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**Love Never Fails**  
*Reaching Further to Engage Others*

## Reaching Further and Engaging Others

### Love Never Fails

# Record

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#### Our Mission:

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

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## Editor's Note

This month we continue our quarterly theme, “Love Never Fails” in which we look at loving others in ways that may push us to grow and expand our comfort boundaries. Last month we talked about reaching beyond our personal comfort zones to love the family, friends, and neighbors in our immediate vicinity. Now, we look at the opportunities we have as congregations to engage our local neighborhoods and communities.

As we enter the time of year that includes holidays and family gatherings, why not take it as an opportunity to reach out to those in need of His love? Let’s explore the ways in which we and our churches can address in loving ways the unique needs and challenges that are present in our communities.

*Jessica L. Lozano*

Jessica L. Lozano

# Love Never Fails

## Reaching Further to Engage Others and Community



Larry Moore | President

**I would like to think, that as Adventist Christians, we do everything possible to reach those close to us with the Gospel.**

However, I'm not so sure that we actually do that though. Studies show that the longer we are in the Church, the fewer friends we have outside the Church. That makes witnessing a challenge, especially considering that those who we witness to most effectively are our friends and neighbors.

In Ellen White's book, *Ministry of Healing*, she shares about Jesus's method of success. Take a moment to consider these words and ask yourself if and how you are reaching further to engage your friends and community with Christ and His love.

“Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, ‘Follow Me.’ There is need of coming close to the people by personal effort. If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen. The poor are to be relieved, the sick cared for, the sorrowing and the bereaved comforted, the ignorant instructed, the inexperienced counseled. We are to weep with those that weep, and rejoice with those that rejoice.”

**Matthew 24:33 declares that the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ “is near, right at the door.”** This is not a statement of doom and gloom, but rather for the expectant Christian, a good news announcement! Personal, spiritual preparation is essential but helping others prepare for that grand event is just as important. Reaching beyond our own needs to the needs of any who enter our circle of influence is the greatest demonstration of our love and faith of Jesus Christ.

The recent natural disasters in the United States, Mexico and across the globe, along with the ongoing turmoil in our society, all signal the fact that only God is the resolver of earth's challenges.

The appeal is for all of us to “reach further” in our labor of love for the salvation of our family, friends, neighbors and those in the communities in which we live. The Church is one instrument that God uses to reach people, but our individual efforts reach beyond what the Church can and is able to do. In many ways, we can go where the Church cannot.

Remember: the Great Commission was given to Christ's disciples, not an institution. In Matthew 28 He bade them, and us as His disciples today, to go, make, baptize, and teach. He promised to be with us always, so don't hesitate as you go and reach!



Buford Griffith, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

**In David Platt's book *Radical*, he describes the scene of Luke 9 as Jesus almost trying to talk people out of following Him.**

Jesus basically informs them that there is a cost to following Him—you could become homeless and don't even get to say goodbye to your family. In the book of Mark, Jesus asks a young man to sell everything and to follow Him. The man had been keeping the commandments but when Jesus told him to sell everything and follow him, the man went away sad. In contrast, it is interesting to note Elisha's response to Elijah's request to follow him. Elisha sacrifices the oxen, burns his plow, and follows Elijah. There was no turning back. Elisha was committed, he left his comfort zone, and was going where God had called him.

I recently heard a sermon that has had an impact on me. The pastor was talking about getting out of your comfort zone and showing love to those in your community. He stated that a true act of love is when someone does something that is inconvenient for someone else. If it is not inconvenient, then we have not done something that shows true love. There is a cost to following Jesus. Are you ready to be inconvenienced to show Jesus's love to people? Jesus is ready to use you in tremendous ways that you cannot even imagine.



John Page | Treasurer

# Motivated by Love

## Reaching Further to Meet Strangers' Needs

*By Mark Miosi, Joshua Seventh-day Adventist Church Member*

As I sat in my office at home in Cleburne, trying to get caught up on paperwork and other to-dos, I was having a hard time concentrating. The images we had been watching on TV of the 50-plus inches of rain from Hurricane Harvey devastating South Texas, were in my head. They were not allowing me to focus on my work.

I felt like I needed to do something to help the folks down there. I saw on the news that people were being rescued from their homes with boats and they showed a couple of men who had come in from California to help. Seeing that made me think, "If they can come all the way from California to help, then I should be helping, too," since I was only five hours from the disaster.

On social media I learned that two friends, Randy Peterson and Robin Houghton, had purchased an amphibious vehicle and were heading south to help. This caused me to spend the next several hours trying to call the authorities in the Houston area to see if my jet skis would be any help. When I finally received a response from the Sheriff's department, they said they had enough boats.

I started thinking of the other ways people would need assistance and it looked as though many residents would need food and water right away. I told a buddy of mine, Ronnie Moller, that I was thinking of bringing supplies to the affected area and he immediately said, "I'm in." As we discussed what we would do, he suggested we connect with someone locally—possibly the area Adventist pastors—so that we would have a destination for the supplies.

At the time, much of the aid was focused on the Houston area, as the effects of the storm were immediately evident there. We decided to focus to the Beaumont and Port Arthur areas, which had also been hit hard. My wife, Dawn, made some calls and learned that Fernando Leite was the pastor of the Beaumont Seventh-day Adventist Church. We called his cell phone and learned his family had been evacuated from the area. We shared with him what we wanted to do and he connected us with Gloria Harder, a member at his church who had extensive experience working with the community.

We called Gloria and she told us they were in desperate need of food and water. Their water system had been damaged and the water wasn't safe to drink. When we told her we could bring food that didn't need to be refrigerated, along with water, she was thrilled. She said, "If you can bring stuff down here, we can open up the church and serve people from there!" We hung up with Gloria and put the wheels in motion.

I met Ronnie and his wife, Niscah, at Sam's Club where we bought a large number of jars of peanut butter and jelly and all of their bread. We also bought carts full of snacks to help in make lunches and two pallets of drinking water. We loaded everything in our trailer and Ronnie and I headed to Beaumont. It was three o'clock in the morning.

Along the drive, we stopped to pick up other needed items that came to mind. We knew we needed a lot more bread because we wanted to make enough lunches for the people, but every grocery store we stopped at was completely out of bread. We pulled over to get gas at a convenience store that





Perry Arante

had fuel and found a bread truck right there. After explaining what we needed to the driver, he took us down the road to their warehouse to meet with the manager of Bimbo Bakery/ Mrs. Bairds of Madisonville, Texas. He was so incredibly kind that he arranged for us to load up about \$3,000 worth of bread, all completely donated. We were in awe of how God was working things out.

Ronnie and I continued our drive and we called Gloria to touch base with her. She said there was a line outside the church that had started at 4:30 a.m. People from the area were waiting on the food and water we were bringing. We drove through 18 to 24 inches of flood water for nearly six miles to get to Beaumont. I had assumed there may be 15 to 20 people waiting at the church, but as we arrived, we saw that there were cars lined up along the road for three miles. Little did we know that Gloria had called a local TV station the night before and had them broadcast that there would be food and water distributed at the Beaumont Church the next morning.

The volunteers at the Beaumont Church were amazing. We arrived on Friday and met with close to 40 volunteers. Together we were able to serve every family that came through. We praise God for the opportunity to serve and the providence He provided.

Afterward, Ronnie and I headed north a couple of hours to the closest hotel we could find. We bought another trailer load of food and water and stopped to get some rest.

When we headed back the next day, the volunteers, which included many people from the community, had swelled to 79. The Sabbath morning service was not a sermon from the pulpit, but rather a sermon of action in the parking lot, serving others in their time of greatest need. That day, film crews from ABC, CBS, NBC and *The Washington Post* came to the Beaumont Church to report on the effort. Word travels fast!

We used social media to report on what we were doing and many were moved by the Holy Spirit to join in and help. The Joshua Seventh-day Adventist Church, where we are



members, adopted the Beaumont Church, as did the Burleson Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Our friends Tad and Michelle Long, along with their friend Nancy Williams, saw what was happening and brought a food trailer down and stayed for five days, cooking hot meals for thousands of people.

I started receiving calls from all over the country and trucks pulling trailers full of supplies came from Florida, Louisiana and other states.

Sergio Covarrubias, a Facebook friend of mine from Denver, saw what was happening in Beaumont and asked if we still needed supplies. He talked to Denver radio station KBPI, who was asking listeners to donate items to send to South Texas. They were able to bring six trucks pulling very long, enclosed trailers full of food, water, cleaning supplies, shop vacs, tools, and a stack of cash and gift cards to help families repair and rebuild their homes. Popular radio DJ Willie B even led the trip in one of the trucks himself.

It has truly been an amazing and humbling experience to witness what God can do when we allow ourselves to be His hands and feet. The effort is still ongoing and will be for the coming months, and maybe even years. Our focus now is on

helping families who lost everything get a fresh start. We are identifying and determining what furniture these families need to re-establish their homes.

At this time, we have just delivered our first house-full of new furniture in Beaumont to Treva Johnson and her family. We are blessed to have a wholesale source where we can buy new furniture. We are processing a list of families and are raising money to purchase the furniture they need. Please pray for all those affected, not only in South Texas, but all the other areas hit by other disasters as well. We pray that people don't see us, but rather God working through us, for we know all the glory is His.

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*Mark Miosi, pictured top left, lives in Cleburne, Texas with his wife, Dawn, and children Zachary and Alexis. Ronnie Moller, pictured bottom left, lives in Grandview with his wife, Niscah, and children Sarah, Trey, Aiden, and Riley. To join the efforts in Beaumont, contact Mark Miosi at [mark@miosi.net](mailto:mark@miosi.net).*



# From Sabbath School to the Classroom

## An Adventist Educator's Passion for Teaching and Love of Children

By Debbie Márquez, Texico Conference Communication Director

*The Washington Post* once posed this question in one of their articles: What makes a great teacher? To my surprise, the answer went beyond credentials, experience and intelligence. In fact, the answer was quite simple. “Among other things, a great teacher must first have a passion for teaching and second they must have a love of kids,” the reporter concluded. The Texico Conference is full of many great teachers and I recently had the opportunity to talk to one who has been making a difference in one of our schools for more than a decade.

For the past 17 years, Darlene Roche has taught preschool, kindergarten, and most recently, third and fourth grade at Sandia View Christian School (SVCS). Behind a quiet demeanor, Roche is a very creative person who always has a warm smile for her students. Although she comes from a long line of educators, she taught children’s Sabbath school but never considered teaching as a career. Like many moms, Roche found herself reevaluating her plans after her kids graduated from high school. She then got an unexpected call from a friend that worked at SVCS who asked if she was interested in teaching kindergarten.

“At the time, I wasn’t living in Albuquerque and had just accepted a job that was only 10 minutes away from my house. SVCS was an hour and ten minutes away,” she says. “It is funny how initially, we only see the present circumstances but God sees the bigger picture.”

Roche has since moved to Albuquerque, but the road to becoming a teacher was not an easy one. While teaching full-time at SVCS, Roche took classes for several years to obtain her degree and earn her North American Division certification. In 2014, her efforts were



**“The most exciting part of being a Christian educator is that I am able to pray with my students and I get the opportunity to tell them that God loves them no matter where they are.” Darlene Roche**

validated when she received the Southwestern Union Conference Excellence in Teaching Award.

“I’ve had tough years but I’ve always loved my job. In fact, I learn more from my students than they learn from me. They remind me that we are each unique and have something important to contribute.”

Roche is a valuable asset to SVCS. She leads the school’s drama team and is always looking for ways to motivate her students to reach their full potential. She is well loved by students and faculty alike. However, what is most important to Roche is teaching her students valuable spiritual lessons that she hopes they will remember well after they leave her classroom.

“The most exciting part of being a

Christian educator is that I am able to pray with my students and I get the opportunity to tell them that God loves them no matter where they are,” says Roche. “It is not because they follow the rules but it’s because of *who* they are. That is what I really want them to remember most when they are older.”

We are delighted that Roche honored her call to teach 17 years ago and are thankful that along with many of our Adventist teachers, she is committed to helping our students get ready for eternity.

“I believe it was God’s plan for me to teach at SVCS. I would rather be teaching here, than doing anything else,” says Roche. “I love my job and love these kids. They are a blessing to me. I learn and grow from them every day and I’m so thankful for this opportunity.” **R**

# Hands and Feet

## Helping Your Church Engage Your Community

By Kristina P. Lockhart, Managing Editor, and Jessica L. Lozano, Editor

The Great Commission in Matthew 28 urges us to go out and make disciples throughout the ends of the earth with the promise that Christ will always be with us. Mark 12 states that the greatest commandments are to love God with all of our being and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Jesus demonstrated these principles in the way He lived His life and interacted with people. Driven by compassion, He desired to heal broken lives and bring joy to restored souls.

Sometimes, churches and members forget that this is a joint effort. As members, we expect our churches to develop ministries and programs for our community. As church institutions, we expect our members to bring family and friends into our buildings so that they can be exposed to our ministries. But when one expects the other to do all the work, our synergy takes a devastating blow and we are left with uninspired members and disengaged congregations.

However, if we are driven by compassion as a unit, if we desire to heal broken lives as a unit, and if we work together as a unit to bring joy and restore souls, we can make these principles a reality. Prayerfully consider how you contribute to your local church's outreach mission synergy. Check out these tips to help you work together with your church to be the hands and feet of Jesus in a real, loving, and practical way!

### Tell Your Story:

Next to Christ's sacrifice, your story is the best story you can share with others. God has done incredible things in your life that are worth sharing with others. Have you been comforted through a tough loss or had God provide for you at precisely the right time? Sharing your experiences will encourage others!



### Meet the Neighbors:

Get to know the individuals, families, business owners, and employees in your local vicinity by hosting an event just for them! Members can hand-deliver invitations for a community get-together, and provide a relaxed, friendly atmosphere to get to know them and allow them to get to know you.

### Friend First Responders:

Let your local civic servants, police officers, firefighters, and paramedics, know that you and your church appreciate and value the work that they provide by scheduling a monthly meal drop-off, delivering gift baskets, or honoring their work through a special program

at your church. Get to know them and their families by selecting a different family on a rotating schedule to visit and care for.

### Provide Free Resources:

Our churches are made up of people with a variety of God-given talents and skills. Encourage each other to share this knowledge with the community through classes and workshops. Develop programs that reach out to specific segments of your communities, such as families needing transportation or home-bound seniors. It could be that the members of your church have just the right skills to reach these individuals. **R**



# Whole Person Healthcare

## Furthering the Healing Ministry and Cultivating Well-being in the Community

By Sarah Stephens, Texas Health Huguley Hospital Marketing Communications Coordinator



As a member of Adventist Health System, Texas Health Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South operates as a not-for-profit organization focused on improving the health of the community it serves, recognizing that total health is achieved through proper balance of physical, mental, social and spiritual well-being.

Every three years Texas Health Huguley conducts a Community Health Needs Assessment to determine the major needs in our area. This data is then used to develop a Community Health Plan to do our part to meet these needs by improving residents' health through education, research, financial assistance, special clinical and non-clinical programs, and the provision of spiritual resources. These community benefits are offered without regard to profit. The sole purpose is to strengthen the well-being of the community and to aid vulnerable individuals such as the elderly and underprivileged.

Texas Health Huguley employees from many faiths and cultures unite to relieve suffering and bring healing to people. Our mission is to extend the healing ministry of Christ by caring for the whole person—body, mind, and

spirit. We treat everyone with dignity, respect, and compassion.


In an effort to live out our purpose, to serve each person as if they were the one we love the most, Texas Health Huguley offers a number of ministries, community outreach services, and programs. These programs are based on our dedication to provide our community access to excellent care and our commitment to becoming the healthcare institution of choice for residents of Johnson and Southwest Tarrant counties.

We promote the CREATION Health initiative, a faith-based wellness program focused on educating and encouraging patients, staff, and community members on the philosophy that living out eight key principles—Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition—will allow for whole person health and overall well-being.

We aim to reach our community members through free monthly interactive events and educational seminars such as “Senior Class” and “Ladies First.” Usually partnered with a physician, these events center around relevant health topics in an informative, fun, and empowering environment.

Texas Health Huguley's Mobile Health Services Bus provides services such as vaccinations, screenings, and physicals to those unable to access healthcare due to a lack of transportation or adequate financial resources. Overseen by a physician, the Mobile Health Services Bus is staffed by a Family Practice Nurse Practitioner, a licensed paramedic, and various allied health professionals and volunteers.

Among other ministry programs offered at Texas Health Huguley, a hospital chaplain is available for prayer and counseling 24 hours a day to support any spiritual need. Our Chaplain Services department also offers daily prayer services open to the community. Additionally, our Clinical Pastoral Education program provides interfaith, professional training for those seeking to broaden their scope of pastoral ministry.

Our Community Health Plan, ministries, and outreach programs aid our philosophy of whole person healthcare and our ongoing commitment to be our community's most trusted healthcare partner for life. 



In many elite universities, there is an event called “tap night” in which prospective initiates gather in a common area and the members of elite societies walk through the crowd and tap on the shoulder of those they intend to initiate.

*Seeing Our Neighbors as Family Members*

# Embracing the Mission

In the Church, the word “outreach” has picked up a lot of baggage over the years. For many, it means some contrived activity designed to put our information into the hands of the “others.” But for lots of others it retains its primary meaning, which I would define as any experience which demonstrates care for our neighbors. There was a time when the people “outside our walls” had a common culture and worldview that was susceptible to a common invitation or “shoulder tap.” That time has passed. There is no longer a single outreach that will rally large numbers of North Americans to enter our churches. Now we face the opportunity of meeting our neighbors wherever we can identify commonality.

In 1983, while a pastoral intern at the Houston Central and Houston Northwest Seventh-day Adventist Churches, I presented a five-day plan to smokers in Houston with a local physician, Sukhdev Peganyee. This was intended for a very narrow group of people: Houston smokers who wanted to quit, but were unable to. These days, the five-day plan has been supplanted by a profit-based smoking cessation industry. Yet, many connection points are still available.

Today, we may want to leave the secret society model of shoulder taps and initiations and adopt the community model. This means identifying commonality with our neighbors. These commonality groups might include people on our street or apartment building who want better health, are hurting or depressed, are getting married or divorced, are addicted, are lonely, etc. In short, our neighbors are the same people Jesus loved and died to save.

## There Is No Them

The first step toward a community model of outreach requires us to change our mindset from “Us and them” to “Us.” We are all “Us.” There is no “them.” Entering the church is a beautiful experience that provides us with a network possessing all the potential support and comfort inherent in the concept of family. Sometimes this leads toward a focus on those relationships to the exclusion of others. Our mission, if we decide to accept it, is to see all our neighbors as potential family members.

## Identify Engaging Assets

The next step is to identify assets available to engage in communal activities. Our first and greatest assets are the fruits of the spirit. Galatians 5:22 outlines them this way: “But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control,” (NLT). To these assets, we add talented, experienced people who can share. In most cases the assets also include facilities for both instructional and social gatherings.

## Grow the Family

Congregations that focus on common holidays to introduce guests to the family take advantage of this practical tool. Christmas, Easter, Veterans Day, and homecomings, among other special events, provide these opportunities throughout each year.

At the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, we have a huge production called “The Pageant.” This production happens every year on the Sabbath

before Easter. Sometimes, many people question the connection between the pageant and traditional outreach evangelism. We feel that it is simply good to have people turn their hearts and minds toward the story of Jesus. Many visitors not of our faith or of any faith attend this celebration of the resurrection.

The Keene Church has reinvented the idea of “Camp Meeting.” As we all know, that phrase comes out of the last century, and its focus suggests internal interests. However, in Keene this has become more of a homecoming

litation that knows a lot about service. Our church has honored our veterans in several different ways over the years, but this year we are putting on a program that says “Thank You for Your Service.” Some who have spent years in the military have never been appreciated for what they have given up. Lives have been lost, generations have been cut short, families have suffered, and sometimes, an ungrateful population just sits by. A “thank you” activity welcomes visitors to the church who may have never been here before.

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*The first step toward a community model of outreach requires us to change our mindset from “Us and them” to “Us.” We are all “Us.” There is no “them.”*

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for our church. Many who have been part of the church in the past reconnect for this special occasion and some stay on and reestablish their ties with the church. Connected with “Camp Meeting” is our children’s programming, Vacation Bible School. This programming is a huge opportunity to gather the neighborhood children into a saving relationship with Jesus.

Another part of the Keene Church’s annual programming is Christmas. Since we are part of and connected with Keene Adventist Elementary School, Chisholm Trail Academy, and Southwestern Adventist University, we are not devoid of Christmas programming. Yet, each of these programs are the perfect opportunity to invite friends and neighbors. It not only benefits the church but each of the schools, also. Plays and musicals depict the first Advent of Christ while many people in our community are thinking less commercially and more spiritually of Christmas.

Veteran’s Day is a great time to connect with a segment of our popu-

Many churches provide community services to people with specific, identifiable needs. At Keene Church we have a community center that we call “Great Stuff.” It is a house across from the church where we sell donated goods, “stuff!” The proceeds from this small enterprise provides the funds necessary to staff the facility, but these funds also fund a thriving outreach to our community.

This outreach is called Community Monday, a ministry of the church through Adventist Community Services Ministries. People apply for assistance with rent, utility bills, or family assistance. All the applications are reviewed and depending on the funds available, we pay the amount agreed upon to the utility or landlord, on the applicant’s behalf. These are just some of the ways that we can introduce people to our family. We hope you can, too. R

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*James Winegardner is the Senior Pastor and Don Gibson is an Associate Pastor of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church.*

# A Gateway of Hope

## *Meaningful Ministry Provides Redemption and Healing*

By Glen Robinson, Ph.D., Southwestern Adventist University Professor of Communication

### **The statistics are sobering.**

One in four women will have an abortion in their life and one in three people have to deal with the effects of one.

Perhaps it was statistics like these that led Abby Duffy in 2015 to fill out a connection card in church expressing interest in starting a ministry for those struggling with the guilt following abortion. Her brainchild has turned into a unique ministry at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa.

“I had not experienced abortion myself, but had struggled with similar feelings. I hadn’t seen ministries dealing with those specific needs,” Duffy says. When Michael Smith got her card, the First Tulsa Church’s pastor asked the Oklahoma Conference and Southwestern Union for help. Carmen Griffith, Women’s Ministries Director and Associate Family Ministries Director at the Southwestern Union, led them to the website [www.mafgia.com](http://www.mafgia.com). Antoinette Duck and Dianne Wagner’s ministry and example led to Tulsa’s current post-abortion ministry, Gateway of Hope.

The First Tulsa Church took a methodical approach to this grief and trauma ministry. Smith and Duffy prayed and shared the idea with the church elders, then prayed for 40 days before presenting it to the board. It started as a small group ministry, and now includes a Bible study, as well as a weekend retreat. A Silent Sorrow Seminar featured the two speakers from Mafgia ministry early on. The ministry and the seminar were promoted via social media, in local libraries, gas station restrooms, and especially local crisis pregnancy centers and life-advocating care facilities.

One of the unique aspects of the ministry is that it meets the needs



of women and men. The idea came to Smith when he realized that men whose wife or girlfriend experienced abortion also faced trauma and guilt.

“We learned a lot by observing a similar ministry,” Smith says. “We learned to promote our ministry by placing flyers in bathroom stalls.” Smith and Duffy find the ministry reaching men and women of all ages, from very young teenagers to those who experienced abortions more than 40 years ago. One 86-year-old woman from Muskogee came to the seminar, saying she had been carrying the burden of her guilt for most of her life.


“I was raised as a Seventh-day Adventist,” says Rachel (not her real name), a participant. “It has been almost 40 years of keeping this secret of my abortion. My own mother questioned what the church members think of me. To this day I have never discussed it with any family members. Gateway of Hope reintroduced me to the path of freedom from guilt and

shame. This program brought closure to a chapter of my life on unending pain and shame of my abortion.”

The small groups are structured to provide confidentiality and protect identities. Church members are aware that the ministry is available and provide positive feedback. A recent retreat asked for volunteers from the church and received overwhelming support.

“One of the things we’ve seen in all this, is that we really need this,” Duffy says. “Our group is currently on fire to share this ministry with others who have experienced grief and trauma via abortion, because we know how real the hope is that God has.”

The ministry’s namesake comes from the reassuring words in Hosea 2:15, “I will return her vineyards to her and transform the Valley of Trouble into a gateway of hope.”

To learn more about Gateway of Hope and to connect with Pastor Michael Smith or Abby Duffy, visit [www.GatewayofHope.info](http://www.GatewayofHope.info). 

# Songs of Gratitude

## Sharing an Abundance of Kindness

I was so excited! School was out for the summer and it was time to visit grandma and grandpa in California. A whole year had gone by and I couldn't wait to see them. My family and I had moved to Mexico while my dad finished his college degree. We didn't have extra money for toys and games, but we were happy with what we had and thankful for our family.

The trip from Mexico to California was very long and took us through many towns and cities, mountains and valleys, deserts and forests. We finally made it to grandpa and grandma's house and after many hugs and kisses, we said thank you to Jesus for watching over us.

My sister and I loved to sing and Mom loved to teach us songs about Jesus. We often sang at home and in church. We were invited to share these songs at grandpa's and grandma's church on Sabbath. So, we rehearsed for the concert the first days we arrived in California.

The concert day arrived. Mom dressed my sister and me in matching white dresses with red trim that a friend had made for us. My sister and I sang, Mom played the piano, and Dad spoke. We sang about the snowflakes that God made unique like us, we sang about the animals and other the things we are grateful for, and we sang about the love we have for our grandpas and grandmas. When the hour-long concert was over, we received many hugs and words of appreciation.

We were delighted to meet so many people and see so many happy faces. We felt good about making others happy and singing for Jesus.

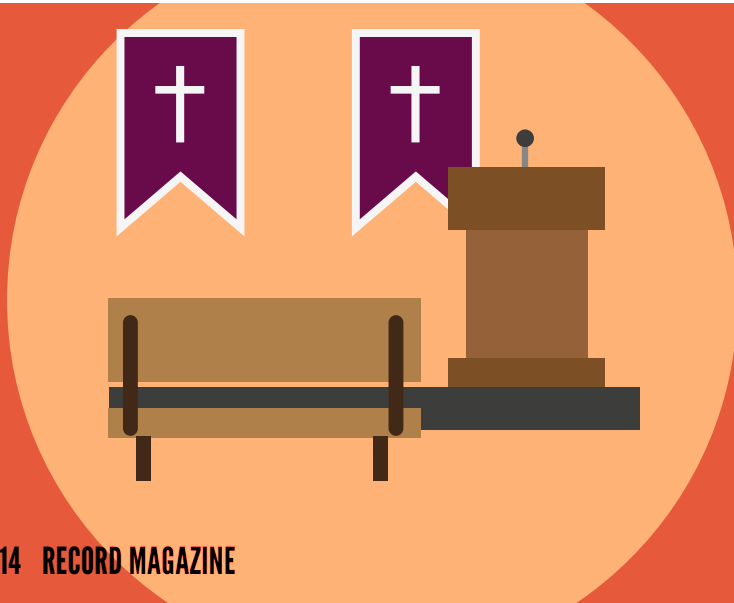
The day after the concert, we went to the store with mom. My sister and I saw a set of play food with its own shopping cart. We were thrilled at the idea of playing supermarket or restaurant, or just cooking for our dolls so we ran to mom and asked if we could please have the set. Mom sadly told us that we could not afford it. Although this made my sister and I sad too, we understood and did not ask again. While mom checked out at the register we looked at the play food one last time before leaving the store.

On our way out, a lady walked up to us and told mom to wait because she wanted to give us something. The lady came back shortly and said, "Go pick the playset you want. It's my gift to you." I couldn't believe my ears. Why would someone be so kind to us? The lady went on to say that she was at the concert the day before and had heard us sing. We had brought joy to her heart and she wanted to show us her gratitude for what we had done for her.

We had the play food set for many years after that and every time we played it reminded us of the kind lady. I also learned that showing our love for others can happen in any place and in many ways.

Showing our love for others can happen in any place and in many ways.

*By Leslie Soupet*



How exciting it is to receive the gift you've always wanted!  
 Complete the word search by finding  
 10 foods found in the play set.

C	A	R	R	O	T	R	W	P	E
P	E	P	P	W	Q	X	R	U	G
C	T	O	M	A	T	O	A	M	G
O	V	E	G	C	V	G	D	P	P
R	R	T	E	T	O	M	I	K	L
N	P	E	P	P	E	R	S	I	A
C	A	B	B	A	G	E	H	N	N
W	B	R	O	C	C	O	L	I	T
C	U	C	U	M	B	E	R	A	Q
W	R	G	D	W	S	A	A	F	I
P	O	T	A	F	P	G	T	S	F

## 6 WAYS TO SAY SING

SPANISH: cantar  
 DANISH: synge  
 FRENCH: chanter  
 ROMANIAN: cânta  
 GERMAN: singen



**Carrot**

**Broccoli**

**Tomato**

**Corn**

**Pepper**

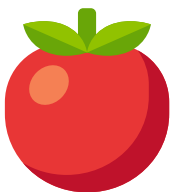
**Cabbage**

**Cucumber**

**Radish**

**Pumpkin**

**Eggplant**



Be completely  
 humble and  
 gentle;  
 be patient,  
 bearing with one  
 another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

# November Events

**2-5**

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

**2-5**

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

**3-5**

**Texas Conference:** Men's Summit, Hoblitzelle Camp & Conference Center, Midlothian, Texas, TexasAdventistMen.org, 936.419.6224

**4**

**Southwestern Union Conference:** Sabbath School Training (Children and Adult), Houston African United Church, Houston, SouthwesternAdventist.org, 817.295.0476

**4**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Texarkana Spanish Youth Sabbath, 904 W. 17th St., Texarkana, Texas, 504.717.1487

**6**

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



**12**

**Southwestern Union Conference:** Children's Ministries Training for Union Coordinators, SouthwesternAdventist.org, 817.295.0476

**20-26**

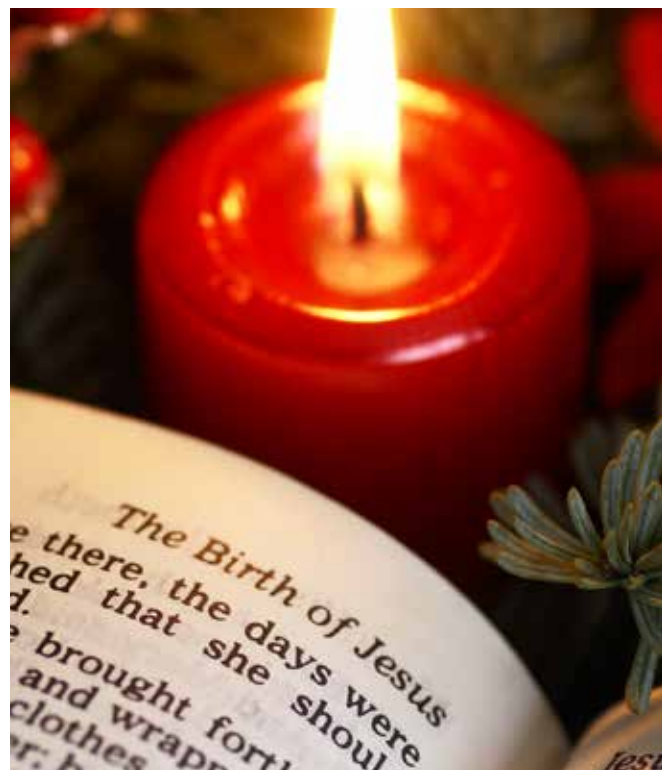
**Southwestern Adventist University:** Thanksgiving Break, SWAU.edu, 817.645.3921

**22-23**

**Thanksgiving Holiday:** Conference and Union offices closed

**29-Dec. 2**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Ozark Adventist Academy Music Festival, Ozark Adventist Academy, Gentry, Ark., 479.736.2221



# December Events

**1-2**

**Texico Conference:** Marriage Retreat, Lubbock, Texas, Texico.org, 505.244.1611

**18-23**

**Southwestern Union Conference:** Young Adult Cruise Retreat, SouthwesternAdventist.org, 817.295.0476, ext. 2434

**25-26**

**Christmas Holiday:** Conference and Union offices closed

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



# Annual Council

## General Conference Document Referred Back to Committee

**Silver Spring, Md.** » At the 2017 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council meetings held October 5-11, approximately 450 representatives from Seventh-day Adventist entities from across the world met to discuss and vote on Church business and policies. On October 9, approximately six hours of discussion took place on a 14-page document entitled "Procedures for Reconciliation and Adherence in Church Governance: Phase II."

If the document were approved, all GC executive committee members registering for 2018 Annual Council (and annually afterward) would be requested to sign a compliance statement.

According to Adventist News Network/*Adventist Review*, the document outlined the second phase of a process of

reconciliation voted during 2016's Annual Council that sought to initiate standard procedures for maintaining church unity in matters involving non-compliance. Phase I sought to provide a "pastoral" approach involving dialogue and a greater understanding. The Phase II document is described as emphasizing the executive committee's commitment to "preserve the governance and organizational structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church on all levels" in the context of "godly forbearance, Christian charity, and redemptive grace." The document includes a commitment of the GC executive committee to "the continued forbearance and discussion process," which offers "additional time to find solutions."

The document is divided into two

sections, one section describing non-compliance and the second outlining the results of noncompliance. Quotes from *The Desire of Ages* and *Testimonies* series by Ellen G. White comprised two pages of the document. After the discussion, a motion was made to refer the document back to the Unity in Mission Oversight committee. With a vote of 184, yes; 114, no, the document was sent back to the committee, and a vote on the document will wait until the next Annual Council.

————— *North American Division  
Office of Communication*

*Top right: Larry Moore, Southwestern Union President, waits to speak during a 2017 General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Annual Council session.*



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# Against All Odds

## Graduating College Without Financial Aid

**Keene, Texas »** Alondra Zavala fell in love with Southwestern Adventist University from the first time she visited campus. One major hurdle stood in the way of attending. She could not receive any scholarships or loans because of her legal status. Determined to attend Southwestern, Zavala worked hard and prayed continuously.

Now, as a class of 2017 psychology graduate, Zavala has no college debt, works full-time, and is in the process of setting up a Southwestern University scholarship.

“If I had listened to discouraging voices, I may not have even gone to college, let alone attended a private Christian school,” says Zavala. “Now, I am a product of Southwestern and very proud of that.”

Zavala took education and finances a step at a time, praying for God to bless her with just one more year. Encouraged by Christian faculty, staff, and peers, Zavala’s spiritual life grew. She trusted God to provide.

Zavala worked up to three jobs at a time, especially at on-campus departments such as Enrollment. Supervisors trusted Zavala to take on new work responsibilities, pushing Zavala to believe in herself. As a result, Zavala did more than she ever thought possible. For instance, she directed CORE Freshman Orientation.

“I didn’t think I could do it, but my supervisors encouraged me,” says Zavala. “They saw something in me. I am now a more rounded person because of that.”

In high school, Zavala didn’t join clubs or play sports. Most programs required participation on Sabbath which conflicted with her Seventh-day Adventist beliefs. At Southwestern University, Zavala decided to experience as much as possible. She joined clubs, volunteered for Spiritual Life and Development, and worked for the Student Association as the editor of *Status*, Southwestern’s student publication.

“I used to be very reserved, but I came to Southwestern and I bloomed,” says Zavala. “The school made me into a leader.”

Even though Zavala remained in Keene the summer before her senior year to work and save money, she still did not have enough to start the semester. As *Status* editor, Zavala had less time for work. In addition, Zavala’s senior year included a very heavy class load. Zavala had put herself on track to graduate in three years, meaning that each semester included as many class hours as possible.

The week of registration, Student Financial Services called Zavala in to “go over the numbers.” To Zavala’s surprise, someone had gifted a scholarship to help her graduate. Zavala hadn’t

heard of the scholarship before and did not expect the extra help. It made all the difference to help Zavala graduate. She even graduated debt-free, completing her undergrad in only three years.

“It gave me a lot of hope to know that people care enough to give a scholarship that I hadn’t even applied for,” says Zavala. “I am blessed by my Southwestern family and God.”

Now, Zavala works at a disabilities office in Texas called MHMR, My Health My Resources. She is saving money to attend graduate school and work towards a PhD in Marriage and Family Counseling. In addition, Zavala is in the process of donating a scholarship to Southwestern for Deferred Action students, students who are able to study and work in the United States, but can’t receive financial aid or leave the country.

“It is hard to go to college in that situation,” says Zavala. “I want to encourage people to just give it a shot and take a step of faith. Know that if you try your best, God will provide. He provided for me. Work hard, let Him take charge, and just wait.”

Learn more about financial resources for college at [swau.edu](http://swau.edu), [enroll@swau.edu](mailto:enroll@swau.edu), or 817.202.6749.

By Makala Coleman James  
2015 journalism major



# 25th Anniversary Concert

## A Night at the Meyerson



**Keene, Texas** » Southwestern Adventist University is thrilled to celebrate the 25th annual Music Festival tradition of *A Night at the Meyerson* with the world premiere of Kim André Arnesen's newest composition for choir, brass, and the Herman W. and Amelia H. Lay Family Concert Organ. Written specifically for Southwestern's Meyerson concert, Arnesen will be on hand during the festival to work with the singers to prepare them for the Meyerson concert.

Arnesen is one of the most-performed classical composers from Norway today. He grew up in Trondheim and started at the music school at the age of six, playing the piano. By the age of 10, Arnesen had started singing in the Nidaros Cathedral Boys' Choir. He was further educated at the Music Conservatory in Trondheim. As a composer, his first performance was in 1999 with

the boys' choir. Since then, Arnesen's work has been performed by choirs all over the world!

In addition, the evening will feature Emily Levin, the new principal harpist of the Dallas Symphony Orchestra. Levin is an award-winning harpist, Juilliard graduate, and has traveled the world with her harp. She is the youngest principal harpist of a major American orchestra.

The concert will take place on Sunday, February 11 at the Morton H. Meyerson Symphony Center in Dallas, Texas. It will feature hundreds of talented high school musicians from all over the United States and the 2018 music finalists, top high school musicians who audition for the honor.

Last year's concert raised nearly \$50,000, a new record for this event. The proceeds benefit music schol-

arships and the Music Department, allowing the faculty to provide an enriched experience for the students participating in the department's four major ensembles. The University Singers, one of the major ensembles of the Music Department, travel all over the world to perform.

"Travelling with the choir is such an enlightening experience—it really opened my eyes, refined my ambitions," shared Astrid Partida, 2017 nursing major graduate. "It also gives us the opportunity to share beauty. Sometimes we don't speak the same language as our audiences, but music breaks through all barriers."

Learn more about Southwestern's Music Department faculty and events at [swau.edu/music](http://swau.edu/music).

By Darcy Force

# Connections

## Creating Ties with Your Community



I visited my bank last fall to take care of a business transaction. After explaining what I needed, I was introduced to the new branch manager. I decided that as he was asking questions to get acquainted with me, I would do the same to get acquainted with him. He learned I was going on a mission trip, and I learned that he felt he could never do that, even though he and his wife were active in their church. I also learned that he had a daughter who was struggling with some concerns.

After he had finished taking care of my business, I felt strongly impressed that I should ask him if I could pray for him. However, his office was completely open to the view of the entire bank. I wasn't sure I wanted to offer the prayer and didn't know if he would want to be in view of everyone else in the bank lobby. Yet I sensed deeply the prompting of the Holy Spirit and so I asked him, "Would it be alright if I offered a prayer for you?" He jumped up out of his chair and then quickly walked around his desk to the other side where I was sitting. When I saw him get up, I quickly stood as well, not knowing what to expect. But when he held out both of his hands to take mine, I knew he was ready to pray! So I prayed that God would bless him in his new assignment as branch manager. I prayed for his family and especially for his daughter. When I finished praying and opened my eyes, I saw he was full of emotion with tears in his eyes. A connection was made and sealed with a prayer.

Several months later, I had to make a follow up visit to my bank and again had opportunity to visit with my new-found friend. When my business was completed, I once again offered to pray for him, and once again he sprung to his feet. This time I knew what to expect, so when he came quickly around his large desk I stood to my feet and was ready to take his hands as he extended them to me.

Connecting with the community and establishing a relationship is essential. No college coursework or degree is required. All that is necessary is allowing oneself to be led of the Spirit with holy boldness and taking advantage of opportunities as they present themselves. Can you be friendly? Can you show kindness and genuine interest in another person? If you can associate with people in ways that their needs are met, prejudice is destroyed, confidence is established, and friendships are created; then, God can use you to connect with others for the sake of His kingdom.

*By Stephen Orian, President*



# Helping Those in Need

## Church Sends Supplies to Hurricane Survivors

**Bonnerdale, Ark. »** After Hurricane Harvey flooded Houston and the surrounding areas, many of the members in the Bonnerdale Seventh-day Adventist Church wanted to do something to help, although many roads into Houston were still closed due to floodwaters and continued rain. On Monday, after the hurricane had made landfall, church member Max Holland told me, “We need to do something. We need to get involved and go help them.” After seeing a story from the *Washington Post* about the Beaumont Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was distributing water, food, personal care items, diapers, etc., to anyone in need, a group of members was inspired to gather donations and make the trip to Beaumont, Texas.

By Friday morning at 5:00 a.m., there was a truck and trailer loaded

with drinking water, diapers, formula, wipes, bread, canned food, etc., to help alleviate some suffering. Max, his wife Brittney, and daughter Mackenzie, along with another member, Lance Womack, made the trip.

They were shocked by what they saw. The water had receded, but the damage it left behind was evident. People had huge piles of personal belongings and furniture, now reduced to ruin, lining the street in front of their homes. Carpets, furniture, mattresses, and drywall were all piled up, along with refrigerators and appliances. The group helped unload and distribute the goods they collected. Womack spent some time helping people remove damaged items from their homes.

Womack commented that even though the impact of the storm dam-

aged a lot of things, the people were all working together to clean up. Neighbors were helping neighbors, strangers were helping strangers, and in the midst of the chaos and the remnants of what Harvey brought, solidarity and unity among people of multiple ethnicities was the result. Racial and language barriers seemed to disappear as everyone helped everyone. In spite of all the divisiveness that gets promoted in the media, people in need were helping other people in need, just when they needed it most.

— By Brandon Westgate

*Members of the Bonnerdale Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered and delivered supplies to the Beaumont Seventh-day Adventist Church following Hurricane Harvey.*



# Shreveport Evangelism

## God's Spirit is Stirring Hearts

**Shreveport, La. »** Pastors usually make their evangelism plans a year ahead, so there was no way to know what the world would be like in September 2017 when David Farmer originally drew up plans for an evangelistic series at the Shreveport First Seventh-day Adventist Church. It had been nine months since he picked out the brochures with the picture of a hurricane in the background! Do we believe God's Hand is in everything we do and plan for Him?

Shreveport First Church has a large, accommodating fellowship hall with tables and chairs for a good seminar

study. But there were so many attending the meetings the first two nights that they ran out of room and some of the people had to leave. The third night they moved into the sanctuary and by the fourth night they were running out of materials and had to order more from the ABC. People have been asking questions and are very interested in finding answers that will help them understand what is happening in the world around us.

Opening night focused on "What Does the Bible Say" using Matthew 24 and Jesus' words about the end of the world.

Approximately 75 to 100 people were interested and engaged in the studies.

As this report has been sent at the end of September, we will let you know what happens at the end of these meetings, but whatever happens in the Shreveport First Church, the Holy Spirit has stirred up the hearts of people who are hungry for the Word; those who want to know what is happening and what is going to happen. We have the truth for this time. Let us invite, tell, and preach the Word, for Jesus is coming!

— *By Sylvia Downs, Communication Secretary*



# Under Construction

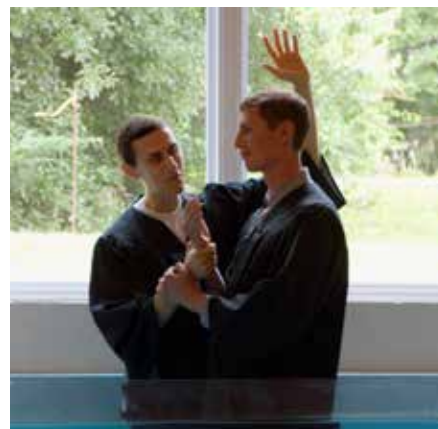
## Unfinished Church Already Being Used for Baptisms

**Amity, Ark. »** The Amity Seventh-day Adventist Church urgently needs to complete construction on its new building to facilitate outreach to the community. Although progress has been slow as the 10,000 sq/ft structure is being built mostly with local help and as debt free as possible, more than 10 people have already been baptized in the fully functional baptistery. Sheetrock dust and the smell of new paint mingle with our singing as the unfinished walls echo the strains of heaven's rejoicing

throughout the building.

Now in the finishing stages, the Amity church would welcome skilled, mission-minded individuals to help in finishing carpentry, cabinetry, general construction, flooring, and plumbing. Travel expense reimbursement and RV site or RV housing will be provided. Free vegan food for volunteers is available at nearby Ouachita Hills Academy and College. Call Rob Neall at 540.312.2450 for more information.

— *By Robert Neall*



# Health Outreach

## It Can Start with You



Once my co-workers find out that I am a vegetarian, it makes lunchtime interesting! If I bring my lunch, they ask, “What are you having for lunch?” with their eyes and nose close to my food, sniffing and trying to figure it out. “Meatloaf? How do you make vegetarian meatloaf?”

If someone orders lunch for the office staff, they will order a vegetarian pizza for me and for everyone else, pepperoni pizza. Inevitably, the veggie pizza is *always* eaten first! My co-workers are intrigued by my plant-based diet and they usually have lots of questions about what my family eats for Thanksgiving dinner!

When our church talks about health outreach for the community, one of the most effective tools is *living* our health message. People are curious and are interested in becoming healthier. Topics of health make great conversation! Perhaps the most common question I am asked is, “Why are you a vegetarian?” Get ready folks—that question just opened the door for some witnessing!

“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies” (I Corinthians. 6:19-20).

*By Sherry Fisher, RN, Director of Health Ministries*



# Sharing Hope

## Local Community Missionaries

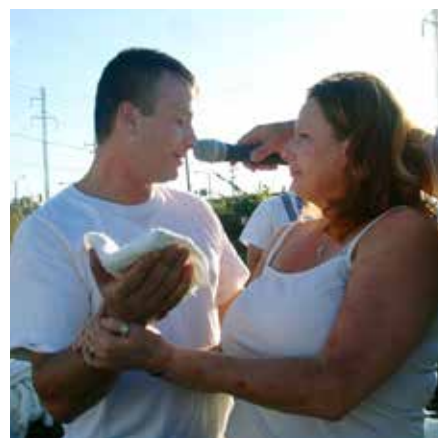
**Oklahoma City »** From the beginning, with a mission in downtown Oklahoma City serving 120-140 people, to a factory in Del City operating in conjunction with the Oklahoma City drug court, and now a 40-acre farm, the City of Hope/Feeding the Broken Hearted ministry has seen God bless abundantly.

Our community focus is to lovingly serve the homeless and help others overcome addictions through Christ and to develop a daily relationship with Him. A typical day at City of Hope begins with Bible study and

prayer. Attendance at all evening services and Sabbath morning worship service is required, but also welcomed. Many begin participating in worship services at Oklahoma International Seventh-day Adventist Church and many of our new family members are baptized after a few months in our program. They learn first and foremost that Jesus Christ is their Savior, Helper, Lord, and Master. They learn to ask for the grace of God to strengthen them in overcoming addictions and to keep them from falling into sin.

They teach, serve, pray for, and lift each other up. They lovingly hold one another accountable, a concept most of them have never experienced. The sole purpose of this ministry is for Jesus to rehabilitate the minds and bodies of individuals who have abused them so much no one wants to work with them anymore. We don't give up on them; there is always hope!

By Joan Rupe



# Making Friends

## Monthly Fellowship Brings Members Together

**Harrah »**The Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church and Retirement Village met for their monthly social in June to make new friends and get acquainted with new families that have moved into the area. Young and old enjoyed the evening, eating savory Mexican food provided by the social committee. It was like a taste of heaven, sitting down with Jesus at the longest table ever and enjoying a heavenly fellowship!

By Barbara Gephord





# Enriching Life

## Serving Our Communities by Meeting Needs

**Tulsa »** A collaboration of enthusiastic, mission-minded church members from several Seventh-day Adventist churches in the Tulsa area are prayerfully rising to the challenge of being relevant in their communities. The Tulsa Community Services Center is the fruit of many steps of faith and months of prayer. “The mission of the TCSC is to enrich the quality of life in our community through individual and family services. Our vision and commitment is to provide aid for the specific welfare of each person through dental, medical, legal and

spiritual services. There are also plans to have the center serve as a distribution center for physical needs, such as food and clothing,” says Apple Park, Oklahoma Conference Secretary and Director of Tulsa Community Services Center,

TCSC is operated as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and has already conducted three health clinics. To date, approximately 100 patients have had their health needs met at no charge. Health screening services include blood pressure and blood sugar testing, height and weight measuring, and private consultations

with physicians. Dental and vision services are planned to start soon.

This project spans the many cultures represented in the Oklahoma Conference and the Tulsa communities. The Korean, Zomi, New Life and all Spanish Churches in Tulsa have united in this effort. Those who volunteer at the TCSC are working as the hands and feet of Jesus to minister to the community’s health needs and win their confidence that they may bid them to “follow Him.”

— *By Apple Park, Oklahoma Conference Secretary and Youth Director*



# Helping Our Neighbors

## Communities Serving Communities After Hurricane Harvey

**Davis »** Several days after Hurricane Harvey devastated Texas, my daughter, Scharla, asked if I remembered the Adventist Community Services buckets that our Pathfinder Club had filled after a previous disaster. She shared that her students at the Oklahoma School for the Deaf (OSD) wanted to do something and thought maybe they could fill more buckets. I told her I would come and share what the project was about. When I left OSD, I stopped by Davis Landmark Bank and asked if they would be a drop-off location for the project. They not only

agreed but asked if could they help, too! Quickly, they reached out to area banks and we had drop-off locations in three communities across Murray County. Before I left, one of the bankers shared that this project needed to be in the Davis newspaper. One of the vice presidents stepped out of his office and said, “I have the Davis newspaper on the phone. If you will go there right now, they will get an article in the paper.” The newspaper staff asked if the public schools were involved yet. Very soon, both the Davis and Sulphur public schools were par-

ticipating, and the Sulphur newspaper wanted to run the story, too.

Members of the Arbuckle View Seventh-day Adventist Church, along with members of the community, met at church and filled 86 buckets and 141 comfort kits. I went to the local U-Haul dealer and asked about the cost of a trailer. The owner said “Come back Friday and pick one up. Bring it back when you return—my donation.” It is a most wonderful and fascinating thing to watch the Lord work!

— *By Donna Hill*

# He Came Back!

## Just Like He Said He Would



Her eyes overflowed with tears, mirroring the massive flooding around her as she pleaded, “Please help us, I’m scared!” Iashia Nelson, a 36-year-old mother of three, had been stranded on the rooftop of her apartment building for two days, along with 30 or so other individuals, in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey. She had called 911 several times on her cell phone, but was never given a timeline as to when help would arrive. Her dire circumstances seemed incredibly déjà vu, for just twelve years ago, Iashia had been rescued from a similar situation and evacuated to Houston in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Now, because of Harvey’s devastating flood waters, compounded by the sheer volume of calls for emergency assistance, first responders seemed unable to get to Iashia’s community with any immediacy. However, James Murphy, Jr., a volunteer rescuer, along with other cohorts, borrowed a boat and decided to venture out to search for anyone who might still be in need of rescuing, despite the apparent danger to himself.

As James’ small boat navigated down the flood-swollen street in front of Iashia’s building, she and the other displaced roof dwellers spotted him in the distance and began to cry out frantically for help. Although James heard their desperate cries for help, he was unable to stop and render assistance to them right then. However, before continuing on his way, he made this solemn vow: “I’ll be back, I promise!” Imagine their inestimable joy when those five reassuring words became an actual reality.

When asked by a television interviewer how she felt the moment James rescued her from her harrowing ordeal, Iashia replied, “I couldn’t stop crying, because I couldn’t believe that he actually came back, just like he said he would!”

How many of us would be willing to “come back” and put our lives on the line just to save a stranger? Yet, that’s the charge placed upon every believer who’s been rescued from sin by His grace. Our Savior came “to seek and to save that which was lost” at great peril to Himself (Luke 19:10). We too should extend our reach beyond just those we’re familiar with; we must also reach out to those we’re unfamiliar with as well.

Our communities need more “Jameses” willing to venture out and search for those who still need to be rescued. They need someone to allay their fears with faith, arrest their despair with hope, and alter their lives with love.

Let us never forget that we all are still trapped in a world flooded with sin. However, Christ has reassured us that, “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back” (John 14:3). One day soon we all will say, “He came back! Just like He said He would!”

*By Eddie Polite, Ministerial Director*



# Equipped to Assist

## Seniors of Baton Rouge Learn Life-saving Techniques

**Baton Rouge, La. »** The message of 3 John 1:2, “I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you,” has a message for the seniors of the Baton Rouge Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. GEMS, a ministry for seniors, is not only interested in the maintenance of one’s own health, but also in the health and safety of others. This mindset prompted a recent first-aid/CPR class.

Berean member and Southern University assistant professor Trudy Williams, PhD, RN, tapped Southern University assistant professor of pharmacology Ro-

salind Thysson, MSN, RN, to conduct the class, which offered participants a two-year certificate. Participants learned that they are the most important link in saving another.

“Upon arriving on the scene of an accident, make sure the scene is safe. If not, call 911 and, while waiting, check for any sign of life,” Thysson began. She demonstrated how to perform compressions, reminding the class that as long as there is one certified person, then compressions can begin. Other lessons learned focused on coronary pulmonary resuscitation (CPR), as well

as proper methods to save individuals who are choking.

Then it was time for the class to show what it had been taught. After all, we had to prove ourselves worthy of the certificates. Using the hands-on method and stepping up one by one, we approached mannequins and demonstrated on the youth and the adult models what we had learned. Thysson was pleased with our trial runs. We left the class feeling better equipped to handle an emergency should one arise, since we all passed the certification course.

By Evelyn M. Edwards



# Bring the Little Children

## Vacation Bible School Reaches 52

**Texarkana, Texas »** The Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church’s Vacation Bible School Director Patricia Shephard recently spearheaded an awesome week of fun and meaningful learning experiences for children, parents, pastor, and program assistants at the Lake Ridge Apartments in Texarkana.

Fifty-two excited children attended and were challenged by Bible study, arts, crafts, games, and activities. Shephard went all out to introduce Jesus to

the children and help them understand His love for them. This year’s theme was “We were Created by God and Built for a Purpose!”

To begin, Kenneth Edwards, pastor, or Wilmore Green, elder, gave the opening prayer. After prayer, Sheila Jefferson and children led out in songs praising God. Children then went on a journey of faith and shared adventures in coming to know our wonderful God. Lessons were reinforced with pleasurable, faith-building activities!

Each group rotated to Green’s interactive Bible story session. He shared Bible stories with passion and connected the children to a tangible reality. They sat enthralled, eyes wide to answer questions and to make suggestions. The assistants and the VBS director successfully established a learning environment that cultivated rapport and relationships with the children. The kids had a blast while learning about God’s love.

By Veronica McCullough

# Ten Ten<sup>+</sup>

## *Sacrificial Giving*



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# Reaching Out

## A Community In Crisis



James Bokovoy

As the catastrophic images flooded our television screens - images of people wading through chest-high water, some of them carrying small children, and senior citizens sitting in waist-high water in nursing homes waiting to be rescued, our hearts grieved for the loss and distress being experienced by our neighbors in the Port Aransas, Rockport, and greater Houston areas.

Hurricane Harvey brought devastation, distress, uncertainty, and more. We ask, “How much more, Lord? How much more can this old world take before You come to redeem Your people and put an end to the suffering and insanity?”

At times like these, people of God are called to leave their comfort zones and minister to fellow human beings in dire need. In the weeks, months, and perhaps even years to come, Seventh-day Adventist Church members have the opportunity to bring words of comfort and meals of hope along with the good news of the gospel to those who have been adversely affected by this monster storm.

Members organized and mobilized to go to the submerged neighborhoods, and some of them risked their own personal safety to seek and rescue those who were on roof tops, surrounded by the waters.

I am reminded of the promise found in Isaiah 43:2, “When you pass through the waters, I *will* be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.” We now understand that those words are not saying we will never experience floods, but that the Lord will be with those who experience them, right there in the waters alongside them, bringing His sustaining peace and assurance.

It will be interesting to see how the Lord will use us, His people, in the weeks and months to come. He wants us to step up and minister to those who have lived through this terrible tragedy. This disaster provided an opportunity to see people coming together to assist each other, independent of their skin color, the language they spoke or their economic status. People simply helped one another.

For all the bad that we see day in and day out, the spirit of the Lord is alive and well and governs hearts in times like these. People in need are people indeed, just like ourselves, no better, no worse. We are given the charge from above to give our love, our means, our abilities, and, most importantly, ourselves through prayer.

We are assured that the presence of the Lord is the greatest resource that can be offered and given to those who pass through the waters of affliction and weather the tides of distress. Let us continue to lift up in prayer those affected by Hurricane Harvey as they face the monumental challenge of finding a new normal.

*By Carlos J. Craig, President*



# Answering the Call

## Academy Staff Rescue Stranded Houston Residents

**Dallas »** There was nothing typical about Hurricane Harvey. As the storm hit Rockport, Texas, at peak intensity, many prayed it would move out of the state quickly. Unfortunately, that was not the case. When Josh Jetter, North Dallas Adventist Academy athletic director, watched the news footage of residents stranded by rapidly rising water he knew he needed to help. Jetter phoned fellow staff member Rob Parrish, the school chaplain, and a fishing buddy to ask them to go with him.

“I would have left that night,” Jetter shared with a laugh, “but I knew we needed to make arrangements for time off from school.”

Granted the time, Jetter arranged to borrow a boat from a friend. “I’ve been boating most of my life so had the knowledge to feel good about going down there,” Jetter stated. “I normally drive a bass boat, but the jet boat has propulsion to move smoother.”

The men arrived to destruction not easily conveyed on television or social media. The amount of water and damage seen there was almost unbelievable.

“We were in houses that lost everything and people didn’t want to leave,” Jetter exclaimed, disbelief in his voice at the memory. “They would ask us to lock up their houses or even come back later because they didn’t want to leave behind everything they had.”

The men were given the task to rescue any of the 179 residents in an assisted living facility. They waded through the water that had pretty much covered the building, looking for anyone. “Tuesday was the worst day,” Jetter said, letting out a quick breath. “In Kingswood, the water was rising half a foot every hour.”

When asked how many people they rescued, “There’s no set number,” Jetter stated. “We were just thinking, ‘Who could we help the fastest?’” It was no easy task when it seemed that everything was against them, with dams and a levee in the area overflowing.

Despite the physical toil, they returned to their day jobs with Houston and its residents not far from their minds. Jetter and Parrish shared their experience with their students and were heart-warmed to receive such positive feedback. “Rob and I do worship every morning,” Jetter explained. “I talked about stepping outside the boundaries and helping people. Hearing the students say ‘Coach, Pastor Rob, you did a good job!’ It’s such a good thing to hear.”

Hundreds of volunteers went to Houston to help. Many of them were from outside the state and most of them were surprised to see these humble men from Dallas who were merely answering the call they received from a

higher power. “God wanted us to go,” Jetter remarked. Indeed, many people were unable to make it to Houston to help with several roads closed due to water, debris and damage. Yet, these men were able to go to Houston and show people there how God wants us to always help our fellow man in good times and in bad times.

For Parrish, the trip left him contemplative. “We all have storms in our lives. It was nice to be able to make an immediate impact with this storm.” He also noticed the unity this disaster provided. “You see the destruction, yes, but you also see the unity,” Parrish said with pride in his voice. “People showing up, volunteers with boats and just a whole lot of hope.” Hope—something the residents affected by Hurricane Harvey desperately needed.

By Brianna LeBlanc

*Left: Houston streets were flooded with so much water that boats were necessary to rescue stranded residents.*

*Right: Josh Jetter (white cap) helped rescue 179 residents waiting in water at an assisted living center. Photo: Rob Parrish*



# “Big 50 Club”

## Denton First’s Building Project

**Denton »** Fifty-one small cardboard churches were given to Denton First Seventh-day Adventist Church members on June 3, 2017, with the goal of having each one filled with \$50 by early August. Derek Lazarus, senior pastor, named the campaign the “Big 50 Club.” His desire was for the little cardboard church to represent the building that God would provide in His timing. He encouraged members with this story:

In 1912, Russell Conwell, a Philadelphia pastor, shared the story of Hattie May Wiatt. She tried to attend church, but it was often too crowded. Conwell

told her that one day they would have a church large enough for everyone. When Wiatt became sick and died, her mother gave Conwell money that Hattie May had been saving to help build a bigger church. It amounted to \$0.57. Conwell exchanged the \$0.57 into pennies. After telling his congregation the story, the pennies were sold for about \$250, enabling them to buy a nearby house and encouraging the members to continue Hattie May’s goal.

“‘Test me in this,’ says the Lord Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven’” (Malachi

3:10). When the gifts of those participating in the “Big 50 Club” were counted, the total was \$7,286.17, well above the expected return.

It is the members’ prayer that God will bless the money and help them find the facility God has waiting for them.

By Patti Gobeli

*Derek Lazarus, left, Denton First Seventh-day Adventist Church pastor; Faye Jones, church treasurer; Gerald Jones, church building committee chairman; Ian Lyons, church assistant treasurer and fund-raising chairman holding the miracle check.*



Patti Gobeli

# “For the City”

## Serving Our Neighbors

**Greenville »** Greenville Seventh-day Adventist Church members joined volunteers from 24 area churches for a major community service initiative. Prior to the event, 35 people participated in 10 hours of corporate prayer. The projects undertaken by the volunteers included repairs to 12 homes, mowing and trimming trees in 10 yards, picking up trash, and repairing retaining walls and painting at the Greenville Sports Park. Approximately 400 residents visited nursing homes and patients in local

medical facilities, and 500 goody bags were packed and distributed to residents and workers from all across the local area. Approximately 1,000 meals were served, and volunteers also visited 200 local businesses for prayer and encouragement. It was a blessing for church members to be a part of this Christ-like behavior. We will continue to look for ways to serve our community and show the love of Jesus.

By David Stevenson



# The Challenge

## Serving Others Isn't Always Easy



Over the past six years, the Adventist community of Santa Fe, New Mexico, has partnered with local businesses to serve homeless veterans. Several of the local Adventist churches organize an annual event called "Veterans Stand Down" which takes place every fall. The group provides meals, dental work, clothes, foot washing, and several other veteran services. Last year, I volunteered to give haircuts. This reminded me of an experience I had in 1998 while I was in Columbia working with a group of volunteer college students. Our volunteer group was called "Pro Amor" (Pro Love), and our mission was to show Christ's love to the local homeless population through acts of kindness. One of the many services we provided was fire hydrant access for showering, and we also gave out soap, lice shampoo, and haircuts. I was part of the hair-cutting team and, because of prevalent lice problem, I had been instructed to tell everyone who wanted a haircut to wash their hair first with lice shampoo.

A woman desperately asked me, "Young man, can you please cut my hair?" Nervously, I answered, "You need to wash your hair first and then wait in line." Many others had already followed those instructions and had been anxiously waiting their turn. Due to the lice, most individuals wanted their hair cut short. So, when the women who tried to cut in line sat down in my chair, I assumed she wanted a short cut, too. I took a hold of her hair and started chopping away. Angrily, she stood up, took a swing at me, and yelled, "I just wanted a trim!"

Serving others can often be challenging. Whether it is serving that neighbor who is not interested in connecting, or someone who truly needs help, it is hard to take that first step because a lot of the time we fear rejection or expect our acts to be grand, not realizing that it is the small ones that count. It is also challenging because we do not see it as selfless service. We often think, "What will I get out of it?" or "Will this help me get this person to go to church?"

We often forget that getting people to go to church is not our ultimate goal. When God gives us opportunities to serve, instead of asking "What's in it for me?" we should do it without conditions or expectations. True service is reaching beyond the comfort of our pews and doing the selfless work Christ has called us to do. Jesus' life was one of unselfish service to humanity. He did not die to serve his own interests; He died because He loves us.

*By Leonard Cummings, Texico Adventist Community Services Director*





# Following God's Call

## Texico Conference Camp Meeting 2017

**Capitan, N. Mex.** » More than 750 members from across the Texico Conference gathered this summer for the first time at Bonita Park, a Christian camp located in the mountains of South-Central New Mexico to worship and be spiritually renewed by messages, special music, prayer, and Christian fellowship.

Mountains, fresh air, and blue skies set the mood for this year's three-day English and Spanish Texico Conference camp meeting. Themed "Following God's Call: Making Disciples," nightly meetings and afternoon seminars featured several well-known guest speakers including Mike Tucker, Speaker/Director of *Faith for Today*, and Pastor Omar Grieve, Speaker/Director of *La Voz de La Esperanza*. Other presenters included Nessi V. Pittau-Grieve, Pastor Angel Rodriguez, Pastor Helvis

Moody, and youth evangelist Willie Ramos, who both preached to the young adults and youth. Children also participated in their own complete program which included a worship service, crafts and games. Throughout the weekend, attendees had the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of fun activities such as rockwall climbing, zip-lining, and sand volleyball.

Pat Edmonds, a member from the Rio Rancho Seventh-day Adventist Church in Rio Rancho, NM, expressed that she really enjoyed being away from the city and felt the outdoors provided a nice spiritual environment. Edmonds also enjoyed the messages from Pastor Mike Tucker and said it was "wonderful to know that grace is extended to all of us and that God's love is greater than sin." Spanish-speaking attendees also

said they were blessed by the sermons of Pastor Grieve. "I really enjoyed Pastor Grieve's intriguing stories and heart-warming messages," said Aron Monge of North Valley Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Albuquerque, NM. "He really conveyed his passion for evangelism and reminded us of how close Jesus' return truly is."

On his final night of preaching, Grieve invited the audience to make plans for next year's camp meeting and reminded us that "camp meeting is a ministry, something very important." Speakers, adults, youth, and kids alike agreed that they felt the Holy Spirit at this year's camp meeting. Many of them could not wait to share the messages they heard and hope to be back next year.

*By Debbie Márquez, Communication Director*



# Field School of Evangelism

## Opening Hearts to the Message of the Gospel

Albuquerque, N. Mex. » Southwestern Adventist University believes that the responsibility for training ministerial students reaches beyond the academic requirements of the classroom. In fact, two settings, on-campus study and in-field experience, go hand-in-hand. Southwestern developed the Field School of Evangelism because it wants students to be “seminary ready” when they graduate, but also desires that they have the opportunity to develop a pastor’s heart through serving local churches and communities.

This past summer, a team made up of seven theology students and one professor spent six weeks in Albuquerque, New Mexico, learning the meaning of the Gospel Commission from experienced pastors in their districts. During the first four weeks of the Field School

of Evangelism, the students worked as Bible workers in an evangelistic series conducted by evangelist Richard Halverson in the Albuquerque Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Mornings were spent in the classroom learning the principles of effective evangelism, while during the afternoons and two evenings each week, the team knocked on doors inviting neighbors and former church members to the meetings. During the evangelistic meetings, students greeted those who came and made new friends. It was thrilling to see many of the individuals that had been visited make their decision to accept Jesus into their lives and be baptized into the family of God. Praise God for each new member of the body of Christ!

After the conclusion of these evangelistic meetings, the students had an op-

portunity to conduct their own 15-night evangelistic series in several Albuquerque-area churches under the mentorship of local pastors. Students saw firsthand that biblical evangelism is both a personal and team effort. Leaders in the local churches, along with the dedicated church pastors, worked tirelessly to provide the best avenue for the Holy Spirit to work. By the end of the evangelistic series, 24 individuals were baptized.

When Paul preached in Philippi, Acts 16:14 records that “one of those listening was a woman named Lydia,” and it is in this text we are reminded, “the Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message.” Praise God He still opens hearts when scripture is preached and calls for decisions are made!

By Bill Kilgore, D.Min.  
Southwestern Adventist University



## Classified Ads

### EMPLOYMENT

**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 [HillsboroFamilyDentistry.net](http://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 meet with Dr. Nickell, call 937.241.8903.

**PUC is seeking full-time positions in our Facilities Maintenance Department.** Looking for positions of Tradesman Supervisor-Painter, and Tradesman 1- Carpenter. Preference is for training and applied experience in trade areas of general painting, and carpentry. For Painter, experience in color/finish/application/etc. For Carpenter, experience in cabinet making/floor coverings/installation/etc. For both, able to be team player, handle multiple projects. For more information or to apply, please call 707.965.6231 or visit [puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings](http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings).

**Southwestern Adventist University is seeking an online adjunct professor(s)** to teach part-time courses in newly organized Senior Living Management Certificate program through the Department of Business. Submit cover letter and current CV/resume to [Denise.Rivera@swau.edu](mailto:Denise.Rivera@swau.edu). Candidates must have industry-specific (Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care) knowledge and/or experience and a minimum of a master's degree in a related field. Preference given with prior teaching experience.

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

**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 [UCollege.edu/staff-openings](http://UCollege.edu/staff-openings). Send application and resume to Dr. Vinita Sauder, Vinita.Sauder@UCollege.edu.

**Southwestern Adventist University is looking for a full-time English professor** with a Ph.D. Candidates with a degree in any literature or writing specialty will be considered. Send a CV to Dr. Judy Myers Laue, Chair, Department of English, Southwestern Adventist University, 100 W. Hillcrest Street, Keene, TX 76059 or [LaueJ@swau.edu](mailto:LaueJ@swau.edu).

**PUC is seeking a candidate for Facilities Associate Director** in our Facilities Maintenance Department. Preference is experience in planning, budgeting, maintenance of College facilities, in addition to strong leadership/interpersonal skills/team leader. Responsibilities in roads, building safety, HVAC, water distribution/treatment, general building maintenance, compliance for hazardous materials, etc. For more information or to apply, please call 707.965.6231 or visit [puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings](http://puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings).

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## Announcements

**Auburn Academy's Class of 1969** is planning its 50-year reunion with a 7-day Alaska cruise. This invitation is for all family members and friends from '67, '68, and '70. We are missing many classmates from 1969. Please send contact information and questions to: [jan69reinking@comcast.net](mailto:jan69reinking@comcast.net)

## Obituaries

**Frye, James;** born Sept. 5, 1946, Coffeyville, Kan.; died Sept. 13, 2017, Lenapah, Okla. Church membership: Nowata Seventh-day Adventist Church. Surviving: nephew, Marty Frye.

**Gillham, Stanley;** born Nov. 23, 1924, Happy, Texas; died Sept. 7, 2017, Claude, Texas. Church membership: Tulia Seventh-day Adventist Church, Tulia, Texas. Surviving: wife, Beulah Gillham, of Claude; son, Stephen Gillham, of Farmington, N. Mex.; son, Richard Gillham, of Montesano, Wash.; son, David Gillham, of College



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Place, Wash.; son, Herbert Gillham, of Seattle, Wash.; step-daughter, Keniah Staine, of Claude; stepson, Keron Staine, of Claude; stepson, Kenan Staine, of Claude; stepdaughter, Kjana Staine, of Claude; son, Keshon Gillham, of Claude; daughter, Keandra Gillham, of Claude; brother, Chaney Gillham, of Bowden, N.D.; brother, Benjamin Gillham, of Greeley, Colo.; sister, Olla Gillham, of Wayside, Texas; sister, Laura Edwards, of Wayside; sister, Esther Mesnard, of Tulia.

**Hudson, Betty Ann Sellers;** born Feb. 28, 1937, Atlanta, Ga.; died July 26, 2017, Perry, Ga. Church membership: Westlakes Seventh-day Adventist Church, West

Monroe, La. She was preceded in death by her sister, Sylvia Jean Sellers McEndree. Surviving: daughter, Catherine Norwood (David), of Marietta, Ga.; daughter, Kimmy Brown (Jerry), of Panama City, Fla.; son, Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman (Jeni) of Byron, Ga.; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Jones, Freda Mae;** born Sept. 6, 1916, Jones, Okla.; died Aug. 8, 2017, Harrah, Okla. Church membership: Oklahoma Conference. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Frederick Arthur Seidel, Jr.; and husband, Kenneth Jones. Surviving: sister, Betty J. Foster, of Harrah;

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## Back Pages

sister, Ruth A. Dunham, of Harrah; niece, Donna Boland; niece, Beverly Jones.

**Lambeth, Virgie Maurine;** born Aug. 10, 1921; died Aug. 17, 2017, DeQueen, Ark. Church membership: Beacon Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church, DeQueen, Ark. Surviving: son, Cleve Lambeth, of Hot Springs, Ark.; son, Clem Lambeth, of Little Rock, Ark.; daughter, Wanda Juhl, of Minnesota; daughter, Jackie Pogue, of DeQueen; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

**Manasco, Joy Fern;** born, May 24, 1938, Umpire, Ark.; died Aug. 4, 2017, Umpire, Ark. Church membership: Umpire Seventh-day Adventist Church, Umpire, Ark. Surviving: daughter, Mary Beth Patterson, of Van Buren, Ark.; son Todd Manasco (Anissa), of Umpire; son, Jason Manasco (Amanda), of Umpire; sister Jessie Pendergrass (Gordon), of Umpire; three grandchildren.

**Means, Reba Hays;** born Aug. 27, 1959, Tulsa, Okla.; died Aug. 4, 2017. Church membership: Broken Arrow Seventh-day Adventist Church, Broken Arrow, Okla. She was preceded in death by her husband, Don Means.

**Mylonas, Seth Owen;** born Jan. 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, Tommy and Kathy Mylonas; many aunts, uncles, and cousins.

**Newton, Gary Ray;** born Aug. 30, 1933; died Aug. 20, 2017, Heber Springs, Ark. Church membership: Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church. Surviving: wife, Judith Marie Newton, of Heber Springs; daughter, Terry Rich, of Las Vegas, Nev.; daughter, Kelly McDonald, of Ridgecrest, Calif.; daughter, Jacqueline Basart, of Tumbling Shoals, Ark.; son, Travis Sipes, of

Leavenworth, Kan.; son, Scott Sipes, of Las Vegas; 16 grandchildren, and 25 great-grandchildren.

**Patterson, Keith Raymond;** born June 6, 1928, Grand Prairie, Texas; died Sept. 3, 2017, Fort Worth, Texas. Church membership: Alvarado Seventh-day Adventist Church, Alvarado, Texas. Surviving: sons, Richard, Stanley, Ronald, Gary, and David Patterson; daughter, Sharon Patterson; sisters, Maxine Goat, Lucille Miller, Jean Sheldon, Geraldine Kilbrew; 16 grandchildren, 29 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

**Roberts, Thomas James;** born Feb. 27, 1951; died Aug. 29, 2017, Meeker, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church, Harrah, Okla.

**Taylor, Charles Michael;** born Nov. 6, 1950; died Aug. 29, 2017. He was preceded in death by his parents; brother; and wife, Vicki Jean. Surviving: sister, Cathy Taylor, of Coleman, Texas; brother, Kenneth Taylor, of Abilene, Texas; daughter, Penny Dudash, of Ga.; son, Steven Taylor, of Coleman; daughter, Patty Lopez, of Santa Anna, Texas; daughter, Crystal Hatcher, of Greensboro, N.C.; daughter, Angela Turner, of Denton, Texas; son, Bobby Taylor, of Garland, Texas; son, Gabriel Taylor, of Antioch, Ill.; 22 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren.

**Zeller, Lloyd, Jr.;** born Dec. 12, 1958, New Orleans, La.; died Sept. 11, 2017, Covington, La. Church membership: Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church. Surviving: wife, Rhonda Zeller, of Mandeville, La.; daughter, Stephanie Zeller, of Mandeville; daughter, Christie Zeller, of Mandeville; son, Nicholas Zeller, of Washington D.C.

## Submissions

### Back Pages:

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

The *Record* also accepts expanded obituaries. For submission and cost information, contact [record@swuc.org](mailto:record@swuc.org), or call 817.295.0476.

### News and Articles:

Send your local church news and high-resolution photographs to your local conference communication representative listed on page 2.

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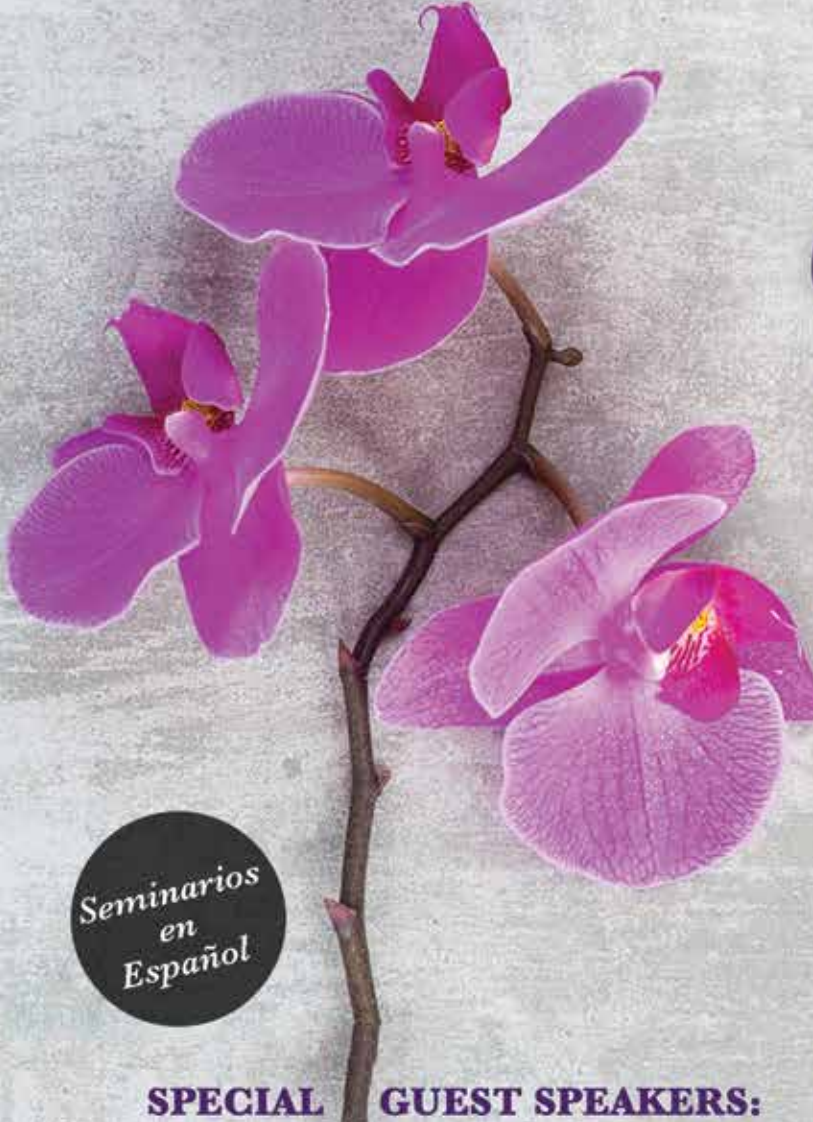
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to 22828





IN  
*His*  
LIKENESS

Women's Spiritual Retreat

**August 10-12, 2018**

*Embassy Suites | Frisco, Texas*

Seminarios  
en  
Español

**SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS:**



**Dan Jackson**  
*North American Division  
President*



**Elizabeth Talbot, PH.D.**  
*Speaker/Director of the  
Jesus 101 Biblical Institute*

**Earlybird Registration**  
*(October 1 - January 31)*  
\$109

**Regular Registration**  
*(February 1 - June 30)*  
\$115

**Late Registration**  
*(starts July 1)*  
\$125

*...and many more!!*



**Sara Bullón**  
*Women's Ministries  
Speaker*



**Erica Jones**  
*"Gorgeous 2 God"  
Teenage Spotlight*



**Carla Wright**  
*Director, Lydia Works,  
LLC (Faith 101)*



**Dr. H. Jean Wright**  
*Clinical and Forensic  
Psychologist*



**Diana Jaworski**  
*Director  
Creative Box*

**TO REGISTER VISIT: [www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Women](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Women)  
Southwestern Union Women's Ministries**

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

**APRIL 27-29, 2018**  
~ SAVE THE DATE ~

TEXAS CONFERENCE & SOUTHWESTERN UNION | OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL

# MARRIAGE RETREAT

*forever*  
**ONE**

[www.BeForeverONE.org](http://www.BeForeverONE.org)

**SPEAKERS:**

**BUFORD & CARMEN GRIFFITH**  
*English Sessions*

**JORGE & NIBIA MAYER**  
*Spanish Sessions*

**EARLY BIRD**

**REGISTRATION RATE \$199  
PER COUPLE** (Includes: Welcome bag,  
Sabbath lunch, beach photo shoot  
and more)

**SAVE \$50**

When registered by November 30th

**LODGING PER NIGHT \$139+TAX**  
(Includes buffet breakfast)

**INFORMATION & REGISTRATION**

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Ext. 2106 for Spanish

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