

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

APRIL 2010



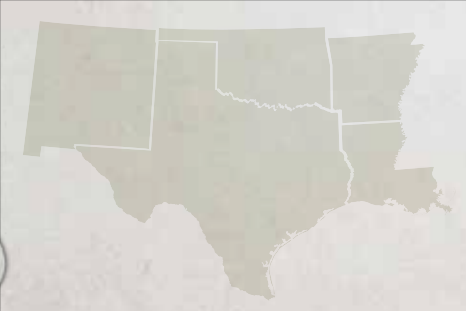
## Summer Salvation

**Freddy  
the  
Ferret is  
Preparing  
for Camp!**

See page 2 for  
contest details.



ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP AND CAMP MEETING ISSUE



In this Issue...

**DEPARTMENTS**

President's Perspective ..... 3  
 CREATION Health ..... 4  
 Shades of Grace ..... 5  
 Pass It On ..... 6  
 Visión Hispana ..... 7

**FEATURES**

A Blessing for Everyone..... 8  
 Summer Camp Schedules..... 10  
 Camp Meetings 2010..... 11

**NEWS**

Arkansas-Louisiana ..... 12  
 Oklahoma ..... 15  
 Southwest Region ..... 18  
 Texas ..... 21  
 Texico ..... 24  
 SWAU ..... 27  
 Southwestern Union ..... 28  
 North American Division ..... 30

**ETCETERA**

Classified Ads ..... 32  
 Announcements..... 35  
 Milestones..... 36  
 Obituaries ..... 36  
 MyFaith ..... 38  
 For the Record ..... 39



# Summer Camp: A Blessing for Everyone

## Win a Free Week at Camp!

**F**errets are fascinating pets. One thing ferrets enjoy is finding small objects around the house and then taking them to a special hiding place, as though they were hiding treasure. For this issue, we invited **Freddy the Ferret** to help us get ready for summer camp. But while he was here, he found 20 objects lying around and hid them throughout the magazine. We need your help finding all of the hidden items which vary from keys to office supplies to marbles and even a half-chewed peanut. Once you find all the objects, submit a list of the objects and what page you found them on, your name, age, gender, address, phone number, and the name of your local church, and you could win a free week at summer camp in our annual drawing! We will randomly select one girl and one boy from each conference out of the correct entries we receive by **May 10** to win a free week at summer camp. E-mail your entries to [summercampcontest@swuc.org](mailto:summercampcontest@swuc.org), or mail them to:

**Summer Camp Contest**  
 Southwestern Union Record  
 PO Box 4000  
 Burleson, TX 76097



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## On the Cover

The best, most important part of summer programming is providing people the opportunity to come to the Cross. This month's issue focuses on the blessings of camp meeting and summer camp around the Southwestern Union. The cover image was shot by James Bokovoy, pastor of the Stillwell and Tahlequah Seventh-day Adventist churches in Oklahoma.



# President's Perspective»

BY MAX TREVIÑO » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Crossing Paths

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



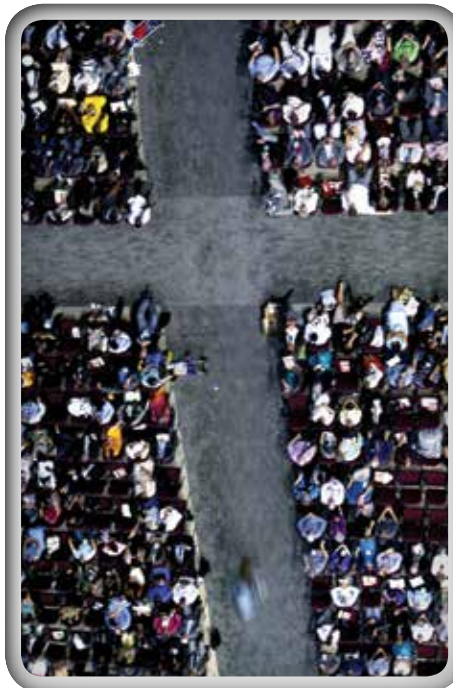
**My duties keep me on the road much of the time.** From board meetings to executive committees, groundbreaking ceremonies to ribbon cutting events, there's never a shortage of gatherings that require my presence. This summer will be no different. But summer programs are the ones I look forward to the most.

Summer camps provide our young people with opportunities for fun and spiritual growth. Camp meetings draw friends together like large family reunions. And the biggest “camp meeting” of them all—the General Conference Session—will be held in Atlanta, Ga., in late June and early July.

Summer programs are more than just opportunities to get together. Seeds of faith are both planted and nurtured by these programs. Those who attend come away encouraged and committed to staying the course and remaining involved with the mission of the church.

Your children may already be grown and out on their own. If so, consider sponsoring a child from your local church who might not otherwise get to experience a life-changing week at summer camp.

Are you wearied by life's challenges and starting to wonder where you fit into the bigger picture? Have you lost sight of what it



means to be a member of this church and why your presence has value? There's no better place than camp meeting to regain your sense of purpose and vision.

And if you've never attended a General Conference Session, start planning now to be in Atlanta. You simply won't want to miss this amazing time of global fellowship. You'll find yourself in the center of a worldwide community of believers, and you'll want to be part of the celebration of what God is doing in and through our church—around the planet!

Wonderful things happen when people cross paths. Friendships are renewed, vision is restored, and faith is revitalized. Whether at summer camp, a

local camp meeting, or at the General Conference Session in Atlanta, I hope to cross paths with *you* this summer!

---

**Max Treviño** is the Southwestern Union president



# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN



## Live Life to the Fullest!

Enjoy Your Own Private Paradise

**ENVIRONMENT – The “E” in C.R.E.A.T.I.O.N Health.** Pop quiz: In what three environments do people spend most of their time?

If your answer was “their home, car, and work,” then give yourself an “A.”

Environment means different things to different people. So let’s identify what we’re talking about before going further. Environment is what lies outside of us, either immediately or in our world at large. Yet it all, to some degree, affects what’s inside of us because what’s outside enters our body through our skin, mouth, and mind. All of our senses—sight, smell, sound, touch, and taste—influence our mood and health.

Recent research shows not only the importance of our larger environment (air and water quality) but also our immediate environment (light, sound, aroma and touch) to our overall health.

For instance, cancer patients, upon returning to the place where they received chemotherapy, will sometimes re-experience the side effects of the treatment, even though they do not get any medication. Instead, it’s the pictures in the room, the fragrance worn by a staff member, and even the background music that are responsible. Our body connects environment to health.

In this month’s CREATION Health article, we will identify two hazards commonly found in our personal environments. And we’ll look at ways to transform an unhealthy environment into a personal paradise that supports our quest of living to a healthy 100.

### CLUTTER, CLUTTER, CLUTTER

The first hazard is clutter. How cluttered are your personal environments? Are magazines strewn throughout your home? Do empty bottles and pieces of paper litter your car? Is your work space messy?

According to recent research, people with cluttered desks are less likely to get promoted. Clutter costs! But it’s even more serious because clutter has been linked to causing depression and bad behavior. It can be a safety hazard, too, because people might trip over things left lying around.

Clutter can create feelings of resentment within a family when someone feels he or she is constantly cleaning up after someone else. It can lead to social isolation because a person might feel his or her house is too messy for friends or loved ones to come over.

The good news is that it only takes five minutes a day to start ti-

dying things up! Throw things out—don’t hoard. Organize what remains, even if it means starting by neatly stacking the magazines. Dust surfaces, wipe down counters, burn your favorite candle. You deserve the best. And it is your privilege to create an environment that blesses your life.

### POLLUTION – INSIDE OUR HOMES

The second hazard is indoor air pollution. Americans spend 90 percent of their time inside. But did you know that the air inside is on average two to five times more polluted than the air outside? In fact, indoor air pollution is identified as one of the *top five environmental risks* for public health.

Some of the causes are chemicals found in household cleaning products or pesticides, garbage cans or indoor composting containers, and wood products made from fume-emitting synthetic materials, to name a few.

### INDOOR AIR POLLUTION REMEDIES

So what can we do about it? According to NASA, green and flowering plants remove many toxins from the air in building interiors. So have one six-inch plant for every one hundred square feet of living space. Here are three of the top ten best plants (see the CREATION Health Seminar Personal Study Guide for the complete list) for removing formaldehyde (found in virtually all indoor spaces), benzene, and carbon monoxide from the air: Gerbera Daisy, Pot Mum, and the Peace Lily.









We’ve only scratched the surface in this month’s feature. The CREATION Health seminar covers in great detail many more steps you can take to create safe and healthy environments (visit [www.CREATIONhealth.com](http://www.CREATIONhealth.com) to purchase your personal copy of the CREATION Health Seminar Personal Study Guide).

Imagine how life must have been in Eden. God’s original environment was free of pollutants, toxins, and carcinogens. It overflowed with sights, sounds, and tastes that wowed the senses. You know what? God desires for you to have an environment today that comes as close to blessing your life with health as Eden did for Adam and Eve.

So de-clutter your home, car and office. Spruce them up. Let in the sunshine. Buy some plants and let nature purify the indoor air you breathe. These easy steps will improve your well-being and help you live to a healthy 100.

That’s CREATION Health!

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

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

# Shades of Grace

BY MIKE TUCKER » SPEAKER/DIRECTOR, FAITH FOR TODAY



## The God We Really Need to Know

**Connie grew up in an atheistic home where God's name was never spoken.** When Connie did think of the possibility that God could actually exist, the god she pictured was harsh, irrational, and irrelevant.

When Connie was 18 she had a falling out with her father. So terrible was the fight that the Connie did not speak to her father for nearly 20 years.

Then Connie received a phone call from the hospital to tell her that her father was in ICU and was not expected to live through the night. Without thinking, Connie cried, "Don't let him die before I get there. I have to ask him to forgive me!"

It was a stormy night and the traffic was terrible. Connie arrived at the hospital just a few minutes after her father had passed away.

Distraught, Connie attempted to drive home, but the combination of torrential rain and a flood of tears

caused her to lose control of her car and spin off the road. Connie was unharmed but absolutely drained. She began to scream at the top of her lungs, "God, I hate you! Why did you let my daddy die?"

To this day Connie insists that she heard an audible voice answer, "Connie, that's the first time you've ever spoken to me and I just want you to know that I love you."

That was the day Connie's picture of God began to change.

In the ancient world people viewed the gods in much the same way as Connie viewed God. The gods were thought to be capricious, self-centered, and volatile. The gods didn't really like people and wanted no contact with them unless it satisfied some selfish desire. The greatest fear for those who lived in that day was that they might in some way offend a deity and thus evoke a response of petulant anger.

But the God of the Hebrews was different. This God was actually concerned about the day-to-day affairs of people and genuinely seemed to like them.

In the book of Genesis God is depicted as creating a gentle and orderly world—a world designed specifically for the wellbeing of people. God tenderly formed the body of man out of clay and then breathed His own breath, the breath of life, into the nostrils of His new creation.

When John wrote his Gospel, these images were in his mind. He wanted his readers to see that Jesus was the fulfillment of every-

thing written in the Old Testament, so he borrowed the first three words of the book of Genesis to open his Gospel.

John 1:1-3 says "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being."

John tells us that Jesus, "the Word," was "in the beginning with God." And since through Him "all things came into being," the Word could not be a created being, for only God is capable of creating something from nothing. The Word is God!

This God is different from the ancient gods, or even Connie's god, in that He cared enough for people to prepare an entire planet for them. He meticulously crafted every detail of their bodies. And as we discover later in this same chapter, this God chose to live among people in order that He might make the ultimate sacrifice for them.

Today some see God as a cruel tyrant who demands perfection and callously punishes those who fail Him. Others see Him as a trivial being who is obsessed with insignificant details of human behavior while ignoring seemingly weightier issues like the suffering of innocent people.

But John boldly announces that the true God loves us so deeply that He sacrificed His own Son, Jesus, in order that we might experience eternal joys! While this God sees the details of our lives, His major concern is with big issues—the issues of the problem of evil and the salvation of believers—issues so important that God would die to fix them.

Connie sees God differently today. She sees Him as He is revealed through the life of Jesus.

That's the God John knew. He is the God we need to know, as well.



**Mike Tucker** is 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 GRADIE WETMORE

## A Nostalgic Spiritual Roundup

As I looked at the brochure, the words jumped off the page: “Cowboy Camp Meeting 2008—a friendly, down home event filled with unconditional love.”

*This will be a perfectly safe opportunity for my daughter and me to enjoy a weekend together, I thought to myself. No need to mention it’s an Adventist event.*

She knows her Bible better than some pastors, but after a disappointing marriage to an almost minister, she was “cured” of her need for the church of her childhood.

I carefully chose a historic cabin away from the crowds. I planned fun events in the area for her precious, inquisitive, two-year-old, Hayden.

The day finally arrived. We had a grand Friday afternoon delighting Hayden. He enjoyed riding the rubber tire horse next to the meeting arena. Families traveled to the Glen Rose, Tex., campsite from as far away as Tennessee. The Sabbath crowd swelled to five hundred.

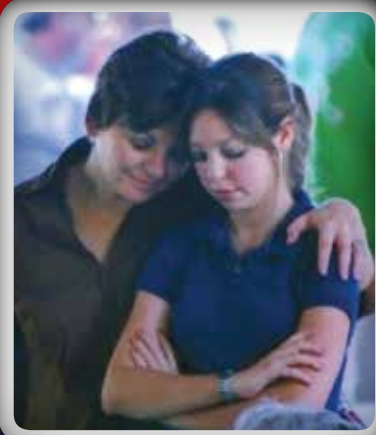
Campsite visitors from the resort were welcomed and enjoyed the traditional “haystack” lunch provided by the Joshua Crossroad Fellowship “Cowboy Church” family. One of the visitors, a great-grandma visiting from Arizona, made new friends when she was invited to share lunch. She didn’t know a lot about Adventists, but this was a friendly welcoming encounter. She was delighted with the program. Another visitor thanked Joshua Cowboy church member, Terry Cagle, for inviting him to join in. He gave an offering to Terry stating, “Get me on the mailing list for wherever I can participate in this kind of spiritual roundup!”

My daughter, as the event drew to a close, reflected, “My sense of nostalgia for my Adventist heritage surprised me. I was blessed by the reunions with old acquaintances long missed by the diversity of our paths.”

The next year a crowd returned anticipating an unforgettable weekend at the Texas Cowboy Camp Meeting. The music of “Seven Mile Road” touched hearts. The Holy Spirit was felt as souls experienced God’s presence. The sun gently set below the horizon at the close of Sabbath. A memory was being etched on the hearts of a couple and a friend who asked to be baptized, giving their lives over to Jesus. This was the crowning moment for the camp meeting weekend. The sky danced in colors and the Sabbath closed

► Cowboy camp meeting is a time to reconnect with God as well as friends and family. The pervasive spiritual atmosphere is part of the reason this camp meeting is called “a spiritual roundup.”

▼ Preaching, music, and drama all help to bring this camp meeting to life.



wrapped in the unconditional joy of Jesus’ unstoppable love.

Camp meetings bring nostalgia for both past, present, and future generations. At the time of the American Revolution, the term *nostalgia* came into use as a cause of the medical condition “melancholia,” which is related to homesickness. Today, nostalgia is often used as an expression to describe warm feelings of childhood or a memory in our past.

It is never too late to experience and make nostalgic moments for ourselves and for others. Old-fashioned cowboy camp meetings give us moments of nostalgia as we experience a taste of heaven in the form of drama and music that swells to heaven’s gates. I am homesick for heaven. How about you?

This year, the Texas Cowboy Camp Meeting will be in Burleson, Tex., at Rustic Creek Ranch on I-35 several miles south of the Southwestern Union office (see p. 11 for details). The “Seven Mile Road” singers will be back, along with the Southern Gospel harmonies of the “Amen Quartet.” Who will you bring to the spiritual roundup for a homesick-for-heaven experience?

**Gradie Wetmore** is the communication director of the Crossroad Fellowship Cowboy Seventh-day Adventist Church

# Visión Hispana

UN BRÉVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE

## Su Invitación al Campestre Familiar Hispano

¡Llegó el momento esperado por todos para nuestro campestre familiar y día de hermandad hispana!

Durante las fechas del 30 de abril al 2 de mayo de 2010, disfrutaremos de un banquete espiritual, recreación para la familia, y seminarios para capacitación, liderazgo, y del ministerio femenino. El campestre se llevará a cabo en el Campamento Lone Star, en 6829 FM 317, Athens, Texas.

Podemos escuchar la voz de Dios más claramente cuando nos apartamos del bullicio de la ciudad y nos concentramos en la naturaleza. Este contacto con la naturaleza nos permite contemplar

a nuestro Creador, familiarizarnos con Él, orar y meditar en sus obras maravillosas, y pensar que un día muy cercano estaremos con él para nunca más separarnos.

¡Ven y disfruta de la linda experiencia de un campestre! Las presentaciones y actividades incluyen las siguientes:

**Orador principal:** Armando Miranda, vicepresidente de la Asociación General

**Orador para los jóvenes:** Helvius Moody, pastor de la Iglesia Fondren

**Devocionales:** Pastor Portes

**Liderazgo:** Pedro Morales

**Música:** Familia Rosario, miembros del grupo Forgiven, Eusebio Díaz, y otros más.



## Campestre hispano de la Asociación Regional

**Cuándo:** 30 de abril al 2 de mayo

**Dónde:** Campamento Lone Star Camp, 6829 FM 317, Athens, Texas

**Orador principal:** Billy E. Wright, presidente de la Asociación Regional; Armando Miranda, vicepresidente de la Asociación General; Helvis Moody, pastor de la Iglesia Fondren Regional

**Comuníquese** al 214-943-4491, ext. 211

Recreación: cabalgar a caballo, esquí acuático, bote de pedal, baloncesto, voleibol, manualidades, fuegos artificiales, y más.

Niños: Participarán de un programa lindo y ameno preparado especialmente para ellos por Jacky Martin.

¡Te esperamos! ¡Será una experiencia maravillosa!

**Kircio Mota**, coordinador Hispano de la Conferencia Regional del Suroeste



# Summer Camp—A Blessing

BY RUSS LAUGHLIN

From my experience as a youth pastor and academy chaplain, I find our summer camp ministries to be a vital piece of our church's evangelistic efforts. The Southwestern Union is blessed to have four unique and beautiful camps. Oklahoma Conference has Wewoka Woods, under the direction of Pastor Geraldo Alonso II. Arkansas-Louisiana Conference has Camp Yorktown Bay on beautiful Lake Ouachita, with Pastor Brandon Westgate as director. Southwest Region Conference has Lone Star Camp, nestled in the tall pines of east Texas. Their new director is Pastor Roger Wade. Nameless Valley Ranch, located on the edge of the

ties, our summer camps offer something much more valuable. Last summer, I had the privilege of being a camp pastor at Nameless Valley Ranch. I was swimming with a group of campers at the lake one afternoon. As we floated in our lifejackets, I asked them what they liked best about camp. I expected to hear them talk about the horses, wakeboarding, crafts, or some other camp activity. Instead, they began to talk about the evening worships. (Our worships were a continued story of Jesus, acted out by the camp staff members.) The campers began to relate how the experiences that the characters in the drama were facing were the same issues they faced in life.

The highlight of camp for those campers was the spiritual programming!

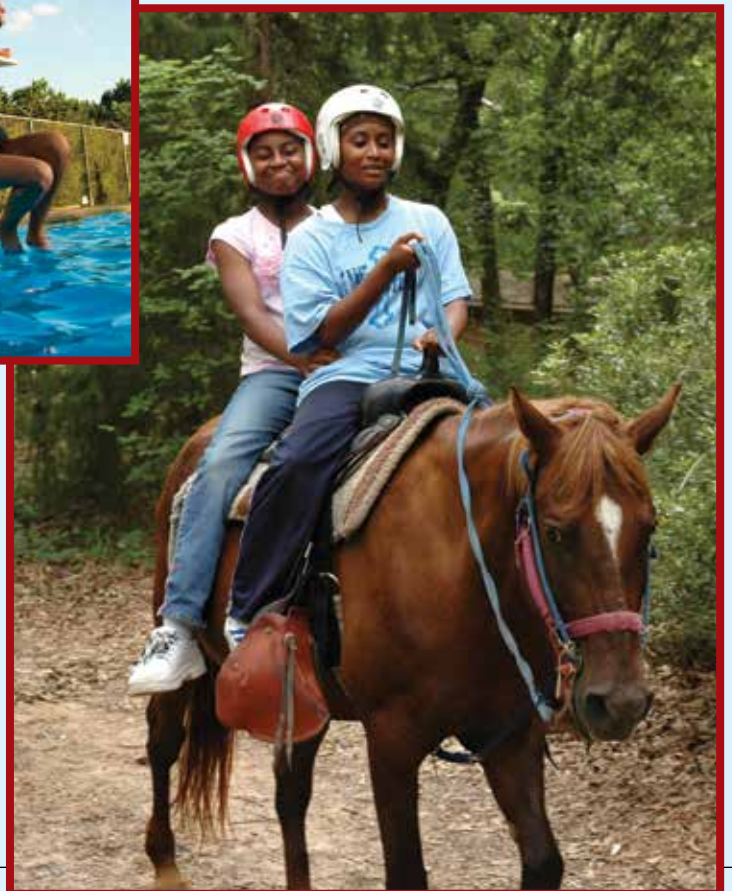
On Sunday evening of teen week, as part of our first evening worship, we mentioned to the campers that there would be a baptism on Sabbath afternoon. We told them to let the camp staff know whether they were feeling God calling them to make that decision. The next evening, I shared an illustration to introduce the evening's theme. While I was talking, a teen camper raised his hand. I thought at first that he was just stretching, so I kept talking. The camper started waving



hill country, is the Texas Conference summer camp, under the direction of Pastor Josue Murillo. All four of these camps and their directors are dedicated to creating a safe and fun setting for the youth of this union to develop a living relationship with Jesus.

I believe that God uses summer camp ministry to bless three specific groups within our union. The most obvious blessing is for the campers. Each summer, thousands of young people across the union attend summer camp. For a week the campers step out of their electronic world of cell phones, TVs, online social networks, iPods, and video games and try new activities in nature, such as horseback riding, wakeboarding, mountain biking, crafts, swimming, and canoeing.

While the campers often come to camp for the fun activi-





# Blessing For Everyone!

his hand, so I paused the story I was telling and asked him what he wanted.

He said, “Pastor, I just wanted you to know that I want to be baptized this Sabbath.” That Sabbath he was baptized along with five other campers, one camper’s parent, and four staff members! What an awesome experience to stand at the pool and hear the campers and staff singing praises to God and then to witness baptisms.

Each of our camps in this union had baptisms as part of the summer camp ministry! Summer camp provides the opportunity for campers to try new activities, make new friends, and develop new skills—all while deepening their relationship with God.

The second group God blesses through summer camp ministry is the camp staff members. Sure, staff members are paid to work at camp, which helps them afford Adventist education. But the blessing that the staff members receive lasts much longer than the paycheck! While working at camp, God develops in them leadership, accountability, persistence, and the recognition of their need to depend on Him. Each summer, several camp staff members are either baptized or re-baptized as their relationship with God grows and deepens. Ministering to campers places the staff on the front line of leading others to Christ. As these staff members go back to school in the fall, they become spiritual leaders at their schools.

At Southwestern Adventist University, we like to have summer camp staff as students!

The blessing God has for summer camp ministry is not only limited to the campers and staff. I believe that it is God’s plan to bless each member of our union as each one of us is involved in summer camp ministry. There are several ways you can be involved in the summer camp ministry around our union.

First, start by praying! Pray for our camp directors—that God would give them the wisdom they need to select and lead the staff that God is calling for this summer. Pray for good weather for the camp program (rainy

days make the schedule at camp difficult). Pray also for the safety of the summer camp staff and campers. And pray that God will send campers to camp so they will fall in love with Him there.

Second, talk with your pastor and church board about which children in your church or community need financial help, and then help raise money so these children may attend summer camp this year. If you have no camp-aged children in your church, contact your conference youth director and ask if there are other children in the conference who may need financial assistance to attend camp.

Third, be personally involved in the summer camp ministry. Contact your camp director and see if there are projects around the camp that you, your family, or church could volunteer for. I have a friend in Louisiana who takes a week off each year to go to Camp Yorktown Bay to reroof the camp buildings. What a blessing he and his family are to that camp. Maybe roofing is not your gift, but you might volunteer to drive campers from your church to camp or back. During camp, you could send the camp staff a letter to let them know that you have been praying for them. Better yet, why not send or deliver homemade cookies to your conference’s summer camp along with that letter, letting them know you’re praying for them. The staff members work hard, and homemade cookies

are a great way to let them know they’re appreciated!

Summer camp was the avenue that God used to call me to be a pastor when I worked at camp. While the days were long and tiring, I could see God working in the campers’ lives, as well as in mine. God has used summer camp to shape and bless my life ever since. I see Him shaping and blessing the lives of my children and the youth of my church family every summer, and believe that He will use summer camp to help shape and bless your life also.

**Russ Laughlin** is the youth pastor at the Keene (Texas) church.





# Summer Camp Schedules

## Camp Yorktown Bay

Camp	Ages	Dates
1/2 Marathon and Staff Week		May 30–June 6
Cub	7–9	June 6–13
Junior	10–12	June 13–20
Tween	11–13	June 20–27
Family	All ages	June 27–July 4
Xtreme Horses, Xtreme Water	14+	June 27–July 4
Blind	All ages	July 4–11
Teen	13–18	July 11–18

*Mountain Pine, Ark.*



**Contact:** For more information, call the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Youth Department at 318.631.6240, or visit [www.campyorktownbay.com](http://www.campyorktownbay.com).



## Lone Star Camp

Camp	Ages	Dates
Teen and Junior	7–16	July 11–25

*Athens, Tex.*

**Contact:** For more information, call the Southwest Region Conference Youth Department at 214.943.4491 ext. 209/210, or e-mail [lscamp@swrgc.org](mailto:lscamp@swrgc.org).

## Nameless Valley Ranch

Camp	Ages	Dates
Cast Practice	–	May 23–30
Staff Orientation Week	–	May 30–June 6
Cub	7–9	June 6–13
Junior	10–12	June 13–20
Tween	12–14	June 20–27
Teen	14–17	June 27–July 4
Discipleship Camp for Teens	14–17	July 4–11

*Leander, Tex.*

**Contact:** For more information, call the Texas Conference Youth Department at 817.790.2255 ext. 201, e-mail [iescobar@txsda.org](mailto:iescobar@txsda.org), or visit [www.texasadventist.org](http://www.texasadventist.org) and click on “Youth Ministries.”



## Wewoka Woods

*Wewoka, Okla.*

Camp	Ages	Dates
Adventurer	7–10	May 30–June 6
Junior	11–13	June 6–13
Earliteen	12–16	June 13–20
Teen Specialty	14–16	June 20–27

**Contact:** For more information, call the Oklahoma Conference Youth Department at 405.721.6110, or visit [www.wewokawoods.com](http://www.wewokawoods.com).



# Camp Meetings 2010

## South Louisiana camp meeting

**When:** April 16–17  
**Where:** South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S. Coburn Rd., Hammond, LA  
**Main Speaker:** Herb Montgomery, Renewed Heart Ministries  
**Contact:** Chris Simpson, 318.631.6240

## South Louisiana Spanish camp meeting

**When:** April 23–24  
**Where:** South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S Coburn Rd., Hammond, LA  
**Main Speaker:** Jose Rojas, director, North American Division Volunteer Ministries  
**Contact:** Robert Eubanks, 504.376.4325

## Southwest Region Conference Spanish camp meeting

**When:** April 30–May 2  
**Where:** Lone Star Camp, 6829 FM 317, Athens, TX  
**Main Speaker:** Billy E. Wright, president, Southwest Region Conference; Armando Miranda, vice president, General Conference; Helvis Moody, pastor, Fondren Southwest Worship Center, Missouri City  
**Contact:** 214.943.4491

## Ozark Family camp meeting

**When:** June 1–5  
**Where:** Ozark Adventist Academy, 20997 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry, AR  
**Main Speaker:** David Asscherick, director, ARISE Institute; Ron Halvorsen, Sr., evangelist  
**Contact:** Gentry church secretary, 479.736.8808

## Southwest Region Conference camp meeting

**When:** June 11–20  
**Where:** Lone Star Camp, 6829 FM 317, Athens, TX  
**Main Speakers:** Marcellus Howard, pastor, Kansas City, Kansas; Dr. Rupert Bushner, chaplain, Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala.  
**Contact:** Marion Ricks, 214.943.4491, ext. 213; mricks@srgc.org

## Texico Conference camp meeting

**When:** June 15–19  
**Where:** Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd St. NW, Albuquerque, NM  
**Contact:** Call 800.749.7851; www.texico.org

## Springtown Cowboy camp meeting

**When:** June 16–19  
**Where:** Springtown Adventist Church, 12444 Fairmont Rd, Gentry, AR  
**Main Speaker:**  
**Contact:** www.springtownchurch.org

## Oklahoma Conference camp meeting

**When:** July 15–17  
**Where:** Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, 36242 State Highway 59, Wewoka, OK  
**Main Speakers:** Dwight Nelson, senior pastor, Pioneer Memorial Church, Berrien Springs, Mich.; Buford Griffith, vice president for ministries, Southwestern Union  
**Contact:** Trevor W. Thompson, 405.919.1656 C

## Northwest Arkansas Spanish camp meeting

**When:** July 16–17  
**Where:** Ozark Adventist Academy, 20997 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry, AR  
**Main Speaker:**  
**Contact:** Robert Eubanks, 504.376.4325

## Ark-La-Tex camp meeting

**When:** July 21–24  
**Where:** Jefferson Christian Academy, 3060 FM 728, Jefferson, TX  
**Main Speakers:** Leighton Holley, president, Texas Conference;  
**Contact:** Robin Tullock, 903.665.3973

## Oklahoma Conference Spanish camp meeting

**When:** July 23–25  
**Where:** Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, 3642 State Highway 59, Wewoka, OK  
**Main Speaker:** Armando Miranda, vice president, General Conference  
**Contact:** Ciro Castillo, 405.213.9009 C

## Texas Cowboy camp meeting

**When:** October 1–2  
**Where:** Rustic Creek Ranch, 2301 S. Burlison Blvd., Burlison, Tex.  
**Contact:** Call 817.426.5037, email rvranch2@aol.com, or visit www.rvranch.com. For reservations call 888.855.9091 and be sure to mention that you're with the Seventh-day Adventists.





## Camp Meeting Today ... Just Like The Old Days

It was Friday afternoon and my family was on the way to camp meeting. It was a little over a hundred miles to drive from Phoenix to Prescott, Ariz. My mother had prepared all the food that we would eat over the weekend and my father had folded up the tarp, rolled up rope, and fixed up what would go in the back floorboard of the car to level off with the seat and make a bed for my brother and me. My parents would sleep on cots under a makeshift tent made with the tarp that would be supported by rope tied between two trees. That was 50 years ago, but the memories are as clear as if it happened yesterday.

Once we arrived on the conference campgrounds, and set up our campsite, my brother and I headed for the junior building while my parents walked over to the large tent where the adult meetings were held. There were always fun activities, great music, and interesting speakers. Besides all that, it was great to be able to connect with friends we hadn't seen over the past year. Once in a while we would step into the huge adult tent and take in a special meeting there, then go back to the junior building.

Those are great memories. I'm thankful that it was a priority for my parents, because it helped make camp meeting a priority for me and my family. Camp meeting was, and still is, a most wonderful time of fellowship and spiritual revival. The children of Israel were invited to come together at least three times a year for holy convocations. Today our camp meetings come the closest to those special meetings. I believe that we as Adventists today should make camp meeting a high priority and not miss the blessings of worship and spiritual renewal for our souls. No opportunity should be lost to renew and revitalize our walk with Jesus and claim again the transforming

power of the Holy Spirit. Camp meeting 2010 will provide just such an opportunity once again. Don't miss it!

Stephen Orian, president

## CI BI at CYB—A Vaccine for Life!

**CAMP YORKTOWN BAY** » I was driving by a Walgreen's a few weeks back when I noticed a sign stuck in the grass outside the store. The sign read "H1N1 vaccines available here." In this age of HIV, STDs, H1N1, IEDs and IVs, we certainly do need to be very careful. But sometimes it seems that we are so concerned about protecting ourselves from the hazards of life that we forget about the welfare of those around us. Further complicating the problem, we often spend more time with the NFL, NBA, MLB, NHL, LSU, NBC, CBS, ABC, HBO, SHO, MAX, than we do the KJV, NKJV, NIV, and NASB. So much so, that we have forgotten about the big picture, even though it is clearer than HDTV.

We are here to show people the Father, by introducing them to the Son. In a moment of inspiration, while driving by

that Walgreens, I thought about my initial reaction to Jesus. I did not instantly fall in love with Jesus simply because I read a few Bible pas-

sages, rather, my love for Him developed because of the love I saw displayed in other Christians.

**CI BI** (see one, be one) will be the theme at **CYB** (Camp Yorktown Bay) this year. Jesus is recorded in Matthew 5:16, saying: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." As Christians we need to make that our top priority. At **CYB** we want **U2C** Him in us so that you will want **2BI2!**

Brandon Westgate, youth director

## Ozark Adventist Academy to Perform Cantata at GC Session

**GENTRY, ARK.** » "What Kind of God?" a cantata composed by Leandro Bizama, will be performed on June 25 to open the General Conference concert series in Atlanta, Ga. Current and former students, Ozark alumni, and all others who enjoy singing



The Ozark Adventist Academy choir will perform a cantata on June 25 to open the General Conference concert series in Atlanta.

are invited to participate in this stirring choral depiction of Christ's Passion. If you are interested in participating, please contact Mr. Bizama at [musicatozark@yahoo.com](mailto:musicatozark@yahoo.com). Ozark students will stay through the second weekend of GC to participate in many other musical events.

Bryan Yeagley



Brandon Westgate,  
youth director



## Patelin Treasures Blind Camp

**CAMP YORKTOWN BAY** » Patelin's cheerful laughter drew me to her as I entered the arts and crafts building at Camp Yorktown



▲ "Making this box has been my favorite. . . . This is my treasure box!" said Patelin, a camper at Camp Yorktown Bay's blind camp.

▶ A blind camp attendee pets a baby Raccoon at Camp Yorktown Bay.



Bay. She held an inquisitive, yet pleased expression and I wondered what made her glow. She was seated with a screwdriver in one hand and held a sanded piece of oak in the other.

"This looks like fun—what are you making?" I inquired while pulling up a metal chair.

"It's a box. You want to see it?"

I ran my fingers over the smooth oak Patelin was working with and watched her screw the final piece of the box together with the guiding hand of her instructor.

"I'm done—I'm done!" she sang. "Making this box has been my favorite."

Later in the week I visited Patelin's cabin. Wanting to show off her finished box, she felt around, and under her bed, finally located the freshly-painted box. "This is my treasure box!" she exclaimed. Pulling the blue lid off the top, she showed off her carefully stored items: her camera, a bracelet, and a half-eaten candy bar she had purchased at the camp store.

"I have never ever been to camp before. My parents were so excited when they found out I could come." Patelin finished gathering her items and happily placed them back in her box.

"Guess what?" Patelin continued. "Camp was fun. I just have to come back next year!"

**Kortnye Hurst**

## OAA Students Recognized for Academic Achievement

**GENTRY, ARK.** » The mission of Ozark Adventist Academy is "to prepare each student for the future through spiritual growth opportunities, excellent academics, workplace experiences, and positive social interactions in an emotionally and physically safe environment." The Lord has richly blessed Ozark Academy in each of these areas. This year, Ozark Academy received special recognition for academic excellence.

At a reception in the State Capitol's Supreme Court room in Little Rock, on January 14, 2010, Dr. Charity Smith of the Arkansas Department of Education presented the "2009 College Readiness Award" to representatives from 38 Arkansas high schools, including Ozark Adventist Academy. This award was developed by the Arkansas ACT Council, to recognize Arkansas high schools that have maintained or increased the number of students taking the ACT Assessment over the past five years, and that have increased the school's average ACT score by at least one point.

The ACT Council sponsors the awards program in order to raise awareness of the efforts of Arkansas schools that **MORE** »

▼ Arkansas State Senator Kim Hendren acknowledges the academic achievements of Ozark Adventist Academy staff and students. He is pictured with Sara McGuire, teacher and test coordinator at OAA.

▼ The Arkansas State Capitol, where representatives from Ozark Adventist Academy were presented the "2009 College Readiness Award."



are making significant progress toward college preparation. Arkansas state Senator Kim Hendren (Arkansas 9<sup>th</sup> District) was one of several state congressional leaders who were present to recognize and encourage academic excellence among Arkansas schools. Senator Hendren expressed appreciation for the academic achievement efforts made by students and staff at Ozark Academy, which is located within his district.

"The Arkansas ACT Council wants to recognize those high schools that have made significant strides in increasing the college readiness of their graduates as demonstrated by their ACT score increasing over time," said Karen Pennell, assistant vice president and regional manager of the ACT Council. "This can only happen as a result of the commitment of teachers, students, parents, and the high school administration to increase college readiness. We applaud the efforts of those 38 high schools in Arkansas [including Ozark Academy] that achieved this superior level of accomplishment."

**Mike Dale**, principal

## Conference-wide Bible Bowl Selects Winners

**SHREVEPORT** » The Pathfinder Clubs in Arkansas-Louisiana finished their area Bible Bowls and the five winning clubs met at the Shreveport South church for the final Bible Bowl on Sabbath afternoon, February 27. With Lloyd Clapp, conference Pathfinder director, presiding, Steve Orian, conference president, served as quizmaster as Jim Sweena flashed the questions on the board. Designated club members brought their answers on paper to the judges. The young people were quick and decisive.

Arkansas-Louisiana is in the third year of a five-year pilot program to present the Bible Bowl with 30 Bible studies designed around the key doctrines of the Seventh-



The Bonnerdale Braves Pathfinder Club won the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Bible Study Bowl, held at the Shreveport South church.

day Adventist Church. Each year the Pathfinders study six pertinent Bible topics and are quizzed on all aspects pertaining to their study. This year Pathfinders studied "Where Are the Dead?" "Punishment of the Wicked," "The Meaning of Hell," "Bible Plan for the Support of God's Work," "Bible Temperance," and "The Most Wonderful Prophecy in the Bible." These Bible lessons were written for the Pathfinders by Michael Salzman, who has been in Pathfinder leadership for many years.

The five clubs who won regional first place were the DeQueen Pioneers, Springdale Lions, Baton Rouge Red Sticks, Bonnerdale Braves, and the Fort Smith Cougars. In the final tally we had one in third place, three in second place, and the Bonnerdale Braves won first place in the conference. As Lloyd Clapp likes to remind us, "When we study the Bible, we are all winners!"

**Sylvia Downs**, Ark-La Conference Pathfinder secretary

## Churches Help With African Well Project

**DENHAM SPRINGS/GONZALES, ARK.** » How far would you walk to get a drink of water? That is the question that was asked of the congregation as they sat in the pew in church and watched a *Maranatha Mission Stories*

video. The video told of Prestilina, a woman who lives in Mozambique, Africa. She walks 45 minutes one way, every day, to get water for her family. She would carry about six gallons on her head, and this provided water for her entire family, about 20 people.

The Denham Springs and Gonzales churches decided they could help. The two congregations set out to raise the money to build a deep water well in Mozambique, Africa. The goal was set in August of 2009 to raise \$5,000 by January 1, 2010.

God's people stepped out in faith and gave, and God provided the goal very quickly. The goal was surpassed just before Thanksgiving, in the midst of the Thanksgiving food basket drive. As planned, the churches celebrated at a district meeting with a full church and an impressive potluck lunch.

**Jennifer Kepper**



The Denham Springs and Gonzales churches celebrated reaching their goal to raise \$5,000 for the Mozambique water wells project.



## Summer Camp Touches Lives for Eternity

One of the most important ministries for kids and youth (ages 7-18) is summer camp ministry. Where else do you find a program that has kids focusing on Jesus all week long? A program in which there is little or no outside (worldly) interference. No television. No Facebook. No movies. No text messages. No garbage!

During this one-week experience, our young people are able to come in contact with our Creator through nature, through spiritual programming, through recreational programs, and most importantly, through the relationships they foster with our summer camp staff. Summer camp staff are so influential on our young people that many of the relationships that

develop at our camps continue after the campers return home. After each summer camp season, many of our staff receive large numbers of "friend requests" through the many popular social networking sites found on the Internet.

If you need more evidence to chart the significance of summer camp ministry, let me share a couple of findings that were made by the John Hancock Center for Youth and Family Ministry. Through extensive research and surveys, they found that 81 percent of young people who have attended Adventist camps have made a decision for Christ. Another interesting finding was that former summer camp staff often choose to serve the church in various capacities: 31 percent as teachers, 27 per-

cent as conference administrators, 12 percent as pastors, 9 percent as youth pastors, eight percent as conference workers, five percent as church workers, four percent as young adult pastors, and four percent in other capacities.

Summer camp is not just about FUN. Yes, we do specialize in bringing smiles to the faces of our young people through such activities as wakeboarding, horseback riding, archery, canoeing, model rocketry, and a variety of other activities! But our mission is this, to bring our young people into the realization that Jesus is of the utmost importance in their lives. I am a product of summer camp ministry and I am asking you to continue your support of our summer camp efforts as we endeavor to bring our young people into a closer walk with our Savior.

**Geraldo A. Alonso II**, Oklahoma Conference Summer Camp director



**COURAGE, PEACE & GRACE!**  
(Philippians 1:12-14)

Camps (Cost per week):  
**Adventurer Camp** (\$240.00)  
**Junior Camp** (\$240.00)  
**Earlteen Camp** (\$240.00)  
**Teen Speciality Camp** (\$240.00 + Speciality Cost)

May 30 - June 6  
 June 6 - June 13  
 June 13 - June 20  
 June 20 - June 27



## Bible Workers

**OWASSO** » The Three Angels church in Owasso was in need of a Bible worker, so we made it a matter of earnest prayer. We asked for only one Bible worker, but the Lord blessed us with, not one, but two!

Joseph Carty joined us in January. Joseph is a graduate of the Amazing Facts Center of Evangelism (AFCE). He spent time working in the country of Albania for Adventist Frontier Missions, followed by some time working with a church in Arkansas.

John Carcano joined us in February of this year. John also graduated from AFCE, followed by a mission trip to the country of Belize. John has a thrilling testimony of how God rescued him from a life completely devoid of



God to a life filled with service for Jesus.

On February 13, Joseph and John were dedicated to the service of God. We are very happy to have these two young men as a part of our church family. They are excited to be involved in giving the message of present truth to the communities around our church. We are thrilled to see their dedication and willingness to give their lives in service for Christ.

Joseph and John have plans to get the whole church involved and active in outreach in the community and in reclaiming missing members.

Time is very short and Jesus is coming soon. We must work now while we can to get the message out.

*Nelita Martin*

## Food Bank Building Gets New Roof

**SHATTUCK** » Because of winter storm damage to the roof, especially over the past two winters, we had no choice but to replace the roof of the gym at the building which formerly housed Shattuck Junior Academy. Even the brick walls were leaning outward 2-3 inches. This building was constructed in the late 1940s of wood from army barracks. The men of the church and a few others made trips down to Amarillo



▲ Top: Bible workers Joseph Carty (right) and John Carcano recently joined the Three Angels church family and have already begun to get the church involved in community outreach.

▲ Bottom: A dedication service was held on February 13 at the Three Angels church in which Joseph Carty and John Carcano, the church's new Bible workers, dedicated their lives in service to God.

► Wesley Herber, Jake Herber, and Elder Reinhold Patzer at the re-construction site of the old Shattuck school, which houses the church's food bank, kitchen, fellowship room, and gym. New trusses and a new roof put the building back into operation for ministry.





in their wheat trucks on Sundays for many weeks to first, tear down the barracks, and then load the wood and bring it back. This is how the Shattuck Junior Academy was constructed.

As the photos show, the entire roof of the gym was removed, along with the trusses. A huge support wall to keep the walls from collapsing was built down the center of the gym by men from the local church. The trusses were replaced before the roofing company could begin the job of totally reroofing the building. This building now houses the Ellis County Food Bank (which is sponsored by our church), the kitchen, the fellowship room, and the gym. Every two weeks our food bank packs around 150 boxes to be given away to the needy of Ellis County. We are grateful for this building, which serves as a center for ministry and fellowship.

## A Wedding at Summit Ridge

**SUMMIT RIDGE »** Charles Gordon and Cherie Walls were married, Sunday, February 14, 2010, at the Summit Ridge church. Charles worked with the Oklahoma Conference in the



▲ Charles Gordon and Cherie Walls were married, Sunday, February 14, at the Summit Ridge church.

development of the Summit Ridge Retirement Village in the 1970s and has lived at Summit Ridge since its beginning. Cherie worked in several capacities at the Wolfe Living Center at Summit Ridge for more than 25 years. Last year Cherie participated in a series of Bible studies and was baptized on January 2 this year.

Both Charles and Cherie have previously lost their spouses and the Summit Ridge family is so happy the Lord brought this couple together. Of course, being a retirement center, we are accustomed to having a number of funerals. It was so refreshing for our community to witness a wedding.

Betty Reynolds

## Praise God For a Full Parking Lot!

**MIDWEST CITY »** In the first month of 2010, our church was blessed to witness three baptisms by Pastor Matthew Debrah. Both Georgia Harjo and Lorene

Gregory were baptized on the second day of the new year and on January 23, Pastor Debrah baptized Dale Richard. The Midwest City church welcomed Sharon Calbaugh into fellowship just four months earlier, on September 23, 2009.

Just last year, the Midwest City church building was placed on the market to sell and it seemed that our few remaining members would be moving to other churches. Obviously, our Lord had other plans for the church. The Midwest City Spanish church joined us, holding services in the new fellowship hall. They have experienced considerable growth, and attendance at the English church has tripled in the past few months. Praise God for a full parking lot on Sabbath where just one year ago, there were only a handful of cars. God is so good!

Peggy Devenish

▼ Attendance at the Midwest City church has tripled over the past few months, thanks to several baptisms and the presence of the Midwest City Spanish church, whose members worship in the same building.





## God-encounters 2010

Do you want to have a deeper experience in your journey to the kingdom? If so, please come and join us for *Camp Meeting 2010* at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex. This promises to be one of the best camp meetings to date. Come and enjoy your *God-encounters* in the quietness and solitude of the piney woods of East Texas where you can still hear the small, still voice of God speaking to you. Come and let God lead you along the shorelines of the peaceful and tranquil waters of Echo Lake, where you can still hear His voice saying, "This is the way, walk ye in it."

*Camp Meeting 2010 convenes June 11 and continues through June 20.* Please make your plans now to be there, and make your reservations today! Space is limited.

Our theme will center on the *Temple of God*. Our focus will be on the living temples, which we are, and on the literal sanctuary in heaven, of which Moses saw the pattern.

The Messiah's Mansion, a full-scale replica of the Mosaic sanctuary, will be on display during camp meeting; it is as large as the one you would have seen had you been alive in the days of Moses! *The Sanctuary will be on display from June 11–June 20, 2010.* It promises to be the experience of a lifetime and a special treat for all. Daily tours will be conducted by the staff of Messiah's Mansion.

As we enter into the last days, we are admonished to fix our eyes and minds on the sanctuary. To assist the members of God's church in doing this, we are bringing the sanctuary replica to the camp meeting.

My favorite author shares that, "As a people, we should be earnest students of prophecy; we should not rest until we become intelligent in regard to the subject of the sanctuary, which is brought out in the visions of Daniel and John. This subject sheds great light on our present position and work, and gives us unmistakable proof that God has led us in our past experience. It explains our disappointment in 1844, showing us that the sanctuary to be cleansed was not the earth, as we had

supposed, but that Christ then entered into the most holy apartment of the heavenly sanctuary, and is there performing the closing work of His priestly office, in fulfillment of the words of the angel to the prophet Daniel, 'Unto two thousand and three hundred days; then shall the sanctuary be cleansed.'

"Our faith in reference to the messages of the first, second, and third angels was correct. The great waymarks we have passed are immovable. Although the hosts of hell may try to tear them from their foundation, and triumph in the thought that they have succeeded, yet they do not succeed. These pillars of truth stand firm as the eternal hills, unmoved by all the efforts of men combined with those of Satan and his host. We can learn much, and should be constantly searching the Scriptures to

see if these things are so. *God's people are now to have their eyes fixed on the heavenly sanctuary, where the final ministration of our great High Priest in the work of the judgment is going forward,—where He is interceding for His people*" (Review and Herald, Nov. 27, 1883).

Friend, study the subject of the sanctuary in depth before you come to camp meeting, and upon arriving, prepare to have a God-encounter in His full-scale replicated sanctuary on the hallowed grounds of Lone Star Camp. Your understanding and visualization of the sanctuary will never be the same.

Bring your families and friends to camp meeting so that they can connect in a social and spiritual setting with "down time," where they can be reflective, enjoy fun times, and come together to study, sing, pray, and give praises to God's Holy name! See you at Camp Meeting 2010. Love you!

**Bill Wright**, president

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

## God-encounters 2010

### Southwest Region Camp Meeting

**Camp Meeting Speakers:**

**Sabbath, June 12:** Elder Marcellus Howard, pastor, Central States Conference, Kansas City, Kansas

**Sabbath, June 19:** Dr. Rupert Bushner, chaplain, Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama

**Camp Meeting Theme:** "Lord, Let Me Be A Living Sanctuary for You"

**Conference Theme:** "Sow a Seed, Reap a Soul!"

**Location:** Lone Star Camp  
6829 FM 317  
Athens, Texas 75752

**Contact:** Marion Ricks, 214.943.4491, ext. 213; mricks@swrgc.org





# Fun at Lone Star Camp!

**LONE STAR CAMP** » Horsemanship, archery, jet skiing, and swimming are among the many activities kids enjoy each summer at Lone Star Camp. When school is out, many kids find themselves wondering what will they be doing. At Lone Star Camp, kids are never at a loss for wholesome activities that they can experience along with their friends, in a safe and enjoyable environment.

For two to three weeks each summer Lone Star provides a safe haven for learning new skills and making new friends—friendships that last! Campers, ages 7 to 16, live in cabins with kids of similar ages while enjoying all the supervised activities the camp offers! The balanced Christian programming includes outdoor activities, such as hiking, swimming, sports, and games, plus arts and crafts and nature awareness.

Lone Star Camp, situated near Athens, Tex., showcases 268+ acres of beautiful East Texas pines with a beautiful 40-acre lake fed by an underground stream that offers an atmosphere to explore your relationship with Jesus and fellow campers. There are trails for hiking, biking, and horseback riding.

This year Lone Star Camp plans to provide each camper a unique experience in which they will increase self-confidence and self-esteem, make new friends, learn more about Jesus, and take part in fun

activities. The staff of Lone Star Camp is ready and excited to provide the best summer camp experience ever! For an application or more information, you can call 214.943.4491, ext 209/210. Or you can e-mail [lscamp@swrgc.org](mailto:lscamp@swrgc.org).

**Roger Wade**, Southwest Region  
Conference youth director

▼ Summer camp attendees enjoy water activities on beautiful Echo Lake, which is just one part of the expansive and exciting Lone Star Camp experience.





## Baptisms in Palestine

**PALESTINE, TEX.** » On November 7, 2009, at the New Life church, Pastor Stiggers gave baptismal vows to those who were prepared to go into the watery grave of baptism through the united efforts of

church ministries director Namon Latson and his wife, Brenda.

After a two-week evangelistic series conducted by Oscar Lane at the Palestine Civic Center, more than 200 people learned about the Sabbath and took their stand for the truth. New Life children's ministries coordinator Vernescia Fuller conducted

children's Bible study classes during the meeting and four children were baptized as a result. Thirty-four people were baptized at our first baptism and an even greater number at our second baptism.

The highlight of the day was the baptism of Creola Waters, the 87-year-old mother of our head deacon, Ronald Sweet, who testified of her healing and how blessed she was to receive the truth about the Sabbath and other truths that led her to embrace the Three Angels' Messages. The Lord be praised!

**Norman Stiggers**, pastor



◀ Oscar Lane recently conducted a two-week evangelistic series in Palestine, Tex. Thirty-four people were baptized at the Palestine New Life church's first baptism following the meetings, and an even greater number were baptized at the church's second baptism.



### Creative Ministries Training

**Go Fish – Creative Arts Training For Child Evangelism**  
**May 14-16, 2010**

Classes will be offered toward the NAD children's Ministries Certification in:  
**Puppetry – Drama and Clowning**

**Registration Fee:**

Includes:	Ministry Start-Up-Kit – Food and Lodging on Camp Ground
Before:	April 8, 2010 - \$125.00
After:	April 9, 2010 - \$150.00

**ACMA Membership:**

Purchase membership before April 8, 2010- \$99.00	Purchase membership after April 9, 2010 - \$125.00
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**Hotel Accommodation:**  
 Reservation Hotline #866-538-0154  
 Contact: Jackie Martin 214-943-4491

**Camp ground Location:**  
**Lone Star Camp 6829 J.M.317 Athens, Texas 75752**

## siembra una semilla: cosecha un alma



**Billy E. Wright**  
 Presidente Asociación Regional del Suroeste



**Armando Miranda**  
 Vice Presidente Conferencia General



**Helvis Moody**  
 Pastor, Fondren SW Worship Center



**Eusebio Diaz**



**Familia Rosario**

**lone star camp athens, tx**  
 214.943.4491

# campestre familiar

(treinta) de abril - (dos) de mayo





## Summer Camp: A Spiritual Adventure for Kids

I sincerely wish we could run “The Journey” summer camp all year long!

Among all the fantastic youth ministries we coordinate in Texas, there is no doubt in my mind that “The Journey” is the perfect opportunity to minister to our young ones by putting them in contact with nature and by providing them with positive role models in a spiritual environment.

Ellen White wrote: “In the natural world, God has placed in the hands of the children of men the key to unlock the treasure house of His word. The unseen is illustrated by the seen; divine wisdom, eternal truth, infinite grace, are understood by the things that God has made. Then let the children and youth become acquainted with nature and nature’s laws. Let the mind be developed to its utmost capacity and the physical powers trained for the practical duties of life” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 188)

Our goal in Texas is to provide a natural, safe environment in which God can reach the hearts of our youth. We call our summer camp “The Journey” because it’s a spiritual adventure! Even though diverse fun activities, honors, and useful classes are extremely important, summer camp in Texas revolves around spirituality.

“The Journey” is intentionally designed to set the stage for God’s Spirit to work. Our daily prayer every morning is to reflect Jesus to our campers in every word and action, and my eyes have seen a clear answer to our prayers over and over.

If you have not given your children the privilege to attend Nameless Valley Ranch, picture this: What do you think might happen if you were to allow your children to be away from all distractions for a whole week just to focus on healthy activities? What might happen in their hearts if they were to be separated from

their cell phones, iPods, video games, TV, and other bad influences while their minds are intentionally pointed to Jesus Christ? Think about it!

“The Journey” summer camp is also a precious opportunity for staff members. Aside from being able to minister and receive some money for school, it provides a challenge to surrender all and develop a constant dependence on the Lord. We all know little eyes are observing, and their lives will be changed by our behavior.

I’ve witnessed amazing stories of transformation and hope among both campers and staff. Last summer we had the privilege to baptize 18 participants during summer camp! As one wise parent declared: “NVR is the place where the Holy Spirit takes vacation.”

Meditate on this: “Children need to be given lessons that will nurture in them courage to resist evil. Point them from nature to nature’s God, and they will thus become acquainted with the Creator. How can I best teach my children to serve and glorify God?—should be the question occupying the minds of parents. If all heaven is interested in the welfare of the human race, should not we be diligent to do all in our power for the welfare of our children?” (*Child Guidance*, p. 49)

“The Journey” summer camp at NVR lasts only a few weeks. Don’t miss it!

Josue Murillo, youth ministries director

## Waxahachie Reaches to the Community

**WAXAHACHIE** » The Waxahachie Spanish church’s women’s ministries group, under the leadership of Ana Cadena, worked very hard and with lots of love to prepare bags requested by the conference women’s directors to give to children of the battered women’s home. These ladies enjoyed working and sharing their time and love for these dear little ones. Even though they are a small group, they were able to prepare 15 bags.

In addition, our church, under the leadership of the lay activities department, had a mini Thanksgiving Week of Prayer. Former pastor Ruben Gandia was invited to conduct the prayer week, which was indeed a rich blessing for young and old. Pastor Gandia invited everyone to write a letter of encouragement, love, and hope to the cancer patients that he ministers to at his place of work. The church also lovingly prepared a package of goodies for the patients.

Esther Lawson

▼ The Waxahachie Spanish church’s women’s ministries group prepares 15 bags to give to children in a battered women’s home.



## A Surprisingly Enriching Experience

**ALVARADO** » Are you looking for an enriching experience, but haven't quite found it yet? Look no further. Prison ministry is waiting for you. Ask some members of the Alvarado church who have had the experience—such as Bernard Adams, Danny Hance, Donald Hines, Dwight Taylor, and Tom Bradsahw (just to name a few). They may have had a bit of anticipation, but every one of them has left blessed, strengthened, and energized (not to mention enthusiastic!).

Each Sabbath the men at the Boyd Unit receive a blessing from Sabbath School and church, which includes a mission story and song services. Averaging 20–25 men each Sabbath in attendance, it is apparent these men love to sing hymns because they could almost raid the rafters with their singing! It also is inspiring to listen to the Sabbath School lesson discussion.

It is obvious they have a yearning to learn the truth. Many of these men are baptized members of the Alvarado Seventh-day Adventist Church, who look forward to the day when they will be greeted by the warm people of the church they have embraced. Some men have already been released and

are actively serving in the church they have grown to love.

It's a two-and-a-half hour drive to Teague, where the Boyd Unit is located, so it takes dedication to be part of the volunteers who go the distance so these men can have Sabbath School and church from 12:30 to 3:00 p.m. each Sabbath. More and more members of the Alvarado church are discovering that by giving of oneself, one receives ten-fold in return. We never know how acts of kindness or a showing of interest can impact someone else's life, or even our own, until we do it.

**Jay Yeates and Cindy Lieske**

to visit Filial, a community in need in Nuevo Laredo.

Opening the day with a special service, we sang and preached. After a one-hour program, we started giving away new toys. Kids and adults were happy with the event. We thank the Lord for giving us the opportunity to help others and we encourage youth organizations to get involved in community programs.

Thanks to volunteers and the support of our churches in Laredo, we blessed about 300 kids. The same day our group of volunteers stopped by an orphanage and gave away 50 new toys. May God bless our churches and our mission.

**Ervin Ortiz, pastor**

## Laredo Churches Share Gospel and Toys in Mexico

**LAREDO** » A group of youth from the Laredo Spanish and English churches organized a special "Toys for Kids" program. Volunteers collected money and toys, and on Sunday, December 13, they crossed into Mexico



Members of the Alvarado church are experiencing a true blessing through their prison ministry program.



▲ Top: Youth volunteers from the Laredo Spanish and English churches share a special program and deliver toys to Filial, a community in need in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

▲ Bottom: Children in Mexico benefit from the Toys for Kids program, organized by youth from the Laredo Spanish and English churches.



## Faith Community Holds Men's Day

**GARLAND** » Faith Community church had already held its Women's Day program as well as a Children's Day. The Pathfinders and Adventurers had already performed. Even the youth had had their day. Finally, on the last Sabbath of January, 2010, the men, under the leadership of men's ministries director, Trevor Connel, held a Men's Day event.

Beyond the usual male presence in the pulpit on any given Sabbath during divine worship, January 30 was a special tribute to the men of the church as they led the congregation to worship God in spirit and truth. From the beginning of the divine hour, which is devoted to praise time, the men taught the congregation a new song. The children's story was told by one of the men, with help from a little one. Special music was a blessing and an extra treat, featuring the seldom-heard men's choir. While they sang a spiritual rendition of "I Am a Man," a slide show of photos of all of the males in the church played on the screen behind them. Also, there was more special music by a father on guitar, along with his two sons.

The congregation was extra blessed because, rather than having one pastor preach, there were two speakers: Javier Cruz and Byron Payne. The former spoke about God's love and the latter spoke on "Men of Integrity." To conclude the wor-

ship service, the men's choir sang again and there was a dedication prayer for the men who came forward to be men of God, men of integrity. At the conclusion of the service, there was a delicious lunch served for members and their guests.

January 30, 2010 at Faith Community church was what many call a "high day in Zion." We appreciate what the new men's ministries department does for our church and look forward to more occasions like this one.

Rodnez R. Small

## Lifestyle Classes Bring Positive Changes

**GRANDVIEW** » "The greatest challenge of Western medicine is to educate and motivate patients to adopt a healthier lifestyle."— William Castelli, M.D., former director of the Framingham Heart Study

Several local Grandview churches teamed up to sponsor a four-week micro Cardiac Health Improvement Program. After taking the CHIP classes myself, I realized that no one can go through this program and remain the same. The program taught participants not only ways to improve their health, but how to actually extend their life expectancy through exercise, nutrition, and other lifestyle changes. On the last night of the classes, everyone

had a positive story to share. Some had lost weight, others had overcome serious health issues.

"I've lost eight pounds," says Jonathan.

"I'm back to the weight I was when I first married my wife 47 years ago," says Larry.

But one of the most impressive was Marsha's story. Marsha had been struggling with her weight and diabetes for years. She was on three medications for her type-two diabetes, and trying to control it, but it seemed that she would soon have to start adding insulin injections to her daily routine. She was also on blood pressure medicine and another for her cholesterol, a total of six medicines that only helped maintain control over her health issues, but really did not cure any of her problems.

By the end of the program, Marsha had not only lost weight, but her doctor was able to take her off of all medications. Her blood sugar is now under control, as well as her blood pressure and cholesterol. Again, you cannot go through this program and remain the same.

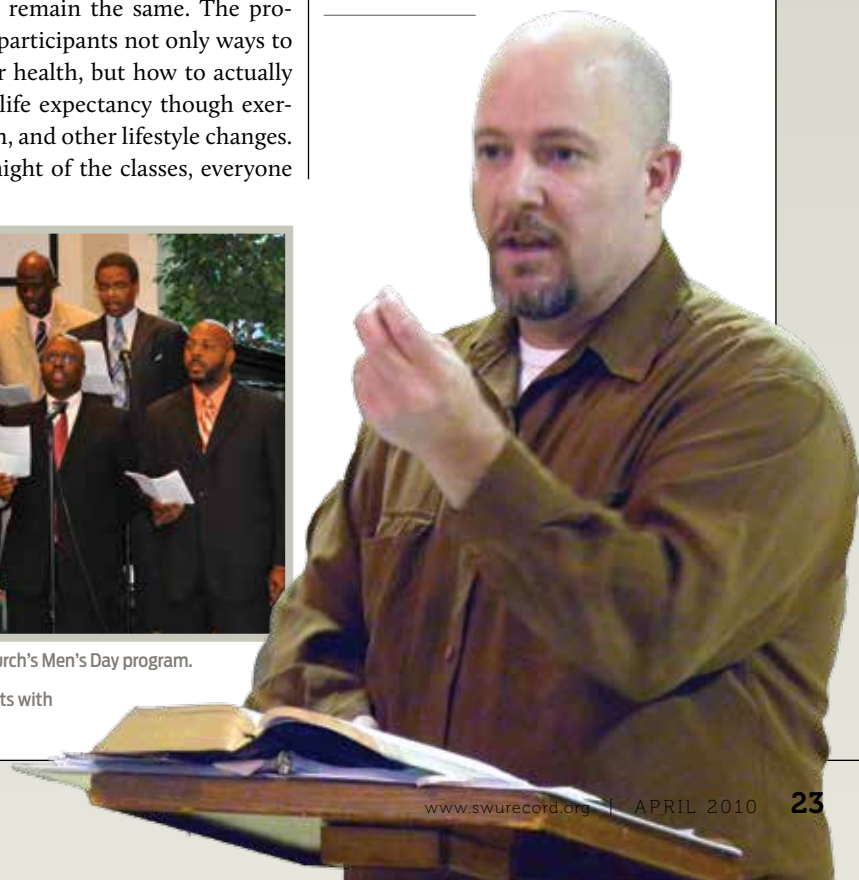
Thanks to the local churches who have helped sponsor this program: the United Methodist Church, the First Baptist Church, and the Grandview Seventh-day Adventist Church, for helping to make a difference in our community.

Jhan Beaupre



▲ A men's choir treats listeners to a performance during Faith Community church's Men's Day program.

▶ Jonathan Armstrong, Grandview church pastor, shares evening worship spots with pastors from the First United Methodist and the First Baptist churches.





## The Love Of The Truth

In 2 Thessalonians 2:10, we read about receiving “the love of the truth.” My question is, “Do you *love* the truth?” Now I am not talking about believing the truth or simply being raised in the truth. I am talking about a radical total love of the message of truth you have received from Jesus.

Occasionally I find Seventh-day Adventists who have attended evangelistic meetings or taken Bible studies and have joined our fellowship because of the logic of the truth and their understanding of the reward of those who reject it. After all, our message is logical and flows from beginning to end. Because they see the logic of the message, they are afraid to do otherwise, but sometimes these people are miserable. Logic can never take the place of love. Happy Seventh-day Adventists love the truth. Christian duty becomes a joy for them.

I’ve found others who have the fortune of being the children of Adventist parents. They, having been raised in the church, have become accustomed to the culture and values that make us a distinctive people. Among these people there are some who like the culture, but do not love the truth. People in this category can also be miserable. It is like having a foot in both worlds, and can be both slippery and uncomfortable. Every person who is fortunate enough to be raised in our culture still has to develop a love of the truth. Culture is not enough. It was true in the time of Christ and it is just as true now. Each of us must have a love of the truth in order to be saved.

Jesus said, “I am the way and the truth and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). This is one of the most radical statements in the Bible. Jesus

categorically states that there is no other religion, no other way to be saved.

In a few weeks we will be celebrating camp meeting here in Texico. It seems to me that the weeklong camp meeting is populated by people who love the truth and cannot get enough of it. I love the truth and I love Jesus. I look forward to being together at camp meeting with those who feel the same. Please join me!

**Jim Stevens**, president

## Kids Learn to “Fish” at Kids Fest

**EL PASO, TEX. »** More than 200 kids and their families from all over the Texico Conference came together at El Paso Junior Academy on February 5 and 6 for the second annual Kids Fest, a program *for* kids *by* kids. The theme this year was “Go Fish!” The children attending were encouraged and taught that they are not too young to “Go Fish” for souls. This invigorating week-end included young guest preachers Alexis Ayala, 11, and Damaris Cortez, 10.

On Sabbath morning participants were

trained in one of the following areas: drama, balloon sculpting, puppetry, face painting, and card making. Southwestern Union representative Francisco Pollock taught all the classes about prayer. The children and parents learned to incorporate their new skills while reaching others for Christ.

After the classes were completed, each child was given a “Go Fish” license by their fishing instructors. Later that afternoon, the children set out to share what they had learned by going into the various communities of El Paso. “Fishing” was done at a shelter for battered women and children, a fire department, a group home for troubled youth, a 24-hour day care, and a nursing home.

Sabbath evening was filled with enthusiastic testimonies of how God worked in the different places visited. At the shelter, some women expressed the desire to receive further study of God’s Word, and in other places, prayers went up, smiles were exchanged, and seeds were planted.

**Melanie Cruz**, Texico children’s ministries director

▼ More than 200 kids attended this year’s Kid Fest at El Paso Junior Academy, where they learned to “fish” for souls in the community.





## Our Church Family Is Growing!

Odessa, Tex. » Members of the Odessa English church were ecstatic on January 9, especially the Muniz family. Originally from Saragosa, Tex., most of the family has now moved to Odessa. Six siblings and their families have accepted the Adventist faith and become members of the church, and they've been praying for the rest of their big family. On this special day, Martin, one of the brothers, and his wife Delia, were baptized by Pastor Abner Razon. This was the culmination of more than a year of Bible studies and two years of attending church, and the result of a myriad of prayers from the church family. Prayer really is powerful and effective. Nikolas Bice, a young man who also has been studying the Bible for more than two years, was among those who were baptized, as well, thanks to the positive influence of our youth. Praise God for all our new members who are already making a difference in our church!

**Pastor Abner Razon**

▼ Members of the Muniz family stood up to show support to Martin and his wife, Delia, who were recently baptized.

## Paid In Full!

**ODESSA, TEX. »** Mike Barrientos, head elder of the Odessa Spanish church, had been praying for a long time for a new church. He and Jaime Berzosa (the youth director) were looking at different properties and together, as a church, we all went to look at a building that was for sale. Mike really liked it, but it was not in God's plans—yet. He kept looking at different properties where we could build a church, but the land was very expensive. Mike continued to pray about it and one day he told us that he thought he had found the right location. When he told us about it, we told him, "Mike you're the one that has been praying about it more than anyone else, so if it's God's will, He will let you know." God answered his and the church

members' prayers by leading them to a property in Odessa off Highway 385.

The church agreed to purchase the land for \$144,000.00, even though we were wide-eyed at the cost, but we decided as a church that we would all help with it. After praying so long we finally got property! The plan was to pay it off and then we could start planning to build a church. We completed the sale of the property in May 2008 and everyone gave what they could to pay down the loan. We are excited and praise God that in December **MORE »**

▼ Fernando Villegas, pastor, Mike Barrientos, head elder, and Jim Stevens, Texico Conference president, proudly display the document showing that the loan on the property for the Odessa Spanish church has been paid in full.



2009, just about a year and a half later, the loan was completely paid off! Pastor Fernando Villegas and Mike decided that the church should have a celebration, so they invited Texico Conference president, Jim Stevens, and his wife, Rita, to join us on January 23, as we shredded our last loan statement showing a ZERO amount. The church is planning to begin construction of the new church later this year. Please keep us in your prayers!

Tina Berzoza

## Lay Pastoral Assistants Train for Ministry

**TEXICO CONFERENCE** » “I think these were the best meetings I’ve ever attended,” one of our new lay pastoral assistant trainees said. The Texico Conference recently hosted the third session of training for the 45 individuals who have been chosen by their churches to complete this training and work toward certification as a lay pastoral assistant in their local area. Pastor Ron Halvorsen has been leading out in this program, which he developed to educate lay people to assist the pastor at their local church. Some of the topics he covered include how to prepare and effectively preach a sermon, how to do visitation, and how to shepherd the church, among oth-

▼ Forty-five people are working toward certification as lay pastoral assistants in the Texico Conference. Pictured are participants in the most recent training session taught by Pastor Ron Halvorsen.



ers. Not only are the trainees required to attend all the sessions (there will be a total of four), but they are being assigned homework at each meeting, which is designed to prepare them for this ministry.

Pastor Halvorsen has a very entertaining way of teaching during his sessions, which holds everyone’s attention. He is a master at illustrating his points with many interesting and relevant stories. The weekend was not only a time of spiritual uplifting and training, but also one of good food, fun, and fellowship. It was such a blessing to have Pastor Halvorsen and his wife, Carol, here with us for these important meetings to equip our lay people for successful ministry. We also want to thank Cathie Workman and her cafeteria staff for providing delightful meals for the participants.

Sue Hinkle

## LJA Students Learn Nurturing Skills

**LUBBOCK, TEX.** » It has been interesting to watch the students at Lubbock Junior Academy (LJA) interact with children of different ages. Sometimes school-age students don’t enjoy having young children around them. But as you watch the LJA students play and talk to younger children, they seem to have a knack for

making them feel important and safe.

The teachers want to help develop this unique gift for working with young ones. Recently, the students began distributing “Quiet Boxes” for use during the church service. Children, ages 3 to 10, can check out one of these boxes, each of which contains pencils, crayons, coloring pages, scrap paper, a lacing card, and a small book. Students take turns checking out the “Quiet Boxes” to children and then check them back in. This gives the LJA students practice communicating and working with young children. Our students are also responsible for keeping each box clean and supplied with any necessary contents.

Who knows? Perhaps the next Mrs. Sox, editor of *Our Little Friend*, or Uncle Arthur, author of *The Bible Story* books, will come from the Lubbock church. Didn’t Jesus say, “Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven”?

Susan Zimmermann, principal

▼ Students at Lubbock Junior Academy fill, distribute, and collect the Quiet Boxes that keep young children busy during the church service.





## Brain Games Brings Top Students to Campus

"I like to describe it as a big game of Clue," says Murray Cox, assistant professor of mathematics. He's talking about Southwestern's science and mathematics departments' annual Brain Games competition that invites top science and mathematics high school and academy students to learn about real-world situations and careers through simulations and hands-on training.

Fourteen high schools and academies competed in the January event, which

## Graduation Speakers

Randy Roberts, Charles Sandefur, and Alex Horton will speak for Southwestern's May Graduation Weekend. See it live on May 7, 8, and 9 at [www.swau.edu](http://www.swau.edu).

focused on epidemiology. University students played the role of patients displaying specific symptoms. Other academic departments lent their expertise in teaching students to perform cultures and conduct patient interviews to discover who and what initiated the epidemic on campus.

Grace Emori, a respected Adventist epidemiologist who works for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, and is a commissioned officer in the U. S.

Public Health Service, spoke to the students about her experience and the important role of health service.

The student team with the highest scores, Midland Adventist Academy, won \$1,000 Southwestern scholarships for each team member. Three teams, Sandia View Academy, Hinsdale Adventist Academy, and Burton Adventist Academy, tied for second place and each student took home a \$750 scholarship.

The high school and academy students also participated in the annual Mathletics Competition, with Shenendoah Valley Academy taking first place and a check for \$1,000 to improve the school's mathematics and science departments.

## Darwinian-educated Creationist to Speak at Southwestern



A student of "the world's most famous Darwinian" will speak for Southwestern Adventist University's Saxon Lecture Series in Science and Religion, according to Southwestern's president, Eric Anderson.

Kurt Wise was an open Creationist as he studied paleontology at Harvard University under the direction of Stephen Jay Gould, a prolific spokesman for evolution. He is now the director of the Creation Research Center at Truett-McConnell College in Cleveland, Ga.

Wise is the author of *Faith, Form, and Time: What the Bible Teaches and Science Confirms About Creation and the Age of the Universe* and *Something from Nothing: Understanding What You Believe About Creation and Why*.

He also contributed to *In Six Days: Why 50 Scientists Choose to Believe in Creation*, in which he states, "I accepted the Word of God and rejected all that would ever counter it, including evolution."

Wise will present "The Floating Forest: A Study in Creationist Theory Formation," during Southwestern's Alumni Homecoming on Saturday, April 10, at 4:30 p.m. in Wharton Auditorium of the Mabee Center on Southwestern's campus.

Other lectures in the series will include Earl Aagaard, on "Why There is No Battle Between 'Creation and Evolution,'" on April 17, and Roy Benton, on "Religion, Science, and the New Atheists" on May 1. For more information, go to [www.swau.edu](http://www.swau.edu) and click on "Calendar," or call 817.202.6202.



▲ Above left: Professor Suzanne Phillips explains cultures to Brain Games participants.

◀ High school students learned about epidemiology while performing patient interviews on student actors during Brain Games.

## Southwestern Education Superintendent Retires

On February 1, 2010, after more than 41 years of ministry to the students and teachers of the Seventh-day Adventist school system, the Southwestern Union bid a fond farewell to education director Douglas "Doug" Walker. Doug chose to retire after a life dedicated to the service of God through Christian education.

Doug began working for the Southwestern Union in April of 1991. He came to the union from Albuquerque, where he served as the education director for the Texico Conference. Prior to that, he was the principal of Sandia View Academy.

Doug's knowledge and expertise coupled with his courage to speak his mind, even when he was in the minority, made him an effective leader and educator.

"I am grateful for having had the privilege of working with Doug for nearly 12 years," states Eunice Warfield, associate director of education. "I am the richer for the hours spent learning at a 'master's' feet and the blessing of gaining a true friend."

Max Trevino, Southwestern Union president, shares, "Doug was a champion of Christian education around the union. His love for Christ, and his desire for sharing Christ with our students was at the heart of all he did while serving our schools. We wish him all the best in his retirement."

"I'm grateful for the opportunity I've had to serve this union for so many

wonderful years," says Doug. "I'd like to say 'thank you' to all of my colleagues and friends who have been so warm and accepting. My prayers are with you all."

Mark Bond with  
Eunice Warfield



## ASI Chapter Meets at Ozark Academy



The ASI Southwest Chapter meeting, held February 11-14 at Ozark Academy, was a spiritual retreat for the members and guests who attended. Featured speaker Steve Wohlberg, director of Whitehorse Media in Newport, Wash., spoke on the importance of being ready for coming events in this hour of earth's history, and on Sunday morning his presentation centered on the popular *Twilight* teen book series that is drawing young people unwittingly into the occult. Attorney David Read, author of *Dinosaurs: An Adventist View*, gave a powerful presentation on Creation and dinosaurs. A highlight of the weekend was the "Members in Action" feature, in which members shared their witnessing experiences and told how they are involved in their local communities and touching lives through Christian media projects, health ministries, and other outreach programs. Exhibitors in the booth area gave people opportunities to obtain resources and products for ministry.

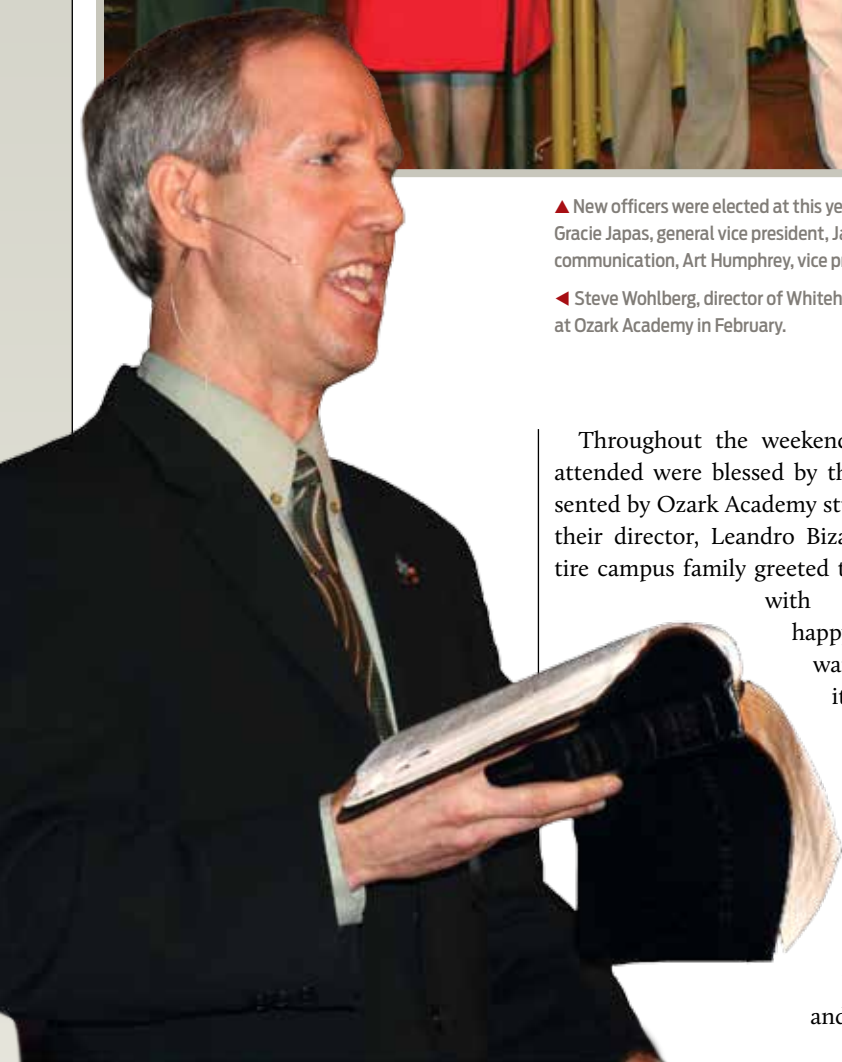
Three worthy projects were featured at this year's chapter meeting, including Lushomo Health Education Centre in Zambia, Africa; Centro Misionero de Salud in Galeana, N.L., Mexico; and the Ozark Academy Music Department. On Sabbath morning, the audience responded generously to the needs, raising approximately \$21,000 in pledges and donations, which will be divided equally among the three projects.





▲ New officers were elected at this year's convention. Pictured (from left) are Floyd Courtney, president, Gracie Japas, general vice president, Jaime Espinal, vice president for evangelism, Chip Doss, vice president for communication, Art Humphrey, vice president for membership, and John Mathews, ASI secretary/treasurer.

◀ Steve Wohlberg, director of Whitehorse Media, was the featured speaker at the ASI Southwest Chapter meeting at Ozark Academy in February.



Throughout the weekend, those who attended were blessed by the music presented by Ozark Academy students, led by their director, Leandro Bizama. The entire campus family greeted the ASI group with open arms, happy faces, and warm hospitality, and many ASI members were impressed by the strong spiritual atmosphere exhibited by students and staff on the

Ozark Academy campus.

ASI events provide members a venue for sharing, networking, and encouraging others to work for God in the workplace, and this year's convention was no exception. For more information about ASI, go to [www.asiministries.org](http://www.asiministries.org).

**Chip Doss**, ASI Southwest Chapter vice president for communication

**ASI**



## 2010 General Conference Session

Atlanta, Georgia | June 23–July 3

The world session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church will bring an international flavor to Atlanta, Ga. “Atlanta is well known for its rich cultural diversity, heritage, and Southern hospitality throughout the U.S.A,” stated Sheri Clemmer, associate session meeting planner for the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This session gathering will be representative of the more than 25 million-strong Adventist families from around the globe, and will meet under a theme of “Proclaiming God’s Grace.”

“Grace is a powerful, living force; it changes and animates us,” says General Conference president Pastor Jan Paulsen. “When God’s grace reaches into our lives—and into the life of our church—it’s impossible to go on with business as usual. It opens our eyes to needs around us; it compels us to go into our communities. By focusing on this theme, we’re acknowledg-

ing that the experience of grace is absolutely central in the life of each believer, and we’re asking: ‘How can we as Seventh-day Adventists reflect more clearly its depth, breadth, and transforming power?’”

The session, to be held June 23–July 3, 2010, is primarily a business meeting for the global church family. Denominational leaders are elected, church business is attended to, and policy decisions are often made. Because the core “business” of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is pro-

claiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ, that challenge will permeate activities at the Atlanta 2010 convocation, Paulsen said.

“Unlike previous sessions, this coming session in Atlanta will be known for its creative use of technology and its strong presence in the media,” says General Conference director of communication Rajmund Dabrowski. “We want the Atlanta community to feel and know that the Seventh-day Adventists are in town, and we are hoping this session will break all records for attendance compared to previous sessions.”

Organized by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, the top administrative body in the church’s worldwide system, the quinquennial world session will be the 59th for the denomination since its first General Conference Session in 1863.

Daily attendance at the event is expected to average more than 35,000 people; on the two weekends, more than 70,000 are expected to attend.

Some 2,000 voting delegates from all over the world will gather at the Georgia Dome in downtown Atlanta to participate in meetings that will determine many of the church’s administrative actions for the next half decade. They will receive reports on the church’s growth in those parts of the world where the Christian message is “reaching the unreached,” and have the opportunity to meet fellow believers and church workers from other lands.

Participants of such world convocations have often favored the international evening programs, which feature reports from all over the world. These reports will be translated into 15 different languages, as well as into American Sign Language for the hearing impaired.

Organizers are planning to use the media to bring the Atlanta 2010 event to viewers of Adventist Television Networks and other communication delivery organizations, including Adventist World Radio. Regular reports will be available to delegates of the session and church believers around the world through the church’s weekly magazine, *Adventist Review*, and the worldwide press coverage of the Adventist News Network.

The meetings are open to the public. More information can be found at [www.gcsession.org](http://www.gcsession.org).



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» There are at least four types of charitable gift annuity (CGA) agreements.

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» The Southwestern Union Conference follows the rates set by the American Council on Gift Annuities.



**Bob and Pat Lawry stand beside their kit car built on a new 1980 Corvette chassis.**

## » The Lord's Work & Retirement

Bob Lawry learned to drive a Model A when he was eight years old, and he has been involved with cars ever since. After graduating from Enterprise Academy in Kansas, he went to Madison College in Madison, Tennessee, and married Pat. They now live in Mena, Arkansas. Their love for each other, and cars, is coupled with their love for the Lord's work.

Elder Ken Simpson, director of planned giving and trust services for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, and I, visited them at their home, which sits in a beautiful Arkansas valley. They have a huge front yard, a garage at the back of the house, and a carport covering their cars.

Through the years Bob has bought, sold, rebuilt and repaired old cars, making money on some and losing it on others. He says that, "Buying and selling old cars is a hobby if you lose money, but a business if you make money." I thought of an old 1971 Corvette I tried to rebuild that turned into an expensive auto body and mechanics course.

"What is your favorite car?" I asked. Without hesitation, Bob said, "It is a Lincoln Continental." "I would love to see it," I said, expecting to see a late model automobile. As we went inside his garage, there were two cars, but neither one looked like a Lincoln to me. "Which one is it, I asked?"

Bob smiled and said, "This is my favorite car, a 1947 Lincoln Continental. I have always wanted a big garage to keep the cars in, so they will stay clean

and out of the weather, but I set up a charitable gift annuity instead. Pat and I decided that making these gifts was a good way to support the Lord's work, and at the same time, provide a good income for our retirement."

Bob and Pat learned about these opportunities through mailers and their local conference trust department. To date, they have set up six annuities and are thinking of setting up more. One of these will someday support the work of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.

Setting up multiple charitable gift annuities is planning for the future with passion. That's what I call "Giving»Forward."

—John Mathews

## Q&A Q: "What is a Charitable Gift Annuity?"

**A:** A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a contract, not a trust. It is an irrevocable transfer of cash, marketable securities, or other property, to the charity that agrees to make a fixed payment to the donor for one or two lives. Annuities are not insurance under state law, not regulated as insurance, or protected by an insurance guarantee fund. Rates paid for each annuity depend on the donor(s) age. The older a person is, the higher the annuity rate. A tax deduction depends on the applicable federal rate (AFR) and the amount given.



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### [EMPLOYMENT]

**Oklahoma Academy,** a supportive ministry of the church, is accepting applications for the following positions: Boys' Dean, Girls' Dean, Accountant/Bookkeeper, and Computer/Science Teacher. Call 405.454.6211 or email [oa@oklahomaacademy.org](mailto:oa@oklahomaacademy.org).

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**Heritage Singers will celebrate their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** on July 2, at 4 PM, during the General Conference 2010 Session in Atlanta, GA. Tickets for this monumental concert are available online at [www.heritagesingers.com](http://www.heritagesingers.com), by phone 530.622.9369 or at the Heritage GC booth #1229, if tickets are still available.

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## Announcements

**CHIP (Coronary Health Improvement Project) Leadership Training,** Keene, Tex., May 20-23, 2010. This workshop is being conducted in partnership with the Southwestern Union and the Texas Conference and is hosted by the Keene Adventist Church at 114 S. Fairview Street. Registration and check-in are Thursday between 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. at the church, with the workshop starting at 7:00 p.m. Thursday in the chapel. From Friday morning at 9:00 am until 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, the workshop meetings will be held in the Keene Senior Center at 207 E. First Street. Early-bird registration ends on May 5. For details about fees, schedule, meals, accommodations, and more, go to [www.adventistchip.org/keene\\_desc.pdf](http://www.adventistchip.org/keene_desc.pdf), e-mail [info@sdaCHIP.org](mailto:info@sdaCHIP.org), or

call 866.732.2447.

**Go Fish Creative Arts Training for Child Evangelism** will take place May 14-16, 2010 at Lone Star Camp. Classes will be offered toward certification in puppetry, drama, and clowning. For more information, contact Jackie Martin at 214.943.4491, and for hotel reservations, call 866.538.0154.

**Jefferson Academy Alumni Weekend,** April 16-18, 2010 in Jefferson, Tex. Speaker will be Pastor Kenny Micheff and musical guests, Forever His. You can contact the academy at 903.665.3973 or alumni president Brenda Hiser Wilson at [brendawilson61@sbcglobal.net](mailto:brendawilson61@sbcglobal.net).

**La Sierra Academy Alumni Weekend,** April 23-24, 2010. Activities: Friday golf tournament, vespers, Sabbath services at LSA gym, class reunions, basketball game. Yearbooks avail-

able for sale. Visit your campus, renew your friendships! Honor Classes: '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05; Contact Alumni Office at 951.351.1445, ext. 244 or e-mail: [lsaalumni@sak12.com](mailto:lsaalumni@sak12.com).

**Lubbock church to celebrate its 90-Year Anniversary** Sabbath afternoon, April 3. The Lubbock church was organized April 5, 1910. If you know, or if you know of anyone who knows interesting history or information about the Lubbock church, please contact Pastor Sven Frantzen, Kim Sias, or the church office at 806.793.8614.

**Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend** (Columbia Union College, Washington Missionary College) April 9-11. Music center groundbreaking, president's banquet, worship services, class reunions, evening concert,

alumni brunch, WAU Family Fun Festival. Honor Classes: '30, '40, '50, '60, '70, '80, '85, '90 & '00. More information: [wau.edu/alumni](http://wau.edu/alumni), [alumni@wau.edu](mailto:alumni@wau.edu), or 301.891.4133.

**Weimar College Alumni Reunion** weekend is April 16-18, 2010. Please call (530) 422-7933 to register. For more information email: [alumni@weimar.edu](mailto:alumni@weimar.edu).

**"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion** will take place June 3-6, 2010, for alumni and warmly-welcomed school-mates of 1960 and earlier, at Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly CLA). Honor classes: 1930, 1940, 1950, 1960. Details will be forthcoming by mail. Also, you may contact the GLAA Alumni Office at 989.427.5181 or visit [www.GLAA.net](http://www.GLAA.net) for further information. Please do pass the good word.

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## Milestones

### [ANNIVERSARIES]

**Jackie and Lester James** were married February 05, 1945, in Corsicana Tex., at the home of Lester's sister, Ruth Cook.



At that time Lester was in the Navy. He was granted a 30-day leave from his ship, which was docked in San Francisco for an upgrade of the radar and artillery systems. He took full advantage of the time and brought Miss Jackie to Corsicana, to meet his mother and sister. All was in place, and they were married. The newlyweds headed back to San Francisco for three weeks. When Lester did ship out, Jackie went to her hometown in Utah. Lester received an honorable discharge on December 31, 1945.

Lester and Jackie were baptized together in 1950, into the Seventh-day Adventist church in Bakersfield, Calif. And here they are, 65 years later, living in the Corsicana area. They are the only two remaining charter members of the Corsicana church. Lester helped build the building that we still meet in today. (Jackie very humbly adds, "There is a long story, but enough for now...")

The two "youngsters" are still very active in the church, attending services, business meetings, and very rarely missing the wonderful fellowship meal each week after church. They are quite an inspiration, and very full of the love of the Lord. We have been truly blessed to have them in our congregation and are proud to call them family! We thank you, Jackie and Lester, for your devotion to the Lord and for your commitment to our congregation. We love you both! Your Corsicana church family!

## Obituaries

**ANDERSON, Craig Kenneth**, born November 6, 1941 in North Bend, Oreg., and died January 19, 2010 in Kent, Wash. He was a member of the Stillwater, Okla., church. Dr. Anderson was an assistant professor at Oklahoma State University during the 1980s. He was known for his love of cars, his humorous stories, and his love of books, and "Grandpa" was one of his favorite names to be called. Survivors: wife, Myrna Fisher Anderson of Kent, Wash.; son, (Pastor) Shane Anderson of New Market, Va.; daughters, Shana Anderson of Ventura, Calif., Stephanie Bossen of Ravensdale, Wash., and Andree Anderson of Portland, Oreg.; three granddaughters.

**BURTON, Pleasant Ray**, born April 28, 1916 in Perkins, Okla., and died January 28, 2010 in

Vinita, Okla. He was a member of the Ketchum church. From childhood Ray had a love for farming and in 1933 was the Star Farmer for Oklahoma. Survivors: wife, Sarah; son, Harold Burton and his wife, Florence, of Cleburne, Tex.; daughters, Betty Brautigan, and Mary Kraft and her husband, Don, all of Vinita; sister, Ruth McKey, and sister-in-law, Francis Burton, both of Stillwater, Okla.; six grandsons, two granddaughters, 10 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth, along with four brothers, Arthur, Ira, Elmer, and Clarence, and a sister, Minnie Bland.

**GREANYA, Harold James**, born January 6, 1918 in Arenac Co., Mich., and died November 17, 2009 in Harrah, Okla. He was a member of the Summit Ridge church. Harold graduated from Emanuel Missionary College and later pursued graduate courses at Illinois State University in special education. A schoolteacher for 33 years, more than half of those years were spent teaching special needs youth. Harold was also an avid gardener. Survivors: wife, Dorothy, of Harrah, Okla., and a niece, Marian Hart, of Battle Creek, Mich.

**GREEN, Curtis Milton**, born May 27, 1915 in Winchester, Ind., and died November 9, 2009 in Del City, Okla. He worked at Hinsdale Hospital in Illinois until 1980 when he retired and moved with his wife to Coalmont, Tenn. In 2002 the couple moved to Summit Ridge Retirement Village. Survivors: wife, Darleen; brother, William of Apopka, Fla.; sisters, Violet McMillan of Marion, Ind., and Billie Jean Kassel of Las Vegas, Nev.

**HALLOCK, Clara Mae**, born March 5, 1929 in Minneapolis, Minn., and died February 18, 2010 in Miami, Fla. A member of the Miami Seventh-day Adven-

tist Church, she was a homemaker and also worked as a nurse's aide and daycare worker. Survivors: husband, Warren Hallock; sons, Duane Hallock and his wife, Carol, of Shawnee, Kans., and Gary Hallock and his wife, Tammi, of Overland Park, Kans.; three brothers, Leland Campbell of Plymouth, Minn., Mearl Campbell of Livermore, Calif., and Melvin Campbell of Riverside, Calif.; five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Floyd, Virgil, and Donald.

**JOHNSON, Loreeta L. (Rita)**, born April 21, 1936 in Springdale, Ark., and died January 16, 2010 in Harrah, Okla. A valued and active member of the Summit Ridge church, she served in the children's Sabbath School division and in other offices. Survivors: husband, Jerry V. Johnson; two stepdaughters, Pamela Grigg of Milwaukie, Oreg., and Michelle West of Tujunga, Calif.; two sisters, Charlene Sneath of Hutchinson, Kans., and Deanna Clifford of Las Vegas, Nev.; four step-grandchildren and nieces and nephews.

**MCGEHEE, Eabert**, born May 26, 1926 in Dawson, Okla., and died December 21, 2009 in Tulsa, Okla. Eabert was a member of the First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tulsa, and was a well-known and respected paint contractor. Survivors: children, David Ray and wife, Michelle, Jerry Lynn and wife, Shaye, and Tammy Dawn and husband, Garry; four beloved grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and numerous brothers and sisters. He was preceded in death by his wife of 50 years, Freda Dilbeck.

**MCMURRY, Elmo Jack**, born July 13, 1918 in Winnfield, La., and died February 7, 2010 in Keene, Tex. A member of the Cleburne church, he served as

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a colporteur in the Arkansas/Louisiana, Florida, and Texico conferences. He also participated in ministerial work in the Alabama/Mississippi, Oklahoma, and Texas conferences for nearly 30 years. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Mickey and Kathie McMurry of McLoud, Okla.; daughter and son-in-law, Cheryl and Dean Allgood of Keene, Tex.; three grandsons and one granddaughter.

**MOORE, W. A.**, born March 1, 1910 in Coolidge, Tex., and died November 29, 2009 in Keene, Tex. He was a farmer and a founding member of the Cleburne church. Survivors: one daughter, Elwyn Lagene Moore of Cleburne, and a host of nieces and nephews, relatives, and friends. His wife, Loree Hadley, preceded him in death on December 31, 2007.

**RANGEL, Eustavo**, born April 17, 1953 in Monterrey, Mexico,

and died December 15, 2009 in San Antonio, Tex. A member of the Edinburg church, he was laid to rest in Pharr, Tex. Rangel served the church as a Sabbath School teacher, deacon, elder, and lay activities director. Survivors: wife, Maria Teresa Rangel of Edinburg, Tex.; sons, Jorge Alberto Rangel of San Antonio; Eustavo Daniel Rangel of San Antonio; daughters, Soraida Mora of Edinburg, Tex., and Brenda Karina Perez of San Antonio.

**REQUENEZ, Rene**, born December 3, 1972 in Edinburg, Tex. and died December 7, 2009 in Edinburg. A member of the Edinburg church, she was laid to rest in Palm Valley Memorial Gardens in Pharr, Tex. Requenez achieved recognition and awards as a member of the Texas Disabilities Commission. Survivors: father, Hermino Requenez, mother, Raquel Requenez, and brother, Hector Requenez, all of Edinburg.

**WALLS, Woody**, born December 25, 1929 in Johnson County, Tex., and died February 6, 2010 in North Richland Hills, Tex. A member of the Joshua, Tex., church, he was laid to rest at Greenacres Memorial Park. Survivors: daughter, Teresa Ritter of Tulsa, Okla.; son, Gayland Walls of North Richland Hills, Tex., 10 grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**WHITE, Shirley**, born May 15, 1937 in Bay City, Mich., and died January 26, 2010 in Flagstaff, Ariz. She was a member of the Miami, Fla., Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, John White; four sons, Don Drummond and his wife, Janet, of Rye, Colo., Steve Drummond and his wife, Libby, of Apopka, Fla., Johnny White, and Kevin White, both of Afton, Fla.; 10 grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.



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### WOLFE, Charles Allan Jr.,

born September 3, 1921 in Baxter Springs, Kans., and died November 8, 2009 in Cleburne, Tex. A member of the Cleburne church, she was laid to rest in Cleburne. Survivors: wife, Joyce Jean Wolfe of Cleburne,

daughter and son-in-law, Penny Moore, and her husband, Bob, of Cleburne; sister, Betty Venturella of Riverton, Kans.; brother, Leland Wolfe of Tulsa, Okla.; three grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.



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	Apr 2	Apr 9	Apr 16	Apr 23	Apr 30	May 7
Abilene, TX	7:59	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:19	8:25
Albuquerque, NM	7:29	7:34	7:40	7:46	7:51	7:57
Amarillo, TX	8:10	8:15	8:20	8:26	8:32	8:38
Brownsville, TX	7:47	7:50	7:54	7:57	8:01	8:05
Dallas, TX	7:48	7:53	7:58	8:03	8:08	8:13
El Paso, TX	7:26	7:31	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:16
Gallup, NM	7:37	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:00	8:07
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:40	7:44	7:49	7:53	7:58	8:02
Gentry, AR	7:41	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:11
Little Rock, AR	7:31	7:37	7:42	7:47	7:53	7:59
Muskogee, OK	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:01	8:07	8:13
New Orleans, LA	7:19	7:23	7:28	7:32	7:37	7:41
Oklahoma City, OK	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:15	8:22
Roswell, NM	7:19	7:24	7:29	7:35	7:40	7:46
San Antonio, TX	7:53	7:57	8:01	8:05	8:10	8:14
Shreveport, LA	7:35	7:40	7:46	7:50	7:55	8:01
Tulsa, OK	7:47	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:17



## Through the Fire

**IT WAS A COLD FEBRUARY NIGHT.** I knelt down by my bed to say my prayers and asked the Lord to protect me through the night. Feeling a chill in the air, I turned on a small space heater at the foot of my bed, and then turned out the light.

At about 3:00 a.m., as strange as it may sound, I felt myself being lifted out of bed. As I struggled to shake off the stupor of sleep, I realized that my bed was on fire!

In a matter of moments, I was standing in front of our home with my mom watching it burn to the ground. It was a three-alarm fire. I cried out to God over and over saying, "It's not fair... it's not fair!"

One of the firemen said that he had never seen a fire so intense that didn't take someone's life! He kept asking if we were certain that everyone got out. We told him that everyone was out except our cat. But miraculously, we later found the cat safe!

Everything we owned was reduced to ashes. You could only see the bottom soles of the new Air Jordan® basketball shoes I had just gotten for Christmas. Everything we owned was gone. There was nothing left—except our family Bible. I kid you not; it wasn't even singed!

I believe in my heart that an angel or God lifted me out of my bed, because I didn't get up on my own. My mother told me I needed to thank my guardian angel. Without even thinking, I replied, "Thank you, Dude!"

After the investigation, the firemen discovered that our alarm was unplugged, and there weren't any batteries in the smoke detectors. They kept asking us, "How did you wake up?"

We kept explaining that either angels or God woke me up and lifted me out of bed. The fire chief's response was incredulous. "I know—but how?!"

My mother replied, "Well, if you don't believe in a Higher Power, then I can't help you, because GOD helped us get out of that house!"

We went through months of hardship without a place to call our own, but God is not only a protector, but also a provider.

This past camp meeting, my mom and I were given the opportunity to work during summer camp at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex. That meant that we had the blessing of a place to stay for three weeks.

Since my father didn't have a place to stay in town, he had to make the 100-mile drive from Athens to Fort Worth each day to go to work.

While I was working at camp, they converted the workout room into a prayer room where people could post prayer requests on the wall. I decided to pray there every day. I posted a prayer request among the many others. It went like this: "Dear Lord, please bless us to have a home to go to when we leave. In Jesus' name, amen."

The very next day, my father called me and said he had good news. The Lord had helped him work out the details for us to have a nice apartment!

I ran back to the prayer wall and wrote beside the other prayer, "Thank you, Lord, for hearing and answering my prayer so quickly! Amen."

Do I believe that God is real, and hears my prayers? You'd better believe it!



**Myles Fore** plans to attend Oakwood College and study pre-med after graduating from high school this spring. His dream is to become a physician and work in the mission field.





# For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



## Going Home

**CALL ME NOSTALGIC.** I like to wander around in dusty memories of the past. And although I'm stuck somewhere in the middle of being old and being young, I'm already quick to remember the "good old days."

A few weeks ago, I celebrated my 25-year reunion with my classmates at Forest Lake Academy. In a few days, I'll enjoy my 20-year college reunion during Southwestern Adventist University's homecoming weekend. My, how time flies!

Camp meetings are a lot like homecoming celebrations. But they actually celebrate *going* home rather than *coming* home. It's that longed-for event that keeps us meeting together year after year and singing words like, "We have this hope," and "Jesus is coming again!"

Advent—it's there in our name. It's all about Christ coming to take us home. It's all about you and me being ready, and about taking as many people with us as we can.

My memories of camp meeting as a young person are still vivid and colorful: waving paper fans with wooden sticks to create a bit of breeze on a hot summer evening; eating homemade veggieburgers at the Pathfinder tent; bus rides to the river to go tubing. But of all the rich memories, my favorite is of sitting with my parents and listening to the likes of H.M.S. Richards, Sr., Morris Venden, or C.D. Brooks. How our hearts burned with the hope of the soon return of our Savior!

As I've grown older, I long for that day even more. And I want my children to feel that same longing. My wife and I have enjoyed creating camp meeting memories in the hearts of our children with our yearly camp meeting treks.

Those trips have always been the highlight of our summer. Last June, our youngest daughter, Adriana, was baptized in a horse trough filled with glacier-cold Montana water at the Montana Conference camp meeting we've attended for years. That's a memory we'll treasure for a lifetime. Later in the summer we attended the Oklahoma Conference camp meeting where we made new friendships that will last for eternity.

Now that we're here in the Southwestern Union, we're looking forward to visiting as many camp meetings as possible, and making more new friends and memories. We hope to see you as we make our way around the union this summer. Join us as we celebrate *going home* together!

## Record

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