

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

JANUARY 2017

H O P E

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HOPE FOR THE NEW YEAR



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On the Cover

A new year is ripe with opportunity, excitement, and hope. As we look to 2017, we pray our hope is rooted in the love of Jesus Christ, His sacrifice, and His soon return!

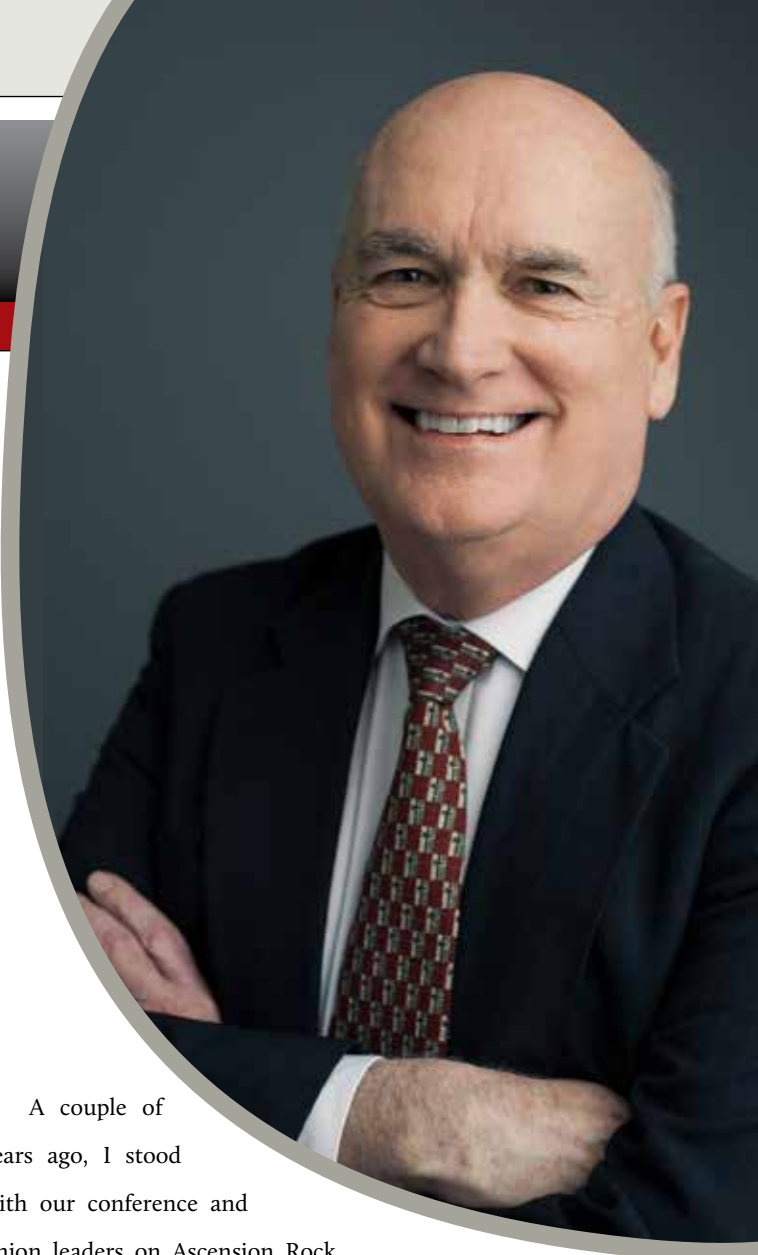
Built on Hope

BY LARRY MOORE » PRESIDENT

I saw a bumper sticker recently that said, “Since I gave up all hope I feel much better.” I laughed at the thought. But where would we be without hope? Think about it for a moment. The world is in chaos. Things are not getting better and better on planet earth. Take away hope and what do you have?

The Seventh-day Adventist church is built on hope. Our theme song is, “We have this hope that burns within our hearts. Hope in the coming of the Lord. We have this faith that Christ alone imparts. Faith in the promise of His word. We believe the time is here when the nations far and near shall awake and shout and sing Hallelujah Christ is King! We have this hope that burns within our hearts, hope in the coming of the Lord.”

Do you believe it? Is that your hope? It’s in our name as a church, Adventists—we believe in the soon return of Jesus. Only He can fix our world. First, He wants to fix us. Will you allow Him to do it? He is the only one who can. With the new year before us, let’s renew our hope in what our pioneers called the “blessed hope.”



A couple of years ago, I stood with our conference and union leaders on Ascension Rock

where our pioneers awaited the coming of Jesus. I could not help thinking of their disappointment when He did not return on October 22, 1844. Remember that God had a bigger plan in mind that included all of us.

I don’t know when Jesus will return; only God knows. But will you join me right now this new year and renew our hope in Jesus? He’s our only hope. Maranatha!

Come, Lord Jesus!

Larry Moore is the president of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.





A Ministry of Hope

BY BUFORD GRIFFITH II » EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

ing of our local conferences we compile, among other things, the statistics of the church in this part of God's vineyard. The record keeping is vital to the tracking of the progress of God's work and the maintenance of vital records of the Church. Of particular interest to me in this work is the steady growth of the church in the Southwestern Union and the number of members who actively attend and support the church. The records serve as a barometer of the overall health of the church. With each passing year the growth of the Church increases in a marked manner.

I have seen the plans of our local conferences' leadership for the continued growth of the church, by the grace of God, and 2017 truly will be a tremendous year in the growth of God's kingdom. The hope of the new year is the continued fulfillment of God's purpose for His church in proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ. "From age to age, through successive generations, the pure doctrines of heaven have been unfolding within its [church] borders. Enfeebled and defective as it may appear, the church is the one object upon which God bestows in a special sense His supreme regard. It is the theater of His grace, in which He delights to reveal His power to transform hearts" (*Acts of the Apostles*, p. 12).

In my capacity, I have had the privilege of preaching the gospel in various regions of our union territory each year I have been serving in the Southwestern Union. I have seen men, women and children take hold of the gospel of Jesus Christ and accept Him as their personal Lord and Savior. There is no greater joy! To see people who have placed their hope and trust in the Lord and begin, by the grace of God, a new chapter in their lives is what makes that joy complete. "Wonderful is the work which the Lord designs to accomplish through His church, that His name may be glorified" (*Ibid*, p. 13).

Ellen White further declares, "The gospel message proclaimed by Christ's disciples was the announcement of His first advent to the world. It bore to men the good tidings of salvation through faith in Him. It pointed forward to His second coming in glory to redeem His people, and it set before men the hope, through faith and obedience, of sharing the inheritance of the saints in light. This message is given to [mankind] today, and at this time there is coupled with it the announcement of Christ's second coming as at hand" (*Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 226).

The hope of the world is the soon return of Jesus Christ. As in previous years, my desire in 2017 is to help in the proclamation of that message of hope. Join me and together let's hasten the Lord's coming.

Buford Griffith II is the executive secretary and family ministries director for the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

The beginning of a new year

generates both reflection and anticipation. We reflect on the past year's events in our personal lives and in society in general. As with all of life there was good and bad.

Without argument, the year 2016 was a year to be remembered for its social, political, and religious changes and impact. However, 2016 is now history. Those things, good or bad, are facts and occurrences that cannot be changed, so we move ahead thankful that God, in mercy and purpose, has given us a new year and another opportunity to impact the world with our lives.

The new year is fresh with anticipation for Seventh-day Adventists and all those who are actively preparing for the coming of Jesus Christ. Many times, without hesitation, we find ourselves saying, "We are one year closer to the coming of our Lord." The statement is true and with it should come a resolve to make every-day a demonstration of that hope and anticipation.

I give thanks that the Lord has extended my service to Him and His Church as the Executive Secretary of the Southwestern Union for another year. I am thankful to the constituents of our union for the confidence placed in me to serve in this position of service and leadership.

The Office of the Secretariat is the record keeper and statistician of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church. Through the report-

Investing in Hope

BY JOHN PAGE » TREASURER

Hope is something we can often take for granted. When we lose hope, we realize the significant role it has in our lives. From a financial perspective, it is also important to have hope. Through our faith in God and Christian stewardship our finances at home and in our church entities lay out a path for hope in ministry. Our churches and schools need essentials such as meeting space, utilities and financial resources to carry out the different ministry and outreach initiatives that bring people to Jesus. Stewardship and financial management can also be taken for granted occasionally. It is through God's blessings and grace that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has grown; therefore it is important that our church entities provide high quality financial management and teaching on stewardship.

As we delve into some of the ways the Southwestern Union supports our church and school initiatives, I would like to start by expressing a word of appreciation to our treasurers. Being a treasurer in a conference, church or school requires a lot of dedication. We truly appreciate all of our treasurers across the Southwest territory for their time and efforts. The work these individuals accomplish by providing good information and financial management in order to make wise decisions brings hope to their entities.

The Southwestern Union receives a portion of the tithe from the conferences. The Southwestern Union provides ministry leadership and other services to our local conferences and local churches. Evangelism and Southwestern Adventist University are a high priority in the Southwestern Union. In 2017, the Southwestern Union Conference will be distributing an extra \$750,000 for evangelism to the five different conferences in the Southwestern Union. We hope that this will provide a big boost of enthusiasm and growth in our local churches to introduce more people to Jesus. The Southwestern Union also distributes funds to the conferences at end of the year for evangelism from the gains from Tithe. Last year, the Southwestern Union appropriated \$2.5 million to Southwestern Adventist University for the new Nursing and Administration Building. These funds were a result of the sale of some land next to the Southwestern Union.

The way the Seventh-day Adventist Church is structured, it would be difficult for a church or school to borrow money from a bank to build or purchase a property. The Southwestern Union Revolving Fund is set up to provide loans to churches and schools. The North American Division has set up guidelines for loan qualification and each local conference has their own criteria and

must approve and guarantee each loan.

These loans provide funds to our churches and schools to increase their infrastructure to provide a place of hope in their community. We currently have over 235 loans to our conferences, churches, and schools.

The Fund also provides a place for churches and schools to have a deposit account and earn a good interest rate on their savings. The Fund is audited annually by the General Conference Auditing Service and an outside CPA firm. The audited financial statements for the Fund and other reports are available on the Southwestern Union Conference's website, SouthwesternAdventist.org.

The hope of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is the soon return of Jesus. God continues to bless the Southwestern Union. The five conferences in our Union have a combined tithe increase of over 3.4% over this time in 2015. We need to remain good stewards on an individual and a church organization level in order to spread the gospel. I look forward to see how God will bless our members and our church in 2017.

John Page is the treasurer for the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.





Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

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

2017: The Year of Evangelism

In May of 2016, a new quinquennium began for the Southwestern Union. The administration of the union has established goals and projects for this five-year period. In accordance with these plans, 2017 has been declared The Year of Evangelism. This means that there will be special resources that the union will be offering to achieve goals and objectives in evangelization, layperson mobilization, and soul winning.

During 2017 there will be an extra effort to achieve extraordinary goals in winning hearts for Christ. To achieve this, the Southwestern Union is offering additional financial resources to the conferences. In addition to these resources, the union staff, including administration and departmental directors, will be involved in different evangelism campaigns throughout the territory.

Furthermore, during September and October of 2017, the Southwestern Union will offer, through the conferences, financial resources for churches involved in evangelism in the Fall. The first 300 churches that apply to participate in the Fall evangelism will receive \$1,000 per church to cover costs of the campaign (apart from what they receive from their conference as they submit a budget for evangelism). The Southwestern Union's evangelism department will be offering support to the conferences in the area of layman training to help church members get involved in evangelism.

The Southwestern Union has also produced resources and materials to assist our members in their evangelism efforts. A series of Bible studies entitled "More Hope" is available to small groups. The series includes DVDs and lesson plans and is available to pastors and lay pastors. These materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Working in small groups and using the More Hope materials during the months of June, July, and August of 2017 will prepare

the way for the evangelistic campaigns during the Fall harvest.

The Texas Conference plans to participate in a pilot program with the Southwestern Union, and will begin using these materials in the Spring of 2017. They will also participate in the Fall evangelism effort. If any layman or pastor of another Conference wishes to use these materials in the Spring, contact the Southwestern Union evangelism department.

In Revelation 14:6-7, we read, "And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue,

and people, saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters."

This angel has a very special message to present in the end times to prepare humanity for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. In that message He presents the Eternal Gospel, an unchanging gospel. It means that we are still saved by the grace of God—there is no other way to be saved and reach heaven, only by the grace of God. It also makes us aware that we are living in the time of God's judgment, and it urges us to turn our worship to the Creator.

This angel is a symbol of God's people living in the end time. I encourage you to get involved in evangelization, fulfill the mission. Take the opportunity in this 2017 to participate in The Year of Evangelism. Become a part of the fulfillment of this prophecy. Become that angel of Revelation 14: 6,7. I guarantee that God will bless your efforts and you will be joyful in seeing souls won for Christ.



Visión Hispana

UN BREVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE



2017 El Año de Evangelismo

En Mayo del 2016 comenzó un nuevo quinquenio para la Unión del Sudoeste. La administración de la Unión ha establecido objetivos y proyectos para este quinquenio. Entre estos objetivos, el año 2017 ha sido declarado, EL AÑO DE EVANGELISMO. Esto quiere decir que habrá recursos especiales que la Unión estará ofreciendo a las Asociaciones de la Unión para poder lograr metas y objetivos en la evangelización, la movilización de laicos y en la ganancia de almas.

En el año de evangelismo, en todo el territorio de la Unión, se estará haciendo un esfuerzo adicional, a lo que comúnmente se hace, para poder lograr metas extraordinarias en la ganancia de almas y en el crecimiento de iglesia. Para esto, la Unión está ofreciendo recursos económicos adicionales a las Asociaciones para que puedan lograr estas metas y objetivos. También, el personal de la Unión, esto incluye administración y directores departamentales, estará involucrado en diferentes campañas de evangelismo en el territorio de la Unión del Suroeste.

También, en los meses de Septiembre y Octubre de 2017, la Unión estará ofreciendo, por medio de las Asociaciones, recursos económicos a las iglesias que se involucren en evangelismo de otoño. Las primeras 300 iglesias que se enlisten para participar en el evangelismo de otoño recibirán una ayuda de \$1,000.00 por iglesia para sufragar gastos de su campaña, aparte de lo que recibirán de su asociación al someter un presupuesto para evangelismo.

El departamento de evangelismo de la Unión estará ofreciendo apoyo a las Asociaciones en el área de entrenamiento laico para ayudar a nuestros miembros de iglesia a involucrarse en la evangelización.

Por otro lado, se han desarrollado recursos y materiales para ayudar a nuestros laicos a cumplir la misión de la iglesia. Se pondrá a disposición, de laicos y pastores, una serie de estudios bíblicos para grupos pequeños, con DVDS y lecciones, titulada, MÁS ESPERANZA. Estos materiales estarán disponibles en inglés y en español.

La idea es que trabajen en grupos pequeños, usando estos materiales durante los meses de Junio, Julio y Agosto de 2017, en preparación para las campañas de evangelismo de cosecha durante el otoño.

Aunque, la Asociación de Texas tiene planeado participar en un programa piloto con la Unión y usar estos materiales comenzando en la primavera del 2017, y también usarlos

una segunda vez en preparación para el evangelismo de otoño. De paso, cualquier laico o pastor de otra Asociación que quiera también usar estos materiales en la primavera, podrá hacerlo.

En Apocalipsis 14:6,7, leemos lo siguiente, “Y vi otro ángel volar en medio del cielo, que tenía el evangelio eterno, para predicarlo a los moradores de la tierra, y a toda nación y tribu y lengua y pueblo,

diciendo en alta voz: Temed a Dios, y dadle gloria; porque la hora de su juicio ha venido; y adorad a Aquél que hizo el cielo y la tierra, y el mar y las fuentes de las aguas.”

Este ángel tiene un mensaje muy especial para presentar al fin del tiempo para preparar a la humanidad para la gloriosa venida de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. En ese mensaje presenta el Evangelio Eterno, un evangelio incambiable. Quiere decir que todavía seguimos siendo salvos por la gracia de Dios, no hay otro medio de ser salvos y de llegar al cielo, solo por la gracia de Dios. También, nos hace conciencia que estamos viviendo en la Hora del Juicio de Dios. Y nos insta a tornar nuestra adoración al Creador.

Ahora, ¿Quién es este ángel? Este ángel es un símbolo del pueblo de Dios que vive al fin del tiempo.

Yo te animo a que te involucres en la evangelización, cumple la misión. Aprovecha la oportunidad en este año nuevo de participar en el año de evangelismo. Se parte del cumplimiento de esta profecía, se ese ángel de Apocalipsis 14:6,7. Y yo te garantizo que Dios bendicirá tus esfuerzos y tendrás el gozo de ver almas ganadas para Cristo y crecerás espiritualmente de esta experiencia.

Eddie Canales, vice presidente y director de evangelismo, ministerio multi-étnico, y ministerio personal





To Your Health

BY KATIA REINERT, PHD, RN

Motivating Healthy Choices

We live in an age where people's attention span is short and messages are communicated to thousands via social media in an instant. As people who have a beautiful message of health and hope to share with the world, we must find creative ways to communicate that message to the masses in a balanced way. That is why *Facts with Hope* was born.

Facts with Hope was created in 2011 as a written column of the North American Division Health Ministries Department newsletter *Health Unlimited*. Each *Facts with Hope* consist of an evidence-based research finding related to whole-person health (a fact), followed by suggestions of healthy choices people could practice in their daily lives that would bring profound benefits (hope). These are meant to be shared in bulletin inserts, or as health minutes during church, etc. Soon, there was a need to create short video spots that would make them more accessible and easy to share through social media and TV. A partnership was established among General Conference Communications, GC Health Ministries and NAD Health Ministries to produce one minute *Facts with Hope* video spots using fun graphic animations. The texts were adapted and dozens of spots were created with few words to facilitate translation and be

FACTS with HOPE

languages being added and we are currently translating into German, Hungarian, Italian, Estonian, Ukranian, Bangla, Bhasa, Burmese, Urdu, Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Ilongo, Khmer, Lao, Thai, Vietnamese, Sinhala, Tamil, Kazajkh, Uzbek, Farsi, Turkmen, Turkish and Berber. The videos can be accessed at www.FactswithHope.org, and can also be shared via YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter among other sites. They have been used for health minute during church service, shared in social media, broadcasted as TV pots on Hope channels around the world and shared on radio stations.

Facts with Hope spots cover whole-person health topics such as: nutrition, exercise, gratitude, forgiveness, alcohol, tobacco, child abuse, importance of family meals, obesity, benefits of water, benefit of nuts, anxiety, brain health, depression, media and teens, media and sleep, salt and health, investing in prevention, youth drinking, prayer and meditation, overwork and Sabbath, pets and your health, sleep, effects of watching TV and playing video games and children's health, to name a few.

Wrapped in clever animations with interesting statistics and practical health advice, these video spots share messages that can motivate anyone to make healthy choices and find hope for an abundant life. They are a great way to make a first contact with those who may never have heard of the Adventist church or may not be acquainted with the health message. Join in by liking the Facebook page, following on YouTube and Twitter, and more importantly, share it to those around you!

For questions or inquiries about the use or possibility of translation into other languages, please contact ReinertK@GC.adventist.org.

shared around the world.

Facts with Hope video spots have been shared since 2014 and are now available in eight languages: English, Spanish, French, Portuguese, Arabic, Romanian, Russian and Kirgыз. More



Katia Reinert, PhD, RN is the Health Ministries Associate Director for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

HOPE TRENDING: *A River of His Love On Campus*

by Jennifer Robles

Hope Trending: A Crash Course On How To Live Without Fear was a worldwide series of online presentations held on the campus of Andrews University (HopeTrending.org). The ten-night event, about how to take the fear we feel in this world and transform it into hope, approached different, relevant topics on some of our greatest fears, and how God is greater than all of them, giving us renewed hope to take on the challenges of life.

Younger Generation Church (YG), the vibrant young adult ministry of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arlington, Texas, partnered with church members and local university campuses to host 12 watch party sites where people would gather nightly to watch the Hope Trending broadcasts.

The University of Texas Arlington (UTA) is the fifth most diverse campus in the nation with nearly 40,000 students, and had not, until recently, had any on-campus efforts for Adventist collegians to meet, find support, and experience authenticity in faith and fellowship. Last Fall, Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) launched at UTA and the student leaders decided to host *Hope Trending* watch parties as part of their remedy to the need for authentic community on campus.

UTA's student center, Maverick Activities Center, was among the dozen *Hope Trending* watch party sites throughout the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex. Ian Reyes, president of ACF/UTA, shared that at its peak, they had fourteen collegians at their watch party.

"Everyone stayed until the end of the program, and we had a great discussion afterward," noted Reyes. "What made it even better was that the international students who attended were engaged in the conversation, and they seemed genuinely interested."

At Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU), Oddie Olazaran, YG's student pastor, organized several *Hope Trending* watch parties including one held in SWAU's student center, which peaked at 40 collegiate attendees. The online format of *Hope Trending* made

it possible for watch parties to literally be held anywhere—dorm rooms, living rooms, and apartments.

"*Hope Trending* gave us an opportunity to come together with our friends, anytime, anywhere, and have conversations about the hope of grace and how it relates to our everyday life," noted Olazaran. "It used an innovative model which we can imitate and learn from—an example we can use personally to share Jesus in our culture today."

Each night brought its own blessing. On the fourth night, I was

asked to support an on-campus apartment location, with the host, Jonathan Balaban, a residential assistant. We went to all the different residences of the small complex, offering candy while inviting students to *Hope Trending*. By the time the broadcast started, we had about 10 residents attend, most of them UTA international students.

"God put us here on campus to be a river of His love in this lonely desert," shared Nethania Amanuel, one of the student leaders for ACF/UTA. "Our mission is to meet the diverse needs of our campus (physical, emotional and spiritual) with the love of Jesus Christ. *Hope Trending* helped us do that."

Amidst our already very hectic academic lives, it was very challenging to organize watch parties—partially because college

life is busy and partially because there was so much we wanted to do to make the gatherings awesome. Overall, *Hope Trending* was a wonderful experience; God blessed us in ways we never imagined, all because we were willing to serve Him. Our campus ministry efforts have just begun. We want the river of His love to continue to flow on campus; it's our passion to continue to serve Christ.



Younger Generation Church (ygchurch.com) organized a dozen *Hope Trending* watch parties including some on the University of Texas Arlington campus. Adventist Christian Fellowship-UTA leaders, Nethania Amanuel [Parliamentarian] and Ian Reyes [President] were among the UTA collegians involved in the outreach/evangelistic endeavor.

Jennifer Robles is a linguistics major at the University of Texas Arlington and among a student leader for Adventist Christian Fellowship-UTA.

LEARNING TO *Mumble*

By Bill Kilgore, D.Min.

*“Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of sinners. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in his law does he **meditate** day and night.” Psalm 1:1,2.*

The word “meditate” is interesting in the Hebrew language because it means to mumble. Mumble means to make audible or to speak. The Psalms are words of hope that were meant to bring comfort in the various circumstances of life. There is excitement and love for God, also fear, frustration, and loneliness found in the book of Psalms. The writers spoke honestly about what was on their hearts and their longing for hope in this world.

Psalm 73 was written by Asaph who, as we know from 1 Chronicles 16:7,37, was the chief choir director for King David. David would write a Psalm and then give it to Asaph in order to teach the people in worship in the sanctuary where he ministered. David used music to help his people remember God’s leading in their lives. Listen in with me to Psalm 73.

Psalm 73:2 says, “But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.”

Asaph says he almost turned his back on God and gave up on Him. What would cause someone to do that, to lose hope? Can we learn from him some lessons for us today who may doubt if it is worth it to believe in God in our modern culture? Tempted to lose hope!

What was causing Asaph to slip away from God?

Psalm 73:3-5 says, “For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong. They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.”

Asaph is telling God what is really on his heart. He is going through the motions of saying he believes in God but in his heart

he is envious of the wicked and wishes he had their life. They appear to have everything they want and they have no problems. Remember, he is a person who is leading the people of God in worship. Asaph is teaching them the songs of faith and he wishes he could be living a wicked life like everyone else. Wickedness and sin looks attractive from the outside. Movies and media make it look so appealing to not be a Christian. Asaph was envious of the appearance of wickedness.

In Psalm 73:6-12, the wicked are arrogant and disrespectful towards God. Those watching them love it and laugh at their jokes about God. In verses 13-16, Asaph is crying out to God because the wicked seem to have everything he wants and he is ready to quit believing in God because life is not fair. His hope in God is in danger of slipping away until he has a breakthrough with God in His sanctuary.

Psalm 73:17 says, “Until I entered the sanctuary of God.”

The last half of this chapter is different than the first half. Now Asaph begins to look at the world through God’s eyes and it looks so much different. He sees now that the wicked are not on the path to happiness. But like Asaph, it sometimes looks to us like a life without Christ has more to offer. Do you know that God through his son Jesus longs to give us all much more than this world has to offer? I know it does not look that way at times but that is why we need to see the world through God’s eyes, the Bible. He wants to save us all from so much heartache and pain that is portrayed as fun but can ruin your life. Do you know that God longs to give you this abundant life in His Son now and hope for the future?

Almost 30 years ago, when my youngest daughter was four, I came home from work one day at one of our boarding academies. My wife and our neighbor came running outside and said, “We cannot find the girls.” Meredith’s friend, Christine, was also four years old.

I asked, “What do you mean?”

My wife responded, “They were playing here in the front yard a minute ago and now they are gone!”

I ran into the house and called out, “Meredith” and there was no answer. I looked in her room and under her bed. I went down into the basement and called out, but no answer. I went into our back yard that was near a field and called out no answer. In the front of our home there was a major highway and I walked along that highway calling. It would be easy for a car passing by to stop and pick up two little girls playing to near the road. My heart failed me as I called and there was no answer. I feared the worst. Then, I heard my wife and our neighbor at the house shouting for joy as two little girls stepped out from behind the bushes in front of our home. They had been there the whole time! They had been playing hide and seek with us, but they hadn’t told us about the game. Every time I had called out they sat still and did not say a word.

You should have seen those two mothers—hugging those two little girls one minute and spanking them the next! “Don’t you ever do that again! I love you so much!”

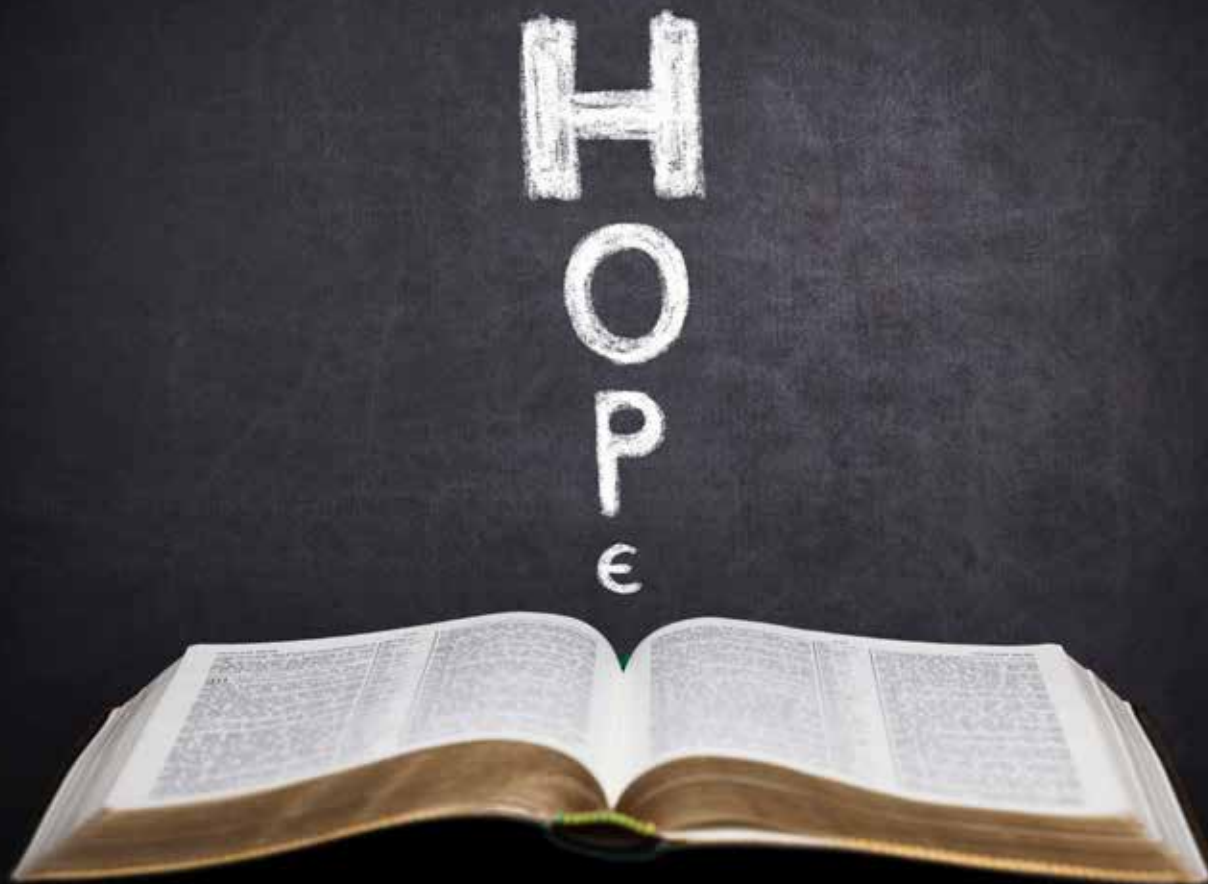
How often God calls out to us and we play this game of hiding from Him. He wants us to be safe. He knows the dangers of a life separated from Him.

Would you like to stop playing games with God? To realize that all that glitters is not gold? Everyone who says they love you does not have your best interest in mind. He does. Today you can allow God to give you hope and protect you with the promises of His word.

Asaph finished his Psalm with verses 25-26: “Whom have I in heaven but you? And the earth has nothing I desire beside you. My flesh and my heart may fail but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.”

Would you like to mumble and tell God what is on your heart? He loves you and wants to know. There is hope in learning to mumble!

Bill Killgore, D.Min., is a religion professor at Southwestern Adventist University.



UNSEEN ASSURANCE

By Geraldo Alonso II

I am hopeful that 2017 will be a great year. I am hopeful that I will be able to keep all of my New Year's Resolutions—*especially, my weight loss goals!* I'm hopeful to improve on all my relationships in 2017 but most importantly my relationship with God. What are you hoping to accomplish this year?

Hope tends to be one of those words that we all understand but take for granted. According to the Oxford Living Dictionaries, hope is defined as “a feeling of expectation and desire for a particular thing to happen.”

With that said, I am a person filled with lots of hope. I have a lot of exceptions and desires and most of the time I have strong positive feelings about them. As a person of faith what does it mean to have hope, and in particular, hope in God? Also, what does the Bible say about hope? Here are a couple verses that came to my mind mainly because they mention the word hope. “For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope” (Jeremiah 29:11, NIV). No-



tice this one from Hebrews: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see” (Hebrews 11:1, NIV). From these two verses we can conclude that God plans on giving us hope and we also need faith if we want hope to come to fruition. Clearly, we need to incorporate God into our equation in order to have a lasting hope.

Something else that has always benefited me is to think about people in the Bible or historical figures in general to understand concepts more clearly. As I thought and prayed about this concept, I looked at the Bible but nothing came to mind. Then I started thinking of times that God had worked with great might and power for his people. I remembered a man that I had learned about recently. This man is mentioned only three times in the Bible, and in no greater role than in a list of names. His name is Jaddua. Let’s be honest, you most likely have never heard of Jaddua. (If you are struggling with pronouncing his name that’s ok, I did, too. It is pronounced Yad’-u-a. In Hebrew his name means “known.”) Jaddua was the High Priest of Israel during the time of the Greek conquest in World History. In fact, Jaddua was very instrumental in showing Alexander the Great that God had chosen him to conquer the whole world. By doing so, Jaddua was able to save Jerusalem and the temple from complete destruction.

Now that I’ve spoiled the ending for you, please notice that the ending of the story is not the most important part of Jaddua’s role in human history. The most important part has to do with the reality that Jaddua was a Bible student and as a result of his Biblical knowledge he was prepared for what was coming his way. Jaddua had cultivated a relationship with God and when Jaddua needed God most, that is when God showed up!

Let’s back up our history lesson a little bit for the purpose of understanding how Jaddua was a man full of hope¹. When Alexander the Great was working to conquer Asia Minor, his greater goal was to conquer the world. This leg of the journey dealt with conquering this region and also Egypt before heading to Persia. Along the way, Alexander the Great sent an envoy to Jerusalem and since it had no king, the envoy was told to meet with Jaddua the High Priest.

The envoy informed Jaddua that the Jewish people were to provide Alexander and all the Greeks with provisions for their military conquests. Jaddua, being troubled by this request, informed the envoy that he could do no such thing because there was already an established alliance with the Persians².

“Alexander was very angry; and though he determined not to leave Tyre, which was just ready to be taken, yet, as soon as he had taken it, he threatened that he would make an expedition against the Jewish high priest, and through him teach all men to whom they must keep their oaths” (*The Antiquities of the Jews*, Book 11, Chap. 8, Sec. 3).

As Alexander the Great brought his conquests closer and closer to Jerusalem, we are told that Jaddua became anxious. Jaddua remembered that God had saved the Israelites in the past and Jaddua knew that they needed God more than ever. Jaddua instructed the Israelites that they needed to pray and offer sacrifices to their God. On this occasion notice how God chose to speak to Jaddua.

“God warned (Jaddua) in a dream, which came upon him after

he had offered sacrifice, that he should take courage, and adorn the city, and open the gates; that the rest appear in white garments, but that he and the priests should meet the king in the habits³ proper to their order, without the dread of any ill consequences, which the providence of God would prevent. Upon which, when he rose from his sleep, he greatly rejoiced; and declared to all the warning he had received from God according to which dream he acted entirely, and so waited for the coming of the king” (*Ibid.*, Book 11, Chap. 8, Sec. 4).

As Jaddua waited for Alexander the Great to arrive, he was filled with much hope that God’s promises would come true. Jaddua had to do his part in keeping the things God had commanded him and the Jewish people to do. When this was done, the whole of the Jewish nation needed to wait in hopeful wonder to see if God would follow through with His promises to protect them.

The story continues with Jaddua and Alexander the Great meeting together. We are told by Josephus that when this occurred Alexander the Great was in awe of the High Priest. We are told that Alexander made an act of adoration at this point and afterwards Alexander was confronted by his men because of this behavior.

“I did not adore him, but that God who hath honored him with that high priesthood; (334) for I saw this very person in a dream, in this very habit... in Macedonia⁴, who, when I was considering with myself how I might obtain the dominion of Asia, exhorted me to make no delay, but boldly to pass over the sea thither, for that he would conduct my army, and would give me the dominion over the Persians; whence it is, that having seen no other in that habit, and now seeing this person in it, and remembering that vision and the exhortation which I had in my dream, I believe that I bring this army under the divine conduct, and shall therewith conquer Darius, and destroy the power of the Persians, and that all things will succeed according to what is in my own mind” (*Ibid.*, Book 11, Chap. 8, Sec. 5).

WOW! This dream came to Alexander the Great when he was still in Greece. God had answered Jaddua’s prayer well in advance of him asking for help. Jaddua knew that he had a major problem coming his way and the only way he could find help was God. So Jaddua prayed, acted upon the precepts that God instructed and he hoped that this would be enough. And it was!

As you start this brand new year, please know that God is in the business of miracles. God is in the business of answering our prayers. God is in the business of providing us with hope. Will you put your hope in our amazing God?!

I have high hopes for 2017 because my hope is found in the Lord.

Geraldo Alonso II is the pastor of the Lubbock Seventh-day Adventist Church.

¹ For further study please pick up a copy of Josephus’ *The Antiquities of the Jews* and read 11.8.1-11.8.7 to see the full story.

² Remember in Bible history that the Persians helped rebuild the Temple and the city walls of Jerusalem.

³ The priestly clothing. Jaddua was to wear the ephod with the 12 precious stones and the mitre (or special head piece).

⁴ This is another name for Greece in ancient times.

Renewed Hope for Service

By Minner Labrador

There is an old saying, “The more things change, the more they stay the same.” We just went through a contentious national election. Some of you, like me, probably yearned for the good old days when politicians appeared to be nicer. During my devotional time though, I suddenly realized that times have changed but many people haven’t—dating back to Jesus’ disciples. They, too, served Jesus hoping for personal rewards, compensation, and even arguing about who was the greatest.

James and John felt entitled to sit on the right and left hand of Jesus in his new government. Their mother served as the family lobbyist for the power she felt Jesus owed His cousins—they were, after all, family! Matthew 20 records the protest of the other disciples. Because their minds were centered on themselves they failed to understand the issue or listen to what clearly was being said by the One who was hours away from a vicious death. Little wonder, then, that their hopes were dashed when Jesus was arrested. Stunned when He didn’t fight back, and astonished when He declared that His kingdom was not of this world. Now what? Their dreams of earthly greatness and power died with Jesus on the cross.

Hopelessness, despair, doubts, and fear for their own lives, caused them to hide in the upper room. It took Jesus’ resurrection and loving response to them to turn them around and show them that a new kind of government was now in place—a government in which He was the everlasting King, with an economy based on love, and with the only currency, His blood.

I’m encouraged by the fact that as the body of Christ we aim to act like they did after His resurrection, when they fell in love with Him! That love changed their lives—and I witness it changing the lives of so many that I encounter on my journeys across the Southwestern Union. These genuine servants of God encourage me to greater service.

God has given us spiritual gifts and resources to maintain His earthly government through our service to His church. God has chosen to work through us, to reach all who haven’t yet crossed the border into His kingdom. We are his eyes, ears, hands, and feet in a world of people who desperately need Him.

Our service will tear down strongholds en-

abling us to minister to everyone who needs us. We will build up, equip and inspire His church using everything within our power to bring those around us to a knowledge of the King and to eternal citizenship, forever with Him. We long to claim those receptive to the gospel. We are also committed to disciple and permanently assimilate them into the family of God.

It’s true, the more things change, the more they stay the same. The church has changed with the times. But ministry and service to others hasn’t changed, and the economy and currency of heaven haven’t changed, nor has our

citizenship. It is secure through His death and resurrection. Our goal now is to use our spiritual gifts to their fullest measure and to work through our church ministries to introduce every person we meet to Jesus Christ and help them attain citizenship in His kingdom.

Our service will tear down strongholds enabling us to minister to everyone who needs us.

Minner Labrador is the Vice President for Ministries, Ministerial, Men’s Ministries, Sabbath School, and Stewardship Director for the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.



Finding Hope

Check out the following resources when you are running low on hope or want to strengthen your faith and hope.

Interactive Media:

Hope Trending | HopeTrending.com

Hope Trending: A Crash Course on How to Live Without Fear is a global series of presentations with speaker Dwight K. Nelson. Explore how to replace your greatest fears with fresh hope for a new journey. The live event originally aired in October of 2016 and is available in its entirety online at HopeTrending.org. This great tool for small groups includes resources for hosts to guide and facilitate conversations after the presentation in order to materialize the lessons for daily life.



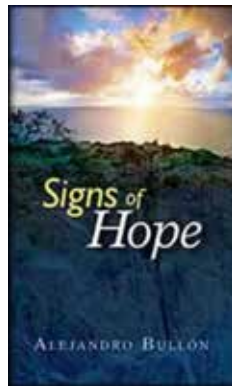
Facts with Hope | FactswithHope.org

Video clips that can be shared on social media and during church services. Facts with Hope provides evidenced-based principles for better health and wellbeing. These one-minute video clips help the viewer as they choose to care for their body and mind intelligently. Thus, they will be in a position to better communicate with God, sense His presence and discern His purpose for their life. Videos are available in Spanish, English, Portuguese, French, Romanian, Russian, Arabic, and Kyrgyz with more translations coming soon.



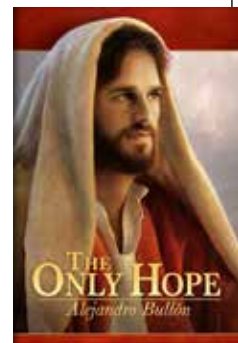
Literature:

Quick Reads and Sharing Books

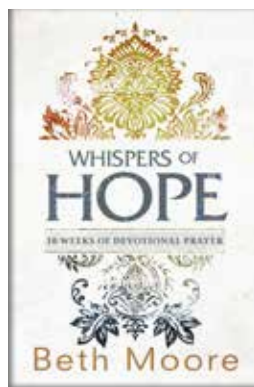


Signs of Hope, by pastor and author Alejandro Bullón, tackles daunting questions about a world in chaos and discovers that the crisis in which we've found ourselves is itself a sign of hope pointing to the grand finale—the second coming of Jesus.

The Only Hope, also by Alejandro Bullón, shares stories of everyday people who found themselves trapped by life, by the consequences of poor choices, and by the brokenness of others. These true stories are inspiring and they show how you can find real hope.



Devotionals



Whispers of Hope, by best-selling author Beth Moore, is a 10-week interactive devotional that emphasizes prayer. She walks readers through an easy to remember and easy to apply method of prayer, coupled with 70 daily devotionals that are followed by prompts to put the prayer method into practice.

Story of Hope, by Adventist pioneer and author Ellen G. White, offers a glimpse behind history's curtain, revealing the origin of evil, some of the ways God has dealt with evil in the past and His plan for resolving it completely in the future. This devotional takes an in depth look at the Bible and the journey that has led us to our blessed hope, Jesus Christ our Savior.



The Anchor of Hope



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

All of us use the word “hope” a lot in our conversation. The word “hope” is defined as desire with expectation of fulfillment, and to wish or to want. The result or outcome of hope can be either positive or negative. However, in the Christian context, the word “hope” is always thought of in a positive context. Paul speaks of “the hope which is laid up for you in heaven . . .” (Col 1:5); and “Christ in you the hope of glory” (Col 1:27). Then Paul states the second coming of Jesus is our “blessed hope!” (Titus 2:13).

While hope bathes the heart with a fresh spirit of optimism, hopelessness dries and withers the spirit. To be without hope is to be locked into fear, anxiety, and desperation that left unaided will turn into a sense of defeat, depression, and ultimately a de-

sire for death itself. When life is perceived as no longer having anything to offer and there is no light to make its way into a darkened mind, then life is no longer desired.

However, hope is indicative of the fact that we have not yet realized or experienced that which will take us from our current undesirable condition to something far improved. Hope is a recognition we are ready to relinquish what we have so that we can attain something superior. Because of hope, we can have the strength to endure, and wait patiently for what is yet to come. Hope is the sedative that gets us past the pain and suffering. Hope is the soothing and calming element in the middle of the storm of life that assures us that the *Son* will shine again. Hope is the well-spring that waters parched dreams and de-

sired outcomes. Hope literally transforms the mind so that even in the midst of extreme want, pain, or agony, there is birthed in the heart and mind a resolute will that endures because there is anticipation that something better will come along, even when there is no evidence of relief. Hope brings energy, determination, fortitude, and a resolute spirit.

The apostle Paul emphatically states the hope we have is as “an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered . . .” (Heb 6:19). This is a solidly grounded hope that takes us into the very presence of God! Today, in the midst of chaos and uncertainty, we need the *anchor of hope*. Thank God for hope!

Steve Orian, president

Benton Jesus Warriors Pathfinder Club

BENTON, ARK. » The Benton Jesus Warriors Pathfinder Club loves being Jesus’ hands and feet. In September, the club had the opportunity to go camping for a couple of nights in Tahlequah, Okla. Some dear friends pastor a small church there and invited us to be a part of their worship service. While there we heard about a precious lady named Mary who had to go home early. She

was so disappointed that she wouldn’t get to see the Pathfinders—their small church does not have a Pathfinder club.

We were asked if our group would like to visit her after church and of course we said “Yes!” Loading in our cars we drove to Mary’s home and had the pleasure of ministering to her through song. This was not a planned activity, but oh, what a blessing

for all of us. The joy on her face was priceless and reminded all of us that we can be a light for Jesus anywhere, anytime, even when it’s unexpected. Praise God for such a willing group of young people, who are eager and happy to serve God in such a tangible way.

Francis Baumbach



▲ Benton Jesus Warriors enjoy sharing Jesus.
◀ Mary enjoyed having the Pathfinders visit and sing for her.

Louisiana Pathfinders *Backpacking Trip*

Louisiana youth from four Pathfinder clubs and two Adventurer clubs went backpacking in early November. Fourteen Pathfinders with four Adventurers and 16 adults backpacked 15 miles along the Eagle Rock Loop Trail in the Ouachita National Forest in Western Arkansas. Participating clubs were the Shreveport Tornados, the Minden Cardinals, the Marthville Mustangs, and the Baton Rouge Red Sticks. Adventurers from the Shreveport Whirlwinds and the Baton Rouge Red Twigs also completed the trip.

beginning point of the hike, on Friday afternoon. The group set up their camp and prepared supper. That evening as the group sat around their camp fire, Bill Grant led out in the evening vespers. He discussed the stars and that Jesus would return through the open space in the Orion nebula. As the group hiked the trail on Sabbath, John Anderson and David Grant talked about Jesus saying that, "my yoke is easy and my burden is light." They also discussed the difference between choosing a hard path and an easy path. Another topic of discussion was the importance of teamwork and of being a part of the church. During Sabbath eve-

ning vespers, Bill Grant led out as the kids discussed their favorite parts of the trip and God's creative power.

After a second night under the stars, the group finished the last leg of their fifteen-mile journey. At the end of the rigorous hike, the young people enjoyed playing in the water of Little Missouri Falls. Those on the trip completed the hiking requirement of the backpacking honor: "participate in a weekend backpack trip of at least five miles to a site not accessible by a vehicle and cook your own meals." They also completed the hiking requirement of the pioneering honor: "with an experienced leader, participate in a two-day, 15-mile backpack trip, carrying all needed supplies."

Cyndra Grant



▲ Backpacking buddies.

Top right: Rewards of the trip.

► Louisiana Pathfinders with Adventurers and staff.

These Pathfinders and Adventurers spent most of September and October learning about backpacking and preparing for this hike. David Grant organized the trip, selected the location and taught the necessary skills needed to survive. He stressed the importance of being prepared and of bringing what was needed but not carrying unnecessary items.

The group reached Winding Stairs, the



Cooking in the Park

NASHVILLE, ARK. » Our church plant has restarted a Plant Based Cooking class with Chef Jan Manly that is held at the city park center once a month. We have about 20 in attendance at each class. Ouachita Hills College students have come on Sabbaths and gone door-to-door performing surveys. Since the beginning of the school year, the Lord has blessed with 20 people in Nashville that are interested in Bible studies and 24 in Mineral Springs which is the town next to Nashville. There are other people interested in our cooking classes, stop smoking seminars, diabetes education, heart disease education, depression recovery and other seminars. The members also have ongoing personal Bible studies in the community with friends and have continued the Bible studies that the students started last year. We have potluck every Sabbath at 1:30 p.m. and follow that with Sabbath School and Church. Church

attendance ranges from about 8 to 30 every week. We have prayer meetings on Tuesday evenings, plans to hold a Health Expo next spring, as well as an evangelistic series in the spring or summer. Please continue

to pray for these areas where searching people will be joining our churches looking for the Bible truth.

Jonathan Baylon



Cooking class with Chef Jan Manly.

Heber Springs SDA Church Welcomes New Member

HEBER SPRINGS, ARK. » The Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomes Peri Owens into our membership. Peri has been attending the church for several weeks. She brings her two little girls to the Kindergarten Sabbath School class and has embraced the truth and biblical soundness of the Adventist faith. She wholeheartedly made herself useful in any and every way that she could in the church. She was so thankful for the warmth, truth and acceptance that she found in the Heber Springs church. The members were thrilled when Peri asked to join the church and study with the pastor. The Lord continues to bless our little church as we continue to share the "Good News" with others.

Judith Newton

Peri Owens welcomed into church membership by Pastor Laurie DeWitt.



Faith. Hope. Love.



“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love” (1 Corinthians 13:13, NIV)

Do you like to receive gifts? Do you enjoy sharing gifts with others? One more question for you, have you ever lost something that you treasured?

As I was reflecting on this editorial, I remembered how important the above text has been in my life. Faith, hope and love. These three words are foundational to what people are searching for in life.

Recently, I read about a little boy who was riding a bus home from a fabulous time at his local church’s Vacation Bible

School program. He was very proud of the art project he had made in class and enthusiastically shared with all the other people riding on the bus. During the ride home, he kept opening the handmade card that contained three pieces of paper. Over and over he would read the words out loud, “Faith, Hope and Love!” Then to his dismay, as he was reading those words, the card slipped from his hand and one of the pieces of paper fluttered out the window. “Stop the bus!” “Stop the bus!” he cried. “I’ve lost my ‘hope in God!’” The caring driver quickly pulled the bus over to the side of the road and stopped. As the boy climbed out and went to retrieve his card that was now caught against a fence along

the roadside, one of the adult passengers smiled and made a comment about the innocence of youth. A more perceptive passenger observed, “All of us would be better off if we were that concerned about our faith, hope and love!”

As we move into the adventures and challenges that a new year brings, let us not lose our hope in God. It is my prayers that we hold onto the truth that faith, hope, and love are three gifts from God that will be ours throughout all eternity. Let us treasure and value these gifts from God and share them with all we come in contact with in life.

James Bokovoy, communication director

Oklahoma Conference Office Adopts Nursing Home for Christmas

OKLAHOMA CITY » Each year the Oklahoma Conference staff makes an effort to share Christmas cheer with others. We are often blessed by our efforts in reaching out to others. Sharing the hope that we have in Jesus during this Christmas season brings blessings, warm hearts, and smiles to everyone’s faces.

In 2016, we decided to adopt the nursing home residents and staff at Wolfe Living Center, located at Summit Ridge Retirement Village. Some crocheted tie-string bags, washcloths, and sponges. Others gathered bathroom toiletries, purchased socks, made cookies and candy, made special book marks, or gathered fruit for the staff and residents. The Conference staff sang Christmas carols as the gifts were presented to the grateful residents.

Nursing homes can be a very lonely place during the holiday season, but we decided to bring some Christmas cheer this year, and to put some smiles on a



lot of faces with our simple efforts. Sharing the hope we have in Jesus with our neighbors can be done at anytime and in so many ways. We don’t have to wait for Christmas to love and serve others, but

we also choose not to let those special opportunities pass us by.

Susan Castillo

Veggies! Cooking Class Comes to Bristow

A truly healthy Christian life is one that shares that hope with our families, church family and communities where God leads us to serve. Lessons of hope, fruits of a healthy lifestyle and God's leading in our lives recently made a wonderful impact in the community of Bristow. Our church family and guests enjoyed four evenings of delicious dinners and intriguing health presentations in October. Our introduction to Mary Bernt, the owner of Veggies! restaurant and health food store, was her thoughtful sermon about the patience of butterflies and God's work in our lives. Her humor punctuated the sermon and gave us insight about her upcoming talks. Sure enough, she had everyone's rapt attention for two hours each evening while the audience dined on complete meals from a myriad of food adventures, from chopped salad and chia seeds to quinoa and even vegan cheesecake.

Mary was invited to present her well-known seminars by our head elder, John Millea, who is also Mary's nephew. Mary hails from Ardmore, OK and runs Veggies! restaurant and health food store with her husband, Tom. She has written two cookbooks and frequently presents her experiences, customer testimonies and healthful living research around the United States.



▲ Delicious meals were served by volunteers Madalyn Fisher, Brian Stout, and (below) Belita Dawes.
▶ Mary Bernt had a full house for her health presentations in Bristow.



As guests were served vegetarian and vegan courses, Mary explained the importance of healthful cooking and explained how to cook the food we were served, course by course. Each person or couple received her/his own cookbook so it was easy to follow along.

While some guests were experiencing new taste sensations and combinations for the first time, Mary showed slides with lifestyle habits and how they affect our health, especially food. She also shared many anecdotes from her customers, some of whom have eradicated their hypertension or other ailments by eating a plant-based diet. Church members and guests easily identified with common ailments such as heart disease, diabetes and other conditions that can keep us from thriving.

Mary also shared her personal testimony of how she overcame smoking and other detrimental lifestyle habits, and how she helped her young son heal through a plant-based diet. Some church members brought friends and in the following weeks, sev-

eral church members shared that they and their friends had changed their eating habits to include more plant-based options and were already feeling the benefits.

As a church body, we are intentional in reaching out to our community through prayer walks, vespers programs, community services, a church school and other ventures, so this witnessing effort appealed to a person's basic needs and desires: health, appetite and hope. It is our continued prayer that the information presented will bless and fortify every attendee both physically and spiritually in a life of healthy service.

Caroline A. Fisher

Reaching In to Reach Others

The women in the Bristow church have been very active this year. In January, Health Ministries leader, Sherry Fisher, and several other women desired to have regular meetings to study the Bible in a casual setting, one that would be inviting to non-church members or other denomination church members alike. A Facebook page was created to share ideas and spiritual moments to lift up others.

The group is called Joy in Christ and originally met in a local coffee shop on the main street of our small town, pop. 5,000. The coffee shop has since closed, so the group has been meeting in the Fellowship Hall of the Adventist church until another location can be obtained. The women have been studying various books of the Bible using Kristin Schmucker's "Joy in Christ" study guides (hence the name of the group). The goals of the meetings are to build relationships with each other and to help each woman strengthen her relationship with Christ.

Some of the meetings have brought tears, earnest prayer and encouragement. Other meetings have revealed the solemn needs of our own congregation as the women have shared events and situations that require divine strength for resolution. Regardless of the content, the meetings have helped us discover various ways

to reach out to our community. We have enjoyed painting as a group with a professional painting instructor, and are planning a community garden.

Another blessing for church members was that several cleaning teams were formed under Laura Weber's guidance. The teams have a regular cleaning schedule that fits their lifestyle, i.e., day and time. Some team members do their part in the morning, and others finish up their section of the church after work. Rather than leave the cleaning to just one or two people each week, everyone works alongside each other, young and old, and gets to enjoy fellowship while keeping God's house spic and span. One woman revealed that as she dusts each pew, she pauses to pray for the church members who usually sit in that pew, or close by. Being a small congregation of around 100 attendees, it is easy to predict where everyone will sit each week!

Another idea was sparked to include children, i.e., anyone under the age of 18. Bristow is well known for its tasty weekly potluck so there is no shortage of dirty dishes. Caroline Fisher asks a different teen each week to get the other children to assist them in collecting plates and cutlery after potluck. The adults seem to appreciate the youth's efforts to lend a helping

hand and the children interact with everyone who stays for lunch.

Another activity that grew out of a brainstorming session was a visitor welcome package. Debby Fisher, a deaconess and Beginner class leader, felt called to use her baking skills and now bakes a few loaves each week and wraps and labels them for visitors, including our guest speakers. The greeters make sure any visitors have a fresh loaf to take home and enjoy. It's a delicious reminder of breaking bread together.

Just before the autumn leaves began falling, Sherry (now the Personal Ministries leader) invited church members and the City of Bristow to join her for an organized prayer walk through our town (essentially one mile long). The Prayer Walk for Bristow was held on September 7 at 7:00 p.m. as part of a town-wide, Wednesday-night event so that all churches could take the opportunity to walk around their church and pray for their neighbors. Several groups walked and prayed around their own neighborhoods, while others walked down Main Street and the City Park.

Other ideas are forming as we work to create a close-knit family of Christian love within and without our church building.

Caroline A. Fisher

LEGAL NOTICE

Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Sixty-ninth Regular Session of the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Edmond Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 4701 East Danforth Road, Edmond, OK 73034, on Sunday, April 30, 2017. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term and to transact such business as may properly come before the session. The meeting will convene on Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

According to the bylaws, each church is entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each thirty (30) members or major fraction thereof. Delegates must hold membership in the local church which accredits them.

John H. Moyer, President

Richard C. Dye, Sr. Executive Secretary

Roger Driver, Treasurer

New Beginnings for the New Year



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

The new year often brings new promises, hopes, and opportunities. However, it can also bring change. Sometimes these changes take us away from those things we hold dear. Considering this, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you of an upcoming transition for me and my family. I have accepted a position as Director of Integrated Marketing and Public Relations at Oakwood University at the start of the coming year.

Huntsville holds a special place in my life because it is where I met my wife and where my eldest son was born. This move will also bring us closer to our younger children who currently, and will be attending Oakwood. Relocation will be bitter-sweet, though for what I gain, I will also experience loss. Our family and friends here are incredible, loving, and supportive; we will miss them. I consider Southwest Region Conference my home. It has provided me the opportunity to serve alongside some of the most amazing people who have shaped my spiritual growth and nurtured my career.

The president of the Allegheny West Conference, Dr. William T. Cox, Sr., always reminded me—"Your gifts will make room for you." This quote has influenced my thinking and would bring focus when I questioned how God was directing my life. It has helped me during my years of minis-

try by allowing me to trust God more.

With unwavering faith in God's plan, like Abraham, I will be taking the next step in my journey. Though it takes me away from my "hometown," I move forward with full confidence that God is leading me to the next phase in life. I thank you for the opportunity to serve the Southwest Region

Conference. My prayer is that it continues to add souls to the kingdom in this part of the vineyard.

Kenn Dixon, communications and media relations director

**SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES**
Presents

Fresh
ANOINTING
Prayer Summit

Because we desperately need a fresh anointing to withstand what is to come, we must be saturated with the Holy Spirit for such a time as this.

FRIDAY
March 3rd
7:30 - 9:00 pm

SABBATH
March 4th
9:00 - 5:00 pm

Smyrna Seventh-Day Adventist Church
916 Richmond Dr.
Alexandria, LA 71302

FREE ONLINE REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Register @ <http://freshanointing2017.eventbrite.com>

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL: (214) 943-4491, EXT 213

Evangelism Boot Camp: *Go Light Your Corner*

ATHENS, TEXAS » On October 21- 23, 2016, the Women's Ministries Department of the Southwest Region Conference, under the leadership of Anyisia Archibald, sponsored an Evangelism Boot Camp called "Go Light Your Corner."

The facilitator was Jeanne Nicolle Brisé, a dynamic, multi-lingual, seasoned evangelist who adores Jesus. She prepares women to be effective in ministry for the cause of Christ.

Prayer was an integral part of this weekend as all sessions were bathed in prayer. Plus, every day at 5am there was an Upper Room/Prayer Walk with Mil Dyer and the prayer team. Glory to God!

We opened exploring the theme, You are the Light of the World. The Christian's light must be the light that can be seen, the light that warns, the light that guides.

As we looked at the role of women in evangelism, we concluded every true Christian woman is an evangelist. However, we do face challenges. Some solutions: we must begin to appreciate the way God made us, and most of all, we must yield our-

selves to God daily!

Knowing that "without a vision the people perish," we received step-by-step instruction with definitions and guidelines to help us discover God's vision for us individually.

A "spiritual gifts inventory" with the interpretation and application of our gifts was next. We discovered we each have a place in God's work and He will use our individual gifts as we yield to Him.

Lastly, we actually held an evangelism meeting utilizing our gifts and getting a demonstration of the application of our gifts!

This experience was eye-opening. The enthusiasm of the attendees was palpable.



The joy and sense of empowerment were verbalized and evident on the faces of the women and few men in attendance. One man shared excitedly, "This was excellent—top of the line! Every elder should attend this boot camp." The food was also great and exercise was available; however, the spiritual feast truly equipped us to go light our corners!

Susan Bevins

Deep Sea Discovery: Vacation Bible School

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. » Last summer, the Voice of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Oklahoma City held its Vacation Bible School with the theme, Deep Sea Discovery!

Rose Graves, Vacation Bible School and children's ministries director for the church, along with her team of teachers and volunteers, used their gifts to help the children understand that God loves them, hears them, knows them, and will strengthen them! The children thoroughly enjoyed Vacation Bible School 2016. Here are some of their thoughts about the "splashtastic" adventures they experienced during the week:

"I enjoyed the crafts and science." - Gracyn

"Everything was fun, especially the crafts." - Rachel

"The science and snacks, like cupcakes, were fun." - Tommy

"I liked playing games outside like the races, crafts, and food." - Ethan

"Running and the games were fun." - Denae

"I like how I make more friends." - John

"The science, arts and crafts, food, and outside games were so

much fun!" - Donaven

"Everything was fun, and music was my favorite." - Kyara

"The games outside, the sand play area where we put our boats in the pool was fun." - Harmonie

"Learning about Jesus, science, and the food was the bomb!" - Kaurice

"I love where we dance to praise Jesus." - Arami

"The projects, outside games, and praise dance were fun." - Jeremy



"Learning about God, the praise dancing, and games were fun." - Jinana

The teachers shared their joy of working with the children in the following ways:

"I liked laughing with them, showing them love and inspiring them!"

"Having fun participating in the activities

with them, singing songs and being involved in what they learned was a joy."

"I loved marching with the beginners and the excitement they had."

"I enjoyed making crafts with the children, talking about the stories they learned as well as the energy they had each day."

"The smiles and excitement on their faces was so special."

Overall, teachers were encouraged that the children learned daily and participated willingly in the daily review!

B. McCoy

Texas-Sized Vision 2017



As long as I can recall, I have been struck with the message that God gives to His chosen people in 1 Peter 2:9. In particular the words: "That you may proclaim the *advantages* in knowing Him Who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." The message of this all-important verse encircles the essence of what our vision as a conference and a Church should be about in 2017. What are those advantages? In the first instance, one gigantic advantage in knowing and serving God is that He is a God of wonders! We are swift to forget that! Psalm 78:10,11, "They did not keep the covenant of God and forgot about His works and His wonders that He had shown them!" First task for us in 2017, keep God's goodness and His wonders before our vision each and every day. Praise Him, for His goodness endureth forever! Second monumental advantage, we have a God Who walks with us and talks with us, and tells us that we are His Own! Our God is not some human devised blind, mute, helpless little god who has no ability to

interact with us! He is the Lord of the universe! Psalm 95:3, "For the Lord is the Great God, and the Great King above all gods." A clear vision for us as we steer into the new year would involve a pristine concept and conviction that our God is Jehovah-Jireh. "God will provide!" He has made a way for His people in the past, He is providing for His people today, and He will continue to provide for His people down to the very end of time. He has promised, "Lo I am with you, even to the end of the world." Are we able to envision His constant presence? Sometimes we lose our way in the midst of all of Satan's smoke and mirrors. Let us lift up our eyes and see Him leading and providing not only in our own personal lives but also in the Life of our world-wide Church and its affairs. The third sensational advantage, He has ordained us to success! Notice carefully and take to heart the words of Deuteronomy 28:13, "And the Lord will make you the *head* and not the tail. You shall be only *above*, and not beneath." Not that sounds like a proclamation of blessing if I ever heard one! Does God desire the very best for His people? Absolutely! We limit ourselves. There is no

limit to what He wishes to do for us but far too often we are unable to handle it! 2017 could be the year when God's people seriously impact the communities around them with the glory of their heavenly Father Who reigns above. Are we in a condition to do so? Last but not least, the advantage of awareness. The great majority of the people of this world are totally unaware of the times in which we are living. Not so with the people of God! We know! Romans 13:11, "And do this, *knowing the time*, that now it is high time to awake out of our sleep, because our salvation is nearer now than ever before..." Society around us says that it is! The political environment says that it is. Chaos in nature say it is! The condition of the very Church tells us that it is! The Spirit and the bride say "Come! Its time!" It is an advantage to know what time it is in the history of this worn out planet. Its time to wrap up our affairs here, and study hard for our citizenship test for heaven. May these thoughts be our vision for 2017, but above all, let us say to Christ, "Be Thou our vision."

Carlos J. Craig, president

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Hope



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It seems that uncertainty abounds in all aspects of society. Listen to the news and you will hear fear about economic issues. There is anxiety about personal safety. Even more, there is alarm about job security. We don't know what the future holds. The world seems to be a sinking ship.

Many individuals who do not know the Bible live in constant fear. We who study the Scriptures know that this world will not remain the way it is. Just before Christ comes, this world will be in turmoil and disarray. The Bible gives us hope that God will make all things new. The former things are gone and a new life and planet will emerge. That is why we can have the assurance and hope for a better tomorrow.

Christ's resurrection gives us the renewed hope that we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye and that this mortal body will be transformed to immortality. Someone has put it this way, "Hope is faith in the future tense." That is why hope always looks to the future. It is always in the future tense, indicating that we need to wait for it to be fulfilled.¹ Herman J. Steinherr said, "Hope lives in the heart of he who lives tomorrow today."²

Hope is not wishful thinking. Christian hope trusts God's promises, does not let go of them and has confidence that God will do what He said He will do. Our hope is grounded in Jesus Christ and we can have a confident expectation³, according to the Bible, that God's promises will be fulfilled. Life without Christ is hopeless; life in Christ is an endless hope.

The Bible says, "Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). Like faith is strengthened by God's Word, hope springs up in our hearts by reading God's Word.

Without hope, life loses its meaning. We place our hope in God (Psalm 28:7) knowing that we will not be confounded, put to shame or disappointed (Isaiah 49:23). God's people hold onto the promise that we should not fear or have anxiety. Psalm 46:2, 3 reminds us, "Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way, though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, though the mountains tremble."

We might view hope as a firm assurance of what we do not see, what we do not know and something that is difficult to explain. "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience"

(Romans 8:25). So we wait on God's promises in faith. "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). Hope and faith goes hand in hand. They complement each other. "Hope is a portion or part of faith. Hope is faith in the future tense. So most of faith is hope."⁴

We can trust God and have confidence that our Lord will fulfill His Word for a better tomorrow. The Bible reminds us that hope brings us joy (Romans 12:12). When we have hope, even though the world around us is full of challenges, stress, difficulties and tragedies, we can look for something better. As we grasp onto God's hope and His plan for us, we have nothing to fear because we know that we are more than conquerors through the Lord.

Lee-Roy Chacon, president

¹ http://www.preceptaustin.org/t_peter_13-5#h

² http://www.searchquotes.com/quotation/Hope_lives_in_the_heart_of_he_who_lives_tomorrow_today./729786/

³ <http://biblehub.com/greek/1680.htm>. Strong Concordance on hope - 1680, elpis.

⁴ <http://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/what-is-so-important-about-christian-hope>

The Rio Rancho Church Shares the "Hero of Hacksaw Ridge"

RIO RANCHO, N. MEX. » With the release of the movie, "Hacksaw Ridge" depicting the combat experience of Army medic and conscientious objector, Desmond Doss, God presented another opportunity to witness. Taking advantage of the sharing book, "Hero of Hacksaw Ridge", by Remnant Publications, members of the Rio Rancho Seventh-day Adventist Church prayed and approached a local theater manager seeking permission to give away the books to their customers. The manager quickly welcomed the offer and suggested a prime spot inside the theater. Being near the Veteran's Day holiday, the timing

could not have been better. As the moviegoers exited the inside theater door, a large table banner, rows of books, and the smiling face of Kimone Gardner and former Vietnam combat medic and conscientious ob-

jector, Dr. Robert Gardner, greeted the tearful and emotionally moved group. Within eight minutes all the books were gone and patrons asked for more. The Rio Rancho personal ministry's vision and prayer is that all God's remnant family will realize that "Every soul is priceless and every opportunity precious." May we work with faithfulness and urgency as we await our coming Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Robert Gardner, M.D.



Former Vietnam combat medic and conscientious objector Robert Gardner, M.D., and his wife, Kimone, distribute the "Hero of Hacksaw Ridge" books in a local theater.

New Mexico State Fair Pays High Dividends!

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » Continuing a tradition that began over 25 years ago, several Albuquerque-area churches participated in an outreach to New Mexico State Fair goers, September 8-18, 2016. Rio Rancho and Albuquerque Heights church members constructed a literature booth with the intent to catch the eye and to present the church and our message to the public in the best light possible.

Hundreds of fair-goers stopped by the booth and picked up copies of *The Great Controversy*, Final Events of Bible Prophecy DVDs, and other Bible study material. Many signed up to attend a prophecy seminar, cooking class, or stop-smoking clinic. Several stopped by for prayer. Young men and women in their teens and twenties came to see the attractive health displays, and not a few responded positively to prayers to help them overcome addictions. Former church-goers came by and renewed rela-

tionships with Adventists. Several folks expressed their appreciation for a church that still boldly promotes Jesus and His grace and love, His commandments, Creation, and His soon return.

Over the years several Seventh-day Adventists can trace their first connection to the church through their contact with the State Fair literature booth. The church ministries leader at the Albuquerque Heights Church became an Adventist through Bible study initiated at the State Fair. Another church member, who eventually became head elder at an Albuquerque-area church, made their first SDA contact at the Fair, where they were given a copy of *The Great Controversy*, which changed their life.

One woman, a former member, picked up a piece of literature at the booth that contained contact information for Seminars Unlimited. This led to her ordering Revela-

tion Seminar material, which eventually led to her rebaptism, her husband's baptism, and the baptism of several of their friends!

Ellen White wrote, "Leaflets containing the light of present truth should be scattered among the people like the leaves of autumn. To many who attend these gatherings [such as the St. Louis World's Fair] these leaflets would be as the leaves of the tree of life" (*Evangelism*, p. 36).

Please pray for the people who have recently requested Bible studies or want to learn more about spiritual, emotional, or physical health. Jesus is coming soon!

Jep Choate

Jonathan Martinez, Mary Frances Kathrein, and Lori Fisher are part of the team that helped manage the Seventh-day Adventist booth at the New Mexico State Fair in Albuquerque. Photo by Robert Gardner.



Amarillo Welcomes New Pastor

AMARILLO, TEX. » The Amarillo Church has been blessed by the installation of a new pastor, Bobby Harris. Harris comes to Amarillo from the Dalhart, Clayton, Raton, and Pampa district. His wife, Maria, was born, raised, and educated in Romania. Phil Robertson, Texico executive secretary and treasurer, performed the installation service on Sabbath, August 6, 2016.

Harris joined the U.S. Navy in 1989. He spent five years as a machinist and the rest of his military career as a Navy counselor, retiring in October 2005. Since he felt God was calling him into the ministry to become a pastor, he enrolled at Southwestern Adventist University and completed a bachelor of arts degree in theology. After graduation, he went to the Alaska Conference and spent two

years as pastor of the Valdez Church. While in Alaska, he met Maria and they were married in October of the same year. On September 1, 2013, Harris became the pastor of the Texas Panhandle district. The Amarillo Church feels blessed and privileged to have them as their new pastoral couple.

Anna Swingle



◀ Maria and Bobby Harris, new pastoral couple at the Amarillo Church.

years as pastor of the Valdez Church. While in Alaska, he met Maria in February 2012 and

▼ Bobby Harris, newly installed pastor, preaching at the Amarillo Church.



Student Profile: Jae-Min Park

For Jae-Min Park, a senior biology pre-med major at Southwestern Adventist University, music is more than just an enjoyable pastime. Park demonstrated a unique talent for and interest in piano at a young age. At two, he would climb into his cousins' laps and watch as they played the piano, then he would play back what they played. Noticing this unique talent, his mother began teaching him how to play the piano herself, and then sent him to a piano teacher when he reached the age of three.

Since then, Park has progressed a long way in his love for music, and currently performs with a Christian band called Contagious Faith, known for their ministry in music. He first heard about Contagious Faith when he came to Southwestern.

"I really enjoyed their music and attitude towards worship," he says. He got to know Anthony and Alexander Cortes (2016 graduates), the brother duo that forms Contagious Faith, by playing with them as a praise team during church at Southwestern.

"As I played with them, we formed a unique chemistry and realized we had something special," he recalls. Park joined the band two years ago. Since then, he and the other Contagious Faith members, have

been reaching others and honoring God with their talents.

"I joined the band because I believed in the ministry and realized I could contribute something to it," he says. He admits that music plays a huge role in his life but finding balance is important. "Music is my passion and the way I minister to others. It is my way of leading others to Christ." But it is important to also find time for multiple obligations as a biology pre-med major. Dividing his time between school and music, he rarely has time for anything else. "I sacrifice a lot of study time to do music, but my life kind of revolves around music and school." However, his dedication to his music has helped him in his studies and enabled him to handle the pressure that comes with academic studies. "I use music to de-stress from schoolwork a lot," Park says.

"I have found that stretching my memory by memorizing pieces of music has helped my short-term memory to increase, which has helped in my studies. The same self-discipline and dedication needed to master an instrument is definitely needed to do well in school."

Park is grateful that he can study at a university where he can pursue both his



Around campus: Jae-Min Park (left) studies with a fellow student.

love for music and get the pre-med education he is looking for. "I've been allowed to share my talents of music a lot better here than I could if I was at a larger school." At the same time, he's been able to assist his biology professors with research and spend one-on-one time with his teachers in order to get the help he needs.

"Southwestern has given me so many opportunities," Park states. "The kind of opportunities I received here, I wouldn't have been able to get on the same scale anywhere else."

Julena Allen, sophomore communication major

Computer Science Department Reaches Out to Community with Clinic

Nearly 70 community members recently attended a free PC and mobile device repair clinic, offered by Southwestern Adventist University's computer science department.

Faculty and 25 computer science students volunteered for the clinic. They partnered with local mobile device repair business owner Luis Ogaz.

Students provided virus cleanup, backup assistance, RAM upgrades, software installation, hardware upgrades, software upgrades, and mobile device repair. In addition, two nursing students offered to take attendees' blood pressure in the waiting room.

"There was an appreciation from the community and we definitely want to continue this," says Miguel Espinosa, assistant professor of computer science. "Besides

helping the community and connecting with companies, the clinic gives students opportunities to make connections with possible future employers."

Makala James, 2016 communication graduate



Miguel Espinosa helps a student fix a software issue. Espinosa and his students offered a free computer repair clinic to the community.

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Terry Shaw Named President/CEO of Adventist Health System

ALTAMONTE SPRINGS, FLA. » The Adventist Health System (AHS) board of directors has appointed Terry Shaw as the organization's new president/CEO. Shaw will immediately assume leadership responsibilities for the faith-based health care system, which includes 46 hospital campuses in 10 states, as well as a continuum of integrated care comprised of urgent care centers, home health and hospice agencies, physician practices and skilled nursing facilities.

"It is a tremendous honor and responsibility to be chosen to lead this organization," said Shaw. "I look forward to building on the successful foundation that has been laid and working with our leaders and employees across the system as we continue our sacred mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ."

Shaw's career with Adventist Health System spans more than 30 years. Immediately prior to being named president/CEO, he served as executive vice president, chief financial officer and chief operations officer, where his broad understanding and knowledge of health care finance, IT and overall operations enabled him to play a pivotal role in defining the organization's vision and direction. Shaw began his career with AHS as a business intern in 1982. He was appointed director at Florida Hospital in 1985, assistant vice president in 1990, vice president in 1992, and senior vice president in 1996. In 2000, Shaw became senior vice president and chief financial officer for AHS, a role he held until 2010 when he gained COO responsibilities.

"Terry has proven to be a great leader through the years and his keen business acumen has enabled us to become stronger financially. His deep knowledge and passion for our organization will ensure that AHS is well-positioned to honor our Seventh-day Adventist health care legacy and

advance our mission," said Adventist Health System Board Chairman Don Livesay.

Don Jernigan, who officially retires as Adventist Health System's president/CEO on Dec. 8 after leading the organization for more than a decade, will transition to a faculty role at the Adventist Health System Leadership Institute.

"Terry's experience



From left: Retiring AHS President/CEO Don Jernigan, new AHS President/CEO Terry Shaw, and AHS Board Chairman Don Livesay.



...serving as CFO and COO combined with his breadth of organizational understanding from financial, operations and clinical improvement perspectives will serve Adventist Health System well," said Jernigan. "The future is bright for our organization, and with God's guidance and blessings, AHS will be able to provide even more Christian health care in the communities we serve as a clinically effective, fully integrated health system."

Shaw received bachelor's degrees in accounting and computer science from Southern Adventist University, and a master's degree in administration from the

University of Central Florida.

He currently serves as vice chairman of the Premier, Inc. board of directors and is a member of the Hospital Financial Management Association, American College of Healthcare Executives and State of Texas Board of Certified Accountants. As a silver level Leadership Society contributor to the United Way, Shaw supports and generously donates to the nonprofit organization, and is also active with several other professional and service organizations.

He and his wife, Paula, reside in Orlando, Florida and have two adult sons.

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EMPLOYMENT

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Union College seeks full-time professor of

Communications and English with strong skills in magazine journalism, editing, and writing instruction for position beginning July 2017. Doctorate is preferred. Please submit curriculum vitae to Dr. Mark Robison, Humanities Division chair, at marobiso@ucollege.edu.

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

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Dean-School of Business at Southern Adventist University. Doctoral degree in a field of business, commitment to holistic student development, relating successfully with School of Business colleagues, and oversight of undergraduate and graduate programs in business and technology. Submit curriculum vitae along with cover letter, and statement of administrative teaching philosophy to: Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu or visit: www.southern.edu/hr for more information.

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Professor for School of Business at Southern Adventist University beginning June 1, 2017 to teach undergraduate level management courses, directing student

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Union College seeks an Art and Graphic Design professor, beginning June 2017. Master's degree in art or graphic design required; MFA preferred. Responsibilities include teaching art and graphic design courses, academic advising,

recruiting, and program development. Further information, www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings. Submit CV to Bruce Forbes, Fine Arts Division Chair, at b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

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INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION: SOUTHWESTERNADVENTIST.ORG/CHILDREN

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Obituaries

BANFIELD, Michael

DeWitt, born August 15, 1926, in Baltimore, Md., and died November 6, 2016, in Houston, Texas. He was a member of the World Harvest Outreach SDA church. He operated a successful medical practice for many years. He served the SW Region Conference as Medical Director. He also took two medical mission trips to Ethiopia and Kenya in the early 2000s. Survivors: son, Darren; sister, Gloria; and sisters-in-law, Gerri and Julia.

CATO, Millas, born April 26, 1924, in Ashland, Okla., and died Jul. 15, 2016 in Denison, Texas. He was a member and head deacon of the Denison-Sherman SDA Church for many years. He served his country proudly in the U.S. Army during WWII and he was awarded a Purple Heart. He retired from the U.S. Civil Service after 32 years. Millas and his wife, Betty, were married 67 years. Survivors: wife, Betty of Denison; daughter, Sharon Patti, and husband, Frank, of Denison; daughter, Janet Miller, and husband, Larry, of Bells, Texas; son, Jim Cato, and wife, Janet of Denison; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sister, Helen Miller, and husband, Willis, of Colbert, Okla.; and sister, Florine Horton, of Denison.

MAYES, Betty Arlene, born April 17, 1942, and died November 6, 2016. She was a member of the Ketchum Church. She is

survived by her husband, John R. (Bob) Mayes.

MCCULLIN, Maxine Lois

McCreary, born March 24, 1944, in Los Angeles, Calif., and died September 5, 2016, in Amarillo, Texas. She was a member of the Amarillo SDA Church. She was a long-time dedicated employee of Big Texan Steak Ranch Restaurant and Motel/Hotel. She worked in various positions and retired as the night hotel desk clerk. Maxine enjoyed attending local hockey and baseball games. She also made many friends selling Avon and attending Amarillo Senior Citizens. Survivors: daughter, Timie McCullin, of Amarillo, and son, Randy McCullin, of Amarillo.

RATLIFF, Grace Ivadel Mixson

born November 6, 1919, in Ranger Lake, N. Mex., and died May 5, 2016, in Mansfield, Texas. She was a member of the Mansfield Church, serving there as its treasurer and as a deaconess. Grace was "Rosie the Riveter" for Convair in WWII and was later employed at Texas Instruments, UT Arlington, and Arlington Memorial Hospital. Survivors: son, Robert Ratliff; son, John Ratliff, and wife, Caroline; daughter, Luetta Clark; three grandchildren; four great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

TRUJILLO, Trinnie M., born August 10, 1932, in Cleveland, N. Mex., and died February 25, 2016, in Lincoln, Neb. She was

a member of the Tulsa Spanish Church, and had previously been a member of the Denver and Lincoln Spanish churches. She was a Lay leader for Women's, Prayer, Children's, Community and Evangelism ministries. Trinnie was an Olympic torch-bearer honoring service to her Tulsa community. She was preceded in death by her husband, George, and daughter, Sylvia. Survivors: daughter, Lucy Cisneros; sons, Rick and Jake Trujillo; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Berean Church, where he serves as treasurer and she is the Sabbath School superintendent. They became Seventh-day Adventists in St. Louis and were baptized by Elder Harvey Kibble. She is a retired educator with the East Baton Rouge School District and is now teaching at Martin Luther King Academy. He retired from the New Orleans Corps of Engineers and is presently teaching at Scotlandville Magnet High School. They are the parents of Francine Saunders and Fred, Jr. (Natalie), and have six grandchildren.

Milestones

ANNIVERSARIES

Freddy Lawrence, Sr., and Margaret Lawrence celebrated their **50th year wedding anniversary** on August 13, the date they were united in holy matrimony in St. Louis, Missouri. They are members of the Baton Rouge

Correction

In the December 2016 *Record*, Betty Jane Luke Taylor was incorrectly listed as having preceded her husband, Dwight Taylor, in death.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Jan 6	Jan 13	Jan 20	Jan 27	Feb 3	Feb 10
Abilene, TX	5:48	5:54	6:00	6:07	6:13	6:20
Albuquerque, NM	5:09	5:15	5:22	5:29	5:36	5:43
Amarillo, TX	5:50	5:56	6:03	6:10	6:17	6:24
Brownsville, TX	5:53	5:58	6:04	6:09	6:14	6:19
Dallas, TX	5:35	5:41	5:48	5:54	6:01	6:07
El Paso, TX	5:16	5:22	5:28	5:35	5:41	5:47
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	5:38	5:44	5:50	5:57	6:03	6:10
Gallup, NM	5:17	5:23	5:30	5:37	5:44	5:51
Galveston/Houston, TX	5:37	5:42	5:48	5:54	6:00	6:06
Gentry, AR	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:38	5:46	5:53
Little Rock, AR	5:13	5:19	5:26	5:33	5:40	5:47
Muskogee, OK	5:22	5:29	5:36	5:43	5:50	5:57
New Orleans, LA	5:15	5:21	5:27	5:33	5:39	5:45
Oklahoma City, OK	5:32	5:38	5:45	5:52	5:59	6:07
Roswell, NM	5:05	5:11	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:38
San Antonio, TX	5:50	5:55	6:01	6:07	6:13	6:19
Shreveport, LA	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:43	5:49	5:56
Tulsa, OK	5:24	5:30	5:37	5:44	5:52	5:59

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