Trust Services. It gives me real satisfaction to know that, in future years, the remainder amount from my charitable gift annuities will be used to further the work of the Lord.

Make a gift and receive income for the rest of your life! With a gift annuity, you give a gift of cash or property to us, and we pay you a fixed income!

▶ For more information, call your Planned Giving office

<b>Carolina</b> Paul Hildebrand (704) 526-3200	<b>Kentucky-Tennessee</b> Sara Hubbard (615) 858-1891	<b>South Central</b> Sonia Clayton (615) 226-6800
<b>Florida</b> Paul Bood (407) 644-5000	<b>Dalhousie University</b> Marian W. Battles (290) 726-7508	<b>Southeastern</b> Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142
<b>Georgia-Cumberland</b> Ray Harbison (706) 629-7951	<b>South Atlantic</b> Melinda Mosely (404) 792-0535	<b>Southern Adventist University</b> Katherine Bubenhausen (423) 236-2832
<b>Gulf States</b> David Spomeni (334) 272-1495		<b>SUSDAGift.org</b>

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE  
ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

Notice is hereby given that the next regular meeting of the membership of the Southern Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Hilton Atlanta Airport, located at 1031 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA, at 4 p.m., September 18, 2022, for the purpose of electing a board of directors and the transacting of such other business as may properly come before the membership. The members of this association are the accredited delegates in attendance at the regular session of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (unincorporated).

Ron C. Smith, President  
James R. Davidson, Executive Secretary

**REGULAR SESSION OF THE SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE  
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS**

Notice is hereby given that the next regular meeting of the 19th regular session of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Hilton Atlanta Airport, located at 1031 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA at 4 p.m., September 18, 2022, for the purpose of electing officers and the transaction of such other business as may come before the membership. The regular delegates to this session are appointed by the local conferences of the union on the basis of one for each 1,000 members or major fraction thereof, plus one for the organization.

Ron C. Smith, President  
James R. Davidson, Executive Secretary

**REGULAR SESSION OF SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

Notice is hereby given that the next regular session of the membership of Southern Adventist University will be held in conjunction with the Southern Union Conference Session to be held at the Hilton Atlanta Airport, located at 1031 Virginia Avenue, Atlanta, GA, at 4 p.m., September 18, 2022. The purpose of the meeting is to elect a board of trustees, to revise or amend the charter and bylaws, and to transact any other necessary business. The members of this corporation are the accredited delegates in attendance at the regular session of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (unincorporated).

Ron C. Smith, Chairman  
Robert Young, Secretary



# REASSURANCE



Pastor Henry Wright

## CELEBRATION OF HOPE 2022

**October 21-23, 2022 | Orlando, Florida**

Join **Pastor Derek Morris** and special guest **Pastor Henry Wright** at this inspirational event! You'll be able to experience inspiring messages from gifted speakers, special musical performances, and the latest insider updates on how your support has impacted lives around the world.

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**301-680-5218**

**[HopeTV.org/CelebrationOfHope](https://www.HopeTV.org/CelebrationOfHope)**

**CAROLINA**

- Summer Magabook Program** - May 22-Aug.17. Raleigh.
- Summer Camp** - June 5-July 15. Nosoca.
- Revive Youth Rally** - July 29-30 - Charlotte.
- Prison Ministry Summit** - July 29-30 - Carolina Conference Office.
- Literature Evangelism Retreat** - Aug. 11-14. Nosoca.
- Constituency Session** - Aug. 18-22. Nosoca.
- Pathfinder/Adventurer Leadership** - Aug. 26-28. Nosoca.
- Carolina Men's Retreat** - Sept. 23-25. Nosoca.
- Carolina Women's Retreat** - Sept. 3-Oct. 2. Nosoca.

**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND**

- Hispanic Camp Meeting** - Aug. 5-7. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

- Hispanic Youth Retreat** - Aug. 5-7. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
- ACF Restart** - Aug. 26-27. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- Young Adult Life Retreat** - Sept. 2-4. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- Hispanic Couples Retreat** - Sept. 9-11. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
- Northeast Tennessee Camp Meeting** - Sept. 16, 17. The Oaks Retreat Center, Greeneville, TN.
- Engage Leadership Convention** - Sept. 23, 24. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
- Sabbath in the Smokies** - Sept. 24. Cades Cove, Great Smoky Mountains National Park.
- Marriage Retreat** - Oct. 7-9. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
- ACS Warehouse and Donations Management Training** - Oct. 28-30. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

- Hispanic Men's Retreat** - Oct. 28-30. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY**

- Fall Classes Begin** - Aug. 22. Southern offers a variety of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.
- Homecoming** - Oct. 27-30. Mark your calendar and join the Alumni Association in person or virtually for the ultimate Southern family celebration. Honor Classes include: '1942, '52, '62, '72, '77, '82, '92, '97, '02, '12. Visit southern.edu/alumni or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

**SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Aug. 8-11, 2023. Orlando, FL. SAVE THE DATE!!!**

	AUG 5	AUG 12	AUG 19	AUG 26	SEPT 2	SEPT 9
ATLANTA, GA	8:36	8:29	8:21	8:12	8:03	7:54
CHARLESTON, SC	8:16	8:09	8:01	7:53	7:44	7:35
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:24	8:17	8:08	7:59	7:50	7:40
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:40	8:33	8:25	8:16	8:07	7:57
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:46	7:39	7:31	7:22	7:12	7:03
JACKSON, MS	7:56	7:49	7:42	7:33	7:25	7:16
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:50	8:42	8:33	8:23	8:12	8:02
MEMPHIS, TN	8:01	7:53	7:45	7:36	7:27	7:17
MIAMI, FL	8:05	8:00	7:54	7:47	7:40	7:32
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:40	7:36	7:26	7:18	7:09	7:00
NASHVILLE, TN	7:50	7:42	7:33	7:24	7:14	7:04
ORLANDO, FL	8:14	8:08	8:02	7:54	7:47	7:38
TAMPA, FL	8:18	8:12	8:05	7:58	7:50	7:42
WILMINGTON, NC	8:10	8:03	7:55	7:47	7:37	7:28

# SEE FOR YOURSELF

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

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

See Southern for yourself.

Upcoming **FREE\*** PreviewSouthern events:

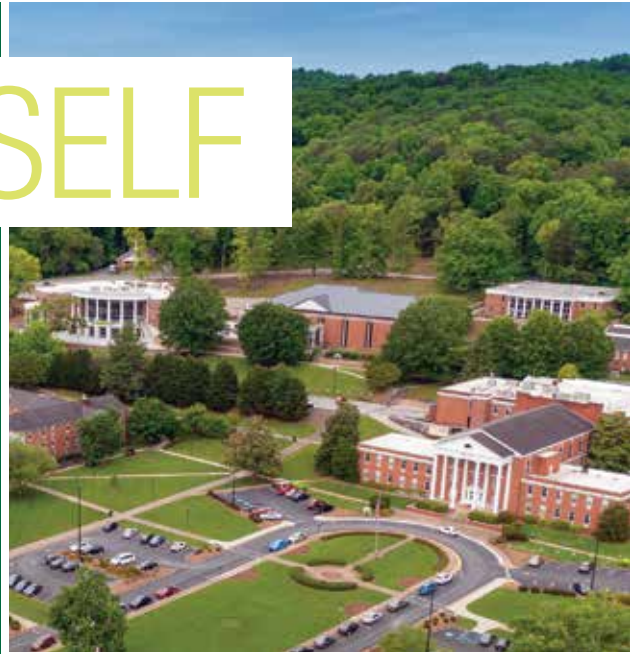
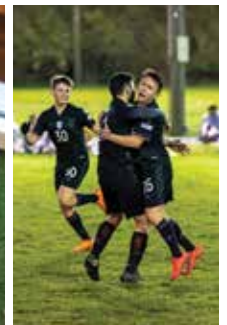
**November 3-4, 2022**

**February 20, 2023**

**March 23-24, 2023**



Power for Mind & Soul



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

To arrange your visit, call 1.800.SOUTHERN  
or go to [southern.edu/visit](https://southern.edu/visit).

Collegedale, TN



## Meet Norca Huamalíes, MD.

Dr. Norca Huamalíes believes in miracles. When the COVID-19 crisis struck Ecuador, she saw how AdventHealth's Global Missions program began delivering critically needed personal protective equipment to her beloved Quito Adventist Clinic where she worked. The clinic, which had been in existence for 61 years, was teetering between staying open and closing for good. "Being the only Seventh-day Adventist clinic in Ecuador, it was important to keep it going," said Dr. Huamalíes. For years, the clinic had tried to acquire new radiology equipment and a CT scanner to better serve the community, but with little success.

That's when AdventHealth stepped in to bring additional help. "God made this miracle happen through the Adventist Church and through AdventHealth," said Dr. Huamalíes. "Not only was the new equipment acquired with top-of-the-line technology, but a new imaging center was built too." Now the Quito Adventist Clinic can better care for its patients and the community.

"This is just the beginning of a future that provides hope and healing — because together, we extend the healing ministry of Christ."

**Learn more about AdventHealth Global Missions and our international partners at [AdventHealth.com/AdventHealth-Global-Missions](https://www.adventhealth.com/global-missions).**

