

T Southern TIDINGS

APRIL 2023

WHAT THE
WORLD
NEEDS
NOW



ADVENTHEALTH
LEADS MILLIONS
IN PRAYER AT
DAYTONA 500

NO LIMITS FOR
THE WILLING

MIRACLE DOG,
CORN STORY

PRAISING AWAY
PAIN, SINGING
AWAY SADNESS

Reflections from Yesterday, Courage for Today, Hope for Tomorrow



Leslie Louis
*President of the
Carolina Conference*

Guest Editorial

1973 was a monumental moment of time in my life. I was just 20 years old and excited to seize the days before me! I had just bought my first car — a beautiful, navy blue, 1967 Dodge Dart. I was elatedly engaged to be marrying the girl of my dreams, and in December of that year I married my Carole from Carolina. She still remains the love of my life and the joy of my heart! I also graduated with my B.A. from the School of Religion on May 6 at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) that year. I then began my first year of service for Christ for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Ft. Myers, Florida, as an employee of the Florida Conference. As I reflect on the past 50 years, I've been so honored and grateful for the sacred trust of serving Christ and His remnant Church in the areas of educational, pastoral, and administrative ministry.

Over these years, I've learned that leadership or membership in the Seventh-day Adventist Church is not just a battle for faithfulness, purity, and integrity. The great controversy is raging today — right now and right here as a moment-by-moment spiritual war for the heart of everyone alike. From the moment we open our Bibles, we can see it splashed across virtually every page as a sobering reminder to each one of us.

The Apostle Paul said it best in Ephesians 6:12 NKJV: “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Then in verses 13-15 of that same chapter, he reminds us and details what we need to be doing daily to brace ourselves with the “whole armor of God.”

As faithful followers of Christ, Adventists have a message and mission bearing an eternal imprint. During these end times, I believe that we exist to strategically plan for evangelism, discipleship, church growth, church planting, and church revitalization. But, we must ever be conscious of our Savior's urgent counsel to “watch and pray” that we may withstand temptation. Jesus cautioned us that, “The Spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak,” Mark 14:38 ESV. I believe that there is no better defense against spiritual attacks than humility. Genuine and Christlike humility enfolds us with an awareness of our constant need for the Holy Spirit's protective and empowering grace. It encourages us to watch for danger and pray without ceasing for God's help and the loving nurture of fellow believers.

Our Savior is alert and provides us with every weapon necessary for the battle before us. He's on our side and reassures us with words of courage and hope as we near the finish line and the victory lane set before us —

“The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? ...
Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war arise against me, yet I will be confident,” Psalm 27:1-3 ESV. 📖



CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

- ADVENTHEALTH
Elizabeth Camps
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY
Jennifer Audette
CAROLINA
Rebecca Carpenter
FLORIDA
Gladys Neigel
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
Nathan Zinner
GULF STATES
Daniel Claudet
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
Paola Mora Zepeda
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
Norman Jones
SOUTH ATLANTIC
James Lamb, Ph.D.
SOUTH CENTRAL
Roger R. Wade
SOUTHEASTERN
Arnaldo Cruz
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
Janell Hullquist

CONFERENCE/
INSTITUTION DIRECTORY

- CAROLINA 704-596-3200
P.O. Box 44270, Charlotte, NC 28215
FLORIDA 407-644-5000
351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714-3824
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND 706-629-7951
P.O. Box 12000, Calhoun, GA 30703-7001
GULF STATES 354-272-7493
P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36117
KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE 615-859-1391
P.O. Box 1088, Goodlettsville, TN 37070-1088
SOUTH ATLANTIC 404-792-0535
P.O. Box 1688, Decatur, GA 30031-1688
SOUTH CENTRAL 615-226-6500
P.O. Box 24936, Nashville, TN 37202
SOUTHEASTERN 352-735-3142
P.O. Box 1016, Mt. Dora, FL 32756-0056
ADVENTHEALTH 407-357-2083
900 Hope Way, Altamonte Springs, FL 32714
ADVENTHEALTH UNIVERSITY 800-500-7747
671 Winyah Drive, Orlando, FL 32803
OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY 256-726-7000
7000 Adventist Blvd., Huntsville, AL 35896
SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
800-SOUTHERN
P.O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370



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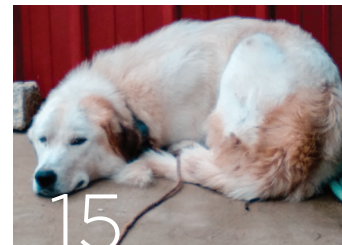
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COVER PHOTO: R. STEVEN NORMAN III



WHAT THE WORLD NEEDS NOW

BY RICHIE HALVERSEN

Long before “What the World Needs Now is Love” was a popular song performed by Jackie DeShannon and written and composed by Hal David and Burt Bacharach, humanity’s greatest need has always been love. The entire narrative of Scripture is one, big, love story. “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life,” John 3:16 ESV. Every day we’re reminded just how dark and selfish our world is. More than ever before people need to be reminded there is a God Who loves them. Unfortunately, there is a lot of confusion as to what

true love is, in both the Church and the world. This means if we want to finish our mission and fulfill the Gospel commission, we need to know what true love is and how we can love truly.

First, what is true love? Before we can truly love, we must first know what true love is. The modern concept of love is often reduced to nothing more than physical attraction, a rush of romantic hormones, or the warm and fuzzy feeling you get when you start liking someone. The problem with this idea is that when the feeling goes away — as feelings often do — we think we must not be in love anymore. However, true love is so much more than that.

Are you sharing the Gospel in a relevant way that heals the past, helps in the present, and gives hope for the future?



Richard Halversen Sr. (left), retired evangelist and Prophecies of Hope series speaker; Hannah Jones; Taylor Edmonds; Donna Ostend; Linda Davis; Travis and Megan Pierce; and Linton Edmonds, pastor

One of the best definitions of love is in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians: "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends," 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. This is very different than the love propagated by the world. The fact is, true love isn't easy, and it doesn't come naturally. Selfishness and self-gratification come naturally. In fact, real love often means not doing what comes naturally in order to do what is right. Love is not primarily a feeling but a decision. Too often we stop reading Paul's description of love at the end of chapter 13. We've been conditioned to read the Bible in chapter chunks. However, Paul doesn't stop at the end of chapter 13, he continues with two words "Pursue love," 1 Corinthians 14:1 ESV. The Greek word, *epidioko*, translated for *pursue*, means "to carry out, to do with effort, to strive toward." Real love takes work, commitment, and persistence. Don't believe me? Ask any couple who's been married longer than a few months. True love pursues.

The ultimate symbol of true, pursuing love is the cross. Jesus decided to leave the comforts of Heaven to pursue you and me. He didn't go to the cross because He felt like it, but because He loved us. Real love is sacrificial. If it does not cost us anything, then it isn't love. If you want to know what true love is, look to Christ, "the Pioneer and Perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God," Hebrews 12:2 NIV. What possible joy could Jesus have been missing in Heaven that would require Him to come to Earth and suffer such pain and suffering? The answer is you and me. This is why in preparation of our Southern Union Revitalization



Linton Edmonds (left), pastor; Donna Ostend; and Richard Halversen Sr., Prophecies of Hope series speaker



Linton Edmonds (left), pastor; Richard Halversen Sr., Prophecies of Hope series speaker; and Megan and Travis Pierce, the couple who came to the 12-step program the church hosted

Campaign in Cross City, Florida, Gary Edmonds led out in the installation of a new, beautiful, tile floor in the fellowship hall and the foyer of the church. A beautiful cross was created in the tile at the entrance to the sanctuary

to remind everyone of God's sacrificial love. The Cross City Seventh-day Adventist Church wanted to not only provide a beautiful experience for all the people who would be attending the Prophecies of Hope series, presented by

Richard Halversen Sr., they wanted people to know their church was built on the foundation of God's love. Like Paul, "they decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified," 1 Corinthians 2:2. But, the image of the cross in the tile was only a reflection of the love and sacrifice in their hearts. Not only do they know what true love is, they know how to love truly.

What does "loving truly" really look like? The night before Jesus sacrificed His life for the world, He rolled up His sleeves, got on His knees, and started washing His disciples' feet. Afterwards, He looks at His disciples and says, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you," John 13:14-15 ESV. The Church is called to a cross-shaped love bent over for others. We die daily to self so that we might serve others. "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends," John 15:13 ESV. Laying down our life for someone doesn't necessarily mean taking a bullet for them (although it might), it simply means sacrificing your time, money, and energy in service. Love is taking time to listen to someone and giving them your undivided attention. Love is sacrificing the largest portion of your church budget for local evangelism and mission. To love truly, means laying down our preferences and opinions about worship and church, so that we can reach more people. To love truly, means nailing our agenda and schedule to a cross to serve the community.

The success of the Cross City Revitalization Campaign was a direct result of the dedicated members of this small church, under the leadership of Linton Edmonds, lay pastor, and their commitment to serving their community. One of the ways the church did this was through a weekly Christian 12-Step



Gary Edmonds

Recovery Program hosted and started by Nikie Wait and her husband, Harry Wait. Long before we began our revitalization campaign, this church was addressing a relevant need in their community. Every day people everywhere are suffering from addiction, and this church chose to do something about it. Before Jesus ever taught a spiritual lesson or preached a sermon, He met the immediate need of people. This was the

purpose of the weekly 12-step meetings started by the Waits. This group became a source of hope and strength for the people in their community. As the Prophecies of Hope series drew closer, they invited everyone from their weekly meeting to come. Because of the relationships and trust that had been established, a couple by the name of Travis and Megan Pierce, as well as their three children, attended every night. On the



Gary Edmonds led out in the installation of a new, beautiful, tile floor in the fellowship hall and the foyer of the church. A beautiful cross was created in the tile at the entrance to the sanctuary to remind everyone of God's sacrificial love

last Sabbath of the seminar, they were baptized. When the evangelism series ended, six precious individuals went down into the watery grave of baptism. This is what it means to pursue love.

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow me.’ There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. We are to weep with those that weep and rejoice with those that rejoice. Accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, this work will not, cannot, be without fruit,” *Maranatha, the Lord is Coming*, Ellen G. White, p. 103.

As a Church, we’ve been given a prophetic message of vital truth. But as Paul said, truth and prophecy without love, is just noise. It can do more damage than good. As author and leadership coach John Alan Turner said, “It’s hard to convince people that a God they can’t

see loves them when a church they can see doesn’t seem to like them.” As President Theodore Roosevelt said, “No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care.” When our mission and methods are grounded in love, that’s when people will start paying attention to our message.

How are you serving your community? How are you reaching the marginalized and the hurting?

How are you loving those who are the hardest to love? Are you sharing a holistic Gospel that not only saves souls from a future hell, but the hell they are currently living in? Are you sharing the Gospel in a relevant way that heals the past, helps in the present, and gives hope for the future? Service is the essence of what true love is and what it means to love truly. When Christ returns, what differentiates the saved from the lost is their love demonstrated in acts of service. “For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a

stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes, and you clothed me, I was sick, and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,” Matthew 25:35–36 NIV. The saved are not commended for their good theology, but for loving truly. He says, “Well done, good and faithful servant,” Matthew 25:23, not Adventist, Baptist, Methodist, or Presbyterian. Please don’t misunderstand, our doctrine is important. In John 8:31, Jesus says, “If you abide in my word, you are truly my disciples.” But remember God’s Word, His Law, is all about love. “By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another,” John 13:35. Like this small church in Cross City, Florida, once we know true love, we can begin loving truly, and that’s when we will finish our mission. Just like the song says, “What the World Needs Now is Love.” 🎧

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

SOUTHERN UNION HOLDS ACADEMY PRAYER CONFERENCE 2023

BY GREGORY TAYLOR

After a three-year interruption due to COVID-19, the Southern Union Academy Prayer Conference reconvened at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida, January 17-22, 2023. Student leaders from academies throughout the Southern Union arrived on Tuesday for an intense spiritual leadership training. Trainers Stephanie Johnson, James Johnson, Ben Curet, Ryan Becker, and Ethan Stauffer instructed students in leadership skills such as group dynamics, conflict res-

olution, engaging the audience, and spiritual leadership. On Wednesday, approximately 300 delegates and sponsors from the academies arrived for a power-packed week of spiritual renewal.

The theme for the conference was “All About Jesus.” Gregory Taylor, pastor, and Kim Taylor, who serve as the Southern Union youth directors, alongside their administrative assistant, Maria Newlove, and many other conference youth directors, provided leadership for the event. Throughout

“On Friday night and Sabbath there was an incredible revival among the students.”



All 300 attendees pictured in front of the cafeteria at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida.



One of the 13 small groups met to bond, play, study, and pray together.

the conference, delegates were blessed by the musical ministry of Engage Worship from Southern Adventist University. Jonathan Osorio, pastor, served as the keynote speaker and challenged the students to a renewal of their walk with Jesus, and an invitation to make their lives all about Jesus.

Throughout the week, students spent time bonding in small family groups — sharing, praying, and growing together. The afternoons provided opportunities for recreation such as go carts, climbing wall, horseback riding, and much more.

On Friday night and Sabbath there was an incredible revival among the students. Osorio made a call for baptism which was met with an overwhelming response. The conference concluded on Sabbath with the baptism of students from Georgia-Cumberland Academy, North Tampa Christian Academy, Forrest Lake Academy, and Atlanta Adventist Academy. What a powerful witness to the way the Spirit was moving on these hearts!

Students from the Prayer Conference left inspired to share what they had learned at their schools, and many are already planning to return next year. 📌

Gregory Taylor is the youth ministries director at the Southern Union Conference.



John Newlove Sr., South Atlantic Conference youth director, baptizes his son, John Newlove Jr., at the spring on Sabbath afternoon.



A common sight around camp. Two of these young men were baptized on Sabbath.

ADVENTHEALTH LEADS MILLIONS IN PRAYER AT DAYTONA 500

BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

It's Sunday morning in Daytona Beach, Florida, and there's an electricity in the air. Forty-two perfectly tuned race cars are waiting to race around the Daytona International Speedway at more than 190 miles per hour. The skies are clear, the sun is shining, and hundreds of thousands of people from across the nation are packing the stands waiting for the start of NASCAR's biggest race, the Daytona 500.

As the crowds fill the stands, the noise level increases. There is music, conversation, excitement, and announcements of the coming start to the race. But, before the drivers hear the command to "start your engines," before the engines roar to life and the cheers from the people fill the stands, the noise suddenly stops.

For 26 seconds, close to 150,000 in the speedway and almost 9 million watching at home bow their heads together for a nationally televised invocation led by Farzad Nourian, senior regional director of mission and ministry for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division - North.

"Dear Lord God, we pause for a moment to acknowledge you and ask for a sense of your presence with us this afternoon. Father, please protect the drivers in the race today, our officials, crew members, fans, and their families."

Nourian, who has held this role for more than eight years and has been an AdventHealth team member for rough-



Farzad Nourian, Daytona 500 chaplain and senior regional director of mission and ministry for AdventHealth's Central Florida Division - North, led the invocation prior to the start of NASCAR's biggest race, the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway in Florida.

ly 21 years, has a passion for his work. Whether talking to a leader, providing pastoral counseling, taking care of patients and their families, or providing the invocation at the start of the Daytona 500 — he truly enjoys it.

In his role, Nourian oversees seven AdventHealth campuses, including Daytona, New Smyrna, Palm Coast, Deland, Fish, Waterman, and Hospice Care of Flagler. With the help of his team of 34 chaplains, he provides spiritual support for the patients and staff of the hospitals as well as the surrounding communities. "They're a great team," shared Nourian. "They make it look easy, but we're all busy. I'm grateful to have this team."

Over the last eight years, Nourian has seen a continued investment in spiritual care and support from AdventHealth

for the local communities. Stepping into his role as regional director of mission and ministry, he worked to create synchronicity in spiritual care for the three counties where the hospitals are located. This alignment resulted in better support across the campuses and for the mission and ministry team as a whole, too.

Each campus is very involved in their local communities to provide not only spiritual care but also to simply support the members of the community with their identified needs outside of spiritual or health care. In Volusia County, the team partnered with Halifax Urban Ministry to help them provide food for those experiencing homelessness in the community. "We made the food in their kitchen, and we served about 250 to 325 people each time we did it, and we had



NASCAR's Daytona 500

about 30 volunteers that would show up each time,” said Nourian.

The team also partnered with the Jewish Federation of Volusia and Flagler Counties to conduct their food drives, and fund weekly groceries the federation distributed to families in the community. The team has also partnered with SALT (Service and Love Together) Outreach, a young adult led non-profit organization that serves the homeless population in central Florida. Together with SALT and the Daytona Beach Seventh-day Adventist Church, they create a mobile shower center in downtown Daytona for individuals who need showers, toiletries, and other hygiene items.

“[Each team] is very active in different things they do in the community,” said Nourian. “I could go on and on; this is just some of it.”

The invocation Nourian provides at the start of the Daytona 500 is one more of those examples of how the AdventHealth Mission and Ministry team is integrated into the community and providing spiritual care and support. What’s unique about this particular public call to prayer is the wide reach. Currently, NASCAR is the only professional sport to nationally televise the invocation before each race.

“It is a gold mine of an opportunity to honor God in those 26 seconds on national television,” said Nourian. “To see the heads drop in that split second, that visual — it is awesome. I wouldn’t change it for anything else. It is an honor for me to do it.”

Anna Donaldson, director of sports marketing and strategic partnerships for AdventHealth, experienced that unique moment firsthand. “There is nothing that gives me chills more than standing on the grid of the Daytona 500 having 150,000 people bow their heads in silence to pray,” said Donaldson. “There is no other feeling like it. And, it’s our chaplain that’s delivering that invocation.”

Nourian believes that prayer opens doors, and has experienced it when approached by strangers at the speedway thanking him for providing the invocation. “What I couldn’t do as a human being, the Lord did it in a different way,” said Nourian. “God can use any circumstance. This platform — I never asked for it, never thought I would be part of it, but I will say yes to any opportunity I can get to honor God, whether it’s in the ER or in the invocation [at the Speedway].”

Nourian is appreciative of how NASCAR has prioritized the invocation, ensuring it has a place at the start of every race. “They have chosen to put prayer on the forefront and truly honor God in such a way before each race.”

Nourian also knows the great opportunity that comes from having the AdventHealth logo and the words “feel whole” on the side of the Speedway for all to see. “It provides more advertisement than people can imagine,” said Nourian. “When people look at it, they may not understand, but they catch ‘Advent.’”

Donaldson, who manages the AdventHealth partnership with NASCAR, was part of the team that worked to put AdventHealth’s “feel whole” slogan on the side of the Speedway. “When we started working on the gate entrance at Daytona International Speedway, the theme was all about how we keep people healthy and out of the hospital,” said Donaldson.

With a background in working for a race team before coming to AdventHealth, she remarks that this kind of thinking is the opposite of what most other partners or sponsors would work toward, looking for ways to sell more of their product. “I thought, ‘wait a second, this doesn’t seem right. Don’t we want everyone to get sick and come to AdventHealth? That’s how we’re going to show our return on investment.’ But, that wasn’t the case,” said Donaldson. “Being able to educate race fans, interact with them where they live, work, and play — not wait for them to get sick and come to the hospital — was such a novel idea.”

When asked about how he feels as a team member to be given this opportunity in an arena such as the speedway, Nourian shared he is ultimately proud to represent AdventHealth and be able to give the invocation each time he is invited.

“Any opportunity to honor God, to glorify God — why not?” 🏆

Elizabeth Camps is the senior communications specialist at AdventHealth.

ORLANDO NURSING LEADER: “I FELL IN LOVE WITH AHU’S MISSION AND CULTURE”

BY JENNIFER AUDETTE

AHU Alumni Profile: Britney Benitez

“I don’t mind being a float nurse, but there are some floors that I just am not comfortable serving on,” the first-year nurse said honestly during one of two New Nurse Coffee Chats offered monthly at AdventHealth Orlando.

The nurse was amid a judgment-free zone, a safe space for nurses to share their fears, ideas, and concerns. This New Nurse Coffee Chat is the brainchild of Britney Benitez, AdventHealth Orlando chief nursing officer (CNO), who wanted to create a place where first-year nurses could be heard and receive support at the crucial beginning of their careers.

Benitez knows the importance of those early days. After all, her time as a fresh nursing school graduate at AdventHealth University (AHU) wasn’t terribly long ago.

“I come from a family of nurses and



was born into caregiving,” said Benitez, whose father, grandmother, and great-grandmother were nurses. “My grandmother was a director in a long-term care facility. It was incredible for me to watch her with patients. She was genuinely excited to go take care of other people.”

A patient care tech during high school

in Orlando, Benitez found her way to AHU’s nursing program and felt immediately comfortable.

“I fell in love with our mission and culture,” said Benitez, who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in nursing in 2013. “The philosophy of wholistic care met my personal goals and values.”

AHU helped her thrive in other ways as well. “I loved that many of my classmates were working alongside me or were with the organization. I was surrounded by people, both professionally and academically, who were invested in both my education and my career.”

She spent several years working as an intensive care unit nurse. Because of her passion for people, Benitez, who is 37 years old and a mother of four, soon found herself drawn to nursing leadership roles: “I like to see people thrive.”

Newly named as CNO of one of the largest hospitals in the region, her role may have changed, but her mission has not. She is still helping people, but the recipients of her patience,



compassion, and talent are fellow nurses rather than patients.

A pragmatic problem solver and a compassionate listener, Benitez's leadership is welcomed and needed. When speaking to the first-year nurse, also a graduate of AHU, who had expressed some discomfort, she shared, "We can bring that idea up to our nursing team and see how to make it work."

"We need leaders who can support, lead, and guide. It's about mentoring and developing. I'm really excited about sitting down and breaking down barriers. I want to build new nurses into confident caregivers, and empower younger nurses to become the best professional versions of themselves."

Does Benitez miss patient care? Absolutely.

"I love the clinical aspect. I miss seeing someone get better and feel better."

She keeps her hand in patient care by making rounds on the floors and talking

with patients. "I can keep that connection, and I can keep that purpose of why I became a nurse."

This is a critical time for the nursing profession, faced with nursing shortages as the elderly population booms and is confronted with the need for a better support system for nurses throughout the U.S. "The nursing profession is highly technical and highly clinical, and then you add in uncommon compassion. The work takes a heavy toll on a nurse. It all weighs on their hearts."

The uncertainty, rapid changes, huge death rates, and long hours were taxing on nurses during the pandemic. "Nurses responded to a calling. They stood up to every fight that COVID brought, but that comes with a cost."

She thought for a second. "I have never been prouder to be a nurse."

"The pandemic pushed health care leaders to reimagine nursing and caregiving," Benitez said. "We have to look

at health care differently. The pandemic taught us to be more agile. It also brought to light the need for innovations like telehealth and hospital at home. Now, we need to utilize that spirit of innovation as we move forward in taking care of patients and their families."

Bachelor's Degree for Nurses

AHU encourages all those interested in health care to explore a career pathway as a registered nurse. AHU's RN-to-BSN program is completely online and can be completed in as little as one year. Discover how AHU's Online Bachelor of Science in Nursing program can provide the skills needed for a rewarding career as a nurse today. ●

Jennifer Audette is the communication manager at AdventHealth University.

NO LIMITS FOR THE WILLING

BY NATHAN ZINNER

For Mike Halverson, going to “the hole” to visit prisoners in lockdown is an opportunity to make a difference in someone’s life. “There’s a lot of pain in there,” he said. On most Fridays, it’s one of the first places he visits after arriving at the Bledsoe County Correctional Complex (BCCC).

“There’s a lot of them who don’t have the foggiest idea who Jesus is,” said Mike. “But, to help them to realize that He loves them and cares for them and they have a purpose in this life, that’s awesome.”

Mike, along with his wife, Diana, are both building contractors. Despite their busy schedule, for more than 20 years they have also found time to be volunteer chaplains at BCCC, a state prison in Tennessee.

While many of the approximately 3,000 inmates know Mike and Diana by name, they’ve also earned the respect of the prison officials. This has provided many opportunities for them to minister and share God’s love. Every week, they are at the prison most days of the week, sometimes multiple times a day, meeting with inmates, conducting religious services for them, and praying with them. But, it hasn’t always been like this.

When they first started volunteering at the prison, there was a lot of resistance to having an Adventist presence at the prison. However, in 2013 there was a change in state leadership. The new state chaplain previously had positive experiences with Adventists and knew he could trust them. Since then, the Halversons have earned the trust and respect of the prison officials and have become the primary volunteer chaplains at BCCC.



This has opened up additional opportunities for other members to be involved in the prison. The Halversons work with eight other Adventist lay persons from several area churches who regularly minister and provide Bible studies at BCCC. Every Friday evening, these volunteers hold four simultaneous Bible studies, some of them with up to 40 participants. While members of other denominations also visit the prison, Jorge Ulloa from the Dunlap Hispanic Church is the only volunteer conducting a Bible study in Spanish.

There have been other groups that have tried to provide programming in Spanish, but have been unable to, said Diana. “We are just really blessed with being able to have these services.”

The Halversons are two of the nearly 100 volunteers across the Georgia-Cumberland Conference involved with prison ministries. “These volunteers have a great opportunity,” said E.W. Dempsey, Georgia-Cumberland Conference adult ministries director.

“These are opportunities for us to reach people whose world has stopped,” said Dempsey, who oversees its health and prison ministries programs. Referring to Matthew 25:36, 43 NIV, Dempsey

emphasizes: “Christ asked us to do this when He said to the righteous, ‘I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me,’ but then said to the cursed, ‘I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.’”

“One of the most exciting parts for me,” said Diana, “is when the inmates first hear the Sabbath truth and see it in the Bible. You see them struggle with it at first and then, all of a sudden, they exclaim: ‘Wow, I didn’t know that; why didn’t I know that? I’ve been a Christian all my life.’”

As a result of the Halverson’s ministry, several inmates have asked for baptism and received one-on-one studies from either Mike or Diana. “These inmates are then baptized as members of one of the local churches or a church near where they will be released at the end of their sentence. In addition to the at least 20 baptisms, there are another 40 people that currently identify as Adventists,” said Diana.

During their ministry at BCCC, the Halversons have worked with people and entire units that nobody else wanted, such as the mental health unit. “In this unit, the people are so medicated,” explained Diana, “they can’t walk and are difficult to be around.” Now, over half the people come to their services and are cordial to Mike and Diana.

“I don’t think there’s any limit to what God can do, if you’re willing,” said Mike. 🕊

Nathan Zinner is the communication director at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

MIRACLE DOG, CORN STORY

BY SUZANNE SALHANY

I was frustrated, to say the least. Year after year something would destroy my corn crop. Sometimes it would be fox squirrels or regular tree rats. We also had issues with beetles and birds. One year the wind knocked the husks to the ground. Often the issue was with the raccoons.

I would plant and pick enough corn to sell to our customers; then, when they had what they needed, I would pick the rest to put up for our family. That second picking — our corn — was what was usually viciously attacked.

In 2021, I wanted to spend more time with God. My friend gave me the book *Incredible Answers to Prayer* by Rodger Morneau. I was inspired and thought, “I’ve got to give this garden to God.” Nothing I was doing was working, so now it was time to put my crops in God’s hands.

I made sure our garden tithes were returned to the storehouse and soaked the corn kernels I was going to plant. With my Bible open to Malachi 3, I prayed, claiming the promise and giving the corn crop over to God.

One Sunday, I looked at the corn and

pulled back a few husks to see how it was doing. So far, the crop appeared unharmed. But, I knew from experience that when you think the corn is just about ready, that is when the raccoons come and tear it up. So, I had my husband, Edwin Alan Salhany, set the live traps just in case.

The following morning, I looked out our bedroom window and there was a large white object attempting to enter the live trap on the near side of the garden. I called my husband to look and see what he thought it was, “Oh, it must be that big white dog who showed up yesterday. I will have to get rid of it.”

I got in my car to drive to work. We live out in the country and people drop animals off all the time, so I was not at all happy that someone had dumped a dog on us. Suddenly, it hit me. That dog could be the answer to my prayers! As soon as I got to our store, I called my husband, “Don’t do anything to that dog!”

We named the dog Bozo, and he stayed guarding our corn crop. That Tuesday, the corn was ready. I picked the crop for

my customers, row after row, cutting off the perfect ears. There were no worms, no wind-damage, no racoon damage, nor any beetle damage. That day, I was also able to gather an additional five dozen more beautiful ears for the store, and nine dozen for our family.

Two days later, as I was walking to the greenhouse to pick some produce for our store, I noticed Bozo, once again, stationing himself right in the middle of the corn to protect it. It was as if God told him to stand there. That second planting yielded so much corn, I filled all my freezer containers, my home freezer, and had to even put some in the store freezer. It was so much fun, and I got to share our blessing with several other families.

Bozo only stayed with us for one season, but I never forget the lesson this precious dog taught me. If we are faithful to God, He is faithful to us. God’s promises are sure. I didn’t know how He was going to do it, but He sent a big white dog to answer my prayers. When you’re having trouble in your garden, bring those worries to God. 🙏



Suzanne Salhany with her Bible in hand.



Suzanne Salhany’s corn harvest



Bozo, the guardian dog

PRAISING AWAY PAIN, SINGING AWAY SADNESS

BY MERYL JAMES-SEBRO, PH.D.

It was Christmas Eve Sabbath, and Golden Gate All Nations, Naples, Florida, choir had rehearsed Handel’s Hallelujah Chorus with great gusto, under the directorship of William Byas, M.D., a young, classically trained musician. The choir sang spiritedly on the Christmas Eve Sabbath to an appreciative congregation.

Early the next day, one of the basses, James Ivan Ogieste, was rushed to the hospital. He died a week later on New Year’s Day.

He was a beloved elder, Sabbath School teacher, lay preacher, soloist, and gentleman farmer, with a passion for prison ministries. His sudden passing was tough for Golden Gate All Nations members. At Ogieste’s funeral service, memories were shared of his native Tobago, West Indies, and a humorous ditty about his beloved plantains was composed and sung by four of his daughters — their rendition of “Beulah Land,” his favorite hymn, and that of Ruth, his wife of 56 years. Tears flowed from seasoned men and women.

True to the divine promise, joy sneaked through the next morning at Sabbath service. It was also a mortgage-burning service for the Fellowship Center that now serves as the sanctuary. However, this was no ordinary mortgage burning; it cleared the path for the building of the long-awaited church sanctuary. In addition, among the members who had initi-



ated the faith-filled decision to establish the church in 1994, were Michael Owusu, D.Min., president of the Southeastern Conference, and his wife, Brenda Owusu, D.N.P., who were present.

The Owusues had joined Edwin and Lynda Gayle, and Manzie and Hyacinth Marlowe in meetings for the establishment of a new church, later starting the church as a company under the Mahanaim French Church. The company navigated a rugged journey of renting different facilities for worship services before purchasing, in 2001, 4.6 acres of land on Rivers Road in the Golden Gate Estates of Naples.





Three years later in February 2004, the church broke ground for the building of the Fellowship Hall, which was completed in December of 2006. Owusu served as pastor from 1994 to 2002. He was followed by Larry Harris, pastor, who served until 2005. Walter Douglas, Ph.D., came out of retirement as chair of church history and founder and director of the Institute of Diversity and Multiculturalism (now Office of Inclusion and Culture) at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan, to pastor Golden Gate All Nations Church for 14 years until his retirement in 2019. He still worships there. Dolphy Cross, D.D., pastored the church until his assignment ended in 2022. A new pastor is soon to be announced.

After the service, the congregation and attending guests were treated to a delicious alfresco fellowship luncheon, followed by a concert by William Byas, M.D., and Jessica Byas, M.D., both medical practitioners. The Drs. Byas and Byas Philharmonic performed hymn arrangements, classical piano, and southern gospel.

The Philharmonic was formed in 2010, and engages world-class musicians from the best local music schools and audition videos. One such musician, Naples-based Natalia Rosen, an accom-

plished violinist, moved hearts with a soul-stirring performance of “Amazing Grace” during the morning Sabbath service, and then again with a Matt Riley arrangement of “All Creatures” in the afternoon concert. Jessica Byas, a master vocalist, along with Jennifer Rodriguez and Jessica Preston, brought the congregation to their feet with a joyful rendition of “The Holy City” that demanded an encore. The Philharmonic was composed of two trumpeters, a cellist, a violinist, a clarinetist, and three singers, accompanied by William Byas, a gifted piano virtuoso.

The Byases are recent additions to the Golden Gate All Nations Church Music Department, under its director, Yvonne Douglas. Their stated intention is “to make music one of the strong arms of evangelism, since people flock to where their souls are fed.” This objective is in sync with Owusu’s message of the power of establishing and developing relationships through mingling, avoiding the “fortress mentality,” and focusing on building bridges to spread the salt and light of the Gospel. William Byas plans to do this through community concerts, local after-school music lessons, and creating ways to musically enhance the worship service. The Drs. Byas and Byas Philharmonic has al-

ready conducted fundraising concerts for international causes: Haiti, after the 2010 earthquake; Syrian refugees in Lebanon; Adventist Health International through Loma Linda; and a hospital in Liberia during Ebola.

William Byas is eager to adapt his talent to his audience after careful examination of his audience. His has a holistic approach that embraces different musical styles: “We tailor our concerts to the needs of our audience with familiar songs. We love to introduce some songs that may not be familiar to broaden their horizon. I’m all about feeding my audience. My music program is a full meal. If spice is not warranted, there will be no spice. But, many may not be satisfied with just rice,” said Byas.

The Drs. Byas and Byas Philharmonic has operated in New Jersey, New York, Massachusetts, California, and Florida. The premier concert in Naples promises happy feasting on heaps of “musical spiced rice” at Golden Gate All Nations Church, even as they await a new pastor. 🍌

Meryl James-Sebro, Ph.D.
is the communication director at Golden Gate All Nations Church in Naples, Florida.

Carolina Holds Lay Pastor Training Weekend

Everyone knows what a pastor is, but what in the world is a VLP? In the Carolina Conference and in a growing number of places around the North American Division, a VLP is a volunteer lay pastor. The church in North America has seen the need to plant more churches to reach communities. However, they do not have the financial resources to hire the number of pastors required to lead all the new churches they need to plant. So, what can they do? At least one part of the answer is use VLPs.

In many cases, churches are planted from healthy, growing “mother” churches. Dedicated members from the mother church, and perhaps even neighboring churches, rally together with Conference leadership to take on the amazing adventure of beginning a new church plant. When a new mission group is formed, competent leadership to oversee the fledgling plant is needed. That leadership comes in the form of many hands working within their spiritual gifts to advance the cause of Christ. The district pastor of the mother church is the official pastor of the new group, but there is additional help needed to provide pastoral-



type care. That is where there is a need for a VLP. VLPs will always be a local church elder recommended to the program by the district pastor, then approved by the local church, and finally approved by the Conference VLP coordinator. This appointment is for a one-year period that can be renewed or changed according to the needs of the group at the end of that year.

Once someone is appointed as the VLP, they are required to attend the quarterly training events for non-Hispanic groups and monthly training for Hispanic ones. These training events are sponsored and endorsed by the Conference. Apart from the quarterly or monthly training events, there is also an in-person VLP training

weekend held at Nosoca Pines Ranch. This past year, many were blessed to have seminary professor Joseph Kidder, D.Min., author of *The Big Four*, present on what it means to have a Spirit-filled ministry for the Lord. Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president; Gary Moyer, vice president of administration; and Haskell Williams, ministerial director, also shared and blessed the team.

As the work advances in Carolina, there will be an increasing need for each disciple of Christ to do their part for the Lord. Who knows? The Lord may want to use you as a VLP too. 📍

BY DARRYL BENTLEY

South Charlotte Hispanic Organized as Church During Joyful Ceremony

The South Charlotte Company became an official church on August 27, 2022, marking a joyous, significant moment in the life of the congregation. This event was attended by both Bryan Arvelo, who previously served as associate pastor coach for

the company, and Julio Flores, former senior pastor coach. Naredalia Garcia, the volunteer lay leader of the church, took time to recount the history of the church and how God led them.

In her presentation, Garcia recounted the miraculous ways in which God

brought the congregation to this point, much like the Israelites of old. She also expressed her joy that her relatives from Mexico were present to celebrate this special moment. Gary Moyer, vice president of administration for the Carolina Conference, shared the

message, “High Hopes,” which highlighted God’s purpose for establishing the church.

The congregation was asked to respond to four questions, after which the core group was officially formed. Flores invited the church’s leaders to come forward for a prayer of dedication. The whole congregation participated in an antiphonal reading, accepting the commitment to faithfulness to God, fulfilling the Great Commission, and being Christ’s disciples.

After the formal proceedings, a delicious lunch was served, and all the participants were invited to attend.

This event was a moment of great significance for the South Charlotte Hispanic Church. It marked the beginning of a new chapter in the church’s histo-



ry and highlighted their commitment to fulfilling God’s purpose. The dedication and passion of the church’s leaders and members were evident in their joyful celebration of this occasion. They are an

example of how faith, commitment, and dedication can lead to great success. 📌

BY RICARDO PALACIOS

Monroe Church Pays Off Mortgage

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Monroe, N.C., celebrated a significant milestone on Sabbath, January 21, 2023. Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president; Gary Moyer, executive secretary; and Chad Grundy, undertreasurer, burned the mortgage to the church building, symbolizing the end of 19 years of faithful giving by the church members.

The story of the church began 23 years ago in 1999, when the Carolina Conference encouraged several Adventist families in Union County to organize a new church. Two young couples from Tennessee and Florida joined the group and moved to Monroe, and a young Bible worker from Southern Adventist University began giving Bible studies in the community. The Conference treasurer informed the group that several years earlier, \$40,000 had been donated to the Conference for work in Monroe, and the Holy Spirit was working miracle after miracle.

With a focus on evangelizing Union

County, the first Sabbath service of the new group was held on September 18, 1999, with 28 members. Over the years, there were many challenges, but the Lord provided everything that was needed and there was a wonderful spirit of unity. With the first baptism held



in a borrowed Baptist church baptistry, the church grew to 37 members within a year and a half.

After praying for five years, the Lord led the church to a great building on Weddington Road, with more than six acres of land, in the fastest growing part of Union County. With God’s provision, the church moved into the new building in August 2004.

Nineteen years of faithful payments later, the church celebrated the burning of the mortgage on Sabbath, January 21, 2023. Now, the funds that the members so generously supplied can be used for other, greater uses in evangelizing the community in Union County. The members of Monroe Church are praying that they will be faithful in their commitment to help the church glow with the power and fire of the three angels’ messages, with the Holy Spirit leading them to the end of time. 📌

BY TOM MILLS

Church Witnesses Through Sound of Music

Music is no stranger to DeBary-Orange City, Fla., Church members. They take many opportunities to dust off instruments and stretch vocal chords to share their talents at home and in the community.

Men's Chorus

In the summer of 2022, an octogenarian member with a long-time burning desire for a male singing group approached church musician Deon Muschette with the idea of forming such a group. It wasn't long before 20 men of all ages signed up to attend a preliminary informational meeting.

Then, after faithfully meeting on Friday evenings, even during hurricane time, the group became eager to try their songs in public, and a date was set for mid-October. Seventeen men, under Muschette's direction, presented an original arrangement of "Worthy, Worthy is the Lamb," blessing an enthusiastically receptive congregation.

Before the end of the year, the men's chorus sang an original rendition of "We Three Kings" to a packed activities room of residents at the DeBary Highland Country Estates retirement community, which included a children's duet and short inspirational message by a church elder. The group has continued a music witness at nursing homes.

Instrumental Ensembles

Also last summer, interest blossomed in starting a small instrumental ensemble, as a number of members were proficient on various instruments. It wasn't long before more people indicated they also played instruments and would like to join an orchestra. Pianist Janel Tasker agreed to head up the project and invited anyone interested in learning to



Men's Chorus debut at DeBary-Orange City, Fla., Church.



The DeBary-Orange City, Fla., Church orchestra returned in February to perform at Seminole Towne Center Mall in Sanford, Fla.

play the ukulele, an easy instrument to learn, to come to rehearsals, and that's all it took.

In September, the ukulele ensemble gave special music at church, and two months later a 25-member orchestra was introduced with violins, violas, a flute, ukuleles, guitar, cello, trumpet, trombone, mandolins, and piano.

In December, the orchestra presented a flash mob/caroling event at the Seminole Towne Center Mall in Sanford, Fla., which so impressed mall officials

they invited the orchestra and singers to return in 2023. In the meantime, orchestra members continue their music as ministry in the church and in community nursing homes. 🎵

BY DEBARY-ORANGE CITY COMMUNICATION DEPT.

Plymouth-Sorrento Church Hosts “Diabetes Undone” Program



Plymouth-Sorrento Church, Apopka, Fla., members and community participated in a Diabetes Undone program.

Plymouth-Sorrento Church in Apopka, Fla., under the leadership of Seree Peterson, health and temperance leader, hosted a Diabetes Undone program for church family and community beginning in September 2022. There were more than 30 people who registered with a desire to learn how to reverse and prevent diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and many other health conditions. Louisa Cordero, registered and licensed dietician, facilitated the program by offering encouragement and helpful counsel.

During a nine-week period, there were positive changes in the health and wellness of many attendees. Some had improvements in their A1C numbers, blood pressures, weight loss, and even higher energy through more exercise. The participants were encouraged each week to set a new goal in exercising, eating more plant-based foods, or adding an extra hour of sleep.

Each night, participants enjoyed a healthy recipe sample while giving many positive comments of how good healthy food can taste. As the attendees



Seree Peterson, Plymouth-Sorrento health and temperance leader, conducted a Diabetes Undone program.

came each night, they shared how they were exercising more, trying to eat more plant-based foods, and attempting to get at least seven hours of sleep each night.

At the end of the nine-week program, Rob Putt, pastor, and Peterson encouraged each participant to continue with a

new commitment to live a healthier lifestyle and take time to rest each week. A prayer of dedication was offered for the participants. 🙏

BY PAUL RAU

ACS Coordinator Receives Award at State Capitol

Carolyn Lipscomb, South Georgia Adventist Community Services (ACS) Coordinator, was recognized at the Georgia State Capitol for her work serving the older population in south Georgia on Wednesday, February 15, 2023. State Representative Noel Williams presented the Distinguished Older Georgian Award on behalf of the Georgia Council on Aging.

“I am greatly humbled and honored to be the recipient of this award,” said Lipscomb during the awards ceremony. Every month, Lipscomb oversees the delivery of 25,000 to 30,000 pounds of food to low-income seniors.

With Hew Lipscomb, her husband, standing at her side, she was quick to highlight that they would be celebrating their 59th wedding anniversary the very next day. “Without his support, what has been accomplished wouldn’t have been possible,” she said. “He has given constructive criticism, been the truck driver, the forklift operator, the maintenance man, and a whole bunch of other things.”

In 2001, Hew Lipscomb, who was South Georgia ACS coordinator at the time, and his wife recognized a need for providing food to underserved seniors and started the food bag program. Since



its inception, the program has continued to grow, now serving around 1,900 seniors every month across 32 counties in south Georgia.

The average age of residents in south Georgia is 62, with 55% of those seniors being food insecure, said Carolyn Lipscomb. “Nine percent of [the seniors] are living on less than \$500 per month.”

“If we stop the work [in south Georgia], they will miss us. That’s how relevant and important the work is that they are doing,” said Luis Biazotto, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ACS director.

In addition to coordinating the food bags for the seniors’ program, Carolyn Lipscomb also coordinates health screenings and disaster response across south Georgia.

She also serves as the chairperson for the River Valley Regional Commission Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council. This agency is part of the Georgia Council on Aging which was established by the Georgia General Assembly to serve the needs of older individuals in the state.

The Distinguished Older Georgian Award is only the latest of several awards Carolyn Lipscomb has received this year. She has also been recognized for her leadership and vision in serving those in the aging network, for making a positive contribution to the lives of older adults, and for being a positive role model for understanding and addressing the needs of old people.

While the awards recognize the work of Carolyn Lipscomb and South Georgia ACS, that’s not what gives her the greatest joy. “There is so much satisfaction in helping somebody that really needs the help,” she said. 🍎

BY NATHAN ZINNER

Nalzarzo Becomes New Conference Undertreasurer

Earlier this year, Junefel Nalzarzo started her new role as undertreasurer for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Nalzarzo is no stranger to Georgia-Cumberland, pre-

viously serving as the assistant treasurer for payroll for the Conference.

“Nalzarzo has demonstrated excellent skills in accounting, a strong desire to serve the Lord, along with a high level

of integrity,” says Kurt Allen, vice-president for finance for the Conference.

Nalzarzo brings extensive experience to her new role, not only with her knowledge of Georgia-Cumberland, but



Junefel Nalzar is the new undertreasurer for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. With a wealth of experience, she sees how God has prepared her for her new responsibilities.

also having previously worked in several accounting roles at Southeastern California Conference, Heritage Academy, and Davao Adventist Hospital in the Philippines.

Since graduating with an accounting degree, Nalzar says she can see God leading and preparing her for her new role. Nalzar has had several types of jobs, working as a cashier, a bookkeeper, and accountant. Each position was a stepping stone, giving her additional experience and knowledge. “God prepared me from the very beginning to where He wants me,” she said.

Allen agrees. “We know that God has chosen her and uniquely gifted her to serve in this important role as undertreasurer,” he said.

For Nalzar, she sees each person as her customer, from church pastors and treasurers, to employees and outside vendors. “I just want to serve them and show a Christian character,” she said. 📌

Calhoun Member Joan Willis Celebrates 100th Birthday

Joan Malcomson Willis was born in MacKay, Queensland, Australia, on February 26, 1923. One hundred years later in Calhoun, Ga., she celebrated her 100th birthday. Her life has taken her to many places across the United States, due in part to her husband, Harold (Hal), who was a U.S. Air Force weatherman. While she lived in Washington Court House, Ohio, Hal’s mother influenced Joan and her family to attend the local Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The Dorcas Society at the church had helped Joan’s mother-in-law during a stressful time prior to Joan and the boys’ arrival. This impressed Joan and she decided to become a member of the Adventist Church. This decision changed the outlook of her life, developing a strong belief of Jesus and the Second Coming, and she became involved in a lifelong desire to care for her family and to be of service to others in need.

While they were stationed in Okinawa, Joan served the mission church in Shuri as the Dorcas leader. After returning to the U.S. and moving to Marietta, Ga., the family attended the Marietta Church, where she started leading the Primary



Surrounded by family, Joan Malcomson Willis (center, seated), celebrated her 100th birthday on February 26, 2023.

Sabbath School. For the next 25 years, Joan taught children, first at Marietta, and then at Calhoun.

Since moving to Calhoun, Joan has been an integral part of the changes and expansion the church has seen, serving as Primary Division leader, Sabbath School secretary, community service leader (formerly called Dorcas Society), and church secretary.

While she officially retired from church duties at the age of 71, she continued to be

involved in community service work for several more years.

Despite all the roles she has held, she has travelled back to Australia to visit family several times. She also has four children and several great-grandchildren, whom she loves to tell stories of her experience growing up in Australia. 📌

BY BARBARA C. WILLIS

Highland Students Travel to Kenya, Nicaragua for Mission Trip

Fifty-one Highland Academy students and sponsors departed the school campus to go on two separate mission trips from January 29 to February 8, 2023. One group went to Kenya and the other group to Nicaragua.

The mission trip to Kenya was mostly focused on physical work for the community. This trip had been planned for a previous school year, but due to COVID-19 regulations it was postponed.

“Back in 2020 when I heard we were not going to Kenya, the disappointment was devastating, but it was well worth the wait,” said Tian Carney, a senior who had planned to go on the original trip. “The people and the trip were something I will never forget.”

Some students helped gather and lay bricks to build showers for a girls’ boarding school. Others worked on building trusses for the Women’s Health Center that is in the construction process. Another option was to do some medical work in the nearby clinic that was already running. Some students weighed babies, helped with ultrasounds, taking records, and even assisted in the delivery of a baby.

Although they did some physical



work too, the Nicaragua mission trip was more focused on spiritual work in the community. Students helped with multiple religious programs through music and speaking opportunities. The students were willing to help wherever God called them to. “The time I spent with the kids each night sharing about Jesus is something I will never forget,” said Highland Academy senior Carlie Alvarez. “They were so receptive and excited to learn their memory verses and sing songs about God. It was a blessing.” The students and sponsors were glad to have a break from the hustle and bustle of school life, and be able to use their

time and energy in a new setting for God. Sponsor and Highland Academy grounds worker Andy Wade tells his students that he enjoys sponsoring because when he went to Highland, his first mission trip changed his life. He wants to provide that opportunity to students now. “I had the privilege to go on my first mission trip my sophomore year here at Highland. That trip not only changed the lives of the people in Belize, but it touched my life in many ways,” said Wade. “I love sponsoring the mission trips because I want to provide that opportunity to our students. I want them to be able to have that same life-changing experience that I found in serving others.”

When the students returned, they also brought many stories and memories back with them. The school had a student-led week of prayer, and some students used that time to share their new testimonies with the rest of the school. These trips are a refreshing reminder that God can use everyone for His work, no matter their age or status. ●

BY ABIGAIL HOSLER

Church Member Featured on TV Show, Wins \$200,000

For 25 years, Samantha Edwards has enjoyed a plant-based diet, personally observing the health benefits of this lifestyle. She also witnessed her mom’s transformation to a cancer-free journey after she committed to a similar regimen. Because

of this, Edwards knew she wanted to share this health message with others.

For years, she taught cooking classes; wrote a vegan cookbook, *The Better Way*; and got certified by Cornell University in New York, on plant-based nutrition. Overtime, she started noticing a

growing demand for vegan products.

“And so, I wanted to jump in on this opportunity,” said Edwards, who attends the Stanton Church in Kentucky. “I wanted to create a product line that had the same taste and texture as traditional meat, but in a healthier way. This led to a series of



research, testing, and development.”

Edwards soft launched her brand, New Breed Meats in 2019 at an Adventist Laymen’s Services & Industries (ASI) con-

vention, selling vegan burgers, grounds, and breakfast sausages. The following year she started selling online and was accepted to join the Target’s accelerator program, which trains entrepreneurs on the ins and outs of fast retail.

In September of 2022, Edwards was given the opportunity to present her product on the TV show *Bet on Black*, a competition series for Black entrepreneurs. In her pitch, Edwards shared her testimony with plant-based diet and her company’s goal to make a difference around her community.

“The tagline for New Breed Meats is ‘plants on a mission,’” said Edwards. “We allocate a portion of our proceeds to

fund community health initiatives.”

Edwards ended up winning the \$200,000 grand prize, which she plans to use for further marketing efforts. Upon her win, she was also featured on FOX 5 Atlanta.

“This business provides me with a platform where I can share the health message of our Church,” said Edwards. “At the end, my biggest goal is not just to help people make the transition to a plant-based lifestyle, but to also connect them to resources that can help them physically, mentally, and spiritually as well.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Middletown Church Commemorates 60th Anniversary

Church members and friends of the Middletown, Ky., Church gathered on February 18, 2023, to celebrate the church’s 60th anniversary. More than 180 people attended this special event, which was a reminder of the church’s history and continuous growth.

The Middletown Church began as a mission plant of the Pewee Valley Church in 1957. It was originally called St. Matthews Church. The church members had a ground-breaking ceremony on December 3, 1961, for their soon-to-be new church home. That same afternoon, the building’s footing was dug by hand, and concrete was poured the following day. In less than a month, the church building was completed.

Then, on December 22, 1962, the St. Matthews Church facility was officially dedicated. Sixty years later, Marius Serban, pastor, wanted to commemorate the occasion.

“I was visiting one of the very first St. Matthews Church members and on her table was the original bulletin of the



St. Matthews’ Church dedication,” said Serban. The St. Matthews Church changed its name to Middletown Church in 1988, after having moved to a new building. “I got excited and, while we were not able to celebrate the anniversary on the exact date, we knew we wanted to do something special.”

Sandy Hall, with the help of the anniversary committee members, prepared the special program for February 18, 2023. The celebration kicked off at 11 a.m., and included special music; a sermon by Denver Canvins, former St. Matthews Church pastor; and interviews with former and current members who

shared their memories of the church’s past. After the service, everyone enjoyed the fellowship potluck.

“We wanted to remember all of those memories that meant so much to people,” said Hall. “We were also just excited to have as much fellowship with the former members and current members of our church.”

The Middletown Church currently has 259 members. Their goal is to be known in the Louisville, Ky., area as a “church that transforms people and communities through the genuine love of Jesus.” They have more than 20 ongoing ministries and are currently focusing their efforts to reach the Berrytown community in Kentucky.

“We are a very friendly church family,” said Hall. “We genuinely care about each other and our community. God has blessed our church richly throughout many years, and our goal is to continue growing and sharing His love.”

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Charlotte Berean, Community Churches Collaborate for a Healthy Community

Churches for a Healthy Community (CFAHC) was established in 2018 as part of the Health Ministries Department of Charlotte, N.C., Berean Church. Together the team explored how they as a ministry could reach many individuals in the community. The goal was to simply share the health message. The team started by connecting with other area community churches. A meeting was held, and 10 churches responded to the first in-person meeting, which included Adventist and other denominations' congregations. The group decided on the name Churches for a Healthy Community.

During the first year in 2018, the combined churches presented a five-day Health Explosion. In 2019 they presented a two-day "Inflatable Mega Body." The next program was to be in the fall of 2020. The team planned on offering the Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) Free Clinic. AMEN is an independent ministry that supports the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Their mission is to motivate, train, and equip Adventist physicians and dentists to team up with pastors and members, uniting the Church to restore Christ's ministry of healing to the world, hastening His return. But, with the onslaught of the COVID-19 pandemic, all community initiatives, including the AMEN project, had to be put on hold.

After much prayer and the power of God's divine leading, 2022 turned out to be the year. CFAHC was finally able to move forward with the AMEN clinic, and it has been the largest medical missionary endeavor in Charlotte. Churches that participated in the AMEN event were Charlotte Berean Church, Faith Liberation Community Christian Church,



Pictured are Deborah Johnson (left), CFAHC chair; Steve Miller, AMEN director; and Drs. Chris and Charles Crosby.



AMEN volunteers complete screening forms.

Northeast Church, Trinity Worship Center, and Macedonia Baptist Church.

Deborah Johnson, chair for CFAHC, reflects that, "There were times in the planning process it seemed that we were not going to be able to do this program. The AMEN Free Clinic is a health initiative like none we have ever undertaken, and at times appeared as an impossible dream, but with God, all things are possible." She further shared just how God opened doors and windows. They were able to obtain the Ivory Baker Community Center free of charge. All the churches worked together in obtaining the finances, church members, family, and friends who donated their time and money to help bring the AMEN clinic to Charlotte.

The clinic date was October 14, 2022, and the services provided included dental

cleaning, filling, and extractions; vision screenings and consultations; medical exams and consultations; podiatry care; prayer and counseling with the clergy representatives from each church; mental health and wellness consultations; and COVID/Flu vaccines by the Department of Health. Also provided were free coats, hats, and health food bags. The amazing thing was that all services were offered free of charge.

There were more than 300 volunteers, including dental hygienists, dental assistant students, board certified dentists and physicians, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, registered nurses, LPNs, medical assistants, and a host of other church members and partners. From set up to break down, a team of happy, productive volunteers worked tirelessly during this mission of mercy.

The clinic valued at more than \$120,000. The statistics of the clinic included the following: STATISTICS ARE MISSING FROM THIS PARAGRAPH, BUT STICKY NOTES WON'T WORK.

For those who ever want to go on a mission trip, there is no need to go out of the country; there are mission needs in every community.

The follow-up with the participants continued for several weeks after the clinic. Participants who were fitted for glasses had to be contacted and arrangements made for them to get their glasses. This kept the door open for continued conversations on additional health and wellness offerings, such as planned healthy cooking classes and smoking cessation classes, that CFAHC would be doing in the coming months. 📍

BY CHRISTINE FRASER

Ukrainian Delegates Speak with Students About Service Amid War

Southern Adventist University's School of Education and Psychology hosted two distinguished delegates from Ukraine this spring. The campus welcomed Valeriia Pali, Ph.D., president of the National Psychological Association of Ukraine, and Olena Vladovska, chief operating officer of Angelia Medical Center, a Ukrainian Seventh-day Adventist clinic dedicated to providing support for youth and families affected by the devastation in their country. The two women spoke with students about serving their nation on the frontlines of war.

Vladovska explained how the Angelia Medical Center uses a holistic, person-oriented approach to medical treatment that helps individuals physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. She explained



that Russian forces have destroyed more than 1,100 clinics and hospitals, but Angelia has remained operational. The center provides humanitarian aid by sending mobile field clinics to refugee camps.

“What helps us to do this work?” asked Vladovska. “It’s understanding, it’s faith in God, and it’s our unity. United, we can help others.”

“I enjoyed hearing the speakers share their personal experiences of how

life and the practice of medicine have changed since the invasion of Ukraine,” said Maddie Chant, senior psychology major. “I was moved by their passion for using their careers to make a positive impact on their people, even amid war.”

Vladovska praised Southern for the strong Seventh-day Adventist roots she witnessed on campus.

“Observing the students, you can tell what is taught at Southern,” said Vladovska. “I do what I do in Ukraine because of my Seventh-day Adventist beliefs, and here at Southern, it feels as if one can almost touch the history of Adventist ministry.”

BY AMANDA BLAKE

Southern's Symphony Orchestra Hailed for Performance at National Conference

Southern's Symphony Orchestra received emphatic applause from a crowd of talented musicians and professional conductors during the National Conference of the College Orchestra Directors Association.

“When you get an instantaneous standing ovation from a room full of conductors from across the country, you know you’ve made a good impression,” said Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, director of the 75-member troupe. “People approached over the next couple days to say how great our orchestra was.”

The Southern students were thrilled with the opportunity to perform an hour-long concert for the group.

“It was fun to look out at the audience and see how engaged the conductors were with the music,” said Corbin Weiss, a sophomore mathematics major and cello player. “Between movements, I could feel the support and appreciation for our work, because the directors in the audience know what it takes to put a symphony together.”

Cadwallader described the orchestra's superb performance as a manifestation of

their pursuit of excellence.

“It is rare for a school our size to have the opportunity to attend and perform at a national-level conference. The students recognized this honor and rose to the occasion,” she said. “When you challenge yourself to strive for something new, it makes you better. The students sound different now, more confident. I am very proud of each member.”

BY AMANDA BLAKE

Prison Ministries Leader, Bible Worker Serves More Than 60 Years, Passes

A beautiful baby girl, Maxine, was the fifth child born to Tommy and Mable Lewis on March 25, 1934. She passed to her rest on September 16, 2021, at age 87. As a child, she attended Duval Elementary and Lincoln High School, where she was known as “Rabbit,” because she was swift on her feet and athletic. Women’s softball, basketball, and being a member of the Lincoln High School Marching Band played a pivotal role in her childhood and teen years. She used her sports abilities throughout her life as she became a well-rounded and versatile young woman.

Maxine attended Bethel Church in Gainesville, Fla., where her mother was a founding member. She and her siblings attended church faithfully, and her mother’s father, Charles Manns, was an Adventist preacher who served the Bethel Church as organist and pianist, among other responsibilities.

At the age of 18, her older brother, Tommie, invited her to leave Gainesville and move to New York. It was there that Tommie introduced her to an old Army buddy, Fentress Lunue “Lenny” Bethea. She dated Lenny, fell in love with him, and decided to be his wife; she married him that same year. They had five children, four girls and one boy: Purette Denise, Lunue (deceased), Belinda Maxine, Debra Teresa, and Fentress Lunue. She was an excellent mother, chef, seamstress, nurturer, party planner, fundraiser, caregiver, and much, much more.

The family moved to Brooklyn, N.Y., in the early 1960s. She joined the



Mount of Olives Church in Brooklyn. It was there that she was able to sharpen her skills as a Bible worker, community service organizer, prison ministries instructor, and Pathfinder leader. In 1965, tragedy struck the Bethea household, when Lenny suffered a fatal aneurysm. He was 32 years old when he passed. Maxine Bethea now had the responsibility of caring for her four young ones all alone. She then told Jesus (and everybody else) that He would have to be her husband. With the strength of God, she dutifully carried out the training of her babies. A brave soul herself, she raised her children to be strong, independent leaders, to be afraid of nothing and no man, and to look to Jesus for His help with everything throughout their lives. She taught her children to trust God, and always lean on His precious promises. God never fails. One of her favorite things to say when faced with an enormous difficulty was, “I can’t wait until the morning!” When asked

“Why?” she would say, “To see what God’s going to do!” A woman of faith, that’s who she was to her children ... and with that came the blessings. She wrote a book, *The Blessings of a Single Parent*. That title became natural to her as the Lord seemed to remind her that she was blessed and highly favored.

Glorious Ministries

As she grew in God’s great ministry, she found herself working for Him in prisons across America: Rikers Island in New York City; St. John’s River Prison in Richmond, Va.; Indiana Women’s Prison in Indianapolis, Ind.; and Alachua County Jail in Gainesville were just some of the many venues where she played a part. She also took her job as a Bible worker seriously — from the Caribbean to the Ivory Coast, West Africa; from Seattle, Wash., to Gainesville, Fla. Her other ministries included teaching/principal at Gold Street Adventist Elementary School in Brooklyn, N.Y., and Capital City School in Indianapolis. She also worked as a women’s dean at Pine Forge Academy (PFA) from 1986 to 1992. She loved PFA, and the students can attest that she was just as much fun as she was strict. Most of all, she was consistent. Bethea was also a girls’ director at Victory Lake Camp and Camp Wagner for 14 years. These schools and camps allowed her to hone in on her sports abilities and show off her basketball and strong right arm throwing skills.

When she turned 59, she attended Southwestern University’s Adult Degree Program and graduated in three

years with two bachelor's degrees: religion and psychology with a minor in healthcare administration. She was one determined woman.

It was then that she decided to move back to her hometown of Gainesville for her retirement years. She returned to her family's homestead that was built by her father's hands. It was there that she served as a member of the Gaines-

ville Police Citizen Academy and was involved in the community. She was a board member; treasurer; and prison ministries director for women, working with women for the last nine years of her life. She provided marriage counseling for many couples and remained faithful in Bible study, a very important part of her life until the end. She was a true testament of a balanced life well-lived.

Her last words to her sisters and daughters the night she passed were, "I'll see you in Heaven," and that was the theme for her celebration service.

She is survived by her four children, eight grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. 🕊

Poinciana Church Holds Children's Day Program

The children of Poinciana Church in Kissimmee, Fla., held their Children's Day Program on November 12, 2022, under the leadership of Denise Baptise. The children demonstrated their abilities, gifts, and talents with a blaze of glory and honor to God.

"What a performance! What a presentation! Despite the short rehearsal time due to unexpected conditions, they could not have done better. Their expressions were just as precious as they did their various presentations," noted Jelm Charles. The joyful blending of their voices as they lifted Christ, the speakers' presentation, and Scripture reading, brought pride and joy to some and tears to others.

Having the Osceola Adventist Chris-

tian School choir was a pleasure. They lent their beautiful voices, directed by Ancil Samuel, in helping the day to be a great success.

The children's performance was fantastic! They shone like jewels in a royal crown.

Proverbs 22:6 admonishes all to, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Parents, guardians, and leaders are encouraged to support and inspire the young ones in using their God-given gifts and talents to glorify God, and as a means of drawing others closer to Him. 🕊

BY JELM CHARLES



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

“BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD” - Theme for Florida English Camp Meeting, April 21-23. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL. Speaker, Richie Halversen. Contact: campmeeting.floridaconference.com.

BURLESON SDA CHURCH in Burleson, TX, will celebrate their

50th Anniversary - April 21-23. Activities include Friday evening supper and church history presentation. Sabbath breakfast, lesson study by Pastor Keith Gray, sermon by Pastor Mike Tucker, lunch at Burleson Adventist School, afternoon fellowship, and supper at the church with musical concert by Steve Darmody. Sunday morning golf. Call 817-295-7141 for more details.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR ROBOTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS - We use robots to build kids. Forest Lake Academy, May 7. Contact: adventistrobotics.net/florida; 603-287-1293.

CAMP KULAQUA'S 70th ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 13-15. TELL YOUR CAMP STORY: Invited are all previous camp staff, volunteers, and those connected to camp to come and join the celebration! Visit website: www.campkulaqua.com.

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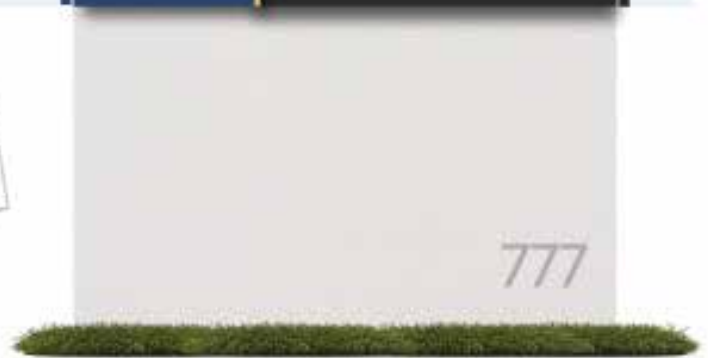
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**CAROLINA CONFERENCE
ACADEMY**

Mt. Pisgah Academy, Candler, NC
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Adventist Christian Academy, Charlotte, NC
 Adventist Christian Academy, Charleston, SC
 Adventist Christian Academy, Raleigh, NC
 Asheville-Pisgah Christian School, Candler, NC
 Blue Ridge Adventist Christian School, Waynesville, NC
 Brookhaven SDA School, Winterville, NC
 Cornerstone Adventist Academy, Charlotte, NC
 Eddlemon Adventist Christian Academy, Spartanburg, SC
 Five Oaks Adventist Christian School, Durham, NC
 Mills River SDA School, Mills River, NC
 Myrtle Beach SDA Christian School, Myrtle Beach, SC
 Poplar Springs SDA School, Westminster, SC
 Salisbury Adventist School, Salisbury, NC
 Silver Creek Adventist School, Morganton, NC
 Tri-City Christian Academy, High Point, NC
 Tryon SDA School, Lynn, NC
 Upward Adventist School, Flat Rock, NC
 Wm H Johnston Elementary, Hickory, NC
 Wilmington SDA School, Wilmington, NC

**FLORIDA CONFERENCE
ACADEMIES**

Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, FL
 Greater Miami Adventist Academy, Miami, FL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Adventist Christian Academy
 Beryl Wisdom Adventist School, Orlando, FL
 Deltona Adventist School, Deltona, FL
 East Pasco Adventist Academy, Dade City, FL
 Forest City Adventist School, Orlando, FL
 Forest Lake Education Center, Longwood, FL
 Gateway Christian School, Mt. Dora, FL
 Gulfcoast SDA Elementary School, St. Petersburg, FL
 Indigo Christian Jr Academy, Daytona Beach, FL
 James E. Sampson Memorial School, Ft. Pierce, FL
 LifePoint Academy of Seventh-day Adventists, Jacksonville, FL
 Living Springs Academy, High Springs, FL
 Miami Springs Adventist School, Miami Springs, FL
 Naples Adventist Christian School, Naples, FL
 North Tampa Christian Academy, Wesley Chapel, FL
 Ocala Adventist Academy, Ocala, FL
 Okeechobee Adventist Christian School, Okeechobee, FL
 Orlando Junior Academy, Orlando, FL
 Osceola Adventist Christian School, Kissimmee, FL
 Port Charlotte Adventist School, Port Charlotte, FL
 Sawgrass Adventist School, Plantation, FL
 Tallahassee Adventist Christian Academy, Tallahassee, FL
 Walker Memorial Academy, Avon Park, FL
 West Coast Christian Academy, Bradenton, FL
 West Palm Beach Junior Academy, West Palm Beach, FL
 William A. Kirlow Junior Academy, Miami Gardens, FL
 Winter Haven Adventist Academy, Winter Haven, FL

**GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE
ACADEMIES**

Atlanta Adventist Academy, Duluth, GA
 Collegedale Academy High School, Collegedale, TN
 Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Adventist Christian School, Martinez, GA
 Adventist Christian School of Maryville, Maryville, TN
 Algood Christian Elementary School, Cookeville, TN
 Atlanta North School, Atlanta, GA
 Bowman Hills SDA School, Cleveland, TN
 Carman Adventist School, Marietta, GA
 Collegedale Academy Elementary
 Collegedale Academy Middle School, Collegedale, TN
 Columbus SDA School, Columbus, GA
 Conyers Adventist Academy, Conyers, GA
 Douglasville SDA School, Douglasville, GA
 Duluth Adventist Christian School, Duluth, GA
 Dunlap Adventist School, Dunlap, TN
 Faulkner Springs Christian School, McMinnville, TN
 Gainesville Adventist Christian School, Gainesville, GA
 Greeneville Adventist Academy, Greeneville, TN
 Inez Wrenn SDA School, Crossville, TN
 Jasper Adventist Christian School, Jasper, TN
 Jellico SDA School, Jellico, TN
 John L. Coble Elementary School, Calhoun, GA
 Josephine Edwards Christian School, Ellijay, GA
 Knoxville Adventist School, Knoxville, TN
 Learning Tree Elementary School, Dalton, GA
 Lester Coon Adventist School, Apison, TN
 Lighthouse Christian Academy, Morristown, TN
 Living Springs Christian Academy, Gray, TN
 Murphy Adventist Christian School, Murphy, NC
 Oglethorpe SDA School, Oglethorpe, GA
 Ooltewah Adventist School, Ooltewah, TN
 Savannah Adventist Christian School, Pooler, GA
 Shoal Creek Adventist School, Sharpsburg, GA
 Standifer Gap SDA School, Chattanooga, GA
 Valdosta Christian Academy, Valdosta, GA
 Wimbish Adventist School, Macon, GA

**GULF STATES CONFERENCE
ACADEMY**

Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Adventist Christian Academy, Panama City, FL
 Bass Christian Elementary, Lumberton, MS
 Big Cove Christian Academy, Owens Cross Roads, AL
 Clanton SDA Preschool, Clanton, AL
 College Drive SDA School, Pearl, MS
 Community Christian School, Meridian, MS
 Emerald Coast Christian School, Fort Walton Beach, FL
 Faith Adventist Christian School, Summit, MS
 Floral Crest School, Bryant, AL
 Hoover Christian School, Hoover, AL
 Mobile Junior Academy, Mobile, AL
 Pensacola Junior Academy, Pensacola, FL

**KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE CONFERENCE
ACADEMIES**

Highland Academy, Portland, TN
 Madison Academy, Madison, TN
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Appalachian Christian Academy, Manchester, KY
 Centerville Christian School, Centerville, TN
 Highland Elementary School, Portland, TN
 Lawrenceburg Adventist School, Lawrenceburg, TN
 Lexington Junior Academy, Lexington, KY

Louisville Adventist Academy, Louisville, KY
 Madison Campus Elementary, Madison, TN
 Memphis Junior Academy, Memphis, TN
 Murfreesboro Adventist School, Murfreesboro, TN
 Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School, Ridgetop, TN
 Taylor Mill Christian Academy, Taylor Mill, KY
 Tullahoma SDA Elementary, Tullahoma, TN
 Woodbury SDA Elementary, Woodbury, TN

**SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFERENCE
ACADEMY**

Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, Atlanta, GA
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Atlanta Adventist International School, Jonesboro, GA
 Berea Junior Academy, Sumpter, SC
 Berean Christian Junior Academy, Atlanta, GA
 Berean Junior Academy, Charlotte, NC
 Bethany Junior Academy, Macon, GA
 Carolina Adventist Academy, Whiteville, NC
 Decatur Adventist Junior Academy, Stone Mountain, GA
 Ebenezer SDA School, Augusta, GA
 Emanuel SDA Junior Academy, Albany, GA
 Ephesus Junior Academy, Winston-Salem, NC
 Gethsemane SDA School, Raleigh, NC
 Greater Fayetteville Adventist Academy, Fayetteville, NC
 Lithonia Adventist Academy, Lithonia, GA
 New Bethel Christian Academy, Columbus, GA
 Norma D. Richards Adventist Christian School, Pageland, SC
 Ramah Junior Academy, Savannah, GA

**SOUTH CENTRAL CONFERENCE
ACADEMY**

Oakwood Adventist Academy, Huntsville, AL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Avondale SDA School, Chattanooga, TN
 Bethany Christian Academy, Montgomery, AL
 E. E. Rogers SDA School, Jackson, MS
 Emma L. Minnis Jr Academy, Louisville, KY
 Ephesus Jr Academy, Birmingham, AL
 F. H. Jenkins Preparatory School, Nashville, TN
 Greater Memphis Adventist Academy, Memphis, TN

**SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
ACADEMY**

Miami Union Adventist Academy, N. Miami, FL
ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS
 Bethel Jr. Academy - Florida City, FL
 Bethel Jr. Academy - Riviera Beach, FL
 Broward Jr. Academy, Plantation, FL
 Daughter of Zion Junior Academy, Delray Beach, FL
 Elim Jr. Academy, St. Petersburg, FL
 Ephesus Junior Academy, Jacksonville, FL
 Ephesus Adventist Academy, West Palm Beach, FL
 Mt. Calvary Jr Academy, Tampa, FL
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 Perrine SDA School, Miami, FL
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- Best Foot Forward*
- Prior Learning Credit
- Summer Mini-mester Sessions
- VA Educational Benefits

We took the LEAP—You Can Too!

David Johnson • Class of Fall 2019
Karina Johnson • Class of Spring 2018

*Best Foot Forward option allows the student to delete 2 low-achieving semesters from their transcripts.

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leap.oakwood.edu

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY • Office of Adult & Continuing Education

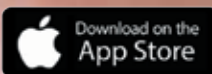
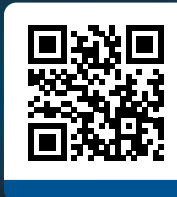
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MASTER'S DEGREE IN COUNSELING

Helping You Help Others



The counseling program at Southern Adventist University is focused on Christ, the Wonderful Counselor.

Designed for Your Success

Southern's CACREP-accredited programs in Clinical Mental Health Counseling and School Counseling prepare students for state licensure and provide practical knowledge and clinical experience.

Grounded in Christian Principles

The training you receive at Southern will be grounded in Christian principles but designed to prepare you for work in a variety of settings.

Call or visit online to find out how you can get started.

Master of Science in Counseling

- Clinical Mental Health Counseling
- School Counseling

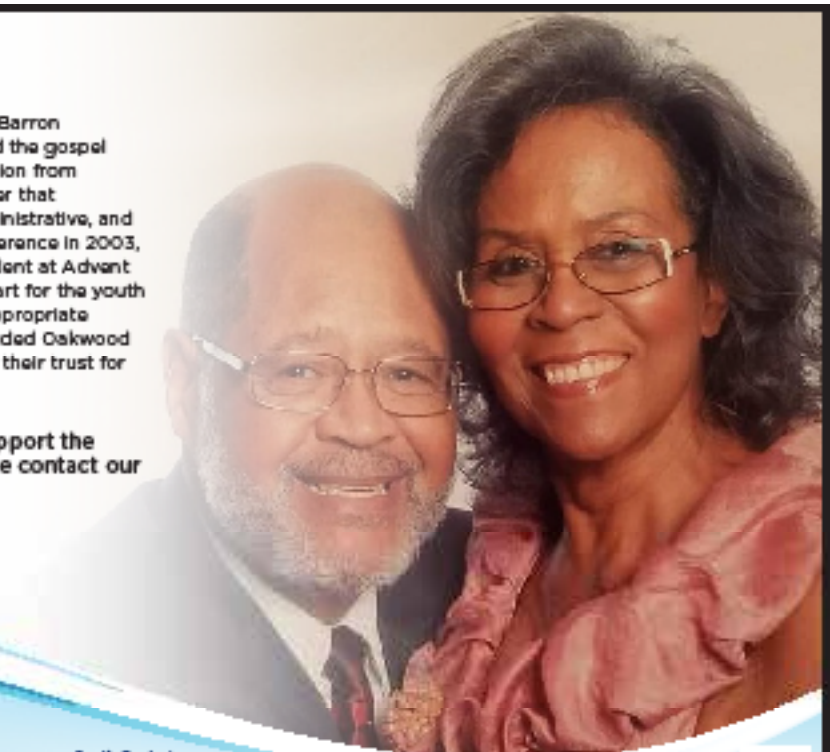


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Richard Edward Barron and Vivian Virginia Barron were a husband-wife team who supported the gospel mission in many fields. Upon graduation from Oakwood, the Barron's began a ministerial career that spanned 60 years which included pastoral, administrative, and camp ministry. After retiring from the General Conference in 2003, Elder Barron became the Assistant to the President at Advent Health Sebring. He had a special place in his heart for the youth and was known as the "Youth's Friend." How appropriate that he and his wife, a nurse by profession, included Oakwood University Religion and Nursing Departments in their trust for educational pursuits of young people.

▶ If you are interested in a living trust to support the work God has placed on your heart, please contact our planned giving office.



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SUSDAGift.org

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Need to change your address for *Southern Tidings*?

Mail in the label from the back of your last *Southern Tidings*, or fill-in the information below and mail it to:

SOUTHERN TIDINGS, ADDRESS CHANGE,
P.O. BOX 923868, NORCROSS, GA 30010-3868

NAME:

OLD ADDRESS:

NEW ADDRESS:

PHONE NUMBER:

HOME CHURCH:

FLORIDA

- English Camp Meeting** – April 21-23. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.
- Hispanic Camp Meeting** – April 28-30. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.
- FIRST Lego League Challenge Championship** – May 7, 2023. Forest Lake Academy.
- FIRST Tech Challenge Championship** – May 7, 2023. Forest Lake Academy.
- Summer Camps** – June 5-11. June 11-18. June 18-25. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.
- Family Camp** – Sept. 1-4. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.
- Young at Heart (50+ retreat)** – Nov. 6-9. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, FL.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

- Hispanic Women’s Retreat** – April 7-9. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.
 - Women’s and Teen Girls’ Spring Retreat** – April 14-16. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.
 - Pathfinder Camporee** – April 21-23. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.
 - Setting up Retirement Income Streams** – April 25. Zoom.
 - Emotional and Spiritual Care Certification** – April 28-30. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.
 - Master Guides Bible Bowl** – April 29.
 - Master Guides Leadership Convention** – May 10-11.
 - Collegedale Camp Meeting** – May 31-June 3. Southern Adventist University.
- Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Inaugural Benjamin McArthur Endowed Lecture – April 13. Southern Adventist University is pleased to welcome historian Eric Anderson, Ph.D., as presenter for the first Benjamin McArthur Endowed Lecture on April 13, at 7 p.m. in Ackerman Auditorium. A specialist in United States history, Anderson will explore how society approaches an imperfect past and flawed heroes. Yearly

lectures honor the legacy of the late McArthur, an active scholar and beloved professor in the university’s History and Political Studies Department for 35 years. Free and open to the public, this inaugural talk also will serve as the keynote address for the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Historians, who are meeting on Southern’s campus. For more information, visit southern.edu/mcarthurlecture.

Wind Symphony Concert – April 16. Southern Adventist University’s Wind Symphony will perform on April 16, at 7:30 p.m. in Collegedale Church. Under the direction of Ken Parsons, the concert will include Richard Saucedo’s Whirlwind(s) and Michael Colgrass’ Bali, among other selections. The event is free and open to the public and will be livestreamed. For more information, visit southern.edu/musicevents.

Symphony Orchestra Concert – April 23. Southern Adventist University will present its Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Laurie Redmer Cadwallader, in concert on April 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Collegedale Church. This free event is open to the public and will be livestreamed. To learn more,

visit southern.edu/musicevents.

School of Music Choirs Perform – April 29. Choral ensembles from the School of Music at Southern Adventist University will be in concert on Saturday, April 29, at 4 p.m. under the direction of Gennevieve Brown-Kibble. The free event is open to the public and also will be livestreamed from Collegedale Church. For more information, visit southern.edu/musicevents.

Summer Classes Begin – May 8. Numerous online and in-person courses are available for both undergraduate and graduate curriculums. Prospective students must apply and be accepted before registering. Start the process at southern.edu/apply.

Academic Summer Camps – June 12-14. Southern is hosting camps for high school students in automotive repair, computing, filmmaking, journalism, media production, outdoor leadership, photography, pre-med, and vegetarian culinary arts. Registration is \$150 for day students or \$200 for overnight campers staying in residence halls. For more information or to register, visit southern.edu/camps or call 423-236-2807.

SUNSET						
	APR 7	APR 14	APR 21	APR 28	MAY 5	MAY 12
ATLANTA, GA	8:03	8:09	8:14	8:19	8:25	8:30
CHARLESTON, SC	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10
CHARLOTTE, NC	7:49	7:55	8:00	8:06	8:12	8:17
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:07	8:12	8:18	8:24	8:30	8:35
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:13	7:18	7:24	7:29	7:35	7:41
JACKSON, MS	7:25	7:30	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:12	8:19	8:25	8:32	8:39	8:45
MEMPHIS, TN	7:27	7:32	7:38	7:44	7:49	7:55
MIAMI, FL	7:41	7:44	7:47	7:51	7:55	7:48
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:10	7:15	7:20	7:25	7:30	7:35
NASHVILLE, TN	7:15	7:21	7:27	7:33	7:39	7:45
ORLANDO, FL	7:47	7:51	7:55	7:59	8:04	8:08
TAMPA, FL	7:51	7:55	7:59	8:03	8:07	8:11
WILMINGTON, NC	7:38	7:43	7:49	7:54	8:00	8:05



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JOHNSON
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Speaker**



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Speaker**



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MANN
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APRIL 3-9, 2023

FOUR-YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

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**\$8,000 UP TO
FULL TUITION**

awarded over four years
based on GPA and ACT score

Southern Union Scholarship

\$12,000

awarded over four years
for students from most
Southern Union states

Leadership Scholarships


\$4,000 or \$6,000

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

Lightbearer Scholarship

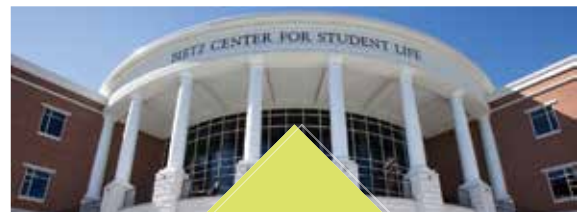
\$8,000

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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