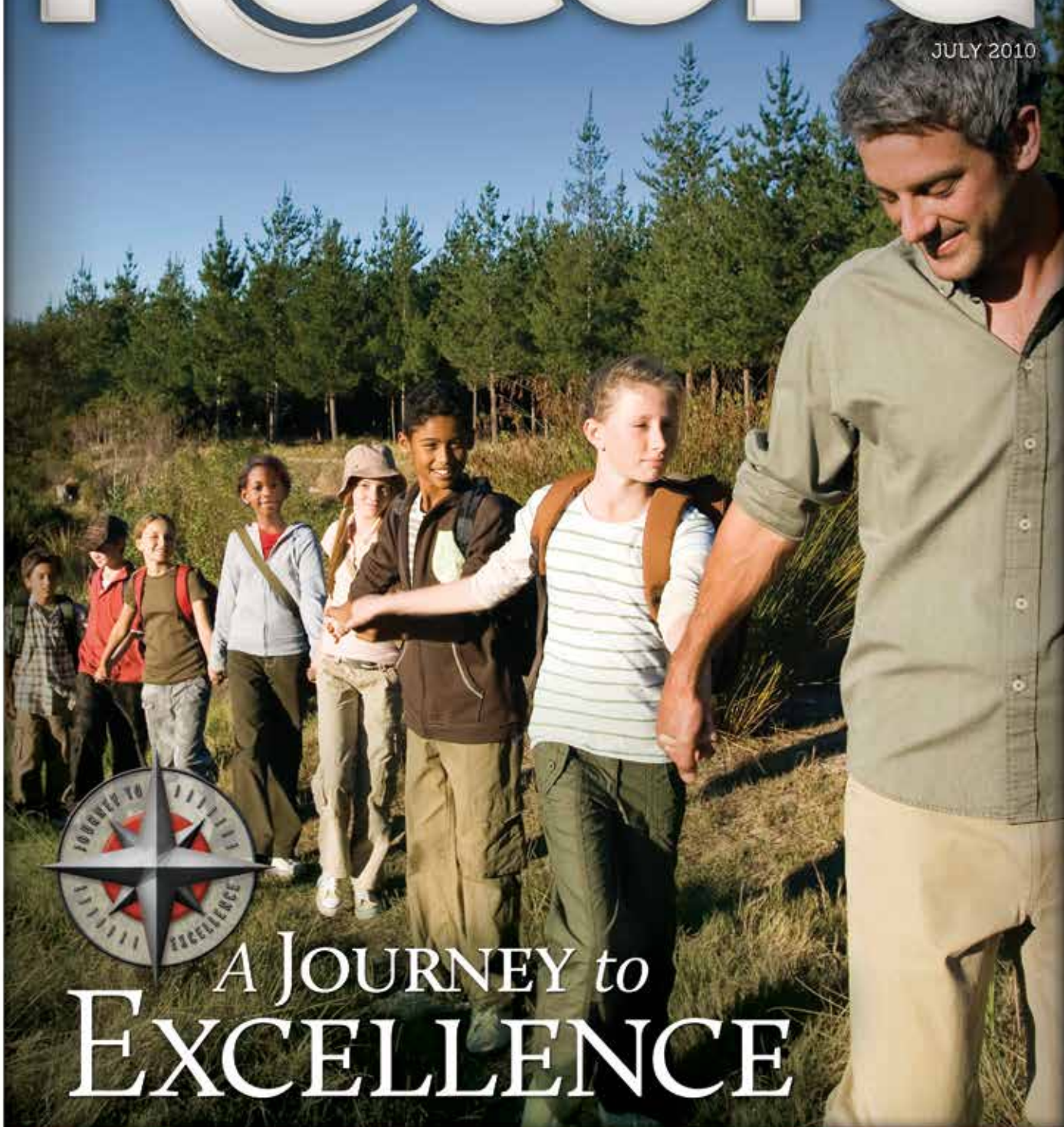


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

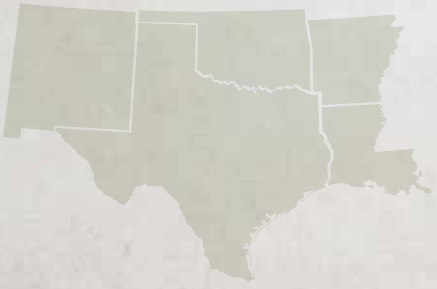
Record

JULY 2010



A JOURNEY to
EXCELLENCE

ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION



CONTINUING the JOURNEY

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FOCUS ON ADVENTIST EDUCATION



Special Announcement:

In order to provide better coverage of the 2010 General Conference Session, we will combine the August and September issues of the *Southwestern Union Record*. We will resume our normal publication schedule in October.
—The Record staff.

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On the Cover

Adventist education in the Southwestern Union has been on a journey for more than 100 years. As the journey continues, we build on past strengths but look toward innovative changes that result in even better, stronger schools and students that are prepared not only for a future of service here on earth but for eternity. Photo by Thinkstock.com.

President's Perspective»

BY MAX TREVIÑO » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Journeying to Excellence

As you might imagine, because I'm a product of the Seventh-day Adventist educational system, I'm a firm believer in Adventist education. And as I've mentioned before, I also enjoy numbers. So I always find it encouraging when statistics bring forth data that mirrors what we've long believed in our hearts.

The statistics I'm referring to come from a North American Division study called *CognitiveGenesis*. This groundbreaking study indicates that students in Adventist schools in the United States perform a half-grade level better than the national average. Not only do students in Adventist schools score higher than average in all subjects, but the longer they attend an Adventist school, the higher their average achievement jumps.

This data is consistent with what we see here in the Southwestern Union, whether our students are attending small multigrade classrooms in rural settings or schools on larger campuses with multiple teachers for each grade.

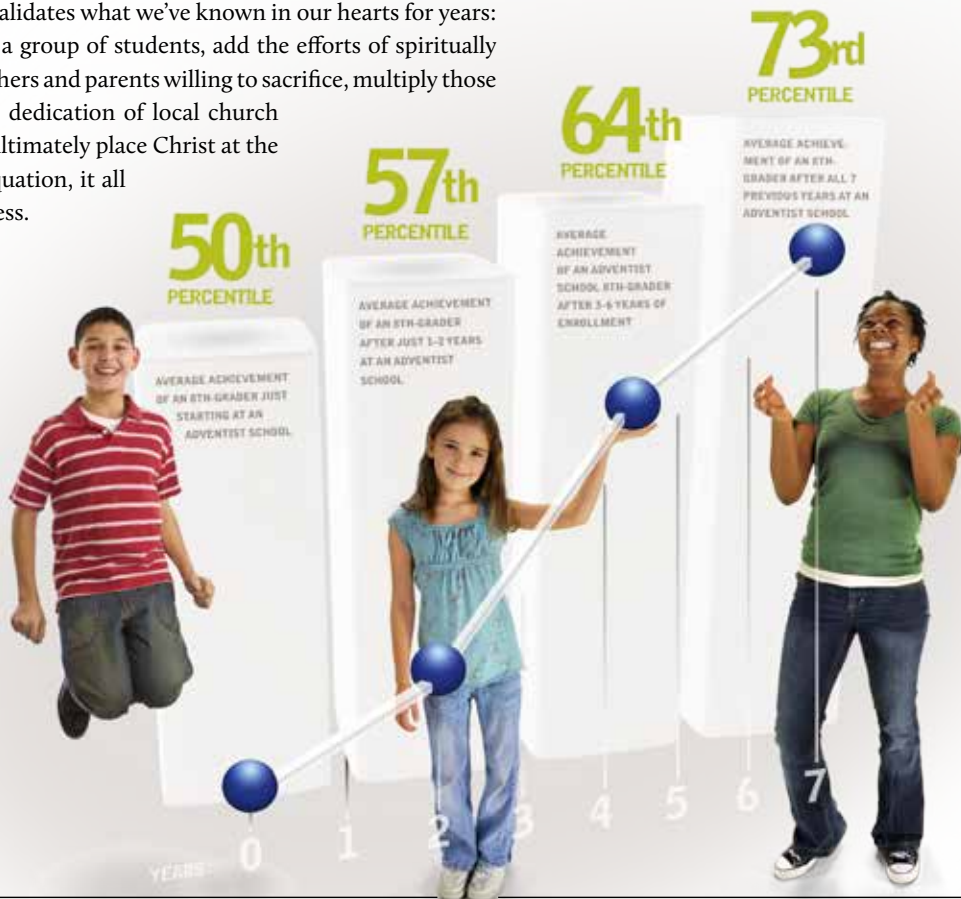
This only validates what we've known in our hearts for years: When you take a group of students, add the efforts of spiritually committed teachers and parents willing to sacrifice, multiply those efforts with the dedication of local church members, and ultimately place Christ at the center of the equation, it all adds up to success.

Obviously, we have not arrived at the final destination. Our educators and leaders are currently examining processes that could potentially be fine-tuned to improve overall outcomes.

Adventist education is truly on a "journey to excellence." Our schools prove it. Our teachers and students prove it. And now the numbers are proving it as well.

For more information about Adventist education and the *CognitiveGenesis* study, please visit www.nadeducation.org.

Max Treviño, Southwestern Union president





CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

The Power of Interpersonal Relationships

DRIVEN TO CONNECT

With 400 million people on Facebook and over 100 million Twitter users, it is obvious that people feel a need to connect socially. But this shouldn't come as surprise, because God made this observation in Genesis 2:18: "It is not good for the man to be alone."

Having vibrant interpersonal relationships is vital to our health. In fact, they make the difference between sickness and health. Not only does God crave a relationship with us but He created us to be in relationship with others. Interpersonal relationships are essential to longevity and wellness. To be socially connected means to interact with others—to communicate, serve, share, touch, encourage, trust, and confide.

A NEW DISEASE?

One-third of people report feeling lonely. Twenty-five percent of Americans have no one to confide in. Twenty-nine million people live alone. Some experts say that loneliness is becoming a major disease. Loneliness creates three to five times greater risk for heart disease and increases premature death by up to 500 percent. This is because of the coping mechanisms people use to manage these feelings. Lonely people tend to abuse drugs and alcohol, smoke, overeat, overwork, and battle depression.

RELATIONSHIPS AND HEALTH

An interesting study that tracked 7,000 people for 40 years found that the amount of social support was the best predictor for good health. Another study looked for common characteristics among people who were 100-plus years old. It found that these people were active, nonsmokers, had a healthy diet, rested, had a purpose, and were *socially connected*.

RELATIONSHIPS PROTECT AND HEAL

When social support is increased or loneliness is reduced, the immune system is strengthened. Researchers gave 276 volunteers nasal drops that contained the rhinovirus (the common cold). Nearly everyone became infected. But not everyone developed signs or symptoms. Those with the most friends had the fewest symptoms and got over their colds the quickest.

SOCIAL SUPPORT AND PREGNANCY

Here is an interesting finding for couples that are expecting. In a review of 144 studies, doctors Hoffman and Hatch of Columbia University concluded that intimate social support from a partner or family member is associated with improved fetal growth, regardless of a woman's level of acute stressors.

In a study regarding childbirth, women who had a supportive companion were in labor an average of 8.7 hours versus 19.3 hours for women who delivered alone.

IS YOUR TEENAGER CONNECTED?

In 1997, a massive study collected data from 90,000 teens and 18,000 of their parents across the U.S. to understand which factors are most likely to protect youth from harm and help them to enjoy an abundant life. The one word that defines and summarizes the project is "connectedness." Kids who feel connected to their family, church, school, and community are healthier and far less likely to engage in behaviors that put them at risk.

ARE YOU CONNECTED TO YOUR SPOUSE?

Studies show that married people live longer and have lower mortality for almost every major cause of death than those who are single, separated, widowed, or divorced.

Husbands were asked: "Does your wife show you her love?" Those who answered "yes" showed a reduced risk of angina, even in the presence of high risk factors. Studies also reveal that happily married wives have stronger immune systems and report less depression and loneliness.

Which do you think predicts positive aging, a good marriage at age 50 or low cholesterol at age 50? Answer: a good marriage at age 50. People with good marriages age the best.

PET DISCOVERIES

A person's "social" connection with his or her pet has positive wellness benefits. The unconditional love of a pet soothes the mind and body. This was illustrated by one study that discovered the positive effect a dog can have on lowering blood pressure reactivity—it had an even greater effect than that of a human friend! Why? Because the friend was often perceived as judgmental as opposed to the dog that showered the person with unconditional love and acceptance.








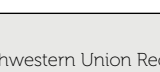
THE TRUTH ABOUT SOCIAL CONNECTION

Dr. James Lynch, a social support researcher, writes: "The mandate to 'love your neighbor as yourself' is not just a moral mandate. It is a physiological mandate. Caring is biological. One thing you get from caring for others is you are not lonely; and the more connected you are to life, the healthier you are."

Love and relationships are life's truest forms of abundance and wealth. Apart from grace, they are without a doubt God's greatest gifts. So celebrate the people in your life—accept them, support them, uplift them ... and live life to the fullest.

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



My Neighbor

What does it mean to live as a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ today? What is required of us as we attempt to be faithful in these last days of earth's history?

I think we find the answer to these questions in Matthew 22. When an expert in the law asked which commandment was the greatest, Jesus replied in Matthew 22:37-39 (NLT): "You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind." This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: "Love your neighbor as yourself." The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments."

Jesus' answer referred to two passages this man knew well, Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18. In so doing Jesus introduced something that author Scot McKnight refers to as "The Jesus Creed." If we are to live as Jesus lived, we will adhere to this creed.

At the core of the Jesus Creed is love—love for God and love for man. Love is the foundational principle of God's kingdom. It is the basis of the Christian life. We are first to love God, and as an outgrowth of our love for God, we will love our fellow man. In fact, our love for others will give evidence to the world that we love God.

Jesus said in John 13:35 (NLT): "Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

What does it mean to love our neighbor? What is required of us if we are to truly live by The Jesus Creed?

In Corrie ten Boom's *The Hiding Place*, the autobiographical account of the family who provided refuge during the Nazi persecution of Jews across Europe, we see a living example of The Jesus Creed. Corrie's father said, "The master of this house demands that we open the door to anyone that knocks." With

this line Mr. ten Boom announced his intention to obey the Jesus Creed and therefore defy Hitler as he offered refuge to any Jew in need.

But he didn't stop with that. Mr. ten Boom decided to wear a Jewish star after it was ordered that all Jews must thereby distinguish themselves. In so doing he made the decision to live among neighbors, to see his neighbors as fellow human beings instead of seeing them as people with differences or people beneath him. "If we all wear them," he said to a man standing in line for his star, "they won't be able to tell any difference."

Before their arrest and subsequent sentencing to the concentration camp, the ten Booms' pastor pled with them to follow an easier ethic: "It is the law," he said referring to the illegality of harboring Jews. "And Christians must obey the law. Think of what you are risking for one Jewish baby." But Mr. ten Boom knew there was yet a higher law, "We are meant to obey the law of the state—if it does not go against our higher law of God."

The ten Booms were not trying to be relevant or contemporary, liberal, conservative, or rebellious; they were trying to be true followers of Jesus. Saying no to Hitler, they were simply being who they claimed to be. They were living the reality of the gospel they professed with their mouths. In the words of a dying Betsie ten Boom, "There is no pit so deep that Christ is not deeper still."

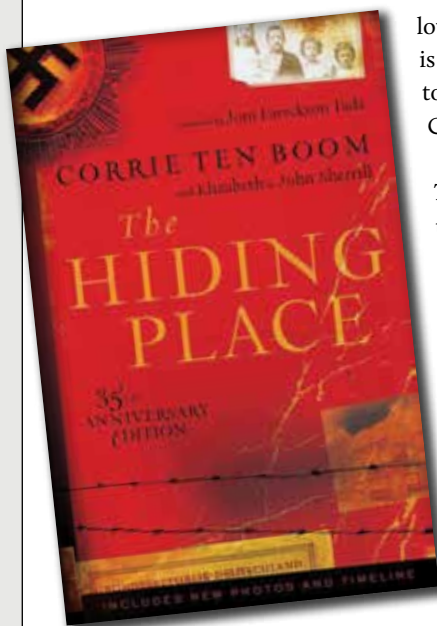
Our greatest task as Christians is not arguing, reasoning, defending, or preaching, but living as Christ's body. We are to live the words we profess with a love for our neighbor and a clear vision of the God who spoke them.

What does it mean to live as a true neighbor today in your part of the world? Who is the "neighbor" Christ calls you to love today?

The real test of discipleship is love. As important as correct doctrine may be, loving God and loving others is the true test of what it means to follow Jesus.

Christ calls us today to allow the gospel to live itself out in our lives. He calls us to live as neighbors.

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 JEN DICKERSON

Making a Difference in Veracruz

In March 2010, a group of Valley Grade Academy students traveled to Veracruz, Mexico, an experience that would impact not only the lives of others, but their own, as well. This was the first short-term mission trip for many in the group. For each participant, the trip represented a challenge. They had already met the first challenge of raising the needed travel funds, and now they were going to preach!



▲ About 150 people were baptized at the conclusion of an evangelistic series in Veracruz, Mexico, in which students from Valley Grande Academy participated as speakers.

“I thought, ‘I can’t communicate, how can I preach? Will these people even listen to me?’” Cameron Overfield (‘11) recalls.

“I went to preach with no prior knowledge or training on how to preach. The first night was nerve-wracking,” Daniel Aragon (‘11) added.

“I found myself up front at church preaching! I couldn’t really believe I was actually doing what I was doing,” Melissa De Paiva (‘11) remembered. No amount of bravery and commitment could totally erase the nervousness these students felt when facing a crowd of strangers. However, “I believe God was with me every single second,” Melissa said.

Each of the students had powerful experiences that week. Daniel Perez (‘11) recalled, “It was Friday night and we were heading out to our church sites. Around us cars raced, horns honked, people yelled and ran, stores did business, and lights flashed. The church stood in the middle of the neighborhood, a true sanctuary and safe place from the dangers of this world. I set up and the service began. I spoke on baptism, and ended with a call. One person decided to follow Jesus and give her life to Him. Wow, I never thought that I could do this! Every day I made sure to press the ‘HS button,’ to call on the Holy Spirit.”

After her first sermon an elderly blind lady approached Melissa. “She told me that she was depressed because she was blind. She was really devoted to the church and really loved God, but she didn’t feel like she could be baptized. ‘How can a blind person lead the blind?’ she asked. What could I tell her? At that moment, I prayed that God would give me the right words to say. ‘You know, love is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see,’ I told her. I reminded her that God always has a purpose for everyone. He knows the plans He has for you. She nodded, and after talking for a little while more, told me she wanted to be baptized.”

A common theme in each student’s story is the power of prayer. During that week, their prayers sustained them, gave them courage, and reached out to searching hearts. “The people in Mexico greeted us with open hearts, like

we were angels from God. In fact, they even told us that we were an answer to their prayers,” Michelle Calagos (‘11) stated.

About 150 people decided to be baptized that week. “I really saw God work through us in Veracruz,” Melissa said. “I gave it all to God and He worked in and through me. I haven’t been the same after that experience,” Daniel Aragon added. At the end of the trip, Cameron said, “I thank God every day for life and for the opportunity to witness for Him. I have decided to give Him all control, even if that means that He sends me to the ends of the earth.”

Jen Dickerson, VGAA English teacher

Visión Hispana

UN BRÉVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE



Dejádlos Venir

En un mundo lleno de degradación social, pérdida de la inocencia, crimen juvenil desenfrenado, y un caos cada vez mayor, las palabras benditas de Jesús continúan resonando: “Dejad a los niños venir a mi, y no se lo impidáis, porque de los tales es el reino de los cielos” (Mateo 19:14). Y qué responsabilidad y bendición es el servir a los hijos de Dios y herederos de su reino por medio de la educación Adventista.

En los años actuales y aún en estos tiempos de desesperación económica, South Texas Christian Academy (STCA), ha visto un aumento constante en inscripciones, incluyendo un crecimiento en el registro de estudiantes hispanos, a diferencia de otras escuelas en la Unión Sudoeste las cuales están luchando por conservar este grupo de alumnos en sus escuelas. Este crecimiento en inscripciones seguramente es atribuido a muchos recientes programas y mejoras escolares que han sido implementados bajo la dirección del jefe de la Junta Directiva el Dr. Guillermo R. Pechero, el director James P. Donlon, y a toda la Junta Ejecutiva Escolar de STCA.

Algunos de estos recientes programas y mejoras incluyen: la construcción de un nuevo edificio para Preparatoria y Cafetería, remodelación del área de juegos y del gimnasio; una suscripción a “Renaissance Place” y los programas de aprendizaje de “Renaissance Learning”, incluyendo Lectura Acelerada, Inglés Inmediato, y “Star Early Literacy” un programa de servicios de diagnóstico de lectura y matemáticas; suscripción actualizada a “United Streaming,” un centro del apoyo para los maestros por medio del canal Discovery; la contratación de un capellán escolar, guía de consejería y maestro de computación, un laboratorio de cómputo con 30 computadoras virtuales en la escuela Primaria, y 50 computadoras nuevas en la escuela Preparatoria; proyectores instalados en cada salón y proyectores Elmo en todos los salones de la Preparatoria; cámaras computarizadas en los pasillos y salones; un programa establecido de Inglés como segunda lengua que se ofrece en el verano; clases en línea que ofrecen créditos universitarios para los alumnos de onceavo y doceavo grados, es un centro de exámenes de SAT/PSAT; y provee cursos de idiomas por medio de Rosetta Stone Classroom (ofreciendo más de 25 idiomas), y más.

Sin embargo, antes de que la imple-

mentación de un programa tenga éxito, una visión para el futuro debe ser forjada. James P. Donlon quien ha ejercido como director de STCA por más de tres años, ha sido un instrumento de ayuda para acercar STCA a su objetivo. Cuando se le preguntó sobre su visión para STCA, él dijo, “Veo a South Texas Christian Academy como un instituto de educación Adventista del Séptimo Día, que ofrecerá a nuestras Iglesias la oportunidad de tener una escuela de Pre Kínder al grado 12 que ofrece mucho más que las mejores escuelas del Valle del Río Grande. Por “mucho más” quiero decir una educación Cristo céntrica que involucra a nuestro Creador en la educación. Mi visión es continuar añadiendo, refinando y haciendo todo lo necesario para alcanzar ese objetivo”. Y cuando se le preguntó al Jefe de la Junta Directiva Escolar el Dr. Guillermo R. Pechero sobre su visión para el futuro de STCA dijo, “Mi visión para STCA siempre ha sido la de una escuela que apoye el sistema de creencias de los Adventistas del Séptimo Día y al mismo tiempo provea excelencia en las áreas Académica, Deportiva y Musical. Alcanzar el objetivo es un proceso de cambio continuo que se construye sobre los alcances obtenidos. Cuando emprendí esto, lo hice con las expectativas de que esta escuela llegara a la excelencia, al ser un lugar educativo Cristo céntrico, en el cual pudiera estar orgulloso de tener a mis hijos. Sabía que iba a enfrentar desacuerdos en el camino que requerirían perseverancia flexible para completar la obra. Cuando unes esto con el saber de que hay muchas escuelas técnicas las cuales compiten por nuestros hijos, es cuando te das cuenta de que tenemos mucho trabajo que hacer. Tenemos algo que el sistema de escuelas públicas no tiene, y es el que la Palabra de Dios sea enseñada. Aunque considero fuertemente que la educación adventista es la mejor, no quisiera que nos sintiéramos satisfechos, sino continuar mejorando lo que ha sido un éxito en el pasado y seguir con nuestro objetivo por la excelencia.”

Y que el Señor continúe bendiciendo a todas nuestras escuelas Adventistas en sus esfuerzos por alcanzar a los estudiantes en el nombre de Jesús, ese mismo Jesús que aún continúa con la invitación “...dejad a los niños venir a Mí.”



La educación en la South Texas Christian Academy envuelve más que el aprendizaje del aula de clases. Los estudiantes en STCA a menudo están involucrados en proyectos de alcance a la comunidad.

Por Jason Stirewalt, Maestro de Lingüística y Periodismo, South Texas Christian Academy



CONTINUING *the* JOURNEY

Scripture is replete with journeys that lead to reward or victory—the children of Israel’s journey to the Promised Land, Joseph’s brothers’ journey in quest of life-sustaining food in a time of famine, Christ’s triumphant journey into Jerusalem. In vision, the modern-day prophet experienced a heavenly journey so wonderful she pleaded to be allowed to stay. Soon, our Lord will come and take us on a journey filled with wonder and joy. Like you, I long for that journey!

Adventist education is a journey too—a journey that leads to “success in this life and preparation for the life that is to come.” Several years ago, the North American Division launched an initiative for education improvement and dubbed it Journey to Excellence. Journey to Excellence focused on change—innovative change that results in school improvement. Its intent is to fulfill the vision of vibrant Adventist education in the twenty-first century.

Journey to Excellence includes:

- A vision, shared values, and common goals.
- A clear understanding of the philosophy, history, and goals of Adventist education.
- Utilization of the growing body of research on effective education.
- Educational leaders and governing boards who create school cultures that encourage innovation without fear of failure.
- A renewing cycle of improvement for Adventist schools.



The goal of the Southwestern Union Office of Education is to foster an environment of change that leads to exemplary schools in which every child and youth can receive an excellent education and quality life-experience. In renewing our focus on the Journey to Excellence initiative we hope to energize educators, students, parents, and constituents to join in the quest for excellence. Working together, homes, schools, and churches can cooperate with divine agencies in nurturing and preparing students for responsible citizenship, rewarding careers, and eternal life.

We invite you to join the journey and support your local church and church school to ensure that every child has the privilege of obtaining an excellent education in a safe and supportive environment.

Eunice Warfield,
director of
education for the
Southwestern
Union





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION *and* CARE

“**E**very child born into the home is a sacred trust. God says to the parents, ‘Take this child, and bring it up for Me, that it may be an honor to My name, and a channel through which My blessings shall flow to the world.’” (*Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students*, p. 145).

As a denomination, Seventh-day Adventists desire to see the early education of the child as a continual growth process. It is imperative that a balanced program be instituted to meet the needs of the child’s physical, intellectual, spiritual, emotional, and social development from birth through the years of formal schooling. This concept is predicated on such principles as found in Proverbs 22:6: “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it” and in *Child Guidance*, p. 193: “Too much importance cannot be placed on the early training of children. The lessons that the child learns during the first seven years of life have more to do with forming his character than all that it learns in future years.”

It is preferable that young children receive their early training at home. But in a society in which single parents head many homes or wherein both parents work outside of the home, it is imperative that we provide alternative methods for basic foundational education. This need has been addressed through various means (e.g., daycare centers, school-based early childhood education programs). Early



childhood education and care programs operated by church entities have been placed under the umbrella of the local union and conference offices of education to provide for oversight and guidance. Where mandated by state policy, centers and programs will continue to be state licensed, but in addition to state licensure and oversight, they will be supervised by personnel from the Southwestern Union Office of Education,

along with personnel from the local conference offices of education.

The North American Division Office of Education (NADOE) is working with representatives from the various union offices of education to develop a spiritually-based curriculum that will meet state and local curricula requirements. We welcome our newly appointed Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) assistant, Carolyn Early. Mrs. Early will be working with ECEC programs (school-based, church-based, and center-based) throughout the Southwestern Union to meet local and state policies and help our programs provide a Christ-centered foundational education program.

If your church is considering a basic foundational education ministry by starting a daycare center or adding a pre-kindergarten program to your established church school, contact your local conference office of education for information and assistance.

Eunice Warfield, education director, Southwestern Union





THE HEART of ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN HOME SCHOOL EDUCATION

Having taught in the public school system before my children were born, I definitely see the need for Adventist Christian education. But I believe the concept goes beyond the traditional classroom setting. The academic and spiritual education we provide as a home schooling

ment when they study and play, we instill in our children a humble heart turned toward their Savior who loves them. We believe it is our responsibility to carefully guard our children's young hearts from Satan's worldly influences while at the same time exercising their muscles to resist sin and embrace good. Our family has



Home education for the Sorke boys, Kollin (left) and Kenton, involves a variety of balanced educational experiences, including formal learning activities, chores, and hands-on projects.

found that home schooling allows us to educate our children academically with a very low student/teacher ratio and customized individual education plan. It also maximizes the amount of time we spend with our children as we educate them for heaven. This follows the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:7-9 (NKJV): "You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates."

family is intentionally Adventist and Christian. More than seven years ago we sensed God leading us to home school because He was calling us to hold our two sons individually accountable to Him *all day and every day*.

The heart of Christian home schooling is transforming our children's love for their Savior into Christian service. Every mo-

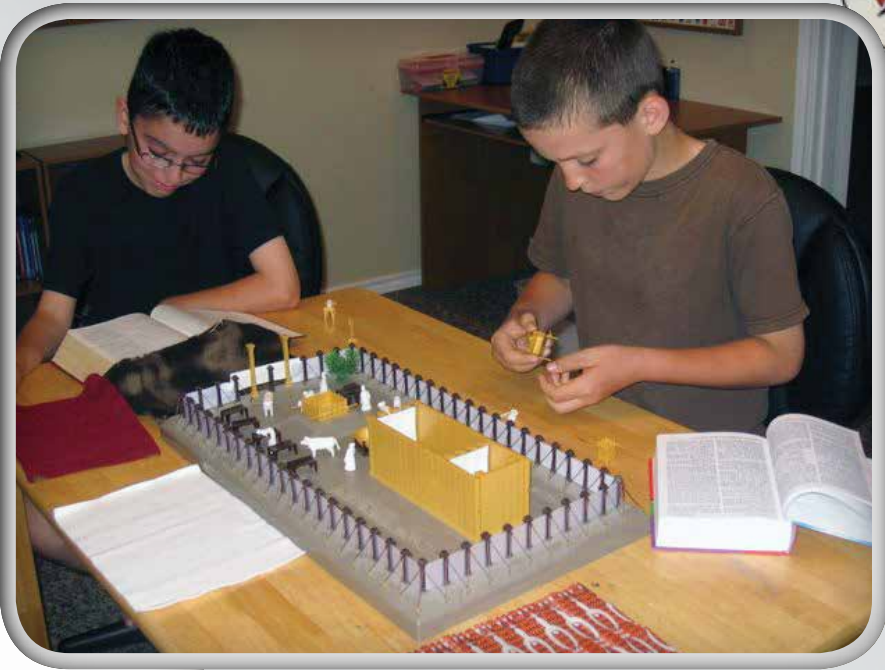
including them in music programs, sports, field trips, and standardized testing. Home school families have also enjoyed helping the schools at work bees and service projects. These open school programs have fostered cooperation and facilitated communication between home school educators and church school educators. Thus the community and the church realize that committed





homeschoolers are dedicated to their children's spiritual *and* academic education.

Ellen White sums up the principle of home schooling for many Adventist families: "The child Jesus did not receive instruction in the synagogue schools. His mother was His first human teacher. From her lips and from the scrolls of the prophets, He learned of heavenly things. The very words which He Himself had spoken to Moses for Israel He was now taught at



From my child's first breath I was overwhelmed with the treasure that God had entrusted into my arms. If my boys are not in heaven, I will be the one God holds accountable. On that day, I want no regrets. I want my boys beside me. That is the heartbeat of Adventist Christian home school education.

Nancy Sorke is a home school parent from Joshua, Tex.

WE'RE WORKING TOGETHER

The Southwestern Union Office of Education is fully supportive of parents who choose to educate their children at home and partners with home school parents through effective professional development with activities such as seminars and workshops; cooperation with home-schooling parents and their children in testing, extra-curricular activities, and supplemental academic programs; and effective professional development that focuses on areas of identified need, innovative methods, and research-driven topics.

His mother's knee" (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 70). She further reminds us that "Parents are to look upon their children as entrusted to them of God to be educated for the family above. Train them in the fear and love of God; for 'the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.' Those who are loyal to God will represent Him in the home life. They will look upon the training of their children as a sacred work, entrusted to them by the Most High" (*Child Guidance*, p. 23).





2010 SOUTHWESTERN UNION EXCELLENCE *in* TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ellen G. White calls teaching “the nicest, the most difficult [work], ever committed to human beings. It requires the most delicate tact, the finest susceptibility, a knowledge of human nature, and a heaven-born faith and patience, willing to work and watch and wait. It is a work than which nothing can be more important” (*Education*, p. 292).

Each year the Southwestern Union Conference recognizes excellence among the teaching staff of both the elementary and secondary levels through the Southwestern Union Excellence in Teaching Award. The Southwestern Union Conference Education Committee is responsible for making the final award selection, based on nominations from conference superintendents of schools (elementary) and academy principals (secondary). Each of the 2010 Excellence in Teaching Award recipients has exemplified excellence in the spiritual credibility, academic preparedness, classroom efficacy, professional development, and commitment to the values of Adventist education. Award recipients receive a \$500.00 award along with an appropriate certificate and plaque.

The 2010 Southwestern Union Excellence in Teaching Award recipients are:

- Shirlene McClendon**, Parkview Adventist School, Oklahoma Conference
- Dariel Jordan**, Excel Adventist Academy, Southwest Region Conference
- Lorene England**, Keene Adventist Elementary School, Texas Conference
- Rebecka Sauls**, Maranatha Adventist School, Texas Conference
- Leandro Bizama**, Ozark Adventist Academy, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference



Shirlene McClendon



Lorene England



Leandro Bizama



Rebecka Sauls



Dariel Jordan



THE NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

ADVENTIST SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTHWEST

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

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Baton Rouge Adventist Academy	4363 Jones Creek Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70816
Beacon Hill Adventist School	1446 Red Ridge Road, DeQueen, AR 71832
Bentonville Adventist School	P.O. Box 298, Bentonville, AR 72712
Colquitt Christian Academy	3233 Colquitt Road, Shreveport, LA 71118
Florence Ewing Adventist Junior Academy	709 Adventist Church Rd., Bonnerdale, AR 71933
Harrison Adventist School	4877 Hwy. 392 West, Harrison, AR 72601
Hot Springs Adventist School	401 Weston Road, Hot Springs, AR 71913
Little Rock Adventist Academy	8708 Rodney Parham, Little Rock, AR 72205
Mountain Home Adventist School	3744 Hwy 62W, Mountain Home, AR 72653
Ozark Adventist Academy	20997 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry, AR 72734
Ozark Adventist Elementary School	21150 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry, AR 72734
Springdale Adventist School	4001 Oaklawn, Springdale, AR 72762
Texarkana Adventist School	3100 Pleasant Grove Rd., Texarkana, TX 75503

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

4735 NW 63rd Street, Oklahoma City, OK 73132-6802 | 405.721.6110

Ardmore Adventist Academy	154 Beavers Academy Rd., Ardmore, OK 73401
Bristow Junior Academy	P.O. Box 1074, Bristow, OK 74010
Ketchum Junior Academy	35369 S. Hwy 82, Vinita, OK 74301
Parkview Adventist Academy	4201 Martin Luther King, Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Tulsa Adventist Academy	900 S. New Haven, Tulsa, OK 74112

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

2215 Lanark Avenue, Dallas, TX 75203 | 214.943.4491

Applegate Adventist Junior Academy	P.O. Box 729, Round Rock, TX 78680
Berean Adventist School	5100 Osborne St., Baton Rouge, LA 70805
Bethel Adventist School	P.O. Box 660, Texarkana, TX 75501
Emmanuel Adventist School	702 N. Cherry St., Hammond, LA 70401
Excel Adventist Academy	P.O. Box 2240, Missouri City, TX 77459
New Orleans Adventist Academy	4500 Gawain Drive, New Orleans, LA 70127
Shiloh Adventist School	2400 S. Maple St., Little Rock, AR 72204
Smyrna Adventist School	P.O. Box 6408, Alexandria, LA 71301
Southwest Adventist Junior Academy	1600 Bonnie View Road, Dallas, TX 75203

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

A complete list of all academies and elementary/junior academies is included on this page.

TEXAS CONFERENCE

1211 Highway 67 West, Alvarado, TX 76009 | 817.790.2255

Adventist Christian Academy of Texas	3601 S Loop 336 E, Conroe, TX 77301
Austin Adventist Junior Academy	P.O. Box 340370, Austin TX 78734
Brazos Valley Adventist School	1350 Earl Rudder Fwy., College Station, TX 77840
Burleson Adventist School	1635 Fox Lane, Burleson, TX 76028
Burton Adventist Academy	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington, TX 76017
Burton Adventist Elementary School	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington, TX 76017
Chisholm Trail Academy	P.O. Box 717, Keene, TX 76059
Cleburne Adventist Christian School	111 Meadowview Drive, Cleburne, TX 76031
Coastal Bend Adventist Junior Academy	6645 Downing St., Corpus Christi, TX 78414
Cypress Bend Adventist School	2997 FM 728, Jefferson, TX 75657
Dallas Adventist Junior Academy	4025 N. Central Expressway, Dallas, TX 75204
DeSoto Adventist Christian School	P.O. Box 4682, Cedar Hill, TX 75106
Ft. Worth Adventist Junior Academy	3040 Sycamore School Rd., Ft Worth, TX 76133
Garland Christian Adventist School	1702 E. Centerville Rd., Garland, TX 75041
Gulfhaven Adventist School	10716 Sabo Road, Houston, TX 77089
Harlingen Adventist Elementary School	P.O. Box 532785, Harlingen, TX 78553
Hill Country Adventist Christian School	611 Harper Road, Kerrville, TX 78028
Joshua Adventist Multi-Grade School	P.O. Box 329, Joshua, TX 76058
Katy Adventist Christian School	1913 East Avenue, Katy, TX 77493
Keene Adventist Elementary	302 Pecan, Keene, TX 76059
Killeen Adventist Junior Academy	3412 Lake Road, Killeen, TX 76543
Maranatha Adventist School	2526 Goliad Road, San Antonio, TX 78223
Miller Adventist School	1471 W. Corporate Dr., Lewisville, TX 75067
New Creation Christian School	800 W. Hwy 6, Waco, TX 76712
North Dallas Adventist Academy	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson, TX 75081
San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy	P.O. Box 801, San Marcos, TX 78667
Scenic Hills Adventist School	11223 Bandera Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78250
South Texas Christian Academy	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen, TX 78504
The Oaks Christian Academy	11903 C Tanner Road, Houston, TX 77041
Triangle Adventist School	P.O. Drawer H, Groves, TX 77619
Tyler Adventist School	2931 South S.E. Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701
Valley Grande Adventist Academy	1000 South Bridge St., Weslaco, TX 78596

TEXICO CONFERENCE

P.O. Box 1366, Corrales, NM 87048 | 800.749.7851

Crestview Adventist Elementary School	6000 Ouray NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120
El Paso Junior Academy	3510 George Dieter Dr., El Paso, TX 79936
Lubbock Junior Academy	5302 Elgin Ave., Lubbock, TX 79413
Sandia View Academy	65 Sandia View Lane, Corrales, NM 87048
Sandia View Elementary School	24 Academy Drive, Corrales, NM 87048

Value-added Education

A few weeks ago I visited Camp Yorktown Bay to observe what was happening at Outdoor School. Outdoor School is a weeklong annual event in which all of our church school children in grades 5-8 are invited to participate. It is a departure from the formal classroom to the amphitheater of nature. Students are exposed to the wonders of God's creation—not in the contents of a textbook, but through the hands-on experience of actually connecting with the environment around us. While students in grades 5-7 focused on science, nature, and art, students in the eighth grade took up the study of wilderness survival by actually spending their week on a remote island on Lake Ouachita.

I was amazed as I watched the intent interest on the faces of young people as they participated in scientific experiments and as another group learned techniques of

to make this kind of learning experience possible for our young people. I must give special recognition to Stephen Burton for organizing the entire program and to Joyce Fortner for orchestrating the wilderness survival program. As I drove home I reflected on the value-added education our young people were afforded. Students got much more than an exposure to new experiences and facts and figures. They got a whole new exposure to life principles, values, and morals. Even though a class in ethics was not taught, they learned much about respect for others and a respect for the things of nature. They learned that behind all nature is a Creator-God who loves them and longs to have them walk with Him always.

Outdoor School is just another reason why I so strongly support our Adventist system of education. It is because of such value-added education that our young people are a full half-grade ahead of other students in other educational systems. All of this

reminds me of the following inspired statement: "The system of education instituted at the beginning of the world was to be a model for man throughout all aftertime.... The Garden of Eden was the schoolroom, nature was the lesson book, the Creator Himself was the instructor, and the parents of the human family were the students" (*Education*, p. 20).

Stephen Orian, president

Community Class Teaches Healthy Cooking

DEQUEEN, ARK. » Our church hosted a vegetarian cooking class at the community building in Dierks Park in downtown DeQueen. For five nights the class covered supper meals, lunches, breakfasts, salads, dressings, and desserts. Mary Ann Kaffenberger was the hostess for the event, with Ann Blake in charge of registration. Church members took care of set-up and clean-up. Each evening was spent demonstrating the preparation of different foods, with samples for each guest to taste.

On the sixth evening each class participant was asked to bring a prepared dish from the list of dishes they had learned during the series. Mary Ann made a list of each guest's food choice to make sure that the banquet would consist of a full meal—and everyone came hungry. What a feast! A variety of healthful foods invited everyone to the table. Twenty-six members and eight guests were involved in the entire program and they hope to see it happen again.

Daniel Kaffenberger, pastor

◀ Mary Ann Kaffenberger demonstrates healthy food preparation at a community cooking school.

◀ Far left: The crowd enjoys the banquet at the DeQueen cooking school.



first aid. Students expressed how enjoyable their experience was—not because they got a break from school, but because school had become transformed into a new world of discovery. Students were passing through a door that could never be opened in a formal classroom.

Such learning opportunities are truly priceless. I'm so grateful for teachers and other volunteers who are willing to give of themselves



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

YouthFest Draws Largest Crowd Ever

BONNERDALE » The Bonnerdale church held its annual YouthFest March 26-27, and enjoyed the largest turnout ever, with an attendance of 260 people for the church service on Sabbath. The speaker was Keith Gray, vice president for enrollment at Southwestern Adventist University. He passionately shared dynamic messages of the love and grace of Jesus Christ, and those who responded to his call on Satur-

day night filled the entire area in the front of the church.

Music also helped set the stage for a truly worshipful experience, with the Bonnerdale youth group leading the praise and worship for the various meetings. Concerts by guest musicians Maria Long and Kindle (a Christian acoustic group from Berrien Springs, Mich.) were filled with Christ-centered music and moving testimonies.

Brandon Westgate, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference youth director, led out in a Saturday afternoon breakout session while ministering to youth and their sponsors.

Student recruiters from Southwestern Adventist University, Ozark Adventist Academy, and Jefferson Christian Academy helped with programming and breakout sessions and made themselves available to talk with the youth about their schools.

Saturday-evening activities included selling CDs by the guest musicians, great food, great fellowship, and the long-standing tradition of T-shirt signing, volleyball games, and the 3-on-3 basketball tournaments. This year, both the guys' and girls' tournaments were won by teams from Gentry, Ark. A memory video of the weekend closed the evening.

The YouthFest wouldn't have been possible without the support of 35-plus volunteers from the Bonnerdale Pathfinders and church. The weekend was a success because of those who gladly gave their time and energy with a passion for the young people in our conference.

Ryan Long, pastor

Pennsylvania Women's Ministries Director Speaks on Friendship

POCAHONTAS, ARK. » Our church was privileged to have Tamyra Horst as a guest speaker on May 15, 2010. Tamyra is the women's ministries director for the Penn-



▲ Tamyra Horst, Pennsylvania Conference women's ministries director.

sylvania Conference and has authored several books. She holds seminars (available on AdventSource; search for Horst) **MORE** »



▲ Bonnerdale Praise and Worship team.

◀ Keith Gray was the YouthFest speaker.

◀ Far Left: Maria Long in concert at the Bonnerdale church.



and is a popular speaker at women's retreats.

Some of the women at the Pocahontas church had been reading Tamyra's first book, *How to Hug a Heart*, and were delighted to meet her in person. Her sermon was titled "The Power of Friendship," and she spoke about David and Jonathan's unlikely friendship. The afternoon session was entitled "Having the Confidence to be a Jonathan" and was about having the confidence to not become jealous and upset because a friend gets more compliments or favors than you do.

The women and guests who attended from the Jonesboro, Ark., and the Mammoth Spring, Ark., churches were delighted with her presentation, as were the other members of the church. It was a wonderful day of fellowship and growth.

Elaine Jones

Lafayette Men Get Cooking!

LAFAYETTE, LA. » "What's cooking" in the men's ministry department at the Layette church? Cuba, Spain, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and France were only a few of the countries represented at a recent men's ministries supper. The whole church was invited and encouraged to bring a guest, as well. Each of the men in the men's ministries group prepared a dish, and one of the stipulations was that the men actually

do the cooking—with no help from their wives or others! With over 20 men bringing dishes, there was plenty of food to go around. Lafayette is a very diverse group, and with the men each bringing something from their country of origin, it seemed almost like an international food fair. Of course, there were several Cajun dishes from our native Louisiana.

The variety of food and the novelty of the guys doing all the cooking must have amounted to a super combination, because we had a turnout of more than 100 people (which is much higher than the typical Sabbath attendance) in our tiny little church. Almost a quarter of those attending were guests that the members had invited, and many of them were entering our building for the first time. One family enjoyed the supper and fellowship so much that they showed up in church the next Sabbath!

We are thankful for such opportunities as the men's supper that allow us to enjoy Christian fellowship and a chance to reach out

to others in a relaxed environment. As we continue to build relationships with these people, we pray that they will be brought closer to God through us. The men's ministries supper had such a great turnout that we may have to consider making it an annual event, and we can't wait to see who God will bring through our doors next time. May we be ready to meet them!

Elizabeth Fresse

2010 Camp Meetings

Northwest Arkansas Spanish camp meeting

When: July 16–17

Where: Ozark Adventist Academy, 20997 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry, AR

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: Sylvia Weatherford, 870.356.3093

Retirees' Weekend

September 17-19, 2010

Camp Worktown Bay

Located on Beautiful Lake Ouachita

NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS NEW CABINS



Calling All Retirees throughout the ARKLA Conference
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Dr. Allen Handysides – Adventist REVIEW – Ask the Doctor
Dr. Peter N. Landless – Adventist REVIEW – Ask the Doctor
Del Johnson – Administrator of the NAD Retirement Plan
John Mathews – Director of Planned Giving, SWUC
Ken Simpson -- Director of Planned Giving, ARKLA Conference
Don Gilbert -- Retirees' Coordinator, ARKLA Conference



“And a little child shall lead them...”

The army forward movement had come to a halt. The unknown territory ahead held mysteries they were not sure that their skill set was able to handle. The wise general called for his stealth advance party to check out the land ahead, so the unknown would become known. The small advance team set out on their mission. To the general and waiting army, it seemed like forever—but at last the team returned. They were immediately escorted to the headquarters to be debriefed. Slowly the story unfolded.

Food supply was great. Land was good for growing anything. Fresh water springs were in abundance. There were enough building sites for the entire army and support teams. But as their story continued, the general picked up some hesitation. None from the advance team wished to disappoint the general with bad news, but finally, one started telling of the warriors in this new land. The fighters were so big that overtaking them was out of the question. Only two from the advance team tried to tell the general that with their secret weapon they could still gain victory. But the other ten convinced the general that even with their God, they could not overtake the giant warriors in the land. So what could have been become what was not.

Our land in the Great Southwest shows remains of battles not fought. Skeletons of former

schoolhouses stand empty. In any direction of our land you can see these skeletons. Three years ago, we almost had another loss. But our brave warriors of God on this school board voted to stand firm and not retreat—to hire not one but two teachers and then watch our God part the roadblocks in the way. And “part” God did! Today the Ketchum school has not just the six students from three years ago, but over 40 students! This growth required more space. The church again let God “part” the obstacles, and voted to construct a new church school building with four classrooms. Another teacher was voted, bringing the staff up to four teachers. About half of the student body are from non-Adventist homes. The students enjoy school so much, that most of them come for Sabbath School and church along with their parents.

As I write this, almost all students from grade one through 12 are involved with speaking at an evangelistic meeting at the church. Six of the students are looking forward to being baptized by the middle of June. Families are taking note and are also attending the evangelistic meetings. The young people are looking forward to seeing their family members join them in the waters that will help lead to life together for eternity. And now the church and school both need more space.

This example has encouraged other churches. Oklahoma is now considering adding three schools to our family. Even though none of these churches can afford the cost of a teacher, they will be able to operate a school at their location using Oklahoma Digital Adventist Classroom. God is blessing! ODAC is working well! More children for God’s kingdom!

Jack Francisco, education superintendent, Oklahoma Conference

The Healthy Lifestyle Contest is Alive and Well in Oklahoma

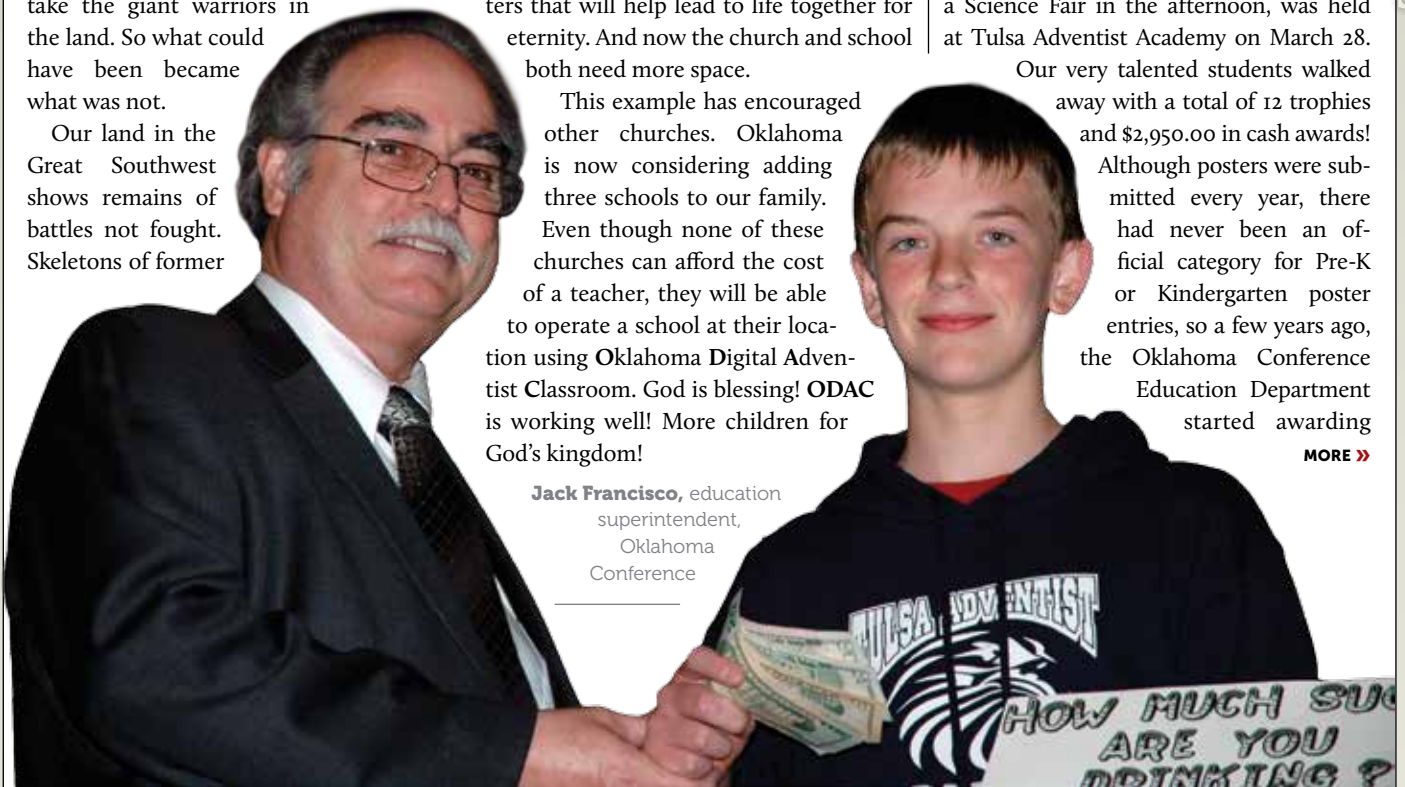
OKLAHOMA CITY » For many years the North American Division has hosted The Healthy Lifestyle Contest that allowed students to share messages on health in the form of posters, essays, computer-generated DVDs, PowerPoint presentations, and videos. Entries were submitted to the participating conferences and the winners from the conference contests were then forwarded to the Health Department at the North American Division for the final judging and awarding of cash prizes. Because of our present economy and the large amounts of dollars that have been awarded in the past, the NAD had to discontinue their participation in the contest this year.

But that didn’t stop our dedicated students and teachers in the Oklahoma Conference from wanting to keep the contest alive! With much thanks to our president and treasurer for giving us the green light to proceed, our contest, combined with a Science Fair in the afternoon, was held at Tulsa Adventist Academy on March 28.

Our very talented students walked away with a total of 12 trophies and \$2,950.00 in cash awards!

Although posters were submitted every year, there had never been an official category for Pre-K or Kindergarten poster entries, so a few years ago, the Oklahoma Conference Education Department started awarding

MORE »



trophies to the winners in those two categories. The rest of the winners received cash!

There is much educational value involved in the time and effort these students invest in their presentations. Learning the proper way to write an essay, including the bibliography, and putting computer skills to use greatly enhances our children's success in today's ever-changing world. These are just a couple of examples of the value of this experience to the students' education.

More important, though, is the knowledge gained from researching the various topics and their impact on mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Such topics include how much sugar is contained in the different drinks available at the stores; the benefits of sunlight, fresh air, and proper rest; the numerous other harmful effects tobacco can cause, other than just lung cancer; and the many different ways of enhancing our spiritual health with our Lord and Creator! These are lessons our young people can carry with them for life!

What a blessing to see how creatively the young people share these messages. Many thanks to the teachers, parents, and guardians who assist in "training a child in the way he should go."

Carol Thomas

Small Senior Class Big Enthusiasm!

OKLAHOMA CITY » Parkview Adventist Academy's graduating senior class was small this year—one person—but you couldn't ask for a more enthusiastic and involved graduate than Steven Dye!

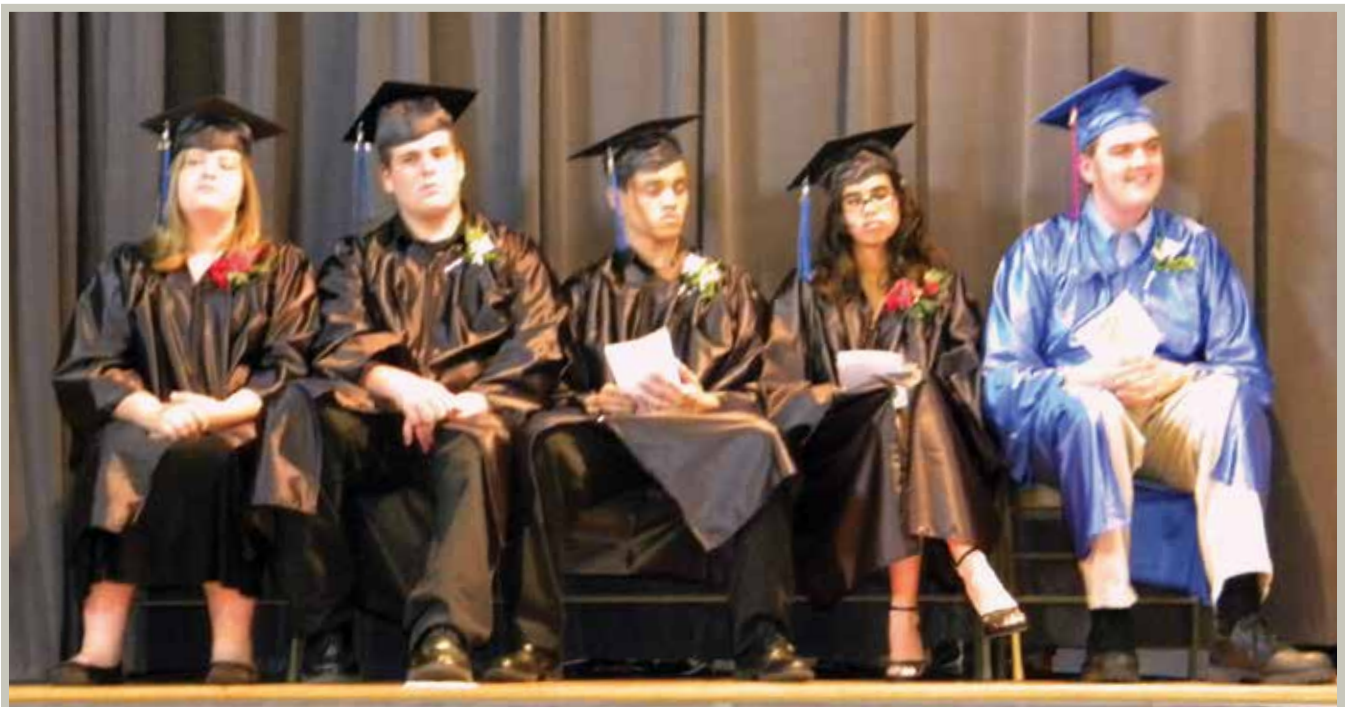
Steven's story is different from the usual graduation story because he was determined to graduate from Parkview, although his family had moved out of state. After his sophomore year, his father, Pastor Richard Dye, received a call to pastor in Amarillo, Tex. Steven moved with his family and was home-schooled during his junior year. When his senior year approached, he had the choice of attending one of several schools, but chose to return to Oklahoma City and finish high school at Parkview. During his senior year he lived with Parkview's big-hearted Pre-K and kindergarten teacher, Sue Bishop.

Because Parkview is a small school, the eighth-grade and senior graduations are held together, so Steven was accompanied by four eighth-graders: Corey Leinneweber, Tiffany Litchfield, Kevin Burton, and Debra Andrade.

Dr. James Stevens, president of the Texico Conference, spoke to the graduates about attitude, indicating that 10 percent of one's success or failure in life is attributed to the experiences one has, and 90 percent stems from one's attitude toward those experiences. He could not have chosen a more fitting topic, for Steven has one of the most positive attitudes you will ever encounter!

Steven has been a great asset to Parkview; not only is he friendly to everybody he encounters, but he also has a helpful and willing spirit. He asks people if there is any way he can help them with their tasks, and he pitches in and does what is needed. This school year he could often be found in the office, filling in when other office personnel were unable to be there.

At the end of the graduation ceremony, it was obvious that the eighth-graders eagerly anticipate beginning their high school careers, and Steven looks forward with his usual enthusiasm to attending Southwestern Adventist University in the fall. Those who know him have heard him mention his goal of being the first Seventh-day Adventist president of the United States, and we look forward to cheering him on as he works toward that goal!



Parkview Adventist Academy 2010 eighth-graders and the lone senior participate in the school's joint graduation ceremony.

Academy Students Conduct Church Service

BROKEN ARROW » Recently 40 Ozark Adventist Academy students from Gentry, Ark., visited the Broken Arrow church to conduct the Sabbath service. The choir sang several beautiful hymns and the drama team performed several skits and a puppet show. The speaker for the day was our own Laura Moon and Ryan Davis, also a member of the Broken Arrow church, was the pianist. After the church service the members enjoyed getting acquainted with these energetic, spirit-filled young people at our fellowship dinner. We are grateful to them for a wonderful Sabbath service.

Judy Marquette



Ryan Davis, an Ozark Adventist Academy student and Broken Arrow church member, was the pianist during the special Sabbath service conducted by OAA students.

TAA Students Participate in 30-Hour Famine

TULSA » At noon on April 9, 2010, the lunchroom was empty at Tulsa Adventist Academy. Grades seven through ten decided to take part in the 30-Hour Famine, a program sponsored by World Vision in which participants do not eat for 30 hours

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



Students from Tulsa Adventist Academy participated in a 30-Hour Famine and in the process, learned what less fortunate children in Ethiopia often experience on a daily basis.

to raise funds to help starving children. The group met on Friday night for vespers and skipped their first meal together. After vespers, everyone was split into tribes and given an identity of a real child in Ethiopia. They spent the next 24 hours doing fun community service projects and tribal games. Each was given a journal and wrote

down their thoughts and experiences. Having a small taste of what some children have to do to stay alive encouraged all of the children to do what they could to help people in need.

Paige Nikles, seventh-grader,
Tulsa Adventist Academy



Choosing a Life-changing K-12 Education

Are there advantages over an Adventist K-12 education versus an education from the public K-12 system? Some would say, "Yes" and some would even venture to say, "Absolutely not!"

There is a growing controversy in our nation regarding which type of education is the ideal: home school, private school, or public school. What is the difference, really? For the purposes of this article, let's focus on Adventist K-12 education versus the public system. Which is best for your child?

Please consider the following when you compare:

- Our schools offer a smaller student-to-teacher ratio than public schools.
- Our schools are more intentional about encouraging our students to attend college.
- Our schools have a lower incidence of drug use, violence, and dropouts.
- Our schools are dedicated to the education of children and to working with their parents.
- Our school curriculum is biblically-based, while the public school curriculum is not. We teach Creationism as recorded in the Bible and not evolution as does the public school system.
- Furthermore, our *K-12 Educational Goals and Essential Core Elements* list a number of reasons why parents should ed-

ucate their children in our schools. These goals and elements focus on the following:

1) Acceptance of God

Surrender one's whole life to God; develop a relationship with Jesus Christ.

2) Commitment to the Church

Know, live and share the message and mission of the Adventist Church.

3) Interpersonal Relationships

Develop a sense of self-worth and skills in interpersonal relationships.

4) Responsible Citizenship

5) Healthy Balanced Living

6) Intellectual Development

Adopt a systematic, logical, and biblically-based approach to decision-making

7) Communication Skills

8) Personal Management

Function responsibly in the everyday world using Christian principles of stewardship, economy, and personal management.

9) Aesthetic Appreciation

10) Career and Service

Develop a Christian work ethic with an appreciation for the dignity of service.

From my perspective, having been exposed to both systems, I would choose, without hesitation, our K-12 schools to educate my children. My wife enrolled our

three daughters in our educational system, and all three graduated from Burton Adventist Academy in Arlington, Tex. It proved to be a blessing in so many ways, both academically and spiritually. We thank the Lord for the foundation that they received at our academy. Yes, it was an investment of time and money, but we would not have it any other way.

My friend, if you are trying to decide in which system to educate your child, I implore you to choose the best system for eternity, and that is Adventist K-12 education. Be blessed! Love you all.

Bill Wright, president

Lay Evangelists Blanket Austin With the Gospel

AUSTIN, TEX. » In April 2010 the Alpha church in Austin, Tex., experienced an evangelistic explosion like none other. Ten members followed through on their commitment to simultaneously conduct evangelistic meetings in their homes. The result was life-changing for the evangelists, the church, and those who attended.

The idea stemmed from the pastor's conviction that there are four essentials for genuine Christian living. All are called to obedience, submission, participation, and witnessing. However, finding a way to transition from theory to practice seemed challenging. Through divine providence, an encounter with the ShareHim program was orchestrated and what a life-changing experience! I was convinced that the simplicity of the program made it possible for everyone to fulfill the divine mandate to "Go make disciples."

As a result, on the second weekend of April, at an evangelism boot camp spearheaded by Duane McKey, vice president for evangelism at the Southwestern Union, and his wife, Kathy, more than 25 members, including youth and adults, were trained

◀ Guests who attended the home-based evangelistic meetings led by members of the Austin Alpha church actively participated by searching and studying their Bibles.



to conduct evangelistic house meetings using the ShareHim model.

On the Friday evening immediately following the boot camp, meetings were launched around the city of Austin in the homes of volunteers. Ten sermons were selected from the ShareHim series and each presenter was encouraged to deliver these messages over a period of 14 nights. Each presenter was empowered, equipped, and prepared to preach the same sermon using laptop computers and projectors.

Although skeptical at first, it was amazing to see how the Holy Spirit empowered the presenters and to watch their confidence grow as the meetings progressed. To God's glory, on the last Sabbath five new members were added to our church and others are being prepared for a major reaping series this month.

The initial plan was to conclude the meetings with baptism on the final Sabbath in April. But there is such an atmosphere of excitement that some of the presenters are still preaching and teaching once a week. Others are a part of our public evangelism council.

This experience has tremendously impacted our church. Thanks to this initiative, evangelism is now a priority at the Alpha church.

Gordon Jones, pastor

Youth Conduct Spirit-Filled Week of Prayer

NEW ORLEANS » Young people brought a message of hope and encouragement to the members of Westbank United church during the Week of Prayer and Youth Day held May 2-8. The week's theme was "Has God Left Me Alone"? On Sunday, **Hillary Chollette** captivated the congregation by letting the members know that God is always there for us. On Monday, **Cameron Clark** told a story about God's presence in his life. He is not afraid of anything when he is alone, because he knows that God is omnipresent. **Courtney Elliott** related a story about prayer. She said that she was

in her mother's car and she prayed about something that she wanted to see with her own eyes. God answered her prayer. **Victoria Elliott** also talked about the goodness of God. On Sabbath, during the worship service, **Vaughan Mountain**, youth leader at Westbank United, inspired the congregation. He chose Ruth 4:17 as his text and explained how Naomi thought that God left her alone. In his appeal, Vaughan asked all youth, as well as adults, to leave worldly things behind, because Jesus is coming soon. This week of spiritual experience drew many young people to church each night. "Most of us," said one youth, "want to have a loving relationship with God."

Mathieu Cherenfant

Come Out From Those Walls

SAPULPA, OKLA. » It was a cloudy, rainy Sunday morning. But that didn't stop people from attending the all-day prison ministry volunteer training held recently at the Philadelphia church. People came from all over the state, including a pastor



from the Oklahoma Conference, as well as representatives from the Oklahoma Department of Corrections. One couple left home at 5:30 that morning in order to arrive on time.

Twenty-three years ago Pearlline Herrin had a dream in which the Lord spoke to her. "I want you to come out from those walls," He said. Uncertain as to the meaning of that message, she began to pray. A short time later, God revealed His intention. He wanted Harris to begin ministering to those who are not only held physically captive, but imprisoned spiritually. God was calling her into prison ministry.

After contacting one prison and being turned away, Herrin prayed. Within a few days God opened the door to another facility, and her ministry has continued there over the years. Based on 2 Corinthians 5:20 and Ephesians 6:20, she called her ministry team the Ambassadors for Christ.

God has richly blessed this prison ministry. The team has shared literature, Bible lessons, and studies on vari- **MORE** »

◀ Twenty-three years ago God impressed Pearlline Herrin of the Philadelphia church in Sapulpa, Okla., to begin a prison ministry. The team, known as Ambassadors for Christ, continues to bring hope to those who are behind bars.



▲ Victoria Elliott, Hillary Chollette, Courtney Elliott, and Cameron Clark were speakers during the youth-led Week of Prayer held at Westbank United church in May.

ous topics that have provided hope for many behind bars who are eagerly seeking to know Jesus. Their interactions with the inmates, through prayers, songs, and studies, have been a great blessing to them, according to Herrin. When asked what has kept her going all these years, Herrin simply smiles and says, “The love of God. Simply His love has been what has kept me going.”

Joy M. Ladd

A Treasure Among Trash Leads to Jesus

BATON ROUGE, LA. » It has been said that “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure.” Berean church’s Larry Freeman can certainly attest to that, thanks to a life-changing experience in 1988.

In the early 1980s, on the corner of Swan Avenue and Scenic Highway, the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church maintained a community services program in the north Baton Rouge area known as Scotlandville. The program not only provided food, articles of clothing and other household goods, but also Spirit of Prophecy books and other reading material. In 1988, the operations in the rented building—now dilapidated from time and wear—were ready to move on

to a more modern and stable structure. However, among the ruins and other contents within, lay a hidden treasure waiting to be discovered. A curious passerby decided to explore inside the abandoned and ready-to-be-demolished building where he located a dusty box of either discarded, abandoned, or forgotten books. Knowing that a close friend loved to read, he gave the box to him. It was then that an excited Larry Freeman anxiously began to plow through the box when he came across a treasure. “It was old, torn, and ragged, but for some strange reason it stood out from all the others,” reports Freeman. “And in due time I began what would be my journey into E. G. White’s *The Desire of Ages*.”

Freeman, an aspiring Methodist minister, had just completed seminary courses in Dallas, Tex., when he was summoned to his first church appointment. “I received a call to pastor a United Methodist church in Lobdell, La., and was I ever grateful to have that book! In fact, *The Desire of Ages* was the resource for my sermons,” he says. Next, he was transferred to the Acadiana district where he would remain for two and half years. “Mind you—not only was I pastoring full time, but I was working full time as well, and there wasn’t much time for sermon preparation. *The Desire of Ages* was never more welcome and more readily available than during that time,” said Freeman.

For the next two and a half years, Freeman was back in Baton Rouge pastoring at another Methodist church. One weekend, he was driving down Lanier Drive and discovered that a Baptist

church was having a garage sale, “And lo and behold, among the items was a copy of *The Desire of Ages*. Of course, I bought it.” But his find doesn’t end here. His next assignment was that of an associate pastor at an African Methodist Episcopal church where he couldn’t help but notice the church’s extensive library. “Noticing my excitement, the pastor invited me to go and take any book I wanted. It was difficult to remain calm as I came across another copy of *The Desire of Ages*. I immediately thought, *Lord, are you trying to tell me something?* as I claimed my third copy.

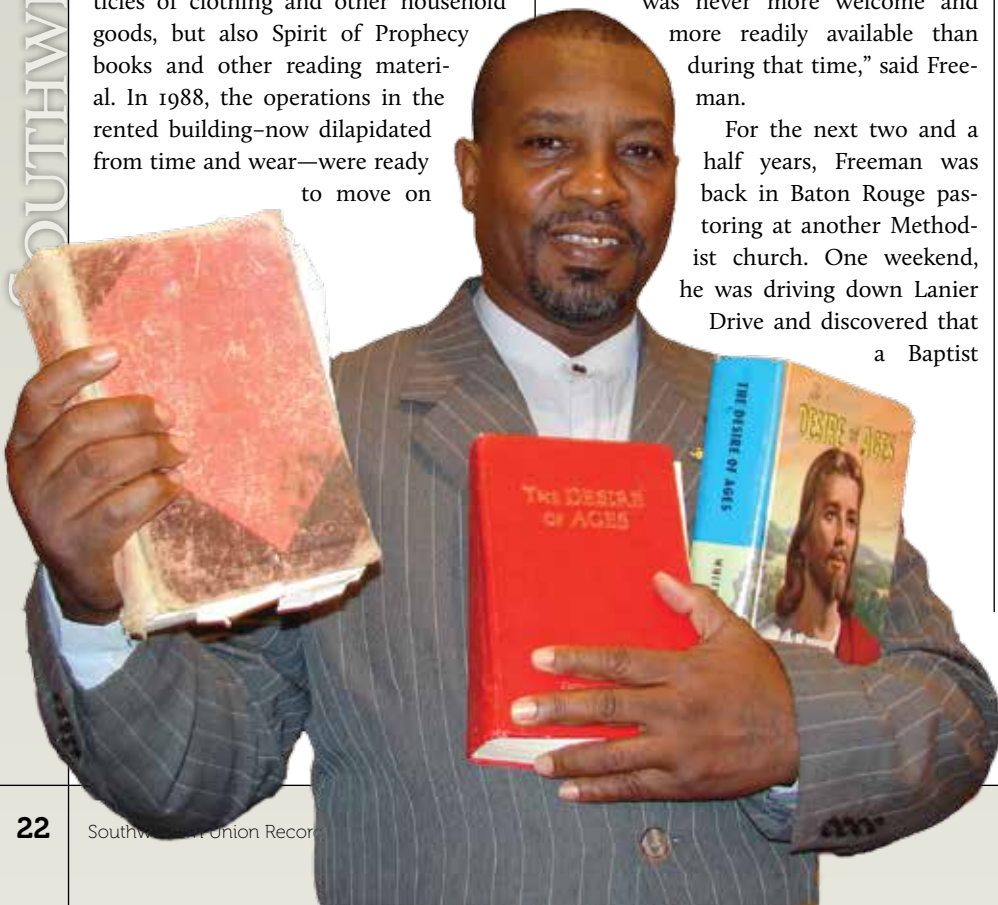
Last summer, when Berean held its “Next Level Lifestyle Conference” tent evangelism, a friend had invited Freeman’s then 14-year-old daughter to the meeting.

“Being the concerned father I am, I accompanied my daughter to keep an eye on her,” he confesses. There he met evangelist Emerson Miller and Berean’s pastor Alfred Booker. The three became good friends. During the meeting, Freeman would have to undergo surgery. He found Miller and Booker to be more than supportive as they visited with him and prayed for his healing. Upon his recovery, Freeman became a regular at the evening meetings where he routinely offered the opening prayer and read scripture. His face became so familiar that many meeting attendees assumed he was part of the evangelistic team. “And I was,” adds Freeman. “I was part of God’s team.”

Today, Freeman, his wife Yolanda, and occasionally their two daughters, regularly attend Sabbath worship services. In fact, recently, Pastor Larry Freeman preached his first sermon as a Seventh-day Adventist. It was appropriately titled “From a Dungeon to a Palace,” and even though it was based on the story of the biblical Joseph, he admits there are some parallels between him and Joseph. “Until I began reading *The Desire of Ages*, I was in a dungeon of darkness, but now, thanks to that book, I’m in the light of the palace.” Freeman is grateful that God has instilled in him a love for reading, as he admonishes others, “Don’t be afraid to open a book. Your very soul salvation may depend upon it.”

Evelyn Edwards

◀ Larry Freeman, a former Methodist minister, literally read his way into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Living Water

During the Lord's divine encounter with the woman at the well, he asked her for a drink of water. After

her rather confused reply regarding why He would break with tradition and ask her for a drink, He said, "if you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water" (John 4:10). In a hot desert region, it becomes apparent very quickly that living beings need water. The woman at the well knew of her need for physical water, but she was unaware of what would supply the longing of her soul. Jesus read the crying out of her soul, and created in her a thirst for living water.

Adult human bodies are composed of about 70 percent water. If we think of that water as "living water," we begin to understand how much we need the Lord to accomplish anything in our lives. It would be humbling to think of our efforts as 30 percent and the Lord's efforts in our behalf as 70 percent. Our small percentage is not worth very much without our reliance on Him.

Adventist education produces in our young people a thirst for this living water. In order for our kids to want to connect with Christ, we need to surround them with the best opportunity for that to happen. It is difficult to get a pure drink of water from a polluted stream, and it is equally difficult to continually live in a spiritually polluted atmosphere and expect to not be changed by it.

We are thankful for your prayers, funds, and encouragement every day. Without your support, we would not be able to offer this important ministry to our young people. Our schools continue to grow and lives are being impacted for God every day. We are truly "building kid communities for eternity."

Bonnie Eder, superintendent, Texas Adventist School System

Sixth Annual Texas Conference Music Festival

KEENE » Seventh- and eighth-grade students from schools across the Texas Conference were given the opportunity to praise God and share their faith during their Sixth Annual Music Festival held in Keene on February 25, 2010. This annual event, coordinated by associate superintendents Raul Aguilar and Carol Bradley, was under the direction of Héctor Flores, director of the choir and string orchestra at Blue Mountain Academy. The choir was accompanied by Dr. John Boyd from Southwestern Adventist University. Stephan Gray, vice principal and teacher from North Dallas Adventist Academy, served as master of ceremonies for the program.

Nineteen Adventist schools participated in this year's event, including Burleson, Burton, Cleburne, Coastal Bend, Cypress Bend, Dallas, Fort Worth, Gulfhaven, Joshua, Keene, Killeen, New Creation, North Dallas, San Marcos, Scenic Hills, The Oaks, Tyler, and Valley Grande. Students from Southwest Adventist Junior Academy joined with the Texas Conference students, along with students from a local home school group. Two hundred sixty-five students joined their voices in praise to the Creator.

The selected music was sent to each school during the fall of 2009, and students began learning the selections at their respective campuses. Then, on February 25, the students came together for an intense day of practice. Afternoon recreational activities were provided at Chisholm Trail Academy under the direction of Steve Bradley, physical education teacher from Keene Adventist Elementary School. The day's events culminated with a sacred concert at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church that evening.

The evening program began with performances by individual schools participating in the festival. Audience members were treated to instrumental, bell choir, chorale, and signing performances. The program continued with the Music Festival Choir performing "A Festive Alleluia" by Mary Lynn Lightfoot, "All Things Bright and Beautiful" by John Rutter, "Elijah and Joshua" by Sally K. Albrecht, "Thy Word" by Michael W. Smith and Amy Grant, "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" by Moses Hogan, and "Amen, So Be It" by Nathalie Sleeth.

Walter Savage Landor, an eighteenth-century English poet, tells us that "Music is God's gift to man, the only art of heaven given to earth, the only art of earth we take to heaven." The Texas Conference Office of Education is pleased to provide this opportunity for our students and we look forward to the 2010-2011 music festival.

Carol Bradley, associate superintendent, Texas Adventist Schools



Seventh- and eighth-grade students from across the Texas Conference give a concert at the conclusion of a day-long music festival on February 25.

Outdoor School Promotes Academic and Spiritual Learning

LEANDER » Once again the Outdoor School, sponsored by the Texas Conference Office of Education, was a success. The event was attended by fifth- and sixth-grade students from 20 church schools and home schools throughout the conference. Students rotated through 12 classes during the five-day event.

Emphasis was placed on hands-on tasks. This year's pastor, Gabriel Perea, introduced the children to heroes of the Bible every morning after breakfast and each evening. Pastor Gabe challenged the students to become heroes for God; 25



▲ Students from the Texas Conference experience unique learning opportunities at Outdoor School.

students responded to Pastor Gabe's challenge by choosing to begin Bible studies for baptism.

Not only did the students have a great time during their "working vacation," but they came away with a new understanding and commitment to God.

John Hopps, associate superintendent, Texas Adventist Schools

Diversity Day Celebration

HOUSTON/GULFHAVEN » Our church family, representing some 30 countries with various cultures and languages, received special honor and recognition as we celebrated our annual International Day on Sabbath, April 2.

Eric Stutz put together a beautiful presentation on PowerPoint, showing the flags of each country, along with information on what that country is most noted for. This was displayed on the large screen at the front of the church for the congregation to see as Chris Boston narrated each presentation while the flag bearers from the various countries proudly came down the aisle. Applauds and cheers of gratitude were continually heard as the church of some 250 members and friends were

moved by this inspiring experience. When the final flag bearer from the U.S. entered, everyone stood at attention and saluted or applauded, bringing this very touching ceremony to a climax.

The Houston Adventist Choir, a gifted Filipino group, chose to come and lift their beautiful voices in praise as they performed several songs of inspiration to help celebrate this momentous occasion.

A timely skit comprised of seven people in biblical dress was next on the agenda. They portrayed some of the disciples and women of the Bible, realistically presenting the thoughts that might have come to their minds after the crucifixion of Christ. Many in the congregation were moved to tears by this presentation. The actors were Kathy Amankwah (Martha), Roderick Speed (Thomas), Letty Sanchez (Mary of Bethany), Andrew Fraser (Peter), Lily Prado (Mary Magdalene), Titose Manyuna (John), and Tina May (Mary, the mother of Jesus).

Our pastor, Ervin Thomsen, concluded the worship service by remarking that because of what Christ did for us on the cross, we, as believers, are now One in Christ.

After prayer, everyone was invited to the beautifully-decorated fellowship hall, where tables laden with delicious cuisine representing the many geographic locations from around the globe had been prepared for our pleasure and delight.

The Gulfhaven church has become a beautiful and lively place of worship and fellowship with the addition of our brothers and sisters who have come to us from all over the world.

God is to be glorified for uniting us into one large family that we might better serve the Lord and teach others about the Kingdom of God.

Jean Hagen



◀ Letty Sanchez portrays Mary of Bethany during Gulfhaven church's International Day.

The Path to a New You

AUSTIN » A Seventh-day Adventist church and community center in Austin, Tex., has started a small group with a focus on fitness and health. It is called The Path to a New You. Capitalizing on New Year's resolution time, the group started in January with the goal of encouraging members to improve their fitness and to use it as a witnessing tool in the greater Austin Metro Area. Austin is a very health-conscious city with races, bike races, swim races, adventure races, and triathlons scheduled every weekend throughout the year.

A secondary goal was to make the church's presence known throughout the area as an organization that cares about health and wellness. Amy Wan, a member of the church and veteran marathoner who acts as the group's expert, put the members on a training regimen with the goal of doing a 5K on May 2nd.

When May 2nd arrived, there were over 60 participants from The Path. The day started with a devotional by Craig Johnston, lay pastor and missionary. A tent was set up by the finish line and all members ran or walked in a blue shirt with the group name on it and the church picture on the back. It says "Follow Me to the Path." For many of the participants, it was their first 5K.

The group has a fund with sponsors that contribute to help cover the costs of races for those who cannot afford them. In fu-

▼ More than 60 people of all ages participate in a 5k run with The Path in Austin, Tex.



ture races they plan to make available fliers and information about the church because they discovered that 60 happy people, wearing matching shirts in a race, get noticed.

Participants from the group included children (ages 4-15), young adults, parents, and grandparents. Says Kathryn Araguz, who completed the 5K in her wheelchair, "I can't wait for the next race. It's so much more fun as a group."

Shannon Scott

New Discovery Expands Worldwide

KEENE » A Keene-based Bible correspondence school is expanding its ministry to a global audience. New Discovery Bible lessons are now available on the Internet. Many thousands in the world are looking for what we have in New Discovery lessons. They want to know how to change their lives.

The 27 New Discovery lessons are differ-

ent from any other series of Bible lessons. They show in an easy way how to pray with the assurance of being accepted by God. They also show how to overcome sin and live a good life. Thousands have found peace and assurance in these lessons.

"I love these Bible studies," says one student. "I always get peace from them, peace I have been searching for my whole life."

"All my life I've been trying to learn about God and prayed I could learn about Him," another student reports. "Now I can. Thanks for helping me change my life."

You can find New Discovery Bible lessons online by visiting www.lifechanging-biblelessons.org.

New Discovery Bible Schools supply materials to lay people nationwide who operate 40 Bible correspondence schools. For 10 years these schools have averaged mailing more than 10,000 lessons a month to individuals requesting lessons.

For more information, write to New Discovery Bible Schools, P.O. Box 614, Keene, TX 76059, or call 817.645.5761.

Alice Davis

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God's Schools Behold Jesus

We live in a world where the subtle and not-so-subtle influences teach us that God does not exist, that the world came through a series of cosmic coincidences, and that those who believe that God created everything are mentally naive simpletons. Would you want your children exposed to this kind of thinking in the classroom every day? Yet this is what the majority of Americans and, yes, Adventist students, are getting in their daily classes. Would you want your students to be

“Cultivate the habit of speaking well of others. Dwell upon the good qualities of those with whom you associate and see as little as possible of their errors and failings. When tempted to complain of what someone has said or done, praise something in that person’s life or character. Cultivate thankfulness. Praise God for His wonderful love in giving Christ to die for us. It never pays to think of our grievances. The very act of looking for evil in others develops evil in those who look. By dwelling upon the faults of others, we are changed into the same image. But by beholding Jesus, talking of His love and perfection of character, we become changed into His image. God calls on us to think of His mercy and His matchless love, that we may inspire with praise” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 492).

Every day in Seventh-day Adventist schools, our curriculum calls on students to focus on Jesus and to become changed into His image. In our schools we are preparing students to be positive contributors to society and to believe that the God who created all things, including us, is coming soon to take us into His glorious Kingdom. May God help us to place our students where they will cultivate

thankfulness and recognize the God who made us all.

Jim Stevens, president

Evangelistic Meetings Lead to 18 Baptisms

ALBUQUERQUE, N.MEX. » We recently concluded an evangelistic series at the Rio Grande church with 18 baptisms, and many decisions for baptism in the near future. Young men and women chose not only to be members of the church, but also to be disciples of Jesus. Couples who were living together decided to step forward to take their vows for sacred matrimony. We held the meetings at the gym, which was converted into an auditorium and about 500 people attended church on Sabbath.

Pastor Cesar Cardenas and his team captivated the audience with their love for Christ and their enthusiasm. For an entire week those who attended had a personal encounter with the God of creation and every night people made decisions to give their lives to Jesus. What a revival!

Jaime Calvo, pastor

Below and left: An evangelistic series at the Albuquerque Rio Grande church brought 500 people to Sabbath services and 18 baptisms at its conclusion. Many others continue to study in preparation for baptism.

TEXICO CONFERENCE



taught by someone who undermines and criticizes their faith?

We live in a culture of criticism. This is supported by the so-called “intellectuals.” Leaders in business, government, and even the church, are subject to a barrage of often baseless and unkind comments. All of this stems from a lack of trust in God. True Adventist education and educators teach people to trust in God and to be positive.



A Heart for Haiti

LUBBOCK, TEX. » As an educator, I have always believed that students should be aware of current events and how these events can affect our lives. During the week of January 12, we kept the Lubbock Junior Academy (LJA) students abreast of the catastrophic 7.0 earthquake that hit the country of Haiti. Dr. Virginia Simmons, our semi-retired aide, shared with them memories of her last visit to the Seventh-day Adventist schools of Haiti. She described the poverty and the poorly-built buildings. Dr. John Cupidon, a Haitian-born church member, told how the earthquake affected him personally by causing the deaths of two of his dear brothers.

One student, Kaylee Jordan, touched by the Holy Spirit, suggested we arrange a fundraiser for the children of Haiti. When the other students heard Kaylee's request, they were excited about the idea. But I



▲ Lubbock Junior Academy students had fun this past March while raising funds for the people of Haiti through an event called "Have a Heart for Haiti."

wasn't so sure. I groaned at the thought of undertaking such a huge project.

The women in my Sabbath School class suggested we have a spaghetti dinner and sell some items. My body sagged at the thought of cooking. Cooking is not one of my talents.

Nevertheless, we arranged to host the event in March, following the theme "Have a Heart for Haiti." We bought green T-shirts depicting the country of Haiti surrounded by a big heart. Thankfully, Jan Yates, a member of our church, stepped

in to arrange the cooking. Glenn Blake, school board chair, ordered and delivered the food supplies. The students arranged fun booths, such as face painting, playing 3-in-a-row with yellow balls, throwing balls at stacked cans, and two students told elephant jokes from the stage.

The funds that were raised for Haiti through this event were a blessing, not only for the people of Haiti, but also for our students (and me), who discovered the joy of "having a heart" for others.

Susan Zimmermann, principal

Retreat Welcomes New Believers

ALBUQUERQUE, N.MEX. » On May 14-16, new believers and their families came to the Texico Conference office to enjoy the fourth annual New Believers' Retreat.

They came from as far north as Taos, N. Mex., and the area surrounding Texico Conference. Attendees were as young as ten years old, and baptized as recently as May 8, 2010! They enjoyed

delicious food, and great fellowship as friendships across church districts were formed.

Attendees were greatly blessed as they garnered insights from author and Southern Adventist University professor Philip Samaan. Samaan discussed lessons learned from the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy that are highlighted in his books, *Christ's Way To Pray* and *Christ's Way To Restoration*. Each attendee received a free autographed copy of both books.

The highlight of Saturday night's program was the music of recording artist Michael Harris. Harris also shared his testimony about coming to Christ and how he allowed Jesus to change his life. Each new believer received a free copy of Harris' latest CD.

Throughout the meetings new believers were introduced to the conference leadership and the duties they perform. The Sandia View Elementary and Sandia View Academy choirs also delighted the audience with their music. The attendees were informed about upcoming meetings, such as camp meeting and various ministry retreats.

Next year the Texico Conference will host a Spanish New Believers' Retreat in El Paso, Tex., with Pastor Alejandro Bullon as the main speaker.

Hector Quinones



▲ At a New Believers' Retreat held in May at the Texico Conference, new church members were introduced to conference leaders, enjoyed the music and testimony of recording artist Michael Harris, and learned about the principles in two books written by Philip Samaan, a professor at Southwestern Adventist University.

LJA Students Conduct Worship Service

LUBBOCK, TEX. » The faces looked much younger and, in my opinion, sweeter and more precious than those who usually conduct the Lubbock church services. On May 1, the students of Lubbock Junior Academy took charge of the entire worship service. The theme was, "The Best Shepherd."

Our pastor, Sven Frantzen, gladly gave up his pulpit so the students could practice speaking in front of the church and share their love for Jesus. The service began with a nine-minute video entitled *Journey to Excellence*. Then, ten children walked onto the platform and sang "Family of God" with the congregation and then led the opening song, "Lift up the Trumpet." Rachel Frantzen, age 9, began our worship with morning prayer.



▲ Students from Lubbock Junior Academy conducted the entire church service at the Lubbock church on May 1.

Each child's guardian angel must have sung and smiled as the church service proceeded. Sara Frantzen, age 7, told the children's story. Jerry Listo, age 9, invited us to give our offerings as an act of faith. The Circle of Prayer, given by Candy Juma, age 8, asked that our prayers not be the sending of emergency letters, but conversations with our Creator. The congregation's thoughts were turned

toward the theme when Judith Pate, age 11, read John 10:14, 27.

Our special music was a joint effort between the students and school board members who sang, "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light." The sermon was divided into five parts and given by DéMichael Coleman-Thompson, age 11, Tory Frantzen, age 10, Branden Hardage, age 11, Kaylee Jordan, age 13, and Jacksen Pate, age 11. Once again the theme of the Best Shepherd was highlighted when they reiterated that "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." To close the service, the congregation and students repeated the Mizpah, found in Genesis 31:49. Students handed out CognitiveGenesis brochures* and many people stayed afterward to watch *Safe and Sound*,* which highlights Adventist education. We pray that our students will

tuck this special church service into their cache of precious memories about our one and only Good Shepherd—Jesus.

Susan Zimmermann,
principal

*Videos and brochures can be found at http://www.nadeducation.org/educator_toolbox//88/80



▲ Ron Elder (left) and Hilary James were baptized on May 8 at the Silver City church by their pastor, Rick Lytle (right).

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Two baptisms at Silver City

SILVER CITY, N.MEX. » Hilary James, a college student at Western New Mexico University in Silver City was baptized on May 8 at our church. A friend of Hilary, who is an Adventist from Las Cruces, brought her to church about a year ago, introduced her, and then went back to Las Cruces where he attends college. Hilary

has attended church faithfully ever since and has studied the Bible with church members every Sabbath after the fellowship dinner. She eagerly embraced the church's teachings and told me how Jesus has changed her life so much. It was a great day for her and for the church. On the same day, I also re-baptized Ron Elder at his request.

Rick Lytle, pastor



DinoDig YouTube Channel

K.C. Lopez, a senior Radio-TV-Film major at Southwestern, played host for a series of videos featuring Southwestern Adventist University's 2010 Dinosaur Research Excavation Project during June. The videos chronicled dinosaur bone excavation, evening worship, scientific lectures, quarry history, and camp duties.

This work documented and gave insight into the inner workings of a dinosaur excavation project. You can watch the series anytime at the Southwestern DinoDig Youtube Channel, at www.YouTube.com/SWAUDinoDig.

▼ You can watch the Dinosaur Research Excavation Project series on the new DinoDig YouTube channel.



Building a Community of Writers

Southwestern Adventist University held a Writers Workshop for teachers June 7-18. With the encouragement of Eunice Warfield, director of education for the Southwestern Union Conference, 18 teachers from around the southwest attended the workshop.

Susan Gardner, a veteran of 20 summer workshops for Walla Walla University and the North Pacific Union and currently

English professor at Southwestern, led the group of teachers in applying contemporary theories of writing. She was joined by Nancy Cross of Walla Walla University.

"Teachers can come from a variety of backgrounds, and can have a lot of writing 'baggage.' Our goal was to help the teachers become stronger writers themselves, and also help them in their approaches to their students," says Gardner.

The workshop is scheduled to continue next summer.

Communication Department Updates to RED ONE

The communication department at Southwestern Adventist University has purchased a RED ONE Camera, a high-end digital camera that represents the latest trend in major motion picture and television show production. The RED ONE provides students access to a cutting-edge tool they can use to create the highest quality media.

"We want students to have solid production experience with equipment they will see on the job," says Randy Yates, assistant professor of communication. "We're working hard

to continue providing students with the latest technology."

While communication students at Southwestern have had the opportunity to work in high-definition video for more than two years, the RED ONE camera offers a new level of production capability and career opportunity, according to Stew Harty, adjunct communication instructor.

"With this new camera, the students will be introduced to the rapidly-growing field of digital filmmaking," says Harty.

Benjamin McArthur, vice president for academic affairs, says that the communication department has been working hard to update and expand the program. "This new camera provides communication students at Southwestern a unique learning opportunity."

To introduce the new camera, the communication department will be offering an advanced digital film production course this fall, in which each student will create a short film using the RED ONE. Students will be required to submit their finished film to at least one film festival. According to Harty, this submission requirement provides students with crucial outside evaluation of their work. Particular emphasis is being placed on students submitting their work to Sonscreen, the North American Division-sponsored film festival. Sonscreen is an annual event that showcases student work and encourages them to use their creative talents to spread the gospel.

▼ Student Rowdy Lofton testing the new camera.



Teacher Bulletin: A Handy Resource Becomes Even Handier

Targeting a worldwide audience of Christian teachers and students, the Atlantic Union *Teacher Bulletin* is a creative and technical collaboration of uniquely Adventist pre-school through 12th-grade curriculum support material produced yearly under the direction of the Atlantic Union Conference Office of Education. The North American Division Office of Education financially supports its production.

Established 28 years ago under the guidance of then director Paul Kilgore, the *Bulletin* has been making its way into the hands of educators ever since. Originally, it was a fat packet of ideas and copy-ready worksheets, stories, and bulletin board ideas that was delivered monthly to mailboxes. Teachers, new and experienced, looked forward to exploring that packet each month in much the same way one looks forward to the next issue of a favorite magazine or the next episode of a favorite TV show. Except that this was something you could really use over and over again.

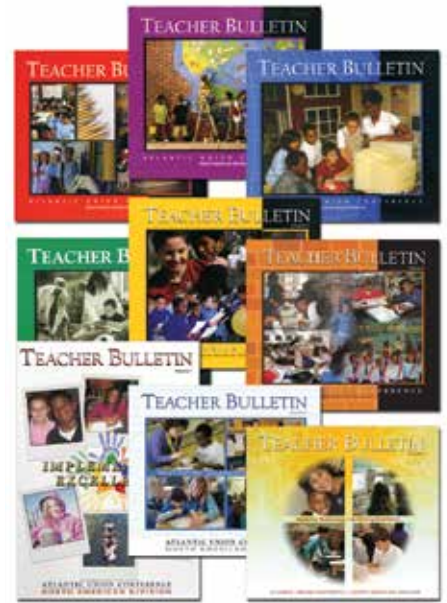
"In the past," says three-year writer Rebecca Fraker, a veteran teacher from Frontenac, New York, "I spent many hours assembling interdisciplinary theme units for my classroom. I've always taught in one-room schools, so I often could not reuse the material. It has been a dream come true

to be able to share these units with other teachers and help prevent 'burnout.'"

As technology advanced, under the directorship of Rosemary Tyrrell, the *Bulletin* format evolved from the paper version, which many long-time users still remember fondly, to a compact disk, then a DVD. There is no stagnation for *Teacher Bulletin*. For the past two years, with Astrid Thomassian as director, it has been accessible on the Internet.

Martha Ban, who came on board in the early paper-version years, is now the coordinator of the project, overseeing the several months of post-production as well as keeping the 8-10 writers on task and on deadline. She is the driving force behind the inclusion of technology in the units. This enables teachers to integrate technology into the school curriculum—even though it is sometimes a challenge for the unit writers. Now, instead of hand-drawing crossword puzzles and word searches, teachers are asked to create Podcasts, Webquests, PowerPoint presentations, and videos to enhance the content of their "pack up and go" units, many of which are also interdisciplinary.

What makes the *Teacher Bulletin* invaluable as a resource is all of the energy and passion that each teacher pours into his or her work. But few have the time to create one great new unit a year, let alone a dozen in a variety of subject and content areas. Making use of these project-oriented lessons enhances the already rigorous North American Division curriculum and provides substitute teachers with content-rich material far above what ordinarily serves as substitute lesson planning. Administrators, too, benefit from



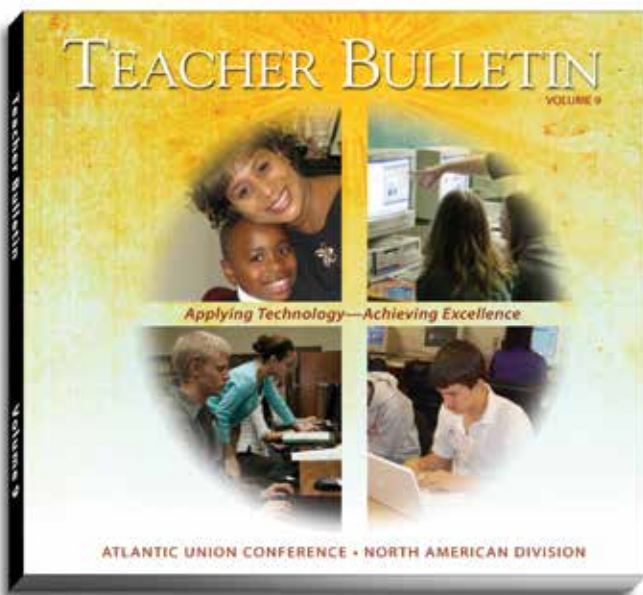
the material provided, as there are classroom tips, stories, plays, forms, worship talks, multimedia presentations, and Internet resources with an administrative slant included in each edition.

Teachers feel privileged to be part of the yearly project. "Words are very powerful, whether they are spoken or written," muses Pauline Evans, a teacher in the Brooklyn Temple school. "I am honored to be a team member for *Teacher Bulletin*, where I get to use words to share my classroom experience and expertise with fellow teachers. *Teacher Bulletin* allows me to explore my desire to be a writer." Karma Roberts, of the R.T. Hudson School in the Bronx, talked of the rewards of the hard work. "To know that teachers all over the country and world may be able to ease their teaching burden because of the work we did is priceless."

"Over the years," says Ban, "the *Teacher Bulletin* has changed in appearance, but certainly not in quality. As the writers strive to keep current with education trends and to include cutting-edge methods and technologies, the mission has stayed the same—'presenting classroom teachers with creative and resourceful ideas that integrate Christian principles.'"

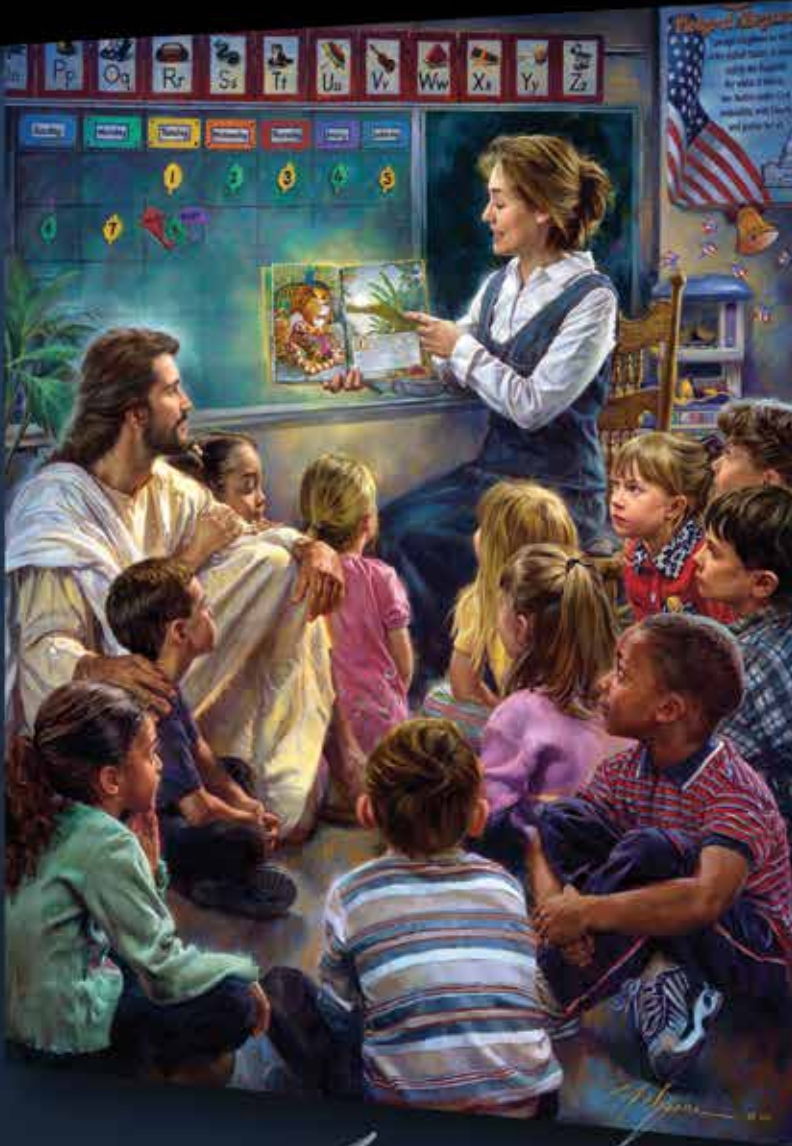
Rondi Aastrup, Greater Boston Academy principal and a member of the *Teacher Bulletin* Committee.

The *Teacher Bulletin* can be accessed online at www.teacherbulletin.org.



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Announcements

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 will be held 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.PlusLine.org.

For more information, visit www.andrews.edu/arminianism or e-mail arminiansymposium@andrews.edu.

Louisville Adventist Academy invites all former students, faculty, staff, and supporters of Louisville Junior Academy to its second annual alumni celebration July 23-25. Please contact Chris Juhl, principal, at: echrisjuhl@yahoo.com or call 502.550.6787. We hope to see you there!

Shiloh Seventh-day Adventist Church's 100th Anniversary will be held August 13-15 at 2400 S. Maple St., Little Rock, AR 72204. For more information, e-mail Wanda Jones at shilohchurchbulletin@yahoo.com.

The SHARE! student exchange program is seeking local volunteer families for international exchange students for the 2010/2011 school year. Students from over 25 countries around the world will live with host families and attend local high schools for either one semester or a full school year. Host families provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a youngster from overseas. For more information about hosting, contact Yvette Coffman, SHARE! director, at 800.941.3738 or visit sharesouthwest.org.

WWU Alumni e-Newsletter: Walla Walla University is starting an e-newsletter to communicate with alumni. It

will be published once a month, beginning June 2010. To sign up for the e-newsletter, please visit the Web site at alumni.wallawalla.edu.

Obituaries

CHADWICK, Henry James, born January 2, 1939 in Ottomwa, Iowa, and died April 18, 2010 in Paris, Tex. He was a member of the Beacon Hill church in DeQueen, Ark. Henry enjoyed carpentry, mechanics, and music, and was a member of the Eagletown VFD. Survivors: wife, Ruby Chadwick of Eagletown, Okla.; sons, Leland Chadwick of Cleburne, Tex., and Chad Chadwick of Eagletown; brother, Everett Chadwick of Muse, Okla.; sisters, June Griffin and Rita

Chadwick of Cottonwood, Ariz., Bonnie Duckworth of Eagletown, Patty Carrel of Sedona, Ariz., and Donna Koehn of Cotton Grove, Okla.; two grandchildren.

CHAMPAGNE, Harold Joseph "H.J.," born March 5, 1929 in Saint Martinville, La., and died April 14, 2010 in Lafayette, La. He was a member of the Lafayette church. Survivors: wife, Agnes (Vice) Champagne in Breau Bridge, La.; sons, Robert Lynn Champagne and Gregory Joseph Champagne of Clanton, Ala.; daughter, Rebecca Ann LeBlanc of Breau Bridge, La.; 11 grandchildren, four great-grandchildren.

HANSEN, Alice House, born April 4, 1913 in Vernon, B.C., Canada,

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and died April 21, 2010 in Slidell, La. A member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for most of her life, she loved the Lord and was always ready to share her faith. Survivors: daughter-in-law, Lillian Hansen of Slidell; three grandsons.

LIVINGSTON, William Thomas "Tom," born December 16, 1953 in Baton Rouge, La., and died May 1, 2010. He was laid to rest in Zachary, La. Tom was a carpenter, who, along with his dad, Robert Livingston, built the new Zachary Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors, wife, Cherie Livingston; daughters, Jennifer Lopez Livingston and Laura Livingston; son, Micah Benjamin Livingston; stepdaughters, Ruth Ann Dixon Martin and Shawna Lundy; stepson, Brad Small, all of Baton Rouge; mother, Dorothy Livingston of Zachary.

NYSTEL, Josephine, born October 11, 1932 in Kerrville, Tex., and died April 18, 2010 in Glen Rose, Tex. A member of the Cleburne First church, Nystel was laid to rest at Norse Seventh-day Adventist Church Cemetery. Survivors: daughters, Tami Corbell and husband, Tim, of Hollister, Mo.; Teresa Ann Carrey and husband, John, of Glen Rose, Tex.; Wretha Alene Wagner and husband, Paul, of Eula, Tex.; son, Benjamin Thomas Nystel and wife, Shelley, of Glen Rose, Tex., sister, Jeanie Greenhill of Albuquerque, N.Mex.; brother, George Nichols of Kerrville, Tex.; 13 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

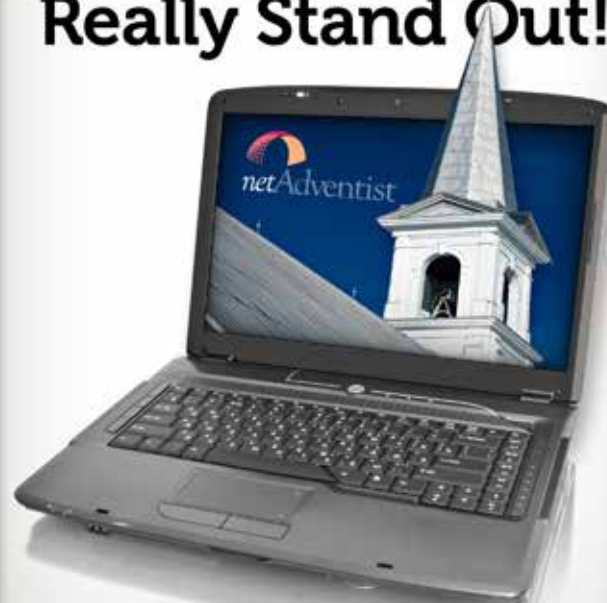
PRINCE, June, born June 1, 1924 in Clarendon, Tex., and died April 18, 2010 in Austin, Tex. Prince was a member of the Hillsboro church. Survivors: daughters, Lana Barrow of Austin, Tex.; Cathy Teague of Whitney, Tex., brother, Bob Willey of Glen Rose, Tex., and sister, Pat Lesley of Hillsboro, Tex.

TOMPKINS, Ruth Ann, born October 7, 1951 in Austin, Tex., and died April 9, 2010 in Houston, Tex. She was a member of the Beacon Hill church in DeQueen, Ark. Survivors: daughters, Melissa Ann Parks of Texarkana, Tex., Tina Smitherman of Joshua, Tex., and Gretta Knox of Houston, Tex.; son, Anthony Tompkins; two grandchildren.

WALLACE, Gaston, W., born January 20, 1922 in Burnett, Tex., and died March 24, 2010 in Jefferson, Tex. A member of Jefferson Academy church, Gaston was laid to rest in Berea Cemetery. Gaston served as a book editor at Southern Publishing and as a pastor in Austin and Jefferson, Tex., as well as Oklahoma. Survivors: wife, Marjorie Wallace of Jefferson, Tex.; daughters, Karen Altwell of Burleson, Tex., and Linda Greene of Jefferson, Tex.; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

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SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	JUL 2	JUL 9	JUL 16	JUL 23	JUL 30	AUG 6
Abilene, TX	8:50	8:49	8:47	8:43	8:38	8:33
Albuquerque, NM	8:25	8:23	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:05
Amarillo, TX	9:06	9:05	9:02	8:58	8:53	8:47
Brownsville, TX	8:26	8:25	8:24	8:21	8:17	8:13
Dallas, TX	8:39	8:38	8:36	8:32	8:28	8:22
El Paso, TX	8:16	8:14	8:12	8:09	8:04	7:59
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:41	8:40	8:38	8:34	8:29	8:24
Gallup, NM	8:34	8:33	8:30	8:26	8:21	8:15
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:20	8:16	8:11
Gentry, AR	8:40	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:25	8:19
Little Rock, AR	8:26	8:25	8:22	8:19	8:13	8:08
Muskogee, OK	8:41	8:40	8:37	8:33	8:28	8:22
New Orleans, LA	8:05	8:05	8:02	7:59	7:55	7:50
Oklahoma City, OK	8:49	8:48	8:45	8:41	8:36	8:30
Roswell, NM	8:12	8:11	8:08	8:04	7:59	7:54
San Antonio, TX	8:38	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:28	8:23
Shreveport, LA	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:19	8:14	8:10
Tulsa, OK	8:45	8:44	8:41	8:37	8:31	8:25

At a Moment's Notice...

"LADIES, GET WHATEVER YOU WANT TO TAKE, AND HEAD STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE BASEMENT; we have a tornado warning!" The words blasted over the intercom and echoed throughout the Ozark Academy girls' dormitory.

I stepped over to the closest widow. The scene outside was typical cloudy, dark, and rainy weather. "Man, not another tornado warning. We always have those around this time of year and a tornado never comes," I thought, as I slowly made my way with a friend up the first flight of stairs, then the second flight, and finally around the corner into the hallway.

"Girl, I ain't going nowhere but in my room," my friend said with a slight laugh as we walked down the hallway. "We always have those things," she said, "and nothing ever happens. I'm gonna be chilling in my room." I smiled and let out a little laughter, agreeing with her comment.

Then as I approached my door and slowly, nonchalantly walked in, God impressed upon my mind the verse found in Matthew 24:42 (NIV): "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." Suddenly I was alert as a heart-wrenching, daunting truth dawned upon me. I reflected on the comments and actions of, not only my friend and me, but of the majority of the girls in the dorm, and realized that this is how people treat the message of God's soon coming!

When the voice over the intercom cautioned us about the tornado, I ignored the warning, because I had heard it so many times before. I even looked out the window, saw the mysterious darkness, and did not recognize the clear signs of the impending storm. I dismissed it because I had seen it all before. The reality of the situation was that this could have been the time when a tornado actually hit.

When growing up in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, we constantly hear the age-old messages that "Jesus is coming again" and "The signs around us prophecy of Christ's soon return." When we hear those types of messages being preached, we peek out the window and check the weather for a potential tornado. We see the signs of Christ's soon return, but we are so accustomed to hearing the warning cry that we tune out the message and treat it as unimportant. The reality of the situation is that at any moment our time could be over. Christ could come today; tomorrow is not promised. The next scene we may wake up to is Jesus in all his splendor, glory, and righteousness breaking through the clouds to take His people home with Him.

Remember, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even

the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father," (Matt. 24:36, NIV). We have been commanded to stay alert and keep prepared for when our Lord shall come. Friends, we must never tarry, but stay watchful, regardless of the time.

Jamie LaBorde,
2010 graduate,
Ozark Adventist
Academy





For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

When Reality Exceeds Perception

THE PBS PROGRAM *ANTIQUES ROADSHOW* IS FASCINATING TO WATCH. People bring dusty old relics they've found in their grandparents' attics, hoping they're worth something more than just the latest find at Walmart. Some of the dusty items are actually priceless treasures that have been hidden away and forgotten for decades.

At that moment when an item's true worth is revealed, the owner's perception suddenly changes. He gets excited about something that he already owns but has previously ignored.

You've heard the adage, "Perception is reality." That saying rings true because people's actions tend to reflect their perceptions of reality more than reality itself.

You've probably received the e-mail forward about a man who played his violin in a Washington, D.C. metro station on a cold morning in January during rush hour. He played for about 45 minutes and only six people stopped to listen. Twenty gave him money, which added up to about \$32. When he finished playing, no one applauded or recognized him as Joshua Bell, one of the most famous and accomplished

violinists in the world. He had played some of the most intricate classical pieces ever composed on a violin worth \$3.5 million.

Supposedly it's a true story. (Snopes.com says it's true, so it must be, right?) Either way, it illustrates an aspect of human nature we've all experienced at times. And it represents the way that many of us have come to relate to Adventist education. Quite possibly we've come to regard it as a rusty relic in the attic rather than the priceless treasure it really is.

The experts have done studies.¹ They've arrived on our doorstep to remind us that our schools are doing what they're supposed to be doing: offering knowledge that places students far ahead of the curve academically.

Adventist schools are doing more than that, however. They're offering knowledge that places students far ahead of the curve eternally, as well.

Perhaps it's time for our perceptions to change and to catch up with the reality that Adventist schools are precious heirlooms of immeasurable value. Of course, as we continue to expect greater things from Adventist education, our perceptions may chase reality to some degree—but hopefully never to the point that we ignore the value of our schools and allow them to decay or gather dust.

Great things are happening every day in Adventist education, and it's worth our time to stop for a few moments and listen to the music.

¹See www.cognitivegenesis.org.

Record

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