

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

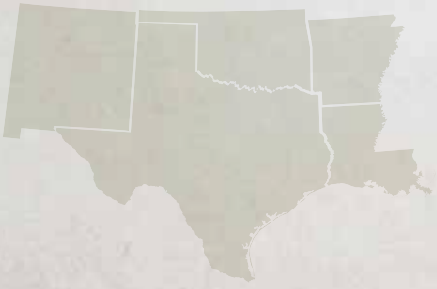
Record

JANUARY 2014



Sharing the Great Hope

THROUGH RADIO, TV, INTERNET, BOOKS—AND COOKIES!



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On the Cover

Modern technology has given us marvelous and innovative ways to take the gospel around the globe. Coupled with the human factor, media and technology have the power to literally transform lives. Leona Findley (on the cover), has found a creative way to do just that. She gives copies of *The Great Hope* to her neighbors, along with her home-baked persimmon cookies, melting her way into their hearts. We'd love to hear about the creative ways in which you are using media to "Tell It to the World!" [Photo by Sarah Maren Photography]



Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Gospel and Media

I used to think that in order to hear the gospel and God's last-day message, a person would have to come through the doors of an Adventist church or an evangelistic meeting or take Bible studies in their home. That's a pretty narrow view of God's work, wouldn't you agree? I was getting discouraged thinking God was going to have to do it my way. It would be a long and slow process. So much for "Behold I come quickly." Or that "the final events would be rapid."

I believe we had two media programs when I was baptized, *Faith for Today*—30 minutes here and there, and *Voice of Prophecy*—15 minutes here and there. There may have been others,

but I can only remember the two programs. I remember thinking *How great it would be if we could be on the air all day long.*

God has worked marvelously for us. Today the gospel is available 24 hours a day on a host of television networks. God is using and blessing the Hope Channel and 3 Angels Broadcasting Network. Beyond that God is using radio, short wave, the Internet, social media, even cell phones. These media connections are everywhere. Do you see how God could finish His work quickly? Let's do all we can to be faithful in our witness for Jesus. Let's also pray that God will use every means possible to finish His work.

Larry Moore, president



Stepping Stone to Success

LM: The following young alums of Southwestern Adventist University are such positive examples of what education can achieve. I'm so pleased to hear about young people who are both satisfied in their careers and are also continuing their education. Let me introduce you to Lauren Francois, a psychology instructor and counselor, and Carrie Hall, a math and science teacher.



Lauren Francois
Class of '11



Carrie Hall
Class of '04

also working toward becoming a licensed professional counselor and getting into a Ph.D. program. Prayers would be appreciated! I feel that Southwestern Adventist University has given me many opportunities to grow and learn. I hope that it continues to be a place that encourages their students, staff, and faculty to do the same.

LF: Southwestern Adventist University has been my home for almost seven years and it's been a wonderful place to come back to. Since belonging to this campus, I've had many jobs, including being a student dean, an enrollment recruiter, and even senior class president. All of these roles help me in my current position as an instructor and counselor for the psychology department. Yes, even after graduating twice, Southwestern is still where I choose to call home. Having been surrounded by so many positive, Christian professionals and students really helped me make my decision to stay and contribute something, albeit small, back to the place that has given me so much.

As a young alum, still attached so closely to the campus, I have the opportunity to meet students' specific needs. I think it comforts them in a way to know that I truly understand what it's like to be in their place and what they need to be successful. I'm currently

CH: I knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was in the sixth grade. I grew up watching my mom teach, and I'd always thought it would be exciting to help people learn and prepare for their futures. I chose Southwestern because I'd heard good things about the education department and the cost was reasonable.

I really appreciated my time at Southwestern—from my business and education courses to the social aspect to the chance to play as much softball as possible! My teachers gave me plans and suggestions to help shape my future. They taught me strategies for teaching as well as situations outside the classroom. I've been teaching for seven years now. Currently, I'm a math and science teacher at San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy. And, I'm back at Southwestern through the distance learning program, finishing another certification and my masters. I'm happy to be doing what I love every day!





CREATION Health

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

In The Beginning...

GOD'S AMAZING CHOICE

The quest to discover who we are and where we came from is a journey that has continued for thousands of years. Every generation at some point comes face-to-face with these words: *In the beginning God*. They are four small, but powerful, words that introduce us to the biggest idea in the universe: God exists.

God not only exists but He *chose* to create us. Think about it. God, knowing the costs, *decided* to move ahead with the creation of this world, despite knowing how deeply we would hurt Him.

GOD'S GREATEST DESIRE

The Creator of everything desires a friendship with us...with you! Maybe it seems overwhelming or sounds too good to be true, but laying all of that aside for a moment, how do *you* honestly feel about God?

Are you certain that He exists and is personally interested in your life?

Are you *uncertain* that He exists?

Are you certain that He exists but *uncertain* whether He is personally interested in you?

If you are certain He exists but uncertain whether He is personally interested in your life, consider this: If God was not personally interested in you and your life—if He didn't want a relationship with you—He would not have created you, redeemed you, or restored you, making you His forever child.

GOD'S PRECIOUS LOVE NOTE

The Bible has long held a revered and respected place in literature. Even today it is the number one best-selling book of all time. There is no other book quite like it. Its 66 books contain history, poetry, prayers, prophecies, memoirs, and letters. At least 38 authors and styles of writing appear in three languages.

The Old Testament contains 300 prophecies about the coming of the Messiah. This unique, one-of-a-kind Individual was sent to save God's people from their sins and create a way for God and humanity to be together forever. Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled every prophecy made centuries prior, from the time and place of His birth to the details of His sacrificial death on the cross. The odds of this happening are beyond calculation.

In 2 Timothy 3:16, the Apostle Paul writes: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God." This means human authors didn't

write the Bible alone. God inspired them. He poured His love and thoughts deeply into their minds so that His truth might flow through their words. You can trust the Bible to be God's good news. And the greatest news of all is that He loves, likes, and desires you.

GOD IS NOT HIDING

God wants you to know that He is with you right now. He longs for you to discover the wondrous things awaiting you as you embark upon a deeper, more intimate relationship with Him. The light of the Bible is designed to illuminate the path of life, and light the way for those who are seeking God.

As a New Year begins, take hope and courage in these beautiful words from our loving Heavenly Father found in Jeremiah 29:13, 14, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart. I will be found by you, says the LORD."

God wants us to find Him (*He has already found us*) so we can enjoy abundant life in mind, body, and soul. Susan Doenim writes, "God cares more about our future than He cares about our past."

In the beginning God loved you...and He always will. 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

I Love to Preach!

PREACHING TO ME IS AN ADVENTURE. Not only that, it's a way to get to know people through the Holy Spirit. It's a connection that I think can only happen through the Holy Spirit. When I preached in the Philippines as a missionary, people told me they felt connected with what I was telling them, that they understood what I had to say, and I felt something I had never felt before. I felt the Holy Spirit at work in people's lives, and that is the connection to people that I feel while I preach.

Recently, at an area Pathfinder Camporee, I was asked to preach the Sabbath sermon the night before. The theme of the camporee was to always be ready always, and that's how it happened with everything we were asked to do. It was all on the spot and we had to be ready at any moment. I prepared my sermon, preached it, and, looking into all the people's faces as I spoke, I felt the Holy Spirit at work. My sermon was about spreading Jesus to the entire world. I based it on the text in Mark 2:1-5, which talks

to want to go talk to people they know about God. They said that when I preached to them, something clicked in their heads, and now they feel excited to spread God's Word. It was truly amazing to see the Holy Spirit work through barriers.

In more than one way I've seen the Holy Spirit work through my music, too. My worship group and I go places to play and sing about God. Recently we went to feed the homeless and play our music. Two men walked by and began to ask about who this

God really is and why we follow Him. All of us just started talking to them. We ended up giving them small books about the Lord, but none of us expected it to go very far. About a week later, a friend of mine in prison saw a person reading a familiar book. He moved closer and found this other prisoner reading the book my friends and I gave him. This man then started to tell my friend about us and how he was touched by what we told him and how he wants to change.

These are just some examples of how I have experienced the Holy Spirit doing amazing things as I share with others. I believe preaching is not just getting up on the pulpit to



Daniel's love for preaching began when he was invited to preach a ShareHim series in the Philippines last summer.

Arnelio Gabin (left), president of the South Central Luzon Conference in the Philippines, Daniel Henriquez (center), and Elijah Rojas, who was also part of the team.

about four men who wanted to get their friend to Jesus. They did everything, even lowering him through the roof, and finally got him to Jesus, where he was healed. I gave names to these four men: Compassion, Faith, Love, and Determination. These four are what all of us need to get people to Christ, and I explained that to the Pathfinders. Afterward, a few people came to me and told me their stories about how they had been trying to convince their youth

preach a sermon—it's more than that. I believe preaching is also going out to people and just talking to them about the Lord. It's showing other people the graciousness of our Lord and Savior. I believe the best sermons we can ever preach are not from a pulpit but while we are in school, work, and playing sports, or even while driving. That's when people can see Jesus face-to-face.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY CARL JOHNSTON » SEMINARS UNLIMITED DIRECTOR

Sharing the Gospel Through Real-life Stories

Rubbery marbles, a treasure found in the dirt while playing and tucked away in a dresser drawer for safe keeping, soon hatched into baby cobras scurrying all over the house. Sisters Gerty, Alie, and Mugsie learned a valuable lesson that day, which stuck with them for life: seemingly little harmless sins hidden and unconfessed, can lead to deadly consequences!

Communicating important principles through real-life stories is a powerful method reminiscent of Jesus' parables in the Gospels. Everyone likes a good story, especially children, and being able to tell a good story is a gift. Alice Capps Hudgins, who lives in Keene, Texas, has that gift. Of course, having a lifetime of experiences that span over 90 years doesn't hurt, either. Growing up in India with missionary parents of Scandinavian descent, educated by tutors, and a variety of schools in various countries overseas, Alice, aka Alie, has lived a life of adventure and service. She has been a teacher, co-owned a successful business, raised a family, volunteered in numerous community and service organizations, and even "dated" a former General Conference president—well, it was a private walk down a path as they slipped away from the rest of the group in more innocent times back in India.

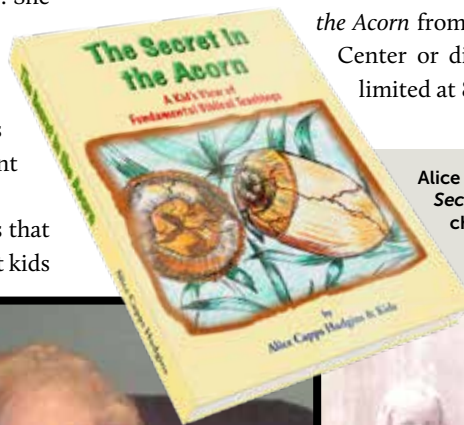
Recently Alice has collected over 100 of her best stories that explain the 28 fundamental beliefs of Adventism in a way that kids can relate to and understand. She published them in a full-color children's book illustrated by kids themselves, drawing on her lifetime of experiences as a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, teacher, and world traveler. "I wrote the book because I felt there were too few resources in simple-to-understand language that would help children comprehend the richness of our beliefs and what the various services mean, such as Communion and baptism and foot-washing. I also wanted them to know how our church family operates organizationally, helping them to understand what a deacon, an elder, or other church leader, does."

Her most recent adventure was a sailboat cruise around the coasts of Greece and Turkey, with visits to the ancient sites of the seven churches of the book of Revelation.

Her fellow travelers were amazed that she and husband, James, took pictures and texted with their iPhones. Not bad for a 95-year-old!

Alice plays piano and cello, enjoys life with her husband, James, also a retired educator, loves to cook, travel, and host little get-togethers of around 20 or so! But her greatest delight is in reading her Bible through each year in a different translation and sharing with her family and friends. As she reflects back on her mission in writing *The Secret in the Acorn*, as well as her mission in life, Alice says, "I hoped to convey in simple terms that all of our beliefs are important in that they demonstrate Jesus' love for us in concrete and very real ways."

You can obtain a copy of *The Secret in the Acorn* from your local Adventist Book Center or directly from Seminars Unlimited at 800.982.3344.



Alice Capps Hudgins wrote *The Secret in the Acorn* to help children understand the 28 fundamental beliefs of the Adventist Church.



Alice Capps Hudgins and great-granddaughter, Blakely.



Sisters Gerty, Mugsie, and Alie, in India circa 1927.



Un Oasis de Amor

La familia González tuvo su primer contacto con la iglesia Adventista a través de Elizabeth Torres, maestra de Isaí González. Isaí es hijo de Efraín y Delia González, quienes no sólo aceptaron la invitación que Elizabeth extendió a Isaí a la Escuela Bíblica de Verano (conocida como VBS) en Davis, Oklahoma, sino que llevaron también a la hermanita menor de Isaí, de nombre Cinthia. Para sorpresa de la mamá de Isaí, Delia, la primera vez que fue a la iglesia recibió de regalo una canasta con libros que contenían historias bíblicas en español!

La familia siguió formando una amistad con Elizabeth y al llegar el momento de inscripción en el Club de Aventureros la familia inscribió a los dos hijos; ellos continúan en el club hasta el día de hoy. Un poco después la familia conoció a Carlos y Angelita Torres en quienes vieron el amor de Jesús en persona. Estas amistades influyeron positivamente en que los González tomaran la decisión de visitar a un grupo hispano que se reunía en Pauls Valley, Oklahoma. A esta linda familia les atrajo el amor que veían en los hermanos que allí se reunían y la sabiduría de una joven que estaba impartiendo la lección de la Escuela Sabática, Isis Kindelan. Encontraron mucho amor en ese grupo y les impactó que todo lo que se enseñaba era basado en la Biblia y sólo en la Biblia. Fue así que decidieron estudiar y formar parte del grupo. Allí el Pastor

Moisés Kindelan les dio las lecciones de *La Fe de Jesús* y a través de esos estudios aprendieron muchas verdades bíblicas antes desconocidas para ellos, como la verdad del sábado, la intercesión de Cristo en el Santuario, etc.

Hoy la familia González es parte de la compañía de Davis en Davis, Oklahoma, y son una bendición para este grupo. Delia es Directora Asociada de la Escuela Sabática y Efraín es Diácono de la iglesia, su hijo Isaí forma parte de los Conquistadores, y la pequeña Cinthia está en el club de Aventureros. Además, la familia fue bendecida con la llegada de un hermoso y sano bebé; Abraham. Hoy en día la familia comparte el amor de Dios con otros y se gozan en un grupo de personas donde el amor es la carta de presentación, no en vano es llamada por los que visitan a esta compañía como, "Un Oasis de Amor." La familia González anhela crecer cada día en el conocimiento del plan de Salvación y agradecen a nuestro buen Dios porque sus hijos leen en español la Biblia y los materiales de la Escuela Sabática. Agradecemos a la familia Torres, por su dedicación de compartir con la familia González el amor de Jesús, y en especial a Elizabeth Torres por la ternura para con todos ellos y nosotros.

Moisés Kindelan, pastor



De izquierda a derecha:
Isaí, Efraín, Delia, Cinthia
y Abraham González.

SOUTHWESTERN UNION MEMBERS HELP SHARE THE GOOD NEWS

Kim Peckham, corporate communication, Review and Herald Publishing Association

It has probably been a long time since anyone thought about evangelizing Lazbuddie, Texas. The town isn't much more than a strip of asphalt and a school. Last year, the Amarillo church decided that they wanted to reach out to the 63 families in that community. But how? "In little towns like this we would never hold an evangelistic meeting," says Ralph Harmon, a member at the Amarillo church. As far as they could see, the only way to reach the people would be radio, television, or literature. They settled on The Great Controversy Project, which let them send a copy of Ellen White's end-time book to everyone in a zip code area. In the past two years they have sent a total of 11,000 books to 43 small towns in the Texas panhandle.

The Amarillo church is part of a worldwide outreach movement that has gathered so much momentum that it has left some people stunned and surprised. General Conference vice president Delbert Baker remembers when his boss, General Conference president Ted Wilson, asked him to lead an effort to share *The Great Controversy*. They decided to set a goal of sharing 50 million copies of the book. "Then Elder Wilson shared with us at a meeting that his personal prayer goal for the project was 100 million," recalls Baker. "We were still trying to wrap our arms around the 50 million number." Baker says that what happened next was a small miracle. "Hundreds of thousands of Adventists sacrificed to distribute the book to their friends. We had a thanksgiving service at the Gen-





▲ Student Jennifer Calhoun visits with a man in Hagerstown, Maryland, while handing out copies of *The Great Hope*. Individuals and churches in North America have distributed 12 million copies of Ellen White's book in the last two years.

► Leona Findley shared copies of *The Great Controversy* with her neighbors in her suburban community along with persimmon cookies.

Previous page, bottom: Literature evangelist Italo Opazo from Arlington, Texas, hands out a copy of *The Great Controversy*.



Sarah Maren Photography



▲ Jose Olivencia, (right) a sixth-grade teacher from Duncanville, Texas, says "I want to part of this magnificent work—to be out there in the fields witnessing." He has shared *The Great Controversy* with the parents of his students.

Top middle: Isela Muzquiz, (left) and Angeles Garcia drove nine hours to attend a Great Controversy congress held last spring near Dallas. "I've had a box of *The Great Controversy* in the trunk for a while and I haven't done anything with it," says Isela, adding that she needed a little motivation to share.

Top right: David Carrera (center) was baptized into the Grand Prairie church on August 3, 2013. Several years ago, someone had given him a copy of *The Great Controversy*.

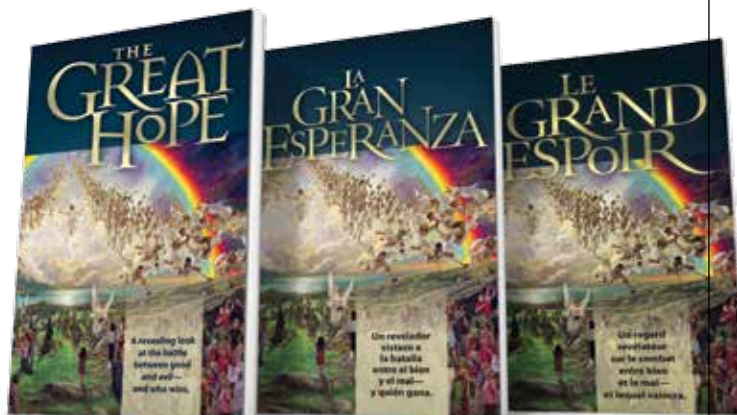
eral Conference in October when we reported that a total of 142 million copies have been shared. I have not found a record of any denomination handing out this many books in a two-year period. This has been an extremely blessed project."

Judith Miranda is one person who has seen how much the project has been blessed. A full-time nurse, she is planting a church in Malibu, California. When she heard about The Great Controversy Project, she thought it would be a good way to reach the residents of that wealthy community—many of whom have gated homes. She worked with the Review and Herald Publishing Association and found she could send books to everyone in the seaside town for \$10,000. But how would they raise the money? The members were not rich like their target audience. "So I said, 'I know what we'll do. We'll make a thermometer graph,'" says Judith. "We'll fill in red marks for every two thousand that we raise."

One Sabbath morning, a resident of Malibu walked into the church and saw the thermometer, which didn't even have one red mark. "What are you trying to do?" she asked. When Judith explained the project with her characteristic enthusiasm, the woman wrote a check for the full amount. The thermometer's job was finished before even the smallest section had been colored in.

Mike Gamblin, who coordinates outreach mailings at

the Review and Herald, says that the publishing company has sent out 2.2 million copies of the book. In some cases the mailings are sponsored by churches. But many times it is an individual church member with a heart for evangelism. "I wanted to reach out to my neighbors in some sort of way," says Linda McClain, a member of City Temple church in Dallas. "I see people going about their





Ansel Oliver

- ▲ The 550 people attending a Great Controversy Congress held last May near Dallas hold up Ellen White's book to express their enthusiasm for finishing the work.
- ◀ *The Great Controversy* in different languages and versions has been shared with 142 million people in the past two years.

daily lives and they're not aware of the times we live in." McClain started putting money aside for the project and was able to send books to several hundred of her neighbors. "I prayed that the Holy Spirit would guide them," she said.

There is a hope that people will get the book out of their mailbox, read it, and walk into church. But it rarely happens that way. "Ellen White says there will be two reactions to our literature," says Baker. "Either they would read it and want to immediately embrace Christ as their Savior. Or they would wait until they see the predictions in the book are taking place." The people involved with The Great Controversy Project see themselves as planting seeds. Sometimes the seeds sprout in the most unexpected way.

Texas evangelist Lynwood Spangler remembers a woman who came to his meetings even though she was skeptical of Adventists. "She asked God to please give her a sign indicating whether or not this is the truth," said Spangler. In the middle of the night, she woke up and felt impressed to go to her library and open three books. In each of the books, the passage that fell open said something about the Sabbath. One of those books was a copy of *The Great Controversy* that was among some volumes she inherited from her parents. The next night, when Spangler preached on the

Sabbath, she was ready to accept it.

Flor Jimenez, a literature evangelist from Little Rock, Arkansas, also reaped fruit from seeds sown in the past. She was canvassing a business and left a copy of *The Great Controversy* behind at the end of her visit. As she walked to her car, a woman came running out of the building towards her. Flor found out that this woman had a friend who had told her many times about the book. But her friend had moved away and she had never been able to find a copy to read. On the day when Flor visited her store, the woman was praying about what she could do to help people know about the Bible. The answer arrived in God's perfect time. Now the woman is taking Bible studies. She shares with the customers in her two stores what she reads in *The Great Controversy* and has even sold several copies herself.

At an October 13, 2013 praise and thanksgiving service at our world church headquarters, Marcellos Santos took the stage with his family. The resident of Washington, D.C. told how *The Great Controversy* had brought him into the church. "I just want to thank you for this program," he told an auditorium full of church leaders. "I thank God that I am result of a project like this."

Meanwhile in Dallas, Linda McClain is waiting to see what results will come from her outreach efforts. "I did my share and left the rest to the Holy Spirit," she says.

SACRED TRUST

An interview with filmmaker Martin Doblmeier

By Celeste Ryan Blyden

Martin Doblmeier doesn't have a Hollywood address. Instead, the founder and president of Journey Films produces award-winning documentaries in a three-story brownstone in historic Alexandria, Va., just down river from the nation's capital. Since 1984 he has produced and directed more than 25 films on religion, faith, and spirituality, including three on the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Who is he, why does he make films, and why does he love Adventist people?

1. Who is Martin Doblmeier? What do you want people to know about you?

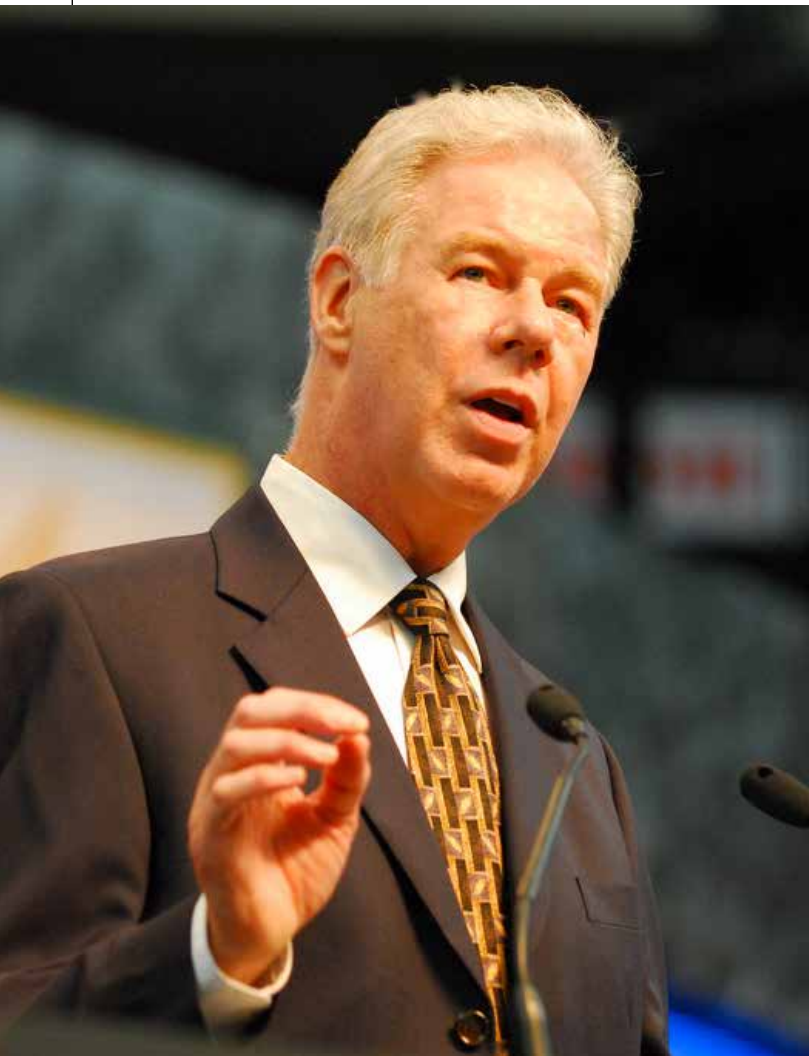
People know me as a filmmaker, but I think of myself first as someone who is a person of faith in our world, and my first responsibility is to grow in that faith. That's a very important distinction for me. It is through the process of filmmaking I get the privilege of meeting people who are on a similar journey, learn about their story, and then share that story with a wide audience. So in many ways that story is entrusted to me and I think of that as a sacred trust. Filmmakers are notorious for falling off the rails and I think if I keep my focus on how the stories I connect with are given to me as a sacred trust, I keep the perspective God intends me to have.

2. Why did you decide to make Christian films and tell faith-based stories?

I came to the decision to make faith-based films when I was in college at a time when I was searching for what God's purpose might be in my own life. I think I chose this path because it felt like a natural expression of who I was and wanted to be. I majored in Religious Studies for my undergraduate work and later in graduate school studied filmmaking, and in the back of my mind was always the idea of combining the two. Once I made that decision I never looked back.

3. How did you come to know Seventh-day Adventists, and what was your first point of contact with the Seventh-day Adventist Church?

Today I consider myself blessed to have so many friends who are Seventh-day Adventists, but going back several years before I made the first film—*The ADVENTISTS*—it was the support of two people—Gary and Lee Blount—who encouraged me to look further into Adventism and arranged for me to speak at Loma Linda University church. It was there I was introduced to Dr. Len Bailey, who performed the famous *Baby Fae* operation, and met Dr. Ellsworth Wareham and others who were so impressive. That was where I began to feel a



Martin Doblmeier speaking at the General Conference Session Atlanta 2010.

commitment to developing a film idea that would tell the story of faith and health that eventually become *The ADVENTISTS*.

4. Why did you make the first film *The ADVENTISTS* and what was the response in and out of the church?

I was searching at the time for a way to make a film that combined faith and healing, religion and health. When I first went to Loma Linda University church and was introduced to the wider community, there I felt immediately called to make that first film. The more I traveled to various churches and medical communities within the SDA world I saw the story was much wider than Loma Linda and the film took on a number of new dimensions. I

film and then ask if I would consider doing two more films – one on the international dimension of the Adventist health message and one on Adventist education. Frankly, I thought I had done my one film on Adventists, but the more we looked into it the more we realized how rich both stories actually are. Making a second film on health made a great deal of sense because the underlying message in *The ADVENTISTS* is that Adventists take very seriously the idea that the body is the temple of the Holy Spirit and that is what underlies their great health success in terms of longevity of life. Because all my films focus on religion and faith, I thought that notion was the key message for the film. But by natural extension, if my own body is a temple of God, so is everyone's—even if they live in remote areas and speak a very different language and come from a very different culture. That is what underlies *The ADVENTISTS* 2, a film that takes the viewer across the globe to see how Adventists have for more than a century helped to re-shape health care in the developing world. I think it is a story that puts forth the very best of our human nature. It is a story of caring for those who cannot care for themselves and in so doing shows the best of what a life of faith can offer.



Martin Doblmeier (r) with Celeste Ryan Blyden at Sligo Church for the presentation of *The ADVENTISTS* 2 film.

think that is why the film was so successful—why the PBS station managers continue to broadcast the film over and over and why the DVD became a bestseller. I think the film speaks to that core human truth that each one of us is a whole person—body, mind, and spirit—and all three are in need of care.

5. What led you to make the second film, *The ADVENTISTS* 2, and what is its message?

As *The ADVENTISTS* began airing on PBS stations I received a number of invitations to come speak in churches and colleges across the country. It was a wonderful and uplifting experience. What was curious was that each night people would applaud the

6. Your newest film tells the story of Adventist education. Why is it so important to share that story?

Adventists, I have come to appreciate, are incredibly proud of their school system—one of the largest faith-based school systems in the world. So when I was asked repeatedly during the national tours if I would consider doing a film on Adventist education, it was already clear how important education is to rank-and-file Adventists. It was their unbridled enthusiasm for their schools that inspired me to make the film we now call *The BLUEPRINT: The Story of Adventist Education*. We named it for an expression used by Ellen White to describe the design she identified

for teaching children, a design I believe still has great value today. And once we began the film and found ourselves day after day in classrooms all across the country, it became clear that Adventists really do have something.

7. What is drawing you to us? What makes this faith tradition so special or intriguing to you?

I have been making films about religion, faith, and spirituality for more than 30 years, but clearly these last few years that I have spent making these three films on Adventist topics have been some of the richest and most rewarding of my life. I have felt welcomed across the country and now feel I have new and important friendships that I will cherish for my life. We are all on a personal journey to discover God anew with each day and I feel that process of discovery has been enriched by my connection to the Adventist world.



Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier and cameraman Nathan DeWild in the Amazon filming for *The ADVENTISTS 2* film.

8. How has your connection with Adventists impacted your life spiritually and in other ways?

With each and every film I ask myself “what does God want me to share with others and what does God want me to take away for myself?” One of the first things I focused on was the importance of Sabbath in the Adventist world. I believe all persons of faith—and Christians in particular—would say they honor the Holy Day, but there is a depth to the reverence Adventists have for Sabbath that I believe the rest of the religious world can benefit from. That Sabbath spirit has been renewed in me as a result of this experience and I plan to keep nurturing it for the rest of my life.

I am also keenly aware that Adventists are their own unique culture. It is often said that within Adventism there are only one or two degrees of separation and that has been evident everywhere I travel. Adventists know Adventists—and as one friend told me, “If I don’t know you, I probably know someone who does.” That sense that the SDA world is really a community is such a positive addition when it comes to nurturing faith.

9. In your experience, what aspects of our faith add value to the world?

I am often in conversations with people who believe that religious people sit around and discuss ideas that have absolutely no relevance to the real world. What I have come to appreciate about Adventists is that in their commitment to developing the “whole person” that emphasis on education and health which we have focused on in our three films, are clear and tangible ways faith motivates Adventists to go out into the world and make a difference.

Clearly in *The ADVENTISTS 2* film we saw how faith led so many to travel the world to heal those most in need. That is a virtue I wanted the rest of America to witness through our films and to see how faith really can make so many great contributions in our needy world today.

10. Would you like to make more films about Adventists? And if so, about what?

I would like the opportunity to explore more themes in the Adventist world and we are looking into opportunities now. Religion is such a rich and diverse topic, which is why I made my decision years ago to commit my life to this work. And it never fails to disappoint. Who knows what the future holds, but I sense I will be telling stories of interest to Adventists for some time.

11. When you’re not making films, what do you like to do?

My wife, Jelena, and our son, Nik, share a lot of common interests—we travel a great deal as that is a form of education in itself. We exercise a great deal and try to stay active and of course, we love movies—lots of movies.

Celeste Ryan Blyden is communication director at the Columbia Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Columbia, Maryland.

GOOD NEWS TV:

Getting people off the sofa and into churches

Makala Coleman and Jessica Lozano

Good News TV is a new television station broadcasting from the Crowley church in Crowley, Texas, near the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. According to Paul Karmy, a Crowley member who has volunteered his time to help get the station running, the Crowley church was already filming the church services and—why not make further use of the equipment? The group began broadcasting 3ABN, Loma Linda TV, and The Hope Channel from a local channel. When Elven Adams, a physician, and chair of the station's committee, presented a smoking cessation series that was filmed at the church and broadcast on the station, the group began to think about new possibilities.

According to Karmy, the ideas just kept getting bigger. "We talked about creating sets, but then we ran into the problem of storage. So, it was decided that we should build a studio." Through the help of volunteers, a 4,000-square foot studio is in the process of being built behind the church.

The purpose of the station and studio, according to Karmy, is to reach out to the local area by providing quality programming and promoting the various Adventist churches and schools in the area, as well as events, such as evangelism series. "Our goal is to get people off of the sofa and into the nearest Adventist church or school," he says.

With the new studio, the station will be able to create high-quality, local programming, says Ray Christman, Crowley church pastor. They hope that other local pastors will also make use of the studio. "We want viewers get to know the pastors before they've even met. They'll feel comfortable going to that church because they have a connection there," says Christman.

One way the station has begun to introduce local churches and pastors is with a program called *On the Road With Good News TV*. The show features various churches from the surrounding area and broadcasts the church services.

Station volunteers are not limited

to Crowley members—church members from across the viewing area have the ability to join the station committee to offer support and ideas. Jack Robinette, a member of the Keene, Texas, church offered help in advertising the new station by having several large outdoor signs printed and placed. He also has helped by handing out information cards at public events.

The station has begun holding an annual anniversary celebration in the Metroplex, inviting the public for a weekend of events at one of the local churches. Last year, the celebration was held at the Mansfield, Texas, church, and the church, which can hold around 400, was overflowing. This year's celebration will be held February 14-15 (For more information about the celebration, call 469.278.4688).

The station has approximately 10,000 viewers. They know people are watching because "when something breaks, the phones start ringing," says volunteer Steven Denny. When the satellite signal froze one Monday morning at 10:00 a.m., the station received more than 100 calls regarding the problem.

The project has given the church and volunteers an opportunity to rely on God. Karmy, who also helps with fundraising, says, "We have to trust God everyday. It's a continuous miracle to see God provide. When we get to the point that we need something, someone gives."

Although the station is based at the Crowley church, Good News TV wants to get as many other churches involved as possible.

"We want to have a Bible question-and-answer program with local pastors answering questions," says Adams. "We want people to say, 'That fellow knows his Bible. I should visit his church.'" Adams says this is something they will be able to do in the new studio.

It has been and will continue to be a lot of work keeping the station running. All of the workers are volunteers who have a passion for ministry and



Good News TV produces several local shows, including *Cookin' Up Fun*, a cooking show for kids. Kaili Kimbrow is behind the camera.

are willing to put in the extra time and effort.

“When people call in and say what the station means to them, that’s what makes it all worthwhile,” says Karmy.

Recently, a man called in that had been watching the station for a long time and had learned all the 28 Seventh-day Adventist fundamental beliefs. Three days after his phone call, he was baptized.

Another time, a non-Adventist pastor called to see if he could put his church’s programming on the station. Adams says they told him a bit more about Adventism, and that the pastor has begun studying Adventist beliefs and has requested copies of *The Great Controversy* for all of his church members.

“We love to introduce and get people to church for the first time,” says Denny. “It is the members of the church that get people there the second time.”

Good News TV is not the only TV station that focuses on evangelism. There are several stations providing local programming all across Texas that are modeled after the Crowley station.

“The station is doing well,” says Adams, “but it’s not an isolated circumstance. There are many low-power stations out there doing the same things that we are. Good News TV is simply a model that the Lord will use to reach into the major metropolitan area and bring people to the church.”

“I think that God, here at the end of times, is allowing this market to open up to us,” says Christman. “It’s wonderful to see God open these doors to share His gospel.”



Bottom: A large green screen in the studio will allow for multiple programs to be filmed, including those with live audiences.

◀ Paul Karmy, a Crowley church member and volunteer for Good News TV, showed the studio while it was in the process of being built.

▼ The exterior of the new studio.



A Technology Transformation



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

In 1992, I had the privilege of conducting evangelism meetings in Ukraine, a former Soviet block country. I was gone for a period of five weeks and during that time, I made several calls back to the U.S. Arranging for those calls was actually a tedious process. First, I would go to a local post office that had pay phones. There I would make arrangements with the postal clerk for my long-distance call. I would indicate the number I wished to reach, how many minutes I wished for the call, and then make payment. Then the clerk would tell me what time the call could be made on the following day. For some reason, I could never make a call on the same day. On the next day, I would return to the

post office with my receipt from the previous day's arrangements and submit it to a postal clerk. Then I would go to the phone booth appointed me by the clerk, and await the ringing of the phone. When I picked up the receiver, an operator would state how many minutes I had and the call would go through!

I usually paid for a 10-minute call, and at the end of my 10 minutes—whether I was through with the conversation or not—the call was terminated. If I had wanted to continue the conversation I would have had to go through the entire process again and come back the next day! It really was quite an ordeal!

Fifteen years later, in 2007, I was invited to return to Ukraine to once again hold an

evangelism series. I was amazed at what I found! Practically everyone on the street— young and old alike—had a cell phone in hand! All I had to do was buy a phone card and I could use my own cell phone to call home any time I wished!

Technology has certainly changed our world in a very short period of time. In most places of the world, communication is instant. What a blessing this is to facilitate ministry! All of these advances should assist us in sharing the gospel. There is no need for stones to cry out—only for us to do our part with holy boldness in proclaiming the good news of salvation in Jesus (see Luke 19:37-40).

Steve Orián, president

Slidell Church Hosts Health Emphasis Weekend

SLIDELL, LA. » The Slidell church hosted a health emphasis weekend on September 27 and 28, 2013. Local church member and cardiologist Vasanth Bethala gave a presentation on heart health and answered attendees' questions on healthy living. On Sabbath morning, a skit during the Sabbath School program focused on the benefits of getting vitamins A, B, B12, C, and D.

The speaker for the morning worship service was Pat Humphrey, editor of the Southwestern Union *Record* and health ministries leader for the Southwestern Union Conference. Her theme was "All About Choice," which focused on the different choices we make and the consequences of those choices.



After a delicious potluck meal, we gathered for another session presented by Humphrey, titled, "Keep Moving Forward." Afterward, several attendees went on a nature walk on Tammany Trace in Slidell, and Seema Bethala, Slidell church's health and temperance leader, provided blood pressure screenings and demonstrated to attendees how to give CPR. To close out the Sabbath, Humphrey presented a final session, titled, "Your Diet and Your Destiny." To cap off the weekend, attendees watched the film *Forks Over Knives*.

Vernella Rogers

Slidell members on a nature walk.

Fort Smith Church Hosts Young Chefs in the Kitchen

FORT SMITH, ARK. » The Fort Smith church hosted “Young Chefs in the Kitchen” last July. It was the third summer that this awesome, four-night, program was presented, free of charge, to the community. On opening night, 23 kids were in attendance. Cindy Howell is the coordinator of this yearly event, which is held in place of Vacation Bible School.

“Young Chefs in the Kitchen” is a unique, hands-on program designed for kids ages seven or older. Each



church shared a wonderful meal together from food that was prepared each night. All the kids and parents who attended expressed that they enjoyed the program.

Lea Treshnell

◀ The attendees learning some special pointers on plant-based cooking.

Below left: Time for hands-on learning!

▼ Young people gathered around to learn to prepare good food.



child is required to be accompanied by an adult. Kids learn about basic nutrition and disease prevention as well as kitchen hygiene and safety. They also learn how to prepare delicious and nutritious plant-based foods. Every meal is made from whole grains, tasty legumes, and a wide variety of fresh vegetables and fruit.

Each evening, Burnham Rand, pastor, presented a Bible story that related to the nightly topic. It was a great way for kids from the community, along with parents, to learn about the amazing benefits of a healthy lifestyle that honors our Creator. Prizes were given away each night, and on the last night, cookbooks containing the delicious recipes made during the class were given to each child. The kids, parents, and all the helpers from the

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Alma Church's Small Groups Unite Members

ALMA, ARK. » For several months, members of the English-speaking Alma church have been gathering on Monday evenings in members' homes to read *The Desire of Ages* by E.G. White. This activity has not only promoted unity among our church

family, but has created a special bond of friendship between each member present and helped in developing faith in the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. Each individual present has the opportunity to comment, as well as to make prayer requests.

On Wednesday evenings, we continue our reading at the church and conclude with prayer. We thank God that He has brought us together, united in one purpose, to honor and serve the Lord. We plan to continue to meet twice during the week to nurture and encourage one another.

On Sabbath mornings we are very happy to spend time with our pastor, Burnham Rand and his wife, Jan. It is a time filled with religious activities and worship dedicated to the Creator of the universe. Rand recently held an ordination service for our new deacons, elders, and those who were elected to serve as a church officer. The church also recently welcomed newly-baptized member, Midge Dworak. We praise the Lord that He has made His light to shine in the Alma church.



Alma church members enjoy fellowship.

Donaldo Clarke

Malvern Church Welcomes New Member Nate West

MALVERN, ARK. » The Malvern church members were in high spirits as Carroll Graybeal, pastor, baptized Nathan (Nate) West on August 24, 2013. Nate's wife, Kendra, and 15-month-old son, Malachi, looked on happily, along with both Nate's and Kendra's parents and siblings.

Nate and Kendra met at high school in Ashflat, Arkansas, where they grew up. Kendra grew up in an Adventist family, was a baptized church member, and attended church regularly with her family. She became a witness to Nate when they started dating and he began attending church with her and her family. In 2008 they joined in marriage and began their new life together.

The couple moved to the Benton, Arkansas, area, but they immediately missed their home church and began looking on the Internet for an Adventist church nearby. They decided on the Malvern church because, as Kendra

commented, "It is such a friendly church and everyone seems like family to us!" They had attended the Malvern congregation for only a few months when Nate decided to make a firm commitment to serve the Lord. He began baptismal studies with Graybeal and his wife, Judy. It was

clear from the sincere smile on Nate's face as he gave his testimony on the Sabbath of his baptism that he knew he was taking the right path. He shared that, in the past, after following his own inclination toward the things of the world, nothing had seemed to fulfill his life. He recalled the Bible studies he'd gone through and sermons he had heard in church with Kendra. Slowly but surely, he realized that Jesus was calling him to give his life over completely to Him and follow the Lord's path.

Nate says he is looking forward to serving the Lord in whatever capacity he can in the Malvern church and surrounding community. He wants to be active in ministry so God can reach others through him. He feels that he has a real sense of purpose, with the peace and contentment that can only be found in Jesus.



Nate, Kendra, and Malachi West together after Nate's baptism.

Marie Newman

God's Tech Geeks



How do you feel about being called a geek? In recent years, this term has come to define those who have a love and great understanding of technology, and being a geek has even become a badge of honor in our culture. I consider myself a geek, and as such have seen the changes in culture that have brought me to where I am today, namely a communication director.

The great thing about geeks is that their love of tech leads them to develop, invent, and deliver so many of the modern conveniences that so many of us enjoy. When a geek's passion for tech also develops into passion for ministry, we begin to see innovation within the church that makes it possible to reach even more people.

For example, the Edmond church has two very special and hardworking geeks named Kris and Adam. It was their vision to put together a system that would allow shut-ins, those who were away and those

who could not attend church, to be able to watch the service from any Internet-linked device on Sabbath morning. Working with a very helpful church board, they were approved to purchase three cameras, two of them robotic. Robotic cameras can be small and mounted to the walls or ceiling to be operated remotely. They also found a small, affordable system that allows them to create a quality video from these cameras, which can then be streamed to any Internet-enabled device.

Yes, there are many large churches around the country that have ministry teams with camera operators and video directors and all the equipment that comes with it. For the average church in Oklahoma, we know that those systems may be beautiful, but are not feasible. A small and affordable system, such as the one at the Edmond church, gives the opportunity for our churches to deliver what has previously been absent—a live connection to the church, people, and a church service

that those who are stuck at home would have completely missed otherwise. The blessings that come from just that simple connection and ability to share information, announcements, and a sermon discussion can help be a sustaining presence for someone who is otherwise isolated.

Innovation and change can be scary, and geeks can get a bad rap with their love for the latest and greatest tech. But let's give thanks for those around us who care about the things that no one else on earth believes matter.

So I challenge you, Oklahoma, give those geeks a chance to make a difference in your ministry. God-led innovation has done mighty things lately, and maybe it can make a great addition to your ministry in your home church. Oh, and give those geeks a hug, as well—if they'll let you.

Richard Castillo, communication director

Antlers Pathfinder Club's New Bike Club

ANTLERS » The Antlers Pathfinder Club, the Knights, started the new Pathfinder year with a bike clinic. This is a club that is open to anyone who likes to ride, including church members and the community. The director, Nora Kunkel, and some of the older Pathfinders, shared how to maintain a bicycle, including replacing inner tubes, finding leaks, checking brakes, and making sure a bike is safe to ride.

The group did venture out on the road thanks to our pastor, Steve Dennis, who brought up the rear, and to Shelly, who blocked off the road while everyone made a turn into the park. We are working toward the bike honor, so our first official five-mile ride will be coming up soon, weather permitting.

Marlene Medina



Top: The Knights Pathfinder Club of Antlers recently started a new bike club.

Bottom: The participants learned about general bike care at the first meeting.

Chef Mark Anthony Presents at Southern Hills

OKLAHOMA CITY » The Southern Hills church was blessed on October 28, 2013 by an entertaining and enlightening presentation and dinner with world-renowned chef (and Adventist) Mark Anthony. Anthony says that if Satan has a favorite weapon, it's got to be cholesterol.

Anthony spent years working as a chef for celebrities, but these days he's serving a more "celestial" calling. Anthony now travels the nation sharing his Christian ministry and his passion for teaching people how to beat cholesterol and other health challenges through vegetarian cooking. Utilizing a wide range of vegetables, seeds, nuts, dairy replacements, egg substitutes,

herbs, and spices, he masterfully prepares recipes pleasing to the palate.

He said: "Almost all cancer, heart disease, obesity, diabetes, and strokes are directly related to cholesterol. It is a national epidemic, but most of society does not realize how devastating these cholesterol problems are, and if they get rid of high cholesterol, the other health problems go



Southern Hills church members were delighted by Mark Anthony's presentation and dinner.

away." Anthony shared his own experience of adopting a plant-based diet, which allowed him to lose 60 pounds and brought his cholesterol down 145 points.

Those who attended were educated and fed delicious, colorful, and creative meals. His Web site, www.chefmarkanthony.com, is full of ideas, recipes, helpful suggestions, and books.

Carla Everett

Pastor Goes the Extra Mile

KETCHUM » Dame Toews, a member of Ketchum church, was having a hard week. In fact, she'd been having a hard year. She had been diagnosed with breast cancer and had just undergone surgery and was recovering at home. Her husband, Jerry, is in property management. As anyone who has experienced cancer can attest, there seemed to be too much to accomplish, and he had become stressed. The family had been receiving support from the church and friends, but needed help maintaining the many lawns Jerry manages.

Rick Mercer, pastor of the Ketchum church, put on his pair of grass-cutting shoes and went to work with Jerry. Mercer cooked



for the family, and then returned to work with Jerry a second day. While Dame traveled to meet her surgeon, Mercer watched the kids and made sure there was little to stress about at home.

"This is a good man! The only way we're surviving this week is from our friends," said Dame. She continues to heal and is grateful for the support of her family and friends.

Adapted from **Dame Toews'** testimony by **Richard Castillo**

When a member was stuck by cancer, Rick Mercer, pastor of the Ketchum church, helped her family in many ways, including helping her husband maintain the lawns of the properties he manages.

Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry Oklahoma

DUNCAN » We began our motorcycle ministry to reach all motorcycle riders in Oklahoma and anywhere else we might see them on the road. The thing about bikers is that they are more likely to listen to another biker because they might not listen to anyone else.

We have the news of Jesus and His soon return and we want everyone to have a chance to know Him and His love. We talk to bikers no matter where we see them and give them literature about Jesus. We desire to see all bikers in heaven and for them to have a chance to know and love Jesus as we do.

It's all about reaching all people wherever they are and whoever they are with the good news of Jesus and His love for us. We love to ride and we love to share Jesus and we have fun doing both.

Marty Sifles



The Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry group ride with and minister to other bikers who may not ever be ministered to in any other way.

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

Southern Hills Evangelism Series Yields New Members

OKLAHOMA CITY » The Southern Hills church held an evangelism series September 6 through September 28 with Gilbert Green, pastor. Green utilized PowerPoint, with many graphic slides, to demonstrate Bible texts and illustrations. He has been conducting Bible studies for 30 years and evangelism meetings for 12 years.

Carol Chadwick, Southern Hills' children's ministries leader, offered Bible lessons through DVDs, stories, crafts, and refreshments for children ages four to eleven. Everyone who attended was able to learn new Bible truths. On Sabbath evening, September 28, an impromptu baby shower

was held for a regular attendee of the meetings, Crystal Dalrymple, who was due with a baby girl on October 4.

On Sabbath, October 5, a baptism and potluck were planned to celebrate five new members through baptism and seven new transferred members. There has been an abundant harvest in our church for Jesus. Southern Hills was delighted to join

many other churches throughout Oklahoma who supported the Fall evangelism program "Oklahoma for Christ."

Susan Castillo, Oklahoma Conference

Gilbert Green, pastor, recently presented an evangelism series which resulted in new members for the church.



Tell It To The World:

Using Social Media for Ministry



“But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase” (Daniel 12:4, NKJV). When these words were penned more than 2,000 years ago, modern technology did not exist and social media was not created. However, the prophecy tells us that it would happen in the “time of the end.” We are in a wonderful and fearful time as we see the instant ability to share personal and public events at any time through social media. The opportunities for content distribution are limited only by our desire and imagina-

tion. This means that we can reach people with the three angels’ messages even if we are lacking opportunity, revenue, or ability. This translates into, “We don’t have any more excuses.”

The long arm of technology has broken down barriers, removed walls, bypassed locked doors, and given people opportunities to hear about the love of Jesus from the comfort of their living rooms. This is the “knowledge shall increase” part of the prophecy being fulfilled in our lifetime. Let us not forget that the human, one-on-one approach is still the best method of reaching people and giving them the truth in

living form. Technology just expands our reach and methods.

Social media gives everyone the ability to attend events without physically being present. Matthew 28:18-20 tells us to go baptize and make disciples for the Kingdom of God by sharing the lifesaving Word with everyone in the world. Technology has sounded the call and opened the field to whoever will answer the call.

Kenn Dixon, communication and media director

Veterans for Christ Celebrating Veterans Day 2013

DALLAS, TEXAS » On November 11, 2013, for Veteran’s Day, communities throughout Dallas and Fort Worth honored with programs and parades the men and women who have served in the military. Veterans for Christ (VFC) recognizes and promotes veterans by celebrating Veteran’s Day the entire week. “We didn’t serve just one day—so we should celebrate the whole week!” says Rob Johnson, VFC director.

Veterans for Christ, located in Garland, Texas, works to help soldiers, veterans, and their families to lead healthy, productive lives. VFC paid tribute to two people from the Urban League of North Texas (ULNTX) last November.

The tribute included presenting the VFC Community Award to Treva McDaniel, and a Wounded Warrior half marathon medal (provided by Hazelina Johnson, a

professional marathon runner and leader of City Temple church’s Fitnesszone) to Gerald Holder.

The VFC Community Award recognizes the best of the military community in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. It acknowledges outreach (including churches), individuals and non-Veterans, who best exemplify the word “outreach” within the veteran community through contributions, counseling, educating, conference presentations, or other areas.

Treva McDaniel was awarded the VFC Community Award for her work with disenfranchised veterans. She is currently the manager of veteran service at ULNTX. McDaniel has more than 25 years of management experience working with low-

income older adults in high-risk populations, substance

abusers, ex-offenders, high-risk HIV clients, and chronically homeless veterans.

The Wounded Warrior half marathon is sponsored by Dallas Athletes Racing, which uses the event to honor veterans. Gerald Holder, who was awarded the medal, is a veteran of the Gulf and Iraq wars. His story is an encouraging one: from dealing with PTSD, being incarcerated, and then being homeless, to now working at the VA. “Some don’t want to know about us because they think we are faking. We are out here going through a lot, alone,” said Holder.

The following Sunday, a dinner was given by the Silver Wisdom Disciples, a senior ministry at the City Temple church, led by Bette McGreggor, in connection with VFC. The group gave the veterans a homemade dinner that included professional table settings, a comedian, and a quiet location in Lancaster, Texas. The 2013 VFC youth honoree, Brooklyn Thompson, was also honored at the end of the week for his academia and Pathfinder “Trailblazer” honors.

For more information on VFC, visit: www.veteransforchrist.net.

Rob Johnson, founder/director of Veterans for Christ/USMC Veteran



Student Brooklyn Thompson of Southwest Adventist Junior Academy was honored as the 2013 VFC youth honoree.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Health Out Front

BATON ROUGE, LA. » Continuing its endeavor to make a difference in the local community, the Berean church's Wellness and Community Support Center recently hosted a women's health fair and fitness extravaganza. In observance of breast cancer awareness month, the event was a collaborative effort between Southern University's Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority—Mu Sigma chapter, and the Berean church. Lyn Hakeem, the church's community center director, and the sorority's Deirdre Harris Stepter, coordinated the program.

Berean's involvement was part of a local, week-long celebration and was announced in an 80-page booklet called "Women Staying Connected," made available to the public.

One segment of the health fair began with a panel of medical experts and cancer survivors who addressed various topics on

breast cancer and fielded questions from the audience. Attendees then headed to stations manned by health professionals who provided printed and oral information in addition to performing diabetes, high blood pressure, and cholesterol checks. As in previous health fairs, Tony Davis, from the local Sam's Club, performed vision and hearing screenings.

Next was a trip to the classroom, where Stepter summed up the purpose of the week-long celebration followed by an introduction to the teachers: Claire Townsend, diabetes education coordinator from a local hospital; Lateefah Hills, a masseuse with an office in Berean's center; and Yolanda Laws, a Curves fitness center owner and Berean member. "Meals, mood, medication, and one's spirituality are areas that can affect diabetes," cautioned

Townsend. The remaining presenters also provided beneficial information.

The fitness phase of the event featured Margaret Evans' True Care health program, which shares Berean's community center. Evans provided nutritious snacks along with hand and foot massages, while Lateefah Hills gave out free massages to the first 10 who registered. Thanks to Laws' exercise routines, we left feeling physically fit. The Berean church is grateful for this latest community involvement that aided us in our mission of "improving the health of our community through health, fitness, and nutrition education, disease prevention, and supplemental holistic health care."

Evelyn M. Edwards



◀ Betty Collins and Margaret Evans receiving diabetes instruction from Claire Townsend.

▼ Sorority members who participated in the health fair. From left: Shanna Magee, LaKeva Percy, Rochelle Howard, Rhoer J. Howard, Deirdre H. Stepter, Lyn Hakeem, Brenda Smith, and Raven Coon.



Lakeva Percy checking Constance Randolph's blood pressure.



Ruth Verrett receiving a vision screening from Tony Davis.



Louise Moore's finger being pricked for a diabetes check.

“Man Up for Jesus”

HOUSTON, TEXAS » The men of the Hebron church, under the direction of Willie Coats, focused on their godly role as priests and leaders in a men’s day program entitled, “Man Up For Jesus.”

Rogers Johnson spoke on the topic, “I Ain’t No Fighter,” emphasizing the fight that takes place when men live either for themselves or for God. Johnson reminded the men that God has power that He wants to give them, and that they will not truly be men of God until His power is guiding their lives.

“The hardest victory of our spiritual life is the victory over our thoughts and words,” said Johnson. “To be a man for Jesus you must fight to conquer your thoughts and words.” With his sermon based on Judges 3, Johnson explained how the Israelites began to fight against God simply by worshipping other gods, and how God “raised up a deliverer,” a man who was not afraid to fight.

“In this life, we are either fighting against God, or fighting with Him.” In an emo-

tional appeal, Johnson admonished the men of the church to ask God for the power they need to fight these spiritual battles, be open and receptive to God, and



to stand up and fight for Him even if they are standing and fighting alone. Johnson also charged the women in their lives to support and uplift them that they may be the men God has called them to be. In this

Christian walk, fighting is necessary, and Hebron is a church that wants to fight *with* God, not against Him!

Naomi Harris

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

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The 21st Century Commission



When Jesus concluded His ministry on earth, He gave the disciples what's known as the Great Commission. He said to "Go and make disciples of all nations..." and they did the best they could with the tools they had.

We now live in an age of instantaneity, where information can travel in the blink of an eye. Scientific innovation has made possible things that seem straight out of a science fiction novel—things like self-driving cars, which are expected to be mainstream by the end of the decade, and 3D printers, which can print anything from musical instruments to prosthetic limbs! How can you utilize the latest technology to expand your ministry and do your part to make disciples of all nations? The free tools mentioned below are just a taste of what the tech world has to offer:

MailChimp

MailChimp is one of the leading e-mail marketing services in the world and claims millions of subscribers, from startups to large corporations. Taking your church newsletter to the next level in design and functionality is easy with its simple interface and pre-designed templates. Contact

information can be separated into different groups, like elders, deacons/deaconesses, youth groups, etc. You can even track who's opened your e-mails and which links have been clicked on. Social media and event registration integration is easy to set up and manage, as well. The best part is that it's completely free, as long as your total subscriber list is fewer than 2,000 e-mails.

Google Hangouts on Air

With Google Hangouts on Air, broadcasting your church service is just a few clicks away. Sure, there might be better live-streaming services, but with Google's ease-of-use and pricing structure (always free), Google Hangouts is an attractive option for getting started. The broadcast allows people to watch on Google+, your YouTube channel, and even your own Web site. The best part is that each Hangout broadcast is automatically recorded and saved to your YouTube channel.

The Table Project

The Table Project aims to "encourage community in your local church" and does this in a variety of ambitious ways. It allows

users to post prayer requests, send targeted messages to certain groups or individuals, aggregate all your blogs, podcasts, and video, and much more. The best part (other than it being totally free) is that they have mobile apps for iPhone and Android, so you can take your church community with you wherever you go.

While not an exhaustive list of all that's available to you, these tools provide a way to help you and your ministry fulfill the Gospel Commission in new and exciting ways. The Texas Conference Communication Department would like to invite all local church communication directors, and anyone interested, to your area evangelism training workshops. These are held each year in February and March in five different areas across the conference. The communication workshop will feature practical information and resources for your churches and ministries. Go to TexasAdventist.org for dates and locations near you.

Jason Busch, assistant communication director

Education Day at Arlington Southern Worship Center

ARLINGTON » The Arlington Southern Worship Center's education ministries, under the leadership of Carmen Gilmore, held its annual Education Day this past May at Burton Adventist Academy. Pauline Hunt, the guest speaker, charged the graduates with the theme *Education, The Most Powerful Weapon to Change the World* and encouraged them to keep Christ first in their lives. A tribute to the graduates and educators was presented by Gilmore, Spencer Anderson, pastor, and Shion Branford.

Alice James



The Arlington Southern Worship Center recently held its Education Day and honored graduates and educators.

82-Year-Old Competes at Lake Whitney Ranch Triathlon

WHITNEY » On July 14, 2013 the Texas Conference held its first annual Lake Whitney Ranch Triathlon.

The event was open to the community and held on the Lake Whitney Ranch property. Proceeds from the event went to the construction of the swimming pool complex for the summer camp.

There were 99 registered participants for the triathlon, and they came from as far as Houston and Tyler, Texas. The events included were the traditional triathlon sports of swimming, running, and cycling. A storm blew

through the area that weekend and, after a delay and careful consideration for the

safety of the participants, the swimming portion was replaced with a run, so participants first ran, then biked, then ran again.

Among the participants was retired pastor and Texas Health Huguley Hospital chaplain Alfredo Gaona. Gaona received a medal for completing the triathlon, along with cheers from observers. He completed the triathlon in good spirits, making jokes and praising other participants. At 82, Gaona was the oldest participant.



At 82, Alfredo Gaona was the oldest participant to complete the first annual Lake Whitney Ranch Triathlon.

**Tatiana Medina and
Kristina Lockhart**

A Dream for a School Comes True in Victoria

VICTORIA » The idea for a church school has been in the making ever since a parcel of five acres of land was purchased in 2004, and two years after the grand opening of the Victoria church, Victoria Adventist Academy (VAA) has become a reality.

José Muñoz, pastor, spearheaded the process and organized a team of enthusiasts. Planning meetings for the church school began in January 2013. It seemed to be an impossible task to undertake in a mere seven months, but God's presence and power working through the school board made the seemingly impossible a reality.

Desks were ordered, student handbooks were created, potential teachers were interviewed, and all fell into place. After much prayer, two excellent teachers were chosen and have proved to be a blessing in so many ways.

Numerous Sunday work bees were organized with members and friends working very hard to prepare the new school. They were united in carrying out God's will.

This wasn't the first Adventist church school in Victoria. In 1976, members Orlando and Verolyn Varona organized a small school, starting with three students.

It grew to 21 students and was in operation for more than 12 years.

The lesson for all in this venture has been to trust God in all things, including the details! He is in control and He wants us to succeed.

Bev Offe



A new school in Victoria, Texas, is a dream come true for its members.



The Joy of Giving

SAN ANTONIO » The Bible tells us that God loves a cheerful giver. When it is children doing the giving, not only are they cheerful, but generous and self-sacrificing. Through children's ministries at the Eastgate Spanish church, children learn to give without expecting something in return and when seeing a need, find a way to meet that need. This can happen on a global level or right in your own communities. Let me share a few ways our children meet the needs of others. During our Operation Christmas Child, we fill shoeboxes with all kinds of things a child might like. These boxes are sent to children who may have never received a gift before. Participants use their own money, pick out what would go in the box, and write a personal message to go inside.

For another project, Food for Kids, we collected cans of food that would be given

to hungry kids and their families. Still another project, Half-Pint Library, had our kids participating in a book drive to collect children's books for kids in need. We delivered the items to each sponsor, experiencing the joy that comes with giving. Other acts of kindness included singing at nursing homes, making cards for patients at a local burn center, and visiting others who are homebound.

It doesn't need to cost a lot or be grandiose—simple gestures of kindness, willingness to help, or even saying "Thank you for serving" to the soldiers they meet are different ways of touching their community with the love of Jesus. Remember His words, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

Mandy Alonso



The San Antonio Eastgate Spanish church has a strong program aimed at teaching children the joy of giving.

Family Focus Weekend in Denton

DENTON » The family life and evangelism departments of the Denton First church worked collaboratively to host its first Family Focus Weekend last May. Invitations were given to church members approximately two weeks in advance to share with friends and family in the Denton community. The presenters for the weekend were retired Navy chaplain and pastor, Gerald Jones, and his wife, Brenda, who developed their presentation on the theme "Families: An Incredible Force."

On Thursday evening, prior to the weekend, Derek Lazarus, pastor, led the congregation in a special prayer meeting to pray for the families of the church and the community. He and his family led the worship hour on Sabbath, sharing individual perspectives about their family through the morning message. Each session of the weekend opened with the congregation singing "God Loves Families" (to the tune of "God Has Smiled on Me"). All of the presentations focused on families in the book of Genesis—beginning with the first family, Adam and Eve, and ending with the

story of Joseph's family. Leading the participants through Genesis allowed them to see God working in families in spite of dysfunction. The attendees were guided in the study to see, despite the continuous line of deception, that God still fulfilled His purpose and promises that He gave to Adam, Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph.

Besides praying and studying together, the congregation's families enjoyed Christian fellowship with high tea at the Saturday evening service and the prayer breakfast on Sunday morning, where Jones shared the final message about Noah and his family, whom God used as His instruments for the preservation of the human race He created.

Other activities from the departments have been a couples-only Valentine's event and another

evening event for college students.

Brenda Jones



Top: During the Family Focus Weekend at the Denton church, participants enjoyed a Sunday-morning prayer breakfast.

▲ Gerald and Brenda Jones presented for the Denton First church's Family Focus Weekend.



Memorials of Faith

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Memorials are important to God. They remind us of His faithfulness, promises, and provision for our lives. He understands their value in helping us remember His blessings of resources, protection, healing, and hope.

Memorials of faith include the Sabbath, the stories of God's "manna-du-jour," water from a rock, and the altar that Joshua built with the rocks from the riverbed of the Jordan. That altar was to remind future generations of God's blessing of a dry path through the river.

I wonder if we understand the value of memorials in our lives? The times that God has shown up in our families, our churches, and our schools and protected, provided, and brought us through difficult times. How do we teach our children the certainty of God's faithfulness?

I was recently reminded of the importance of re-living the experiences of God's blessings to us.

Several months ago my son and I were talking about faith. Now that he has a son of his own, we shared stories about God's blessing our family through the years. As we talked, I was reminded of his faith journey and a story from many years ago.

I told him how grateful I was to have

been blessed with a son who believes in God and in me. I shared the story of his encouragement to me when I was preparing for the CPA exam. I was reminded how, after months of grueling preparation, I was nearly overwhelmed by fatigue and the nagging fear that I wouldn't remember all I had studied.

The night before the exam, my notes seemed to run together, and I knew that what I needed most was rest so that my mind could function again. I had prayed and studied, but now I needed sleep.

Arriving home from the library I found my son, Steve, who was six at the time, still awake. As I walked by his doorway he sat up in bed.

"Hi Dad, I'm glad you're home," he said.

"I'm glad to be home, why are you awake?"

He told me that he had been praying for me as he lay there in the dark. He didn't know what else he could do to help me bear the burden of this stressful challenge. He wanted me to know that he had been thinking about me while I was gone and he had asked God to bless me as I studied and help me when it was time to take the test.

His faith in God, and his belief in me, touched me in a place my weary soul had left unprotected, and the emotions flooded

over me. I couldn't imagine how my journey during those months had affected him, and all my family. I was stunned by the depth of his passion for my success, and I was blessed by his tender concern and belief that I would do well because he asked God to help me.

Many years have passed since that quiet conversation in the dark. It was truly one of the most profound moments of spiritual support I've ever known, a sacred moment that lives on through the blessing of memory, punctuated by faith and love.

That night, when my son prayed for me, our faith grew stronger and reliving the story decades later created a memorial of God's faithfulness in our lives. These memorials can be a great blessing, and revisiting them with the next generation is important as we pass along the foundations of faith to them.

I don't know how God has showed up in your life, but I am sure that He has. So I challenge you, especially parents and teachers, to plant the seed of faith in your children by creating memorials of the many ways that God has been faithful to you.

Philip Robertson, treasurer

The Missing Baptism

LAS CRUCES, N. MEX. » Last year, Chuck Workman, pastor, had the pleasure of re-baptizing one of his Las Cruces church deacons, Chuck Pritchett, his wife, Sue, their daughter, Misty, and Misty's husband, Jesse. Missing baptism on this happy day was their son, Terry, who had just had surgery, and could not be immersed in water until he had recovered. One year later and in a new district, "Pastor Chuck" was pleased to get the phone call that Terry had recovered and was ready for his baptism.

When you have baptized most of the family, getting the opportunity



to "finish the job" is a special treat. Baptizing Terry, having his family there, and participating in the service made a memorable occasion one of Chuck's favorites. Just think, what a wonderful day it will be when we are all together again, saved and rising in the clouds of glory, on our way to heaven, rejoicing with friends and family, and reunited for eternity with Jesus.

Cathie Workman

The day for Terry's baptism finally came. His parents, Sue and Chuck Pritchett, joined with Chuck Workman, pastor, for the blessed occasion.

Abilene Church Hosts "Let's Move Day" Event

ABILENE, TEXAS » The Abilene church recently held its first "Let's Move Day" event, a 5K run/walk. All participated either in the run or activity stations, such as jump rope, Zumba, martial arts, sprints, sack races, and even a jumping castle.

With support from local businesses, the church was able to provide first-, second-, and third-place winners of every age group in the 5K race with medals to acknowledge their achievements.

The event was well covered by the media; the newspaper printed an article, while

the television station gave great exposure on both the evening and morning news.

The day was successful for many reasons. God led the Abilene church in the event and it showed in our excitement. We were united by our working together to get the word out about our church and our amazing health ministries program. It got both children and adults moving and having fun while charging full speed toward a healthier future. The event also raised money that will allow us to continue to educate our community on the truths from

the Bible that Seventh-day Adventists hold and desire to share.

We have already begun to plan next year's "Second Annual Let's Move Day" event and can't wait to see what God has in store for it.

Jill Robertson

Below left: Abilene church members support and enjoy "Let's Move Day."

▼ Jill Robertson, health ministry leader, joins a happy medal recipient.



EPAJA Shares Garden with Community

EL PASO, TEXAS » The El Paso Adventist Junior Academy (EPAJA) community garden opened last March for its school children and the community. It's conveniently located at the back of the school. The school is dedicated to maintaining an or-

ganic garden that provides education and beautification for the community, as well as a food supply. Garden members maintain the plots, working in a spirit of cooperation and fellowship. The goal is to offer a safe and attractive environment to people desiring a place to grow edible produce and operates on an organic method of gardening. The 4,500 square feet of land is fenced and has 26 raised plots of varying sizes. The garden is complete with an individual irrigation system and soil mixture of compost and manure.

teachers. The rest of the plots are open to the community. Visitors are allowed during open houses, community events, or by invitation from garden members.

The EPAJA community garden was established through the McKelligon Canyon 5K run/walk 2012 fundraising during "El Paso on the Move." "El Paso on the Move" was organized in May 2012 in response to the national health initiative "Let's Move" to fight obesity. Its mission is to promote a healthy lifestyle through gardening, exercise, healthy cooking, smoking cessation, as well as depression recovery programs.

Norma Rivera



Five plots are designated to the school children of EPAJA under supervision of classroom

The Power of Unity

I have recently had the privilege of experiencing God's wonderful joy by uniting with brothers and sisters in Christ to spread the gospel. It has given me glimpses of God's great power, which is unleashed when we come together in purpose and mission to reach the lost for Christ.

A few months ago I went on a ShareHim mission trip to Rwanda, Africa, as part of a 17-person team representing eight different churches from all over the country, and one from the UK. We did not go with individual ideas of what needed to be done, but went with one objective: to spread the word of redemption and love through Christ as a team.

We praise God for the almost 700 people who were baptized. Many deem the baptismal count to be the sole measure of success, but I believe of equal importance were the lives changed by the unity that was created between us and the Rwandan people, as well as the heartfelt connection that was formed within our team.

Fast forward a couple months to the small Mora church in the mountains of northern New Mexico—a church with 10 regular members and a few others who attend sporadically. The desire of this small group, of which I am a member, was to reach out into the community of approximately 2,700 people and lift the veil of deception that Satan has planted throughout the world. We wanted to be co-laborers with Christ, letting people know the real plan of redemption and love that Jesus has for each soul.

We knew this would be quite an endeavor due to the spiritual darkness of the area, but we also knew that through Christ, all things are possible. The church had just finished the Sabbath School quarterly on the topic of Revival and Reformation, and wished to truly put our faith out there and see God work. All agreed that we would conduct a live evangelistic series, using ShareHim sermons. Being led and mentored on how to do this by Jim Coleman, pastor, and his wife, Lititia, the church went through the challenging task of putting together a series complete with live music, health talks, a children's program, sermons, follow-up literature, and visitation.

We made flyers, banners, personal letters,



▲ Jon Ruhnke preaching his second evangelistic series, this time in Mora, N. Mex.



▲ Jon Ruhnke (center) had the nightly pleasure of greeting the visitors and church members in Rwanda.



◀ Mora church member Cathy LeClair registered people as they came to the meetings.

and invitations, starting two months prior to these meetings. Coleman led us in prayer as we sought the intervention of the Holy Spirit, and laid all our plans out before God and asked His guidance. We also spent time praying that God would show us where we needed cleansing from sin, so He could manifest His power through us. During this process, a bond was formed among our members that drew us closer together. The focus was on letting go of self and letting Christ have our willing hearts and minds.

Like many evangelistic series, which kick off with a great turnout, then dwindle in numbers, by the fifth night we had one visitor, and through the tenth night we averaged about three. The venue looked great, and the handbills were colorful and appealing. Our children's program was loaded with fun and entertaining things to do; there were great singers and enlightening health talks. The group continued to pray and have faith that God would work a miracle.

Many nights I preached to one visitor and the rest were Adventists. There was even one night, about three quarters of the way through, that I actually thought, "Why bother? I am only preaching to one person." Nevertheless, I finished and spoke as powerfully through the Holy Spirit as if the hall were full.

As the attendance remained low, our church of ten members continued on in unity, lifting one another up and knowing that He was working harder than we were. By the last night when I made a call, all in attendance came forward—about half were Adventists and the other half visitors.

Did we have any baptisms? Well, we have a definite maybe. Did we fail? I have to answer with a resounding, absolutely not! God blessed our small church with unity. We had nearly 100 percent participation from our church members.

Did we plant many seeds? Absolutely! Will we do it again? By all means! Our band of brothers and sisters, united in Christ, are stronger today because of this experience. We cannot know God's blessings if we do not participate in His work. We cannot know what unity is by pressing our own agendas, but must step aside from the minor skirmishes and with fullness of heart go forward into battle. We must stand united with Christ as our Head, especially as we get closer to the end. With this we lay all our praises and honor on Jesus, our Savior and our Lord.

Jon Ruhnke

Celebrating 120 Years of Leadership Training

The first day of class at Keene Industrial Academy was January 7, 1894. From the beginning, the school was committed to combining “good literary training” with “the study of the Bible” and productive work. The idea was to produce Christian leaders—resourceful people with real strength of character.

As we celebrate the 120th year of a school now known as Southwestern Adventist University, some things have not changed. “We are still producing leaders and people who know how to work,” says Dr. Amy Rosenthal, Southwestern’s academic dean.

Students have many other opportunities to gain leadership experience. Southwestern students lead out in worship, in small prayer groups, campus clubs, research projects, student governance, and even work experience projects. From the student chap-



Student teaching.



Early colporteurs.



Print shop circa 1924.



Business class.



Work experience.



Broom shop.



Student Week of Prayer.

Some of the early industries, such as the broom factory, the farm, and the print shop, have not survived into the twenty-first century. Other jobs, ranging from cooking to “colportering,” from landscaping to the library, are still vital to campus life. Many students work to pay their school bills. The experience is essential as they prepare for a career, for life.

“My work experience at Southwestern taught me how to communicate with anyone that walked through the doors. That skill has been invaluable as a teacher,” shares Kenesma Vanterpool, a 2012 graduate and third-grade teacher in Houston.

lain to the student leader of the colporteur group to the student-organized ticket sales for over 1,200 Acrofest attendees, our students are gaining real experience.

“I received an internship recommendation through one of my business classes at Southwestern,” says Alyssa Burnett, 2013 graduate and auditor for the General Conference Auditing Service. “The experience empowered me to start my own business. It completely changed the way I think and I gained a wonderful mentor from it.”

“From the moment I stepped on campus, I’ve been encouraged to get involved. I’ve had the opportunity to hold several lead-

ership positions, such as student association president,” explains senior education major, Melissa Mancilla. “I’m encouraged to work hard and Southwestern recognizes my effort. It makes a huge difference in the learning process.”

Southwestern-trained leaders are key to the growth of the Adventist church in this region. From the union conference president to three of the five conference presidents, to hundreds of pastors, teachers, business leaders, doctors, and nurses, the Southwest depends on its university to educate leaders.

Former Oklahoma President Passes Away

Robert D. Rider, former Oklahoma Conference president, beloved husband to Hattie and father to Lorrie and Marcia, passed away on September 3, 2013 in Fort Worth, Texas. He was born on October 17, 1930 in Terrell, Texas, the long-prayed for child of his parents, Dewey and Eva Rider. As an only child, he was given a strong moral code, which was tempered by a well-developed sense of humor.

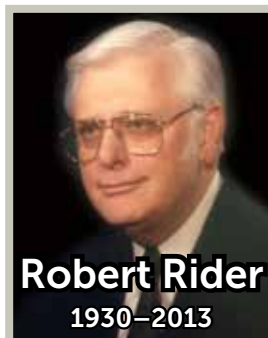
Rider went to school in Keene, Texas, graduating from Southwestern Adventist University (then a junior college) in 1951. He then earned a bachelor's in religion from Union College in 1953. His summers were spent as a literature evangelist, serving as the student leader for one summer. The literature ministry always had a special place in his heart.

One day, when Robert was just a teenager, he spotted a beautiful brunette walking across the college campus. He kept his eye on her through the years until the right age for dating. Robert and Hattie Lee were married in the old Keene church on

June 7, 1953. They embarked on a beautiful, amazing, God-blessed journey that spanned over six decades. Robert always said he could never have accomplished anything without his "teammate wife."

Rider received a call to the ministry from the Texas Conference and the couple served for two years in Houston, Texas. Their first district followed in Mineral Wells, Texas. In the years that followed, two daughters, Lorrie Lynne and Marcia LeeAnne, were born, and he was ordained to the ministry. Pastoral ministry followed in the Denison-Sherman district in Texas, and the Okeene and Ardmore districts in Oklahoma. Departmental leadership followed the years of pastoral ministry.

Returning to Oklahoma in 1974, Rider served as the executive and ministerial secretary until December 1975 when he was



elected president of the conference, a position he held for more than 18 years. The members of the Oklahoma Conference were like family to the Riders.

Following retirement, Robert and Hattie Lee moved to Keene and built a home. After battling cancer for several months, Robert decided to help start

a branch Sabbath School in Grandview, Texas. He was instrumental in the building and formation of the Grandview church.

Robert's love affair with Jesus deepened every year he lived. For more than 41 years of active service, as well as in retirement years, Robert humbly labored for the Seventh-day Adventist Church and for the God who shared with him the gifts of His love, grace, and faith.

View more about Robert and Hattie's work in Oklahoma at www.swurecord.org.

Society of Adventist Communicators Recognizes Texas Conference Projects

The Society of Adventist Communicators, an organization of the North American Division which gathers Adventist communicators to an annual convention for education, fellowship, and recognition, convened in Salt Lake City, Utah, from October 24-26, 2013. The annual convention features awards for "best in class" projects as well as recognition for communication leaders.

"Each year at our convention awards are given out recognizing excellence in the field of communication," says George Johnson Jr., SAC executive director and North American Division communication director. Nomina-

tions for awards are reviewed by a committee of communication professionals.

The Texas Conference's communication department was among those honored at the 2013 convention. The communication team, consisting of Costin Jordache, former assistant to the president for communication (currently serving the Central

California Conference as vice president for communication), associate communication director Kristina Lockhart, and assistant communication director Jason Busch, garnered a "best in class" award for their 2012 video constituency report. The same team, with the addition of graphic designer Tammy Prieto, also won an honorable mention for the overall design of the Conference's magazine, *The Flame*.

"It's such an honor to be recognized by our colleagues throughout the North American Division. We constantly strive to keep our members informed and inspired. We are humbled by these awards that demonstrate just one of the many wonderful things that are happening in Texas," says Lockhart.

Jessica Lozano



From left: George Johnson, NAD communication director; Kristina Lockhart, Texas conference associate communication director; Costin Jordache, Central California Conference vice president for communication; and Kim Maran, former SAC president and assistant editor for the *Adventist Review*.

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EMPLOYMENT

School of Religion, Loma Linda University, invites applications for a full-time tenure-track position in its ethics area, to begin August 15, 2014. We seek candidates who have PhDs in theology, philosophy, or a related area. Immediately contact gheinrich@llu.edu for more information.

Central Valley Christian Academy: Located in Central California with easy access to

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Walla Walla University seeks applicants for full-time, tenure-track faculty positions in Business, Computer Science and Nursing. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

Food Service Supervisor needed for Wewoka Woods Summer Camp to manage food service operations, plan and prepare meals, and supervise kitchen staff. Experience in quantity cooking, kitchen management, and supervision required. Position is from mid-May through July 2014. For more information, contact Carol Chadwick at the Oklahoma Conference Youth Department, 405.721.6110. Mail resume to: Youth Department, Oklahoma Conference, P.O. Box 32098, Oklahoma City, OK, 73123.

Better Life Television: Seeking broadcast engineer for 20 stations and Grants Pass, Oregon headquarters. Requires knowledge of RF broadcast engineering, FCC regulations. SDA member in good standing. Resume: Ron@BetterLifeTV.tv.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Our theme is the *Gift of the Holy Spirit*; our goal is spiritual revival. Activities: Bible study, interactive discussions, cooking classes, nature walks, etc. "Come away and rest a while," recharging your spiritual batteries. Contact: 479.752.8555, WellnessSecrets4u.com.

Medical Missionary Training at Wellness Secrets in NW AR April 3-20. This program is designed to teach the fundamentals of health evangelism. Classes will be given on principles of medical missionary work, healthful living, common diseases and natural treatment, hydrotherapy, herbs, and community health evangelism. For more information: 479.752.8555, WellnessSecrets4u.com.

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Milestones

BIRTHS

Congratulations to Michelle and David Hanna, of the Tyler, Texas church, on the birth of their third son, **Brandon Jonathan Hanna**, born June 25, 2013, at 12:35 p.m. He weighed seven pounds, 10 ounces and was 19.5 inches long.

Congratulations to Andressa and Braden Boyd, of the Tyler, Texas church, on the birth of their son, **Eli Joseph Boyd**, born August 29, 2013 (on his mom's birthday) at 8:31 p.m. He weighed seven pounds, three ounces, and was 20 inches long.

ANNIVERSARIES

Fred and Jean Thomas celebrated their **65th** anniversary on November 16. Their service to the Adventist Church began overseas in Africa, the Middle East, and then the United States. They give glory to God for His protection, watchcare, and many blessing. Their four sons, Frederick, Dave, John, and Peter, three daughters-in-law, five grandsons, granddaughter, and two granddaughters-in-law bring them much pride and joy.

Announcements

Chisholm Trail Academy Alumni Homecoming:

March 28-30, 2014. Honor classes: 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, and 2009. Friday vespers at 7:30 p.m. Sabbath services from 9:00 a.m. through potluck lunch. Saturday night vespers 7:15 p.m., followed by CTA Blazers basketball game and honor class parties. Sunday at 8:00 a.m., 5K run/walk and pancake breakfast for worthy student aid. Contact: Shelly at: scastan@aol.com, or Facebook group: CTA Alumni.

The Gulfhaven Jr. Academy

(now the Gulfhaven Adventist School) invites all former students and teachers to an alumni/homecoming at the Gulfhaven church on February 8, 2014. Please make plans now to come meet with your friends and former classmates/students for a wonderful fellowship time together. This event is for all who have attended Gulfhaven since the school was built back in the 1960s. Please R.S.V.P. at 713.562.4580, or 832.433.2732, or e-mail gulfhaven7@yahoo.com.

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Good News TV in Crowley, Texas will hold its annual community celebration February 14-15, 2014 in the DFW area. Call 469.278.4688 for location information.

Union College Homecoming April 3-6, 2014: Honor classes are 1944, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, and 2004. Special tribute to veterans and MCC. For more information, contact the alumni office at 402.486.2503, 3800 S 48th St, Lincoln, NE 68516, or alumni@ucollege.edu.

La Sierra Academy Alumni '14 Weekend On Campus: May 2-3, 2014. Honor classes: '54, '64, '74, '84, '89, '94, and '04. Friday evening reception at LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni services; afternoon potluck; campus tours, and class reunions. Information: 951 351-1445 x 244 or JNelson@lsak12.com. LSA Web site: www.lsak12.com.

Obituaries

ALLEN, Linda Kay, born January 31, 1955 and died October 2, 2013 in Grove, Okla. Linda had lived in Grove since 2004 and had previously lived in Dennison, Tex. She received her bachelor's degree from Austin College in Sherman, Tex., and had worked for the Veteran's Administration as a Fee Base Officer. She was an honorary member of the Cherokee Elders Rainbow House, and she wrote articles for them. Survivors: husband, Willard Allen; daughter, Angela Ulum, and husband Daniel Ulum, of Denison; son, Larry Weaver of Cuero, Tex.; three grandchildren; mother, Katherine; three brothers and six sisters. She is preceded in death by her father and one brother.

BAUDER, Joyce L. Collins, born January 5, 1935 in Burkshire, N. York., and died November 17, 2013 in Jefferson, Tex. She was a member of the Jefferson church. She worked for Marwin Products in Jefferson for 23 years and six years at Loma Linda Hospital. She enjoyed spending time

with her friends and family and enjoyed nature from the walks she took near her home. She was preceded in death by her husband, Calvin W. Bauder. Survivors: children: Chris Bauder, Cathey Bauder, Cynthia Shirley, Charles Bauder, Celia Rodney; brother, John Collins; nine grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

BERGSTROM, Garnette, was born in Wewoka, Okla., on April 12, 1921 and died on October 23, 2013 in Oklahoma City, Okla. She married Roy Raymond Bergstrom in 1941, and he preceded her in death in 1992. She was a well-respected and loved member of the Southern Hills church in Oklahoma City. Survivors: daughters, Marcia and Cheryl; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

BURDEN, Marjorie Maurine, born in 1922 in Winnebago, Neb., and died in August of 2013 in Mena, Ark. She had been a member of the Mena church since 1999. She was born on an Indian Reservation in Winnebago, and during World War II she was a real "Rosie the Riveter," working at Schrillo Aero Tool Engineering Co. in Los Angeles, California. She married in 1951 and had one child, Conrad in 1952. Her son had numerous health issues and passed away in 1956. She spent the final years of her life at Peachtree Assisted Living in Mena.

FIKES, Frances L., born September 27, 1922 in Pine Bluff, Ark., and died on October 22, 2013 in Hot Springs, Ark. She was a member of the Hot Springs church. Survivors: husband of 71 years, Houston "Hootie" Fikes of Hot Springs; one son and daughter-in-law, Jack and Lynn Fikes of Hot Springs; daughter and son-in-law, Lola and Richard Hartsell

of Hot Springs; daughter and son-in-law, Lynda and Tom Oyler from Florida; eight grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

GOFORTH, Bertha Elizabeth Huff, born December 28, 1911 in Harlan County, Ky., and died at the age of 101 on September 8, 2013 in Lufkin, Tex. She spent most of her life in Harlan County, graduating from Berea College in Berea, Ky., in 1935 and teaching in the Harlan County and Fayette County School Systems until she retired in 1973. A former resident of Loyall and Lexington, Ky., she then made her home in Brookeland, Tex., in 1977 and was a member of the Hemphill church. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, Coy A. Goforth; grandson, Richard Ball; three brothers, and five sisters. Survivors: daughter, Rosemary Ball and husband, William; two granddaughters; four great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

KRETZ, Richard Lee, born June 4, 1924 in Shattuck, Okla., and died February 2, 2013 in Temple, Texas. He married Bertha Lee Rodgers September 3, 1944 at Pacific Union College in Angwin, Calif. He graduated from Southwestern Junior College in Keene, Texas, in 1944 and from Union College in Lincoln, Neb., in 1946, and entered 40 years of gospel ministry in July of 1946 in Fort Smith, Ark. During his tenure of service, he pastored 18 churches in Arkansas, Oregon, Texas and Missouri. For seven years he enjoyed his work as an evangelist in three different conferences, holding 45 evangelism series in 45 different cities in the US. He served as dean of boys, pastor, and Bible teacher in three different academies in Arkansas, Missouri, and Oregon. He then served

Record DIRECT



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in the Arkansas-Louisiana, Texas, Missouri, Oregon, North Dakota, Minnesota, Kansas, and Ohio Conferences for 23 years as department director of lay activities, Sabbath School, radio-TV, public relations, community service, and as ministerial secretary. He was a ministerial director when he retired in 1986, but his ministry did not end with his retirement. Richard was a sought after guest speaker during his time spent in the Rio Grande Valley and he continued to share the gospel even after his health failed. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Bertha Lee Kretz, on March 1, 2002. Survivors: two sons and their wives, Kenneth Lee Kretz Sr. and wife, Elayne, of Temple, and Lawrence Lee Kretz and wife, Linda, of Hope, Ark., and one grandson, Kenneth Lee Kretz, Jr.

MANNING, Tamara, born July 15, 1957, and died February 22, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla. She was a member of Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa.

MILLER, Russell Wayne, was born September 13, 1957, and he died September 22, 2013 in Tulsa, Okla. He was a member of Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa. He is survived by his wife, Jerri Lynn Miller, of Tulsa.

PATTERSON, Alice Amanda Wease, born December 14, 1918 in Noble, Ill., and died October 24, 2013 in Ardmore, Okla. She was married to Orvel Eugene Patterson and they shared a long and happy marriage that lasted 65 years in Clay City, Ill. She was a homemaker, famous for her cooking and baking. She and Orvel loved table games and entertained friends over the years at their home. They were active members of the Noble, Ill., church for more than 60 years and avid Bible readers. In 2003, Alice lost Orvel at the

age of 91. In 2005 she moved to Ardmore, Okla., with her daughter Mavis, and son-in-law Galen Schnell. She was very proud of her grandchildren, great grandchildren, great-great grandchildren, and her pet dogs, Tootsie and Tooter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Orvel, and daughter, Linda Dugan. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Mavis and Galen Schnell of Ardmore; adopted sons (grandsons), Jim Patterson, of Flora, Ill., and Brian Patterson, of Clay City, Ill.; four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren; and six great-great grandchildren.

PYLES, Glenda Gale, born September 5, 1948 in Vinita, Okla., and died August 25, 2013 in Broken Arrow, Okla. August 25, 2013. She was a member of Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa, Okla. She is survived by her husband, John Pyles, of Tulsa.

RIDER, Robert D., born October 17, 1930 in Terrell, Okla., and died September 3, 2013 in Fort Worth, Tex. He married Hattie Lee King on June 7, 1953 in Keene, Tex. Rider was a minister for 41 years, serving in Texas, Oklahoma, and Oregon. He was the president of the Oklahoma Conference for more than 18 years. Survivors: his wife of 60 years, Hattie Lee Rider, of Keene; two daughters, Lorrie L. Reagan and husband, Russell, of Edmond, Okla., and Marcia L. Dyche and husband, James A., of Keene; grandchildren: Lindsay B. Bryant and husband, Andrew; Elizabeth Brown; Leslie Dawn Smith; Kevin Dyche; Joshua Dyche; and Benjamin Dyche, and their families, along with several other relatives and many friends.

ROBERSON, Joyce, born September 7, 1930 in Antlers, Okla., and died October 13, 2013 in

Hot Springs, Ark. She was a member of the Hot Springs church. Survivors: sons, Billy Wayne Roberson, Donald Ray Roberson, and Jay David Roberson, all of Hot Springs; two daughters, Sharon Kay Hurley of Hot Springs; and daughter and son-in-law, Vicky and John Cockman, of Hot Springs; three grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

WEEDMAN, Haywood B., born August 13, 1935 in Little Rock, Ark., and died April 11, 2013, in Cabot, Ark. He was a lifetime member of the Little Rock church. Through the years he held various church offices. He was a very faithful and trusting Christian. By trade, he was a self-employed builder. He will be missed by so many. Survivors: wife, Barbara Weedman, of Cabot; a son and daughter-in-law, Mark and Joany Johnston of Mayflower, Ark.; a son and daughter-in-law, Steve and Cathy Johnston; two daughters, Dawna Gessett and Judith Johnston; a brother, Tommy Weedman; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

WILLIS, Richard D., born May 16, 1939 in Lansing, Mich., and died September 8, 2013

in Siloam Springs, Ark. He was a member of the Gentry church. Survivors: wife, Christine Willis of Gentry; daughter, Kimberlee Wills, of Monroe, Wash.; daughter and son-in-law, Klaudia and Larry Staples of Gentry; son and daughter-in-law, Kurt and Ruthie Willis of Vermontville, Mich.; two grandchildren, three step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

YOCUM, Pansy Marlana, born May 20, 1978 and died September 29, 2013 in DeQueen Ark. She was a member of the Beacon Hill church in DeQueen. Marlana attended Ozark Adventist Academy and later worked as a nurse's aid until her health declined. She was a homemaker who loved the Lord and loved being with her three children. She was a very likeable young lady and was loved by her family and church. She was preceded in death by her father, Henry Yocum. Survivors: two sons, Daunte and Nathaniel Yocum, of DeQueen; daughter, Mia Yocum, of DeQueen; her mother, Lilly Ann Yocum, of DeQueen; sister, Eva Lanette Yocum Rogers of DeQueen; and a special friend, Patrick Dimbo.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Jan 3	Jan 10	Jan 17	Jan 24	Jan 31	Feb 7
Abilene, TX	5:45	5:51	5:57	6:04	6:10	6:17
Albuquerque, NM	5:06	5:12	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:40
Amarillo, TX	5:47	5:53	6:00	6:07	6:14	6:21
Brownsville, TX	5:51	5:56	6:01	6:07	6:12	6:17
Dallas, TX	5:33	5:38	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:04
El Paso, TX	5:14	5:19	5:25	5:32	5:38	5:45
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	5:35	5:41	5:47	5:54	6:00	6:07
Gallup, NM	5:13	5:19	5:26	5:34	5:41	5:48
Galveston/Houston, TX	5:34	5:40	5:45	5:52	5:58	6:03
Gentry, AR	5:15	5:21	5:28	5:35	5:42	5:50
Little Rock, AR	5:10	5:16	5:23	5:30	5:37	5:44
Muskogee, OK	5:20	5:26	5:32	5:40	5:47	5:54
New Orleans, LA	5:13	5:18	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42
Oklahoma City, OK	5:29	5:35	5:42	5:49	5:56	6:03
Roswell, NM	5:02	5:08	5:15	5:21	5:28	5:35
San Antonio, TX	5:47	5:53	5:59	6:05	6:11	6:16
Shreveport, LA	5:22	5:27	5:34	5:40	5:47	5:53
Tulsa, OK	5:21	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:48	5:56



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

A “Telling” Message

BACK IN THE 1990S, C.A. MURRAY, WHO NOW SERVES AS 3ABN’S PRODUCTION

MANAGER, was communication director for the Northeastern Conference. Curious about how much people in New York City knew about Seventh-day Adventists, he grabbed his video camera and headed for the streets to conduct video interviews. Here are some of the responses he got:

“I think they are like Jehovah’s Witnesses,” one person said. Another person took a guess: “They worship seven days?” Someone else, expressing their understanding of who Adventists are, said, “They can’t eat meat.” I don’t know how many people C.A. interviewed that day, but I do know that very few of them knew much about or had even heard of Adventists, and most who *had* heard of us didn’t have a clear idea of who we are or what we believe.

Those survey results caused me to think deeply—and not just about our church’s PR program and the need to let others know who Adventists are, as important as that is. This is the thought that re-

ally gripped me: Each of us who belongs to the Adventist Church, whether we realize it or not, is sending a message to the world about who we are. We communicate that message by what we *say*, what we *don’t say*, what we *do*, and what we *don’t do*. What do I mean?

Let me illustrate. If someone were to ask you what you believe, would you be tempted to run down the entire set of 28 fundamental beliefs? I hope not! But even if you or I were able to give a really great “elevator pitch” about who Adventists are when someone asks (and we *should* be able to), I think there’s an even more telling message that we unknowingly and constantly convey—one that isn’t necessarily

expressed in words. Here’s what I’m getting at: The way we live our lives in relation to what we believe about such principles as the Sabbath, living healthfully, and honoring family, to name a few; the love and care we show (or *fail* to show) others through acts of kindness; and the way we respond when we are provoked or in distress—all of these, and more, help to shape what others think about our church and our beliefs, and ultimately, determine how likely we will be to make an impact in their lives.

Yes, we need to Tell It to the World through every form of media that technology and God’s blessings afford us. I’m all for that—it’s our commission! But please remember, the Good News we’re telling the world is *most clearly* heard and seen through the lives that we live and the love that we show.

Pat Humphrey

Record

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Wednesday, January 15, 6:00 pm, *at the chapel*

Bentonville Church

Saturday, January 18, 6:00 pm

Ozark Adventist Academy

Sunday, January 19, 6:00 pm, *at Gentry SDA Church*

North Dallas Adventist Academy

Monday, January 27, 7:00 pm, *at the chapel*

Southwestern Adventist University

Wednesday, January 29, 6:00 pm, *in Pechero Hall room 104*

Jefferson Christian Academy

Thursday, January 30, 6 pm, *at the Student Center*

Valley Grande Academy

Monday, February 3, 6:00 pm

South Texas Christian Academy

Tuesday, February 4, 6:30 pm, *high school building*

The Oaks Adventist Christian School

Thursday, February 6, 7:00 pm, *at the chapel*

Dallas Christian Academy

Wednesday, February 13, 7:00 pm

Central Albuquerque Church

Saturday, February 15

*A Night at the Meyerson
is March 30. Ticket sales
start on February 3. More
information coming in the
February issue of
the Record.*