

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

OCTOBER 2012



Back to the Bible

REDISCOVERING THE POWER OF GOD'S WORD



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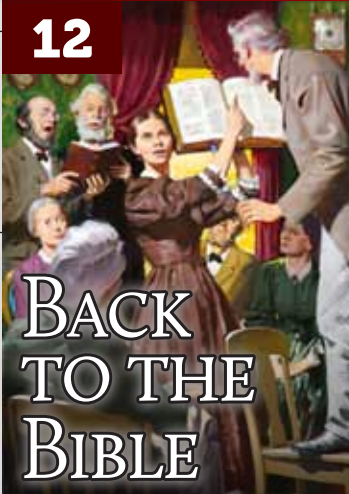
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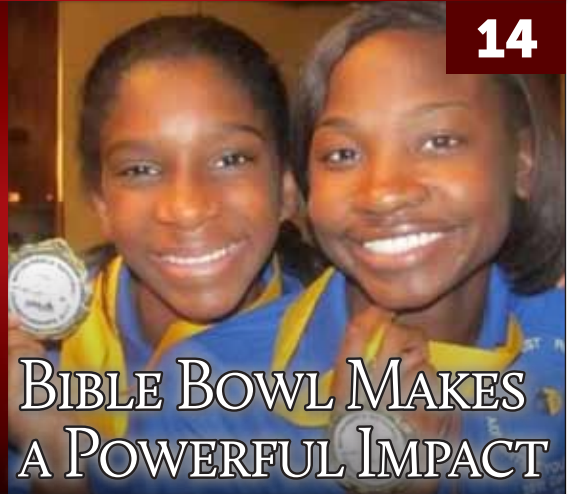
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OCTOBER 2012, Vol. 111, No. 10. The *Southwestern Union Record* is a monthly publication of the Seventh-day Adventist churches in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas, and is published at the headquarters of the Southwestern Union Conference, 777 S. Burleson Blvd., Burleson, TX 76028, 817.295.0476. www.SouthwesternAdventist.org | www.SWURcord.org

On the Cover

The Bible, appearing regularly on bestseller lists, is the largest seller of all published books. It has been translated in whole or in part into more than 1,200 languages and dialects. Every second, more than two Bibles are given away around the world, according to The Gideons International. But the most amazing fact about the Bible is its power to transform lives. It has been a guide and source of comfort to countless people through the generations and its enlightening messages are just what we need today to help us navigate through our dark and sinful world.



Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



“People of the Book”

How long has it been since you read your Bible through? Come on, be honest now. Seventh-day Adventists used to be known as “People of the Book.” Could that charge still stick today? I wonder.



The Scriptures are so readily available today. I have several versions on my iPhone that I find very handy to have on my numerous trips. But I still like to sit down with my Bible and read and meditate and pray. There’s something about that way. Maybe I’m old-fashioned, but that’s my preference. I get to the office early enough to have some quality time with Jesus by reading and listening to His voice through His Word. Throughout the day, Bible texts and thoughts come to mind, sometimes just when I need them most.

I’m not just advocating the reading of scripture for doctrinal purposes but for survival purposes in a confused generation. There needs to be study for the correct understanding of doctrine, but in order to have a relationship with Jesus, we need to be in His Word daily. May God help us all to prioritize our lives in such a way as to give us time to listen to His voice through Scripture.

Larry Moore

Daily Bible Reading Plan

“Revived by His Word” is a daily Bible reading plan that began on April 17, 2012 and will end at General Conference Session 2015. We are reading a chapter of the Bible each day. You can learn more and sign up at www.revivedbyhisword.org.





CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN » SENIOR MANAGER OF MISSION DEVELOPMENT, FLORIDA HOSPITAL

Finding God (Or God Finding You)

I have a couple of serious questions for you:

1. Do you believe that God wants what is best for you?
2. Do you believe that He is on your side?

If you've been through difficult situations or lived through a tragic loss, then you might wonder whether God wants what is best for you (or if He even cares, for that matter).

If there is one thing we know it's this: life isn't fair. We rub shoulders with darkness every day. People and families bear the stripes, bruises, and wounds of random acts of evil. Life is tough. And sometimes we weep more than we smile. Why?

Ephesians 6:12 states, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places" (NKJV).

A great controversy of epic proportions is taking place and we're stuck in the middle.

But when all appears lost and we're ready to give up and let go, our loving Father

holds us tightly within His arms and whispers, "It's going to be OK—a better day is coming."

Evil doesn't have full reign. The "roaring lion seeking whom he may devour" is kept on a short leash and is revealing its true colors. God's character is being vindicated. And people can make a clear choice about whom they will follow.

I realize that this theological explanation doesn't satisfy the questions of hurting people. And I further realize that it doesn't take away their pain. But the Bible says that God picks up the pieces that are left in the wake of evil's random rampages to make something good rise from the ashes of loss and defeat. (Romans 8:28).

It all boils down to a matter of trust. No matter how deep the pain or strong the tears, we choose to trust God because He's the only one who can make things right again; He is the Creator, not the destroyer.

As I write this, I, too, ponder these two questions against the backdrop of my own personal disappointments, battles lost, and painful moments. And I am reminded I am God's child (and so are you—let that amazing truth sink in for a minute!).

You belong to Him! First He created you, then He redeemed you, and now He restores you. Any way you look at it, God *wants you* to be a part of *His* life.

His desire for you today is found in 3 John 1:2: "Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers" (NKJV).

God longs for you to enjoy a life of happiness, health, and hope—He wants you to prosper in all things, both in this life and in the life to come. He forgives you, restores you and, by His grace, transforms you! And He asks you to share this experience with someone else.

I'm becoming increasingly more convicted that it's not so much about us finding God during our darkest moments—it's about God finding us—and find us He does.

From Genesis to Revelation, every page of God's Holy Word is written with the tears and blood of a loving Heavenly Father who does whatever it takes to get His family back, even if it costs Him everything.

God is on your side and He wants what is best for you. This is why I invite you to trust Him fully today.

That's CREATION Health!

Lynell LaMountain writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

C Choice

R Rest

E Environment

A Activity

T Trust

I Interpersonal
RELATIONSHIPS

O Outlook

N Nutrition



Lead Your World»»»

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



Love as a Business Strategy? Yes!

Many successful principles of leadership in the secular world have their origins in the Word of God. One of the most surprising examples was made popular by former Yahoo! executive, Tim Saunders. He brought to the hi-tech business world the idea that love was important in business. In his book, *Love is the Killer App*, he suggested that what the world of business needs for success is not more gadgets, technology, or advanced software applications, but love—the one application that would never crash. The question is, how can love be used as an effective business strategy?

It was discovered that people perform better and are more productive in a working environment where real and practical concern is demonstrated. Saunders stresses that when we feel that genuine care is being shown to us (love), especially by those with authority over us, something remarkable happens. We perform better in our roles and are more likely to become personally invested in the organization. Business owners, leaders, and managers must recognize that there is a bottom-line impact and value added when we invest in relationships at work. The observant believer, however, already knows this to be true. If we go to the source of this principle, there is far more to be learned.

Jesus laid the foundation for how we must use leadership authority. In Matthew 20:25, 26, He tells us, “You know that those who rule the Gentiles show off their authority over them and their high-ranking officials order them around. But that’s not the way it will be with you. Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant” (CBE). This idea of “servant leadership” is a model Jesus wants us to live in all our roles and relationships before the world. Serving others is about treating people with decency, humanity, and having a concern for their personal well-being. It is the realization that people are not to be used as tools to get things done. Jesus taught that leadership is a relationship where care and trust should exist.

Tim Saunders, in all likelihood, may have stumbled upon the biblical principle of servant leadership. What we do know is that he tried it out, demonstrated care for others, and found it so effective that today a very successful book attempts to teach it to the business world. You and I, on the other hand, are given these great, universal truths in the Bible. Could we be missing something important? It was Jesus who also said that showing love to

each other would be the one quality that made it easy for people to identify us as His followers. He also said something else that Christians should take great care to notice. “*The children of this world, in their generation are more wise (perceptive and diligent), than the children of God*” (Luke 16:8, CBE).

If we take careful notice of the business world that permeates almost every aspect of our lives it’s easy to recognize the passion people give in pursuit of wealth and self-interest. They tend to make full use of their opportunities, throwing themselves into their jobs and businesses, producing some remarkable products and services. Now, I’m not suggesting that we look to the world of business for our cues, or model their methods. But could we be missing something very important?

Christians can fall into the trap of taking a great deal for granted—our positions at church, roles in the home, and on the job. These are areas where we have an opportunity to demonstrate the visible power of God in our lives. Without uttering even a single word about our church affiliation, we can testify powerfully. Through our words, the kindness we show others, serving by being a resource with our skills and knowledge, sharing our God-inspired wisdom, in self-management, attention to detail, and commitment to excellence, we tell others that knowing God makes a very real difference!

Our commitment to Jesus is the power that drives this way of life. It is the very essence of what it means to be in the world, but not to aspire to its values and way of life—which the Word of God tells us is temporary. So lead your world with *love*. It’s the one “app” that will never crash.

Paul Hunt writes from Plano, Texas.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY MILTON ADAMS

SimpleChurchAtHome.com: A Very, Very Old New Idea

Simple Church is a term used to refer to small congregations that primarily meet in homes. These Sabbath home gatherings start with a team of four missionary-minded Adventists (commonly called a CORE4 missionary team) who focus on reaching 87 percent of North America's population who typically will not walk into a conventional church on a given weekend.

Simple Churches are not small groups because they are not a side activity of a regular church. They are full churches on par with conventional churches whose congregations own, lease, or rent a building where worship and ministry are conducted. Simple Churches tend to be smaller in attendance, 5-35, and have a simpler worship format and organizational structure. Research by George Barna at www.barna.org reveals nearly six million Americans currently attend a church of this kind.

Simple Church is more effective at reaching some groups than a conventional form of church, especially for the unchurched and younger adults. Since the largest number of North American residents are not active in any religious congregation, this is an approach that can be used to successfully achieve the mission of the Adventist church.

This is not a new form of church. The New Testament clearly reveals that early Christian believers met for worship in homes (Romans 16:5, 1 Corinthians 16:19, and Colossians 4:15). Surprisingly, this is not a new form of church for Adventists. During the early decades of the movement, most local churches met in homes or rented lodge halls. In fact, this concept lives on in Adventist heritage under the old-fashioned terminology of "cottage meetings." Current church attendance statistics indicate it is time to dust off this old concept and reinvent it for the twenty-first century.

"Milton Adams has had success with a pilot project which started in Florida," says Florida Confer-

ence president Mike Cauley. Now sponsored by Adventist Mission (www.adventistmission.org) and the North American Division, Milton has been asked to develop a global network of house churches across North America and around the world.

For more information, visit www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com. Welcome to the mission field that exists where you live.



A high Sabbath celebrating three baptisms with family and community friends. The usual attendance is 15-20.

www.SimpleChurchAtHome.com





De General de Ejercito a Instructor de Marcha de Conquistadores

En el mes de julio de este año, viajamos a Iquitos Perú, con un grupo de estudiantes de la Universidad Adventista del Suroeste y un grupo de laicos, bajo la dirección del vicepresidente de la Unión del Suroeste, Duane McKey, con la misión de tener 34 campañas evangelísticas durante dos semanas en el área de Iquitos.

Este proyecto fue un éxito desde un principio. La mayoría de las iglesias estuvieron repletas de visitas por los hermanos que se esforzaron para traerlas a las predicaciones evangelísticas, bajo el título de la serie, *IQUITOS EN LA GRAN ESPERANZA*.

Algo que me impresionó grandemente fue el arduo trabajo de preparación que las iglesias hicieron previo a nuestra llegada. Descubrí que ellos trabajan a un nivel personal utilizando el ministerio de grupos pequeños. Cada iglesia tenía un buen número de interesados de estos grupos que trajeron a las campañas en las iglesias. Fue la gran constancia de los hermanos que llevo, durante las dos semanas de evangelismo, a cientos de personas a escuchar el mensaje de salvación.

Entre los milagros que sucedieron en la iglesia de la Marina, donde yo estuve predicando, está la historia de Julio, un General del ejército Peruano. Julio tuvo su primer contacto con la Iglesia cuando un amigo de él, también llamado Julio, que era líder del Club de Conquistadores de la iglesia de la Marina, le pidió ayuda para que impartiera clases de marcha a los integrantes del club, y el General Julio aceptó. Por su conocimiento en el ejército, Julio no tuvo ningún problema en enseñar nuevas marchas al club. Un tiempo después, el club ganó el primer lugar en marcha durante

una competencia a nivel nacional de conquistadores. Esto impulsó al General Julio a involucrarse más en actividades del club en la iglesia.

Luego el hermano Julio invitó al General al grupo pequeño que él dirige desde su casa. Él aceptó y también llevó a su esposa. Pronto comenzaron a experimentar una transformación en sus vidas. Al poco tiempo comenzó la campaña evangelística en la

iglesia y ellos asistieron noche tras noche y allí tuve el gozo de conocerlos. Cuando hice el primer llamado al bautismo, ellos fueron unos de los primeros en responder a la invitación y fueron bautizados en la iglesia. El último sábado, en la gran convocación, ellos dieron su testimonio de como el hermano Julio había sido de gran influencia para que ellos aceptaran a Jesús como su Salvador personal y desafió a los hermanos a que se involucraran en el trabajo misionero en el minis-



De izquierda a derecha: Julio, líder del Club de Conquistadores de la iglesia de la Marina en Perú, con su amigo Julio, el General del ejército Peruano, y su esposa al lado de Eduardo Canales.

terio personal y en grupos pequeños.

Además de estas bendiciones también fui testigo de como las vidas de nuestros jóvenes predicadores y laicos se transformaban al experimentar lo que el Señor Jesús hacía con ellos y por medio de ellos. Puedo decir que fuimos nosotros los más bendecidos por haber compartido las buenas nuevas con los habitantes de Iquitos.

Yo te desafío también a ti para que decidas involucrarte en la ganancia de almas. Si no has experimentado el ministerio de grupos pequeños, te animo a que lo hagas, tu vida será transformada y muchas almas serán bendecidas.

Eduardo Canales, vice-presidente

TRANSFORMED BY HIS WORD

John Bradshaw

I remember it like it was yesterday—standing outside our kitchen staring with wonder at the miracle of nature taking place in front of me.

I don't recall who planted the milkweed that thrived in that rich, dark, New Zealand dirt—most likely my father—but I can still see those plump little black, white, and yellow caterpillars munching their way to metamorphosis. At about the time I would wonder if they'd run out of food, they curled up on the underside of a leaf and, before my eyes, changed into a chrysalis. Then, in what seemed like just a few days, the chrysalis turned from light green to deep purple, until—finally—the moment arrived that my brothers and I had been waiting for—a beautiful, orange and black monarch butterfly struggled free from its tiny enclosure, stretched its wings in the sun, and flew forth to add beauty to the world.

From an egg to caterpillar to a chrysalis to a brilliant butterfly. What a miracle! What an incredible transformation!

The transformation of the monarch butterfly isn't the result of an accident of nature. The Architect of this remarkable transformation is the God of Heaven. And just as God designed the remarkable transformation of caterpillars into butterflies, tadpoles into frogs, and eggs into chickens, He has also—through the gospel—designed that *people* experience transformation, the wondrous transformation from sinner to saint.

"In the beginning God created" a perfect world populated by righteous people. But before much time had passed in the Garden of Eden, our original grandparents had eaten the forbidden fruit and experienced the separation from God that sin brings (Isaiah 59:2). The story of the rest of the Bible is the story of God working



Fred Knopper

▲ John Bradshaw recording It Is Written's new radio program, *From the Bible*.

▶ The Bradshaw family, Shannon, John, Melissa, and Jacob, enjoying nature together.

such transformation in the lives of His people that He is able to say in Revelation 14:12, "Here is the patience of the saints [*saints!*]; here are they that keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus." And in Revelation 14:5 we read that God's name is written in the foreheads of His redeemed. In other words, God's character has been reformed in the minds of those who have chosen Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

How can such a remarkable transformation come about? Romans 3:23 says that every one of us has sinned, and as a result we have come under the sentence of death (Romans 6:23). While transformation is a result of the outworking of the grace of God (Ephesians 2:8) through the influence of the Holy Spirit, the power for transformation is found by God's people *in His Word*.

Notice what Peter wrote in 2 Peter 1:4, "Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises, that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust." There are at least two vital points in what Peter writes in this verse. One is the remarkable truth that sinful human beings may become partakers of the divine nature! Another is that the path of transformation is through the "exceeding great and precious promises" God gives to us in His Word.

Simply put, there is power in the Word of God to work total transformation in a person's life!

Several years ago I was holding an evangelistic series in a city very near the town in which I grew up. Attending church the Sabbath before the series began, a friend told me he wanted to introduce me to his good friend, Ron Edwards*. "Ron Edwards," I thought to myself. "I know that name." When I finally met Ron I remembered where I knew him from. "Ron Edwards—from the Lady Hamilton nightclub?!" I asked. Ron looked as though he wasn't sure if he should be proud or ashamed. "That's the one," he said smiling. "You owe me money!" I said jokingly. "I do?" Ron

replied. "That's too bad. I don't have any money!" And he wasn't kidding.

When I wore a younger man's clothes, I used to attend a certain nightclub with friends of mine. Ron was the owner of the nightclub. He was "the man" around town. He ran with the "in" crowd, he drove a flashy car, and whenever he'd enter the nightclub, a murmur would ripple through the building. "Ron Edwards is here!" I remember seeing him disappear up a staircase with several glamorous-looking people in tow. Ron was big stuff.

But now things were different. Ron had lost everything and was penniless and virtually friendless. Except that he had found a friend in Jesus. Ron— who told me he was drunk every day for 20 years when he lived the high life—was introduced to the promises of the Word of God by a friend who kindly and caringly labored for his soul. Ron learned that God loved even him, that the death of Jesus paid for his sins, and that by faith he could have the gift of everlasting life. Now Ron was *really* living—guilt free, shame free, regret free, and heading towards heaven. He was sober, kind, pure, and honest. Ron had been *transformed*. One of the most remarkable experiences of my life was standing in a pool of waist-deep water with Ron Edwards—the former nightclub goer baptizing the former nightclub owner.

I, too, desperately needed to experience the transformation only God can effect. My father had high hopes for me. He raised me to attend church and enrolled me at a parochial school at the age of five, longing to see me become a priest. But by the time





◀ A typical (or not so typical!!) day in the studio when John Bradshaw was a radio personality in New Zealand.

▼ A publicity photo taken when John Bradshaw was a breakfast radio host in New Zealand.

Bottom left: John Bradshaw presents a listener of his radio show a cash prize won during a major promotion.



fix above the altar in our church reminded me of that every time I stepped into the building. I was frustrated by my life—how I lived didn't match up with what I knew. I knew about God, but I didn't *know* God. I often wondered how someone as bad as I was could possibly be good enough to go to heaven. Thankfully, God hadn't given up on me!

One day, I received a copy of *The Great Controversy* in the mail. My brother had sent me the book,

and having seen how *his* life had been dramatically changed—transformed—by his faith in God, I wondered if I could find what I was looking for. While *The Great Controversy* answered questions I had about prophecy and the Bible and Earth's final days, what impressed me most about that book was the way it pointed out me to how I could experience transformation—through the power of the Word of God.

I was stunned. I discovered I could receive eternal life through simple faith in Jesus, and that the power of His Word—through faith in His Word—could make me a completely new person.

I discovered the Bible contained everything I needed to live a new life and experience the transformation God wanted for me. Bad habits started disappearing out of my life as I claimed God's promises for victory over my old ways. When I read that salvation was mine “by grace through faith,” the effect on my life was stunning.

No more guilt, no more confession to a priest, and no more wondering if God would really save me. I *knew* God would accept me, and that knowledge was liberating. When I read that



I was a teenager it was evident I wasn't seminary material, and anyone looking on could see I likely wouldn't be going to heaven.

And it didn't feel good. I knew God existed, I knew heaven was real, and I knew Jesus had died for me. The life-sized cruci-



▲ John Bradshaw interviewing world-renowned rugby player Sir John Kirwan.

Top left: John Bradshaw with breakfast show co-host Jenny Marcroft.

◀ John Bradshaw's baptism in October 1991 in London, England, with David Cox, pastor.

God would provide all my needs, I expected it to be so and I saw Him provide in ways that left me speechless. When I read that Jesus would live His life in me (see Galatians 2:20), I experienced the power of His presence. My life was transformed—by His Word.

The universe was created “by the Word of His mouth” (Psalm 33:6). Bartimaeus received his sight at the Word of Jesus (Mark 10:52); Jesus calmed a lake by speaking to it (Mark 4:39). That same creative, restorative, transforming power is still resident in the Word of God. Paul wrote that the gospel was the “power of God” (Romans 1:16).

The Word of God that brought forgiveness, hope, courage and cleansing when Jesus walked the Earth is as powerful today as it was two thousand years ago. If you’ll allow, if you’ll believe, if you’ll take hold of God’s Word by faith—believing that He will do what He says He can do—you cannot fail of being transformed by His Word.

I saw my friend Ron just a couple of weeks ago. Interestingly, two of his former nightclub associates now attend church and have accepted Jesus as their Savior. It was a joy for me to see Ron

again—although it wasn’t a joy for Ron to see me. He didn’t recognize me. Not because I’m a few years older, but because Ron’s mind has been ravaged by dementia. He now lives under constant supervision under lock and key. He comes to church weekly. The only person in the world he regularly recognizes is that kind friend who shared Jesus with him when Ron ran the nightclub—and who still picks him up each week and brings him to church.

But Ron had come to Jesus before his mind failed. He secured his place in God’s kingdom when his mind was sound and strong. The good news is that the Ron who experienced transformation through the Word of God will experience transformation again—when Jesus returns to call him up and take him home.

I’m looking forward to seeing Ron again, on the day when he and multitudes of others will be caught up to meet Jesus in the air. Through faith in the Word of God—by experiencing the power in the Word of God—you can experience transformation now, and transformation then.

John Bradshaw, the speaker/director for the It Is Written media evangelism ministry, is married to Melissa. They’re the parents of Jacob and Shannon, and all enjoy monarch butterflies.

BACK TO THE BIBLE

After the Great Disappointment, Bible Study was the Key

Mary Ann Hadley

It was the fall of 1844. The Adventist believers, who had been greatly disappointed when Jesus did not come in the spring of that year, were again anxiously anticipating His coming on October 22. C. Mervyn Maxwell in *Tell It to the World* describes the experience of the early Adventist pioneers: “Turning again to their Bibles, they read in Habakkuk 2:3, ‘The vision is yet for an appointed time . . . : though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come.’” Maxwell says they drew courage from Matthew 25:5, 6, which speaks of the tarrying of the bridegroom while the virgins slumbered and slept. During the summer of 1844, seeing themselves as the virgins referred to in the text, “They clung to the promises, studied the prophecies, distributed their publications, continued their prayer services and tabernacle rallies, convened in multiplied thousands at frequent camp meetings—and prayed for the midnight cry,” Maxwell writes.

In August 1844, at a camp meeting held in Exeter, New Hampshire, Samuel Snow led the believers in a Bible study on the cleansing of the sanctuary. Through his studies he had reached the conclusion that this event would take place on October 22, when God would complete the atonement, come out of the sanctuary, and the Bridegroom would come to meet His bride. “In less than three months the Bridegroom will be here to take His waiting bride. Is it not time now for the midnight cry, ‘Behold the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet Him?’” he said.

What followed was a time of joyful preparation and anticipation. Adventist businessmen closed their businesses, employees quit their jobs, and farmers abandoned their crops. Many confessed their sins and went down to the waters of baptism. The *Midnight Cry* and other papers were quickly cranked out of the printing presses and circulated like the leaves of autumn. Finally the day arrived. Believers gathered in small and large companies—in churches, tents, and homes—watching and waiting. But as the minutes and hours ticked away, and the day ended, Jesus had not come.

The morning of October 23, 1844 was the saddest day in their lives. One person said, “We wept, and wept, til the day dawn.” But God had not abandoned His children. Step by step He was leading them to a fuller understanding of His Word.

In western New York early on the morning of October 23, 38-year-old Hiram Edson walked through a cornfield near his home with an orphaned young man, O. R. L. Crosier, age 24, whom he had raised in his home. Their mission was to visit disheartened friends and neighbors. According to his manuscript of his *Life and Experience*, Edson had come to a new understanding. He now envisioned Jesus moving to the Most Holy Place in the heavenly sanc-

tuary. He had prayed earlier that morning that God would open his understanding, and Edson was convicted that his prayer would be answered. There in the cornfield his mind was directed to Matthew 25 and Revelation 10 and 11, which he had previously studied.¹

Together, along with his close friend, Franklin B. Hahn, Edson and Crosier spent the following months intensively engaged in Bible study, sharing their findings in several different publications, including the *Day-Dawn*, published by Hahn and edited by Crosier in March, 1845, and *Day Star*, later in the same year, and finally, in a *Day-Star Extra* in early 1846, financed by Hahn and Edson and authored by Crosier.^{2,3}

Meanwhile, during the previous winter, in Washington, New Hampshire, Rachel Oakes, who was a Seventh-day Baptist, had told Methodist pastor Frederick Wheeler about the Sabbath. Wheeler accepted the belief and began to keep the Sabbath in March, 1844. News of this truth soon trickled down to Fairhaven, Massachusetts, where Joseph Bates, age 53, lived.

Bates was convinced of the sanctity of the Sabbath when he read a tract by T. M. Preble in *The Hope of Israel*, published in February, 1845, “and, checking the Bible evidence with his customary thoroughness, he made his decision to observe the seventh-day Sabbath.”⁴ Following a quick trip to visit Frederick Wheeler, the two men engaged in an all-night Bible study on the subject. Bates returned home to share the good news of the Sabbath. By late summer of 1846, he had published pamphlets on the Sabbath and had shared his findings with his newly-married friends, James, age 26, and Ellen White, age 18.

All these pioneers held in common two points; first, their determination to relinquish cherished beliefs in favor of Scripture truth, and second, an earnestness in their study of Scripture. Eventually, through letters and publications, the “sanctuary” students of New York and the “Sabbath” students of New England met each other, primarily to share their Bible research.

Perhaps the 1848-50 “Sabbath Conferences” best describe the combined studies of small numbers of scattered individuals:

The first conference was held in the “unfinished chamber of Albert Belden’s home at Rocky Hill, Connecticut, in April, 1848. That meeting was called by E.L.H. Chamberlain of Middleton, Connecticut, one of the first Adventists to accept the Sabbath in that area. James White wrote, “We arrived at this place about four p.m. In a few minutes in came brethren Bates and Gurney. We had a meeting that evening of about fifteen in all. Friday morning the brethren came in until we numbered about fifty Brother Bates presented the commandments in a clear light, and their importance was



Ellen White, at a Bible conference held in 1848, held a Bible in one hand while in vision, and with her face turned away from the Bible, pointed to Bible texts, reciting them word for word.

doctrinal differences through Bible study. Ellen White wrote of how they “searched for the truth as for hidden treasure. . . . we studied and prayed earnestly. Often we remained together until late at night, and sometimes through the entire night, praying for light and studying the Word. Again and again these brethren came together to study the Bible, in order that they might know its meaning, and be prepared to teach it with power” (*Selected Messages*, p. 206).

One might question whether these assorted brethren just took the word of the leaders on the need to come together in unity. J. N. Loughborough, the first Seventh-day Adventist historian, and Hiram Edson’s convert, interviewed David Arnold and others who were present at those 1848 conferences. He reported his findings in the *Review and Herald*, in March 3, 1885.

“As the circumstance was related to me, Sister White, while in vision, arose to her feet and took the family Bible upon her left arm While holding it thus, her eyes looking upward and in an opposite direction from the Bible, with her right hand she would turn from text to text, placing her finger on the text, and would repeat the same.

“Brother Ross looked at many of the texts to see if she was repeating the one to which she pointed. He or some of the company looked at them all. In every case she not only repeated the texts to which she pointed, but she did so while her eyes were fastened upward and in an opposite direction from the Bible. It was these scriptures quoted in this wonderful manner which overthrew the false theories of the Sabbathkeepers assembled at Volney, in August, 1848, and caused them to unite upon the truth.”

And so, guided by a study of the Scriptures, God led the early Adventist believers to a fuller understanding of prophecy, and it was diligent study of Bible truth that eventually led to the organization of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the early 1860s. Down through the ages God’s Word has been a source of light and guidance for His people. As we face the troubled times ahead and draw nearer to the second coming of Jesus, let’s do as the early Adventists *and* the Bereans, who “received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so” (Acts 17:11).

urged home by powerful testimonies!”⁵

Second and third meetings were held in Volney (in David Arnold’s barn) and Port Gibson, (in Hiram Edson’s barn) in western New York, in August, 1848. Biographical information indicates that James and Ellen White traveled by steamer down the Connecticut River. They had left their temporary home at Rocky Hill, traveled to Middleton, where they left their son in the care of Clarissa Bonfoey, then traveled down to New York City, where they met up with Bates and Gurney. From there, apparently they traveled northward up the Hudson River, then westward on the newly completed Erie Canal to their two meetings in western New York. In order to afford this trip James White had cut hay (by hand, with a scythe) at a rate of \$.875 per acre until he had received funding for the \$40 trip.⁶

At the Volney meeting, hardly any two of the 35 attendees held the same beliefs and all were “strenuous” in upholding their unique positions. Following communion they eventually united on Bible evidence.⁷ Similarly, at Port Gibson, they proceeded to settle their

¹ *SDA Encyclopedia*, vol. 10, p. 493-4.

² *Ibid*, p. 420

³ *Ibid*, p.653

⁴ *Ibid*, p. 170

⁵ *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 93.

⁶ *Ellen G. White Biography: The Early Years (BIO)*, vol. I, p. 141.

⁷ *Spiritual Gifts*, vol. 2, p. 97-8.

Mary Ann Hadley, now retired, is former director of the Ellen G. White Seventh-day Adventist Research Center in Keene, Tex.

BIBLE BOWL MAKES A POWERFUL IMPACT

Maurice J. Turner, Southwest Region Bible Bowl coordinator, and Rayna Davis

After two invitations in 2002 to become the Southwest Region Conference Bible Bowl coordinator and turning them both down, Maurice Turner wondered if God was trying to tell him something. He told those who extended the invitation, “I like studying and participating in the tournaments. But I don’t think I can be a player and a coordinator too.” Then, when someone asked Keith Gray, then Southwest Region Conference youth director, who his conference’s Bible Bowl coordinator was, he replied, “Maurice Turner.” When Maurice heard about it, he thought, “Well, Lord, that must be a sign that you want me to lead out in this ministry.” Ten years later, Maurice is the chairman of the National Bible Bowl Coordinators Association (NBBCA).

Studying the Word of God and participating in this ministry has taught Maurice to see God as someone who cares about the least among us. He says, “In my 10 years in this ministry, we’ve gone from being happy with winning just one game to winning the national championship in three diverse divisions and finishing first runner-up four times. Looking back, I see how God has led me to put aside my ambitions so that many others could realize theirs.”

Bible Bowl is a ministry that acquaints people of all ages with the Word of God in a fun, interactive, yet in-depth way. If you can read, you can participate in Bible Bowl. Each year seven books are selected as the focus of study. One of those books will always be a gospel or the Book of Acts. Maurice Turner says, “If you stay in Bible Bowl long enough, you will cover most of the books in the Bible. Within five years, you will at least have a good grasp of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and Acts.”

Bible Bowl impacts people in so many ways. Fabian Morgan, 2010

National Champion from Austin, Texas, says: “I delight in the Word of God and Bible Bowl. Together, this experience has increased my dedication and discipline and has been a source of encouragement. It has helped me in learning verses, passages, and stories I had not known previously. It’s been inspirational.”

Velma Fuller of Mansfield, Louisiana, says, “Having been retired for 15 years, Bible Bowl gave me a sense of purpose. It has kept me in the Word and has kept my mind on a competitive and a spiritual level. I have learned more factual information than I ever thought possible. I have developed a special fondness for some books, such as Ecclesiastes. The author, besides being wise, was also a realist. I made new friends through Bible bowl. It is extremely enjoyable. This is a fun way to read the Bible through.”

Maurice recalls when once, after moderating a national game in Boston, a mother came to him in tears, thanking him profusely. She said Bible Bowl was the only thing keeping her son in the church. Maurice says, “Now when I look up, that same young man is not only still involved but is coaching a Pre-Junior team.” A former Bible Bowl teammate of Maurice, Michelle Hicks, says that the Word she studied for Bible Bowl helped her through the sudden and unexpected loss of her mother.

Tonia Turner, Maurice’s wife, says, “When I first got involved it was to fill in for a member who couldn’t make the trip to the nationals. I didn’t know much that year, but the next year I studied and was able to buzz in and be a significant contributor.” She continues, “I now write questions and moderate games on the conference level. I’ve also found things in the Bible I never knew were there.”

During half time of a practice game with young adults in Florida





favorite books, but still I'm getting so much treasure, so much meat out of it that I would never have gotten any other way than for studying for Bible Bowl."—Michael McClean

When we dive into the Word of God, we get to know Christ, not as an unreachable deity, but as a God who wants to dwell among us, a God where we can behold His glory, a God who allows us to experience His grace and embrace His truth. The Bible Bowl books for 2013 are: Acts, 1 Chronicles, Habbakkuk, Haggai, 1 and 2 Thesalonians, Psalms 101-125, and Revelation. For more information, contact Maurice Turner at 817.925.9569 or biblebowlswest@yahoo.com or Lulleither Massiah, in the Youth Department at Southwest Region Conference, 214.943.4491.

recently, Maurice asked several participants to tell the impact that Bible Bowl ministry has had on their life.

"It allowed me to get into the Word because normally I don't read the Bible like I should and by competing, it forces you to do so and as you read, you're just learning so much that it wows you. Because of it I've gotten closer to God."—Chivyon Sylvester

"Bible Bowl has helped me see each book of the Bible that we study in its entirety and helped me to understand the whole concept of the Bible and what God wanted us to see as it relates to His people and it's helped me in my personal witnessing and Bible study."—Patrick Brown

"Studying Bible Bowl has helped me get a deeper understanding of the Bible and how we are supposed to live as Christians. When I study the book of John, I see how Jesus left us an example of how I am to live my life."—Ann Whitley

"I've read the Gospel of John a number of times. It's one of my



Above left: Southwest Region Senior Youth Bible Bowl team at the national games in Detroit, Michigan, October 2011. From left: Brianna Daphnis and Dajah Swinton, displaying the medallions received at the national Bible Bowl games for their study of the Word of God.

◀ Southwest Region Junior Youth Bible Bowl team at the national games in Detroit, Michigan, October 2011. From left: Denee McClain, Olivia Brown, Sasha Taylor, Kayla Grayson, and Christian Brown.

Previous page, left: Southwest Region Senior Youth and Pre-junior Bible Bowl teams at the national games in Detroit, Michigan, October 2011. Top row, from left: Dajah Swinton, Walter Hall, Alexia Griggs, Brianna Daphnis. Bottom row, from left: Jessica Giscombe, Kayla, Rose, and Buhle Maposa.

Previous page, right: Pre-Junior Youth Bible Bowl team at the Southwest Region Conference games in Athens, Texas, June 2012, with Coach Barnwell. From left: Colin Griggs, Kayla Rose (standing), Buhle Maposa, and Lauren Barnwell.

Below left: Southwest Region Young Adult Bible Bowl team at the 2011 National Bible Bowl games in Detroit, Michigan. From left: Kathleen Chatmon, Trisharna Thompson, Fabian Morgan, and Bruce Chatmon.

▼ Southwest Region Adult All-Star Bible Bowl team at the 2011 Youth Congress games in Orlando, Florida, March 2010. From left: Linda Thompson, Suzette Hoyte, Alma Cooper, Tim Fuller, and Velma Fuller.



TWO GUYS AND THE WORD

Stephen Carlile and Kevin Bruce

What's up, everybody? I'm Kevin. *And I'm Stephen and together we are **Two Guys and the Word**.* Just to help you out, Kevin's words will be in plain text; when Stephen talks, it will be in italics.

Two Guys and the Word, otherwise known as TGATW, is a ministry for teens in which we take their questions and give them God's answers from His Word.

It all started at the Oklahoma Conference Camp Meeting in the Earliteen division. We learned very quickly that the teens had serious questions that needed answers. Whether it was about God and religion or those taboo topics like divorce, sex, pornography, and cutting.

The unique thing about this ministry, though, is that it's completely audience-driven. We take questions live. Teens can text us their questions anonymously to a special number we have set up specifically for TGATW. This did two things. One, instead of asking kids to turn off their cell phones, we embraced the technology, and kids were free to ask anything they wanted, risk free. The

second thing it does is makes us available to our kids year round.

We look at it this way, if our kids have questions, they're going to seek answers. The problem is that in our culture, the place to find answers is Google, Facebook, classrooms, school hallways, movies, and television. Let's face it, those are not the safest places to find answers to critical questions. We want to be there for youth as much as we can.

Stephen and I were getting a lot of pressure to do something outside of just camp meeting. We didn't know how we were going to do it, but we needed to start some kind of Web show. The day after camp meeting, Stephen called me and said, I just bought the domain www.twoguysandtheword.com and you need to check it out. I logged on and knew right away, this was going to be epic.

What's nice about TGATW being online is that it gives an opportunity for teens and their parents to watch it together. There are topics that are pretty difficult to bring up out of the blue, but after a show about cutting, it gives an opportunity for a teen to reach out for help,



Stephen Carlile (left) and Kevin Bruce, creators and hosts of *Two Guys and the Word* call-in Bible answer show for teens.

or a parent to be able to ask the tough questions. Our goal is not just to reach kids, it is to equip parents, as well.

There are many times that we will address the parents specifically in our shows. We believe it's important to know how to talk to your teens. We give you practical advice on how to reach your teenager, in their language, without coming across as judgmental or condescending.

The topics we choose are primarily based on what we hear is going on with our kids (our kids = youth). From the questions we receive, we can get a good idea what they are dealing with. So, when we choose pornography, it's because we have had several texts on how to overcome this habit. Or if we choose cutting, it's because we have had questions on how to help a friend who cuts. There are times we choose a topic simply because we feel it needs to be talked about.

The one thing I love about TGATW is that it's not about us. It's not our opinion that answers these questions, it's the Word of God. Yes, we have statistics about subjects, we have facts and figures. We have testimonies, we laugh together and have a great time, but at the end of the day, we have to ask the question, What does God say about this subject?

The show is an hour long. We start off with welcoming everyone to the show, we may talk about the week, what's going on in our lives, upcoming events, and then we pray, and dive right in. Our first segment is called "What We Know." We talk about what we know about the subject, from reading, studying, or just from a personal standpoint.

Our next segment is called "What They Know." This is a part of the show where we reveal the statistics about a particular subject. We might bring in a professional, such as a nurse, psychologist, etc.

Once we have a good base for the topic and we understand where it comes from or how prevalent it is in our circles, we go into the segment called "What You Want to Know." This is where we take their questions live, on the spot.

This part can be very challenging for us, because we never know what's going to be thrown at us. We do have some rules—of course, no bashing or making fun of anyone or any group of people. The questions must remain on topic. If we're in a serious discussion, we don't need a question about what we had for breakfast that morning. And of course, we have a chat moderator. Everything that is typed must be approved by our moderator. This keeps the youth safe and keeps us on track.

Once we finish the "What You Want to Know" segment, we finish with the "What God Says" segment. Of course, we've been answering every question so far with the Word or principles from the Word, but this is the time in the show where we discuss scriptures that go along with the topic.

We finish every show with a message of hope, grace, and for-



Kevin Bruce (left) and Stephen Carlile on the set of *Two Guys and the Word*.

givenness, but also a challenge to step up and do the right thing. We pray together and close down the video feed. We keep the chat going, so they can talk with their friends and Stephen and I talk to our crew that's actually in the room with us live.

I think one of the major reasons we do TGATW is because we love watching teens make great choices. We also hurt when they make poor ones. We can often tell our audiences that we've been there, we've made the mistakes and we will do whatever it takes to keep them from making those same mistakes. Kevin and I share our testimonies, our personal struggles, and we try to be as real as we can with the kids. If we want them to be honest with us, we must be honest with them.

We have seen God do so many miracles through this ministry. It has been amazing to see our Adventist youth bring their friends from public schools, from other churches, and their neighborhoods. We have seen people log on from Florida, California, Africa, Texas, Kansas City, Michigan, Nebraska, and so many other places.

Our Web site hits have been out of this world incredible. Since the inception of twoguysandtheword.com, we have had over 121,000 hits, with 15,000 in the first two months alone. God is good and we definitely believe that God is just getting started.

So check us out! twoguysandtheword.com

Tell everyone—even your mom.

#WHATISUP?

Pastor Stephen Carlile is the lead pastor at Adventist Fellowship, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He and his wife Michelle are expecting their first child in February of 2013.

Pastor Kevin Bruce, his wife Ellen and his daughter Eden are currently at Andrews University working on Kevin's MDiv.



Back to the Bible: Read It, Rejoice In It, Live It!

Twenty years ago I stood in the large lobby of the Palace of Culture in Bila Tserkva, Ukraine, and watched as hundreds of people who had attended the series of evangelistic meetings made their way to tables where volunteer church members were prepared to give a special gift to everyone who had attended at least 15 nights in that series. It was truly a sight to behold. One might have thought that we were passing out deeds to a new house or giving million dollar checks because of the excitement and eagerness of the crowd!

The special gift was a Bible. Since most of the people in that part of the country spoke and read Russian, the Bible was in the Russian language. This was one year after

the fall of the "iron curtain" and the break up of the Soviet Socialist Republic. For the previous 70 years, the tyrannical rule of communism had promoted a godless society where all religion was denounced and the practice of one's faith was observed at the peril of imprisonment. Possession of a Bible was considered a crime and punished with a prison sentence. Now, one year later, even though the ban on religion had been lifted, Bibles were still very difficult to obtain, and only the wealthy could afford to purchase one.

So I watched with keen interest as young and old received their gift Bible. For most all of them, this was the very first Bible they had ever owned. Tears filled the eyes of many as they handed over their atten-

dance card in exchange for their Bible. Most of them clutched their Bible under their arm or held it up close to their heart. It was obvious they were overcome with emotion that could not be concealed.

Today, most of us have not one, but many Bibles in multiple versions in our possession. With the religious freedom we still enjoy, it is no crime to own, carry, or read Scripture. The critical question for us is what kind of value do we place on our Bible(s)? Perhaps the time spent in reading our Bible is an indicator of how much (or how little) we value it today. It's time to get back to the Bible—reading it, rejoicing in it, and living it!

Steven Orian, president

Ozark Church Honors 33 Years of Service

OZARK, ARK. » If you have ever visited the Ozark Adventist Church, you probably have been greeted and made to feel welcome by Wendell Lewis. This extraordinary man was honored for his faithful service as head elder from July 1979 to July 2012. A plaque was presented to Wendell at a special church luncheon on July 7, 2012, with the colors and lettering representing his loyalty, faithfulness, and purity of his life lived over the years in the presence of the members.

Wendell, his wife, Addie, and five children became involved in the opening of the Pond Creek church in Ozark, Arkansas. He helped with the church construction and maintained the property while there. Soon he was ordained as head elder. The family traveled the scenic highway from their home to Ozark for worship and prayer service, forty-five minutes one way twice a week, and sometimes for extra church functions. The Pond Creek church relocated to the current Ozark church on Helberg Lane, Ozark, Arkansas, and Wendell, as head elder, spent many months helping with the renovation of the building. August 14, 1999 was the

first Sabbath service in the newly renovated church, and Wendell remained as head elder.

Those who know him best say Wendell is

a consistent Christian gentleman, a man of prayer, and one who has a very strong faith in God. He is a dependable, down to earth man, one who is always willing to tackle any task no matter how large, small, or difficult. His drive and dedication to serve the Lord has led Wendell to preach sermons, teach Sabbath School class, lead prayer meetings, be personal ministries leader, investment leader, religious liberty leader, stewardship leader, and community service leader at one time or another. His Christian values are a way of life that have overflowed into his home life, and are instilled in his children. I am sure he will continue to be a blessing as God leads him in taking care of family matters, visiting the neighbors, and helping them out when there is a need. We thank the Lord that He has placed Wendell Lewis in the Ozark Seventh-day Adventist Church as a worker for Him.

Arlene Lewis



Wendell Lewis receives plaque for 33 years as head elder.

Pathfinder Summer Camp at CYB

MOUNTAIN PINE, ARK. » Pathfinders attended a joint Pathfinder and “tween” camp at Camp Yorktown Bay this summer. This was the first time our conference held joint summer camps and it proved to be a successful venture.

The young people enjoyed earning honors and doing other fun activities with the tween campers. Several Pathfinder honors, such as camping skills, camp cookery, camp safety, and Dutch oven cooking were earned by forty-two young people. Mike Salzman, Ginny Dudra, Nanette Clapp, and Joan and Jennifer Fos all did a wonderful job teaching the honors. Mike Salzman even taught the “worm honor.” He told the young people they had to eat a worm to get the honor and then pulled out a gummy worm as a treat. Making ice cream in a bag was so popular, we had to do it twice; once to learn how and the second to go with the cobbler we made in the Dutch oven.

The young people were

able to enjoy the horses, water sports, skiing, crafts, BMX bicycles, and zip line. The young peoples’ spirit in their activities was great, even though it was above 100 degrees most days. Toward the end of the week, one young lady was out in the heat doing the camp cooking honor and said to me, “Thanks for doing this camp for us. I have had so much fun.” Another one said, “I am having so much fun. I don’t want to go home yet!” Several of the young people earned as many as eight honors to place on their sashes.

The camp staff presented the spiritual emphasis for the week, focusing on the Army of God. The speakers told how the different parts of war armor protect certain parts of the body and tied it scripturally to the Armor of God in the Bible. Their personal testimonies had a big impact on the young people. More than 10 young people made a decision to study for baptism.

Lloyd Clapp, Director for Adventurers / Pathfinders



▲ Pathfinder Camp is a great place to make friends.

◀ Pathfinder Camp flag raising ceremony.

Camp Yorktown Bay Celebrates 50 Years!

MOUNTAIN PINE, ARK. » Camp Yorktown Bay celebrated its 50th year as a summer camp for boys and girls on June 30, 2012. Camp Yorktown Bay was dedicated on June 1, 1962 in a ceremony by the Hot Springs Council of the Naval League, as a place set aside for the development of young people. The Navy League operated the camp until 1964, when the Hot Springs Boy's Club took over the facilities for one year. In September of 1965, the Hot Springs Naval League transferred the lease for Camp Yorktown Bay on Lake Ouachita to the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

O.D. Wright, then president of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, was on hand to receive the certificate. During the ensuing years many illustrious leaders have taken the reigns as director of Camp Yorktown Bay. Wally Welch was the first director,

while Dick Bendell and Floyd Eccles were both directors. Jim Herman was followed by Gary Rust, Bill Wood, Ron Whitehead, Joe Watts, Mike Edge, Mike Dale, Ron Ray,



Some of Camp Yorktown Bay's former directors at the camp's 50th celebration (from left): Jim Herman, Bill Wood, Ron Whitehead, Mike Dale, and Ray House.

Doug Brown, John Taylor, Richard Hall, Brandon Westgate, and Ray House. We may have even missed one or two more.

On June 30, 2012 Camp Yorktown Bay was the scene of a grand reunion as many of these directors and numerous members of their summer staff came together to reminisce and visit their old stomping grounds. Ron Whitehead, director of the Center for Youth Evangelism in Berrien Springs, Michigan, was the featured speaker for the weekend. Saturday evening featured an auction where some CYB memorabilia was auctioned to the highest bidder bringing over \$6,000 for camp upgrades. Later, former directors and friends sat around the lodge, reminiscing and reliving some of their summer escapades.

In 2015, CYB will celebrate having the camp leased to the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference for 50 years. God has blessed this beautiful summer camp that was dedicated to serving young men and women so many years ago.

Spanish Youth Federation: Playing and Gaining Friends for Jesus

ROGERS, ARK. » Eager to share the good news of salvation, the young people of the Rogers Spanish church have found a fun way to do it. They noticed many Hispanic people playing in the park every Sunday, so they took the opportunity to organize a soccer tournament with Adventist youth, and then invited community friends and coworkers to join them. They hoped to gain new friends and show Jesus' love by inviting everyone to play soccer together. The games always begin with a short devotional and prayer. During the two years the games have been going



The Rogers Spanish church's soccer group begins with prayer.

on, five young people have accepted Jesus and have been baptized.

Excited about the results, the ARK-LA Spanish Youth Federation has now adopted this plan to work with six other Northwest Arkansas Spanish churches. Starting in May, the summer soccer tournaments are held every Sunday. Separate tournaments are held for ladies, men, teenagers, and children. This August, a volleyball tournament was added, as well. It is exciting to see what is happening in our area, sharing the gospel in different ways. Please keep our youth in your prayers as more people accept Christ through these ministries.

Pedro Ledezma, pastor

Young Leader Inducted into the Pathfinder Hall of Fame

BENTONVILLE, ARK. » The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference has a new inductee into the Pathfinder Hall of Fame. Audra Huff, from the Bentonville church, was inducted during a Pathfinder Investiture on May 26.

Audra has been involved in Pathfinders since she was a youngster and has followed in her parents' footsteps as a Pathfinder leader, along with many other roles in the club and church. Audra has coordinated

the Arkansas-Louisiana Pathfinder Teen Leadership Weekend at Camp Yorktown Bay for the past five years and is an experienced club drill master, having developed several drill teams. Some of the drill teams have gone on to perform in the International Pathfinder Camporee drill and marching competition.

Audra is known for her part of or-



Audra Huff receives the Pathfinder Hall of Fame Award.

ganizing and coordinating the church's annual Valentine's Day banquet and play, put on by the Bentonville Pathfinder Club. The banquet is a highlight for the Bentonville church and is well attended by the local church and surrounding community.

Soon after her induction ceremony, Audra married Shawn Kohltfarber. They have moved to Nevada where Audra has resumed her teaching career.

Lloyd Clapp, conference Pathfinder director

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Bonnerdale SDA Church Family Life & Marriage Enrichment The Divine Encounter

With Pastor Ann Roda and husband,
Pastor Jose Hernandez

October 12 & 13, 2012



Friday evening, 6:30 p.m.
Agape Feast and "The Divine Encounter"
Worship hour—"It Starts At Home"
Lunch will be served
2:00 p.m.—"The Divine Embrace"
3:45 p.m.—"The Divine Expression"

Pastors Ann and Jose are the healthcare Chaplain and Family Life pastor, respectively, at the New Hope Adventist Church in Fulton, MD. They believe that strong marriages make strong families, strong families make strong churches, and strong churches make strong communities.

Let's Get Back to the Bible



OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

I am a lover of the old Adventist hymns. Whenever it seems appropriate, I make it a point to include one in the worship service. It is not just the quality of the music or the sentiments expressed in the words that draw me to them, but these old worship songs make me feel that those Advent believers possessed something that we have gradually lost and should be anxious to restore. They possessed an excitement about the Second Coming. While we believe it, and preach it, I'm not sure that we feel it. As I have listened to our modern-day congregations sing "You Will See Your Lord A-coming,"

I've wondered if that was the same way that James White sang it as he walked down the isle keeping time with his Bible as he went. No, I'm sure that he and all of the other believers exhibited an enthusiasm and excitement based on their confidence that the Lord was coming "in a few more days." Their study of the Bible and their faith in God gave them a spirit of expectancy that we don't seem to have in the church today.

But please don't misunderstand my point. They were excited, enthusiastic, and joyful because their study of the Bible had given them a confidence in God that would lead them through a time that would test their faith as never before. Their joy was

grounded in the knowledge of the One who was revealed in Scripture, the One who was coming to take them home. Brothers and sisters, we must not let the disappointments that come our way each day draw us from the assurance that we have in Jesus. We can look forward with eager expectation of that day because the One who has promised is faithful. Let's turn back to our Bible and ask God to give us a focus on heavenly things. Remember Hebrews 10:37.

John Moyer, president

Choctaw Vacation Bible School Goes to Babylon!

CHOCTAW » The Choctaw church recently held its Vacation Bible School, "Babylon—Daniel's Courage in Captivity." Each evening, the children, who had been divided into four "tribes," were transported to "Babylon." There they learned what challenge Daniel faced on that particular day, and learned how to face difficult situations in their own lives with God beside them.

This year's VBS had a small attendance, mostly children of church members, but as Betty Lynne Holley, the pastor's wife, mentioned, "Our children are important, too!" It was a privilege and a pleasure watching the children react each day as they saw Daniel respond positively and with faith in God as he was tested by the circumstances in his life.

Participants ranged in age from two to 12, and several of the Choctaw youth who felt they were a bit too old to attend volunteered to be helpers this year. They seemed to enjoy themselves just as much as the tribe members did.

Many church members and friends packed the church for the closing program on Sabbath morning, and enjoyed seeing what the children had been doing all week. Some of the smaller children are still asking when they will get to play games again!



Choctaw members participated in a journey through biblical Babylon at the church's Vacation Bible School. Children who attended learned lessons from the life of Daniel about how God will help them with the challenges in their lives.



Robin Sagel

PRAYER—Unity At The Cross

OKLAHOMA CITY » Have you prayed lately? Well, here's your reminder. So many of us today are struggling with the complicated rhythms of life, and hopefully prayer can become a part of that rhythm. They are the habitual prayers that we all have become accustomed to saying when we wake up, when we sleep, when we eat, maybe when we drive. They are the prayers that even your body will remind you of because they are almost a part of your physiology.

You might think of it in this way: each time you get off a phone call with a loved one or spouse, what are the words that you feel must come from your mouth before you feel like the conversation is over and you can hang up? Maybe it's simply, "Love you, bye," or something similar. If these habits were the only time you took the op-

portunity to express your love or gratitude, your relationship may be on track for a makeover.

It's the moments when you reach past these habits and express what you really feel to that other person that counts. These habitual prayers can also become a part of the family dynamic, which again isn't bad, but only scratches the surface of the inter-family interpersonal relationship God truly wants to have with you and your family.

Do your prayers go beyond mealtime and bedtime? We need to ask these questions and dig deeper into what it means to be in unity on a personal level with our Savior, but also in a much wider application. The unity we develop in our families through prayer also translates to the way we communicate and participate with our

church families. The better these relationships become as we are united under the Cross, the more Christ has access to move our hearts to reach out beyond our comfort zones and find those individuals outside of our circles that we may never have had a chance to touch otherwise.

Oklahoma is taking a new step when it comes to approaching prayer within our churches. We've seen and done the youth prayer conference, we've seen the adults take on prayer as an emphasis, but have we ever had a chance to learn how to unite the generations in a way that will bring us all closer to the Cross?

On October 25th, Oklahoma will take a step to bring unity to the generations. *PRAYER—Unity At The Cross* is a family prayer conference that has been designed to help train our generations in a way that will be familiar, but then challenge the hearts of our generations to reach across that boundary and embrace that "other" generation in a way that will bring us all closer to the Cross.

The conference will be held at Tulsa Adventist Fellowship with meetings Thursday night, workshops and meetings Friday night, and a wonderful Sabbath filled with prayer, worship, praise, and great challenges. Our general session speaker will be Ivor Meyers along with Steve Case speaking to the youth and young adults as well as combined generational meetings during the day. The moments that we spend speaking to God are truly valuable to our lives and can be incalculably valuable to our families.

You need to be a part of this family prayer conference. Prayerfully consider where you will be the weekend of October 25-27. Accommodations are affordable and in some cases free. We only ask that you register, if you plan to come. There will be little to no space for those who wish to just attend Sabbath morning. Check out www.adventsource.org under events for the schedule and to register, or just go to www.oklahomasda.org for the registration link.

Richard Castillo



Bearing Fruit in Durant

DURANT » The responses to the mass mailings of invitations to a series of lessons from Amazing Facts through Seminars Unlimited have begun to bear fruit in Durant. For the past four months, local Adventist Don Johnson has been hand-delivering the Bibles and lessons to those responding and answering their questions.

Johnson has been carrying on this witnessing program for several years in conjunction with his own church in Denison, Texas. As a result of the baptisms in the Denison area, Johnson decided early in 2012 that he should call the local pastor, across the border in Durant. Pastor Stephen Dennis listened with increasing interest to Johnson's offer to carry out the same program in the Durant area. The pastor presented the plan

to his church board at the very next board meeting. The board voted to proceed with the mailings as soon as the arrangements could be made.

The first two mass mailings of approxi-

mately 1,400 addresses has resulted in nearly 20 response cards being returned. Don then takes a free Bible and the first two lessons to each respondent. He follows that up with two more lessons each week until all 27 lessons are done, graded, and questions answered. Along the way Dennis meets each person to build a relationship with them as they transition to attending the local church in Durant.

Stephen Dennis, lay pastor



Pastor Stephen Dennis and Joyce Milner, one of the first students to finish the Amazing Facts lessons. Milner, a Universalist pastor, has been attending the Durant church since August 25, 2012.



*Always
in His
Presence*

What does it mean to always be in the presence of God? Find out.

Southwestern Union
Women's Spiritual Retreat
August 2-4, 2013 • Frisco, Texas

\$99 Registration Opens November 2012

www.SouthwesternWomen.org

Choctaw Meeting Results in Five Baptisms

CHOCTAW » The Choctaw church recently held a series of meetings with church pastor Leighton Holley as the featured speaker. The meetings were well attended, and five people were baptized.

Jacob and Haydn Fay, sons of members Chris and Angela Fay, were among those baptized. They have attended Choctaw church all their lives and decided they were ready to join the church family.

Sabrina Hickey had been baptized several years ago during a previous series of evangelistic meetings, but had not been attending regularly for the last several years. Recently she decided she needed to renew her relationship with Christ, and began attending church again last fall with her children, William and Rachel.

All three family members made a decision for Christ during the meetings and decided to be baptized together. What a blessing it is to welcome new members into the church, including those who are young and have their whole lives ahead of them to serve God!

Robin Sagel

Five people were recently baptized by Leighton Holly, pastor, at the Choctaw church.



Let the Bible Speak for Itself



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

There are two verses in Scripture that form the foundational need for the Bible in our lives. The first is Psalms 119:9 (NKJV), "How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your Word." And verse 11, which reads, "Your Word have I hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You." These are testimonies from the pen of David, and when we fully understand that he wrote these verses from experience, we should not only see them as admonition but also as a template for how to use the Bible in our lives. Let the skeptics question and the atheists deny the Bible as the Word of God. The one thing that

can't be denied is the evidence of the Bible changing lives. No other written document has profoundly been credited by so many people as the one item that has not only changed, but also guided them daily. The study of God's Word should never be approached without prayer and a contrite spirit. These two things allow us to be teachable. Likewise, when we read with the intent to obey, I never cease to be amazed at the vistas of understanding that it opens to the human mind.

Had the pioneers of the Great Disappointment of 1844 not been looking nearsightedly at God's Word, they would not have experienced the bitterness of that October 22nd event. But here is the irony

of that situation. God in His love had foretold their experience in Revelation 10:9-11: "So I went to the angel and said to him, 'give me the little book.' And he said unto me, it will make your stomach bitter, but it will be as sweet as honey in your mouth. Then I took the little book out of the angel's hand and ate it, and it was sweet as honey in my mouth, but when I had eaten it, my stomach was bitter. And He said to me, 'YOU MUST PROPHESEY AGAIN ABOUT MANY PEOPLES, NATIONS, TONGUES, AND KINGS.'"

Let the Bible speak for itself and you will never be disappointed.

Sam Green, president

Metropolitan Church Vacation Bible School

HOUSTON, TEX. » Eighty-two children in the community came to the Vacation Bible School hosted by the Metropolitan church in July. This year the theme was "Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity." Songs, games, and arts and crafts were some of the daily activities of this fun-filled event. The participants also learned Bible stories and Bible verses as they were grouped in their assigned "tribes."

Each child's face lit up with happiness as they came into the church each day. One of the children said, "I wish VBS would not end. Why can't Vacation Bible School be for the entire summer?"

Beth DeGracia



Gordon Weiberg

Participants in the Metropolitan church's Vacation Bible School were grouped into "tribes" to learn different Bible verses and lessons each day.

Smyrna Celebrates 76 Years!

ALEXANDRIA, LA. » The Smyrna church celebrated its 76th year doing business for the Lord Jesus Christ on August 11, 2012. The Sabbath School lesson was presented in talk show style, with church members serving on the panel for the lesson discussion. The guest "talk show host" was a member from the community with a distinguished bass voice.

During the worship service, musical selections were rendered by the Annadale

Missionary Baptist Church choir. Robert L. Davis, pastor of the Berean church in Baton Rouge, delivered a dynamic, spirit-filled, heaven-sent sermon for the waiting congregation. After being spiritually fed, the visitors and members dined on a delicious meal prepared by the food committee.



To top the day off, the Smyrna Sanctuary Choir donned white and coral outfits and performed a variety of soul-searching, spirit-filled songs that left people in awe.

Carey Walker

Robert L. Davis, pastor of the Baton Rouge Berean church, delivered a dynamic sermon at the Smyrna church's 76th anniversary celebration.

Berean Church Reaches Out to Young Adults

BATON ROUGE, LA. » As is the case with many of our churches, the Berean church has a large young adult population, one with unique needs. Robert Davis, Berean's pastor, recently invited Stephen Brooks, pastor of the Oklahoma City Tenth Street church, to Berean to address these needs.

Brooks' Sabbath visit began with his worship hour message which highlighted Matthew 5:14-16 and how "(We) are the light of the world; A city set on a hill can't be hid." This, coupled with the reminder that Christ is the light and our obligation to reflect that light, formed the backdrop for the evening's presentation.

Using a PowerPoint presentation for the evening's seminar, Brooks taught YAM 101, his acronym for Young Adult Ministries, where his instruction included basic tips for forming such a ministry for ages 18-24, as well as the

25-35 age group. Realizing that every ministry must have a leader who would also chair the committee, he began by spelling out the criteria, "a mature Christian with a personal relationship with God, exemplifying Seventh-day Adventist principles."

Brooks continued by identifying the leader's duties, which included assisting the pastor in casting a vision for young adults and ministering for their salvation, as well as enlisting young adults in training and involvement in active evangelism. Beginning with college-age adult ministry, and emphasizing that Baton Rouge is an education paradise (two state universities, a community college, and several technical schools) he reminded us of our role in collegiate ministry. According to Brooks, the four dimensions requiring a church's attention are promotion of higher education, college evangelism, adopting Adventist students, and continuing the ministry to students

who are away in school.

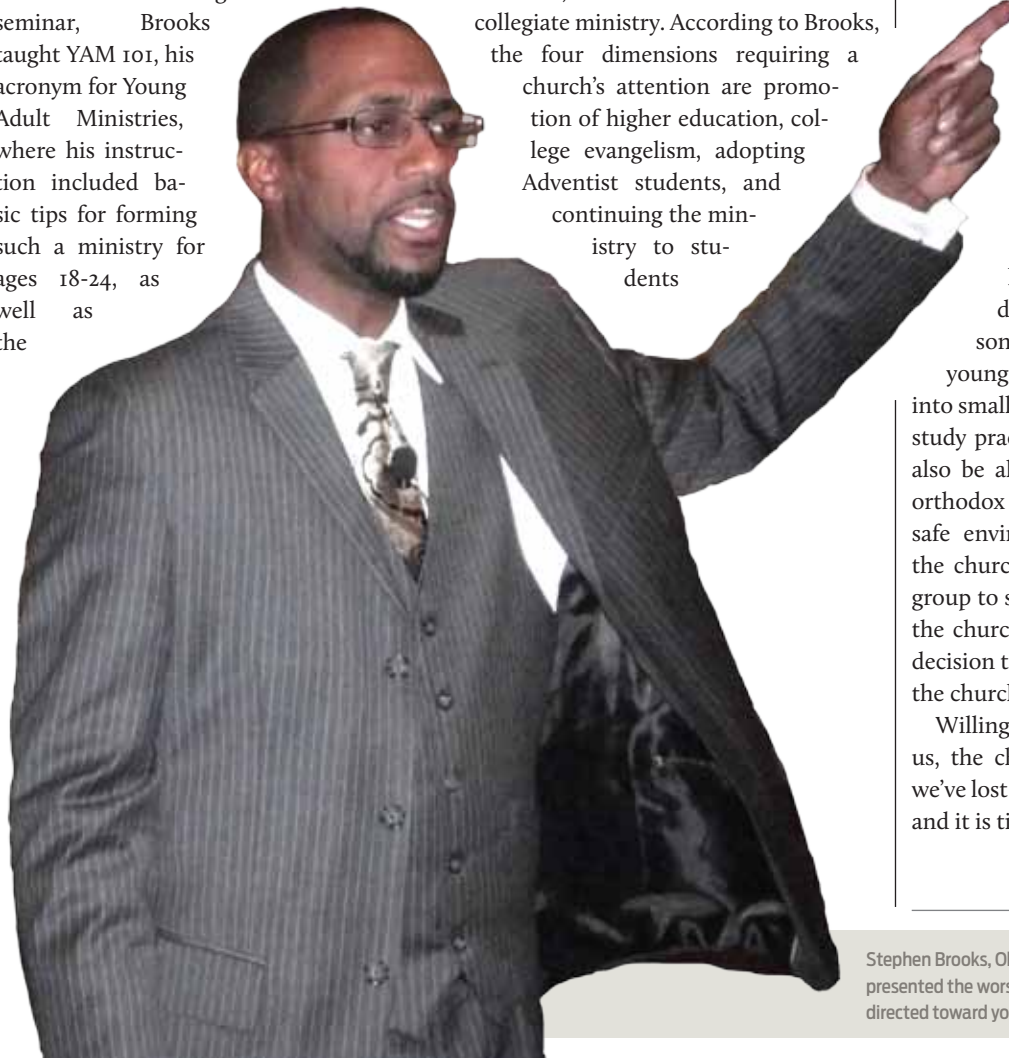
Inviting feedback from the audience, he elaborated on each dimension. A college campus is a mission field, of sorts. Not only did we learn how to seek out those college students, but also how to convince them that we really care by providing transportation to church along with a Sabbath meal and rest in our homes. And, of course, he reminded us of our obligation to our students away in school. The suggestion of sending care packages prompted Berean's pastor, Robert Davis, to remember a college experience when his name wasn't called for package pick-up. "All those around me were tearing into their wrapped packages, and I was left watching it all. It was painful."

Another area of concern is the church's loss of young adults. "We have to know why they left and what we can do to reclaim them," Brooks stated. The wrong habits, rebellion, unmet needs, and being disfellowshipped were some reasons given. Methods to reclaim our young adults included organizing them into small group ministries where they can study practical life principles. "They must also be allowed to question the church's orthodox ways of doing things. Create a safe environment for them to question the church's dogma. Then transition this group to serve in various capacities within the church. And above all, celebrate their decision to return to God and reunite with the church," he continued.

Willing to accept the challenge before us, the church stood in affirmation that we've lost far too many of our young adults and it is time to reverse the trend.

Evelyn M. Edwards

Stephen Brooks, Oklahoma Tenth Street church pastor, presented the worship hour message and Sabbath seminars directed toward young adults at the Berean church.



Spring Camporee 2012 at a Glance

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

ATHENS, TEX. » Spring Camporee 2012, June 7-10, was one of historic proportions. After years of talking and tossing around the idea of having a Pathfinder Reunion Camporee, it was finally realized at this camporee. Former conference youth directors, Pathfinder coordinators, and Pathfinders attended and reunited with each other.

Of the former youth and Pathfinder directors for the conference, only Keith Gray and Billy Wright were able to be in attendance. Former coordinators who came were: Geraldine Bernard of Huntsville, Ala-

bama; Irene Merrell of Minden, Louisiana; and Rogers Johnson, pastor and current director of Pathfinders. This camporee was also graced with the presence of several conference officers: Samuel L. Green, our conference president; Terrell McCoy, vice-president for administration; and Nancy Jones, vice-president for finances.

Louis Bushnell of Waco, Texas, a specialist in orienteering and topography, and Albert Webster of Huntsville, Alabama, a highly skilled instructor in drilling and marching, shared their talents during this occasion. It was a special blessing to see

those in attendance that have pioneered and helped to shape Pathfinding in the Southwest Region. At the present time, youth and youth leaders from this conference stand second to none when it comes to good Pathfinding throughout the North American Division.

Upon entering the hallowed grounds of the camp, a feeling of excitement and great expectations could be felt. Pathfinders arrived in automobiles, SUVs, vans, and buses of various types and models. They came from the north—Oklahoma City, Sapulpa, and Muskogee, Oklahoma; and the east—





Little Rock, Arkansas, and Texarkana, Texas; and the south—Hammond and Covington, Louisiana, and the many Houston area clubs; and the central areas—Austin and San Antonio, Texas; and the north—Dallas City Temple, Faith Temple (a large newly-formed club) and Grace Temple in Fort Worth. It must be noted that the City Temple and Faith Temple clubs brought their elite drum corps.

The theme for the camporee was: “Before, Between and Beyond.” The speakers for the camporee addressed the theme in their sermon presentations. Our speakers were Gordon Jones, ministerial director for the conference; Billy Wright, former president of the conference; and Keith Gray, from Southwestern Adventist University.

During this camporee, 23 Master Guides were invested, including the conference treasurer, Nancy Jones. Also invested with Nancy was her daughter, Shontay Winslow. It was a special thrill for mom and daughter to be invested as Master Guides at the same ceremony!

Sabbath afternoon featured an effort to witness to the Athens community through the annual Pathfinder Parade where people are invited to come for a youth rally on the steps of the courthouse. Literature is distributed to bystanders along the parade route with a place to sign up for a Bible study course.

The camporee’s most exciting events were the Drill Down Competition; the Basic Drilling and Marching; and the Fancy Drilling and Marching, where the Pathfinders can be creative in their drilling and marching and wear the uniform of choice as long as everyone in the club is dressed alike.

The Reunion Camporee concluded with all clubs receiving awards and accolades. The clubs were left with the thought that if we do not meet on earth again at another camporee, let us look beyond and strive to meet *the Master Guide of all Master Guides*. We know that Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, is waiting in His Kingdom that He has prepared for all Pathfinders and all those that love Him and look for His glorious appearing.

Bill Wright

People of the Word



TEXAS CONFERENCE

The other day, I heard a church leader refer to Seventh-day Adventists as a “movement” rather than as a denomination. I like that! We are a people born out of the Word, developed in the Word, yet have strayed from our pedigree and are in dire need of making a decisive pilgrimage back to the Word. The straying is a natural human tendency, when there is a delay. Ellen White stated, “The angels of God in their messages to men represent time as very short. Thus it has always been presented to me. It is true that time has continued longer than we expected in the early days of this message. Our Savior did not appear as soon as we hoped. But has the Word of the Lord failed? Never! It should be remembered that the promises and threatening of the Lord are both conditional. We may have to remain here in this world because of our insubordination for many more years.”

Going back to the Bible we find that God has asked three things of His people. First, he’s asked for a love for Him that corresponds to His great sacrifice of love on our behalf. Second, a hunger and thirst for truth and righteousness, which leads us to scour over His Word time and time again.

Third, a Christ-like love and unfeigned concern for our fellow man, which leads us to be used by the Holy Spirit as instruments to lead others to salvation in Christ!

It is a tremendous privilege and blessing to be a part of a prophetic movement clearly identified in Scripture as we catapult toward the end of a planet in rebellion and an eternity to be gained or lost. Revelation 14:12 states, “Here are they, who keep the *commandments* of God, and the *faith of Jesus*.”

There is a marked difference between *faith in Jesus* and *the faith of Jesus*. I believe that the people of God who live in the end-time context must be a people who not only have *faith in Jesus*, but are people who exercise the *faith of Jesus*. So what is the difference? *Faith in Jesus* is the childlike trust and acceptance that Christ forgives my sin, restores my soul, and walks with me as I strive daily to prepare for residency in the city above. But the *faith of Jesus* is a step further. It is a loyalty and commitment to Christ so deep that we have been saturated with both His love and His ideals, that our life closely mirrors His. It compels us when we are facing extreme adversity and spiritual challenges to voluntarily utter those words proclaimed by

the Master, when He was facing the cross: “*Oh My Father, if this cup cannot pass away from Me unless I drink it, not my will, but Your will be done!*” When the Word made flesh dwells in our hearts and minds, we are equipped to move forward from victory to victory.

I love what Ellen White says: “Seventh-day Adventists have been chosen by God as a peculiar people, separate from the world. By the great cleaver of truth (the Bible), He has cut them out from the quarry of the world and brought them into a connection with Himself. He has made them His representatives and has called them to be ambassadors for Him in this last work of salvation.” (*Testimonies*, vol.7, p. 138).

There is little doubt that as you and I narrow in on the very last moments of earth’s history, we now need to be a people of the Word like never before. We must be studying God’s Word, allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us of changes that need to be made in our lives, thus being driven by an unbreakable bond with Christ to share with others His great love, mercy, and justice.

Carlos J. Craig, president

VBS Baptisms at San Antonio Spanish Eastgate

SAN ANTONIO » Recently, the San Antonio Spanish Eastgate church hosted a Vacation Bible School program titled “Babylon.” Under the direction of Robin López, pastor, the church was blessed to have 60 children in attendance; 40 from the church, and 20 from the community. The program also received help from 20 women and 14 young people.

For the past seven years, this ministry has been a tremendous blessing, with the previous three years ending with children’s baptisms. Having received baptismal classes prior to VBS, five children were baptized this year. Afterwards, López extended a call

for baptism, and eight children raised their hands in response. These children will now receive Bible studies. The church is excited to extend a welcome to its newest members, Jason Rinza, Jesús M. Rodríguez, Angel Huerta, Hesedth Martínez, and Zoe Santiago!

Gerardo Alonso



The San Antonio Spanish Eastgate church hosted a VBS program titled “Babylon,” which was attended by 60 children.

Jefferson Central's Continued Growth in VBS

JEFFERSON » After many years of not hosting a Vacation Bible School of its own, the Jefferson Central church went all out when its members put on “High Seas Adventures” in the summer of 2010. Since that first VBS, the church has seen continued growth in both the number of children attending the VBS program and the number of children who are not members of their church.

Jefferson Central presented “Babylon, Daniel’s Courage in Captivity” this summer and children’s ministries director Karen Corpier said the attendance was the church’s highest since they began holding Vacation Bible Schools again. It takes a lot of volunteers

to put on a presentation of this caliber each and every summer. The first VBS in 2010 had as many adult volunteers as they had children attending! “VBS is more than child evangelism; it gets the church working together,” said Corpier.

Thanks to head elder Dennis Thompson, Jefferson Central is known for a large display on the front lawn to promote VBS. For this year’s display, he led a group of church members to make a wall and a gate, representing the walls of Babylon and the famous Ishtar Gate. No one doubts that Jefferson Central is willing to go all out in making the VBS experience something the kids will enjoy and remember for the rest of their lives!

Our fellowship hall was transformed into a Babylonian marketplace, headed up by church treasurer Gail Thomas. Each evening she and her team led out in crafts that illustrated the Bible points we were presenting to the children. Children were given coins to spend each evening in the marketplace, including for food at the Royal Food Court.

One of the things that Karen Corpier

insists on each year is authenticity and connection with the children who are attending. Volunteers wore Bible costumes



▲ Children singing in front of the congregation for Vacation Bible School.

Far left: Children attended VBS by first entering through Babylon’s Ishtar Gate.

◀ Authentic props were set up inside the church.

every night. Even if they were just assistants to other leaders, the Bible costume was a must. Karl Leukert, pastor, and head deacon Charles Bauder took on a lot of responsibility portraying Daniel and Ashpenaz, respectively. The children were told that Ashpenaz was a Babylonian and didn’t believe in the one true God as did Daniel. Sharon Leukert led out in the singing and introducing the Bible points each night and reminded the children to praise the one true God and show the Babylonians what we believe in. We knew we were do-

ing our job well when one sincere little girl went up to “Ashpenaz” and told him he really needed to give his heart to Jesus. It was a joy to know we were inspiring little evangelists.

All VBS volunteers were asked to wear their Bible costumes to church on Sabbath, while the children shared some of their songs and motions with the congregation. Karl Leukert again portrayed Daniel and gave an in-depth look at what Daniel may have experienced in Babylon and how his story can give us courage to stand strong and be faithful to God, no matter what is happening around us.

Some may say we spend too much time decorating and too much money and donations on things that will last only one week, but the continued growth with each consecutive VBS shows us that it is well worth the effort. As Jesus said, there are great rewards for those that minister to His little ones.

Sharon Leukert

Farewells at Gulfhaven

TEXAS CONFERENCE

HOUSTON » The Gulfhaven church recently had a tearful farewell for Gulfhaven's interim pastor, Ion Groza, as well as teacher Shirley Pulcer. The Sabbath service was also a special Pathfinder Day with many of the youth taking part in the worship service. During the service, three young people, Lilibeth Thomas, Alexander Thomas, and Michael Fisher, chose to follow their Lord's command to be reborn by His Spirit and were baptized. Three others, Hannah Kennon, Maria Martinez, and Michelle Himes joined the church by pro-



▲ Three young people were baptized on this special day at the Gulfhaven church.

◀ Pathfinders shared roses with mothers on Mother's Day at the Gulfhaven church.

fession of faith. Mother's Day was also being celebrated, so the Pathfinders brought them smiles of joy by presenting each mother with a rose.

There were mixed emotions as the church accepted the retirement farewell for teacher Shirley Pulcer. Shirley gave 36 years of her life to teaching children in Adventist schools, and taught first through fourth grades at Gulfhaven for the past five years.

Ion Groza received an enormous number of thank-you cards and personal gratitude from the members for the outstanding service he provided at Gulfhaven during the six months he served as interim pastor. The church members say he will

not be forgotten for his tremendous sacrifice and dedication for the time he spent there. The church's new full-time pastor, Noel Lazarus, will be

arriving soon, and the church prays that God will bless him and the congregation going forward.

Jean Hagen

String Ensemble comes to Kerrville

KERRVILLE » Recently, concert pianist Pablo Aguilar of San Antonio brought his group, The String Ensemble, to the Kerrville church, including seven young violinists.

The group of young teenage violinists played *Amazing Grace*, *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*, *Fairest Lord Jesus*, as well as many other songs. Before each song was played, the violinists took turns reading

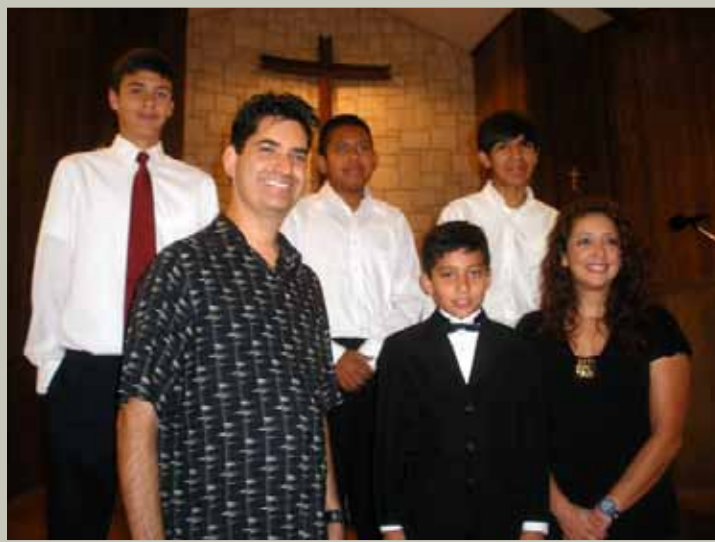
an inspiring spiritual message of the song. The congregation even joined in singing *Holy, Holy, Holy* during the ensemble's rendition. A Kerrville church member, Frank Jeys, surprised everyone with his beautiful tenor voice by singing *Jerusalem* with Aguilar accompanying him on the piano.

Aguilar brought the program to a close with *How Great Thou Art*. The wonderful music played by this gifted concert pianist

was a blessing to everyone. He is responsible for bringing these young musicians together as they came from the different Adventist churches in San Antonio.

Betty Blair

Concert pianist Pablo Aguilar of San Antonio brought his group, The String Ensemble, to the Kerrville church, including seven young violinists. The group performed beautiful music which was a blessing to everyone.



I Love My Bible



TEXICO CONFERENCE

It was almost 20 years ago, but I remember it as if it were yesterday. I was conducting evangelistic meetings in a large city. The crowd was so large we had to have two sessions a day, each with 1,000 people attending. The venue was a large public theater. We began the sessions in mid-afternoon and finished with questions from the large crowd about 10:00 p.m. each day. Every day people were lining up early in eager anticipation to hear the Word of God. Never have I seen such a hunger to know God.

We brought 1,000 Bibles to give to those who attended at least 15 sessions. On the Sabbath morning when we were to give those away, people were lined up an hour early to make sure they got one. People were there from all walks of life; university professors, scientists, doctors, nurses, and military officers. Men, women, and children of all ages must have God's Word for themselves. In this part of the world they had been deprived of His Word for de-

cares. Now, nothing and no one was going to deter them from having a Bible.

What a touching scene as people held, kissed, and embraced these Bibles like a long lost child with tears streaming down their cheeks. We made it possible for them to have a personal Bible to study, to cherish, to love every day.

Do you love your Bible like that? I have a special Bible that I love in that way. In it, God reveals the message that He loves *me* and that He is coming to get me soon. I use it for my preaching. It's been recovered twice and it needs to be rebound again, but it is my love.

I have a Bible on my iPad. I read it daily along with my Sabbath School lesson. It, too, has brought me a great blessing, but it's not my Bible, the one I love.

We are a people who love God and we love the Word of God. We love it because of what Jesus has done for us. We love it because we serve God and look forward with anticipation to His coming to take us into a kingdom which will never be de-

stroyed. We are citizens of God's kingdom and look forward to being there.

God has blessed each one of us with the ability to reason and to study His Holy Word. I'm excited about it and enjoy studying the Bible every day. Let's continue to focus on God, learn more of His Word, and support the preaching of His Word throughout the world.

Twenty years ago I saw the Word of God change hundreds of people's lives in Khabarovsk, Russia. God's Word is still changing lives today. Soon we'll experience the greatest change in human history when Jesus comes and takes everyone who has loved Him and followed His commandments into the kingdom, power, and dominion that will never be destroyed.

I love my Bible and look forward to meeting the author face-to-face, Jesus, our Messiah and Lord, in His Kingdom.

James L. Stevens, president

Church Members Learn Life-Saving Techniques

RIO RANCHO, N. MEX. » In early July, 16 members and friends of the Rio Rancho church came to learn the life-saving techniques of basic CPR and use of the Automated External Defibrillator (AED) device. Physicians Glen Wiltse and Robert Gardner emphasized the critical need for such training in all our churches and public gatherings. Nearly 500,000 people experience heart attacks and die annually. More

women die because classic heart attack signs are different. Unusual fatigue, sleep disturbance, shortness of breath, indigestion, and anxiety are the common early signs in women that are often ignored.

During the training each participant learned and practiced the new "two-step" CPR (call 911 and perform fast chest compressions) and how to use the simple, no

error AED device. Now the Rio Rancho church has members who are ready to handle this emergency with confidence and prayer.

Robert Gardner



▲ Glenn Wiltse, M.D., helps to educate the Rio Rancho church members in life-saving techniques.

▶ Wendy and Eric Redic, pastor, practice the AED procedure.



VBS—It's a Big Deal!

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » Vacation Bible School is a big deal to the Albuquerque churches. So big, in fact, that some folks in our community who do not attend our church are eager to bring their children to the church 20 minutes earlier than the program begins. So big that the first night of the meeting we had 30 more people than we had for the same night of VBS last year. So big that we had nearly 25 serving in our church that first night. So big that we had almost 65 children in attendance. So big that some people stressed and some people rejoiced. So big that we had to make room in the parking lot to accommodate parents and relatives for the VBS graduation. So big that I can't stop talking about it.

But, is it all about the numbers? Well, ultimately, it's not about the attendance or the volunteers or the event, but it is about the number of children and families who will hear and respond to the gospel

as a result of VBS. Why does VBS matter so much to our church? Because of VBS, many children and families will be exposed to the gospel. Twenty percent of the children who register for VBS do not attend church regularly anywhere. Did you get that? Nearly one in three of the children who are being ministered to through our church during this week do not regularly attend church. That's one big reason VBS matters. Secondly, a full 35 percent of registrants have not received Christ as their Savior. Half of the kids attending VBS are lost and in need of a Savior. They are coming into our midst to hear about Jesus.

VBS is like a mission trip in our town. VBS matters and is a big deal to our church because children and families come to Jesus through VBS. Vacation Bible School may seem like kids' stuff to many

church members—and it is, but Jesus was about kids' stuff too. Kids need Jesus and so do their parents. We have leaders in our church who are committed to Christ and His mission to the world, and that mission includes children. As a result, we have a commitment, not just to do VBS, but to do VBS *well*. We, like most of you, believe that the salvation of children is worth a significant investment of time and money, and it is good to do whatever we can to appeal to the little one's heart.

Jaime Calvo, pastor



► Children enjoying craft time.
▼ Vacation Bible School at the Albuquerque Rio Grande church.



TEXICO CONFERENCE

Lubbock is Saturated with *The Great Hope*

TEXICO CONFERENCE

LUBBOCK, TEX. » The Lubbock church purchased a pallet of the sharing book *The Great Hope* in anticipation of the Texico Summer Youth Rush canvassing team that would be working in the area over the summer. The Texico Conference is also having a great evangelistic thrust in West Texas this fall, with almost every church holding a series of meetings. In an effort to make their church known in the community, each book distributed in Lubbock had a label affixed to it with the church

name, contact information, worship times, etc. Shortly after receiving a book at her home, one woman in the community came to church on Sabbath, and then returned again the following week saying, "I'll be back."

The canvassing students will personally delivered approximately 11,000 of these books along with their Magabooks by the end of their program. A few cases of books were also shared and distributed in other areas of Texas.

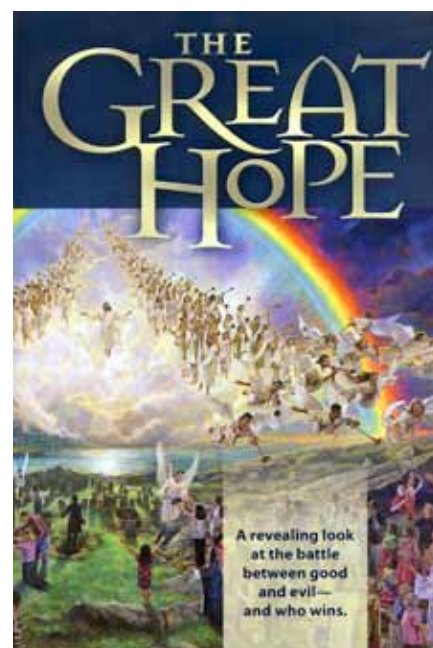
A big "thank you" goes to the church members who liberally contributed approximately \$6,000 to fund this project. Its members are extremely grateful to the Youth Rush team for delivering the little book and are praying for those who received it that they will read the book and respond.

Kathy Flyger and Sue Hinkle



▲ This woman was happy to receive her free copy of the *The Great Hope*, which was hand-delivered to her home by Mark Bernard.

► The summer canvassing team (only part of the team is shown here) saturated Lubbock and other parts of West Texas with *The Great Hope*.



Finding the Truth Through the Hope Channel



CLOVIS, TEX. » John Robert “Bob” Ledingham was welcomed with open arms into the family of the Clovis church on July 7, 2012 following his baptism.

The Hope Channel was the pathway for Bob to seek the truth in the Adventist church. Unaware of a local Adventist church, Bob drove more than 100 miles to fellowship and worship with the Lub-

bock church every week. Then one day, while driving around Clovis he was surprised to see an Adventist church.

Since then, Bob has been faithful in attending the Clovis church on Sabbath, prayer meetings, and vespers. He is currently studying his second set of Bible

studies within the church. His desire to be baptized was not surprising as he was very inquisitive and eager to follow the truths he was learning. Bob now has a variety of Adventist programming to enjoy, since a 3ABN satellite dish has been donated and installed by Harry and Mary Stone of the Clovis church, as part of their dish ministry.

As a token of support, encouragement, and love for our new brother in Christ and for his renewed commitment to the Lord, he was presented with a basket including numerous items, such as the book *The Adventist Home*, freshly baked bread, sparkling grape juice, a card signed by his new church family, and a gift subscription to *Signs of the Times* magazine. We look forward to seeing what plans God has for him.

LeAndra McGrath



▲ Bob is welcomed into the Clovis church with a gift basket.

► Both Bob Ledingham and Nehemias Basit, pastor, are happy on this joyous occasion.



Symbols and Traditions: More Than Fluff

If you want to understand Southwestern, consider our ceremonies.

“The essence of an institution is revealed in its ceremonies and symbols. Oh I know, many people doubt that,” says university president Eric Anderson. “Some may think ceremonies are fluff and symbols are thin decorations pasted over hard reality. But a good look at any long-lived institution, from the U.S. Marine Corps to the British Empire to the Christian Church, suggests how much those symbols and rites matter. If you really want to understand Southwestern, consider our ceremonies.”

Darcy Force

► A new school year brings big changes to a lot of families, particularly if the student is a freshman. Southwestern hosts a freshmen dedication ceremony during which the freshmen and their parents are encouraged, informed, prayed over, hugged, and supported. The freshmen are told they are “not just in the 13th grade” but embarking on a completely new path, one that Southwestern faculty are committed to journeying with them.

► The Mizpah Gate is one of Southwestern’s oldest traditions. In the biblical tradition, the Mizpah Gate stands as a reminder “May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent one from another.” Whether students, parents, or faculty and staff are walking in or walking out through the gate, the strong ties of commitment to ministry, the memories, and the friendships and bonds made on this campus hold fast.

Far right: Graduation is a long-held tradition, though not unique to Southwestern unless you’re speaking of December graduation. In honor of the students who complete their degrees in December, Southwestern hosts a smaller version of the May graduation. Believing that every student deserves recognition of their hard work and commitment to academic excellence, December grads are celebrated with a graduation ceremony complete with regalia, inspirational speakers, and sole-stirring music. After the ceremony, graduates and their families are treated to beautiful and delicious receptions in the Meadows Gallery of Chan Shun Centennial Library.

► Each school year, before the students start arriving, the faculty and staff spend the better part of a week together in preparation, prayer, and contemplation for the new year. Here Dr. Ingo Sorke, religion professor, prays for the newest faculty members as the others join them in a circle of family and prayer.



Southwestern Union Teachers Were Inspired and Informed at National Convention

NASHVILLE, TENN. » Approximately 315 teachers from the Southwestern Union Conference joined the buzz of activity at the Gaylord Opryland Resort and Convention Center in Nashville, Tennessee, Sunday, August 5, 2012, Randy Gilliam, Southwestern Union Conference Director of Education reported. They were part of more than 6,500 Seventh-day Adventist teachers representing 15 countries gathered for the third North American Division Teachers' Convention.

Larry Blackmer, North American Division vice president for education, shared. "I mainly have two goals for this Convention: To refresh our teachers spiritually as they are the physical representation of Christ in the classroom. I believe in order to represent that relationship each teacher must personally have a daily relationship with Christ so I want to infuse the vision of Adventist education in every single one of our teachers."

"The second goal," Blackmer added, "is to say thank you for what they do. They spend a lot of hours. They really work hard. Many times they are not appreciated as well as they could be so I want to say thank you to each teacher who is here."

Attendees had a lot of opportunities to be infused spiritually as well as academically with three morning worships, three general sessions, two evening programs, more than 550 breakout sessions, and a commitment service to close Wednesday at noon.

The music was a highlight with performances by the Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Choir, local performers The Brothers, and a variety of teachers and principals throughout the North American Division.

Carlton Byrd, Oakwood University church senior pastor and *Breath of Life* speaker, shared during the opening session nuggets found in Jeremiah 1:15, "Having purpose

helps us attain excellence...your duty in the classroom is to facilitate evangelism."

The mornings started early for those interested in joining Katia Reinert, North American Division Health Ministries director for exercise. Others walked inside or ran outside the large complex.

Dwight Nelson, Andrews University church senior pastor and author, gave the devotion each morning. He highlighted the "3 Ms in education: motivate, mentor, mobilize" and added "a fourth R to reading, wRiting, aRithmetic, redemption."

Other speakers, and authors in their fields shared their expertise. Alan November began his career as an oceanography teacher and has helped schools, governments, and industry leaders improve their use of technology. He encouraged us with humor, to push the limits. Todd Whitaker has served as a principal and now teaches how to motivate and inspire teachers. He shared with us how to deal with difficult situations. Ken Davis enlightened us

and encouraged us to "Lighten Up," which is the name of his daily radio program.

Other highlights of the convention were the conversations and camaraderie amongst teachers and their former students who are now teachers themselves.

"It was a pleasure to see teachers I have known before and had the privilege to work with," Larry Moore, Southwestern Union Conference president stated. "The meetings were informative and inspirational. Thank you, teachers, for all you do for our children and the kingdom of heaven. Your reward will be sure when Jesus returns."

The Adventist Church in North America operates a system of more than 1,000 elementary and secondary schools and 13 colleges and universities in the United States, Canada, Bermuda, and the Micronesian islands.

Tamara Michalenko Terry and Carolyn Early



Southwestern Union associate education director Mike Furr (far left) and Southwestern Union education registrar Betty Trevino (left) give presentations during the Wednesday morning devotional period. Andrews University church pastor Dwight Nelson (bottom left) provided spiritual nourishment through the morning devotions.



ASI Youth for Jesus Evangelize Fort Worth

ASI Youth for Jesus (YFJ) is an innovative and exciting youth-led evangelistic training program that is held in a different city, within the United States, every summer. ASI Youth for Jesus is held a month prior to the ASI National Convention and students come from all over the world to experience the powerful results of allowing Jesus to work through them. For many, this is a life changing experience that leads their own hearts into a closer walk with God.

This year's ASI Youth for Jesus students set up camp in the Fort Worth area. Working from temporary headquarters at Fort Worth Junior Academy, the 33 youth and eight young evangelists held five different evangelistic series, building on the efforts of a team of Bible workers who came before them. This year's participants, ages 15 to 19, represented 14 states and two countries. The meetings began July 11 and ended on August 3. They were followed by a program-wide baptism on August 4 at the Fort Worth Seventh-day Adventist Church. This year, on the final evening, 98 precious souls gave their hearts to the Lord through baptism.

Fifteen participants from the National Association for the Prevention of Starvation (NAPS), a nonprofit volunteer relief organization out of Oakwood University, joined the ASI youth group. NAPS volunteers generally are college students who commit a year of their lives to serve their organization. NAPS sends a team each year to join YFJ. This

year's NAPS team presented an evangelistic series at the Grace Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, and worked on several community service projects.

YFJ involves youth in hands-on-evangelism and community service projects, as well as providing them with practical and spiritual training on a variety of topics. This year they learned Bible study basics from Scott Moore, who serves as director of the Lay Institute for Evangelism (LIFE) and leader of the YFJ program. They also learned about hermeneutics from Dwayne Lemon, and about the lurking dangers of media and entertainment from Scott Mayer of Little Light Ministries.

The YFJ youth were challenged to reach out and share their faith wherever they are, regardless of the circumstances. Kelsey Unruh, a YFJ'er from Tennessee, was part of a group that passed out sandwiches, water, and Bibles in downtown Fort Worth one day when a man asked about the group's beliefs. "I was speechless at first, but soon someone in my group began telling him about the choice that we have to sin or to serve God," she said. "Now, I cannot say

that this man was right there on the spot convicted. But this experience taught me a lesson. Any day, at any place or time, I could be confronted with someone who questions my faith. Will I be able to stand up for Jesus? Do I have His Word hidden in my heart?" Even at the laundromat they looked for opportunities to share. "As we were washing our clothes, a young man was [there], and I started a conversation with him and invited him to the meetings," shared Stephen Blanchard, also from Tennessee. "So at that moment he texted his wife and told her about the meetings. I was so happy. First, because it was my first time personally inviting someone to the meetings, and second, because [he] accepted to go. I am so excited to go out and share the gospel with everyone."

The YFJ program has been running since 1999, when ASI's then-vice-president for evangelism, Kim Busl, was asked to take on youth programming for the annual ASI convention in Orlando, Florida. YFJ has continued each year since, usually working in the city where that year's ASI convention is held. This year the convention

venue was changed from Dallas, Texas, to Cincinnati, Ohio, but the wheels were already turning for YFJ in Texas when the change was made, so they remained in Texas and focused their efforts in Fort Worth churches that had already opened their doors to evangelism by youth.

Over the past thirteen summers God's vision for this program has been poured out on those involved and we look forward, with anticipation, to seeing where His vision leads this program next.

Conna Bond, ASI communication director



▲ ASI Youth for Jesus participants and students from Oakwood College's NAPS program at the closing ceremonies and baptismal service held at the Fort Worth First church on August 4.



◀ Baptismal candidates at the baptism ceremony held at Fort Worth First.



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EMPLOYMENT

Adventist University of Health Sciences (formerly Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences) in Orlando, FL, seeks an Assistant Program Administrator for the Nurse Anesthesia Program. Qualifications: CRNA with current recertification, eligible for FL licensure, minimum of master's degree from regionally accredited institution with doctoral degree preferred, academic experience. This is a faith-based institution which seeks candidates who fit its unique culture and mission. Submit letter of interest and CV to Dr. Alescia DeVasher Bethea, alescia.devasher@fhchs.edu, or fax 407.303.9578.

Andrews University seeks a Director of Graduate Enroll-

ment Management to provide strategic leadership for recruitment and graduate enrollment management. Qualified candidates should have a minimum of a bachelor's degree with three years of experience. For more information and to apply visit: http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi.

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Walla Walla University seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position in Biblical Studies to begin January 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

Walla Walla University seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position as Dean of the School of Education & Psychology to begin July 2013. For more information and to apply, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Reach Your World. Three days of inspiration, training and relaxation for evangelists, pastors and lay evangelists and conference administra-

tors. Southern Union Evangelism Council 2012. Presenters include Mark Finley, Ernestine Finley, Ron Clouzet, Ron Smith and Ivan Williams. December 3-6, Daytona Beach, FL. More information: www.southernunion.com/evangelism, 407.257.6847, or suevangelism@southernunion.com.

Attention Adventist Health Study-2 Participants! Please update your contact information if it has changed (address, phone number). Contact us by email (ahs2@llu.edu), phone (1.800.247.1699), or fax (909.558.0126). You may write to: AHS-2, Loma Linda University, Nichol Hall 2031, 24951 N. Circle Drive, Loma Linda, CA 92350, or visit www.adventist-healthstudy.org.

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.



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Attention all Family, Women's, and Men's Ministries coordinators:

There will be a special one-day workshop for these ministries at the Southwestern Union office, room 410, Nov. 11. Admission is free, but you must call 817.295.0476, ext. 438, to register before Nov. 4! Workshop is presented by Buford Griffith, Jr., Southwestern Union Family Ministries director, and Carmen Fuentes-Griffith, Southwestern Union Women's Ministries director (pictured at left). For more information, please call the Southwestern Union Family Ministries Department at 817.295.0476, ext. 438 or e-mail ngrinidge@swuc.org.

Announcements

Calling all teens grades 7-12. Plan now to attend "my Life 360," a weekend planned especially for teens to discover new life in Christ, held on the campus of Ozark Adventist Academy, October 25-27, 2012. To register: visit ozarkacademy.org/Teen-PrayerConference. Enjoy a weekend with friends, great speakers, and wonderful music.

Self-supporting missionary couple needed to run baby home in Africa.

Cradle of Love Baby Home in Tanzania is in need of new leadership. Founded in 2004, Cradle of Love provides interim care for orphaned and abandoned infants. Attributes needed for this job are: love for small children, administrative skills, adaptability to new culture and language, and capability to be self-supporting. For more information, contact Davona Church at: director@cradleoflove.com.

Reclaim Your Brain at the Southwestern Adventist University Bible Bee.

The purpose of Reclaim Your Brain is to encourage Bible study and memorization as an active part in the Christian life. Scholarships of \$20,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 will be awarded for first, second, and third place. To register, and for more information, visit <http://spirituallife.site.swau.edu/> and go to the "Reclaim Your Brain" link.

Milestones

BIRTHS

Alleayah D. LaGrange was born on May 15, 2012 to Desmond and Alleta Stiggers LaGrange. She weighed seven pounds, seven ounces. The proud grandparents are Norman and Lorraine Stiggers, pastoral couple of the New Life church in Palestine, Texas.

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Obituaries

CECIL, Maxine, born September 25, 1921 in Healdton, Okla., and died August 27, 2012 in Harrah, Okla. She was a member of the Summit Ridge church. Maxine worked as a nurse for several years and was listed in the "Who's Who Among Nurses." She will be missed by her church family. Survivors: two sons, David and James M. Smith; and daughter, Betty Lee Smith.

EINHELLIG, Margaret Maxine, born December 9, 1918 in Las Animas, Colo. and died in Fayetteville, Ark. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband; son, John; daughter, Esther Arthur; three grandchildren, and six brothers and sisters. Survivors: son, Bill Einhellig, of Gentry, Ark.; daughter and son-in-law, Kathy and Steve Crabtree, of Siloam Springs, Ark.; daughter and son-in-law, Mary Lou and Randall Steele, of Siloam Springs; 13 grandchildren and 17 great-grandchildren.

HALL, Donna Jean, born August 15, 1926 in St. John, Mich., and died June 18, 2012 in Minden, La. She was a member of the Minden church. Donna Jean was the oldest of six children born to Minnie Mildred Rhodes Hall and Charles La-petra Hall. She graduated from Salem Liberty High School in 1944. Donna and her mother, Minnie, moved to Louisiana in

the early 1990s and made their home next-door to her sister and brother-in-law, Esther and Richard Seiden, in Haughton, La. Donna became a member of the Minden church in 2009 and continued to express her love for Jesus and desire for His coming. Survivors: two brothers, Floyd Hall and Wayne Hall; sister and brother-in-law, Esther and Richard Seiden, of Bossier City, La.

JOHNSON, Robert W., born July 23, 1962 in Westlake, La., and died February 17, 2012 in Westlake. He was a member of the Lake Charles church. Survivors: father, Walter Johnson, and mother, Matilda Johnson, of Westlake; son, Daniel P. Leubner, of Westlake; sister, Bonnie Johnson Reed, of Houston, Texas; sister, Donna Johnson Davis, of Brunswick, Ga.; sister, Susan Johnson Winn, of Westlake; and three grandchildren.

KIRCHBERG, Earl Carl, born August 17, 1952, in Orange, Conn., and died August 5, 2012 in Hampden, Me. He was a member of the Southern Hills church. His mother, Muriel

Gerard Kirchberg and father, Ernest Carl Kirchberg, preceded him in death. Earl spent his life as a positive witness to the God of Heaven, which he accomplished by being a living example to his wife of 37 years and his three sons. Some of his many interest included Bible study, racquetball, sight seeing, and sailing, but above all other interest, was his family. He went to Andrews University, graduating in 1974 with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. He received his master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis, graduating with a Masters in Business Administration. His primary work over the years was that of CFO for different organizations, a work he found rewarding. He was dedicated to everything he did. Survivors: wife, Kallie Joh-

nas Kirchberg; mother-in-law, Katina Johnas; sons, Nicholas Kirchberg, Alexander Kirchberg, and Demetri Kirchberg; siblings: Linda Seideman, Betsy Kirchberg, Paul Kirchberg, and Eric Kirchberg; nephews, Paul Michael Kirchberg, Jonathan Kirchberg, and Zachary Kirchberg

MCCAIN, Doris Marie Muir-ray, born November 18, 1922 in Gainesville, Tex., and died November 7, 2011 in Lake Charles, La. She was a member of the Lake Charles church. Survivors: daughter, Tammie McCain Ham, of Lake Charles; son, Thomas L. McCain, of Lake Charles; one grandchild, one step-grandchild, two great-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

New Southwestern Union Evangelism Blog

Now you can read stories and see photos of the latest happenings in evangelism around the Southwestern Union by following the new Southwestern Union Evangelism Blog. With so many exciting stories to share, the Evangelism Department wants to make sure you know about the progress of God's work. Visit www.swevangelism.blogspot.com, or find the link on the front page of www.southwesternadventist.org. Be sure to check back often, the blog will be updated regularly.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Oct 5	Oct 12	Oct 19	Oct 26	Nov 2	Nov 9
Abilene, TX	7:20	7:11	7:02	6:55	6:49	6:43
Albuquerque, NM	6:46	6:37	6:28	6:20	6:13	6:07
Amarillo, TX	7:27	7:17	7:08	7:00	6:53	6:47
Brownsville, TX	7:13	7:06	6:59	6:53	6:49	6:44
Dallas, TX	7:08	6:59	6:50	6:43	6:37	6:31
El Paso, TX	6:47	6:38	6:30	6:23	6:17	6:11
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:10	7:01	6:53	6:45	6:39	6:33
Gallup, NM	6:55	6:45	6:35	6:28	6:20	6:14
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:04	6:55	6:47	6:41	6:35	6:30
Gentry, AR	6:57	6:47	6:38	6:29	6:22	6:16
Little Rock, AR	6:49	6:40	6:31	6:22	6:16	6:10
Muskogee, OK	7:01	6:51	6:42	6:34	6:26	6:20
New Orleans, LA	6:42	6:34	6:26	6:19	6:14	6:08
Oklahoma City, OK	7:10	7:00	6:51	6:43	6:35	6:29
Roswell, NM	6:38	6:29	6:21	6:13	6:07	6:01
San Antonio, TX	7:16	7:08	7:01	6:53	6:48	6:43
Shreveport, LA	6:56	6:47	6:38	6:31	6:25	6:19
Tulsa, OK	7:03	6:53	6:44	6:35	6:29	6:22

Note: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Nov. 4.

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'HERE I AM'

'SEND ME' ISAIAH 6:8

We Are Not Alone

NOT TOO MANY MONTHS AGO, I was blessed with the opportunity to take part in a trip with a group from Ouachita Hills Academy. The purpose of the trip was to be colporteurs in the area of Killeen, Texas. I was excited but also a mite scared by this, for I had minimal experience in selling books.

I asked the leader, Eugene Prewitt, if he was certain I would be able to do this.

"You know," he said, with a twinkle in his eye, "When you are working on behalf of God, it's not you working alone, it is you working with God. I believe that God is well able to use you to do His work, Miss Eden!"

So after a three-hour ride to Killeen, I set myself in a place where God could use me, and prayed that He would do so.

That first morning I got ready by filling my book bag with books such as *The Great Controversy*, *Steps to Christ*, *Peace Above the Storm*, *Christ's Object Lessons*, and a few healthy cookbooks.

As I stepped out of the car on a lovely little street in the middle of Fort Hood, Mr. Prewitt handed me an extra copy of *Peace Above the Storm*, saying, "Here, you might need an extra book before you get done."

Throughout the day, that extra copy stayed in my bag. Toward the end of the day I was dropped off at a courthouse, with the simple instructions to canvass each office inside. As I started toward the courthouse, I spotted a woman sitting on the curb on the other side of the courthouse.

"Go talk to her!"

"What?" I thought, and the message came again, "Go talk to her!"

"I can't possibly do that, I won't have time to finish the courthouse! Plus, it looks like she is talking on the phone, and I don't want to disturb her." With that thought, I walked toward the courthouse door, although I had an uneasy feeling that I was ignoring something important. I reached the court-

house door and found it locked! *That's odd*, I thought. I wondered why it was closed. *I suppose I might as well go and talk to that woman after all. I have nothing to lose.*

As I approached her, I saw that she was not on the phone at all. She was huddled on the curb, crying. I felt a stab of doubt again, wondering if I should disturb her. "Go talk to her!"

"Greetings Ma'am! My name is Eden." As I started to show her the books that I had, I realized that all I had left was a *Steps to Christ* and that extra *Peace Above the Storm*. When she saw the *Peace Above the Storm*, her eyes positively lit up!

"This is what I need!" she exclaimed, "I need peace!" Then she spotted the *Steps to Christ*. "Oh, can I have this one too?"

She bought the books, and started reading them right then. I had a wonderful feeling that God was working. There was one more thing that I wanted to check, though. I went up to the courthouse again and checked the door. It was open. I checked the hours and they were 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

It was 3:30 in the afternoon.

I know that I wasn't working there alone. I couldn't have done that in a million years. God was working, and I was blessed to be His instrument.



Eden Ward is
14 and lives in
Cleburne, Texas.

On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



A Treasure Worth More than Gold!

DURING MY MOST RECENT TRIP TO ZAMBIA, someone said words to me that I will never forget. Her name was Joyce. She was our housekeeper at the lodge where our team stayed during a series of ShareHim meetings around the city of Livingstone. It just so “happened” that Joyce lived in the neighborhood where my meetings were held and she accepted our invitation to attend. One day while cleaning our room she approached me and asked, “Do you think you could obtain a Bible for me?” After I secured one and presented it to her, she looked at me with a big grin and said, “This is the most precious gift I have ever received!”

I have to admit, I was a bit stunned. By her reaction, you would have thought I had handed her a box of expensive jewels. Now, it’s tempting to think that because of the extremely impoverished conditions in Zambia, that Joyce might have treasured *even the smallest gift*. But I think that Joyce had the wisdom to recognize that while the book itself might be worth only a few dollars, its *contents* are of infinite value.

And it’s not only the less fortunate who have recognized the value of God’s Word. John Wanamaker, a wealthy merchant and entrepreneur who lived in Philadelphia in the mid-1800s, also made

a profound statement. He said, “I have of course made large purchases of property in my lifetime . . . and the buildings and grounds in which we are now meeting represents a value of approximately twenty billion dollars.

“But it was as a boy in the country, at eleven years of age, that I made my biggest purchase. In a little mission Sunday School, I bought from my teacher a small red leather Bible. The Bible cost me \$2.75—which I paid in small installments as I saved. That was my greatest purchase, for that Bible made me what I am today.”

The Psalmist recognized the value of the Word of God too. Referring to God’s



When Pat Humphrey, left, presented a Bible to her friend, Joyce, she exclaimed, “This is the most precious gift I’ve ever received!”

statutes, which are found in His Word, he said, “More to be desired are they than gold, yea than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb” (Psalm 19:10).

God’s Word is indeed a precious treasure. It’s time to take that sometimes-neglected treasure off the shelf and place it into our hearts and minds!

Pat Humphrey

Record

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

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**You've planned for your future...
and your gift could help a
student prepare for their own.**

Your gift can make an eternal difference!

At Southwestern Adventist University, we want to provide our students with the tools for a successful career, as well as firm foundation for spiritual growth.

You could help students, right here in the Southwestern Union, prepare for their future by making a charitable rollover gift this year from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). The previous IRA Rollover Law expired on December 31, 2011 but it's very likely that Congress will reenact this law in November or December of 2012.

If you are 70 ½ or older, you are required to take the Regular Minimum Distribution (RMD), which is taxable income. However, the RMD may be transferred directly to a charity, providing significant tax advantages to you while helping Southwestern Adventist University continue to educate the next generation of young people.

For more information about planned giving options through Southwestern Adventist University, please call 817-202-6308 or send an email to byramh@swau.edu.

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