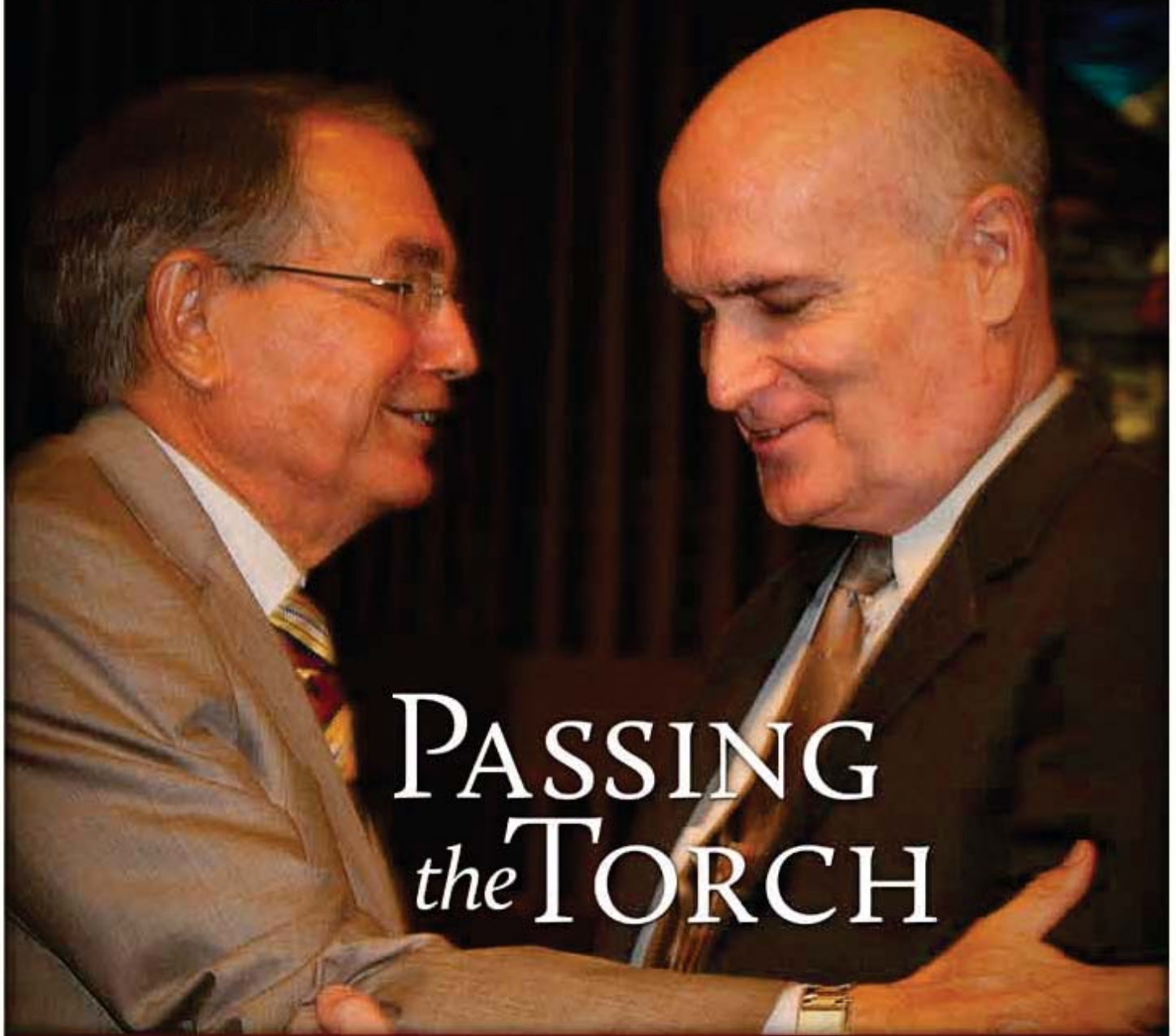


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

JUNE 2011



PASSING *the* TORCH

MAX TREVIÑO RETIRES » LARRY MOORE IS ELECTED

Also In This Issue



SPECIAL FOCUS ON SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY



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On the Cover

When Max Treviño announced his retirement, it caught us all by surprise. We will miss his thoughtful, Christ-like leadership here at the Southwestern Union. As we say goodbye to one leader and welcome another, we share a snapshot that captures the moment when Elder Treviño congratulated his replacement, Larry Moore. [Photo by Mark Bond]

President's Perspective»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

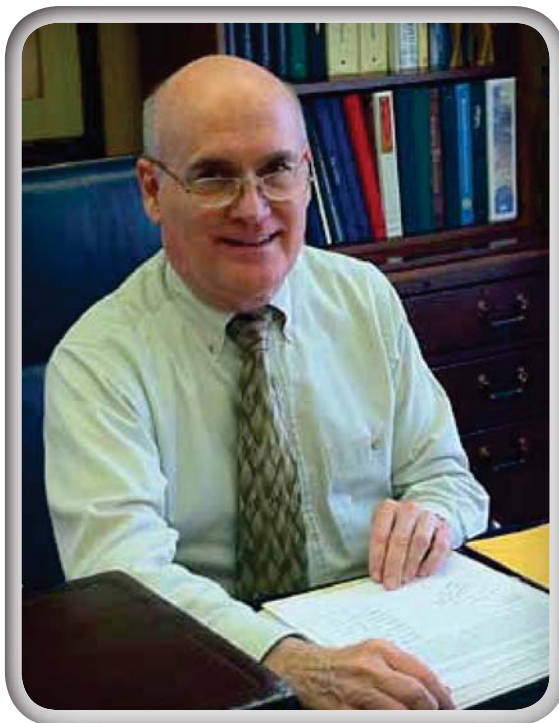


Don't Mention My Name!

It's been an interesting few months, to say the least! In December, I was the senior pastor of the Burlison church. Then I was invited to join the Texas Conference team as the ministerial director. In April, I was elected to serve as the president of the Texas Conference. And just five weeks later, I find myself writing an editorial as the new Southwestern Union president. Unbelievable!

Let me begin by saying what an honor and a privilege it is to serve you in this capacity. The Southwestern Union, under the leadership of Max Treviño, has become the fastest-growing union in the North American Division. I have some incredibly huge shoes to fill. But with the Lord's guidance, I believe we can continue that growth trend as we strive to fulfill the commission God has called us to.

I've always called the Southwestern Union home. I was born in San Antonio, Tex. (I'll be happy to provide my long-form birth certificate, if you're interested.) I was raised in a Presbyterian home. When I was 12 years old, we drove by a large tent that had been set up on an empty lot. My parents' curiosity was piqued, and they decided to attend the meetings. After hearing Joe Crews present exciting Bible truths that we'd never heard before, our hearts were stirred. We decided to join this church. I believe in the power of evangelism, because I'm a product of evangelism.



I attended Southwestern Adventist University (then Southwestern Union College) and graduated in 1970. I'm proud to be an alumnus of Southwestern and look forward to serving with Dr. Eric Anderson on the university leadership team. This month's issue of the *Record* has a special focus on Southwestern, and I'm excited to see how God is leading in the lives of students and faculty on our campus in Keene, Tex. I believe in Christian education, because I'm a product of Christian education.

I'm especially excited to be joining the Southwestern Union family. The men and women in this office are committed to finishing the work, and I'm glad to be a part of such a team. Looking to the future, I promise to stay put for more than a few weeks. In other words, if you happen to be sitting on a nominating committee, please don't mention my name!

Larry Moore, president

Summer Camp Contest Winners

Congratulations to this year's winners. You're getting a free week at summer camp!

Marquan Buchanan, Pine Bluff, Ark.

Myles Chapman, Houston, Tex.

Isaac Doyle, Albuquerque, N.Mex.

Kadijah Francis, Forest Hill, Tex.

Linda Martinez, San Antonio, Tex.

Bonanjalo Masina, Dallas, Tex.

Emily Sandvik, Edmond, Okla.

Jalon Taylor, Enid, Okla.

Sarah Warder, Raton, N.Mex.

Hannah Williams, Clinton, Ark.



CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

CREATION Health: Enjoy the REST of Your Life

The other day I taught the CREATION Health principle of REST to a group of 65 conference office staff and asked how many averaged 7-8 hours of nightly sleep. Muffled laughter rippled through the room. One administrative assistant mentioned how she commutes two hours a day—an hour each way—and by the time she gets home and finishes her family responsibilities it's 1:00 a.m. before she's in bed. And she wasn't the only one! Several other women shared their grueling schedules.

I encouraged them to make rest one of their top priorities for at least two reasons: 1. It's through rest that we enjoy life (God rested at the end of creation week, not for physical reasons but simply to *enjoy* life), and 2. Rest is essential to our happiness and well-being.

So, how much rest do *you* usually get in a 24-hour period? Thirty percent of Americans sleep less than six hours a night. Are you one of them? If so, then here are three outcomes you will likely experience if you continue skipping your sleep.

1. YOU WILL LOOK OLDER THAN YOU ARE.

Ever hear a friend joke about getting their beauty sleep? Well, as it turns out, there's some truth to this. Human growth hormone helps to restore the body and maintain a youthful appearance.

Its release into our system peaks during non-REM sleep in the early hours of the night about an hour after we fall asleep, and diminishes as morning approaches. Almost all restorative sleep happens in the hours *before* midnight. So if you normally fall asleep after midnight you might start looking older than you really are (how's that for some motivation!).

Another negative outcome associated with skipping sleep is:

2. MORE FREQUENT ILLNESS.

Researchers in Germany discovered that a lack of sleep reduces the body's ability to fight off common infections. In fact, missing three hours of sleep on any given night compromises the immune system for up to *four weeks*. Want to be strong and healthy and sur-

vive the cold and flu season? *Then get your sleep.*

The last negative outcome associated with sleep loss that I will share is:

3. INCREASED RISK OF OBESITY.

As it turns out, not getting enough sleep throws two hormones out of whack that are vital to weight maintenance: ghrelin and leptin. Restricting sleep boosts ghrelin, a hormone responsible for making you feel hungry. And a lack of sleep suppresses leptin, a hormone that triggers the feeling of being full.

Have you ever had a bad case of the munchies where you ate and ate and never felt full? A sleep deficit might have been one of the reasons. Studies have also demonstrated a connection between sleep loss and a higher body mass index.

So, in summary, if you want to...

1. Look younger than you are
2. Be well and have more energy
3. Enjoy a trim waistline
...then get your sleep!

How much sleep is enough? The National Sleep Foundation recommends:

- Infants, 3-11 months: 14-15 hours
- Toddlers, 1-3 years: 12-14 hours
- Preschoolers, 3-5 years: 11-13 hours
- School-aged children, 5-12 years: 9-11 hours
- Adolescents: 8.5-9.25 hours
- Adults: 7-8 hours

Lastly, here is one final piece of research for your consideration. Getting less than six hours of sleep, or more than nine, can take nine years off your life. Wow. One of the most common things I hear people say is how they don't have enough time with their family. But by making sleep a *priority*, you give yourself the gift of many more years with those you love and cherish most. So, get your rest! Go to bed early tonight...and enjoy the *REST* of your life.

That's CREATION Health!

Lynell LaMountain writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Fla.

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

Shades of Grace

BY MIKE TUCKER » SPEAKER/DIRECTOR, FAITH FOR TODAY



He's In Favor of You

Some time ago I watched the evening news on television. I don't do that too often, since it tends to depress me. This particular occasion was no exception.

One of the news stories was about how the members of a particular congregation from the Midwest had made it their "mission" to travel around the country to protest things they thought were wrong. I watched the images of deacons and deaconesses holding signs with angry slogans as they shouted pronouncements of judgment. I wondered how Jesus felt about what they were doing.

While the Bible condemns the particular behaviors they were protesting, I wasn't certain that Jesus would have chosen the same methods the church members were employing. My reading of the Gospels had failed to produce a story that would allow me to see Jesus standing amidst the protestors to shout His condemnation of sin and sinners.

The Gospels do recount Jesus pronouncing the "prophetic woe" upon people. But the recipients of His displeasure were usually the "professional religionists," the clergy of His day who had misrepresented the character of God.

It was that same group of religionists who brought a woman to Jesus. They had purposefully entrapped her in order to create a difficult situation for Jesus. We find the story in the eighth chapter of John.

"The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and placing her in the midst they said to him, 'Teacher, this woman has been caught in the act of adultery' (John 8:3, 4, ESV).

The Jewish laws laid out exactly all that must be done in order to declare that a woman had been "caught in the act of adultery." The level of detail that several witnesses would have had to see firsthand was so great that the only way this could have been accomplished was if it had been staged for that purpose. Men would have needed to be hiding in the room at strategic locations at just the right time. So this woman had definitely been set up.

Yet, the woman was indeed willing to engage in the act or these religious leaders could not have been successful in their efforts. Entrapped or not, the woman was

guilty of sexual sin.

Why wasn't the man brought forward? When the Old Testament passages concerning adultery, divorce, and remarriage were written, it was widely assumed that only women could commit adultery. If a man had relations with a woman with whom he was not married, he was to either marry her or make restitution to her father. His act was not considered to be adultery. But having physical relations with any man other than her husband was a big deal for a woman. It was a crime punishable by death.

Jesus could have easily taken this as an opportunity to speak out against sin. He could have spoken about the sacredness of marriage or of how physical intimacy is to be reserved for marriage. He could have also chosen to straighten out the misconceptions regarding men's lack of culpability for sexual sin by condemning the man who had obviously been with this woman. However, He did none of these.

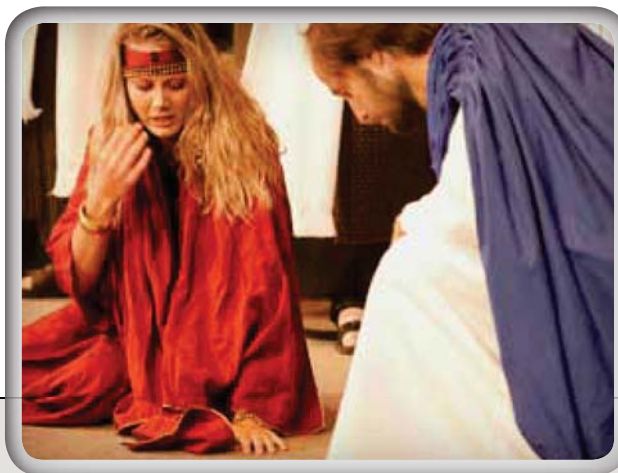
Once He dispensed with the woman's accusers, this is what Jesus did: "Jesus stood up and said to her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' She said, 'No one, Lord.' And Jesus said, 'Neither do I condemn you; go, and from now on sin no more.'" (John 8:10, 11 ESV)

No one believes that Jesus approved of adultery. He didn't need to brandish placards or shout inflammatory slogans in order to demonstrate His displeasure with sin. Jesus wasn't big on wasting His time detailing all of the things He was against. He was big on taking every opportunity to instruct us in that which He favored.

What does Jesus favor? He is in favor of you and every other imperfect person on the planet. When Jesus sees sin He doesn't protest, He redeems!

I don't believe that Jesus would have joined the protestors I saw on the evening news. I believe that when Jesus sees sinners—those who protest and those who are the recipients of the protest—He is overwhelmed with compassion. That is wonderful news for all.

Mike Tucker





Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY ANGELA MILAM

Super Outreach for Super Bowl

AREA CHURCHES COME TOGETHER FOR SUPER BOWL OUTREACH PROJECT

Having Super Bowl XLV right here in our own backyard presented a golden opportunity for sharing Jesus! In the months leading up to the big game, members of the Southwestern Adventist University Student Theological Association (SASTA) began working on plans for a Super Bowl outreach project. The “Vision to Action” Committee, made up of James Milam, Ben Garcia, Smith Castillo, and university professor John Peckham, began meeting, planning, and praying for God’s guidance. God was blessing, and the pieces began falling into place.

The group teamed up with *Signs of the Times* to create a football-themed, pocket-sized tract to be distributed at the events leading up to the Super Bowl and on game day. They were blessed to enlist the talents of David Pollock, Graphic Designer at Seminars Unlimited, who donated his spare time to create the tracts. It was titled *MVP—Most Valuable Prayer*, and includes an excerpt from *Messiah*, a modern-day adaptation of *The Desire of Ages* by Jerry D. Thomas. The tract shares with the reader an intimate look at Jesus’ prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane. It also contains useful phone numbers and Web sites for fans who were visiting the area and an offer for free Bible study lessons from *Discover Online*.

God’s blessings continued to abound with the monetary support of generous donations from the Southwestern Union, Southwest Region Conference, Texas Conference, and Southwestern Adventist University. This allowed for the production of 50,000 tracts. The next step was to discover who God would call to share these tracts.

It’s a beautiful thing to see God working through our church family. As Super Bowl week drew near, He brought together many workers that were eager to share the good news of Jesus Christ! Many groups came together from area churches, such as Burleson, Crossroad Fellowship, Grace Temple, Hurst, Irving, Joshua, and Keene Spanish. Carlos Arellano, theology student at Southwestern, even packed up some of the tracts for an outreach project in New Mexico!

Despite the winter weather conditions during Super Bowl week, the work still went on! On January 29, 2011 the Keene Spanish Youth Group had 30 participants sharing the tracts at the Fort Worth Water Gardens, including two recent converts. Student pastor Smith Castillo, enjoyed seeing them getting involved and sharing their newfound faith

with others.

Members from the Burleson, Hurst, and Crossroad Fellowship churches spent the Sabbath afternoon before game day sharing the tracts at an ESPN event in downtown Fort Worth. God had blessed them with free parking within walking distance of the ESPN party and a beautiful day of sunshine.

On Super Bowl Sunday, members of the Hurst church headed back out to cover the areas surrounding the stadium. That morning one of the members of the group arranged to have them all park at his work location, which was in the \$100 parking zone. By the grace of God, they were able to park five cars for free with enough space to get situated and stock up! They split into two groups to walk down either side of the stadium. They were able to cover the tailgating parties and even right up to the stadium. By the end of the day, they ended up sharing over 10,000 tracts! Nicholas Chinchurreta said, “The reactions were varied. Some people were very thankful for the material, others the exact opposite. But we did not let discouragement work against us. ‘What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?’ (Rom. 8:31).”



▲ The Super Bowl Outreach—“Vision to Action” Committee members are (from left) Smith Castillo, James Milam, Ben Garcia and Pastor John Peckham.



▲ Pastor Kenny Jenkins spreading the Good News of Jesus at the Super Bowl.



¡Nuestros Jóvenes son Excelentes!

Nunca olvidare el día y la cantidad de ocasiones que escuche de mis maestros y líderes en la Iglesia “Pagancito algún día tu estarás aquí adelante.”

Mientras visito los eventos juveniles, las academias y las congregaciones del territorio de nuestra Unión, hay un común denominador en cada lugar... “Nuestros jóvenes son excelentes.” Poseen un deseo de hacer las cosas bien, de trabajar en equipo y sobretodo de agradar a Dios.

Ellos son sabios, reconocen a Dios como su Creador y sustentador. La Biblia dice: “Porque mejor es la Sabiduría que las piedras preciosas; y todo cuanto se puede desear, no es de compararse con ella.” (Proverbios 8:11). Esto me lleva a pensar; ¿Qué pasaría si todos ellos fueran profesionales en las manos de Dios?

El reconocimiento de Dios en la vida de cada joven es el indiscutible triunfo asegurado en cada una de las metas propuestas en la vida. No me puedo imaginar, cómo la calidad y el servicio a nuestras iglesias y comunidades aumentaría, cómo las metas propuestas por cada congregación se alcanzarían y sobre todo cómo la gran misión de ganar almas para el Reino crecería impresionantemente con más Maestros, Administradores, Comunicadores, Enfermeras, Psicólogos, Músicos, Ministros, etc. Puestos en las manos de Dios y dedicando sus bienes y talentos al servicio del Maestro.

Hablaba con unos padres que con mucha alegría me decían que el sueño de sus vidas se realizaba en la vida de sus hijos. Cuando un joven que reconoce a Dios y se prepara además obtiene una carrera Profesional, no tan sólo obtiene mayor influencia para servir a los demás sino les brindan a sus padres un sentido de honor

en esta tierra, recordemos el mandamiento.

La Universidad Adventista del Suroeste es ese lugar donde cada joven debería estar, es un lugar donde Dios es la prioridad y donde sus sueños pueden ser realidad. Donde la presencia multicultural de jóvenes de diferentes partes del mundo aumentan la experiencia universitaria y donde cada joven crece espiritual, física y mentalmente. Animo a cada joven de cada iglesia a considerar

su universidad, no hay otra como la nuestra, para nosotros será una bendición saber que eres parte de los jóvenes que aman a Dios y se preparan para servir a la humanidad.

No olvido lo que encontré en mi devoción matutina en el Espíritu de Profecía... “El hombre ignorante, si conoce a Dios y a Jesucristo, tiene una sabiduría más duradera que la del hombre más sabio que desprecia la instrucción de Dios. “Dios nos Cuida,” Pág. 28, Sabiduría Divina,



Enero 20. ¿Te imaginas a dónde te quiere llevar Dios ya que lo has reconocido en tu vida?...no puedes olvidar que naciste con un propósito divino, eres algo muy especial en las manos del Señor. El sueño que Dios ha puesto en tu corazón puede ser una realidad porque fue Él quien lo ubicó en ti para bendición de muchos. Si eres un joven con deseos de triunfar, la Universidad Adventista del Suroeste es el lugar para esta etapa de tu vida. ¡Adelante jóvenes, ustedes son excelentes!

Pastor José Antonio Pagan, Enlace Ministerial
Southwestern Adventist University

Southwestern Union President Announces Retirement

Following 45 years of dedicated service and ministry to the Seventh-day Adventist Church—having spent 31 years with the Southwestern Union and 16 of them as president—Max A. Trevino has announced his retirement.

Beginning his church career in 1966 as assistant Book and Bible House manager for the Colorado Conference (now the Rocky Mountain Conference), he later moved to the Southwestern Union Conference in 1969, where he became assistant treasurer. He held that position for three years and then in 1972 became treasurer of the Oklahoma Conference. After eight years of service in Oklahoma, Trevino returned in 1980 to the Southwestern Union, where he held the position of treasurer and then in 1995, replaced Cyril Miller as president of the Southwestern Union.

“Forty-five years is a good long time,” Trevino said at the Southwestern Union Constituency meeting held May 9 in Keene, Tex. “I have

enjoyed every minute of service to this great church, but after much prayer and thought, I’ve decided that the time has come to move on to the next phase of my life, and enjoy retirement.”

Max Trevino’s wife, Betty, has stood faithfully by his side during his 45 years of service. A professional educator, Betty spent many years teaching in the Adventist school system and currently serves as the registrar

in the Education Department at the union.

“It’s really hard to say ‘so long’ to this union family. It has been such a tremendous blessing to work for you as your president for these last 16 years,” Trevino said. “I want to personally thank each worker and layperson in the Southwestern Union for your tireless efforts to make ours the fastest-growing union in the division God has richly blessed your efforts with many thousands of souls for the kingdom, and it’s my hope and prayer that we will continue to labor side-by-side, as we continue to fulfill the Great Commission.”

In response to Trevino’s announcement, NAD president Dan Jackson said, “Max’s contribution to the Southwestern Union, the North American Division, and the world church has been a great blessing. He will be sorely missed. Not only has he been a friend and a compassionate administrator, but he has demonstrated over the years his great love for God and his church.”



Max and Betty Treviño share a touching moment with the delegates as Elder Treviño announces his retirement, after serving nearly 16 years as president of the Southwestern Union.

Southwestern Union Constituency Elects New President

During the 29th regular quinquennial constituency session of the Southwestern Union on Tuesday, May 10, the delegates selected Larry Moore to serve as the Southwestern Union president, a position formerly held by Max Treviño, who announced his retirement May 9.

No stranger to the Southwestern Union, Elder Moore was born and raised in Texas. He has pastored in Arkansas, Texas, and Arizona, and also served as president of the Nevada/Utah Conference. Last month, Moore was chosen to serve as the president of the Texas Conference, after

a brief appointment as ministerial director there. Prior to his service at the Texas Conference, Moore served as senior pastor at

the Burleson, Tex., church. He and his wife, Jeannine, have two married daughters.

Reelected were the current leadership team: Sam Green, secretary; Deryl Knutson, treasurer; Eddie Canales, vice-president; Buford Griffith, Jr., vice-president; and Duane McKey, vice-president.

Also reelected were Joel Wallace, undertreasurer, trust services director; Carlos Ribeiro, associate treasurer; Eunice Warfield, education director; Mike Furr, associate education director; Margaret Taglavore, children’s ministries director; and Mark Bond, communication director.



From left: Dan Jackson, NAD president; Samuel L. Green, executive secretary; Larry Moore, president; Deryl Knutson, treasurer; Duane McKey, vice-president; Eduardo Canales, vice-president; and Buford Griffith, Jr., vice-president.



SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Shaped by Christian Education

As Adventists in the Southwestern Union pay tribute to Elder Trevino's fifteen years as union president (and 45 years of denominational service), we are also honoring the power of Christian education.

Max Trevino is a product of Adventist education. A few weeks ago he joined an exuberant group in the library of Southwestern Adventist University to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of their graduation from high school. In the next few years, he will celebrate other landmarks—his attendance at Southwestern Junior College and his graduation from Union College.

When Max was a college student, the Southwestern Union was one of the smallest unions in North America; as he retires, it is one of larger unions, more than four times bigger than in 1963. I believe that this rapid growth of the Southwestern Union is tied to education, especially the transformation of “the college in Keene” that began in the 1960s.

Thanks to some dreamers—pious gamblers, you might say—Southwestern Adventist University is now a full senior college, with three strong graduate programs. Southwestern has educated most of the key leaders of this union, including Sam Green, Deryl Knutson, and our new union president, Larry Moore. In addition to pastors and administrators, Southwestern is also the alma mater of hundreds of lay leaders in Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, and New Mexico, including entrepreneurs, physicians, lawyers, and teachers.

Max Trevino has been a witness to this transformation. No, that's not strong enough. Max Trevino has been a powerful *encourager* of the changes at Southwestern Adventist University. A member of the college board for the past 31 years, he has promoted, prodded, and encouraged progress at every step of the way.

His vision helped create today's university—debt-free, well maintained, academically credible, and distinctively Adventist.

Elder Trevino's career is a reminder of the vital connections between education and evangelism (and nurture). We all honor him by maintaining those ties.



Eric Anderson, Southwestern Adventist University president

RICHES TO RAGS TO RICHES



God led Christina Osborn through a series of events that ultimately landed her a job at the campus radio station at Southwestern Adventist University. She graduated in May 2011 with a degree in public relations and advertising.

The life of Christina Osborn was changed the day the power went off.

For years, she'd been living a life many young girls only dream of living. She was a top model in Thailand and the Philippines. She had sports cars, jewelry, and often partied in exotic locales at a moment's notice. She had everything—and nothing.

Then one day she was cleaning the bathroom in her Manila apartment. The floor was wet and she felt her legs slide from beneath her. She fell hard on the tile and quickly learned that she couldn't stand or walk.

This turned out to be the end of her modeling career. Within a day or two, she couldn't move. Days turned into weeks, then

months, and the doctors couldn't determine what was wrong with her. She relied on her live-in boyfriend to take care of her finances.

And then 18 months later, in March 2006, the power in her apartment went off. She learned that her boyfriend had emptied her bank accounts and sold her expensive jewelry, using the money for partying and drugs.

She was stuck in Manila, penniless. She charged her cell phone at a plug in the lobby. Her parents in the United States sent her enough money for food.

Then she discovered that her bag with her passport and IDs had been stolen and that her boyfriend had allowed her visa to expire. Not only was she unable to enter the U.S. consulate because she



SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

had no I.D., she couldn't leave the country because she had no visa.

"I was totally stuck," she says. "All I could think was to pray, 'God, get me out of here!'" And when she prayed, she saw the life she'd been living. "Asking for forgiveness was the second thing I started to do." She began reading *The Story of Redemption* and learned that God is willing to forgive, no matter what. She asked friends to find more books, and began praying, "Please, God, let me walk because I want to go to church." Within a few months, she discovered she could stand, but she still couldn't walk. She slowly grew strong enough to get to the doorway, then down the hall, and eventually down the four flights of stairs to the lobby. The first time she walked to church, on the way home she fainted twice from the pain.

Now able to walk, she worked for weeks to come up with a post-al ID which had her picture on it, which got her into the American embassy where she got a new passport.

At Christmas, Christina attended a party at the family home of

her boyfriend. His uncle, who had friends in immigration, agreed to help her get her visa. With the help of her parents, she paid a fine and was soon on an airplane on her way to Keene, Tex., where her parents worked at Southwestern Adventist University.

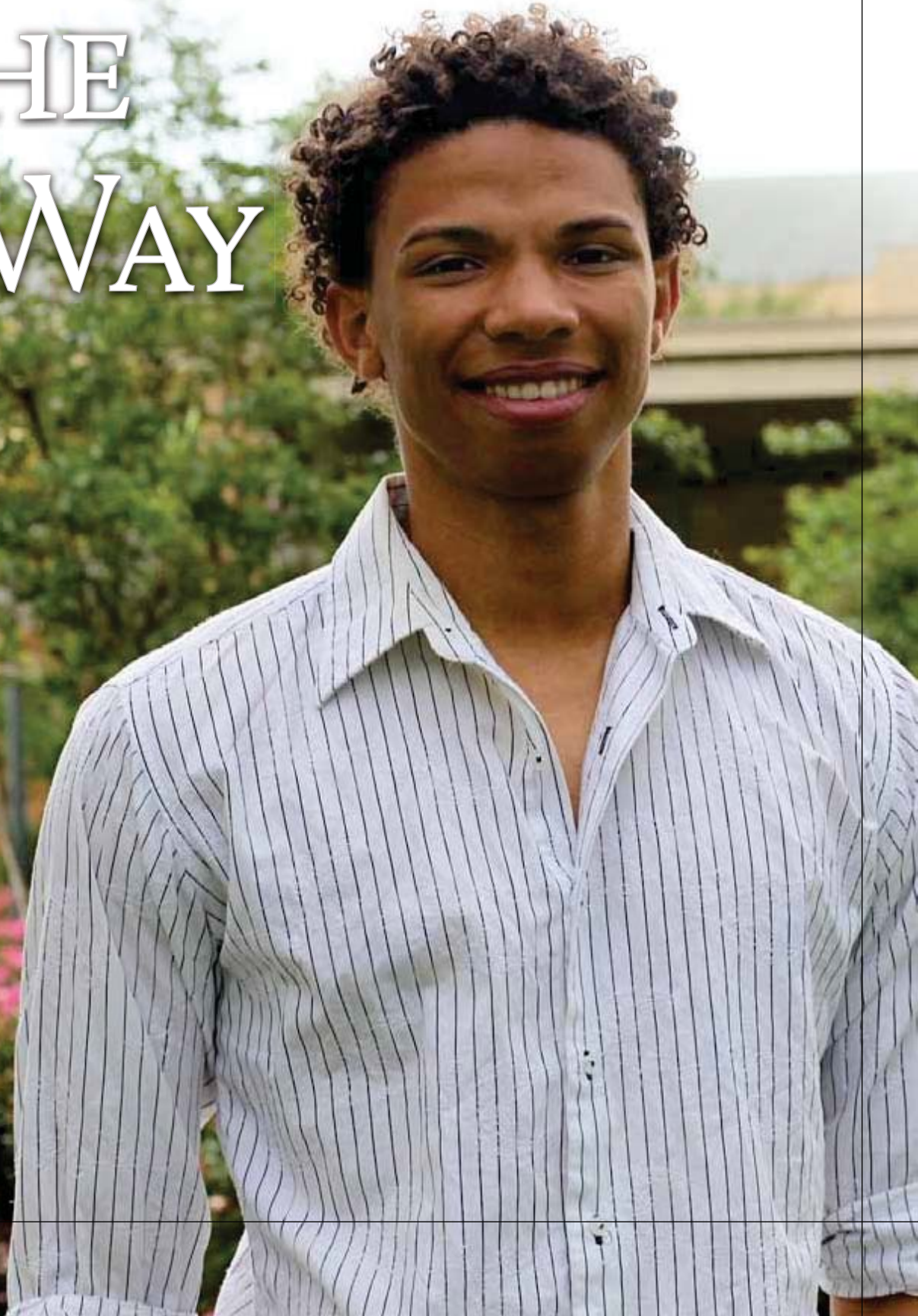
When she arrived, she looked around for work, and saw a job opening at the campus radio station. But in order for her to work at the station, she learned she'd have to register as a student.

In May, she graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a bachelor's degree in public relations and advertising. She found that she loved working at the radio station, and hopes to make it a career. And most importantly, she found the love of her life, a theology major named Nick Osborn. They were married in March, 2008.

"I have to believe that God has led in my life," she says. "If I didn't, I'd be a fool."



GOD WILL LEAD THE WAY





SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Keene, Tex., is a long way from Brooklyn, but Jonathan Amaro likes it just fine. He's learned that the true measure of where you are is often the journey you have to take to get there.

Jonathan was born in New York City. Originally from Puerto Rico, his parents started classes at Antillian University, but didn't finish school and the family lived in New York until he was 11.

"It was really tough, we lived hard," Jonathan says. "We would need food stamps and lived week by week." Their Brooklyn neighborhood had a high crime rate. Jonathan's father took night classes while he worked and often got home late. Eventually his father got a degree in math, and began teaching in an Adventist academy in New York.

Later his family moved to Frisco, Tex. Jonathan had attended public school his entire life, and he wasn't used to private schools at all.

He came to Southwestern to visit his cousin, and found it very different.

"I re-

member I entered the café, and everyone was so nice," he says. "I thought maybe it was just because I was so new."

When it came time for him to choose which college he would go to, his parents prompted him to go to Southwestern, at least for a semester, and he decided to go.

"I didn't know anybody when I got here," he says. The day after he arrived, he was overwhelmed by the number of people saying hi to him. "It was really weird because I'm not used to it. Everybody was really nice and helpful. I felt really welcomed, and it was one thing I really liked about the university." Eventually Jonathan learned to be that way as well, which ran contrary to the way he had grown up in New York.

"Being friendly is contagious," he says. "I try to do the same things that students did to me when I got here. And I see students who were shy when they first got here doing the same thing after a while. It's a good environment. Everybody cares for everybody."

Today, Jonathan is entering his senior year as a marketing major. He spent the past three years in the dorm, and worked as a recruiter and for Southwestern's department of spiritual development as outreach coordinator.

"When we had outreach events every Saturday afternoon, we'd go to the homeless shelter, give out water bottles on the street with a message. There were always people that you could tell, you made their day or put a smile on their face, and that's always a good feeling.

"There were many times in outreach when we impacted people's lives and a lot of students here hadn't really gotten a chance to experience that—touching somebody's life.

"I feel that Southwestern has a lot of student leaders, and I want to inspire other students to become leaders. We had a lot of leaders come up from our outreach, which is something I don't think we otherwise would have had. After joining outreach as leaders, they went on to do different things, like vespers and afterglow."

Jonathan is not really sure where he will be a year from now after he graduates, but he is sure of one thing: God will lead the way.

"Southwestern has really taught me that when you put God first, everything else falls into place. That's been my experience here at Southwestern, and that's something that I am going to take with me everywhere."

Southwestern Adventist University has provided Jonathan Amaro many opportunities to develop leadership skills, and in the process he has impacted many other lives, as well.

SHE FOUND HER PURPOSE IN LIFE

Changed by the Power of Words

Jazzmine Bankston realized God's plan for her on a Sabbath morning. And it didn't involve medicine.

A second-generation Adventist and a pastor's daughter, Jazzmine was encouraged by her parents to study medicine or dentistry for a career. Enrolled at the community college in her hometown of Killeen, Tex., she struggled through science class after science class, feeling that her best wasn't good enough to succeed in her chosen profession.

"I think my parents equated being financially stable with being happy," she says. "Pastors don't make much money, and they wanted me to be happy."

The last straw came when she committed to skipping church and studying for a chemistry test all Sabbath instead of going to church. She had her books out to study when her mother came in to check on her, wondering why she wasn't getting ready for church.

"I told her, 'Mom, don't bother me right now, I have a chemistry test I have to study for because if I don't, I'll fail.' I was really mean to her, and she was so calm about everything."

After her

Jazzmine Bankston's life was changed in a remarkable way through the power of Christian literature.



SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

mother left, she started to study, but her mother's words came back: "Just remember that God is watching you, and it's His day. You should be worshipping Him, not your school." Jazzmine looked at her books, and then broke down crying and put her books away to join her mother at church.

But if she wasn't made up to be a doctor or a dentist, what was she supposed to do? She remembered the day years before when she had decided to be baptized.

"I was a good child, but it never really clicked for me what being a Christian meant," she says. Living in Beaumont, Tex., she remembered watching her friends get baptized, only to see no change in their behavior a few weeks later. She felt baptism was supposed to be important, but obviously it wasn't. That's when Jazzmine vowed never to be baptized.

Then a friend loaned her a copy of *A Voice in the Wind*, a book by Christian author Francine Rivers. It told the story of Christians living as slaves in the Roman era, and how they were challenged by the culture around them. She finished it, then read the second, and then the third book in the series. At the end, overwhelmed by the power of the books, she burst into tears.

"She touched my heart in such a way, I broke down crying," she says. "My father came into the room, asking me if I was OK.

He was literally shaking me, afraid someone had done something to me. I said, 'No Daddy, you don't understand.' And then I told my Dad, 'I want to be baptized.' And then my Mom came into the room and we were all crying."

That's when Jazzmine realized that Christian literature could have a profound effect on people.

"I felt like I was reading a sermon on every page," she says. "She [Rivers] is a big reason why I am an English major."

She remembered her dream of someday being a writer when she struggled with science classes in Killeen. She eventually told her parents that she wanted to be an English major, and of her desire to teach and write books. They resisted at first, but finally agreed to let her enroll at Southwestern Adventist University as an English major. Now when they come to visit her on the campus, they see how much happier she is.

"I cannot express how much I love the department," she says, pointing out Drs. Karl Wilcox and Susan Gardner as having a profound effect on her. "I'll spend hours talking with them. They understand me and my love of literature."

"My main goal in life is to bring others to Christ," she says now. "If I can't do that, then there's no purpose in my life."



Delegates Congregate for University Constituency Meeting

The first official task for Larry Moore, the new president of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, came just minutes after he was voted into his new position. He was called to preside over the Constituency Session of Southwestern Adventist University, held at the Keene church on Tuesday, May 10.

Larry Moore was elected to his new position just a month after assuming responsibilities for his previous new post, that of president of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. His election to the Southwestern Union position follows the retirement of Max Treviño, former union president, on Monday, May 9.

As president of the Southwestern Union Conference, Moore automatically also serves as chairman of the board of trustees for Southwestern Adventist University in Keene. Constituency sessions are held once every five years. This session included a president's report, financial report, an academic administration report, and presentations by the offices of Spiritual Development, Student Services, University Advancement, and Enrollment Services.

In his report, university president Eric

Anderson stated that the "survival and success of Southwestern Adventist University is the Lord's doing," focusing on strengths of the school, such as a heritage of providing opportunities for students with a strong work ethic and a strong scholarship program, as well as a belief in open education. "Students don't come here for prestige," he said. "They come here for a life-changing education." He also talked about the challenges the school faces, including a small endowment and small enrollment.

Larry Garrett, vice president for financial administration, presented the audited consolidated financial statement as well as a comparative five-year financial statement. Garrett pointed out that the university is debt-free, and continues to show a modest profit. Highlights of changes that have affected the bottom line in the past five years include the closing of Southwestern Colorgraphics in 2009 and the recent drop in natural gas prices.

Ben McArthur, vice president for academic administration, pointed out areas of growth and strength in the school's academic program, including a nursing program with graduates who consistently pass

state boards, a mathematics program that results in Southwestern students scoring above the national average, a strong professional and pre-professional program, and a rapidly growing psychology program. McArthur pointed out that 60 percent of Southwestern professors have PhDs, and stated that "Southwestern easily matches—person to person—faculty anywhere."

In addition, Deryl Knutson, vice chairman of the board of trustees, led out in two proposed revisions to the bylaws of Southwestern Adventist University. One changed the wording of constituency from "professors, associate professors, and assistant professors" to "full-time members of the faculty," now allowing instructors to serve as constituency delegates. The second revision was to reduce the board from 36 members to 32.

A caucus was held for the election of the nominating committee, with elected representatives from the university, the Committee of 100, the union, and the represented conferences serving as a nominating committee to vote in new members of the university board of trustees. The new board of trustees includes the following individuals: Eric Anderson, Jeff Bromme, Paul Chavez, Harold Collum, Ken Finch, Edmund Fry II, Samuel L. Green, Sue Hayes, Ellie Hitt, Robert Hostetler, Donald Jernigan, Frank Knittel, Deryl Knutson, Kuk-Wha Lee, Larry Moore, John Moyer, Sheree Parris Nudd, Stephen Orian, Jung-Wook Park, Ruben D. Peche-ro, Ted Ramirez, Edward Reifsnyder, Eric Shepperd, Winston Stanley, James Stevens, Arlene S. Tucker, Eunice Warfield, Wayne Williams, Billy E. Wright, Dan Zacharias, the new Texas Conference president, and another member who has not yet agreed to serve. Virginia Hayes and Max A. Treviño will serve as emeriti members.

Glen Robinson



At the start of the Southwestern Adventist University constituency meeting, Max Treviño (right) transferred his duties as chair to Larry Moore (center) as Eric Anderson, university president (left) observed.

Resurrection Pageant Draws 5,000 to Story Of Christ

“Next year I will bring my whole church.” That was the tearful response of a non-Adventist pastor who attended this year’s Resurrection Pageant on the Southwestern campus and the Keene church. As he made his way through the Jerusalem Marketplace, one of the students in full Roman soldier costume barked an order for him to move along. As he would explain later, it was at that instant that he began to feel himself drawn into the story and the tears began to flow.

It is because of stories like this that the Resurrection Pageant was presented for

the sixth time on Sabbath, April 23. Best estimates put the total number of viewers around 5,000, spread over six performances, with half attending for the first time.

All told, it takes about 400 people to put on the pageant. Southwestern students and staff, Keene church members, Chisolm Trail Academy and Keene Adventist Elementary School students, and friends in the community all participate together to make it a reality.

Mic Thurber, Keene church pastor



Preparing Students for a Fruitful Ministry



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

During this month, June 10 thru July 2, ten theology majors from Southwestern Adventist University will be involved in a "field school" of evangelism in Springdale, Ark. Richard Halverson, evangelist for the North Pacific Union, will be the crusade evangelist, and Jorge Rico, theology professor at Southwestern Adventist University, will be the crusade instructor. A number of years ago, participating in such an evangelistic crusade, plus conducting one's own evangelistic crusade, became a graduation requirement for all theology students at Southwestern Adventist University. So from July 8 to 23, these same ten theology majors will be involved in conducting their own series of meetings in Northwest Arkansas.

Soul winning is the mission and life of the church. Therefore, it is essential that

students training for ministry are well-equipped and prepared to lead others to Christ and help them make a decision for truth and membership in the body of Christ. Ministerial training at Southwestern Adventist University has become a thorough program of academics and practicalism. A solid curriculum of theological study is coupled with an assignment to a nearby church where the student can participate in preaching, visitation, and key leadership opportunities. The field school of evangelism is another integral part of the ministerial program that adequately prepares the student for a well-rounded pastoral ministry.

Each year as I have opportunity to come onto the campus of Southwestern Adventist University and interview senior theology majors, I am deeply impressed with the high level of spiritual commitment and passion for ministry that is demonstrated

by these students. I also realize that this doesn't just happen by accident. It is a result of a comprehensive program of ministerial training that combines book learning with an experience of practical application. A fire has been ignited in the souls of these students and they are eager to utilize their newly-acquired skills in behalf of the kingdom of heaven.

I am grateful for Southwestern Adventist University and what it does to prepare young people for fruitful ministry. During this month, at least two things will happen. Through the evangelism taking place in northwest Arkansas and the involvement of the university theology students, there will be a harvest of souls for the kingdom of heaven. But at the same time, ten more students will have their lives transformed as they experience evangelism.

Steve Orian, president

You've Still Got Time to Attend Camp Yorktown Bay!

If you haven't added a week of camp to your summer schedule, now is the time! Tween Camp is coming up July 17-24, followed by Teen Camp, July 24-31. The new zip-line is in operation and totally awesome! There are plenty of great activities on the water and the teen banquet is being planned with YOU in mind.

CYB is the place to be—we've got water, we've got horses, we've got archery. With a new zip-line that runs through the trees, you'll feel like a bird that's been set free!

Come on! Go to www.campyorktownbay.org and get your application. You can send it in or bring it with you to camp. You won't be disappointed.

Brandon Westgate, camp director



God Calls Each One

The King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of the least of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them; you did it to Me" (Matt. 25:40).

God calls each of us to help those around us, but that calling will look different for each of us. My husband and I felt God calling us in a specific way: to open up our home to foster children. Last fall we began training to be foster parents. Before we had even completed it, we received a call asking if we would be willing to take a sibling group. We had already stated that we were open to the idea, thinking that two or three kids would be nice, preferably all younger than six years old.

God had other plans, though, because this was a group of six siblings, ranging in age from eight months to 13 years. Though they were asking us to only take four, we felt impressed to take all six so that the family could stay together.

Our lives have changed dramatically, and God has blessed tremendously. We've discovered that so many things have worked together in our lives to prepare us for this change, things from previous experiences all the way down to us buying a home bigger than we needed at the time.

The first few weeks were quite stressful as we all settled into our new routines and roles. Going from being a substitute teach-

er with a very flexible schedule to a full-time mom with kids in middle and elementary school, as well as at home, was quite a change. The kids also had to adjust to new "parents," new

food, new schedules, new rules, and a new religious outlook. There have been rough times, but there have been many good times, as well. It is rewarding to see the children's grades improving, their behaviors changing for the better, and the happiness shining from their faces as they enjoy the simple pleasures in life.

We don't know what the future holds for their situation—the first goal for children in foster care is reuniting with their birth parents. We do know, however, that God is in control, and we pray He moves in the hearts and minds of those making decisions that will affect these children's futures.



The "new" Fresse family enjoys an outing together.

Foster parenting is not something that God calls everyone to do, but God does call everyone to do something. I pray that you will seek His will on how He would have you touch the lives around you for Him. If foster parenting or adopting is something you would consider, a good place to start finding information is www.adoptuskids.org or your local Social Services office. May God bless as you seek to serve the "least of these" as God has asked of you.

Elizabeth Fresse, pastor's wife and "new" mom

Little Hands for Jesus

TEXARKANA, TEX. » The students and staff of the Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist School are blessing others by doing special spiritual presentations every other month. Presentations not only include skits and songs performed by the school choir, but teachers Rodil and Sheila Capobres have trained the students in some very creative ministries. The first is called "Little Hands for Jesus." Using six black lights and blocking all natural light, the students use their white-gloved hands to illustrate the music of well-known Christian songs. Second, students are doing shadow plays that also require total darkness. Using props and black lighting, the story of Adam and

Eve's fall and the story of Redemption are acted out in a simple and heart-moving way.

I was blessed during my recent visit to the school with a private performance of all these presentations. If you have the opportunity to see these kids share the love of Jesus, you will be blessed as I was.



The Texarkana Adventist School students and staff are involved in creative ministries that illustrate the story of redemption in a moving way.

Stephen Burton, ARKLA Education Superintendent

The Double Blessing of Helping Neighbors

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

CHAPEL VALLEY, ARK. » As we bumped down the country road back to school, our hearts were full of satisfaction. Miss Charlie's words were still ringing in our ears. "Thank you so much! What you did this morning would have taken me a whole week."

Chapel Valley church members had just finished a special work bee for a church neighbor, Miss Charlie. A master gardener, she had an overwhelming amount of landscaping to be done. She was thrilled with what we were able to accomplish in only a few hours.

Our church family has been actively seeking to reach out to the community by following Christ's method as prescribed in *The Ministry of Healing*. "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them,

ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, Follow Me." The more we seek to follow Christ's method, the more we see that we are just as



Chappel Valley, Ark., church members gained a sense of satisfaction by helping a neighbor, Miss Charlie, with some much-needed landscaping.



blessed as those we minister to.

Stefani Herrera, a student at Ouachita Hills College, commented on her experience: "It allowed me to see a glimpse of how Christ felt when He healed

people. I tasted the joy of reaching someone by helping their physical needs."

Our church has been discovering that sharing God's love with others is deeply satisfying and rewarding. If you feel empty and in need of a satisfied heart, just try sharing the love God has given you with others.

Heidi Hunt

A Busy Little Church

UMPIRE, ARK. » The Umpire church has been very busy lately, remodeling an old church and using it to hold events for the community. Last summer, church members purchased a local Methodist church building that stood adjacent to the Umpire church property with the intention of creating a Pathfinder clubhouse. They soon realized it was more than was needed for the Pathfinders, and began an extensive remodeling program.

The sanctuary was renovated into a smaller sanctuary to be able to house a future Spanish congregation. Rooms were expanded and built for community service use and a multipurpose meeting room was created to hold Vacation Bible Schools, community cooking classes, and health classes. The Pathfinders also have their own area with a meeting room and a place to work on honors and crafts.

Church members have worked on the remodeling as time has permitted, putting in new heating and air, strengthening the sagging floors, putting in a new septic tank and lines, and running a water line. New electrical wiring has also gone into the building and a new sign has been posted

announcing the Adventist Community Services Center and Pathfinder clubhouse.

In March and April, the church members put on three health fairs, one of which was held in the new community service center. Church members and local businesses helped support and advertise the events. Ouachita Hills College students who attend the church and also go door-to-door



Members of the Umpire, Ark., church prepare for a health fair to be held at their new Adventist Community Services Center.

every Sabbath afternoon giving Bible studies and passing out literature invited those they visited to attend the health fair and cooking classes. This is just the beginning of the church's plans to help the community through the new building.

Daniel Kaffenberger, pastor

¡YA VIENE EL CAMPESTRE HISPANO!



¡VEN, ESPIRITU SANTO!



Julio 22 y 23 2011

Viernes 22, 7:00 p.m.
Sábado 23, 8:45 a.m.

Orador invitado:
Pastor Alejandro Bullón

NWA Convention Center
1500 S. 48th St.
Springdale, AR 72762



Orador para jóvenes:
Pastor Joel Armenta



Cantantes Cristianos: Saul & Cory

90° "Mira hacia al cielo"

Adquiera el boleto de la comida con su Pastor local.

Reservaciones de Hotel al 479 751 8300.
Pregunta por Seventh Day Adventist Group Rate.

Adventist Education: An Investment That Pays



Recently, Shannon and I were privileged to be in Keene again for Southwestern Adventist University's Awards Convocation and then, Alumni Weekend.

It was exciting to see all of the students who received scholarships at the Awards Convocation because of the generosity of so many donors. It was an honor for my brothers, Alan, Shannon, and me to represent our parents who, until they went to sleep in Jesus, believed passionately in Seventh-day Adventist Christian education and who contributed the lion's share of the funds for our family scholarship. Even though our parents sleep in Jesus, the scholarship still invests in the lives of students, as was evidenced in the student who received our family's scholarship. I wish our parents could have been there to meet that student!

A highlight of Alumni Weekend is to reconnect with those we went to school

with. The bonds run deep. Even though a few years may have passed since we last saw each other, the passage of time does not really seem to matter. We reconnect quickly and that reconnection is special.

Another highlight of Alumni Weekend is to reconnect with our former deans and professors. Our deans watched over us like parents as we became of age. Our professors challenged us to become all that God would have us become and guided us as we made career and life decisions. The legacy of these godly men and women shines out through us everywhere we go.

Another highlight of Alumni Weekend is to see how Southwestern Adventist University continues to develop. Buildings where we learned much and made deep friendships no longer stand. In their place are new buildings in which today's and tomorrow's students will learn much and make deep friendships.

As I think back on this last Alumni Weekend, I am so thankful for my parent's

insistence that I receive a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education at Southwestern Adventist University. I am so much richer for it.

If you are a parent with college-age children, please consider *only* a Seventh-day Adventist Christian college or university like Southwestern Adventist University. If so, you will be sending your children to a place where staff and faculty will care for them like their own, where they will challenge them to become all that God will have them become as they learn how to serve God and His children in this life, where they will make lifelong friends, and where they will probably find their spouse.

A Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is not cheap. But far more expensive than a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education is a college or university education that is not grounded in the fear of the Lord.

Vialo Weis, Jr., Planned Giving and Trust Services director

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

A Gift of Love and Warmth

BROKEN ARROW » Several ladies from the Broken Arrow church that meet regularly to make quilts decided to send some love and warmth from our church family to our young people attending Ozark Academy in Gentry, Ark. These ladies devoted their time and talents for many months to making quilts for the students to use in their dorm rooms.

The students were not only surprised but delighted when the quilts were presented to them on Christmas day during the church service. Parents report that the young people loved their new quilts and feel they were a gift of love that keeps them warm inside and out. The quilts made quite an impression on others at the school and the ladies were asked to donate a quilt for an auction fundraiser at Ozark Academy. The quilt brought \$200 at auction. We want to thank the ladies for their thoughtfulness, as we all benefited from their generosity.

Students receiving the quilts were Andrea Wagner, Nick Halle, Taylor Halle, Honey Caranzo, Laura Moon, and Ryan Davis.

Judy Marquette

► Quilters, from left: E.J. Jantz, Maureen Hutchings, Barbara Calvert, Cleo Darling, and seated, Tillie Christensen.



Pathfinders Perform Well at Bible Bowl

OKLAHOMA CITY » As I was driving to Michigan from Oklahoma to the International/Division Level Bible Bowl, I was overwhelmed with the feeling of humility alongside the feeling of being privileged to drive once again to watch our young people recall and recite answer after answer to questions from specific parts of the Bible that they have studied for months.

I know that they will remember the experiences of all the study nights, the people who drilled them over and over, the directors and the parents who sacrificed to get them to the top level. Most importantly, they can remember the call from God to hide His word in their hearts and in reflective peace be able to answer to the Lord, "I did."

Congratulations to the six teams from the Southwestern Union who went to the International Division Level. Every single team did very well, as five of the teams placed first and one of the teams placed second. The Arbuckle Warriors was the team from Davis, Okla., and the Alvarado

Midnight Warriors, Atascosa Angels, Edinburg Castles, Houston International HIS Hikers, and the Houston Royal Knights were the five teams from Texas.

Apple Park, Pathfinder/Adventurer Ministries director



Above: Thirty Pathfinder Clubs from around the NAD attended the International/Division Level Bible Bowl. Pictured is one representative from each club with their certificates.

Top: Southwestern Union participants, from Oklahoma and Texas, who attended the International Division Level Bible Bowl.

Campamento Hispano 2011 | Wewoka Woods, Okla. | Julio 29-31

En el campamento de jovenes de la Asociacion de Oklahoma. Wewoka Woods Youth Center, en Wewoka, Oklahoma. Para mas informacion llame al telefono 405-371-5576 o 405-213-9009. Queremos invitarles a una experiencia espiritual muy especial. Nuestro predicador especial sera el Pastor Steven Bohr, que traera esos temas que nos preparan para los ultimos dias. Nuestro tema para este ano sera Transformados por su Espiritu. Haga planes para estar alli.

The Spark Lights a Fire

BROKEN ARROW » The young adults and youth from the Broken Arrow and First Tulsa churches meet together weekly for games, snacks, films, and inspirational messages. The speaker changes as often as the topics and, after the message, there is a lively question-and-answer session. Everyone attending is encouraged to take their turn as speaker. The meetings always close with prayer.

The meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., alternating between the church locations. Field trips are planned each quarter. Mitch McGehee and Jack Phillips lead out in the meetings, and Crystal Phillips and P.J. Negrillo

are responsible for the music programs. If your church is interested in joining this lively youth movement, please contact Jack Phillips through the Broken Arrow church. Follow their adventures on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Broken-Arrow-OK/The-Spark> and on YouTube at <http://www.youtube.com/bathespark>. This SPARK is igniting a fire!

Judy Marquette



Shattuck Members Celebrate Redelsperger Anniversary

SHATTUCK » The members of the Shattuck church had the privilege of celebrat-

ing the 70th wedding anniversary of **Orin and Edna Redelsperger** on January 29. The

pair were married on January 29, 1941. They made their first home north of Follett,

Tex., and now reside in the town of Follett. They have one son, Dr. Robert Redelsperger of Bakersfield, Calif., three wonderful grandchildren, and several great-grandchildren. They have both been faithful members of the Shattuck church and wonderful friends to the church family.

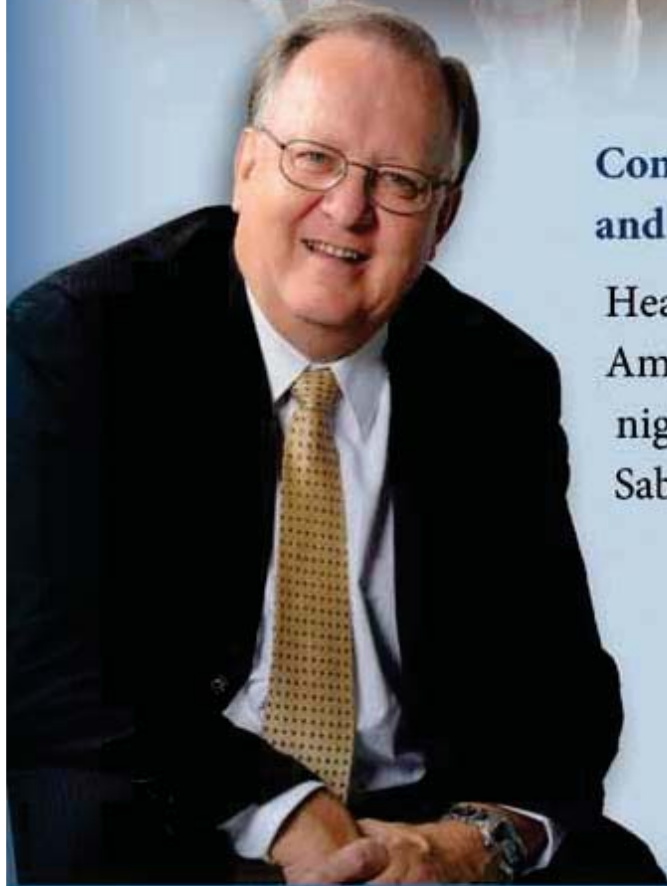
This is the first celebration of a 70th wedding anniversary in the Shattuck church, and it was a joy to share this special occasion with Orin and Edna Redelsperger.

Marilyn Dersch



Orin and Edna Redelsperger celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on January 29.

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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A Journey of Growth



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Southwestern Adventist University is a place where one can commence on a journey of growth by enrolling in this institution. This journey of growth begins at enrollment, continues through university and graduate years and the career years, on through the retirement years, and into the earth made new.

Graduates of Southwestern are like trees planted by the riverbank. They are rooted in the fertile soil of the Word of God (the written Word and the living Word, Christ Jesus). They are energized by the sun of the Holy Spirit, pruned by the same Spirit, and as a result, become useful, mature men and women in society and the church. These graduates constantly draw from the living Water of Life, Jesus Christ, and grow toward God every day in their spiritual and business lives.

The central point of God's will for us is to mature in Christ, according to Ephesians 4:13. It reads: "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." Southwestern Adventist University's disciplines and academia help one to attain this maturity.

Should you or your children attend Southwestern? Yes! First of all, it is a spiritual campus. There is a spiritual environment that encompasses the campus. The university offers a Christ-centered education that is in harmony with its mission statement, which reads: "The mission of Southwestern Adventist University is to offer quality higher education in a Christ-centered environment shaped by Seventh-day Adventist and Christian values." *Its spiritual environment is not something switched on for Friday night or special occasions; it is a lifestyle.* According to its Web site, "Jesus Christ shapes its assumptions, its questions, and its world-view. Christ is Lord in the classroom, in the lab, on the athletic field, and in the dormitories."

Its students are "Rhema" students, that is, students of the Word. The Word of God is their foundation for living, a guide through this jungle and maze of societal norms that contradict the Word of God, an anchor for them in the midst of an unstable and unbelieving world. In addition to their studies, many of these students are out every weekend conducting and participating in a community outreach that brings hope to the hopeless.

According to Eric Anderson, president

of Southwestern Adventist University, "**Southwestern is dedicated to changing lives.** Many of our graduates choose to commit their lives to service. Almost casually, yet with great idealism, they pick difficult and demanding assignments over the lucrative and prestigious ones."

This school has produced few celebrities, but many missionary doctors and nurses, dedicated and underpaid teachers, public-spirited businessmen, and self-sacrificing preachers. For such people, service is not an experiment, but a way of life. It is the appropriate response to the Master, who says to us, as He did to a few fishermen long ago, "Follow me."

Friend, if you are looking for Christian education at its best, I implore you, try Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Tex. Start today, planning your journey of meaningful and successful growth by calling 817.645.3921 or 800.433.2240. You can also find Southwestern on Facebook, MySpace, or Twitter. Apply now and begin your journey of growth.

Bill Wright, president

Church Members Learn the Secrets of Good Health



Edgar Lockett, M.D., was the featured speaker for Health Ministry Day at the Emmanuel church in Hammond, La.

HAMMOND, LA. » The Emmanuel church celebrated Health Ministry Day on Sabbath, February 26. Edgar A. Lockett, M.D., was the guest speaker for the Sabbath worship service. In the afternoon Lockett gave a presentation from Str8Truth Seminars, in which he explored the relationship between stewardship and health, based on Romans 12:1.

During an interactive exchange with the audience, Lockett responded to questions regarding disease and its causes. He also shared health secrets, discussed the importance of a correct diet for good health, and presented information on nutritional supplementation, as well as other informative topics. Informational handouts were provided as well as links to online health resources.



Linda Hodge

Cecil Bernard Jackson Presents at Rosa Parks/Millbrook

LANCASTER, TEX. » Cecil Bernard Jackson, the “Artist of the Stars,” and pastor of the Fort Valley First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fort Valley, Ga., was the presenter and special guest at the recent Rosa Parks/Millbrook (RPM) Elementary Exemplary Campus Spirit Day Assembly Program on Friday, March 25. Jackson adopted our school several years ago, donating to the school the art project “Unity in Diver-

sity” that hangs in the foyer of the school entrance. All RPM faculty, staff, and students contributed to that art work in 2007. Jackson was invited by Lorraine Stiggers, RPM school counselor, and member of the Palestine New Life church in Texas, to return to the school to work with a newly-formed organization, the RPM Art Club, sponsored by art teacher Julie Young. Jackson was excited and enthusiastic about the idea. After clearance by the principal, Helena Mosely, Jackson and Young made arrangements via telephone for him to come and work on “The Trees” project with the students in the art club. Jackson traveled from Atlanta on several occasions between November 2010 and March 2011 to work with Young and the students to com-

plete this project.

Students used everything imaginable, except for paintbrushes, to produce such fine pieces of art work. Jackson taught the students valuable skills and encouraged them to express themselves through art. The unveiling of “The Trees” at the Spirit Day program was exciting for the RPM faculty, staff, administrators, and students, especially for the art students as they viewed their beautiful finished project. They received a round of applause for their dedication and commitment. Jackson explained the importance and value of the trees and talked about how strong they are in the midst of storms, wind, rain, lightning, thunder, and hurricanes, and yet, they are still survivors. He compared them to RPM faculty, staff, and students, who are also survivors, and noted that they, too, remain strong as they stand through the storms of life with its challenges and tribulations. It was a character development object lesson that made a lasting impression on everyone. The students were so attentive that you could “hear a pin drop.” Even our pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students listened intently and were spellbound as “Mr. Bernard” explained the meaning of “The Trees” so clearly that even a child could understand the message.

Dee Stamey, the communication director for the Lancaster ISD, and Cresland Fannin, the career and development director for Lancaster ISD, had the opportunity to interview and take photos of our special guest. He was invited to return to Lancaster ISD to involve and teach other students on a larger scale. Rosa Parks/Millbrook School is grateful to Cecil Bernard Jackson for his willingness to give back to the community his time, talent, and means in sharing his gift of art with the students, faculty, and staff at Rosa Parks/Millbrook School of Lancaster ISD. Cecil Bernard Jackson was also recently featured in the November 26, 2010 issue of *Jet* magazine for his contribution of artwork to honor Robert Townsend and Alice Walker at the recent Congressional Black Caucus Foundation Gala in Washington, D.C.

Lorraine Stiggers



Cecil Bernard Jackson, the “Artist of the Stars,” and pastor of the Fort Valley First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fort Valley, Ga., shared his gift of art with the students at the Rosa Parks/Millbrook (RPM) Elementary during their Exemplary Campus Spirit Day Assembly Program in March.

A Trip Down Memory Lane

BATON ROUGE, LA. » The story has it that a blind person asked a certain saint, “Can there be anything worse than losing your eyesight?” to which the saint replied, “Yes, losing your vision.” Well, if their recent program is any indication, one of the things the Berean church treasures is its vision. It was this mindset that prompted Robert Davis, pastor, to encourage the congregation to observe a “Vision Sabbath.” According to Davis, “Who we are and what we are is aligned with where God is trying to lead us.”

It was during a church board meeting some months earlier that Davis had given assignments to several board members. The tasks consisted of developing a historical sketch of the church and of the school, researching the church’s major experiences and opportunities—including the missed ones, our vision of mission compared to our conference’s vision, demographics of the church and of the community surrounding it, and of course, the church’s financial picture. The one stipulation for each assignment was that the information be not only factual but realistic, even if it proved painful. Thus, with our assignment in hand, the seven of us (including Davis) proceeded to gather our information, which would initially be presented at a future board meeting and ultimately, on what would come to be known as “Vision Sabbath.” Upon “passing

inspection” at board meeting, we presenters were ready for our actual presentation to the church body.

Being the visionary he is, few were surprised when Davis revealed his design for the worship presentation. With a 19-page colorful document in hand, each of the seven presenters prepared to give an overview of his/her designated area. Davis initiated the proceedings with an introduction of the occasion. The congregation learned that the groundwork for Berean’s “Vision Sabbath” could be found in Matthew 10:5. “Jesus was informed, methodical, and intentional—strategic attributes that we want to emulate,” Davis said. Using supporting biblical passages, he continued, “The only things yet to be accomplished are things we have yet to dream.” Thus the profile of the Berean church membership and of the surrounding communities had begun.

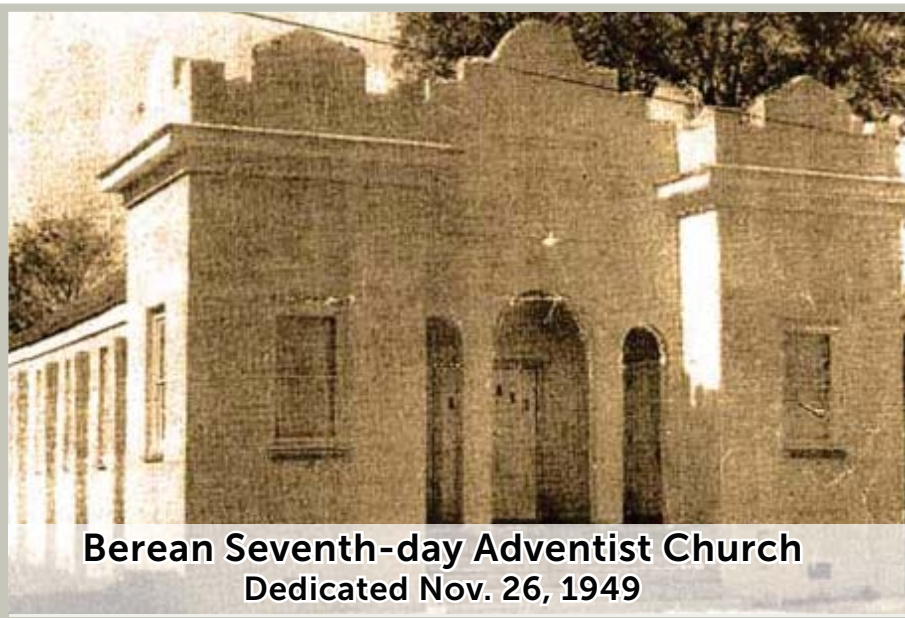
Evelyn Edwards began the proceedings with a “trip down memory lane” as new members were introduced to, and veteran ones were reminded of, Berean’s rich pastoral legacy, beginning with the 1936 groundwork by J.G. Dascent to the present-day Robert L. Davis. A sketch of our school established in 1952 followed. Charles Wilson provided an overview of “major experiences” of the last ten years, which included the building of a new school with its state-of-the-art gym, the impact of Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane

Gustav on Berean, and our three evangelistic endeavors that netted some 100-plus souls. Robert Landry was next with Berean’s “Declarations for Life, for Love, and for Progress,” with the first entailing our mission and vision statements. Davis’ presentation on our conference’s vision was sandwiched between Landry’s “Declarations” and Debra Jones’ demographics of Berean church. Stats regarding age and marital status (with singles having never been married comprising 36 percent of the congregation), education, employment, and income, along with the religious and spiritual involvement of our members, rounded out her presentation. Of course, the report would not have been complete without the “Financial Snapshot” compiled by Charles Hightower, elder, and the treasurer, Freddy Lawrence. The report revealed that 2009 was a banner year for tithe and local offerings. Lyn Hakeem’s “Demographics of the Berean Community” was next. She indicated that females and African-Americans comprised the largest group in the congregation, and that \$20,958 was the median income.

Having initiated the reporting, it was only natural that Davis would offer some final comments. “Berean will be an evangelistic fellowship (church) when **sharing the gospel of Jesus** in everything we do, in every service and activity we practice, in every decision we make, in every development we make, and in the active involvement of every member,” he stated. So that we might further appreciate our present, we concluded the reporting with a slide show made from original individual and group pictures dating back to the early Berean church of the 1940s through the 60s, along with pictures from our dedicatory program of November 26, 1949. The poignant presentation produced by Dan and Doris Collins, along with Edwards, reminded us of our humble beginnings and how God who led us in the past continues to lead in the present.

The Berean church is grateful for Davis’ leadership and foresight for ministry in the Baton Rouge area and to our conference for tapping this young visionary.

Evelyn Edwards



**Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church
Dedicated Nov. 26, 1949**

South Louisiana Youth Federation Meeting

“For Us, By Us”

HAMMOND, LA. » Worship and Fellowship Day, sponsored by the South Louisiana Youth Federation, was held at the Emmanuel church on Sabbath, March 12. The theme was “For Us, By Us.” Emmanuel’s praise team, Vessels of Praise (VOP), set the mood for worship with a series of praise and worship songs, after which guest speaker Roger Wade, the Southwest Region Conference youth director, captivated the congregation with a message entitled “How Samson Got His Groove Back.” One of the many memorable and thought-provoking statements included in his sermon was, “What you are today does not determine what you will be.”

The afternoon events began with music by VOP, joined by South Louisiana Youth Federation president Herman Smith, Sr., and featuring little Herman Smith, Jr., who led “How Great Is Our God.”

Roger Wade engaged the audience in an

Know Him

MOSIER VALLEY, TEX. » The Mosier Valley Youth And Young Adult (YAYA) group hosted its first Sabbath of the year on March 19. From Sabbath School through the AY meeting, the day was full of learn-

“auction,” with a twist. By the conclusion of the “auction,” valuable lessons had been learned regarding the benefits and rewards

some of the plans for this year. The day ended with a social during which youth and the “young at heart” gathered for a night of ping-pong, co-ed basketball, video games, and concessions, featuring Elaine Harrington’s famous veggie corn dogs. This was truly an event to be remembered.

Linda Hodge



of sacrificing one’s own wants in order to help someone else acquire what he or she wants.

Before the afternoon fellowship session ended, our federation president introduced the 2011 federation officers, and briefly shared



▲ Vessels of Praise team members, from left, Samantha Mitchell, Dawnita Hodge, and Kim Hodge.
▶ Roger Wade, Southwest Region Conference youth director.

ing and fellowship.

The theme for the year will mirror the North Central Texas Youth Federation theme: **Mission Possible: Know Him; Love Him; Serve Him.** On our first day

of special emphasis we focused on **Knowing Him.** In Sabbath School we learned how to **Know Him.** In divine worship we learned how we should act when we **Know Him.** Thanks to Eli Mora for sharing an inspired sermon. Then at AY we learned the dangers of not **Knowing Him.**

Thank you to the YAYA team that did an amazing job of planning and executing the program, as well as to all who participated and attended. We pray that the blessings and the lessons learned will continue to bless the Southwest Region!

Darren Harriott



From left, Kwizera Anges Melanie Mulele, Eli Mora, and Chris McKenzie.

Choose Southwestern



TEXAS CONFERENCE

I am amazed every day that I still know at least one person who is graduating from Southwestern Adventist University. Whether it's a friend who's finishing their master's degree or a former Pathfinder whom I've had the honor of counseling, they rejoice in their accomplishment walking across the stage and accepting their well-deserved diploma. Their beaming smiles are the result of years of late-night study sessions, penny pinching, and hours spent in prayer.

Year after year hundreds of students walk the campus of Southwestern, some following a detailed plan for their college career and others still searching for the

degree that will determine their vocation. Some have left home for the first time and others are parents with a family of their own. Different ages, ethnicities, and economic backgrounds describe the courageous group that has one thing in common: they chose Southwestern.

I can tell you about the many degree programs, fantastic teachers, and spiritual environment, but I won't. I'll tell you that choosing an Adventist university is costly, that as in life, you will find the good and the bad, when you go in search of it. I will tell you that going to school and balancing a social life isn't easy and that working when you are in college can be tough, but necessary.

And I will tell you with every assurance in my soul, when you make the commitment to pursue higher education for the spirituality you will develop through the trials and the triumphs of college, God will carry you through every step. For every obstacle or setback, God will be there. At every achievement or accomplishment, God will be there.

Choose Southwestern, and God will be there.

Kristina P. Lockhart,
Communication director

Seventh- and Eighth-Grade Music Festival Celebrates its Seventh year

KEENE » Seventh- and eighth-grade students from across Texas performed for the Seventh Annual Music Festival, sponsored

by the Texas Conference Office of Education on February 24 at the Keene church. This year's event involved 275 students and

21 Adventist schools from across Texas, and included home-schooled students.

Travis Simpson, music director at Burton Adventist Academy, was this year's music festival director. Simpson actively engaged the mass choir's participation, resulting in an exciting evening concert with Dian Simpson as the accompanist.

In addition to the mass choir performances, Keene Adventist Elementary School's Bell Choir, under the direction of Zuleica Savinon, performed "Crown Him" by George J. Elvey.

North Dallas Adventist Academy, under the direction of Stephan Gray, performed "My Life Is in Your Hands" by Kirk Franklin. Dallas Christian Academy students, under the direction of Allison Tucker and Danny Cano, presented "God Is God" by Steven Curtis Chapman and "Glory" by Nichole Nordeman.



Texas students in the seventh and eighth grades used Christian art to enhance their musical presentations during this year's music festival.

Carol Bradley

Making a Difference in Choluteca, Honduras

Our team arrived in Honduras on Thursday and spent Friday working on the school and preparing for the other ministries. After joining the church members for Sabbath worship, the teams resumed their work on Sunday morning and continued through Friday.

children on a daily basis, with more than 300 on the final day! During the week they conducted the VBS, and it was also the Week of Prayer at the school. One of our volunteers conducted a drug awareness talk each day to advise them on the danger of drugs and ways to prevent their use.

The medical and dental team, led by Dr. Ed Dewar, treated over 500 patients during the week, dealing with a variety of medical issues and performing extractions, fillings, and other dental procedures.

This is the eleventh year that members from the West Houston church have participated in Maranatha mission trips. These trips serve to bring the church closer together and foster a missionary spirit within the church. Please read the weblog from this year's trip for more details of our experiences at <http://whsdamaranatha.blogspot.com>. For more information on Maranatha mission trips, please visit their Web site at www.maranatha.org.

Greg Hatch



About 47 volunteers joined forces to build a church in Choluteca, Honduras, hold medical and dental clinics, and conduct a Vacation Bible School for the community.

Our construction crew had a great deal of work ahead of them. The work on the main building included completing both end walls and two interior walls. While the weather was very hot on the job site (around 95 degrees Fahrenheit) every day, God always provided us with a few clouds and a good wind. A few of our team members got sick with heat exhaustion, but remarkably, they escaped injury. By God's grace, we completed the block work on Thursday. This allowed us to complete some other items, finish our three One-day School metal classrooms, and start a fourth by the end of the day on Friday.

Renee Gonzalez led our children's ministry outreach. Her team of seven volunteers was augmented by 18 local helpers. This allowed them to minister to over 200



Symphony of Praise

TEXAS CONFERENCE

HOUSTON/GULFHAVEN » The Gulfhaven church experienced a high Sabbath on December 4, 2010, as Fred and Carolina Ochoa and their two children, Christian and Gabriela, were received into God's family—Fred by a profession of faith, and Carolina and the children by baptism. There was inexpressible joy in heaven when this lovely family was united in the love of God, as there was in the Gulfhaven church as they were received as new brothers and sisters in Christ.



The Ochoa children, along with their parents, were baptized into the Gulfhaven church family.

Gulfhaven member Lilia Hernandez then shared the testimony of leading Fred's grandmother and his parents to the Lord some 25 years ago. She said she was blessed to see the continuing results of His work as the Ochoa family was brought into the church.

To completely fulfill this high Sabbath, the church was honored with the presence of Elder Leighton Holley and his wife, Betty Lynne. The Lord gave Elder Holley a powerful message on forgiveness, empha-

sizing Christ's words, "You are my disciples if you have love one for another." After the service, the congregation and guests were invited to the fellowship hall for a lovely luncheon.

Jean Hagen

Women's Ministries Slated for a Busy Year

GRAND PRAIRIE » Under the leadership of Loreen Smith, the women's ministries program got off to a busy and dynamic start this year! At their first meeting of the year, the women made handcrafted items and held a contest for the best hat! Twenty-one ladies attended, and lots of plans and projects are in the works for the rest of the year, including Bible Studies



During its first meeting for 2011 the women's ministries department at the Grand Prairie church made handcrafted items and chose a winner for the attendee with the best hat.

for Busy Women, prayer ministries, craft projects, special guest speakers, community outreach, and a fitness program.



Bastrop Invests in Its Youth

BASTROP » In December 2010, the Bastrop church sent six young adults and two chaperones to Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) in Baltimore, Md. They went not knowing what to expect, and were excited about seeing Baltimore. They came back totally changed because they met God.

“It was the most life-changing experience,” said Tammy Stearman, one of the chaperones. After the experience, three of the young people, Jayton Burba, Rosie Soto, and Valerie Soto, were baptized. Sam Iuegas, a member of the Austin Spanish church, was instrumental in making the

trip happen, and he and the rest of the group were able to share with the church what they had learned.

“One of the most important things I learned was the power of small groups,” Burba told the church. He immediately scheduled small group visits to each member’s home. Another of the youth, Brianna Longoria, keeps in touch with the small group through Facebook. Rosie Soto said she couldn’t believe how close the group had become.

“I want to thank the church for allowing this to happen. Everyone was blessed and has a stronger connection with each

other, but especially God,” Iuegas told the congregation.

“Our church was truly blessed to see the excitement in their eyes and joy in their voices,” said Fred Snell, pastor.

Fred Snell and Brian Kennedy

Tammy Stearman, Fred Snell, pastor, Valerie Soto, Sam Iuegas, Brianna Longoria, Jayton Burba, and Rosie Soto all benefited from having the Bastrop church invest in their youth.



Vacation



TEXICO CONFERENCE

Almost everybody dreams about taking a vacation. Perhaps you are dreaming of one as you read this article, imagining how great it would be to be out on a lake, sailing around the world, relaxing on a beach, visiting another country, or just getting together with loved ones far away.

Most people look forward to vacations. My ideal vacation is simple—I sleep in until about 10:00 a.m., eat a nutritious breakfast, read a little, and then think about whether I really want to do anything at all. I like to relax on vacation—no visiting, no traveling, no telephones—just a break from the pressures of public life. I welcome the opportunity to “go to a solitary place and rest awhile.” Vacation should be a time of

rest and recovery to prepare for one’s God-given tasks in the year ahead.

The Bible talks about a 1,000-year vacation coming to this earth. “And I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having a key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand, and he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years” (Rev. 20:1, 2). When Jesus comes back we will be taken to heaven for a 1,000-year vacation. This vacation will have no sorrow, pain, loss, or death. It will be perfect in every way.

One of the best parts of this vacation will be the reunion with our families and friends. Rest is great on vacation, but almost all my vacations involve visiting fam-

ily members or friends. This is the best part—especially visiting my children and grandchildren.

This will be the highlight of God’s great vacation coming in the near future. We will be united with our families without a possibility of loss again. What could be a better vacation than that?

Soon many of us will be enjoying our earthly vacations, which will probably include some of our family and friends, but the best vacation is just around the corner. It may not be this June, but it will be soon when Jesus ushers us away from this earth into eternal joy and our much-needed 1,000-year vacation.

Jim Stevens, president

Spanish Youth Rally Held in Albuquerque

ALBUQUERQUE, N.MEX. » On April 8-10, young men and women from all over the Texico Conference gathered together as one big Christian family. The FESJA (Spanish Youth Rally) was held at the Radisson Water Park Hotel in Albuquerque. The focus for the weekend was the 28 Seventh-day Adventist doctrines, with Milton Coronado as the main speaker. More than 300 young people attended. Many youth, along with some of their parents, consecrated their lives to the Lord. They not

only had a great time learning Bible truth, but also getting to know each other. “The



Only Way,” a brother-and-sister duo from Texas, blessed those in attendance with their musical talent. Thanks to the hard work of the FESJA leadership, this event was a complete success!

Jaime Calvo, pastor

◀ Pastor Milton Coronado was the speaker for the recent Spanish Youth Rally in Albuquerque, N.Mex.

Below: More than 300 Young people attended the Spanish Youth Rally in Albuquerque, N.Mex. They had a great time learning Bible truth and getting acquainted with one another.



Sharing Christ in a Practical Way

SANTA FE, N.MEX. » “Toiletries, clothes, sheets, dishes, and 3 x 5 cards with Bible promises go in the pink bins. Dog food, shredded paper, and dog toys go into the clear bins,” says Yvette, “and food items go into the grey barrel.” Yvette Sanchez is the women’s ministries leader at the Rabbit Road church in Santa Fe, where the women on her team have turned the church foyer into an active collection center where church members can deposit their

charity each month, but the food items are collected and delivered every month,” she says. If you gauge by their enthusiasm, the group seems to have come up with a winning strategy.

The Esperanza Shelter for abused women gets a delivery three months of the year, including such items as deodorant, toothpaste, face soap, shampoo, and other handy toiletries. They also receive small towels with a Bible verse wrapped inside with a prayer promise.

less women. Similar kits, as well as young people’s clothes, go to the Santa Fe Youth Shelter on three other months.

The women have also thought of those cuddly creatures at the city animal shelter. Feeding bowls and bags of food, along with dog and cat toys, old newspapers, and shredded paper to freshen up the cages are also in great demand at the shelter.

“But food for people is a year-round necessity” Yvette says, “and we try to fill several boxes each month for the Bienvenidos



The women of the Rabbit Road church in Santa Fe are blessing others in their community by collecting and distributing food, toiletries, and household goods for various charities.



donations for city charities. Once a month her team gathers in the church fellowship hall to organize all the donated items and package them up for the charities that will receive the goods. “We target a different

women who need to set up a new home on their own.

During other months, packets, including toiletries and household goods, go to the St. Elizabeth’s Shelter for home-

Additionally, household items, such as small kitchen appliances, dishes, silverware, sheets, and bath towels are sent along to help

Outreach food bank, where several of our church members volunteer to prepare food boxes for needy families.”

Leaders of the five charities are always grateful to see the Adventist women coming. “Being a Christian is not just coming to church each week,” says church pastor Daniel Villalva. “We need to demonstrate our Christianity in a practical way and I believe our ladies are doing it in a very beautiful way.”

Allen Steele

Just as I Am

ODESSA, TEX. » “Just as I Am’ is the gospel song that always makes me cry. And today is no exception. I re-dedicated my life to Jesus Christ today and I was baptized through the Holy Spirit uniting with Christ our Savior, who died on the cross for our sins. I know you probably think, that’s nothing special, but you see, it is special because at the age of 54, I have finally come home to Jesus who has watched over me even as I sinned against Him.”

These were the words of Glenda as she shared her testimony on how God has changed her life. Glenda is only one of the 22 precious souls rejoicing in the Lord after their baptism at the Odessa English church on April 16. This baptism was the culmination of a Prophecy Seminar conducted by Jason Morgan, senior evangelist for Amazing Facts.

The water in the sanctuary baptistry was unusually warm that Sabbath morning, as if to complement that warm West Texas morning. I felt confident that Sabbath in



delivering those new believers into the embrace of the body of Christ through baptism. If ever a congregation leaned forward toward a baptism, this was it. If ever a lost sheep seemed welcomed by the flock, this was the day. This day was a joyful witness to a community of Christ intent on making certain that these new believers were embraced by a renewed community. Elders, deacons, deaconesses, youth, family, and friends gathered around to celebrate the baptism. Then a fellowship meal followed the service, breaking bread with a joy that



Twenty-two people rejoiced as they gave their hearts to the Lord through baptism at the Odessa English church.

was heartbreakingly beautiful to behold. This is how the kingdom of God grows, by one good decision like Glenda’s, and several hearts revived by the power of God’s Word, and the graciousness of God’s people—His remnant church. Glenda is just one story of a renewed life, but the baptism of these souls is also a story of a church that is determined to provide a place that welcomes those whom God has called.

Abner Razon, pastor

El Paso’s Biggest Baby Shower

EL PASO, TEX. » The Adventist Community Services ministry of the El Paso Central church hosted the biggest baby shower ever held in the city of El Paso on January 29 at the El Paso Adventist Junior Academy gym. The event, which was designed to provide for the needs of single mothers

and battered women, received wide support from both the church family and the community. Angie McFarland, our community services leader, spearheaded the planning and preparations for almost three months.

One hundred and thirty volunteers participated, including 35 non-Adventists, who helped to set up the venue and sorted donated goods from the church members,

local department stores, schools, and individuals. Other community organizations, such as Alcoholic Anonymous, were also involved. The media played a major role in the success of the event with Fox News and K-Love Radio providing pre-event reporting and the El Paso Times covering the main event. A total of five organizations benefited from this occasion. Aside from the baby shower, different booths were also set up, including a health ministry outreach, which provided free blood pressure checks and blood sugar screening.

Rodel Liwanag, pastor



The largest baby shower ever held in the city of El Paso brought a large attendance along with a material blessing for many single mothers and battered women in the community.

Five community organizations benefited from the gifts provided at a city-wide baby shower held at the El Paso Adventist Junior Academy gym.

Community Emergency Response Training

RIO RANCHO, N.MEX. » At this time in our world, with ever-increasing natural and man-made disasters, the Health Ministries Committee of the Rio Rancho church encouraged its members to attend a “Community Emergency Response Team” training program. Of the 25-plus church members who signed up for the program, 15 were able to complete the nine-week course. The Rio Rancho Fire Department presented this program, abbreviated as “CERT,” developed after the 9-11-01 attack on America, by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Emergency Management Institute, and the National Fire Academy. The program consisted of nine three-hour classes, which covered a wide variety of subjects, including a general overview of the importance and significance of preparedness for disas-

ters of various kinds.

The program progressed the second week with instruction on fire safety, how to work together as teams, and with the first responders, who are at all times in control of the activities of the CERT workers. Next, a night was devoted to learning to recognize life-threatening conditions, especially the “three killers”—airway obstruction, bleeding, and circulation. The students learned how to treat airway obstruction, management of bleeding and shock, as well as how to determine the seriousness of each situation. On the fourth night, the emphasis was on the emergency management of wounds, burns, fractures, dislocations, sprains, strains, and bleeding. The didactic instruction was followed by hands-on application of the principles just learned.

In the following weeks, the fire safety instructors gave valuable information on how to conduct search and rescue operations, how to set up a CERT operation headquarters, psychological implications of a disaster, and the problem of terrorism so prevalent in the world today.

The training concluded with a mock disaster, complete with live “victims,” where the students demonstrated the skills they had learned by acting as rescuers while being monitored by the Rio Rancho Fire Department staff and volunteers who had previously completed the training program.

Following this exercise the group met in the classroom for a critique of the performance of the “rescuers.” Mistakes were made, performance was not perfect, but the instructors seemed satisfied. All participants graduated and were glad for the skills they had learned.

Glenn Wiltse, M.D.

Members of the Rio Rancho church learned disaster response skills in a 27-hour class called Community Emergency Response Team. Fifteen people completed the course and are ready to serve as first responders in a disaster.





Congratulations, Class of 2011!

So what are your plans on August 17?

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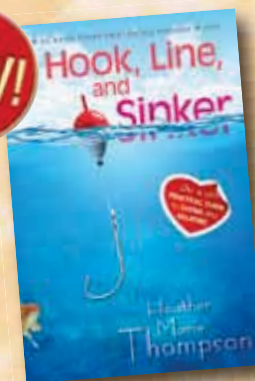
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Authors Wanted. If you've written your life story, want to tell others of God's love, or desire to share your spiritual ideas and want it published, call TEACHServices.com at 518.353.6992 for a FREE manuscript review.

Lay Institute for Global Health Training (L.I.G.H.T.) is holding a three-week training program at Wellness Secrets Lifestyle Center in Decatur, AR, Aug. 21-Sept. 11. The training

program is designed to teach the fundamentals of health evangelism. Accompanied with daily spiritual classes, students receive instruction in the principles of healthful living, common diseases, natural remedies, and community health evangelism. For more information, go to www.lightingtheworld.org, wellnessecrets4u.com or call 479.752.8555.

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Announcements

"Adaptation: Core Values in a Changing World." Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2011 Conference, June 19-23, 2011, Pacific Union College, Angwin California. Librarians and Information Professionals are invited to visit <http://spinergy.southern.edu/asdalhere/> for conference information or contact Lauren Matacio at matacio@andrews.edu or 269.471.6062.

Benedict/Turtle Lake Seventh-day Adventist Church is celebrating its

100th Anniversary in Turtle Lake, N.Dak. on July 23, 2011. We invite all past and present constituents—pastors, church school teachers, members, and their families to join us for this celebration. For more information, please contact Roger Boyko at 701.448.2884 or e-mail rkboyko@westriv.com.

The Madison College Alumni Association Homecoming will be held June 24, 25, 26, 2011, honoring classes 1941, 1946, 1951, 1956, 1961, and those who attended Madison College or Madison College Academy. We will have

activities and meals Friday evening, Sabbath, and Sunday morning at the Madison Academy Campus. Contact Jim Culpepper, Secretary/Treasurer, 615.415.1925.

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The Elgin, Tex., church will celebrate its **100th anniversary** July 8-10, 2011. The weekend includes guest speakers, "Walk Down Memory Lane" with slides, and other special events. All former pastors, teachers, members, and friends are cordially invited. Bring old photos. For information, contact Betty Hold at 512.281.3268 or e-mail earlhold@msn.com.

Obituaries

ALBANO, Jessie La Madrid, born April 12, 1915 in Tagudin Ilocos Sur, Philippines, and died December 7, 2010 in Hot Springs, Ark. A member of the Bonnerdale, Ark., church, she was laid to rest in the Bonnerdale SDA Church Cemetery. Jessie spent her career in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, starting as a food service director and completing her years of service as the head of the Department of Nursing for Philippine Union College in Baesa, northern Philippines. Survivors: sons and daughters-in-law, Ray and Leni Puen of California, Dr. Roy and Mirian Puen of Hot Springs, Ark., and Herbert and Merci Puen; seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband, Eulogic Albano, who is also buried in Bonnerdale.

BRASUELL, Verna Lee, born April 12, 1919 in Van Buren, Ark., and died January 11, 2011 in Fort Smith, Ark. A member of the Fort Smith church, she was laid to rest in Fort Smith. Baptized into the Adventist Church in 1939, she was a faithful member for many years. Even in her declining years in a nurs-

ing home, her eyes would light up at the mention of the word *Sabbath*. Survivors: daughters, Rebecca Rainwater of Fort Smith and Leola Keith of Bald Knob, Ark.; son and daughter-in-law, Charles and Elaine Brasuell of Centralia, Mo.; nine grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and four great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her husband of 50 years, Charles Frank Brasuell.

BRESHEARS, Gracie S., born October 23, 1915 in Hot Springs, Ark., and died March 9, 2011 in Charlotte, N.C. She was a member of the Hot Springs church. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, William H. (Wally) and Linda Wallace of McDonough, Ga.; daughter and son-in-law, Anita Breshers and C.A. Conrad of Hot Springs; son-in-law, Thomas Goodale of Hot Springs; nine grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, and 7 great-great-grandchildren.

BRIDGES, Tama Jo, born June 9, 1943 in Natchitoches, La., and died February 4, 2011 in Baton Rouge, La. A member of the Baton Rouge church, she was laid to rest in Marthaville, La. Survivors: husband, John Bridges; mother, Betty Jo Hall; sister and brother-in-law, Jamy (Hall) and Bill Grant; stepdaughter and her husband, Julie and Dr. Paul Jansen; stepson and his wife, Drs. Leonard and Rachelle Bridges; stepson, Monte Bridges; two nephews and five grandchildren.

CARROLL, Betty Jane, born Sept 18, 1921 in Grand Rapids, Mich., and died Jan 29, 2011 in Fayetteville, Ark. A member of the Brentwood Hilltop Chapel, Betty was a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist, serving over the years as head deaconess, adult and children's Sabbath School teacher, treasurer, Pathfinder

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leader, VBS instructor. She was the Brentwood Adventist Community Services director for over 20 years. Survivors: three sons, Brent Carroll, Brad Carroll, Bryan Carroll; one sister, Mary Esther Boden of Orlando Fla.; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

CRAWFORD, Eva Ruth Marley, born Mar 8, 1919 in Samson, Ala., and died April 2, 2011 in Webster, Tex. A member of the Mountain Home, Ark., church, she was buried at Houston National Cemetery. Eva was a former SDA elementary church school teacher and attended Union College. Survivors: daughters, Cheryl Ozols of Mountain Home, and Sheila Safarzadeh of League City, Tex.; sister, Joree Marley Nielsen Gipson of Altamonte Springs, Fla.; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by

husband, Walter Neal Crawford, three sisters, and three brothers.

GROOM, Alda Adell, born September 24, 1921, in Bristow, Okla., and died March 9, 2011, in Oklahoma City, Okla. Survivors: husband, Donald K. Groom; sons, Glenn Groom of Oklahoma City, Neil Groom of Bristow, Okla., and Kelly Groom of Bristow; eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by a sister, Norma Lee Maggard of Richardson, Tex.

HICKS, Marion Edward, born July 7, 1920 in Tyler, Tex., and died April 16, 2011 in Tyler. A member of the Tyler church, he was laid to rest in the Liberty Hill Cemetery in Tyler. He was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army during World War II and retired from Cottingham Bearing Corporation in Lufkin,

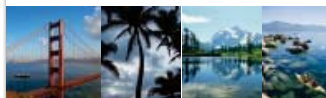
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Tex. Survivors: wife, Clara Hicks; stepsons, Buz Ray and Glynn Ray of Tyler, and Ron Ray of Hot Springs, Ark; two grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

LARSON, Edna Mae, born December 18, 1919 in Pineville, La., and died December 14, 2010 in Hot Springs, Ark. A member of the Bonnerdale church, she was laid to rest in the Bonnerdale SDA Church Cemetery. Edna Mae was a devoted pastor's wife and thoroughly enjoyed making friends and serving people. She loved to cook and entertain people in her home. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Milton and Scarlet Larson of Hot Springs. Edna Mae was preceded in death by her husband, Woody Larson. They served in Arkansas-Louisiana, Georgia, Florida, Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, and Minne-

sota, and they made friends every place they served.

MCCLAIN, Edith E., born October 17, 1925 and died February 24, 2011 in Loveland, Colo. A member of the Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Okla., she was laid to rest in College Place, Wash. Survivors: sister, Ann Ochs of Seattle, Wash.; two sons, Richard of Castle Rock, Colo., and Donald of Lexington, Nebr.; two daughters, Dixie Patrick of Berthoud, Colo., and Debra Kirby of Choctaw, Okla.; nine grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren. Edith was preceded in death by her husband, LaVerne. She and LaVerne devoted their lives to working with young people in the area of education. They served in Washington, Minnesota, California, Nebraska, and North Dakota.

MINTEN, WILLIAM "Bill"

Robert, born November 12, 1926 in Fort Smith Ark., and died February 7, 2011 in Fort Smith. A member of the Fort Smith church, he was laid to rest in Fort Smith. He was a retired office manager and accountant for McKee-Pitts Industrials and a World War II U.S. Army veteran. Bill served the church as an elder, Sabbath School superintendent, and teacher, and was the church treasurer for over 25 years. Survivors: wife, Mary Ann Minten; daughters and sons-in-law, Kay and Nick Oran, Jane and Frank Steinmetz, and Julie and Dale Songy; son and daughter-in-law, Sam and Mary Lou Minten; seven grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

REEVES, Bill, born September 17, 1936, in Carleton, Okla., and died March 19, 2011, in Wimberley, Tex. He had been an active member and supporter of the San Marcos, Tex., church and school. He was a

graduate of Loma Linda School of Dentistry and practiced in San Marcos for 39 years before retirement. Survivors: wife, Susan, of Wimberley; two sons, Bradley and wife, Andrea, of Arlington, Tex., and Charles and wife, Kristi, of Wimberley; two daughters, Cherub Nelson and husband, Steve, of Wimberley, and Liz Tochterman and husband, Jerry, of San Marcos; three brothers; 13 grandchildren. He was preceded in death by one granddaughter.

RILEY, Margaret, born April 11, 1934 and died January 20, 2011 in Bristow, Okla. A member of the Bristow church, she was laid to rest in the Magnolia Memorial Gardens in Bristow. Survivors: husband, Jerry Garland Riley; daughter, Judy Riley; son, Beaver Riley.

YACKLEY-NEWELL, June, born June 2, 1916 in Wichita, Kans., and died September 29, 2010 in Olathe, Colo. She was a lifelong member of the Adventist Church, most recently in Nucla, Colo., and previously in the Fort Worth First and Waco, Tex., churches, having served in the children's and adult Sabbath School and as church clerk. In 1942 she married Erwin Yackley, who preceded her in death in 1986. She later married Paul Newell, who also preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by six brothers, one sister, and one son-in-law. Survivors: daughters, Winona Cressler and husband, Harold, of Nucla; Lorene Yackley of Bryan, Tex.; sister, Delores Shaw and husband, J.C., of Bryan; four sisters-in-law, and many nieces and nephews.

Upcoming Camp Meetings:

Texico Conference: June 16-18, Albuquerque, N.Mex.

Southwest Region Conference: June 17-19, Athens, Tex.

Oklahoma Conference: July 15-23, Wewoka, Okla.

Ark-La-Tex: July 20-24, Jefferson, Tex.

NW Arkansas Spanish: July 22-23, Gentry, Ark.

Valley Rally: July 29-30, McAllen, Tex.

Oklahoma Spanish: July 29-31, Wewoka, Okla.

DFW Metro Area: Aug. 13-20, Dallas, Tex.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Jun 3	Jun 10	Jun 17	Jun 24	Jul 1	Jul 8
Abilene, TX	8:42	8:46	8:48	8:50	8:50	8:49
Albuquerque, NM	8:16	8:20	8:23	8:25	8:25	8:24
Amarillo, TX	8:58	9:01	9:04	9:05	9:06	9:05
Brownsville, TX	8:18	8:21	8:23	8:25	8:26	8:25
Dallas, TX	8:31	8:35	8:37	8:39	8:40	8:38
El Paso, TX	8:07	8:11	8:13	8:15	8:16	8:14
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:33	8:37	8:40	8:41	8:41	8:40
Gallup, NM	8:26	8:30	8:32	8:34	8:34	8:34
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:18	8:22	8:24	8:26	8:26	8:25
Gentry, AR	8:31	8:35	8:38	8:39	8:40	8:38
Little Rock, AR	8:18	8:22	8:25	8:26	8:26	8:25
Muskogee, OK	8:33	8:37	8:40	8:41	8:41	8:40
New Orleans, LA	7:58	8:01	8:03	8:05	8:05	8:05
Oklahoma City, OK	8:41	8:45	8:47	8:49	8:49	8:48
Roswell, NM	8:04	8:07	8:10	8:11	8:12	8:11
San Antonio, TX	8:30	8:33	8:35	8:37	8:38	8:37
Shreveport, LA	8:19	8:22	8:25	8:26	8:26	8:26
Tulsa, OK	8:37	8:41	8:43	8:45	8:45	8:44

The Work of a Lifetime

AFTER HAVING A THREE-PAGE INTRODUCTION TO A LITERARY RESEARCH PAPER RETURNED TO ME WITH RED INK

MARKED ALL OVER EACH PAGE, I went back to my dorm, discouraged. What I had written with the guidance of the writing lab tutor proved to be useless, and I was told to rewrite my introduction. As a new English major at Southwestern Adventist University, this was devastating news to me. How was I going to be an English professor and an author if I couldn't even write?

I was so discouraged that I e-mailed Dr. Susan Gardner that night, to whom I was supposed to turn in the introduction piece that day, asking if there was “a way to practice this type of writing that I couldn't seem to grasp.”

Dr. Gardner wrote me back that following morning, saying, “Don't be so hard on yourself. Real writers don't write things right the first time.” While this was very reassuring to me, what really struck me was when she wrote, “Becoming a writer is the work of a lifetime.”

It reminded me of what Dr. Kilgore had said in a lecture in his Life and Teachings of Jesus class. After several pondering minutes, I searched through my laptop files until I found what I was looking for. I opened the file and scrolled down to the second page. I read aloud the first sentence: “To live the life of a Christian is the work of a lifetime.” This, in turn, reminded me of moments in my life when my faith had proved to be both weak and strong.

Ever since my baptism in 2005, many discouraging events have taken place in my life. I

prayed fervently and strained to live life according to His will and “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for [me] in Christ Jesus” (1 Thess. 5:18, NIV). But there were still times when I felt like God was ignoring me.

I'll never forget the night I told God to leave me alone forever and tried so desperately to deny His existence. That was during my dad's first deployment to Iraq as a chaplain in the Army in 2008, his first time being away from his family.

“Why would You send my dad to a place where he is bound to die?” I remember asking God angrily.

Yet in the end, I had broken down in uncontrollable tears, asking for forgiveness, because, in truth, I didn't want to let go of God. I became a born-again Christian that night, surrendering my life once again to the One who created it.

Not only did reading Dr. Gardner's words encourage me about my writing, but they also made me reflect upon my life as a Christian and helped strengthen my faith. There were many times when my trust in God faltered, but I still had the opportunity to get up and try again. Because in the end, “to live the life of a Christian is the work of a lifetime,” which, when you think about it, requires a significantly long leap of faith.



As an English major at Southwestern Adventist University, Jazzmine Bankston has had many opportunities to strengthen her relationship with God and to reflect on her Christian experience.



For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Better by Design

SINCE GRADUATING FROM SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY with a corporate communication degree about 20 years ago, I've felt a close connection to Dr. Bob Mendenhall and his team of communication professors. Bob was my advisor, and I've been thankful that Southwestern prepared me for my career in the communication field. The skills I learned still serve me well today as editor of this publication.

But there was one skill I had to learn outside of the classroom—the artistry and technology of graphic design. In the late 1980s, almost none of our Adventist schools offered courses in design.

When it came to choosing the right font and balancing headlines, body text, illustrations, photos, and white space, I was forced to gain on-the-job training. For many years, instruction in this creative corner of the communication field has remained elusive, even though demand for graphic design has remained steady, and technology in the field has vastly increased.

That's why I'm pleased to announce some exciting new developments that Dr. Mendenhall has orchestrated in the communication department at Southwestern.

In addition to establishing a new computer lab with numerous state-of-the-art design workstations, the university will begin offering a communication degree with emphasis in graphic design, starting this fall.

Design coursework will be taught primarily by my colleague and friend, Trent Truman. Trent is joining Southwestern as an adjunct professor after working for nearly 20 years as a designer for the Review and Herald Publishing Association. In addition to serving as lead designer for the *Adventist Review*, *Ministry* magazine, and *Guide* magazine, he has designed covers for enough books to fill a modest library. He'll continue designing *Insight* magazine from a distance, keeping his skills and experience relevant and up-to-date.

Trent brings with him both a passion for design and a passion for God, and he looks forward to sharing both of those passions with his students at Southwestern. He is quick to recognize that God is a God of design. To organize ideas and carefully place visual images on screen or printed page is to participate in the creative process that begins with the Creator Himself. Italian designer Massimo Vignelli put it this way: "There is no design without discipline. There is no discipline without intelligence."

God is the Master Designer. He is the source of all higher intelligence. He is also the driving force behind each of the programs offered at Southwestern Adventist University. As the university expands and adapts to accommodate changing trends, its students gain increasingly more vivid glimpses of the greatness of God, and they become better by His design.

Record

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2011 Camp Meeting Season is coming...



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