

Record

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The Impact of Christ
Knowing and Loving the Savior

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The Impact of Christ

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

Life can sometimes seem as mysterious and confusing as putting together a jigsaw puzzle, except that there are no edge pieces and the number of pieces is unknown. As we mature, we realize how little we truly know and understand about any number of topics. We only have to look at the night sky to feel the enormity of the universe and the knowledge that remains unknown to us. Part of maturity is being humble and open to instruction.

That's when Jesus comes into the picture. Although there are many things about Him and His mission that we won't fully comprehend while we are on this earth, we can trust Him just as sheep trust the shepherd. We must not lean on our own understanding, rather, we must allow Christ to show us His ways. When we release our need to control all aspects of our lives to Christ, we receive the "peace that passes understanding" that He has promised us. Join us as we explore what it means to know and love the Savior.



Jessica L. Lozano

The Impact of Christ

Knowing and Loving the Savior



Larry Moore | President

For the first twelve years of my life my parents and I went to the Presbyterian church just a half block from our house.

I was present in Sunday school and church almost every week. I am grateful to that church for introducing me to Jesus and giving me a good foundation to build upon. In 1960, Joe Crews came to San Antonio Laurel Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church to be the pastor. He held a tent meeting near our home that we attended every night. We were blessed to hear very interesting and enlightening biblical sermons. Jesus became even sweeter to us as we attended the meetings.

My parents are both deceased, but they died with the hope in their hearts that they would see Jesus return in the clouds of heaven. I expect to see them on resurrection morning. I saw my parents change direction in their lives to a full commitment to Jesus and His church. They faithfully witnessed to others and gave liberally of their means to support the cause of God. They saw several of our family baptized and become active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church and they sacrificed to send me to church school. My love for Jesus grew and I felt called to ministry.

Much more could be said, but I thank God and my family for their love and support down through the years. My ministry has been a joy because of what God did for me not only on the cross but how He led in my life. May we all be open to His leading in our lives. And may Jesus come soon!

Being raised in a Christian home has an impact on a person's life that sometimes is not readily realized until later.

That was my experience. My parents were devout Seventh-day Adventists and we attended church on a regular basis. Coupled with home worship and church, I learned the Bible stories and the Adventist lifestyle was ingrained, even though I wasn't totally "all in" with Christ. It was as if I was playing a role in a play, but not fully engaged in the story.

During my years at Oakwood College, now Oakwood University, I experienced a genuine relationship with Christ. When Christ really became the Lord of my life, everything changed. Memories were healed and liberated. Values and purposes were re-oriented. Images of myself were transformed. I realized that Christ becomes satisfied with nothing less than molding me into His own image. The miracle of the new creation begins and never stops. The old person is made into a new one (2 Corinthians 5:17).

In his book, *The Autobiography of God*, Dr. Lloyd John Ogilvie writes, "Life is filled with predictably unpredictable events." We can never "freeze-frame" God and think we know all there is to know about Him. When we finish categorizing God's dealings with us and are sure that He Has given us His best, He forces us to face our spiritual immaturity by presenting us with a challenge so far beyond our strength, that we are amazed that we could ever be satisfied with our previous relationship with Him.



Buford Griffith, Jr.
Executive Secretary

I can clearly remember one of the very first times that I made a conscious commitment to follow Jesus. I was only a child and we were attending an evangelistic meeting in Dallas, Texas that was being held by pastor Jim Gilley. I felt God's call on my heart and I wanted to get baptized. That moment of conversion is a very special and important event for me, but there was so much more that I needed to learn and experience about Jesus.

Over 35 years later, looking back over my life I can see how God has led me and the blessings that He has given me. I have grown in my relationship to Jesus, but there is still so much more I need to learn about God's character, as well as things I need to continue working on in my life.

As we go through different experiences in life, we need to always rely on scripture, particularly in the tough times. There are two important verses that help me to grow in my faith: Matthew 21:22 says, "If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer" and Hebrews 2:13, which says, "I will put my trust in Him." I heard someone recently say that a definition of a "calling in life" is when your greatest joy is when you meet someone else's greatest need.

God is calling us for a life better than we can imagine. Keep getting to know your Savior, keep learning to love like He loved, and live like He lived.



John Page | Treasurer



Just Like Jesus

Defying Dysfunction and Defining Love

We aren't very good at loving. That's sad for a race that was created for the sole purpose of living in a love relationship with a God whose primary character trait, after holiness, is love. In fact, ours is a God whose character *defines* love. John writes: "Dear friends, let us continue to love one another, for love comes from God. Anyone who loves is a child of God and knows God. But anyone who does not love does not know God, for God is love" 1 John 4:7-8 (NLT).

We like to think we are good at love. We write love poetry and love stories and we give love gifts and "share the love." But in reality, we value it largely because examples of fully functional love are so very rare. We cherish the heroism of the late US Army corporal, Desmond Doss, because he showed selfless love for his military confederates in spite of self interest, safety considerations, and what anyone might define as common sense.

But true, selfless love is very rare. More typical are people who claim to love their significant other, but demonstrate dysfunctions and love pathologies. We have seen the lover who consistently disrespects the object of love in front of others. Common is the one who cannot keep commitments made to his or her chosen life partner, as well as the faithful but disdainful or dismissive spouse. The levels of contempt common in dysfunctional love reach to levels of abuse and even murder.

Even the most fundamental relationship, the parent-child bond, is routinely replete with dysfunction. Even the best parents can honestly look back at many love-starved instances in their parenting. Human love appears rare and corrupt.

Worse, even many highly functioning lovers are averse to love beyond the fundamental relationships family, spouse, and friendship. We tend to define all outside these three fundamen-



tal relational sets as the “other.” We then justify ignoring—or worse, disdaining—everyone outside our group.

If we have chosen to be followers of Jesus, this will not do.

We see Jesus demonstrate filial love with His parents and siblings. This demonstration is not without some puzzling occurrences. First, He responds strangely to His parents. In Luke 2, we read, “His parents didn’t know what to think. ‘Son,’ His mother said to Him, ‘why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been frantic, searching for you everywhere.’

‘But why did you need to search?’ He asked. ‘Didn’t you know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ But they didn’t understand what He meant.

Then He returned to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them. And His mother stored all these things in her heart.”

In His relationships with His disciples, Jesus modeled love in a challenging, tough way. He prayed for them consistently, taught and trained and rebuked and tested and led them to places they never expected to go. As we read through the gospel accounts, the love shines through.

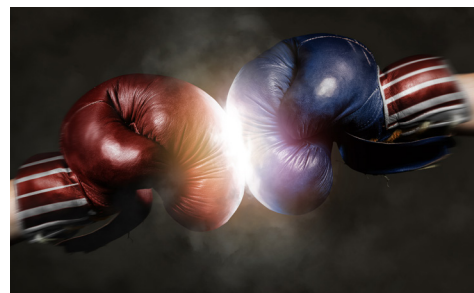
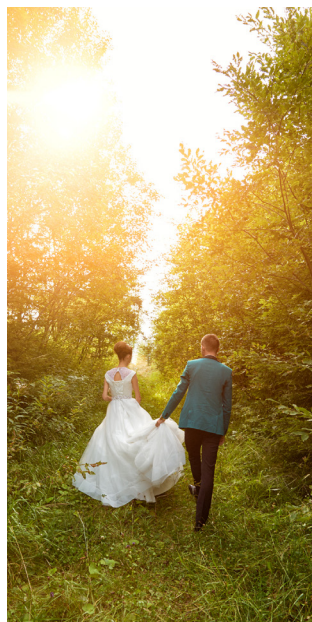
Perhaps our love for those we hold close should be informed by thoughtful study and meditation on Jesus’ relationships with His closest companions. In this we see a love with consistent focus on mission and the very best and highest experiences His loved ones could have to.

Then we read of His relationship with the Jewish people and their leaders. It is easy to focus on His denunciations of the behavior of the Pharisees and infer something other than love. But then we read Matthew 23: 37-39: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me. And now, look, your house is abandoned and desolate. For I tell you this, you will never see me again until you say, ‘Blessings on the one who comes in the name of the Lord!’”

Can you hear the sorrow from the loss of His beloved? It is not a lack of love we hear, but a loving anguish fueled by their rejection of Him and their impending doom.

Jesus modeled an active, almost aggressive, love for His family, His disciples, His nation and His adversaries. He then demonstrated love for the weak and for the “other.”

Again and again He revealed a beautiful love for common, weak, and suffering ones. Luke 13:10-13 relates: “One Sabbath day as Jesus was teaching in a synagogue, He saw a woman who had been crippled by an evil spirit. She had been bent double for eighteen years and was unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, He called her over and said, ‘Dear woman, you are healed of your sickness!’ Then He touched her,



and instantly she could stand straight. How she praised God!”

He went out of His way to actively convey love in acts easy to understand. He did not only engage with the sick and suffering, but also the more distant other. The Samaritan woman and the tax collectors and woman of poor reputation were the subjects of His loving deeds.


Ellen White offers this context in her book *Gospel Workers*: “Let the teacher of truth make known to the sinner what God really is—a Father waiting with yearning love to receive the returning prodigal, not hurling at him accusations of wrath, but preparing a feast to welcome His return. O that we might all learn the way of the Lord in winning souls!”

To these examples we add the teaching of the story of the Good Samaritan. In it Jesus moves from example to command. He instructs us to love our neighbor! Then He demonstrates with the parable that by “neighbor,” He means the one we are least likely to love in your own nature.

Then rises the problem; my problem and possibly your problem, as well. Ask yourself, who is difficult to love in your own nature? Do you butt heads with a particular family member, coworker, or even church member? How aggravated do you become at those whose political or religious views counter

your own? Could you fathom truly loving them, or even someone who wants you dead?

I can’t love terrorists! The command on which my salvation hangs is a command I cannot obey. Like the rich and the eye of the needle, I am stuck. Only by a strong and miraculous dose of grace can my nature be changed to love the wicked one who hates me and wants me dead. Likewise, the angry, repulsive boss, the internet troll, and each of the luminaries of the entertainment world who scoff at my faith and my God.

I begin by praying for each of these, God’s precious children. I can mourn their present paths, but God has taken from me the option of holding hate, or anything else but love for these beloved of my Father. So I pray, and God’s Spirit improves my nature. I learn from Him the love of my enemy. And today I pray for you, that God’s Spirit would help you to love the terrorist, the rapist, and the destroyer of morality... Just. Like. Jesus. 

James Winegardner is the Senior Pastor of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. He lives in Keene with his wife, Mary Ellen. They have three daughters, Megan, Emma, and Lily.

Strawberry-Rhubarb Crumble Bars

Try these simple strawberry-rhubarb crumble bars with an oat topping this Spring! They are naturally sweetened, vegan, and gluten-free! With only 10 ingredients, this delicious recipe yields nine bars. Recipe and photo provided by MinimalistBaker.com.

Ingredients

CRUST

- 1 cup gluten-free rolled oats
- 1 cup raw almonds
- ¼ tsp sea salt
- 3 Tbsp sugar
- 4 ½ Tbsp melted coconut oil

FILLING

- 2 heaping cups rhubarb (stems removed, chopped into ½ inch pieces)
- 1 heaping cup large chopped berries (such as strawberries or raspberries)
- ¼ cup orange juice
- 2 Tbsp sugar, plus more to taste
- 1 Tbsp cornstarch


CRUMBLE TOPPING

- 3 Tbsp sugar
- 2 Tbsp gluten-free flour
- ¼ cup gluten-free rolled oats
- 1 ¼ Tbsp coconut oil



Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 350°F and line an 8x8-inch baking dish with parchment paper.
2. Add oats, almonds, sea salt, and sugar to a food processor or high-speed blender and pulse into a fine meal, making sure no large pieces remain.
3. Add melted coconut oil and pulse to incorporate. It should form a loose dough that forms when squeezed between two fingers. Add more melted oil if too dry.
4. Spread the mixture into the lined baking dish and press down into an even layer with your fingers or a flat object (such as a drinking glass).
5. Bake for 15 minutes, then increase heat to 375°F and bake five more minutes or until the crust is fragrant and the edges are slightly golden brown. Set aside.
6. In the meantime, add rhubarb, strawberries, orange juice, sugar, and cornstarch to a medium saucepan and warm over medium-low heat until slightly softened and bubbly, about 5-7 minutes. Stir frequently to prevent sticking. Then remove from heat and set aside.
7. Next prepare crumble by adding all ingredients to a small mixing bowl and using a fork or your fingers to mix ingredients until crumbly. Set aside.
8. Add strawberry-rhubarb mixture to the pre-baked crust and spread into an even layer. Then top with crumble topping and spread evenly to cover fruit.
9. Reduce oven heat back to 350°F and bake for another 15-20 minutes or until the strawberry topping is warm and bubbly and the crumble is golden brown.
10. Remove squares from oven and let cool completely, 1-2 hours. Once cooled, gently lift bars from pan and slice into nine even squares or 10 bars.

These should be firm enough to pick up and eat with your hands, but are best enjoyed with a fork and plenty of vegan whipped cream or ice cream! Store leftovers in a well-sealed container at room temperature for two days, in the refrigerator for three to four days, or the freezer up to one month. 

A Savior's Sacrifice

The Fulfillment of God's Promise



Jesus is the divine promise fulfilled. God made this pledge after man fell into sin (Genesis 3:15). A cosmic controversy had started before the creation of planet earth and all its components. A beautiful and mighty angel decided to rebel against the Creator and His government (Ezekiel 28:14-18; Isaiah 14:12-14). The existence of this conflict is alluded to in the creation account. When God created man, among other things, He told Adam to have dominion over His entire newly created world (Genesis 1:26). The phrase “to have dominion” comes from the Hebrew verb *radah*, which means to maintain control and to keep in harmony. The Lord’s command is reiterated a bit later with an added idea. Besides having dominion, Adam had to subject the earth (Genesis 1:28). The Hebrew verb translated “to subject” is *kabash*. It means to subdue by force. *Kabash* is generally used in the Old Testament in the context of a conflict or war. The victorious individual forces the loser to be subjected under his rule (Numbers 32:22, 29; Joshua 18:1; 1 Chronicles 22:18; 2 Chronicles 28:10; Nehemiah 5:5; Jeremiah 34:11,16).

This concept is significant for the creation narrative. It means that there was a controversy waging in the universe

that could possibly affect God’s new creation. If Adam was defeated, he would lose God’s given dominion and the earth would no longer be in harmony with the Creator’s principles. This condition would, out of necessity, require a member of the deity to come to earth, defeat Satan, and bring God’s creation back in line with the principles of heaven. Old Testament writers described this divine person as coming with a rod of iron to subdue His enemies (Psalm 2:6-9; 110:1-2; Isaiah 11:1-4; Numbers 24:17).

The early allusion to a great conflict becomes clearer in Genesis 2:16-17. God commanded Adam not to eat from the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Failure to obey would result in death. Unfortunately, the first couple disobeyed (Genesis 3:6) and were condemned to die. The Lord had three options. First, He could destroy the first couple as He had warned. Second, He could invalidate the command in order to release them from obedience to His law. After all, without law, there is no sin (Romans 7:8). Third, He could take their place and die for them. Because God chose the third option, Adam and his descendants have the hope of restoration to the Edenic condition.

God's election is notified to both Satan and the first couple (Genesis 3:14-15). There is only one difference. Whereas God's pronouncement was a sentence of destruction for the devil, it became a promise for Adam and Eve. The seed of the woman will come to crush the serpent's head. The imagery behind this pledge is quite significant. It describes the promised Savior as standing in front of the serpent to step on its head. Rather than using other means to kill the serpent, He uses His foot to crush the serpent's head. The act of stepping is meaningful because it indicates that the Redeemer will reclaim ownership of His creation (see Deuteronomy 11:24; Joshua 1:3; 14:9). Unfortunately, the divine action will not happen without consequences. The serpent will strike back and hurt the seed of the woman in His heel. This attacked implies that the Savior will have to be sacrificed in order to defeat the enemy and redeem humanity.

Before evicting them from Eden, God ratified His promise through a significant event. He removed the couple's coverings that were made out of leaves and covered them with animal skins (Genesis 3:21). The use of skins clearly indicates that a sacrifice was made and that an animal had died in their place. This event served as a type of the future sacrifice of the Son of God to save humankind (1 Peter 1:18-20; Revelation 13:8). What a wonderful divine promise was made to humankind! The practice of sacrificing animals continued throughout centuries until the coming of the promised Seed (Galatians 3:19). When the fulfillment of time came, God sent His Son to redeem those who are under the law, that they may receive the adoption of children (Galatians 4:4-5).

Jesus was the fulfillment of God's promise. From the beginning, His life, ministry, and sacrifice revealed a continuous controversy with Satan and his demons. The devil made every attempt possible to prevent Christ's sacrifice on the cross. From trying to kill Him in Bethlehem, to offering Him an easy way in the wilderness of Judea to recover this world's dominion, to inflicting in Him all kinds of emotional and physical abuse, Satan tried to impede the fulfillment of Genesis 3:15. Notwithstanding his efforts, Jesus died on the cross and rose from the dead on the third day, triumphing over His evil enemies.

Jesus is a living Savior who is now in heaven interceding before the Father on behalf of man (1 John 2:1) and making all heavenly power available to His children on earth (Matthew 28:18). Now it is possible to overcome Satan through the blood of the Lamb of God (Revelation 12:11). This good news must be proclaimed at all times through the spoken and written word. It is this news that changed my life and impacted my ministry in a meaningful way. Because of this good news, I continually ask God to help me become a life-changing agent for my brothers and sisters in church, and for my students in the classroom. R

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Preparing Hearts

Teaching Little Ones to Love Jesus



My daughter is learning to read. She loves her Bible and the stories that we read together. She particularly loves the story of Moses' mother saving her baby son from Pharaoh by placing him in a basket on the bank of the Nile river. She loves to hear about Miriam, the loving older sister who watches over the baby in the basket before he is found and adopted by the

Pharaoh's daughter (Exodus 2:1-10).

When she learns something new in Kindergarten or at Sabbath School, she's excited to share what she has learned with others. She'll often end her retelling of her new knowledge with, "Did you know that?"

I find that my faith is renewed every time I am confronted with her enthusiasm for and trust in the Bible. I am

excited to open the Bible with her and read through the verses, discussing what was going on in the stories, what the events in the stories meant for the people of the time, and how the lessons learned can apply to her life today.

It is refreshing to read the Bible through her eyes. Like most children, she questions everything! Small details that I may pass over without much

Faith-building Resources

thought grab her imagination and she demands to know more.

Sometimes I don't have an easy or complete answer to some complex topic that we have come across. But, I tell her that we will do some research and encourage her to do it with me. On more than one occasion, I've found that some of the questions aren't easily answered or easily researched.

Questions such as "Why did the Pharaoh want to kill the babies?" and "Why did they hurt Jesus like that?" are especially hard to answer.

We often want to view those people who sinned, hurt other people, and crucified Jesus as "other people," not people like us. But an important part of teaching my child about Christ is teaching her that, because of sin, *we* are not perfect either, but *He* is. We would hope that we would not have sinned and hurt Jesus as they did in the Bible, but we do it every day with our actions.

The best way that I can show my child how loving and merciful our Creator is, is to show her that I am not perfect (which she already knows) but that Jesus is perfect, and He covers my sins and forgives me because He loves me.

In explaining the stories of the Bible, from Adam and Eve all the way to Jesus, a picture of God's loving plan of salvation emerges. If He forgives me and covers my sins with His sacrifice, He'll do it for her!

The stories of the Bible give her a foundation that we build on in our daily lives. As a parent, I help her relate to Jesus by showing her how I talk to him, read His Word, worship Him, and heed His instruction.

She, too, can have a relationship with Him, and is already loved and forgiven by Him. When I show her that I rely on Him—that I follow Him and trust Him even when the path is unclear—I'm working with Him to prepare her heart to follow Him. **R**

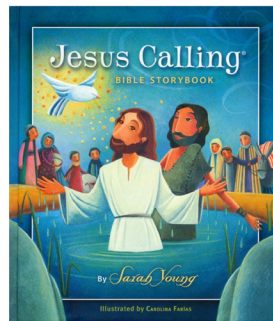
Jessica Lozano is the Editor of the Southwestern Union Record and the Communication Director for the Southwestern Union.

Teaching children about Jesus can be fun and faith-building for both children and adults! The following resources are helpful in teaching the Bible and spending time together as a family.



Bible for Kids App

The Bible for Kids app is a free app available on both Android and iOS smartphones. The app leads children through the Bible story in an engaging and visual way.



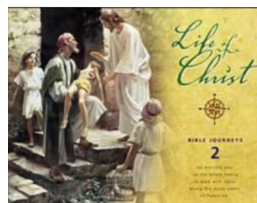
Jesus Calling Bible Storybook

Jesus is calling out to our hearts, and you can hear His voice in every story in the Bible. These carefully selected stories are paired with children's devotions from Sarah Young and will help young hearts understand God's grand plan to send His Son, Jesus, to save His children and prepare a place for us in heaven. Available from major booksellers.



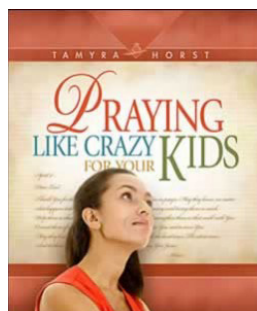
Discovery Mountain Podcast

Discovery Mountain is a dramatized audio program where listeners experience adventure, mystery, camp fire songs and, most importantly, get to know Jesus. Discovery Mountain launched in 2017 and is a ministry of the Voice of Prophecy. Learn more at DiscoveryMountain.org



Life of Christ Board Game

A simple and easy-to-learn board game for all ages. You'll follow the life of Christ from Bethlehem to Cavalry. Available at AdventistBookCenter.com



Praying Like Crazy for Your Kids

This beautiful book on praying for your children by author Tamyra Horst contains much encouragement, many prayer ideas, and journal pages to record your hopes and prayers for your children of any age. Available at AdventistBookCenter.com

Living Compassion

Getting Down and Dirty

By Kristina Pascual, Managing Editor and Southwestern Union Associate Communication Director



The sum of Christianity and our reason for existing is spelled out in Matthew 22:37-38. It is not a mystery. Jesus proclaims that everything hangs on loving God with all of our being and loving our neighbors with the same amount of love we have for ourselves. The concept is simple, yet it is easy to get so caught up in the whirlwind of life, school, careers, and future that our love for our Savior waivers and our love for the stranger simply doesn't exist.

Nevertheless, we are not left without a guide or example. Jesus lived compassion in such a real way that it wasn't simply something He did. It was something He was. He literally got His hands dirty, touching dirt and dirty people to demonstrate love. He hugged and spoke kindly to little children, affirming and acknowledging them. He crouched down on the floor and, with gentle humbleness, the Creator of life washed the dirt and filth off of the worn and crusty feet of men who wore sandals and walked on dirt roads.

Imagine life with a "savior" who never got dirty or uncomfortable for the sake of others. Imagine a "savior" who didn't sacrifice or demonstrate a genuine concern and response to the suffering of others. Impossible! Now, imagine

a Christian who doesn't get dirty or uncomfortable, who isn't sacrificial and compassionate. I'll be the first to confess—I've been there before. But I'll also say that is not who I want to be. I recognize that my Savior has compassionate work for me to do.

When I was 13, I participated in my first mission trip. It was the first time that I had the experience of bathing by using a bucket to scoop cold water from a barrel and it was the first time I slept on a cold floor. It was also the first time I remember experiencing love and compassion for a stranger. We built a church in a remote part of Mexico and taught children about Jesus. This community wanted to worship their Savior under a roof, safe from the elements, and we had the means to help. The children lived in poverty and were delighted to sing, play, and learn about the Jesus who would always be by their side.

That mission trip, and the dozen or so that followed, always remind me of the very basics of Jesus' directive to love God and love our neighbor. Many of us are blessed to be able to travel abroad and share these experiences. Although Jesus did travel to other places to carry out His mission, He always began wherever He was at that moment. He

was on his way to heal a sick girl when a sick woman touched His cloak. Jesus stopped in His tracks and compassionately healed her in that moment.

We have opportunities to stop where we are in this moment and address the needs of others. In your community, or one nearby, there are people who are suffering. Homeless shelters are nearly always at capacity; mentoring programs (like Big Brother, Big Sister) are always in need of more volunteers; organizations for Veteran Affairs and the USO—who provide services for military members and their families—also need people to help; refugee resettlement programs need community members to help their new neighbors acclimate to their new country. Wherever you look, there is a need to be addressed.

How are you living compassionately? Is compassion a part of your daily routine? If so, continue living and loving others as Jesus did and encourage your friends and loved ones to join you. If you are recognizing that a shift may be necessary in order to align your heart with God's purpose, pray for guidance and compassion. Find a need and address it. Sometimes you may simply need to be humble and get dirty and just do it. **R**

More Compassion Houston

In March, teams of youth and young adults from across the Southwestern Union territory will gather in Houston for an annual mission weekend called More Compassion. During the event, teams will march against human trafficking in downtown and participate in worship and mission projects throughout the city. For more information, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth.

Weekend Schedule

Friday, March 9

Union-wide Vespers Service, 7:30 p.m.
World Harvest Outreach
Seventh-day Adventist Church
10800 Scott Street, Houston, TX 77047

Saturday, March 10

Diving Worship: 10 Host Churches will feature guest speakers from throughout the Southwestern Union. Visit our website for details on speakers and churches: SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth. After the service, each church will either be participating in a service project or begin preparing for the afternoon's parade and rally.

Sabbath Lunch: 4 Host Churches will provide a Sabbath lunch:
Houston Spanish Little York Seventh-day Adventist Church
West Houston Seventh-day Adventist Church
Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church
Adventist Church of The Woodlands

Parade and Rally, 3-6 p.m.

We will join together in a parade and rally to
"Live with More Compassion Against Human Trafficking"
Location: Herman Square, 900 Smith Street, Houston, TX 77002

Sunday, March 11

Individual projects will be assigned
based on needs from the local pastors.

Register now at SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth

"Therefore, as
God's chosen
people, holy
and dearly
loved, clothe
yourselves with
compassion,
kindness,
humility,
gentleness
and patience."

Colossians 3:12

Summer Camp

Life-Changing Memories

I was eight years old the first time I attended Camp Yorktown Bay in Arkansas. That week of cub camp was full of adventure as we went through all of the different activities summer camp offered. We went wakeboarding and rock climbing, and created crafts and ceramics. I enjoyed every part of it and became good friends with my cabin mates. I loved my counselors and couldn't believe some of the things they had for us like water ski shows and rodeos; it was all so amazing!

After that summer, I knew that I had to go back! So, the next couple of summers I enrolled for junior week at camp and got to meet new people and make new friends in different activities. One of my favorite parts of summer camp was the meals. I ate so much it was a wonder that I could walk, much less run around the camp to my next activities! Yet, somehow I always managed to do just that.

The summer camp staff always helped teach me new things or improve my current skills. The counselors have always been terrific and many of them have grown to be some of my role models.

By the time I turned 12 years old, I was baptized and knew that one day I wanted to work at camp. Turning 13 was a big step for me because that meant I could attend teen week at camp. So many new and exciting things were offered during teen week and the one I was most anxious for was "outpost." "Outpost" is an event for all campers to choose an activity that lasts all day and night. I went on many outposts in the following years and attended many banquets, carnivals, agape feasts, ski shows, rodeos, and many more wonderful activities. I made

many new friends, several who are still good friends, and many wonderful memories.

Every year that I went to camp, I would experience this incredible feeling that I can only describe as God's Love. We had worship every morning and evening worship was filled with song service, camp news, and my favorite, the skits! The pastors that spoke to us each summer were a huge blessing, as were the counselors and other staff.

The year I turned 17 years old I applied to work at Camp Yorktown Bay. The only thing better than spending a week at summer camp, is spending a whole summer at summer camp! I was very nervous about beginning a job at camp, but I found a warm and friendly environment which welcomed me wholeheartedly.

Working at summer camp helped me realize all of the hard work people do to provide a functioning summer camp program. There were many days when the staff, tired from the day's work, still gathered faithfully for an evening prayer for campers and counselors. Each morning the staff awoke early to have devotionals and ask for God's blessings throughout the day.

I grew closer to God in my spiritual walk as a summer camp staff member and was able to give back some of the blessings that I had received as a camper. Summer camp has had a huge impact on my life. I've learned new skills and made new friends. But the biggest blessing has been spending time with God and learning more about Him and His love for us.

By Kelsey Johnson



Annual Southwestern Union Record SUMMER CAMP CONTEST

Summer camp offers so many great activities and things to learn, but the best part of summer camp is getting to know Jesus better with new friends! So, for this year's contest you get a chance to **count up all of the campers** on these two pages for a chance to win a free week at summer camp!

Once you've counted up all of the campers, submit your answer along with your name, age, gender, phone number, email address, and the name and location of the church you attend to the *Record* using one of the methods below. From the correct submissions, we will randomly select one boy and one girl from each conference to receive a free week at summer camp.

All entries must be received by **April 16, 2017**. Submit your entry by email to SummerCampContest@swuc.org or by mail to Southwestern Union *Record* Contest, P.O. Box 4000, Burseson, TX, 76097.

Winners will be notified individually in May and will be announced in the July/August issue of the *Record*.

Kids
EXPLORE

AWESOME

FUN



Camp Meeting SCHEDULE

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE:

www.arklac.org
318.631.6240

April 20-21 | South Louisiana English
Camp Meeting, Hammond, La.

April 27-28 | South Louisiana Spanish
Camp Meeting, Hammond, La.

May 29-June 2 | Ozark Family Camp
Meeting, Gentry, Ark.

June 8-9 | NWA Spanish Camp
Meeting, Ozark Adventist Academy,
Gentry, Ark.

Sept. 28-30 | Bonnerdale Cowboy
Camp Meeting, Bonnerdale, Ark.

Oct. 4-6 | Springtown: Fall Round-up,
Springtown, Ark.

July 18-22 | Ark-La-Tex Camp Meeting,
Jefferson Academy, Jefferson, Texas

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE:

www.OklahomaAdventist.org
405.721.6110

June 1-3 | Spanish Camp Meeting,
Wewoka Woods Adventist Center,
Wewoka, Okla.

June 8-10 | Zomi (Burmese) Camp
Meeting, Wewoka Woods Adventist
Center, Wewoka, Okla.

July 31-21 | English Camp Meeting,
Wewoka Woods Adventist Center,
Wewoka, Okla.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE:

www.MySouthwestRegion.org
214.943.4491

May 25-28 | Hispanic Camp
Meeting, Lone Star Camp,
Athens, Texas

June 8-16 | English Camp Meeting,
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Texas

TEXAS CONFERENCE:

www.TexasAdventist.org
817.790.2255

April 27-28 | San Antonio Area
Camp Meeting, New Creation
Christian Fellowship,
Windcrest, Texas

May 30-June 2 | Keene Camp
Meeting, Keene Seventh-day
Adventist Church, Keene, Texas

July 18-22 | East Texas Camp
Meeting (Ark-La-Tex), Jefferson
Academy, Jefferson, Texas

September 7-8 | Cowboy Camp
Meeting, Yogi Bear Jellystone Park,
Burleson, Texas

TEXICO CONFERENCE:

www.Texico.org
505.244.1611

June 7-9 | Texico Conference Camp
Meeting, Bonita Camp,
Capitan, N. Mex.



March

2-3

Southwestern Union: Equipped For Ministries Training; Shreveport, La., EquippedForMinistries.org

3

Oklahoma Conference: Pathfinder Bible Experience; Wewoka Woods Adventist Center OklahomaAdventist.org

3

Texas Conference: Church Planting Rally; San Antonio Valley View Seventh-day Adventist Church, TXChurchPlanting.org

3

Texas Conference: Training for Evangelism, Sabbath School, ACS, Global Mission, Health, Children's, and Personal Ministries; McAllen Spanish Valley Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, TexasAdventist.org

4

Texas Conference: VBS Training; McAllen Spanish Valley Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, TexasAdventist.org

9-11

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: English Couples Retreat; Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., DLCastellanos@ArkLac.org

11

Texas Conference: VBS Training; Killeen Seventh-day Adventist Church, TexasAdventist.org

16-18

Southwestern Union: More Compassion Houston Young Adult and Youth Mission Trip; SouthwesternAdventist.org

17

Southwestern Union: Global Youth Day; SouthwesternAdventist.org

23-25

SW Region Conference: Marriage Retreat; Omni Corpus Christi Hotel, MarriageIsForFriends2018.Eventbrite.com

24

Southwestern Union: Pathfinder Bible Experience; Southwestern Adventist University, Keene, Texas

29-April 1

Texas Conference: Pathfinder Camporee; Lake Whitney Ranch, Clifton, Texas YoungTexasAdventist.org

30-April 2

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Louisiana Spanish Youth Campout; JVillegas@arklac.org

April

13-15

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Arkansas FESJA Youth Rally; Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., JVillegas@ArkLac.org

14-28

Texas Conference: Metropolitan Evangelism MÀSesperanza; Keene/Fort Worth, Texas TexasAdventist.org

20-22

SW Region Conference: Men's Ministry Summit; Lone Star Camp, Athens, Texas LMassiah@SWRGC.org

20-21

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana English Camp Meeting; Hammond, La., FAlcorn@ArkLac.org

22-26

Texas Conference: Outdoor School; Camp Hoblitzelle & Conference Center, Midlothian, Texas, TexasAdventist.org

27-28

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting; Hammond, La., DLCastellanos@ArkLac.org

27-29

Texas Conference/ Southwestern Union: Forever One Marriage Retreat; Omni Corpus Christi Hotel; BeForeverOne.org

27-28

Texas Conference: San Antonio Area Camp Meeting; New Creation Christian Fellowship, Windcrest, Texas, TexasAdventist.org

28

Texas Conference: Soul Winning Festival; Fort Worth, Texas, TexasEvangelism.org

29

SW Region Conference: Constitution and Bylaws Town Hall Meeting; Oklahoma City, Okla.

29-May 4

SW Region Conference: Outdoor School; Lone Star Camp, Athens, Texas

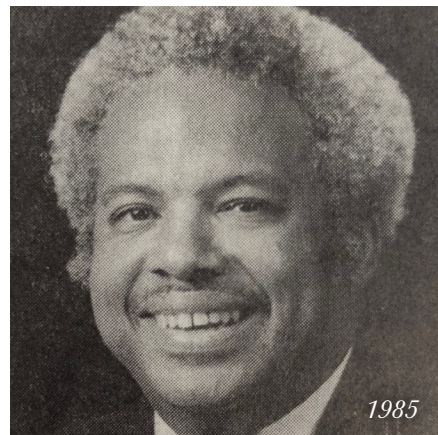
30-May 4

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Outdoor School; Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., RBurton@ArkLac.org

For more events and information, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org.

E. Wayne Shepperd, Jr.

Former Southwestern Union Vice President Passes Away



Austin, Texas » E. Wayne Shepperd, Jr., born June 20, 1935, in Los Angeles, California, to Elbert W. Shepperd, Sr., and Naomi E. Owens, passed to his rest on February 6, 2018, in Austin, Texas.

Shepperd graduated from Los Angeles Academy in 1953; Oakwood College in 1957 with degrees in history and theology; and from seminary at Andrews University in 1966. He was ordained in 1967. On July 19, 1958, he married Joyce Montgomery. The couple would have three boys: Wayne, Eric, and Tony.

Shepperd entered denominational employment in 1961 as a principal and teacher at Ephesus Junior Academy in New Orleans, La., for the Southwest Region Conference. He then pastored in Tyler, Texas, before becoming the

Southwest Region's Education Director in 1967. In 1973, Shepperd became Chaplain for Andrews University, and in 1975, became the Youth Director for the Lake Union Conference.

He returned to the Southwestern Union in 1979 to become the Youth Director. In 1982, the position of Association Secretary was added, and in 1985, he became Vice President.

In 1987, Shepperd received a call to the North Pacific Union as Youth Director where he served until 1993, when he was called to the Pacific Union as Vice President, where he remained until his retirement in 2005.

Throughout his career, Shepperd was noted for his kindness, infectious smile, and authentic concern for others, as well

as an enthusiasm for colorful neckties and his vintage Ford Mustang. Sali Butler, Administrative Assistant of the Pacific Union Conference, recalls that every morning before starting the day, Shepperd would walk through the building to speak to all of the secretaries.

"He would catch up with our lives, children, and pray with us if a specific circumstance called for it. He would reach for our hand, bow his head, and pray," says Butler.

In his retirement, Shepperd and his wife, Joyce, lived near family in Austin, Texas where he was an active member of the Alpha Seventh-day Adventist Church in Round Rock, Texas.

By Jessica Lozano, Editor

IN His LIKENESS

Southwestern Union Women's Ministries
www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/Women

Women's Spiritual Retreat
Embassy Suites, Frisco, Texas
August 10-12, 2018
Registration is OPEN

Regular (Through June 30): \$115
Late (July 1): \$125

Del Delker Passes Away

Voice of Prophecy Soloist Remembered

Porterville, Calif. » *Voice of Prophecy* singer Del Delker passed peacefully to her rest on January 31, 2018, in Porterville, California, at the age of 93. For six decades, whether over the airwaves, in a church, or at an evangelistic meeting, her strong contralto voice unabashedly shared Christ's love with rapt audiences around the world. Her more than 40 Christ-centered adult and children's albums are still enjoyed worldwide, and it is estimated she sang in 15 different languages during thousands of performances.

Del Delker (born Ardella V. Delker) came into this world on October 21, 1924 in the small Midwestern town of Java, South Dakota. At an early age, Del's father left the family, leaving her mother, Martha, to care for Del and her brother, Stanley. In 1931, as the Great Depression deepened, her mother, with \$59 in her purse, decided to move to California along with her two sisters and brother-in-law. Their money ran out in Yakima, Washington, where they got jobs in a fruit cannery until they could earn enough money to continue their trip to California. They eventually settled in Oakland.

Delker attended an Adventist school during grades 5-8, then after graduating from high school, got a job at a bus station. A friend told her about a place he'd discovered in Oakland called the Quiet Hour, and she started attending services there. Although her mother was a baptized Seventh-day Adventist, Delker was not yet a member, but she was impressed by the genuine friendliness of J. L. Tucker and his staff.

One evening, when Tucker preached about heaven, he concluded by saying, "I want to be there, don't you? I want to see Jesus. I want to live with Him for all eternity, don't you?"

Delker looked back on that sermon about heaven as the time when she gave her heart to the Lord. In a few months,

she made her decision to be baptized and join the church.

Delker began using her musical talents to sing on the Quiet Hour broadcasts. Within a few weeks of being baptized, she was asked to sing at a camp meeting held in Lodi, about 70 miles east of Oakland. Delker continued to sing for the Quiet Hour broadcasts while working for the bus company and saving money for college.

One day, *Voice of Prophecy* called to ask if she was interested in joining their staff. She said no. A second and third call resulted in a similar response. But a fourth call led her to wonder whether God was leading her on a different path.

After praying and seeking the counsel of friends, she decided to walk through the door God had opened for her. One of her first jobs was working with H.M.J. Richards, the father of the *Voice of Prophecy's* founder, H.M.S. Richards, Sr. For several years, she worked in several clerical positions at VOP, while occasionally singing on the broadcasts and going out on weekend appointments with the VOP team.

After five years working at the *Voice of Prophecy* full-time, Delker went to college—one year at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), and four years at La Sierra College (now La Sierra University). While at La Sierra, she spent summers and weekends performing with the *Voice of Prophecy*.

In 1982, when the music department of the *Voice of Prophecy* was disbanded, Delker was asked to stay on, though she was in need of an accompanist. Fortunately, God had one waiting in the wings.

Hugh Martin was a composer and songwriter whose music and lyrics have been performed in Broadway musicals and Hollywood films.

In 1960, at the height of his career, he found himself in a small hospital chapel in England after suffering a nervous

breakdown. He promised God that if he recovered, he would use his talents to honor Him. A few years later, back in the United States, Martin happened across a *Voice of Prophecy* broadcast. He later wrote to Delker: "I listened [to the *Voice of Prophecy*] for nine years. . . . your voice captivated me, and I remember thinking, 'If only I could be her accompanist.'"

In 1979, Martin was in the hospital for some tests, and he found himself sharing a room with a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, William Lester. As their conversations followed more spiritual topics, Martin and Lester began studying the Bible together and Martin was baptized.

Martin moved to Thousand Oaks, California, to be close to the *Voice of Prophecy* in case his services were needed. In 1982, Delker approached him about being her accompanist. Over the next four summers, they performed together in several places around the country. Martin went on to write updated lyrics for his Christmas standard, and Delker recorded the new version: "Have Yourself a Blessed Little Christmas."

After spending most of her life in Southern California, Delker moved to California's Central Valley and enjoyed a fairly active retirement. Her goal in life was to spread the good news about Jesus, and she will continue to do so through her music. She passed away peacefully with that hope in mind.

Read the extended life sketch for Del Delker at NADAdventist.org.

By *Voice of Prophecy* Staff

Voice of Prophecy staff extends a big thank you to Stephen Chavez for content from his 2009 *Adventist Review* article on Delker titled "I Know He Watches Me." Additional thanks to Phil Draper, Ken Wade, and Delker's nephew and niece, Dean and Irene Delker.

Topping Out Ceremony

Progress on Southwestern's New Nursing Building

Keene, Texas » Southwestern Adventist University faculty, staff, students, alumni, and community members all braved the cold and gathered together at the construction site of the Larry R. Moore Nursing and Administration Building to sign the beam for the Topping Out Ceremony. Hundreds of signatures can still be seen on the beam from where it was placed on the building. Board of Trustees Chairman Larry Moore, Keene Mayor James Chapline, University President Dr. Ken Shaw, Nursing Department Chair Dr. Kerrie Kimbrow, and Nursing Student Association President Kyleigh Duke all participated in the program before Vice President for Spiritual Life Russ Laughlin gave a dedicatory prayer.

"Throughout my experience in Southwestern's nursing program, I have seen

Christ in all of my professors," Duke said. "Our professors are very devoted to their job and do everything possible to make sure that we learn and become professional nurses." The new building means larger classrooms and more technology for the nursing students.

Contractors Steele and Freeman were on hand to do the honors of hoisting the beam into place. Hot cider and cookies shaped like the building were provided for all the guests.

The new building is slated to be finished before the 2018 fall semester. It will include state-of-the-art simulation labs and hospital rooms, classrooms, medical surgery labs, and more. Alumni, faculty, staff, and friends have continued to give to the project, which cost \$16 million.

"Being a mathematician, we are 98.4 percent of the way done," Dr. Shaw,

said. "We still have a quarter of a million dollars left to raise to complete our project. Thank you very much to those that have made this possible." Donors, who come in all shapes and sizes, include Isaiah. Pictured in between his siblings (bottom left), Isaiah has been to every event for the new building since breaking open his piggy bank and donating \$24 to the building last fall. His actions started a chain-reaction of giving.

To learn more about how you can support the building, visit swau.edu/give or contact Kisha Norris at 817.202.6233 or knorris@swau.edu. Photos of the Topping Out fun are available at [Flickr.com/photos/SouthwesternAdventist](https://www.flickr.com/photos/SouthwesternAdventist). Watch live footage of the building construction progress at SWAU.edu.

By Darcy Force
Director of Marketing and PR



Financial Health Seminars

Focus on Helping Students Manage Money

Keene, Texas » Many students don't consider their financial health until after graduation. As of 2016, only 17 states required high school students to take a personal finance course. According to a survey by LendEDU, 58% of college students don't save any money, 81% have no emergency funds, 60% had little-to-no-knowledge of financial investments, and 48% had little-to-no-knowledge of saving for retirement.

The Business Administration Department chose to address the problem by offering free seminars to students

every semester. The seminars, put on by faculty and knowledgeable community members, cover topics such as filing taxes, purchasing cars, managing personal financial statements, bookkeeping, and maintaining a budget.

"Every one of the seminars include topics that pertain to student financial life, information they can use now and throughout the rest of their life," says Dr. Aaron Moses, seminar coordinator and Business Department chair.

— *By Sierra Hernandez,*
freshman communication major



Adventure Learning

Ecology Class Visits Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma

Keene, Texas » Southwestern Adventist University's Ecology students visited Wichita Mountain Wildlife Refuge in Oklahoma as part of their lab assignment. The weekend trip put the students into the unique environment of a specific eco-system where they could see first-hand what they were learning in class.

Dr. Jared Wood, Assistant Professor of Ecology and Conservation, usually takes the students to the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas, Texas, but wasn't able to this year due to Hurricane Harvey.

When the students visit Port Aransas they sample the ocean and coastal eco-system. This time they got to see prairie eco-systems and wildlife. Spending time in nature and experiencing hands-on wildlife was enjoyable for them.

"It was so fun!" says Lindsey Johnson, a sophomore biology pre-med student. "The southern Great Plains had so much life. We saw a baby longhorn with its mom; bison; two huge, gorgeous elks; and a whole prairie dog town! It was so cool getting to experience everything in its natural habitat."

The group camped, hiked, and visited the Holy Mountain in Cache, Oklahoma, and the Medicine Park Aquarium and Natural Science Center.

"Everyone likes being hands-on," says Johnson. "There's nothing more hands-on than getting to stand in the middle of a 30-foot canyon next to a waterfall or hiking up to reach a 2,464-foot summit, looking over the Great Plains and seeing a herd of bison. This trip was a constant adventure!"

— *By Julena Allen,*
junior journalism major



A Hermit's Struggle

Jesus' Love Leads Us To Connect



How we live and conduct ourselves always has some degree of influence on the lives of those around us. We can hide feelings and emotions, but a day of revelation seems to always come sooner or later. For the Christian, there is the realization that our lives are to be both “salt” and “light” to those around us. Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth” and “You are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:13-14). That is a 24/7 calling. There is never a time that I can cease being salt or light. As a follower of Jesus, the transforming power of His life will have its converting and life-changing influence in my life. As a result, as my life begins to show evidence that I have become a disciple—a follower of Jesus—then my life will have its positive impact in the lives of those around me. I cannot be a hermit.

A true disciple of Jesus will always want to relate to others in a way that displays grace, love, acceptance, kindness, forbearance, trust, and hope. How can this kind of uplifting influence be felt if the life of the disciple is filled with criticism, complaints, or blame for his/her circumstances?

When the apostles Paul and Barnabas returned to Antioch from their first missionary journey, Acts 14:27 says that “They reported all that God had done through them, and that He had opened a door of faith to the Gentiles.” The report was all about God and his doings. The whole focus of what they shared with the church must have been stories of conversion and the miracles that God worked. Yet if you go back and read the narrative of what took place during that first missionary journey, you will discover that persecution was raised up against the apostles, they were expelled from several cities where they labored, attempts were made to stone them, and then Paul actually ended up being stoned.

If Paul wanted to be upset, angry, and bitter about how he had been treated, he certainly would have had cause for those feelings. However, when he shared his report with the Church, it was not about what happened to him, or how he felt, but rather about the wonderful things that happened in the lives of those who accepted Jesus as their Savior. Paul was not perfect, but the record of his life certainly reveals the genuineness of his conversion experience. His greatest desire was to uplift Jesus, so the focus of his life was allowing God’s will to be worked out both *in* him and then *through* him. He allowed the Spirit of God to transform his own life, and then he labored diligently in behalf of others so that their lives could be changed as well.

A true follower of Jesus cannot be a hermit. Hermits don’t connect with others. Love for Jesus will lead us to connect with others, sharing courage and hope, and always seeking their best, and ultimately their salvation.

By Steven Orian, President



Gentry Go Healthy

Nine Churches United for Health Expo

Gentry, Ark. » The second annual Northwest Arkansas Go Healthy Health Expo was held recently at the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church.

This was an area-wide effort supported by volunteers from nine area Adventist churches. Local doctors, dentists, physician's assistants, nurses, dental assistants, physical therapists, respiratory therapists, representatives from Siloam Springs Hospital, a marriage and family counselor, hairdressers, and translators provided much appreciated community support. Staff from Wellness Secrets in Decatur demonstrated how to make delicious, healthy snacks.

This year the children enjoyed their own health program that included a bounce house and obstacle course. A highlight for the children was a tour of the Air Evac helicopter.

A volunteer accompanied each of our 100 guests to eight different stations. Participants received health evaluations and education as they went through the various stations.

One guest was shocked to discover that he had a dangerously high glucose count. The eye doctor discovered that a patient had very high eye pressure that could possibly indicate glaucoma.

Free haircuts kept the hairdressers exceptionally busy. One of the ladies donated her lovely, very long hair to Locks of Love, a public non-profit organization that provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children in the United States and Canada under age 21 suffering from long-term medical hair loss from any diagnosis.

It was encouraging that some of the community doctors and dentists were al-

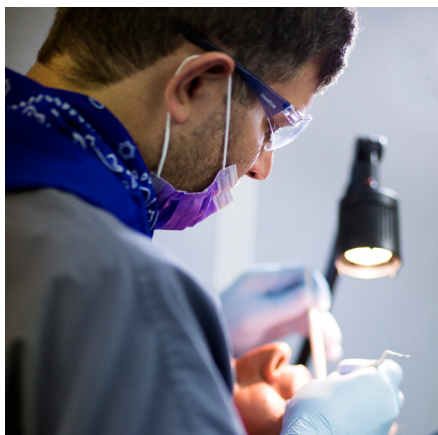
ready looking forward with anticipation to next year's health expo.

In October, as a follow-up community outreach, there was a soup-tasting and bread-making program. Eleven soups were available for tasting and three different bread-making techniques were demonstrated. What a wonderful way to make new friends in the community and to strengthen bonds among church members.

By Joyce Marter

Dr. Jordan Netzel (top left) performs eye exams while Lucy Winn (top right) provides free haircuts. Over 100 residents received screening and counsel from doctors like Kyle Dixon (bottom left) and Dr. Mathur (bottom right).

Photos by Debbie Upson



The Widow's Mite

A Quilted Labor of Love

Heber Springs, Ark. » Although Margie Davis is an older woman who lives on a very small income and is limited physically, she is a dedicated prayer warrior who uses her talents for good. Davis makes beautiful hand-crafted items and donates them to the church, with all proceeds going to the church budget. Recently she made a beautiful large quilt for a member. As she was praying, the Lord gave her some wonderful, spiritual insights into the meaning of each item in the quilt, Ships on the Sea of Life. Here is the spiritual insight she was given for the quilt: Ships:

Humanity on the Sea of Life; Color of Ships: all the nationalities in the world; Fabric Patterns: different physical features of humanity; Water: the sea of life; Pieced blocks: God takes our broken lives and puts us back together; Gray backing: Jesus is always there backing us up; Batting: Without the Holy Spirit in us, we are an empty shell; Yellow Stripes: After the storm, the Sun shines brighter; Stitches: Prayer holds us together with people all over the world; Completed Quilt: God's love for all humanity shines through.

— By Margie Davis with Judith Newton



Amity Outreach

Many Hands Lighten the Load

Amity, Ark. » Last September, the new Amity Seventh-day Adventist Church was a buzz of activity as volunteers finished preparing disaster relief items for areas affected by Hurricane Harvey.

This was a special event because the new church is not even completed yet, and the members are already reaching out to help others.

Julie Douville, the Community Services Leader at the Amity church contacted the other Adventist churches nearby asking them to join the effort, and there was a wonderful response.

Six area churches contributed both personal items as well as cleaning products to help build the kits to be given out. Funds were also collected that were used to purchase needed items.

The churches involved were the Amity, Arkadelphia, Bonnerdale, Mt. Ida, Nashville and the Umpire Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Through all of the combined efforts, the following disaster relief items were transported to the distribution point in Texas:

- 101 personal comfort kits
- 29 yellow flood buckets (filled with cleaning supplies)
- 18 gallons of bleach
- 5 large bags full of assorted blankets
- 1 box of food
- 1 box of toys and other personal items
- 1 box of miscellaneous linens
- 6 cases of diapers and wipes
- Many brooms and Mops

— By Fred Douville



Bonnerdale Baptisms

Adding Souls to the Kingdom

Bonnerdale, Ark. » On December 2, 2017, new members were added to the Bonnerdale Seventh-day Adventist Church. Harry Adderholt, who is currently pursuing a Master's Degree, had been attending this church for nine years prior to making his decision. Harry spoke at his baptism that in addition to Bible studies, one of the motivators for his decision was the kindness and love he had experienced from the church members throughout the years.

Andrea Roda was rebaptized as well. Her decision was a result of gaining

a deeper understanding of God's love towards her and a desire to recommit every area of her life to God. She has travelled to Romania to share the gospel and was also a presenter at a recent series of meetings, along with other young adults in Bonnerdale.

Andrea and Harry have been very active in church, teaching youth Sabbath School and creating many social events to foster friendships within the church and the community.

Areani Perez (pictured right) felt a calling to take her walk with Jesus to the

next level after attending the Arkansas-Louisiana Pathfinder Camporee. Her decision to be baptized coincided closely with her actual birthday the next day. Areani was excited to place her trust in Jesus. She is looking forward to discovering new ways to serve Jesus and plans to continue learning and growing in His grace.

By Brandon Westgate

Left: Andrea Roda, Harry Adderholt, and Areani Perez with Pastor Brandon Westgate.



A Church Home

An Overheard Word Ministers to Family

Texarkana, Texas » Jennifer Lewis manages a Subway restaurant in Texarkana, where she moved with her family six years ago. However, they were still praying to find a church home.

In 2016, Lewis began working at Subway, and that is where she met Jack Johnson, a church elder from the Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Mr. Jack" as Jennifer calls him, often goes to Subway to get lunch for some of his workers. One Friday as he was leaving, he mentioned getting ready for the Sabbath. This caught Jennifer's attention and

she asked if he was a Seventh-day Adventist. As the conversation progressed, Lewis revealed that she had grown up in a Seventh-day Adventist home.

Lewis and her children were invited to church. "When we walked in the church, my kids and I said at the same time that it reminded us of the church back home," she remembers. Now they have joined the church family and Jennifer says, "We have made this our home church and we have enjoyed every Sabbath day since. God knew just who to put in our path."

By Lorretta Johnson



Cooking School

Whole Foods for Whole Health

Shreveport, La. » A series of whole-food, plant-based cooking classes were recently held at the Shreveport First Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The emphasis was on eating foods as whole and as natural as possible, using no oil or refined sugars and a minimal amount of salt.

Food demonstrations were done at each class and the attendees enjoyed tasting new foods or old foods prepared in more healthful ways. Also, several videos were shown to help educate guests about the benefits of eating whole foods. It was enlightening to learn the caloric value of various types

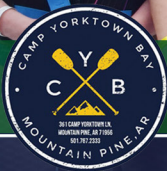
of foods and that one could eat all they wanted of fruits, vegetables, unrefined grains, and beans and still lose weight and feel better. Chris Simpson led out in the sessions, assisted by Ken Simpson, Brandie and TJ Kolff, Van Oosterwyk, Sherri Cash, and Kathy Farmer.

— By David Farmer and Chris Simpson



Ask . Seek . Knock .

JUNE-JULY 2018



CAMP YORKTOWN BAY | 2018 Summer camp | (Ages 7-17)

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Family Camp

June 10-17
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June 24-July 1

Tween Camp (11-14) July 1-8
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A Journey of Faith

Miracles Through Tests and Trials



Many tests and miracles have occurred in my life as I have travelled my journey of faith. Growing up, I was in and out of the Adventist school system due to finances, but my seventh grade year brought a lot of pain followed by miracles. I lived in South Korea which ran a six-day school week with Sabbath being the last day. That was a great challenge for a Sabbath keeper, but I had a strong, faithful mother, and she gave me strength and courage to trust in God no matter what. So, I would be absent from school on Sabbath so I could attend church. Every Monday morning for many months, I would have to open my hands with my palms up and stay silent while the frustrated teacher hit my hands 10 times with a bamboo stick, without mercy, while strongly reminding me that my attendance at school was expected. After a lot of prayer and my mom constantly talking to the principal, the teacher was allowed to stop the beatings because the principal decided that he couldn't break either my mom or me. All of my absences would end up making me repeat the grade anyway. But to everyone's surprise, God's miracle, I missed one less day than the failing number of absences, so I passed to the next grade! I learned that God is merciful and gives strength to endure when trusting Him.

Another challenge came in my senior year of middle school. There were two parts to the final test given: physical and written. This test determined if a student would go to high school or go to work. I had finished the written part of the test and the physical part was to be on Sabbath. My teacher begged me to take the test, knowing that if I didn't take the physical part of the test, I would never get to go to high school. He assured me over and over that God would allow me to miss the Sabbath this one time. I struggled over this decision because it would determine my future. I told my mom about the physical part being on the Sabbath and asked her what I should do; perhaps she could talk to the principal, but she told me it was time for me to make the decision.

The Sabbath morning of the physical test came; I struggled and prayed. I dressed for church focused on the miracles God had performed in my past struggles; I put my Bible in my hand, curled my fingers around it, and pulled it close against my body. I had to walk directly by the school to get to church. My classmates called my name and told me to come or I would fail the test. It was one of the hardest things to do, but by the power of God, I walked ahead and worshiped God, pleading for peace.

I continued to enjoy the Sabbath the Lord had made and I had no regrets for making the right decision to honor God's holy Sabbath, but I did wonder what to do with my life next.

I went to school the following Monday to take the academic part of the test when my classmates surrounded me yelling for me to dress for the physical! I told them it was over and they screamed, "It started to rain so hard last Saturday, the tests had to stop!"

What a wonderful God I served! The teacher and my friends were affected by that decision and I can't thank the Father enough for the faith and strength to honor Him that day! My life has been so blessed! God's power and strength is mighty! Nothing is impossible for Him. I had the privilege of coming to America and serving young people for the last 36 years! During that time I have been the Oklahoma Conference Pathfinder Director, Youth Director and now I am humbled to serve as Executive Secretary. What a God we serve!

By Apple Park, Executive Secretary



Oklahoma Academy

Students Minister Through Messiah's Mansion Exhibit

Cherokee » A little church plant in Cherokee, Oklahoma was the site of last September's Messiah's Mansion exhibit. Roger and Gabby Simpson opened their home for the Sanctuary team to stay in for two weeks. Sixteen sophomores and juniors from Oklahoma Academy (OA) had the privilege of participating in sharing the gospel with this community through the Sanctuary.

Because of a very rainy summer in Northern Oklahoma, the field reserved for setting up the sanctuary was flooded. A week before it was to arrive, the water was over our shoes, even up to mid-calf! Earnestly, the church prayed, "God, you can create dry ground! You made a path through the Red Sea by sending a great wind. Please stop the rain here and dry the ground so the Sanctuary can be set up."

It became very windy for the rest of that week and the field was dry in time to set up the Sanctuary! No rain fell during the week of tours. The exhibit was a huge success with over 1,000 people going through the exhibit.

The Simpsons have been active in outreach. Roger makes connections with individuals and city leaders through his work as a licensed plumber and the family is active in the local food pantry and thrift store. But Gabby stated that the Messiah's Mansion exhibit has been the most successful community outreach

they've ever done. Opening the doors and hearts in the community, over 180 people have asked for Bible studies!

The Lord provided dry weather for the tours, however, as the last day of tours drew near, rain was forecasted again. The tours would be over, but the Sanctuary was still up. Extra help had to be called in to meet this emergency. Cameron (freshman) and Sam (junior) tell what happened.

Cam: *It was nearly 1:45 pm, work would be starting very soon, and as I hastily prepared to depart from the boys' dorm to resume my work at the communications office, I received the message that work had been postponed until 3:00 pm. It was going to be a very different type of work, as not more than four hours north, trouble was brewing*

Sam: *The Messiah's Mansion had been a big project. As a full-scale model of the mosaic sanctuary, it had taken nearly three days to fully assemble, and now at the end of two weeks of tours, we were faced with the daunting task of tearing it down in one night.*

Cam: *This emergency prompted an urgent call for help. The job of dismantling the sanctuary usually consumes a whole day, but it would be necessary to do this in only eight hours.*

Sam: *The freshmen and seniors arrived at about 7:30 p.m, just as the last tour was going through. We immediately went to work as the rain was forecasted for 2:00 A.M. Vehicles were parked around the sanctuary to provide light as the curtains of the outer court were*

taken down and folded. Then the 750 rebar stakes that held the tabernacle down were pulled from the ground. All went quickly and relatively smoothly until about 11:00 p.m. At that point, the fatigue started to show. We started tripping over the stakes, making small mistakes and had a few close calls. Then at midnight food came: granola bars, PB&J sandwiches, and Little Debbie snacks.

Cam: *With this new strength we pressed on until finally at 2:15 AM the last pillar, the last stake, the last pole, and the last piece of furniture was loaded. Without any injuries and without any rain, we were done, and very thankful God had pushed back the rain, for when it came, we wondered how we would have been able to work in such a ferocious torrent.*

A few days later a group of 16 students arrived to canvass the Cherokee area on fall break. Again, in answer to prayer, the Lord stopped the rain just while they were there.

They found the community very receptive as they were recognized by the OA logo on their shirts and associated it with the Sanctuary exhibit. It seemed the whole community had come out for the tour.

By Julie Shurley



Prayer and Love

A Key in the Hand of Faith

Oklahoma City » Several years ago, I was standing in line to pay the academy school bill for my son to receive his diploma when a frail man and woman walked up to my son and asked him if his name was Joseph Park. He replied with a yes, and they proceeded to tell him that they had been praying for him all that year. Tears came to my eyes as I remembered my son's hardships of a best friend dying earlier in the year, and the newness of being away from home for the first time. What a gift I received at that moment! Knowing the pain and loss that young man was going to experience that senior year, God had two extra people praying for him! Praise the Lord!

I think of that often and when this school year began, I wanted all of the

young people at Parkview Adventist Academy to experience that gift. The village secretary at Summit Ridge, Donita Lawless, and I worked to partner up a child with a Summit Ridge resident for prayer partners. Four months passed with everyone praying and now it was time for all of them to meet. December 20 is usually a homemade gift exchange and agape feast with the students, but this year we had an agape feast with games, gift exchange, music and fun with our prayer partners from Summit Ridge. What a beautiful union! There was lots of laughter, singing, and playing.

But the prayer life of many of these children doesn't end here. Every day at Parkview Academy, one, two, or three students are outside of each classroom door

praying for the students in the room along with the teacher and the families they all represent. They even pray for the offices, office staff, library, librarians, music room and more! One moment last year when the younger elementary students were praying outside the classrooms, a precious young second grader saw the disturbance of a classmate to his classroom. She immediately put down her head and started praying for him to receive the Holy Spirit and be at peace. That is power!

Steps to Christ says that "prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse." It is our prayer that each of these young people learns the gift and power that God has so freely given! Praise the Lord for the gift of prayer.

By Annette Park

Serving on Sabbath

First Tulsa Seventh-day Adventist Homeless Ministry

Tulsa » Volunteers from the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa have been packing their cars with hot meals on Sabbath afternoons and offering food and friendship to some of Tulsa's homeless individuals. They take the meals to locations where the homeless community gather—in camps, under bridges, etc. According to Brandi

Bowen, one of the ministry leaders, volunteers want to serve those who are far from a shelter and may not have had a hot meal recently.

The homeless ministry volunteers are prayerfully considering ways to proceed with this outreach. One project they have scheduled is serving at the Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless, which

provides meals, clothing, showers, medical care, and more to homeless men, women, and children. Our volunteers are also planning to continue distributing food on two Sabbaths each month.

"This ministry has been such a blessing, not only to the ones we have served but to all the individuals who are serving as well!" said Ms. Bowen.



A Life Restored

Abuse Survivor Champions Helping Others

Bristow » You have met someone like Candice Hart: someone who is always cheerful, always has a smile on her face, always has something positive to say. But this vibrant, effusive Behavioral Health Rehab Specialist and Integrative Wellness Coach with an astonishing 21 letters after her name (MSP, BHCM-II, BHRM, C-PRSS, C-IWC) did not obtain that outlook as a result of a happy childhood. Candice radiates joy because Christ transformed her life.

Candice's first exposure to abuse was at age four by family friends. She was too young to properly explain what was happening to her during the two years of abuse that followed. The abuse was accompanied by her father's infidelity. When her father began drinking, he became emotionally abusive to Candice and her mother, whom he eventually divorced.

Her mother, wanting to create some semblance of a good home life, dropped off Candice at Sunday school each week, but by age 10, Candice was smoking and drinking. "I had no guidance, no foundation, so those were decisions I made," she recalls. Candice renewed her relationship with her father, but took advantage of the perks of his medical practice, stealing painkillers and antidepressants.

Despite this unloving upbringing, Candice always believed in God, but wasn't a follower. "I thought I was in a relation-

ship with Him. I talked to Him, high or sober, because I was convicted He existed and cared about me. I chose negative ways to cope with my unhappy home life, but I accept responsibility for what I did."

In April 1996, Candice was sent into a different kind of emotional spiral when her father was shot and killed. This tragedy catapulted Candice into hard drugs. "I just started running." Although she inwardly suffered, Candice always held a job, selling drugs to meet her habit needs.

In her junior year of high school, Candice's mother found her drug stash and officially kicked her out of their home.

"It was all about me," says Candice. Even though her lifestyle was injurious, it was Candice's comfort zone. Now, she knows that "God wants to do so much through you and with you, but you have to get out of the comfort zone."

Candice finished high school and started college but was in a relationship where she experienced regular physical abuse. She wanted to leave her abusive relationship, but shares that "when you threaten to leave your abuser, that's when things get bad." Her boyfriend held her at knifepoint one day, and she thought to herself, "I'm 19 years old. It can't end like this. Please deliver me, God, so I can serve you." Making a covenant with God for her life, she later escaped and went into hiding for more than two years.

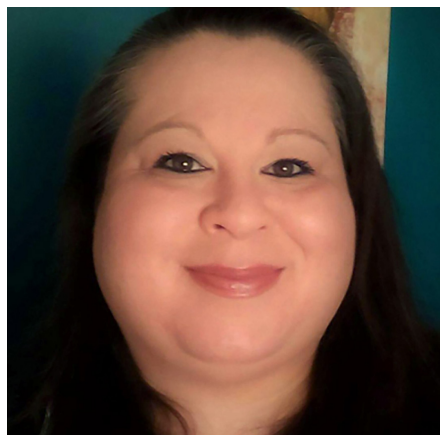
Miraculously, Candice's first husband

helped her get clean. Because she felt responsible for helping raise his two toddlers, she quit drugs. The relationship ended in divorce, due to his infidelity.

Candice then continued her education, earning her associates degree in behavioral science. "I have a good business sense, and despite my messed-up life, people came to me with their problems. Oddly, I've been the backbone for my family," she laughs. It seemed her life was on track, but then she met her husband, Tyrone Hart, in 2008. Her life was about to take her in a completely different direction, straight into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Tyrone and Candice were friends for three years, maintaining a long-distance relationship from the East Coast to Oklahoma. Tyrone became acquainted with Seventh-day Adventists through some Adventist teenagers attending Heartland Academy; he was baptized in April of 2009. Tyrone was drawn closer to God through several tragedies in his life: he was grieving over losing his 12-year-old son to asthma complications and he had also lost another son prior to that. "It was an awakening in my life," Tyrone admits. "I kept pressing forward."

Candice moved to Tyrone's hometown, began attending church with him, studying her Bible, and learning about a prayer life. Finally, Candice and Tyrone



were married on March 25, 2012, moving back to Oklahoma in 2013. Candice now has a master's degree in psychology and is pursuing a Master of Science degree in professional counseling.

"My real Christian transformation began after attending the Bristow Seventh-day Adventist Church," Candice says. "The fellowship and family, really learning about Bible truths. I have a church family now." Candice doesn't

worry about pleasing everyone else but prefers to step out in faith, believing that God will help her be who she should be. "I have a love for people and when my life was about to end, God brought me back to this career. My *modus operandi* is to help people, even if it means ignoring my own needs." She adds, "I've seen where my will gets me, but now I want God's will. In life, many things are imposed on you, but once you're out of that circumstance, you

are in control. You don't get to use other people's bad choices as your crutches."

Candice's education and business, Hart4Recovery (www.Hart4Recovery.org), attest to her dedication to help others. She has presented seminars on many behavioral health issues for the Bristow Church members and community, "paying back" what God did for her to anyone who asks for help.

By Caroline A. Fisher

Prayer Partners

Parkview Academy Intercedes with Retirement Village

Harrah » The Summit Ridge Retirement Village (SRRV) residents have long been strong supporters of Parkview Adventist Academy in Oklahoma City, both financially and through our earnest prayers.

Recently the SRRV residents were given the opportunity to choose an academy student to pray for by name. The students also took names of residents to pray for them. Many residents took advantage of this opportunity for outreach to our young people.

Just before Christmas break, Annette Park, Parkview Adventist Academy

Principal, along with her staff, arranged for a joyous "Meet and Greet" with an agape feast, musical numbers by the students, exchange of gifts between the "oldsters" and the "youngsters," and games to play together at the end. Most of the SRRV residents got to meet the student they were matched with, like Greg and George (right). We all had a good time! We look forward to keeping in touch with "our" students and having an opportunity to mingle with them again.

By Charlene Van Vliet



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Relationships Matter

Experiencing Christ With Others



As a young boy, I lived in Ghana with my family. When I was in high school, one of my friends, Frederick Kobeah, introduced me to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. I became convinced that the Sabbath was Saturday when I began reading *Steps to Christ*, *The Desire of Ages*, and *The Great Controversy*.

I started personal evangelism by sharing tracts and going door to door before I was baptized. When I began reading those books, I realized that in the high school I attended, Osei Tutu Senior High School, we needed to worship the Lord on His holy day, that is the Holy Sabbath. I was in the boarding house at the high school, but came home for holidays and when I did, I started sharing with my parents the new faith that I had found.

My relationship with my siblings and my parents was very good, and when I said something they took it very seriously. We have the truth, but if we do not develop a right attitude, respect, and service, the truth that we have will go nowhere. Unfortunately, there was no Adventist church in the city, but my parents promised me that when an Adventist church opened nearby, they would join.

I prayed God would send people to the area. Soon enough, Pastor F. Y. Adu Gyamfi went to the area to plant a church. My parents were baptized for the glory of God and today, half of my siblings are in the Adventist Church.

When I became a pastor, I came to the understanding that without a good relationship, our preaching is nothing but noise in the ears of the people. In *Gospel Workers*, Ellen White asserts that “In Christlike sympathy the minister should come close to men individually, and seek to awaken their interest in the great things of eternal life. Their hearts may be as hard as the beaten highway, and apparently it may be a useless effort to present the Saviour to them; but while logic may fail to move, and argument be powerless to convince, the love of Christ, revealed in personal ministry, may soften the stony heart, so that the seed of truth can take root.” All this fruit bearing in my ministry is possible because of my personal devotion and the relationship I have with Jesus Christ. Apart from Jesus Christ we can do nothing (John 15:5). I have observed that without a healthy relationship with Jesus and people around us, nothing good can be achieved. Despite my busy schedule as a pastor, I have a daily communion with Jesus. He is my priority. I enhance my relationship with my family and others I serve by giving them quality time.



By Emmanuel Kumah, Pastor

Working Together

Holy Spirit Brings Baptisms in Grambling

Grambling, La. » A small group of dedicated, energetic, and prayerful worshippers in Grambling had been meeting and holding services for several years, hoping to establish a church that heralds God's saving love and end-time message to the local community of Grambling, as well as the students of Grambling State University, and the town of Ruston.

The group worked consistently, passing out tracts, giving away books, and conducting Bible studies with students and residents. God was with this group of young adults every step of the way.

As they planted the gospel seeds from house to house and with every invitation to church services and special events, God blessed them, establishing a good reputation in the area.

With the help of In His Word Ministries, directed by Alfred Miller, Jr. and two phenomenal Bible workers, Cody Miller and Jody White, the towns of Grambling and Ruston, Louisiana, were taken by storm! The Bible workers gained approximately 800 willing people to accept in-home studies within their first week! The Bible workers, along with the Grambling

group, worked together in inviting many to a Bible prophecy conference.

The Lord moved mightily on the hearts of the members of the Macedonia Church in Monroe, Louisiana and members of other churches in the district to contribute their time, talents and money to making the meeting a blessed success. God blessed with 23 new members and two additional saints who re-dedicated their life to God! Please pray for us as we continue to work to establish a church in Grambling, Louisiana.

By Timothy Lee



Baytown Recognized

Church Awarded Hurricane Harvey Response

Baytown, Texas » Last fall the City of Baytown presented a recognition award to the Baytown United Seventh-day Adventist Church for serving as one of the distribution centers in Baytown in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

Mayor Stephen DonCarlos presented the award at a City Council Chamber Meeting. Agnes Mapp serves as the Community Service Director for the Baytown church and received the award on behalf of the church. More than 5,000 homes were impacted and over 4,000 rescues were carried out in

Baytown, Texas. The Baytown church received many trucks of goods on a weekly basis after Hurricane Harvey struck the area. Numerous volunteers from our church and community served with helping hands during the recovery efforts.

By Gilbert Williams



Spirit of Giving

Baton Rouge Berean Church Reaches Out

Baton Rouge, La. » An old African proverb reads, “Giving leaves an imprint that endures forever.” This proverb contributed to the Baton Rouge Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church’s recent community outreach projects. Keeping with the church members’ continued commitment to impacting the community surrounding the church, young and old alike embarked upon not one, but two “foot to the street, finger on the doorbell, meet your neighbor” ventures.

The first outreach consisted of head usher Ivy Jones’ homemade vegetable soup which she packaged and sealed in 48 pint-sized canning jars with decorated lids. Our community services team of Lyn Hakeem and Doris Collins sorted and bagged fresh fruit. Clerk Paula Adams rounded out the preparation team by creating colorful “Friends and

Family Weekend” invitations along with an array of denominational literature.

Following a worship service, with a “pep in the step” of some of our more comfortable shoes, we teamed up and began our “Soup and Fruit” mission.

Our church community was most receptive, to the extent that one neighbor insisted on making a \$20 donation despite our insistence to the contrary. According to him, the donation was his way of blessing us. We are grateful for his blessing.

Our second outreach was the annual Thanksgiving food basket distribution. For this ministry, Hakeem tapped Collins, who regarded it as an opportunity to witness to Big Buddy, a mentoring program for Baton Rouge’s “economically, educationally, or emotionally disadvantaged” youth population.

“After all, some years ago, I worked with this program and my familiarity with the good it does convinced me that it merited some of our food baskets,” Collins says. He contacted Big Buddy’s director, Gaylynn Mack, who directed her youth events specialist Monica Brown to give Collins a list of Big Buddy family recipients for the distribution. With her shopping list of fresh fruits and vegetables, lentils, various grains, and other staples, Collins and Raven, her 12-year-old great-niece, went shopping. In the church’s annex, the two were joined by others who sorted and packed 10 baskets for the Big Buddy program and 10 for the surrounding community. Again, the church members felt humbly blessed to be available to those in need. We thank God for the spirit of ministry.

— By Evelyn M. Edwards



“Giving leaves an imprint that endures forever.”
- African Proverb



Authors and Illustrators

Students Publish Books at Bethel

Texarkana, Texas » Bethel Adventist Church School students have written and illustrated books as an extension of the Language Arts curriculum for the third year.

The school-wide project culminated in November and was shipped to the publishers. The books arrived just before

the holidays in December.

On Sabbath, December 9, 2017, the books were presented to students during the worship service at Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church. Assisting in the presentation were the church's pastor, Kenneth Edwards, and School

Board Chairman Billy Gardner. Also in attendance were Karina Ridgeway, math teacher, and Wilmore Green, science teacher. Principal Glasmine Ellis (pictured right) is grateful to all who continue to support the Bethel Adventist Church School and its projects.



Blessed Indeed Hattitude Women's Conference

Program Highlights

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Hattitude with Dr. Renee Mobley
Worship in Color with Pastor Claudette Andrews
Teens/Women's Empowerment with Pastor Michelle Mota

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Dr. Renee Mobley
Clinical Psychologist



J. Nicole Brise
Evangelist/Educator/
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Michelle Mota
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From the Jaws of Perdition

Rejoicing for a Future in Heaven



My story began more than 56 years ago in what was then a sleepy little Midwest town in Wichita, Kansas. Adopted at three days old, providentially, by the family of a Seventh-day Adventist minister, I have been blessed beyond measure. Ephesians 1:16 holds a special meaning for me as my mother shared those words with me almost on a daily basis, especially in my formative years.

During my teen years, I had more than a propensity to drift in the wrong direction, hang out with a questionable crowd, and rebel against anything that resembled the establishment. Yet, there was an inexplicable constraining spirit that resided somewhere deep within me. Today, I know that it was and is the spirit of the living God.

As my college years approached, I was excited to receive a sports scholarship to the University of Colorado. Known as a “party-school” at that time, my godly mother wanted me nowhere near Boulder, Colorado. She earnestly prayed for another option, and the Seventh-day Adventist college in Montemorelos, Mexico, was chosen for me. Two years into the theology program, the Lord introduced me to my dear wife, Letty, who has been my constant companion and spiritual bulwark for 33 years now!

If you asked me about my conversion story, it is without a doubt the constant prayers of my mother during the first 23 years of my life and the constant prayers of my wife during the last 23.

In *Thoughts From the Mount of Blessing*, Ellen White shares, “The victory is not one without much earnest prayer... Our will cannot be forced into cooperation with divine agencies, but it must be voluntarily submitted... The will must be placed on the side of God’s will. You are not able, of yourself, to bring your purposes and desires and inclinations into submission to the will of God; but if you are ‘willing to be made willing,’ God will accomplish the work for you.” What a blessed promise.

Prayers on our behalf place us before the Lord and enable us to perceive His abiding presence and care. Thankfully, prayers have sustained me.

Life without a doubt holds its share of peaks and valleys for each of us. Yet, we can all give testimony to the fact that God is faithful and a friend of sinners in every generation. That is truly the gospel in a nutshell.

As often as I possibly can, I share with those who are struggling to find their way that there is a Savior who stands ready and willing to assist all who come to Him believing that He is the answer and the way. May you be blessed and prosper in all you do today in the Lord, and may your life be a living testament to the faithfulness of God.

By Carlos Craig, President



Fulfilling the Vision and Mission

Reaching the Hispanic Community

Alvarado » The Hispanic Ministries Department of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists carries out a work of coordination from the administration and all the departments of our conference towards the Hispanic congregations and population. It is not only to adapt all initiatives, events, and training to the Spanish language, but to also facilitate the adaptation of our mission and vision to the Hispanic culture and its needs.

We strive to train and equip our lay members in all areas of church ministries and provide the resources and tools necessary for their effective ministry in their communities. Evangelism focuses on facilitating the fulfillment of the mission and favoring the distribution of funds to increase the kingdom of God by preparing ourselves and preparing others for His glorious coming.

The department serves more than 26,000 members in 138 churches and companies, and coordinates our tasks with the support and dedication of a wonderful team of 76 pastors, eight Bible workers and three seminary students. We coordinate the hiring of these pastors and Bible instructors, process district and pastoral transitions, and facilitate the placement of assigned pastors in their districts.

Through God's leading and the teamwork developed with pastors and members, we prepare and coordinate four significant and impactful events each year: Metropolitan Evangelism projects *MÁS*esperanza - Keene/Fort Worth (April 14-28), San Antonio (Oct. 13-27); the annual evangelism training - January through March; Elders Encounter - Valley (May 19), Austin and San Antonio

(June 2), Dallas and Fort Worth (June 9), East Texas (June 10), Houston (June 23); and training of church department leaders, deacons and deaconesses - San Antonio (Aug. 4), Houston (Aug. 11), Dallas/Fort Worth (Aug. 18), Austin (Aug. 25), Valley (Sept. 9).

Other events include the Southwestern Union Women's Retreat (Aug. 10-12); the Spanish Men's Retreat (Oct. 12-14); the East Texas Convocation (Nov. 30-Dec. 1) and the Southwest Texas Convocation (Dec. 7-8). These events seek to increase our connection with others and deepen our relationship with Jesus Christ.

The team includes Osvaldo Rigacci (top left), Director; Ismael Castillo (bottom right), Associate Director; Rubén Bullón (bottom left), Evangelist; and Esther Rendón, Administrative Assistant.



Confronting Domestic Violence

Living Waters Worship Center Provides a Place of Hope

Dallas » Though we live in a society where domestic violence is one of the leading causes of death among women, we can still take solace in the hope of salvation and the gift of eternal life because our all-powerful God does not wish to see His children suffer. Barbara Pettis, Dallas Living Waters Worship Center of Seventh-day Adventists church elder, shared those words at the church's second annual Domestic Violence Emphasis Day. Pettis initiated the event to encourage those in the Dallas area suffering from domestic violence. The church joined other

churches around the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists who set aside the fourth Sabbath in August as Domestic Abuse Awareness Sabbath.

By Lanette J. Moline

Participants: Marlon Perkins, Sr., Pastor, Dallas Living Waters Worship Center of Seventh-day Adventists; Curtistene McCowan, City of DeSoto Mayor; Charlotte Berry, DeSoto Victims Assistance Coordinator; Barbara Pettis, Better Place Ministries; Janice Pettis-Ingram, psychologist; and Mike Carroll, retired Fort Worth Police Department homicide detective.



Addressing Basic Human Needs

Stonehill Christian Academy Donates Food to Pantry

Pflugerville » The 42 Pre-K to eighth-grade students at Stonehill Christian Academy (SCA) were busy this past November serving their community. Students were given 10 grocery bags with instructions to take them home and share them with their neighbors. Each bag had a note attached from Chinyere Ukegbu, SCA's principal and third- to eighth-grade teacher, explaining the program.

A few days later, the school lobby was filled with bags. On the Friday before Thanksgiving break, 73 bags overflow-

ing with the requested items were delivered to the Travis County Community Services Food Pantry.

Through this activity of collecting food, SCA's faculty, which consists of three full-time teachers, a teacher's aide, and a before/after school care staff member, are pleased that their students can actively learn about sharing God's message of caring for our fellow man.

As a small school, we are grateful for the opportunity to be in contact with our neighbors and communities sharing our faith about God's love by addressing

their basic human need of hunger and caring for their bodies.

We feel thankful and grateful for the support and leadership of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in partnering with SCA as our faculty and staff continue to teach our students about God's love and purpose for humanity.

By Beth Sinha

Kindergartener Lila Sinha joined the SCA family in delivering 73 bags to the Travis County Community Services Food Pantry.



Gayle Tucker Youth Annex

A Place for Young People to Meet Jesus

Arlington » It was December of 1963 when the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church first organized at St. Stephen's United Methodist Church. Since then there have been a number of milestones. December 9, 2017, marked an especially meaningful one when the Gayle Tucker Youth Annex was officially opened.

On December 10, 2016, the groundbreaking ceremony started the process, with construction beginning in March 2017. The 20,000-square foot building was designed to serve as a place where children and youth will meet Jesus and grow in their relationship with Him. The annex will carry on Gayle Tucker's legacy of love for children not just on Sabbath, but every day.

Gayle Tucker served the Arlington church as an associate pastor for 16 years. She was pastor of administration, music,

and worship, with a special focus on children's and women's ministries. She was Faith For Today's associate speaker and co-host of its "Lifestyle Magazine" television program when she died April 10, 2016, at her home in Dallas, Texas, less than a month after learning she had pancreatic cancer. She was 60.

The dedication speakers reminded attendees that this church has always been bringing children up in the love of Christ and it is our responsibility to empower them to make this their church. Following the sanctuary program, a ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to officially open the annex. The ribbon cutters (below) included Tom Grove, Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church Administrative Pastor; Carlos Craig, Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists President; Larry

Moore, Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists President; P. Kevin Wells, Arlington Church Senior Pastor; Mike Tucker, Gayle's husband, former Arlington Church Pastor and current Faith For Today Director/Speaker; Allison Tucker, (Mike and Gayle's daughter) Arlington Church Associate Pastor, Form Kids; Danny Cano, Arlington Church Associate Pastor, Underground; and A. Allan Martin, Arlington Church Teaching Pastor, Younger Generation Church.

We are grateful to God for His provisions during this project. We know He will lead us and help us care for the next generation as they develop into the leaders of today.

By Barbara Quayle

Photos by David Kuchurivskyy



Dallas Christian Academy

Focused on Character Education

Dallas » Dallas Christian Academy (DCA) is building character education through spiritual growth, development, committed Seventh-day Adventist teachers, and acts of service. Prior to the start of each school year, the staff family gathers to choose a guiding verse for DCA to model throughout the year. This year they chose Ephesians 4:2, “Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Being intentional with chapel stories from the Bible, guiding topics, and utilizing daily devotions in class, students

are given the opportunity to make spiritual connections.

Student outreach ranges from collecting cleaning supplies for the Hurricane Harvey victims to the fellowship of hundreds of people within the community attending a soccer tournament organized by the Parent/Teacher Fellowship. The soccer tournament hosted 22 teams with children from various schools. These experiences are a part of a greater education for children of all ages to work together and share their love for others.

By Maeli Dang



Creating Disciples for Jesus

Adventist Christian Academy of Texas

Conroe » Adventist Christian Academy of Texas (ACAT) staff strive to teach students the importance of serving others as a disciple of Jesus Christ. The Bible shares that Jesus came into this world to serve others, not to be served and encouraged us to do the same in 1 John 3:18: “Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth.”

We consider serving others an act of worship and spiritual activity so every year we have Project Impact Days where we spend a day, once a quarter, serving the community.

When Hurricane Harvey hit Texas, the needs were overwhelming. Students and staff helped paint a damaged home, volunteered at the food bank, assisted fire station employees, as well as, individuals at a women’s shelter. The elementary students worked with Bags of Love, a national organization, to fill 37 bags with books, school supplies, or toiletries. These bags are distributed to children in crisis situations.

The next quarter, we worked with one of our church’s outreach programs for the homeless. Students filled bags with

socks, toothbrushes, clothes, shampoo, and other necessities to give to the homeless in the community.

For Christmas, we adopted a family who suffered greatly during the flood. Each classroom chose a member of the family and donated items on their wish list. In addition to that family, the fifth- and sixth-grade students wrapped 3ABN music DVDs to share with residents at a local retirement home.

We look forward to serving as the opportunities present themselves.

By Shannon O’Brien



Midnight Inspiration

His Ways Are Higher Than Mine



When I was in high school, I was up late one Saturday night worrying about my future. I knew I wanted to go to an Adventist college, but I didn't know what to study or what God was calling me to do. I really wanted to be an attorney or an engineer, but for some reason those options did not feel right. Did God have something else planned for my life?

As I went to bed that night, I asked the Lord to guide and direct me and asked Him to show me what career path I should take. I told Him I would do anything, except be a pastor. After falling asleep, I was awoken by the sound of footsteps inside my house. I heard doors opening and closing and I immediately thought it was a thief. The noises started down the hallway but were getting louder and closer to me. I heard the door to my parent's room open and close, then I heard footsteps outside my room. I pulled my blanket over my head and heard my door open.

I tried to get up, but I could not move. As I peeked over my blanket, I saw a tall, white image that filled my room. There was no making out what it was but it did not have a face and when I tried to speak to it, I could not talk. The image then walked over to me, knelt down, then took my hand and started silently praying. As it was praying for me, peace and stillness filled my soul. I was not scared anymore and instead I started to pray a simple prayer, "Lord, I will go wherever you lead me."

Suddenly, without a word, it stood up, took one last glance at me and left my room. I then jumped out of bed and fell to my knees and prayed again. For the rest of the night, I could not sleep. I thought I had dreamed the entire thing. The next day, I asked my parents if they had heard any footsteps or noises the night before but they had not heard anything.

After that night, I drew closer to God. I started studying the bible diligently and I prayed earnestly every day. I also got involved in church and when I finally graduated from high school I was excited to go to Southwestern Union College. While there, I studied theology but I still had my doubts about being a pastor; perhaps you could have called me a modern-day Jonah. And just like Jonah's in that story, God never stopped nudging me.

The incident of feeling an angel's presence in my room always replayed in my mind. I also remembered the prayer I said that night, "Lord I will go wherever you lead me."

I have served the Lord as a pastor for more than 30 years, and can truly testify to what Isaiah 55:8-9 tells us, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." God's ways are definitely better than ours and He knows the end from the beginning, even when we just see a small part of the now.

By Lee-Roy Chacon, President



Ramon's Story

God's Love Continues To Be Faithful

Tucumcari, N. Mex. » “The temperature drops below freezing on most winter nights in Denver” was all Socorro Ferrell could think about when she heard that her father was sick and living on the streets of Denver, Colo. Besides a brief encounter in 2007, Ferrell grew up not knowing her father. She had heard of his troubles and drinking problem, but her first meeting with him in 2007 only lasted about a half hour and she had not heard from him since.

Ferrell is a member of the Tucumcari Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. In October of last year, the church hosted evangelistic meetings and was happy to see many new visitors. Among them was Ramon Ferrell, a visitor who was attending the meetings faithfully every night. It was then that I learned that Ramon was Socorro's father, and I heard their incred-

ible story. The previous winter, Socorro began to worry about her father and couldn't bear the thought that he could die alone on the cold streets of Denver.

“I felt love for a father I didn't know and felt convicted to do something for him,” said Socorro. “I found out where he was and brought him home with me to New Mexico.” Socorro knew that the path forward would not be easy. She realized that although Ramon was her father, they were strangers. She worried about his drinking and lifestyle, but began to study the Bible with him. To her delight, he stopped drinking, found a job and started attending church with her. He felt convicted about the Sabbath and during some evangelistic meetings, Ramon answered the baptismal call.

I had the wonderful privilege to baptize Ramon during those evangelistic

meetings. I witnessed this great miracle first-hand. Unfortunately, Ramon has continued to struggle with his past and no longer lives with Socorro, but the church and Socorro have been praying earnestly for him. We hope that he will remember the love and joy he experienced in Tucumcari and recall the truth he learned here. We pray that in God's timing, He will once again touch Ramon's heart. Join us in praying for Ramon and for all those who, like Ramon, struggle with addiction. Remember we serve an all-powerful God who never forgets us. He went to great lengths at the cross to reach us and offer forgiveness to all of us. There is no doubt in my mind that He loves us and is patient enough to pick us up, no matter how low and how many times we fall.

By Mabio Gomes



Falling into Place

Realizing God's Plan Through Trials

Corrales, N. Mex. » Gyla Tipgos, a senior at Sandia View Academy (SVA), first attended the academy as a freshman in 2014. At the time, her parents had transferred from Maryland to teach in the nearby town of Bernalillo.

“I really liked SVA but at the end of my freshman year my mom told me that we had to move to Zuni, N. Mex., which is about three hours away,” says Tipgos. She did not want to move but was happy that a local family was willing to take her in so she could attend SVA her sophomore year.

The following summer, Tipgos joined the Texico Youth Rush program, a summer door-to-door literature evangelism program that gives students the opportunity to share the gospel through Adventist materials and helps them earn money for school tuition.

“After that summer at Youth Rush, I really wanted to come back to SVA but I decided to stay in Zuni to spend time with my family and also help with expenses,” said Tipgos.

That decision proved to be a significant one. That school year, Tipgos started hanging out with the wrong crowd and her relationship with God began to suffer. She stopped going to church and started making poor choices.

“I no longer had a relationship with God, and because of that, I didn't see His relevance in my life.”

Over the next few months, through some challenging situations, Tipgos began to see the value in Christian education once again.

“I missed having a community around me that shared the same values, a community that encourages and does not get in the way of your relationship with God,” she said.

When the school year ended, Tipgos did not want to attend the upcoming Youth Rush because of the state of her relationship with God.

“I didn't feel worthy to stand in front of people and talk to them about a God that I didn't have in my heart.” However, one afternoon while she was driving around with her mom, she heard Christian music playing in the car. “I was suddenly flooded with Youth Rush memories and I felt a tug at my heart and it made me want to go back. I contacted Derrick Williamson, the Youth Rush Program Director at the time, and he gladly accepted me.”

Tipgos felt unmotivated and tired that summer, often wondering why she was there; but in the end, she realized several important things. “God really worked on my attitude and my perspective. He showed me that I should care more for others than for myself.”

Initially, she struggled with the thought of going back to SVA because she did not want to feel like a hypocrite

with those who had seen her make bad decisions the previous year. “However, I really felt that God was telling me to go back to SVA. I prayed about it and asked God to make a way for me to go.” And indeed, He did. By the end of that summer, Tipgos raised enough money to pay for most of her tuition and she even encouraged other participants from Youth Rush to attend SVA.

Today, Tipgos is happy to be back at SVA with the people who support her and continue to be instrumental in her spiritual growth. “My spiritual journey is not over but I feel God brought me back for a reason and I now have a great relationship with Him.”

Tipgos has advice for those who may be wanting to attend an Adventist school but are facing challenges: “Put God first, let Him take control, and everything will fall into place.”

— By Debbie Márquez
Communication Director

Left: Gyla Tipgos is a proud ambassador of Adventist education and loves promoting SVA. Here she is shown leading a cheer during an SVA basketball game.

Right: Gyla Tipgos showing school spirit at an SVA basketball game.



Realizing Their Dream

Odessa Spanish Builds a Church

Odessa, Texas » After more than a decade, the Odessa Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church members are realizing their dreams as construction begins for their new church facility.

A range of challenges has been faced over the years including: settling on acceptable and affordable construction plans, working with continually increasing building costs brought on by a resurging oil and gas industry, and continuing to work toward acquiring the necessary funding. The members have remained dedicated, saving and planning for the new church.

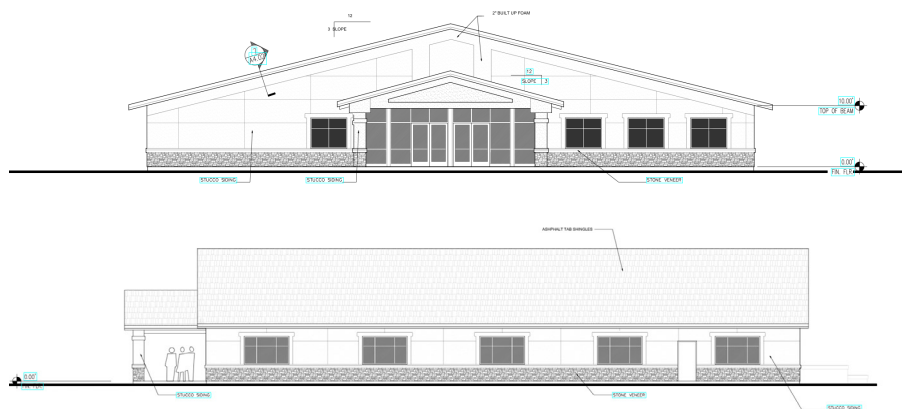
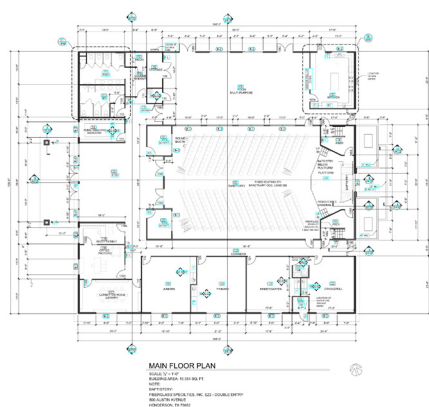
With this foundation of faith firmly in place, the new building is going to be a reality within the next few months. Construction is underway in preparation for the arrival of a Maranatha Volunteers International team who will raise the building. This group of construction workers will work to bring this project to a fully-enclosed facility ready for the interior work.

When the church is ready to be occupied, it will provide room for all the members to experience the life and mission of the congregation together. The members outgrew their sanctuary

long ago and they are on a rotating schedule to participate in fellowship luncheons as there is only room for about a quarter of the members to be accommodated per week.

The next chapter in the story of the Odessa Spanish church family is nothing short of the miraculous evidence of God's faithfulness. These members are anxious for their new church home to be a place to grow in their mission to reach their community with the good news of Jesus' soon return.

By Phil Robertson
Executive Secretary/Treasurer



Ministry Priorities Established

Texico Conference Constituency Session

During the 41st Quadrennial Session of the Texico Conference held October 2017, the delegates established the following ministry priorities for the next four years.

We are grateful for God's blessings through the past four years and look forward to working together to meet these objectives. We are praying for God to align our goals with His will and bless us all as we engage in the mission He has given us. For a report on the 41st Quadrennial Session of the Texico Conference, visit Texico.org.

TEXICO CONFERENCE MINISTRY OBJECTIVES APPROVED BY THE CONSTITUENTS FOR THE COMING QUADRENNIUM (2018 – 2021)

- Employ a strong evangelistic/outreach emphasis using the full range of methods (personal Bible studies, public meetings, community impact/outreach etc.)
- Establish an ongoing training program for effective discipleship and new member retention.
- Provide leadership training for youth/young adults and engage them in ministry activities.
- Increase conference and local church support to assist all students in their pursuit of an Adventist education.



Unity in Diversity

2017 Texico Conference Asian-Filipino Convocation

Odessa, Texas » The Odessa Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted the annual Texico Conference Asian-Filipino Convocation this past summer. Asian and Filipino members from across the Texico Conference spent three spirit-filled days focusing on “Unity in Diversity.”

The keynote speakers for the weekend were Pastor Abel and Beth Cordero of the Southeastern California Conference. Pastor Cordero delivered poignant messages on theological topics of justification and sanctification.

Beth Cordero, a registered nurse, led lively discussions on diet and health reform and emphasized the motto, “Eat Well, Move More, Stress Less, Love More.” She hosted a vegetarian cooking class on Sunday morning.

Other guest speakers for the event included Phil Robertson, Executive

Secretary for the Texico Conference, and several Filipino pastors. Sabbath activities included a delicious Asian-Filipino lunch and a musical celebration that featured many members from around the conference.

The highlight of the day was a touching testimony given by Pastor Mike Razon from the Rio Rancho Seventh-day Adventist Church. Razon and his wife, Priscilla, lost their 20-month-old daughter, Zyllah, in an accident. Razon shared his experience of how God guides and provides in times of grief.

The 2018 Asian-Filipino convocation will be held at Big Spring Seventh-day Adventist Church and all are invited to attend.

By Dodie Pelopero

Top left: Attendees of the 2017 Texico Conference Asian-Filipino Convocation in Odessa, Texas.

Top right: Carl Mainda, from the Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church, participated in the Sabbath afternoon music program.

Bottom left: Nef Razon, Raquel Hunt, and Rochelle Hayley led song service throughout the Texico Conference Asian-Filipino Convocation.

Bottom right: Speakers of the Texico Conference Asian-Filipino Convocation, Pastor Rodel Liwanag, Pastor Abner Razon, Pastor Nemy Basit, Pastor Phil Robertson, and guest speaker Pastor Abel Cordero.



Classified Ads

EMPLOYMENT

Southwestern Adventist University seeks a full-time Systematic Theology faculty member for 2018-2019. Ph.D. preferred; master's degree considered. Successful candidates will have teaching and pastoral experience. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, ARosenthal@SWAU.edu

OB-GYN and Pediatrician needed for Adventist owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay. Call Dr. Randall Steffens: 615.604.0142.

The Education and Psychology Department at Southwestern Adventist University invites applications for a full-time faculty position. Preferred candidates will hold a doctorate in Educational Psychology or Secondary Education and have university teaching experience. Master's degree considered. Must have or be able to obtain a Texas teaching credential. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Donna Berkner, DBerkner@SWAU.edu

Union College seeks a Seventh-day Adventist PA faculty member, master's degree required. This position will be responsible for both didactic and clinical components of the curriculum. Prior teaching experience desired but not necessary. Send CV and references to Megan Heidtbrink at Megan.Heidtbrink@UCollege.edu. Further information, UCollege.edu/faculty-openings

Andrews University seeks a Director of Human Resources. The Director of Human Resources is the chief human resources officer of the university and serves as an advocate regarding benefits, policies, and practices that would have a positive impact on employees and as an advisor and strategic partner to university administration. Provides leadership through the management of a comprehensive human resources department, ensuring that all HR programs and initiatives are integrated and effective in supporting the overall mission, goals, and objectives of the institution.

Andrews.edu/admsvs/jobs/manage/approve/1600

Captain Gilmer Christian School (Fletcher, NC) is seeking qualified candidates for the position of Kindergarten Teacher. This full-time, salaried position (with benefits) is responsible for fostering the intellectual and social development of children in the first phase of their elementary school experience. Duties will include both teaching and staff duties. Position requires current basic NAD teaching certification; candidates must be a member in good standing of the Seventh-day Adventist church. Contact the Fletcher Academy, Inc. HR Manager at 828.209.6714.

The Instructor of Architecture holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service, and

scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture & Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching of construction technology, and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2

The Assistant/Associate Professor of Nursing holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Nursing Department. This individual demonstrates competence in didactic, clinical education, teaching, and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6

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

Southwestern Adventist University's Nursing Department seeks a full-time nurse educator. Doctorate desired; MSN considered. Experience in medical/surgical or critical care nursing required. Must enjoy working with young people who are excited about service. Must have, or be able to obtain, an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send CV and cover letter to Dr. Amy Rosenthal, ARosenthal@SWAU.edu

Union College seeks an Adventist OTA Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. This faculty position is responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining students' fieldwork education, and includes teaching responsibilities. An OTA degree with a minimum of three years of clinical experience required. Send CV and references to Cami Hollins, Cami.Hollins@UCollege.edu. Further information, UCollege.edu/faculty-openings

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks Director of Clinical Education (DCE) for Physical Therapist Assistant Program. Must demonstrate competence in clinical education, teaching, and curriculum development. Primary responsibilities: planning, administering, and monitoring clinical education activities and in coordination with academic and clinical faculty. Contact Dr. Christopher Stewart, CBStewart@Southern.edu for more information. Visit: Southern.edu/jobs

Back Pages

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor for History/Political Studies teaching American History. Must be able to teach Atlantic history, African history/African-American /Latin American. Ph.D. in History preferred. Two openings for this position (one part-time and one full-time). When applying, please indicate preference. Contact Dr. Mark Peach, Peach@Southern.edu; Dr. Robert Young, RYoung@Southern.edu. Visit: Southern.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty for School of Nursing Graduate Program. Candidate must be doctorally-prepared with an advanced practice nursing specialty. Acute care or pediatrics is preferred; other certification possibly

considered. Teaching responsibilities include graduate classes, practicum oversight, and Capstone (MSN)/Scholarly Project (DNP) guidance. Contact Dr. Barbara James, BJames@Southern.edu. Visit: Southern.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty to join the School of Nursing to teach core classes at the undergraduate and graduate level. Doctorate preferred, MSN required. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility, and commitment to nursing and SDA education. Contact Barbara James, BJames@Southern.edu. Visit: Southern.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty for Fall 2018. Prefer a biology PhD

to teach upper/lower division courses and coordinate all Anatomy and Physiology courses/labs. Desire Adventist biologist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with students in the classroom and guiding independent student research projects. Contact Keith Snyder, KASnyder@Southern.edu. Visit: Southern.edu/jobs

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time faculty for School of Journalism & Communication to teach undergraduate courses and advise across a range of courses in the area of Mass Communication; if possible, also Communication Studies. Master's degree in Mass Communication, Media Studies, Media Technology, or a closely related Communication

field required, and doctorate strongly preferred. Required: knowledge of/experience in one or more of the following: video/multimedia production, photography, publication and web design, or web content management. Visit: Southern.edu/jobs

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities and transportation, as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offers independent living and nursing home. Call Bill Norman at Bill Norman 405.208.1289 or visit: SummitRidgeVillage.org

Lest We Forget
Ozark Family Campmeeting
May 29 - June 2, 2018
 Website: gentryadventist.org
 Phone: 479-736-8808
 Email: gentrysda@yahoo.com
 Room Reservations: 479-736-2221
 RV & Tent Reservations: 479-736-8808
 21090 Dawn Hill East Rd.
 Gentry, AR 72734

 Weekday Speaker Jim Davidson <small>Executive Secretary of the Southern Union</small>	 Weekend Speaker Dr. David Smith <small>President of Southern Adventist University</small>	 Minner Labrador <small>Vice President of Ministerial & Church Ministries</small>	 Mike & Lynn Ortel <small>Seminars in Family Life and Relationships</small>	 Olan Thomas <small>It Is Written Trust Services Director</small>	 Youth Speaker Lo-Ammi Richardson <small>Evangelist for S.A.L.T.</small>
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MISCELLANEOUS

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ADVENTIST BOOKS. Looking for NEW Adventist titles to encourage and grow your daily walk? Visit us at TEACHServices.com. For USED Adventist books visit LNFBooks.com. **AUTHORS:** If you're interested in having your book published, call 800.367.1844 for a free evaluation.

Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend, Apr. 13-14 at Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, KS. Honor Classes – Graduating years ending with 3 or 8s. For more information email: ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com, call 620.640.5740, or check school website: EA-GPS-Alumni.com

WEB DESIGN! Skyrocket your business with an exceptional modern website. Our Adventist Oregon-based agency specializes in giving you instant credibility using our strong internet marketing background, conversion-friendly design skills. View our work at DiscoverPeppermint.com. Serving clients worldwide. Call Kama directly at 541.903.1180.

Ouachita Healthy Living Center in southwest Arkansas. This is where you need to go if you're wanting to change some habits, eat better, develop an exercise program, and do it in a natural setting with a Christian emphasis. Our first week-long, live-in program begins April 1, 2018. Please contact us at 318.426.1843 or email DRSI@OHHealth.org

The Wildwood Lifestyle Center can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 800.634.9355 for more information or visit WildwoodHealth.org/lifestyle

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BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND is April 27-28, 2018. Mark your calendars, call your classmates, and start planning for this weekend now! Honor classes: 1948, 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1993, and 1998. To be held at N. Aurora Church, N. Aurora, Ill. Friday night vespers, Sabbath School, church, lunch and afternoon music program. All ideas and information welcome. For communication purposes, we need your email addresses. Send questions or information to Natanja and Kerry Hensley, BVA.Alumni.CTE@gmail.com, or call Dale Rollins at 224.407.0233. For more information, visit: BroadviewAcademy.org

The Clergy Move Center™ at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is The Way To Move™ from state to state! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Contact our dedicated Move Counselors for a no-cost/ no-obligation estimate at 800.248.8313. Learn more at StevensWorldwide.com/SDA

April 5-8, 2018 – ROSARIO SINGLES RETREAT in Anacortes, Wash., with keynote speaker Marvin Wray. Experience a

spiritual, social, and fun time. Registration opens March 1, 2018. Join the retreat email list: WashingtonASAM@gmail.com.

Gold Investor. I have a small placer gold machine that can produce about 15 oz. a day. I need infrastructure to put into a larger machine, water, and equipment. I would like for you to come and check it out and make your own decision. Contact me at CMJ5333@gmail.com or 682.367.2584.

Announcements

Laurelwood Adventist Academy – Members of the Class of 1968 will meet at the Adobe Resort in Yachts, Oregon the weekend of Aug. 3, 4, & 5, 2018 for a 50-year class reunion. Call and make your reservations now. Reference Laurelwood Academy's 50th Class Reunion. Questions? Call Jacquie Jenkins Biloff at 605.295.0040 or email at skyjaky@gmail.com

Announcing Academy Days at Oklahoma Academy! If you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just the place for you. Come April 13-15, 2018 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405.454.6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit OklahomaAcademy.org

Garland Faith Community Church's 40th Anniversary Celebration! The celebration will be at the Garland Faith Community Church at 1702 E. Centerville Rd, Garland, TX, 75041, on April 20-21,

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2018, beginning at 7:00 p.m. on the 20th. The program will include the church's history, guest speakers, former pastors, and Sabbath lunch. We are inviting all former pastors and members as well as those involved in building the original building and sanctuary.

Milestone

Roy and Oma Jean Bruce celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Dec. 19, 2017. They celebrated with a renewal of their vows officiated by Pastor Valeri Tchoukoski in the Alvarado Seventh-day Adventist Church followed by a reception by friends and family.

Obituaries

Beesley, Billie; born Sept. 7, 1931; died Dec. 9, 2017, Jay, Okla. Church membership: Jay Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Britton, Wallace E.; born, Aug. 9, 1921, Colon, Panama; died Nov. 19, 2017, Slidell, La. Church membership: Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: wife, Catherine Britton of Slidell; sister, Norma Britton Parker; son, Ashton Britton, of Slidell; daughters, Betty Britton, Sandra Jordan, Rhonda Dillon, Kasandra Brown, Carlotta Butler, Nyoka Torregano, and Mariana Shephard, of Slidell, La.; 32 grandchildren, 66 great-grandchildren, and 12 great-great-grandchildren.


Kicklighter, Mary Elizabeth; born April 7, 1931, Savannah, Ga.; died, Dec. 21, 2017, Clarksville, Ark. Church membership: Clarksville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: daughter, Debbie May, of Clarksville; five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Ledbedder, Maree Ella; born April 27, 1922; died Dec. 22, 2017, Claremore, Okla. Church membership: Claremore Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Ostgren, Gene Paul; born Sept. 1, 1936, Kimball, Neb.; died Dec. 1, 2017, Gentry, Ark. Church membership: Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by his father, mother, brother and life-long friends Wallace Cole of Walla Walla, Wash. and Robert Lynn Medcalf of Farmington, N.M. Survivors: wife, Angelia of Gentry, Ark.; two daughters, Tina Downing and Cindy Ostgren of Walla Walla, Wash.; two sisters, Mary Anne Hadwin of Portland, Ore.; Kathy and Ray Falkner of Elk Grove, Calif.; brother-in-law, Michael and Lisa Shultz of Shawnee, Kan.; sister-in-law, Leisa and Brad Dunlap of Gentry, Ark.; father-in-law, Jesse Shultz of Shawnee, Kan.; and numerous nieces and nephews. Gene awaits the soon return of Jesus at the Bloomfield Cemetery near Gentry, Ark.

Pierce, Stephen Leroy; born Dec. 9, 1958, Beaver, Okla.; died Nov. 25, 2017, Bartlesville, Okla. Church membership: Bartlesville Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors:

Reavis Edward Leatherwood, age 91, passed away Saturday, November 4, 2017, at VITAS Hospice Inpatient Unit at Baylor Scott & White Medical Center in Carrollton, Texas. He was born June 24, 1926, in Salmon, Texas to Dennie Edward Leatherwood, Jr. and Edna Mae Garrison Leatherwood. He was a SWJC (SWAU) alumni, class of 1949. He graduated from Madison College in 1951. He was retired from his work as a chemist in the medical field. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII. He was a member of the Dallas First Seventh-day Adventist Church, he loved his church family and always enjoyed participating whenever possible. He was a caring and loving husband, father, and grandfather. Reavis had a special place in his heart for all of mankind. He was preceded in death by his parents and son, Michael Edward Leatherwood. He is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Tomasia Ann Leatherwood; brother, Rexford Thomas Leatherwood and wife, Donna; daughter, Beverley Leatherwood Hampton; grandchildren: Amy Small, Luke Small, Amanda Romo, Ashley Bersuch; great-grandchildren; Krysta, Kayla, Austin, Lacey, Travis, Bailey, Zoey, Charlee; and great-great-grandchild, Eleanor. The family wishes to express their special thanks to the compassionate staff of VITAS Hospice Care. A special thanks to Floyd Poenitz and Johnathan Williams. A tribute for Reavis is available at: <https://youtu.be/Rq53KxuArcc>



mother, Beverly Pierce, of Harrah, Okla.; brother, Mark Alan Pierce (Mikala); sons, Colby and Nicklas.

Tarron, Sherry; born Feb. 13, 1956; died Nov. 4, 2017, Hot Springs, Ark. Church membership: Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, Gene Tarron of Hot Springs; son, James Tarron of Hot Springs; daughters, Scarlett Tarron Martin and Christina Tarron Atherton, of Hot Springs, Ark.; father, Hershel Keener; brother, Terry Keener; sister, Tammy Keener.

White, Harmon Eddie; born March 23, 1936, Clovis, N. M.; died Dec. 16, 2017, Canadian, Texas. Church membership: Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: daughter, Janie Eaton; son, Kenny White; son, Eddie White.

Wilkerson, Geneva Kasiska; died Sept. 5, 2017, Fort Worth, Texas. Church membership: Burleson Seventh-day Adventist Church. She served as a secretary for the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in the Education Department and then for the Treasurer

David Richard Copsey

"If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15). Pastor David Richard Copsey, a resident of DeRidder, La., passed away on June 9, 2017, after a brief illness. He was 84 years old. He was born on July 25, 1932. He was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor for 35 years.



After retiring, he continued to work in the ministry another 5 years. He was also a singing evangelist throughout his career. He was a skilled carpenter and an avid reader. He was a kind, gentle soul with a funny wit that was contagious. He will be sorely missed by all. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, he leaves behind his loving and devoted wife of forty years, Nell Holden Golson Copsey; son, Kenny Copsey and fiance' Sherry Bieber; 6 grandchildren and 9 great grandchildren; two stepdaughters, Sheryl Hubenak and husband, Ronnie, and Sylvia Williams and husband, Bob; stepson Jim D. Golson and wife, LuLu, 8 step-grandchildren and 8 step-great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his mother Wilna Copsey; father, James Copsey; son, Kerry Copsey; and daughter, Becky Copsey.

before retiring in 2004 after 20 years of service. She was preceded in death by her husband, Doyle Wilkerson; parents Delbert and Leona (Pettis) Kasiska; and sister Carolyn Clark. Survivors: daughter, Cheryl Cottrell (Rick); five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; sisters, Nancy Boaz and Linda Barnes.

Correction

In the January/February issue of the *Record*, the article "An Arkie's Faith" was attributed inaccurately. The author should have been listed as Sylvia Downs.

Submissions

Back Pages: To submit family milestones, obituaries, announcements, or address changes, visit www.SWURecord.org, or call 817.295.0476.

The *Record* also accepts expanded obituaries. For submission and cost information, contact 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.

If you are interested in writing for the *Record*, view our writer's guide at www.SWURecord.org, or email record@swuc.org.

Advertising: Contact Bradley Ecord, becord@swuc.org, 817.295.0476

Sabbath Sunset Calendar
MARCH-APRIL 2018

	3/2	3/9	3/16	3/23	3/30	4/6	4/13	4/20	4/27
Abilene	6:36	6:42	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:17
Albuquerque	6:02	6:08	7:14	7:20	7:26	7:31	7:37	7:42	7:48
Amarillo	6:43	6:49	7:55	8:01	8:06	8:12	8:18	8:23	8:29
Brownsville	6:32	6:35	7:39	7:42	7:45	7:49	7:52	7:55	7:59
Dallas	6:24	6:30	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05
El Paso	6:04	6:09	7:14	7:19	7:23	7:28	7:33	7:38	7:43
Fort Worth	6:27	6:32	7:37	7:42	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:02	8:07
Gallup	6:10	6:17	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:40	7:46	7:51	7:57
Gentry	6:13	6:19	7:25	7:31	7:37	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:01
Houston	6:21	6:25	7:30	7:34	7:38	7:43	7:47	7:51	7:55
Little Rock	6:05	6:11	7:17	7:23	7:28	7:34	7:39	7:45	7:50
Muskogee	6:17	6:23	7:29	7:35	7:41	7:46	7:52	7:58	8:04
New Orleans	5:59	6:04	7:09	7:13	7:17	7:21	7:26	7:30	7:34
Oklahoma City	6:25	6:32	7:38	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:01	8:06	8:12
Roswell	5:55	6:01	7:06	7:11	7:16	7:22	7:27	7:32	7:37
San Antonio	6:33	6:38	7:42	7:47	7:51	7:55	7:59	8:03	8:07
Shreveport	6:13	6:18	7:23	7:28	7:33	7:38	7:43	7:48	7:53
Tulsa	6:19	6:25	7:31	7:37	7:43	7:49	7:55	8:01	8:01

Note: Daylight Savings Time begins on March 11 at 2:00 a.m.

All 2018 Sunset Calendars are available at www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

APRIL 27-29, 2018

OMNI CORPUS CHRISTI HOTEL

TEXAS CONFERENCE & SOUTHWESTERN UNION

MARRIAGE RETREAT



INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

(817) 790-2255 Ext. 2108 | Ext. 2106 for Spanish | **LAST CHANCE: SAVE \$50** when registered by ~~Feb 28th~~ March 29th



SPEAKERS:
BUFORD & CARMEN GRIFFITH
English Sessions
JORGE & NIBIA MAYER
Spanish Sessions

EARLY BIRD RATE \$199 by March 29th
REGULAR PRICE IS \$249 PER COUPLE
*Includes: Welcome bag, Sabbath lunch,
beach photo shoot and more.*
LODGING PER NIGHT \$142+TAX
Includes buffet breakfast.