

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

SEPTEMBER 2014



*This is Sabbath School*

FELLOWSHIP • OUTREACH • BIBLE STUDY • MISSIONS



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**On the cover**

Outreach and community are important components of the Sabbath School experience that today's church members are seeking. Giving participants an opportunity to inspire those around them with the hope of grace has become an integral component in successful programs. In the photo, Rebekah and Zipporah Gaines, collegians from Arlington's Younger Generation Church [YG] in Arlington, Texas, enjoy serving at North Texas Food Bank.





# Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Service—An Added Dimension of Sabbath School

I have always enjoyed and been blessed by Sabbath School but I have noticed that there has been a decline in Sabbath School attendance over the years. I suppose that there could be a variety of reasons for that. Rather than try to dissect the reasons, I will try another approach.

In my last pastorate in Texas, I was approached by a group of adults wanting to try something different. They enjoyed getting together and fellowshiping each Sabbath but wanted to do something to benefit the community. They had heard of a book by Chris Blake at Union College. It was full of ideas by the author who had tried to re-energize his Sabbath School class through service. We had Blake come to our church and make a presentation. That was about four years ago and the class enthusiastically accepted the challenge to do Sabbath School a little differently. They still met and studied together but with the added dimension of service to

the church and community. Their class was re-energized.

I remember going with them a couple of times to clean out a house that hoarders had almost ruined. We collected two dumpsters full of trash from that one house. The owners were so pleased and thankful for our service to them and their family. The class also has helped with food or cash to families in need. They have helped numerous students with tuition. They have helped several people retrofit their homes to suit their specific physical needs. As you can see, the possibilities are endless.

If your Sabbath School needs something to make it more exciting, try helping others through service. The Sabbath School class is a built-in small group to study, to help, and to grow. God bless you as you seek to revitalize an important ministry in your church.

*Larry Moore*



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY  
the beginning of wisdom

## Stepping Stone to Success

**LM:** Stephanie and Kenny—two young people who have graduated from Southwestern Adventist University and are pursuing fulfilling and passionate lives in Christ. Just imagine what Southwestern can do for you (or your young person)!

**SRW:** I've wanted to be a teacher ever since I can remember. When I was little I would line up my stuffed animals and pass out to them the papers that I had brought home from school that day and "teach" them whatever I had just learned. I started at Southwestern with a major in English, a minor in music, an emphasis in secondary education, and a promise to myself that if I hated it after a year, I would change my major. I absolutely loved it. One of the great things about Southwestern is how all of the professors genuinely want to see you succeed. As a senior, I applied to every English position on the NAD website. One day, Michael England, one of my professors in the education department, told me of a language arts position at South Texas Christian Academy. I got offered the job and my fiancé (now husband), Jonny, and I debated whether we should accept it. After much prayer, I accepted the position at STCA.



Stephanie (Rudisaille) Wilczynski, English, 2014



Kenny Roger Taer, Psychology, 2012

Going to Southwestern helped prepare me for this new beginning. I cling to the promise of Jeremiah 29:11 that reminds me how God has a great plan in store for my life.

**KRT:** Southwestern gave me more than just a degree, they gave me the opportunity to discover my true passions in life. When I went into college in 2008, I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life. With the help of faculty and friends, I found my way

to the psychology department and I have never regretted my choice. The outstanding teachers and the camaraderie of the students helped me accomplish the goals I set out for myself, as well as learn things that I will forever live by. As much as I love psychology, during my studies at Southwestern, I discovered another passion that I cherished even more—graphic design. The university gave me the opportunity to work with the enrollment and marketing departments, giving me practice and work experience. Two years after I graduated, I am living in Canada and continuing my education. Thanks to the job experience I received, I am now enrolled in a year-long graphic design course to further the skills Southwestern has helped me discover.





# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN » SOUTHERN UNION HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

## CREATION Health: Finding Happiness at Church

**How would you answer someone who asked, “Does going to church make you happier and more satisfied with life?”** Well, is there a connection between attending religious services and being happier? Chances are, your pastor thinks so, but is there any *evidence*?

Apparently, yes (and the sound you just heard was the collective sigh of relief coming from ministers throughout North America!). But before I share the research, why do you think people who attend church might be happier and more satisfied with life? What experiences create these outcomes?

On December 7, 2010, *USA Today* ran an interesting story on its Web site. The article stated: “Attending religious services regularly and having close friends in the congregation are key to having

a happier, more satisfying life, a study finds.”<sup>[1]</sup>

It was referencing a study released in the December 2010 issue of the *American Sociological Review*. According to Chaeyoon Lim, an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and lead author of the study, having a circle of friendships within the congregational community and sharing a strong religious identity and sense of belonging are the key. She says, “90 percent of the correlation between church attendance and life satisfaction can be explained if you have these close interactions.”<sup>[2]</sup>

In the book *American Grace: How Religion Divides and Unites Us* by Robert Putnam and David Campbell, 33 percent of people who attend religious services every week and have three to five close friends in their congregation report being “extremely satisfied” with their lives.

The book also shares these findings: 15 percent of weekly church attendees report having no close friends at church, and people who engage in private religious services at home are no

happier than people who never attend corporate religious services.

I was at an event the other day where I heard Des Cummings, Jr., executive vice president of Business Development for Florida Hospital, and author of the book *Original Love*, say, “Love is always plural—never singular. You can hate in the singular but you can’t love in the singular. Love is always plural. On the first six days of creation, God created life, but on the seventh He created love. Love is something that can only exist when it’s shared between two or more people.”

In *The Complete Guide to Your Emotions and Your Health* we read, “It seems something deep inside our cells responds positively when we feel love. Love appears capable of sparking healthy biological reactions in much the same way as good food and fitness.”<sup>[3]</sup>

Dr. Bernie Siegel, Yale physician and author of the bestselling book, *Love, Medicine and Miracles*, affirms the power of love, by stating that “Unconditional love is the most powerful stimulant of the immune system. The truth is: love heals.”<sup>[4]</sup>

We are a family of believers. And one of the sacred blessings we cherish most is our social connection with each other. It is within this dynamic spiritual experience of trust, belonging, and hope that we begin enjoying the abundant life Jesus promised. The result is a powerful witness that God is not only real, but that He is real to us because we are being transformed into His likeness by His unconditional love and indwelling presence.

This reminds us of Christ’s words in John 13:34, 35 (NIV), “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

*That’s CREATION Health!*

Lynell LaMountain, Southern Union health ministries director

<sup>[1]</sup> [http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/mind-soul/spirituality/2010-12-07-happyreligion07\\_ST\\_N.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/yourlife/mind-soul/spirituality/2010-12-07-happyreligion07_ST_N.htm)

<sup>[2]</sup> Ibid.

<sup>[3]</sup> Padus, E. *The Complete Guide to Your Emotions and Your Health: New Dimensions in Mind/Body Healing*. Emmaus, PA: Rodale Press, 1986, 648.

<sup>[4]</sup> Siegel, Bernie. *Love, Medicine and Miracles: Lessons Learned About Self-Healing from a Surgeon’s Experience with Exceptional Patients*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1986, 181.

- C
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RELATIONSHIPS
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## A Taste of Heaven

**AS A THIRD-GENERATION SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**, I grew up attending Sabbath School very frequently. I am originally from Kenya and moved to America 10 years ago to pursue my education. Moving to a different country was very exciting, but also nerve-racking. Several questions ran through my mind. Would I find a church that would embrace me, my culture, and my beliefs? Would I be able to make lifetime friendships there, which would encourage me to have a strong walk with God? Would I find a church that would provide an opportunity to witness to others, both locally and internationally?

I fell on my knees and asked God to lead me where He wanted me. In my prayer, I mentioned that I would be OK with any church He provided, but I would really like one with a strong and active young adult group. One Sabbath morning, a friend invited me to the Richardson, Texas, church. Coincidentally, the youth leader was presenting about the young adult ministry and I was overjoyed to hear about everything they were involved in. After the service was over, I spoke with the young adult leader and his wife, who were both very pleasant and welcoming.

Furthermore, I was quickly drawn into the Sabbath School at Richardson. It had been a long time since I had attended Sabbath School, but several young adults invited me and mentioned that I would enjoy it. Attending the young adult Sabbath School class at Richardson turned out to be the biggest blessing for me. The class started with a summarized overview of the Sabbath School lesson, and a recap of the previous Sabbath's discussion. The visitors were then welcomed and asked to provide their contact information to their respective Sabbath School leaders after the lesson discussion was over. Shortly after, the class was divided into about four groups, which included a college class for younger adults. The members of each group sat in a circle and started off with introductions, testimonies, and prayer requests. The group leader would then lead out the lesson discussion and encourage the members of his or her class to participate. For me, the best part was being around fellow young adults who recognized their imperfections as human beings, yearning for more of God's presence, seeking Him with all their hearts, and participating in bringing others closer to Him.

It was very refreshing for me to have a wonderful experience with fellow believers my age. I learned something new each time I went to Sabbath School. For example, I have read the Bible several times and through the course of time, I have memorized some stories and passages; however, when I became more active in Sabbath



Deborah Mose, a member of the Richardson, Texas, church, is a fourth-generation Adventist, the youngest of five girls. She is passionate about serving the Lord and sharing His love with others.

School at Richardson, I started to see the Bible from a different perspective. My Sabbath School group would mention a different perspective about a story I had known for years, opening my mind to a different way of looking at it. Finally, every first Sabbath of the month, the young adults have a special potluck to eat together, and then attend Cross Chat, which involves the youth leader, and other speakers speaking to the young adults about various issues facing them, our society, the Bible, and more. The young adults at Richardson also participate in church activities, door-to-door ministries, music groups, mission trips, various groups in the church and more. My spiritual life changed for the better after I became active in the young adult group at Richardson church. I have made lifetime friendships and my desire to serve God has grown deeper. I honestly believe it is because God provided an amazing young adult ministry for me at Richardson church.





# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY ELLIE GREEN

## If You Build It, They Will Come!

**T**here's an old adage: If you build it, they will come. Build an effective Sabbath School program and they *will* come. The Holy Spirit will provide growth in direct proportion to the opportunities created for people to hear the Adventist message.

To build an effective Sabbath school ministry that creates *weekly* opportunities for people to hear our distinctive prophetic message, our Sabbath School council developed an action plan for four groups of adult members:

- a. Those already baptized, members for longer than one year
- b. Those who have yet to hear the message
- c. Those newly baptized, members for less than one year
- d. Visitors

### **GROUP A. Those already baptized, members for longer than one year**

We agreed that while this group was a primary focus, most were part of a small group Sabbath School class that met each week for fellowship, prayer, and spiritual refreshment and that this sustained their long-term membership. These members, furthermore, had the benefit of studying weekly lessons prepared by godly scholars. When each teacher's personal Bible study and prayer supplemented these lessons, we were confident that they were a proven source of education and spiritual strength.

### **GROUP B. Those who have yet to hear the message**

We identified this group not only as the primary reason for our existence, but also as the group for whom we were doing the least! Jesus' commission was not "meet and maintain," it was: "Go, teach, make disciples, and baptize" (Mark 16:5; Matthew 28:19)! To rectify this situation, we decided to hold weekly evangelistic meetings in the sanctuary in parallel with the conventional Sabbath School classes meeting in other areas of the church.

We began with the ShareHim evangelistic programs. When that series ended we moved on to other available evangelistic series.

We then placed a camera in the back of the sanctuary to upload the presentations to the Internet. This grew into an Internet ministry with strangers, led by the Holy Spirit to watch online, walking in the door asking to be baptized.

We've seen, firsthand, that the Holy Spirit *does* provide growth in direct proportion to the opportunities we create for people to hear the message.

### **GROUP C. Those newly baptized, members for less than one year**

We unanimously agreed that those who are newly baptized, in lieu of a new member class, should attend the sanctuary evangelistic seminars for at least one complete series before joining a conventional Sabbath School class. This grounds them in the truth!

### **GROUP D. Visitors**

We made a startling discovery in this group! Once we began weekly evangelism, we began to direct all visitors to the evangelistic seminars in the sanctuary—at first to increase the audience—but then we discovered a steady stream of visiting former Adventists along with visitors who had heard about the prophetic series class. Quite a few have been baptized and re-baptized!

When we built it, they came! When we created the opportunity, the Holy Spirit led searching people to us.

In conclusion, we've learned: "The Sabbath school should be

one of the greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ" (*Testimonies on Sabbath-School Work*, p. 20). Build *your* Sabbath School and they will come!



Ellie Green is a retired nurse administrator from Charlotte, North Carolina. She has co-authored three books, served as editor of several journals, and written more than 300 published articles. She helped to develop a structure at her local church (Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church) to enable members to discover and develop their spiritual gifts.



## Recursos de Escuela Sabática Gratuitos

La Escuela Sabática es una parte muy especial para nuestro desarrollo como cristianos, de hecho, ¿Sabías que la primera Escuela Sabática se inició en 1853 en la ciudad de Rochester, New York, escrita por Jaime White, pero las primeras lecciones de Escuela Sabática que se produjeron para niños fue en el año 1863 por Uría Smith? Yo recuerdo que cuando niño mis padres me llevaban a cantar, aprender y adorar con una linda maestra. Después tuve un maestro que me impresiono mucho. Me encantaba oírlo hablar de cuanto él amaba a Jesús. Me inspiraba aún cuando niño seguir a Jesús también. La triste realidad que veo viajando a través de Norte América es que la Escuela Sabática padece de asistencia y de una fuerte programación para todas las edades.

Cómo líder de Escuela Sabática ¿te has desanimado porque no sabes qué hacer para aumentar la asistencia a las clases? ¿Alguna vez has sentido la falta de recursos en español para ayudarte a enriquecer tus conocimientos y habilidades como líder de Escuela Sabática? La buena noticia es que tienes importantes recursos disponibles y accesibles en la red de Internet ¡gratuitos! Tu servidor, Minervino Labrador Jr., Vicepresidente y Director de Ministerios, junto con otros líderes hemos reunido recursos para la capacitación

de miembros, líderes locales, pastores, y todos aquellos que deseen ver crecer su Escuela Sabática. Estos recursos incluyen videos de entrenamiento, que te llevan paso a paso a través del proceso de cómo desarrollar una potente e inspiradora lección. También están incluidas las presentaciones en formato PowerPoint con extensas anotaciones, lo que permitirá que todos puedan llevar a cabo una Escuela Sabática de éxito. La fomentación de técnicas, organización, liderazgo, y la formación de programas inspiradores para instruir y atraer a los miembros de la Escuela Sabática y líderes esta a la mano. Te invitamos a visitar la página electrónica [www.southwesternadventist.org/escuelasabatica](http://www.southwesternadventist.org/escuelasabatica) para que tomes ventaja de estos recursos importantes y valiosos, y asegúrate de compartir la información con otros y ¡con tu iglesia!

**Minervino Labrador Jr.,**  
vicepresidente y director  
de ministerios



Minervino Labrador Jr., presenta en video temas para crear una atmosfera abierta al intercambio de ideas y fortalecer la camaradería en la Escuela Sabática.

# SABBATH SCHOOL: AN INSTRUMENT IN GOD'S HANDS

**Minner Labrador, Jr., Southwestern Union  
vice president for ministries**

**T**he Sabbath School Department of the General Conference emphasizes four areas of focus for each adult Sabbath School: fellowship, community outreach, Bible study, and missions. I believe it is important to add a fifth focus: discipleship! (See the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Web site: [www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/sabbathschool](http://www.sabbathschoolpersonalministries.org/sabbathschool).)

Since James White began the first Sabbath School in Rochester, New York, in 1853, the emphasis on these areas of focus has caused adult Sabbath Schools to grow from an initial handful of students in New York to approximately 18 million worldwide in 75,000 churches and 68,000 companies ([www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org))! While this statistic is impressive, I nevertheless believe that we might quadruple Sabbath School membership if we *intentionally* implement programs that set *fellowship, community outreach, Bible study, missions, and discipleship* as goals to be achieved *each Sabbath!* I believe this because I have witnessed the rapid growth of Sabbath Schools that *intentionally* implement these five facets of Sabbath School.

Great Sabbath Schools understand that they serve established members, new members, those who have yet to hear the gospel and visitors—who may be somewhere in between—as well as disciple new believers. Their Sabbath School councils enthusiastically engage in prayer, planning, and development of a mission state-

ment and goals to be achieved. They then systematically proceed to organize their Sabbath School to carry out these goals.

## Fellowship

Under our current worldwide Sabbath School structure, the hour devoted to adult Sabbath School is usually in a small group/class format with an assigned teacher. These small groups offer a unique, and often overlooked, opportunity for close fellowship and lasting friendships. God created us to be social and to live with others. We therefore need the support of others, especially in our walk with God. The Sabbath School hour each week provides an environment where we can seek the companionship of those who are of like mind.

Through weekly association, friendships are forged and, if a secretary or recorder is appointed for the class, accountability naturally occurs because absent members are promptly called or visited. Without this small group accountability, it is possible for members to be absent for several weeks before anyone notices and initiates an inquiry.

## Community Outreach

One of the best ways to carry out this facet of Sabbath School





is to appoint, in addition to a secretary/recorder, an event coordinator. The role of the Sabbath School class event coordinator is to plan monthly activities to which members may invite their friends and neighbors—some refer to this as “*friendship evangelism*.” These might include picnics, game nights, outings to interesting places, and so forth.

The event coordinator also is responsible for planning and scheduling community service projects with the goal of making as many friends as possible outside of the Adventist Church. Great resources for small project ideas can be easily obtained through your city or county’s social services agencies.

## Bible Study

Bible study isn’t as easy as it sounds! With all the options available today, it is tempting to fill the allotted Sabbath School hour with opinion-based discussions rather than with genuine “digging into the Word.”

One way to keep the Sabbath School class focused on the Word of God is to use the Adult Bible Study Guides (Sabbath School lesson quarterly) prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School Department, as the basis for Bible study. Throughout the years my wife and I have found these scholarly lessons to be a springboard for thought, discussion, and deeper study. We then look forward to sharing and hearing the thoughts of others during Sabbath School.

An effective teacher brings out the highlights of the week’s study and offers each class member an opportunity for interaction by sharing their personal discoveries of the week’s lesson points. The “Quarterly” is a proven resource for the worldwide Adventist Church and I highly recommend it as a basis for Sabbath School class Bible study.

## Missions

World mission emphasis has always been an area of focus for Adventist Sabbath Schools. The mission offerings and the thirteenth Sabbath offerings have contributed to making our church a worldwide humanitarian and gospel-oriented movement.

While our offerings are still needed to build churches and schools around the world, technology has altered the way in which the gospel is disseminated to the world. Where it once took months for a missionary to reach a foreign land and work single-

handedly to convert a few people, technology has made it possible for every Sabbath School to have a camera mounted in the sanctuary and Internet services to not only circle the world with the gospel each Sabbath morning, but also to reach their immediate communities.

Once upon a time, community members may have wondered what occurred inside an Adventist church. Now, for the first time in history, we can invite our friends and neighbors to join us “live” without ever leaving their home. Because the Internet can go beyond the walls of all our churches, the possibilities for reaching our community for Christ are endless.

## Discipleship

“Go and make disciples” was not a *suggestion* of Jesus, it was a command (see Matthew 28:20). Our small group Sabbath School classes provide an awesome opportunity for each of us to become instruments of His grace by making disciples through mentoring new and younger members.

In discipling people, we come alongside them to demonstrate, by our actions, a commitment and excitement for the Sabbath School’s areas of focus: *fellowship, community outreach, Bible study, missions, and discipleship*.

Since people learn best by observation, our Sabbath Schools need mentors to lovingly model how new believers may participate in reaching the class goals for each area of focus. This prevents them from floundering in misconceptions or feeling they have been abandoned in an unfamiliar environment. It also allows them to witness how Christ works in the lives of the members of God’s family. Sabbath School classes offer an effective way to become acquainted, develop friendships, and naturally enter the discipleship command of Jesus.

## Let’s Transform the World Through Sabbath School

The possibilities for reaching the world for Jesus Christ through the Sabbath School’s five areas of focus will be in direct proportion to our willingness to be used by God. It is my prayer that our Sabbath Schools become an instrument in God’s hands to vitally and mightily transform the world around us for His honor and glory.



# SABBATH SCHOOL IS SMALL GROUP EVANGELISM

**Buford Griffith, Southwestern Union executive secretary**

*When we hear the word “evangelism” our thoughts go immediately to the public campaigns conducted in the church or some public arena; but the concept of evangelism is actually much broader. Evangelism is winning people to Christ through the proclamation of the gospel. Is it possible to do that in an arena other than the public forum? Absolutely! We can proclaim the gospel in our daily walk and interaction with other people through casual conversation or in a formal sit-down fashion. The methods of gospel proclamation are many and varied. But have you ever thought of the Sabbath School as an effective method of evangelism? It is, and can be one of the most effective means to proclaim the gospel.*

One could ask, “Isn’t Sabbath School designed for church members to gather and discuss various biblical themes that are outlined in our weekly Sabbath School quarterlies?” This is a question posed by many without understanding the purpose and impact that Sabbath School should have on members of the church individually and the church corporately. In a statement recorded in the December 29, 1896 issue of the *Review and Herald*, Ellen White writes, “Many know so little about their Bibles that they are unsettled in the faith. They remove the old landmarks, and fallacies and winds

of doctrine blow them hither and thither...and those who were once in the faith drift away from the Bible landmarks, and divorce themselves from God, while claiming to be His children.” This statement, although written in 1896, rings true today. The church, through the Sabbath School, offers members and guests to the church an opportunity to study the Word of God in an in-depth manner not afforded at any other time during the Sabbath-morning church service. This time of Bible study becomes a crucial and indispensable period in the worship experience of the believer be-



*This Is Sabbath School*



cause it allows meaningful dialogue as the Word of God is studied.

Ellen White states, “The influence growing out of Sabbath School work should improve and enlarge the church” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 9). The implication here is that Sabbath School must be ministry-driven, i.e., it must contain the elements of Bible study, fellowship, community outreach, and mission. Can the Sabbath School be used as a growth tool for the church? I believe that it can. Let me suggest several reasons why:

### **Sabbath School provides a centralized and simplified strategy.**

- It can be utilized to set goals for outreach and membership retention in a small-group setting.

### **Sabbath School is familiar.**

- In a rapidly changing culture it is comforting to know that some things are stable. It is easier to get people involved, both as participants and workers, in an organization with which they are somewhat familiar.

### **Sabbath School is a solid foundation for innovation.**

- Innovation is always built on the foundation of fundamental principles. Sabbath School serves as the foundation of the church.

### **Sabbath School provides the small-group experience every Christian needs.**

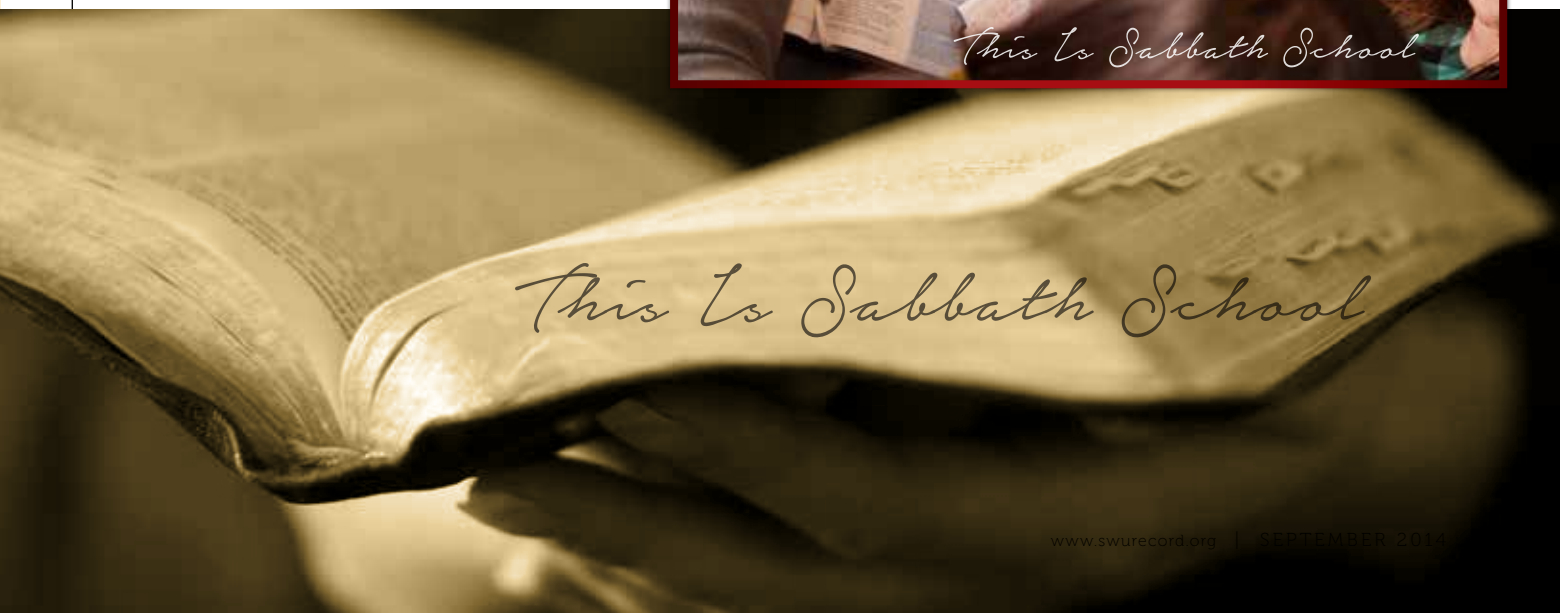
- Everyone who comes to your church asks two questions: Am I wanted? Am I needed? Involvement in a small group says, “You are wanted, you belong.” Opportunities for service that are made available through the small-group structure of the Sabbath School say, “You are needed.”

### **Sabbath School gets people involved in service.**

- People who become involved in the church’s ministry will progress more quickly in their spiritual walk and will have a deeper commitment to the work of the church.

### **Sabbath School is a natural companion to an exciting worship service.**

Evangelism is both in-reach and outreach. Every member of the church is to be an active witness for Jesus Christ. This can be ac-



completed through the organization of the Sabbath School. One way to structure the Sabbath School is to turn each class into what is known as a Sabbath School Action Unit. To establish Action Units in your Sabbath School, here are some steps you need to take:

**1** Assign every member on the church membership roll to a Sabbath School class. This task should be accomplished by the Sabbath School Council. This assignment is not dependent upon a church member's attendance at Sabbath School. Every member is important and we must seek to "make every church member a Sabbath School member." If they are non-attenders at Sabbath School, every effort must be put forth to "reclaim" them. Each Sabbath School class member who attends regularly is to make personal contact with the "missing" Sabbath School class member via a telephone call (brief), letting them know they are a part of your class and are missed. Missing members can also be reached by sending a "We missed you at Sabbath School" card. This effort to "reclaim" is to take place weekly. This is evangelistic "in-reach."

**2** Create additional classes, with the purpose of keeping each Sabbath School class small, 8-12 members preferably. Or, utilize the present structure in your Sabbath School and add members to it.

**3** Have each class set goals for evangelism.

**4** Have each class set goals for mission giving and Investment involvement.

**5** One of the keys to a successful Sabbath School Action Unit is to have someone who is as-

signed the role of care coordinator in each class. The role of the care coordinator is to:

- Remind the class of their plans and goals.
- Call for witnessing experiences related to the class goals.
- Lead in outreach promotion.
- Coordinate class fellowship.

Does an effort like this work? Are there any examples of churches utilizing the Sabbath School as an effective evangelistic tool in this way?

The Richardson Seventh-day Adventist Church in Richardson,



*This Is Sabbath School*



Texas, is a prime example of a congregation utilizing the Sabbath School as an effective soul-winning tool. Dan Serns, pastor of the Richardson church, states that they have 24 Sabbath School options for the members in various language groups. Each group has set and is meeting goals for soul winning. Classes are coordinated and organized for both in-reach and outreach. The class size ranges from 7-40 members. However, Serns recognizes that to be effective in soul-winning, the class size needs to be in the range of 7-12. The results? The Richardson Sabbath School has run out of space. When you visit the Richardson church for Sabbath School, come early. As the Sabbath School goes, so goes the divine worship period. The Richardson

church is a vibrant, filled-to-capacity fellowship of believers who are growing through the Sabbath School.

“Entire consecration of soul must be maintained as much by the teachers and superintendents of our Sabbath Schools as by the ministers in our pulpits, for all alike are engaged in the work of bringing souls to Christ, in the spirit of love, for the erring and impenitent. This is what Christ would see in the Sabbath School work” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 157).



*This Is Sabbath School*



*This Is Sabbath School*

*This Is Sabbath School*

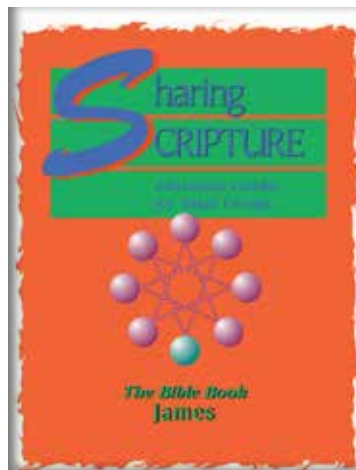


# HELPFUL TOOLS FOR SABBATH SCHOOL

*Featured here is a sampling of resources to enrich your Sabbath School, making it a dynamic center for nurturing, fellowship, Bible Study, and outreach. You can find and order these materials online at [adventistbookcenter.com](http://adventistbookcenter.com) and/or [adventsource.org](http://adventsource.org) or from the Adventist Book Center in Keene, Texas, which can be reached at 817.202.8621.*

## Sharing Scripture

Prepared for Sabbath School classes that utilize the small group concept and follow a more relational approach to the study and application of the Scriptures. The Sharing Scripture guides are reproducible and can be used alone or as a supplement to the standard Adult lessons.



## The Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide

The Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide (Quarterly) links the entire world church together in a global classroom. Written by a variety of authors, the adult study guide encourages personal time with God and His Word. Memory texts and key thoughts from the authors provide an opportunity for spiritual growth.

## Sabbath School Program Planner

This series of five books written by Dorothy Eaton Watts contain ideas for creative Sabbath School programs that engage participants through a variety of formats, including panels, mini-seminars, quiz programs, skits, travelogues, demonstrations, interviews, and more.

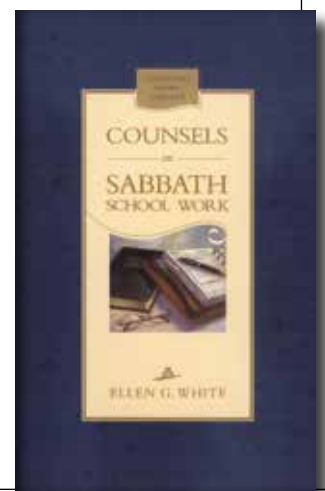
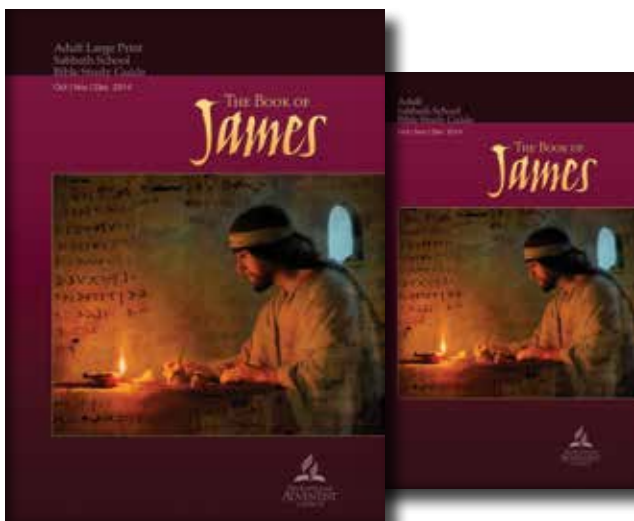
## Sabbath School Toolbox

Each issue features articles on the four purposes of Sabbath School (World Mission Emphasis, Fellowship, Community Outreach, and Study of the Word). Departments tied directly to each quarter's lesson content are Study Guide Highlights, Hot-button Issues, and Focus on Fundamental Beliefs. Other regular departments include Sabbath School Ideas, Teacher Improvement, Teacher Enhancement, Q and A, Ellen G. White on Sabbath School, and Snapshots of SDA History.

*Sabbath School Toolbox* is a must-have for leaders who want to challenge and encourage their Sabbath School class members to fulfill the complete mission objectives of Sabbath School.

## Counsels on Sabbath School Work

**Just one hour.** That's all the time a Sabbath School leader has to make a lasting impression on minds exposed to many hours of secular indoctrination by the media each week. To help

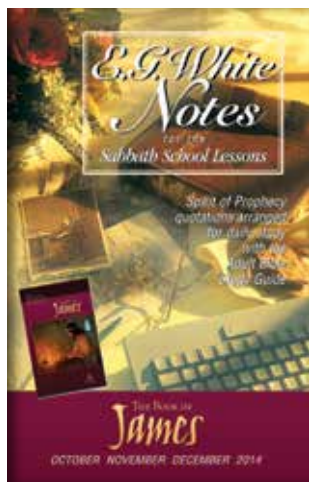




make the most of that hour is the purpose of this book.

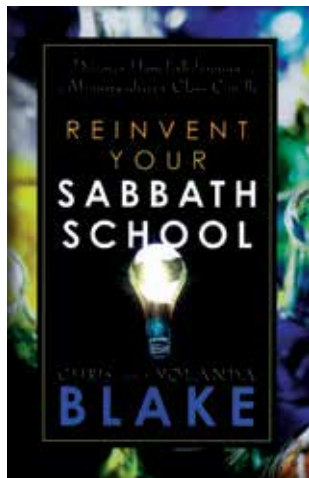
The author provides inspired instruction on the qualifications of a teacher, appropriate attitudes, methods of teaching, discipline, gaining respect, encouraging generosity, meeting controversy, and many other practical topics.

Rather than merely conveying information, the Spirit-controlled teacher may impart a spark of holy fire, making the Bible come alive so that its principles are reproduced in the life. This book explains how to achieve that result and make the Sabbath School a soul-winning agency.



## EG White Notes

One of the best Sabbath School lesson supplements you can have. Spirit of Prophecy comments about the lesson are arranged for daily study with the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide.

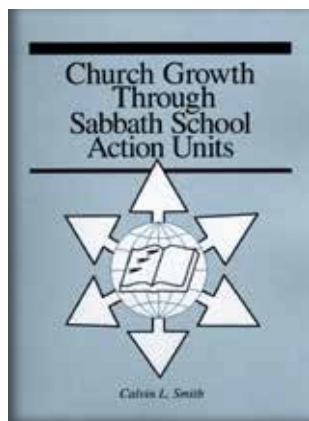


## Reinvent Your Sabbath School

by Chris Blake

What if prayer time became so exciting it usually took 25 minutes? What if people really cared for one another? What if members wrote cards—right then and there—to people they were praying for?

Chris and Yolanda Blake show—not just tell—how to start a ministry-driven Sabbath School class with real-time blow-by-blow sound bites from their functioning class. They discuss dozens of practical ideas, list the pitfalls to avoid, and offer guides to the available denominational resources.



## Church Growth Through Sabbath School Action Units

by Calvin Smith

Would you like your Sabbath School to be aglow with

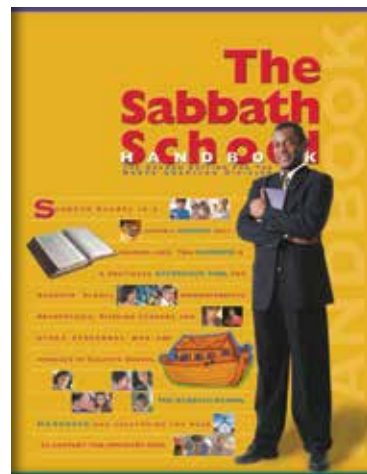
Christ's love and be a dynamic center of spiritual nurture and outreach? Would you like your Sabbath School members to be genuinely caring for and supporting one another while reaching out systematically with loving concern for inactive and former members? Would you like to see them receiving weekly soul-winning training? Would you like to see them more involved in the world mission of the church? What if every member in your class was involved in daily lesson study and daily devotions?

If this sounds like the Sabbath School class you would like to attend, you need the Sabbath School action unit plan. This syllabus is intended to equip pastors and local church leaders to challenge and inspire their Sabbath School members for action!

This comprehensive manual contains complete instructions on how to set up, implement, and maintain action units in your church. Includes guidelines, presentations, samples, worksheets, tips on visitation and sharing, and ways to encourage discussion.

## The Sabbath School Handbook

The Sabbath School is the most important group in the life of every Adventist congregation. Children's Sabbath School provides a complete religious educational experience that is age appropriate and focused on leading each child into a relationship with Jesus. Adults study the Bible, find encouragement to live out Bible principles in their jobs and families, get acquainted with others in the church, develop a sense of belonging, and care for one another in Christ's name.



How can your church develop Sabbath School into a highly personal, interactive experience?

*The Sabbath School Handbook* outlines and explains the structures that support this important ministry. How was Sabbath School introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church? What are the mission and vision of the Sabbath School? How should local church Sabbath Schools be organized and operate? What are the ministry responsibilities of Sabbath School personnel? How should children's Sabbath School be administered?

This handbook was prepared by the General Conference Sabbath School Department and edited by the Adult Ministries and Children's Ministries departments for application in North America. This is considered a "must-have" reference tool for Sabbath School superintendents, secretaries, division leaders, and other personnel involved in Sabbath School. *The Sabbath School Handbook* has everything you need to support this important work.



## Sabbath School: The Engine of the Church

School. The Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary gives this definition: (1) An organization that provides instruction . . . (2) the process of teaching or learning . . . (3) a source of knowledge . . . (4) a group of persons who hold a common doctrine."

There are all kinds of schools today. There is the elementary school, the high school, medical school, the school of engineering, trade school, and, along with a host of other institutions or organizations that could be named is the Sabbath School! All provide instruction and usually focus on a specific curriculum, be it general or specialized instruction.

Sadly, Sabbath School today in too many places is thought of as simply a block of time that comes before the worship service. It is viewed as a time where a "teacher" reads from the Sabbath School Quarterly

to the class. A monologue with very little discussion constitutes the class so that consequently there is very little instruction or challenging ideas to better understand the concepts contained in the lesson.

What is the purpose of the Sabbath School? As a "school," it should fit into the definitions above. In the early days of our church, we borrowed the model from the Sunday School and sought to instruct our children as well as the adults the principles of God's Word. However, it was also seen as a primary time where the members of the church would be trained in how to be effective witnesses to neighbors, work associates, and non-believing family. It was a training ground for soul winning and evangelism. It was the engine of the church that inspired, motivated, and trained members to share their faith. Sabbath School provided a relaxed setting in which members

could share testimonies of God's blessing and providence over them in the past week, focus on a specific Bible theme, and review together what they would be doing over the coming week in outreach and sharing of their faith.

There are parts of the world church today where there are more Sabbath School members than church members. Members are inviting their friends to join them in their Sabbath School for uplifting fellowship, a unique experience of powerful Bible study, and then to join them in sharing the enthusiasm of what they learned with others and in turn invite them to join their Sabbath School. It's all about mission, and Sabbath School can once again be that driving force to help grow our church.

**Stephen Orian**, president

## Ten Baptized Following Week of Prayer

**GENTRY, ARK.** » April 26, 2014 was a high Sabbath at the Gentry church as the congregation witnessed the baptism of ten academy students. This celebrated event took place at the end of an inspiring Week of Prayer by Eugene Hamilton, pastor of the Shilo church in Charleston, South Carolina. Hamilton's theme was "Fight of Your Life." Each morning and evening he featured different Bible characters that fought for what they believed. He challenged the students to get deeper into Bible study and prayer in order to develop a close relationship with Jesus Christ. Hamilton, an alumnus of Ozark Adventist Academy, enjoyed a special connection with the students, speaking in their modern vernacular and making the Bible stories come alive with personal experiences and interesting facts.

The Sabbath was closed that evening with a dramatic portrayal of the book of Revelation designed for teens. "The Revealing," a multi-media event, was presented by OAA's drama team. It featured a teenager's life journey that

paralleled the seven churches of Revelation and climaxed with the main character realizing that Christ had sent her a personal text message in His Word, which was not only relevant, but also imperative for her salvation. At the end of the play the audience was invited to renew their commitment to spend time every day in Bible study and prayer.

We are praising the Lord for pouring out

His Spirit on this special Sabbath at Ozark Adventist Academy and the Gentry church.

**Melissa Hansen**

**Left:** Eugene Hamilton, Week of Prayer speaker.

▼ The OAA choir, with OAA music director Rob Knipple, sang for the baptism service.

**Bottom right:** The ten OAA students who were baptized.



Paul Bonney



Paul Bonney



Paul Bonney



# A Passion for Community Outreach

**MENA, ARK. »** After completing seven cookbooks, multiple cooking classes, and televised cooking shows, Kyong Weathersby is still on fire to reach her goal of helping people overcome suffering due to sickness and poor diet, and also introducing them to Jesus Christ.

On Sunday, March 30, Weathersby, with several church members assisting, led a cooking class for more than 40 community members. The amount of preparation needed for a cooking class is astounding! Not only are there tables and chairs to set up, all the recipes must be printed, all the ingredients must be pre-measured, pre-washed, prepared, and neatly arranged on individual trays for quick access and

sen so as to complement each other. The banana cake demonstration could not come soon enough!

You might think the taste-testing would be the highlight of the day's cooking class. It was a highlight, to be sure, but the best part was the testimonials by community members who have been to previous cooking classes and who have decided to

the Mena Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each Tuesday, nearly 200 individuals are served a free, nutritious, homemade meal and offered free food items from the newly-opened food pantry. Community members and businesses donate items for both the soup kitchen and the food pantry, but ultimately, it is God who impresses the hearts of people around the country to contribute financial resources, providing for the needs of these ministries.

For information on how your congregation can be blessed by a cooking class by the Taste of Heaven health ministries team, or to make a donation for these projects, contact Weathersby at [kyongweathersby@yahoo.com](mailto:kyongweathersby@yahoo.com).

**Christine Gillian Byrne, Ed.D.**



**Top:** Class is in session!

▲ Kyong Weathersby teaching a plant-based cooking class at the Mena church.

easy use. Weathersby takes presentation seriously—not only is the food attractively presented—the entire cooking demonstration is intentionally attractive.

The plant-based cooking class began with Florin Liga, pastor, providing a brief explanation for the necessity for healthy eating. Throughout the class Weathersby explained not only the recipe and cooking process, but she purposefully explained the nutritional value of each ingredient and their benefits to overall health. With recipes that included cabbage stew, egg-like drop soup, and garden pasta soup, the participants were engaged, asking questions, and, yes, getting hungry! Various aromas wafted around the room, all carefully cho-

adopt a plant-based diet based on their personal health needs. Marci and Bob Hall gave an especially exciting testimonial about effortless weight loss and improved health as a result of their dietary changes.

A little over a year ago, Weathersby was the visionary, motivating a group of people and forming the team working passionately to operate the weekly soup kitchen now offered by

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# CHIP Program for Fort Smith Church

**FORT SMITH, ARK. »** There are some visibly thinner faces at the Fort Smith church. After 30 days, members of the first group to participate in CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) in Fort Smith has lost an average of 8.3 pounds. CHIP is proving to be all it claims to be for the six participants and two volunteers who are taking part in the program.

CHIP facilitator Nancy Brennan says of the program, "What a blessing to see people improve their health using simple, God-given principles in lifestyle. When the human body is given what the Designer and Creator intends for its use, amazing things happen."

CHIP teaches participants to use a plant-based, food-as-grown approach to nutrition. That, along with daily exercise, proves to be just what the Great Physician ordered to normalize the major contributors to lifestyle diseases so prevalent in today's society. High cholesterol is one of the major contributors to lifestyle diseases. The Fort Smith group lowered their cholesterol by 13 percent in just 30 days—a very impressive improvement. The group also improved its overall blood glucose with an average

decrease of 11 percent.

The Fort Smith "CHIPpers" met three times a week during the month of March. At the meetings they learned the principles of the CHIP lifestyle through video presentations, textbook study, and group discussion. Meals prepared for them using CHIP-friendly recipes were shared at most meetings. These delicious meals helped introduce the group to the wonderful variety available to one who chooses to follow a plant-based diet.

After the initial 12 meetings, everyone came away with the knowledge they need to continue to improve their health. One of the best discoveries made is that you don't have to go hungry to lose weight and improve your health. Eat as much as you like, as long as the food fits the CHIP guidelines, and your

weight and those vital numbers in your blood tests will naturally normalize.

For the next two months, the group met twice monthly for support sessions and to share potluck meals. The plan thereafter is to meet at least monthly to share meals, exchange recipes, and continue to nurture the friendships we have formed.

The Fort Smith church views CHIP as an excellent evangelism tool and a wonderful way to bring church members together as a team to make it all happen. Their plan is to continue offering the opportunity for more church members and the public to participate in CHIP programs in the future. For more information on how your church can begin to offer this outreach that is so needed today, go to [www.CHIPhealth.com](http://www.CHIPhealth.com).



**Nancy Brennan, CHIP facilitator**

- ▲ Everyone looks forward to the food demonstrations.
- ◀ CHIP members meet for classes.

# Forrest City/West Helena Pathfinders

**FORREST CITY, ARK. »** The "Messengers," the newly formed Pathfinder club for the Forrest City/West Helena district held their first fundraiser on July 20 in Forrest City, Arkansas.

Along with selling baked goods, the three-member club and staff handed out *Steps to*

*Christ*. Attached to the books were invitations for the upcoming evangelistic meetings to begin in September for Forrest City.

According to director James Kenyon, "The sale was a bigger success than expected. We are very thankful to everyone for the donated baked goods and very proud of the

Pathfinders for their involvement." Enough money was raised to supply new shirts to the Pathfinders, plus putting aside funds for the camporee in Oshkosh.

A car wash is planned for West Helena in August. They will be handing out *Steps to Christ* books with advertisements for a free Bible study course.

Meetings are planned for October in West Helena with one of our Pathfinders, 14 year old Shelly Jarrett, presenting the messages.

**Betty Hoag**

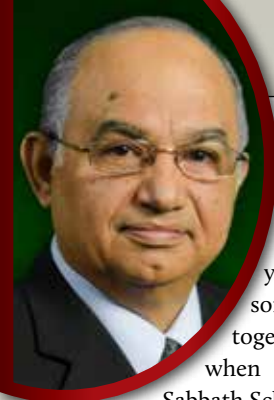
**Far left:** Pathfinders advertising the bake sale.

◀ The Messengers Pathfinder Club's first bake sale.





# Total Participation



It has been said that you really do not know someone until you eat together. So every Sabbath when we come together for Sabbath School, let us consider that we are participating in a spiritual meal together as we study God's Word and eat of the Bread of Life. As good hosts, we want to make sure our guests feel comfortable, and we wish to create a welcoming environment. We are there to encourage and support one another and to insure that our time together is well spent and beneficial to all who participate. Thus, we aim for "total participation." Is it possible that we need to upgrade our traditional ways of doing Sabbath School? Do we need to implement a friendlier or more accommodating method to our Sabbath School

classes? Do our Sabbath School classes need to be smaller, so class members can become acquainted and comfortable with one another?

To acquire "total participation" we could be more productive outside of the four walls of the church. We could visit missing members or have prayer groups who pray for special needs. We could organize small groups who could meet at members' homes during the week for additional Bible study. At these gatherings we could invite our neighbors to join us, thus acquiring new interests. We could assist lonely and shy members, who normally get lost in the crowd, to feel comfortable speaking up. Ideally, we are creating a family within the church family. Just imagine having multiple Sabbath School classes that are meeting unique and special needs within

the church due to their close connections and organization!

These smaller Sabbath School classes or "smaller church family units" can celebrate birthdays, anniversaries, births together, or mourn and assist in the event of death, losses of jobs, divorce, etc. All these events could happen in each person's life, but when you have people to share your joy, sorrow, burdens, stress, or whatever comes, it is so much easier to deal with.

The Sabbath School classes can be volunteer units for other church activities. Everyone working together—just like bricks in a wall. One brick by itself is challenged by the forces of nature, but many bricks stacked together can be a wall of protection. Let's aim for total participation—multiple groups, personally involved and working together for the growth of the church and for service to the community. Let us re-evaluate how we can utilize Sabbath School to be a vital part of our local church's ministry to the community and to the church at large.

**Ciro Castillo**, Spanish coordinator



This past May, the Broken Arrow church celebrated its 35th anniversary, as well as Mother's Day.

## Broken Arrow Celebrates 35 Years

**BROKEN ARROW** » This past May, the Broken Arrow church celebrated its 35th anniversary, as well as Mother's Day. The church history was read and charter members were honored. Our youth then honored the mothers with songs and words of appreciation. Horticulturist Sonny Harmon presented each woman with a living plant. Each member had been asked to bring a single faux flower and place it in a vase at the front of the church to show the beauty of diversity in unity. We were amazed as we watched the single flowers grow into a lovely bouquet. It was a great object lesson as we realized that diversity in our church has made us even stronger and better equipped to serve our community

**Judy Marquette**

# Alva Church Investiture, Baby Dedication, and Baptism

**ALVA** » The Alva church has been very busy this year. The church body has been very productive with adding the final touches to the new church, and the Pathfinders and Adventurers have remained busy as they participate in their activities.

The Adventures have participated in activities in order to complete many of their awards. They have enjoyed field trips to the cosmosphere, the IMAX, and the planetarium. They painted birdhouses and used play dough to create animals and nature. They also created nature board books with pages for an animal collage, drawings of animals, their favorite pets, and drawings of their own houses. They also added drawings of birds and glued birdseed to them. The Adventurers have also taken a trip to the nursing home, as well as to the fire department. The firefighters showed the Adventurers the fire trucks, their uniforms, and talked to them about what to do in case of a fire. They also taught the adventurers how to stop, drop, and roll. The Pathfinders held a fundraiser with a spaghetti dinner and a show to help raise money for their uniforms. There was a great turn out in participation and the Pathfinders raised enough money for their uniforms and demonstrated a great performance for the audience.

The Pathfinders participated in Pathfinder Sabbath on April 19 beginning with marching in to music as the church service began. They each helped collect offering and then each sang a solo for special music with Scott Cox playing guitar. Ellie McCollough

sang "Jesus Take The Wheel," Hannah McCollough sang "Lord I Lift Your Name On High," and Jacob Cox sang "You Love Me Anyway." After such a performance, Jacob Cox then followed with a sermon entitled "Seeing God." The Pathfinders ended the church service marching out to "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" with Rose Simpson playing the piano.

On June 7 we had a special church service covering the Adventurer Investiture, Master Guide Investiture, a baby dedication, and a baptism. The Adventurer Investiture was presented by Chantae Simpson to the Adventurers with help from Lucy Dykes and Esther Nusser. The Master

Guide Investiture was then presented by Lisa East and William Kornegay, pastor, to Gabrielle Simpson and Esther Nusser. Following these presentations was R.L. and Gabrielle Simpson's baby dedication with their son Christopher Daniel Simpson. After church a baptism was held, officially welcoming John Hill into our church.

The church family has also been hard at work adding the finishing touches to the new church. Early in the year we were able to furnish our sanctuary with new pews, furniture, piano, and sound equipment. And with the blessing of beautiful weather on Easter morning our church family gathered together, with the help of some

community volunteers as well, to clean and prepare the yard for planting grass. Projects that were completed included placing the car bumpers on the parking lot, leveling the ground, digging around tree stumps to prepare them to be ground down, cleaning the windows, and trimming the weeds. The church has also invested in a lawn mower and has seeded the yard for grass.

We have future projects that we are looking forward to accomplishing, including painting the parking lot lines and purchasing storage for yard tools.

**Ariel Simpson**



Among the many activities keeping members of the Alva church busy is their involvement in Pathfinders, Adventurers, and Master Guides. They recently held Investiture for all three clubs.



# Eating Better to Serve God Better

**CHOCTAW** » Sometimes things that many consider unrelated to our spiritual lives can be very important to our relationship with Jesus. Mary Bernt held evening cook-

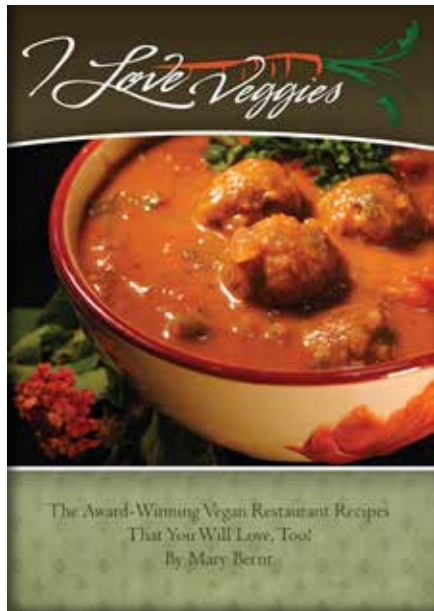
ing seminars at the Choctaw church from June 1-4, and helped us see the importance of diet in our walk with Christ. Bernt has a great deal of experience in preparing healthy, satisfying food—she owned a restaurant in Rapid City, South Dakota, and now owns and operates a vegan café and health food store called Veggies in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Church members invited friends to attend the seminar with them, and we had about 26 people in attendance on most nights. Several church members also worked hard to help prepare and serve the meals. We enjoyed a full plant-based meal each evening prepared from recipes in Bernt's cookbook, *I Love Veggies*. She explained how to prepare each item on the menu, and told us about the healing

properties in the various ingredients. She recounted stories of people who had eaten at Veggies regularly and adopted a more healthy diet at home, and who had lost weight, lowered blood pressure and cholesterol levels, and eliminated many health issues in their lives. Bernt cited many facts and statistics that support the lifestyle she advocates. She also told about her early life and how it was transformed when she met Jesus and began to learn the health principles she now teaches to others.

Church members and visitors alike appreciated the way Mary showed how healthy eating and following the other rules of health could enhance our relationship with our Savior. She told us on the last evening of the seminar that if we took nothing else home with us, she hoped we would be inspired to open our Bibles and develop a love affair with Jesus.

Robin Sagel



Choctaw church members and visitors attended cooking seminars presented by Mary Bernt, author of *I Love Veggies*. Attendees got to enjoy recipes from Bernt's cookbook every night.

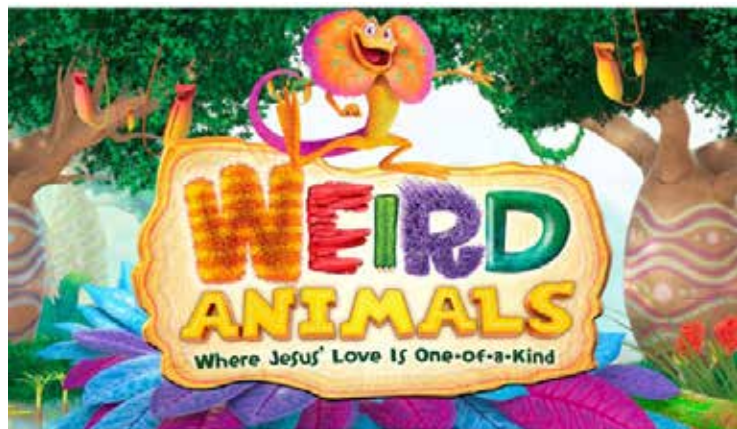
# Choctaw Hosts Weird Animals VBS Program

**CHOCTAW** » Eighteen energetic boys and girls attended the Choctaw church's "Weird Animals" Vacation Bible School program the week of June 16-20. Each day the children participated in a variety of activities, all designed to emphasize that Jesus loves us—even when we're left out, even though we're different, even when we don't understand, even though we do wrong, and even when we're afraid.

After attending the opening segment, called Sing and Play Stampede, the children enjoyed experiencing the Bible stories in One-of-a-Kind Bible Adventures, doing experiments in Imagination Station, eating at Critter Café, playing "Untamed Games," and watching and discussing a video about a child's real-life problems in "KidVid Cinema." The children also received a Bible Buddy each day, which had a picture of the

day's "weird" animal, with the day's memory verse on the back. As an added feature, an app could be downloaded that would make the Bible Buddy "come alive." After all that excitement, the children again met together for "The Tail End," before going home to wait for the next day's fun.

Every year our whole church looks forward to summer, when many of us are involved in the Vacation Bible School program. Many people work together to make VBS a success each year, including



our young people who have become a little too old to attend as students but still want to participate by helping out at the various stations. Our team is like a well-oiled machine, and even when things go slightly wrong, as they sometimes do—Jesus loves us!

Robin Sagel

## What If There Was No Sabbath School?



I often sit and ask myself “What if” questions. What if your church announced at its business meeting: “Starting next week there will be no more adult Sabbath School classes due to non participation”? Would there be any fall-out or uproar? How would the community respond, or would it have any effect on them at all?

One pastor said he would lose baptisms, because his new believers class is responsible for at least five baptisms every year.

What would your church lose if members stopped attending or voted to no longer have Sabbath School? What a sober-

ing thought!

On the other hand, what if you can imagine a Sabbath School program that was very well organized with short preliminaries, exciting facilitators, and stimulating participation? What a class!

Is it possible to have a class like this or does this happen only in large churches?

Every day a vision is birthed in some Sabbath School superintendent’s or council’s mind to inspire and lead God’s people in teaching and serving the members of Sabbath School.

I cannot even begin to imagine a church without Sabbath School, because of what

it means and brings to the church—fellowship, teachings, knowledge, spiritual growth, and discipleship, to name a few.

Let’s be thankful for the members who attend faithfully and focus on how to encourage and recruit others to attend Sabbath School. In addition, let us not forget, Sabbath School should be one of the “greatest instrumentalities, and the most effectual, in bringing souls to Christ” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 10).

No church should be without a Sabbath School class—none!

**Charles Sanders**, Sabbath School director

## Grace Tour Comes to Agape Fellowship

**LANCASTER, TEXAS** » Profound author and speaker Jeremy Anderson and his Grace Tour ministry team visited Agape Fellowship church in Lancaster on the Sabbath, July 12th, for the morning service and also held a youth rally at the Lancaster Elementary School in the evening.

Agape Fellowship invited Anderson to bring The Grace Tour to Lancaster, as they hosted this event for the first time in the

Dallas area. The goal and vision was to bring out local community youth to receive an encouraging word about staying on the right path and knowing that they are not alone on this journey.

Anderson and his team shared their personal testimonies and stories to demonstrate to these young people that anyone can turn their lives around at any time. The message that God’s grace can rewrite any-

one’s story, resonated throughout the presentation.

After hearing and relating to Jeremy and his team, many youth came forward for prayer to make that u-turn and begin “Next Level Living.”

When asked about the results of the event, Tyrone Boyd, pastor, said, “The Grace Tour was a demonstration

that there is no limit to the good a person might accomplish when they make the Word of God the guide and rule of their life!”

**Tyrone Boyd**



▲ Jeremy Anderson’s ministry team, The Grace Tour, encouraged youth at the Agape church to make God’s Word their guide in life.

◀ Jeremy Anderson, author and presenter, with Tyrone Boyd, pastor.



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE



# Southwest Region Celebrates the Ordination of Pastors

**ATHENS, TEXAS** » The Southwest Region Conference ended its 2014 campmeeting festivities with its annual pastoral ordination on June 21, 2014. Those ordained included: Kenn Dixon, of Garland Casalita Drive church; Allen Brewer, associate pastor of Houston Fondren church; Carl Ming, of New Orleans Caffin Avenue and New Orleans East churches; and Nicolas Herrera, of El Paso East and El Paso West Spanish churches.

A powerful message about being called into the ministry was delivered by James Doggette, pastor. He informed the pastors that there are going to be both good times and difficult times in the ministry but that doesn't change what they are called to do. Superficiality can influence the minds of pastors who can sometimes be motivated by big churches, large congregations, and

great musicians. In the midst of all the superficial aspects of the ministry, they often forget that they have a job to do. A job that requires writing a sermon when they feel uninspired, ministering to the poor when they might not feel up to it, traveling to various cities when they are ill, and taking care of a family on a busy schedule. Just as the pastors have a calling, people often forget that a pastor's wife has a calling as well. Some of the pastors' wives stressed that supporting their husband as the spiritual leader of the household is what God has called them to do, citing Ephesians 5:22-23, "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to



Four pastors were ordained to the gospel ministry at Southwest Region's camp meeting in June.



the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior."

Being in the ministry is not an easy task, but with God as the center of their lives they are able to accomplish anything that is needed for their mission here on earth. Doggette reminded all present that God's calling to ministry is irreversible. We pray for God's divine guidance for these men of God as they enter a new chapter of their ministry.

Lauren A. Foster



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

# Forest Hill Experiences Third Annual Community Parade

## "Catch the Vision: We Serve, We Supply, We Support"

**FOREST HILL, TEXAS** » On April 27, the city of Forest Hill experienced the third annual Catch the Vision parade. The parade took place despite a rainy forecast, and multiple members of the Forest Hill community and a few from neighboring cities participated. Participants included various schools, churches, and businesses, as well as city council members.

The idea of having a parade was originally spearheaded by the Forest Hill church's deaconess department during a deaconess meeting in 2011. The ladies wanted to do something new and different to work with the community and encourage community involvement and connectedness. They desired to see community

members come out and support each other as well as to get acquainted with one another. Although the ladies believed this was a challenging endeavor, they decided to pursue it and took the idea to the Forest Hill city council members. After meeting with the city and constable, the ladies received approval. Then came the name Catch the Vision, with the theme, "We Serve, We Supply, We Support."

This year, the Forest Hill family life department continued the new tradition of

the Catch the Vision annual parade. Procedures continued as before, however, due to low funds, the department was not able to afford police escorts. With the help of Forest Hill Constable Michael Campbell, police escorts were provided by way of volunteer constables. Various schools, churches, and businesses in the community were contacted and invited. Vendors were invited to participate in the after-parade activities, and car enthusiasts were also invited to show their antique, customized, and show cars.

As a result of the tenacity of Trinda Matson, the support of the city of Forest Hill and all the participants, the third annual Catch the Vision parade was a success. The weather proved favorable without a raindrop in sight. Some of the Catch the Vision parade participants and guests included: Circle 5 Horse Riding Club, Forest Hill Horse Riding Club, Grace Temple Pathfinders and Adventurers, Pilgrim Valley Baptist Church and various school ROTC groups. The mayor of Forest Hill, Gerald Joubert, along with city manager Sheyi Ipaye and a "slew" of city council members followed in individually-represented cars, as well as the Forest Hill Fire Department and MedStar ambulance service.

"In preparing for the third annual Catch the Vision community parade, we placed everything before God, the foundation was laid, and everything else fell into place. We thank God for His grace and mercy with this endeavor and pray that with each coming year the goal to strengthen community ties will prove successful," said Trinda Matson, Forest Hill family life director.

Linda Murray



Members of the Forest Hill church collaborated with the City of Forest Hill to host the third annual "Catch the Vision: We Serve, We Supply, We Support" community parade designed to encourage community involvement and connectedness.





# Sabbath School: A Place Where Hearts are Fashioned



My first recollections of Sabbath School take me back to Orlando, Florida, where I must have been in the first grade. The songs, prayers, and Bible lessons were the foundations of who I am today. As I gathered my thoughts to write this editorial, a bit of Sabbath School trivia came to mind. Amazingly, Methodists, as opposed to Seventh-day Adventists, first coined the term “Sabbath School.” James White was the first Sabbath School quarterly author. The very first Sabbath School was organized in Rochester, New York. The first mission ship, the “Pitcairn” was funded by Sabbath School offerings and traveled to the South Seas. The most quoted book in adult Sabbath School lessons over the years has been *The Acts of the Apostles*.

Countless children, youth, and adults over the decades of existence of the Adventist Church have been spiritually fed, morally strengthened, and girded up for challenging times in their lives through the ministry of Sabbath Schools. My son, David, who is in the final stages of the M.Div. course at Andrews University, would come home af-

ter Sabbath School and spend Sabbath afternoons treasuring away in his heart large sections of Scripture, taking pride in the privilege he had to stand on the platform with his classmates and recite Scripture from memory. But Sabbath Schools today are not what they once were. The busyness of people has adversely affected their ability to arrive in a timely fashion on Sabbath mornings. Thus, the lack of numbers gives way to lackluster preparation of Sabbath School programs, which in turn creates a vicious cycle of poor attendance.

Notice the following quote from Ellen White on the importance of Sabbath School: “Even greater care should be taken by parents to ensure that their children have their Scripture lessons than is taken to see that their day-school lessons are prepared. Their Scripture lessons should be learned more perfectly than their lessons in the common schools. Parents must take a special interest in the spiritual education of their children that they may obtain a more thorough knowledge of the truth (*Testimonies on Sabbath School Work*, p. 8).

It appears to this lifelong Seventh-day

Adventist that the slipping away of our Sabbath School program in recent years needs to be addressed. Sabbath School, Adventist education, traditional Adventist preaching, and the culture of evangelism are traditional and fundamental Adventist staples that we cannot afford to lose. A portion of our identity as a people is wrapped up in them. We should call to memory the words found in Deuteronomy 6:6-9, “And these words which I commanded you today shall be in your heart. And you shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you are sitting at home, as you walk by the way, when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your home and on your gates.” This command from the Lord should spur us to fulfilling the Sabbath School commission in our churches, thus preparing for the return of the Lord to the midst of His people.

Carlos J. Craig, president

## McKinney Church Celebrates Church Status

**MCKINNEY** » Sabbath, April 26 was a special day for the McKinney church as we celebrated our new status as a church. Gary Brady from the Texas Conference and Chief Daniel Kistner of the McKinney Fire Department were guest speakers and we had many visitors from various churches. In addition to a special divine service, there was a ribbon cutting, a potluck, and a special concert performed by Merrilou Inks and other musicians. To conclude the daily activities there was a dinner and gym night with many fun activities that took adults back to their childhood.

The McKinney church welcomes every-



▲ Gary Brady helps with the ribbon cutting.

one to visit and experience the warmth and friendliness of our church. Visit them online at [www.mckinneysdae.org](http://www.mckinneysdae.org).

Betsy Hurst



Top: Pastor Jaeger cutting the cake.

Bottom: Gym night included adults jumping rope!

# “Smiling Jesus” Visits Stonehill

**PFLUGERVILLE** » Bruce Marchiano, the actor best known for his role as Jesus in the film *The Gospel According to Matthew*, spent Sabbath, April 26, at the Stonehill church sharing how his life was changed after portraying Jesus in that film.

Despite growing up hearing the gospel stories and going to Christian schools, Marchiano said that he realized he had never taken the time to truly find out who Jesus really was. In preparation for the film he said, “I had to get on my knees and bury my face in His book,” said Marchiano. “My whole life became about getting to know Him.”

Marchiano said that his prayers changed from the kind in which he asked for the Lord’s help in various areas of his life to, “Lord, I need to know You more. Please reveal Yourself to me. Reveal Your heart to me.” He begged God to fill him with His qualities. He asked, “Lord, give me the quality of mercy. Lord, teach me to love people. Lord, give me compassion for people who are hurting.”

Marchiano told stories about how God answered those prayers. He shared how he was overcome with emotion as God revealed His compassion for the human race while he was working on the film.

He also told how he became known as “the smiling Jesus.” He said he wanted to portray Jesus as a man of joy. He referred to the messianic prophecy in Psalms 45:7 (NIV), “You love righteousness and hate wickedness: therefore God, your God, has set you above your companions by anointing you with the oil of joy.”

When filming was done and Marchiano was flying home, he said he wondered how he could summarize his experiences. After hours of thinking through all that he learned in the person of Jesus and the depth of His love, he wrote just three words in his journal, “He loves you.”

Marchiano then reminded everyone in attendance that no matter where you’ve been or what you’ve done, Jesus knows it all and still loves you.

Marchiano’s life was so changed by working on *The Gospel According to Mat-*

*thew* that he started Marchiano Ministries and continues to work on Christian film projects, missionary efforts, and presentations like the one he gave at Stonehill.

“What a powerful testimony Bruce Marchiano shared with us,” said Albert Handal, pastor. “His presentation was a wonderful way for us to share the gospel of Jesus with our neighbors.”

Before Marchiano left, he reiterated how much he loves visiting Seventh-day Adventist churches because they make him think of how heaven will be—filled with people from all over the world.

Fawn Escalante



► Bruce Marchiano played the role of Jesus in the 1993 film *The Gospel According to Matthew*. The IMDb (Internet Movie Database) states that Marchiano has portrayed Jesus in more films than any actor in history.

▼ Stonehill’s pastor, Albert Handal (right) moderates a question-and-answer session with actor Bruce Marchiano.



Michael Escalante



# Blinded by Love at Denton First

**DENTON** » The Denton First church held a young adult worship experience April 24-27, with a focus on “blind love.” The four-day, interactive worship experience, led by Derek Lazarus, pastor, began on a Thursday evening and culminated with a prayer breakfast on Sunday morning. The meetings allowed young adults from around the DFW and North Texas area to gain a better understanding of true love, God’s unfailing love for us, and how to avoid being blinded by love.

As young adults, we are constantly distracted by many worldly things and sometimes the devil tries to take us away from God’s love. Sabbath morning began with a youth panel for Sabbath School, discussing relational issues with young people and how to have healthy, Christ-centered relationships. Lazarus shared the story of Samson and Delilah, a relevant, biblical example of blind love. Just as Samson was blinded by his love for Delilah, we as Christians are often blinded from our love for

God by the things of the world.

There often exists a struggle between our love for God and attraction to things of pleasure. There are many things in our society such as money, power, pride, music, and media that get in the way of our love for God. Lazarus encouraged us to “fill the baptistery,” and we witnessed a baptism as Sheldon Finnell gave his life to the Lord. In addition, Contagious Faith blessed us with a concert in the afternoon.

We ended Saturday with a cookout, bonfire, and fireworks. The four-day young adult worship experience was truly a blessing and a great experience for young adults, and we are looking forward to the great things God has in store for us in the future!

Irene Ogeto



A youth panel discussed how to have healthy, Christ-centered relationships for Sabbath School during the four-day young adult worship experience at Denton First.

# Annual Service to be Held at Oldest Adventist Church in Texas Conference

**CLIFTON** » The Norse church, the oldest standing Adventist church in the Texas Conference, invites you to its 31st annual church service at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 11. The Keene Rocketeer Pathfinder Club will conduct the flag-raising ceremony. This year, the State of Texas will unveil a historic marker at the church

site. Marjorie Stowe, a Keene resident and the granddaughter of Ole and Annie Nystel, founders of the Norse Church, will be the recipient of a special tribute. Following the church service there will be a potluck lunch.

Healing Heart, a Christian community choir founded in 1992 and directed by David Anavitarte, will provide music for the church service. Joe Martin, an optometrist from Cleburne, will bless us with beautiful hymns played on the piano. John Roberts, 10-year-old nephew of our speaker, Randy Roberts, will play his violin as some of our special music. Randy Roberts, senior pastor of the Loma

Linda University church in California, is scheduled to present the sermon.

The Norse church in Clifton is about a 90-minute drive from Keene. From Keene, find State Hwy. 174 in Cleburne and take it south through Meridian. Turn right through town to Hwy. 6. Turn left on Hwy. 6 for about eight miles toward Clifton. Turn right on FM 2136 and travel about three miles and turn left on CR 4155 and drive about a mile. The church is located on the left.

Those wanting to ride horses before the church service will meet in Keene at 6:00 a.m. and head to a ranch near the Norse church for a chuck wagon breakfast. The group, including Roberts, will take a 30-minute ride to the church. If you have questions, contact Yddo Ortiz at 817.517.4650.



# Rebuilding a Landmark



TEXICO CONFERENCE

While attending the city-wide evangelistic crusade, Hope for Manila 2014: iCare, I noticed something significant during the three Sabbaths that we were in the Philippines. What struck me the most was the passion and interest of church members in coming to the Sabbath School program. It seemed that people did not mind the long line at the entry of the astrodome. Everyone wanted to make sure they got a seat inside. Can this also be true in our Texico churches? It seems that Sabbath School in many local churches suffers the Ephesian tragedy, “the loss of first love” from the church members. I believe we can rebuild this significant landmark and I propose that we try the following:

## 1. Re-establish the Purpose of Sabbath School.

The objectives of Sabbath School are not limited to Bible study and fellowship among church members and friends, but also for the church to do community outreach. There is no use keeping the seeds in the barn, they need to be scattered and sown in the field to become beneficial for the Master.

“It is not too much to reiterate that the Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God’s great instrumentalities to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth” (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 115).

## 2. Encourage Members to Participate in Different Activities or Projects Especially in Sabbath School Programs.

Increase attendance by making the programs appealing and interesting. Break the traditional format by introducing new, innovative concepts into the Sabbath School program. This will inspire and motivate others to be involved. Having members participate will not only enhance interest and attendance, but it will help the Sabbath School accomplish its mission and objectives. A lot of new ideas can be derived from the members if they are given the opportunity to share.

## 3. Plan and Set Goals.

The success of businesses or organizations is mainly attributed to careful and well-organized planning. Set your direction and focus your efforts in reaching the goals you have set. A Sabbath School without a goal is no different than a boat without a rudder.

While on our mission trip in the Philippines this year, I learned so much about Sabbath School and how it is done in that area of the world. Allow me to share some observations:

**Sabbath School is the heartbeat of evangelism.** Sabbath afternoons were spent by the members holding Branch Sabbath Schools. Branch Sabbath Schools in-

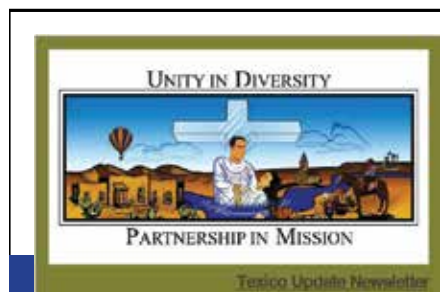
volved Bible studies, children’s evangelism, hospital visits, home visits, youth programs, etc. They are conducted either in homes, parks, basketball courts, churches, hospitals, offices, or even under a mango tree.

**Bible interests and baptismal candidates are enrolled as members of the Sabbath School.** In so doing, there are more Sabbath School members than church members. Even before they become official members in the church, they are already acquainted with the Adventist lifestyle. At Sabbath School, they are given the opportunity to get involved in Bible study, prayer, and discussions. This is how new members are integrated into church life.

**Everyone is encouraged to be on time for Sabbath School.** Throughout the Philippine Union Conference, all churches start Sabbath School at 8:30 a.m. There is so much to do at Sabbath School that everyone is excited to be at church on time.

I believe that what is happening in Sabbath School throughout different parts of the world can be duplicated here in our own territory. I pray that our dear Texico Conference can be a trendsetter and not a follower in exemplifying that Sabbath School can be the springboard of evangelism. I look forward to the day when we can have a harvest of souls as when the early church started. So let’s “occupy till Jesus comes” and make Sabbath School the heartbeat of evangelism.

Nehemias Basit



Want to see more of what is taking place around the Texico Conference? Subscribe to the Texico

Update Newsletter at

<http://eepurl.com/TdOc5>

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Newsletter can be viewed in numerous languages.



# ShareHim 2014 Philippine Mission Trip

The opportunity to serve the Lord in the mission field is a privilege and honor. When you are confronted with the realization of what God has done in your life, you can't resist sharing it with your fellow men. That opportunity came when Duane McKey, Southwestern Union Conference vice president, offered us the privilege of joining Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference, in a mission initiative. Wilson has spearheaded a program called Mission to the Cities—a plan to evangelize the big cities of the world. This initiative was launched last year in 2013 and New York City was the first venue. This year, Manila, Philippines, was chosen as the mission site.

There were 55 pastors and laymen from the North American Division who re-

sponded to joined Wilson in this worthy cause. It is a joy to know that the Texico Conference leadership supported this project. Several members and pastors from Texico volunteered to go to Manila to experience the blessings of working in the mission field. In the month of May, pastors Abner Razon, Nehemias Basit, Rodel Liwanag, and Hector Quinones accepted the opportunity to preach God's Word in metro Manila's three-week endeavor entitled "Hope for Manila 2014: iCare."

Several lay members from Texico also joined the mission. Loida Cruz, an Odessa, Texas, church member preached in the Luzon church. There were many visitors at her site and the church was too small to accommodate them all. It was decided to hold the meetings instead in an open-air basketball court so that all

of the people would fit. With loud speakers on full blast, she also had the opportunity to preach to the nearby houses. Many of the people listening in their homes gave their hearts to the Lord. As a first time speaker, she was so encouraged by the response of the people and believes that if she can do it, anyone can be used by God to spread His love.

The only youth in the group, Alisha Boicourt, from the Midland, Texas, church, preached at Gagalangin church. She had never been in front of her home church to say a prayer, let alone preach a sermon. Alisha was terrified at first, but because of her dedication and willingness to share God's Word, He gave her the power and wisdom. She became one of the most dynamic and powerful preachers. At 15 years old and the youngest of the group of ShareHim preachers, she quickly became the darling of the group. Her friendliness and constant smile were an inspiration to everyone.

I was assigned to conduct the Revelation of Hope seminar at the Dapitan Bible



◀ A mass baptism in Manila, Philippines.

▼ From left: Nephthali Mañez, president, North Philippine Union Conference, Alisha Boicourt, Abner and Nefritire Razon, Nancy and Ted Wilson, Loida Cruz.





▲ Abner Razon preaching at Dapitan Bible Center.

Center. The main bulk of visitors in our nightly meetings were senior citizens. A lot of homeless people also came to the meetings. This group was truly hungry for the truth. The local church rallied together in supporting the seminar.

The success of evangelism in Manila cannot only be attributed to the preachers from America. The local members dedicated months of Bible studies, home visits, health seminars, prayer, personal invitations, and friendship evangelism in preparation for this event. The target goal for baptism was 10,500 souls. On the first Sabbath that we were there, 1,019 souls were baptized in the Adventist University of the Philippines' swimming pool. The next two Sabbaths, we gathered at Cuneta Astrodome, which also houses an Olympic-sized pool. More than 12,000 people attended the church services at the dome where Wilson preached.

During those two Sabbaths, it was my

privilege to join other Filipino pastors in baptizing hundreds of precious souls for Jesus. On May 10, a total of 1,069 people were baptized. On May 17, 1,075 precious individuals gave their hearts to the Lord through baptism. We stayed in the pool for almost two hours baptizing the candidates. My hand became weary, but my heart was rejoicing for those being baptized. As of this writing the baptismal goal of 10,500 has been exceeded! In the end, what matters most is that we have people responding to God's saving grace. We have answered the call to serve because we love Jesus.

Doing mission work is like a shot in the arm—being injected with new blood, and renewed energy. Suddenly, you develop this strong passion of reaching people for Christ. It energizes you with vitality and enthusiasm to help finish God's work. Doing evangelism in Manila gave me that needed boost again. In the Philippines, we

have a membership of more than a million Adventists. Among these members, evangelism and witnessing is a way of life. It's no wonder that so many people were baptized. I would like to echo my last sermon at Dapitan church when I challenged everyone to continue to spread the gospel until Jesus returns. We must reach out to our communities, reach out to our neighbors, friends, and relatives. God is calling the Seventh-day Adventist Church to mobilize like never before in reaching the people of the world with the precious Three Angels' Messages. It is a privilege to follow in Jesus' footsteps. This is why God called us to be a part of His last day remnant people.

**Abner Razon**



# Lifehouse: Southwestern's Sabbath School Experience

"Every Sabbath morning I look forward to attending Lifehouse, whether I'm involved on stage or in the audience," confides Michael Demiar, senior communication major. "And that's one of the best things about Southwestern. I've been involved in all sorts of worship programs since my first day on campus as a freshman. You just get involved here."

Lifehouse Sabbath School is student-planned and student-led with mentoring provided by the Spiritual Life and Development office. It combines three main elements: Bible study, worship, and fellowship. It's geared toward the collegiate age, is study-based, and always open to the community.

When we say it's student-led, we're serious. The concept was dreamed up by students, students lead out in the Bible study, and students provide the music and create the worship atmosphere. "I gave them basic guidelines and they've just run with it. I told them it had to be Bible-based and participatory," explains Russ Laughlin, vice president for Spiritual Life and Development. "Now we have a program that includes Bible study with liberal sprinklings of drama performances, ministry opportunities, and emphasis on missions, but no two programs are alike. We want it to always be fresh. The only thing that doesn't change is that you can expect to be engaged."

The diversity of the program often reflects the diversity of the student body. "I really like how many different people get involved. It's not always the same people up on the stage," Demiar points out. "We're a diverse family and have really

different backgrounds, so it's cool to see it represented on the stage. We're all worshipping the same God but have different things to bring to the program. I've noticed Lifehouse is now becoming a catchphrase. 'Hey, you going to Lifehouse?' It's really something we all look forward to."

Like all of the programs initiated by the

Spiritual Life and Development office, the Sabbath School program is designed to develop leadership talents in a safe environment. "We work hard to make sure each program goes smoothly," says Brittany-Anne Lacerda, junior business major and spiritual life student leader. "I've learned that a program that isn't planned well may be a distraction to the person who needs to hear what we have to share. I started as the stage manager and now am the leader after learning about good organization under Austen, last year's leader. It's so satisfying to see a program run smoothly and see people responding to the message."

Food is an important part of the ministry. "When you read about the early Christian church in the Bible, it talks about the disciples coming together to break bread," says Laughlin. "It was more than a Communion service, it was fellowship. The presence of food creates an atmosphere conducive to sharing and mingling. It's also a service, a way for us to do something a little extra for the students to let them know they are appreciated."

Demiar really appreciates the "awesome breakfast" and the work put into it. But what he really finds inspiring is his fellow students. "Their passion and dedication makes me look inward and really search, to make sure I'm bringing my best for God's glory. It's just a lot of variety and a lot of talent and praise being shared. It keeps us all coming and participating."

**Darcy Force,**  
marketing and public relations director



**Top:** Praising God with voice.

**Above left:** There's a time for praise, for thanksgiving, and a time for reflection.

**Above right:** Susan Grady takes it as a personal ministry to organize the breakfasts.

## PARENTS' WEEKEND

October 3-5

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY



# Host Let's Move Day at Your Church!

Looking for a fun, non-intrusive way to connect with your community? A great opportunity is right around the corner! Let's Move Day, sponsored by the North American Division, is an annual event designed to get church and community members, young and old, physically active. This year, Let's Move Day is on September 21, when churches all across Texas and the nation will host a variety of creative activities, including 5K runs and walks, family fun activity days, walks in the park, and a host of sporting events.

The driving force behind Let's Move Day is the desire to combat and prevent childhood obesity, which is growing at an alarming rate in North America. According to recent statistics, nearly one in three children in America is overweight or obese, putting them at risk for many illnesses, including asthma, type 2 diabetes, and heart disease. Spurred by these statistics, in 2010 First Lady Michelle Obama launched the Let's Move initiative in an effort to combat childhood obesity and its related problems. Through Adventists in Step for Life (an initiative of which Let's Move Day is a part), the Seventh-day Adventist Church has joined many other community agencies and faith groups around the nation in the fight against childhood obesity.

If you'd like to host an event at *your* local church, here's what you need to do. First, in cooperation with your health ministries leader and church board, form a planning committee to pray

about and decide what type of event you'd like to host. Even though a 5K or other major event might not be doable at this point, there are still plenty of quick and simple ideas you can implement. For example, if there's a walking trail in a nearby park, you might organize a walk through the park. Or how about renting a bounce house and inviting neighborhood kids and their families to come for a few hours of fun?

As you are planning, it's important to make a collaborative effort and involve your community—schools, hospitals, local businesses, city governments, news agencies—any organization that wants to help create a healthier community. The ideas and possibilities are endless. For more information on planning your event, visit [adventistsinstepforlife.org](http://adventistsinstepforlife.org) and click on the Let's Move Day tab. You'll find a "ton" of resources, including videos of past events, webinars, a sample press

release, and a PDF of Let's Move Day planning tips.

For even more ideas, contact the Health Ministries Department at the Southwestern Union at 817.295.0476, ext. 338. Now, it's time to get moving!

**Pat Humphrey**, *Record* editor and SWUC health ministries director

In 2012 the Southwestern Union collaborated with Southwestern Adventist University, Texas Health Huguley, the City of Burleson, several local churches, and a number of other community organizations to host an activity day and health expo on Texas Health Huguley's campus. This year, a similar event will take place at the same location on September 21. For more information, call 817.295.0476, ext. 338.



Tobe Watts



Tobe Watts



Tobe Watts





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### EMPLOYMENT

**Adventist University of Health Sciences**, in Orlando, Florida, is seeking full-time faculty members for its developing Doctor of Physical Therapy program. The ideal candidate will have an advanced level doctorate or DPT with clinical specialty certification, expertise in assigned teaching areas, effective teaching and student evaluation skills, a scholarly agenda, a record of professional and community service, and

eligibility for PT licensure in Florida. For more information, e-mail: [DPTinfo@adu.edu](mailto:DPTinfo@adu.edu), visit [www.adu.edu/pt](http://www.adu.edu/pt), or go to: [www.floridahospitalcareers.com](http://www.floridahospitalcareers.com) and search job number.

**Pacific Union College** is seeking a full-time faculty in the Nursing and Health Sciences Department-Emergency Services/Nursing to begin during the 2014-2015 academic year. Ideal candidate will possess Master's Degree in nursing or related field, current RN license, and current National Registry EMT certification and/or Paramedic license with at least 2 years pre-hospital experience. For more information or to apply, call 707.965.7062 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/>

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**Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU)** in Orlando, FL, is in search for a Vice President for Marketing/PR/Enrollment. The position has overall responsibility for the image and brand referred to as Adventist University of Health Sciences. He/she oversees all advertising and publications which seek to educate both the local community and the wider national and international audience to whom the University appeals. Reply to [Fred.Stephens@adu.edu](mailto:Fred.Stephens@adu.edu).

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and maintaining an alumni database, alumni newsletter, and alumni Web page. This position will develop and chair all internal and external alumni committees and will be responsible for the development of an alumni-giving program. The director will produce scheduled communications with ADU alumni and plan and execute alumni events. The position will serve as the compliance and records officer for all Service Learning Projects performed by ADU students. Reply to Fred.Stephens@adu.edu.

**Southwestern Adventist University** Advancement office seeks full-time Vice President. Responsibilities center primarily in development in addition to PR/Marketing & Alumni. Minimum bachelor's degree and 2 years advancement experience required, master's degree preferred. Anticipated begin date is January, 2015. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to Human Resources at denise.rivera@swau.edu.

**Web Press Operators Wanted:** Pacific Press Publishing Association seeks Seventh-day Adventist Web Press Operators for Head Press Operator and 2nd Press Operator full time positions. Applicants should have 2-4 years of experience, swing mechanical aptitude and the proven ability to lead employees in a production process. Hourly rate based on experience. Contact Ms. Alix Mansker, HR Director, PO Box 5353, Nampa ID 83653, 208.465.2567 phone,

208.465.2531 fax, aliman@pacificpress.com.

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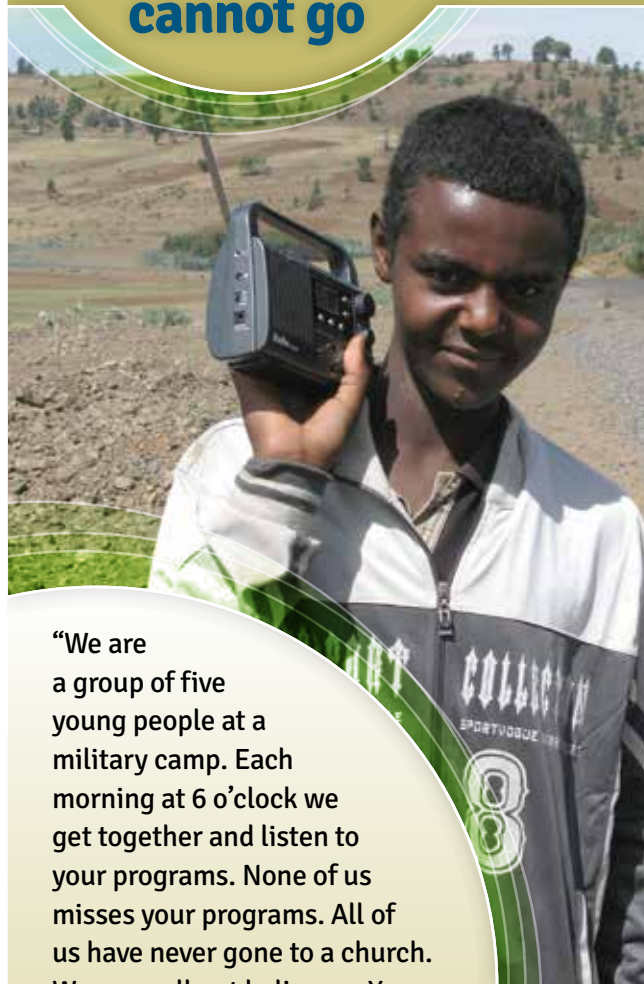
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# LET'S MOVE! DAY

Sunday, September 21, 2014



HELP US REACH OUR 2 MILLION MILE GOAL!

Register at [www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org](http://www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org)

Whether you host a 5K run/walk, join a community event, or organize other activities, consider how your team can involve as many people as possible in physical activity. Invite your community to join your church, school, or hospital as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle.

Find resources and information at [www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org](http://www.AdventistsInStepForLife.org)



Let's Move Day is an event of Adventists InStep for Life. It is sponsored by the North American Division Health Ministries Department in partnership with Adventist Community Services, Children's, Disabilities, Education, Family, Women's, Youth, and Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, and the Ministerial Department.





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**Announcements**

**Sheyenne River Academy/ Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend, October 3-4, 2014** at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships! Honor Classes: '40, '45, '50, '55, '60, '65, '75, '85, '90, '95, '00, '05, '10. For more information, contact 701.258.9000, ext. 236, or visit our website at: <http://bit.ly/DAA-AlumWknd14>.

**Sandia View Academy Alumni Annual Reunion:** Corrales, N. Mex., October 9-11, 2014. Honor Classes: 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, 1984, 1989, 1994, 2004. The first academy 12th grade graduate, Max Martinez '42, will be in attendance! For more information, call or e-mail Jerry Ruybalid '54, Alumni Association President, at 405.570.3833, or [jrsleeper1@gmail.com](mailto:jrsleeper1@gmail.com).

**Obituaries**

**ANDRIOAIE, Constantin,** born May 22, 1951 in Romania and died June 30, 2014, in Little Rock, Ark. He was a member of the Hot Springs church. Constantin was born in the North-Eastern part of Romania, and after many years of trying to leave Romania to come to the United States, he was able to re-established his family in the US in the summer of 1997. He and his family arrived in Hot Springs, Arkansas just less than one year later, where he spent the rest of his life. Above all else, Constantin valued his family and his faith. Everything he did was for his family or those he considered family, and with the love of God in his heart. Survivors: wife, Angelica Andrioaie, of Little Rock; son, Marian Andrioaie, of Little Rock; son and daughter-in-law, Laurentiu and Anca Andrioaie, of Atlanta, Ga.; son, Lucian Andrioaie, of Atlanta; two grandchildren; and his mother, Elena Pintilei Andrioaie.

**BATISTE, Julia Odessa,** born January 1, 1939 in Woodville, Miss., and died March 23, 2014 in Baton Rouge, La. She was a member of the Berean church. Survivors: daughters, Julie Batiste, Stephanie (David Glen) Peck, Claudia Batiste, Ruth McGrew, and Jeanette (Roy) Rachal; sons, Anthony Batiste, and Nathaniel Batiste, Jr.; brother, James Denman; sisters, Ora Lee Brown and Jerri Denman; 15 grandchildren; several

great-grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives.

**BODINE, Marion Joan "Jo" Smith,** born March 24, 1938 in Van Buren, Ark., and died April 10, 2014 in Garland, Tex. She was a member of the Grand Prairie church. She worked as housewife, beautician and dietician, retiring from cosmetology in 2009. Joan, as she was called, enjoyed sewing and made most all of her daughters and her own clothes. She even made suits for her husband, Monte, and son, Monte Joe, and won first prize at the county fair. She was preceded in death by her husband Monte by four months, as well as two older sisters,

Dorothy Stockton, of Okla., and Stella Howell, of Ark. Survivors: brothers, Bill Smith, of Okla., Willard Smith, of Okla., James Smith, of Mo., Gary Smith, of Okla., and Carl Smith, of Okla.; sisters, Bernice Bornstein, of Calif., Birdie StremLOW, of Okla., Pam McFarland, of Okla., and Debbie Schmidt, of Okla.; daughters, Vivian Bodine-Winrow and Lynita Bodine; and son and daughter-in-law, Monte Joe and Mary Glen-Bodine; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**HISER, Jean Maxwell,** born April 27, 1939, in Howe, Tex., and died July 22, 2014 in Marshall, Tex. She was a member of the Jefferson Academy church. Jean married Rob-

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ert "Bob" Hiser in Denison, Tex. They had two children, John and Brenda. Jean graduated from Sherman High School in Sherman, Tex. She and her family moved to Jefferson in 1969. She retired from the law firm of Baldwin & Baldwin in 2000. She was active in her church in many capacities. She devoted many years to being church clerk and to Adventist Community Services. Jean was preceded in death by her son, husband, son-in-law, and brother. Survivors: daughter, Brenda Hiser Wilson, of Jefferson; Ann Miller, sister, of Sherman, Tex., and many nieces, nephews, and friends.

**LAMBERT, Kelvin Eugene**, born January 4, 1963 in California, and died June 16, 2014 in Gentry, Ark. He was a member of the Gentry church. Survivors: wife, Donna, of Siloam Springs, Ark.; daughter, Samantha Lambert, of Siloam Springs; son, Matthew Lambert, of Siloam Springs; mother, Cathy Lambert, of Gentry; and a brother and sister-in-law, Kenny and Karen Lambert, of Gentry.

**MADDEN, Alice Jane Hines**, born May 20, 1935 in West Plains, Mo., and died June 6, 2014 in Thayer, Mo. She was a long-standing member of the Mammoth Spring church. Alice was united in marriage to Frank A. Madden on July 10, 1948, and they had six children. She

and her family were active in the church before there was a building built above just a basement. She was very active in community service. She taught a Sabbath School class and was the Sabbath School superintendent. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Madden and an infant son. Survivors: children, Barbara Powell, Deborah Miller, Frank Madden, Robert Madden, and Clifford Madden, all of Thayer; 10 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

**ROBESON, Lauralee**, born September 14, 1931 in Cando, N.D., and died June 5, 2014 in Gentry, Ark. She was a member of the Gentry church. Lauralee and her husband, Martin, taught many years in the Adventist school system in North Dakota, Arkansas, California, and Texas. They also served as teachers in Zambia, Africa, for eight years. She will be greatly missed. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Bruce and Mardel Robeson, of Gentry; son and daughter-in-law, David and Elizabeth Robeson, of Loma Linda, Calif.; daughter and son-in-law, Janet and Gene Edelbach, of Redlands, Calif.; sister, Vivian Johnson, of Fargo, N.D.; and seven grandchildren.

**STUMPF, Christine**, born September 27, 1922, and died June 5, 2014 in Bossier City, La. She was a member of the Hot

Springs church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Arthur J. Stumpf, Jr, and her daughter, Martha Raye Sitig. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Jimmy and Norma Evans, of Bossier City; a daughter and son-in-law, Virginia and Jerry Mey, from Kentucky; two sisters, Betty Parker, of Center, Tex., and Yvonne Jackson, of Shreveport, La.; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**ULLRICH, Teora Brietzke**, born May 12, 1922 in La-Vernia, Tex., and died July 1, 2014, in Cherokee, Tex. She was a member of the Seguin, Tex., church. She began serving her church as a literature evangelist in Houston, Tex., in the 1940s doing door to door sales and spending most Saturday and Monday nights on the sidewalks of downtown Houston selling religious magazines.

She married Frank Ullrich in 1949 and moved with him to Arkansas, Louisiana, Wisconsin, and eventually the Chicago area—he as an assistant literature evangelist state director and she continued to work in literature evangelism. Later she worked at the Illinois ABC and as an administrative assistant in the conference's estate planning department where she was considered very proficient for more than 20 years. Her husband, Frank, preceded her in death in 2001. Teora loved working with children in the various churches she attended and enjoyed supporting Lake Whitney Ranch Youth Camp. Survivors: brother and sister-in-law, Roger and Janice Fay Brietzke, of San Antonio, Tex.; uncle and aunt-in-law, Nowald and Susie Poenitz, of Arlington, Tex.; four nephews and two nieces.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Sep 5	Sep 12	Sep 19	Sep 26	Oct 3	Oct 10
Abilene, TX	8:00	7:50	7:41	7:32	7:22	7:13
Albuquerque, NM	7:29	7:19	7:09	6:59	6:49	6:39
Amarillo, TX	8:10	8:00	7:50	7:40	7:30	7:20
Brownsville, TX	7:46	7:38	7:31	7:23	7:15	7:08
Dallas, TX	7:48	7:39	7:29	7:20	7:10	7:01
El Paso, TX	7:26	7:17	7:08	6:58	6:49	6:41
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:50	7:41	7:31	7:22	7:13	7:04
Gallup, NM	7:38	7:28	7:18	7:07	6:57	6:47
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:40	7:32	7:23	7:14	7:06	6:58
Gentry, AR	7:41	7:31	7:21	7:10	7:00	6:50
Little Rock, AR	7:32	7:22	7:12	7:02	6:52	6:42
Muskogee, OK	7:44	7:34	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:54
New Orleans, LA	7:19	7:11	7:02	6:53	6:44	6:36
Oklahoma City, OK	7:53	7:43	7:33	7:22	7:12	7:03
Roswell, NM	7:19	7:10	7:00	6:51	6:41	6:32
San Antonio, TX	7:52	7:44	7:35	7:27	7:18	7:10
Shreveport, LA	7:36	7:27	7:17	7:08	6:59	6:50
Tulsa, OK	7:47	7:37	7:26	7:16	7:06	6:56



# On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



## How to Grow Your Sabbath School *and Church!*

### I FIRST BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE CONCEPT OF SABBATH SCHOOL

**ACTION UNITS** in the mid-90s when I served as editor of *Action!*, a former Sabbath School resource magazine that was published by the General Conference. In addition to providing practical information on how to implement Action Units in a congregation, each issue featured amazing stories of churches that were growing by leaps and bounds as a result of adopting the concepts on which Action Units were established. This unique formula of caring, sharing, nurturing, Bible study, and evangelism literally energized, mobilized, and revitalized the churches where it was implemented.

So what exactly is an Action Unit? It's simply a Sabbath School class transformed into a warm, caring atmosphere where the discussion centers on the weekly Bible lesson in the context of real-life experiences and witnessing opportunities. Time is allotted during each class for members to share their exciting stories of how they reached out to someone during the past week, enriching and motivating the other class members to witness, as well.

Action Units are intentionally small groups—with no more than 6 to 8 people—where each member is given an opportunity and encouraged to share their insights on the lesson in addition to their

witnessing experiences. Each class member is nurtured and cared for, and whenever a member is absent, someone from the group reaches out to them with a phone call, visit, or a “We missed you!” card.

The social element is key to the success of an Action Unit, and often these groups meet for fellowship outside of regular class times, providing a great way for members to bond with one another. Another key component of this distinctive Sabbath School format is outreach. Most Action Unit members are engaged in witnessing and giving Bible studies, and visitors are frequently invited to attend class and social activities, where they are warmly

welcomed into the fellowship. Quite often visitors become regular members of the class and ultimately, are baptized into the church. One church division reported that over 200,000 baptisms had taken place in that territory as a result of Action Units. And even more exciting is that they reported having retained most of those new members!

If you'd like more information on how Action Units (or whatever name you prefer to give them) can revitalize your church, here is a suggested resource (available from AdventSource): *Church Growth Through Sabbath School Action Units*. We are told in *Counsels on Sabbath School Work* (p. 115) that “The Sabbath school, if rightly conducted, is one of God's great instrumentalities [or tools] to bring souls to a knowledge of the truth.” Action Units can be one of these tools. Another great “tool” that God can use is you and me. Let's get to work, OK?

*Pat Humphrey*

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