

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

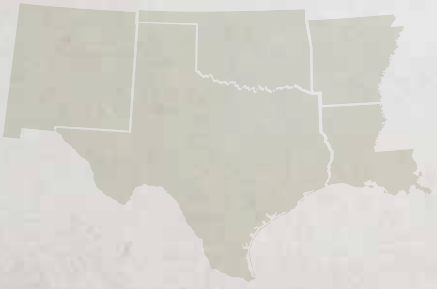
MAY 2010



Let Us Pray!

EXPLORING THE IMPORTANCE OF PRAYER

Celebrating
100,000
Members!



8



Let Us Pray!

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Heroes in Our Hospital



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On the Cover

Prayer is much more than something you recite before you eat. It is a direct line to God and an unrelenting force that ties people together. It is God's greatest tool to help us stay connected. In this issue, you'll be encouraged by the story of a grandmother whose prayers outlived her, and a sister who never gave up. In the end, it is prayer that brings a wayward girl to God. [Feature photos by James Bokovoy]

President's Perspective»

BY MAX TREVIÑO » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



100,000 and Counting... *Max S. Treviño*

When I find myself on a road trip, I like to keep an eye on the odometer. It's helpful to know how far you've gone, and how far you are from your destination. I also keep an eye out for milepost signs. They make you feel as if you're making headway. It's always comforting to watch the distances decrease as your destination approaches.

Mileposts are an important part of any journey. They help us stay on track and assess our progress.



it's all about numbers. My response is that it is *indeed* about numbers!

One milepost for the Southwestern Union that I've been watching for some time is the 100,000-member mark. It's an arbitrary number, but several years ago we began anticipating the growth that would be required to accomplish that goal.

In January of 2000, our membership was at 71,875. In January of this year, we had reached 99,207. That's a ten-year growth of nearly 40 percent. By March, we were at 99,600. And I'm happy to report that, as of this printing, we have surpassed the 100,000-member milepost!

The credit for this remarkable progress goes first and foremost to God. But I'm also thankful to each of you for your commitment to sharing Christ with your friends and family. Whether you are a pastor, conference worker, or a member of a local church, we couldn't have reached this goal without you!

One objection we often hear in regard to evangelism is that

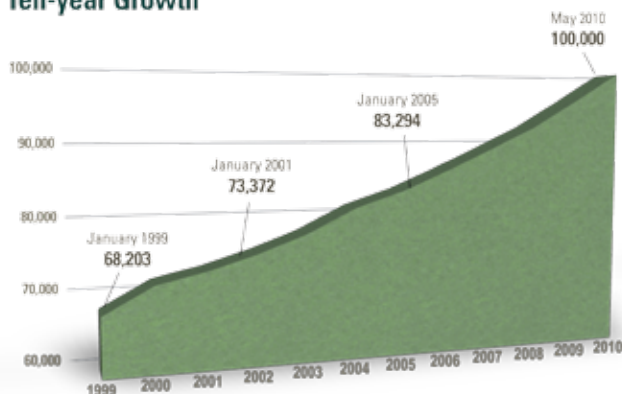
had been only *one* sinner. He is not willing that *one* should perish. The good shepherd went looking for that *one* lost sheep. And all heaven rejoices over *one* soul who is saved.

Each one of the 5,571 baptisms that happened in the Southwestern Union last year was a cause for celebration. Each one is a story of a life changed, a heart renewed, a soul preparing for the kingdom.

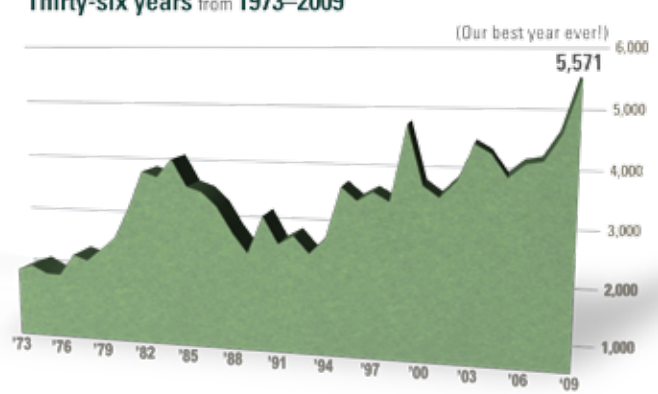
John foresaw in Revelation a crowd gathered around the throne that couldn't be numbered (I like the sound of that!). As we set evangelism goals that encourage us to dream big and reach higher, I encourage you to think outside the box, exploring new ways to reach people for Christ. As God rewards our efforts, let's remember that it *is* about the numbers. And when Christ returns, let's take a great number with us!

Max Treviño is the Southwestern Union president.

Southwestern Union Membership Ten-year Growth



Southwestern Union Baptisms Thirty-six years from 1973-2009





CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

Live Life to the Fullest with Activity!

What Do You Want To Do When You Are 100?

Florida Hospital for Children gave my two-year old son a T-shirt that says, “What do you want to do when you are 100?”

I thought about the future and life with my boy. What *would* I like to do when I’m 100?

I would love to celebrate my 77th wedding anniversary with Jennifer; take my son diving with the Whale Sharks in Australia; go on a mission trip with my grandchildren to bring Christ’s grace to people. Think about it... what would *you* like to do when you are 100?

LIVING TO A HEALTHY 100 WITH ACTIVITY

ACTIVITY includes both mental and physical movement and development. A fit mind promotes a fit body and a fit body promotes a fit mind. You get your best performance from your mind when you regularly exercise your body, and you get more from your body when you exercise your mind.

AN AMAZING TRUTH

Mental activity changes the physical structure of the brain. One study used an MRI to measure the hippocampal volume (an area of the brain involved in memory) of London taxi drivers. They had significantly more hippocampal area than usual because they used this part of their brains extensively, daily.

ENGAGE YOUR MIND AND FUEL YOUR BRAIN

Here are a few ways to engage your mind: memorize Bible verses, do puzzles, learn a new language, do brain teasers—challenge your mind often.

But fuel your brain with nutrition and oxygen, too, to optimize its performance. A study in 2006 compared students who ate sweetened oatmeal to those who ate high sugar cereal. The oatmeal eaters performed 20% better in school. *Both* cereals had the *same* sugar content. But the oatmeal had more fiber and protein, giving it a lower glycemic index. So enjoy oatmeal tomorrow morning for a mental edge.

Additionally, fuel your brain with tremendous amounts of oxygen through physical activity. One study showed that elderly people in good physical condition scored higher on fluid intelligence tests, experienced faster response times, improved mental performance, and short-term memory. Physical activity delays the onset of dementia

and Alzheimer’s disease, and improves neural and cognitive functioning.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND THE MIND

Exercise enhances our mood and makes us more positive because it induces changes in the biochemistry of the brain. Physical activity improves our self-esteem and self-perception, confidence, cognitive functioning, overall psychological well-being, and our ability to handle stress.

Keep your mind fit by exercising it regularly, eating nutritious food, and fueling it with oxygen.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND THE BODY

It’s estimated that 250,000 people die each year in the United States because of a lack of physical activity. But consider this well-known study of women who strength trained twice weekly—their bodies were 15-20 years more youthful. (Research with men demonstrated similar results.) Without changing what they ate, they were leaner, regained bone, and were stronger—in most cases even stronger than when they were young. Their flexibility and balance improved. They were so energized that they became 27 percent more active. No other program—whether diet, aerobic exercise, or medication, has achieved comparable results.

If you want to remain independent and have fewer limitations as you age, then it is vital to build and maintain good muscle strength.








LOOK AND FEEL YOUNGER

The CREATION Health lifestyle turns back the clock, slows the aging process, and adds quality years to your life. With this in mind, have you thought about what you want to do when you are 100? God desires for you to enjoy a long and healthy life. The text found in 3 John 2 says, “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (NKJV).

Katherine Graham writes, “No one can avoid aging, but aging productively is something else.” The first step to unlocking our reservoir of vitality is recognizing that we hold the key to the lock. So, live life to the fullest with *activity*, today and *every day*, as you sail 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 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



He Came to Stay

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us (and we beheld his glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father), full of grace and truth” (John 1:14, NASV).

Verse 14 of John’s gospel is often used as proof of the divinity of Christ. Jesus, the Word, became flesh through the miracle of the Incarnation. Jesus is the God/Man who lived and died to reconcile us to the Father.

If that was all we could get out of this text it would be enough, but there is more here than meets the eye. Much more!

John tells us that Jesus, the Word, “dwelt among us.” The word translated as “dwelt” is perhaps better translated “tabernacled” or “pitched his tent” among us.

Now, I don’t camp. I don’t like living in a tent, even for a long weekend. Having grown up in Texas, the weather here is likely too hot, too cold, or too violent for me to want to sleep in a tent. (My apologies to Pathfinders everywhere.)

In fact, when I was old enough to join Pathfinders, I really enjoyed the experience until our first campout. After that harrowing experience, I begged my parents to let me drop out. Actually, I nagged them and wore them down until they gave in. My dislike of camping is nearly as old as I am.

But in biblical times, pitching your tent meant that you were calling that place home. You weren’t just a visitor enduring the inconveniences of tent living for a weekend. Your intention was to become a permanent resident.

That is what John is implying here. Jesus didn’t just come for a Pathfinder Camporee. He came to stay. Jesus came to permanently identify with us and to permanently live with and in us. That’s why the angel who announced His birth said that His name was to be called Immanuel, which means “God with us.”

The decision to tabernacle with us was no small thing. Isaiah described it: “Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed” (Isa. 53:4, 5).

Jesus wasn’t just a weekend visitor to planet earth. He took up residence here. He became one with us, taking on our form and experiencing all that it means to be fully human. Jesus knew our grief and our sorrow. He knew temptation and human longings. And although He never sinned, Jesus provided healing for us by bearing the punishment we deserve for our iniquities.

“God with us” meant that the “Eternal One” would forever alter his form. Jesus became one with us and became like us. How



He did this while remaining God is a mystery known only to Him. But He did it.

By using the word “tabernacled,” John takes us back to the Exodus. He reminds his readers that God set Himself apart from the pagan gods who were distant and unapproachable by instructing Moses to make a tabernacle so that God could live in the midst of His people. So, following the instructions given to Moses on the mountain, the Israelites built a mobile temple for God and set it right in the middle of their encampment. Every tent faced the middle of the camp.

Every morning when they walked out of their front door, their eyes turned toward the center of camp. There they saw smoke rising from the Altar of Burnt Offering. A lamb was offered there every morning, and as the lamb burned on the altar, God’s people were reminded of an act of grace yet to come. They saw that not only was God with them at that moment, but that one day God would become Immanuel and tabernacle among His redeemed forever.

“And I heard a great voice out of the throne saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he shall dwell with them, and they shall be his peoples, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God” (Rev. 21: 3, NASV).

God has always dwelt with you. He lives in you today. And the “Immanuel” experience will be yours throughout all eternity.

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 DUANE McKEY

Beyond Dreams

A few days ago my wife, Kathy, and my friend, Dr. Bob Peck, Iowa-Missouri Conference executive secretary, stood with me at one of our new schools in Livingstone, Zambia. Moses, whom I have known for a number of years, approached me and said, “Dr. McKey, a year ago we never dreamed this was possible. Over the past few months, ASI and Maranatha have constructed two elementary school complexes and 20 One-Day Churches.”

It seems to me that life is made up of three elements of time. First, there is reality, which is what we see here and now; second, there are dreams. This is what we envision to happen, and dreams and visions, when fulfilled, bring about reality. Third, there is a realm beyond dreams. This is kind of like Paul’s description of heaven where he said it is so wonderful that it has never even entered into the thoughts of man what it will be like. This is in the realm of the eternal. And so, it

There is the Hill Church located at Nguenye, which means the place where rocks are made. A young man with a ball ping hammer can work hard all day breaking rocks and earn \$3.00, and that is only if he can sell his three wheelbarrows full of rocks. Today we have a beautiful new church complex there. Praise God!

Now go with me to Zimbabwe and I’ll share with you another dream. Zimbabwe is a beautiful country with approximately

620,000 church members with close to one million Adventist children. Zimbabwe has approximately 3,237 congregations with only 237 completed church buildings. Our dream is to build with the help of ASI, the Iowa-Missouri Conference, Maranatha, The Quiet Hour Ministries, and the Southwestern Union, an elementary school complex in Victoria Falls and 40 one-day churches in Bulawayo. The plan is that the school will be built this summer with a team that Garwin McNeilus will organize. Then next February a group of builders from the Oklahoma Conference and the Lake Union will build the 40 One-Day Churches in Bulawayo. In October, 2011, 40 excited ShareHim evangelists will travel to Bulawayo to hold evangelistic meetings in those 40 new churches and raise up 40 new congregations. This is exciting! What a God we serve!

But to make this dream come true, we need to raise the matching funds of \$1,500 per church. If you would like to help, please mark your gifts as the SWUC One-Day Church project and send them to the Southwestern Union. Also, if you would like to become an international evangelist, we would like to invite you to go with us the first two weeks of October, 2011. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Duane McKey is the Southwestern Union vice president for evangelism.



▲ Workers put the finishing touches on the Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, a One-Day Church project in Nguenye, Zambia.

◀ This One-Day Church, that was featured in the December 2009 issue of the *Record*, is a big improvement over the thatch-roofed structure that previously served as their church.



was a year ago that the idea of having new churches and schools in Livingstone was a God thing—beyond dreams.

A year ago we arrived in Livingstone with an ASI team to train members and to make plans for blanketing the city with evangelistic meetings held by the Southwestern Union Conference executive committee members and staff. It was on this trip that Garwin McNeilus of ASI saw the need and began dreaming about churches and schools in Livingstone.



Oración contestada en un viaje misionero

La Unión del Suroeste, en cooperación con ShareHim, organizó un viaje misionero al Puerto de Veracruz, México, que se realizó del 5 al 13 de marzo de 2010. El viaje misionero fue dirigido por el Pastor Duane McKey, vicepresidente y director de evangelismo de la Unión del Suroeste.

En este proyecto participó un buen grupo de estudiantes de Valley Grande Academy, incluyendo algunos miembros de su administración. También participaron un grupo de Conquistadores de la Iglesia Hispana de Keene, Texas, un grupo de pastores del valle del sur de Texas, y un grupo de laicos de Houston, Texas, entre otros más.

El objetivo de este viaje misionero fue involucrar a los estudiantes, miembros laicos, y pastores en la realización de treinta y cinco (35) campañas de evangelismo. Algunos predicaron y otros participaron en los equipos de apoyo. Algunos estudiantes también participaron en la construcción de una iglesia.

El viaje misionero resultó en una gran bendición para la gente de Veracruz y para cada participante. Dios obró muchas maravillas y milagros en las treinta y cinco campañas de evangelismo.

Entre los milagros está el caso de Julia. Julia es una joven de veintitrés años de edad. Ella creció en Houston, Texas, en un hogar disfuncional. A los trece años de edad, Julia comenzó a asociarse con malas amistades y pronto se encontró hundida en el mundo de los vicios, bebiendo alcohol, usando drogas, y haciendo todo lo relacionado a este estilo de vida.

Para entonces, Kelly, la hermana mayor de Julia, había aceptado a Jesús como su Salvador personal, y era feligrés en una iglesia adventista en Houston. Kelly comenzó a orar por Julia, y cada oportunidad que tenía, le hablaba del amor que Dios tenía por ella. Sin embargo, esto no parecía hacer efecto en la vida de Julia, quien estaba muy ocupada viviendo su vida descontrolada. Con todo, Kelly nunca se dio por vencida con su hermana menor a quien tanto amaba, y siguió orando por ella.

El primero de enero de 2010, algo trágico aconteció en la vida de Julia, lo que comenzó a cambiar el curso de su vida. Esa madrugada, Julia regresaba a su casa. De repente se vio envuelta en un trágico accidente en el que un pasajero del otro automóvil murió. El gran impacto del accidente hizo

que Julia saliera por el parabrisas y cayera de cabeza sobre la carretera. Julia quedó muy mal herida y terminó en el hospital.

Kelly aprovechó el tiempo de convalecencia de Julia como una oportunidad para llevarle libros que hablaran del amor de Dios. En esa condición, Julia comenzó a evaluar su vida y concluyó que iba por un camino equivocado. Después de recuperarse comenzó a asistir a la iglesia con Kelly.

Justo en este tiempo, Kelly, con otro grupo de laicos de Houston, decidió participar en el viaje misionero e invitó a Julia para que los acompañara. Un par de días antes de salir para Veracruz, Julia supo que no había suficientes predicadores. Ella aceptó la invitación de predicar, y comenzó a estudiar los sermones de evangelismo tan pronto como los recibió.

Al llegar a Veracruz comenzó a predicar los temas en la iglesia que se le había asignado. Noche tras noche Dios bendijo y sostuvo a Julia, y la noche que hizo la invitación de aceptar a Jesús como Salvador por medio del bautismo, Julia compartió el testimonio de su vida. Para sorpresa de la congregación y de los que habían respondido al llamado, ella dijo: "Yo también me voy a bautizar el próximo sábado".



El pastor Eduardo Canales y Julia después de bautizada.

Generación de Jóvenes para Cristo (GYC en español)

3-6 de junio de 2010

Southwestern Adventist University,
Keene, Tex.

www.gycesp.org
630.687.1074



El sábado tuvimos una linda fiesta espiritual en el Río el Toro, donde se convocó a las iglesias del área de Veracruz para acompañar a las 150 personas que serían bautizadas. Fue un gozo inmenso para mí bautizar a Julia junto a los candidatos, frutos de su campaña. Dios contestó la oración de Kelly por su hermana Julia.

Si estás orando por alguien, no te des por vencido. Sigue orando y ten fe en Dios, porque Él honra la fe de sus hijos. En el caso de Kelly, Dios usó una serie de circunstancias en la vida de Julia para contestar la oración de Kelly, culminando en un viaje misionero.

Eddie Canales es vicepresidente para ministerios hispanos de la Unión del Suroeste

Let Us Pray!

BY MARK BOND

KELLY POINTED AT THE PRONOUNCED CALLUSES ON HER GRANDMOTHER'S KNEES. "ABUELA, WHERE DID THOSE SCARS ON YOUR KNEES COME FROM?"

Grandmother's eyes sparkled as she lifted the four-year-old up onto her lap. "You see," she said with her soft Spanish voice, "Jesus had scars on His hands and feet because of me. So I have scars on my knees from all the time I spend talking to Him."

Kelly paused to take in the thought, and then queried, "Does Jesus really hear you when you pray?"

"Sí, my little *dulcita*. He always listens when we pray."

"What do you pray about?"

"My prayer is that all my children and grandchildren will be with me in heaven."

"I want to be in heaven with you someday, Abuela."

"Then my prayers will be answered, little one."

Prayer is a gift. It is a gift that is passed from generation to generation. Kelly's grandmother was a faithful Seventh-day Adventist who lived in the country of El Salvador. On special occasions, Kelly and her younger sister, Ju-

lie, would travel from their home in Houston to visit their grandmother in Central America.

Even though Kelly grew up in a home that did not model her grandmother's religion, there was something special about the time she spent sitting on her Abuela's callused knees. Just knowing that her grandmother was praying for her gave her a sense of peace and purpose.

By the time Kelly was in high school, her grandmother had passed away. But one day, some friends invited her to visit their church for a youth program. When she arrived, the name on the gate sparked an instant flood of memories—*Seventh-day Adventist Church*.

"I was shocked that it was the same church my grandmother attended in El Salvador," recalls Kelly. "I thought that church was only in Central America. I had no idea that it was here in Texas, too."

The friends she made there



and the truths she learned filled an empty spot in her soul. She felt a warm connection to the memories of her grandmother as she returned week after week.

“To be honest, there was another attraction, as well,” Kelly shares. “There was a young man named Ramiro who was also attending, and I wanted to get to know him better!”

In 2004, after several years of attending the Houston Spanish Galena Park church, Kelly was not only baptized—she also got married to Ramiro! Before she began attending there, she had prayed, “Lord, give me a man who loves You first and me second.” It was after that prayer that she discovered the Galena Park church.

Her family noticed a marked difference in her attitude and dress. She was excited about the things she learned and anxiously wanted to share her love for Jesus with her family.

Her younger sister, Julie, refused to listen, however. Whenever Kelly tried to share, Julie felt as if Kelly was “preaching” to her.

So Kelly resorted to the same tactic that her grandmother had used—prayer. She began to keep a prayer journal. She would read a promise from the Bible, and claim the promise as she lifted each family member in prayer. And many of her prayers focused on her sister, Julie.

Julie had a bit of the “prodigal” in her. She was convinced that God could never save a person as “bad” as she was, so she didn’t even try to be good. Throughout her teen years, Julie had done whatever she wanted, ignoring her sister’s admonitions. But Kelly kept on praying—for more than five years.

This past New Year’s Eve, Julie’s life changed in an instant. She was driving home in the early morning hours when her tire blew out. Her car spun out of control into the oncoming lane of the highway, where another car struck her vehicle at full force, throwing her out the window and onto the pavement.

The paramedics said it was a miracle that she wasn’t killed instantly, and they were concerned that she may have had a head injury. Amazingly, after a CT scan and one day in the hospital, they released her to recuperate at home.

During the month that Julie was confined to bed rest, Kelly, who now has a three-year-old son, came to visit her bruised sister each day. Julie had once scorned Kelly’s prayers, but now she welcomed them—thankful for her miraculous deliverance from the brink of death.

When Kelly gave her a copy of *Steps to Christ*, Julie read every word, and realized for the first time that Jesus really did love her and could save even one like her!

During her recovery period, Julie lost her job. She remembers praying, “Lord, if I lose my job, you must have a plan for me.”

Before the scabs and scrapes on her face had even healed, Julie asked Kelly to take her to church. What she found there was a

family with open arms. Many of Kelly’s friends had been praying for her sister, as well, and they rejoiced to see her attending their meetings.

A few weeks later, several of her new friends from church were preparing to participate in the Southwestern Union’s ShareHim meetings scheduled for Veracruz, Mexico. Since Julie knew how to use PowerPoint, she offered to help them prepare their computer slides, while they practiced at the church.

“We need you to come along to help us with our computers!” one of the members exclaimed. Although they were leaving in just a day and a half, Julie’s response was, “I’ve lost my job. Nothing is keeping me here. Sure! I’ll go!”

When Julie went to look for her passport, she realized with horror that it had expired! “How can I get a new passport in less than two days, Lord?”

Early the next morning, she drove to the passport office in downtown Houston where the clerk at the counter calmly explained that the fastest they could possibly get it turned around was three days. Julie frantically showed her the flyer about the mission trip. When the clerk looked at the flyer, her eyebrows raised.

“This is a Seventh-day Adventist mission trip? I’m a Seventh-day Adventist too! Wait here...”

She stepped into the back office to talk with her supervisor and returned with a sparkle in her eyes. “Come back at 3 o’clock. Your passport will be ready!”

Julie borrowed several of Kelly’s “church dresses” and packed her bags for Mexico. While Julie headed south, Kelly stayed home—praying. “Lord, use this trip to reach my sister with your truth!”

During the long bus ride to Veracruz, Suzanna Facundo, one of the trip coordinators, saw Julie looking over the materials and assumed that she was going in order to preach. When Julie told her that she was only there to help with the computers, Suzanna said, “We have several churches without preachers. Would you be willing to preach a series too?”



Julie quickly replied, “Ahhh, yes!” Suzanna was pleased, and told Julie that she would give her the details about her church when they arrived in Veracruz.

As Julie sat there, stunned at her decision, she thought, *Why did I say yes? How am I going to preach when I don't know anything about the Bible?*

She recalls, “I was nervous and stressed out, but then I realized that by praying for my insecurity, I would have God's blessing to keep my head up and deliver His message.”

Each day, as she practiced through the sermon in preparation for preaching, her heart was overwhelmed again and again by the thought, *Jesus did this for ME!* She would make daily calls to Kelly from her cell phone, and with tears in her voice, exclaim, “I can't believe all the amazing things I am learning!”

The meetings began with only a handful in attendance, but by the end, there were nearly 80 people attending.

On the final night of her meetings, Julie shared her testimony with the congregation. Then she made an appeal. She invited the attendees to join with her in her decision to be baptized. The



next afternoon, seven people joined Julie in the water! She had seen firsthand the results of the power of prayer. Her Houston friends were quick to point out, “This is an answer to all of your sister's prayers!”

Today, Kelly and Julie join together in prayer. They pray for other family members and friends who have yet to accept Christ's love. And they are both preparing to preach a series of meetings in the Dominican Republic this June.

Kelly says, “If you're ever tempted to stop praying—if you think you should give up because nothing is happening—don't!”

Julie is thankful for the circumstances that God brought her through that gave her the opportunity to stop and listen, and then to share. She is a firm believer in what prayer can do.

The prayers of righteous men (and women) avail much. We would all do well to have a few calluses on our knees. When the Lord brings to mind someone we care about who appears to have rejected God's grace—“Let us pray!”



HEROES IN OUR HOSPITAL

BY JULIE ZAIBACK

A sea of physicians and nurses rushed toward the entrance of the Emergency Department as the ambulance EMTs wheeled in a patient lying unconscious on a stretcher. She was a victim of a shooting.

“Let’s move!” someone screamed. The team of caregivers moved quickly and skillfully.

It was November 5, 2009. Metroplex Adventist Hospital, located in Killeen, Tex.,—home to a substantial military community—had received notice of the shooting at Fort Hood just moments earlier.

“At first, there was no way to know what the impact would be and how many patients we would receive from the shootings,” says Stephen O’Neal, vice president of Metroplex Adventist Hospital.

Amidst the urgency of the situation and chaos unfolding just miles away at Fort Hood, no one realized that the patient lying unconscious before them would soon be identified as Kimberly Munley—the heroic young woman who interceded in the fatal shooting, saving countless lives.

The entire hospital staff worked as a collective unit; mobilizing to provide service and supplies any way they could. To the hospital staff and caregivers, the victims coming into the hospital weren’t just patients—they were their neighbors.

“We had staff coming in from home, a surgeon stepping off of a plane and heading straight into the OR, and other surgeons ready to do whatever procedures or support necessary,” says O’Neal. “It was a humbling experience to see the selfless eagerness exhibited by our team—everyone wanted to help out.”

The hours that immediately followed were critical to Kim’s health and wellbeing. She had been bleeding at the scene of the shooting for 30 minutes. She had suffered a gun shot to her hand and a second shot to her left leg, which exited through her femur and entered into her right thigh, piercing an artery. Her femur was shattered into 75 pieces.

“It was a ‘do or die’ situation,” states Susan Kolodziejczyk, executive director of communications at Metroplex Adventist Hospital regarding clearing medical care coming into the ER.

Within hours, Kim went into surgery performed by Byung Chung, M.D., a general vascular thoracic surgeon. He expertly repaired her artery and stopped the bleeding. Afterwards, Kim was admitted into the ICU and placed in a patient room that was “under guard” with 24-hour police surveillance. When she regained consciousness, her first thoughts were of others. Opening her eyes, she asked: “Did anybody die?”

As the Fort Hood shooting unfolded on headline news and local reports, Kim was able to fill in the holes of her own memories of the day while lying in her hospital bed. Between the growing media frenzy,

military presence, and steady flow of dignitaries coming in and out of the hospital, Metroplex Adventist Hospital was thrown under the media spotlight—forced to provide patient care under incredibly unique, and at times trying, circumstances. While this level of national attention could easily send the most renowned hospitals into frenzy, this 208-bed hospital demonstrated inimitable strength, efficiency, and ability.

Hospital administration, under the prayerful leadership of Carlyle Walton, president of Metroplex Adventist Hospital, made it a priority to stay in tune with the needs of the staff, ensuring they were coping under the media attention. Prayer and spiritual support were constantly available to staff, patients, and family members.

“I am honored and humbled to have been blessed with the opportunity to lead such a skilled, compassionate, and dedicated team,” says Walton. “Their care, knowledge, and empathy remind me daily of why we have dedicated our lives to ‘Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ.’”

Hospital staff demonstrated an acute awareness of Kim Munley’s situation and the needs of her family. Recognizing the magnitude of the recent events and the impact that this had on Kim personally, as well as the increasingly aggressive tactics of the national media, the hospital graciously provided more open visitation to family members and close friends.

“They made it like home for me,” reflects Kim Munley. “I felt like a queen at Metroplex.”

During the week-and-a-half spent in the ICU, and additional days in the main hospital, Kim consistently received compassionate, Christ-centered care.

“I couldn’t have gotten better care anywhere else,” she says.

Kim shares how this experience has strengthened her faith and how she was touched by her time at Metroplex Adventist Hospital. The care she received, the relationships she formed, and the spiritual support that was provided left a lasting impression.

“There was definitely an angel watching over me,” she says.

While the events of that fateful day have not been forgotten, Kim and the local community remain thankful for the support demonstrated by Metroplex Adventist Hospital. In a time of trepidation and heartache, Metroplex Adventist Hospital reminded the community why they were there—to serve them.

“The Lord was working beside our team members, guiding them,” says Walton. “Events like this remind us that amidst tragedy, true heroes shine. We are blessed to work with heroes every day.”

Julie Zaiback is the corporate communications specialist at Adventist Health System in Orlando, Fla.





Beholding the Beauty of His Holiness

Over the years, I have had the opportunity of visiting some large and extremely ornate churches, chapels, and cathedrals, both here in the United States and in Europe. I have had the privilege of walking through St. Paul's Cathedral and Westminster Abbey in England, St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, and the Dom Cathedral in Berlin. The architecture, the construction of marble and gold, the intricate mosaic pictures, and stained glass windows all make for some rather spectacular beauty. One cannot help being caught up in the awe-inspiring magnificence and grandeur of some of these ornate structures. The mind is truly transfixed with scenes of splendor that makes the imagination stir up thoughts of what heaven's sanctuary must be like.

Such thoughts have often carried me into God's throne room—at least as I have imagined it. In that view, my mind's eye sees a huge sanctuary lined on both sides with angel choirs. Glorious light shimmering on gold, sapphire, and all kinds of precious stones fills the edifice along with the strains of praise and adoration from the heavenly voices. At the front of the sanctuary is a Being shrouded in extremely bright light. I cannot make out His features, yet in my thoughts I know that it is God, for He is the focus of all the worship and praise. As I stand with all of the heavenly host and behold the beauty of His holiness and render my meager offering of praise, I recognize my unworthiness and my smallness. My voice does not seem to blend with that of the heavenly beings and my presence seems so out of place.

Yet I am reminded by the Spirit that I am to come boldly into His presence. I am not worthy, but Jesus in whose name I call, *He is worthy*, and He represents me before the Father and His exceeding glory. I have been in awe as I have stood in the physical beauty of human design and construction, but I am even more overwhelmed as

I realize that I can today, through prayer, stand in the presence of the Creator of the universe and know that He hears me, loves me, and answers my plea for grace, pardon, and victory. I have only imagined His glory, yet the reality of His wonderful presence is more real than the transitory devising of human endeavor.

Stephen Orian, president

Cradle Roll—Where Kids Meet Jesus

SHREVEPORT » If you get the opportunity to visit the Shreveport South church, you are invited to visit the Cradle Roll Sabbath School room to stand on the green “grass” and drink in the beauty of the Garden of Eden. Notice the lush vegetation, the “Tree of Life,” the numerous multicolored flowers, and the splashing waterfall. Overhead and all around you, the variegated butterflies and dragonflies dance and sparkle amid the display of animals God created for our enjoyment. Then turn around and

view the bare, brown, simple, large boat and ask yourself this question: Would I want to leave this garden environment for that plain old boat they call the ark? And that's what it's all about, making the Bible, its stories, and Jesus real to our children. Two young women, Allison Branim and Candie Gale, warmly greet the children and teach the class. They also painted the backdrop. Rather than on chairs, the children sit on bears, lions, elephants, and horses. Cheryl Gale's goal as the Cradle Roll leader is to introduce the children to Jesus through the Bible stories and through the world He made for them, and to help parents lay the foundation for their children's friendship with Jesus. These precious moments in Sabbath School are the greatest evangelistic tool we have for our children.

Sylvia Downs



The Shreveport South church Cradle Roll Sabbath School room is decorated with the beauty of the Garden of Eden.

Pathfinder Banquet Raises Funds for Missions

BENTONVILLE, ARK. » The Beavers Pathfinder Club welcomed guests to its ninth annual Treasure Quest Valentine Banquet on the evening of February 14. The evening proved to be full of surprises from the very beginning. Guests were loaded onto a golf cart and whisked through the “deep jungles of the Yucatan Peninsula.” Everyone had their picture taken on the Jungle set. Then we enjoyed a wonderful “South of the Border” banquet as soft music played in the background.

The program for the evening was a play that followed a Pathfinder Club traveling to the Yucatan Peninsula on a mission trip to build a church for the village of Sahnacat. Four of the Pathfinders discover an ancient map that is believed to lead to the treasure of Hernando Cortez. They make plans to sneak out after dark, hire a guide, and go on the greatest treasure hunt adventure of their lives. However, danger lurks around every corner and the Pathfinders discover they are not the only ones after the treasure. After several narrow escapes, they arrive at the treasure cave, only to be held hostage by natives. Through this adventure the Pathfinders learn some valuable life lessons about love, friendship, trust, and service to others. If you would like to watch the performance and find out what happens, visit www.youtube.com/user/bentonvillebeavers.

Each year a group of Bentonville church members travel to Central America on a real mission trip led by Alfredo and Lavona Cerna. Over the past two years they have visited Honduras and Nicaragua. They hold evangelistic meetings with nutrition seminars, and run a medical clinic. Although most of the Pathfinders have not been able to take the trip, the Pathfinder Club decided to donate fifty percent of the proceeds from the banquet toward the next church mission trip. The Bentonville Pathfinder Club presented a check for \$500 to Alfredo and Lavona Cerna at the close of the evening.

The Bentonville Pathfinders spent hours practicing and preparing for this banquet and did a great job of entertaining their guests. They are grateful for the outpouring of support from family, friends, and church family. The remaining proceeds from the evening will help to fund the trip to the next International Pathfinder Camporee in 2014. If you would like to view pictures from the evening, visit www.kodakgallery.com/bentonvillebeavers (password: beaver).

Audra Huff

▼ A ride through the jungle at the Bentonville Beavers' Valentine banquet.



2010 Camp Meetings

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

Springtown Cowboy camp meeting

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

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

Bonnerdale Cowboy camp meeting

When: October 1–2
Where: Bonnerdale Adventist church, 709 Adventist Church Rd, Bonnerdale, AR 71933
Main Speaker: Mike Tucker
Contact: Pastor Ryan Long, 870.356.7978

Camp Yorktown Bay Schedule

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 Camps	14+	June 27–July 4
Blind	All ages	July 4–11
Teen	13–18	July 11–18

Contact: For more information, call the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Youth Department at 318.631.6240, or visit www.campyorktownbay.com.

Health Fair Reaches Out to Community

LAFAYETTE, LA. » The Better Living Center of the Lafayette church has been reaching out to the community by appealing to those who want to be healthier. In November Marcia DuMaurie led our second annual health fair, this time at a local nursing college. One class of nursing students volunteered to assist as needed, and they did a superb job checking blood pressure, blood sugar levels, measuring height and weight, assisting with a grip strength test, and monitoring a vision test. One of the favorite areas to visit was where the group of massage therapy students were giving free chair massages. We also invited several organizations from the community and, for

that reason, we made available more information on substance abuse and medical care for children. We plan to continue using the health fair as a way to reach out to the community and help others to see the Adventist Church as relevant and available to meet their needs.

Elizabeth Fresse

ARKLA Youth Build Church in Chiapas, Mexico

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE »

Can you place a value on a building? From a worldly perspective, it doesn't make a whole lot of sense to fly a group of 25 people to Chiapas, Mexico, to build a church. But that is exactly what happened over this past spring break as youth from around the conference embarked on an experience of a lifetime, building a desperately-needed church building for a congregation of Adventists living in the small town of Las Cascades.

Over a ten-day period of hard work, blistering sun, and a day of torrential down-pour, a church building appeared where before there had only been a slab of cement. Not only was a church built, but bonds were forged in the community through a weeklong VBS program conducted by the youth that brought out as many as 75 kids.

The last Sabbath, everyone gathered together for a final day of celebration. After many pictures, hugs, laughter, and tears, it was time to go. Leaving the church that afternoon was bittersweet for everyone. Sweet in the sense that they had come and accomplished their goal to build a church; but also sad as they said goodbye (probably until they meet in heaven) to people they had come so close to during the past week. But inside everyone's heart was a deep satisfaction that couldn't be put into words, a satisfaction that no one could ever take from them, for they had all been ambassadors for Christ; they had all been missionaries.

So can you place a value on a building? Can you place a value on the experience of leaving your comfort zone and becoming a missionary for 10 days? Only in heaven will we be able to look back and see the impact of this trip on the volunteers who gave and the nationals who received. But one thing is for sure, the experience for all was priceless.

Travis Walker, trip coordinator

▼ Lafayette Health Fair, Juane Fresse, pastor, and Marcia DuMaurie.



▲ Can you put a value on a building? A group of 25 youth from around the conference traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, to build a church this past spring break. Above is the finished product.

◀ Arkansas-Louisiana Conference youth built a church in Chiapas, Mexico, over spring break.



The Power of Prayer

Although many years have passed, I remember her well. Not because she held a position of leadership in the church or because she came from one of the prominent families. What I remember is her frequent calls on Monday morning. "Pastor, I know that you are about to begin your day, and before you do, I would like to pray for you." I once told someone who was facing a difficult situation that all I could do was pray for him. The thought immediately came to my mind that praying is the best thing you can ever do for anyone.

In the conclusion of his first letter to the Thessalonians, Paul makes a simple request. "Brethren, pray for us" (1 Thess. 5:25). He understood that prayer is the basis for the successful work of the gospel, both in the life of the one prayed for and in the life of the one praying. I wonder how often we have given credit to the eloquence of the preacher, or even to the diligence the gospel worker when the power really is found in "the effective prayer of a

righteous man" (or woman).

Prayer makes the work effective, strengthens the laborer, and encourages the petitioner. Think of it this way: Something this important can be conducted without any special equipment or technology and without a budget and the results can be eternal. Lets pray for each other and thank God for giving us access to such power.

John Moyer, president

Spanish Women's Ministries Meetings Inspire Women

OKLAHOMA CITY » A Spanish women's ministries meeting in Oklahoma City brought 147 attendees from five area churches. Organized by Ninett Campos and supported by the women's ministries leaders of the surrounding churches, the meetings were very uplifting and inspirational.

Ciro Castillo, Oklahoma Conference Hispanic Coordinator

The Work Grows in Eufala

EUFALA » In October 2009 the Muskogee church sponsored an evangelistic series in Eufaula, Okla., the second series that was presented there. As a result of the first series, a group of believers was established that meets every Sabbath in a local rented church facility. The presenters of the recent series were Gary Brandon and Ken Reid, and Kathy Jones was the series coordinator. An average of 15 people attended nightly. At the end of the series several people expressed an interest in continuing Bible studies, and Patricia and Donald Drake of Eufaula graciously opened their home to weekly Wednesday-evening Bible studies for this purpose.

As a result of this continued study in God's Word and the love and support of members of both the Muskogee and Eufaula churches, we are very pleased to welcome Noel and Naome Talbott into our family. On February 20 Noel and Naome took their stand for the Lord, with Naome coming in by profession of faith and Noel being baptized.

Please pray for the work in Eufaula as it continues to grow.

Michelle Buck-Hiltner



◀ Several new members have been added to the Eufala church as a result of evangelistic meetings. Pictured are Naome Talbot (front row) and in the second row, from left: Donald Drake, Noel Talbott, Ken Reid, and Gary Brandon. In back, from left, are Trish Drake and Kathy Jones.

▼ One hundred forty-seven Spanish-speaking women from five area churches attended a women's ministries meeting held recently in Oklahoma City.



A Blessing in Disguise

BROKEN ARROW » When Jack Phillips agreed to preach his first sermon, he had no idea how big an obstacle the devil would put in his way. As he prepared for preaching on Sabbath, Jack was impressed to tell the story of Peter walking out to Jesus and relate how important it is to keep your eyes upon the Lord, be willing to step out of the boat (your comfort zone), make a commitment, and follow the Lord wherever He leads.

Jack and his wife, Crystal, both new to the Adventist faith, had invited many friends and relatives to church on Sabbath and Crystal prepared a cake for their Sabbath lunch. Crystal felt ill when they retired Friday evening but didn't realize she was having a severe reaction to something in the cake batter she had tasted. They were getting ready to leave for the hospital when Crystal passed out and was having difficulty breathing. Jack called 911 and an ambulance took her to the emergency room just in the nick of time.

Many of their friends and relatives came to the hospital in the wee hours of the morning to lend support, and those same friends and relatives, non-Adventists, arrived at the church a few hours later to hear Jack's sermon. There were in fact more than 20 people who came to our church for the first time. With Crystal being extremely ill and both Jack and Crystal up most of the night, we can truly say that Jack and Crystal stepped out of their comfort zone, made a commitment to the Lord, and kept their eyes upon Jesus. Jack's sermon was inspirational and Crystal is doing well. They both reported having a good Sabbath-afternoon rest.

Judy Marquette

► When Jack Phillips preached his first sermon at the Broken Arrow church, Satan tried to put obstacles in his way. Despite the challenges, 20 non-Adventist people, who otherwise might not have been present, came to hear him preach.



Ketchum Adventist Academy

A photo update



◀ Nicholas Toews visits the kindergarten art center at Ketchum Adventist Academy. He enjoys his new kindergarten classroom and his teacher, Vicki, is very special to him.



▲ Noah Ferguson enjoys having his very own "office" at Ketchum Adventist Academy. He loves his Mac computer and having his own personal space.



◀ J. Fisher is baptized by Pastor Perry at Ketchum Adventist Academy.



▲ Students prepare to have chapel at Ketchum Adventist Academy.

Oklahoma Campmeeting 2010



Please join us for a spectacular, long weekend of spiritual blessings! Friday and Saturday night speaker:

Dr. Dwight K. Nelson, senior pastor at Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Mich.

WHERE: Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla.

WHEN: July 15-18, 2010

Call 405.721.6110 or 405.257.5404 for more information.



SPONSORED BY THE OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS



Prayer Moves Heaven

One might ask the question, what is prayer? My response is that prayer is the habit or practice of communicating with God. It is conversing with God. It is a dialogue with Him, which means that listening is involved. It is a conversation between the created and the Creator. Therefore, for prayer to be truly effective, we must be willing to not just talk to God, but to be still and hear what He is saying to us and trying to do in our lives. Prayer is a necessity! It is power! It is a heaven mover!

Prayer is also a privilege that God has asked us to experience. Through the apostle Paul He invites us to “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” We are further admonished by Jesus to “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you” (Matthew. 7:7).

Enlarging on the concept of prayer, my favorite author in the book, *In Heavenly Places*, pens the following words: “Why is it that we do not receive more from Him who is the source of light and power? We expect too little. . . .

“We do not value as we should the power and efficacy of prayer. “The Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Rom. 8:26). God desires us to come to Him in prayer, that He may enlighten our minds. He alone can give clear conceptions of truth. He alone can soften and subdue the heart. He can quicken the understanding to discern truth from error. He can establish the wavering mind and give it a knowledge and a faith that will endure the test. Pray, then pray with-

out ceasing. The Lord who heard Daniel’s prayer will hear yours, if you will approach Him as Daniel did.

“Let us live in close communion with God. The joy of the Christian arises from a sense of God’s love and care for His children and the assurance that He will not leave them alone in their weakness.

“We need to know how to pray. It is not tame, spiritless prayers that take hold of the divine attributes. *Prayer is heard by God when it comes from a heart broken by a sense of unworthiness.* Prayer was instituted for our comfort and salvation, that through faith and hope we may lay hold on the rich promises of God. Prayer is the expression of the desires of a soul hungering and thirsting for righteousness.

“*Prayer is a heaven-ordained means of success.* Appeals, petitions, entreaties, between man and man, move men and act a part in controlling the affairs of nations. *But prayer moves heaven.* That power alone that comes in answer to prayer will make men wise in the wisdom of heaven and enable them to work in the unity of the Spirit, joined together by the bonds of peace. Prayer, faith, confidence in God, bring a divine power

that sets human calculations at their real worth—nothingness. . . . *He who places himself where God can enlighten him, advances, as it were, from the partial obscurity of dawn to the full radiance of noonday”* (*In Heavenly Places*, p. 75, emphasis supplied).

Friend, let us keep the prayer altars in our homes, and where they need reestablishing, let us do it today so that we can experience the power of God in our lives through faith and the Holy Spirit. Love you!

Bill Wright, president

Westbank United Celebrates Black Heritage Month

NEW ORLEANS, LA. » During the month of February, the Westbank United Sabbath School Department presented a special program on Black heritage. It was held each week throughout the month during Sabbath School time. Jeannette Dubois, assistant superintendent, spearheaded the activities. The program was designed to celebrate the past and create an excitement for the future. Each Sabbath, Dubois, along

▼ Members of the Westbank United church dressed in colorful African garb and presented special programs each Sabbath in February in honor of Black Heritage Month.



with other members, dressed in African apparel and presented information on the history of slavery. They told the members that it is important for the church to remember, lest we forget, those people who helped us to be where we are today.

Curtis Perkins, who is an elder and one of the speakers during the program, talked about all the Black people in the Bible. Using as his reference the Bible books of Genesis through the Acts of the Apostles, he explained how all of us are “one people.”

Joseph Kennedy recited skillfully the names of courageous slaves who endured hardship, persecution, and even death, so we can enjoy freedom today. For the duration of the program, the congregation sang some old Negro Spirituals, such as “Give Me That Old Time Religion,” “Amazing Grace” and others. In addition to this, the congregation also sang the Black national anthem entitled “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” The celebration culminated with a soul food dinner on Wednesday, February 24, at 6:00 p.m., one hour before prayer meeting. The event was hosted by Monique Elliott, Westbank family life director. Elliott facilitated the discussion at the “Family Life Pow Wow” and spoke about family members interacting with each other, emphasizing how we should take special care of our families and the community in general. It was a Spirit-filled month celebrating our heritage.

Mathieu Cherenfant

Southwest Region Usher’s Federation Held at Forest Hill

FORT WORTH, TEX. » On March 6, the Forest Hill church hosted the Southwest Region Conference Usher’s Federation. President Billy Wright was the speaker for the worship hour, who presented on the theme “Still Standing with Vision, Purpose, and Determination,” and later that evening, conducted a seminar entitled “Ushers in Health and Healthful Living.” During the seminar he discussed the value of a plant-based diet, placing special emphasis on raw vegetables. He reminded us that in order to be the very best ushers, it is important to be in good shape, eat the right foods, and not overeat. We must also drink plenty of water, get daily exercise, and learn how to be calm under stress. For further information, he referred us to these Web sites:

www.Ravediet.com and [The World’s Healthiest Foods](http://TheWorldsHealthiestFoods.com), located at www.whffoods.org. The Forest Hill praise team and the Dallas Fellowship Male chorus ended the Sabbath with a concert.

Ivy Stigler, Southwest Region Usher’s Federation communication director

Spiritual Journey Leads to Christ

HOUSTON, TEX. » “Wilson Villarey has decided to be baptized! He has accepted Christ!” his wife, Ludy, exclaimed when she heard that he had decided to be baptized following a series of Bible studies with the pastor of the Metropolitan church, Rolando Baysa. Wilson and his wife, Ludy, are grateful for the prayers and support from everyone at church and for the pastor who has stood by him throughout his spiritual journey. It was indeed the leading of the Holy Spirit that led Wilson to dedicate his life to Christ.

“I want to express my thanks to Pastor Baysa. He came to our house to conduct the Bible studies for Wilson, and his patience and kindness brought Wilson to God. We still feel the warmth in the church and we really appreciate it,” says Ludy Villarey.

Beth DeGracia



▼ Ushers from the Southwest Region Conference converged upon the Forest Hill church for their annual federation in March.



▲ Members of the Houston Metropolitan church gave their support and expressed their joy when Wilson Villarey (pictured in foreground), who is married to member Ludy Villarey, decided to be baptized.

Shining Light in Dark Places

DALLAS, TEX. » Under the leadership of John Kirvin, Sr., personal ministries director, the Penuel church has begun a prison ministry outreach program, whose mission is to take the gospel of Jesus Christ behind bars. With the goal of winning as many inmates as possible for Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, we will be a shining light in the darkness, giving hope to the hopeless and strengthening the weak. Most of all, we will allow the Holy Spirit to uplift Jesus Christ so that the love of God will illuminate the jails and the prisons.

Fifteen church members recently became certified volunteer chaplains during a training session held at the Penuel church. A four-hour session, the purpose of the course was to teach volunteer chaplains how to minister to people behind bars, assist the jail/prison chaplains, pray



▲ Fifteen members of the Penuel church in Dallas were recently certified to serve as volunteer prison chaplains. Rodney Williams displays his certificate.

with jail and prison inmates, conduct one-on-one Bible studies with both male and female inmates, and mail Bible studies to inmates. Those involved with this ministry are working very diligently to share the Good News with those behind bars.

Addie Smith

Second Annual Symposium on Health Evangelism

FORT WORTH, TEX. » The Forest Hill church held its second annual Symposium on Health Evangelism on the weekend of February 20. This symposium is the brainchild of Errol Bryce, M.D., who has been working with area churches and the surrounding community to improve our spiritual, mental, and physical health. This year's presentations all focused on The Role of Relationships in the Gospel of Health, and began on Friday night with a heart-stirring presentation by Leighton Holley, president of the Texas Conference. The program continued early on Sabbath morning with presentations by Errol Bryce, M.D., Elvin Adams, M.D., health ministries director of the Texas Conference, and DeWitt S. Williams, Ph.D., health ministries director for the North American Division. Billy Wright, Southwest Region Conference president, had the honor of preaching the spoken word during the divine worship hour. His sermon inspired members and visitors alike to pursue healthier lifestyles and relationships.

After a nutritious meal, specially prepared by Mil Dyer, Southwest Region Conference health ministries director, symposium attendees attended an open forum, moderated by Dr. Bryce. Panel members Billy Wright, Elvin Adams, and DeWitt Williams answered a series of questions from the audience and from Dr. Bryce that centered around the symposium's theme. The evening ended with a delicious snack of fresh fruits.

The symposium climaxed on Sunday afternoon with a healthy food preparation demonstration from Chef Julio Barillas, an international chef who specializes in foods for a healthy lifestyle. The more than 100 attendees had many questions for the chef, and he was gracious enough to share his wisdom and personal experience with diabetes and dealing with it from a nutritional perspective.

The information presented throughout the weekend has encouraged members from Forest Hill and area churches, along with community members, family, and friends, to live a more purposeful and healthy lifestyle. With the Holy Spirit's guidance, we are confident that we will have the discipline and strength needed to improve our overall health. Our pastor, Michael Bailey, the first elder, Maurice Turner, and our health ministries director, Chaya Woolcock, wish to express many thanks to all the presenters and volunteers who made this weekend one to remember. As we apply the knowledge we have gained to our daily lives, we look forward to next year's symposium.

Karen Smith

▼ A large group gathered at the Forest Hill church for a cooking school and question-and-answer session conducted by Chef Julio Barillas from Altamonte Springs, Fla.



Prayer— The Key to Heaven’s Storehouse

Prayer is the precious connecting link to the throne and person of God for every believer. In it God offers us the opportunity for intimate honesty with Him and with ourselves. Here God reveals to us and we discover things about ourselves that need miraculous transformation. Repeatedly in Scripture God offers to faithfully forgive and cleanse us from our sins (see 1 John 1:9).

I like Ellen White’s famous quote: “Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence.”¹ As James 1:17 clearly expresses, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights.” How thankful I am for my hundreds and hundreds of committed prayer partners in the Texas Conference praying for me, for God’s work and workers throughout the conference. God answers prayer and blesses those who pray and those who are prayed for. “Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you” (Matt. 7:7). “He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?” (Rom. 8:32).

Pray every morning and stay connected all day long. Don’t hang up on God, instead, partner with Him in your secular life, family life, and personal inward life. There is no secret of our soul that He does not know, as He showed in the story of the woman at the well in John 4, but as with her, He loves us anyway, and offers the water of life, His life now ours. Talk to your friend, Jesus. He is always listening. “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend.”² “Keep your wants, your joys, your sorrows, your cares, and your fears before God. You cannot burden Him; you cannot weary Him.”³

But please don’t forget to be thankful. Express gratitude before making requests,

as we are instructed in Philippians 4:6, 7. The result of praise, gratitude expressed, and confession is wonderful peace.

Leighton R Holley, president

¹ *Steps to Christ*, p. 94

² *Ibid.*, p. 93

³ *Ibid.*, p. 100

Makeover From the Heart

MCALLEN » Originally, the Makeover From the Heart project began at South Texas Christian Academy with the intention of building a home for a family in



Students at South Texas Christian Academy built a home for a family in need as one of their many Makeover from the Heart projects.

need. But in reality, the project encompasses so much more. It’s about all that our academy students and faculty do to help those less fortunate than themselves.

This year Jason Stirewalt organized students to bring in food items to distribute to needy families. We received help from HEB grocery store, which provided the recyclable bags for the distribution and the students brought in almost 5,000 items of non-perishable food. The food was loaded into the bus along with a large group of students who made deliveries at pre-designated addresses.

Another project involved collecting toys that were taken to an orphanage to brighten the day of children residing there. But probably the most ambitious program is building a house for a family that would have never had one without this program. Soon after I arrived at South Texas Christian Academy, Dr. Guillermo Pechero told me that he and his wife, Angela, wanted to sponsor a program in which the older students would be able to take part and do something that could be life-changing for the students involved, as well as for the recipient family. From that point it has been a process of procuring the land, contracts, and city permits, hiring a contractor, and finally, the beginning of construction.

In the works are plans for a horticulture project in which we will use some of the land near the back of the gym for planting. Texas A & M University has a training program for teachers in which they become certified as Master Gardeners and then teach their students about gardening. We plan to involve our teachers and students in this program. Half of the food grown on our property will be donated to one of the local food banks.

Jim Donlon

Pathfinders Return

HOUSTON » We celebrated the return of the Northwest Houston Panthers on March 6, after eight years of **MORE** »



The Northwest Houston church celebrates the return of their Pathfinder program.

dormancy. The Panthers started in 1985 with a single member and held monthly meetings in a little water district building at the Cypress Creek Park. They also met at members' homes and drilled in the street. The club grew from a single member to more than 60 youth under great leadership. These youth are now current AYS leaders, Pathfinder parents, teachers, and drill instructors.

Treece Gross, a Master Guide, has recently joined the Northwest Panthers, taking on the tremendous challenge of restarting the Pathfinder Club, continuing the quest for leadership, evangelism, and community service.

Let us welcome the return of the Northwest Panthers!

Shareen A. Williams

Alvarado Holds Agape Feast

ALVARADO » The Alvarado church held its annual Agape Feast this year on Friday, January 1. Always a solemn occasion, the feast is meant to point members backward to the first communion ceremony, and forward to the first service in heaven with our Heavenly Father.

Kathie Short did an excellent job of organizing the memorial service to get the congregation in an attitude of reverence and service for our Lord and Creator during the coming year. Other church members pitched in to prepare the food—a simple repast of breads, fruits, and vegetables—and to lead out in the service.

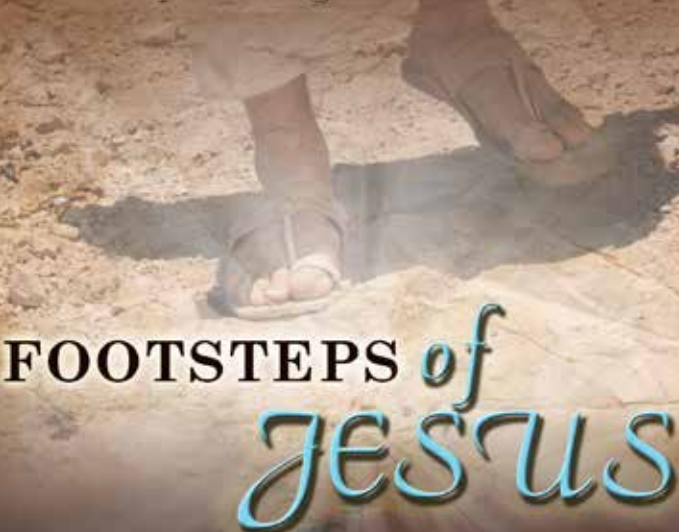
Deacons Buc Gendke, Jarrett Morgan, Tim Sinclair, and Anthony Vargas and deaconesses Bobbye Caples and Deborah Gendke set up the worship space to prepare for the foot washing and the meal; elders Bo Gendke and Jared Hoskinson helped our pastor Valeri Tchoukovskii perform a communion service; and church musicians Wil Reyna, Jessica Brain, and Luci Henry graced those in attendance with special musical selections.

Lindsey Gendke



Members of the Alvarado church participated in an Agape Feast and communion service on January 1.

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Heart-reach to Outreach in South Dallas

Thanks to the leadership of Pat Ford, Dallas Community Fellowship Inc., Outreach for Youth is serving the needs of children and families in South Dallas.

DALLAS » Pat Ford, a member of Living Waters Worship Center, can't sit still. Her heart-reach now is an outreach to her home community. A product of South Dallas where school dropout rates are high, teen pregnancy is on the rise, and unemployment is above the national level, she heard God's call to go back and minister to that same community. For more than 20 years, Pat and her family have given from their personal resources to help children and their families experience a better life.

"It was Christ through the Adventist message that changed my life," states Ford. "God saved and delivered me from that same community. I must go back to help." Ford beams with excitement and passion about her outreach ministry. "Eight children have been baptized from our work," says Ford with tears in her eyes.

Dallas Community Fellowship, Inc., Outreach for Youth, her non-profit organization, has recently secured a facility to better serve the community and partner with others to help meet the needs of children and their families in South Dallas. "My pastor, Roland J. Hill, keeps me encouraged by teaching us and inspiring us to live a debt-free life, so we can have more time and money to work for God," says Ford, when asked how she stays encouraged. You can learn more about Ford's ministry at dallascommunityfellowshipinc.webs.com.

Roland Hill, pastor

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Providence and Prayer



TEXICO CONFERENCE

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16, NIV). Several years ago we were moving from the seminary to my new assignment in Missouri. We were directed by the conference leadership to rent a U-Haul to make the move. While doing so, I met a young man in the store and said, “Where are you moving to?”

“To Missouri,” he replied.

“That’s a coincidence,” I said, “I’m moving to Missouri.”

“I’m moving just north of Macon,” he said.

“That’s a coincidence, I am going to be pastoring the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Macon.”

He said, “That’s a coincidence, my wife is a Seventh-day Adventist and is out in the car.” I went out to meet her and determined to visit their home once I was settled.

My first week in the Macon church he was there with his wife and their three children. I scheduled a visit and began Bible studies with him. He was an agnostic. When we came to the lesson on accepting Jesus, he made that commitment. We both prayed, and I’ve never felt the power of the Holy Spirit more powerfully in a room before or since. He was soon baptized.

One week during church when he was at home with one of the children who was sick, his wife gave a testimony that he was always a good husband, but things had become so much better since he had accepted Jesus and become a part of our fellowship.

Soon we got the sad news—she was diagnosed with cancer (malignant melanoma). She was to have surgery at the university hospital. During the hour-long drive, I was praying for a miracle. “God, would you please let this young mother with three small children be healed for

the children’s sake, for her sake, and for the sake of her husband who has just become a Christian?”

When I arrived at the hospital, her husband and I went into the room to pray for her. Science could not save her. Only God could. We prayed in faith most earnestly. The next day the surgery revealed that the tumor had shrunk by 70 percent overnight and was now benign. God worked a miracle for all of us!

My friends, “The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective” (James 5:16, NIV). I have seen impossible circumstances changed because of persistent, faithful prayer. Come to God in this way, and you will see miracles.

Jim Stevens, president

New Spanish Church Opens in Lubbock

LUBBOCK, TEX. » For a few years varied efforts were made to open a Spanish-speaking church in Lubbock, with no positive results. But at last, on February 20, the new church that will take the Everlasting Gospel to the Lubbock Spanish-speaking community was inaugurated!

David Freedman, vice-president of finance for the Texico Conference, offici-

ated with a message motivating the church leadership to have a willing heart in doing the work of God. This event, with an attendance of more than 70 people, was sealed with a baptism (Hazel Baez), a special prayer, and a big potluck. This set the stage for the week of revival that took place in which two more families expressed their desire to be part of the church family.

The 45 members of the Lubbock Spanish church acquired the building only about four months ago and have been remodeling it in preparation for the evangelistic efforts that will help the church to reproduce itself in the area. This is part of the original plan that was presented to me three years ago by the Texico Conference, when I was first called to shepherd the Amarillo Spanish district. The Amarillo Spanish church has been experiencing a high weekly attendance of approximately three hundred persons, and the congregation is also planning to open another church in this area soon.

When we make the message of the Great Commission sound within the walls of a group or church that has a willing heart to obey the voice of Jesus, then we can amplify our vision by connecting with His divine vision and thus see our dreams become a reality!

Praise God for the dream that came true and for the souls who have received and will receive the light of the world through this lighthouse. Our thanks goes to God, to the always-willing laity, and to the Texico Conference for allowing us to be part of their vision of setting up beacons of light in the dark places on earth.

Jose Manuel Rodriguez, pastor



The Spanish-speaking congregation in Lubbock rejoiced on February 20 as they dedicated their newly-acquired and newly-remodeled church building that will serve as home base for their evangelistic efforts in the community.



About 300 people, 100 of whom were visitors, attended the Sabbath morning services at the conclusion of the recent evangelistic crusade sponsored by the Rio Grande church in Albuquerque.

2010 Texico Camp Meeting and Youth Festival!

“FEED MY SHEEP”

→ June 15-19, 2010 ←

Albuquerque Convention Center
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Main Speakers

English:

Dr. Ron Smith, Vice-President of Southern Union

Spanish:

Pablo Partida, Presidente de la Asociación de Sonora

Special Musical Guests

English: **Steve Darmody**

Spanish: **Rudy Micelli**

**For a complete listing of speakers and schedules,
please see the camp meeting brochure in this
issue of the RECORD or at www.texico.org.**

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be made at: *DoubleTree Hotel*,
201 Marquette Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM
(505) 247-7000 or (800) 222-Tree

Eight-day Crusade a Success

ALBUQUERQUE, N.MEX. » The Rio Grande church reports a successful conclusion to their recent eight-day evangelistic effort, conducted by Jose Fuentes, who holds a doctorate degree in psychology and family psychology. The focus of his meetings was family life matters, each night covering pertinent and interesting subjects that encompass this broad topic. The meetings ended with an attendance of about 300-plus people on Sabbath morning, which included approximately 100 visitors. When Fuentes made an altar call, about 55 people responded by coming forward. As a result, at least 40 interests and 23 Bible studies were created.

In addition to the meetings held in the evening, Fuentes provided counseling sessions every day from 4:00-6:30 p.m., helping families and couples who are experiencing difficult and even some life-threatening issues. He also counseled couples who were on the verge of divorce, helping them start a new life together.

Each night about 45 children attended the children's program, led by Rocio Rojas and Dylia Vigil. As a follow-up to these meetings, Pastor Daniel Ponce conducted a reaping crusade in March.

Jaime Calvo, pastor

Sabbath Breakfast Increases Sabbath School Attendance

ODESSA, TEX. » The Odessa English men's ministries group sponsored a Sabbath-morning breakfast on February 13 to encourage church members to be early for Sabbath School and to increase Sabbath School attendance. Under the leadership of Mike Lackey and Tim Edgmon, along with others, both members and non-members, the group prepared a full menu of hash browns, scrambled eggs, veggie strips, biscuits, fruit salad, pancakes, waffles, juice, and milk. They set the tables beautifully, and the meal provided a wonderful opportunity for fellowship. The ladies in the church enjoyed watching the men in the kitchen preparing breakfast, and of course, the ladies were the first to be served. Since this Sabbath breakfast was such a success, the church decided that the men's ministries will continue to host a Sabbath breakfast every first Sabbath of the month.

Nefritire Razon

Women's Ministries Day Centers on Prayer

LUBBOCK, TEX. » Our church celebrated a wonderful Sabbath with women's ministries as the focus. Worship and praise filled the sanctuary as the women's choir, led by

Sheyleah Harris-Plant, lifted their voices to God and rejoiced with the congregation. Roxie Graham-Marski and Jeana Harris delivered an uplifting message about the significance and power of prayer. Each suggested that we "Plug [ourselves] into the Father," and use "perseverance, persistence, and prayer" to remain connected to God.

Ryan N. Dixon



▲ The women's choir, led by Sheyleah Harris-Plant, lifted their voices to God and rejoiced with the congregation during the Sabbath-morning services on Women's Day at the Lubbock church.

◀ The men of the Odessa English church prepared a tasty Sabbath-morning breakfast in February, encouraging Sabbath School participants to attend and arrive on time.

Trip to Navajo Country Yields Rich Insights

“I’ve been on other mission trips, but this is one of the best,” says Mary Holway. A junior elementary education major at Southwestern Adventist University, she joined a group of Southwestern students and faculty for a trip to Navajo country in Arizona.

“In secular schools, spring break is an occasion for obnoxious misbehavior,” said Eric Anderson, university president. “I am proud that our students used the time for service, not drunken partying.”

A group from the Keene and Conroe (Texas) congregations was also part of the mission trip. The team did mostly manual work—everything from cleaning up a neglected cemetery and pouring sidewalks to removing fences and creating a garden. Participants in the trip also found time to learn about Navajo culture.

“When we split up for lunch, I ended up at a Subway restaurant where I met a code talker from World War II,” says Holway, referring to the famous Navajo Marines who used their native language as a way of creating an unbreakable battlefield communication code. “He was very proud to tell me that he had served his country and said that there were only about 40 codetalkers still alive.”

The group also had the opportunity to visit Indian ruins in a picturesque canyon on private land, and inspect the sites of significant conflicts between the Navajos and Spanish conquistadors and the U.S. Army. They also visited the National Veteran Navajo cemetery, memorializing patriotic sacrifices in more recent wars.

According to Larissa Knopp, a sophomore history major at Southwestern, non-Christian Navajos regard cemeteries as unsafe, frightening places because of the spirits of the dead. “The fear they have is very real and heartbreaking. As I was walking through the veteran cemetery, the



hopeful lyrics ‘no more crying there,’ came to mind.”

“Living in Washington State, I’ve passed through reservations many times coming down to Texas to school, but now I realize that that there is much more than what you can see from the highway,” she added. “I’d love to go back and get to know the people better.”

Creating Connections at Southwestern’s Chan Shun Centennial Library

Forty years ago Southwestern’s library hired me fresh out of eighth grade to help tend magazines and journals. I relished the library as a portal to a universe of ideas and experiences, and loved the responsibility of keeping that door open and welcoming for others. The words “wonder and curiosity” probably best describe my reaction to the college library.

For my college education I selected

Southwestern, whose biology and chemistry programs (my choice of disciplines) had earned a reputation for academic rigor, opportunity for students to conduct independent study and research, and faculty members who cared deeply about our knowledge of God. Happily, Southwestern encouraged students to combine employment with study, which translated into graduating with good academic preparation, a strong work ethic, and no loans. Southwestern demanded accountability in my classes and in my work as a lab instructor. And I developed a fearless willingness to tackle the possible and a restless awareness of God’s presence.

Life challenged me, as it does everyone. Years of work in environmental litigation and too

many personal losses convinced me to re-focus my life. Mid-career I re-trained to be an academic librarian, as I loved the profession’s commitment to connect people with ideas. I believed this to be the essence of Christian education—it has been so in my experience.

Since returning to Southwestern six years ago as university librarian, I’ve become a mentor to a new generation of students, encouraging them to be as hungry for God’s eminence as they are for scholarship. Students come to my office generally to explore research topics, but we almost always begin by talking about the Foucault pendulum on my desk. And then we talk about my dad’s Bible (engraved and annotated), and then God’s love for them.

If you haven’t visited our library recently it might seem odd to you to consider the library as a center for campus and community outreach, for personal Bible study and prayer, or even for evangelism, but be assured that these are a part of our daily activities. Yes, we connect patrons with research material, but our principal mission is to connect them with our Lord and Savior.

Cristina Thomsen, librarian at Chan Shun Library on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University.

“United We Serve” Ministries Training Event Unites Church Members in Houston

HOUSTON, TEX. » The George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston was the site of the “United We Serve” ministries training event held on Sabbath, March 20. This was a monumental event in that three church entities—the Southwestern Union Conference, the Southwest Region Conference, and the Texas Conference—combined resources, talents, and a unified spirit to bring members of the Houston and Capital City area churches together for a day of inspirational worship and training in the various ministries of the church. More than 4,000 people, young and old, were inspired by the messages given by our general session speakers, Henry Wright, senior pastor of the Community Praise Center in Alexandria, Va., and Ernest Castillo vice president of the North American Division. Henry

Wright, addressing the English-speaking audience and Ernest Castillo, addressing the Spanish-speaking audience, challenged everyone to capture and maintain their focus of total submission to the Lord Jesus Christ in proclaiming the gospel in word and lifestyle.

The theme for the day, “United We Serve,” stated the purpose for this inspirational gathering. We are Seventh-Day Adventists! We are called by God to herald the message of a soon-coming Savior. For organizational purposes, conferences were developed. But the territorial lines of

our conferences were never meant to separate us as the people of God, having the same mission and the same goals of advancing His kingdom. Working together with enthusiasm and the power of God’s Spirit, we can have an impact of enormous proportions in ministry outreach. Individually, we will be strengthened and spiritually benefited. Collectively, our churches will be made stronger and more effective in the communities we serve.

This day, however, served as a precursor for a far-reaching purpose. In February 2011 the Southwestern Union, Southwest Region, and Texas conferences are planning 100 evangelistic campaigns in the city of Houston, Tex., a “blitzkrieg of evangelism,” if you please. Preparation begins now! Pastors and leaders of each entity are



▲ Approximately 4,000 people attended the United We Serve training event in Houston, enjoying the dynamic speakers, thought-provoking seminars, spiritually-uplifting music, and warm fellowship.

◀ Featured speaker Ernest Castillo preaches to the Spanish-speaking attendees of the United We Serve training event in Houston.

Next page top: Featured speaker Henry Wright preaches the sermon for divine worship on Sabbath, during the United We Serve training event.



teacher in a number of conferences, including Allegheny West, Potomac, Central California, and Arizona. From July 1998 to December 2002 she served as the superintendent of schools for the Southwest Region Conference, and in January 2003 she became the associate director of education for the Southwestern Union. She holds a B.A. in theology and English from Oakwood College, an M.A. in education from California State University, and a Ph.D. in education from Capella University.

“Dr. Warfield has been well received in the field and it has been a privilege to work with her over the years,” said Mike Furr, superintendent of schools for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. “I look forward to working with her in this capacity.”

Pat Humphrey, Southwestern Union Record associate communication director

praying together, organizing the churches, leading members in seasons of prayer and fasting, and forming small groups in the various communities of the Houston area.

“Study the second chapter of Acts. In the early church the Spirit of God wrought mightily through those who were harmoniously united. . . . let us remove every barrier and come into unity in the service of the Master” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 9, p. 196)

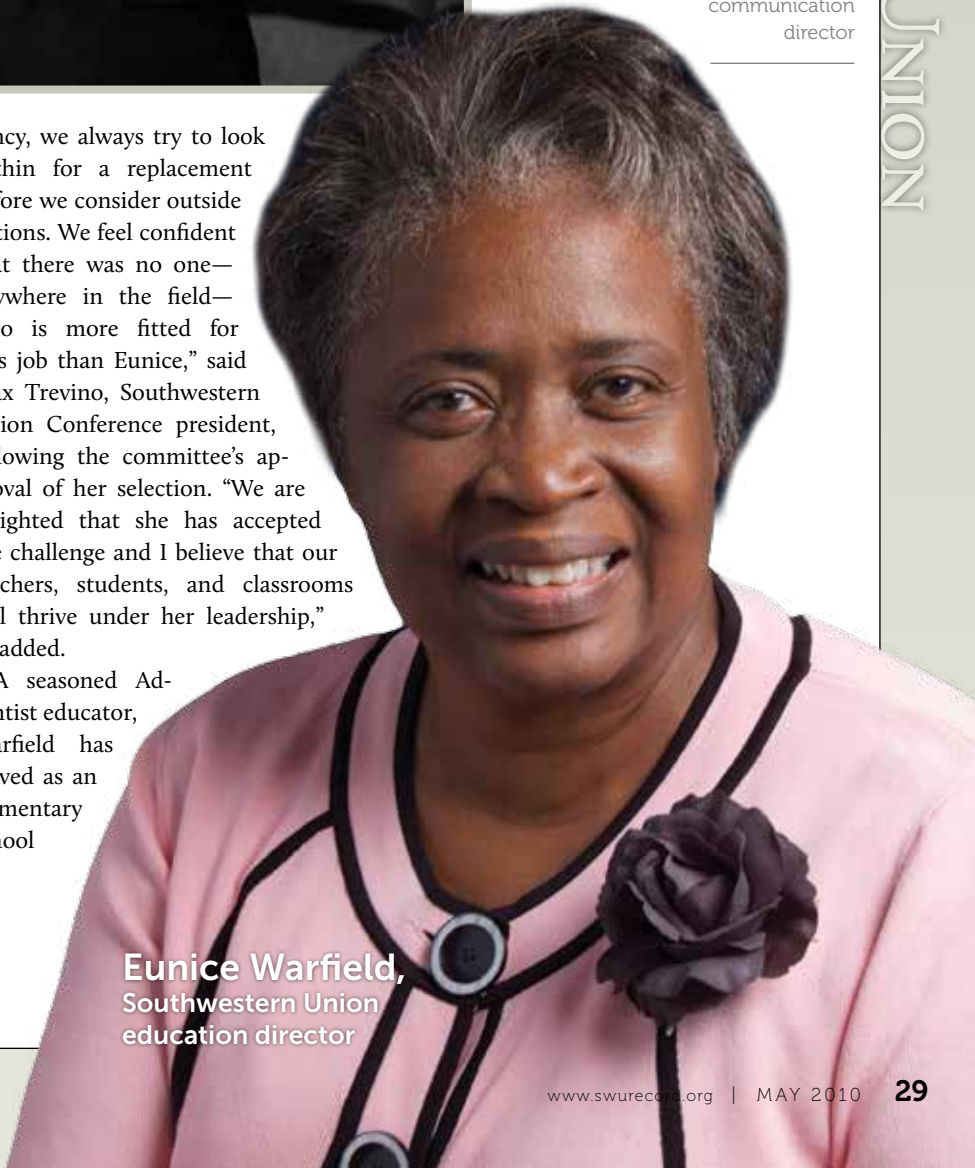
Buford Griffith, Jr., vice president for ministries, Southwestern Union Conference

Eunice Warfield Selected as New Education Director

At the Southwestern Union Conference Executive Committee meeting on March 17, Eunice Warfield, Ph.D., was selected as the new union education director, replacing Doug Walker, who retired February 1. “Whenever we have a departmental va-

cancy, we always try to look within for a replacement before we consider outside options. We feel confident that there was no one—anywhere in the field—who is more fitted for this job than Eunice,” said Max Trevino, Southwestern Union Conference president, following the committee’s approval of her selection. “We are delighted that she has accepted the challenge and I believe that our teachers, students, and classrooms will thrive under her leadership,” he added.

A seasoned Adventist educator, Warfield has served as an elementary school



Eunice Warfield, Southwestern Union education director

Miracles In Veracruz

Picture yourself in the beautiful resort town of Veracruz, Mexico, March 5-14, 2010. No, you are not on the sandy beaches looking out on the gorgeous Caribbean Gulf waters, but you are in the backyard of a home that has become a church plant. You are with a few church members and 17 guests, and you are listening to a teenager who has recently become an "international evangelist." She is preaching a ShareHim evangelistic sermon about baptism and your heart is stirred as she shares her experience about her best Friend, Jesus, and what He has done for her. You are amazed as you look at her audience, as not only does her teenage translator have misty eyes but tears are in the eyes of everyone in the audience. Then this young evangelist

makes her appeal and the appeal cards are handed out. Seventeen precious people—all the guests who are present—indicate a desire to be baptized, and you say to yourself, *I have witnessed a miracle!*

Then in two days when you're at the mass baptism on Sabbath, you're amazed to see not only the 17 but another 130-

plus who join them in baptism. There was 16-year-old Daniel, who had made calls for baptism with no response, so he decided on his own to fast and pray all day on Friday. Sabbath morning he came up to me (Kathy) very excited, saying that six people in his church had decided for baptism and one had just been baptized. Again, you say to yourself, *I have seen another miracle.*

You then visit with young Yannick and he tells you his experience. You remember when he preached on baptism and excitedly told you that three people had made their decision that night. For some strange reason, you ask, "Is that all?" and then he responds, "No, there were five decisions last evening." On Sabbath he had another three decisions for baptism, making his total 11 precious souls for Jesus. You recall the glow on Yannick's face and you say, that's a miracle!

You begin to think of all the stories from our Valley Grande and Chisholm Trail Academy students as well as adults who have shared with you their life-changing experiences on this Veracruz mission trip. You realize that maybe the biggest miracle that took place was in the lives and hearts of the first-time international evangelists. That's the greatest miracle of all!

Duane and Kathy McKey,
Southwestern Union vice president
for evangelism and shepherdess
coordinator

Students and other volunteers from around the Southwestern Union traveled to Veracruz, Mexico, this past March to conduct ShareHim meetings. Many baptisms resulted and the lives of the volunteers were forever changed by this positive experience.



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VENCEREMOS

3-6 de Junio, 2010
Southwestern Adventist University
Keene, TX

Stephen Bohr
Ismael Castillo Sr.
y más



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[MISCELLANEOUS]

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Heritage Singers will celebrate their 40th 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, by phone 530.622.9369 or at the Heritage GC booth #1229, if tickets are still available.

Announcements

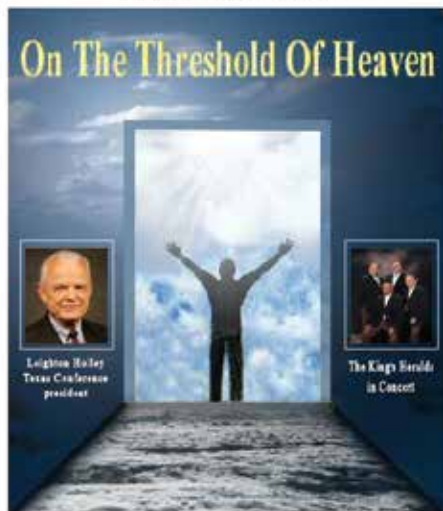
Amateur radio operators, the quinquennial business and fellowship meeting of the Adventist Amateur Radio Association International will be held June 27, 2010, at 2:00 p.m., in room B-317 (building B), in connection with the General Conference session in Atlanta. All radio amateurs are welcome to attend. Visit us during the session in the exhibit area, booth 1738, Adventist World Aviation. For more information, visit www.aarai.org.

Arminianism and Adventism: Celebrating our Soteriological Heritage will bring together top scholars to explore issues relating to a biblical understanding of human nature, free will, God's grace, atonement and predestination. The conference is October 14-17, 2010 at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. Plenary conference speakers include Roger Olson, Barry L. Callen, George Knight, Hans K. LaRondelle, Woodrow Whidden, and Denis Fortin. Participants can register at www.

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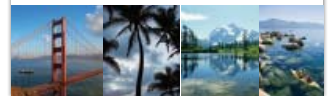
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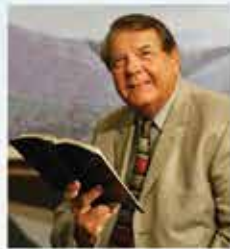
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Ozark Family Campmeeting

June 1 (Tuesday Night) - June 5



Ron Halvorsen, Sr.,

Pastor Halvorsen is a very popular speaker and pastor. Raised in Brooklyn, New York, Halvorsen experienced the pain and poverty associated with inner city life.

Through his gift of evangelism, Halvorsen has brought thousands to the knowledge of Jesus Christ. Crowds have been captivated by his powerful preaching as he sincerely presents Jesus, his personal Savior.

David is an ordained minister of the Gospel and a sought after speaker both nationally and internationally. A former extreme sports enthusiast and punk rocker, David turned his life over to the God of the Bible at the age of 24. He is happily married to his wife, Violeta, and is the father two fun-filled and energetic boys, Landon and Jabel.



David Asscherick

On the Campus of Ozark Adventist Academy & the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church

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Children's Activity Fees	479-736-8075

Ozark Family Camp meeting is a tradition held in a 'big tent' on the grounds of Ozark Adventist Academy along the banks of Flint Creek. This setting is perfect for a spiritual retreat. The political and social scenes, say - 'Its time to get ready'. Welcome to our camp ground, you will find dorm rooms, full hook-ups, tenting areas, cafeteria and a pathfinder snack shack.

Additional information and updates check often
www.OzarkFamilyCampmeeting.com

Through Him, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God...
HEBREWS 13:15

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 a.m. 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, e-mail 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.

The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2010 Conference,

"Libraries 2020: Visioning and Planning for the Next Decade," will be held June 16-21, 2010 at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. Librarians of all specialties are invited to visit <http://www.asdal.org> for conference information. Contact Joel Lutes at jlutes@puc.edu or 707.965.6674, for more information.

The New Hope Seventh-Day Adventist Church Homecoming

will take place June 19, 2010 at 21357 Texas Highway 77W in Marietta, Tex. Services will begin at 9:30 a.m. Plan now to attend and enjoy the services and fellowship with family and friends.

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion

will take place June 3-6, 2010, for alumni and warmly-welcomed schoolmates 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 for further information. Please do pass the good word.

Generation of Youth for Christ in Spanish

(GYC en español) will be held June 3-6, 2010 at Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, Tex. For more information, go to www.gycesp.org or call 630.687.1074. Participate in seminars, devotionals, and evangelism. Connect with ministries and young people who share a passion for souls and a vision of finishing God's work in this generation!

Obituaries

ARMSTRONG, Eddie L,

born February 11, 1919 in Healdon, Okla., and died March 11, 2010 in Fort Worth, Tex. A member of the Joshua church, he was laid to rest in Keene, Tex. Survivors: wife, Ellen Armstrong of Alvarado, Tex.; sons, Jim Armstrong of Avon Park, Fla., Don Armstrong of Alvarado,

Tex., and Ronald Armstrong of Marysville, Tenn.; eight grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

KYTE, Ord Orr, born September 17, 1920 in Superior, Nebr., and died February 6, 2010 in Perkins, Okla. A member of the Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Okla., he was laid to rest in Vacaville, Calif. Ord joined the Adventist Church shortly after World War II and spent his life in service to the church and mankind. He leaves a legacy of a life spent in giving to others. Survivors: wife, Dorothy Kyte; sons, Dwayne Kyte of Vacaville, and Wes Kyte of Dixon, Calif.; daughter, Karen Murcia of Guthrie, Okla.

Mc KAMIE, Joan, born August 9, 1953, and died March 10, 2010 in Texarkana, Ark. A member of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference church, she was laid to rest in Hope, Ark. Survivors: husband, Charles Mc Kamie, and sons, David Mc Kamie, Ricky Mc Kamie, and Michael Mc Kamie, all

of Hope; daughter, Cindy Spears of Olive Branch, Miss.; mother, Katie Cranford of N. Little Rock, Ark.; two brothers, three sisters, and 12 grandchildren.

SIMPSON, Bonnie L, born January 17, 1934 in Garvin County, Okla., and died March 3, 2010 in Oklahoma City, Okla. She was a member of the Midwest City (Oklahoma) church. She greeted everyone with a beautiful smile, had a wonderful sense of humor, and enjoyed country living with her husband and the miniature horses that she loved greatly. Survivor: husband, Kenneth Simpson.

SMITH, James Edward, born September 7, 1948 in Amelia, Va., and died January 14, 2010 in Tulsa, Okla. He was a member of Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa, having joined the church in 2005 following a Revelation Seminar. Survivors: wife, Debby Smith, stepsons, James Snyder and Charles Snyder, all of Tulsa; mother, Zola Hickock Smith.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28	June 4	June 11
Abilene, TX	8:25	8:29	8:34	8:39	8:43	8:46
Albuquerque, NM	7:57	8:03	8:08	8:13	8:17	8:20
Amarillo, TX	8:38	8:44	8:49	8:54	8:58	9:02
Brownsville, TX	8:05	8:08	8:12	8:16	8:19	8:22
Dallas, TX	8:13	8:19	8:23	8:28	8:32	8:35
El Paso, TX	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:04	8:08	8:11
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:16	8:20	8:25	8:30	8:34	8:37
Gallup, NM	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:23	8:26	8:30
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:02	8:07	8:11	8:16	8:19	8:22
Gentry, AR	8:11	8:17	8:22	8:28	8:32	8:35
Little Rock, AR	7:59	8:05	8:10	8:14	8:19	8:22
Muskogee, OK	8:13	8:19	8:25	8:29	8:34	8:37
New Orleans, LA	7:41	7:46	7:50	7:55	7:58	8:01
Oklahoma City, OK	8:22	8:27	8:32	8:38	8:41	8:45
Roswell, NM	7:46	7:51	7:56	8:01	8:04	8:08
San Antonio, TX	8:14	8:19	8:23	8:27	8:31	8:34
Shreveport, LA	8:01	8:06	8:11	8:15	8:19	8:22
Tulsa, OK	8:17	8:22	8:28	8:33	8:37	8:41

Singing for *His* Glory

“GO CLARITY!” SCREAMS FROM MY FRIENDS FILLED THE ENTIRE ROOM. It was my first time singing at Friday Night Café, and I was very nervous. I was a freshman, and hardly knew anyone in the room. This wasn’t my first time to sing in public, yet, I always felt a twinge of nervousness every time I got up to sing. As I walked onto the stage, I had a flashback of my musical experiences.

My family was a singing family. My uncles and aunts, cousins, and grandparents would often come to our house to sing. When I was three years old, I would join them, even if I sang off key. By the time I turned five, I loved music with a passion. One day my family noticed how well I could sing and my parents immediately arranged for me to sing at church the next Sabbath. My uncles and I practiced hard, because I was the lead singer. Sabbath came very quickly, and I was terrified. On the stage, I felt my legs about to give way. “Oh God, help me,” I prayed. With that little prayer I got the courage to start singing. But my voice was so quiet, you could barely hear it. I just kept looking down, not even daring to look at the audience. When I finished the song, I ran right into my daddy’s arms. The whole congregation stood and clapped for me. I was just happy that it was over.

My next flashback took me back to when I was nine years old. In church, dressed in a black dress with flowers, I was about to sing “Where There is Faith,” when all of a sudden, I got the hiccups. I was angry! How could this happen? I had practiced all week for this moment. As I walked off the stage, the people clapped and said “Amen.” After church, people told my parents, “She did all right; she just needs a little more self-confidence.”

All right, I thought, I could have done better if it weren’t for those hiccups. I went home and cried myself to sleep.

I continued to sing on other occasions, but I was never satisfied with the comments people made about my singing. I loved to sing Christian music, but I had forgotten who I was singing for!

One day my family and I were invited to sing at a special event in Michigan. I would be singing a solo and I was excited—but not for the right reasons. I just wanted to show people how well I could sing. When

we arrived, we gave the audio person the cassette for the track to accompany the song that I would sing. But much to my surprise, they didn’t have a cassette player and I didn’t get to sing the solo. I was furious!

When we got home, I closed myself in my room. Then my dad came knocking at my door.

“Clarity,” he said, “I need to talk to you. Honey, you have lost sight of your dream and vision.”

“I don’t get it,” I replied.

“What I mean is, you don’t sing for the right reason anymore. Tell me, why do you sing?”

“Um,” I slowly began. “I guess I have been singing to prove to people that I can sing.”

“Yes, I know. You see, when you sing, you don’t know what a person in the audience might be going through. Your song may be the one to help them through tough times. Also, you shouldn’t sing to impress people, but to give glory to God. You should use your voice for His glory, not man’s approval.”

My dad gave me a huge hug and prayed with me. From then on I started singing with my heart.

Now let’s fast forward to the Friday Night Café. The loud screams from my friends brought me back to real life. But before starting to sing, I prayed a simple prayer.

Dear God, please send your heavenly angels to sing with me. Please take out any pride that may be in my heart, and help me to help someone in this room right now. Amen.

Then, I sang. And the crowd went wild. When I came down from the stage, people were still screaming—but, hopefully, not for me. Now, whenever I sing, I do it, not for myself, but for God’s glory. I wouldn’t have it any other way.

Clarity Chola is a student at Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Tex.





For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Come to the Surface

TAKE A DEEP BREATH. Now, hold it. . . . Keep holding. How long can you go? Thirty seconds? Forty-five? A minute? You can exhale now. (Thanks for playing along.)

While I was in high school, I worked each summer as a lifeguard at our camp in the piney woods of north central Florida. The spring there is worthy of the name, *Kulaqua* (cool aqua). The crystal water flows up from a deep underground system of caverns at a constant refreshing 72 degrees.

During the hot summer days spent sitting on a lifeguard chair in the sun, I would look forward to diving into the water to cool off. Directly below the diving platform is the opening to the spring. A massive hole descends 55 feet to the sandy bottom.

With a bit of practice and persistence, I discovered that I could hold my breath for up to two minutes. I would dive from the platform with arrow-like precision, and with a trail of bubbles streaming behind me, I would descend into the shadowy abyss of the spring. I enjoyed the ooh's and ahh's of admiring campers when retrieving items that had sunk to the bottom. We would often toss objects into the spring on purpose with the intention of showing off.

As comfortable as I became at the bottom of the spring, there was an inescapable, magnetic pull back to the surface. That pull had everything to do with my love affair with oxygen.

Ellen White calls prayer the "breath of the soul." That's probably why the Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 to "pray without ceasing."

For the Christian, prayer is as essential to our spiritual survival as is air to our physical survival. We need a moment-by-moment connection with our Heavenly Father.

No matter how adept I may have been at holding my breath, it could only last so long... I had only one choice—resurface or drown!

If I neglect prayer, I choke and sputter, and find myself in desperate need of spiritual resuscitation. When I'm tempted to go it alone and venture into murky waters of self-reliance, one thing is certain, I'll soon feel a burning sensation in the

lungs of my soul. And it doesn't matter whether I'm 50 feet below the surface of God's love, or just five inches. I can be very close to the source of air, but if my nose is underwater, I'm only moments from drowning.

And don't forget that breathing is a two-part exercise. We *inhale*, taking in fresh oxygen to replenish our blood supply. Then we *exhale*, ridding our bodies of carbon dioxide and toxins. Prayer is the same. It's a two-way communication. But if we only exhale (telling God what's on our mind), we're only getting rid of the toxic cares of our life. We miss out on the spiritual refreshing that awaits us when we inhale the breath of the Spirit as we allow God to communicate with us.

We serve a God who takes a personal interest in our moment-by-moment, day-by-day life. He wants to be as close to us as the air that surrounds us. Breathe out. Breathe in. It's time to come to the surface—and pray!

Record

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