

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

JULY 2015



Restoring
Christ's Image
in the Classroom

K-12 ADVENTIST EDUCATION



8

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RESTORING THE IMAGE
One Campus and One Student at a Time

ENCOUNTER:

A Curriculum Focused on Discipleship

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Summer Camp Contest Winners 2015

Congratulations to the winners of this year's *Record* Summer Camp Contest! We would like to thank everyone who took the time to find all of the critters hiding in the April issue. We enjoyed hearing from each of you and we hope you all have a wonderful summer! Here are the 2015 winners:

Arkansas-Louisiana

- Prisha Makey
- Reed Karkula

Oklahoma

- Samantha Smith
- Taylor Frazier

Southwest Region

- Keilah Williams

Texas

- Yarysa Rodriguez
- Alex Arreola



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On the Cover

Cindy Nuñez teaches grades three and four at Burlison Adventist School in Burlison, Texas. Student Emma Quiej just completed the third grade and, according to Nuñez, is an excellent student who loves to sing and is a friend to all. [Photo by Jessica Lozano]

Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Educating for Eternity

The findings are impressive. The recent Cognitive Genesis study conducted by the Center for Research on Adventist Education at La Sierra University shows that in all grades, in schools of all sizes, students in Adventist schools outperformed the national average in all subjects (see www.cognitivegenesis.org). The study showed that our students are averaging a half a grade higher than the national average on standardized tests. The study also found that the longer the students are in Adventist schools, the better they do.

Beyond these impressive findings, I believe there is more to Adventist education than academic success. Is it the teachers who worry about their students and think about them even in their off hours? There are caring teachers everywhere—even in public schools, right? Or is it the students who pursue rigorous courses of study and bring their best to their classes? Given the chance and the right challenge, won't most students flourish in this way? Is it the academic buildings or physical education facilities themselves that create the unique environment that is Adventist education? I don't believe so. All of these make up Adventist education—and much of it can be said to make up public education. So, what is the Adventist education difference?

You're probably way ahead of me. It's Jesus, of course! The focus on Him makes all the difference. It's the philosophy of Adventist education to educate for eternity. This means that an eternal—not temporary or fleeting—perspective flourishes in the



Adventist classroom. Children in Adventist education are blessed in ways they may not realize. Their education now will train and sustain them for this life and through eternity.





To Your Health

BY PAT HUMPHREY » SOUTHWESTERN UNION HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Physical Genesis Study: A Journey to Excellence Through Health

“True education... is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers,”
(Ellen G. White, *Education*, p. 13).

Ellen White knew that physical health was an essential component to successful education, and as a church that focuses on the well-being of our God-given temples, implementing health programs in our schools is not only appropriate—it is essential.

It has become evident that the school-aged children of the church may not experience the benefits of a long and healthy life enjoyed by previous generations of the members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Our sedentary lifestyles do not help to spare even those that are young and mobile. Children and students in North America are more likely to be obese and less fit today than in previous generations. Our environment, peer pressure, and even school policies have created an imbalance between the fundamental needs for healthy development of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual life of today’s students.

The health beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, founded in Creation and restoration, call for a renewed emphasis on fitness and health to restore balance and overall wellness in the lives of our students, staffs, and teachers.

The Physical Genesis Study, a collaboration of the North American Division Office of Education, Loma Linda Medical Center, and La Sierra University, strives to heed White’s advice and restore that balance by improving the physical health of children in the Adventist education system. This study is one of three that will complete the spiritual, mental, and physical components of Adventist education for the North American Division. The basis of this triad is that successful education is dependent on three factors: mental, spiritual, and physical well-being. This triad is currently unbalanced, with mental fac-

tors being most emphasized in our school systems, spiritual after that, and physical factors as the smallest aspect of education.

According to Ellen G. White, inaction is the greatest curse that has come upon our youth. The team behind the Physical Genesis Study believes that in addition to its importance in enabling a happy and productive life, good health is a crucial part of excellent education, and that it is important to maintain the proper balance of our schools’ physical, spiritual, and mental aspects. The study will help assess the current state of students’ health and provide a basis for maintaining or improving that balance.

Many schools and students in grades 5-11 from across the NAD participated in the study between March and May 2015. The study consisted of physical exercise evaluations, such as a five-element fitness tests, and secure electronic surveys for students about their usual physical activities. Test results will be revealed in September of 2015. If student fitness or health behavior deficits emerge, Adventist schools will have the CREATION Health™ school transformation initiative available that is designed to help students, teachers, and school communities make the needed behavior changes that result in better health and academic performance for students.

The ultimate outcome is to improve student health and restore balance to the Adventist school system. The goal is to increase the odds for our children to live long and healthier lives, not only mentally and spiritually, but physically, as well.

Adapted from physicalgenesis.com.



God's Daughter

THIỆN NỮ IS THE NAME MY FATHER GAVE FOR ME 19 YEARS AGO on the day I was welcomed to this earth. People know me by Nu Pham, but in Vietnam when you refer to someone, it is either just by their first name (Nu), or their middle name then first name (Thien Nu). My first name literally translates into "girl" or "female." I used to be really ashamed of my name, but with my middle name, it has a totally different meaning. Thien means holy, godly, or spiritual. It wasn't until I came to America that I felt more comfortable introducing myself with my real name, because no one understood the real Vietnamese meaning. Thiên Nữ; *God's daughter*. That's what my name means. At times I wonder if God, at the moment my dad saw my little self, inspired him to give me that name.

I was born and raised in a beautiful home in Vietnam. Buddhism was what I was familiar with. Unlike other Buddhists, who would visit the temple at least once a week, my family would only go three times a year. It didn't mean a lot to me. All I knew was that it was a place my parents would go every New Year to give to charity and pray for a blessed year. It was a tradition for our family to do so.

Attending Southwestern Adventist University was never my original intention, neither was it my parents'. As an international student, we had high expectations to graduate from schools with top rankings in the nation. One thing I know now for sure is that I am not at Southwestern by mere coincidence.

Once I arrived at Southwestern, I noticed that Seventh-day Adventists worship this God who is so important that they have to spend time with Him at least twice a day; every morning when the sun rises, and every night before bed... not three times a year.

The environment at Southwestern allowed me to easily flow with the Adventist lifestyle. I was required to go to worship and vespers. "It is just another reli-

gion," I thought. "Just like other denominations."

Later those thoughts changed into, "This is really interesting...I can relate to that...wow!" The transformation was vivid! Every word, worship, and song seemed like it was for me. It became personal. Many students were boldly sharing their stories, and their testimonies allowed me to see God's vivid work. Everyone

claimed to be *God's children*, and I realized that is their real identity.

I always denied my real name when I was little, because I was embarrassed of it. But God helped me to realize how much of a privilege it was to be called that since I was born. I know He's amazing, but I didn't know that He could be *that* amazing. He used my father to give me my real title without him even knowing it. He planted the seed of His love for me 19 years before I even recognized who that vinedresser was. March 28, 2015 God allowed me to proclaim my identity to the world through baptism at Southwestern. I can now cheerfully introduce myself as Thiên Nữ, because I am *God's child*; because I am *God's daughter*.





Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY RANDY GILLIAM » SOUTHWESTERN UNION EDUCATION DIRECTOR

The Caring Heart Award

Each year the Southwestern Union, in conjunction with the North American Division, awards one academy student from each of our senior academies with the Caring Heart Award. The overall purpose for this award is to recognize a student who has made outstanding contributions in service-type activities, either in their school, church, or community, or on a mission trip. The following are the award recipients for the 2014-2015 school year.

Kendall Todd is a junior at Burton Adventist Academy, and she is very active at church with the youth group, helps with the primary Sabbath School class, has given sermons and worships, and participates in skits. She is also involved with community service activities.

At Chisholm Trail Academy, junior **Destiny Myers** has done volunteer work at the local nursing home, participated in her home church's VBS program and Resurrection Pageant, and also participated in helping with a 5k race at her school.

Christian Brown, a senior at North Dallas Adventist Academy, started early. She went on a mission trip when she was in elementary school and has been busy helping ever since. She is a positive role model to her fellow students and is very caring and helpful to any new student that comes to the school.

At Ozark Adventist Academy, junior **Brandon Vera** always seems ready to step in and lend a hand whenever there is a need. He is very involved with the school's Christian Service Initiative (CSI) program. This group does local mission projects, including disaster relief and other outreach projects. He is also very willing to help out with vesper programs.

John Tarbox, also known as "Chandler," is a senior at Sandia View Academy. John has preached on mission trips, witnesses to people on the bus, was involved with disaster work in New York, and is very caring and willing to pray with others at school.

South Texas Christian Academy senior **J. Easter Tamayo** is an excellent student and is very involved with community service and outreach, Pathfinders, and does mission service with her church. She is also very involved with her father's health ministry.

At Valley Grande Academy, senior **Evelyn Alanis** is known as a student leader and is very active with her church and school. She has participated in several different community service projects.

Each award recipient receives a plaque, a gift Bible, and a scholarship certificate that can be used for a mission trip or for tuition at a Seventh-day Adventist school.

Congratulations to each of these students! Our hope is that they, along with all of our students, continue to have the desire to participate in service activities by following our greatest example, Jesus Christ.



Southwestern Union Conference

2015 Caring Heart Award Recipients

Kendall Todd, Burton Adventist Academy

Destiny Myers, Chisholm Trail Academy

Christian Brown, North Dallas Adventist Academy

Brandon Vera, Ozark Adventist Academy

John Tarbox, Sandia View Academy

J. Easter Tamayo, South Texas Christian Academy

Evelyn Alanis, Valley Grande Adventist Academy



Por Qué Prefiero La Escuela Adventista Para Mi Hijo

Es muy común en escuelas públicas encontrar pandillas, armas, sexo, pornografía y drogas y a pesar de que esto también ocurre en muchas escuelas privadas y aun religiosas. En muchos de estos lugares no se ora ni se estudia la Biblia como buscamos que nuestras escuelas lo hagan. Si hay palpables diferencias en muchas de las escuelas adventistas, por la gracia de Dios. Él es la base de la verdadera educación y del conocimiento.

Nuestros niños son el presente y el futuro de la iglesia, y con una educación basada en los principios bíblicos, están siendo preparados para recibir al Señor en su venida, y si tardara, tomar de nosotros la antorcha de la verdad y llevarla hasta el fin.

Poner a nuestros niños en manos de maestros que no temen a Dios, es ponerlos en las manos de Satanás para que él los eduque. El tiempo más apropiado para implantar los buenos principios en la mente y en el corazón son los años de la niñez y la juventud. Por eso, no podemos entregar a nuestros niños en las manos de personas que no temen a Dios. El consejo bíblico es: “Instruye al niño en su camino, y aun cuando fuere viejo no se apartará de él” (Prov. 22:6). Muchas veces he escuchado

a personas de la iglesia que opinan que las escuelas adventistas no tienen mucho prestigio porque carecen de ciertos lujos que las coloquen en un nivel social más elevado. No obstante, son mucho más ventajosos los principios divinos, que el colorido artificial, sin la presencia de Dios.

Siempre recuerdo la experiencia de una familia adventista que consideró que la escuela adventista era muy humilde y que su hijo merecía un lugar más lujoso y de mayor prestigio social y económico. Lo matricularon en una escuela privada religiosa no adventista. Allí también había drogas, pornografía, armas, mundanalidad y sexo. El niño cayó en las drogas en esa escuela, y su cerebro quedó arruinado, de tal manera que jamás podrá llegar a ser un profesional. Así que, si alguno piensa que nuestras escuelas

adventistas no están a la altura del prestigio social de otras escuelas privadas, consideremos que los valores de la educación adventista superan en valor a todos los lujos y el prestigio del mundo. “Porque, ¿qué aprovechará al hombre, si ganare todo el mundo, y perdiere su alma?” (Mat. 16:26).

Desde que entré a la iglesia adventista en el año 1970, he visto a muchos jóvenes fracasar en el vicio y la incredulidad por no haber recibido una educación cristiana. Así mismo he visto un ejército de jóvenes y señoritas educados en las escuelas adventistas llegar a ser hombres y mujeres de bien, profesionales para bendición de las personas que los rodean, formando hogares sólidos donde se ama a Dios, excelentes profesionales, y tantos llegando a ser pastores, evangelistas y misioneros.

De no haber una buena educación cristiana, no habría sobre quién poner la responsabilidad de la obra de Dios para el futuro. Sin embargo, una de las herramientas más eficientes para el fortalecimiento de la iglesia en el mundo es la educación cristiana. Las escuelas adventistas pueden ser un semillero natural de líderes que dirigirán la obra.

Se ha dicho muchas veces que la educación adventista es inalcanzable por su costo económico. Pero he podido observar que en muchas ocasiones cuando aparentemente no había recursos para la educación cristiana, se realizaban grandes gastos en la adquisición de cosas materiales que no eran tan importantes para el destino eterno de nuestros niños. Lo que noté es que había una confusión en las prioridades.

Ojalá que podamos valorar lo que en realidad tiene valor. Que luchemos por proveer una herencia eterna e inmarcesible a nuestros niños, en vez de cosas que se destruyen con el tiempo.

Bendiciones a todos los que aman la educación adventista.



César David Ureña

Pastor Julio C. Ureña

RESTORING THE IMAGE: ONE CAMPUS AND ONE STUDENT AT A TIME

**Randy Gilliam, Ed.D., Southwestern Union Conference,
Vice President for Education**

According to Genesis 1:27, “God created man in His own image.” Sin, however, entered the world and the image has been nearly destroyed.

But Ellen White, through inspiration, tells us, “By infinite love and mercy the plan of salvation had been devised, and a life of probation was granted, to restore in man the image of his Maker, to bring him back to the perfection in which he was created, to promote the development of body, mind, and soul, that the divine purpose in his creation might be realized – this was to be the work of redemption. This is the object of education, the great object of

life,” (*Education*, pp. 15,16).

Our schools were established to be a part of this “restoration.” The home, the church, and the school all working together in unity of purpose can, through God’s grace, Spirit, and guidance, accomplish the needed “restoration.” The Southwestern Union had seven senior academies in operation this past school year, as well as three extension schools that have the goal to become a senior academy. Each senior academy was asked to send a short testimony from their campus. This is what they shared.





Burton Adventist Academy

Darlene White, principal:

“At Burton Adventist Academy, we prayerfully commit to providing a Christ-centered atmosphere for our students. Our greatest desire is to ensure our students have the opportunity to develop a relationship with Jesus.

“Many of our students have experienced the blessing of the gospel and, in turn, desire to share that with someone else for the first time. My excitement overflows when one student comes to know the Savior. This year, I have had three young men state that their desire is to share the love of Jesus with their families. These young men of faith have heard the voice of the Spirit and want their families to know the Jesus that they have come to know and love. Ministering to their families by reflecting God’s character is at the forefront of their hearts.

“None of the young men communicated with each other, but had shared their passion with me individually. When I told them that others desired the very same for their families, they each individually showed interest in meeting with the other young men.

“Mark 16:15 commands, ‘Go into all the world and preach the Good News.’ At BAA, the Holy Spirit is fanning the spark into a forest fire of revival!”



Chisholm Trail Academy

Alexandra Wiist, student:

“Changing schools is always a difficult transition. For my classmate, Brooke Flower, that process was made even more difficult when, just a few weeks into her senior year, she was diagnosed with Hodgkin’s Lymphoma.

“Although none of us had really gotten to know her yet, the school banded together to support her in any way we could. From the day we heard the news, she had an almost constant stream of people she barely knew stopping by the hospital with words of

encouragement, get-well cards, prayers, and hugs. Cancer treatments affect the whole person. While she was hospitalized, every student took time out of class to sit together and pray for her recovery. Every one of us truly cared for a person whom some had never even met; a few senior guys even shaved their heads to support her when she lost hers.

“Seeing her at school was exciting; people would frequently stop to tell her that she looked good, take a picture with her, or just say hello. When I asked Brooke what it was like to have strangers visiting her and even shaving their heads to support her, she said that the compassion she received helped her know God was there for her. She felt great comfort in knowing she would be welcomed with open arms at school.

“Though we weren’t going through the kind of struggle she was experiencing, my friends and I were also comforted in a way. Seeing Brooke recover, and getting to know her, confirmed for us that miracles do happen.

“Chisholm Trail Academy has been incredibly blessed by a God who always has a plan and a girl who we now call a friend. Brooke says that God used her to bring everyone together and closer to Him, and I couldn’t agree more.”

sion trip was given. At that moment, unbeknown to the presenter, SMAJA students and staff were purposing in their hearts that they would partner with NDAA on their next mission trip.

“Eleven. The total number of days we worked together, played together, and worshipped together. During those 11 days, we sweated together under the Caribbean sun. During those 11 days, we sang together and worshipped together.

“Twelve. The date in March where the two teams came together for the first time. On March 12, 2015, two schools traveled



1,500 miles to Silver Spring, Jamaica to construct a church. What they didn’t realize until now is that God was constructing them, two schools coming together to fulfill a great commission. ‘And they shall know we are Christians by our love’ (John 13:35).”

Ozark Adventist Academy:

Marklynn Bazy, English teacher:

“Marquan Buchanan, a senior from Pine Bluff, Arkansas, has been involved in campus ministry since his freshman year at OAA. He has gone on the school-sponsored mission trip each year preaching from Africa to the Caribbean. After his sophomore year mission trip to Africa, he and several other students started the Christian Services Initiative (CSI) to keep the passion for service alive. Through CSI, Marquan has had the opportunity to preach in churches in Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. ‘I see something in my personal devotions that hits me and I share that,’ says Marquan. He spoke for Friday night to end the Fall Semester Week of Prayer and gave an appeal where several students responded. When Marquan speaks, ‘He is real and authentic,’ says Rachel Flerchenger, a sophomore from Oklahoma.”

North Dallas Adventist Academy

Stephan Gray, Student Services director:

“Three. The number of days it took for two schools, one from San Marcos, the other from Richardson, to meld into a well-oiled machine. The idea of the two schools partnering on a mission trip began last spring when the traveling choir of North Dallas Adventist Academy performed at the San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy. During the performance, a testimony of the NDAA Peru mis-



We felt that the name of God was exalted and many were touched by the amazing message of the play centered on Jesus Christ. STCA will continue to think big for God's children as we share His love with others."

Valley Grande Adventist Academy

**Mabel Noverola, English/ESL
and Bible teacher:**

"This year, our school encountered great trials that drove us to prayer as never before. At first all of us were naturally very passionate about praying about what we wanted God to do for us. The most beautiful transformation took place when several young people started sincerely discussing and pondering what *God's* will might possibly

be. The discussion genuinely shifted from self to Him, from our desires to His will, that we could trust Him, and that we could handle our situation in a Christ-like manner."

These shared vignettes of testimonies from our Adventist campuses truly testify that the Spirit of God is working in our young peoples' lives. The image of God is truly being restored one campus and one student at a time. We give thanks for Adventist education, and praise the Lord for working among us.

Sandia View Academy

Lisa Christopherson, administrative assistant:

"For ten days in January, Sandia View Academy students accepted the world church's invitation to participate in Ten Days of Prayer, focusing on the Fruits of the Spirit. Our students met 20 minutes before school and began to pray and praise God for their school, their teachers, their families, their churches, and each other. Class pastors led class worship for first period, focusing on the day's theme. The last night of the prayer event, SVA students led out at the Corrales Seventh-day Adventist Church during the Friday night "Pray for Our Youth" vesper service. After the service, our students spontaneously gathered around the piano and began singing. Old and young joined them and the service continued for another 30 minutes. We praise God for the spiritual leadership our students are providing within our school and within our Albuquerque churches."

South Texas Christian Academy

Anderson Ramos, chaplain and Bible teacher:

"The Lord has been good to STCA this year and we have many things to be thankful for. At the beginning of the school year, we had a touching Week of Prayer. Paulo Rabello, a youth pastor from Brazil, was the guest speaker. It was pure happiness to see many students surrendering their lives to Christ every day. High school and middle school kids, together, decided to follow God's plan for their lives. The theme for the Week of Prayer was 'My Life, His Plan'. Another great blessing this school year, was to have a Christmas play titled, 'The Fourth Wise Man.' This super production was a powerful instrument of evangelism. More than 800 people came to the school's gymnasium to see the play that had as cast members most of the school's staff and teachers, as well as many students.

"Teaching to Inspire"

During our Spring 2015 Superintendents' Council, plans were made for the Southwestern Union Conference teachers' convention, our first in over 25 years. The purpose for such a convention is to provide for our educators inspiration, camaraderie, spiritual and professional growth. The synergy generated by such a convention will be well worth the time, effort, and money invested to make it a reality.

The convention will be held August 1-4, 2016 at La Torretta Lake Resort located in Montgomery, Texas. The theme adopted for this convention is "Teaching to Inspire."

We will begin on Monday evening, August 1, 2016 with keynote presentations from our Southwestern Union president, Elder Larry Moore, and our North American Division vice-president for education, Dr. Larry Blackmer. Additional general session speakers scheduled include Dr. Carla Gober-Park, director of the Center for Spiritual Life and Wholeness at Loma Linda University and Drs. Harry and Rosemary Wong, authors of *The First Days of School* and *THE Classroom Management Book*.

ENCOUNTER: A CURRICULUM FOCUSED ON DISCIPLESHIP

Allison Tucker, principal, Dallas Christian Academy

One of the joys of Adventist education is the many occasions offered for teachers to highlight Christ's presence throughout the day. We are privileged to regularly spend an entire class period focused solely on Jesus. As a teacher, Bible is one of my favorite classes, so I was excited when I was given the opportunity to pilot the new Encounter Bible curriculum at Dallas Christian Academy.

The Bible program we were using was solid in content but very much "textbook focused." I worried that students were at times simply repeating the answers they knew were "right" from the book and that they didn't always connect with the greater truths that are paramount to authentic Christianity. As a result, I was constantly searching for supplemental resources that would connect students and aid in the process of discipleship. My hope for the new Encounter program was that it would provide a comprehensive structure for deeper biblical engagement and genuine relationships with Christ to the students in the North American Division.

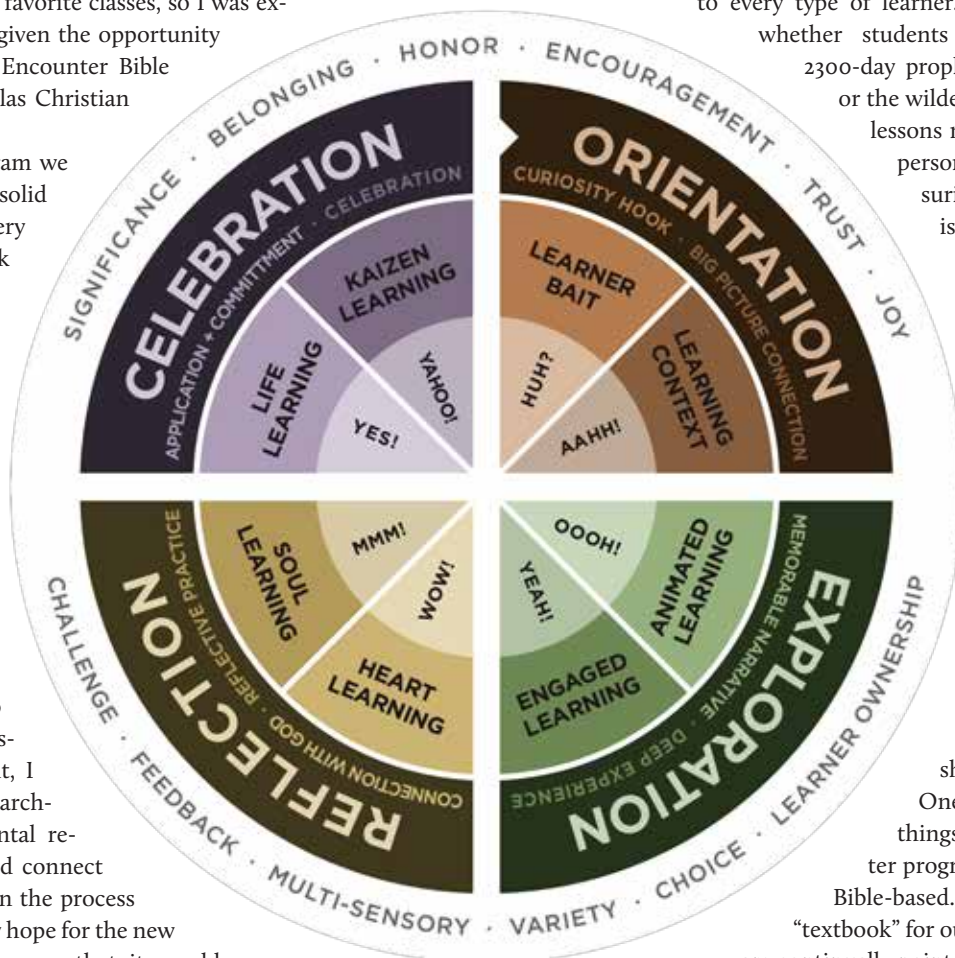
Encounter uses the Transformational Planning Framework

in conjunction with the Spiritual Growth Model of Pastor Ben Maxson to guide the progress of every series. Each teaching unit provides objectives and resource materials to teachers along with a wide range of learning activities designed to appeal to every type of learner. Most importantly, whether students are studying the 2300-day prophecy from Daniel 8 or the wilderness tabernacle, all lessons relate directly to the personhood of God, ensuring that Bible class is always "all about Him."

I began using Encounter at the start of the fall semester in 2014 and have sincerely enjoyed the process of teaching and learning with this curriculum. Encounter aligns perfectly with the overarching goal of discipleship for our students.

One of my favorite things about the Encounter program is that it is truly Bible-based. The Bible is the "textbook" for our students and they are continually pointed back to its inductive study in order to discover transformational truths for themselves.

Another aspect of the program that I appreciate is that student assessment is conducted very differently in Encounter than in



previous programs. Rather than using quizzes and unit tests, Encounter focuses on the process of learning as well as the content. A variety of assessment tasks are presented to students and they are then able to choose from those which concepts they will explore and how they will demonstrate their understanding of that content. This may mean that every student in class presents on different themes using different mediums.

I love the assessment feature of Encounter, because sometimes the deepest-thinking and most spiritually “awake” students are also the worst test takers. This type of assessment takes the focus off of memorized answers and instead centers on meaningful application. During the year, one of my students did an oral presentation on the evidences of God in the world accompanied

by a Keynote presentation. Another shot a video with man-on-the-street interviews and peer discussions. Yet another student used spoken word to demonstrate understanding of the attributes of God’s character. I was excited to see these students’ work because it gave me greater insight into where my students really stood with Jesus and what I might be able to do to help them know Him better.

My students have responded well to the change in curriculum. They recognize that the God who created them with different interests and talents honors those things in them. They don’t all have to be alike or know all of the proof texts in order to be acknowledged by Him. They are also beginning to understand that salvation is not about what you know, it is about *Who* you know. This makes a huge difference. When students are focused on building a



relationship, they naturally want to know more about the person with whom they are engaging and you no longer have to force the knowledge on them. They are hungry for it.

The ultimate goal of Encounter is discipleship. As the name implies, we want students to encounter Jesus. I believe that this curriculum will be instrumental in guiding our students to deeper knowledge of and love for Christ.

ENCOUNTER CURRICULUM: A STUDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

Leandro Rosales, student, Dallas Christian Academy

Staying focused in class is a constant struggle for many teens, especially with subjects where there is little active interaction during the lesson. School can become a cycle of sitting down, partially listening, and then spending the rest of the time wondering how you're going to do the homework because you weren't really paying attention. That pattern was easy to fall into with the previous Bible class curriculum. Although it did benefit students, it wasn't engaging for everyone. The classes weren't boring – I actually enjoy Bible class and the previous curriculum, because I had been using it all of my life (I have been a student at Dallas Christian Academy since Pre-K and grew up with the previous Bible curriculum, but it just wasn't for everyone.)

Students often look back and think that learning in Pre-K is better than learning in their current grade because those lessons felt more interactive than what you do when you're older. For example, learning how to solve exponential inequalities would be a lot more fun if we used cookies instead of variables. I think the new curriculum has taken the valuable material and changed its presentation so that we actively learn.

The Encounter Bible curriculum that our school adopted has given us the opportunity to really get involved with the lesson. For example, one time we were learning about the birth of Jesus and the three gifts of the wise men. My teacher keeps a little treasure chest with different words related to the story taped all around it, and out of it she took frankincense and myrrh (they didn't really smell all that great). It was pretty cool to have some way for us to connect with the story by using items from the story. It also gave us an idea of what frankincense and myrrh were and we actually had a phys-

ical sense of what we were learning.

We have learned new theories through the new curriculum about things that weren't specifically explained in the Bible. We learned different possibilities on where Jesus was born. For example, we learned that Jesus could have been born in the main room of a house instead of a stable because of an inadequate translation of the word that was translated to "inn," which might actually have meant a spare room of someone's home rather than an actual inn. The house would have had a stone manger because people usually brought their animals inside at night.

This curriculum has taught us new ways to view God. We had an entire lesson that taught us about the different names of God and what each meant to us. We have done very fun activities that tie into the lesson. Looking back on the "Different Names for God" lesson, it was a good opportunity to embrace our creative sides a little bit. One assignment was to show God's different names through any art medium—it could be in a drawing, in graphic design, in a poem, etc. Before the new curriculum we didn't really

involve arts in our lessons. Adding art allows us to engage with the stories a little bit more. What I chose for my project was the theme "God is Truth," and I designed two half blue circles over a tree. The tree represented the Word of God and the two blue half circles covering it represented the broken world trying to hide God's truth (it looks a lot cooler than it sounds). That assignment really gave me a chance to dig deep and challenge myself to find a way to

represent God through an art medium. The Encounter curriculum does that. It engages us with the lesson while challenging us to find ways to apply it to our lives.



2015 SOUTHWESTERN UNION EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD RECIPIENTS

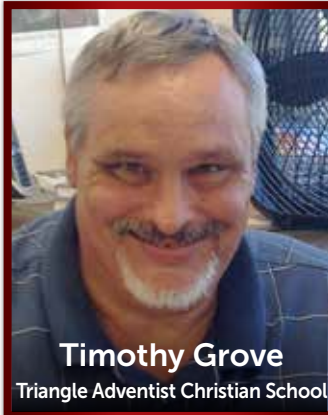
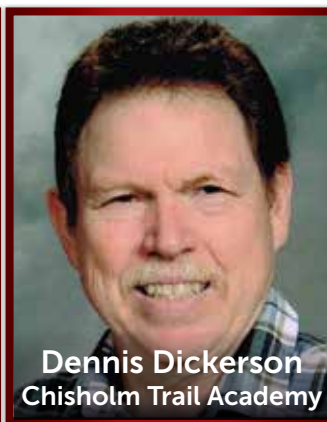
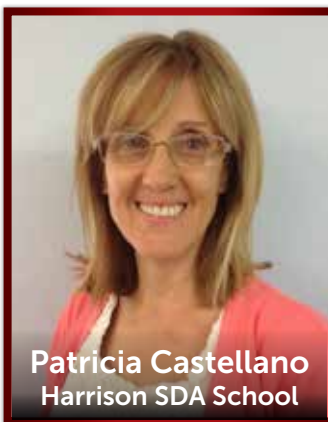
“There is no nobler work that we can do, no greater benefit that we can confer upon society, than to give to our children a proper education, impressing upon them, by precept and example, the important principle that purity of life and sincerity of purpose will best qualify them to act their part in the world” (*Counsels on Education*, p.168).

To that end, we must provide quality educators for the fulfillment of this task. Each year the Southwestern Union Conference recognizes excellence among its teaching staff. This is accomplished at both the elementary and secondary levels. Nominations are submitted by conference superintendents of schools and by academy principals. The Southwestern Union Conference K-12 Board of Education is responsible for the final approval of the recipients.

Each will receive a pecuniary award, a plaque, and a certificate honoring their commitment to excellence. We congratulate them on their achievements and thank them for their dedication to the teaching ministry.

The 2015 Southwestern Union Excellence in Teaching Award winners are:

- **Patricia Castellano**, Harrison SDA School
- **Sandra Clemons**, Shiloh Adventist School
- **Dennis Dickerson**, Chisholm Trail Academy
- **Bonnie Garner**, Sandia View Elementary
- **Timothy Grove**, Triangle Adventist Christian School
- **Robert Knipple**, Ozark Adventist Academy
- **Carol Schneider**, Joshua Adventist Multigrade School
- **Dr. Tevita Tameifuna**, Parkview Adventist Academy



Why I Support Adventist Education



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

A few weeks ago I attended the eighth grade graduation ceremony for the Harrison, Arkansas, church school.

There were at least two things that happened that evening that really impressed me and reminded me once again why I support, and why we as a church, invest so many hundreds of thousands of dollars every year in Adventist education. There were only three graduates. But the dynamics of that evening reflected an appreciation for the school, the church, and families that could have easily embraced a graduating class of 300!

The first thing that impressed me was what the parents and a grandparent had to say about their appreciation for the school, their teacher, and the church pastor, and the impact they all had on the lives of their children. It was clearly evident that each of

them spoke from a heart overflowing with genuine gratefulness.

The recent comprehensive Value Genesis Study, a research evaluating the impact of Adventist Education in North America, has clearly and conclusively demonstrated that when there is a strong involvement on the part of the parents with the school, and the church pastor is an active participant in the school program, the students excel academically.

The second thing that impressed me was the special recognition that was given to Patti Castellano, the school teacher. Mr. Stephen Burton, conference superintendent of education, was also present that evening and presented to her the Southwestern Union Conference Excellence in Teaching Award. While it was a delight to see the pure surprise on her face as she accepted the award, it was also evident that

everyone present was in full agreement that Mrs. Castellano deserved the commendation.

Family involvement, pastor participation, and a dedicated teacher committed to the spiritual growth and academic achievement of her students all combine to underscore why Adventist education makes such a difference in the lives of our students. While the public education system pours many more dollars per student into the education process, the general lack of family involvement, the absence of a spiritual mentor (pastor), and teachers, who even if they wanted to, are not allowed to teach from a spiritual, Bible-based perspective – all of these factors prevent students from fully attaining to their highest potential. That's why I support Adventist education.

Steve Orian, president

Shreveport Soccer League Rests on Sabbath

SHREVEPORT, LA. » Nathan Begley from the Shreveport South church and Danny Castellanos of the Shreveport Spanish church are best friends. They both attend Colquitt Christian Academy, and they are both avid soccer players.

In September 2014, they decided to join a soccer league and tried to get on the same team. They got in touch with the Caddo-Bossier Soccer Association and Shreveport United Soccer Club. These nonprofit youth sports organizations teach sportsmanship, discipline, leadership, teamwork, and physical conditioning through soccer to more than 2,600 participants from all age groups.

In the past, the overwhelming majority of league games took place on Friday nights and Saturdays. Both Nathan and Danny talked about this with their parents. If they honored God and kept the Sabbath holy, it might mean they would only get to attend a couple of games. Even at those games, it might

mean they would lose playing time to players who were there all the time. It would definitely mean a lot of explanations to teammates and coaches about why Saturday was a special day for spending time in worship, fellowship, and service to Jesus. Prayerfully, Nathan and Danny made up their minds to enjoy being on the team, but also to honor God and obey the commandments. There was no question in their minds.

Danny's mother, Dalia Castellanos, decided to contact the league. She let them know

that Danny and Nathan were excited about playing, but they would both be unavailable for any games on Friday nights or Saturdays. To her delight, the league secretary responded by adjusting the entire Fall playing schedule so that Danny and Nathan's team had nearly every game on a weeknight. When Danny and Nathan chose to honor the Lord, He gave them a unique blessing!

Because of their enthusiasm and ability, the coach encouraged these young men to return to his team for the Spring season. Because of their faith, the coach made arrangements

so that the Spring schedule was already adjusted ahead of time to minimize the team's games on Sabbath. The team now practices each week on the field at Colquitt Christian Academy and all the coaches, players, and parents know that Sabbath is more important than soccer because Nathan Begley and Danny Castellanos made the choice to honor their faith.

Scott Begley



Outdoor School at CYB

CAMP YORKTOWN BAY » One hundred and twenty young people along with 45 adults arrived at Camp Yorktown Bay for the annual Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Outdoor School held May 4-8, 2015. "At God's command amazing things happen, wonderful things that we can't understand" (GNT).

Ben Roy, a favorite children's scientist on 3ABN, was our guest speaker. Ben used a variety of science demonstrations to illustrate "How Amazing Our God is." The children were eager to volunteer to help. Ben also taught a class on water turbidity.

Each morning, Pastor Scott Begley complemented Ben's evening devotions with a continued story about John and Ellen's description of what it might have been like to witness the creation of our Earth. At the conclusion of the week, 23 young people indicated that they would like to study the Bible to prepare for baptism.

There were a few new things this year.

The campers enjoyed a picnic supper on Monday evening. Our older students in grades 7-10 got to experience the "BIG" swing and other low ropes courses. On Wednesday evening, the Greater New Orleans Christian Academy had a mini concert with their violins.

The Outdoor School program consisted of three separate parts that involved students from grades 5 through 10. The eighth-graders spent the week at the Ouachita State Park camping, playing teambuilding games, and focusing on setting goals and values to guide them through life. The fifth- through seventh-graders participated in several field study

classes and Pathfinder honor classes, as well as recess and other recreation. The ninth- and tenth-graders spent part of the day helping the adults run the Outdoor School program. The other half of the day was spent in an honor class and recreation.

God blessed us with safe weather. We had a rain-free week, except for the final Thursday evening program. Outdoor School is the highlight of the school year for most students. Thank you, to each volunteer and staff. God used you to bless the kids.

Stephen Burton, ARKLA superintendent of schools / director of Outdoor School



Students and faculty help out with CYB landscaping projects.

Above: Students enjoy "The Big Swing" during recreational hours.

South Louisiana Adventurers Camp Out

KINCAID LAKE, LA. » This spring the Houma, Metairie Spanish, and Baton Rouge Adventurer clubs met at Kincaid Lake Campground to enjoy an adventure-filled weekend campout. The Baton Rouge and Gonzales Pathfinder clubs camped nearby as well, bringing our total number of campers close to 100.

God blessed us with wonderful weather and helped us accomplish more than we expected. A total of seven awards were taught by the three clubs' directors, using the rotation method. The Baton Rouge Pathfinders were working on their cooking honor, so they fixed one dinner and one lunch for the whole group. It was great fun watching the progress and eating the final outcome.

On Sabbath afternoon, we went hiking to the lake and then through the woods to see an eagle's nest. Pathfinders and Adventurers enjoyed their joyful singing and worship times around the campfire and the great fun and fellowship, along



Houma, Metairie Spanish, and Baton Rouge Adventurer clubs participate in cooking honor during camp out at Kincaid Lake Campground.



with all the good food. Being outdoors always seems to make it even better! Thanks to God for His love, care, and protection!

Damaris Dupertuis, Baton Rouge Adventurer Club director

Slidell Hosts Valentine's Day Dinner and Newlywed Game

SLIDELL, LA. » The Slidell church hosted a delicious Valentine's Day dinner on Saturday evening, February 14, 2015. Sponsored by the church social committee and held in the fellowship hall following vespers, the menu consisted of salad, spinach-stuffed pasta shells, mixed vegetables, and special desserts—cheesecake and chocolate-covered strawberries.

After dinner, a version of the Newlywed

Game was played, with the contestants being Tiffoni and Nathan Weathersby, Kahne

and Tommy Blount, pastor, and Denise and Ferly Deroam. The answers to the

questions were unique to each couple. In the end, the winners were Ferly and Denise with Pastor Tommy and Kahne Blount in second place. The winning prize was a gift certificate to Panera Bread. It was a fun game and a great evening for good fellowship.

Vernella Rogers





Beware the Thief!

A thief has broken into your house! He has taken your most prized possession. What have you really lost? How might you get it back? Any hope? Will you live the rest of your life in despair? So what have you lost, or have you lost your prized possession at all? Look around your sanctuary next Sabbath. Very sad to admit, but most sanctuaries are missing one or two generations of young people. Disguised in sheep's clothing, Satan and his evil empire has done the work of discouraging parents from sending children to receive a Seventh-day Adventist education.

Not a parent? Then the evil empire has really worked overtime to dupe you into thinking you are not held accountable for someone else's child. Wrong—dead wrong!

What is the cause of lost children? Could it be the lack of real attention as to their whereabouts? Our busy schedules leave little room to deal with problems that stem from teachers inability to control their students. Stop and look back in the mirror. Their students are *our* children. The real question is what have we, as parents and church members, done to make sure we follow God's instruction to place our kids

into our Adventist schools?

You tried church school—and you say it just didn't work for you! When your child got a bad report from school, did you talk with your child and the teacher, or did you talk with other parents about how unfair the school is? What are you doing to make your school better? What are you doing to help your child have a better experience?

As I look back over the 40 years I have spent working with classrooms, I have seen all types of situations unfold.

Parents have asked me to please take their children to academy and straighten them out. A student came to school with blood trickling down from his ear, which showed what could happen from flunking the math quiz from the day before. A 17-year-old young woman I spoke with informed me she enjoyed sin and would continue living that lifestyle. Another young woman was called into my office for being drunk over the weekend. Where did the beer come from? Her dad's stock in their home refrigerator! He held a prominent office in an Adventist church. As I reflect on these events I realize how important the parents' input is. Think through the following situations:

How do you respond to your child when

you first visit a church school? Do you ask the teacher if your child can pick out their locker, desk, and where in the room they would like to sit? This just might help with the "buy-in" your child needs. Or, do you simply ask, "Is this the school you would like to go to next year, or do you want to go to the bigger school closer to home?"

Do you tell your 16-year-old, "I can only afford so much—is it this church school or a car for you?" Use this logic and be prepared for the thief to take your child.

Instead, work together as a team with the pastor, teacher, and youth leader. Then you will put forward a team rightly trained to overcome the tempter's power.

Note: The above-mentioned incidents are real, names have been omitted to protect the innocent, and all events were addressed properly and dealt with as required by law. Actual results have been omitted so that you can feel free to use the above information as discussion points to start dialogue between home and school and church. If these three entities form an allegiance, you will have established an empire under God that Satan's Empire cannot prevail against.

Jack Francisco, education superintendent

Oklahoma Conference Requests Thirteenth-Sabbath School Input

Those of us who have been members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for decades well remember the popular Investment programs in which members would test God to bless their tomato plants. The members would dedicate their sale-money to Investment. Also, remember the Thirteenth-Sabbath programs when the different children's Sabbath School classes would sing songs and recite their memory verses? Sabbath School years ago appeared to have had a different focus. In 2015 Pastor Ciro Castillo, Sabbath School and Personal Ministries director, decided to gather different opinions of how we can revitalize

our Oklahoma Sabbath Schools.

To start off the new year, he developed a Sabbath School Survey, which was distributed to the Sabbath School superintendents of each English and Spanish church in Oklahoma. The Sabbath School members were asked to share their opinions on ten thought-provoking questions. If they had additional comments, they were encouraged to share them also. All of the questionnaires were then returned to the conference office, and the data was compiled for research purposes.

Thirty-nine churches responded. Six Spanish and 33 English churches offered

their opinions. The information gathered was educational. People expressed that they enjoyed their Sabbath School classes, but they wanted more time for discussion. There were others who did not even attend Sabbath School or who had no friends in Sabbath School. A synopsis was compiled, and sent out to all pastors and Sabbath School superintendents. Pastor Castillo hopes that this survey will raise more awareness of the importance of Sabbath School and inspire more conversation and dialogue among Sabbath School members.

Susan Castillo

Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers Ministry

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. » The Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers are off to a good start for 2015. We have had several meetings to discuss upcoming ministry events and opportunities. We have found that the best opportunities to minister to the biker community are bike rallies, charity events, and bike shows. At these events, we set up booths so we can pray with people, pass out literature, and refresh the thirsty with water. On April 4, we attended the dedication of the Alva church, which is the home church of four of our members. The rest of the membership can be found throughout Oklahoma in Sapulpa, Oklahoma City, Norman, Moore, Duncan, Chickasha, and Shattuck.



The Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers actively share Christ by ministering to the biker community at bike rallies, charity events and bike shows across the state.



The weekend of April 18 was especially inspiring. The Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers are members of the Christian Unity Coalition, which is a group of about 13 motorcycle ministries in Oklahoma. The Christian Unity Coalition members met in Mustang to inspire, revive, and support each other in our goal of taking Christ and His teachings to people who don't know Him. One member from each ministry spoke. It was a great Sabbath to share testimonies, stories, and truths from God's Word.

After the Christian Unity Meeting, several of the Sabbath Keepers rode over to OU Medical Center to visit with several bikers who had been seriously injured in a motorcycle accident. We were able to meet, pray, and encourage them and their families. On the way home, one of our members was called about a couple who were in a motorcycle accident near Anthony, Kansas. The husband had broken his leg and the hospital had cared for him, but

afterwards, he could not find transportation for him and his wife back home to Oklahoma City. Several of the Sabbath Keepers worked together to transport the couple back to their home by vehicle. It is amazing what opportunities the Lord brings to those who are willing to work for Him.

If anyone is interested in this very unique ministry of sharing Christ with unique people who need to hear of God's love, feel free to contact any of our enthusiastic members on our Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers Facebook page. We would love to come speak at your church.

R.L. "Toolman" Simpson

Bristow Adventist School Volunteers

BRISTOW, OKLA. » Our small school of 12 students is blessed beyond measure by volunteers from our local church. Our principal, Jennifer Semillano, and K-2 teacher, Patricia Perez, rely heavily on these earthly angels who give their time and talent. Ann Hottal visits weekly and listens to the younger children read aloud. Helen Fisher keeps the library organized and updated. Pastor Harvey Gil leads worship with the students once a week, and Bible worker Darry Semillano leads worships and Bible studies. Okmulgee church member JoDee Shoffner brings her wonderful music and artistic talents to inspire the students on a weekly basis. The Castillos, parents of the principal, have spent many hours working on the building itself, bringing their contracting expertise all the

way from San Antonio, Texas. Bill Kerns, also from Texas, has donated much expertise to our HVAC needs.

Young and old, elders, deacons, and church members take their own precious after-hours to mow our expansive lawn, install new doors, sweep gutters, repair heaters, and cut down tree limbs. There are parents, grandmas, and aunties who make delicious hot lunches every Tuesday.

We gratefully acknowledge our generous donors who assist with students' tuition, for without them our students could not have a Christian education. And last, but not least, our school board members volunteer much time and effort to keep the school running smoothly and achieve its goals.

Whether behind the scenes or in the classroom, our volunteers demonstrate to Bristow Adventist School students how compassion and helping others fulfills God's command to serve Him with all our heart and soul (Deuteronomy 10:13).

Caroline A. Fisher,
chairwoman, Bristow
Adventist School



Bristow Adventist School students display crafts created with the help of volunteer JoDee Shoffner.

Sallisaw Church Members Honored as 2015 Volunteers of the Year

SALLISAW, OKLA. » Every week for the past seven years, Gretchen Dobbs and Doris Trotter have visited Sequoyah Manor Nursing Home to deliver cookies and encouraging cards to the residents, and their dedicated service has not gone unnoticed.

Dobbs and Trotter, members of the Sallisaw church, were recently honored as 2015 Volunteers of the Year by the Sequoyah County Department of Human Services (DHS).

At a ceremony hosted by the DHS on April 24, Brian Batesole, master of ceremonies and case manager, said of their work, "Their visits uplift the spirits of residents and give an experience that no amount of money could ever buy."

To recognize the women's service, State Representative Ed Cannaday and State Representative John Bennett attended the awards ceremony.

Both retired educators, Dobbs and Trot-

ter had no idea how extensive their nursing home ministry would become. In fact, they didn't even set out to have a nursing home ministry. "We always said that as soon as we retired, we'd go visit church members," says Dobbs. "But once we retired, everyone we tried to visit was working or busy. The church had four members in the nursing home, so we started visiting them. On one visit, Doris asked the staff if there was anyone else who needed a visitor. The nurse at the desk would say, 'The person at the end of the hall needs a visit,' or 'That person is lonely.'"

Before long, the two friends were spending at least four hours a week visiting the residents, praying with them, and delivering Little Debbie snack cakes and cards with encouraging Bible verses in them.

"When we started out, people were looking forward to the cookies, but now many of

the people look forward to the card more," says Dobbs. "And we know who wants a prayer—some people won't let us leave the room until we've prayed for them."

The residents aren't the only ones who benefit from these visits. "We go to bless people," says Dobbs, "and we end up being the ones who are blessed."

Heather Quintana



Gretchen Dobbs and Doris Trotter are honored as 2015 Volunteers of the Year by the Sequoyah County Department of Human Services.

Which is Better?

Adventist Education vs. Public Education: Weighed in the Balances



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

To some Seventh-day Adventist parents, there are no differences between Seventh-day Adventist (SDA) education vs. public education.

Roger Dudley's book *Why Our (Seventh-day Adventist) Teenagers Leave the Church* reveals that the third best predictor of whether or not a teenager will retain membership in the SDA church lies in the number of years the teenager attends a Seventh-day Adventist school—and that the more years the teenager is educated in a SDA school the greater the difference.

Statistics compiled by the General Conference of SDA Board of Regents indicate that only 30 percent of Adventist youth who are educated in public schools are ever baptized, but that 90 percent of those that attend SDA schools become baptized members of the SDA church.

Since 1872, the SDA system of education has been commissioned by God to adhere

to the Biblical mandate in Isaiah 54:13 that states "all of thy children shall be taught of the Lord."

There are four goals that separate our school system from every public school in America:

1. Adventist education is the salvation of our children. The ultimate objective is to lead students to accept Jesus Christ.
2. To nurture our children in the Adventist culture. Although SDA children learn much of this at home and in church, those SDA youth who attend public school lose a major part of Adventist culture. Students in SDA schools are participating in activities to help them learn about their religious roots.
3. To place children and youth in a school that works cooperatively with the home and church to shape the child's life.
4. To train future church members, lay workers, Sabbath School teachers—and even General Conference presidents. If

time lasts, tomorrow's church leaders can be found in the church school, academy, and SDA colleges of today.

Ninety percent or more of our students go on to attend not just Adventist universities, but many get in to other accredited universities, with the majority graduating from four-year institutions. This compares favorably with public school students in which less than 50 percent go on to universities.

A study on students attending SDA schools in North America shows the following:

Overall achievement on a national achievement test is above the national norm in all grades tested (grades 3-8 and 9 and 11) and in all subject areas tested. Students at all levels of ability, on average, have higher achievement scores than what would be predicted by their age and grade level. For more information, go to www.cognitivegenesis.org.

Shakuntala Ramsarran, education superintendent

Adventist Student Awarded Presidential Volunteer Lifetime Achievement Award

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » Liberty Thompson isn't your average volunteer. For years, she's earned the Presidential Volunteer Achievement Gold Award for exceeding the hours needed for her age group. Recently, New Mexico LT Governor John Sanchez has awarded Liberty the Presidential Volunteer Service Award – Lifetime Achievement for volunteering a minimum of over 4,000 hours.

Liberty, a Master Guide and member of the Bethesda church in Albuquerque, is believed to be the first teenager from New Mexico to earn this award, but she is also believed to be the first in the nation to earn the lifetime achievement at only 19 years of age. The award providers stated that no statistics have been kept, but only, "it is possible." Many of her hours have been accrued at the Pathfinders Oshkosh camporees, volunteering at the Museum of las Golondrinas in living history, helping the Red Cross, Natural Helpers, and her church.

Liberty was poised to be the valedic-

torian of her high school class, but when the district changed graduation from Friday to Sabbath morning, she had to make



Liberty Thompson receives the PVSA-Lifetime Achievement from NM LT. Gov. John Sanchez.

a choice. She repeatedly tried to appeal to the board, but they refused to hear her. Her classmates and their parents petitioned the board in her behalf. Local news picked up the story of this courageous girl who chose to put her faith above academic honors, but the school district wouldn't budge. She was part of the National Honor Society and was the first in her high school to earn the equivalent of an AA degree through dual enrollment classes before graduating. She transferred to Sandia View Academy.

Liberty was part of the Army ROTC program this past semester at the University of New Mexico. She's a Chemistry/Medical Laboratory Sciences major at Andrews University where, after working at camp this summer, she'll return in the fall to work toward her goal of becoming a neurologist or neurosurgeon. Liberty is currently serving as deputy director of God's Go-Getters PF Club.

Dwight Thompson

Singles' Enrichment Weekend

BATON ROUGE, LA. » “Single, but Never Alone” was the theme for Singles’ Enrichment Weekend organized by conference singles’ coordinator Vera Ragland and hosted by the Berean church. The Friday night through Sunday morning gathering was a reunion of sorts, with many singles not having seen each other since the 2013 event. Activities began with Friday night vespers featuring an agape feast, a “Need to be Connected” message from Charlotte Cornish of the Emmanuel church in Hammond, an open mic session, and of course, a birthday cake celebrating those born during the months of July through December. Then it was back to the hotel for the many out-of-towners and home for the locals for what would be a quick night’s rest.

The Sabbath service followed the typical format, except singles led out in every phase, beginning with the different states presenting the Sabbath School lesson. The worship speaker, John M. Scott, pastor of the Northwest Brampton church in Ontario, Canada, was no stranger to the singles, as he had presented at two of our previous Labor Day retreats. He was a welcomed addition to the weekend. His Sabbath message, titled “Challenges of Going the Extra Mile,” was based on 1 Kings 17:8-16.

“It is not uncommon for God to use any method to reach His people,” he began. “Whether good, bad, obedient, or disobedient—the bottom line is to get the job done,” he continued. The drought dilemma confronting the Israelites and how God used it as a wake-up call provided background for his inspiring message. The emphasis

was on how the initial reluctance but eventual cooperation of the widow who trusted Elijah was rewarded beyond measure. Some of her challenges included her status as a widow and her gender—proving that God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34). He remarked that, in spite of Paul’s wish that all men were single like him, he concluded that marriage is good for prosperity and posterity. He suggested that the scarcity of water that the widow had to scrape for could be compared to God waiting until we have the least to reveal how He will help us through the next part of our lives. Elijah’s persistent requests are like our lives today when we need a prophet in our lives to assist us in going a step further.

Scott admonished the singles to “Rejoice in your singleness; enjoy the journey, do what God has called you to do where you are planted. God has a station for you. Help

to tear down the walls of sexism and racism. Do not ignore your challenges, but rather, rise to them instead. Let others see God’s reflection in you, and above all, remember that singles’ ministry is about God, not about you. Allow His adequacies to oversee your inadequacies.”

He continued with a challenge and reminder, “Singles, your theme is correct when you place your singleness and loneliness in God’s hands.”

Following lunch we proceeded to what singles’ ministry is about—outreach. This year’s ministry took us to The Raven’s Outreach Center for Homeless Veterans where we (with a resident at his keyboard), along with the vets, ministered in song, and listened to words of encouragement from Scott. Then we distributed gifts of linens, toiletries, cleaning products, personal hygiene items, gift cards/cash, and fruit bags, courtesy of Berean’s community services department to an appreciative group.

The formal ball from 7:30 p.m. to midnight and the Sunday morning brunch, which featured a panel discussion “Singles Have Issues, Too,” moderated by Scott, brought the weekend to a close.

Evelyn Edwards



Top left and above: Pastor John Scott encourages Adventist during Singles’ Enrichment Weekend.

◀ Formal ball attendees. From left: Rodney Brown, Chris Arnold, Kirk Clarke, John Coleman, John Scott, and Marcus Lamb.

Baton Rouge Enjoys Week of Prayer

BATON ROUGE, LA. » The Berean church recently recognized the coming of spring as it embarked on an abbreviated “Spring Week of Prayer.” Speaker Jamal Alexander, pastor of the Kingston and Ellenville, New York, churches, began the shortened “week” on Wednesday night and culminated on Sabbath. Each night’s message began with a personal experience that not only

provoked laughter, but resulted in having a profound effect on the listener. For example, a camp meeting transfer of chairs by truck during a downpour led to a “mud fiasco” and the sermon title, “Sometimes in Life, You’re Stuck.”

Alexander prefaced his sermon by referring to Hebrews 13 and the verses pertaining to what our attitude should be toward our pastor, Robert Davis. “I admonish you to take good care of your pastor, one of the hardest-working pastors I know,” he said. His message “The Greatest of Them All” was based on Luke 5:17-25 and Jesus’ healing of the paralytic. “Of all Jesus’ miracles, which do you consider the greatest?” he asked the congregation. He then provided what we

perceived to be his own answer—the healing of the paralytic, the miracle that appeared to have trumped all of God’s miracles. He began to share analogies between that miracle and today’s church.

“Jesus knew how to pack a place,” Alexander said. “When we show our churches Jesus, we will pack our churches. Those on the outside have as much right as those on the inside—regardless of appearance. Jesus allowed for interruptions, as we must be willing to do. While man judges on the present reality, God judges on the potential.” Then came the answer we were not prepared for: “The greatest miracle was/is when God forgave/forgives me of my mistakes—unlike the devil (and some church members) who relishes in reminders of how things were.”

As we responded to the altar call, we were assured that our mistakes can be forgiven and were asked to pray for everyone else’s mistakes. And so, with a sigh of relief, we left our “mistakes, mess-ups, and flaws” there at the altar.

Evelyn M. Edwards



Robert Davis and Jamal Alexander after greeting worshipers at the end of the service.

Second Quarter – Second Baptism

MONROE, LA. » The second baptism of the year was held at the Macedonia church on Sabbath afternoon, March 16, 2015, when Frankderius Causey surrendered his life to Christ.

“My actions are going to determine the seeds I sow,” Frank stated. “I am going to make better choices in life, and I want to be an example for my friends. I am going to be a better Christian, because I am on fire for the Lord.”

Frank joins five family members at Macedonia, namely his mother, Sharol Causey, and four sisters, Kimberly, Sally, Marzel, and Ivy Causey. His family and church members thank God for answering their prayers.

Realizing that soul winning is first and foremost in the Macedonia Monroe district, other outreach and evangelistic meet-

ings are forthcoming for the year. Vacation Bible School is scheduled for six days



Pictured in the baptismal pool, along with Frank, are Pastor Etser Edouard and Elder Solomon James, Jr.

in June at Macedonia. Food distribution and witnessing have occurred at the First church in Tallulah. Literature distribution and street witnessing have been ongoing at the Maranatha church in Winnsboro. The Adventist Youth Fellowship in Gram-

bling goes into neighborhoods at least twice a month on Sabbath afternoons. A

Family and Community Guest Day was held last month, during which people from the community and surrounding churches attended and were blessed by the various activities. The health spotlight was a dynamic slide presentation that highlighted why Adventists tend to live longer, because of adhering to health principles advocated by Ellen G. White.

The fellowship members have already begun plans for their annual Free Vegetarian Thanksgiving Dinner. This is a yearly outreach activity, especially for the Grambling/Ruston Community and all of the churches in the district.

Genevia Nicholas Jones

The Undergirding Objectives Of Education



The Word of God in Proverbs 22:6 says, “Train up a child in the way he/she should go, and when he/she is old, they will not depart from it.” The base and foundation of early Adventist education is sure and solid. It can clearly and concisely be found in Scripture, but for this occasion I have chosen to extract its undergirding principles from the Spirit of Prophecy.

In Ellen White’s writing *Child Guidance*, we find the objectives set forth in the following manner.

Principle 1: Education begins at home. “It is in the home that the education of the child is to begin.” The broad translation is that the success of Adventist education depends upon a combined effort between the home, the church, and the school. All three must be pulling in the same direction for the child to be thoroughly educated for the kingdom of heaven. If even one of these pulls in a different direction, the salvation of the child can be jeopardized.

Principle 2: Bible-based training is vital for the young. “The training of children constitutes an important part of God’s Plan.” Interpretation: The ongoing stabil-

ity and success of God’s Kingdom here on earth depends heavily upon the stringent and deep equipping of its future leaders and supporters. Any army knows that the more intense the training, the better prepared it is to do battle.

Principle 3: The Bible is God’s primary textbook. “The Word of God is to be made the rule of this life.” The profound spiritual lessons of the Bible have a tremendous moral influence on the character. As they are brought into the practicalities of life, they form and shape the decisions that children, youth, and adults make in the course of their lives. The Bible is a book of promises, blessing, and reproof.

Principle 4: God’s other book is nature. “Next to the Bible, nature is to be our great lesson book.” Our kids today are entertained and taught by television, video games, and cell phones. On every tree, every stone, and every star, the name of God is proclaimed! Satan has been successful in creating distractions that have virtually eliminated the ability for God’s nature to speak of the Creator’s wondrous power to our children and young people.

Principle 5: As we learn obedience, we obtain happiness and success. “Christians will learn the same lesson, that in their obedience to God’s Law, is their perfect freedom. The will of God is the law of heaven!”

Principle 6: Respect for others and their property. “For the comfort and happiness of the family, all must learn to observe the rules of propriety.” As children learn to respect others and respect the property of others, they learn to be content with what they possess and are equipped to live in the courts above.

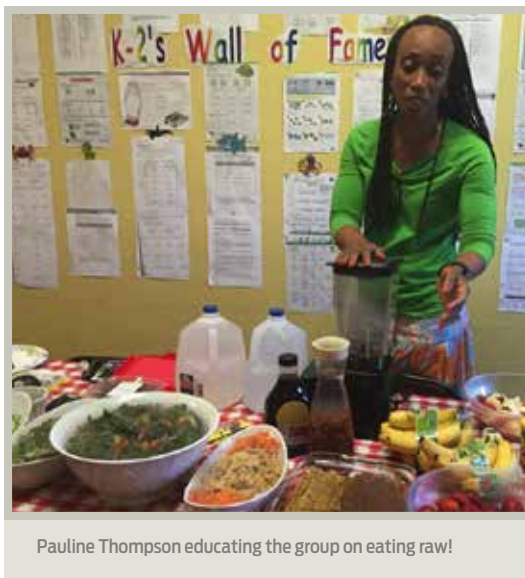
Finally, **Principle 7:** Our health is our greatest wealth. “The future happiness of your families and the welfare of society depend largely upon the physical and moral education which your children receive in the first years of their life.” If our kids are taught healthy eating and living habits early on, they are equipped to live in longevity and happiness. God desires us to be the head and not the tail of society. These God-given principles must be learned, respected and adhered to for the happiness and well-being of our children, youth, and adults.

Carlos J. Craig, president

Eating Raw in Lewisville

LEWISVILLE » In an effort to educate church members and the community about eating raw foods, the women’s ministries department at the Lewisville church hosted an educational nutrition event. On April 4, 2015 Pauline Thompson, a member of the church, demonstrated quick and easy meal preparation using raw foods. Pauline’s motto is in Genesis 1:29, which states, “Then God said, ‘Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the surface of all the earth, and every tree which has fruit yielding seed; it shall be food for you.’” Pauline is a vegan raw food enthusiast who only uses organic produce.

Pauline demonstrated how to make



Pauline Thompson educating the group on eating raw!

kale salad, broccoli salad, almond milk, and dehydrated flatbread made from apples and flaxseeds. Another flatbread was made from corn and flaxseeds. She also made smoothies with fresh fruits and almond milk.

The women’s group incorporated these tasty dishes in their monthly potluck meeting. Everyone was amazed about the ease of preparation and the benefits that can be gained from a raw diet. The class lasted one hour and was one of the many women’s outreach activities organized by Eunice Tembe, the women’s ministries leader.

Faye Hunte

Scripture Bee at DeSoto Church

DESOTO » In February, the DeSoto church decided to awaken a long-lost tradition within the Seventh-day Adventist Church: Sabbath School Investment. The event? Sabbath School Investment Scripture Bee! This event took the shape of what is typically the spelling bee, but with scripture replacing the spelling.

The DeSoto Sabbath School Investment Scripture Bee got off to an exhilarating start when Erin Quietson, the youngest contestant, raised the bar at the very start of the contest with her recital of Psalm 23 in its entirety! When all was said and done, a total of 33 scriptures were recited by DeSoto's youth. First place went to Deidre Pomare (age 13), with ten scriptures recited; Erin Quietson (age 8) came in second place, with nine verses memorized; and third place went to Joshua Pomare (age 9), with eight verses memorized. Reed Eastman, Nathan Eastman, and Victoria Anoruigwe were recognized for their great efforts in successfully reciting their Bible verses!

The Sabbath School Investment Scripture Bee was inspired by DeSoto's Sabbath School Investment committee (Natalie Burden, Sylvia Cotton, Carol Knott, and Sharon Scott). The purpose of the

event was twofold: (1) to introduce the concept of Sabbath School Investment to the children, as well as dedicating monies earned for world missions using talents that God entrusted to us; and (2) to help the children get more interested in memorizing the Bible. The contestants collected pledges from family and friends for every scripture they successfully memorized, with all of the proceeds going to world missions. Family and friends were extremely supportive of the children who committed their God-given talents to this project.

"It made my heart glad to see the work of the Holy Spirit within the congregation as they encouraged and supported the children to use their talents, and within the children who took to heart memoriz-

ing Scripture," said Natalie Burden, Desoto Sabbath School Investment secretary.

The children were not the only ones who took the challenge to heart. Children's parents were just as involved in memorizing Bible passages as the kids were! Noemi Quietson, mother of contestant Erin Quietson, said that this activity was helpful for her as a parent, because it helped her memorize Psalm 23 in its entirety, something she had not previously done. She is looking forward to more fun activities like the Scripture Bee.

"It was a fun way to encourage children to memorize scripture," Noemi Quietson said. "I wish there were more programs like that."



▲ The DeSoto church held a Scripture Bee as a creative way to introduce Sabbath School Investment to the children.

◀ Six young contestants took part in the Scripture Bee and received certificates for their participation.

Take Care Of Your Lambs



TEXICO CONFERENCE

“I am the Good Shepherd; the Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. He who is a hired hand, and not a shepherd, who is not the owner of the sheep, sees a wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches and scatters them. He flees because he is a hired hand and is not concerned about the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me” John 10:11-15.

I’ve heard it said, “Take care of your lambs, or where will you get your sheep from?” If a species is going to survive, the young must be protected, otherwise it will become extinct. There are many reasons for the extinction and near extinction of certain species, such as hunting, encroachment of civilization, and pollution.

What does this have to do with Christian education? Both the text and quote indicate our responsibility to care for the young.

Let us look at the spiritual applications of the reasons for extinction as they relate to Adventist education.

1. 1. Hunting—“Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour,” (1 Peter 5:8). The young are very vulnerable to lions and, I believe, the devil really likes lambs. He

knows that if he can destroy all the lambs, eventually there will be no more sheep. We must, therefore, take care of our lambs.

2. 2. We talked about the encroachment of civilization as a critical factor in exerting a negative impact on God’s creation. Paul admonishes us, “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). And Jesus, in His prayer for us, said, “I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one” (John 17:15). Unfortunately, the world has its influence on the home, the church, and the school. But, by joining forces we can better protect our children from the pressures to conform to the ways of the world. God clearly tells us, “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways” (Isaiah 55:8).

3. 3. Pollution, the last factor, has serious implications in its affect on the youth of today. In fact, many adults have also been snatched into its deadly grasp. One must guard well the avenues of the soul to keep out those things that will corrupt the soul. 1 John 2:15-17 instructs us not to love the world. “Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the

flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and also its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever” (NASB).

God has established schools as cities of refuge to protect the lambs—our children—from the roaring lion. This does not mean that the devil stays out of our schools. He never gives up and is everywhere seeking to destroy. Students are never exempt from the need to make wise choices.

Our schools provide many opportunities to help students develop spiritually. Classes integrate spiritual values throughout the curriculum. Social activities are provided that elevate rather than bring down. Physical activities are designed to strengthen and re-create, and the mental development focuses on the true source of knowledge.

I am thankful for education that emphasizes truth, and for teachers who share the good news. The question will be asked when Jesus comes, “Where is the flock that was given you, your beautiful sheep?” (Jeremiah 13:20). I will answer that question as a parent, an educator, and a member of the church. May God bless us all as we care for His lambs—His flock.

Adapted from J.D. Victor Fitch

Derral Reeve, education superintendent

His Story is Still Being Told Through Theirs

AMARILLO, TEX. » What can you say when your family suddenly grows by 50 members in one grand event? That’s actually what happened in Amarillo on March 21 as the members of the Texico Conference family expanded to include a brand new congregation, the Amarillo Karen Company.

These new family members have been arriving in the United States, along with about 70,000 of their fellow Karen people, for over a decade. They are coming from refugee camps in Southeast Asia along the border between Myanmar and Thailand. Most of them were born in the refugee camps as second-, third-, and even fifth-generation residents of this displaced

group, and now they have a new home in Amarillo through a resettlement program of the United States government.

The really amazing part of their story is that these new family members are descendants of the first people to accept the Seventh-day Adventist message in their native land a century ago.

Perhaps you may recall the wonderful stories that many of us remember from camp meetings, record albums, and children’s books. These were stories with strange names like Pip Pip, the Naughty Chicken, Mr. Crooked Ears, and Clever Queen. These stories, and many more, were told by master storyteller Eric B. Hare

as both children and adults listened with interest on the edge of their chairs. These stories are the special treasure of a missionary experience that began 100 years ago this year when this Australian pastor arrived as the first Adventist missionary to Myanmar (then Burma).

Hare served the Karen people of Myanmar for about 20 years. He learned to speak their language. He learned their stories, and he told them his stories about Jesus, grace, and living forever. The people quickly accepted “Dr. Rabbit,” as they came to refer to him, since one of their long-shared cultural stories told that some day a tall, white man carrying a black book with gold

edges would come and the people should listen to him because he would tell them the truth. And so, they believed that he had arrived and they listened to him.

For those 20 years, Hare preached, taught, and treated the people's illnesses. He faithfully built up a wonderful group of leaders who have continued to share the message of hope and salvation with succeeding generations. As a result, there are thousands of Seventh-day Adventists

among the Karen people today. Most of these people still live in the refugee camps and in other groups of displaced people in Thailand and Myanmar.

But now, some of these folks have come to Amarillo, and over the past several years they have found each other and have shared their faith with still others. Now, some 90 people are worshipping together each Sabbath. On that special Sabbath in March, this group of fellow believers was organized as a company and as a part of the Texico Conference family. With the support of the NAD Office of Refugee Ministries, this newly-established company in the Texico Conference was welcomed as the 40th officially recognized congregation of Karen members in the North American Division.

There were 46 Seventh-day Adventist members

who had been baptized in the refugee camps or at sometime earlier while living in Amarillo. In addition, four young adults were baptized by Texico Conference president Lee-Roy Chacon that day, one of them being a former Buddhist monk who led out in the Sabbath School program that morning. All together, the members who signed the charter membership roster totaled 50 very excited, happy, and dedicated members. We are very grateful for the leadership of Dah Nay Way, the new Company leader, and also for Jimmy Shwe, NAD Karen church planting consultant, who ministers to these faithful members.

As this new congregation is committed to reaching "their new community" for Christ, it is clear that the story of Eric B. Hare continues to be told. The Karen people will never forget his commitment to Jesus and to them. During the weekend of July 23-26 there will be a special 100 Year Celebration at Andrews University to remember and to honor the faithfulness of this special missionary pastor.

When the family expands by 50 people at one grand event it calls for a season of rejoicing indeed! What else can we say but "Praise the Lord!"

Phil Robertson, executive secretary/treasurer



◀ Eh Htee Kaw, formerly a Buddhist monk, signs as a charter member on the day of his baptism.

▼ A special Sabbath for the Amarillo Karen Company.



Hi-na (He Lives)

GALLUP, N. MEX. » “Hi-na, Hi-na Christ Jesus Kad Hi-na! Shijei biidi hi-na (Christ Jesus lives today! He walks with me and talks with me... You ask me how I know He lives. He lives within my heart.)”

I love this song (He Lives). Have you heard it sung in the Navajo language?

My journey of Jesus coming into my heart began when I was almost five years old. I was introduced to Christianity at a Vacation Bible School in Naschitti, New Mexico. As I heard the story of David and Goliath, it impressed my little heart so much that it became my story.

During my fifth year in school one of my brothers was killed in an auto accident. Another brother was attending school in California at the time and wanted to come home for the funeral, but he didn't have a ride. Paul and Mary Jane Stewart offered to bring him home for the funeral. It was

lup All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church along with my wife, Angie. We are passionate about sharing Christ with other Native Americans.

Every year we have the privilege of sharing Christ with thousands of Native American Indians at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow, an annual event in Albuquerque, by helping out at the Adventist booth along with other members from the Albuquerque Heights and Rio Ran-



▲ Karen Biathrow and Raymond Nez with a visitor at the Gathering of Nations booth.

◀ From left: Karen Biathrow with Angie and Raymond Nez at the Gathering of Nations Pow Wow booth.



nice to have the Stewarts around my family during this difficult time. Before going back to California, Paul enrolled each of my family members in the Voice of Prophecy Bible Correspondence course. I really enjoyed every subject I studied.

On April 20, 1974, after evangelistic meetings, which were held at the Albuquerque Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church, my sisters and I were baptized. At the same time, I shared Christ with my best friend who was later baptized also.

Today I am an active member of the Gal-

cho churches. This year we also had help from Cheryl Joe and her daughter, who are new members at Gallup.

We were privileged to be able to share Jesus with some of the people who stopped by to visit our booth. My next-door neighbor, who is also a Navajo-speaking Native American, stopped by. He asked what our booth was giving out, and I thought to myself “thank you Jesus,” as I started telling him about the greatest Gathering of Nations that will occur when Jesus comes again and handed him some free information.

We share Jesus in the marketplace, because we don't want our Native people to miss out when Jesus comes again. I pray for our Native people to get to know and love Christ, and to accept the call of the Great Spirit and live with Him forever.

I long for the moment in heaven, when the universe, and all the angels and every nationality hush and listen to the Native people sing the song of the redeemed as we enter the Holy City. “Hi-na, Hi-na Christ Jesus Hi-na.”

Let's spread the word that Jesus is alive and He wants us to live with Him forever!

Raymond Nez

Australian Film Director Becomes Newest Southwestern Professor

Southwestern Adventist University welcomes Kyle Portbury, an awarding-winning film director from the Australian Union Conference, as a new associate professor in the Communication Department. With a background in film production, directing, and acting, Portbury is an excellent addition to the university.

Portbury, a graduate of Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design at the University of Arts London, with a master's degree in performance, is well respected among his peers.

Portbury has been the film and television creative director with Adventist Media Network in Australia since 2010. It was there that he directed and co-wrote *Beyond the Search*, a documentary series that aimed to resolve questions about difficult topics. The series won 15 international awards and was an official selection in the United Nations Global Wake Up Film Festival.

Sailfish, a film that Portbury wrote the screenplay for, was a quarterfinalist in the 2015 Bluecat Screenplay Competition in Los Angeles, California, and a finalist in the New Hope Film Festival.

More recently Portbury has been working on *Tell the World*, a film about the Adventist pioneers who saw their world turned upside down by the Great Disappointment of 1844, and how they turned that tragedy into a new flame for the Lord.

Portbury also worked on *The Mountain Within*, a documentary, which followed seven disabled climbers up Mt. Kilimanjaro in Tanzania. The documentary was released to coincide with the 2009 Special Olympics in Leicester, England.

"We are excited about Kyle joining the Communication Department," Mike Agee, Communication Department chair

said. "Not only does he bring a wealth of real-world experience in filmmaking to the department, he has also built a quick bond and rapport with our students."

Portbury is eager to network in the Dallas and Fort Worth area and connect communication students with opportunities to gain experience with local media venues.

He said, "It's all about making connections and creating new experiences – that's how you learn and grow your craft."

While this is a major career change for Portbury, he doesn't want to leave his film career completely behind. He plans to involve Southwestern students in the making of high quality productions.

"I love telling stories which reflect the character of God. If I can help someone

else to more fully understand and love that, and do it well, I'll be a happy man," Portbury said when asked how he planned on impacting the department and his students.

Portbury is an excellent addition to Southwestern's arsenal of education professionals. In this digital age, the mission of spread-



Kyle Portbury, the newest addition to the Southwestern faculty.





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July 10 at 12:00 pm

AT Casa Rio Restaurant
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TWO PRESENTATIONS

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold;">Hear our UNIVERSITY SINGERS</p> <p style="font-size: 0.8em;">in joint concert with the Andrews University Singers</p>	<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">July 10 at 2:00 pm July 11 at 2:00 pm</p>
<p style="font-size: 0.8em;">St. Joseph's Parish 623 E Commerce St San Antonio, TX</p>	

Young Adults Share Christ in Zimbabwe!

On August of last year, the Lord impressed me with the idea of taking 30 young adults from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference on a ShareHim evangelism mission trip, with all expenses paid. In return, each of the evangelists would commit to do a series at their home church or a place of their choosing. When I approached the administration and the executive committee, they gave their full support and made the funds available for the trip. The Southwestern Union also partnered with the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference with financial support, and with the help of evangelism coordinators, Duane and Kathy McKee, 70 evangelistic sites were organized in the cities of Harare and Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

On May 11, twenty-four young adults, including pastors and conference personnel traveled to Zimbabwe for a two-week evangelistic series. Most of the young adults were first-time speakers and did not know what to expect. As they saw hundreds of people attending their meetings, you could sense the excitement in the air. Their excitement became more apparent as hundreds made the decision to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior

strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.' I knew then, God was in control!"

Recently newlywed couple, Brian and Stesha Malveau, also shared their experience: "We were not sure what to expect on this mission trip, but this was the best experience for us as a newly-married couple. It ignited a spark in us and revealed that we love to preach about God to others. We have a renewed spirit in our walk with God."

It is quite apparent that each in their unique way has experienced a revival. Christopher Castillo commented, "Making an appeal every night has really touched my heart and has changed my life." His wife, Karla Castillo, also had a similar experience when she shared, "The greatest miracle I have ever experienced is seeing people give their lives to Jesus and getting

but also how to truly understand the Bible. I will be forever grateful to him! I wish we had more time in Zimbabwe, but I know I'll see all of my new friends in heaven!"

Perhaps the greatest highlight of the mission trip was witnessing the baptism and re-baptism of seven from our own team. It was amazing to hear how the message of hope they were preaching nightly had convicted them to commit their lives anew to our Lord Jesus Christ. Convicted to change the course his life, Garrett Graham shared, "There are many things God has convicted me to change in my life. This is why I want to recommit my life to Him!"

Daisy Sandoval's story was also amazing. At the time, she was not an Adventist, however, her friend Tania Castellanos had invited her to be part of this experience. So as she started preaching the three angels messages, she found herself convicted by the messages she had come to preach to the people of Harare. She was one of the seven that was baptized. Praise the Lord!

We praise God that the spirit of evangelism has sparked a flame in the lives of our young adults. Night after night, God showed up in miraculous ways. We heard stories about people that did not attend the meetings, but when the appeal was made to accept Jesus through baptism these people would show up. When asked how they had come to such a decision since they had not been attending the meetings, the response was, "I heard every message at my home through the loud speaker!"

The lives of our young adults have been forever changed. As they head back to the States, they are looking forward to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The

Ark-La Conference is very proud of their accomplishments. I pray that the Spirit of God would continue to fan the fire that now burns within their souls.

Jeff Villegas, youth director, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference



Seven young adults who traveled to Zimbabwe, with a team from Arkansas-Louisiana (above), to preach during the Revelation of Hope meetings gave their lives to Jesus. In a special afternoon gathering at the hotel swimming pool in Harare, GC President Ted Wilson baptized Garrett Graham (left) of Bossier City, Louisiana, along with several other young adults.



through the waters of baptism.

Beatriz Wences shared her experience, "I must admit I was afraid at first, but then I felt God speak to me. The day before beginning my journey to Harare, I opened my devotional and the verse I read was Joshua 1:9. It says, 'Have I not commanded you? Be

ready for His coming."

Another positive impression that the group received was the relationships they forged with the people of Harare. "I think I met my favorite person EVER!" shared Averie Nugent. "He was my translator, Owen Chandamale. He taught me a lot about life

ADVENTIST SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTHWEST

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

A complete list of all academies and elementary/junior academies is listed below:

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Bentonville SDA School	2522 S.E. 14 th St., Bentonville, AR 72712
Colquitt Christian Academy	3233 Colquitt Rd., Shreveport, LA 71118
Ewing Adventist Jr. Academy	709 Adventist Church Rd., Bonnerdale, LA 71933
Greater New Orleans Christian Academy	5220 Irving St., Metairie, LA 70006
Harrison SDA School	4877 Hwy. 392 West, Harrison, AR 72601
Hot Springs SDA School	401 Weston Rd., Hot Springs, AR 71913
Jones Creek Adventist Academy	4363 Jones Creek Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70817
Little Rock Adventist Academy	8708 Rodney Parham, Little Rock, AR 72205
Ozark Adventist School	21150 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry, AR 72734
Springdale Adventist School	4001 W. Don Tyson Pkwy., Springdale, AR 72762
Texarkana SDA School	3100 Pleasant Grove Rd., Texarkana, TX 75503
Umpire Christian School	164 School St., Umpire, AR 71971

Academy

Ozark Adventist Academy	20997 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry, AR 72734
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Oklahoma Conference

Ardmore Adventist Academy	154 Beavers Academy Rd., Ardmore, OK 73401
Bristow Adventist School	718 E. Jefferson, Bristow, OK 74010
Heritage Adventist School	20555 S. 4170 Rd., Unit B, Claremore, OK 74017
Ketchum Adventist Academy	35369 S. Hwy 82, Vinita, OK 74301
Muskogee SDA Christian School	170 N. Country Circle Rd., Muskogee, OK 74403
Parkview Adventist School	4201 Martin Luther King, Oklahoma City, OK 73111
Pioneer Adventist Christian School	1710 N. East St., Guymon, OK 73942
Tulsa Adventist Academy	900 S. New Haven, Tulsa, OK 74112
West Siloam Springs Adventist School	57570 S. 690 Rd., Colcord, OK 74338

Southwest Region Conference

Alfred Booker Jr. Academy	916 Richmond Dr., Alexandria, LA 71302
Applegate Adventist Jr. Academy	P.O. Box 729, Round Rock, TX 78680
Bethel Adventist School	P.O. Box 660., Texarkana, TX 75501
Emmanuel Adventist School	702 N. Cherry St., Hammond, LA 70401
Excel Adventist Academy	P.O. Box 2240, Missouri City, TX 77489
Martin Luther King Jr. Christian Academy	4295 Prescott Court, Baton Rouge, LA 70805
New Life Christian Academy	P.O. Box 1, Marion, AR 72364
New Orleans Adventist Academy	4500 Gawain Dr., New Orleans, LA 70127
Shiloh Adventist School	2400 S. Maple St., Little Rock, AR 72204
S.W. Adventist Jr. Academy	1600 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas, TX 75203

Texas Conference

Adventist Christian Academy of Texas	3601 S. Loop 336 E., Conroe, TX 77301
Burleson Adventist School	1635 Fox Ln., Burleson, TX 76028
Burton Adventist Elementary School	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington, TX 76017
Cleburne Adventist Christian School	111 Meadowview Dr., Cleburne, TX 76033
Coggin Memorial School (formerly Coastal Bend)	6645 Downing St., Corpus Christi, TX 78414
Cypress Bend Adventist School	2997 FM 728, Jefferson, TX 75657
Dallas Christian Academy	4025 N. Central Expy., Dallas, TX 75204
Ft. Worth Adventist Jr. Academy	3040 Sycamore School Rd., Ft. Worth, TX 76133
Garland Christian Adventist School	1702 E. Centerville Rd., Garland, TX 75041
Gulfhaven Adventist School	10716 Sabo Rd., Houston, TX 77089
Hill Country Adventist School	611 Harper Rd., Kerrville, TX 78028
Joshua Adventist Multi-Grade	1912 Conveyer Rd., Joshua, TX 76058
Katy Adventist Christian School	1913 East Ave., Katy, TX 77493
Keene Adventist Elementary	302 Pecan St., Keene, TX 76059
Killeen Adventist Jr. Academy	3412 Lake Rd., Killeen, TX 76543
Knowledge Seekers Christian School	1471 W. Corporate Dr., Lewisville, TX 75067
Maranatha Adventist School	2526 Goliad Rd., San Antonio, TX 78223
New Creation Adventist School	800 W. Hwy 6, Waco, TX 76712
North Dallas Adventist Academy (Elementary)	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson, TX 75081
Pineywoods Adventist Christian School	4629 FM 1638, Nacogdoches, TX 75964
San Marcos Adventist Jr. Academy	P.O. Box 801, San Marcos, TX 78667
Scenic Hills Adventist Christian School	11223 Bandera Rd., San Antonio, TX 78250
South Texas Christian Academy (Elementary)	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen, TX 78504
Stonehill Christian Academy	4301 Kelly Ln., Pflugerville, TX 78660
The Oaks Adventist Christian School	11735 Grant Rd., Cypress, TX 77428
Triangle Adventist Christian School	P.O. Box H, Groves, TX 77619
Tyler SDA School	2931 South S.E. Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701
Valley Grande Adventist Academy (Elementary)	1000 South Bridge St., Weslaco, TX 78796
Victoria Adventist Academy	3103 E. Mockingbird Ln., Victoria, TX 77904

Academies

Burton Adventist Academy	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington TX 76017
Chisholm Trail Academy	P.O. Box 717, Keene, TX 76059
North Dallas Adventist Academy	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson, TX 75081
South Texas Christian Academy	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen, TX 78504
Valley Grande Adventist Academy	1000 S. Bridge St., Weslaco, TX 78796

Texico Conference

Adventist Academy of Santa Fe	P.O. Box 28327, Santa Fe, NM 87592
Crestview Christian Academy	6000 Ouray, N.W. Albuquerque, NM 87120
El Paso Adventist Jr. Academy	3510 George Dieter Dr., El Paso, TX 79936
Lubbock Junior Academy	P.O. Box 6277, Lubbock, TX 79493
Sandia View Elementary	24 Academy Dr., Corrales, NM 87048

Academy

Sandia View Academy	65 Sandia View Ln., Corrales, NM 87048
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Classified Ads

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Family Practice for Sale. One acre lot with medical practice building located north of Valley View, TX along Highway 35. Nurse Practitioner has active family practice. Needs to retire secondary to rheumatoid arthritis. For more information, contact Thelma at 940.726.5750 or 940.726.3349.

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House for sale in North Central Arkansas. 2,600 sqft, 3/2, cathedral ceilings, 2-year-old metal roof, large master suite, woodstove (soapstone), 2-car carport. 40 acres, gravity spring water, creek, waterfalls, cave, hardwoods, mountain views, organic garden, fruit/nut trees, vineyard, solar green house, abundant wildlife. For information, call 870.504.1762.

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EMPLOYMENT

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.

Southwestern Adventist University has an immediate opening for a full-time nurse educator to serve as Chair for Nursing Department. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

Southwestern Adventist University Advancement office seeks full-time Vice President. Responsibilities center primarily in development in addition to PR/Marketing and Alumni Relations. Minimum bachelor's degree and 2 years advancement experience required, master's degree preferred. Submit cover letter and CV/resume to Human Resources at denise.rivera@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 for more information.

Andrews University seeks a faculty for Public Health/Nutrition/Wellness who will be the

Director for the Internship Program of Nutrition and Dietetics. A preferred qualified person should be a registered dietitian with a master's degree. Clinical and teaching experience desired. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_15.

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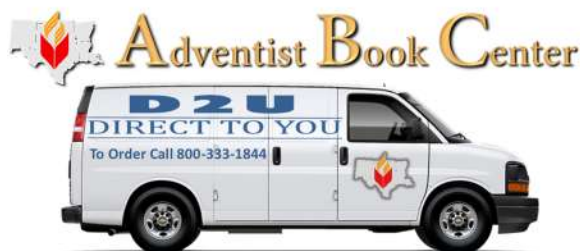
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Adventist Israel Tour: Join Jim Gilley, Danny Shelton, and the 3ABN team for an unforgettable Bible Enrichment Tour. Fantastic buffets, fellowship, and guides. Affordable. Two departure dates, November 15-23 or November 18-29, 2015. Contact Jennifer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

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Arkansas / East Texas Route

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, July 13		Arrive	Depart
Greenville	1211 Commerce Dr, Greenville TX 75401	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Mount Pleasant	302 Lakewood Dr, Mt Pleasant TX 75455	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Paris	1564 US Highway 271 S, Paris TX 75462	1:45 PM	2:15 PM
De Queen(Beacon Hill)	1452 Red Bridge Rd, De Queen AR 71832	4:15 PM	4:45 PM
Glenwood Spanish	210 S 3rd St, Glenwood AR 71943	6:20 PM	6:50 PM
Tuesday, July 14		Arrive	Depart
Hot Springs	401 Weston Rd, Hot Springs AR 71913	8:15 AM	8:45 AM
Benton	2615 Lincoln Rd, Benton AR 72019	9:35 AM	10:05 AM
Little Rock	8700 N Rodney Parham Rd, Little Rock, AR 72205	10:50 AM	11:20 AM
Searcy	2703 W Beebe Capps Expy, Searcy AR 72143	12:45 PM	1:15 PM
Batesville	30 Gap Rd, Batesville AR 72501	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Jonesboro	2317 W Washington Ave, Jonesboro AR 72401	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
New Life	1093 Highway 77, Marion AR 72364	6:45 PM	7:15 PM
Wednesday, July 15		Arrive	Depart
Shiloh Adventist School	2400 Maple St, Little Rock AR 72204	10:15 AM	10:45 AM
Northside (Pine Bluff)	5603 Holsey St, Pine Bluff AR 71602	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Magnolia	2015 Ellis St, Magnolia AR 71753	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Texarkana	3100 Pleasant Grove Rd, Texarkana TX 75503	4:45 PM	5:15 PM
Shreveport (Conf. Office)	7025 Greenwood Rd, Shreveport LA 71119	6:40 PM	7:10 PM
Thursday, July 16		Arrive	Depart
Jefferson Academy	3000 FM 728, Jefferson TX 75657	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Longview	2800 Airline Rd, Longview TX 75605	10:25 AM	10:55 AM
Mineola	1904 Old Tyler Hwy, Mineola TX 75773	12:10 PM	12:40 PM
Terrell	315 Wall St, Terrell TX 75160	1:55 PM	2:25 PM

Order Deadline for Arkansas / East Texas route is Thursday, July 9. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

Western Oklahoma / Northern New Mexico Route

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, July 27		Arrive	Depart
Bowie	617 W Wise St, Bowie TX 76230	10:15 AM	10:45 AM
Wichita Falls First	1305 14th St, Wichita Falls TX 76301	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Vernon Spanish	4701 College Dr, Vernon TX 76384	1:45 PM	2:15 PM
Amarillo	405 S Western St, Amarillo TX 79106	5:15 PM	5:45 PM
Hereford	711 W Park Ave, Hereford TX 79045	6:55 PM	7:25 PM
Tuesday, July 28		Arrive	Depart
Clovis	1501 E Llano Estacado Blvd, Clovis NM 88101	8:10 AM	8:40 AM
Belen	115 E Ross Ave, Belen NM 87002	12:50 PM	1:20 PM
Los Lunas	12 Thomas Rd, Los Lunas NM 87031	2:15 PM	2:45 PM
Albuquerque Central	2201 Estancia Dr NW, Albuquerque, NM 87120	3:35 PM	4:05 PM
Texico Conference Office	777 Sandia View Lane, Corrales, NM, 87048	4:50 PM	5:20 PM
Santa Fe English	130 Rabbit Rd, Santa Fe NM 87508	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
Wednesday, July 29		Arrive	Depart
Las Vegas (Dr Kanode's Office)	1301 8th St, Las Vegas, NM 87701 - New Location	9:15 AM	9:45 AM
Tucumcari Spanish	1901 S 1st St, Tucumcari NM 88401	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Dalhart	2 Pheasant Run Rd, Dalhart TX 79022	3:15 PM	3:45 PM
Pioneer Adventist School	1710 N East St, Guymon, OK 73942	5:40 PM	6:10 PM
Thursday, July 30		Arrive	Depart
Shattuck (Old School)	5th St & Summer St, Shattuck OK 73858 - New Loc	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Woodward	1321 Enterprise Ave, Woodward OK 73801	11:15 AM	11:45 AM
Weatherford	600 W Davis Ave, Weatherford OK 73096	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
Lawton	1610 NW 19th St, Lawton OK 73507	4:00 PM	4:30 PM

Order Deadline for Western Oklahoma / Northern New Mexico is Thursday, July 23. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

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Demand is high for Automotive Service Management

with an expected job growth rate of 17 percent between 2010-2020, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree in automotive service as well as a bachelor's in automotive service management. Both programs feature hands-on experience with ASE master mechanics and a focus on incorporating Christ-centered values in the classroom as well as the workplace. Southern students have an 85 percent pass rate on ASE certification exams. Part-time work opportunities and internships are available in the auto shop on campus. Visit southern.edu/tech for more information.

The Construction Management job outlook is strong

with an expected growth rate of 16 percent between 2012-2022, according to the

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Southern Adventist University offers an associate's degree as well as a bachelor's in construction management. Students learn to unravel the complex components of commercial and residential construction projects and gain management techniques and leadership skills needed to supervise a job site. Southern's program features hands-on experience while incorporating Christ-centered values into both learning and working environments. Visit southern.edu/tech for more information.

Butler Creek Health Education Center -

Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression. Upcoming Programs: August 2-14 & September 6-18, 2015. Cost: \$1250. Register online www.butlercreekhealth.org or call 931.213.1329.

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Announcements

Madison College Alumni Association

would like to include any graduates, attendees, or friends who may not already be on our mailing list to receive the quarterly newsletter and any other communications. Write to P.O. Box 1735, Madison, TN 37116, or by e-mail: madisoncollege-alumni@gmail.com.

Save The Date! Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary has changed to October 7-9, 2016.

Send your name and contact info to alumni@gnyacademy.org, or friend us on Facebook at Greater NYA, or write to Greater NY Academy, 41-32 58th 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 addictions recovery groups will be held October 9-11, 2015 at the Southwestern Union office in Burseson, Texas. For more information about ARMin, a 12-week recovery program centered around *Steps to Christ*, go to www.adventist-recovery.org. For info about the training call 817.295.0476, ext. 338.

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 Allayne Petersen Martsching, 402.312.7368, or e-mail: allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

Pine Tree Academy Alumni Weekend is September 18-20, 2015.

Theme: Keep the Light Burning. Events include bean "suppah" and hotdog roast, worship, Jubilate reunion concert, basketball game, and golf tournament. Visit: www.pintreeacademy.org.

Grand Ledge Academy First Years Reunion:

We are looking for all charter students, faculty, and alumni of 1959 - 1964 of Grand Ledge Academy, Grand Ledge, Michigan. Plans are underway for a reunion which will be Sept 24 -27, 2015 at the Adventist Frontier Missions Training Center near Berrien Springs, MI. To be kept informed of plans as they develop, send an e-mail to claudiabahnmler@gmail.com with contact information, or call Claudia at 360 793-1883. Join the Facebook group "Grand Ledge Academy - First Years".



Adventist Recovery Ministries Journey to Wholeness

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For more information, call 817-295-0476 ext. 335.



www.AdventistRecovery.com

Obituaries

BALLENGER, Betty, born August 28, 1928 in New Orleans, La., and died March 25, 2015 in Mabelvale, Ark. She was a member of the Little Rock church in Little Rock, Ark., and was a much-loved Christian lady with a sweet personality. She was married to Gene Ballenger for 59 years and supported the Little Rock church in many ways. Betty played the organ and piano in the church for 47 years while helping with the Sabbath School programs. She worked for the State of Arkansas for 23 years and at one time worked for the Red Cross. She will be greatly missed and we look forward to seeing her again on resurrection morning. Survivors: daughter, Betty Loujean McDougal; son and daughter-in-law, Danny Charles and Nina Ballenger; and four grandchildren.

BOOKER, Lowren, born March 27, 1926 in Marvell, Ark., and died April 10, 2015 in West Helena, Ark. Booker was a member of the West Helena church. Lowren had no biological children, but she raised her great-niece, Belinda Cobbins, and her daughter, Lecheshea Cobbins. Survivors: sister, Annie Peterson, of St. Louis, Mo.; brother, Jewel Cook, of St. Louis; and special sister, Theatho Hull-Scott, of Rondo, Ark.

COSBY, Mary Bell Egbert, born August 1, 1922 in Mansfield, La., and died April 19, 2015 in Bossier City, La. Crosby was a member of the Shreveport First church. Mary was a homemaker and will be missed by everyone who had the privilege of knowing her. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joe Wilson Cosby, Sr.;

granddaughter, Brandi Cosby Florea; four sisters: Pauline Parker, Elva Gleason, Helen Cochran, Doris Reichert; and brother, Dennison Egbert. Survivors: sons, Jay Cosby and wife, Sandra; daughter, Linda Paine and husband, Randy; four grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren.

ECCLES, Floyd William, born May 5, 1922 in Hinckley, Minn., and died April 25, 2015 in Shreveport, La. Eccles was a member of the Shreveport First church. He was a retired minister of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Floyd will be remembered for the kindness portrayed to everyone he came in contact with. He was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Virginia Mae Haecke, one brother; Dick Shifflet and one sister, Donna Martenson. Survivors: best friend, Jeane Morris; son, Terry Lee Eccles and wife Ginger; daughter, Becky Gifford and husband Glen; sister, Marilyn Kingen; four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

GUNTER, Betty Louise (Hopkins), born August 6, 1927 in Burns, Kan., and died April 4, 2015 in Harrah, Okla. She was a member of the Harrah church. Betty attended Enterprise Academy and she and her husband, Marvin, were both graduates of Union College in Lincoln, Neb. Betty was an elementary and secondary school teacher and a music teacher before her retirement. Among other places, she and her husband, Marvin, worked in Colorado, Ohio, Ardmore, Oklahoma; Sandia View Academy, New Mexico; Rialto Junior Academy, California; Cedar Lake Academy, Michigan; and Southwestern Adventist University, in Keene, Texas. Betty earned her master's degree in church musicianship from Texas Woman's University in 1987. After retirement Betty and Marvin lived in Mena, Ark., then

Berryville, Ark. Betty enjoyed sewing, reading, and playing the organ. She was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin L. Gunter. Survivors: son, David Gunter, and wife, Sheila; three daughters, Kathleen Harriss and husband, David, Karen Owens and husband, Paul, and Rebecca Burton and husband, Stephen; two brothers, Don Hopkins and wife, Pat, and Everett Hopkins; two sisters, LaVerna Woods, and Doris Darbo and husband Jere; 11 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

HOYT, Terry Lester, died May 30, 2015 in Van Buren, Ark. Hoyt was a member of the Fort Smith church. He was an osteopathic physician and a practicing family physician as well as an emergency room physician, among numerous other occupations within the medical field. He was a longtime resident of Crawford County. He was preceded in

death by both parents, Leslie and Alma (Shank) Hoyt. He is survived by his wife, Katy of the home in Van Buren, Ark.; two daughters, Gayla Groom and husband, Davin of Tulsa, Okla., and Michelle Ryel and husband, Wain of Fayetteville, Ark.; two sons, Curtis Hoyt of Tulsa, and Macky McGehee and wife, Misty, of Broken Arrow, Okla.; three sisters, Vi Westman, of Seattle, Wash., Shirley Gammon of Michigan, and Sheryl Manchego of Florida; three grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

HUGHES, Billy, born July 18, 1940 in Hobbs, N. Mex., and died November 5, 2014 in Memphis, Tenn. Billy was a member of the Forrest City church in Forrest City, Tex. He was buried in the Veteran's Cemetery in Birdeye, Ark. Survivors: brother, Franky Hughes of Cherry Valley, Ark., five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

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KYLE, Thomas Hunter, born Nov. 4, 1924 in Oil City, La., and died May 13, 2015 in Lufkin, Tex. Thomas grew up in Stryker, Tex., and attended Corigan High School. He served in the United States Army Air Corps from 1943-1946. Thomas met his wife of 37 years, Bertie, while they both worked at the Champion Plywood Company. They were married on September 17, 1977. After retirement, Thomas enjoyed working around his property. He was a farmer, worked the timber on his place, and raised cattle. When he was not working, he enjoyed fishing. Thomas was a lay minister in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, where he served faithfully for many years. Thomas was preceded in death by his wife, Bertie Doris Gesford Kyle and his sons, Tommie Eugene Kyle and James Hunter Kyle. Survivors: step-sons, Randy Gesford and Andrew Gesford; step-daughter, Doris Higgins; daughter-in-law, Debbie Kyle Green, of Austin, Tex.; 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

LEAR, Kenneth C.L., born May 1, 1935 in Atkins, Ark., and died May 23, 2015 in Little Rock, Ark. Kenneth was a member of the Little Rock church. He loved the great outdoors and made many special memories with his family in the country. He loved fishing and spending time with his family and grandchildren. He proposed to his wife, Judy, at Pettit Jean Mountain and they were married for 42 years. Survivors: wife, Judy Kaye Lear, of Little Rock; two daughters, Tonya and husband Brad Brown of Memphis, Tenn., and Dorothy Law of Chicago, Ill.; son, Kenneth and wife Amanda Lear of Maumelle, Ark.; five grandsons, and one granddaughter.

SCHNELL, Galen Lee, born December 21, 1937 in Southern Illinois and died on January 17,

2015 in Ardmore, Okla. In 1956, Galen began his hospital career at Richland County Hospital in Olney, Ill. While in the Army he served as a medic. For many years he worked at Ardmore Adventist Hospital, first in surgery and later as director of purchasing. He retired on his 70th birthday from Mercy Memorial Hospital in Ardmore in 2007. Galen was gentle and patient with the sick and elderly. He was always ready to help anyone he could, but especially his best friends, Buck and Eva Windham, as they dealt with the effects of Buck's Alzheimer's. A lifelong member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, his belief was simple: Love God with all your heart and mind and soul and love your fellow man as yourself. Survivors: wife, Mavis Schnell; daughter, Brenda Schnell; son and daughter-in-law, Jeff and Berrille Schnell of Hot Springs, Ark.; and several grandsons and cousins.

SHADDUCK, Gail Marie, born May 24, 1934 in Los Angeles, Calif., and died March 24, 2015 in Siloam Springs, Ark. She was a 31-year resident of Siloam Springs and a long-time member of the Siloam Springs church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Dick Shadduck, pastor, and her daughter, Sheri Shadduck-Black, on March 2, 2015. Gail worked side-by-side with her husband, pastoring churches in California, Kansas, and Arkansas. Upon retirement in 1991, Gail enjoyed traveling around the world with her husband. Gail will long be remembered for her great children's stories, vegetarian cooking classes, and Friday night fruit soup dinners. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Robin and Hank Adkins; son-in-law, Randy Black; brother and sister-in-law, Wayne and Karen Lowdermilk; brother-in-law, Don Shadduck; one grandson, two nephews,

and a niece.

STUMPF, Henrietta O., born November 12, 1920 in Port Allen, La., and died March 20, 2015 in Hot Springs, Ark. Henrietta was a member of the Hot Springs church. She was a teacher at the New Orleans church school for many years and taught several different grades. She would spend her summer vacations at various summer camps, and spent many summers as girls' director at camps in the state of Louisiana. She was the first girls' director at Camp Yorktown Bay when the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference began operation of CYB. Henrietta and her husband George also took time away from a busy optometry practice to volunteer on short-term mission trips in Mexico, Guam, and Haiti. She loved people. Her favorite saying was "I love you big." She will be deeply missed by her family and her church family at the Hot Springs church. Survivors: daughter, Karen S. Kasovich; daughter and son-in-law, Judith S. and Earl Lyman; son, Chuck Stumpf; three

grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

URBAN, Loren Nicholas, born August 18, 1930 in Memphis, Tenn., and died on April 6, 2015 in Sherman, Tex. Loren was a prince of a man—deeply in love with his wife of 63 years. He greatly loved the Lord and served as a church elder for many years. He loved music and played saxophone and clarinet. He was a deeply spiritual man who enjoyed studying and teaching the scriptures. He served a term in the armed services. Loren was an entrepreneur as he and Emily operated several restaurants, and a printing company and office supply. Emily was his soul mate, and Jesus was his best friend. His family and friends look forward to resurrection morning when Jesus unites His big family. Survivors: wife, Emily (Green) Urban, of Sherman, Tex.; daughter and son-in-law, Susan and Rex Allen, of Ponder, Tex.; son and daughter-in-law, William Edward and Jolene Urban, of Roswell, N. Mex.; six grandchildren, five great-grandchildren.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Jul 3	Jul 10	Jul 17	Jul 24	Jul 31	Aug 7
Abilene, TX	8:50	8:49	8:47	8:43	8:38	8:33
Albuquerque, NM	8:25	8:23	8:21	8:17	8:11	8:05
Amarillo, TX	9:06	9:04	9:02	8:58	8:52	8:46
Brownsville, TX	8:26	8:25	8:24	8:21	8:18	8:13
Dallas, TX	8:39	8:38	8:36	8:32	8:27	8:21
El Paso, TX	8:15	8:14	8:12	8:09	8:04	7:58
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:41	8:40	8:38	8:34	8:29	8:24
Gallup, NM	8:34	8:33	8:30	8:26	8:21	8:14
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:20	8:16	8:11
Gentry, AR	8:39	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:25	8:19
Little Rock, AR	8:27	8:25	8:23	8:19	8:14	8:07
Muskogee, OK	8:41	8:40	8:37	8:33	8:28	8:21
New Orleans, LA	8:05	8:05	8:03	7:59	7:55	7:50
Oklahoma City, OK	8:49	8:48	8:45	8:41	8:36	8:29
Roswell, NM	8:12	8:11	8:08	8:04	7:59	7:53
San Antonio, TX	8:38	8:37	8:35	8:32	8:28	8:23
Shreveport, LA	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:19	8:15	8:09
Tulsa, OK	8:45	8:43	8:40	8:36	8:31	8:24

2015 Sunset Calendars are now available at
www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Adventist Education is True Evangelism

ON A RECENT TRIP TO ZIMBABWE for a series of Revelation of Hope evangelistic meetings I had the privilege of visiting the New Start Children’s Home just outside of Harare. This wonderful ministry provides a loving home and Christian education for children whose parents have died or are no longer able to care for them. Dr. Saleem Farag, who runs the orphanage, invited a group of us from the Revelation of Hope evangelism team to visit a few classrooms and participate in the morning worship at the school. I was totally impressed with those precious, well-mannered, and well-behaved young people who so beautifully sang and recited their Bible verses. The teachers were also quite impressive. Their love for children was unmistakable and it was evident that they were dedicated to leading the young people to pursue a relationship with Jesus.

But what impressed me the most was something that Dr. Farag told us after the children had been dismissed to their classrooms. He looked at us intently and

very solemnly said, “I believe in evangelism. But this [referring to the educational program at the orphanage] is evangelism in its purest form. If the church is going to

fulfill its mission, it has to continue to do this [lead young people to Jesus through Christian education].”

Well said! Christian education is indeed evangelism in its purest form! In the classrooms of Seventh-day Adventist schools all around the globe, and most importantly, right here in the Southwestern Union, the mission of the church is being fulfilled as dedicated Christian teachers “inspire [students] with principles of truth, obedience, honor, integrity, and purity,” leading them to Jesus and ultimately preparing them for “the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come” (*Education*, p. 29, 13). Remember, when we support Christian education, we, in reality, support evangelism—and thus fulfill the mission of the church.

Pat Humphrey



Record

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