

T Southern TIDINGS



QUINQUENNIAL REPORT

SEPTEMBER 2022

QUINQUENNIAL REPORT OF THE
SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE
OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



We thank you for reaching the world by sharing hope and helping people experience wholeness during this quinquennium.

— THE SOUTHERN UNION OFFICE STAFF



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reports

6	OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT	48	HISPANIC MINISTRIES
12	SECRETARY	50	HUMAN RESOURCES
18	OFFICE OF TREASURY	52	PUBLISHING
24	SOUTHERN UNION REVOLVING FUND	54	PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY
26	PLANNED GIVING AND TRUST SERVICES	56	PERSONAL MINISTRIES
28	COMMUNICATION	58	INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
31	OFFICE OF EDUCATION	60	WOMEN'S MINISTRIES
34	ADVENTIST-LAYMEN'S SERVICES AND INDUSTRIES	64	ADVENTHEALTH
35	CHAPLAINCY	66	ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
36	CHURCH GROWTH	69	OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
39	EVANGELISM / MINISTERIAL	73	SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
42	CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULT	78	BREATH OF LIFE
56	HEALTH MINISTRIES	80	IT IS WRITTEN
82	DELEGATES ROSTER		
85	SUPPORT STAFF		
86	RETIREES		
87	FALLEN SOLDIERS		
90	PRESIDENTS		
94	CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING		
96	SUNSET CALENDAR		

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS





Southern Union administrators: **Dave Colburn** (left, seated), undertreasurer; **David Freedman**, treasurer; **Jim Davidson** (left, standing), executive secretary; and **Ron C. Smith**, D.Min., Ph.D., president

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Reaching the Southern Union Through Hope and Wholeness

BY RON C. SMITH, D.MIN., PH.D.

It is God's plan for those who are receivers of His grace to be witnesses to its power. It is His desire that His servants will bear testimony to the fact that through His grace, men, women, and children may possess Christlikeness of character and rejoice in the assurance of His great love. He wants us to showcase to the world that He cannot be satisfied until the human race is reclaimed and reinstated in their holy privileges as His sons and daughters. Therefore, He has summoned us to be witnesses of His ability to restore displaced people unto Himself through hope and wholeness.

When one witnesses, he gives evidence for, grounds for, proof of, affirmation of, and declaration of his beliefs and convictions. A witness is simply one who tells what he knows, tells what he has experienced, and tells what he has actually seen. Witnessing is the fruit of a personal confrontation, experience, and relationship with Jesus Christ. When you have this experience, you will begin to share your faith and retrieve people who need to be rescued from pain and suffering, and to be transitioned into a meaningful relationship with the Prince of Peace.

Over the last quinquennial period, our faithful members of the Southern Union, through responsible Christian ministry, have not only ministered to our local churches, but to this post-modern and post-Christian culture. I am so encouraged and inspired by our brothers and sisters of this vast Union. I write this



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., and his wife, Yolanda

PHOTO BY: OLIVIA WOODARD

been the enhanced propagation of the Gospel. It is amazing how the metrics surrounding the success of ministry through the Southern Union continue to climb onward and upward. People throughout the southeastern region of the United States and beyond have experienced forgiven sins, vanquished guilt, acceptance through God's love, the companionship of the Holy Spirit, new birth, adoption into God's family as sons and daughters, and the great gift of eternal life. Our ministry within the Southern Union during the years of 2016 through 2020 has focused on "Reaching," engendering "Hope," and fostering "Wholeness" through the territory of our eight conferences and three universities.

Reaching

Much of our reaching people for Jesus was done virtually because the pandemic appeared to shut the world down for



"A System for Survival" baptismal service

report to thank each of you for your faithfulness. What powerful witnesses you have been and continue to be. Within this quinquennium, we have endured a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 wreaked havoc on our world, nation, churches, and individual families. Much in contemporary culture has been disrupted. The stock market, investments, the employment frontier, healthcare, and emotional wellness of many have been subject to national and international disruption. Even church and worship as we have done it have significantly morphed into creative exercises of virtualization.

The outstanding and most riveting news in the midst of this pandemic has



Listening are some of the more than 1,487 baptisms through Ron Smith's, D.Min., Ph.D., "A System for Survival" evangelistic campaigns.

2020. I said "appeared" because the one thing it did not shut down was evangelism. The very essence and DNA of the Southern Union is evangelism. Evangelism is the wonderful Christian exercise of sharing our faith.

Yes, evangelism has been at the forefront of activity for the Southern Union office team. We led and organized hundreds of online, in-person, and hybrid evangelistic series.

The ministerial team of the Southern Union has conducted multiple evangelistic meetings during the quinquennial period. Each of the eight conferences has hosted Roger Hernandez and his campaigns, as many people accepted Jesus and became Seventh-day Adventist Christians. In preparation for the 2019 Year of Evangelism in the Southern Union, resources were created and shared with pastors across our vast territory. These materials included books, a website with downloadable tools, sermons in English and Spanish, and a battery of podcasts designed to train our lay and pastoral leaders. Our former (retired) Hispanic ministries director, Jorge Mayer, unleashed and propelled many Hispanic evangelistic caravans that re-



sulted in thousands of baptisms. Julio Chazarreta, our recently elected Hispanic ministries director, has sustained a positive trajectory through multiple Hispanic evangelism caravans, which continue to yield hundreds, yep, thousands of men, women, boys, and girls accepting Jesus as evidenced by their baptisms into the Seventh-day Adventist church.

Ralph Ringer, retired director of church growth and evangelism training, led the way for our Union's church revitalization initiative, working with the Jewish communities while planning and planting several new congregations.

Our recently-elected church growth, revitalization, and church planting di-

rector, Richie Halversen, has launched effective and innovative church growth strategies for many congregations.

Southern Adventist University's Evangelistic Resource Center sent out more than 100 student speakers to different countries, resulting in thousands of baptisms.

In our quest to reach contemporary culture, not only did we focus on public evangelism, revitalization of plateauing and declining churches, but, there was a strong emphatic push for reconnecting with disconnected members. There is no depth that we can descend to that the grace of God cannot recover us. This is why in the Southern Union we endeavor to reconnect through various modalities of witnessing. Through workshops, webinars, podcasts, and literature, we were perpetually admonished over the last five years to avoid being slack in hastening the Good News to every backslider that God has forgiven him. We were admonished to get in touch with the prodigal son, letting him know that his loving Father is longing for him to come home. We urged each member of our Church to find the one sheep that has strayed with the assurance that the



heavenly Shepherd will help us. I am delighted to announce that this reconnection ministry has ushered thousands of members back into the Church.

Literature evangelists from across the Southern Union participated in the annual BLAST conferences. Some of the conferences were in-person while others were virtual. The Union’s Publishing Department, under the leadership of William Smith, was effective in blanketing civic, community, and sports events with millions of books and tracts that prepared the way for effective soul-winning. Organizers felt it was important to provide encouragement to literature ministers across our conference territories, and to emphasize that literature evangelism is not sheltered-in-place.

The Southern Union Ministerial De-

partment also transitioned their annual Evangelism Council (EC3) Conference to a virtual/hybrid format. This quinquennium also included the marked period of the 50th anniversary of this great legacy event. Strong reconnecting strategies were developed by the Southern Union Ministerial Department to resource the ministerial leadership teams in each of the eight conferences and three universities.

The Southern Union Information Technology Services Department has been heavily involved in supporting the virtual work environment of not only Union employees, but also conferences and schools across the Union. Several trainings were held, including both basic and advanced use of Zoom, and provided additional support for many of the meetings and conventions that departments have been

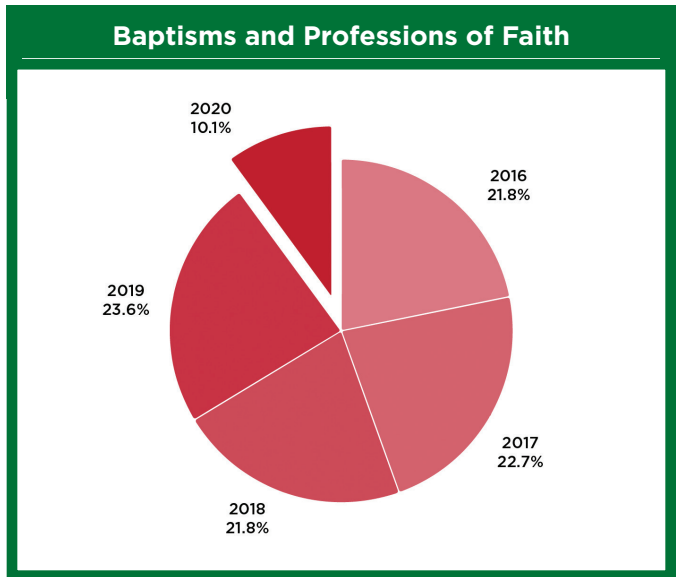
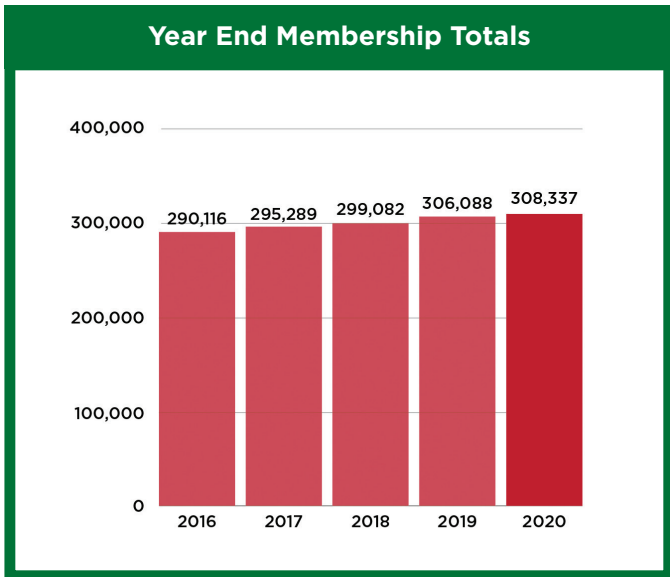
hosting, such as the BLAST Conference, EC3, and women’s ministries trainings. The IT Services Department of the Southern Union has been and continues to be a strong underpinning and overarching support of multiple evangelistic initiatives for various ministry groups.

I am a strong believer that leaders must practice what they preach. This is why the Southern Union officers lead out in evangelism. Jim Davidson, Southern Union secretariat; David Freedman, Southern Union treasurer; and I actively engage in evangelism. During this quinquennium, our series, which is called “A System for Survival in the 21st Century,” conducted full-scale three- to four-week meetings in different locations:

- West Palm Beach, Florida
- Huntsville, Alabama
- Snellville, Georgia
- Athens, Georgia
- Florida City, Florida
- Dublin, Georgia
- Fayetteville, North Carolina
- Bermuda
- Washington, District of Columbia
- Atlanta, Georgia
- Miami, Florida
- Orlando, Florida
- Bridgeport, Connecticut
- Boston, Massachusetts
- Savannah, Georgia
- Altamonte Springs, Florida



Jim Davidson (left), Southern Union secretariat, presents health lectures at “A System for Survival” Evangelistic Campaign, and David Freedman, Southern Union treasurer, presents Financial Freedom seminars at “A System for Survival” Evangelistic Campaign.



than 1,487 precious souls into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the end of 2020, 42,191 baptisms/professions of faith were added to the Church. To God be the glory! At the closing of the quinquennium (December 2020), we are delighted to announce God’s blessings of our Southern Union membership, which stood at 308,337. Since the closing of the quinquennium, many more baptisms and professions of faith have evolved, as is showcased in the report of the Southern Union secretariat.



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Ann Freedman, Southern Union disabilities and family ministries associate director

There have been other locations for the System for Survival Series conducted by the three Union officers. With the purpose of connecting people to Christ, additional resources have been developed to accompany the new System for Survival presentations, including a YouTube channel where people will be able to watch the message in an on-demand format. I get excited when I see the candidates dressed in white robes marching into the worship service. It thrills my soul to read the names of individuals who have given their hearts and lives to Christ, and watch them descend into the pool to be baptized. The Lord allowed the System for Survival evangelistic series to witness the baptism of more

Hope

In the presence of the COVID-19 pandemic, many have managed to survive varied hardships surrounding their faith journeys. Hope has prompted many to look beyond the dying and the suffering to the life we will one day have. Hope for the future has kept many alive when many others died.

Hope says the tree of life still grows. It waits for you in the paradise of God. We are admonished to get up. Go on. Tough it out. We have a reward waiting for us that will make today’s misery seem little more than a bad dream.

Story after story can be told of amazing human resilience to harsh and impossible conditions. “The very trials that

task our faith most severely and make it seem that God has forsaken us are to lead us closer to Christ,” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 129.

At Southern Adventist University, leaders have been praising God during this challenging time for strong enrollment and for blessing the University’s efforts in keeping students and employees safe.

For several years, Southern has offered a number of online classes. This allowed not only high school students to participate in online dual-enrollment courses,

but undergraduate students could complete many general classes online and master's students have been able to take either primarily or fully online programs. This preestablished system helped facilitate some of the special demands created by the COVID-19 pandemic. Along with additional creative thinking, professors were able to provide strong curricula and programming while maximizing safety.

The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, through the professional and prayer-driven efforts of Amireh Al-Haddad, director, navigated the journey of many employees through a dicey and turbulent time. During COVID-19, employers have seemingly used the pandemic as an excuse to no longer accommodate faithful Sabbath-keepers. While the Religious Liberty Department has seen an increase in requests for members seeking Sabbath workplace accommodation assistance, Al-Haddad and her team have successfully been able to work out most of the cases with which they have assisted. The department also has prepared additional resources to help guide members facing workplace accommodation issues.

Wholeness

It was during the quinquennial period that AdventHealth held its quinquennial

session, during which the AdventHealth Board of Directors was elected. These meetings are composed of AdventHealth's corporate membership, and include leaders from the Southern Union along with AdventHealth's three other sponsoring unions: Lake, Mid-America, and Southwestern.

There was a recent restructuring of the board to better meet the changing landscape of healthcare, and the needs of the organization's local communities. Besides the high-level effectiveness and efficiency of the system's growth, mission, vision, and strategy to extend the healing ministry of Christ, superlative management of its COVID-19 response and its efforts on diversity, equity, and inclusion are celebrated by the wide constituency.

Family Ministries Department: Strong families are the foundation for strong churches. Our families are under daily attack. Family Ministries' focus for this quinquennium was "Empowering Families through Christ."

COVID-19 posed a new challenge, but gave us opportunities to adapt and serve in different ways by:

- Providing resources, training, and certifications for family ministries coordinators.

- Equipping families to effectively deal with grief and isolation.
- Encouraging families to be active in their churches.
- Encouraging families to reconnect with their communities by offering hope.
- Compiling a network of healthcare providers to assist families in crises.

We want to thank our local conference directors for their excellent work and innovation. We also want to thank the following individuals: Ann Freedman, our Southern Union family ministries associate director, for outstanding leadership in ministry to families; and Melvin Preston and Curtis Fox, Ph.D., family ministries directors, for diligent coordination through each of the eight conferences of the Southern Union.

I wish to declare my love and appreciation of my beloved wife, Yolanda, for her untiring companionship in Gospel ministry. It is appropriate to also publicly affirm my executive assistant, Lessie Scurry, for careful management of the Southern Union administrative offices.

Facing our Southern Union's Future for the next quinquennium. The mission of the Southern Union for the new quinquennium is to foster:

- Multiplying Through Reconnection
- Media, and
- Mentorship

The focus of bringing about such a lofty mission will be unleashed through the five-year emphases, as voted by the Southern Union President's Council.

- 2022** BAPTIZE/RECLAIM
- 2023** EQUIP
- 2024** PLANT
- 2025** REVITALIZE
- 2026** STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

May God bless you, my fellow constituents, as we move into a new quinquennium and closer to the second coming of Jesus Christ. ●



Melvin Preston (left) and Curtis Fox, Ph.D., diligently coordinated the family ministries directors through each of the eight conferences of the Southern Union.



Jim Davidson, Southern Union executive secretary

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN

Behind Every Number...

BY JIM DAVIDSON

One of the commands God gave to Moses and Aaron as they led the children of Israel in the wilderness was to take a census of the people. In fact, one of the books of Moses in the Old Testament is called “Numbers.”

In keeping with the command given to Moses, the Seventh-day Adventist Church also keeps a “census” of its membership and other statistics. By doing this it helps us maintain our focus on our mission, and also makes us aware of God’s blessings.

At first glance, numbers may not seem all that exciting or even important. However, behind every number is a name and behind every name is a story, such as the story of the nurse who had simply drifted away from the Adventist Church. One day, receiving an evangelistic flyer in her mailbox, she began to attend the meetings every night. At the conclusion, she once again professed her faith in Jesus through rebaptism and reunited with the Church.

Then there was a retired gentleman who had actually attended the Church for years but had never made the decision to publicly dedicate his life to Jesus. After attending a series of meetings, he said, “I need to take my stand for the Lord. Will you baptize me?”

And, there was the young person with her whole life ahead of her who attended a baptismal class at her Church school and said, “I want to be baptized and live for Jesus because I love Him.”

Every number and every statistic has a story, and because of the outpouring of God’s Spirit on laity, Church employees, hospital and medical workers, and hundreds of dedicated soul-winners, tens of thousands have given their hearts to Jesus in the Southern Union during this past quinquennium.

Growth During a Pandemic

This past quinquennium saw a challenge unlike any the Church had faced in recent times in the form of a global pandemic. Beginning in March 2020, hundreds of churches were forced to close their doors due to rising infection rates as well as to government directives. Not only did this suspend in-person worship, but it forced the cancellation or postponement of hundreds of evangelistic meetings and other witnessing events. Even though churches and pastors quickly began to adapt and find alternative methods of outreach, soul-winning was impacted in 2020.

But, even with this challenge, 42,191 people united with God’s remnant Church through baptism or profession of faith during the past quinquennium. In 2019, the year before the pandemic, 9,958 people were baptized, the second-largest number of baptisms in Southern Union history. It is through baptisms and professions of faith that the Southern Union experiences growth.

At the beginning of 2016, Southern Union membership stood at 286,686. At the end of the quinquennium in December 2020, Southern Union membership had grown to 308,337. This is an increase of 21,651 members. We give God all the praise and glory for what He has done to increase His flock in the Southern Union.

Since our last session together, there are 52 more churches and 29 more companies than there were five years ago, for a total of 1,166 churches and 219 companies throughout the Southern Union territory. In addition to this, there are numerous groups and other church plants that have not yet reached company or church status. Virtually, wherever you travel throughout our eight states, you will find an Adventist church nearby.

Southern Union in the North American Division

The North American Division (NAD) of the General Conference is composed of nine unions. The Southern Union is the largest of these, comprising more than 24% of the NAD membership. But, what we are most grateful to God for is the continued growth within our territory. Twenty-seven percent of all baptisms and professions of faith throughout the Division during the past quinquennium took place within the Southern Union. This is a tribute to God’s Spirit being poured out upon our members as well as the 796 pastors/evangelists and 2,183 teachers and education professionals throughout our eight conferences. We are also thankful for the many part-time and lay pastors who work diligently every day to grow God’s Kingdom.

Quinquennial Summaries

With the period ending December 2020, God added 42,191 members through baptism or profession of faith; 36,285 joined churches throughout the Union by transfer, while 30,219 trans-





ferred out; 8,268 were reported as missing; and 5,691 were lost to apostasy. While 45 more people apostasized during this quinquennium than in the prior five years, I am happy to report that 1,917 fewer people were reported as missing than during the prior quinquennium. I am thankful many of our churches are intentionally reaching out and reconnecting with those who have become inactive in the Church.

Pandemic Impacts

The entire world has felt the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. There are few families who have not experienced some

type of loss during this time. Our Church family is no exception. From 2016 to 2020 there were 8,711 deaths within the Southern Union membership, which is an increase of 934 deaths compared to the prior five-year time period. We grieve along with the families of these individuals who have passed to their rest. However, how wonderful it is that we need “not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope,” I Thessalonians 4:13. Because of the sacrifice of Jesus we know that we will see them again!

Adventist Education

One of the greatest avenues of outreach

in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is our Adventist educational system. Many of you reading this report are products and beneficiaries of having attended a Seventh-day Adventist school. Currently, there are more than 195 early childhood education centers, elementary schools, and academies within our Union with more than 17,000 students. We are extremely blessed to have quality schools and academies within our territory. There are also three fully accredited universities to serve our constituents: Southern Adventist University, Oakwood University, and AdventHealth University. Each of these offers a large

number of degrees to prepare individuals for a life of service for God.

Through a variety of witnessing methods, God’s Kingdom has continued to grow throughout the Southern Union.

Medical-Dental/Health Professional Department

The Office of Secretariat also has the privilege of directing the Medical-Dental/Health Professional Department of the Southern Union. One of the key ministries of this Department is the recruitment of Seventh-day Adventist physicians, dentists, and pharmacists to practice in one of our eight states. A majority of this recruitment takes place by encouraging and inviting medical, dental, and pharmacy students from Loma Linda University to move to the Southern Union. These young people then integrate into one of the local churches, often providing leadership and impacting the local community through their ministry of healing.

We are blessed to have a core of volunteer physicians, dentists, and pharmacists who travel to Loma Linda twice a year to interface with the students, and

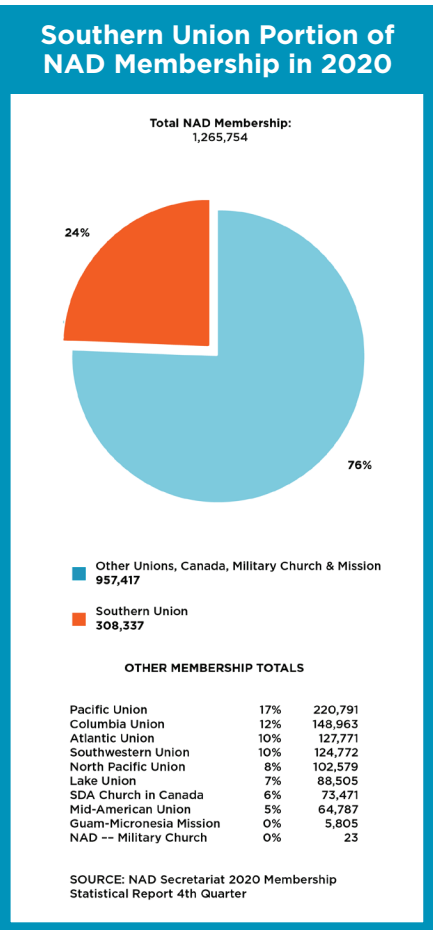
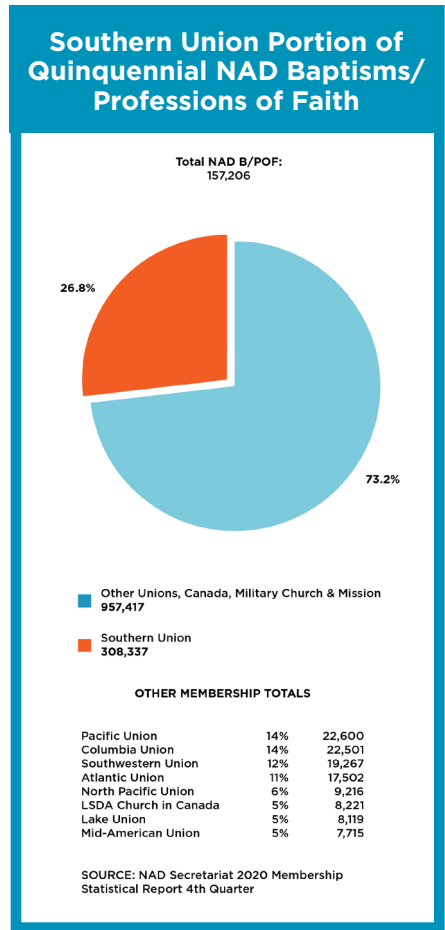


PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Bonnie Davidson, Southern Union medical-dental/health professional associate director

tell them of the opportunities they can find within our territory.

To assist these healthcare professionals, the Southern Union provides a financial reimbursement to help with moving expenses. These funds come from the Southern Union, and each conference participates in the program as well. We are the only Union in North America that actively recruits health professionals. From 2016 to 2020, 54 new physicians, dentists, and pharmacists have responded and taken up their work within our Union. Each conference has been blessed by this program of having dedicated health professionals move into their territory.

Another purpose of this department is the planning of the biennial Medical-Dental/Health Professional Convention. In 2016, the 50th anniversary of this event was held in Stone Mountain, Georgia, with more than 400 professionals and their fam-

ilies in attendance. This is the longest-running continuous convention held in the Southern Union. Not only is this a time for spiritual renewal and fellowship with friends and family, but continuing education units are offered for each of the medical disciplines as well. We recognize the integral role that the medical work plays in spreading the Gospel, and we appreciate what these medical missionaries do in their local communities to share the Good News that Jesus is coming back soon.

We are instructed by these words found in the Spirit of Prophecy: “Medical missionary work is in no case to be divorced from the gospel ministry. The Lord has specified that the two shall be as closely connected as the arm is with the body. Without this union neither part of the work is complete. The medical missionary work is the gospel in illustration,” *Testimonies*, vol. 6, pp. 240, 241.

Disabilities Ministries

The area of Disabilities Ministries is one that offers a wonderful opportunity for making a difference in a person’s life, often physically and emotionally, as well as spiritually. This is a growing demographic in the world, including the United States. The World Health Organization says that one out of every seven people in the world today is suffering some form of disability. It further states that during one’s lifetime, virtually everyone will experience some type of disability.

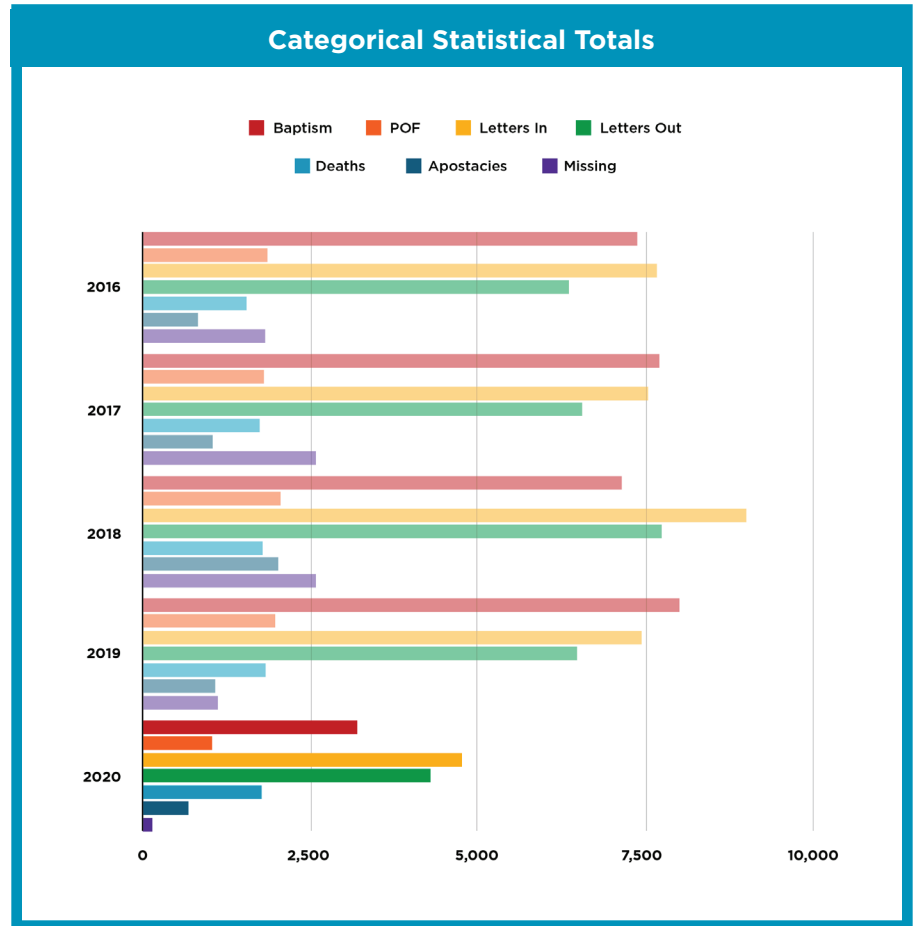
In America today, 61 million adults have a disability. Two out of every five persons above the age of 65 are coping with a disability. This is a huge mission field for the Church to minister to and to offer the Good News of salvation.

For more than 30 years, the Southern Union has been involved in disabilities ministries. Each of our eight conferences has a director for the Disabilities Ministries Department, and I am indebted to both Ann Freedman, Southern Union disabilities associate director, and Rosemary Graham, Southern Union disabilities ministries coordinator. They both bring a passion for this ministry, as well as a wealth of knowledge and resources to assist our conferences in making this a vital outreach in our churches and communities.

Bringing people to know Jesus is the driving force of any ministry of the Southern Union, and Disabilities Ministries is no exception. Perhaps the best way to illustrate this is with an experience as told to Ann Freedman:

Lenora Ruff, Ph.D., disabilities director at the Decatur, Georgia, Church, was asked to be the speaker at a “Just Us Blind Girls” seminar. At the end of her presentation, Mary (who is legally blind) approached Lenora, and asked if she would call her. Lenora assured her she would, and it wasn’t long before a friendship had developed. Lenora discovered that Mary had recently lost her sister, and that sister shared the same birthdate with Lenora and so Mary felt she now had a new sister.*

One day as they were visiting, Mary



shared with Lenora that one Sunday she was praying at her local church when a deacon whispered to her during the prayer, “You must have done something wicked for God to make you blind.” Shocked and hurt, Mary left the church never to return.

In their next conversation Mary asked Lenora, “Would it be alright if I came to your church?” It wasn’t long before Lenora began giving Bible studies to Mary, and having her picked up every Sabbath for church. It was a joyous day when Mary said, “I want to be baptized and join with the Seventh-day Adventist Church.” However, on the day she was to be baptized, she fainted and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. But, all the way there Mary kept repeating, “I want to be baptized, I want to be baptized.” Thankfully, she was alright and just a week later she entered into the

waters of baptism and publicly gave her heart to Jesus and joined the Church.

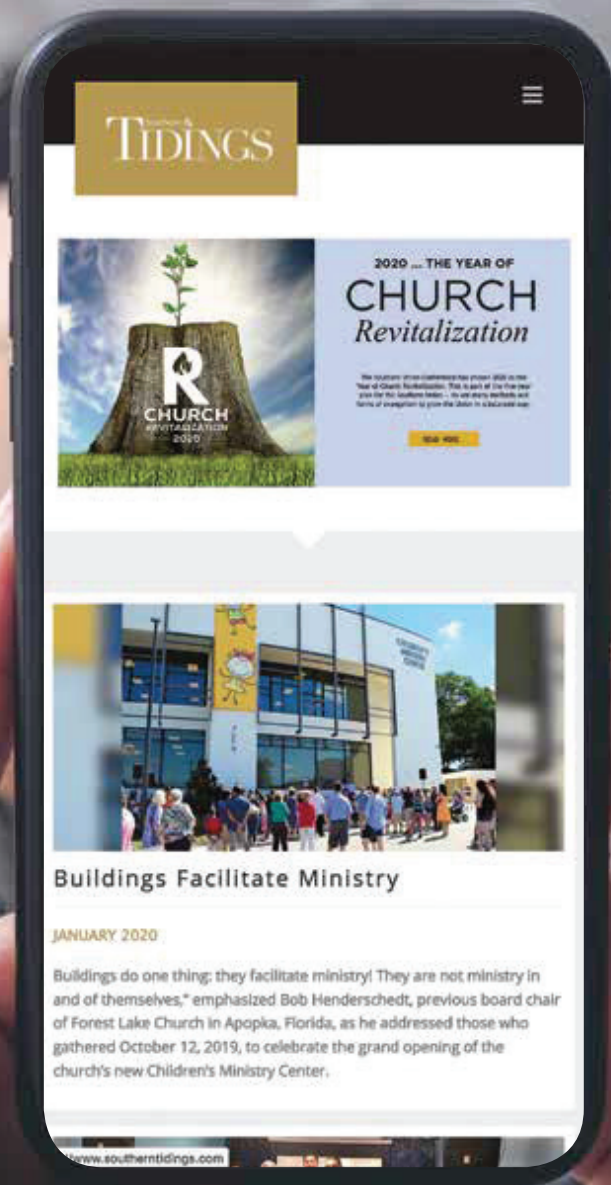
That was 12 years ago, and Mary has been an active member of her church ever since. She is currently serving as a valid host on PhoneFaith (Christian Record Services for the Blind). What a blessing that Lenora was there to share emotional support and Jesus’ love with Mary.

**name changed to protect privacy*

This story could be replicated over and over as God’s servants take His Gospel to all of His children, fulfilling the command of the Master when He said, “Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind, and the lame ... Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full,” Luke 14:21-23 NIV. 📌

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David Freedman, Southern Union treasurer

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Blessed, Grateful, and Mission-focused

BY DAVID FREEDMAN

It only takes a moment to realize the Treasury Department’s report can be summed up in three words: blessed, grateful, and mission-focused. It is very apparent that God has richly blessed His people, and we are all grateful for our members’ faithfulness in returning tithe and offerings, even in the midst of unprecedented circumstances. Furthermore, the Southern Union and all eight conferences are mission-focused, using resources and expending time and effort to evangelize our communities. Evangelism in its many forms is being actively engaged in every day throughout our territory.

Southern Union Conference’s financial objectives are two-fold. First, always have a mission-focused budget, and second, build strong reserves for funding new strategies, new evangelistic opportunities, and extra conference funding during emergencies. For instance, in 2020 we were able to provide additional, non-budgeted assistance funding of \$1.1 million directly from our reserves to the eight conferences during the first year of the pandemic. This was in addition to the \$1.5 million additional funding from the North American Division from their reserves. Furthermore, as a matter of practice, Southern Union appropriates, in equal shares, 50% of our year-end gains to our eight conferences, Southern Adventist University, and Oakwood University. This practice alone amounted to \$1.6 million in the last quinquennium.

Tithe from the eight conferences is our main source of income. During the last quinquennium, the Southern Union showed consistent gains in tithe,

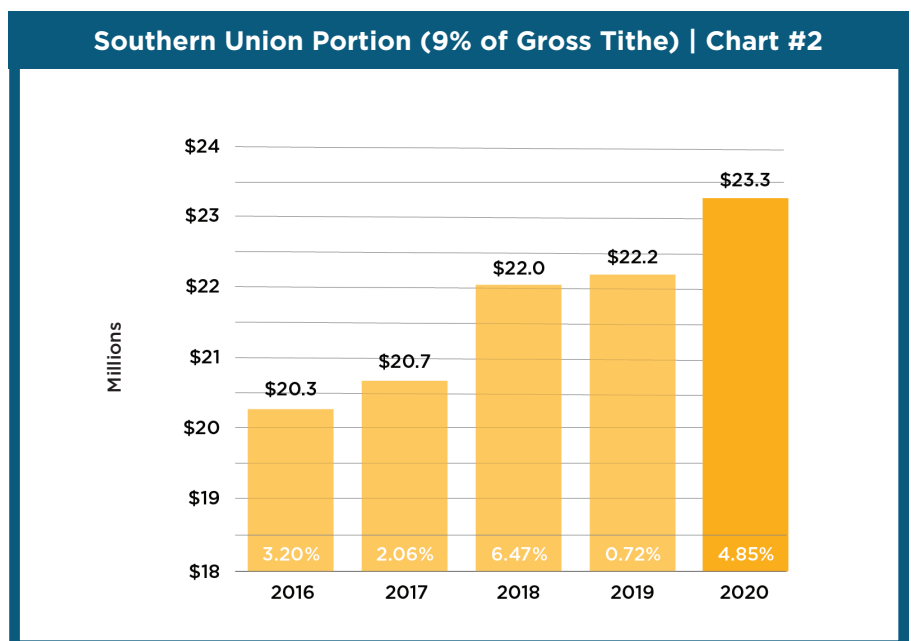
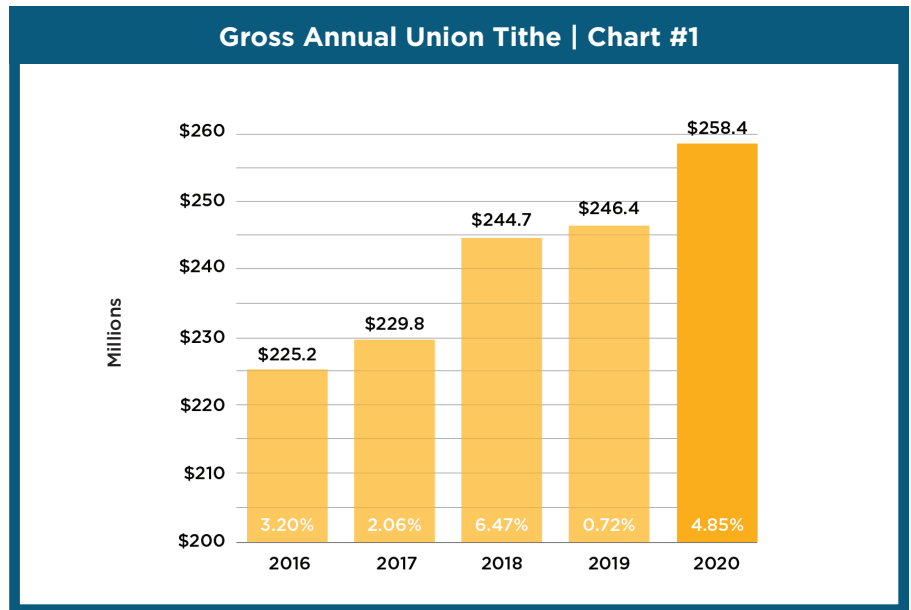




PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.M.IN.

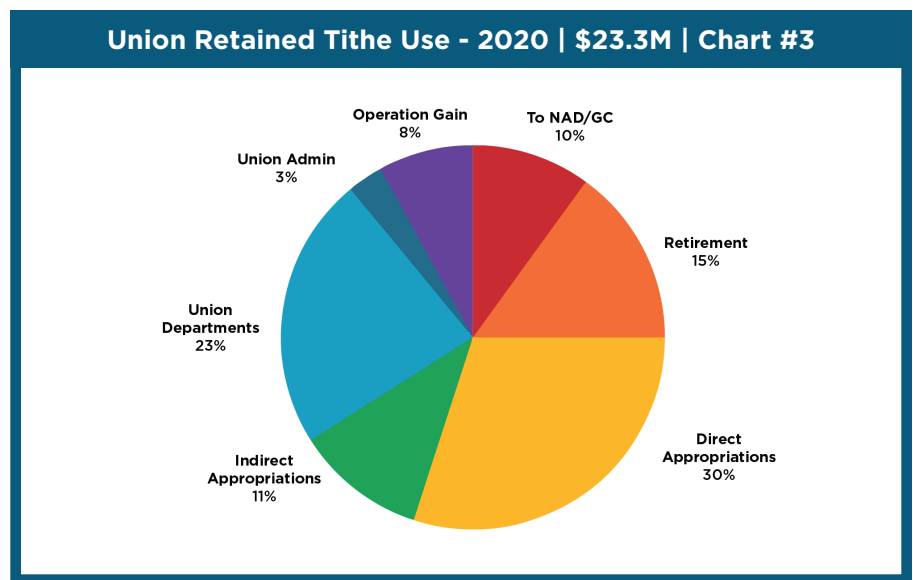
The Office of Treasury staff includes Kim Twomley (left), executive assistant; Suyapa Vanegas, accountant; Dave Colburn, undertreasurer; David Freedman, treasurer; and Kristina Mace, associate treasurer

as displayed in the Gross Annual Tithe chart (#1). Our eight conferences ended the year 2020 with \$258,377,932 in gross tithe income. Tithe allows pastors, teachers, and administrators to follow their God-given calling and engage in full-time ministry. This is made possible by members' financial faithfulness.

Due to God's continued blessings and our members' continued faithfulness, ministry has flourished and many have had an opportunity to accept Christ as their Lord and Savior. This faithfulness has and will continue to have eternal results for many people in our communities.

The Southern Union receives 9% of gross tithe from our eight constituent conferences. The Southern Union Portion chart (#2) diagrams the amounts of tithe used for our operational budget. The Union Retained Tithe chart (#3) illustrates the approximate distribution (in percentages) of these funds expended in 2020.

The Year-by-Year Gains chart (#4) presents the year-end gains for each year of the quinquennium after sharing one half of our Union gains as previously explained. The Working Capital chart (#5) depicts the available working capital percentage in comparison to the NAD recommended level. As mentioned above, we want to continue to engage our communities with the Gospel of



Jesus Christ while gradually strengthening the Southern Union reserves.

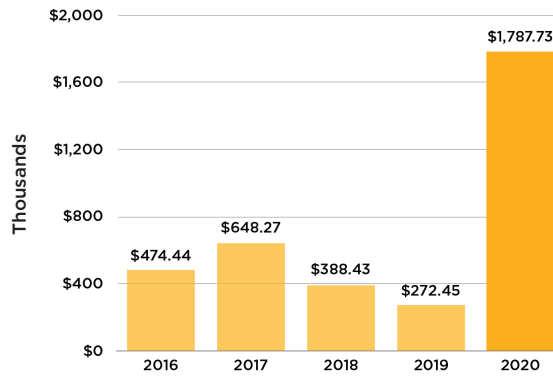
The Current Ratio chart (#6) represents the ability to meet short-term obligations. It is recommended that current assets be at least two times (or 200%) of current liabilities. This chart reveals a current ratio consistently above 2:1 during the last five years.

Our final financial indicator graphs Operating Days Cash (chart #7). This indicator tells us how long the Southern Union could operate at the current level of expenses if all income stopped.

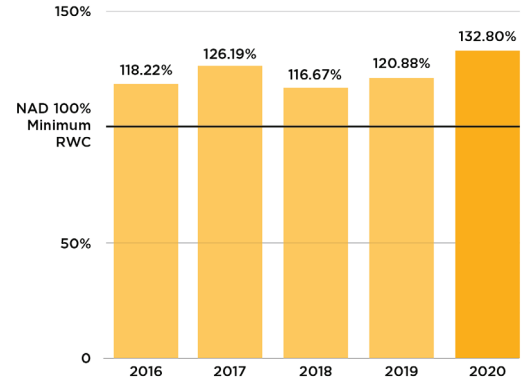
Prudent financial practice recommends a minimum of 90 days with a preference for a number closer to 120 days.

As per the Southern Union bylaws, this quinquennial report covers the years 2016-2020. All five years we enjoyed an unmodified or "clean opinion" designation from our auditors. This is the best result a treasury team can achieve. The five-year audit report is included in the packet of session materials. We appreciate our auditors and our lay-led audit review committee of experienced financial professionals. Each

Year-by-Year Gains | Chart #4



Recommended Working Capital | Chart #5



Working Capital Recommendation = 50% of estimated annual unrestricted income plus temporarily restricted net assets

year our goal is to review accounting practices and internal control with an eye toward systemic improvement.

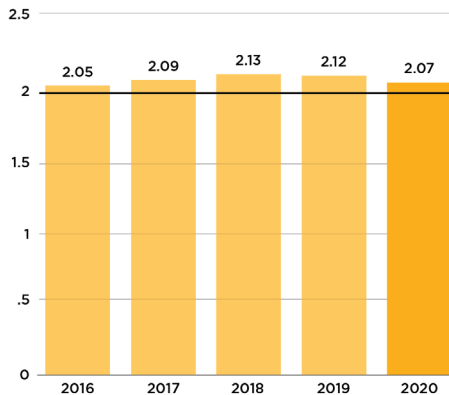
Although it is not included in this quinquennium report, our 2021 financial statement is complete, but not audited. For 2021, we can report a tithe gain of 6.22%, totaling \$274,459,959. We returned, in 10 equal shares, a total of approximately \$1.5 million to our eight conferences and two universities from our 2021 gain, as well as strengthening our reserves. Our

God is much bigger than the pandemic, and we praise Him for the strong financial position we currently enjoy.

I want to personally thank our previous treasury team members who have transitioned to other fields or retired — Randy Robinson, Dennis Millburn, and Cindy Bray — for their excellent work, dedication to service, and good stewardship. I joined the treasury team in 2019, and we are continuing that rich tradition. I want to thank

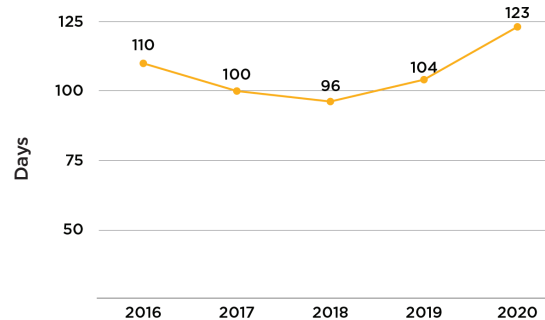
my current team — Dave Colburn, Kristina Mace, Suyapa Vanegas, and Kim Twomley — for their excellence and commitment to the Lord’s work. I also want to thank those involved in the other arm of our financial responsibilities, the SURF/Association/Trust team of Carlos Salazar, Peter deVries, Mariel Lombardi, Jennifer Cort, Kara Lombardi, and Les Speer. They also are to be commended for their excellent work. 🙏

YTD Current Ratio | Chart #6



This indicates how much in current assets we have for every \$1 current liabilities. Goal is ratio higher than 2:1.

Operating Days Cash | Chart #7



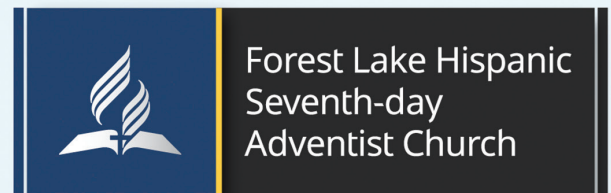
SHOW THEM THE WAY

LEAD PEOPLE TO JESUS

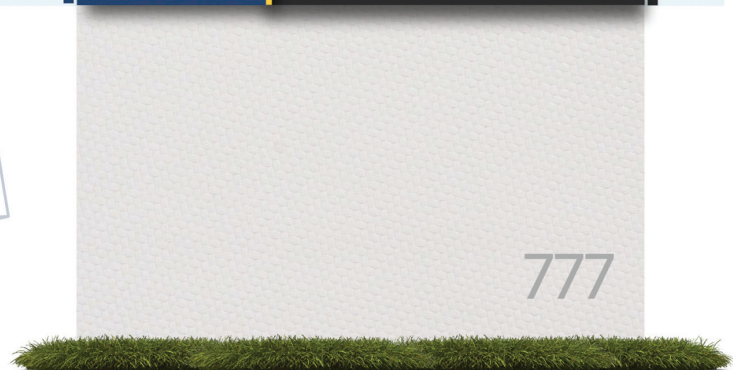
Focus on the mission, while we assist you getting a new sign. Effective highway signs or monument identification signs can help connect your church and school to your community 24/7.

Inadequate signage causes missed opportunities. Select the sign that meets your needs. Give us a call to schedule your free consultation!

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- Lifetime warranty
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*Church only pays cost of materials and equipment for installation

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS



Partnership in Ministry

BY CARLOS SALAZAR

What is SURF?

The Southern Union Revolving Fund, Inc. (SURF, or the Revolving Fund), is a Tennessee non-profit corporation organized in 1999. It is a subsidiary of the Southern Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, Inc., a Tennessee non-profit corporation organized in 1908. The Southern Union Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists is sometimes referred to as the Association, and operated the Revolving Fund as part of its operations for approximately 20 years prior to 1999. However, on June 22, 1999, the Association created the Southern Union Revolving Fund, Inc., as a separate Tennessee non-profit corporate subsidiary. SURF was created to facilitate the selling of Notes to Seventh-day Adventist members and affiliated investors residing within the Union territory, and to provide funds for purchase of property, construction, or remodeling. The bor-



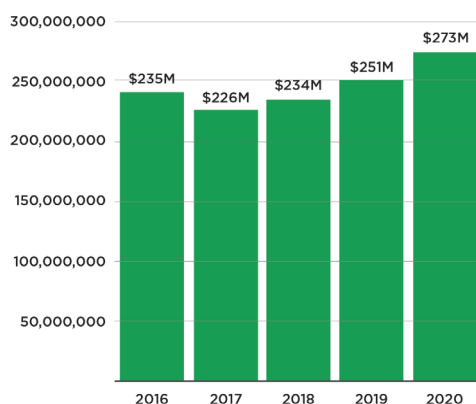
PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN, III

rowing process is totally free of fees, and the interest rate charged is generally lower than market rates. The interest rate paid is generally much more favorable than the market is offering for the same type of funds.

Working for Investors and the Church

From February 1, 2012, to December 31, 2018, SURF charged borrowers 3.25% interest; SURF has been paying 1% percent from August 1, 2016, the

Total Assets



Reserve Fund Distribution

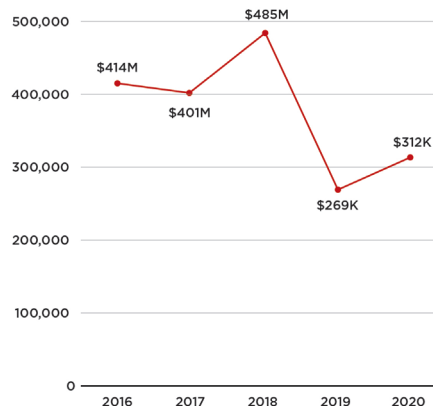




PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

Kara Lombardi, SURF administrative assistant; Mariel Lombardi, SURF customer service and accounts manager; Carlos Salazar, SURF treasurer; and Peter deVries, SURF assistant treasurer

lowest rates since 1979. Effective January 1, 2022, the interest spread has been reduced to 2%, which sustains SURF’s operations, and at the same time provides funding for the Reserve Fund. This fund is set aside in cash,

regulated by the North American Division Policy and federal agencies, and serves as a protection for investors against catastrophic defaults.

In 2012, the Reserve Fund achieved its minimum funding level. During this

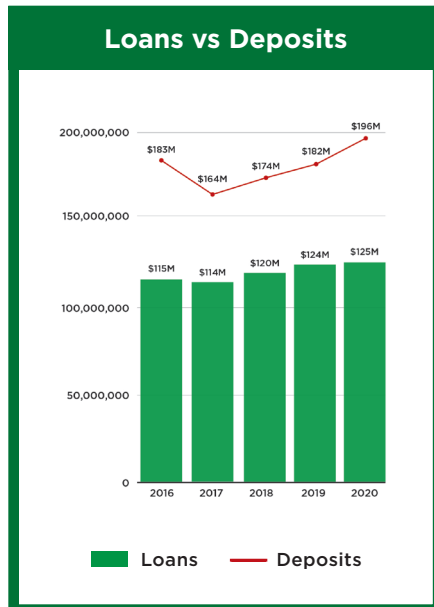
quinquennium, which ended December 31, 2020, SURF distributed a portion of SURF earnings to the participating conferences for church building funds and other non-tithe projects, consistent with the purpose of the overall Revolving Fund, which has begun distributing funds since 2013. Distributions from the Reserve Fund totaled \$311,600, \$268,964, \$484,919, \$400,888 and \$414,395 for the years ending December 31, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, and 2016, respectively.

SURF has grown its assets to its highest level. As of December 31, 2020, total assets amounted to \$273,438,574, compared to last quinquennium ending December 31, 2015, \$243,109,656, or a 12.48% growth.

We are grateful to our investors, who not only provide funds for capital projects, but also partner with us in the ministry. 🙏



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III



Building Up HIS Kingdom

BY LES SPEER

Key Responsibilities:

- Assisting conferences and universities with training, guidance, and education of personnel.
- Providing and approving continuing education units for 46 persons to fulfill General Conference requirements.
- Assisting members and Planned Giving and Trust Services (PGTS) personnel with information to improve their service.
- Managing the complicated legal documents which the General Conference does not allow local conferences or universities to manage.

In the next 25 years, financial advisors expect \$68 trillion to transfer to family and friends of baby boomers. Within the Seventh-day Adventist Church, it is

estimated that 70% of our members do not have up-to-date legal documents in case of death. As a part of our Christian responsibility, each member should have at least a will, a medical power of attorney, and a financial power of attorney. Your conference will assist members who wish to build up the Kingdom of God by using funds of your choice for your favorite ministries.

As a service to our members, highly trained spiritual persons offer their skills to help you. At conferences and universities, you have a friend to answer your questions from a spiritual viewpoint. If you have minor children or children with handicaps, their needs should always come first. The General Conference requires very serious training, test-



Les Speer, Southern Union planned giving and trust services director





Income from estate planning often goes to build new churches and schools.

ing, and continuing education from each of its certified personnel. Very careful auditors investigate each origination to insure obedience to General Conference policies. All certified personnel are required to get at least 16 hours of continuing education units, at least, each year. The Southern Union Conference brings attorneys, certified public accountants, and financial planners to keep certified personnel up to date on legal, ethical, and best Christian practices for members and the Lord's work.

"This world is not our home; we're just passing through; our treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue..."

We are stewards, not owners, of all that we think of as ours. Our first desire is to be found as a faithful son or daughter of Jesus Christ. Because our homes, cars, and bank accounts really belong to Christ; it is the responsibility of each person to seek Heaven's direction as how to best use these blessings to accomplish God's goals with His treasures.

There are only three things we can use His blessings to do: 1) Serve our personal needs ... 2) To help the needs of others ... 3) To build up God's King-

dom. During life we should be supporting each of these needs. But, even after death we can support these areas. That is where estate planning can help. After death our support for God's work indicates our priority and passion. We believe that Jesus will return soon. It is our great privilege to send missionaries, build churches and schools, give truth-filled literature, and support public and private evangelism.

What may we do to help? First, be sure that your will or trust is just the way you want it to be, and do not forget God's work. Second, direct resources to organizations and people who will use it in support of God's work. Note Ellen G. White's message from *Testimonies to the Church*:

"Would you make your property secure? Place it in the hand that bears the nail print of crucifixion. Retain it in your possession, and it will be to your eternal loss. Give it to God, and from that moment it bears His inscription. It is sealed with His immutability. Would you enjoy your substance? Then use it for the blessing of the suffering," 9T p. 50-51.

Further, Mrs. White affirms, "The of-

fering from the heart that loves, God delights to honor, giving it highest efficiency in service for Him. If we have given our hearts to Jesus, we also shall bring our gifts to Him. Our gold and silver, our most precious earthly possessions, our highest mental and spiritual endowments, will be freely devoted to Him who loved us, and gave Himself for us," *The Desire of Ages*, p. 65.

Last year was a low-income year for PGTS, yet \$1,981,895 came in to support Christ's work in the Southern Union. Some gave generously, others had little to give, but the Lord increases the gifts like multiplication. Even the widow's mite is precious to the Lord. One estate was large and helped these projects.

We at PGTS believe with all our hearts that Jesus will return very soon. People must hear the Three Angels' Messages! This is the time to give generously for all kinds of evangelism and education projects. There are thousands of precious souls who need to hear from us that there is love, hope, peace, forgiveness, and unity in the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. ●

Telling Stories of Jesus

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

The Southern Union Office of Communication team, along with the conference and institutional communication professionals in our Union, has the honor of telling the exciting stories of Jesus working through the ministry of members, pastors, teachers, literature evangelists, and health care workers. This report reviews some of the ways we tell your stories and support your ministries.

Southern Tidings

The *Southern Tidings* is the official publication of the Southern Union. With a monthly circulation that has grown from 96,000 in 2016 to 108,404 in December 2021, it has increased in direct proportion to our membership. This 48-page journal is packed each month with news stories and features from our eight conferences, three universities, and AdventHealth.

To keep pace with the new ways our readers receive the news, we launched SouthernTidings.com in January 2017. We also have a social media presence on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, which was launched just before the Chosen International Pathfinder Camporee in 2019 as a means of allowing Pathfinders to post Camporee news for their families and churches to follow. This was a big hit with Pathfinders who visited the *Southern Tidings* tent and learned to write news stories and illustrate them with photos. Each Pathfinder who successfully completed a story received a coveted *Southern Tidings* trading pin.

Clergy and Educator Medallion

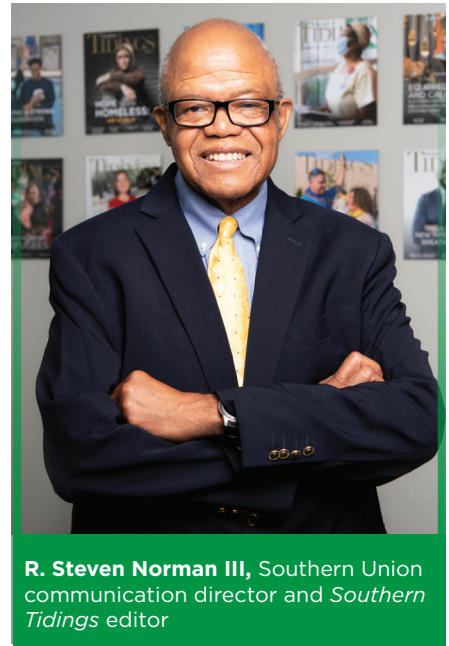
One of the special projects the Office of Communication conceived and developed was the set of Seventh-day Adventist Memorial Medallions of Honor

for clergy and educators. These medallions are presented to families in recognition of their deceased loved one's dedicated service to the Church. Numerous medallions have been received with gratitude by families around the Southern Union and beyond. The first two medallions were installed on the graves of George Ide Butler and Anna Knight. Butler was a former president of the General Conference, the Florida Conference, and the Southern Union. Knight was the first female missionary to India, and served the Southern Union Education Department for decades until her retirement in 1945.

The medallion project has been adopted by the North American Division. Families who would like to receive a medallion for a deceased pastor, chaplain, or educator should contact their local conference office or visit AdventistMedallion.com.

Church Identification Service

Many churches across the Southern Union use their signs as a beacon of light to help connect their church or school to the community, day or night, 24/7. Unfortunately, many churches and schools have outdated, neglected, and inadequate



R. Steven Norman III, Southern Union communication director and *Southern Tidings* editor

signage. While poor signage may go unnoticed, in some cases it can be a deterrent. That is why the Southern Union Church Identification Service provides churches that have inadequate signs with custom-designed Adventist signs for the lowest installed prices so that churches and schools can increase their opportunities of leading people to Jesus.





PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

The communication staff includes Yaime Cordova (left), *Southern Tidings* readership engagement, customer service representative, and sign coordinator; Bryant Taylor, D.Min., associate communication director; R. Steven Norman III, communication director and *Southern Tidings* editor; O'lvivia Woodard, designer/webmaster; and Irisene Douce, *Southern Tidings* managing editor.

In 2020, as part of several improvements made to this service, updated marquee signs were introduced, alongside new tools for churches. In collaboration with our sign manufacturer and a designer experienced in designing church signs, the marquee signs were updated to reflect the current Seventh-day Adventist branding guidelines. In addition, the new signs are easily adaptable to local sign ordinances while being cost effective to manufacture and install.

Secondly, a custom online storefront was developed where churches can now design and visualize their sign on the Southern Union website, see baseline pricing, and start the formal quote process.

It is the hope that these changes help churches evaluate and improve their signage so they can increase their opportunities of leading people to Jesus.



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

Preserving the History of Our Union

The history of our Union is recorded each month by communication personnel at every level of the Church when stories of current events are written and submitted to newspapers and *Southern Tidings*. Today's news will be tomorrow's history. Since reporting the news and chronicling our history is integrally connected, we have done several things to help preserve, share, and celebrate our history.

The year 2021 marked the 120th anniversary of the Southern Union. We celebrated with six cover features and one feature story that reviewed the history of the Union. The history of the Southern Union, entitled *Reflection*, is being provided as a souvenir to all delegates to the 2022 Southern Union Quinquennial Session. It is a 240-page illustrated timeline history of the Southern Union, which features timelines



Communicators from throughout the North American Division pause for a photo at the Society of Adventist Communicators Convention.

and photos provided by each conference, institution, and the Union.

We have also led Morning Star and Nashville Adventist Heritage tours for schools and conference groups.

Digital Ministry Assistance

The COVID-19 pandemic forced our congregations to hold virtual church services beginning in March 2020. This caused pastors and churches to scramble to learn and equip themselves to do virtual ministry on Zoom, StreamYard, and other platforms. The Union Communi-

cation Department provided digital ministry assistance for pastors. This funding was made possible by a grant by Alfred Johnson, then North American Division adult ministries director.

Personnel

I have deep appreciation for the communication professionals that serve our conferences and institutions. Together we have sought to tell the story of God’s redeeming love and grace at work in our churches, schools, and hospitals.

We are pleased to have a dedicated

communication staff here at the Union. Bryant Taylor, D.Min., is the associate director. Taylor joined our team in 2021 when Nathan Zinner accepted a call to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Irisene Douce, *Southern Tidings* managing editor, has served the Union for more than 25 years. Yaime Cordova is readership engagement and social media specialist, as well as the customer service representative for the Southern Union Church Identification. Cordova replaced Bobbie Millburn, former circulation representative. Reggie Mattison is the Southern Union sign engineer. O’livia Woodard, designer/webmaster, succeeded Julie Kloosterhuis Burks. This team is primarily responsible for our success as a department.

At this quinquennium, I conclude 31 years of communication leadership. In 1991, I was asked to serve as communication director for the South Central Conference, a post I held until 2005. In April 2007, I became communication director of the Southern Union, and have served as editor-in-chief of the *Southern Tidings* for the past 15 years. I thank God for giving me the grace to tell the story of His redemptive work in word and photos. After a total of 49 years of service, I will retire after this session to focus on enjoying life with my wife, Elaine, whom I love. 📍



Reflection, a journal book which features the history of the Southern Union in timelines and photos of each conference, institution, and the Union, was provided to delegates to the 2022 Southern Union Quinquennial Session.



Michael and Matthew Cavins show the *Southern Tidings* Trading pins they earned by completing the journalism course at the Chosen Pathfinder Camporee.

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

An Ongoing Journey to Excellence

BY KEITH HALLAM

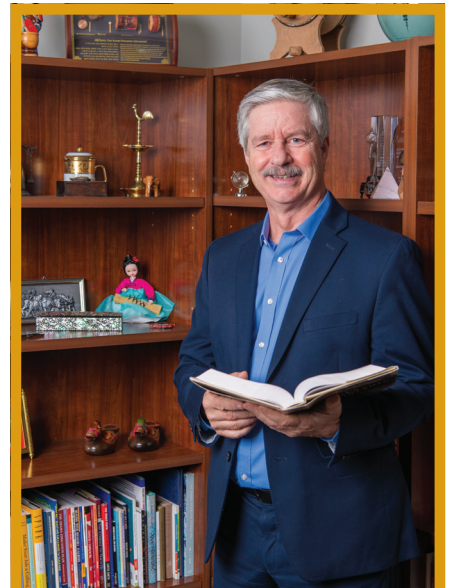
As Seventh-day Adventists, we believe in the soon return of our Lord Jesus Christ. We also accept the great commission found in Matthew 28:19, 20, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you, and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age,” NKJV. This focused mission, along with the reality that young people who learn of the love of Jesus in their early years are much more likely to stay in a relationship with Jesus throughout their lives, are reasons why we, as Seventh-day Adventists, commit our talents and resources to provide Adventist education for the children in our churches and communities.

It has been said that our schools represent 180 days of evangelistic campaigns and 365 days for our year-round early childhood program centers. Biblical instruction and relationships are foundational in our schools and childhood centers. Having used the Encounter Bible curriculum successfully in the secondary classrooms, this Christ-centered program is now established in our elementary classrooms. As a reminder, Encounter Bible and faith-based curriculum for early childhood education has been developed to emphasize students engaging with the Bible in a safe, relational space grounded on the principles of our Adventist worldview. With the teachers well-trained in effective pedagogical practices, they lead our students in knowing Jesus and accepting Him into their lives.

Additionally, our schools and centers believe in corporate worship and service. Regular chapel events and special weeks of prayer are scheduled throughout the year. Organized service projects and mission trips are common experiences that testify to the joy of living the Christian life.

This is highlighted, of course, in the public statement of commitment through baptism. On average we have 418 students baptized each year because of Adventist education and the community of support from our churches and youth programming.

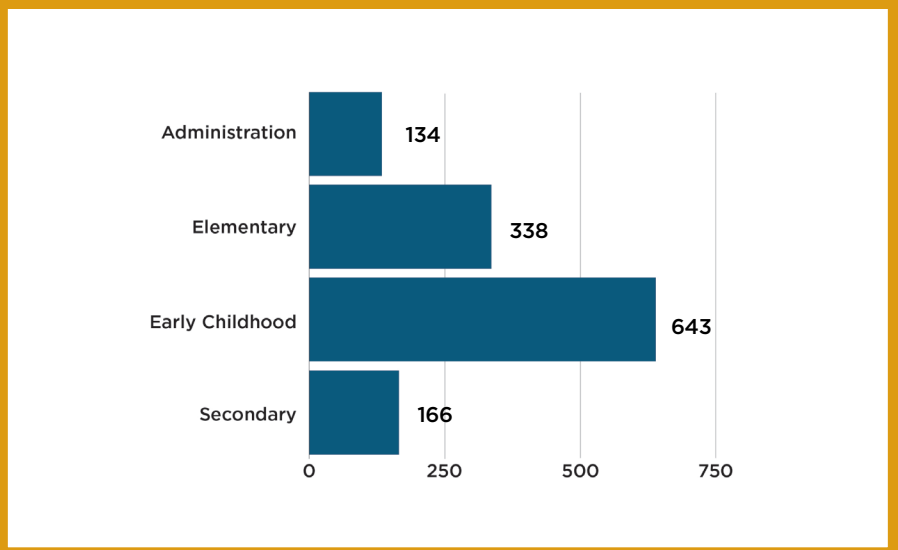
We extend our gratitude to our local conference leadership, their teachers, and the communities who invest in the ministry of educating our children. We have 2,090 baptisms to celebrate, as well as the spiritual encouragement



Keith Hallam, Southern Union education director

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN

Southern Union Teachers and Administration





The Office of Education staff include Carla Thrower (standing, left), secondary education director; Tamara Libonati (seated, left), early childhood education director; Keith Hallam (back row, center), education director; Andrea Henry-Smith, library services director; Rose Thomas, elementary education director; and Luberta Biggs, certification registrar.

provided to all our children in our schools and centers!

As we close this 2016-2020 quinquennium, even with the reality of the COVID pandemic, we celebrate our 41 early childhood centers that have remained open, and that we have 154 preK-12 schools and 3 universities — all of which are committed to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and excellence in education.

Prior to COVID, our total birth through 12th-grade enrollments averaged around 12,180 students. Opening enrollments for 2020 dropped more than 937 students in our early childhood centers and preK programs, 789 students in our elementary schools, and 119 students in our academies from the year prior. A sneak peek into our new quinquennium starting 2021 shows a rebound in our enrollment of 11,737 students. We lift our voices in praise to

God for the faith of our families in entrusting their children to the care of our teachers and schools/centers.

Our Seventh-day Adventist teachers are committed to delivering GREAT education to our students. GREAT is the acronym for God-centered, Results-oriented, Environment that nurtures, Aligned with Adventist and national standards, and with a Team effort. This great mission statement provides the foundation upon which we structure our professional development, certification requirements, and the best practices that are found in our education codes.

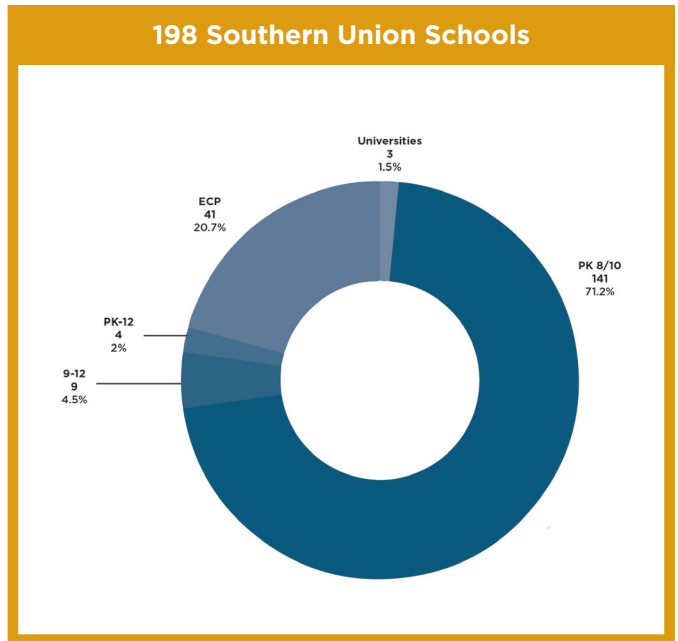
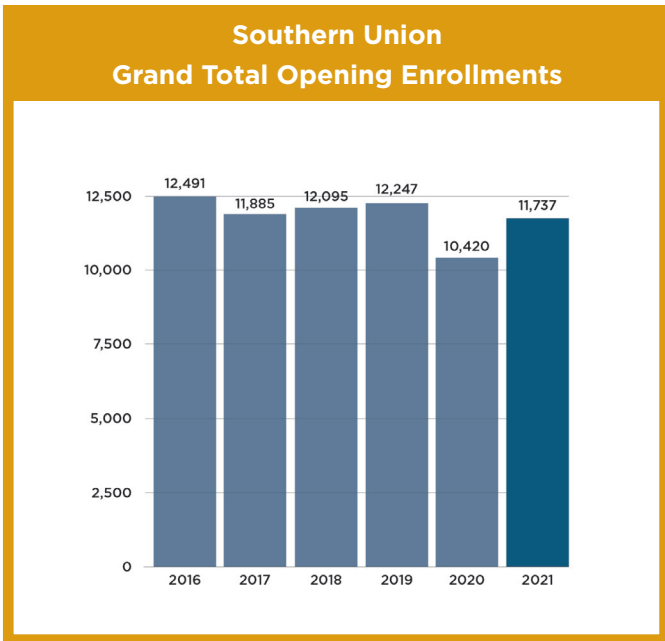
Certification

Having a mission is important, but living out the mission is critical. One way we support our mission is through teacher and administration certification. We would all agree that student academic preparation is critical for their success in life. In 1881, Ellen G. White

wrote, “I wish I could impress upon every teacher a full sense of his responsibility for the influence which he exerts upon the young,” 5T 28.1. Today, we know that the teacher is a major — and some may say, the greatest — influence on student learning.

Our certification office works closely with our conference leadership teams and the individual teachers to ensure that every one of the 1,281 educators is prepared and qualified to serve effectively at the schools and in the classrooms. For example, every teacher must have Bible training. This training includes the study of Spirit of Prophecy, Seventh-day Adventist Church history, Adventist doctrines, and biblical content studies and health principles based upon Scripture and Ellen G. White. All of these and other qualifications are processed through our certification office.

Teachers are lifelong learners. Certifi-



cations and endorsements are credentials earned that testify to excellence and professionalism. We are proud of our teachers and their commitments to excellence.

Library/Media Services

The Southern Union has a progressive and unmatched education service. Adventist educators are very proud of our reputation in literacy education. As society has progressed away from the written word and the library is slowly becoming extinct in school buildings across America, we have re-envisioned the library and media for our students.

With a focus on digital print and internet web services, we have pooled our resources to make new materials and online learning available for every student. eBooks, audiobooks, and databases for research are now available anywhere a student or teacher has access to the internet: home, school, or even that long trip where a good audiobook can be the best companion!

Our service to the schools includes teacher training on integrating digital resources and learning into the curriculum, assistance with purchasing age-appropriate and content-relevant reading materials, and the tracking of purchas-

ing budgets. We are so blessed to have this service that ensures equity and access while developing digitally-inclusive school communities that provide learning opportunities for all students in an ever-changing digital world.

Mission Focus:

We believe our greatest contribution to accomplishing our mission for great education comes from our singular focus on advancing greatness in leaders to fulfill the mission of the Master Teacher. Along with this mission focus are our Board of Education and Education Council's goals for recruiting, developing, and retaining quality administrators and teachers.

We share our thanks, honor, and support to our local conference leadership, their teachers, and the communities who invest in their children by way of financial support, board leadership, and countless hours of volunteering. We embrace them as a team in our efforts to support all they are doing to advance our mission to connect lives to Jesus, our Savior and Friend.

As we close our report, we must take this opportunity to extend our gratitude to our colleagues and friends who served before us in this department

during this past quinquennium, and are now enjoying their retirement years. They each gave tirelessly to the service of the ministry of Adventist education, working with their colleagues in conference offices of education and local schools, so that the precious students throughout the Southern Union would understand the depth of the Savior's love for them, learn to share their love for Jesus with others, and be well-prepared for a life of service.

Their leadership has been impactful upon Adventist education, and we strive to uphold the legacy they have passed along to our care.

Jim Ingersoll retired in 2017 after serving 37 years in Adventist education, including 13 years as associate director for secondary education.

Diane Ruff retired in 2020 after serving in Adventist education for 43 years, including 13 years as associate director for elementary education.

Debra Fryson retired during the summer of 2021 after serving in Adventist education for 42 years, including 7 years as associate director for elementary education, and 11 years as director of education. ●

Living Out God's Love

BY DAVE COLBURN

Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) is an organization of Seventh-day Adventists consisting of members who are leaders in the private sector in business and professional vocations, as well as in supporting ministries.

The organization has approximately 1,000 members, including men and women from nearly every walk of life. They represent all the diversity that is found within the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

ASI's philosophy promotes a Christ-centered lifestyle, manifested by a commitment to be in daily partnership with God. Members seek to live out God's love in their own lives, and share that love with the millions of people they encounter in their business and professional activities each year; hence, the motto, Sharing Christ in the Marketplace.

Mission

Adventist-laymen's Services and In-

dustries (ASI) is committed to supporting the Seventh-day Adventist® Church and its various outreach programs, which include health, education, evangelism, community services, family concerns, and special projects.

Vision

ASI and its members will be known for their unswerving honesty in business principles and practices, unflinching participation in the various ministries of the Church, unwavering positiveness toward Church leadership, unhesitating provision for the needs of others, and untiring focus on the Christ they represent in the marketplace.

History

ASI's history is rooted in Madison College, an Adventist self-supporting institution established in 1904 near Nashville, Tennessee, by E.A. Sutherland and Percy Magan. As Madison expanded it



PHOTO BY: OLIVIA WOODARD

Dave Colburn, ASI executive secretary/treasurer

began to plant satellite schools and institutions around the country. In 1947, these self-supporting entities formed the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-Supporting Institutions, or ASI. At the time, ASI members were educational or health entities.

Over the years, however, ASI membership began to include businesses and Adventist entrepreneurs and professionals. Thus, in 1979, to better reflect ASI's diverse membership, the organization's name was changed to Adventist-laymen's Services & Industries.

Current Activities

ASI has been active with Union-sponsored annual spring and national fall conventions. Offerings from conventions help support worldwide outreach projects in the Church and supporting ministries.

Thank you to the progressive leadership team that continues to bless the Adventist Church! 🙏



Luis, Yanet, Arleen, Elvis, and Henry at the seminary in Cuba rejoice after receiving musical instruments donated by ASI members Henry and Arlene Stubbs, who are ASI members with World Youth Group.

Ministry of Presence

BY WASHINGTON JOHNSON II, D.MIN.

Few areas of ministry offer greater challenges, excitement, and opportunities than chaplaincy. It requires 24/7 ministry to people of diverse faith groups, as well as those with no faith. Chaplains provide spiritual care and counseling, conduct worship services, perform weddings and funerals, oversee religious education, and advise military leaders, to name just a few of their broad responsibilities. This specialized ministry covers several areas.

Military

Chaplains, both active duty and reserve, minister in the armed forces, serving both God and country in times of war and peace.

Healthcare

Chaplains minister to patients in a variety of settings, including hospitals, clinics, long-term care, and hospice facilities.

Campus

Chaplains minister on faith-based and public campuses, providing spiritual and moral support to Adventist and other students, faculty, and staff.

Corrections

Chaplains minister in prisons and other correctional facilities, bringing the message of God's grace to incarcerated persons and correctional facility personnel.

Community

Chaplains minister within the areas of law enforcement, fire departments, airports, legislature, search and rescue, EMTs, workplaces, and sports.

The Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries Department of the North American Division

of Seventh-day Adventists has been entrusted with the ecclesiastical endorsement and in some cases credentialing of chaplains, and continues this work today by serving more than 700 endorsed chaplains. Ecclesiastical endorsement affirms that existing and prospective chaplains are qualified educationally and professionally to perform specialized chaplaincy duties in various settings, including culturally and religiously pluralistic environments, while simultaneously adhering to the covenant of their faith group.

The Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists covers a vast geographical area where chaplains are not only trained but are actively engaged in chaplaincy ministry. Remarkably, more than 200 of all endorsed chaplains in the North American Division serve in the Southern Union Conference of Seventh day Adventists. While most of these chaplains serve within the realm of healthcare, all areas of chaplaincy are represented.

Chaplains in the Southern Union Conference and throughout the North American Division are on the front-line of service, which is invaluable and far-reaching. These men and women embrace the great commission "Go ye therefore..." Matthew 28:19-20. Chaplains are the extension of the ministry of Jesus Christ, touching the lives of people for eternity. In these challenging times with the COVID-19 pandemic, wars, natural disasters, and social and political unrest, chaplains continue to meet the challenges of ministry at every level.

Chaplains work long hours and weekends, sometimes requiring absence from



Washington Johnson II, D.Min., is an assistant director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries for the North American Division, Southern Union Conference, and Puerto Rico; and captain (CHC), United States Navy Reserve Chaplain Corps.

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

some of life's most important events. They take seriously the words of Jesus spoken on the day of His ascension, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth," Acts 1:8. As long as people are hurting and searching for more than this life has to offer, there will be a need for qualified chaplains who are willing and able to take Christ's message of love and hope to all people! ●

Church Growth/Evangelism Training/Jewish Ministries

BY RALPH RINGER

Church Growth

We held two to five Church Growth weekend seminars in local churches to help them grow each year. The pastor and members were shown eight practical areas to grow their church, and were challenged to start them immediately:

1. How to make their church service evangelistic.
2. How to disciple all new members and all others who are willing.
3. How to have a community prayer ministry.
4. How to do friendship evangelism.
5. How to hold community outreach programs.
6. How to apply the cycle of evangelism.
7. How to give soul-winning Bible studies.
8. How to use personal life experience to win souls.

The key for helping churches grow is for members to have “the attitude of evangelism,” practice “evangeliving” (living an evangelistic lifestyle 24/7/365), and realize that all members are to be active disciples.

Church Revival and Decision Meetings

“The Way of Hope from Parables to Salvation” is a series that brings revival to members and gets decisions from guests. We held between two and five of these each year. The members do a special eight-week countdown of praying for a list they make of their family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors who need to know Jesus. They pray

for each one on their list by name each day. Then they invite those they have been praying for to come with them to the meetings. They continue to pray for their list of people as they go through an in-depth study of the wonderful parables of Jesus. By doing both, it brings a closer relationship with Jesus and with each other; this brings revival to members and decisions from guests.

Church Evangelistic Meetings

Revelation of Hope meetings about “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” cover the entire book of Revelation, and are available for the churches in the Southern Union. Each year two to five of these meetings were held in the last quinquennium except during the pandemic. During these meetings, members and guests see how Revelation brings the entire Bible together in the final conclusion of the “great controversy,” how Satan will try to destroy us, how Jesus saves us, brings an end to sin, and makes the new Heaven and new Earth where He lives with His people in a perfect environment. The church members are involved in the preparation, meetings, and follow-up. Evangelism is a team effort.

Boot Camps for Lay Evangelism

Lay evangelism boot camps are held to train lay evangelists and those who assist them to do public and personal evangelism. Two to five of these were held each year. More than 200 were trained in how to get involved in the community in various ways, which helps boost at-



Ralph Ringer was director from 2016 until his retirement on January 31, 2022.



Ritchie Halversen became director on February 1, 2022.

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN



tendance to their meetings, and makes kingdom friends — friends in this world and the new Earth.

Lay evangelists learn how to organize and conduct meetings using computer graphics and scripts by ShareHim, so they have graphics on the screen and content in the scripts equal to a professional evangelist. They are trained to speak to audiences of 5 to 500. Also, they are trained to disciple the new members and interests as a part of a nurturing follow-up.

Their evangelistic meetings can be held anywhere people can be gathered, like churches, classrooms, fellowship halls, schools, homes, apartment building meeting rooms, store fronts, tents, and community rooms. The Gospel commission says

we should “GO” to where the people are.

Lay evangelists are shown how to conduct low-budget meetings using intercessory prayer, prayer ministries, and a prayer countdown to reach communities.

Elders’ Training

The Southern Union Elders’ Certification Program helps every elder be the best elder they can be. Certification is organized in five areas — elders’ call/administration/pastoral duties, redemptive visitation, lay preaching, personal evangelism, and prophecy and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. There is a total of about 50 hours in class work. We are working to get this training online.

In cooperation with the pastor and

their church, the elders do their homework in their local church. About 200 elders are trained each year. Many pastors and elders have expressed how the elders’ training has made a positive difference in their church.

Evangelism Summits

David Hartman started Evangelism Summits in cooperation with Ralph Ringer from the Southern Union, in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. Two of these were held each year, training church members to know how they can get involved in evangelism and be ready for their evangelistic meetings in the next 6-12 months. When Hartman moved to be a professor at Southern Adventist University, Kieth Noll and





Marshall McKenzie kept the Evangelism Summits going, and are still working with Ralph Ringer and the Southern Union to train our members to be involved in evangelism.

Regenerate Conferences

Most of the churches in the United States are plateaued or are declining according to several religious surveys, which is true of our churches also. In the Southern Union five-year plan for evangelism, 2020 was the “Year of Church Revitalization.” The Southern Union Church Growth Department teamed up with Brad Cauley, Carolina Conference church growth director, who wrote a book for part of his doctoral degree about church revitalization. He was involved in church revitalization in his conference. Together, we developed the Regenerate Conferences to help revitalize our churches throughout the Southern Union.

In 2018, the Southern Union partnered with the Carolina Conference and South Atlantic Conference to hold a Regenerate Conference in Spartanburg, South Carolina. Dan Jackson, former North American Division president, was the keynote speaker. We had many outstanding presenters, and our Southern Union President, Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., brought the final appeal.

In 2019, we held two Regenerate Con-

ferences, in Charlotte, North Carolina, and Indian Creek Camp in Tennessee. The Southern Union partnered with the Carolina, South Atlantic, Kentucky-Tennessee, and South Central conferences to present these two successful conferences. We had outstanding presenters, and again included Dan Jackson.

We were planning to have 10 Regenerate Conferences in the Southern Union in 2020. We held four of them in January through the first week of March, then the pandemic stopped us from having the last six we had planned. The four we held were in Montgomery, Alabama; Madison, Tennessee; North Charleston, South Carolina; and Macon, Georgia. We worked with the South Central, Gulf States, Kentucky-Tennessee, South Atlantic, Carolina, and Georgia-Cumberland conferences to hold these outstanding Regenerate Conferences.

Jewish Ministries

We are reaching out to the Jewish community in six ways. Jewish-friendly churches, Jewish Adventist congregations (Adventist theology with Jewish worship style), Jewish friendly home groups, the Shalom Adventure web magazine (ShalomAdventure.com), Jewish/Adventist Camp Meetings and The Shalom Learning Center (which trains individuals, pastors, and leaders to reach Jews in their community).

The Shalom Adventure web magazine is reaching more Jews than any other method we have. There are new articles added every day. There are videos and articles about many types of things that Jews are interested in. One of the best ways to witness to a Jewish person is to invite them to go to shalomadventure.com. The best way to do that is to go to shalomadventure.com yourself to find an interesting article or video, then ask a Jewish friend to go and see it and to tell you what they think of it. Many Jews will go to the web magazine that would never go to a church or meeting, but will in privacy look on their computer, tablet, or smart phone.

Jewish/Adventist Camp Meetings help to bring Jews and Seventh-day Adventists together in their common beliefs, and understand their common background. The first one was held mid-October 2019 in Unicoi State Park in Helen, Georgia. There was none in 2020 because of the pandemic, but in 2021 it resumed at Unicoi State Park, September 20-27.

New outreach meetings were started in 2021 by Ralph Ringer and Tina Munson. She does a series on “The Power of a Promise” about the everlasting covenant; and she does “Messiah in the Feasts,” which shows how they all point to the Messiah and His ministry in great detail. ●

Back to Supernatural

BY ROGER HERNANDEZ

Recently I was listening to a podcast where a pastor was being interviewed about the impact that COVID-19 had in the congregation he led. The interviewer asked, “So, are you guys back to normal?” The response stuck with me.

“We don’t want to get back to normal. We want to get back to supernatural” — less 20th Century and more 1st Century. Normal was 20% doing 80% of the work in the local church. Normal was 20% of the members giving 80% of the resources. We don’t want to get back to normal, we want to get back to supernatural.

We are living in unprecedented times that can be disconcerting, but when others see a crisis, we believe God can turn a crisis into a possibility.

Our department, Roger Hernandez, Kathy Hernandez, and Pershawn Mattison, seek to share Jesus with as many people possible, in the fastest way possible, in as many ways as possible. We do this through five basic components:

- Church planting
- Public evangelistic series
- Ministerial support
- Leadership development at the local level
- Development of resources

Church Planting

During the last quinquennium, even with a pandemic, over 100 new congregations have been planted in our territory. People from various languages, ethnicities, and places have joined together to start new congregations. Church planting has several advantages. I will point out three according to David T Olson:

- New churches are historically the

best method for reaching each new generation. While many established churches have the ability to connect with the younger cohort, each generation also seems to need their own new type of churches that speak the gospel with their own cultural values and communications style.

- New churches are the only truly effective means to reach the growing ethnic populations coming to America. Every people group needs to hear the gospel in a way that makes sense to their culture. It is difficult for established churches to become diverse. Church planting can effectively create both ethnic-specific and multiethnic congregations.

- New churches are more effective than established churches at conversion growth. Studies show that new churches have three to four times the conversion rate per attendee than established churches.

Maybe God is stirring in your heart the desire to plant a church. Reach out to our office for free resources.

Public Evangelistic Series

During the last five years we have averaged 12-14 evangelistic series a year. This is our main thrust and the reason we exist. We work in two specific areas in Evangelism:

- A yearly conference of evangelism called EC3: Prepare/Proclaim/Propel. This conference is usually the first week in November in Chattanooga, Tennessee. For more information go to www.southernunion.com under ministerial/EC3.

- Public evangelism is like having a baby. The evangelism plan we follow is a nine-month comprehensive plan. God has allowed us to share in cities like Rogersville, Tennessee; Home-



Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial director

stead, Florida; Raleigh, North Carolina; Knoxville, Tennessee; and many more. More than 2,000 people made decisions for Christ in the last five years. The name of this reaping series is “We All Have Problems — HOPE” is a one-week practical Bible presentation of some of the most common problems people have, and how God’s grace impacts them in a positive way. We connect our dearly held truths with real life problems, and help people see the connection. We follow a plan we call the PPP Plan: Preparation, Proclamation, Preservation. We have found that when churches have a plan, God takes care of bringing the people.

Ministerial Support

Pastoring in these times is tough. It seems like for some you don’t go far enough and for others you go too far. We mentor pastors, both men and women, provide resources for them, make pre-



sentations at workers meetings based on the LEAD theme:

- Leadership – since everything rises and falls on leadership, we help pastors grow in this area, making sure we help pastors to lead well in a 100% online and 100 in person ministry, which is the future of the local church.
- Evangelism – cycle of evangelism, public, personal and pastoral evangelism.
- Accountability – character matters. We encourage pastors to have congruence between their private and public life.
- Diversity – generational diversity is a very important competency, because every church is a generation away from extinction.

Leadership Development at the Local Level

We have weekend conferences called LEAD conferences, based on the same concept mentioned above, but for local church leadership. Along with books like *MyCity/God'sCity a 40-Day Resource for Prayer* and *Season of Service*, which helps local churches make service an integral part of the life of the church, we recognize that the more we pour into



Kathy Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism coordinator

local church leaders, the greater the harvest. Leaders are lids. When they grow, everyone grows.

Development of Resources

During the last four years, we have developed resources for the local church.

Here are some highlights:

- RAMP – a strategy for reclaiming non-attending members (English, Spanish).
- We All Have Problems Bible study – an initial Bible study for people who are wanting to explore the basic message of scripture (French, Spanish, and English).
- Predica Bien – a lay preaching manual in Spanish.
- Grow/Crece – This resource is for newly baptized members, and helps them with the practical aspect of their new-found faith (English, Spanish).
- The Pain of Planting a Church – Back when I planted my first church, I was given a mandate with little resource. Our goal is to help church planters and their teams to avoid those early mistakes and make sure we start strong and healthy.

If you are interested in these and other resources, please visit www.southernunion.com and select Ministerial.

Please pray for us as we work every day to make sure we get back to supernatural! I leave you with an encouraging quote.

“Like the 12 apostles, the 70 disciples whom Christ sent forth later received

PHOTO BY: OLIVIA WOODARD



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN, III

supernatural endowments as a seal of their mission. When their work was completed, they returned with joy, saying, ‘Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through Thy name.’ Jesus answered, ‘I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven,’ Luke 10:17, 18. Henceforth, Christ’s followers are to look upon Satan as a conquered foe. Upon the cross, Jesus was to gain the victory for them; that victory He desired them to accept as their own. ‘Behold,’ He said, ‘I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you,’ verse 19. The omnipotent power of the Holy Spirit is the defense of every contrite soul. No one who in penitence and faith has claimed His protection will Christ permit to pass under the enemy’s power. It is true that Satan is a powerful being; but, thank God, we have a mighty Saviour, who cast out the evil one from heaven. Satan is pleased when we magnify his power. Why not talk of Jesus?



Why not magnify His power and His love?” *Ministry of Healing*, p. 193.

I will go. Will you join us?

If you want to connect with us, you can do so through these resources.

Twitter: www.twitter.com/leadSU.

Instagram: PrRogerHernandez.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/leadSU>.

YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/user/pastorRogerHernandez. 📌

Growing Young — Growing Together

BY **KEN ROGERS**

The Southern Union Youth Ministries Department provides leadership and support for children’s ministries, and youth and young adults. Along with the respective dedicated local conference directors, youth ministries is actively engaged in planning and delivering programs that impact each age group. During the past five years, we collectively have directed our ministries to “Growing Lifelong Disciples.” We believe that children, youth, and young adults can attain a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ that is relevant and age-appropriate.

Children’s Ministries

Special recognition is given to each local conference for providing a departmental director for children’s ministries.

Some surveys acknowledge that children make a decision to follow Christ between the ages of 7-10. Annual training and resource conventions are conducted by the North American Division (NAD), Southern Union, and local conference directors. Collaboration with all the directors for the benefit of children is most evident. Children’s ministries directors support ministry in a non-competitive approach, choosing to share resources, programs, and assistance with each other.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) events continue to attract children, and many churches use the VBS materials created for Seventh-day Adventists, yet still applicable for other denominations. There are numerous resources available for children’s Bible lessons and baptismal



Ken Rogers, Southern Union children, youth, and young adult ministries director



Pathfinder Bible Experience



SALT serves others

instruction that offer creative approaches for children. Age-appropriate activities and instruction help to provide a solid foundation for spiritual growth. Our Union has participated in the NAD trainings and presented workshops for children's ministries events as well as contributing to forthcoming Sabbath School material development. Kathy Russell, Carolina Conference children's ministries director, produces a story time program that is impacting children. Judy Smith and her team in the Florida Conference have conducted live zoom events for training and children's programming. The Southern Union is committed to the spiritual development of children.

Adventurers and Pathfinders

Without a doubt, the Adventurer and Pathfinder ministry is impacting a large group of youth. The Adventurer age-appropriate programs foster Scripture learning and social interaction as well as skill development in earning badges for their accomplishment. Parents, grandparents, and family friends are active par-

4 OUT OF 10 BAPTISMS ARE YOUTH

ticipants in providing instruction, training, and supervision. Adventurers do not replicate the Pathfinder program but do establish a foundation to move into Pathfinders when they reach the age require-

ment. Fernando Verduzco, Georgia-Cumberland director of children's and junior youth ministries, has sponsored numerous family fun weekend events for the Adventurers in his conference,



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

and recently had more than 600 in attendance. Across our Union territory, the Adventurer program is attracting not only our Adventist family children, but also reaching other denominations and neighborhood friends to follow Jesus.

Young Adults

Today's young adults are motivated to make a difference in their world. They are not content with the status quo. They are willing to risk and perhaps fail at their ventures, but to not be deterred. The Church could benefit by working in collaboration with young adults to revitalize our local church communities. Young adult ministries typically is recognized in the collegiate setting. We have a strong spiritual emphasis at AdventHealth University, Oakwood University, and Southern Adventist University. Chaplains and campus ministries programs are supported with funding and campus connections to create relationships that will continue after graduation. Transitioning the graduates into local church communities is a critical connection. While it is difficult to accurately know how many Seventh-day Adventist young adults are attending public educational institutions, we know that many are. We are committed to not losing these young adults, and providing



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

safe places of worship in the local setting. Also, there are campus ministries events and opportunities for fellowship and a meal where relationships can be built. Don Keele, Georgia-Cumberland director of young adult and Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) ministries, created a network of nearly 20 Public Campus Ministries (PCM) teams who minister to their campuses. These PCM leaders conduct Bible studies, outreach, social interaction, and relevant campus activities.

Eric Camarillo in Orlando, Florida, is seeing his dream come through in ways he did not imagine. SALT, the acronym for "Service and Love Together," is impacting the homeless in his hometown. SALT started with a few young adults who met and started a food distribution in downtown Orlando. Today, SALT is still feeding homeless friends. Their ministry operates a shower trailer, laundry trailer, hair cutting, and other personal services. Orlando city officials have recognized that SALT is able to do things that the city has not been able to provide, and have budgeted substantial funds to SALT.

Without hesitation, we acknowledge that God has blessed youth ministries in the Southern Union. We are fortunate to have a rich history of dedicated directors. Allan Williamson holds the record for serving as youth director for 26 years in our Union. Southern Union administration continues to provide support through generous budgeting, encouragement, and support for new incentives to grow the Kingdom of God in the youth ministries arena. It is a privilege to work with our conference leaders, and we all share in trusting that Jesus will return soon and that our young people will be saved. ●



SALT shower trailer



Since its inception in 1974, and in harmony with its stated mission, to present the everlasting gospel of Jesus Christ to all people groups from a contemporary, urban perspective, Breath of Life has been providing weekly religious television broadcasts, along with engaging in public evangelistic initiatives throughout its 48-year history.

From the initial days of Charles D. Brooks, who served as the first Breath of Life Speaker/Director, followed by Walter L. Pearson, then Dr. Carlton P. Byrd – to the current Speaker/Director, Debleaire Snell – the unadulterated gospel of Jesus Christ has been fearlessly preached with hundreds of thousands being exposed to our Savior’s matchless love and redeeming grace. As a result, nearly 20,000 persons have been baptized...and 17 churches planted and founded through this ministry.

Partner with Breath of Life

PRAY

daily for this ministry to be used by God for the building of God’s kingdom.

LEARN

more about ministry opportunities, product offerings, Bible lessons, evangelistic campaigns, outreach projects and coming events on our website or call us.

WATCH

Christ-centered, quality broadcast programs on the Word Network, 3ABN, the Hope Channel, and other media outlets. Visit breathoflife.tv for a complete media schedule.

DONATE

to this evangelism-based, donor dependent ministry with your charitable gifts:

- **Online:** breathoflife.tv
- **Phone:** 256.929.6460
- **Mail:** Breath of Life
P.O. Box 5960
Huntsville, AL 35814



Paula and Curtis Eakins, Southeastern Conference healthy ministries directors, were presenters at the 2019 Healthy Heart Conference in Atlanta, Georgia.

church leaders on how to conduct CREATION Life (formerly CREATION Health) and Reversing Diabetes seminars. These two programs have ministered to thousands of hurting people throughout the Southern Union, not to mention a host of other health programs our leaders support and promote, like addiction recovery ministries and summer basketball camps.

Health Evangelism

One of our health ministry teams conducted a two-day evangelistic-focused Healthy Heart Conference targeting cardiovascular health in Atlanta, Georgia. Over 120 people of other faiths and no faith attended the meeting on Sabbath to learn how to reverse coronary artery disease and understand cholesterol.

Attendees were given a participant folder that contained a worksheet, 3ABN card, and the Amazing Facts (health) study guide #13 as their “homework” assignment for day two.

On the next day, attendees transitioned to the Belvedere Seventh-day Adventist Church, where they received lifestyle strategies to lower high blood pressure, participated in a group fitness routine led by a certified fitness instructor, and were taken through the Amazing Facts study guide.

Virtual Seminars

During the pandemic, when everything was shut down, our local conference health ministry leaders conducted



Attendees at the 2019 Healthy Heart Conference in Atlanta, Georgia

online health seminars. Participants were able to download materials to follow along virtually. This is just one example of how our innovative, dedicated leaders shaped unfavorable circumstances to bring hope, happiness, and wholeness to hurting people everywhere.

Being Available

One of our Reversing Diabetes teams was at a church to conduct a CREATION Health wellness seminar one Sabbath afternoon and a Reversing Diabetes seminar the following day. As they were greeting attendees in the parking lot before the meeting, a lady drove up, rolled her window down, handed them a CREATION Health flyer, and asked if she was at the right place. They assured her she was. However, unknown to the team, the flyer was for a CREATION Health event at a local church plant a few miles

away. However, the lady was so excited about this meeting that she had “mistakenly” attended that she inquired about the church services. When the pastor said they worship on Saturdays, she replied, “Oh, you’re Seventh-day Adventist? I’ll be back next Saturday because I want to learn what you believe!”

Heroes Without Capes

Many of you don’t know the names of the heroes mentioned in this article that I have the honor of serving every day; they don’t do it for recognition anyway. They’re too busy working in the trenches every day, relieving human suffering in the name of Jesus Christ so people may know what it’s like to live a life of abundant hope, wholeness, and, yes, even happiness, regardless of their circumstances. ❶

Reconnected and Multiplying

BY JULIO CHAZARRETA

There are many reasons to praise the name of our great God! In addition to remembering how he has taken care of us in recent days in the midst of a pandemic that has claimed, so far, approximately 7 million victims, we have seen how he has sustained the Church.

At the beginning of the pandemic, we believed that the Church would be affected financially, and it was — but for the better, by increasing the giving of tithes in our congregations. It was during times of crisis that the faith and fidelity of our brothers resurfaced.

In the Hispanic area, we had an increase of 39.5% compared to the last constituency in 2016. We went from having \$26,345,634.87 to receiving \$37,804,275.32, a difference of \$11,458,640.55, for an average total of \$2,291,728.10 per year.

Membership increased by almost 25.5% since the last constituency. We went from 39,496 to 49,001, an increase of 9,505 in membership.

Between churches and companies, and new mission groups being planted, 91 more place have been organized since the last constituency.

The task has not been easy, but God has been faithful!

The Hispanic Ministries Department has undergone a director change. Jorge Mayer, pastor, who served the department for the last 18 years, retired in January 2020. His dedication, devotion, and determination to help grow our field should be highlighted. The new director is Julio Chazarreta, pastor, from the Pacific Press, who now has the

responsibility of directing and helping this blessed territory grow.

Andrew's Master's Program: Pastoral Ministry

The Andrews master's program continues to be offered in our field. This has prepared many of our pastors and continues to do so. We have celebrated several master's graduations in recent years.

Although we have been in a pandemic, it has not been time to rest.

Our Hispanic churches have been a beacon of help for the communities where they are found. They have distributed food in the various food banks that many of them have in place. In turn, they have distributed financial aid in the midst of the pandemic crisis; and, although the basic needs of our neighbors have been attended to, preaching, baptizing, and growing have not stopped.

In the past two years, there have been a number of special evangelism, revival, and leadership development programs.

Virtual and Face-to-Face Caravan

One of the most outstanding events was, without a doubt, the "Connected" Caravan. This is not only because of the 534 baptisms that took place there, but also because it was carried out in the middle of the pandemic.

This caravan was held August 1-8, 2020. We toured all eight states in our field, and broadcasted from each of them every night from a different field. We traveled thousands of miles throughout the Southern Union territory.



Julio Chazarreta, Southern Union Hispanic ministries director





reconnectados
Caravana 2021
14-21 de Agosto

Predicadores:

Julio Chazarreta, Joel Barrios, Homero Salazar, Arnaldo Cruz

Música Especial:

José Medina, José Javier Colón, Felipe Garibo

celebrated in churches, beaches, rivers, and homes. We saw the hand of God in a very special way, and had more than 9,000 connections per night, and more than 60 thousand views per program.

As a result of this miracle that we were able to live, of preaching, traveling, and not getting infected in the midst of the worst of the pandemic, we decided to celebrate every year in August, a Caravan that reminds us of how God watched over of us and guided us in the midst of the worst crises of recent years.

For that reason, in 2021 we celebrated a new Caravan. This time it would be a “hybrid” Caravan. We would tour the entire territory again like the previous year, but this time we would open the churches for those who wanted to come and, in turn, we would broadcast every night for our entire territory and the world. This Caravan was called “Reconnected” and we had more than 5,000 connections per night, and more than 50,000 views per

program. In addition, receiving many people in the meeting centers from where it was broadcast, we had almost 200 baptisms. Once again God’s blessing was repeated and, therefore, we decided to continue celebrating a yearly Caravan, each time changing our objective.

This year will be focused on our youth, and next year, 2023, the focus will be on women. They will lead the programs and preach. The year 2024 will be a Caravan focused on children. Child preachers and singers will tell the world about the return of Jesus!

Metropolitan Campaigns

Simultaneous evangelistic preaching events (at least eight preachers) are called “metropolitan rallies.” A region is chosen, and simultaneous evangelistic campaigns are carried out during a week of harvest. We have held eight of these campaigns starting at the end of 2020 and throughout 2021. The purpose

was mainly to motivate the brethren to return to the church buildings, an objective that was widely achieved, since we saw the meeting places quite crowded during the campaign.

Some of the Caravan locations include Gulfport and Hattiesburg, Mississippi; North Georgia; South Tennessee; Clinton, North Carolina, and surrounding areas; Gainesville, Florida; Ocala, Florida; Miami, Florida; Tampa, Florida; the entire territory of the Southeastern Conference; Louisville, Kentucky; Nashville, Tennessee; and Orlando, Florida.

Personal Campaigns

Due to his particular calling as an evangelist, Julio Chazarreta has held approximately 20 campaigns per year, throughout the territory of the Southern Union.

1K Souls Special Project

This past April, we held a major evangelism project where all participating churches were prepared using a nine-lesson small group study manual. Bilingual magazines and invitations to the campaigns were distributed for this event in April. Finally, by the grace of God, more than 1,000 souls were baptized this past April.

The project was called “Todo Nuevo” (All New). We had lessons, sermons, theme songs, and, most importantly, the embracing spirit of the pastors and the elders who baptized together with their pastors. It was a special celebration!

We pray that God will continue to bless our beautiful Southern Union! 🙏

The Meaning of Life

BY DIANA WALLACE

I ran across an article titled “The Meaning of Life in Two Words.” I was intrigued by the title and had to find out the answer. Turns out the meaning of life is friendship and creativity, according to the author. Friendship, for instance, is the core of our human joy and struggles; it’s how we fully learn to connect with each other. And creativity isn’t limited to artists and YouTubers; it’s the core of any meaningful contribution. Every single task provides us with an opportunity to be creative. Though it may seem like relatively simple things, the full conceptual context of their meaning is huge. The Southern Union Human Resources (HR) Department embraces friendship and creativity on a daily basis!

Local Conference Resource

We initiated monthly zoom meetings with our local conference HR directors, calling it “A Time to Share & Connect.” This is a place where the experienced, not so experienced, detailed, young, seasoned, creative, and workaholic come together as a group to support each other amid a never-ending assortment of HR matters and processes, and share new ideas, resources, and even a laugh or two. This special time together has not only fostered lasting friendships, but also cultivated a bond of trust.

Annual spring and fall meetings are planned for our local conference counterparts to inform and discuss relevant issues, and to be the means by which to strengthen friendships.

Diversity in the Workplace

In partnership with administration, HR has committed to promoting diversity in the workplace, realizing we are key players in removing any form of racism



Diana Wallace (right), Southern Union human resources director, and Francine Long, Southern Union human resources associate director

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

and oppression within our organization. For years, we have made this issue one of utmost importance within our hiring process, pledging to sustain the reflection of diversity within the Southern Union territory while aiming to include and integrate all people and groups as well. We recognize there is much to learn on this topic, and vow to embrace

imminent change to continue being successful in the future.

COVID-19 Pandemic

Throughout the pandemic, our number one priority has been to protect our staff from this mutating virus. We knew communication would be vital for a successful outcome. As plans were made, guidelines



were designed with a course focused on safety. Did we run into some challenges? You bet we did! However, God is good ALL the time! He graciously blessed our Southern Union administration and HR with the knowledge to prepare, to educate for prevention of what was to come, and to accept the realization we could lose one of our own. Though several staff members did contract COVID-19, we praise God that not one life was lost.

Serving Our Own

Attending various conferences to keeping current on HR best practices, state/governmental laws, and preserving SHRM certification enables our department to provide quality service and support to staff members. Those areas include the following: benefits, recruiting/hiring/orientation, performance evaluation, employee handbooks, personnel issues, training, workers compensation, personnel files, job descriptions, audits, and more.

Mental/Physical Health

All employees are encouraged to participate in the Southern Union Wellness Program and Adventist Risk Management (ARM) Healthcare Plan to preserve or improve mental and physical health. Aside from these benefits, HR has discovered creative approaches in motivating staff members



to participate in their mental/physical health. Our department will randomly call the staff together to participate in a game. Some examples are musical chairs — which was a huge hit, team relay races, a ping pong tournament, and a football mania game with 10-12 miniature plastic footballs containing small prizes hidden throughout the office. You can hear the excitement as staff scurry here and there when given clues to find a prize. What a fun way to take a mental break, get some exercise, and grow friendships!

The Bible doesn't directly tell us what the meaning of life is. However, I believe that we have a clear responsibility to do everything we are able to do, not only to provide service and support to our employees, but to offer friendship. Every day brings a new opportunity to connect with someone and do something meaningful that will bring a little bit of joy and creativity to their life. 🕊

Literature Scattered like the Leaves of Autumn

BY WILLIAM SMITH

And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached [shared] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come,” Matthew 24:14.

“Publications must be multiplied, and scattered like the leaves of autumn,” *Review and Herald*, November 21, 1878.

For the past quinquennium, God has used our Southern Union literature ministers to forge ahead sharing the Good News of Jesus through millions of tracts and books. We give God all the glory and praise for the great things He has done! Our conferences have made sure that truth-filled literature is scattered like the leaves of autumn.

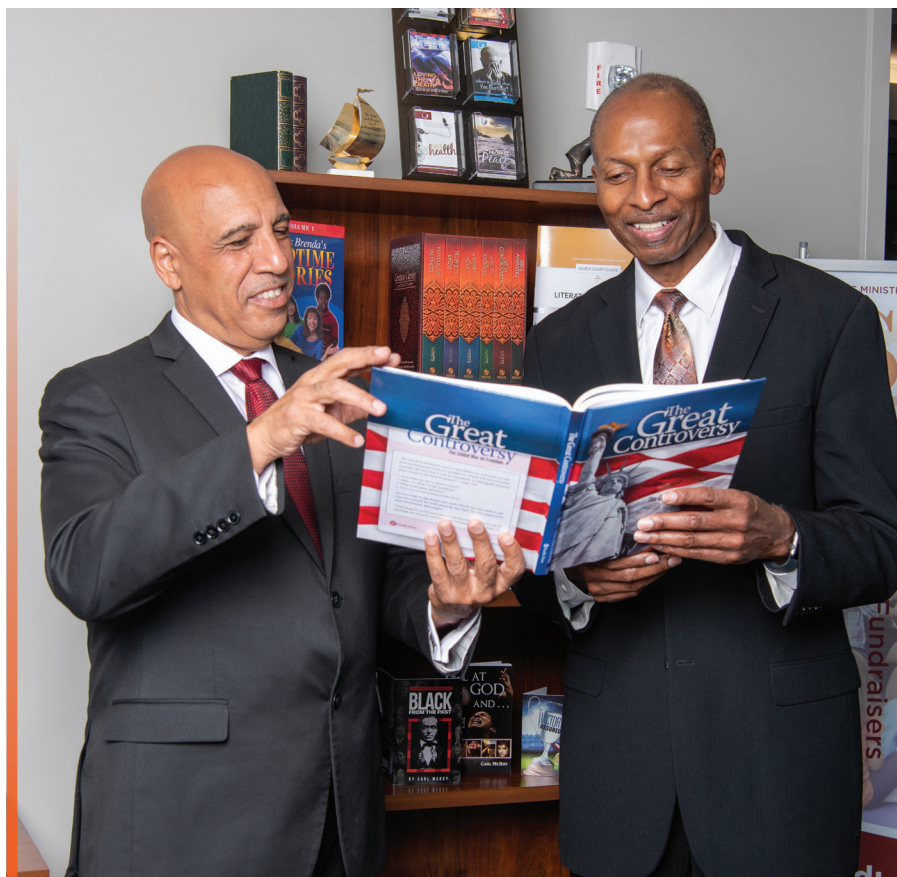
Below are a few highlights of what has been happening in our department for the past few years.

Food Banks

When the COVID-19 pandemic closed many doors, our dedicated church members found ways to safely minister to thousands in the communities through organized food distribution. Literature ministers joined in and placed hope-filled literature in the hands of those receiving physical food, thus offering a balanced diet of spiritual and physical food.

Adventist Book Centers

Our dedicated Adventist Book Center (ABC) managers made sure the ABCs safely remained open for business to make available thousands of truth-filled sharing resources to our members and the community at their physical location, and through their website: www.adventistbookcenter.com.



William Smith (left), Southern Union publishing ministries director, and Keith Reid, Southern Union publishing ministries associate director

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Student Literature Evangelism

Our local conference publishing departments held 146 Student Literature Evangelists (LEs) Scholarship Programs during the past five years, where an average of 600 students per year left \$9.2 million worth of literature in homes, and generated hundreds of Bible study leads. They also left smiles, prayers, encouraging words, and hope! Christian education

and publishing ministries will always work hand in hand. We praise God for our dedicated, skilled team of student LEs and student LE leaders earning scholarships and leading souls to Christ!

Adult Literature Evangelism

Our team of adult LEs have seen great results that show what faith, hard work, and perseverance can do. With a true



Literature ministries 2019 BLAST Conference at the Southern Union Conference Office in Peachtree Corners, Georgia

missionary spirit, these self-sacrificing workers hunted and fished for souls until 554 were found and baptized, and more than \$11 million worth of literature was left to enlighten the minds of thousands.

The Home Health Education Service has moved from Decatur, Georgia, to Dalton, Georgia, where they now have better warehouse and office facilities. New books, products, and services have been developed, making it easier for career literature ministers to be successful. We praise God for our dedicated publishing directors, district leaders, and LE force who have been unstoppable and unflinching in the face of difficulties and challenges.

Total Member Involvement

The acronym BLAST represents our powerful publishing initiative, voted here in the Southern Union, designed to reach the 66 million people in this territory. It embodies five energetic components that represent an entire spectrum of literature evangelism that we embrace wholeheartedly.

- B** - Books and tracts
- L** - Linking departments
- A** - All involved
- S** - School fundraisers
- T** - Technology

Along with full-time, part-time, and student literature ministers, we now have more than 60 dedicated BLAST representatives in cities throughout the Southern Union.



Food and tract distribution

Their mission is to “Share Hope with Millions through the Printed Page.” Each year these teams have received up to two million Gospel tracts and sharing books from the Southern Union, to scatter like the leaves of autumn. More and more church members are being inspired, and getting involved in safely distributing this literature at NFL games, NBA games, college games, concerts, parades, and speedways.

Grace Crawford, a BLAST representative in Augusta, Georgia, has found a way to deliver sharing books and tracts directly to the homes of people, through the United States Postal System. More than 40,000 families were reached in her area in one bulk mailing.

Jesus Saves

A student literature minister in the

Florida Conference was canvassing in a Walmart parking lot in Ft. Myers, Florida. He approached a man, but the man very rudely told him he wasn't interested. The student said, “Ok, I'll leave, but I'll pray for you first.” He said a short prayer for the man and left. A few minutes later, the man drove up to him in his truck with a \$20 bill in his hand. He said, “I'm sorry I was rude to you, but you have no idea what your prayer did for me. I came here to Walmart to buy some gas, so that I could go home, burn my house down, and take my life.” The student encouraged him, left him a book on peace, and had another prayer with him.

A soul was saved. Why not let God use you this year to give someone hope and to help save a soul from destruction? 🙏

Imagine Your World Without It

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

In the spirit of Christ, the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department strives to defend, preserve, and expand religious liberty both inside and outside of the Church. The department is staffed by Amireh Al-Haddad, director; Kevin James, associate director; and Stephania McKinney, administrative assistant.

There are several areas that religious liberty covers. In the Southern Union conference, almost all of the religious liberty work is done at the Union level rather than the conference level. Over the last 37 years, this directive has been intentional in order to maintain a consistent level of assistance and training throughout all the conferences in our territory. Both the director and the associate director travel about two-thirds of the year visiting local area churches, delivering sermons, and giving a wide array of educational seminars on religious liberty topics from Sabbath accommodation to issues involving conscience, prophecy, and justice. We also publish a religious liberty newsletter, *Waymarks*, six times a year.

Religious Discrimination Cases

Sabbath accommodation problems follow local employment trends. As the spotlight has been focused on religious accommodation in the workplace, employers are getting smarter in ways to evade or meet the minimal requirements to accommodate church members. These employers are our biggest challenge for membership.

Because of this, Sabbath accommodation cases still make up the majority of the workload, but the office still gets calls on other issues such as union membership exemption, child custody issues, and prisoners' rights, just to name a few. For the best results in any case, the key is calling for help as soon as there



Kevin James (left), Southern Union public affairs and religious liberty associate director, and Amireh Al-Haddad, Southern Union public affairs and religious liberty director

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

is a problem. We encourage members to reach out to us and not wait or try to handle the problem alone.

Among the highlights of our Sabbath accommodation cases is our work to resolve cases early. Over the past five years, we were able to successfully settle cases that totaled almost \$300,000 for various church members. One very special case, *Patterson v. Walgreens*, was appealed all the way to the Supreme Court. While the Supreme Court reject-

ed taking the case, we continue to push for better protection of religious accommodation rights in the workplace.

Religious Liberty Offerings and Liberty Magazine

At the risk of repeating myself, I am happy to report that the Southern Union continues to lead the North American Division in the annual religious liberty offering and overall subscriptions sent out for *Liberty* magazine. We are blessed to have

committed church members who remain faithful in giving to this special offering. We strive to ensure that *Liberty* magazine makes it into the hands of the legislatures and other government officials who have been charged with protecting our vital first freedom. We continue to thank our wonderful church members who have shown their support and faithfulness to this ministry in their personal giving.

Government Liaison Program

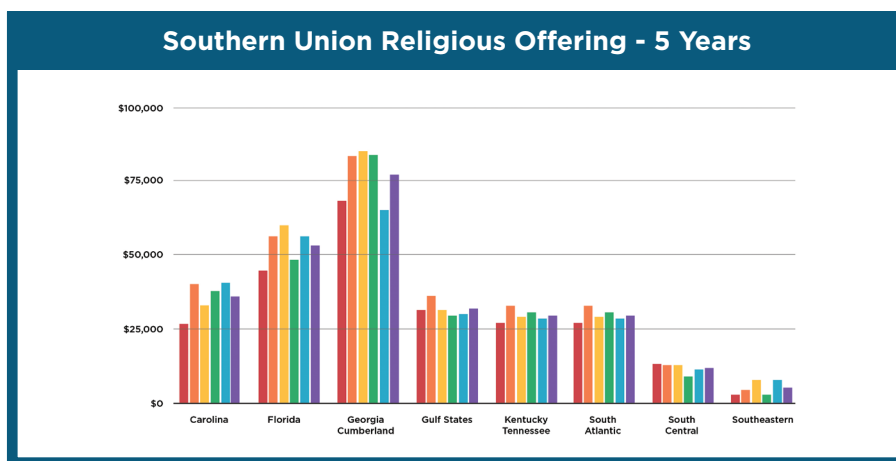
One of the programs we run in the Union is the government watchdog program. Carefully chosen lay-people assist us in each of the eight states to help monitor the legislation taking place in our territory. In the middle of 2020, we opted into a new software app that allows us to find and track those bills we deem are most important to our Church. The new software also includes daily updates on bills we are tracking, and easy digital access to state and federal legislative aids.

One of the more troubling groups that has arisen in the last five years is known as Project Blitz, a grassroots level group that has dedicated itself to ensuring laws in our land reflect biblical principles of the Christian faith. For students of prophecy, this should raise warning flags. In a nation that protects religious liberty by keeping church and state separate, incorporating religious ideology into our laws is the first step toward persecution. Now more than ever, we need to share in this work of remaining vigilant.

Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys

The society exists in order to provide spiritual and professional interaction for Adventists who practice law. We were able to hold a retreat for the last five years (with the exception of 2020). In 2019 we shared in the General Conference's attorney retreat, playing host to attorneys from across the Division. We continued offering legal education at the retreats, offering courses in ethics, free to members of the society. We continue to encourage our law students with a small book stipend available

Conference	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Totals
Carolina	10	7	9	12	13	51
Florida	15	16	14	18	12	75
Georgia-Cumberland	7	27	20	25	12	91
Gulf States	3	4	3	3	14	27
Kentucky-Tennessee	6	11	5	5	13	40
South Atlantic	8	5	4	7	6	30
South Central	1	15	13	3	4	36
Southeastern	5	2	6	5	1	19
Combined Conf Total	55	87	74	78	75	369



for those who apply here within the Southern Union territory. To contact the society or for membership application, email us at ssaa@southernunion.com.

Religious Liberty Congress

Two Religious Liberty Congresses were held during this quinquennium. When the World Congress on Religious Freedom was held in the Southern Union in 2017, we took the opportunity to hold a Sabbath Rally at the arena at Florida International University, filling the arena floor with nearly 1,100 attendees. Our second event was held in Atlanta in 2019, and featured keynote speaker Ivor Myers. Attendees at both events celebrated religious liberty and learned of the current threats to our religious freedom today.

The Future

Seventh-day Adventists hold religious liberty dear to our hearts. We invest both

time and money to this ministry because of its importance. As people of prophecy, we believe that the role of religious freedom plays heavily into end-time events. The loss of religious liberty will, one day soon, herald the return of our Lord and Savior. But, until that time, Sister White says we have been charged to work with the angels to hold back the strife that shall come. It is inconsistent with the character of Christ to allow bad things to happen, simply because it had been prophesied. We must always act in a Christlike manner to defend the truth, protect freedom, and fight for justice until the very end.

Those who work within this department have pledged themselves to continue to protect liberty of conscience, not only for our members here in the Southern Union, but for all people. Please feel free to email us anytime: ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com.

God Opened and Still Opens...

BY DAVID A. LONG

The Understanding of Saints: Sabbath School

The Bible says, “And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the Scriptures,” Luke 24:45.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church came into existence as a result of intense study of God’s Word. Truth is held in the highest regard and therefore does not take a backseat to tradition or customs. As a result, Sabbath School, which is composed of four pillars, Bible Study, Christian hospitality, community outreach, and world mission have served as a strong foundation for every healthy and vibrant congregation. As the Word of God is discussed and insights are shared within the study group, the Holy Spirit is able to cause information to bring about transformation in thought and lifestyle.

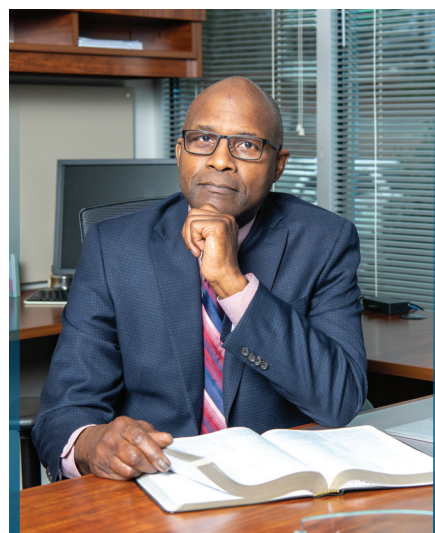
In an increased effort to strengthen the commitment of Sabbath School, Ramon Canals, D.Min., General Conference Sabbath School director, and James

Howard, General Conference associate Sabbath School director, were invited in successive years to conduct training seminars for our conference Sabbath School directors. Their insight proved to be invaluable, and their strong commitment was contagious.

The Windows of Heaven: Stewardship

God said, “Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it,” Malachi 3:10 KJV.

The Southern Union Conference was able to sponsor stewardship conventions for pastors and local church leaders in Nashville, Tennessee; Orlando, Florida; Atlanta, Georgia; and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. The presenters include Marcus Bomfim, General Conference steward-



David A. Long, Southern Union personal ministries, prayer ministries, prison ministries, Sabbath School, and stewardship director

PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN

ship director; and Aniel Barbe, General Conference associate director; and other well-known authors in the field of stewardship. During the quinquennium, I was able to visit many congregations, strengthening their resolve to keep God first, and encouraging others to make Him first in their financial affairs.

As I went from church to church, my heart was encouraged as testimonies were shared regarding God’s faithfulness in opening Heaven’s windows. The financial blessings of God on their lives have been freely shared for the advancement of God’s righteous cause and the uplifting of those in need.

The Eyes of Believers: Prayer Ministries

“And Elisha prayed, and said, Lord, I pray thee, open his eyes, that he may see. And the LORD opened the eyes of





Aniel Barbe, General Conference stewardship associate director; Michael Harpe, North American Division stewardship director; Juan Gonzalez, Southeastern Conference stewardship and planned giving director; David Long, Southern Union director of personal ministries, prayer ministries, prison ministries, Sabbath School, and stewardship; and other attendees at the Southern Union Conference Stewardship Convention in Orlando, Florida.

the young man; and he saw: and, behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire round about Elisha,” 2 Kings 6:17 KJV.

Prayer is mankind’s way of inviting the Almighty God to manifest His awesome power. On the many scheduled prayer calls, unnumbered requests were made, along with the testimonies of answered prayer. God’s strong arm gave evidence that it is as mighty as it has ever been.

The Doors of Prisons: Prison Ministries

“And suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken: and immediately all the doors were opened, and every one’s bands were loosed,” Acts 16:26 KJV.

In collaboration with the Adult Ministries Department of the North American Division’s initiative to establish more transition homes for those whom prison doors have been opened, the Southern Union has stepped forward. LIA



House in Memphis, Tennessee, assisted in bringing to pass some needed renovations for the tenants that abide there. In South Carolina, members of the Carolina Conference and South Atlantic are working together to re-purpose a mobile home to be the habitation for returning citizens. These residences help to re-establish those who have walked through those open doors.

The Hearts of Seekers: Personal Ministries

“And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul,” Acts 16:14.

Just as Lydia’s heart was open to receive the message of Paul, many hearts were opened by the Spirit of God as lay ministers (women, men, and children) conducted evangelistic meetings and gave Bible studies. In an evangelistic effort in Dania, Florida, where I conducted a two-week series, a member who couldn’t drive asked a friend to drive her to the meetings. They only missed one night, and her guest and “chauffer” was in the baptismal line on the final Sabbath. The Spirit of God opened her heart, and she surrendered her life to Jesus. ❶

Connecting the Body of Christ

BY **EDER MARSKI**

At our last quinquennium, no one would have ever imagined how different the world would be today. The pandemic, surge in cyberattacks, and remote work are just a few of the challenges we are facing today. The Southern Union Information Systems Department strives to serve Christ by serving His Church. By working with our schools, academies, universities, and conferences, our group of more than 30 Southern Union IT pros (IT employees from Union and eight conferences) have risen to the challenge and kept our organizations moving forward. We have a wonderful group of men and women dedicated to His mission. Praise be to God for His mercy and wisdom! The following are examples of services that we offer as we support our constituency.



School, conference, and Southern Union IT staff participate during a round table.

Accounting and Payroll

Since our last quinquennium, many improvements have been made to our accounting and payroll systems. The systems have been converted to an Internet Web platform, which enhances and facilitates the user's experience. Our users have been migrated to the North American Division (NAD) servers, achieving

faster updates and improved support from the developers. We are thankful for all the work Michael Park and his NAD team have done. Accounting and payroll support to our entities is provided by the Southern Union IT team.

Backup as a Service

In an age of ransomware and cyber attacks, secure offsite backups are a necessity. Since 2016 when we first offered this service, our backup as a service has increased tremendously. Numerous organizations inside and outside the Southern Union use our data center to store their backups. We are also very grateful for our partnership with Georgia-Cumberland Conference and Southwestern Adventist University that allows us to provide data and server replication to two geographically diverse locations. We maintain our belief that the Church's data should be kept inside the Church. By being proactive, and with God's help, our Church's data will continue to remain secure and available to our organizations.

Continuing Education

Continuing education is essential for our IT pros to stay up to date with the latest technology, expand their knowledge, and deploy best practices to our Church organizations. Our group meets regularly to facilitate collaboration and share knowledge. One of our most memorable meetings since 2016 was in Sandestin, Florida. We gathered with our families and enjoyed a wonderful weekend of spiritual growth and technology seminars. Online meetings have also become the way of life. The IT pros group meets monthly to collaborate with each other on current projects, challenges, and goals. This past year, we have pro-



Eder Marski, Southern Union information technology director

PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

vided Zoom trainings to our constituency and purchased on-demand IT training courses for our conferences and schools.

IT Infrastructure Management and Deployment

One of the most rewarding jobs that we do is to collaborate with our institutions to deploy IT equipment. Together with our counterparts from schools and



Andrew Weston, pastor, speaks during the Departmental Council meetings in Sandestin, Florida.



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D MIN

Eder Marski (left), Southern Union IT director; Leonard Fernandez, IT associate director; Jermaine Alexander, IT assistant director; David Koliadko, IT accounting support engineer; and Giuliano Lombardi, IT network administrator

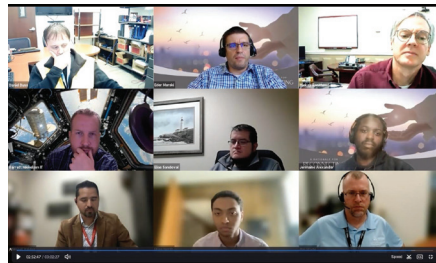


Jermaine Alexander, Southern Union IT assistant director, and Issac Dixon, Southeastern Conference IT manager, deploy new servers at Southeastern Conference.

conferences, we have installed many firewalls, network equipment, and servers. Our job doesn't stop there. We help our institutions manage, configure, and update their systems. We praise God for a very supportive Treasury Department that invests in our local entities.

Helpdesk as a Service

Did you know we have IT superheroes? They make sure everyone is connected while at the same time blocking all malicious attacks from compromising your systems. They are on call 24/7 even when



Ongoing IT professionals meeting

sick. They break down the complexity of IT to something that can be easily understood. As a group we have talked about mental health and the causes of stress and burnout among the IT staff in our institutions. It has become clear that the Southern Union must provide helpdesk services to our institutions which have only one IT employee. We have deployed a centralized remote support system that allows our department to better help our institutions remotely..

Security Audits

“There are known knowns. These are things we know that we know. There are known unknowns. That is to say, there are things that we know we don't know. But

there are also unknown unknowns. There are things we don't know we don't know,” said Donald Rumsfeld. The SUC IT Department has contracted with an independent company to provide IT security audits to our conferences. This process is completely confidential under a non-disclosure agreement between the local conference and the independent company. The goal is to enhance IT processes while increasing security and resilience.

Southern Union Datacenter

Since 2016, our datacenter has grown and become home to several organizations inside and outside the Southern Union. Together we have been able to reduce costs and provide services throughout the Union. We have also acquired a secondary Internet fiber line that follows a separate path to a different connection for redundancy. This provides increased reliability to our services. By God's grace, we have had a consistent connection (over 99% uptime) these past five years. Your datacenter is ready to serve the mission and ministry of the Church. 📍

The Power of Ministering Together

BY SHIRLEY SCOTT

Women ministries in the Southern Union Conference has been blessed with extraordinary leadership. One such leader is Laura J. Smith, who began serving as director in 2003. During the 2016 quinquennial, she was re-elected to continue to serve for 2016-2021. She served with distinction until her retirement in 2017.

As Smith passed the leadership baton in 2018, she was presented with a bouquet of flowers by Yolanda Smith, advisor, and Shirley Scott, the new women's ministries director.

Commenting on her productive 14 years of service, Smith praised God for the wonderful things He continues to do for and through the Southern Union Women's Ministries Department. She counts it a joy and privilege to have had the opportunity to provide leadership. Smith spoke highly of her successor as one who is a capable visionary and productive member of the executive committee.

Smith says she is confident that the Spirit of God will continue to "hover over" and guide the Southern Union Department of Women's Ministries under the capable and dynamic leadership of Shirley Scott. Again, to God be the glory!

We are so grateful for the solid spiritual foundation that has been preserved through the leadership of Laura Smith. She is a role model and mentor who lead with passion, and has left us a strong legacy of consistent, faithful, dedicated, and Christ-centered service that we can build upon.

With baton in hand, we move forward, uniting cultures, gifts, talents, and abilities, to accomplish our vision and mission. Our main areas of focus are nurture, empower, and outreach.

Vision Statement

To be intentional about inviting women to follow Jesus Christ.

Mission Statement

The Southern Union Department of Women's Ministries exists to uphold, encourage, and challenge Seventh-day Adventist women in their daily walk as disciples of Jesus Christ. Our mission is accomplished through effectual prayers as we seek God to build His kingdom through meaningful relationships and significant ministries.

Nurture

We address the spiritual, physical, and social needs of women in the home, church, and community; mentor young women; encourage mothers; and support and encourage all women. Nurturing women has been very crucial doing this quinquennium. Union and conference directors began and continue to provide virtual gatherings that include prayer conferences to keep the spiritual connection intact as well as Bible studies and other ministry activities. However, there have also been fun times with pajama parties, game nights, and scavenger hunts. These have helped women keep a healthy mental outlook, and played a major role in coping with the stress and loneliness. Many women have given testimonies of spiritual renewal and thankfulness for the support received.

Empower

Women are assisted in discovering, developing, and utilizing their talents, gifts, and experiences. More than 200 women in the South Atlantic Conference received leadership training and certifi-



Shirley Scott, Southern Union women's ministries director

cation from Carla Baker, former North American Division women's ministries leader; Erica Jones, associate director; and Laura Smith, former Southern Union women's ministries director. In the South Central Conference, the first order of business by the new director was her commitment to train and certify as many women leaders as possible.

Outreach

There are so many activities that women engage in to model the love of Jesus, who mingled with people and showed compassion in meeting their needs.

One such outreach was a God in Shoes Spa Day that takes place around the Southern Union Conference. However, this particular one was sponsored by the Gulf States Conference where women from the community were invited to full spa treatment along with a warm, home-cooked meal. Women from domestic



Shirley Scott (left), Southern Union women’s ministries director; Laura Smith, former Southern Union women’s ministries director; and Yolanda Smith, Southern Union women’s ministries advisory

abuse and homeless shelters were also pampered. There were manicures and haircuts, skin products, facials, and basic hygiene kits. And, to help those who were in need of a job, women were provided resume’ assistance. Among some of the stations open was a clothes closet, where women could find outfits for their job interview. This event was acknowledged by city officials and community leaders, and highlighted in the city’s newspaper.

Chattanooga Connections

The 2018 CONNECTIONS Women’s Convention held in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was a transformational experience. It provided an excellent place for women to connect with God and with others. Nearly 800 women were encouraged to open their hearts to God in the sacred and solace prayer room. Women testified of the peace they felt and the burdens that were lifted.

There was also time to connect with others through seminars, meals, walks, and at the round tables which provided face-to-face communication.

In addition, women had the opportunity to connect with the city of Chattanooga in the God in Shoes outreach ministry planned by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference

and W.I.N.G.S. (Women in God’s Service) planned by Gulf States and Southeastern conferences. Our women also engaged in pampering women in shelters with Spa Day: women served meals, cuddled babies in their arms, read books to small children, and spread the love of Jesus throughout the city at several women facilities.

Digital Platforms

The COVID-19 pandemic brought many sudden changes and challenges to effectively minister to women of all ages. As the need for social distancing increased, it created a huge disconnect with the women in our churches. Women’s ministries stayed connected and touched lives, and surprisingly reached a wider audience of its 186,000 sisters by moving seminars and events online, giving thousands of women a place to reconnect.

In addition to TikTok and Snapshot, women’s ministries connected through Facebook, YouTube, Zoom platforms, Instagram, and podcasts.

Twenty-five virtual events were hosted by the Southern Union. In addition, the virtual space was filled across the Union territory by conference directors and their dedicated teams of women

with weekly, monthly, and quarterly virtual engagements. Thousands of women were reached using these platforms.

The annual Women’s Prayer Conference that was providentially initiated in January 2020, gave women a just start in coping with challenges they faced due to COVID. These weekend conferences yielded the largest event reach of more than 7,000 women. The seven virtual women’s ministries tours gave women a look into the world of ministry to women by women throughout the Southern Union, and invited every woman to be a part of nurturing, empowering, and reaching out to women with the love of Jesus.

Each conference director worked diligently to inform, educate, and introduce to some the wonderful world of ministry to women by women. Together, we reached thousands of women (and some men) of all ages, races, ethnicities, cultural, and socio-economic background.

Leadership Training and Development

Our goal in the Southern Union is to be dynamic, innovative, creative, forward thinking leaders who remain relevant with the times. Directors are

equipped and empowered through ongoing training, and personal growth during our quarterly meetings, the annual Southern Union Administrative Departmental meetings, and our annual advisory. During the last two years, our training emphasis included digital discipleship, quality production, and broadcasting. Training in the various, digital platforms was designed to instruct us how to reach women of all ages on social media platforms. The podcast, one of the most popular digital platforms, was initiated by the Carolina Conference and has been very effective in reaching a wide audience and addressing everyday issues.

ENDITNOW

We hear so many stories of abuse in our homes, churches, and communities. At times, we have felt ill-equipped. Annual Enditnow Abuse Awareness campaigns, and holding up “End It Now” placards in parades are insufficient. To assist us in being more knowledgeable and prepared to help those in abusive situations, the directors took a comprehensive course, Training the Trainer in Abuse Prevention. Each director is now certified to conduct Abuse Prevention Awareness in the local churches and communities.

Emerging Women Leaders' Scholarships

Collegiate Adventist women of the Southern Union make a significant and positive impact within their peer groups, churches, and communities through their outreach activities and initiatives. At one of our advisory meetings, we invited eight young women to the table, and asked them to share how women's ministries could assist them. Their overarching needs were financial assistance and mentoring.

As a result, in 2019 women's ministries created and established the Emerging Women Leaders' Scholarship. We awarded scholarships annually. Students must attend our universities, be committed to serving the mission of the church, possess strong leadership skills, and a passion for

outreach service to the community.

Since 2019, eight scholarships have been awarded. In addition, the Southern Union director receives, reviews, and submits North American Division women's ministries scholarship applications each year. Eleven of our students received scholarships this quinquennial.

Whole and Holy Women's Convention

The Southern Union Conference served as the host Union to the 2019 North American Division Women's Convention in Orlando, Florida, at the Rosen Shingle Hotel. In addition to supporting with attendance, Southern Union was assigned to coordinate the spiritual component of the Convention. Women from across the North American Division were recruited as prayer intercessors, participated in the 14 days of prayer and fasting, and served as devotional speakers.

Evangelism

Throughout the Southern Union, women have a burden for the loss that has changed their trajectory of how we do ministry. After years of developing evangelistic programs, we discovered that modeling Jesus' love and kindness is the best method. Engaging in Bible studies, book clubs, and sharing their faith have given women opportunity to develop friendships with others. All ministries, including retreats, are evangelistic in nature. Women who had taken a break from church have found their way back through acceptance and unconditional love.

During this quinquennial period, women's ministries has been responsible for hundreds of Bible studies and Zoom and online prayer conference calls. The Florida and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences led the way in friendship evangelism. The results of our collected efforts yielded more than 200 baptisms.

Sincere Gratitude

It has been a privilege to work with the Southern Union women's ministries executive committee members. Their

amazing dedication to the ministry of women is second to none. We have experienced the power, presence, and provision of God in our lives and in the work for His Kingdom. We are so thankful for the opportunity He has given us to work with Him. All praise and honor and glory are due Him and Him alone.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Southern Union administration — Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D, president; Jim Davidson, executive secretary; David Freedman, treasurer; Dave Colburn, under treasurer; Yolanda Smith, advisor; Bonnie Davidson, associate advisor; and Lessie Scurry, executive assistant to the president and executive secretary — for their confidence and support of women's ministries.

The Future Looks Promising

In the midst of a pandemic, women's ministries rose to the challenges of staying connected, and experienced God in new ways. As new doors of opportunity were opened, we were poised to do greater service to a wider audience of intergenerational, multicultural women than ever before. The experience was life changing as God expanded our knowledge base and territory.

We look toward the future with great expectations. With the Holy Spirit hovering over us, dwelling in us, we will:

- Continue to invite women to follow Jesus Christ and make disciples.
- Continue to support the Union's initiatives.
- Establish a Young Women's Advisory Committee that invites women ages 18-40 to the decision making table.
- Establish a women's prayer mission team to be intentional about seeking God's will for expanding our reach in the Southern Union territory.
- Explore and incorporate new, relevant, creative, and innovative ways to do ministry using multiple media platforms including hybrid.
- Partner with other departments for greater impact and participation.

For His glory! 🙏

INSTITUTIONAL REPORTS



Faithfully Moving Forward in the Mission

BY ADVENTHEALTH

While much has changed in the world in the past couple of years, at least one thing has remained steadfast: AdventHealth’s mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ, expressed in large part by the organization’s focus on whole-person care.

Throughout a time of overwhelming challenge wrought by a pandemic unlike any seen in our lifetime, AdventHealth has leaned wholeheartedly into being a trusted source of hope, health, and healing in the communities it serves.

Those efforts were recently recognized by the national health care watchdog The Leapfrog Group when AdventHealth was named the first-ever winner of the Emerald Award for Outstanding Achievement by a Health Care System. The achievement honors AdventHealth’s performance across Leapfrog’s Hospital Safety Grades and Top Hospital Award, one of the most competitive quality awards a hospital and its team members can receive.

Always moving toward the vision of being the trusted provider of wholistic, exceptional, compassionate, and affordable care that is easy to access and simple to use, AdventHealth has made major strides in advancing toward that goal.

Several areas in particular serve to highlight the strength of AdventHealth’s brand promise: feel whole.

Institutional Growth in the Southern Union

Perhaps one of the easiest measures is that which is most visible: brick-and-mortar. Notably in just the past year, AdventHealth has acquired AdventHealth Redmond (formerly Redmond Region-



al Medical Center) in Rome, Georgia; opened a new surgical department at AdventHealth Manchester (Kentucky); and built a six-story patient and surgical tower at AdventHealth Tampa (Florida).

The opening of AdventHealth Tampa’s Taneja Center for Innovative Surgery expanded by leaps and bounds the medical landscape in the west Florida community. The \$256 million project features, among other things, 18 state-of-the-art surgical operating rooms, 96 private patient rooms, 72 pre- and post-op rooms, all with the room to expand, as well as the addition of 117 new clinical jobs — a number that is expected to grow to 587 new jobs by the fifth year of operation.

A fitting addition to its celebration of 50 years at its current site was the opening of a new \$16.3 million surgical department at AdventHealth Manchester, offering patients general and specialty

surgical services in a closer-to-home, state-of-the-art facility.

The acquisition of AdventHealth Redmond included the 230-bed hospital, as well as related businesses, physician clinic operations, and outpatient services. AdventHealth welcomed more than 1,500 new employees into the organization, and more than a dozen providers to AdventHealth Medical Group.

Mission Focal Points

Mental health and health equity were among the many issues — some might even say learning opportunities — brought sharply into focus under the glaring spotlight of COVID-19. A national health emergency coupled with a sweeping social movement for racial equality made the health and well-being of millions of the most vulnerable Americans a central issue. To better serve,

understand, and support communities most often associated with disparities in outcomes, AdventHealth created two new roles. In 2020, Jessica Brazier was named vice president and chief diversity and inclusion officer, with responsibility for raising awareness of diversity and inclusion issues internally and externally.

Further underscoring its focus on health equity, AdventHealth in 2021 appointed Alric Simmonds, M.D., as the health system's first chief health equity officer. In this role, Simmonds' primary focus is to guide AdventHealth as it continually seeks to provide interventions and solutions to the challenges that act as barriers for people in the communities the system serves.

Another boost in improving health equity came in October 2021 with \$2 million in support received from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. With an initial focus on central Florida, the program, "Building Health Equity across Health Care Systems and Communities," is designed to address health inequities across racial and ethnic minority populations.

"AdventHealth's mission," as stated in its Vision 2030 strategic plan, "calls for us to see every individual as a whole being created in the image of God, and to also recognize the unjust circumstances that impact their health."

In an effort to improve mental health care and resources, AdventHealth Tampa and AdventHealth Hendersonville (North Carolina) were the first to partner with a leading behavioral health medical group to provide an integrated approach to improving mental and physical health. Scaling to additional AdventHealth care sites, the strategy is to embed screenings into health care touchpoints, improve access to provide prompt and effective behavioral health interventions, and track outcomes to ensure patient improvement.

Aside from the myriad mental health resources, AdventHealth makes available to team members across the system, its commitment to focus on the whole person — body, mind, and spirit — is always top of mind when it comes

to the communities it serves. Case in point: Florida is ranked 49th in per-capita funding for mental health services, and has only 19% of the psychiatrists it needs. Helping to address that need, AdventHealth for Children will be teaming up with Dr. Phillips Charities to develop the Center for Advancement and Support of Youth, a first-of-its kind comprehensive pediatric and young adult mental and behavioral health program in central Florida. The center is expected to provide annually up to 10,000 child and adolescent visits to pediatric health professionals.

Global Missions Expansion

Stepping in to fulfill the urgent needs in war-torn Ukraine, the AdventHealth Global Missions team worked collaboratively with the Ukrainian Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Adventist Development & Relief Agency (ADRA) at Ukrainian border crossings to provide refugees with critically needed supplies and shelter. In addition, AdventHealth team members rallied to donate more than \$225,000, which helped purchase and equip three vans for the heroic work Angelia Clinic is doing in Kyiv and western Ukraine.

AdventHealth Global Missions' international partners continue to expand as an agreement was signed in March to support two medical institutions in Paraguay, the Asuncion Adventist Sanitarium and Hohenau Adventist Sanitarium, making them the 12th international partner, with a focus on a collaborative approach to health care, personnel, collaboration with volunteers in community care, and medical equipment.

In the fall of 2021, Quito Adventist Clinic in Ecuador became the 11th international partner with AdventHealth Global Missions. AdventHealth has since assisted in raising funds to purchase equipment for a new diagnostic imaging center and in making any needed additions to the building. Other key areas of focus include expanding the chaplaincy program and leadership development.

Community Impact

AdventHealth's commitment to improving the health, prosperity, and well-being of the communities it serves shows up in impactful ways, such as the more than \$1.7 million that will be distributed among seven central Florida nonprofits. The 2021 community impact grants will help boost the work being done by these groups to remove barriers to care, and to make a real difference in the health of central Florida. One such example is The Nurture Place, which seeks to expand its family support programs in Orange and Osceola counties by hiring a Spanish-speaking licensed mental health counselor. Another, Pathlight Home, will be able to fund additional staff for its culinary skills training program, which focuses on low-income, homeless, and formerly homeless individuals.

Also beyond the walls of its hospitals is another testament to AdventHealth's vision to provide wholistic care to the individuals and communities it serves, right down to the very youngest in those communities, from 6 weeks to 5 years of age. Over the past two years, AdventHealth for Children, through its West Lakes Early Learning Center, has assumed a pivotal role in shaping the foundational years of many children so they can thrive physically, mentally, and spiritually.

As we reflect on all the ways the mission of AdventHealth has been elevated during a particularly challenging time in our history, we might keep in mind these words offered by Terry Shaw, AdventHealth president/CEO:

"With our growth comes a greater responsibility — and opportunity — to shape the future of health care for our consumers, our communities, our industry, and our country. The road ahead will be paved with challenging external factors, but also shaped by a singular internal factor: our determination to operate as a preeminent, faith-based, consumer-focused clinical company that makes our communities better and healthier places to live." ●

AdventHealth University Envisions Bold, Bright Future

BY JENNIFER AUDETTE

AdventHealth University (AHU) has a long and beautiful story to tell, one that began more than a century ago.

When the Florida Hospital School of Nursing opened in 1913, its founders surely had little idea that it would evolve into what is now AdventHealth University, with several campuses, more than 25 degrees, 250 employees, and nearly 1,700 students.

Today, AdventHealth University is a vibrant, rapidly expanding institution for health care education with 9,000 alumni who are living the healing values of Christ in the vital work they do. In its present state, it embarks on its 30th anniversary year as a full-spectrum health care university, with eyes keenly focused on the future of health care education.

For AHU, the last five years marked a period of tremendous transformation and growth. Some key milestones follow.

Renewed Vision

Adventist University of Health Sciences embraced a forward-focused rebrand in 2019 as AdventHealth University (AHU), aligning itself even more closely with the world-class whole-person care delivered by AdventHealth. The brand recognition continues to provide a lift in areas of student enrollment and philanthropic support.

Leadership Transition

In 2017, AHU witnessed the inauguration of Edwin I. Hernandez, Ph.D.,

as the second president and CEO in the University's history. Under Hernandez's leadership, AdventHealth University has forged stronger bonds with AdventHealth, strengthened its mission as a Seventh-day Adventist university, and grown exponentially to meet the community's health care needs. "We are very proud of AdventHealth University's rich legacy of developing leaders who practice health care as a ministry," said Hernandez. "We also maintain a strong vision for the future, and are steadfastly committed to playing a vital role in the health care workforce pipeline by developing highly skilled leaders with uncommon compassion."

Adventist Accrediting Association

In 2021, AdventHealth University began its pursuit of accreditation by the Adventist Accrediting Association for the first time. The accreditation affirms AHU's commitment to being a Seventh-day Adventist university that is mission-focused. The University should receive official notice of its accreditation later in 2022.

COVID-19 Pandemic

When COVID-19 made its way to Florida and Denver, the campuses of AHU switched to online instruction for nearly two years. Throughout the pandemic, surveyed students reported feeling supported and having a positive educational experience. In-person classes resume in January 2022.



Edwin I. Hernandez, Ph.D., AdventHealth University president

Accreditation of Physician Assistant Program

In 2021, the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Inc. granted accreditation — continued through 2029 — to AdventHealth University's Physician Assistant program. There are 30 students admitted each cohort.

Virtual Reality Developments

AdventHealth University positioned itself as a leader in health care innovation, creating virtual and artificial reality solutions to help increase efficiency, reduce workloads, enhance the speed of care, and supplement human resources. These innovations resulted in collabora-



tions with Full Sail University, an institution dedicated to studies in entertainment, media, arts, and technology, which yielded national recognition in 2019 for Most Innovative Solution in the Iron Dev competition, presented by the Interservice/Industry Training, Simulation and Education Conference. The entry was a prototype for a virtual command center to help health-care facilities to visualize hospital resources and COVID-19 data points. On the Full Sail campus, a classroom dedicated to virtual reality projects and supported by AHU students and faculty, is set to open later in 2022.

Physical Therapy Program Accreditation

In 2019, the doctor of physical therapy program at AdventHealth University earned accreditation by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy

Education. Since then, 78 students have earned their doctoral degree through our program.

New Degree Offerings

Among AHU's recently added degree programs are bachelor's degrees in imaging sciences and health care administration, and master's degrees in family nurse practice, robotic surgery, spiritual care, and medical lab science. Included is a new dual master's degree in health care administration and business administration (MHA and MBA), introduced in 2019 through a collaboration with nearby Stetson University. We also transitioned our master's degree in nurse anesthesia practice to a doctoral level degree.

Diverse Student Population

In early 2022, the U.S. Department of Education designated AdventHealth Uni-

versity as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), one of only 29 colleges and universities in Florida with this distinction. HSIs are defined as institutions with 25% or more Hispanic undergraduate full-time enrollment. A total of 268 Hispanic students (35% of undergraduates) make AHU their home for higher education.

Growing Nurses

In 2021, AdventHealth University launched its ambitious nursing growth strategy, which includes innovative ways to increase nursing student enrollment, attract highly qualified nursing faculty, and discover technology- and research-based solutions to the nursing shortage. 📌



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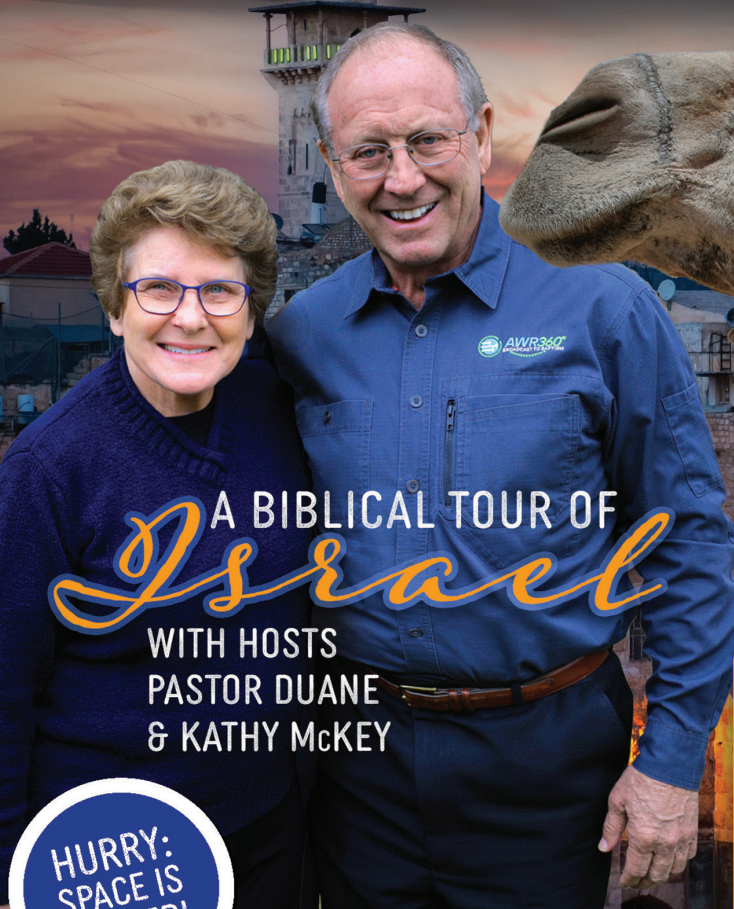


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AS WE

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2022 President's Report

Blessings and Breakthroughs: Sharing the Oakwood University Story

BY LESLIE POLLARD, PH.D., D.MIN., M.B.A.

Vision 2020 - 2030

Prior to and during the Global Pandemic of 2020, Oakwood University was guided by “Vision 2020 — A Road Map to the Future for Faculty, Staff, and Students.”

On January 25, 2011, we did not know that God was providing Oakwood with a roadmap of principles, programs, and provisions that would bless and secure the institution during the unforeseen, once-in-a-century global pandemic of 2020.

In 2021, Oakwood University could not be properly understood or discussed responsibly unless we expressed our gratitude to God for the profound blessings

and breakthroughs He bestowed upon His institution in its 125th year of service!

As we prepare for Vision 2030 and the strategies that follow it, we believe it is important to pause and express our gratitude to God for His blessings.

Operating in a Global Pandemic

In June of 2020, we developed our Oakwood University COVID-19 Re-opening Plan. This plan provided a roadmap of how we would navigate the pandemic safely and intentionally: see <https://www2.oakwood.edu/wp-content/uploads/OU-FALL-2020-RE-OPENING-PLAN-draft6x.pdf>.

Major Capital Projects Completed During the Pandemic

- Peterson Hall – \$7 million
- Community Health Action Center – \$4.1 million
- Oakwood Farms Market – \$3.6 million



Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A.,
Oakwood University president



Enrollment

• In October of 2020, we launched an “All Hands on Deck” recruitment promotion among employees, including our Affinity Group Recruitment Strategy. In addition to our historic populations, this effort resulted in an increase of more than 100 Rwandan/Congolese students. God used this effort and blessed us with increased enrollment over the previous year.

• The Oakwood University Honors College increased its enrollment from 24



students in 2020 to 50 members in the 2021 school year.

- In September of 2021, Oakwood University is currently among three of the 13 institutions in the North American Division that showed an enrollment increase over the previous year.

- In January of 2021, Oakwood launched its Return to Residency Program, entitled “Live, Learn and Play Safely,” for students to stay on campus as the safest place in Huntsville. Our campus residency is at capacity, with expansion planned for a complete remodeling of our Married Student Apartments.

- The COVID infection rate on campus is less than 1%.

- Oakwood Live! (October 6-9, 2021) brought 400-plus high school students and 100-plus chaperones to the campus; 118 prospective first-time students received on-the-spot acceptance for Fall 2022; a total of 243 prospective students applied during the three-day event.

- During the Oakwood Live! activities, Oakwood University’s dual enrollment program expanded to six new academy partners in addition to Oakwood Adventist Academy: Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, Pine Forge Academy, Takoma Academy, Boston Adventist Dream Academy, and Northeastern Academy (Boston Campus, Northeastern, South Brooklyn Academy).

- In 2020 and 2021 we awarded \$4.1 million in HEERF (Higher Education

Emergency Relief Fund) emergency aid and financial assistance. For Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 we awarded institutional aid, including academic scholarships of \$12.5 million (\$4.6 million non-academic, \$7.9 million academic).

- Oakwood has maintained the most affordable tuition in the North American Division for 10 consecutive years.

- In 2020, we relaunched the new Oakwood App, which places University information and service access in the hands of students.

Finances

- During the pandemic, Oakwood University ended fiscal year 2020-21 with an \$8.3 million increase to its bottom line.

- In light of the uncertainty of the global pandemic, rather than launch layoffs, Oakwood reduced salaries on a graduated scale in November of 2020 with the University president taking the largest reduction. This action protected employment and ensured healthcare to our 325-member workforce.

- In August 2021, under the blessing of God’s provision, the University returned *all* back pay to affected employees in a single payroll check *and* included the COLA adjustment check of 3% to each employee for Christmas 2021.

- In 2021, Oakwood University was awarded \$16,954,939 in HEERF federal and state grant funding. Grants awarded in 2021, including HEERF, totaled \$26,525,824.

- In 2019, Oakwood won a \$1.5 million Alabama state contract to host the new Alabama School of Cyber Technology and Engineering.

- In May 2021 Oakwood University applied for and was awarded grants \$350,000 to serve as a COVID testing and vaccination site for the State of Alabama.

- In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, donors generously gave more than \$2.5 million dollars to support the mission of Oakwood University.

- We expanded industry recovery with construction and completion of a farm-to-table supermarket in 2020: see <https://www.youroakwoodfarms.com/>.

- In October 2021, we rolled out our focused \$50 million “Enlarging OUR Territory” Capital Campaign. Currently, silent-phase commitments stand at \$10 million.

- In January of 2020, our “20 by 20” Endowment Campaign reached the goal of \$20 million (increasing University endowment by 205%); by 2021 the Endowment has climbed to \$26 million — with a goal of \$35M by 2025

- Oakwood University has a Composite Financial Index score of 6.78.

Academics

- Oakwood University’s Digital Tour of the campus, which began in 2017 — making Oakwood the first Seventh-day Adventist University to do so — proved to be an excellent resource during the time of the pandemic: see <https://www.youvisit.com/tour/oakwood>.

- In July 2021, Oakwood completed a \$1 million renovation of the historic Eva B. Dykes Library.





- In July 2020, a \$1.6 million renovation of the Biology Department was completed.

- In August of 2020, Oakwood created and implemented the OU C.A.R.E. Work Scholarship program, which reduces student debt by 66% across a 4-year University education. OU C.A.R.E. currently supports more than 233 students: see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8eNWswXL-RI>, and https://www2.oakwood.edu/wp-content/uploads/Oakwood-Univ.-C.A.R.E.-brochure_x6.pdf.

- Oakwood University launched three new graduate degrees in 2019:

Master of Public Health — in Nutrition and Wellness

Master of Business Administration in Leadership and Management

Master of Arts in Urban Ministry

- Graduate education enrollment grew during the pandemic with enrollment increases in August 2021.

- OU LaunchPad opened the OU LaunchPad Center for Entrepreneurship in 2021: see <https://youtu.be/-Tq8RPUCIbE>.

- In August 2020, we conducted our first, successful, COVID-19-friendly graduation of 334 students: see https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=af_WXQHDllc&t=1726s.

Rankings

- Ranked 4th among HBCUs (Historically Black Colleges and Universities)

for graduating African-American students in STEM fields (math and biology) by thehundred-seven.org.

- Ranked 11th among HBCUs for sending African-American students to medical school by aamc.org.

- Ranked 12th in the country for the best bachelor's in mathematics among 100 small and large institutions: see <https://study.com/degrees/bachelors-degrees-in-mathematics.html>.

- Within three years of graduation, graduates of the Department of Chemical & Biochemical Sciences have a 100% placement rate in graduate school or jobs in their degree area.

<https://www2.oakwood.edu/life-at-oakwood/lifecore/>.

- Created and launched the Office of the Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia, resulting in 40 Oakwood articles submitted to the 2020 Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia regarding the history and contributions of Oakwood University to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

- Currently preparing *International Young Women's Devotional* through our Oakwood University Anna Knight Center for Women's Leadership. Scheduled for publication in 2022.

- Oakwood University Broadcast Network was reorganized in January 2020.



Spiritual Life & Mission: Sharing the OU Story

- Created and launched bi-annual study of young adult spirituality called LifeCore. Study was conducted in 2011, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, and 2021: see





radio simulcast on WJOU 90.1 FM and Facebook: see <https://www.facebook.com/Praise90.1FM/videos/398923571313419>.

- During the pandemic, we implemented virtual weekly Town Hall meetings to facilitate direct communication to employees via Zoom. Attendance ranges from 120 to 190 employees weekly.

Contact Us

Phone: 256-726-7334.

Email: presidentsoffice@oakwood.edu.

“Show Love, Support Students: www.give.oakwood.edu.”

Who We Are

Oakwood University opened its doors in 1896, with an initial enrollment of 16 students. It was then an industrial school on approximately 375 acres of property of a former plantation, founded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church to educate African-Americans in the South. Today, Oakwood is considered a historical landmark in Huntsville, Alabama. The University is very much a part of the Huntsville community, with students carrying out their mission of service by participating in local tutoring, disaster relief, community improvement, and child development programs.

In 1943, Oakwood received its first accreditation as a junior college, having already begun the process of achieving senior college status. Fifteen years later, in 1958, it was accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. As the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) member institution in northern Alabama, Oakwood participates in and benefits from UNCF’s fundraising campaigns, including scholarships, as well as access to international educational opportunities.

The institution’s current name was adopted on January 1, 2008, when the school achieved university status after adding its first graduate program, the master of arts in pastoral studies. *U.S. News & World Report* has consistently ranked Oakwood University among top-tier, private liberal arts colleges and universities in the South. The University has an outstanding record of preparing successful applicants to graduate and professional schools. Close to 60% of the culturally diverse faculty hold doctorate degrees from a wide range of national and international colleges and universities. ●

OUBN has produced and/or facilitated over 120 media products in telling the Oakwood Story. Examples can be found at <https://media.oakwood.edu/>, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5QG-ZMEGvRo>, <https://youtu.be/FHIM83J4FU>, <https://youtu.be/7wBRH05232U>, <https://youtu.be/RdLQCBNkV9E>, <https://youtu.be/j1SjgMC0gk4>, and <https://www.waaytv.com/content/video/573864522.html>.

- In 2020, we created the bi-weekly “Inside Oakwood with Dr. Leslie Pollard”



130 Years of Building Community Together

BY **KEN SHAW, Ed.D.**

Since 1892, more than 42,000 students have received a Christ-centered education at Southern Adventist University. In 2021, Southern welcomed its biggest freshman class in 10 years. As students in the largest Adventist undergraduate program in North America, these young people have extensive opportunities to connect with like-minded believers, forming life-long friendships and developing a strong career network.

In addition to impacting students, the University significantly benefits the surrounding community. In 2016, Southern celebrated 100 years located in Collegedale, and 2017 marked the institution's 125th anniversary. A 2021 study found that the University directly and indirectly contributes \$152 million to the local economy by its presence, and Southern alumni enrich the community with their skills.

Academics and Student Success

Through engaged learning and personal relationships with faculty and staff, students at Southern receive outstanding preparation for success in an intentionally Christ-focused, Adventist environment. With programs designed to assist them academically, financially, socially, and spiritually, students receive a strong foundation to pursue their calling by the time they graduate.

New Academic Programs

Since 2016, Southern has added dozens of new academic degrees and con-

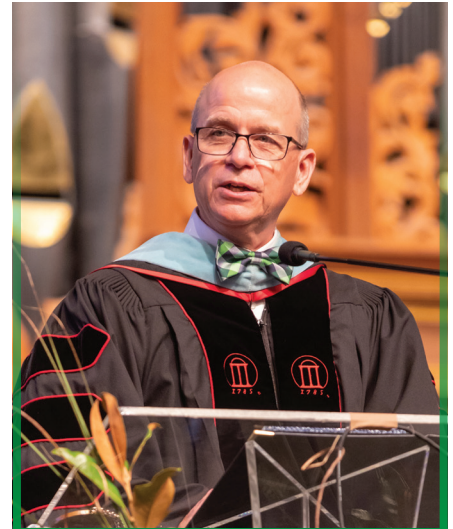


Students adapted to challenges posed by the pandemic and continued to receive a high-quality Christ-centered Adventist education.

centrations for students. For example, undergraduate students may now earn degrees in political science, web and new media design, and as physical therapist assistants. Graduate students have the new option of a master's degree in applied computer science. A 2019 study by consultants helped Southern identify which programs to introduce in order to continue offering relevant degrees that meet the demands of today's job market.

Adult Degree Completion

In 2021, Southern began enrolling students in a program specifically designed for working adults who have earned some college credit but not a four-year degree and who would like to complete a bachelor's degree. With reduced tuition, eight-week sessions, and the option of online classes and in-person support, this flexible program offers bachelor's degrees in business management, communication, integrative studies, and psychology. The Adult Degree Completion



Ken Shaw, Ed.D., Southern Adventist University president

program provides an opportunity to fulfill lifelong goals and improve career opportunities. More information is available at southern.edu/adc.



Southern's new Adult Degree Completion program aims to help participants fulfill lifelong goals and improve career opportunities.

Academic Summer Camps

High school students gained a new summer option in 2016. Southern began offering three-day academic summer camps featuring topics such as photography, computing, journalism, biology pre-med, and vegetarian culinary arts. The camps include hands-on learning with some of Southern's top-notch professors, as well as a spiritual component, modeling how Adventist education offers both academic rigor and development for the whole person. In the last five years, 442 high school students have participated.



High school students get to explore a variety of potential career fields through Southern's Academic Summer Camps.

Enactus

Southern's Enactus team placed third in the nation at the 2021 Enactus United States National Exposition. Housed in the School of Business, the student team competed against 98 schools from across the country. Enactus is an international nonprofit organization that encourages students to utilize the power of entrepreneurial action to improve the quality of life and the standard of living for people in need.

School of Nursing

In October 2016, Southern's largest academic area, the School of Nursing, celebrated its 60th anniversary and the 6,400 alumni who had graduated from the program through the years. Continually accredited since 1962, the program added a four-year, pre-licensure degree option in 2017, along with

a direct path from a bachelor's degree to a doctorate in nursing practice. The same year, two nursing professors were among the first in the world to earn internationally recognized board certification in lifestyle medicine.

Most Diverse in the South

Southern continues to welcome students from every state and nearly 40 countries. In 2019, the University established the new position of senior advisor for diversity, and the 2020 U.S. News and World Report listings recognized Southern as the most diverse regional university in the South. In 2021, Southern launched a partnership with Equal Chance for Education, a Tennessee-based scholarship program that helps provide Hispanic individuals with an equal opportunity to achieve the American dream by completing college.

Financial Aid

Making Christian education more affordable continues to be an emphasis at Southern. Since 2016, the amount of Southern-based financial aid to students has grown from \$12 million per year to more than \$18 million. Generous alumni and friends of the University contributed to numerous new endowed scholarships, including a work-match program called the WISE Scholarship.

Campus Expansion and Renovations

Located on 1,300 acres, 800 of which is forested, Southern's campus continues to grow and change. New construction, renovations, and expanded hiking and biking trail options improve the lives of students, employees, and visitors. Publicly launched in 2016, the Campaign for Excellence in Faith and Learning — Southern's largest ever capital campaign — concluded in 2020. The \$54 million raised exceeded expectations and was designated for student-focused impact areas, such as endowed scholarships, new learning spaces, renovated residence hall rooms, and much more.

Bietz Center for Student Life

Fully donor funded as part of the campaign, the long-awaited Bietz Center for Student Life officially opened in October 2021. At more than 40,000-square-feet, this "campus living room" features lounge areas, game rooms, an eatery, study rooms, a store, a prayer room, and a chapel, plus offices for the Student Association, student publications, Student Support Services, and more. Built specifically with the needs of students in mind, it received multiple national design awards.



Bringing together many student-focused services, the Bietz Center for Student Life is Southern's newest building.

McKee Library

As the demand for quiet study space has grown, McKee Library has looked for creative ways to expand. By moving several thousand lesser-used books to remote storage (still available upon request), the library was able to designate more room for separate collaborative and quiet study areas. New lighting and windows further improved this hub of learning. The library's online institutional repository (southern.edu/knowledgeexchange), which includes many student research papers, surpassed 1 million downloads in 2021.

Art Annex

Since 2016, the Art Annex has undergone more than 15,000 square feet of renovations, with upgrades benefiting both Southern's School of Visual Art and Design and School of Journalism and Communication. Changes included adding a printmaking lab and individual studio



Hundreds of Southern students have served around the world in the last five years.

cubicles for fine art students, remodeling the pottery spaces, and creating a new film studio for student instruction. The facility also benefited from a completely new roof and heating and air system.

Spirit-led Projects and Ministry

Southern was founded with the purpose of preparing young people to serve as leaders, teachers, and evangelists in the South and around the world. That spiritual vision remains strong, as reflected in the new mission statement adopted by Southern's Board of Trustees in October 2019: "Grounded in Jesus Christ and dedicated to the beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we equip students to embrace biblical truth, embody academic and professional excellence, and pursue Spirit-filled lives of service."

Vice President for Spiritual Life

To better serve the spiritual needs of students and employees, in 2019 Southern transitioned its campus chaplain position to vice president for spiritual life. While continuing to serve as chaplain, this new role expanded to include an administrative element, helping to prioritize Southern's spiritual goals in top decision-making processes.

Student Missions and Evangelism

Although the COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges for Southern's mission programs, students continued making a difference globally. Over the last five years, nearly 300 students served as long-term volunteers in more than 35 countries as part of Southern's Student Missions program, and many more participated in short-term missions. During the same timeframe, nearly 7,000 people were baptized as a result of 26 evangelism trips and several virtual meetings organized by the School of Religion's Evangelistic Resource Center. Through these mission activities, students have the opportunity to impact lives by serving as the hands and feet of Christ, all while making life-long friendships and incredible memories.

Humanitarian Engagement

Serving others has always been important at Southern, and in 2020 the University brought together its Christian Service and short-term missions programs under the new umbrella of Humanitarian Engagement. Students can choose from more than 90 academic courses that have a built-in service

component, and each year more than 1,000 students participate in volunteer work. In 2021, Southern partnered with the Chattanooga Food Bank to distribute groceries in Collegedale to those in need. During the program's first year, volunteers distributed approximately 65,000 pounds of food to more than 4,000 people.

Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum

Home to the largest teaching collection of ancient Near Eastern ceramics in North America, Southern's Lynn H.



The Lynn H. Wood Archaeological Museum hosted a temporary exhibit featuring rare historical Bibles and documents, while exploring the history of writing.

Wood Archaeological Museum hosts special temporary exhibits as well. In September 2016, a collection of approximately 65 ancient seals and artifacts went on display, including a rare seal mentioning the biblical King Ahaz. This was followed in January 2020 by an extensive display of rare historical Bibles.

Museum of the Bible

In 2017, archaeological findings of Southern students and professors were displayed in the new Museum of the Bible in Washington, D.C. The special temporary exhibit focused on the groundbreaking contributions of the Khirbet Qeiyafa Archaeological Project, which was located southwest of Jerusalem and co-sponsored by the Institute of Archaeology at Southern and the Institute of Archaeology at The Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

Spiritual Master Plan

One of Southern’s core purposes is to nurture the young adults who attend the University and its employees in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Beginning in 2018, Southern’s Spiritual Life Committee developed a Spiritual Master Plan for campus, which outlines a strategy to help members of the campus community grow closer to Jesus, connect with a faith community, get involved in service, and recognize their unique callings.

Health and Sustainability

In numerous different ways, Southern strives to create a healthy campus in every sense of the word — a campus that promotes balanced living, positive recreational activities, and a sustainable environment, serving as good stewards of the resources God has provided.

Arboretum

Southern’s green spaces are a vital part of campus, inviting students, employees, and visitors to spend time in nature. After several years of developing an arboretum, in 2020 the Biology

Department announced that the project had received Level 1 accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program and the Morton Arboretum. Southern’s arboretum includes approximately 1,200 identified and tagged trees and woody plants on campus, which can be explored virtually by visiting southern.edu/arboretum.



The natural beauty of Southern’s campus encourages students and employees to enjoy the outdoors and contribute to overall health and wellbeing.

Electric Car Charging

Through the years, Southern has pursued a variety of green initiatives, and in 2017 the campus gained an electric car charging station in partnership with area businesses such as Chattanooga Area Regional Transportation Authority and the Electric Power Board. Initially part of a local car-sharing system offering rental cars, the facility continues to provide free charging to anyone with an electric car; solar panels on the structure’s roof offset the power used.

Quality Enhancement Plan

In 2021, Southern announced a new Quality Enhancement Plan — a term academic accrediting agencies use to describe a carefully designed course of action that addresses a topic related to learning on campus. Titled “Living in Balance: Healthy Minds,” the plan aims to address growing mental health needs among college students by integrating training and resources throughout a Southern student’s campus experience.

Pandemic Innovations

Although the COVID-19 pandemic presented many obstacles, beginning in 2020, students and employees across campus rose to the challenge. Innovations introduced in response continue to provide benefits beyond their initial pandemic application. The University installed state-of-the-art air purification systems in every building on campus, removing airborne pathogens as well as potential allergens, mold spores, and odors. Expanded online course options and event streaming continue to offer more flexibility, while technological advances make processes smoother. The Physics and Engineering Department developed a light board that allows professors to better engage with students in online classes, and the Information Technology Department created a digital attendance tracking system that utilizes QR codes. To help students shoulder unexpected financial burdens related to the pandemic, Southern partnered with generous alumni and friends to provide assistance.

New Strategic Plan

Under the leadership of President David Smith, Ph.D., Southern wrapped up its Vision 2020 strategic plan. In 2021, under President Ken Shaw, Ed.D., Southern implemented a new five-year strategic plan, moving from a static format to a rolling model, which will be updated each year. The plan’s emphasis on growth, sustainability, and student success represents a strong foundation for Southern Adventist University’s future.

With God’s continued blessings and the support of the Southern Union, Southern’s administration looks forward to the next five years of providing Adventist young people with powerful, life-changing spiritual and educational opportunities. “We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history,” *Life Sketches*, Ellen G. White, p. 196. ●

STUDENTS GET CLOSER TO JESUS AT ADVENTIST SCHOOLS

Research shows that students who attend an Adventist university are 7x more likely to form a deep relationship with Jesus* than their peers at public universities.

At Southern Adventist University, we're committed to providing quality education in a Christ-centered environment.

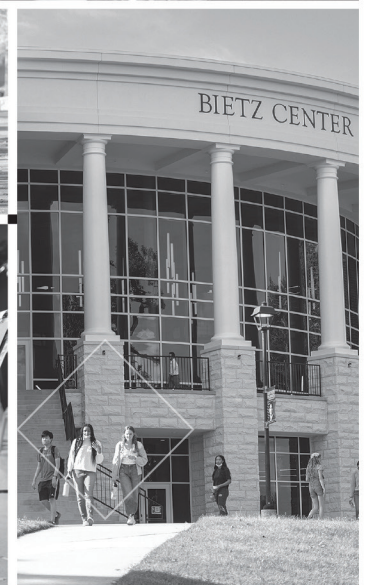
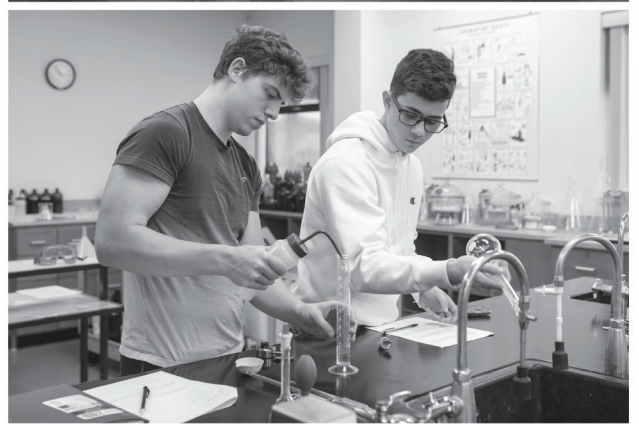
Come see for yourself what makes Southern special! Whether you schedule an in-person or virtual visit, you'll get a guided tour, time with academic faculty, and an admissions consultation while having the chance to ask any questions you want. We can't wait to meet you!

southern.edu/visit



Power for Mind & Soul

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



Collegedale, TN



The Legacy Continues

BY **DEBLEAIRE SNELL**

In its 48 years of existence, Breath of Life Television Ministries has sought to win souls to Christ with powerful programming, evangelistic preaching, and teaching of the Gospel for all people.

It follows in the footsteps of the late Charles D. Brooks, pastor; the late Walter Pearson, pastor; and Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., pastor, who served as speaker/director from 2010-2021, taking Breath of Life to new levels in impact and reach. Byrd was able to connect with many thought leaders and influencers, bringing to the Breath of Life stage Magic Johnson, Sheila Jackson Lee, Al Sharpton, and many others. He ran countless evangelistic meetings where thousands were baptized, and sowed seeds of the Gospel all over the world and throughout the Southern Union.

Here are just a few of the highlights from the last six years.

2016

- Flint, Michigan – delivered more than 20,000 bottles of water
- “The Rising” – ABC Easter special
- Created new Breath of Life Bible Study Guides

2017

- Aired “The Promise” – NBC Christmas special
- Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic – more than 167 individuals baptized

2018

- Five Public Evangelism Campaigns – 500 baptized
- Church planted in Tampa, Florida
- “King of Kings” – ABC Christmas Special

2019

- Kingston, Jamaica, Revival

- Mini-revivals and Weeks of Prayer held – more than 500 baptized
- Speaker/director Carlton Byrd, D.Min., received North American Division Lifetime Achievement Award for Evangelism

2020

- Chato, Tanzania, Revival – 16,706 baptized
- “The Awakening” – ABC Easter special
- “Glory!” – ABC Christmas Special
- Launched “Breathe” podcast

2021

- The Legacy Continues – Debleaire Snell, new speaker/director

The Legacy Continues

In May 2021, Carlton Byrd accepted the call to become the president of the Southwestern Conference. He and his family made numerous contributions during their 12-year tenure at the helm of this ministry, and his leadership, passion for souls, and evangelistic preaching paved the way for Breath of Life to continue to thrive.

In the fall of 2021, Debleaire Snell, pastor, accepted the position of speaker/director. His mission is to continue to zealously make Christ known through the preaching of the Gospel. Snell’s gift for preaching and passion for making the Gospel plain is already gaining traction with God’s help.

Evangelistic Plans

Breath of Life plans to continue the excellent traditions of evangelism started by Brooks, Pearson, and Byrd.

In the next two years, we have evan-



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



Debleaire Snell (right), new Breath of Life speaker/director, stands with Carlton Byrd, D.Min., former Breath of Life speaker/director, who served the ministry from 2010 to 2021.

gelistic revivals planned for Charlotte, North Carolina; Huntsville, Alabama; Bermuda; Seattle, Washington; Los Angeles, California; and Miami, Florida. In addition to full evangelistic crusades, Breath of Life will be hosting a number of weekend revivals, reaping meetings, and leadership trainings.

Giving Back to Churches

We believe it is critical for Breath of Life to reproduce itself. In the fall of 2022, we will be launching our Breath of Life Media School. As we continue to emerge from the pandemic, a strong online presence is critical. Since the start of the pandemic, many of our smaller churches have struggled to have an online presence. This year's media cohort will focus on small churches. We will train pastors and AV leaders of churches that have less than 50 people in attendance, sharing the value of having a social media presence, appropriate lighting, website, management, and worship production.

We want to share the competencies that are present at Breath of Life so that all of our churches are able to thrive.

We will also be launching the first semester of our Breath of Life School of Evangelism. We will be initiating a cohort for pastors who want to grow in the area of evangelism. Our hope is that this assists in giving our churches an evangelistic jumpstart. It is critical for traditionally strong churches to add to their growth, but the work cannot be completed until more of our churches are able to add to God's Kingdom.

Building the Spiritual Body

We plan to be intentional in making contributions to the spiritual life of our Breath of Life family. Through the preaching of the Gospel, we hope to make Jesus Christ known through our weekly television and streaming ministries. We also hope to multiply the content that our BOL app provides. Too often Seventh-day Adventists have to go to

websites like You-version or Crosswalk to have day-to-day devotional needs met. We want our app to function like a spiritual Walmart. Over the next couple of years, we look forward to the Breath of Life app providing a verse for the day; Bible reading plans; prayer challenges; print and video devotionals for men, women, couples, and children; and topical spiritual content. We want to provide thoughtful doctrinal material along with spiritual content created by Seventh-day Adventists to help nurture Christian growth. As we share the Gospel, we ask for your continued support of Breath of Life. First, we ask for your prayers. Second, we ask that you would spread the word about things that BOL is doing that are impactful to you. Last, we request your continued financial support. BOL is a donation-based ministry. Your gifts allow us to fill up the airwaves and internet streams with the glad tidings of salvation. 📌

Proclaiming the Everlasting Gospel

BY JOHN BRADSHAW

Since relocating to the Southern Union, the It Is Written (IIW) ministry has expanded and maintained a relentless focus on soul-winning and evangelism.

In 2019, It Is Written moved into new premises in Collegedale, Tennessee. Just months later, a devastating tornado tore through the area, killing several people. The IIW ministry headquarters was miraculously spared as the tornado split and went around the building, causing destruction and downing trees just yards away while leaving our ministry headquarters untouched. Remnants of that terrible storm damage can still be seen, testifying to the protection of God.

The tornado struck less than a week

before the start of our global, online evangelistic series, “Hope Awakens.” Many people were baptized, accepted Jesus as their personal Savior for the first time, or recommitted themselves to Christ.

Evangelism continues as the primary focus of It Is Written’s ministry. Earlier this year, more than 8,000 people were baptized following It Is Written evangelism in Bolivia. Another 3,500 people were baptized in Costa Rica and Nicaragua. Major evangelistic meetings have been held in recent times in Portland, Oregon; Chattanooga, Tennessee; Boston, Massachusetts; Rome, Italy; in large cities throughout Central and South America; and in multiple other locations.

It Is Written continues to place a strong emphasis on evangelism training. SALT (Soulwinning and Leadership Training) is It Is Written’s evangelism training school, led by Douglas Na’a, pastor, and conducted in cooperation with Southern Adventist University. Under Na’a’s leadership, SALT has become an evangelism powerhouse, preparing hundreds of people of all ages for a life of effective ministry. Along with SALT’s fall program, Summer SALT provides a summer intensive, while Road SALT takes SALT to churches and conferences in other parts of the country and the world. In addition, ReCharge, It Is Written’s annual church growth and public evangelism retreat, trains church leaders and laity in effective evangelism.

It Is Written’s mission teams continue to minister around the world. This year, Puerto Rico, the Navajo Nation, and Ethiopia will be impacted by It Is Written missions. (Learn how you can participate in an It Is Written mission trip here: <https://www.itiswritten.com/missiontrips/>.) In Mongolia, Moldova, South Africa, the Philippines, and many other places, It Is Written mission teams have won thousands of people to faith in Christ.

An It Is Written Eyes for India clinic conducted earlier this year gave the gift of sight to more than 2,600 of India’s poorest people. In addition to the cataract surgeries performed, hundreds more were screened or received other treatment. In a country where Christianity is a small minority, Eyes for India presents an opportunity to share Jesus in a medical missionary context.



John Bradshaw with his family: wife Melissa, son Jacob, and daughter Shannon.



It Is Written new headquarters as of 2019

Every Word, It Is Written’s daily devotional, is viewed by thousands of people around the world. “We’re encouraged by the positive feedback we receive from Every Word viewers,” said Mike Lukens, It Is Written manager. To view Every Word, go to <https://itiswritten.tv/every-word>.

It Is Written’s full-time television channel, It Is Written TV, available at ItIsWritten.tv, Roku, and other outlets, presents the Three Angel’s Messages to a global audience. Original, unique programs include Sabbath School, which features the authors of the Sabbath School lesson. *Conversations*, an interview program, hears the inspiring stories of soul-winners, educators, missionaries, pastors, authors, and more. The weekly *It Is Written* flagship television program has entered its 67th consecutive year of production. Original episodes such as “Black Wall Street,” the “500” series (focusing on the Reformation), “Running the Race” (the Jesse Owens story), “Not Guilty” (featuring Gilbert Poole, recently exonerated after spending 32 years in prison), and others pres-



In the fall of 2021, John Bradshaw (left) holds up the Bible during “Revelation Today the Great Reset,” with Wes Peppers in the background.

ent strong biblical teachings to which many thousands of people respond every year. Future series will soon be filmed in Turkey and Great Britain.

It Is Written Bible Studies have been translated into multiple languages, including Hindi, Arabic, and Chinese, while My

Place With Jesus provides resources for children to come to know Jesus as Lord and Savior. Melissa Bradshaw, It Is Written’s director of children’s ministries, recently developed a new, effective evangelism resource for children. Buried Treasure can be used in an evangelistic series, Vacation Bible School, or Sabbath School. Providing children with an opportunity to know Jesus as their personal Savior through Bible study, crafts, original Scripture songs, and other fun activities, Buried Treasure fills a void in the evangelism ecosystem. “We’ve seen this reach the hearts of children again and again,” said Melissa. “God is using Buried Treasure in a special way.”

These are exciting times for ministry. “We continue to hear about baptisms and changed lives,” said John Bradshaw, pastor and It Is Written president. Thank you for your prayers for It Is Written. We want to see the work of God complete, and leave this Earth to be with Jesus forever! 🕊

DELEGATES ROSTER
CAROLINA
Delegates (25)

Santa Arvelo
 Ryan Ashlock
 Eric Bates
 Tim Baumgarten
 Steve Bietz
 Narcedalia Garcia
 Remy Guenin
 Jessica Hernandez
 Deborah Hutchinson
 Christina Hymbaugh
 David Kidder
 Shelby Lucas
 Gary Moyer
 Brandon Nudd
 Esteban Palacios
 Domingo Paulino
 Lydia Ray
 Dexter Richardson
 Gary Rouse
 Richard Russell
 Keith Shepard
 Cara Simonds
 Dan Tullock
 Don Wetmore
 Haskell Williams

Delegates-at-Large (5)

Leslie Louis
 Ivan Blake
 Oziel Escamilla
 Ben Kochenower
 Linda Stamp

FLORIDA
Delegates (67)

Eric Allen
 Wilny Audain
 Glen Baker
 Gizelle Best
 Dave Boggess
 Philip Bond
 Steve Bromfield
 Eric Cantillo
 William Cochran
 Diane Cooper
 Raymond Cortes
 Celestine Creighton
 Albert Daley
 Angel del Toro
 Javier Diaz

Conrad Duncan
 Marc Dwyer
 Michael Fogg
 Rena Freeman
 Timothy Goff
 Garry Gordon
 Karen Hanke
 Keith Harding
 Douglas Hardt
 Stephen Herr
 Les Hess
 Steven Jencks
 James Johnson
 Pam Knight
 Lorna Leon
 Orlando Lopez, Jr.
 Gervon Marsh
 Reynold Maxwell
 Jeffrey McDonald
 Gary Middleton
 Philips Mompremier
 Dawn Murphy
 Robert Murphy
 Josephine Oates
 Mylton Palmer
 Ana Perez
 Orlando Perez
 Raymond Pichette
 Luc Pierre
 Azael Pitti
 Mozart Porcena
 Elisa Rahming
 Mozart Porcena
 Ruben Ramos
 Eddie Rivera
 Kristin Rodriguez
 Jorge Rumayor
 Frank Runnels
 Matthew G Smith
 Jose Suarez
 Jefferson Tavares
 Deidre Taylor
 Yasmin Then
 Apolinar Torres
 Eliecer Vallejo
 Robert Vance
 David Veneza
 Shane Vidal
 Alexander Voigt
 Morris Weir
 Hubert Wilkie
 Phil Younts
 Jeffrey Zaremsky

Delegates-at-Large (7)

Allan Machado
 Daniel Amich
 Jack Leach
 Cicely Poleon
 Winston Relaford
 Mark Schiefer
 Jesus Uriarte

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
Delegates (44)

Kurt Allen
 Luis Alonso
 Andrew Anobile
 Debbie Baker
 Pablo Balboa
 Brent Baldwin
 Stan Beasley
 Luis Biazotto
 Shaun Brooks
 Samuel Bulgin
 Tom Carter
 Amy Cirigliano
 Chester Clark
 Rick Claus
 EW Dempsey
 Joseph Point Du Jour
 Dave Ferguson
 Mike Fulbright
 Danny Garcia
 Serge Garipey
 Kirk Haley
 Fabiola Harper
 Ray Hartwell
 Eric Hickman
 Peter Hwang
 Don Keele
 Dave Ketelsen
 Matthew Kimbley
 Ed Komorowski
 Kevin Kossick
 Tim Leffew
 Victor Maddox
 Bill Mitchell
 Jonathan Montes
 Nora Moody
 Nicole Parker
 Greg Payne
 Neil Reid
 David Ryder
 Luke Steen
 Fernando Verduzco
 Angela Walton
 Marc Walwyn

DELEGATES ROSTER**Delegates-at-Large (6)**

Gary Rustad
 Edgar Alquinta
 Villard Bastien
 Michelle Chase
 David Jimenez
 Willie Washington

GULF STATES**Delegates (14)**

Leroy Abrahams
 Jon (Chip) Anderson
 Scott Bowes
 Susan Calderon E. Lopez
 Christopher Carmen
 Kimberly Carr
 Martin Fancher
 Rosalind James
 Julia Lewis
 Juan Carlos Mandujano
 Marcelo Mansur
 Robert Meneses
 Josue Murillo
 Gerson Sanchez

Delegates-at-Large (4)

Brian Danese
 Paul Kulakov
 Bernell Mapp
 Tui Pitman

KENTUCKY-TENNESEE**Delegates (17)**

Heberto Barerra
 Nancy Barerra
 Mike Hewitt
 Daniel McFeeters
 Cliff McIntyre
 Florence McIntyre
 Nelson Mercado
 Julie Murphy
 Jon Remitera
 Becki Renner
 Nathan Renner
 Jerry Rimer
 Judy Rimer
 Dennis Stirewalt
 Rachelle Stirewalt
 Joel Sutherland
 Chelsea Sutherland

Delegates-at-Large (5)

Steve Haley
 Chelsea English
 Lisbeth Melgar
 Charles Stone
 Leslie Wade

SOUTH ATLANTIC**Delegates (52)**

Aaron Abernathy
 Gloria Adi
 Allen Baldwin
 Drake Barber
 Willie Brown
 Marcya Burden
 Fredy Canales
 Patrick Carter
 Sylvia Coleman
 Sunquine Cousins
 Annette Davis
 Derrin Davis
 Marcia Jackson Davis
 Freddy Fuentes
 Kim Gaiter
 Nathanael Gracia
 Rosemary Graham
 Katherlyn Hailey
 Frank Harrell
 Darryl Howard
 Austin Humphreys
 Sherwin Jack
 L'Tonya Jackson
 Marquis Jackson
 Raymond Johnson
 Beulah Kilpatrick
 Don Kim
 James Lamb
 Cheryl McGee
 Godwin Mitchell
 Merkita Mosley
 Jermaine Nelson
 Andrew Nixon
 Karen Nunez
 Rosia Parker
 Ralph Peay
 Donna Phillips
 Efrain Poloche
 Calvin Preston
 Deshawn Preston
 Melvin Preston
 James Reid
 Compton Ross

Kaggia Scott
 Cheryl Simmons
 David A. Smith
 Jean Smith
 Helen Taylor
 Jeffrey Taylor, Jr
 Hercule Toussaint
 Ismael Uribe
 Donovan Washington

Delegates-at-Large (6)

William Winston
 Advenia Adras
 Everton Ennis
 Joyce Hairston
 Phillip McNeil
 Anabele Montes

SOUTH CENTRAL**Delegates (39)**

Leroy Anderson, Jr.
 Larry Bailey
 Reita Bandy
 Corey Bean
 Ellowyn Bell
 Laurene Brown
 Mary Burks
 Joy Cavins
 Danny Chandler
 Sonja Crayton
 Nathaniel Drew
 Michael Finley
 Furman Fordham
 Shyaka Gahunde
 Edward Harden
 Donna Harrison
 Alex Horton
 Christopher Hughes
 Keturah Jenkins
 Douglas Johnson
 Philip Johny
 Earl Jones, Sr.
 Kennedy Lockett
 Veronica Lockett
 Dorian Melo
 Terrica Mixon
 Bernita Mosley
 Shawn Moss
 Romel Perez
 Valerie Reid
 Juan Rymer
 Stephanie Scott

DELEGATES ROSTER

Debleaire Snell
 Bryant Stewart
 Bertha Sullivan
 Darrell Thomas
 Gerald Rico Thomas, Sr.
 Roger Wade
 Keenan West

Delegates-at-Large (5)

Benjamin Jones, Jr.
 James McGriff
 Clifton McMillan, Sr.
 Temika Simmons
 Evelia Young

SOUTHEASTERN

Delegates (59)

Ruber Alvarez
 George Aristide
 Ricardo Bain
 Lywanda Bell
 Doris Brown
 JayAnn Brown
 Mark Brown
 Orley Burey
 Ev'ns Cenafils
 Emmanuel Cesar
 Emmanuel Charles
 Shea Crockett
 Arnaldo Cruz
 Lewis Edwards
 Baldwyn English, Jr.
 Sandra Fletcher
 Ian Forbes
 Pierre Francois
 Hector Garcia
 Dwight Gayle
 Alberto Gomez
 Juan Gonzalez
 Olinto Groce
 Esmeralda Guzman-Harris
 Lucious Hall
 Jacqueline Hart
 Wayne Hewlett
 June James
 Sandra Jones
 Nicolas Louis
 Nathaniel Lyles
 Lovelee Mathurin
 Roldan Mendoza
 David Munoz
 Cynthia Murray

Carla Newton
 David Noel
 Reynaldo Ojeda
 Maxime Pape
 Sidney Peart
 Arbenz Pierre-Antoine
 Joyceline Poole-Dudley
 James Previlus
 Hiram Rahming
 Witford Reid
 Imogene Ricketts
 Bartira Romero
 Alex Royes
 Freddy Sanchez
 Edwin Silie
 Olga Simmons
 Belinda Smith
 Ron Smith, Jr.
 Howard Summerbell
 Lindsay Syeh
 Dayami Valdespino
 Audrey Wainwright
 Brent Waldon
 Miguel Yepez

Delegates-at-Large (6)

Michael Owusu
 Colma Duvra
 Andre McCloud
 Carlotta McKenzie
 Tony Taylor
 Steve Williams

SOUTHERN UNION

Delegates-at-Large (42)

Administration

Ron C. Smith
 Jim Davidson
 David Freedman
 Dave Colburn

Departmental Directors & Associates

Amireh Al-Haddad
 Julio Chazarreta
 Arnold Correa
 Keith Hallam
 Richard Halversen
 Andrea Henry-Smith
 Roger Hernandez
 Kevin James
 Lynell LaMountain

Tamara Libonati
 David Long
 Francine Long
 Kristina Mace
 Eder Marski
 Steven Norman
 Keith Reid
 Ken Rogers
 Carlos C. Salazar
 Shirley Scott
 William Smith
 Les Speer
 Bryant Taylor
 Rose Thomas
 Carla Thrower
 Diana Wallace

ADVENTHEALTH

Terry Shaw
 Randy Haffner
 Paul Rathbun
 Ted Hamilton

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Ken Shaw
 Robert Young
 Tom Verrill

ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY

Edwin Hernandez
 Sandra Dunbar-Smalley
 Ruben Martinez

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY

Leslie N. Pollard
 James Mbyirukira
 Sabrina Cotton

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Alex Bryant
 Kyoshin Ahn
 Randy Robinson

SOUTHERN UNION SUPPORT STAFF



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Southern Union Support Staff: Kara Lombardi (front row, seated), SURF and planned giving and trust services administrative assistant; Maria Newlove, health and youth and young adults ministries administrative assistant; Elizabeth Long, early childhood education administrative assistant; Lourdes Chazarreta, Hispanic and church ministries administrative assistant; Montina DeBardeleben, library/information resources administrative assistant; Kim Twomley (back row, standing), office of treasury executive assistant; Pershawn Mattison, evangelism and ministerial department administrative assistant; Lessie Scurry, executive assistant to the president and executive secretary; Beverly Perry, publishing department administrative assistant; and Sarah Wallis, secondary education and director of education administrative assistant.



JOSEPH BROOKS
Southern Union
maintenance manager



DARLEEN HERBERT
Southern Union
receptionist

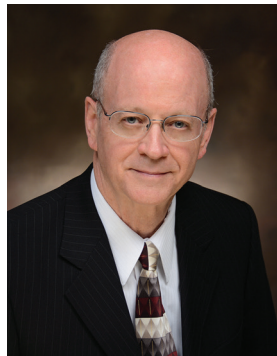
FALLEN SOLDIERS



ARDITH BEERS
Former Association
Assistant Director
and *Southern Tidings*
Circulation Manager
Passed March 31, 2021



JACQUI DAWKINS
Former Administrative
Assistant
*Passed October 19,
2020*



KEN FORD, D.MIN.
Former Planned Giving
and Trust Services
Director
*Passed October 2,
2017*



MALCOLM GORDON
Former Southern
Union President
Passed May 12, 2019



HAZEL GORDON
Former Women's
Ministries Advisor
*Passed October 19,
2017*



**NORWIDA
MARSHALL, ED.D.**
Former Education
Assistant Director
Passed July 30, 2018



GLENN SMITH
Former Trust Services
Director
*Passed December 2,
2020*



LEWIS STOUT
Former Public Affairs
and Religious Liberty
Director
Passed June 30, 2018

Short History of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

R. STEVEN NORMAN, III

“The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men.” E. G. White

Since 1901, the people of the Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists have sought to allow God’s Spirit to flow through them by means of the evangelistic, healing, educational, and nurturing ministries they offer to communities throughout the Southeastern portion of the United States.

I. The Early Period

Shortly after the Seventh-day Adventist church was organized in 1863, the General Conference was presented with requests to begin work in the South. Ellen White asked church leaders gathered for the 1865 General Conference to join the denominations that were beginning to work in the South. Other requests came from Southerners who read literature that their Northern friends and relatives sent to them. These requests for preachers to work in the South began to appear in pages of the Review.

After an initial period of hesitancy, people began to respond to the calls to work in the South. The first was Elbert B.

Lane, who responded to a call for preaching in Edgefield Junction near Madison, and just 13 miles north of Nashville, Tennessee, in March of 1871.

Lane baptized five. He returned in May 1873 and organized a church of 13 members. There were four white families and a black minister, Harry Lowe, in the church.

Later that year, Squier Osborn visited Kentucky and conducted evangelistic meetings at Springville, Kentucky, across the river from Portsmouth, Kentucky, (SDABC 10, Kentucky-Tennessee). The Springville Church was organized in 1874, (ibid).

C. O. Taylor went to North Carolina in 1876. He organized a church in Sands out of which the Valle Crucis and Banner Elk churches were formed, (Hansen, p. 31). The present Valle Crucis Church was organized May 15, 1881, (SDABC 10, Carolina Conference).

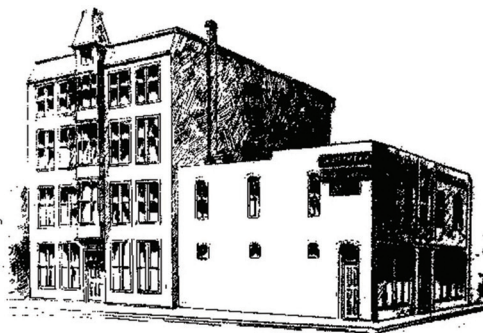
The first African-American church was organized at Edgefield Junction in 1883 by Samuel Fulton, Tennessee Conference president. It had approximately 12 members.

II. Formation General District #2 – 1890

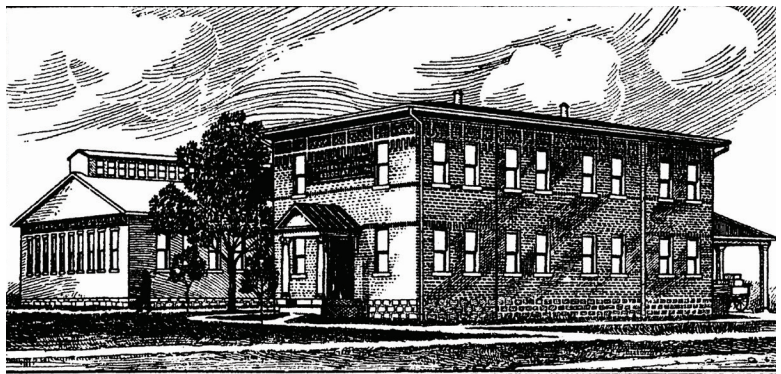
At the General Conference of 1883, C. O. Corliss, pastor, gave the report for the General Southern Mission. He reported that there were 267 white Sabbath keepers and 20 colored, (Hansen, p. 33).

Ellen White wrote several Testimonies in which she appealed for workers to go work among the African-Americans in the South. Her son, James Edson White, read these Testimonies during the fall of 1893, and decided to go work in Mississippi. He and Will O. Palmer built a boat, which he called the Morning Star, and traveled to Vicksburg, Mississippi. He arrived on January 10, 1895, and, within eight years, Edson raised up 20 schools and churches, organized the Southern Missionary Society, the Herald Publishing House, and the Nashville Colored Sanitarium.

To strengthen the work in the South, the General Conference District #2 was formed in 1890 to provide supervision of the work. Its headquarters was in Graysville, Tennessee, and Robert M. Kilgore was the superintendent, (Yearbook 1891, pp. 48, 49). At the close of its first year,



The first office was at 1025 Jefferson Street, Nashville, Tennessee (1901-1907)



Second office was 2123 24th Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee (1907-1932)



437 East Ponce de Leon, Decatur, Georgia (1936-1964)



3978 Memorial Drive, Decatur, Georgia (1964-2014)



302 Research Dr., Norcross, Georgia (2014-present)

Kilgore reported that there were five ministers in the field, serving 19 churches with a total of 383 members. The total District #2 tithe was \$2,921.15.

Some of the institutions within the territory were the Graysville School (1892), Oakwood Manual Training School (November 1896), the Southern Missionary Society (1898), the Review office in Atlanta, and several sanitariums.

When District #2 was formed there were only four conferences within its territory: the Cumberland Conference (1900), Kentucky Conference (1879), Tennessee River Conference (1889), and Florida Conference (1893).

III. Southern Union Organized

Ellen White visited Vicksburg, Memphis, and Nashville, Tennessee, in March 1901. While in Nashville, she met with some of the leaders in General Conference District #2. From Nashville she traveled to the General Conference Session with a recommendation that union conferences be formed. On April 9, 1901, the Southern Union Conference was organized with Robert M. Kilgore as president to oversee the Church's work in Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. The membership was approximately 2,000 members.

Later that year, new conferences were organized in the Carolinas (September), Georgia-Cumberland (August), Alabama, and Mississippi.

The first office was at the Herald Office at 1025 Jefferson Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee. When the Southern Publishing Association opened, the Southern Union Conference shared office space there at 2123 24th Avenue North, Nashville. The first official news organ for the Union was the Report of Progress, which first appeared in 1907.

IV. Southern Union Divided Into Two Unions

January 12, 1908, the Union was divided into the Southern Union and Southeastern Union.

The new Southeastern Union covered the states of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, and East Tennessee. It also included the Bahamas Mission. It opened with temporary offices at various locations in Atlanta, but, in time, found permanent housing in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

The Southern Union Conference territory included Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Its headquarters remained in Nashville until 1932.

V. Southern Union Reorganized —1932

In 1932, the Southern and Southeastern Unions were merged as a means of reducing expenses during the Great Depression, but without the inclusion of Louisiana and the Bahamas.

The headquarters was located 4502 Brainerd Road, Chattanooga, Tennessee, from 1932 through 1936 when the Union

moved to 437 Ponce de Leon, Decatur, Georgia.

In December 1945, the South Atlantic and South Central conferences were organized. They began operations January 1, 1946. In December 1980, it was voted to divide the South Atlantic Conference and establish the Southeastern Conference. Southeastern began operations January 1, 1981.

Under the leadership of visionary men who were used by the Holy Spirit, strong evangelistic ministries were increased and the membership grew. As a result, the Union outgrew the small office on Ponce de Leon. In 1964, a new office was built at 3978 Memorial Drive in Decatur. And then in 1973/4, a second office building was built to house the growing Home Health Education Service.

VII. Maximizing The Present, Poised For The Future

Today, the Southern Union Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church has more than 308,000 church members, and a multi-disciplinary organization of ministries and institutions, which includes eight conferences, 1,166 churches and 219 companies. around 195 early childhood centers, elementary schools, and academies, three universities, 51 hospital campuses, plus camps, and radio stations.

With a memory of God's hand in our past and the prophetic vision he has given us of the future, we take and firmly trust God's hand to guide us step by step. 🕊

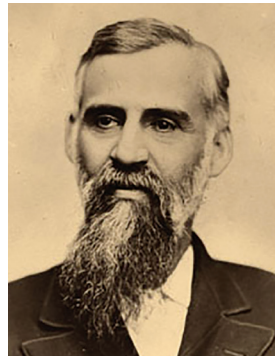
PRESIDENTS OF THE SOUTHERN AND SOUTHEASTERN UNION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
1901-Present

The Southern Union was organized April 9, 1901. In **1908 it was divided** into the **Southern Union** and **Southeastern Union**, but two unions were **merged in 1932** into the present **Southern Union**. The pictures below are all the presidents who have served from 1901 until now.

SOUTHERN UNION PRESIDENTS 1901-1907

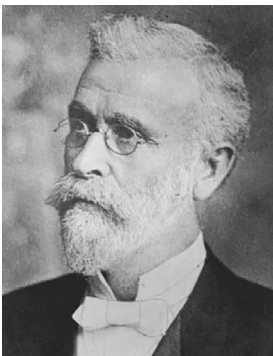


ROBERT M. KILGORE
1901-1902



GEORGE I. BUTLER
1902-1907

SOUTHERN UNION 1907-1912



GEORGE A. IRWIN
1907-1909



C. F. MCVAGH
1909-1912

SOUTHEASTERN UNION 1908-1912



W. A. WESTWORTH
1908-1909



CHARLES THOMPSON
1909-1912

SOUTHERN UNION 1912-1932



S. E. WRIGHT
1912-1920



JAMES L. MCELHANY
1920-1922



CHARLES THOMPSON
1909-1912



G. W. WELLS
1922-1926

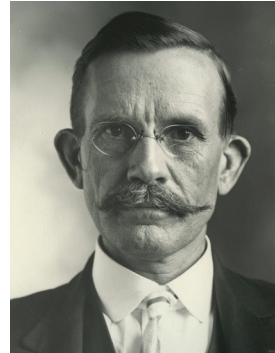


J. J. NETHERY,
1926-1928



N. S. ASHTON
1928-1932

SOUTHEASTERN 1912-1932



C. B. STEPHENSON
1912-1913



O. O. MONTGOMERY
1913-1915



W. H. BRANSON
1915-1919



W. H. HECKMAN
1919-1932

SOUTHERN UNION 1932-1943



S. A. RUSKJER
1932-1935



G. A. ROBERTS
1935-1936



J. K. JONES
1936-1943



EARL F. HACKMAN
1943-1947



V. G. ANDERSON
1948-1957



DON R. REES
1957-1964



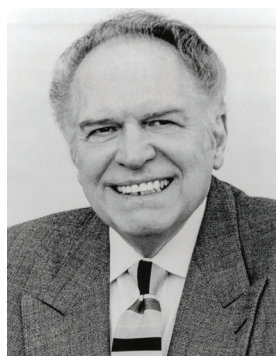
LEROY J. LEISKE
1964-1965



H. H. SCHMIDT
1965-1980



ALFRED C. MCCLURE
1980-1990



MALCOLM D. GORDON
1990-2003



GORDON L. RETZER
2003-2011



RON C. SMITH
2012-present

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ADVENTIST HERITAGE MINISTRIES- Adventist Heritage Ministries is seeking to fill four positions. The site director for the William Miller Farm in Whitehall, NY position is open immediately. The Historic Adventist Village in Battle Creek, MI will have three open positions: site director, office manager and Heritage Shoppe Manager. Go to the website www.adventistheritage.org for details, job descriptions and application forms.

THE SAMARITAN CENTER- The Samaritan Center is looking for a Social Services Administrative Assistant. This role is a part-time position working on Tuesday and Thursday 8 am-5 pm. Strong communications skills and associates degree in the social services field, business, or equivalent or two years of clerical experience preferred. This role is suited for someone flexible and capable of handling multiple tasks simultaneously. Must be able to lift 50 lbs. Pay 13.50 per hour. Email socialservices@TheSamaritanCenter.net with resume and cover letter.

MISCELLANEOUS

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to visit Clermont Church, 498 Montrose, Clermont, Florida, 34711. SS 9:30, Church 11:00. [9-12]

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**Legal Notice for
Florida Conference Constituency Meeting
October 9, 2022**

Notice is hereby given that the 72nd Regular Constituency Meeting of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. (registration begins at 9:00 a.m.) in the Forest Lake Academy Gymnasium, 500 Education Loop, Apopka, FL 32703. This Constituency Meeting is called for the purpose of electing Officers and Executive Committee members for the ensuing term and the transaction of such business as may properly come before the meeting.

Allan Machado, President
Tim Goff, Executive Secretary

**Legal Notice for
Florida Conference Association Constituency Meeting
October 9, 2022**

The regular meeting of the members of the Florida Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists, a Florida corporation, will be held on Sunday, October 9, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. (registration begins at 9:00 a.m.) in the Forest Lake Academy Gymnasium, 500 Education Loop, Apopka, FL 32703, for the purpose of electing the Association officers and Board of Trustees for the ensuing term and for consideration of such other matters as may properly come before the meeting. Only those members present who are duly elected and accredited delegates of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists shall be entitled to vote at their Regional Meeting and at the Constituency Meeting.

Allan Machado, President
Phil Bond, Executive Secretary

SUNSET

	SEP 16	SEP 23	SEP 30	OCT 7	OCT 14	OCT 21
ATLANTA, GA	7:44	7:34	7:24	7:15	7:06	6:58
CHARLESTON, SC	7:26	7:16	7:07	6:58	6:49	6:41
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:30	7:20	7:10	7:00	6:51	6:42
COLLEGEDALE, TN	7:47	7:37	7:27	7:17	7:08	6:59
HUNTSVILLE, AL	6:53	6:43	6:33	6:23	6:14	6:05
JACKSON, MS	7:06	6:57	6:48	6:39	6:30	6:22
LOUISVILLE, KY	7:51	7:40	7:29	7:18	7:08	6:58
MEMPHIS, TN	7:07	6:57	6:47	6:37	6:27	6:19
MIAMI, FL	7:25	7:17	7:09	7:02	6:55	6:49
MONTGOMERY, AL	6:51	6:41	6:32	6:23	6:15	6:07
NASHVILLE, TN	6:54	6:44	6:33	6:23	6:14	6:04
ORLANDO, FL	7:30	7:22	7:13	7:05	6:58	6:51
TAMPA, FL	7:34	7:26	7:18	7:10	7:03	6:56
WILMINGTON, NC	7:18	7:08	6:58	6:49	6:40	6:31



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