

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

JANUARY 2010



EVANGELISM  
IS OUR BUSINESS

2010: THE YEAR OF EVANGELISM CONTINUES



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# Evangelism Is Our Business

**8**



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**On the Cover**

The new year brings many changes here at the *Record*. But we're still about our Father's business—evangelism. We hope you enjoy the new size, new content, and new look. Tell us what you think! Send an e-mail to [record@swuc.org](mailto:record@swuc.org). We pray that you will be blessed as 2010 brings us one year closer to our Lord's return.

# President's Perspective»

BY MAX TREVIÑO » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Have You Been Cast Out?

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Treviño".

**Each New Year brings new hopes and opportunities.** We're one year closer to our Lord's return, and for that I am excited and full of anticipation. I'm thankful to be a part of a church that places a high priority on evangelistic outreach, and once again, the North American Division has declared 2010 a "Year of Evangelism."

At a time when the economy is uncertain, and charitable giving is down, our church has purposed to invest heavily in the Kingdom. While budgets are being trimmed, and workers tighten their belts, we are stepping out in faith and putting every extra dollar available toward evangelism.

Jesus commands us to "lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal" (Matt. 6:20). So that is what we are doing—making heavenly-minded decisions that will increase human dividends and pay huge returns with eternal rewards.

But setting aside money for evangelism is only one piece of the puzzle. Jesus declared, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest" (Luke 10:2).

I'm told that the phrase "send out" is actually better translated "cast out." It is translated from the same root word typically used for when Jesus "cast out" demons. It's not a passive sending. It's not a gentle nudge. It's a physical pushing. Jesus is asking us to

pray that He will "push us" out of our comfort zones and into the battle zone!

The mother bird who pushes her young fledgling out of the nest knows that the fear of falling will quickly be replaced with the thrill of flying. Likewise, God knows that when we overcome

our fear of witnessing, we will experience the thrill of soul winning.

As you know, my background is in treasury and finance. I was not trained as a theologian or evangelist. But the Lord has seen fit to push me beyond the boundaries of my experience into the realm of soul winning. Every time I've been obedient, He has blessed. He

has worked through me, and in spite of me, to reach people for the Kingdom. My desire is that, this year, you will experience that same joy. Make a commitment now to personally get involved in evangelism.

May the Lord bless you as you begin this new year, and may you bless your friends and neighbors with His love as you allow the Lord to "cast you out."



**Max Treviño** is the president of the Southwestern Union.



# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

## Live Life to the Fullest! Imagine...Living Life to a Healthy 100

The Florida Hospital seminar presenter asked the class that had gathered to learn about successfully launching health ministry teams in their local churches, “What’s the leading cause of death among males 65 years old or older in Florida?”

“Heart attack—heart disease” the class quickly answered. Easy. But then the presenter asked, “What’s the second leading cause of death?” “Stroke, diabetes, hypertension, cancer,” the students answered. Good guesses, but wrong. The correct answer was suicide. *Suicide!* For many of these men, taking their own life is the only real choice they feel they have to end their pain. But there is another option: CREATION Health.

CREATION Health and how they can help you live to a healthy 100. Seventh-day Adventists produce more centenarians than any other group. This fact has entered the public awareness and people want to know our longevity secrets. God has opened a window of opportunity—this is our time.

CREATION Health is more than a philosophy, it’s a lifestyle that God designed around eight principles that are a catalyst for experiencing balanced wellness in every area of our lives. What this means is that when you practice the principle of Choice, you take charge of your life and are in control. Through Rest, you replace chaos with calm and are restored in mind, body, and soul. With Environment, you create a soothing Eden-like oasis that nurtures you. Through Activity, you maintain your quality of life and stay youthful. With Trust, your faith makes you fearless and confident because of your loving relationship with a caring heavenly Father. With Interpersonal Relationships, you enjoy a happier and more meaningful life. By practicing the principle of Outlook, you have greater success and a brighter future because of the power of positive expectation. And through Nutrition, you have energy and peak performance. God gave you these eight principles of CREATION Health to live life to the fullest.

- C** Choice
- R** Rest
- E** Environment
- A** Activity
- T** Trust
- I** Interpersonal RELATIONSHIPS
- O** Outlook
- N** Nutrition

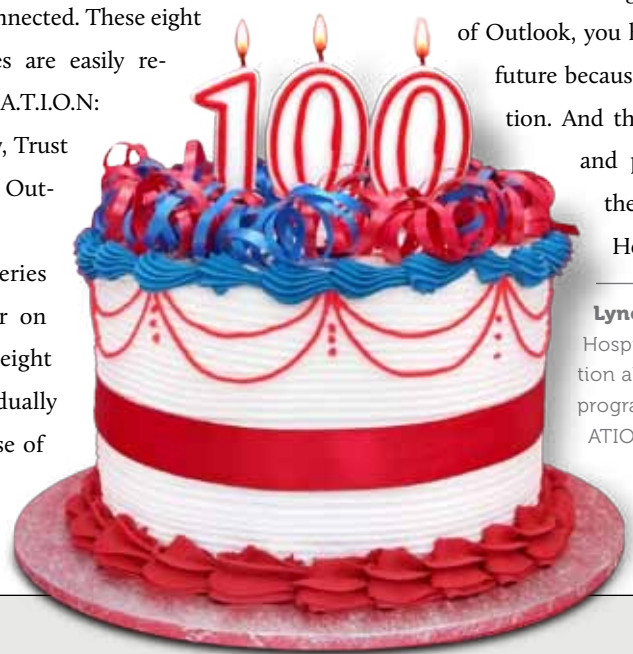
### CREATION HEALTH

The Creation story contains a plan for enjoying whole-person health. It offers eight principles that, when practiced, make us mentally fit, physically robust, spiritually vital, and socially connected. These eight principles are easily re-

membered with the acronym C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N:

Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition.

This article is the first in a series appearing in the *Record* this year on CREATION Health. Each of the eight principles will be covered individually in subsequent articles. The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the eight principles of



**Lynell LaMountain** writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida. For information about hosting a CREATION Health program at your church, visit [www.CREATIONhealth.tv](http://www.CREATIONhealth.tv) or call 407.303.7711.

# Shades of Grace

BY MIKE TUCKER » SPEAKER/DIRECTOR, FAITH FOR TODAY



## Don't Miss the Grace!

**I grew up in Texas, and my wife, Gayle, grew up in Oklahoma.** We have lived, worked, and raised our family in Texas. Since both of us were raised as Seventh-day Adventists, there has never been a time when the *Record* was not in our home. That's why I am so thrilled to have been invited to write a regular column for this fine periodical.

The title for this month's article is borrowed from the verse, "See to it that no one misses the grace of God" (Heb. 12:15, NIV).

The Apostle was addressing a group of Christians who arguably possessed more information about God and His character than any other group on the face of the planet. They had all the Scriptures we refer to as the Old Testament and the rich history of the Jewish race and religion. Now they had added to this rich backdrop the Good News about Jesus. That made them the best-informed people on the planet when it came to God and His character.

The Apostle had written the book of Hebrews in order to link the old system of types and sacrifices to the antitype, Jesus Christ. He demonstrated that Jesus is our perfect sacrifice, perfect priest, and our perfect mediator. Now as he prepared to bring this book to a close, the Apostle began to give instructions to his readers. What should he say to these people who had so much head knowledge about God? One of his parting instructions can be seen in the passage I mentioned earlier, "See to it that no one misses the grace of God."

What did the Apostle mean by that? We will spend the next few months unpacking that verse in this column.

First, if we are to ensure that no one misses the grace of God, we must begin with ourselves. I must not miss the grace of God—you must not miss the grace of God. That means that we must receive the free gift of salvation directly from the wounded hands of Jesus, our Savior.

Countless passages tell us about this unspeakable gift.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast" (Eph. 2:8, 9, NRSV).

We receive God's gift of grace through our acceptance of Jesus' gift won for us on Calvary's tree. The Gospel of John tells us that our belief in Jesus results in the forgiveness of sins and eternal life.

This means that we can live our lives without guilt or shame.

We live in the knowledge that Jesus accepts us just as we are. While He will not leave us as we are, He does accept us as we are. You are loved, accepted, and forgiven by God. Don't miss that grace!

"If we confess our sins, he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9, NRSV).

When we confess our sins, Scripture tells us that our sins are buried in the depths of the ocean. The ocean is seven miles deep in one place. That's seven miles of salt water covering your sins and God posts a sign that says, "No Fishing Allowed!"

The Bible says that your sins are removed from you as far as the east is from the west. If you travel due north, you eventually come to the North Pole. From there you can only go south. In that sense, north meets south! But if you travel due east, you can travel east throughout all eternity without ever going west. East never meets west and you will never meet your sin again.

But the best thing of all is this. God says that when you confess your sins, He will remember your sins no more! God cannot remember a sin you've confessed. Do not live with guilt and shame. Let it go! God has.

"See to it that no one misses the grace of God." It begins with you. Don't miss the grace!



**Mike Tucker** is the speaker/director for *Faith For Today* television. He writes from his home in Arlington, Tex.



# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY PAT HUMPHREY » ASSOCIATE EDITOR OF THE RECORD

## The Magnetic Church

When **Ricardo Viloría**, pastor of the Garland Spanish church, arrived in Texas three years ago, he knew he was up for a challenge. “It was a big church,” he recalls. “The congregation had 300 members with about 250 attending each Sabbath, a big mortgage, and a capacity to hold 1,000 people.”

So he immediately set about the task of casting a vision for the church members to get involved in evangelism and they readily accepted the challenge. In three years, the church has added 400 new members to its roll, with over 200 baptized in 2009 alone.

“We spent the first two years getting the church ready for change,” says Pastor Viloría. “Every church has an organizational culture—the way it sets rules and makes decisions, the way it treats outsiders. I had to challenge them to be ready to receive new people, and to educate them on the principles of Bible evangelism,” he explains. “Most of the time, the biggest problem for church growth is the church itself.” Another key element was to involve the entire church—to have them work together as a team—and they did.

Aside from making a paradigm shift, one of the first strategies for evangelism implemented by the Garland Spanish church was to reach their community. To do this effectively, they established several outreach programs. First, they partnered with the American Cancer Society to create a resource center that provides free information, equipment, and resources for people who have been diagnosed with cancer. It’s a win-win situation. The American Cancer Society refers cancer patients for counseling at the church, where two rooms have been set aside for this purpose. “This ministry is attracting a lot of people to our church,” Viloría says.

Another ministry that is bringing community members to the church is family counseling, which is offered two nights a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. A health clinic, supervised by a doctor from Mexico, which offers nutrition counseling, exercise classes,

and natural treatments, is also attracting people in large numbers to the Garland Spanish church. And a music school, which is open on Sundays, offers instrumental and voice lessons to the community free of charge. Soon to be added to the menu of ministry offerings is a food bank.

But that’s not all. “We run five crusades every year,” says Pastor Viloría. Youth Connection, an evangelistic meeting for young people and their friends, runs in January and July. A family crusade takes place every February.

One secret of their success is to be very intentional about meeting the needs of secular people and youth. At Garland Spanish, there are regular activities for young people in their newly-remodeled gym, and children’s church is held twice a month on Sabbaths. “This is attracting many young

families to our church,” Pastor Viloría explains. “The worship service is planned in such a way that people want to bring their friends. Every Sabbath is special at our church,” he adds.

The people are coming to Garland Spanish, and not only that, they’re joining! “During our last crusade, people were watching on the Internet,” Viloría recounts. “And while we were baptizing, several people called and said, ‘Hey, wait for us! We want to get baptized too!’ So they came to church and we baptized them.”

If the current growth trend continues—and no doubt, it will!—not only will the Garland Spanish church fill its 1,000-seat sanctuary, they’ll be soon looking for ways to accommodate an overflowing membership. Now, that’s a challenge that every pastor and congregation wouldn’t mind facing!



▲ The Garland Spanish church is enjoying remarkable growth in the northeast Dallas area.

Children’s church is held twice a month at Garland Spanish. ▶



Pat Humphrey is associate editor of the *Record*.

# Visión Hispana

UN BRÉVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE

## La Iglesia Magnética

Cuando **Ricardo Viloria**, el pastor de la iglesia hispana de Garland, llegó a Texas hace tres años, sabía que tendría un desafío. “Esta era una iglesia grande,” recuerda él. “La congregación tenía 300 miembros con aproximadamente 250 asistiendo cada sábado, una hipoteca grande, y capacidad para unas 1,000 personas.”

Entonces, inmediatamente él se dio a la tarea de transmitir la visión a los miembros de iglesia para que se involucraran en la evangelización y fácilmente aceptaron el desafío. En tres años, la iglesia ha añadido a 400 nuevos miembros en sus libros, con más de 200 bautizados solamente en el 2009.

“Estuvimos los primeros dos años preparando a la iglesia para el cambio,” dice el Pastor Viloria. “Cada iglesia tiene su propia personalidad — la forma en que pone reglas y toma decisiones, la manera en que trata a los de afuera. Tuve que desafiarlos para que estuvieran listos a recibir a la gente nueva y educarlos en los principios de la evangelización de la Biblia,” explica él. “La mayor parte del tiempo, el problema más grande para el crecimiento de la iglesia es la iglesia misma.”

Aparte de tener una perspectiva diferente, una de las primeras estrategias para la evangelización puesta en práctica por la iglesia fue de alcanzar a la comunidad. Para hacer esto con eficacia, se establecieron varios programas de alcance a la comunidad.

Se unieron a la Sociedad Americana del Cáncer para crear un centro de recursos para la gente que ha sido diagnosticada con cáncer. Dictan un curso dos veces a la semana de asesoramiento familiar. También abrieron una clínica gratuita de salud con orientación sobre nutrición, clases de ejercicio y tratamientos naturales. Cada domingo ofrecen lecciones de música gratuitas a la comunidad. Y pronto añadirán un banco de alimentos al menú de servicios comunitarios que ellos proporcionan.

Pero esto no es todo. “Damos cinco cruzadas evangelísticas al año,” dice el Pastor Viloria.

El secreto de su éxito es concentrar su esfuerzo para suplir las necesidades de las personas de afuera y de la juventud. “Esto está atrayendo a muchas familias jóvenes a nuestra iglesia,” explica el Pastor Viloria. “El servicio de adoración es planeado de tal modo que la gente quiere traer a sus amigos. Cada sábado es especial,” añade él.



“Los bautismos son un acontecimiento regular en Garland,” dice al pastor Ricardo Viloria (derecha).

¡La gente esta viniendo a la iglesia hispana, y no es solamente eso, se están uniendo! “Durante nuestra última cruzada evangelística, la gente nos miraba por el Internet,” cuenta Viloria. “¡Y mientras bautizábamos, varias personas llamaron y dijeron, ‘Oigan, esperen por nosotros! ¡Queremos ser bautizados también!’ Entonces vinieron a la iglesia y los bautizamos.”

Si la tendencia actual de crecimiento continúa, ellos pronto buscarán maneras de acomodar una membresía desbordante. Ahora, ¡esto es un desafío que cada pastor y su congregación estarían felices de afrontar!

Pat Humphrey es editora asociada del Record.

### Apreciados hermanos Hispanos,

Quiero darles la bienvenida a esta página del Record de la Unión del Suroeste, titulada, “Visión Hispana.”

Esta sección tiene como propósito informar a nuestra membresía hispana de lo que está aconteciendo en nuestras iglesias hispanas.

El año 2009 fue designado el Año de Evangelismo para la División Norteamericana. Nuestros pastores y laicos hispanos pusieron un esfuerzo adicional en evangelismo en el 2009, haciendo que fuese un año record con casi 3,000 almas bautizadas. ¡Gloria a Dios!

Hay cosas maravillosas que están sucediendo en nuestras iglesias hispanas y queremos comunicarlo a todo el campo por medio de esta página, y solo será posible si ustedes nos ayudan enviando esta información al Departamento Hispano de la Unión del Suroeste. También puede comunicarse por correo electrónico con mi asistente Neyra Greenidge a la dirección electrónica: [ngreenidge@swuc.org](mailto:ngreenidge@swuc.org).

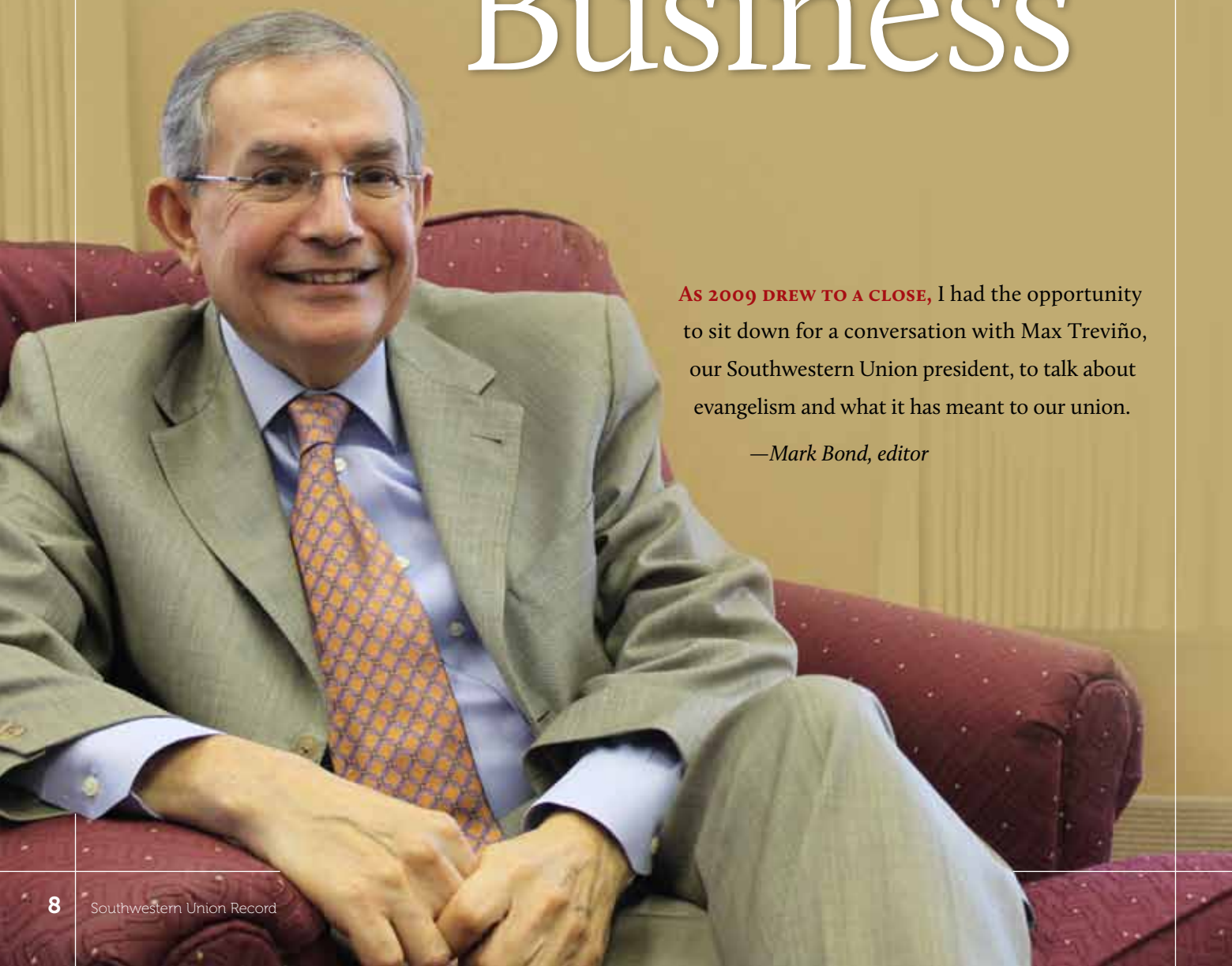
Sigamos con el mismo entusiasmo evangelístico y hagamos del año 2010 el mejor año en ganancia de almas para la honra y gloria de Dios.

Bendiciones,

  
Eddie Canales  
Vicepresidente, Ministerios Hispanos



# Evangelism Is Our Business



**AS 2009 DREW TO A CLOSE**, I had the opportunity to sit down for a conversation with Max Treviño, our Southwestern Union president, to talk about evangelism and what it has meant to our union.

—Mark Bond, editor



# AN INTERVIEW WITH MAX TREVIÑO

**Record:** *Why does our church spend so much time and energy on evangelism?*

**Max Treviño:** I take very seriously the commission in Matthew 28 where the Lord says to go forth and teach and baptize. He didn't say to do that every now and then. That is our mission as far as I'm concerned, and that's why we're focused on evangelism.

If we are to follow Jesus' example, we should be about our Father's business. Evangelism is our business.

**Record:** *Historically, our church has looked at evangelism as an event—something that happens once every 3 to 5 years with great fanfare and effort—and then once it's over, the church goes back to “business as usual.”*

**MT:** Yes, most people, when they think of evangelism, think of a public meeting. Evangelism really should be our lifestyle, not just an event that periodically happens. We all, in the way we lead our lives, can be evangelists. The influence we have on those we come in contact with can be equally as important as a series of meetings.

**Record:** *The year 2009 was declared the “Year of Evangelism” for the North American Division. What are some of the highlights of the year in our union, from your perspective?*

**MT:** Well, it appears, from the reports that we're receiving, that it's going to be one of the best years the Southwestern Union has ever had in regard to additions to the church. And there have been a number of things that have taken place to make that a reality.

I've been especially thankful for the way that our office staff has chosen to participate. Almost everybody in the office has had some part in an evangelistic meeting—either assisting or actually holding a meeting themselves.

I think of people who had never done a meeting.

Take, for instance, Eunice Warfield, our associate director of education, who this year has held two series of meetings, but had never before done a public effort. She did one series in south Texas, and one in Africa, both with wonderful results.

Then there's Suzanna Facundo, one of our administrative secretaries, who just recently completed two sets of meetings here in the Fort Worth area. She had no training or background in

preaching, but she was willing to go out and do that. And the Lord blessed her efforts. These are only two examples among many.

And of the men in our office who are experienced pastors, a good many of them held two series. It's not something that we've done in the past, but this year everyone who's an ordained minister in our office held a meeting. This is more than just *talking* about evangelism. It's actually *doing* it.

The other thing that's especially gratifying is the way that the local conferences have fostered and promoted evangelism this year. When you look at the statistics, you'll see that, out of the roughly 500 churches in our union, approximately 90 percent of them have held evangelistic meetings. That in itself speaks volumes about the commitment of our conferences and our pastors.



**Record:** *When churches get involved in evangelism, they often come alive with excitement as new members are added to their ranks. Do you have any anecdotal experiences to share along those lines?*

**MT:** There's one story that I really like. I believe it happened over in the

Texico Conference. A church decided to hold an evangelistic effort during the midst of a transition between pastors. The new pastor arrived, and when they informed him that there were meetings planned, he naturally inquired who would be holding the meetings. They responded, “We thought you would!” This young man had never held evangelistic meetings. All of a sudden, he found himself thrust into a situation that he had not planned or prepared for. But it was a very successful campaign. That young man has a new fervor for evangelism.

Another good story happened in a small, northeast Arkansas town. A church had come to the conclusion that evangelism didn't work in their small community, but when a new pastor arrived, he was undaunted by their skepticism. He planned a series of meetings, and when they were through, the small church nearly doubled in size! They are no longer apathetic about what evangelism can do.

There are many examples of the energy and excitement that happen when churches that haven't been involved in evangelism get in line with God's command to go and tell.

The thing that's fascinating to me, Mark, is that people do listen to leadership. If evangelism is important to leaders, all of a sudden it becomes important to others, as well. As leaders, we have to be careful of what we promote and push, because **MORE >>**

people buy into it—whether it’s something good like evangelism, or other things that might not be so productive.

**Record:** *The idea that a layperson with no formal training can preach is a fairly new concept. What has made this phenomenon possible?*

**MT:** We have so many wonderful tools available now. One of the best tools we have is the “Share-Him” program. With their materials, if you can read, you can hold a meeting. Enthusiasm helps make it interesting, but people’s enthusiasm builds as laypeople see the Holy Spirit working through them. I’ve watched a number of individuals this year who have never held a meeting before, get up with the ShareHim materials and hold a very effective series of meetings.

Like I said, these are wonderful tools that are available to us, and I don’t know how many people know about them. We’ve been holding “evangelism boot camps” around the union. Once people see how easy it is, they feel like they can do it. And more power to them!

**Record:** *Some choose to go abroad for their first attempt at preaching. You’ve had that opportunity. . .*

**MT:** Yes, I’ve done it twice. For me, you know, I’m just like everyone else. I don’t say a lot about this, but I’m not trained as a pastor. I had never held a meeting, but was willing to try it. And I was richly blessed by the opportunity. To watch the people respond and eventually be baptized—it’s just a wonderful experience.

**Record:** *Some would look at a program like ShareHim, and ask, “Are you saying that everyone should be out preaching a series of meetings?”*

**MT:** Should everyone be an evangelist? Yes! God commanded it. But should everyone be out preaching a series of meetings? Not necessarily. The way that you relate to your neighbor is evangelism. There’s not any one set formula. Evangelism is a way of life.

**Record:** *Looking forward into 2010, the North American Division has again declared another “Year of Evangelism.” What are your hopes as we move forward?*

**MT:** Well, sometimes after you make a big push, there’s a letdown. Things don’t continue to move like they did. I’m hoping that we can keep the forward momentum, so that we don’t have a letdown.

I just think that we need to not be satisfied with whatever we’ve accomplished, but to keep pressing forward—to say, “That’s the benchmark from which we need to advance.”

Look, we can call this a “Year of Evangelism,” but every year is a year of evangelism. That’s the whole thing to me—it’s just a focus on evangelism, whatever year it is.

But the good thing is, since the division voted to make 2009 and 2010 years of evangelism, there’s been a difference in the normal patterns. There is a marked im-

provement in what we’ve done as a church in the past.

**Record:** *With the outstanding growth we’ve experienced this year, many new members are a part of our Southwestern churches. What can we do to ensure that they are firmly planted and continue to grow within our walls?*

**MT:** To me, it’s like welcoming a new family member. You’ve got to make them feel like a part of the family—to feel loved and needed. And there are a number of ways to accomplish that.

The sooner we engage someone in service, the better. Whether that’s outreach, teaching a class, being a greeter—anything that helps them realize that they are an important part of the body—we’ve got to get them involved. We’ve got to move them from being a spectator to being an active participant in the continued outreach of the church. It’s a part of the cycle of evangelism. Spectators will quite often fall away.

**Record:** *What would you like to say to the individuals on the front lines at the local churches?*

**MT:** First, I’d like to say, “Thank you!” Thanks for all the hard work that has made 2009 a banner year. We can’t do it alone. It takes a team—pastors, elders, laypeople, youth—you’ve all been working together to finish the work, and God has blessed your efforts.

Secondly, I think that everyone needs to look at what they can do, pray about it, and then do it. Be creative. Think outside the box. Reach people for Christ. That’s what we’re about. It truly is our business. With God’s help, we can accomplish more than we can think or dream!



# Religious Liberty

## VITAL TO OUR MISSION

BY SAM GREEN

**The Prophet Daniel opens chapter 12 with this prophetic warning:** “And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation” (Dan. 12:1).

This admonition was given further emphasis by Jesus when He said, “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect’s sake those days shall be shortened” (Matt. 24:21-22).

This message is urgent, because these events precede the second coming of Jesus Christ. Our mission is to warn and prepare people for this glorious event, and it is vital to our existence as a church. Thousands of evangelists, pastors, and laypersons are fervently proclaiming this message of salvation around the world. Yet we read the following counsel from the pen of Ellen White: “The followers of Christ, as they approach the time of trouble, (should) make every exertion to place themselves in a proper light before the people, to disarm prejudice, and to avert the danger which threatens liberty of conscience” (*The Great Controversy*, p. 616).

This counsel to protect the religious freedoms we enjoy seems paradoxical if we are also to proclaim a message that hastens the second coming of Jesus. However, balance is found in this prophetic statement: “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come” (Matt. 24:14). Our commission is to reach the whole world with the saving message of eternal life through Jesus Christ. We are not to labor at closing the work of salvation, but to finish the work through the leading of the Holy Spirit.

In the mid-1900s, a self-styled Reverend George L. Tufts, Ph.D., wrote a scathing document against Seventh-day Adventists as “foes of Sunday rest laws.” He charged Seventh-day Adventists as not “hesitating to make allies of the saloon element, infidels and of all the worldly opponents of the Lord’s Day” (referring to Sunday, according to his understanding). To some degree, he is right. We do partner with some groups to oppose legislation that we deem a threat to minority groups and liberty of conscience. Granted, some of these groups do not have motives as pristine as we would want them to be. However, we are focused on the big picture of world events and we are charged with keeping the work open as long as possible to win as many to Christ as we can. Keep in mind that we do not partner with any organization where there is a direct conflict with our moral values and doctrines.

History has shown us that if we do not work to use our influence to protect one another’s rights and freedoms, we often end up losing our own. It is both a duty and a privilege to help defend and advance the cause of religious liberty. Listed below are some very important points to remember should you, or someone that

you know, encounter a problem in the workplace regarding Sabbath worship:

1. **WRITE, WRITE, WRITE** the names, dates, and times of all events and discussions that you may have with management or supervision. Do not trust anything to memory. A trail of documentation is extremely important.
2. **AT THE FIRST BLUSH OF A PROBLEM, SEEK COUNSEL** about the situation from your pastor, the religious liberty leader in your congregation, or your conference religious liberty director. All of these individuals should have access to our religious liberty manual, which outlines the steps to take as you work through the problem.
3. **DO NOT ENGAGE AN ATTORNEY** own your own. Should you need an attorney, the union religious liberty director will counsel you on this, in collaboration with our Office of General Counsel at the General Conference.
4. **WORK ETHICS AND A GOOD ATTITUDE CAN GO A LONG WAY** in solving problems. You have rights that are minimal under current law, but arrogance will get you nowhere. We have individuals in our nation’s capitol who are in the process of enacting legislation known as the Workplace Religious Freedom Act, but keep in mind that constantly-changing laws on Capitol Hill present a continual uphill struggle.

Remember, part of our religious liberty offering sponsors *Liberty* magazine subscriptions to individuals who influence legislation, and part goes to our defense fund to assist members with legal issues they may face in the workplace.

World conditions are ripe for the closing events of earth’s history, and we as a people must be vigilant for the great cause of salvation on all fronts. Please give liberally to the religious liberty offering on January 23.

**Sam Green** is the executive secretary and director of religious liberty for the Southwestern Union.

### Religious Liberty Sabbath

will be observed this year on January 23. You can help promote religious freedom by giving a generous religious liberty offering and by sponsoring subscriptions to *Liberty* magazine. Here are a few ideas to get you started as you create your gift subscription list:

- Local government officials
- Attorneys
- Judges
- Clergy
- Community Leaders
- Media personalities
- Public school educators (K-12 and higher education)

For more information, or to download campaign materials, go to <http://www.nadfreedom.org/index.htm>.



## You Must Preach It Again!

They had discovered the truth that Jesus was coming again and they had looked expectantly for the moment. They had read and re-read the prophecies and were absolutely convinced that their understanding would soon become reality—Jesus would appear in the clouds of glory and take them home to heaven. What a glorious experience their study had brought them! Yet what a bitter disappointment it was when Jesus did not come as they had expected. A diligent restudy of prophecy led them to the understanding that they had the right time but the wrong event. Further study brought them to the discovery that until He came, they were to be re-telling the message of the return of Jesus—over and over again!

“You must prophesy again.” That is the message of Revelation 10:11. Prophesy again. Preach again. Tell again the story that Jesus is coming again! Tell it, preach it, repeat it, over and over until—Jesus does come. It is a prophetic and theological injunction.

Last year great effort was made to tell the gospel story. But we can never be satisfied with the efforts of a prior year. The focus must always be on today. What are we doing today to be faithful to the instruction of Scripture? We must come to the place where we understand evangelism to be a process, not an event. It is not something that we do over a specified period of time, and when that time is over, we're done. No! Evangelism must be ongoing. It is a process of telling and retelling the story of Jesus and His soon coming, because life does not come to a standstill at the end of a series of meetings. Just as surely as life goes on, evangelism must also go on.

The year 2009 was noted as the “Year of Evangelism.” Does that mean that since 2009 is past, we are finished with evangelism? No! A thousand times, no! This new year is another “Year of Evangelism” and so will be every year until Jesus comes. “You must preach it again!”

**Steve Orian**, president

## New Library And Books Enhance Christian Education

**GENTRY, ARK. »** Ozark Adventist Elementary School, with Steven Burton as principal, is enjoying their new library with over 7,000 books for students to check out through the new computerized bar code system.

ribbon-cutting ceremony. A plaque in memory of Mr. Hollis Scarbrough was unveiled.

When school opened last fall, Mrs. Scarbrough made another donation to buy books and the computerized Accelerated Reader testing program for the students. Like her late husband, Hollis, she believes in Christian education and is more than willing to invest in the young people of our school.

**Joyce Shedell**, librarian

Ozark Adventist Elementary School students enjoy using the new library. ▼



It all began two years ago when Mrs. Alice Scarbrough donated money to renovate the library. The school board decided to use the large vacant room in the center of the school and remodeling began. Volunteer librarians, Cathy Lambert and Joyce Shedell, worked on the books, importing the data into a new computer system.

Many volunteers helped. McKee Foods Corporation donated computers. Parents, grandparents, and others in the community donated computer tables, time, and money, while the students also helped by purchasing beanbag toys, with the proceeds going to the library fund. Mrs. Scarbrough donated additional funds to see the project through to completion. A grand opening was held last January, with festive decorations, a short program, and the



### 2010 ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA YOUTH MISSION TRIP

- March 11-22, 2010, a mission trip to Cascada, Mexico, located in the southern region of Mexico.
- Building a church, doing a VBS, and community outreach
- We are excited to partner with Maranatha this year.
- Trip is open to all ages of youth between 14-19 (anyone under 14 will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian). If you are looking for a God-sized adventure then make plans to join us as we travel to Mexico this spring break. You will not only be helping others in need and making a lot of friends in the process, but you will grow spiritually and gain a fuller understanding of Christ's Great Commission for your life.
- Call Sylvia Downs at the conference office, 318- 631-6240, for an application form, or go to [www.arklaacsa.org](http://www.arklaacsa.org) to download the forms you need. This is a once in a lifetime experience you won't want to miss!

Pastor's Brandon Westgate and Travis Walker, Mission Trip Coordinators

# Heaven 24/7 at Cowboy Camp Meeting

**SPRINGTOWN, ARK. »** Even in these hard economic times, they still come—from California, North Carolina, Kansas, Arkansas,



Top: Cole and Cade Webb sing special music for church.

Bottom: Worshippers in the pavilion at Cowboy Camp Meeting.

and Oklahoma; from various walks of life, but why? Because they love to be a part of Cowboy Camp Meeting! That was the common response of approximately 550 people who braved the cold snap and came to be part of the Springtown Seventh-day Adventist Church's Annual Fall Round-up, held October 15–17, 2009.

Dr. Ingo Sorke, Religion professor at Southwestern Adventist University, was the speaker, and in spite of the cold temperatures, hearts were warmed by his inspiring messages entitled “Heaven 24/7.”

There was also inspiring music by various groups, the warmth of fellowship, and good food. This year's round-up was also a celebration of a newly-built pavilion, which is a blessing from God!

As unique as Cowboy Camp Meeting is, our goal is to lead others to *Christ*, and by His grace, through the events of this blessed weekend, seeds were planted, and a love for the Lord was rekindled.

**Paul Vunileva, pastor**

## Pastor Baptizes Aunt And Uncle

**YELLVILLE, ARK. »** An exciting journey through a Prophecy Unlimited Seminar took place at the Yellville church from September 11 through October 10, 2009. The church in Yellville has a membership of four

families and a capacity for at least 50 persons. The first night of the series brought 37 persons with nine non-members. Such subjects as

“God's Love Revealed in Hell Fire,” “The Unpardonable Sin,” and “Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People?” brought approximately 35 persons nightly to the series of lessons. Comments included such expressions as “We can't stay away,” and “We have to find out the rest of the story.”

Pastor Jonathan Belew experienced great joy in having a special aunt and uncle attend the meetings. When the invitation for baptism was given, two of the five who made decisions to be baptized were Jonathan's own Uncle Charles and Aunt Bobbie. Jonathan's aunt asked him that night, “Jonathan, why didn't you tell us all these wonderful things when you lived in our home for the first six months you were here?” And he answered, “I tried, but you wouldn't listen. You told me that you were a staunch Baptist and you would remain a Baptist.”

Aunt Bobbie sighed, “I did say that, didn't I? I am so sorry, but I questioned my Baptist pastor about worshipping on the true Sabbath versus Sunday, and he could not answer me. Then I asked the pastor that heads the Baptist work here in this area and he didn't have an answer, either. So now, I am joining God's true church!” Thanks be to God!

**Delores Tabura**



Pastor Belew with newly-baptized family members and friends.

## Teens Learn Leadership Skills at CYB

**CAMP YORKTOWN BAY** » Teen Leadership Training at Camp Yorktown Bay was a big hit with the teens and staff who attended the session November 13–15, 2009.



Teens ponder over the spiritual gifts survey at the Teen Leadership Training at Camp Yorktown Bay. There were also breakout sessions, which provided an opportunity to discuss certain aspects of leadership.

“Activate” was the theme for the weekend and Kase Vunileva, vice principal and girl’s dean at Ozark Adventist Academy, focused on key leadership roles of women in the Bible. The Ozark Adventist Academy praise team led out in worship and praise during the weekend’s spiritual focus and team members became active participants in the overall leadership training program, as well.

This is the third year in a four-year rotation in which young teens and their sponsors have come from all over the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference to learn leadership skills. These skills will be useful in their everyday family life, school, or church. Topics covered during the training weekend were Conflict Resolution, Planning, Reporting, and Program Organization. Each attendee took a spiritual gifts survey to indicate what their spiritual gifts are and to give insight into how to fit into their leadership roles. Even the adults received the benefit of knowing what their spiritual gifts are.

The food during the TLT weekend received high marks from the young people. The program closed Saturday evening with

team games, along with brownies and ice cream.

Audra Huff, a college student and upcoming leader from Bentonville, Ark., took on the lead role for the training program. She and her team did an exceptional job putting together a program relating to teenage young people and how they can be active in their church and community.

**Lloyd Clapp**, Pathfinder director

Arkansas and Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, and Missouri. Students from various home schools attended, as well. The campus came alive with spiritual melodies and beautiful voices as more than 140 young people joined the academy in praise and worship. The band and orchestra played as the choir sang songs of the season. During the many sessions of joint practice, you could see a masterpiece taking shape as students took counsel from the talented Mr. Bizama.

The weekend celebration began Friday evening with the Feast of Lights, which chronicled the prophecy and arrival of The Light of the World—Jesus Christ. While hundreds of lights flickered, narratives and music described events surrounding the Messiah’s marvelous birth. Sabbath confirmed that there are few things that compare with pure, young voices being lifted in song to God. The band and orchestra gave the congregation an unparalleled saturation of the senses and a heightened spiritual experience.

Mr. Bizama culminated the musical celebration with a splendid cantata of hope, entitled “Holy Night of Miracles.” The blend of voices relayed the miraculous birth of Jesus, and rekindled the anticipation of His second advent to deliver, us, His people. Humanity clearly desires this glorious harmony because, year after year, it flocks to hear the familiar story. The Saturday night concert was the highlight of the year with more than 800 attending and a standing ovation at the end of the evening.

**Mike Dale**, principal, and Cornelia Scribner, teacher

## Music Fest Points Listeners to “The Light of the World”

**GENTRY, ARK.** » Our annual Music Fest was held December 3–5, 2009, with students representing schools from across



Ozark Adventist Academy’s annual Music Fest, held this past December, focused on the Messiah, Jesus Christ, and His mission to the world. The weekend event began on Friday evening with the spectacular Feast of Lights and concluded on Saturday evening with a concert that earned a standing ovation.



## How to Be a Channel for the Message

They had been following Jesus for three years. They were an assortment of talents, personalities, and temperaments, much like you would find in any church congregation. They had studied His methods, hung on His teachings, and had even preached the message. But on the eve of Christ's crucifixion, they were arguing over position and status, displaying an attitude that was totally unlike the one that had been modeled by the Master. If the success of Christianity had been dependent on the eleven just before Calvary, we probably would never have heard of the teachings of Jesus. Praise God that their experience did not end with the cross. Pentecost was yet to come.

After a time of intense soul searching and earnest prayer, the Holy Spirit qualified them to be effective evangelists. "After Christ's ascension, the disciples were gathered together in one place to make humble supplication to God. And after ten days of heart searching and self-examination, the way was prepared for the Holy Spirit to enter the cleansed, consecrated soul temples" (*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1902). From that point, those who had been troubled disciples became effective evangelists and the message went forth with power.

For years I have been praying that God would make me a better man. Recently I have been convicted that God does not want to make me a *better* man, He wants me to be a *new* man. Men and women with the right talents may be good organizers, good preachers, and may even win some to the church. Spirit-filled efforts will win souls to Christ. Let's begin this year with a determination to, by God's grace, re-dedicate our lives to Him, to be filled, and blessed, and equipped to be channels for the message.

**John Moyer**, president

## New Church Home Brings Light to the Community

**WOODWARD** » What a glorious day it was on November 28, 2009 as the Woodward church opened the doors of its long-awaited new sanctuary and church building! A beautiful consecration service was held, and the presence of the Holy Spirit was evident. The building project was started

seven years ago as the church body eagerly awaited the day they would have a church building to accommodate the growing community of Woodward, Okla. The Lord was "right on time," and blessed the Woodward community with a new facility that not only met the growing need, but gave us extra room to grow! Approximately 115 people joined the celebration as members, guests, and friends of the Woodward and Shattuck churches came together to praise the Lord!

John Moyer, Oklahoma Conference president, and Rich Carlson, chaplain of Union College in Lincoln, Neb., along with Rick Mercer, pastor, and elders Vic Finster and Jerry Austin blessed us with words of reflection and encouraged us to share our light with a dark world and to prepare to receive the blessings that the Holy Spirit desires to pour out on our congregation.

Pastor Mercer admits that there were a few moments when it seemed as though we wouldn't make our November 28 deadline to begin holding services in the new church. But church members moved forward in faith, believing that the building would be ready for occupation. After all, more than 5,000 handbills had been mailed out for an "Unlocking Revelation" Bible prophecy seminar scheduled to start in December. The Lord blessed and worked many miracles, allowing us to move into the new building that we had waited on for so long. And yes, the Bible prophecy semi-

nar began on December 4, 2009 in the new building, with great anticipation of the exciting plans that the Lord has in store for the Woodward church. We are grateful for all the prayers that enabled us to experience this wonderful blessing!

**Cindy Mercer**



The new addition to the Woodward church, which was recently dedicated.

## Student Preaches at Ozark Academy

**BROKEN ARROW** » On October 24, 2009, Laura Moon, a student at Ozark Academy, was asked by the chaplain and pastor of the Gentry, Ark., church if she would deliver the sermon for Creation Sabbath service. Laura, a junior at the academy, had already had the opportunity to preach at the Broken Arrow church and felt this helped prepare her for giving the sermon in front of a larger congregation. She and three other students have been asked to preach at an evangelistic series that is held every year at the Springtown, Ark., church. We are very proud of Laura's accomplishments and are delighted that God is using our youth in amazing ways.

**Judy Marquette**



Laura Moon delivered the sermon on Creation Sabbath at the Gentry, Ark., church.

## Pathfinders on the Move in Broken Arrow

**BROKEN ARROW** » On October 24, 2009, the day observed in the Adventist Church as Creation Day, the Broken Arrow Pathfinders took the event to heart. After enjoying sack lunches, they headed for Red Bud

hours south to the Wichita Mountains Wildlife Preserve near Lawton, Okla. Even though they didn't arrive at their campsite until 10:30 that night, the kids took on the challenge of putting their tents up in the dark. On Sabbath morning, they visited the Holy City, which hosts Oklahoma's longest-running passion play every Easter. While there, the Pathfinders found themselves only 20 feet away from a buffalo. They held a short vesper program, during which Jack Phillips spoke to the kids about using their

Mount Scott, one of the tallest mountains in the area, for a sunset view, but the fog was so thick they couldn't see any of the landscape from where they stood.

That night, the kids enjoyed roasting hot dogs, and Barbara Calvert taught the kids how to play a rousing game of Pit, along with some unique campfire songs. Early Sunday morning, some of the very ambitious set out for some fishing. Despite the fact that they didn't catch much more than moss, the kids all enjoyed themselves. After a breakfast of enormous pancakes served up by Rick Wagner, the kids packed up the tents and headed to Meers Café. There, they enjoyed peach and apple cobblers and homemade vanilla ice cream. Overall, it was an incredible weekend of food, fun, and fellowship. The temperature may have been chilly outside, but the friendship shared by all kept everyone warm inside.

Crystal Campbell



Broken Arrow Pathfinders during their trip to the Wichita Mountains this past fall.

Valley Nature Preserve, where they enjoyed a walk on one of its seven trails and savored the beauty that God created. What a wonderful way to enjoy what our Lord has blessed us with!

On November 21, the Pathfinders embarked on another adventure—camping! They left Friday night and headed three

God-given gifts. Next they headed down to Prairie Dog Town, where they had up-close encounters with some prairie dogs, and some even got close enough to feed the creatures out of their hands! Then they took a hiking excursion, where they hiked for about an hour over some rocky terrain. Afterward, the group caravanned up to

## Bible Studies Lead to Two Baptisms

Zane Marquette has been attending the Broken Arrow church with his grandpar-



Caption: Zane Marquette (right) and Joseph Camacho were recently baptized at the Broken Arrow church as a result of Bible studies that led them to accept Christ.



ents since he was an infant. His first steps toward his walk with Christ started as he dragged his “blankie” down the aisle to listen at story time. At age twelve, he requested baptism, and after months of study, he accepted Christ as his Savior and was baptized. His parents, sisters, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and many cousins witnessed his baptism.

Pastor Calvert also baptized José (Joseph Albert) Comacho, whose steps toward baptism began as he studied the Bible and was convinced of the importance of the seventh-day Sabbath commandment. Without the support of his family, he started attending the Broken Arrow church and courageously requested baptism into a Sabbath-keeping church.

Although Zane and Joseph had very different experiences, it was Bible study that led both of them to Christ and to show their faith through baptism. We already considered both of them as family members, but it was uplifting to watch as they were baptized and became official members of our church.

Judy Marquette

# Oklahoma Campmeeting 2010

Please join us for a spectacular, long weekend of spiritual blessings! Friday and Saturday night speaker: Dr. Dwight K. Nelson, senior pastor at Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Mich.

**WHERE:** Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla.

**WHEN:** July 15-18, 2010

**Call** 405.721.6110 or 405.257.5404 for more information.

*Sponsored by the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists*

## March On, Sow a Seed, and Reap a Soul in 2010

Like a little dainty flower emerging from the earth, a new year has been born from the womb of mother time. What a blessing it is to see this dawning of the new year with its promises and challenges. What a privilege it is to be God's earthen vessels in these last days to deliver His Word to the masses through teaching, preaching, and singing. What a joy to be His witnesses that reflect His character in our daily lives.

As we march into this New Year, we march on in faith, believing and trusting Him who has called us to be His ambassadors. We march on, fearless and undaunted by the tasks that are before us. We march on with confidence, knowing that "greater is He that is in us than he that is in this world."

We march on at the command of our Captain, who has commissioned us to "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19, 20). We march on in haste, because we know that "we must work the works of Him that has sent us while it is day, for the night cometh when no man can work." We march on as good stewards of our Captain, because He has required us to be found faithful. We march on, casting the Bread of Life upon the waters of diverse cultures, knowing that our work is not in vain, for the Captain has promised that after many days, we shall find a harvest of many souls.

As we march on together, let us "Sow a Seed and Reap a Soul." Let us make 2010 an even better year in witnessing for our Lord through working in the harvest fields of sin and transgression. Let's make this a banner year of ushering boys and girls, men and women, into the Kingdom of God through personal Bible studies, participating in a Bible study group that targets and impacts the community where you are, hosting health seminars, symposiums, and con-

ferences in the community or at the local church, and being a part of the "ShareHim" evangelistic thrust, in which youth and adults share Jesus at home and abroad. As we march on, let us march to the drumbeat of evangelism. With fervor and urgency in our spirits, let us evangelize, evangelize, evangelize! May God bless you and keep you safe as we set sail on the *Ship of Evangelism 2010*. Love you!

Bill Wright, president

## Berean Men Attend "Ant University"

BATON ROUGE, LA. » That "A good man is hard to find" cannot be said of the men in the Berean church, as evidenced by our recent Men's Day program. Hurricane Katrina transplant Michael Scott and his team chose as their theme "Men of Spiritual Stature." It was that physical and spiritual stature that formed the processional by the Men of Praise chorus as they made their entrance into the choir area. Because Ber-

ean encourages participation on all levels, young males as young as seven years old joined the older men in praise through song. Speaker Theodore Weegar, pastor of the New Orleans Ephesus church, seized upon the theme in his message entitled "Lessons for Spiritual Men: Ant University."

"Nature teaches us how to know God," he began, before directing all to join in the reading of the text. "When in despair, go to the ant, where we can learn organization." The analogy illustrated the need for church members to cooperate with leadership. Thus began a litany of traits found among ants. "Ants believe in cooperation, preparation, and determination," he said, drawing a parallel between the activities of ants and the operations of God's church. He evoked a chuckle when commenting on how resilient ants are. "If you've ever tried to get rid of them, you have evidence of their survival tactics. They just move to another part of your yard," he continued. As the ant lesson progressed, many were amazed at the invaluable lessons they could learn from what they perceived as a pest. Weegar's final admonition to the men was, "Don't yield to another's estimate of you." His altar call brought the men forth boldly proclaiming three times in succession, "I AM A MAN OF GOD!" Berean's men (and ladies) are grateful for their day at "Ant University."

Evelyn Edwards

Baton Rouge Berean's Men's Ministries leader Michael Scott (right) with the Men's Day program speaker, Pastor Theodor Weegar.



## Leading the Way to Total Health

**"Nature's path is the road He marks out, and it is broad enough for any Christian"** (*Counsels on Health*, p. 74).

**JEFFERSON, TEX. »** Whole physical health is an important ingredient in our journey to whole spiritual health. Taking care of our bodies helps our minds to be clear so we can understand God's Word. And doing this helps us to prepare for Jesus to come.

Our church's health department hosted a four-day seminar entitled "Natural Healing Through the Laws of Health" with James Luke and Company of McDonough, Ga. Our goal was to share the "wealth of health" with the city of Jefferson. The seminar was designed to provide the community and church members with guidance, encouragement, and practical ways to protect their most valuable earthly possession—their health. The process began with a community survey on health needs and interests, conducted by several church members. Later, members went back into the community and distributed invitations to our health seminar.

The interactive seminar was held on the weekend of October 8-11, 2009, and addressed such topics as: "Disease Reversal," "Cholesterol: Hero or Villain?" "The Spiritual Component of Health," "High Blood Pressure—A Nation Under Siege," and "Diabetes—Where is the Sugar?"

A vegetarian cooking class entitled "Reversing Heart Disease With a Knife and Fork" provided recipes that could be mas-



Guests enjoyed sampling healthy vegetarian recipes during a recent health seminar held in Jefferson, Tex.

tered by both beginning and seasoned chefs. The class concluded with a one-on-one consultation in order to provide a more personal approach to handling special needs and to answer any additional questions. Although those who attended were at different stages in their journey toward total health, everyone went away with practical techniques to enhance their health.

Sharon Caines

## U.S. Senator Honors Westbank United Member

**NEW ORLEANS, LA. »** On October 3, 2009, Pastor Kenneth Elliott and the Westbank United church members acknowledged Irene Williams for receiving the Angel In Adoption Award in Washington, D.C. She was recommended by Senator David Vitter, a U.S. Senator from Louisiana. Irene is a faithful member at Westbank United.



▲ Pastor Kenneth Elliott congratulates Irene Williams for her service as an advocate for adoptive and foster children.

She serves as Pathfinder leader, health ministries leader, and as the South Louisiana Adventist Community Services leader. It was Irene's strong leadership that caused the Westbank Rangers Pathfinder Club to earn recognition at the 2009 Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. She, along with Pastor Kenneth Elliott, have worked diligently with the American Red Cross to ensure that the fellowship hall at Westbank United church can be used as a post-disaster area. Irene loves people and, especially, children. She exudes kindness and compassion, and though she has accomplished much in her career, she is very humble.

Mathieu Cherenfant

## A Year of Evangelism at Smyrna

**ALEXANDRIA, LA. »** The Smyrna church held a Revelation Prophecy Revival in May 2009, conducted by first elder Jerry Proshee. This was the first time ever in Smyrna's history for a local elder to conduct a revival. Gloria Proshee, wife of the first elder and revival speaker, coordinated the music each night.

In August of 2009, the church's pastor, Cedric Belcher, held a three-week Daniel Prophecy Revival. Both revivals were well attended, and as a result of these efforts, three people were baptized. Please pray for those who remain in the "Valley of Decision."

Carey Walker



Three people were baptized as a result of Daniel and Revelation prophecy revivals held at the Smyrna church in 2009.

## Evangelism is Alive at City Temple

**DALLAS, TEX. »** The City Temple church took the 2009 “Year of Evangelism” theme seriously, as multiple departments worked together to reach out to our community and “reach in” to nurture our members.

Early in the year, Pastor T.A. McNealy, who serves as a pastor/evangelist for the Southeastern Conference, conducted a two-day Evangelism Boot Camp. This program jumpstarted the year’s evangelism activities, educating the members on how to win souls for Christ.

A Youth Week of Prayer was conducted in May, during which the youth dedicated a day to pray with the neighbors in the community near our church. The week also featured a day focused

on the family, using skits to portray parents’ and children’s need for one another. A mid-week prayer meeting featured three youth speakers, Taylor McKinney, Juwan Johnson, and Apiffany Caldwell, who provided powerful messages based on their personal life experiences. Guest speaker Donovan Washington, from the South Atlantic Conference, spoke on “The Power of Intercessory Prayer” for divine worship. The week ended with a breathtaking dramatization that portrayed the life, crucifixion, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Thanks to Keisha Ricks, our youth minis-

the children to experience Jesus’ journey to the cross. At the marketplace the children worked as apprentices, learning basket weaving, pottery, etc. In the synagogue the children were able to learn the Hebrew alef-bet and various Jewish customs. Children also enjoyed spending time at the village playground and in the barnyard with real, live animals, and much more. Kathryn McNorton and her crew did an awesome job executing this year’s Vacation Bible School program.

In August, the Eighth Annual Back-to-School Block Party utilized 100-plus church and community volunteers to attract more than 500 patrons. The City Temple church partnered with the Dallas County Community College District, the SouthFair Community Development Corporation, and Patrick Crayton’s Helping Hands Foundation to sponsor this event. Donated school supplies were provided to needy children; *Steps to Christ* and *Bible Answers* allowed us to share the gospel in a small way; and surveys were used to identify special needs (stop-smoking classes, GED classes, Bible stud-

tries director, for her vision and commitment to leading our youth through innovative programming. In July, a Vacation Bible School/Boot Camp was conducted with the help of 100 volunteers, based on the “Jerusalem Marketplace” theme. A total of 73 children (members and non-members) attended the program, who were divided into groups representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Rooms at the church were transformed into stations that allowed

ies). Food and entertainment certainly contributed to the success of the event. Our hats are off to Liz Duncan, our Adventist Community Services leader, and her team, for their commitment to this annual community outreach. The evangelism efforts for the year culminated with a three-week “Experience the Word Bible Conference” (evangelistic meeting), conducted by our pastor, E.C. Polite. Forty days of fasting and prayer preceded this event. The Lord blessed with a harvest of 150-plus visitors attending the meetings, several baptisms, and 20-plus others preparing for baptism. We give glory to God for the great things He has done!

**Carolyn Medlock**



▲ Vacation Bible School participants and team members.

◀ The children meet Jesus in the marketplace during VBS at the City Temple church.



tries director, for her vision and commitment to leading our youth through innovative programming.

In July, a Vacation Bible School/Boot Camp was conducted with the help of 100 volunteers, based on the “Jerusalem Marketplace” theme. A total of 73 children (members and non-members) attended the program, who were divided into groups representing the 12 tribes of Israel. Rooms at the church were transformed into stations that allowed

## A Year of Unprecedented Growth

When the North American Division designated 2009 as “The Year of Evangelism,” here in the Texas Conference we couldn’t help but chuckle a bit, simply because *every* year is a year of evangelism for us. The Lord has blessed this conference mightily during the past decade and we have experienced unprecedented growth, not only in baptisms (2,000-plus per year), but also a heavy influx of new members from other states and conferences who have moved to our territory.

But the Lord had something special in mind for 2009. Our three full-time evangelists, their spouses, and the evangelistic teams went to work, and have had a banner year in baptisms, but more importantly, they have been very successful in changing the climate and spirit of the churches where they have been. I must mention them by name, giving recognition where recognition is due: Elder Carlos Turcios, Elder Lynwood Spangler, and Dr. Jack DuBosque, who found time to conduct crusades while finishing up his doctoral degree through Andrews University.

Beyond their dedicated efforts, we must recognize the efforts of many of our pastors during this special year of outreach. There were over 300 crusades conducted around the conference, the majority in churches, some in homes in small group settings, and a few in public venues, such as high schools and hotels. Our pastors trained church members during the first few months of the year in the arts of finding interests, imparting Bible studies, and obtaining decisions for Christ. That whole process has paid big dividends throughout the year. A couple of our pastors are centenarians this year. Pastor Amado Sanchez, down in South Texas on the Rio Grande, who pastors the McAllen North, Jordan, Mission, and Hidalgo Spanish district, will end the year with around 150 baptisms. At the other end of the conference, Pastor Ricardo Vioria here in North Dallas, the Garland Spanish church to be specific, ended the year at around 200 baptisms. Praise

God for these amazing accomplishments!

Elder Leighton Holley, our conference president, has been praying for 3,000 baptisms in Texas for a long time. By God’s grace, we exceeded that number by the end of 2009. As a former youth director, I must not end without mentioning how proud I am of many of the young people in this conference who took the opportunity in 2009 to seek and save their friends and fellow classmates at school. Report after report has come in, telling of kids who stood for Jesus, and witnessed with the gospel to their peers. Indeed, it has been a wonderful year for evangelism and witnessing, and may all the glory and praise be to our Lord, who makes all of this possible and so rewarding. Remember us in your prayers, as we as a conference humbly seek to do even greater things for Christ and His kingdom in the years to come.

**Carlos Craig**, vice president for evangelism

## “Health For Life” Seminar Teaches Skills For Better Living

**KEENE** » Our church hosted “Health for Life,” a multi-dimensional nutrition seminar series this past summer. Lindsay Westbrook, a nutrition student at Loma Linda University, School of Allied Health Professions, and former Keene-area resident, developed and produced the Wednesday-night classes. Over the course of four weeks, participants

enjoyed healthful topics, including wellness, holistic health, longevity, menu planning, basic nutrition science, practical applications for fitness, economics, grocery shopping, and dining out.

Plant-based vegetarian food samples were served each evening following the presentation. Meal items were created based on various geographic cuisines around the globe, showing that a variety of nutritious and delicious foods are available and easy to prepare. Westbrook says, “Healthy foods make healthy hearts that can be used to serve Christ as He calls each of us to do.” She challenged participants to make the most of life by incorporating biblical health principles into their everyday routines. Attendees each received a “Health for Life” booklet filled with lecture notes, handouts, exercises, and an assortment of recipes.

**Heather Crews**

Lindsay Westbrook presented a nutrition seminar series at the Keene church last summer. Participants were given plant-based vegetarian food samples each evening.



## Abundant Life Health Fair Draws A Crowd

**KILLEEN** » The Killeen Adventist church held its first annual Abundant Life Health Fair on Sunday afternoon, November 8, 2009. Phyllis Mitchell, church member and coordinator of the fair, expected and received a great turnout from the church, as well as the community. “We do this not just to introduce the church to the community, but to improve their health.”

Twenty-one booths were on display, providing information on such health topics as dental care, natural foods, vegetarian cuisine, and others. Presentations on different health issues by local organizations were also held throughout the afternoon. Also available were free health screenings, a moon bounce for the children, and vegetarian food tasting. “With donations and support from the church, as well as local area businesses donating to the fair, a lot of these booths and activities were made possible,” said Mitchell.

Bobby Simpson, local church member and staff member of Integrity Rehab and Home Health, a physical, occupational, and speech therapy clinic, saw great turnout and feedback from the community.



Bobby Simpson, staff member of Integrity Rehab and Home Health, discusses with a local church member the services that his work provides.

“It’s awesome and a great atmosphere for the community to come and interact with the church, and they definitely turned out” he said. “There’s not a better time to start becoming healthy, to develop a healthy lifestyle, than now.”

The Killeen church has held numerous health seminars and workshops, both for the church and the community, over the years. Ursula Nanna, a local church member, has attended most of the church’s health-related activities. “I’m always looking for something new to learn, and with the church offering these activities for free, why not come?” she said. “It’s very important to have a healthy lifestyle; it makes you appreciate the life you live.”

Aldrin Muya

## Celebrating Our Pastor’s Ordination

**MINERAL WELLS** » Our church had a service of ordination on November 28, 2009 for our pastor, Ray Christman. Ray Christman was born on July 19, 1977 in Wichita Falls, Tex. From the beginning, his parents, Ron and Joyce, gave Ray two very important gifts: the gift of a loving and supportive Christian home combined with the gift of a diverse and multicultural upbringing. For these and many other gifts, Ray is extremely grateful!

At the age of seven, Ray, his brother Richard, and his parents moved to Brasilia, Brazil, for a six-year term as missionaries. It was there that Ray actually learned to read in Portuguese before learning how to read in English. This would explain Ray’s later deep appreciation for spell check as well as the benefit of knowing a second language!

Upon returning to the States, Ray attended multiple Adventist schools in Michigan, California, and Texas. He graduated from Burton Adventist Academy

in 1996 and enrolled at Southwestern Adventist University that fall, where he pursued his desire to become a pastor.

During his sophomore year, Ray had the opportunity to take a year off college to serve in a task force position as the colporteur leader at Highland Academy in Tennessee. He graduated from Southwestern with a B.A. in Theology in 2001. After graduating, Ray sensed God’s affirming call to the ministry with an invitation to serve as a pastor in the Texas Conference.

After pastoring the friendly district of Mt. Pleasant for two years, Ray attended the seminary at Andrews University. On returning from Andrews, Ray pastored the Mesquite/Terrell district and is now pastoring the growing district of Graham and Mineral Wells.

But while at the Mesquite church, Ray’s best decision was made—marrying the love of his life, Karie. Karie has added to Ray’s ministry in many ways, from being a personal encourager to blessing the churches through her many gifts, including those of leadership and singing. The Christmans are very grateful to the Lord for the birth of their son on November 6, 2009, Benjamin Ray Christman.

April Brown

## Loving Our Pastor All Year Round

**DENISON/SHERMAN** » Our church enjoyed a full year of appreciating our special



Ray, Karie, and little Benjamin Christman minister at the Mineral Wells church.



Tom and Peggy Patzer with their church board, promoting a church that is living for Christ.

pastor and his wife. Pastor Tom and Peggy Patzer have been with us for a little over four years now. They have two churches, which equals work, time, and energy times two. Our church board saw an old program put together by Lonnie Melashenko entitled "The Care and Feeding of Pastors" and asked the church to put the article into action for them and to be involved in a year of showing appreciation for our pastor and his wife and to keep it a secret from them. We wanted to give everyone a chance to be involved.

At least once a month a group from the church, such as a Sabbath School class, the church board, or our Women's Ministries department did something special for them. Our Kindergarten class made a book with special drawings and pictures; they received many signed cards with gift cards or cash, and enjoyed meals at the Olive Garden. Peggy enjoyed a spa day. Each month they received something different and from a different segment of our congregation. After two or three months, they knew something was going on but weren't sure who to address their questions to. Then after eight months of special treatment, Pastor Tom suggested that an article be sent to the *Record* about how this church appreciates their pastor. Little did he realize it would be a year's worth of love and appreciation for a wonderful pastor. They really enjoyed their Olive Garden gift certificates, new ties, cash, gas

cards, etc. Our year ended with a special presentation of a bouquet of flowers, a red heart-shaped basket of love, appreciation, and thank-you cards, and another gift card for the Olive Garden. Pastor Tom said that in 32 years in the ministry, they have never been treated in such a caring, loving way. At the Denison/Sherman church, we love and appreciate our pastor and his wife!

Tammy Shoemaker

## New Pathfinder Club Off To A Great Start

**KATY** » We are excited about the youth at the Central Spanish church and the opportunity to minister to our community! This year we organized our first Pathfinder Club. We are a small club of eight mem-



The Katy Central Spanish church celebrates their first Pathfinder Induction ceremony.

bers, however, we are looking to grow! We believe God will use this group in His work to spread the gospel. If you know any youth in Katy, send them our way!

Suazer Carranza

## Students Participate In Worldwide Prayer Celebration



Isabella Turcios and Wendy Lobsien, students at The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Houston, pray for each other.

**HOUSTON** » Students at The Oaks Adventist Christian School were a part of the worldwide celebration of prayer on September 23, 2009. At 8:00 in the morning we assembled at the flag pole, with all 84 students, 10 faculty members, and many of our parents.

We sang songs, and then the Student Association organized our "prayer buddies" for the year. Each high school student was paired with an elementary or middle school student, and they promised to pray with each other once a week for the rest of the year.

The Oaks is experiencing and expecting great things through this prayer effort. Don't wait for an annual meeting to pray—join the students of The Oaks, and pray daily!

Becky Hanson



## Victory In The Lord's Army

Many of us know people who are serving or have served in the Armed Forces of our nation. Some of you have served our nation in this way. Thank you for your service! In reality, all of us have an invitation to join an army—God's Army. I did so long ago when I accepted Jesus into my heart, but I wasn't quite ready to go to war. Let me tell you about the day I decided to go to war.

Before I became a minister, I worked in management with Delco Remy Corporation, in Anderson, Ind. One of our friends there had two children, a baby boy who was born hydrocephalic and a healthy girl.

One Saturday evening we got a call telling us their baby boy had died. The children were in the bathtub. The phone rang, Mom went out to answer it, and in a matter of seconds, the hydrocephalic child slipped underneath the water and drowned.

I had just begun my pastoral ministry. We drove all night to attend that funeral. I've been to a lot of funerals, but this was one of the saddest. As I walked out of that funeral, I was ready to go to war—on the devil.

This child's disease and death came from the devil. That day I decided that until the day I laid down my life, I would do everything in my power to lead every person I possibly could to accept Jesus as their Savior. I was ready for war.

God is raising up an army of citizen soldiers who are going to take the gospel to

the world. HE WANTS YOU! Jesus, the General of God's army, with all the privileges and power, makes a simple statement in John 15:16: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit—fruit that will last."

God is identifying His soldiers from every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—an army of "Green Berets" who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. He wants His navy SEALs, who are not afraid of the waters of conflict, to respond to the call of duty. He wants His marines to storm the beaches of the enemy. He wants His coast guard to rescue the perishing. He calls up His national guard to take the gospel to the nations.

Let's go to war against the devil! Let's bring as many as possible to Jesus until God sends His holy angel air force to take us high into our heavenly kingdom. Let's make 2010 the year of victory!

**Jim Stevens**, president

## Reaping a Harvest Of Souls in Amarillo

**AMARILLO, TEX.** » At the conclusion of an evangelistic crusade held November 7–21, 2009 at the Amarillo Spanish church, 23 people were added to the church by bap-



Twenty-three people were added to the church roll by baptism and profession of faith at the Amarillo Spanish church last November. Eight others were re-baptized.

tism and profession of faith, and eight more people were re-baptized. The Lord blessed our efforts with a bountiful harvest of souls for the kingdom!

**Manuel Rodriguez**, pastor

## New Members Join Santa Fe Church

**SANTA FE, N.MEX.** » God blessed the Santa Fe Airport Company when two families decided to follow Jesus and join the church. On November 7, 2009, Hector Gutierrez and Guadalupe Martinez and their son,



Two families and another individual decided to follow Jesus and joined the Santa Fe church through baptism in November 2009.

Aaron Gutierrez, along with Jeronimo Lopez and Rosa Juarez made public their decision to follow Jesus! Praise the Lord for those beautiful souls. Then, on November 21, Fabian Nava responded also to Jesus' call through baptism. We continue praying for those who are receiving Bible studies and for those who haven't been reached yet in the Santa Fe area!

**Leonard Cummings**, pastor



## Students at Lubbock Junior Academy Foster the Spirit of Service

**LUBBOCK, TEX. »** Tuesday, November 24, 2009, was a special day for Lubbock Adventist Junior Academy. Dr. Simmons prepared a delicious Thanksgiving dinner of cheese lasagna, corn, green beans, warm rolls, and pumpkin pie. Miss Z. came dressed as Priscilla Alden, one of the women who came over on the Mayflower. Students were instructed on good table manners and pleasant conversation.

We also had four very special guests who have done so much for our school. Pastor Earl was invited because he had the vision

to see a Lubbock Junior Academy. Our faithful morning greeter and handyman is Mr. Duane Young. Mr. Leland Flyger brings fresh and tasty water to us and cleans the classroom. Mrs. Kathy Flyger assists with copying, completing paper work, and taking care of students who need to stay late after school. The children were very ap-

wrapped 15 shoeboxes with Christmas wrap and packed each box with age-appropriate toys and supplies. In each shoebox, we inserted a picture of ourselves and described who we are. Our prayer is that the children who receive these gifts will also learn about the best gift of all, Jesus Christ.

**Susan Zimmerman**, principal



preciative of the lunch and let Dr. Simmons know how much they enjoyed the meal. We also had enough leftovers so that we were able to have the same meal Wednesday. Yeah! It's great to have two Thanksgiving meals.

Service projects are a vital aspect of the Seventh-day Adventist school curriculum, which encourages students to give of themselves to others. This past Christmas, the students voted to collect, sort, and pack shoeboxes with gifts for boys and girls, ages 2-4, 5-9, and 10-14. This project is called Operation Christmas Child, and is sponsored by a worldwide organization called Samaritan's Purse.

Our students watched a video describing Operation Christmas Child and learned about Franklin Graham, president and CEO of Samaritan's Purse. The church members donated children's toys, washcloths, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, glue, crayons, pencils, paper, and empty shoeboxes. Students

## Youth Reach Out to Odessa Community

**ODESSA, TEX. »** The youth of the Odessa Spanish church have been busy planning and coordinating activities for their church. During the second week of October 2009, they held a Fall Festival for the kids at church as an alternative to trick-or-treating. The children, as well as the adults, had a great time together. Among the many activities were a cupcake walk, Pin the Nose on the Pumpkin, a jail, a watermelon contest, face painting, and a play put on by the youth.

Their next event was a blood drive held on November 15, with 30 people coming to participate. Of those, 19 were able to give blood and three gave red blood cells, for a total of 22 units donated. Diana, from United Blood Services, said that we donated more than other big churches that put on blood drives and she was surprised, because we are a small church. Each person who donated was given a T-shirt.

**Tina Rodriguez**

Top Right: A special Thanksgiving program provided fellowship and learning opportunities for students at Lubbock Adventist Junior Academy, as well as an opportunity to honor some very special guests.

Bottom: Students at Lubbock Adventist Junior Academy stuffed shoeboxes with toys and needed items, wrapped them in Christmas paper, and donated them to Operation Christmas Child, a ministry operated by the Samaritan's Purse organization.

# Prayer Chain Provides the Link to Rich Blessings

**RIO GRANDE** » We recently finished a reaping crusade with 14 baptisms and one profession of faith. Pastor Jaime Calvo integrated a prayer chain during the meetings so that people were able to bring their personal needs and burdens before God's altar. At the end of the meetings, we had a big chain of prayer requests that were written on pieces of paper. The church had done its part, and the field was ready for the harvest. Pastor Javier Grijalva led people to have confidence in God's promises. His presentations were enthusiastic and appealing to today's spiritual needs. His charisma and love for the people made a big impact in many people's lives. Each night we had approximately 25 visitors. The Rio Grande church's motto is "Cada uno gane uno" (Each member wins one). The church prepared the field with personal Bible studies and small groups.

**Jamie Calvo**, pastor



▲ Nineteen people happily donated blood at a recent blood drive sponsored by the youth at Odessa Spanish church.

A watermelon contest and other fun activities provided a wholesome alternative to trick-or-treating for the youth at Odessa Spanish church. ►



▲ Fifteen new members, 14 by baptism, and one by profession of faith, recently joined the Rio Grande church as a result of an evangelistic crusade. Fervent prayer was an integral part of this effort.

## “United We Serve” Comes to Houston

Jesus is soon to come! We have heard those words for so long. We sing about it; we pray about it; our very name, Adventist, proclaims it. What concerns me, however, is that our familiarity with those words has lessened, to a degree, our enthusiasm as it relates to our individual responsibility of “hastening the coming of the day of God” (2 Peter 3:12).

We have many churches in the Southwestern Union territory. Each one, under the leadership of faithful pastors, is doing a good work in their particular locale. What would be the impact, however, if churches combined their efforts to make a greater impact, especially in multi-church cities? Envision, not just the leaders of the churches, but every member of the Adventist Church in the Southwestern Union involved in some phase of ministry to advance the gospel, thus hastening Jesus’ return—ignoring conference, cultural, or



ethnic lines and coming together as one people with the focus of ministry involvement to advance the kingdom of God.

On March 20, 2010 at the Brown Convention Centre in downtown Houston, Tex., the Southwestern Union, in conjunction with the Texas and Southwest Region conference churches, will host a one-day ministries training event. Our theme for the event is “United We Serve.” We’ll come together to hear the dynamic preaching of Elder Henry Wright of Alexandria, Va., (English) and Elder Ernie Castillo of the North American Division (Spanish) to

inspire and motivate us to be actively involved in ministry. The afternoon will be filled with over 30 ministry seminars, in both English and Spanish. We anticipate several thousand people attending. We hope you will be one of them, if you live in or near the Houston, Tex., area. If you know your ministry niche, these seminars are right for you. If you are unsure of what ministry to become involved in, this event is right for you. The

added blessing is that this event comes at no cost to you. We only ask that you bring your own picnic lunch and supper for you and your family and plan to be with us the entire day. The preaching will be good, the music will be inspiring, and the seminars will be packed with ideas you can take back to your local church.

Together, with God’s people working as one family, we can hasten the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Buford Griffith, Jr.**, vice president for ministries, Southwestern Union Conference

**SOUTHWESTERN UNION MINISTRIES TRAINING EVENT**

**UNITED WE SERVE**

**Houston, Texas • March 20, 2010**

Plan now to join us as we unite for an outstanding, one-day training event for church ministries.  
Visit [www.united.southwesternadventist.org](http://www.united.southwesternadventist.org).



## Why I Am Still An Adventist

“My son is preparing for an Ivy League school,” I heard someone say recently.

Only later did I think of the right response. (You’ve had that experience, no doubt—thinking of a funny response, an insightful zinger, a clinching argument 24 hours too late?)

“Do you want him to remain an Adventist?” I might have asked.

We spend a lot of time thinking about persuading people to become Seventh-day Adventists, inviting them in creative ways to join our denomination. We need to spend more time thinking about how to keep people Adventist. The key to that is Christian education.

Remember Jesus’ parable about the sower? Some folks received the good news with great joy, but then the cares and distractions of this world choked out their response. In the end, their commitment withered away.

That young man who wants to attend Harvard or Yale or Penn will be making certain crucial decisions in his college years, decisions that have little to do with his performance on specific examinations or the “prestige” of his college.

He will need to choose a life partner. If he chooses a wife who is not an Adventist or even, perhaps, a Christian, the results are pretty predictable.

He will also be thinking about his vocation. And not just in the sense of a job, but a calling. What is God calling you to do? How will your work serve the Kingdom of God? These are not questions that Ivy League mentors and counselors are encouraged to ask.

Most important, that young Adventist’s education will either equip him with a Christian worldview or destroy his faith. At the hypothetical Ivy League college, will he be taught that the universe is an accident, that the Bible is a purely human document, that virtue is merely “a matter of opinion”?

At Southwestern Adventist University, our non-Ivy League college in Keene, we are committed to creating fully-educated young Christians, men and women who

relate their specialized learning to fundamental Christian understandings. We want them to be able to say, with the famous Christian scholar, C. S. Lewis, “I believe in Christianity as I believe that the sun has risen: not only because I see it, but because by it I see everything else.”

I know that Christian education worked for me. I am still an Adventist because dedicated teachers, from primary school to university, taught me that Christian worldview.

**Eric Anderson**, president

## Southwestern Introduces New Adapting Scholarships

“Southwestern has always offered tremendous scholarships,” says Teresa Macomber, Student Accounts Advisor. “But they haven’t always been easily adaptable

to our students’ needs.” According to Macomber, the new scholarships allow the university to provide more financial assistance and options to students.

Previously, renewable scholarships were offered to freshmen, but the amount of the scholarship remained the same. “If you entered college with a low grade-point average, you might have received a scholarship, and that scholarship would renew at the same amount every year, even if you improved your grades,” says Macomber. Now students will have the ability to increase, maintain, or decrease the scholarship each year, depending on their GPA.

Angela Boothby, a junior elementary education major, says the change will help her next fall. “I went to Newbold College in England last year, where my GPA went down a bit. The transfer merit scholarship that I received will increase significantly with my improved GPA. I’m so grateful for the change. It will really help.”

The system will also encourage students to maintain their GPAs throughout their time in college. “Students won’t be so apt to let their grades slip, if they know a scholarship is on the line,” says Macomber.

Boothby agrees. “Knowing that the scholarship is there if I work for it is definitely motivation for me.”

Students like Angela Boothby, a junior elementary education major, are helped significantly by the new scholarships.



## 100 Percent of May 2009 Nursing Graduates Passed National Council Licensure Exam

“They all passed,” says Catherine Turner, professor and chair of the nursing department at Southwestern. She’s speaking of the very first BSN class, May 2009 gradu-

academic administration, is also pleased. “The great success of our nursing students in passing their board exams testifies both to their diligence and to the caliber of instruction the nursing faculty provides.”

Amanda Gil, a May BSN graduate, appreciated the nursing program at Southwestern, especially the spirituality and helpfulness of her teachers. “Dr. Turner took us under her wing and was always there for us.” Gil had something to say about all the teachers that she felt prepared her for the world of nursing. “Bunny Reid (associate professor) was so sweet and

## A Life Changed By Christian Education

“What a difference education makes,” declared the speaker for Southwestern Adventist University’s December graduation. He should know.

Adu Worku is library director at Pacific Union College. “His life story is an illustration of the transforming power of Christian education,” according to university president Eric Anderson. Born in rural Ethiopia, Worku was an illiterate shepherd boy until an eye injury brought him to Adventist mission hospital and school. Inspired by the learners he saw around him, he determined to gain an education too. Without resources (or his parents’ approval), he enrolled in the first grade when he was almost 15 years old.

“Today he is one of the most learned men I know,” says Anderson, who describes Worku as “an accomplished teacher, poet, and musician.” A man with three master’s degrees (in history, education, and library science), he has written widely in both English and Amharic, the official language of Ethiopia. In addition to his position at Pacific Union College, he has also worked at Loma Linda University and Whittier College. In recent years, he has taught courses in philosophy, including Philosophy of Science.

An American citizen since 1996, Worku has worked to promote democracy and rule of law in his native land. “These actions come at some personal risk,” according to Anderson. He also actively raised money for evangelism in Ethiopia.

Southwestern Adventist University recognized Mr. Worku with an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree. “I cannot think of a more appropriate choice,” said one faculty member.

“It was a powerful graduation address,” commented Aja Jones, a psychology graduate. “His words—and example—won’t be forgotten.”



Practicing what they’ve learned on state-of-the-art mannequins helps students prepare for the real world of nursing and their licensure exams.

ates who received their bachelors of science in nursing.

“One hundred percent of the students who took the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination) passed and are now licensed and able to work as nurses,” according to Turner. “I’m very pleased with the effort shown by the students, and the dedication of the nursing faculty.”

Benjamin McArthur, vice president for

good-hearted, and an amazing teacher, and Dr. Gnadt (professor) was so helpful and so intelligent.”

Gil says she was nervous taking the NCLEX, but says, “I don’t know if a person is ever prepared for something like the NCLEX. It’s such a large test covering a vast amount of information, but I would say that Southwestern did an excellent job preparing me.”

## Milton Murray

**Founder of church's philanthropic organization**



Milton Murray

Milton Murray, a life-long philanthropist, mentor, and founder of charitable organizations throughout North and South America, died December 9, 2009 in a care facility in Loma Linda, Calif. He was 87.

Murray founded the philanthropy program of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Philanthropic Service for Institutions (PSI), in the 1970s and served as its director for 20 years. The organization is based at the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md.

In 1973 Murray joined the Adventist world headquarters, launching PSI. In that office he helped nurture and establish programs among more than 100 church institutions located primarily in the continental United States.

He is survived by his second wife, Jeanne Murray, two children and two grandchildren. His first wife, Virginia H. Murray, died in 2000.

*Adventist News Network (ANN)*

## James A. Cress

**General Conference Ministerial Secretary**



James Cress

James A. Cress, 60, ministerial secretary for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists since 1992, died on the evening of November 26, 2009 at the University of Maryland Medical Center in Baltimore, Md.

According to a family statement, Cress succumbed to "complications arising from a rare pathogen believed to have been contracted in the course of his travels. Upon his

return from the last of his itineraries, the infection worsened. Despite the very best medical care and a valiant struggle, consistent with Cress's energetic approach to Christian service, he succumbed rapidly."

Cress always considered himself a "pastor on loan" to the world church headquarters, where he led out in training, encouragement and mentoring of pastors, elders, deacons and deaconesses around the world.

Cress' wife, Sharon, who survives, is an associate secretary of the Ministerial Association and oversees Shepherdess International, a ministry to pastors' spouses and children. She has served the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a Bible worker, associate pastor, and seminary leader.

Cress is survived by a brother, John C. Cress, of College Place, Wash., an Adventist pastor who serves with Adventist Health Care. A third brother, David Cress, who had been president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, died in an airplane crash in December of 2004.

*Adventist News Network (ANN)*

## Robert L. Sweezey

**Adventist Risk Management President**



Robert Sweezey

Robert L. Sweezey, president of Adventist Risk Management (ARM), who is credited with responsible handling of the church's insurance and risk management services for more than a decade, died in Florida on October 16.

Sweezey, 52, regularly traveled to Ft. Lauderdale as part of his doctoral program in International Business at Nova Southeastern University. The cause of his death remains unknown, ARM board members said.

As the risk manager for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Sweezey served as president of Gencon Insurance Company of Vermont, the church's captive insurer, and Gencon Insurance Company International, Ltd.

Sweezey will be remembered as someone who used his "vision and direction" to lead the company through "challenging financial deficits" when he took over in 1992, an ARM press release said. He worked to underwrite insurance policies that currently ensure 90 percent of the church's facilities and institutions worldwide, the release said.

Sweezey is survived by his wife, Dr. Karen "Muffy" Piper, and three children: Herb, Katie, and Benny.

*Adventist News Network (ANN)*

## Kyte Chosen to Serve as President of ARM



Robert Kyte

The board of Adventist Risk Management (ARM), at a December 3, 2009 meeting, selected former Seventh-day Adventist world church general counsel Robert E. Kyte to serve as its new president. The appointment was made eight weeks after the unexpected passing of former president Robert L. Sweezey.

Based at the church's world headquarters in Silver Spring, Md., ARM, which currently employs 160 people in offices worldwide, offers risk management services and manages some \$150 million of the church's international assets.

Previously, Kyte served as general counsel for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, general counsel for Healthwise, a nonprofit consumer health information company in Boise, Idaho, and as chief executive officer and general counsel for Pacific Press Publishing Association in Boise, Idaho.

It is expected that he will transition into his new role at ARM and be full-time by February.

To read more about Robert Kyte and his new assignment at Adventist Risk Management, visit: [news.adventist.org/2009/12/kyte-selected-as-new.html](http://news.adventist.org/2009/12/kyte-selected-as-new.html) and [www.adventistrisk.org](http://www.adventistrisk.org).



## Did You Know?

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**Vialo Weis**  
Oklahoma  
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**Charles Sanders**  
Southwest Region  
214.943.4491

**Mike Doucoumes**  
Texas  
817.790.2255

**Sean Robinson**  
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817.295.0433  
[jmathews@swuc.org](mailto:jmathews@swuc.org)



**Giving Forward is the act  
of making a gift now  
that generates income  
and creates a legacy  
for the future support  
of a ministry you love.**

## Giving»Forward

“Giving Forward” is an unusual combination of words. It even sounds like something is out of place. That being the case, I would like to define what that concept means whenever you see it in the *Record*.

Giving forward is all about supporting in a special way the church that you love. Giving forward is more than just “giving back.” It’s about leaving a legacy for those whose pattering of little feet you hear each week at church—the ones whose footsteps will one day lead the way. It’s also about having a passion to finance the efforts of those who are currently preaching the good news of Jesus’ love and imminent return.

Giving forward is your passion—your dream of making an impact for Christ by being a generous giver. How can it happen? When your faith and money are connected, the potential results are limitless, including the blessings you receive in return.

Anyone can give forward, regardless of their economic situation. Why? Because it’s your motivation to finish the Lord’s work that makes the difference, not the amount you can give. You experience a renewed sense of meaning when you plan to help others who will need your support in the future.

Giving forward is about leaving a legacy to your church or favorite ministry through present and deferred gifts. Of course, “giving” is a relative term, because God owns it all.

We know that “[t]he eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him” (2 Chronicles 16:9). You can experience the spiritual strength and satisfaction of generous giving only by fully committing to it.

That’s what giving forward means. And it’s our team’s role to help you make an impact for Christ in these last days of earth’s history. We know from personal experience that you will gain tremendous satisfaction by placing what the Lord has given to you back into His hands.

—John Mathews

## Q&A

**Q: What is a “Living Trust or Self-managed Trust?”**

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## Classified Ads

### [REAL ESTATE/HOUSING]

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### [MISCELLANEOUS]

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### SAVE 25% January 1-31, 2010! ABC Book of the Month: *The Radical Teachings of Jesus*,

by Derek Morris. Regularly \$11.99, Sale \$8.99. Discover Jesus' teachings that were radical in His day and still are now. Available at your ABC, at [www.Adventist-BookCenter.com](http://www.Adventist-BookCenter.com) or by calling 800.765.6955.

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## Announcements

**La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend**, April 23-24, 2010. Activities: Friday golf tournament, vespers, Sabbath services at LSA gym, class reunions, basketball game. Yearbooks available for sale. Visit your campus, renew your friendships! Honor Classes: '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05; Contact Alumni Office 951.351.1445, ext. 244 or e-mail: [Isaalumni@sak12.com](mailto:Isaalumni@sak12.com).

**Save the date!** Join us at Sweet Life Café, where you and your friends will experience three Bible study sessions for women, called Food for the Heart. Step into Sweet Life Café and satisfy your cravings for friends, God, and spiritual growth. It's a retreat you won't want to miss! March 5-7, 2010 at Inn at the Ozarks-Best Western, Eureka Springs, Ark.

**Third Annual Adventist Health System CEO Reunion**, January 29-30, 2010, Avon Park, Fla. For information, contact Bill Sager at 863.452.2593, via e-mail at [wcsager@tnni.net](mailto:wcsager@tnni.net), or call Tom Amos at 863.452.1979, e-mail [dtamos@gmail.com](mailto:dtamos@gmail.com), or call Jim Culpepper at 615.415.1925.

**The 2010 Southwestern Union Chapter Meeting of ASI** will be held February 11-14 at Ozark Academy in Gentry, Ark. Pastor Steve Wohlberg will be the main speaker. For more information, or to register, please contact Rene Patterson at Ozark Academy at 479.736.2221, ext. 1105, or Kase Vunileva at 479.736.2221, ext. 3001, or via cellular phone at 479.233.9218. For information on area hotels, go to [www.ozarkacademy.org](http://www.ozarkacademy.org).

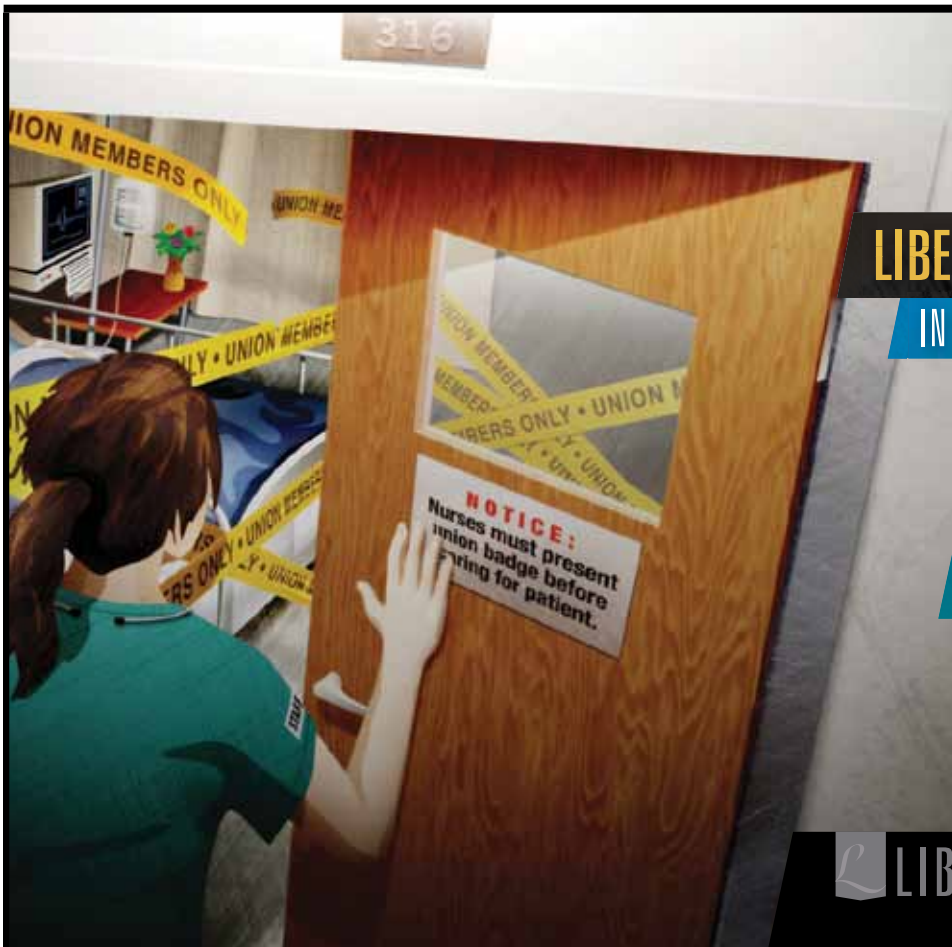
## Milestones

### [ANNIVERSARIES]

**James and Bernice Ford** of Dallas, Tex., celebrated their **62nd** wedding anniversary



on December 21, 2009. Both are retired educators. Bernice dedicated her life as an outstanding teacher, principal, and committee member for 43 years. James, an ordained minister, was a very successful teacher, principal, and education superintendent for more than 28 years. They have inspired and touched many with their lives. We praise the Lord for them and their dedicated service and legacy of Christian marriage.



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We celebrated the **50th** wedding anniversary of a very special couple on October 17, 2009. Friends, family, and church members attended a celebration for **John and Irene Perrine's 50th** wedding anniversary, where guests enjoyed food



and entertainment. John and Irene are both members of the Mineral Wells church.

### Obituaries

**BROWN, Charlotte "Char" Ann**, born September 6, 1940 in Portland, Oreg., and died October 4, 2009 in Siloam Springs, Ark. she was a member of the Gentry church. Survivors: husband, Donald Brown of Siloam

Springs; son, Frank Henry of Siloam Springs; daughter, Lisa Corey of Siloam Springs; brother, Charles Smith of Washington State; sister, Judy Hall of British Columbia, Canada; six grandchildren, two great-grandchildren.

**DALTON, Stella**, born October 30, 1923 and died November 5, 2009 in Jasper, Tex. She was a member of the Warren, Tex., church. A retired nurse, she made quilts for AIDS babies. Survivors: sons, William L. Dalton, Sr., and wife, Martha, of Hempstead, Tex., and Sidney Dalton and wife, Pansy, of Jasper; daughters, Patricia Mae "Pat" Durdin and husband, Raymond, Martha Fregia and husband, Glenn, all of Jasper, Carolyn Sue Dalton of Elkhart, Tex., and Cecelia Gilley of Jones Creek, Tex.; brother, A.W. "Dub" Cunningham of Jasper; 21 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great grandchildren.

**GRANTHAM, Margaret**, born March 6, 1947 in San Antonio, Tex., and died November 17, 2009 in Shawnee, Okla. A member of the Shawnee church, she was laid to rest in Midwest City, Okla. She was a woman of faith who loved God, her country, and her family and friends, and was active in women's prison and jail ministry at church. Survivors: sister, Virginia Brendle of Shawnee; daughters, Dawn Howard of Brunswick, Ga., and Leanne Dabney of Warr Acres, Okla.; two grandsons.

**HADLEY, Robert T.**, born May 9, 1925 in Joshua, Tex., and died November 29, 2009 in Joshua. He was a lifelong member of

the Joshua church and has been laid to rest at the Caddo Cemetery in Joshua. A nurse by profession, he earned a BSRN degree from Texas Christian University and served for 13 years as director of health services at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Tex. Survivors: wife, Mary Ann Hadley of Joshua; aunt, Sudie Clark of Keene, Tex.; and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

**JORDAN, Grace A.**, born May 14, 1926 in Chanute, Kans., and died October 26, 2009 in Harrah, Okla. A member of the Summit Ridge, Okla., church, she was laid to rest in Harrah. She attended Union College in Lincoln, Neb., and worked a number of years in the Missouri and Oregon conferences. Survivors: sons, Randy Jordan of Fayetteville, Ark., and Roger Jordan of Bella Vista, Ark.; foster daughter, Martha Curtis of Burlington, Wash.; sister, Margaret Wilson of Portland, Oreg.; brother, Herbert Washburn, of Chanute; brother, Samuel Washburn of Albuquerque, N.Mex.; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert, in 2007.

**KRISTEK, Dorothy Elizabeth**, born May 2, 1909 in Mitchell, S.D., and died October 26, 2009 in Austin, Tex. A member of the Granite Shoals-Highland Lakes church, she was a beloved mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. Survivors: daughter, Dorothy Ann "Dottie" de Roulac and husband, Jay; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed, in 1982.



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**LEWIS, Bill E.**, born October 25, 1926 and died October 25, 2009. He was a member of the Ardmore, Okla., church for 54 years, and had resided in Elk Grove, Calif., since 2007. He was manager of the Southern Oklahoma Ambulance Service for 27 years prior to his retirement. Survivors: wife, Velda of 61 years; daughter, Carol Lewis; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**RADDE, Laura**, born May 11, 1927, in Onaway, Mich., and died October 14, 2009 in Benton County, Ark. She was a member of the Rogers, Ark., church. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Jon and Melody Radde of Fayetteville, Ark.; daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Ian Sagman of Vesta, Calif.; daughter and son-in-law, Kim and Stan Berger of Bella Vista, Ark.; brother, Robert Miller of Michigan; sister, Leona Raddy of Michigan; Maxine Duelow of Northern California; five grandchil-

dren, one great-grandchild, and one expected great-grandchild at the time of her death.

**ROBERTSON, Patricia Ann "Annie,"** born January 11, 1975 in Moberly, Mo., and died October 16, 2009 in Little Rock, Ark. She was a member of the Gentry church. Survivors: Hank Robertson and his wife, Robin, of Springdale, Ark.; sisters, Lyrick Robertson, Chelsea Adkins, and Myrcadies Adkins; brother, Bodhi Robertson, all of Siloam Springs, Ark.

**STRICKLAND, James, M.**, born February 24, 1925 in Tell, Tex., and died November 15, 2009 in Garland, Tex. He was a member of the Mesquite church. Survivors: wife, Lorene Strickland; son, Richard Strickland; daughters, Janie Ballantyne and husband, Mike, and Margaret Rablee and husband, David; two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

## SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

|                       | Jan 1 | Jan 8 | Jan 15 | Jan 22 | Jan 29 | Feb 5 |
|-----------------------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|-------|
| Abilene, TX           | 5:44  | 5:49  | 5:55   | 6:01   | 6:08   | 6:14  |
| Albuquerque, NM       | 5:05  | 5:10  | 5:17   | 5:23   | 5:31   | 5:37  |
| Amarillo, TX          | 5:45  | 5:51  | 5:57   | 6:04   | 6:11   | 6:18  |
| Brownsville, TX       | 5:49  | 5:54  | 5:59   | 6:05   | 6:10   | 6:15  |
| Dallas, TX            | 5:31  | 5:37  | 5:43   | 5:49   | 5:56   | 6:02  |
| El Paso, TX           | 5:13  | 5:17  | 5:23   | 5:30   | 5:36   | 5:42  |
| Fort Worth/Keene, TX  | 5:33  | 5:38  | 5:45   | 5:51   | 5:58   | 6:04  |
| Gallup, NM            | 5:12  | 5:17  | 5:24   | 5:31   | 5:38   | 5:45  |
| Galveston/Houston, TX | 5:32  | 5:38  | 5:43   | 5:49   | 5:55   | 6:01  |
| Gentry, AR            | 5:13  | 5:19  | 5:25   | 5:32   | 5:40   | 5:46  |
| Little Rock, AR       | 5:08  | 5:14  | 5:20   | 5:27   | 5:34   | 5:40  |
| Muskogee, OK          | 5:18  | 5:23  | 5:30   | 5:37   | 5:44   | 5:51  |
| New Orleans, LA       | 5:11  | 5:16  | 5:22   | 5:28   | 5:34   | 5:39  |
| Oklahoma City, OK     | 5:27  | 5:33  | 5:39   | 5:46   | 5:53   | 6:00  |
| Roswell, NM           | 5:01  | 5:06  | 5:12   | 5:19   | 5:25   | 5:32  |
| San Antonio, TX       | 5:46  | 5:51  | 5:56   | 6:02   | 6:08   | 6:14  |
| Shreveport, LA        | 5:20  | 5:25  | 5:31   | 5:37   | 5:44   | 5:50  |
| Tulsa, OK             | 5:19  | 5:25  | 5:32   | 5:38   | 5:46   | 5:53  |

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**WEATHERFORD, Eldon M.**, born August 27, 1943 in Bonnerdale, Ark., and died September 20, 2009 in Bonnerdale. He was member of the Bonnerdale church. Eldon's joys in life were his family, his church, and his small farm. Survivors: wife, Sylvia Weatherford; daughter and son-in-law, Tammy and Alex Hollingshead of Amity, Ark.; daughter and son-in-law, Susie and Phillip Wagner of Bonnerdale; daughter and son-in-law, Mendy and Paul Cox of Bonnerdale; daughter, Betsy Weatherford of Hot Springs, Ark.; mother, Frieda Weatherford of Bonnerdale; sister, Shirley Mooney of Bonnerdale; sister, Marlene Albright of Percy, Ark.; brother and sister-in-law, Tony and Georgetta Weatherford of Bonnerdale.

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## You Can't Debate God's Love

**I JOINED THE DEBATE TEAM MY SOPHOMORE YEAR AT LEE HIGH SCHOOL IN MIDLAND, TEX. ,** without knowing that the Sabbath would be a problem. The coach explained that the tournaments would be on Friday nights and Saturday mornings and that we needed to attend at least four tournaments in order to pass the class.

I was disappointed and discouraged, but decided to pray and ask the coach if she could excuse me on tournaments. She explained that she has never let a student do this before, but then decided to excuse me under one condition, that I debate in class and write cases, even though I wouldn't be able to take them to tournament. I agreed and thanked God for touching her heart!

Throughout the year I would hear from other students about the benefits of attending a tournament. They explained that after a debate, they learn from their mistakes, which helps improve their debating skills. I felt as if I was falling behind. I was sure I was the weakest debater on the team. During the school year, I only got to debate once, and that didn't go very well.

In debate, there is no final exam. You automatically pass if you attend four or more tournaments and win at least two. Since I only debated once in class and didn't even win, I was afraid. I asked my coach what I needed to do for my final exam in order to pass her class. She suggested that she would let her computer randomly choose someone on the team for me to debate. I thought that was fair and agreed. The computer chose one of the best debaters in the school. He was an undefeated senior who had been on the debate team for three years.

I was given the weekend to write a case that would hopefully defeat one of the most experienced debaters and determine my grade. When I arrived home that Friday, I started thinking about how I could possibly write a case that would stump my undefeated opponent. Before I could transfer my thoughts to paper, it was nearly Sabbath and time for our praise team to practice, so I headed to church.

I tried my best to forget about the upcoming debate. I put it out of my mind until Sabbath ended. Saturday night I wrote half of my

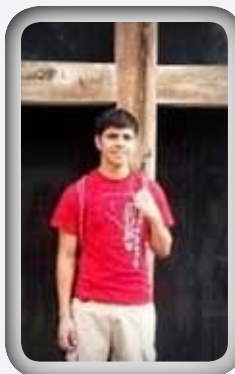
case and worked on my speech. The next morning my family and I woke up early to help the church raise money for the upcoming Oshkosh trip. During this time, I had a providential conversation with one of the church elders, Kevin Smith. He gave me ideas and arguments for my case that were very insightful. When I arrived home I only had one hour to finish my paper before I had to go to work. I prayed for wisdom as I tried to finish in one hour a case that was supposed to take three days to write.

The next day my stomach was aching with fear. The debate was to take place right after school. When the bell rang, my knees felt weak and my stomach flipped as I made my way to the debate room. Before I opened the door, I entertained the thought of dashing home and feigning a stomachache. But a verse came to mind, "Haven't I commanded you? Be strong and courageous; do not be afraid or dismayed. For the LORD your GOD is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). I decided to face my giant with God by my side. After whispering a quick prayer, I entered the room. To my surprise, almost everyone on the team was there, including my opponent's family.

The debate didn't start out well. My opponent was shredding my case and defeating every one of my defenses. Just before it was over, I had one last turn to attack my opponent's case and I decided to use the argument from my friend, Kevin. This changed the whole debate, wounding his case badly, and to my surprise, I won!

I couldn't believe the victory God granted me. While everyone congratulated me, I had the chance to explain about the Sabbath and share why they never saw me at tournaments. God saved my grade and showed me, along with everyone else, His power that day. After that experience, I realized that God is truly with all of us and that He cares about all of our battles. That's why I will choose to proceed in Him.

**Israel Escandon** is a member of the Adventist church in Midland, Tex.





# For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

## A New Year, a New Record

**BY NOW YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO SURVEY THE NEW LOOK AND FEEL OF THE RECORD.** We've spent many hours praying, planning, and implementing the ideas that have come together in the issue you hold in your hands.

While the appearance has changed, the primary goal remains the same—to inform and encourage you as you seek to come closer to Christ and finish the work.

The *Record* is now larger for several practical reasons. Because it was previously smaller than other union magazines, advertisers had to either redesign their content to fit our size, or pass us by. Unfortunately, they often chose the second option, which resulted in lower advertising revenues.

Decreased revenues made it harder to offset rising printing and mailing costs. A dollar saved in production is a dollar freed up for evangelism.

The new size also allowed us to craft new content to bless a broader audience.

The *Record* now includes Hispanic news—en español; more content for young people; a devotional by *Faith for Today's* Mike Tucker; and a health column from our friends at Adventist Health System's CREATION Health.

Of course, bigger is only better if we continue to bring you more news and stories that foster growth and outreach throughout our territory. The new size and format allow us to do just that, while providing more space and flexibility to run in-depth features and stories about how God is working in the lives of individuals throughout the Southwestern Union.

Each month, we pray that something you read in the pages of the *Record* will encourage you and motivate you to share God's love in your world!

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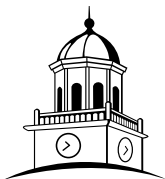


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