

# Record

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*Kindness and Compassion*  
*Having the Mindset of Christ*

# Having the Mindset of Christ

Kindness and Compassion

# Record

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#### Our Mission:

The Mission of the Southwestern Union is to equip and inspire the Southwestern Union territory with the distinctive Adventist message of hope and wholeness.

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## Editor's Note

Simple acts of kindness and compassion have had a profound and a memorable impact on my life, as I'm sure they have had on yours. Can you think of a simple (or not so simple) thing that someone did for you that you will always remember?

In this issue, we explore the compassion that Christ had for those around Him and continues to have for us today.



Jessica L. Lozano

# Kindness and Compassion

## Having the Mindset of Christ



Larry Moore | President

**The concept of compassion is woven throughout the scriptures, from the very beginning to the very end.** The Old Testament tells of God's compassion for His people. The Gospels testify of Jesus' compassion for His followers and those who reached out to Him. The rest of the New Testament encourages us to have the mindset of Christ, behaving in a way that is kind and compassionate.

Christians should exude kindness and compassion. Sometimes this may mean making a concerted effort to shape our attitudes and behaviors after Christ. It can be hard to react with kindness when we have been wronged or we are witnessing an injustice. It can be hard to have compassion towards people who have acted with evil intent, are lazy or seem undeserving. Yet, that is what we have been called to do. 1 John 3:17-18 says, "If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person? Dear children, let us not love with words or speech but with actions and in truth." Compassion and kindness are not imparted to others based on their worthiness, but rather as a product of God's love in our lives. Look inward and see what hinders you from imparting kindness. See if God is leading you to show compassion to someone in your life today.

**Paul writes in Philippians 2:5, "In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus."** The implications of this text are huge. How does a person take on the mind of Christ? To begin, Jesus Christ is one who loves His people. Charles H. Spurgeon is quoted in a 1914 sermon entitled The Compassion of Christ: "He was constantly moved with compassion; for He felt all the griefs of mankind in Himself. He took our sicknesses and carried our sorrows: He proved Himself a true brother with quick sensibilities. A tear brought a tear to His eye; a cry made Him pause to ask what help He could render. So generous was His soul that He gave all He had for the help of those that had not. He gave His very self to prove that He was moved with compassion."

To have the mindset of Christ requires more than we can accomplish on our own. We need the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. This indwelling of God's Spirit enables us to realize and experience the likeness of Christ. By the power of God's Spirit, we are stripped of self and our pursuit of that which benefits only us. We can experience the joy of putting others' needs before our own and with the sensitivity of Christ demonstrate compassion. Pray daily for the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and the mindset of Jesus Christ.



Buford Griffith, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

**You don't have to look far.** There are people in need all around us. Sometimes it can be obvious that a person has a need of food or shelter. Sometimes, though, we have to listen closely to hear a need. It is a big responsibility to call ourselves Christians, because we are claiming to be followers of Jesus. We need to be ready to be proactive to meet people's needs. "Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, "I am willing; be cleansed." Matthew 1:41 (NLT). It is interesting the different ways that Jesus healed people. Sometimes Jesus spoke and the person was healed; one time a person just reached out and touched His clothes; and sometimes Jesus would reach out and touch the person. I believe that when Jesus healed people with a touch that He saw a bigger need in the person than just physical healing.

Jesus saw people's needs everywhere He went. Matthew 9:35-36 describes how "Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When He saw the crowds, He had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd." I pray for the eyes that Jesus saw people with, eyes that had compassion but also the willingness to step up and help with the needs of those around me.



John Page | Treasurer

# A Moment of Kindness

## *A Lifetime of Gratitude*

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**The Bible tells us that we are saved by grace through faith**—and not because of our own goodness or good works. Salvation is a gift from God! Kindness and compassionate acts are simply way to express the love that we have in our hearts for God and God’s creation! Is there a time in your life that someone’s act of kindness made a lasting impression? The following are moments of kindness or compassion that made an impact.



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“I had come to this country because of a job offer, but when I arrived I found out that the paperwork was still not complete so I was unable to work. My wife and I were newly married, broke and in a new country. Our first anniversary was coming up and I told my wife I wanted to take her to a real restaurant, but that we couldn’t order dessert because we just couldn’t afford it. On our anniversary we went to eat and we had a nice time. When the time came to pay, our waiter said there was no need to pay! Someone had paid for our meal! I asked who it was so I could thank them, but the waiter said they wanted to remain anonymous. I was amazed by both the generous act and the fact that they didn’t want any thanks or recognition. Twenty-one years later, I still remember how much it meant to us.” - *Elton D.*

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“I was having lunch with a friend, and when we stepped outside of the café to go our separate ways, a young woman approached us with large bouquets of flowers in her arms. She explained that she was giving away two bouquets to each person she came across—one to keep and one to share with someone else. She was from a local florist shop that had decided to take part in a city-wide initiative to spread kindness. Our days were brightened and we were each able to brighten someone else’s day thanks to the gesture.” - *Jessica L.*



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“I made a mistake and told my supervisor that a project was going to cost quite a bit less than the vendor had actually quoted. I didn’t realize the mistake for weeks, but when I did, I was horrified and embarrassed because the project was already in production. I went to my supervisor and told him what had happened, and I was shocked by his reaction. He was very understanding and gracious and said we would figure it out. I told the vendor of my mistake also and I was shocked again to find that the vendor was also kind and gracious and offered to lower the price as much as possible to cover my mistake. I learned from my mistake but I was also able to experience such grace and kindness that I’ll never forget it.” - *Suzanna F.*

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“I was going through a difficult time but didn’t really have anyone I felt comfortable confiding in. One day, a casual friend came to me and said, ‘I just wanted you to know that I can see what you’re going through, and I am praying for you.’ Even though we were not close friends, the fact that this person cared enough to let me know that they saw my situation and were praying for me lifted a burden from my shoulders. It doesn’t take a lot to show you care.” - *Anonymous*

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“During a drive to work, my car got a flat tire on the highway. A truck driver hauling rocks pulled over to the side of the road, got out, helped me locate my spare tire, and offered to change my tire for me. His kindness made me think of how much better the world can be, when people that have no connection to us, can show care for one another.” - *Prithy D.*



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“I was all by myself in the drive-thru line at a fast food restaurant and I pulled up to the window to pay for my meal. The cashier said, “Oh, no need to pay! The person in front of you paid for you!” I was so surprised. This had never happened to me! It was a small thing, but it brought such a smile to my face that I thought, I should do that for other people! Now, whenever I see people in line behind me who seem down, or are all alone, I pay for their meal. I love to see their faces light up in surprise and happiness.” - *Marline D.*

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“I was at a crossroad in my life and wasn't sure what to do or what my next steps would be. I had a friend that I'd known since high school who I spoke to occasionally but we lived on opposite sides of the country so we only chatted sporadically. She mentioned that a job was open at her company and that I might be a good fit for it. Then she mentioned that she'd already given my resume to the human resources department. I hadn't been looking for a new job specifically, but she laid the groundwork for me to move back to a place where I was close to the support of my family and friends. I am incredibly grateful for her thoughtfulness and actions on my behalf.” - *Anonymous*



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“Our family had always been involved in music ministry, but one day, many years ago, a man from our church's congregation told us that he believed in our ministry so much that he wanted to pay for us to produce a cassette tape to share the music with others. We couldn't believe it! We were so grateful and told him that we would pay him back, but he said not to worry—pay it whenever we could. His decision to encourage us in our ministry in that way sparked a lifetime of music ministry for our family. You never know what impact a single act of kindness may have!” - *Neyra G.*

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“One day, when I was much younger, I had become very ill and was home alone. I felt overwhelmed by the sickness and my inability to do anything to take care of myself. To my surprise, an uncle who lived several hundred miles away just happened to be driving through town and decided to stop by to visit my family. Finding me by myself in such a miserable state, he stayed and took care of me for several hours until I was feeling well enough to rest comfortably. The assistance and the company did me good, but it was the kindness and randomness of the event that always stayed etched in my heart.” - *Reggie J.*



# Studying the Bible Together

## Small Groups Produce a Discipleship Lifestyle

*By Melody Ginnetti, Master of Social Worker and Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, Chaplaincy Emphasis*



### DISCIPLESHIP

We are disciples. What is a disciple? A believer of Christ who has chosen to imitate Christ, surrender his or her life, and submit to the growth and will of God. Acts 2:42 describes how the early church believers submitted themselves to the teachings of the apostles: they fellowshiped, shared meals and came together in prayer. It was a spirit of service accompanied by humility. The disciples of the early church did not seek to become masters, but rather they were all disciples, making disciples. They were sure their only master was Jesus. They lived a life that shared the gospel and gave of themselves. It was community, sharing meals, fellowshiping, caring

for each other's burdens and doing life together. They shared resources, they sought the common good of each other and also sought to bring others to the Way. Discipleship is our walk, and one of the ways that we are able to execute this discipline is through small group Bible studies, also referred to as discipleship ministry.

### SMALL GROUPS

No one needs to be a master at leading a small group Bible study when you keep in mind that the purpose is to seek Christ as the ultimate master. Often individuals are too intimidated to start a small group Bible study or

feel they don't have the time to prepare for it. However, when keeping simple principles at hand, creating an effective ministry that will provide spiritual support for all those involved is possible. The simplicity of fellowshiping, sharing meals and coming together in prayer can initiate a relationship that will help a small group connect. The group can then serve the purpose of intentional Bible study, doing life together by sharing each other's burdens, and accountability for spiritual growth. At the same time, be aware that the group does not become just a social club or a setting for catching up on gossip. Be intentional about reading God's word and discovering how He is speaking into your lives.

## PERSONAL GROWTH

As I reflect on my spiritual journey, I realize that the moments I experienced the greatest growth took place when I was involved in a consistent small group women's Bible study. Six of us decided to meet once a week, share a meal, reflect on the Bible portions we had read for the week and discuss how they applied to our current walk. We were intentional about keeping each other accountable and we loved each other enough to confront discrepancies in our walk and address differences. During these times, some of us walked through personal trials, but having each other to lean on, pray with and share burdens was already in the DNA of our relationship. The blessing of intimacy with godly individuals is healing to the soul.

## MAKING DISCIPLES

Small groups can come together for different purposes depending on the culture of your local church. Pray and ask God if He is calling you to create a small, disciple-making group that will share life together and invest in the spiritual growth of each other.

It doesn't have to be burdensome and don't get discouraged if individuals are not consistent. If the Lord places it in your heart and in your path He will also place it in the hearts of others to join.

How will you start? What will you study? What will you discuss? One can start by being willing to open up your home, select a portion of the Bible to read and just implement some practical discussion questions. Then, be open to how the Holy Spirit will guide all of you

in your time together. As you provide an opportunity to gather and study, know that the Holy Spirit will move in the hearts and minds of those in attendance. Remember God works in a variety of different ways and His timing is not like ours.

Rejoice in your time together, delve into the goodness of the Lord and look to see where God is working! We've shared a few discussion ideas to get you started asking questions and discovering answers together. **R**

# Small Group Conversation Prompts

How have you experienced God in your life this week?

What new discoveries did you find in the reading?

What questions do you have about this week's Bible reading?

Do you have areas of concern about God's working in your life?

Were you challenged by anything in the Bible reading?

What is God teaching you in this phase of your life?

Did the any of the reading come to mind during work, school or at home?

How are you responding to His promptings?



# Giving Your Gifts:

*Empowering People to Use Talents for Ministry*

**Calvin Watkins Sr. never imagined** that his church in North Carolina would grow from 60 to 600 members in just three years. Yet, that's exactly what happened. It all started in 1982, when Watkins founded a ministry training program called "University of Saints" to help lay people recognize and dedicate their talents to God.

The program became a monumental success in Watkins' church. Word quickly spread and today, the University of Saints empowers lay people to realize their talents all across the world. Watkins currently serves as the Southwest Region Conference president, and the program is now being implemented in both English and Spanish across the Conference's five-state territory.

"I don't train people to be Bible workers," says Watkins. "I train them how to be themselves. Everyone has something that

God can use. I want you to be yourself and to discover what your talent is."

Watkins recalls one woman telling him she never imagined that her talent could be used for God. She created delicate flowers out of toilet paper. Every day, she carefully dyed and rolled toilet paper into flowers for the sick and hurting. People in the neighborhood knew and loved her. After attending the University of Saints, she started to dedicate her flowers to God.

Although she never led a Bible study, that woman taught many people about God's love, connecting with them through her floral creations.

In the Southwest Region Conference territory, which encompasses Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas, there are currently between 400 and 600 University of





Photography by Vanston Archbold

Saints participants. Watkins also took the program to South Africa, the Caribbean Islands, and other foreign locations. For the first time, the training is being offered in Spanish and, in the near future, the courses will also be offered online.

“I think we, as a church, spend more time on preaching than on teaching our members,” says Watkins. “That must change. A sharper blade cuts better than a dull blade.”

Or, in the case of one participant, a fish hook is more effective than a formal Bible study. One man loved to fish. He loved it so much that he started a fishing club. Every week, a group of 12 men met early in the morning to fish and fellowship.

When this man realized that his talent for fishing could be used for God, evangelism became exciting and fun. This man got to know the members of his fishing club well, praying for

them and ministering to them. Eight of the 12 members chose to be baptized.

The purpose of the University of Saints is to motivate, train, inspire and equip people in the Body of Christ. To join the University, people need only have a willing spirit and a desire to serve God. The cost is \$7 a semester, but if that’s too much, it’s possible to apply for a scholarship. Courses are designed to help people realize God’s guidance in their lives.

“I help people to discover who they are,” says Watkins. “I don’t teach people how to discover their gifts. The only way to discover one’s gifts is by going out and trying things. The more you know about yourself, the more God is able to use you.”

The program includes practical training and classwork, spread out over two years. Participants take part in an evan-

gelistic series, as well as knock on a certain number of doors. In class, they learn valuable skills that are applicable to everyday life. One of the classes is about overcoming fear. Another class teaches how to stand up and talk in front of people, and yet another class teaches people how to respond to difficult questions.

A typical day in the University of Saints starts at 9:30 a.m. on a Sabbath morning. Participants spend the entire day in 30 to 40 minute class sessions. Even the church service is educational. In culmination of the program, participants become “certified disciples” and a graduation service is held at camp meeting.

“This will help you in all areas of your life,” says Watkins. “You learn how to meet and talk to people, how to negotiate. There are so many ways it will help you.”

One young woman, a nurse, found a special niche for ministry in her work after attending the University of Saints. On her floor at the hospital, she adopted the responsibility of comforting people after a death took place. One problem: Hospital rules forbid her, as an employee, to talk about God. That didn’t stop her from partnering with Watkins to provide spiritual care. When a death occurred, the woman would contact Watkins.


Nothing forbade a non-employee from offering services of prayer and spiritual comfort, so Watkins became the unofficial chaplain in that secular hospital. In this way, the woman became a bridge for people to receive God’s comfort.

“Ellen White says that the highest of all sciences is the science of soul winning,” cites Watkins. “If soul winning is a science, then it’s something you have to study. It’s something you have to continue to learn more about.”

Even people who feel confident in their ministry skills may learn something by participating in the University of Saints. Conference and Union workers often attend the meetings along with lay workers.

There are over 1,000 graduates from the University of Saints. Thanks to those 1,000 graduates, over 8,000 people have been baptized. Even small churches can make a monumental impact. Watkins’ small church in North Carolina grew from 60 to 600 members. As more church members learn to use their talents for God, even more people will continue to accept God’s salvation.

“I believe that you have a unique set of gifts that God has given to you,” says Watkins. “There is someone out there that will only respond to you. Nobody else. There’s something you have that God needs, and that’s why God brought you to this church.”

Find out more about the University of Saints at [MySouthwestRegion.org](http://MySouthwestRegion.org) 

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*By Makala James. Calvin Watkins Sr., is the president of the Southwest Region Conference. He lives with his wife, Ruth, in Cedar Hill, Texas.*



# Burst Cherry Tomato Polenta

Recipe and photos by Ashley Melillo of [BlissfulBasil.com](http://BlissfulBasil.com)

This 30-minute vegan burst cherry tomato polenta is bound to become a weeknight staple. Rich cashew cream is woven through hot polenta. Then, the polenta is served generously topped with burst cherry tomatoes.

**Prep Time:** 10 minutes

**Cook Time:** 20 minutes

**Total Time:** 30 minutes

**Servings:** 3

## INGREDIENTS

### Creamy Polenta

- 1/2 cup raw cashews, soaked overnight (unless using a high-speed blender)
- 3 1/2 cups filtered water, divided
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1 cup polenta

### Burst Cherry Tomatoes

- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, smashed, peeled, and roughly chopped
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried parsley
- 4 cups heirloom cherry tomatoes or standard cherry tomatoes (2 pints)
- Sea salt, to taste

### Garnish

- Fresh basil, very thinly sliced

## INSTRUCTIONS

### For the Creamy Polenta

1. Add the cashews and 1/2 cup of the filtered water to a blender, and blend on high until completely smooth. Set aside.
2. Bring the remaining 3 cups water and the salt to a boil in a large saucepan. While whisking, very slowly add in the polenta. Make



sure you add just a little bit at a time while quickly whisking, otherwise you'll end up with clumps.

3. Once all of the polenta is added, continue whisking for 1 to 2 minutes to smooth out any clumps. Reduce the heat to low and let the polenta simmer for 12 to 15 minutes, whisking every few minutes to prevent sticking.
4. Once the polenta is cooked to desired texture, remove from the heat and whisk in the cashew cream. Taste and adjust the seasoning, adding more salt if desired (I usually add another 1/2 teaspoon of salt).

### For the Burst Cherry Tomatoes

1. While the polenta is simmering, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat until it just begins to thin out and coat the pan.
2. Add the garlic, oregano, basil,

parsley, and red pepper flakes (if desired) and sauté until fragrant, approximately 1 minute.

3. Add the cherry tomatoes and sea salt, increase heat to medium-high, and cook for 6 to 10 minutes or until the tomatoes burst open and develop a light golden-brown hue at their edges.
4. As they cook, use a large wooden spoon to occasionally nudge them around the pan. Let cool slightly.

### To Serve

1. Divide the polenta between three roomy bowls. Top with the burst cherry tomatoes and garnish with the basil.
2. Serve immediately.
3. Refrigerate leftovers for up to 3 days.

Find more delicious vegan and vegetarian recipes at [BlissfulBasil.com](http://BlissfulBasil.com).

# A Worldwide Circle of Friends

## Building Churches and Relationships in São Paulo

By Ozark Adventist Academy Chaplain Seth Clark and IT Director and Computer Instructor David Kobliska



In March, Ozark Adventist Academy sent 28 students and four staff on a Maranatha mission trip to Franco da Rocha in the sprawling metropolis of São Paulo on the southern coast of Brazil. Our building efforts were a direct answer to the prayers of a dedicated group of 50 Adventists there who had been meeting in a simple storefront rental property and actively growing their church through community service and engagement. The academy was blessed to have entered into their Kingdom-building labors and to finish a construction project begun by a previous group.

Everyone on our team flexed their spiritual gifts plus lots of physical muscle to raise the block walls needed to add bathrooms and children's Sabbath School classrooms to the previously completed sanctuary. We spent five full days on the worksite and many of our

students learned construction skills never before experienced. Everyone conducted themselves in a manner any staff or parent would be proud of and accomplished more than our volunteer project manager, Mick Ray, had hoped.

Besides the long, hot days spent lifting and setting block, the team spent the cooler evenings presenting Vacation Bible School (VBS) meetings for the kids and evangelistic meetings for the adults. A different Ozark student spoke each night for the evangelistic series while others led out in singing, storytelling and creative crafts for VBS. Each evening, more and more children gathered early at the doors to enthusiastically greet the team the moment we arrived and both adults and kids lingered long afterward, waving and calling out "Tchau!" as our bus pulled away for our short night of rest back at the hotel.

God's abundant blessings throughout the trip included lots of safe travel over thousands of miles and keeping our team free of any injuries or major illnesses. And while it had been projected to rain most of our time there, our days were all sunny and clear—truly a miracle! Sai, a sophomore member of our team, lost his only pair of glasses in the frothy surf we were all enjoying during our excursion day on the coast. Miraculously, they were discovered on the sandy bottom by Andrew, one of our seniors, a full 15 minutes later. Hannah also left her phone behind on one of the many different tourist busses we used for transportation, but found it when the same vehicle happened to pick us up the very next day.

We were also thrilled to become part of a chain of circumstances God used to make a significant difference in the lives of Darlene and Neves, a local couple that had been paid to provide meals for the Maranatha crews. This couple shared their gifts of service and hospitality and it wasn't surprising to learn that it was their dream to someday own a bakery. With tears and heartfelt words they expressed their gratitude for a love offering taken up by our students which, when added to other recent financial blessings, prompted them to spontaneously announce their decision to move ahead immediately with their long-awaited business venture!

These and other life-changing experiences and connections made it very difficult for us to say goodbye. The local, hard-working Maranatha team of builders, coordinators and translators had also worked their way into our hearts and have become part of Ozark Adventist Academy's worldwide circle of friends. Moreso, they have inspired us to labor more earnestly for Jesus' soon return. Maranatha! **R**

# Detour

## Following the Signs

“Oh no! My alarm didn’t go off!” I thought to myself as I looked at my clock. It was 7 a.m., and I had to be at school by 8 a.m.. I rushed out of bed, scrambled to get ready, gobbled down a quick breakfast and ran to my car with my backpack and keys in hand. My high school was quite a drive away. We had a big science test my first hour of class so I did not want to be late. I knew that if I was going to make it in time, I needed to take the shortcut. This was a small country backroad which crossed over a bridge.

The route was clear, so I made good time. When I reached the bridge, I looked at my watch: 7:40! I was going to be OK. Crossing the bridge was easy. But on the other side, I encountered a telltale orange sign with black bold letters. “Detour, road construction ahead,” it said, and I knew I had a problem. The road that was supposed to get me to school faster was blocked. But if I turned around to go the other direction, I would be even later to class than before.

My decision was a fast but poor one. There did not seem to be any road construction going on, so I very carefully pulled my car around the detour to drive toward my school. The road seemed safe enough to me until, POP!... Sssssssssssssst! In my impatience, I had run over a large nail, giving me a flat tire. I was stuck waiting for help to arrive.

When I think of this experience, I am reminded of some big life lessons. The detour sign I went around served an important purpose. It was a guideline, letting me know where the hazards on the road might be. God gives us important guidelines in His word and through His Holy Spirit, which may help us understand what is harmful and what is helpful. Rather than ignoring God’s instruction, it is important to take it to heart, because very often God sees what is on the road ahead of us before we do.

I also learned about grace! My mistake caused a flat tire. But after saying a quick prayer, God sent a kind gentleman who helped me put on the spare. And even though I missed my science class, my teacher was gracious enough to let me take the exam at a later time. It is important for me to remember and follow God’s guidelines. But when I do make mistakes, God’s grace is right there too. He provides care and support through friends, teachers and family. Most importantly, He gave his one and only son, so that whoever believes in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life.

I’m so thankful for God’s guidance and His grace. I pray I can pay attention to Him as he leads and lean on Him as I grow to trust Him more on life’s roads, detour signs and all!

*By Alexis Rivera, Texas Conference Children’s Ministries Director*



# Camp Meeting & Summer Camp SCHEDULE

## **ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE:**

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

May 28-June 1 | Ozark Family Camp Meeting, Gentry, Ark.

June 7-8 | NWA Spanish Camp Meeting, Ozark Adventist Academy, Gentry, Ark.

June 9-July 20 | Summer Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mountain Pine, Ark.

July 19-23 | Ark-La-Tex (East Texas) Camp Meeting, Jefferson Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church, Jefferson, Texas

Aug. 23-25 | Spanish Family Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mountain Pine, Ark.

Sept. 27-29 | Bonnerdale Cowboy Camp Meeting, Bonnerdale, Ark.

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

## **OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE:**

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

June 2-July 5 | Summer Camp, Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla.

June 7-9 | Zomi (Burmese) Camp Meeting, Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla.

July 5-7 | Spanish Camp Meeting, Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla.

July 12-20 | English Camp Meeting, Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla.

## **SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE:**

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

May 24-26 | Hispanic Camp Meeting, Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.

June 7-15 | English Camp Meeting, Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.

June 16-30 | Summer Camp, Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.

## **TEXAS CONFERENCE:**

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

May 29-June 1 | Keene Camp Meeting, Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, Keene, Te.

June 9-July 7 | Summer Camp, Lake Whitney Ranch, Clifton, Tex.

July 9-14 | Young Adult Camp, Lake Whitney Ranch, Clifton, Tex.

July 19-23 | East Texas Camp Meeting (Ark-La-Tex), Jefferson Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church, Jefferson, Tex.

July 22-26 | Valley Day Camp for All Ages, Weslaco, Tex.

October 4-5 | Valley Camp Meeting

## **TEXICO CONFERENCE:**

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

June 6-8 | Texico Conference Camp Meeting, Bonita Park Camp, Capitan, N. M.

June 2-6 | Summer Camp, Bonita Park Camp, Capitan, N. M.





## May Events

**3-5**

**SWAU:** Graduation Weekend  
Keene, TX, swau.edu

**3-5**

**Texico Conference:**  
Adventurer Family Camp  
Caballo Lake State Park  
Texico.org/ClubMinistries

**4**

**Texas Conference:**  
ReVITALIZE Training,  
Killeen Seventh-day Adventist  
Church  
TexasAdventist.org/Events

**5-10**

**Southwest Region  
Conference:** Outdoor  
School, Lone Star Camp  
nwatkins@swrgc.org

**11**

**Texas Conference:**  
ReVITALIZE Training, Tyler  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
TexasAdventist.org/Events

**11**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Prayer Ministry  
Weekend, Batesville, Arkansas  
prayerpowerlab@gmail.com

**18**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Pathfinder  
Youth Rally, Hot Springs  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
wilbrenp@hotmail.com

**18**

**Texas Conference:**  
ForeverFAMILY Sabbath  
Dallas Spanish North  
Seventh-day Adventist Church  
ForeverONEFamily.org

**19**

**Texas Conference:**  
Constituency Session, Brazos  
County Expo Complex  
TexasAdventist.org/Events

**24-26**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Spanish Lay  
Training, Camp Yorktown  
Bay, Mt. Pine, Arkansas  
dlcastellanos@arklac.org

**25**

**Texas Conference:**  
ReVITALIZE Training  
Weslaco Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
TexasAdventist.org/Events

**31- June 2**

**Southwestern Union:**  
Men's Ministry  
Convention, Lakeview  
Camp & Retreat Center  
SouthwesternAdventist.org/  
men

## June Events

**16-23**

**Texas Conference:**  
ESL Outreach Training,  
Southwestern Adventist  
University  
TexasEvangelism.com/ESL

**21-23**

**Southwestern Union:**  
Equipped for Ministries  
Leadership Training, Tulsa  
First Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
SouthwesternAdventist.org/  
training

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



# More Compassion Outreach and Ministry in Oklahoma

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – On March 6, young people from across the union arrived in Oklahoma City to register for the More Compassion Outreach, a yearly event sponsored by the Southwestern Union. Youth from Arkansas and Texas joined Oklahoma youth to serve. Daniel Ortega, Oklahoma Conference youth director, organized and mobilized over 75 youth and young adults into groups to serve at various locations doing various jobs for two full days.

The youth worked with local organizations that the Oklahoma Conference youth department had partnered with such as The Toby Keith Foundation, City Rescue Mission, Feed the Children, OKC Regional Food Bank and Habitat for Humanity.

They served meals to the homeless,

packed food boxes and care packages for families in need, sorted and organized clothes, cleaned and sanitized rooms for cancer patients and families and performed minor home repairs for a family in need. At the end of the two days, our young people put in more than 450 hours of compassionate service into the community, ministering to those in need.

On Sabbath, nearly 250 young people attended a special service with Helvis Moody, Southwestern Union youth/young adult director and Jose Cortez Jr., North American Division associate ministerial director for evangelism. After enjoying a lunch at Parkview Adventist Academy, the group gathered at the Myriad Botanical Gardens and kicked off the rally with the Drum Corp from God's Army Pathfinder Club and marched

around the city block in downtown Oklahoma City. Then they settled in at the Water Stage Amphitheater to hear from four of our conference youth directors who shared messages about compassion and offered prayer for our youth.

One of our Oklahoma City young adults, Elizabeth Montes, shared, "I had the opportunity to volunteer at three of the local organizations. Being out there really made me realize how much need there is in our own state. As a young adult, I know I was truly blessed. I want to urge others to not wait for these beautiful events to make a difference in your own town. You'd be surprised how a small act of kindness can make a world of change." See the weekend review video at <https://bit.ly/2TNx2s3>.

By Carol Chadwick





# Teach Me

## 2019 Children’s Ministries Leadership Retreat

**MIDLOTHIAN, TEX.** – More than 250 children’s ministries leaders from across the five states of the Southwestern Union territory were equipped and inspired at the March 8-10 “Called to Teach” Children’s Ministries leadership training and retreat in Midlothian, Texas.

According to Sonia Canó, Southwestern Union children’s ministries director, it was inspiring to see the leaders’ desire to guide children to a loving relationship with Christ. Leaders were also certified on Track 2 “Teaching Children” and were taught 10 seminars with lots of ideas, tools and resources on how to teach children and guide them in their spiritual lives.

“My absolute favorite part of the weekend was when the more than 250 leaders wrote out prayer requests on a 6

feet tall beach ball in an activity for us to remember that there is no problem too big for our God!” says Canó.

Leaders arrived on Friday evening to enjoy a praise and worship session led by a group of children from Lubbock, Texas, and a very fascinating presentation by Dr. Carol Campbell, Southwestern Union vice president for education. Her topic “Engaging the Wired Brain” was one of the favorites themes of the weekend.

On Sabbath, attendees enjoyed a devotional presented by Gerry Lopez, associate director of children’s ministries for the North American Division. Attendees also enjoyed the afternoon seminars and workshops. During the evening program, each conference children’s ministries director presented the

certificate of completion for track two and a pin to the participants.

On Sunday morning, attendees were trained on the latest NAD Vacation Bible School program “Jamii Kingdom.” They had the opportunity to participate in each of the stations and learning the new songs, not only in English and Spanish but in Swahili, too!

It is such an invigorating and unique experience to be with a group of people who love the Lord, care for children and are dedicating their lives to serve Him and them. It is a privilege to serve and share with each and everyone of them. Thank you, children’s ministries leaders!

For more information and resources, please contact Sonia Canó at 817.295.0476 or [scano@swuc.org](mailto:scano@swuc.org).

*Photos by Geraldo Alonso*



# 28 Teams Advance

## Union Level Pathfinder Bible Experience



**KEENE, TEX.** – The Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) is a team challenge that focuses on immersion in the Word of God, and is the official North American Division Pathfinder Bible study program.

Each year, teams of six club members study and test on a book or books of the Bible, advancing first from an area level to the local conference level before moving on the union level, and finally reaching the division level.

The 2019 Southwestern Union PBE was held on March 23 at Southwestern Adventist University.

Larry Moore, Southwestern Union president, and Amy Clapp, a Pathfinder leader from El Paso, Tex., were the readers for the challenge, and Gene Clapp, a Texas Conference pastor and

former Pathfinder director, led the event.

Thirty-three teams from across the Southwestern Union territory arrived to compete in the challenge. Teams were challenged and tested on the the book of Luke, which they had all studied, and in the end, those teams that were able to answer 90 percent of the questions correctly were able to move on to the division level challenge.

Twenty-eight teams from the Southwestern Union were able to move on the division level, held April 26-27 in Rockford, Ill.

We are grateful for the support of the parents, coaches and leaders who came to support these young people in studying the Word of God. More than 600 came to Keene from the Texico,

Texas, Southwest Region, Oklahoma and Arkansas-Louisiana Conferences.

We are also grateful for the support of the youth/Pathfinder directors from each conference who show tremendous support and dedication for the students who participate in the experience and encourage them to study the Word of God.

If you are not involved and you are a Pathfinder please consider the Pathfinder Bible Experience! Visit [pathfindersonline.org/PBE](http://pathfindersonline.org/PBE).

— *Helvis Moody*  
*Youth and Young Adult Director*  
*Prayer Ministries Director*  
*Photos by James Modi*

# EPIC Men's Convention

Join the Southwestern Union May 31 in Waxahachie

**BURLESON, TEX.** – Registration is still available for a powerful spiritual convention designed specifically for men by the Southwestern Union. The event will take place May 31-June 2, 2019 for at Lakeview Camp in Waxahachie, Texas. Special guests include Ken Bevel, actor from the Christian film *Courageous*; Claudio Consuegra, D.Min., North American Division family ministries director; Elton DeMoraes, D.Min., Southwestern Union vice president and men's ministries director; Bill Kilgore, D.Min.; Minner Labrador, D.Min., Upper Co-

lumbia Conference president and more! We have prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit for an EPIC weekend of spiritual renewal for the men in our territory. Sermons and seminars will be presented in both English and Spanish.

Elton DeMoraes promises the event will, indeed, be epic. "I would like to invite every man in the Southwestern Union territory to join us for powerful weekend where we will have impactful worship, engaging fellowship and dynamic speaking. Through inspiring speakers and various breakouts to

choose from, you can expect not only to be fulfilled but also equipped."

In addition to spiritual fellowship, attendees can enjoy time together in the natural setting of the camp. A 5K race, softball tournament, basketball tournament, indoor pool, Saturday-night concert, Sanctuary Experience, and more will take place during the convention.

Don't miss this is great opportunity to gather, grow and fellowship with your fellow brothers in Christ. For more information and to register today, visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org/Men](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Men).

# Equipped for Ministries

Tulsa Training is June 21-22

**TULSA** – Are you looking to revitalize your ministry or start a new ministry in your church? Perhaps you have been involved in ministries for a while and could benefit from a weekend of intentional inspiration for leaders.

Equipped for Ministries is a program of the Southwestern Union Church Ministries Department with the goal to provide training events that will help equip you for effective ministry in your church and community.

In 2018, we trained 300 people during our visits to Midland, Tex. and Shreve-

port, La. In January 2019, we trained more than 300 at Equipped for Ministries in New Orleans, La. and we are planning for a packed and powerful program for our Tulsa, Okla. training on June 21-22 at the Tulsa First Seventh-day Adventist Church. Training sessions will include:

- Elders
- Deacons and Deaconesses
- Sabbath School
- Children's Ministries
- Youth and Young Adult Ministries
- Stewardship
- Treasury

Join us in Tulsa this June and be inspired by all God wants to do through His Church. You'll be refreshed, encouraged, energized and refocused. Bring your whole ministry team and learn how to work together, network and double down on the unique mission God has placed before you. It is our hope that these seeds of inspiration are spread throughout the Southwestern Union territory and blossom boundlessly across our communities in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

## Equipped for Ministries

*Tulsa, Oklahoma*  
**June 21-22, 2019**  
*First Adventist Church of Tulsa*  
 920 S New Haven Ave, Tulsa OK 74112

### Schedule:

Friday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.: *Opening Session*

Sabbath, June 22, 11:00 a.m.: *Church Service (at area churches)*

Sabbath, 3:00-6:00 p.m.: *Training Seminars*

Sabbath, 6:15 p.m.: *Closing Session*

[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/training](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/training)

*Seminars in English  
 y en Español*



# Strengthening Faith

## New Adventist Theological Society Chapter

**KEENE, TEX.** — On February 23, Southwestern Adventist University established its very own chapter of the Adventist Theological Society (ATS) at the final event in the three-day Trinity Conference, a gathering of Adventist theologians. A local chapter means a range of immediate, hands-on professional development activities including conducting scholarly research, planning community events and presenting research in public forums.

“[It] is for anyone with a passion for Adventist theology,” says Michael Campbell, Ph.D., associate religion professor and Trinity Conference organizer. “Our goal is that once a month, we will provide

a lecture or public event for students, faculty and the community.” The events, which could be presented by theology students and faculty, as well as visiting scholars, will be designed with laypeople and the local community in mind.

Local goals support the worldwide mission of the ATS, which exists to strengthen the faith of Adventist leaders, pastors, theologians and lay people by presenting some of the best biblical scholarship in the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a format that is clear and easy to understand.

Sophomore theology student Christopher Findley says, “The ATS will be

a blessing to us as theology students because we can create a community where we come together and seek a greater relationship with Jesus through events, experiences and Christ-centered activities. I’m excited!”

The local chapter officially commenced on Saturday, February 23, in the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church, culminating with a business meeting. During this meeting, officers were elected. Michael Campbell was selected as chapter director, Tony Zbaraschuk was elected secretary and Peter McHenry was elected treasurer.

By Lindsey Gendke



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# SWAU Students Serve

## The Impact of Mission Trips

**KEENE, TEX.** – Dozens of Southwestern Adventist University students spent their spring break vacation serving residents of Peru, the Dominican Republic and the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico.

More than 20 university faculty, staff and students conducted medical clinics for the local residents of Sosua, Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. “During each day of the trip, our students assisted licensed health-care professionals in triage, assessments, pharmacy work and passing out toothbrushes to more than 130 local residents,” said Marcia Azevedo, trip coordinator and

nursing faculty member.

For Priscilla Rosendo, a senior nursing student, this was her second mission trip and first medical mission trip. In addition to having the opportunity to practice her nursing skills in a hands-on environment, Rosendo felt blessed to be able to give back and to bring happiness to the less fortunate. “I wanted to be part of this trip because after all God has done to bring me to where I am now, I wanted to give back,” shared Rosendo. “The little that I am able to do to bring smiles to the faces of the Dominican children motivates and inspires me.”

This is the 21st year that the university

has led a trip to the Dominican Republic and as a result thousands of lives have been influenced by God through the students.

In addition to the work done in the Dominican Republic during spring break, students also traveled to four locations around the Navajo Nation in Arizona and New Mexico, as well as the Universidad Peruana Unión in Ñaña, Lima, Perú.

If you are searching for a university where service and faith are valued, come explore your passion and prepare for your future at Southwestern. For information, visit [SWAU.edu](http://SWAU.edu).

————— *By Tim Kosaka, Creative Manager*



# CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CLASS OF 2019

CONSECRATION—Friday, 8pm, Keene SDA Church

BACCALAUREATE—Saturday, 11:30am, Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium

COMMENCEMENT—Sunday, 10am, Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium



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# Christ's Church

An Extension of His Hands and Feet



I remember it almost like it was yesterday. It was a spring Sabbath and I was driving through torrential rain on my way to church to preach. About halfway to the church, I was trying to see the road through the almost-blinding rain, when my eye caught sight of a woman with a jack handle in her hand standing by her flat tire on the side of the road.

I eased off the road on to the shoulder and came to a stop. I remember taking off my suit jacket and then hurrying back toward the lady, inquiring if she needed help. She said definitely, yes! I remember putting the jack under the car and carefully jacking up the car to begin changing the tire.

While beginning to work the wrench, her little boy rolled down the window and began hanging out the window watching my every movement. As I slipped the flat tire off and began mounting the spare tire, her boy asked me the most interesting question. He said quite clearly, "Hey mister, are you Jesus?" I said, "No, but I serve Him." He smiled and said, "I thought so." I asked him why he thought so. His reply was precious. "My mommy and I prayed that Jesus would send someone to help us and fix the tire, and the next thing we saw was you walking back to our car." Wow!

By the time I finished, I was soaked to the bone. The woman thanked me for her help. I climbed back into the car, and as I drove the rest of the way to the church, I was reminded once again of Jesus' words in Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me!"

May you become an extension of Jesus' hands and feet and act with kindness and compassion every day. You may never know how important a ministry you are performing even if it is a simple thing like changing a tire.

*Richard C. Dye, Sr., President*



# Handcrafted Gifts

## Winter, Warmth and Welcome in Bentonville

**BENTONVILLE, ARK.** – Combining ministries and fellowship within the Bentonville Seventh-day Adventist Church and school helped stretch funds and manpower and made for a wonderful holiday get-together. Women’s ministry leader Beth Huff wanted to foster fellowship and relationship building with an outreach project, but she needed some help.

She planned a Ladies Holiday Luncheon with a devotional and some delicious comfort food. Each lady was asked to bring a small gift for an “inspiration basket” to be given to someone who might need some extra love and inspiration.

With 30 ladies present, the basket was soon overflowing with homemade bread, devotional books, lotion, candles, cards

and more! After lunch the ladies broke into small groups and with merry smiles and laughter began working to make fleece blankets. The ladies completed 10 blankets that afternoon, each one made with hearts full of love.

The Pathfinder club donated more fleece fabric and the church school children completed several more blankets during that week. They enjoyed learning a new craft and being a part of the outreach project.

The following Sabbath afternoon, the Pathfinders picked up the completed blankets, baked goods and goodies. The afternoon was spent singing Christmas carols at the Osage Terrace Assisted Living Center and delivering the handmade blankets with hugs and conversations with each person.

It is amazing to see what can happen when everyone works together! A small budget can be overcome, blessings can be multiplied and there is no limit to what can be accomplished together. Our sense of church unity is strengthened when we look for opportunities to share Jesus’ love collectively.

By Audra Köhltfarber

*Bentonville members and youth deliver hand-made blankets and visit with Osage Terrace Assisted Living Center residents.*



# Celebration and Dedication

## Rogers Seventh-day Adventist Church Additions

**ROGERS, ARK.** – On Feb. 2, 2019, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference President Richard Dye and Planned Giving Director Tony Cash joined Ovidiu Radulescu and the Roger's congregation to celebrate the addition of six new classrooms. They will be used for children's Sabbath school and for community outreach. They also dedicated the new building and a sizeable piece of land to the Lord. A certificate of appreciation was presented to the architect/builder, Mike Hundley, and a check was presented to Sherri Easter, treasurer, for the completed building.



# Alive and Growing

## West Helena Community Services

**WEST HELENA, ARK.** – On Sunday, Feb. 24, all hands were on deck to pack up our first trip of many to our West Helena Seventh-day Adventist Community Service Center. Shirley Harmon was closing her business because of her mother's illness and knowing that we help the community, she donated everything in her warehouse to the community center.

There was only a three-hour window for us to load up, so young and old, short and tall were there in our community service shirts to load up

cars, trucks and trailers. Under the leadership of Jerry Kenyon and Sharon Carpenter the first step of this task was accomplished.

The Community Service Center is open to help survivors of burnouts and other emergency situations with anything we can supply, without a cost to the survivors. Kenyon, along with Carpenter, Hope Williams and Marjorie Babcock have faithfully been there to help victims. Once a month the center has a sale to earn money to supply needed items that are not stocked. Amazingly

the shelves are never empty. More donations always come in.

The West Helena area is learning who we are and what we can do and that we do care for them. A special thank you to Jerry Kenyon for helping us start our community services and for giving us a way to show our community that we do care. Over 75 percent of our church membership is involved with this program in one way or another.

By Betty Hoag





# Coupled in Ministry

## A Lifetime of Love and Service

**LITTLE ROCK, ARK.** – It takes a special person to be a church school teacher/principal; lead out with Outdoor Schools and vacation Bible schools; and be a member of North American Division Children’s Ministry Advisory, Youth, Pathfinders Adventurers Camp (YPAC) Advisory and Pathfinder leadership. That special person is receiving her 60-year pin and certificate for Pathfinder leadership at the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. this summer.

She didn’t accomplish all of these things on her own, however; during their 45 years of ministry and service for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Don and Joyce Fortner have touched a lot of lives as shepherds of their flocks.

Although Joyce majored in biochemistry and thought she would work in the pharmaceutical industry, once she met Don Fortner, a young man from Texas, she never looked back. It began in a small church in Elkhart, Ind. when some seminary students came to help the church reach their ingathering goal.

Joyce was young, attractive and very active in the local church. She was already leading out with the church’s pathfinder club, prayer meetings and served as head of the social committee. It was quite exciting when the young seminary students came to help.

Don Fortner, began playing piano at age four under his mother’s tutelage. He

had always been a very musical person, so during the church service in Elkhart, Don helped lead out with the singing and playing.

Although Joyce was impressed with his singing voice, it was his cowboy boots that really caught her eye. As he continued to attend the church, she asked for help to pull together a Valentine’s Day banquet, and he obliged. The theme was “Dream, Dream, Dream,” and they pulled together a program that highlighted “the seven stages of life.”

Don was in his senior year at Andrews majoring in theology. He longed to find his soul mate, someone to partner with him in family and ministry. After that Valentine’s day banquet, he realized he had found the perfect one for him. On May 30 later that year, Don and Joyce were married.

The Fortners have two biological children and four adopted children; siblings whom they had the privilege to foster. With six young children that were all about one year apart, Joyce was already quite busy with children’s ministries.

When they moved to Bartlesville, Okla. they found there was not an Adventist school in the area. So Joyce began a home school. Most of the students were their own children, but over time the school grew until she was teaching 28 to 36 children!

There is no way to cover all the joys in

ministry the Fortners have experienced together, but Joyce says that everything they have done in their illustrious lives has been done in connection with their church and family. Can you imagine the fun the Fortners will have in heaven, meeting all the people whose lives they have touched?

Joyce and Don Fortner are still actively meeting people’s needs and touching lives. Today, they they minister to the members and community of the Little Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church.

They are a blessing to our conference, union and even division. We are grateful for these committed servants of the Lord. “Well done, good and faithful servants! ... Enter into the joy of thy Lord.” Matthew 25:23.

By Sylvia Downs



# A Simple Gesture

## Heartfelt Ministry at Work in Rogers

**ROGERS, ARK.** – The Rogers Seventh-day Adventist Church women’s ministry was active in February as a small group of ladies got together with some donated fabric from several of the church ladies. Katie Jones and Barb Hays enjoy making quilts and decided to make a lovely quilt although they didn’t know who they would give the final product to. So, they measured, cut, coordinated colors,

pinned and sewed dozens of squares.

It was at that time that one of our dear members, Laura Weyer, passed away from breast cancer. Weyer had started a prayer shawl ministry for our women’s ministry several years ago, where ladies would gather and crochet or knit shawls to give to ladies in need of encouragement, prayer or friendship.

Weyer’s daughter, Heather, showed

so much compassion toward her mom and relatives during Weyer’s last two weeks, orchestrating meals, housekeeping, medications and her care, that Jones and Hays wanted to express Christ’s love by gifting her their beautiful quilt. This unexpected gift made a huge impression on Heather as she saw Christ’s love in action.

By Nancy Riedesel



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Or send requests to [news@arklac.org](mailto:news@arklac.org)

# True Religion

## Doing Unto Others with Kindness and Compassion



Recently, a family showed up at our conference office on a bitterly cold, windy day. It was a Friday and we were about to go home for the weekend. They were looking for help with food and gas. They looked very much troubled. This is a very common sight for us as well as many of our churches on Sabbath morning. People come seeking help. At times, they are people who go from church to church seeking a handout and are not living responsible lives. Other times, they are people who are genuinely in need. We find ourselves trying to decide the best way to respond to those in front of us, praying about the best way to help them.

This particular Friday was one of those moments. I usually never turn away a request for food or gas. This couple truly was in great need. They had five children, ages 2, 3, 4, 10 and 13 and were all living in a motel room. The husband was out of work and they needed food and gas. We gathered some food we had in the office and took up an offering. One of the ladies went to Walmart and brought back some more food and diapers for the younger ones. We also filled their tank with gas. I felt our part in helping was finished and prepared to leave the office. As I did, a few scriptures came into my mind. “Love your neighbor as yourself” and “Do unto others as you would have done unto you” and “Inasmuch as you have done it to the least of these my brethren, you have done it unto Me.” I asked myself, how would I like to be treated in such a situation?

I invited the man to come into my office and tell me his story. They had recently moved back to Oklahoma City but his work wouldn't start for a few weeks. They had run out of money and were about to be evicted from the motel. I wondered how I would feel in his situation. The old saying, “What would Jesus do?” came into my mind. Then I thought of all the people who had helped me in time of need.

One time, I was in college with a wife and child and our food was gone. That day I received a check from someone unexpectedly that helped us to make it to payday. But most importantly I remembered how much Jesus had given and sacrificed for me. I also remembered how Jesus helped the outcasts, hurting and needy.

An impression came to me that I should do all I could to help him. I asked an Adventist church nearby to donate from their community service fund and they said, “yes.” I contacted our local ministerial alliance, which I am a part of, and four other churches agreed to help. My wife and I always set aside money to help people we hear of who are struggling, so we also contributed.

We worked with a community housing group and got the family into a home. We gathered kitchen supplies and found furniture for them as well. One of our churches also hired him to work on a remodeling project in an area he was trained in. It was amazing to see what can happen when everyone works together for the greater good of others. It was truly a blessing to be a part of it.

I believe it all started with the voice of the Holy Spirit reminding me of Jesus' compassion, love and telling us to go and do likewise. Sounds like true religion to me.

*James Shires, President*



# Outstanding Leadership

## Recognizing Jim East's Service and Legacy

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – The Pathfinder Legend Award recognizes past Pathfinder, Adventurer and Youth Leaders who made an impact on children's lives. In January 2019, at Oklahoma's Youth Leadership Retreat, Jim East was recognized posthumously.

East will forever be in our hearts and memories. His wife, Gayle East, and several family members attended the evening vespers program and shared wonderful stories and pictures of their family and ministry. We are truly thankful and blessed for the work

they have done, not only in the Bristow Seventh-day Adventist Church and community, but also for what they have done as a "Servant to God, and a Friend to Man." Gayle continues to be very involved with her grandchildren and the Bristow Stars Pathfinder Club. Thank you for your continued commitment and service for God's work.

By Carol Chadwick



# From Korea to Oklahoma

## Language Camp Blesses Students and Hosts

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – The Oklahoma Conference Education and Youth Departments host a yearly English language camp called "Sooner ESL Camp." Students from Adventist schools in Korea visit Oklahoma to practice the English they have learned at home for either four or eight weeks. Participating students are in grades 3-8 and stay with host families near one of our schools and as a bonus trip, go to Walt Disney World in Florida for one week.

This year Sooner ESL Camp hosted 50 students in four of our schools. The

teachers at Bristow, Ketchum, Parkview and Tulsa, along with the host families, made this year a huge success. Not only is this a great opportunity for the students coming here from Korea, but for our students as well, as they get to spend time with others learning about Korean culture.

Sooner ESL Camp ended with a visit from Suk-Woo Kang, the education director of the Korean Union. He and his assistant, Seungim Kim, came to chaperone our Korean Sooner ESL campers home. They visited the Oklahoma

Conference office, the Southwestern Union office and Southwestern Adventist University touring each campus.

Returning to Oklahoma, they visited several of our schools and tourist spots such as the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum. Their trip ended with Kang speaking words of encouragement at our Oklahoma Conference Music Festival and the Korean students singing a Korean Traditional song, Arirang.

By Tim Kripps,  
Education Director



# Building, Serving and Loving

## Oklahoma Mission Team Travels to Bolivia

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – The airport gate area began to fill with excitement and mystery as team members started showing up for the flight to Bolivia. Eleven of our 42 members were new to the team and there was a lot of getting acquainted to do. None of them had ever been on a short-term mission trip and seven had never done any type of overseas missions. The bonding was almost immediate however, leading one person to say, “I was just delighted with watching the joy of people who had never traveled before see new things, and enjoy the camaraderie of working together to build the buildings.”

Upon arrival in Bolivia the team found that because of unseasonably cool temperatures and rain, there were only five days to frame, block and roof

two church buildings in the suburbs of Cochabamba. It seemed an impossible task but God controlled the rain just enough and Maranatha had all the supplies ready. On Sabbath morning in the continuing rain, an excited congregation entered their new sanctuary. We were greeted by a brass band, the pastor, the conference secretary and a lot of warm smiles. It was a tremendous Sabbath celebration.

We build however, knowing that our time on earth is temporary as we look to the Second Coming of Jesus. People are what really matter, so we asked the congregations how we could help. We led an evangelistic meeting, family life sessions, healthy living seminars and children’s programs. It is fun to watch the children on the first day as they tentatively peek

through the fence or around the corner and then later in the week are running up to the staff and giving them big hugs.

Here is how one person summed up our time together: “It was our first mission trip. I did construction and my wife and daughter did VBS with some construction in the mornings. A friend told me that once you go, you will want to go again and again. He was right! It was a perfect mix of hard work, serving and making new friends, both with the mission team and in Bolivia. It was an awesome opportunity to serve and have a lot of fun.” Contact Bill Norman at 405.208.1289 if you are interested in serving with us next year.



# Let the Little Children Come

## Tulsa Spanish Focuses on Reaching Children

**TULSA** – Every Wednesday, children ages six to 11 meet at the Tulsa Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, under the direction of the children's ministry leaders, Betty Velazquez and the Chon family.

The children, both members and non-members, learn important age-appropriate Bible topics in a dynamic and didactic way. They sing, laugh and every child gets an opportunity to participate.

This is not a typical church program, though. This program was implemented in early 2018 and grew stronger over

the course of the year. The end of the year saw even more joyful and surprising moments.

We felt the Holy Spirit move and lead our children to invite others. The children themselves invited their friends from the neighborhood and school to our year-end meeting to celebrate with us. We had seven children come who do not attend our church services. That was a joy!

The program consists of imparting spiritual knowledge to the children of our church, preparing for our great

VBX children's campaign and teaching and encouraging the children to share the gospel. We also seek to develop leaders in our church until Christ comes.

“Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.” Proverbs 22:6.

By Samuel Ruiz



# Celebrating 20 Years

## Adventist Fellowship Ministers in Tulsa

**TULSA** – The 20-year anniversary of Adventist Fellowship of Tulsa was held on February 9, 2019. The attendees were blessed with an anointed Sabbath school lesson taught by pastors Walter Martinez and Stephen Carlile. The church's founding pastor, Bill McClendon, preached a powerful sermon sharing “Why I still believe in evangelism” providing a connection to the current vision of sharing the simple gospel.

The afternoon began with a trip down memory lane as a panel consisting of past and present pastors shared

their thoughts and highlights of ministry. The attendees were blessed with a melodious concert by Vocal Union, an integral musical fixture at Adventist Fellowship since the early days. The day culminated with tasty treats consisting of veggie burgers made by the Pathfinders and a chocolate fountain.

The celebration was filled with fellowship, reconnections and with excitement and appreciation for the leading of God during the last 20 years while looking to the awesome future of the next 20 years.

By Karol Mosebay



# Stamp Out Starvation

## Teaming up to Package Meals for Kids in Need

**ALVA, OKLA.** – The Cherokee T-Rex Adventurer Club joined the Alva Warriors Adventurer Club at a Stamp Out Starvation event and bagged 7,000 meals to feed hungry children. Four-year olds and 40-year-olds alike worked should-

er-to-shoulder in rhythmic scooping and pouring. We were glad to take part in this worthy effort.

Stamp Out Starvation travels to schools and camps setting up assembly lines for large groups to package meals

for the hungry. The packages have soy protein, dried veggies, chicken seasoning and rice. The food goes to children here and overseas, with the majority sent to an orphanage in Haiti.

By Gabi Simpson



# 2019 SUMMER CAMP



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# Be the Spark

## Igniting the Flame of Kindness Around You



**W**e live in an age of selfishness, greed and self-love where it appears that the vast majority of people look out for themselves. The tone in our world, our nation and our churches seems to lean toward the unscriptural Beatitude that says: Do unto others first, before they do it unto you.

Defined acts of genuine kindness are a rare occurrence that surprises all of us when we hear it, see it and read it. It is really shocking when people show kindness toward a stranger, especially to those who are different. Author Mark Twain said: “Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.”

True religion, real religion, is not about how many doctrines we know or how many Scriptures we can quote, how much tithe and offerings we give or even what denomination we belong to. True religion is a demonstration of our behavior toward our fellow man.

Mother Teresa, the nun and missionary who famously bestowed kindness, would be a good model to study. But I found a better model—He is the originator of kindness and compassion and 2,000 years after his death, millions still marvel at His acts of kindness. No, it’s not Muhammad, Krishna, Dalai Lama, or Buddha. It is Jesus—a humble, royal child born into poverty, yet one who possessed the character to reach out and touch the untouchable, the unloved, the marginalized, the widow and the downtrodden.

Matthew 10:8 illustrates the character of a kind, compassionate soul. To approach a leper with that dreaded incurable disease was a violation of Levitical law, but we see Jesus willing to violate an unjust and inhumane law to show kindness and bring healing to a human being. The law mandated a wall of separation, but Jesus tore down the wall as we must be willing to do to show kindness.

There are three traits that Jesus demonstrated to His disciples and to all of us: 1) It’s worth taking the risk to show kindness. 2) “Be kind and compassionate to one another.” Ephesians 4:32. 3) The true attribute of a follower of Christ is to be compassionate and kind before trying to be politically correct.

Let’s be that rare Christian who is willing to follow in His footsteps instead of following the noise that comes from the bleachers of selfishness. Let’s determine that we will be the spark that ignites the flames of kindness in our neighborhoods, our churches, our conferences, our church boards and our homes. Let’s be kind even to those who don’t deserve it and “Overcome evil with good.” Romans 12:2.

*By Calvin L. Watkins, President*





# Mission Possible

## Dallas City Temple Goes to El Paso

**DALLAS** – On January 25, Jaime Kowlessar, Dallas City Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church senior pastor, and 50 church members headed for El Paso for the “Mission Possible” trip. The group wanted an up-close and personal look at conditions of immigrant families in their fight for United States citizenship. The mission trip was headed by Kowlessar, who advocates social justice opportunities and being the hands and feet of Christ. The itinerary was coordinated by Faith in Texas and Hope Border Institute, two grassroots community

actions organizations that also advocate for social and economic justice.

In El Paso, church members visited the United States–Mexico border wall; participated in feeding and clothing distribution at a migrant shelter; and joined a local rally protesting the criminalization of asylum seekers. All were moved to tears as they heard various stories of the reasons people are fleeing their country. Some flee because of the extreme of physical and mental anguish that are experienced in a quest to escape the violence in their home

countries and move to the United States for a better life. News accounts of the two children that died in ICE detention centers became even more real as members listened to live testimonies from people and organizations that work with these distressed families. Going forward, “Mission Possible” has fueled a desire for future mission trips as well as tangible ways to minister to families that need help. This way, “Mission Possible” becomes “Mission Accomplished.”

By Thea G. Walker



# True Liberty is Power of Choice

## Berean’s PARL Emphasis Sabbath

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** – Sonja Miller, Ph.D., is the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church’s religious liberty coordinator. We recently had a Public Affairs and Religious Liberty (PARL) Day with guest speaker Stephen Brooks, Southwest Region Conference PARL director.

Brooks’ seminar began by defining Public Affairs as the method of forming relationships with public figures from city parish government to law enforcement. “Not only should you be in attendance at their meetings, but invite them to your programs as well,” Brooks emphasized.

Deuteronomy 30 reminds us that God created humanity with the power of choice and true liberty is based on that freedom.

Brooks encouraged, “But above all, become an activist by being aware of circumstances in your state and country where there are violations of religious freedom. Speak up judging fairly for those who cannot speak for themselves as God directs in Proverbs 31:8-9.”

By Evelyn M. Edwards



# Unique Talents

## Promoting Relationship with God

**HOUSTON** – We can look at Jesus’ life to learn more about what talents are distributed among us. During the last supper in Matthew 26, Jesus displayed some of the more obscure talents seen in our churches:

**Hospitality.** When a special time of the year came, the disciples knew to go to Jesus to ask Him how to make arrangements. Making a comfortable environment facilitates camaraderie. When people connect with each other, they learn to love like Christ loved. If others look to you for potlucks or special event coordination, rejoice! God has shown you how to make a suitable environment

for Him to dwell with His people!

**Education.** Jesus uses an analogy to clarify the way to a healthy relationship with God. In studying to teach others, you will generally learn new things about God. Think back on a time where you helped teach the Sabbath School lesson or taught a class in one of the church clubs. Both the hearer and the educator grow in Christ!

**Creativity.** In one of Jesus’ last moments with His disciples, He delivers one of His most powerful, lasting examples of His role in salvation. Through something as common as bread and wine, He delivers a sermon that is preached

many times over in churches all around the world. His creativity, in making this example, is evident in many members of our churches. If you are a creative person, remember: anything done with the Holy Spirit’s guidance—from a small flier, youth drama, building a set, even cooking something new—can have an impact as large as breaking bread did!

The next time you read through what Jesus did during His life on earth, scrutinize how He led people to the Father. The Holy Spirit may have given you one of these talents so you could do the same!

By Luis S. Castro

# New Hires and Moves

## Welcomes New District Pastors and Teachers

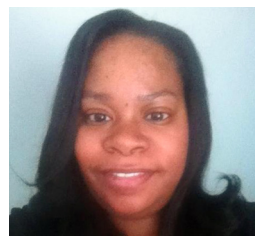
**DALLAS** – The Southwest Region Conference welcomes its newest employees to the ministry team. We are excited and blessed to have these individuals join us in our mission.

Our mission field encompasses Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas. We pray a special blessing over each of our leaders as they minister in their churches, schools and communities.

Top: Carl Ming, Garland Casalita Seventh-day Adventist Church and Conference Assistant Youth Director; Wilmore Green IV, Tulsa and Muskogee District; Etser Edouard, El Paso and Las Cruces District; Cedric Belcher, Grace Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church (senior pastor); Jordaan Houston, Grace Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church (assistant pastor).

Bottom: Morris McPherson, Amarillo

and Lubbock District; S. Eliot Brooks III, Shreveport, Cedar Grove, Mansfield and Coushatta District; Shelot Pierre, Lawton, Oklahoma, and Grand Prairie and Waxahachie, Texas District; Vanston Archbold, Conference Assistant Youth Director, Renea Whiting, Conference Assistant Superintendent of Schools. Unpictured: J. Malcolm Phipps, San Antonio District.



Southwest Region Conference Camp Meeting

# We Are Family

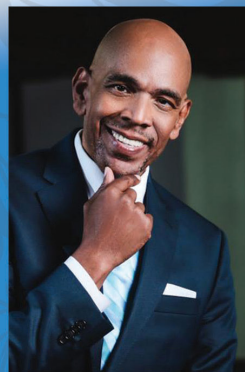
*Rooted together in Christ*



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Abraham Acosta Jr.  
Pastor de Jóvenes  
South Atlantic Conference



Juan Caicedo  
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# Kind to Christ

## How Are You Showing Compassion to Christ's "Brethren?"



Matthew 25:40, NKJV says, “And the King (Christ) will answer and say to them (the righteous), ‘Assuredly, I say to you, **M**inasmuch as you did it (showed kindness and compassion) to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.’” I have read that particular passage of scripture countless times, yet had not, until now, meditated on its deep implications.

In the 1950s, approximately 90 percent of Americans identified as Christians. Today, almost 70 years later, a little more than 60 percent claim any affiliation to Christ. Somehow, Christianity gravitated toward doctrinal preeminence and abandoned the practicality of being a representative of Christ. The eternal truths of the Bible are vital, but the impenitent world that surrounds us is not impressed by a Christianity that preaches at them yet fails to be salt and light with its actions and lifestyle.

In Matthew 25:44, people address Jesus, asking “Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?” Until now, I hadn’t noticed the emphasis on *Who* things were failed to be done for.

According to scripture, a whole lot of church-going folk had done a lot of things in the “name of Christ,” yet they overlooked Christ Himself in the form of needy and less fortunate individuals. I am struck with how Jesus refers to the less fortunate as His brethren. Being kind and compassionate to a neglected and many-times shunned world is an essential cog in the wheel of Christianity and sanctification. It is not about having health clinics, cooking classes, Revelation seminars or completing community service projects just to post pictures on Facebook or write an article for the Southwestern Union *Record*. It is more about a dedicated and unassuming lifestyle of positively impacting the communities we live in, if not on a daily basis, at minimum on a monthly basis. Being a child of God affects how we love and relate to people. Matthew West in his song “Do Something” conveys the story of an intense conversation with God. West sings of all the suffering, social injustice, intolerance and neglect in the world. Then demands of the Lord, “God, why don’t You do something?” “He said, ‘I did... I created you.’”

By Carlos J. Craig, President



# Total Member Involvement

## Texas Conference Members Learn to Share Their Faith

**ALVARADO, TEX.** — “Start Something New... to Win Souls” was the theme for the 2019 Total Member Involvement (TMI) Evangelism Training events held in eight different locations around the Texas Conference each Sabbath afternoon from January 12 - March 2. In addition to two general sessions, there were 15 breakout seminars in English and Spanish, all focused on one mission: to encourage members to Start Something New... to Win Souls (either at home or abroad). The breakout seminars included Adventist Community Services,

Child Evangelism, Family Ministries, Global Mission, Health Evangelism, Literature Evangelism, Personal Ministries, Sabbath School and Youth Evangelism.

At the final training event, March 2, 2019, in McAllen, Tex., 88-year-old Lillian Gonzalez was interviewed. She has been giving Bible studies and winning souls for more than four decades. Though starting her life in poverty with a limited education, she is recognized for her soul-winning wisdom by hundreds of people who have been baptized through her humble, faithful efforts. We pray the

Lord will raise up many more like Lillian who will start something— Bible studies, small groups, mission trips, Adventist work in new communities—to win souls for Jesus. Soon, He will return and we will have the joy of seeing His face and the faces of those we led to Him. Find more information about evangelism at [TexasEvangelism.com](http://TexasEvangelism.com).

————— *Article and photos by Dan Serns  
English Evangelism Director*

*Lillian Gonzalez (left) and two ladies who are currently receiving Bible studies.*



# Advent Ridge Academy

## New Hospital Name Inspires New School Name

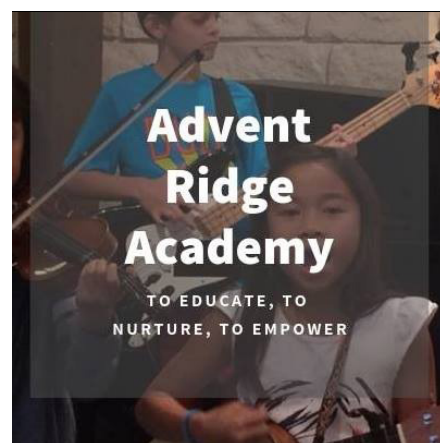
**SAN MARCOS, TEX.** — After years of discussion, San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy is now Advent Ridge Academy. The school board, affirmed by the San Marcos Seventh-day Adventist Church body at the fall business meeting, voted to change the school name. This past January, it was approved by the Texas Conference Board of Education.

The school board and staff entertained many different names over the years knowing we serve an area greater than San Marcos, and not wanting to limit the grades offered by including junior in the

name. With the recent name change of our sister hospital to AdventHealth Care Center San Marcos, our school board members were inspired by the beautiful meaning of the name, Advent. God has blessed us with a setting that overlooks the beautiful Texas Hill Country to the west of us. Many gorgeous sunsets have been enjoyed from atop that ridge.

The transition to our new name will happen slowly over the next few months and into the summer. Find more information at [SMAJA.org](http://SMAJA.org).

————— *By Kristi Reeves*



# Sharing Your Gifts

## Helping the "Least of These" With Your Time and Talents

**KEENE, TEX.** – I am always amazed at the willingness of individuals to help those in need by using their talents. In January, Adventist Community Services (ACS) received adult and baby hand knitted scarves and caps. The time and work that was taken on each scarf and cap is amazing and a blessing!

Using your God-given talent to help those in need is one way of giving back to your community. Email [acs@txsda.org](mailto:acs@txsda.org) or call (817) 641-7679 if you would like to help others.

— *By Julie Gonzales, ACS Associate Director*



# Week of Prayer

## SWAU Professor Inspires Students with Adventist History

**CLEBURNE, TEX.** – Cleburne Adventist Christian School (CACS) was blessed to have a Week of Prayer with Michael Campbell, Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) associate professor of religion. The messages focused on developing a friendship with Jesus through encouraging stories of Seventh-day Adventist pioneers. Campbell shared about William Miller, Joseph Bates, Ellen G. White and a variety of other church founders that helped students understand how each of these leaders developed faith and friendship

with Jesus by studying God's word for themselves. He also shared a number of historic items with the students, including a newspaper from 1844, some antique coins and a number of antique books from his personal collection. The students especially loved trying to hold up a very large Bible like the one that White held up when she was in vision. The week was capped off on Sabbath when the students shared some of their favorite memories of the week with the church congregation and sang special music during the Sabbath service.

CACS is a partner with the SWAU education department in helping to prepare student teachers for multi-grade classrooms. The schools also work together to give education majors testing and evaluation experience. CACS has been on field trips to the university, including the Hopps Museum, the Dinosaur Museum and the biology department.

We have been greatly blessed to have such wonderful resources and people so close at hand.

————— *By Carla Simmons*



# Annual Service Project

## Keene's Youth Group Supplies Radios to Share Jesus' Stories

**KEENE, TEX.** — The Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church youth, known as The Upper Room, chooses a project every year to either serve or support. Previous years' projects included raising money for The Oaks Adventist Christian School in Cypress, Texas, after the school was flooded and Tarrant County Foster Care Agency, providing much-needed sleeping bags for foster children.

This year, the project chosen was "Megavoice to students in Cambodia." This project helps students who can't read, hear the stories of Jesus.

A thermometer sign in the Sabbath School classroom highlighted the giving results. When staff at Advocates for Southeast Asians and the Persecuted Ministries was notified that enough money was raised to purchase 10 solar power radios, they were thrilled.

The Upper Room youth members are proud to contribute in a small way. If God can bless the small gift of a young boy's lunch to feed thousands, we believe our little fundraiser will help reach thousands for the Lord.

By Carlos Pasillas



# A Moving Ministry

## Transitions Provide Opportunities to Share Jesus

**ALVARADO, TEX.** — "We move with care, everywhere" has been the slogan for the Texas Conference Transportation Department for more than 15 years. Created in the mid-1950s, this department was formed to move people within the Southwestern Adventist Union territory and beyond.

We bring something special that other movers may not have: a prayerful spirit, trust in our Lord and care for our brethren. We start each move with prayer, asking God for safety and comfort, knowing transitions can be hard for

some people. We have had people tell us that they have never had someone pray for their safety while working, and how moved they were by that.

Our drivers—myself, David Lambeth, Daniel Jaramillo and Anthony Rosado—have shared stories of stopping immediately and praying when challenges arose. Whether it was making a wrong turn or having a mechanical issue, as soon as the prayer was spoken the answer was revealed.

I grew up around the conference trucks with my parents, Doug and Janet

Habenicht, who worked in the Transportation Department along with my grandfather, Johnny Thompson, who was a driver for the Texas Conference. I enjoyed being in the big rigs as my family moved people from coast to coast. At a young age, I saw the difference they made for those they moved and am thankful we can do the same. If we can plant a seed in someone's heart that leads them to Jesus, we have moved the most important commodity.

By Dennis Habenicht  
Transportation Director



*"A light shining in the Darkness"*

Texas Conference Transportation



# The Missing Headlines

## Grateful For God's Protection For His Missionaries

**KEENE, TEX.** — I scanned the newspaper as I sat in the dining area of a beautiful resort in Cancun, Mexico. The front-page featured Super Bowl ads, military academies and heart disease rates. There was no headline about a plane crash somewhere between Lima and Cancun, carrying a group of American students returning from a mission trip, because thankfully, it never happened.

Our mission group, comprised mostly of students, staff and parents from Chisholm Trail Academy (CTA) in Keene, Texas, left El Alto, Bolivia, the night before. The next morning, we flew to Lima, the first of three flights on our journey home. There, we boarded our next flight only to sit on the tarmac for hours. The captain was concerned about a mechanical problem with the plane. After several hours, he finally announced that he was unwilling to fly the plane we boarded.

Travel delays are frustrating and although it would result in adding an extra 24 hours to our journey home, I was grateful for the news. I always pray for the aircraft, crew and passengers before each flight, so I accepted this as God's will. Of course, this caused us to miss our connecting flight in Cancun, so the airline treated us to an overnight stay and meals in a beautiful resort.

The newspaper also had no headlines about this small band of short-term

missionaries. While it may not have made headlines, what this group did was life-changing and made the world a better place.

Coordinated by Rosa Briones, CTA Spanish teacher, 21 students, four staff members and six adult volunteers chose to spend their winter break serving at a Maranatha Volunteers International project building a church and providing a medical/vision clinic in El Alto, Bolivia.

At 13,615 feet, El Alto is the highest major metropolis in the world, meaning we would have to do our work with the added challenge of adjusting to the low oxygen levels at such a high altitude.

With God's blessings, we overcame our altitude sickness and powered through our daily assigned tasks. We divided our group into two teams, alternating between the construction site of the new Panaromica Seventh-day Adventist Church and the medical clinic at the Shalom Seventh-day Adventist School, just a couple of miles away.

Students assisted with interpretation, patient registration and scheduling, testing vision, distributing eyeglasses and dispensing medications. Around 240 patients were treated in the medical clinic and approximately 260 patients were fitted with new eyeglasses.

"It's a blessing to see my students working for the Lord and serving oth-

ers," Briones said. "Mission trips have the potential to change the life of young boys and girls."

"It changed my life," said Vicky Yan, senior CTA Chinese exchange student. "It helped me realize how blessed I am to live in the United States," shared Ashley McClatchie, junior CTA student. "We take so much for granted."

"The church members, students and sponsors worked really hard," Darlene Connell, CTA Science teacher, noted.

None of this news about our mission trip made headlines in any newspaper. It is certainly noteworthy, though, when young people choose to give up their winter break time and travel to a distant country to work and serve others, at their own expense. This was not a tourist excursion, even though there were a couple of days for sightseeing.

Bolivia is a country full of natural beauty, grand Andes mountain peaks, peaceful Lake Titicaca and enchanting Moon Valley, but what we will remember most is the precious Bolivian people. The experience of giving of ourselves to serve others is incomparable. And being received so warmly and appreciated with such genuine gratefulness left an impression on our hearts, reminding us that we find our greatest joy in serving others. Read the complete article with pictures at [TexasAdventist.org/news](http://TexasAdventist.org/news).

By Nathan Krause



# Transparent Faith

## Showing Compassion Through Ministry



“For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink...” Matthew 25:35.

What does it mean to demonstrate kindness and compassion? As a pastor I've seen my share of acts of kindness and compassion. Most recently, the young adult ministry members at the Corrales Seventh-day Adventist Church have shown me that they understand what this means. The ministry has evolved in the last few years. It started off as a small group of about six to eight young adults and has grown into a group of about 30 to 40 people that are influencing every aspect of the church. These young adults are serving as ministry leaders, Sabbath School teachers, deacons/deaconesses, elders and volunteers in various other areas.

One of the reasons for the effectiveness of this ministry is that as a group they encourage an atmosphere of warmth and acceptance. Not only do they have deep and meaningful conversations during Sabbath school morning time on a weekly basis, but they also plan monthly activities outside of church. Typically, these activities are social gatherings that give them an opportunity to get to know each other and strengthen their friendships. They have game nights at someone's house, picnics at the park, bowling nights and the list goes on. But more importantly they coordinate outreach Sabbaths which involves them going into the community and serving those in need. They recently joined the church's Community Service ministry in partnering with Last Chance Ministries, a non-profit organization that works closely with the homeless community, to feed the homeless in downtown Albuquerque. As a result of them joining together, the Community Service ministry at Corrales has thrived.

I believe this has happened because these young adults understand that kindness and compassion is not something that you claim to have, but something that you live out. The beautiful thing about it all is that these young adults were the ones who took the initiative to serve in this capacity. Their desire for service was triggered by their time together in study and fellowship. In other words, the community that they created and nurtured eventually evolved into an army for service, overflowing with acts of kindness and compassion to those around them. This kind of unselfish service is a fruit of those who choose to live with the mindset of Christ. Now, as they continue to grow and mature, I see them not only inviting others to join their activities, but they are inviting them to be a part of their lives. Their time together in study, fellowship and service have now become a natural overflow of life. We can all learn from this example and do the same because I truly believe that this is how it's meant to be!

*By Andre Arrais, Texico Young Adult Director*



# Gearing Up for June 2019

## Texico Conference Camp Meeting

**CORRALES, N.M.** – Next month, Texico Conference church members and staff will be driving into the mountains of south-central New Mexico to Bonita Park Camp in Capitan for our 2019 Texico Conference Camp Meeting. Taking place from June 6-8, 2019, this year’s camp meeting promises to be one full of blessings.

“This event is always an important event for us on many fronts, especially when you factor in all its moving parts like keynote speakers, sessions and all the fun activities Bonita Park has to offer,” said Lee-Roy Chacon, Texico Conference president. “These are all essential components of camp meeting but coming together as a family of God and receiving His Spirit is what makes camp meeting worth the trip.”

The 2019 Texico Camp Meeting will feature special musical guests like the King’s Heralds, Ricardo Norton and Richard and Joanne Davidson, professors from Andrews University.

Justin Khoe, a digital missionary and producer of *That Christian Vlogger*, a weekly YouTube show, will be speaking at the youth events.

The Children’s Ministry department is also preparing a fun program titled *ROAR - Life is Wild, God is Good!* Kids and teens from the ages of 9 to 15 also have the opportunity to kick off the week’s events early and attend Camp Texico from June 2-6, at Bonita Park. Last year, more than 80 kids participated in the first Camp Texico since 2004. This year, camp directors are looking to build on last year’s success and hope

parents will make plans to sign up their kids. For those who have not been to Bonita Park, the campground has a lot of fun outdoor and indoor activities such as a zipline, ropes course, rock wall climbing, sand volleyball and swimming.

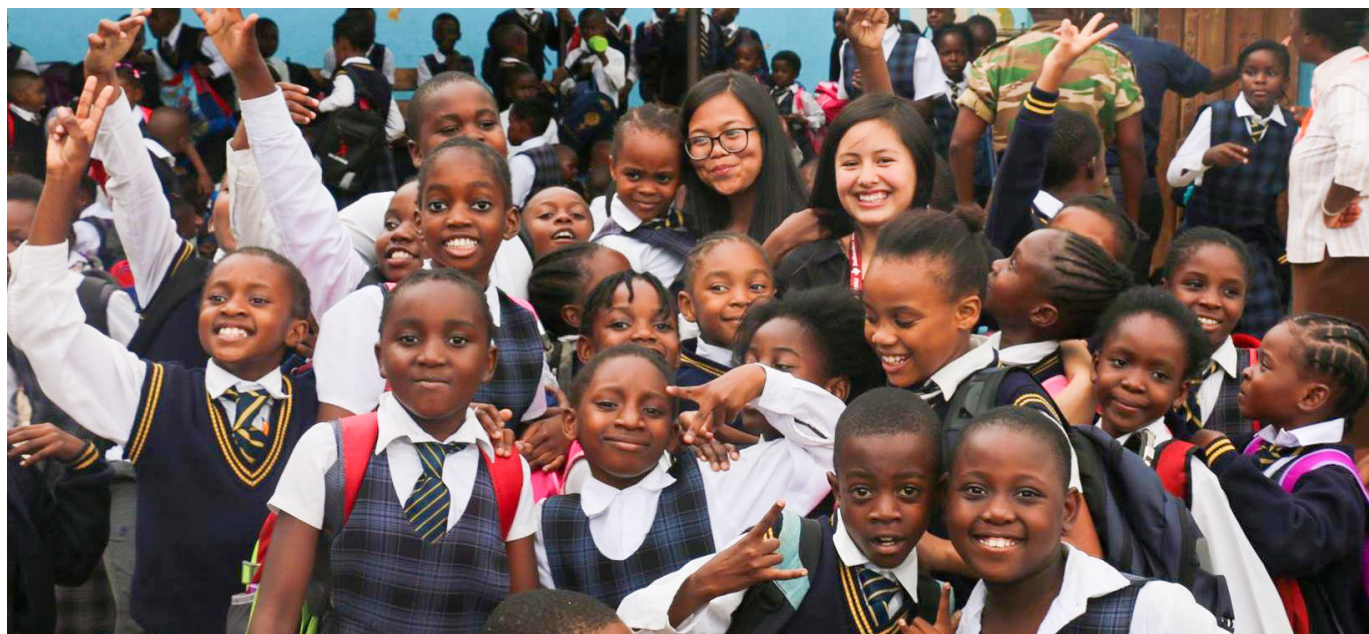
“It will be an enjoyable and spiritually uplifting time for everyone,” said Chacon. “We look forward to seeing every member of the Texico Conference next month at Bonita Park!” For more information and to register for Camp Texico and for the 2019 Texico Camp Meeting, visit [Texico.org](http://Texico.org).

— By Debbie Marquez,  
Communication Director



# Vacation with a Divine Purpose

## Sandia View Academy Mission Trip to Zambia



Sandia View Academy (SVA) recently sent 11 students and four sponsors on a journey of a lifetime to Kabwe, Zambia. They set out to build classrooms with Maranatha Volunteers International workers and hold health awareness seminars for children and teens. We started with a 6 a.m. wake-up call to prepare for worship services at Kabwe Adventist School (KAS). SVA students led in morning devotions and songs of praise for over 550 students. After worship, breakfast was served at the local conference office, Midlands East Zambia Conference. Afterwards the volunteers reported to the construction site where cement blocks were prepared and set in place. Parent Pedro Terrazas ensured everyone was safe and directions were followed accurately and according to foreman Margarito's instructions. The hot sun and humidity did not stop the student volunteers from smiling for pictures. Construction ended at 12:30 p.m. for lunch.

After lunch, the team prepared for the afternoon sessions at KAS. For two days, we conducted health awareness seminars using Maranatha's Interactive Health Program. Student volunteers were

assigned a specific health station that had games and fun activities, teaching important basic health concepts. We had eight stations (food, air, sunshine and sleep, trust in God, self-control, heart/exercise, water and fitness) to present to over 250 children per day. For the first day, each elementary class rotated through the stations, spending 7-8 minutes at each one. On the second day, the high school students remained in their classrooms, while the presenters took the stations to each class. KAS students were highly engaged for both days. They participated in discussions and eagerly joined the activities.

Evening time was reserved for dinner, worship and reflection. After four days of mission work, students were treated with excursions to Zimbabwe and Botswana to visit Victoria Falls and Chobe National Park, where Texico Conference Superintendent Derral Reeve enlightened us about the many different species of birds. The sights of God's handiwork will never be forgotten.

**Cody Lytle, Junior:** *It's been something completely new for me and I was excited to do God's mission. The students there are just full*

*of straight positivity and happiness. I truly felt myself get closer to God.*

**David Lopez, Junior:** *It was something I didn't expect. It's one thing reading or watching or hearing about it but being there changes the way you think of Africa. I loved everything about it! Building the schools, being with the kids, worshipping at the churches, everything was such a blessing! The thing that impacted me the most was how happy everyone was. It's something I've never seen in the United States. There was no crying, no sadness. Everyone was so happy and excited to see us. It was the best welcome I've ever had, and it taught me to be happy for no other reason except that God lives in us. I also learned to be happy with the things that I have. If those in Kabwe, Zambia don't complain about the little they have, then who am I to complain? I also learned to be ready to serve on the spot and just have God take control when you run out of ideas.*

**Grace Delarmente, Junior:** *I have been blessed with this opportunity to be able to go out of the country and experience something different. This mission trip taught me something new everyday and it was filled with so many surprises and excitement. Being able to see the beautiful nature in Africa and meeting the God-loving students and church members*

showed me that this is a little taste of what heaven is going to be like.

**Caitlyn Gonzalez, Freshman:**

Overall this trip was a huge blessing I did not expect to be as impacted by the kids as much as I was. This mission trip opened my eyes to not only appreciate the things around me, but also the people. I pray that we were as much as a blessing to the kids at Kabwe Adventist School as they were to us. Seeing the smiles on their faces is something that I will truly never forget.

**Siobhán Conyne, Junior:** I've always wanted to go on a mission trip, but I'd never felt as if I had been called to one until this trip was announced. While I was there, I realized why I felt so called. It completely changed the way I think, because I was able to help others. This trip has shown me what God does for others, as well as the things He does for us. I was so blessed meeting new people, seeing the way

others worship and being able to help them with even the small things.

Many thanks also to the various donors and sponsors who made this trip possible for students who otherwise could not afford to go. From the \$5 donations in the offering plates to the \$2,600 checks, we thank you for your prayers and actions! I would also like to thank Maranatha Volunteers for planning and organizing our way and full itinerary.

While serving God was the utmost goal of this trip, it was exposing 11 academy students to our worldwide Adventist system that was especially important to me. I wanted them to see for themselves how global our church is and how active we are in creating social change around the world. In the two Sabbaths that we were there, the students heard our

Adventist hymns sung in four different languages. As we drove from country to country, people noticed our Seventh-day Adventist logo on signs announcing that an Adventist church was nearby. I think SVA students understand now that they are part of an international family of believers who value health, education and the return of Jesus Christ. My students were so inspired by this mission trip. I can't wait for the next one. Until then, I think I'll open a Mission Trip Account to keep funded all year long. These trips cost money, but it is definitely worth the investment. If you would like to invest in changing young lives, please contact Sandia View Academy at 505-898-0717 or email [principal@sandiaviewacademy.org](mailto:principal@sandiaviewacademy.org).

By Chanda C. Castañeda



# Welcome to Texico!

## Two New Pastors Join the Texico Team in 2019

**CORRALES, N.M.** – It is with great pleasure that we welcome and introduce Tiago Arrais and Saul Flores as the newest pastors of the Texico Conference. Arrais recently started serving the Santa Fe Rabbit Road/Rancho Viejo Seventh-day Adventist Churches and the Los Ala-

mos Company. Meanwhile, Flores was welcomed to the Albuquerque North Valley and La Roca Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Churches in January.

“Together these pastors bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to their positions and we are thrilled to welcome

them into the Texico family,” said Texico Conference President Lee-Roy Chacon.

We are grateful that God led Arrais and Flores to the Texico Conference and we anticipate His blessings through their ministry.

*By Debbie Marquez, Communication Director*



Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

For kids ages 9-15. This camp offers a wide range of activities. The daily program will include swimming, different sports and recreational activities. In addition, each camper will enjoy daily devotionals, worship and Bible-based activities during “Unit Time”. This camp is perfect for the high energy young person of the millennium!



To register visit [www.texico.org/youth](http://www.texico.org/youth)



June 2-6, 2019



## Classified Ads

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teaching, flexibility and commitment to SDA education. The candidate must be a member in good and regular standing in the SDA Church. Doctorate strongly preferred; MSN required. Send curriculum vitae or inquiries to search committee chair, Christy Showalter, [CShowalter@Southern.edu](mailto:CShowalter@Southern.edu) in the School of Nursing, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315.

**Southern Adventist University Seeks Vice President for Spiritual Life** who will oversee all areas of spirituality on campus. This leader will provide spiritual

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## 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-in-law, Kathleen Wiley, Spring, Tex. Survivors: daughter, Dr. Joyce Allison.

**Dawson, Steven W.**, born Dec., 9, 1970, Russellville, Ark.; died Jan. 14, 2019, Little Rock, Ark. Church membership: Ola Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was preceded in death by his mother, Peggy Johnson Dawson. Survivors: daughter, Bailey Jo Dawson, of Plainview, Ark.; father, Jerry Dawson, Sr., of Dardanelle, Ark.; brother, Jerry Dawson, Jr. (Kristy) of Dardanelle, Ark.

**Draper, Jimmy Don, Sr.**, born Jan. 23, 1945, Malvern, Ark.; died Nov. 1, 2018. Church membership: Malvern

Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is preceded in death by his parents, Ervin and Ruby Draper; son, Kelly David Draper; and brother, George David Draper. Survivors: Susan Cox Draper; son, Jimmy Don Draper, Jr. (Tami), of Benton, Ark.; son, Charles Davis Draper (Teresa) of Little Rock, Ark.; son, Seth Draper (Angie), of Glen Rose, Tex.; stepson Mark Looper (Joanie); daughter, Lori Hall (Biki) of Malvern, Ark.; brother, Charles Draper (Janice), of Rockwell, Tex.; eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Gallegos, Jose "Joe" Moises**, born July 28, 1931, Hernandez, N. Mex.; died Feb. 22, 2019, Santa Fe, N. Mex. Church membership: Santa Fe Marcy Park Spanish

Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: children, Patricia Koh (Kilsan) of Lafayette, Colo.; Robert Gallegos of Santa Fe, N. Mex.; Mary Louise Pacheco of Santa Fe, N. Mex.; Debra Zapata (Fernando) of Rio Rancho, N. Mex.; sisters, Olivia Smyth, Ramona Romero, Esther Holguin (Adolfo), Hattie Baca; nine grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren.

**Hair, Nancy**, born April 23, 1945, Lewisville, Ark.; died Feb. 6, 2019, Texarkana, Tex. Church membership: Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Marvin and Elise Thompkins Allison; husband, George Hair; and daughter, Kerry Pennino. Survivors: brothers, George Thomas

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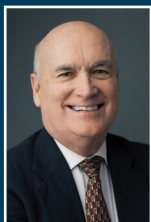
*Tulsa, Oklahoma*  
**June 21-22, 2019**

*First Adventist Church of Tulsa*  
920 S New Haven Ave, Tulsa OK 74112

## Schedule:

Friday, June 21, 7:00 p.m.: *Opening Session*  
Sabbath, June 22, 11:00 a.m.: *Church Service (at area churches)*  
Sabbath, 3:00-6:00 p.m.: *Training Seminars*  
Sabbath, 6:15 p.m.: *Closing Session*

## Presenters Include:



**Larry Moore**  
*Southwestern Union  
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**Buford Griffith, Jr.**  
*Southwestern Union  
Executive Secretary,  
Family Ministries  
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**Elton DeMoraes**  
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**Sonia Canó**  
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Children's Ministries  
and Sabbath School  
Director*



**Eddie Canales**  
*Southwestern Union  
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*Light refreshments served after closing session.*



[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/training](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/training)

Allison and Marvin Wayne Allison, of Spring Hill, Ark.; sister, Betty Blocker, of Prescott, Ark.; three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

**Hubby, Bruce Glenn**, born Sept. 30, 1957 in Stillwater, Okla.; died Feb. 28, 2019, Oklahoma City, Okla. Church membership: Canadian Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**James, Delores**, born Dec. 6, 1945; died Nov. 23, 2018, Bogalusa, La. Church membership: Bogalusa Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: daughter, Traci Owens; son, Christopher Glover; brothers, Gerald Keaton and Steve Keaton; sister, Janie Hobgood, all of Bogalusa, La.; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Kinsey, Herbert "Dean"**, born June 27, 1932, Siloam Springs, Ark.; died Feb. 14, 2019, San Marcos, Tex. Church membership: San Marcos Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was preceded in death by his parents, Herb and Mary Kinsey. Survivors: wife, Dolores Sonntag Kinsey, of San Marcos, Tex.; son, Scott Kinsey, of Lake Wales, Fla.; son, Rick L. Kinsey, of Hot Springs, Ark.; brother, Glen Kinsey, of Pennsylvania; and two grandchildren.

**Lovin, Leland Wayne**, born Dec. 15, 1933, Okla.; died March 22, 2019, Oklahoma City, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by his parents, one brother and

two sisters. Survivors: wife, Ellene, of Harrah, Okla.; two daughters, Corinna Loving, of Hawaii and Crystal Fletcher and husband, of Ohio; and two grandchildren.

**Mathes, Dorothy**, born Jan. 27, 1935, Little Rock, Ark.; died Jan. 21, 2019. Church membership: Keller Come and See Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her first husband, Don Ludgate, and second husband, Marvin Mathes. Survivors: children, Julia Hansen (Dan), Jeannie Norris (Alan), Jerry Ludgate (Cathy); six grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Pauly, Loneta Dody Richter**, born June 14, 1921, Keene, Tex.; died Dec. 22, 2018, Keene, Tex. Church membership: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Albert Pauly, parents, Lillie (Rollins) and Albert Richter, and three brothers and five sisters. Survivors: son, Steve Pauly (Rose) of Ft. Collins, Colo.; daughter, Lisa Jenkins (Ken) of Burleson, Tex.; sister, Helen Barber of Keene, Tex.; four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Perry, Lolene Delores**, born Feb. 14, 1930, McKinney, Tex.; died March 3, 2019, Midwest City, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her parents, husband, two sons, grandson, brother and great-great granddaughter. Survivors: daughter, Helen (Don), of McAlester, Okla; brother, Joe Stotts (Carol),

of Aztec, N.M.; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren.

**Schram, Ronda J. Slack**, born May 31, 1952, Napa, Calif.; died Feb. 8, 2019, Cleburne, Tex. Church membership: Grandview Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, Richard Schram; children, Levi Schram, Kelly Schram, Brittney Schram Winder; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Walker, Virginia**, born March 17, 1935, in Topeka, Kan.; died Aug. 4, 2018. Church membership: Bogalusa Seventh-day Adventist Church.

**Weyer, Laura Susan**, born Oct. 26, 1963, Glendale, Calif.; died Jan. 8, 2019. Church membership: Fayetteville

Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, Rodney Weyer, of Rogers, Ark.; daughter, Heather Chen Hyder of Indianapolis, Ind.; mother, Jackie Benson, of Prescott, Ariz.; father, Will Feltman, of Jasper, Ark.; and sister Diana Chilson, of Lincoln, Neb.

**White, Verna Irene**, born April 4, 1926, Omaha, Neb.; died Feb. 15, 2019, Harrah, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. She was preceded in death by her parents, Sherman and Isabel Beldin; husband, Clifford Dale White; sister, Gladys White; and brothers Robert and Clyde. Survivors: sister Shirley Scott; daughter, Connie Stricker (Don); sons, John and Brian White; foster children, Linda Benjamin

and Gerald Scott; six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**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, of Canyon, Tex.; daughter, Linda Vicaro (Stephen) of Hammond, La.; daughter, Carol Singletary (John) of La Center, Wash.; daughter, Frances Mueller (Robert) of Amarillo, Tex.; sisters Patty Jo Mayo of Santa Rosa, Calif. and Judy Chatham of Martinez, Calif.; brother, Richard James Badolato of Santa Rosa, Calif.; nine grandchildren.

## Submissions

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**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](mailto:Record@swuc.org) or visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication) to review our writer's guidelines.

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# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

## May-June 2019

	5/3	5/10	5/17	5/24	5/31	6/7	6/14	6/21	6/28
Abilene	8:21	8:26	8:31	8:36	8:40	8:44	8:47	8:49	8:50
Albuquerque	7:53	7:59	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:18	8:22	8:24	8:25
Amarillo	8:34	8:39	8:45	8:50	8:55	8:59	9:03	9:05	9:06
Brownsville	8:02	8:06	8:09	8:13	8:17	8:20	8:22	8:24	8:26
Dallas	8:09	8:15	8:20	8:24	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38	8:39
El Paso	7:47	7:52	7:56	8:01	8:05	8:09	8:12	8:14	8:15
Fort Worth	8:12	8:17	8:22	8:27	8:31	8:35	8:38	8:40	8:41
Gallup	8:02	8:08	8:13	8:19	8:24	8:28	8:31	8:33	8:34
Gentry	8:05	8:12	8:18	8:24	8:29	8:33	8:36	8:38	8:39
Houston	7:59	8:04	8:08	8:12	8:16	8:20	8:23	8:25	8:26
Little Rock	7:55	8:01	8:06	8:11	8:16	8:20	8:23	8:26	8:27
Muskogee	8:09	8:15	8:20	8:26	8:31	8:35	8:38	8:40	8:41
New Orleans	7:38	7:43	7:47	7:52	7:56	7:59	8:02	8:04	8:05
Oklahoma City	8:17	8:23	8:28	8:34	8:39	8:42	8:46	8:48	8:49
Roswell	7:41	7:47	7:52	7:57	8:01	8:05	8:08	8:11	8:12
San Antonio	8:11	8:16	8:20	8:24	8:28	8:32	8:35	8:37	8:38
Shreveport	7:57	8:02	8:07	8:12	8:16	8:20	8:23	8:25	8:26
Tulsa	8:12	8:18	8:23	8:29	8:34	8:38	8:42	8:44	8:45

All 2019 Sunset Calendars are available at [SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset)

**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

Experience physical, spiritual and emotional fitness for life

# Whole and HOLY WOMEN'S CONVENTION\* 2019

SEPTEMBER 26 – 29  
ROSEN SHINGLE CREEK RESORT  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA

TEEN TRACK\*  
5-K FUN RUN/WALK  
COMMUNITY OUTREACH  
GENERAL SESSIONS  
SEMINARS  
IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND CREOLE

BRING YOUR TEEN, INVITE A FRIEND  
SHARE A ROOM AND SAVE!

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION  
JANUARY 1 – MAY 31, 2019  
[WWW.NADWM.ORG](http://WWW.NADWM.ORG)

\*Convention for women and high school girls only

Sponsored by North American Division Women's Ministries in partnership with North American Division Health Ministries

## FEATURED SPEAKERS



Kiti Freier Randall  
Pediatric  
Neurodevelopmental  
Psychologist



Hyveth Williams  
Professor of Homiletics  
Andrews University



Katia Reinert  
Associate Director  
GC Health Ministries

## MUSICAL GUESTS



Kelly Mowrer



Gale Jones Murphy



Message of Mercy

## TEEN TRACK SPEAKERS



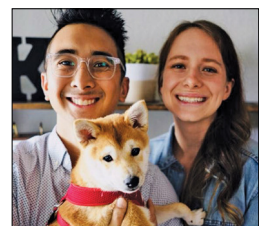
Heather Thompson-Day  
Author, Speaker,  
Professor, Andrews  
University



Novella Smith  
Youth Pastor



Amie Regester  
Digital Media Evangelist



Justin and Emily Khoe  
Hosts, That Christian Vlogger