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## Strong and Courageous Following His Leading

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#### **Following His Leading**

Strong and Courageous

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## **Editor's Note**

God had a mission of leadership for Joshua. He called him to step into the role of leading His people into the occupied land of Canaan following Moses' death. While we are not all called to lead multitudes of people, we *are* all called, in big and small ways, to the mission of reaching His people.

In this issue of the Record, we explore how God's strength and presence can help us be strong and courageous in whatever He has called us to do. If God has called on you to do something for Him, consider His promise in Joshua 1:9, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

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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.

# **Strong and Courageous**

Following His Leading



Larry Moore | President

**"Oh! You're that guy that I've heard about,"** I've been told more than once. "Yes, I guess so... what are you talking about?" I'll reply to get confirmation that I'm being asked what I already suspect. "You know—all those jobs!" And there it is. Yes, I once had four different jobs in five months. I went from church pastor to ministerial director to conference president before being elected union president.

How did I do it? I didn't, God did it. All I did was pray and tell God I was willing to go where He directed. And He sure worked in an interesting way. For the record, a prayer like that takes courage. Don't pray that prayer unless you are willing to do as He leads. I had changed jobs before and had moved to different churches or offices, but nothing came close to this. God had to make it clear, and He did. I have no doubts about His leading.

How is God leading in your life right now? Do you sense a call in your life? Are you ready to step out and follow Jesus wherever He leads or are you hesitant to follow Him? My favorite verse in scripture is Isaiah 41:10, "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." God wants us to trust Him with our lives. He promises to uphold us and strengthen us each step of the way.

**The Lord promises and assures us of His leading.** He says, "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you,' says the Lord, 'thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope." Jeremiah 29:11 (NKJV). His words are a promise that with every challenge we face He is with us and the assurance that "all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." Romans 8:28 (NKJV). As believers, these words encourage and motivate us to follow where Christ leads.

But even as believers we sometimes doubt and fear when faced with a challenge. Faith is the solution. Faith involves a *belief* in who God is, a belief in His sovereignty and wisdom. It involves *trusting* in His kindness and His desire to bless us. Faith involves *desiring* to be close to the God who repeatedly demonstrates His love and care for His creation. The psalmist states, "I was once young, but now I'm old. Not once have I found a lover of God forsaken by Him, nor have any of their children gone hungry." Psalm 37:25 (TPT). And finally, it involves *commitment*, demonstrated in our willingness to be obedient to His will, as expressed in His Word.

Now with a clearer understanding of faith, we can follow where God leads.





John Page | Treasurer

**Be strong and courageous. Is that what God is asking of you?** Sometimes it can be difficult or scary. Joshua had been inside the promised land, and of all the people that he was leading, Caleb was the only one who had seen the promised land. It was one thing to be strong and courageous by yourself, but now Joshua was to lead a group of people to be strong and courageous. The phrase "be strong and courageous" is in Deuteronomy 31 three times: Moses tells the people, Moses tells Joshua, and the Lord tells Joshua.

After Moses died, the Lord told Joshua to be strong and courageous three more times. After Joshua talked to the Israelites, they also told him to be strong and courageous. Are we being strong and courageous with what God has called us to do? Are we encouraging those around us?

Three important messages stem from this story. First, God is with us and will give us the assurance that He is with us, just like He was for Joshua. Second, we need to go. Third, we need to encourage others to be strong and courageous to do what God has called them to do. Be strong and courageous for what God is calling you to do. In Joshua 1:9, the Lord tells Joshua, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." This is a Bible verse that we need to memorize. This promise given to Joshua is a promise that is for us today. Live today seeking God with all your heart, knowing that the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

# A Big Task and a Big Promise



Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1: 9

#### **The conversation would change his entire life.** I wish I had been the proverbial fly on the tent wall that day.

wish I had been the proverbial fly on the tent wall that day. Joshua had been with Moses since he was a teenager but nothing prepared him for this moment. I imagine it went something like this: "Joshua, there is something God has told me to tell you. Because of what happened at Meribah, God has told me I will not be leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land."

I am sure Joshua's heart must have sunk at those words. After all these years—the stress, the aggravation, the intercession—Moses could not finish the journey. "But there is more," Moses said. "God has chosen you to succeed me and to lead the children of Israel to their inheritance."

When Moses told him that he would be the one leading the children of Israel home, I'm not sure what emotion Joshua first felt. Was it shock, unworthiness, fear or a combination of all three? "Joshua, God has chosen you for this great task. Never forget that He will be with you."

The words of his mentor comforted him, but even as he stood there being commissioned as the next leader, deep down inside Joshua's unworthiness continued to be a constant companion. He hoped against hope that not only for his sake but for Moses' sake, that God would change his mind. But the day came when Moses ascended Mount Nebo and never returned.

"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites." Joshua 1:1,2. Not only did Joshua have big sandals to fill succeeding Moses as the leader of Israel, which was intimidating enough, now he had a big task ahead: leading the children of Israel into the Promised Land.

But God promised success. In Joshua 1:3-4, He promised that everywhere the children of Israel went, they would be



conquerors. No one would come close to defeating them as they moved into Canaan. In verses five and six, God speaks some personal words to Joshua, "No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them."

Joshua had big sandals to fill in succeeding Moses and a big task to accomplish in leading Israel to the Promised Land, but he also had a big promise from God. Four times in Joshua 1, God repeats to Joshua the words, "be strong and courageous."

Though I am sure Joshua felt many emotions as God was talking to him, foremost was fear. Fear is one of the easiest and most common emotions we feel. It is the first emotion Adam and Eve felt after the fall. We feel it when we are put into an unknown situation.

Joshua was in an unknown situation. He was leading a group of people who he had seen wear Moses down into a land that, 40 years previously, their fathers and grandfathers had refused to enter. In addition, he was facing unknown foes as well as trying to fill the humongous sandals of Moses. No wonder he was fearful! I would be.

Fear can be paralyzing. Fear can cause us to stop even when we are convinced of the action we need to do. Fear can cause us to second guess ourselves and make up excuses as to why we can't do it, and it never gets done.

Somewhere deep down inside, Joshua's fear was probably percolating. Did he have what it took? Could he be like Moses and lead these fickle people? As all of these thoughts ran through his head and the fear rose to the surface, God shared with him the words, "Be strong and courageous." The original language says, "Be strong and strong." So God is saying, "Joshua, be strong and strong because I am strong and I am with you." Aren't those great words of encouragement? Wouldn't you love to hear those words from the lips of God when you are fearful? Those same words spoken to Joshua, God speaks to you and me today when we are fearful no matter what we encounter.

If you are confronted by a big decision and you don't know what to do or which way to turn, God says, "Be strong and courageous, because I am strong and I am with you."

Maybe your finances are falling apart and you don't know where your next penny will come from. God says, "Be strong and courageous because I am strong and I am with you."

Maybe you are challenged by an uncertain medical diagnosis, and you don't know what the future holds: treatments, healing or death. God says, "Be strong and courageous because I am strong and I am with you."

Maybe your family is facing a crisis and you feel depleted and defeated. God says, "Be strong and courageous because I am strong and I am with you."

Maybe God has placed a wonderfully exciting project on your heart and you are eager to follow through, but anxious to execute. God says, "Be strong and courageous because I am strong and I am with you."

Joshua had big sandals to fill and a big task to fulfill, but an almighty God gave him a big promise, "Be strong and courageous because I am strong and am with you" and there were big results. Millenia later, we too are given the same big promise which will yield big results even if the situation looks impossible. "Be strong and courageous because I am strong and I am with you."

By Tom Grove. Grove is the executive pastor at the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arlington, Texas. He lives with his wife, Deborah and two children, Mark and Caroline, in Grand Prairie, Texas.

# **Rebuilding After the Storm**

#### The Oaks Adventist Christian School Counts Blessings After Hurricane Harvey

#### By Makala James

More than a year after record-setting Hurricane Harvey made landfall, the damage done to Texas still seems harrowingly fresh. This is no surprise, considering that 50 inches of rain flooded homes, schools and more.

Many people are still struggling to recover from the category four hurricane, yet the Oaks Adventist Christian School (the Oaks) in Cypress, Texas, is able to count many blessings that resulted from the tragedy.

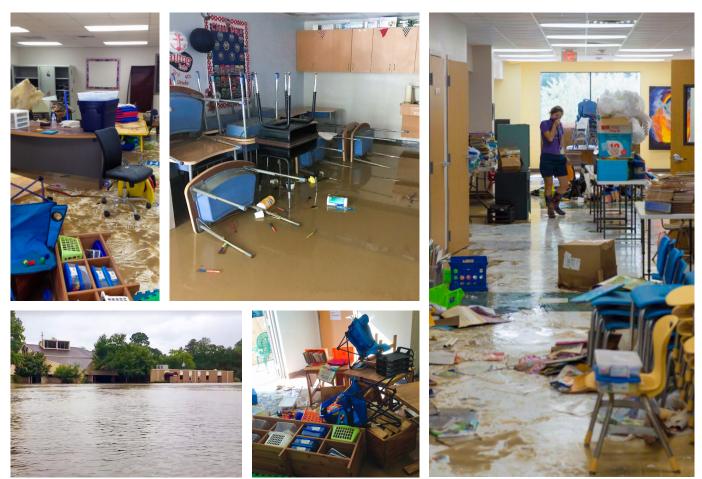
"I have seen the Lord bless us repeatedly," says Brenda Elms, the Oaks elementary school principal and Kindergarten teacher. "I can only praise the Lord!" It took two weeks to gain access to the Oaks campus after the hurricane. Even then, staff needed a boat to reach campus. The gym, sitting on high ground, sustained 18 inches of water damage. The elementary school became flooded by seven feet of water.

"It looked like there was a lake around the school," remembers Lily Hernandez, treasurer for the Oaks. "We needed a boat just to get on campus. It was horrible. At the time I felt no hope at all. I don't think I will ever forget that feeling."

Faculty and staff decided to do everything possible to continue providing Seventh-day Adventist education. Even before plans could be made, people from all reaches of the world began to offer help.

The gymnasium became a temporary classroom for all grades. Wooden partitions, built by volunteers, separated each class. On September 3, 2017, nearly 300 volunteers from all over the Southwestern Union gathered to remove debris and clean the school. This helped the school to compile an inventory of needed items. It also made it possible for classes to resume, on campus, just three weeks after the storm.

"The Lord has blessed us," says Hernandez. "Now I can definitely see that



the Lord had a better plan, because the school is in a better position now than it's ever been."

The Oaks expected to experience a decrease in enrollment after the storm. Instead, it experienced the highest enrollment in the history of the school. With an increased enrollment came an increase of cash flow. The extra cash helped the school to focus on rebuilding.

In addition, the North American Division, the Southwestern Union, and the Texas Conference shared the story of what happened at the Oaks. As a result, people from all over the world sent in donations. An organization called Save the Children also made a sizable donation to help the school rebuild. Overall, the Oaks received \$80,000 in donations.

These funds helped to replace all of the lost curriculum materials, as well as to complete construction on rooms for the high school, completely debt free. To mitigate harm that may be caused by future floods, the Oaks will now concentrate on building new structures on higher ground.

In January 2019, construction was completed on the former attic of the gymnasium which is now the high school. It contains four classrooms, a computer lab, and two bathrooms. A dedication service was held on February 21, 2019.

Next, the chapel will be rebuilt. As the Oaks continues to grow in enrollment, they will also work toward earning full academy status starting in fall 2019.

"I don't know who all sent in money," says Elms, "But we were blessed by them. The Lord is waiting to bless us all, if we just wait on Him."



# Faithful Courage A Tale of a Modern-day Joseph

**"I am God to you, because it is my signature on your check, not His."** Juan Carlos Perez could not get the words his boss had said out of his head. A young welder in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Perez had started at the company as one of only three employees. They had now grown to five times that amount, but the owner did not recognize that the growth was not a result of savvy business or diligent work. It was a blessing from the Lord, through a faithful and dedicated employee. From the very first day, Perez had only one condition for employment: he would never work on the Sabbath.

One Friday, Perez' boss asked him to come in to work the following day in order to finish an urgent delivery. Perez reminded him of the condition of his employment and did not show up to work on Saturday. When he returned to work on Monday morning, Perez was received with those cutting words: "I am God to you, because it is my signature on your check, not His."

"I could not respond to him," Perez shares. "It was not me that he had offended; he had blasphemed against God."

Perez cried that day while he worked. He simply could not stand the idea that a man could try to reduce the magnificence of God to a paltry sum of money. He left work that afternoon promising himself that he would never return to that place. His coworkers called and begged him to come back. They urged him not to be a "Sabbath fanatic." Surely he could make an occasional exception by working a Saturday or two. Yet, Perez stood firm. He was sure that if he committed to his principles, God would not abandon him.



James Bokovoy Photography

#### **Strong and Courageous**

His former boss, in turn, spoke poorly of him to industry leaders and essentially blacklisted him. Perez spent eight months unable to obtain new employment. When he finally got a new job, it was cleaning company bathrooms. "There, God taught me humility, since I was always so sure that I was better at welding than my peers. But now I understood that wisdom and my skills all came from God."

He finally obtained work as welder at another small company with four employees. Again, Perez' presence was a blessing to this fledgling company and in only 10 months they grew to 15 employees. Soon he was approached by the owner of a different company who surprised him with his candidness. "I know what happened to your old boss," the gentleman said. "His company went bankrupt. I heard you left him because he blasphemed the name of God. When you left, the company took a turn for the worse. I know that everything you touch you turn into a success; wherever you go, the blessing of God goes with you. Do you know the story of Joseph?"

"Of course I do!" Perez responded. The owner continued, "It is my favorite story. I want you to work at my company. You will be my Joseph and the company will be your Egypt. We make \$60,000 a month, but I want you to use your experience and knowledge to make the company grow."

Perez accepted the offer and in one year the company grew to 150 employees, making \$4 million a month. Unfortunately, over time new "pharaohs" arrived at the company who did not recognize Perez' value. He was dismissed and Perez felt abandoned and alone.

A Christian coworker friend gave him words of encouragement. "You should just start your own company." The idea was enticing, but Perez had neither the resources nor the infrastructure to start a company from the ground up. So he brought his request to God. His fellow church members joined him in praying and the Lord began to open doors. He rented an old abandoned workshop and on July 4, 2018, the dirty, muddy, weed-filled workshop opened for business.

Perez enlisted the help of his brother, Julio Perez Diaz, and his friend, Kyle Johnson (pictured below). Together, they cleaned and restored the space and then began testing with two small sets of welding equipment. Johnson understood Perez' position on Sabbath and agreed from day one that their workshop would never open on Saturday. God would be their primary partner and His word would be their guide in this new endeavor.

The next step for the company would be obtaining state licensure which would allow them to offer their services publicly. Two months later, they passed the inspection and received their licenses. Weldpro Manufacturing, LLC opened for business and made \$2,000 in its first month of operations. God opened doors with providers who allowed Weldpro to purchase materials on credit. He also provided them with high-end clients, which included petroleum and airline companies who had recognized the excellent quality of their work. Six months later, the company makes \$170,000 a month with 13 employees and continues to grow.

Perez' faithfulness and stewardship extends to his service as a valued teacher, church secretary, and youth leader at the Independence Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tulsa. "Like Joseph," Perez tells us, "God has pulled me out of the pit and allows me to say that being faithful to Him is worth it. He never fails us, and always fulfills His promises to us."

By Luis Prieto. Prieto is the pastor of the Central Tulsa Spanish and the Independence Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Churches. He lives in Tulsa with his wife, Dalmaris, and their daughter, Sandra.





# **Personality and Spirituality**

#### **Discover Commonality Through Individuality**

By Kristina Pascual, Southwestern Union Associate Communication Director, and Jason Busch, Texas Conference Communication Director



The terms "introvert" and "extrovert": were originally introduced by Swiss psychiatrist C.G. Jung in the early 20th century in his book *Psychological Types*. Most people easily identify with one more than the other when it comes to introversion and extroversion.

Those who consider themselves introverts derive their energy from within. They relish time spent alone in reflection. Those who consider themselves extroverts, on the other hand, derive their energy externally. They need to spend time with others discussing ideas aloud. Both are capable of enjoying social situations and moments of solitude. However, they differ on how much they can withstand of each.

When it comes to spiritual matters, our preferred study and worship methods may be influenced by our personality types. So, how do we find commonality through our individuality? We decided to share a few ideas that help us along our faith journey, based on our personality preferences. Then, we share ways that we have found we can live out our faith together. How does this look in your life? Do any of these resonate with you? Check in with yourself and your family and see what you discover!

#### **INTROVERT: RESERVED, FOCUSED, OBSERVANT**

**Books.** Reading is one of my favorite hobbies, so using my alone time to digest books on spiritual topics is a great way to deepen my relationship with God. Although not discussing the ideas of the book with others, I find that reading gives me the chance to reconcile those thoughts within myself before talking about them with family or friends.

**Digital Sermons.** Much like reading, listening to sermons is one of the ways I stretch my spirituality. The interconnectivity of today's world allows us to go anywhere we want at the click of a button, meaning that almost any pastor we enjoy listening to can be heard any day of the week. Because of that, I'll listen to some of my favorite preachers on long road trips and the time to myself gives me ample opportunity to internalize those ideas.

#### EXTROVERT: TALKATIVE, OUTGOING, ENTHUSIASTIC

**Classes and Book Clubs.** Taking a class on a spiritual subject or joining a book club that is working through a Christian book can be rewarding. It allows me to study and share my thoughts and perspectives with others while drawing my own conclusions. I enjoy getting to know the others in the group and appreciate their contributions as they expand my worldview. I'm also able to mix up my weekly routine since these tend to last a couple of weeks or months.

**Journaling.** This may *seen* like an introvert activity, but Bible study journaling allows me to get my thoughts out of my head and onto the paper. I have found myself both in tears and smiling widely as I write out prayer requests or praises. Journaling gives me an opportunity to slow down and ask God questions. I'm able to to share things I'm learning and discovering. Additionally, I get to look back on past prayers and see how God has blessed and led me.

#### FAITH MERGER: STUDYING AND SERVING TOGETHER

**Small Group Bible Study.** Small is important here. The smaller the group, the more intimate and focussed the discussion will be. Introverts enjoy participating in these discussions especially when the subject is intentional and requires research. Extroverts enjoy hearing well thought-out ideas and learning from what introverts have discovered.

**Church Greeters.** While this is a highly social enterprise, introverts can enjoy the quick friendly interactions while extroverts are energized by greeting and speaking to many people. We have really enjoyed doing this activity together. We even have a few minutes to just talk to each other, between waves of church goers, which gives us a quiet opportunity to share together.

# Summer Camp is AWESOME!

Horseback riding, wakeboarding, water skiing, swimming, basketball, soccer, mountain biking, crafts, cooking, outdoor activities, learning more about Jesus and worshiping with new friends-there is no doubt summer camp is awesome! We asked a few summer camp experts to share their awesome experiences in exactly 100 words. Check out what they had to say!



Why go to Summer Camp when I can sleep and play video games at home? Some of my most memorable experiences happened at camp. I was 9 years old when I went to my first summer camp at Camp Cedar Falls in California. I still remember that was the week I made 65 free throws in a row in basketball class. I remember riding a horse for the first time and the first time my counselor prayed for me. One thing is for sure, I remember those times a lot more than the times I slept and played video games.

By David Craig Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Youth Director **Camp Yorktown Bay** 



We once had a camper who was having a rough time adjusting to camp life and following counselor's instructions. The camper's behavior became so challenging that we discussed the possibility of sending him home early. However, something awesome happened after we talked with him. The camper apologized and resolved to behave and have a great time at camp! Afterwards he would come let me know he was having a good time and listening to the counselors. He had been sent home from other camps and activities before, but he was now extremely proud of his achievement and loved summer camp!

By Tyrone Douglas Southwest Region Conference Youth Director Lone Star Camp





Summer camp is more than just fun, friends and food. It's about finding Jesus, focusing on His love and fueling your life with hope! Today more than ever, kids and teens just need to escape and retreat for a minute and take advantage of this opportunity to unplug. We see our encounters at summer camp with young people as divine appointments, an opportunity to make an eternal impact on lives that are fragile and sometimes fragmented. I am excited about the work God will do through the faithful, far-reaching commitment of our fabulous camp staff and leaders this coming summer.

By Daniel Ortega Oklahoma Conference Youth Director **Wewoka Woods** 



I realized how powerful summer camp ministry can be and how it impacts the lives of children and teens the first time I baptized someone at camp. A whole week preaching to them in the middle of nature, where every activity emphasises Jesus, and with staff who are great role models is one-on-one mentorship at it's best! Summer camp helps campers learn to connect with Jesus directly. We do it through personal Bible reading and prayer journaling every morning and evening. Summer camp is not just about one week. It impacts the rest of the year and even a lifetime.

By Paulo Tenorio Texas Conference Youth Director **Lake Whitney Ranch** 

## Your 100 Mords SUMMER CAMP CONTEST

Summer camp offers so many great activities and things to learn. Campers make awesome memories making new friends and getting to know Jesus better in a completely different setting. For this year's annual Southwestern Union Record summer camp contest, you get the chance to share why you think summer camp is awesome! If you have never been to summer camp before, no problem! You get to share why you think going to summer camp would be awesome!

#### **HOW TO ENTER:**

- 1. Write exactly 100 words describing why you think summer camp is awesome.
- 2. Then include the following contact information: name, age, gender, phone number, email address and conference name.
- 3. Submit your entry by April 5 by email at SummerCampContest@swuc.org.

\*PARENTS CAN DEFINITELY HELP KIDS TYPE UP THE WORDS AND EMAIL ENTRIES, BUT SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE CREATED BY EACH CHILD.

\*\*WINNERS WILL BE NOTIFIED INDIVIDUALLY BY MAY 34 AND WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN THE JULY/AUGUST ISSUE OF THE RECORD.

# March Events:

#### 1-2

**Texas Conference:** ForeverOne Marriage Retreat, Pflugerville, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

#### 2

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Pathfinder Bible Experience, Shreveport, La. ArkLacSDA.org

#### 2

**Texas Conference:** Total Member Involvement Training, McAllen, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

#### 2

Texas Conference:

Pathfinder Bible Experience McAllen Tex., TxYouth.org

#### 3

**Texas Conference:** VBS Training, Edinburg, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

#### 6-9

Southwestern Union: More Compassion Mission Outreach Trip Oklahoma City, Okla. SouthwesternAdventist.org

#### 8-10

Southwestern Union: Children's Ministries Retreat, Midlothian, Tex. SouthwesternAdventist.org

#### 10

**Texas Conference:** VBS Training, Midlothian, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

### 14-17

Southwestern Union: ASI Chapter Conference, Cleburne, Tex. SouthwesternAdventist.org

#### 15-17

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: English Couples Retreat, Camp Yorktown Bay ArkLacSDA.org

#### 16

**General Conference:** Global Youth Day, Youth. Adventist.org/GYD

### 21-23

**SWAU:** 48 Hour Film Challenge, Keene, Tex.

#### 23

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Teen Prayer Conference, Hammond, La. ArkLacSDA.org

#### 23

**Oklahoma Conference:** Children's Sabbath School Training, Oklahoma City Central Spanish Adventist Church, OkAdventist.org

#### 24

**Oklahoma Conference:** VBS Training, Oklahoma City Central Spanish Adventist Church, OkAdventist.org

### 29-30

**Texas Conference:** ForeverOne Marriage Retreat, Edinburg, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

#### 30

**Southwestern Union:** Pathfinder Bible Experience Keene, Tex., TxYouth.org

#### 31

**Oklahoma Conference:** VBS Training, Tulsa

# April Events:

#### 5-7

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Arkansas Youth Federation, Camp Yorktown Bay, ArkLacSDA.org

#### 6

**SWAU:** Southwestern Acrobatics Team Home Show, Keene, Tex.

#### 6

**Texas Conference:** Adult & Children Sabbath School Training, Central Texas TexasAdventist.org

### 11-13

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Camp Meeting Hammond, La. ArkLacSDA.org

### 11-14

**SWAU:** Alumni Homecoming Weekend Keene, Tex., swau.edu

#### 12-14

**Oklahoma Conference:** Adventurer Family Camp Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, OkAdventist.org 13

31

**Texas Conference:** Adult & Children Sabbath School Training, Keene, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

First Adventist Church,

Texas Conference: VBS

Training, San Marcos, Tex.,

TexasAdventist.org

OkAdventist.org

### 19-21

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Louisiana Spanish Youth Federation Hammond, La. ArkLacSDA.org

### 19-21

**Texas Conference:** Adventurer Family Camp Lake Whitney Ranch TxYouth.org

## 26, 27

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting, Hammond, La. ArkLacSDA.org

### 26-27

**Texas Conference:** Camp Meeting, San Antonio, Tex. TexasAdventist.org

> For more events and information, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org.

## Equipped For Ministries New Orleans Training Equips More than 325

**NEW ORLEANS –** More than 325 members from the greater New Orleans area attended the January 25-27 ministries leadership training presented by the Southwestern Union, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and Southwest Region Conference at the New Orleans First Seventh-day Adventist Church.

The weekend began with an impactful training session on leadership presented by Southwestern Union President Larry R. Moore on Friday evening.

On Sabbath morning, union and conference leaders visited 10 area churches, presenting messages for the worship service and enjoying fellowship with the members. On Sabbath afternoon, the New Orleans First church was filled with those eager to learn and grow their ministries as training sessions on and for preaching, elders, deacons and deaconess, men's ministries, women's ministries, family ministries, children's ministries, treasury, community services, stewardship, evangelism and more were presented in English, Spanish and French.

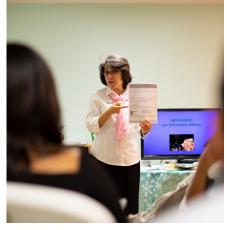
"I am overjoyed at the number of our members in the New Orleans area that were looking to be inspired and equipped through this training event. Although the union and conferences continue to present many different seminars on one or two specific topics throughout the year at churches throughout the union territory, this collaboration between the union and conferences allows for a more comprehensive and efficient ministries training event. It is our goal to present two to three larger Equipped for Ministries events in the Southwestern Union territory each year. We want to support, equip and inspire our members and conferences in their local ministries," says Elton DeMoraes, vice president for church ministries at the Southwestern Union. DeMoraes presented training sessions for elders, deacons and deaconesses ministries at the New Orleans event.

"We had a wonderful group asking great questions and interacting together" says Sonia Canó, children's ministries and Sabbath School ministries director for the Southwestern Union. In addition to presenting training sessions, she held a 2019 Vacation Bible School (VBS) workshop on Sunday morning.

The next Equipped for Ministries training event is planned for June 21-23, 2019, in Tulsa, Oklahoma. For details, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Training.







## Pohnpei School Union Supports Student Missionaries

**BURLESON, TEX. –** The Southwestern Union's staff recently sent student missionaries at the Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist School a special gift of rain jackets and portable chargers as part of the union's continuing effort to support Adventist education and mission outreach on the island of Pohnpei. The union also donated school supplies for the school's 330 students in August 2018. Each union within the North American Division has partnered with an island in the Guam-Micronesia Mission. Visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Pohnpei.



## El Paso Training Ministries Sessions and VBS Workshop

**EI PASO, TEX. –** On March 30-31, the Southwestern Union will present both English and Spanish ministries training sessions at the El Paso Central English Seventh-day Adventist Church. Training sessions will begin on Sabbath, March 30, at 3:00 p.m. and will include:

- Adult Sabbath School
- Children's Ministries
- Elders
- Deacons
- Church Security

A training workshop for the North American Division's 2019 Vacation Bible School (VBS) "Jami Kingdom" will be held on Sunday, March 31, from 8:45 a.m. to noon. Registration is free but required for the VBS training event and will include lunch. To register, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Children.

For more information about this and upcoming training events, call Prithy David at 817.295.0476 or visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Training.

#### Ministries Training



March 30-31, 2019 El Paso Central English Church



## OKLAHOMA CITY I MARCH 6-9, 2019

TEENS | YOUNG ADULT | ADULTS | REGISTER AT SOUTHWESTERNADVENTIST.ORG/YOUTH



## Giving Back Southwestern Union Invests in Adventist Education

BURLESON, TEX. - Each fall the Southwestern Union's executive committee is presented with the opportunity to return the union's unused funds to the territory's five conferences for evangelism and special needs. At the fall 2018 executive committee meeting, members voted to divide these funds amongst the five conferences as well as to Adventist education. The committee voted to distribute the funds set aside for Adventist education to each of the six academies within the Southwestern Union territory. The amount each school was to receive was based on the school's opening enrollment for the year and would be set aside for each school's worthy student fund, which is given at the discretion of the school to assist those students seeking an Adventist education but who may lack necessary financial support.

"The union's unused funds are typically available due to conservative budgeting and tithe increases. The amount given back to the conferences and Adventist education will vary somewhat each year, but in 2018, a significant tithe increase of nine percent across the union blessed us with the opportunity to give back even more," says Southwestern Union Treasurer John Page. While the union has returned these funds to the conference for many years, the opportunity to distribute funds directly to schools in the territory began in 2017.

Southwestern Union President Larry R. Moore (pictured below, right, presenting a check to Chisholm Trail Academy Principal Tommy Simon) says he hopes this monetary gift to the schools will help young people who desire to attend Adventist schools to do so while encouraging a renewed spirit of support for our schools from our members and leadership across the territory.

In February 2019, each of the six academy principals was presented with a check ranging from approximately \$6,500 to \$29,000. The academies are: Ozark Adventist Academy, in Gentry, Ark.; Sandia View Academy, in Corrales, N. Mex.; South Texas Christian Academy in McAllen, Tex.; Burton Adventist Academy in Arlington, Tex.; North Dallas Adventist Academy in Dallas, Tex.; and Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Tex.

According to Southwestern Union Vice President for Education Carol Campbell, the primary purpose of Seventh-day Adventist education is to provide opportunities for students to "accept Jesus as their Savior; embrace a life of service to others; develop as a whole person; prepare academically to fulfill God's calling; commit to the lifestyle and beliefs of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by becoming a member; achieve spiritual, mental and physical balance; and become workforce ready."

Moore says the Southwestern Union is committed to Adventist education. "We know that one of the best ways to encourage our young people to have a personal connection with Jesus and to develop into the next generation of Christian servants is for them to be mentored; for them to see the relationship with Christ modeled at home by parents and at school by their teachers. It's so important to invest in these kids and in the schools."



## Celebrating 125 Years A Festive Day for Friends, Faculty and Students

**KEENE, TEX. –** Festivities on the Southwestern Adventist University campus in Keene marked the university's 125<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thursday, Jan. 10, with a myriad of fun activities and food. "We want to welcome you to a special day, our birthday," Southwestern Adventist University President Ken Shaw said as he opened the special assembly.

The celebration started the day before with an interactive, campus-wide scavenger hunt that gave student participants the opportunity to win prizes which were awarded during the weekly student assembly on Thursday afternoon.

A panel of current and former staff and alumni consisting of Bob Mendenhall, Bev Mendenhall, Bugger Putnam, Dale Hainey and Kisha Norris answered questions from Amy Rosenthal, vice president for academic administration. Antique images, displayed on the screen, included Keene's old broom factory, old bands, the university's former indoor swimming pool, a time when Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium didn't have walls, the Cowabunga Skiers, the Pioneer Memorial Tile Mural, and the fountain outside Findley Hall."I'm glad I didn't have to work in a broom factory," Gabby Behrens, senior communication major, said after the assembly. "After seeing what students did to get through school, I feel like I have it a little easier than they did. It's still hard. Don't get me wrong!"

Centennial cupcakes and guest panelists were featured during a special pop-up reception in the afternoon at the Chan Shun Centennial Library. Additional giveaways and refreshments were available in the afternoon at the new Larry R. Moore Nursing and Administration Building, and an interactive timeline was exhibited at Chan Shun Centennial Library.

Cristina Thomsen, library director, came to Keene from Colorado in 1963 when her father, Eugene Thomsen, was hired to teach languages. "Keene was much smaller back then," she says. "It felt more rural. There was a dairy. There were cows everywhere. Cows would always wander into our backyard."

Thomsen considers Founder's Day a "wonderful idea." "It's always great to stop and remember how we've gotten to this point."

By Glen Robinson







## Alumni Homecoming in April Festivities Continue as We Celebrate 125 Years

**KEENE, TEX. –** On April 11-14, Southwestern Adventist University will host its annual Homecoming weekend. Alums from all over the world are invited to join as we bring the university's 125<sup>th</sup> year birthday celebration to a close.

The weekend begins Thursday with a banquet celebration and a special "Welcome home" dinner. On Friday, guests will have the opportunity to support students and compete with fellow alumni in an 18-hole golf tournament. Friday night vespers will feature the Department of Music's University Singers. Southwestern Union Conference President Larry R. Moore will deliver a Sabbath morning message during the worship services at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. Dominik Alipoon, from the Oklahoma Conference, will lead the Elevate service. A potluck lunch for both alumni and community members will follow the church services. In the afternoon, members of the honor classes are invited to come together for class photos. Southwestern Adventist University's Dinosaur Science Museum and other university departments will also be open for visitors. Homecoming Sabbath will close with a reunion concert by vocal ensemble One Desire. On Saturday evening local alums will host class parties followed by Sunday morning's soccer games, disk golf, and a breakfast buffet to wrap up the 125<sup>th</sup> birthday homecoming weekend.

Young alumni and those young at heart are invited to participate in volleyball and basketball Knights Unite tournaments on Saturday night and a young alumni BBQ on Sunday. For tickets and more information, visit SWAU.edu/Homecoming.

- By Timothy Kosaka





## Impressed to Enroll Brenda Brightman Joins Southwestern

**KEENE, TEX. –** Hina Paracha, a nursing student at Southwestern Adventist University, wanted Brenda Brightman to see a video on YouTube of a past nursing pinning ceremony at Southwestern. The video impressed Brightman and she was especially touched by the presentation of Russ Laughlin, vice president for Spiritual Development. She soon realized that "this university understood what it is like to have God as the center of everything," and she enrolled. "I am blessed to be here."

Brightman, a student and a mom, is

constantly challenged by time management, but says she is blessed by a supportive husband and parents. She has a personal goal to start her own non-profit organization to help the less fortunate. "I want to share God's love," she says.

"Hearing stories like Brenda's demonstrates the reason why we exist and demonstrates the value of a faith-based educational experience," says Ken Shaw, university president. For a visual perspective of the university's impact, visit YouTube.com/SouthwesternAU. \_\_\_\_\_\_ By Glen Robinson

## Holy Boldness Moving Forward, Strengthened By God



The church of Jesus Christ is being challenged and stretched in ways it never has before. All over the world, God's people are being put to the test in some form or fashion. For example, in China, more and more pastors are being arrested by the government. In North America, the church is locked in a struggle that is challenging the very fabric of Christian fellowship. In our local congregations, there is a struggle for supremacy and control. And you and I could name a host of other challenges.

The temptation for many would be to bury our head in the sand or to play it safe. However, I am convinced from the Word of God, now is the time for holy boldness!

I am reminded of what Paul shared with the church at Ephesus so long ago: "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood,

but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Ephesians 6:12. This verse describes what we are up against as a Church. The good news to the answer is found in the same chapter. Paul says in verses 10 and 11, "Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes."

One of the best definitions of being strong in the Lord is found in the story of the three Hebrew worthies, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. The faith they exhibited in facing the fiery furnace is the kind of faith necessary for God's people today. They didn't know the exact outcome, but they put their complete trust in the fourth Man in the fire! And that was the difference!

I've heard it said that, "Courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway." Let us not shrink from the challenges but let us move forward with the holy boldness that He provides.

By Richard C. Dye, Sr., President



## Mission Trip to Peru Youth and Young Adults Serve in South America

SHREVEPORT, LA. – Thirty-eight Arkansas-Louisiana youth and young adults finished a two-week mission trip to Peru during the winter holidays. The group made the long journey to Cusco, Peru where they had the privilege of sharing Jesus. Over 250 showed up for the children's program where they learned about the armor of God. The children did crafts, played games and received a bag filled with crayons, pencils, erasers, notebooks, candy, glue and balloons.

The group assembled food bags with rice, lentils, sugar, pasta, canned milk and cooking oil. Over 800 bags were shared and it was a blessing to see how people directed us to the children and families who needed it most. That touched us because we knew they all could use the gifts we were offering. Ken Blundell and the Grant family were assigned to a small country church, the furthest away from Cusco, where they sang and did a puppet show. The church enjoyed the group so much they persuaded them to hold a second meeting in another church in Estookachi, about 15 minutes away.

This group was so far out of Cusco they had their own van and a driver named Juan. One night during the meeting in Estookachi, Blundell talked about baptism. Juan came to that meeting and sat in the back as Blundell made an appeal to give your life to Jesus and be baptized. Juan stood up and made that awesome decision and began taking Bible Studies! On the last Sabbath of the trip, Blundell had the privilege of baptizing six wonderful souls at a lagoon; there was a total of 14 baptisms from their efforts in Peru.

The trip was a life-changing experience for the group. The food we gave out did not cost as much as was expected, so the extra money was divided among the churches we served. The Quechuans group has been diligently saving money to build a church of their own. They had raised about \$200, and were thrilled at the \$3,800 they received. They are ready to build!

The country was beautiful and interesting, but the people were the jewels that God loves. We encourage you to join a mission trip this year. God can touch your life in an incredible way as you serve others.

— By Sylvia Downs, Michele Stamps Pritchett, Rusty Litten and Ken Blundell





## Surviving the Wilderness Area Camporees Draw Pathfinders

SHREVEPORT, LA – "Surviving the Wilderness" was the conference theme for the four area camporees held Nov. 2-4, 2018. The main theme depicted the children of Israel in the wilderness and how they survived under God's leadership, but the secondary theme was that the only way we will survive the wilderness of this world is under God's leadership, protection and guidance.

Northwest Arkansas met at Camp Cedar Valley in Viola, Ark. for the "Surviving the Wilderness" weekend camporee. Thirteen clubs participated with a total of 194 Pathfinders and staff registered. Clubs participating came from the Berryville Spanish, Yellville, Gentry, Springdale, Huntsville Spanish, Mountain Home, Mountain View, Batesville, Van Buren Spanish North, Van Buren Spanish South, Bentonville, Rogers Spanish and Ft. Smith Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Ross Harris was the camp pastor and visited club campsites and assisted with activities as well. The entire group was divided into the 12 tribes of Israel and each tribe was identified by a different color bandana. Saturday night closed with a worship and a roaring bonfire with the usual roasted campfire delicacies and an unforgettable "junk scramble."

- By Roger Huff

**Central Arkansas** camped on the ball field at Camp Yorktown Bay with 117 Pathfinders and staff. Campsites were set up on Friday and at vespers, all the children of Israel gathered in the center of camp to hear the first part of the story of Moses.

Sabbath morning started with a camp inspection followed by a parade. Sabbath School was a continuation of the story of the Israelites leaving Egypt. The story stressed that the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night was God Himself. The break between Sabbath School and church featured a short puppet show starring Moses and Pharaoh. "You ain't seen nothing yet" Moses kept telling Pharaoh as the plagues kept coming upon Egypt.

Sabbath afternoon was spent doing honors. Camping Skills I, II and III, Camp Craft, Bats and Reptiles were taught. After vespers, the weather turned bad. Shortly after dark, all the campsites were empty and all the clubs left before the storm hit. The Camp Director told us later that the lightning became very bad and it was wise not to be in a tent. \_\_\_\_\_\_ By Mike Salzman

**South Arkansas / Central Louisiana** held their camporee on the Gifford property by the old Shreveport school. About 50 Pathfinders, Teen Leaders In Training (TLTs) and staff

from the Texarkana and Shreveport Clubs came together to "survive the wilderness." Area Coordinator Helen Rodriguez had Pathfinders working on camping skills honor requirements with Bill Grant leading out in the cold weather survival honor. Vespers and church services were held around a large fire. Tony Cash and Fernando Villegas were guest speakers. Singing, praying and opening the Word reminded us of God's leading in the past with the promise that God will lead us today. Heavy rains the second night revealed any leaky tents and challenged the fire building class on Sunday. Together we learned that with God we can survive the wilderness.

- By Tony Cash

**South Louisiana** had 100 Pathfinders and staff from the Baton Rouge, Metairie Spanish and New Orleans East Spanish Clubs gathered at the Percy Quinn State Park in Mississippi for the area camporee. It was a great weekend; the weather was good. After camp inspections, then church and lunch, we had a scavenger hunt, went on a nature hike and earned the Worm Honor. The Clubs had a great time mingling and getting to know each other. Activities were planned for Sunday, but it threatened rain, so all the clubs packed up and left just in time.

By Debra Decker





## Bible Heroes Heber Springs Young People Meet Esther

**HEBER SPRINGS, ARK. –** The Primary Sabbath School class at the Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church has been studying heroes in the Bible. Members from the church have tried to bring the Bible alive, making these presentations memorable with extra involvement, to show the children that the Bible is as relevant today as it was then. They are learning that putting on the armor of God involves a whole lifestyle and sometimes it's not as easy as we might think.

Queen Esther still speaks today! One of the members, dressed as Queen Esther, came and talked with the children about standing for the Lord when it's not popular and brought out many things from the life of Esther that still apply today. The children asked questions and were thrilled to meet "Queen Esther." During the lessons on Joseph, one of the ladies made each child a handmade, quilted coat of various colors. The children wore the coats for a special worship service where they sang songs, read the Bible scriptures about Joseph and participated in worshipping the Lord.



By Judith Newton

## A Heartfelt Farewell Texarkana District Grieves the Loss of Their Pastor

**TEXARKANA, TEX. –** Just one month after our October Pastor Appreciation tribute to Daniel Supler, we no longer have him with us. We are grateful we had the opportunity to let him know how much his presence and service meant, and how much we loved and appreciated him. He passed away unexpectedly on Nov. 25, 2018, during a short trip to Columbia, Maryland, where he was to perform a wedding and have a brief visit with his family in Chicago and in New Jersey.

The members of the Texarkana, Magnolia and El Dorado churches want to express our love and appreciation for this man of God who made it his daily mission to lift us up in prayer and watch over his flock. He encouraged and supported each of us. His sermons focused the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, and he supported and participated in all our ministries. He kept his appointments with all three of his churches and went beyond a weekly or monthly visit by participating in all evangelistic efforts. He truly appreciated his leaders in all three churches, and let them know how much he appreciated them. We also want to express our love and appreciation for his wife, Edit, a true Shepherdess. Edit is a true role model of a pastor's helpmate. She was "behind the scenes," but we knew she was a member of the pastoral team. She displayed great love and affection to every member with a gentle spirit and appreciation for the church leaders. They both loved us and we will remember what Daniel Supler wanted us to know: "Let the Holy Spirit fill you with love. Love each other."

By Loretta Johnson





#### Arkansas-Louisiana Conference News





Cub Camp (Ages 7-9) June 9-16 Junior Camp (Ages 10-12) June 16-23 Family Camp (All Ages) June 23-30 Tween Camp (Ages 12-14) June 30-July7 Teen Camp (Ages 15-17) July 7-14 Blind Camp (All Ages) July 14-21



## South Louisiana Camp Meeting

ENGLISH CAMP MEETING

April 12 & 13, 2019

SPANISH CAMP MEETING

April 26—28, 2019

More information on speakers and music will be available on our website: arklacsda.org

Those interested in having booths, please contact the Conference Office at 318-631-6240. Space is limited.



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE



## God is Calling How Will You Answer?



From the Old Testament through the New Testament, God's people have responded to His call. The Old Testament records a time that God walked with people. The New Testament shows us that God continued to walk with His people through the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:13).

God said to Abram in Genesis 12:1-2, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing." Genesis says that Abram then went as the Lord had told him.

After the death of Moses, the book of Joshua records the Lord placing the leadership of the Israelites on Joshua and instructing him to lead the people of Israel across the Jordan River and into the land God had promised to them. God said to Joshua, "I will give you every place where you set your foot...No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life...I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous...." Joshua 1:3-6.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20.

Today, God calls us and tells us to go, saying "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be witnesses to Me...to the end of the earth." Acts 1:8.

God is calling you, saying, "Go and tell the people of the world that I love them! Go and share the healing power for heartaches and disappointments!"

To what extent are we willing, in this fast paced, high-tech world, to give up all and serve His children that are naked, hungry and lost?

The God of the universe, the One that loves us, says, "Be strong courageous." May our response be "Here I am, Lord."

By Apple Park, Executive Secretary



## Joining the Family Four Family Members Baptized at Miami Church

**KETCHUM, OKLA. –** On Dec. 1, the Miami Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomed four new members through baptism. Deborah Crenshaw, women's ministries coordinator for the Oklahoma Conference, had prayed for many years for her family to be baptized into the church as she had been 30 years previously. She and the Miami church rejoice in the baptisms of her sisters, Donna and Diane; niece, Darla; and great-nephew, Wesley.

Although raised in a Christian faith, they had each been searching for truth

in the Bible and for a church that taught the truths that they were discovering. When Deborah moved in with Diane last year, the family began having a small group Bible study together, and they were overjoyed with how beautifully everything came together. Darla says it was then that she realized she needed to pray when opening the Bible and after studying. "When you do a big puzzle you pretty much do the outside first. Then you get big portions and sections of it done, but for me there were missing pieces to link it all together. I know my puzzle is far from complete, but within this past year the pieces have just popped into place faster than they ever have before and it's linking it all together."

Since their baptism, the family has continued the group Bible study in their home. Diane reflects, "I look forward to Saturdays now...for Sabbath study class and the blessing of Sabbath. I look forward to spreading the Word. I want the world to know that I am a Christian and an Adventist."

By Andrew Spooner





## Tulsa Evangelism 178 Accept Christ During Meetings

**TULSA –** In preparation for fall 2018 evangelism meetings with evangelist Alejandro Bullón, Oklahoma Conference Spanish church leaders and lay people worked together to invite their communities to the meetings and to pray for the meetings to be successful.

All of the evening meetings were held at Adventist Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church, with the exception of the Sabbath morning program, which was held at the Union High School auditorium. Beautiful music was provided by Elisa Medrano and young people from the Tulsa-area Spanish churches each evening.

On Sabbath morning, the auditorium was filled with church members and visitors alike looking for a spiritual feast. Those accepting Christ totaled 178. The Tulsa Spanish churches are preparing these individuals for baptism in the coming months.

> *— By Susan Castillo Photos by Hugo Gamas*



## Tulsa Gets Moving Church Holds Healthy Lifestyle Meetings

**TULSA –** The Tulsa Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church youth group recently helped organize a weeklong healthy lifestyle seminar series. They invited nutritionist and personal trainer Oscar Santana to share his knowledge and expertise.

Each evening of the series began with a 20-minute exercise routine in the fellowship hall. Attendees of all ages participated in the fun, yet effective, exercises. After some water and a few minutes of cool-down time, members and guests moved to the kitchen where Santana demonstrated how to make healthy shakes and drinks.

Attendees then moved into the sanctuary to hear practical and encouraging health messages about high cholesterol, stress, high blood pressure and diabetes. At the end of each health message, attendees had the opportunity to hear spiritual lessons about God's love for us.

> *— By Daniel Ortega Communication Director*



## Prayers and Perseverance Pathfinders Witness with Pamphlets at Parade

**BROKEN ARROW, OKLA. –** In planning ahead for the 2018 Broken Arrow Christmas parade, the Broken Arrow Pathfinder Club recalled that they had given out 200 pamphlets during the 2017 parade. The Club decided that they would have a goal of doubling that amount at the 2018 parade, and that they would pass out every single one.

However, even though we started the process in early November, we found that getting that many pamphlets with all pertinent information printed was not going to be an easy task. After many calls, our leader, Barbara Calvert, found acceptable pamphlets at the Upper Columbia Conference.

Barbara enlisted the help of her nephew, a graphic designer, then found a printer in Canada that agreed to print and send the pamphlets in time for the parade. They arrived at 3:30 p.m. on Friday for the Saturday parade the next morning. Perseverance, patience and prayers paid off.

Our club asked the Haskell, Oklahoma Drum Corp to march ahead of our float. Our combined efforts, along with many prayers, perseverance, pamphlets and Pathfinders, equaled a precious opportunity to witness as all pamphlets were distributed along the parade route.

Not only were our Pathfinders enthusiastic, the crowd lining the street was appreciative of our float and our marchers.

By Judy Marquette





## God's Closet Tulsa Ministry Serves 300 People

**TULSA –** Parents often find it financially challenging to provide clothing for their growing little ones. In order to meet the needs of parents and children in its surrounding community, the First Tulsa Seventh-day Adventist Church's ministry, God's Closet, offers an opportunity for families to "shop" for new and gently used children's apparel for free.

Every three months, families are invited to come to a God's Closet Shop Day event, set up in the church fellowship hall and in the Tulsa Adventist Academy gym, where they can shop for free children's clothes. The clothing is donated by local businesses and individuals.

On Nov. 3, 2018, 104 community families (around 300 people) attended the church's first God's Closet Shop Day event. In addition to clothing, free sample items and refreshments were offered, along with a drawing for a generous collection of special baby things for new/expectant moms. The mother who received these items was extremely grateful.

In the shopping area there was a spiritual care table, staffed by an Adventist pastor and church members. The pastor and members were available to have prayer with the families, answer questions, offer information about our church and Bible studies, and more.

As a result of this community event, 20 people requested Bible studies. Follow-up activities are planned and underway for those who attended the Shop Day.

Brandi Bowen leads the team of volunteers who make the God's Closet

ministry possible. She had this to say about the November 3 God's Closet Shop Day:

"It was so impressive to see not only the smiles on the faces of the shoppers and children that came through, but also the volunteers.

"Everyone that came through that building that day was blessed. We built new relationships, opened new doors of communication, met the needs of many families, and became more united with one another."

> — By Judi Carrico Photos by Tom Huff









## Understanding Their Church Parkview Academy Tours Oklahoma Conference Office

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – It is amazing how many children and adults do not know the organization of the church they attend, so the Oklahoma Conference leadership invited Parkview Adventist Academy students to tour and receive an educational lesson on how Oklahoma churches connect to the world church and to meet the conference office team.

After a lesson on the organization and structure of the Seventh-day Adventist Church by the Oklahoma Conference Education Director, Tim Kripps, and Youth Director, Daniel Ortega, students from grades 5-12 toured each department so the department heads and administrative assistants could explain to the students the jobs completed in each area.

The conference youth and education departments believe that it is imperative that our young people not only understand the basic structure of our church, but also feel personally connected with their leaders and feel that they are approachable and reachable.

——— Article and photo by Annette Park



## Four Journeys Moore Church Baptizes Four

MOORE, OKLA. – The Moore Seventh-day Adventist Church has been blessed as they have seen God working in people's lives through various ministries taking place at the church. This past fall, the Moore church rejoiced with heaven as they witnessed four baptized.

Brianda Duque grew up in another denomination, but had fond memories of attending an Adventist church with a friend as a child. As she grew up, Duque stopped attending and became disconnected with the church. After getting married and having children, however, Duque was convicted that going to church should be part of raising her kids. She decided to look for an Adventist church and found her way to the Moore church. Brianda and her husband, Roberto, were baptized together and attend regularly with the whole family.

Elenita Paras-Garrett recently moved to Oklahoma from the Philippines. She started coming to church after attending a family life evangelism program at the Moore church called "Growing Strong Families." She had a deep desire to learn more about how to work better with her own family. Eventually, Elenita took Bible studies and was baptized. She is now very involved in the church and can testify that by God's grace, her family home life has improved.

Diana Price-Nelson had been studying the Bible on her own. One Friday evening she was watching a sermon on TV and she learned about the Sabbath. The next day, Sabbath morning, she visited the Moore church. After studying deeper into the Word regularly every Sabbath, she was baptized.

By Daniel Ortega, Communication Director





## God's Got You He Sees and Will See to It



While sitting in church one Sabbath listening to a guest speaker deliver a powerful word, I suddenly realized that all the sounds of worship had been mysteriously muted. As I surveyed the sanctuary, I could see that the congregants were still responding enthusiastically to the preached word; however, all I could hear was an inexplicable silence. For some reason, instead of feeling panicked, I felt a sense of peace; for in the midst of that transcendent moment I heard a voice calmly say, "That's what I want you to do!" as my attention was again riveted on the preacher. Then, as if someone were controlling an unseen mixing board, the sounds of worship began to slowly increase until they returned to their original volume.

Sometime after church, I went to my mom and resolutely declared that I was going to be a preacher one day. Did I mention that I was only seven years old at the time? Imagine having the luxury of growing up already knowing your purpose in life—already knowing your calling. However, in spite of my epiphany regarding ministry, I confess that there have been times when I've deviated from that call and sought to go my own way or do my own thing. Fear, failure, doubt, discouragement, feelings of inadequacy, lack of faith, personal problems, other people—all have played a role in trying to subvert my call at one time or another.

In Joshua 1:6-7, 9, God calls Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land. Three times He admonishes him to "be strong and courageous." Whenever God mentions something three times, it means that it's of utmost importance that we listen; that He's emphatic about whatever He's said; and that whatever He's said has already been divinely confirmed and established. It's as if each member of the Trinity wanted to reassure Joshua that "you will be strong, you will be courageous, and you will succeed; because I will personally and collectively see to it." In fact, one rendering of the Hebrew name, "Jehovah-jireh" is, "God sees, and will see to it!"

What an amazing thought! Despite our fears and failures, defects and defeats, setups and setbacks, mistakes and missteps—it's that unwavering assurance that God will accomplish His purpose for us and bring us back to center if we falter or err. He'll do whatever is necessary to see that His will is done, if only we'd stop obsessing about our past shortcomings and focus instead on our precious possibilities.

God loves and cares about you. You matter to Him. He's called you to fulfill a special purpose despite how unworthy or ill-equipped you may feel. He wants to lead you as you walk in His divine will, and promises never to leave you, nor forsake you. He's committed to seeing that His will gets done; even if you don't know how, He'll do it. When you can't trace His hand, you'll trust His heart.

So, what is God calling you to do? Will you allow Him to lead your life in whatever way He chooses? Are you strong and courageous enough to believe that He can get it done? Just in case your faith gets a little weak and you can't see the end from the beginning, let me remind you that God sees, and He'll see to it. In other words, as the young people often say, just chill—God's got you!

By Eddie Polite, Ministerial Director



## GEMS of Berean Celebrating Senior Citizens' Day

**BATON ROUGE, LA. –** With the lyrics to "Falling in Love with Jesus" permeating the air, our speaker began his message. It was God's Eminent Missionaries for Service's (GEMS) Senior Citizens' Day at the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church and Udall Myles had blessed us with his signature rendition of the song that also served as the theme. The speaker was Judge John Michael Guidry of Louisiana's Court of Appeal, First Circuit, in Baton Rouge.

Guidry honored the seniors, especially 97-year-old member Eugenia Morgan, "who have labored in doctrine; seasoned seniors who still have their salt; still good for ministry; still edifying the body of Christ. Be thankful that God has kept them and keeps on keeping them." He applauded the seniors' ministry name choice. "Gems are cut stones waiting to be polished. God 'cuts' us to humble us so we can bear more fruit. He did not come to make us comfortable, but to make us conformable, even to His suffering."

Guidry's message presented a parallel between Caleb's attitude toward God during and after his wilderness experience and that of seniors as they age. "Caleb rejoiced at how God had kept him during his 45 years in the wilderness. He came back with a good report; a positive attitude." He continued, "It's not always our aptitude, but our attitude which determines altitude. Others saw defeat, but Caleb saw victory; where some saw fear, he saw strength. He was still as physically strong at age 85 as the day Moses sent him to explore the land. Every now and then seniors should stand up and say 'Behold the goodness of God.' For 45 years Caleb had been waiting on God's promise. Because he was still talking with God, he could ask for the mountain God had promised earlier. All you have to do is wait on Him. When standing on the promises of God, there is no good thing He'll withhold from you."

Guidry encouraged seniors to "Keep on working being soldiers in the army of our Lord. When weak, He will renew your strength." GEMS is grateful for Judge Guidry, who not only has a knowledge of man's civil law but demonstrated a knowledge of God's moral and civil law as well.

By Evelyn M. Edwards





## Big God, Little Town It Is All About What He Can Do!

**OKMULGEE**, **OKLA. –** People in Okmulgee will tell you there's not much to see and even less to do. Some of the residents still go from point A to point B on horseback! It was in this cool, calm and collected little town that our big, almighty God caused a rumble in the fields and a stir of excitement and intrigue amongst the town. The evidence of the Holy Spirit moving upon the hearts and minds of the people was evident. It was the manifestation of God answering prayers!

The Maranatha Seventh-day Adventist Church had set their alarms and prayed daily at the same time for salvation of souls and the growth of their church. The church just built a beautiful brand new building and the members desired to see it filled with precious souls. On one hand they realized how easy it can be to become complacent; on the other hand, they saw that growing a church would be hard work. Yet, by faith, the Maranatha church took hold of the mission of God. After months of prayer, fasting and planning it was time for action.

The church organized its first evangelistic meeting of this magnitude in several years. The meeting was a battle hard fought. Through sicknesses, winter storms, car accidents and frustrations among the team, the King of Glory prevailed victoriously! "Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle," Psalm 24:8. The Lord blessed with the largest baptism this church has had on record: 31 baptisms in total! Let this be an encouragement to all our small town churches, a testimony to what a big God will do in a little town!

By Timothy Lee



## Ephesus Church Makes History The Installation of the Church's 27th Pastor

**NEW ORLEANS –** On Jan. 5, 2019, Harold Goodloe was installed as the 27th pastor of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, the fourth oldest church in the denomination. It celebrated its 125th anniversary on June 2, 2017. Goodloe comes to Ephesus from the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mobile, Ala. He has been in pastoral ministry since 1990, serving churches from the West Coast to the South. He and his wife, Deborah, have been married for 35 years. They have five children and eight grandchildren. Goodloe plans to build on the foundation at Ephesus and expand and grow the church by enlisting, educating, empowering, engaging, encouraging and evaluating the members in ministry. "Friendship evangelism" will fuel the growth of ministries in the church and community and he seeks to increase discipleship. Goodloe wants to see people enjoy their Christian experience, thus producing a positive expression of Christianity to encourage others to know Christ.

By Davis Haywood

## My Professor is God Himself How I Became a Seventh-day Adventist

HOUSTON - I was born in a very religious home in the Dominican Republic and from an early age I dreamed of becoming a priest. At 15 years of age, I served in the Catholic church as an acolyte. One afternoon, something amazing happened. I was in my room with the Bible in my hands as I said a prayer. On my knees I said to God, "I am going to open the Bible and wherever I put my finger, whatever you tell me I will do." When I opened my eyes, my finger was on Exodus 20:8, "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy." I became frightened, because I had grown up believing that Sunday was the true day of worship. So I went to the priest for an explanation.

He told me that the Old Testament was abolished and asked me, "Who is giving you Bible studies?" I did not know what to answer, but I couldn't lie. God had a plan for me and helped me to remember a verse that I had learned. The verse is Isaiah 40:8, "The grass withers and the flowers fall, but the word of our God endures forever." Then, with the Bible in my hand, I asked the priest, "What do I have in my hand?" to which he answered, "The Word of God." Then I responded, "My professor is God Himself."

I did not return to the Catholic church again after that day and began to look for a church that kept the Sabbath, but did not find one in my town. I did not give up. One Friday, as I visited my uncle in Santo Domingo, I walked by a Seventh-day Adventist church. I heard an announcement that there would be a youth camp and I resolved to attend.

During the camp, I learned about a baptism that would take place. I approached the pastor and told him that I wanted to be baptized. My aunt, who was a devout Catholic, came to visit me the day before the baptism and told me that I was not ready to be baptized. I spoke with the pastor in the presence of my aunt, telling him that I could not be baptized. But at that moment, something amazing happened, a young man touched me on the shoulder and told me, "If Christ is calling you, are you going to tell Him that you are not ready?" So I told the pastor, "I am getting baptized tomorrow!"

After being baptized in the sea waters, I set out to look for the young man who had touched me on the back in order to thank him, but I couldn't find him. I am convinced that the young person was an angel from God. That is how I became a Seventh-day Adventist and today I delight in serving the Lord as a pastor. \_\_\_\_\_\_ By Ariel Acosta

Ariel Acosta pastors the Houston Central Regional Spanish and La Mansion Spanish Seventh-day Adventist churches. He lives in Houston with his wife, Ana.





#### "Pues yo estoy contigo, te guardaré dondequiera que v<mark>ayas,</mark> y volveré a traerte a esta tierra, porque no te dejaré hasta que haya hecho lo que te he dicho" Gen. 28:15





Abraham Acosta Ir. Pastor de Jóvenes South Atlantic Conference



Juan Caicedo Presidente de la Unión Colombiana del Sur

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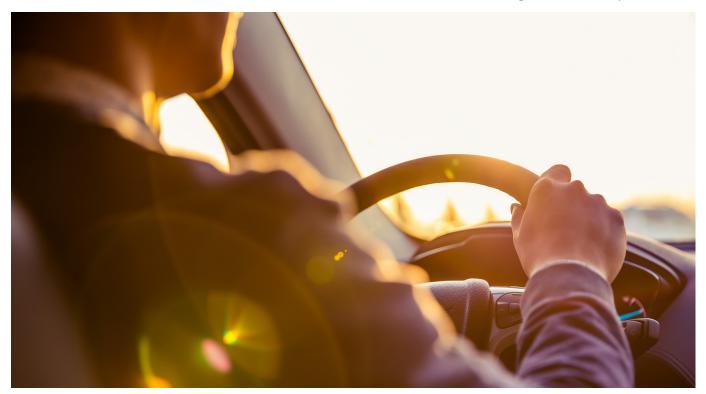
#### Marzo

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- 15-16 22-23 Little Rock Shiloh Adventist Church
- 29-30 El Paso East Spanish Adventist Church

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# Hour of Trial

There is No Fear When the Lord is the Strength of My Life



I twas mid-August of 1987. I had just relocated from Keene, Tex., to the Los Angeles, Calif., area. I desperately needed employment. As I perused the help wanted section of the local paper, suddenly my eyes fell upon the words "Bilingual Public Relations person wanted for Duarte Nissan; no experience necessary, will train." It was a Friday morning. Upon arriving, I encountered the manager and inquired about the position. He tested my English and Spanish, asked a few other questions, then said, "You are a perfect fit for the job." After completing some paperwork, he declared the words I so desired to hear: "T'm ready to offer you the position." I couldn't believe it. "Fantastic," I replied. "When do I start?" "Tomorrow," was his speedy reply. My heart sank. Tomorrow was Sabbath. I agreed, shook hands, and walked out of his office, shuffling to my car. My heart was heavy. I so needed the work, but how could I betray the Lord of my childhood? The next morning, dressed in shirt and tie, I hopped in the car fully intending to begin work at the dealership. As I drove, the Holy Spirit began to wrestle with my errant spirit. My argument was that I would only work there for a short time until something more suitable came

my way. As I drove into the dealership, the Spirit of God made His last plea. I was unable to park. I simply made a U-turn and left. I drove to the nearest Seventh-day Adventist church. I sat there thinking, "Lord, I'm trusting You to come through and bless me." As I walked out of that church, one of the associate superintendents of education for the Southern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists approached me. After introducing himself, he said, "You know my brother. You played guitar with him in college." I told him about my situation, and he said, "I believe the Lord brought us together. I need a 7th/8th grade teacher at the Long Beach Adventist School. Would you be interested, and could you start on Monday?" I speedily and gratefully accepted. The next two years, teaching those precious kids, were the most developmental years of my 30 years in ministry. God not only gave me strength to pass the trial, but He rewarded me by allowing me to serve Him and invest in the lives of those kids. Praise God for His abiding and enabling power to overcome.

By Carlos J. Craig, President

## Goodbye Mrs. Bradley Carol Bradley Served the Adventist Church for 38 Years

ALVARADO, TEX. - Carol Bradlev retired from the Texas Conference Education Department in December 2017. She had been an Associate Superintendent for the Texas Conference since 1998. During that time, she traveled the state assisting teachers and attending many school board meetings. She also served on many curriculum committees for Texas and Southwestern Union Conferences that included math, science, social studies and reading. She chaired the Early Childhood Education and Care guidelines/curriculum for infant to fouryear-olds. She also wrote and taught the curriculum for the outdoor school cruise control class and co-directed the seventh and eighth-grade music festival for the past 11 years.

"She loved the teachers and understood their challenges, having been a teacher herself," John Hopps, Texas Conference education superintendent, shared.

"She saw the potential in students," Lynette Ecord, Texas Conference associate director for Planned Giving and Trust Services, added. Carol was a teacher at Burleson Seventh-day Adventist School in Burleson, Tex., when Ecord's boys attended the school. It was during that time (1994-1995) that Carol received the Zapara Excellence in Teaching Award. The following school year, she became Burleson's principal. Carol started her career in Texas at the Joshua Adventist Multi-grade school in Joshua, Tex., as principal and teacher.

Adventist education was her passion. With grace and love, she mentored teachers as they educated students for eternity.

Sadly, Carol did not get to enjoy her retirement long. On Dec. 6, 2018, she died following a valiant battle with cancer. She was surrounded by her family, including her husband of 54 years, Ron; and their children, Carolyn Bradley Rooker, Steve Bradley, Sheri Ova and Lei Lani Bradley.

After her marriage to her high school sweetheart, Ron, on June 22, 1964, in Castle Rock, Colo., her kind, compassionate heart and love for learning led her to choose a career in teaching. She graduated with her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Southwestern Union College (now Southwestern Adventist University) in 1974, and again in 1993 with a master's degree in elementary education and administration.

The life sketch from her celebration of life service provided much of the information included here and shared her passion for her four children and grandchildren. She loved to work on memory books highlighting their history with stories, poems and pictures. The family will, no doubt, treasure those books.

Some may not realize that Carol

began singing with her husband, Ron, from the first day they met. They continued to provide special music throughout her life. Thankfully, they recorded many of those songs and shared them during the celebration service.

Danielle Bunkley worked in the Education Department alongside Carol for 10 years and often creates poems from words expressed by others. Here is one she wrote about Carol Bradley.

Adventist Teacher, Principal, too Mentor, Counselor, Superintendent, to name a few Caring, loving, quick witted, as well Writer, author, with books on the shelf Mom, Memaw, Sister and friend Photographer, organized, Ron's true best friend Gospel believer, prayer warrior strong

Cospet bettever, prayer warrior strong Carol, your life was a beautiful song When Jesus comes soon, I can't wait to hear The new song you'll sing up in heaven, no tears

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations be made in Carol's honor to the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Carol Leslie Bradley Teacher Education School Fund, PO Box 800, Alvarado, Tex., 76009.

> — By Tamara Michalenko Terry Associate Communication Director Photo by Aaron Thomas



# Let the Little Ones Come Family Participates in Baby Dedication for Eden O'Garro

JEFFERSON, TEX. – The Jefferson Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jefferson, Tex., had a baby dedication on the last Sabbath of 2018. Guest speaker Elroy O'Garro dedicated his new granddaughter, Eden Grace O'Garro. Parents Mindy and Celton O'Garro also have two boys, Malaki and Gabriel. During the service, 10-year-old Malaki O'Garro read the scripture. Grandparents Bonnie and Bruce Wagner offered the prayer and grandmother Janevette O'Garro provided special music.



By Sylvia Downs

# Summer Camp What a Difference a Week Can Make For a Young Person

**CLIFTON, TEX. –** Every year, Texas Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries hosts a summer camp. This year's theme for summer camp at Lake Whitney Ranch in Clifton, Tex., is Reckless: God's Love Changes Everything.

Paulo Tenorio, Texas Conference youth and young adult director, will oversee the camp program. In addition to having fun, he wants each camper to go back home with their best friend, Jesus. "Learning to talk to and hear God's word is crucial in a Christian's life," Tenorio shared. Some activities available this summer include archery, canoeing, crafts, fishing, go karts, horseback riding, tubing, skiing, mountain biking, geocaching, model rocketry, cake decorating and more.

This year's dates are:

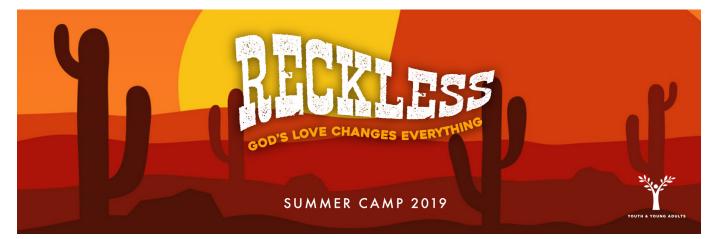
- June 9-16 | Cub | ages 7 to 9
- June 16-23 | Junior | ages 10-12 June 23-July 30 | Tween | ages 12-14

June 30-July 7 | Teen | ages 14-17 For the second year, there is a summer camp for young adults ages 18-35 from July 9-13. The TxYouth.org website offers a typical schedule for camp as well as detailed information about the activities.

In addition to the camps at Lake Whitney Ranch, there is a day camp at the Valley Grande Adventist Academy Campus for ages 7-17 from July 22-26.

"Summer camp is life-changing," Tenorio added. "We have a lot of fun with the young people, but we also share God's word in creative ways."

Space is limited, so register soon for camp at TxYouth.org.



# Defying the Odds Lori Matthews' Battle With Cancer Ends

**BURLESON, TEX. –** We photographed Lori Matthews for the Texas Conference FLAME magazine's Fall 2017 issue. She was a walking miracle. Her infectious smile and positive attitude were contagious. Hearing her miracle stories made her even more special. Only in Heaven will she see the results of her positive attitude as she witnessed to many in chemotherapy sessions and doctor's appointment. Sadly, Lori lost her battle with cancer on Dec. 28, 2018. Read her story at Issuu.com/TexasAdventist. *Photos by Aaron Thomas* 





# Miracles in Action Denton First Church Moves to New Location

**PILOT POINT, TEX. –** The Denton First Seventh-day Adventist Church held its first worship service at its new location in in Pilot Point, Tex. on Sabbath, Oct. 6, 2018.

Having spent the past 75 years in Denton, building committee members started looking for a new location almost four years ago when they were starting to outgrow the original Denton facility.

Committee members toured the Pilot Point facility years ago, but the asking price was well above their budget. Needing a larger facility, the congregation moved to a leased location while they continued to look for a facility.

Miraculously, the Pilot Point property was still for sale four years later and reduced to within budget. After much prayer, the Denton First church was able to purchase the property.

"Denton First church members feel blessed," stated Derek Lazarus, Denton First church pastor. "It once again reminds us of God's perfect timing for His people and His work."

The official opening and dedication service were commemorated on Sab-

bath, Oct. 27, 2018, with Carlos Craig, Texas Conference president, delivering the message.

To celebrate the vast cultural diversity, Denton First church members held an international flag procession at the beginning of the service and an international potluck afterward.

Since relocating, three new families from the community have begun attending and are becoming part of the Denton First church family.

- By Patti Gobeli





# Reaching the World Next Door Ministering to Refugees Within Texas

**HOUSTON –** Thousands of refugees have moved to Houston, Tex., from countries like Afghanistan, Bhutan and Somalia. Because of religious persecution in their countries, this is the first time these individuals have had an opportunity to know Jesus.

In response to this need, a new training center called Reach the World Next Door (RWND) was set up in Houston to prepare young adults for cross-cultural missions. In a unique partnership, the center is operated by a supporting ministry called ASAP Ministries in partnership with the Texas Conference.

Tara Vang, Generation Youth for Christ (GYC) evangelism coordinator, saw an amazing opportunity when the GYC 2018 conference was scheduled for Houston. She contacted RWND and asked them to partner with GYC. Together, they created new outreach maps that would take more than 2,000 GYC volunteers into the community in a way that would directly bless the refugees.

On Dec. 27, 2018, several thousand totes were distributed in neighborhoods asking people to donate cleaning supplies and other items for the refugees. The following Sunday, volunteers carried in so many donations it created a huge pile.

As GYC came to a close on New Year's Eve, hundreds of young people made a commitment to serve God in missions. They did not have to go far. For the first time ever, GYC had a post-conference event. More than 50 individuals stayed to participate.

The attendees slept on the floor of the Houston Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Each morning and evening the RWND team provided cross-cultural missions training. Vang and her leadership team led the group going doorto-door. Many were visited and each expressed their appreciation. One lady said, "I am so happy to see you. I didn't think you would come back!"

On the final day of the post-GYC conference, the group presented special programs among Afghani, Cambodians, Chinese and Pakistanis.

Church members in Houston will partner with RWND to follow up on interests from the communities.

If you would like to learn how to reach refugees, immigrants and international students where you are or you are interested in joining the RWND program, contact Scott Griswold, RWND director, at (707) 380-9554 or learn more at ReachTheWorldNextDoor.com.

#### **Constituency Notices**

#### Texas Conference of Seventhday Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventhday Adventists will convene at the Brazos County Expo, located at 5827 Leonard Road, Bryan, TX 77807, on Sunday, May 19, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the constitution and to transact such business as may properly come before the Conference. Each church is entitled to two (2) regular delegates without regard to membership plus one regular delegate for each 60 members.

Carlos Craig, President Richard White, Secretary Randall Terry, Treasurer

#### Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Brazos County Expo, located at 5827 Leonard Road, Bryan, TX 77807, on Sunday, May 19, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the constitution and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Association. Delegates to the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Texas Conference Association Session.

Carlos Craig, President Roger Mekelburg, Sec/Treasurer

#### Valley Educational Foundation

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference Valley Educational Foundation will convene at the Brazos County Expo, located at 5827 Leonard Road, Bryan, TX 77807, on Sunday, May 19, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Foundation. Delegates to the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Valley Educational Foundation.

Carlos Craig, President Efrain Murillo, Secretary/Treasurer



# Standing Firm Courage in the Midst of Adversity



Ourage is an attribute that God demands of us as we travel the road of life. So, what is courage? The *Merriam-Webster Dictionary* defines courage as "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." In reality, courage is the fuel that gives us the energy to withstand adversity.

No one displayed more courage than Joshua and Caleb. As the children of Israel were on the border of Canaan ready to conquer the promised land, they sent 12 spies to scout the land despite the fact that God had already promised that He would give them the land. God's people had every reason to move forward in conquering the land with confidence and assurance. After all, Moses' parting words were, "Be of good courage, and bring some of the fruit of the land," Numbers 13:20 (NKJV).

However, after 40 days of surveying the land, the spies came back with a report. They displayed the grapes and showed the fruit of the land. The children of Israel were impressed and excited. That changed when 10 of the 12 spies gave a negative report (Numbers 13:28-31). I imagine the report probably sounded something like, "Things are great, BUT...", "God said, BUT...", and "BUT what about the giants?" The Bible says that the report became so contentious that the people wanted to stone Joshua, Caleb and Moses.

Nonetheless, Joshua and Caleb had the courage to stand up against the mob. They had faith and stood up for the Lord. They had confidence that God would act on their behalf and give them victory. More importantly, God gave them the strength to stand against those opposing them and they were determined to conquer the Prom-

ised Land. Courage helped them see an opportunity where everyone else saw defeat. There is no doubt that it takes courage to follow God's will in the midst of adversity. Even so, courage must come from God's power and not from our own wisdom and abilities. We must remember that God has appointed us for greatness. He has given us strength and courage and we have nothing to fear. We can boldly say as Paul did, "I can do all things through Christ," Philippians 4:13. Moreover, if we know that Christ is on our side, we can acknowledge that He is the foundation of courage and strength. We can then make courage an indispensable quality for our Christian life.

Like Caleb and Joshua, we cannot succeed without godly courage. Today, God is telling us the same thing he told Joshua repeatedly. He says to be strong and of good courage, to not be afraid or dismayed and that He is with us wherever we go. All we have to do is trust the Lord and He will act on our behalf.

By Lee-Roy Chacon, President



# Better Vision, Better Hope Clayton Successfully Reaches Its Community

**CLAYTON, N.M. –** On Monday, Nov. 19, 2018, the Clayton Seventh-day Adventist Church held an all-day free eye clinic at a local community center in Texline, Tex. Open to all Texline residents and surrounding towns, the Clayton church partnered with the "Better Vision, Better Hope" organization and its coordinator, Dr. Andrea Schellenberg, to coordinate the event.

Coordinators and volunteers met early to hear a devotional by Dr. Schellenberg. She emphasized how Jesus first met people's physical needs before meeting their spiritual needs and encouraged the volunteers to focus on seeing people the way Jesus does by demonstrating His love. The clinic doors opened at 9:00 a.m. Patients checked in and went through eight stations that included a visual acuity station, an auto-refraction/ tonometry station and they received eye exams by Dr. Tasha Schellenberg and Dr. Gayle Daniels. Patients visited with Becca Suggs, a refracting/exam tech and after being examined, picked out a free new pair of glasses. We saw 143 patients that day.

Patients also had the opportunity to visit the pastor's table and received free literature and prayer. Patients were eager for prayer and 51 signed up for follow-up services such as health and family seminars, diabetes education, addiction services, financial management information and much more. Thirteen patients requested Bible studies.

Patients expressed their gratitude and said they were blessed by the experience. Some were shocked and overjoyed that they were receiving free eye glasses. They mentioned that small communities such as theirs are far from clinics and they have to drive at least an hour to visit the nearest optometrist. Many patients had not seen an optometrist in years.

This event was an amazing outreach opportunity and was a huge blessing to our church members and volunteers. Not only did it meet an essential need in the community, but it was a reminder that Jesus gives us opportunities to reach out to those around us with love. Fixing our eyes on Him will help us see others as He sees them and, in turn, make us more like Him. The Clayton church plans to stay in touch with their patients and cannot wait to start planning another community service project in 2019!

By Isaí Ramírez









# Hearing God's Call Amarillo Church Celebrates Ordination

**AMARILLO, TEX. –** On Dec. 15, 2018, the Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church was happy to witness the ordination of its pastor, Bobby Harris. During the special Sabbath morning worship service, Texico Conference leaders Phil Robertson and Lee-Roy Chacon performed the ordination ceremony and many of the members were surprised to learn that Harris had a unique story of how he became a pastor. During his message, Chacon recounted Harris' journey.

According to Chacon, in 2006, Harris heard God's voice while he was dolphin watching in Virginia Beach, Va. Ironically, he was visiting Virginia Beach on a quest to find a cure for his Parkinson's diagnosis from a well-known psychic who was famous for his holistic medicine approach. But more than healing, Harris was searching to find a purpose for his life. God took that opportunity and spoke to him and told him, "I want you to be a pastor."

Baffled and resistant Harris responded, "But God I don't even own a Bible!" Meditating on the experience he purchased a Bible and started reading and studying scripture. To his wonder, the first Bible text he ever read was Isaiah 43:10, "You are my witnesses," declares the Lord, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am He. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me."

It was then that Harris knew that he had found what he was looking for. God called him to something bigger and better than he could have ever imagined. Following that experience, God led Harris to Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Tex., where he studied and graduated with a bachelor's degree in Theology. Since then, he married his wife Maria, has served as a pastor in Alaska and is now serving in the Texico Conference.

"The story of how God found Harris is simply incredible," said Phil Robertson, Texico Conference executive secretary/treasurer. "Not only did God call him into a relationship, He also called him into a lifetime of ministry service."

By Anna Swingle



# La Voz de La Esperanza Evangelistic Meetings End with Special Celebration

**ALBUQUERQUE –** The North Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church had many reasons to celebrate as they closed out 2018. On the evening of Dec. 8, a young couple got married and four young individuals entered the baptismal waters. The wedding and baptisms were the fruit of a week-long evangelism series that featured Omar Grieve, pastor and director of "La Voz de la Esperanza" (The Voice of Hope), as the main speaker.

Obed Bojorquez, Carlos Alvarez, Lesley Nava and Jared Hernandez attended the evangelistic meetings throughout the week and were among those who got baptized on the last night of the meetings. Emanuel Morales and Sylvia Meraz also made their decision to give their lives to Christ.

Now newlyweds, Myra and Eddie

Lira had planned to get married at the North Valley church in 2019, but after hearing Grieve's powerful messages, they didn't want to pass on the special opportunity and asked him to marry them. The wedding was planned in two days and took place following the baptisms on the final night.

"It was a day full of joy and spiritual feasting," said Aron Monge, head elder of the church. "Watching young people commit their lives to Christ and commit to each other before the eyes of God is always a blessing."

Throughout 2018, members of the North Valley church reached out to their community to prepare for the meetings. They produced radio ads and participated in Bible studies with lessons provided by "La Voz de la Esperanza." "I was impressed by the work that was done ahead of these meetings," said Omar Grieve. "They prepared the field well; they were like bees from a hive. Everyone worked hard and worked together."

North Valley members are overjoyed to have these young people as new members and they intend to support and nurture these young individuals, so they can continue to grow in Christ. Now moving forward, North Valley members are preparing for more baptisms and members are conducting follow-up Bible studies.

"Prayers have good answers," said Grieve. "Praise God that during these meetings the answers were souls for Christ!"

> — By Debbie Marquez Communication Director









# Caroling for Christ Albuquerque Central Reaches Out in Song

**ALBUQUERQUE –** Last Christmas, several members of the Albuquerque Central Seventh-day Adventist Church brought some joy to Northwest Albuquerque. The group of 15 people met at the church and sang Christmas carols at homes nearby. They also gave out care packages filled with goodies, cards and a special invitation to the church. They prayed for the individuals and families in the homes and shared lots of hugs, smiles and tears of joy with their neighbors. The church plans to do it again next year and demonstrate that community outreach is really about getting to know our neighbors and bringing them encouragement and hope.

By Janet Van Why



# SAVE THE DATE **PRAYING** *Jon the Harvest*

Texico Conference Camp Meeting JUNE 6 – 8, 2019 Bonita Park • Capitan, NM

REGISTRATION AND PROGRAM DETAILS COMING SOON

Seventh-day Adventist Church

# Back Pages

# **Classified Ads**

#### EMPLOYMENT

## Union College, Lincoln, Neb. seeks applicants for Director of Records/

**Registrar.** The director will ensure the integrity, accuracy and security of academic and educational records of students and ensure compliance with regulatory agencies. Contact Dr. Frankie Rose at Frankie.Rose@UCollege.edu or call 402.486.2501 for more information.

#### Union College seeks Seventh-day Adventist, full-time nursing faculty

member. Teaching and/ or clinical experience in medical-surgical nursing and pathophysiology preferred. Additional information can be found at UCollege.edu/faculty-openings. Send CV and references to Dr. Nicole Orian, Nicole.Orian@UCollege.edu

# Union College seeks applicants for the position of Swimming Pool, Custodial, and Facility Maintenance Manager.

This is a full-time, exempt position. This individual is responsible for all the functions of the pool during business and closed hours each day of the week. Please see the full job description at UCollege.edu/staff-openings and submit requested materials to Ric Spaulding at Ric Spaulding@UCollege.edu

#### 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 Karnik Doukmetzian at KamikD@GC.Adventist.org

#### Andrews University seeks

Administrative Assistant MDiv. The Administrative Assistant manages the functions of the Master of Divinity office. Provides both academic and policy advice to students enrolled in the program. Writes, develops, and maintains effective web, electronic, written and verbal communication with students, prospective students, faculty and university departments. Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/ staff hourly#job 7

#### Andrews University seeks Occupational Therapy Program Director. **The**

Founding Program Director of the new doctoral program in occupational therapy (OTD)will lead efforts in developing and supervising the program including leading the accreditation process. Primary responsibilities include developing an innovative program, including crafting the program's mission, vision, goals and strategic planning; administration; budget; faculty and staff recruitment; and assessment. The director will provide professional leadership and support for

teaching faculty, serve as a mentor and facilitator for faculty and enable an environment that fosters creativity. Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/ faculty#job\_9

#### Andrews University seeks Library

**Dean.** The Dean of Libraries reports to the provost and shall consult with the provost regularly. The dean is responsible for the James White Library, the Architecture Resource Center, the Music Materials Center, and the Center for Adventist Research as well as all personnel and activities within those facilities. With the assistance of the directors, the professional librarians and the staff, the dean shall perform the essential functions. Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/ staff\_salary#job\_3

#### Southern Adventist University $_{\rm seeks}$

full-time teaching faculty for the School of Music. This position will provide curricular oversight to and teach lower- and upperdivision courses in area of primary expertise – either music history or music theory. Master's degree in Musicology, Music History, or Music Theory required; doctorate preferred. Full job description: Southem.edu/jobs



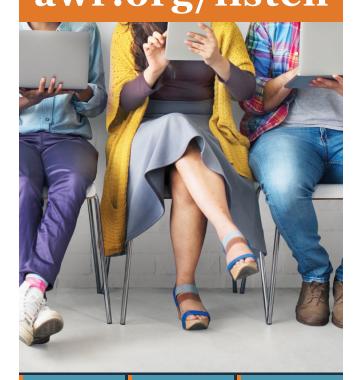
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### **Back Pages**



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#### Southern Adventist University seeks

Dean for the School of Education and Psychology (SEP) and responsible for planning, organization, staffing, direction and evaluation of the academic disciplines of the SEP. The SEP Dean is also responsible for continuous development of the SEP's strategic plan. An earned doctorate in the field of education or psychology is required. Full job description: Southern.edu/jobs

#### Southern Adventist University School

of Nursing seeks a full-time faculty to join a missionfocused team. Teaching responsibilities are primarily at the undergraduate level. An earned doctorate is preferred. Requisite qualities include successful teaching experience, interest in research, flexibility and commitment to Adventist nursing education. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to search committee chair, Christy Showalter at CShowalter@southern.edu. SAU School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. Full job description: Southern.edu/jobs

#### Southern Adventist University

seeks a full-time faculty member for the Chemistry Department with expertise in organic chemistry effective June 1, 2019. Teaching responsibilities may be expected to include organic chemistry lectures and labs and chemistry. A master's or doctoral degree (Ph.D. is strongly preferred) in organic chemistry (or closely related field) is required, with demonstrated knowledge of and experience in applying best practices for

teaching chemistry at the undergraduate level, and a commitment to teaching from a Biblical foundation. Full job description: Southern.edu/jobs

**Laurelbrook Academy.** Looking for a new ministry? Available positions: electrician, grounds, auto mechanics, auto body teacher, cooks, teachers, CNAs, CNA instructor, nurses and more. Visit Laurelbrook.org/positions/ or call 423.244.5430.

#### **REAL ESTATE/HOUSING**

Fabulous business opportunities in a rural Adventist community. Well established convenience store/gas station/bakery selling vegetarian meats, Adventist books and herbal supplements. Property includes a home and two rentals. Space for auto repair shop. and a turn-key flea market! If you love antiques/ vintage, finding bargains and meeting people this could be the perfect business for you! Great location! This is a growing community with a small town feel near big city comforts within a few miles of Ozark Adventist Academy in Gentry, AR. Contact Von Elder with Tall Star Realty, Inc. at 479.736.4686; TallStarLand.com

#### MISCELLANEOUS

The Wildwood Lifestyle Center  $\operatorname{can}$ 

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

#### **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.

#### Move with an award-winning agency.

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#### **Southern Adventist University**

offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit Southern.edu/graduatestudies

#### Enjoy Worry-Free Retirement at

Fletcher Park Inn on the Fletcher Academy campus near Hendersonville, NC. Spacious apartments available now. Ask about our limited rental units and villa homes. Enjoy a complimentary lunch at our vegetarian buffet when you tour. Call Lisa at 1.800.249.2882 or 828.209.6935 or visit FletcherParkInn.com

#### Andrews University Department of

**Sustainable Agriculture** offers you a \$5,000 Scholarship! Feed the world with a degree in Agribusiness. Change the world with a degree in International Agriculture Development. Beautify the world with a degree in Landscape Design. For more information: Andrews.edu/agriculture,

#### Agriculture@andrews.edu,

269.471.6006.

#### EGYPT BIBLE TOUR: DECEMBER 12-22,

**2019** with Dr. Carl Cosaert of Walla Walla University. Discover the land of the Pyramids, the Pharaohs, Moses, the Exodus, including a Nile cruise and more. Wonderful weather, meals and accommodations for only \$2,425 plus airfare. For more information, contact Sharon Searson at SharonS@uccsda.org

#### SAVE THE DATE Uchee Pines Institute's

50th Anniversary, June 23-29, 2019. Speakers include Mark Finley and John Bradshaw. UcheePines.org or 877-UCHEEPINES.

#### **Enterprise/Great Plains Academy**

Alumni Weekend, Apr. 12-13 at Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, Kan. Honor Classes- graduating years ending in 4 or 9. For more information email Ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or check school website: Ea.Gpa-Alumni.com

## The Clergy Move Center ${}^{\rm T\!M}$ at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines ${\rm is}~{\rm The}$

Way To Move<sup>™</sup> 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

#### Laurelbrook Academy - Learning

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Spring Massage Special. Angels Crossing Massage, Burleson, Tex. Tammy Randazzo, RN, LMT. 60-minute Swedish relaxation massage, \$50.00. 60-minute Therapeutic massage with CBD oil. Massage focuses on relieving specific muscle pain and discomfort, \$55.00. AngelsCrossingMassages.com

## Announcements

#### "Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion

will take place June 7-8, 2019 for alumni and classmates at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1939, 1949, 1959, 1969. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni office at (989) 427-5181 or visit Glaa.net

#### 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 12-14, 2019 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405-454-6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit OklahomaAcademy.org

#### **Tulsa Adventist Academy Alumni**

Weekend will be held at the Tulsa Adventist Academy Gymnasium, 900 S. New Haven, Tulsa, OK, from April 26-27, 2019. There will be an acrobatics show presented by TAA Soaring Eagles and the Southwestern Adventist University Acrobatic Team, SWAT, on Saturday night. Information at TulsaAcademy.org

## Obituaries

Allen, Willie F., born May 3, 1935, Greenville, S.C.; died Nov. 3, 2018, Edmond, Okla. Church membership: Voice of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by his wife, Dorice Allen; daughters, Joyce Allison, M.D. (Milo), Topeka, Kan.; Robin L. Allen, Spring, Tex.; Pamela S. Allen, M.D., Edmond, Okla.; sister-inlaw, Kathleen Wiley, Spring, Tex. Survivors: daughter, Dr. Joyce Allison.

#### Broussard, Ronnie Edmond, born May 2, 1952, Baton Rouge, La.; died Dec. 9, 2018. Church membership: Gonzales Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was preceded in death by his father, A. Levern Broussard, Sr. Survivors: mother, Katie M. Broussard, Prairieville, La.; wife, Denise Broussard; son, Eric Broussard (Coty), Prairieville, La.; daughter, Nicole Broussard, Denham Springs, La.; three brothers, Arthur Broussard, Jr. (Debbie); Roger Brous-

# <sub>In English</sub> y en Español

#### FEATURED SPEAKERS





MINNER LABRADOR, D.MIN President Upper Columbia

Southwestern Adventis University Professor of Religion





S, JOHN NIXON, S D.MIN South Central Confe Executive Secret





ALFONSO VALENZUELA, D.MIN, PHD Campus Hill Church Pastor JAVIER DONATE International Evangelist



CLAUDIO CONSUEGRA, D.MIN NAD Family Ministries Director



SPECIAL GUEST:

KEN BEVEL Actor from the film Courageous, Former US Marine

#### REGISTER

Register at SouthwesternAdventist.org/men

- Regular Registration (Through April 20, 2019): \$149/person (Dorm-group lodging) \$169/person (Semi-private-2 people per room)
- Late Registration (*Through May 15, 2019*): \$169/person (Dorm—group lodging) \$189/person (Semi-private—2 people per room)

#### INCLUDES

- All 5 meals, lodging, t-shirt, and materials
- Seminars, The Sanctuary Experience, dramatic presentation, baptisms
- 3x3 basketball tournament, softball tournament, and dominos tournament; 5K Race. *Medals for the winners!*
- Indoor pool, fitness center, racquetball, soccer, gym and more

# MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2019

#### MEN'S CONVENTION

TAKING PLACE LAKEVIEW CAMP & RETREAT CENTER, WAXAHACHIE, TX For more information PRITHY DAVID AT 817-295-0476 or email PDAVID@SWUC.ORG visit SouthWesternAdventist.org/Men sard, Sr. (Cheryl); Wayne (Robin) Broussard; one sister, Tina (Jimmy Hudgins); five grandchildren.

**Gonyea, Sharon Rose (Shari),** born Dec. 17, 1953, Bennington, Vt.; died Dec. 9, 2018, Harrah, Okla. She was preceded in death by her parents, Joseph and Delores Twing, and sister, Carol

Fish. Survivors: husband, David; son Robert (Caley), Ooltewah, Tenn.; one nephew, and two grandchildren.

Haffner, Betty Jean Heim, born, Sept. 20, 1931, Guthrie, Okla.; died Jan. 10, 2019, Oklahoma City, Okla. Church membership: Oklahoma City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Wesley. Survivors: one sister, Ramona Greenhaw, Berrien Center, Mich.; son, John (Sandra), Cashion, Okla.; two daughters, Kathy Haase (Greg), Yukon, Okla., and Debbie Caywood (Ron), Piedmont, Okla.; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Jeffries, Geneva, born Oct. 25, 1921, Jay, Okla.; died Dec. 26, 2018, Jay, Okla. Church membership: Jay Seventh-day Adventist Church.

King, Esther Pauline, born Feb. 21, 1929, Durham, Okla.; died Dec. 22, 2018, Harrah,

Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Frederick and Ella Gantz; two brothers, four sisters and her husband, Jim King. Survivors: one sister, Genevieve, Cleburne, Tex.; son, Paul (Lindy), Red Oaks, Tex.; daughter, Pattie Manning, Harrah, Okla.; four grandchildren, and eight great-grandchildren.

Ludgate, Donald, died Jan. 20, 2019, Harrah, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Rodriguez, Michelle Adame, born Jan. 17, 1989, Montemorelos, Mexico; died Jan. 2, 2019, Chiapas, Mexico. Church membership: Jefferson Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, Nestor Rodriguez; mother, Diana Adame Baltazar; sisters Lilly, Kimberly and Giselle; brothers John and Chris.

#### Thibodeaux, Faye Milam, born

Sept. 12, 1939, Minden, La.; died Nov. 17, 2018, Grand Cane, La. Church membership: Minden Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Glen Thibodeaux; parents, Moses and Opal Barnes; two brothers and four sisters. Survivors: sons, Larry (Norma Jean) Milam, Shreveport, La.; Keith

She humbly and intentionally gave all she had...

What is my motive for giving?

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trustservices@swuc.org



Seventh-day Adventist Church

TRUST SERVICES

www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/trust

#### **Back Pages**

(Charlotte) Milam, Grand Cane; Johnny Thibodeaux, Natchitoches, La.; daughter, Barbara Shaw, Shreveport; sister, Maurice Locke, Bossier City, La.; brother, Jimmy Barnes, Minden; eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

#### Vanderpool, Maria Adelheid

(Heidi), born Nov. 27, 1924, Essen, Germany; died Oct. 30, 2018, Claremore, Okla. Church membership: Claremore Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: adopted daughter, Cory (Duane); brother, Gregory; niece, Pam (Darwin), Savannah, Ga.; brother-in-law, Jim Vanderpool (Paula), San Francisco, Calif.; six grandchildren; seven greatgrandchildren.

#### Wheeler, Ila Dell Carlene, born

Jan. 1, 1944, Duncan, Okla.; died Jan. 13, 2019, Mannsville, Okla. Church membership: Ardmore Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Jeffie and Alene Morris; husband, Val; and sister, Judith Pratt. Survivors: three daughters, Sheril Roberts (Bobby), Tricia Henderson, and Amy Henderson; sister, Patricia Tautfest; granddaughters; and three great-grandchildren.

White, Michael Robert, born Aug. 3, 1987, Bolivar, Mo.; died Oct. 22, 2018, Sapulpa, Okla. Church membership: Jay Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: parents, Robert and Eileen White, Bernice, Okla.; daughter, Trinity White, Joplin, Mo.; and son, Colt White, Joplin, Mo.

Young, Ronald Wayne, born June 8, 1941, Sacramento, Calif.; died Jan. 29, 2019, Canyon, Tex. Church membership: Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: wife, Cathy, Canyon; daughter, Linda Vicaro (Stephen), Hammond, La.; daughter, Carol Singletary (John), La Center, Wash.; daughter, Frances Mueller (Robert) of Amarillo, Tex.; sister, Patty Jo Mayo, Santa Rosa, Calif.; sister, Judy Chatham of Martinez, Calif.; brother, Richard James Badolato, Santa Rosa, Calif.; nine grandchildren.

#### **Submissions**

Back Pages: To submit family milestones, obituaries, announcements or address changes, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication 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 photos to your local conference communication representative listed on page 2.

If you are interested in writing for the *Record*, email Record@SWUC.org or visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/ Communication to review our writer's guidelines.

Advertising: Contact Bradley Ecord at BEcord@ swuc.org or 817.295.0476

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar March-April 2019

3/1       3/8       3/15       3/22       3/29       4/5       4/12       4/19       4/26         Abilene       6:35       6:41       7.46       7:51       7:56       8:01       8:06       8:11       8:16         Albuquerque       6:01       6:07       7:13       7:19       7:25       7:30       7:36       7:41       7:47         Amarillo       6:42       6:48       7:54       8:00       8:05       8:11       8:17       8:22       8:28         Brownsville       6:31       6:35       7:38       7:42       7:48       7:54       7:59       8:04         El Paso       6:03       6:08       7:13       7:18       7:23       7:27       7:32       7:37       7:42         Fort Worth       6:26       6:31       7:36       7:44       7:49       7:45       7:50       7:56       8:01       8:07         Gentry       6:12       6:18       7:24       7:30       7:36       7:42       7:48       7:54       7:50       7:55       7:58       8:01         Houston       6:20       6:25       7:29       7:33       7:38       7:42       7:46       7:50       7:55	and the second second					1	6.3			-	
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New Orleans         5:59         6:03         7:08         7:12         7:16         7:21         7:25         7:29         7:34           New Orleans         6:24         6:31         7:37         7:42         7:48         7:54         8:00         8:05         8:11           Newell         5:54         6:00         7:05         7:10         7:15         7:21         7:26         7:31         7:36           San Antonio         6:33         6:37         7:42         7:46         7:50         7:54         7:58         8:02         8:07		Little Rock	6:05	6:10	7:16	7:22	7:27	7:33	7:38	7:44	7:49
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Roswell         5:54         6:00         7:05         7:10         7:15         7:21         7:26         7:31         7:36           San Antonio         6:33         6:37         7:42         7:46         7:50         7:54         7:58         8:02         8:07		New Orleans	5:59	6:03	7:08	7:12	7:16	7:21	7:25	7:29	7:34
San Antonio 6:33 6:37 7:42 7:46 7:50 7:54 7:58 8:02 8:07		Oklahoma City	6:24	6:31	7:37	7:42	7:48	7:54	8:00	8:05	8:11
		Roswell		6:00	7:05	7:10		7:21		7:31	
Note: Daylight Savings Time begins March 10, 2019 at 2:00 a.m. Shreveport 6:12 6:17 7:22 7:27 7:32 7:37 7:42 7:47 7:52		San Antonio		6:37	7:42	7:46	7:50	7:54	7:58	8:02	
	Note: Daylight Savings Time begins March 10, 2019 at 2:00 a.m.	Shreveport		6:17	7:22	7:27	7:32				
All 2019 Sunset Calendars are available at SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset Tulsa 6:17 6:24 7:30 7:36 7:42 7:48 7:54 8:00 8:06	All 2019 Sunset Calendars are available at SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset	Tulsa	6:17	6:24	7:30	7:36	7:42	7:48	7:54	8:00	8:06

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May 28 - June 1 Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church

21090 Dawn Hill East Road Gentry, AR 72734 RV Reservations: 479-736-8808 Dorm Reservations: 479-736-2221 Evening Speaker

Youth Speaker

Weekend Speaker

Corthwest



Shawn Boonstra Voice of Prophecy Director



andeon Griffin Associate Director Youth/Young Adult Ministries for the NAD



ampmeetii

James Black NAD Chaplain/Director for Prayer Ministries

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