

Record

May 2017

Enhancing Your *Spiritual Journey* Facing Challenges



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Enhancing Your Spiritual Journey: Facing Challenges

Record

MAY 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.

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Editor's Note

Life is uncertain, a fact that is ever more apparent when facing hardships and affliction. These challenges can seem small, such as distractions that drain your time, or they can seem insurmountable, such as losing someone you love, failing health, or any number of traumatic experiences. Through life's uncertainties, it might be difficult to hear that God cares about you for you and is there for you. But He *does* and He *is!* Romans 5:3-4 tells us that the result of such trials is endurance, character, and, in the end, hope. Though life is uncertain, we can be assured that God keeps His promises.

In this issue of the *Record* we continue our quarterly theme of Enhancing Your Spiritual Journey, emphasizing the refuge and peace we can find in Him when we are in the midst of life's challenges.



Jessica L. Lozano, Editor

Facing Challenges

Committed to Enhancing Your Spiritual Journey



Larry Moore | President

No matter who you are, you will face challenges in this life. Some challenges may be the result of living on this planet, while other challenges are what I call “self-inflicted challenges” that come as a consequence of poor choices. Obviously there are some things we have control over and some things we have zero control over. Seldom are our choices clear, but we can get valuable counsel from a few available spirit-led sources.

One source is scripture. The Bible is full of stories of how God's people have met challenges and were victorious. And there are other stories of how they made the wrong choices and had to face the repercussions of those decisions. Another source is Christian friends who are wise and have our best interest at heart. I can tell you from experience how I have been blessed by good friends who gave good counsel. Another source is prayer and listening to God. He may respond audibly or simply speak to your heart or through scripture. I encourage you to use these three sources as you face life's challenges and remember the promise found in Philippians 4:19, “And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.”

In our lives, we are confronted with issues that are often imposing and difficult. Rather than speak of them as problems, I encourage you to look at them as only challenges. Any situation or circumstance that presents itself is a problem when we attempt to deal with it from a human perspective—on our own, with our own perceived genius, whatever that is. Thus, we worry, we stew, we become agitated, frustrated, angry—and all that comes with dealing with difficult issues that are clearly out of our control. We are tempted to believe that God can do anything, except resolve the issue that currently confronts us. Succumbing to this plays into the hands of Satan who desires that we discount and dismiss God as the resolver of any and all that troubles us.

Conversely, situations and issues of life are viewed, to the one who places their trust and dependence on the Lord Jesus Christ, as only challenges. When, as Paul states in Ephesians 1:18, “eyes of your heart may be enlightened...” you realize cognitively and emotionally that God's holiness, wondrous and beautiful, is ever-present and we do not face life's issues alone. What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who or what can ever be against us?



Buford Griffith, Jr.
Executive Secretary

One of my biggest struggles is not asking for God's help right away when I am facing a challenge. Instead of taking the challenge to God immediately, I begin to attempt to solve it myself. However, I notice a world of difference the moment I take my challenge to God in prayer first. When I start with prayer, God begins to work in ways that I could not have even imagined.

Sometimes we face challenges that are difficult to comprehend or seem impossible to resolve. When this happens in my life, I go to the book of Job for comfort. Job goes through more in a short period of time than most of us will ever go through in a lifetime. One particular section inspires me to really reflect. In Job 38, God asks Job intense questions. Where were you when I laid the earth's foundation? Have you ever given orders to the morning? Have you journeyed to the springs of the sea? God goes on like this for two chapters, asking questions only He can answer. When I read these chapters and then look at the challenge that I'm going through, it provides me with a reality check that builds my faith. I may not know the solution to my problem, but I know that the almighty God already has the answer that I need.



John Page | Treasurer

A dramatic landscape at sunset or sunrise. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, with a bright light source breaking through in the center, creating a strong glow. In the foreground, a person is silhouetted against the light, sitting on a rocky outcrop. The overall mood is somber and contemplative.

Lessons from the *Edge*

Surviving the Annus Horribilis

The year 2014 was the worst of my life. It was the year the wheels came off; it became my *annus horribilis*—the horrible year. When at last it was over and I began to feel better, I put it out of my mind. I let it go, didn't want to talk about it. Then, about a year ago, the Lord struck me between the eyes. As I sat with my wife, Noelene, in our favorite restaurant, He said to me, "You ought to be *glad* for your *annus horribilis*. Just think what you learned from it." Glad—glad for that horrible year? Yes, yes, yes! Here's why.

I've had a long, full, and healthy life. I've hardly missed a day of work in more than 50 years. I've run marathons and even climbed Mount Kilimanjaro. My heart numbers have always been great—resting heart rate at 42, blood pressure at 120/60, normal cholesterol and weight. I bragged, "Whatever else happens to me, I'll never die from a heart attack. My heart is as strong as an ox." Famous last words!

In March of 2014 we were visiting family and friends in Australia. I had preached at the little church my father helped build and toward the close of the sermon, I began to feel ill. I struggled to finish. Greeting the members as they departed, I just wanted to lie down on one of the pews.

A pain on my left side became insistent, creeping to the top of my arm and down to the wrist. I told friends, "I need to see a doctor." I was quite sure it was something that could easily be remedied with an antacid tablet.

Before long I was in an ambulance careening down the city streets, sirens blaring, lights flashing. Still in my church suit, I went straight into surgery. I struggled to comprehend what was happening. My "strong as an ox" heart had deceived me. It was sick, diseased with multiple blockages.

Doctors inserted a stent and confined me to the hospital bed for six days. They advised immediate bypass surgery, but Noelene and I wanted to get back home to Loma Linda, California for that. After a couple weeks they cleared us to fly to the United States.

At the Loma Linda University Medical Center, cardiologists confirmed the diagnosis. A skilled heart surgeon inserted four grafts. The surgery went well; I was home again in three days, beginning to walk again. I was coming back.

Then the wheels came off. Nauseated day and night. No appetite. Struggling to keep down even a glass of water. I lost 40 pounds. I struggled to get out of bed, to stagger a few steps to the easy chair in my office. For the first time in my life, I could not pray. Not that I was angry with God, but I just couldn't focus, couldn't summon the will to pray. I felt like the Psalmist who made his bed in hell (Ps. 139:8).

But even then something wonderful, something hard to describe, happened. Although I couldn't pray, I felt enveloped in arms of love. I felt that Jesus was praying what I could not.

The doctors put me back into the hospital, the third time that horrific year. IV's pumped in multiple chemicals to re-store the electrolytic balance. Within two days I began to feel stronger, was able to drink a mug of hot broth—and actually enjoyed it. The tide had turned.

The road back was slow, but by the end of the horrible year I was clearly coming back. So what did I learn from my *annus horribilis*?

First, that as Jeremiah said, "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9). Physically, my heart deceived me. The trauma of the heart attack affected me as much in my head as it had in my body. It affected me spiritually. My deceitful heart always wants to appear better than I really am. What I condemn in others, my heart excuses in me.

Second, though I make my bed in hell, Jesus is there. Yes, even in hell. There is no place we can go, no depth to which we may fall. Jesus is there.

Third, I can see clearly now. Things that used to make me mad don't count for anything. Every day is a gift; life is too

precious and wonderful to fret and fume over matters that will seem trivial in the light of eternity. I would like others to applaud what I write or preach, but the only One whom I want to please is my Lord. It's His "Well done!" that I crave.

Fourth, I'm not afraid to die. I have been to the edge, looked over into the abyss, and Jesus is there. So it really isn't so bad—not when you know that Jesus is with you.

And finally, and most important, Jesus is enough. Jesus is all that matters, now and eternally. Years ago, Adventist author and pioneer Ellen White wrote the following in

a letter to a fellow church member: "You will come up from the grave without anything, but if you have Jesus you will have everything. He is all that you will require to stand the test of the day of God, and is not this enough for you?"

It's enough for me.

Jesus, my Savior, Lord and Friend, is my Enough. R



William G. Johnsson is the former long-time editor of Adventist Review magazine and a noted international speaker and author—his most recent works include Jesus of Nazareth and Where are We Headed? Noelene and William G. Johnsson live in Loma Linda, California.

Superando los Desafíos Rising Above

Persevering Through Adversity | Perseverando en Afflicción

R We are faced with many challenges in this life. My greatest one was learning that my son Douglas Mehling, would live a life overshadowed by a progressive and severely disabling muscle disease when he was just four years old. We were told muscular dystrophy could end his life before age 18. We had high hopes and dreams for his future and this was a devastating blow.

I watched his downward progression year by year. He became wheelchair dependant by age nine and in his teens needed breathing assistance. Recounting the experience of losing his physical abilities, Douglas said he questioned, “Why was I born with such a terrible disease? I naturally felt that my suffering wasn’t fair. Gradually I realized that while it was indeed not fair, I could still trust God and know that He had a great plan for my life.”

At 19, Douglas felt God’s call to study theology at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas. He enrolled, and I attended classes with him, taking notes and assisting him with his studies. Douglas had an incredible college experience, graduating with his bachelor’s degree in 2007 as senior class president. He then went on to finish a Masters of Divinity degree, another incredible blessing.

During his five-year tenure as student pastor of the Grandview Seventh-day Adventist Church, Douglas preached in spite of being ventilator-dependent and unable to move any part of his body except his facial muscles and voice. He used voice dictation to write his sermons, using his eyes to control the computer. This was a special time for Douglas and he knew that anything he accomplished was through God.

Douglas’s autobiography, *Bionic Preacher, Rising Above Muscular Dystrophy*, was his

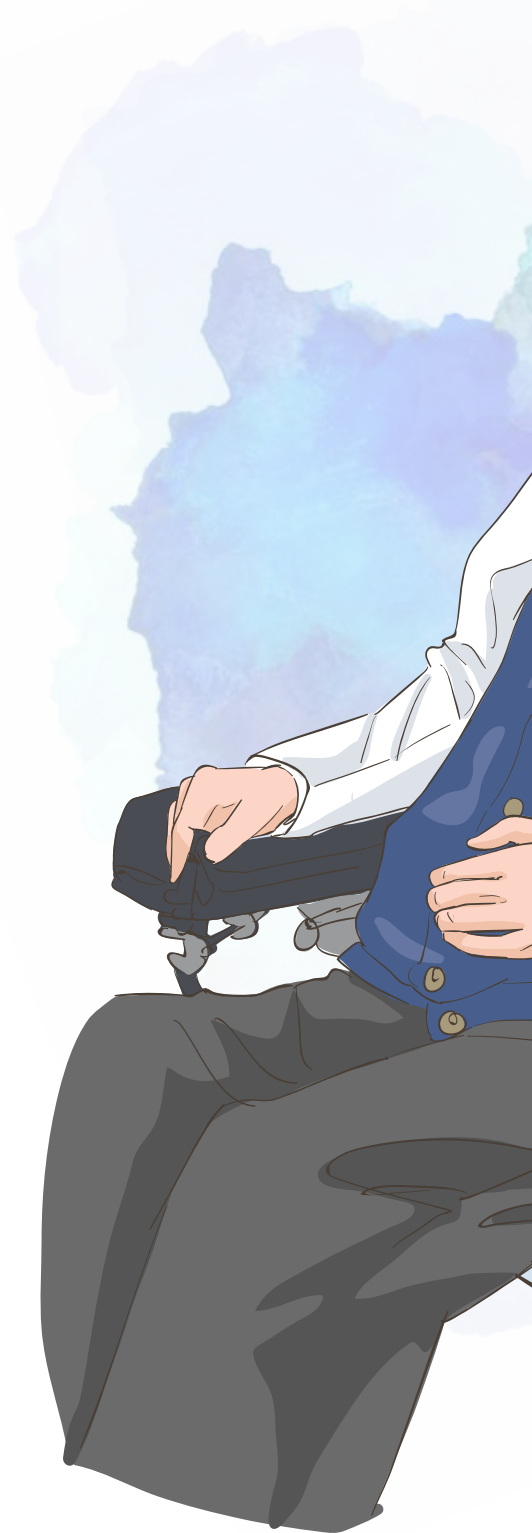
R Nos enfrentamos con muchos desafíos en esta vida. Para mí, el más difícil fue descubrir que la vida de mi hijo, Douglas Mehling, sería eclipsada por una enfermedad progresiva e invalidante. Douglas tenía sólo cuatro años y la Distrofia Muscular podría acabar con su vida antes de los 18. Teníamos sueños y esperanzas para su vida y esto fue devastante para nosotros.

A los nueve años dependía de una silla de ruedas y en su adolescencia requería de asistencia respiratoria. Douglas comparte lo siguiente, “Me pregunté, ¿Porqué nací con una enfermedad tan terrible? Naturalmente, sentía que mi sufrimiento no era justo. Pero, gradualmente me fui dando cuenta que aunque no era justo, aún podría confiar en Dios y saber que Él tenía un gran plan para mi vida”.

A los 19, Douglas sentió el llamado a estudiar teología en Southwestern Adventist University en Keene, Texas. Se matriculó y asistimos a las clases juntos. Yo tomaba notas y lo ayudaba con sus estudios. Él tuvo una experiencia universitaria increíble. Se graduó en el 2007 y fue presidente de curso ese año. Continuó estudiando y recibió una maestría en divinidad, otra bendición grande.

Durante un plazo de cinco años como pastor estudiantil de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día de Grandview, Douglas predicaba a pesar de usar un respirador y sin poder mover su cuerpo, salvo sus músculos faciales y voz. Usaba un aparato de dictado para escribir sus sermones, usando sus ojos para controlar la computadora. Fue una época especial para Douglas, siempre dando gloria a Dios por cada objetivo cumplido.

El último logro de Douglas fue su autobiografía, *Bionic Preacher, Rising Above Muscular Dystrophy* (Predicador Biónico,





final achievement. Available at Amazon.com, proceeds benefit the Religion Department at Southwestern Adventist University. The book shares his experience, challenges, and blessings. Douglas completed his manuscript one week before going to his rest at age 33. In the last chapter, as he realizes his time on earth is short, he writes, “And when that final day comes I will have peace, hope, and joy knowing that I am about to enter a new life that can hardly compare to the one I have been living. Not only will I be free of this disease and everything that goes with it, but I will finally see face-to-face the God who has been with me throughout this journey.”

No matter your situation, God can use you to make a difference in someone's life. Our trials on earth are temporary, and even if the very air we breathe has to come through “bionic adaptations,” He promises comfort and purpose as we seek His presence every day. God is known to use the humblest and weakest to accomplish His work.

Rita Earhart and husband, Dennis, live in Keene. She has adult-onset muscular dystrophy and is anticipating a possible heart transplant in her future.

Superando la Distrofia Muscular). Las ganancias del libro, disponible en Amazon.com, van al departamento de religión de Southwestern Adventist University. El libro relata sus experiencias, desafíos, y bendiciones. Douglas completó su manuscrito una semana antes de ir al descanso a los 33 años. En el último capítulo, mientras siente que se acorta su tiempo en este mundo, escribe, “Y cuando llegue ese día final, tendré paz, esperanza y gozo, sabiendo que estoy por comenzar una vida nueva que no se compara a la que he estado viviendo. No sólo estaré libre de esta enfermedad y todo lo que abarca, pero finalmente veré cara-a-cara a Dios quien me ha acompañado a lo largo de este camino”.

En cualquier situación, Dios puede usarte para hacer una diferencia en la vida de otra persona. Nuestros desafíos en el mundo son temporarios, y si aún hay que respirar por un respirador, Él promete consuelo y propósito al buscar su presencia cada día. Dios es conocido por usar a los más humildes y débiles para terminar su obra.

Rita Earhart y su esposo, Dennis, viven en Keene. Ella los inicios de distrofia muscular adulta y anticipa un posible trasplante cardiovascular en su futuro.

Peter's Plight

Character Through Perseverance



The gospels tell us of Peter being invited to be a “fisher of men.” Peter walked side-by-side with the Jesus. He traveled with Him, ate with Him, prayed with Him and spent countless hours listening to His words and experiencing what we can only dream of today!

Peter thought he was ready to serve, yet there are pivotal moments in his story when his convictions and behavior seemed in contradiction. When he saw Jesus walking on the water (Matthew 8), he wanted to join Him. He stepped off the boat, only to eventually sink! Jesus then kindly pointed out his lack of faith. Later when Jesus’ time with His disciples was drawing to a close, Peter boldly stated his loyalty, love and allegiance for Jesus (Matthew 26). But within a few hours of that supper together, he fell asleep after having been asked to stay awake and pray with Jesus. Moments afterwards he cut off the ear of a soldier in Jesus’ defense and hours later he cursed and swore, denying he even knew Jesus.

The Bible tells us that it is only when Peter hears the rooster crow that he remembered Jesus’ words predicting his

denial and betrayal. As he wept bitterly we can assume he was overtaken with guilt and remorse. Although Peter had been with Jesus, he had a very imperfect idea of the plan of salvation. In order to understand, Peter needed to take a long, hard look at his spiritual journey—where he had been, where he was now and where he wanted to be.

Often along our spiritual journey we don’t realize our weaknesses until we completely surrender to Jesus’ will. We can get burdened with the past and feel we can’t move forward, or we get fixated on self-made plans. When that happens, we stop journeying spiritually and our priorities are focused on ourselves instead of God. But like Peter, we have opportunities to re-prioritize our spiritual life. As we work through our suffering we know our perseverance muscle is strengthened and that in turn produces character (Romans 5).

Note that before Jesus ascended to heaven (John 21), He took time to help Peter assess his spiritual life and spiritual priorities by asking one simple question, three times.

Do you love Me?

Jesus didn’t ask, “Peter, what in the world happened a few days ago? Why did you cut off the soldier’s ear? Why did you deny me even after I forewarned you of the event?” No, there was nothing mentioned of the past! Jesus had granted him pardon and extended forgiveness.


Do you love Me?

Jesus didn’t say, “Peter, let’s talk about my kingdom and if you do this or don’t do this, there is a crown waiting.” Jesus showed him grace and accepted Peter unconditionally.

Do you love Me?

His response to Peter each time is to feed His sheep. Accept His forgiveness and grace and share it with others everywhere you go. Jesus indicated this was the banner that Peter was to carry for the rest of his life.

Peter would endure severe trials in his future. He would be imprisoned and end up giving up his life for Christ’s sake, but his allegiance to Jesus would never again waver. Consider the trials in your life.

Are there areas where your perseverance muscle needs strengthening? Remember that Jesus always extends forgiveness and grace and relishes in the development of your character. 

Sherry Fisher is the Health Ministries Director for the Oklahoma Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. She is a registered nurse and the past Director of Health and Physical Education for the Oklahoma State Department of Education. She is a member of the Bristow Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Finding Courage in Prayer

By Letty Craig

Craig is the Texas Conference Prayer Ministries Director, in addition to serving as Ministerial Spouse's Director and Accounts Payable Assistant. She has helped coordinate prayer rooms and prayer programs for retreats and events for over 10 years.

We are often faced with challenges so substantial in nature that our lives are shaken to their very core and our spirituality and relationship with God takes a blow. Romans 12:11-12 says, “Keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Christ’s experience facing His greatest challenge is shared in Hebrews 5:7-8. The verses tell of how He gained the victory through prayer to His Father: “During the days of Jesus’ life on earth, He offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverent submission. Son though He was, He learned obedience from what He suffered....” There is a unique bond throughout the life stories we read in scripture among adversity, suffering, prayer, and victory. Here are three facets of this phenomena.



ACKNOWLEDGING GOD

Prayer leads us to acknowledge that God rules over us. A conversation with God is so much different in nature than a conversation with a trusted friend, a trained counselor, or a professional problem solver. You can’t approach the throne of grace without believing at some level, even if it’s a mustard seed level, that God not only hears your plea, but is able to do something about it. In the book *Steps to Christ*, author and Adventist pioneer, Ellen White writes, “Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend. Not that it is necessary in order to make known to God what we are, but in order to enable us to receive Him. Prayer does not bring God down to us, but brings us up to Him.”

DEEPENING THE RELATIONSHIP

Prayer leads us to dig deeper in the storehouse of His love. You can’t be steadfast in prayer without striving to enhance your relationship with the Creator. This deepens your perception of His ways and means. Many Christians are trapped in neutral, unable to shift into a gear that would propel them toward victory in Jesus. We become complacent in either our sin or our indifference. Ephesians 2:6-7 says, “God raised us up with Christ and seated us with Him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages He might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.” Those are the true riches we find when we dig in the storehouse of His love!

OVERCOMING EVIL

When we engage in prayer, Satan has no recourse but to back away in recognition that the outcome of the battle has already been decided in Christ Jesus. It was true in the Garden of Gethsemane and it is true for us today. Revelation 1:5-6 puts it this way: “and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father—to Him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.” Christ has already overcome! You need only to be with Him. Commit to let Him live in your heart and guide you through life today.

Sleeping Through the Storm

When Fierce Winds and Crashing Waves Test Our Faith



Storms are unpredictable. A fierce thunderstorm can spring up with little notice. It may catch us while we are running errands, mowing the yard, or getting in our car—already late to an appointment. Storms cause us to stop and assess if it's safe to continue or if we need to sit it out.

The different perspectives in Matthew 8, Mark 4, and Luke 8 provide insight on the story of Jesus, His disciples, and a storm. Six facts can be concluded from these accounts. First, the storm came suddenly without forewarning and they were not prepared. Second, it was a furious storm. Imagine the kind we see in the Southwest around tornado season. Third, the waves swept over the boat. Mark says the waves broke over the boat and it was nearly swamped. Luke says

the boat was actually being swamped and the disciples were in great danger. Fourth, the disciples responded by crying out to God. They implored Him to save them, questioning if He cared whether they drowned. Sixth, Jesus took action. He got up and spoke. With His words, He rebuked the wind and the waves. Creation responded to His powerful directive and all was completely and utterly calm.

These biblical accounts make it clear that God has the power to rebuke any storm. Although the Bible tells of a physical storm, we have learned this is true with the storms in our lives, as well. When we find ourselves in the midst of trouble and strife we cry out to God. We “shake Him awake” and expectantly wait for His miraculous intervention.

The Logistics

In this life, each of us must navigate our own boat. Some of our boats are shiny and strong, others are a bit less impressive. Some of them have already weathered rough storms and are now patched up and fortified. Others, with great navigation skills, are really good at predicting storms, so they change their course to avoid them. What is the status of your boat? Is Jesus always aboard?

Having Jesus aboard your boat is the most amazing thing that will ever happen in your life. Once it happens, there is purpose, direction, and a destination. However, we must recognize that having Jesus aboard the boat doesn't necessarily mean we won't encounter storms along the journey.

What happens when you feel that Jesus is sleeping on your boat? When He opts to take a nap in the middle of one of your most difficult storms? You feel the waves start to crash and the rain begin to pour down making it difficult to see. The wind rattles and shakes your entire being.

Have you felt like this during a storm in your life? Have you felt the rain pelt your face and the wind shake your foundation? I have. One thing happens, then another, and it feels like waves are repeatedly crashing over me. These waves have the audacity to break against me even after I have given my life to Jesus.

Matthew 28:20 says, “I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Jesus makes this promise and I believe this. I believe He is with us no matter where—no matter when.

But have you ever felt like He isn't there? It seems He is asleep, not answering prayers, intervening, or saving. It is almost like He is asleep in the middle of the storm. We ask, “Don't you care if we drown? Save us! Save us from the pain and the hurt we are going through. Rescue us! You have the power.”

A Matter of Faith

Think about this. If Jesus had kept sleeping, would they have drowned? Do you think the boat would have capsized, sending them to their demise? I don't think it would have. I don't think the disciples nor Jesus *needed* to be saved from the storm. He stepped in and saved them so He could assess their faith.

While God has the power to rebuke storms, He also has the power to produce calm. He may choose to calm your environment, as He did with the disciples, or He may choose to calm *you*. As your faith grows, or perhaps in order to grow your faith, He may choose to sleep during your storm. Let that sink in.

I know it doesn't seem to make a lot of sense, but there are times when we pray earnestly and receive no apparent resolution. Because of this, I believe there may be times when we must endure the storms of life without the rebuke of the winds and waves.

When we claim to have faith, we assert the fact that He has the power to get us through any storm and do what He promised in our lives (Romans 4:20-21). Regardless of the chaos, the pain, or the losses we may endure, Jesus doesn't

“In this life,
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leave us. He is still there, even if it seems like He is asleep. His presence is simply enough to bring calm into our life. Trust Him, even when the wind picks up and the waves begin to crash.

Through It All

Kristene DiMarco, of Bethel Music, includes these words in her song, *It is Well*, a modern rendition of the hymn:

*Far be it from me to not believe,
Even when my eyes can't see*

*So let go my soul and trust in Him,
The waves and wind still know His name*

*Through it all, through it all,
My eyes are on You*

*Through it all, through it all,
It is well*

Isaiah 40:28 says that, “The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom.” Isaiah 58:9 assures us, “Then you will call, and the Lord will answer; you will cry for help, and He will say: Here am I.”

When you have Jesus in your boat, you can be confident that even if the waves, wind, and rain come, He is right by your side. He will never tire, even if He appears to be asleep. He will always answer your cry for help with His presence and the power to produce calm, whether in the storm or in your heart.

Although storms are often viewed negatively, they also bring a sense of cleansing. They wash away the grime and gunk in the atmosphere. They produce rainbows. And, they never stop the sun from shining. There is always sunshine after the storm. It may take a few hours or days to see it, but the sun is always there. You see, the sun, like God, never left. It was there high above the clouds the entire time. Storms can obscure the sun for a while, but they can never take its place. **R**

Kristina Pascual Lockhart is the Managing Editor of the Record and Associate Communication Director of the Southwestern Union. In addition to navigating through storms, she enjoys hiking and traveling.



Shutting Down Anxiety + Worry

By Grace Thomas

Thomas is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist-Associate. She practices in Fort Worth at Reconnecting Relationships Therapy. Her passion is traveling to new places and learning from different cultures.



Life's events or transitions can often feel like a turbulent storm. A received diagnosis, conflict in a relationship, finances, work, or school. These circumstances challenge our decision-making skills, our personal narrative, and our faith in God's control over our lives. An appropriate reaction to problems, unknown situations, and change is often to worry. It tends to be our first reaction, but not the most helpful approach to use when waiting for God's guidance.

Worry can often lead to an anxious way of thinking and as a result hinder the effectiveness with our coping. Although these are different for everyone, they have the potential to become overwhelming. When worry or anxiety begin to take over, consider the following steps to reducing their influence.

1. Here and Now.

Focus on the present moment. Ask yourself, "What am I doing in this moment? Am I using my time in a healthy or beneficial way? What is the next item on my list that I can achieve today? Focusing on our present tasks helps us concentrate on aspects that we can control. Anxiety generates fear of the future and instead consumes our current time.

2. Create a "Worry Period."

You are, after all, human and the automatic reaction is to worry. Take 30 minutes to process the worry at the same time and place each day. Identify times where worry may be seeping in and influencing times of your day. Reflect on areas that you can control in regards to the event that is causing you worry or anxiety. It may be more useful to spend time distinguishing between problems that may have a solution over problems you can't control. For example, if you're worried

about your declining marital relationship, which areas are actually in your control? Some options could include changing the way you react towards your spouse during conflict, learning effective communication strategies to practice with your spouse, praying more for your spouse, or developing healthy outlets to release frustration.

3. Differentiate the Facts.

If it is difficult to manage your feelings or thoughts about the problem, give yourself permission to take care of them. You cannot control the way you feel, attempting to do so will only make you feel worse. Focus instead on the information you can gather to address the problem or solve it. Another way to differentiate the facts is to allow yourself to identify the worst possible scenario. This often helps us rationalize situations. It usually lets us reflect how unlikely that scenario actually is, or provide us with better ways to cope with that scenario if it were to occur. Most of all, it can help us identify our biggest fears and allow us to share them honestly in prayer with God.

Circumstances outside of our control can often cause worry and anxiety. A turbulent storm can grow in our minds if we allow it to cause emotional despair. Although worry is an automatic reaction, we can still choose where we place our focus while we sit through the storm. In Mark 4: 35-41, we see the disciples become overwhelmed with fear and worry during a storm. Allowing their emotions to take over, they forgot the facts in that present moment: Jesus was onboard. And His presence alone could have dissipated any anxiety about facing the storm. **R**

Small Schools Make Big Impacts

By *Glasmine Ellis*

Ellis is the principal and teacher of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist School. The Kindergarten through eighth-grade school in Texarkana, Texas, has 13 energetic and helpful students.

The Bethel Seventh-day Adventist School values its students and continuously seeks avenues where they may share the love of Jesus. In alignment with the mission of the school, I set out to find opportunities for our students to serve those who are less fortunate. In collaboration with local community organizations, we partnered with the Texarkana Friendship Center, a non-profit care provider rendering life sustaining assistance to the indigent and job training and placement for able-bodied clients without regard to religious preference, political affiliation, sex, race, handicap or other classification. TFCI feeds an average of 180 people and provides groceries for 14 families on a daily basis.

We have visited the Texarkana Friendship Center a few times and sharing this experience with my students is one of the most rewarding and humbling activities we can do with them. On one particular visit in December, we arrived at the center in time to set out the meal. Our students were humbled seeing people who were utterly destitute: men, women, and even little children. When the doors swung open, there was a sea of TFCI clients already waiting to get inside. I stood quietly at the door, eagerly watching to see the bedlam that might take place.


“Teacher, would you offer the blessing?” I heard someone behind me say in a calm voice. I happily agreed and was taken back by what happened next. As I said, “Let us pray,” instantly all the men, in one graceful movement as if perfectly choreographed, removed their hats and bowed their heads. It had been quite a while since I had seen such grace displayed among a hungry crowd. The TFCI clients entered the

center and enjoyed a delicious meal.

Our staff and students visited with the individuals as they ate. We shared time together and offered kind and encouraging words. Bethel Church pastor, Kenneth Edwards, joined us and his contribution brought cheer to all.

The visit to the Texarkana Friendship Center reminded us of the important and relevant directive Jesus gave us in Matthew 25:40, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Another celebratory note I would like to share is about our students’ commitment to Christ. The Bethel Seventh-day Adventist School always wants to encourage its students to nurture their love for Jesus and as part of our Bible class curriculum, we incorporated Bible studies. I began by taking the students through the Fundamental Beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and Pastor Edwards concluded the studies inviting our students to be baptized.

After months of in-depth Bible studies, two eighth grade students, Brooke Brandenberger and Savannah McGowen, gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized on April 8, 2017. Incidentally, Savannah’s sister, Mykayla McGowen, who had graduated from our school two years ago, was also baptized that day. We felt heaven rejoice with our school, the family, and friends of these committed young people. Although our school may be a bit small it is full of love, energy and a growing desire to teach and live as Christ did. 



Journey to the Top

A Once-in-a-lifetime Volcanic Adventure

“Do you want to climb up a volcano on a two-hour hike, or go swim in the volcanic lake and take a boat tour?” our youth leaders asked us. A group of us teenagers were at the end of a week-long mission trip to Honduras. After doing



Vacation Bible School and building a church, we were taking a mini vacation in Antigua, Guatemala. My two younger brothers, Nick and Martin, were a part of our group, as were my best friend, Tati, and her older brother Larry.

“Tati! It’s a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!” I told her, “When are we ever going to climb a volcano again?” Tati and Nick seemed a bit reluctant, but I convinced them to join the larger group. We began our great adventure, while Martin and Larry chose to go swimming instead.

What we were told would be a two-hour hike turned into a gruesome feat. Our out-of-shape couch potato bodies couldn’t handle the climb as efficiently as our guide. During a break, a friend offered to carry our sack lunches in his backpack. We’d been awkwardly hauling them along and it seemed like a great idea. We kept hiking. The steeper it got, the slower we went.

Tati, Nick, and I started to lag behind with our friend, Claudette, and pretty soon they were out of sight. The oldest of the four, she encouraged us to keep moving. We took short breaks, reminding ourselves we’d come this far—we just needed to push a little more. But two hours turned into three and three

turned into four. We were tired and hungry. Only the thought of our delicious sandwiches kept us going.

Five hours after beginning our trek we reached the top of the volcano! The rest of our group had arrived more than an hour before. They had eaten lunch and were resting comfortably with full bellies. When they saw us, their eyes widened. “We thought you guys had turned around!” they said. It wasn’t exactly the reception we were expecting, but we were too tired to be offended.

“Can we have our lunches?” we asked our backpack-toting friend. “Well, we thought you guys had changed your minds. We were really hungry and didn’t want your food to go to waste... so we ate it,” he said. “I’m sorry.”

Hours of excruciating hiking in the humid jungles of Central America, only to make it 12,000 feet above sea level to end up with no food! We were angry and felt betrayed. How could they do that to us? We trusted them!

Then, Claudette stepped in to save the day. She had kept her lunch in her backpack and she was willing to share it with us. One sandwich, two pieces of fruit, and two granola bars. It was nowhere near enough, but it was food. We split the meager items four ways and ate quietly away from the others.

If that whole ordeal wasn’t enough, 30 minutes later we heard our leaders say, “Time to go, get your things together. We need to start heading down.” Lamenting the fact that we had barely rested, we joined our group for the hour-and-a-half descent.

We laugh about that trip now, but I learned something very important that day. Just as Claudette was there to encourage us along the way and not give up on us, Jesus walks beside us every day, climbing the volcanoes of life with us. Although we needed our sack lunches, Claudette’s lunch was just enough to keep the four of us nourished and energized to finish the hike. Jesus is like that. He may not give us everything we want, even when we think we deserve it, but He will give us just what we need to keep going.

P.S. When we returned to our hotel, Martin and Larry, who had chosen to go swimming instead of climbing the volcano, told us that they had the time of their lives. Tati has never let me forget that I forced her into that “once-in-a-lifetime” experience, although that has not kept her from going on new adventures across the world. As for me, four years ago I did make it to the top of yet another volcano, Haleakala, in Hawaii! Wherever life takes you, just remember to take Jesus on your adventure.

By Kristina Pascual Lockhart



we also **GLORY** in **our** sufferings, because **we** know that **suffering** produces perseverance; **PERSEVERANCE, character; and character, HOPE.**

Romans 5:3-4



6 Ways to Say **VOLCANO**

- Spanish: Volcán
- Filipino: Bulkan
- Finnish: Tulivuori
- Greek: Ifaisteio
- Hawaiian: Lua pele
- Indonesian: Gunung berapi



May EVENTS

5-7

Texico Conference
Adventure Family Camp;
Caballo Lake State
Park, NM. 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;
Keene, TX. SWAU.edu
817.645.3921

18-21

**Southwest Region
Conference** Public Affairs
and Religious Liberty
Summit; Dallas, TX.
MySouthwestRegion.org
214.943.4491

19-21

**Arkansas-Louisiana
Conference** Spanish
Lay Training; Camp
Yorktown Bay. Mountain
Pine, AR. ArkLaSDA.org
318.631.6240

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.

31-June 3

Texas Conference Keene
Camp Meeting; Keene, TX.
KeeneCampMeeting.com



June EVENTS

4-July 28

Oklahoma Conference
Summer Camp | Wewoka
Woods Adventist Center
OklahomaAdventist.org
405.721.6110

9-17

**Southwest Region
Conference** Camp Meeting
(English and Spanish); Lone
Star Camp, Athens, TX.
MySouthwestRegion.org
214.943.4491

9-10

**Arkansas-Louisiana
Conference** Spanish
Camp Meeting; Gentry,
AR. ArkLaSDA.org
318.631.6240

18-July 2

**Southwest Region
Conference** Summer
Camp | Lone Star Camp
MySouthwestRegion.org
214.943.4491

11-July 16

Texas Conference
Summer Camp
Lake Whitney Ranch
TexasAdventist.org
817.790.2255

29-July 2

Texico Conference Camp
Meeting; Bonita Park Camp,
Capitan, NM. Texico.org
505.244.1611

11-July 23

**Arkansas-Louisiana
Conference** Summer
Camp Camp Yorktown Bay;
ArkLaSDA.org
318.631.6240

For more events and
information, including
the sunset calendar, visit
SouthwesternAdventist.org



Mission to New Orleans

Union Youth and Young Adults Volunteer in Louisiana

New Orleans, La. » The Southwestern Union youth and young adult department hosted a youth and young adult mission trip to New Orleans March 12 to 18, with more than 100 volunteers engaging and serving the community.

The service projects included helping those who were victims of a recent tornado. They helped an elderly man put tarps on his house, helped a church try to salvage some of its furniture, performed beautification in the Ninth

Ward, adopted grandparents, and visited them in the nursing home.

They cut grass, picked up trash from the tornado, and even cleaned up debris that had remained untouched since 2005's Hurricane Katrina.

On Sabbath morning, March 18, the group had a joint church service with the area churches coming together for one worship service with 650 to 700 people. After the service, the youth held a parade in the New Orleans East com-

munity, promoting an end to violence.

The parade concluded with a rally in the park sharing the message of God's love. The parade and rally reached more than 300 individuals from the community, with volunteers passing out tracts and praying with the citizens.

For more information you can follow us at #MoreCompassionNOLA

*By Helvis Moody
Youth and Young Adult Director*



More Hope

2017: The Year of Evangelism

Burleson, Texas » The Southwestern Union has placed a special emphasis on evangelism for 2017, and is offering special resources to achieve goals and objectives in evangelization, layperson mobilization, and soul winning. Among the many resources that are being made available, the Southwestern Union is offering additional financial resources to the conferences. In addition to these resources, the union staff, including administration and departmental directors, are getting involved in different evangelism campaigns throughout the territory.

Furthermore, at the beginning of

the year, the union offered, through the conferences, an appropriation of \$1,000 to the first 340 churches that would apply to participate in evangelism during September and October.

As of April 1, more than 400 churches had signed up. We thank the conferences' administrations, as well as the evangelism directors, for supporting and promoting this project in their territories. And, of course, we thank our dedicated pastors for making this possible with their congregations. Also, we are promoting, in partnership with the conferences' leadership, the plan

to prepare with small groups for the reaping campaigns. The Southwestern Union developed a set of Bible studies entitled MORE HOPE, which include DVDs and lessons. If your church has not signed up to be part of the fall evangelism, and you would like to see your church be part of it, contact your conference evangelism director. God will bless your efforts and you will experience the joy of seeing souls won for Christ.

*By Eduardo Canales
Vice President for Evangelism*

Navajo Mission Trip

Students Build Community Garden and Host VBS

Keene, Texas » A group of 35 students and sponsors from Southwestern Adventist University and Chisholm Trail Academy traveled to the border of Arizona and New Mexico to complete the work God had for them in the Navajo Nation. The Gallup All-Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted the group.

The vision of the Gallup church is to expand their ministry to the Navajo reservation through programs that promote healthier lifestyles. A community garden provides various opportunities to minister through the production and sale of fresh produce and the introduction of programs that promote healthy choices. Faculty from the University's religion and business departments collaborated on the best way to create an impact. Through funding from a Unilever Bright Futures grant, secured by Southwestern's Enactus team, along with private donations, the multi-use garden space became a reality.

Snowy weather caused valid concerns for the construction project. As the snow melted, a layer of mud formed over the frozen ground. Contingency plans for securing heavy equipment allowed the project to move forward. Answered prayers came in the form of strong winds that dried up the ground and allowed work to progress. The team completed the construction of a garden area that includes a greenhouse, 12 elevated growing beds, and secure fencing.

In addition to the building project, the mission team had the opportunity to provide a Vacation Bible School program at Rez Refuge. Rez Refuge is a community center in Fort Defiance, an impoverished area on the Navajo reservation that is plagued with many social and economic adversities. The center provides safe after school programming. They also implement supplemental programs such as a garden program, cooking classes, music, and summer activities. The response to the VBS program was overwhelming! Over 20 enthusiastic children participated. Each day they learned about virtues such as compassion, patience, and self-control through Bible stories, crafts, science experiments, and songs.

God blessed the work of this mission team with successful outcomes and positive interactions. However, the definitive goal is that the seeds of our labor result in the glorification of God before all nations. Isaiah 61:11 states "For as the soil makes the sprout come up and a garden causes seeds to grow, so the Sovereign Lord will make righteousness and praise spring up before all nations." Ultimately, God has a plan to use our willingness to "go" in ways that far exceed our goals and expectations.

By Ana Patterson, Business Professor and Enactus Team Sponsor (Alumna)



Leroy J. Leiski

Remembering and Honoring God's Servant



Seventh-day Adventist pastor and administrator LeRoy J. Leiske was a man who couldn't stop improving things, friends and colleagues said when remembering the longtime leader. Leiske, 96, a former Southwestern Adventist University president who also was president of two church unions and who for seven years headed church-owned Pacific Press, passed to his rest on December 22, 2016, in Keene, Texas.

Leiske's improvements ranged from the small, such as noticing a well-worn path on a college campus and installing a paved walkway, to the momentous, such as integrating the faculty and board of trustees of what was then Southern Missionary College, today known as Southern Adventist University.

That move—along with efforts to integrate the Southern Union's existing conferences—quickly ended Leiske's first venture as a union president during the turbulent 1960s civil rights period.

Being so quickly voted out of office, said Karl Konrad, chemistry professor emeritus at Southwestern Adventist University and a friend of Leiske's for more than 45 years, might have embittered some, but not Leiske, who later told Konrad, "When I finished my term, I went to all the people that voted against me and told them I would not have any hard feelings."

After his Southern Union experience, Leiske stepped away from active min-

istry for a time, becoming successful in several businesses. A telephone call from Southwestern Union president Benjamin E. Leach, Sr., brought Leiske back into ministry, serving small congregations in Texas and New Mexico. Retired Southwestern Union president Max Trevino, who first got to know Leiske during those years, said the former union president didn't mind helping to pitch tents in the far north of Texas.

In 1968, Leiske was called to what was then Southwestern Adventist College to head up fundraising; his business cards read, "Director of Development and Frequent Beggar." The "begging" paid off: During his time as director of development, Leiske organized the Committee of 100 and directed construction of the cafeteria. In 1971, Leiske became president of the school, where enrollment had dwindled to 367 students. Finances were precarious, and the conditions on campus, Konrad recalled, were starting to show some wear.

Leiski's optimism permeated the Southwestern college campus. There were many substantial capital improvements during Leiske's era. He oversaw the conversion of the Pultar Pavilion into the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium. He also designed, fundraised, and took vacation time with his wife to build Callcott Student Park.

Leiske's interest in the school extended far beyond the physical plant. "He

memorized the 'look book' of student pictures, so he could address them by their first name. He liked people and he was very sociable," Konrad says. By the end of Leiske's presidency in 1974, enrollment had climbed from 367 to 700.

Southwestern honored Leiske with its Pioneer Award during the 2008 commencement. "I had the privilege to meet with Elder Leiske shortly after becoming president," Southwestern president Dr. Ken Shaw said. "It was an honor to meet him and hear his stories. He still had the twinkle in his eye and the warm personality we've heard so many alumni recall."

Leiske also served as president of the church's Northern Union and was later president of Pacific Press Publishing Association. In retirement, Leiske returned to the Keene, Texas, area, where he served as mayor.

LeRoy J. Leiske was born July 27, 1920 in Bentley, Alberta, Canada. He married Sylvia Lockert on June 1, 1943 in Bemidji, Minnesota; together, the couple shared 68 years of marriage before she died in 2012.

Konrad, the retired SWAU professor, said of his friend: "He died living a full life. There's only one LeRoy Leiske."

By Mark A. Kellner. This article is reprinted with the permission of the Adventist Review. It has been edited for length. A link to the full version is available at www.SWURecord.org.

A Little Rain

But God Promises a Rose Garden



Country singer Lynn Anderson wrote and sang the lyrics of this song that made her internationally popular in the early 1970s: “I beg your pardon. I never promised you a rose garden. Along with the sunshine, there’s gotta be a little rain some time.” From the standpoint of nature, she was very correct. You’ll never have roses if all you ever have is sunshine. There has to be rain some time.

However, Anderson was somewhat correct from a theological perspective, as well. With the entrance of sin, God allowed the consequence of sin to reveal itself. To Adam, God said, “By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food,” and to Eve, He said, “with painful labor you will give birth to children,” (Gen 3:19, 16). We all enjoy eating, but we don’t revel in having to work in order to have something to eat. Going through childbirth is indeed a painful experience, but to hear your child say, “I love you,” is priceless. There’s gotta be a little rain some time.

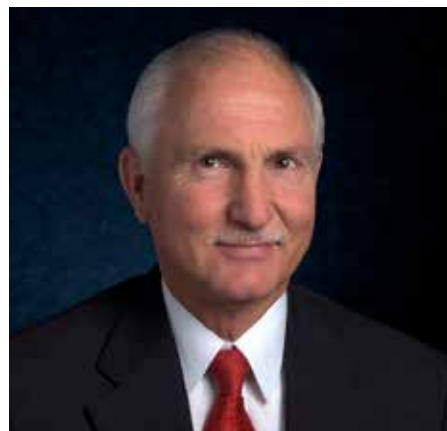
The Apostle Peter wrote encouragement to his fellow Christians when he said: “Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you” (1 Peter 4:12). Challenges will come. Obstacles will be faced. Problems will arise. Don’t be surprised. Paul added the following words, in 2 Tim. 3:12, “In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.”

Even though we are distressed and grieved by trials, and our faith – which is much more precious than gold – is tested by fire, that kind of faith and trust in God will bring praise, honor, and glory to Jesus at the time of His return (1 Peter 1:5-7). That kind of faith is the real key to facing challenges along the pathway of life.

Today, God is not promising us a stress-free journey with no pain or suffering, and life without challenges and pitfalls. But He does promise that as by faith we look to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, we will be strengthened and upheld by His righteous right hand and He promises that He will never leave us or forsake us. “Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken,” says Psalm 55:22.

The truth is, God will have a garden—full of roses—for us in His new Garden of Eden. He has promised a “rose garden” for those who love and trust Him.

Stephen Orian, President



Dinner with Doctors

Conway Church Hosts Health Outreach Program

Conway, Ark. » On Thursday, February 9, 2017, the Conway Seventh-day Adventist Church successfully implemented its “Dinner with Doctors” event, held in the auditorium of the Conway Regional Medical Center. This health-focused community outreach program was established to introduce the community to the Seventh-day Adventist health message. Attendees were given information on how to prevent and recover from the effects of some common health and lifestyle problems.

Guests signed up for door prizes and took advantage of individual sessions with the health professionals. Attendees could have their blood pressure tested, blood sugar checked, and have their body mass index measured if they desired. A wonderful vegan meal was prepared and served by members of the

Conway church with the help of Doris Keyes, child nutrition manager at Morrilton Elementary School.

The medical practitioners who assisted in the interviews and assessments were: Dr. Annette Anderson, hypertension; Dr. David Anderson, promotion of better sleep; Chaplain Ron Holloway, prayer and meditation; Becky Samuel, APRN, blood pressure, blood sugar/BMI testing; Dr. Randy Register, posture/mobility; Dr. Meshach Samuel, diabetes; and Dr. Sangeeth Samuel, cholesterol.

Three short health lectures were presented during the meal. Dr. Meshach Samuel presented interesting facts about diabetes and its prevalence in our culture and listed ways to minimize its effects. Dr. Annette Anderson presented ways a person can lower the chances of having a heart attack and how to lower hyper-

tenion by a change in lifestyle and diet. She emphasized the positive effects of a vegetarian diet. Dr. Sangeeth Samuel presented some of the myths and facts about cholesterol in our bodies and diets.

The attendees were also invited to join a Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP) which is scheduled to begin soon in Little Rock, Ark. CHIP is designed to reduce disease risk factors through better health habits, improving dietary choices, and adopting regular exercise regimes.

Sharon Dunaway, a psychotherapist and member of the Conway church, was responsible for leading out “Dinner with Doctors.” She is grateful for God’s leading and for all the volunteers who helped make it a success.

By Rusty Litten



Western Pizza Party

Heber Springs Members Enjoy Fellowship with Community

Heber Springs, Ark. » The Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church recently hosted a “Western Pizza Party” with many attendees who came and enjoyed the sweet fellowship.

As we continue to reach out to our

community and bring the light of God’s love to those in need, we continually look for avenues to do that. It was a lot of fun with great fellowship and spiritual renewal. Our children were delighted to find an excuse to dress in western

gear, and everyone enjoyed the food. We took the opportunity to share with the young man who took our orders for the pizza and to reach out to him. It’s the little things that show we care!

By Judith Newton

Healing Waters

Pastor Continues Ministry After Near-fatal Accident

Harrison, Ark. » On April 7, 2016, a nearly fatal motorcycle accident landed Daniel and Mary Ann Kaffenberger in Springfield, Missouri's Mercy Hospital ICU, clinging tenuously to life. At the time, Daniel Kaffenberger was the district pastor of the Harrison and Berryville, Arkansas Seventh-day Adventist churches. Mary Ann lost her right leg a few inches above her knee and Daniel was in a coma for weeks. Yet, our Lord was with them through it all, and each are recovering, though not without loss. Daniel is left with total blindness in his right eye, and virtual blindness in his left eye. But, we praise the Lord he is still on fire for the Lord, and still enjoys preaching at least a couple of Sabbaths each month.

After Daniel regained consciousness in July, Jack Farrell, elder of the Ber-

ryville church, took Donald and Emma Guillon to visit him in the hospital. During this visit, Donald expressed his desire for baptism. Emma had already been baptized by Daniel.

Donald finally got his wish last December. With Guillon and Farrell help-

ing him into and out of the baptistry, Daniel managed to enter the baptistry in spite of his near total blindness. The Berryville Seventh-day Adventist Church happily welcomes Don into fellowship.

By Karyn Whitley



Family Fun Night

Adventurers Host Area Churches in Shreveport

Shreveport, La. » The Shreveport Whirlwinds Adventurer Club recently hosted a Family Fun Night with more than 70 people attending. The Shreveport Tornadoes Pathfinder Club began the evening with song service. Alice

Williams then gave a devotional about the importance of families, which was followed by a meal of haystacks and fun activities. One especially fun activity was building a tower out of spaghetti and marshmallows. The young people had

a wonderful time playing a cup game, with each side trying to get the cups either right side up or upside down. The Shreveport Whirlwinds Adventurers are looking forward to next year's event.

By Cynda Grant



Spiritual Thirst

Traveling the Dusty, Bumpy Road of Life



A cool breeze is a refreshing counterpart to the constant Kenyan dust circulating through our safari truck and coating everything in a fine powdery layer as we bounce from pothole to pothole along this country's infamous dirt roads. The dirt is thick on my skin, heavy in my lungs, and dry in my throat. I long for another large bottle of cold water available at our next stop that will wash away the dryness and relieve my thirst, temporarily.

Our mission team, made up of students and faculty from Tulsa Adventist Academy and Ozark Adventist Academy, participated in a music festival with students from Maxwell Adventist Academy in Nairobi before heading on an all-day bus ride to spend several days building faculty housing for a mission school in the western Maasai Mara region. Every day, we have faced challenges and every day, we have witnessed a loving God that is bigger than those challenges.

As I bounce along on our journey back to Nairobi, my mind is filled with thoughts and reflections on facing challenges in our spiritual journey. So many times in our lives, the dusty and bumpy roads that we travel become such a distraction that it draws our focus away from the countless blessings which surround us every day. We forget to smile, to be grateful and full of joy. Just like the fine dust that has covered our group for the last 11 hours of travel today, sin is constantly getting us dirty, clouding our vision, making it hard to breathe, and simply making our life uncomfortable. Even as those thoughts are going through my mind, they are met with the sound of music coming from students playing guitars and lifting their voices in praise to God. On this trip so many of us have realized or been reminded that no matter where we live this world, we will face challenges in life, especially spiritual ones. As I sat there on the bus with those children, all of us covered in dust, they shared a wonderful lesson with me. Little did those students realize that through their songs of praise, I was reminded that we are all called to praise Jesus while traveling this dusty, bumpy road called life. Being physically thirsty is a challenge. Experiencing spiritual thirst is an even greater challenge. Even though the dust of sin covers us all, Jesus promises to wash us clean through the power of His blood. He also promises us living water that will quench our thirst. In John 4:13, 14, Jesus says, "Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again and again. Anyone who drinks the water I give will never thirst—not ever. The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life" (MSG).

James Bokovoy, Communication Director



Working Together

Oklahoma Academy Students Teach Choctaw Sabbath School

Harrah » During the first quarter of each calendar year, the Oklahoma Academy junior class sends several students to the Choctaw Seventh-day Adventist Church to help teach the children's Sabbath school classes. This year, six students came to help us with our classes. This is part of their academy speech class.

Sophie, Kyle, and Mattie helped with the Primary class. Kyle blessed us

with his special musical talents, ably accompanying our children as they sang songs during class. The student teachers took turns teaching the Sabbath school lesson. Robin Sagel, the primary leader, always gives the lesson materials to the students and lets them prepare and teach the lessons in whatever way they choose. They also help with other parts of the Sabbath school class whenever

they are asked to do so.

Our three student teachers were talented and capable, and did a wonderful job. It's a privilege to meet our young people who are preparing for leadership and service to God. Our Choctaw children enjoy having new teachers, and everybody benefits from the experience.

By Robin Sagel



The Beatitudes of Hope

Seventh Annual African American History Program

Bristow » The Bristow Seventh-day Adventist Church marked its seventh annual African American History program on February 25, 2017, with *The Beatitudes of Hope*. Virginia Echols Harrison, former college professor, co-sponsors the program with her husband, John.

In this year's program, Harrison used portions of the beatitudes in Matthew 5 to emphasize the contributions of the selected honorees of the day's program. She also used Romans 8:24-25 to explain that White America did not need to "hope" for privilege—it was theirs by birth. However, Native Americans, Hispanic Americans and African Amer-

icans were still "patiently waiting for the 'hope' of equal privilege" in America.

To further illustrate the point of waiting for hope, four male volunteers consented to dramatize the "Greensboro's Four" sit-in demonstration at Woolworth's luncheon counter in 1960. Harrison pointed out that they didn't want more; they didn't want better; they didn't want different; they simply wanted "privilege"; they desired a different perspective; they wanted the opportunity to experience what their "privileged" counterparts experienced—civility, to be looked upon as a person—*equally!* Therefore, they hoped and waited to be served at an "all white" luncheon counter in

Greensboro, N. C. Their act of courage set off spontaneous sit-in demonstrations, changing the face of America and leading to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

This program, normally held during vespers, was granted the 11 o'clock hour service. Musically, it featured local talents Carmen Still and Lyla Krejci, along with Eunice Dunning, of Las Vegas, Nev.

During the close of her presentation, Harrison showed some optical illusions, which she used to challenge the congregation to seek a new perspective regarding racial differences.

By Virginia Echols Harrison

Oklahoma International

Members Remember Outdoor Church at Lake Draper

Tulsa » Happy Sabbath! The welcome we share with our brothers and sisters in Christ each Sabbath was missed in mid-January, as Oklahoma was to have the “worst ice storm we’ve seen in a decade!” Many churches cancelled services and most of us chose to worship at home. We joined in prayer during the Ten Days of prayer and one of our prayer requests was that we would be spared this ice storm with the loss of electricity that often accompanies an ice storm. And God was good! Though schools, businesses, and churches closed for two days, Friday and Saturday, there

was no ice! Our Creator responds so mercifully to our prayers.

On cold, cloudy Sabbaths like that day, thoughts often turn to God’s beautiful creation and the anticipation of Spring. Last Spring, the Oklahoma International Church enjoyed “Outdoor Church” at a park on Draper Lake. It was wonderful! We shared a simple lunch of sandwiches, chips and desserts. There was lots of good music, a wonderful sermon and plenty of fresh air and sunshine. It’s a true blessing to spend time out in God’s creation with fellow believers. One of our little ones

kept bringing me small yellow flowers he had found. They were beautiful and delicate as was that little fellow. The birds were singing their lovely songs. The clouds drifted slowly overhead. On a cold, rainy day, it’s nice to think ahead to another “Outdoor Church” with our beloved church family in the Spring. Won’t it be grand to have this beautiful earth recreated by our Father where we’ll never be isolated from the family of God because of ice and snow?

By Peggy Devinish



Annual Chilli Cook-Off

Broken Arrow Members Feast and Fellowship

Broken Arrow » The Broken Arrow Seventh-day Adventist Church hosts an annual Pathfinder fundraiser at the Estancia clubhouse hosted by Greg Marquette. This year, \$860 was raised to finance upcoming Pathfinder activities. In addition to the highly-anticipated chili cook-off, two new contests were added: cake walks and cupcake decorating.

Using his grandmother's secret recipe, Joe Campbell again won first place for best tasting chili. Silas Harmon came in

second, and Barbara Calvert took third.

Barbara also won first and second prize for cupcake decorating. This was the best attendance for this annual event and, if enthusiasm is an indicator, we can expect next year to be even bigger and better. Thanks to everyone for their contributions!

By Judy Marquette



Yet I Will Trust Him

Facing Challenges with Positivity and Determination



One of the most disconcerting experiences to confront an individual along life's journey is what to do when faced with a challenge. It's mighty hard sometimes for someone who's standing in the midnight of circumstances to believe it's the darkest just before dawn. It's very difficult sometimes for someone who's been washed by adversity and drenched in despair to believe that "weeping may endure for a night; but somehow joy will come in the morning." It's rather daunting sometimes for someone to muster the fortitude to look a challenge in the eye and to say with the unbounded resolution of Job, "Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

I sat and watched one day as a tiny lime-green caterpillar slid down the curb and set out to cross the busy street in front of my home. At first I was tempted to rescue it from its apparent stupidity. It had to be 20 feet to the other side of the street, and cars were constantly whizzing by. Suddenly, an impish grin crept across my face as I thought of how cool it would be to see if that little caterpillar could actually make it across without becoming an unexpected lime-green street marking. I decided to sit back and watch as it set out on its mad and mindless mission.

One car passed, then another; several more followed, and still nothing happened. Admittedly I began to feel somewhat cheated because the caterpillar had already made it halfway across the street. Suddenly my heart began to beat wildly with anticipation, my muscles tensed expectantly, and my breathing quickened with excitement as I observed a great big 18-wheeler barreling down the street in the very path of that little caterpillar. I thought to myself that now it only had a one in 18 chance of survival!

As the truck came nearer, I stood to my feet with arms raised heavenward and let out a shriek of delight as that tiny lime-green caterpillar disappeared beneath the girth of that large truck. However, when the dust settled, my heart sank once again as I watched the tiny silhouette of a determined little caterpillar make its way victoriously to the other side. I remember thinking how stupid that bug was for even attempting such a feat, and how foolish I now felt having witnessed its success. It didn't seem concerned about the vastness of the street compared to the smallness of its tiny frame. It didn't seem phased by the fleetness of the traffic versus its lack of speed. It seemed to dismiss the possibility of failing, and embraced the challenge to succeed. I learned a valuable lesson from that tiny little insect—I learned the lesson of attitude. It's your attitude that will determine how you respond to the challenges in your life.

It has been said that the difference between a stumbling block and a stepping stone is all in the way you use them. Will you face the challenges in your life with positivity and determination, or will you allow them to impede your personal and spiritual growth? Remember, it's your attitude that will determine how you respond to the challenges in your life. I believe the Apostle Paul summarized it best when he declared in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!"

Eddie C. Polite, Ministerial Director



March Gladness

Monroe and Winnsboro Churches Baptize New Members

Monroe, La. » In March, the Macedonia Seventh-day Adventist Church in Monroe, Louisiana added two new souls to its membership. An engaged couple formed the ultimate team in marrying Christ together as they plan to marry one another this coming summer. Both Clyde and Mary had been attending Macedonia for some time already, learning, studying, and worshipping with the church. They had become good friends with the members and their addition to the membership brings the saints at Macedonia great joy and gladness!

At the Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Winnsboro, two more

precious souls, Lee and Vanessa, were baptized and joined the church. They are a husband and wife who recently moved back to the area and were invited to the church by the wife's aunt. They had never heard of nor been to a Seventh-day Adventist Church before and were quickly embraced with welcoming arms and felt the love of Christ from the church members.

After several weeks of prayer and Bible study, Lee and Vanessa made their choice to follow God and live by His commandments through baptism!

Pastor Timothy Lee and the members of Macedonia and Maranatha give God

all the glory for the great things He is doing within the district. Pastor Lee and his churches have been praying at a set time each day for a year asking God to grow their churches in His Spirit and in number. God is answering!

Though the world may be excited for those who will slam-dunk their way to be a temporary championship team during March Madness, we are excited for those who have made the ultimate slam-dunk by baptism! They are joining the team of the Eternal Champion, Christ our Lord!

By Timothy Lee



Sabbath in the Park

More than 110 Children Experience Jesus in Nature

Sugar Land, Texas » The morning dawned bright and fair with a few clouds and soft breezes blowing as if fanned by angels' wings. It was April 1, and the Fondren Seventh-day Adventist Church was hosting its annual Sabbath in the Park at Oyster Creek Park. The emoji-themed event began with worship by Winsome Johnson and Erica Everett. The children rotated through six stations with games, arts, crafts, and snacks. A science/fitness station allowed children to enjoy making bubbles and exercising.

The events were catered for children from pre-school up to age 14 and were also attended by members from the Hebron Seventh-day Adventist Church and the World Harvest Outreach Church.

We greatly commend Jennifer Johnson, the Fondren church's children's ministries director, and her staff for dedication in serving over 110 children who experienced Jesus outside of the church walls on that memorable day.

*By Cheryl Harris
Children's Ministries Coordinator*



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 & Shepherdess Coordinator
South Atlantic Conference

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Facing Giants

The Lord Who Delivered David Will Deliver Us



The scene was impressive to say the least. On one mountaintop, the vast army of the Philistines with its undefeated champion, Goliath, was positioned, ready and willing to pounce upon its prey. On the opposite mountaintop were the armies of Israel, severely outmatched, sorely undermanned, and pitifully outgunned! According to 1 Samuel 17:3, a valley of certain death lay between them. On paper, this was a most unfair fight! There was literally no way for the army of Israel to have a wish or a prayer. They were defeated from the beginning, except for one detail: they were more than the army of Israel, this was God's army! God was in their midst. When God shows up, victories ensue.

Bringing the story into today's context, what are some of the giants that God's people face today? Division, strife, discontent, pride, envy, loss of focus, duplicity, etc. Just like Goliath, the giants of today tower above us, intimidating us, filling us with fear and apprehension. But just like then, God is also with us now. He never gives up on us even when we have given up on Him. With five little stones in his satchel, what odds did David really have against the menacing giant? But as it turns out, the fight wasn't between the scrawny David and the muscle-bound Goliath. It was between the Captain of the Lord's army, Christ Himself, and the master deceiver, Satan.

I am taken with the words of little David as he mentally, emotionally, and spiritually prepared to face the giant. While everyone else was talking about Goliath, he was talking about His Lord! David proclaims, "The Lord, Who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the claws of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine!" Absolute confidence in his Lord, his Savior, his Defender! That is precisely how you and I should approach the challenges and hurdles we face today. There are those times we feel sorely mismatched and prematurely defeated, but when we stand with Christ and in the power of His might, the odds of victory are turned sharply in favor of the Master's cause. There are battles that are personal, appetite, carnal lusts, and character development, and then there are battles that are more corporate in nature like unity, dedication to the task at hand (preaching the Gospel), and maintaining a heavenly outlook in the midst of a worldly environment. The battle bugle has sounded, the lines have been drawn, and the conflict rages. What is our position?

The world around us watches closely as we face the challenges of today's society. Our demeanor and our faith testify for or against the power of God to overcome any trial or test. May we remain faithful and true in the details and unseen battles of our lives that He may be glorified in all we do! May we be counted among the faithful, among the committed, among the redeemed ready to receive Him. Let us remember each other more in prayer and supplication as that day approaches.

Carlos J. Craig, President



Making Disciples

The Essence of Adventist Education

Cypress » Every Friday at The Oaks Adventist Christian School is chapel day. After a group of students lead song service, one of our pastors, teachers, students, or I provide a worship thought

Adventist education is all about leading students to accept Jesus Christ as their personal savior. Everything we do is predicated on that goal. We take seriously the Great Commission found in Matthew 28:19-20: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.” Our mission is quite clear. Through their classes, teachers share Jesus’s message of healing grace and the gift of salvation. Each day our students hear this message and many have responded by becoming disciples. These new disciples make more disciples and become better disciples.

At our chapel on Friday, February 10, our school witnessed the making of a new disciple for Jesus. One of our seniors, Rees Jackson, who was also one of our many non-Adventist students and a student at The Oaks for the past three years, responded to the invitation

to give his life to Christ and become His disciple. Rees was baptized in front of the entire student body. The Spring Branch Spanish church’s youth pastor, Samuel Vega, had studied with Rees and performed the baptism in a portable baptismal. There have been many students who have been baptized over the years, but this was the first on campus.

Making disciples is our mission. We are an integral part of the evangelistic arm of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each day for 180 days each

school year, professional Adventist Christian educators share the good news with their students. Year after year, students hear this message and respond to the Holy Spirit’s invitation. Each school is in a soul-winning partnership with local pastors and churches.

Support your local Adventist school with your time, your money, and your children. It’s an investment in the eternal. Adventist education is evangelism and evangelism is Adventist education.

By William Hahn, Principal



New Treasurer

Texas Conference Names Randy Terry

Alvarado » Randy Terry has accepted the call to serve as Texas Conference Treasurer and was voted by the Executive Committee in March. The previous Treasurer, Edwin Romero, accepted a call to serve in Adventist Retirement. Terry was previously Treasurer for the Upper Columbia Conference in Washington. Throughout his career, Randy has worked for the Columbia Union, Chesapeake, and Carolina Conferences as an accountant, assistant treasurer, and associate treasurer.

“Randy is a committed follower of Christ with a passion for the mission of the church,” says Bob Folkenberg, Jr., Upper Columbia Conference president. He has a business degree from Washington Adventist University, and is also a certified public accountant, certified financial planner, and trust officer. Terry and his wife, Tamara, have three sons: Joey, Jonathan, and James. The family enjoys cycling, hiking, and kayaking.

By Jason Busch, Communication Director



Medical Missionaries

Jefferson Christian Academy Adds Medical Training

Jefferson » Students at Jefferson Christian Academy (JCA) in Jefferson, Texas have been introduced to many aspects of the medical missionary work during their junior and senior religion classes. They have learned and practiced the benefits of natural treatments and remedies such as the healing aspect of a black strap molasses facial, hot and cold therapy, and learning and then lecturing others on the eight laws of health. During the semester, they focused on

some basic principles and information regarding medical missionary work and how it can impact their lives.

When learning about the biblical principles of health, the students learned that a good loaf of bread can be a sermon in itself. The class spent time in the school kitchen learning to bake bread. Each student produced enough for himself and others.

Although the black strap molasses facial seemed a little extreme at class

time, those who continued the therapy on their own were pleasantly surprised how quickly it cleared up blemishes and smoothed out their skin. Learning to take care of your body is big business today. There are new discoveries all the time about herbal concoctions that promote health. We are happy that our young people are learning healthful living, something that is part of our church heritage.

By Sylvia Downs



Super Bowl Outreach

Houston-area Members Hand Out 95,000 Tracts

Houston » The results of some things we do for the Lord will only be revealed in eternity, whether it's a message over the radio, a video seen across the globe, or a donation made that helps spread the gospel. Only God knows the reach of these actions.

Such is the case with the 95,000 tracts the Houston-area churches handed out during Super Bowl weekend. The Super Bowl attracts an influx of visitors from all over the country, if not the world, and I can't help but wonder what seeds will sprout from this effort. We had a small army of volunteers, many eager

to help but not sure if they had the courage. Nevertheless, we spent time together in prayer and singing and it reminded all that nothing can unite us more than working for Jesus.

With that in mind, the volunteers spread out all over the Super Bowl venue and started distributing the tracts both on Saturday and Sunday.

I was handing out material when a young lady named Brandee told me, "No, thank you," and walked on. However, after three steps she turned around and said, "Let me see that." She read the title which was "Sunday is for

football. Saturday is for _____!" She asked, "What is Saturday for?"

I replied, "You'll have to open it to find out."

Upon opening the material, she asked, "You're a Seventh-day Adventist, aren't you?" Afterward, she said, "I have been reading my Bible, and I believe you guys have the truth."

This encounter highlights the possibilities of the seeds planted. We hope to see her, and many others from that weekend, worshipping in an Adventist church soon.

By Gio Marin

Facing Challenges

Turning to God in Moments of Trouble



Those who seek to live a Christian life will face challenges. These challenges will test our trust and confidence in God. They will either make us stronger or drive us further away from God.

Elijah faced a major challenge. The battle between God’s prophet and the false gods in 1 Kings 18 is one of the most dynamic events in the Bible. On one side was Elijah, the representative of God, fighting alone for the Lord’s cause. On the other side were 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Ashtoreth. It was a battle of right and wrong, a symbol of the great controversy.

The challenge was simple: to prove which deity was real, God or Baal. Elijah didn’t want to simply prove that God was powerful, he wanted to prove that God was all-powerful! He was the only one who was worthy to be worshipped.

On Mount Carmel, Elijah challenged the people, the false prophets, and the king to decide either for God or for Baal.

“How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him,” (1 Kings 18:20, 21). He even outlined the rules of war: whoever responded with fire was the true God (1 Kings 18:24). All of the people agreed.

The priests were allowed to go first. After hours of yelling, screaming, dancing, cutting themselves, and working themselves into complete exhaustion from trying to persuade their god to answer by fire, they gave up and allowed Elijah his turn.

Elijah called the people to come near him. Using 12 stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, he built the altar of sacrifice. Wood and the sacrifice were placed on the altar. Then he ordered water to be poured on top, once, twice, three times (1 Kings 18:30-35). There was so much water that it filled the trench which was dug around the altar.

Then, looking to heaven, he prayed (1 King 18:36, 37). Immediately after his prayer ended, flames of fire descended from heaven, and the sacrifice was consumed by fire, along with the stones and the water.

Elijah faced many challenges that day on Mount Carmel. His main weapon against the false prophets and challenges was prayer. He didn’t turn to his own ability, or think of some man-made way to burn the sacrifice; he went straight to God. Elijah knew that the challenge was bigger than he could handle. He needed a miracle from God.

Many times we will face situations that are too big for us to handle. Problems will mount, circumstances will be over our heads and we won’t know what to do. We would do well to follow Elijah’s example and seek God through prayer. Rather than fearing what could happen, let us take everything to the Lord in prayer, knowing that He is all-powerful and will work in our lives to overcome the challenges we face.

By Lee-Roy Chacon, President



Winter Campout

Master Guides Learn to Survive Winter Conditions

Texico » For more than 25 years, Derral Reeve, Texico Conference Club Ministries Director, has been taking students, youth, and Master Guides into snow-covered areas to be trained in survival techniques. From January 13-15, a dozen Master Guides and Master Guide candidates joined him in the Jemez Mountains of Northern New Mexico for the weekend. Participants were from Amarillo and Lubbock, Texas, and Rio Rancho, New Mexico. Several of the attendees had participated before, but for about half, it was the first time.

The event has a two-part purpose. One is to learn the mechanics of how to build a shelter and survive in the snow. Several ways were presented to prepare a shelter. These included making an igloo, snow trench, and plastic bag construction. The second is spiritual renewal and preparation for the time of

trouble. For this, discussions and presentations were held around the campfire.

After arriving on Friday, each person participated in building the shelter they would stay in during the weekend. Most prepared shelters were made from filling plastic kitchen bags full of snow and piling them up to build walls. Next the top was crisscrossed with poles of dead trees and covered with a tarp. Finally, the top was covered with snow and the bottom filled with pine needles for additional insulation. Mike Thomas, from Rio Rancho, had come earlier in the week and piled snow up in a mound. He hollowed the mound out in an igloo shape for his shelter.

Each participant was given demonstrations and instruction on fire starting without matches. Then everyone had the opportunity to make fire with at least three of these techniques. Some of the

methods took quite a bit longer in cold than when they had practiced them in the warm summer.

During the evening and morning devotional times, participants were asked to share parts of their own spiritual journey. On Friday evening, each person told about how they had accepted Jesus and the circumstances around their baptism. Sabbath evening was a time of rejoicing as each person shared a specific experience when they knew Jesus had been with them and led in a specific way. On Sabbath morning, Reeve presented a message about the time of trouble and how the trouble would not be so much physical, like having to survive the elements, but more mental with the anguish of our steadfastness in Jesus and the uncertainty of those days.

By Derral W. Reeve, Texico Conference Club Ministries Director



Hero of Hacksaw Ridge

Deming Members Distribute Books to Moviegoers

Deming, N. Mex. » When the much-publicized film “Hacksaw Ridge” premiered, the Deming Seventh-day Adventist Church saw an opportunity to share the story of World War II hero Desmond Doss through the book, *Hero of Hacksaw*

Ridge. A generous donor helped purchase most of the books, and members distributed the book to moviegoers. We have since sent additional books.

As Veteran’s Day approached, Deming members decided to include free

tickets to view the documentary, “The Conscientious Objector,” at a local conference center. Most of the attendees were veterans. Copies of the book were made available to the community.

By Mary Mackey

Journey to Romania

Total Member Involvement Spreads to Eastern Europe

Texico » On February 7, I was on my way to Romania where I would be one of more than 2,000 speakers joining together to conduct evangelistic meetings throughout the country in conjunction with the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists' "Total Member Involvement" (TMI) initiative. Last year TMI meetings were held throughout Rwanda, Africa, with unprecedented success, but would it work in secularized Eastern Europe?

My destination was the city of Craiova in the southwestern portion of the country. I would be preaching in the church of Motoci, a small community north of the city. This congregation is made up of about 50 friendly members.

The members and I were pleasantly

surprised when 35 visitors attended the first night and attendance grew to over 45 as the series continued. This was quite a full house for this small church. As every chair was filled and more people were coming in the door, I invited people to come and sit on the side of platform. From that point forward, this became the children's section, where they sat quietly to my left while I was preaching.

One group of visitors stood out in my mind. I found out that they were gypsies who were seeking the truth from God's Word. Night after night they came and responded to the appeals to follow Christ. I had the opportunity to visit this group in one of their homes and we sat around their table enjoying the home-

made treats and spiritual conversation for two and a half hours. The man of the house finally declared, with tears streaming down both cheeks, "I have to know the truth of the Bible." This man and his wife both made the decision to prepare for baptism at the conclusion of our meetings.

Were our evangelistic endeavors successful? I believe they were and only in heaven will we know how great the effect was. On June 3, 2017, Romania is planning a country-wide baptism for all those who are ready to make this commitment. Please remember these people in your prayers as they accept Christ and make their decisions to live for Him.

By Sue Hinkle

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EMPLOYMENT

Walla Walla University is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to www.Jobs.WallaWalla.edu.

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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.

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PRESIDENTIAL JOB POSTING

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks a new president, to begin serving July 1, 2017. A successful candidate must be an active member of the Seventh-day Adventist denomination, with demonstrated leadership experience in higher education. Candidates for this position must have a commitment to academic excellence in an environment that affirms Christian faith.

PUC is looking for a person who is enthusiastic about the distinctive culture of a small, residential, liberal arts college in a unique natural setting. An ideal candidate must be prepared to make a long-term commitment to this assignment, i.e., three to 10 years. He or she must also be a persuasive communicator, able to inspire support from a variety of audiences, and to articulate a compelling vision of the college's mission.

The president is expected to exemplify the values of a life of learning, pursuing a leadership style based on teamwork, candor, and unwavering integrity.

Applicants for president of PUC are expected to have a doctorate in an academic discipline. College-level teaching experience is preferred.

The Presidential Search Committee seeks either recommendations or applications for this position at search@puc.edu.

as seen on HopeChannel

16 TASTY, HEALTHY RECIPES

Beet and Lentil Hummus

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 cup black beluga lentils, rinsed and soaked overnight
- 2 medium beets, peeled and cut into chunks
- 1 clove garlic, peeled and chopped
- 2 Tbsp tahini paste
- 2 Tbsp cold-pressed olive oil
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 tsp grated lemon zest
- 1 tsp sea salt

DIRECTIONS

Soak lentils for 6-8 hours in plenty of water. Drain and rinse soaked lentils, discarding the soak water. Bring lentils, beets, and 1 cup water to a boil in medium saucepan. Reduce heat to medium-low, cover, and simmer 15 to 20 minutes, or until all water is absorbed. Blend lentils and beets on high until smooth in a food processor. Add garlic while running to finely chop, then add tahini, oil, lemon juice, zest, and salt; process until creamy.

Apple Roses

INGREDIENTS

- 3-4 red apples

DIRECTIONS

Strip over the apples. ... to the other end and place in muffin tin or cinnamon roll pan. ... remove from oven and cool slightly from muffin tins. ... with a little powdered sugar.

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Obituaries

Bostwick, Jordis Hildred; born May 22, 1925; died March 1, 2017, Clarksville, Ark. Surviving: daughters, Patricia Dennis, Westby, Wisc.; Jacqueline Hicke, Milwaukee, Wisc.; Linda Landowski, Clarksville; Valli Rogers, Marshall, Wisc.; Sandra Kasa, Calif.; Deloris Holben Hempstead, N.C.; sons, David Bostwick, Clarksville; Howard Bostwick, Beaumont, Calif.; Timothy Bostwick, Revere, Mass.; 24 grandchildren.

España, Angelo; born Feb. 18, 1941, Quemado de Guines, Las Villas, Cuba; died Feb. 17, 2017, Keene, Texas. Surviving: wife, Ysis; children, Ivonne and Alex.

Hall, Patsy Johnson; born Oct. 21, 1930; died Feb. 16, 2017,

Ft. Smith, Ark. Surviving: daughters, Brenda Phillips, Calif.; Angie Johnson, Sallisaw, Okla.; Tanya Todd, Texas; Candy Eggert, Ft. Smith; Bridget Sonne, N. C.; step-son, Rick Hall, Muldrow, Okla.; sisters, Sallie Peters, Sallisaw; Chiquita Roberts, Ft. Smith.

Houghton, Don; born Jan. 19, 1934, Caddo, Texas; died Feb. 24, 2017, Cleburne, Texas. Surviving: wife, Mary; children, Daniel, Robin, Barry, Susan, Lisa, Bonnie, Jay, Patrick, and Scott.

James, Joseph Benedict, II; born July 6, 1955 in Peru, Ind.; died March 5, 2017, Claremore, Okla. Surviving: wife, Marla, Claremore; daughter, Lana Dipman, Claremore.

Korgan, Julius; born August 22, 1923, Council Bluffs, Iowa; died Feb. 12, 2017,

Back Pages

Claremore. Preceded in death by first wife, Evelyn; second wife, Joada; sons, Douglas and Alan. Surviving: son, Dwight Korgan, Claremore; daughters, Heather Korgan, Claremore; Barbara Olt, McAlester, Okla.; three grandchildren.

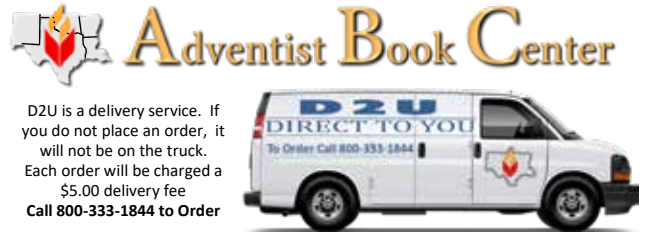
Parks, Calvin; born Feb. 6, 1933, Vinita, Okla.; died Dec. 25, 2016 in Tulsa, Okla. Surviving: wife, Caroline Parks.

Snyder, Charlie Benjamin; born July 8, 1969, San Diego, Calif.; died Feb. 19, 2017, Oklahoma City, Okla. Surviving: mother, Debbie Smith, Tulsa, Okla.; brother, James Snyder, Tulsa.

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

Submissions

To submit family milestones, obituaries, announcements, or address changes submissions, visit www.swurecord.org or call 817.295.0476.



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We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, May 15			
		Arrive	Depart
Georgetown, TX	5105 S I-35, Georgetown, TX 78626	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Austin South	132 Eberhart Ln, Austin, TX 78745	12:15 PM	12:45 PM
San Marcos	1523 Old Ranch Rd 12, San Marcos, TX 78666	2:05 PM	2:35 PM
San Antonio Highland Hills	2526 Goliad Rd, San Antonio, TX 78223	3:15 PM	3:45 PM
Floresville	724 US Hwy 181 S, Floresville, TX 78114	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
Beeville	902 N Polk St, Beeville, TX 78102	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
Tuesday, May 16			
		Arrive	Depart
Corpus Christi	6645 Downing St, Corpus Christi, TX 78414	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Alice	924 N Johnson St, Alice TX 78332	11:15 AM	11:45 AM
Harlingen	20811 Montezuma Rd, Harlingen, TX 78550	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Weslaco	1200 S Bridge Ave, Weslaco, TX 78596	3:45 PM	4:15 PM
McAllen Spanish Valley Central	6901 N Ware Rd, McAllen, TX 78504	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
Publicaciones Cristianas	6500 N 10th St, Suite L, McAllen, TX 78504	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Edinburg	602 W Wisconsin Rd, Edinburg, TX 78539	6:45 PM	7:15 PM
Wednesday, May 17			
		Arrive	Depart
Laredo Spanish North	3919 McPherson Ave, Laredo, TX 78041	11:00 AM	11:30 AM
San Antonio Laurel Heights	703 W Ashby Pl, San Antonio, TX 78212	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Kerrville	611 Harper Rd, Kerrville, TX 78028	4:45 PM	5:15 PM
Thursday, May 18			
		Arrive	Depart
Temple	1911 W Avenue H, Temple, TX 76504	11:00 AM	11:30 AM

Order Deadline for the Austin/San Antonio/Valley is Thursday, May 11. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

Direct to You Houston Route ORDER DEADLINE MAY 25

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, May 29			
		Arrive	Depart
Austin Stonehill	4301 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville, TX 78660	10:45 AM	11:15 AM
Austin Spanish First	100 W Rundberg Ln, Austin, TX 78753	12:15 PM	12:45 PM
Victoria	3103 E Mockingbird Ln, Victoria, TX 77904	3:30 PM	4:00 PM
Katy	1913 East Ave, Katy, TX 77493	6:10 PM	6:40 PM
Tuesday, May 30			
		Arrive	Depart
Houston West	2390 W Sam Houston Pkwy N, Houston TX 77043	8:00 AM	8:30 AM
Houston World Harvest	10800 Scott St Houston, TX 77047	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Houston Gulfhaven	10716 Sabo Rd, Houston, TX 77089	11:15 AM	11:45 AM
Houston Spring Creek	2190 Spring Creek Dr, Spring, TX 77373	12:55 PM	1:25 PM
Conroe Spanish	115 Silverdale Dr, Conroe, TX 77301	2:10 PM	2:40 PM
Huntsville	7660 State Highway 75 S, Huntsville, TX 77340	3:25 PM	3:55 PM
Bryan/College Station	1350 Earl Rudder Fwy S, College Station, TX 77840	5:15 PM	5:45 PM

Order Deadline for the Houston Route is Thursday, May 25. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

UP-COMING 2017 D2U Routes

Austin/San Antonio/Valley Route	Aug 21-24
Dallas	Aug 28
Houston Route	Sept 4-5
Fort Worth	Sept 11
Louisiana/East Texas	Sept 18-20
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	Oct 2-4
Eastern Oklahoma/ NW Arkansas	Oct 16-18
Arkansas/East Texas	Oct 30-Nov 1
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	Nov 13-15
Dallas Route	Nov 20

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Sunday, May 21 or
Sunday, June 11

10 a.m.-4 p.m.,
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2020

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Photo courtesy Caressa Rogers

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Alumni - Check our website at swau.edu/alumnievents for a list of strawberry shortcake events this summer.

April 14-15 | Louisiana Camp Meeting
April 22 | Target Houston - University Singers in Concert
April 21-22 | Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting
April 27 | Scenic Hills Church Camp Meeting
April 28-29 | New Creation Christian Fellowship Church
May 30-June 3 | Ozark Camp Meeting
May 30-June 3 | Keene Camp Meeting
June 2-4 | Oklahoma Spanish Camp Meeting

June 8-10 | NW Arkansas Spanish Camp Meeting
June 8-10, 16-17 | SW Regional English & Spanish Camp Meeting
June 29-July 1 | Texico Camp Meeting
July 14-15, 21-22 | Oklahoma Camp Meeting

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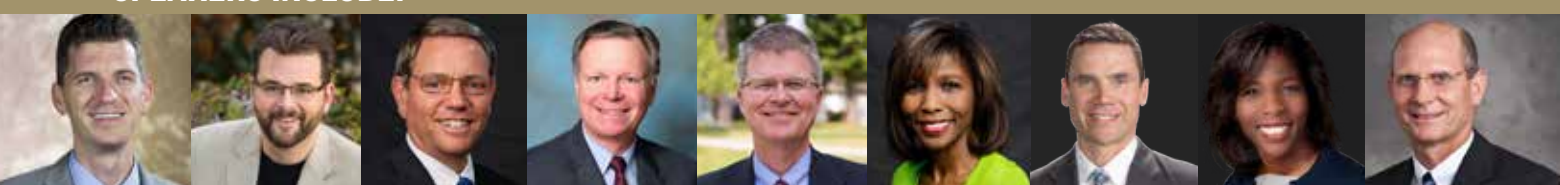


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