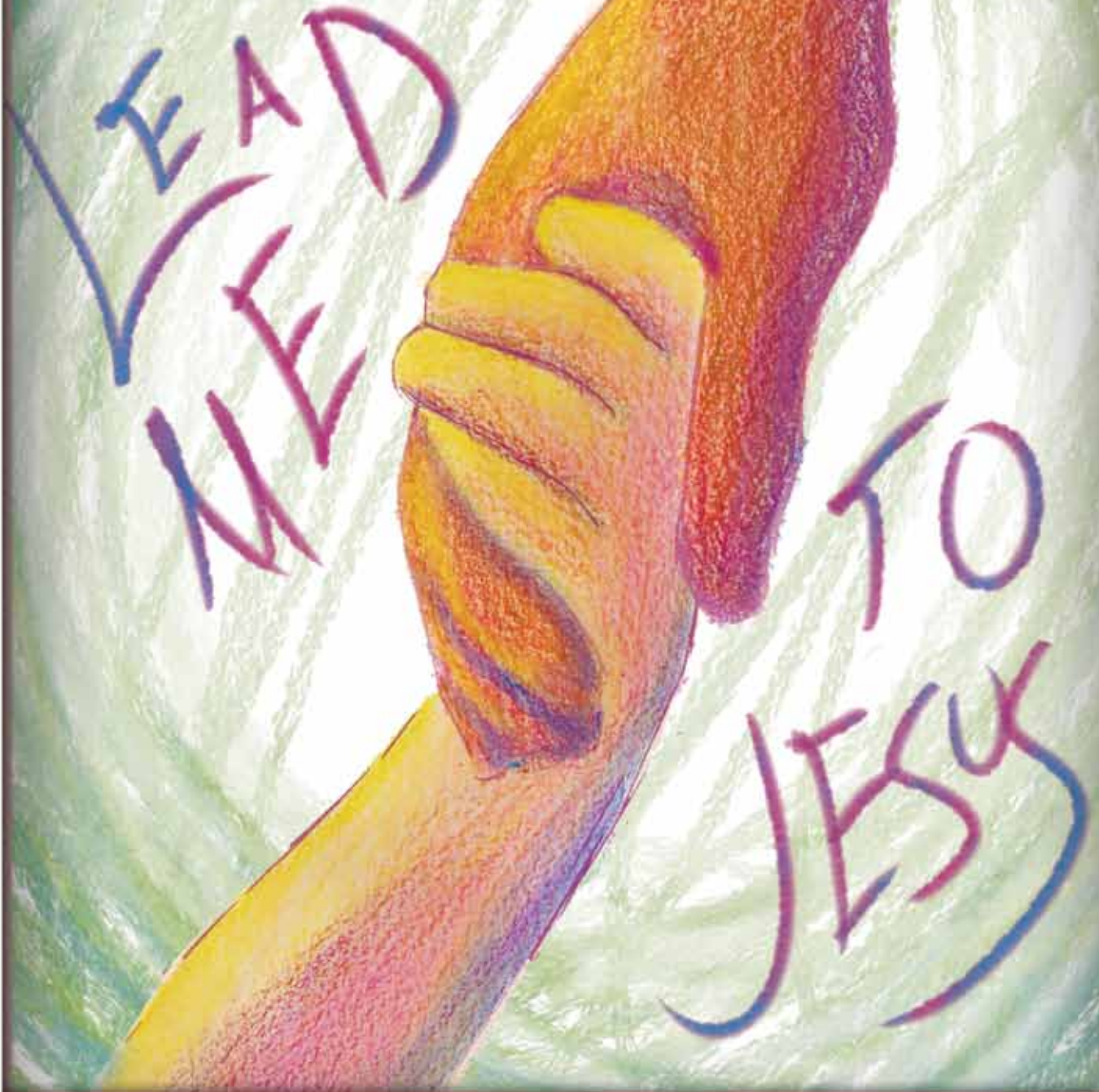


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

OCTOBER 2013



FOCUS ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



Leading Children to Jesus

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On the Cover

Leading children to Jesus, as the cover illustrates, is the very essence of children's ministries. This issue of the *Record* is dedicated to those who selflessly share their time and talents in order to guide children to know, love, and connect with Jesus. Thanks for all that you do! [Cover illustration by Alex Wicklund]

Point of View»



BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

The Unsung Heroes

Too often the unsung heroes of the church are the faithful folk who work in children's ministries. In most churches, the leaders of the children's divisions are the backbone of Sabbath School. Where would we be without them? They are there every week, leading our boys and girls to Jesus.

One of the ladies you could always count on was June Ackermann. She was the cradle roll leader for years in the San Antonio Laurel Heights church. She and her helpers were there every Sabbath doing ministry. She retired from it a few years ago, but I wonder how many young lives she impacted for the kingdom? In

my pastoral ministry, I have seen this over and over again. I want to say a big (Texas-sized) thank you to all of our children's ministries leaders. I also want to encourage our pastors and members to express your appreciation to these valuable volunteers that mean so much to our church. May God bless them and give them many stars in their crowns.

Larry Moore



Stepping Stone to Success

LM: As I reflect on other alums' time at Southwestern Adventist University, I realize that, although we are of different generations and studied different topics, there is a thread that runs through all our experiences. That is this: Southwestern is where it all began, in some way or another. It's where we learned something about ourselves or met someone who impacted our lives. These alums, Heather Laue Rodriguez, '03, and Chris Clapp, '02, are two alums who can attest to this.



Heather Laue Rodriguez
Class of '03



Chris Clapp
Class of '02

in anesthesia at Texas Wesleyan University. Southwestern brought so much to my life beyond academics. My family attended there. I met my husband there. Its presence is noted throughout almost every stage of my life. I don't think the faculty and staff realize how far their reach extends outside the classroom, but I am so blessed for all the not-so-obvious services Southwestern offered to me.

HLR: Southwestern Adventist University has always been a part of my life. My grandfather brought his family over from New Mexico to help build Findley Hall and Scales Hall in the early 1960s, allowing his children and grandchildren the opportunity to use its campus in many ways throughout their academic lives. Throughout my childhood I saw Southwestern as more than just a college campus. Its impact reaches far into the surrounding community. I looked at other options for college, but decided on Southwestern because of the scholarship offered. At Southwestern I gained a great nursing degree, I got to see some of the world through two mission trips, and I laid the groundwork to continue my education and complete a master's degree

CC: My time at Southwestern impacted me in multiple ways. Within my major, my professors helped me develop critical thinking skills that have helped me in both my personal and professional life. Outside of the classroom, I had the opportunity to get involved in things that I wouldn't have otherwise: developing my spiritual life through the different activities on and off campus; practical experience working on real Web sites in a production environment; management experience at the radio station where I was able to begin to learn how to lead a team. I'm now the director of design and web development/social media marketing manager for Leo Marketing in El Paso, Texas. My time at Southwestern was a very influential time of my life. Looking back, I'm glad I made the decision to go.





CREATION Health

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

Shaping Young Hearts For Eternity

“Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these” – Jesus (Matthew 14:19, NIV).

AFRAID

As a minister, I’ve always loved kids because they are honest, playful, and loving. In fact, my favorite thing is to teach these precious souls about God’s healing grace and baptize them, leading them into an eternal relationship with Jesus Christ.

As a dad, my love for them has deepened because I filter the world and church through my six-year-old son’s eyes. I wonder what he sees and hears and how it shapes his view of God, and his place in life and in the church.

I must admit, though, I am afraid. I’m afraid because of forces working inside and outside the church trying to hinder our children from falling in love with Christ.

HINDRANCES

As parents and church leaders, we must allow the Holy Spirit to lead our interactions with our young people, lest we unwittingly fall prey to these two common hindrances:

1. Teaching children they are unworthy of God’s love and grace because they are little more than worms, as some adults unfortunately teach and believe. Not true! The Bible says we are fearfully and wonderfully made, a little lower than the angels. We don’t set our own worth—God does. And He says we are worth saving!

Let’s think about this as parents, shall we? If my son was playing in the street and was about to be hit by a car and I rushed to his aid and saved his life even though it cost me my own, was he worthy of me saving him—even though he wasn’t supposed to be

in the street to begin with? Absolutely! *My* love for him, and the value *I* give him as *his* father, makes him worthy.

That is how God sees us—because He, according to Jesus Christ, is our Dad.

We must do all we can to teach our kids how much God loves them—that He loves them more than life itself! And that He saved them because He wanted to and not because He “had” to—and he would do it again in a heart beat.

2. The second way we hinder our children from coming to Jesus, besides unintentionally making them feel unworthy, or that God saves them reluctantly, is by teaching them that God is unapproachable or difficult to please.

The thing that strikes me in the story about the little kids wanting to see Jesus and be with Him was that Jesus *wanted* to see and be with them, too! He didn’t see them as an interruption or something he had to do. He *wanted* to be with them.

God wants to be with us. He likes us, enjoys us, and loves us.

To teach children that God wants them to be with Him, and that He enjoys their companionship, is a wonderful and sacred responsibility we have as parents and ministry leaders. Can any work be more important or rewarding?

THE OUTCOME

Jesus scolded His disciples for hindering the little children. With outstretched arms, He welcomed the children onto His lap. He played with them; smiled, laughed, hugged, and blessed every single one of them.

How do you think those children described Jesus to their friends? Do you imagine they used words like, “stern, cold, strict, unkind,” and “scolding”, or words like, “fun, playful, happy, warm, loving, kind,” and “nice?”

How children described Him back then is how they ought to be describing Him now if we are doing our jobs “right” as parents, care givers, and church leaders. To help with this, CREATION Health will be releasing tools and resources in the coming months to share Christ’s abundant life, love, and grace with our children. Please visit www.CREATIONHealth.com/kids to stay informed of new resources as they are released.

That’s CREATION Health!

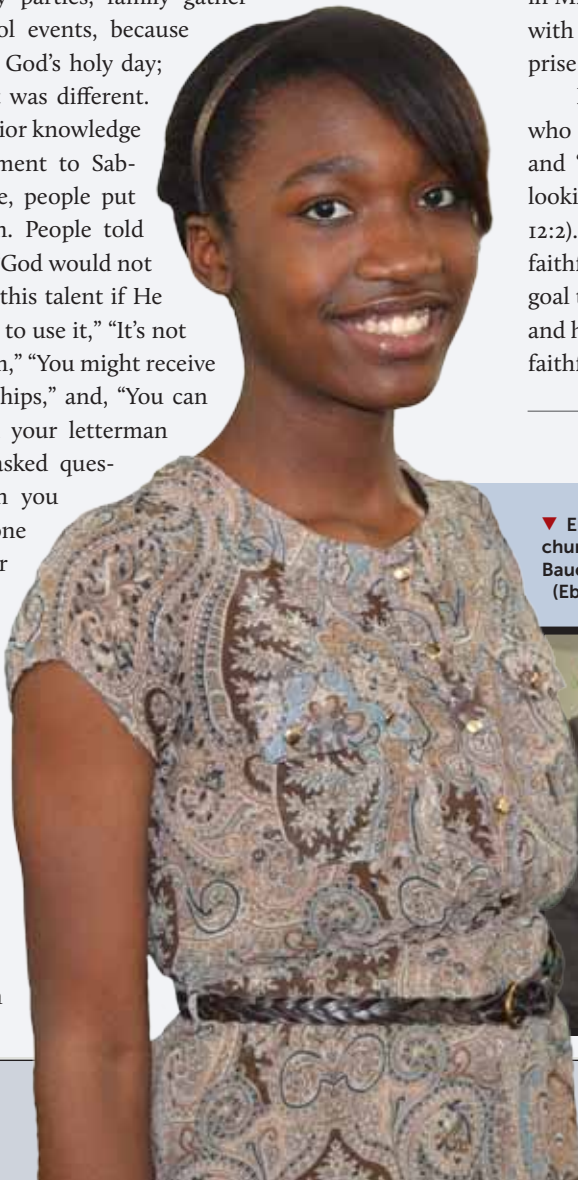
Lynell LaMountain writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

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

The Finish Line

POW! A BILLOW OF SMOKE ENTERED THE AIR and the race began. I was running the 400-meter dash. I had run, and won, the same race many times. Confident in my skill, I leaned through the finish line and again took a first-place gold medal. Despite high winds, I had run my best race, and found myself embraced by a crowd of coaches and peers. The excitement filled my heart. I could hear other coaches ask my coach about me, and with a grin on her face hear her respond, “and she’s only a freshman!” I was just one race away from the University Interscholastic League (UIL) Track and Field State Meet. There was one problem, the next meet would be held on Sabbath.

Keeping the Sabbath is a decision that many Seventh-day Adventist young people face, especially in public school, and now I had to make that choice. I was no stranger to making decisions about my personal beliefs, such as honoring the Sabbath. I have missed birthday parties, family gatherings, and school events, because I chose to keep God’s holy day; but this time it was different. Regardless of prior knowledge of my commitment to Sabbath observance, people put the pressure on. People told me things like, “God would not have given you this talent if He didn’t want you to use it,” “It’s not fair to your team,” “You might receive college scholarships,” and, “You can earn stripes on your letterman jacket.” I was asked questions like, “Can you just give me one minute of your time on one Saturday of the year, just one?” and “So do you think that all the other kids running on Saturday are going to hell?” Nevertheless, despite peer pressure, pressure from



coaches, and love for sports, I had to stand for what and whom I believe in—Jesus Christ!

The day following the meet, my coach asked for a final decision. Thanks to the prayers of my family, pastor, and the students in Mrs. Jacobs’ class at Miss Molly’s Christian Academy, I told her with confidence that I was not going to participate, and to my surprise she simply said, “OK.”

I want to encourage all Seventh-day Adventist young people who may find themselves in similar circumstances to stand firm and “run, with determination, the race Christ has set for you, looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith,” (Hebrews 12:2). We will all face situations that challenge our faith, but be faithful to God and He will always be faithful to you. Let it be our goal to cross the ultimate finish line, receive God’s golden crown, and hear the words found in Matthew 25:23, “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

▼ Eboni Smith received an award at the Cleburne, Texas Emmanuel church, where she is a member. From left, Raymond Bevins, Keisha Bauer, Eboni Smith, Donovan Smith (Eboni’s brother), Sherrie Smith (Eboni’s mother), and Peter McHenry.





Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY **CRYSTAL FLERCHINGER** » OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES LEADER

Making Sabbath School a Priority

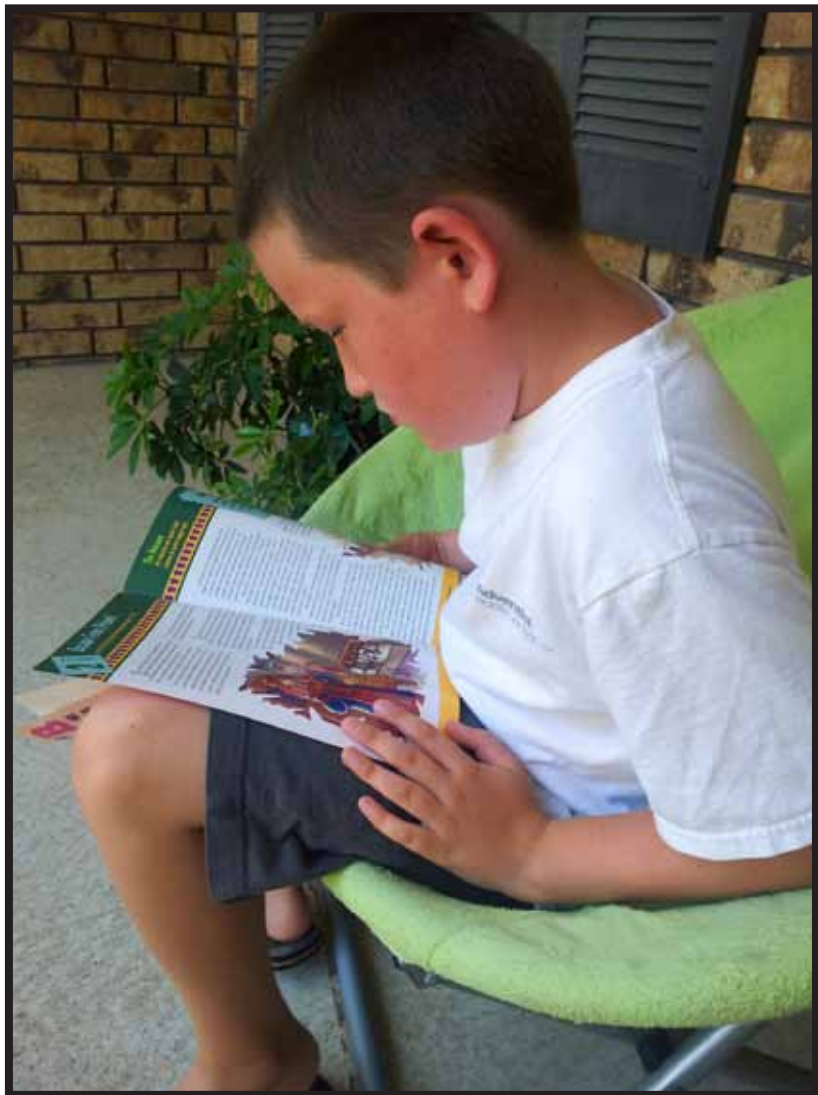
Ricky* arrived early Sabbath morning at his friend's church, eager to have some fun that afternoon with the family who invited him. His seven-year-old mind studied the greeter as she directed him to the appropriate room for Sabbath School. She welcomed him into the classroom and introduced him to his teacher; he looked intently around for his friend. There he was, in a chair by the wall! Striding over, and seating himself, he was instantly drawn in by the engaging song service and smiles of the other children. No longer nervous, he sang songs, and even got to choose one of his own!

The Bible lesson began, and the children actively participated in the story of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Ricky had never heard that story before! As he read the story in his friend's Bible, the teacher welcomed his questions, and answered them clearly. He felt as though he was right there with Daniel and his three friends, long, long ago. The activity that followed led Ricky's little heart to think of how much God cared for him, how He protects and cares for those who follow God's directions. He made a decision right there as their class knelt and prayed that this same God was one he wanted to know and obey from then on! His heart warm, and his life given to Jesus, Ricky and his friend were dismissed to sit together in the worship hour with the family.

"This is my church now!" Ricky said. "I'm going to bring my whole family!" And he did! Not more than a year later, Ricky led his family to fall in love with Jesus, too. They were soon baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church together.

Sabbath School is evangelism at the grassroots level. Purposefully designed to bring children to Jesus in developmentally appropriate ways, each activity in the lesson gives a unique opportunity for children to understand God's grace, multiplying the opportunities that child has to accept Jesus into their heart. It is designed to be a safe place to minister to their hearts.

Kindle the fire of the spirit that burns bright in your children's hearts. Make Sabbath School a priority in your church. Let each



A primary student studies his Sabbath School lesson.

Sabbath be an opportunity for your members to welcome them into a deeper relationship with the Savior. Invest in a set mission project, and celebrate it on 13th Sabbath. All these elements make for a great opportunity to lead children to serve their Redeemer as His disciples for the rest of their lives!

*(The story is true, but names have been changed).



Reavivamiento en Oklahoma

Algo maravilloso está sucediendo en nuestras comunidades en Tulsa y Oklahoma City, estamos experimentando un gran reavivamiento. Hay hambre por la palabra de Dios. La gente está cansada de las cosas usuales de la vida, y buscan saber más de Dios.

Bendiciones llegan por Su gracia. Empezando por el apoyo que nos brindan dos grupos de Colportores, estudiantes que vinieron de las universidades Adventistas de Southwestern en Keene, Texas y de Montemorelos, México. Los dos equipos evangelísticos, de hombres y mujeres, han estudiado con más de cien personas en las últimas semanas de julio. El espíritu de fe y ánimo que traen estos jóvenes ha sido contagioso; el espíritu misionero renació entre los miembros durante este verano. Entre aquellos experimentando este reavivamiento está la Iglesia Adventista Hispana del Sur de

Oklahoma City, a cargo del Pastor Daniel Castaño. Junto con su iglesia hicieron sacrificios personales para ser parte de los esfuerzos evangelísticos. Los cuales han traído una cosecha de intereses y todos están ajustando el tiempo para darles estudios bíblicos en los dos idiomas, Español e Inglés. Pero lo que más nos anima es que estos intereses se han transferido a miembros en las iglesias, y eso asegurará que reciban el mejor cuidado posible.

La Iglesia Adventista de First Tulsa también ha experimentado grandes bendiciones al tener a estos Colportores. El arduo trabajo de estos hermanos los expone a grandes experiencias, al igual que los estudiantes, que les traen ánimo para seguir compartiendo el mensaje de amor eterno, al ver cómo Dios contesta las oraciones por los demás. Cada uno de ellos ha visto la mano de Dios guiándolos, y a sus ángeles preparando el camino delante de ellos. Han

llegado a un sin número de hogares y orado, comido y la gente ha llegado a quererlos. Algunas personas les dijeron que ellos habían visto en sueños que venían a visitarlos, y decían, “estoy segura que ustedes son a quienes vi en el sueño.” Otros les decían que eran una respuesta a sus oraciones. Los colportores, al igual que los obreros bíblicos, han encontrado una linda recepción en las iglesias. Este es un verdadero reavivamiento de la piedad cristiana. Es animador ver un espíritu misionero.

En estos meses que nos quedan, hagamos un esfuerzo de participar en la obra de hacer amigos para el reino de Cristo. Unamos nuestras oraciones a las suyas, oremos por la comunidad y por otras iglesias, Dios desea traer a todos a sus pies. Dios premiará todo esfuerzo y sacrificio.

Ciro Castillo, director del ministerio Hispano

Estudiantes de Montemorelos, México caminando las calles de Oklahoma inspirando a otros.

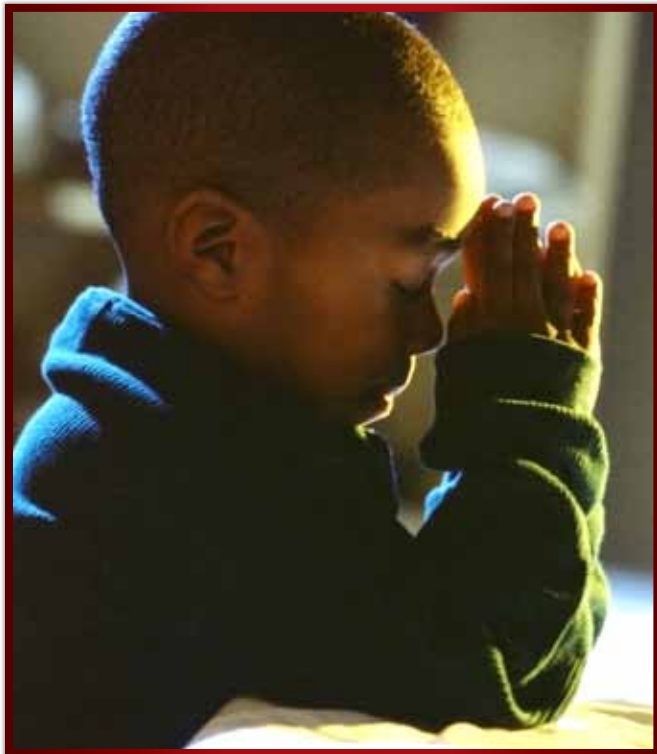




LEADING CHILDREN TO JESUS

When people think of children's ministries, often the first thing that comes to mind is VBS or Sabbath School. But just as ministering to adults involves much more than Sabbath School or evangelistic efforts, children's ministries also encompasses many areas of a child's spiritual development.

In the Southwestern Union we love children, and our goal is to nurture and guide them to be followers of Jesus. In churches all across our territory are many caring people whose mission is to lead children to Jesus—whether it's through Sabbath School, children's church, camp meeting, VBS, Pathfinders, Adventurers, or one of the many other wonderful facets of children's ministries. We are immensely thankful for the dedication and loving service of those who nurture our children spiritually.



We also have an excellent team of children's ministries coordinators throughout the Southwestern Union. If you feel the Holy Spirit's tugging on your heartstrings to be involved with children's ministries, these coordinators can provide you with great resources and training. The North American Division has developed a Children's Ministries Certification program to help children's leaders understand and communicate effectively with the children in their care. If you'd like more information on how you can be involved with or become certified in children's ministries, please contact the coordinator for your area:

Arkansas-Louisiana: (318.631.6240) Joyce Fortner

Oklahoma: (405.721.7594) Chrystal Flerchinger

Southwest Region: (214.943.4491) Jackie Martin

Texico: (505.244.1811) Josephine Green

Texas: (817.783.2223)

- Parish: Valley, Rosa Mata
- Parish: San Antonio, Mandy and Geraldo Alonso
- Parish: Central, Susan Tonn
- Parish: Dallas, Barbara Craft
- Parish: Keene/East Texas, Sandra and Delmon Tucker
- Parish: Ft. Worth, Sonia Cano
- Parish: Houston, Lydia Lopez

Margaret Taglavore, Southwestern Union Conference Children's Ministries director, 817.295.0476

Prayer

The dictionary defines prayer as “a solemn request for help, expression of thanks, or a form of worship to God; a religious service where people gather together to pray together, e.g., Prayer Meeting.”

This past year I had the opportunity to attend an ARME Bible Camp. It was amazing to see how the children learned to pray as a group through United Prayer. Even the younger children, ages four, five, and six, understood the concept of prayer. The older children wrote their prayers in a prayer journal and some wrote on small cards. They kept these as reminders of whom they were praying



for and they could use the journals to track answered prayers. The children also learned how to use passages of scripture, like the Psalms, as prayers of praise or thanksgiving.

Children are innocent yet bold when they seek God in prayer. They honestly believe God will answer their prayers. In Matthew 18:3, Jesus says we must be converted and become as little children, or we will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Maybe we need to learn to pray like children, unashamed of our need for our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Susan Tonn

Stewardship

All of us have heard a small child blurt out the phrase “It’s mine!” when someone tries to touch something he thinks is his. Is stewardship for children? Indeed it is! What better way to begin to teach the principles of stewardship than starting with our children? It is so important to show our children that God gave us everything and that He cares what we do with our possessions. We show our love for God by how we handle what He gives us.

Children enjoy giving offerings to God, but we usually hand them the money for the offering they give. Why not give them the opportunity to give some of their own money to God? A child taught that the first thing he or she must do is to give to God learns a precious lesson about worship. There are even special offering envelopes for children to help teach these principles.



The Bible says we are to “Train up a child in the way he should go” (Proverbs 22:6). As our children begin to use their talents and abilities, remind them that God gave them talents to use for Him. Principles of stewardship that are learned as a child can last for a lifetime.

Barbara Craft

Evangelism

Child evangelism happens 365 days a year in our churches, schools, homes, and communities. Child evangelism is helping a child know Jesus as their best friend, and providing an environment where this can happen.

Do you remember as a child when others showed you Jesus’ love, and expressed their care and concern for you? Children today need that same kind of love and concern. Children’s needs may be spiritual, emotional, or physical. We need to listen, care, and show the children how to have a close relationship with Jesus.

Jesus had a special place in His heart for children. He rebuked His disciples when they tried to turn them away. We need to avoid the same mistake. Encourage children to come to you, to learn that the Kingdom of Heaven is theirs. Here’s how to do it: *First*, elect a child evangelism leader for your church. *Second*, when your church has an evangelistic outreach, *always* do the same for the children. This is vital, as it encourages young couples to attend.

Other ways to evangelize children include Vacation Bible School, local day camps, Adventurers, children’s church, weekly Bible clubs, spiritual theme parties, etc. Your local conference has many resources to help you reach children. I challenge you to reach out and touch a child for eternity.

Joyce Fortner

Camp Meeting

There are many reasons to look forward to camp meeting, such as reuniting with friends, making new friends, wonderful sessions, and most of all, refueling our spiritual tanks. My favorite reason to attend camp meeting as a little girl was the children’s program.

The children’s program at camp meeting is geared to toddlers all the way up to pre-teens. From catchy songs, to fun games, to hands-on activities and Bible stories, no child is left out. Whether they can name all twelve disciples or have never even heard of a man named Jesus, we have something for them. At camp meeting we teach our kids to believe in the love of God and the truths in His Word.

As we sharpen our spiritual swords, it is up to us as parents, teachers, and leaders to teach our children how to activate the power found in their faith. One way to do that is by coming to camp meeting!

Josie Green

Children’s Church

Can you imagine a worship time with colorful balloons, animal crackers, and a preacher no taller than three feet tall? You can find that and more at children’s church—a place where the little ones can not only enjoy the service, but understand it and remember it forever! Children’s church is a program done for children and by children. This type of program can be adapted to the needs of large or small churches. You can hold children’s church once a month, or for younger ones, you can have it once a quarter.

Like any good program, children’s church requires planning. You will need to find the mini deacons, a mini praise team, mini presenters, and mini preachers. The “sermon” can be preached by one or several kids, by an adult (using kids’ language), or by a DVD. The sermon’s lesson should be applied immediately, using crafts, games, or by acting it out. Children’s church is a place where kids grow spiritually and where you can make a lasting difference in their lives.

Sonia Cano



CHILDREN'S HEALTH EXPO

Helping children make healthy choices

Jacquelyn G. Martin, Southwest Region Conference Children's Ministries coordinator

Diseases are attacking our children in epidemic proportions. Their small bodies are breaking down at a young age due to the ever-increasing use and consumption of sugars, oil, and salt. Health professionals are becoming alarmed at the increased number of children with lifestyle diseases. It's imperative that we help our children learn to make healthy food choices.

A children's health expo is a great way to teach children about healthful living and at the same time, reach out to your community with valuable health information for kids and their families. This fun, innovative program consists of banners displayed at a series of stations where children learn about various health topics through games, music, and other activities.

How to Conduct a Children's Health Expo

The program is designed so that children rotate through the eight stations in a two-and-a-half-hour period, spending about 20 minutes at each station. You'll need to set up the banners (which can be purchased from www.healthexpobanners.com) in a room

where the children can move around freely. Gather the children together to hand out station sheets to be stamped at each station, along with nametags. Organize the children into eight groups.

The stations should be visited in the following order:

- **Nutrition:** At the nutrition station children learn that bodies need nutrition for strength. They learn about the importance of eating more fruits and vegetables.
- **Air:** Activities at the air station teach children about the body's need for fresh air and the importance of proper breathing.
- **Sunlight:** Sunlight is important for a child's life. The activities at this station help children to understand that the body needs sunlight to get adequate vitamin D.
- **Rest:** This station teaches children about the importance of rest and how to recognize when the body needs sleep.
- **Exercise:** At this station the children participate in games and activities that get them moving.
- **Temperance:** A balanced life is essential to helping us with





Holding a children's health expo is an excellent way to help children lead healthier lives.

this life and the life to come. Activities at this station teach about the effects of caffeine and other harmful substances.

- **Water:** Water regulates the body systems. Here the children learn how much water we really need.
- **Trust in God:** Singing songs provides an opportunity to praise the Creator of life for all that He has done.
- **Closing Activities:** Conclude the expo by giving each child a certificate showing that they participated in the activities and what they learned.

Children's Health Expo in the Southwestern Union

Several churches around Southwest Region Conference have conducted health expos for children, including the Fondren church in Houston and the Mansfield church in Louisiana. An expo was held at the Southwest Region Conference camp meeting at Lone Star Camp, as well. Why not host a children's health expo in your area—at your church or at a location in your community?

For More Information

Health Edco offers products that can be used to enhance your children's health expo. You can access their materials at www.HealthEdco.com. Another new resource, Creation Kids, will also be available soon. Visit www.CREATIONHealth.com for more info.

Knowledge is a tool that can take us a long way in life. Educating children to take care of their bodies God's way will prepare them for now and the future. We must teach them that their bodies are the temple of God and not their own. They were bought with a price—and so were we (1 Corinthians 6:19, 20)!

INTRODUCING THE NEW GRACELINK

Jodi Pharo

Few innovations over the years have had the impact on children's ministries in the Southwestern Union as GraceLink. Introduced in the late 1990s, this comprehensive curriculum was designed to provide a more contemporary approach to children's Sabbath School.

The curriculum itself was new, focusing on leading our children into a grace-filled grasp of spiritual life, preparing them to be lifelong members of the church. The design was new as well, and a number of tools were developed, including a new Web site to provide support materials for teachers and to enable parents and children to access the new materials online.

Nothing, however, can be expected to be innovative forever. While GraceLink has been a great success in North America and all over the world field, after nearly 15 years, the program needed refreshing and rethinking in terms of modern end-users.

The following guidelines shaped the update:

First, a commitment to make the product visibly stronger, while losing none of the familiar texture and character. The intent was to make the program more flexible and current, but with the least possible disruption to a beloved product that was meeting the needs of our churches.

Then, there was a determination to strengthen the networking aspects of GraceLink, with a renewed emphasis on parents and teachers. It is important to create new ways for the entire community to interact and benefit one another.

Finally, an intentional effort was made to maintain a sharp focus on the largest mission goals of the church. GraceLink isn't just about children's Sabbath School; ultimately, it is about leading our children to the foot of the Cross and helping them become lifelong Adventists.

Out of this careful process came a number of important changes to meet the needs of our children:

You can find the GraceLink materials and a wealth of other children's ministry materials, such as books, music, and Vacation Bible School curricula, at the Texas Adventist Book Center in Keene. The ABC stocks North American Division-approved material in English and Spanish, as well as Bibles, baptism certificates, Sabbath School graduation certificates, baby dedication certificates, stickers, cards for all occasions, and gifts. Call 817.558.0100 or toll free at 800.333.1844. Or visit the ABC Web site at www.adventistbookcenter.com/home.

- A new, graphic approach for PowerPoints. One change is a return to a more traditional graphics style in the illustrations for PowerPoints—the Junior-level part of the curriculum—with a stronger representational approach and a creative cross-generational appeal.
- A distinctive parents' page. The intent is to provide content stated in adult terms, reminding teachers and parents that their gifts of time and effort are recognized as they work with children.
- A more obvious biblical chronology. Graphic symbols enable the participants to identify where the story fits into the biblical chronology.
- A more intentional focus on biblical prophecy. The distinctive Adventist emphasis on prophecy and the end times has been amplified and enhanced.
- Identification of Fundamental Adventist Beliefs. A new feature identifies which of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the church each particular lesson supports.

The new GraceLink adds a group of product augmentations that take into account our changing world, and new forms of social interaction. It builds on what has gone before, without losing any of the richness that characterized the initial phase of the program.



Sandra Tucker, children's ministries area coordinator and customer relations director for the Texas ABC, captivates her young audience in the children's department of the store.

KIDS “COOK UP FUN” FOR GOOD NEWS TV

Makala Coleman

“Cookin’ Up Fun” is a TV show operated by kids. Its purpose is to bring attention to the Seventh-day Adventist message: first health, and then salvation.

Kids, ages five through 15, run the show. They cook, act, film, and even direct. Art Humphrey, television producer, supervises them with the help of a few parents.

“We’re doing this for evangelism,” says Humphrey. “Plus the kids just have a ball.”

The cast and crew are made of homeschool students, and several from the Joshua Adventist Multigrade School. Eden Ward is one of these. Last year, she did some cooking and operated a camera. This year she was stage manager.

“I love to see the whole group come together and make something this big,” says Ward. “We work as a team for this outreach. Also, it gives us a lot of experience filming.”

Ward is an active member of the audio visual booth at her church. She’s also been a part of filming three evangelistic meetings. “Cookin’ Up Fun” is open to any children who want to be involved, no matter their experience.

Each episode runs 30 minutes, and features different kids cooking different recipes. All recipes are plant-based, vegetarian, and healthy. This includes vegan key lime pie, pesto pizza, tofu scramble, and more.

“The world already knows how to cook food the unhealthy way,” says Humphrey. “We want to show them a better way. A way that won’t cause health problems.”

While filming, one child en-

thusiastically said, “I made this pie for Thanksgiving and everybody loved it! They didn’t even know it was healthy!”

This is the second year of “Cookin’ Up Fun.” It airs on Good News TV, which broadcasts to the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex; that’s 5 million people. The channel, 20.4, belongs to the Texas Conference, and is operated by the Crowley, Texas, church.

“The idea is to get people watching Good News TV,” says Humphrey. “If people watch the cooking show, maybe they’ll stick around and watch other things, as well. It’s just a small way to draw people to the three angels’ messages.”

Last year they created just a few episodes. This year they filmed 25 segments, to be put into episodes. Jack Robinette, who is a member of the Keene, Texas, church came up with the idea for a cooking program for kids, and so “Cookin’ Up Fun” was born. He also put a great deal of his own money into making it possible.

“Jack is a real advocate of spreading the three Adventist messages,” says Humphrey. “He came to me one day and said, ‘we have all these kids, so let’s make a cooking show!’”

Aside from Good News TV, “Cookin’ Up Fun” can be found at [facebook.com/kidscookinupfun](https://www.facebook.com/kidscookinupfun).

The Facebook page shows behind-the-scenes footage, bloopers, and even one full episode.



Tobe Watts

◀ Zoey and Daisy Prater cooked up plenty of fun during the show’s recording.

Bottom left: The crew of Cookin’ Up Fun is comprised of homeschool kids and students at Joshua Adventist Multigrade School. From left: Kenton Sorke, Kaili Kimbrow, Carleigh Wilson, and Ryan Madhiri.

▼ Skyler Strickland and Kaili Kimbrow display their culinary creations.



Makala Coleman



Makala Coleman

Learning Early To Love Jesus



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

I watched with keen interest as Jacob and Hailey came into their Sabbath School room, found “their” chairs, and sat down. They were two years old but responded to everything going on as if they were completely familiar with it! They knew the words to sing, the hand actions that went with the songs, when to stand, when to kneel for prayer, and when it was time to give their offering. When it was time to “sail away” in the mission boat, they knew exactly what to do and how to get into the boat. They were especially particular that they got their turn, and they were not bashful about getting a second turn if they could get away with it. It was the same with riding the “horse” to the remote village to tell someone about Jesus. They loved to participate in every ac-

tivity and they knew just what to do.

Jacob and Hailey are my grandchildren. I’m proud of them and thankful for them. I know they would never participate as they did if they hadn’t been taken to Sabbath School from “day one.” Obviously, on “day one,” they had no idea what was going on and what was expected of them. Yet if their parents had waited until they were two to introduce them to Sabbath School, they would have missed so much. Two years of a wonderful learning experience would have been lost.

As I reflected on those Sabbath School visits, I also recognized the tremendous influence that Sabbath School teachers played in teaching and training children about spiritual things. These children’s Sabbath School leaders and teachers are “blessed.” What a significant role these

dedicated people play. Many of them spend hours each week in preparation for what they will share on Sabbath morning. I want my grandchildren to have the very best spiritual training, and these children’s leaders are devoted to provide just that. Notice these words of counsel: “Those who are seeking to gather the children into the Sabbath School are doing a good work, the very work the Master would be pleased to have them do. The expanding minds of even small children may comprehend very much in regard to the teachings of Christ, and may be taught to love Him with all their ardent affections,” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 55). It’s never too early to teach our children to love Jesus.

Stephen Orian, president

Pocahontas’ VBS Inspires Five Baptisms

POCAHONTAS, ARK. » Over the past few years, the Pocahontas church has had record turnouts for its Vacation Bible School. This year, the church did not break the attendance record, but did set a different record. At the end of the VBS program, the church had five young people ask to be baptized.

The Pocahontas church encountered a small baptism hurdle: who could baptize the youth? The church was in-between pastors. One young man, Chris Swartzlander, was baptized at Camp Yorktown Bay this summer by Bill Painter, pastor. The church contacted him and found out he was on his way to Jonesboro. Painter agreed to come to Pocahontas for vespers, and baptize the candidates. Praise God for Kyla Brandt, Larissa Issac, Layla Massey, Hannah Isaac, and Kynli Brandt. Praise our wonderful God for knowing our need.

Elaine Jones



▲ Kyla Brandt, Larissa Issac, Layla Massey, Hannah Isaac, and Kynli Brandt were baptized by Bill Painter following the Pocahontas church’s Vacation Bible School.

► Volunteers worked hard to make the Pocahontas church’s Vacation Bible School a success.



Slidell's VBS Focused on Paul's Dangerous Journey

SLIDELL, LA. » The Slidell church held Vacation Bible School from June 17-21, 2013, with the theme, "Athens, Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth."

Denise Deroam did an excellent job leading the VBS program. There were 19 children and 12 youth helpers that attended nightly to enjoy class and drama, crafts, games, snacks, and music. The children learned that Paul was a tent maker who later became a disciple for Jesus Christ.

The children had fun learning about Paul's dangerous journey to Athens, how he cast a demon out of a slave girl, his visit to the marketplace and telling the people about Jesus, he and Silas being attacked by an angry mob in Thessalonica, and teaching in the synagogue about Jesus. They also learned that God cares about all of us and that we should give our worries and cares to Him. God loves us so much that He sent His son, Jesus, to save us.

During the closing VBS program on Sabbath, everyone was taken on an



▲ Children participating in Slidell's VBS.

◀ The Slidell church recently held Vacation Bible School with the theme "Paul's Dangerous Journey."

imaginary trip to Athens to see what the children had been learning all week. It was such an exciting trip!

Vernella Rogers

Olga Hamilton Receives Excellence in Teaching Award

BENTONVILLE, ARK. » Olga Hamilton, principal and upper-grades teacher at Bentonville Adventist School, was the recipient of the 2013 Excellence in Teaching Award, given by the Southwestern Union each year to one elementary and one secondary teacher in each conference.

Stephen Burton, Arkansas-Louisiana superintendent of education, presented the award at the Bentonville church on May 25. A framed certificate and plaque were given, along with two \$500 checks, one from the Southwestern Union and one from the conference. Hamilton has made several pos-

itive contributions to the school, such as implementing an effective marketing strategy, which has led to an increase in enrollment, and expanding the Pre-K program. The conference extends its thanks and appreciation to Hamilton for making a difference in the lives of our children.

Stephen Burton, superintendent of education

Stephen Burton presents the Excellence in Teaching Award to Olga Hamilton.



Outdoor School Results in Baptisms

GENTRY, ARK. » Each year, our school children look forward to outdoor school at beautiful Camp Yorktown Bay. Kids enjoy swimming, canoeing, and riding horses. They are involved in Pathfinder honor classes and field studies. All of these activities are packaged in a deeply spiritual program. This year, the theme, “*Whatever,*” was based on Philippians 4:8.

Youth director Jeff Villegas led the morning worship and the Gentry church’s associate pastor, Edwin Rosado, conducted the evening campfires. The kids were challenged to examine their lives on the thought level. They discovered that although the world models an “I don’t care attitude,” as Christians, there are several things that we really do care about. At the final campfire, attention was focused on the incredible love that Jesus has for each of us, and how Jesus did *whatever* it took to save us. The meeting ended with a call to recommit our lives to Jesus.



Edwin Rosado, pastor, baptizes Ethan David.

Ten students requested Bible studies to prepare for baptism. It was a privilege to witness one of those baptisms a few weeks later on the banks of Flint Creek in Gentry. Ethan David, a student from Little Rock Adventist Academy, was baptized by Rosado.

When Ethan was asked about the experience, he said, “It was a special baptism, especially because my grandparents and family members from Maryland and California were there, along with several special friends.” This is why we do Outdoor School.

Stephen Burton, superintendent of education

When?
November 1-3, 2013

Where?
Camp Yorktown Bay in Mountain Pine, Ar

Who's invited?
Grades 7-12 and Sponsors

Cost?
\$50.00 per person-
Includes lodging, 5 meals, & a T-Shirt

To register, go to -
www.arklaprayerministries.org/teen

Questions:
Call (318) 631-6240 ext 115

Wild for God at Westlakes

WEST MONROE, LA. » The children of the Westlake church enjoyed a week of “PandaMania Vacation Bible School.” Each night they learned a new way that God is wild about His children. The children and volunteers were provided a full meal right before the program, which made it easy for the volunteers to fit VBS into their busy schedules. Heather Sasser and Roxane McHugh led the kids through large group activities and songs each night, and Patty Panda, the panda bear, joined them each night to teach

that God is wild about His children.

The children were divided into small groups to enjoy different activities, such as building an altar with Elijah on Mt. Carmel, and experiencing the dark and very smelly belly of the great fish with Jonah. On Sabbath, the children shared a few songs with the congregation. Elizabeth Fresse had a special message for the children that incorporated the week’s theme, and the adults watched a slide show of pictures from VBS. The general feeling of all the children to-

PandaMania Vacation Bible School

ward VBS was reflected in the words of a little boy after the longer than usual service finished. “Is it over already? That was short!”

Elizabeth Fresse

From left to right:

The praise team leads out in songs that express being “wild about God.”

Patty Panda visited the kids at Westlake’s VBS.

“PandaMania” was the theme of the Westlake church’s VBS.



A close-up photograph of a wooden rolling pin, a ball of dough, and a metal sifter on a wooden surface. The rolling pin is made of light-colored wood and has a dark wooden handle. The dough is a soft, yellowish color and is slightly flattened. The sifter is made of metal and has a mesh screen. The background is a wooden surface with some flour scattered on it.

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Children Matter to Jesus



It is a real concern that we often get so focused on very good things that we fail to recognize others that are as vitally important. Let me explain. As followers of the Lord, Jesus, we have taken seriously His commission to preach the good news to the world. That can be demonstrated by the fact that the church has grown from a small handful of believers 150 years ago to a global presence in nearly every country in the world. We pray, study, and plan to reach those in our communities and around the world. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is not just a church on the corner, but a global organization with a global mission that is central to our existence in these last days.

But could it be that as we see the world

as our mission field we might tend to neglect one closer to where we live? I'm talking about our children. While I can confirm that we have many in our congregations that are committed to the spiritual well being of our children, I suspect that too often or attitude is similar to that of the disciples. Matthew tells us that "Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and pray, but the disciples rebuked them," (Matthew 19:13). They were engaged in an important work of teaching, healing, and setting things right in the world. They didn't have time for the children. "But Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven.'"

The lepers, the demon possessed, the

sin-burdened multitudes were important, but so were the children. I don't think Jesus has changed. "And whoever receives one little child like this in my name receives me," (Matthew 18:5). It will be tragic if we faithfully carry out our worldwide mission and through neglect fail in the one closer to home. We must not rest content with mediocrity in our children's programs, expecting that all will be well with them because they are the children of the church. And if we (as in some of our small churches), do not have any children, perhaps we should be praying how to minister to some. "Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look at the fields, for they are already white for harvest," (John 4:35).

John Moyer, president

We are the P.I.T. Crew

ARDMORE ► Ardmore Adventist Academy's ministry is a product of the passion that exists in its parents and faculty. The students of Ardmore Adventist Academy can tell you their favorite activity in school is the monthly prayer walk. This is a time when our 5th through 8th grade students, known as the P.I.T. (Prayer in Transit) Crew, go into the business district of town offering prayer for the business owners and their clients.

This ministry to the community is in its third year. The blessings that flow from this opportunity have created obvious growth within the student body and faculty of the academy. Students encounter issues that allow them to pray for broken homes, diseases, finances, and spiritual wholeness. The earnest prayers that pour from these young hearts ascend to heaven and make an impact evidenced by the tears flowing freely from the faces of those being prayed for.

The ministry has been called "too aggressive" and too "in your face." It has even been said that it cannot be done, but as His Word says in Romans, "We who are strong have an obligation to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to build him up. The Great Commission includes each one of us. The world offers hurt and suffering, but the students who are involved in this ministry have the chance to reinforce the idea that we may not have all the answers but with God all things are possible.

This ministry has taken the school all over the state of Oklahoma with a "Route 66 Prayer Walk" and has given the students and faculty the opportunity to be speakers for our statewide Oklahoma Prayer Conference. The students see these experiences as adventures guided by God's love and care for our community neighbors. It is the united prayer of the staff and students that more people will realize what can be done with willing hearts that have a burden to pray for others.

Kimberly Bokovoy



Choctaw Church Loves Children

CHOCTAW » The Choctaw church has always loved and supported its children, and shows this support and love in many different ways.

If you come to our church on Sabbath morning, your child can participate in one of the vibrant Sabbath School classes. The children greatly enjoy their classes. This quarter the kindergarten/cradle roll students even experienced a “ride” in Noah’s ark!

Recently our children’s ministries leader, Robin Sagel, started a Bible club, which meets one Sabbath afternoon a month. Although this was to be an outreach activity, most of the participants are children in our church. The children enjoy it, and we continue to look for ways to increase the number of participants. We have addresses of several community children and invite them each month.

In June we held our annual Vacation Bible School, which is always a highlight. This year we registered approximately 16 children, and many of them attended all week. Our theme was “Investigation Station—The Genesis Factor.” The children enjoyed going to the different stations and learning more about the creation of our world. They

were a lively and enthusiastic bunch! Many church members, including a number of our teens and young adults, helped in various ways to make this VBS a success.

We recorded the children’s names and addresses, and are inviting our visitors to join our Bible club, along with the members who already attend.

We will never know the full results of our efforts for our children until we meet them in the kingdom of heaven, but we hope they will receive a glimpse of heaven on earth as they attend the many activities at the Choctaw church and see how much each member loves them!



Children's Ministries



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Does discipleship begin only with adults and youth? No! Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go." Jesus said, "Go make disciples," (Matthew 28:19). He said these words to His disciples just before He ascended into heaven. Their mission was clear. It is a long-term investment for our children to know Jesus and how He applies to our lives.

Children's ministries at the Southwest Region Conference has set the groundwork for ministering to children. The foundation has to support one's life in Christ in order to stand because without Christ as the cornerstone our foundation is weak.

There are dedicated individuals all over the region's five states who are letting the Lord use them to share the gospel. There are numerous churches with ministries

such as children's Sabbath School for ages birth to 14 years, children's church, Vacation Bible School, prayer meetings for children, health expos, and even mission trips for them. Work in Spanish is also included.

After helping introduce children to Jesus, cultivation must continue for their maturity to grow. Since the majority of our children are in public schools, it would be a tremendous help for the home, school, and church to be of one accord. Many times this is not the case. I believe the church must partner with the parents. The masses are at church on Sabbath morning.

Why disciple children? Jesus Christ commissioned the church with only one task—make disciples. With regard to children, most churches today are doing a poor job discharging that responsibility. Yes, we want the facility to look good for

them because their atmosphere speaks where they belong. God has given parents primary responsibility for the spiritual training of their children. But many parents don't know where to begin. They feel so overwhelmed and often entrust this task to the church.

This is why disciple-making is the most pivotal ministry that churches can provide. It is time for churches to encourage and equip parents to carry out their responsibility. The vitality of the next generation of Christians pivots on the church's willingness to do so. Churches must plan purposeful ministries to disciple parents and children. As your church considers the needs of children, please remember Jesus' highest priority. Discipling our children is the one thing we cannot neglect.

Jacquelyn G. Martin

Bobby's New Birth

BATON ROUGE, LA. » Eight-year-old Robert "Bobby" L. Davis, Jr., is one of four children and the only son of Robert Lee Davis, Sr., pastor, and his wife, Denise. Recently Bobby became the newest member of the Berean church through baptism by his father.

According to his father, Bobby had shown a keen interest in spiritual matters and, through no prompting on his parents' part, had responded to a call to be baptized. Evening worship in the home conducted by Denise helped develop the initial spiritual interest. Bobby went through Bible studies until he understood enough about Jesus and salvation to be baptized. According to his father, Bobby's baptism was a natural step in his spiritual development. Davis says he would encourage all parents to have daily worship with their children.

Evelyn Edwards



Bobby Davis was recently baptized into the church by his father, Robert L. Davis, Sr.

Children's Evangelism a Priority at the Shiloh Church

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. » The Shiloh church's "Kingdom Rock" Vacation Bible School was a blast! The children learned about Jesus in a fun way, and also learned life-sustaining

memory verses, heard about exciting Bible adventures from staff, experienced mentally-stimulating crafts, and expended energy with games. Although Vacation Bible School gives parents a break for a few hours,

it has a deeper impact on the children by introducing them to Christ in an enjoyable way. The children learned Bible songs and verses that will be repeated at home, school, and on the playground for all to hear. This is a great evangelistic method that is fun and life changing. Children's evangelism is often a neglected area, but Shiloh church's Vacation Bible School volunteers made it the priority in Little Rock.

Gwen Brown



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Striving for Educational Excellence at the Tenth Street Church

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. » This year, the education department of the Tenth Street church has been busy motivating all ages to read by organizing a church library and by celebrating the achievements of our students.

On June 3 we honored our students and graduates. We had a wonderful time celebrating the successes of our youth. Two young women, Malkia Williams and Makayla Stafford, blessed us with inspiring violin renditions. A special feature of our program was an interview with our own Andrea Lisa Moore, who recently graduated from Oklahoma State University with a Ph.D. in environmental science.

July was "Let's Get Reading" month. All were challenged to read, and weekly prizes were awarded to those who completed the challenge for that week. An electronic reader was awarded to Grace Wei, the overall winner of the month's challenge.

August 3 was our education emphasis day. Our theme was "Education: Striving for Excellence." Our guest speaker, Paula Olivier, pastor of the First Seventh-day Ad-

ventist Church of Montclair, New Jersey, brought the Sabbath message in which she challenged us to strive for spiritual excellence. In the afternoon workshop, Olivier gave us the tools for better involvement with our children, both in the church and in the community, in helping them to achieve their maximum potential.

That afternoon, we held our annual school supplies giveaway, with the help of the Pathfinders. More than 40 children were served

and also given free literature and invited to attend Sabbath School.

Sheila Mejias-Shavers



The Tenth Street church is promoting education and reading with the creation of a church library and by celebrating its members' educational achievements.



The Kingdom of Children



To me, one of the most ominous passages in scripture is found in Matthew 18:5-6: "Whoever receives a little child in My name receives Me. Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea," (NKJV).

There are few things on earth that more accurately reflect both the spirit and tenderness of heaven like a child. The innocence, the acceptance, the transparency, the desire for God's presence; quite an example that they provide for us adults! But there is a lie that Satan has been selling to churches and church leaders throughout history. That lie states that children are "best served" if they are kept *separate* from the body. Hence the rebuke from Jesus' own disciples when the little children were brought by their mothers to the feet of the Master. "Then little children were brought to Him that He might put His hands on them and bless them, but the disciples rebuked them! But Jesus said: Let the little children come to me, and do not discourage them, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven," (Matthew 19:13, 14). There it is! The kingdom of God belongs to *children*.

Christ anointed them as first-class citizens of His kingdom! Therefore it is clear that every opportunity Christ has to spend with children is highly cherished.

Ellen White commented on the deficiency that resided within the 12 disciples that the Master longed to remedy. "It was not enough for the disciples of Jesus to be instructed as to the nature of His kingdom. What they needed was a change of heart that would bring them into harmony with His principles. The simplicity, the self-forgetfulness and the confiding love of a child are precisely the attributes that heaven values."

The opportunity that adults have to interact with children, for the purposes of instructing them in preparation for residence in the kingdom of God, should be seen as equally important for adults in learning the great heavenly attributes found in children, that would by the grace of God, prepare us for heaven!

The story is told of a father who was walking the streets of downtown Chicago with his little son. As they strolled along looking up at the massive and impressive skyscrapers along Michigan Avenue, suddenly the little boy blurted out: "Daddy! What are those little boys doing way up on top of that tall building?" With a chuckle

the father responded: "Oh no, son! Those aren't little boys! They simply appear to be, because they are so far up. They are actually grown men." Then with the great wisdom that often comes from children, the little boy replied: "Well, Dad, when they reach heaven, will there be anything left of them?"

What a great and profound truth, wrapped in the innocence of a child. The closer we get to heaven, the less there is of us and the more there is of Christ in us. Children are not a "lower class" of Christians, merely because of their youth. Excluding them from access to the sanctuary and quarantining them from certain church functions doesn't seem to jive with the philosophy of Christ. Let us strive to make church and church functions child and youth friendly. Children most definitely can understand the gospel. That has been proved time and time again. But children also carry the gospel to adults, and *that* has been proven time and time again as well. The term *church* is inclusive of everybody, youth and children included. Let's continue to work and build toward that objective!

Carlos J. Craig, president

Richardson Church's International Day

RICHARDSON » The Richardson church recently celebrated an international day, featuring members dressed in their native costumes to represent their countries.

During worship service, there was a parade to show the beautiful costumes and colors of all countries. There were 30 countries, 20 tribes, and 32 languages that were represented this Sabbath day. There was an international potluck afterwards of food from all the different countries. The Richardson church knows that every nation, kindred, and tongue long to see Jesus come in the clouds of glory to take His children home.

Annette Lewis



Annual Service at the Oldest Church in the Texas Conference

CLIFTON » The Norse church, the oldest standing Adventist church in the Texas Conference, invites you to its 30th annual church service at 10 a.m., Saturday, October 12. The Keene Pathfinder Club will conduct the flag-raising ceremony.

A Joyful Sound, the DFW International Filipino church youth choir and orchestra, under the direction of Nancy Cabansag, will present music for the church service. The choir is comprised of children ages 3 through 13 who perform at churches, camporees, and nursing homes in the DFW area. Other musical guests include Ysis Española, Clay Read, and Sandy Nuñez.

Samuel Green, Southwest Region Conference president, will present the sermon. There will be a potluck lunch following the

church service. The Norse church in Clifton is about a 90-minute drive from Keene. From State Hwy. 174 in Cleburne, go south through Meridian.



Built in 1890, the Clifton Norse church is the oldest standing Adventist church building in Texas. The annual church service will be held on Oct. 12, 2013, beginning at 10:00 a.m. All are invited.

Turn right through town to Hwy. 6. Turn left on Hwy. 6, for about eight miles toward Clifton. Turn right on FM 2136 and travel about three miles and turn left on CR 4155 and drive about a mile. The church

is located on the left. Contact Yddo Ortiz 817.517.4650 for more information.

Marjorie Stowe

Gulfhaven Youth Lead Church Service

HOUSTON » The young people of Gulfhaven church took charge of the worship service recently, capturing the hearts of all in attendance.

To begin the program, several youth led the praise team. Their voices set the tone for the service. Chris Pringle, a young man and new member from Jamaica, offered a prayer of thanksgiving and praise. Jorge Robeleteo, a student missionary from Canada, then presented a dynamic children's story.

Gulfhaven's pastor, Noel Lazarus, introduced the three speakers who would each present a 15-minute sermon. The first presenter, eighth-grader Dylan Wood, spoke about Joseph, the beloved son of Jacob. His message was taken from Genesis 37:3-8. Seventh-grader Myles Chapman spoke next about the child king, Josiah, from 2 Kings 22:1-2. The third presenter, Leon Elms is a young college student who spoke on the anointing of David,



and 1 Samuel 17:31-32. "Our church is so blessed to have such an incredible group of young people," said Jean Hagen. "They are so eager to work for the Lord. They are the next generation of leaders, teachers and missionaries. Remember, the pioneers of the Seventh-day Adventist Church started when they were in their teens and early twenties. God can use their talents in

a glorious way, along with the older members, to help finish His work."

Jean Hagen

NBA All-Star Game Gives Opportunity to Share Gospel

HOUSTON » In February, Houston hosted the NBA's All-Star Game. More than 250,000 people flooded the streets of downtown Houston during the days leading up to the game, and the Adventist youth could not miss out on a chance to participate. Approximately 600 teenagers and young adults went out Saturday, February 16, to share with others about the ultimate All-Star, Jesus Christ.

They handed out more than 100,000 tracts and planted many seeds of the gospel. Not only was the effort a blessing to those who were ministered to, but also to those ministering.

A youth rally was held on February 15 and 16 at the Houston Spanish Spring Branch church, where Gary Blanchard, Texas Conference youth director, and Jose Antonio Pagan, pastoral liaison for Southwestern Adventist University, shared powerful messages. They also had a special dedication for the youth, encouraging them to call upon the Holy Spirit and start speaking about Christ to others.

One of the teens who participated, 16-year-old Karolina Ramos, said, "This has changed me by letting me know that, in life, there are going

to be people who will reject you when you try to share the Word. But it encouraged me to keep trying harder. We must be prepared for the ultimate challenge of sharing God's gospel."

Esther Hernandez, a youth leader from Magnolia Park, also shared some thoughts. "If there was one thing that I would tell



Houston youth recently hit the crowded downtown streets to share the gospel.



other Adventist youth, it is to step out of their shells and share the gospel, not only once, but every day. This full experience has been memorable in being able to contribute to God's work."

One of the Master Guides, Naara Sanchez, said, "The most memorable part for me was when we were all gathered across

the street from Discovery Green Park and we were all singing. It feels good to see the youth praising God outside the church. I was touched by seeing the youth excited about sharing the tracts and sharing our faith. This opened my eyes to see that we need to do more street evangelism and not be afraid to share Jesus."

The 62nd NBA All-Star game was played Sunday, February 17 at the Toyota Center. It's a reminder that as a church, it's important to take advantage of major events in our cities and towns.

Karen Velasco and Smith Castillo

It's the Little Things



TEXICO CONFERENCE

Sometimes it's the little things in life that bring joy. Let me illustrate. It was a beautiful Sabbath and it was time for church. My wife had traveled to a women's retreat and I was with my son's family, anxious to take my grandchildren to Sabbath School. My son, Mark, and his wife, Sarah, would meet us at church time. It was a 25-minute drive and we had to get on the road to be there by 9:30. We spent every minute of the trip talking and laughing and looking forward to going to a new church. Grandpa and grandkids simply driving to church, a precious time. Sometimes it's the little things.

We were on time and there were plenty of places to park. Stepping out of the car into the unfamiliar surroundings of a new church, we made our way to the door, where we were greeted warmly and directed to the children's divisions. It was just what I hope for when I go to a church. We found the classrooms, and the primary teacher welcomed seven-year-old Brit into the room. The teacher took him to

his place and began a planned activity. He seemed happy. It warmed my heart. It's the little things.

Nico, four years old, came to the kindergarten classroom, but only one child was there. No one greeted us and she seemed hesitant to go in. Since it was a different church, I said I would go in with her, but she appeared uncomfortable and chose to join her brother. She is extremely outgoing, but with no welcome, she decided not to stay. It's the little things of everyday life that count.

The adult Sabbath School had several classes. There was a variety for just about anyone. The location of each class and the content were explained thoroughly. The class I attended was informative and enjoyable. When Sabbath School was over, I picked up the kids. They enjoyed their classes. Children's ministry was a success.

We took our place in church and Mark and Sarah joined us. The church looked good, the service was well organized, the music was beautiful, the PA system projected perfect sound, and there was a marvel-

ous children's story. The minister finished an excellent sermon and we were invited to a fellowship meal but we couldn't stay that day. It was nice to be invited. It took time to put this all together but after all, it's the little things that count.

Happiness filled the car all the way home because two precious little ones had enjoyed their experience with grandpa and with God. It's the little things.

Today I am writing about this to illustrate what counts. In my life I've broken the sound barrier while flying an Air Force jet. I traveled the world and spoken to tens of thousands of people. I've been honored by some prestigious people in some prestigious places, but what I'm thinking about today is a friendly, organized, and welcoming church where I brought two little ones, so precious to me, to worship God. We were blessed because they prepared for us. Remember, my friends, it's the little things.

James L. Stevens, president

Texico Welcomes Phil and Kathie Robertson

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » The Texico Conference warmly welcomes Phil and Kathie Robertson to our Texico Conference family. Phil has accepted the position as treasurer/vice president for finance, and Kathie is the new church and school auditor. They both have extensive experience in ministry within the Seventh-day Adventist church and we are privileged to have them use their talents to further God's work in our territory.

Phil and Kathie Robertson were born into families who were very active in the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. They met after graduating from academy, while serving together as members of a youth evangelism team in the Carolina Conference. Phil and Kathie married in 1975. They both attended Southwestern

Union College and then transferred to Southern Missionary College, from which Phil graduated with a double major in religion and accounting.

Phil's administrative experience includes service as an academy treasurer, vice principal, and religion teacher, auditor for the General Conference (during which time he obtained his



Phil and Kathie Robertson

license as a Certified Public Accountant), conference treasurer, hospital chaplain, ministry administrator, and a local church pastor for administration. Throughout his life and service he has consistently maintained a passion for ministry and a commitment to serving people in their pursuit of a relationship with Jesus.

Kathie's undergraduate accounting education includes a degree from Southwestern Adventist University. She also has an

MBA from the University of Phoenix. Her work experience has included accounting functions in the local church, conference, union conference, an Adventist Book Center, and just recently at Huguley Memorial Medical Center. She has also served as testing administrator for Southwestern Adventist University.

Phil and Kathie are grateful for, and very proud of, their two children, Stephen Robertson and Sebrina Cammilleri. Sebrina

and her two children, Allison, age 13, and Brandon, age 11, live in Cleburne, Texas. Stephen and his wife Jess live in Lake Arrowhead, California, with the newest member of the family, 20-month-old Zach. Along with a wonderful extended family, they look forward to the soon return of Jesus and an eternal family reunion.

Sue Hinkle

Española Youth Present ShareHim

ESPAÑOLA, N. MEX. » Excitement spread through the Española Valley as 24 youth presented inspirational ShareHim sermons. Under the direction of Diahann Cordova, youth director, and Tyra Sandoval-Rodriguez, youth Sabbath School teacher, the youth were divided into groups and each group presented a sermon. Topics included the fall of man, the Second Coming, signs of the times, the Holy Spirit, and heaven. At the end of the service an altar call was made.

Each night the group gave a personal testimony, performed a skit, or sang a song that corresponded with the sermon.

All in all, the week was a great blessing to the 60 to 80 people who attended nightly, 20 of whom were visitors. Also, the experience was a blessing for the youth. Here are some of the students' comments

about the experience: "I got touched by the Holy Spirit."—Zibeon "It gave us an opportunity to serve the Lord."—Eric C. "God helped me, because I thought I couldn't do it."—Ashlee "I felt God was with us and He helped us through it."—Mikayla (the most recently baptized)

On Sabbath morning Sydney and friends performed an Easter concert, accompanied by the guitar and piano. At the close of the campaign, Ruben Rodriguez, pastor, treated the youth to a dinner at Dion's Pizza in Santa Fe.

The people who attended the meeting said they felt motivated, inspired, and blessed.



▲ The Española youth group conduct "Exalt Him" week of evangelism at their church.

► Nico Lovato is one of the young speakers preaching the Word.



Parents were pleased with their children's ability to present God's message with clarity, sincerity, and enthusiasm. The church family is excited about their youth's participation and look forward to sharing the responsibility with them in worship services.

Since the week of evangelism, Bible

studies have begun in the Pojoaque and Española Valley schools with Zibeon and Diahann leading out. Please pray for the Holy Spirit to move in the hearts of the students and for the leaders.

Tyra Sandoval-Rodriguez

Inreach before Outreach

CORRALES, N. MEX. » The women's ministries team from the Corrales church has been busy! Their mission this year is "Inreach before Outreach," ministering to the women within the church in preparation for reaching out to the women in the community.

With this goal in mind, they hosted a Women's World of Prayer Sabbath, a special service presented by the women and girls of the church, from song service at the beginning of Sabbath School through closing prayer at the end of church. The theme, "I Was a Stranger," spoke to many hearts as women from all walks of life shared God's Word along with their personal testimonies and musical gifts. All generations were represented during the service, and church members who normally only participate from the pew were given an opportunity to share up front.

Following that event, the women's ministries team arranged a Sabbath-afternoon visit to an assisted living center in Albuquerque for singing, fellowship, and prayer with each resident. The residents joined in on all of the hymns singing with gusto. Corrales church member, Rachel Black, participated with her daughter and said, "Our visit to the nursing home was a real blessing to me. After

singing for the residents, we gathered in groups to pray for the individuals and their caregivers. It was a real testimony to hear both patient and caregiver share their love for God." A visit intended to be a blessing to the elderly residents turned out to be an even greater blessing for the church members.

Another forum for spiritual and intellectual fellowship is the women's book club that has met monthly since the beginning of February. Reading selections have ranged from historical accounts to books on improving one's marriage, from theological and philosophical selections to inspirational stories of faith. Each woman

is encouraged to provide input for future book choices and then has the option to host the discussion and afternoon tea at her home or other location. This opportunity to exchange perspectives and ideas has been a refreshing chance to fellowship together as women, and provides an event that one could very comfortably invite a neighbor or coworker to participate in, as well.

A new gathering beginning next month is a handwork night where women can bring any project they wish to work on, such as knitting or crocheting, scrapbooking, quilting, even sewing on loose buttons, cutting out children's felts, or balancing

their checkbook. Since most women already live very active and busy lives, sometimes trying to add one more "thing" to an already full schedule can be challenging, but an evening such as this provides a time to gather and fellowship with other women, share prayer requests and provide encouragement, while still accomplishing a project, if one so desires.

Corrales church women's ministries leader Monique Wilkerson says, "As we prepare the women of the church to be happier, healthier, more spiritual and a more close-knit group, then that aura can transcend to the women we reach outside the church."



Top: Future women leaders in the Corrales church leading out in song service.

Bottom: Young and old alike enjoyed singing hymns together as Corrales church members visited an assisted living facility.

Monique Wilkerson

Southwestern Heritage

For the Wiist family, Christian education is the most important family heirloom.

With 120 years of service and decades of helping Seventh-day Adventist Christians get an education, it's not totally unusual to hear of parents sending their children to attend Southwestern Adventist University, years after they themselves graduated from Keene. It's a bit more unusual to find three generations committed to Southwestern.

Meet the Wiist family. Elizabeth (Hoerth) Wiist became a Seventh-day Adventist in the early 1920s; her son William V. "Bill" Wiist was the youngest of 10 children and the first of their children to attend Southwestern from 1941-43. Though none of his siblings went to college, he was only the first of many from that family to grace the halls of Southwestern.

All three of his children—Linda (Wiist) Knutson '73, Michael '76, and Debbie (Wiist) Speyer '78—attended. Two of his grandchildren—Kristin Knutson Kohley '99 and Catherine Wiist '14 attended or are attending, as well.

Although Bill's siblings didn't attend any college, many of their children and descendants are Southwestern alumni, including: Jerry Tammen, Carolyn Tammen, Gladys Ann Wiist, Bill Wiist, Glenda Faye Wiist, Wilburn Reichert, Mark Reichert, Keith Reichert, Pam Reichert, Donald Bitz, Rosemary (Wiist) Garrett, Herbert Wiist, Larry Garrett, Valerie (Garrett) Gibbs, Milton Ray Wiist, Debra Wiist, and Vicki Lynne (Wiist) Williams.

"I wanted to attend a Seventh-day Adventist college," says Michael Wiist about his decision to attend Southwestern. "It just seemed natural to choose the college in the union where I lived. I never considered going anywhere else."

Michael Wiist earned his master's de-

gree from the University of Maryland, took graduate courses at Andrews University, and earned a J.D. from the Baylor School of Law at Baylor University, but he "never felt short-changed by the undergraduate edu-

in the SA, and working at the radio station as the highlights of his experience. He had several jobs while a Southwestern student, including the radio station, lifeguard at the college swimming pool, and hauling mail

to and from the post office on campus. But he feels the most significant job he had was working at Brandon's, the cabinet factory in Keene, where he worked 25 hours a week.

"I have never had a more emotionally satisfying day than my last day at Brandon's when I punched out of work and knew I would never be coming back!" he says. "It was good, honest labor, and helped me and my parents pay for college, but it also reminded me why a college degree was so important."

Wiist's daughter, Catherine, began taking college classes at age 15 and enrolled at age 16. For him, the decision for her to attend Southwestern was an easy one. He liked the idea of her attending a smaller, Adventist school, and one that was only 10 minutes from their home.

"Southwestern has been my family's school of choice for three generations now," says Catherine Wiist today. "Tradition was a part of my decision to attend Southwestern, but it was also greatly influenced by people I looked up to, like my favorite babysitter, camp counselors, and youth leaders, who claimed Southwestern as their school.

"The reason I kept coming back is different. I've made connections of my own with teachers, students, and employers. I value my experiences here and now call Southwestern *my* school."

Glen Robinson



▲ Wiist Family. From left: Michael Wiist, William Wiist, Deborah (Wiist) Speyer, Arlene Wiist, and Linda (Wiist) Knutson.

► Michael and Catherine Wiist, second and third generation Southwestern alumni.



cation I received at Southwestern."

His cousin, Kristin (Knutson) Kohley chose Southwestern because it was close to family. "So many family members had good experiences there, and no one was ever let down by the school or by the education they received there," she says.

Kohley says the highlights of her experience was doing well in chemistry, which she took from Karl Konrad (who had also taught her parents years before), and spending time with Isaac Kohley, who eventually would become her husband.

Michael Wiist identifies extra-curricular activities, such as singing groups, serving

God Sent a Butterfly To Mindoro

When people think of Mindoro, an island in the Philippines, they think of rice paddies and the “big catch.” Searching for big fish is the island’s major industry. When we think of Mindoro, we think of the words of Jesus, “Follow me and I will make you fishers of men.”

Thirty-one preachers’ and workers’ kids from each conference within the Southwestern Union traveled on a mission trip to Mindoro this past summer. Each one preached 17 evangelistic sermons. They learned that when they preach, nothing happens, but when they preach and pray, miracles take place. The following are testimonies from a few of our “international evangelists.”

Daniel Henriquez: “During the last week I felt disappointed, because only one person asked to be baptized. I prayed, ‘Dear God, if you are with me, please send a butterfly,’ but I didn’t see a butterfly all day. That night, I didn’t feel competent preaching. Until, about a quarter way through the sermon, a black butterfly landed on my computer. When I saw the butterfly, I freaked out! It was an answered prayer! My congregation told me that they saw the excitement on my face, and that I preached with more power after that. I made the call, and 16 people made the decision to be baptized.”

Ashera Hunt: “Each night I had the congregation recite, ‘If it’s in the Bible, I believe it; If it’s not in the Bible, it’s not for me.’ A man named Eljay came recited it once. The sermon went well, I made a call, and we passed out decision cards. Then a group sang, ‘Make a decision for Christ now, because you don’t know what tomorrow will hold.’ Eljay came forward to be baptized. It made me realize that if I hadn’t come on this trip he might not have made the decision to follow Christ. He’s engaged to a woman named Princess. He would have been a non-Adventist and she would have been Adventist. The lives of their kids, if they have chil-

dren, would be drastically different. I didn’t want to come on this trip. I hate speaking up front, but I still came. It was worth it because Eljay came forward.”

Eliab Quinones: “My meetings were held at a basketball court to fit more people. Every seat was taken, including the stands behind me. I thought I preached pretty well, but the second night only half the people came back. Each night, the numbers diminished. After a while there were mostly kids that talked during the sermon. I tried my hardest, I practiced everyday, and nothing happened. I was trying to preach without God’s help. One night, I had to preach a long sermon with a lot of history. I knew I couldn’t preach without being boring. I knew people would fall asleep, so I prayed for God to let me be interesting. I asked Him to use me in any way He wants. When

I did that, I felt God in my heart. The things I said were not from me, but were completely God. From that day on, every time I asked God to be with me, the church was packed. The last Sabbath of our meetings, six people were baptized.”

Cynthia Ivette Gonzalez: “I was very excited to come on this trip. I feel privileged to be given the trust, funds, and prayers of so many people. As a pastor’s daughter, I know that much has been invested to let God utilize me for His work. Coming to the Philippines made me realize that church unity, joys, struggles, and pains are universal. My church at home parallels with my church in the Philippines, and I have learned to love the members here as if they’re family. Preaching has shown me the universal love between Adventists, and the heart-breaking pain when people are too scared to decide for Christ. It made me realize that I need to open my heart more at home. Just like Jesus’s sacrifice was real, our commitment must also be real. I am ready to spend every moment of my life sharing Jesus with others.”

The question we must each ask ourselves, whether we’ve just returned from a mission trip, or are working to win souls for Jesus in our homeland, “Will you love Jesus more as we go our separate ways? When this moment is a memory, will you remember His face?”

We would like to give a special “thank you” to the chaperones who went with us to the Philippines. We greatly appreciated Paul and Petronela Hunt from the Texas Conference, Rodel and Prospil Liwanag from the Texico Conference, James Bokovoy, from the Oklahoma Conference, and Tony and Suzanna Facundo, from the Southwestern Union. We also extend our thanks to the Quiet Hour.



Top: Ashera Hunt preaching.

Bottom: The entire group with their translators. They are showing off the banners each church posted in their neighborhoods.

Duane McKey, vice president, and
Kathy McKey, prayer ministries
coordinator and ministerial
spouses’ leader

Southwestern Union Members Equipped for Ministries

Equipped
for Ministries

“And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11,12).

Have you accepted a ministry position, but feel anxious rather than joyful? Then the Southwestern Union Church Ministries Department has good news.

In partnership with the local conferences, we have developed training seminars to equip you and to develop your leadership potential. Each of our seminar presenters is an accomplished and recognized leader in their area of expertise. Primary seminars include training for elders, deacons, deaconesses, discipleship, Sabbath School, community services, health, communication, Pathfinders, children’s ministries, family ministries, stewardship, and many more.

On August 17, a training event was held at Valley Grande Adventist Academy and at the Weslaco English and Spanish churches.



Costin Jordache



Costin Jordache



Evelyn Labrador

Top: More than 400 people attended the Equipped for Ministries training held in the Valley Grande area of Texas in August.

▲ Silvana Utz, M.D., teaches principles of healthful living at the San Juan Spanish church in San Juan, Texas.

◀ Children’s ministries was one of many workshop offerings at the Equipped for Ministries training session held at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center in Oklahoma on August 25.

Area churches welcomed 16 preachers to their pulpits, and more than 400 ministry leaders attended a fully bilingual training. It was a time of wonderful fellowship.

The Oklahoma Conference held a special leadership-training weekend at We-

woka Woods from August 23-25. More than 200 leaders attended the weekend and the Sunday training seminars. The joy and enthusiasm of leaders could be felt across the camp. It was a time of workshops, seminars and questions and answers. Requests

are coming in for the “Equipped for Ministries” presenters to return next year.

Ask for, look for, and pray for these cutting-edge training events that will be coming soon to your area.

Minner Labrador, Southwestern Union Church Ministries director

Women's Retreat a Success

FRISCO, TEX. » More than 800 women experienced God's presence at the Southwestern Union Women's Spiritual Retreat held August 1-4. "From the leadership training that began on Thursday evening to the culminating spiritual event of Communion on Sunday morning, we could feel God's presence ever with us," said Carmen Fuentes-Griffith, women's ministries director for the Southwestern Union.

Speakers for the retreat included Elizabeth Talbot, Maria Lopez, Ella Simmons, Diana Jaworski, and Carol Wright. Donna Jackson, wife of North American Division president Dan Jackson, also spoke to the participants, and held a special seminar for pastors' wives.

More than 300 women attended the Thursday-evening Leadership Training Level 3 with most completing the training and receiving certificates on Friday afternoon. Carla Baker, North American Division women's ministries director, helped facilitate the training, along with Shirley Benton, of the Columbia Union. The local conference women's ministries directors also stepped out and taught the modules. Workshop presenters were dynamic and presented the topics with conviction and passion. The many guest singers and musicians touched the hearts of the attendees.

Another highlight of the re-

treat was the teen's "Inner Purity" meetings with Kim Logan-Nowlin, a licensed family therapist, from Michigan. The young women met new friends and promised to keep in touch with each other.

The retreat included a prayer room, set up and operated by Sergio Rodriguez and his staff, that allowed women to have intimate prayer with God, to "nail" their transgressions to the cross, and thank Him for deliverance from sin.

On Sunday morning, the participants partook in Communion with the Lord. "There is enough bread for you and for me. There is enough for our children and our spouses," said Elizabeth Talbot, pastor. Her words gave new understanding and appre-

ciation for not only the bread, but all of the emblems of Communion.

"My prayer had been, 'Lord, let my ladies leave the retreat saying, 'Surely I have been with the Lord!''" said Fuentes-Griffith. "My heart was stirred as I watched the ladies leave Communion singing 'Surely the Presence of the Lord is in this Place,' for surely, the Holy Spirit rained down and filled us with God's love."

Carmen Fuentes-Griffith, women's ministries director

SOUTHWESTERN UNION



Jorge Velez



Jorge Velez



Jorge Velez



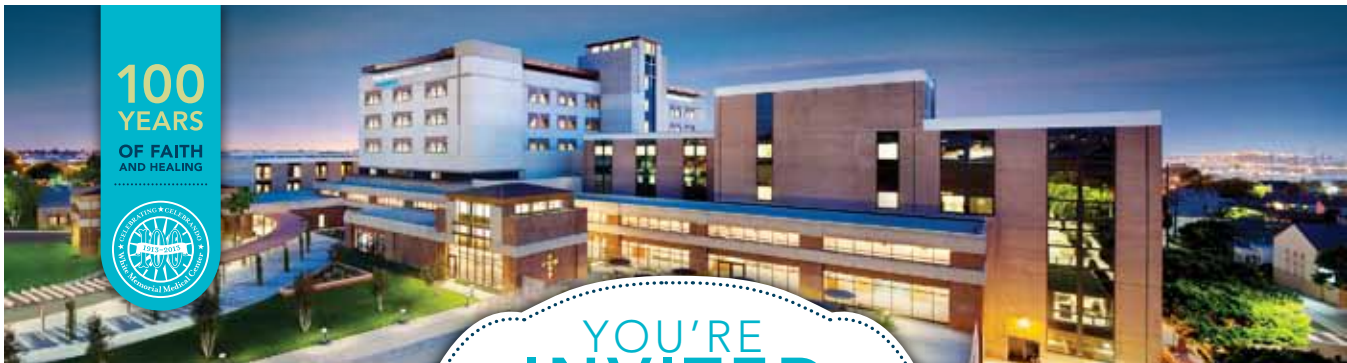
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Jorge Velez



Jorge Velez



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White Memorial Medical Center
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OCTOBER 25-27, 2013

IF YOU'VE BEEN a friend, patient, employee or graduate of White Memorial's residency programs, plan now to join us for a faith-building weekend of events celebrating God's work at WMMC, touring the new campus and reconnecting with old friends.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25 |
Continuing Medical Education Event

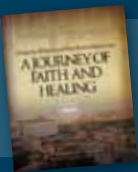
Well-known physician, writer and speaker Dr. Rachel Naomi Remen

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26 | Hospital Sabbath Program

Elders Charles White, great grandson of Ellen White, and Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University
Concert by Sandi Patty, acclaimed Christian vocalist

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27 | Centennial Gala

A fund-raising celebration for WMMC



READ THE FULL STORY in "A Journey of Faith and Healing," WMMC's centennial history book.

To learn more about the weekend or to order the book, visit whitememorial.com/centennial.

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limitations. Ongoing conditions accepted. Small business owners, you can afford to help your employees. Contact Christina at 682.999.8256 or somanyoptions4you@gmail.com. www.mybenefitsplus.com/ChristinaP.

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.

The Wildwood Lifestyle Center can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more.

Invest in your health and call 1.800.634.9355 for more information, or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

Wildwood Health Retreat S.I.M.P.L.E. Living Seminar:

Prevention and recovery of lifestyle disease, including obesity, hypertension, diabetes, osteoporosis, stress, depression, alcohol, and tobacco. Cost: \$840. Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. For more information, call Darlene Keith: Ph. 931.724.6706. www.wildwood-healthretreat.org.

Butler Creek Mission School:

Spiritual and health classes combined with practical skills. Learn Bible, health, literature evangelism, vegan cooking, and home gardening. A six-month work-study program: canvassing, and other work pays for the program. For more information, contact Sharlene Reyes at 931.724.6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org.

THE OFFICIAL GLOBAL TELEVISION NETWORK
OF THE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH



SHARING GOD'S
GOOD NEWS FOR A
BETTER LIFE TODAY
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Announcements

Take health ministry to the next level with CHIP—the Complete Health Improvement Program! Become a certified CHIP facilitator and change lives in your community. Training will be in Tucson, Ariz., November 6-7, followed by the inspirational CHIP Summit, November 7-9. For info or registration see www.CHIPhealth.com/ChurchLanding, or call 909.796.7676.

The Lafayette, Louisiana, church is looking for the following missing members: Nelson Chavez, Nila Chavez, Mildred David, Barbara Granger, Shirley LeBlanc, Amy Matt, Kimberly Munda, Darrell D. Richard, Rosaura Richard, Bea A. Roberson, Carol J. Roberson, Donna Scott, Steven Scott, Ray Stanford, Elena Volkova, and Sharon Watson. If you have contact information for any of these people, please leave a message at 337.984.2879, or email pmvinc-cent2000@gmail.com.

Milestones

ANNIVERSARIES

On August 11, 2013, **Gary and Betty Heinrich**, of Keene, Tex., celebrated their **50th** wedding anniversary by taking a family cruise to Alaska. They have two children, son, Steve

Sandia View Academy Alumni Weekend: Celebrating 70 years since being established, Sandia View Academy Alumni Weekend will be held October 10-12, 2013 in the Sandia View Elementary School gym. For information go to the alumni Web site at www.sandiaviewacademyalumni.org for details, or email svarocks@gmail.com. Honor classes this year are: 2013, 2008, 2003, 1998, 1993, 1988, 1983, 1978, 1973, 1968, 1963, 1958, 1953, 1948, 1943.

Learn how to conduct Creation Health seminars in your church or community. Choose one of two upcoming one-day training sessions: October 6 at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, or October 20 at the Oklahoma City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Cost of \$30 includes lunch and textbook. For more info and to register, call Jim Landelius at 918.706.8733 or visit www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Health.

Heinrich, and wife, Robyn, of Mansfield, Tex.; daughter, Kristi Reeves, and husband, Charles, of Wimberley, Tex; and five grandchildren, Josephine, Gwyneth, and Charlie Reeves, and Macie and Molly Heinrich.

Obituaries

ALLEN, Dr. Charles, born August 9, 1923 in Dennison, Tex., and died July 30, 2013 in Keene, Tex. He was a member of the Keene church. Survivors: wife, Cordella Allen; sister, Verna Allen; and sons, Larry and Jack Allen.

CARLISLE, Charles E., born February 1, 1946 in Cullman, Ala., and died March 11, 2013 in Hot Springs, Ark. He was a member of Hot Springs church. Charles was married to Christine Robertson-Carlisle for 48 years. Survivors: son, Charles and wife, Jennifer, of Little Rock; son, Kevin and wife, Autumn, of Hot Springs; mother, Dorothy Carlisle; and three grandchildren.

CARLISLE, Christine Robertson, born October 7, 1947, in Cullman, Ala., and died March 9, 2013, in Little Rock, Ark. She was a member of Hot Springs church. Christine was married to Charles E. Carlisle for 48 years. Survivors: son, Charles and wife, Jennifer, of Little Rock; son, Kevin and wife, Autumn, of Hot Springs; sister, Rita Nail; parents, Mayola and Carl Robertson; and three grandchildren.

EASLEY, Wanda Lee Ward, born August 24, 1939 and died May 20, 2013 in Harvey, N. Dakota. She lived in Keene and attended Southwestern Adventist University (then a junior college). She graduated in 1957 and was married to Wayne Easley. She spent most of her life as a pastor's wife, ably assisting her husband as a missionary wife on three continents: North America, South America, and Africa. She served as food service director

in many Adventist institutions. She was preceded in death by two brothers, Mark and Wendell. Survivors: husband, Wayne Easley, of Harvey; son, Evan Easley and wife, Ginger, of Minden, Nev.; son, Kevin Easley of San Jose, Costa Rica; daughter, Linda Brinegar and husband, Tony, of Berrien Springs, Mich.; son, Steven Easley and wife, Magdalena, of Turialba, Costa Rica; three grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

HERR, Arleen VandeVere, born February 19, 1926 in Lincoln, Neb., and died June 18, 2012 in Keene, Tex. Arleen's musical and artistic talent complemented her husband's pastoring of churches in South Dakota, Missouri, and Indiana. She was choir director at the Cleburne church in Texas at one time. Survivors: husband, John Herr, of Keene; son Gary Herr, and wife, Irene, of Keene; daughter, Deanna Herr of Newbury Park, Calif.; sister, Verla VanArsdale of Janesville, Wisc.; five granddaughters, and four great-grandchildren.

MATHEWS, Eirene Playán, born August 23, 1980 in Collonges-sous-Saleve, France, and died June 27, 2013 at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston, Tex. She had undergone surgery there to remove a malignant brain tumor. As a child, she lived in Badalona, Catalonia. Her family later moved to Sagunto, Valencia, Spain. It was in Sagunto that she met her husband, Christopher Alan "Cam" Mathews, while he was attending Colegio Adventista de Sagunto, to learn Spanish. Cam and Eirene were married on November 28, 2002, in the Fort Worth Handley Seventh-day Adventist church. They



were the fourth generation in Cam's family to be married on November 28. Eirene was a gifted musician, who played flute and sang. She was an award-winning quilter who did quilting for customers. She loved her church and served it in many ways, as a musician, children's teacher, and greeter. She and Cam were blessed with two beautiful daughters, Eva Cristina and Elizabeth "El-lie" Marie. Eirene, who spoke French, Catalan, Spanish, and English, graduated from the University of Texas at Arlington with a bilingual elementary certification in 2009. Eirene taught kindergarten for Miller Adventist School in Lewisville, Tex., for one year, but enjoyed being a stay-at-home-mom after the arrival of her first child. She and Cam went on two mission trips to Mexico, taking their five-month-old first-born with them on the second one. Eirene chose to be an organ donor, and was able to benefit five people: her lungs went to a 62-year-old man; her liver to an 11-year-old girl; each of her kidneys to women in their 40s; and her pancreas to another woman in her 40s. Survivors: husband, Christopher Alan "Cam" Mathews; daughters, Eva and Ellie Mathews; parents, Eduardo Playán-Serena and Ascensión Lopez-Ortega, of Sagunto, Valencia, Spain; brothers, Andrés and Miguel Playán-Lopez, of Spain; maternal grandparents of Spain, as well as many aunts, uncles, and cousins; parents-in-law, Marvin and Del Jeanne Mathews, of Arlington, Tex.; brothers-in-law and sister-in-law, Michael and Paige Mathews, of Cleburne, Tex.; and John Mark Mathews, currently in Ukraine.

PAUSEWANG, Ronnie, born December 27, 1968 in Freeport, Tex., and died June 30, 2013 in Temple, Tex. He was a member of the Hillsboro church.

Survivors: wife, Shelly Pausewang; parents, Kenneth and Betty Pausewang; and brother, Michael Pausewang and wife Wendy; sister, Theresa Hilfer and husband Mark, as well as numerous precious nephews and nieces.

PETTEY, Richard Thomas, born March 7, 1933 in Tulsa, Okla., and died on July 14, 2013 in Fayetteville, Ark. He was a member of Gentry church. Richard spent more than 27 years in broom shop management at Union College, Oak Park Academy, and Upper Columbia Academy. Survivors: wife, Jeanette Pettey, of Siloam Springs, Arkansas; son, Vernon Pettey and wife, Karina, of Polebridge, Mont.; daughter, Juanita Edge, and husband Michael, of Fall River, Wisc.

POPESCU, Opal I., born January 1, 1922, in Plainwell, Mich., and died February 4, 2013, in Tyler, Tex. She was a member of the Tyler church. Survivors: husband, Jack Popescu; son, John Popescu; three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

SEALES, Cherrie Woodlief, born March 6, 1942 in New Orleans, La., and died June 6, 2013 in Baton Rouge, La. She was a member of the Baton Rouge Berean church since 1947 when she was baptized by W.W. Fordham. While at Berean, she served as church pianist, church secretary, finance committee member, investment leader, school board member, and sanctuary choir member. She attended Berean School, Oakwood Academy, Oakwood College and graduated from Southern University in Baton Rouge. She began her teaching career in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System and in 1970 began teaching in the Berean church school where, after several years, she became the head

teacher and principal. She retired with 34 years experience. During her tenure as an educator, she won the Zaphora award from the Arkansas Conference. Survivors: husband, Edward Seales, of Baton Rouge; son, Marvin D. Harris, of Baton Rouge; brother, Messai Woodlief (Norma) of La-Place, La.; sister-in-law Nancy Ball, and numerous nieces and nephews.

STEPHENS, Lois Schilling, born April 27, 1945 in Colver, Penn., and died August 4, 2013 in Hot Springs, Ark. She was a member of the Shenango Valley church. Lois married her childhood sweetheart, Raymond Stephens and they were together for almost 49 years. She loved her family, and enjoyed the young people that she worked with in the Shreveport Pathfinder Club for many years. Most of her life was spent working in various departments of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. Survivors: husband, Raymond

Stephens, of Hot Springs; son, Daren Stephens, and wife, Kari, of College Station, Tex.; daughter, Shelly Colvin, and husband, Dean Colvin, of Venus, Tex.; brother, Franklin Schilling, and wife, Kathleen, of Belsano, Penn.; brother, Stanley Schilling, and wife, Jeannie, of Nanty Glo, Penn.; brother, Raymond Schilling, and wife, Janalee, of Belsano, Penn.; and five grandchildren.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Oct 4	Oct 11	Oct 18	Oct 25	Nov 1	Nov 8
Abilene, TX	7:21	7:12	7:04	6:56	6:50	5:44
Albuquerque, NM	6:47	6:38	6:29	6:20	6:14	5:07
Amarillo, TX	7:28	7:19	7:10	7:01	6:55	5:48
Brownsville, TX	7:14	7:07	7:01	6:55	6:49	5:45
Dallas, TX	7:09	7:00	6:52	6:44	6:38	5:32
El Paso, TX	6:48	6:40	6:31	6:24	6:18	5:12
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:11	7:02	6:54	6:46	6:40	5:34
Gallup, NM	6:56	6:46	6:37	6:28	6:22	5:15
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:05	6:56	6:49	6:41	6:36	5:31
Gentry, AR	6:59	6:49	6:39	6:31	6:23	5:16
Little Rock, AR	6:50	6:41	6:32	6:23	6:17	5:10
Muskogee, OK	7:02	6:53	6:43	6:35	6:28	5:21
New Orleans, LA	6:43	6:35	6:28	6:20	6:14	5:09
Oklahoma City, OK	7:11	7:01	6:52	6:44	6:37	5:30
Roswell, NM	6:40	6:31	6:22	6:14	6:08	5:02
San Antonio, TX	7:17	7:09	7:01	6:55	6:49	5:44
Shreveport, LA	6:57	6:48	6:40	6:32	6:26	5:20
Tulsa, OK	7:05	6:55	6:46	6:37	6:29	5:23

Note: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Nov 3.



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Let's Invite Them In!

AS I RECALL THE STORY IN MATTHEW 19 of the disciples sending the children away from Jesus, my immediate reaction is *What were they thinking?* Didn't they know that there's no sweeter experience than to be in the presence of Jesus, and that children deserve to enjoy that blessing too? And didn't they realize that, of all people, children were the most precious to Jesus? It's hard for me to imagine how the disciples could have thought that Jesus would be too busy to spend time with the children. Somehow, they just didn't get it!

As I see it, there's no experience more refreshing and invigorating (yet challenging!) than working with children and leading them to Jesus. Not long after I joined the Adventist Church I was invited to become a kindergarten Sabbath School teacher. A few years later, when my first child was born, I moved on to cradle roll, and followed both of my children as they progressed to the Sabbath School youth department—with stints along the way in VBS and other children's ministries programs. What a rich experience that was!

Not having had a strong biblical foundation in my own childhood, I firmly believe that those years of learning the Bible stories and then teaching them to children helped to strengthen and solidify my own faith. Recognizing that I needed to be a positive example to the children I was ministering to also helped to keep me on the right path spiritually. Not only do I hope to see many of the children that I've worked with in the kingdom, I also believe that my involvement in children's ministries will be instrumental in my own salvation.

Allow me to close with a profound statement from Ellen White: "In the children who were brought in contact with Him, Jesus saw the men and women who should be heirs of His grace and subjects of His kingdom, and some of whom would become martyrs for His sake. He knew that the children would listen to Him and accept Him as their Redeemer far more readily than would grown-up people...." (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 496).

Every Adventist church has a rich field for evangelism—right inside its own doors and just outside them in the larger community. Please don't send the children away, but rather, invite them in to be with Jesus!

Pat Humphrey

Record

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

Attending Southwestern was one of the best experiences of my life. Those same friends I made at Southwestern have become lifelong friends. My classes at Southwestern were also a blessing. The things I learned have changed my life for the good. What I've enjoyed the most is that I still have access to many of my professors, anytime, to talk about what is on my heart. My pastoral ministry in Dallas and Tulsa and now my leadership roles as a student at Andrews University are possible because of the leadership skills I learned at Southwestern and because my professors were so proactive on my behalf.

Kevin Bruce, 2006, Theology



Southwestern will always have a special place in my heart. It's because of Southwestern that I am the person I am today and working in the career I am. The caring staff nurtured talents I didn't even know I had further than I thought possible. I learned so much and had so many unique opportunities offered to me.

I'm currently working at The University of Texas at Arlington as Assistant Director of Design Services in the Office of University Communications. Two of my predecessors were also Southwestern graduates. The department leaders have bragged for years on the quality of graduates Southwestern produces. As each employee would move on over the years, they'd continue to go back to the pool of trusted applicants. I'm proud to have come from such a respected university.

Melissa Renken-George, 2004, Business



Through my time at Southwestern, God provided just what I needed - an atmosphere that nurtured my spiritual growth, scholarships to acknowledge my grades and help relieve the financial stress at home, and the teachers to prepare me for my next educational experience. I've been accepted to UT Southwestern Medical. My relationship with God is even stronger and I'm right where I want to be!

Dennerd Ovando, 2013, Biology



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