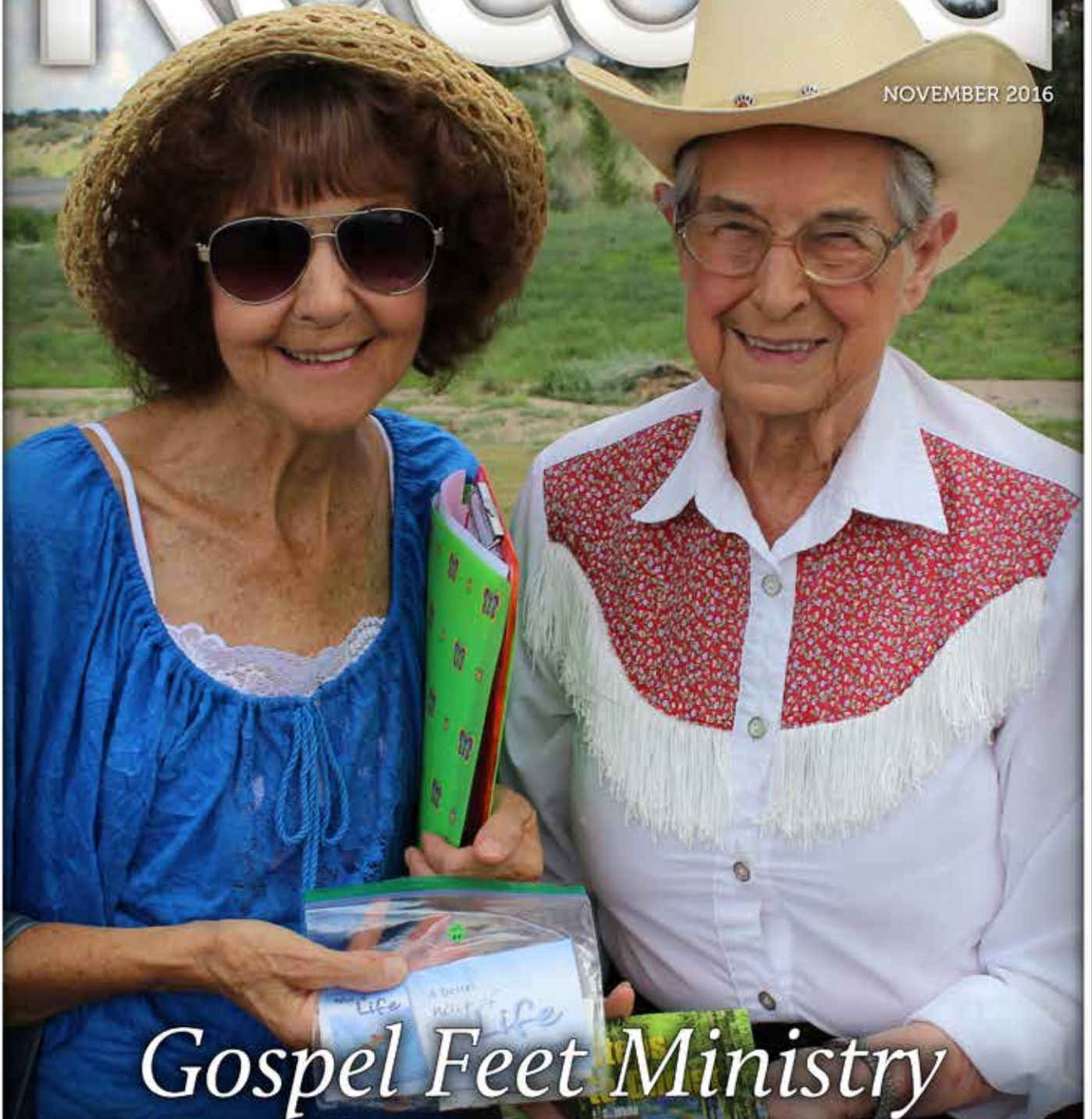


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

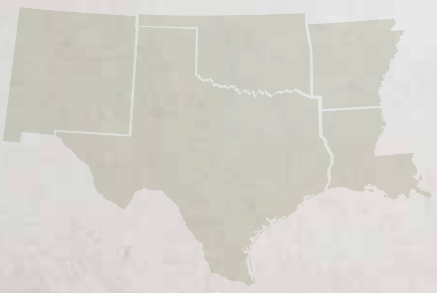
Record

NOVEMBER 2016



Gospel Feet Ministry
Unstoppable Seniors Sharing God's Love

VALUING EXPERIENCE AND WISDOM



8



“HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER”

A Commandment with Promise

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Reflections from the Golden Years

MY WALK WITH GOD

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How Beautiful Are Their Feet!

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On the Cover

Norma Gonzalez, 69, and Audrey French, 90, of Silver City, N. Mex., are two retired senior citizens who started Gospel Feet Ministry, a door-to-door ministry to reach people in their community. Read their story on page 13.



Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



Loving Our Seniors

Responding to reports of shouting and crying, police in Rome, Italy, recently went to the home of 84-year-old Jole and her 94-year-old husband, Michele. Instead of finding the expected dispute or violence, the officers found the elderly couple in tears, distraught by television news reports of abuse against children and other violent attacks. The pair had also been overcome with loneliness, as they'd had no visitors in some time.

As they realized the nature of the situation, the officers decided to stay and visit with the couple. They even prepared a spaghetti dinner for them. As the officers spent the evening socializing and eating with them, they learned about the lives of Jole and Michele, who had been married for more than 70 years.

The police department later wrote about the experience, saying "Life is not always easy, especially when the city empties and the neighbors are away on holiday. Sometimes loneliness dissolves

into tears. Sometimes it's like a summer storm, it suddenly overwhelms you."

I'm inspired by the many stories of our senior members who have remained active beyond retirement and into advanced age. I've heard stories from students of Southwestern Adventist University about the former educator and centenarian Morris Lowry, who still attends classes and visits the campus gym. I pray that I will always be as active in ministry as Pastor Guillermo Zenner, who is mostly home bound, but maintains an active prayer ministry, or as vibrant as Audrey French and Norma Gonzalez, who, at 90 and 69, respectively, are actively canvassing their community, sharing the good news.

For all of those who are still active, there are many more who are not. There are many who struggle with what were once the simple tasks of daily life--cleaning their home, driving a car, picking up groceries, mowing the yard, or even attending church. They have lost loved ones, or perhaps have simply lost touch with family, and are struck by sadness and loneliness.

We are commanded to love one another as Christ loved us (John 15:12). Loving our senior members includes respecting and honoring them. It includes treating them with dignity. Loving them means spending time with them, listening to them, and valuing their experiences and wisdom. It means assisting them with daily life, if needed. Sometimes, it means simply cooking up a spaghetti dinner, sitting down with them, and saying "Tell me your story."





To Your Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

You Are the Umpire of Your Life

A man was journeying through the desert and got lost. He was thirsty and his throat was dry; hope was running out. Just then, he saw a shack in the distance. Inside, there was an old-fashioned water pump with a handle and spout, and a jug of water beside it with a note that read, “Pour all of the water into the pump to prime it. If you do this, you will have all of the water you wish to drink.”

What to do, he wondered. It was all he could do not to grab the jug and guzzle every drop. The choice was severe. Trust the note and use the precious water to prime the pump—a pump that might not even work—or drink the water now and be satisfied immediately.

It took everything to lift the jug and pour some of its water into the pump. He worked the handle, but nothing happened. He emptied the jug and kept working the handle but the pump only produced faint gurgling sounds; he was getting scared but kept working the handle ... and then water—cold, refreshing water—gushed from the spout and splashed all over the floor of the dusty shack.

He was overjoyed and drank until he thought his stomach might burst. When finished, he refilled the jug and set it beside the pump along with the note for the next weary traveler.

Every day we have many choices to make, big and small. And our decisions at these intersections of life either bless or damage us.

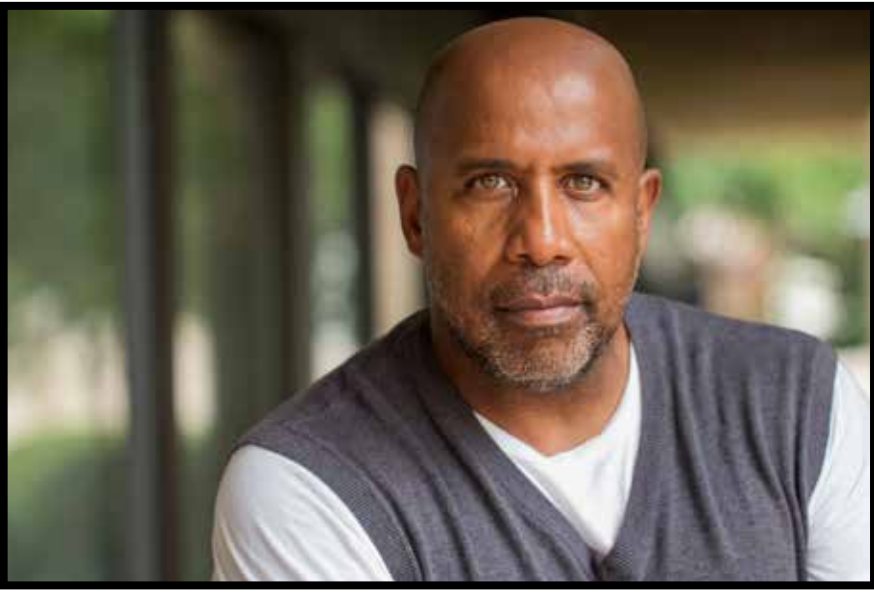
In the book, *Who You Are When No One Is Looking*, the author writes, “Every single day we make choices that show whether we are courageous or cowardly. We choose between the right thing and the convenient thing, sticking to a conviction or caving in for the sake of comfort, greed, or approval. We choose either to take a carefully thought-out risk or to crawl into a shrinking shell of safety, security, and inactivity. We choose either to believe in God and trust Him, even when we do not always understand His ways, or to second-guess Him and cower in the corners of doubt and fear.”

Choice is a sacred gift that was given at Creation. It’s the first step toward improving our well-being. Before we can achieve

positive changes in any area of our life, we must *choose* to do so. Conscious decision-making is key to experiencing the positive impact of good choices.

It’s important to remember that although we gladly surrender our lives to the indwelling presence of Jesus Christ, He has put us in charge of our lives by giving us the gift of choice. Jesus never intends for us to disengage our will and drift through life living in constant reaction. Although we live under the Lordship of Jesus Christ, He chose to put us in charge of our lives.

The story is told about an umpire who once called Babe Ruth out on strikes. Yankee stadium erupted with deafening jeers and



boos, which prompted Babe Ruth to turn to the umpire and say: “There’s 40,000 people here who know that the last pitch was a ball, tomato head.” He expected the umpire to lash out in anger and eject him from the game, but instead, the cool-headed ump simply said, “Maybe so, Babe, but mine is the only opinion that counts.”

You are the umpire of your life.

God gives you the most wonderful gift of having the final say over your life. When it comes to the choices you make, you are in charge, whether you think so or not. And at the end of the day, your opinion is the only one that matters. So make your choices count and let your decisions be a blessing to yourself and others.

Trust Him and You Will See

MY STORY BEGINS ALL THE WAY ACROSS THE SEA ON AN ISLAND. My name is Keysha Marie Ortiz Ramos and I'm from Carolina, Puerto Rico. I had known about the existence of Southwestern Adventist University because the university's choir had come to my school and church when I was in tenth grade. Pastor Jose Pagan had also come to recruit students. I met some great people from that choir and one of them was Alexander Cortes. He is a Southwestern nursing alum, as well as the leader of the music group, Contagious Faith.

As the years passed, I found myself in my senior year of high school. I was one of seven students chosen to visit Southwestern. I was so excited to come and see everything with my own eyes. My family and friends gathered the money together for my ticket.

When we got to the university, it was like a new world for us, because it was the biggest university that we had ever seen. Of course, it was the first university in the States that we had ever seen, which explains our reaction. The whole experience was amazing. I was so amazed by it that I felt I had to come study at Southwestern, and, ultimately, I decided to do so. I truly felt like I belonged at Southwestern.

After high school graduation, my parents and I decided that I was going to stay for a year at the Metropolitan University of Puerto Rico. My dad used to fight a lot about the topic of Southwestern. He was always telling me to be realistic, but my reality was that I just needed to have faith in God. I knew He had a plan for me and that He was going to open doors for me to get where I am now. Those things were taught to me by my father, but it was hard for him to see me go.

My grandma and grandpa were always encouraging me to study at Southwestern and follow my dreams. They would always have my back during every argument that I would have with my parent about SWAU. My grandpa was always there for me. He always told me "Trust him and you'll see." I still feel sad that he couldn't see me get to that airplane. I will always be thankful to him.

I spent my first year at college in Puerto Rico working very hard. Everything had to be good for me to

study at Southwestern. I kept in contact with Southwestern's staff to make sure the transition would go smoothly. It was hard, but thanks to their dedication and working with me via email and phone, I was able to get through it and I will always be thankful to them.

The moment when I bought my own set of luggage was the moment when my dad knew for sure that I was actually leaving. It was so hard for him. That same night, I got a call from Rosibel Ordoñez, a camp director for Lake Whitney Ranch, telling me that I got the job to work for the summer as counselor and craft teacher. I was shocked and excited, I just couldn't believe it. I was finally moving to Texas and I was going to study at Southwestern Adventist University.

Saying goodbye to my family was the hardest thing that I have ever done. Everyone was crying and having to see myself leaving my island while looking down at it from the sky broke my heart.

But now I know some of the plan that God has for me. I have met so many great people that he has put in my path and that I'm thankful for. Now in my junior year of college, I work doing social media for the spiritual life and development department. Now that I have lived in Texas for a year and some months, I can say how amazing God is. Thanks to him I have traveled to so many places and I've had so many awesome experiences. God has helped me through all of this, just like my grandpa said, "Trust in him and you'll see."



Keysha Marie Ortiz Ramos is a journalism student at Southwestern Adventist University.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY TAMMY G. PRIETO

The Unstoppable Missionary

Born with the heart of a missionary, 78-year-old Pastor Guillermo Zenner has not let retirement nor serious health issues prevent him from doing the work he loves. As a young man, Zenner studied business administration at the Institute of Uruguay, but God steered his plans and guided him to instead receive a major in theology and a minor in business administration at the University of Argentina.

His first mission field as a pastor was in South Brooklyn, New York, in a diverse and poverty-stricken community. Upon arriving, he asked his congregation of 50 members what they wanted, and they answered, “to have the church open every day, except Mondays, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.” For two years, he did as requested, and the church grew enough for the need to expand to a bigger building. The congregation raised enough money to buy a bank and convert the building into a church building with around 700 members.

Throughout his work as a pastor, Zenner says that, “Visitation has been the most important part of my job—something that is rarely done nowadays. It involves visiting with an Adventist or non-adventist member for 15 minutes, forming a friendship and praying with them; keeping the visitation short.” Forming face-to-face relationships with members and non-members in their homes is what kept him going for so many years as a pastor until his retirement in 2004.

He then asked God, “What do You want me to do now? I am limited in what I can do, now that I am retired.” Zenner says that God’s reply was to go and pass out copies of the Spanish-language evangelism magazine *El Centinela*. He made it his goal to give away 15 copies of *El Centinela* to anyone wherever he went. Pastor Zenner honored his word by passing out the magazine every day to at least 15 people.

In September 2015, he felt a severe pain in his leg and went to the hospital. A couple weeks later, he returned to the hospital, but with a deadly bacteria that had entered his body in his prior visit to the hospital. That bacteria caused his organs to deteriorate and eventually fail. He was on the verge of death.

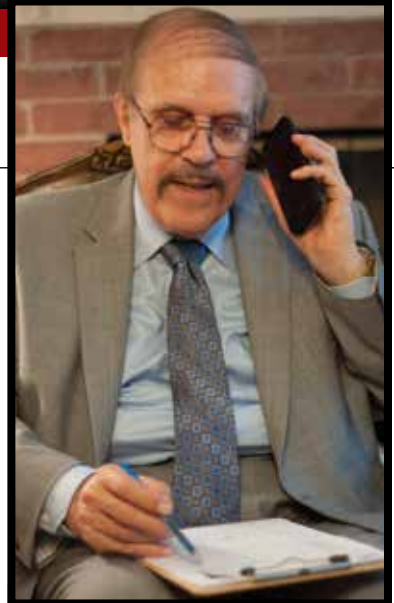
On October 8, 2015, his wife, Maria Zenner, was faced with the difficult decision of placing him either in hos-

pice care or transporting him to a long-term hospital. She chose the long-term hospital, but continued to battle in her heart whether this was the decision God wanted. She continued to pray, asking God to show her His will. As the hospital staff prepared to transport Pastor Zenner, he asked Maria to come close. With a weak voice, he told her that if something were to happen to him, she needed to finish the Bible studies they had started with their neighbors. What a true missionary!

Maria went home heartbroken that night, wondering if she would see her husband the next day. She fell on her knees and asked God for a sign. She wanted to see him the next day sitting by his bed, able to speak to her. Miraculously, that is exactly how she found him the next day in his room. He began to recover, and, after three months in the hospital, he was able to return home.

Pastor Zenner felt the need to start his outreach again, but how? He was very limited in walking and was mostly home-bound due to his slow recovery. Waking up at 3:00 a.m., he started to pray for families and people he could remember who needed prayer. From there, he created a list because the people who needed prayer started growing. There are 135 people on his list today.

Zenner’s method is simple. He calls a certain number of people from the list each day and starts off with a friendly conversation and ends with a prayer. He says, “I am not able to visit homes anymore as I did before, but now I am able to do it through intercessory prayer. This is a method Jesus used. First, he became their friends and then told them, ‘Follow me.’” Pastor Zenner says he knows God has given him a mission, and with a faithful heart, he will continue to do His work until the day of his rest.



Pastor Guillermo Zenner greeting a member from his prayer list.



Visión Hispana

UN BREVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE

Literatura Para Los Caminantes

Bobby Baca, de la Iglesia Bilingüe Española del Valle, una vez más coordinó un pequeño equipo para su misión anual para distribuir la literatura a los peregrinos que se dirijan al Santuario de Chimayo el Viernes Santo el 25 de marzo de 2016. Cada Viernes Santo, miles de peregrinos de todo Nuevo México, hacen su caminata hacia el santuario católico.

El Sr. Baca, junto con otros miembros de la iglesia, trabajan en este alcance. Ponen una mesa llena de libros de literatura Adventista, incluyendo *El Camino a Cristo*. Las bebidas también son proporcionadas a las personas que necesitan refrescarse. Un almuerzo, organizado por el Sr. Baca, completa el evento. Muchas personas se detienen y se llevan los materiales que se les ofrecen.

Varios miembros de la iglesia han participado en este proyecto de la misión a lo



largo de los últimos años, muchos de los cuales son jóvenes. El alcance ha sido un gran éxito en los últimos años y seguirá siendo con el servicio que el Sr. Bobby Baca siempre brinda junto con los miembros de la iglesia.

Nuestra oración es que las personas sientan el amor compartido por los miembros, y que abran sus corazones a la verdad contenida en la literatura que reciben.

Diahann Córdoba

“HONOR THY FATHER AND THY MOTHER”

A Commandment with Promise

Buford Griffith, Jr., Southwestern Union executive secretary

One evening a son took his elderly father to a restaurant for dinner. The father being very old and weak dropped his food on his shirt and pants as he ate. Other diners watched with disgust but the son was calm. After they finished the son quietly took his father into the restroom. He wiped away the food, combed his hair, and fitted his spectacles firmly on his nose. When they came out the entire restaurant was watching, not able to grasp how someone could embarrass themselves like that. The son paid the bill and they walked out together. At that moment an old man from the diner called out to the son and asked, “Young man haven’t you left something behind?” The son replied, “No sir, I haven’t.” The old man retorted, “Yes, you have! You left a lesson for every son and hope for every father.” The restaurant went silent because everyone knew it was true. Those who have always cared for us deserve our care in return. (Story by

Abhi via moralstories.org)

“Honor thy father and mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee” (Exodus 20:12). We are counseled that, “Parents are entitled to a degree of love and respect which is due to no other person. God Himself, who has placed upon them a responsibility for the souls committed to their charge, has ordained that during the earlier years of life, parents shall stand in the place of God to their children. And he who rejects the rightful authority of his parents is rejecting the authority of God. The fifth commandment requires children not only to yield respect, submission, and obedience to their parents, but also to give them love and tenderness, to lighten their cares, to guard their reputation, and to succor and comfort them in old age.” *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 308.

The apostle Paul says, “...this is the first commandment with promise” (Ephesians 6:2). When the law was given to ancient Israel, this commandment “was a pledge to the obedient of long life in the good land God had promised them; but it has a wider meaning, including all the Israel of God, and promising eternal life upon the earth when it shall be freed from the curse of sin,” *Ibid*, 308.

It is said that it takes a village to raise a child. There is so much truth to that statement for children are to be raised in a surrounding of “cooperative love,” a trait that was more common in days gone by than what is seen in today’s society. Normally, we focus on caring for children, but we have also been taking on the question of caring for the elderly. The Census Bureau projects that the number of seniors will reach 72 million by the year 2030 and more adult children are having to, in many cases, take care of those who took care of them.

Taking care of elderly parents can be emotionally challenging under the best



of circumstances. But when those parents have failed to care for their children in early life, that challenge can feel impossible. When an older person gets to the point of needing help and issues between the adult child and their senior parent(s) have not been addressed either by the senior or the adult child, the issues or barriers that have stood between parent and child preventing a good relationship between them come to the surface and manifest themselves in not so positive ways.

The challenge of understanding the command of God to “honor your father and mother...” is that He didn’t say, “Honor your father and mother, *only* if they were good parents.” The command is to give honor and respect without regard to their



behavior. Eleanor Cade in her book, *Taking Care of Parents Who Didn't Take Care of You: Making Peace with Aging Parents*, states that “when parents get older the adult child must realize that this may be their last chance to make peace with this parent. Find your way to some acceptance with what was and accepting that they did the best they could, perhaps, and maybe that best was not all that great. Also, begin to think of care giving as a cycle. A cycle suggests a beginning and an end. The adult child has an opportunity to start a new cycle with their parent with a rippling, positive effect of a new relationship with their own children, spouse or current family.”

The command of God to honor our parents is to engender respect for all rightful authority. Such respect begins with the attitude of children toward their parents. This becomes the basis of respect and obedience owed to those who are legitimately placed in authority over us throughout life.

In the spirit of this command is the thought that those in authority in the home and outside of it should so conduct themselves that they are ever worthy of the respect and obedience of those under them. But if they do not or have not conducted



themselves in a proper manner the command is still binding because God’s commands are given to mold and shape the character of an individual, preparing them for life eternal with the Creator of us all.

Ultimately, our relationship with our parents, good or bad, is the basis of our respectful, obedient and honorable relationship with God. The elderly, related or non-related, are to be treated with honor and respect for they are God’s precious possession. Every person, if time and life permits, will one day be classified as a senior citizen. Treat the elderly as you would like to be treated and the commandment with the promise of eternal life will one day become a reality for each of us.

MY WALK WITH GOD:

REFLECTIONS FROM THE GOLDEN YEARS

Pat Humphrey

Callamay Kindred

Callamay Kindred, of Albuquerque, New Mexico, has lived an active and full life. At 101 years old, she still drives a car, her mind is keen and alert, and she is actively involved in church life and ministry at the Albuquerque Central church. A gifted and multitalented person, Callamay's early life was filled with numerous sports and musical activities, and over the years she has had a richly diverse career, having worked as a practical nurse, administrator, and civil servant.

One day in 1967 Callamay's life was greatly changed when she happened to hear George Vandeman's radio program. Shortly before then, she had begun to feel a desire to help others learn more about God's Word and had enrolled in a mail order course to become a Bible instructor. Callamay was deeply impressed with what she heard in Vandeman's program, and after hearing his appeal to listeners to find the nearest

the Seventh-day Adventist Church, she did just that. Soon afterward a Bible instructor visited her home, gave her Bible studies, and helped to prepare her for baptism at the Jamaica (New York) Seventh-day Adventist Church.



A woman with a generous heart and a love for serving others, Callamay has blessed the church through her talents as a gifted musician, as well as giving to worthy causes, such as helping children through church school and giving financial support to nine church members who traveled to Rwanda to preach evangelistic meetings. People are naturally drawn to Callamay's warm personality and often come to her for advice. When asked about her spiritual journey she says that "I've learned to pray more, and to be in touch with Jesus in a serious relationship. I've learned to allow Him to lead my life more closely." She says that discovering the truth changed her life, and her advice to others is: "Study the Bible. Set an appointment with God every day and be sure to keep it. God is waiting for you. Please don't keep Him waiting."

Lily Cabansag

Ninety-two-year-old Lily Cabansag of Keene, Texas, is full of life and energy, and she is dedicated to helping others to enjoy a full and abundant life as she has. A



Life has not always been easy for Lily, but early on, her parents instilled in her the importance of trusting God completely, even through the hardships and disappointments. She claims the promise given to us in *Testimonies*, volume 8, page 19: “God does not ask us to do in our own strength the work before us. There is no limit to the usefulness of the one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.” Her advice to others? Says Lily, “May this be your prayer as I pray every day: ‘Lord, please order my steps today. Make me strong—not for the sake of possessing strength but to make me sufficient for the crisis moments in my life and the lives of others who reach out to me. . . . Make me a blessing to at least one soul today.’”

Lionel Milton

Surrounded by friends and family, Lionel Milton recently celebrated his 96th birthday. Born August 21, 1920, Lionel credits his long and vibrant life to clean living. Longevity seems to run in the family, with his nine siblings and his parents living



retired nurse (and also a delightful hostess and talented cook!), Lily holds monthly cooking schools and health education classes that draw large numbers of people from a variety of backgrounds. She enjoys teaching others about healthful living and showing them in a practical way how to put the principles she shares into practice.

Reflecting on her 90-plus years, Lily says, “I see God’s hand pointing, leading, and guiding up to the present time. When others asked her as a child what she wanted to be when she grew up, she told them that she wanted to be a teacher or a nurse and “to marry either a doctor or a minister.” And God has blessed her to see those desires fulfilled. “I became a teacher. I became a nurse. And I married a doctor who was also [a lay] minister.”



into their late 80s and 90s, and two of them having lived to the ripe old age of 102. “Like me, my siblings never smoked or drank; we just led a clean life. My parents never had to whip me because I was an obedient child,” he recalls.

Lionel spent four years in the army, and after receiving back and leg injuries, spent the next 20 years as a waiter in a historic New Orleans hotel. In 2005 following Hurricane Katrina, Lionel and his wife, Margaret, relocated to Baton Rouge. Faithfully accompanying his wife for years to the Berean church, no one ever suspected that he wasn't a member. But when Berean's pastor at the time, Robert Davis, made an appeal, Lionel responded and made the decision to join the church. “All my life I had been a Catholic,” Lionel says, “but on this particular Sabbath, I couldn't ignore the voice that was speaking to me, so I gave the pastor my hand and joined the Berean church. And I've never regretted my decision.”

Years of experience have rewarded Lionel with great wisdom, and his advice to “treat others as you want to be treated” is worth listening to. “You can't beat being nice,” he says. Lionel is quick to tell you that simply being a church member or belonging to a denomination can't save you, and his adamant advice for others is that: “You've got to have religion here in your heart. If you're not right with the Lord, shame on you!”

(Information provided by Evelyn Edwards)

Morris Lowry

As Morris Lowry, a retired educator, minister, and Bible instructor, reflects on his 100-year journey with God, he has only one regret. “If I had to do it all over again, I would take preaching much more seriously,” he admits. “When I was at PUC, I couldn't decide whether I wanted to be a preacher or a doctor. I tried medicine, but realized that science wasn't my cup of tea.” Graduating with a degree in religion from Pacific Union College, he spent most of his career as an educator, teaching Old Testament history and Bible classes in Adventist institutions, primarily in Texas. Now retired, he continues to fulfill his love for knowledge by sitting in on religion, history, and communication classes at Southwestern Adventist University. He still gets around town by driving himself.

Morris was born in Memphis, Tennessee, on May 28, 1916 to missionary parents who left for the mission fields of Burma three months after he was born. He

learned early on the necessity of making Bible study a priority in life. “It is important to study the Bible and commit texts to memory throughout the day,” he says. And this has become his main focus during his later years. “The Lord is coming soon, and we need to awake out of our Laodicean condition,” he admonishes. And Morris firmly believes that Bible study is an important key in that process.

His favorite passage, found in the book *Education*, page 267, is wonderful advice for those who are seeking God's direction in choosing a career: “We need to follow more closely God's plan of life. To do our best in the work that lies nearest, to commit our ways to God, and to watch for the indications of His providence—these are the rules that ensure safe guidance in the choice of an occupation.” Morris Lowry is convinced that this wise counsel has been the key to his success in life and carrying out the work that God has called him to do.

Pat Humphrey is a freelance writer who writes from Oklahoma. She is the former editor of the *Southwestern Union Record*.



HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THEIR FEET!

Pat Humphrey

If your impression of people in their senior years conjures up a mental picture of nursing homes, dementia, and rocking chairs, you've probably never met Audrey French and Norma Gonzalez from Silver City, New Mexico. These two retired senior citizens, ages 90 and 69, respectively, are full of vitality and enthusiasm—especially when it comes to working for the Lord.

Inspired by a desire to do their part to help finish the work, Audrey and Norma combined their efforts a couple of years ago, at the conclusion of an evangelistic effort at their church, to establish a ministry known as Gospel Feet Ministry. It all began when Audrey woke up in the middle of the night with a burden on her heart. “God impressed me that we needed to get out there and



Audrey French, 90, and Norma Gonzalez, 69, are retirees who love working for the Lord.

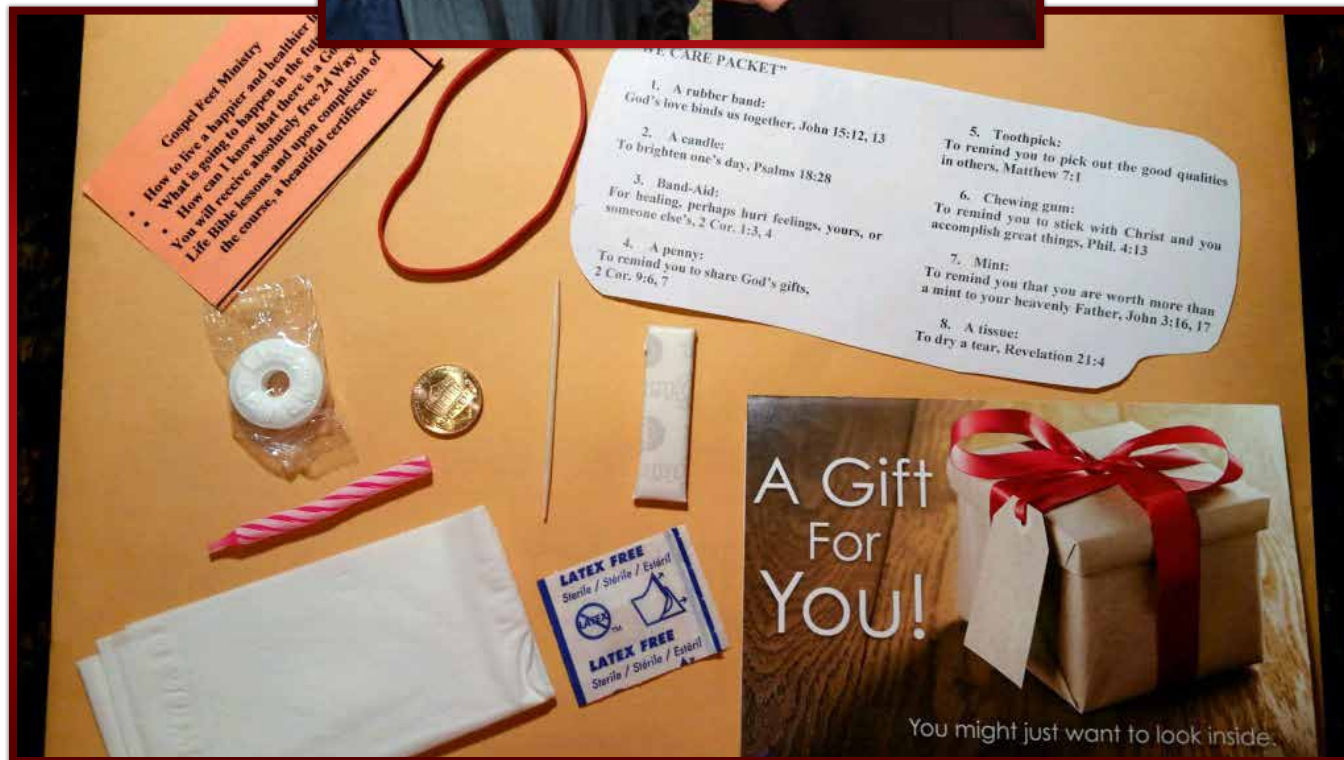
do something to win souls for the Lord," Audrey says. "I wasn't sure exactly how to get started, but I figured the best thing I could do was go out and start knocking on doors," Audrey continued. The very next day Audrey contacted her good friend, Norma, and asked if she would partner with her in this ministry.

"When Audrey called me, I was already on overload," Norma admitted. "But I prayed about it and God laid it on my heart to get involved. He brought to my mind the Bible text in Isaiah 52:7, which says, 'how beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news,' so we decided to name our outreach Gospel Feet Ministry." Despite Audrey having to use a walker as a result of an accident, the two have been "on the go" ever since, taking the good news of the gospel to as many people as they can reach. "It's amazing," Audrey says, "that whenever I'm doing this work, I carry my witnessing supplies in my walker, and I don't feel any pain. But most other times I'm in a lot of pain."

The ministry plan is quite simple—one that al-

most anyone can do, ideally, going out two by two. Audrey and Norma go door-to-door in their community of Silver City and invite people to respond to a short survey, which starts off with questions about people's interest in healthy living. Depending on the interests expressed, they offer to lend the respondents DVDs on such topics as managing stress, quitting smoking, and reversing diabetes. After handing out the DVDs they say, "We'll be back in a couple of weeks to pick up the DVDs and answer any questions you might have." This gives them an opportunity to go back and to establish an ongoing relationship with those who express interest.

During the second portion of the survey Audrey and Norma ask respondents if they happen to be involved in any community or group Bible studies. This provides a non-threatening opportunity to establish an interest. Depending on the response, they hand the person a Bible study pamphlet and ask if they are interested in taking Bible studies. Before leaving, they also offer to take prayer requests and ask if the per-





▲ Audrey French and Norma Gonzalez meet with members of their community.
Previous page: French and Gonzalez have prepared packets to share with the people they meet.

son needs help with any small jobs around the house. This has resulted in helping a man whose hedges needed trimming, a lady who needed help clearing a walkway, and a veteran who needed help with his garden. “We tell people that we are interested in the needs of the community. We let them know that we want to help them in whatever way we can, and then we offer to help them,” Norma says.

“Whenever we go to a door, even if the person isn’t interested in studying the Bible, we always leave something with them,” Audrey says. A made-with-love “care packet” consisting of a rubber band, a candle, a band-aid, a penny, a toothpick, chewing gum, a mint, and a facial tissue, also contains a tiny handout with encouraging Bible texts that correspond to each item in the packet. For example, the text corresponding to the rubber band says: “God’s love binds us together. John 15:12, 13.” The mint reminds recipients that “you are worth more than a mint to your heavenly Father. John 3:16, 17.” “Everybody loves that packet!” Norma shares with enthusiasm.

The Silver City church, a small church of about 30 members, supplies the funds to provide Bibles, *Steps to Christ*, Bible study pamphlets, and care packets that Audrey and Norma distribute through their ministry. “They [Silver City church members] are a prime example of demonstrating the concept that ‘you can’t out-give the Lord,’” says Norma. The two missionaries are grateful for the generous support of their church members.

While Gospel Feet Ministries is making great strides in reaching their community, Audrey and Norma are convicted that there is

much more to be done and that finishing the work requires every church member to be involved. “My hope is that this idea will be passed on,” says Audrey. “Time is short. And the members of the church [at large] need to get out and finish this work.” And Norma concurs. “We all need to be involved in reaching out to precious souls. Just pray, and the Lord will reveal something that you can do to witness for souls,” she says.

Audrey is committed, not only to going out and witnessing to her neighbors, but to helping others to do the same. “I’m on a fixed income,” she says. “But if anyone is interested in starting a ministry like this, I would be willing to send them a packet. We don’t know what the future holds. We need to work now, while we still have the opportunity.”

If you would like more information about Gospel Feet Ministry, to make a donation, or to find out how you can do more to share the Good News with your friends and neighbors, please write to Audrey French, 665 Tyrone Road, Silver City, NM 88061 or call Norma Gonzalez at 575.388.1470.

Pat Humphrey is a freelance writer who writes from Oklahoma. She is the former editor of the *Southwestern Union Record*.

How Old is Old?



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

It was in elementary school that I learned about Ponce de Leon, the Spanish conquistador, who is known for his exploration of Puerto Rico and credited with the discovery and naming of Florida and its exploration. Legend has it that during his exploration of Florida, de Leon was highly engaged in a search for the fabled “fountain of youth.” I well remember wishing that he had found it! The truth of the matter is, countless others wish that they had access to such a fountain.

Except for a brief time in life when children wish they were older, everyone wishes that they could stay young. No one really wants to grow old. For that reason all kinds of products have been developed that claim to slow down the aging process— or at least hide the effects of aging. Yet there are all too many unwanted consequences that develop as one ages. Few approach

their final days of life, as did Moses, who was 120 years of age when he died. The Bible says, “His eyes were not dim nor his natural vigor abated,” (Deuteronomy 34:7)

Even with today’s advances in modern science, growing old is no picnic. At what point in time does one become “old”? A few economic benefits are given when an individual turns age 55. Depending on one’s birthday, the age of retirement is somewhere between age 65 and 68. Is that the age you are considered “old”? Is “old” a matter of calendar age or biological age? I was put in my place when my boys, ages 8 and 10, told me one day, “Dad, you’re old!” I had not yet even reached age 40!

Some say age is a state of mind. While there is a certain element of truth in that, there are those who are either in a state of denial of their age—and the accompanying limitations, or they are just not able to think clearly any more due to memory

loss and a distorted perception of present reality.

These are the times that call for a real reminder of the commandment, “Honor thy father and thy mother.” Care for the elderly—whosever parents they are—is a shared responsibility. Whether the care given is at home, an assisted living center, a retirement center, a nursing home, a hospital, or in hospice care, the dignity of the individual must be safeguarded through comfort, safety, and providing the kind of care that is in their best interest. That care is not predicated by age, but by the need of a fellow human being who will never in this life find a fountain of youth. Praise God there is a promise that in the new earth there is a “river of life” as well as a “tree of life”! I doubt there will be any discussion of age there!

Steve Orian, president

Baton Rouge SDA Church Greetes You With a Smile

BATON ROUGE, LA. » When you walk through the doors of the Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church, you will be greeted by the head greeter, Gertrude Kingsbury, who has been a greeter for more than 40 years! Many people who have entered these doors have expressed to her that if you are sad and discouraged when entering, you do not remain that way because she has a way of brightening up your day. Gertrude Kingsbury has been a Seventh-day Adventist for 72 years.

Essie Dupuy is another greeter who has more than 30 years of experience. She, too, brightens up your day when arriving at church. She has been an Adventist for 67 years, and is a



wonderful asset to the greeting team.

Gertrude Kingsbury and her team of greeters for the Baton Rouge SDA Church witness to each person that attends the church with a contagious smile. Being a greeter is a ministry in itself. You are a representative for God. There have been several members that have joined the church because of Gertrude Kingsbury’s witnessing for Christ. Always remember to let your light shine for Jesus.

Pam Bounds

Essie Dupuy and Gertrude Kingsbury, greeters at the Baton Rouge SDA Church.

Nashville Church Plant

NASHVILLE, ARK. » A group of Ouachita Hills College students have been faithfully coming to the Nashville area each Sabbath for the past few years. They cheerfully go into the community making friends, tak-

ing 16 of the 26 presentations in the Share Him program will be presented by Payne on the Sabbaths the Ouachita Hills College students are in Nashville during the school year. Gary Manly and Jonathan Baylon will also present the Share Him presentations during that week's prayer meeting.

year; develop more contacts; conduct the church and Sabbath School programs; pass out flyers for a prophecy seminar; plan and conduct a prophecy series; and support a plant-based cooking class conducted at the

A baptism is planned for November or December upon completion of the baptismal class. There are also approximately 10 new guests attending church on Sabbaths.



▲ Ouachita student groups helping with church plant.

Far Right: Natasha Brown conducted a children's program every night.

► Josiah Payne, speaker for Share Him Prophecy Seminar.



ing surveys, giving away GLOW tracts and books, promoting upcoming outreach programs, and giving Bible studies. However, during the summer when the students are not present, the few members of the Nashville church plant are not able to follow up very well with the numerous contacts the students have made.

Josiah Payne and Natasha Brown from Ouachita Hills College spent 10 weeks in the Nashville area this past summer. Having the two students over the summer was an incredible blessing to the Nashville area. They were able to follow up with the contacts generated over the previous school



city park.

The students conducted a prophecy series on July 15-23. Brown conducted a children's program every night while Payne used Share Him presentations for the adults. Ten of the 26 Share Him presentations were given during the series. On July 23, three participants turned in cards for rebaptism from other churches. The remain-

The members of the Nashville church plant would like to thank Payne and Brown for keeping the momentum going from the work their classmates performed during the previous school year. The Nashville congregation is also grateful for the support of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference for allowing us to continue the Lord's work in the Nashville area. It is exciting to see the Holy Spirit working to soften hearts in the community and opening doors for the spread of the gospel.

Jonathan Baylon

Slidell Church Baptizes Four

SLIDELL, LA. » A Revelation of Hope Prophecy Seminar was held at the Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church this spring with evangelist Tommy Blount. Blount's clear and concise presentations helped attendees to understand the books of Daniel and Revelation. Approximately 10 non-Adventists attended each evening, and at the end of the seminar, there were four that asked for baptism: Eric McBride, Leverett Marcotte, Lee Poche, and Melvin White.

McBride attended meetings at the church over a year ago and wanted to be baptized, but due to health issues he had to delay. He attended the meetings again and wanted to be baptized this time. He even

came out to the church one day to make sure he could make it up into the baptism without any problems.

Marcotte is a friend of Berry and Linda Hawkins' son. When he found out that his friend's parents were Seventh-day Adventists, he inquired where they went to church, began attending, and made his decision to be baptized.

Poche is the husband of Vickie Poche, a current Slidell church member, and has been attending church regularly with Vickie. They attended the meetings each night and Poche asked to be baptized.

White had been praying

for God to send him to the church that preached the truth and when he received the flyer about the seminar, he knew that God had answered his prayer. He attended the meetings every night and asked to be baptized in the church.

Thanks be to God for His blessings during these meetings and for these precious people who are now members.

Vernella Rogers



▲ From left: Leverett Marcotte, Don Thomas, Lee Poche, Tommy Blount, Eric McBride, and Melvin White.

◀ From left: Leverett Marcotte, Melvin White, Lee Poche, Eric McBride, and Tommy Blount.

Supplies for Local Women's Shelter

Lake Charles Women's Ministry Collects for Calcasieu Parish Women's Shelter

LAKE CHARLES, LA. » The Lake Charles Church's women's ministries department recently held its annual collection of hygiene packs for the Calcasieu Parish Women's Shelter. Thirty hygiene packs were delivered to the shelter. Packs consist of combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, deodorant, washcloths, and a copy of *Steps to Christ*. The donation also included baby diapers, baby wipes, and baby food.

We pray that the women of the shelter will be greatly blessed by these items. We are grateful to the women of the church for their love, kindness, and generosity.

Margaret M. Jackson

Women packaging hygiene kits for battered women



Those Long but Short Years



As the administrator of Summit Ridge Retirement Village, it's my privilege to interact often with our people in their "golden years." I asked one of our residents, who wishes to remain anonymous, to tell how they feel about getting to this age.

Here is what they said:

"God is good! All the time! When we were young and just starting out in life, we thought life would be a smooth path and it would be a long time before we got old. Then, life happened, with all its joys, sorrows, good times and bad, and suddenly we find ourselves old. As we have made

the Lord our Help and Guide during those long, but short, years—we can agree with Mrs. White, 'We have nothing to fear for the future, except as we shall forget the way the Lord has led us, and His teaching in our past history' (LS, 196)."

Bill Norman

A Midnight Ride for the Lord

CHEROKEE » I wanted to write this testimony to let others know that Jesus is still close and working miracles. A few months ago, my friend Tony called me on a Friday evening, depression in his voice, saying that their church just cancelled a baptism set for the next morning due to the baptistery recirculating pump not working to provide warm water. I am a plumber, and he asked if he could come up to my house the next day and pick up a new pump. He had searched all over his town of Duncan to find a pump, but to no avail. I am a part of the Cherokee, Oklahoma church plant on the other side of the state, and my house is just about four hours away from his.

I felt the Lord tell me to meet Tony and get him the pump, so I told him that I would meet him in the middle of the state with it. My church plant has afternoon services, and I could be back in plenty of time to teach Sabbath School. He agreed. But, as I hung up the phone, a voice in my head kept saying "Take the pump to Duncan. Surprise your friend with the pump." So I prayed about it and set my alarm. I was up and out the door just after midnight with the pump on my motorcycle.

It was a pleasant ride with little traffic and nice weather. I was listening to my Sabbath music and praising God for this fun adventure. But, as I neared the El Reno area, Satan started casting doubts in my mind. "Why couldn't you have just mailed it? The baptism has been cancelled for the week anyway. It would have made more

sense to mail it sometime during the week and saved all this effort." As he put these thoughts in my mind, my heart began to sink. Obviously, whatever I did today wouldn't make much difference in the long run. The baptism was cancelled.

I wrestled with God over this assignment for about half an hour while riding, but since I was well over half way there, I thought I might as well finish the trip.



Around the town of Chickasha, thoughts of baptisms ran through my mind. The baptisms of my siblings, uncle, aunts, and good friends were playing in my memory. My own baptism flashed before me. Christ reminded me that all of heaven rejoices over one person who comes to Him. I started praying, "Lord, if there is some way to get the baptistery going again and have the baptism today, I am your willing servant."

The plan was to take the pump to Tony's house, but the Lord said, "Take it to the

church instead." I couldn't understand why, but I did it anyway. I arrived at the church around 4:00 a.m. Stepping off the motorcycle and stretching a little, I realized I hadn't had my devotions yet that morning. My phone had the devotion saved on it. After about 15 minutes or more, I prayed once more to allow the celebration of the baptism to happen. "Lord, if it be your will, please allow this back door to open."

I picked up the pump and reluctantly approached the door I had been standing next to during my devotions. As my eyes adjusted to the shadows, I found that in his discouragement and planning, Tony had left his key in the door.

Tears rolled down my face as I walked in the door. "Lord, this is amazing! I should have brought my plumbing truck now. I am willing to help if You will but provide the tools." I turned on lights in the sanctuary and made my way to the baptistery to find the other pump removed and the tools that were used still sitting

next to it! The Lord provided yet again! I crawled under the baptistery and did the easy part of the whole affair, the plumbing.

The water was turned on and the pump started. Everything was working well, but I didn't have a lighter for the heater. I searched high and low for the lighter all over the church, but to no avail. I prayed again, "Lord, you have provided everything that was necessary for the woman to be baptized today. Please provide the hot water." I searched some more, but nothing. "Well, Lord, I know where the water heater

is, so if you will, please provide buckets and a hose so that I can carry hot water across the church and pour it in.”

When I walked into the utility room, I discovered several buckets and a short hose next to them! Praise God! So, I started hauling water to the baptistery as fast as I could fill buckets, stopping to pray several times for this work not to be in vain. “Lord, work it out so that she can be baptized today.” When the water heater was empty of hot water, the baptistery was at least not freezing.

I looked at the clock, and it was 7:00 a.m. I needed to call Tony before he got on his motorcycle to meet me in the middle of the state to pick up the pump. He answered the phone a little surprised at the

request to bring a lighter by the church. “Can you call the pastor and the members to get the baptism on again for today?” He made a few calls and told me that it was good to go. We praised the Lord together and thanked Him for his blessings.

As I was getting ready to get back on my motorcycle to make it back to church for afternoon services, Tony told me how amazing I was for what I had done. I recounted the evidence of God’s will in everything that had happened and the miracles. I recounted that church members had given the Bible studies, the Holy Spirit had blessed their work, the church had loved the woman, the pastor was performing the baptism, and that he and the elders were praying fervently for her. All I had done

was submit to God’s plan and bring the water to the party. It wasn’t because of me. It was because of Him working through many people to reach one woman.

God still works miracles today for those who are willing to listen. He longs to do more of these for His people as time is drawing to a close. Please listen to the prompting of His Spirit.

I got off the motorcycle just before Sabbath School started. When I looked at my phone, I cried as I saw a picture of the baptism. Of course, I requested to tell the mission story for my church that day. May the Lord use these testimonies to encourage each of you in your ministry opportunities.

R.L. “Toolman” Simpson

Sabbath Keepers On the Road

FAYETTEVILLE, ARK. » In September, the Ottawa Kansas Sabbath Keepers Chapter met with the Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers to attend Bikes, Blues, and BBQ in Fayetteville. Our purpose of attending was to help the Fayetteville SDA Church run a booth. In addition to offering to pray with people, we passed out literature, CDs, videos, bottled water, and snacks. On Friday, a couple with two children came by the booth. She was working on her degree to be a counselor and said she wanted to have a Christian focus. She asked what was available to help her with that. She ended up taking three bags of books home that day.

On our way home on Sunday, about

20 miles before reaching Tulsa, the traffic came to a halt. I was on the left side of the outside lane and could see ahead people running around. I said to our road captain, Tony Siffles, “It looks like a wreck up ahead of us. Let’s go down the shoulder of the road.”

When we reached the wreck, there was a man lying in the middle of the road. The man was talking, but didn’t remember what had happened. The man, who had been riding a motorcycle, had been hit from behind when a large vehicle changed lanes and ran right over the top of him. The vehicle didn’t stop. The man had not been wearing a helmet, and his head was

cut and had a couple of “goose eggs.” He was dizzy and his left knee was hurting him badly. After about ten minutes, the ambulance got there and the medics took over. I turned around and found Tony talking to a woman. Tony told me that she was the mother of the man who had been injured. She had witnessed the accident and was crying. We prayed with her and she said she felt much better afterwards. We praise the Lord it was not worse. I am thankful that we were able to be there to help and pray with his mother.

Donald Clark, president, Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry



Melvato Bob's Miracle

OKLAHOMA CITY » The second chair for the motorcycle enthusiasts Oklahoma Confederation of Clubs (COC) is Melvato Bob. He has been a vital member of the motorcycle ministries in Oklahoma. This past Spring, he had a motorcycle accident in which he hit an overpass pillar at 70 miles per hour. He was taken to OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Our vice-president, R.L. Simpson, called and told me what happened. Later that afternoon, I called our ministry chaplain, Harold Salsman. After we both got off work, we went to visit him. He was in bad shape and unresponsive, so we had a word of prayer

and left. The next couple of times that we visited him, we met his family and other Melvato riders. About the fifth or sixth time I went to see him, I visited with his son and daughter for about 10 minutes. Before leaving, I asked them if I could pray for him. They said, "please do." As soon as I said, "amen," he opened his eyes and started speaking to us. It was the first time he had spoken since the wreck about a month previous. His son and daughter were very happy that he was able to finally speak to us. It was such a blessing to see God's hand at work because he was in such bad shape. Seeing him today, I know that it could only

have been God's healing. At this past COC meeting, he got up front and thanked all of the ministries for coming to see him and praying for him. He also mentioned that through this experience, his family had realized that the COC is a family and not just a club. He still has a way to go, but praise the Lord for the miracles He has been working in Bob's life. Please keep him and our ministry in your prayers!

Donald Clark, president, Oklahoma Sabbath Keepers Motorcycle Ministry

Red and Yellow, Black and White, All Are Precious in His Sight

As the children's Sabbath School song goes, we all are precious to God. We all have value in His eyes. We are the "apple of His eyes" (Deuteronomy 32:10). Didn't Jesus come to this dark world to save and redeem His lost children?

As small children, this was a delightful song to sing, and to teach us that all of us are an important part of this world and this church. I like to think that we are all a part of a big puzzle that God created.

When you put a

puzzle together, each piece is an important part to make the puzzle complete. Without the joining together of each piece, the picture that the puzzle creates would not be visible. How much time have you spent looking for that missing puzzle piece? You are obsessed with finding it, until at last it is discovered, and you are now satisfied. Don't you think God invests a lot of energy in looking for us?

God cherishes His created beings. He is sad when one of His children is lost, dis-

couraged, or deceived. He wants to bring His children home to live again with Him in heaven. He wishes to bring all of His multitudes of puzzle pieces back together to complete and finish His immense puzzle. Revelation 22:14 states, "Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates of the city." What a beautiful picture that would be!

Susan Castillo



Senior Citizen and Elderly Care Ministry



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

The strength of a community structure is built upon the foundation laid by the wisdom, expertise, and fortitude of the senior citizen. The elderly, just by their very existence, contribute immensely to the character, color, and history of its community. Their years of experiences, laden with triumphs, setbacks, and failures, help shape the future of the community. In the spirit of Leviticus 19:32, Southwest Region Conference Senior Care ministry is dedicated to serving the elderly, celebrating their golden years, and preserving the rich culture they contribute.

Our elderly provide guidance, instruction and stability to the churches of this conference; and in recognition of their value, the Southwest Region Church Ministries department encourages each church to provide or facilitate services to honor and enhance the daily existence of our elderly within the congregation as well as the larger community. Our goals are that our churches 1) become involved with elderly

care services in the community; 2) conduct health care, safety, and senior abuse awareness events, 3) have essential services like provisions for meals and transportation, 4) actively reach out to the sick, the disabled, the infirm, and those in nursing home facilities, and 5) organize senior citizen clubs. The golden years of senior citizens are celebrated and recognized in several of our churches by way of senior citizen clubs, senior citizen travel clubs, senior citizen breakfasts or dinners, senior citizen recognition Sabbaths, and senior citizen "adoptions." Many of these churches have even instituted Wednesday prayer meetings at noonday to accommodate those who do not wish to be out at night.

While our Church Ministries department encourages the development of these activities for the elderly, we also encourage our seniors to function according to the mantra "You Still Can." So many of our "seasoned" citizens actively participate in ministries to add value to their church and

community. Some of them provide volunteer services within the community such as "Adopt-a Grand," reading to youngsters, tutoring and/or mentoring, conducting bible studies, and participating in telephone outreach.

Our department's effectiveness has been amplified by the capable volunteer leadership of quite a few people. I would be remiss if I did not specifically thank leaders Elder Willie and Mrs. Wilma Lee, Southwest Region Family Ministries, leader Eunice Bailey, Southwest Region Disabilities Ministries, and leader Robert Johnson, Southwest Region Veterans Ministries. As we honor and support the "seasoned" members of the community and our churches it is imperative to remember that in doing so, we are binding another heart to the kingdom of heaven.

Durandel L. Ford, Sr. church ministries director

Members Rededicate Their Lives to God

TYLER, TEX. » This past summer, after a soul searching and spiritually gratifying two weeks of revival at the Sharon SDA Church held by the evangelist Victor Rago, several members decided to rededicate their lives to Christian fellowship. Rago was invited to the Sharon church by Michael Mitchell, the resident pastor. The revival started August 6 and continued until August 20, 2016, with Mondays and Thursdays off. Led by the Holy Spirit, Rago preached on such topics as: "When Will Earth's Sickness Be Cured?" "More Power than Nuclear Weapons," "God's Remedy for Stress."

As the revival progressed, more members and visitors were encouraged to attend nightly services. Amazingly, the attendance at each night's service increased, despite heavy down pour, which testified

to the power of the Holy Spirit working through the message being delivered. Visitors and members were blessed by beautiful, inspiring music performed by the church's praise team,



Hallelujah, Amen.

The cultivation of the revival and members' declaration to have a closer relationship with Jesus, by telling others in their neighborhood, at work or wherever they are, about Jesus the Redeeming Savior of the world, emphasizes the importance of

Mitchell's exhortation that each member can tell others about the love of Jesus Christ. Prior to the start of the revival, Mitchell and head elder Eddie Kendrick stressed the importance of each members' involvement in the winning of souls for Je-

sus. Members were encouraged to get involved by using *Message Magazine* to reach unreachable people by personal ministries director Maude Wright. The church has been infused during the past few months and has been discussing how members

can have a deeper relationship with Jesus. We now see the sweet aroma of members' resolution to rededicate their life to God.

Pauline Linthicum

Let's Talk 2016: Where Are the Youth?

BATON ROUGE » "Where are all the youth?" asked a puzzled T. Ron Weegar, Berean's recently installed pastor, upon observing their absence.

"They're out there, and it our job to find them," he continued.

Thus began the groundwork for locating and restoring the youth and young adults to our congregation.

"This is not to imply that those beyond this age group are not missed, but right now the emphasis is on our youth. After all, it was Ellen White who, in *Messages to Youth People*, wrote "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message... might be carried to the whole world."

What resulted was preparation for a town hall meeting with the designated age group. Active youth along with the rest of the church were encouraged to use a variety of means to invite those whom we had not seen recently and/or those members Weegar had never met. The venue for the forum would take place in a neutral setting; thus, our Martin Luther King Academy was chosen. The remainder of the church would be invited to bring a sack lunch and remain at the church for its own exchange of ideas coupled with a prayer session. After some weeks, Operation "Bring Them Home Sabbath" as it became known, arrived.

According to the plan, following the service, Weegar with his wife, Sharon, along with the youth and young adults (many among the group in question) journeyed to our academy. After a meal, the attendees joined the Weegars in a circle to ask questions, suggest answers, exchange ideas, listen, and, in general, enter into a meaningful dialogue about retention and rec-

lamation, as both particularly pertained to our youth. Questions such as "What is the church doing for the youth?" "Why, after a certain age, do we youth lose interest in the church?" "Why aren't there more social events for us?" "How is your pastorate going to be different from past pastorates?" "What happened to our Youth Adult Society?" "Why aren't youth involved in more programs at church?" "Why don't we have an AY department?" emerged. One youth added "We don't need criticism; we need love." Another chimed in with, "This discussion is a neat idea. I like this."

The Weegars and two adults who chose to attend the forum proceeded cautiously with their answers and suggestions. After all, according to Weegar, "We wanted to do more listening than talking." Meanwhile, at the church, several members, some with lunches, had obediently complied with

Weegar's request to enter into a season of prayer for the town hall meeting. With church elders Charles Wilson and Robert Landry leading out, adults entered into their own exchange of possible problems and solutions to what the church can do to improve relations. It was agreed that our youth and young adults want more involvement in the operations of the church and that the church has a responsibility to this segment of its membership.

Upon learning that, even after several hours, the academy meeting was still in progress, the adults headed to the academy, finished off the meal leftovers, and attentively, but quietly, listened to the exchange between Weegar and the youth. In the end, it was agreed that there would have to be a follow-up session on the next Sabbath. However, on that following Sabbath, Baton Rouge along with much of south Louisiana received unprecedented flooding, subsequently placing those plans on hold.

Refusing to be deterred by the adversary, Weegar, in conjunction with the church board, agreed that Sabbath, October 1 would be the date for the next town hall meeting. "We're going to pick up where we left off" was his announcement to the congregation. We invite your prayers this continued discussion. "After all," added Weegar, "we owe it to our youth."

Evelyn M. Edwards



Top: Pastor T. Ron Weegar and his wife, Sharon, listening intently to the discussion.

◀ A group of young people that reported to the town hall meeting with Pastor T. Ron Weegar and his wife, Sharon.

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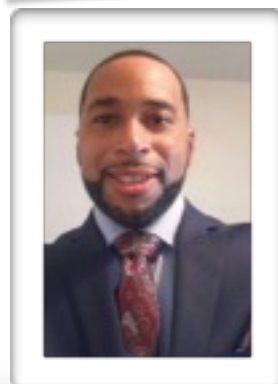
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The Crown of the Wise



There is a wonderful passage found in the book of Job: "Is not wisdom found among the aged? Does not long life bring understanding?" The longer I live, the more in tune I become with those who are advanced in years. I love the SDA Bible Commentary statement regarding this verse: "...aged men (and women) have been able to acquire for themselves in the course of a long life, a true insight into values..." Life, at some point, becomes all about the values that you have or lack!

I have been blessed beyond measure through my interaction over the years with individuals who carry themselves with remarkable values based on God and His Word. I'd like to share with you briefly my experience with two of them. They are my neighbors, but they are much more than that to me. They are my parents, albeit not by birth, but rather spiritual and moral parents to me. I speak of Dr. Daryl Beyer and his wife, Marvela. They are getting

up in years now, but what a living testament and witness they are of people who have given all that they are and have to the advancement of the kingdom of God. Dr. Beyer is a wonderful Christian educator who has inspired and impacted the lives of countless teachers and gospel workers over the years and continues to bless God's people even now, including a Conference president here and there! Marvela is a fine Christian woman who has worked at Conference, Union, and Division offices from California to Maryland. Her experiences have enriched my life and my ministry!

When there have been those days when the weight and challenges of ministry and administration have worn upon me, I have often strolled across the lawn over to their door, rung the doorbell and welcomed to "sit a spell," pour out my soul, and receive the words of encouragement and restoration that have sent me back into the battle, girded up by the Lord, through them! What a blessing the elderly are to our lives as the years pass by and we approach that

stage of our own lives.

I have come to realize that even in the midst of the stigma of sin, where the people of this world age and become infirmed, God has taken those advanced years with whatever they come with and blessed His own with wisdom and understanding! Praise God for blessings in the midst of a sinful and deteriorating world!

So today, I thank and praise the God of heaven for the human treasures that He has afforded this Church in the form of the aging, faithful, fearless, and encouraging people that we have in our lives. If you are a younger person and don't have a relationship with an elderly, wise, and life-experienced Christian individual, you don't realize what you're missing. I leave you with the wise words of author Llewelyn Powys in her book *Impassioned Clay*: "To live as fully, as completely as possible, to be happy and again to be happy is the true aim and end of life, ripeness is all."

Carlos J. Craig, president

Never Too Old for the Lord!

HARLINGEN » Candy Acebedo, a 94-year-old member in Harlingen, Texas, has committed to serve the Lord for as long as God gives her breath and strength. Candy was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist church at the age of 12 and was a pioneer Adventist in the Philippines. She and her late husband immigrated to the United States in 1985 where most of their children reside.

Through her sewing ministry, she has been a great blessing to others. She never stops finding ways to share her love for the Lord.

Recently, Candy accomplished her goal of sewing more than 100 pieces of clothing for indigent chil-



dren. Packed in a box and ready to be shipped, she hopes this gift of love will reach wherever it is most needed.

Despite having difficulty in her speech, Candy still tries to communicate to her family and friends about the love of Jesus and wants them to prepare for His imminent return.



Candy Acebedo, 94, shares her love for the Lord and His people through her sewing ministry.

Jefferson Central Reaches Out

JEFFERSON » The Sabbath School lessons last quarter focused on the importance of witnessing to the community around us. One of the adult Sabbath School classes of Jefferson Central Church came together one Sabbath in early August after fellowship lunch to discuss what they, as a class, could do to put into action the things they were learning. They discussed how they could reach out and witness to their community and where they could find resources for individuals in need. After a brief discussion, it was decided to reach out to the police and sheriff departments in an effort to show support of our local law enforcement.

On Sabbath afternoon, August 27, class members came together and created two large gift baskets with blue bows and lots of goodies. Once the baskets were made, ev-

eryone loaded into cars, drove downtown, and converged on the local police department. As this is a small town and it was a Saturday, there was only one officer on duty, and, as luck would have it, he was out on a call. After a quick call to Police dispatch, the class was instructed to take both baskets to the Sheriff's Department just across the street, where they were assured that the basket for the Police Department

would be delivered to them.

We spent a few minutes introducing ourselves and visiting with the two officers representing the departments. We asked that they convey to their colleagues our appreciation of their service and we pointed out that on the back of the card in the basket was a phone number that if they come across an individual or family that we could help to please call and let us know.

Before leaving we joined together in a circle while one of our members had prayer for the continued safety of all the officers and for all the residents they serve. This event was an enjoyable and uplifting experience.

Christy Herring



Members of the Jefferson Central Church recently prepared gift baskets for local law enforcement officials.



Women's Retreat Draws Hundreds

SAN MARCOS » More than 900 women made their way to San Marcos on September 9, 2016, to take part of the Spanish Women's Retreat "Blooming and Serving in the Garden of God." Throughout the year, these women work arduously to gather the funds they need in order to attend this yearly reunion. Sandy Reyes, the Spanish Women's Ministries director at the Texas Conference, works with her team to prepare an unforgettable experience every year. Each retreat is themed and all the programs, seminars, and worship services are closely linked to said theme. This year the theme was "Blooming and Serving in the Garden of God," and through the guest speaker, Erna Alvarado, the women learned that just as in a garden there are different flowers with exquisite and different colors and characteristics, so their individual differences and characteristics are precious and valued by God. They were urged to accept and value their differences because God has a specific plan and purpose designed for each one of them.

This year marked the ninth Spanish Women's Retreat directed by Sandy Reyes, who formerly was the Women's Ministry director at the Lake Union Conference. Sandy started working at the Texas Conference in 2006, and in 2007 the first Spanish Women's Ministry Retreat was held in Corpus Christi. In that first retreat, more than 500 women attended, and registration has only gone up since.

The programs are specifically designed to enrich and empower women in all aspects of their life and faith. Not only do the retreats have seminars, but they also have a Saturday afternoon outreach activity in which they go out into the community and hand out glow tracks, pray for people, and much more. The retreat is an activity filled weekend, but the highlight of it all is Saturday night's themed tea party. This year's tea party was called "A Night in Asia." Women of all ages dressed up in Asian attire of their choice and came together to learn more about the cultures and fellowship together over tea. "They love it! They

look forward to it all year long, work hard and one they come they enjoy it to the fullest because they earned it," says Sandy Reyes.

The retreat is a wonderful experience, women from all parts of the state meet once a year to be renewed, fellowship with each other, share their burdens and pray for them together. These women know and understand each other's struggles and they are able to lift each other up to God.

When Sunday comes, the women are renewed mentally, physically, and most importantly, spiritually. They have spent a weekend together and with God.

Sandy and her team are already preparing next year's retreat, in which both English and Spanish Women's Ministries will unite under one theme, "Jesus is Coming Soon, Are You Ready?"

Darling Rojas

More than 900 women attended the Spanish Women's Retreat in San Marcos on September 9.



Well Done, Gray-haired Servant



TEXICO CONFERENCE

“Pastor, I need more material!” As I turn to see who is speaking, I see a real servant of God. Many years have passed since she became a Seventh-day Adventist, but she still understands that, even at age 84, it doesn’t matter how many gray hairs she has, or how many wrinkles life has rewarded her. To her, to “do business till I come” (Luke 19:13), means to “work for your Master, without excuses, until He comes.”

Many times the work within the church gets done by gray-haired people that keep an active spirit alive. They are faithful in their tithes and offerings and find ways to witness. Every time I visit another of our gray-haired sisters, I’m amazed to see that, regardless of her age or illness, she is always finding ways to witness, buying materials to share and mailing it to people she knows.

This reminds me of a courageous man named Caleb. Caleb was already 85 years

old, but his active life for his Master kept his heart young.

While everyone else was grumbling and complaining about the challenges of life and expecting God to bless them without any effort on their part, this man kept himself busy for the Lord.

The secret of a victorious life is found in Caleb’s words, “And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive...here I am this day, 85 years old. And yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength was then, so now is my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said” (Joshua 14:10-12).

Caleb was just an ordinary gray-haired person, maybe like you and I. But he chose to claim his mountains and was willing to

face the giants that came his way regardless of his age. He was a warrior for God and his life was exciting because he had an extraordinary God.

When God saves us, He promises that we can have peace, joy and victory, but too often we choose to live in defeat simply because we don’t want to fight the battles necessary for victory. Too often we live in a spiritual wilderness of defeat and discouragement.

What great challenge are you facing right now? What new ministry is God calling you to do? What giants are in your land today?

We’re about to enter Canaan. Have you claimed your mountain? Have you defeated your giants? If so, you may look forward to hearing the words, “Well done, good and faithful servant” (Matthew 25:21).

Jose Manuel Rodriguez, family ministries/
Sabbath school director

Church Members Reach Out to Students in Amarillo

AMARILLO, TEX. » Inspired by the Sabbath School lesson entitled “Jesus on Community Outreach,” one of the adult Sabbath School classes discussed ideas of becoming more involved with the local neighborhood community around the Amarillo Church.

On August 6, church members distribut-

ed 100 flyers to local neighborhood homes with school-age children, inviting them to pick up school starter kits the next week. The starter kits included a glue stick, two pencils, crayons, and erasers, and was enclosed inside a plastic pencil bag. On August 13, 38 starter kits were handed out to the children. The remaining starter kits

were given to Leigh Chacon, a teacher in the congregation, for students at her school.

The women’s ministries group, under the direction of Darla Sutton, assembled 17 kits for teachers and administrative staff at a school for high-risk students. These kits included needed supplies and were combined in a plastic trash can. When the teacher kits were delivered, several of the staff had tears of gratitude in their eyes. The volunteers who participated in these two events felt blessed to be able to serve.

Anna Swingle



Far left: Parents and students come to pick up free starter kits for school.

◀ Members of the Amarillo Church follow Christ’s example by reaching out to their community.

GLOWing at 90 and Beyond

A few months after my 90th birthday, I decided to act upon the realization that it was time for me to stop driving. It was

a very tough decision, but I knew that for my safety and those around me, it was the right thing to do. I tried to be matter-of-fact as I told my kids about it, but in reality, it was one of the hardest things I've had to do. By the following week, I had sold my car, leaving my driveway empty and my heart lonely and abandoned.

I had enjoyed driving to town and stopping in the various stores at my leisure. One of my favorite things to do when I would go to the store is to distribute GLOW tracts (pamphlets on various Bible topics created for sharing) in different places. In a nearby thrift store, I could leave a variety of tracts and religious materials in a basket that had a sign "free for the taking."

Now that I couldn't drive, how would I get around to give out GLOW? This was a big concern to me. My daughter and I have a

distribution goal that we try to fulfill each week and now I felt helpless to do this ministry.

I shared this concern with my daughter and we thought about what to do. Then the idea came that I could mail out GLOW to people whose addresses were listed in the phone book. Even though I am on a fixed and limited income, I thought I could afford to mail out ten envelopes per week. In each, are inserted three GLOW tracts of different titles.

It has been over a year now since I began the mailings. To my surprise, I received a thank you note from someone who appreciated receiving the tracts. I don't know what effect these little pamphlets will have in people's lives, but I pray there will be individuals in heaven as a result.

They say you are never too old to work for the Lord and I believe that is true. Now at the age of 91 years old and closing in on 92, I am thankful that God can still use me in His service.

Sue Hinkle for Ruth Maxwell



Las Vegas Church Celebrates Unveiling of Painting by Local Adventist Artist

LAS VEGAS, N. MEX. » On Saturday, July 30, 2016, the Las Vegas Church celebrated the unveiling of a triptych painting by Tico

Mascareñas, a well-known Taos, N. Mex., artist and church elder. He painted it at the request of Las Vegas Church. The paint-

ing represents the view that the Christian life is a journey that never ends, depicting sheep on a road following the light that

comes from the cross. It also reflects the words of Jesus who said, "Other sheep have I who are not of this fold, them also I must bring and they will hear my voice and there will be one flock and one shepherd" (John 10:16).

The painting is based on a 2005 devotional book cover *To be like Jesus*, by Ellen White.

Bob and Diana Bird



The Las Vegas Church celebrates the unveiling of a triptych painting by local Adventist artist Tico Mascareñas.

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Youth Rush Changes Lives

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » A select group of youth from around the Texico Conference were involved in our fifth annual Youth Rush program this past summer. Students ranging in ages from 15 through college years, spent ten weeks doing door-to-door community outreach by sharing literature and inviting people for Bible studies. As in past years, our Youth Rush team was blessed and very successful.

One of our top priorities in the Youth Rush program is to lead the youth into a stronger relationship with Jesus and His church. In order to accomplish this, each day there are morning worship services where everyone engages in singing, sharing answers to prayers from the work done the day before, and focused Bible study. Each worship centers around living a practical Christian life and learning the distinctive truths from the Bible.

The youth are also instructed on why it is important to live a healthy lifestyle through proper diet, exercise, daily prayer and Bible reading, putting away secular music and entertainment, and both dressing and behaving in a professional, modest manner. At the end of the program, everyone share how much they appreciated the program's structure and how it opened up a venue for them to experience God in a much more meaningful and deeper way.

As the young people engaged in door-to-door ministry, they saw God use them to touch others who were searching for purpose and meaning. Every so often we see the full circle effect from the work our Youth Rush team does each summer.

Two years ago, during the summer of 2014, one of our youth knocked on Mary's door in West Texas. After listening to the Youth Rush student, she bought some

Christian books and then signed up to receive personal, in-home Bible studies. That summer, our program had hired one of our leaders as the program's Bible worker. Her job was to immediately follow up on any interests the Youth Rush team generated. So, Daniela began giving Mary in-home studies. But then our team moved on to other regions of the conference to work. We didn't know what would be the outcome. But this summer we were able to see the results. Mary had continued her studies with church members, attended an evangelistic series, and has been baptized into the local church. It was when Mary stood before our youth at the Youth Rush program this summer sharing her story with tears in her eyes that many of us felt

the power of the work we do every day.

Which leads us to ask one question—how many Mary's are out there in our local communities and neighborhoods just waiting for a genuine follower of Christ to come to their home?

"Millions upon millions of human souls ready to perish, bound in chains of ignorance and sin, have never so much as heard of Christ's love for them. Were our condition and theirs to be reversed, what would we desire them to do for us? All this, so far as lies in our power, we are under the most solemn obligation to do for them. Christ's rule of life, by which every one of us must stand or fall in the judgment, is, "Whatever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them." (DA, 640).

We are both excited and filled with gratitude for God's blessings on our Youth Rush team again for the fifth summer in a row. We solicit your prayers and participation by encouraging the youth in your church to consider being part of this life-changing mission trip. Join us next summer: www.youthrushtexico.org.

Derrick Williamson, literature ministries director



◀ Taking time for lunch during a busy day of going door to door.

▼ Youth Rush students receive training at the Rio Rancho Church.



HACU Sponsors Southwestern Student to Attend Annual Student Track Conference

Daniel Ramirez, business major at Southwestern Adventist University, is eager to help young Hispanics find success. Inspired by the 30th Annual Student Track event for the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU), he plans to first take on the business world, and then teach others to do the same.

HACU selected Daniel as a Student Track Scholar. They sponsored him to attend the Student Track conference, dedicated to career development and networking. This year, it took place in October in San Antonio.

“To be honest, I was walking into something that I knew little about,” said Daniel. “But I learned so much. It was a life-changing experience.”

Daniel is one of the first Southwestern students to receive sponsorship to attend this event. One of his mentors helped him fill out an application to attend. When



selected as a finalist, Daniel didn't know quite what to expect.

He walked in to discover hundreds of representatives from international corporations, federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and colleges and universities. Each group made it a point to showcase Hispanic executives who offered career advice and job opportunities to attendees.

“I believe the Hispanic population is growing, but we don't have as strong a presence in colleges and high level positions as we could,” said Daniel. “So, the people that do well make it a mission to go out and inspire students to follow them and make a difference in this country.”

At the event, Daniel interviewed for a position at both General Electric and General Motors. Almost immediately afterwards, he received an e-mail stating that they moved him on to the second phase of interviews. These and similar opportunities were made possible to all 400 attendees.

“These people have made it in their respective professions and now they are giving back,” said Daniel. “I know, God willing, I will make it in my career. So who am I *not* to give back when it's

Above left: Daniel Ramirez, junior business major, plans to take on the business world and then teach others to do the same.

▲ Southwestern Adventist University provides a personal finance course that all the students are encouraged to take.

my turn?”

In addition to giving career opportunities and advice, the Student Track conference also offered financial advice, something Daniel feels there should be more talk of in Hispanic households. He recognizes the financial struggles in the lives of many minority and immigrant families and feels addressing these issues can make a difference.

“There's not much financially they teach other than to work and pay bills,” says Daniel. “We need to have these conversations and teach our future children. Thanks to God, I know that this was an exceptional experience. I was there for a reason and if I don't take advantage of all I learned, it's a waste. I have to help others to succeed.”

For more information about HACU and to apply for the Student Track sponsorship, students should visit the HACU website. Next year, the event will take place on October 28-20, 2017 in San Diego, California.

Makala James, 2016 communication graduate

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34th Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Constituency Session Report

At the 34th regular Constituency Session of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, held on Sunday, September 25, at the Shreveport Southwood High School, 390 regular delegates and 79 delegates-at-large met to elect officers for the 2016-2019 quadrennial term.

Re-elected were Stephen Orian, president; Juan Borges, executive secretary and Hispanic/family ministries coordinator; and Rodney Dyke, treasurer. Departmental directors and associates who were also re-elected include Carlos Portanova, associate treasurer; Jeff Villegas, youth and young adult director; Alberto Valenzuela, association secretary; and Dennis Shafter, ministerial/evangelism director. The positions of trust services director and superintendent of education were referred to the conference executive committee.

Conference officers recognized and honored three individuals for their work within the conference: Melody Radde, former volunteer women's ministries coordinator; Marian Parson, former volunteer prayer coordinator; and Ken Simpson, who spent his 45-year career in service to the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and retired as of this constituency session from the position of Trust Services director.

One new church, the Shreveport Spanish church, was accepted into the sisterhood of churches. Five new companies were also recognized: South Little Rock; Lafayette Spanish; Ebenezer Temple Fran-

co-Hatian; Compass Northwest Arkansas; and South Fort Smith Spanish.

The conference objectives for 2016-2019 were also voted by the constituency, which cover the areas of evangelism, youth and young adult ministries, Christian education, conference finances and stewardship, and church leadership development.

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference officers and spouses. From left: Betty Borges; Juan Borges, executive secretary; Stephen Orian, president; Micki Orian; Rodney Dyke, treasurer; Peggy Dyke.

A video report of the conference's work over the past four years highlighting the areas of evangelism, prayer initiatives, education, Ozark Adventist Academy, renovations at Camp Yorktown Bay, pastoral development and training, membership growth, trust services, and finances depicted healthy growth, faithfulness among church members, and the strong evidence

of God's blessings.

Conference president Stephen Orian expressed his gratitude to the delegates for their confidence, and committed to continue to follow the leadership of the Lord to advance the mission of the conference.

Presiding over the session was Larry Moore, president of the Southwestern Union. Bill Kilgore, religion professor at Southwestern Adventist University, delivered a devotional message on the session's theme "Blessed and Chosen." In his message, based on Ephesians 1, Kilgore implored constituents to remember that those whom God chooses and places, He uses for His purposes.

At the conclusion of the session, Buford Griffith, executive secretary of the Southwestern Union, prayed a prayer of dedication for the newly-elected officers and executive committee members to ask for God's blessings over the next four years.



Arkansas-Louisiana Conference officers and spouses. From left: Betty Borges; Juan Borges, executive secretary; Stephen Orian, president; Micki Orian; Rodney Dyke, treasurer; Peggy Dyke.



On October 17, the Arkansas-Louisiana executive committee met and voted Stephen Burton as education superintendent and Alberto Valenzuela as communication director.

Jessica Lozano, *Record* editor

General Conference Vote on “Unity in Mission” Document

GC Executive Committee Votes Process Document to Handle Non-Compliance of Policy

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND » Leadership of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Executive Committee, at their Annual Council, voted on October 11 to approve a document titled “Unity in Mission: Procedures in Church Reconciliation,” which examines the need for procedures that the church can follow when an administrative body fails to follow “biblical principles as expressed in the Fundamental Beliefs, voted actions, or working policies of the Church.”

The Executive Committee is made up of church leadership representing the entire world church, lay members from the 13 world divisions and institutional leadership. After a lengthy discussion from the floor, the document was accepted by a vote of 169 to 122.

Discussion of the document began with an introduction by General Conference President Ted N.C. Wilson, who introduced the topic of reconciliation by the church body when a disagreement exists. Wilson reminded the committee members that Ellen G. White referred to the “General Conference Executive Committee, when

in session, as a group with authority,” and urged members to vote the approval of the recommended document.

Mike Ryan, special assistant to the General Conference president, described the reasoning behind the creation of the document and urgent need for its approval. Ryan referred to the assumption that many people will have in relating the document to the issue of women’s ordination and the recent vote on regional approval of women’s ordination that was taken last summer in San Antonio, Texas, at the 2015 General Conference Session. He then clarified that the document can refer to many different situations when entities don’t abide by voted policy.

Discussion on the document from the floor of the General Conference auditorium resulted in many different statements both in favor of and in opposition to the proposed document. All nine NAD union presidents and a large number of conference presidents voiced their concern for more dialogue before the document could be approved.

Daniel Jackson, president of the North

American Division, went to the microphone and referred to his own baptism in 1963. “When I was baptized I joined the Adventist family, and because of that I am part of a much larger group. I am an African, I am a Bolivian, I am an Asian. We all are part of something much bigger than ourselves. We are part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and its mission.”

After more than 90 minutes of discussion a vote was taken by secret paper ballot.

While stated that the document was generic in nature, many people can’t help but tie it to the issue of Women’s Ordination. In response to the document and the concerned voices in his division, Jackson expressed his desire to reinforce the position of the division on the role of women in pastoral leadership. “I want to share my strong support for the role of women in pastoral ministry. Voted church policy allows for women to fill this very important position and this will never change within the North American Division. We want to recognize the calling that God has placed upon both men and women to spread our message of hope and wholeness to every-

one who resides in the borders of our territory. We will do everything in our power to move forward with the mission that God has given us all.”

The complete document can be viewed at news.adventist.org.

Prepared by the North American Division Office of Communication



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EMPLOYMENT

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction at La Sierra University invites applications for a full-time, tenure track faculty position. Applicants must hold a PhD degree with Curriculum and Instruction as the preferred specialization, and must have taught for at least five years in a K-12 classroom setting; be a member of the Seventh-day

Adventist church; and have demonstrated effectiveness as a teacher and scholar. Additional details and application instructions available at lasierra.edu/jobs.

Assistant Professor, Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a professor to begin the winter 2017 quarter. This is a tenure-track position in which candidates should possess clinical ministry training and a completed PhD (preferred). Please e-mail a cover letter, curriculum vitae and three professional references to: Dr. Erik Carter (eccarter@llu.edu).

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) seeks a full-time library faculty to head library liaison and information literacy/instruction services. The optimal

candidate will be an Adventist with a Christian world view who embraces the mission and ethos of ADU; has an ALA-approved master's degree in library and information science; a strong history of health sciences library instruction and scholarship; and be available to work beginning January 2017. Send CV to Deanna Flores, at deanna.flores@adu.edu.

Assistant/Associate Professor of Physics, La Sierra University Physics Department invites applications for a full-time, tenure-track faculty position in the assistant to associate professor level to begin in Fall 2017. Candidates must have a PhD in Physics, Biophysics, Optics/Photonics, or a closely-related field. ABD candidates will be considered if the anticipated degree

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completion date is before July 2017. Please send a CV and a statement of research and teaching interests to Dr. Elvis Geneston, Chair, Physics Department, egenesto@lasierra.edu.

Union College seeks committed Adventist to establish and direct an Occupational Therapy Assistant Program effective Summer 2017. Essential qualifications include a master's degree in Occupational Therapy (doctorate preferred), being licensed and registered, and five years of professional experience. Email letter of interest and CV to Rick Young, Chair of Emergency Management and Exercise Science, r2young@ucollege.edu.

Andrews University seeks candidates with a doctoral

degree (ABD will be considered) who are committed to maintaining both an active research program and high-quality teaching across the undergraduate curriculum. Preference will be given to candidates with a math education specialty and to those with commitment to involving undergraduates in research. For more information please visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1188>.

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Walla Walla University has two faculty openings in the School of Education and Psychology. For details and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu>. We invite you to share this announcement as you deem appropriate. To learn more about Walla Walla University, please visit: <https://wallawalla.edu>.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Milestones

ANNIVERSARIES

Ed and Lorle Stacey recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. On May 27, 1956, Ed and Lorle were united in marriage at the College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, NE. After spending 18 years as missionaries in South America, they came to the Southwest in 1977, settling in the Texico Conference. In 1989 they began serving the Texas Con-

ference, where they remain. They have two children, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Robert and Evelyn Parker, of Gentry, Arkansas, celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 3, 2016. They were wed in Denver, Colorado, in 1946. The Parkers are parents to daughter, Lynne Bouchard, and daughter and son-in-law, Marice and Marlin Clegg. They have five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



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Obituaries

ALVARADO, Angelita (Ramos) was born January 10, 1940, passed away peacefully from life on Tuesday August 30, 2016; her parents Jose and Paulina Ramos preceded her in death along with three siblings. She is survived by her husband John Alvarado, brother Jose Ramos and wife Paulina; Daughter Yolanda Jensen and her husband Jim and grandchildren Jeremy, Jessica and Veronica and great grandchildren, Annika, Jonavan, Maziah, and Nevaeh; Son Ruben Alvarado; John Alvarado and wife Monica and granddaughter Mia; Daughter Anna Jackson and her husband Ronald, grandchildren Eron and Briana; Son Joel Alvarado.

DEAPEN, Roger M. born January 29, 1926, in Maywood, Neb., and died July 24, 2016 in

Oklahoma City, Okla. He was a member of the Summit Ridge SDA Church. He was trained as a medical technician in California. He was in the Navy, stationed in Idaho, and he became an x-ray technician. After being discharged from the U.S. Navy, he studied at La Sierra University and obtained a degree in physics. He later received his PhD from the University of Oklahoma, where he also met and married Sharon Biggs. Roger and Sharon enjoyed their retirement years volunteering in various venues, and finally settling at Summit Ridge Retirement Center, Harrah, Okla. Roger was an active church member who served as head elder, Sabbath School superintendent, and teacher. Survivors: wife, Sharon, of Harrah; son, Gordon, of Kentucky; son, Dennis, of California; and daughter, Nancy, of British Columbia.

FISHER, Dean, born August 27, 1950, and died July 28, 2016, in Richardson, Texas. He was a member of the Bonnerdale SDA Church. Dean loved people and cared for them. He was a faithful member and leader of the Bonnerdale Fire Department. He will be missed by many. Survivors: wife, Anne Fisher, of Bonnerdale, Ark.; daughter, Nicole Styles, of Hot Springs, Ark.; son, David Wayne Brittain, of Heidenheimer, Texas; sister, Beverly Baker, of Mount Vernon, Texas; brother-in-law, Guy Edge of Bonnerdale; and five grandchildren.

LEINNEWEBER, Jimmy Dell, born September 12, 1935, in Caddo, Okla, and died September 11, 2016, in Mena, Ark. He was a member of the Mena Seventh-day Adventist Church. Jim, as he was known by friend and family, served his country proudly in the U.S.

Navy for 20 years during the Korean Conflict and the Vietnam era. He tried to live his life as a servant of the Lord. He was a church elder for many years, holding evangelistic meetings and actively assisting in Vacation Bible Schools. Most recently he was working with a new church plant in Waldron, Ark. He enjoyed wood-working and gardening and loved to spend time studying the genealogies of the Bible. He was preceded in death by his wife, Wanda. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Ty and Kelly Leinneweber, of Reading, Penn.; son and daughter-in-law, Clayton and Carolyn Leinneweber, of Harrah, Okla.; daughter and son-in-law, Alice and Doug Scritchfield, of Little Rock, Ark.; daughter and son-in-law, Arlene and Shane Hunt, of Kalispell, Mont.; daughter, Becky Swatvanbrooke, of Arizona; brother, Doug Lein-



Theron Collins is creating a legacy of giving. "Having served the church for a number of years in the Trust Services Department, I have had opportunity to encourage our members to consider obtaining a Charitable Gift Annuity, in addition to their basic estate plan of a Will or a Trust Agreement. Since I have retired, I have decided to 'practice what I preached'. Over the ensuing years, as I acquired more funds than I had need for, I put those funds into Charitable Gift Annuities. At this point in my retirement years I have several Charitable Gift Annuities, and receive a nice income from them. In addition, I have the assurance that at my death the remainder of each annuity will benefit some part of the Lord's work. I highly recommend the use of this document as a way to be sure that some portion of your estate will benefit the closing work of God."

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neweber, of Sherman, Texas; brother, Clyde Leinneuber, of Sherman; 16 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

RODA, Lydia T., born September 4, 1930, and died August 13, 2016 in Bonnerdale, Ark. She was a member of the Bonnerdale SDA Church. She was born in the Philippines and was married to Alfonso Roda. Alfonso was the longest-serving president of the Philippine Union College. Together they were leaders in the work in the Philippines for more than 22 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfonso. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Ferdinand and Loree Roda, of Hot Springs, Ark.; son and daughter-in-law, Reginald and Michelle, of Redlands, Calif.; sisters, Ester Vizcarra and Miriam Ramos; and four brothers, Felicito Fernando, Miguelito Fernando, Orlando Fernando,

and Edgardo Fernando; and five grandchildren.

ROGERS, Ruth Axt, born January 18, 1919, in Sheridan County, N.D., and died July 5, 2016 in Elizabeth, Colo. Ruth grew up in Goodrich, N.D. At Union College she met Leonard E. Rogers, whom she married on June 3, 1940. They began a 36-year ministry in Boulder, Colo., that took them not only to Colorado but to Texas, Iowa, Oklahoma, back to Texas and then Missouri. Ruth said it was her privilege to partner in the ministry. Worship through song was so important to her, and she particularly loved working with young people. When Leonard retired in 1976 from the Church, they moved back to Texas. They never retired from the ministry. They continued to witness for the rest of their lives. She was preceded in death by her husband,

Leonard; daughter, Sharon Mathis; and son-in-law, Jerry Mathis. Survivors: sister Goldie Kreiter; daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Frank Hopps; daughter and son-in-law Deborah and Bob Chapman; two granddaughters; and one great-grandson.

VANDERPOOL, Andrew J.

"AJ", born July 12, 1925 in Eureka Springs, Ark., and died June 8, 2016, in Claremore, Okla. He was a member of the Claremore SDA Church. AJ grew up during the Great Depression in Cassvillie, Mo., in a family of 10. He worked on his uncle's farm milking cows, feeding livestock, and planting fields. He joined the U.S. Navy in April of 1944, and he was honorably discharged May 1946. He then worked construction in Bufford, S.C., building schools. In 1951, he was seriously injured, falling 30 feet from scaffolding. He was subsequently paralyzed from the waist down, and he wore braces on his legs, and used crutches to walk. He was

sent to school to learn a new trade of repairing clocks and watches. In February 14, 1970, he married Maria. Survivors: wife, Maria; brother, Jimmie; sister, Lucille; daughter, Linda; daughter and son-in-law, Cory and Duane; daughter, Michelle; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

WILSON, Janet G. was born November 9, 1957, in Dallas, Texas, and died May 18, 2016, in Richardson, Texas. The Wilson family was active in the Dallas First Church for many years. Janet was preceded in death by her father, Robert A.M. Wilson. Survivors: mother, Jeroline Wilson, of Sachse, Texas; sister, Sharon J. Wilson, of Sachse; 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; aunts, Helen Barber and Loneta Pauly, of Keene, Texas.

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SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Nov 4	Nov 11	Nov 18	Nov 25	Dec 2	Dec 9
Abilene, TX	6:46	5:41	5:37	5:34	5:33	5:34
Albuquerque, NM	6:10	5:04	4:59	4:56	4:54	4:55
Amarillo, TX	6:50	5:44	5:40	5:37	5:35	5:35
Brownsville, TX	6:47	5:43	5:40	5:38	5:38	5:39
Dallas, TX	6:34	5:29	5:24	5:22	5:21	5:21
El Paso, TX	6:14	5:09	5:05	5:02	5:01	5:02
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	6:36	5:31	5:27	5:24	5:23	5:23
Gallup, NM	6:17	5:11	5:07	5:04	5:02	5:02
Galveston/Houston, TX	6:33	5:28	5:25	5:23	5:22	5:22
Gentry, AR	6:19	5:13	5:08	5:05	5:03	5:03
Little Rock, AR	6:13	5:07	5:03	5:00	4:58	4:58
Muskogee, OK	6:23	5:17	5:13	5:10	5:08	5:08
New Orleans, LA	6:11	5:07	5:03	5:01	5:00	5:01
Oklahoma City, OK	6:33	5:27	5:22	5:19	5:17	5:17
Roswell, NM	6:04	4:59	4:54	4:52	4:50	4:51
San Antonio, TX	6:46	5:41	5:38	5:36	5:35	5:36
Shreveport, LA	6:22	5:17	5:13	5:10	5:09	5:09
Tulsa, OK	6:25	5:19	5:14	5:11	5:09	5:09

Note: Daylight Savings Time ends at 2:00 a.m. on Nov 6.

2016 & 2017 Sunset Calendars are now available at www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset



On the Record »

BY JESSICA LOZANO » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Valued and Vital

AS I SAT DOWN AT MY DESK ONE MORNING, I came across a handwritten letter from one of our senior members, Barbara Proffer, from DeQueen, Arkansas. In her letter, she spoke of a difficult time in her life, and how it had inspired her to write poetry. She shared several poems, including “Beside My Grandpa’s Knee,” which includes the following lines:

It’s good to think of life’s great joys
(Omitting what should be);
There were moments, the good and the bad,
Right there at Grandpa’s knee.

A lot of credit I must give
For all the things he’s done.
I see him just now in his garden,
Perhaps at setting sun.

At evening, all was quiet.
My big example he’d be;
He taught me more of Jesus’ love
As I sat by his knee.

*(read the complete poem at
www.swurecord.org)*

Barbara’s poem speaks about her gratitude for the love and dedication of her

grandfather, who prayed for her and taught her about Jesus. At the end of her letter, Barbara shared that, though terrible events sometimes inspired her poetry, “All things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28). Barbara is merely one example of our senior church members who have life experiences, wisdom, various ministries, and even poetry, to share.

A passage from *Acts of the Apostles* addresses the value of our senior members’ contributions: “As those who have spent their lives in the service of Christ draw near to the close of their earthly ministry, they will be impressed by the Holy Spirit to recount the experiences they have had in connection with the work of God. The record of His wonderful dealings with His

people, of His great goodness in delivering them from trial, should be repeated to those newly come to the faith” (p. 574).

“They still possess talents that qualify them to stand in their place in God’s cause...They may have made mistakes, but from their failures they have learned to avoid errors and dangers...They have borne test and trial, and though they have lost some of their vigor, the Lord does not lay them aside...Those who have served their Master when the work went hard, who endured poverty and remained faithful when there were few to stand for truth, are to be honored and respected” (p. 573-574).

Seniors: you are a valuable and vital part of the church. You are needed and cherished. God desires for seniors to continue to “stand in their place, doing their part to save men and women from being swept downward by the mighty current of evil. He desires them to keep the armor on till He bids them lay it down” (p. 574).

Record

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