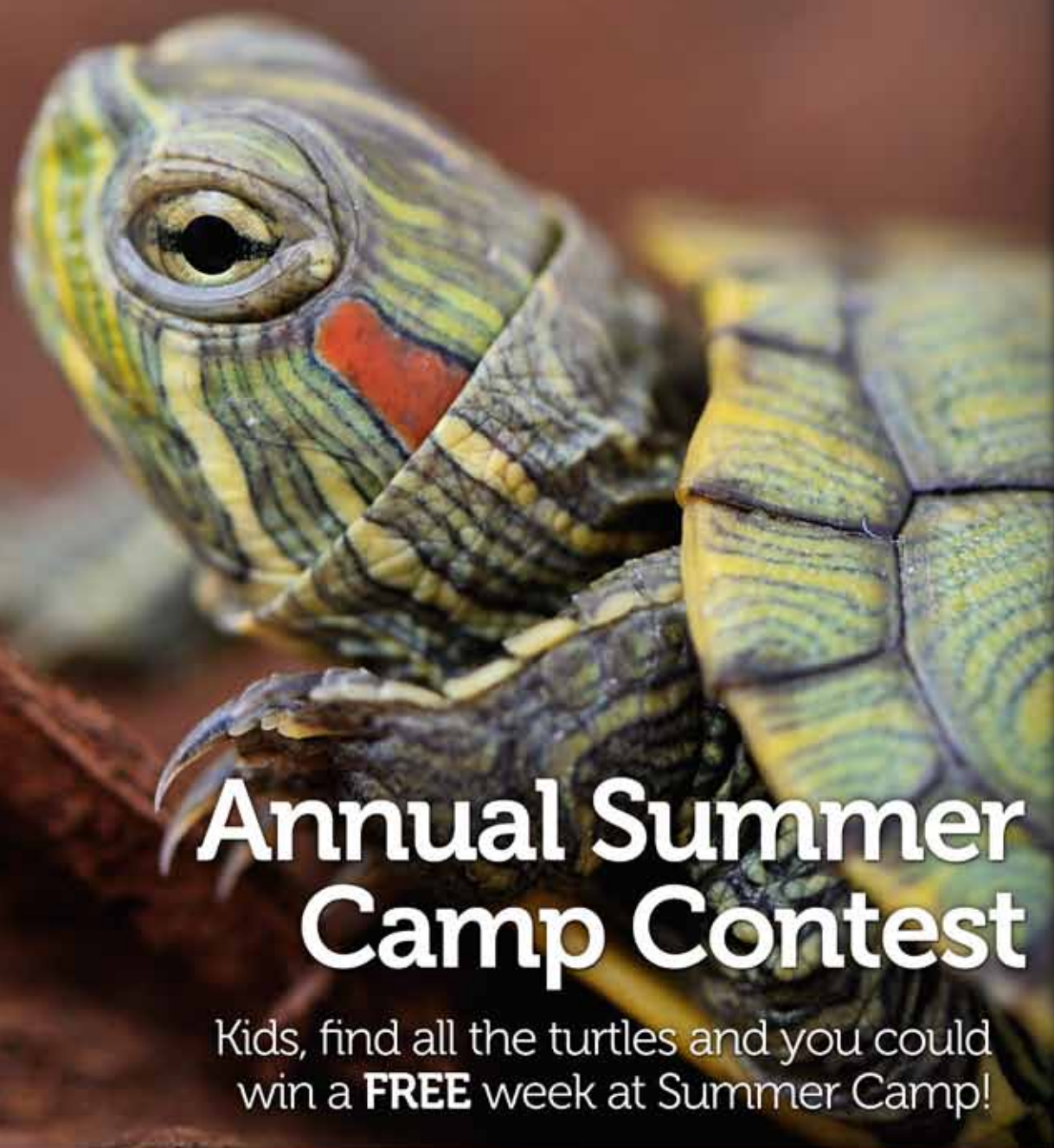


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

APRIL 2012



## Annual Summer Camp Contest

Kids, find all the turtles and you could win a **FREE** week at Summer Camp!

CAMP MEETING AND SUMMER CAMP SPECIAL ISSUE



In this Issue...

**DEPARTMENTS**

CREATION Health . . . . . 4  
 Lead Your World . . . . . 5  
 Pass It On . . . . . 6  
 Visión Hispana . . . . . 7

**FEATURES**

Summer Camp Equals Summer Fun! . . . 8  
 Summer Camp Schedules . . . . . 10  
 Camp Meeting Schedules . . . . . 12  
 Nature Nugget: Turtles . . . . . 14

**NEWS**

Arkansas-Louisiana . . . . . 16  
 Oklahoma . . . . . 20  
 Southwest Region . . . . . 24  
 Texas . . . . . 28  
 Texico . . . . . 32  
 Southwestern Adventist University . . . 36  
 North American Division . . . . . 37  
 Southwestern Union . . . . . 38

**ETCETERA**

Summer Camp Contest . . . . . 40  
 Classified Ads . . . . . 41  
 Announcements . . . . . 43  
 Obituaries . . . . . 44  
 MyFaith . . . . . 46  
 On the Record . . . . . 47

**Win a FREE week at summer camp!**



Find all twenty turtles hidden in this issue and submit your list to [summercampcontest@swuc.org](mailto:summercampcontest@swuc.org) by May 10. For complete details, see page 40.

**40**

**SUMMER CAMP EQUALS SUMMER FUN!**



**8**



**SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES  
 CAMP MEETING SCHEDULES**



**12**

**APRIL 2012, Vol. 111, No. 4.** The *Southwestern Union Record* is a monthly publication of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas, and is published at the headquarters of the Southwestern Union Conference, 777 S. Bursleson Blvd., Bursleson, TX 76028, 817.295.0476. [www.SouthwesternAdventist.org](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org).

**On the Cover**

The brightly-colored red-eared slider, pictured on the cover, loves to bask in the sun on stumps, rocks, or logs and you can find this turtle near marshes, ponds, and slow-moving rivers. In this issue of the *Record*, there are many different kinds of turtles hiding all around, and you'll need a sharp eye to spot them all! You'll find lots of interesting facts about turtles in the nature nugget on page 14 and for rules on this year's Summer Camp Contest, turn to page 40. Don't be a slow-poke! Enter the contest today and win a free week at summer camp.



# Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Camp Meeting: A Holy Convocation

**I can still recall my first camp meeting experience** after becoming a Seventh-day Adventist. It was in Keene, in the newly-constructed Leiske-Pultar pavilion. I remember that the building leaked, and the wind, through the open sides, made for a brisk early-morning meeting. The speakers were excellent, and when H.M.S. Richards and the King's Heralds appeared on the campground, it was exciting to see them in person. I had all their recordings. When H.M.S. arose to speak, there was a hush over the audience. We could hardly wait for his assurances that Jesus would return soon. Camp meeting helped to ground our faith in Jesus and His church. I hope you will make it a priority to attend camp meeting.

In the days of ancient Israel, God instructed the people to meet three times a year for special meetings, which were called holy convocations. Ellen White describes them this way: "To these holy convocations the children of Israel came, bringing to the house of God their tithes, their sin-offerings, and their offerings of gratitude. They met to recount God's mercies, to make known his wonderful works, and to offer praise and thanksgiving to His name. And they were to unite in the sacrificial service which pointed to Christ as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world" (*Testimonies*, vol. 6, p. 39).

Meeting together and worshipping together brought the

children of Israel closer to one another and to God. The fellowship they experienced and the spiritual food they received helped to strengthen their faith and shield them from worldly influences. I believe God wants to do the same for each of us today. In these modern days, camp meeting happens only once a year. It's a time for sharing, for joy, for learning, for praising God, and for growing stronger in the Lord. Please don't miss the opportunity to attend, even if it involves a sacrifice. You'll be glad you did!



*Larry Moore*

### Welcome Jessica and Rocio!

You may have noticed a new name on the *Record* masthead—Jessica Lozano—or seen her articles in the *Record*, and we want to take this opportunity to introduce her. On January 3 of this year, Jessica joined the Southwestern Union Communication Department as associate director of communication and associate editor of the *Record*.

Jessica most recently held the position of marketing and media relations specialist and Spirit of Women coordinator at Huguley Memorial Medical Center in Fort Worth, Tex. A graduate of Southwestern Adventist University, Jessica spent several years there as a marketing assistant and student designer/photographer, then upon graduation, launched her communication career as graphic design manager. She later became director of marketing and public relations for the university, serving in that position from 2008-2011. In 2009 she was named the "Young Professional of the Year" by the Society of Adventist Communicators. Her varied talents are a welcome addition to the Southwestern Union office.

Also joining the Southwestern Union is Rocio Rodriguez, who



Jessica Lozano



Rocio Rodriguez

will share her time between the Communication and Hispanic Ministries departments. In addition to serving as administrative secretary for both departments, Rocio will be responsible for managing the production of a brand-new Spanish newsletter, *La Visión*, geared to the Hispanic constituents throughout the union, which will be launched later this year. Rocio also brings a variety of skills to her position and we are delighted she has joined our team here at the union office. For more information about *La Visión*, call Rocio at 817.295.0476, ext. 339.



# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

## Tips From Paradise For A Happier Life

**Take a moment to reflect about your personal environments** both at home and in your workplace, and then ask yourself: Are my surroundings cheerful and healthy? Do they nurture my soul and recharge my spirit? Do I feel calm and happy when I'm in them? Do they comfort me, and give me a sense of peace?

Our environment affects our being. God knew the effect our environment would have on us. That is why He placed Adam and Eve in the best possible surroundings.

Although we can't expect to recreate the Garden of Eden, we can create our own kind of paradise that enriches our homes and enlivens our workplaces.

The closer we come to making our personal environments like the original garden home, the more of its benefits we will experience. The Garden was beautiful, and was filled with wonderful fragrances, textures, sounds, and tastes.

All of our senses—sight, smell, sound, touch and taste—influence our mood, as well as our health, either positively or negatively; our personal environments trigger emotions and reactions.

Cancer patients, upon returning to the clinic where they received chemotherapy, will sometimes re-experience the side effects of the treatment, despite the fact that they are no longer in treatment. Researchers discovered that certain pictures in the waiting room, the fragrance worn by a staff member, or even the background music, triggered the reaction. This research, conducted at the Sloan Kettering Memorial Hospital in New York, underscores why it is essential to pay attention to anything at home or work that might be affecting your health, because although you might not make the connec-

tion, your body will.

Take a critical look at your personal environment. Is simplicity and order the rule, or the exception?

After a routine cleaning of your house, does it still feel cluttered? Are stacks of old magazines scattered about? Are your closets stuffed with clothes you rarely or never wear? Are too many appliances crowding your kitchen counter space? Whether we realize it or not, the very sight of clutter saps our energy, drains our strength, and depletes our sense of peace. A simple, clean environment helps to clear the mind and it creates a deeper sense of calm.

To establish a sense of visual warmth in your home, display objects that awaken good memories. Surround yourself with things that create feelings of peace, comfort, and joy. This could be pictures of family and friends—or awards or honors that you've earned and received. Art may bring you energy: paintings full of color, or sculptures brimming with life. Display items that make your spirit dream and draw you closer to God.



Lastly, what was true at Creation is still true today—people need others to survive and thrive. We each require helpmates and heart mates to make it through life. Human touch is one of God's most special gifts. Skin is the largest sense organ in our bodies and responds positively to every loving touch. Numerous studies document the fact that we must have touch to develop and grow. Research has shown that husbands who hug their wives regularly tend to live longer and have fewer heart problems.

All of this is powerful because once we become aware of how our personal environments affect us and trigger certain reactions, we can take charge and *choose* to create an environment that supports our well being and makes us happy.

So, take a few tips from paradise and begin living life to the fullest today!

*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 

[CREATIONhealth.com](http://CREATIONhealth.com)

# Lead Your World »»»

BY DR. PAUL HUNT » PASTOR, ACTS TWO CHURCH, PLANO, TEX.



## The Forgotten Word...

**The Great Wall of China was built so high** that no one could get over it, so thick that no one could tunnel through it, and so wide that no one could go around it. This impregnable wall still exists today. In the first 100 years after it was built, China was invaded three different times. Oddly enough, the enemy didn't come over the wall, tunnel through it, or go around it. Each time, the enemy came through a gate that was left open. China had lost the power and importance of a forgotten word.

This word is in a list of America's "top-10 most searched words," on Merriam-Webster's dictionary online. The word is *integrity*. It is *the forgotten word*.

What exactly is integrity? Integrity is the condition of being whole, consistent, and unified in thoughts and actions. We want to see "wholeness, consistency, and unity" in those we interact with, whether family, friends, or those we work with. We also want to see an internal soundness and honesty in those who lead us. These same qualities are what we want for vehicles and buildings. Fundamentally, integrity is what makes people (and objects), *safe*.

If we try to give integrity some practical application, it is a convergence of three very tangible aspects of who we are: what we think, what we say, and what we do. When these three converge, we have integrity. Integrity is being who we are, regardless of who's asking, or the external circumstances.

Job was a remarkable example of a person with integrity. Through family crises (the death of his children), financial meltdown (the loss of all his assets), physical trauma (a painful, debilitating illness), marital difficulties (a wife bitter against him and God for their misfortunes), and even in the company of misguided friends, Job was a person whose integrity stayed intact. He was consistent in his thinking, his words, and his actions. Dumbfounded and infuriated by his composure, Job's wife exclaimed angrily, "After all we've been through, do you still retain your integrity? Curse God and die."

There are at least three points to consider as we attempt to lead our world with integrity:

### The Importance of Integrity Over Intelligence

Many mistakenly put intelligence above integrity, especially as we look up to, and

rely on, professionals and specialists. We may tolerate inappropriate behaviors, poor treatment of others, or destructive practices, largely because we place a higher value on intellect than integrity. Intelligence will not prevent a person from stealing or lying, but integrity will. God is more interested in our integrity than He is in our intelligence, because our integrity reveals the true condition of the heart.

### The importance of Integrity Over Utilitarianism

Leaders are often surrounded by people and burdened with their needs, challenges, and concerns. Leaders are in constant danger of becoming commodities to those they serve and followers can also become a "means to an end" for the jaded leader. People are never to be "used," even if the ends or cause are honorable. Integrity is a safeguard from the utilitarian bent of our culture.

### The importance of Integrity in Friendship

At one of the most crucial times of his life, King David had no real friends. Although surrounded by people, like many who lead, he was isolated. With no one to challenge his behavior or to hold him accountable, David committed the worst mistake of his life. For the vast majority of us, if we are to survive and thrive as leaders in any capacity, we must cultivate genuine, honest friendships, underscored with integrity.

Today, much like the ancient people of China, who sat comfortably behind the security of the Great Wall and failed to teach their children integrity, we live in a time where this important quality is fading. Wherever you are and whatever you do, we all have a sphere of influence and an opportunity to touch lives. **Lead Your World** with integrity, because the fate of others may depend on it.

Paul Hunt





# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY DAN SERNS » RICHARDSON ADVENTIST CHURCH PASTOR

## Great Controversy Project Connects Richardson Church Family

### HERE'S A QUICK QUIZ:

1. Which of her books did Ellen White say needed to be more widely circulated than any other she had written?
2. Which book by Ellen White radically changed the life direction of future evangelist David Asscherick?
3. Which Ellen White book was recently delivered to a Buddhist leader, a Moslem Imam, a Zen monk, a Sikh "holy man," a mega church pastor, and other religious leaders in the Richardson, Tex., area?
4. Which Ellen White book was personally delivered to every member of a 750-member church in Tex., for personal study, family worship, study groups, and prayer meeting discussion?

If you answered *The Great Controversy* for each of these questions, you'd be right!

Since it was written in the 1800s, the book has been published in many languages and titles, including the recent four-part series: 1) *God's Holy Word: Is It Still Worth Dying For?* 2) *America in Prophecy: The Beginning of the End*; 3) *Cracking the Code: Behind Enemy Lines*; 4) *The World Out of Control: How It Will End*.

Leaders at the Richardson Seventh-day Adventist Church voted *The Great Controversy* as their theme for 2012. More than 400 books of each of the four titles above were purchased, to be distributed each quarter to each member household. On the last two Sabbaths of 2011, each of the 150 families present received book one, *God's Holy Word: Is It Still Worth Dying For?* Then, over the next four Sabbaths, many volunteers took the remaining 250 copies to the homes of members who had not yet received theirs.

Amy Abernathy, Richardson member and science teacher at North Dallas Adventist Academy, delivered 30 of the books. "I loved meeting so many of my church family members at their doorsteps. Sometimes I was able to offer prayer with them or visit more inside. I know they'll be blessed by the book, but I was even more blessed by making these visits. It transformed my attitude toward others," she said.

During the book deliveries, a church member who had been disconnected from her church family for over a decade was located in a nursing home. In her room were copies of Adventist magazines, such as the *Southwestern Union Record* and the *Adventist Review*. She was overjoyed at becoming reconnected through follow-up visits by an elder and a pastor.

At one home, a member who had not been to church for almost 20 years asked if the church was "cleaning up their books"

and seeing if they could take her name off the church records. "No," was the reply. "We're delivering these books to every member home so the Lord can clean up all our lives in preparation for His soon return."

Soon, book two in the series will be handed out at church, and then delivered to those who didn't receive their copy. We are already thanking the Lord for how this is connecting the church family, mobilizing volunteers, deepening the spiritual walk of members, strengthening families, sharing God's final message with others, and preparing all of us for the soon return of Jesus.

If your church is interested in learning more, see our Web site at: <http://richardsonda.wordpress.com/the-great-controversy-project/>.

### QUICK QUIZ NOTES

1. "*The Great Controversy* should be very widely circulated. It contains the story of the past, the present, and the future. In its outline of the closing scenes of this earth's history, it bears a powerful testimony on behalf of the truth. I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others I have written; for in *The Great Controversy*, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books" (*Publishing Ministry*, p. 358).
2. Watch his testimony at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w7ZveB6l-ql>
3. See a list of leaders at: <http://richardsonda.wordpress.com/2012/02/10/pray-for-richardson-religious-leaders/>
4. Richardson Seventh-day Adventist Church. <http://eadventist.net/search?org=ANWFUL>

# Visión Hispana

UN BREVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE



## Bendiciones del Campamento Hispano

Desde el comienzo de la Obra Hispana en los Estados Unidos, estos campamentos han sido de gran bendición para todos los presentes. La reunión es un factor de unidad y de ánimo para nuestra comunidad adventista. Los hermanos de muchas ciudades lejanas y cercanas, de congregaciones grandes y pequeñas, personas de experiencia en la Iglesia y personas nuevas en la fe, vienen cada año para disfrutar de estas inspiradoras convocaciones. Hay algo especial que los atrae y motiva a hacer grandes esfuerzos para estar presentes. Seguramente son las abundantes bendiciones que se adquieren en estos retiros espirituales.

La parte central de los campamentos son los temas espirituales, motivadores, y personales que se presentan. Temas variados y bien presentados por predicadores que se preparan con mucho tiempo de anticipación, pidiendo que Dios guíe sus palabras. Los temas presentan el amor de Dios para sus hijos, el cuidado diario que tiene de todos, y la oportunidad que tenemos de confiar en Nuestro Padre en todos los asuntos de nuestra vida.

Otra parte importante de los campamentos son los seminarios. Los instructores son integrantes experimentados en el campo que presentan. Los seminarios para el hogar son acompañados con los secretos hacia la felicidad personal con factores que contribuyen al bienestar de la familia, iglesia, y comunidad. Para los jóvenes se preparan seminarios que los ayudan a enfrentarse a los momentos de grandes decisiones—personales, familiares, y espirituales. Y por último, hay seminarios para directores de grupos pequeños y para ministerios personales. Todos los seminarios son muy importantes porque equipan a los hermanos en el servicio hacia Dios y a sus semejantes.

Especial atención se les da a los jóvenes con actividades específicas a la edad con predicadores exclusivos. Muchos de nuestros jóvenes son bendecidos grandemente al darse cuenta del plan divino para sus vidas al nivel personal y profesional. Allí se encuentran

con Dios al igual que con nuevas amistades, y pasan un tiempo lleno de esperanza, alegría, y crecimiento espiritual. Como parte de éste programa se incorporan actividades inspiradoras y recreativas.

La recreación es un ingrediente necesario para la salud emocional y física. Es por ello que estos campamentos son una muestra palpable de como viviremos en el cielo; oyendo la palabra de Dios rodeados de creyentes, a alabanzas en unión con los ángeles rindiendo honor, honra y gloria a nuestro Salvador. Los momentos de

recreación son sin duda otra parte importante. Allí se puede disfrutar de los alrededores, caminar y meditar bajo la sombra de los árboles, a la orilla del lago y mirando los animales que Dios ha creado. Después que pasa el sábado, podemos nadar en la piscina y usar las canoas en familia y con amigos.

Un gran factor de motivación que nos inspira a visitar los campamentos es el compañerismo cristiano entre los asistentes. Allí podemos ver nuevamente a nuestros amigos. El tomar tiempo para comer juntos y gozar de esa camaradería cristiana es un motivo de gozo. Hay tiempo para la oración por las dificultades que se pueda estar pasando y tiempo para testificar por las bendiciones de Dios recibidas.

Es muy importante para cada uno de nosotros asistir al próximo campamento de nuestra área. El cual ha sido creado pidiendo la bendición de Dios y la de cada uno de nuestros hermanos en Cristo. Busque en los anuncios de esta revista donde está el campamento más cercano a ustedes. Ore a Dios para poder ser parte de las actividades, y planeé asistir. Los mensajes de estos próximos campamentos seguramente serán de gran bendición para usted y su familia.

¡Quedan todos cordialmente invitados!

**Ciro Castillo** es director de la obra hispana en la conferencia de Oklahoma.



# SUMMER CAMP EQUALS SUMMER FUN!



## Ray House, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference youth director

**D**oes your child have NDD (nature deficit disorder)? According to recent studies, the absence of outdoor activities is becoming a real problem in America. Some believe it comes with such side effects as higher stress levels, declining mood, and the increase of Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder symptoms (*The Nature Principle: Human Restoration and the End of Nature-Deficit Disorder*, Richard Louv, 2011).

When parents and educators see that children are plugged into some kind of electronic medium an average of five and a half hours a day, as reported by the Kaiser Family Foundation, we start getting concerned. National parks have even begun to notice that families are not visiting the out-of-doors like they used to.

There is no doubt that fear of strangers and imagining what might hurt you in the woods plays into the problem of why kids aren't getting out like they used to, but how is it with the children in your life? Could they be missing a vital link of development in their life?

Summer camp may be the jump start your child needs. A recent study by the American Camp Association shows that summer camp helps children develop social skills that help them make new

friends, helps them become more independent and show more leadership qualities, as well as become more adventurous and willing to try new things. It is now observed that nature-based outdoor settings reduce ADHD symptoms in children, lower stress levels, and improve mood, according to Christopher A. Thurber, et al., in a recent article in *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*.

Safety-hyper parents may be working against their child's need for outdoor learning experiences. Parents may want to reconsider the restrictions they put on their children. Teens especially are hard-wired to take risks. It may be that parents' limitations are actually working against the natural development that kids need. Research suggests that young people often associate risk with positive activities and that risky behaviors may be just what they need in order to allow natural neurological "rewiring" to take place properly. According to *Teens Today*, "Creating meaningful opportunities for positive risk taking can not only decrease the likelihood of negative risk taking but also satisfy a developmentally driven desire for self-discovery and new experiences." Young people taking positive risks are not as likely to take negative ones.

Standing in the gym at Southwestern Adventist University this





January, I was amazed as I watched a camp-aged child open the new summer camp brochure. She took one glance inside at the pictures of water skiing, horseback riding, and various camp activities, and she started bouncing up and down tugging on her daddy's arm. Every fiber of her soul was energetically saying, "I can't wait to go to camp, it's going to be so much fun!"

Kids are eager to play, and like kittens, they are going to find some way to have fun, even if it's not the way we grown-ups would want. Summer camp is for fun. It is a sad fact that "over the last 20 years, children have lost 12 hours of free time a week; eight of those lost hours were once spent in unstructured play and outdoor activities," according to David Elkind's *The Power of Play*. In that same 20 years, the amount of time children spend in organized sports has doubled, leaving even less time for unstructured play and outdoor activities.

What do you say we get our families outdoors more often this year! Camp is a great place to start. It provides time and space for children to be who they really are—children of the God of Creation. If we get outdoors and really look at the wonders of God's created world, it won't take long until we say, "His glory covered

the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise" (Hab. 3:3). Listen to the counsel of another concerned parent, Ellen White, in *Education*: "So far as possible, let the child from his earliest years be placed where this wonderful lesson book (the book of nature) shall be open before him" (p. 100).

If we stay indoors, plugged into our technological, risk-free and man-made world, we may miss the intricate connection of God's life in nature. White continues, "A mysterious life pervades all nature—a life that sustains the unnumbered worlds throughout immensity, that lives in the insect atom which floats in the summer breeze, that wings the flight of the swallow and feeds the young ravens which cry, that brings the bud to blossom and the flower to fruit." How will we know, unless we get outside to experience Him for ourselves?

Plan now to explore God's second bible, nature, and all its grandeur, mystery, and inspiration. "Shout joyfully to God ... how awesome are Your works" (Ps. 66:1,3).





# SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULES

*Mountain Pine, Ark.*

## Camp Yorktown Bay:

Camp	Ages	Dates
Junior 1	10-12	June 10-17
Junior 2	10-12	June 17-24
Cub	7-9	June 24-29
50 <sup>th</sup> Celebration	All ages	June 29-July 1
Family	All ages	July 1-8
Blind	All ages	July 8-15
Tween/Pathfinder	11-13	July 15-22
Teen	13-17	July 22-29
Horse Pack Trip	13-17	June 10-17
Mountain Biking	13-17	June 10-17
Rock Climbing	13-17	June 10-17
Basketball Camp	10-17	June 22-29
Wakeboard Camp	13-17	July 1-8
Golf Camp	All ages	July 1-8
Survival Camp	13-17	July 15-24
Gymnastics Camp	12-17	July 22-29
Music Camp	12-17	July 22-29

**Contact:** [www.campyorktownbay.com](http://www.campyorktownbay.com), 501.767.2333



*Wewoka, Okla.*

## Wewoka Woods Summer Camp:

Camp	Ages	Dates
Native Camp	7-17	June 3-10
Adventurer Camp	7-9	June 10-17
Junior Camp	10-12	June 17-24
Teen Camp	13-15	June 24-July 1
Specialty Camp	15-18	July 1-8

**Contact:** [www.wewokawoods.com](http://www.wewokawoods.com), 405.721.6110





## Lone Star Camp: *Athens, Tex.*

Camp	Ages	Dates
Adventurer Camp Week	7-9	June 17-23
Junior Camp Week I	9-12	June 24-30
Junior Camp Week II	10-13	July 1-7
Teen Camp Week	13-16	July 8-15

**Contact:** 214.943.4491, ext.209 or 210.

*Leander, Tex.*

## Nameless Valley Ranch:

Camp	Ages	Dates
Cub Week	7-9	June 10-17
Junior Week	10-12	June 17-24
Tween Week	12-14	June 24-July 1
Teen Week	14-17	July 1-8
Extreme Camp for Teens	14-17	July 8-15

**Contact:** Call 817.790.2255, ext. 201, or e-mail: [iescoabar@txsda.org](mailto:iescoabar@txsda.org)



# 2012 CAMP MEETING

## South Louisiana Camp Meeting

**When:** April 20-21

**Where:** South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S. Coburn Rd., Hammond, LA

**Main Speaker:** Richard O'Ffill

**Contact:** Chris Simpson, 318.631.6240

## South Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting

**When:** April 27-28

**Where:** South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S. Coburn Rd., Hammond, LA

**Main Speaker:** Richard O'Ffill

**Contact:** Robert Eubanks, 501.376.4325

## Southwest Region Conference Hispanic Camp Meeting

**When:** May 4-6

**Where:** Lone Star Camp, Athens, TX

**Main Speaker:** José Rojas

**Contact:** Leslie Soupet, 214.943.4491, ext. 213



# SCHEDULES

## Ozark Family Camp Meeting

**When:** May 29-June 2

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

**Main Speakers:** Dick Duerksen, Maranatha Volunteers International; Randy Roberts, senior pastor, Loma Linda University church

**Contact:** Gentry church secretary, 479.736.8808



## Texico Convocation and Youth Rally

**When:** June 7-9

**Where:** Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd Street NW, Albuquerque, NM

**Main Speakers:** Dan Jackson (English); Andres Sequera (Spanish)

**Contact:** Texico Conference, 800.749.7851, 505.244.1611, or [www.texico.org](http://www.texico.org)

## Southwest Region Conference Camp Meeting

**When:** June 13-17

**Where:** Lone Star Camp, Athens, TX

**Main Speakers:** Abraham Jules (adults), Eddie Hypolite (youth)

**Contact:** Leslie Soupet, 214.943.4491, ext. 213

## Northwest Arkansas Spanish Camp Meeting

**When:** June 22-23

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

**Main Speaker:** Rubén Bullón

**Contact:** Pedro Ledezma, 479.935.9842

## Oklahoma Camp Meeting

**When:** July 13-21

**Where:** Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, 36242 Oklahoma State Highway 59, Wewoka, OK.

**Main Speakers:** Randy Roberts; Abraham Jules

**Contact:** 405.721.6110 or 405.257.5404

## Ark-La-Tex Camp Meeting

**When:** July 18-21

**Where:** Jefferson Christian Academy, 3060 FM 728, Jefferson, TX

**Main Speaker:** Jeff Crain

**Contact:** Robin Tullock, 903.665.3973

## Oklahoma Spanish Camp Meeting

**When:** July 26-29

**Where:** Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, 36242 Oklahoma State Highway 59, Wewoka, OK.

**Contact:** 405.721.6110 or 405.257.5404

## Springtown Fall Round-up

**When:** September 27-29

**Where:** Springtown church, 12444 Fairmont Rd, Gentry, AR

**Main Speaker:** Herb Montgomery

**Contact:** [www.springtownchurch.org](http://www.springtownchurch.org)

## Bonnerdale Cowboy Camp Meeting

**When:** September 28-30

**Where:** Bonnerdale church, 709 Adventist Church Rd., Bonnerdale, AR

**Main Speaker:** Bill Kilgore, vice president for spiritual development, Southwestern Adventist University

**Contact:** Sylvia Weatherford, 870.356.3093



# T NATURE NUGGET: TURTLES

Jessica Lozano, associate editor

The humble turtle—what an amazing creature! This “moving rock” can be found all over the world, and many of them can be found in our own backyards. Of the approximately 50 species that live in the United States, many can be found living in the Southwest. Because of the diversity of the region, there are opportunities to see all kinds of turtles, including dessert tortoises in West Texas and New Mexico, sea turtles along the Gulf of Mexico, and a large variety of semi-aquatic turtles near every freshwater lake, stream, and pond in the region.

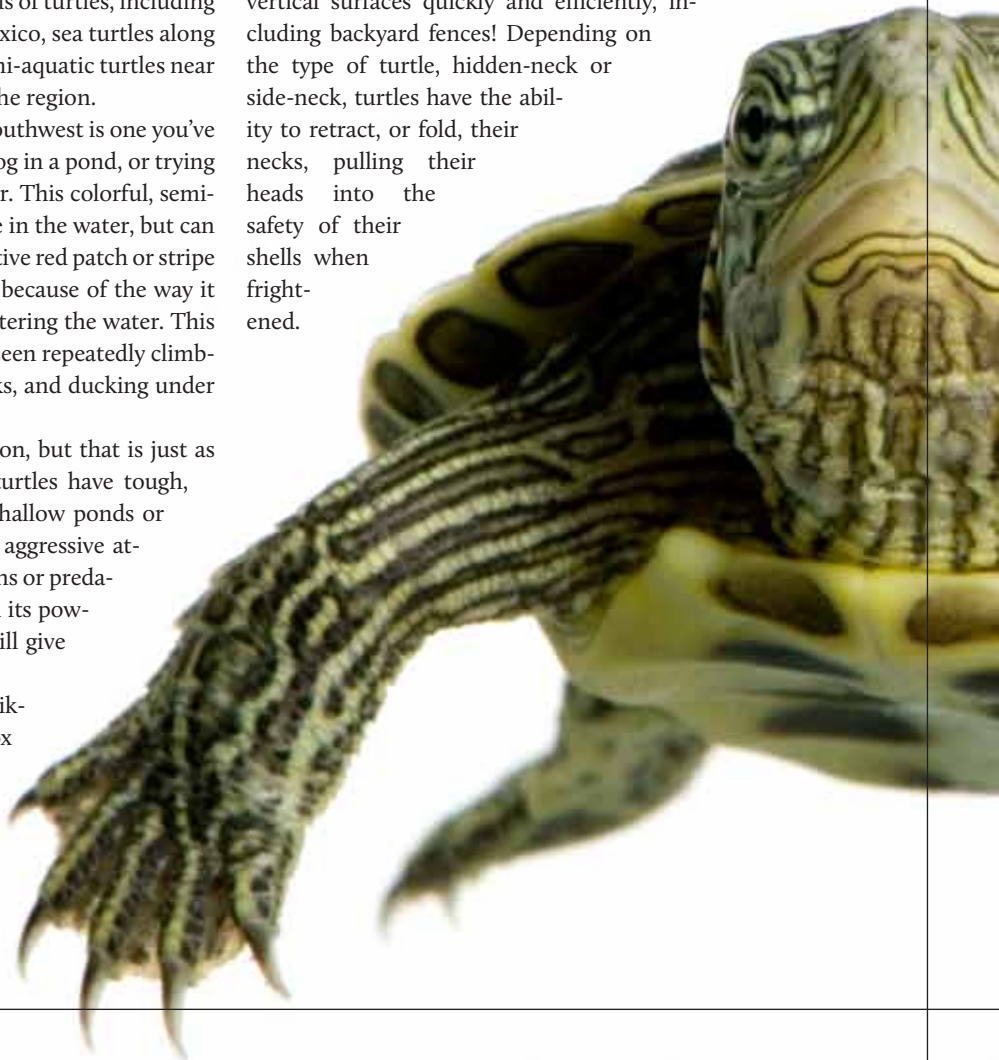
One of the most common turtles in the Southwest is one you’ve probably seen, whether it was basking on a log in a pond, or trying to cross a road. It’s called the red-eared slider. This colorful, semi-aquatic turtle, which spends most of its time in the water, but can also be seen on land, is identified by a distinctive red patch or stripe on both sides of its head. It’s called a slider because of the way it quickly slides down rocks or banks when entering the water. This turtle can seem quite playful—they’ve been seen repeatedly climbing and sliding down the same slippery rocks, and ducking under waterfalls for a rinse.

Another turtle that is not quite as common, but that is just as fascinating, is the snapping turtle. These turtles have tough, pointed ridges on their shells, and live in shallow ponds or lakes, and streams. They can have quite an aggressive attitude if found outside of the water by humans or predators. Try approaching a snapping turtle, and its powerful jaws, sharp beak, and quick reflexes will give you a clear picture of how its name is fitting.

A turtle you might come across while hiking through a forest is the three-toed box turtle. One of several types of box turtles in the U.S., this turtle has a domed shell with hinges. That means it can pull its legs and head inside the shell, and then close up its shell. It usually only does this when it senses a predator. Once it closes up its

shell, the box turtle might not move for hours. This land-dwelling turtle spends most of its time in forest areas, occasionally finding a shallow water source in which it will soak.

Turtles have hidden talents and unknown traits. Some are great climbers. Turtles have been known to scale vertical surfaces quickly and efficiently, including backyard fences! Depending on the type of turtle, hidden-neck or side-neck, turtles have the ability to retract, or fold, their necks, pulling their heads into the safety of their shells when frightened.



# Commonly Asked Questions About Turtles

**Q:** Can turtles take off their shells?

**A:** No! Ouch! Turtles are attached to their shells by their skin, and it makes up part of their skeleton. If you removed a part of the turtle's shell, you would see the turtle's internal organs.

**Q:** Do turtles bite?

**A:** Yes, but they don't have teeth. If a turtle bites you, it will hurt, but most likely won't break the skin. It's a good idea not to touch a turtle unless it's necessary. If it is necessary, pick it up behind its front legs, and don't place your hands in front of its face.

**Q:** If I see a turtle crossing the road, what should I do?

**A:** If the turtle is in danger, have the driver safely pull over. Check to see which direction the turtle is headed. Keeping your safety in mind, check for cars, then pick up the turtle around its middle

(keeping your fingers away from its face), and place it several feet from the road, on the side of the road where it was headed.

**Q:** Do turtles carry bacteria?

**A:** Yes, some turtles may carry salmonella, so try not to touch them unless necessary. Wash your hands thoroughly after handling turtles.

**Q:** Do turtles have ears?

**A:** Yes, but they're internal. You can find them if you look carefully at the side of a turtle's head for small, circular patches of skin.

**Q:** How can I learn more about turtles?

**A:** Observe them in their natural habitat! If that is not an option, go to a zoo that has a reptile exhibit, find interactive Web sites and videos of them on the Internet, or ask your science teacher.

This is possible because of the unique way turtles' spines work, bending or retracting in a very uncommon way.

Turtles also live for a very long time—giant tortoises have been known to live more than 100 years. The oldest recorded giant tortoise was Tu'i Malila, who was born around 1777, and given as a gift to the royal family of Tonga by Captain James Cook.

It lived until 1965, when it died of natural causes, having lived 188 years. Most semi-aquatic and land turtles, however, have a lifespan varying between 20 and 40 years, and sea turtles have a lifespan of about 80 years.

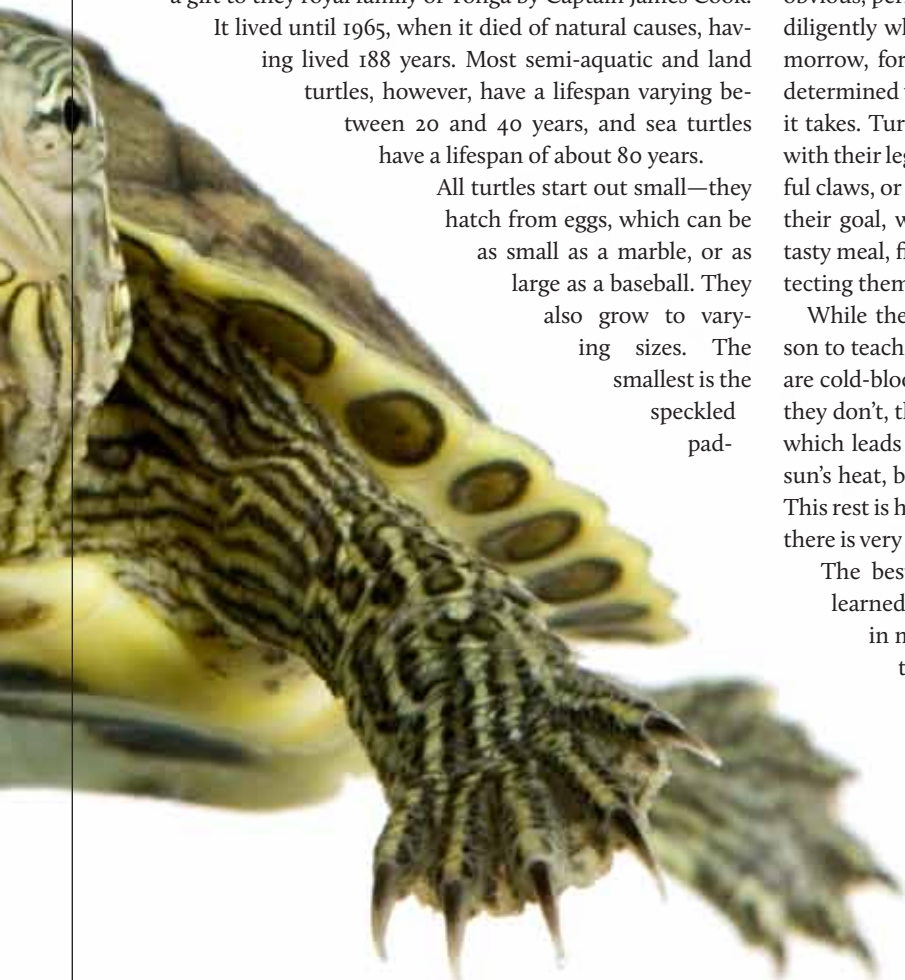
All turtles start out small—they hatch from eggs, which can be as small as a marble, or as large as a baseball. They also grow to varying sizes. The smallest is the speckled pad-

loper tortoise of South Africa, which measures just three inches in length and weighs only five ounces. The largest turtle is the leatherback sea turtle, which spans more than six feet and weighs more than 2,000 pounds.

There are many lessons we can learn from the turtle, the most obvious, perhaps, being this: there is no need to rush, only to work diligently while we are able. The turtle does not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Turtles are quite determined when it comes to achieving a goal, no matter how long it takes. Turtles will persistently and patiently push rocks around with their legs, pick items up in their mouths, dig with their powerful claws, or swim to a new destination, until they've accomplished their goal, whether it be finding a new water source, enjoying a tasty meal, finding a mate, laying eggs in a safe spot of soil, or protecting themselves from predators.

While the turtle is an industrious creature, it has another lesson to teach us: take time to rest, it'll do you good! Because turtles are cold-blooded, they must take in heat from the environment. If they don't, they become sluggish and have a difficult time moving, which leads to an unhealthy turtle. Turtles take advantage of the sun's heat, basking for hours in a sunny spot to warm themselves. This rest is healthy and healing to a turtle. During the winter, when there is very little sun and the temperatures drop, turtles hibernate.

The best lessons the book of nature provides can only be learned by observing nature firsthand, keeping a certain Psalm in mind, which reminds us that God created and sustains the earth and its creatures. "All creatures look to you to give them their food at the proper time. When you give it to them, they gather it up; when you open your hand, they are satisfied with good things. When you hide your face, they are terrified; when you take away their breath, they die and return to the dust. When you send your Spirit, they are created, and you renew the face of the ground" (Ps. 104:27-30, NIV).



# Investing in Camp Yorktown Bay



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Several times, and in so many words, I've been asked the question, "Why does the conference spend so much money on Camp Yorktown Bay?" The fact of the matter is that there is a lot of money spent on Camp Yorktown Bay.

What purpose does CYB serve? If it is viewed simply as a camping facility, then I might tend to think that a whole lot more money than is necessary is, in fact, being spent. However, if CYB is viewed as a ministry, and that all the functions that take place there are for the purpose of growing people, all of a sudden it takes on a whole new complexion.

For eight weeks out of the year, CYB serves as a youth summer camp retreat. One of those weeks serves the needs of those who are blind. There is a lot of rec-

reational activity that goes on during each of those eight weeks, including swimming, skiing, canoeing, and a host of other waterfront activities. There is horseback riding, zipping on the zip line, archery, crafts, mountain biking, and more. Providing wholesome, fun activities for our children and youth is important, but it is a whole lot more than just about fun. Our young people are "bathed" in an atmosphere of spiritual beliefs and values. Besides the natural beauty of CYB in the setting of nature, an environment is created for them each day in which they can behold the love and grace of Jesus. Opportunities are multiplied throughout the week in which they can make decisions to give their hearts and lives to Jesus. And that is exactly what happens. Each year, scores of our young people make decisions for baptism and are bap-

tized right there in Lake Ouachita, or in their home church! That is the reason we spend so much money at Camp Yorktown Bay. It's about ministry. It's about the salvation of our youth.

There are 46 other weeks in the year that CYB is available as a spiritual retreat and training center. Many of our churches have enjoyed a special weekend retreat at the camp. It has been a venue for pastors' and teachers' meetings, literature evangelists' retreats, women's retreats, church leadership training, and family reunions. It is all about ministry and mission. It is all about people. It is all about making connections with our Savior. That's why we invest in CYB!

Steve Orian, president

## Designing God's Women

May 19, 2012 | Pocahontas, Ark. | Featuring Kay Kuzma

**Dr. Kay Kuzma** is an outstanding author and inspirational speaker and we feel privileged to have her share her message of "Designing God's Women: Success strategies for becoming incredible women serving an incredible God." Expect to learn practical applications for our everyday situations and also how we can become that incredible woman that God intended us to be all year long.

**For more information**, such as registration and hotel information, please visit the event Web site at [www.GodKnowsYourName.org](http://www.GodKnowsYourName.org) or contact Melody Radde, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference women's ministries director at 479.283.7537 or [mldyrd@aol.com](mailto:mldyrd@aol.com).





# Little Rock Church Hosts Messiah's Mansion

**LITTLE ROCK, ARK. »** The full-scale model of the Hebrew tabernacle, called Messiah's Mansion, drew a steady stream of people for nine consecutive days this past October.

Situated on the grassy field behind the Little Rock church parking lot and the elementary school, it was quite visible to the community and caused a lot of interest from the day it started being erected. More than 2,800 people were guided through the sanctuary by Oklahoma Academy students, who explained how each piece of furniture within the tabernacle taught the Hebrew people something about the Messiah. By studying the sanctuary, we can grasp the lessons God still wants to teach us today and how He is working for our salvation.

Several TV stations and the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* newspaper gave much positive coverage, drawing even more people. Many people heard about Messiah's Mansion through their own churches. Two weeks before the tours began, a team of Little Rock church members attempted to visit all 240 churches in Little Rock with a packet of information. A Methodist church brought all of their members one Sunday morning to attend the sanctuary as their church service. Many schools brought students to experience the sanctuary, and one church brought its members on an enormous bus.

Two days after the last tour, Mr. Leineweber taught a class in the church ministry center, further delving into the details of the sanctuary system, using models of the sanctuary furniture

as visual aids. Meetings were held nightly for two weeks with 40-50 people in attendance. Members who attended commented that they had never understood the sanctuary to this degree, and that it had a profound effect on their lives and their commitment to the Lamb that was slain. About a dozen community people joined in these meetings.

The Little Rock church has never sponsored an event with such a positive community response. A survey was given to each person after they toured Messiah's Mansion, with hundreds of respondents indicating interest in one or more programs offered by the

more about the sanctuary were invited to the sanctuary classes. The 35 people who checked "coronary health improvement" on the survey were invited to attend the showing of the documentary, *Forks over Knives*. The 120 individuals who indicated interest in prophecy studies were invited to a series of prophecy meetings in February, presented by Victor Snead. We praise the Lord for the 150 people who have requested Bible studies. Additionally, other visitors indicated an interest in the Depression Recovery Program, Christian education, and children's clubs. We pray that God will send laborers into the harvest to reach out to these individuals who have expressed a need or interest.

Becky Samuel



Top: An example of the priests' robes.  
 ▲ Messiah's Mansion's version of the most holy room.  
 ► A presenter describes the actions taken within the tabernacle.



church. The follow-up process started almost immediately. The 150 people who indicated an interest in learning

## Slidell Youth Group Fellowship Together

**SLIDELL, LA.** » God has tremendously blessed the Slidell church youth during the past year. The number of youth has grown, and they are learning to share their journey with God—and with the whole church. The group meets every Friday evening to worship, provide spiritual support for one another, have dinner together, and then sometimes choose a topic to discuss, such as dealing with friends or finding ways to witness for God in school. One week, the group watched a video on The Great Disappointment and how it influenced Adventist beliefs. Beth Fenasci attends and plays the guitar while the group sings songs. The group shares about the week each one has had and enjoys being together. I personally look forward to it all week.

I love being able to sit down for two hours with other Adventist teens because they understand my trials and can support me through them. It's a great feeling to know people are praying for you constantly, and you are lifting them up, as well.

Every alternate month, the group plans and hosts a youth Sabbath, where the junior and teen classes run the entire church worship service. We love doing our part to support our church and praise our God—whether it's telling a children's story or giving the sermon. The sermons are usually about our personal lessons in faith, trust, and about God's unimaginable love. For the youth Christmas program, everyone from kindergarten to the teen class participated in a play about all of God's promises throughout the Old Testament. We hope

to put on another skit about the parables of the New Testament in the coming months.

The group's Friday-evening meetings have been a major bonding time for the group. We have grown so close that I cannot remember a time when we weren't close friends, even though it was less than a year ago that we began! We thank our church members for giving us the opportunity and direction to be able to meet and learn to pray and witness for the Lord. You know what they say—friends that pray together stay together! We pray that we will be great fishers of men for God and continue to support the church all throughout our lives.

Serena Bethala and Vernella Rogers

Youth Sabbath at the Slidell church.



**2012**  
**TU**  
**SOBREVIVIRAS?**  
 Escritos de **DANIEL**  
 Forgiven  
 Abril 20-22  
 Costo: \$225/persona  
 (late fee \$275)  
 Edades: 12-35  
 Música, Seminarios,  
 dramas y mucho más  
**TRUTH**  
 To Rule the World is to Rule the Heart  
 Holiday Inn

Para más información comunicarse con Yeni Carranza a lizetavelar2006@yahoo.com o con el anciano Pedro Ledezma al 505.818.8533.

# Ecuador for Christ!

**ROGERS, ARK.** » Ecuador is approximately 95 percent Roman Catholic, and wide open for Bible truths! Months ago, God put on the heart of Suzanne Boaz, of the Rogers church, to conduct a Maranatha mission trip, and although circumstances prevented her from going, Jeff and Nancy Riedesel, also of Rogers, graciously agreed to carry on the leadership of the mission effort. On January 25, they boarded a plane and spent 14 days on the Maranatha-required site visit trip, tirelessly working with the local church people to prepare the



▲ Jeff Riedesel during their site visit with locals in the market.

◀ Homes in Ecuador. Ecuador needs help with churches.



way for a mission group to go to Ecuador from March 29 to April 9.

During the site visit, Nancy reported that, “We visited with the local pastor and the Maranatha construction supervisor, who informed us of what would be needed. There are many projects to be done that will be most appreciated by the congregations there. We contracted with a hotel in the main city of Ventana, where we will stay for the entire trip. While there, we’ll enjoy a cornucopia of fresh, succulent fruits and vegetables. The weather there is

perfect. The people are warm and friendly, and there are many blessings to be received and shared!”

The Rogers church has held three successful fund-raising events to help fund the many projects planned for the churches in Ecuador. Nancy continues, “Presently, plans include construction of three ‘One-day Churches’ and repairs and painting needed on two other SDA churches. If time and money allow, our small, cohesive group, which we have named ‘Gideon’s Army,’ will work on other projects. Maranatha has built 91 one-day churches in Ecuador, and we are going to add to that mix.

“We will conduct evangelistic outreach meetings at night through sermons, health talks, natural remedy classes, and cooking demonstrations—all by our volunteers. Our plate will be full, and we solicit your prayers and support! This will be a life-changing and bonding experience for ‘Gideon’s Army.’ The team consists of three Rogers’ church members, and about 11 members from Arkansas, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Michigan churches, including four youth!”

**Nancy Riedesel and Laura Weyer**

**BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT SEMINAR**  
 April 20-22 of 2012  
 at the  
 Gentry Seventh-Day Adventist Church

**DO YOU DESIRE:**

- A more meaningful and effective prayer life
- Victory over every temptation you face
- Victory over such emotional oppressions as depression, fear, anxieties, and addictions
- Victory over physical sickness and disease
- An inner empowerment by God to better serve Him
- A Holy Spirit empowered witness

**SEMINAR SCHEDULE**

Friday:	7:00 PM - God's Call Today
Sabbath:	9:30 AM - The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
	11:00 AM - Christ, Our Sin Delivering Savior
	2:00 PM - Emotional Healing
	7:00 PM - Experiencing God's Love
Sunday:	9:00 AM - Prayer Breakfast

**Presentations by Dennis Smith**  
 The author of several books including: *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and 40 Days - Prayers & Devotions to Prepare for the Second Coming of Christ*

**Seminar Location**  
 Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church  
 Address: 21090 Dawn Hill E Rd. Gentry, AR  
 To register: Call Sylvia Downs @ 318-631-6240 Ext. 115 or  
 Marian Parson @ 479-549-8528



# Wewoka Woods Summer Camp: In the Business of Changing Lives!



We are in the business of changing lives for the kingdom!

Everyone has a deep desire within himself or herself to find God and have a lasting relationship with Him. It's often true that people search in all the wrong places—that's why we believe in bringing people to God. We believe that it is unacceptable that people do not know how awesome God really is.

The way we change lives is by showing people that the Bible is real, that the promises we find within scripture can be claimed today. Praying with people and sharing testimonies of how God has changed our lives is important to the Christian experience. While sharing, we are reaffirming what God has done in our lives, and in this sharing we give fellow believers an example of how God can work in their lives. When we see how God is actively working in the lives

of others, it becomes easier for us to have faith in Him.

At Wewoka Woods, we do all of these things and in the process, we happen to run a great summer camp! As summer camp workers, we specialize in fun while enjoying nature. As camp staff, we teach your kids how to get up on a wake board, we show them how to make model rockets, and we encourage them to jump off the high dive. We teach our campers to ride horses, make crafts, and learn to use bows and arrows. We encourage them to try new things, make lifelong friendships, and most importantly, to trust God.

This year, our theme is "The Forgotten God: ReDiscovering the Holy Spirit." As Adventists, we believe in the Trinity, but sometimes it becomes difficult to articulate the different parts of God. This summer, we will be teaching our campers

about the Holy Spirit and how important His ministry is to the lives of Christians. We often focus on God the Father and Jesus Christ, but most of the time we don't understand who the Holy Spirit is. The Holy Spirit is the very reason our ministry is able to change lives because in the Holy Spirit we "are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit" (2 Cor. 3:18, NIV).

So, will you partner with us in our ministry? Will you help us change lives for the kingdom by sending your child to summer camp, or by sponsoring a child from your church? Together with the power of the Holy Spirit, we can prepare young souls for the kingdom of heaven.

Geraldo Alonso II

## Hosting Gatherings to Spread the Gospel

**SHATTUCK** » The Shattuck district Spanish youth group, led by Alejandro and Miriam Rodriguez, has begun gathering each Saturday night for devotionals and fellowship at their church. Alejandro Rodriguez believes that gatherings like this bring people of all ages closer together and closer to Jesus.

The group has participated in many activities that have played a role in spreading the gospel throughout the community, including regular Sabbath-evening volleyball games, a Christmas program, and a special celebration thanking God for His care and mercy. These encounters have paved the way for six Bible studies that have

progressed from home studies to regular church attendance.

Phillis Ballew

A Christmas gathering hosted by the Shattuck district's Spanish youth group.



# A Surprise Gift for Tulsa Adventist Academy

**TULSA** » Sometimes in life events come along that change us forever. Sometimes, these events are unplanned accidents or seemingly random happenstance. Sometimes, however, events happen that are the result of exceptional individuals planning and giving of themselves to make the lives of others a little better. Such was the case on December 19 at the Adventist Fellowship church. Earlier that week, the teachers at Tulsa Adventist Academy received an invitation to attend a teacher's appreciation banquet, hosted by the parents of our students.

The gesture was much appreciated by TAA staff members, and so on that rainy night we gathered with a large group of parents and friends for warm fellowship and great food. As we finished our meals,

Jackson Whitacre, TAA school board chair, took the floor and passed out wonderful gifts to all of our amazing teachers.

We so very much appreciate the amazing support of our local churches and parents; such support is not only appreciated, but also critical for the long-term success of our schools. Little did we know that the night's big surprise was saved for the end of the evening. With a sly smile on his face, Whitacre called principal Craig Mattson to attention, and then presented him with the keys to beautiful Dodge Minivan. The overwhelming gift was made possible through the efforts of several parents and friends of TAA, who strongly support the school and the mission of Adventist education. This is an overwhelming gesture of good faith, and an amazing improvement

for our school.

Even now as I write these words, I feel as I did that night, holding the keys in my hand, fighting back the emotion and not knowing just how to express my gratitude. To all who were involved in orchestrating this amazing donation and on behalf of all the teachers, volunteers, and students at the school: thank you from the very bottom of my heart. May all of our Adventist schools be blessed with such supportive and selfless community members.

**Craig Mattson**

Students stand in front of the van gifted to Tulsa Adventist Academy.



## Chili Cook-off Raises Funds for Pathfinders

**BROKEN ARROW** » The Broken Arrow church held its third annual chili cook-off on a recent Saturday night as a Pathfinder fundraiser. In addition to selling the chili, it was decided to auction off the services of various attendees. Mike Moon and Sonny Harmon volunteered four hours of yard work; Greg Marquette offered two hours of repair services; Linda Cupps offered portrait services; and Linda Hollifield offered two massage services. Evidently, this was a good decision, as more than \$500 was raised for the Pathfinders in a few hours.

Entries into the cook-off were judged for taste and the first-place ribbon went to Greg Marquette, who entered



for the first time. Second place went to Sonny Harmon, and third place to Richard Wagner, previous first-place winner. Great food, good fellowship, and a good cause created an enjoyable evening.

**Judy Marquette**

◀ Pathfinders serve the chili.

Below left: The winners of the chili cook-off.

▼ Some of the Pathfinders who will benefit from the fundraiser.



## Wewoka Woods Summer Camp 2012



“being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the [Holy] Spirit”

(2 Corinthians 3:18 NIV)

Native Camp	June 3-10	(Ages 7-17)
Adventurer Camp	June 10-17	(Ages 7-9)
Junior Camp	June 17-24	(Ages 10-12)
Teen Camp	June 24-July 1	(Ages 13-15)
Speciality Camp	July 1-8	(Ages 15-18)

[Each Camp Cost \$250 per Camper]

# Oklahoma Campmeeting 2012



Please join us for a spectacular time of spiritual blessings!

## Keynote speakers:

July 13 and 14 — Randy Roberts, Senior Pastor  
Loma Linda University church

July 19-21 — Abraham Jules, Senior Pastor  
Mt. Vernon church

**Concert:** Saturday, July 14, 4:00 p.m.

Experience a concert to remember, featuring  
16-year-old, world-reknoned violinist,  
Meclen Lai Pang.

**WHEN:** July 13 -21, 2012

**WHERE:** Wewoka Woods Adventist Center  
36242 Oklahoma 59, Wewoka, Okla.

**CONTACT:** 405.721.6110 or 405.257.5404  
[www.oklahomasda.org](http://www.oklahomasda.org)



*Abraham Jules*



*Randy Roberts*

SPONSORED BY THE OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

# A Camp Experience!



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Each year, many youth get the opportunity to attend camp for a week or two. They enjoy many new experiences, learn new skills, and meet new friends. Their lives are changed! However, for every youth that goes off to camp, there are twenty more who wish they could, but can't afford it. To quote a phrase: "A camp experience doesn't cost, it is an investment!"

I recently came across an article that made the case for why a camp experience is a positive influence for youth. It started out by saying that a camp experience provides *genuine community*. Camp contrasts with the familiar. Youth leave behind labels, expectations of others, and routines. They enter a temporary community, where the purpose is presenting Christ and nurturing believers.

A camp experience also offers a *whole-*

*person ministry*. Other events are generally limited to the spiritual or the emotional. Camp activities help youth learn how to treat others fairly, build friendships, adapt to new situations, grow spiritually, and play.

Another way that a camp experience provides a positive influence is in *growing relationships*. In the "24/7" camp environment, the camper sees leaders, they may even become leaders that are walking examples of how to live out a relationship with Christ. Playing, worshiping, and learning together creates bonds that translate experience into character.

Camp experiences develop *commitments and memories*. The energetic events at camp are absorbing. Bible study time opens doors for leaders to present spiritual concepts. And, camp days will become vibrant memories of fun times and life-shap-

ing truths.

And lastly, a camp experience offers *leadership development*. Camps are ideal nurturing environments. Teens form leadership skills when they have opportunities to succeed or fail in decisions, or to take on responsibilities.

The summer camp experience is, first and foremost, an opportunity to meet Jesus! Each youth should be afforded that opportunity in an environment that is crafted to do just that. For more information about summer camp opportunities, visit [www.mysouthwestregion.org/summercamp](http://www.mysouthwestregion.org/summercamp).

Roger R. Wade

Content adapted from [www.campsight.org/2005-spring/memoriesthatmatter.asp](http://www.campsight.org/2005-spring/memoriesthatmatter.asp)

## 105 Years of Being a Blessing

**MONROE, LA.** » Izola M. Bell Jordan, a charter member of the Macedonia church, celebrated her 105th birthday on Sabbath, February 18, 2012. Jordan is present at church for Wednesday night prayer services, Sabbath School, and for the majority of Sabbath services during the year. She sings solos at church periodically, and does the mission story at Sabbath School. She is still active in the telephone ministry, and always rejoices when she is transported to visit the sick in their homes, in hospitals, or in nursing homes. The Monroe church prays that God will continue to bless Jordan as she continues to be an inspiration to others.

Genevia N. Jones

Izola Bell Jordan's 105th birthday.





# Christmas **in** January

**BATON ROUGE, LA. »** When I initially called a shelter director in our local community area this past December, she could hardly find a time slot for our church to come and present gifts. Then, she went on to say that many organizations come during the holidays, but how they then suffer throughout the remainder of the year. As I pondered her comments, I realized it would be better to wait and visit the shelter after the holidays.

So many times we hear the appeal to keep the Christmas spirit of kindness and giving throughout the year, but what do we do to facilitate that process? People often complain about how financially exhausted they are after the holidays, either from shopping or traveling. I wondered, could the Berean church in Baton Rouge step up to the challenge, and show this city that we have giving hearts throughout the year, not just for the holidays?

In January, after the holidays, the church pastor, Robert Davis, and I began appealing to our church family to keep the Christmas spirit going. Large receptacles were placed in the foyer for members to bring their donations for the shelter. Our family ministries department partnered with the personal ministries depart-



Dan Collins



Dan Collins



Dan Collins



Dan Collins

ment, community services, and youth ministries, and gathered more needed items. What initially seemed like only two fish and five loaves grew into a truckload of diapers, rain gear, toiletries, towels, toys, and more. Spiritual and health booklets were also distributed. God touched hearts and His blessings came down. The Berean church was definitely up for the challenge.

With so many helping hands around us, we were able to set up a “free shelter store” full of goodies in less than ten minutes. What joy it brought to our hearts to see the ladies and children come with bright eager eyes and big bags to fill up. If we take the first step, God is always waiting to shower His blessings upon us.

**Yvonne Pondexter**

**Top:** Some of the supplies that Berean members donated to a local shelter.

**Second:** Berean volunteers sorting items for distribution.

**Third:** Berean members bringing in the gifts and supplies for the residents.

**Bottom:** Davion Collins unloading a truck while Charles Cloud (middle) and Charles Wilson (right) look on.

# Happy Birthday to You!

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** » For years she had joined in singing “Happy Birthday” to others. However, on this Sabbath, it was her turn to be serenaded. With her pastor, Robert Davis, and first elder, Robert Landry, waiting to receive her, a surprised Edith Johnson was escorted to the front of the church, where she was to be recognized for her monthly birthday presents.

Every month for years, without fail, Johnson had made it a point to recognize the birthday of every person born in that particular month. Initially, it was to celebrate her own birthday, and that of everyone born in January, “but I enjoyed it so much that I decided to make it a monthly celebration for everyone,” says Johnson.

It was an exuberant Davis who led the congregation in singing “Happy Birthday” to Johnson. “This long overdue recognition is for the lady who, using her own funds, has made it a point to remember our birthdays. Now, it is time to remember and celebrate hers. She is also the one who provides the treats for our hospitality corner,” announced Davis, who, along with Landry and Albertha Parker, presented Johnson with a single long-stemmed red rose, a bouquet of mixed flowers, a potted ivy plant, and a box of candy.

Her generosity has been demonstrated in her signature homemade, lemon-filled, miniature loaves and cupcakes, which she painstakingly wraps individually. In addition

to the cakes, the honorees could expect practical gifts, such as fruit-shaped soap dispensers, photo holders, cards, and more, all strategically positioned in the reception area of the church’s welcome center. The birthday person simply had to

The local community knows of Johnson, as well. She is notorious for scouting different areas in search of pecans and berries and even travels the short distance to Centerville, Miss., where she picks peaches for her homemade pies and other desserts.



From left: Robert Davis, pastor; Edith Johnson; Robert Landry, first elder; and Albertha Parker.

check in and claim a gift. Johnson’s giving of herself has also been seen in her numerous projects for Berean’s church school, Martin Luther King, Jr., Academy, where she is the home and school leader and occasionally volunteers in whatever capacity she’s needed. Her many fundraisers for the school include encouraging constituents to save “box tops for schools,” soft drink tabs, canned food labels, and aluminum cans.

These she gives away or often donates to the church’s functions. Hospital patients, the sick, and shut-ins welcome the flowers she brings to them. According to friends, who are familiar with her philanthropic nature, “She’s just a giving person.” When asked why she does what she does, Johnson’s reply is “God’s been so good to me. I feel obligated to be good to others. I just love giving.”

**Evelyn Edwards**

# Building Bridges



**ALEXANDRIA, LA. »** “Building Bridges, Not Walls” was the theme of the singles’ enrichment weekend, when singles from throughout Southwest Region Conference convened in Alexandria, La. According to North Louisiana area coordinator and weekend organizer, Chris Arnold, the theme was chosen to identify and bridge the gap between the average congregation’s active and inactive singles. According to Arnold, “It is unfortunate that many singles still have misconceptions about their own ministry. During this event, we hoped to dispel some of these misconceptions.”

The weekend began with Friday night vespers at the Smyrna church, which hosted the event. The recently installed pastor, Jonathan McCottry, delivered the message. However, before beginning, he observed that females far outnumbered the males for the opening session. He was prompted to ask, “Where are the males? If only they were here to see the variety of beauty in this place tonight. Ladies, you’ve got to do some recruiting,” evoking laughter from the females. He then modified his message considerably to accommodate the majority female audience. After the message, the group enjoyed a weather-appropriate meal of gumbo with all the “fixin’s.”

Divine worship on Sabbath featured Carl Ming, pastor of the New Orleans Caffin Avenue International Church. His message, “Weapons of Reconstruction,” directed the congregation to Judges 16:4, the story of Samson and his encounter with Delilah. Ming taught that of the three types of love, “the agape brings eros into control.” He went on to demonstrate how Samson built walls which all but destroyed him, but that eventually he realized his dependence on God, and that dependence rescued him.

Following lunch, the group again returned to the sanctuary and Ming’s seminar with the captivating title, “Who’s Going to Love Me?” At the outset, Ming presented the questions, “Whom do I want to love me?” and, “Whom do I want to love?” along with, “If you had to choose between some-

one you love and someone who loves you, which would you choose?” After audience feedback, the astonishing answer, with discussion, was “someone you love.” In addition, the group would learn from Ming that “relationships are not bad; however, God has to be in control, or the relationship is destructive.”



Residents receiving bagged gifts.

As is the practice of the singles’ ministry, following the afternoon seminar, the group formed a processional en route to do community outreach, a Volunteers of America Mental Health/Transition House in Pineville, La. Prior to the group’s arrival, the program’s volunteer coordinator had supplied a “wish list” of items the program needed. Each of the conference’s four states had already been assigned an individual list, and Oklahoma and New Mexico shared a list, which included toiletries and household items. The overwhelming response from each state resulted in a cargo of supplies for the residents. In addition, each resident received a seasonal gift bag full of gender-appropriate items. Roger Wade, the conference’s singles’ director, spoke words of encouragement to the residents, who welcomed the group with extended hands and open arms.

The night’s “Black and White” ball saw singles attired in their evening best as they entered the seasonally decorated ballroom

for the planned and spontaneous festivities. In addition to the usual fanfare, which included song, a style show, the “Dating Game,” and a comedian, “Xtreme Praise,” a youth-centered ministry of the Alexandria Marantha church, also provided entertainment. It was refreshing to see more than 75 youth, along with their mime team, perform liturgical dance routines to gospel music.

Following a quick night’s sleep for many, singles reported for the Sunday morning brunch, where, while enjoying a southern meal of buttered grits, scrambled eggs, and of course, vegetarian links and patties, Ming continued with the seminar, that, due to a



Community outreach with Roger Wade, of the Southwest Region Conference, speaking to seated residents and standing singles.

time crunch, he had had to abbreviate earlier. The seminar included introducing attendees to the four personality types with their respective strengths and weaknesses. He also explained “love languages,” which means words of affirmation and quality of time. In closing, Ming reminded the group to “keep Jesus first and remember that God’s love is greater than anything.”

Then it was the final posing for pictures, leaving behind contact information, and waving goodbye until the next enrichment weekend, scheduled for San Antonio, Tex.

Evelyn Edwards

# Summer Camp: A Place Where Grace is Taught



TEXAS CONFERENCE

I can remember the incident as if it happened yesterday. It was a warm, June Sabbath afternoon at Nameless Valley Ranch in the heartland of Texas. Two of the boys' counselors had just about come to the end of their wits, dealing with an overactive and boisterous group of campers. They had tried to coax the young boys into taking a long afternoon nap, but there was absolutely no chance that was going to happen! Instead, they decided to take a stroll to work off some of the pent-up energy and testosterone in that small cabin. And so, the hike began.

From the onset, it was obvious that one boy in particular had gotten on the very last nerve of one of his counselors. He had continued to poke, prod, slap, and snap his fellow campers until it became apparent that action needed to be taken for the sanity of the two staff members, as well as for the peace and relaxation of the other nine campers. The restless boy was ordered to pick up a large stone (since he had so much extra energy), and carry it for the remain-

der of the hike. Almost instantaneously, the young man's demeanor changed. He was so contrite! Yet, the sentence had been issued, and he had to face the music.

He picked up the large stone and began to stumble along the path, several yards behind the rest of the group. Large beads of sweat poured off his brow; his knees buckled under the weight. There was now no joking or poking as the weight of his actions began to sink into his thoughts and conscience and, at some point, his eyes began to moisten with raw emotion. About this time, one of his fellow campers broke file with the rest of the group, who were berating the stone carrier with jabs of ridicule. He walked back to the struggling camper, turned to accompany him, reached down and, placing his hands under half of the stone, began to carry the rock with his fellow camper.

What an amazing scene! The devotional messages of the week had found their way into the heart of this young "good Samaritan," and he was now compelled to help shoulder the burden. There they were: two

boys, joined together, sharing more than a large stone—they were sharing a load, sharing ridicule. At summer camp, sometimes spiritual birth takes place, sometimes spiritual renewal occurs, and sometimes spiritual strengthening occurs with our young people. The ministry of camp includes sage directors, loving counselors, caring cafeteria staff, and much more. The summer camp ministry is evangelism at its very best!

One of the great joys that I experience in ministry today is to run into former staff members who are now pastors, teachers, or nurses, and little campers who are now young adults, active in our churches and engaged in the work of sharing the Spirit of Christ with their peers. And so, the story continues. Through summer camp, lives are being changed, rearranged, and redirected toward the kingdom of God. What a glorious mission! Please support your local summer camp this summer. Make the investment of changing a life.

**Carlos J. Craig**, Texas Conference president

## An Opportunity to Witness

**COMMERCE** » As a social work student at Texas A&M-Commerce, I frequently wonder how I can be a witness to my fellow classmates. In a recent class, students were given the assignment of producing PowerPoint presentations about a community the student was a part of. While most of my classmates talked about their hometowns, I chose to present about my church. My assignment was to present the community as if the audience had never heard of it before, which, unfortunately, was very true.

I made slides about my church, including Exodus 20:8-11, which is the biblical commandment to remember



Sandie Wollcock shares her PowerPoint presentation on Adventism with her university classmates.

the Sabbath day and keep it holy. I included a slide on baptism by immersion, as well as

slides on community service, healthy eating, Adventist Youth programs, and church socials. I ended the presentation with my church Web site information, and explained that our church is a wonderful, multicultural church, and invited all of my classmates and my professor to visit. They were impressed, and had quite a few questions after the presentation. I felt so blessed to have the opportunity to witness, and I was so excited to be able to share my faith with people who had never heard about Adventism before.

**Sandie Wollcock**

# Victoria Church Grand Opening

**VICTORIA** » This past November, the Victoria church celebrated the grand opening of their brand new church building. They gathered together to commemorate the guidance of God in Victoria—to stand as a beacon to the Victoria community, to proclaim the precious truth of God’s love, and to prepare the way for the second coming of Jesus Christ.

The Victoria church records date back to May 1949. It is believed that this early congregation met in members’ homes or in the local veteran’s hall. In June 1959 the church disbanded, but was reorganized in May 1963.

Five acres were purchased in the summer of 2003 in preparation for the new church building. A building committee was formed and plans were made in 2009 to begin the project of building the new church. Much prayer was sent up concerning the sale of the old church.

Never failing, the Lord brought a buyer at just the right time. The old church was sold in March and the first Sabbath kept in the beautiful new sanctuary was July 2, 2011.

Jose Muñoz was assigned to pastor the church, and quickly jumped in and helped with the move, and the Lord’s blessings were seen throughout the endeavor. It took several months to finish, but by November everyone was ready for the inaugu-

ration ceremony.

The guest speaker, Carlos Craig, president of the Texas Conference, gave an inspiring sermon focusing on Victoria’s vision of “Preparing the Way.” Several of Victoria’s previous pastors, as well as the Texas Conference treasurer, Edwin Romero, participated in the ceremony.

The members of the Victoria church never cease to be amazed as they experience the Lord’s blessings for them and the Victoria community. The Lord has blessed them with a beautiful church building in which to worship as they prepare the way for His soon return.

Bev Offe



◀ Jose Muñoz, pastor of the Victoria church, and his wife, Sandra.

Bottom left: A quartet sang for the ceremony.

▼ The orchestra also played for the grand opening.



TEXAS CONFERENCE

## Richardson Church Shares Message of Health

**RICHARDSON** » Evangelism comes in many forms. Recently, Shanaz Cooper, Charissa Arinyedokiari, and Danny Salcedo had the opportunity to present a healthy living seminar to at-risk fifth- through eighth-grade students and their parents. The presentation, LEAP (Lifestyle, Education, Assessment, and Prevention), was given along with NEWS-TART information, and included healthy food samples.

The presentation was divided into two parts, one to students during the school day, and one for parents in the evening. The presentation was presented in both English and Spanish, and was a great blessing to both the students and par-

ents. While the presenters weren't able to share a religious agenda, since the meeting was in a public school, they were able to visit with interested parents and answer questions individually.

Imagine if we were able to get church members to do the same at each public

school in the Dallas Independent School District! That's a lofty goal! Teaching children to lead healthy lifestyles is just one of the many forms of evangelism.

**Kathy Miller**



▲ Danny Salcedo gives a presentation on temperance to at-risk 5th- through 8th-grade public school students and their parents.



▲ Presenters share messages of health such as LEAP (Lifestyle, Education, Assessment, and Prevention) and NEWS-TART (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust) at public schools.

## Seminar Helps Change Perception of God

**HOUSTON** » In mid-January, the Gulfhaven church hosted a seminar, The Names of God, which was conducted by Rob Sheppard and Ernie Pyle of Knowing God Ministries.

During each of the four meetings, attendees were presented with a new way of thinking about some Old Testament

stories, which seem to present a challenging picture of God. The image of God that emerged was of a God who is not vengeful, as Satan would like to portray Him, but rather, of a God abundant in love and mercy—a God who cares for us as a loving father cares for his own children.

Ion Groza, interim pastor, believes that

knowing the Hebrew names of God, and what they really mean can have an important impact on a Christian's life. Understanding the names God gave Himself, such as Yahweh, Abba, Elohim, and how they are then used in scripture, is a beautiful way to understand what God is like.

As the series progressed, it became obvious how an understanding of God's names gives tremendous insight into His extensive love for us. The scriptures came alive as never before, and the seminar revealed the character of God in unique ways not often considered.

Each attending family received free study guides, a set of 15 CDs on the names of God, and Sheppard's newest book, *Snatched from the Jaws of the Enemy*.

More information about The Names of God seminar can be found on [www.knowinggodministries.com](http://www.knowinggodministries.com).

**Ion Groza**, pastor



Ernie Pyle, Ion Groza, and Rob Sheppard.

# Cleburne First's New Year's Resolution

**CLEBURNE** » At Cleburne First, we resolve to put God first for all to see. For this purpose, we opened the new year in fellowship and commitment to Jesus Christ. We ratified our commitment to Him together and before all else. Our annual agape feast and communion was held on New Year's Eve at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Life Center. Tables were beautifully decorated in white lace to represent purity; red plates, glasses, and decorations to represent the blood of Jesus' sacrifice for us; and candles to represent the fire and

anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Our celebration began as Tony Torres, pastor, opened with a warm welcome, invocation, and an invitation to dine and be a part of the fellowship. More than 140 people attended, and many visitors expressed the happiness they felt in communing with our church family.

The agape feast was followed by Torres' devotional on the Abrahamic covenant and the blessings of the families. Just as Abraham blessed Isaac, Isaac blessed Jacob (who became Israel), and Israel is to bless

the world through Christ, Torres encouraged husbands to bless their wives, wives to bless their husbands, and husbands and wives to bless their children—for we are all to be suited and equipped as a blessing for those around us. At that time, families separated to pray privately with one another for the New Year in the sight of God.

After communion, praise songs were led by Beth Bullock and Clarity Chola, and we followed the admonition of the Spirit of Prophecy in recounting all the ways God had moved in our lives over

the previous year. Testimonies included accounts of physical and spiritual healing, provisions for work and sustenance, leadings and guidance, and blessings by God.

Together in communion with our Father, may we have the resolve and courage to put Jesus first and foremost in this new year.

**Dedra Torres**



▲ The Cleburne church celebrated New Year's Eve in fellowship.

► Tony Torres, pastor, prepares for communion.





# I hate camping! I love camp meeting!

If you're reading this, my title may have piqued your attention. This will be the 40th year my wife and I have attended camp meeting. During some years, we have been to several, both as attendees and as speakers. They are always a blessing. But, why the title?

Amongst my family and friends, there are many people who love camping of any

type. My sons like camping, my daughter-in-law does, and so do many of my friends, as well, including wilderness, desert, winter, arctic, and even motor home and travel trailer camping. I often wondered why I really didn't like roughing it. Then, it came to me. That was how I grew up—camping!

In our home in rural Missouri, like some of you, we did not have indoor plumbing

or running water. We pumped water from wells by hand, and heated water on the wood stove for hot baths. I grew up “camping” until I was 16. At that time, my Dad said we could either have a new car or running water. Being 16, I wanted a new car. You see, I did not even know I was camping. The outhouse and hand pump were all I knew. Fortunately, my mother and sister won, and we got the blessed running water. It was much nicer.

Then, I was drafted into the military, where I got plenty of camping. Wilderness survival, jungle survival, water survival, and POW camp training. I've camped a lot in my life, and I really do not want to camp anymore.

But, there is another word with camp in it that I did not experience until I was 25, and that is camp meeting. After becoming a part of the church, we heard about this special, week-long program. It was a time to come close to God, to honor God, and to be strengthened by being with people who were preparing for the coming of Jesus.

During these next couple of months, all over America, Adventists will celebrate camp meeting. It is an event that should never be missed. Those who are preparing for Jesus' coming need the time of spiritual renewal and fellowship. It is God's prescription for spiritual health. I love camp meeting, and always look forward to it. It is a very busy time for me, but it is a time when God comes to bless us in a special way.

My hat is off to all who love camping. But there is something much better than camping, it's camp meeting. I know what I'm talking about—I grew up camping. I wish I had grown up with camp meeting.

**James Stevens**, president

## 2012 Texico Convocation And Youth Festival

June 7-9, 2012

“TRUST IN THE LORD AND HE WILL  
DIRECT YOUR PATH”

### Main Speakers

*English:*

**Elder Dan Jackson,**  
*North American Division President*

*Spanish:*

**Dr. Andres Sequera,**  
*Associate Youth/Adult Pastor*  
*Columbia 1st SDA Church, South Carolina*



### Special Musical Guests

*English: King's Heralds Quartet*

*Spanish: Promise Group*

**Albuquerque Convention Center**  
401 2nd Street NW  
Albuquerque, New Mexico



# The Journey to Truth

**ABILENE, TEX. »** After the failure of my marriage and my subsequent divorce, I believed the teachings of my upbringing from another Christian faith, which said that God could not forgive me. I believed that I would go to hell and had no chance of salvation. I figured that if I was going to hell anyway, I might as well enjoy my time here on this earth.

That's when I really began living for myself and following the destructive path Satan had laid out for me. When my fourth marriage failed, I became so depressed that I thought it would be better to kill myself and end the misery. My plans included going to a bridge nearby and ending it there. I went to the bridge several times to get all the details figured out in my mind to ensure that my attempt would be successful.

During this time, a friend of mine mentioned to me that she wanted to take her children to church to learn about God. Again, reverting back to my prior beliefs, I decided I would try to steer her to the only church that I believed was going to heaven. In an effort to prove my beliefs to her, I began reading the New Testament to back up my doctrine. What I discovered was just the opposite. Many truths I found in the Bible contradicted what my church had taught. This began to give me hope that maybe I didn't have to be lost eternally, and that God could forgive me.

In my quest to find God, I went from church to church, and met with pastors of many denominations, asking for prayer and direction, but each time, I left feeling empty and unchanged. One day, I met

with a pastor and his wife from yet another denomination, and he explained that God could forgive all sin. I felt that I had done too much for God to forgive me, but during the pastor's prayer, it seemed like God was beginning to clean me up inside, and I could now see the light. After that experience, everything changed. It was as if I was seeing the world with a whole different

view. It was during this time that I met and married my current husband of now 23 years.

I attended several different non-denominational churches, but after reading about the Sabbath in the Bible, I began questioning individuals about this topic. One day, my husband said to me, "If you will go to the right church, I will go with you." Wondering what he meant, he then explained

to me about the Sabbath and how Constantine had issued a decree to change it. He learned of this by reading a book by Ellen White, which was one of five books that I had bought over 30 years before, when a person came by my apartment and introduced them to me. I had moved them with me from place to place as I had relocated, but had never read them.

As I studied the topic of the Sabbath, I wondered, "How did I not know this before?" This

began my search in the phone book for a church that worships on Saturday. I found a couple different churches, but I knew some of their teachings were not correct. Then I found the Seventh-day Adventists! This was it! After a seminar last year at the Abilene church given by Pastor Ron Halvorsen, Sr., I was re-baptized into the fellowship of believers.

God has truly been guiding me on this journey and I praise Him for leading me to the truth. I'm especially happy to know that God loves me no matter what I've done, and will forgive my sins by His great love and mercy.

**Sue Hinkle**, as told to her by Shelia Becker



David McLaughlan, pastor, and Shelia Becker on the day of her baptism.

view. Immediately, some of the addictions that enslaved me were gone. They just did not appeal to me anymore.

Finding the salvation and forgiveness of God through this pastor's prayer was very upsetting to my family, so much so that my mother kicked me out of the house. My family believed that one couldn't have the assurance of salvation on this earth. She felt I was going to hell since I had stepped outside the boundaries of my former denomination.

Many years later, in an attempt to reconcile with my mother, I moved to Abilene, Tex., to be near her. We were able to reconnect our relationship, but she never really accepted my newfound faith. We just stayed away from the topic of religion. It

# Everything Has Changed!

TEXICO CONFERENCE

**ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. »** As our family was preparing to move from Phoenix back to Albuquerque, I told them, "It's time for us to find a church. We want to follow what God wants us to do." I'd gone to many different churches looking for the true church, but hadn't found it yet. One day, as I sat in a laundromat with my young adult grandsons, Jonathan and Rico, I noticed a brochure being kicked around. Rico picked it up and saw it was advertising a church meeting on "Revelation" by Dr. Jim Stevens in Rio Rancho, N. Mex. Interested, Rico asked if we could attend. Night after

gan to blossom in the church. Instead of being introverted, he started getting to know people in the church by walking up and engaging them in a conversation. Not only was he getting to know people, he also became active in serving the church. He became a greeter, helped collect tithe and offerings, and helped set up and clean up for functions. People are amazed that Jonathan now enjoys greeting members and visitors on Sabbath mornings.

Rico had been seeking God through His Word and Christian radio programs. One day, about three years before the seminar,

ask me to tell them what I've learned at church and in the Bible, so I share with them. I keep telling them that they must give themselves to God; that time is getting short.

Rico had become friends with a 95-year-old man named Wilbur when he volunteered at a nursing home. Rico takes notes at every meeting and worship service so that he can put the information in a letter and share it with Wilbur. This man has now been through two complete evangelistic meetings, as well as many sermons and Bible studies given by our pastor through



▲ Left to right: Rico Martinez, Velma Black, and Jonathan Martinez are happy to have found their church home!

◀ Velma Black shows her commitment to Christ through baptism by Eric Redic, pastor, on April 17, 2010.

night of the meetings, we learned truths from the Bible that amazed us. I had read my Bible through four times previously, but had been praying that God would open my eyes and heart to understand it. The messages presented became so clear that it couldn't be denied that it was truth from God's Word. We were happy to be baptized at the conclusion of the meetings and join the fellowship of the Rio Rancho church.

Right away, we began to see God making changes in our lives. It wasn't long before my four sisters and their families began to notice, saying, "There's something different about you and the boys. I don't know what it is, but something has changed."

Jonathan, who used to be shy, now be-

he heard a speaker on the radio talk about returning a tithe to the Lord. Willing to do as God wanted, he began saving his tithe, but didn't know what to do with it. On the day of his baptism, Rico was excited to be able to give the three years' worth of tithe to God. He knew that he was where God had led him, and this would be where he would give his money to the Lord.

We have realized that it's impossible to keep this "Good News" to ourselves. There have been many times that I have been in the store and without even realizing it, I've found myself sharing my testimony with total strangers, as well as with my neighbors and family. Every day I call my four sisters to see how they are doing. They

Rico's letters.

We can't help but praise God for what He is doing in our lives! It has been almost two years now since our baptism, and everything has changed, including the music we listen to, what we watch, our eating habits, our attitudes, and our lifestyles. We are learning to trust God and let Him lead in every aspect of our lives. He has brought us through difficult times with the loss of my mother and husband, but I know that He is faithful and will turn all our sadness into joy as we lean on Him.

**Sue Hinkle**, Texico communication director, as told to her by Velma Black

# Satellite Ministry Continues to Bless

**CLOVIS, N.M. »** In 1998, Harry and Mary Stone of the Clovis church, motivated by their passion to share the gospel, started a 3ABN satellite ministry. By July of that year, they had saved enough to purchase three FTA dishes. With Harry's knowledge of electronics, the couple had no problem installing them. Most of the recipients include newly-baptized members, church members and some pastors.

In the past two years, they have ordered a dozen per year. So far, there has been a

total of 51 units installed. This ministry is not limited to the district. The latest unit was installed on February 5 in the home of Byrne and An-nalie Querol, a young couple in Lubbock, who happened to visit the Clovis church a few years ago. She is now a member of the church, and loves to watch Doug Batchelor's messages.

"It is our hope and prayer to see many dishes installed. It truly is a blessing and we will never know the

full benefit until we reach the kingdom of God," said the Stones.

**Nehemias Basit,**  
pastor



From left: Byrne Querol with Harry, Mary, and Joe Stone, as they happily show the finished satellite installation.



Nehemias Basit

# Embracing Spiritual Freedom

**"I can express myself spiritually at Southwestern and that's a great kind of freedom."**

Raisa Bryan is a self-described country girl from a Christian home in small-town Texas. On her way to a state college with her high school friends, Bryan's plans took a detour when her mother and sister, both graduates of Southwestern Adventist University, encouraged her to at least give the school a try. Hesitant to try a school where she didn't know a soul, the new graduate decided to give it a chance anyway.

"I felt welcomed on my very first visit to Southwestern," says Bryan. "So I decided to enroll for the fall semester. It was hard for me though, because I'm shy and I was really out of my comfort zone."

Just days into the school year, Bryan got a job working at the cafeteria. Soon she was meeting all kinds of people. "I discovered that I love talking to people," she explains. "Now I'll talk to anyone. I'm not a

hermit crab anymore."

Coming from a public school, Bryan immediately noticed one huge difference in her scholastic experience. "Here at Southwestern, you are surrounded by God and I think that has really helped me," says Bryan. "I was a Pentecostal Christian in a small public school. People were hesitant to ask you to pray, or wondered why you were reading the Bible. I can express myself spiritually here, and that's a great kind of freedom."

The newfound freedom has given Bryan the chance to blossom in her Christian walk. She enjoys her Bible classes and the opportunity to dig into the Bible, both for class and for her own understanding.

Though her

high school is in a neighboring town, Bryan is enjoying the variety of people in her new atmosphere. "Where I'm from, everyone knows everyone. It's a significant thing to meet someone from the other side of the world," she says. "Now I attend classes with people from many places around the world, which makes the learning environment versatile and brings a wide variety of culture to the school."

A junior elementary major, Bryan says she is growing academically, too. Inspired by the knowledge and personal interest her elementary education teachers show, Bryan says she is motivated to follow in their footsteps and be a great teacher. "I really

appreciate my teachers," she explains. "I'm also grateful to my sister for her example. She finished both a college degree and a master's in education in four years by making sacrifices and staying focused. She challenges me to apply myself, to meet my best potential. It's not just about being smart, but also about determination and applying myself." Bryan plans to continue her education after graduating from Southwestern and study for a masters in speech pathology.

"I'm very happy to be at Southwestern," asserts Bryan. "I like to be comfortable, but coming to Southwestern was a good kind of shock. It brought out a lot of my personality. I know I'm here for a reason and I'm happy to be experiencing something completely different."

**Makala Coleman**, freshman communication major



Darcy Force

Raisa takes some time in the Elementary Education lab to search for lesson plan inspiration.

# North American Division Shares “The Great Hope”

Questions and Answers about The Great Hope Project in the North American Division

**An interview with J. Alfred Johnson, director of Adult Ministries and coordinator of the NAD Great Hope project**

**Q:** Pastor Johnson, could you tell readers about the NAD initiative to distribute *The Great Hope* throughout the division?

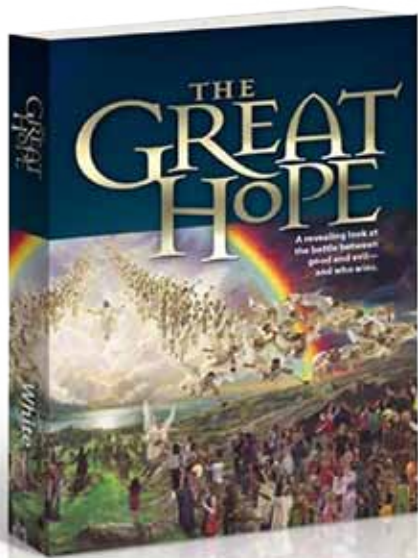
**A:** NAD’s initiative to distribute *The Great Hope*, the 11-chapter abridged version of *The Great Controversy*, is designed to serve as an entry type of literature to individuals who have some spiritual interest, and particularly, interest in last-day events. We recognize that the unabridged version of *The Great Controversy* outside of a relational context has the capacity to raise more questions than answers when distributed in a cold-contact process, so we encourage distribution of *The Great Hope*. It will be available for everyone through the local Adventist Book Centers.

**Q:** Why promote the abridged version versus the original version?

**A:** We are emphasizing *The Great Hope* because it’s a less complex ‘entering wedge’ compilation of literature than the unabridged version.

**Q:** What is the goal?

**A:** Our goal is to distribute three million copies in the NAD territory. A larger outcome would be as many beyond three million as possible.



**Q:** What is the timeline for the NAD initiative?

**A:** I should explain that that timeline has two phases: First, we’re asking members to read the unabridged version (*The Great Controversy*) beginning now. Read it prayerfully, asking the Lord to lead you to individuals to whom you should distribute *The Great Hope*, so you’ll find the people who are most receptive. That will take the leading and grace of the Lord. Then, the relational distribution of *The Great Hope* to family, friends and acquaintances will happen from June through December.

**Q:** Will individual members be able to get the reduced prices to purchase *The Great Hope* (paperback), or must they coordinate their purchases through their pastor and conference? Can’t they just purchase copies through their local Adventist Book Center?

**A:** Yes. The reduced pricing of 39 cents per copy (plus shipping) is a price offered by the Review and Herald Publishing Association and the Pacific Press Publishing Association. That price is good for orders received from anyone—individuals, churches, and conferences. To order, call the Adventist Book Center at 800.765.6955.

**Q:** What are the prices for various quantity cut-off points?

**A:** The 39 cents price represents the best quantity pricing. One conference is ordering 500,000 copies.

**Q:** Tell us about *The Great Hope* edition. How is it different? What chapters are included, and why? Is it available in paperback only, or is hardback available?

**A:** Chapters are listed at the [www.sharethegreathope.com](http://www.sharethegreathope.com). Hardcover copies are not available. *The Great Hope* comes in paperback only, and contains 94 pages.

**Q:** Is contact information included in the books if readers want to discuss them, have questions, or request Bible studies?

**A:** Yes, at this time plans are for including contact information for Bible-study organizations, such as the Discover Bible

School and BibleInfo.com.

**Q:** Will there be a study guide available if someone wants to use *The Great Hope* for a small group study?

**A:** Yes. The Discover Bible School is preparing a study guide for *The Great Hope*. The study guides will be available online at [www.sharethegreathope.com](http://www.sharethegreathope.com), and through the Adventist Book Centers.

**Q:** How will *The Great Hope* project initiative fit into the larger REACH America initiative? Will there be other “The Great Hope” tie-ins in 2012?

**A:** We are aware that the GC Communication Department has already completed two episodes of a Great Controversy video series, tied in with the larger unabridged version, and it is also designed to tie in with any evangelistic series that are themed toward *The Great Controversy*.

**Q:** Where can readers go for more information?

**A:** We will flow information through [www.sharethegreathope.com](http://www.sharethegreathope.com). You will find links to online and Kindle versions, audio, and plans for DVDs and a Great Controversy movie!

**Q:** Are there any marketing materials available to help promote this NAD initiative—bulletin inserts and announcements, posters, social media sites, etc.? If so, how can people get them?

**A:** A bulletin insert and short PowerPoint presentation for churches is posted on [www.sharethegreathope.com](http://www.sharethegreathope.com). More materials and information will be available there and announced through future NAD NewsPoints, and the NAD Facebook page.

**Q:** How does someone donate to this initiative?

**A:** Send check or money order made out to the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists, Attention: NAD Treasury Department, 12501 Old Columbia Pike, Silver Spring, MD 20904-6600. Designate: For Great Hope Project.

NAD Office of Communication

NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

# 53 Baptized During Ozark Adventist Academy's Mission Trip to Belize

Waking up in Belize is an amazing thing. Whether you are hearing an exotic bird that you've never heard before, traffic on the street below, or a gentle rain that will disappear as quickly as it began, just the simple act of opening your eyes and returning to conscious thought fills you with a sense of anticipation. And the powerful truth is that the expectancy isn't hollow. Belize didn't disappoint.

For two weeks in February, a group of 17 students from Ozark Adventist Academy gave their winter break to God and answered His call to go on a mission trip to Orange Walk Town, Belize. Several of them had never left the country before. For one, it was her first plane ride. We were joining with the Southwestern Union to preach 14 separate evangelistic series at different locations surrounding this beautiful little city center. Each night, an elder from each site would pick the student up with their gear—a computer and projector—feed them dinner, and start the meeting where the student would preach. The sermons covered topics from prophecy to doctrine, and the students worked for hours each day practicing before they stood in front of their congregations.

The students always wonder what they are getting themselves into, because no amount of training will prepare them for what really happens on a mission trip. We teach them how to work the computer program from which they preach. We remind them about the safety procedures we expect them to follow so they can remain strong and healthy for the duration of the series. We give introductory lessons on cultural sensitivity. We encourage them toward their calling as a disciple of Jesus to go into the entire world making more disciples.

One of the students arrived at his site feeling very confident that he could handle the process just fine on his own. The first night he preached, his projector wouldn't work. The second night

he preached, the computer shut down and wouldn't come back on. Things happened over and over where his expectations were unmet, and he could not fix them. He woke up in Belize to the fact that he could not do things on his own. He learned that trust in God is the only way.

Another student had an emotional breakdown just days before we left on the trip. She wept and told me that she couldn't go. She wasn't ready. Her relationship with God wasn't strong enough. She felt she was a hypocrite and was scared and wouldn't be able to do a good job. We talked and prayed and I gave her 2 Corinthians 12:8-10 as a verse to cling to whenever she felt this way. She was nervous, but this made her a diligent student. She would lock herself in the conference room at the hotel where we were staying and preach the sermon over and over. She would sit down beside me and ask question after question about the sermon each day, just to be sure she understood everything herself. And when she stood before her congregation who met under a tarp in a park, she preached with power and conviction. She woke up in Belize to the fact that the God who promised is faithful.

Students learned the power of listening to and following the Holy Spirit. They were confronted with questions from visitors about the beliefs they were teaching. They were challenged by the cultural differences

and expectations people had of them that they weren't even aware of. There was born in them a passion for the salvation of the people they were serving. They grew to support one another in prayer and fellowship. They found that the joy that comes from selfless relationship with others is so much deeper than the apparent joy of having things.

Our group had the pleasure of seeing 53 people from our sites make the decision to follow Jesus and be baptized. Two of the 53 were students from our group who had decided during a week of prayer earlier in the year that they wanted to be baptized. They were able to say to their church members that they would stand first. They believed what they were sharing, and they were so excited that they would have the memory of being baptized with the people they love in Belize. The students said yes to the adventure of living with Jesus and had more baptisms in their site than any other single site.

Waking up in Belize is beautiful. I highly recommend it. But as a chaplain and teacher, watching your students wake up to the reality of all God wants to do in and through them is priceless. And the celebration and gratitude you feel when you witness that isn't hollow. God does not disappoint.

**Renee Stepp**, chaplain, Ozark Adventist Academy



The Ozark Adventist Academy students who participated in the mission trip to Belize learned to trust God, to follow the direction of the Holy Spirit, and they developed a passion for serving others.



## ASI Chapter Meetings Draw Large Attendance

**JOSHUA, TEX. »** On the first weekend in March, the Southwestern Union chapter of Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) held its annual convention at the Joshua church in Joshua, Tex. The well-attended conference, themed "Soldiers of Christ Arise," had nearly 700 in attendance on Sabbath morning.

The conference featured Ron Halvorsen, Sr., with his prayer seminar, as well as John Lomacang, who gave a shortened version of his very popular seminar on music and the occult, and also sang a concert on Sabbath afternoon. John Mathews, North American Division stewardship director, gave a seminar on finances.

Dick Stenbakken, chaplain, delivered several unique dramatic performances that were intended to emphasize the conference theme. His first performance on Thursday evening portrayed the centurion in charge of Christ's crucifixion. Friday evening, Stenbakken recounted how a soldier on the torpedoed S.S. Dorchester was saved due to a chaplain giving the soldier his own life jacket. The conference concluded Sunday morning with another touching, first-person performance by Stenbakken on the impact Paul may have

had on the centurion in charge of taking him to Rome.

National ASI officers who attended and participated in the services were ASI president, Frank Fournier; ASI secretary/treasurer, Ramón Chow; and vice president for membership, Steve Dickman.

John Read led the congregation in song, and special music presenters included Ron Woolsey on the marimba, the Messengers of Grace trio, the Healing Heart choir, the women's group, Forever His, and the Oklahoma Academy choir and bell choir.

The 2012 offering goal of \$15,500, to help Oklahoma Academy build a greenhouse, Ouachita Hills Academy and College complete its men's dormitory, and to support a Guatemalan self-sufficiency training program for the disabled, was met and exceeded. Thanks to God's blessing and the generosity of the attendees, the offering totaled more than \$18,000.

Officers for the 2012-2014 term were also elected at the conference, including Rus Lorenz, vice presi-

dent for membership and recruitment; Art Humphrey, vice president for communication; Paul Karmy, vice president for evangelism; Gracie Japas, general vice president; and Floyd Courtney, president. Pat Humphrey continues to serve as the Southwestern Union ASI executive secretary, which is an appointed position.

The 2013 annual convention will be held in Gentry, Ark., February 28-March 3 on the campus of Ozark Academy. For more information about the Southwest Chapter of ASI, go to [www.asisw.org](http://www.asisw.org) or visit them on Facebook.

Floyd Courtney



**Top right:** The Southwestern Union ASI leadership team for 2012-2014 with Chaplain Dick Stenbakken (in costume). Back row, from left, Floyd Courtney, president; Dick Stenbakken; Paul Karmy, vice president for evangelism; Art Humphrey, vice president for communication. Seated: Gracie Japas (left), general vice president; Pat Humphrey, Southwestern Union ASI executive secretary

► Floyd Courtney, ASI Southwest Chapter president; Pat Humphrey, Southwestern Union ASI executive secretary; Ramón Chow, national ASI secretary/treasurer

**Below, from left:** Presenters, Frank Fournier, John Lomacang, National ASI secretary/treasurer, Ramón Chow, Ron Halvorsen, Sr., and Floyd Courtney



# Win a Free Week at Camp!



Don't be a slow poke! One boy and one girl from each local conference will win a free week at camp. It could be you!

Twenty turtles are hidden in the pages of this issue. Submit a complete list of all of the turtles you find, including the page number, by **May 10** to **summercampcontest@swuc.org**, or mail them to: **Summer Camp Contest, Southwestern Union Record, P.O. Box 4000, Burleson, TX 76097**. Be sure to include your name, age, gender, address, and phone number, and tell us which conference and church you belong to. One boy and one girl from each conference will be randomly selected to win a free week at the camp in his or her conference.





## Classified Ads

### REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

**Private Hawaiian Retreat** for SDA members at Kahili Mountain Park on Kauai. Free wi-fi throughout the park, new comfortable pillow-top beds in Aloha Cabins, and gel-memory foam toppers in Rustic Cabins. Visit [www.kahilipark.org](http://www.kahilipark.org) for details on cabins, and our 2012 Summer Hawaiian Family Camp Vacation packages, or call 808.742.9921.

**Summit Ridge Retirement Village** is an Adventist community in a rural setting, but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, assisted

living, nursing home, and transportation as needed. Website: <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman, 405.208.1289.

**Home for sale near Norman, Arkansas:** Nice 2,044 sq. ft. home on 13 acres. New vinyl siding, 2 large covered porches, metal 30' x 36' garage/shop. Property borders national forest, is mostly wooded, has pond and garden area and two wells. Beautiful view of Ouachita Mountains. Near Adventist church. \$160,500. Phone: 870.334.2767.

**For Sale:** Time share near Walt Disney World in Fla., and two lots at Liberty Lakes Resort near Cleveland, Tex., about 50 miles NE of Houston. Both priced for quick sale. Will benefit SDA ministries.

877.389.0991.

**Home for sale in Keene, Texas:** Brick home, 2,000 sq.ft. 3-2, attached 2-car garage on .8 acres. Excellent location for schools: Adventist elementary school, 1 block; SWAU, 2 blocks; public elementary and high schools, 5 blocks; CTA, less than a mile. Church is located 1 block away. Priced to sell. 817.558.2617.

**Home with 47 acres in private country setting for sale in Williamsburg, Kentucky:** Beautiful pasture land with lots of wooded area joining a national forest. Home approximately 1,700 sq.ft. with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths, kitchen, living room, dining room, and attached garage. Two Adventist churches, school, and

hospital close. Also, electronic testing equipment for sale. For details, call 606.549.2341.

### EMPLOYMENT

**Walla Walla University** seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions in Business, English; and contract faculty in many areas. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

**ADRA:** Imagine using your successful fundraising and relationship-building skills to create opportunities for those in poverty! ADRA Canada seeks a highly-experienced Donor Relations Manager responsible for the enrichment and implementation of a donor

**Let's turn up the volume!**

Give now Tell others Learn more

**From this tiny island, lives are being changed.**

Partner with AWR to expand our shortwave station on Guam - and reach more listeners with the gospel throughout Asia.

**ADVENTIST WORLD RADIO®**  
12501 Old Columbia Pike  
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 USA

800-337-4297 | [awr.org](http://awr.org)  
[@awrweb](https://twitter.com/awrweb)  
[facebook.com/awrweb](https://facebook.com/awrweb)

relationship, annual fund-raising, and planned giving strategy. Details at [www.adra.ca](http://www.adra.ca).

### Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences

is looking for an accounting, finance, or economics professor for their new Master of Healthcare Administration program. Ph.D. required. Experience in a healthcare setting desirable. Send cover letter, c.v., statement of teaching philosophy, and references to Ann Vining at [ann.vining@fhchs.edu](mailto:ann.vining@fhchs.edu).

### Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences

is looking for a religion professor to teach undergraduate and graduate classes beginning fall 2012. Must have a Ph.D. with an emphasis in biblical studies, and be a member of

the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Teaching experience in a multi-cultural setting and background in healthcare are desirable. Send cover letter, c.v., statement of teaching philosophy, and references to Ann Vining at [ann.vining@fhchs.edu](mailto:ann.vining@fhchs.edu).

### MISCELLANEOUS

#### Move with an award-winning agency.

Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for all your relocation needs! Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Contact Marcy Dante' at 800.766.1902, for a free estimate. Visit us at [www.apexmoving.com/adventist/](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist/).

#### 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](http://TEACHServices.com) at 518.353.6992 for a FREE manuscript review.

#### Wellness Secrets.

Do you or someone you know suffer with diabetes, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, arthritis, cancer, obesity, depression, stress, or smoking? Wellness Secrets Lifestyle Center can help! Affordable 5-day, live-in health program in beautiful NW Arkansas. For further information, visit our Web site [wellnesssecrets4u.com](http://wellnesssecrets4u.com) or call 479.752.8555.

#### Southern Adventist University

offers master's degrees in business, counseling, education,

nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through online and on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees](http://www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees).

#### AdventistSingles.org free 14-day trial!

Join thousands of Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, profiles, match notifications! Adventist owners since 1993. Visit [www.ElliotDylan.com](http://www.ElliotDylan.com) for the Undercover Angels series of novels for Christian teens that build on biblical principles and reinforce integrity. Great for Sabbath reading, church and home schools, and gifts!

#### Planning an Evangelistic Series or Health Seminar?

Have questions?

## Personal spirit. Shared values.

*Sarah Winder* is a dog lover, a dedicated walker and a wife. She's also a valued member of the nursing staff at Loma Linda. She brings her sense of humor, her humility and commitment to every patient interaction. Sarah is one of the people that help to make Loma Linda a center of clinical excellence and supportive faith-based care.



*Sarah Winder, RN*

### Many Strengths. One Mission.

If you are an individual who understands and embraces the mission and purpose of Loma Linda University and its entities as premier Seventh-day Adventist Christian institutions, please visit [careers.llu.edu](http://careers.llu.edu) or call 1-800-722-2770. EOE/AEE



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY

Medical Center | Children's Hospital | Medical Center East Campus  
Behavioral Medicine Center | Health Care | Heart & Surgical Hospital | Health Services

19 Adventist owned channels  
plus over 50 more FREE Christian channels  
after a one-time system purchase!

Official Distribution Partner for all Adventist Broadcasters

One-Room System  
Only \$199 +shipping  
No Monthly Fees  
No Subscriptions

Do you have an older receiver & tired of rescanning to get new channels?  
UPGRADE your receiver for only \$99 +free shipping\*  
and never scan again!  
\*Free shipping to continental US only.

- The only system that automatically receives new channels.
- Free one-year warranty, and technical support with every purchase!

ADVENTISTsat.com  
A Glorystar Network

866-552-6882 toll free  
Local #: 916-218-7806  
[www.adventistsat.com](http://www.adventistsat.com)

Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800.274.0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service, or visit [www.hope-source.com](http://www.hope-source.com). You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin's HOPE deliver on time.

**RVs!** Adventist-owned and operated RV dealership has been helping SDAs for over 35 years. Huge inventory of new and used trailers and motorhomes. Jayco, Newmar, and Hurricane. Courtesy airport pick-up and on-site hookups. Call toll-free 888.933.9300. Lee's RV Superstore, Oklahoma City. [www.leesrv.com](http://www.leesrv.com) or e-mail Lee Litchfield at [Lee@leesrv.com](mailto:Lee@leesrv.com).

**Single and over 40?** The only interracial group for Adventist singles over 40. Stay home and meet new friends in USA with a Pen Pal monthly newsletter of members and album. For information, send large, self-addressed, stamped envelope to ASO 40, 2747 Nonpareil, Sutherlin, OR 97479.

**Immune Ammunition boosts your ability to stay well!** Immune Ammunition fights virus, bacteria, fungus, and inflammation. Use daily with Vegan Vitamin D. Buy now by phone or on line! You need both. Bon Herbals carries other hard-to-find vegetarian/vegan supplements. Phone 423.238.7467, [www.bonherbals.com](http://www.bonherbals.com). Bon Herbals, PO Box 1038, Collegedale, TN 37315.

**Wildwood Lifestyle Renewal and Weight**

**Management Programs** focus on lifestyle change, health education, hands-on cooking, and exercise. 7-day session: March 18-25, 2012 Cost: \$370. 14-day session: April 8-22, 2012 Cost: \$740. Home Hydrotherapy and Herbal Basics Seminar: March 25-April 1, 2012. Cost: \$370. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, Tenn. Contact: Darlene Keith 931.724.6706, [www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org](http://www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org). Email: [darlenekeith@gmail.com](mailto:darlenekeith@gmail.com).

**FREE "Names of God" seminar**, along with FREE study materials is available to your church. For details visit [www.knowinggodministries.com](http://www.knowinggodministries.com). Presented FREE to churches and camp meetings throughout the US and Canada. God's loving character is revealed through the names He gave Himself.

## Announcements

**Ozark Adventist Academy** invites all former faculty, staff, and students to attend Homecoming Weekend, June 8-10, 2012. Plan to sing with the alumni choir, visit with classmates and friends, and enjoy the beautiful OAA campus. For more information, call 479.736.2221 ext. 1109, or visit the Web site: [www.ozarkacademy.org](http://www.ozarkacademy.org).

**Oklahoma Academy Academy Days:** If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just right for you. Come visit April 13-15, 2012 for our Academy Days Weekend and find out! Call 405.454.6211 to make your reservations

today! Find us on the Web at: [www.oklahomacademy.org](http://www.oklahomacademy.org).

**Weimar Center of Health and Education** welcomes all academy, college, and staff alumni to the annual joint homecoming reunion for fellowship and spiritual enrichment with several special speakers and events on April 13-15, 2012. Honor academy and college classes: 1982, '87, '92, and '02. Information: [alumni@weimar.edu](mailto:alumni@weimar.edu), or 800.525.9192.

**"Transforming Lives Through Libraries."** The Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2012 Conference will be held June 19-24, 2012 at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies in Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Librarians and information professionals are invited to visit <http://asdal.org> for conference information, or contact Christy Scott at [Christy.Scott@wallawalla.edu](mailto:Christy.Scott@wallawalla.edu) or 509.527.2153.

**Broadview Academy Alumni Association** invites you to attend Alumni Weekend, May 4-5, 2012, for Friday evening vesper, Sabbath School, and church. Mark your calendars and call your classmates to start planning for this eventful weekend. You won't want to miss it! Honor classes are: 1942, 1952, 1962, 1972, 1982, 1987, 1992, and 2002. N. Aurora SDA Church, N. Aurora, Ill. Because postage is ex-

pensive, we'd like to have your e-mail. Please send your e-mail address to Ed Gutierrez at edjulie1@att.net, or call: 630.232.9034.

**Jefferson Christian Academy:** Former students, faculty, staff, and friends are invited to Jefferson Christian Academy's homecoming on April 20-22, 2012. For more information, contact Jefferson Christian Academy at 903.665.3973 or [www.jeffersonchristianacademy.org](http://www.jeffersonchristianacademy.org) Come enjoy Sabbath services, music, potluck under the pines, parties, and time to reminisce.

**Notice:** Research is underway to obtain a State of Texas historical marker for the Norse Seventh-day Adventist Church in Clifton, Bosque County, as the oldest standing Texas Seventh-day Adventist church building. If you have contrary information, please contact Ken Fry, 2088 CR 406, Nemo, Texas 76070.

**Thunderbird Adventist Academy** announces Alumni Weekend, April 13-15, honoring classes of '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '97, and '02, with speaker Brent Yingling. All events will be held in the academy gymnasium. For more information, contact Wayne Longhofer at 480.948.3300, or [wlonghofer@thunderbird-academy.org](mailto:wlonghofer@thunderbird-academy.org)

**Marietta-New Hope Homecoming:** Homecoming service at the Marietta-New Hope church in Marietta, Tex., will be held on May 12 at the church.

**Adventist Risk Management Retired Employees:**

A reunion will be held for retired ARM employees April 18-19, 2012, in Silver Spring, Md. Please meet at the General Conference at 6 p.m. on April 18 for dinner at a nearby restaurant. On April 19, we will visit and tour the General Conference. Please RSVP to Phyllis Morgan, 301.434.7221, or [gmmomdad@verizon.net](mailto:gmmomdad@verizon.net).

**Southwestern Adventist University's 2012 Alumni and Friends Tour:** Hosted by Eric Anderson, president, this May 27 through June 6 tour begins at Milan airport and makes a spectacular loop along the legendary lakes of Italy, north through the edge of Switzerland, and up into the dramatic Italian Dolomites. Travel continues along ancient lakeside trade routes back toward Milan, with refreshing pauses for shopping, dining, sightseeing, and recreation. Cost is \$1695.00 per person, which includes rooms, entrance fees, hearty breakfasts, and four group dinners. Deposit necessary. To confirm your place, contact Gerald Martin at [gerald@star-mountaintravel.com](mailto:gerald@star-mountaintravel.com), or 601.891.0414.

**Tillamook Adventist School** in Tillamook, Oreg., invites past students, faculty, and friends to a weekend celebration of 75 years of Christian education on May 18-20, at the school campus. Activities run Friday evening through Sunday morning. Special rates available at the Ashley Inn, 503.842.7599. Visit [www.TillamookAdventistSchool.org](http://www.TillamookAdventistSchool.org), join Tillamook Adventist School Alumni Facebook group, or call

503.842.6533.

**"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion** will take place June 8-10, for alumni and warmly welcomed schoolmates of 1962 and earlier of Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1932, 1942, 1952, 1962. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. Also, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989.427.5181, or visit [www.glaa.net](http://www.glaa.net) for further information. Please do pass along the good word.

**Cowboy Camp Meeting,** presented by Crossroad Fellowship Church will be held in Burleson, Tex., October 5-6, 2012. Special guests include speaker Bill Kilgore and pianist Kelly Mowrer. Rustic Creek Ranch, 2301 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson, Tex. More information can be found at [www.rusticcreekranch.com](http://www.rusticcreekranch.com), or 817.426.5037.

**Committed,** an a capella group, is coming to the Arlington church April 21 at 7 p.m. Committed has taken the nation by storm after winning season two of NBC's "The Sing Off." Tickets are on sale now at [www.itickets.com/events/283533](http://www.itickets.com/events/283533).



## Obituaries

**BLOUNT, Diane Marie,** died January 26, 2012 in Pineville, La. She was a member of the Gonzales church. Marie enjoyed gardening and notary work in her spare time. Survivors: husband, Kenneth Blount; mother, Nevelyn Armand Deschense; daughter, Ashley Dawn Weaver and husband, Kerry; three sons, Michael W. Cole and wife, Jenna Lynn, Rod Braud and wife Nicole, and Kevin Michael Blount; two sisters, Debbie Wellman and husband, Donnie, and Susan Armand; brother, Herman Paul Armand and wife, Kelly; sister-in-law, Pamela Glenmeyer; and five grandchildren.

**CHESNUT, Virginia Pearl,** born December 7, 1932 in Gentry, Ark., and died February 10, 2012 in Ringgold, Ga. She was a member of the Gentry church. Survivors: three sons, Bruce Chesnut of Ringgold, Ga., Dean Chesnut of Haven, Kans., and Keith Chesnut of Longmont, Colo.; daughter, Nileta Jackson of Watts, Okla.; 12 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**DANIEL, Hazel O.,** born February 6, 1923 in Wapanucka, Okla., and died December 9, 2011 in Orange, Tex. She was a member of the Bonnerdale, Ark., church. She loved children and enjoyed being active in children's Sabbath School and Pathfinders. Survivors: daughter, Beth McGowan of Bridge City, Tex.; three sons, Jonny

Daniel of Lubbock, Tex., Bruce Daniel of Springdale, Ark., and Robert Daniel of Converse, Tex.; sister, Joyce Roberson of Hot Springs, Ark.; nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

**DUNN, Edna Lorene,** born June 13, 1917 in Bowie, Tex., and died February 28, 2012 in Forth Worth. She was the last charter member of the Midland church. She was truly a generous Christian woman. She was preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Herman. Survivors: three children, Frances Soliz and husband, Arthur, of San Gabriel, Calif., Virginia Plummer and husband, Keith, of Covina, Calif., and Richard Dunn and wife, Randi, of Benbrook, Tex.; six grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

**LANGSTON, Heidi Scheunemann,** born March 16, 1949 in Chicago, Ill., and died November 17, 2011 in Gentry Ark. She was a member of the Gentry church. Survivors: husband, Burl Langston of Gentry.; son, Jason Kopsa of California; mother and step-father, Sonja and Heinz Paetzold of Arizona; step-mother, Gisela Scheunemann of Mountain Home, Ark.; two brothers, Andrew Paetzold and wife, Martha, of Illinois, and Eric Scheunemann of Eureka Springs, Ark.; two sisters, Anna Moses, and husband, William, of Connecticut, and Julia Delhi, and husband, Mark, of Bella Vista, Ark.; step-sister, Heidi DeGraf, and husband, Dave, of Bella Vista; and two granddaughters.

**LAWSON, Earl Jr.,** born September 15, 1933 and died January 25, 2012 in Alexandria, La. He was a member of the Central Louisiana church. Survivors: wife, Ollie Rushing Lawson; two sons, Fredrick Lawson of Natchitoches, La., and Darryl Lawson and wife, Adrian, of Macon, Ga.; two daughters, Sharon Mathis and husband, Robert, of Jonesboro, Ga., and Jacqueline Lawson of Natchitoches, La.; two step-sons, Dominic Brooks and wife, Wanda, of Alexandria, La., and Guy Brooks and wife, Shelia, of Linden, N.C.; one brother, Curtis Lawson, and wife, Michell, of Alexandria, La.; two sisters, Gloria Williams of Cheneyville, La., and Jacqueline Brown and husband, Christopher, of Alexandria; four grandchildren and four step-grandchildren.

**RICHEY, Cosma James,** born January 11, 1958 in Alexandria, La., and died January 18, 2012 in Otis, La. He was a member of the Central Louisiana church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lorita and Benjamin Richey; step-mother, Sybil Richey; one brother, Benjamin Richey, Jr.; and one sister, Marinell Jones. Survivors: wife, Laurie Richey; two daughters, Kristi and Stephanie Richey; nephew, Doug Richey; three sisters, Melonie Thomas, Jackie Smith, and Diana Bowser; two brothers, Teddy Fisher and Jimmie Fisher; and one aunt, Joyce McGinty.

**ROUSE, Raymond,** born in Elm Creek, Nebr., and died March 7, 2012 in Avon Park, Fla. He was treasurer of the Oklahoma, Indiana, Illinois, and Minnesota

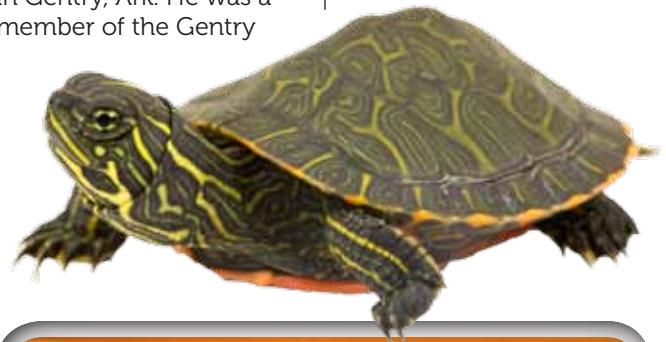
conferences. Survivors: wife, Darlene Herr Rouse of Avon Park; son, Arden Rouse of Auburndale, Fla.; daughter, Darla Erhard of McDonald, Tenn.; two sisters, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**SICKER, Donald E.,** born January 14, 1932 in Emmaus, Pa., and died February 13, 2012 in Harrah, Okla. He was a member of the Summit Ridge church. Survivors: wife, Flora; two sons, Donald and wife, Iris, of Lancaster, Calif., and John and wife, Carla, of Edmond, Okla.; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

**STRICKER, Norman Dean,** born June 11, 1955 in Woodward, Okla., and died January 13, 2012 in Gentry, Ark. He was a member of the Gentry

church. Survivors: mother, Mary Stricker of Gentry; and two brothers, Larry Stricker of Oaks, Okla., and Bob Stricker of Gentry.

**THIRY, Dorothy Fae,** born January 20, 1930 in Causey, N. Mex., and died February 6, 2012 in Ruidoso, N.Mex. She was a member of the Ruidoso Downs church. Dorothy's family and church were her life. She was part of a women's trio, was a church greeter, and almost always had visitors over for dinner after church. Survivors: husband, Herbert; daughter, Dana Dildine-Lopez and husband, Bobby Lopez, of Ruidoso; and three sisters, Jo Frazier-Meyer of Gainesville, Tex., Zela Padon of Keene, Tex., and Bonita Rolston of Keene.



### SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Apr 6	Apr 13	Apr 20	Apr 27	May 4	May 11
Abilene, TX	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:17	8:22	8:28
Albuquerque, NM	7:32	7:37	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:01
Amarillo, TX	8:13	8:18	8:24	8:29	8:36	8:41
Brownsville, TX	7:49	7:52	7:56	7:59	8:03	8:07
Dallas, TX	7:50	7:56	8:01	8:06	8:11	8:16
El Paso, TX	7:29	7:34	7:38	7:43	7:48	7:53
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:53	7:58	8:03	8:08	8:13	8:19
Gallup, NM	7:40	7:46	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:43	7:47	7:52	7:56	8:01	8:05
Gentry, AR	7:44	7:50	7:56	8:02	8:08	8:14
Little Rock, AR	7:34	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:56	8:02
Muskogee, OK	7:47	7:53	7:59	8:05	8:11	8:17
New Orleans, LA	7:22	7:26	7:31	7:35	7:40	7:44
Oklahoma City, OK	7:56	8:01	8:07	8:13	8:19	8:25
Roswell, NM	7:22	7:27	7:32	7:38	7:43	7:49
San Antonio, TX	7:55	7:59	8:04	8:08	8:13	8:17
Shreveport, LA	7:38	7:43	7:48	7:53	7:59	8:04
Tulsa, OK	7:50	7:56	8:02	8:08	8:14	8:20

BY KIMBERLY BERNHARDT

## Camp Ministry: Helping Kids See God in a New Way

**EVERY YEAR SINCE I WAS EIGHT YEARS OLD**, my cousin, Brooke, and I have attended Wewoka Woods Adventist Camp. I remember the anticipation I felt each time summer arrived, and I knew I would be going back to camp. Wewoka Woods felt like a second home to me. It was the place where I made my closest friends, tried exciting activities, and strengthened my spiritual life with Jesus Christ.

As a camper, I looked up to the camp staff, who were true role models. My biggest goal was to one day become a staff member myself, and be a role model for younger kids while I helped campers grow or start their own spiritual relationship with God. When Brooke and I turned 15, we had the opportunity to attend teen specialty week. I hadn't planned on attending because I felt that I wasn't able to specialize in any of the specialties they had to offer. Brooke was the one who pushed me to obtain my lifeguarding certification. When she told me to have faith in God and trust in Him to help me pass the class, I knew she was right.

I had to put my faith in God to do this. One evening I prayed, "Dear God, I'm terrified that I won't be able to do it, but I'm putting my complete trust in You. If this is what You want me to do, I pray that You will give me the strength and courage to pass the class. Amen." Making the decision to put my complete faith in Him allowed me to grow spiritually. Achieving my lifeguarding certification was the path God wanted me to take. After Brooke and I both earned our lifeguarding certifications, we had jobs set up for the following summer. Everything that we had been praying for was finally becoming a wonderful reality. The following summer, I worked as a lifeguard and as an assistant counselor. I loved being a lifeguard, but I especially loved being an assistant counselor. Counseling allowed me to gain personal relationships



with the girl campers in my cabin. Getting to know each camper in my cabin was my favorite part of working at camp.

As a staff member, I've realized the importance of being a good role model. I have to make sure my actions are pulling campers closer to God, and not pushing them away. It is our responsibility to be a witness to the kids. Having been a camper, I know how important that one week of camp can be. For some campers, it can lead to the beginning of their spiritual relationship with God. As camp staff, it's our responsibility to help campers learn how to start that path and help them grow as Christians. I know that I have been given the opportunity to help these kids see God in a new way. I thank God that He has given me the chance to make a difference in each of the campers' lives.

**Kimberly Bernhardt**, of Kingfisher, Okla., spends her summers as a camp counselor and lifeguard at Wewoka Woods Adventist Camp.



# On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

## Refresh, Renew, Revive

**WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT WHEN YOU HEAR THE WORDS** *camp meeting*? Let me share with you some of the visual images that immediately come to mind when I think about my camp meeting experiences over the years: the “best of the best” preachers delivering soul-stirring messages; crowds of people listening attentively under packed tents; children singing their hearts out during top-notch programs designed just for them; well-known and loved musicians singing my favorite songs; enjoying great

conversation under the trees (or in the hot sun!) with old friends and new ones; people in small groups engaged in earnest prayer for the power of the Holy Spirit; new converts sharing their testimonies about how they came to Christ; eager, dedicated young ministers being ordained to the gospel ministry; and last but not least, frantic shoppers making their way through the narrow aisles of the make-shift ABC store. I just love camp meeting, but I must confess, two of my very favorite things about it are the old-fashioned Sunday-afternoon auditorium book sales and rummaging through books at the crowded ABC store on Saturday night. (I’ll admit, it’s a dangerous combination: I love books and I love getting a great bargain! But it makes ABC managers happy, right?)

I’ve attended many different camp meetings. Some were held on beautiful campgrounds out in the middle of nowhere; others were held in a gymnasium on a college campus or under a big tent on an academy campus; one in the rural outskirts of Livingstone, Zambia, with 3,000 dedicated church members sitting either on hard benches or the ground; and once I even went to a “camp meeting” in a downtown convention center. Although the settings may have differed, there’s a common denominator across my experience with all these meetings: I’ve always returned home refreshed, renewed, and revived.

So why should you attend camp meeting? There are many reasons, but I’ll name just two. **FIRST**, God wants to meet you there. Listen to these statements by

Ellen White in Volume 6 of the *Testimonies* about the importance of camp meeting: “Strengthen the meeting all you possibly can by being present with your families. Put forth extra exertion to attend the gathering of God’s people.” She continues, “It would be far better for you to let your business suffer than to neglect the opportunity of hearing the message God has for you.”

**SECOND**, you’ll be blessed and your faith will be strengthened as you hear uplifting messages and renew your commitment to spread the good news of Jesus’ soon return.

I can’t wait until that great camp meeting in heaven, where the weather will be perfect, the music will be just heavenly, and where we will have the privilege of worshipping at the feet of Jesus. But until then, whenever the opportunity presents itself for me to gather with the saints here on earth, I’ll be there! I hope you will too!

## Record

### EDITORIAL STAFF

- Editor** ..... Pat Humphrey  
phumphrey@swuc.org
- Associate Editor** ..... Jessica Lozano  
jlozano@swuc.org
- Assistant Editor/Designer** ..... Reggie Johnson  
rjohnson@swuc.org
- Advertising Manager** ..... Dianne Jones  
djones@swuc.org

### SOUTHWESTERN UNION OFFICERS

- President** ..... Larry Moore
- Secretary** ..... Buford Griffith, Jr.
- Treasurer** ..... Deryl Knutson

- Vice-President** ..... Eddie Canales
- Vice-President** ..... Duane McKey
- Undertreasurer** ..... Joel Wallace

### DEPARTMENT DIRECTORS

- ASI/Communication** ..... Pat Humphrey
- Children’s Ministries** ..... Margaret Taglavore
- Education** ..... Randy Gilliam
- Family Ministries** ..... Buford Griffith, Jr.
- Hispanic Ministries** ..... Eddie Canales
- Information Systems** ..... Jerrilynn J. Bicek
- Ministerial Spouses Association** ..... Kathy McKey
- Personal Ministries** ..... Eddie Canales

- Religious Liberty** ..... Buford Griffith, Jr.
- Revolving Fund** ..... Carlos Ribeiro
- Trust Services** ..... Joel Wallace
- Women’s Ministries** ... Carmen Fuentes-Griffith

### Subscriptions

Free to all Southwestern Union church members.  
Non-member subscription is \$12/year.

### Submissions

Articles for the Record will be edited for length and content. Because space is limited, stories and articles are selected on the basis of interest and relevance to those around the Southwestern Union.



# SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

the beginning of wisdom

## Your opportunity. Your new beginning.

Amanda decided to be a nurse because she wants to serve others. Nursing is her ministry. "I want to be Christ's healing hands every day," Amanda declares. "I chose Southwestern because it is a Christ-centered university. I'm becoming a better nurse because here I have opportunities to grow in Christ every day."



- **Apply today**
- **Schedule a campus visit\***

\*Travel may be reimbursed up to \$250.

**800-433-2240 • [www.swau.edu](http://www.swau.edu)**

SCAN ME  
WITH YOUR  
SMART PHONE!

