

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

JANUARY 2011

## Technovangelism

FINDING NEW WAYS TO SHARE THE OLD STORY

Houston for  
**CHRIST**



# CASTING YOUR NET 8

# 10 TECHNOVANGELISM

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## Finding New Ways to Share the Old Story



# HOUSTON FOR CHRIST

12



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## On the Cover

When Daniel predicted in Daniel 12:4 that knowledge would increase in the end times, he probably had no idea of the vast array of technology that would virtually re-shape the world. This explosion of knowledge has opened up many wonderful and creative ways of sharing the gospel, with the help of new technology, in literally every corner of the globe.

# President's Perspective»

BY MAX TREVIÑO » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Happy New Day!

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

**I'm not much on New Year's resolutions.** I believe a better option is to live each day with honesty and integrity—being true to my God, true to myself, and true to my convictions. The problem is, I often fail. My intentions are great, and my plans are for a steady uphill spiritual climb. But I generally fall short of that mark.

Each day, I begin with the desire to serve the Lord to the best of my abilities: no anger, jealousy, or pride; no anxious thoughts or worrying; no putting my own agenda ahead of God's. Then I wake up and get out of bed... and quickly find myself in need of grace, day after day.

The good news is that we don't have to wait for a new year to make new resolutions. The apostle Paul tells us that we need to "die daily" (1 Cor. 15:31). Every day is an opportunity to make a fresh start.

In fact, the prophet Jeremiah tells us, "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness," (Lam. 3:22, 23, NKJV). If the Lord's mercies are new every morning, then so should be our resolutions.

My brother-in-law who is a pilot tells me that before each flight, he must use his magnetic compass to calibrate his heading indicator. If the heading indica-

tor is off by even a fraction, he'll end up in the wrong place.

Our Southwestern Union office staff begins each morning with worship. We sing together; listen to encouraging and insightful words from Scripture; and share our praises and petitions with one another, taking them to the Lord in prayer. It's a perfect opportunity to "reset our heading indicator" before facing the challenges of the day.

I encourage you to set aside a few minutes each day to calibrate your heading indicator and set your course according to the Father's will. Make a list of New Day's resolutions when you get up each morning. If you do, 2011 will be a year of 365 new beginnings.

Happy New Day!

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**Max Treviño** is the Southwestern Union Conference President





# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

## Choose to Reinvent Yourself in 2011

**A little boy posed this riddle to his father.** “Three frogs are sitting on a low-hanging branch over a pond. One decides to jump into the water. How many are left?”

The father smiled and said, “That’s easy. Two.”

“Nope.”

“OK. Well, then the others must have jumped, too. So, none are left.”

The boy grinned. “Nope. There are three, because the first frog only decided to jump but never did.”

This is the time of year when many of us make resolutions. But as I review mine through the years, I’m disappointed that many didn’t survive past January. So, this year I’m using three guiding questions for making better resolutions and taking the leap.

First question: Is this an authentic resolution? A resolution is the firm resolve to take action, whereas an “irresolution” lacks resolve and is filled with wavering and hesitation. Many of my resolutions have been wavering “irresolutions.”

But there are reasons why people waver. Behavioral change experts say that change is a multi-stage process. They recommend we determine where we are in the process to know if we’re ready for action. So, question two is: Am I really ready for change? Here is the “CliffsNotes” version of how these stages work:

**Pre-contemplation to Contemplation: Self-awareness.** I start becoming aware of change. It can happen through information and personal feedback. I begin realizing how my unhealthy behavior affects others, and the positive effects of changing.

**Contemplation to Action: Self-evaluation.** I realize this change is an important part of who I want to be. I find myself saying things like, “I want to be like that.”

**Preparation to Action: Self-liberation.** I begin to believe in my ability to make a change and in making the necessary commitment to act on that belief. This is where I start saying things like, “I can do this!”

**Action to Maintenance: Permanence.** I establish the new change and reinforce it by rewarding myself; find people who support my change; continue substituting healthy ways of acting and thinking for unhealthy ways; and use stimulus control and triggers to support and encourage the new habit.

If I make a resolution that is in the action stage but I’m in the contemplation or preparation stages, then chances are I won’t keep it. (For further information on this topic, consider Prochaska’s book, *Changing for Good*).

Lastly, question three: Am I making too many resolutions? It’s far better for me to focus on two or three important changes than overwhelming myself with 15 or 20.

If you were to make two or three major resolutions this year, what would they be? In which area(s) of your life do you hear yourself saying, “I can do this!”?

Let’s consider the eight universal principles of CREATION Health (choice, rest, environment, activity, trust in divine power, interpersonal relationships, outlook, and nutrition). Is there one area that, if changed, would dramatically improve your life? If so, which one? Most importantly, where in your life do you hear God whispering, “We can do this!”?

God has blessed you with the gift of choice. So choose to reinvent yourself in 2011. Take the leap! And when you do, you’ll find yourself landing in the caring arms of a loving heavenly Father with whom nothing is impossible.

That’s CREATION Health!

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

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





# Shades of Grace

BY MIKE TUCKER » SPEAKER/DIRECTOR, FAITH FOR TODAY



## Faded Glory

**I listened to an exchange between a young man in his late teens and a gentleman in his late 70s.** The young man had just returned from a mission trip to Mexico and was excited to share all that had taken place. The older man listened but was obviously unimpressed.

“Well, that’s not too bad, but when I was your age we were really on fire for God. We didn’t have the shallow experience with God that is so characteristic of this younger generation today. Back then there was nothing we wouldn’t do for God. Not just some mission trip, but every day!”

The young man grew silent as the joy drained from his face. The older man continued, but neither the young man nor I were listening. I can’t tell you what the teenager was thinking about, but thoughts of Sardis came to my mind.

You remember the church of Sardis from Revelation 3, don’t you? Sardis had once been a vibrant and prosperous city, but by the time John wrote Revelation, the glory days were over. Sardis was a city in decline. The problem was that the residents of Sardis ignored the present reality and thought of their city as still being strong and prosperous.

Sardis was built at the top of a very steep hill. The slope of the hill was so steep that it would be difficult for an invading army to climb the slope and then be able to get over Sardis’ impressive walls. The leaders of the city placed a lot of confidence in that natural barrier to invasion. So much confidence, in fact, that on two separate occasions they had failed to post guards on the walls, making it easy for the invading army to capture the city with hardly a fight.

Sardis was a city that lived on past glory, a glory now faded. She had a false sense of security and failed to keep watch.

“And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, ‘These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: ‘I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.’” (Rev. 3:1, 2, NKJV).

Living on past glories is deadly. Those who live in the past are spiritual zombies!

While it is never a bad thing to remind yourself of God’s leading in your past history, we cannot live on past glories. The past is important in that it gives us confidence for today. The Holy Spirit is alive and active now. Just as Jesus pled with the church at Sardis to wake up, so too does He call us to leave the past in the past and experience a fresh dose of the Spirit today.

There are those who speak only of the past. Every event in life provides an opportunity to share with all who will listen just how good it was yesterday and how bad it is today.

The reason some people speak so often of the past is that nothing is happening in their experience today! Those who are active and alive with Jesus today don’t have time to dwell on past glories. They are too busy with the movement of the Spirit today!

But there is good news for those who tend to live on past glories.

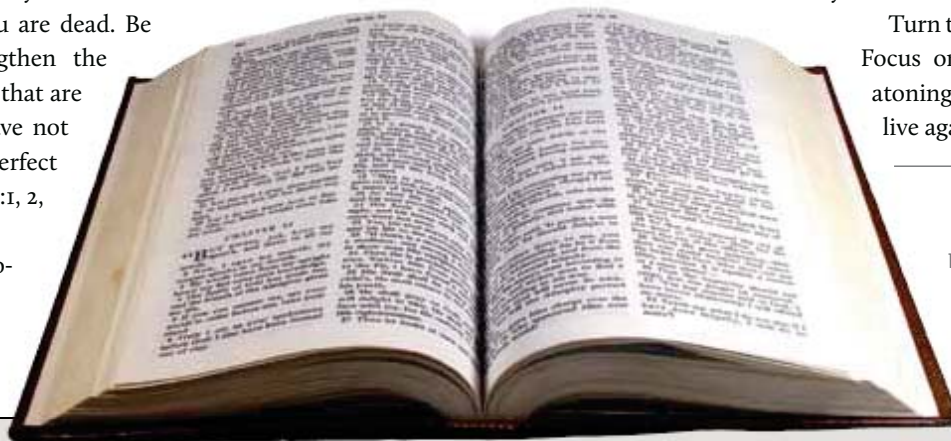
“He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels,” (Rev. 3:5).

You can overcome your obsession with past glories and become alive in Christ today! How do we overcome? In Revelation 12:11 we learn that we overcome by “the blood of the Lamb.” Spiritual zombies can be made alive again by experiencing afresh the saving blood of Jesus. They must return to the most basic element of the gospel—the joy of our salvation by faith in the sacrifice of Christ, and thus be made alive.

Learn from the past and be encouraged by the past. But don’t live as a spiritual zombie. Jesus offers a life that is vibrant and joyous today.

Turn to the cross of Christ. Focus on His sacrifice—His atoning blood. It’s time to live again!

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





# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY SUE HINKLE » TEXICO CONFERENCE COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR

## Nurturing Our New Members 24/7!

**The evangelistic meetings are over and many new members have been added to the church family.** What an exciting time! The newly baptized people have been coming to the church several nights a week during the series and learning Bible truths by leaps and bounds. Now what? It can be somewhat of a letdown for them not to have the almost nightly spiritual connection.

The Texico Conference is trying to fill that gap, as well as nurture and strengthen the new members by offering them a satellite dish from Glorystar, which delivers many Seventh-day Adventist networks and channels with 24/7 programming. Not only is it like having a pastor (or many pastors) in their home to continue their spiritual learning, but it also lets them become acquainted with the wide spectrum of outreach and ministries throughout our church worldwide. They can learn more about the importance of health, view cooking classes, participate in exercise classes, and become acculturated into the Seventh-day Adventist lifestyle right in their own home. With such a wide variety of quality programs that are offered, many have shared with us the amazing things they are learning.

Newly-baptized members of the Odessa church have this to say about the impact this satellite dish has made in their life: “The satellite has been an awesome blessing in my home! Thank you! I

even like to hear it while I do housework. I have learned so much and it helps me share God’s plan of salvation, health, and total wellbeing with others. It’s awesome to have the opportunity to hear our true message through television. It doesn’t and shouldn’t take the place of our one-on-one time with the Lord, but it is the cherry on top! I know that the principles and teachings that I see and hear are validated through our Holy Bible, and with what we believe as Seventh-day Adventists. The satellite has given me positive messages and programs that are helping me not to get distracted from our finish line... Heaven!” —Janeth Ward

“It’s awesome! I keep it on 24/7. When I’m at work, I leave the TV on for my dog. While I was having my home repaired, I would leave on Amazing Facts for the carpenters to listen to. I’m still learning so much!”—Lynn Emfinger

“It has been a big help in my spiritual journey. It’s like I am having an evangelist 24/7. I am thankful for the Texico Conference for doing a great job in spreading the gospel.”—Burt Ian (Dodie ) Pelopero

Not only has this been a great nurturing tool, but it also has great evangelistic possibilities for those households in which there are people who do not know our message. Many stories have been reported of people who have come into our churches every year after hearing the truth via Adventist programming. Of course, this will never take the place of a loving and attentive church family, but it is an encouragement to these individuals and strengthens them in the decision they’ve made to join the church. Actually, we all could benefit from this type of nurturing!

**Sue Hinkle**, Texico Conference communication director

◀ From left: L.C. and Janeth Ward, with Janeth’s daughter, Jacquelyn Montoya.





## El Uso De La Tecnología

**En Apocalipsis 14:6 Leemos lo siguiente,** “Y vi otro ángel volar en medio del cielo, que tenía el evangelio eterno, para predicarlo a los moradores de la tierra, y a toda nación y tribu y lengua y pueblo.”

Al pasar el tiempo cambian las culturas, las costumbres y las idiosincrasias, pero el evangelio sigue siendo, “El Evangelio Eterno,” no cambia.

En el 2011 seguimos siendo salvos de la misma forma que cuando por primera vez Dios presentó el evangelio, “Las Buenas Noticias”, a Adán y Eva en el jardín del Edén. Somos salvos por gracia, por medio de un salvador, Cristo Jesús quien murió en la cruz para pagar por nuestras culpas y para que tengamos esperanza de vida eterna.

Ahora, aunque el evangelio no cambia, la metodología para presentar el evangelio sí cambia. Debemos ajustar la metodología a las diferentes culturas, costumbres e idiosincrasias. Y debemos usar todos los recursos tecnológicos accesibles para alcanzar al mayor número de personas con el evangelio de salvación.

El cuatro de Febrero de 2011 comenzarán más de 100 campañas evangelísticas en Houston, Texas, con el proyecto titulado, “Houston Para Cristo.” Este proyecto evangelístico está organizado por la Unión del Suroeste y apoyado por la Conferencia de Texas y La Conferencia Regional. En este proyecto se están uniendo en la predicación del evangelio, administradores de la Unión y de las Conferencias, pastores, evangelistas y laicos. Y creemos que Dios va a bendecir grandemente este esfuerzo unido.

Y por supuesto, si queremos tener una gran cosecha, tenemos que primero sembrar. La naturaleza nos enseña una gran lección, “no podemos cosechar donde no hemos sembrado.” Y para promover las campañas, se están usando recursos tecnológicos como el internet, la radio, carteleras en carreteras principales de Houston, y otros medios más. También tenemos un gran número de hermanos y hermanas dedicados y comprometidos en la preparación del territorio para las campañas evangelísticas. Algunos están trabajando en grupos pequeños y otros con estudios bíblicos individuales.

En Septiembre de 2010 lanzamos, en la iglesia Hispana de Houston Spring Branch, un proyecto de entrenamiento laico para equipar, entrenar y motivar a nuestros hermanos en la preparación del territorio. Más de 500 laicos se comprometieron para participar en este proyecto de preparación de territorio. Para esto, se les entregó una serie de estudios bíblicos en DVD. Tenemos la confianza de que al usar esta tecnología, se les facilita presentar el evangelio a otros, y es un método más atractivo e interesante para

los que reciben los estudios bíblicos.

Sin embargo, aunque la tecnología tiene su poder y su alcance, no debemos olvidar que solo el Espíritu Santo tiene el poder de tocar vidas y de cambiar corazones. Esto me recuerda de algo que oí decir al evangelista internacional, Alejandro Bullón, en el año 2000 mientras nos encontrábamos en Cuba, participando del proyecto evangelístico, “Cuba, Cristo Te Ama,” donde se dieron más de 100 campañas evangelísticas en toda la isla de Cuba. Alguien le preguntó, “Pastor Bullón, ¿Cuándo va a comenzar a usar la tecnología, como Power Point, para predicar el evangelio? La respuesta de él fue, “Eso es muy complicado para mí.” Y prosiguió a decir, “Lo que yo hago, en mis predicaciones evangelísticas, es pasar a dar testimonio a una persona que fue un drogadicto o un alcohólico y le pido que diga cómo fue que Jesús cambió su vida, y ese es mi PowerPoint.”

En el libro Testimonios Selectos, tomo 4, página 284, encontramos la siguiente declaración, “Sin la presencia del Espíritu de Dios, ningún corazón se conmovió, ningún pecador será ganado para Cristo.”

¿Debemos usar la tecnología para la evangelización? Sí. Pero no olvidemos que debemos depender más del poder del Espíritu Santo.

**Eduardo Canales** es el vicepresidente de ministerios Hispanos.



▲ Iglesia Hispana de Houston Spring Branch, donde se llevó a cabo el entrenamiento laico.

# CAST YOUR NET

netAdventist offers a new technology for sharing timeless truths

by Mark Bond

Jesus told Peter to put away his net so that they could fish for souls. Today a new tool is available for soul winning, and ironically, it involves using a different type of “net.”

Maintaining a current, relevant Web site is one of the most important ways a church can make itself accessible to the local community. To that end, the Southwestern Union is partnering with the General Conference to provide free Web site hosting for every church entity within the five-state union.

Built on the net-Adventist platform, this free service allows churches, schools, and Adventist entities of any size to create a content-rich Web presence without the typical fees involved in designing, building, and maintaining a Web site.

The netAdventist platform provides a robust toolbox of extensions and widgets that make your Web site valuable to both church members and visitors.

The platform is designed so that a church secretary or lay volunteer can easily maintain and update Web site content without assistance from a programmer or Web designer.

Maintaining an effective church Web site means more than just providing contact and event information. A vibrant, thriving church needs a Web site regularly updated with fresh news and content. A stale, never-changing Web site creates the perception of a stale and possibly dying church. Fresh content keeps Web site

visitors coming back.

A fresh, updated site requires frequent interaction by a volunteer or church staff member. Fortunately, the netAdventist platform provides access to news feeds shared forms, and calendars from trusted sources like the *Adventist Review* and Adventist News Network. These resources update automatically with breaking church-related news and information.

Another valuable aspect of the netAdventist platform is its multiple access level function. General content can be flagged for unlimited public access. More private, church-related content, such as the online or printable church directory or photo albums, can be made visible only to members with usernames and passwords.

In addition, content can be made accessible only to designated groups. For example, you

can share an upcoming agenda file with your church board group, or make a staff announcement to your Pathfinder leadership group.

The netAdventist platform also provides evangelistic resources such as online Bible studies, evangelistic series, streaming media players for 3ABN, Hope Channel, and other Adventist television and radio channels, and many other outreach-based resources that can be embedded directly into your church’s Web site. This allows you to use your Web site as an outreach tool. Some churches







▲ Visit [www.southwesternadventist.org](http://www.southwesternadventist.org) to sign up for your church's free Web site.

have created attractive business cards that prominently feature the church Web address for sharing.

You can also upload videos, sermons, podcasts, or any other media content to share with the world at no additional cost. It is even possible to host live stream broadcasts of your church services in conjunction with third-party Web streaming services.

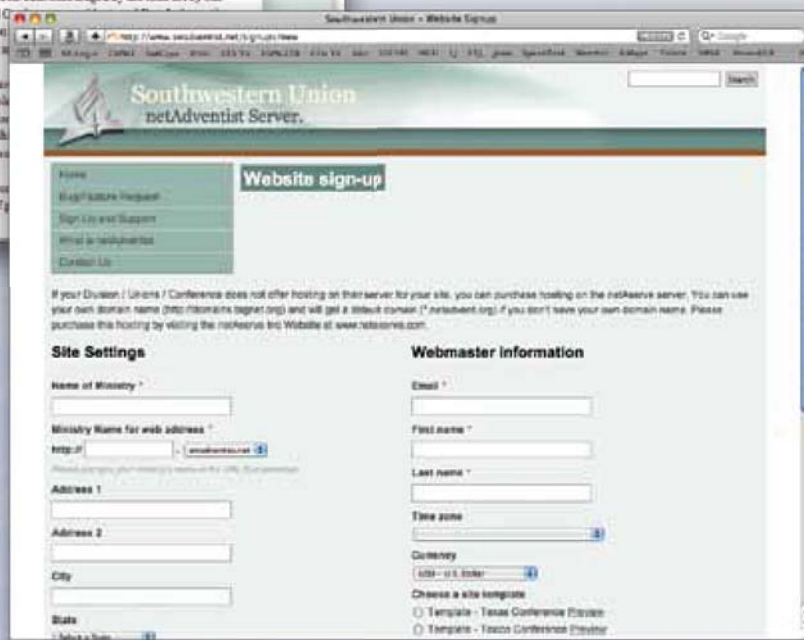
Specifically developed for use by the Adventist Church, netAdventist and its code was donated to the church on an open license basis. Any official Adventist entity can become a license holder and not only access the code but also improve and add to the overall platform. Church programmers from around the globe are continually writing new extensions and widgets to meet specific needs. When approved, these contributions are added to the software platform and made available to the church at large.

One example of such resourceful programming is the Publ'Assist module, which was commissioned by the Pacific Union Conference as a content management system for union magazines. The Southwestern Union recently started using the module for the production of the *Record*. Publ'Assist allows regular contributors to upload stories, photos, and captions directly to the *Record* Web site. The content is edited by *Record* staff and then flowed directly to the designer. Any content changes or updates are automatically updated in the layout. This saves time and makes it easy to publish each issue directly to the Web with the click of a button.

Publ'Assist is available to any Adventist entity that produces content for recurring magazines or newsletters. The Texas Conference, for instance, is exploring the use of this module for its

quarterly publication, *The Flame*. Visit [www.swurecord.org](http://www.swurecord.org) to view the newly implemented Publ'Assist version of our magazine's content online.

Possibly the most important benefit of using the unified netAdventist Web site platform is that it creates a common network for the flow of information among churches around the world. News and information from the General Conference office, North American Division and the various union and conference offices can easily flow down-



stream to churches with netAdventist Web sites. Local churches can even share news and calendar items, such as concerts or other events.

The Southwestern Union, in cooperation with the five local conferences, leases server space to make this valuable Web site platform available to every church, school, Pathfinder Club and official church entity free of charge. Any church or entity that already has a Web site can easily and inexpensively migrate content to a netAdventist site and continue using the same Web address.

To sign up for a free netAdventist site, visit [www.swadventist.net](http://www.swadventist.net). The Southwestern Union Communication Department is available to answer basic questions at 817.295.0476. If needed, unlimited support options are available starting at \$10 a month from [www.netaserve.com](http://www.netaserve.com).

As you embrace new technology to “cast a net” for souls, develop a strategy to make your Web presence a positive, informative, inspirational resource for your community—one that will communicate love and hope to both members and visitors alike.

**Mark Bond** is the Southwestern Union communication director.

# TECHNOVANGELISM

## New ways to share the old story

by Cassie Martsching

From Web sites and podcasts to apps and social media, Adventists are using new tools to share the old message. Below is a sample of different ways we are using technology to connect and tell the world about Jesus.

### WEB SITES



#### AdventistBookCenter.com

Finding books, music, DVDs and other media is as easy as ABC. The Adventist Book Center Web site is a joint venture by the Pacific Press® and Review and Herald® Publishing. Your online order is fulfilled by your local ABC and shipped directly to your home.

#### AdventistChurchConnect.com

The North American Division provides free Web sites for all churches and schools in Bermuda, Canada, and the U.S. through ACC. No technical expertise is necessary, and free user support is available. Sites include an intuitive content management system and modules for prayer requests, daily devotionals, a calendar, e-mail newsletter, and more.

#### Adventist-eBooks.com

Pacific Press® has launched a new Web site with the aim of making it easier for customers to find all Pacific Press e-books in one place. Adventist-eBooks.com currently features 33 titles. Additional releases will be added periodically and the site will ultimately include all of their bestsellers and many historic classics.

#### AdventSource.org “events” tab

Are you looking for training for your church’s ministry leaders? Whether you lead communication or women’s ministries, Adventist Community Services or song service, you can search and register for ministry training events through AdventSource.

#### ArmyofYouth.org

The Army of Youth Ministries wants to equip youth to share the gospel message. This Web site provides a platform where churches and supporting organizations can post evangelistic and training events by date and location. Youth can create a profile and log in to network with mission-focused individuals, churches, and ministries.

#### AWR.org/invite

Are you looking for new ways to share the gospel with your non-English-speaking neighbors? Visit this page on Adventist World Radio’s Web site to print an invitation to hear the gospel message in one of 80-plus languages.

#### Bibleinfo.com

Discover what the Bible says about life’s questions. This Web site offers answers from the Bible on nearly 400 topics, personal responses to users’ questions, prayer for individual needs, Bible studies, and more. Choose from more than 20 language options.

#### BibleStudies.com

Find Bible courses in almost 50 different languages, with five major English-language courses. These simple online study guides will offer answers to some of life’s deepest questions and grow your walk with Christ.

#### LiftingUpJesus.net

Download a free series of 30 Bible studies created by Bible worker Karen Lewis. These lessons make it easy for anyone to share the gospel. The first nine lessons lead participants into a relationship with Jesus before discussing specific doctrines. Lessons are available in English, Spanish, Russian, and Chinese.

## MyPlaceWithJesus.com

A ministry of *It Is Written*, this site features a series of interactive Bible studies for kids ages 7-12. Fourteen lessons guide children through many basic Christian themes, including Creation, the Trinity, and Heaven.

## PCJovenes.com

This Web site for the Hispanic community includes Spanish-language Bible studies, social networking, a Q&A section dealing with issues faced by young people, inspirational videos, audio, texts, and photos.

## SDAPlus.com

This specially targeted search engine explores Web sites created by Seventh-day Adventist church members and organizations. Check out SDA Plus if you are looking for an Adventist speaker, musician, camp, school, business, and more.

## ShareHim

You don't have to be a Mark Finley or a Dwight Nelson to reach and win souls for Jesus Christ. Utilizing prepared sermons and graphics presented via PowerPoint, a laptop computer, and a projector, the ShareHim program empowers lay people to conduct evangelistic meetings at home or abroad.

## 7DayWear.com

7 Day Wear's online design studio provides an easy way to create shirts for your Pathfinder or Adventurer Club, youth group, mission trip, or any other church group. Choose from the library of clip art and Adventist logos or upload your own artwork.

## iPHONE APPS

### Sabbath School

Find all Bible lesson studies for every Sabbath School level, from beginners through adults. This app features podcasts, videos, and more.

### SpiritRenew

This app delivers devotional content relating to health, family life, spiritual growth, and more. Ideal for family devotions, small groups, and personal reading.

### Voice of Prophecy

Listen to live streaming and on-demand VOP Radio programs hosted by speaker/director Fred Kinsey. Each episode explores current events and the modern Christian lifestyle. VOP has the distinction of being the first Seventh-day Adventist ministry to create an app.



## EGW Writings

Developed by the White Estate, this free application allows you to read and search the complete published writings of Ellen G. White, the King James Bible, and Noah Webster's American Dictionary.

## PODCASTS



### Adventist World Radio

AWR offers podcasts created to reach people around the world in more than 80 languages. Programs include music, discussions on family matters, short sermons, Bible lessons, interviews, medical advice forums and more.

### Adventist Mission

Adventist Mission's video podcast highlights mission stories from around the world. Learn how the church's work is progressing in each division and where your Thirteenth Sabbath offering will go. This podcast also features quarterly children's stories.

## DVD TOOLS FOR EVANGELISM

Available from AdventSource at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) or 800.328.0525.



### Adventist Preaching

The Adventist Preaching series features sermons presented by some of the most renowned preachers in the Adventist Church. Adventist Preaching DVDs are ideal for churches without speakers and members building a personal DVD library of favorite preachers. The most recent volume, "Good News in the 21st Century," features Sung Kwon, NAD Adventist Community Services director. Catalog #660026

### New Beginnings Small Group Studies

New Beginnings covers the fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church in a format ideally suited to small groups. Simply play one of the DVDs, then use the accompanying leader's guide to lead a discussion that will build faith and grow community. Ideal for small group outreach. Catalog #417505

### You Can Be a Soul Winner DVD Set

Discover how you can give Bible studies that lead people to Jesus. In this DVD Pastor Gary Ford walks viewers step by step through preparing to give Bible studies, explaining difficult passages, exposing erroneous thought patterns, calling for decisions, and more. Catalog #416973

**Cassie Martsching** is the communication director for AdventSource.

# HOUSTON FOR CHRIST

by Suzanna Facundo

“What do you mean by Houston for Christ?” I asked Dr. Duane McKey, vice president for evangelism at the Southwestern Union Conference. As his assistant, I often have the privilege of hearing plans at their early stages and before long, I was told all about the idea of holding simultaneous evangelistic meetings throughout greater Houston. This would be no small challenge, for sure. As far as we know, an evangelistic series of this magnitude has never been done in North America, with so many different speakers all preaching the same message at the same time. We owe a huge “thank you” to the Southwest Region Conference and the Texas Conference for their vision in having these meetings.

There are about 90 churches and church companies in the Houston area between the Southwest Region Conference and the Texas Conference. As we do everything big in Texas, a goal of 100 meetings was set. With the greater Houston area covering about 8,778 square miles, that many meetings means that anyone can literally go within two miles of their home and find an evangelistic meeting taking place.

Our first task was to locate every church and company in both conferences. The next step was to contact each pastor and ask if they would be on board with this evangelistic endeavor. Upon visiting with some of them, we found that their enthusiasm for this project was so great that not only would their churches participate, but many of their members wanted to hold neighborhood evangelistic meetings, as

well. Some churches, such as Galena Park and Spring Branch, immediately had a growing list of lay preachers. The first two lay people to register were Ramiro Cortez and Salvador Vazquez from Galena Park. They were with us when we held evangelistic meetings in Veracruz, Mexico, this past March. Their enthusiasm spread quickly among fellow church members, and a total of 12 signed up to preach.

Thanks to the ministry of ShareHim that provides ready-made sermons, lay people with no formal training can preach an entire evangelistic series. Here is where we can see how modern technology is helping to spread the gospel throughout the world. Lay people who have a burning desire to see Jesus come quickly simply install the ShareHim program on a laptop and practice preaching the sermons. A guest at the meetings would never know that the person behind the pulpit is not a formally trained evangelist.

We have a diverse group of people who will dedicate one to two weeks of their lives to preaching God’s Word—truck drivers, a college student, secretaries, attorneys, doctors, and housewives, along with our pastors and professional evangelists. We are also blessed to have some of our leaders from the North American Division, such as Dan Jackson, president of the NAD, and some General Conference officials, along with the presidents of the Southwest Region and Texas conferences joining us in Houston to be part of this history-making evangelistic series. Speakers are coming from as far away as Colombia, Mexico, St. Lucia, and Nigeria, and others are coming from places as close as the Rio Grande Valley.

Depending on which church



or home you choose to walk into on February 4, 2011, you may hear your speaker preaching in French, Vietnamese, Korean, Kiswahili, Kihyarwanda, English, or Spanish. The Missouri City Fondren Southwest church will be holding meetings in three different languages at their locations. We will have 81 meetings in churches and 51 meetings in homes or other locations, making a total of 132 meetings.

Technology will also play a big role in letting all of Houston know that God's Word is coming to town. Billboards advertising the series throughout the greater Houston area will be catching motorists' attention and directing them to a special Web site as they travel the freeways of Houston. The site is set up so that anyone can determine which meeting is closest to their home.

I can hear the excitement rising as I have been visiting by telephone with the many pastors and lay people scheduled to preach. Pastor Franklin Nicholas, who pastors both the Emmanuel Temple church in Beaumont and the Mount Olive church in Port Arthur, can hardly contain the excitement in his voice as he shares with me how they are mailing 20,000 handbill invitations and will be passing out 5,000 of them the Sabbath before the meetings begin. His church held an all-night vigil on December 30, 2010 just to pray for those people who will be coming to the meetings in February. They are especially excited that Pastor Patison Preville will be coming in from St. Lucia.

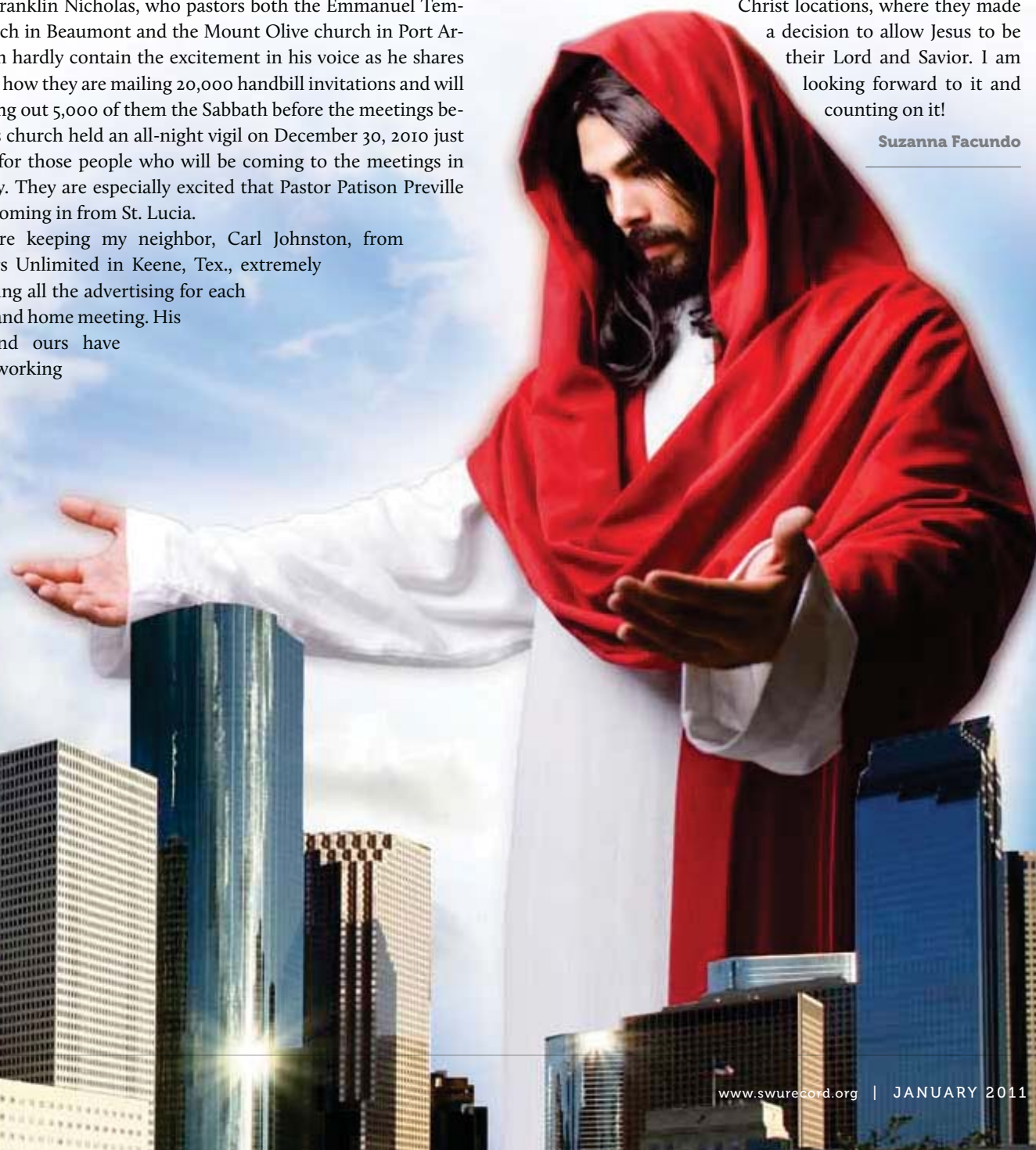
We are keeping my neighbor, Carl Johnston, from Seminars Unlimited in Keene, Tex., extremely busy doing all the advertising for each church and home meeting. His team and ours have been working

closely together as advertising deadlines come upon us.

Would you like to also be part of the Houston for Christ series? You can help by setting aside time each day, starting now until the end of February, to pray and ask that the Holy Spirit prepare the hearts of everyone living in Houston who will be passing by a billboard, or who will be handed an invitation to a meeting. Pray that they will make the choice to attend a meeting and that those who attend will find Christ. If you have friends or relatives in Houston, call and encourage them to visit the church nearest their home. You can even visit the Web site at [www.houstonforchrist.org](http://www.houstonforchrist.org) and let your loved ones know about the excitement that is soon to hit Houston.

Just imagine your surprise when you get to heaven, and your angel introduces you to someone who is there because you prayed, and they were impressed to walk into one of our Houston for Christ locations, where they made a decision to allow Jesus to be their Lord and Savior. I am looking forward to it and counting on it!

**Suzanna Facundo**



## A Day Of Technological Gospel Opportunity



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the prophet Daniel was told, "But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase" (Dan. 12:4). Students of Bible prophecy understand that this reference to "shut up the words, and seal the book" refers to the book of Daniel. For more than two thousand years after it was written, it remained a book of mystery. It was truly a "sealed" book. But in the late 1700s and early 1800s, men and women around the circle of the globe began to study this once closed book and discovered the beautiful truths of end-time events. The text is clear that understanding of the book of Daniel would not take place till the "time of the end," and we are now living in that time period of earth's history.

But also noted from the passage is the truth that in the time of the end, knowledge would be increased. You and I are living in the fulfillment period of this prophecy! What an explosion of knowledge there has been since the early 1800s. We have seen the industrial revolution; a complete upheaval in the world of medicine with the discovery of all kinds of wonder drugs and phenomenal surgical techniques; and the marvels of new technologies that are being updated practically on a daily basis! What would Daniel say about cell phones, the Internet, or high-definition television, if he were living today?

The fact of the matter is that the explosion of knowledge Daniel references is also about an increased knowledge and understanding of the Word of God. Never in the history of the world has there been such clarity of biblical truth. Therefore, the challenge for God's people today is to combine the explosive secular knowledge of mass communication with the clarity of present truth, so that every nation, kindred, tongue, and people have an opportunity to know the truth as it is in Jesus. If ever there was a technological possibility in the history of this world to be able to

fully share the beauty of the gospel message globally, the time is now, and we must be faithful in doing our part.

Stephen Orian, president

## 3rd Annual CELEBRATIONS! Health Fair

**LAFAYETTE, LA. »** The room was buzzing with activity as people set up tables and arranged their display items at the Third Annual CELEBRATIONS! Health Fair conducted by the Lafayette church. Marcia DuMaurier had been working for several months recruiting health care organizations to participate and offer free information and services. She had also worked with Remington College to provide the venue and a team of nursing students to assist with the free screenings. There was

a lot of excitement as the official start time arrived.

We were excited to watch as people arrived who had no prior connection to our church, and there was a fairly steady stream of newcomers throughout the morning and early afternoon. People enjoyed the free handouts from the various organizations, the door prizes, and the free samples from a local health food store. They especially appreciated the free screenings that were provided to check blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, height, weight, vision, hand-grip strength, and more. We were surprised when a local news station showed up to shoot some video and conduct a short interview.

As followers of Christ, we are called to meet people's needs, not only spiritually, but physically and emotionally, too. The example Christ left was to first provide physical healing, and afterward the people were more receptive to the spiritual. It is our hope that through this and other events we will develop relationships with the community that will help it be healthier physically and then seek to be healthier spiritually, as well.

Elizabeth Fresse

Participants in the CELEBRATIONS! Health Fair had the opportunity to receive free medical screenings to check blood pressure, cholesterol, blood sugar, height, weight, vision, hand-grip strength, and more.



# I'm a Daughter of God!

## Spanish Women's Retreat

**HUNTSVILLE, ARK. »** The Huntsville Spanish church was filled with women and families on October 30, 2010 as the women from the Huntsville and Berryville Spanish churches gathered for a special women's retreat. The theme was "I'm a Daughter of God," and during the worship service, Carmen Castro spoke of

take home.

Both churches came together for evening worship with the pastor, singing and praising God for a wonderful day together. After supper and some activities, everyone watched a Christian movie. The women were pleased and excited to be involved in the ministry, and so thankful for the help of their husbands in taking care of the kitchen and children. It was a great way to feel special and cared for by God—and our families and friends.

**Carmen Castro**, Women's Ministries director

# Women's Retreat Draws Capacity Crowd

**SHREVEPORT »** The Shreveport First church hosted its first-ever women's retreat on September 24 and 25, 2010. Ladies came from Texas, Louisiana, and Arkansas, making it a very successful endeavor. The church fellowship hall had a capacity crowd of 75 and there was a waiting list

of those who wanted to come. The retreat was offered at no charge, but the women were quite generous in their support of this grand effort by the Shreveport First ladies.

Rita Neptune, the featured speaker, talked about "The Change Points of Women's Lives." The ladies responded very **MORE »**

▼ Rita Neptune (left) was the featured speaker at the first-ever women's ministries retreat held at the Shreveport First church. She is pictured with Shreveport First's women's ministries leader, Kathy Farmer.



▲ Women from the Huntsville and Berryville congregations gathered at the Huntsville church for a women's retreat on October 30, 2010.

the five ministries that God has specifically entrusted to women.

The men served a wonderful lunch, cleaned up, and took care of the children, while the women went back after lunch for more discussion and additional breakout sessions. Some of the topics included "Discipline With Love," "Using the Language of Love," "The Professional Mom," "How to Save on a Small Budget," and "How to Prevent Cancer." The women were given welcome bags with goodies to



positively to Rita's topics and many gave their testimony as a result. Rita lives in Mammoth Springs, Ark., with her husband, Bill, who is the pastor there. Rita is a seasoned speaker and is involved in many areas of church ministry, having been a past president of the ARK-LA Adventist Singles Ministries, former ARK-LA Shepherdess president and former ARK-LA women's ministries director. She is currently the women's ministries leader in her

home church, communication coordinator for the ARK-LA Shepherdess organization, and a member of the ARK-LA Prayer Conference Committee.

The grand finale was a funny high fashion show (our version), featuring the crop top, bell bottoms, can-cans, plunging necklines, and four other very funny fashions! Everyone was impressed with the food and gifts they received, as well as the warm fellowship they enjoyed. The retreat

was a tribute to what God can do through a handful of dedicated women. They implemented ideas over several months' preparation for a day and a half of spiritual feasting in His honor and for His glory. Some of us are already considering having a retreat again next year, if God directs us to do so. If that's the case, we hope to see you there!

**Kathy Farmer**, women's ministries leader



The Benton Little Warriors Adventurer Club and the Jesus Warriors Pathfinder Club celebrated their first Induction service on October 2.

## First Induction Held for Pathfinders and Adventurers

**BENTON, ARK. »** The Little Warriors Adventurer Club and the Jesus Warriors Pathfinder Club celebrated their first Induction service on October 2, 2010 at the Benton church. It was awesome to watch nine Little Warriors and six Jesus Warriors be inducted into their clubs. During the

Induction ceremony, a pinning service was held for three of the Pathfinders who had been baptized earlier in the year. The ceremony was followed by a Mexican dinner to raise funds and provide an opportunity for the church family to enjoy some good food and fellowship. We are looking for-

ward to an amazing year with these young people, watching them learn and grow in Christ. What a wonderful group the Lord has blessed us with!

**Francis Caple**



# Spreading the Message

**MINDEN, LA. »** In October, church members from the Minden and Shreveport First churches, assisted by some of the Pathfinders from the Shreveport Tornadoes club, distributed 5,000 handbills advertising our upcoming Revelation Seminar. The afternoon was spent spreading the invitations across a large section of town. We had some laughs and some serious moments as we passed out handbills. As we started out, Pathfinder Mattie was being bugged by a yellow jacket, Marshall was chased by

hard to give up, and the call to stop smoking is a large hurdle that new Seventh-day Adventists have to climb. The health message is really the right arm of the gospel and the Minden church preaches, teaches, and lives that motto.

David Farmer, pastor

## Project Win-a-Friend

**MAMMOTH SPRING, ARK. »** Our church has been following up on a seminar that Bruce Wilkinson presented, entitled "Project Win-a-Friend." The church loved the idea of doing a community survey to see what kind of programs people really need and want, rather than simply guessing. The survey,

coordinated by Beverly Ellis and Taresa Cochran, was launched in April 2010, continued through the summer, and was completed in August 2010. Various members helped at different times and we all had interesting contacts. We encountered some wonderful people, and a large percentage were willing to take time to give their opinions, even on the worst days. Thankfully, most were polite, even if they were not interested. We followed census takers and politicians, so it was hard to get the doors to open on many days.

In August 2010 we held a book fair that was a direct result of interests expressed on the survey. The church is planning more projects that encompass health needs because the survey indicated this was a community interest. We believe every church should try reaching their community one door at a time. Doing this will help your church to become familiar with your community and to know the people and their needs. Your neighbors will learn that Adventists are interested in their welfare, leading to a positive reaction to our church.

Taresa Cochran



▲ Attendance at a Revelation Seminar held recently at the Minden church was more than double the size of its membership.

a dog whose bark was louder than he was big, and Victor was able to help an elderly lady get up after she had fallen in her front yard.

The meetings began on November 1 and concluded on November 13, covering two lessons each evening. The Minden church has about 25 members and attendance at the meetings was more than twice the size of our membership. We now have five strong candidates who are continuing to study for baptism. Minden has a large Christian population with 66 Christian churches registered in a population of 13,027. The love of God is taught and even love for each other, but to love God enough to deny self is a new idea. Sometimes old ways are

► Beverly Ellis (left) and Taresa Cochran coordinated a survey in the Mammoth Spring area in an effort to determine the needs and interests in the community.



## A Time to Reflect



OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

Here we are at the beginning of another year. It is just an arbitrary mark on the calendar, but it gives us a good opportunity to reflect on where we stand. I'm not talking here about reflecting on our social or economic standing, but specifically on our relationship with Christ. It is easy to be deceived in this area. Drawing a lesson from the experience of God's Old Testament church, Paul admonishes the Corinthians, "Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12, NKJV). I believe that there are ways to prevent this from happening so that we will not be led astray by false ideas or self-deception.

We need to ask God to make us willing to follow all of the divine counsel that He has made available to us. Most of us like to choose those texts in the Bible and quotations in the Spirit of Prophecy that we like and that appeal to the way that we think. While reading Scripture recently I came to a text that really spoke to my heart. I said, "Thank you, Lord, I really needed that." However, just a few lines later I read another one and said, "Lord, I didn't need that one." By His grace we must surrender our hearts so that we will heed His counsel. We must keep Christ's sacrifice ever in our minds. "The matchless love of God for a world that did not love Him! The thought has a subduing power upon the soul and brings the mind into captivity to the will of God" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 15).

We need to ask God to make Christ and His cross the center of our lives. "Christ is the source of every right impulse. He is the only one that can implant in the heart enmity against sin. Every desire for truth and purity, every conviction of our own sinfulness, is an evidence that His Spirit is moving upon our hearts" (*Steps to Christ*, p. 26).

We need to ask God to help us not to be satisfied with the experience of the past, but to recognize that sanctification is a life-long process that never stops. "Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward

to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:14, NKJV). If the close of another year should find us still on this earth, may it find us victorious and surrendered to God's will and His work.

John Moyer, president

## Here We Grow Again

**WAGONER** » This has been an exciting year in the Wagoner church, with five programs reaching out into the community. The Adventist Community Services department, along with the food pantry, has helped families on a weekly basis, along with reaching out to needy families through the distribution of food boxes at Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Food for Kids program, which provides school children with food over the weekends, is presently helping 23 kids each weekend. We recently mailed out 6,000 Bible study pamphlets and have teams passing out literature each month through our personal ministries department. The Tree of Life program, which helps those in need due to unforeseen disaster, has helped people not only locally, but inter-

nationally, as well. During the last quarter of 2010, special emphasis was given to the 2010 disaster in Haiti.

The church increased its membership by 25 percent last year, bringing our membership to 30 people. It is hard to imagine that we have so many programs operating and yet we still have a surplus in our treasury. What makes this work so successfully is that each member and friend puts forth a helping hand. Each member of the body working together makes for tremendous church growth. We thank those who have been praying for our ministries here in Wagoner and ask for your continued prayers, because we are seeing the results. We have recently baptized two new members with more to come, thanks to the help of the Holy Spirit.

Jack Harris

▼ Because of its outreach and involvement in the community, the Wagoner church is attracting new members. Two people were recently baptized into their church membership, bringing the total to 30.



# Students Encounter God During TAA's Week of Prayer

**TULSA »** During the fall Week of Prayer, Tulsa Adventist Academy (TAA) students encountered God in a very real way. Week of Prayer is always a special time at any Adventist school. At TAA, we conduct our Week of Prayer during first period, beginning each day with a prayer, worship songs, and inspirational speakers. Geraldo Alonso, pastor of the Muskogee church, was the keynote speaker. His theme for the week was the parables of Jesus. Pastor Alonso has a special gift for talking to children. He is able to connect with kids on their level, hold their attention, and communicate biblical truths in a way that is both meaningful and tangible. This is no easy task when talking to a roomful of students who range from pre-kindergarten to tenth grade.

Interestingly, the most powerful lesson of the week came not through Pastor Alonso, but through his pet! On Thursday, our speaker showed up for chapel looking forlorn. He obviously lacked the energy and enthusiasm that had captivated the kids' attention all week. Curious, I asked him if he was feeling well. Tears welled in his eyes as he told me that his family dog had run away. After several hours of looking, all hope of retrieving the dog seemed lost. Despite his emotional state, he felt compelled to preach the message to our kids that he had been planning all week, the parable of the prodigal son. Pastor Alonso delivered a brilliant message without ever letting on that he was hurting. After the service, I made my way to the front of the room and asked the pastor if he would be willing to share with the student body his sad news. He agreed and proceeded to tell the students that after years of loyal companionship, his dog was missing. He and his wife had searched for hours, calling the dog's name around the neighborhood and

double checking his favorite hiding spots. Pastor Alonso was again moved to tears as he mourned the loss of his pet. I called for a special prayer and several students volunteered to pray for the pastor's situation.

As the stu-

As adults, we might be tempted to think that this was just a coincidence, but had you been in the room that day, you would have felt the presence of the Holy Spirit. And you would have had no doubt that this was an answer to prayer. The Lord saw an opportunity

at Tulsa Adventist Academy to reveal Himself to a group of children, and the children got it! Cheers of joy erupted as the children watched Pastor Alonso's expression of disbelief melt away into beaming grins and gestures

Tulsa Adventist Academy students learned powerful lessons about God's ability to answer prayer during their recent Week of Prayer. They searched their Bibles as they listened to the daily messages presented by Week of Prayer speaker Geraldo Alonso, pastor of the Muskogee church.



As the students prayed, they related the pastor's experience to the day's worship message. The students prayed that Pastor Alonso's dog may be like the prodigal son and just return home to where he was loved and cared for. As we finished praying, the pastor received a text message from his wife. She had just checked one more time around the house and found the dog sitting at the front door waiting to be let in. The prayers of our TAA students had been answered!

of gratitude. The children talked about what they had experienced and the incredible power God has to answer prayers. It is beautiful to watch children experience Jesus. The precious mind of a child is not clogged with adult tendencies toward doubt and suspicion. We prayed and God answered. It was a lesson learned. I thank God for being a part of the faculty at Tulsa Adventist Academy. He is the true leader of this school!

**Craig Mattson**, principal

## Sharing Health at the Yukon Czech Festival

**YUKON** » For the fifth year in a row, the Yukon church operated a booth at the annual Yukon Czech Festival. We handed out literature, along with water and balloons. We measured visitors' blood pressure and gave away books on how to live healthier.

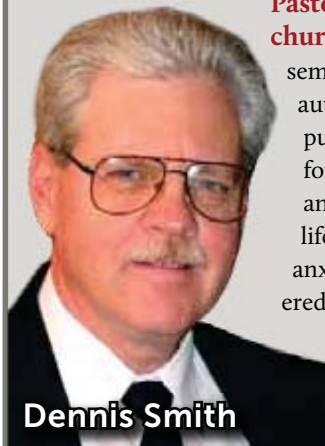
The Pathfinders from Oklahoma City also marched in the parade. Pathfinder leaders passed out flags and youth-oriented literature. It was a wonderful opportunity to let our community see our church in action.

Mary Wilson

► Right and bottom right: Pathfinders from Oklahoma City marched in the parade during the Yukon Czech Festival last fall.

▼ Pathfinder leader Carlene Vigneron shares a book with a community member during the Yukon Czech Festival.

## Baptism of the Holy Spirit

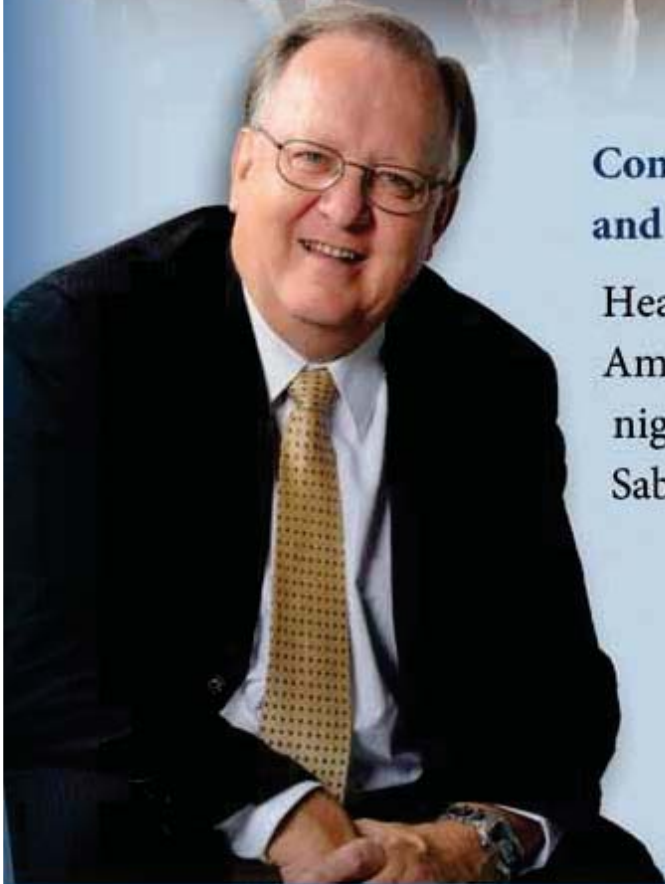


Dennis Smith

**Pastor Dennis Smith will be at the Woodward, Okla., church on February 18 and 19** for a special weekend seminar, "Baptism of the Holy Spirit." Pastor Smith is the author of more than 12 books, including his most recent publication, 40 Days of Prayers and Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming of Christ. This seminar is for anyone desiring a more meaningful and effective prayer life, as well as victory over temptation, depression, fear, anxiety, addictions, and disease. If you want to be empowered by God to better serve Him, you won't want to miss this seminar. For more information, please contact Cindy Mercer, Oklahoma Conference prayer coordinator, at 580.352.3637 or 870.510.8048.



# Oklahoma Campmeeting 2011



Come let us seek for spiritual revival and blessings from heaven in 2011.

Hear keynote speaker **Dan Jackson**, North American Division president, on opening night, Friday, July 15, at 7:00 p.m.; and Sabbath, July 16, at 10:45 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.

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

**WHEN:** July 15-23, 2011

Call 405.721.6110 or 405.257.5404 for more information.

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## Soaring to Higher Altitudes Through Techno-Evangelism

**Evangelism is the lifeblood of the church. It is the life force of the conference. It is heaven ordained.**

Jesus commissioned us to “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matt. 28:19, 20, emphasis supplied). We are commissioned to go forth as Christ’s messengers, to teach, instruct, and persuade men and women, to receive the written Word and Jesus, the living Word.

Many venues are presently used as places for carrying out the gospel commission: churches, meeting halls, tents, and homes where Bible studies are given one-on-one. These are still proving to be effective in fulfilling the gospel commission.

However, there are other means of ex-

sages online on your Web site.

Another tool for evangelism is **YouTube**. You can upload your church service or any program that will help lead a person to accept Christ as his or her personal Savior. Then there are the social networks where millions of people interact on a daily basis. We must use **Facebook, Twitter, and other social networks** to promote the gospel of Jesus Christ. These are proving to be very effective means of sharing the events that are taking place at local churches and giving friends an opportunity to attend or participate by watching a live stream or a YouTube upload. We must not neglect these media venues in sharing God’s love with the masses. Get Facebook and Twitter accounts for your church and mingle with the masses, sharing your most important news events and nuggets about your best friend, Jesus Christ.

One writer shares with us what we must do in 2010-2011: “As a people we greatly need to humble our hearts before God, pleading His forgiveness for our neglect to fulfill the gospel commission.

We have made large centers in a few places, leaving unworked many important cities. **Let us now take up the work appointed us and proclaim the message that is to arouse men and women to a sense of their danger**” (*Testimonies*, vol. 9, p. 25, emphasis supplied).

Friend, let’s use every means necessary to promote the gospel of Jesus to a dying world. He is depending on us to use all the technology available today to carry out His will. I know He can depend on us! Love you!

**Bill Wright**, president

## Shiloh Celebrates 100 Years

**LITTLE ROCK, ARK. »** A very special weekend of thanksgiving and praise was set aside to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Shiloh church. The celebration began on Friday evening, August 13, 2010, with a brief history by Carolyn Torrence, music by Chavvah Lister of Tennessee, and the spoken word brought by Michael A. Woods, of Tulsa, Okla.

The following day was a time to catch up with past members and pastors who traveled back to Little Rock for the weekend to participate in the church program. Three of Shiloh’s former pastors, R.E. Williams, W.S. Lee, and E.G. Miller, took part in the Sabbath School program. After Sabbath

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE



▲ Mabel Woods is the oldest living member of the Shiloh church.

► Former Shiloh pastors J.H. Williams; E.G. Miller; Terrell McCoy; James Roberts, current pastor; W.S. Lee; and W.T. Cox, Sr.

panding our effectiveness in sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ. I believe the time has come for us to use every available technology to promote this gospel. We must use the familiar and the unfamiliar. A few churches are using the familiar, such as radio and television. But there is a new world of venues for sharing the good news about Jesus, such as live streaming from your church to the Internet or archived mes-



School, the Longview Heights choir rendered music to the waiting congregation of 400.

Divine worship began with pastors William T. Cox of Ohio and Terrell R. McCoy, secretary of the Southwest Region Conference, bringing the anniversary message. Music was provided by Shiloh's own Sanctuary Choir. The activities continued after the main service with a famous Shiloh luncheon and a time of fellowship with friends past and present. An evening concert featured "Pastor Cedric Hayes and the Gloryland Choir," the Pettus Sisters, and many others. The evening climaxed with a banquet at the Embassy Suites in Little Rock, where Gwen Hunter served as emcee; Steven Christian and Chavvah McCoy were guest soloists; and Chris Rutley brought down the house with laughter as he dished up clean comedy. The weekend concluded on Sunday at our annual church picnic held at Burns Park.

**Barbara Hamilton**

## Ephesus Revival Brings Jewels for Jesus

**COVINGTON, LA. »**  
 "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for my yoke is easy and my burden is light" (Matt: 11:28-30). The Ephesus church held its annual four-week tent revival last summer under the leadership of head elder Sumpter Hammond. Services were held six nights a week. The church conducted three Sabbath services under the tent, with elders Leonard Cade and Ernest Lott giving Sabbath-



▲ On the final night of last summer's tent revival, 45 children were beneficiaries of the School Supply Giveaway sponsored by the Ephesus church in Covington, La.

morning sermonettes. The congregation enjoyed delicious meals under shade trees as the Lord provided cool breezes each day. Six people came to the Lord for the first time and there was one re-baptism. Truly the Lord is making up His jewels.

On the final night of the revival, under

the leadership of Velma Weathersby, the community service department conducted an annual School Supply Giveaway. Forty-five children from Pre-K to eleventh grade were present to receive the gifts.

**Leonard Cade**

▼ Seven people were baptized following a revival held by the Ephesus church in Covington, La.



## Community Fun Day—Evangelism at Its Best

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

**BATON ROUGE, LA. »** It was all “treats” at Berean’s recent Community Fun Day. The brainstorm of our new pastor, Robert Davis, the event was not so much an alternative to Halloween as it was an opportunity for the church and Berean Academy to get to know their neighbors. The Sunday-afternoon setting on October 31, 2010 was ideal as members of the church and community gathered for fun, food, and fellowship. It was decided that everything would be free. “After all, this is to be evangelism at its best,” Davis said.

Berean Academy entrance welcomed everyone, along with sound man Henry Jones’ music that filled the air all day. Yellow was the prevailing color with the Berean volunteers, making them easily recognizable. Youth leader Paula Adams and her assistants staffed the registration table, a necessity for making future contacts and possibly providing a non-member with a \$100 gift card. The day’s events included fingerprinting picture IDs for children, courtesy of the local clerk of court’s office; hay rides by member Charles Hightower;

space walks; basketball; baseball; kickball and a display by Rosalind Wright with “I Care,” an alcohol, drug abuse, and violence prevention program in the public and private schools, whose table was stocked with information and freebies. Several of the men, including Davis, were in charge of the barbecuing, where Grillers and Boca Burgers were the fare of the day. Also available were Trudy McClain’s “chicken” jambalaya, nachos, chips, salad, and sodas, along with water, courtesy of the corporate sponsor who provided the welcome sign. At the end of the day, organizers couldn’t help but feel the event was a success as evidenced by many who wanted to know “When are you going to do this again?” And yes, one of our community guests invited by member Sonya Miller did win the \$100 gift certificate. It was presented to him during the Sabbath service two weeks later.

**Evelyn M. Edwards**



◀ A hayride was one of the fun activities for children on the Community Fun Day sponsored by the Berean church on October 31, 2010.

▼ The clerk of court’s office in Baton Rouge fingerprinted children for picture IDs during Berean church’s Community Fun Day.

Three weeks earlier, Davis had summoned the organizing committee to his office where the plans began. To make the event as economical as possible, we utilized corporate, private, and city-parish resources, along with a public school system as sponsors. There was a sense of urgency as committee members made phone contacts, mailed and faxed letters, and even made personal contacts. Their efforts were rewarded as contact after contact responded favorably. Berean members did their part by making solicited and unsolicited monetary donations.

The day that all had prayed and worked for finally arrived. A corporate sponsor’s oversized canvas sign hovering above the





## Westbank United Honors Its Oldest Member

**NEW ORLEANS, LA. »** Westbank United church was the site for two grand birthday celebrations for its oldest member. On



▲ Alice Alexander's 105th birthday was celebrated in grand style with two proclamations from New Orleans city government in her honor, a visit from the Southwest Region Conference president, Billy Wright, and the well wishes of friends and family.

Sabbath, November 20, 2010, Alice Coney Alexander was honored at the divine worship service in acknowledgement of her 105th birthday. For this momentous occasion, a representative from the mayor's office in New Orleans read and presented a special proclamation to her. She also received a proclamation from the City Council of New Orleans. Members of the Ephesus church in New Orleans and the Marrero church rendered tribute to her with flowers, songs, cards, and other mementos.

The second celebration took place on Sabbath, November 27, 2010. Billy E. Wright, president of the Southwest Region Conference, made a special visit to the church in acknowledgement of the milestone that Alice Alexander attained. He presented flowers, special notes, and words of

encouragement to the birthday recipient. Alfred Booker, pastor of Westbank United church, along with his wife, Louise Booker, joined Elder Wright and presented a large bag of goodies. Church members stood to their feet and joined hands as the president of Southwest Region Conference prayed a prayer of thanksgiving for the longevity that God has bestowed on the Westbank Unit-



▲ Women's Ministries Day at the Smyrna church in Alexandria, La., focused on love and forgiveness.

ed church's oldest member.

After the divine worship service, church members, family members, and Pathfinders gathered in the fellowship hall for a sumptuous meal. Joseph Kennedy, an elder from Westbank church, gave the birthday celebrant an enormous cake, which she shared with everyone who attended.

**Mathieu Cherenfant**

Even though Alice Alexander is 105 years old, she still comes to church on a regular basis. These birthday celebrations were coordinated by the leaders of the senior citizens group, Charlotte Porter and Aubrey Cox.

▼ Pictured are a few of the people who participated in the efforts to raise funds for those affected by the devastating earthquake in Haiti.



## "It's a Love Thing"

**ALEXANDRIA, LA. »** "It's a Love Thing" was the featured theme for last year's Women's Ministries Day held recently at the Smyrna church. Debbie Fuller of the Memorial church in Mansfield, La., expounded on the theme in an excellent way, highlight-

ing the text regarding the woman who was caught in adultery and emphasizing how Jesus forgave her of her sin. The music for the event was provided by soloists from area churches in the community. After the service, a delicious meal was prepared by Chris Arnold, with the men

of the church serving the ladies. In the afternoon Debbie Fuller's presentation to the women continued to follow the theme that was introduced during the divine worship service. On Sunday morning Rose Carr, women's ministries director of the Southwest Region Conference, facilitated a prayer breakfast. The men were invited to the breakfast as well, and everyone enjoyed the meal and the fellowship.

**Carey Walker**

## Penuel Responds in Time of Need

**DALLAS, TEX. »** Assisting fellow believers in times of need is a firmly-established Bible principle, according to Acts 11:27-30. So when a devastating storm struck Haiti early last year, the church responded quickly

to the crisis by raising over a thousand dollars through In-gathering, door-to-door solicitations, and sacrificial giving.

**Bruno Taylor and R. E. Brown, Sr.**

## Sing a New Song

Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth. Sing to the LORD, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the LORD and most worthy of praise! (Ps. 96: 1-4, NIV).

There is power in a good song. I've seen it over and over again. I've seen granite hearts softened, marriages and families reunited and renewed, lives changed for eternity, and old lives exchanged for new

lives. According to the 2010 National Radio Report from Arbitron, Inc., more than 93 percent of Americans over 12 years old spend more than 15 hours a week with radio. To put it in perspective, that is almost 3.5 billion hours per week spent listening to radio. There is power in a good song.

Join us in prayer as we sing a new song of praise to our Lord in our corner of Texas and around the world through our Web site stream at [www.883thejourney.org](http://www.883thejourney.org).

**Mike Agee**, KJRN general manager

## Valley Churches Host First Youth Spiritual Retreat

**LA FERIA** » Several Seventh-day Adventist churches from the Rio Grande Valley organized their first youth spiritual retreat August 6-8, 2010. More than 150 young men and women enjoyed the spiritual feast at Cone Oasis Baptist Camp in La Feria, Tex. This great idea was the brainchild of Eliud Reyna, youth leader from the Alamo church. He invited other youth leaders from the Valley, and with pastoral support, the event was successful. Centering his message around the motto "Entrega Total," Ruben Arroyo Kedney, the guest speaker from Montemorelos University, invited the youth to grow in Jesus in these end times.

**Daniel Sosa**

◀ Youth from the Rio Grande Valley came together for a first-ever spiritual retreat at Cone Oasis Baptist Camp in La Feria, Tex.

▼ Youth from the Alamo church joined others from the Valley for a spiritual retreat at Cone Oasis Baptist Camp in La Feria, Tex.



ones through baptism. In my field, I've experienced radio as a channel to see a seed of faith grow to fruition, traced back to the workings of the Holy Spirit through a song. David had it right. Great is the Lord and most worthy of our praise. There is power in a good song.

The focus in this issue is technology and evangelism. More times than not, that means a focus on new technology. In the Keene/Fort Worth area there are almost one and half million people who live under the signal of 88.3 The Journey. My desire, as the station's new manager, is to take advantage of an old technology we frequently take for granted—radio—and plant seeds of eternity into listeners'

# Adventist Rodders Restore Cars *and* Lives

**GRANDVIEW** » Rich Schram has three great passions: his wife, Ronda, and his family; classic cars and hot rods; and third, spreading the gospel of Christ. Rich has an infectious enthusiasm for his passions that has driven him to start an Adventist Rodders club (much like Christian bikers groups), which will be based out of the Grandview church, where he is a very active member.

Rich has a number of activities planned, such as car runs, shows, and other events for the “boys” who would like to have another excuse to have some



fun with automotive toys. It's not a requirement to be a church member or even own a hot rod to join the rodder's club; you just have to be a car enthusiast.

Rich has been in the classic car restoration business for years and would love to hear from you about your ride. You can e-mail your pictures to him, as well. For more information, contact Rich Schram at 817.658.2686 or e-mail him at richs@wwdb.org for more information on events and locations.

**Jhan Beaupre**



Pictured in front is Rich Schram with a classic 1964 Chevy convertible Impala SS being restored. Behind him is local Rat Rod owner and builder, Tim Kay, with his Texas Thunder Rod and Roger Stanley, Rat Rod builder and owner.

# God Watches Over Pathfinders

**LAREDO** » As a newly-formed Seventh-day Adventist company, our Three Angels congregation has been immensely blessed. One of the many blessings is our new Pathfinder Club, the Laredo Knights.

We recently attended the Pathfinder area camporee in Burnet, Tex., and had the great privilege of being invited to lead Sabbath School. We were excited and thankful for such an honor and prepared for the date with great anticipation. However, nothing could prepare us for the challenges that lay ahead. A day before our departure, our sub-director, Angelina Garcia, suffered a car wreck. She refused to be hospitalized, firmly stating that she would serve God first. She was allowed to continue with the camporee travel plans since there were no visible injuries. But upon our return from the camporee, she discovered she had suffered injuries to her neck, hip, and back. She is now receiving physical therapy and is quickly recovering; however, Angelina's injury was only one of the challenges we faced.

As we approached Inks Lake State Park

and sang joyful praises to the Lord, we noticed the bus was driving dangerously fast amid the hills and sharp turns. We were completely unaware, except for the bus driver, that our bus had suddenly lost its brakes. The lives of 33 human beings were hanging on a thread. Miraculously, the bus was able to come to a complete stop right in front of the park entrance and God safely delivered us to our destination. There is no doubt that when God promises He will be with us in valleys of shadows and death, He always comes through.

In the darkness of the night, we walked to our designated area. One of our brothers had taken his vehicle to carry items we needed, so we patiently waited as they made several trips to carry belongings from our broken bus to our camping site. As we prayed for God's protection, one of our brothers, Oscar Hernandez, suffered a near-death experience. As he was taking items out of the bus, our brother backed up the truck, unaware that Oscar was between both vehicles. Esteban Garcia, our director, yelled to Oscar to get out of the

way and simultaneously jumped in to push Oscar out of danger, risking his own life and saving another. God protected them both from what could have been a tragic accident.

When we were finally able to set up our tents, it was time to prepare for Sabbath School. Oscar Hernandez, Jr., who was scheduled to preach, was unable to find his sermon, but valiantly delivered a message from his heart and the Holy Spirit renewed our souls as we sat down and worshiped with our brethren. For décor, we had set up a wooden cross and secured it with stones; however, during the beginning of our service, as I leaned forward to take a photo, I felt something swish through my hair. The cross had fallen and had barely missed my head. There were several incidents, indeed, but God delivered us from them all!

The Pathfinders enjoyed the area camporee so much! They participated in the activities with excitement and enjoyed the fellowship with other clubs. We were very excited to see that the Pathfinder clubs are not just growing in number, but in size! The activities that the conference organized were fun and Christ-centered. We came back home with many testimonies to



The Laredo Knights Pathfinder Club enjoys a richly blessed area camporee, and returns with several accounts of how God watched over them.

share with our church, such as a scorpion jumping on a Pathfinder and not stinging him. Even though we didn't take any ant repellent, not one ant patrolled our camps, and even though our bus broke down, members from our church came to our rescue to take us back home. We are very grateful for the kindness of our brethren to help us in time of need, for our directors, who under the guidance of God, overcame every obstacle, for our Pathfinders, who faced every difficulty with an amazing positive attitude founded in a complete trust in God and, most importantly, for our amazing God who continues to show us that even when we think things can't get any worse, and they do, He is always by our side. Even if our lives hang by a thread, we are still safely tucked in His hand. Even when we come close to disaster and death, He has the final word.

As the Laredo Knights Pathfinder Club continues with its activities and grows and is strengthened in Christ, and as we face many more fierce obstacles and put on the armor of God, the words of 1 John live ever in us: "I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God lives in you, and you have overcome the evil one" (1 John 2:14, NIV).

Lilly Delgado

## A New Family Joins Our Family

**LAREDO** » The Laredo Spanish church is organizing a group of lay members who give Bible studies in people's homes. One of our recently baptized members, brother Jose Luis, is one of our faithful and active lay members who gave Bible studies to Aurora Melo. Several weeks ago, Aurora called me.

"Pastor Ortiz, I would like to be baptized," she said. "Sure," I responded. "I'll be at the South church in three weeks." She replied, "Pastor, I'm pregnant, and it's not possible for me to wait three weeks. I'm about to give birth, so I want to be baptized this coming



Saturday."

"Well, in that case, we can baptize you at 6:00 p.m. at the youth program," I offered. That Sabbath we baptized Aurora with her family and her mom there to witness this special occasion. Three days later, she had a beautiful baby. Now we have a new family in the house of the Lord, and we are planning to dedicate a little baby. We are thankful to our Lord and to our lay group for showing kindness to our visitors and paying attention to their needs, and for organizing our potlucks and socials.

Ervin Ortiz

## Four Youth Get an "Ultimate Workout"

**LAUREL HEIGHTS** » Maranatha Volunteers International is an organization that coordinates the construction of urgently-needed buildings with volunteers who desire a short-term mission experience. The Ultimate Workout is a 13-day mission project for youth ages 14 to 18 who want to experience adventure and serve others. Participants travel to Latin America to build churches and provide ministries such as Vacation



Bible School, medical support groups, and evangelism in local communities.

This past summer four young ladies from the Laurel Heights church experienced "firsthand" what The Ultimate Workout is all about. Valerie, Selina, Maxine, and Ivana flew together from San Antonio to Mexico City, where their journey took them on separate routes to three different sites around the state of Chiapas. Their long, uncomfortable rides were rewarded with hours of constant work and tremendous effort. From cooking and Vacation Bible School to the actual construction of the churches, each one did their part.

The girls say that bonding and seeing the happy, thankful faces on the people of the community was the real reward. Although their experiences differed, they all say that their faith in God has become stronger, and so has their desire to help others in need. And they are all enthusiastically looking forward to The Ultimate Workout 21!

Norbert Valdez

▲ Four young ladies from the Laurel Heights church participated in the The Ultimate Workout in Mexico.

◀ Aurora Melo is baptized just days before giving birth. The Laredo Spanish church is celebrating the two additions to their family.

## Be Faithful, Regardless of Circumstances

In 874 B.C., Ahab became king of Israel. Ahab “did more evil in the eyes of the Lord than any of those [Israel’s kings] before him” (1 Kings 16:30, NIV). Because of the sinfulness of Ahab and Israel, Elijah, God’s faithful minister and prophet, pronounced the following judgment: “As the Lord, the God of Israel lives, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word” (1 Kings 17:1, NIV). Elijah delivered an unpopular message in hostile circumstances. “God always has men to whom He entrusts His message. His Spirit moves upon their hearts and constrains them to speak. Stimulated by holy zeal, and with the divine impulse strong upon them, they enter upon the performance of their duty without coldly calculating the consequences of speaking to the people the word which the Lord has given them. But the servant of God is soon made aware that he has risked something. He finds himself and his message made the subject of criticism. His manners, his life, his property are all inspected and commented upon. His message is picked to pieces and rejected in the most illiberal and unsanctified spirit, as men in their finite judgment see fit” (*Testimonies to the Church*, vol. 5, p. 299).

“Those who refuse to receive reproof and to be corrected, will manifest enmity, malice, and hatred against the instrument that God has used. They will leave no means untried to cast stigma upon the one who bore to them the message. They will feel as did Ahab toward Elijah, that God’s servant is the one who is the hindrance, the curse. Said Ahab, ‘Is that you, you troubler of Israel?’” (*SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 1034).

Ministers today face similar problems. Belief in God and respect for God are declining and therefore, respect for and civility toward

His representatives are declining. Let me illustrate. During a youth football game, the quarterback was tackled after he had passed the ball. From the press box, the announcer said, “There is a flag on the field. The penalty is roughing the pastor. . . I mean, roughing the passer.”

We live in a world when pastors, like the quarterback, get “roughed up” once in a while. Pastors aren’t perfect, but God calls us to honor those who lead, especially “those who labor in preaching and teaching” (1 Tim. 5:17, NIV). Pastoral leadership is challenging. Ours is a sophisticated, fast-paced, complex world. Our expectations for pastors are high and at times, beyond reason.

It helps when church members honor pastors with words of encouragement and prayer. Kind words, supportive notes, or “thank yous” will go a long way to stimulate pastors to serve with joy and efficiency. Don’t rough your pastor; be a pastor protector. Encourage your ministers to give God’s Word with enthusiasm and power and to be faithful, regardless of the circumstances.

**Jim Stevens**, president

## Small Investment, Big Return!

**EAST MOUNTAIN, N.MEX. »** I wonder how many of our churches or Sabbath Schools promote Investment anymore. How many of our children and young people even know what Investment is?

Investment has always been part of my life. As children in Sabbath School, we would be given a nickel (you know this was a long time ago!) to buy a package of seeds to plant, grow, and try to sell. Fortunately, parents and friends bought our “produce.” But it was exciting to see how much money was brought in from special Investment projects. Almost every year I had an Investment project that involved many activities, from raising African violets to crocheting afghans, doilies, and baby clothes to sell at bazaars and garage sales.

One year I dedicated my clematis vine and was going to give a nickel per bloom. The vine didn’t do very well—it had only 20 blooms. The next year I told the Lord I would give a dollar per bloom. How He blessed that clematis vine! There were 123 blooms that year! Now that was exciting!

There have been other projects, but this year tops them all! I bought one tomato plant for Investment and planted it at the corner of my house. I watered and fed it, but it didn’t seem to grow healthy. A couple of months went by. One day it started to grow and grow and grow; then it bloomed and bloomed. It looked like it would be just one big plant.

Then about a month later, I saw a tiny tomato growing. From then on, little tomatoes popped out all over! Now, five months later, the plant is approximately 4 feet wide and 3 feet tall and I have harvested 267 tomatoes! At one dollar per tomato, that is INVESTMENT! The Lord surely blesses us when we do our best for Him!

**Ruth Maxwell**



Ruth Maxwell’s tomato plant yielded 267 tomatoes, which brought 267 dollars for her Investment project.

# Texico Lay Leadership Retreat and Youth Rally Provides Tools for Service

**LUBBOCK** » Recently the Lubbock church hosted the 2010 Texico Lay Leadership Retreat and Youth Rally, which was a wonderful event. This was a great time for church leaders of various departments to come and receive training that enhances their leadership in the church, giving them the tools and a better understanding of the job they have been elected to do. This year there were break-



▲ During the 2010 Texico Lay Leadership Retreat and Youth Rally, the youth were involved in several community service activities, including assembling care packages for underprivileged children.

◀ Sung Kwon, national executive director of the North American Division Adventist Community Services, inspired, motivated, and encouraged attendees at the 2010 Texico Lay Leadership Retreat and Youth Rally.



out sessions for elders, clerks, treasurers, children's ministries leaders, and Pathfinder leaders. Sung Kwon, national executive director of the North American Division Adventist Community Services, inspired, motivated, and encouraged the attendees with his presentations.

Church leaders representing many churches throughout our conference at-

tended the retreat, and the weekend was infused with a positive and uplifting spirit. Running simultaneously with the leadership meeting was the Texico youth rally conducted by youth director Fernando Villegas and guest speaker Ken Rogers. The youth enthusiastically worshipped God through music, activities, and interesting spiritual presentations. They also seized the opportunity to serve the community by singing at a local nursing home, distributing literature in the neighborhood, and assembling care packages for underprivileged children.

A big thank you to the Lubbock church for their wonderful hospitality and cooperation in making this weekend a success! Thanks also to Leroy Green and his kitchen staff for their hard work and providing delicious meals!!

## Eight Great “Doctors” Visit Rio Rancho

**RIO RANCHO, N.MEX. »** “The best six doctors anywhere, and no one can deny it, are sunshine, water, air, and rest, exercise, and diet. These six will gladly be your friends, if only you are willing. Your cares they’ll tend, your ills they’ll mend, and charge you not a schilling!”

nals and numerous consumer magazines. Unfortunately, according to the Adventist Health Study, only four percent of Adventists fully follow the information we have been given on healthful living. Those who follow the recommended total vegetarian diet with a wide variety of unrefined grains,

public and the church, with attendance ranging from 12 to 38. Our most recent program was conducted one night a week from October 7 to November 11, 2010. The ladies on the committee demonstrated the preparation of two or three recipes each evening and a doctor on the committee gave a PowerPoint presentation on some pertinent subject related to health, including “The China Study,” “Preventing Heart

Disease,” “Does the Vegetarian Get Enough Protein?” “Unrefined Sweets,” and “The Importance of Fiber in the Diet.” Each attendee was given a cookbook featuring plant-based recipes, handouts on the subject of the evening and, of course, tasty samples of the recipes that were demonstrated each night. On the final evening the guests and staff enjoyed a potluck dinner of foods they prepared from the cookbook used during the program.



At a wellness seminar held last fall at the Rio Rancho church, guests learned about dietary fiber and its health benefits, among other subjects. Following the health lectures each evening, participants in Rio Rancho church’s wellness seminar got to sample the recipes that were demonstrated in class.

This British poem interestingly presents a good message, but there are two doctors missing that are included in the “true remedies” presented in *The Ministry of Healing*, p. 127—“temperance” and “trust in divine power.”

As a church, Seventh-day Adventists have been given, in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, clear insight regarding the way to good health and increased longevity. This has been recognized for years by lay writers and medical researchers. The results in the lives of those who even partially follow the health message have been recognized and referred to in articles in more than 400 peer-reviewed medical jour-

fruits, nuts, and vegetables live 10 years longer than the average population. Think what a witness we could be if 100 percent instead of four percent of us followed God’s plan.

For the past four years the health ministries committee of the Rio Rancho church has, twice a year, conducted total vegetarian (many times called “vegan”) cooking schools and wellness seminars for the



This program has been well received by the church and the public, and we plan to continue offering this service to the community and the church.

**Glenn Wiltse, M.D.**



## Elders Lead Evangelistic Meetings

**AMARILLO** » The Amarillo church held a two-week evangelistic series last September, with nightly meetings and three presentations on each of the last two Sabbaths. God richly blessed these meetings in which the elders and one deacon of the Amarillo church served as the evangelists. These dedicated men and women preached night after night, some for the very first time, after preparing for these meetings weeks in advance. The speakers attended training classes on preaching, gaining decisions, and learning to use PowerPoint and other media. These preachers delivered their sermons with passion and conviction.

Rick Dye, who conducted the training classes for this group of preachers, was excited about the 35 visitors who came to hear the gospel. As a result, four new members have been added to the church by baptism and profession of faith, with additional baptisms scheduled. The Amarillo members were also excited about the meetings, which was an encouragement to the evangelists. This same group of preachers is already preparing to hold meetings again. In Amarillo, evangelism is not an event, but a way of life. Praise God!

**Rick Dye**, pastor

## Literature Evangelists Win 31 New Converts

**ALBUQUERQUE, N.MEX.** » Last year, literature evangelists helped lead 31 people to Christ in the Texico Conference! Each of them conducts Bible studies and goes door-to-door handing out Christian literature in many homes, spreading the news of Christ's second coming with the hope that someday the people they encounter



Thirty-one people joined the Adventist church as a result of the work of literature evangelists in the Texico Conference last year.



will give their lives to Christ. Five people were baptized in the Clint Spanish church on October 5, 2010. Here are a few of the literature evangelists' experiences:

Jesus Cortés has conducted two evangelistic meetings in El Paso, Tex., resulting in ten people being baptized. Max Flores is a

colporteur and a faithful missionary in El Paso, Tex., and the surrounding area. He relocated there from Chicago in April 2010 after being diagnosed with a disease that nearly took his life. He is still under treatment and struggling with his health, but this doesn't stop him from doing what he loves to do—work for God's cause! While knocking on doors one day he came across a lady who wanted to study the Bible with him, but her husband had forbidden her to do so. Therefore, she asked Mr. Flores to give her the Bible studies at the park, which they did. One day while studying, another lady approached them and asked if she could also listen. She liked what she heard so much that she offered her house to continue the studies there. One month later she, her husband, and her son decided to get baptized. Since April, Max Flores has helped to bring four souls to Christ!

Blanca Moreno works in Hobbs, N.Mex. She has a women's group that studies the Bible once a week. Most of the ladies are from another denomination, but little by little she has studied Adventist doctrines with them, which they have accepted. She is praying that with God's leading, they may soon

accept Christ through baptism.

**Isaias Morales**



The elders and one deacon of the Amarillo church preached a series of evangelistic meetings with passion and conviction. As a result of the meetings, several new members were added to the church.

## English Department Has Reputation For Excellence

Southwestern Adventist University has “one of the best English departments in the Adventist system,” according to Benjamin McArthur, academic dean. A “recent emigrant” from another Adventist college, McArthur says that he is particularly impressed with the department’s effectiveness at teaching writing. “That’s central to any college education.”

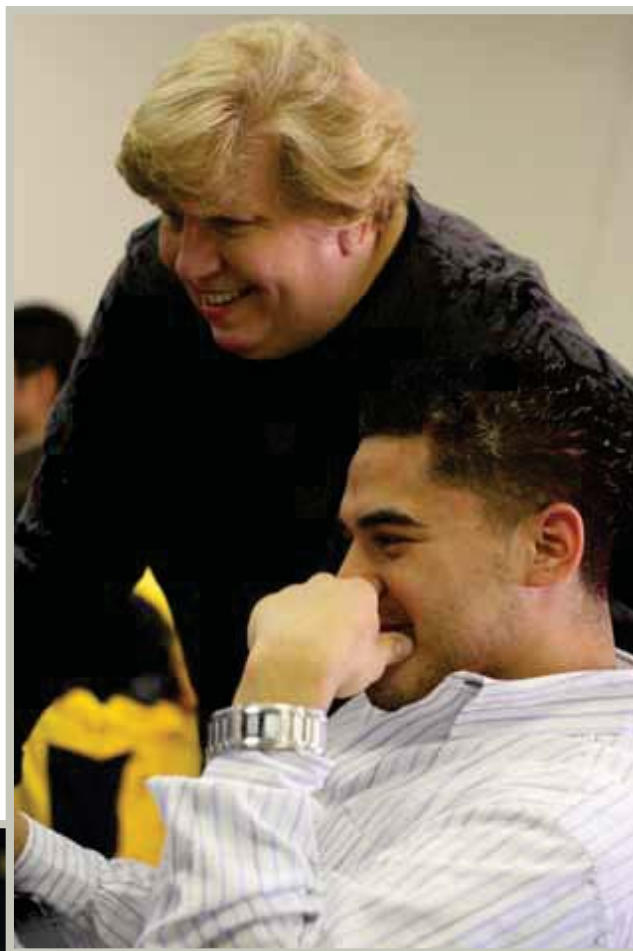
There are five “superbly qualified” teachers in the department, each with a doctoral degree and extensive teaching experience. “They are a distinctive group,” says university president Eric Anderson, once an English major himself. “Not a boring or bland teacher in the lot.”

There’s an outspoken medievalist (who climbs mountains on his holidays) and a British lit specialist who runs the university’s Honors Program (and recently learned to speak Italian). There’s a popular writing teacher (who is an enthusiastic basketball fan) and a demanding scholar of nineteenth-century America (who is known

than doubled in the past twelve years.

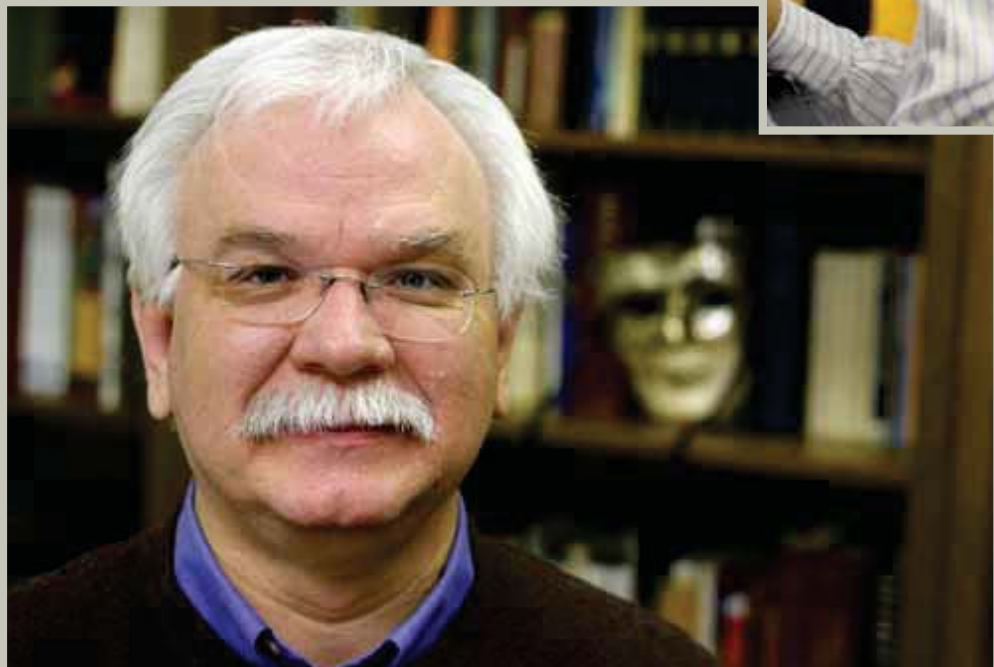
“These people can really teach well and love the classroom,” he says of his colleagues. “I think students see that they can get a good education here, and word of our program is spreading.”

Students are beginning to see how flexible an English degree can be, he adds. “It prepares students to go into a wide variety of careers, including PR, marketing, editing, journalism, law, medicine, teaching, business, and many others,” says Doneskey. “It works that way because the major trains stu-



▲ Students respect Dr. Judy Myers Laue’s high expectations and cheerful disposition.

◀ Dr. Renard Doneskey is chair of Southwestern’s Department of English.



for her beautiful prayers). According to Renard Doneskey, department chairman (and a teacher of modern American writing), the department is steadily growing. The number of English majors has more

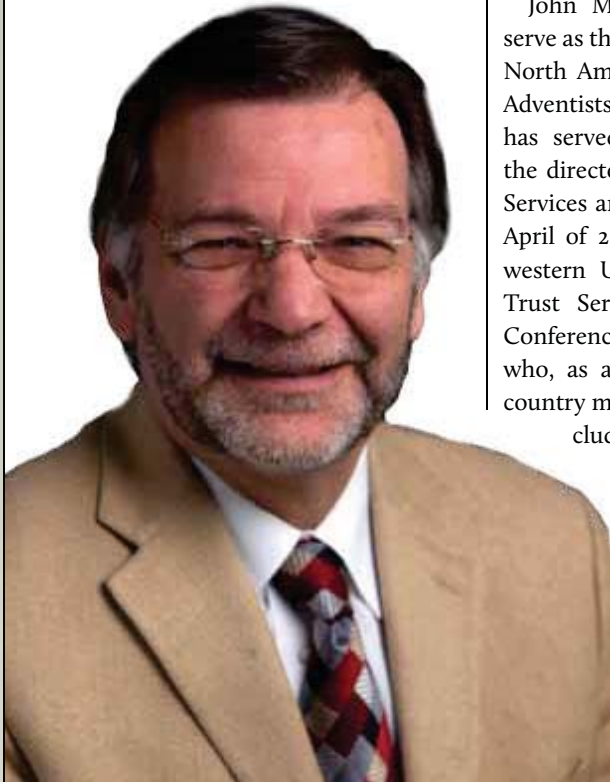
dents to write and speak well and develop their critical thinking skills.”

An important recent innovation is “The Write Spot,” Southwestern’s writing center. Under the leadership of Susan Gard-

ner, the writing center provides personal tutoring to university students.

“Unlike the big state schools,” notes President Anderson, “we offer the real thing.” Students are mentored by star teachers, not “inexperienced teaching assistants.” A strong English program, “led by teachers with a Christian perspective,” is central to “a well-rounded education.” He explains that English will never be “one of our largest majors, like nursing or business.” But “all of our graduates should be competent writers.”

## Matthews Chosen to Serve as NAD Stewardship Director



John Matthews has been selected to serve as the director of stewardship for the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Md. Matthews has served the Southwestern Union as the director of Planned Giving and Trust Services and ASI secretary/treasurer since April of 2006. Before joining the Southwestern Union, he was the director of Trust Services in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference. He is an ordained minister, who, as a boy, dreamed of becoming a country music singer. His ministry has included serving in Florida, Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Nebraska. He often conducts family finance seminars.

"John has set a new standard for trust services in our territory," said Max Treviño, Southwestern Union president. "He was a great asset to our office, and we are sad to see him go, but very happy that he has been cho-

sen to serve in his new capacity."

Mathews is a graduate of Southern Adventist University and holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews University. He maintains the following certifications: North American Division Stewardship Certification, Certified Stewardship Professional; (CSP) from Christian Leadership Alliance, North American Division Planned Giving and Trust Service Certification, and Certified Specialist in Planned Giving; (CSPG) California State University.

His passion is teaching stewardship principles, especially as they relate to the spirituality of money management in post-modern culture. He is married to Janice, a nurse practitioner. They have one daughter, Angela, and are proud grandparents. He enjoys hiking, running, playing the guitar, singing country gospel concerts, and sleeping late in the morning.

Mathews replaces Ed Reid, who recently retired. He began his new responsibilities on January 1.

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After years of pastoring in Romania, he has come to the United States. You won't want to miss any of this ASI chapter meeting as Pastor Goia shares his incredible experiences. Come and enjoy the fellowship and inspiration found only at an ASI convention!

# Strategic Plan Adopted for North American Division

## REACH North America Launched

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Revival, reformation, and a renewed emphasis on uniting in love to reclaim missing members and to reach our communities with the gospel was a significant theme during the General Conference Autumn Council and the North American Division Year-end Meeting in late 2010. Presidents Ted N. C. Wilson, GC, and Dan Jackson, NAD, introduced documents that were read and voted and that are intended to impact church life and its mission during the next five years.

President Dan Jackson shares his vision for the North American Division: "I believe that we are living in that segment of time that the Bible writers describe as 'the end of the age.' For Seventh-day Adventists of all generations the resounding message of the Scriptures is that Jesus is coming soon! However, as I consider the scope of the task God has given us, it is not difficult to see that the mission is far more extensive than can be accomplished through human energy and means. As never before, you and I must have the power of God's

Spirit to take control of us personally and corporately. It is not acceptable for us to think that we can continue to carry out God's work as we're doing now, or have in the past. We are in desperate need of spiritual renewal. As individuals and as a division-wide family, we must appeal to God to gift us with His Spirit to such an extent that our hearts will continually focus on His will and His plan for us and for the world around us."

At the autumn meetings, members of both sessions voted overwhelmingly to endorse the following statements:

**The challenge of taking the gospel to the world is not new.** The disciples faced this challenge in the first century. We face it in the twenty-first century. The New

Testament church was seemingly confronted with an impossible task.

But empowered by the Holy Spirit, the church exploded in growth (Acts 2:41; 4:4; 6:7; 9:31).

**Christ's Great Commission was accompanied by His great promise.** The Savior commanded His disciples "not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4). The Savior promised, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to

Me in Jerusalem, and in

all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth" (Acts 1:8).

**The love of Christ controlled every aspect of the lives of the disciples and moved them to a passionate commitment to His service.** They sought God for the promised power of the Holy Spirit and knelt before Him in heartfelt confession and earnest repentance.

**Too often God's mission of saving a lost world has not taken first place in our hearts.** At times, in our busyness, although doing good things, we have neglected the most important thing—knowing Him. There is nothing more important than knowing Jesus, studying His Word, understanding His truth, and seeking His promise for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter-rain power for the fulfilling of the gospel commission. God's last-day prophet to the remnant wrote in words too plain to be misunderstood, "A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work" (*Selected Messages*, book 1, p. 121).

If a genuine spiritual revival is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs, should we not place priority on seeking Heaven's promised blessing with all our hearts? Jackson continues, "As president of the North American Division, I want to appeal to each layperson and to every employee to take this matter personally and seriously. This kind of commitment alone will move the church into the kind of future that God has in mind for our division."

During the 2010 North American Division Year End Meeting, Dan Jackson, NAD president, challenged every member of the church to seek genuine spiritual revival.



Prior to the 2010 Year-end Meeting, the NAD leadership team met in an exercise of strategic planning for the next five years. “We resolve that by 2015, the church in North America will have become transformed by the Holy Spirit and moved to action in the following five ways,” says Jackson.

The “REACH North America” initiative was adopted as a guideline and measuring device both for personal revival and for corporate nurturing and outreach. The aim of this initiative is for the church in North America to reach the following goals by 2015:

## REACH UP (Revival and Reformation)

1. Churches experience a revival and reformation that results in life-changing transformations.
2. Members enjoy a vibrant and joyful relationship with Christ.

## REACH ACROSS (Unity in Diversity)

1. New members’ love for Christ is a catalyst to reinvigorate their congregations. New members are oriented to and inspired by the life-affirming culture of Adventism and are integrated into the fabric of the church.
2. Each member is actively involved in church life and ministry. Discipleship training and compelling leadership opportunities are provided to children, youth, young adults, students in public education, seniors, and members with disabilities.
3. Adventists disengaged from church life are recognized as valued members of our family. Congregations implement ways to actively reconnect with them.
4. Congregations embrace and practice the concept of “unity in diversity” in

such matters as age, gender, race, and socio-economic status; congregations are intentional in planning ways to educate members.

## REACH OUT (Evangelism, Community, Discipleship)

1. North American Division organizations of every type combine their efforts in communicating Adventism’s distinctive message of hope and wholeness to every person within the NAD territory, with a focus on big cities.

## REACH FORWARD (A Focus on Leadership)

1. The NAD, unions, local conferences, and institutions collaborate to support mission and strategy through responsible stewardship and a culture of inclusive participation.
2. Organizations and institutions have in place a well-designed and active program to cultivate and develop leaders.
3. The NAD significantly increases member donations.
4. The NAD and at least four unions implement Assessment for Excellence programs that promote and document levels of financial integrity, operational efficiency, program quality, and staff effectiveness.

Jackson challenges every pastor, lay member, church administrator, departmental leader, institutional worker, health worker, literature evangelist, chaplain, and educator to make revival, reformation, discipleship, and evangelism

the most important and urgent priorities of our personal lives and our areas of ministry. “As we seek Him together, God will pour out His Holy Spirit in abundant measure, the work of God on earth will be finished, and Jesus will come,” said Jackson, in his concluding remarks at the 2010 NAD Year-end Meeting. Please join the North American Division family in experiencing God’s blessing and direction in the final moments prior to His return.

*This article is comprised of excerpts from God’s Promised Gift, a report of the actions voted at the Annual Council on October 11, 2010. You can view the complete document at [www.nadadventist.org](http://www.nadadventist.org).*



## REACH IN (Growing Disciples/ Adventist Education)

1. Because Adventist education is a core value of the church, the local church is an education center for members of all ages—combining with the school to serve and to evangelize children and youth within the church and the community.
2. Through NAD resources, the church makes distinctively Adventist education available to every Adventist child.
3. The church finds a way to help strengthen and build a system of Adventist higher education.

## Boonstra Passes Baton to Bradshaw

### *It Is Written* Welcomes New Speaker/Director

On December 1, 2010, Shawn Boonstra, speaker/director of *It Is Written* television ministry, announced that he would no longer be serving in his present capacity due to health issues. The *It Is Written* board voted to place Boonstra on a sabbatical leave so that he can adequately recover.



**Shawn Boonstra**



**John Bradshaw**

“Shawn Boonstra has made great strides and has led *It Is Written* to new heights in media communication and remarkable soul-winning efforts in some of the most challenging places on earth,” stated Dan Jackson, NAD president and *It Is Written* board chairman. Jackson continues, “However, the Lord never closes a door, without opening another one for us to walk through.”

On January 1, Pastor John Bradshaw became the fourth speaker/director of the international *It Is Written* ministry. He follows in the footsteps of ministry founder George Vandeman, along with Mark Finley and Shawn Boonstra.

Bradshaw’s experience makes him uniquely suited for the role of speaker/director. Said Boonstra, “Our backgrounds and approaches to the work are remarkably similar, and yet he brings new insights and abilities that will expand *It Is Written*’s impact and help the ministry become even more effective in leading people to Christ.”

Bradshaw’s broadcasting career began in his home country of New Zealand, where he worked as a disc jockey on a number of the nation’s top radio stations. He left this job in 1990—propelled by a desire to find Bible-based truth and a deeper Chris-

tian experience. After receiving a copy of *The Great Controversy*, he knew he’d found something special. Six months later he was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He met his soon-to-be-wife, Melissa, at church, and soon after their wedding, he began working as an evangelist for Amazing Facts. After 12 years, the family—which now included son Jacob and daughter Shannon—decided to put down roots. In the years that followed, Bradshaw served as pastor of the Lexington, Kentucky, Seventh-day Adventist Church, as well as the Village Church near Walla Walla University in Washington.

During his 15 years of pastoral ministry, Bradshaw has held more than 80 evangelistic series. For him, nothing matches the joy of introducing others to Christ.

“In my experience, *It Is Written* has always stood for evangelism,” said Bradshaw. “When the presence of Christ floods into a person’s life, the impossible becomes possible. The chains are broken. The old is made new. I love that *It Is Written* communicates this around the world on a daily basis.”

Bradshaw feels humbled to be following in Boonstra’s footsteps and appreciates his Christ-centered leadership and the ways in which the Lord has used the Boonstra family to make a worldwide impact for Christ.

“*It Is Written* is already doing the work that God has asked it to do, and I can’t wait to do my part in continuing its mission,” said Bradshaw. “I believe the Lord has plans for this ministry that we can’t yet comprehend!”

Dan Jackson concurred. “I firmly believe in this ministry and the team God has brought together to work for *It Is Written*. This ministry is playing a major role in finishing the work on earth so Jesus can come soon!” he said.

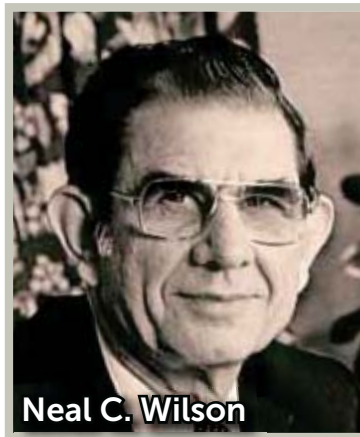
In the coming months, Bradshaw will spearhead *It Is Written*’s evangelistic endeavors in Las Vegas—including the worldwide, Internet-based Babylon Rising series slated for May 2011. Other ongoing projects include the ministry’s “Godpod” outreach to Papua New Guinea, the My Place With Jesus Bible study Web site for kids, Spanish outreach through *Está Escrito*, the weekly telecast, *It Is Written*’s newly redesigned Web site, and much more.

## Neal Wilson Dies

Pastor Neal C. Wilson, 90, a past president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, known widely for his administrative skill, jovial spirit, and phenomenal memory of people he’d met, died December 14, 2010 in Dayton, Maryland, at an assisted living facility, not far from the

church headquarters building he helped construct. He was the son of a Seventh-day Adventist leader and the father of another, Pastor Ted N.C. Wilson, who is the current president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

During the years of his presidency, (1979-1990), Wil-



**Neal C. Wilson**

son saw the church double in membership from 3 million to 6 million members. He was responsible for the creation of the Adventist World Radio shortwave service, the adoption of a revised statement of the church’s “Fundamental Beliefs,” and the relocation of the church’s world headquarters from Takoma Park, Md., where it had been for 85 years, to its current location in Silver Spring.

# Pollard Named Oakwood University's 13th President

**HUNTSVILLE, ALA. »** The Oakwood University Board of Trustees has named Leslie N. Pollard as the 13th president of Oakwood University. University provost Mervyn Warren, Ph.D., had served as interim president since August 1.

Until his appointment, Pollard was one of three final candidates for the presidential seat, vacated in July when former president Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., resigned the position to serve as one of nine general vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pollard assumes his new position as the 13th president of Oakwood University on January 3, 2011.

The two other finalists were Gina Spivey Brown, Ph.D., and Bertram L. Melbourne, Ph.D. Brown, the only female finalist, serves as Dean of the School of Health Professions, Science, and Wellness at Washington Adventist University. Melbourne is Professor of Biblical Language and Literature at Howard University School of Divinity.

Pollard's commitment to excellence is seen in his drive for education. He earned a B.A. degree from Oakwood University and an M.Div. degree from the SDA Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He earned the D.Min. degree in Preaching and Worship from Claremont School of Theology. Seeking higher-level fiscal and administrative development, Pollard earned an M.B.A. degree in Organizational Management from the La Sierra University School of Business. To culminate his academic pursuits, he graduated from Andrews University with the Ph.D. degree in New Testament Language and Literature, with specialization in apocalyptic literature.

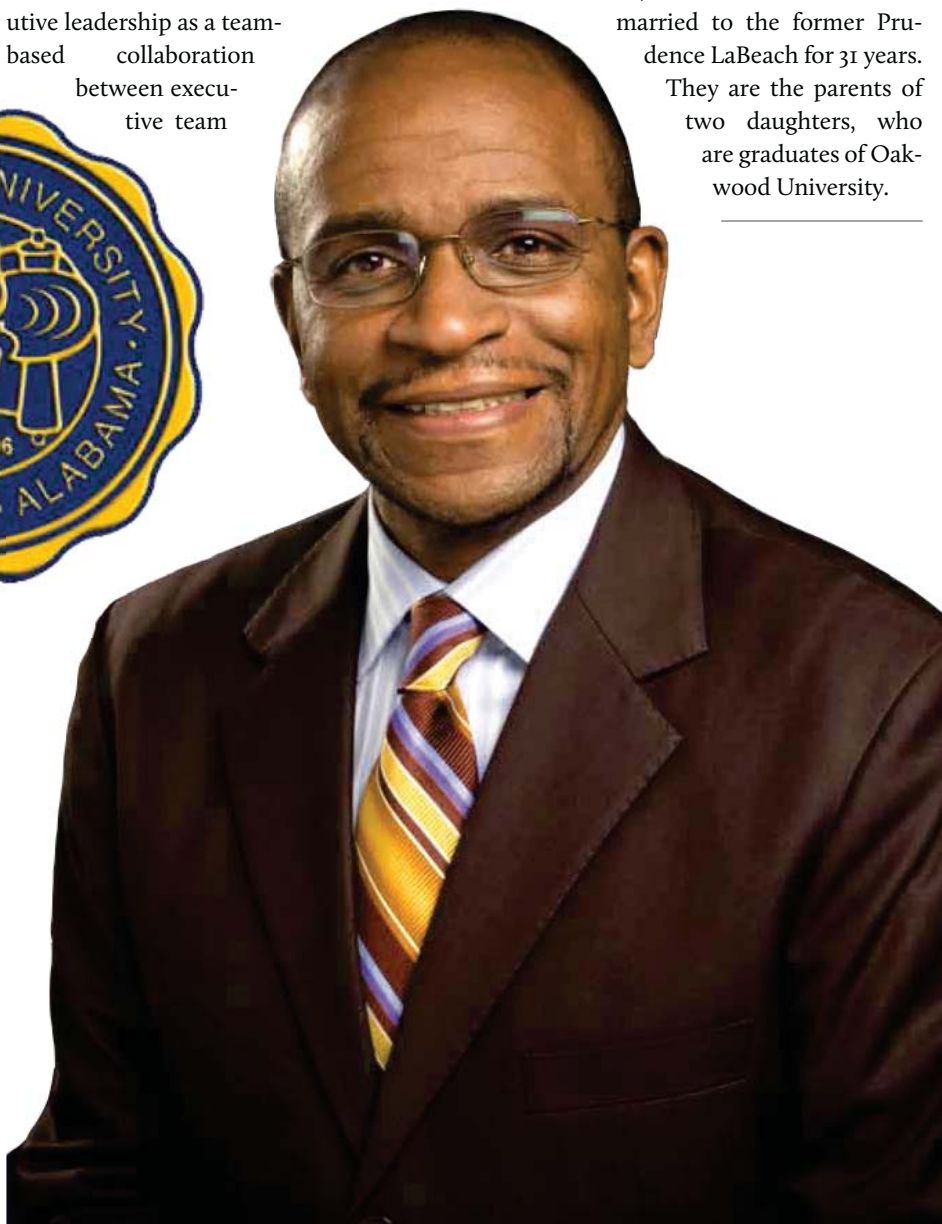
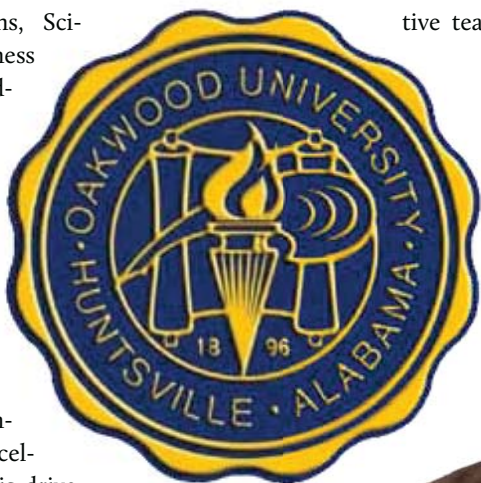
Pollard's 32 years of leadership reflect local, national, and international service. He has served as senior pastor,

a youth pastor, a university chaplain, a health-care program administrator, and an educational administrator at LLU. As a clergyman, Pollard has functioned as an evangelist, professor, ministerial educator, and leadership development facilitator to the General Conference family. He regularly leads denominational and non-denominational leadership and mission conferences all over the world.

Pollard's orientation to fiscal leadership emerges from his experience as senior pastor of major congregations, from administering university budgets and grants, and from his graduate business education. Pollard views chief-executive leadership as a team-based collaboration between executive team

members. For him, servant leadership accomplishes both the missional and financial goals of the organization, through the careful placement of committed people, the diligent monitoring of organizational processes, and the implementation of data-driven initiatives and strategies. Leadership development of his colleagues is an active passion, and Pollard's commitment to racial, cultural, and gender inclusiveness has been internationally received and affirmed.

Pollard, 54, remains a prolific writer, speaker, and engaged scholar, on the subjects of leadership, cultural competence, and mission. He has been married to the former Prudence LaBeach for 31 years. They are the parents of two daughters, who are graduates of Oakwood University.



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**Michigan Conference - Wanted:** Produce Grower with responsibility for greenhouse, high-tunnel and open field production at The Good News Market and Farm, Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Salary and benefits package provided. For more information, please e-mail [jmurphy@misa.org](mailto:jmurphy@misa.org) or call 517.316.1581.

**Andrews University** is searching for two qualified individuals to join the faculty in our Social Work department. Candidates are

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**Andrews University** is seeking an Associate Professor of Speech-Language Pathology. Opportunity will include teaching undergraduate courses, supervising clinical practicums, advising students, and research. Must have a CCC-SLP and an earned PhD in Speech-Language Pathology; Masters degree with 3 years teaching and/or clinical experience will be considered if candidate is interested in pursuing a PhD. Interested candidates please apply at: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi).

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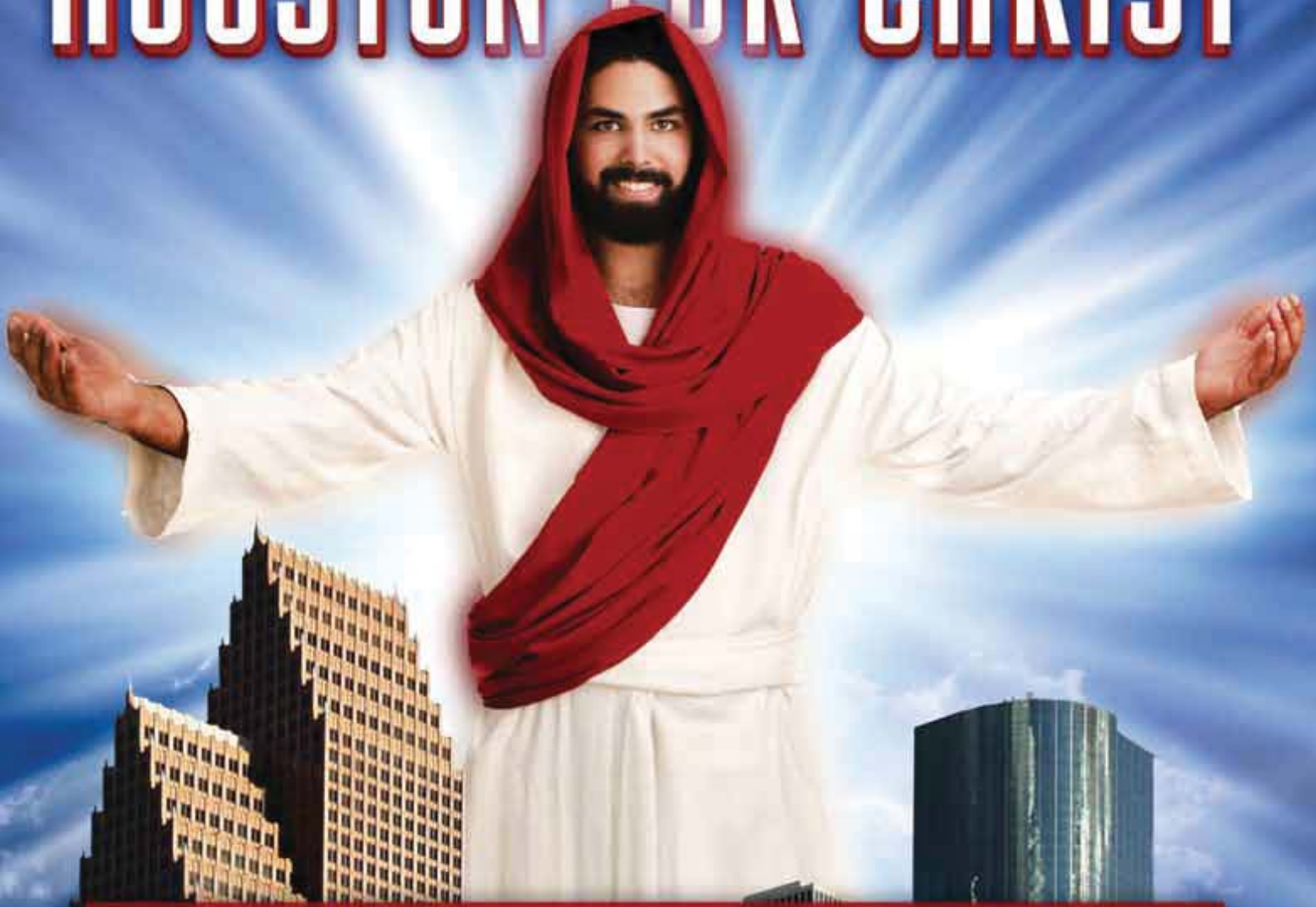
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## Announcements

**Broadview Academy Alumni Weekend** will be held April 29 and 30, 2011. All alumni are encouraged to attend, so mark your calendars, call your classmates, and start planning for this weekend now. Honor classes: 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991, and 2001. Activities include Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, and church. All ideas and information are welcome. We need your e-mail address so we can keep in touch. Postage is too expensive. E-mail Ed Gutierrez at edjulie1@aatt.net or call 630.232.9034. More information to come. Don't miss it!

**Chisholm Trail Academy Alumni Weekend** will be held March 25 and 26, 2011. Honor classes: 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006. Friday vespers will be at 7:30 p.m.; Sabbath services begin at 9:00 a.m. and continue through potluck lunch. Saturday night vespers will be at 7:15 p.m., followed by a CTA Blazers basketball game and honor class parties. Contact Shelly at scastan@aol.com or visit the Facebook page: CTA Alumni 2011.

**The Fort Smith, Ark., church will celebrate its 100th Anniversary** on April 29 and 30, 2011. The weekend will include a candlelight vesper service, guest speakers, inspiring music, and other special events. All members, friends, former members, and pastors are cordially invited to attend this very special weekend. Please mail any "old" photos to Fort Smith SDA Church, c/o Communications Director, P.O. Box 180430, Fort

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**Los Angeles Adventist Academy** will be honoring the alumni from 1941, 1951, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1991, 2010 and 2011 at its Third Annual Alumni Homecoming Weekend on the campus of LAAA, located at 846 E. El Segundo Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90059 on March 11-13, 2011. Call or e-mail us at 323.321.2585, ext. 229. Visit our Web site at [www.alumnilaaa.com](http://www.alumnilaaa.com).

Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to **Union College Homecoming**, April 7-10, 2011. Honor classes: 1941, 1951, 1956, 1961, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1991, and 2001. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402.486.2503, or write to 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506, or e-mail [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).

**Valley Grande Adventist Academy Alumni Association** invites all former faculty, staff, and students to our annual Alumni Weekend to be held from March 25-27, 2011. All honor class years end in 6 or 1 (2006, 2001, etc.). For more information, visit our Web site at [www.vgaa.org](http://www.vgaa.org) or contact Suzanna Facundo: [sfacundo@hotmail.com](mailto:sfacundo@hotmail.com).

## Obituaries

**BAILEY, Joseph Raymond "Ray,"** born March 25, 1932 in Kansas City, Mo., and died October 22, 2010 in Holyoke, Colo. He was a member of the Rocky Mountain Conference SDA Church. He graduated from Union College in 1955 with a degree in theology and afterward began working as a pastor. His service for the church

with five years spent as a foreign missionary in Korea and the Philippines. He was association secretary in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference from 1981-1983. Later he served as a pastor in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference from 1990-1996. Survivors: wife and faithful companion, Phyllis C. Bailey; children, Rick, Sherry, Randy, and Terrill; 10 grandchildren

dren, plus one on the way.

**ENNIS, Helen Levina,** born July 19, 1918 in Belleville, Mich., and died November 5, 2010 in Mammoth Spring, Ark. Survivors: husband, Don Ennis of Mammoth Spring; daughter, Tracy Ennis of Dearborn Heights, Mich.; sons, Michael Ennis of Thayer, Mo., and Kenny Ennis of Mammoth Spring; brothers,

both of Michigan; sister, Ester Bell of Texas; numerous grandchildren and several great-grandchildren and great-great grandchildren. She was preceded in death by two infant children.

**PETERSEN, James "Jim" Oliver,** born May 28, 1928 in Minneapolis, Minn., and died August 8, 2010 in Sanger, Tex. He was a farrier (horseshoer)

# LEGAL NOTICE

## TEXAS CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church (114 S. Fairview St.), Keene, Texas, on Sunday, April 3, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the constitution, and to transact such business as may properly come before the Conference.

The meeting is called for Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Each church is entitled to two regular delegates without regard to membership, plus one regular delegate for each 40 members.

**Leighton R. Holley**, President

**Carlos Craig**, Secretary

**Errol Eder**, Treasurer

**Gary Brady**, Vice-president

## TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church (114 S. Fairview St.), Keene, Texas, on Sunday, April 3, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the constitution, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Association.

The meeting is called for Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Delegates to the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Texas Conference Association.

**Leighton R. Holley**, President

**Roger Mekelburg**, Secretary

## VALLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference Valley Educational Foundation will be held at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church (114 S. Fairview St.), Keene, Texas, on Sunday, April 3, 2011. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Foundation.

The meeting is called for Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Delegates of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Valley Educational Foundation.

**Leighton R. Holley**, President

**John Page**, Secretary/Treasurer



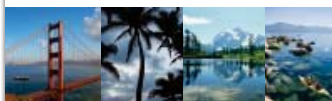
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for 35 years and served as a lay pastor for 30 years. He loved spending time with his family, working with the church youth group, reading, witnessing, and he never met a stranger. Survivors: wife of 50 years, Treva Petersen of Sanger; son, Larry Petersen of Odessa, Tex.; daughters, Melody Sheffield of Albany, Ore., and Deborah Linn of Sanger; 10 grandchildren, 9 great grandchildren and one great-great grandchild. He was preceded in death by a son, Morgan Petersen, of Carson City, Nev.

**PRESTON, Gladys Mae (Schnell)**, born September 25, 1924 in Hominy, Okla., and died November 21, 2010 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Gladys worked for the State University of New York at Brockport as an executive secretary, where she retired in 1994. She and her husband, Bill, moved to Lafayette, Ore., in 1994 and then to Oklahoma City in November 1999. She was a member of the Central church of Oklahoma City and loved Jesus and her family with all of her heart. She was preceded in death by her husband, Bill Preston, in January 2000.

Survivors: daughters, Holly J. Gayton (Wayne) of Gold Bar, Wash., and Heather S. Preston of Oklahoma City; step-daughter, Meriel M. Hen-son (Johnny) of Ocala, Fla.; step-son, Orville L. Preston (Alice) of Albion, N.Y.; three brothers, Alfred C. Schnell (Shirley) of Jones, Okla.; Arnold H. Schnell (Joyce) of Sandy, Ore.; and Ralph E. Schnell (Beverly) of Hornell, N.Y.; three grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

**ROMA, Jacqueline**, born October 6, 1969 in Manila, Philippines, and died Novem-ber 2, 2010 in Hot Springs, Ark. A member of the Hot Springs church, she was laid to rest in Hot Springs. Survivors: husband, Aaron Ostrander of Hot Springs; mother, Estella Roma; broth-ers and sisters-in-law, Victor and Lily Roma and Jonathon and Lenie Roma; sisters and brothers-in-law, Jane and Vincente Brito and Jocelyn Roma and Allen, all of the Philippines.

**THURBER, Curtis Tru-man Sr.**, born June 6, 1917 in Muskogee, Okla, and died June 10, 2010 in Muskogee. He was a member of the Muskogee church. A dairy-man and farmer by trade, he worked as a literature evangelist for several years in the Oklahoma Conference. Survivors: wife, Edith Thurber; daughters, Sharon Shaw and husband, George, of Keene, Tex., Linda Loveridge of Portland, Ore., and Betty Garver and husband, Phil, of Collegedale, Tenn.; son, Tru-man Thurber and wife, Ella, of McCommon, Idaho; sister, Eula Thurber of Muskogee, Okla.; nine grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.


**TIDWELL, Glen Thomas**, born January 7, 1923 in Glenwood, Ark., and died in

Burleson, Tex., December 5, 2010. After serving in Europe in the U.S. Army during World War II, Glen married Louise Morgan, to whom he was married for 65 years. He was an active member of the Burleson church for more than 30 years, serving as lay pastor, deacon, elder, and Bible teacher until his health no longer allowed his ac-tive participation. Although "retired" from the music business, his love for music continued throughout his life. He and Louise, then later their children, grandchildren, and friends sang for church to the accompaniment of his beloved Martin guitar; they entertained at parties, wed-dings, and nursing homes. He called the group the "Tidwell Family Singers and Whoever Shows Up." Until his retire-ment, Glen was the owner of Glen Tidwell Motor Com-pany in Joshua. It was not unusual for a visitor to walk into Glen's office and find him joking with friends, singing, or studying the Bible. In fact, he was known to some as the "missionary car dealer." Sur-ivors: wife, Louise Tidwell; daughters, Patricia Hart and

Janet Tidwell, all of Burleson, and daughter Debbie Laut-erbach of Fort Worth; seven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren, with two more expected soon. In lieu of flowers people are invited to make a donation to Burleson Adventist School scholarship fund or to the charity of their choice.

**WETMORE, Ernest Elton**, born January 2, 1924, in Port Allegany, Penn., and died September 27, 2010 in Keene, Tex. A member of the Keene church, he was a retired driv-er for Little Debbie Snacks. Survivors: daughters, Karen Ferrier and husband, Charles, of Keene, JoAnn Lackey and husband, Ronnie, of Cle-burne, Tex., and Kimberly Lewis and husband, Tommy, of Keene; brothers, Kenneth and William Wetmore; sisters, Lillian Froelich and Rita Elsner; seven grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, and five great-great-grandchil-dren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Madeline Wetmore; daughters, Sandra Burton and Lori Wetmore; brother, Arthur Wetmore; and sister, Genevieve Logan.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Jan 7	Jan 14	Jan 21	Jan 28	Feb 4	Feb 11
Abilene, TX	5:48	5:54	6:01	6:07	6:13	6:19
Albuquerque, NM	5:10	5:16	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:43
Amarillo, TX	5:50	5:56	6:03	6:10	6:17	6:24
Brownsville, TX	5:53	5:59	6:04	6:10	6:14	6:19
Dallas, TX	5:35	5:41	5:48	5:55	6:01	6:07
El Paso, TX	5:17	5:23	5:29	5:35	5:41	5:47
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	5:38	5:44	5:50	5:57	6:03	6:10
Gallup, NM	5:17	5:23	5:30	5:37	5:44	5:51
Galveston/Houston, TX	5:37	5:43	5:49	5:55	6:00	6:05
Gentry, AR	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:38	5:46	5:53
Little Rock, AR	5:13	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:39	5:46
Muskogee, OK	5:23	5:29	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:57
New Orleans, LA	5:15	5:21	5:27	5:33	5:38	5:44
Oklahoma City, OK	5:32	5:38	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:06
Roswell, NM	5:05	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:37
San Antonio, TX	5:50	5:56	6:02	6:07	6:13	6:19
Shreveport, LA	5:24	5:30	5:37	5:43	5:49	5:55
Tulsa, OK	5:24	5:31	5:38	5:45	5:52	5:59



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## Using Technology to Share God's Love

**RECENTLY, WHILE SURFING THE WEB, I LEARNED THAT ABOUT TWO BILLION PEOPLE WORLDWIDE ARE ONLINE EVERYDAY!**

We are all aware that the world of technology is surrounding us and is a huge influence as it has become part of our everyday lives. We are saturated with information coming to us via the Internet, TV, cell phones, and the like. It is also true that technology can be dangerous, since it can bring with it what we call evil, or things that might not be appropriate for Christians.

Although technology can be seen as a threat to a strong relationship with Christ, I also believe that it can be a huge blessing, if used correctly. Technology allows us to accomplish a task by using technical methods. Our Lord and Savior gave us the task to preach the gospel when He commanded, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations" (Matt. 28:19). Technology can be used effectively to accomplish this most important task.

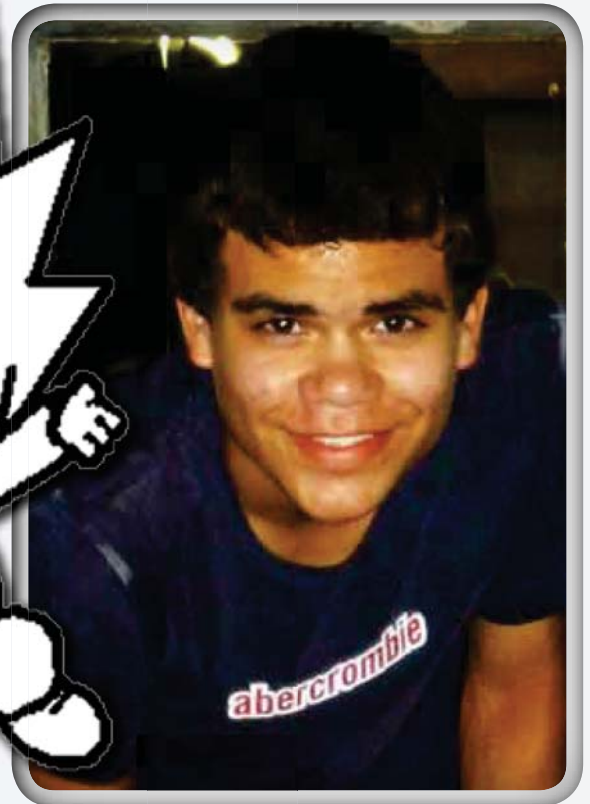
In April 2006, my brother, Anthony, and I began a video production ministry called Music Video Ministry (M.V.M.). Our goal was to share Christ with others. We had a lot of fun making the videos at home and our family was enjoying them. One day, friends from our local church invited us to share our videos in Sabbath School, and that led to other requests!

Then in February 2008 I decided to create a cartoon series about a character named Fred. I would draw every picture, one by one, and then put them all together to make the animation. My brother worked with music and sound effects. In its very beginnings, Fred and the dream with technology became a reality when we were invited to travel with the Ellen G. White Research Center to the General Conference Session in Atlanta. We presented one of the Fred videos and he was well received. Soon after, "Fred" was invited to a youth program at the Keene church, where he was also well liked. We are so happy and excited with the outcome, and we praise God for His many blessings! Our gratitude goes to our friends, the Hadleys, Laughlins, and Wilczynskis, for their special encouragement and support along the way.

We have produced a series of ten videos depicting the Ten Commandments, and presently we are work-

ing on a series based on the Fruits of the Spirit. Fred is a funny character, but at the same time, presents valuable Christian lessons in a simple yet very exciting way. This journey of mixing our God-given talents with technology has not been easy, but it's been worth it for His glory, as it has blessed us and many others in a beautiful way. In the end, technology can be a great blessing—if used to reach people for His heavenly kingdom!

**Alexander Cortes** lives in Keene, Tex. Besides using art to convey Christian messages, he is an accomplished musician and songwriter. To see sample video clips of Fred, visit <http://mvm.swadventist.net>.



► Alexander Cortes and his brother, Anthony, share Christ through a video ministry that features a make-believe character named Fred, who teaches Christian lessons in a fun way.



# For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

## Be Still!

**HOW IS IT THAT LIFE SEEMS TO GO FASTER AND FASTER EVERY YEAR?** I remember when personal computers were first becoming available. We were promised we'd be able to get our work done faster and have more free time. How's that working out for you?

Do you remember life before cell phones? How did we get along without them? There was a time when a person's cell phone number was a very private thing—something only shared with close friends and family. And it was expensive to talk on them, so you only called someone's cell phone number on special occasions or in case of an emergency. With unlimited calling plans, people have ditched their landlines for cell phones. We've always got them with us, so we're always accessible. Always.

And then they made our cell phones "smart." E-mail, texting, Facebook, Twitter and news feeds delivered directly to our pockets or purses provide a constant flow of meaningless drivel into our lives.

As a result, we read our e-mails more than we read the Bible. And we spend more time digesting tweets about what our friends just ate than we do feasting on spiritual food.

As a communication professional, I have an excuse to surround myself with the latest technology—iPhones, iPads, Kindles, or whatever the next big thing is. I admit it; I'm a gadget junkie. But for all the "time saving" technology that surrounds me, I find my life more frantic than ever. I'm full of technology and empty of substance.

Wherever I go, I've got seven versions of the Bible, the entire Ellen White library, and dozens of religious books in my pocket. But I almost never have time to

read them. Often, the last light burning in my bedroom is the glow of a gadget that saps my time and energy.

The Lord told us through King David, "Be still and know that I am God" (Ps. 46:10). In essence, the Lord is saying, "If you really want to know Me, you must slow down and unplug."

I don't need to read another eBook. I need to read the Book. I don't need another Facebook friend. I need to be better friends with the One whose face I long to see. I don't need to follow another Twitter feed. I need to follow the King of Kings.

As I embrace technology and look for ways to use it as a light shining in the darkness, I don't want to get sucked into the darkness myself. I want to learn to be still. I want the same for you.

## Record

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