

# Record

April 2017

## Enhancing Your *Spiritual Journey* A Daily Rendezvous

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# Record

APRIL 2017

The Record is an official publication of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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#### Our Mission:

The Mission of the Southwestern Union is to Equip and Inspire the Southwestern Union Territory with the distinctive Adventist message of Hope and Wholeness.

# Editor's Note

Spring is here! The weather is warmer, the grass is growing, flowers are blooming, and the *Record* has a new look! As we enter a new season of the *Record*, we introduce a new approach to the magazine. We continue the tradition of encouraging your spiritual walk, sharing in the fellowship of believers, and equipping you with the tools you need to share the faith and hope you have in Jesus.

This has been our purpose since the first *Record* rolled off the press in 1902. The new approach has both a quarterly emphasis and monthly theme to encourage you to explore different areas of faith. Enhancing your spiritual journey is our first quarterly emphasis, and this issue dives into our daily relationship with the Lord. I hope you enjoy this new issue and find insight that will help you along your journey. Until next time!



Jessica L. Lozano, Editor

## Enhancing Your Spiritual Journey: A Daily Rendezvous

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# A Daily Rendezvous

## Committed to Enhancing Your Spiritual Journey



Larry Moore | President

***We are all similar in some ways.*** Like me, you may begin the year with many good intentions, namely the desire to draw closer to the Lord. You promise yourself that you will spend more time in prayer and in Bible study. You may do okay for a few days or weeks and then it happens. Something comes up that interrupts your schedule. Discouragement sets in and then you just give up. But fear not. We have all been there, and we can all pick up again.

Treating devotions as a part of my relationship, I have discovered, helps contextualize this daily practice. If I am to maintain a relationship with Jesus, I must talk to Him and listen to Him. The more often I do this, the better. However, if we miss a day here or there, we can still communicate with God. He doesn't give up and He loves to hear from His children at any time. Be encouraged with the time you have spent with Jesus. As your relationship grows so does the time in prayer and Bible studies. May God richly bless your time with Him each day!

***Every morning, I spend time in the study and contemplation of God's Word.*** I have discovered that what works best for me is to follow a daily devotional plan that helps me focus on an area in the development of Christian character. Currently, I use the various devotional plans offered through YouVersion—The Bible App. The plans are a wonderful method of Bible study and help carry me through the day. By using these plans, I can connect daily with God through His Word from any mobile device or tablet. I recently finished a 14-day devotional on prayer by Tim Keller. Each day includes several Bible texts, along with a short devotional connecting the verses. As a further discipline, I attempt to memorize as many verses as possible that are given in the daily plan. Some days I may focus on only one text and allow that verse or verses of scripture to be my spiritual guide for the day. The Lord instructs us in Psalm 119:11 to hide the scriptures in our hearts that we might not sin against Him.

This daily connection with God helps me through the stresses of the day that can sometimes seem overwhelming. A daily connection with God assures me that spiritual balance can be achieved to live faithfully for the Lord, by the power of His Spirit.



Buford Griffith | Executive Secretary



John Page | Treasurer

***Elijah is one of my favorite Bible heroes.*** The first time Elijah appears in the Bible, he is doing what God called him to do—delivering a message to Ahab. As you read the story of Elijah, you realize that Elijah spent a lot of time working on his relationship with God. In my daily walk with God, I have some days that I think, why didn't I take that to God? And some days, I think my time with God allowed me to make a difference in someone else's life.

I enjoy watching and playing sports. One of the things that I enjoy the most is seeing two players recognize an opportunity at the same time. The silent coordination to make a great play is awesome. That happens because of the time they have spent together playing or preparing. In spending time with God and in the Bible, I want to be in sync with God's plan for my life every day. It takes time, effort, planning, and commitment to have a daily walk with God. However, the blessings that God has in store for you are beyond what you can comprehend.



# Finding the Path That Leads to *Faithfulness*

In February, I attended the One project gathering in San Diego along with over 1,200 Adventist young adults from around the world. The One project is an international movement with organized gatherings that host dynamic speakers and informal conversations focused on reaffirming your relationship with the One, Jesus. This gathering centered on finding Jesus in the Book of Revelation, a wonderful focus, that was unique and refreshing to me. By using personal experiences and tying them to themes found in Revelation, each speaker made direct appeals to the audience to make a personal connection with Jesus during our daily walk.

But what does that look like exactly? I often leave similar conferences feeling spiritually high and rejuvenated for a brief period, making desired changes in my life towards that aforementioned personal connection only to settle into a previously established routine, and that once burning passion has deserted me replaced with a small flickering flame found at the end of a wick inside a candle ready to go out. Luckily, that flame has never gone out completely as I fuel it with occasional prayer and study of God's Word, but my struggle is finding time to dedicate. My desire is to make my walk with Jesus more consistent, intentional, real, and in-depth.


I use technology to help organize my life, and downloaded Bible, devotional, and Adventist apps to my iPhone thinking I'd use them regularly. However, without alert reminders I forget they are there. When I sit down to read the Bible, it doesn't call out to me. I find it difficult to understand and am sleepy after reading a few minutes, not really picking up anything.

Recently, I've started doing things differently to help jumpstart my spiritual life, and although the results have been mixed, it's been a step in the right direction. Months ago, I purchased a set of CDs which contained dramatized (not monotone) readings of the entire Bible. It contains orchestra sounds in the background and many well-known Hollywood actors voicing different characters in a dynamic setting. Listening to it and following along brought the Bible to life in a whole new manner and I now look forward to listening/reading. I have passed it along to my family and friends and they each love it and have stated it has made a difference in their lives as well.

My prayer life is an area in which I constantly struggle because "God knows everything." I wish it resembled that of my mom and mother-in-law, who are faithful women of God. An app that has jump-started my prayer life is Echo. I set it up to include all the prayer requests I could think of (and keep updating it) with random prayer alerts popping up throughout the day starting at 9 a.m. and continuing every three hours until 9 p.m. When I feel a little buzz on my phone or wrist, it's

time to pray for that specific request. If the same prayer request pops up consecutively, I know the Holy Spirit is prompting me to spend more time on that specific request. Additionally, my wife and I are converting the small closet underneath the stairs into our prayer room. This will be a specific place in the house where we can meditate, study, and pray.

As a new husband and stepfather, I recognize the need to be the spiritual head of my household. I am the example and I need to step up my game in these areas. I am hopeful my struggles will dissipate as my relationship with God becomes stronger, more intentional, and authentic.

Another reason for going to San Diego was to prepare for DFW 1:1, a mini-gathering of the One project set in the local church context. I'm thrilled my home church in Arlington, TX is hosting DFW 1:1. The focus for the gathering is the heart of Jesus as expressed in Luke 15. All ages are invited to come and enjoy this mini-One project, April 28-29! For more information, please visit [OneprojectDFW.ygchurch.com](http://OneprojectDFW.ygchurch.com). 

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*Alberto Mares is the elder for Younger Generation Church, the young adult ministry of the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church. He serves as a deacon, church board member, and is involved in different ministry capacities, including manager for TRUTH Ministry. He is the Director of the Department of Development for Ellis County, Texas. He is married to Raquel and has three stepchildren, Janessa, Lauren, and Cyrus.*



# Serving God, Loving People

## Sirviendo a Dios, Amando a Otros

*By Caroline A. Fisher with Susan Gay. Fisher is a paralegal, writer, editor and English professor in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Susan Gay works with Native American Tribes in the Southwest, promoting and providing resources for healthy living. In this article, she tells of her recent award-winning experience and the drive behind her motivation to serve others.*

📍 Susan Gay (pictured, left) is a public health training coordinator with the Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center, a division of the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, and was recently named Employee of the Year. Gay's duties include chronic disease health promotion, training, and creating health resources and she was chosen for her award from a pool of 2016 Employees of the Month. The criteria for the award included mirroring the mission of the organization, fostering teamwork, being a mentor, practicing inclusiveness, and exhibiting leadership among staff and partners. The award is a testament to Gay's commitment, work ethic and passion. "I remained in my seat for a while," she says of hearing her name announced. "I wanted to cry because it was unexpected, such a humbling experience."

Gay, who attends the Oklahoma City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, views her job as part of her Christian service. She witnesses through her work by being "respectful of others' choices and rights, as well as being encouraging and supportive." She considers her colleagues as being part of the same team, working together to fulfill the organization's mission: to improve the health of Native Americans. According to Gay, prayer and blessings are important aspects of Native American culture, which make it easier for her to pray with and for her co-workers.

Gay believes that our bodies are the temple of the Holy Spirit and we should care about how we treat them. "Just like we consult manuals to tell us how to take care of our vehicles, and we don't put anything in them that would minimize performance or diminish the value and life, the One who created us has also given us guidelines in the Bible about how we should take care of our bodies for quality of life and spiritual health," she says. "The Seventh-day Adventist denomination has a wealth of knowledge and resources on health-related issues like diet and exercise, promoting the benefits of a whole-food, plant-based diet. Today, medical researchers and experts are also discovering and recommending them for healthful living."

Gay's career allows her to share her knowledge and skills, as well as learn from others. She adds, "Through my job, I'm learning about Native American history and culture, something that I would have never had the opportunity to do. We tend to stay within our comfort zones and stick to what is familiar to us. This often means that we interact with people

📍 Por Caroline A. Fisher con Susan Gay. Caroline A. Fisher es asistente jurídico en Tulsa, Oklahoma, además de ser escritora, editora y profesora de inglés. Susan Gay trabaja con las tribus nativas norteamericanas en el suroeste, educando y proveyendo recursos sobre una buena salud. El siguiente artículo relata su experiencia al ser reconocida por su ética profesional y lo que la motiva a servir a otros.

Susan Gay (izquierda en la fotografía) es coordinadora de capacitación de salud pública en Oklahoma Area Tribal Epidemiology Center. Esta organización es una división de Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, donde recientemente fue nombrada Empleada del Año. SPTHB es una organización sin fines de lucros que se estableció para proveer servicios a las tribus nativas norteamericanas en Kansas, Oklahoma y Texas.

Las responsabilidades de Gay incluyen informar acerca de cómo combatir enfermedades crónicas, y entrenar y crear recursos de vida sana. Fue premiada entre un grupo de empleados que fueron nombrados Empleados del Mes en el 2016. El criterio para ser nominado incluye reflejar la misión de la organización, promocionar el trabajo en equipo, ser un mentor, ser inclusivo y demostrar liderazgo. El reconocimiento sirve como un testimonio de su compromiso, ética profesional y pasión. "No me podía levantar de la silla", recuerda Gay cuando anunciaron su nombre. "Fue inesperado, una experiencia conmovedora".

Gay asiste a la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día en Oklahoma City. Ella considera su trabajo profesional como parte de su comportamiento Cristiano. Lo demuestra al ser "respetuosa de las decisiones y derechos de otras personas, y a la vez ser alentadora y comprensiva". Siente que trabajar en equipo con sus colegas es la mejor manera de alcanzar el blanco de la organización: mejorar la salud de los nativo norteamericanos. Gay dice que la oración y las bendiciones son elementos importantes en la cultura e historia nativo norteamericana, y esto le permite ofrecerse a orar por otros.

En cuanto a cuidar de nuestro cuerpo, el templo del Espíritu Santo, Gay dice, "De la misma manera en la cual consultamos manuales para saber cómo mantener y evitar daños a nuestros vehículos, debemos consultar al Creador y los consejos que nos ha dado en la Biblia para cuidar de la salud física y espiritual de nuestras vidas". Continúa diciendo, "La Iglesia Adventista tiene una gran cantidad de conocimiento y recursos sobre la dieta y el ejercicio y promueve los beneficios de una dieta íntegra basada en alimentos vegetales. En nuestra

**If God is our Creator and Redeemer, then we should recognize every human is made in the image of God and has equal value in His sight.**



**Si Dios es nuestro Creador y Redentor, debemos reconocer que todo ser humano está hecho en su imagen. Por lo tanto, todos tenemos el mismo valor en sus ojos.**



who look like us, share our beliefs, care about the things we care about, etc. However, when we venture outside of our comfort zones, we realize that we can learn from each other and share in each other's experiences of pain and joy." She explains that while fear can prevent us from interacting with each other, God's love helps us to respect each other, even when we disagree. Quoting Native American Ponca Chief Standing Bear, she says, "That hand is not the color of yours, but if I prick it, the blood will flow, and I shall feel pain. The blood is of the same color as yours. God made me, and I am a man." This reminds Gay that if God is our Creator and Redeemer, then we should recognize every human is made in the image of God and has equal value in His sight. "Through my work, I've been blessed with a great privilege of serving a people who have suffered and endured a lot, but who have remained resilient. I thank God for my job."

sociedad, los expertos están descubriendo y recomendando estas prácticas para vivir una vida sana".

La carrera de Gay permite que ella comparta su conocimiento y sus habilidades, y también aprender de otros. Ella afirma, "A través de mi trabajo, estoy aprendiendo acerca de la historia y cultura nativa norteamericana. Sin él, no hubiese tenido esa oportunidad. Tenemos la tendencia de mantenernos en nuestras zonas de confort. Esto significa que a menudo interactuamos con personas que se parecen a nosotros en creencias, prioridades, maneras de pensar, etc. Sin embargo, cuando nos esforzamos a alcanzar un poco más allá, nos damos cuenta que podemos aprender el uno del otro en nuestras experiencias de gozo y dolor". Ella explica que aunque el temor quizás nos impide a interactuar con otros, el amor de Dios nos ayuda a respetar a otros, aún cuando no estamos de acuerdo con ellos. Gay relata las palabras del cacique Ponca nativo norteamericano Standing Bear, "Esa mano no es el color de la tuya, pero si se lastima, correrá sangre y sentiré el dolor. La sangre tiene el mismo color que la tuya. Dios me hizo a mí, y yo soy hombre". Esto le recuerda a Gay que si Dios es nuestro Creador y Redentor debemos reconocer que todo ser humano está hecho en la imagen de Dios y tiene el mismo valor en sus ojos. "A través de mi trabajo he sido bendecida con el gran privilegio de servir a personas que han sufrido y sobrellevado muchas cosas, pero son resilientes. Agradezco a Dios por mi trabajo".

# More than Just Produce

## *Living a Life Led by the Spirit*

By Kristina P. Lockhart, Managing Editor



### FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Galatians 5:22-23

**My plants always die.** It's a universal truth that if I choose to grow any type of flora, the poor organism will meet its fate eventually. That said, I love plants! I enjoy seeing flowers bloom and brighten up a room. I'm fascinated by the complexities of photosynthesis and reproduction. Knowing that God orchestrated every cell, process, and purpose in order that we may have oxygen and food is exhilarating. It's an incredible reminder that regardless of who we are, or what we've done, He has an intricate plan for each one of us, filled with purpose and blessings!

As He deals with His human seedlings, I am glad that God has a greener thumb than I. Although it may be uncomfortable or even painful, I'm grateful that He gently prunes my life and removes from that which won't help me flourish. I'm thankful He refreshes my soul with new insight and perspectives along my spiritual journey. But most of all, I am humbled by the fact that He still loves me and cares for me, even if I'm producing fruit that is subpar. However, He has set expectations for me as my character is molded and our relationship grows. These are laid out for us in Galatians 5:22-23, and verse 25 affirms, "Since we live by the Spirit, let

us keep in step with the Spirit." Pretty straightforward if you ask me.

Yet, I struggle with kindness and self control. I allow situations to steal my joy and let anxiety absorb my peace. Nevertheless, I will admit that I'm a little better at recognizing when my fruit is in jeopardy today than I was a year ago or five years ago. The great thing about this list is that these expectations are attainable—even if we struggle with them, we can love, have joy, experience peace, and demonstrate patience. They are all doable, by the power of the Holy Spirit working in our lives. So, I challenge you to take an honest look at the list (in addition to other areas where your character could use a little pruning) and determine to bear good fruit. Not only can we do these things, I believe we can be these things. I want to be known for being a kind and gentle person. I want that to be who I am. So, I will set out to pray for an extra dose of the Spirit in this area. I will be attentive to opportunities to demonstrate kindness and strive to handle situations with gentleness. I will forgive myself for the times when I fall short, because God has forgiven me. I will choose to live by the Spirit, held in His grace, resolved to produce fruit that has been planted by my Savior. **R**

#### LOVE

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

#### JOY

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13

#### PEACE

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:6-7

#### FORBEARANCE

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with (being tolerant of) one another in love. Ephesians 4:2

#### KINDNESS

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Ephesians 4:32

#### GOODNESS

Which of these three do you think was a neighbor (good) to the man...?" The expert in the law replied, "The one who had mercy on him." Jesus told him, "Go and do likewise." Luke 10:36-37

#### FAITHFULNESS

Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God, being fully persuaded that God had power to do what he had promised. Romans 4:20-21.

#### GENTLENESS

Be wise in the way you act toward outsiders; make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone. Colossians 4:5-6

#### SELF-CONTROL

For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline. 2 Timothy 1:7

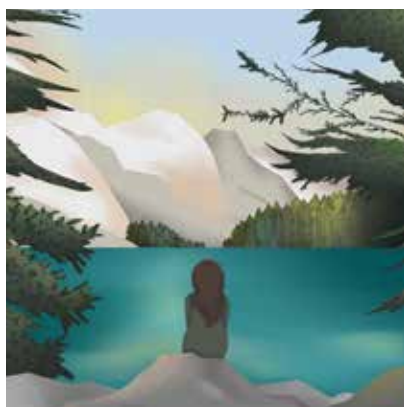


# Gearing Up

## Daily Devotionals | From Our Journey to Yours

Before heading out for a long hike, most find it necessary to prepare for the trek ahead. Good shoes, water, snacks, and sunblock are essential. You might pack a raincoat, sunglasses, or a hat depending on the forecast. Although we may face unforeseen circumstances, gearing up correctly will enhance our walk and help us avoid dehydration, sunburn, and other irritations.

Our daily walk with Christ works in much the same way. Good preparation and tools like the ones listed below will likely improve our spiritual journey and impact our experience. May these assist you as you prepare each day!



### THE HEAVENS DECLARE HIS GLORY

James Bokovoy, Oklahoma Conference

I recently discovered a devotional blog that focuses on connecting with our Creator in His creation, [www.SeeingCreation.com](http://www.SeeingCreation.com) by Chuck Summers and Rob Sheppard. I enjoy unique devotionals that go beyond a book or app, and I want to experience and worship God in manner that fills all my senses. It is out in His creation where my life is touched most powerfully. “The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge,” says Psalm 19:1-2.

Creation, and our experiences in it, draw us to discover a daily relationship with a loving God. I have a profound love of nature and photography, and I’m thankful I can learn more about His love and character through these means.



### DEVOTIONS FOR THE GOD GIRL

Kristina P. Lockhart, Southwestern Union

Author Hayley DiMarco challenges young women to choose God’s way in every area of their life from friends and fashion to faith in her book *Devotions for the God Girl*.

While I recognize I’m in my 30s, I have found these daily devotionals really poignant in becoming a woman of God. I believe we are continually becoming men and women of God; on a journey traversing this life in our pursuit of holiness. The devotional has a Biblical and honest approach to everyday struggles and opportunities has truly strengthened my faith.

I have underlined passages, reread them, posted them on social media and even shared them with my friends and family. This devotional is refreshing and uplifting! I also recommend pairing this with DiMarco’s book, *God Girl: Becoming the Woman You’re Meant to Be*. These are also available in the God Guy versions.



### MEANINGFUL GROWTH, POWERFUL IMAGES

Jason Busch, Texas Conference

You may be familiar with the YouVersion Bible App and may even have it on your phone! Millions have downloaded it in over 1,000 languages, epitomizing it as the modern-day Bible for a modern-day public.

The Bible app has a myriad of Bible study plans and devotionals. A personal favorite of mine is *Elisha: A Tale of Ridiculous Faith*.

Perhaps lesser known, however, is the Bible App’s image function. Did you know you can create high-quality, artistic Bible verse images for both keeping and sharing with others? To do this, simply navigate to any verse within the Bible App, tap on the verse you’d like to convert, and click on “image.” Then, you will be given a list of background, font, and design options to create something completely original. It may seem simple, but it’s the simple things like this that are often the most powerful!

# Released from Resentment

## *Finding Pardon for Others and Ourselves*



**Matthew 18 relates the story** of the well-known “seventy times seven” incident between Peter and Jesus. The essence of that exchange is that forgiveness is to be offered repeatedly, regardless of the offense and the offender’s remorse. To do so is counterintuitive, yet necessary. Our relationship with the Lord is strengthened by pardoning others, as well as ourselves.

### Choosing Forgiveness

We are all familiar with forgiveness, whether we have been its recipient or its giver. Forgiveness can make us uncomfortable because it touches the core areas of who we are that invade our vulnerability and we therefore find it threatening. The Christian musician Matthew West has written a song titled *Forgiveness*, and one of its lines is quite insightful. It describes forgiveness as “the opposite of how you feel, when the pain they caused is just too real, takes everything you have to say the word.”

Those sentiments have been mirrored at various points in my life, and I cannot claim that I will never feel them again. Forgiveness is often correlated with pain, and our society seeks to extinguish pain. But Merriam-Webster defines forgiveness as “to cease to feel resentment against (an offender).”

It’s important to be aware that forgiveness is divine. It is of God. We cannot choose to forgive on our own; we can only forgive when the Holy Spirit has moved in us. Remember, apart from Him we can do nothing.

This is not to make us comfortable saying, “If I don’t feel it, then I’m not doing it.” Our society erroneously functions by waiting to feel something before we actually do it, but we are to be mindful that forgiveness is the will of God (Ephesians 4:32). What is interesting is that we may not receive the feeling or the desire to forgive until we have taken steps toward it. Forgiveness is a process, and as we choose to engage in it, the peace in our hearts will follow. Basic psychology will tell you that to change your emotions, you must change your thoughts. We can choose to change our thoughts, through the grace of God, and this then transforms our hearts. When we take the initial steps toward forgiveness, the freeing release of resentment will follow.

### Healing Through Forgiveness

According to leading forgiveness researcher Everett Worthington, health benefits, relationship reconciliation, and spiritual benefits occur when we choose to forgive. He explains that in his research, he has discovered that there is a difference between *decisional* forgiveness and *emotional* forgiveness, yet both bring benefits, and they both can reduce stressful reactions to transgression. Stress can suppress an immune system and lead to cardiovascular issues. Choosing forgiveness can also help us stop ruminating over wrongs, which often leads to mental health problems, such as depression, anxiety, and obsessive-compulsive disorders. Information about Worthington’s research is available at [www.evworthington-forgiveness.com/research](http://www.evworthington-forgiveness.com/research).

Forgiveness is a process, whether we are the ones giving or receiving. I don’t seek to minimize the pain that we have endured from being wronged. It’s unimaginable to ask a parent who has lost a child to murder to forgive. It’s

hard-hitting to encourage an individual that has experienced continuous rejections to forgive, and it's unnerving to ask a spouse that has been betrayed to forgive. It's often difficult to value forgiveness, especially if we can't see the benefits. However, consider the forgiveness of a Pennsylvania Amish community in 2006. This community forgave and embraced the family of Charles Roberts, a man who killed eight innocent young school girls and later shot himself.

Roberts' wife wrote a letter to the Amish community, explaining how their forgiveness had changed her life. She said, "Your love for our family has helped to provide the healing we so desperately need." Remember, forgiveness is divine and healing can occur on both sides.

### How Forgiveness Happens

The problem is that many of us don't know how to forgive or how to ask for forgiveness. We may have been raised in an environment where forgiveness was not practiced. We may struggle to see our self-worth in the eyes of God. Or, we are simply unable to see our faults or people we've hurt. Forgiveness impacts

our vulnerability; it requires us to lower our defenses and allow the world to see who we are and what hurts us. We may feel that the pain is too deep and can never be undone. The process of forgiveness seems to be too uncomfortable. However, in order to enhance our spiritual journey, we must listen to the small voice urging us to engage in the difficult. Some consider pushing to excel and not settling for the status quo as the way to wisdom. There is wisdom in forgiveness.

I experienced betrayal in my family as a teen. Though I did not feel I harbored ill feelings, the Lord revealed some unforgiveness in my heart 18 years after the incident. I honestly would have preferred to wait another 18 years rather than engage in the discomfort produced by forgiveness. It was only by God's grace that I willingly approached forgiveness, and that ultimately led to healing.

Become aware of the forgiveness God has given you and use that to help you engage in human forgiveness. Forgiveness encompasses more listening than speaking. It involves dropping your defenses, even if you think that things are being over exaggerated. Forgiveness requires pursuit and also surrender. Forgiveness means expressing yourself with dignity and maturity, apologizing wholeheartedly for the things that are your fault. Forgiveness also includes forgiving yourself and sticking to the choice that has been made to forgive. It will require constant redirection of the heart and it may not resolve with just one conversation. Although forgiveness is not the same as reconciliation, staying engaged to see it through is important. To do so, you must follow the impulses of the Holy Spirit and allow God's Word and Jesus' example to be your guide. <sup>®</sup>

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*Melody Argueta is the Social Work Supervisor and a licensed clinical social worker at Texas Health Huguley Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. She has a clinical license in counseling and is enrolled in the chaplaincy program at Dallas Baptist University.*

“Vulnerability is optional. Trust is optional. Relationships are optional. And forgiveness is optional. This is why forgiveness remains a miraculously powerful moment every time it happens.”

—Scott Savage





# Week of Prayer

## An Adventist Education Tradition

By Herman Aguilar

*Aguilar is a journalism major at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, who graduates in May. He worked as a literature evangelist throughout Texas during summers and breaks from school. This spring, Aguilar was a speaker during the university's Week of Prayer. Here he explores the tradition of Week of Prayer in Adventist schools.*

Students across Adventist academies and universities are witnessing the importance and impact of Prayer. Many Adventist schools host “Week of Prayer.” This event is strictly dedicated to uniting students, teachers, and staff through prayer and God’s never-ending love.

Sandia View Academy, an Adventist academy located in Corrales, New Mexico, held Week of Prayer this spring and invited Andre Arris as speaker. Arris is the senior pastor of the Corrales and East Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Churches. Preaching for a Week of Prayer at an academy might be different from preaching a sermon at a local church; however, Arris has the same preparation method for both. “Preaching in both settings is not that different. I take the student audience as seriously as I would treat an adult crowd,” said

Arris. “However, their attention span is shorter. With this in mind, I had to incorporate elements that would grab their attention, such as illustrations and language that they would relate with.”

Although we live in a society where teens and kids are distancing themselves from a relationship with God, Adventist schools like Sandia View Academy are focusing on students falling in love with God. Having a program like Week of Prayer contributes greatly to that goal.

“One of my goals was to trigger a decision for change,” said Arris. “It didn’t matter how big the change was, as long as they are moving forward, seeking to develop a stronger relationship with Christ and a taste for scripture.”


Shakuntala Ramsarran, Sandia View Academy principal, believes in promoting and incorporating impactful

programs like Week of Prayer. “Prayer is intertwined into the tapestry of our curriculum,” said Ramsarran. “As such, it is crucial that Week of Prayer be incorporated into the school calendar, with the goal to meet the spiritual needs of the youth in our school with the earnest effort of saving them.”

Teachers across Sandia View Academy have also attested to the importance that Week of Prayer has, not just on the lives of their students but on their own lives as well. “No matter what differences or disagreements we have with each other, during Week of Prayer everyone just sets all that aside and we have a deeper connection with God together,” said Jerry Clifford, Sandia View Academy math teacher for grades 9-12.

Week of Prayer reminds students that God is always with them no matter the circumstances they are going through. Prayer is the most effective way, that we as Christians, can interact and speak with God on a daily basis and Sandia View Academy students witnessed that first hand during Week of Prayer. “Week of Prayer has allowed me to get closer to God,” said Perla Perez, freshman at Sandia View Academy. “I was able to feel that God is always there for me no matter what I’m going through and that He will always answer my prayers.”

As a college student at Southwestern Adventist University, I know the impact that this can have on an entire campus. As a part of Week of Prayer this year, I had the opportunity to preach about prayer in our lives. Delivering a sermon versus being the audience changed my perspective on Week of Prayer. Preaching made me realize that as Christians, it is our duty to spread God’s love and praying for each other is one way to do that. Week of Prayer gives students, teachers, and staff a break from the chaos to focus on what is truly important in our lives: God. Week of Prayer, whether it be at an Adventist academy or Adventist university, powerfully unites students, teachers, and staff through God’s love.

Week of Prayer at Adventist schools has allowed me to not only get closer to God on a personal level, but has also taught me to demonstrate God’s never-ending love to others. 

# An Extrovert's Search for Solitude

By Kristina Pascual Lockhart, Managing Editor

*A growing desire to hear God's voice led Lockhart to move past her comfort zone and embrace solitude. She embarked on a spiritual adventure, reconnecting with God in nature, learning to let go and trust in Him.*

One of the hardest things for an extrovert to do is admit they need alone time. As an extrovert, I question why anyone would choose solitude when so much fun and energy is gleaned from human interaction. My introverted friends interject at this point, declaring how nice it is to spend time alone and how lovely it sounds to get away to a quiet space. The truth is we need both human interaction and solitude to grow in our Christian faith. Community is essential for encouraging each other along our journey. Time dedicated to prayer and reading the Bible and other faith-building books strengthen our spirituality. But sometimes we need to reach further. In my case, my reach took me on a trip across the country, an escape that surprised my family and friends and catapulted my faith like never before.

I fell in love with Jesus when I was 13. Through trials and heartbreak, my faith has always been strong. I could always hear God's voice, sometimes as a thought or motivation nudging me forward, other times as a reflection, bringing to light a mistake or wrongdoing. Twenty years later, I was a point where that voice wasn't as clear. It seemed to be only a faint whisper, and I found myself disconnected from my Creator and disheartened with my faith.

I decided to examine my life and finally recognized that all the noise and distraction around me needed quieting. I needed to find solace in solitude. A reboot was in order and the solution was a solo personal retreat. It may sound a bit radical, but it is exactly what Jesus did to reconnect with His Father—from a 40-day withdrawal to stepping away for an afternoon of prayer and meditation.

My one-week solo retreat took place outside of Portland. It was my first visit to the Pacific Northwest and it was breathtaking. I spent five days at a re-



treat center nestled in a national forest, completely off the grid and 10 minutes away from a town with cell signal. I had decided early on that in order to focus on God, I needed a break from technology. I chose to exist in a space without internet, social media, emails, or games.

I made no itinerary for the trip. I packed my Bible and a few books, and arrived with an open heart and a desire to rest, refresh, and reconnect with the Lord. The retreat center provided surprisingly delicious organic vegetarian meals and I was invigorated by the hiking trails with lush flora, roaring rivers, and quiet streams. The swaying fragrant pine trees, the melodious birds accompanied by bright woodpeckers, and the majesty of the mountains surrounding me instantly put me in tune with God's creation. Some days I slept in, others I arose before the sun. But every day I spent hours reading, praying, praising, and seeking God. Slowly, the anxieties and worries in my mind were stilled, a comfort and peace filled my heart and I could hear that precious voice again. It said, "I've got this. I've got you."

The journal I kept during those days helped me verbalize the struggle and

redemption I was experiencing. The leader, planner, and organizer in me had to release control and allow God to work through my circumstances. I had held on to my plans and desires so tightly that I hadn't left room for God's. I love the words in Jeremiah 29:11, "'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'" I was reminded of this on my solo retreat as I pried my fingers off of my plans and handed them over to God.

After recognizing the problem and releasing it, I experienced peace beyond my understanding for the first time. Giving up control is incredibly challenging, but the time I had dedicated to reconnecting with God had provided a way for my stubborn heart to trust Him. "God's got this," became my motto.

If you are in need of a reset, prayerfully consider taking time away from your obligations, routines, and technology to knock loudly on Heaven's door. Find joy in fellowshiping with God. Discover meaning in the stillness of solitude. Whether you opt to retreat for an afternoon, whole day, weekend, or more, know that He's there, waiting for you. **R**

# God's Fingerprints

## Finding God by Spending Time in Nature



**D**o you know that you have unique fingerprints? When you touch something—a doorknob, a desk, a pencil—you leave fingerprints. Check it out for yourself—press one finger down onto an ink pad, and then press that finger onto a blank sheet of paper. Do it again with a different finger. Take a look and see how different your fingerprints are from each other, and check to see how different they are from your friends, siblings, or parents. They are all different.

Do you ever wonder if God has fingerprints? Do you think He leaves fingerprints on the things He has touched? Perhaps we can't see His fingerprints, but we can see evidence of His fingers' work when we spend time in nature.

On my eighth birthday, my parents gave me a camera. Our house was on the

edge of a dense forest. I spent hours outside every day with my camera, examining trees and flowers, turning over stones, poking at insects, and walking as far as my feet would take me.

As I explored, I went past the edge of the forest through open pastures. I skipped rocks across ponds, waded through shallow streams, and walked along dry creek beds. I saw evidence of wild animals—footprints, feathers, and worn paths—and many times I saw the wild birds and animals themselves. I took photos of it all—every bug, interesting pattern in tree bark, every slug, and every lady bug. I stuffed my pockets full of nature's treasures—smooth rocks, acorns, and four-leaf clovers.

In those hours spent alone in nature, I talked to God. I also listened. I didn't

always hear His voice speaking to me, but I felt His presence and knew He was there. One of the many messages that I took away from my time in nature was simply to trust Him. The Bible says that not one sparrow is unaccounted for by God (Matt. 10:29). I knew that if God had accounted for every frog, turtle, or dove in the woods, how much more was He watching over me!

Every part of nature is evidence of God's fingerprints, His existence, His power, and His character. Time spent with Him and with His awesome creation reassures us of His love and faithfulness. Spend time with Him to discover His love for yourself!

*By Jessica Lozano, Editor*

# Forest Word Search

Find all the words that you might find in a forest

L E V Z D S D S C R X M S V A F M Z X W S J A B D	BEARS
Q L Z S E E N K B T E H T L A G R W O Z N T P B E	BEAVERS
C K G L T Z F N T T Q E F A E N U O Q H O U F L U	DEER
V Y G W C K B U X X M J D C F R D Z G O O R F W H	EAGLES
T A O D B E D K M K J A Q O G P R P R S C T O M S	FOXES
E S K W A H B S S Y Y S S Y E Y F I H J C L X I F	FROGS
B V V V N Z W R R H C M E C C M B G U I A E E N F	HAWKS
E K E X Q N E S L U G S K K S G X W M Q R S S S B	OWLS
I R O S S L I A N S R E S P A R R O W S S G K E L	PORCUPINES
S A Q N B P G G Z N R A W O C N P U K S Q R A Q B	RABBITS
R Y U R W L D F Y S L U B E G D S D I L S R K R Z	RACCOONS
B Q A O W C X X S G K J N B L F D V W W S E A H K	SKUNKS
B W W K F E D W I Y X S E N I P U C R O P N S X X	SLUGS
G Q W Y R C L N G Q R W N F Z T W V R N O B F L U	SNAILS
U Y Q C M G T U F T L L K Z Q L S Y D K Y L Z V X	SNAKES
	SPARROWS
	SQUIRRELS
	TURTLES
	WARBLERS
	WOODPECKERS

## Truth

from the Word



In His hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to Him. The sea is His, for He made it, and His hands formed the dry land.

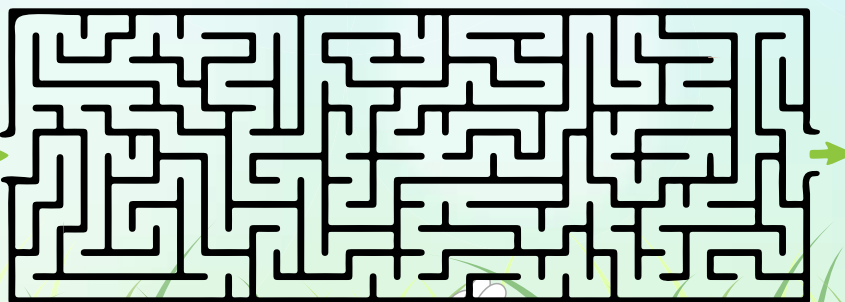
Psalm 95:4-5

## 6 Ways to Say FINGERPRINT



- HUNGARIAN: ujlenyomat
- SPANISH: huella dactilar
- ARABIC: basima
- ICELANDIC: fingur prenta
- KOREAN: jimun
- FRENCH: empreinte digitale

Help the Bumblebee  
Find the Field of Flowers!



# April EVENTS

**14-15**

**Arkansas-Louisiana**

**Conference** South Louisiana Camp Meeting; Hammond, LA. ArkLaSDA.org | 318.631.6240

**14-15**

**Arkansas-Louisiana**

**Conference** South Louisiana Spanish Youth Campout; Lake Bistineau State Park. ArkLaSDA.org | 318.631.6240

**14-16**

**Texas Conference**

Pathfinder Camporee; Lake Whitney Ranch. TexasAdventist.org 817.790.2255

**21-22**

**Arkansas-Louisiana**

**Conference** South Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting; Hammond, LA. ArkLaSDA.org | 318.631.6240

**28-30**

**Southwest Region**

**Conference** Men's Ministries Summit; Lone Star Camp. MySouthwestRegion.org 214.943.4491

**30**

**Oklahoma Conference**

Constituency Session; Edmond, OK. OklahomaAdventist.org 405.721.6110

**30**

**Texas Conference**

Mid-term Constituency Session; Keene, TX. TexasAdventist.org 817.790.2255



# May EVENTS



**5-7**

**Texico Conference**

Adventure Family Camp; Caballo Lake State Park. Texico.org | 505.244.1611

**5-7**

**Texico Conference**

ARME Bible Boot Camp; Albuquerque, NM. Texico.org | 505.244.1611

**7**

**Southwestern Adventist**

**University** Graduation SWAU.edu | 817.645.3921

**20- June 3**

**Arkansas-Louisiana**

**Conference** Ozark Family Camp Meeting; Gentry, AR. ArkLaSDA.org | 318.631.6240

**29**

**Memorial Day**

Conferences, Union, and Southwestern Adventist University offices closed.

For more events and information, including the sunset calendar, visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org)



# Stewardship Summit

## Nurturing Stewardship Across the Southwestern Territory

**Burleson, Texas** » Seventy-five individuals gathered from February 25-26, 2017, to attend the Southwestern Union's first-of-its-kind stewardship summit with guest speakers John Mathews, North American Division Stewardship Director, and Bonita Shields, North American Division Associate Stewardship Director. Conference stewardship directors Charles Sanders, Dennis Shafter, and Jeff Metherell brought guests and coordinated the weekend events with Minner Labrador, D.Min., Southwestern Union Vice President and Stewardship Director, and Sam Green, Southwestern Union Associate Stewardship Director.

The stewardship summit began Sabbath morning and concluded at noon on Sunday. A few of the topics that were covered were: a theology of tithes and offerings; personal Biblical financial management skills; how our tithes and offerings are directed; and cultural challenges of our present generation. The weekend was very inspirational and participants had many positive comments.

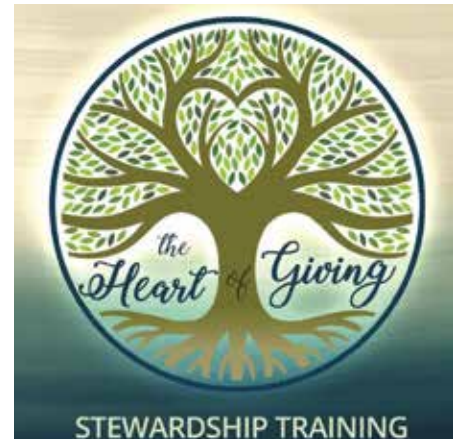
Jeff Metherell said, "This weekend was a spiritually rich time of fellowship and learning that centered on the powerful and pervasive theme of stewardship. The principles of stewardship are the vital undercurrent of virtually all our beliefs.

As such, they are to be embraced and not spurned; learned and not ignored."

At the conclusion of the summit, 68 stewardship leaders received levels one and two of the five-level stewardship certification from the North American Division.

This certification program will now be offered across our union territory. Check with your conference stewardship department for the dates of these programs.

*By Minner Labrador, Jr., D.Min.,  
Southwestern Union Vice President  
and Stewardship Director*



# Breaking Ground

## Larry R. Moore Nursing and Administration Building

**Keene, Texas** » On February 21, 2017, Southwestern Adventist University broke ground on the new Larry R. Moore Nursing and Administration Building. The building, named in honor of Southwestern Adventist University alum and Southwestern Union President Larry R. Moore, will house nursing and administration.

A total of \$9.7 million has been gifted toward the building, with another \$4 million given in pledges. An additional

\$1.5 million is still needed. It is anticipated that the grand opening of the new building will take place prior to the 2018 fall semester.

"We are so thankful for the generosity and commitment of hundreds of alumni and friends who have supported this effort," says university president Ken Shaw. "We are overwhelmed by God's blessings toward our students and the university."



**LARRY R. MOORE**  
NURSING AND ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

# A Night at the Meyerson

Music Festival Concert Breaks Record, Features World-Premiere



Southwestern Adventist University celebrated the 24th annual tradition of A Night at the Meyerson with the world premiere of *I Believe*, the newest composition by renowned Latvian composer Ēriks Ešēnavds. The words to *I Believe*, “I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining; I believe in love, even when I am alone; I believe in God, even when He is silent” were found on the wall of a cellar in the concentration camp in Cologne, France, after World War II. It is a profound testimony of faith, written by a prisoner who held fast to their belief in God in the midst of some of history's most appalling trials.

Ešēnavds was present for the premiere at the Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas. The concert was the final event of Southwestern's annual Music Festival. Ešēnavds attended several practice sessions with the Music Festival participants. “How many times do you get to hear from the composer himself what he was thinking or hoping for when he wrote the song?” said Jonathan Wall, Music Department Chair and Choir director. The student participants were certainly impressed. “He touched their hearts,” said Cherry Vogel, a parent taking photos of her kids with Ešēnavds who marveled at the long line to meet him.

Ešēnavds is a much sought-after composer having received many awards for his work, including the Latvian Grand Music Award, first prize from the International Rostrum of Composers, the New-Composer Discovery of the Philadelphia Inquirer, and two records that were awarded Best Latvian Classical Album of the Year.

The concert also featured soloist Raehann Bryce-Davis, a native Texan and alum of Southwestern Adventist University, who delivered several stellar performances at the concert. She is the winner of many awards, including the 2016 Richard F. Gold Career Grant, the 2015 9th International Hilder Zadek Competition at the Musikverein in Vienna, the 2015 Metropolitan Opera National Council Pittsburgh District, and the 2015 Sedat Gürel - Güzin Gürel International Voice Competition in Istanbul. Bryce-Davis is currently performing dynamic roles in Belgium as a part of the Opera Vlassnderen.

Proceeds from the evening benefit the Music Department and the music scholarship finalists. Total funds raised for the evening reached nearly \$50,000, a record for this event. The evening was made possible by sponsors and friends of the University. The Presidential Sponsor was Zacharias Real Estate; Concert Master Sponsors included Civitas Senior Living, Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, Texas Health Huguley Hospital, and Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists; Festival Friends Sponsors included Sue Hayes & Ben Chambers, Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center, Office of Cultural Affairs-City of Dallas, and Pinnacle Bank; the Printing Sponsor was College Press and the Guest Accommodations Sponsor was Sheraton Hotel-Dallas.

*By Darcy Force, Director of Marketing and PR*

# Preserving Nature

## Wildlife Conservation in the 21st Century

“We are all tasked with caring for this amazing world that God created,” says Jared Wood, Ph.D., as he stands knee-deep in muddy brown water, preparing to help his students tag turtles for research. Wood has long held this belief—ever since he was a kid growing up in Waurika, Okla., attending events like the Waurika Rattlesnake Hunt. It is also the reason he has devoted his life to nature and its protection.

Wood is a professor in the Biological Science Department at Southwestern Adventist University where he daily shares his keen interest in wildlife conservation in class and through his research. His research specifically deals with invasive species and how they affect the population of the local animals in the area. To find the current dynamics of each population, Wood uses population genetics to answer questions that may arise about how these invasive animals got here and their population level. “With the use of microsatellite markers,” Wood states, “I can find out how each population was established and assess the connectivity between populations.”

Currently, he is using stable isotopes to study feeding ecology. By analyzing the carbon/nitrogen ratios in vertebrates he can assess the diet of a certain animal. “The goal of my research is to understand how invasive populations are introduced and established to prevent future introductions,” Wood says.

For instance, Wood and the research team he is working with have demonstrated that all the invasive populations in Florida have been established independently of one another through the pet trade. Because of this discovery, Nile monitors and Argentine black-and-white tegus are legally banned as pets in the state of Florida.

In the classroom, Wood encourages his students to pursue original research, to write compelling scientific papers, and to present their work at local conferences. He wants his students to learn to be advocates for the environment. Christians are to be stewards of nature, and thus it is their responsibility to maintain not only the homeostasis of ecological systems, but to also gain an appreciation for these systems as fingerprints of God. Wood says that he wants his students to “Ultimately... learn to be advocates for creatures without a voice.”

And he practices what he teaches. Recently Wood and a group of his students volunteered their time to helping remove invasive plants and do some trail maintenance at the Cleburne State Park near Keene. On another trip, they helped build and deploy fish habitat structures to provide a safe area for small fish to grow.

Along with his research, Wood has also published three publications each on the research with the invasive species in Florida. His research on alligators has

been accepted for publication in *Herpetological Review* and the tegu population genetics manuscripts are under review at *Biological Invasions*. In addition, he will speak at the Greater Everglades Ecosystem Restoration (GEER) Conference in Florida this April. This summer will find him once again outdoors, conducting classes at a nature retreat to give junior high and high school students the chance to interact with nature. He will also be attending Southwestern’s Dinosaur Research Project dig in Wyoming, giving Dr. Art Chadwick a hand with that research as well.

“I think it is extremely important to serve the outdoor needs of our local parks, preserves, and wildlife organizations,” Wood explains. “Both government and nonprofit organizations have limited budgets and personnel. In my opinion, it is our duty as co-inhabitants of this planet and as Christians to be stewards of all of God’s creations.”

To learn more about Dr. Jared Wood and the Biological Sciences Department, visit [swau.edu/biologicalsciences](http://swau.edu/biologicalsciences). To learn more about the Dinosaur Research Project, the Museum, or to join the dig, visit [swau.edu/dinosaurs](http://swau.edu/dinosaurs).

*By Julena Allen, sophomore journalism major, and Andrew Austin, 2016 journalism graduate*



# Walking With God

## Embodying the Enoch Experience



Jim Reeves made popular the words of the song, “This world is not my home, I’m just a passing through. My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue . . . And I can’t feel at home in this world anymore.” As followers of Jesus, we know that this world is not our home. As the apostle Peter says, we are “aliens and strangers” (1 Pet. 2:11 NASB). Yet sadly, too many have become comfortable on their spiritual journey “passing through” this world and are feeling right at home.

There isn’t very much said in scripture about Enoch’s spiritual journey, but the few descriptive words are deeply profound. “So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him,” (Gen. 5:23, 24 NASB). The apostle Paul adds these words about Enoch: “By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, ‘and was not found, because God had taken him’; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God.” (Heb. 11:5 NASB). Enoch walked with God. By faith he was taken away; and he had this testimony, that he pleased God.

The Scripture does not say, “God walked with Enoch.” Rather, Enoch walked with God. The “walk” is God’s. It is His direction, His pathway, His lead, His steps. Enoch connected with God for the journey. The walk was a life that was lived in a partnership with God, so that whatever, wherever, whenever, or however God directed, Enoch followed in God’s footprints. The walk was by faith. Enoch put his total trust in God. Every step was in complete harmony with the will of God. To paraphrase the words of Jesus in John 15, “the life of Jesus (the vine) had become the life of Enoch (the branch).”

Even though Enoch was only six generations away from the creation of this world, he recognized that this world was not his home. The Garden of Eden was barred from entrance, yet he longed to be in the presence of God. So Enoch lived his life in step with God and because he demonstrated by faith total identity with God, he was taken to heaven to be with God.

What Enoch experienced, I can experience. Whether I die first or am alive when He returns, by faith, walking with Him, I can go home with Jesus. The Psalmist said, “I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. You will guide me with Your counsel, and afterward receive me to glory,” (Ps. 73:23, 24 NASB).

*Stephen Orian, President*



# Quick Healthy Meals

## Gentry Church Hosts Community Cooking Demonstration

**Gentry, Ark. »** Eighty-five attendees joined together in the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church's community room on January 15 for a demonstration of how to use electric pressure cookers to make quick, easy, and healthy meals.

Jackie Wren, the Gentry church secretary who spearheaded the seminar, first discovered the joys of electric pressure cookers when she picked one up for \$39 at a grocery store. She's been perfecting her skills ever since. She and church members from several other local Adventist churches shared their culinary specialties, such as legumes, dairy, rice,

and beans. Marti Cash, a member of the Siloam Springs church, used her Cuisinart to demonstrate how to care for the pot and then tackled the challenge of cooking beans. Do you want brown rice to go with the beans? That normally takes forty minutes and if you're like me, they'll probably boil over and be only partially cooked. Sherri Cash, wife of the Springtown church pastor, came to the rescue by demonstrating that with only twenty minutes on high pressure, there is no chance of boiling over, and the result is perfect brown rice. John and Joyce Marter, Gentry members, showed how

easy and inexpensive it is to make dairy or non-dairy yogurt.

With characteristic good humor, Klaudia Staples, a Gentry Compass Fellowship member, shared her humorous attempts at making vege-meat. Her favorite quick pasta meal, though, was a real success.

What a fun way to share healthful cooking with the community! Go to [GentryAdventist.org](http://GentryAdventist.org) and search the media archives or visit the Gentry church's Facebook page to learn about the benefits of electric pressure cookers.

*By Joyce Marter | Photos by Paul Bonney*



# Academy Days

## Continue Your Story at Ozark Adventist Academy

**Gentry, Ark. »** All eighth grade and high school students are invited to Ozark Adventist Academy for Academy Days on April 21-22 for a preview of high school life and academics. Highlights of the weekend include: campus tours, experiencing dorm life, a baseball game, spiritual activities, and performances by Ozark's touring groups.

"I came last year, and was impressed by the drama group's performance. Not only was it entertaining, but it had a

spiritual basis," says Cameron Sandoval, a sophomore from Oklahoma. Cameron co-wrote a play about Job that was performed this year at the end of Week of Prayer.

Check-in for Academy Days begins at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 21. Reservations may be made on the academy's website at [www.ozarkacademy.org](http://www.ozarkacademy.org). Early applications to attend OAA receive a \$250 scholarship.



# Welcome to the Family

## Eight New Members Join Shreveport First Church



**Shreveport, La.** » The Shreveport First Seventh-day Adventist Church recently hosted a Revelation of Hope Prophecy Seminar conducted by conference evangelist and pastor Tommy Blount, who was assisted by his wife, Kahne.

As is Blount's custom when presenting Revelation of Hope seminars, he began

with the promise that the Bible and the Bible alone would be the textbook, and that Jesus Christ would be uplifted as the only hope in the last days.

His presentation was given in such a way that all who attended were able to easily understand the end-time message. As a result of the seminar, the church

was blessed with eight new members, most of whom are regularly attending church and prayer meeting. Two others who were baptized are attending the Philadelphia Seventh-day Adventist Church in Shreveport.

A Sabbath School class for new members will begin soon to better acquaint them with the Adventist message of hope in Christ.

The Shreveport First Church has been and will continue to be truly blessed by these new friends, who include, (pictured from left to right) Geraldine Payne, Ola Patrick, Laurinda Bright, Daniel Morgan, Alex Harris, Ruben Taylor, Tiffany Tyson, David Bryant; Back row, from left: Charles Callaway, Teddie Callaway.


*By Susan Parker*

South Louisiana Campmeeting

# Looking Unto Jesus

**14-15 APRIL 2017**  
ALL ARE WELCOME

**SPEAKER — DR. PHILIP SAMAAAN**



Dr. Philip G. Samaan is currently a professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University. He is a former professor in the Theological Seminary at Andrews University, a missionary in Africa, and a previous chief editor of the Adult Sabbath School Bible Study Guide. He is the author of several books including: *Christ's Way of Affirmation*, *Christ's Way of Restoration*, *Christ's Way of Making Disciples*, *Dare to be a Daniel* and *Abraham's Other Son*.

April 14 — worship at 7 pm  
April 15 — all day beginning at 9:15 am with Sabbath School  
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Arkansas-Louisiana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

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**ORADOR — ÁNGEL M. RODRÍGUEZ**



Ángel Manuel Rodríguez, Ph.D., fue Director del Instituto de Investigaciones Bíblicas. Nacido en Puerto Rico, se desempeñó como presidente de la Academia de las Indias Occidentales y vicepresidente académico de la Universidad Adventista del Suroeste. Es miembro de la American Society of Biblical Literature y la Academia Americana de Religión. Es autor de varios libros y tiene una columna mensual en la revista *Adventist World*.

Abril 22 — 7 pm, en la iglesia de Metairie (Nueva Orleans)  
Abril 23 — todo el día, empezando a las 9:15 am con la escuela sabática  
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# Strength for the Journey

## Learning the Secret to True Contentment



The old hymns and gospel songs often reveal the longings of our hearts. One that has been recorded and performed for many years by many artists is “Just A Closer Walk With Thee.” As the song says, “I am weak but thou art strong,” and we realize that our only hope is Him by our side. Most Christians have a deep sense of their own unworthiness and readily admit the truth of the last phrase of John 15:5 “apart from me you can do nothing.” Some of the worst times of my life have been when I’ve tried (without realizing it), to do it on my own. Peter experienced that, as did all of the disciples. One of the saddest texts in the gospels is Mark 14:50, “Then everyone deserted him and fled.” How was their fellowship as they walked by His side and listened to His teaching? How dark and hopeless their future was as they fled from the garden and faced the future without Him. Another hymn that we rarely sing anymore reminds us: “How tedious and tasteless the hours when Jesus no longer I see.”

But we must not dwell on the dark side. In his letter to the Philippians, Paul talks about his experience with adversity. “I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want” (Phil. 4:11-12). What gave him this assurance and courage? The answer is in verse 13: “I can do all this through him who gives me strength.”

To walk alone is cold, lonely, and uncertain. To walk with Christ is to be assured that He knows the way and that He will give us not only a better journey, but a certain *destination*.

*John Moyer, President*



# New Pastors for Oklahoma

## Sanghoon Jun and Dominic Alipoon Join Conference

**Oklahoma City** » The Oklahoma Conference welcomes two new pastors to our team. These ministers are beginning their work of uplifting Jesus and leading out in their districts.

Pastor Sanghoon Jun, his wife, Jin-young, and their sons have come to us from the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Jun has spent several years ministering in

his home country of South Korea. Now he is serving as the pastor of our Tulsa Korean church.

Dominic Alipoon and his wife, Ashley, have come to Oklahoma from the Texas Conference. Alipoon and his wife are both graduates of Southwestern Adventist University. He is the pastor of the newly formed Alva, Cherokee, Shattuck, and Woodward district.

We look forward to their impact in their churches and communities for the cause of Christ. We believe God will use them for advancing the gospel and we invite you to pray for them and for the Holy Spirit to be poured out abundantly on them.

*By Rick Dye, Oklahoma Conference Executive Secretary*



# Ask A Question, Save A Life

## Suicide Prevention Seminar Gives Hope at Bristow Church

**Bristow** » Every 17 minutes, at least six Americans lose a loved one to suicide, but according to former Surgeon General David Satcher, "Suicide is our most preventable form of death." On January 28, many Bristow church members attended a suicide prevention training led by Sherry Fisher, BSN, Oklahoma Conference Health Ministries Director, to learn about suicide prevention. Everyone under the age of 16 was accompanied by an adult.

Sherry's goal was to help us be aware of anyone around us whom we might help. Church members shared their own experiences of helping someone change their mind about suicide, or about being

a friend or relative of someone who died by suicide. Fisher then shared the steps to save a life: QPR.

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer — the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Sherry explained that we shouldn't be afraid to ask someone if they are having thoughts or feelings about suicide if they are displaying symptoms of contemplating suicide. Some of the warning signs are sudden changes in behavior, prolonged depression, suicide threats, giving away prized possessions and alcohol and drug abuse. Persuading someone to get help is also important. We persuade by listening carefully and

saying, "Let me help," or "Let's get help together." Referring someone to a counselor, teacher, minister, tribal elder, parent, or another adult is also important in preventing suicide.

People trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help. The one-hour training gave our Bristow attendees tools to help save the life of a friend, colleague, sibling, or neighbor. The following telephone numbers will anyone with an educated counselor: 1.800.273.TALK and 1.800.SUICIDE.

*By Caroline A. Fisher*





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# Growing in Christ

## Feasting On the Fruit of the Spirit



Who is not attracted by the beauty of flowers and the fragrances that they release? Before a flower ever becomes mature, it starts out as a seed. Trees tall and majestic and strong start out as little plants. Rivers like the Mississippi are wide and powerful, but they often start out as little streams and creeks. In God's scheme of things, everything must grow and come to full maturity. Nothing really stays the same. My granddaughter, who is now five, is now talking, walking, and using a computer. It was only yesterday when she was totally dependent on her parents and I remember holding her in my arms as a baby.

Growth is what God requires of all of us. To be in one position and to be in one state of mind is never God's ideal for man. It is His desire that everything must grow in one way or another. And so it is with the Christian. We should always be growing and maturing in God's grace. But the sad fact is that too many Christians are still spiritual dwarfs in their faith and relationship with God and their fellow man. If they find themselves in the same condition both spiritually and mentally as they were 10 or five years ago, or just last year, it simply means that they have not grown or matured.

How do you grow? As children we were told, "If you eat your Wheaties and take your Flintstones vitamins, you will grow big and grow strong. Oh, and don't forget your spinach, especially if you want to be like Popeye." Well, many of us followed that advice and we grew. But the question that we must address is, "How do we grow as Christians?"

Do we grow by attending church every Sabbath? Is that the magic pill? Do we grow by singing in the choir? Having our name on the church roll? Memorizing Bible verses? Are these the main ingredients that we need to grow stronger in Christ? The answer is simply no. While these actions do not hurt, these are not the main ingredients in spiritual growth.

The way to grow in grace and to mature in Christ is simply by making sure that we have a personal and intimate relationship with the source of growth. Flowers don't grow without sunlight, nor do they mature without water. And Christian believers do not grow without a relationship with Jesus. In order for us to mature and grow we must exercise our God-given gifts that the Master has bestowed upon us. That's the challenge we must execute everyday of our lives if we want to grow.

Unfortunately, there are many Christians that, instead of growing in Christ, are growing away from Him. Their spiritual growth has been stunted by a lack of faith, lack of prayer, and lack of love, along with selfishness. If we truly want to grow in Christ, we must feast upon the fruit of the Spirit that will give all the spiritual nourishment that it takes to grow up in Christ.

*Calvin L. Watkins, President*



# Lifting Hearts to Heaven

## 200 Attend Women's Prayer Summit in Alexandria

**Alexandria, La.** » On March 3-4, 2017, more than 200 women from across the conference met at the Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church to be a part of the Fresh Anointing Prayer Summit hosted by the Southwest Region Conference Women's Ministries Department.

The presence of God was felt as women were spiritually invigorated by prayer, testimonies, and powerful presentations. During the event we were reminded to spend time with Jesus, and that abiding in God's Word will help us to get to know Him. During the summit, prayer was described as a cell phone that never

loses its signal and never needs charged. Prayer is always readily available. We were encouraged to use the following five practices in prayer: praise, repentance from sin, asking, yielding of self, and to pray in the scripture. God answers our prayers based on His ways and His will. We must believe that His will is the best plan for our lives.

We learned that lack of forgiveness could hinder us from receiving the blessing God has in store for us. We were also challenged to say "thank you" to Jesus, and encouraged to praise Him in good times and bad.

The Holy Spirit was poured out as we were sent back to our various fields to share the fresh anointing that we received. Special guests included (pictured left to right) Brenda Billings, North American Division Ministerial Department Associate Director; Shirley Scott, South Central Conference Prayer Coordinator; and Anyisia Archibald, Southwest Region Conference Women's Ministries Director.

*By Randolyn Bowen*



# Helping Those in Need

## Members Raise Funds for Victims of Natural Disasters

**Waco, Texas** » What can we do to help those in need? This question haunted R. E. Brown, retired publishing director and pastor for the Southwest Region Conference as he thought about the victims of natural disasters. How could he and his fellow church members respond to the needs of the thousands of people across the world who have been affected by devastating floods, tornadoes, earthquakes, and hurricanes?

Another question came to mind: Why not use the monies raised by the sale

of our truth-filled literature to assist the survivors of these horrific events? Brown and six other members of the Mount Lebanon church have raised more than \$300 for this cause, with more to come.

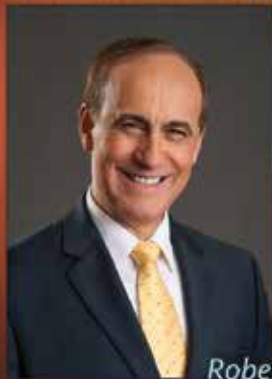
Pictured in front of the Mount Lebanon church are: (front row, from left) Julia Durham, Sadie Jefferson, Vanessa Lewis, Terrell Luckett, (back row, from left) R. E. Brown, Sr., R. E. Brown, Jr., and Santos Torreshill.

*By R. E. Brown, Sr.*



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### Guest Speakers



Dr. Ron C. Smith  
President  
Southern Union Conference



Elder Gustavo Squarzon  
Pastor & Author  
Texas Conference



Elder C. L. Watkins, Sr.  
President  
Southwest Region Conference



Dr. Larry & Carol Johnson  
Pastor & Shepherds Coordinator  
South Atlantic Conference

### Guest Musicians



Hugo Yin  
Recording Artist



Grace Dorsey-Landy  
Recording Artist

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# The Extra Mile

## Walking in Someone Else's Shoes



When I was young, I recall my mother sitting me down one afternoon and quoting what is widely considered an old Native American proverb, but is actually a poem written by Mary T. Lathrap in 1895 called “Walk a Mile in His Moccasins.” The original title, however, was “Judge Softly” and its first line reads: “Pray, don’t find fault with the man that limps, or stumbles along the road, unless you have worn the moccasins he wears, or stumbled beneath the same load.” It is strangely reminiscent of the words of Christ found in Matthew 7:1-2, “Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For in the same way you judge others, you will be judged, and with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

In our daily walk with Christ, seeking citizenship in His kingdom of love, grace, and structure, we often find ourselves faced with the temptation to measure others with a fairly strict and rigid measuring stick. It would seem that part of our growth and development in our daily Christian walk would manifest itself in an increased capacity and desire to comprehend others, love them no matter what, and extend leniency at all times knowing that we have also had those same moments in our own past.

Another line in that poem about walking in another’s moccasins reads, “Don’t be too harsh with the man that sins, or pelt him with words, or stone or disdain. Unless you are sure you have no sins of your own, and it’s only wisdom and love that your heart contains. Brother, there but for the grace of God go you and I.”

In the New Testament, we find references to the fact that we should be patient, longsuffering, and meek in our dealings with one another. Ephesians 4:2-3 says, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.” Sometimes you simply have to be willing to walk that third, fourth, and fifth mile, and sometimes you have to walk it in someone else’s moccasins! Put yourself in their place and make every effort to understand what they’re going through or dealing with, and the baggage that they have not been able to off-load. When we understand someone’s story and are able to check ourselves instead of being critical, then we progress from critic to counselor, and the Spirit of the Lord intervenes for the good of both parties.

I believe that some of the opportunities that are afforded us in our churches, schools, Conference offices, and communities can become divine appointments that result in His honor and glory! American poet Ralph Waldo Emerson said, “There are men, who, by their sympathetic attractions, carry nations with them, and lead the activity of the human race.” God is preparing a people who will stand out and represent Him in nature, conduct, word, and example while bringing honor and glory to His Name, thus vindicating His character before all men and hastening His return to claim His children!

*Carlos J. Craig, President*



# Gayle Tucker Youth Annex

## Groundbreaking Ceremony Held at Arlington Church

**Arlington, Tex.** » For 17 years, Gayle Tucker ministered to countless children and youth through her role as Associate Pastor at the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church. A number of children and teens who are now adults still mention the impact Pastor Gayle had on their lives through Vacation Bible School, children's choirs, Kids in Discipleship, as well as the weekly Sabbath schools. When the Arlington Church voted to build a 20,000 square-foot children's and youth annex, it was unanimously voted to name it the "Gayle Tucker Youth Annex" where Gayle's legacy would continue to minister to the youth of both the Arlington Church and the

larger Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. On December 10, the official groundbreaking for the Gayle Tucker Youth Annex took place at the annex building site. Kevin Wells, senior pastor of the Arlington Church, gave the opening remarks, followed by Tom Grove, D.Min., executive pastor, who gave an overview of the project. Mike Tucker (pictured), former senior pastor of the Arlington Church and Gayle's husband, shared that this is a fitting tribute to Gayle's life and ministry. Then, shovels were picked up and the ground was officially broken with Tucker's children and grandchildren in participation as well as Southwestern Union president, Larry Moore,

executive secretary, Buford Griffith II, and treasurer, John Page. Construction is expected to begin in late February with completion slated for the end of 2017 or early 2018.

The annex will not only serve as a place for the children of the Arlington church and the community to learn about Jesus, but it also will allow the current children and youth areas to be repurposed for a larger fellowship hall, as well as a much larger community service space. If you are interested in supporting the Gayle Tucker Youth Annex, please visit [www.ArlingtonAdventist.com/youthannex](http://www.ArlingtonAdventist.com/youthannex).

*By Tom Grove*



# Celebrating Life

## A New Life and a Life Well Lived!

**Huntsville, Tex.** » On January 14, the Huntsville Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated Barbara Merrill's 80th birthday. Although she is a new member at Huntsville, Barbara and her husband, Lee, have been winter "snowbirds" for quite some time as they escaped from the cold winters in Harrison, Maine. We also celebrated Barbara and Lee's wedding anniversary on January 14. We wish them both a long and beautiful future.

On February 26, our church family celebrated a baby shower for Michael and Jennifer Smith. We are all looking forward to the arrival of their baby boy, Michael Avery Smith, very soon. Congratulations to this precious family as they welcome a new life who will belong to the Lord and will be greatly loved by all of his church family. We feel blessed that the Lord has brought new life and new members into our midst.

*By Barbara Johnson*



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# Walking with Christ

## Connecting With the One Who Made Us



Our lives often seem to unfold one day at a time. We look at life in these finite increments and know that sometimes those times bring cause for celebration, other times we find ourselves looking forward to the dawn of a new day and the hope that things will get better.

When we accept the gift of salvation we also receive an invitation to journey with Him through every future day. To grow in grace, our lives should become a continual connection with the One who made us, knows everything about us and wants us to live in fellowship with Him.

We may wonder what difference that really makes. When we grasp the concept that God is always faithful to keep His word, that every promise He has made is His commitment to us, then we can receive strength and courage and hope for each moment. We can be assured that we are never alone, that we need never face any challenge by “ourselves” again, and we can always be certain that Jesus walks with us through each day of our lives.

Paul counsels us with these words, “So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in Him, rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness” (Col. 2:6).

This “strengthening in the faith” is really at the heart of the Christian’s walk with Jesus. Perhaps the greatest benefit is found in the practice of the spiritual disciplines such as prayer, Bible study and small groups in which community and fellowship fosters the ongoing journey of faith. These disciplines help develop a growing faith and relationship with Jesus and remind us of His presence and power in our lives to guide, provide, protect and heal us according to our needs.

*Steps to Christ* by Ellen White says, “Each morning consecrate yourself to God for that day. Surrender all your plans to Him, to be carried out or given up as His providence shall indicate. Thus, day by day you may be giving your life into the hands of God, and thus your life will be molded more and more after the life of Christ.”

“Consecrate” is a verb, an action word that we don’t often use anymore, but it really has profound benefit to the follower of Jesus. It actually means “to set apart, or dedicate to the service of God.” It is a conscious decision to rededicate ourselves to God at the beginning of each day. What great counsel indeed that we should be intentional regarding our commitment to walking with Jesus every day.

I am reminded of the lyrics of that old gospel song, “One day at a time... Lord, help me today, show me the way, one day at a time.” May that be our prayer today, and every day until we see Him face to face.

*By Phil Robertson, Executive Secretary/Treasurer*





# Food for Healing

## Los Ranchos Company Hosts Cooking School

**Albuquerque, N. Mex. »** On February 12, the Los Ranchos Adventist Company hosted a vegan cooking school focusing on stomach disorders. Chef Therese Sasicawalo (pictured) talked about the foods one should and should not eat to avoid

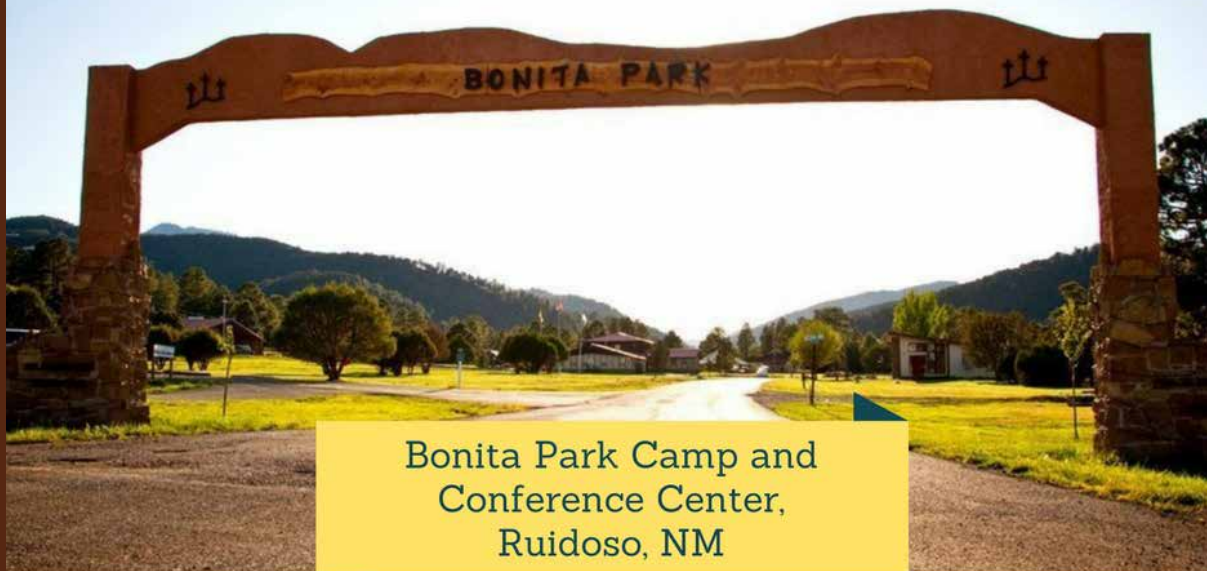
stomach issues, using the FODMAP diet as her example. She demonstrated three amazing dishes: polenta using hemp milk, basil pesto and a flavorful salad filled with everything right to eat. To top it off, we had turmeric tea to quench

our thirst. There were approximately 30 in attendance. On April 30, the Los Ranchos Church and Chef Therese will conduct another cooking school, this time focusing on cancer prevention.

*By Roxanne Smyth*



TEXICO CONFERENCE CAMPMEETING



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SAVE THE DATE

# Texico Heritage Series

## Religious Liberty Issues in New Mexico's Early History

**Corrales, N. Mex.** » The Texico Conference has recently published a book, *Seventh-day Adventists in New Mexico and El Paso, Texas 1881-1909*, written by Joe Reynolds (pictured), a pastor and descendant of New Mexican homesteaders.

This is the first volume in the Texico Conference Heritage Series. It is not a story, but a compilation of news about Adventists that Reynolds found in archived secular and church papers from that time.

There were several events that affected the life of early Adventists settling in New Mexico Territory and the church's evangelism: railroads, land grants and homesteading, as well as the national tuberculosis epidemic.

Also, by 1890, most states had Sunday laws – restrictions on what people could do on that day. It is the latter that is highlighted here.

In 1889, the first Adventist evangelistic series was held in Las Vegas, New Mexico. Two of the evening presentations dealt with the separation of church and state, with a special emphasis on the National Sunday Law, which Congress had tried to pass the winter before. The attendance to these evangelist meetings was quite large.

In late 1904, Governor Otero recommended that the Sunday law of New

Mexico be enforced. Chief Justice Mills wrote to the sheriff of Colfax County, instructing him to do so.

Knowing of this, Emery K. Cassell, of Raton, wrote a letter to the Colorado Conference administration (which the New Mexico Territory was under at that time) advising them of his determination to defy the law. He intended to work in his blacksmith shop on Sunday, as a witness to the truth of religious liberty. He continued his work as normal and was arrested.

Cassell appeared in court on March 31, 1905. When asked why he worked on Sundays, Cassell replied, "I am a Seventh-day Adventist, I work six days a week and keep Saturday as my Sabbath, therefore, I feel I am entitled to work on Sunday."

When asked if he knew that the Sunday law was a law of the territory, Cassell said, "Yes, I did."

Again, the judge asked, "Then why did you work on Sunday?"

Cassell replied, "New Mexico law conflicts with the law of God, which requires the seventh day to be kept."

The judge did not accept Cassell's arguments and sentenced him to 15 days in prison plus \$28.00, the cost of the court, which he could work off by spending another 28 days in jail, for a total of 43 days.

H.M.J. Richards (father of H.M.S. Richards, Sr.), a Colorado Conference minister living in Loveland, Colorado, traveled to Raton in early April to see if he could help Cassell. He went into action by writing: (1) a letter to President Theodore Roosevelt; (2) an open letter to the citizens of New Mexico; (3) another letter to the Attorney General of the United States. Copies of these letters are in Reynolds's book.

In a short time, Richards created so much pressure on all who had put Cassell in jail that the people of Raton became stirred up. After several townspeople paid his court costs, he was freed from jail.

The Colorado Conference also requested that Richards write a tract on this religious liberty situation. It has been reprinted in Reynolds's book.

This history of religious liberty being challenged in New Mexico Territory is an early example of the importance of the Church's professional intervention to secure religious liberty for a church member.

Copies of Reynolds's book can be purchased from the Texico Conference by calling 505.244.1611 or by emailing [texico@texico.org](mailto:texico@texico.org).

By Carol Schoun



## Classified Ads

### REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

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

### EMPLOYMENT

**Walla Walla University** is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to [jobs.wallawalla.edu](http://jobs.wallawalla.edu).

**Southwestern Adventist University's Nursing Department** seeks a full-time nurse educator. Doctorate desired; MSN considered. Experience in mental health, medical/surgical or pediatrics preferred. Must enjoy working with young people who are excited about service. Must have, or be able to obtain, an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal ([arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu)).

**Adventist Health System is seeking a Summer Associate** to work in their Corporate Legal department for at least six weeks in 2017. Candidate must be in top 25% of class. Interest/experi-

ence in healthcare industry preferred, but not required. Duties include legal research and other projects, totaling 40 hours per week. Pay is \$20 - \$25 per hour; reasonable relocation expenses will be reimbursed. Please send transcript and resume to [Manuela.asaftei@ahss.org](mailto:Manuela.asaftei@ahss.org).

**Southwestern Adventist University** seeks a director of academic support and advising. Master's degree in higher education, developmental learning or related field required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have higher education experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal ([arosenthal@swau.edu](mailto:arosenthal@swau.edu)).

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# Back Pages

**The General Conference (GC) of SDAs Office of General Counsel** is seeking a law student for an 8-10 week summer clerkship. This position is not a full-time, hire-track position and is best suited for 1Ls. Duties include legal research and other projects, emphasis is on religious liberty and First Amendment work. Must be SDA church member. Interview and/or relocation expenses will be applicant's responsibility. Send resume, writing sample, and transcript to Jennifer Woods at Woodsj@gc.adventist.org.

**Andrews University seeks a Counseling & Testing Center Assistant Director.** In collaboration with the Director, provides leadership in the clinical services of the Counseling & Testing Center, including clinical supervision and the coordination of the clinical internship program. Participates in outreach presentations to assist students in achieving more effective personal, social, educational, and vocational development and adjustment. Maintains an assigned case load, and provides consultations on issues related to mental health. Must have an earned doctoral degree in Counseling or Clinical Psychology, and licensed or license-eligible in the state of Michigan. For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1278>

**Union College seeks committed Adventist** to direct its NCATE (CAEP) accredited Education program and Chair the Division of Human Development, effective June 2017. Doctorate and experience in

K-12 church schools essential. Further information, [www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings](http://www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings). Apply and submit C.V. to Dr. Frankie Rose, Academic Dean, at [frankie.rose@ucollege.edu](mailto:frankie.rose@ucollege.edu).

**Pacific Union College is seeking an Albion Learning and Retreat Center Manager** to begin immediately. Looking for committed candidate with passion for great learning environment, ability to manage property, coordinate activities on site, possess California Water Treatment license, book-keeping responsibilities, ability to work with campus facilities management, and a willing personality for warm hospitality. Located on the beautiful Mendocino coastline. For more information, please visit our website at [www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings](http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings).

**Weimar Institute is seeking master's-prepared nurses** for the 2017-2018 school year to teach psychiatric/mental health nursing, mother and infant nursing, pediatric nursing, community nursing, and medical-surgical nursing. Also need BS-prepared nurses in adjunct positions to teach clinicals in all of these areas. Resumes to [winursing@weimar.edu](mailto:winursing@weimar.edu).

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## Announcements

### Atlantic Union College Aeolians:

An Aeolian reunion is being planned for Alumni Weekend, April 20-22, 2018. Please contact Terry Koch for information: terrko2@charter.net.

### Academy Days at Ozark Adventist Academy:

Attend Academy Days at Ozark Adventist Academy for a preview of high school life and academics on April 21-22, 2017. For more information, visit [www.OzarkAcademy.org](http://www.OzarkAcademy.org).

### Alumni Reunion La Sierra Academy

95th Year Celebration: Friday, April 28 - Saturday, April 29, 2017. Honor classes ending in 2 and 7. Welcome Reception Friday at 7 p.m. at the LSA Library. Honor Class Services Registration at 9 a.m. Services at 10 a.m., followed by potluck luncheon. Alumni/Varsity Basketball at 8:30 p.m. La Sierra Academy, 4900 Golden Ave., Riverside, Calif.

### "Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion

will take place June 9-11, 2017 for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For more information, you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989.427.5181 or visit [www.glaa.net](http://www.glaa.net).

### Broadview Adventist Academy Alumni Reunion:

April 28 - 29, 2017. Venue: North Aurora

SDA Church, 940 Mooseheart Road, North Aurora, Ill. Honor Classes: 1937, 1947, 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987, 1992, 1997 and 2007. Visit: [www.broadviewacademy.org](http://www.broadviewacademy.org).

## Obituaries

### Edwards, Barbara (Grimes);

born Nov. 1, 1932, Little Rock, Ark.; died Jan. 12, 2017 Little Rock. Surviving: husband, Troy Edwards, North Little Rock, Ark.; daughter, Debbie, North Little Rock; daughter, Tommie Hoffman, Austin, Texas; son, Roger Grimes, Austin; son, Bill Grimes, Ward, Ark.; sister, Elise Stelman, Dallas, Texas; brother, Bill Kelly, of Dallas; 8 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

### Garner, Raymond E.;

born June 15, 1931, House, N. Mex.; died Sept. 29, 2016, Keene, Texas. Surviving: wife, Frances Garner, Keene, Texas; son, Kyle Garner, Idaho; daughters, Kay Garner and Fay Garner, both of Amarillo, Texas; stepchildren, Gary Douglas, Al Douglas, Paula Neighbors, and Donna Harris; sister, Margaret Fisher, of Kansas; brother, Jim Garner, of Midland, Texas; 12 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren.

### Griffin, Jeanice (Beeman);

born Dec. 17, 1920, Dallas, Texas; died Jan. 23, 2017, Collegedale, Tenn. Surviving: son, Charles J. Griffin, Ooltewah, Tenn.; son, Glynn E. Griffin, Richmond, Va.; 7 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

**Linn, Jim;** born July 30, 1923, Mantica, Calif.; died Jan. 9, 2017, Hillsboro, Texas. Surviving: wife, Jackie Linn, Hillsboro; sons, James and Steven; daughters, Sherry, Vicky, Dana, and Robin.

### Marlow, Donna Faye (Towle);

born Aug. 18, 1936; Beaver City, Okla.; died Feb. 14, 2017, Harrah, Okla. Surviving: husband, Troy Marlow; son, Gary Marlow; son, Bradley Marlow; 2 granddaughters; stepdaughter, Diane Banahan; stepson, Dennis Hughbanks; stepdaughter Jennette Hamilton; 4 step-grandchildren.

### Matthews, Eleanor Jean;

born Jan. 17, 1929; died July 3, 2016, Booneville, Ark. Surviving: son, Kenneth Matthews, Booneville; son, Robert Matthews, Tucson, Ariz.; daughter, Carol Malik, Tulsa, Okla.; 9 grandchildren.

### Nilson, Catherine Amacker;

born Oct. 24, 1912, Natlbany, La.; died Aug. 29, 2016, Baton Rouge, La. Surviving: son, William A. Wilson; 9 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

### Proctor, Lillian;

born Oct. 20, 1924, Hooker, Okla.; died Feb. 13, 2017, Hillsboro, Texas. Surviving: son, David Proctor; 3 grandsons; 1 great-granddaughter.

### Schweiner, Joseph;

born Oct. 24, 1941; died Jan. 29, 2017, in Mannsville, Okla. Surviving: wife, Donna, Mannsville; daughters, Dawn Gardipee and Gail Schweiner; sons, Joe Schweiner, James Schweiner,

and John Schweiner; stepchildren, Ricky, Mary, Eddie, Bryan, and Steve; brother, Myron; sister, Della; 10 grandchildren.

### Smith, John;

born May 23, 1926; died Jan. 24, 2017 in Arkansas. Surviving: wife, Rachel Smith, Heber Springs, Ark.

### Smith, Ruth;

born June 6, 1934, North Dakota; died Jan. 25, 2017, Carriere, Miss. Surviving: husband, Nelson Smith, Carriere; daughter, Laurie Ann Nelson, Long Beach, Miss.; daughter, Christi Evans, Missouri; step-daughter, Dana Spears, Louisiana.

The *Record* also accepts expanded obituary announcements with short bio and photo. For submission and cost info, contact [record@swuc.org](mailto:record@swuc.org) call 817.295.0476.

### Submissions

To submit family milestones, obituaries, announcements, or address changes submissions, visit [www.swurecord.org](http://www.swurecord.org) or call 817.295.0476.

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