

T Southern THINGS

DECEMBER 2022

BE *FRUITFUL* AND *MULTIPLY*

PRAYER SUMMIT
2022

BACK TO THE
ADVERSITY SOIL

SAC ATTENDEES
ENJOY IN-PERSON
CONVENTION

JOURNEY TO
WHOLENESS

God's Amazing Adoption



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

When the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son ... that we might receive the adoption of sons," Galatians 4:4, 5.

Those who had invaded the Galatian Church and were rallying the members to an alien flag had crossed into enemy territory. At the cross, faith took over as the system of salvation. Fighting for an outdated system meant the loss of salvation. God no longer lifted up the law of Moses as His standard, but called all to faith in Jesus.

When faith came, things changed. New relationships between God and man were set in place. The Jews might call themselves children of Abraham (Galatians 3:29), but in the Son, God adopts all the faithful as His children. When Jesus died in the fulness of time, the family of God included those from every race who would hear and accept His grace. Right now, He has adopted you.

Ties of blood pale into insignificance as God accepts us as His children. Both what He does for us and what we should do for Him go beyond the normal father-child bond. The child of God values the link with the Father more than any earthly kin.

To be a son or daughter of God shows the freedom God has given us. Just as He chose us, so we choose Him. His will makes us His; we call Him our Father. In this way, God tells us that He has committed Himself to us. We trust His will because He is our Father. The change of heart by which we become children of God is spoken of in Holy Scripture as the new birth.

The adoption model of divine-human relationships goes one step further. It has a double aspect. On the one hand, we have sonship now. We cry Abba, Father (Galatians 4:6) through the Spirit. On the other hand, we wait for the adoption of sons (Romans 8:23). Sonship is a goal of hope and a gift from the future. Paul creates an already-but-not-yet tension. We have our sonship and wait for our adoption. What the Lord will give us in the Kingdom we already possess through the Spirit.

Salvation is about relationships. Outside of Christ, we have no saving relationship to God. In adopting us, God wants us to know that He has freely chosen us. In this adoption arrangement, it is critical to remember a life in Christ is a life of restfulness. When Christ took human nature upon Himself, He became most positioned for adopting us. He bound Himself by a tie of love that can never be broken unless we break it. Unlike in the usual adoption process, the child of God has a say. The Father adopts us as His children, with all the rights and privileges of a child in Heaven. We accept Him as our Father, and so He gives us eternal life.

"Faith will lift up the repenting soul to share the adoption of the sons of God," *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 754. -RCS 📌



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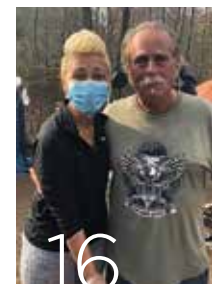
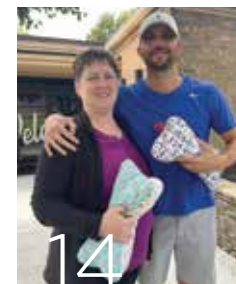
SOUTHERN TIDINGS | Volume 116
Number 12 | December 2022
Published monthly by the Southern Union.
Free to all members.
POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to
Southern Tidings
P.O. Box 923868
Peachtree Corners, Georgia 30010-3868
EMAIL: idouce@southernunion.com



december 2022

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COVER: RICHIE HALVERSEN, PASTOR AND DIRECTOR OF CHURCH GROWTH AND REVITALIZATION AT THE SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE.

PHOTO CREDIT: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.

BE *FRUITFUL* AND *MULTIPLY*

BY RICHIE HALVERSEN

Growing up the son of an evangelist in a family of evangelists, I guess you can say that church growth is a family business. As a child, evangelism wasn't optional. I participated in every aspect of church growth. It was mostly a positive experience. (I'm sure if you asked 16-year-old Richie, he might say otherwise.) But, even during those years when it was the last thing I wanted to be involved in, I could not deny the transformative work of the Holy Spirit through the uplifting of Jesus Christ through personal and public evangelism. I've seen so many lives changed, even my own, as a result. This is why I consider it the greatest privilege to serve the Southern Union as director of church growth and revitalization. My greatest desire and goal is to see a thriving church of mission and compassion transforming lives, communities, and the world.

This has always been God's goal for His people. Throughout Scripture, we hear God telling His creation to be fruitful and multiply. We first hear it in Genesis 1:28 to Adam and Eve, and then repeated to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Jacob's sons, Moses, and Israel. God is constantly reminding His people of their calling to be fruitful and multiply. "I will bless you so that you can be a blessing to the world around you," Genesis 12:2. Centuries later, changing



PHOTO BY: BRYANT TAYLOR, D.MIN.



Richie Halversen (left), pastor and director of church growth and revitalization at the Southern Union Conference, and Peter Trzinski (far right), pastor, stand with Kyra, Dasha, and Blake — just a few of the people baptized over the course of the Raleigh Revitalization campaign.

the wording a little, but essentially saying the same thing, Jesus calls the disciples and says, “I will make you fishers of people,” Matthew 4:19 NIV.

God’s desire for His Church is the same for us today: to be fruitful and multiply. Those two words capture the essence of the Southern Union’s Department of Church Growth and Revitalization. We want to support our great conferences in bringing revitalization to our established churches (*fruitfulness*) and to facilitate the planting of new ones (*multiply*).

First, let’s talk about revitalization. In John 15:8, Jesus says, “By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples.” We have some incredible churches in the Southern Union. But, the reality is even the best, most healthy churches plateau over time. Statistically, most churches in America are either plateaued or declining. Our goal is to support our churches through the process of revitalization — reversing the decline, and leading to greater fruit-

fulness. We help facilitate this through a series of ways, such as coaching, organizational health assessments, leadership development, weekend revivals, and church growth training and resources. Every church and community is unique, and we want to develop an approach that factors in that uniqueness, playing to our strengths and addressing areas of needed growth. In John 15:2, we read, “He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit, He prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.”

One of our major initiatives is our revitalization campaign. This is an 8- to 9-month program that coaches area churches through the full cycle of revitalization, from casting a vision of mission to providing quality content and training to reach their community better. This all leads up to a dynamic reaping series entitled “Darkness Will Not Overcome.” This year we’ve been blessed to organize and execute three revitalization campaigns in Raleigh, North Carolina;

“I believe Jesus is returning soon, but if it is another 100 years before He does, I want to make sure my grandchildren and their children still have a church to call home...”

Clinton, Mississippi; and Sarasota, Florida, and God has blessed in a mighty way. We have major revitalization initiatives planned for 2023 in Atlanta, Georgia; Montgomery, Alabama; Fort Myers,



In Raleigh, North Carolina, each presentation of “The Darkness Will Not Overcome” began with dynamic worship led out by the Raleigh Church praise team.

Florida; and Asheville, North Carolina.

We are also developing a revitalization cohort that will provide hands-on training for a select small group of pastors and lay leaders each year. The training will be composed of four two-day modules that will take them through the entire process of revitalization. These modules will be facilitated by myself and a team of effective practitioners speaking to a variety of topics necessary for revitalization. We have also started a YouTube channel to provide resources, inspiration, and best practices, as well as a newsletter that will keep you updated on area training, events, and opportunities. We’ve just touched the surface and are excited to see how God will continue guiding and bringing revitalization to our churches and communities.

The second major area my department serves in is to support and facilitate church planting in the Southern Union (*multiply*). Not only do we want to reverse the decline of established churches, but we need to plant new ones. Throughout the New Testament, we see the necessity of church planting. Church planting wasn’t one of the many ways they spread the Gospel; it was *the* way.



Tiana Rabearison, pastor, is preparing to baptize Riley Campbell, one of the beautiful decisions made during this campaign.

Our department is dedicated to helping church planting multiply today. We are here to support our conferences and churches in a variety of ways, from consultation and coaching to church planting training and resources. North America Division Evangelism Institute Seeds

Vision conference and ACTS church planting cohort are essential training opportunities we facilitate and would love to see expand even more in our territory.

Church planting is vital not only to reaching the unreached, but in discipling those we have. Too often people

are baptized into membership and sat on the sidelines instead of being sent to the frontlines of the mission. Church planting forces us to disciple, grow, pray, build relationships, empower leaders, and do evangelism like nothing I've ever seen.

This year we've been blessed to see many churches and companies added to our Union. Also, in collaboration with the General Conference, North American Division, and local conferences, we're currently giving financial assistance to 27 new church plants. I praise God for what He is doing in the Southern Union. However, to sufficiently reach the rapidly increasing population in our territory, we need to increase our church planting significantly. Churches, like people, have natural lifespans. And, unless we start planting new ones, we're not just talking decline but extinction. Yes, our God can and does perform resurrections. However, new birth is the preferred method of multiplying the mission.

I believe Jesus is returning soon, but if it is another 100 years before He does, I want to make sure my grandchildren and their children still have a church to call home — community that will love, disciple, and send them out into the world. If we want to pass on the mission to the next generation, it won't be with bigger churches but a bigger movement of church planting. God has called us to be fruitful and multiply. Regardless of how difficult it may seem for the church to go from declining to thriving in our world today, I know God can do it.

One of the things I noticed as I was studying is God's calling and command to be fruitful and multiply was often given to people who seem unable to have children. We see it with Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Samson's mother, Hannah, and Elizabeth, to name a few. However, in each case, God performed a miracle, fulfilling His promise, and blessing them with children who became great leaders and deliverers of

Scripture. However, these just pointed forward to the ultimate miraculous birth of Jesus Christ. "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in Me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing," John 15:5 ESV. God wants us to know no matter how rough things look, He can take something from dying to multiplying, from surviving to thriving. No matter how impossible things may seem, our God can do the impossible. No matter how barren things may seem — the entire Bible is about God blessing the barren and turning it into a movement of multiplication. The enemy is going to do everything in his power to keep the church from being fruitful and multiplying — "The dragon stood before the woman who was about to give birth, so that when she bore her child he might devour it," Revelation 12:4 ESV. But the good news, the message of Christmas, is that, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it," John 1:5 ESV. Because of the ultimate miraculous birth of Jesus Christ, we

can't help but be fruitful and multiply. "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit," John 12:24.

I believe our best, most fruitful days are ahead of us. I believe we're at the beginning of a great movement of multiplication that will reach the world with the Gospel and usher in the return of our Lord Jesus — this time not as a baby in a manger but as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. I am honored to serve the Southern Union in this role and look forward to partnering with you in finishing the work entrusted to us. 🙏

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Richie Halversen is the director of church growth and revitalization at the Southern Union Conference.



At the final day of the revitalization campaign, Tiana Rabearison (fifth from left), pastor, leads the church in welcoming the newest members to the Ridge family.

Retiring Southern Union Communication Director

R. STEVEN NORMAN III RECEIVES LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

R Steven Norman III, who will retire as communication director of the Southern Union Conference in February, was recently awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award for Communication.

The Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) presented the award to Norman in October at the annual SAC Convention held at the North American Division headquarters in Columbia, Maryland. The honor recognizes individuals for their dedication, professionalism, mentorship, and achievements in communication throughout their career in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“Elder Norman was nominated by his peers in the communication field throughout the North American Division for his excellence and work, his commitment to mentoring young communication professionals, and for always advancing the work of communication,” said Bryant Taylor, D.Min., who succeeds Norman as communication director and editor of *Southern Tidings* magazine.

Garrett Caldwell, D.Min., executive director of external communications at AdventHealth, called Norman a “giant” in his field.

“When traveling in the western United States it is difficult to get lost as long as you can see the mountains, because the topographic giants serve as reference points along the way,” said Caldwell. “Steven Norman has been a giant to me and to many others in the community of Church communicators. A steady point of reference, offering wisdom and counsel as we navigated the challenging landscape of telling the Seventh-day Adventist story in the community and in the Church.”

Rebecca Carpenter, Carolina Conference communication director, said Norman has helped her professionally and spiritually.

“His wisdom and kindness have gotten me through many a crisis in my career, not only teaching me how to handle difficulties with grace, but how to depend completely on the Savior to get through any situation in life,” said Carpenter. “I

have witnessed him patiently mentoring the next generation of communicators and sharing the vast knowledge he has amassed during his long, impressive career. He will be greatly missed in our field as a teacher, friend, and inspiring man of God.”

Norman has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for nearly 50 years as a pastor and conference administrator. For the last 15 years, he was communication director for the Southern Union and editor of *Southern Tidings*. Prior to coming to the Union, he served the South Central Conference from 1973 to 2007 as a pastor, director of archives and history, communication director, and director of numerous other departments.

One of his fond memories, however, is writing his first article for *Southern Tidings* nearly 40 years ago. The late Isaac J. Johnson, who was communication director for South Central Conference at the time, assigned Norman to photograph and write a feature about that year’s Camp Meeting. The feature,

titled “Lamps Trimmed and Burning,” appeared in the September 1984 issue of *Southern Tidings*.

“It has been an honor to report the progress of God’s work in the Southern Union,” said Norman. “In my mind, the

Tidings is how we as a Southern Union family gather around the dining room table and talk about the exciting things going on in our schools, churches, and hospitals.”

Norman said it is also gratifying to

hear and see confirmation that God uses the *Southern Tidings* to advance His work. He recalled comments made by a mother whose daughter was an avid reader of the magazine.

“I know the *Southern Tidings* is a blessing because when I saw my teenage daughter reading it, I asked what she was reading,” Norman recalled the woman saying. “She said, ‘Mom, I love reading the stories in this magazine because they show how the Holy Spirit is using so many people!’”

Norman said he’s also grateful for all the local church communication leaders, conference contributing editors, and assignment writers who prepare news photos and stories. Very special thanks, he said, goes to the “dedicated Union communication team!”

“Everyone on our team presses together to sell advertising, edit copy, design eye-catching spreads for the magazine month after month,” he said. “We all count it a privilege to be chosen of God to reveal Christ and tell His story.”

So, what’s next after retirement?

“I am looking forward to life without the monthly deadlines that have driven me for the past 30 years,” said Norman. “I plan to write the history of the Southern Union and the *Southern Tidings* for the *Encyclopedia of Seventh-day Adventists*, travel with my wife, and focus on some personal photography and writing projects.”

Taylor said Norman has been a great mentor, and he is honored to take the reins as the Union’s new communication director and editor.

“Elder Norman is a tall oak under whose branches I have been privileged to grow in the communication field,” said Taylor. “In following a legend like him, I could never fill his shoes, but I can definitely walk in the imprints on the path he left for me to follow.” 🕊



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

Bryant Taylor, D.Min. (left), will succeed R. Steven Norman III as Southern Union Conference communication director and editor of *Southern Tidings*.

Lucas L. Johnson II

is a freelance writer and author of the book, *Finding the Good*.

PRAYER SUMMIT 2022

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

We all know that prayer is the breath of the soul. We are invited to live a life of prayer, asking and surrendering every need, wish, and worry to Christ Jesus, trusting that He hears us. Seeking to nourish the spiritual life through prayer, church members from the Gulf States Conference and members from outside of our territory gathered in Talladega, Alabama, the weekend of August 19, 2022, for the annual Prayer Summit.

Marilyn Arnould is from Kansas City, Missouri. The first time she came to Gulf State's annual Prayer Summit was five years ago; she came as a friend's guest. The experience was so powerful that she hasn't missed any of the annual events ever since. The fellow attendees who attend the meetings, as well as the guest speakers, are a highlight. But, the atmosphere of peace and joy throughout the days of

prayer are the elements granted by the Holy Spirit to orchestrate the change in people.

"I always come away from here renewed and refreshed," Arnould said, "and my husband says I am much nicer when I come home," she giggled.

The theme for the 2022 Annual Prayer Summit was "For Such a Time as This! Are You Ready for Jesus to Come?" and spiritual messages were conducted by Nadine Collins, Ph.D.; Stanley Luntungan, pastor; and Murvin Camatchee, pastor.

"It was a great spiritual experience where we could feel the Holy Spirit, and there was a great fellowship where we could connect with each other and pray for each other," Camatchee said.

The anointing service led by Larry Owens, pastor, was one of the most special moments for the 50 individuals who attended the event. Pastors, leaders, and

lay members were anointed to continue like Queen Esther, serving Christ, and interceding for God's people even at the cost of their own lives.

Mary Nelson, Gulf States prayer ministries coordinator, said this was a Spirit-filled event from the beginning to the end. According to her, the intimate atmosphere with the Divine presence makes the departure the most challenging part of the experience.

"Every time we have a prayer summit, lives are transformed," Nelson said. "And, every prayer meeting, we don't want to leave; we just want to linger a little longer in His presence," she added. The group, even the farthest traveler with a 750-mile distance, find that to be motivation enough to attend, getting even closer to God as they pray with their friends. ❀



Pictured are attendees at the 2022 Gulf States Conference Prayer Summit.

FIRST FULLY DIGITAL CHURCH IN SOUTHERN UNION LAUNCHES

BY MARCELO MANSUR, M.DIV.

The pandemic changed our lives. Church services went virtual. Gatherings were set on calendars labeled as “zoom meetings” or “virtual Bible study.” Church leaders intentionally invested in developing a robust digital evangelism plan to meet the needs of this ever-changing world. Then, things went back to “normal.” Most churches resumed their in-person services. However, a new platform for sharing the Gospel became a part of the fabric of church outreach in the digital space. The call from Jesus to “make disciples of all the nations, baptizing and teaching them...,” Matthew 28:19, 20, is the same as it has ever been. Recognizing the constant need for quality and consistent online content within their territory and the world, the Gulf States Conference decided to plant a digital church.

The Digital Church was founded with a driving purpose, to share the everlasting Gospel in a new and expanding digital society. This is the first fully Digital Church in the Southern Union Conference. Its services are held on a weekly basis, every Friday evening on social media platforms. The launch is set for December 9, 2022, with its first sermon series entitled, “Jesus.” The pastoral team of the Digital Church includes Brian Danese, senior pastor and Gulf States president; Marcelo Mansur, associate pastor; Daniel Claudet, media pastor and Gulf States communication director; and Edwin Quinjada, worship pastor. The Digital Church will



Brian Danese, senior pastor of the Digital Church and Gulf States president



Daniel Claudet (left), media pastor, and Marcelo Mansur, associate pastor

provide local churches with contacts that may have watched the service online, and are now looking for a local congregation to attend. Claudet said, “I am thrilled about this initiative. We move forward by God’s grace and by the guidance of the Holy Spirit.”

The Barna Research Group, in their article entitled, “A New Chapter in Millennial Church Attendance,” reported that “millennials most likely ... embrace hybrid worship.” Before the COVID-19 pandemic, most of the church attendance happened exclusively in person. Today, that’s only true for about half of churching adults. In fact, one in five (20%) is still primarily attending online, and one in four (26%) is mixing online and in-person worship.” The Gulf States Conference has a total membership of 13,054 (as of September 14, 2021) congregating in 89 churches throughout the Gulf States territory.

Ellen G. White wrote, “It is our duty now to employ every possible means to help in the proclamation of the truth,” *The Publishing Ministry*, p. 57-58. The Gulf States Digital Church heeds this call. It strives to serve its people by developing engaging social media content, biblical messages, and online interactivity within the new service. If you would like to subscribe to the Digital Church Community, email us at digitalchurch@gscsda.org, or follow us on our Facebook page [@gulfstatesconference](https://www.facebook.com/gulfstatesconference), or our Instagram page [@gulfstatesconference](https://www.instagram.com/gulfstatesconference). We believe “This Gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come,” Matthew 24:14. Jesus is coming soon! 📌

Marcelo Mansur, M.Div.,
is the associate pastor of the newly launched Digital Church.

SACRIFICE, PERSEVERANCE, AND A DREAM COME TRUE

BY AMANDA BLAKE



Zander Vasquez, Wendy Chacon, and Kaitlyn Vasquez

If someone had told Wendy Chacon several months ago that she would attend Southern Adventist University this semester alongside her son and daughter, she would have scoffed in disbelief. Now, Chacon is bursting to share her story as she relishes the God-given opportunity to study business management through Southern's Adult Degree Completion (ADC) program after a 22-year absence from school.

A New York City native, Chacon was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist but left the Church when she was a teen. She attended multiple colleges but never completed a degree. Juggling work and study became a battle, made more challenging by marriage, a move to the Do-

minican Republic, and having children, requiring her to place academic goals on the back burner.

Eventually, Chacon separated from her husband, moved to northwest Georgia, and was rebaptized. She commenced life as a single parent and began participating in a medical missionary program.

"I loved the program, but, at the same time, my kids really needed me. The overseas move and divorce were hard on all of us," Chacon said. "I decided to focus on giving my all to my kids because they are God's most important work for me."

With God's help, Chacon enrolled her children in Adventist schools, eventually sending both to Collegedale Academy and moving to the area.

Chacon's daughter, Kaitlyn Vasquez, now a freshman biology major at Southern, describes her mom as an inspiration.

"Her faith gave her strength to put me and my brother through Adventist education," she said.

Shortly after her children graduated from the academy, Chacon began researching affordable adult degree programs in Tennessee and contacted Southern's ADC director, Cynthia Wright.

"I asked God, 'Wouldn't it be amazing if, after all these years of sacrifice, I had a shot at Adventist education, too?'" Chacon said. "I didn't get my hopes up because I was scared of the price tag, but

Cynthia guided me through the entire process in person. She empathized with me because she was also a single mother when she went back to school."

Wright's insightful direction made selecting classes simple for Chacon.

"I'm here to help adult learners navigate the pathways to finishing their degrees," Wright explained. "The Adult Degree Completion program is excellent for Wendy and others like her, because classes are offered online, and the tuition is affordable."

After receiving financial aid, Chacon spent only \$10 more at Southern than what she would have paid at her second-choice school, which was a public university in the area.

"My mom sacrificed many years of her life to raise us in the best way possible," said Zander Vasquez, a freshman computer science major. "I am thankful to God for providing a way for my mom to finish her degree, and I'm proud of my mom for undertaking this challenge."

"The three of us are here at Southern on scholarships and grants — our whole little family," Chacon said. "God is awesome, and I can't stay quiet about that." ●

Amanda Blake is a junior journalism major at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

STUDENT TOUCHES LIVES THROUGH DISASTER RELIEF

BY ANGELA BAERG

Crumbling drywall, moldy carpet, and warped cabinets were all that remained of once-welcoming homes after severe flooding swept mercilessly through Hazard, Kentucky. This past July, Allyson Boyce, a junior at Southern Adventist University, helped muck out a home filled with five feet of water and a church filled with mud. She, her father, and their team did their best to provide compassion and encouragement to the people whose town had been destroyed.

“I love being able to give back,” says Boyce. “As much as we touch their lives, they touch mine, too.”

Boyce first developed a passion for disaster relief at Heritage Academy. All students there receive Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training, and often drop everything to respond when there is a nearby natural disaster, most often a hurricane in Florida. After graduation, Boyce enrolled in Southern Adventist University. She had always loved hearing her father speak warmly about his time there as a student, such as how he had won the All-Night Softball tournament.

Like him, Boyce found her own ways to plug into the community, such as teaching CERT trainings for other students. She joined a LifeGroup that meets on Friday nights after Vespers to fellowship, discuss that evening’s message, and lift each other up. She also became a member of Engage Worship, a student-led worship team



Allyson Boyce (right), an outdoor leadership major at Southern Adventist University, talks with friends Alé Vye and Harty Sullano. Boyce desires to help young adults find healing and peace in the beauty God created.

that travels across the South, leading out in anything from hymns to contemporary Christian music. Being a part of Engage has helped her learn to be less worried about giving a good performance, and more focused on truly immersing herself and others in praise.

“It has really helped me grow a heart for worship,” she says. “Music connects people in a way that nothing else can.”

Boyce’s major is in outdoor leadership with an emphasis in adventure therapy. She hopes to use her future career to help young adults find healing and peace in the beauty that God created. She loves exploring the great outdoors and has one particularly special memory from her camping class at Southern. On the first day of their trip in the Roane Mountains, it began to mist. They came to a spot where they were supposed to be able to see a striking panorama, but the fog was so thick that they

could barely see at all. They went to the viewpoint anyway, and all of a sudden a huge gust of wind vanquished the fog and revealed the breathtaking mountain range that surrounded them. Around the fire that night, they talked about the parallels between that experience and their walks with Christ.

“Sometimes we walk up tall, tiring mountains and have trials in life, and are unable to see why we are being led that way,” says Boyce. “Then, all in His own timing, Jesus blows the fog of life away to reveal the reason He brought us through that trying time. I hope to share this message with others through outreach and my future career.”

Angela Baerg is a Montessori preschool teacher who graduated in 2006 from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee.

BACK TO THE ADVERSITY SOIL:

Church Member Ministers at Hospital Where He Was Treated Multiple Times for Drug Overdose

BY CINDY WILLEY AND PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Almost every day, Quince Barnett walks through the halls of his local hospital where he works as a patient transporter. He is known by his coworkers and patients for his bright spirit, uplifting words, kind heart, and for his ministry, “Hands and Feet.” Those who see him would never guess that, not so long ago, Barnett was a patient at this same hospital, where he was treated multiple times for drug overdose.

For many years, Barnett had been caught in a pattern of homelessness, drug addiction, and despair. His drug dependence put him in a coma nine different times. But God had not given up on him. In the summer of 2020, as he walked down Eastland Parkway, he heard the familiar tune of the song, “I Surrender,” by Hillsong. A gentle voice told Barnett to follow the music, and that’s where he met the Bluegrass Connections, Kentucky, Church (BCC), who were enjoying an outdoor Saturday worship.

“I was totally different from anybody there,” Barnett said. “I was wearing some old clothes and had my hat on backward, just looking kind of grungy. But they didn’t judge a book by its cover. They welcomed me and treated me like family.”

Barnett has been attending BCC ever since, making another big positive step in his journey of healing and knowing



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY WILLEY

Kristy Stevens and Quince Barnett hold two neck pillows from their ministry, “Hands and Feet.” More pillows like these, in addition to some blankets and Bibles, will be distributed at their local hospital.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY WILLEY

Mary Jane Lovett, who attends both BCC and nursing home worship services, enjoys her new gift from the “Hands and Feet” ministry.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KRISTY STEVENS

Stevens has a workstation where she makes neck pillows for her “Hands and Feet” ministry. Though Kristy Stevens is shy, she is always looking for ways to help others. Throughout the past year, she has made more than 100 pillows for hospital patients and elderly individuals at nursing facilities.

God. In 2021, on the recommendation of a BCC church member, Barnett was offered a job as patient transporter in his community hospital. Though he was scared to work at the hospital where he had been known as “a druggie,” Barnett said he felt God calling him to help.

“The seeds from our miracles are often sewn into the same exact soil as our adversity,” Barnett said. “God brought me back to that ‘adversity soil.’ This was my chance to let others know that there is hope.”

As Barnett was looking for special ways to make a difference in the lives of his patients, he connected with fellow BCC member Kristy Stevens. Stevens is shy and not comfortable getting up front in church or ministering in the “expected ways,” but she has a heart for ministry and a talent for sewing. She is known for making neck pillows for friends and family.

“[Barnett] would tell us stories about these patients who had really touched his heart,” Stevens said. “And so, I told him, ‘Well, I can make pillows for them because I know hospital beds are notoriously uncomfortable’ ... the idea was,

basically, to say ‘Hey, God’s got your back; we’ve got your neck.’”

Thus, the duo began their “Hands and Feet” pillow ministry. Over the past year,



PHOTO COURTESY OF CINDY WILLEY

Quince Barnett is shown at one of the first BCC outdoor worship services he attended. For many years, Barnett had been caught in a pattern of homelessness, drug addiction, and despair. But God changed his life. He is now a faithful member at BCC and is ministering back at the same hospital where he was treated multiple times for drug overdose.

Stevens has cut and sewn more than 100 neck pillows for Barnett to distribute, which he always does with a loving smile. They also give out blankets and Bibles. This ministry has also expanded to a nursing facility where BCC holds monthly worship services and activities. The nursing facility has received 20 pillows so far, and another 100 pillows are ready for distribution.

As Barnett continues to work in the hospital, he said he’s always on the lookout for patients who are alone and discouraged.

“I know what it’s like to be given up on and be judged all the time because of your mistakes,” Barnett said. “That’s why I want people to know that Jesus loves them. God did not give up on me. He will not give up on you.”

Cindy Willey is a Bluegrass Connections Church member.

Paola Morra Zepeda is Kentucky-Tennessee Conference media ministries director.

HOMELESS MINISTRY AT RIVERSIDE NASHVILLE PROVIDES FOOD, CLOTHING, HOPE

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

A homeless ministry at Riverside Church in Nashville, Tennessee, is providing those less fortunate with food and clothing, as well as hope for a better life by showing them the love of Jesus Christ.

The inspiration for Riverside Outreach Services came about three years ago following the 2019 execution of Tennessee death row inmate Donnie E. Johnson, who made a religious transformation behind bars, became an elder in the Seventh-day Adventist Church while incarcerated, and led prayer services for his fellow inmates. In Tennessee, condemned inmates can spend up to \$20 on a special last meal before they are executed. Johnson refused a last meal, and instead asked his supporters to donate meals to the homeless.

“The program was a byproduct of Johnson’s execution,” says Riverside member Marcus Kinzer, who spearheaded the homeless ministry with his wife, Cheryl. “I’ve always wanted to do something for those less fortunate than me.”

Following Johnson’s death, a dinner

was held at the church one Sabbath to honor him. Some members took food to the homeless, as Johnson had requested. Kinzer says he and his wife brought several plates to one location downtown,



Cheryl Dixon-Kinzer and Gary Basham are at one of the homeless camps in Nashville, Tennessee.

and were surprised by the number of people in need of food.

“We called back to the church and a group of people brought food downtown,” recalls Kinzer. “That’s kind of how we got started.”

Over the last three years, participation in the homeless ministry has grown, with continual donations of food, funds, clothes, and other items. Thousands of meals and essential items, like clothing and toilet paper, have been provided through the ministry.

“My most memorable experiences have to do with the reactions of the people we have helped,” says member Bennie Thompson.

“One gentleman thanked me profusely for a roll of toilet paper! It brought tears to my eyes.”

The ministry at Riverside is among a growing effort to address the homeless problem in Nashville, Tennessee. A recent report titled “Nashville Performance Study of Homelessness and Affordable Housing” called out the city for not doing enough to help the chronically homeless



Members of Riverside Church in Nashville, Tennessee, serve meals at a local homeless camp.

who have been homeless for more than a year. It said some people were staying homeless longer and the number of people living outside, in unsafe conditions, had doubled since 2013. An estimated 1,900 homeless people live in the Nashville area, with nearly 500 chronically homeless, according to the report.

Nashville Mayor John Cooper recently announced a \$50 million plan to combat homelessness. About half the money would be used for affordable long-term housing.

While the mayor's plan is a step in the right direction, homeless individuals like Carl "Pops" Douts says programs like the one at Riverside are lifesaving.

"I appreciate them very much for the food, the clothing, blankets, and other stuff that they bring to everybody," says Douts. "Recently, Marcus came here with a dump truck full of firewood. They have been a complete blessing."

For Gary Basham, the ministry gave

him not only food and clothes, but hope through a closer walk with Christ.

"I gave my testimony at the church one Saturday, and I could have gone on and on and on," says Basham. "Marcus and Cheryl and that team, they're not lifesavers, they're life givers. Thanks to their prayers, they helped me get off of alcohol. I've been sober a little over 3 1/2 years now. I did have stage 4 lung cancer, and because of their prayers, and the healing power of God, it is now in remission."

And, that's not all: Basham is no longer homeless. For over a year now, he's had his own apartment in north Nashville.

Cheryl Dixon-Kinzer says praying with individuals, particularly those who ask for it, is a natural part of the homeless ministry.

"We created a circle around him, and laid hands [on him]," she recalls in the case of Basham. "We poured out our hearts and our desires for God to

make a difference in his life, and he's now cancer free."

The Riverside homeless ministry intends to make a difference in many more lives — tangibly, and spiritually. Dixon-Kinzer got a letter recently from a woman the ministry helped in early 2020. The woman eventually became a member of Riverside Nashville and moved to Seattle, Washington. In her letter, she thanked the group for the assistance it provided in her time of need and enclosed a \$100 donation to assist its efforts.

"Helping people, and spreading the Word: that's what Jesus did," says Dixon-Kinzer, continuing, "and we should do the same." 🙏

Lucas L. Johnson II is a freelance writer and author of the book, *Finding the Good*.

SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS ENJOY IN-PERSON CONVENTION

BY NICOLE DOMINGUEZ

There is a rare electricity within a room of like-minded individuals.

With the common goal of uplifting the gospel through communication, professionals and college/university students in the field were able to meet, network, learn, and worship October 13-15, 2022.

At its inception in 1988, the Southern Society of Adventist Communicators founders could not have predicted that 11 years later it would become the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC), let alone that 23 years, one pandemic, and countless social media platforms later, it would be the heartbeat of digital evangelism.

For three days, nearly 210 believers of all ages and demographics congregated at the North American Division offices in Columbia, Maryland, to attend the convention in person, with even more participating online through a virtual content pass.

“After holding our convention online in a modified format for the past two years, it was exciting to be back in person,” said Kimberly Luste Maran, *Adventist Journey* editor, NAD communication associate director, and SAC interim executive director. “We weren’t sure how many people

would be able to attend, and were encouraged to watch our registration numbers reach and then exceed our cap. It was such a blessing to see everyone gathered this year for SAC!”

Bryant Taylor, D.Min., SAC president and incoming communication director for the Southern Union Conference and *Southern Tidings* editor, opened the convention with a welcome. After speaker introductions, Brandi West, vice president for AdventHealth Consumer Innovation, and Carolina Anthony, executive director for Digital Brand and Content Strategy for Advent, presented a session on reputation management, tying in brand reputation and its impact. They began by reminding attendees that, “We have to be where our consumers are ... rather than inviting them into our space.” After the presentation, Q&A was hosted by Garrett Caldwell, executive director of external communications for AdventHealth.

Celeste Ryan Blyden, executive secretary of Columbia Union Conference, but also the former *Visitor* magazine editor, communication director, and communication vice president of the Union, co-

ordinated the next session where sage communicators and bold innovators shared their thoughts on the history, the present, and the future of Adventist communication. Some of the guest panelists included Orlan Johnson, Melissa Reid, Rebecca Carpenter, Kaspar Haughton, Richard Castillo, Hugh Davis, and Michael Campbell.

“We are just one mark within the proud lineage of Adventist communicators. Indeed, from our inception, we found it our responsibility as believers to be vocal for change and progress,” said Campbell, director of the North American Division Archives, Statistics, and Research. He confirmed our origins with the Abolitionist movement spurring Adventist development. Attendees were encouraged to recall that “our brand as Adventists was forged through social reform,” acting as the catalyst and the foundation upon which the Adventist brand gained its strength.

The development of this brand has always been founded on showing Christ. The series of panels allowed 11 different professional communicators on stage to discuss topics from “The Role of Com-



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

SAC attendees gathered Sabbath for the annual group photo.

munication in Telling Our Story” to “The Role of Communication Today: Challenges and Opportunities” to “The Role of Adventism in Public Affairs and Social Justice” and “The Role of Adventism in the Post-Pandemic Era of Social Communication.” Within all the discussions, led by Blyden, there was a universal dedication to breaking out of our sphere and being active disciples in the world, entering new spheres of communication as the modern mission field. Carmela Monk Crawford, editor of *Message* magazine, summarized it best: “[Adventists] should be a loud voice in the conversation, because all we are doing is shaped by the Gospel.”

This importance of the convention cannot be overstated for its prioritization of content tailored to Church communicators; however, this year was doubly special due to it being the first in-person convention since 2019. The pandemic, though disruptive, was an opportunity for communicators to do what they do best: explore new ways to create connections. More than 50 percent of constituents shared that they were attending SAC for the first time. Blyden spoke about how every convention is built around asking, “How do we shape and share the Adventist message?”

TechTalk, Keynotes, and Workshops

On Friday, attendees poured in for the 8 a.m. TechTalk hosted by Bryant Taylor,

D.Min., and Courtney Herod. The early hour did nothing to quell the excitement nor attendance of the session with the room filled to bursting with communicators ready to get a first look at technology that can be applied to their ministries.

TechTalk has long been a favorite amongst regular attendees due to communication tech such as the Elgato box, Mevo multi-cam, insta 360 link, and several more items being debuted and, yes, even given away.

The morning keynote speaker, pastor and communications consultant Pierre Quinn gave an engaging and profound presentation on unlocking the potential of our unique abilities to acknowledge every aspect of communication. The impact of bringing every step of our movements to God was discussed in full. “We are conditioning ourselves to believe there is more power in petition than in praise,” Quinn said. His message concluded by detailing the questions we must ask ourselves as we embark on the ministry of communication.

A series of workshops was next. In total there were 12 sessions offered, each exploring the personal, professional, and spiritual aspects of communication.

Greg Dunn, a longtime public relations and crisis communication specialist, hosted a workshop on “How to Handle Media During Crisis.” Professional designer Kelly Coe, Columbia Union

Conference communication director, offered expertise on “Art Theory: Fonts, Design, Trends, and More,” diving into the nitty-gritty of the contracting for each medium from photography, graphic designers, artists, and more.

Content creators and hosts of Adventist Learning Community’s hit podcast *How the Church Works* — Heather Moor, Kaleb Eisele, and Nina Vallado — paired with Anslem Paul, pastor, to answer Caldwell’s panel questions on “Podcasting: Why and How.” They explored how the podcasting medium allows for deeper conversations



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

Bryant Taylor, D.Min. (left), incoming Southern Union communication director, *Southern Tidings* editor, and SAC president, opens up TechTalk on Friday morning, October 14, 2022. Courtney Herod, Carolina Conference associate communication director and incoming SAC assistant to the vice president for communication, lends a hand.

that are opened to the public.

Tanya R. Cochran, professor of English and communication at Union College, discussed “Mindful Self Compassion,” clarifying that “Compassion isn’t self-pity or self-indulgence, it’s an observation of reality and support.” One attendee praised the workshop for providing visibility to the topic, saying, “In Christian spheres, self-compassion isn’t supported, but it’s such an important pillar to Christianity.”

With the morning workshops concluded, convention members gathered for lunch and a brief business meeting informing constituents about the current and new board members. The most notable transition was Taylor passing the mantle to the new president, Brenda Dickerson, Mid-America Union Conference communication director.

After lunch, workshops resumed. Pastor and content creator Kevin Wilson, affectionately known online as “The Chai Guy,” led a session on “The Role of the Christian Influencer.” Occupying social media as a Christian comes with great responsibility, calling us to understand that “they may not accept your theology, but they will stay for your integrity.”

Professional freelancer Becky St. Clair shared her expertise in her workshop “Written Word: Freelancing Bootcamp,” parsing out the details of being a freelancer, and sharing guidance on navigating the profession. In the end, she implored freelancers to “know their worth and lean into your skill set.”

Connections

With the day’s workshops concluded, constituents enjoyed dinner and fellowship. Resuming in-person conventions meant that those attending got to the heart of the event: connecting with like-minded professionals, and networking with students and pros.

Maran commented, “We tried to balance presentations with time for people to connect — there was a human need for our communicators to connect and just talk. Having the students there with the pros just



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

Pierre Quinn, pastor and communications consultant, was the Friday morning SAC keynote speaker who talked about the impact of bringing every step of our movement to God as we use our unique abilities in communication.



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

Vocalist Tony Douce serenades attendees before the Vespers keynote.

added to those precious moments.”

Students from many NAD colleges and universities were welcomed by offers for internships, job opportunities, and professional guidance. Miranda Delgado, a senior at Southern Adventist University (SAU), commented, “It’s encouraging to see all of the progress that’s being made. We’re able to move forward and see all of the new things to expand.”

Another senior from SAU, Stefanie Green, praised the opportunity to meet people in your field: “I’m here to meet people who know about communications, and network with professionals who can provide guidance.” SAC practiced what they preached about digital evangelism by offering an app where attendees could see the schedule, post discussions on workshops, and share social media insights regarding the event under #SACNAD22.

The Gospel Through Communication

Sabbath was welcomed by a Friday Vespers service. Vocalist Tony Douce serenaded everyone before G. Alexander Bryant, North American Division president, opened the Sabbath with his message, “Tell the Story.” Mark 5:18-20 was the central focus of the sermon with Bryant explaining how everyone is



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

G. Alexander Bryant, D.Min., president of the North American Division, opens the Sabbath with a Friday evening Vespers keynote, “Tell the Story.”

a minister of the Gospel. He shared, “The power of God can transform lives from the very worst human condition.”

Sabbath School began the next morning with video features of extraordinary individuals working for God’s ministry. Nicole and Victor Broushet, founders of The Vegan Nest restaurants, and Monterey Bay Academy history teacher Timothy Zytoskee were highlighted in *Adventist Journey* magazine videos. The Beltsville D.C. Campus Seventh-day Adventist Church was given the platform, with their worship team leading praise and their pastor, Joanne Cortes, also an SAC board member, exploring the story of Mark 6:31-44 and John 6:7-9, remembering to



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

Oakwood and Southern students pose with their professors, Conference attendees, and Southern Union workers.

prioritize people and the younger generations. Cortes addressed how “sometimes we overlook people because they don’t fit our criteria.” She told congregants that “we must never miss out on our calling due to external speculation.”

On Saturday evening, attendees returned to a decorated auditorium and plated meal. Musician Felipe Paccagnella played music during dinner, then the program transitioned to a Sonscreen Film Festival showcase, which some attendees described as a delightful conclusion to the convention. Maran and Rachel Scribner, festival program director and event manager, as well as SAC convention manager, shared feature films from this year and previous years’ festivals, including three student films: Spark, Knock Knock, and Hamilton. In addition, trailers of past, present, and future projects were also featured.

The evening culminated with the presentation of SAC awards. Megan Yoshioka won the SAC Student Award; Makena Horton received the SAC Young Professional Award; and finally, there were two recipients of the Lifetime Achievement Award, Rajmund Dabrowski, Rocky Mountain Conference communication director, and R. Steven Norman III, retiring Southern Union communication



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

R. Steven Norman III, one of the recipients of the SAC Lifetime Achievement Award, stands with his wife, Elaine; daughter, Gianna Snell; and grandchildren, Jadon, Brooke, and Braydon.

director and *Southern Tidings* editor. A final award, the SAC Leadership Award, was presented to Daniel Weber, former SAC executive director and NAD communication director, for his servant leadership, hard work, and mentorship throughout the years.

The weekend contained a level of dedication and focus that transcended the event, allowing for infectious enthusiasm and unified worship. Having spaces that encourage the growth and development of the Gospel through communication, allows older generations to share



PHOTO BY: ART BRONDO

Bryant Taylor, D.Min., passes the president’s gavel to Brenda Dickerson, incoming SAC president and Mid-America communication director.

their expertise and encourages younger communicators that there is a space for them to thrive. Events such as these are the starting point for deeper connections, passing the mantle to continue the call of ministry. 🕊

Nicole Dominguez is a freelance writer from Chicago, Illinois.

Irisene Douce, Southern Tidings managing editor, contributed to this article.

JOURNEY TO WHOLENESS

BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

Each year during the Advent season, we turn our attention to amazing stories that help us reflect on God’s love for each of us and bring a measure of hope, joy, and peace to our hearts. This year is no different as AdventHealth relives the season in new ways. In this year’s Advent series, AdventHealth explores the theme, *Journey to Wholeness*, an experience that will bring new insights, shared from Mary’s unique perspective.

The Advent signals the arrival of someone of great significance — the anticipation of healing, restoration, and wholeness. When we think back to the story of Jesus’ arrival on Earth, we read about the moment Mary was told she would give birth to the Messiah, the long-awaited Savior. After generations of people waited on this very message of the Messiah coming down to Earth and

completing the promise God made to humanity, the time finally arrived.

“But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob’s descendants forever; His Kingdom will never end,” Luke 1: 30-33 NIV.

As Christians, we often think back on this story in the Bible and what an exciting time it must have been. We think of how the shepherds were delighted to see the newborn King and the wisemen who traveled far to see Jesus. Even the angels rejoiced in Heaven, singing, and praising the arrival of the Messiah on Earth.

“Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the an-

gel, praising God, and saying, ‘Glory to God in the highest Heaven, and on Earth peace to those on whom His favor rests,’” Luke 2: 13-14 NIV.

But what was that experience like for Mary? How did she feel physically, mentally, and spiritually?

AdventHealth’s Advent series explores these questions as Mary journeys from Nazareth to Bethlehem and experiences the long-awaited arrival of Jesus. Her story of faith and courage is rich with lessons and inspiration that remain relevant today. Mary’s journey can be our journey too if we trust in God’s plans for our lives and rely on Him to guide us.

To see the Advent series, visit AdventHealth.com/VideoUpdates. 🎧

Elizabeth Camps is the senior stakeholder communications specialist at AdventHealth.



AdventHealth's Transcultural Assimilation Program Provides Career Opportunities for International Nurses

As part of AdventHealth's commitment to enhance workforce diversity and deepen inclusion at the workplace, the organization developed the Transcultural Assimilation Program (TAP) a few years ago to serve as a gateway for international nurses to join AdventHealth's workforce. To bring this initiative to life, AdventHealth embarks on several international recruitment initiatives in new regions throughout the year.

In the fall of 2022, AdventHealth held an international recruitment event in Puerto Rico for the first time. At the event, held near the capital of San Juan, attendees had the opportunity to interview with AdventHealth's hiring managers, network with regional leaders, and learn about the organization's innovative training programs. Out of the 390 people who attended the event, 270 received new job offers, including more than 200 offers for registered nurses.

"I went to the event because I was looking to grow professionally," said Johnny Adamez-Collazo, a newly hired team member from Puerto Rico who now works as an ER nurse at AdventHealth Orlando. "I'm excited about my new AdventHealth role as well as the benefits."

Shortly after the event, Adamez-Collazo and other new hires arrived at the AdventHealth corporate campus in Altamonte Springs, Fla., to begin the onboarding process to become AdventHealth team members.

The TAP experience takes a cohort of new international hires through a four-



AdventHealth team members prepare for the first day of the hiring event in Puerto Rico with a team huddle and prayer.



Out of the 390 people who attended the AdventHealth Hiring Event, 270 received new job offers, including more than 200 offers for registered nurses.

week program that helps them successfully navigate life in the United States (U.S.), as well as transition and assimilate into the U.S. culture and health care system. With the success of every new hire in mind, the program aims to en-

hance personal and professional growth, and ensure new nurses are well equipped to deal with everyday personal and work-related matters. The program covers a wide range of areas, from setting up a personal bank account and cell phone services, to reviewing the U.S. health care system policies and guidelines.

It's a unique and innovative approach to onboarding international staff who helps to not only improve retention, but also enhance the quality of patient care.

"TAP is very different than what I have experienced in the past," said Enid Cruz, a newly hired ER nurse at AdventHealth Orlando recruited at the Puerto Rico event. "Usually when you start a new job, you get basic orientation on code of conduct and hospital policies. But here at AdventHealth, we get so much more, including learning about the culture, the people we will work with, and more. It's been great!"

"From the very beginning, the AdventHealth team at the event treated us all so well," said Jannat Heredia, a new Puerto Rico hire who works as an oncology progressive care unit nurse at AdventHealth Altamonte Springs. "They made me feel like they really wanted me there. It was so nice to feel like I already belonged — like I was already part of the family just by being there at the event."

To learn more about AdventHealth's Transcultural Assimilation Program for international nurses, visit [AdventHealth.com/Careers/International-Recruitment](https://www.adventhealth.com/Careers/International-Recruitment). ●

BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

Southern Student Makes Impact in Zambian Industry

Ashley Blake, member of Spartanburg, S.C., Church, first joined Southern Adventist University's Enactus chapter during her freshman year. Housed in the School of Business, its mission is to engage the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to use innovation and business principles to improve the world. During her sophomore year, she became a project manager, and led a project that raised funding and increased sustainability for a doctor in India who performed cataract surgeries. During her junior year, she became the president of Southern's Enactus team.

One Friday afternoon, Blake received an email highlighting an interesting project. A student missionary from Southern had started the Akuna Soap Industry at Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia, which was helping to create local jobs. Riverside grows soybeans, among other things, and since soap can be made from soybean oil, the student had spearheaded a miniature soap production industry to benefit the community. The operation was very successful but very basic. Em-

ployees would create soap using buckets, mixers attached to electric drills, and molds, and the team wanted to upgrade the operation by building a factory. "I couldn't stop thinking about that email," Blake remembers. "I loved that it was an entrepreneurial operation being propelled by a Southern student." She decided to use her position in Enactus to help with business development, and wrote a project vision charter to help Akuna Soap raise \$135,000. She proposed the goal of supporting the project while in its startup phase with the aim of helping the business become sustainable on its own. When Blake and club sponsor Michelle Doucoumes, professor, presented the idea to a local alum serving on the Enactus advisory board, he was so enthusiastic that he helped them connect with others until they achieved full funding for the project.

This past year, Blake got the chance to go as a student missionary to Riverside Farm. A business and accounting major, she was excited to have another hands-on opportunity through Southern to use her

professional skills to assist others. She helped manage all areas of the project, from running the new factory to helping grow the sales and marketing areas of the business. She especially focused on local women who needed jobs, and their sales team grew from three women to 30.

Blake was struck by the sharp contrast between the very rich Zambians, who live in luxury, and the very poor Zambians, who live in grass huts with no clean water and no opportunities. She loved being a part of an organization that made such a positive impact on the lives of people who otherwise have very limited opportunities. In addition to creating many jobs, Riverside sponsors evangelism training, has launched more than 50 churches, and sponsors the education of many local children. "I grew so much as a person during my time there," says Blake. "I loved being a part of something that made such a positive impact in people's lives." ●

BY ANGELA BAERG



Making soap



Donating soap in the villages



Selling soap in Lusaka

PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTED

PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTED

PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTED

Spiritual Tune-up Theme at 2022 Men's Ministries Retreat



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Are you in need of a “Spiritual Tune-up?” This was the theme of the 2022 Men’s Ministries Retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty Hill, S.C., on the weekend of September 23-25, 2022. This retreat has set new records for men’s retreat in the Carolina Conference, totaling 375 men between the English (80) and Spanish (294) men’s meetings. What a year for this to happen! As the cherry on top, they could not have asked for better weather, and the men were eager to get outside and enjoy this gift from God.

While each group of men meet separately — Hispanic meeting in the gym and English meeting in the cafeteria — all of them ate together and participated in camp activities like boat rides, canoes, paddle boards, hayrides, and even campfires with s’mores together.

In the gym, the Hispanic men sat entranced by the message that was being presented to them by their weekend speaker and the Hispanic ministries director, Ricardo Palacios. These men were taking notes, sitting on the edge of their seats, following along in their Bibles, and livestreaming to their Facebook accounts via mobile phones.

While Palacios was on fire in the gym,



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

so was the guest speaker for the English meetings, Rick Mercer, ministerial director for the Oklahoma Conference and former Carolina Conference pastor. Mercer wove his personal testimony masterfully throughout his presentations, and fit nicely in line with their other guest speaker, Carlton Alexander’s testimony.

At some of the meetings the men were seated around tables, and periodically were instructed to discuss certain topics or provoking questions amongst those at their table.

All the men were saddened to find out from Tony LaPorte, Carolina Conference men’s ministries director, that this would be the last men’s retreat for his secretary,



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Jayne Rouse. LaPorte invited her up to present her with a gift from him and his area leaders to express their thanks for all that she has done for the retreats over the years. He then invited Mercer to offer a prayer of blessing over her and her family. Later that afternoon, when the men gathered to take their annual group photo, the men insisted that Rouse be in the photo with them. Several of the men lined up to make sure they could express their gratitude and appreciation to her for all she’d done for them personally, and a few to make sure they got a hug. 🤗

BY COURTNEY HEROD

Christmas Comes Early to Children in Florida

Every year, Florida Conference Youth Department has a Christmas toy drive to collect toys for boys and girls ages birth-12. A box is placed in the Florida Conference office as well as in churches around the Conference that want to join in the toy drive by collecting brand new toys.

The first toy rally was held in Clewiston in 2018. This small town is poverty stricken. The Youth Department, through the local church, created an afternoon with hundreds of gifts given to more than 100 families as well as gift cards to some teens.

In December of 2019, the department continued sharing gifts to low-income communities and went to the town of Immokalee where more than 100 families shared a special meal, received gifts, and left blessed. That local church only holds about 30 people, so the worship

service was held outside to fit everyone who came out to the rally.

In 2020 and 2021, COVID-19 changed how gifts were given away, and it was chosen to have drive-thru toy drives:

- 2020 — The Youth Department partnered with a women and children’s shelter in Daytona and with a local church in central Florida which works closely with a low-income housing community in Altamonte Springs. Gifts were given away from the Florida Conference office parking lot with the help of church members from various churches.
- 2021 — Tallahassee was chosen for the toy giveaway site. In addition to the drive-thru experience, a team went out to low-income communities and gave out toys. Volunteers from the church helped make signs and stand by the road to lead cars

into the church parking lot. One family that came through talked to the pastor and wanted to start Bible studies.

Over the years, this multi-church event — strongly supported by Florida Conference Children’s Ministries and Pastoral Ministries — has blessed more than 500 families and given more than \$10,000 through donated toys and gift cards.

The next toy rally will be held Sabbath afternoon, December 10, 2022, in Okeechobee, where the Youth and Young Adult Ministries staff will team up with the local church. New toys for this project will be received at the Florida Conference office before December 10. 📍

BY JUAN RODRIGUEZ AND AISHA BEST



Figuring how a new toy works is fun, but sharing it with a friend is even better!



A mother shares in the joy of a new toy with her daughter.

Lauderhill Church Celebrates Centenarian

Rita-Ann Richards-Anglin, Lauderhill Church member, was honored on Sunday, June 26, 2022, with a 100th birthday celebration at the Signature Grand Ballroom in Fort Lauderdale. This stalwart centurion enjoyed the festivities of a royal-like celebration by people impacted by her love and ministry: family, friends, church members and leaders, local civic leaders, and government officials.

Professional Background

Born in Mount Providence, Clarendon parish, Jamaica, on June 28, 1922, to parents Timothy and Ethel Richards, Rita-Ann was one of seven children. She began charting her way towards becoming an educator. To realize her dream, she enrolled in The Moneague College in St. Ann and obtained a certificate approved by the Institute of Education from the University of the West Indies, Jamaica. She also attended the prestigious Mico University College and earned a Teacher's Diploma from the Ministry of Education.

Anglin's natural persona of being kind, loving, considerate, sympathetic, and helpful equipped her to excel in the challenging field of teaching where she blessed hundreds of students and faculty at various church schools and government institutions. She received numerous awards and citations, such as a medal for excellence in the field of education, Certificate for Community Service, and a citation for her long service in teaching.

Exemplary Record of Citizenship

Anglin has displayed true professionalism and dignity in all undertakings within her local community, church, and home country. She served as district Red Cross



Rita-Ann Richards-Anglin

leader, Justice of the Peace (St. James, Jamaica), lay magistrate (St. James, Jamaica), and active committee member for Public Assistance in Food Aid (Montego Bay, Jamaica).

As a true God-fearing Christian, she faithfully served various positions in her home church, both in Jamaica and the USA: church clerk, Sabbath School teacher and superintendent, Adventist Youth (AY) sponsor, organist, choir director, youth leader, lay preacher, Bible worker, and lay activities leader; and, she executed three spirit-filled crusades.

Living in the Here and Now

Anglin, who is the surviving spouse of a remarkable marriage, now spends

most of her time at home enjoying her post-retirement life. She is a mother of three sons, five grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren. Some of her favorite post-retirement activities include colporteur, small farming, dressmaking, hand embroidery, tatting, messaging the pastor and other members on her newly discovered WhatsApp, and listening to music. To soothe her soul she cites, "Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name," Psalm 103:1. "My Maker and My King," is her favorite hymn. 🕯

BY LAUDERHILL CHURCH COMMUNICATION

“Grounded” Takes Off in Knoxville

An exciting and innovative concept took flight October 19-22, 2022 at the Knoxville First Church, Knoxville, Tenn. Using the church sanctuary as a recording studio, It Is Written, with speaker John Bradshaw, presented a brand new series entitled “Grounded.”

This five-part series was a focus on foundational Bible truths that provide the keys to living a confident Christian life. In a society that is becoming increasingly secular, “Grounded” was designed to help others build a deeper faith in Jesus, and embrace how that faith becomes real and practical in everyday life.

The five foundational truths presented included Scripture, salvation, the second coming, the seventh-day Sabbath, and the sanctuary.

These topics were presented in a practical and appealing way, so that new believers could grasp the importance and the beauty of each one, while also being presented in a fresh and innovative way, so that even lifelong church members could be encouraged in their faith.

Branden and Krystal Bruzzese, both busy nurses, felt a calling to attend this series in person. When asked why they chose to attend, they said, “We wanted to grow spiritually. We know that the search



PHOTO BY: IT IS WRITTEN

for truth is found in the Bible and not in the pluralism of society. It’s not just reading the Bible that saves you, it’s having a real relationship with Jesus.”

More than 100 churches and host sites registered for Grounded, which included 11 sites in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. These sites primarily participated in Grounded by watching on It Is Written TV, but the series was also broadcast on Hope Channel and 3ABN.

“We’ve gotten thousands of messages, hundreds of requests for baptism, and those numbers are going up every day,” said Wes Peppers, It Is Written evangelism director. “Our team continues to follow up on emails and texts from those who responded to appeals during the series.”

One such request came from a

non-Christian woman who attended the meetings after being invited by a friend. She came every night and was struck by how simple yet profound the meetings were. The woman responded to an appeal, accepting Jesus and asking to be baptized.

Marilyn Lawrence, a member of the Oak Ridge, Tenn., Church says, “This series has strengthened my faith and given me great joy in Jesus!”

Local church members assisted in the series, serving as greeters and ushers for the live audience. They also provided delicious meals for the It Is Written crew and other volunteers each evening. On Sabbath, a lunch and supper were provided for all those in attendance, giving guests and members alike the opportunity to enjoy healthy food and fellowship.

Marcus Bates, pastor, was excited for the Knoxville First Church to host this series where members from at least six area churches participated in the program.

Peppers shares, “The people of Knoxville were truly a part of prophecy being fulfilled as the Gospel message is going from here all over the world.”

BY RICK GREVE, GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
NORTHERN REGION MINISTERIAL
DIRECTOR

Music Conference Provides Framework for Worship

For the first ever Collegedale Korean Music in Worship Conference, Erwin Nanasi, D.Min., Oklahoma Conference pastor, was invited to the Collegedale, Tenn., Korean Church. There are only a few issues as widely debated yet as essential to Adventism as

the topic of worship. The theme for the conference was “...and worship Him,” (Revelation 14:7) which set the tone for the presentations on biblical foundations in worship as well as the practical pointers for worship leaders, accompanists, and congregants during the weekend.

Attendees preregistered for the event and participated either in person or online. Sessions were subdivided into both practical master classes on planning, singing, leading, accompanying, and conducting church music, as well as Bible discourses on worship.

Whether for practical or philosophical reasons, members and guests from the surrounding local churches continued to mention how this seminar provided the framework and content for Adventist worship in a multigenerational, multicultural 21st-century congregation. Nanasi's approach balanced the often polarizing elements of the paradoxical nature of truth such as the law of God and the grace of God, revival as well as reformation, keeping God's holy day in His holy way, worshiping Him in spirit as well as in truth. Furthermore, participants were invited to consider theological tenets and musical undercurrents in compositions, selections, and performances of church music. Nanasi argued that the three Hebrew friends were compelled by the use of all kinds of "music" to wor-

ship a man-made image in literal Babylon, which foreshadowed the bearers of the three angels' messages, who will be compelled by the use of ecumenical music practices to worship on a man-made



Erwin Nanasi, D.Min., presents during the Collegedale Korean Music in Worship Conference. A special highlight was a mass choir singing "How Great Thou Art" during the weekend's church service.

day (and way) in spiritual Babylon!

God's Spirit was especially palpable during the special music of a mass choir composed of high school and collegiate young people performing a rendition of "How Great Thou Art" by Dan Forrest, and the genuine response of the congregation during the altar call at the end of the sermon. The members praise God for the inspiration their local church received through the ministry of the Word and song, and encourage others to dedicate a weekend to do the same as well.

Some of the sessions from the worship seminar are available to watch on the Collegedale Korean's YouTube channel at cksda church. 📺

BY SARAH SHIM

Morristown Hispanic Organized as Church

In the year 2002, Agustin Soto and his family were called to bring the message of hope to the Spanish-speaking community of Morristown, Tenn.

After traveling back and forth to Knoxville Hispanic every Sabbath, Soto and his family opened a small group

in their home, which led them to look for a larger place to worship. They were able to arrange to use the gymnasium of the local English-speaking Adventist church in Morristown.

Morristown soon had a Spanish-speaking group of Adventists, with the help of

David Labrador, pastor, and the Zunún, Altamirano, and Morales families, along with other families. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to continue with the growth of this church.

Fast forward to 2007, after fervent mission and prayers, the small group was blessed with the opportunity of purchasing a church building for the group to keep expanding into an Adventist company.

Furthermore, the work continued over the years to present day. The Morristown Hispanic Company, with its many families, was officially organized by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference on October 1, 2022, as the Morristown Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist Church. They are committed to continue spreading the Gospel until God's second coming. 📺



Agustín Soto and his wife, Marina, along with their children, lead out in services in the gymnasium that was used as the main place of worship. When the Hispanic group in Morristown, Tenn., became too large to meet at the Soto's house, they started renting space from the Adventist English church in Morristown.



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

Members of the Morristown Hispanic Company sign their names to become charter members of the Morristown Hispanic Church. The organization service took place at the Morristown Hispanic Church on October 1, 2022.

BY ABRAHAM MORALES

Hispanic Church Holds Retreat

In Panama City, Fla., September 23-25, 2022, Hispanic ministries promoted a special program for the district's families. The topics, speakers, and theme, "Familias Indestructibles," or Indestructible Families, were carefully selected to enrich, strengthen, and encourage parents and children.

Waldemar Matias, a member of the Birmingham Hispanic Church, said the themes were very moving and very im-

portant. "Sometimes a person doesn't know things like how to manage a family, how to talk to the children, how to care for the children, or how to treat the wife, and the themes are ones that have never been heard before," Matias said. "So, these themes concerning the family have been really important to me," he added. 📍

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM



PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

Teachers Gather for Retreat

Teachers from all educational institutions in the Gulf States Conference territory gathered for their

annual retreat at Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, Ala., from September 29 to October 2, 2022. This is a time for the teachers to acquire tools that will enhance their professional life, and also find encouragement and fellowship among other teachers.

"Coming to a teachers' convention we can join with other teachers, to allow us to come together and realize that we are all in this together," said Ashley Neill,

College Drive School principal. "We all go through the same struggles, we all have the same successes, and we can bond with each other and know we are not alone in our mission to bring Jesus to our students every day," added the teacher from College Drive Christian School in Jackson, Miss. 📍

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM



PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

Hattiesburg Central Hispanic Church Suffers Fire Incident

A fire incident destroyed parts of the Hattiesburg Central Hispanic Church in Hattiesburg, Miss., but a miracle may have stopped the flames from engulfing the entire building. The fire that started in the sound booth was rapidly controlled and no casualties occurred. Nonetheless, the damage goes beyond the sound equipment as the smoke spread through the air conditioning system, compromising the ducts,

ruining the sheet rock, and contaminating the fabric coats in the church's pews. According to Obed Nahuat, pastor, a thorough evaluation is being conducted to provide an accurate picture of the total damage.

The Hattiesburg Central Hispanic Church was holding a series of evangelistic meetings where many people were committing their lives to Christ, and choosing to be baptized. But, though the

fire caused the church building to close temporarily, it was not able to interrupt the moving of the Holy Spirit. The meetings continued to be held in alternative places, and the baptisms occurred too. The Hattiesburg Central Hispanic Church community asks for your prayers. 📍

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Young Adult Ministries Retreat Draws Many to Panama City

YAM, the Young Adult Ministries, held its first youth retreat August 5-7, 2022, in Panama City, Fla.

“Get Connected” was an initiative geared to unite the youth from across the Gulf States Conference, and provided the oppor-

tunity for the 50 young adults who attended the meeting to meet face to face, spend time in nature, and reconnect with God.

Spiritual devotionals were conducted by Danny Verdugo, youth pastor at the Burluson Adventist Church in Texas.

He addressed the problem of distance, especially the thoughts that make many feel far away from God, and how relationships can be re-established. To Verdugo, their relationship with God is a matter of identity.

“Through knowing our true identity, fostering interpersonal relationships, and creating a culture of mentorship, our vertical connection with God grows stronger as well as our horizontal connections,” he said.

Those who have attended are already looking forward to next year’s retreat. So, start preparing and “get connected!”



PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Adventurers, Pathfinders Train for Leadership

The importance of acquiring knowledge, the will to put it into practice, and the need to constantly train your skills are among the priceless principles one takes to live from a journey in Pathfinders.

Anyone who’s been a Pathfinder knows that the path to leadership begins

early, perhaps in the Adventurers Club, and it requires focus, determination, and discipline to become a master.

To develop an acute sense of awareness and the will to continue learning throughout life, is a challenge posed by Christ, our Master, to those who want to be His disciples. Therefore, both church workers and volunteers should seek to participate in training and seminars that can help them better understand the times and trends that shape culture, and also train and sharpen their skills to advance the Gospel.

The Adventurers and Pathfinders leadership training seminar was held from August 12 to 14, 2022, at Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, Ala. The purpose of Adventist

Youth Ministries Training (AYMT) is to provide the framework for lifelong training.

Ivan Lugo, Gulf States Pathfinder chair, said that this event is “critical to providing this training seminar to enable the directors and staff to return to their home clubs, and provide the best program possible for our children.”

Every year, Gulf States promotes Adventurer, Pathfinder, and Master Guide leadership training to prepare the volunteers who work with the children and teenagers to serve the communities, families, and the Lord the best.



PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Gulf States Holds FEJA Retreat

Youth used to be the season of life for flocking; they hung out together everywhere, and friends were almost inseparable. But times have changed, technology evolved, and a new feature was introduced to old and new friendships: a screen.

Though many young people are more secluded and lonelier than ever before, they still want and need the physical presence of one another. Seeking to promote opportunities for young people to meet face to face and enjoy the company of one another in a Christian environment, FEJA — Federación de Jóvenes Adventistas — the Hispanic youth association at the Gulf States Conference, held its annual meeting from July 29 to July 31, 2022, at Panama City, Fla.

More than 300 young people gathered to make new friends and recommit their

lives to Christ. Powerful messages delivered by Jose Rojas, pastor, and singer Dani Ferras inspired and motivated the young people to share their faith with



Jose Rojas, retired pastor, speaks to more than 300 youth during the FEJA retreat.

others, and challenged them to aim for a greater connection with God and others.

Rojas, a retired pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, led many around the world to accept Jesus as their Savior, and has recently gone through a life and death experience, took the opportunity to open his heart and share personal councils on nurturing faith and Christian living. He said the best way to leave a legacy is to make what he lived for come alive in other people. Therefore, this meeting was also a particularly special opportunity for him to instill in the youth the desire to share the Gospel everywhere they go. The youth responded to the appeal, and one young man was baptized. 📍

PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Adventist Community Services Celebrates Special Sabbath

The Gulf States Conference remembered and celebrated the work and legacy of Adventist Community

Services (ACS) on October 24, 2022. To promote awareness and continue preparing Seventh-day Adventist members to

support those in time of need, a special disaster response training conducted by ACS directors from the General Conference and the North American Division took place in Huntsville, Ala., from September 21 to 25, 2022.

“Once a year, Gulf States Conference hosts a Sabbath via Zoom, in person for those close and the world as they like to attend, to get trained in how to respond after a disaster, how to respond after a crisis, or simply how to respond to our friends and neighbors in their time of need,” said Martin Fancher, Adventist Community Service director for the Gulf States Conference. 📍



PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Tupelo Company Changes Status

We are delighted to announce that the Agape Company in Tupelo, Miss., has achieved church status as of August 13, 2022. The ceremony was attended by many church members and church officials who gathered to dedicate the new enterprise, whose official name is now Tupelo Hispanic Adventist Church.

After the service, members spoke to Martin Fancher, Gulf States Conference executive secretary, who confidently affirmed that “the best days of this church are still ahead.” His statement resonated with Gulf States President Brian Danese’s sermon that urged the church to be a lighthouse in the community.

“Now our responsibility is that this



PHOTO BY: COMMUNICATION TEAM

place becomes a place where the community can come for help,” said Edgar Maldonado, Tupelo’s first elder, continuing, “a place where broken families can find in Christ a restoring solution, a place where those in need who wander in the streets can find the peace and refuge

that this church can provide them. It is a great responsibility that we are taking upon ourselves, but we’ve only taken it because we are holding Jesus’ hand.”

Tupelo Hispanic, which began as a group, became a company, and moved to church status thanks to the New Albany Church that nurtured and supported it, both spiritually and financially, as it matured.

According to Jorge Belisario, district pastor, “This has been a long and challenging path, but we can say that ‘thus far the Lord has helped us.’” Please continue to pray for Tupelo’s continuous growth. 📌

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Gulf States Holds Hispanic Women’s Ministries Retreat

Stress, fear, anguish: Falling asleep in tranquility every night is no longer a natural experience for everyone. In fact, it’s possible to say that we live in an anxiety epidemic. The rhythm of life has been dramatically altered, resources are becoming scarcer, but desires to have things or be someone we are not have only increased.

The illusion that one can have everything under control and that all must do things better and faster, consumes their energy. Sooner or later anxiety takes over, and sometimes to the point of paralyzing many.

Thinking of ways to address this issue and suggest practical ways to deal with anxiety, the Gulf States’ Hispanic Ministries Department promoted a women’s retreat, or “un ‘Retiro de Damas,’” from August 19 to 21, 2022. The event held at



The retreat had 300 attendees.

Camp Alamisco in Dadeville, Ala., was designed to speak especially to women’s needs, and to help them to face anxiety with faith.

Special guests Miriam Solórzano and Elizabeth Talbot, director of Jesus 101, one of the seven media ministries at the North America Division, shared principles and experiences from theological and

psychological standpoints to help women better cope with their daily challenges.

Talbot believes that anxiety can be soothed with the certainties that we find in the Gospel. To her, it is a matter of learning how to put this knowledge into practice, and really trusting what is there.

The event, which was attended by 300 women from all over the Gulf States territories, was blessed by the messages which encouraged attendees to take what they’ve learned even further.

“The unity of the ladies in the Church depends on these events,” said Wanda Vazquez, “and the sense of unity that we feel here, we take back to the other ladies at our home churches who weren’t able to come.” 📌

BY COMMUNICATION TEAM

Taylors Accept Call to Serve the Southern Union Youth Department

Greg and Kim Taylor, who have served the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Youth Department for seven years, announced their departure from Kentucky-Tennessee on September 27, 2022, after accepting an invitation to join the Southern Union Conference. Greg Taylor will serve as the Southern Union's youth director and Kim Taylor will serve as the youth and young adults coordinator.

The Taylors met while working at Camp Cedars Falls, Calif., in 1997. Since then, the couple has been committed to youth ministries and has served in various church roles in Michigan, Maryland, Indiana, and Wisconsin. In 2016, they joined Kentucky-Tennessee's Youth Department, and began their work at Indian Creek Camp (ICC) the following summer.

Since coming to Kentucky-Tennessee, the Taylors grew the outreach of the Conference's youth ministries. Throughout their six years at Indian Creek, attendance almost doubled, and the couple oversaw several facelift projects such as new flooring, a new horse arena, and a new zipline-tour.

"We have a lot of favorite memories at camp, but the highlight has always been the kids who made decisions for baptism," Greg Taylor said. "There is nothing like seeing kids fall in love with Jesus."

Kim Taylor adds that the couple will also miss bonding with the camp staff, many of whom are college students, and seeing them grow into leaders.

In addition to their work at the camp, the Taylors, alongside Nelson Silva, associate youth director, also brought a lot of support for the Conference's Public Campus Ministries and the local Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs. Steve Haley,



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Greg and Kim Taylor stand in front of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference office building. The couple served the Conference's Youth Department for seven years, and have now transitioned to work with the Southern Union.

Kentucky-Tennessee president, says the Conference was blessed by the influence of the Taylors.

"The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference has benefited enormously through the ministry of the Taylors," Haley said. "Not only have they demonstrated in measurable ways their skill and talents, as evident by the historic attendance growth at Indian Creek Camp, but they have also ministered in countless ways to individuals through Bible studies, premarital counseling, and weeks of prayer. We will miss their presence here in our Conference, but are grateful that they will remain lifelong friends."

The Taylors will conclude their work with Kentucky-Tennessee on November 13, 2022, following the ending of the second Adventurer camporee. The couple will stay in the area for now, and say they plan to occasionally visit Indian

Creek as part of their new job. While the Taylors say they are excited to advance youth ministries efforts throughout the entire Southern Union, they also shared that they will miss the Kentucky-Tennessee family.

"We have been so happy with our position, and we have loved working with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference," Kim Taylor said. "We're grateful for the memories, for the friendships, and bonds that we have created. As we go, we'd love to encourage [local churches] to continue making youth ministries a priority."

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

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Kentucky Churches Organize Fundraiser to Send Youth to GYC

The LaGrange, Pewee, and Shelbyville churches in Kentucky hosted “Taste of the World” on October 2, 2022 — a food fair meant to sponsor young adults who wish to attend this year’s Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC). This is the 10th year the churches have raised money to support GYC participants.

Jean Shephard, LaGrange Church member, organized the event. Shephard first attended GYC in 2011, and was inspired by the impact the program had on young people.

“I was just in awe to see so many young adults in this movement, because that age group is the big group that leaves the Church,” Shephard said. “After the event, I noticed that those who attended [GYC] became more involved in the Church, taking on roles that they never had done before.”

Since then, Shephard, with the support of the LaGrange, Pewee, and Shelbyville churches, has coordinated various fundraisers throughout the years to sponsor the GYC attendance of more young adults. Some of these fundraisers included a Valentine’s dinner and a chili cookout.

In addition to a yard sale, this year’s fundraising included “Taste of the World.” For this event, church members and friends prepared and sold cuisines from different countries such as South Africa, the Philippines, Germany, Japan, and Mexico. More than 50 individuals attended the fair.

“Knowing that we have a family that supports us in our spiritual growth with God, encourages us to stay focused on the Lord’s path,” said Abraham Roblero, a young adult from the Shelbyville Church who will be attending this year’s GYC program. “It’s important that other churches

also focus on their youth because it helps them stand strong in the faith.”

This year, the three churches have raised close to \$2,000, which will help cover part of the registration, lodging, travel, and food expenses for 12 individuals. The group will be traveling together to Phoenix, Ariz., at the end of December for the GYC session.

“When we invest in our young people, we invest in the growth of the Church,” Shephard said. “It may take a lot of work and a lot of time, but all of that is worth it when you save a young soul.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA



Juliana Olivas shares authentic Honduran dishes.

PHOTO BY: ABRAHAM ROBLERO



Ashton Human serves a traditional dish from South Africa. Through fundraisers such as this one, church members were able to raise close to \$2,000, which will help cover part of the registration, lodging, travel, and food expenses for individuals attending GYC.

PHOTO BY: ABRAHAM ROBLERO



Jean Shephard, from the LaGrange Church, serves vegan Tikka Masala. Shephard, with the support of many other church members, started this tradition to raise funds for GYC. “When we invest in our young people, we invest in the growth of the church,” Shephard said.

PHOTO BY: ABRAHAM ROBLERO



A table showcases some of the dishes at the “Taste of the World” food fair. During this delicious event, church members prepared recipes from countries such as the Philippines, Germany, Japan, and Mexico.

PHOTO BY: ABRAHAM ROBLERO

Students Enjoy Health-centered School Day

Students at the Woodbury, Tenn., School started learning about nutritional health and well-being using the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference's Kid's NEWSTART program, as prepared by the Health Ministries Department, on October 5, 2022. The classes were also accompanied by some heart-healthy visual aids and props.

Joan Zollinger, Woodbury School head teacher, worked with Doris Tucker, a local nurse; Jill Zollinger, a physical therapist; and Becki Louden, a nutrition/public health teacher. Together, the team provided a school day of fun and educational activities to motivate the students to live their best life.

The day started with prayer and a lesson taught by Louden, who shared nutrition recommendations using test tube

visual aid examples. The students were able to compare sugar, caffeine, cholesterol, fat, and sodium in different foods. Many were shocked at how much sugar some products contained.

"I learned what things are healthy and what is not healthy," said Allister Leedom, a Woodbury School kindergarten. "I learned that Mountain Dew is not healthy."

Other activities included making a sugar shock poster and making a fruit kabob. But, the highlight of the day was visiting the various NEWSTART stations.

Before starting, Joan Zollinger asked each student to write down what they thought each letter in NEWSTART meant. Tucker taught the "Nutrition" and "Rest" station. Jill Zollinger taught the "Water" and "Exercise" station.

Louden taught the "Air" and "Sunshine" station. And, the "Temperance" and "Trust" stations were taught by all three adults together.

"I learned that taking care of yourself is really healthy, and you should do it," said Salem Lane, a second grader. "I remember what NEWSTART means. I liked the Exercise station best."

In February 2023, the Woodbury Church and the health ministries team will conduct an adult NEWSTART Health Expo program in the local community to promote whole-person health principles and demonstrate God's love. 📍

BY BECKI M. LOUDEN



PHOTO BY: BECKI LOUDEN

Health expo booths are shown at the Woodbury, Tenn., School. On October 5, 2022, students at the Woodbury, Tenn., School started learning about nutritional health and well-being using the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference's Kid's NEWSTART program.



PHOTO BY: BECKI LOUDEN

"Exercise" was a booth at the Woodbury School's health expo. "I learned that taking care of yourself is really healthy, and you should do it," said Salem Lane, a second grader. "I remember what NEWSTART means. I liked the Exercise station best."

Southern's Enactus Chapter Places in International Competition

This fall, Southern Adventist University's student-led Enactus chapter placed seventh in the global "Action with Africa" challenge, a social entrepreneurship competition that highlighted the work Enactus teams around the world are doing in Africa. Out of more than 200 projects that applied to participate, Southern's chapter was the only group from the United States to place in the international competition's top eight in August.

The Southern team progressed to the competition's main event in Germany. There, Adonna Andino, junior accounting major, and Ashley Blake, senior accounting major, presented to a panel of judges about their team's project, which assists Akuna Soap Industry, located at Riverside Farm Institute in Zambia. They explained Akuna's mission of training Zambian women to become entrepreneurs by selling all-natural, affordable soap. This empowers females to secure a



sustainable income and pursue education in a country where gender inequality is an ongoing problem.

As a result of their presentation, the Akuna project was granted €8,000 in funding. Michelle Doucoumes, '05 and

'10, Southern associate professor of business and Enactus sponsor, accompanied Andino and Blake on the trip.

"Akuna is unique compared to many other Enactus projects I've seen over the years," Doucoumes said. "It was invented, built, and is now being run by students. That's what Enactus is supposed to be about: students who change the world."

Andino and Blake are both thankful for the service and academic opportunities this competition and Akuna have provided for them.

"I'm learning business principles and looking at balance sheets, but what I really love about Akuna is the Christ-centered service at its core," said Andino, the current Akuna project manager. "It's all about the people we're helping, and I think that aligns perfectly with Southern's mission to pursue Spirit-filled lives of service." 📌

BY AMANDA BLAKE

Students, Employees Volunteer in Hurricane Ian Disaster Response

In the wake of Hurricane Ian, Southern sent two groups of students and employees to Fort Myers, Fla., where they assisted in disaster relief efforts. In partnership with the organization 2Serve, the 44 Southern participants helped with provision distribution, debris clean-up, and yard work for victims of the disaster.

The second group worked during fall break, giving up the chance to relax in order to help others.

"I had plans for break, but after I saw

the email asking for student volunteers, it stayed in the back of mind, bothering me. I decided to pray about it and asked God for a sign. He answered, and I went," said April West, junior health science major. "Physically, the work was tough, but at the end of it, seeing how grateful the homeowners were — several being moved to tears — was an enormous blessing." 📌

BY AMANDA BLAKE



College Nursing Students Learn Through Fun

A scavenger hunt is not a bad way to start off the fall term as a college senior seeking your bachelor's degree in nursing.

Twenty-four AdventHealth University nursing students completed their second week of a clinical training course on AdventHealth Orlando's first Dedication Education Unit (DEU) in the Multisystem Progressive Care Unit. The scavenger hunt was a fun, first-day exercise to show the students their way around patient rooms, offices, and supply rooms. This new DEU, the third of its kind opened by AdventHealth, is part of an effort to ensure a safe, efficient, and seamless transition from nursing student to employed nurse.

"At AdventHealth University, we want our nursing students to feel completely comfortable and confident in a clinical setting," said Juli Fryer Daniels, dean of nursing at AdventHealth University. "We are so grateful to collaborate with

AdventHealth to enhance the ways our nursing students and nurses learn, mentor, and support one another."

From a pool of 12 applicants, AdventHealth Orlando selected five nurses as DEU preceptors, allowing for a 1:2 ratio of preceptor to nursing students. AHU clinical faculty members play a vital role in mentoring the DEU preceptors in their roles as nurse educators.

"As a nursing graduate of AdventHealth University, I know how important the transition to practice is for nurses," said Britney Benitez, vice president and chief nursing officer for AdventHealth Orlando. "We want all of our nurses, from first-year nurses to nursing leaders, to excel and have as few barriers as possible to provide uncommon compassion to patients and their families."

Students will train on the DEU during one of three 12-hour shifts each week of the fall trimester, part of the course's clinical requirements.

Currently, 80% of AHU's nursing graduates go on to work at AdventHealth. Through each of the DEU programs, AdventHealth is hoping to increase the number of nursing graduates it employs from AHU and other local nursing schools. The first DEU opened in spring 2022 at AdventHealth Waterman in Tavares in collaboration with Lake-Sumter State College, and the second one opened in August 2022 at AdventHealth Winter Park in collaboration with Seminole State College.

The DEU at AdventHealth Orlando is one of several initiatives underway at AHU that will augment AHU's vital role in the workforce pipeline, including increasing nursing student enrollment, adding pathways to earning a nursing degree, and accelerating nursing curriculum timelines. 📍

BY JENNIFER AUDETTE



Oakwood University Reports Historic Attendance for Oakwood Live!

Historic” is the word that is being used to describe Oakwood Live! 2022. More than 800 high school juniors and seniors and their chaperones visited the Oakwood University (OU) campus on October 5 to 8, for Oakwood Live! — an annual, four-day immersion in “the Oakwood experience.”

Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., observed, “Never have I seen the excitement about being on campus at such a high level as I am seeing with our visitors this year. From Bermuda to Canada to England to the Dominican Republic and all 50 states — all across the North American Division, high school seniors have descended on our campus.”

The Office of Enrollment Services and Retention reported that more than 200 young people brought their transcripts



Many students were accepted “on the spot” for the Fall 2023 semester.

with them, and were accepted for the Fall 2023 semester, representing more than \$7 million in scholarships. Prospective students from more than 50 academies and more than 140 public high schools were in attendance.

The students visited academic departments, attended career and financial workshops, and experienced tours of the campus and residence halls. Several students excitedly picked out what will be their rooms when they enroll next year. There were soccer, volleyball, and basketball games; a block party; a community service activity; and a highly anticipated Oakwood Live! concert.

The University extends a special thank you to all employees and student navigators who helped serve the students, especially the Division of Enrollment Services and Retention, Admissions, the Media Center staff, the OU Police Department, Transportation, and the Physical Plant. 📍

BY OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY STAFF WRITER



A few of the prospective students who attended Oakwood Live! 2022 gathered.



Students were divided by subject area for tours of academic departments.



MULLINS-FREZZA, CAROL DEBORAH, 65, born Aug. 16, 1957 in LaPaz, Bolivia, to Nathan and Phyllis Merkel, died Sept. 9, 2022 in Aspin, TN. She was a member of the Bowman Hills Church. She graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a B.A. in medical technology and a Master's degree from Andrews University. She was employed in the Allied Health Department at Andrews University for a time. She married Dan Mullins, and from this union two daughters were born. After her husband passed away, she married Greg Frezza. She worked in the medical field the rest of her life as a monitor of clinical trials. During that time, she and her husband were very active in community service through their church. She is survived by her husband Greg Frezza; two daughters: Shannon Mullins and Cherri Jackson; three grandchildren: Alekxus, Giselle, and Cole Jackson; her mother, Phyllis Merkel; her brother, Clifford Merkel; several nieces; and nephews. The memorial service was held November 20, 2022 at the Bowman Hills Church with Ritchie Halverson officiating.

PEARSON, ELDER GEORGE I., 92, born Feb. 3, 1930 in Steelton, Dauphin County, PA, to William Pearson and Lassie Adams, died Sept. 25, 2022. He began his education in the Dauphin County School System and graduated with the 1947 Class of Steelton High School. He married Lou Ethel Duckworth on Sept. 25, 1950, and had been married 72 years when he died on their anniversary Sept 25, 2022. George and Lou moved to San Antonio, TX, where he enlisted in the United States Air Force at Lackland Air Force Base, and served four and half years. While at San Antonio, he became a Seventh-day Adventist. After leaving the Air Force, he entered Oakwood College and graduated in 1959 in theology. A year later, 1960, he received the M.A. degree in applied theology from Andrews University. He was hired by the Allegheny East Conference where he taught for two years at the ten-grade Dupont Park School in Washington, D.C.



He was in a prayer band with a Mrs. Walker who requested prayer for her son. As a result of their prayers, her son, Donald Walker became a Seventh-day Adventist. Later Walker became treasurer of the South Central Conference where he and Pearson were colleagues in the same office.

He accepted a call to the Gospel ministry as a pastor in the South Central Conference on Sept. 1, 1962, and was assigned to Greenville, MS, district. It was in this district that the Pearsons were blessed to become parents to their nieces: Barbara, Betty, and Georgianna. He pastored the Greenville, MS, district; Hattiesburg, MS, district; Knoxville-Harriman district; and the Montgomery (Bethany) before being called to serve as the manager of the Adventist Book Center. He later served as Associate Church Ministries Director with responsibility for Stewardship, ASI, Trust Services Director, and Housing Coordinator.

An able pastor, he served as an interim pastor of the Nashville Hillcrest (1980-1982), the New Life/Springfield district, and ended his career as pastor of the Campbellsville, KY, Church in 1996. He retired from South Central Conference on Dec. 31, 1996. After he retired, he worked for Tennessee Asset Management Corporation (TAMCO). He was a multitasking man with many interests. He was a member of the Adventist Amateur Radio Networks. Old Ham radio operators may recall letters were WA4ODC. He was also an avid photographer, an expert with computers, and played the organ and piano.

He is survived by his beautiful bride, Dr. Lou Pearson; sister, Madeline Hailey; and brothers-in-law: Barry and Maurice Duckworth; god-daughter, Deborah Porter; several grandchildren; and a host of nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Roberta; brothers: Jerome, Howard, William, Harold, and James Pearson; and daughter, Betty Slusher and son-in-law, Calvin Slusher. Funeral services were held Oct. 9, 2022 at Riverside Chapel with Elder Benjamin Jones, president of South Central Conference, as eulogist.

BOSKIND, DR. ANDREW SIDNEY, age 81, of Hendersonville, TN, born Jan. 12, 1941 in Malabar, FL, to the late Sidney and Ethel-wynn Boskind, the second of three boys, died Aug. 28, 2022 after a long battle with Parkinson's disease. He was surrounded by his loving family and will be greatly missed. He was a Vietnam Veteran and proudly served his country from 1966-1968. Boskind was an active staff member for over 30 years at Tennessee Christian Medical Center, Skyline Medical Center, and was an original member on staff of Hendersonville Medical Center. He retired in 2007 after 35 years of practicing general surgery. He was an active member of Madison Campus Church since 1974. He taught a Sabbath School class for over 30 years. He had a heart for missions. He traveled with a group from the Nashville area to Nigeria

to do surgery. He also started a neighborhood fund to help widows or the elderly who needed simple home repairs. After retirement, he helped establish Madison Christian Medical Clinic to serve the working uninsured community. It was staffed by volunteer physicians and nurses until its closure in 2015. He is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Helen Boskind; son, John Boskind; daughter, Julie Murphy; brother, Richard Boskind; sister-in-law, Connie Boskind; several grandchildren; nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his younger brother, Christopher Boskind.

CROSBY, EMMA M., 107, born Nov. 28, 1913 in Marengo, IL, died Oct. 27, 2021 in Bradenton, FL. She was a member of Bradenton Church. She was baptized in Flint, MI. She served as kindergarten leader at the

church and at Michigan Camp Meetings. Through the years, she served as a deaconess and a Sabbath School secretary. Emma made the baptismal robes for Bradenton Church. She was a talented seamstress, crocheter, crafter, cook, and baker of bread and delicious desserts. In her late teens, she was a milliner in Chicago, IL. She owned a beauty salon during World War II in Flint, and then became a real estate sales agent for her husband's realty firm from 1948 to 1973. After her husband's death, she worked from age 70 to 95 in Palmetto, FL, and then in Bradenton first at The Sandwich Shop and then two grocery stores: Mr. C's and Albertsons. She is survived by her daughter, Carol Crosby (Peterson); son-in-law, David Peterson, Apopka, FL; half-brother, Robert (Jane) Boomer, Empire, MI; seven grandchild-

dren; 20 great-grandchildren; numerous great-great-grandchildren; one special nephew, Gordon "Bud" (Peggy) Boomer, Traverse City, MI; and several nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her spouse of 52 years, Guy "Ted" Crosby; son, John Crosby; two daughters: Bonnie Crosby (infant) and Betty Lou Crosby Ashlock; her parents: John and Emma Boomer; four sisters; and four brothers. The family is looking forward to the soon coming of Jesus Christ Who will take everyone to the beautiful land of no more sickness, sorrow, pain, or death, and where we will be reunited with our loved ones for eternity.

DAVIS, TRACY MICHELLE, 55, born Feb. 4, 1967 in Nashville, TN, died Sept. 21, 2022 in Goodlettsville, TN, after a battle with cancer. She graduated from Madison Academy in 1986 and lived in the Nashville area all her life. She was employed by the State of Tennessee for many years. She was a member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. She enjoyed traveling, shopping, singing with the church praise team, and socializing with family and friends. She is survived by nephew Josh (Christy) Davis; niece, Brandi Davis; one great-nephew; two great nieces; many cousins; several aunts; and uncles. Tracy was preceded in death by her parents: William Edward and Ruby Virginia Young Davis; and her brother, Mark Edward Davis. She is loved and missed by many.

GABBARD, MARILYN, 58, born Dec. 16, 1963 in Hamilton, OH, died Sept. 12, 2022 in Inglis, FL. She was a member of the Dunnellon Church since April 2003. The big joy of her life was working with children in Sabbath School and also leading out in VBS. The church cooperated with Marion County Senior Meal program for seniors in the community who wanted to come to the church as a safe place to eat and visit together. Marilyn led out with this program. During the pandemic, she continued to come and serve meals to seniors with a drive through service. She truly had a servant's heart. In her parents later years, she cared for them as well as other family members who needed her help. She was always the caring member of the family. She is survived by one brother, Timothy Gabbard; and one sister, Regina Gabbard. A service was held in her honor at the Dunnellon Church.

HESS, EDNA RUTH (MISENKO), 92; born April 14, 1930 in Bainville, MT, died Aug. 5, 2022 in Beaverton, OR. She is survived by her spouse, Alfred Hess; two sons: John (Candace) and James (Corinna); three grandchildren: Adam, Aaron (Nichole), and Amanda (CJ); and one great-grandchild, Sebastian; and her sister, Irene Ca-

nosa. Al and Edna were active members of the Mount Pisgah Academy Church for 12 years.

MCCONNELL, ANDREW KENDALL, 53, died Oct. 12, 2022. He was born on Aug. 19, 1969 in Niles, MI. He attended public and various church schools while living in the KYTN Conference. McConnell attended University Heights Academy and graduated from Highland Academy in 1988. He studied at Southern College and graduated from Andrews University with a BA in technology in 1993. Andy started working at Lithotech in Berrien Springs, MI, eventually moving on to teach some computer classes at Andrews University and oversee a computer lab. In 1999, he met Lianne Nelson. They married on May 14, 2000, settling down in Lincoln, NE. While working at Christian Record Services, they were blessed with their first daughter, Karis. Less than a year later, they moved to Shepherdsville, KY, and were blessed with another daughter, Katie. Andy worked hard for his parents in their rental business, and on rentals of his own while sharing his time and talents with his family, friends, and church community. He is survived by his wife, Lianne McConnell; daughters: Karis McConnell, and Katie McConnell; mother, Jan McConnell; and father, Jim McConnell. Andy is preceded in death by his sister, Claudine McConnell Pauley; and grandparents.

PETERSON, JOHN G., 60, born Dec. 3, 1961 in Hinsdale, IL, to David Peterson and Carol (Crosby) Peterson, died unexpectedly at his home on Dec. 28, 2021 in Apopka, FL. During his early years, his family traveled for work evangelism. He completed his elementary through high school education in the Seventh-day Adventist school system in Massachusetts, Illinois, Georgia, and Florida. Upon his family settling in Florida in 1973, his shoes quickly filled with sand. He was in his element whenever he was surfing, fishing, canoeing, or anywhere on the water. John married Pamela Randolph in May 1991. They welcomed a beautiful baby girl, Kailey, in Sept. 1997. He was a devoted, loving, patient, compassionate, do-anything dad. He was a brick and block mason by trade but could meet most any challenge in construction. He was active in his church, serving as deacon, involved in Sabbath School, Pathfinders, and youth groups. He went on mission trips to Jamaica and Nicaragua to help build churches and schools. His family will remember him as an adventurous, loyal, loving, and dedicated man. He was continually there for his family and always willing to help a friend. He is resting in Jesus, and we have the blessed hope we will see him again at the great resurrection when the Savior returns to take His children to the eternal

home. He is survived by his wife, Pamela Peterson; one daughter, Kailey (Benjamin) Musselman; his parents: David Peterson and Carol Crosby; three siblings: Scott Peterson, Laura (Gerald) Hasty, and Julienne Lohman; six nephews: Kolby Peterson, Shane Peterson, Shandy Martin, Robert Martin, Ted Beach, and Adam Lohman; three nieces: Chelsi Beach, Annalyse Howerton, and Emily Lohman; two great-nephews: Aiden and David; one great-niece, Kaitlyn; and numerous cousins.

THOMPSON, DONALD D., 89, born Feb. 21, 1933 into a large family of two brothers and 10 sisters in Lewisport, KY, to Payton and Katie Thompson, died Sept. 21, 2022 at the Louisville Jewish Hospital in KY. He started his early career as a carpenter in residential construction and continued in this line of work to build his own business, Thompson Construction Company. He was most proud of the planning and building of his beloved church, Louisville First Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Norma; two sons: Doug (Beth) Thompson, Darrell (Geri) Thompson; two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

YANCEY, C. STEVE, 81, born June 21, 1941 in Wanatchee, WA, died suddenly of a heart attack at home in Apopka, FL, on July 29, 2022. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka. Steve served as a medic in the Army and was stationed at Fort Gulic, Panama, where he served in the Bay of Pigs. He graduated as an engineer from Andrews University, and served at several institutions: Kettering Medical Center, Kettering, OH, Andrews University, Berrien Springs, MI; Paradise Valley Hospital, National City, CA; and Florida Hospital, Orlando, FL. Following his Army service, Steve and Virginia married on Dec. 29, 1963 at the Fort Wayne, IN, Church. They traveled the world for work and pleasure. He worked with World Missions at Florida Hospital and crated up hospital supplies and equipment to send overseas to underprivileged clinics/hospitals around the world. He will be remembered for his quick wit, his get things done attitude, always putting others first, and willing to go the second mile to provide service for others. He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Virginia; two sons: Michael (Ruth) Yancey and Gregory (Muzeyyen); one daughter-in-law, Brandy (Eric); and five grandchildren: Serena, Nevan, Melissa, Halls, and Tanner. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Bradie and Venita Yancey; one son, Mark Yancey; and a daughter-in-law, Sabina Yancey. A memorial service was held at the Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

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GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Pathfinder Junior Event - Dec. 9-11. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Adventurer/Pathfinder Director Council - Jan. 8. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Adventurer Bible Game Regional Event - Jan. 14.

Pathfinder TLT Convention - Jan. 20-22. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Bible Experience Regional Event - Jan. 28.

Children's Ministries Convention - Feb. 10-12. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Bible Experience - Feb. 18.

Pathfinder Teen Event - Feb. 24-26. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Regenerate - March 4. Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA.

Reach Your Neighbor - March 17, 18. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Adventurer Family Fun Weekend - March 24-26. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA. Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Christmas Pops Concert - Dec. 3. Southern's School of Music invites the community to an evening of popular Christmas music presented by the Wind Symphony, Jazz Ensemble, Steel Band, and Southern Ringtones. Under the direction of Ken Parsons, Keith Lloyd, and Laurie Cooper, the concert will be on Saturday, Dec. 3, at 8 p.m. in Iles P.E. Center. For more information, including a livestream link, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

Sacred Christmas Concert - Dec. 10. The community is invited to a sacred Christmas concert by Southern's Symphony Orchestra and choral ensembles. Under the direction of Genevieve Brown-Kibble and Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, the groups will perform on Saturday, Dec. 10, at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. For more information, including a livestream link, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

Classes Begin - Jan. 9, 2023. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Scandinavian Adventure - July 9-21, 2023. Southern's Alumni Association invites alumni and friends of the University on a Scandinavian tour next summer. Explore the scenery and cities of Norway, Sweden, and Denmark with Bill Wohlers, leader of 24 previous tours. The current price of \$4,900 includes air fare, two meals per day, and more. Vis-

it southern.edu/alumni-tour for details.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SOUTHERN UNION CONFERENCE WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Aug. 24-27, 2023. Orlando, FL. SAVE THE DATE!!!

ARDEN CHURCH HOMECOMING CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY - Dec. 9, 10. Event includes Vespers on Friday evening, Dec. 9, and a special church service on Sabbath, Dec. 10. All former members are invited to attend.

SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE PUBLISHING DEPARTMENT is seeking seven mini vans, late or new models, in full working condition for its student literature and community outreach programs. If you are seeking to give to the Lord's work and can donate a van that you are not utilizing, please contact Pastor Lucious Hall, publishing director at 786-402-7074.

	DEC 9	DEC 16	DEC 23	DEC 30	JAN 6	JAN 13
ATLANTA, GA	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:39	5:43	5:50
CHARLESTON, SC	5:15	5:16	5:20	5:24	5:28	5:34
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:12	5:14	5:17	5:21	5:26	5:32
COLLEGEDALE, TN	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:39	5:43	5:49
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:46	4:50	4:56
JACKSON, MS	4:57	4:59	5:02	5:06	5:10	5:16
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:24	5:25	5:28	5:33	5:37	5:44
MEMPHIS, TN	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:58	5:03	5:09
MIAMI, FL	5:31	5:33	5:37	5:41	5:44	5:50
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:41	4:43	4:46	4:50	4:54	4:50
NASHVILLE, TN	4:33	4:35	4:38	4:43	4:47	4:53
ORLANDO, FL	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:39	5:43	5:49
TAMPA, FL	5:36	5:38	5:41	5:45	5:49	5:54
WILMINGTON, NC	5:03	5:05	5:08	5:12	5:16	5:23

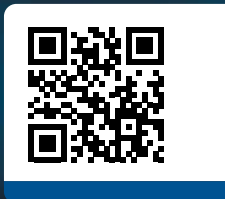
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Southern Union states

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awarded over four years
for students who held a
leadership role in school
or church during their
senior year of high school

Lightbearer Scholarship

\$8,000

awarded over four years
for students who graduated
from a non-Adventist high
school or homeschool after
attending for at least two years



For complete details about scholarships and other financial aid at Southern Adventist University, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit southern.edu/scholarships.

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