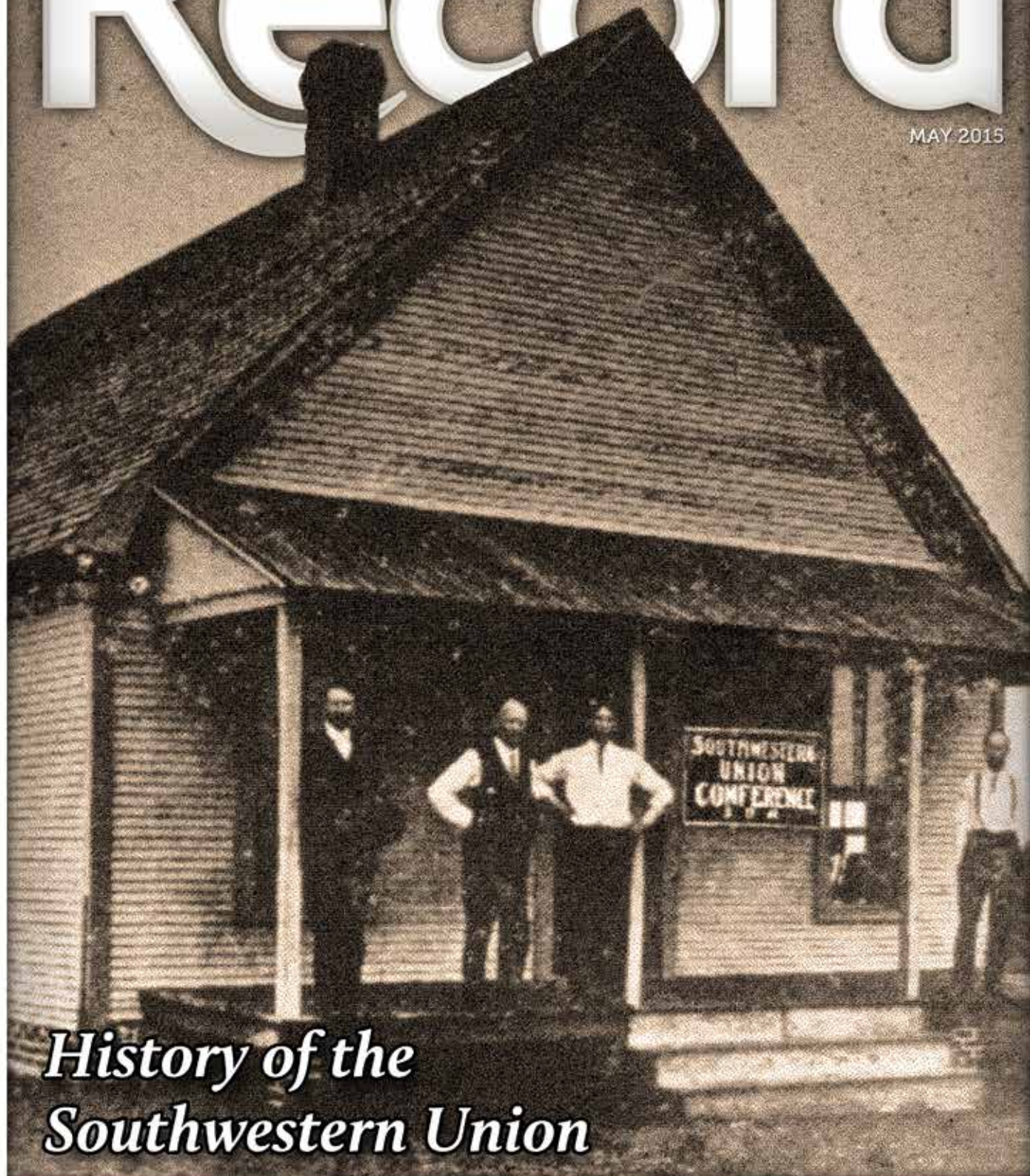


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

MAY 2015



## *History of the Southwestern Union*

LEARNING FROM THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE



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**On the Cover**

The Southwestern Union Conference was established in 1901 and was headquartered in four different locations: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; Fort Worth, Texas; Richardson, Texas; and Keene, Texas, before establishing its current offices in Burlison, Texas. Through our union's history, we are able to see just how much our church has grown in order to spread the gospel and reach souls for Christ. Learn how the steps taken by our forerunners have influenced the church today in the Southwestern Union as we focus on history in this special issue of the *Record*.



# Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



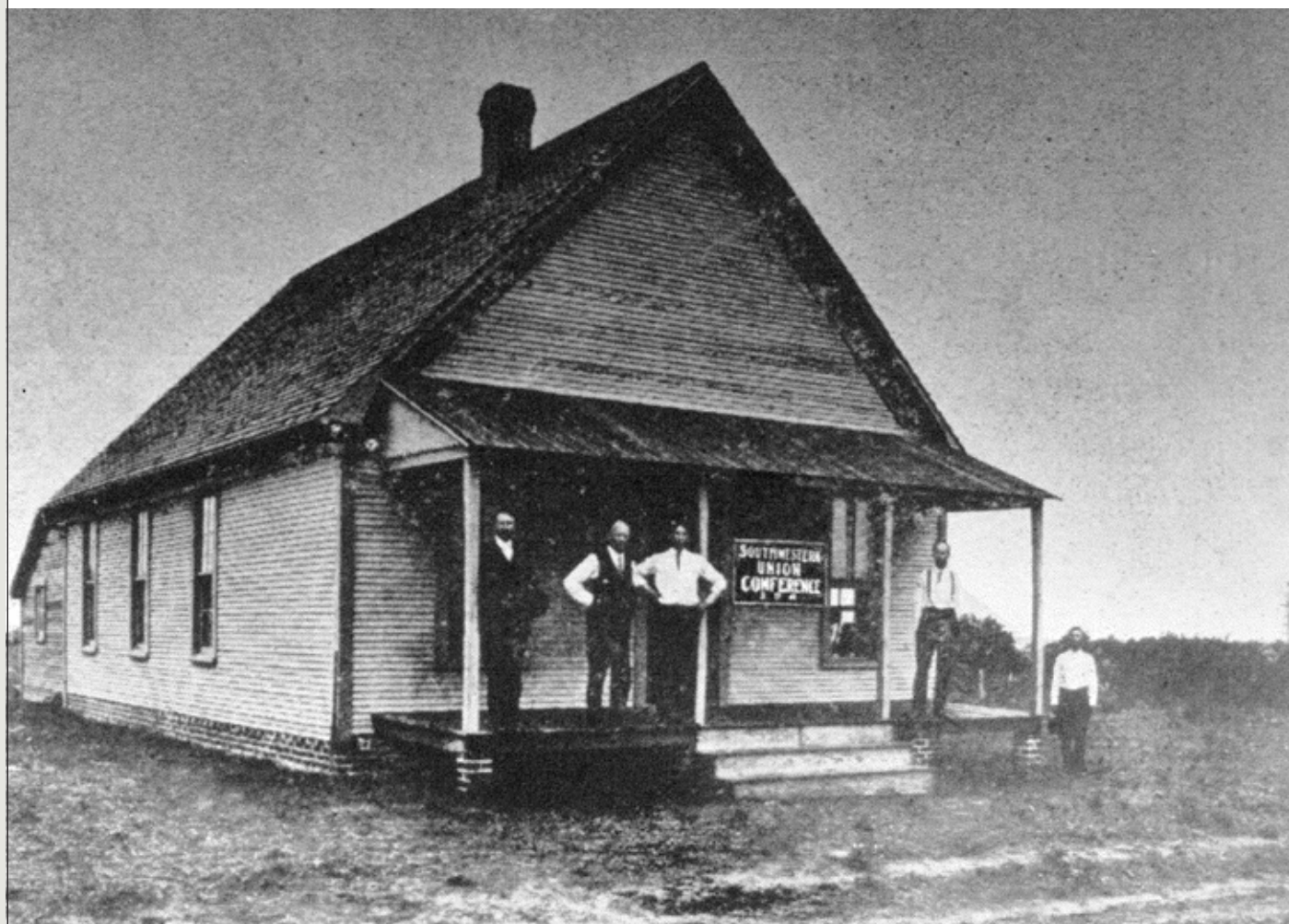
## History of Our Union

I have a keen interest in history. All types of history—secular history, religious history, church history. I try to discern God's leading in history. In fact, I believe that history is *His-story*. The Bible is full of the history of how God has led His people. In fact, when I do an evangelistic meeting I always start with history (Daniel 2). It establishes credibility in Scripture as we see prophecy fulfilled and become history.

Our church's history is amazing. God used a number of young people to do incredible things for Him! When I was a student at Andrews University, Dr. C. Mervyn Maxwell taught several courses in Adventist history. I really became interested as he recounted

stories of how God led His leaders and His church. Of particular interest to me was how God helped His people choose where to place schools, such as Andrews and Loma Linda, as a direct answer to prayer.

Our church here in the Southwestern Union also shares some unique and providential steps in its establishment. I hope you will enjoy discovering some of our church's history and rejoice that God is at the head of His work. May God help us to cooperate with Him as we do His work here in the great Southwest. The book of Acts is not yet complete!





# To Your Health

BY PAT HUMPHREY » SOUTHWESTERN UNION HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

## Ellen White and Science

**Long before scientific evidence** confirmed the impact of certain lifestyle factors on health, Ellen White gave numerous counsels and recommendations regarding healthful living. Following are just a few brief excerpts from *The Ministry of Healing*, written in 1905, along with corresponding evidence based on current scientific findings.

### BENEFITS OF EXERCISE

“Inactivity is a fruitful cause of disease. Exercise quickens and equalizes the circulation of the blood, but in idleness the blood does not circulate freely, and the changes in it, so necessary to life and health, do not take place. The skin, too, becomes inactive. Impurities are not expelled as they would be if the circulation had been quickened by vigorous exercise, the skin kept in a healthy condition, and the lungs fed with plenty of pure, fresh air. This state of the system throws a double burden on the excretory organs, and disease is the result” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 238).

According to the 2008 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans, “being physically active on a regular basis:

- Improves your chances of living longer and living healthier,
- Helps protect you from developing heart disease and stroke or its precursors, high blood pressure, and undesirable blood lipid patterns,
- Helps protect you from developing certain cancers, including colon and breast cancer, and possibly lung and endometrial (uterine lining) cancer,
- Helps prevent type 2 diabetes and metabolic syndrome (a constellation of risk factors that increases the chances of developing heart disease and diabetes).”

### HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TOBACCO

“Tobacco is a slow, insidious, but most malignant poison. In whatever form it is used, it tells upon the constitution; it is all the more dangerous because its effects are slow and at first hardly perceptible. It excites and then paralyzes the nerves. It weakens and clouds the brain. Often it affects the nerves in a more powerful manner than does intoxicating drink. It is more subtle, and its effects are difficult to eradicate from the system” (*The Ministry of*

*Healing*, p. 327, 328).

According to the Centers for Disease Control, “Smokers are more likely than nonsmokers to develop heart disease, stroke, and lung cancer. Smoking is estimated to increase the risk—

- For coronary heart disease by 2 to 4 times
- For stroke by 2 to 4 times
- Of men developing lung cancer by 25 times
- Of women developing lung cancer by 25.7 times
- Smoking causes diminished overall health, such as self-reported poor health, increased absenteeism from work, and increased health care utilization and cost.”

### THE MIND-BODY CONNECTION

“The relation that exists between the mind and the body is very intimate. When one is affected, the other sympathizes. The condition of the mind affects the health to a far greater degree than many realize...Grief, anxiety, discontent, remorse, guilt, distrust, all tend to break down the life forces and to invite decay and death” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 241).

The National Institutes of Health’s Medline Plus says, “Today, we accept that there is a powerful mind-body connection through which emotional, mental, social, spiritual, and behavioral factors can directly affect our health.”

### DANGERS OF AIR POLLUTION

“The physical surroundings in the cities are often a peril to health. The constant liability to contact with disease, the prevalence of foul air, impure water, impure food...are some of the many evils to be met” (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 365).

The Environmental Protection Agency cites the following as some of the harmful effects of particulates in air: “Major concerns for human health from exposure to particulate matter are, effects on breathing and respiratory systems, damage to lung tissue, cancer, and premature death. The elderly, children, and people with chronic lung disease, influenza, or asthma, tend to be especially sensitive to the effects of particulate matter.”



## The Importance of Knowing Church History

**I'LL ADMIT, WHEN I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL I HAD NO DESIRE TO LEARN ABOUT ADVENTIST HISTORY.** I felt that because I knew about the events of 1844 that I shouldn't need to know anything more. In my freshman year in college I took a class called History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I was reluctant to take the class and did so only because it was required.

Being a history major, I should have been ashamed of myself, as I truly had no desire to know the history of the Adventist church. However, I began to realize a few weeks into the course that I was actually enjoying it. In fact, some things that the professor, Bill Kilgore, said were very relevant to issues affecting the church today. The class wasn't just about the history of the church, but how our church affected history. There were major moments in history, like the Civil War in America, which the Adventist church, a new organization at the time, had to deal with. In fact, the Adventist church was so new that they didn't know what stance they wanted to take concerning whether they were going to fight or not. Some wanted to take up arms and fight, while others wanted to remain pacifist like the Quakers. Eventually, the church split and those who wanted to fight left for battle. Those who didn't want to fight stayed behind or enlisted as nurses or camp preachers. Other churches from the South segregated themselves because of their stance of pro-slavery. The actions of church members during the Civil War are only interesting facts, but what lessons can be drawn from that part of history?

Ellen White was another historical figure of the church that I was not too enthused to learn about. I thought her writings and letters were overused and only used when people were

trying to condemn you or tell you that you were doing something wrong. Thankfully, in this class I gained a different perspective. Many of her writings and letters were written for her time. In a letter she tells a man not to ride a bicycle, because bicycles were quite dangerous and expensive. In another instance, she wrote that it wasn't good to drink ice in water. At the time, ice wasn't very sanitary. She was warning her readers not to drink water with ice because they might contract an infection. Oftentimes, people take Ellen White out of context and apply what she says to a time she had no knowledge about. Although a lot of what she says can still be applied today, not everything should be. Change happens. It is a part of life that we must live with.

Although we need to learn from the past in order to make the future better, we must also remember that some things are very different. History is full of twists and turns that shape our future. Understanding our past can help us have a greater understanding of why the church is the way it is today. We can learn from past mistakes. Therefore, the importance of knowing historical background is to have greater understanding and to apply what we know from the past to make the future better.

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Alyssa Whetsell is a senior history major at Southwestern Adventist University.

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# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY ALFREDO VERGEL

## Southwestern Evangelism: Beginnings

**F**rom the 1870s to the turn of the nineteenth century, Adventist work started in the states that are now part of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. In the wake of the Reconstruction Era, the church made inroads in the American Southwest as members settled in the region and evangelists worked on the therefore-neglected fields of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The first Adventists to settle in the region now covered by the Southwestern Union, the Rust brothers and their families, did not wait for a member of the clergy to start up evangelistic efforts. But a couple of years after the arrival of the first Rust brother to North Central Texas in 1874, they stirred up enough interest in the Adventist message, even reaching out to African-Americans, that church leaders in

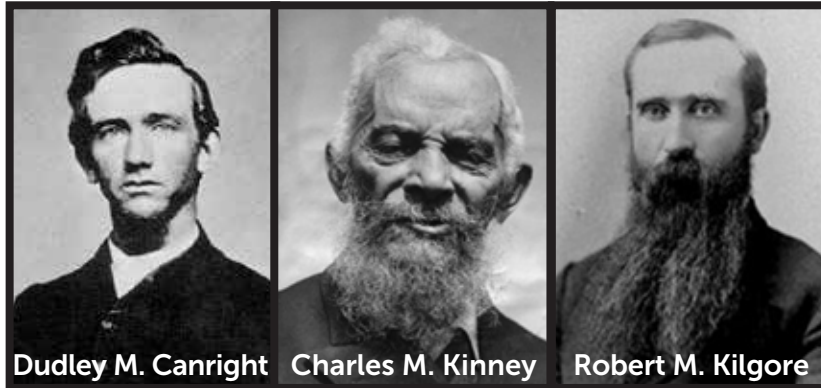
Michigan decided to send Dudley M. Canright, then a rising star among Adventist ministers, to organize in Dallas the first Adventist church in the American Southwest.

Canright also organized the first Tract and Missionary Society, a church organization that coordinated the distribution of evangelistic literature, in the Southwestern Union. Following Canright's report of the work in Texas, church leaders sent evangelist Robert M. Kilgore the following year. Not long after his arrival, Kilgore set out to have evangelistic meetings in various locations. The first one was around the vicinity of Cleburne, after which about 40 people joined the church.

Another series of meetings north of Dallas culminated in the conversion of a significant number of members from a Baptist congregation, whose deacon was none other than Job Huguley, the patriarch of the family whose land and fortune would kick-start the building of Huguley Hospital about a century later. Aided by newly minted tent-master Arthur G. Daniells, who eventually became president of the General Conference, Kilgore's evangelistic efforts yielded about 200 new converts within two years.

Kilgore also helped start the first Adventist congregation

in New Orleans. With the help of fellow evangelist Hampton W. Cottrell, he set up an exhibit of Adventist publications at the 1884 World's Fair. Their innovative effort resulted in a number of people interested in the Adventist message. Church members followed up with canvassing and Bible readings, resulting in the organization of a church. New Orleans was also the first place in the Southwestern Union where a Black congregation, the fourth in the denomination, was organized, in 1892, after evangelistic efforts by pioneer Black minister Charles M. Kinney.



Dudley M. Canright

Charles M. Kinney

Robert M. Kilgore

In Arkansas, Adventist evangelism started almost as early as in Texas, but the severity of the state's Sunday laws and a persistently dire financial situation hampered the growth of the church through the turn of the century. All the same, it was the work of an Arkansan evangelist

that led to the organization of the first Adventist congregations in Oklahoma in 1892. As new members joined the church, the racial and ethnic makeup of the Southwestern Union became more varied. In Arkansas, for example, a whole Black congregation accepted the Sabbath in 1901, while in Oklahoma at some point in the 1890s nearly half the Adventist churches were German speaking.

Adventist evangelism reached New Mexico in 1889. It took five years to organize the first congregation in the state. This state was the first one where the Adventist message reached Hispanics in the Southwestern Union, and where the first Hispanic, Marcel Serna, became a pastor in the North American Division.

As we approach 140 years of evangelism in Texas, may we continue to embrace the love for souls that our pioneers had. Let's take the gospel wherever the Lord would have us be, and let's reach out to groups of people unreached by our message.

**Alfredo Vergel** is the Public Services and Special Collections librarian, as well as Ellen White Research Center director for Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas.

# Visión Hispana

UN BREVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE



## Desde el Inicio

DESDE EL INICIO DE LA OBRA HISPANA EN NORTEAMÉRICA, LA IGLESIA CONTINÚA CRECIENDO EN LA UNIÓN DEL SUDOESTE.

El Dr. Manuel Vásquez en su libro “The Untold Story 100 years of Hispanic Adventism” describe el inicio de la obra hispana en los Estados Unidos, estableciendo el año de 1899 como el comienzo de nuestra historia en la ciudad de Sánchez, Arizona. Tomando en cuenta que la Iglesia Adventista fue oficialmente organizada en el año 1863 solo tomo 36 años para que el mensaje llegara a un hispano.

Vásquez describe como dos hermanos tomaron la iniciativa de llevar los libros del Espíritu de Profecía a Tucson, Arizona, donde en su mayoría hablaban Español. Estos dos misioneros llegaron a la casa de un pastor Metodista de nombre Marcial Serna y el resultado de esta visita nos impacta hoy en día.

“Marcial Serna fue un mexicano nacido en El Paso, Texas, en 1860. Durante 17 años sirvió como pastor metodista antes de su conversión a la fe adventista en 1899. Fue uno de los primeros conversos hispanos en ser bautizados en el río Gila ese mismo año, y llegó a ser el primer ministro adventista hispano en

la División Norteamericana. En 1900 la Asociación General le extendió una licencia ministerial y en 1901 fue nombrado miembro de la Comisión Ejecutiva de la Misión de Arizona.”<sup>1</sup> Este mismo año la Unión del Sudoeste fue organizada con los estados de Missouri, Colorado, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma como parte del territorio.<sup>2</sup> “Serna levantó varias congregaciones adventistas hispanas en el sudoeste.” Y después de 36 años servicio denominacional Serna pasó al descanso en Sánchez, Arizona.

Hoy en día el esfuerzo de estos dos misioneros que llegaron a las puertas de este pastor quien “compartió la verdad del sábado con sus ex miembros metodistas-episcopales de Tucson”<sup>3</sup> nos impacta a ti y a mi. Ya que nuestra Unión del Sudoeste cuenta con una membresía de 33,526 miembros bautizados representando aproximadamente 19 nacionalidades latinoamericanas con 38 administradores hispanohablantes que han servido en diferentes

tiempos. El crecimiento de la obra hispana avanza día a día con personas como tu y yo que buscamos llevar el mensaje de esperanza a todos aquellos que están listos para recibirla. Gracias por tu dedicación, amor y esfuerzo en caminar en los pasos del Maestro.

Rocío Alejandra López



▲ Algunos de los miembros de la primera Iglesia Adventista hispana en Norteamérica.

Arriba a la derecha: Marcial Serna, primer ministro Adventista hispano en Norteamérica.

► La segunda iglesia Adventista hispana y sus primeros miembros en Tucson, Arizona, 1901.

<sup>1</sup>The Untold Story: 100 years of Hispanic Adventism 1899-1999, Dr. Manuel Vazquez, pg. 33.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid, pg. 178.

<sup>3</sup><http://tucsonspanish.adventistfaith.org/historia>

# The History of the Southwestern Union

Indiana Melendez, intern, Southwestern Union Conference communication department

As we look back at the history of the Adventist Church, it's easy to see how far we've come in almost two centuries of work. What began simply as a movement is now a worldwide denomination with powerful efforts in evangelism through every facet of professionalism and mission work. What were once outdoor schoolyards are now fully accredited universities. Medical mission camps became hospitals. Small outdoor camp meetings are now huge General Conference Sessions.

The "pebble" that started this grand movement centered around individuals who embraced the teachings of William Miller and his interpretation of Daniel 8:14, which focused on the end of God's judgment and the return of Jesus Christ. Two of these individuals included Captain Joseph Bates, a merchant seaman, and Ellen White, a deeply religious young woman, both pursuing biblical truth and following Miller's teachings. Little by little, through continuous study, Ellen's visions, and the sharing of biblical truths, a small nucleus of believers began forming and it became evident that word needed to get out for others seeking the truth. They began publishing pamphlets and periodicals about the Sabbath and

Jesus' soon return, and more and more people joined the movement.

Initially the pioneers and founders of the Adventist Church were opposed to any sort of formal organization, but with the continued growth of followers accepting biblical truth, it became evident that some sort of cohesiveness was needed. A simple structure was then put together at the first General Conference Session in Battle Creek, Michigan, in 1860, under the leadership of James and Ellen White and Joseph Bates.

From then on, those eager to share the good news traveled by foot, train, horseback, or wagon to places untouched by the



▲ An early Southwestern Union publishing house located near the campus of Keene Industrial Academy.

◀ In 1878 Ellen White traveled to Texas by wagon train.

**1818** - Millerite movement begins

**1869** - First transcontinental railroad opens up to the west

**1877-1885** - Adventist message spreads from northwest corner of Arkansas to central part

**1852** - First issue of *Adventist Review and Herald* is published

**1870** - 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment ratified, giving African Americans the right to vote

**1877** - R. M. Kilgore is sent to Texas by the General Conference

**1880s** - General Conference sends R. M. Kilgore to open a city mission in New Orleans

**1844** - The Great Disappointment

**1865** - Assassination of Abraham Lincoln

**1878** - R. M. Kilgore becomes the first Texas Conference president

**1880s** - General Conference asks Kansas Conference to open up mission work in New Mexico

**1861** - Civil War breaks out in eastern U.S.

**1876** - D. M. Canright organizes first Texas church

**1878** - Ellen White visits Texas; First camp meeting held

**1860** - First General Conference business session in Battle Creek, Michigan

**1875** - Rust brothers move to Dallas area from Michigan to hold meetings in Texas





◀ Many students of Keene Industrial Academy (now Southwestern Adventist University) came to the school on “Old Betsy,” the train that passed through Keene, Texas.

▼ The first camp meeting in Texas, as depicted in this painting by Sleepy Reed, took place when Ellen White traveled to the Southwest in 1878.



Adventist message, and that is where the story of the Adventist movement in the Southwest begins.

## Southwestern Union Conference

With the rapid increase of believers in the 1850s and 60s, there was a definite need for organization in order to handle several church issues, including legal issues of holding church property and assets, handling the growth of different ministries, and controlling personal ambition, fanaticism, and offshoot movements. The biggest concern was with self-appointed preachers, who, without being responsible to any congregation, would preach false doctrine under the name of Adventism.

During the first General Conference Session and several meetings following, this issue was discussed and a basic structure for the church was proposed. The proposal included more thorough organization of local churches, state and district conferences who would authorize the ministers, and an outline of the structure for General Conference Sessions.

At the General Conference Session of 1888, a proposal was made to break up the conference territories in the U.S. and Canada into districts that could be more easily managed, and show specific care for churches in the regions they represented. Ellen White warned against too much “kingly” power centered in the leaders of the General Conference. Because of this, they pushed the division farther, reorganizing union conferences and setting up the Sabbath School, publishing, medical, and educational services as departments under the General Conference.

The Southwestern Union Conference was officially organized in 1901, with Charles McReynolds as president. At that time the union oversaw work in eight states: Missouri, Texas, Kansas, Colorado, Arkansas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Oklahoma. The following year, it was reorganized to only three states: Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas. New Mexico was added in 1907, with Louisiana coming into the union in 1932. When the Southwest Region Conference was established, it was established under the Southwestern Union, as well, and completed the union as we know it today, with five conferences.

Originally in Oklahoma City, the Southwestern Union Conference Headquarters moved to Keene, Texas, in 1933. It remained in the midst of the growing college town for 12 years until moving to Fort Worth, Texas in 1945, then to Richardson, Texas in 1957 for 10 years, and back to Keene in vacated buildings of Chisholm Trail Academy. On April 16, 1981, the doors to a new four-story

**1885-1886** – Adventist literature taken to West Texas Mission area by canvassers

**1891** – First Sabbath School organized in Albuquerque

**1914** – World War I breaks out in Europe

**1887** – New Orleans church established

**1892** – Tent meetings all along the state of Oklahoma

**1914** – Jefferson Adventist Academy established

**1892** – First Black church in the Southwest is established in New Orleans, with C. M. Kinney, a Black minister

**1910** – Arkansas Conference was organized, with J. P. Henderson as president

**1918** – World War I ends

**1888** – First reported Hispanic family baptized into the church

**1894** – Oklahoma Conference established

**1909** – New Mexico Mission becomes New Mexico Conference

**1916** – Navajo Mission starts up in New Mexico

**1888-1889** – The General Conference separates U.S. and Canadian mission work into districts (which we now call unions)

**1893** – Keene Industrial School established in Johnson County

**1901** – Louisiana Conference organized under Southern Union

**1901** – Southwestern Union Conference established

**1916** – West Texas added to New Mexico Territory, forming Texico Conference

Burleson headquarters, opened to office personnel and has since remained the headquarters of the union. This location gives the union an advantage of being close to the major Adventist institutions in the area, like Texas Health Huguley Hospital and Southwestern Adventist University. It is also a part of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, allowing easy access to surrounding churches and the DFW Airport, and serves as a central hub for the entire union.

## Rust Brothers Come to Texas

The Rust brothers—John, E.G., and A.B.—are known as the first Adventists in Texas. They moved from Michigan with their families to the Dallas area in 1875. As lay people, they held several meetings and formed a company, which met in several homes in Dallas and Grand Prairie. In just a year after their arrival, they organized a church of 18 members and conducted the first baptism in Texas.

In 1877, R.M. Kilgore, army captain turned preacher, came to Dallas to hold tent meetings in several locations, after being requested by Dallas church members. The result of these meetings was the organization of churches in Terrell, Cleburne, and Peoria. That same year, Ellen and James White came to Texas to participate in the camp meeting held in Plano, where the Texas Conference was officially organized with four churches and R.M. Kilgore as president.

After that, laypeople, missionaries, and canvassers continued to spread the gospel throughout Texas, and by 1890, membership of the conference stood at 425 and more than doubled in less than 10 years, with 1,000 members by 1899.

## Pioneers Take on Arkansas and Louisiana

### Louisiana

C.O. Taylor, who had pioneered Adventist work in North and South Carolina, went to New Orleans in 1880. He quickly recog-

nized the need for evangelism and immediately asked for help in an appeal posted in the *Review and Herald* stating, “I am a drop in the bucket. Come to our help, you that want a place to labor; come and do good while you can.”

The General Conference, seeing that this area was a hub for trade, industrialization, and cotton production, saw an opportunity in reaching many people with the gospel. They sent R.M. Kilgore, then-president of the Texas Conference, to set up a city mission in New Orleans. The first church was established in 1887.

In another part of the state, mission work continued and flourished through the efforts of George Winn, of Marthaville, Thomas H. Gibb, leader of the City Mission of New Orleans, and Frances Goodwin, a Bible instructor. It wasn’t until the fourth camp meeting held in Crowley in 1901, however, that the Louisiana Conference was established with S.B. Horton as president. The following year the conference joined with Mississippi under the leadership of the Southern Union. In 1932, Louisiana became part of the Southwestern Union.

### Arkansas

The story of the Adventist message reaching Arkansas is a little different from other states. Somehow, the Adventist message reached people of Arkansas before camp meetings or canvassers did. It is noted that when preachers would visit upon the request of laypeople, there were already many people keeping the Sabbath in a number of areas before any meetings were ever held. It is assumed that many of these people discovered the truth through publications, like the *Review and Herald*, or letters from family and friends.

Help from laypeople was continually requested throughout Arkansas, and several appeals were answered, including one by J. H. Cook, a local church elder from Mound City, Kansas. Cook’s efforts led to a church organization with 39 members in Springdale. This was only the second church to be established in the area.



The Rust brothers—John, E.G., and A.B.—are known as the first Adventists in Texas.

**1932** – Louisiana is added to Southwestern Union Conference

**1937** – Valley Grande Adventist Academy opens

**1942** – Sandia View Academy established as Hispanic-American Seminary

**1950** – Southwestern Mission granted Conference status as Southwest Region Conference

**1963** – Martin Luther King, Jr. Delivers “I Have a Dream” speech in Washington, D.C.

**1947** – Southwestern Mission formed

**1963** – John F. Kennedy is assassinated

**1939** – World War II breaks out

**1945** – World War II ends

Because of the Civil War and Reconstruction, the economic status of Arkansas left many citizens in a state of poverty. Canvassers, however, continued their mission in the area and managed to make enough to live on while gaining interest from others in religion and the Adventist message. With no established conference in Arkansas, pioneer workers had to depend on their home conferences and new believers for support.

From 1877-1885, the Adventist message had spread from the northwest corner of the state to the central area. By May 1888, with 10 churches and 226 members, a conference was organized with J.P. Henderson as president. Finances were so low that all ministers were asked to engage in canvassing work to become self-supporting missionaries. It wasn't until 1932 that Arkansas was joined with Louisiana as one consolidated conference.

## Missionaries Bring Good News to Texico

### West Texas

The first word of Adventism in the area now known as the Texico Conference was through Seventh-day Adventist publications colporteurs brought into the West Texas region, as early as 1885. The colporteur attributed to this was early evangelist N.J. Etheredge, who heard about Seventh-day Adventist teachings by reading the book *Daniel and the Revelation* given to him by a man who did not care for it. In 1896 Oklahoma evangelists sent by the General Conference made their way to this region to continue the evangelistic efforts Etheredge began. Ministers of the Oklahoma Conference worked this area of Texas until 1908 when it became the West Texas Mission. A year later, it became the West Texas Conference with five churches, about 200 members, and T.W. Field as president. It wasn't until 1916 that it was joined with New Mexico as the Texico Conference.

### New Mexico

As expansion in the west continued to grow, the General Conference continued making efforts to expand the Adventist message alongside the population and, therefore, requested help from the Colorado and Kansas Conferences to begin mission work in New Mexico.

Smith Sharp, a minister from Kansas, held an evangelistic series in Las Vegas, New Mexico, in the summer of 1889, with the help of E.H. Gates, president of the Colorado Conference at the time. In 1891, evangelistic meetings were held in Albuquerque and the first Sabbath School was organized. The first church organization of Seventh-day Adventists was established in 1896 in Catskill, now a ghost town, and the establishment of other churches followed.

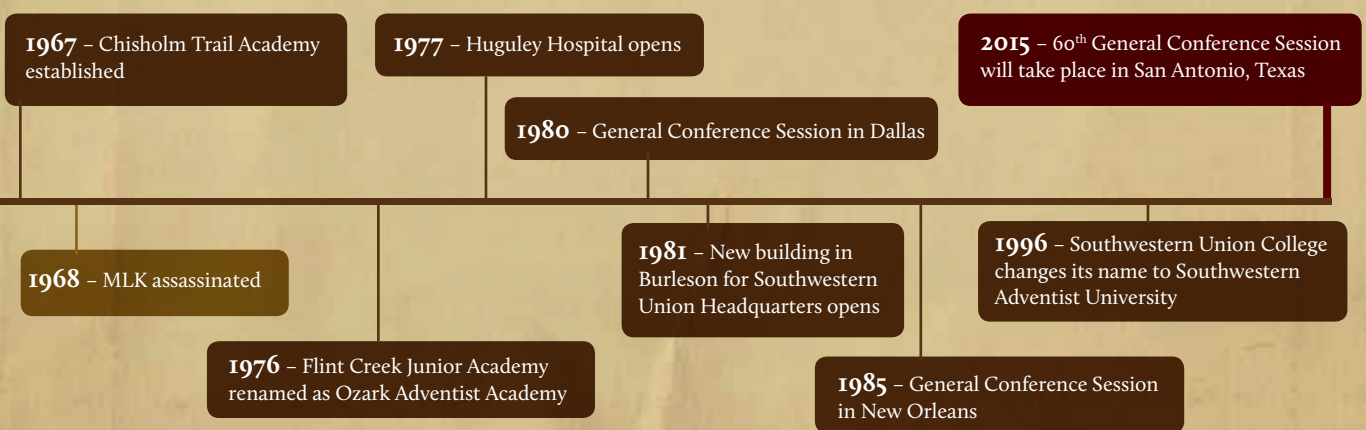
The authority over evangelistic efforts in New Mexico bounced around from the Kansas Conference to the Colorado Conference, then to the General Conference, and back to the Kansas Conference until the end of 1907, when it was finally assigned to the Southwestern Union Conference. A year later it was given conference status with eight churches and 412 members.

Throughout this time, evangelistic work among Hispanics and Indians was evident as well. Marcial Serna, the first Hispanic Adventist minister in the North American Division, was chosen to work among the Spanish community and helped to organize the Albuquerque church, which was



▲ In 1916 a mission was started under the Southwestern Union to reach Navajo Indians, the largest American Indian group at the time.

◀ Lake Grove Indian Mission in New Mexico



both English and Spanish speaking. The Spanish work continued to grow and in 1941, it was reported that there were eight churches with 300 Spanish-speaking members, 17 Sabbath Schools, two church schools, and one junior academy. The Spanish-American Seminary near Albuquerque, which was originally run by the General Conference from 1942 to 1952, was handed off to the Texico Conference and restructured into what we know today as Sandia View Academy.

In 1916, Orno and Agnes Follet started a mission for the Navajo Indians, the largest American Indian group at the time with 40,000 Indians who did not receive government assistance. This mission was under the Southwestern Union Conference, who helped the Follets with resources and to put together a special camp meeting for the Indians in 1935, with an attendance of 75 people. Mission work among this community still continues today.

## New Land Opens Mission Work in Oklahoma

“Indian Territory” was known as the Midwest region assigned to reservations and was off-limits to White settlers. In 1889, however, one sector was opened for settlement and nearly 50,000 people entered the territory in a race to claim the land. A group of these settlers were Christians relatively new in the faith who came in hopes that God would provide for them in this new land.

Because of the massive amount of settlers and new railroad systems to provide access to the territory, laypeople made appeals for canvassers and missionaries to witness in this new land. By 1892, tent meetings were held in Oklahoma City and Norman by Richard H. Brock, who also organized a company of 15 members. The multiple meetings led to 37 baptisms.

Much of Oklahoma’s success in sharing the gospel was attributed to the major role camp meetings played in the territory. These meetings played a great role in unifying and solidifying scattered Oklahoma believers.

After multiple evangelistic efforts, the Oklahoma Indian Territory Mission was organized with Brock as leader and his wife, Mary, as secretary/treasurer. The Oklahoma Conference was finally organized in 1894, with 17 churches, 500 members, and J. M. Rees as president. The headquarters was established in Oklahoma City, where the first camp meetings were held.

## Adventist Message Reaches Freed Men

After the Civil War, many freed black men headed west to escape suppression in the South. The Adventist faith was preached and taught to them in the territory of the present Southwestern Region Conference as early as 1876 the same year, the Rust brothers, Adventist laymen, came to Texas and gathered the first white



W.W. Fordham, Southwest Region Conference president from 1946 to 1954

converts in the Dallas area. One of those white converts, Eddie Capman, began a night school where he taught black men and children to read and write three nights a week, while also sharing the gospel. During some of Capman’s preaching services for whites, many black visitors would gather outside the tents and listen. Later that same year, it was reported that the opposite occurred. A.B. Rust and Parson Medlin went over to preach in several black settlements in neighboring counties. In a community of 700 in Mansfield, white visitors sat outside and listened.

The first black church in the area of the present Southwest Region Conference was organized in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 4, 1892, as a result of the work of C.M. Kinney, pioneer minister. It is reported that

Kinney started the church after finding six Black Seventh-day Adventists in the city, the preceding October, and the church had become the fourth of its kind in the denomination. In 1901, Black converts in Arkansas and Texas organized several other churches in the region. In 1921, the Berean church was organized with 63 members, along with the New Orleans Ephesus church.

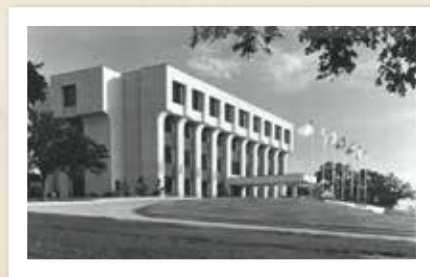
From 1936-1938, new churches sprung up all over Texas, including in Fort Worth, Laredo, Palestine, and Longview. The evangelistic push continued with many evangelistic meetings, leading to 48 baptisms in the Valley and Corpus Christi.

Up until this point, there was no continuous method of organization of Black work until 1946, when the Southwestern Mission was formed. At the end of two years of mission work, the mission’s membership was almost 2,000. On January 17, 1950, it became a conference with W.W. Fordham as president.

## Southwestern Union Conference—Present and Future

After years of evangelistic efforts and the determination of dedicated Christian lay people, ministers, and canvassers, the Southwestern Union Conference now has roughly 110,000 members. It supports approximately 550 churches and operates 68 elementary and secondary schools, one university, four hospitals, and numerous community-based ministries. But the work doesn’t stop there. Historical accounts of our beginnings should motivate us to continue the commission Jesus has left. Our mission, as a union, is to continue to carry the gospel message to the world. We urge

you to take from the Adventist pioneers’ experiences the Christ-centered drive and enthusiasm that led to the church we are a part of today.



# A Brief History of SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Shortly after the establishment of the Texas Conference in 1877, the desire for a denominational school became apparent among leaders and lay people of the church. In 1892, the subject of such an institution was given even greater consideration by conference delegates in council with General Conference officials. The plans were agreed upon and endorsed by all present, and a committee was set up to plan the location of the school. Many counties were considered, including Van Zandt, Hood, Kaufman, and Johnson, but after much prayer, the committee decided on what is now, Keene, Texas, in Johnson County as the location God had in mind. Some were skeptical, but no one raised any further questions about the decision. Once the plan was fully accepted and approved by the General Conference, several hundred acres of land were purchased and prepared for construction.

When word got out about the new Seventh-day Adventist school, several families came to Keene by way of dirt roads and covered wagons. They camped out in tents north of the campus while construction went on. When they arrived, the land was covered with thick brush and large trees and there were no roads and only a few water wells. A few houses were already under construction, but nothing else gave the area a sense of community. With the construction of the new school, however, that quickly changed. The brush and timber were quickly removed, materials were transported, and construction began right away. A house in Oak Cliff, more than 50 miles away, which was used as a conference office was even deconstructed and brought to Keene to be rebuilt as the main school building. A main water well was dug for the growing community, and after several name suggestions, such as Oak Grove and College Hill, Keene was chosen as the official name of the new community.

Once completed, Keene Industrial Academy opened on January 7, 1894, with 56 students and C. B. Hughes, an ordained minister,

as principal. Students came from all over Texas and were given a strict set of rules for behavior. Hughes, noting the free-spirited, easygoing nature of the students before the school's opening, made a stern announcement on the first day of class,



Top left: North Hall  
 Top right: Assembly Hall, 1894  
 ▲ Campus Aerial Shot, 1940s  
 ► Professor C. B. Hughes, first principal of Keene Industrial Academy

saying there would be no more social gatherings, and young men were not to escort young women on the streets, or to and from public events. The students took these regulations as law and tried their best to remain disciplined, but of course, just like modern-day students, sticking to rules wasn't always priority over having harmless fun.

In December of 1895, the first dormitory, also known as "The Home" was built on campus with funds on hand plus \$2,500 pledged by the laity. Sixteen students and five teachers moved in.



▲ Academy Hall fire, 1921

Top right: Mizpah Gate, 1938

► Old Betsy train drops off passengers at the Keene Depot, undated.



The school was completely self-supporting, with industries such as farming, dairy farming, fruit raising, woodwork, printing, poultry raising, and domestic sciences, and with these industries, both the school and the community continued to flourish.

The first train of the Dallas, Cleburne, and Southwestern Railroad first pulled into the Keene Depot on December 20, 1902. The people of Keene had raised \$3,000 toward the building of the 10-mile railroad between Cleburne and Egan in order to make transportation to and from the community and school easier. Old Betsy, the name of the train that passed through Keene, quickly became a part of the culture of Keene. It is even recorded that the conductor referred to the town as “The Holy City” every time the stop at Keene Depot was made, knowing that the town was predominantly Adventist, and where citizens strived to live their faith. This was the main means of transportation for students, and after the establishment of the railroad, more and more students were able to enroll in school.

After 24 years as an educational institution, in 1916, Keene Industrial Academy was given college status and was renamed Southwestern Junior College under the leadership of W. E. Nelson. Later that year, West Hall, a new boys’ dormitory was built, allowing more space for male students, and allowing North Hall to be designated for female students only. The increased housing space created more opportunity for young men and women to enroll in the school. On February 22, 1921, the roof of the main college building, Academy Hall, caught fire and eventually caused the entire building to burn to the ground. There was much effort by the Cleburne Fire Department, students, faculty, and community members in trying to save the building, but what was left after the flames died down was only the tall brick chimney. Thankfully, they managed

to save North Hall, which sat right next door to Academy Hall and the engulfing flames. With construction of the new administrative building, Penuel Hall, quickly pro-

gressing, the college was able to use the new building for the schoolwork that could no longer take place in the destroyed academic building.

In 1937, the school’s president, Harry H. Hamilton, oversaw the construction of the Mizpah Gate, a monument to designate the new official entrance to the college. Before the containment of domestic animals, wired fences surrounded the college campus in order to keep the livestock in, but once this was no longer an issue, all wired fences were torn down, allowing space for the new entrance. The Mizpah Gate was dedicated by the graduating class of 1937 and has remained a symbol for the college’s history and success.

Throughout the 20th century, the school’s growth continued in monumental ways. Harmon Hall, the new girls dormitory, which still houses female freshman and sophomore residents today, was built and opened in 1953. In 1958, Southwestern Junior College was given full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools, and again in 1970 as a four-year degree granting institution. Findley Memorial Library (now Findley Administrative Building) was finished and opened in 1961. That same year, the school was named Southwestern Union College as it developed into a senior college. Campus expansion and development continued with new buildings including Scales Hall in 1966, the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium in 1971, Barron Chapel in 1972, the Committee of 100 Cafeteria in 1978 and the Chan Shun Centennial Library in 1993.

The college was renamed Southwestern Adventist University in 1996, nine years after it began offering graduate degrees, and the university continues to grow. What began as an industrial academy with 56 students is now a fully accredited university offering 21 undergraduate programs and three graduate study programs, with about 800 students.

Note: Information taken from *Lest We Forget, The Chronicle of Southwestern Adventist College*, and archives of the *Record*.

# THE HEALING WORK

## Modern Health Care Facilities as a Vital Part of the Adventist Presence in the Southwest

The Adventist health work in the Southwestern territory can be traced as far back as Ellen White's visit to Texas in 1878. As medical technology and facilities have advanced, so has the health work. The four modern hospital facilities in the Southwestern Union, which are each a part of Adventist Health System, are a vital part of the Adventist presence in the Southwest.

### Texas Health Huguley, Fort Worth, Tex.

In May of 1967, dentist and real estate investor from Dallas, Herbert T. Huguley, D.D.S., passed away, leaving \$6 million from his estate to the Adventist Church in order to build a hospital in honor of his parents. This gift, along with voluntary support, went toward the creation of Huguely Memorial Medical Center.



Construction began in October 1974 and Fort Worth civic and business leaders responded to a challenge to raise \$3.25 million towards the \$16.25 million project. In early 1977, Huguely Memorial Medical Center was opened and continues to expand. In 2013 Huguely changed its name to Texas Health Huguley Hospital in the wake of a partnership between Adventist Health System and Texas Health.

Today, Huguley is a 223-bed acute care hospital that includes a medical intensive care unit, a cardiovascular critical care unit, a progressive care unit, open-heart surgery center, and behavioral health. With many accredited and award-winning health programs and a thriving on-campus fitness center, the hospital continues to fulfill Dr. Huguley's vision of health education and quality of life improvement for the community. Web Site: [www.texashealthhuguley.org](http://www.texashealthhuguley.org)

### Central Texas Medical Center, San Marcos, Tex.

The history of Central Texas Medical Center begins in June of 1923 when it first opened as Hays County Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines Memorial Hospital in San Marcos. The facility relocated twice before joining Adventist Health System in 1984 with the name Central Texas Medical Center. The hospital has continued to grow, notably in 1998 when 48,000 square feet were added to the facility with the expansion of the emergency department and construction of a three-story professional building.



Today, Central Texas Medical Center is a 178-bed hospital pro-

viding a wide range of complex healthcare services in San Marcos and neighboring communities. The CTMC staff of more than 700 employees works with more than 220 active and consulting physicians. Web Site: [www.ctmc.org](http://www.ctmc.org).

### Metroplex Adventist Hospital, Killeen, Tex.

In the late 70s, the communities of Killeen and Copperas Cove were working individually, often in competition, to open a hospital in the area. A chance encounter between influential members from each community, however, led to a proposal to join forces to meet the needs of both communities. In October 1976, the old and inadequately sized Hillandale Hospital was purchased with the help of the Southwestern Union Conference. Adventists agreed to manage and operate the new hospital, which was named Metroplex Adventist Hospital. The building project was completed in October 1978 when the first patients were admitted.



Today Metroplex Adventist Hospital is the hub of Metroplex Health System, a 245-bed, multi-campus facility that is the primary healthcare provider for West Bell, Coryell, and Lampasas counties, offering a wide array of medical and wellness services. The system employs about 1,200 area residents and cares for more than 125,000 patients each year. Metroplex supports a staff of more than 300 physicians, representing 42 medical specialties. Web Site: [www.mplex.org](http://www.mplex.org)

### Rollins Brook Community Hospital, Lampasas, Tex.

In 1932 Herbert Baily Rollins opened a medical practice in Lampasas and in 1934 began buying acres of land. He was asked, "What are you doing?" as he cleared brush from a hilltop. His answer: "I'm building a hospital." And the hospital was indeed built, and the first patient was admitted into the 12-bed hospital in 1935.



Many years later, after several expansions and some very hard times, Rollins Brook Community Hospital is a 25-bed, critical access hospital providing a variety of general and advanced health services, and continues to be active in community projects and events. Web Site: [www.mplex.org/about-us/rollins-brook](http://www.mplex.org/about-us/rollins-brook).

# The Peril of Forgetting



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

There are some things that need to be forgotten and left in the past; some things that only bring pain are best left alone and unattended; hurts caused by thoughtless words or careless actions that have separated friends and family need to be forgiven and forgotten, then buried with no planned future resurrection. However, there are some things from the past that should never be allowed to escape memory. There are vital lessons that must be learned as we seek to understand the providence of God in the circumstances and affairs of life. God addressed this fact quite pointedly in Deuteronomy 8, as He sought to remind the children of Israel how they were cared for and protected during their 40-year wilderness sojourn.

God wants to use all of the issues of life as an educational backdrop to teach us how

much we are dependent on Him. When you are enjoying all the good things that the Lord has provided you, then bless the Lord! In other words, give Him the credit. Acknowledge Him for what He has done. Don't try to take the credit for yourself.

"When you have eaten and are full," remember where your meal came from, and remember who provided you with the good things that you are now enjoying. We are so prone to become comfortable in our ease and prosperity. We begin to think that we are responsible for the good that we have. Our pride tells us that our wealth and prosperity are a result of our own efforts. Credit is given to our own abilities, our own talents, strength, resources, superior intellect, our perseverance, and our own good, hard works.

Pride has a way of warping our minds into thinking that we are the creators of

our present good fortune and that we are the creators of our own destiny. Israel needed to look back and recount the ways God provided water out of a rock and bread from heaven, how He kept their clothes and shoes from wearing out, and how He kept them all in good health by His providence and daily intervention. Then the blessings of the present would be known as having come as a result of the same merciful, gracious, loving, and caring God that had performed miracles in the past. The miracle-working God was now, once again, working another miracle of sustaining grace on behalf of His people. Likewise, we must never forget God's work in the past. That's why we are called upon to remember how the Lord has led us in our past history. There is a peril of forgetting.

Steven Orian, president

## Searcy Church Performs Musical Cantata

**SEARCY, ARK. »** During the month of December the Searcy Seventh-day Adventist church sanctuary choir performed their Christmas musical cantata, "Let Earth Receive Her King," at the Riverside Crossing Rehabilitation Facility in Searcy, Arkansas. Residents and other family members and friends who attended the performance were very excited to have the church choir sing for them and testified that they had received a wonderful blessing.

After the performance, we were told by the administration that this was the first time a choir has performed a musical at the facility. It was a blessing and a privilege for our church and choir, as well.

Herman Clements



**Top:** The Searcy sanctuary choir performed, "Let Earth Receive Her King," at a local rehabilitation facility.

**Middle left:** Choir singing

**Middle right:** Director of the Searcy sanctuary choir

**Bottom left:** Costumed choir members bring the story to life as wisemen and shepherds.

**Bottom right:** Residents from the rehabilitation facility especially enjoyed watching the children dressed up as angels, wisemen, and shepherds.



# Youth Sabbath School at Slidell Church

**SLIDELL, LA.** » Youth Sabbath was held at the end of December in the Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church with the Children's Sabbath School divisions acting out the birth of Jesus, while Liana Bethala read the story from Matthew 2.

The youth choir blessed those in attendance as they sang Christmas carols, duets, and group songs that uplifted our souls. Not only did they praise God in songs, but also in liturgical dance and mime. A praise dance was performed by Angelina Jones and Danyla Williams to the song "Take Me to the King."

The guest speaker for the day was Earnisha Lott, president of the South Louisiana Youth Federation for the Southwest Region Conference. Sister Lott gave a very

interactive sermon to our youth on "Your Personal GPS System" with a literal connection to the Holy Spirit and how we are guided and protected by God's Holy Spirit. After the service, a delicious potluck was served.

**Vernella Rogers**



▲ Children from the Slidell church act out the birth of Jesus.



◀ Angelina Jones and Danyla Williams perform a liturgical praise dance.



**Top:** Guest speaker Earnisha Lott, president of the South Louisiana Youth Federation for the Southwest Region Conference.

# Benton Church Sings for Alcoa Pines Health and Rehab

**BENTON, ARK.** » What a blessing it is to be Jesus' hands and feet! On Sabbath, December 13, 2014, about 30 members from the Benton church gathered at Alcoa Pines Health and Rehab to sing Christmas hymns to the residents. This has become an annual tradition for the church that we all love to do. It is such a pleasure to see the residents sing along, praising our God and Savior!

**Francis Baumbach**

Benton church members sing Christmas carols for Alcoa Pines Health and Rehab residents.



# Texarkana Church District Campout

**TEXARKANA, ARK. »** The Texarkana District, under the leadership of Daniel Supler, pastor, held its annual Family Church Campout at Camp Yorktown Bay at the end of October 2014. Texarkana, Magnolia, and El Dorado churches settled in Friday evening with rain that failed to dampen the spirit and success of the gathering.

The camp provided good meals for the group and the Magnolia church provided food for the Saturday-evening cookout. The campers enjoyed music Sabbath morning led by the young children and teens. Michael Smith, of Texarkana, and Daniel Hudgens, of Magnolia, spoke for the worship hour.

Several Sabbath activities and Bible games were planned. On Sabbath afternoon, the churches participated in a mock trial with Supler as the sitting judge, elders and deacons as the prosecuting attorneys, and the church members as the defendants. After lis-

tening to the prosecutors' charges, the church members were allowed to address the court with Bible verses as their defense. It was a very good learning experience for everyone.

After the evening cookout, the Magnolia church had several activities planned: Frisbee, basketball, and a family-friendly

movie. The cool weather and fresh air welcomed a tired group to a good night's sleep. The outing closed with Sunday breakfast, some closing remarks, and a canoe race for those up to the challenge.

**Lorretta Johnson**



## Camp Yorktown Bay 50 Year Anniversary

It has been 50 years since Camp Yorktown Bay admitted its first camper. We will be hosting our 50th Anniversary on June 5-7, 2015. Activities will be available all day Friday. We look forward to seeing you! Make your reservation now and remember to mark your calendar!

361 Camp Yorktown Ln  
Mountain Pine, Arkansas 71956  
[campyorktownbay@gmail.com](mailto:campyorktownbay@gmail.com)  
501.767.2333  
[www.campyorktownbay.com](http://www.campyorktownbay.com)



**Top right:** The Texarkana district campout included a mock trial featuring "Prosecuting Attorney" Daniel Hudgens, accusing the brethren before "Judge" Daniel Supler.

▲ Texarkana teacher April Lloyd used the Bible to defend her beliefs.

# Vision and Perspective



One of the privileges I have had as a minister is being inspired by the congregations and members I have served. Recently, I was reminded of that inspiration as I was going through some of my files and deciding whether there was anything I should keep. As I looked through those files and notes, I reminisced about the circumstances and the conversations that accompanied the small scribbles on the notes.

One such note was from a very special friend and member. It was a list of the churches in Oklahoma and their respective membership count from 1942. Now I am a bit of a history bug, and I relish the opportunity to learn and grow from the things in the past. I remember my friend telling stories about special occasions and

unique experiences he had been part of in those churches. He related stories of family and friends from those churches who used to be in and around Okeene, East and West Cooper, Omega, and Hitchcock, to be specific. The stories he told me were true and revealed struggle and sacrifice, joy and celebration. They were stories of hope; stories of people preparing for the soon return of Jesus.

As I sat there looking at the pieces of paper in my file, tears filled my eyes as I just recently preached at this friend's funeral. How many years had gone by from those days until now? A realization came from those moments of pondering. Even though most of those churches are no longer around, these pioneers of the faith embraced the principles of vision and perspective.

Oklahoma members have an uncanny

way of remembering what is important. We must keep telling people about Jesus! We must continue to plant and grow churches where people are. And what is amazing is that, while we have about the same number of churches today as there were in 1942, they are in much different communities. The Advent message has moved where the people moved. And that is the key. We must go where the people are! We must always be advancing the kingdom! We must always be uplifting the risen and soon returning Jesus! We must continue to go where the people are and invite them to become a part of our family. It was true in 1942, and it must continue to be true in 2015! You and I must continue to have vision and perspective of a completed work!

**Richard C. Dye, Sr.**, executive secretary

## Pathfinder Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser

**BROKEN ARROW** » The fifth annual Chili Cook-Off Fundraiser for the Broken Arrow Pathfinder Club was a huge success. Hosted by Greg Marquette at Estancia clubhouse, the Pathfinders raised \$625 toward expenses for the upcoming year. Winner by taste test was Mitch McGehee, with Ed Moon and Angela Moon coming in second and third. This is always a competitive occasion where our adults and youth join together for a fun-filled evening that gives us all an opportunity to support our Pathfinders.

**Judy Marquette**



From left: Angela Moon (3rd place), Mitch McGehee (1st place), and Ed Moon (2nd place).

# First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa Celebrates its 100-year Anniversary

**TULSA** » In 1915 E.B. Hopkins, a pastor from Texas came to visit several families around the city of Tulsa. This was the beginning of the Seventh-day Adventist movement in this area. About 35 members worshipped together in a small building for several years. Evangelistic meetings were held by Pastor Tyndale resulting in additional members and a need for additional space. Major and Mrs. Frank VanVoorhis gave a piece of property to build a church at 920 East Sixth Street. For nearly 30 years, the congregation worshipped at this location with pastors including W.E. Barr, W.L. Knott, and B.E. Beddoe. The persistent growth of membership, limited space to enlarge the church, and additional evangelistic meetings led the congregation to outgrow the Sixth Street church.

An educational building known as “Elms

Haven” was constructed at 920 South New Haven, with an auditorium added to be used for church services. The first school year of this building began in 1949.

The current church was built in 1960-1961, under the leadership of Elder Robert H. Wood. It stands across the driveway from the school, now known as Tulsa Adventist Academy.

Mrs. S.W. (Averil) Calvert, the last surviving founding member of the Tulsa church, passed away in 1995, a few days short of her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. Over the years Mrs. Calvert served as bible worker, church treasurer, and Sabbath School teach-

er, as well as various other positions. Many current members remember Mrs. Calvert sitting in “her seat” in a front pew every Sabbath morning.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa claimed the title of “First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa” after many church plants began in other locations around the city and surrounding area.

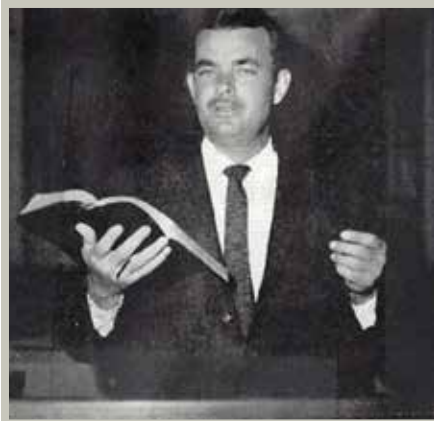
Through its doors have passed many, many devoted workers for the Lord.



◀ Mrs. S.W. Calvert

Below, left: Robert Wood preaches to congregation.

▼ A drawing of First Adventist Church of Tulsa



## Broken Arrow Pathfinders Learn the Art of Cake Decorating

**BROKEN ARROW** » The Broken Arrow Pathfinders’ group of “chefs in training” had a blast as they learned the art of cake decorating from Barbara Calvert. Calvert has often fixed cakes for bridal showers, birthdays, etc., and was the perfect choice for leading out in this task. A lot of icing ended up on faces and the floor, but the



cakes looked scrumptious. What a fun way to fellowship together and have a dessert to take home!

Barbara Calvert taught the Pathfinder Cake Decoration Honor.

# Spring is Here, Time to get Busy!

**WAGONER** » Spring is here and it's time to make those church repairs and work on those major projects. The Wagoner church is not only trying to landscape the outside, but is also working on the inside of its members as well. Two "Boot Camp" seminars were April 3-4, and May 8-9. One emphasized prophecy while the other concentrated on Bible study. More than 5,000 Bible study cards were sent out, and there have been 62 responses. Some of the testimonies from these cards have renewed our enthusiasm to reach out in our community. We had two baptisms this past fall that

enlarged our church family, and currently have the possibility of two new families calling Wagoner their home.

We appreciate all the prayers that have gone up for us, and ask for your continued support. With God leading our way, Oklahoma will do great things this year.

**Jack Harris and Donna Hults**

Ellen (top) and Susan (bottom) join the Wagoner church through baptism.



## Jesus Was a Volunteer

**OKLAHOMA CITY** » During the Springtime, it is common in the United States and other parts of the world to celebrate the death and resurrection of Jesus. We have been told in Luke 4:18, 19 that Jesus read what Isaiah wrote in the Scriptures one Sabbath in the synagogue. Isaiah 61:1, 2: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He hath anointed Me to preach the Gospel to the poor; He hath sent Me to heal the broken hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord."

In John 3:16, 17, we read, "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him, shall not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved." Through these verses, we see demonstrated that Jesus volunteered.

I have been a volunteer for many years. Awhile back, I was having a hard time. I needed a reason to get out of bed in the morning. I decided to

search Google for "volunteer opportunities." There were only two options in my area at that time. Either I could volunteer to help animals or people, so I chose people. I contacted a nursing agency, and I have been a hospice volunteer ever since. I visit patients in nursing homes or private homes to offer them company or a smiling face. I have written encouraging notes or stayed with a patient so their caregiver could have some time off. It is not hard. I set my own hours, and the time benefits me just as much as it does the people I visit.

We can all be volunteers in many ways. Church members who have church offices technically are church volunteers. You could volunteer to help at a soup kitchen or a community service office. You can vol-

unteer at an animal shelter.

You could volunteer at a school to help a teacher in a classroom. You could volunteer at a library to read stories to children. You could be a tutor or a Big Brother or Big Sister ([www.bbbs.org](http://www.bbbs.org)). There are a multitude of options to volunteer and give your time, resources, and talents. Just use your imagination, or do what I did and go directly to Google.

Are we not admonished to follow Jesus' example? Before Jesus was taken up into heaven, it was recorded in Matthew 28:19, 20, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Also we read in Revelation 22:12, "And behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be."

Don't volunteer to please me. Do it for you, and most importantly, for God! You will never know until you to try. The blessings and the benefits are right in front of you, ready to be had and shared.

**Susan Castillo**



# History of the Southwest Region Conference

## Current History

The Southwest Region Conference (SWRC) represents a unit of church organization comprising congregations in these areas: Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

This conference is one of five local conferences that make up the Southwestern Union. All races make up the membership, but the majority of the constituency is comprised of the Black population in the area, which stands at 3,957,986. Statistics (June 2008): churches, 100; missions, 13; membership, 23,020; church schools, 9; teachers, 18.

## The Beginning of the Work

The Seventh-day Adventist faith was preached and taught to Blacks in the territory currently known as the SWRC at least as early as 1876, the same year in which the Rust brothers [SDA laymen] came into Texas and gathered the first group of White converts in the Dallas area. D.M. Canright, visiting Texas in May, 1876, reported that one of the young members, Eddie Capman, was conducting a night school three times a week for Negroes, teaching old men and little children together to read and write. He also described a preaching service for Whites where many Negro people, according to the local custom, sat outside and listened.

Later the same year, A.B. Rust reported going with Parson Medlin, who had attended Capman's night school, to preach in several settlements in neighboring counties. In a community of 700 at Mansfield, White visitors sat outside. The next spring, Joseph Clark and his wife, from Ohio, taught a school at Grand Prairie, near A.B. Rust's home, in a build-

ing that had been erected by the Negroes, with the aid of contributions from the local White citizens.

The first Negro church in the area of the present SWRC was organized in New Orleans, Louisiana, on June 4, 1892. This was the result of the work of C.M. Kinney, a Negro pioneer minister who found six Negro Seventh-day Adventists in the city on his arrival the preceding October. He reported the newly-founded church as the fourth Negro church in the denomination (preceding it were those at Edgefield Junction, Tennessee, 1886; Louisville, Kentucky, 1890; and Bowling Green, Kentucky, 1891).

In 1901, a report from Sidney Scott, a Negro minister, tells of a group of converts in Catcher, Arkansas; also of a whole congregation, the "Monarch" church, though he does not mention the place. Also in 1901, a group was organized into a company in Houston, Texas, as a result of the work of two colporteurs, Mrs. Pack and Mrs. Dysart, who had won converts there in 1898. This company was organized into the Berean church on February 21, 1921, with a membership of 63, after a series of

meetings held by the union's Negro evangelist, M.G. Nunez.

Other workers and evangelists in the area were A.C. Chatman, Page Shepard, W.S. North, T.B. Buckner, N.B. King, J.H. Lawrence, J.G. Dasent, F.S. Keitts, T.H. Coopwood, Caleb Martin, and John W. Green.

From 1936 to 1938, new churches were organized in Fort Worth, Laredo, Palestine, and Longview, Texas. In 1941 and 1942, 48 more were baptized from two meetings held in the Valley and Corpus Christi, Texas.

## Organization Of The Black Work

There was no continuous method of organization. For years (1911, 1912, 1921, 1922) the Yearbook listed a Southwestern Union Mission for Negroes organized in 1920. Beginning in 1917, there were, under one or another of the local conferences, departments, missions, or committees; and from 1932, a Union Negro Department (or committee). These continued until 1946, after which a Regional Mission, comparable to the Regional Conferences in several other unions, was set up.

## The Southwestern Mission

On December 16, 1946, the Negro constituency of the Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas, and Texico Conferences (the region of the Southwestern Union), were combined and organized into the Southwestern Mission, effective January 1, 1947. This was not the same as the Southwestern Union Mission for Negroes organized in 1910, with an executive committee composed of Union executive commit-



tee members and three Negro ministers. This new mission was a unit comparable to a conference, with its own officers, committee, and departmental secretaries, and headquarters at 3711 Oakland Avenue, Dallas, Texas.

The first mission officers chosen by the constituency were: W.W. Fordham, president; V.L. Roberts, secretary, treasurer, home missionary secretary; J.H. Jones, publishing secretary; and Helen Wiggans Beckett, Sabbath School secretary.

When the mission was organized, there were 27 churches, 1700 members, 17 workers, four schools, and an annual tithe of \$70,773.59. At the end of two years as a mission, the membership was 1,939 with a total net worth of \$35,824.85. By 1995, the annual tithe was approaching \$60,000,000.

### The Southwest Region Conference Organized

On January 17, 1950, the Southwestern Mission constituency met in the Friendship Baptist Church in Dallas, Texas, to hold its first biennial session. W.W. Fordham, president of the mission, made his progress report for the preceding two years. J.C. Kozel, secretary-treasurer for the union, and who also served as chairman for the session, was pleased with the progress of the mission in such a short period. He entertained a motion to change the orga-

nization from a mission status to a conference status. The change was approved and the new organization was named the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. The same headquarters were maintained. The following officers and departmental secretaries were elected: W.W. Fordham, president and religious liberty secretary; W.L. Roberts, secretary, treasurer; C.C. Cunningham, education, MV, Sabbath School secretary, and temperance secretary; V.L. Roberts, Book and Bible House manager, press secretary; O. Dunn, publishing secretary.

The period following the conference organization was one of growth, progress, and a search for adequate housing for an expanding office. In 1958, the conference headquarters were moved from Oakland to 1990 South Boulevard. In that large facility, the conference office shared headquarters with the City Temple Adventist Church and the Southwest Region Academy. In 1968, the SWRC purchased the current building on Lanark Street, which provided space for the conference headquarters. Around that time, 100 acres was also purchased for the purpose of building a conference center.

Other land was purchased on which a new facility was built for the City Temple Adventist Church at 1530 Bonnie View Road. An existing facility at 1600 Bonnie



W.W. Fordham, Southwest Region Conference president from 1946 to 1954

View Road became the site for the Southwest Region Academy, primarily supported by the City Temple Adventist Church, the constituent church between then and 2008.

### Presidents Who Have Served

W.W. Fordham, 1946-1954; H.R. Murphy, 1954-1956; V.L. Roberts, 1956-1969; W.J. Cleveland, 1969-1976; R.E. Barron, 1986-1990; R.L. Lister, 1990-2001; B.E. Wright, 2001-2012; S.E. Green, 2012-present.

## Berean Celebrates Church Pioneer's 90th Birthday

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** » On March 4, Berean added another pioneer to its distinguished list of those having reached age 90. Our most recent nonagenarian is Doris Gilliam, who not only is the youngest of the now four nonagenarians, but also has the distinction of being Berean's only surviving relative of one of the 27 charter members who under Evangelist J.G. Dascent began Berean following an evangelistic effort during the summer of 1936. It was Gilliam's mother Laura Hubbard who was among this elite group. Not only would Hubbard become a member, but subsequently, daughter, Doris, and her six siblings as well. With the exception of a deceased brother, her siblings are Laura Thomas and Betty Stanford of Huntsville, Alabama;

Mable Cox and Joseph Hubbard of New Orleans, Louisiana; and Albert Hubbard of Atlanta, Georgia. Rounding out her immediate family are six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

During her active years, Gilliam served Berean in a number of capacities, including that of church treasurer, Sabbath School teacher, community services member, and Bible worker. In spite of her having reached ninety years of age, she has managed to retain and can still quote Scripture along with excerpts from E.G. White's writings. One of her favorite expressions is "It just blows my mind how we're going to spend eternity with our Lord. I can't begin to imagine what 'eternity' is. Everything I know has a beginning and an end."

To show their gratitude for the way God continues to bless her with longevity, her family recently honored Gilliam with a birthday party where family and friends proudly wore T-shirts boldly displaying her picture, Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday, Doris Gilliam, and Proverbs 31:30: "But a woman who fears the Lord, shall be praised," inscribed below it all. Berean is grateful that another of its trailblazers has been blessed with not only "threescore years and ten," but an awesome "fourscore," and ten. We praise God for Sister Gilliam and what the dedicated service from her mother and her has meant to Berean.

Evelyn M. Edwards

# New Pastor in the Macedonia Monroe District

**MONROE, LA. »** Pastor Etser Edouard was introduced to the Macedonia Monroe District on Sabbath, February 14, 2015. The district is comprised of the Macedonia church in Monroe, Present Truth church in Monroe, New Start church in Minden, Maranatha church in Winnsboro, First church in Tallulah, and the Adventist Youth Fellowship in Grambling.

In his first sermon, one of his three promises was that he would work hard, and that is just what he is doing. Pastor Edouard shared his focus with all present that he is first and foremost a soul-winner. He has been visible at his churches, visiting sick and shut-in members, reaching out to missing members through telephone calls and home visitations, and presenting spiritually uplifting messages at mid-week prayer services. He also has attend-

ed a funeral for a former member to show support and comfort to the bereaved family, which includes members of Macedonia.

Pastor Edouard has had meetings with the members of his congregations and with the elders of his churches to share his vision and to admonish and enhance continual spiritual progression at each site. He has exhibited a professional Christ-like

spirit in addressing concerns and resolving pertinent issues at his respective churches.

As evidence of Pastor Edouard's commitment and determination, the first baptism of this New Year was held at the Macedonia church in Monroe, Louisiana, on Sabbath afternoon, February 28, 2015. It was a joyous celebration as Jerome Manning rededicated his life to the Lord. At the

baptismal service Manning said, "I did not feel comfortable being anywhere else. I am home! I am here to stay!" Manning's grandparents, Theo and Izola Jordan, were members of Macedonia. Izola Jordan was a charter member of Macedonia Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1951, and remained a faithful member until her death at the age of 106, in 2013. Pastor Edouard said he plans to get plenty of use out of the baptismal pool, and the congregation exclaimed, "Amen!"

**Genevia Nicholas Jones**



Pastor Etser Edouard, newly assigned to the Macedonia Monroe District, baptizes Jerome Manning.

## SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Third Quadrennial Session of the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene September 19 - 20, 2015, at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church in Keene, Texas.

Registration for the session is scheduled to begin at 7:45 p.m. Saturday night, September 19, 2015. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental personnel for the ensuing quadrennial term, and to transact such business as may properly come before the session.

Each church is entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) additional delegate for each forty-five (45) members or major fraction thereof and who holds membership in the local church or company, which accredits them.

*S.L. Green, President*

*T.R. McCoy, Secretary*

*N.M. Jones, Treasurer*

## SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Third Quadrennial Session of the Southwest Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will convene September 19 - 20, 2015, at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church in Keene, Texas.

Registration for the session is scheduled to begin at 7:45 p.m. Saturday night, September 19, 2015. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental personnel for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider revisions to the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such business as may properly come before the session.

Delegates to the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Third Quadrennial Session are also delegates to the Southwest Region Conference Association.

*S.L. Green, President*

*T.R. McCoy, Secretary*



# History of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas



In 1874, the Seventh-day Adventist Church was well established with headquarters in Battle Creek, Michigan. Texas was a mission field. In 1874, Albert Rusk and his wife, Julia, left Nebraska and moved to Ellis County in Texas. Soon after that, his brothers John and Elbridge Rust moved to Texas to bring the Adventist message to the Lone Star State. Meetings were conducted in Dallas, and as a result, a company of believers was organized. For a time, believers met in different homes in the Dallas-Grand Prairie area. Elder D.M. Canright arrived in May of 1876. He held evangelistic meetings and organized a church of 18 members in Dallas.

The General Conference sent R.M. Kilgore to Texas and after conducting evangelistic meetings, churches were organized in Cleburne, Peoria, and Terrell. A young minister, A.G. Daniels, who later became General Conference president,

was his tent master. In 1878, James and Ellen White spent several months in Texas. A camp meeting was held in Plano, Texas, and the Texas Conference was organized, with R.M. Kilgore as the first conference president.

Kilgore asked John Rusk to ride horseback 60 miles with him to find the highest spot in Johnson County to organize a new company of believers. In 1893, the conference purchased 800 acres of land in Johnson County so they could start a training school (which is now Southwestern Adventist University). Plots of land were sold to Adventists who moved to Keene to be near the new school. For a time, members attended Sabbath School at Elm Grove, a country schoolhouse, or in a dugout located east of the present university campus.

On January 6, 1894, a church was organized with 60 members. The United States Postal Department gave the new settlement the name Keene. A railroad was built

on what is now known as Old Betsy Road. A train depot was built in Keene. It is recorded that as the train neared Keene, the conductor would shout, "next stop is the Holy city."

The church organized a missionary tract society with Eldridge Rusk as secretary. John Rusk's daughter married Lee Newton Carter, who spent many years as treasurer of the college at Keene.

Jeff Wilson began a ministry for the German-speaking people in Texas. New churches were started in South and North Texas. A large German church was organized in Valley View. A.W. Jenson ministered to the Swedish- and Danish-speaking people and many accepted the Adventist message. The oldest Adventist church still standing is at Clifton.

In 1895, W.N. Hyatt began a Sabbath

Texas Conference Camp Meeting, 1968



School in Fort Worth. In 1896, John Lawrence McGee, a self-supporting nurse, began the work in San Antonio. About the same time, the Advent message was proclaimed in Houston. J.N. Summerville ministered in East Texas, which resulted in the organization of the Marietta church and day school. Between 1909 and 1913, W.F. Mayer did colporteur work among the Spanish-speaking people in the Rio Grande and a number joined the church. In the Rio Grande, several Adventist doctors, such as Drs. De Witt, Reed, and Westphal, began their practice and greatly advanced the work of the church. In 1913, the Progressive Club of Jefferson approached the Texas Conference president requesting the establishment of a Seventh-day Adventist colony and school to be established in that area. President W.A. McClutchen made arrangements for the purchase of an 1800-acre tract of land so a church and school

could be built and tracts of land could be sold to Adventist members.

For many years the conference conducted a ten-day camp meeting at Keene and members attended from all over the conference. They stayed in the dormitories and in family tents. In the early 1960s the pastors were requested to come to Keene three weeks before camp meeting to help build a new auditorium (which is now the university gym).

By the time camp meeting started, the roof and frame had been finished. When H.M.S. Richards, Sr., stood up to preach he looked around and said, "This looks like Noah's Ark turned upside down."

One of the early Adventist believers in Dallas was a Mrs. Huguley. Her son became a dentist. When he died in the 1970s, it was discovered that he left a large sum of money so the Seventh-day Adventist Church could build a hospital in honor

of his faithful mother. As a result we have Texas Health Huguley Hospital, which recently received an A-rating among the hospitals in the Fort Worth area.

Beginning in the 1950s, conference presidents, such as N.R. Dower, Ben Leach, and Cyril Miller, placed much emphasis on evangelism. Such evangelists as Forlyce Detamore, Stanley Harris, and Richard Barron conducted meetings all over the conference. The Texas Conference began to grow in membership. The current conference continues to promote evangelism and our conference has grown to 52,816 members. It is one of the largest conferences in the division.

Many facts for this article were taken from *Seventh-day Adventist Bible Commentary* set and the book: *The 19<sup>th</sup> Century Odyssey of John and Judith* by G. Tom Carter.

Joe Ray

## Ten Commandments Portrait Gifted

**KEENE** » Gertie Ayala started and organized the Chisolm Trail Estates Sabbath School located in Keene, Texas, now coordinated by Morris Lowery with the assistance of Melissa Walden. Gertie spent several years hunting for a portrait of the entire Ten Commandments on two tables of stone.

According to Gertie, "Ever since I was a little girl, I have gone to Sabbath School and, in whatever part of the world I was in, there was always a chart of the Ten Commandments hanging on the wall. The lead-

ers expected the children to commit the Ten Commandments to memory.

"I asked the church members, the conference leaders, and the Adventist Book Center to find a good picture of the Ten Commandments, the law written by the finger of God on two tables of stone, but they could not find one."

Gertie traveled to other cities, and checked the Internet and bookstores operated by other denominations, but to no avail.

Finally, Gertie commissioned Izzeta Holland to produce a Ten Commandment wall chart.

Izzeta and her grandparents, Harley and Charlotte Larkin, surprised Gertie a few days before Christmas with a beautifully framed Ten Commandments wall portrait as a Christmas gift.

Izzeta had circled the fourth commandment in gold as seen by Ellen White in her vision of God's Law in the Heavenly Sanctuary in its Most Holy Place after the Great Disappointment in 1844.

Gertie Ayala, Harley Larkin, and Izzeta Holland took this work of art to the Chisolm Trail Estates where they gave permission for the Ten Commandments to hang in their lobby area where the Sabbath School meets weekly and where it is available for public viewing.

Gertrude Ayala



◀ Izzeta Holland (right) created a wall portrait of the Ten Commandments for Chisolm Trail Estates. The image now hangs in the lobby.

▼ Melissa Walden and Gertrude Ayala.



# Conference-Level Bible Adventure

**SAN ANTONIO** » On January 17, 2015, the Texas Conference Youth and Young Adult Department held its first ever conference-level Bible Adventure in San Antonio. Families from all across Texas came together for this Bible knowledge event that tested the Adventurers in their knowledge of Matthew chapters 1-15. Previously, some local areas had tested Adventurers in Bible knowledge, but this year marked the official launch of this event as a conference-sponsored event.

Thirty-three teams participated, with

teams consisting of four to six Adventurers per team. The testing had a total of 50 questions divided in two segments of 25. Questions were multiple choice or true/false. A mother from the Dallas area that had come as a visitor mentioned, "I want my daughter in this program. It is the first time I've seen a children's club learning from the Bible."

Area coordinators and conference leaders were excited and impressed by the Adventurers knowing big portions of Scripture by memory. The participants also

showed great eagerness, as they remained focused during the event.

Another parent from the Houston area commented about her son's experience, and said, "This is the third time my son has participated in a Bible competition. I am very grateful because my son knows more about Jesus."

During the intermission while the scores were being tabulated, the Adventurers and their families had a chance to sing songs and worship together. As they sang with the energy that only Adventurers have, we

were reminded of the reason behind this Bible Adventure event: To see children fall in love with Jesus and to see families united in the study of Scripture.

**Armando Miranda, Jr.,**  
associate youth director

More than 30 Adventurer teams participated in the first-ever Texas Conference Bible Adventure, a Bible knowledge event that took place in San Antonio on January 17, 2015.



## Correction

The April 2015 *Record* contained an error in the Texas summer camp schedule. Here is the correct schedule for Lake Whitney Ranch, 2015:

### Lake Whitney Ranch

Camp	Ages	Date
Junior Camp	10-12	June 14-21
Tween Camp	12-14	June 21-28
Cub Camp	7-9	June 28- July 5
Day Camp in San Antonio (all ages)		July 5-11
Teen Camp	14-17	July 12-19

# Adventism Springs Up in the Wild, Wild West

Las Vegas, New Mexico harbored the most “disreputable gang of desperadoes and outlaws.” It may not have been as well-known as other Wild West towns (such as Dodge City, Deadwood, or Tombstone), but many individuals came from there. Las Vegas is said to have been the worst of the worst of the Old West.

Where did all these shady, undesirable characters come from? They came through the Santa Fe Trail (1820-1880). For many years the Santa Fe Trail was the primary commercial highway connecting Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico. For the travelers along this rustic path, Las Vegas was a welcome site, as it was the first town of any size after 600 miles of travel from Kansas. For 60 years, the trail was one thread in a web of international trade routes. It influenced economies as far away as New York and London, bringing together a cultural mosaic of individuals who cooperated and sometimes clashed.

Almost overnight, Las Vegas developed into a thriving town. It brought in traders, pioneers, prospectors, merchants, and professionals. By 1847, when the iron horse finally arrived, Las Vegas boomed, quickly becoming one of the largest cities in the American Southwest. It grew so large that it rivaled Denver, Tucson, and El Paso in size.

The six trains that stopped daily also brought in more undesirable desperadoes to the town’s already distrustful environment. Before long, outlaws and thieves were becoming so common that the eastern part of the settlement had become utterly lawless. It was during these notorious days of Las Vegas’ history that the town was called home or visited by Doc Holliday, Big Nose Kate, Jesse James, Billy the Kid, Cock-Eyed Frank, Rattlesnake Sam, and many more.

Since the train connected Kansas with New Mexico, a desire was born to evangelize this most notorious town of the Wild West. As a result of an action by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists asking the Kansas Conference to open up work in New Mexico, Smith Sharp, a prominent minister from Kansas, held evangelistic meetings in East Las Vegas during the summer of 1889. This effort took place in the most undesirable part of town, assisted part of the time by E.H. Gates, then president of the Colorado Conference. Records do not indicate the outcome of this evangelistic meeting. However, the *Seventh-day Adventist Encyclopedia* states, “a number of the new converts from these meetings attended the Colorado camp meeting that fall” (p. 1474).

In 1908, the 100 western counties of Texas were separated from the Texas Conference and became the West Texas Mission. This mission was organized in 1909 as the West Texas Conference, with T.W. Field as president, located in the small town of Hamby, Texas, less than ten miles from Abilene. In September of 1909, 21 delegates, representing five organized churches and about 200 members, were organized in Abilene as the West Texas Conference.

Abilene began as a tough Wild West town, complete with saloons, bordellos, and a famous gunfight at Pine and North First Street. Abilene citizens were once considered liars and thieves.

Although Abilene began its existence as a rowdy frontier town, with cowboys displaying unruly conduct, there was an attempt to tame the frontier and make it a congenial town for rearing families. Citizens quickly founded schools and churches due to the religious influence.

Seventh-day Adventism slowly grew in the Abilene area. A church facility was established in Clyde, Texas, 10 miles east of Abilene. Like Abilene, Clyde traces its roots to the expansion of the Texas & Pacific Railway. Legend has it that the railroad construction crew, which numbered about 5,000, gathered regularly at Robert Clyde’s construction camp and supply tent, just south of the tracks. Hence, the area began to be commonly referred to as “Clyde’s.” Here the Seventh-day Adventist church was born in West Texas.

At the turn of the century, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway were ordered to locate a town site in the newly developing ranch and farm area of Eastern New Mexico. They chose the site just northwest



Undated photo of early Adventist work in the Texico Conference

of an existing rail switch, known as Riley Switch. "Riley's Switch" was later renamed "Clovis" by the stationmaster's daughter who was studying about the first Christian (Catholic) king, "King Clovis," of the Franks who ruled in Europe in the fifth century. The AT&SF established the township of Clovis, which built up rapidly and was incorporated in 1909.

Adventists began meeting in Clovis on June 27, 1908 when Elisha Taylor organized the first Sabbath School.

At the end of 1907, the Seventh-day Adventist work was assigned to the Southwestern Union Conference, and was organized as the New Mexico Mission, with H.L. Hoover as superintendent, beginning February 1, 1908. The final steps in raising this mission to conference status were

taken at the camp meeting in Alamogordo, New Mexico, August 19-29, 1909.

On a windy, sandy Thursday evening, on June 16, 1910, Roy Benton and Theodore Miller started an evangelistic tent meeting in Clovis. Reports indicate that the wind was so bad that the large tent was blown down twice. The meetings lasted two months and about 40 people attended. As a result of this first evangelistic series, four people were baptized.

The Clovis church was organized on March 22, 1911 with 12 members as part of the New Mexico Conference headquartered in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The New Mexico Conference continued until December 1916, when it and the West Texas Conference combined to form the Texico Conference with R.B. Coberly as

president. Headquarters were located in Clovis, New Mexico.

As we have recounted only a small part of our Adventist history, it reminds us of where God has led us in the past and we are confident that He will continue to lead us in the future. This vast territory that began in the wild southwest with just a handful of members has now grown to approximately 12,300 members.

Next year in 2016, the Texico Conference will have the privilege of celebrating its 100-year anniversary. We thank God for His leading and for faithful members who have shared Christ through the century in West Texas and New Mexico. May God continue to bless and use us to finish the work in the Texico Conference.

# Clint Church Celebration and Baptisms

**CLINT, TEX. »** During the weekend of January 30-31, the congregation of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Clint, Texas celebrated 15 years in their current church location. The celebration started on Friday with a ceremony of consecration, including a Passover service. The festivities continued throughout Saturday with various programs. It was a special time to remember how God has led this church throughout the years, and how He will continue to guide in the future.

As part of the celebration, Dario Rodríguez was ordained as an elder. Since his baptism in 2013, he has demonstrated his love and service to Christ. Dario, his wife, Eduvigis, and sister, Vicky Rodríguez, have served the church and its members unconditionally since their arrival.

The celebration ended with ten baptisms and a special dinner. Of those who were baptized there were two children, a 90-year-old woman, and seven other adults. Although the baptisms could not be performed in the Clint church due to a leak in the baptistry that did not stop one from taking place. The El Paso Central church graciously lent their facilities so these people could pub-



**Top:** Maria Villegas being assisted in the baptismal pool because of her great desire to enter the waters of baptism as Jesus did.

**Bottom:** Due to a leak in the baptistry at the Clint Spanish church, the El Paso Central church graciously allowed its baptistry to be used for the 10 new members who gave their lives to Christ.

the children, Angela Quezada, also joined the Bible study, and the three of them gave their lives to the Lord during the baptismal ceremony.

We also have the account of Maria Villegas, age 90. Because of her advanced age and being confined to a wheelchair, she was offered to be accepted as a member of the Adventist Church by profession of faith since it would be difficult to submerge her in the baptistry. Maria refused because of her great desire to enter the waters of baptism as Jesus did.

Another special story is about Mary Robles, who, despite having cancer, has not stopped attending church. On January 31, she also decided to be baptized. Mary testifies of the great joy she felt in giving her life to the Lord and the hope she has in Jesus as her Great Physician.

Each new member has their special story of how the Lord is working in their lives. The Clint

lily give their lives to Jesus.

Each baptism has a special story behind it, such as Christian and Dago Armendariz, two little brothers that have been attending the church. They asked Maria Torres, a church member, to give them Bible studies and she happily accepted. The mother of

church is honored to have these new members, and it is the desire of the congregation to continue working to win more souls for the kingdom of God.

**Daniela Marquez**

# Snow Stopped the Blood from Flowing

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. »

Learning that a family member has been in a debilitating car accident brings waves of anxiety, concern, and fear. Knowing that a person's life hangs in a delicate balance and being completely unable to do anything but pray is a reminder of how fragile life is on this planet. Taylor Dunn, 21, was run over by a hit-and-run driver in Albuquerque, New Mexico on February 6, 2015. She miraculously survived, but by the end of March, she had required 50 units of blood due to the 15 major surgeries she endured.

Taylor previously attended Sandia View Elementary School and has family members who attend the Corrales Seventh-day Adventist Church. In reaching out to the family, we discovered the best way the Corrales church members could support and minister to them and to Taylor was by hosting a blood drive. Providentially, the first blood drive that was scheduled had to be cancelled due to an unexpected snowstorm that left many churches in the Albuquerque metro area cancelling church services for the day.

Though disappointed about the cancellation and unsure if a new date would improve the opportunities to get people out to donate blood, God's hand was leading. For the first scheduled blood drive only six people had signed up. The second date (six weeks after Taylor was hit and still in a coma) gave time to have Taylor's story and the blood drive broadcasted by KOAT news. Recognizing that news interest could help us bring awareness to the blood drive, the Corrales church's pastor, André Arrais, and Lisa Christopherson did an



▲ Blood donor Ned Gurule is happy to give for a good cause.

▼ United Blood Services set up stations in the Sandia View Elementary School gymnasium to handle as many people as possible to donate blood. Sandia View Academy student Chandler Tarbox (front) participates in the donation.



interview with KRQE, Channel 13. Hanna Gasper, Taylor's cousin, did an interview with KOAT, Channel 7, an ABC affiliate. A big surprise came when the ABC Good Morning America producer contacted the church on Sabbath morning, March 7, to do a story on Taylor and the blood drive.

The United Blood Services personnel agreed to extend the blood drive an extra hour because there were so many walk-in donations, and they were touched by what people were telling them about the reasons they were donating blood. Donors were largely people who didn't even know Taylor but had heard about the drive via the news, on the radio, the church's Facebook page, or from the various flyers placed in local coffee shops and bars. Even with United Blood Services so graciously extending their time, nine people had to be turned away. God blessed above and beyond what we had hoped for with 39 units of blood received!

Taylor's extended family was able to join us for the blood drive, even though Taylor was and is still in the hospital's critical care unit. She has a long road of rehabilitation ahead of her, but her cousin, Hanna Gasper, reports that Taylor smiled when they told her about the blood drive. Yes, she is out of the coma! Praise God!

What God had planned was bigger and better than what we had in mind. The connections we Seventh-day Adventist Christians were able to make with our community and with Taylor's family were so worth being snowed in for!

Lisa Christopherson

# Southwestern Students Take Their Community Projects to Competition in St. Louis

Fifteen Southwestern Adventist University students recently traveled to the Enactus National Exposition in St. Louis, Missouri.

The competitions are challenging, team-oriented events that create a sense of accountability and motivation for teams to continually improve the quality of their projects. The teams competed for three days. But before the excitement of the competition comes months of hard work: each Enactus team, from various colleges around the country, must develop and conduct projects to better their communities.

“Enactus is an entrepreneurial business club, but you don’t have to be a business major to be in it,” says Tony Seery, Enactus president at Southwestern. “One of our requirements is that we do projects that impact lives in sustainable, economical, environmental, and socially responsible ways. We were able to meet that requirement by conducting projects in Cleburne, one in the Navajo Indian Reservation in Arizona, and two in Keene. After all of our projects were completed, we took all the data we acquired to see how many people we impacted directly as well as how many people we impacted indirectly.”

The national competition involves Enactus clubs from colleges and universities across the United States. During the four rounds of competition, students must make their presentations in front of 10 judges. The judges who grade the clubs are business professionals and executives

from corporations such as Walmart, CVS, Microsoft, and Home Depot.

Presenting in front of business profes-

paring our presentations. At the end of the day, there’s no better feeling than seeing your projects recognized and hearing it announced that Southwestern Adventist University Enactus team moves on to the next round.”

“We are proud to announce that the Southwestern Adventist University Enactus Team placed second in the quarter-final round of competition at the Enactus National Exposition,” says an elated Enactus sponsor and business professor, Ana Patterson. “The presentation team highlighted four projects completed throughout the school year: Business in a Box, Thrive Cleburne, Spoons for Change, and Rez Refuge. They were awarded \$2,000 in prize



Ana Patterson

Southwestern Enactus team celebrates after placing second in their league at the Enactus USA Competition in St. Louis.

sionals that represent major companies can be very nerve wracking, according to Seery, but it does pay off in the end.

“It is very scary when you’re standing in front of these people and they’re just nailing you with questions that you have to answer on the spot,” says Seery. “We definitely get nervous, but we also get closer as a team because we spend countless hours building projects, connecting with the community, and pre-



Licci Zemleduch.

money and this recognition places the team in the top 32 out of 181 competing colleges and universities. It is wonderful to see all their hard work recognized.”

**Saul Flores**, junior communication major

# MOREcompassion Brings Hundreds of Volunteers to San Antonio

**SAN ANTONIO, TEX.** » The excitement subsided after a full morning in the rain. It had been a fun, challenging two weeks of hard work. Marching in the rain with over 850 people, was surely exhilarating after MOREcompassion, the phenomenal two-week mission trip in the city of San Antonio, Texas. As part of the initiative to prepare San Antonio for the General Conference Session of 2015, the Texas Conference crafted plans to impact the city in many ways. Through evangelism, youth activities, media, and many others, the plan was hatched. One of those plans that started to take form was a mission trip to San Antonio.

Usually, when the words “mission trip” are mentioned, images of a foreign land, destitute and needy people, and Third World countries come to mind. For the last two years, planning to bring hope, service, and joy to the community of San Antonio was a constant thought shared in the meetings that involved the evangelism department and the youth department of the Texas Conference, while the Southwestern Union joined and supported those plans also.

The idea to impact San Antonio was a priority and a group of leaders and pastors started to coordinate several different community service projects that would be easy to do, yet would impact and be meaningful enough for anyone that decided to participate. The dates were set for spring break, March 7-21, 2015, and the Conference and Union leadership invited all the churches and schools of the Union to participate in some form. For months, planning and developing projects was a constant conversation among the leaders

and the pastors at ground level. Promotion started to spread to all parts of the Union with the intention of having as many participants as possible.

The following are the projects that were birthed from that process:

**MOREcommunity:** The idea of serving the neighborhoods around the local Sev-

erving at the local homeless and women’s shelters. Supporting the local agencies in their efforts to serve others was a simple way of working together with others who are already doing something.

**MOREfood:** There were two different emphases to this project: 1. Volunteering at the local city food bank (San Antonio Food Bank) and 2. Supporting two local churches (Spanish Durango and Spanish 3 Angeles) in their weekly food fair where they distribute food.

**MOREreach:** The distribution of literature (GLOW tracts) and also the distribution of invitations for the upcoming “Pathways to Health” (an initiative to provide free medical, dental, eye care services to the city of San Antonio) mixed in with praying for the communities and people was one of the most simple ways of engaging people in the community.

There was another project that could not get off the ground due to different circumstances, but many other things were done without being in the works that enhanced the impact to the city of San Antonio.

In the end, the participation of six Texas Conference schools (Burlson Adventist School, Burton Adventist Academy, Valley Grande Adventist Academy, The Oaks Adventist Christian School, Adventist Christian Academy of Texas, and Scenic Hills Adventist School) and various youth groups from around Texas (Richardson SDA Church, Garland Spanish SDA church, etc.) brought more than 200 volunteers from outside of San Antonio. More than 1,000 hours were spent volunteering, and the items that were distributed at the food fairs were significant with more than



As part of an initiative to introduce San Antonio residents to Seventh-day Adventists in preparation for the General Conference Session in July, the Texas Conference planned ways to impact their lives in meaningful ways. These plans included things like helping the local communities by mowing lawns or picking up trash, volunteering at the local food bank, distributing literature, serving at local homeless shelters, rallying against human trafficking, and much more.

enth-day Adventist Churches in San Antonio through different acts of service like mowing lawns, picking up trash, sweeping, etc. In other words, serving the community through simple acts that do not cost more than gasoline and effort from the volunteers.

**MOREsupport:** There are many local agencies that serve people and families in need. This project focused on helping and



800 families served.

MOREcompassion Mission Trip San Antonio 2015 ended with a bang by having a rally against Human trafficking/slavery on March 21, as a part of the Global Youth Day initiative. Pastor Jose Rojas, from MOVEMENT ministries was the speaker for the morning and encouraged young people to raise their voices, to be involved and speak for others who were not able to do so because of slavery/trafficking. The march happened in the midst of rain, but that did not deter nor dampen the energy and courage of more than 850 people who marched close to downtown San Antonio.

There were leaders from churches and nonprofit organizations who formed a panel to speak about the dangers and realities of slavery in the 21st century. Their voices were heard and a local news channel aired a spot that evening highlighting the energy and the voices of young people in their MOREfreedom walk against human slavery/trafficking.

Also, Hope Channel connected to Texas to ask about what had been done for Global Youth Day, and their report was highlighted because a 16-year-old edited and made a phenomenal video highlighting the activities of the day.

Overall, MOREcompassion started a sentiment in the participants that they plan to continue in their own churches. Pastors from the local churches mentioned that they will start a “lawn mowing ministry,” and plan to connect with and support local nonprofits in their communities. The blessings were abundant and plans to repeat this local mission trip are already in place to impact other cities and areas. Next year, the plan is to impact Dallas with MOREcompassion!

**Armando Miranda**, associate youth director, Texas Conference

## Three-day Mega Clinic Provides More Than \$20 Million in Health Care Services to 6,192 San Antonio Residents

**SAN ANTONIO, TEX.** » More than 1,700 healthcare professionals and volunteers operated a no-cost mega medical and dental clinic in San Antonio, Texas, on April 8-10, 2015. Organizers announced that \$20,124,000 in free health-related services were offered to noninsured and underinsured residents of San Antonio at the Alamodome. 6,192 residents were treated at the clinic, including 360 who were given surgical services, at no cost. Organizers had originally estimated \$10 million in services to 6,000.

ology, rheumatology, infectious disease, general and orthopedic surgery, pediatrics, podiatry services, immunizations, root canals, crowns, fillings, extractions, dental cleaning, pharmacy, eyeglass fittings and examinations, STD screenings, medical massage, physical therapy, x-rays, laboratory services, haircuts, chaplaincy services, and a free meal.

No insurance and no identification were

The next mega clinic will be held next in Spokane, Washington, on August 3-4, 2015. Visit [www.yourbestpathwaytohealth.org](http://www.yourbestpathwaytohealth.org) for more information.

**Costin Jordache**

**Editor's note:** Look for a full feature article on Your Best Pathway to Health in the August issue of the *Record*!



*Your Best*  
**PATHWAY**  
*to* **HEALTH**

The event was organized by Your Best Pathway to Health, a service of Adventist-Laymen's Services & Industries (ASI), in partnership with the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Adventist Health System, and other entities. Your Best Pathway to Health was co-sponsored by the San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, working closely with the Office of Mayor Ivy R. Taylor.

Free on-site services included primary care visits, women's health services including pap smears, consultation by medical specialists including heart evaluation, as well as gastroenterology, neurology, pulm-

required. No appointment was necessary, other than surgical procedures, which required free-of-charge pre-surgery visits.

Thousands lined up outside the Alamodome for free medical care each morning of the mega clinic, April 8-10, 2015.



James Bokovoy

## Classified Ads

### REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

#### Arkansas Home for Sale:

3-bedroom, 2-bath, 1-story, 2,200 sq.ft., brick home on 60 acres surrounded by Ouachita National Forest (can't see neighbors) with central heat and air, plus site-built fireplace. City and well water, 30 x 50 walk shop/storage building, 2-bedroom mobile home for in-law, four ponds, and stone shelter. Asking \$357,500. For information, call Carlyn Kim at 951.966.1669, or Keith at 479.243.5341.

#### Summit Ridge Retirement Village

is an Adventist community in a rural setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Web site: <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

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**Choice Property for Country Living:** 3-bedroom, 2-bath, Double-wide mobile home on 15.7 acres. Large

garden with a variety of fruit trees and berry bushes. Water from year round creek. Near Mena and Mt. Ida, Ark. \$79,000. For sale by owner. Phone: 405.482.7235.

#### Elegant 3/2 Brick Home on 1+ Acre:

Open concept with room to expand upstairs. In the Godley Texas ISD. Approximately 30 minutes from Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Tex. Call Calahan Real Estate Professionals for all of your real estate needs, 817.645.9308. Personalized not Franchised!

### EMPLOYMENT

#### High Demand—Managers of Skilled Nursing Facilities and Senior Care Centers:

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#### Southwestern Adventist University's Business Department

seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required, Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing or Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses, and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at [mosesa@swau.edu](mailto:mosesa@swau.edu).

**Nursing Department at Southwestern Adventist University** seeks full-time educator to begin Fall 2015.

Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Focus areas include mental health, community health, or pediatrics. Must have previous teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at [arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu).

#### Recruiting midlevel providers (NP/PA) for a new Rural Health Clinic/Urgent Care

in Weimar, CA. Opportunities are available to specialize in a number of medical fields. Our most urgent needs are Mental Health, Pain Management, Outpatient Surgery and Emergency Medicine. Call Randy at 530.296.4417, or e-mail [r61@me.com](mailto:r61@me.com) for more information.

#### Pacific Union College

is seeking a full-time carpentry foreperson to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will

possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet making, and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects and work well under pressure. For more information or to apply, call 707.965.6231, or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

#### Would you like to work abroad?

Adventist Frontier Missions is now mobilizing Tentmakers. AFM is looking for a core group of 20 professionals to seek secular foreign employment in Turkey, India, China, or other countries for 10 months to 3 years. For more information on becoming part of this group, visit [www.GoTential.org](http://www.GoTential.org).

#### The General Conference/Office of General Counsel

"My name will be great among the nations, from where the sun rises to where it sets," says the Lord.

Malachi 1:11

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is accepting resumes for a fulltime attorney. Required: good standing/member of a U.S. state bar, licensed to practice in the US, and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in Intellectual Property, Media law, and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring, Maryland. A wide range of benefits included. Submit resume to Karnik Doukmetzian, General Counsel, at [karnikd@gc.adventist.org](mailto:karnikd@gc.adventist.org).

**Andrews University** seeks a full-time faculty to serve as director of the DNP program. This individual will provide the administrative/management direction for this graduate program with a focus in FNP preparation, or DNP preparation or those who are already

advanced practice nurses. Qualified person should have a DNP prepared, FNP certified, FNP experience, formal academic teaching experience, experience with accreditation, evidence of scholarship, experience with online teaching. For more information and to apply, visit [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_10](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_10).

**Andrews University** seeks Research Coordinator/Faculty in Physical Therapy. This individual will plan, coordinate, facilitate, administer, and monitor all research activities on behalf of the academic department and also teach within the department of Physical Therapy. Qualified person should have advanced doctorate (academic or professional). For more information and to apply, visit <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/>

[jobs/show/faculty#job\\_12](#).

**The Advancement Office at Southwestern Adventist University** seeks full-time Director of Alumni Relations. Focus areas include alumni events, engagement strategy, volunteer coordination, and fundraising, includes some travel. Bachelor's degree and two years relevant experience required. Submit cover letter and current CV/resume to Human Resources at [denise.rivera@swau.edu](mailto:denise.rivera@swau.edu).

**Southwestern Adventist University** seeks Development Officer/Grant Writer. Responsibilities include grant writing, donor relations, event coordination, and case articulation. Exceptional written and verbal communication skills are essential. Bachelor's degree required and previous success securing grants.

Submit cover letter and CV/resume to Human Resources at [denise.rivera@swau.edu](mailto:denise.rivera@swau.edu).

**Andrews University** seeks an Assistant/Associate/Full-time Professor in Electrical/Electronic Engineering. This individual will teach courses in the Engineering and Computer Science department, advise students, and participate in University and College committees. Qualified person should have a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering. For more information and to apply, visit [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_4](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4).

**Andrews University** seeks a Faculty in Aeronautical Technician. This individual is responsible for teaching, planning, organizing, and operating within an FAA approved part 147 maintenance

## Adventist Book Center - May 2015 - Direct to You (D2U) Schedule

### Monday, May 18

Georgetown - 5105 S I-35, Georgetown, TX 78626 - 10:30am to 11:00am  
 Austin South - 132 Eberhart Ln, Austin, TX 78745 - 12:15pm to 12:45pm  
 San Marcos - 1523 Old Ranch Rd 12, San Marcos, TX 78666 - 2:00pm to 2:30pm  
 San Antonio Valley View - 6630 FM 1516 Converse, TX 78109 - 3:45pm to 4:15pm  
 San Antonio Highland Hills - 2526 Goliad Rd, San Antonio, TX 78223 - 4:55pm to 5:25pm  
 Floresville - 724 US Hwy 181 S, Floresville, TX 78114 - 6:10pm to 6:40pm

### Tuesday, May 19

Beeville - 902 N Polk St, Beeville, TX 78102 - 9:30am to 10:00am  
 Corpus Christi - 6645 Downing St, Corpus Christi, TX 78414 - 11:30am to 12:00pm  
 Alice - 924 N Johnson St, Alice TX 78332 - 1:45pm to 2:15pm  
 Brownsville - 3515 Old Hwy 77, Brownsville, TX 78520 - 4:45pm to 5:15pm  
 Harlingen - 20811 Montezuma Rd, Harlingen, TX 78550 - 6:00pm to 6:30pm  
 Weslaco - 1200 S Bridge Ave, Weslaco, TX 78596 - 7:15pm to 7:45pm

### Wednesday, May 20

McAllen Spanish Valley Central - 6901 N Ware Rd, McAllen, TX 78504 - 8:45am to 9:15am  
 Publicaciones Cristianas - 6500 N 10th St, Suite L, McAllen, TX 78504 - 9:30am to 10:00am  
 Edinburg - 602 W Wisconsin Rd, Edinburg, TX 78539 - 10:15am to 10:45 am  
 Laredo - 3108 Columbia Dr, Laredo, TX 78046 - 2:15pm to 2:45pm  
 San Antonio Laurel Heights - 703 W Ashby Pl, San Antonio, TX 78212 - 5:45pm to 6:15pm

### Thursday, May 21

San Antonio Scenic Hills - 11223 Bandera Rd, San Antonio, TX 78250 - 8:20am to 8:50pm  
 Kerrville - 611 Harper Rd, Kerrville, TX 78028 - 10:05am to 10:35am  
 Killen - 611 Harper Rd, Kerrville, TX 78028 - 1:20pm to 1:50pm  
 Temple - 1911 W Avenue H, Temple, TX 76504 - 2:30pm to 3:00pm  
 Waco Mt. Lebanon - 4298 Meyers Lane, Waco, TX 76705 - 3:50pm to 4:20pm

### Monday, June 1

Round Rock - 4 Applegate Circle, Round Rock, TX 78665 - 10:45am to 11:15am  
 Austin Stonehill - 4301 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660 - 11:45am to 12:15pm  
 Austin Spanish First - 100 W Rundberg Ln, Austin, TX 78753 - 1:25pm to 1:55pm  
 Elgin - 225 Lexington Rd, Elgin, TX 78621 - 2:40pm to 3:10pm  
 Bastrop - 3300 HWY 21 E, Paige, TX 78659 - 3:50pm to 4:20pm  
 Victoria - 3103 E Mockingbird Ln, Victoria, TX 7704 - 6:20pm to 6:50pm

### Tuesday, June 2

Rosenberg - 1501 Dyer Ave, Rosenberg, TX 77471 - 9:30am to 10:00am  
 Katy - 1913 East Ave, Katy, TX 77493 - 10:45am to 11:15am  
 Houston West - 2390 W Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston TX 77403 - 11:45am to 12:15pm  
 Houston Spanish South - 5417 Trafalgar Dr, Houston, TX 77045 - 1:30pm to 2:00pm  
 Houston Gulfhaven - 10716 Sabo Rd, Houston, TX 77089 - 2:45pm to 3:30pm  
 Houston Spanish Magnolia Park - 7318 East Fwy, Houston, TX 77020 - 4:15pm to 5:00pm  
 Houston Spring Creek - 2190 Spring Creek Dr, Houston, TX 77373 - 5:45pm to 6:15pm

### Wednesday, June 3

Conroe Spanish - 115 Silverdale Dr, Conroe, TX 77301 - 8:45am to 9:15am  
 Huntsville - 7660 State Highway 75 N, Huntsville, TX 77340 - 10:00am to 10:30am  
 Bryan/College Station - 1350 Earl Rudder Fwy S, College Station, TX 77840 - 11:45am to 12:15pm

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## MISCELLANEOUS

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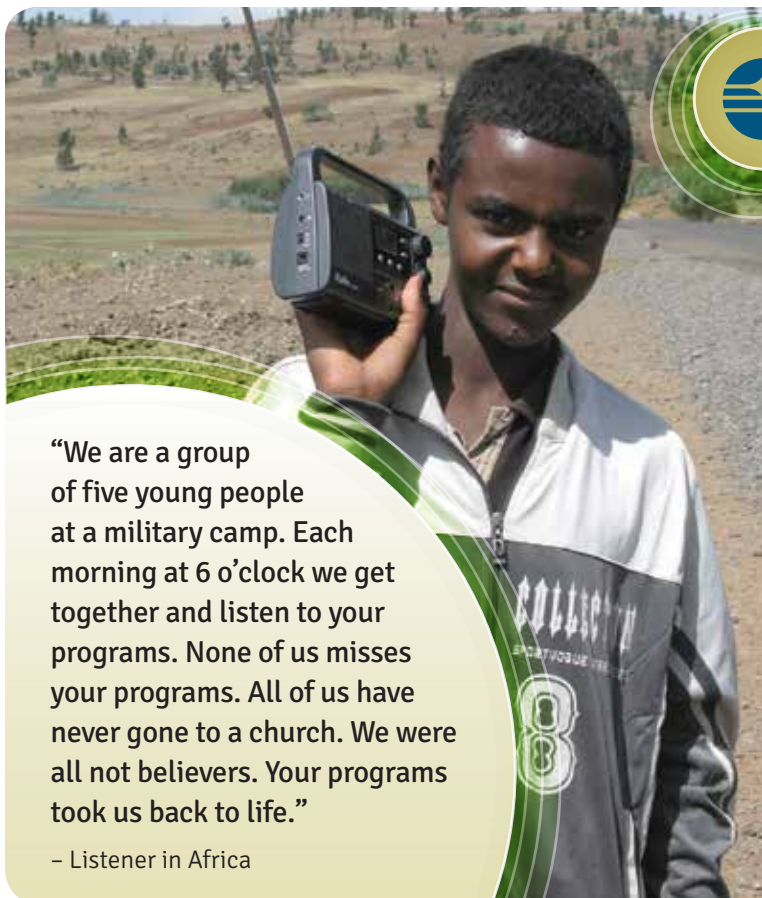
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**Worship with us at Yellowstone National Park** every Sabbath from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Services at 10 a.m. in employee recreation hall connected to Old Faithful Lodge.

**Looking for a Mother's Day gift that is sure to delight Grandma?** If she's a long-time Adventist, she will remember Wayne Hooper—King's Herald's baritone, arranger, and composer. Wayne's family is now sharing his 350+ page memoirs with friends who support the Wayne Hooper Brass Scholarship Fund. Learn how Satan tried to snuff out Wayne's life. Read about his romance with Harriet. Ride from campmeeting to campmeeting with the King's Heralds and HMS Richards. For more information, call Linda at 509.939.1716.

**Exciting New Church Resource! Secrets and Mysteries of the Lost Ark: A Bible Adventure**, by Pastor James Hoffer, is a Christ-centered, Bible-in-hand, awesome, and unique presentation of the sanctuary and its present-day

significance. Now available at the Adventist Book Center. Visit [www.lostarkseminar.com](http://www.lostarkseminar.com).

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**Adventist Israel Tour:** Join Jim Gilley, Danny Shelton, and the 3ABN team for an unforgettable Bible Enrichment Tour. Fantastic buffets, fellowship, and guides. Affordable. Two departure dates—November 15-23 or November 18-29, 2015. Contact Jennifer at Maranatha Tours—602.788.8864, or Jill at 3ABN—618.627.4651.

**Southern Youth Conference 2015 – JUSTIFIED.** When: Friday, June 26 to Sunday, June 28. Where: North Dallas Adventist Academy. The SYC is an inspirational young adult evangelistic conference. Join us this year as we explore the theme of justification. Registration: \$65 (solo) \$50 (group). Find out more and register today at <https://justified.eventbrite.com>.

**Butler Creek Health Education Center** Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Cost: \$975. Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. June 14-26, 2015 and July 5-17, 2015. Register online or call: 931.213.1329. Visit [www.butlercreekhealth.org](http://www.butlercreekhealth.org).

## Announcements

**"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion** will take place June 5-7, 2015 for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989.427.5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

**NAD Church Study:** The North American Division is seeking feedback from church members on how it can improve its ministry with regard to mission, education, and church structure. A special Web site has been created for this purpose. Please visit <http://www.nadchurchstudy.org/purpose> to add your viewpoint to the conversation.

**Save The Date! Greater New York Academy 95<sup>th</sup> Anniversary is October 9-11, 2015.** Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. Friday night: Vespers and Welcome Table. Sabbath: Church Service, Lunch, "Music and Memories." Sunday: Breakfast and Basketball. Send your name and contact info to [alumni@gnyacademy.org](mailto:alumni@gnyacademy.org), or friend us on Facebook at Greater NYA, or write to Greater NY Academy, 41-32 58<sup>th</sup> St., Woodside, NY 11377.

**Missing Members:** These are members of Texico Conference's Belen Bilingual church in Belen, N. Mex. Please contact Pastor Erwin de Graaff at 505.401.0003 with information about the following members: Ernestina Baca, Vera Marie Baca, Sarah C. Barela, John Bissett, Marvin Button, Roman Chavez, Deborah Doyle, Derek, Gilbert,

Patsy Lena Gabaldon, Sandra Majalca, Paul Rivera.

**Adventist Recovery Ministries (ARMin)** training for churches and individuals wishing to host additions recovery groups will be held October 9-11, 2015 at the Southwestern Union office in Burleson, Texas. For more information about ARMin, a 12-week recovery program centered around *Steps to Christ*, go to [www.adventist-recovery.org](http://www.adventist-recovery.org). For info about the training call 817.295.0476, ext. 338.

**100 Days of Prayer:** Please join members around the world in the 100 Days of Prayer leading up to the General Conference Session in San Antonio. Visit [100daysofprayer.org](http://100daysofprayer.org) to receive daily reminders and view a new film entitled *What Might Have Been*, based on a vision Ellen White had regarding God's hope for what could have happened at the 1901 GC Session.

**GC Session App:** A new app, entitled GC Session 2015, has been released and is available for iPhone, iPad, and Android.

**Oak Park Academy Alumni Weekend is September 18-19, 2015.** All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. The 2015 honor classes are: 1940, 1945, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980. Location: Gates Hall, 15th Street, Nevada, IA. Make plans to attend! For more information, contact Al-layne Petersen Martsching, 402.312.7368, or e-mail: [al-laynemartsching@gmail.com](mailto:al-laynemartsching@gmail.com).

## Obituaries

**BURGESS, Juanita (Susie) K.**, born August 6, 1936 in Winamac, Ind., and died March 26, 2015 in Amarillo, Tex. She was a member of the Amarillo English church. Survivors: sons, Carl McWilliams and Bryan McWilliams of Amarillo, Tex.; daughter, Lisa Velasquez of Santa Fe, N.M.; sister Dorothy Crawford of Fort White, Flor.; brother John Crawford of Anderson, Ind.; six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

**GATES, Janice K.**, born July 17, 1946 in Little Rock, Ark., and died November 29, 2014 in Oklahoma City, Okla. Janice graduated eighth grade from Arkansas School of the Blind, and graduated high school from Hadley School for the Blind. She gradu-

ated from the University of Arkansas with her associates degree in elementary music. She was a homemaker and longtime El Reno area resident. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Yukon, Damrosch Music Club, Chorus Silver Chords, Handicapped for Christ, Oklahoma People First, and National Church Conference for the Blind. She was preceded in death by her parents Jack and Barbara (Jenner) Kline, and husband James Richard Gates; and her twin sister, who only lived a short time, Barbara Jean Kline. Survivors: her father-in-law and mother-in-law, Fred and Sue Wilkerson of Harrah, Okla., two nieces, and two nephews.

**HARPER, Barbara L.**, born June 3, 1930 in Verdigris, Okla., and died March 23,

2015 in Tulsa, Okla. She was a member of Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa. Survivors: daughter, Terry Gobbo of Tulsa; son, Rick Harper of Tulsa; four grandsons.

**NEWELL, Norman**, born April 20, 1916 in Pardeeville, Wis., and died March 9, 2015 in Ker-ville, Tex. Although raised by a Seventh-day Adventist mother, he did not join the church until his retirement years. He loved the Lord and spent hours every day studying His Word. Late in life he took up computing so he could put together Biblical topics and scatter them "like the leaves of autumn." He distributed cartoons of *The Great Hope* and *The Marked Bible*. Besides returning a faithful tithe, he will long be remembered by his generous contributions of hundreds of thousands of dollars to God's cause. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Nell Newell and numerous nieces and nephews.

**POTTER, Viri R.**, born April 25, 1932 in Tecumseh, Okla.,

and died April 3, 2015 in Shawnee, Okla. He was a member of the Shawnee Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he served as a deacon. He was an overseas supervisor for Dolphin Oil Company from 1967-1987, and was able to travel the world. He loved the outdoors and was an avid hunter, fisherman, gardener, and dog lover including his dog, Chrissy. Survivors: Norma Jean Potter of Tecumseh, Okla.; son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Tressa Potter of Allen, Okla.; son & daughter-in-law, Gordon and Donna Potter of Ada, Okla.; son and daughter-in-law, David and Susan Potter of Broken Arrow, Okla.; son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Amanda Potter of Floresville, Tex.; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Suzzy and Mike Paciorek of Allen, Okla.; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Gayla Humble and Randy Wyatt of Midwest City, Okla.; 16 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

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## SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	May 1	May 8	May 15	May 22	May 29	Jun 5
Abilene, TX	8:19	8:24	8:29	8:34	8:39	8:43
Albuquerque, NM	7:51	7:57	8:02	8:08	8:13	8:17
Amarillo, TX	8:32	8:38	8:43	8:49	8:54	8:56
Brownsville, TX	8:01	8:04	8:08	8:12	8:16	8:19
Dallas, TX	8:08	8:13	8:18	8:23	8:28	8:32
El Paso, TX	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:04	8:08
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:10	8:15	8:20	8:25	8:30	8:34
Gallup, NM	8:00	8:06	8:12	8:17	8:22	8:27
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:58	8:02	8:07	8:11	8:15	8:19
Gentry, AR	8:05	8:11	8:16	8:22	8:27	8:32
Little Rock, AR	7:53	7:59	8:05	8:10	8:15	8:19
Muskogee, OK	8:07	8:13	8:19	8:24	8:29	8:34
New Orleans, LA	7:37	7:41	7:46	7:50	7:54	7:58
Oklahoma City, OK	8:15	8:21	8:27	8:32	8:37	8:42
Roswell, NM	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:04
San Antonio, TX	8:10	8:14	8:19	8:23	8:27	8:31
Shreveport, LA	7:55	8:01	8:06	8:10	8:15	8:19
Tulsa, OK	8:10	8:16	8:22	8:27	8:33	8:37

**2015 Sunset Calendars are now available at**  
[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset)

# On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



## Praise God!

**ONE OF MY FAVORITE ELLEN WHITE QUOTES** is this one: “In reviewing our past history, having traveled over every step of advance to our present standing, I can say, Praise God! As I see what the Lord has wrought, I am filled with astonishment, and with confidence in Christ as leader. We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history” (*Life Sketches of Ellen G. White*, p. 196).

Ellen White made that wonderful exclamation about “what the Lord has wrought” more than 100 years ago. So imagine what she might say today, if she were to see the latest statistics on the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She’d surely be amazed to know that our current worldwide church membership now stands at more than 18.1 million members; our denomination has more than 6,500 churches and congregations; operates 1,200 educational institutions; and provides health care to approximately 17 million people worldwide through its health networks and institutions. What God has wrought!

Bringing it down to the local level is even more exciting. As the *Record* staff was preparing this issue, scouring every available resource to uncover interesting

tidbits about the work and development of the Adventist Church in the Southwest, I found some of our discoveries quite intriguing. Especially fascinating and thought-provoking to me was the photo of the Southwestern Union Conference office (pictured on the cover of this issue). As I look at that photo (while enjoying the beautiful view from my comfortable, cozy, third-floor office) I am reminded of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifices made by our Adventist pioneers, whose primary mission in life was to advance the gospel, no matter what it took.

But I can honestly say that while our surroundings have changed, and today we are blessed with a few more “creature comforts” than our founding fathers, there is one thing that hasn’t changed here in the Southwest, and that’s our pas-



sion for finishing the work. A painting of a baptism in the lobby of the Southwestern Union Conference office aptly portrays our passion, not only here in the office, but throughout our five-state territory in the Southwest: winning souls for Jesus Christ. Indeed, God has done—and is still doing—great things in the Southwestern Union. All I can say is, Praise God!

*Pat Humphrey*

## Record

### EDITORIAL STAFF

**Editor** . . . . . Pat Humphrey  
*phumphrey@swuc.org*  
**Associate Editor** . . . . . Jessica Lozano  
*jlozano@swuc.org*  
**Assistant Editor/Designer** . . . . . Reggie Johnson  
*rjohnson@swuc.org*  
**Advertising Manager** . . . . . Dianne Jones  
*djones@swuc.org*  
**Circulation Manager** . . . . . Rocío López  
*lopez@swuc.org*  
**Proofreader (off-site)** . . . . . Debbie Sasser

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### Submissions

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

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### Important dates:

- May 15 | Fall confirmation deposit due
- Aug 3-18 | Core Enrichment
- Aug 18-22 | C.O.R.E. Freshman Orientation
- Aug 18 | Mizpah Ceremony & Welcome Dinner
- Aug 23 | Registration
- Aug 24 | First day of school
- Oct 2-4 | Parents' Weekend



**SOUTHWESTERN**  
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