

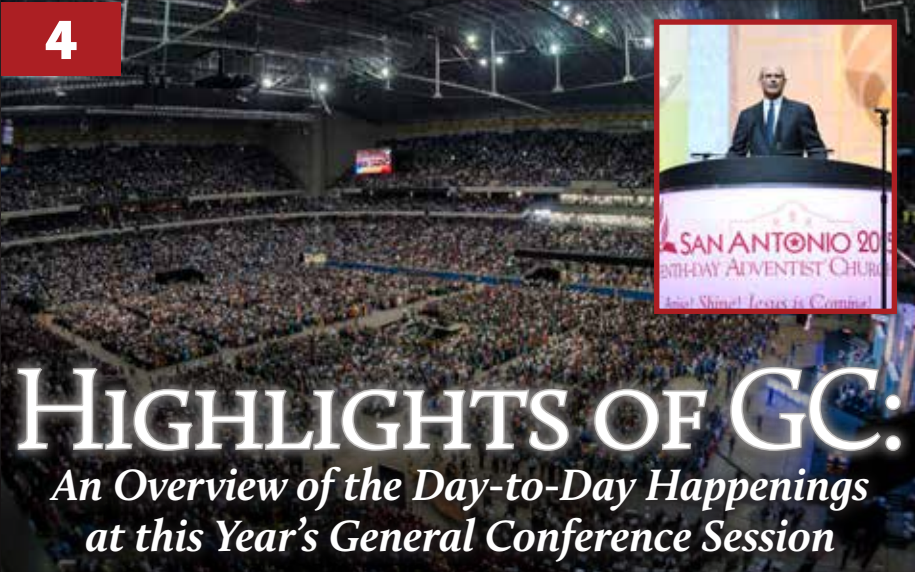
SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

SEPTEMBER 2015

2015

GENERAL CONFERENCE
SESSION



4

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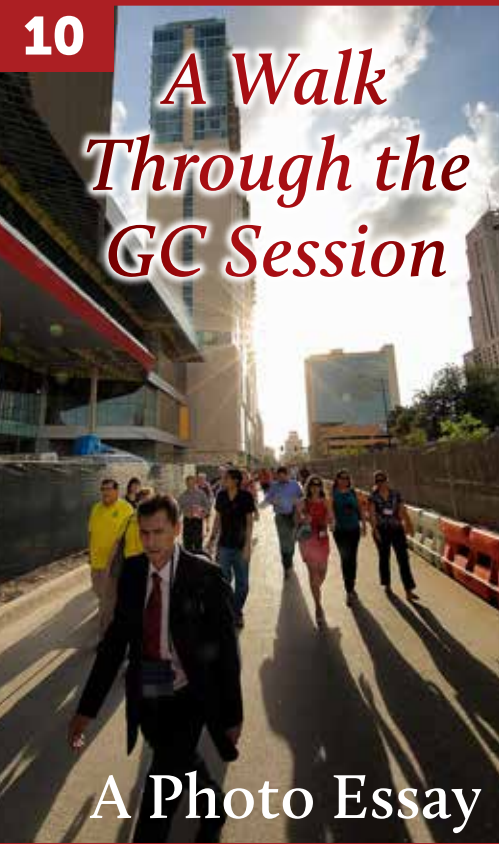
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HIGHLIGHTS OF GC:
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On the Cover

This past summer, we were privileged to host thousands of fellow Adventists from around the world at the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, Tex. The ten days spent in fellowship, business meetings, prayer, service around the city, in perusing through the exhibit hall, and reuniting with familiar faces was surely memorable. In this special issue of the *Record*, we wanted to capture and relive those remarkable moments through a mainly pictorial issue of our publication. Here you will find an overview of the happenings at the daily business sessions, along with vivid pictures of the events surrounding the 2015 General Conference Session. [Cover design by Alex Wicklund]





REMEMBERING THE SESSION

Larry Moore, Southwestern Union president

The 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio has come and gone. Much has happened since July 2-11, but I invite you to take a few moments to remember (or see for the first time) the event that brought 70,000+ Adventists together in one place. While the purpose of the Session is to take care of the business of the church, it also provides a single place for Adventists to come together and fellowship. Many people think of GC Session as a large camp meeting, and in many ways, it is.

Because the Session was in the Southwestern Union's territory, many of our members were able to attend and gain a new understanding and appreciation for the diversity of the Adventist church as they met other members from across the globe. Adventism has reached 227 countries, and there were representatives at the GC Session from a majority of those countries.

Much was done to prepare the city for the largest conference it had ever seen—a pedestrian bridge between the Alamodome and the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center was completed, vegan and vegetarian options were added to menus across the city, and special police details were put in place to help with traffic and pedestrians.

Much was also done by local churches, evangelists, health care workers, and the Texas and Southwest Region Conferences to prepare the hearts of the residents to be receptive to the Adventist Church, as well as to the message it has been given to share. The Your best Pathway to Health medical outreach, numerous

seminars, such as Diabetes Undone, Creation Health, cooking schools, evangelistic meetings, and many other outreach efforts helped meet the physical and spiritual needs of many San Antonio residents in the months preceding the Session.

Twelve people were baptized on the first Friday night at the Session, along with more than 100 others who were baptized following many evangelistic campaigns and Pathway to Health that took place prior to the session. The Texas and Southwest Region Conferences will continue their presence and use the momentum spurred by the various outreach programs (such as the Tour de Youth Cycling Team, the MORE campaign, IMPACT San Antonio, etc.) to achieve new growth in San Antonio.

Be sure to follow the Southwestern Union at [Facebook.com/SouthwesternUnion](https://www.facebook.com/SouthwesternUnion) to get the latest news and updates from around the union.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE GENERAL CONFERENCE SESSION:

An Overview of the Day-to-Day Happenings at this Year's General Conference Session

July 2, 2015

GC Delegates Pledge Christ-like Attitude: Church Leaders Ask the Delegates to Do All in Their Power to Strengthen the Church

Delegates at the General Conference Session knelt down with the Adventist Church's top officers as they promised to show "Christ-likeness and humble respect for each other in [their] words and actions" during the 10 days of the meetings in San Antonio, Texas, and beyond.

The church's top officers had previously approved an appeal to the General Conference Session that president Ted N. C. Wilson read to the delegates on Thursday and asked them to support.

"The most important thing that we must carry from this General Conference Session when we leave... is that we are united in mission," Wilson said. "Today we will make an appeal to you along with all of us: Humble your hearts before the Lord."

At Wilson's request, the 2,500 delegates stood to acknowledge that they accepted the appeal. They then divided into groups of two or three to seal their commitment in prayer.

Wilson prefaced his reading of the statement with a screening of *What Might Have Been*, a short film produced by the General Conference Ministerial Association about the General Conference Session in 1901. The film, based on a vision that church co-founder Ellen G. White had, portrays how God had planned to carry out a deep spiritual renewal as delegates were reconciled through humility and the confession of sins at the 1901 Session.

"In our prayer sessions, it was clear that the hearts of the people

are seeking the will of God, and that humility is being sought," Minner Labrador, vice president for ministries of the Southwestern Union, explained.

Labrador continued, "From our prayer group, it was perceived that everyone present in this 60th Session is beginning to feel the desire for Jesus to come. We're tired of getting our own agendas in the way of the Lord's will."

In closing the prayer session, Ted Wilson spoke about how this General Conference Session could be our last if we act according to God's will. "What might have been, can be," he said.

GC Delegates Approve Record 35 New Union Conferences: The Expansion Seeks to More Efficiently Nurture the Church's Fast-growing Membership

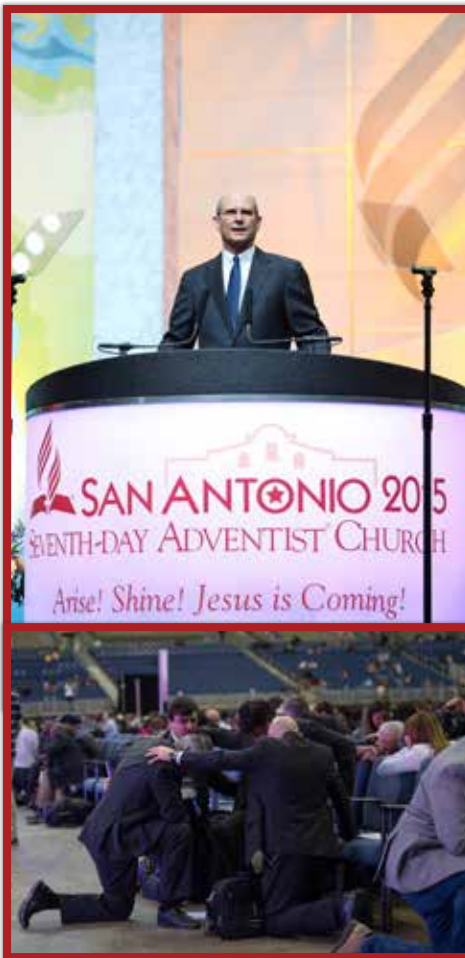
Moving to streamline the church's work at a time of rapid growth, delegates opened the General Conference Session on Thursday by officially approving the addition of an unprecedented 35 new union conferences to the Adventist world church.

The delegates easily approved the administrative units by holding up yellow cards in a vote.

"The high number of new unions is unprecedented in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church," G. T. Ng, executive secretary of the General Conference said. "It is a reflection of the church growing with breakneck speed around

the world."

Most of the new unions came as a result of rapid church growth. The Adventist world church has a membership of 18.5 million, compared to the 16.3 million reported at the 2010 General



Conference Session.

The new unions were presented to the delegates on the opening morning of the 10-day General Conference Session. The respective division secretaries introduced the respective union presidents on the Alamodome's stage.

World Church Welcomes Back Hungarian Splinter Group

An inspiring moment unfolded on the stage of the General Conference Session on Thursday when Raafat Kamal, president of Trans-European Division, told of a historical reconciliation between the Hungarian Adventist Church and the Christian Advent Community, a breakaway group also known as KERAK.

"It is unbelievable that it could happen," KERAK president János Cserbik said in an interview. "My first emotion on the platform was: a dream fulfilled."

The KERAK constitution always stipulated that the movement's members would return to the church one day, he said.

That day came after 40 years of separation when he and Tamás Ócsai, president of the Hungarian Union Conference, signed a document titled "Joint Declaration on Settling the Past and Building a Common Future" on April 23. The church split in the Soviet era over differences, mainly on how closely the church could be linked to the state.

"If you see them, embrace them and pray with them," Kamal urged Session attendees. "God gave them courage . . . to put behind the pain, the challenges."

Bodolai, the KERAK secretary, said he felt relieved.

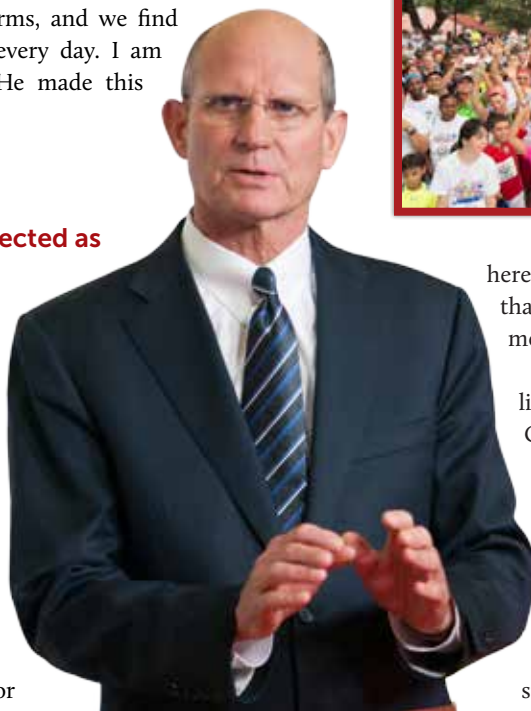
"Big fights are behind us," he said. "The church welcomed us with open arms, and we find new brothers and sisters every day. I am grateful to God because He made this healing process possible."

July 3, 2015

Ted N. C. Wilson Re-elected as GC President: Wilson Accepts the New Five-year Term with "Quiet Respect and Humility"

Delegates overwhelmingly elected incumbent General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson to another five years in office on Friday.

An estimated 90 percent of some 1,900 registered delegates voted in favor



of continuing Wilson in his position as leader of the Seventh-day Adventist world church after a 37-minute discussion at the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas.

"It is with very quiet respect and humility that both [my wife and I] stand before you, before God," Wilson said. "And we do accept this responsibility."

Wilson reiterated his commitment to God and the Adventist Church, and briefly outlined three goals that he would pursue in his second term: a greater emphasis on Christ and His righteousness, faithfulness, and the involvement of every church member in evangelism and witnessing.

"God intends for His people to stand faithfully, but we have got to do it together," he said.

July 5, 2015

2,500 Adventists Run for Their Lives In San Antonio: 5K Fun Run is a Family Affair that Underscores the Adventist Health Message



A festive mood permeated the predawn air as 2,500 Seventh-day Adventists traded the comfort of their beds for a 5K Fun Run.

The "InStep for Life" run, which covered a downtown loop close to the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center, where part of the Session activities took place, gathered church workers and their families to support physical exercise as a key component of a healthy life.



"My reason to be

here is very simple: I just want to be healthy," said Jonathan Kuntaraf, 68, director of the Sabbath School department of the General Conference.

"Presently, exercise is the best indication of a long life," added Kuntaraf, who retired at the end of the General Conference Session on July 11.

John Bradshaw, speaker and director of the *It Is Written* television ministry, said he could not imagine not being part of the race, and then he quipped with a big smile, "I just wonder how fair it is to let the Kenyans run," a nod to a country famous for its long-distance runners.

Vicente Sanchez, a San Antonio police officer assigned to assist in road closings near the finishing line,

expressed disbelief at the sight.

"If I were not on duty, there is no doubt, I would be sleeping. But to see all these families together, from all over the world... it is just impressive!" he said.

The first runner across the finish line was Elpidio Sanchez Rocha, from Mexico, with a time of 18 minutes and 46 seconds. The winning woman runner was Yanory Hernandez of Downers Grove, Illinois, with a time of 20 minutes and 43 seconds.

The race, sponsored by the Health Ministries departments of the General Conference and the North American Division, was very much a family affair. Many parents and their children ran together, and some were seconded by grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins.

July 6, 2015

Delegates Approve Landmark Update of Fundamental Beliefs: The Revisions Modernize and Tighten the Text Without Altering the Beliefs

Delegates approved a milestone update of the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 28 Fundamental Beliefs that, among other things, underscores the church's teaching of a recent, literal Creation week.

The core statements of the church's Fundamental Beliefs had not been touched since they were first adopted in 1980, with the lone exception of an additional belief in 2005. The delegates' approval on Tuesday, after two days of discussions, marked the end of a five-year revision and vetting process.

None of the revisions change any of the Fundamental Beliefs, and many simply update and tighten the text.

"We are not changing our Fundamental Beliefs," GC president, Ted Wilson said. "We are simply trying to enhance them and make them more understandable."

The review committee modified 21 of the 28 beliefs, and Artur A. Stele, a General Conference general vice president and chair of the Fundamental Belief Review Committee, presented the proposed changes to the delegates.

Many of the proposed changes were minor, such as the replace-

ment of the word "which" with "that" to reflect modern usage. Instances of "man" and "mankind" were changed to "people" and "humanity" to make them gender inclusive.

Delegates overwhelmingly backed revisions that clarified that marriage is between a man and a woman in belief number 23.

The delegates considered and approved revisions to 24 of the Beliefs, voting on them one by one.

July 8, 2015

Delegates Vote 'No' On Issue of Women's Ordination: Church President Appeals to Members to Unite in the Church's Mission

Delegates turned down a motion that would have allowed each division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to decide for itself whether to ordain women to the gospel ministry in its territory.

By a margin of 1,381-977, with five abstentions, delegates by secret ballot ended a five-year process characterized by vigorous and sometimes acrimonious debate.

A secret ballot system was used that General Conference officers said offered the most fair and secure voting process possible.

"We have tried to be



transparent, honest and thoughtful, and to ensure the privacy of the vote to the best of our ability," said Nancy Lamoreaux, chief information officer for the General Conference and organizer of the logistics for Wednesday's vote.

"The secret balloting system was prepared well in advance of the General Conference Session as a backup in case an electronic

voting system didn't work," said undersecretary Myron Iseminger, whose sector oversees voting at GC Sessions. The e-voting system, which debuted at the GC Session, proved problematic, and delegates voted on Sunday to no longer use it.

A total of 40 delegates—20 who supported and 20 who opposed the motion—took to microphones to express their positions on the motion before the vote.

General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson appealed to church members to unite in the mission of the church after the vote.

"Now is the time to unify under the bloodstained banner of Jesus Christ and His power, not our power," Wilson said after the ballots were counted on tables at the front of the Alamodome stadium. "Now is the time to unify in our mission as Christ's church."

He thanked delegates for the "careful and prayerful manner in which they carried themselves and addressed the subject" during the six hour discussion.

Wilson, who opened the morning session with an appeal for all church members to abide by the vote's outcome, underscored both then and after the vote that decisions made by the General Conference in Session carry the highest authority in the Adventist Church.

The daylong discussions, which began at 9:30 a.m. and broke for a two-hour lunch at noon, stopped nearly a dozen times for prayer.

General Conference executive secretary G.T. Ng indicated during Wednesday's discussions that the General Conference hoped for full compliance from all church entities.

"We are one church," Ng said.

July 9, 2015

12 Directors Elected to GC Departments

- Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, **Mario E. Ceballos**
- Children's Ministries, **Linda Mei Lin Koh**
- Communication, **Williams S. Costa, Jr.**
- Education, **Lisa M. Beardsley-Hardy**
- Family Ministries, **Willie Oliver**
- General Conference Auditing Service, **Paul H. Douglas**
- Health Ministries, **Peter N. Landless**
- Ministerial Association, **Jerry N. Page**
- Public Affairs and Religious Liberty, **Ganoune Diop**
- Sabbath School and Personal Ministries, **Duane McKey**
- Women's Ministries, **Heather-Dawn Small**
- Youth Ministries, **Gilbert R. Cangy**
- Associate Secretaries: **Hensley Mooroooven, Gerson Santos, Claude Richli**



The newly elected officials stand on stage as they accept their roles in leadership.

6 Newcomers Among 13 Division Presidents: A Look at the Leaders of the Church's Major Global Regions

General Conference Session delegates elected six new presidents to the Seventh-day Adventist Church's 13 world divisions and kept seven incumbents.

- **Leonardo R. Asoy**, newly elected president of the *Southern Asia-Pacific Division*.
- **Mario Brito**, newly elected president of the *Inter-European Division*.
- **Dan Jackson**, reelected for a second term as president of the *North American Division*.
- **Raafat A. Kamal**, reelected president of the *Trans-European Division*.
- **Michael F. Kaminskiy**, newly elected president of the *Euro-Asia Division*.
- **Erton C. Köhler**, reelected as president of the *South American Division*.
- **Ezras Lakra**, elected as president of the *Southern Asia Division*.
- **Jairyong Lee**, returning as president of the *Northern Asia-Pacific Division*.
- **Israel Leito**, reelected as president of the *Inter-American Division*.
- **Paul S. Ratsara**, reelected president of the *Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Division*.

- **Blasious M. Ruguri**, reelected as president of the *East-Central Africa Division*.
- **Glenn Townend**, new president of the *South Pacific Division*.
- **Elie Weick-Dido**, new to the presidency of the *West-Central Africa Division*.

3 New and 3 Incumbent GC Vices Presidents Elected: Smaller Team has Big Plans for Mission

A slimmed-down leadership team of six general vice presidents has been elected to the General Conference and charged with helping implement three mission-oriented goals that the Seventh-day Adventist Church intends to prioritize over the next five years.

The lineup includes **Guillermo E. Biaggi**, **Abner De Los Santos**, **Thomas L. Lemon**, **Geoffrey G. Mbwana**, **Ella Simmons**, and **Arthur A. Steele**.

The new leadership team will be tasked with pursuing the Adventist Church's three goals of emphasizing Christ and His righteousness, faithfulness, and the involvement of every church member in evangelism and witness.

July 10, 2015

GC President Says Ordination Vote Doesn't Change Current Policy: NAD Says it Will Continue to Encourage Women to Serve in Gospel Ministry

General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson said Friday that a vote this week on the issue of women's ordination meant "we maintain the current policy."

Wilson told delegates that Wednesday's vote simply barred the church's world divisions from making decisions on the ordination of women.

He said the vote has nothing to do with women being ordained as local elders, a practice based on church policy that has been in place for several decades.

Furthermore, he said, the vote was not related to commissioned ministers, who can be male or female under the church's policy.

"So let us be clear on what was voted on Wednesday," Wilson said. "We are now back to our original understanding, and I would strongly urge all to adhere by what has been voted. But do not place into the vote other things, which were not listed in the vote. We need to be fair, we need to be open, and we all need to accept what is voted at a General Conference Session."

Shortly after Wilson spoke, North American Division president Daniel R. Jackson issued a statement saying that the division "would comply with the vote of the world church."

He said the division acknowledged that "the vote prohibited the 13 world divisions of the church or any of their entities from making their own decisions regarding the consideration and potential implementation of women's ordination to the gospel ministry."

But, he added, the motion did not disallow women from serving as commissioned church pastors; women from serving as ordained elders in the local church, and the ordination of deaconesses.

"Since the motion did not disallow these things, we therefore continue to encourage those who have been serving in these ca-

pacities to continue to do so," Jackson said.

July 11, 2015

Wilson Calls for Unity in Adventist Mission: The GC President Gives His First Post-election Sermon

Ted N.C. Wilson, speaking in his first sermon after his re-election as General Conference president, urged Adventists to press ahead in unity in proclaiming Jesus' soon return.

Wilson's sermon, titled "Cross the Jordan ... Don't Retreat," got its name from the story of the Israelites entering the Promised Land by crossing the River Jordan. Wilson noted that the Israelites raised a stone landmark to commemorate God's leading and suggested that each person attending the General Conference Session was a "landmark."

"He wants us to remember what is happening here in San Antonio, what the Holy Spirit is doing in our lives, that our mission is to proclaim 'Arise! Shine! Jesus Is Coming!'" Wilson said. "You are the 'landmarks.'"

Wilson pleaded with church members to "revolutionize" their thinking by sharing their personal testimonies and actively participating in the church's mission of preparing people for Jesus' return.

"Let it be total participation," he said. "Don't only get involved in the mechanics of the church... We need a total empowerment of lay people in carrying the burden of the church's evangelistic and mission outreach along with pastors and church workers. Tell someone else about your relationship with Christ! It's time to go home!"

He appealed to every church member to put away differences of opinion and humble themselves before God.

"Now is the time to unify under Christ, our Righteousness," he said.

San Antonio Mayor Grateful for GC Session and Steps to Christ: GC President Thanks Mayor Ivy R. Taylor for the Host City's Warm Welcome

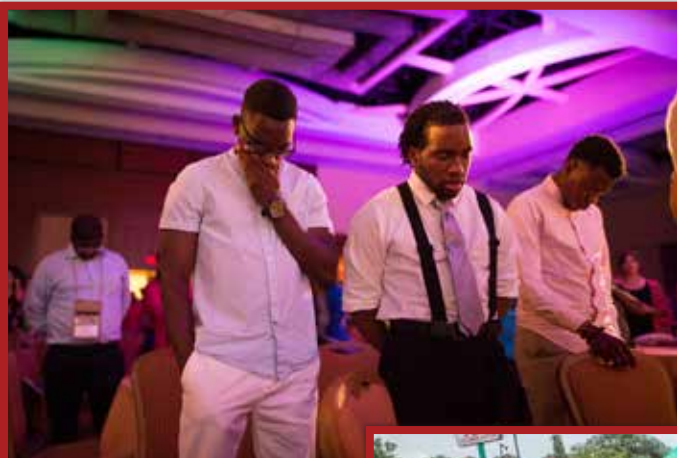
San Antonio Mayor Ivy R. Taylor thanked Seventh-day Adventists for bringing free healthcare and the 2015 General Conference Session to her city—and said she looked forward to reading a brand-new copy of *Steps to Christ*.

General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson, speaking at a closing meeting of the 10-day convention at the Alamodome stadium on Sabbath evening, expressed gratitude to Taylor for the warm reception that San Antonio offered its 65,000 Adventist attendees.

"This morning I shared with the group how pivotal San Antonio has been," Wilson told Taylor on the stage.

"Brothers and sisters, in front of the mayor, let's show her again how happy we are," he said to a standing ovation and loud, sustained applause.

This was the largest and longest convention ever hosted by the city and authorities rolled out the red carpet to its guests. The city airport trained 200 "ambassadors" to help Adventists find their



(Above) Young adults worship during the IMPACT San Antonio evening services.
(Right) IMPACT San Antonio participants prepare for their day in mission.



way to hotels and tourist sites, restaurants added vegetarian dishes to their menus, and a special police detail was deployed to ensure safety. Local business leaders predicted that the convention would pump \$41 million into the economy.

500 Young Adventists Learn How to Share Jesus in San Antonio: Adventist and non-Adventist Lives Are Changed as a Result of "Impact San Antonio"

"The goal was to create a 10-day experience to bring Jesus to our global young adult community," said Benjamin Lundquist, who oversaw scheduling for Impact San Antonio and serves as young adult ministries director for the Arizona Conference and one of four young adult life coordinators for the North American Division. "Take a very diverse group of people and bring together a Christ-centered community that would not only be inspired by gifted presenters and speakers but that would also be out in the community of San Antonio making a massive difference with their time here."

The results of the young adults' efforts were quick in coming.

One San Antonio resident, single mother Pam Desai, whose yard was tended by Impact participants, said she didn't own a lawn mower and was delighted with the help that she received.

"They did a good job," she said. "My son has said that he wants to volunteer in the community. I do, too. I want to be a part of this. I've learned more ways, and better ways, to do community service, and I'll be

able to implement the same in my church," she said.

One outreach initiative involved the Impact delegates holding signs advertising free hugs—and approaching people near the Alamo. The delegates offered hugs, using them to start conversation. "There's no better ice breaker than giving someone a genuine, caring hug," said 19-year-old Impact city center hug coordinator Josue Peralta. "And by following up with a word about Christ in their lives, you're pointing them to Christ."

Hundreds of people were approached and engaged.

Not only were San Antonio locals impacted, but the participants as well. One young woman, who came to Impact as an international guest, was a very discouraged ministry leader after her ministry closed due to a lack of support in her part of the world.

After three days in San Antonio, her outlook changed radically. She told Impact leadership: "God has called me to ministry, and I've never been given permission by Jesus to bail on His church. I'm here for the long haul, and I want to make a difference by my leadership in this church."

Lundquist said he hoped participants were able to say after the 10-day event, "I can do what I did at Impact in my community. I can be a catalyst in my community. I can be a leader. I can make this happen."

Retrieved from *Adventist News Network* and *Adventist Review*.



John Graz (left), GC director of public affairs and religious liberty, sits with Rebeca Baquero, special projects manager for Mayor Ivy Taylor of San Antonio, at the closing ceremony of the 2015 GC Session.

A WALK THROUGH THE GC SESSION

A Photo Essay of the 2015 General Conference Session



More than 70,000 Adventists from all around the world gathered together for the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio. The Alamodome quickly filled up Sabbath morning and evening with a very diverse group of people all united for one purpose – to worship God on His day of rest. The parade of nations, a GC favorite, closed the 10-day event with emphasis on mission and how the world church has grown over the centuries.

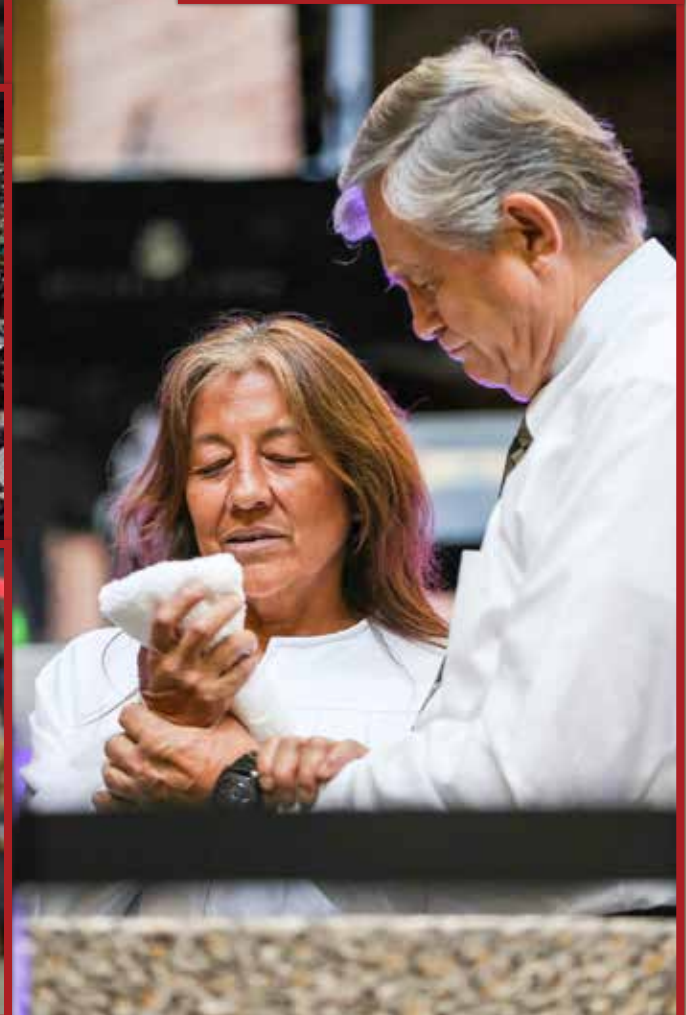




Dan Jackson, Larry Moore, and Carlos Craig (top left) were found on stage during one of the business sessions. Before these sessions, the NAD press team (top right) would meet early morning to prepare for news coverage of the day's events to come. GC secretary, G.T. Ng, spoke at the first Sabbath engaging the audience with a very humorous tone.

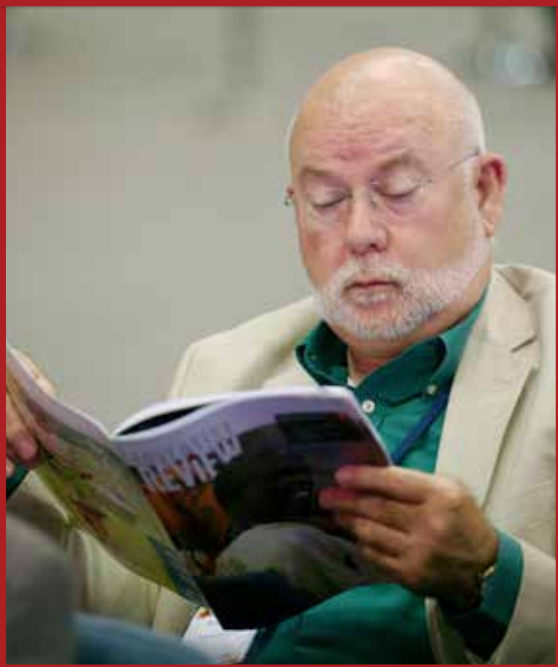
Voting at the General Conference Session took different forms. Most votes were made in public using the green voting cards to vote on issues such as electing and accepting the nominating committee's choices for leadership. A secret election took place on Wednesday for the vote on women's ordination.







Over 80,000 people crowded the stands of the Alamodome (top left) Sabbath morning, as the last of many services commenced. Throughout the weekend, these thousands of people were also seen flooding the streets of downtown San Antonio. To celebrate the diversity and spread of the world church, the Festival of Faith was held at the Riverwalk, where worship music from different cultures was featured. Many Adventists and San Antonio locals alike gathered around to enjoy the multicultural concert.



During the business sessions, there were many pauses for prayer as important decisions within the church were being made. Delegates would gather in pairs or groups to ask God for guidance in their decision-making process.

Throughout the Session we spotted many of our members and administrators. Featured here are Pat Humphrey (top right), communication director of the Southwestern Union and her husband, Art, along with Randy Gilliam (middle left), vice president for education at the Southwestern Union.



IT'S ALL ABOUT THE WATER

Giving the Gift of Water at the General Conference Session

Reggie Johnson, Southwestern Union Record assistant editor/designer

As the host union for the 2015 General Conference Session, the Southwestern Union was responsible for providing a gift for the delegates at the Session. We chose to give a gift that would be practical and easy to use, that would create awareness about the needs of people around the world, and one that would provide a tangible benefit by meeting the most basic needs of people who are less fortunate. We partnered with ADRA Zimbabwe to provide access to clean water for communities in need by opening three new wells in strategic areas across the country of Zimbabwe (Kanyemba, Lupane, and Victoria Falls—see map of well locations for details). To celebrate this gift of water, each of the delegates at the Session received a special, high-quality, commemorative water bottle to help stay hydrated in the summer heat and to

serve as a reminder that we are part of a world church with diverse people and diverse needs.





Well Locations

Wells were opened to provide a reliable source of clean water for Adventist Schools in **Victoria Falls** and **Lupane**, a direct benefit to those most vulnerable to dehydration: children. Another well was opened in **Kanyemba** for a northern Zimbabwe tribe known as the Vadoma, whose lifestyle is very primitive and whose need for water is great.



The response

“This is the best delegate gift I have ever received,” stated one delegate. During meetings, delegates were overheard affirming the high quality and usefulness of the water bottles and each day a crowd gathered at the Southwestern Union booth in the exhibit hall to get one of the smaller water bottles that were handed out as a giveaway to the general attendees. Several individuals approached the booth and asked when we would be able to come to their country to open wells in locations they had in mind. And all of the bottle recipients enjoyed the enhanced ability to stay hydrated in the 100+ degree weather in San Antonio.

But most of all, the gift of water was given. Water for people in Zimbabwe to live on. Water for session delegates and attendees to stay hydrated in the vicious heat. And the water of life that flows freely from God’s throne—a free gift for all comers. In the end, it’s all about the water.



Video

A video was created to tell this story in greater detail. You can watch the video at www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/water or directly on YouTube at <https://youtu.be/zPwJM4kCPbA>

Get Involved

You can help give the gift of water too! Visit www.adra.org (or specifically <https://adra.org/gift-catalog/drill-well-change-community-forever/>) for information on how to contribute to the digging of a well for a community in need.

SUMMER DAY CAMP

Suzanna Facundo, Southwestern Union Young Adult/Youth Ministries Department administrative secretary

The Southwestern Union's youth and young adult ministry team hosted a Summer Day Camp in San Antonio during GC Session. At its peak, there were 95 kids total throughout the week. The kids had a great time at Sea World, Fiesta Texas, Schlitterbahn, and during the Olympic Day. Both the campers and their parents expressed such appreciation for having a place for them to be while the adults were in their meetings throughout the day. The kids came from all over the world and from all over the U.S. The campers not only left with good memories of their time in San Antonio but with new friends made, as well.

Pastor Moody, the Southwestern Union young adult director, would like to take a moment to thank the parents who entrusted us with their children during the Summer Day Camp. Special thanks also goes out to Pastor Gary Blanchard, Texas Conference youth director and the Lake Whitney Summer Camp staff for



Right: Bradley Colvin, boys counselor, enjoys a game of softball with fellow campers.

Below: A group of campers enjoy a game of soccer.

Bottom right: Group of campers and counselors ready to take on the day's activities.





The Summer Day Camp allowed an opportunity for kids aged 10-16 to interact with other children from all around the world, while having fun at San Antonio's most popular theme parks, Six Flags Fiesta Texas, Schlitterbahn, and Sea World.

their hard work. We'd also like to thank Pastor Tyrone Douglas, Southwest Region Conference youth director, who led out morning devotions, and his team who helped us with the day camp. We're all excited to know that we had one baptism as a result of Summer Day Camp. To God be the glory!

AROUND THE WORLD...

Indiana Melendez, editorial assistant

With an extremely diverse group of people from all corners of the globe at the 2015 General Conference Session, we wanted to capture and share their experiences. So, we sent our editorial assistant, Indiana Melendez, out and about to gather some insights on what it was like to be at General Conference (GC). Here's what we found.

Rajan Pydmalla, India

First time in Texas? Yes, my first time. It's great to be here at the General Conference and to see people from all around the globe coming in. It's an amazing experience to see so many members of our church from all around the world.

So far, what has your GC experience been like? I've been working at the ADRA booth most of the time, so I haven't seen much, but it's amazing to see



the whole church come together and I'm sure God's leading with the new changes and policies. I think it's truly amazing.

Tanuja Wilson, England

First time in Texas? Yes, it's great! I like San Antonio, especially the Riverwalk.

First time at a GC Session? Yes! And it's amazing to see the world church!



Matthew and Laura, Texas and Oklahoma, SWAU alumni

What do you like about Texas? I love the big sky, you can see stars at night, and I love the culture and the people. I love SWAU, especially the spiritual atmosphere there.



What do you like about GC? SWAU's dinosaur is pretty cool! And we love, not only seeing everyone here working on different ministries, but actually seeing these ministries working together. Seeing them work here on the street in San Antonio and doing work for the Lord is awesome, and getting to hear about what all these different church organizations are doing all over the world is incredible!



Happiness Manilla, Nigeria

First time in Texas? Yes, and I like Texas!

What do you like about the GC? Before we got here, we had 100 days of prayer, and now I saw the hand of God in all the decisions taking place during the business sessions. This entire week I have seen the hand of God.

Adrian Sotelo, Acapulco, Mexico

First time in Texas? I like that it's hot and the people are very friendly.

What has your experience been like here at GC? It's my first time, and I get to meet a lot of new people and be reunited with friends and family.

I really like all of the programs going on too.



Jeremy Pastor and the Pastor family, Orlando, Florida



First time in Texas? What do you like about it? In San Antonio yes, and compared to Orlando, yes, it's hot, but you don't have the humidity. It's a dry heat. It's a good heat, and we love the Riverwalk; we've been there five times in two days.

First time at a GC Session? We've been to every GC since Missouri, but it keeps getting bigger and bigger. This is definitely the biggest one.

What's your favorite thing about GC? We love the exhibit hall, some of the booths are very interactive, I mean there's even a rock wall, which I'm too old to climb, but I love seeing my colleagues and classmates. One of the best parts of attending is seeing the people you graduated with. And there's all these concerts going on, from cultural to professionals, so it's all really great stuff!

Gonzalez Family, Florida



First time in Texas? Yes, it's pretty cool, very patriotic. We saw lots of flags. It's not what we expected. We didn't expect it to be as green as it is. We kind of were expecting more dust and horses.

What has your experience been like here at GC? We've seen a lot of familiar faces. We've moved a lot, so it's cool to see friends from all over. It's a really exciting GC because it's a very historic time for the church, with all of the decisions being made. It's nice, even in the midst of all the tension, to see how God is leading the Adventist movement and how it's spreading all around the world.

Roselyn Reyna, Texas



What do you like about Texas? The big wide-open spaces! And there's lots to do, and a good sense of love and interaction with the people here.

What's your favorite thing about GC? I love realizing how many ministries are happening all around the world. When we're in our local churches we tend to focus on just that, and we don't really know what is going on in all the other ministries and organizations that are doing things for God all around the world. It's really humbling to be aware of all that there is a need for.

Mary Grace Gellekanao and Family, Louisiana



What do you like about Texas? We like San Antonio. It's not as hot and humid as Louisiana.

What's your favorite thing about GC? The exhibit hall is our favorite, so far. We haven't seen the Alamodome yet.

Kwadwo & Mary Annor Asiamah, Dallas, Texas



What do you like about Texas? We used to live in Maryland, but Texas is cheaper to live, and the weather is nice. We love that it has similar weather to Africa, but we love Ghana and we plan on returning in the future.

What has your experience been like here at GC? Oh, we love it! It's a great thing to experience and to worship as a world church.

One Delegate's Observation

Many impressive things took place at the 60th General Conference Session. Perhaps the most impressive thing was the sense of unity and harmony that came after what was at times strong debate on various issues of the 28 Fundamental Beliefs of the church. Belief number six, dealing with Creation, was one of the focal points of discussion. Numerous wordings were suggested, many items were sent back to committee for reconsideration, but even after some strong, passionate speeches were made, when the vote was taken, it was evident that the members of the world church were committed to the core beliefs of the church. No changes were made to any of the 28 beliefs. What was voted was simply wording that more clearly defined and explained each belief. So when people from 200 plus nations, with different languages and cultures, voted their endorsement of the proposed new wording with hardly any opposition, it was most gratifying to see the resolve of unity that permeated the church for what we believe.

Stephen Orian, president

Top: "For the past five years, I have had several individuals comment to me, "Did you know that you look a lot like Elder Ted Wilson?" While attending the GC session this summer, I had the chance to meet him in person. While not quite twins...we might pass as brothers; and that is what we are, brothers in Christ. I do consider it an honor to resemble this God-fearing man, but my greatest desire is to resemble Jesus."

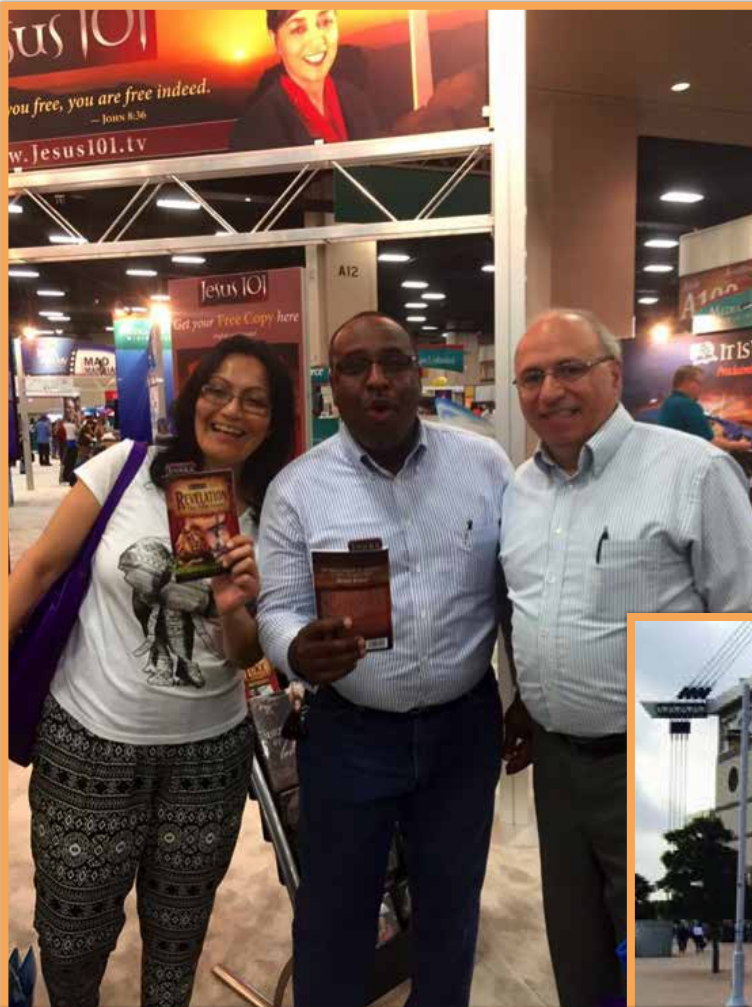
Stephen Burton, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference education superintendent

Middle: Rob Knipple (left), Ozark Adventist Academy music teacher, and Alberto Valenzuela (right), Arkansas-Louisiana Conference communication director, helped to run the booth during the 10 days at GC.

Bottom: Pastors enjoying time together at GC. Yosvany Garcia, Baton Rouge Spanish district; Hector Caban, Little Rock Spanish district; Aymer and Eleidys Plana, Hot Springs Spanish district; and Bismarck Castillo, Springdale Spanish district.



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE



Top left: Stennett Nash (DeQueen, Shreveport and Texarkana Spanish district pastor) and his wife, Mercedes, pose with Juan Borges, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference executive secretary/ Hispanic and Family Ministries director, at GC Session.

Top right: General Conference delegate Christine Herbert, gets a hug from Hazel Marroquin, from the New Orleans Metairie Spanish church.

Middle right: Dalia Castellanos (left), Arkansas-Louisiana Hispanic Ministries/church ministries secretary, and son, Danny (right), took part in the Pathfinder initiative at the General Conference Session.

Bottom left: From left: Aaron Hall, principal and teacher of Hot Springs Adventist School, Richard Hall, pastor, and Stephen Burton, Arkansas-Louisiana education superintendent, were among the 2,500 participants that ran or walked the 3.1 mile Fun Run that wound through the city streets and along the San Antonio River.

Interesting, Inspiring, Challenging

General Conference is over and I'm traveling back to Oklahoma City. It has been an interesting, inspiring, and challenging time. Interesting because we were able to see the church in a different way than we usually do. As I worship from week to week around our conference, I am often fellowshiping with a small group of brothers and sisters in Christ. On each of the Sabbath services in San Antonio, I stood in the upper seating area and looked out over a vast congregation from nearly every country in the world. What a contrast between those small humble gatherings and this huge one that almost boggled the mind, yet it is all our church. When we assemble in praise to God the smallest group is as much the object of God's love and care as the church in General Conference Session. I was inspired by the reports of the ways that God is blessing His people. Statistics tell us that most of the membership of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is now found outside of North America. That's inspiring to me. The early pioneers accepted the commission to preach the Third Angel's Message and the harvest has been marvelous. I was challenged when I considered the work at home yet to be done. We can rejoice when we consider what our mission offerings have accomplished over the years, but we must acknowledge that it was not just dollars but dedication that has been used by the Holy Spirit to swell the ranks of Adventism from a few hundred to over 18 million. But there's still a work to do at home. It is our privilege and challenge to dedicate ourselves anew to the work that lies closest to us. Before our pioneers were ready to go around the world they went across the street to their neighbors and friends. Arise, shine, Jesus is coming!

John Moyer, president

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE





Previous page, top: Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry at their booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Previous page, middle: Oklahoma Academy booth.

Previous page, bottom: Oklahoma Conference pastor and professional photographer, James Bokovoy served as a GC photographer for the Session.

Top: Oklahoma Academy booth exhibitor plays music for passerbys.

Above and left: Oklahoma Conference administrators Bill Norman, Summit Ridge Village Administrator (above), and John Moyer, president (left), were spotted on the delegate floor during business sessions.

SOUTHWEST REGION NEWS

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE



Hundreds of members of the Southwest Region Conference were present at the 60th General Conference in San Antonio, participating in the business sessions, outreach programs, the exhibit hall, a 5K fun run—some even participated in the conference’s Tour de Youth Cycling team’s ride from Dallas to San Antonio for the opening day of the Session. Much of what happened at the GC will become fond memories as there was a great opportunity for fellowship and spiritual growth, but as is always our prayer at a General Conference Session, we pray it will be the last General Conference Session before the Lord returns!



Top: Southwestern Union Pathfinder Drum Corps participants from Southwest Region Conference churches performing at an IMPACT San Antonio event during GC.

Middle left: General Conference president Ted Wilson shakes hands with Southwest Region Conference drum corps coordinator Darrel Maxwell.

Middle right: Tour de Youth cyclists make their way down to San Antonio for the 2015 GC Session from Dallas in a 325-mile journey.

Bottom left: Samuel Green, Southwest Region Conference president, serving as a delegate for the GC business sessions.

Bottom right: Bruno Taylor of the Agape church in Lancaster, Tex. assisting in the Sabbath offering.





Top left: Leslie Soupet, Rose Carr, and Janet Maturro participating in the InStep for Life 5K Fun Run.

Top right: Kenn Dixon, Southwest Region Conference communication and media director, with a Tour de Youth #bedetermined t-shirt.

Second row, left: The drum corps performed during the General Conference Youth Report.

Second row, right: Nettie Best and Gloria Price celebrate their finish in the 5K Fun Run.

Third row, center: Kenn Dixon receives a massage from Wallace Massah.

Third row, right: Daryl Maxwell, SWRC Drum Corps coordinator leads the drum core, facing Masterguide Joey Baham, Baytown Pathfinder director.

Bottom left: Pastor Harden Weech, and his wife, Sylvia, of the Ephesus church in San Antonio, at the General Conference Session.

TEXAS NEWS

TEXAS CONFERENCE



The 10 days that I was privileged to spend in San Antonio in July were an amazing blessing and privilege to both my Christian experience, as well as my ministry. To witness firsthand the guiding presence of the Holy Spirit in the midst of vital decisions, church business, and an evangelistic thrust was an unforgettable experience! The rich cultural and ethnic variety on display was a foretaste of heaven. It was thrilling to run into friends from all over the globe, some of whom I hadn't seen for 35 years! But perhaps the highlight of my week was when San Antonio Mayor Ivy Taylor went on stage at the Alamodome to proclaim that city officials had been tremendously impressed with the positive and uplifting behavior of Seventh-day Adventists. We may be far from perfect, but we're also far from the common. Praise God for that!

Carlos Craig, president



Above: One of the 128 individuals baptized during the GC Session as a result of evangelistic efforts that preceded the Session.

Top right and next page middle row: Volunteers cared for the mind, body, and spirit by praying and conducting routine tests at the San Antonio health fair.

Middle right and next page top center: IMPACT San Antonio drew scores of people desiring nothing more than to help clean up the city during GC Session.

Bottom right and next page bottom row: Jonathan Coker and the team of actors for allegorical play, *The Journey*, shared God's love and grace with the youth and young adult attendees of GC Session.



Top left (inset): Ryan McCoy, descendant of the "King of the Wild Frontier" Davy Crockett, participated in a historical reenactment and reading of the Declaration of Independence in front of the Alamo.

Taking Time to Show the Love of Christ in San Antonio

I was proud to be a part of this world church as I saw kindness displayed, not only to fellow church members, but also to the police crew who tirelessly directed traffic to help us move about safely, the staff and volunteers in the convention center, and the workers in the Alamodome.

The kindness didn't go unnoticed in San Antonio. The police officers were surprised that even with this being the largest and longest convention the city had ever hosted, there were no incidents of arrest. The city mayor even commented on the positive impact our church had on the city. Workers at the San Antonio airport were overwhelmed by the thousands of departing members, but noticed an overall sense of peace and patience among the travelers amidst the longest lines I have ever seen at an airport.

We went to San Antonio to conduct the business of our church and to meet people from all across the globe, but the results of this gathering extended far beyond the walls of the Alamodome and convention center. Thank you to the Adventist world church for showing the love of Christ to the residents of San Antonio! It is my prayer that the next large gathering of our church will take place in heaven and will include many of the San Antonio residents who were touched by kind church members that took the time to show the love of Christ in their lives.

Sue Hinkle, communication director



Top: Visitors at the exhibit hall crowd around the beautiful Texico Conference booth.

Middle: President Lee-Roy Chacon (right) making friends with two gentlemen from Nepal (left and center: Pastor Umesh Kumar Pokharel, president of the Nepal Section of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Bhaju Ram Takhachen Shrestha, lay person).

Below: A myriad of visitors at the booths in Exhibit Hall C in the Henry B. Gonzales Convention Center.



TEXICO CONFERENCE

TEXICO CONFERENCE



Top left: Derral Reeve, education superintendent/ club ministries director, shows his collection of pins acquired from the many booths in the exhibit halls.

Top right: Texico Conference president, Lee-Roy Chacon and wife, Nelva, stopped by the Northern Asia-Pacific Division booth, where she was outfitted in the traditional dress from India.

Middle left: Colorful representation from South Korea during the Northern Asia-Pacific Division report.

Above: Fuddruckers restaurant in downtown San Antonio show their hospitality to Adventist guests.

Bottom left: The Texico Conference booth before the general admission of visitors began.

The General Conference Session is a fun and schedule-packed time for everyone and it was no exception for Southwestern Adventist University students. Students could be seen, wearing the tread down on their shoes, all over San Antonio. They were interns, information guides, booth ambassadors, and camera-operators. They helped run youth meetings, did interviews for local and national media outlets, put on concerts, helped alumni, and shared over and over about their amazing experiences at Southwestern.

[Photos by James Bokovoy and Darcy Force]

Top and next page bottom photo: Southwestern's booth featured larger-than-life photos of campus, a huge replica T-rex (that even made the local news!) that moved and roared, videos of campus life and the Dinosaur Research Project, and lots of opportunities to win scholarships and learn more about the University from current students and faculty.

Middle row, left: Clarissa was another student who spent long hours in the information booths, helping people find their way around San Antonio. During the school year, she works for the president's office so she has a lot of experience being a helpful and friendly face for anyone who stops by.

Bottom: The University Singers collaborated with Andrews University Singers for two concerts at the St. Joseph Catholic Church, just one block up the street from the convention center. The church held a capacity of 450 and was packed for both concerts. The acoustics were amazing, perfect for highlighting the acapella and instruments and especially the water-glass song that our University Singers are becoming known for.





Top left: Over 230 Southwestern alumni attended the alumni luncheon at Casa Rio to fellowship and hear about all the new things happening at their alma mater.

Top right: Miranda and Brittany-Anne, members of Southwestern's acrobatic team (SWAT), were 2 of over 40 Southwestern students to work the information booths at GC. They also had the opportunity to do some acrobatics and share about healthful living on LifeStyleTV.

Center: Students, such as Nu Pham, worked Southwestern's booth, sharing about their experiences at Southwestern and answering lots and lots of questions. (They went home with hoarse voices!) When not at GC, Nu spent the summer as a counselor and media director at summer camp.



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EMPLOYMENT

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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 & Alumni. 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.

Adventist Podiatric Surgeon Needed in Maryland, near Adventist World Headquarters, rural areas, and the Chesapeake Bay. Great area for families, excellent Adventist schools. Foot and ankle surgery performed at outstanding hospitals and surgery center. Immediate partnership leading to purchase of established practice within five years. Email CV to podiatry11@yahoo.com.

Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certification to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience and multi-grade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. E-mail letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu. Effective summer 2016.

Union College seeks SDA nursing instructor with teaching experience, excellent interpersonal and teamwork skills, and an MSN. Experience in Mental Health, Pathophysiology, and Pharmacology preferred. Please submit cover letter, curriculum vitae or resume, and three references to Nicole Orian at norian@ucollege.edu.

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Athens New Beginnings	511 Chase St, Athens, TX 75751	10:10 AM	10:40 AM
Tyler	2935 S Southeast Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701	11:40 AM	12:10 PM
Longview	2800 Airline Rd, Longview TX 75605	1:40 PM	2:10 PM
Marshall	159 Standpipe Rd E, Marshall, TX 75670	2:55 PM	3:25 PM
Jefferson Academy	3000 FM 728, Jefferson, TX 75657	3:55 PM	4:25 PM
Shreveport - Conf Office		7025 Greenwood Rd, Shreveport, LA 71119	5:25 PM 5:55 PM
Tuesday, September 22		Arrive	Depart
Minden	108 Harveys Way, Minden, LA 71055	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Monroe Macedonia	2300 Lee Ave, Monroe LA 71202	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Central Louisiana Church	298 Mary Hill Rd, Pineville, LA 71360	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
Baton Rouge	4455 Jones Creek Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70817	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
Hammond Emmanuel	1401 Harrell Ave, Hammond LA 70403	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Wednesday, September 23		Arrive	Depart
Covington Ephesus	923 N Florida St, Covington LA 70433	8:45 AM	9:15 AM
Mandeville	22337 Little Creek Rd, Mandeville, LA 70471	9:45 AM	10:15 AM
Slidell	2448 Gause Blvd W, Slidell, LA 70460	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
New Orleans -First	4201 W Esplanade Ave, Metairie, LA 70006	12:15 PM	12:45 PM
Lockport Spanish	504 Seventh St, Lockport, LA 70374	2:15 PM	2:45 PM
Houma	3342 W Main St, Gray, LA 70359	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
New Iberia	3608 Highway 14, New Iberia, LA 70560	5:20 PM	5:50 PM
Lafayette	119 Rena Dr, Lafayette, LA 70503	6:35 PM	7:05 PM
Thursday, September 24		Arrive	Depart
Lake Charles	1537 Country Club Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70605	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Beaumont	3175 S Major Dr, Beaumont, TX 77720	11:15 AM	11:45 AM
Lufkin	1209 S John Redditt Dr, Lufkin, TX 75904	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Rusk	660 Euclid Ave, Rusk, TX 75785	4:00 PM	4:30 PM
Corsicana	3210 N Business 45, Corsicana, TX 75110	6:15 PM	6:45 PM

Order Deadline for Louisiana/East Texas route is Thursday, September 17. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

West Texas / Southern New Mexico Route

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, October 5		Arrive	Depart
Brownwood	2211 Avenue D, Brownwood, TX 76801	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
San Angelo	110 E 18th St, San Angelo, TX 76903	12:45 PM	1:15 PM
Big Springs	4319 Parkway Rd, Big Spring, TX 79720	3:15 PM	3:45 PM
Midland	3114 Travis Ave, Midland, TX 79701	4:50 PM	5:20 PM
Odessa	201 E 91st St, Odessa, TX 79765	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Tuesday, October 6		Arrive	Depart
Van Horn	700 W Desert, Van Horn, TX 79855	10:40 AM	11:10 AM
El Paso Central	1801 McRae Blvd, El Paso, TX 79925	12:25 PM	12:55 PM
Las Cruces	240 3 Crosses Ave, Las Cruces, NM 88005	2:05 PM	2:35 PM
Alamogordo	1000 S Canyon Rd, Alamogordo, NM 88310	4:00 PM	4:30 PM
Wednesday, October 7		Arrive	Depart
Ruidoso Downs	212 Parkway, Ruidoso Downs, NM 88346	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
Roswell	2915 S Union Ave, Roswell, NM 88203	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Carlsbad	101 N 12th St, Carlsbad, NM 88220	12:00 PM	12:30 PM
Hobbs	6620 N Grimes St, Hobbs, NM 88242	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Lubbock	5302 Elgin Ave, Lubbock, TX 79413	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Thursday, October 8		Arrive	Depart
Abiene	2542 E Overland Tr, Abilene, TX 79601	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Weatherford	201 Eden Rd, Weatherford, TX 76085	1:15 PM	1:45 PM

Order Deadline for West Texas / Southern New Mexico Route is Thursday, October 1. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

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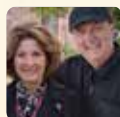
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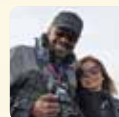
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Demand is high for Automotive Service Management

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.

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Announcements

Sheyenne River Academy/Dakota Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend is October 2-3, 2015 at Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor classes: '41, '46, '51, '56, '61, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '01, '06, '11. For more information, call 701.258.9000, ext. 236, or visit <http://bit.ly/DAA-AlumWkend15>

2nd Annual Agricultural Conference: "Restoring the Waste Places" Agricultural Conference is November 11-15, 2015 in Glen Rose, Texas. For all seeking to understand and follow God's plan for agriculture. Register at www.AdventistAg.org.

5th Annual Adventist Rodder's Club Show-N-Shine Classic Car Show: The show is a fundraiser for the Grandview church's food pantry, an outreach for the Grandview area. Sunday, September 13, 2015, 1:00-5:00 p.m. Beaumont Ranch, 10736 CR 102, Grand-

view, TX 76050. Free admission and great family entertainment! Live music, cars, trucks, and bikes. For more information concerning contest fees, cash awards, or sponsorship, contact Rich Schram at 817.658.2686, or richsclassics@gmail.com, or Rick Gardner at nomadder55@gmail.com.

Clifton Norse Church's Annual Service: The annual Sabbath service at Clifton Norse church, the oldest standing Adventist church in the Texas conference, will be held October 10 at 10:00 a.m. Sermon by Kenneth Shaw, president of Southwestern Adventist University. Information: Yddo Ortiz, 817.517.4650.

Let's Move Day: The North American Division has set aside Sunday, September 20, 2015 as Let's Move Day. The goal is to get as many people possible involved in physical activity on that day. Consider what kind of event your church, school, university

or hospital can sponsor and/or promote—a group walk in the park, youth sports event, organized 5K run/walk, or any other event involving physical activity. For more info on planning an event and resources, visit <http://www.adventistsin-stepforlife.org/article/22/adventist-instep-for-life-events/lets-move-day>.

Milestones

ANNIVERSARIES

Malcom and Darla Gibson celebrated 35 years of marriage with a reaffirmation ceremony on Saturday, June 20, 2015 at the Lake Charles, La., church. May God continue to bless them.

Obituaries

BLACK, Ann H., born May 19, 1932 in Bethany, La., and died May 29, 2015 in Minden, La. She was a member of the Minden church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Black. Survivors: sons, William A. Anderson and James P. Patrick; daughter, Edith Wells; brother, Sammy Hall; three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

CHRISTENSEN, Tillie Toby, born October 13, 1918 in Yorkshire Leeds, England, and died in Tulsa, Okla. She completed her education in England and began work as a seamstress. During WWII she was drafted to build bombs. While working in the bomb factory, she met and later married Donald Christensen. After the war they moved to Audubon, Iowa, where she became a homemaker and later worked at the Audubon Friendship Home. She was baptized into the Adventist Church in 1954.

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She was a member of the Dorcas Society and held various church offices. She loved to travel, enjoyed her family, gardening, entertaining, and being around people. In 2006 she moved to Oklahoma to live near her daughter. She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald; son, Alan Lee; son-in-law, Dale Deardoff; and granddaughter, Lisa. Survivors: daughter, Barbara Calvert, of Broken Arrow; daughter, Beverly Deardoff, of Ottawa, Kansas; son, Paul Dean Christensen of Pasco, Wash.; son, John Curtis Christensen, of College Place, Wash.; 17 grandchildren, 25 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

DOWLING, Gwendolyn, born April 30, 1938 in Griffin, Ga., and died June 1, 2015 in Hot Springs, Ark. Gwendolyn was a member of the Hot Springs church. She loved and cared for her family and was dedicated to making her home a happier place. Gwen enjoyed cooking and playing the piano, and was involved in many church activities throughout her life. She will be missed. Survivors: husband, Gary Dowling, of Hot Springs, Ark.; son, Dale Sikora, of Utah; daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Clyde Hanson, of Idaho; daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Mitch, of Texas; daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Jeff Dorsch, of Maryland; step-son and wife, Randy and Sandy Dowling, of Georgia; a step-daughter and husband, Sherie and Joe Rios, of Hot Springs; a stepdaughter and husband, Gina and Charles Heckel, of Hot Springs; four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

FISHER, Robert Gene, born April 17, 1954 in Edmond, Okla., and died May 19, 2015 in Harrah, Okla. He lived at the Wolfe Living Center at Sum-

mit Ridge and was loved by all who knew him. He loved to draw and play guitar. He was preceded in death by his father, Kenneth Fisher, and three brothers, Donald Eugene Miller, Howard Glenn Miller, and Richard Lee Miller. Survivors: mother, Lois ImoGene Taylor, of Harrah; sister, Peggy Annette Wyatt, of Shasta Lake, Calif.; sister, Valrye Kim Gordon, of Oklahoma City; and sister and brother-in-law, Tamara and Donald Clark, of Jones, Okla.

GREENHILL, Phillip, born April 15, 1959 and died April 10, 2015. He was a member of the Jefferson Academy church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Bettye, and brother, Kevin. Survivors: wife, Sheila, and son, Kellen.

HEWES, Eleanor Louise Priest, born March 5, 1926 in Minot, Maine and died in 2015 in Marshall, Texas. Eleanor was a teacher and a missionary and served with her husband, Warren Clarence Hewes, in Zimbabwe and Kenya, where she worked in different secretarial positions and taught in the children's division of the church. Eleanor and her husband retired in 1988 in Marshall. Survivors: daughters, Marilyn Kemper and Cheryl Steingas, five grandchildren, and a great-grandson.

JOHNSON, Carl G. Jr., born June 27, 1930 in Eugene, Ore., and died April 17, 2015 in Meeker, Okla. He was a member of the Shawnee church. He was a Veteran and loved music. He was an incredible pedal steel guitar player who loved to play gospel music. Survivor: wife, Tammy Johnson.

MYERS, Russell H., born March 29, 1917 in Moline, Ill., and died March 23, 2015 in Harrah, Okla. He was a member of the Summit Ridge

church. Russell spent nearly 40 years working for Pittsburg Plate Glass Co. in Dallas, Texas. He was a meticulous craftsman, working as a glazier for the company. He was honest, hard working, kindhearted, a true gentleman, and a wonderful Christian. He was often heard saying, "the Lord has been so good to me." He was preceded in death by his wife, Marion. Survivors: sisters, Jennie Hutson and Nell Sabes, of Harrah; sister, June Weeks, of Alvarado, Texas; and brother, Ray Myers, of Roseburg, Ore.

POWELL, Dorothy "Bessie" Elizabeth, born October 15, 1922 in Lawhorn, La., and died June 30, 2015 in Jefferson, Texas. She was a member of the Jefferson Academy church. Survivors: son, Lawrence and wife, Carol; daughter, Linda Chapline and husband, James; son, Jerry and wife, Jerry Ann; son, Randal and wife, Liz; daughter, Debbie Howard and husband, Frank; nine grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

SIMMONS, Louise Marie, born Sept. 23, 1937 in Denver, Colo., and died May 21, 2015 in Osage, Ark. Louise was

a member of the Berryville church. Louise was a life-long hands-on philanthropist who never said "no" to an opportunity to help someone in need. Her work for the "less fortunate" was institutional as well as personal. She was a founder of at least two operations that gave food, clothing, and household items to those in need. It was at the Denver Community Center where she met her husband, Paul, who volunteered there to keep the electric and plumbing operable. They married on June 29, 1975. When Paul retired in 1986, they moved to Arkansas to care for Louise's aging parents. Upon their move, Louise immediately set up a community center near Osage, which eventually was relocated to its current location behind the Berryville church where it thrives today. Survivors: husband, Paul Nelson Simmons; son, Curtis Hardin, of Brooklyn, N.Y.; daughter, Candace Haddock of Malabar, Florida; sister, Shirley Wencel of Mesa, Ariz.; step-son, Glenn Simmons, of Mount Juliet, Tenn.; one aunt, Lois Bobbitt of Apache Junction, Ariz; and four grandchildren.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Sep 4	Sep 11	Sep 18	Sep 25	Oct 2	Oct 9
Abilene, TX	8:01	7:52	7:43	7:33	7:24	7:15
Albuquerque, NM	7:31	7:21	7:11	7:01	6:51	6:41
Amarillo, TX	8:12	8:02	7:52	7:41	7:31	7:22
Brownsville, TX	7:47	7:40	7:32	7:24	7:17	7:09
Dallas, TX	7:50	7:40	7:31	7:21	7:12	7:03
El Paso, TX	7:27	7:18	7:09	7:00	6:51	6:42
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:52	7:43	7:33	7:24	7:14	7:05
Gallup, NM	7:40	7:30	7:19	7:09	6:59	6:49
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:42	7:33	7:25	7:16	7:07	6:59
Gentry, AR	7:43	7:33	7:23	7:12	7:02	6:52
Little Rock, AR	7:33	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:54	6:44
Muskogee, OK	7:46	7:36	7:26	7:16	7:05	6:56
New Orleans, LA	7:21	7:12	7:03	6:55	6:46	6:38
Oklahoma City, OK	7:55	7:45	7:34	7:24	7:14	7:04
Roswell, NM	7:21	7:12	7:02	6:52	6:43	6:34
San Antonio, TX	7:54	7:46	7:37	7:28	7:20	7:12
Shreveport, LA	7:37	7:28	7:19	7:09	7:00	6:51
Tulsa, OK	7:49	7:39	7:28	7:18	7:08	6:58

On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



An Indelible Impression

THE 2015 GC SESSION IN SAN ANTONIO will probably be noted as one of my most memorable experiences. You might say it's because of all the scurry around our office in the months preceding the event as we prepared to serve as the host union. Or maybe it's because of the long, busy, and hectic days I endured while working on the media relations team during the Session. And without a doubt the long walks between the hotel and the Alamodome are unforgettable—I had no trouble logging my daily step goal on my activity-tracking device! But the most memorable thing about this Session for me (no, it wasn't the lively debate on women's ordination, although that too was memorable!) was the wonderful impact our church made on the city of San Antonio prior to and during the Session.

A team of young adults showed their love for the residents of San Antonio through acts of kindness, such as landscaping yards and giving out free hugs to passersby near the Alamo. Others touched the lives of children through a health expo with fun and engaging activities designed especially for kids. Then there were the four health expos and mini medical clinics for adults held around the city during GC Session. The #iwantMORE campaign reached out to the residents of San Antonio with more love, more health, more purpose, and more meaning. And

the Pathway to Health event this past April had a phenomenal impact, the total influence of which will only be realized in heaven.

Indeed, we made a positive impression on the city of San Antonio. Even those who weren't engaged in outreach projects made a difference by their silent witness, their kindness, and their Christian demeanor. A security guard at the dome, who watched the entire Wednesday debate, shared with someone that he was so impressed with the orderly discussion and how amazed he was that we all

seemed to still get along despite our differences. A July 14 *Adventist Review* article by Andrew McChesney shared a story about Brent Hardinge, an employee of the IT department at the General Conference, who was pulled aside by a United Airlines agent in the San Antonio airport on the Sunday following the Session. The agent asked, "Are you part of this large group?" When Hardinge acknowledged that he was, the agent said, "In the 16 years I've worked here, I've seen many large groups coming through this airport. But I have never seen a group this calm and positive . . . no one is complaining."

The GC Session made an indelible impression—not only on me, but on the many thousands who watched with interest as we interacted with one another and reached out with love and kindness to the residents of San Antonio. Praise God for a positive witness!

Pat Humphrey

Record

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



I am Succeeding

“I never imagined four years ago, when I was called to ministry, that one day I would be the Associate Pastor at the Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church. The only reason I am here today is because of the spiritual mentorship and academic excellence that I found at Southwestern Adventist University. All I can say is, thank you Southwestern for shaping me into the pastor I am today.”

*Austen, Theology, 2015
Associate Pastor at the Cleburne SDA Church*

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