

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

SEPTEMBER 2016



*Embracing New Media*

ALL COMMUNICATION METHODS TO REACH ALL PEOPLE



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# ALL METHODS TO REACH ALL PEOPLE

Combining Traditional and New Media to Communicate the Adventist Message

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# WHAT WOULD JESUS TWEET?



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## On the Cover

The Southwestern Union is embracing new media and combining them with traditional communication and evangelism methods in order to reach people of all ages and backgrounds.

# Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Let's Talk About How We Talk

**Have you ever had a misunderstanding** with a friend or family member? Maybe your tone of voice or your choice of words gave them a reason to understand something you said in a way you hadn't intended. Or perhaps you sent a text or an e-mail, or posted something on Facebook, which was interpreted to mean one thing when you meant another, simply because of your punctuation (or lack thereof). Perhaps you've experienced an awkward moment when someone thought you were speaking to them but your message was actually meant for someone else.

The act of communication seems simple—and yet it can be so easy to get wrong. Physical cues, such as a friendly wave, an open posture, or smiling face are intentional ways we choose to communicate positively to those who we are physically near to. We can also unintentionally send negative messages with the absence of such cues.

The method by which we choose to communicate also can send a message. When you have a vitally important message to give someone, is it best to talk in person, call, text, e-mail, or send a letter? If the message is important, might you try to reach them in any way possible? These are communication decisions we make every day.

It's the same when we, as a church, communicate. Our message is vitally important. Communicating the message is also vitally important. We must use all available avenues to communicate the message and reach each individual.

How do we begin? First, we must realize that not communicating is not an option, because the act of not communicating, is *communicating!* A lack of a presence on social media, a missing or inactive website, or perhaps a message that missed its mark here

in the *Record* has communicated something that we didn't intend. There is always the possibility that we have sent the *wrong* message or failed to send the *right* message.

So let's start talking. We want to have a conversation with

*you*. Statistics tell us that church members get information about the church from a few sources, including their pastors and their bulletins. We know that the majority of news is read on and shared from a smart phone. We don't believe that printed media will become obsolete, but we also believe that we must utilize all channels of communication available to us to reach the world.



**Talk to us!**  
**Take our Record reader survey!**

**Survey and resources can be found at:**

**[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/communication](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/communication)**

Think about it for yourself and for the various members of your family. What is the best way to reach you? Is it through the pages of the *Record*? Is it on social media? We want to communicate with you, and we want to inspire and empower you to communicate vibrantly with your community. How can we help you do that? Let us know by taking our *Record* Reader survey at **[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication)**.

Talk to us!



# To Your Health

BY LYNETTE FRANTZEN, PHD, LPC, LSOTP, NCC



## Enhancing Healthy Family Communication

**H**ealthy communication is a cornerstone of effective family functioning. The way we communicate sets the foundation for how we relate and interact as families. Everyone has different ways of communicating and, although there is no one right way for a family to communicate, healthy families differ in that they continually strive to improve the quality of their relationships through enhancing communication. Some basic tips for improving communication include:

### COMMUNICATION—IT'S NOT JUST FOR CONFLICT

The Bible says that there is a time for everything: “a time to break down, and time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance...a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak” (Ecclesiastes 3:3-7). Healthy communication is about sharing life with each other: the good times and the bad times. Be as ready to communicate love, joy, and peace as you are to communicate when you feel angry, sad, or hurt.

### CHOOSE AN APPROPRIATE TIME AND PLACE

Every family has times and places that are more conducive to communication. There is never a perfect time or place, but there are more appropriate times and places. Some families communicate best around the dinner table; others while exercising together; some while watching social media; others while playing games together; while shopping; while traveling; during worships; some at night or in the morning, etc. Take the time to notice when your partner and children seem most open, and then make the most of those opportunities. Find times and places which provide a feeling of safety for talking about worries, joys, and dreams. Avoid entering into conflictual discussions in public places in which anyone might feel embarrassed or humiliated. Choosing an appropriate time and place to communicate creates a positive and safe atmosphere for more effective communication.

### THINK ABOUT NON-VERBAL COMMUNICATION

Communication is much more than just spoken words. Non-verbal communication plays an important role in both how one communicates and in how one interprets communication. A frequently quoted research study by Albert Mehrabian (1972) suggests that only 7 percent of communication is conveyed through words while 38 percent is conveyed through verbal intonation and 55 percent through non-verbal elements (body posture, eye contact, gestures, and facial expressions). Of

course, these percentages are not necessarily an accurate representation of every interaction. However, the gist is clear: non-verbal communication is an important part of communication. Healthy communication includes taking the time to think about what your body language may be conveying.

### PRESENT YOURSELF WITH CLARITY

Modern society tends to encourage the notion of “letting it all hang out” or “venting.” The idea is that if we do not say everything on our mind, then we are not being honest with ourselves and others. However, “speaking your mind” is not necessarily effective communication (Lerner, 1997, 2001). The Bible says, “A fool multiplies words” (Ecclesiastes 10: 14). Communication is about expressing one’s wants and needs, thoughts, and feelings clearly and in a way that does not shut down, diminish, or shame others. Communication opens people up for relating in such a way that they feel close, open, and safe to be vulnerable.

### ALLOW RESPONSE TIME

Remember that you have had time to think about what you want to say. The people you say it to have not. Healthy communication involves acknowledging that the family deserves time to think and respond.

### IT'S NOT A COMPETITION

Healthy communication is not about there being a winner and a loser, but about enhancing family relationships. In fact, good communication does not mean that everyone has to be in agreement. Healthy communication is about respect for each other and building up the family. The Bible says, “Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up” (Ephesians 4:29).

### GOD IN ALL

Above all, include God in your communication. Pray before you speak and act. Seek His Word as you actively enhance family communication. Matthew 6:33 is good advice for all who seek healthy relationships. After all, healthy communication started with Him!

**Dr. Frantzen** is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at Southwestern Adventist University. She has been actively engaged in the mental health profession for over a decade.



**Lerner, H. (1997).** *The dance of anger.* New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

**Lerner, H. (2001).** *The dance of connection.* New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

**Mehrabian, A. (1972).** *Silent messages.* Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

## I Want to Change the World!

**I WANT TO CHANGE THE WORLD.** As a kid, I always told myself that when I grew up, I would do big things with my life. I would make a difference. The most important thing you need to know about me is that I love God! I have dedicated my life to God and want to tell the whole world about His love and His soon return! I love speaking up front and telling others about Christ. I planned on telling others about God by becoming a pastor. I began my college experience as a theology major. There is much more than just speaking to people, though. I have been on several mission trips with several different organizations, one of which was the Quiet Hour. I loved the Quiet Hour mission trips because we not only preached the Word but we had Vacation Bible Schools, medical clinics, and construction ministries as well. It was on these mission trips that I had the opportunity to communicate and interact with other people outside my comfort zone.

My father often told me growing up, “If someone is willing to give \$20 dollars to missions having never been on a mission trip; that same person, after going on a mission trip, will give \$200.”

Being with people, seeing their needs, and helping fix their problems does something to you. It changed me. I enjoy sharing my faith and showing others through many different outlets such as acting, preaching, working, and video editing. I love making videos and inspiring people. Like many people I enjoy keeping in touch with my friends and family through social media. Often people will share videos that they have liked and I’ll watch them. It was after watching such a video that I began to find an area in ministry that I was passionate about. Here was a video that was under three minutes long yet, it inspired me in my relationship with Christ. I wanted to grow closer to God and I appreciated better the sacrifice that Christ made for me on the cross. That video had been seen by 983,660 people!

As a pastor I could not dream of having a church that big! Yet, one video had the opportunity to change 983,660 people’s lives. I wanted the chance to be able to witness like that! The Kendrick brothers have produced several amazing movies. They are the producers of the Christian films, *Fly Wheel*, *Facing The Giants*, *FireProof*, *Courageous*, and *War Room*. I believe that Adventists should be able to share our message through media, too! We have a unique message to be told and to often we keep it to ourselves. I switched majors from theology to communications because I wanted the ability to share my faith

on a major level. I want to boldly and freely share my faith and love for Christ. Independent ministries such as Quiet Hour and others have made major impacts in the lives of people around the world. I believe that I have the potential to be able to change people’s lives for the Lord through media. Recently, I turned 20. It hit me that every year I would always say that one day I would do something big for the Lord. I’m getting older now and I don’t want to have my

birthday come and go and have to say, “If only I had done something for God this year.”

We are running out of time and the time to make a difference in the world is now. People are hungry for God. People turn on the news and are concerned with what is going on in our world. People need a Savior. I want to be able to give people the opportunity to get a glimpse at the hope and happiness that we as Adventists have. I want to communicate to others the love that Christ has for them.

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations. Alas, Sovereign Lord,” I said, ‘I do not know how to speak; I am too young.’ But the Lord said to me, ‘Do not say, “I am too young.” You must go to everyone I send you to and say whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,’ declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘I have put my words in your mouth’” (Jeremiah 1:5-9, NIV).



Matthew Hanson is a sophomore communication major at Southwestern Adventist University.

declares the Lord. Then the Lord reached out his hand and touched my mouth and said to me, ‘I have put my words in your mouth’” (Jeremiah 1:5-9, NIV).



# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY JESSICA LOZANO » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

## Faith and Communication See Results at the Crowley Church

The members of the Crowley Seventh-day Adventist Church in Crowley, Texas, pastored by Buster Swoopes, Jr., have whole-heartedly taken on the task of growing the kingdom of heaven. They have embraced and combined traditional and new media and are excited by the response they've seen in their community.

It began when the church came together to take a look at their vision and mission. Through that process, they decided to be intentional in the ways they reached out to the community. They decided as a church that they would reach out specifically to young families. They realized that in order to do that, they would need to use the right media channels, such as utilizing social media and their website to a greater degree.

The church had invested in a television studio, and was already broadcasting Good News TV programming. "Through the station we've seen nine baptisms into our nearby Adventist churches. We're happy to see the community entering Adventist churches since becoming familiar with us through the station," says Swoopes.

Swoopes continues, "One thing we've decided to do is to provide health programming that is geared toward a non-Adventist audience. A lot of the programming that is available seems to be geared toward an internal audience. We are writing the scripts and getting ready to produce a whole new series on health."

Swoopes says that the church's communication team will help promote the new series, as well as all of the church's community-gearred events, through social media.

"We've seen an increase in the number of people who attend our community events, and when we ask, many say they saw it on Facebook," says Swoopes.

These community events, such as VBS, Fall Festivals, or Back-to-School programs, have allowed the members to mingle and create friendships within the community.

The church also invested in a large, colorful electronic sign



that invites passersby to church events as well as showing inspiring Bible verses.

Swoopes says that the church takes inventories at each event about how the guests heard about the events and why they came, which allows the communication team to know what is working.

"These events allow our community to get to know us and lets us show that we care for them even if they're not members of

our church," says Swoopes.

Swoopes says he believes any church is capable of taking these steps to grow the kingdom.

"I believe that we're always supposed to be pushing the envelope of how we try to reach people. It's proven that friendship evangelism is the best method to reach people, so when we combine the idea of friendship evangelism with our financial resources and a goal to reach our community, then it all becomes worth it."



## Mejorando Una Sana Comunicación Entre La Familia

**L**a comunicación saludable es la piedra angular del funcionamiento efectivo de la familia. La forma en que nos comunicamos establece las bases para la forma de relacionarnos e interactuar como familia. Cada uno tiene diferentes formas de comunicación y, aunque no hay una sola manera correcta para una familia comunicarse, familias sanas diferencian en que continuamente se esfuerzan por mejorar la calidad de sus relaciones a través de la mejora de la comunicación. Algunos consejos básicos para mejorar la comunicación incluyen:

### **LA COMUNICACIÓN, NO ES SÓLO PARA RESOLVER EL CONFLICTO.**

La Biblia dice que hay un tiempo para todo: “tiempo para romper, y tiempo para edificar; tiempo para llorar, y tiempo para reír; tiempo para lamentar, y tiempo para bailar; tiempo para abrazar, y tiempo para abstenerse de abrazar; tiempo de callar, y tiempo para hablar”. (Ecl. 3: 3-7). La comunicación saludable se trata de compartir la vida con los demás: los buenos y los malos momentos. Esté listo para comunicar el amor, la alegría, y la paz como cuando se siente enojado, triste o herido.

### **ELIJE UN LUGAR Y MOMENTO ADECUADO.**

Cada familia tiene tiempos y lugares que sean más conducentes a la comunicación. Nunca hay un momento o lugar perfecto, pero hay momentos y lugares más adecuados. Algunas familias se comunican mejor alrededor de la mesa; otros, mientras hacen el ejercicio juntos; otros mientras ven algunos medios de comunicación social; otros, mientras juegan; otros mientras van de compras; otros mientras viajan; durante cultos; algunos por la noche o por la mañana; etc. Tómese el tiempo para darse cuenta cuando su pareja y los niños parecen estar más abiertos, y luego saquen el máximo provecho de esas oportunidades. Busquen los lugares y el tiempo que proporcionan una sensación de seguridad para hablar acerca de preocupaciones, alegrías y sueños. Eviten entrar en negociaciones conflictivas en lugares públicos donde alguno pueda sentir vergüenza o humillado. La elección de un lugar y momento adecuado para comunicarse crea un ambiente positivo y seguro para que la comunicación sea más eficaz.

### **PIENSE EN LA COMUNICACIÓN NO VERBAL.**

La comunicación es mucho más que sólo palabras habladas. La comunicación no verbal juega un papel importante tanto en la forma cómo uno se comunica y como se interpreta la comunicación. Un estudio de investigación por Albert Mehrabian (1972) sugiere que sólo el 7% de la comunicación es transmitido a través de palabras mientras que el 38% se transmite a través de la entonación verbal y el 55% a través de elementos no verbales (postura corporal,

contacto visual, gestos y expresiones faciales). Por supuesto, estos porcentajes no son necesariamente una representación precisa de cada interacción. Sin embargo, el punto esencial es claro, la comunicación no verbal es una parte importante de la comunicación. La comunicación saludable incluye tomar el tiempo para pensar acerca de lo que su lenguaje corporal puede estar transmitiendo.

### **PRESENTESE CON CLARIDAD.**

La sociedad moderna tiende a fomentar la noción de “dejar todo al rato” o “descargar”. La idea es que si no decimos todo lo que está en nuestra mente, entonces no estamos siendo honestos con nosotros mismos y con los demás. Sin embargo, “decir lo que pensamos siempre,” no es necesariamente una comunicación efectiva (Lerner, 1997, 2001). La Biblia dice, “... El necio multiplica palabras”. (Ecl 10:14). La comunicación es el querer expresar deseos y necesidades de uno, pensamientos y sentimientos con claridad y de manera que no se apague, disminuye, o avergüence a los demás. La comunicación se abre a la gente para relacionarse de una manera tal que se sientan cercana, abierta y segura al sentirse vulnerable.

### **PERMITIR EL TIEMPO DE RESPUESTA.**

Recuerde que usted ha tenido tiempo para pensar en lo que quiere decir. Las personas a quien le dices no lo han tenido. La comunicación sana consiste en reconocer que la familia merece tiempo para pensar y responder.

### **NO ES UNA COMPETENCIA.**

La comunicación saludable no es si hay un ganador y un perdedor, sino de la mejora de las relaciones familiares. De hecho, una buena comunicación no significa que cada uno tiene que estar de acuerdo. La comunicación saludable es el respeto por el otro y la construcción de la familia. La Biblia dice: “Ninguna palabra corrompida salga de vuestra boca, sino la que sea buena para la necesaria edificación”. (Ef 4:29).

### **DIOS EN TODO.**

Por encima de todo, incluir a Dios en su comunicación. Ora antes de hablar y actuar. Busca Su Palabra mientras se mejora activamente la comunicación familiar. Mateo 6:33 es un buen consejo para todos los que buscan relaciones saludables. Después de todo, ¡la comunicación saludable comenzó con Él!

Lynette Frantzen, PhD, LPC, LSOTP, NCC

Lerner, H. (1997). *The dance of anger*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

Lerner, H. (2001). *The dance of connection*. New York, NY: HarperCollins Publishers.

Mehrabian, A. (1972). *Silent messages*. Belmont, CA: Wadsworth Publishing Company.

# ALL METHODS TO REACH ALL PEOPLE:

## Combining Traditional and New Media to Communicate the Adventist Message

The mission of the Southwestern Union is “to equip and inspire the Southwestern Union territory with the distinctive Adventist message of Hope and Wholeness.” In the context of communication, we want to inspire each of our members to hold fast to that message of hope and wholeness, as well as to equip them to share it with the world.

As the Apostle Paul became all things to all people, we want to communicate through every method at our disposal to reach all people. We want to communicate through the pages of the *Record*

The Southwestern Union is a diverse territory with nearly 120,000 members of all ages and backgrounds. Our members have a wide range of media consumption habits: some watch the news on television, while others only see the news through their social media feeds. Reading the bulletin at church may be sufficient for one person, while receiving an e-mail or text may be more effective for another. Some read the *Record* cover-to-cover, while others skim the pages for news that relates to them.

What we have come to understand about communication in the 21st century is that no *one* method will reach every individual. Each generation and demographic prefers different methods of communication. As the media landscape becomes more and more cluttered, we must plan our communication wisely. We must have a clear message, and we must use the most appropriate channels to share the message.

It is the goal of the Southwestern Union Communication Department to provide adequate training, resources, and tools for any individual, church, school, or conference that desires to reach out to their community with the Adventist message but doesn't know where to start. To achieve that goal, we have added and will continue to add valuable resources to our communication website. We will also begin hosting quarterly online communication workshops beginning in October. Find all of these and more resources and information at our web-



magazine, e-mail newsletters and updates, social media, websites, printed material, videos, smart phone apps, text messages, face-to-face communication—whatever is required to share the message.

While traditional methods of communication must continue to be used, we need to embrace the fact that new media and methods are some of the most effective and efficient tools for reaching the world.

S. Joseph Kidder wrote, “While keeping the traditional methods as tools in our toolbox, we must use every avenue to win people for Jesus Christ. The more tools the church utilizes, the more effective it will be.”<sup>1</sup>



site, [www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication). While you're there, take our Record Reader Survey. We'd love to hear from you.

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Jessica Lozano

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Tammy Prieto

Each of the conferences within the Southwestern Union have unique methods and strategies for sharing the gospel and assisting members to reach their communities. The following are reports from the Southwestern Union's five conferences.

## Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Communication may be defined as the transfer of information, ideas, understanding, or feelings among people. In previous times, humanity lived and worked within the context of the natural environment and while the natural world is still here, touching us through the seasons and weather, natural disasters, and occasional recreation, the natural world is no longer the major thing with which we contend. Today the environment where most of us live and work is a media environment of cell phones, symbols, processes, stories, and values that surround, give shape to, and interpret most things we do as individuals and as a society. The technological world often has greater impact on our decision-making, value formation, relationships, and self-perception than the natural world.

In the last four years the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference has expanded its communication focus to encompass more than worldwide, multi-media evangelism, more than the *Record* articles and a conference newsletter, more than working to keep an up-to-date conference website. Emphasis has been made to reach out to the world at large with a presence on social media, with listings in the GC News Briefs: meetings attended, Facebook postings, concepts shared, materials developed, courses taught, miles on the road, booths manned—but these are only a minor expression of what we are about.

A more precise expression of our commitment has been the many evangelistic efforts throughout the conference. We have presented the Word and the world has responded. Our young adults and our lay leaders have experienced the thrill and the agony of sharing the gospel. And they have been enriched and blessed as a result—and even baptized! We have opened the doors of our churches to



come and be fed, literally, or to come and share. The sick have been visited, the hungry fed, the community groups have found a place where they can meet. All of this is communication.



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## Oklahoma Conference

If there was ever a theme that was a joy to communicate, it has been this year's theme in the Oklahoma Conference. "Share the Power" has been the catalyst for a host of ministry opportunities.

One aspect of this has been evidenced by the proclamation of the gospel in our churches on Sabbath and through evangelistic campaigns throughout the conference. What a joy to see men and women who were apart from God experience conviction, conversion and transformation into children of the King! Several places have witnessed what the saving message of Jesus has done in uniting families that were estranged. And the growth has been encouraging.

Another way this theme has inspired and been demonstrated is through our church schools and academies. Students participate in mission projects, community service outreach, and school choirs share Jesus with area churches.

Throughout this year, Sabbath Schools have been challenged to become evangelistic centers. Small groups have been planted and developed into active places for Bible study and fellowship. Friendships and new members have been established in many of our churches this year.

"Share the Power" has been the driving motivation with the children, youth, and young adults in Oklahoma. Children's Ministries has been training and working with projects, so the youngest

can share Jesus. Youth and young adults have had numerous opportunities whether at camp or in their churches to provide programming or events and activities to share Jesus in their communities. Summer camp has also been a place for Jesus to be uplifted and several have responded in baptism.

Our communication department has embraced this theme with a newly-redesigned conference website that is easy to use and offers more resources for our members to use. We are producing DVDs for specialized conference projects that will be rolling out on this fall. In addition, we are utilizing social media more and more to communicate the gospel story. Another communication project to come this fall is an app for both iPhone- and Android-based systems to give even greater opportunity to communicate with members about news, information, and resources as well as ways for potential new members to learn more about Jesus.

“Share the Power” isn’t just a slogan, or a motivational tool. It is the desire and inspiration to tell others about Jesus, and anxiously prepare for the Second Coming of Jesus.

This second half of the year, we look forward to even greater opportunities and wonderful miracles as God’s people in Oklahoma follow their mission statement: Proclaim, Disciple, Live With Christ.

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## Southwest Region Conference

The Southwest Region Conference Communication Department has been very busy keeping up with the latest trends and technology, along with updating our brand. Over the past year, we have redesigned our website with a more modern look that incorporates social and multimedia interface elements to facilitate navigation on the site.

Today’s end users are more mobile than ever. For this reason, we have created an app that will complement our website’s content to keep members informed on news, events, ministries and much more. This project is an ongoing plan to integrate technology into ministry and maintain the lines of communication throughout all generations. The app is equipped to allow members to return tithe and offerings, listen to sermons, see upcoming events, re-



ceive push notifications, gain access to contact information and the departmental directory. It is available for Android and Apple devices in their respective app stores.

The communication department has also created video news packages covering events throughout the year. All of these are viewable on YouTube under the communication department.

The Southwest Region Conference brand is always on the minds of its communication department. We want both our website and associated applications to reflect our conference’s mission. With that in mind, we designed a new logo that depicts who we are and what our vision is for this region. The logo displays the five states we serve, in addition to colors representative of that part of the country, and a compass for our directions. We are pleased with the outcome of the new logo.

As we move closer to the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our message and mission will be communicated boldly with love to the Southwestern territories. Please visit our website, [www.mysouthwestregion.org](http://www.mysouthwestregion.org), to see the new and exciting things Southwest Region Conference has to offer.

- **Kenn Dixon**, communication and media relations director, [kdixon@swrgc.org](mailto:kdixon@swrgc.org)



## Texas Conference

Blessings rain down on the Texas Conference as He uses mere men and women to do His work across our vast territory. With more than 53,000 members and 280 churches, serving and staying in touch with our field can be a challenge. However, we’ve managed to employ tools and channels to keep us connected from McAllen to Denton and from Eagle Pass to Tyler.

In 2016 the FLAME, our quarterly conference magazine, took on a year-long theme focused on Love. Our spring issue, *Love*

*Yourself*, explored the importance of taking time to nurture ourselves physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually. In the summer we took love a step further with *Love Your Family*, those closest to us who we often take for granted. The fall issue, *Love Your Friends*, focused on the blessing of mentorship and friendship. Our winter issue, *Love Your Neighbor*, will focus on the role we play in others' lives when we follow God's command to love our neighbors as ourselves.

In addition to our print and online communique, FLAMELite and FLAMEExpress, we have been developing a new website for the Texas Conference that we hope to launch early this fall. The new site is beautiful, easy to navigate, and echoes the General Conference website, [www.adventist.org](http://www.adventist.org). We are working out a few final details and anxiously await the transition to our new site.



Kristina Lockhart

Jason Busch

that God continues to lead us as we educate, empower, and serve our leaders and members who in turn build bridges and share God's love with their communities.

- **Kristina Lockhart**, assistant to the president for communication, [kplockhart@txsda.org](mailto:kplockhart@txsda.org)
- **Jason Busch**, associate communication director, [jbusch@txsda.org](mailto:jbusch@txsda.org)

## Texico Conference

I was talking to a young adult today who recently made the decision to surrender himself fully to Christ. He was relating events that have taken place in his life over the last few months since he made this decision. It appears that God has opened wide a flood gate of witnessing opportunities for him to share with others what God is doing in his own life. As this young man shared his story with one person after another, as God seemed to orchestrate, many of the individuals on the receiving end of the testimony expressed their need for a relationship or a closer walk with God.

As I heard this young man's story, I was reminded of the power of our testimony and the importance of sharing it with others. As the communication director of the Texico Conference, one of my greatest joys is to hear and share how God is touching people's lives.

Our communication department has been busy disseminating as much information as possible about what is going on in our territory, particularly featuring God at work. Whether it's through our Facebook page, website, Texico Update Newsletter (via e-mail) or the

*Record*, we seek to bring you the most up-to-date inspiring stories and information possible.

Do you have a story of how God is working in your life or in your church that you would like to share? If so, please send it to [shinkle@texico.org](mailto:shinkle@texico.org). Your testimony might just be the encouragement someone else needs in their walk with Christ.

- **Sue Hinkle**, communication director, [shinkle@texico.org](mailto:shinkle@texico.org)

<sup>1</sup> S. Joseph Kidder. "Reflections on the future of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America: The long view of church growth" *Ministry Magazine*, February 2011.



In 2015, Texas hosted the 60th General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in San Antonio. That event and the ones leading up to it were exciting and brought many to Texas from across the globe. The Texas Conference opted to hold a few less events than usual to avoid over saturating our constituents. Meanwhile, our focus was on the #iwantMORE campaign, our evangelism and public awareness initiative. As our events take place, the communication department assists and consults for our other departments with event production and audio video services. The Texas Conference conducts over a dozen conference-wide events including two women's retreats, two men's retreats, a two-in-one marriage retreat, summer camp, and our club ministry camporees.

We are looking forward to the remainder of 2016 with its many activities and opportunities to minister to our churches. We pray



Sue Hinkle

# WHAT WOULD JESUS TWEET?



***Social media isn't a fad. Here's what you need to know.***

**Seth J. Pierce, lead pastor, Puyallup Seventh-day Adventist Church**

**T**he Christian church has always wrestled with its language—from the exclusivity of the Latin Mass to the perpetual struggle to speak the language of younger generations. This past fall an article showcased this struggle in the Pacific Northwest. The reporter comments:

“One billboard stands out among the rest on the elevated train tracks at Post Street downtown: It features a young woman holding a cell phone and looking toward the sky. It reads, “Have you tweeted Jesus lately? . . .”

“While church leaders hesitate to call it a marketing strategy, it is at least an attempt to appeal to a generation that uses social media for the bulk of its communication. This kind of advertising for religious organizations is becoming more common not just in Spokane but around the nation.”<sup>1</sup>

While it is laudable that religious organizations are acknowledging the existence of social media, the question remains: Why did they use a billboard to reach people on Twitter?

The interplay between church and technology typically lacks rhythm and coordination, and includes frequent stepping on toes.

It's painful when the microphone refuses to work midsermon, the singer's monitor refuses to resonate, the words on the screen disappear during the opening hymn, and the church Web site takes a vacation from its URL.

Part of the problem involves a language barrier separating those born after 1970 (known as “digital natives”), those born before but readily adaptable to technology (“digital settlers”), and those who get excited when they manage to send an e-mail . . . to the correct person (“digital immigrants”). The disparity among groups is not strictly generational. The president, the pope, and prime ministers all tweet.

## Ministry

The question of whether Jesus would use social media is tricky. Sometimes He told people not to “post” anything (Mark 7:36). People typically ignored this command, and Jesus attracted mass followers by word of mouth (see Matt. 4:24; Mark 1:45; and Luke 7:17). Did He know that people would tell? And when He sends out the 72 (Luke 10:1), can that be considered the same as a mass e-mail?

Jesus began His ministry with a tight-knit “group” of 12 in order to reach a specific target audience. Post-Resurrection Jesus told us to share His message with the world, making us His social media. This means we have to speak people's language in the places they actually spend time. This is something Jesus mastered.

Jesus' use of language involved agrarian imagery, current political situations, religious symbolism, popular sayings, stories, hyperbole, and more. He went to weddings, wells, temples, feasts, gardens, hills, houses, parties, and even hosted a fish dinner. I have a hard

## Setting Personal Boundaries

In 1 Timothy 4:14 Paul reminds his protégé not to “neglect the gift you have, which was given you by prophecy when the council of elders laid their hands on you” (ESV). Jesus also speaks of caring for the gifts placed in our lives (Matthew 25:14-30). Social media can augment our voice for God, but it can also be a distraction from what we are supposed to do. Set time aside a few times a day to check social media, then give yourself permission to “log off.”

Mandy J. Hoffman's book, *#Reforming Social Media*, may be a good beginning resource for those wanting to use social media to “glorify God rather than self.” It can be purchased at [www.mandyjhoffman.com](http://www.mandyjhoffman.com). By the way, another positive aspect of social media is sharing people's content, such as Mandy's . . . or mine.



time believing that Christians with a missionary spirit would ignore the river of social media as a venue for facilitating conversations, awareness, and personal connection.

So how do we integrate social media without separating ourselves from real relationships, developing obsessive phone-checking tics at the supper table, or simply drowning in the total onslaught of conspiracy theories, political posts, health tips, and baby pictures on the Internet?

## Integrate Your Values Into Your Media

All of us have values, whether we have defined them or not. A quick glance at where your time and money are spent will show you your values (for better or worse). Once you have them in mind, or once you have worked out what you

### Top 15 Most Popular Social Networking Sites

Estimated unique monthly visitors in millions

- Facebook: 900
- Twitter: 310
- LinkedIn: 255
- Pinterest: 250
- Google Plus+: 120
- Tumblr: 110
- Instagram: 100
- VK: 80
- Flickr: 65
- Vine: 42
- Meetup: 40
- Tagged: 38
- Ask.fm: 37
- MeetMe: 15.5
- ClassMates: 15

would like your values to be, begin asking how each media outlet can augment those values.

For example, social media should help relationships, not hinder them. If the time spent online is taking you away from real conversations, the ability to listen to others, embroiling you in constant online debates, or causing you to post inappropriate things in order to get more followers, you need to scale it back.

While the ancients didn't have any specific advice for social media use, they do offer timeless truths that can help guide our time. Texts such as Proverbs 20:19; 16:28; 12:17; and Ephesians 4:29 encourage us to stifle gossip and speak in order to build others up. Given the tendency for online toxicity, fostering a spirit of kindness and gentleness is a good place to form a boundary.

The boundaries you set and the rea-

sons you choose various apps to build your platform for the kingdom will vary, but a few reflections may help to stimulate your church's creativity—and your own.

### Twitter

Twitter limits your post to 140 characters—meaning you need to use intentional language. Jesus places a high value on word economy, especially in prayer (Matt. 6:7). Church communicators would do well to spend a little time tweeting to find accessible forms for their insight.

You'll find that many of your favorite Bible verses are tweet-sized.

Twitter is also about sharing content—such as articles on how to use Twitter—with people. If you can become a resource for what people are seeking, people will follow. Tweets also spark dialogue—be prepared to respond to others' words as well as your own.

### Instagram

For the photographically incompetent, Instagram provides built-in filters to make your

## Some “New” Kids on the Block

### Meerkat and Periscope

Both are live-streaming apps that allow users to broadcast live video quickly and easily. Meerkat was easy to use through Twitter, but that changed when Twitter acquired Periscope in late March 2015 and shut off its integration with Meerkat. Friends, with Meerkat, and Twitter followers, with Periscope, are able to click on a live video broadcast and tune in. Periscope broke into the top 10 social networking apps in the App Store (Apple) before April 1, 2015. Tech experts are predicting that only one of these will likely have a sustained life on social media—the nod goes to Periscope.

If you want to capture and share a live event with friends, minus editing or special effects, Periscope and Meerkat offer a unique (though niche) way to share what you're doing with others.

### WhatsApp

WhatsApp Messenger is a cross-platform messaging application that operates under a subscription model. It allows you to exchange messages without having to pay for SMS. The app is available for iPhone, BlackBerry, Android, Windows Phone, and Nokia. Founded in 2009, WhatsApp has 700 million monthly active users, with more than 30 billion messages sent every day (as of January 2015). Because WhatsApp Messenger uses the same Internet data plan that users would already have for e-mail and Web browsing, there is no cost to message friends around the globe.

iPhone photo rival those of Ansel Adams. People can “like” your pics and make comments about them. How could your church feature its social events? What pictures could the church post that would provoke theological dialogue?

The Christian church used to create stained glass to help the illiterate understand the stories of Scripture. What if Instagram was the modern stained-glass window? What stories can we tell with our pictures?

### Facebook

If the government really wanted to keep information from people, they would place it in church bulletins. Every leader laments the lack of bulletin reading in the church. Facebook allows you to create a church account, add parishioners, and bombard them with important announcements, urgent prayer requests, and last-minute cancellations. Instead of calling every congregation member to tell them snow has buried the church, a quick post from home lets everyone know instantly.

As a pastor I have also found Facebook to be helpful in keep-

## Jesus and Social Media

*Jesus was no ordinary man. He could attract a crowd by just showing up. So how would He have used social media?*

Jesus was a social person. We can easily imagine Him posting photos of the people with whom He came into contact day by day. But wait—these wouldn't be just friends. There's Jesus taking a selfie with that guy who used to terrorize people when they walked past the cemetery (Mark 5:1-5). There's Jesus at Jacob's Well, and He's with a woman, a Samaritan woman (John 4:5-7). There's Jesus with the Roman centurion who insists that Jesus only say the word and his servant will be healed (Matt. 8:6-8).

But in addition to Jesus' message as known by the people He interacted with, there are also His words. We would expect them to be just as provocative as the people with whom He hung out. He would doubtless have a blessing for those who were hanging on by their fingernails—materially, emotionally, or spiritually. He would likely take an Old Testament concept and turn it on its head: “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you” (Matt. 5:43, 44).

And finally, if Jesus used social media He would surely set the record straight regarding true spirituality. In a culture accustomed to seeing people praying on street corners, and making large, extravagant gifts for the purpose of impressing bystanders, Jesus reminded His followers that the essence of true religion is not making a show, but making a difference. It's a distinction that religious people in the twenty-first century have to be reminded of.

Whatever its appeal, social media is no substitute for touching lives as Jesus did: one person at a time.

ing tabs on major life events within my congregation. While no system is perfect, Facebook has enabled me to see announcements of births, deaths, moves, marriages, and troubling questions involving my parishioners. Many times a quick note of congratulations or sympathy lets the member know they are noticed and loved. It helps multiply my very limited physical presence, and helps me be “with” people when I can’t physically be with them.

### Vine

Vines are extremely brief videos that people have turned into mini skits, parables, and social commentary. What could a youth group do if tasked with creating parables using this media? How could short interviews be used in sermons, or to create online trends? Ask a provocative question, post a response, and see how many other people accept the challenge.

### Snapchat

Like the *Mission Impossible* messages that self-destruct, a Snapchat video or message is viewed once before it vanishes. While this app has been used for salacious ends, most people have found it useful for event invitations and quick pics for fleeting moments (the app opens directly to the camera). This app could be used to send quick notes of encouragement to members, funny moments to make people smile, and last-minute event reminders.

### YouVersion Bible

This app not only places every Bible translation at your fingertips for free, it also allows preachers to upload sermon outlines/notes for members to download during the service.

### Put a Pin in It

The ways we can use social media are endless, as is the potential time spent on them if we don’t set boundaries. However, rightly used, congregations benefit from increased participation in the worship service (including live dialogue on Twitter while the sermon is going on), instant feedback on worship experiences and social events, marketing to nonmembers (just have members “check in” on Facebook when they come to church), access to new recipes/books/quotes (if your church uses Pinterest), and even fundraising with a technique called crowdsourcing (Google it).

Like dessert or seasoning, social media can be used in ways that keep it from being a valuable tool to enhance quality of life. Living with so much information, however, means we have access

# Adventist Apps

Here’s a short list of Adventist apps that smartphone and tablet users can download from their app stores:

- **Advent e-Hymns for iPad** (\$2.99): contains 695 hymns and 38 choruses.
- **Adventist News Network** (free): stay connected with Adventist News (Android and iOS).
- **Adventist World Magazine** (free): an official magazine of the church (iOS).
- **Adventist World Radio Schedule** (free): the international broadcast radio service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church (Android).
- **Beginnings** (free): videos from the Hope Channel show.
- **EGW Writings** (free): read and search the complete published writings of Ellen G. White, the King James Version of the Bible, and Noah Webster’s American dictionary (Android).
- **General Conference Youth Ministries** (free): Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs (Android).
- **GraceLink** (free): “electronic felts” built on the GraceLink Bible study guides.
- **Hope Channel** (\$0.99): Hope Channel released an app allowing users to watch three of its streaming channels live (Android).
- **NAD Family Ministries** (free): daily devotions, news, and resources.
- **Pitcairn** (free): a game-based Pathfinder honor about the ministry of Ellen G. White and early Adventism, and a fun way to earn an honor (iOS, Android).
- **Sabbath School 3** (free): GC Sabbath School Department’s app of Sabbath School lessons for adults and children; upgraded version from Sabbath School 2 (Android).

to articles, tweets, books, and micro-blogs to help us on our way. Churches also benefit from digital natives holding seminars to help settlers and immigrants adapt to a world that can feel overwhelming.

One last thing: Whether you tweet, Facebook, Pin, or YouTube, do all for the glory of God.

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**Seth J. Pierce** is the lead pastor at the Puyallup Seventh-day Adventist Church in Puyallup, Washington.

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<sup>1</sup>W. Criscione, “Churches Use Religious Marketing to Draw Young Members,” *The Spokesman-Review*, Sept. 18, 2014. Retrieved from <http://www.spokesman.com/stories/2014/sep/18/churches-use-religious-marketing-to-draw-young/>

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# Communicating with Those We Wish to Win



In Luke 15, Jesus shared three wonderful stories which clearly portray for us His mission and ministry of seeking after those that are lost. Through the story of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son, we discover to what lengths He is willing to go to “seek and to save that which is lost.”

In the story of the lost son, there are some really great lessons to be learned about how we can communicate love, acceptance, and forgiveness to those that have strayed away but who now are returning to the Lord. All too often, the attitude revealed is one of criticism, disapproval, and censure. Just as the lost son undoubtedly came home still carrying on his clothes the dirt and the stench of the pigs he had been feeding, many today are looking to come home, but the baggage of their past lifestyle is still clearly visible. The son

has a well prepared speech that he hopes will convince his father to take him back in. As he approaches home, he wonders what kind of reception he will receive. The way the father in the story received his son demonstrates a powerful expressive lesson in communicating acceptance. Notice the 10 ways in which the father does this.

When his father saw him, he must have been (1) watching for him, because he saw his son while he was still a long way off. Then the Bible says, (2) he had compassion, (3) he ran to his son, (4) he fell on his neck and (5) he kissed him. Next, the father called to his servants to (6) bring out the best robe and put it on his son, (7) put a ring on his hand—a symbol of family authority, (8) put sandals on his feet, (9) kill the fatted calf for a feast, and (10) celebrate—eat and be merry! (Luke 15:20-24). The most powerful communication was not in words that were spoken by the fa-

ther to his son, but in his body language, the actions he took, and the directives he gave to those about him.

What do we communicate to members who has been away from the church and the Lord and finally comes back to worship? Do we grill them with questions of why they have been away so long, or do we simply embrace them and let them know how pleased we are to see them? If they come in tattered clothes and reek of tobacco and distinctive body odor, does our body language indicate that we are repelled and want a simple “Hello,” to suffice for a welcome, or hope that a “Happy Sabbath” will do? Or can we be compassionate and genuinely celebrate their return? In the story of the lost son, Jesus gave us a clear guide in how to communicate with those we wish to win to Him.

Steve Orian, president

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE



Top: Clayton Owens prays before he begins his sermon.  
▲ Clayton Owens preaches the Word.

## Youngest Speaker at Heber Springs SDA Church

**HEBER SPRINGS, ARK.** » The Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church is excited and impressed with their young speaker, Clayton Owens, who recently preached at the Heber Springs Church. Clayton is 13 years old and was baptized with his parents into the Seventh-day Adventist faith last summer. His grandmother, Debbie Owens, had faithfully brought her grandson to the church for a long time.

Clayton is a very articulate and a spiritually-driven young man. He centered his sermon on Ephesians 6 and the armor of God. He wove an analogy of a “Turtle Shell” into a series of moral lessons about God’s armor. His church family is very proud of this young man, and know that the Lord will be using him in a mighty way.

Judith Newton

### Family Enrichment Weekend

Coming to Bonnerdale, Arkansas, October 14 and 15, 2016!

**When:** October 14, 6:45 p.m.; October 15, 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

**Featured Speaker:** Mike Tucker, nationally-known speaker, pastor, and counselor in matters of marriage and family. You’ve heard him, you love him. Come hear him again and be blessed!

**Contact:** For additional information contact June Bates, 501.865.3234, or bates2h@hotmail.com.





# Clinton SDA Community Service Department Prepares

**CLINTON, ARK. »** In February 2008, the small town of Clinton had a tornado roar through, killing two people, injuring many more, and wreaking damage and loss. The small Clinton SDA Church was not hit.

Beverly Wynot Watson, who is presently the church's community service director, and an assistant were in a building that was destroyed by this tornado. Miraculously, their lives were spared with no injuries, although next door and across the street several were injured and one person killed. They now feel it's important to be prepared to serve our local community and surrounding area when disasters occur. Watson has received her badge in disaster planning and response and knows that it's important to have some kind of relationship with the local emergency management officials as well.

Even though the Clinton church is a small church with around 30 active members, Watson has involved the church members in preparing to be of help. The disaster relief fund has around \$800 at present, specifically

for food supplies and bottled water. We are filling the yellow buckets with cleaning supplies, and we have around 140 emergency personal-care kits that contain such items as bed linens, blankets, pillows, bathroom items and towels, and other personal items.

Donated clothing is sorted and appropriately sized and put into clear packets. Certain items of clothing are bought new. Local burnout victims have been helped with these items as well. When appropriate, we enclose spiritual reading that will bless and encourage those who are going



▲ Sorting and sizing donated clothing to be put in packets.

◀ Volunteers filling 140 box kits and disaster response yellow buckets.

through traumatic times.

Watson has invited four city and county officials to our church service to receive plaques in appreciation for their department's work in the area. She feels this outreach is a start in forming that relationship with the local area officials.

**Jeannine Watson**

# Ouachita Hills Academy Use Ham Radio for Emergency

**AMITY, ARK. »** Ouachita Hills Academy students and staff went backpacking in the Ouachita Mountains during spring break this year. The area is quite rugged and remote and there have been many hikers

who have gotten lost and had to be rescued, but this group was prepared.

Rob and Christine Neall, Ouachita Hills Academy staff, had were amateur radio operators. They also had Elijah Joers, Nicole Baylon, and Marcelino Nieves along, who were newly licensed radio operators. During a visit to the Nashville Nursing Home the Neall's had met Cleon Green, a Ham radio

operator who belonged to a group of Ham radio operators, and Green had offered to help monitor the group while they were out.

After a wonderful trip in the wilderness and getting to chat with the group, the Ouachita Hills Academy bell choir held a special performance for Cleon and his friends at the Nashville Nursing Home. What a fun way to make acquaintance with others by giving and getting from each other.

**Jonathan Baylon**



Left to right: Elijah Joers, KG5MVS; Nicole Baylon, KG5CRF; Christine Neall, KG5CRF; Rob Neall, KG4IUE; Cleon Green, N5DLG; and Marcelino Nieves, KG5MVV.

## Heber Springs Community Day

Heber Springs SDA Church is hosting it first "Community Day" on **Sunday, September 11, 2016.**

A **FREE LUNCH** will be provided to the community—in our on-going efforts to make our presence known in the community and "share our love" with others. Members hope this will only be the first of many opportunities to come in the future.

# Jones Creek Academy in Baton Rouge

**BATON ROUGE, LA. »** Jones Creek Adventist Academy, located in Baton Rouge, has only 19 students, and Pam Bounds, the Sabbath School/church secretary, had a desire to find a way to raise money for their educational needs. She was wondering how she would tackle this task and then thought of the idea of requesting people to send in their Box Tops for Education, Labels for Education, and Community Coffee labels. She started locally with a newspaper column, local radio stations, and then decided to expand to a higher level and go nationwide. Bounds started posting on Facebook nationwide, and joining various groups while posting her request. She was assisting her church school and introducing people to the Seventh-day Adventist educational system. She started receiving



these labels and proofs of purchase from Pennsylvania, California, Texas, Louisiana, etc. During the first six months she raised \$1,346.00!

Since then, Bounds has continued to turn in labels, and the Jones Creek Adventist Academy has benefited in many ways. Yes, it takes many hours posting and marketing, but the end results are fabulous! The Jones Creek Adventist Academy school principal, Joyce Bourgeois, presented Bounds with an award, honoring her for her marketing efforts.

**Pam Bounds**

Joyce Bourgeois presenting the award, "Exceptional Box Top Collector" to Pam Bounds.

# Communication Alert



Over the past many years for citizens in Oklahoma, communication has been absolutely vital. Living in tornado alley, accurate communication has often meant the difference between life and death. In recent years, there have been great advances in technology to aid the communication process between meteorologists and the general public. Besides radio and television, smart phones with weather apps and radar, and text messaging and instant messaging have made a giant impact for public safety and awareness.

As I was considering how important it is to communicate the weather, I was reminded once again of something far more important spiritually. John, the Revelator, says, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting

gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred and tongue, and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him for the hour of his judgment is come; and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters" (Revelation 14:6,7, KJV).

If it is critical to be warned of tornadoes, it is far more important to be warned of the final events and the return of Jesus soon to take place.

Communication is the means by which the gospel is to spread to all the world. Every means and method should be used to share this good news. Word of mouth, print, television, internet, YouTube, smart phones, Web sites, and whatever other means can be dreamed of and employed are all part of the equation.

Jesus said, "Therefore, go and make dis-

ciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:19,20) NLT).

And the good news is: everyone can participate in communicating! Every follower of Jesus has the privilege and joy to tell the story. Every believer can share with someone this last message to mankind. Every son or daughter of the King can communicate the soon return of Jesus Christ! Wow! What an opportunity!

If you and I can get excited about a tornado headed toward us, how much more should be excited to tell about the soon return of Jesus?

**Rick Dye**, executive secretary

## Ordination Service at Camp Meeting

**WEWOKA** » On the first Sabbath of camp meeting at Wewoka Woods, Andrew Spooner was ordained to the gospel ministry.

Andrew was born and raised near the town of Sierra Vista, Arizona, to Adventist parents. He grew up with his four sisters and two brothers out in a small country community, all of whom received a home-school education from their mother.

His childhood was quiet and somewhat uneventful, and like many young boys he

dreamed of one day becoming a professional sports athlete, though he lacked any real talent for such.

In his mid-teens he began studies at a local community college, where he became interested in and learned American Sign Language. Taking every class offered on Sign Language, his goal was to become a teacher for deaf children. As his associates degree studies drew near a close, however, he was somehow redirected to Southwestern Adventist University, where he studied to become a pastor.

During his first year of study he was blessed to meet a young woman named April Bauder, with whom he became close friends. By the end of their un-

dergraduate studies, they were married. Andrew and April now have four children together: Enoch, Jonah, Hadassah and Zipporah.

In 2012, after four years of pastoral service in the Texico Conference, Andrew was accepted into Andrews University Theological Seminary where, three years later, in May 2015, he completed his master's of divinity.

Shortly after graduation, Andrew and his family were hired as a pastoral family in the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Andrew was invited to minister in the Alva and Canton church district, where he and his family now serve, living in the city of Alva, Oklahoma. Andrew is grateful to have the opportunity to serve his heavenly father, advancing His kingdom until His longed-for, imminent return to redeem His beloved children.

We welcome Elder Spooner to the gospel ministry and look forward to his continued service to the worldwide church.

**Rick Dye**, executive secretary



# Oklahoma Camp Meeting 2016: **Share the Power!**

**WEWOKA** » July 8-16 was the time for a special, spiritual convocation on the campus of Wewoka Woods. There were moments of great fellowship, fun and a season of spiritual renewal. Here are a few of the pictorial highlights.



OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE



## Commissioning Service at Camp Meeting

On the second Sabbath of camp meeting, Jung-Wook (Apple) Park was commissioned to ministry.

Apple was born in South Korea, and is a third-generation Adventist, his grandmother having been one of the first people to accept the Adventist message in South Korea.

He has been involved in youth and Pathfinder ministries since he was a boy, and his love and dedication to the Lord and for the youth has not wavered to this day.

He has since served in Pathfinder ministries in the Wyoming, Kansas, and Oklahoma Conferences, and has also planted two

Korean churches, one in Tulsa and another in Oklahoma City. He recently has started a new Community Service Center located in Tulsa, meeting the needs of new immigrants to the state of Oklahoma.

Apple is currently the Youth Director of the Oklahoma Conference. He has served

the Lord in this capacity for four years, and is also the coordinator of Asian Ministries, working closely alongside the Burmese and Korean churches in the Oklahoma Conference.

He lives in Edmond, Oklahoma, with his wife, Annette, and their three sons, Jae-Min, Jae-Yung, and Scott, who all attend Southwestern Adventist University.

We are excited about this important milestone in Apple's ministry and look forward to his continued contribution in furthering the gospel!

**Rick Dye**, executive secretary



## Giving an Offensive Message



Building walls, hiding e-mails, and other political comments over the past few months have developed into battle plans, ideas, and sound bites that are antagonistic to many. However, what about our message? Is it offensive? I would argue, yes. The message that we are called to give is broadly mentioned in Matthew 28:18,19, and directly proclaimed in Revelation 14:6-12. The words of Jesus admonish us to make disciples by teaching them to observe all things whatsoever was commanded of us. Unfortunately, this is often viewed as being inappropriate and

offensive, as people, nowadays do not appreciate being told what they should do, even if it is for their benefit. Just like today, Jesus, too, shared messages that offended people in every walk of life and, ultimately, this led to His death on the cross.

Revelation's message is even more so, as we are now commanded to "come out" of the world and to not participate in its future plans. For in so doing, we avoid "receiving the mark" that will cause one to be eternally lost. Thus, we are at a crossroad when communicating our message to the world. Do we share the uncompromising message with love that is viewed by the

majority as disagreeable? Or, do we water down our message to appease the masses and risk the same fate as those we are trying to reach? I dare say, no! Stand firm in communicating this message with clarity and hope. "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life" (Revelation 2:10).

**Kenn Dixon**, communication and media relations director

## 2016 Bible Bowl Season Report

**ATHENS, TEXAS** » Many Bible Bowl events took place this spring. Beginning on February 13, exhibition games were held at the Faith church in Baton Rouge, La. Churches from Covington, Hammond, Lake Charles, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge came together to praise God in their knowledge of the Word.

Next, on April 2, the North Central Tex-

as Youth Federation conducted their Bible Bowl championships at the Grace Temple church in Fort Worth. Churches and groups participating were: Grace Temple, All-Nations, Forest Hill, Metro Community, and community youth from the Dallas Fellowship neighborhood. Smiles erupted on the faces of the community youth as they buzzed in to answer questions. Many

had never seen the ministry, but were excited to have a chance to be a part of it.

On April 9, exhibition games were conducted in Richardson, Texas, at the New Life church. Churches participating were New Life, Lewisville, and special guest church, the Potter's House North. This was first time a non-SDA church participated in the games and the young people seemed to thoroughly enjoy it. A special thanks to Karl Hamilton for his efforts on coordinating Bible Bowl in the Richardson, Tex., area.

On April 16, Southwest Region adults participated in the United Youth Congress Bible Bowl All-star Tournament during United Youth Congress in Virginia Beach, Va. The adult team from the Forest Hill church placed second runner-up.

On Monday, April 25, about 80 students from the various schools of Southwest Region Conference participated in Bible



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Bowl at the annual outdoor school on the grounds of the Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex. For many students this is their first exposure to the Bible Bowl ministry. The schools from the Southwest Region were: Alfred Booker Junior Academy, Applegate Adventist Junior Academy, Bethel Adventist School, Emmanuel Adventist School, Excel Adventist Academy, Martin Luther King Christian Academy, New Orleans Adventist Academy, New Life Christian Academy, Shiloh Adventist School, and Southwest Adventist Junior Academy.

On Sabbath April 30, the Mountain States Youth Federation conducted exhibition games in the afternoon at the Smyrna church in El Paso, Tex. The theme for the youth day was "Turn to the Source: God is the source of all our needs."

Two young women, Loelesha Page and Aaliyah Williams, spoke to the youth, and then Maurice Turner, Southwest Region Bible Bowl coordinator, presented a message entitled "Sources Say."

On Sabbath, May 14, the Capitol Cit-

ies Youth federation conducted their federation championships at the Fondren church. The four churches participating were Baytown United, Fondren, Mainland, and Hebron. This federation has demonstrated excellence in Bible Bowl events as they have produced many national champions in recent years.

The champions from the aforementioned federations journeyed to Athens, Tex., on June 11 for the conference championship games. It was a festive atmosphere as the Bible Bowl song was sung and people greeted one another as they sang, "Hello, my brother, how are you, my sister? Welcome to the Bible Bowl, Jesus soon is coming, let us all be ready. Welcome to the Bible Bowl" After all was said and done, the final results of the conference championships were as follows:

**Pre-Junior Division (6-9 years old)**

- Champion: Capitol Cities (Fondren church, Houston, Tex.)
- First Runner-up: Mountain States (Smyrna church, El Paso, Tex.)

**Junior Division (10-15 years old)**

- Champion: Capitol Cities (Fondren church, Houston, TX)
- First Runner-up: Mountain States (Smyrna church, El Paso, Tex.)

**Senior Youth Division (16-22 years old)**

- Champion: North Central Texas (Grace Temple church, Fort Worth, Tex.)
- First Runner-up: South Louisiana (Sharon Chapel, Lake Charles, La.)

**Young Adult Division (23-35 years old)**

- Champion: North Central Texas (Metro Community church, Arlington, Tex.)

**Adult Division (36-up years old)**

- Champion: Capitol Cities (Hebron church, Houston, Tex.)
- First Runner-up: North Central Texas (Forest Hill church, Fort Worth, Tex.)

We look forward to the champions in each of these divisions traveling to the city of brotherly love, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on October 21 and 22, 2016, for the National Bible Bowl games. The first runner-up will have a head start on the books for 2017, which are: Acts, Deuteronomy, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, 1 and 2 Timothy, and Psalms 126-150.

The ultimate purpose of Bible Bowl, as with all Bible study, is to bring the participants closer to Jesus. The best part is that you will not have wasted your time studying the word of God, because there are no losers in Bible Bowl. If you would like to

participate or know more about starting this ministry in your area, contact Maurice Turner at 817.925.9569, or by e-mail at biblebowlswest@yahoo.com.

**Maurice Turner**



# Eighth Grade and Kindergarten Graduates Learn About Wisdom

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** » Graduates of the eighth-grade class of 2016 proudly received diplomas, signifying another milestone in their educational careers at Berean/Martin Luther King Christian Academy. Some students spent only one year at the school, while others were there for all 10 years. Pre-K and kindergarten students also marched in a separate graduation ceremony.

The Pre-K3, Pre-K4, and kindergarten graduation preceded the eighth-grade graduation. Its theme was “The Sound of Music,” the brainstorm of Pre-K and K5 teacher, Deloris Newman. Decorations filled the walls, the processional aisle, the stage, and graced the elegantly prepared refreshments. Decorations consisted of musical staves with notes, platinum records fastened to stage curtains, and a keyboard-shaped aisle. The preschoolers didn’t hesitate to demonstrate their knowledge of a myriad of songs, the biblical alphabet with corresponding scripture, months of the year in Spanish, role-playing community helpers, math, reading, writing, poetry, and a doctrinal drill along with singing and signing. Deloris Newman, and assistants Marian Wilson and Lovie Oyekenu, made this possible.

The eighth-grade recognition featured five graduates. Two graduates, Jonathan Saunders (valedictorian) and Landon Johnson (salutatorian), had studied with Berean/Martin Luther King Christian Academy for ten years.

Saunders came to Martin Luther King as a fourth grader during the merger of Berean Academy and MLK. When asked what impressed him most about the two schools, he said, “The school has helped me academically and spiritually. The teachers actually love you and help you with your class work while instilling life’s object lessons in you. I just knew I would go to church school and never wanted to go anywhere else. I really loved outdoor school where I met many new friends.”

According to Fran, Jonathan Saunders’ mother, “I think Berean and MLK helped

to continue the foundation begun at home, preparing him for all aspects of life. And most of all, I could count on prayers for my child from his teachers.”

Landon Johnson, is a non-church member whose mother enrolled him at MLK because of its Christian environment. Because of a scheduling conflict with her middle school teaching job, at one point Landon’s mother considered transferring him to a public school. Sibyl Jordan, principal of MLK suggested that Landon’s mother drop him off at Jordan’s home as early as 6:30 a.m. so that he could continue to attend.

“I really appreciated Mrs. Jordan being so accommodating,” said Landon’s mother. “Where else could this type arrangement have been available?”

Landon chimed in with, “MLK helped me to grow closer to God.”

Robert Landry, first elder, delivered the commencement address with the topic “What’s Wisdom Got to Do With It?”

Using the analogy of exam preparation, Landry took the students through a process that ultimately leads to knowledge, understanding, and, above all, wisdom.

“Wisdom is the combination of knowledge and experiences resulting in insights that deepen one’s understanding,” he said. “Because knowledge is a goal, and wisdom the craft in which the tool is used.”

“Knowledge understands that a traffic light has turned red,” continued Landry, “But wisdom applies the breaks. Knowl-



Top: Young graduates are ready to move on to an exciting new classroom in first grade.

▲ The eighth-grade graduating class of 2016 learned about the difference between knowledge and wisdom in the commencement speech.

edge recognizes quicksand, but wisdom walks around it. Knowledge learns of God, but wisdom loves Him. It is through wisdom that God will begin showing you where you fit into His divine plan.”

His final admonition to the students was, “May your years ahead continue to be characterized by knowledge, understanding, and most of all by wisdom.” Remarks by principal Sibyl Jordan and the awarding of diplomas followed.

Evelyn M. Edwards



# Communicating with Heaven's Grace



From my childhood, I have a distinct recollection of my mother often quoting Colossians 4:6, "Let your speech *always* be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one" (NKJV, emphasis supplied). I am intrigued by the Apostle Paul's use of the word "always." "Always" is much more decisive than the term "almost always." Said another way, 99 percent is not 100 percent. The other day I read something from a publication called *Insight* from a company named Syncrude in Canada. It answered why 99 percent won't cut it. I quote: "If 99% is good enough, then 22,000 debits will be deducted from the wrong bank account in the next 60 minutes. Twelve babies will be handed to the wrong parents today. Over 14,000 defective computers will be shipped out to buyers today. Over 103,000 income tax returns will be processed incorrectly this year. Over 18,000 pieces of mail will be mishandled within the next hour. Nearly 300 pacemaker operations will be performed incorrectly this year. Close to 900,000 credit cards in circulation will turn out to have incorrect cardholder information on their magnetic strips. And 20,000 incorrect drug prescriptions will be written over the course of the next 12 months!" Of course, none of these issues are a problem unless they affect you or me!

Communication that is *pretty good* is not what

we as followers of Christ are to aim for, according to the words of the Apostle Paul. His conclusion is that we should "always" strive to speak and communicate with the grace of God. Not just in sermons, *Record* articles, in the classroom, in the boardroom, or at black-tie events, but also in the day-to-day, hour-by-hour conversations with family, friends, co-workers, fellow church members, etc.

Communicating with grace implies a godly tone, heavenly content, and redemptive intentions. We are given the opportunity to make a difference in favor of the kingdom of God with our words and our message. Whether we are at home,

at church, school, at work, or at play, we face the daily challenge of embellishing the kingdom of heaven or misrepresenting it through our conversations and interactions with others.

So often we overlook the pointed words of Christ found in Matthew 12:36-37, "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (NKJV).

How often after having carelessly said something hurtful and destructive, do we blurt out the disclaimer: "Oh, I didn't mean it that way. You misunderstood me"

God's record is precise and detailed. We may not have to give an account to each other, but we most certainly will to Him. We are constantly building either a legacy of heavenly influence or a reputation for fostering an unfit, uncouth, and adverse effect on those around us. The wise man most aptly said that in the tongue resides the power to give life or destroy. Our mantra should be the same as Christ. He came to give life and give it abundantly. There were no hidden agendas in His communication and no self-serving intentions. He simply uttered words of life and strength to His listeners. We need to be in that same business. Go out today and share the love and the comfort of Christ with those with whom you come into contact!

**Carlos Craig**, president

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# Share the Hope Series Results in Baptisms

**DALLAS** » The Olson family was baptized by Frank Lugo in June as a result of the Share the Hope Prophecy evangelistic series. The family is only one of the fruits of the current Bible studies and relationship-building being conducted by volunteers in the area. This was an effort by multiple North Dallas churches with Byron Corbett, pastor, as the main speaker. The event ran from May 6 through June 4. Hundreds of attendees flocked to learn about the Good News, end-time events, and the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.



The Olson family was baptized by Frank Lugo in June.



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# Annual Service at Clifton Norse Church

**CLIFTON, TEXAS** » The Norse Seventh-day Adventist Church, the oldest standing Adventist church in the Texas Conference, will hold its 33rd annual church service at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, October 8. A potluck will follow the service.

Joe Wheeler is the featured speaker for the church service. He is well-known for his best-selling book series, *Christmas in My Heart*. His tenure in Texas included directing the adult degree program and community lyceum for Southwestern Adventist University in the 1970s and 80s. An avid blogger, he posts about issues, values, travel, and books.

The Keene Church Worship Choir, under the direction of Juanita Goodlow Browder, will present music. This 100-plus member choir praises God with a variety of music and will lift you to heaven with their songs.

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



The 33rd annual church service at the Clifton Norse church, the oldest standing church in the Texas Conference, will take place on October 8.

three miles, then turn left on CR 4155 and drive about a mile. The church is located on the left.

Those wanting to ride horses before the church service will meet in Keene at 6:00 a.m. and head to a ranch near the Norse Church for a chuck wagon breakfast. The

group will take a 30-minute trail ride to the church.

If you have questions, contact Yddo Ortiz at 817.517.4650.

**Yddo Ortiz**

# Celebration at Gulfhaven

**HOUSTON** » The Gulfhaven church in Houston experienced an awesome Sabbath on February 13, 2016, before a packed church of members, visitors, friends, and family members as Gulfhaven's pastor, Noel Lazarus, baptized four people for God's kingdom. Prior to the baptism, Charlene Griffin, one of the church's soloists, sang a beautiful song, "It is Well with My Soul," which set the tone for the worship service. What a joy it was to witness these



four adults, Vanessa Ogaga, Angelica Garcia, and Timothy and Andrea Wright, take their stand after several weeks of Bible study conducted by Victor Amankwah and Pastor Noel Lazarus. On the same day, seven more precious souls were added to the church by profession of faith. This gave a total of 11 new members at the Gulfhaven church in one day. Praise God!

**Jean Hagen**

# Communicators Needed!



TEXICO CONFERENCE

After graduating as a four-year student from Indiana Academy, I knew I would go on to college and earn a degree in something. What career path should I follow? It was a lingering unanswered question in my mind that brought increasing stress as time rushed by. My first two years at Southern Adventist University (then Southern College), I changed majors trying to figure it out, but at the end of my second year I still didn't feel any closer to knowing what I wanted to do with my life. As it turned out, even though I graduated with a bachelor's degree in behavioral science, I find myself working in the field of communication. How a person with a degree in behavioral science ends up in com-

munication only God knows, but I feel it is a privilege to be able to work in the area of sharing and communicating the wonderful things that God is doing in this area of His harvest field.

Regardless of our age, educational background, occupation, or station in life, God has chosen each one of us to be communicators of His grace to this world of ever-increasing turmoil, hatred, upheaval, and uncertainty.

Referring to the miracle of feeding the 5,000, "Christ received from the Father; He imparted to the disciples, the disciples to the people, and the people to one another. So all who are united to Christ will receive from Him the bread of life, and impart it to others. **His disciples are the**

**appointed means of communication between Christ and the people"** (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 49, emphasis supplied).

We have different ways of communicating and different spheres of influence, which helps to cast this bread of life across the globe. Now more than ever it is vitally important that we, Christ's disciples, tell the world about God's love and salvation, which He freely offers to all. May we be found faithful in using whatever means He has entrusted to us to communicate this most important message to a world in desperate need of hope.

Sue Hinkle, communication director

## Yepsica Moreno Added to Texico Pastoral Staff

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » The Texico Conference has a new addition to the pastoral staff. Yepsica Moreno was recently hired as an associate pastor to work particularly with the Native Ministries Department in the Gallup and Crown Point, N. Mex. area.

Yepsica Moreno was born in Bogotá, Colombia, South America. After completing secondary school, she worked in sales and as a receptionist before attending Colombia Adventist University in Medellín. While attending the university, she worked as a cashier, receptionist, and assistant to the treasurer before graduating with a major in accounting and a bachelor of arts degree in 2006.

A month after graduation, she immigrated to the United States and worked in New York City for the Greater New York Conference in sales of books and literature and as an accountant for "Life Line to Africa." During those two years of contact with the public, she sensed a call to the gospel ministry and decided to pursue theological studies at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. While there, she learned about expressing ministry as a chaplain. Having been exposed to the civil unrest in Colom-

bia, she felt drawn to the military chaplaincy. During the course of her seminary studies, she received ecclesiastical endorsement as a chaplain candidate in the U.S. Army, was commissioned a second lieutenant, and attended the chaplain officer basic leadership course in Fort Jackson, S.C. While at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School (USACHCS), Moreno took the oath of allegiance and became a proud citizen of the United States of America.

While attending seminary, Moreno was attached to the 415th Civil Affair Battalion in Kalamazoo, Mich. In addition to the monthly weekend drills with the USAR unit, she completed a unit of clinical pastoral education at a hospital in Kettering, Ohio. While assisting with a parish congregation, she was ordained as an elder in the church. These practicums enhanced her preparation for accessioning into the U.S. Army Reserve as a chaplain on May 24, 2016.

After graduating with a master of divinity degree from the theological seminary at Andrews University in 2015, Yepsica was employed to work specifically with native ministries for the Texico Conference, where



Yepsica Moreno was recently hired as an associate pastor to work particularly with the Native Ministries Department in the Gallup and Crown Point, N. Mex., area.

she is currently serving. Her new military unit is the 372nd Quartermaster Battalion at Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque.

She enjoys hiking, cooking, her two dogs and caring for her mother. She brings much life experience and education into the responsibilities of pastoral care and outreach for the communities of West Central and Northwestern New Mexico.

Yepsica Moreno and Sue Hinkle

# “R U Ready?” Texico Youth Rally

**ODESSA, TEXAS** » The Spring Texico Youth Rally was held in Odessa, TX on April 22-23, 2016. The churches from Odessa and Midland combined to host this event at the Odessa College Saulsbury Center. The hard work and collaboration paid off with about 250 people attending! The youth rally was called “R U Ready?”

The rally focused on questioning whether the youth were ready to finish the race that is set before us. We are all on a journey and striving to get to the finish line—the

pearly gates of heaven.

Pastors Fernando Villegas, Leroy Green, Mike Razon, and main speaker, Helvis Moody, young adult/youth ministries director of the Southwestern Union Conference, encouraged and challenged us. The weekend was filled with skits, special music, praise and fellowship. We had a canned food drive, from which all donations went to a local organization that feeds, clothes, and ministers to residents of

homeless camps around Odessa.

Throughout the event we shared a hashtag so everyone could post their pictures. Using #ReadySetGo16 you can find pictures and posts from the event.

We give thanks to all of the participants and volunteers who gave of their time and effort into making this a great youth rally.

**Natalie Baeza**



Nefritire Razon



Nefritire Razon

► Helvis Moody, young adult/youth director of the Southwestern Union Conference, was the weekend speaker for the Spring Texico Youth Rally.

**Far right:** Mike Razon, Texico Conference youth director and coordinator of the youth event

▼ Attendees of the Texico Youth Rally in front of the Odessa College Electronics Technology Building in Odessa, TX



Nefritire Razon

TEXICO CONFERENCE

# Alamogordo Celebrates Being Debt Free

**ALAMOGORDO, N. MEX. »** The Alamogordo church celebrated a long-awaited day on July 9, 2016, as they gathered for their mortgage note burning and are now enjoying being debt free!

Local church members, former pastors, and Texico Conference officers were in attendance to participate in this momentous occasion. Local church leaders Annette Dunlap-Badjar, Jesse Cone, Stephanie Bedford, and Gary Siebel also participated in the morning service. Retired pastor Earl Robertson began the celebratory Sabbath with the lesson study. Welcome and announcements were shared by current pastor, Chuck Workman. Previous pastor, Bill Kasper, told an engaging children's story. Mary Albright, Texico Conference associate treasurer called for the morning offering and her husband, Terry Roybal, blessed the congregation with an original

song for the special music. Texico Conference president, Lee-Roy Chacon, shared an inspirational sermon followed by Philip

from the Alamogordo and Ruidoso Downs churches outdid themselves in serving a scrumptious fellowship meal. All in all, the members and invited guests reported a memorable, happy Sabbath celebration.

**Chuck Workman**



Merle Barnhouse

◀ Conference and church leaders gather for the mortgage burning during the worship service.

▼ Alamogordo Church sign announces celebration service.



Merle Barnhouse

Robertson, executive secretary/treasurer, who called officers and pastors to the platform for prayer and to light the fire they had all been waiting for!

Following the service, the celebration continued in the fellowship hall, where the "chefs"

# SVA Receives Nathan Greene Painting

**CORRALES, N. MEX. »** Sandia View Academy (SVA) was recently blessed to receive Nathan Greene's beautiful painting of the second coming of Jesus called "The Blessed Hope."

SVA is grateful to the North American Division Department of Education for arranging delivery of the professionally framed studio canvas painting. In particular, SVA appreciates the anonymous donors who made this nearly \$4,000 gift possible.

**Gary Brown**



From left: Mekona Rankins, student; Jonathan Rankins, administrative assistant, and former principal, Gary Brown, hold "The Blessed Hope" by Nathan Greene.

# Coming Home: The Legacy of Southwestern

I well remember packing up my 1981 Chevy Chevette and slamming the hatchback with all I could muster one final time before hugging my mom goodbye that hot August day in 1985. I was headed to Southwestern Adventist College for my freshman year.

I can remember being asked the question, "Where will you go to college?" and replying with no hesitation, "Southwestern." As my sisters both attended there and loved it, it was never a question in my mind where I would go. Southwestern was in my blood.

Southwestern Adventist University is also part of T'resa (Noodel '91) Weaver's heritage. She attended the University because it was close to home and economical. At the same time, her mom, Valerie (Florea '91) Liggett, was attending Southwestern through the Adult Degree Program. In the spring of 1991, mother and daughter marched down the aisle together to receive their diplomas in Office Administration and Journalism, respectively.

For Lee Lee (Fry '86) Dart, there was no question as to where she would attend either. Three generations before\*, her father, Ed Fry, Sr. graduated from Southwestern in '61; her mother, Theresa "Tess" (Ling) Fry graduated from Southwestern in '60. Once Lee Lee's older brother, Ed Fry, Jr. ('84) attended Southwestern, the family moved to Keene so that all six of their children could attend and remain at home. Lee Lee graduated with a degree in Business Management; she is currently the pastor of The Adventure Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. And now Lee Lee's daughter Heidi is a junior at Southwestern, majoring in Communications and Business, and the president of the Student Association.

"I love Southwestern," Lee Lee says. "And I especially love it because I met my husband there." Her husband, Jed Dart, followed in his brother Chuck Dart's ('76) footsteps and attended Southwestern where he and Lee Lee met.

Wayne Powell ('93), CEO of Civitas Senior Living, is another alumnus with Southwestern in his blood. Wayne's son

Austen ('15) is now a pastor at the Cleburne Seventh-day Adventist Church and his daughter Arielle is a freshman this year. "I attended this school. I believe in this school. I send my children here. I employ Southwestern students as interns and hire its graduates," says Wayne. Wayne and his wife, Misty, recently gifted \$100,000 to the new Nursing and Administration Building, further exemplifying their belief in their school. Clearly Southwestern is built into the Powell family heritage.

Thirty-one years have passed since that day back in 1985 when I drove down I-40

towards Keene, Texas, to begin a new journey in my life. And now I am back; life has come full circle. Rather than sitting at a classroom desk, I am now sitting at a much larger desk with a plaque that says "Director of Alumni Relations" hanging on my office door.

I've noticed some things have remained the same. Old Betsy Road still lazily winds in front of the University. The duck pond is still across the street from the University's campus and the ducks waddle after passersby, dreaming of breadcrumbs. But the one thing I've noticed that I don't believe will ever change is the family feeling that encompasses our campus. Students smile and wave. They run to open doors. They greet me in the hallways, introduce themselves with friendly eyes, and offer hugs and warm handshakes. I look forward to meeting more grandchildren and brothers and cousins and sisters who are now attending Southwestern Adventist University because Southwestern is in their blood, too.

Southwestern Adventist University's legacy of family is woven in the generations that have entered our doors. Southwestern provides outstanding academic programming that builds confidence in the workplace. It radiates a spiritual atmosphere that builds faith in the One we serve. It gives students the tools they need to go out into the world and serve. And with all of that, Southwestern Adventist University's legacy continues: it is a place where you are always welcomed back home.

Vonda (Nicholas) Seals '87

\*The Wiist family also has three generations whom have walked the halls of Southwestern, as do many other families. Check out the Wiist family story on the back cover of this magazine.



**SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY ALUMNI**

Stay tuned via social media, email, mail, and our website for more information and additional dates.

*We're Coming to You!*

And we can't wait to see you!

**Schedule of Reunion Events**

September 15, 2016: Orlando, FL	January 22, 2016: Sacramento, CA
October 11, 2016: Denver, CO	February 12, 2016: Albuquerque, NM
October 23, 2016: Berrien Springs, MI	January 19, 2016: Loma Linda, CA
October 27, 2016: Washington DC	More dates to come!

817-202-6232 swau.edu/alumni

**Top:** Wayne '93 and Austen '15 Powell posing together at the Parent Dinner for freshman and their families.

**Middle:** Heidi Dart '18 leads the freshmen through the Mizpah Gate at the annual Mizpah Ceremony—an opportunity to pray over and dedicate the incoming freshmen class.



## Dianne Jones Retires from the Southwestern Union

**BURLESON, TEXAS** » Dianne Jones, administrative assistant to the president, retired from her position at the Southwestern Union at the end of August. She spent 28 years working for the Adventist Church. Dianne first began working at the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in 1988 as a secretary. She then held the positions of accountant, assistant treasurer, associate treasurer, and administrative assistant. In 2006 she became the administrative assistant to Max Trevino, former Southwestern Union president. She has worked for Larry Moore, current Southwestern Union president for the past 5 years.

“Dianne has truly been an amazing assistant. Her attention to detail and thoroughness, as well as her kind spirit, have been a source of great help and encouragement to me and to the Union staff. Though we are sad to see her leave, we are happy for her to have reached this season in her life. May God continue to bless her in her retirement,” said Moore.

Dianne and her husband, Richard, reside in Crowley, Texas. She and Richard have four adult children and nine grandchildren. In her retirement Dianne plans to relax while pursuing her main hobby of quilting.

## Metroplex Hospital Recognized for Commitment to Jumpstart Killeen

**KILLEEN, TEXAS** » The Jumpstart Killeen leadership team honored Carlyle Walton, CEO of Metroplex Adventist Hospital in Killeen, Texas, on July 26, for their support of and participation in the Jumpstart Free Health Clinic held July 14 and 15, in which more than 2,000 people were provided with free health care and follow-up treatment. In addition to the hospital providing major funding for the event, numerous hospital staff volunteered their time, serving in numerous capacities during the event, including hospitality, IT Services, nursing, medical services, and various other departments. “I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to participate in this event and to give back to my community,” said one hospital employee. “I wish we could do this every year!”

Metroplex Hospital also provided free surgeries and other services at its facility during the weeks following the event, for

approximately 100 patients, totaling millions of dollars in value.

A plaque of appreciation was presented on behalf of Jumpstart Free Health Clinic during a leadership training event for Metroplex Hospital employees. When called to accept the honor, Walton invited those present who had participated as volunteers for Jumpstart to come forward and join him

in accepting the plaque. The plaque reads: “In recognition and sincere appreciation for your generous support and commitment to Jumpstart Killeen and the mission of helping those in need,” and also includes the text found in Proverbs 22:9, which says, “He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.”



Pat Humphrey, Southwestern Union Health Ministries director, presents plaque of appreciation to Carlyle Walton, CEO of Metroplex Adventist Hospital, and some of the many employees who volunteered, for their enthusiastic support of Jumpstart Free Health Clinic.





Built around you.

## New Hospital Opening on 8-7-16

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**Andrews University seeks Assistant - Full Professor in the Teaching, Learning, and Curriculum Department** to teach, advise, supervise field experience and direct student projects. Position may require teaching in any/or all semesters including summers. Ap-

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**Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for NAD teaching certification.** Primary responsibilities include: teaching curriculum and instruction courses and supervising elementary student teachers. Ten years elementary teaching experience, including lower grades and multi-grade teaching experience are essential. Doctorate strongly preferred. Effective summer 2017. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human

Development, [dewhite@ucollege.edu](mailto:dewhite@ucollege.edu).

**Union College** in Lincoln, Neb., seeks an experienced and highly qualified financial and operational leader to assume the role of Vice President for Financial Administration beginning January, 2017. The V.P. reports directly to the president, manages a multi-faceted division, and serves as a key member of the college's executive team. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in higher education. Applications, inquiries, and nominations should be sent to Vinita Sauder, [visauder@ucollege.edu](mailto:visauder@ucollege.edu).

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the Department of Pharmacy Practice must possess a Doctorate of Pharmacy degree, and candidates for the Department of Pharmaceutical and Administrative Sciences must possess a Ph.D. Prior teaching experience is desired, but not necessary. Interested individuals, please send C.V. and letter of intent to Jen Mathew, Office of the Dean, at [jmathew@llu.edu](mailto:jmathew@llu.edu).

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## Obituaries

**BROWN, Norman,** born September 12, 1960, in New Orleans, La., and died June 10, 2016, in Bush, La. He was a member of the Bogalusa SDA Church since 2002. He will be missed.

**EVANS, Billy Joe,** born February 12, 1931 in Wellington, Texas, and died February 9, 2016 in Amarillo, Texas. He was a member of the Mount of Blessings church. He served in the US Air Force during the Korean War. Until his health prevented him, he was actively involved in his Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: wife, Wanda Evans, Amarillo; daughter, Lorinda Gayle Elliott, of Lugoff, S.C.; son, Wayne Evans, of Amarillo; son, Larry

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Evans, of Amarillo; brother, Roy Evans, of Hereford, Texas; and brother, Weldon Riley, of Canyon, Texas.

**GRIFFIN, Herman James**, born in 1919 and died July 2, 2016, in Collegedale, Tenn. Griffin was a former pastor in the Southwestern Union. Herman worked for the Kansas City Southern Railroad for 28 years and then became a minister of the Adventist Church serving in Waller, Port Arthur, Beaumont, Houston Central, Cleburne, Keene, Grand Prairie, Arlington, Albuquerque Heights, Shreveport First and South Churches. An ardent soul winner through the years, he and his wife, Jeanice, endeared themselves to all the members of their congregations. Survivors: wife, Jeanice Griffin; son, Charles Griffin of Oolteway, Tenn. and Glynn Griffin, of Richmond, Va.

**MOCK, Donna Rae**, born August 28, 1925, in Orange, Calif., and died July 16, 2016, in Ardmore, Okla. She was a member of the Ardmore SDA Church. Donna and Norman Mock were married December 21, 1967 in Orange, CA, and they moved to Ardmore in 1999. Donna was preceded in death by her brother, Jerry Hagerman. Survivors: husband, Norman C. Mock; son and his wife, Steve and Celeste Jennings, of Knoxville, Tenn.; daughter, Susan Driggers, of Sun City, Calif.; and brother-in-law, Roger Mock, of Helena, Mont.

**PAYTE, Charlene**, born March 2, 1955, and died May 14, 2016, in Glenwood, Ark. She was a member of the Bonnerdale SDA Church. Survivors: husband, Joey Payte, of Glenwood; daughter, Malena Selby, of Kirby, Ark.; son, Nicolas

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## Houston Route

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	Monday, September 5	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	5108 E Mockingbird Ln, Victoria, TX 77904	6:20 PM	6:50 PM
	Tuesday, September 6	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, September 7	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 Ruddar Fwy S, College Station, TX 77840	11:45 AM	12:15 PM

**Order Deadline for the Houston Route is Thursday, September 1. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.**

## Louisiana / East Texas Route

We Will Remain at Each Stop for 30 Minutes

	Monday, September 19	Arrive	Depart
Athens New Beginnings	511 Chase St, Athens, TX 75751	10:10 AM	10:40 AM
Tyler	2935 S Southeast Loop 323, Tyler, TX 75701	11:40 AM	12:10 PM
Longview	2800 Airline Rd, Longview, TX 75605	1:40 PM	2:10 PM
Marshall	159 Standpipe Rd E, Marshall, TX 75670	2:55 PM	3:25 PM
Jefferson Academy	3000 FM 728, Jefferson, TX 75657	3:55 PM	4:25 PM
Shreveport - Conf Office	7025 Greenwood Rd, Shreveport, LA 71119	5:25 PM	5:55 PM
	Tuesday, September 20	Arrive	Depart
Minden	108 Harveys Way, Minden, LA 71055	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Monroe Macedonia	2300 Lee Ave, Monroe, LA 71202	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Central Louisiana Church	298 Mary Hill Rd, Pineville, LA 71360	1:30 PM	2:00 PM
Baton Rouge	4455 Jones Creek Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70817	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
Hammond Emmanuel	1401 Harrell Ave, Hammond LA 70403	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
	Wednesday, September 21	Arrive	Depart
Covington Ephesus	923 N Florida St, Covington, LA 70433	8:45 AM	9:15 AM
Mandeville	22337 Little Creek Rd, Mandeville, LA 70471	9:45 AM	10:15 AM
Slidell	2448 Gause Blvd W, Slidell, LA 70460	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
New Orleans -First	4201 W Esplanade Ave, Metairie, LA 70006	12:15 PM	12:45 PM
Lockport Spanish	504 Seventh St, Lockport, LA 70374	2:15 PM	2:45 PM
Houma	3342 W Main St, Gray, LA 70359	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
New Iberia	3608 Highway 14, New Iberia, LA 70560	5:20 PM	5:50 PM
Lafayette	119 Rena Dr, Lafayette, LA 70503	6:35 PM	7:05 PM
	Thursday, September 22	Arrive	Depart
Lake Charles	1537 Country Club Rd, Lake Charles, LA 70605	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Beaumont	3175 S Major Dr, Beaumont, TX 77720	11:15 AM	11:45 AM
Lufkin	1209 S John Redditt Dr, Lufkin, TX 75904	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Rusk	660 Euclid Ave, Rusk, TX 75785	4:00 PM	4:30 PM
Corsicana	3210 N Business 45, Corsicana, TX 75110	6:15 PM	6:45 PM

**Order Deadline for the Louisiana / East Texas Route is Thursday, September 15. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.**

## UPCOMING ROUTES

West Texas/Southern New Mexico	October 3-6
Eastern Oklahoma/NW Arkansas	October 17-20
Arkansas / East Texas	November 28-December 1
Western Oklahoma / New Mexico	November 14-17

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Payte of Glenwood; brother, Douglas Sughert, of Mexico; three sisters, Christine Payte, of Oklahoma, Gayla Carr, of Nebraska, and Carol Stevens, of New Mexico.

**PINNEY, Halcyon Ione**, born April 5, 1920 in Argentina and died June 6, 2016, in Hot Springs, Ark. She was a member of the Hot Springs SDA Church. Halcyon was born to Adventist missionary parents and she grew up in the Philippines, Singapore, and Shanghai and went to the Far East Academy as a child. Her husband, Merlyn Pinney, was the CFO for Loma Linda University and she worked at the School of Dentistry at Loma Linda. When Merlyn and Halcyon retired to Bishop, California, Halcyon worked at Northern Inyo Hospital in medical records until she was 83. She was preceded in death by her children, Marilyn Campbell and John Pinney, her husband, Merlyn Pinney,

and her sister Flavel. Survivors: sister, Betty Bahr, and two grandchildren.

**PLUNKETT, Vincent Paul**, born February 2, 1945, and died June 26, 2016. He was a member of the Baytown-LaPorte Church. Survivors: wife, Johne; brother, Gene; sister, Pat; children, Brandon, Vincent, Heather, George, Lisa, Jesse, and Julie.

**TELLES, Wanda J.**, born in 1934 in Bragg City, Mo., and died July 7, 2016, in Crystal Springs, Ark. She was a member of the Hot Springs SDA Church. Wanda grew up in Arkansas before moving to California in the early 1950s where she met John Telles, her husband of 56 years. After many productive years in the San Francisco Bay area during the 1950s and 60s, Wanda and her family moved back to her home state of Arkansas in 1969, where she embarked on a new

career as a medical assistant in Hot Springs, forming lifelong friendships with colleagues and patients in the local medical community. After retiring in the 1980s, Wanda focused on administrating Town & Country Heating and Air, which was owned and operated by her husband for more than 40 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, John P. Telles; her daughter, Rita Telles; her sister, Bonnie Wiebenga; two brothers, Bobby and Leon Midkiff; and her grandson, Christopher Conrad. Survivors: son, Derrick Telles and his wife, Betty; two sisters, Betty Midkiff and Jani Lou Harper.

**WILSON, Janet G.**, born November 9, 1957 in Dallas, Texas, and died May 18, 2016, in Richardson, Texas. Survivors: mother, Jeroline Wilson, of Sachse, Texas; sister, Sharon J. Wilson; her sister and brother-in-law, Rhonda and Ron Walthall, of Combine, Texas; nephew and wife, Kevin and Paige Walthall, of Bremerton, Wash.; niece, Rachel Walthall, of Combine; and aunts, Helen Barber and Loneta Pauly, of Keene, Texas.

**WOLTER, Norma Ruth**, born June 22, 1923, in Chamberlain, S.D., and she died July 7, 2016, in Harrah, Okla. She was a member of the Summit Ridge SDA Church. Norma graduated from Union College, where she received a bachelor's degree in education and religion in 1948. Her career in teaching spanned many decades, and she enjoyed helping with crafts at summer camps, as well as VBS. After retiring, she and her dear friend, Mabel Madsen, moved to Summit Ridge Retirement Village in 1989. They volunteered together at Choctaw SDA Community Services. Norma also went on her first Maranatha Mission trip to Venezuela in 1998, and then the following eight years she volunteered to help with crafts in their VBS programs for mission trips at various locations. She lived a full life of service.



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## SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Sep 2	Sep 9	Sep 16	Sep 23	Sep 30	Oct 7
Abilene, TX	8:03	7:54	7:44	7:35	7:26	7:17
Albuquerque, NM	7:33	7:23	7:13	7:03	6:52	6:43
Amarillo, TX	8:13	8:04	7:53	7:43	7:33	7:23
Brownsville, TX	7:49	7:41	7:33	7:26	7:18	7:11
Dallas, TX	7:51	7:42	7:32	7:23	7:14	7:04
El Paso, TX	7:29	7:20	7:11	7:02	6:53	6:44
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:53	7:44	7:35	7:25	7:16	7:07
Gallup, NM	7:41	7:31	7:21	7:11	7:01	6:51
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:43	7:35	7:26	7:17	7:09	7:00
Gentry, AR	7:45	7:35	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:53
Little Rock, AR	7:35	7:25	7:15	7:05	6:55	6:46
Muskogee, OK	7:48	7:38	7:28	7:17	7:07	6:57
New Orleans, LA	7:22	7:14	7:05	6:56	6:47	6:39
Oklahoma City, OK	7:56	7:46	7:36	7:26	7:16	7:06
Roswell, NM	7:23	7:13	7:04	6:54	6:45	6:35
San Antonio, TX	7:55	7:47	7:38	7:30	7:21	7:13
Shreveport, LA	7:39	7:30	7:20	7:11	7:02	6:53
Tulsa, OK	7:51	7:40	7:30	7:20	7:09	6:59

# On the Record »

BY JESSICA LOZANO » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



## Withdraw to the Wilderness

**I'M VERY RARELY WITHOUT MY SMARTPHONE.** I have at my fingertips multiple ways to communicate with family members and friends scattered across the globe. I am able to take high-quality photos and videos and easily share them. I have access to thousands of news outlets which alert me of breaking news on the topics of my choosing. I have dozens of translations of the Bible, all of Ellen G. White's writings, and the Sabbath School quarterly. I have fitness apps, photography and design apps, children's apps, and dozens more. I have access to the world's libraries and literature, as well as to the world of user-uploaded videos. I am able to share photos, videos, and updates with a closed network of friends through social media.

If I find myself with any kind of question, I can usually find an answer quickly using any one of these apps on my smartphone. With all of this knowledge, entertainment, and connection available, and knowing that a smartphone can be used for many good and powerful purposes, it can be easy to place a higher premium on time spent using this device than on time spent with God. Even though there are many things that smartphones can do, they can't pray or maintain a relationship with God.

Jesus did not have the distractions of modern technology—no cell phones, radio, television, or Internet—and yet the Bible tells us that he often withdrew to the wilderness and prayed (Luke 5:16).

Enoch, too, withdrew from civilization to walk with God. According to Ellen White, "After remaining for a time among the people, laboring to benefit them by instruction and example, he would withdraw, to spend a season in solitude, hungering and thirsting for that divine knowledge which God alone can impart"

(*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 87).

However, it's important to note that, "He did not become a hermit, shutting himself entirely from the world; for he had a work to do for God in the world. In the family and in his intercourse with men, as a husband and father, a friend, a citizen, he was the steadfast, unwavering servant of the Lord" (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 85).

Because of these "seasons of solitude," Enoch was able to continue his ministry and fulfill the work God had given him to do. Jesus, too, was able to connect with His Father in the solitude of the wilderness.

In our modern world, I wonder if we might, at some level, equate Enoch's search for solitude and Jesus' withdrawal to the wilderness with purposefully powering down and stepping away from our smartphones and other devices on a regular basis. If you find yourself "hungering and thirsting" for God's divine knowledge, perhaps it's time to seek the wilderness and pray.

## Record

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### Submissions

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

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*-Catherine, Psychology Major, 2015*

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