

Record

October 2017

- 4 Surviving the Longest Night
- 8 Pushing the Boundaries
- 10 Helping Each Other Up
- 13 Missionary Methods



Love Never Fails
Beyond My Comfort Zone

Beyond My Comfort Zone

Love Never Fails

Record

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EDITOR

Jessica L. Lozano, jlozano@swuc.org

MANAGING EDITOR

Kristina P. Lockhart, kplockhart@swuc.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Reggie Johnson, rjohnson@swuc.org

CIRCULATION

Tammy Prieto, tprieto@swuc.org

ADVERTISING

Bradley Ecord, becord@swuc.org

PROOFREADER

Caroline A. Fisher

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Sylvia Downs, news@arklac.org

OKLAHOMA

James Bokovoy, news@okla-adventist.org

SOUTHWEST REGION

Leslie Soupet, news@swrgc.org

TEXAS

Jason Busch, news@txsda.org

TEXICO

Debbie Márquez, news@texico.org

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Darcy Force, dforce@swau.edu

Southwestern Union Conference

777 South Burlison Blvd.
Burlison, Texas 76031
Mail: P.O. Box 4000
Burlison, TX, 76097
Phone: 817.295.0476
Email: record@swuc.org

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.

Features: { 7 Master Guides Step Forward
8 Love Never Fails

Columns: { 3 On the Record: Beyond My Comfort Zone
4 Inspiring: The Longest Night
10 Education: Helping the Other Up
13 Equipping: Missionary Methods
14 Little Readers: Lost! A Mountain Adventure

News: { 16 Southwestern Happenings
17 Southwestern Union
18 Southwestern Adventist University
20 Arkansas-Louisiana Conference
23 Oklahoma Conference
26 Southwest Region Conference
29 Texas Conference
32 Texico Conference

Back Pages: { 35 Classified Ads
36 Announcements
36 Obituaries

Editor's Note

Each of us has, at some point, felt anxiety and worry over some aspect of our personal interactions. Whether it is friends, relatives, colleagues, or strangers with whom we interact, fears of looking foolish for sharing who we are, or our fears of being rejected for intruding too much into the lives of others translates to inaction. We are called, however, to be people of action. We are called to “do to others what we would have them do to us” (Matthew 7:12).

As October begins we also begin a new quarterly theme, “Love Never Fails.” This month we will focus on what it means to intentionally insert our mandate to love one another into our daily interactions and move beyond our comfort zones.



Jessica L. Lozano

Love Never Fails

Moving Beyond My Comfort Zone



Larry Moore | President

When I became a Seventh-day Adventist at 12 years old, I was a little shy about sharing my faith. We hadn't practiced "sharing our faith" before so the concept was new and foreign to me. Now, we attended evangelistic meetings at our local church and I remember part of our responsibilities was passing out Bible study cards from the Voice of Prophecy Bible Study. My dad was the lay activities leader at the church, so I attended all of the evangelistic meetings and helped pass out literature by going door-to-door in the surrounding neighborhoods.

This was all way out of my comfort zone, but I learned to push through it and you know what? The good Lord blessed! I lived through it and God used my feeble efforts to tell the world of Jesus's Second Coming. As you challenge yourself to step out of your comfort zone and share with others the wonderful things Jesus has done in your life, remember these two verses: 2 Timothy 1:7, "For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline," and Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." I pray these words encourage you along your journey. May the Lord strengthen you and guide you as you allow the Holy Spirit to use you as an instrument of faith.

Life is full of routines. With the passing of time, our daily schedule settles down to a regular routine. We become so comfortable that we carry out our responsibilities with a great deal of normalcy. We settle into a comfort zone that is clearly ours, with predictable routines and familiar people.

As a pastor, I've witnessed members refuse to move from their comfort zone, jeopardizing their role in the sharing Jesus with others. As members of God's family, we know that we should work to advance the Gospel message, but going out of our comfort zones is a challenge for most.

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing;" John 15:5. God has given us the Holy Spirit who empowers us to live in harmony with the will of God and to share Him with others. God's Spirit energizes us out of our comfort zones and enables us to take a strong stand for Him.

Every day, the Lord presents us with opportunities to share Jesus Christ with someone. Ask the Lord to help us recognize and take advantage of those opportunities. Let's allow the Lord to bring us out of our zones of comfort and be used by Him to be a blessing to someone today. What you will quickly experience is a new level of comfort as you share with others the love of Jesus Christ.



Buford Griffith, Jr.
Executive Secretary

As I am writing this article, we have just had three major hurricanes hit the United States. Harvey had a tremendous impact in our Union, from Corpus Christi, Texas to Lake Charles, Louisiana. Those communities have had their lives completely disrupted. Some of our church members lost their homes or businesses, and many had their lives in danger at some point.

I am thankful for the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church and the members from around the country who have come to volunteer. They have not only come to help rebuild churches, but also to help our members and go into the community to help strangers. The North American Division, Adventist Development and Relief Agency, and Adventist Community Services are putting money into our Union to help people in need.

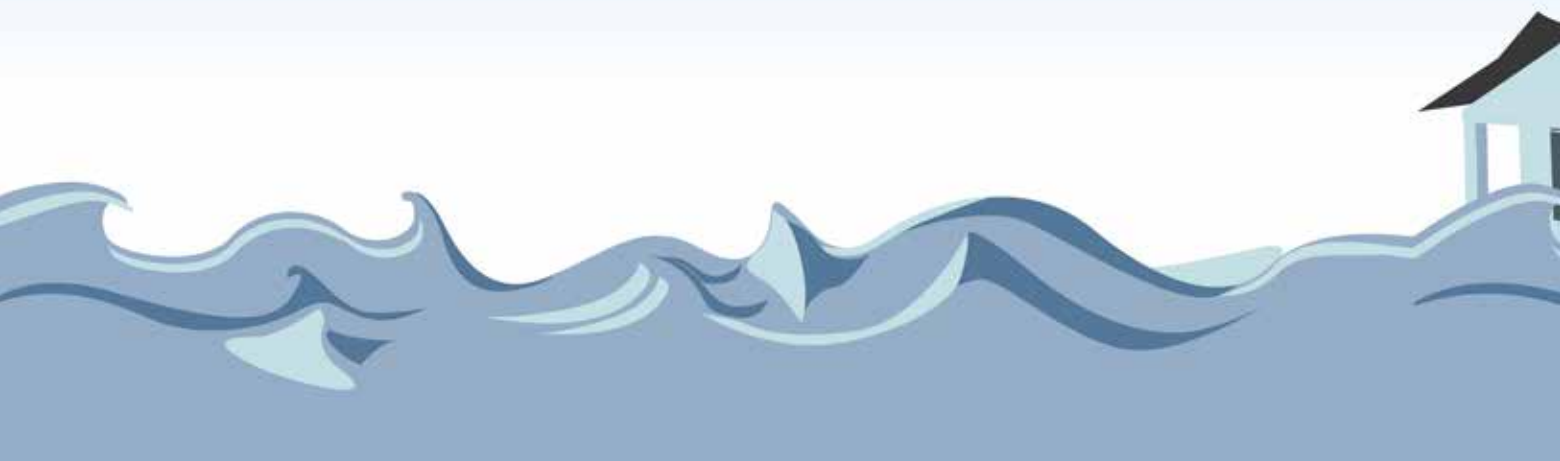
I have seen an incredible giving spirit from people. Church members went out to save people's lives, and people have gone in homes of complete strangers to help clean and make repairs. Our Church is not the buildings where we meet; our Church is the members showing Jesus to people in their communities. I don't know why God allows these tragic events to happen, but I do know that God's name is glorified when we reach out to help people in need.



John Page | Treasurer

La Noche Eterna The Longest Night

By Deyner Acosta



Ⓜ In anticipation of Hurricane Harvey’s landfall on the Texas Gulf Coast, my family and I took all of the standard precautions. Since I’m from Cuba, where we face these natural phenomenon on a yearly basis, I have had some experience in dealing with these intense storms. We reinforced the windows and gathered food and water. We prepared a first aid kit and had batteries handy for when the power went out. We moved our cars to the highest point of the apartment complex where we lived and placed all of our belongings on higher ground.

We kept up with the news and kept track of the storm as it approached Texas. The forecast that concerned us the most was the threat of torrential rains that would move over our home in Houston at a painstakingly slowly rate, causing major flooding. We live in an lower area surrounded by lakes, so it was crucial that we continued to monitor the situation.

As night fell, the power went out. We could only follow the news on our cell phones. All of a sudden, the water levels started to rise. In a matter of minutes the roads going out of our community were covered. The speed at which the water currents moved through the area was so strong that the entire first floor of our home was under water in just a few hours.

We went up to the second story of our apartment to escaping the rising water in our home. There, we began desperately calling the official rescue hotlines for help. As there were thousands of people in the same situation as us, securing our rescue was difficult. We spent the entire night asking for help. We found solidarity in other pastors and church members who

Ⓜ Ante la amenaza del huracán Harvey próximo a nuestra ciudad de Houston habíamos hecho todos los preparativos necesarios. Tenía experiencia ante los ciclones ya que provengo de Cuba y cada año hay que enfrentar el embate de fenómenos meteorológicos como estos. Protegimos las ventanas, almacenamos alimentos y agua, preparamos un botiquín de primeros auxilios, y baterías para cuando faltase la electricidad. Trasladamos los autos en la parte más alta del estacionamiento de nuestros apartamentos y pusimos en alto todo lo que pudimos.

Todo el tiempo estuvimos pendientes a las noticias observando el desplazamiento de la tormenta hacia el territorio Texano. Los pronósticos más preocupantes eran las abundantes lluvias y el desplazamiento lento y extendido, casi estacionario de esta depresión. El área donde vivimos es una zona baja y rodeada de lagos, por lo que se hacía prioritario seguir paso a paso cada detalle de lo que iba sucediendo.

Al comenzar la noche, se cortó la electricidad. Seguimos las noticias a través del teléfono celular. Comenzó a subir el agua tan rápido que en cuestión de minutos se bloquearon todas las salidas del área. La corriente que invadía aquella zona era tan fuerte que en unas pocas horas ya ha había sepultado toda la planta baja de nuestro edificio.

Subimos al segundo piso y desde allí comenzamos incansablemente a llamar a los números oficiales de rescate. Éramos miles de personas en la misma situación y se hacía difícil concretar un rescate. Pasamos toda la noche pidiendo auxilio y la



had joined our efforts to find rescue. Some even tried to reach us, but the authorities had the streets blocked. Only official rescue responders were allowed through.

The night seemed to last an eternity. We followed the instructions we had been given, trying to make ourselves as visible as possible by flashing lights in case rescuers came near. As dawn broke, we were able to see the shocking amount of water surrounding us, which was just a few feet below the second story window. The strong water currents dragged everything in their path and the long awaited rescue was nowhere to be found.

My wife and I were trapped in our home with four other adults and two children. We were among hundreds of tenants from our apartment complex awaiting rescue teams.

I kept praying and holding on to the promises of Psalms 46. I kept repeating the words of Psalms 56:3, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.” In the distance, we heard a helicopter approach. I jumped into the water to get their attention and my fearful plan worked. The

respuesta no se confirmaba. Uniéndose a nuestros clamores e intentos por encontrar una solución inmediata, se encontraban muchos pastores y hermanos de iglesia. Algunos intentaron ir hasta donde estábamos, pero las autoridades habían bloqueado el paso y solo podían ingresar rescatistas oficiales.

La noche pareció durar una eternidad. Seguimos las instrucciones que nos dieron: estar visibles y con luces en caso de que fuesen por nosotros. Así llegó la mañana y ya para ese entonces era espeluznante el volumen de agua que corría a pocos pies de distancia de nosotros. Fuertes corrientes arrastraban todo a su paso y el tan esperado rescate no acababa de llegar.

Éramos seis adultos y dos niños los que habíamos quedados atrapados y así como nosotros, cientos de inquilinos de los departamentos. Oraba sin cesar y confiaba en el Salmo 46. Repetí las palabras de Salmos 56:3, “En el día que temo, Yo en ti confío”. Sentimos un helicóptero que parecía acercarse y decidí lanzarme al agua para que pudiese verme. Mi temerario plan funcionó y el helicóptero me divisó

Dios es nuestro amparo y fortaleza, nuestro pronto auxilio en las tribulaciones. Por tanto, no temeremos, aunque la tierra sea removida, Y se traspasen los montes al corazón del mar; Aunque bramen y se turben sus aguas, Y tiemblen los montes a causa de su braveza.
Salmo 46:1-3

helicopter turned towards us as I waved my arms and signaled them towards my family and neighbors, who were waving an improvised white flag out of a window.

We thought that perhaps we would be rescued soon. It took hours, but a boat finally did arrive. The water currents were strong and we struggled to help a woman board the boat with her seven-month-old baby. My wife and son also boarded the boat, but as the women and children were the priority, we were forced to part ways and send them ahead to safety.

Time passed without any more official rescuers. Two members from one of the churches that I pastor managed to reach me on a two-person plastic kayak without paddles or life jackets. I jumped out to them and we began our escape through the turbulent waters affected by helicopters flying nearby.

As we moved forward, we came across a woman who was desperate and anxious for someone to help her. She couldn't swim and we knew the kayak couldn't support all of us. But we could not leave her behind. We got her on the kayak and kept going. After a few hundred feet, the kayak began to sink.

I grabbed onto the metal roof of a sunken structure and my church members jumped out to swim along on either side of the kayak. Moments later, a rescue diver appeared, along with a larger boat, to finally take us to a safe place.

God had everything in place to save our lives. He sent help for my wife and son in a rescue boat. He guided and protected the efforts of my faith-filled members who came to my rescue. And then, he provided official rescue at precisely the right moment to save the four of us from capsizing on a plastic kayak.

I can say without a shadow of a doubt that in addition to what God did to rescue me, I was also saved by my church. It was my fellow brothers in Christ who risked their lives so that I could live to tell this story. At the end of this whole ordeal, I can honestly say that I have gained more than what I lost, because I gained the reassurance that we are not alone, and that my brothers, sisters, and colleagues in ministry are not only servants of the Lord, but they are a great family.

Deyner Acosta is the pastor the Houston Spanish North and Kingwood Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Churches. He lives in Houston with his wife, Yóly, and children, Karen and Keyler.

mientras yo desde el agua hacía señales para que mirara hacia donde estaba mi familia pidiendo auxilios desesperadamente con una improvisada bandera blanca.

Pensamos que llegaría pronto la asistencia, pero se demoró horas. Finalmente llegó un bote y con mucha dificultad por las fuertes corrientes pudimos embarcar a una madre con su hijito de siete meses, y a mi esposa junto a mi hijo. Tuvimos que separarnos en ese momento porque la prioridad era salvar a las madres con los niños.

Pasó el tiempo y aun no llegaban los rescatistas oficiales. Dos miembros de una de mis iglesias se ingeniaron para llegar a mí en una canoa plástica con capacidad para dos personas, sin remos y sin salvavidas. Salté hasta el bote e intentamos salir a través de esas aguas turbulentas afectadas por los helicópteros a nuestro alrededor.

Mientras intentábamos avanzar encontramos a una señora desesperada por alguien que le ayudará. No podía nadar y sabíamos que el bote no soportaría cuatro personas, pero no pudimos dejarla atrás. La subimos al bote y no alcanzamos a avanzar 100 metros cuando comenzamos a hundirnos.

Me pude aferrar a una estructura de metal de un techo descubierto para impedir que el bote se hundiera y los dos hermanos comenzaron a nadar en cada extremo del bote. De repente apareció un buzo rescatista y un bote que nos sacó de inmediato hasta un lugar seguro. Evidentemente

Dios lo preparó todo para que salvásemos la vida. Envié por mi esposa y por mi niño en un bote seguro y luego ante el intento de mis hermanos de fe, envié refuerzos para evitar que los cuatro a bordo perdiéramos la vida. Puedo decir sin temor a equivocación alguna que además de lo que Dios orquestó para salvarnos, fui salvado por mi iglesia. Fueron mis hermanos los que arriesgaron la vida para que hoy pueda contarles esta historia. Al final puedo decir que gane más de los que perdí, pues gane la certeza de que no estamos solos y que mis hermanos y colegas en el ministerio son además de siervos del Señor, una gran familia.

Deyner Acosta es pastor de las Iglesias Adventistas del Séptimo Día Hispanas de Houston North y Kingwood. Vive en Houston con su esposa Yóly, y sus hijos, Karen y Keyler.

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging.
Psalm 46:1-3

Stepping Forward

Master Guides Mobilize to Rescue 89



Photo by Joe Raedle/Getty Images

Hurricane Harvey landed with destructive force. The effects of the storm became apparent to the world the last week of August. Unprecedented rain and forceful winds ravaged parts of Southeast Texas. Flood waters inundated roadways and neighborhoods, and left tens of thousands of residents stranded, their homes destroyed.

When Alberto Moreira, a member of the Central Regional Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Houston, received an early morning phone call from a church member who needed help evacuating, he didn't hesitate to act. Moreira is an active member of his church's Master Guide club. He contacted fellow Master Guides Isaac Díaz, Ernesto Barriga, and Asael Sanchez, who was in Houston only by chance. Sanchez, a pastor from Veracruz, Mexico, was traveling through the state on his way to Wisconsin. The hurricane altered his travel plans and he joined his friends


to help out their church members.

The four young men quickly made their way to an area in Southwest Houston near the intersection of Bissonnett St. and South Gessner Rd., where their church member and her family lived. They formed a plan to safely evacuate the church member, who was recovering from a recent surgery, and managed to get her and her family to dry land. They then helped two other families nearby who were also church members.

Realizing that there were many others who needed assistance, the group created makeshift rafts with air mattresses and rope and began evacuating the rest of the neighborhood, wading back and forth through the water to dry land. They dragged the rafts distances ranging from 1 to 1.5 miles. One young man helped evacuate a family with a 3-month-old baby by pulling them through two miles of flood waters.

Throughout the day, the Master

Guides were joined by two dozen more Central Regional members, half a dozen Master Guides from the Houston Alief Spanish Adventist Church, and half a dozen members of "Águilas Élite," a group of Adventist first responders. During the evacuations, a photojournalist captured Moreira (right) wearing a shirt from a Master Guide camporee and his Texas Conference Youth cap. The photo was shared on various news sites. The group continued rescue efforts alongside state officials until they were directed to go home for the night.

They were back at it the next morning, and by mid-afternoon of the second day, the Master Guides had rescued 89 people. "We were just here to help," Moreira says. "Praises and honor belong to God, not us." 

Kristina P. Lockhart is the Record Managing Editor and Southwestern Union Conference Associate Communication Director.

Love Never Fails

Pushing Your Boundaries for the Good of Others



Jesus called His followers to get out of their comfort zones when He said, “If anyone wishes to follow Me [as My disciple], he must deny himself [set aside selfish interests], and take up his cross [expressing a willingness to endure whatever may come] and follow Me [believing in Me, conforming to My example in living and, if need be, suffering or perhaps dying because of faith in Me]” (Matthew 16:24, AMP). The disciples who were called directly by Christ were called upon to do something drastic—to leave behind everything they had and knew in order to follow Him.

Is God calling you to step outside of your comfort zone? Perhaps He hasn’t called you to be a missionary in a foreign land or to give away all of your possessions, but does He call you to reach out to the stranger within your sphere of influence or to use the blessings you have been given in order to bless another? We shouldn’t be afraid to reach out because we may feel unequipped; Hebrews 13:20-21 tells us that God will equip you with the good things you need to do His will. In other words, if He calls you, He will equip you.

A fundamental belief of the Seventh-day Adventist faith is that “God bestows upon all members of His church in every age spiritual gifts that each member is to employ in loving ministry for the common good of the church and of humanity. Given by the agency of the Holy Spirit, who apportions to each member as He wills, the gifts provide all abilities and ministries needed by the church to fulfill its divinely ordained functions. According to the Scriptures, these gifts include such ministries as faith, healing, prophecy, proclamation, teaching, administration, reconciliation, compassion, and self-sacrificing service and charity for the help and encouragement of people. Some members are called of God and endowed by the Spirit for functions recognized by the church in pastoral, evangelistic, and teaching ministries particularly needed to equip the members for service, to build up the church to spiritual maturity, and to foster unity of the faith and knowledge of God. When members employ these spiritual gifts as faithful stewards of God’s varied grace, the church is protected from the destructive influence of

false doctrine, grows with a growth that is from God, and is built up in faith and love” (28 *Fundamental Beliefs*, 2015).

The words of the apostle Paul to the Corinthians cautions us to be aware of an essential ingredient in the work of sharing the truth of God’s plan of salvation: love. “If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a ringing gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have absolute faith so as to move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and exult in the surrender of my body, but have not love, I gain nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3).

God has called us to love others and be an example of His love, but He has also made each of us with unique abilities and differing capacities for expressing that love. Everyone you come into contact with can be a recipient of your love by your attitude, your concern, and your behavior. God has outfitted you with a very specific set of talents and traits so that the impact you have in the lives of others is uniquely yours. As you

contemplate God's personal call to move beyond your comfort zone and live a life of love, here are a few things to consider:

Discover the Edges:

When you are called to push past the boundaries of your comfort zone, you'll need to discover just where the edges of your comfort zone are. Reflect on your natural abilities and strengths and consider how they might best be used in service to others. When do you normally back away from an opportunity? What makes it uncomfortable? Is it the nuance of the situation or the fear you may not be good enough? Challenge those doubts and plan to say yes to the next opportunity that comes your way. Make a promise to yourself and when you get the chance, commit! You will find that pushing past your comfort zone causes you to grow and learn things you never imagined.

Go Where the People Are:

Christ mingled with people. He didn't just spend the day in the temple. He walked with people, visited them in their homes, shared meals, and took part in their daily lives. Consider your current social circle. Do you mostly socialize with people who believe what you believe and are interested in the same things as you? While it is true that we tend to gravitate towards those who are similar to us, we can run the risk of creating small islands of isolation where we actually put ourselves out of reach of others. If you have ever found that you don't have anyone to pray for or to share Jesus with, you may be on isolation island. One way to go where the people are is to join an activities group in your community. This could be a reading club, an art class, a language course, a parenting group, a gardening club, cycling team, martial arts group, or classic car group. Find something you are interested in or something new to try and go with a friendly attitude. At the right time, God will put someone in your path for you to bless.

Desire Their Good:


As you meet with people and get to know and care about them, think about what you can provide for them that will affect their lives in positive ways.

Can you provide a listening ear, a space to share their burdens, and words of comfort as you intentionally intercede for them? Sometimes meeting small, tangible needs makes all the difference. Provide a home-cooked meal, offer to carpool, volunteer to babysit, help with yardwork. Many times people are uncomfortable asking for help, but when it is offered, it will be hard not to take you up on it. Remember to do these things with an altruistic heart. If you are ever confronted with ingratitude, turn the other cheek and continue to love as Jesus loves.

Develop Empathy:

For some, empathy is as simple as imagining yourself in another person's situation and showing them grace. For others, empathy can be more elusive and seem intangible. When you try to see from someone else's perspective, accept their pain, commensurate with their struggles, and understand their feelings, you acknowledge that individual in a way that many do not. You dignify them and show them respect. Is that not what God does with us? Empathy is a wonderfully powerful tool. It can build bridges and foster healing. Find opportunities to develop your empathy quotient and share it with others.

All Fall Short:

Remember that everyone, including you, falls short of God's glory. You are saved by His grace and, in the same way, so is any other person. In our attempt to make good choices we may become condescending of those who make poor ones. This helps no one. Be humble as you show others kind and respectful love. Where there are errors, discuss them gently and ask God to guide you through these moments. Remember that you are no less a sinner than the person next to you and that it is through Christ's redeeming love and sacrifice that we are made whole. 

Jessica L. Lozano is the Record Editor and Southwestern Union Communication Director; and Kristina P. Lockhart is the Record Managing Editor and Southwestern Union Associate Communication Director.



Helping the Other Up

Solidarity Amongst Believers Lifts Spirits in Houston

By Darling Michelle Rojas

On the evening of August 25, 2017, Hurricane Harvey made landfall in Texas, causing great devastation and flooding along its path. Much of the city of Houston and a widespread surrounding area was underwater. Among the flooded structures was The Oaks Adventist Christian School, a kindergarten through 12th grade institution that serves 137 students in the Houston area.

During the second week of school, the faculty, staff, and students made preparations with an organized strategy to prepare for the storm. Just over a year ago they had undergone much damage due to the “Tax Day Flood” of 2016. The devastation in the previous flood was extensive and the school suffered much loss. However, they were warned that this storm was stronger and they needed to prepare now more than ever. They removed valuable equipment and placed valuable school assets on higher ground, covered windows, and evacuated the school. Despite the preparation, the school facility flooded once again, and the property was reachable only by boat.

Four days after the catastrophe, Samuel Vega, Associate Pastor of the Houston Spring Branch Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with two elders from the church who were conducting rescues by boat, passed by the school. Vega recorded the bleak image of what the school looked like and how much flooding had occurred, hoping to raise awareness of the need for help. In the recording, he appealed to all watchers to share the video to continue raising awareness, as the road to recovery would be long and arduous. He hoped that by raising awareness people would be moved to aid the school through financial donations and volunteering in the reconstruction process.

The following Sunday, as the school faculty and staff prepared to clean out the school, 300 volunteers showed up from across the city and state to work. They helped strip out the soaked walls and clear out the water at the school. Lily Hernandez, treasurer at The Oaks, said that on the initial Sunday, they achieved a month’s worth of work in one day, thanks to the volunteers who

stepped up. This was the first stage in a long recovery period.

The school suffered up to six feet of flooding in some areas, and those walls would need to be torn apart and reconstructed. Through social media, word of “Work Bee” days spread. For the first stage of demolition and cleaning, the removal of hazardous debris, only individuals over 18 years of age were allowed. During this time, Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) sent 25 volunteers. Under the leadership of SWAU vice president James The, along with the heads of enrollment and spiritual development, the team helped the school begin the demolition process. These volunteers came to school on Labor Day weekend, giving up their holiday to be active in the work of the Lord and to be His hands and feet.

Additional help came from sister schools throughout the Southwestern Union. Ozark Adventist Academy in Gentry, Arkansas, sent 25 volunteers, accompanied by their principal, Mike Dale. South Texas Christian Academy





Photo: Samuel Vega



Photo: John Bivens



Photo: John Bivens



Photo: John Bivens



Photo: Tanya Soria



Photo: John Bivens

from McAllen, Texas, also came to the aid of The Oaks, sending 15 volunteers. The teams of volunteers undertook various tasks to aid in the reconstruction of the school.

In addition to building damage, school supplies and furniture inside the school were also ruined. Burton Adventist Academy in Arlington, Texas, has arranged for a benefit banquet in which all profits will go to the purchase of brand new desks for students at The Oaks. North Dallas Adventist Academy in Richardson, Texas, sent two trucks full of school furniture such as school boards, office desks, cabinets, microwaves, and much more. The Oaks' High School Principal, James Friesen was greatly touched by these acts of generosity. He believes that, after all this hardship, the sense of community built through these acts of assistance have encouraged the school's students and will ultimately excite the kids to learn.

The Oaks student body has found much encouragement in the help of so many. The healthy sports rivalry between schools was completely overshadowed in the moments of need. Friesen has found encouragement seeing how God pulled people together nationally and locally to help in any way possible. They have not felt alone nor forsaken. While the difficulties and struggles may be discouraging and overwhelming at times, seeing God work actively through so many people is beyond what they could have ever hoped.

Entities including the Houston Astros baseball team, churches from the area and out of state, along with community members, have helped and pitched in with rebuilding and recovery. Nearby restaurants familiar with the school provided free lunches to all those who came to volunteer in the reconstruction as a way of saying "thank you." Friesen believes that now, in the last stages of the reconstruction, when the work may seem to be dreadful and the volunteers are tired, prayer and support are greatly needed, as every day is a step closer to completion.

When The Oaks Adventist Christian School reopens its doors to students and restarts school activities in late September, the school will not be completely repaired. Temporary classrooms have been set up in the gymnasium until all repairs have been concluded. Hernandez is grateful to God and optimistic, saying, "It could have been so much worse. Everyone is safe and we saved a lot of supplies. We're going to get through this one, too."

Lastly, Friesen is grateful to all the community members, parents, and churches who have been so selfless and generous in helping the school get back on its feet. From donating their time and hard work to great financial donations, all have been a testament in showing the Gospel of the Good News in its truest form. Friesen believes that caring for others is the most important part in the Lord's work: "If you care for others, they'll care about what you know." Meeting the needs of our students will in turn allow us to share the gospel with them and hence fulfill the Great Commission. **R**

Missionary Methods

Developing Ways to Impact Those Within Arm's Reach

By Herman Aguilar



During his junior year at Pacific Union College in California, Dan Serns realized that he was trusting too strongly in himself rather than in God. He had grown up in a Seventh-day Adventist home, but a recent conversion experience was challenging his self-reliance.

At PUC, he studied religion and business with the idea of becoming a Christian businessman. Several months after graduating from PUC, Serns and other several pastors decided to open a language school near the Texas-Mexico border to show students the light of Jesus. Serns wanted to be a part of a church that not only preached, but took action in impacting others. It was through this platform that Serns discovered his passion for ministry and his love of spreading the gospel of Jesus to others.

Serns, now the Evangelism Coordinator for the Texas Conference, has four different methods that he practices in his ministry and personal life to spread the gospel to others. He believes these four simple methods can be practiced and used by anyone who wants to lead others to Christ.

PRAYER WARRIORS

The first method Serns uses to spread the gospel is by simply being a prayer warrior. In essence, this means to be a champion of prayer and continuously praying for those people that might be going through a difficult time. Interceding for others demonstrates genuine care for the struggles in their lives. Asking God to be with them through every situation will strengthen their faith.


GLOW MISSIONARIES

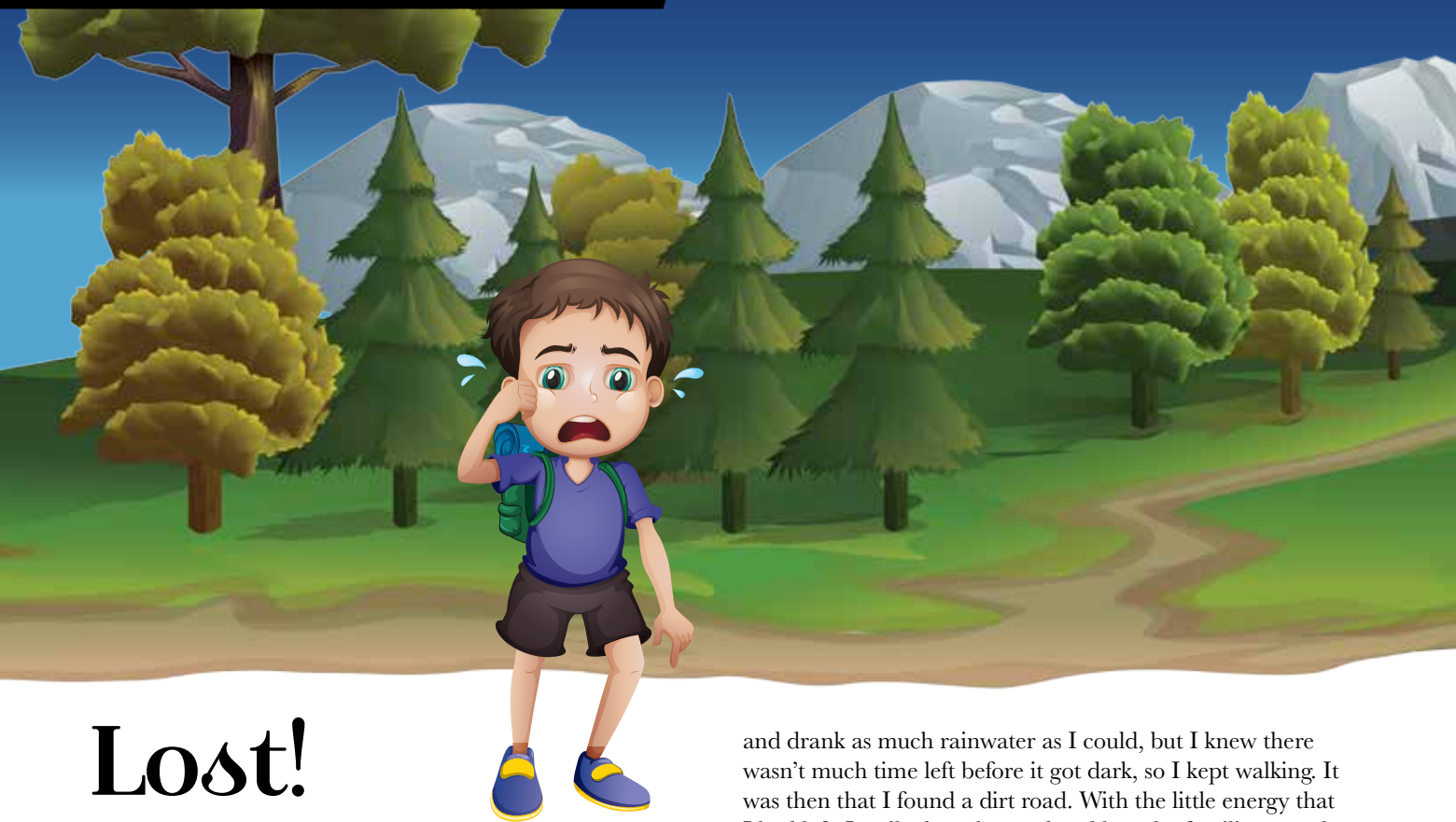
Secondly, Serns encourages everyone to get involved with GLOW missionary work. Being a glow missionary means giving out GLOW tracts, small pamphlets with quick insightful messages, to anyone that you might encounter. Serns uses this method to begin conversation, get to know other people, and tell them about our loving Savior. Something as simple as giving a GLOW tract to a server at a restaurant, something that Serns does every time he dines out, can go a long way and make a lasting impact on a person.

BAPTISM COACHES

The third method that Serns practices in his ministry and personal life is the idea of being a baptism coach. As a baptism coach, you serve as the leader who will guide someone to make a commitment to Christ. Baptism coaches help others get to know Jesus through friendship, prayer, and Bible studies.

HOMES OF HOPE

The fourth and final method that Serns uses to tell others about Jesus is having a home of hope. Serns believes that any person or family, no matter where they live, whether it be a mansion, a mobile home, or apartment, can be a home of hope. A home of hope is a home that shares the love of Christ to others in their neighborhood. Your neighbors might appreciate the simple gesture of receiving cookies with a Bible message attached, demonstrating that you have a home of hope. Hosting Bible studies in your home or just praying for your neighbors also plays a part in being a home of hope. 



Lost!

A Mountain Adventure

By Oswaldo Amaya

As we arrived at the mountains one Sabbath morning, my mom’s instructions were very clear: “Stay close and don’t stray off the path!” I heard her, but I was also very excited. It was going to be a fun day because we were having church service in the mountains!

After lunch, while my friends and sisters played, I went to the restroom by myself. As I exited the restroom, I saw two trails in front of me: one that led back to the church’s campground, and a second trail that led straight into wilderness. I knew it was best to head back to the campground, but my curiosity was begging me to find out what was through the trees. It wouldn’t hurt to explore a little, right? And besides, I told myself, I can always follow the trail back.

As I started down the second path, I could hear the chattering and laughter of my church family growing fainter. But I wasn’t worried; I was having too much fun. After exploring for about half an hour, I figured it was time to head back. When I turned around, the trail had disappeared and nothing looked familiar. I didn’t know where I was and I suddenly felt very scared. I kept walking for what seemed like miles, but every tree looked the same and there was no trail in sight. Out of nowhere, I heard dogs barking. The sound scared me even more, so I started running away, not realizing that those were dogs who were out looking for me. As I kept walking, I could see that the sun was starting to set. Thirsty and afraid, I prayed to God for help. Within minutes, I felt small rain drops on my face. God had heard my prayer! I opened my mouth

and drank as much rainwater as I could, but I knew there wasn’t much time left before it got dark, so I kept walking. It was then that I found a dirt road. With the little energy that I had left, I walked up the road and heard a familiar sound behind the trees. When I cleared the trees, I saw a large, dark highway with cars speeding by. I stood there for a moment but it wasn’t long before a car pulled up next to me. “Are you lost?” a friendly couple inside the car asked. “Yes,” I said and they quickly let me inside the car. They took me to several nearby campgrounds to see if I recognized anyone, but no one looked familiar.

By this time, night had fallen and I felt that I had little hope of seeing my mom and sisters again. The couple took me to the ranger’s station, and when we arrived, I could tell the rangers were relieved to see me. Apparently, a lot of other people were, too, because a small crowd had formed and there was even a television crew waiting for me. But no one was as thrilled and relieved as my mom. She ran through the station’s doors and wrapped her arms around me. She held me tight like she had never done before.

I learned a lesson that day. God often tells us not to do certain things because He knows what is best for us. Yet, many times we don’t listen and instead go off looking for adventure and find ourselves lost and afraid. The amazing thing is that God never leaves us. Deuteronomy 31:6 says, “Do not be afraid or terrified... for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you.” God also hears our prayers and helps us find our way back into His safe and loving arms.

Oswaldo was seven years old when he got lost in the Manzano Mountains in New Mexico. Today, Oswaldo works with Pathfinder and Adventurer Clubs in his community, teaching them wilderness survival skills.



Help Oswaldo find his way back into his mother's safe and loving arms.



Be careful!



"Do not be afraid or terrified for the Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you."



Deuteronomy 31:6

October Events

13-15

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Adventurer Family Camporee, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

13-15

Texas Conference: Hispanic Men's Retreat, Camp Hoblitzelle, Midlothian, Texas, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

14

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Hispanic Evangelism Rally, South Louisiana Convention Center, Hammond, La., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

19-21

Southwestern Adventist University: University Experience, SWAU.edu, 817.645.3921

20-22

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Hispanic Women's Retreat, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

27-29

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Teen Prayer Conference, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

27-29

Texico Conference: Women's Retreat, Albuquerque, N. Mex., Texico.org, 505.244.1611

28

Southwestern Union: Children's Ministries Certification Training, Baytown United Adventist Church, Baytown, Texas, SouthwesternAdventist.org, 817.295.0476



November Events

2-5

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Pathfinder Camporee, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

12

Southwestern Union: Summit on Abuse, Burleson, Texas, SouthwesternAdventist.org, 817.295.0476

2-4

Southwestern Adventist University: University Experience, SWAU.edu, 817.645.3921

22-23

Thanksgiving Holiday: Conference and Union offices closed.

6

Southwestern Adventist University: Spring Early Registration, SWAU.edu, 817.645.3921

20-26

Southwestern Adventist University: Thanksgiving Break, SWAU.edu, 817.645.3921



For more events and information, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org.

Stop the Hurt

Family and Women's Ministries Host November Event

Burleson, Texas » A growing concern in our communities and churches is the problem of abuse and domestic violence. This disruptive and dangerous occurrence is not new to families, but it is one that is growing and can no longer be ignored. Whether that abuse is physical, sexual, or emotional, it results in extreme personal and relational harm, putting the very fabric of the family in danger.

On Sunday, November 12, 2017, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Family and Women's Ministries departments will host a panel of trained counselors, pastors, and experts in order to bring awareness to a growing challenge facing families in our churches and communities. Our goal is to help identify abuse, victims of abuse, and work toward abuse prevention. Who should attend this event? Local church family ministries

and women's ministries directors and coordinators, and all lay persons who have a passion to work toward abuse prevention. This free event will be held at the Southwestern Union's headquarters in Burleson, Texas. Registration is required and space is limited, so please call Neyra Greenidge at 817.295.0476 to reserve your spot.

————— *By Buford Griffith, Jr.,
Executive Secretary/Family Ministries Director*

**STOP
THE
HURT**

NOVEMBER 12
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Burleson, Texas
817.295.0476

Sponsored by the
Southwestern Union
Family and Women's Ministries

Hurricane Harvey

Adventists Work Together to Help Those in Need

Burleson, Texas » When Hurricane Harvey hit Southeast Texas along the Gulf Coast on August 25, the world watched as nearly 50 inches of rain continued to fall for the next week. At least 70 individuals were killed and tens of thousands were forced to evacuate their homes. While life-saving activities were ongoing, the Texas Conference and Southwest Region Conference Adventist Community Services, along with the North American Division's ACS department and volunteers from across the U.S., partnered with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD), to organize relief efforts. Texas ACS mobilized its Mobile Distribution Unit to a San Antonio mega-shelter, Victoria, Texas, and Rockport, Texas. The

Southwest Region Conference's World Harvest Outreach church partnered with the City of Houston as an official distribution center. The Southwest Region also opened its Lone Star Camp for evacuees. The Texas Adventist Book Center committed to provide food and other materials needed for those evacuees. The Southwestern Union and the North American Division held special offerings on September 2 and 9 specifically for Hurricane Harvey relief.

One of the hardest hit Adventist entities was The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Cypress, Texas, which sustained major structural damage from flood waters. Southwestern Adventist University students were among the first to volunteer to assist the school with

the immediate need of demolition and cleaning due to the risk of mold. Approximately 13 churches and two schools sustained damage to varying degrees.

The Texas Conference cancelled a planned Master Guide Camporee and instead these 800 volunteers spent the last two weekends of September assisting with cleanup and relief efforts in neighborhoods in Northwest Houston and Beaumont.

To volunteer or donate to the ongoing recovery effort, contact your local conference or contact the Southwestern Union Hurricane Harvey Relief Liaison, Helvis Moody, at 817.295.0476. For the latest updates, visit www.SouthwesternAdventist.org.

————— *By Jessica Lozano, Editor*

How Can I Help?

Professor Joins Harvey Rescue and Relief Efforts

Keene, Texas » When the world woke up Saturday morning, August 26, 2017, to news about Hurricane Harvey, many dropped to their knees to pray. Many wanted to help. But how do you help in such a situation?

Dr. Jared Wood, biology professor at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, has spent many of his 29 years in flat-bottom boats, navigating waterways around Oklahoma, Texas, Kentucky, and Florida as a field biologist. So when he saw the devastation flashing across his computer screen and all the requests on social media for boats, he knew there was one way he could help. He called everywhere he could think of, including the Harris County Fire Marshal, Galveston County Sheriff, Texas Search and Rescue (TSR), and the Coast Guard. No one answered at first, so he kept trying. While he was waiting, he packed.

“How can I help?” Wood asked when he finally got through to Galveston County Sheriff’s office. He explained that he had access to a flat-bottom boat (necessary for navigating shallow, flooded areas) and outlined his experience in the water. They said, “Please, come help. And bring your boat.”

Packed and ready, Wood kissed his wife and kids goodbye at home in Burleson and headed for Galveston. But he couldn’t get through. All the roads were impassable. Wood began

looking for another agency that might need help and discovered the Zello app that allowed him to communicate with TSR. They said they could use him in the Northern Houston area. Adjusting his course, Wood tried to get there, but again the roads were nearly impassable and the sun had already gone down. He pulled up to a corner store, just as a few other trucks and boats pulled up. They, too, were having trouble getting close enough to help. They decided to band together, with six boats and 13 people.

TSR gave the group another area to try. Their first assignment was an apartment building where people were stranded on the second floor and the floor was beginning to collapse. Their second call was to a family caught in their home. And on it went through the night. They checked every submerged and stranded car. They heard radio dispatches for pregnant women, snake bite victims, and a family trapped in their home with alligators surrounding them.

It was rough going; it was pitch dark and the roads were constantly changing from dry or shallow to deep, urban rivers with treacherous currents. Some of the smaller boats struggled against the currents. They were able to help some people, while other times they were thwarted, no matter how many different routes they tried, by the raging waters. If they couldn’t reach them and the situation was dire, TSR radioed for

a helicopter. If the situation wasn’t dire, sometimes the people were told they had to wait until bigger boats were available.

Around 5:00 a.m., the group went in for fuel and rest. A short time later, Wood met up with another group to search a new area. The rescue teams were still mostly civilians, using social media, radio apps, and word-of-mouth to find those in need of help. There were several staging areas set up through the morning, as the civilians sought to better organize themselves.

They were able to help some families get out and determine where others had already been rescued. Water levels continued to rise and the currents grew stronger. Further complicating the situation was incorrect or old information and news of armed looters disrupting rescue efforts. The volunteers had to stay in groups for their own safety.

“We had a lot of help,” says Wood. “It was amazing how many people volunteered their time and boats. Even the local fire departments were using civilian boats.”

Later in the afternoon, Wood went to a new staging area where civilians were working with local police. The volunteers were paired up and sent out to certain areas of The Woodlands. But now, the water was flooding the area so fast that authorities didn’t have time to issue mandatory evacuations. The currents were too strong for the smaller boats,





including Wood's, and even larger boats with large engines were struggling.

"Working with the fellow volunteers was a good experience. People were offering up whatever they had, even though they didn't have much themselves," says Wood. "There was such comradery."

Wood worked on dry land for a while, helping people haul their possessions and animals to safety, guiding those rescued to safe places, and passing on addresses with requests for help. Later in the day, he was asked to once again go out with his boat, this time to scout waterways that the larger boats could use to access isolated neighborhoods.

"The hardest part of the experience was realizing how huge the problem is, how many people need help, and not being able to get to them because you don't have the right equipment."

Coming back for a break, he stopped at his truck and suddenly realized that his whole body was cold and trembling. His last pair of dry clothes were soaking wet, despite wearing chest-high waders. He had packed three days' worth, and

he had already gone through them all. Someone approached him with some hot food and a towel. It had been like that all day, other volunteers and locals offering food, towels, and even a place to rest in their homes.

As another day was coming to an end, the local authorities started pulling many of the boats out of the rescue effort. The water was still rising, the currents were too strong, and some of the rescuers had to be rescued themselves.

"You have to use your skills and abilities intelligently," Wood advises. "I did not leave my driveway until I received word from officials that my skills and supplies were needed. On the other end, it is hard to have to decide when you're no longer a solution and need to leave so you don't become a part of the problem. There came a time when we had to step down from our efforts as the Coast Guard and military started arriving with bigger boats, and more equipment."

Wood had to make the call to head home. His boat could no longer handle the strong currents. The Coast Guard and National Guard were taking over

many of the rescues because only their equipment and boats could reach many of the remaining locations. By now, there were also hundreds of volunteers with their boats all over Houston and the surrounding cities. Wood had done as much as he could. It was time to let others lead the effort.

"It was worth it. There were so many people trying to do whatever they could to help. The response was so much faster than I've seen at other disasters. There are a lot of people out there helping other people."

By Darcy Force
Marketing and PR Director

Above: Dr. Jared Wood preparing his boat before heading out.

Opposite: View from Dr. Wood's boat as he and others performed search and rescue operations.

Love

A Many-splendored Thing



Paul Francis Webster wrote the lyrics to the song *Love is a Many-splendored Thing* that in 1955 was used in a movie by the same title, and won an Academy Award for best original song. While I always liked the music, I never really paid any attention to the words. But there are at least two lines that hold some truth to them: “Love is nature’s way of giving, a reason to be livin...”

When I consider the life of Jesus and how He related to others, the love, kindness, concern, and compassion that He consistently demonstrated was indeed a many-splendored thing. God is love (1 John 4:8) and love is of God (1 John 4:7). God so loved the world that He gave (John 3:16). In other words, God is the essence of love. Genuine love comes only from God, and God demonstrated love in the most comprehensive and all-inclusive way when He gave us Himself in the gift of Jesus. So, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another (1 John 4:11). To drive the point home a little further, John elaborates on the issue. He says, “If someone says, ‘I love God,’ and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen?” (1 John 4:20).

The essence of love is giving. But “things” do not always define giving. What so many people desire and need is someone just taking an interest in them: sharing time, sharing of yourself to simply be with someone, and sharing words of encouragement and offering up a prayer. These are all tangible ways of expressing love for one another that do not cost us anything—except ourselves.

It is a very sad thing when brothers and sisters in the church hold such disagreement with each other that they cease being civil with each other. Because they cannot, or will not, back down from personal agendas, lines of division are drawn and walls of separation are erected. It is only the love and grace of God that allows us to still embrace our brother and desire only his good, even if we don’t agree with him. It is God’s love that leads us to show respect and dignity for others, and treat others in the same way that Jesus has treated us—and remember, we are the ones who have always been in the wrong. That’s what makes God’s love a many-splendored thing!

By Stephen Orian, President



Fruit and Healthy Snacks

Springdale Adventist Fellowship Helps Public School

Springdale, Ark. » About a year ago, Ross Hinshaw, men's ministries leader for the Springdale Adventist Fellowship Church, invited Jeremy Anderson and his GRACE Tour members to bless us with their spiritual conversion testimonies and ministry. We reached out to our local public schools, inviting any students who were interested. The Archer School, a high school for at-risk youth, responded to the invitation.

Three months later our church received a call from the Archer School, sharing how much they appreciated what the GRACE Tour communicated to their students, and asking if our

church would be willing to continue helping serve the community and their students. They shared with us that most of their students didn't have sufficient food for their daily needs, and asked if we were interested in helping supply their students with fresh fruit each week. Our church board agreed that this was an opportunity to help meet the needs of our community, and our pastor confirmed that we would commit to bring fresh fruit each Monday.

Both teachers and students were overjoyed as, week after week, fresh fruit was delivered by our pastor. Several weeks later, the school mentioned that

if we wished to do more, it would be a blessing if we could supply a healthy snack bag for each student to take home on Fridays for the weekend. Our youth department got involved and they began bagging 150 snack bags per week, adding a spiritual message card that was delivered each Friday. It has been a blessing for both the many church members involved and the students receiving the nourishing food! We plan to continue this community project when school reopens again in the fall.

By Bonnie Dolinski



Celebrating 60 Years!

Surprise Birthday Party for Pastor Supler

Texarkana, Ark. » The Women's Ministry department of the Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted a surprise party for Pastor Daniel Supler's 60th birthday. Because Pastor Supler is a hands-on type of person and pretty much knows everything that is going on in his district, keeping the party a surprise was quite an undertaking!

The three churches in his district, Texarkana, El Dorado, and Magnolia Adventist, participated in the festivities. Special guests included several friends

from Hot Springs, and Arkansas-Louisiana Conference President, Stephen Orian. The district churches gifted Pastor Supler with Logos GOLD Bible software, and a funds for a new laptop computer. Heartfelt thanks to Pastor Supler for his service to his district!

By Loretta Johnson



Little Ones Lead Out

Heber Springs Enjoys Youth Sabbath

Heber Springs, Ark. » Youth Sabbath at the Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church is always a blessing. This year our youth conducted the entire worship service. Clayton Owens, a 14-year old student, gave the sermon, and Braxton Brents and Layla Owens performed the elders' duties. The Kindergarten class

sang special music, "This Little Light of Mine," while holding up their battery candles. The scripture was a reading of a section of the ten commandments. Members and parents were overwhelmed at how serious and spiritual the children were since the Kindergarten class has two three-year-olds and

three six-year-olds, and our other youth are various ages. What a blessing for our church family to have these precious youth learning to take part in our church service. May God guide us as we teach them to love the Lord.

— *By Judith Newton*



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Beyond the Surface

Deepening Levels of Friendship and Caring



I have been challenged recently by Jesus' words, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The kind of love He is talking about requires time and effort, and can be uncomfortable. It requires commitment and putting the other person's needs first. To do that with our friends, colleagues, and those whom we socialize with, we all can get into a rut, or comfort zone. In other words, we stay at a certain level of association instead of going deeper. We can talk at a level that is easy to do and does not require much effort or emotional expenditure. It isn't comfortable most of the time for us to probe or to ask difficult questions about our friends' lives. The answers we get may cause us to not know what to say or do. To speak with this kind of engagement requires serious love and concern. I believe that is part of what it means to love our neighbors as ourselves. It means caring enough to ask about the deep issues of life, and to listen to their answers. Sometimes, just listening is loving and caring. Even when the answers make us uncomfortable. Jesus modeled that in John 4 with the woman at the well. He moved from asking her for water, to asking her about her deeper soul needs for the water of life. Then when she evaded Him, He asked her a more probing question about her life. Because He was willing to move beyond the surface, she eventually opened up to Him and His offer of living water. There were probably some awkward pauses and silences before she became receptive. Most of us don't like awkwardness and uncomfortable silences, but this is often what it takes to open up a different level of friendship and caring.

Recently, I was visiting someone who has a serious life-threatening illness. This person was not a professing Christian, and it was awkward, but I probed about some of the deeper questions of life. The person didn't respond directly, but thanked me later when I left for bringing it up. The interaction was out of my comfort zone, but by the grace and power of God I ventured forth, not knowing the outcome.

Someone once likened people to onions. They have layers which require careful peeling to get to the deep things of life. This will take a love which requires us to genuinely care, commit and give of ourselves. But the result will be more of God's love flowing through us. As with every other thing we attempt to do in ministry, we cannot do it on our own. Only as we ask and depend on God's power are we able to do so. I'm reminded of a couple of Bible promises: It is God who works in you to will and do of His good pleasure; and, I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. Ask God to give you His desire and His love, and step forward by faith.

By James Shires, President



Oklahoma Camp

So Much More Than Meetings!

Choctaw » My family and I have attended Oklahoma Camp Meeting every year since 1995, staying in a tent since 1996. Camp meeting is likened to a modern-day adaptation of Succoth, or the Feast of Booths, when the Israelites stayed in improvised shelters to commemorate their time in the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. I like to think of it as a foretaste of heaven!

Every year we meet new people and enjoy fellowship with them throughout the week. I have a group of camp meeting friends that I rarely see at any other time. I probably hug more people that week than I do during the remaining weeks of the year!

The wonderful speakers, as well as the enlightening and spiritually uplifting meetings are a huge and important part of camp meeting, and it wouldn't

be anything more than an extended camping trip without them, but staying on the grounds during the week makes the experience so much richer. Besides being great for the adults who come and attend the meetings and activities, the children have a great time learning more about Jesus, making new friends, and enjoying special activities geared toward the various age groups. Each division has things planned for every day of the week to help keep the children busy.

Last year we met Hilario and Sarvia Monzon and their daughters, Keyla and Anna. They stayed in a tent near ours and we became friends. This year, Hilario came to us and said, "Our daughter Keyla is turning 12 on Thursday and we've decided to have a surprise birthday party for her. Come to our tent at 5:30 to celebrate with us!"

A nice little crowd gathered at 5:30 on Thursday, and when Keyla walked up to the tent we began to sing "Happy Birthday" to her. At that age, there might be just a bit of embarrassment mixed in, but I think she enjoyed her little surprise party.

Hilario, Sarvia, and Anna cooked empanadas and all the trimmings for us—they had quite the cooking set-up! They even had a birthday cake and ice cream for Keyla and the guests.

If you haven't been to Oklahoma Camp Meeting yet, please come! There are RV spots, tent sites, and cabins available. Not only is it a wonderful spiritual high point of the year, enriching and renewing your relationship with Jesus, but you will meet new friends and enjoy great fellowship.

By Robin Sagel



Trans-Pacific Miracles

Statue Builds a Ministry Bridge from Australia to Oklahoma

Cherokee » During his training for Messiah's Mansion at Oklahoma Academy, Clayton Leinnewebber expressed the need for a Daniel 2 statue, somewhere between 20-30 feet tall. He desired to expand Messiah's Mansion to include Bible prophecy. Gabrielle Simpson, treasurer of the Cherokee Seventh-day Adventist Church plant, began doing research to find a solution to this challenge and searched in multiple places—with no practical or affordable solution. Then she discovered and emailed Phil White of EDGAR Ministry in Australia; EDGAR stands for Every Dynasty God Almighty Revealed. White offered Oklahoma Academy a special price, and the cost including shipping was \$2,533. The Cherokee Church plant decided to pay for the statue and donate it to Messiah's Mansion. After

much prayer, appealing to members and friends, God spoke to generous hearts and the money was raised. Our faithful God opened countless doors to make this all happen!

On June 16, Gabrielle received a phone call from Messiah's Mansion stating that two large boxes arrived at their doorstep—confirming that the statue had arrived. Praise God! A month later, two large boxes arrived on her doorstep. When she opened the boxes and found the makings of the Daniel 2 statue, she was confused. She called Messiah's Mansion, and found out their statue was already on display at Oklahoma Academy. After emailing Phil White, she learned he had been impressed by God to mail a second statue.

Through all of this experience, there have been more demonstrations of

God's hand in the whole matter. The second statue is being shared among different Oklahoma churches for evangelism. Gabrielle's seven-year-old son, Shawn, was able to give an impromptu Bible study to a number of adults on Sabbath afternoon at camp meeting. He was excited to use the statue as a vivid example. Shawn went on to tell his growing crowd of adults the comparison of Daniel 2 and the beasts of Daniel 7. Shawn had been watching Messiah Mansion DVDs, and studying his Bible, so he was full of details about these subjects. What an amazing and God orchestrated experience! Gabrielle could not keep silent. She had to tell it to me, so I could share it with all of the Southwestern Union Conference.

By Susan Castillo



Demonstrations of Love

More Than Just Words or Speech



“For God so loved... that He gave,” says John 3:16. I’m sure you have heard that love is not a feeling but an action, and when you love someone or something, you do as much as you can to demonstrate how much you love them. The essence of loving is actually in the action and need to express it.

The apostle John wrote that God so loved the world that *He gave* His only begotten Son. The human race decided to disobey God. We went our separate way by choosing the path of eternal death. But we had no idea of the true consequences and the pain we brought into our lives.

God, in His infinite knowledge and mercy and moved by love, put into action a plan of Salvation that was prepared even before we were created. You see, God’s love and His demonstration of love is different from the way we love and demonstrate love. We love conditionally, but God loves unconditionally—He gave His Son for all, knowing that not all would appreciate what He would do for the world. God gave himself and He died for all. He gave and continues to give His everything, every day, for everyone. We are His creatures and He demonstrates it every day in so many different ways.

God invites us to love the way He loves. That’s when it gets complicated. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth,” says 1 John 3:16-18.

God invites us to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. We can see giving our life for a son or daughter, a spouse or a very close family member, but to give our life for someone outside of that circle? That’s difficult. And it is just as difficult to share or give away the things that we have worked so hard to possess to those in need. Yet God tells us that if we do not share or give to those in need then the love of God is not in us.

We can be good speakers, choose the right words and have good intentions, but God asks for more than that. The problem is that doing what He asks takes us out of our comfort zone; it takes us away from our time—the time we don’t have because we are too busy doing. It takes away the resources that we have worked so hard to acquire to then just “give it away.” We prefer to be good and stay put. We wash our conscience, believing that God is pleased with us as long as we do not do bad things or hurt others. We have become so materialistic and comfortable that we seem to contradict what Jesus Christ said, that it is impossible to love God and at the same time love our possessions. If we treat others without being selfish, in the same way that we treat ourselves, as God would like for us to, I believe God would bless us so much more because His presence would continually be in our life.

“Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”
Let’s demonstrate love—God’s love.

By Vanston Archbold, Jr., Diversity Coordinator



Texarkana Outreach Church

Bethel Church Members Visit with the Community

Texarkana, Texas » As a part of evangelist efforts in the Texarkana area, Kenneth Edwards, pastor of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church, organized and instructed members about a community outreach program one sabbath afternoon in April.

After the fellowship meal, the members were prepared to focus on evangelizing a local apartment complex, where the pastor and a church member, Patricia Shephard, formed a children's

ministry by providing a variety of activities that share the love of God.

With Christian joy, love, and unity, the members got involved by wearing a blue T-shirt with the description, "Straight Outta Bethel SDA Church Exodus 20:8-11." Members loaded into the van and drove to the apartments.

After arrival, we were divided into five teams. Then, prayer was offered for the Spirit's power and guidance. The members began walking and knocking,

placing gift bags on doors containing inspirational books—*Steps to Christ* and *The Great Controversy*.

Gift bags were left at 112 homes, and the residents gratefully received them. Before leaving, we joined together in a circle while one of our members prayed for the community and traveling mercies of all the members. This outreach was a pleasant and inspiring experience.

By Veronica McCullough



Spelling Bee

Bethel Church Student Takes Home Trophy

Athens, Texas » The Bethel Adventist Church School took home the first-place trophy during the school spelling bee at the Conference-wide outdoor school held at Lone Star Camp, April 30-May 5. Outdoor school brings together fifth and sixth graders from schools across the Southwest Region Conference for a week of instruction out of the traditional classroom.

Sixth-grade student, Vasti Campusano, was the proud winner. Campusano is pictured holding the trophy. On her

left is Savannah McGowen, last year's Spelling Bee winner, and on her right is Jordan Cheek. McGowen, Campusano, and Cheek were the three students who represented the Bethel Adventist Church School at outdoor school this year, along with chaperones Karina Ridgeway and Kenneth Edwards.

By Glasmine Ellis



United in Action

Houston Central Regional Spanish Church Opens Doors

Houston, Texas » From August 24 to September 3, the Houston Central Regional Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church united to help the victims of Hurricane Harvey. From the start of the hurricane, the church opened its doors to provide refuge and assistance to the church family.

The community services ministry, Dorcas, with the support of the elders, Master Guides, Pathfinders, Disaster Coordinator, and countless members, stepped up to serve the Houston Community by meeting the needs of all who came to the church for help.

Two distribution areas were established, one at 6620 Rampart Street and the other at the Famsa store. The Famsa store gave us permission to operate from their parking lot and they also provided 25 boxes of water to give to the community.

Many more came to support—the Houston police congratulated our church for its contribution and hard work; the Red Cross brought emergency kits; a community church provided water and fruit; and a truck from Austin brought clothing, shoes, and food. It was a great blessing to see how we stood united!

During the storm days, we were able to house ten families in our temporary church-shelter. On Sunday, September 2, we helped more than 40 families, but on September 3 we received an even greater blessing. We estimate that around 700 people came to us for help and we are grateful that we were able to serve them all. We have taken every opportunity to share messages of hope by sharing literature, encouragement, and love.

The gentlemen in our church are also working very hard to repair the damages the water caused in our member's homes. On September 3, they had already removed floors and sheetrock in two homes. We thank God for His blessings and the privilege to serve our community. We are grateful to all of you for your solidarity.

— By Ariel Acosta, Pastor

Below: Over 700 people were served during the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey from the Houston Central Regional Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, who opened up its doors and worked with community partners to offer clothes, food, and shelter.



Reaching Out

Above and Beyond Our Comfort Zone



Several years ago, during the annual Texas Conference ministerial spouses' retreat, a Sabbath afternoon outreach activity was planned for downtown San Antonio. Quick instructions and handouts were distributed on the bus ride to the Alamo area. Within a few minutes, the ladies joined hundreds and hundreds of people roaming the city in the crisp mid-February air.

The people hustling to their destinations seemed oblivious to anything or anyone around them, but God was already at work! Feeling a bit out of their comfort zones, the ladies were challenged to find that first person with whom to share the handout. I was amazed as I watched the women in groups of two or three approach individuals. Sometimes they were quickly dismissed by uninterested parties. Other individuals would stop, listen and nod their head. Some even bowed their head as a prayer was lifted up to the Father above on their behalf. There were a couple of times I saw tears in the eyes of the recipients.

The discomfort and uncertainty quickly disappeared as our pastors' wives became increasingly bold for the Lord and His kingdom. Conversations began to last longer. Names were exchanged and, in a few cases, contact information shared as souls connected with these ambassadors of Heaven.

Many times, I have reflected on that afternoon. The Great Commission clearly commands: "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations," Matthew 28:19 NKJV. For much of my life, I thought the dynamic of that heavenly command had everything to do with finding interested parties, indoctrinating them and getting them to in turn share their faith with others. But, the twin dynamic of the Great Commission is the benefit for the believer.

As we go; as we share; as we abandon our comfort zone, we are strengthened and empowered to do bigger and better things for the Lord and His kingdom. Sure, it is about finding lost souls for the heavenly city, but it is also about strengthening God's people, confirming our mission, and developing the boldness that is so needed in our homes, our churches and our communities.

The words of the apostle Paul should ring vigorously in our ears, "And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed," Romans 13:11 NKJV. Things are happening in our world. Trumpets are sounding! Jesus, the conquering King of kings, is just about ready to remove His priestly garments and return for His people. Are we ready? Have we been preparing? Are we stepping out of our cherished comfort zones and moving in tandem to seek those who languish in darkness? I pray for that revival and for us to move in that direction very soon.

By Carlos J. Craig, President



Hurricane Harvey Impact

Adventist Members Rally Together to Rebuild

Alvarado » Hurricane Harvey will forever be recorded as a major hurricane. For many residents in Houston and the surrounding areas, it will take years to recover. The Rockport area took the initial hit at peak intensity, but the Houston area received the most rainfall, resulting in reports of 51 inches and catastrophic flooding. Residents had to be rescued by boat because the waters came too quickly for them to drive out. Experienced boaters Josh Jetter and Rob Parrish, North Dallas Adventist Academy athletic director and chaplain, respectively, joined the rescue efforts starting with an assisted living center that had to be evacuated. Dayner Acosta, pastor of the Houston Spanish North Seventh-day Adventist Church and Kingwood Spanish Company, waited on the top floor of his building praying for someone to rescue his family.

There are countless stories, miracles really, of people helping people. Multiple Seventh-day Adventist churches opened their doors to give residents a warm place to rest, drink fresh water, eat some food, get dry clothing; anything members and volunteers could offer to make life a little easier for those affected by this disaster.

Hundreds of volunteers have assisted the Adventist Community Services Depot in Keene to assemble personal, clothing and cleaning kits. Thousands of people have donated to purchase

much-needed supplies. All these efforts show the true caring heart of people all over the world.

Disaster causes destruction, but it does not have to destroy one's spirit. The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Cypress was hit the hardest of all the Texas Conference schools. "We had just finished recovery efforts from the "Tax Day Flood" less than two years ago," shares Brenda Elms, elementary school principal.

Saddened, but not discouraged, the staff was busy getting ready to open school in makeshift classrooms in the gymnasium. It had minimal flooding compared to the school. Samuel Vega, associate pastor of the Houston Spanish Spring Branch Seventh-day Adventist Church, posted a Facebook request for 10 volunteers to help remove the damaged areas from The Oaks. More than 200 showed up, including a group from Southwestern Adventist University in Keene. With so much help, volunteers were able to remove damaged walls from churches in the area.

Once the waters receded, prayer services were scheduled for Houston and the surrounding areas on September 5 and 6. "Our goal in going to the Houston area was to see the damage to some of our churches and schools, pray with our Houston area pastors and then have two prayer services in Spanish and English to encourage those

going through these challenges," Carlos Craig, Texas Conference President, said. "It was an incredible time together and we felt encouraged by their stories and resilience."

It will be a long road ahead and continued support is necessary. If you or your church or school is interested in adopting a church or school affected by Hurricane Harvey, please email communication@txsda.org. More incredible stories can be found on the Texas Conference Facebook page. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

By Tamara Michalenko Terry
Associate Communication Director

Left: Texas Conference administrators joined area pastors at the Houston West Seventh-day Adventist Church to pray for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. Photo: Tamara Terry

Center: The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Cypress experienced unbelievable flooding in the school, parking lot, and Tiny Tigers daycare. Photo: Samuel Vega

Right: The Houston Spanish West Seventh-day Adventist Church in Cypress had flood damage to the church sanctuary and Sabbath school rooms. Photo: Miguel Ramos



Cooking Class

Chef Tupolo Encouraged Fun, Healthy Eating

LaRue » Chef Sualua Tupolo shaped fruits and vegetables into palm trees and birds during a cooking class coordinated by Chandler Adventist Fellowship in East Texas. Focused on the young people in attendance, Tupolo's goal was to show them healthy eating could be fun and easy.

Tupolo has been a chef for a variety of prestigious kitchens, special government events, legislators, and heads of state. He also hosted a vegetarian cook-

ing show on the Hope Channel.

When asked why he became a chef, Tupolo shared that he was one of 10 children and worked after school at Meals on Wheels. While working there, he realized he liked cooking, so the chef helped him apply to culinary school.

Ann Allen brought her 10-year-old son, Donald, to the class, to encourage his love of cooking and meet a real chef.

The kid-friendly recipes Tupolo

demonstrated to attendees were all plant-based.

By Elsa Cavazos

Adapted from an article published in the Tyler Morning Telegraph, Tylerpaper.com

Below: Donald Allen reaches for a sample as Chef Sualua Tupolo makes snacks during a cooking class in Chandler, Texas. Photo: Schuyler Wick, Tyler Morning Telegraph.



Filling A Need

Youth Provide Sleeping Bags and Necessities for Campers

Keene » Carlos Pasillas, Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church youth pastor, asked Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Tarrant County how the church youth could help them out. CASA asked for 130 sleeping bags for their summer camp. Taking a step of faith, Pasillas agreed not knowing how the request would be accomplished.

He prayed God would move the hearts of his youth and then he presented a series on the book of Nehemiah and the miracle wall on Nehemiah 6:15,16.

Pasillas' prayers were answered! The youth, along with other church members, responded. More than \$4,000 was collected to purchase 136 sleeping bags and camping necessities.

Jaws dropped at CASA at the sight of all the sleeping bags and other items when Pasillas delivered them.

The young people are following the words in Matthew 25 and filling a need.

By Tamara Michalenko Terry
Associate Communication Director



Facing Fears

Pushing Past the Safety Net



I was nervous. No, I was terrified. It was my first time preaching and although I had practiced exhaustively the week before, nothing could have prepared me for what I was about to experience. My forehead and palms were sweaty, my mind was scrambling, my knees were weak and I could not remember a single line from my sermon. There I was, frozen with fear before my home church. These were people who had watched me grow up and were eagerly looking on with encouraging smiles, but that did not help. I was drowning in thoughts of doubt. The butterflies in my stomach urged me to run, but I knew I could not quit because I had promised to preach.

Despite the panic, I started my sermon. My lips seemed to be moving, and I heard words coming out of my mouth, but I had no idea what I was talking about. Not even 10 minutes into the sermon, I knew I could not go on. My voice quivered and without warning I started crying uncontrollably. I managed to whisper, “Sorry, I cannot continue” and quickly looked for an exit off the platform. As I sat down in the pews, my hands shook and heart raced, and I knew I had made a fool of myself. I was humiliated and felt even worse because I had let people down.

As I look back at that experience, I cannot help but chuckle. Fear has a very interesting way of gripping us. It is definitely much easier to stay in our comfort zones and not have to face the things that scare us or make us uncomfortable. Yet, the words of 2 Timothy 1:7 give us hope and encouragement by stating, “for God gave us a spirit NOT of fear but of power and love and self-control.” I admit, Satan still reminds me of this incident and often tries to fill me with insecurity before I preach. However, I have learned that to overcome fear we have to take some important steps. Recognize the fear, trust God, and leave it in His hands. Sound too easy? It is. By following these steps, we will not only challenge ourselves, we will allow God to work in us and through us. In the process, we may even have the opportunity to make an impact and change lives. The choice is ours: we can either let our fears overwhelm us or we can choose to confront our fears, step out in faith, and grow. We can also experience first-hand the true peace that only God has to offer when we completely surrender all our fears to Him.

By Lee-Roy Chacon, President



New Faculty

Texico Conference Education Spotlight

Corrales, N. Mex. » The Texico Conference is pleased to announce that it has added four new teachers to its teaching staff for the 2017-2018 academic school year. The Texico Conference takes great pride in what our schools stand for within our communities and is fortunate to have Marybel Orellano, Xylia Capote, Darren Randall, and Juanita Camacho joining our team.

Each teacher brings with them a wealth of knowledge and experience to our teaching team. We are happy to welcome these new hires for the 2017-2018 academic year!

Marybel Orellano is from the Dallas/Fort Worth area. She taught in several Texas public school districts for 11 years. After serving as a loan counselor and later Associate Financial Aid Director at Southwestern Adventist University, Ms. Orellano felt the Lord's call to come back to teaching. She accepted the position of head teacher at Lubbock Junior Academy in Lubbock, Texas.

Xylia Capote is a recent graduate from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska where she received a degree in Elementary Education. Ms. Capote is looking forward to serving as head teacher at Abilene Junior Academy in Abilene, Texas.

Darren Randall is joining the staff at Sandia View Academy in Corrales, New Mexico. He has taught at all levels, from third grade through college, and he most recently taught at Burley Senior High School and Cassia High School in Idaho. Mr. Randall is replacing Yvette Chacón, who taught at Sandia View Academy for over 10 years. This summer, Ms. Chacón accepted a new position and will be teaching the 7th and 8th grade at Sandia View Christian School.

Juanita Camacho has been a teacher for over 20 years. She completed her studies in Special Education in Mexico where she worked with students with disabilities and special education needs. In Tijuana, Baja California, she worked

at the State Special Education Department where she oversaw the development of workshops aimed at training teachers, principals, and superintendents in the implementation of new curriculum, and the operation of different Special Education services.

Since then, Ms. Camacho has taught in several schools in New Mexico and will now serve as Kindergarten through fourth grade teacher at El Paso Junior Academy in El Paso, Texas. Ms. Camacho is a fervent believer in Christian Adventist education and believes in what Jeremiah 29:13 says: "You will seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all your heart." She strives to lead her students in the seeking and finding of the Giver of all understanding, our Lord Jesus Christ.

By Debbie Márquez
Communications Director

From left: Darren Randall, Xylia Capote, Marybel Orellano, and Juanita Camacho.



Plugged into Distance Learning

Texico Conference Education Spotlight

Corrales, N. Mex. » Thanks to the internet, wireless broadband, and mobile computing, Sandia View Academy's classrooms will now extend far beyond Corrales. This year, Sandia View Academy is embarking on a journey to provide distance learning education, increasing the reach of our academic offerings.

Sandia View Academy's distance learning program is geared towards students in grades 9-12 who want to get a quality Seventh-day Adventist education, but due to circumstances and commute distance, are unable to attend the academy.

Students can take part in an interactive classroom experience that engages in learning at the time the class occurs, and students and instructors will be able to interact during instructional time. Students will also be able to dialogue with fellow students and participate in campus events and field trips.

Sandia View Academy encourages you to plug in and join us this new school year. For more information call 505.898.0717 or email information@sandiaviewacademy.org.

————— *By Shakuntala Ramsarran*
Sandia View Academy Principal



Texico Conference Women's Ministries Retreat

Come to the Spring

October 27-29, 2017

Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel
2910 Yale Boulevard SE, Albuquerque, NM 87106

Keynote Speakers

Raquel Arrais, Associate Director Women's Ministries, General Conference

Chantal Klingbeil, Associate Director EGW Estates, General Conference

Adriana Castillo Ozuna, Montemorelos University

Tracie Metherell, Counselor, Retreat Chaplain

Registration

Register today at www.adventsource.org by clicking on the *Events* tab and searching the *Event Registration* page or by calling AdvetSource at (800) 732-7587.

Lodging information is also available on the adventsource page or reservations can be made at the Sheraton Albuquerque Airport Hotel by calling (505) 843-7000.

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EMPLOYMENT

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

Psychiatrist or Clinical Psychologist, PhD, needed for Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay and benefits. Call Dr. Randall Steffens at 615.604.0142.

Union College, Lincoln, NE seeks a Vice President for Enrollment Services. This person will be responsible for achieving the college's enrollment goals and managing financial aid to meet overall financial goals. Full description at www.ucollege.edu/staff-openings. Send application and resume to Dr. Vinita Sauder, Vinita.Sauder@UCollege.edu.

Dentist Wanted: Loma Linda University School of Dentistry grad (2001) is looking for a partner to join an established, lucrative, two-doctor, general dentistry practice in southwestern Ohio. Small town with a peaceful country living feel, yet within an hour and a half of Cincinnati, Columbus, and Dayton. Looking to move out of the cities? Looking for unlimited ministry options? Check us out at: www.HillsboroFamilyDentistry.net and on Facebook at Hillsboro Family Dentistry - Dr. Bryan Nickell. If you have questions or would like to set up a time to come meet with Dr. Nickell call 937.241.8903.

Andrews University seeks a University Faculty-Head Patron Svcs/Mktg. This faculty-full time position directs the overall management of the Patron Services department, which includes circulation desk management, building and stacks management, materials preservation, and interlibrary loan management; sets and administers policies and procedures; trains, supervises, and evaluates department staff and student assistants. Also, provides leadership in developing a strategic library marketing plan using traditional and current modes of communicating the library's image and services. For more information or to apply, visit: www.Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/1481

Union College seeks committed Adventist to direct its NCATE accredited Education program, effective December 2017. Doctorate preferred, Master's required. Experience in K-12 church schools essential. For further information, www.UCollege.edu/faculty-openings. Apply and submit C.V. to Dr. Frankie Rose, Academic Dean, at Frankie.Rose@UCollege.edu.

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has

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MISCELLANEOUS

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10 Days of Prayer returns January 10-20, 2018 with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more info and to sign up your church, visit www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org.

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Announcements

October 12-14 is the alumni weekend for the Spanish-American Seminary (SAS) and Sandia View Academy. The SAS will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its first graduating class and the 50th anniversary of SVA. Visit our official website at www.SandiaViewAcademyAlumni.org to find information about this year's events and our 11th Annual Golf Classic. Monies from the Golf Classic go to SVA Worthy

Student Fund. If you have questions about the weekend, please call Sandia View Academy at 505.898.0717 or Lisa Christopherson at 505.659.8356. Interested in playing golf or donating to Golf Classic? Call Paul Chavez at 505.304.3885.

Obituaries

Anderson, Claudia Ellease; born May 31, 1915, Nash, Tex.; died July 21, 2017, Grand Prairie, Tex. Church membership: Arlington Southern Worship Center, Arlington, Tex. Surviving: daughter, Alice Anderson James, of Grand Prairie.; son, Spencer G. Anderson, Jr., of Mansfield; son, John E. Anderson, of

Huntsville, Ala.; daughter, Ella L. Anderson, of Grand Prairie; daughter, Lawanda Anderson Lumbard, of Arlington; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Gillham, Donald W.; born Jan. 31, 1937, Wayside, Tex.; died April 27, 2017, Austin, Tex. Church membership: Tulia, Tex. Surviving: daughter, Donna Jones, of Austin; daughter, Elana Tasker, of Israel; daughter, Heidi Medina, of Zephyr Hills, Fla.; daughter, Vicki Gillham, of Austin; son, Douglas Gillham, of New York City, N.Y.; brother, Stanley Gillham, of Claude, Tex.; brother, Chaney Gillham, of Bowden, N.D.; brother, Benjamin Gillham, of Greeley, Colo.; sister, Olla Gillham, of

Wayside; sister, Laura Edwards, of Wayside; sister, Esther Mesnard, of Tulia.

Marquette, Rosetta J. Jones; born Mar. 10, 1938, Collinsville, Okla.; died May 22, 2017, Tulsa, Okla. Church membership: Pryor, Okla. Surviving: six children, Keith, Karen, KeAnn, Kerry, Korey, and Kelly; brother, Marlow Jones. Preceded in death by parents, Logan and Maurine Jones; two sisters, Mildred and Norma Jones; son, Kevin; and grandson, Rodney.

McArthur, Lucille Virginia Dodd; born January 29, 1917; died June 14, 2017, Granbury, Tex. Church membership: Granbury. Preceded in death by parents; husband, Jimmie Lee McArthur; five





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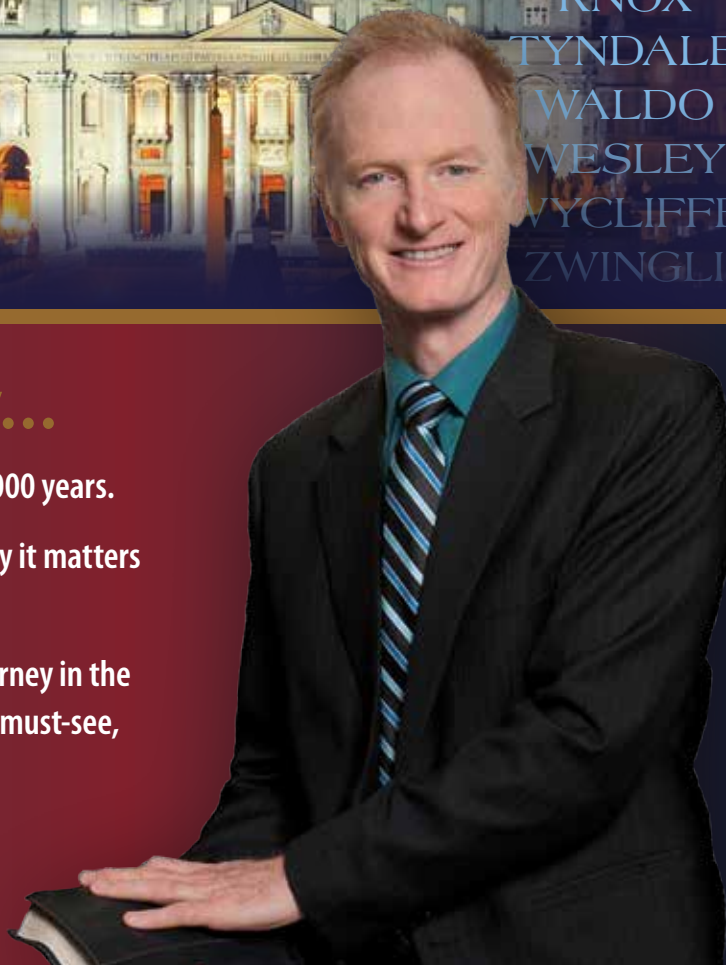
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Sawyer, Ross W.; 72, of Ozark, Arkansas died Friday, March 3, 2017, in Ozark.

He was a retired pastor at Ozark, Arkansas. He was born June 30, 1944 in Wilmington, Delaware. He is preceded in death by his parents, Roscoe Wood and Mary Elizabeth Wiseman Sawyer. He was the oldest of thirteen children. After serving in Viet Nam he was a type manager for the *Atlanta Constitution and Journal*. He attended evangelistic meetings after seeing an advertisement in a paper he was printing. After meeting and marrying his wife, Elaine Mullikin, he studied at Andrews University. He pastored the districts in Griffin, GA; Monroe, LA; Mountain Home, AR; and Ozark, AR. Pastor Sawyer is survived by his wife, Elaine Mullikin Sawyer of Ozark; a daughter, Tammy Johnson and husband Nathan of Brunswick, Maine; two grandchildren, Brinley and Braedan Johnson; and five brothers and seven sisters.



siblings; one sister-in-law; one brother-in-law. Surviving: two grandchildren; six great grandchildren; 10 great-great-grandchildren.

Mylonas, Seth Owen; born January 6, 2016; died July 18, 2017, Ardmore, Okla. Surviving: parents, Terry and Teresa Mylonas; brother, Samuel Mylonas; sister, Elizabeth Mylonas; grandparents, Kathy Farrow, Willard Farrow and Tommy and Kathy Mylonas; many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

Simmons, Juanita Esther; born May 8, 1929, Guthrie, Okla.; died Oct. 31, 2016, Grand Prairie, Tex. Church membership: Central. Surviving: sisters Betty Haffner, Ramona Greenhaw; sons, Curt Simmons, of Grand Prairie; Craig Simmons, of Rocklin, Calif.; Scott Simmons, of Grand Prairie; 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren. Preceded in death by husband, Paul.

Sweet, Toni Janine; born October 27, 1954, Lubbock, Tex.; died June 11, 2017, Amarillo, Tex. Church membership: Amarillo, Tex. Surviving: daughter, Amy Bailey, of Amarillo; brother, Rick Hudson, of San Antonio; brother, Alan Hudson, of Lubbock, ; sister, Sue Hart, of Austin.; sister-in-law, Cindy Wilbur, of Amarillo; two grandchildren.

Walton, Carlton (Carl) Lancelot; born April 25, 1934, Silver Hill, Upper Demerara River, Guyana, South America; died May 16, 2017, Temple, Tex. Church membership: Killeen, Tex. Surviving: wife, Olga (Barrow) Walton; son, Carlyle (Astrid); daughters, Joy-Anne (Duane) and Simone; four grandchildren; siblings, Myrtle Hensley, Frank Walton, Desmond Percival, Michael Goodman, George Percival, Gordon Walton, Pauline Blankenfeldt, Cherill Caesar and Angela Goodman.

Sabbath Sunset Calendar October-December 2017

	10/6	10/13	10/20	10/27	11/3	11/10	11/17	11/24	12/1	12/8	12/15	12/22	12/29
Abilene	7:18	7:09	7:01	6:54	6:47	5:42	5:38	5:35	5:33	5:33	5:35	5:38	5:42
Albuquerque	6:44	6:35	6:26	6:18	6:11	5:05	5:00	4:56	4:55	4:54	4:56	4:59	5:03
Amarillo	7:25	7:16	7:07	6:59	6:51	5:45	5:40	5:37	5:35	5:35	5:36	5:39	5:43
Brownsville	7:12	7:05	6:58	6:52	6:47	5:43	5:40	5:39	5:38	5:39	5:41	5:44	5:48
Dallas	7:06	6:57	6:49	6:41	6:35	5:29	5:25	5:22	5:21	5:21	5:22	5:25	5:29
El Paso	6:45	6:37	6:29	6:21	6:15	5:10	5:06	5:03	5:01	5:02	5:03	5:06	5:10
Fort Worth	7:08	7:00	6:51	6:44	6:37	5:32	5:27	5:25	5:23	5:23	5:25	5:27	5:32
Gallup	6:53	6:43	6:34	6:26	6:19	5:12	5:07	5:04	5:02	5:02	5:03	5:06	5:10
Gentry	6:55	6:45	6:36	6:28	6:20	5:14	5:09	5:05	5:03	5:03	5:04	5:07	5:11
Houston	7:02	6:54	6:46	6:40	6:34	5:29	5:25	5:23	5:22	5:22	5:24	5:27	5:31
Little Rock	6:47	6:38	6:29	6:21	6:14	5:08	5:04	5:00	4:59	4:58	5:00	5:03	5:07
Muskogee	6:59	6:49	6:40	6:32	6:25	5:18	5:13	5:10	5:08	5:08	5:09	5:12	5:16
New Orleans	6:41	6:32	6:25	6:18	6:12	5:07	5:04	5:01	5:00	5:00	5:02	5:05	5:09
Oklahoma City	7:08	6:58	6:49	6:41	6:34	5:28	5:23	5:19	5:17	5:17	5:18	5:21	5:25
Roswell	6:37	6:28	6:19	6:12	6:05	4:59	4:55	4:52	4:50	4:50	4:52	4:55	4:59
San Antonio	7:14	7:07	6:59	6:52	6:47	5:42	5:38	5:36	5:35	5:35	5:37	5:40	5:44
Shreveport	6:54	6:45	6:37	6:30	6:23	5:18	5:14	5:11	5:09	5:09	5:11	5:14	5:18
Tulsa	7:01	6:51	6:42	6:34	6:26	5:20	5:15	5:11	5:09	5:09	5:10	5:13	5:17

Note: Daylight Savings Time ends on November 5 at 2:00 a.m.

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NOVEMBER 18, 2017

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Keene, Texas 76059

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Cleburne, Texas 76031

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