

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

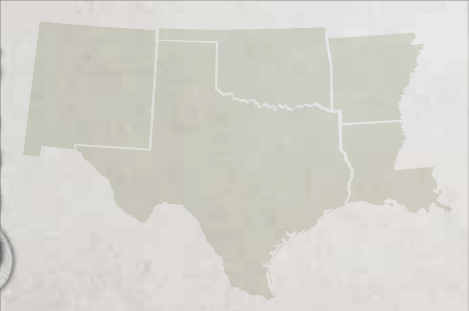
Record

MAY 2016



Even so, come, Lord Jesus!

SPECIAL QUINQUENNIAL SESSION REPORT 2011-2015



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On the Cover

Every five years, the Southwestern Union Conference holds a constituency session in which selected delegates from around the union territory meet to conduct business and elect officers and departmental directors for the next quinquennium. The theme of this year's constituency meeting, held May 1 and 2 at the Keene, Texas, church, is "Even So, Come, Lord Jesus!" It is the sincere hope and prayer of each officer, departmental director, and worker in the Southwestern Union that Jesus will indeed come soon, as reflected in the cover illustration of this special quinquennial report.



Office of the President

LARRY MOORE » PRESIDENT

EVEN SO, COME, LORD JESUS!

Laboring Together to Hasten Jesus' Return

The Southwestern Union is not a single entity that stands alone. It is made up of many components, and each conference, church, employee, layperson, and member has a role to play in finishing the work that the church was given to do. Our mission as a union is to equip and inspire our members to be able to do this work.

The theme for the Southwestern Union's 2016 constituency session, "Even So, Come, Lord Jesus," is taken from Revelation 22:20, "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming quickly.' Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!" In Revelation 21:3-5, NIV, John shares the vision of the new earth and the promise that "God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, 'I am making everything new!'"

How I look forward to the day of His return! It is with this in mind that we hold this session. We are ever looking forward to His second coming, but also measuring our progress so that we may be refined individually and as a people for His work, the work which will hasten His return.

In reflecting on the last five years, we are allowed to see the wonderful ways in which the Lord has accomplished mighty blessings within the Southwestern Union.

Our union is growing rapidly, and I'm thrilled to report that our members believe in sharing the gospel. In this quinquennium we have gained 11,208 new members. The total membership of the union as of December 31, 2015, was 113,877, and, as of April 2016, has surpassed 114,000. The union's number of congregations has also increased, from 636 churches and companies to 671 at the end of 2015. As you'll note in our Treasurer's Report, tithe has increased at an average rate of 3.4 percent each year across the union.

We all play a vital role in the fulfillment of the commission to share the gospel. Let me now share with you the exciting events that have been taking place within the conferences and institutions of our union.

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Over the past five years, the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference's total membership has increased by 1,064 members, an increase of 9.1 percent from the end of 2010, at which time the membership was 11,638. The membership as of December 31, 2015, was 12,702. Arkansas-Louisiana members have been faithful in tithe, with an average yearly increase of 3.7 percent. Some highlights from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference include the addition of a

full-time evangelist and a full-time Spanish pastor, both of which are being funded out of conference reserves.

During this past quinquennium the multi-ethnic ministries of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference has been actively sharing the gospel in Spanish, French-Creole, and Karen languages. The Hispanic ministry has had a steady growth, averaging 200 baptisms per year, bringing their current membership to 3,154, representing 25 percent of the total conference membership.

Major improvements at Camp Yorktown Bay include the complete renovation and upgrading of both the lodge and the motel, with new furniture in the motel. The road leading down to the camp has been newly paved, and Town Hall has been redone with restrooms so that it can be used once again as a comfortable meeting place. With strong financial backing from the conference, Ozark Adventist Academy has been operating in the black. It stands today as the only conference-operated boarding academy in the Southwestern Union.

Oklahoma Conference

The Oklahoma Conference's total net membership has increased by 618 members to 8,874, an increase of 7.5 percent from the end of 2010. This includes baptisms and professions of faith of 1,608 during the past five years. Tithe has had an average yearly increase of 2.8 percent. The year 2015 saw a record tithe at \$7.9 million dollars. Much has happened in the Oklahoma Conference during this quinquennium. Some highlights from the Oklahoma Conference include the conference's school enrollment topping 300 students. The conference has recently ordained several young pastors and has been revitalizing its Sabbath School, and men's and women's ministries programs. Ministry in Training classes and assignments for not-yet-ordained and young pastors are now available, as is programming for the ministerial spouses' ministry. There has been significant growth in prayer ministries, as well as an expansion of the youth and young adult, Pathfinder, and Adventurer ministries and activities. Adventurer and Pathfinder participation finished this quinquennium with a membership of 10 percent of the total conference membership.

Southwest Region Conference

During this quinquennium, the Southwest Region Conference's total membership has increased by 1,672 members, an increase of 7 percent from the end of 2010, at which time the membership was 23,909. The membership as of December 31, 2015, was 25,581.

Southwest Region members have been faithful in tithe, with an

President's Report (continued)

average yearly increase in title of 3.2 percent. The Southwest Region Conference made considerable progress at the Conference's youth camp, Lone Star Camp, with new, state-of-the-art facilities, including four new cabins, security features, a new sewage system, and new restrooms. The Southwest Region Conference also made strides this quinquennium in its bilingual evangelism by focusing on supporting the rapidly-growing population of Spanish-speaking constituents. Other highlights from the Southwest Region include the annual Tour de Youth cycling program, which seeks to support Adventist education, and create awareness on childhood obesity and related diseases.

Texas Conference

The Texas Conference's total membership has increased by 7,195 members, an increase of 15.1 percent from the end of 2010, at which time the membership was 47,509. The membership as of December 31, 2015, was 54,702. The conference had an average yearly increase in title of 3.8 percent. In 2013, the Texas Conference celebrated its first summer camp held at its new property, Lake Whitney Ranch. Several facilities are undergoing renovation and construction, and will be a blessing to many throughout the state when complete. In the lead-up to the 60th General Conference Session in San Antonio, the Texas Conference allocated more than \$2 million toward evangelism and church planting. Additionally, the Texas Conference implemented a statewide awareness campaign entitled #iwantMORE, designed to inspire and encourage. Lastly, the most recent Education Department initiative, dubbed Educate for Eternity, has resulted in 200 new students in Texas Conference schools through a three-way financial partnership between parents, schools, and conference.

Texico Conference

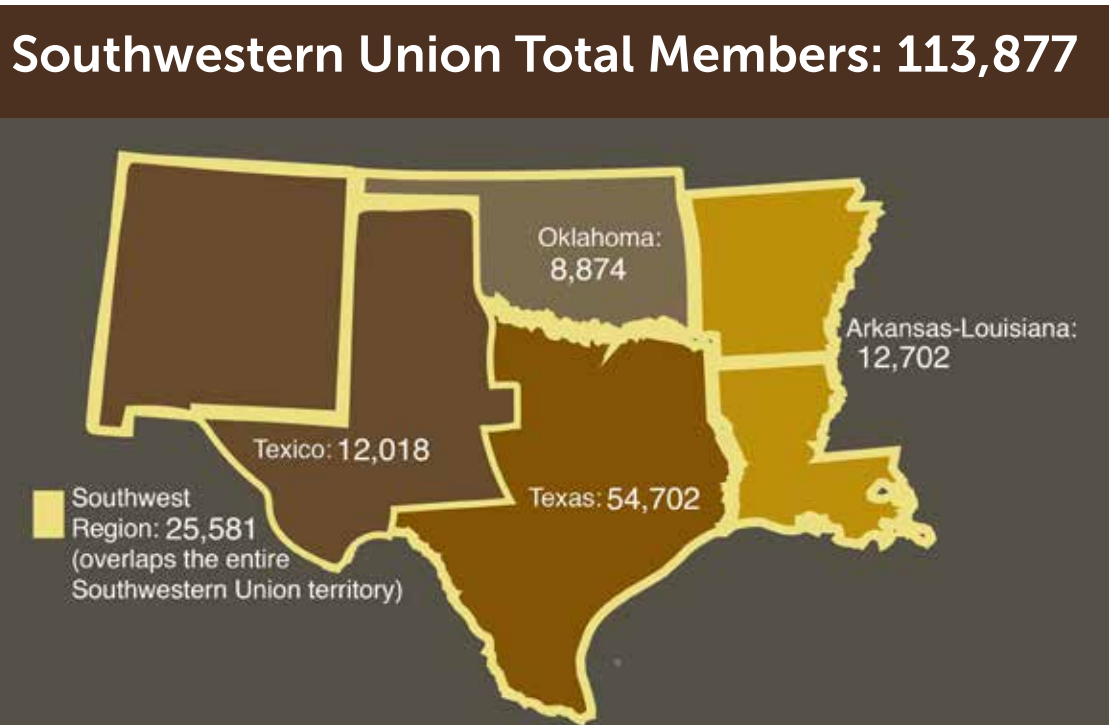
The Texico Conference's total membership has increased by 661 members, an increase of 5.8 percent from the end of 2010, at which time the membership was 11,357. The membership as of December 31, 2015, was 12,018. These members make up the 80 churches, companies, and groups throughout the conference. Tithe from the Texico Conference has had an average yearly increase in of 3.1 percent.

Two new schools have been opened during the last quinquennium, bring the total number of schools to seven, with 225 students enrolled. The focus on evangelism and mission has continued to expand in the Texico Conference to include diverse people groups.

Work among the Native Americans has been steadily increasing over the last few years, particularly in Gallup, Grants, and Crownpoint, New Mexico.

Southwestern Adventist University

Our university has been blessed this past quinquennium. It has a renewed focus with a strategic five-year plan to address all aspects effecting Adventist education, including spirituality, finances, enrollment, academics, and campus improvements. Towards these goals, the university has hired 20 new faculty who are experts in their fields. The freshman class has grown by 40 students and



the retention rate of new students has improved 10 percent, above the national average. During the past five years, net assets have increased by 22 percent, and the university's endowment fund has gained 45 percent. Major capital improvements were realized during this time, including a new gymnasium wood floor, new student center, an outdoor campus center, a new dinosaur museum under construction, and interior improvements for several buildings. The university also has a major campaign under way to build a new nursing building. In the past several months, the campaign has had tremendous momentum and is now very close to its \$10 million goal.

Adventist Health System

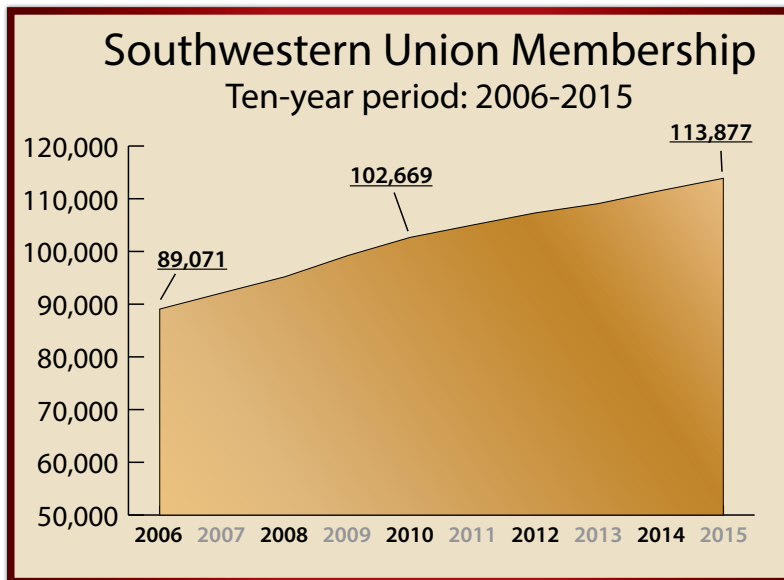
There are four AHS hospitals within the Southwestern Union, and each of them continues the mission of all AHS hospitals, "to extend the healing ministry of Christ." These hospitals meet fundamental needs in their communities, providing the highest quality medical care, as well as mission-based outreach, such as health education, mobile health services, and free and reduced-cost screenings.

Southwestern Union

During the past five years, the focus of our work at the Southwestern Union has been equipping, preparing, and empowering our members to perform His work. Through our Equipped for Ministries local training events, as well as a union-wide conference, we've been able to equip thousands of our members in the various fields in which they work, from evangelism and personal ministries to children's ministries and communication, and so much more.

We've had a renewed focus on several ministries, including health ministries and youth and young adult ministries. Through these departments we've been able to coordinate events, most notably a collaboration with Your best Pathway to Health, a free mega health clinic that served more than 6,000 people in the San Antonio area in 2015.

The Southwestern Union also hosted the 2015 General Conference Session. For the session, we had been tasked with obtaining gifts of appreciation for the delegates. Members of our team considered the task, and proposed the idea of a gift that would have a further reaching impact than a simple gadget. We decided to use the funds to provide life-giving water by digging wells and providing water catchment systems in Zimbabwe. In addition, we purchased water bottles for the delegates in San Antonio with in-



formation about the project printed on the bottle.

Returned Money Funds Local Evangelism

The Southwestern Union is careful to be fiscally responsible and account for every dollar. Doing so allows us to give funds back to each conference. It gives us great joy to be able to return large portions of the dollars entrusted to us back to the conferences each year. The funds, earmarked for evangelism, have totaled \$3 million for the past five years.

What's Next?

The Southwestern Union's goal, as always, is to continue equipping and inspiring our members to join in the work, to continue toward finishing it, and hastening Jesus' second coming.

As you read the reports from the various departments, please keep the Southwestern Union in your prayers as we continue to work for you and for the Lord. I pray you will be encouraged and inspired by what you read. Please share with us any suggestions that you may have. We welcome your comments and ideas.

I wish to close with the parting words of Revelation 22:21, as a reminder that Christ is with us now even as we work for His final purpose, His second coming. "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen."





Treasury

DERYL KNUTSON » TREASURER

Remaining Faithful and Trusting in God

God's people have been faithful as they wait for his return! It is easy to see how the Lord has blessed when you review the finances of the Southwestern Union Conference for the past five years. Although there have been economic problems, God has blessed His people, and they have been faithful in returning tithes and offerings to Him. We pray that the Lord will bless us with wisdom so that the dollars received will be used efficiently for the advancement of His work.

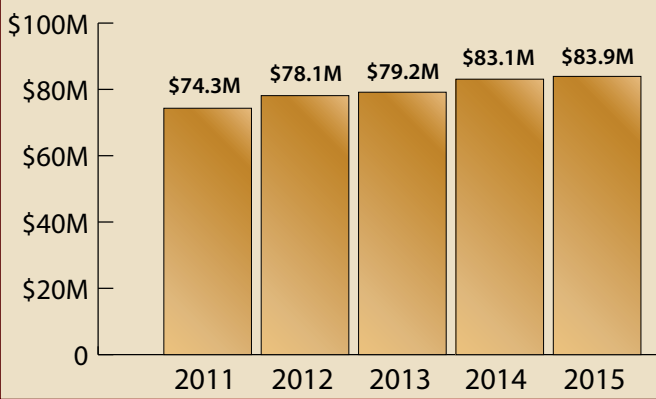
Highlights at a Glance

- Membership increase of 11,208
- Total membership at 113,877
- Tithe increase of 16.8 percent
- Total dollar tithe increase of \$57,399,932
- Net assets increase to \$5.7 million
- \$3 million returned to conferences for evangelism
- Three wells drilled in Africa as GC Session gift

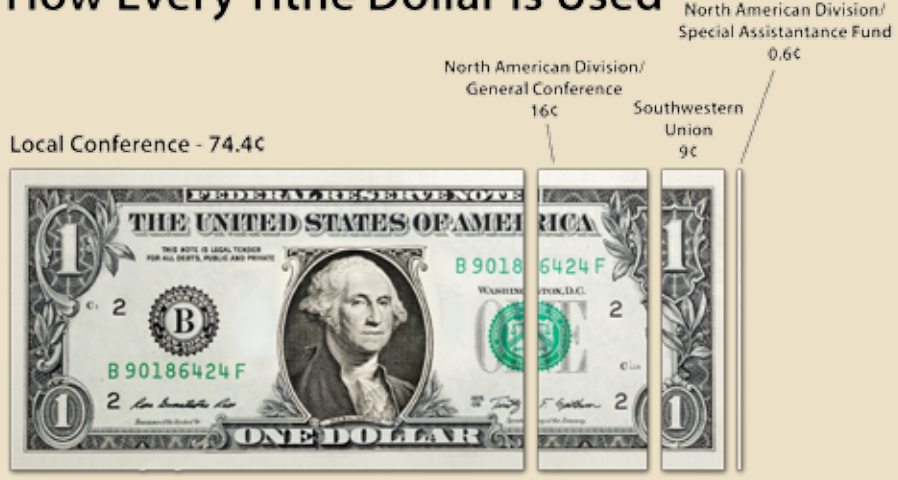
Your donations do make a difference! Your tithe and other contributions are necessary for financial stability and church growth. The past five years have been good years. Membership has grown by 11,208 persons, and as of December 31, 2015, the membership was 113,877. The Southwestern Union is grateful for the membership growth throughout its territory this past quinquennium.



Total Annual Tithe Southwestern Union 2011-2015

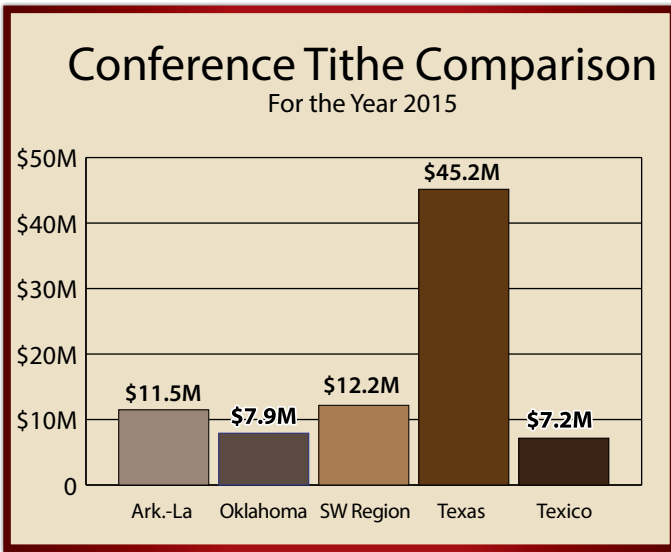
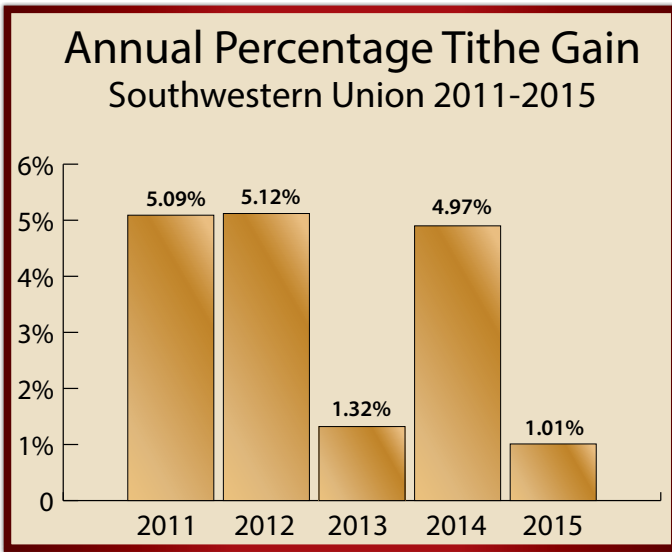


How Every Tithe Dollar Is Used



Tithe received during the past five years has increased by 16.8 percent, or an average of 3.4 percent per year. The actual tithe dollar increase for the past five years was \$57,399,932. This growth in tithe has made it possible for the union to remain financially strong, and continue to support evangelism with significant dollars.

The Lord has blessed in the financial support each conference receives from its constituency. As illustrated, tithe, given by local church members, is divided as fol-



lows: 74 percent is used by the local conference (including the retirement plan); 16 percent is used by the North American Division/General Conference; nine percent is allocated to the union conference; and less than one percent is allocated to the special assistance fund.

Financially, this quinquennium has been good for the Southwestern Union. Net assets have increased to \$5.7 million, there is no significant operating indebtedness, and liquidity and required operating capital remain strong. Over the past five years, the union has returned \$3 million to the local conferences for evangelism.

An additional use of funds in 2015 pertained to the General Conference Session, which was held in San Antonio last summer. Hosted in Southwestern territory, it became this union's turn to present gifts to the delegates. The executive committee voted to give a smaller gift to each delegate—Camelback water bottles—and to devote greater funds to drilling three water wells in Africa. Delegates were served, and the wells continue to be a blessing to the Zimbabwe communities.

Southwestern Union Conference is currently being audited by the General Conference Auditing Service. A complete, audited financial statement will be presented at the union session.

Special thanks is given to the individuals who work in the Treasury Department and make the financial

Revolving Fund

For more than 35 years, the Southwestern Union Conference has operated a revolving fund. This fund borrows money from individuals and churches. These monies are then available to loan out for church and school construction projects. As of December 1, 2015, there were 241 loans to churches and schools, amounting to \$77,241,266. This fund continues to be a blessing to both depositors and borrowers.

operations run smoothly. Together, this group thanks the Southwestern Union members for your support and faithfulness to the Lord's work during the past five years.

Department Staff





Secretariat

BUFORD GRIFFITH, JR. » EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Growing, Nurturing, and Assisting Church Members

A REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENTS OF SECRETARIAT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

It has been a distinct pleasure serving the Seventh-day Adventist Church as the executive secretary for the Southwestern Union Conference. I'm pleased to share the good news about our union.

A Quinquennium of Growth

Membership: When I was elected in September 2011, the Southwestern Union had a membership of 102,669. The membership as of December 31, 2015, was reported as 113,877 and growing. The Lord is blessing the Southwestern Union with steady growth as a result of the evangelistic and missional efforts of the five local conferences that make up our territory.

Churches: The number of churches and companies in the Southwestern Union has increased as a result of the emphasis on church planting by each conference. There were 572 churches and 99 companies as of December 31, 2015, as compared to 550 churches and 86 companies at the end of 2010. God's kingdom is ever growing in this part of His vineyard!

Evangelism: Evangelism has always been the main focus in the Southwestern Union Conference, and the steady growth in membership is indicative of that focus. We celebrate the growth of all

of the unions in the North American Division, and give glory to God for allowing the Southwestern Union to be among the fastest-growing territories in the division. Among the nine unions, Southwestern ranks fifth in total membership (see chart).

However, this report is not an attempt to impress the constituents of the Southwestern Union with charts and graphs of growth in comparison with other unions, as important as that may be considered by some. The Office of the Secretariat is more than statistics. The figures represent people, who are not just numbers to fill a statistical chart. What is presented in numbers is just to demonstrate how the Lord is growing His church.

Our Members

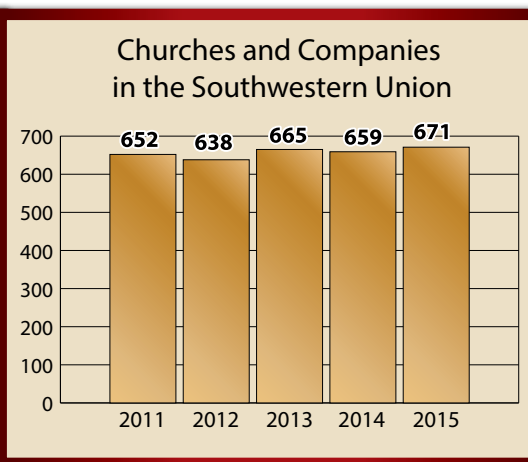
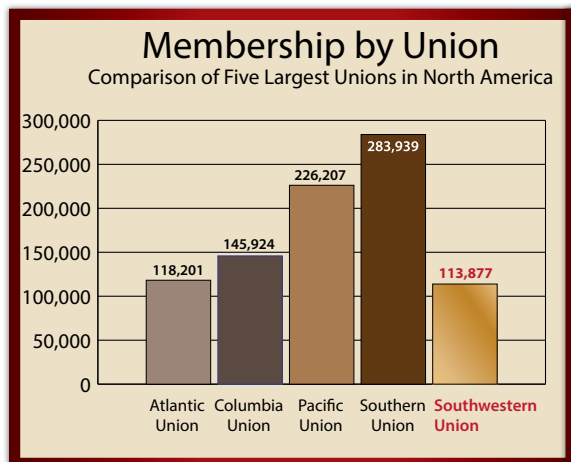
Our greatest concern is for the people who make up the membership in our churches. Nearly 60 percent of the total membership in the Southwestern Union is in attendance on any given Sabbath. Of course we want to see those figures increase to a much higher level in every quadrant of our territory. Fortunately, though, the number of persons that do attend is fast growing, which indicates a satisfaction with the services being offered from Sabbath to Sabbath in the churches.

The statistics compiled by the Office of the Secretariat serve as a barometer of the overall status of the church in the Southwest-

ern Union. These statistics should serve as a motivator for every member of the church to encourage continued growth and advancement of the kingdom of God. Members aid that mission through their own personal support of the church, and also by a determination to nurture those in the church

Highlights at a Glance

- Membership growth from 102,669 to 113,877
- Church growth from 550 to 572
- Company growth from 86 to 99
- One of the fastest growing territories in the NAD



and care for those outside the church—both non-members and non-attending members—through a concerted effort to seek and to save. We are nearing the return of Jesus Christ, and the main purpose of the church is to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ, preparing people to meet Him in peace.

God has rooted and grounded the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southwestern Union Conference. Its growth will continue to flourish as we look forward to the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

“Even so, come, Lord Jesus!”

Religious Liberty

As new members are added to the church, they face challenges that serve as hindrances to their newly-established walk with the

Lord. One of those challenges may be adjusting their work schedules in order to serve the Lord by honoring the Sabbath. This is where the Religious Liberty Department strives to help.

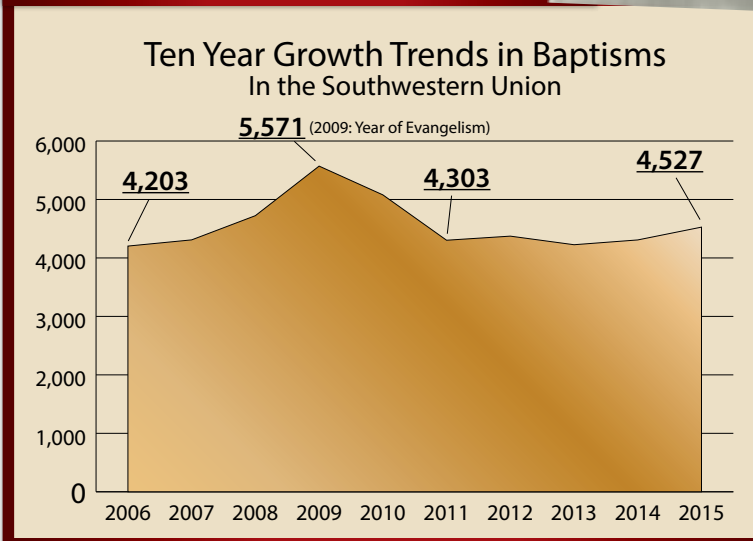
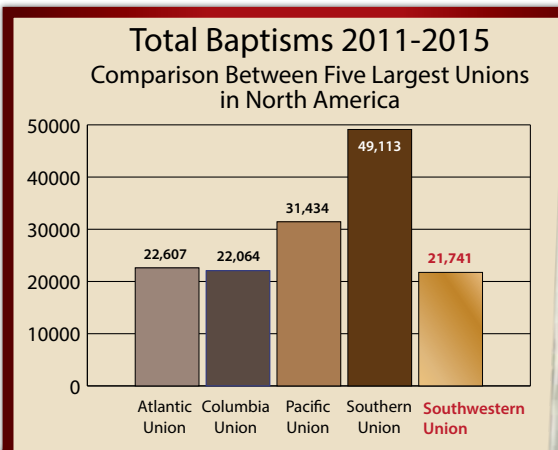
Many employers make accommodation for those who desire to obey the Lord and request time off for Sabbath. There are other employers who will not make an accommodation for a member’s religious conviction. When that occurs, the Religious Liberty Department assists the member by doing everything it can to acquire this vital accommodation. Some cases are handled by a simple letter or phone call of mediation; others require the engagement of attorneys at the Office of General Counsel of the North American Division.

The Southwestern Union is fortunate to have an attorney/pastor who handles the majority of the Sabbath accommodation cases. Many of our members have been aided with Sabbath accommodation challenges, helping some

to keep their jobs, and others to be re-hired after losing their jobs due to refusal to work on Sabbath.

The annual Religious Liberty offerings help members if they need attorneys to assist them in any litigation. Membership does have privilege. Additionally, the annual *Liberty* magazine drive puts the church’s official journal of religious liberty into the hands of influential lawmakers and thinkers across the union and the entire division.

The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty of the Southwestern Union is dedicated to helping its members prepare for the soon return of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.



Department Staff



James Winegardner



Sam Green



Neyra Greenidge

Sabbath Accommodation, Religious Liberty Department

Part-time Associate Director

Administrative Assistant



Children's Ministries

SONIA CANÓ » CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Working for and with Children to Proclaim the Gospel

Jesus said, "Let the children come to Me," and Ellen White notes that children are the most susceptible to the gospel teaching.

The Southwestern Union Conference takes these words very seriously. And, it is a great honor to share with every children's leader this news, as well as all the best materials available to train children in the Lord's way. The Children's Ministries Department wants every child to know that Jesus loves them, that He is coming soon, and that He needs them to help in His work of sharing the Good News.

Child Evangelism

Of all the great programs for sharing the gospel, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is the one that seems to reach out the best to children. It is an evangelism program to win the whole family, because when you win a child for Christ, you are often winning the whole family.

The VBS programs offered by the North American Divi-



Children's ministries has a beautiful and diverse outreach:

- Sabbath School
- Child Evangelism
- Health Expos
- Certification Training
- Protecting Children

Sabbath School

Sabbath School is the heart of the Sabbath-day program for kids. It's their favorite! The union provides workshops, training, and resources, using the General Conference's Grace Link curriculum. In collaboration with the local conferences, several Sabbath School workshops had been conducted, sharing the best tools and attractive ways to teach Sabbath School.



sion make it so simple for local churches. Every spring special VBS training is provided to the conferences. One mega-training in Texas had more than 100 participants. Last year training was held in six different locations: Houston, El Paso, Oklahoma City, Baton Rouge, and the Dallas-Fort Worth area, with a total of 340 participants.

Health Expos

Children's ministries aims to guide children so they can grow happy and healthy, training them to make the right choices in their life. Through the Kids' Health Expo, kids learn the eight natural health remedies in a simple, practical, and fun way. They learn how their bodies function, and how to take care of them.

The union provides instruction, equipment, and materials so the local churches can present to the community. Not only kids are blessed, but parents leave the expo full of ideas and materials, and with the desire to live healthfully.

Certification Training

Children's ministries people are the best! Their hearts are huge for God and children. . . and they are very, very busy. The local children's ministries workers showed their passion by showing up and participating in certification training—more than 40 seminars at basic and advanced levels. With many bilingual leaders, all training is provided in both English and Spanish. Because of their

Children Taking a Stand

Children under 18 baptized in the last 5 years:

- Arkansas-Louisiana—576
- Oklahoma—300 kids
- Southwest Region—626
- Texas—3,509
- Texico—220

More than 5,000 young leaders are now in training to proclaim the second coming of Jesus Christ!



Margaret Taglavore

Children's Ministries Director from 1998 until her death in 2014.

dedication, many constituent members have graduated, with two graduations taking place in the Southwestern Union.

Protecting Children

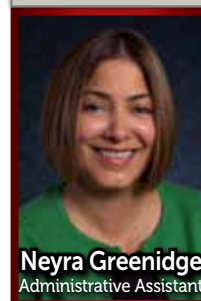
Children are a special treasure, and a big reason to train and certify everyone who works with children—from Sabbath School, Adventurers, and Pathfinders, to evangelism meetings. Shield the Vulnerable, a complete course on child abuse and prevention, is accessible online. It provides specific training on how to protect children from any type of abuse. And, it is not only for the safety of the kids, but for anyone who works with them. The North American Division provides resources, materials, and PowerPoint presentations. All of the local conferences in the Southwestern Union are participating in this effort. Sabbath School, children's ministries, Pathfinder, and Adventurer leaders must be certificated in order to assist in the care or teaching of children.

Through the great blessing of the Lord, more than 5,000 children have been baptized in the Southwestern Union during the past quinquennium. These are 5,000 Christian mini-soldiers, learning about God's love, singing praises to Him, participating in the church. They are tiny ushers, deacons, and preachers; they are the best evangelists, and their pure and willing heart is just what is needed in the churches. The Children's Ministries Department is ready to work—not only *for* the children, but *with* them—in the last proclamation of the Lord's second coming.



From left to right: Barbara Craft, Jackie Martin, Joyce Fortner, Sonia Cano, Chrystal Flerchinger, Cheryl Harris, and Yuniva Reyes.

Department Staff



Neyra Greenidge
Administrative Assistant



Church Ministries

MINNER LABRADOR, JR. » VICE PRESIDENT, CHURCH MINISTRIES, MINISTERIAL, MEN'S MINISTRIES, AND STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR

Equipping Leaders for Ministry and Service

The Church Ministries Department of the Southwestern Union Conference represents the coordinating hub of all ministries associated within the union and conference leadership. The purpose of these ministries is to equip and to inspire the conference leadership and constituent churches.

Over the past quinquennium the department has visited every conference territory with special weekends of equipping, inspiration, and fellowship:

Texas: During the summer of 2013, the church ministries team joined the Texas Conference as more than 24 presenters visited churches in Weslaco, Texas, and areas throughout the Valley. Later, Sabbath afternoon training was held in Spanish and English, with a dozen seminars in both languages. A special vespers program filled with music and thanksgiving concluded the event.

Oklahoma: In the fall of 2013, church ministries joined the Oklahoma Conference for their annual leadership training. Their facilities provided an excellent venue for multiple ministries training.

Southwest Region and Texico: In the spring of 2015, church ministries training went west to El Paso, Texas. The Southwest

Region and Texico conferences hosted training in two churches, with outstanding fellowship.

Arkansas/Louisiana and Southwest Region: In the summer of 2015, the union department joined the Arkansas/Louisiana and the Southwest Region conferences in holding multiple ministries trainings.

Training began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Three churches there became the host churches, providing lunch for those who traveled. Presenters preached in various churches, and on Sunday the Adventist Community Services Department continued a full curriculum and certification training, as well as a children's ministries Vacation Bible School training. Later in the summer similar programs were held in Little Rock, Arkansas, and the year was closed similarly in Northwest Arkansas, again with both conferences participating.

Having union and conference leaders who work together in ministry is a distinguishing blessing of the Southwestern Union. The dedication, expertise, and commitment of leadership is without equal. It's an honor and a joy to serve and be a part of this significant mission of equipping and inspiring God's people in the Southwestern Union territory.

A Glimpse Into Ministry

One of the highlights for church ministries was in the summer of 2014—the union-wide, “Equipped for Ministries Convention” in Frisco, Texas. The training commenced on Thursday night with a children's ministries emphasis.

Speaker Steve Case opened the convention with a stirring message, calling all to action. On Friday certifications were available in the areas of family ministries, children's ministries, community services, personal ministries, and women's ministries. Stirring messages emphasized the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to finish the work.

Keynote speakers were pastors Ernie Castillo, José Cortez Sr., Barry Black, Derek Morris, and Henry Wright. The fellowship, the inspiration, and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit were visibly and notably felt. A special Communion service that celebrated the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus was held, and prayers were offered for healing, blessing, and empowerment. A special anointing service was available to all who asked.

Throughout the weekend the church ministries team was equipping and inspiring God's people to be co-laborers with the Holy Spirit.



Ministerial

The Ministerial Department of the Southwestern Union is poised for the future with four key initiatives listed below in service to our pastors and leaders. The union-wide ministerial session was celebrated January 2012 in Forth Worth, Texas. The theme was “Revive Us Again”, and speakers included Dan Jackson, the late Ron Halvorsen, Sr., Manuel Rodriguez, Ivan Williams, Jose Rojas, Carlton Byrd, Elizabeth Talbot, and George Knight. More than 400 pastors and their families attended. It was a memorable and successful session in service to the union’s excellent pastors and their families. The union looks forward to the next ministerial session, which is planned for August of 2017.

The focus of the Ministerial Department of the Southwestern Union is on spiritually strengthening each individual pastor and their family to meet the unique ministry challenges posed by serving God in midst of a multicultural and religiously diverse society.

While God’s call to the ministry is not for the faint of heart, it also is not a call to stand alone. Mark 6:7 says that Jesus called the 12 disciples to Himself and began sending them out two by two. Jesus’ continuous on-the-job training of His disciples, and His fellowship and camaraderie with them was the source of their spiritual strength, and is what the Ministerial Department seeks to learn from in ministering to its pastors.

In a document entitled, “What is going on with the pastors in America?”, author Richard Krejcir stated, “Statistics say that 60 to 80 percent of those who enter the ministry will not still be in it 10 years later, and only a fraction will stay in it as a lifetime career.... Statistics state that 70 percent of pastors do not have close personal friends, and no one in whom to confide.” (<http://www.lifechristiancounseling.com/pastors/>).

The number one reason for the high rate of dropout is attributed to a feeling of isolation—a feeling, as one pastor put it, “That I stand alone on a tiny island in a sea of evil with no rescue in sight!”

The Ministerial Department of the Southwestern Union, along with the departments of the five local conferences, pledges to overcome the isolation of pastors and their families, and to support them through providing programs and resources to meet their needs. Needs are recognized in four specific areas:

Family: The pastor’s spouse and children are affected by the congregation and surrounding culture of the church to which the pastor is assigned. Programs for ministering to the spouse and children of pastors will be developed.

Stewardship: Each pastor should understand and embrace biblical financial principles in order to maintain a debt-free lifestyle, not only for personal happiness but also as an example to the congregation. Resources will be allocated to promote seminars such as Dave Ramsey, etc., so that all pastors in this union become proficient in money-management techniques.

Continuing Education: Pastors must be equipped with knowledge and skills to deal with the myriad problems found in specific areas within specific cultures. Resources will be provided to ensure that each pastor is prepared to meet the challenges within their area of ministry.

Fellowship: Collegial meetings for the purpose of developing friendships, networking, and participating in problem-solving discussions will be held at regular intervals in each of the five conferences of the Southwestern Union.

The five conferences are already working on some of these areas:

Arkansas/Louisiana Conference equips pastors throughout the year at their workers’ meetings in three areas of the conference. In 2013 and 2014, the ministerial department joined the conference pastors for continuing education in the area of stewardship and redemptive leadership.

Oklahoma Conference provides leadership training, which the union has also participated in, as well as church ministries training for elders, deacons, and deaconesses.



Church Ministries (Continued)

Southwest Region Conference includes pastoral care and development as an integral part of the program, with several ministerial staff members providing service to their eight-territory region.

Texas Conference, divided into 10 areas, has multiple pastoral training sessions throughout the year. Additionally, training has been held for elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

Texico Conference provides multiple meetings entitled, "Excellence in Ministry" and "Pastoral Growth," for their three divisions, and uses multiple gatherings to enhance pastoral fellowship and care.

The Ministerial Department is very thankful for the amazing pastors and their teams in the Southwestern Union, and are determined, by the grace of God, to support them in every possible way.

Men's Ministries

The goal of the Men's Ministries Department is to equip and inspire the local men's ministries leaders with the necessary tools to run a strong men's ministries department. Men's ministries is an integral part of a healthy congregation. Some of the most staggering statistics reveal the fact that when a child comes to the faith, 17 percent of the time the family follows; when the woman comes to the faith, three percent of the time the family follows; but, when the man comes to the faith, 93 percent of the time the family follows.¹

Though it is often overlooked, men's ministries provides the ideal platform for discipleship to occur. Proverbs 27:17 says that as iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another. The Old Testament ends with the words of Malachi 4:5,6, a prophetic warning and charge to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers, lest the Lord will come and strike the land with a curse.

It is undeniable that humankind currently lives in prophetic times. Here are some statistics that show the breakdown of the family, and support this prophecy. These figures pertain to fatherless homes:

- 63 percent of youth suicides
- 90 percent of all runaway and homeless children
- 75 percent of adolescent patients in chemical abuse
- 70 percent of juveniles in state operated institutions
- 85 percent of all youth in prison

¹*Promise Keepers at Work* (Colorado Springs, CO: Focus on the Family, 1996, III).

The Southwestern Union Men's Ministries Department encourages each conference to have a vision for a vibrant men's ministry to be present in each church.

The Men's Ministries Department's theme is based on Ephesians 6, which reminds us that we wrestle not against flesh and blood. Based on this passage a special leadership pin was developed to wear with honor. The pin is a shield with a sword. The shield represents the shield of faith, and the sword represents the Word of God that is given to bless and to edify.

Training

Union-wide certification training sessions were held in 2014, 2015, and 2016. They brought pastors and men's leaders together for three days of intense study, prayer, fellowship, and growth. The certification program includes 10 modules that deal with a man's greatest needs, and has been completed by more than 200 Spanish- and English-speaking men's ministries leaders. After receiving their certificates, they also receive a special pin.

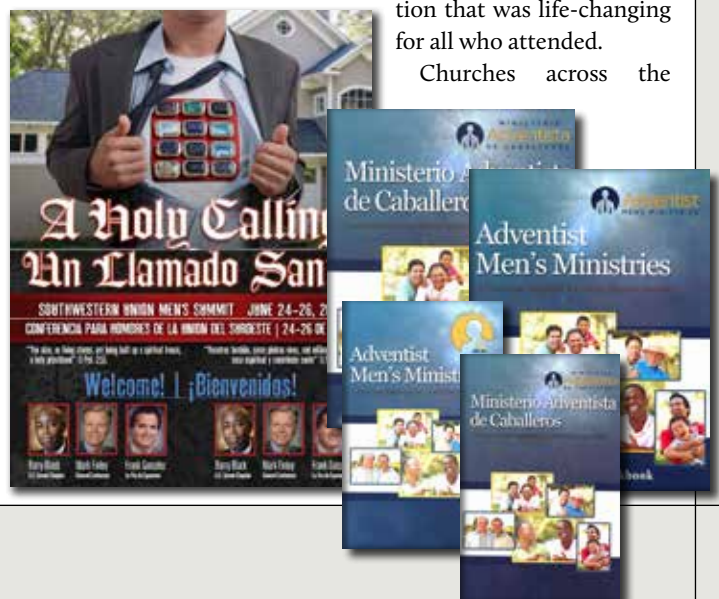
Conventions and Men's Emphasis Sabbaths

In 2013 department staff joined the Southwest Region Conference men's ministries convention at Lone Star camp, studying man's identity as sons of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

In 2014 the Texas Conference held various men's ministries conventions focused on the themes of battle and victory. Approximately 500 hundred men have attended these conventions.

In 2015 the Oklahoma Conference Men's Ministries Department held a Spanish men's convention, a production and convention that was life-changing for all who attended.

Churches across the



union have held special men's emphasis Sabbaths. Each weekend ended with the men restoring and reaffirming their love for God and their families.

It's the SWUC Men's Ministries Department's plan to provide continued certification for local men's ministries leaders, to continue attending and supporting conference conventions, and to encourage the local churches to hold special men's ministries emphasis Sabbaths. By strengthening men, the church is strengthened and this prospers the cause of Christ.

Strength! Honor! Holiness!

Sabbath School

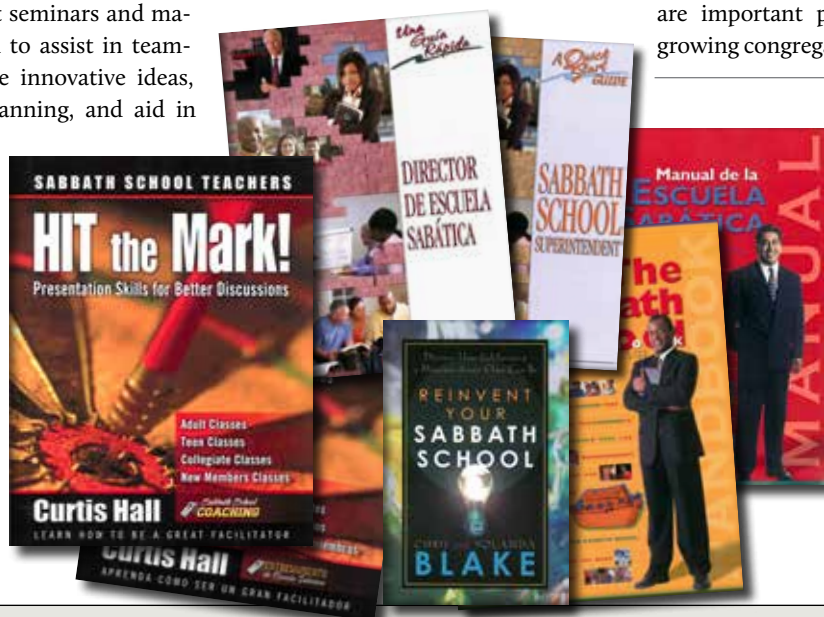
It has been said that Sabbath School is an integral part of a healthy congregation. However, there is a challenge facing many churches. Sabbath School has been diminishing in attendance. For this reason, the Sabbath School Department has made a concerted effort to bring a renewed emphasis to Sabbath School in the Southwestern Union churches.

In September 2013, the North American Division had a virtual festival of the laity to instruct leaders of the world church. This event was one of the largest and most successfully presented by the world church. The Southwestern Union Sabbath School Department was honored to represent the union in this world-wide initiative. In many churches across the Southwestern Union, Sabbath School ministries are thriving.

Seminars and Training

Through this department seminars and materials have been presented to assist in team-building principles, propose innovative ideas, share tools for effective planning, and aid in the direction of Sabbath School Councils. The department is equipping and inspiring Sabbath School leadership with a renewed vision.

The Equipped for Ministries Conference was held in Frisco, Texas, in 2014. Sabbath School seminars were provided, and a seminar was given on how Sabbath School classes can be the church's most ef-



New Leadership

On March 1, 2016, the Southwestern Union officially invited Sonia Cano to lead the union Sabbath School Department. Together with her Children's Ministries leadership, she brings innovative ideas and dynamic energy to this important department. The union welcomes her as the new Sabbath School director.



fective evangelism tool. Using this method, the Sabbath School facilitator can teach prophetic events, opening the door for soul winning in a safe setting. Most importantly, this process naturally assimilates potential members with a network of friends from the class.

In cities such as Albuquerque, New Mexico; El Paso, Texas; Wewoka Woods, Oklahoma; Little Rock, Arkansas; and Baton Rouge, Louisiana, area trainings were held that included new and innovative ways to revamp Sabbath School. Many pastors and Sabbath School leaders expressed gratitude for learning new ways to have a more effective Sabbath School department.

Children's Sabbath School ministries is also an important and integral part of a successful Sabbath School Department. Utilizing every 13th Sabbath as an opportunity for the children's divisions to participate opens the doors for potential members to enter the church doors. Children's ministries and Sabbath School are important parts of a healthy and growing congregation and of evangelism.

Department Staff





Communication

PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION AND HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR, AND ASI EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Communication, Health Ministries, ASI

The Communication Department embraces many categories of services and ministries. Whether producing a monthly magazine and maintaining multiple websites, interacting with the public media, or serving the promotional campaign and project needs of all of the other Southwestern Union Conference departments—communication is an umbrella that covers a diverse and ever-changing field of activities.

Promotional materials

One of the ways Communication serves the departments of the Southwestern Union is by creating promotional materials such as ads, websites, flyers, posters, and carefully-thought-out and constructed promotional campaign packages for events and programs. In each case, the unique needs of the department and their specific project is determined and condensed into an underlying message to make the promotional communication effective.

Events

Some of the biggest events that happen in the Southwestern Union require the greatest time commitment from Communication in order to ensure everything goes smoothly, including details such as online registration, advertisements, social media posts, and stage banners and designs to be displayed at the events themselves. Additionally, communication teams sometimes assist at these events.

The department took on this role in the the following major events in the Southwestern Union over the past five years:

- 2011— “A Holy Calling” Men’s Retreat
- 2012— “Revive Us Again” Ministerial Session
- 2013— “Always in His Presence” Women’s Retreat

General Conference Highlight

With the event requiring lengthy walks in the 100-plus-degree San Antonio heat, the water bottle delegate gift was very much appreciated as a source of hydration, and as a reminder that everyone there is part of a world church. “This is the best event gift I have ever received!” commented one delegate.



- 2014— “Equipped for Ministries” Ministries Convention
- 2015— “Your best Pathway to Health” free health clinic
- 2015— General Conference Session in San Antonio (serving on the media relations team)

General Conference Session

Having the General Conference Session in the Southwestern territory was a unique privilege.

- As the host union, Southwestern was to provide a special gift for the 4,000-plus delegates at the session, and decided on a gift that would be high quality and of practical value, but one that would also help to create awareness of the diverse needs of Adventists around the world. The union 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), and gave each of the session delegates a

The Communication Department planned a well-coordinated marketing and branding campaign for the 2014 Equipped for Ministries convention and subsequent regional training events around the union.



custom-printed 750 ml Camelbak(TM) water bottle, commemorating the ongoing gift of water the wells will provide as a basic necessity of life.

- The Communication Department was also responsible for designing and coordinating a booth for the exhibit hall at the GC Session to represent Southwestern Union, complete with giveaway items such as pens and water bottles, informative handouts, and a collaborative effort with our local conferences—all with the goal of highlighting the Southwestern Union’s statement of mission, diversity, and various ministries and methods of evangelism.

Record

The *Southwestern Union Record* shares stories, ideas, and information from around the Southwestern territory, and is delivered to the household of every church member in the union. In addition to the printed version of the magazine, three digital versions are available in order to make the magazine as accessible and convenient as possible for readers. A mobile-friendly version of the *Record* website was recently developed; it is easy to read on a smart phone and features a quick-access reading menu. In addition to making the *Record* content accessible to as many people as possible, the past five years have focused on providing readers with relevant news of ongoing ministries and activities in the churches throughout the Southwest, as well as inspirational content designed to equip and inspire members for involvement in ministry.

Digital Strategy

As technology changes, so do the ways members get their infor-

mation. Integrating all the existing avenues of digital communication—such as social media in its various forms, e-mail updates, websites, and more—into one comprehensive “digital strategy” has been a focus of the Communication Department. Finding ways of promoting events and reaching people with inspiring stories and breaking news through an ever-expanding list of mediums presents a great challenge and a great opportunity. Whether it’s Facebook posts promoting an upcoming ministries training, a Record Direct e-mail newsletter telling people about a personnel change, or a blog post to inform people of the latest disaster response initiative in our territory, all digital communication is thoughtfully strategized to be as effective as possible at getting the message across.

Mentoring/Interns

Four interns have served over the past few years; three were assisted in getting long-term, steady jobs, and one went on to graduate school. All four interns made significant contributions to the department’s work, including writing and copy-editing articles for the *Record*, creating cover designs and other artwork, organizing website research and development, and helping in the creation of ads and promotional materials for other departments. Additionally, involvement in the hundreds of daily tasks that define a work environment has helped these young individuals adjust from a university lifestyle to the professional world.

Training

The Communication Department seeks to empower local conferences and local church communication leaders by providing high-quality training that will help them in their ministry and work. Such training is provided in several different ways:

- Each year at departmental council, the communication personnel from each of the five local conferences and Southwestern Adventist University is hosted.
- Training occurs at many of the Equipped for Ministries multi-department events held throughout the union.
- Larger training events are held, such as the

Communication directors and staff from the five Southwestern Union conferences meet annually for an advisory and professional development at the Southwestern Union departmental council meetings. During a photography workshop James Bokovoy shows communicators new techniques for using technology to enhance their work.



Communication (Continued)

2014 Equipped for Ministries Convention.

- Training seminars have also been presented for the annual convention of the national Adventist communicator organization, the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC).

National Communication Community

The department has maintained a visible involvement with the larger communication community through leadership, support, training, and hosting of the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC), and by participation in the North American Division's bi-annual communication advisories, which bring together communication leaders from each of the nine unions in North America.

Public Relations

Another role of communication is to guide, assist, and act as a resource for the local conference and union personnel as they interface with the public media:

- In a variety of different contexts over the past five years, the union has been called on to be involved—whether to serve in an advisory role, to help craft press releases and official statements, or to educate those involved on the best communication practices for their particular situation.
- At larger events, such as the 2015 Your best Pathway to Health and General Conference Session, the depart-

ment has helped to generate press coverage beforehand, host media guests, and interact with the press during the events themselves.

- A crisis communication plan has been developed for the Southwestern Union in case of emergency, disaster, etc.; as part of this project, the department has provided critical training to the Southwestern Union administrators on important communication strategies and skills.

Health Ministries

The Southwestern Union Health Ministries Department was formally established in January of 2013. At that time, only two conferences in the union had a director for health ministries, but by the end of 2015 every conference in the Southwestern Union had an appointed health ministries director. During this past quinquennium the department's emphasis has been on whole person health, with the goal of every church becoming a center for health, healing, hope, and wholeness. This was accomplished primarily through two major avenues.

Right: Attendees display the certificates they earned at the 12-hour NAD Health Ministries curriculum training during the 2014 Equipped for Ministries Convention.

Below: Runners prepare to take off at the NAD Flagship Let's Move Day 5K event held in El Paso, Texas, September 20, 2015.



Training

Through the Southwestern Union's Equipped for Ministries initiative, hundreds of church members around the union, in such places as Shreveport, Louisiana; El Paso, Texas; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and others, have participated in the department's three-hour seminar entitled "How to Make Your Church a Center for Health, Hope, and Wholeness." This

training program focuses not only on the pursuit of a healthy lifestyle for church members, but is designed to help church members engage their local communities in the quest for a full and abundant life.

The department has also sponsored other health ministry training programs for church members, including CREATION Health leadership training at Southwestern Adventist University and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, in 2014; CHIP (Complete Health Improvement Program) facilitator training, held in 2014 at the Southwestern Union office; as well as Adventist Recovery Ministries training on the campus Southwestern Adventist University in October 2015.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Adventists In Step for Life (AISFL) is a North American Division initiative that aims to fight childhood obesity, and encourages church members to get physically active as well as establish community gardens and farmers' markets. During the past quinquennium the union has had high participation rates in AISFL activities, with several conferences and the union overall being recognized with awards from the North American Division. For example, in 2013 the Texico Conference logged the highest number of miles in the union, and the Southwestern Union was recognized for innovation in partnerships and had the second highest rates of participation in Let's Move Day events among all nine unions.

In September of 2015 the Southwestern Union was honored to serve as the host union for the NAD's flagship Let's Move Day event, which was held in El Paso, Texas. More than 500 people, more than half of whom were from the community, participated in a 5K run/walk at McKelligon Canyon. Additionally, many churches, schools, and other church organizations in the union host Let's Move Day events, as well as participate in other AISFL activities. During the next quinquennium, the Southwestern Union Health Department aims to track and increase participation rates even further.

A major outreach in 2015 in the Southwestern Union was Your best Pathway to Health, a collaborative effort by Adventist Laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) and numerous other church and organizational entities. Southwestern Union's Health Ministries Department engaged in helping to plan, promote, and support this endeavor.

ASI Southwest Chapter

The Southwestern Union chapter of ASI (Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries), one of nine chapters in the division, is composed of church members who own local businesses or supporting ministries and are actively engaged in supporting the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by "Sharing Christ in the Marketplace." Each year at our chapter convention, a special project offering is collected to help support mission projects around the world and locally that are initiated by a lay member from the Southwestern Union. Over the past five years, approximately \$50,000 has been raised to support a variety of projects that operate overseas in such places as Zambia, the Philippines, and Mexico, as well as several self-supporting schools and ministries located within the union territory.

Members of the Southwest Chapter were actively involved in Your best Pathway to Health, and, as a result, the chapter was inspired to create a small-scale series of health clinics entitled Jumpstart Free Health Clinic (powered by and under the umbrella of Your best Pathway to Health).

The first Jumpstart clinic will be held in Killeen, Texas, July 14-15, 2016, and other small-scale clinics around the union are being planned for the future. The Southwest Chapter of ASI is active and growing, and its members are busily engaged and firmly committed to reaching out to those around them with the good news of the gospel.



The Southwestern Union Health Ministries Department produces *American Indian Living* magazine, which is distributed free of charge to Native people throughout North America.

Department Staff



Jessica Lozano
Associate Director

Reggie Johnson
Assistant Director

Tammy Prieto
Administrative Secretary



Education

RANDY GILLIAM » VICE PRESIDENT FOR EDUCATION

A Christ-centered Educational Program of Excellence

The Office of Education staff strives for excellence for the schools in this union, and includes the following individuals. Mike Furr is the director of Secondary Education. Christine Byrne is the assistant for Early Childhood Education and Care, replacing Carolyn Early who retired from this position in 2014. Betty Trevino recently retired as the Department of Education registrar. Marcella Bayless, administrative secretary, who has served faithfully the educators of this union for nearly 17 years, has assumed responsibilities of the certification registrar. Randy Gilliam is the vice president for Education.

The department's mission statement is "To assist the conferences of the Southwestern Union in providing a Christ-centered educational program of excellence." With the Lord's guidance we daily strive to fulfill this mission.

The motto is "Adventist Education Is Evangelism at its Finest." To that end, statistics report over 700 baptisms from Southwestern Union schools during this past quinquennium. The Lord has indeed blessed.

The Education Advisory has adopted a five-pronged strategic plan with the following goals:

- To increase the number of schools and students enrolled in the Union.
- To have 100 percent of teachers in this union obtain North American Division (NAD) certification.
- To plan and conduct a union-wide teachers' convention.
- To raise the Iowa Assessment scores for each grade level.
- To explore, implement, and improve technology within the schools.

To increase the number of schools and students enrolled in our union—

For the school year 2010-2011 the K-12 enrollment was 3,280. The opening enrollment for the current school year 2015-2016 was 3,435 which shows a 4.5 percent increase. The department is thankful for this modest gain, but prays for even greater increases.

To have 100% of our teachers obtain NAD certification—

At the beginning of the quinquennium we had 82.8 percent of our teachers who held NAD Certification. In January of this year there were 92.8 percent of our teachers who held NAD Certification. This shows a 10 percent increase toward the continued goal.

To plan and conduct a union-wide teachers' convention—

Contracts are signed and dates are set for this to happen August 1-4, 2016 at the La Torretta Lake Resort and Spa in Mont-

gomery, Texas. This will be the first one since the late 1980s. Several speakers have committed to being a part of this convention. From the NAD the vice-president for Education, Larry Blackmer, will have a presentation and Carol Campbell, director of Elementary Education, will be present to introduce a new social studies program for grades 1-8. Larry Moore, president of the Southwestern Union Conference, will be the opening-night speaker. Bill Kilgore, professor of religion at Southwestern Adventist University, will be the morning devotional speaker. Other keynote speakers will include Harry Wong, author of the bestselling book entitled *The First Day of School*; Carla Gober-Park from Loma Linda University; and attorney John Daggett.

To raise the Iowa Assessment scores for each grade level—

The Southwestern Union Conference Iowa Assessment average of the composite average for students in grades 3-10 during the Fall/2015 testing was 56.75 percentile rank. This is above the national average of the 50th percentile, but there is room for improvement. Statistical evidence from the *Cognitive Genesis* report shows that the longer a student is in an Adventist school, the higher they score. This is evidenced by the sophomores' average composite score of a 68th percentile rank on the fall 2015 testing.

To explore, implement, and improve technology within schools—

All of our schools are equipped with computer access. Gone is the day when computers were primarily used for games and entertainment. Schools now use technology for educational planning and student advancement and research.

New Curriculum Adoptions

During this quinquennium several major changes have been made as new curriculum has been developed and adopted:

ByDesign

The North American Division Office of Education invested heavily to produce a Seventh-day Adventist science curriculum in order to advance creation and the Adventist worldview. This series covers science curriculum for grades 1-8. The *ByDesign* curriculum is built on a foundation of inquiry that encourages wonderment, questioning, collaboration, and exploration of multiple resources to conduct research and investigations.

Encounter

Encounter is the new Bible curriculum for grades 1-12. It is currently being used in ninth grade and other grades are being developed. The *Adventist Encounter Curriculum* is a seamless curriculum

that is intentional about exploring big-picture, spiritual concepts with the goal of making a difference for eternity. This curriculum uses the four walls of the classroom to help build a life-long relationship with Jesus Christ, using the Bible as the course of truth. Through rigorous pedagogical practice, it explores and develops personal spiritual experience and reasons for faith, lifestyle choices, and ethical decision making from an Adventist worldview, all the while nurturing interpersonal relationships (the essence of a faithbuilding environment) and service to others. The goal of this curriculum is to capture the heart of each student for Christ and not producing mere head knowledge of biblical facts.

To facilitate the entrance of this curriculum into our schools in the Southwestern Union Conference, the Office of Education sponsored two in-service programs for all teachers who would be using the new *Encounter* materials. Additional in-service programs will be

planned as new grade level materials are implemented.

SWUC Sponsored Summer Workshops

In order to facilitate teacher growth and development, the Southwestern Union Conference Office of Education has sponsored multiple summer workshops for its schools through Southwestern Adventist University.

Writing Workshops developed and presented by Susan Gardner, of the Southwestern Adventist University English Department, were helpful in developing teachers' writing skills. A variety of activities were introduced and practiced so that teachers could remain on the cutting edge in their own classrooms.

A mathematics workshop was also developed and presented to assist classroom teachers with math strategies and skills. An additional seminar focused on ideas for implementing the newly-adopted math curriculum.

Southwestern Union Conference Enrollment 2010-2015

	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Pre-K	0	0	0	0	0	159*
K	223	252	273	261	256	296
1	284	265	281	283	289	252
2	258	295	284	272	288	265
3	271	286	310	281	273	285
4	284	286	311	313	276	278
5	248	344	315	300	323	268
6	285	293	349	314	303	313
7	282	287	318	330	321	281
8	260	303	305	326	335	310
K-8	2,395	2,611	2,746	2,680	2,664	2,548
9	45	70	39	45	43	43
10	54	37	20	21	34	26
K-10	2,494	2,718	2,805	2,746	2,741	2,617
9	173	153	214	183	212	208
10	192	179	217	207	196	220
11	210	185	204	216	197	194
12	210	231	209	198	216	196
Special	1	3	6	0	0	0
9-12	786	751	850	804	821	818
K-12	3,280	3,469	3,655	3,550	3,562	3,594*

*Includes Pre-K

Conclusion

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).

The Southwestern Union Conference schools were established to be a part of this "restoration" of humanity. 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.

Department Staff



Mike Furr

Director of Secondary Education



Christine Byrne

Early Childhood Care and Education Assistant



Marcella Bayless

Administrative Secretary



Evangelism

EDDIE CANALES » VICE PRESIDENT, EVANGELISM, MULTI-ETHNIC MINISTRIES, AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Laboring Together for a Finished Work

A REPORT OF THE EVANGELISM, MULTI-ETHNIC, AND PERSONAL MINISTRIES DEPARTMENTS

The Evangelism Department, Multi-ethnic Department, and Personal Ministries Department work in complement to spread the good news of Christ's salvation, reaching out through a variety of methods.

and small group ministries. In this past quinquennium many committed members have been sharing their faith with others in different forms of personal evangelism in the five conferences of the Southwestern Union Conference territory.

Personal Ministries

The Personal Ministries Department aims to inspire, motivate, and train church members in sharing Jesus with others. The department lives by Matthew 28:19, which says, "Therefore go and make disciples..." Notice that Jesus didn't say, "Go and make church members." He said, "Go and make disciples."

According to Webster's Dictionary a disciple is "one who accepts and helps to promote the teachings of another." That means that once you have accepted Jesus and His teachings, witnessing to others will become important. The focus of the Personal Ministries Department has been on discipleship through community services, personal Bible studies,



Multi-ethnic Ministries

The Multi-ethnic Department is diverse in culture and ministry. Asians, Native Americans, Portuguese, refugees from many countries, and numerous other international and cultural groups comprise this department. Lately, there has been substantial growth among these groups.

Recently the North American Division appointed Rolando Baysa, a pastor in the Houston area, as the Southwestern Union coordinator for Asian Pacific Ministries and coordinator of Adventist Refugee Immigrant Ministries. Also, Fred Rogers, a retired pastor, serves the union as coordinator for Native American Ministries.

Hispanic Ministries in particular is a fast-growing segment of the church. In the past five years, around 13,000 people have been baptized into the church. From 2010 to 2015, this ministry has witnessed growth from 30,000 to 37,000 members. The Hispanic membership worships in 161 churches and 72 companies. Also in the past five years, tithes from Hispanic members has topped \$90 million.

Evangelism

The union is totally committed to supporting local conferences with evangelism. One example of that was the Houston for Christ and San Antonio for Christ evangelistic campaigns. In those cities hundreds of people were baptized as a result of the evangelistic efforts and active participation of hundreds of church members. Through those efforts many lives have been changed.

As the union moves forward to the new quinquennium, the Evangelism, Multi-ethnic, and Personal Ministries departments will put greater emphasis on public and personal evangelism. These ministries envision pastors and lay members working together, in communities and neighborhoods, to fulfill the mission the Lord Jesus gave the church.

The greatest years for soul-winning are still ahead!

Department Staff



Tammy Prieto
Administrative Secretary

A Personal Story of Evangelism

Behind every decision for baptism there is a story. One of them is Julia. About five years ago, 40 evangelistic campaigns were held in Veracruz, Mexico. Academy students (who did most of the preaching), Pathfinders, pastors, and lay people participated.

On the way there they noticed that there were 40 sites that needed preachers—but only 39 preachers. That's when someone asked Julia, "Are you willing to preach a series of meetings?" She answered, "I came to support my sister, Kelly, who is to preach in one of the sites, but if you give me the materials, I am willing to preach." Julia loaded the sermons onto her computer and began studying them.

This is what you should know about Julia: She grew up in Houston in a dysfunctional home. When she was a child, her father abandoned the family. Her mother did the best she could to provide for the family, but when Julia turned 13 years of age, she got involved with the wrong crowd. Soon she was drinking alcohol, and later she experimented with marijuana and, finally, cocaine.

By this time her sister, Kelly, had met a Seventh-day Adventist family. She began attending church, and soon she embraced the Adventist doctrine and accepted Jesus through baptism. She shared her faith with Julia, but she wasn't interested. She was pursuing other things in life. But, something happened on January 1 of that year that changed her life forever.

Julia was driving home on the highway from a New Year's party in the early hours of the morning, when one of the car wheels exploded and she had a dramatic accident, crashing into another car. She was transported to the hospital unconscious, and her family was told she had brain injuries and might not come out of the coma. But, there was Kelly, praying for Julia, asking God to give her a second chance. Suddenly, Julia reacted. She recognized the miracle God had done for her. At the end of January, she was out of the hospital, and she started attending church in early February. She had attended church for only four Sabbaths when the mission trip came.

In Veracruz, Julia ended up assigned to a new church plant with about 30 members—but in one of the worst neighborhoods of the city. God used her very powerfully. After the third night of meetings, she had an attendance of about 100 people. The night they were to make the call for baptism, they were given a sheet to write down the names of those who would decide to be baptized. The next morning, Julia came to our meeting with her list. "Julia, your name goes under preacher, not under candidate for baptism!" She replied, "I am going to be baptized, also." And then, she shared her testimony. The whole group had the joy of witnessing Julia's baptism that Sabbath morning in El Toro River. And, another 500 people, from the 40 meetings, were also baptized that morning.



Family Ministries

BUFORD AND CARMEN GRIFFITH, JR. » FAMILY MINISTRIES DIRECTOR AND CO-DIRECTOR

Strengthening Families, Fortifying the Church

Relationships require nurture. During the past five years it has been the goal of the Family Ministries Department of the Southwestern Union Conference to encourage churches and individuals to create safe environments for families to thrive and survive in a world where the family unit is under attack by the enemy.

In times of family disruption and breakdown, the need to minister to families becomes an increasingly important, ongoing ministry in the local church. The Family Ministries Department purposes to educate, train, and equip local family ministries leaders to address the needs of families—in and out of the church. A vibrant Family Ministries Department in the local church can and should be an effective evangelistic arm of that church. The union Family Ministries Department strives to assist the local church through a variety of methods.

Counseling and Training

- The Family Ministries Department addresses the issues involved in marriage, parenting, domestic violence, family finances, and conflict resolution, just to name a few. The department also offers, as a part of the ministry, pre-marital, marital, and family counseling at no cost to those who are in need of such help.
- Education, training, and equipping those who have an interest and passion for family ministries has been accomplished in area training workshops, in local churches, and via union-wide ministries conventions.

A certification track is offered for laypersons to become certified lay family ministries coordinators. The purpose of the certification is to expand the understanding of all that is involved in family ministries. The individual seeking certification must attend 10 hours of lectures, conduct a weekend family ministries event in their local church, and read the list of required books and articles dealing with various aspects of family ministries.

Marriage Retreats

- These retreats are conducted at the request of local church family ministries coordinators and local conference directors of family ministries. The retreats are held in a hotel or resort scheduled by the local church or conference leadership.
- In the past five years marriage retreats have been conducted in all five conferences within the Southwestern Union.
- By invitation, the Southwestern Union Conference director

and co-director have conducted several marriage and family retreats and/or week-long series outside of the Southwestern Union for the following sister conferences or divisions:

- Michigan Conference
- South Central Conference
- South England Conference camp meeting, held in North Wales

Family Ministries Weekends

- Over the past five years, an average of 25 to 30 Family Ministries Weekends were conducted per year, encompassing the conferences in the Southwestern Union territory.
- Family Ministries Weekend involves the entire church membership, and deals with various topics affecting the family unit:
 - Marital issues (The weekend begins with issues related to married, engaged, or soon-to-be-engaged couples and is restricted, meaning no children are allowed in this segment of the weekend, which begins on Friday evenings.)
 - Parenting issues
 - Effective communication in the family
 - Singles ministries



He Said, She Said

- This is an interactive workshop that deals with issues related to men and women.
- The first hour-and-a-half of the program separates the men and women to discuss issues related to both genders.
- The second hour-and-a-half brings both groups together to collectively discuss the common issues examined in the separate groups.
- Purpose: To understand and learn to appreciate the differences between men and women and how they relate to the opposite sex, based on God's plan for both.

Family ministries is a vital arm of the local church. It is an exciting ministry, and it is a privilege and honor for Southwestern's Family Ministries Department to serve the constituents of the union in this capacity.

Department Staff



Neyra Greenidge
Administrative Assistant

Women's Ministries

CARMEN M. FUENTES-GRIFFITH » WOMEN'S MINISTRIES AND MINISTERIAL SPOUSES DIRECTOR

The Woman's Discipleship Journey

As always, the vision of Women's Ministries has been to encourage, equip, promote, and challenge Adventist women in their journey as disciples of Jesus Christ and members of His church. The department also wants to bring women's unique perspectives to the issues facing the church. The mission is to model Jesus Christ through meaningful relationships and effective ministries, empowering women to use their God-given gifts and talents to finish the work.

Evangelism and Bible Study

During this past quinquennium, Southwestern Union women were involved in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ. They were instrumental in reclaiming over 50 women who had left the church for different reasons. Women conducted Weeks of Prayer and evangelistic meetings, and just reached out. During this reclaiming time, many of them used the Heart Call method. In order to keep these returning women, their felt needs were ministered to, and they were trained to become active, productive members.

The evangelistic series conducted by women used the Share Him model of evangelism. With the help of Duane and Kathy McKee, many women preached in evangelistic meetings in the Dominican Republic, Africa, and the Philippines. In all they were instrumental in the baptism of more than 1,200 individuals abroad, as well as more than 200 in the North American Division.

- Bible studies have been ongoing; the women used Carla Gober's "Bible Women" studies, and Elizabeth Talbot's "Surprised by Love—Soprendidos por Amor" Bible series.

Training for Service

- Women have been trained in leadership, with more than 1,200 becoming certified.
- Every conference in the union held a retreat, and not only nurtured their women into becoming more involved with evangelism, but also to reach out to those women who needed tender, loving care.
- Many churches reached out to shelters where women and their children went to escape abuse. Not only were the women's needs tended to, but also their children's.
- Suicide prevention programs are training young women for leadership, now and in the future.

Women's Ministries Convention

In 2013 the union-wide Women's Ministries Convention, "In His Presence—En Su Presencia" was held in Frisco, Texas. More than 900 women attended. During the convention women were trained in how to do evangelism, and how to implement abuse prevention in their churches. There were also tracks for teens and ministerial spouses. A future convention is planned for Frisco in 2018.

None of this could have been possible without the direction of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, and the power of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, the dedicated conference Women's Ministries leadership—Cheryl Allgood, Ana Alvarez, Rose Carr, Bezaida Castro, Linda Francisco, Melody Radde, Sandy Reyes, and Roxanne Smythe—were willing to roll up their sleeves and motivate and train the women of the Southwestern Union Conference into finishing the work, and hearing Jesus say, "Well done, my good and faithful servant."

Local Conference Women's Ministries Leadership



Department Staff



In mid-November 2015 Carmen Griffith was appointed as Ministerial Spouses director, replacing Kathy McKee, who accepted a new position at the General Conference following the 2015 GC Session.



Stewardship

BY MINNER LABRADOR » STEWARDSHIP DIRECTOR

Living in Harmony with God's Stewardship Principles

The mission of the Stewardship Ministries Department of the Southwestern Union is to equip, inspire, and provide resources for the local conferences and constituent churches. With the help of the dedicated conference stewardship directors, there has been a steady growth in tithe over the past five years, increasing by 16.8 percent, or an average of 3.4 percent yearly.

Creating Financial Independence

The department has created and promoted a 10-part seminar series, "From His Hands to Mine," which teaches 10 biblical principles that lead to financial independence through the Word of God. Over the past several years, this series has been presented across each conference. Pastors and their churches have enthusiastically embraced these biblical stewardship principles. A favorite part of this seminar is the question-and-answer section at the end of each

seminar. Questions range from tithe distribution to church organizational structure. Positive changes occur instantly when members better understand these principles.

Training and Seminars

A highlight of 2014 included local church Stewardship Emphasis Sabbaths. The Texico Conference's El Paso Central church, under the direction of its pastoral and stewardship team, held a Stewardship Emphasis Sabbath. Several newly-baptized members attended, learning not only about the benefits of being financially blessed and living debt free, but also about the church administrative structure and tithe distribution.

Stewardship seminars were presented at the Texas Conference leadership weekends in Weslaco, Texas, and the Oklahoma Conference training in Wewoka Woods, Oklahoma.

The union-wide Equipped for Ministries Convention was held in the summer of 2014. John Mathews from the North American Division presented the stewardship seminars. Additionally, resources were provided to the local conferences. Materials were sent directly to pastors and their churches, including the NAD Video Offering Appeals that are available on DVD and online for churches that have Internet capability.

Stewardship Certification

The Southwestern Union and the conference stewardship directors will be presenting the first union-wide stewardship certification program in February 2017. This will certify pastors and stewardship directors in the area of stewardship.

Keep watch for the next stewardship ministries presentation coming to your area.

It's a wonderful time to affirm and reaffirm living in harmony with God's stewardship principles. It's from His hands that all good things are received.

Department Staff



Evelyn Labrador
Administrative Secretary



Memorable Moment

A surprising event involving the "From His Hands to Mine" series took place in 2014 in Houston, Texas. An afternoon seminar was planned with the expectation of a dozen people attending. Remarkably, more than 200 members and guests arrived to hear what God's Word says about financial independence. It was an amazing and blessed Sabbath!



Planned Giving & Trust Services

BY JOHN PAGE » SOUTHWEST ESTATE SERVICES TREASURER



Serving Our Members

Southwest Estate Services, Inc. (SES), is the corporation that the Southwestern Union Conference uses to hold assets for the Planned Giving and Trust Department. The department's role is to serve the constituents of SWUC, Southwestern Adventist University, and the local conference employees.

Highlights at a Glance

- Wrote wills, trusts, and charitable gift annuities for members
- Oversaw 76 gift annuities worth \$3.7 million
- Oversaw seven irrevocable charitable trusts worth \$1 million
- Distributed \$2.36 million to conferences and SWAU
- Provided continuing education to conference employees
- Maintained level "A" accreditation

more than \$2.36 million to the conferences and to Southwestern Adventist University.

SES continues to assist church members by writing wills, trusts, and char-

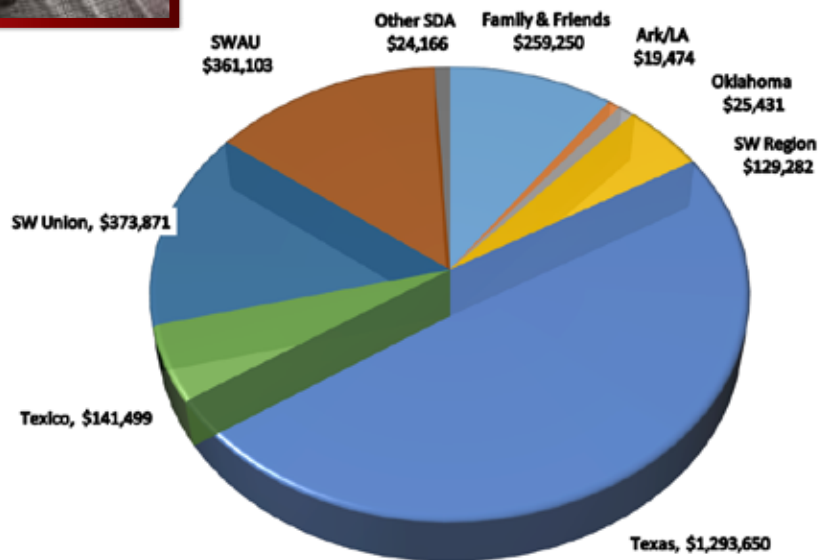
itable gift annuities. SES has been under a level "A" accreditation for the five-year period. The General Conference Auditing Service audits procedures and performance to assure that the department complies with the standards voted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Level "A" accreditation is the highest given, and the Planned Giving and Trust Department is proud of this achievement and works hard to maintain this level to give its constituency members the best service possible. The department also thanks Joel Wallace and Harvey Byram for their service with Southwest Estate Service, Inc., during the past five years.

Planned Giving and Trust Services thanks its members for the trust they have placed in this department through the preparation of their charitable trusts and gift annuity agreements.



Each certified trust person must have 60 hours of classroom training every three years. This past year all personnel were encouraged to attend the North American Division Planned Giving and Trust Services Conference, which provided them with in-depth training and the opportunity to network with other church leaders.

SES holds the assets for certain charitable trusts and charitable gift annuities. Currently, there are 76 gift annuities valued at more than \$3.7 million, and seven irrevocable charitable trusts worth nearly \$1 million. The local conferences, as well as Southwestern Adventist University, are the beneficiaries of most of these charitable giving instruments. Over the past five-year period, the department was blessed to distribute





Young Adult/Youth Ministries

HELVIS C. MOODY » YOUNG ADULT/YOUTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Re-launched and Ready to Go

The Young Adult/Youth Department was officially re-launched in the Southwestern Union Conference on October 1, 2014, renewing its vision and mission, and remembering the words of Ellen G. White, who said: “With such an army of youth rightly trained...”

Vision: “To impact the lives of everyone spiritually.”

Mission: “To equip and inspire the Southwestern territory with the distinctive, Christ-centered Seventh-day Adventist message of hope and wholeness.”

The first union function was the Young Adult Ski Retreat in Taos, New Mexico, February 5-8, 2015. Young adults were invited to play in the snow and learn about what God has planned for their lives in a fulfilling long weekend. Numerous activities have followed to enrich the lives of young adults and youth.

Purity Conference

The first Purity Conference was held at the Grace Temple church in Fort Worth, Texas, on February 14, 2015. More than 300 young adults learned God’s plan for everyone to be blessed with a pure lifestyle. A second Purity Conference was held in August 2015 in Houston, and a third took place in Keene on February 11-13, 2016, on the campus of Southwestern Adventist University at the Keene church.

March Against Sex Trafficking

During Spring Break in San Antonio a mission trip within the union brought attention to human sex trafficking, bringing awareness to youth and young adults to take an active role in standing up for what’s right.

Union Pathfinder Bible Experience

The union-level Pathfinder Bible Achievement was held in San Antonio. Thirty-seven teams participated, of which 24 went on to the division program — 16 placing first, and eight placing second.

Club ministries are strong in the Southwestern Union:

Adventurers

- Texas: 130 clubs, 2,900 members
- Texico: 18 clubs, 250 members
- Southwest Region: 15 clubs, 250 members

- Oklahoma: 19 clubs, 275 members
- Arkansas/Louisiana: 15 clubs, 250 members

Pathfinders

- Texas: 120 clubs, 3,152 members
- Texico: 18 clubs, 400 members
- Southwest Region: 48 clubs, 475 members
- Oklahoma: 24 clubs, 372 members
- Arkansas/Louisiana: 18 clubs, 350 members

Master Guides

- Texas: 53 clubs, 850 Master Guides
- Texico: 40 Master Guides
- Southwest Region: 2 clubs, 25 Master Guides
- Oklahoma: 60 Master Guides
- Arkansas: 25 active Master Guides

Plans for the Union Pathfinder Camporee started in February 2015. More than 4,000 young people will be hosted at Lake Whitney Ranch, October 13-16, 2016, with the theme “Stand Firm.”



General Conference Session

Impact San Antonio: During summer 2015 the union teamed up with the General Conference and North American Division Young Adult departments to host "Impact San Antonio," providing lodging and transportation for people from all over the world during GC Session, and reaching out to people in the streets.

Summer Day Camp: The department put on a Summer Day Camp for the many kids who attended GC. Parents could drop off their children while they went to the business meetings. Each day camp morning started with a devotion, and then a fun activity in San Antonio.

Tour de Youth

The Tour De Youth in 2015 had a group of 16 riders who rode from Dallas to San Antonio, raising funds to help send kids to summer camp.

Campus Catalyst

Young adult ministries is heavily involved in campus ministries on the campuses of secular universities. The department challenged each conference to start at least one campus ministry. There were at least four new campus ministries initiated in the Southwestern Union in 2015. The next Campus Catalyst will be held in May 2016 in Houston.

Young Adult Summer Retreat

The first Young Adult Summer Retreat was held at Camp Yorktown Bay at the end of summer camp. The young adults in attendance were rejuvenated after spending so much of their energy giving of themselves all summer at the various summer camps throughout the union.

Cowboy & Biker Camp

The group at Cowboy & Biker Camp had a great time at Lone Star Camp in October 2015. Motorcycle ministry leaders shared how they witness for Christ out on the streets and through biker events throughout the union.

2Pray Initiative

The Southwestern Union Young Adult/Youth Ministries Department partners with the North American Division through the 2Pray Initiative, which encourages local churches to engage in prayer conferences for and with their youth. We believe strongly in the power of prayer and it is our desire for every youth and young adult to be impacted by this initiative.

Department Staff



Suzanna Facundo
Administrative Secretary

Other Staff

Information Technology Services (ITS)



Jerrilynn Bicek Director
Sonnett Petterson Associate Director
Nathan Seery Assistant Director
Rob Dyke Assistant Director

Adventist Community Services and Disaster Response



Joe Watts
Director

Maintenance Department



Tim Arkusinski Director
John Tubbs Maintenance

Receptionists



Marilyn Wallace Receptionist
Dana Gilliam Receptionist

A Note from the President

To all the Southwestern Union staff who have helped make the last five years successful, we say "Thank you." Your hard work and dedication are a big part of the reason why our union continues to grow and prosper.

Larry R. Moore



Southwestern Adventist

KEN SHAW » SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

Southwestern Adventist University: Building Knowledge, Increasing Faith, and Providing Service

Southwestern Adventist University has seen many changes over the past five years, including new leadership, enrollment growth, new programs, campus renovations, and increased student retention. Even as this article reflects on the changes and growth of the past five years, the university spent much of last year preparing for the next five years. A new five-year strategic plan was implemented with the tagline of *Knowledge, Faith, Service*. The elements of the tagline provide the overarching framework of the strategic plan: Build Knowledge, Increase Faith, and Provide Service.

Academics

Academic administration has focused on three key initiatives over the past five years—increasing student success, recruiting exceptional faculty, and creating collaborative relationships with other Adventist institutions.

Success: Student success is now supported by the Center for Academic Success and Advising, as well as the Summer Bridge program aimed at getting students ready for college. The Nursing Department has enhanced virtual training for their students through the new Simulation Center. A new A.A.S. degree in Fire Science prepares students for a career of service in just two years.

Faculty: Nearly 20 new faculty have been hired with expertise in nursing, biology, communication, and other fields.

Collaboration: The creation of the Adventist Education Alliance with Union College and Southern Adventist University has allowed Southwestern Adventist University to expand its course offerings and increase student engagement. Delivered via state-of-the-art technology, these real-time courses give students the opportunity to learn from some of the best scholars in the Adventist Church.

Enrollment

The process of recruitment and admissions has been improved

over the past five years in order to increase and maintain enrollment growth. Several strategies were implemented to increase enrollment, the caliber of student admitted, and the retention of students.

The Admissions Department and Recruitment Office were joined to provide seamless interactions to prospective students. A pattern of student-friendly service emerged. New recruiting materials were developed using the theme of “I am Southwestern.”

With a revitalized database of more than 33,000 Adventist students, there is an increased awareness of Southwestern Adventist University. The freshman class size grew by more than 40 students, and



the retention rate increased by 10 percent to 72 percent, placing the university above the national average of 66 percent within the Carnegie category.

Finances

Southwestern Adventist University is focused on building a strong financial base. During this five-year period, net assets have increased by \$6,280,000, a 22 percent gain. Unallocated net worth increased to \$2,342,250, or 513 percent.

The endowment fund is used to provide scholarships and operating income for the university. The endowment fund’s restricted

assets have grown by \$2,832,000 over the five-year period, or a gain of 45 percent. The income on these funds has assisted hundreds of students to fund their education, funded the expenses of a chairman of one of the departments, and provided funds for professional improvement for the instructors.

The university's cash-on-hand has increased to \$8,006,363 from \$3,577,246. This increase is due to operating gains and also due to the capital campaign to raise funds for a new Nursing and Administration Building. The total days of cash-on-hand ended the period at 168 days, up from 76 days just five years ago.

The large capital improvements over this period were a new gymnasium wood floor; new student center; the outdoor campus center; new dinosaur museum under construction in Scales; and building interior improvements for Barron, Findley, Hagen, and Scales halls.

Spiritual Life

The Spiritual Life and Development Office team is tasked with helping students, staff, and faculty build their spiritual knowledge, develop practical faith, and be actively involved in service for others—both on and off campus.

Spiritual knowledge has been enhanced by Friday-night worship, 12 to 15 small groups, and personal Bible studies. A partnership in ministry with local churches has helped to develop faith, and a renewed focus on community service opportunities and mission service has encouraged active service.

Twenty-five students have been baptized. Hundreds of students have served as task force workers or student missionaries; in the weekly community service projects; or on one or more of the multiple mission trips which have taken faculty and students to the Navajo Nation, San Antonio, Brazil, Colombia, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic, and Peru.

Student Services

Student Services has taken on new responsibilities to improve the students' overall experience, such as the intramural and intercollegiate sports program, Food Services, and the assembly programming. Student Services has initiated renovations, added additional staff, and worked to polish the amenities and facilities provided by Food Services. The attention to these services has helped increase student retention. The residence halls have seen an increase in population, with the men's halls increasing from 125 to 160 residents, and

the women's halls increasing from 176 to 210.

In addition to the gymnasium floor and new student center, the Student Association offices, cafeteria dining and service areas, and portions of the residence halls were also renovated. Food Service extended the hours of operation, revised the meal plan options to better cover students needs, and began a tray-less dining service. The resulting savings in food, energy, and water costs created a 17 percent net gain for the department.

University Advancement

With the implementation of new strategies and the increased involvement of the University President in fundraising, an upward trend began in July 2014. The value of annual fund gifts has increased, we have surpassed our event fundraising goals, and we have already surpassed last year's total fundraising.

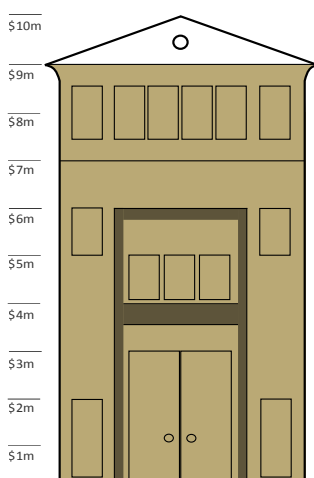
The \$10 million campaign goal for a Nursing and Administration building is within reach. Our strategy involves acquiring

Item	2011 - 2012	2012 - 2013	2013 - 2014	2014 - 2015	2015 - 2016
TOTAL GIFTS	\$1,169,361	\$931,948	\$872,082	\$3,852,294	\$5,750,000

major gifts, submitting grant proposals to charitable entities, extending alumni the opportunity to contribute, and using digital mediums to increase support and awareness. We recently received the \$2,000,000 matching gift and an additional \$500,000 from the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. To obtain a \$1 million challenge grant from the Mabee Foundation, the University needed to reach a balance of \$8,000,000 by April 15. With a groundswell of support from hundreds of friends, alumni, students, church family, and by God's gracious provisions, we were able to reach this milestone, bringing the total for the

campaign to \$9 million or 90 percent of the total campaign. We are thankful to our Board of Trustees, who have all given to the campaign, and to the many alumni, faculty, staff, and friends who have assisted us with our need to construct this new facility.

— **Final Goal** - \$10 million
 — **Funds Received!** - \$9 million



Conclusion

God continues to bless Southwestern Adventist University! The University requests the continued support and prayers from the constituents of the Southwestern Union.



Adventist Health System

DONALD JERNIGAN » ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM PRESIDENT

Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ

Adventist Health System (AHS) hospitals in the Southwestern Union Conference are united in their commitment to meet the healthcare needs of their communities while accomplishing their greater mission, which drives every action and every decision.

Patient-centered Medical Care of the Highest Quality

“Heal the sick who are there and tell them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you’” (Luke 10:9).

Patients are promised that in whichever facility they visit, they will receive the highest quality and safest care. New developments and growth can be seen in each hospital to meet the ever-changing, growing, and challenging health care needs of their areas. Here is a quick recap of recent highlights of each facility:

- **Central Texas Medical Center** (CTMC) in San Marcos recently began offering a life-saving procedure that dissolves blood clots in the vascular system, treating pulmonary embolism, deep vein thrombosis, and peripheral arterial occlusion. New key personnel, including the CEO, CNO, a pulmonologist, and a night-shift hospitalist, are focused on improving care for patients.
- **Metroplex Hospital** in Killeen celebrated its recognition in 2015 as a Top Performer on Key Quality Measures® by the Joint Commission, and its “A” grade by the Leapfrog Group for Hospital Safety.
- **Rollins Brook Community Hospital** in Lampasas has met success in both clinical quality and patient satisfaction measures. The 25-bed hospital was recently named as one of the top 24 rural hospitals by the Leapfrog Group, and earned an outstanding Patient Experience Award by Healthgrades.
- **Texas Health Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South** has undergone more than two years of construction, and will open a new patient tower in 2016, providing a beautiful healing sanctuary for its patients. The hospital has certifications in trauma, orthopedics, and advanced inpatient diabetes.

Involvement in the Community

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me’” (Matthew 25:40).

From education classes to health screenings, AHS hospitals in Texas stay active and involved in the community. Last year, CTMC assisted with the Your best Pathway to Health event, organized by Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) and serving more than 6,000 indigent and working poor in San Antonio.

The hospitals’ commitment to the community is also demonstrated by their sustained activities, making the hospitals trusted health partners on which the population can rely. This year marks the 20th year (and third bus) for the Texas Health Huguley Mobile Health Services program. The 43-foot bus makes ten regular monthly stops in the surrounding counties to bring health services to those unable to access healthcare due to a lack of transportation or adequate financial resources.

Although much of the community involvement revolves around wellness, at various times of the year the hospitals conduct drives for school supplies, toiletries, disaster relief supplies, or children’s toys. In November 2015 Texas Health Huguley shipped almost 750 shoebox gifts to children around the world through Operation Christmas Child.

CREATION Health

In John 10:10, Jesus promises, *“I have come that they might have life, and have it abundantly.”*

Based on the first chapters of Genesis, CREATION Health out-



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



**Metroplex Hospital,
Killeen, Tex.**



**Rollins Brook
Community Hospital**



**Texas Health Huguley Hospital
Fort Worth South**

lines eight universal truths to help achieve total person wellness—physically, spiritually, and mentally. The faith-based wellness plan teaches that lasting change is made in small steps, according to the CREATION acronym:

- Choice
- Rest
- Environment
- Activity
- Trust
- Interpersonal Relationships
- Outlook
- Nutrition

The lifestyle espoused by this program embodies the principles of health that Adventist hospitals have promoted for more than 100 years. AHS hospitals in the Southwestern Union have implemented CREATION Health to bring wellness to both employees and the community.

Looking Ahead

- **Metroplex Hospital**, along with ASI, the Southwestern Union, and churches, will play a major role in the Jumpstart Free Health Clinic (powered by Your best Pathway to Health) in Killeen, Texas, this July, offering two days of free dental, vision, and medical care—even including surgery if needed. Additionally, it is opening a new heart and vascular center in late summer 2016 that will expand capacity with a third heart catheterization lab.
- In spring of 2016, **Central Texas Medical Center** expects almost 2,000 people to attend its 30th annual Health Check, with free and reduced cost screenings, demos and clinical lectures.
- **Texas Health Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South** hopes to attain additional certifications in stroke and chest pain this year.

the fullest, they are better able to extend the healing ministry of Christ to others.

Examples of how CREATION Health principles are enacted at each hospital are numerous. One of many examples is Metroplex Hospital, which sponsors a farmer’s market in its parking lot to encourage good nutrition choices. And, at Texas Health Huguley Hospital, the lab’s CREATION Health coach leads the team in morning and afternoon stretches to work some activity into the day.

The Mission

“And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).

The mission of AHS hospitals, to extend the healing ministry of Christ, neither begins nor ends with patient care—starting IVs, reading imaging studies, performing surgery, and all the processes of modern health care. The mission begins with the motivation to show people there is a God who loves them through words, attitudes, and actions. The AHS family continually strives to provide the growing community with the best and safest healthcare to demonstrate that, no matter who you are or what you have done, God is present, He loves you, and He has the best plan for your life. Each person is served as if they were the one who is loved the most.

The mission does not end, but it is sure of being accomplished when each AHS hospital has become their community’s most trusted healthcare partner for life. Adventist Health System prays that these efforts will bring glory to God and healing to his people.



To help the population change lives most effectively, the hospitals first implemented CREATION Health with their employees so they would develop personal enthusiasm for wellness and whole person care. The idea is that when the health care team can fulfill God’s original plan for each life, which is to live life to



Carlyle Watson
Metroplex Hospital
President/CEO



Ken Finch
Texas Health Huguley
President/CEO



Anthony Stahl
Central Texas Medical
Center CEO



Ashley Underwood
Rollins Brook Community
Hospital Administrator

Classified Ads

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

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

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Union College seeks committed Adventist Social Work Program Director effective January 2017. Essential qualifications include an MSW (relevant doctorate preferred), and two years' professional social work experience. Successful teaching also valued. E-mail letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dewhite@ucollege.edu.

Math & Physical Sciences Department at Southwestern Adventist University is seeking a highly motivated individual to teach a combination of statistics, upper-level mathematics and/or general physics. Doctoral degree preferred; master's degree considered. Send CV and copy of transcripts to Dr. Amy Rosenthal (arosenhal@swau.edu).

Southwestern Adventist University seeks qualified professional to serve the Department of Music as Director of Orchestral Studies. Responsibilities include teaching keyboard, theory and church music classes. Preferred candidate will hold a doctoral degree, be an accomplished string performer, and have professional experience as a conductor. Send CV and cover letter to Mr. Jonathan Wall at jwall@swau.edu.

Andrews University seeks Provost: The provost is the second officer of the University who also serves as the Chief Academic Officer and reports to the President. The combined primary functions of the Provost serve to ensure that relevant university activities contribute to the fulfillment of the University's mission. As Chief Academic Officer, the Provost carries broad responsibility for the University's academic programs, goals and excellence. In the absence of the President, the Provost also serves as Chief Executive Officer. Qualifications include, but are not limited to: PhD or other doc-



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toral level qualification. Successful track record of leadership in higher education administration, preferably in North America. For more information or to apply, visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/983>.

Andrews University seeks Asst/Assoc/Full Professor of Social Work. This full-time faculty position will teach graduate-level clinical practice courses, with particular expertise in advanced assessment/diagnosis, marriage and family therapy, evidence-based practices, and treatment of adult mental disorders. Responsibilities include teaching BSW and MSW courses, conducting research, and providing academic advising and service to the department, University, and surrounding community. Other responsibilities include recruiting students, participating on committees, conducting site visits at internship sites, and participating in student activities. For more information and to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/970>.

Andrews University seeks Assistant or Associate Professor of Maternal-Child Nursing (OB). Full-time position who will be responsible for teaching OB or maternal/child theory and clinical nursing, along with other applicable nursing courses to make a full-time position. Qualifications include, but are not limited to: BS in Nursing, Doctorate or Masters in Nursing, at least 2 years current work experience in Maternal-Child or OB nursing, and formal teaching experience is preferred. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/973>.

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at La Sierra University invites applications for a full-time, tenure track faculty position. Applicants must hold a PhD degree with

Curriculum and Instruction as the preferred specialization, and must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting; be a member of the Seventh-day Adventist church; and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at <https://goo.gl/sHijbX>.

Andrews University seeks Course Manager. The Course Manager is responsible for overseeing the online course production and delivery process from start to finish, working closely with the Associate Dean for Higher Education, the Instructional Designer, faculty, and editors to ensure a smooth process, a quality product, and efficient contract and pay support for adjunct online faculty. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/987>.

Pacific Union College is seeking Nursing Faculty positions for Full Time and Adjunct status in the Nursing and Health Sciences Department. Ideal candidate will possess a master's degree in nursing or related field, current RN license, and meet CA BRN eligibility requirements. For more information or to apply, call 707.965.6231 or visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings>.

Andrews University seeks Assistant/Associate/Full Professor of Physical Therapy. This position holds a faculty appointment in the PT department and has teaching, advising, service, scholarship and administrative responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Physical Therapy Department. We are seeking a qualified candidate to teach in their area of expertise, for example: cardiovascular/pulmonary, musculoskeletal, neuromuscular etc. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/991>.

[edu/admres/jobs/991](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/991).

Andrews University Seeks Faculty-Public Health/Wellness. The BSPH Director/MPH Faculty will be responsible for providing solid leadership and direction for the BSPH program; implementing and evaluating the program with an emphasis on measuring outcomes using data and best practices; regularly prioritizing pragmatic objectives and activities; teaching MPH courses as assigned. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/994>.

Union College seeks committed Adventist to establish and direct an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program effective July 2016. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in Occupational Therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience. E-mail letter of interest and C.V. to Rick

Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, r2young@college.edu.

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Announcements

Springdale Church Celebrates 130 Years: The Springdale, Arkansas, church is celebrating its 130-year anniversary on May 21, 2016. The church, the oldest Seventh-day Adventist church in Arkansas, was established in January of 1885. Several former

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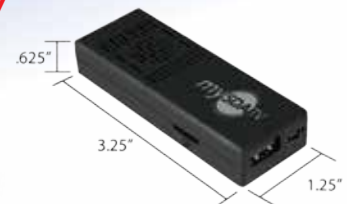
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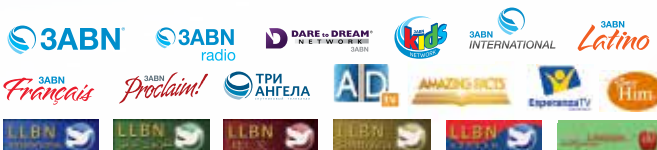
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pastors will be in attendance during the worship service, which begins at 10:30 a.m. Guest speaker: Steve Orian. A historic display will be in the foyer. Lunch will be served. An exciting discussion of God's 130 years of faithfulness in Springdale will take place at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome.

Madison College Alumni Homecoming is June 24–26, 2016, on the Madison Academy campus. All graduates, attendees, and friends are invited. Contact: Jim Culpepper, Exec. Sec./Treasurer at 615.415.1925



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Austin/San Antonio/Valley Route

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

	Monday, May 16	Arrive	Depart
Georgetown, TX	5105 S I-35, Georgetown, TX 78626	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Austin South	132 Eberhart Ln, Austin, TX 78745	12:15 PM	12:45 PM
San Marcos	1523 Old Ranch Rd 12, San Marcos, TX 78666	2:00 PM	2:30 PM
San Antonio Valley View	6630 FM 1516 Converse, TX 78109	3:45 PM	4:15 PM
San Antonio Highland Hills	2526 Goliad Rd, San Antonio, TX 78223	4:55 PM	5:25 PM
Floresville	724 US Hwy 181 S, Floresville, TX 78114	6:10 PM	6:40 PM
	Tuesday, May 17	Arrive	Depart
Beeville	902 N Polk St, Beeville, TX 78102	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Corpus Christi	6645 Downing St, Corpus Christi, TX 78414	11:30 AM	12:00 PM
Alice	924 N Johnson St, Alice TX 78332	1:45 PM	2:15 PM
Brownsville Spanish	3515 Old Hwy 77, Brownsville, TX 78520	4:45 PM	5:15 PM
Harlingen	20811 Montezuma Rd, Harlingen, TX 78550	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Weslaco	1200 S Bridge Ave, Weslaco, TX 78596	7:15 PM	7:45 PM
	Wednesday, May 18	Arrive	Depart
McAllen Spanish Valley Central	6901 N Ware Rd, McAllen, TX 78504	8:45 AM	9:15 AM
Publicaciones Cristianas	6500 N 10th St, Suite L, McAllen, TX 78504	9:45 AM	10:15 AM
Edinburg	602 W Wisconsin Rd, Edinburg, TX 78539	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Laredo Spanish North	3919 McPherson Ave, Laredo, TX 78041	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
San Antonio Laurel Heights	703 W Ashby Pl, San Antonio, TX 78212	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
	Thursday, May 19	Arrive	Depart
San Antonio Scenic Hills	11223 Bandera Rd, San Antonio, TX 78250	8:20 AM	8:50 AM
Kerrville	611 Harper Rd, Kerrville, TX 78028	10:05 AM	10:35 AM
Killeen	4700 E Rancier Ave, Killeen, TX 76543	1:50 PM	2:20 PM
Temple	1911 W Avenue H, Temple, TX 76504	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Waco Mt. Lebanon	4298 Meyers Lane, Waco, TX 76705	4:20 PM	4:50 PM

Order Deadline for the Valley Route is Thursday, May 12. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

Houston Route

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

	Monday, May 30	Arrive	Depart
Round Rock	4 Applegate Circle, Round Rock, TX 78665	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Austin Stonehill	4301 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Austin Spanish First	100 W Rundberg Ln, Austin, TX 78753	1:25 PM	1:55 PM
Elgin	225 Lexington Rd, Elgin, TX 78621	2:40 PM	3:10 PM
Bastrop	3300 HWY 21 E, Paige, TX 78659	3:50 PM	4:20 PM
Victoria	3103 E Mockingbird Ln, Victoria, TX 77904	6:20 PM	6:50 PM
	Tuesday, May 31	Arrive	Depart
Rosenberg	1501 Dyer Ave, Rosenberg, TX 77471	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Katy	1913 East Ave, Katy, TX 77493	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Houston West	2390 W Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston TX 77043	11:45 AM	12:15 PM
Houston World Harvest	10800 Scott St Houston, TX 77047	1:45 PM	2:15 PM
Houston Gulfhaven	10716 Sabo Rd, Houston, TX 77089	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Houston Spn Magnolia Park	7318 East Fwy, Houston, TX 77020	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
Houston Spring Creek	2190 Spring Creek Dr, Spring, TX 77373	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
	Wednesday, June 1	Arrive	Depart
Conroe Spanish	115 Silverdale Dr, Conroe, TX 77301	8:45 AM	9:15 AM
Huntsville	7660 State Highway 75 S, Huntsville, TX 77340	10:00 AM	10:30 AM
Bryan/College Station	1350 Earl Rudder Fwy S, College Station, TX 77840	11:45 AM	12:15 PM

Order Deadline for the Houston Route is Thursday, May 26. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

UP-COMING 2016 D2U Routes

Louisiana/East Texas	June 13-16
Dallas	June 20
West Texas/Southern New Mexico	June 27-30
Fort Worth	July 5
Arkansas	July 11-14
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	July 25-28
Eastern Oklahoma/ NW Arkansas	Aug 8-11
Austin/San Antonio/Valley Route	Aug 22-25
Houston Route	Sept 5-7
Louisiana/East Texas	Sept 19-22

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Obituaries

BILLOCK, Yvonne, born February 24, 1923 in Amarillo, Tex., and died August 16, 2015, in Little Rock, Ark. She was a member of the Little Rock church. She loved her family and as a long-time Seventh-day Adventist, Yvonne loved sharing with her church family and friends. Survivors: sons and daughters-in law, Joe and Lyn Billock of Everson, Wash., and Tom and Shannon Billock of Rowlett, Tex.; daughter and son-in law, Tammy and Mike Swartz, of Little Rock; sister, Mina Gaston, of Little Rock; sister and brother-in law, Neva and J.B. Kinder of Centerville, Ohio; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

HINOJOSA-HINSON, Hortensia, "Tensie Hinson," born October 29, 1923 in Corpus Christi, Tex., and died March 24, 2016, in Joshua, Tex. She graduated from Corpus Christi High School and went right

to work at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station as a "Rosie the Riveter" until she resigned at the war's end in June of 1945. She worked as a bookkeeper and secretary until February 16, 1952, when she married John Y. Hinson, Jr., an electronic technician. Soon after their marriage they opened Hinson's Radio and Television Sales and Service in Robstown and it remained in operation until 1973. She became bookkeeper and secretary for Tino's TV Service for ten years until the business was sold. In 1989 she moved to Joshua and managed Mountaineer Mobile Home Park for 20 years until its sale. Tensie then moved to Sunset Mobile Home Park to live and work as manager until her death. Tensie was a life-long dedicated member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was a proud member of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 50 in Cleburne, eligible through the military service of her brothers. She was preceded in death by her brother, Joe Hinojosa, and

her sisters Ramona Salazar and Mary Hartley. Survivors: daughter: Marty Hinson Peters and husband, Ken; son: John Hinson III; daughter: Ruth Hinson Wheeler and husband, Brian; son: John Y. Hinson IV and wife, Rikki; 10 grandchildren; brother, Daniel Hinojosa and wife, Mary;

brother, Carlos Hinojosa and wife, Rosario; brother Richard Hinojosa and wife, Beatrice.

HOECKENDORF, Bob G., born May 1, 1929 in Liberal, Kan., and died October 20, 2015 in Hondo, N. Mex., He was a member of the Ruidoso church, where he

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	May 6	May 13	May 20	May 27	Jun 3	Jun 10
Abilene, TX	8:23	8:29	8:33	8:38	8:42	8:46
Albuquerque, NM	7:56	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:16	8:20
Amarillo, TX	8:37	8:42	8:48	8:53	8:57	9:01
Brownsville, TX	8:04	8:08	8:11	8:15	8:18	8:21
Dallas, TX	8:12	8:17	8:22	8:27	8:31	8:35
El Paso, TX	7:49	7:54	7:59	8:03	8:07	8:11
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:14	8:20	8:24	8:29	8:33	8:37
Gallup, NM	8:05	8:11	8:16	8:21	8:26	8:30
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:02	8:06	8:10	8:15	8:18	8:22
Gentry, AR	8:10	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:31	8:35
Little Rock, AR	7:58	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:18	8:22
Muskogee, OK	8:12	8:18	8:23	8:28	8:33	8:37
New Orleans, LA	7:41	7:45	7:50	7:54	7:58	8:01
Oklahoma City, OK	8:20	8:26	8:31	8:36	8:41	8:45
Roswell, NM	7:44	7:50	7:55	7:59	8:04	8:07
San Antonio, TX	8:13	8:18	8:22	8:26	8:30	8:33
Shreveport, LA	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:14	8:18	8:22
Tulsa, OK	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:32	8:36	8:40

served as elder and deacon over the years. His family moved from Liberal to Midland, Tex. He attended Southwestern College in Keene, Tex. Bob married Perrie Jo Canton in June 1950 in Keene. They were members of the Adventist Church throughout their 65 years together. Bob loved Bible study and looked forward to the Second Coming. He returned to Midland where he worked for Shell Oil Company. He transferred to Houston, Tex., retiring there after 34 years of service. He was a member of the Shell Oil Geological and Mining Venture Association. Survivors: wife, Perrie Jo; children, Bobbie Jo Kinsey and Rick D. Hoeckendorf, both of Hondo.

KOSFELD, Lawrence, born November 16, 1931 in St. Louis, Mo., and died March 17, 2016 in Glendale, Ariz., where he lived with his second wife, Nelda. They had only been married a short time, since February 14, 2015. Larry was buried in Fairview Cemetery in Tuttle, Okla., with military honors by Mustang American Legion Post 353. Larry served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean Conflict as a jet mechanic. He married Jeannie Land February 4, 1951. They moved to Oklahoma City in 1956, and Larry worked in auto parts sales, until he retired in 1994. Larry was preceded in death by his first wife, Jeannie Kosfeld, two brothers, Martin and Milton, and

sister, Ruth. Survivors: Nelda Kosfeld, of Phoenix, Ariz.; son, David Kosfeld and wife, Sherri, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; daughter, Debbie McMartin and husband, David, of Wheatland, Okla.; sister, Alice Woodruff of Sullivan, Mo.; sister Sylvia Hartwick and husband, Ivan, of Bourbon, Mo.; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

LAWLESS, George, born November 3, 1922 and died August 7, 2015 in DeQueen, Ark. He was a member of the Bonnerdale church. He lived for many years in Smithville, Okla., where George worked as a cattleman and mail carrier. They moved to Bonnerdale, Ark., when he retired. He was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Verdene L. Ravan Lawless. He was a faithful caregiver of his wife in her final years. He was also a faithful member and worker in the Bonnerdale and Beacon Hill churches. Survivors: son and daughter-in law, Darrell and Patsy Lawless of DeQueen; one grandson; and five great-grandchildren.

PITTS, Bonnie, born May 3, 1933 and died May 1, 2015 in Glenwood, Ark. She was a member of the Bonnerdale church. Bonnie loved to be outdoors working with her beautiful flowers and in her vegetable garden. She raised chickens and helped her husband raise cattle. When she became ill, she encouraged

her grandson, Wesley, in the work with the gardens, training border collies, and raising sheep. She was preceded in death by six brothers, two sisters, and her husband of 54 years, Earl "Buddy" Pitts. Survivors: son, Wesley Pitts of Byron, Ga.; brother and sister-in law, Buddy and Deborah Brown, of Glenwood; and two grandchildren.

SHORES, Wiburn W. "Bill," born in Holdenville, Okla., on November 14, 1929, and died March 12, 2016 in Harrah, Okla. Bill loved baseball, and as a student he was a pitcher for Fairview High School. After high school he signed with a farm club called the Cincinnati Reds. He was drafted into the Army in 1951, and later moved to California. There he met and married Shirley Jo Scott, and they had one daughter and two sons. They later moved to Oklahoma, and later moved to the Retirement Center at Summit Ridge. Bill was well-known by his neighbors due to his helpful ways and interest in their welfare. Bill and Shirley lived 61 happy years together. Survivors: wife, Shirley of Harrah; daughter, Elisa Ann Shores, of Wichita, Kan.; son, Jim and wife, Linda of Wichita; son, Rex and wife, Kathy, of Alva, Okla.

SMITH, Lois Curtis, born June 13, 1930 in Provo, Utah, and died August 7, 2015 in Fayetteville, Ark. She was a member of the

Rogers church. She was preceded in death by her brother, Robert Cranmer; sister, Betty Adams; and a son, Robert Blundell. Survivors: son, Ken Blundell and his wife, Sherry, of Knoxville, Ark; son, Bryan Brandon and his wife, Konny, of Fayetteville; daughter, Bethany Looyenga and her husband, Cliff, of Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; 11 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, and 10 great-great grandchildren.

SMITH, Luella Anna, born April 17, 1930, in Rocky Ford, Colo., and died February 12, 2016 in Grove, Okla. She was a member of the Ketchum, Okla., church. Survivors: son, Michael Smith, of Grove; daughter, Linda Hossler, of Angelus Oaks, Calif.; brother, Joe Mays, of Riverside, Calif.; sister, Avalon Rozema, of Beaumont, Calif.; sister, Francis Richards of Ketchum, Okla., and sister, Maxine Jones, of Pasadena, Calif.

SPIVA, Leon, born November 7, 1921 in Lela Lake, Tex., and died April 12, 2015 in Fort Smith, Ark. He was a member of the Alma church. He was buried in the U.S. National Cemetery in Fort Smith. Survivors: wife, Lalie Spiva, of the home; three sons, Leonard Spiva of Chandler, Ark., David Spiva of Roland, Okla., and Dan Spiva of Cameron Park, Calif.; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

Record

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