

# Record

September | October 2019

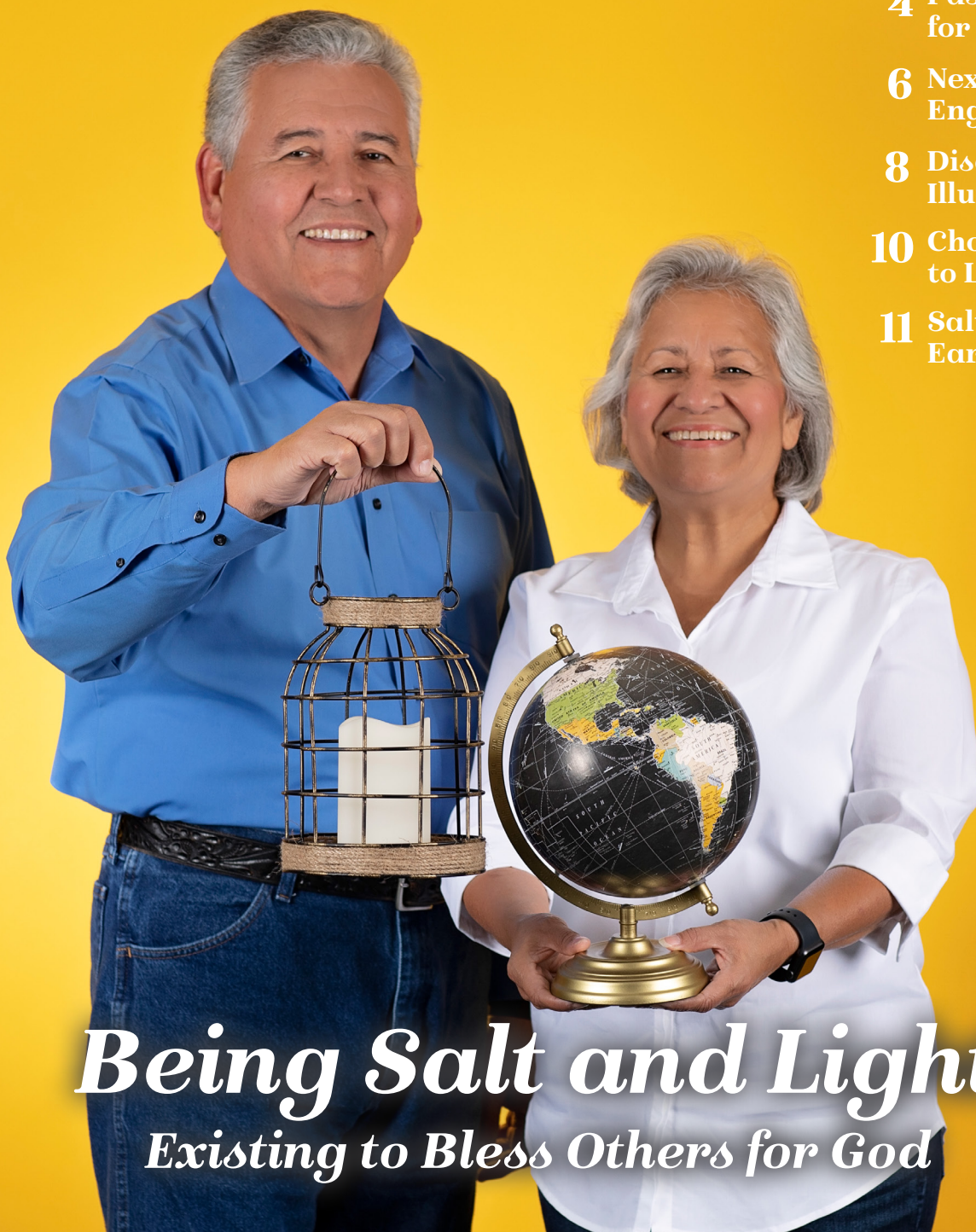
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***Being Salt and Light***  
*Existing to Bless Others for God*

# Existing to Bless Others for God

Being Salt and Light

# Record

September | October 2019  
Vol. 118, No. 05

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## Editor's Note

Redeemed! How we love to proclaim our redemption at church and amongst ourselves, but remember, redemption is for everyone! God desires to work through us to bless all of those around us; to season their lives with goodness and grace. He wants our hope and joy to shine through us so it inspires and draws others to Him!

Imagine the kind of seasoning you are to those around you: Bland? Too spicy? How can we be a tasteful additive along another person's faith journey? And, how is your light these days? Has it dimmed? Or can it be seen from a distance? Are you a beacon of hope and encouragement? In this issue, we delve into what it means to be salt and light, to truly be God's blessings to others.

Jessica L. Lozano

Cover photo by Jessica L. Lozano

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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.



# Being Salt and Light

## Existing to Bless Others for God



Larry Moore | President

**I have often prayed that God would use me to bless others.** The emphasis usually falls on those outside the Church. After all, we want our church family to grow. I believe we should continue to pray and work for others who are not yet walking with Jesus and His people. But we also need to bless those in our homes and those in our churches. They are also in need of our prayers and attention.

One of my favorite Bible passages is 2 Corinthians 2:14-16. “But thanks be to God, who always leads us as captives in Christ’s triumphal procession and uses us to spread the aroma of the knowledge of Him everywhere. For we are to God the pleasing aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. To the one, we are an aroma that brings death; to the other, an aroma that brings life. And who is equal to such a task?”

This passage describes our influence as a sweet aroma or perfume that goes out to those who believe and those who don’t. While we should always strive to share with those outside of our faith, let’s not forget how much our own people need encouragement. We lose far too many of our own family.

May God help us to have a sweet influence upon others!

**The church is the depository of the treasure of God for the world.** It is not an institution which holds within itself treasure for its own enrichment. The apostle Paul states, “Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh to live according to the flesh.” Romans 8:12 (NKJV). It is the Spirit of God that has brought freedom from the bondage and condemnation of sin and we have the promise of eternal life.

The Holy Spirit makes real all that Christ came to accomplish. This places the ones for whom the Spirit is performing this saving and transforming work in the position of debtors. We owe everything to the Spirit of God, and our allegiance and obedience should be wholeheartedly given to Him.

The recipients of God’s grace are also in debt to mankind. Not for our saving only are we saved, but we are to be instruments through which God might reach others. We bear the vessels of God. The world can find God through His people. Let us be the living demonstration of God’s transforming and renewing grace.



Buford Griffith, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

**Jesus calls us the “light of the world” in Matthew 5:14.** Daniel knew how to pray. Daniel lived his life representing God with everything he did, and he was a light to those around him. He took everything to God in prayer and he gave God the glory for all his accomplishments.

In his book *Outliers*, author Malcolm Gladwell looked at studies done of top musicians, athletes and writers. The researchers studied what separated amateurs from professionals. They thought that they would find out that talent separated the two groups. Instead the research showed that talent was important but the practice time over their lives is what separated them. “The emerging picture from such studies is that 10,000 hours of practice is required to achieve the level of mastery associated with being a world-class expert in anything.”

The 10,000 hour rule is what separated these individuals. I think Daniel spent time like that in prayer. What if we took our prayer life to that level? Just imagine the light that our church could be in our community if we prayed on that level. Let’s start today spending more time in prayer than we did yesterday, so that Jesus shines through us.



John Page | Treasurer

# Passion for People

## *Helping Make the World a Little Brighter*

**“It’s a humbling experience,”** says Marshall Gonzales. The Texas Conference Adventist Community Services (ACS) director, along with his wife, Julie, associate director, started their positions a few weeks after Hurricane Harvey hit.

“Nothing like trial by fire to learn the ropes,” Marshall remarks, remembering those first few weeks following the incredible disaster that hit the gulf coast. The Gonzales also serve as the Southwestern Union ACS directors, assisting ACS efforts in the Arkansas-Louisiana, Oklahoma, Southwest Region and Texico conferences. “As a world-wide Seventh-day Adventist Church organization, the reality is we help wherever needed,” Marshall adds. “When Paradise, California, had the horrendous fire, we were in contact with ACS officials there to find out what they needed.”

During the past two years, the Gonzales have worked with churches and communities helping to bring light to those less fortunate by offering a helping hand. “It is an incredible feeling seeing faces light up when they receive basic items that many of us take for granted,” Julie says.

“I remember one time we received a large donation of mops,” Marshall recalls. “I said, ‘Lord, I don’t know why we received these, but I will trust you.’” A short time later, they assisted a church with an outreach event and Marshall felt impressed to bring along a few mops. He was shocked when they became a highly desired item and even made arrangements to have more mops delivered. This unexpected necessity provid-

ed an opportunity for church members to make house calls delivering mops. Those connections led to Bible studies. “It just goes to show God can use anything to further His work,” Marshall says. “We just need to listen to His still, small voice.”

“In between disasters, we focus on training and community outreach,” Marshall shares, “but it is the men, women and children that touch our hearts. Whether it is people seeing a need and filling it or people needing a hand up, it is such a representation of Christ on earth.”

“It was overwhelming to learn that United Methodist Church members in the Hill Country region of Texas donate a truck full of clothing to Texas ACS each year,” Julie shares. “It warms your heart and increases your love for humanity. Those donating don’t even get to see the joy on people’s faces receiving the clothing; they simply heard there was a need and filled it.”

Ingathering is a Seventh-day Adventist Church fundraising tradition typically held around the holidays. In Texas, ingathering is known as Ingathering-ACS and is collected year-round, helping fund ACS projects. Most recently, funds donated enabled the Gonzales to shop for new, inexpensive clothing for children and families in shelters near the Texas border. “It is disheartening that there are so many layers involved in trying to assist,” Marshall reveals. “We are just thankful we can do something.”

The Gonzales underestimate the impact they actually have. You can follow their journey at [Facebook.com/TXACS](https://www.facebook.com/TXACS) as





Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me. Matthew 25:40.



they hold training and church community outreach events in multiple states. Photos chronicle their work as well as that of volunteers and young people creating hygiene kits and clean-up buckets, in addition to assisting during disasters.

Throughout the past two years, Texas ACS distributed more than 3,500 clean-up buckets, 4,000 hygiene kits and 7,000 clothing packets in Arkansas, North and South Carolina, Florida and Oklahoma, as well as many cities in Texas. That doesn't even include financial contributions or mop distributions, or other unique items donated that were delivered to those in need. In addition, they helped rebuild 27 houses in Refugio, Texas, where many are still struggling to recover from Hurricane Harvey. "None of it would be possible without the generosity of others," Julie notes. "Individuals and organizations alike are inspiring with their willingness to give."


"Disasters are when we really have to have patience," Marshall shares. "Each state has a protocol involved as to whom does what and when." The Seventh-day Adventist Church, through Adventist Community Services, is known for its warehouse management in times of disasters. There are multiple training courses offered to manage a warehouse. Many people took the training to help the Gonzales manage the warehouse following Hurricane Harvey. "When you have millions of dollars' worth of product being donated for those affected by a disaster, it takes organization and a lot of communication to get everything where it needs to go," Julie says.

The Gonzales have a passion to have an ACS director at every church who is regularly coordinating their church members, including their young people, to connect with their community. "Seeing children help create hygiene kits and clean-up buckets is so rewarding for them and us," Julie shares. "We

regularly have schools bring different classes to visit and volunteer at the ACS Depot in Keene, Texas. It is essential to restock the inventory distributed during church outreach events and disasters." Other churches organize their own events to create kits and clean-up buckets and the Gonzales pick them up during their travels. "It is about working together," Marshall says. "Being a light to all of our communities."

Marshall can become very emotional when he talks about the different situations this ministry has assisted. It shows how much he truly cares and how he wants to be used by God to be salt and light to each person, knowing he may be the only connection to Christ they will have.

One highlight for Marshall was seeing a man baptized in the Houston area following Hurricane Harvey. Little York Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church members simply helped the man rebuild his house after it was flooded for the second time in two years. Seeing them work, the man wanted to know more about the church and eventually started to attend. "We may not always see the fruits of our labors here on earth," Marshall concludes, "but if we are following God's words and treating others as if they were Christ, we will see many in heaven."

Find out more about how Adventist Community Services is active in your area. For donation of items or funds, or to offer your volunteer services contact your local conference ACS director or visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org/Community-Services](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Community-Services). 

*By Tamara Michalenko Terry. Terry is the Associate Communication Director for the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and lives with her husband, Randy, in Burleson, Texas. They have three sons: Joey, Jonathan and James.*

# Next-door Engagement

## Open Up Your Church and Turn on a Light in Your Community

By Buford Griffith, Jr., Southwestern Union Executive Secretary and Family Ministries Director



### MEETING A NEED

Have you ever pondered the thought, as you observe the throngs of people who occupy our cities and towns, “Lord, how are we to reach all of them?” Not everyone is a follower of Jesus Christ. Many claim a faith-path but sense no need of a spiritual connection in the traditional sense. People have needs, whether those needs are emotional, physical, educational, etc., but many feel the church is not the place to have those needs met or addressed.

Various agencies exist in every community to assist people with a plethora of needs, ranging from the emotional, social and mental. Many assume that the church’s only purpose is to proclaim the gospel through preaching, teaching and singing. Even though that’s not true, the perception exists. It may be that many Christians or those associated with the church possess that same assumption. Could that be partly the reason why

most of our churches’ doors are open only for worship on certain days and the remainder of the week they are closed?

### THE CHURCH’S ROLE

As Ellen G. White expresses in her book *Acts of the Apostles*, “The church is God’s appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world. From the beginning it has been God’s plan that through His church shall be reflected to the world His fullness and His sufficiency.” From that statement, we can conclude that it becomes clear that the church has a task to meet the needs of people via various other means in fulfilling the mission and purpose God intends. God’s agency—the church—is to reflect to the world His fullness and His sufficiency. How can this be accomplished?

This writer believes that the church,

in whatever community it is located, cannot be an anonymous entity in that community. It must have an active part in that community. Not just a building and parking lot where the community sees, if it notices at all, activity on a Saturday morning and a sprinkling of people on a night in the mid-week. It is my strong belief that the doors of the church must be open several times during the week to have a positive impact on the community in which it resides. I am suggesting that the church, regardless of its size, must engage itself in the life of the community.

The pastor and members must partner with the community leaders and agencies that serve that community in its advancement. The task is too large and the resources are too limited for any church to believe it can be a lone wolf in having a noticeable, positive impact on the masses of people that occupy our communities. Where there are people, in and out of



the church, there are needs, needs that we, as a church, are called to meet under the direction of God's Spirit.

## TRUE ENGAGEMENT

Wintley Phipps is one of my favorite singers and preachers. Phipps has made a positive impact on the lives of many high ranking officials with his music ministry as he has performed for several presidents of the United States, as well as for senators, congressmen and other heads of state around the world. He often recites this motto of his: "You don't have to compromise to be recognized." The same is true for the church. Partnering with the leaders and agencies in the community where the church resides requires no compromise of beliefs or standards. Rather, it serves to further the beliefs and standards that we, as Seventh-day Adventists, hold as the representatives of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Following the example of our Savior, engagement in the communities opens the doors to the hearts of many to the gospel truth.

Consider the following tips for pastors and church members to get involved in their communities:

**Relate.** Make personal contact with the city leaders, i.e., mayor, police, fire chief, city council members, local school board chair and members, etc. These contacts are not just for introduction but to let the leaders in the community know that the Seventh-day Adventist church is willing to be an active partner in the community's advancement.


**Connect.** Know the agencies that serve your local community. Encourage pastors and members to become members of community advisory boards.

**Open.** Plan to open the church's doors during the week by partnering with community agencies in activities that serve the community such as: literacy classes; partnering with adoption agencies by hosting adoption parties for potential adoptive parents; tutoring for students, in and out of the church; parenting classes; marriage and divorce counseling (by trained professionals); Gamblers and Alcoholics Anonymous agencies; just to name a few.

## REGULAR AVAILABILITY

Since the church is to serve the community by addressing the needs of that community, it must make itself available. By opening the doors of the church, not just on the Sabbath but serving the community during the weekdays, the community begins to understand by demonstration that the Seventh-day Adventist Church is truly a community minded church that loves and cares for people.

Understanding the times and the evil that persists, the Church is to be a beacon of light in a world of darkness. "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." 2 Timothy 1:7.

*Acts of the Apostles* continues, "The church is the repository (a place of safekeeping) of the riches of the grace of Christ...and through the church will eventually be made manifest...the final and full display of the love of God." Allow your local church to be that beacon of light for the Lord Jesus Christ! 

# Engaging My Community

### Meetups

Entertain hobby groups like motorcycle clubs, runners groups, gardeners, birdwatchers, etc.

### Tutoring

Partner with schools and provide tutoring options for children and teens, and train young people to help as tutors and mentors.

### Neighborhood Events

Team up with your city to host events for veterans, senior citizens, blood drives and public safety awareness.



### Growth Counseling

Help community members grow by offering financial classes, divorce care groups and parenting seminars regularly.

### Skills Training

Host English as a Second Language classes, technology classes and other skills building classes.

### Anonymous Meetings

Invite local chapters of gamblers anonymous, alcoholics anonymous, etc. to host meetings in your church.

# Disappear and Illuminate

## *The Sermon on the Mount Brought to Life*



**Jesus knew how to teach.** When He spoke He did not shower people with dry facts or irrelevant critiques on current events. He did not coerce people into belief through force or forceful argumentation. He did not offer people systems, doctrines or exegetical evaluations of Old Testament texts. Throughout His ministry Jesus used metaphors, parables and common images to draw those who truly wanted to learn and understand closer to Him.

At face value, His teachings sounded quite secular to the religious ear. The religious elite could and did easily dismiss what He said because it did not seem religious enough. After all, Jesus talked about coins, sheep and fields with treasures. He talked about fathers and rebellious sons, about seeds and sowers and about flowers and birds. But with all these images and metaphors, Jesus undid the old religion and taught with an authority people had never heard while listening to scribes and Pharisees.

In Jesus' first public sermon, a sermon today known as the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught His hearers about the characteristics of those who would follow Him. He taught about what would become of His followers, how they would live. And it is in this sermon that Jesus uses two of His most famous metaphors attributed to those who would follow Him: salt and light.

“You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness [or flavor in the NKJV], how can it be made salty again?”

It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot. You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:13-16.

So how do we make sense of these images? What initially strikes me about Jesus' choice of the image of salt and light is their functional nature. They are useful when functioning in a particular way. Light by itself is just that, light. Too much of it could blind a person. And salt by itself is just that, salt. Too much of it could spoil food. So the actual focus here is related to function, and not on what salt and light are apart from their function.

### **The Function of Salt**

Jesus deliberately mentions the function of salt: it brings forth flavor. It finds its usefulness when it is applied to food. And as it is immersed in whatever is being cooked or eaten, it disappears as it brings flavor. The disappearing and the appearance of flavor happen together. In other words, the function of salt is to disappear in its intended object, so that the intended object might have flavor. If it loses this capacity to do something for food, it becomes useless.

So how does this apply to us? All of this might seem strange



because as followers of Jesus we may think that our primary vocation is to be visible in the world. Many if not most of our sermons today are about how through “this and that” people will see you and me as Christians or Adventists. But the focus of salt is not in itself. The role of salt is to disappear and bring forth flavor. The focus is on flavor.

If we take this imagery and how Jesus uses it seriously, the result is perhaps underwhelming to our contemporary religious aspirations because we want to be visible; we want our churches to be known; we want our work to be noticed. And yet, the function of salt is to disappear in the pan of life and bring forth flavor! The question is: does your presence in your home, workplace, school or church, bring forth flavors of joy, peace and goodness? Does your presence bring forth flavors of forgiveness, kindness and patience wherever it goes? When you leave, is your absence felt?

Now let me be very candid with you, my dear reader. In a way, I truly want my church to disappear. This may seem like an odd desire, but I do. It may sound like the opposite of what some believe church growth should be about, and I'm very comfortable with that. I want my congregation to truly learn what Jesus says and live it out. As we leave our meetings and gatherings, I want my church to disappear, like salt, in every circumstance of life, in every corner of the city, and bring forth flavor. The going out and disappearing should be the focus, not what we do when we are gathered as just salt.

Can you imagine if our church planning and mission carried only this goal, to disappear? We would not worry so much about marketing or how people perceive us. We would not worry about becoming another consumer product in the supermarket of religion. We would worry about disappearing. We would not care for being recognized, but we would care for flavor—for doing something in the existence of others—something that is rarely seen, but frequently felt and tasted.

## The Function of Light.

Light is obviously not like salt in the sense of disappearing, but it is related to salt in the functional sense of existing for something other than itself. While today we don't think about the function of light that much—considering we have electricity and energy wherever we go—in the times of Jesus light could save a life! Light served the function of illuminating the path of travelers (who sometimes would be lost), and would signal the presence of a city in the middle of the night. Light showed the way, the path.

Jesus talked about light in the context of a city and of a home. The light pointed to the existence of a city, a place of refuge and safety; within the home, it brought clarity in the midst of complete darkness. Again, light is useful in function, when it helps others find the path, the way, the direction.


Interestingly, the function of light presents a similar critique of our contemporary religious and church culture. While within the market of religion churches present themselves as products for consumption and as ends in and of themselves, light points away from itself. If we followed this radically, this

would mean that the purpose of our life and consequently our church is not to point to ourselves or to advocate that light is something we possess. The whole idea is to live a life, to build a community of people who dedicate their existence toward the goal of illuminating the path of others towards goodness, beauty and truth. And in the end, people would not even notice us; they would only notice the reliability of the illuminated path and the good things that come from finding a better direction to life.

Jesus did not say that if you are like light people will see you and your good works. Jesus only said that people would benefit from your good works and praise God in heaven. And why is this so? Because like salt, light finds a final purpose in that act of service that points away from itself, and toward a path that ends in safety. While salt exists to do something in the life of the other, light shows the other the path toward life itself.

**Light by itself is just that, light.  
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light are apart from their function.**

So the challenge here is, in a society and religious culture that constantly desires to be seen, heard and noticed, are we willing to disappear? Are we willing to disappear in the uncharted territory of not being recognized or seen so that we might find purpose in bringing good things (flavor and clarity) to the lives of others? While many might believe that the “relevant church” is the church that appears, the church of Jesus is filled with those who find relevance in the exact opposite, in the sacrificial function of disappearing for the other.

Jesus taught that we are salt and light. Let us heed the call and follow Him. Let us disappear like salt in a world that needs flavor; and if we are to appear, may it only be to illuminate the way, to point people toward the path of life. 

*By Tiago Arrais. Arrais has a Ph.D. in Old Testament and Christian Philosophy and serves as the pastor of the Advent Life Church (formerly Santa Fe and Rancho Viejo Seventh-day Adventist Churches). He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico, with his wife Paula, and their two children, Benjamin and Joana.*

# Choosing to Live

## A Determination to Endure with Hope and Optimism

By Lindsey Gendke, Record Contributor



Charles Workman got the call on March 28, 2019 as he prepared to head to his church's food bank in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He dropped everything and headed to Albuquerque. He had three hours to get to the hospital, the time it takes to drive from Las Cruces to Albuquerque.

Workman had been waiting for this call for over six years. In need of a kidney transplant, he had been battling diabetes for eight years along with other health issues. He was on a donor list and many of his "classmates" got calls over the years, but one never came for him. No one's type matched his. Until now.

Workman is one of many patients forced to resort to dialysis to stay alive, simply because healthy kidneys from donors are generally in short supply. For the typical patient, dialysis means a significantly reduced quality of life, and

a significantly reduced life expectancy. Patients undergoing dialysis often end up using walkers and wheelchairs and can't work or drive. Some patients, like two of Workman's friends, decide that dialysis "isn't worth it, [their] quality of life isn't good enough." Workman shares that those two friends "stopped dialysis and passed away within three weeks."

Workman isn't a typical patient. Although the illness reduced about half his energy, the former missionary, teacher and superintendent continued serving others, while fighting for his own life. Workman continued working as a full-time pastor for the Alamogordo, Las Cruces and Ruiodoso Seventh-day Adventist churches.

What he could not do, however, was continue taking mission trips every two years, a habit ingrained from childhood. "To travel is to risk missing out on a

call," Workman says. "I had to stay just a couple hours away, in case a kidney suddenly came available."

The son of an Adventist minister who found his calling as a chaplain in the Army, Workman has always loved traveling and sharing the gospel. He has lived in 20 different states and six foreign countries. To be homebound, for Workman, was a sad state of affairs.

But ever the optimist, Workman chose to see the situation as a new ministry opportunity. "Compared to what Jesus went through, it was nothing. I looked at it as a whole new field to minister to. I would talk with people in the waiting room, nurses, techs, doctors, patients. Everyone knew me as 'Pastor Chuck,' the Seventh-day Adventist pastor that was building a school in Alamogordo. Several have even shown interest in our school."

Giving up his life's mission, much less his life, was never an option. Although the wait for the kidney was an incredible test of patience, he continually chose, and chooses, life. "I like life," he says. "I like living and I plan on being vertical, not horizontal, when Christ comes."

As he continues his recovery, transitioning from isolation back into civilian life, Workman may still be wearing a mask (to protect from life-threatening infection), but there is no masking his optimism for a bright future. That future includes spending lots of time with family, re-starting the Ph.D. program he paused during dialysis, and taking "as many mission trips as God allows" once he is cleared for overseas travel. Above all, he will continue to count his blessings rather than dwell on his limitations. As Workman says, "There are negative things and people anywhere you go, and you can focus on that, but why? There is beauty everywhere too. God is good." **R**

# Salt *of the* Earth

**Salt.** This simple substance permeates the food we eat and, sometimes, even the things we drink. We wouldn't survive without it, but too much in our diet disappoints our doctors and leads to its own issues. Without salt, food would be close to inedible; however, adding more than needed does the same!

The salt industry's value is in the billions of dollars, but its importance reaches into our lives daily. Jesus must have thought it was important, too, when He likened us to salt in Mark 9:50, "Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other." With this issue's theme encompassing this significant spice, let's look at a few varieties from around the world and see how we can be the salt of the earth that Jesus calls us to be.



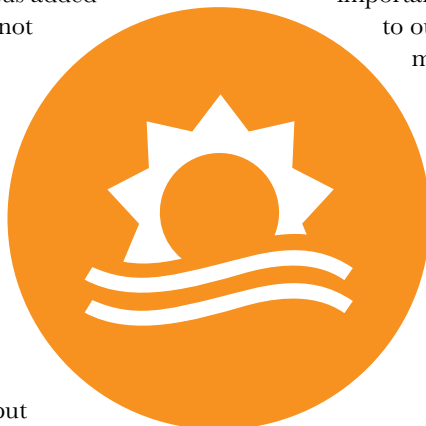
## Table Salt

Salt's most common iteration can probably be found in billions of homes globally. This salt has been highly refined and stripped of its impurities, while many versions have iodine added during the process to help prevent iodine deficiency in its users.

If we think like Jesus and consider Christians to be the salt of the earth, then this is the garden variety Christian—those who have accepted Christ's offer of salvation, been stripped of their impurities, and have had Jesus added during the process. While they may not be dramatically changing the world, they certainly are meeting people where they are and seasoning their lives as best as they can.

## Sea Salt

Sea salt comes from evaporated ocean water that's then boiled to remove impurities and heated until crystallized. One of the more versatile types of salt, sea salt is often used for basic cooking but



can also be used for spa treatments designed to relax and reinvigorate. It eases muscle cramps, relieves stiffness and pain, and helps detoxify the skin. In simple terms, it brings peace to your entire body.

In Mark 9:50 above, Jesus urges us to be at peace with each other. Elsewhere, in Matthew 5:9, He tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Sea salt Christians have a knack for dissipating strife, and they serve an essential function in a world searching for God's gift of peace.

## Road Salt

This may seem like an odd inclusion when discussing salt's numerous qualities, but road salt is vastly important for its ability to de-ice our roads and letting us carry on normally. How does this relate to Jesus's mission? Consider this: Have you ever met someone whose cool exterior seems impenetrable?

Regardless of the circumstances creating those layers of ice, Christians gifted with the ability to de-ice those around us help remove roadblocks to sharing God's message of hope and love. These people know what they do may be underrated, but simply go about their business without looking for praise – a vital role in the process of reaching others.

Those who profess to follow Christ, like salt, can play many important parts in this world. We can be used to bring peace to our families, friends and offices. We can be used to melt the icy exteriors of those who would impede God's love from reaching further. Or, we can simply be used to season the lives of those around us. Whatever gifts we've been given, let's strive to be more like Jesus so that we can be proud to be called the salt of the earth. <sup>®</sup>



*By Jason Busch. Busch is a physician liaison at Texas Health Huguley Hospital in Fort Worth, Texas. He lives in Arlington, Texas, with his wife, Kristina.*



# Walking, Leaping and Praising God!

Every morning Bryson is excited to wake up and start the day. He jumps out of bed, gets his little sister, Reese, and heads into the kitchen for breakfast. Mom makes warm, yummy oatmeal while Bryson rolls toy cars back and forth until breakfast is ready.

One morning, however, Bryson wasn't his usual self. His left foot hurt so much it made him cry. He tried to play with his toys, but his foot kept hurting. Bryson tried to walk, but all he could do was crawl. Mom was worried and decided they needed to visit the doctor. When they got to the doctor, his foot had gotten puffy and looked like a balloon! The doctor told Mom that they had to go to the hospital right away! Mom strapped Bryson into his car seat and they headed to a big building called Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, Texas.

When they got inside the hospital, a nice lady took special pictures called x-rays of Bryson's foot. These would help the doctors find out what was wrong with his foot. The nurses and doctors at the hospital were so nice to Bryson. They gave him cuddly teddy bears, a spaceship blanket and even ice cream! At the hospital, Bryson also had to go into a machine called an MRI to help find out what was making his foot hurt. The MRI machine looked like a long noodle. Finally, the doctors said Bryson had something called an infection in his left foot, but there was a medicine that would help him feel better!

All of Bryson's friends and family came to visit at the hospital and prayed that his foot would feel better. They played with him, brought him a painting set and took him down to the first floor of the hospital to look at the train display. Bryson's pastor came to visit and said the Bible promised that Jesus would help him feel better soon. Mom shared with Bryson the Bible verse in Jeremiah 33:6 which says, "Nevertheless, I will bring health and healing." A few days passed and Bryson did indeed start healing and feel better!

The doctors and nurses took good care of Bryson, but he was so happy when it was time to go home! To celebrate, Dad bought a set of new toy cars! Bryson was happy to take off the hospital gown and put on his own clothes again. He learned that not only do Mom and Dad love him, but Jesus loves us and He wants to help us when we're hurting or feel sick. Now Bryson's foot is better and he can run, jump and play again. Bryson is very thankful that Jesus healed him.

*By LaToya Mann, Bryson and Reese's Mom*



# September Events

**6-8**

**Oklahoma Conference:**  
Prayer Conference, Wewoka  
Woods Adventist Center  
OKAdventist.org

**7-8**

**Texas Conference:**  
Hispanic Women's Ministries  
Retreat, San Marcos, Tex.  
TexasAdventist.org/Women

**7-8**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Pathfinders  
Leadership Weekend  
Camp Yorktown Bay  
SDowns@arklac.org

**13-15**

**Oklahoma Conference:**  
Leadership Training  
Conference, Wewoka Woods  
Adventist Center  
Youth@okla-adventist.org

**13-15**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Lay Leadership  
Training, Little Rock, Ark.,  
EAlcorn@arklac.org

**20-22**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:**  
English Women's Retreat  
Camp Yorktown Bay  
SDowns@arklac.org

**21-22**

**Southwest Region  
Conference:** Quadrennial  
Session, Keene Seventh-  
day Adventist Church  
214.943.4491

**27-28**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Cowboy Camp  
Meeting, Bonnerdale Seventh-  
day Adventist Church  
CarolynAccounts1@gmail.com

**27-29**

**Oklahoma Conference:**  
Young Adult Retreat  
Youth@okla-adventist.org

**28**

**Texas Conference:**  
Church Planting Rally  
Austin Central Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
TexasAdventist.org/  
ChurchPlanting

**30**

**Texas Conference:**  
Children's Ministries CHAT  
Online Training  
TXAdventistKids.org

**4-5**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Pathfinders  
Teen Leadership Weekend  
Camp Yorktown Bay  
SDowns@arklac.org

**3-5**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Springtown  
Fall Round-up, Springtown  
Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, 479.856.4735

**4-5**

**Texas Conference:**  
Valley Camp Meeting  
South Padre Island, Tex.  
TexasAdventist.org/  
ValleyCampMeeting

**11-13**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Adventurers  
Family Camporee, Camp  
Yorktown Bay  
SDowns@arklac.org

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



# October Events

**18-19**

**Texas Conference:**  
English Men's Summit  
North Dallas Adventist  
Academy, Richardson, Tex.  
TexasAdventist.org

**18-20**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Spanish  
Women's Retreat, Camp  
Yorktown Bay  
DLCastellanos@arklac.org

**25-27**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:**  
Teen Prayer Conference  
Camp Yorktown Bay  
ArkLaPrayerMinistries.org

**25-27**

**Arkansas-Louisiana  
Conference:** Disaster  
Training (Spanish)  
Hammond, La.  
DLCastellanos@arklac.org

**25-26**

**Texas Conference:** English  
Men's Summit, Round Rock  
Tex., TexasAdventist.org

**25-27**

**Texas Conference:**  
English Women's Ministries  
Retreat, San Marcos, Tex.  
TexasAdventist.org/Women

**28**

**Texas Conference:**  
Children's Ministries CHAT  
Online Training  
TXAdventistKids.org



# New Education Resource

## Announcing the Launch of Education Website

**BURLESON, TEX.** – The Southwestern Union Office of Education has launched a new website. According to Carol Campbell, vice president for education, the goal of the website is to be a source of information for schools, constituents and the community. The new site’s content includes a “Find a School” tool, blog, book reviews, podcasts, videos and webinars, as well as a calendar and event information. Visit: [SouthwesternAdventistEducation.com](http://SouthwesternAdventistEducation.com).



# Back to School Supplies

## Southwestern Union Support and Visit to Pohnpei

**BURLESON, TEX.** – More than 320 school children at the Pohnpei Seventh-day Adventist School on the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia have a fresh supply of crayons, markers, scissors, sports balls and other necessities for the new school year thanks to the continued support and commitment of the Southwestern Union.

At the behest of the North American Division, each union in the division has partnered with one island located within the Guam-Micronesia Mission (GSM) to support the churches, schools

and mission work on that island. The Pohnpei school is the only Adventist-run educational institution on the island and is staffed by a small number of permanent staff with the remaining teaching positions being filled by student missionaries, usually serving on a year-by-year basis. According to the GSM, Pohnpei is the largest, highest and most populous single island in the Federated States of Micronesia with over 34,000 people.

In addition to providing needed supplies, the Southwestern Union’s, Sonia Cano, children’s ministries director, and

Helvis Moody, youth, young adult and prayer ministries director are visiting the island in September to provide a Vacation Bible School and a Week of Prayer.

This year, the Children’s Sabbath offering collected in the Southwestern Union on October 5 will go to support Pohnpei projects. To learn more and to support student missionaries and school children on Pohnpei, or to learn about becoming a missionary to the island, visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org/Pohnpei](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Pohnpei).





# Distinguished Service Award

## Carmen and Buford Griffith Honored by NAD

**BERRIEN SPRINGS, MICH.** – On July 20, 2019, Claudio and Pamela Consuegra (pictured right), the directors for family ministries of the North American Division (NAD), presented the 2019 North American Division Family Ministries Distinguished Service Award to Buford and Carmen Griffith (pictured left). The award was presented on the campus of Andrews University at the annual conference on Family Research and Practice.

The Griffiths have been actively involved in family ministries for over 30 years. Their passion and primary focus have been on marriage and parenting, the foundational areas of Family Ministries.

Buford Griffith is a graduate of Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., with an undergraduate degree in natural sciences. He is a board-certified medical technologist. His graduate work in marriage and family counseling was completed at Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio, and the Trinity

Theological Seminary in Newburgh, Ind., where he earned a master's degree in biblical counseling. Currently, he serves as executive secretary and family ministries director of the Southwestern Union in Burleson, Tex.

Carmen Griffith is also a graduate of Oakwood University with an undergraduate degree in elementary education. She has earned two masters' degrees, one in counseling from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and a second in reading from Ohio State University in Columbus, Ohio. She was inducted into the prestigious Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society while completing her graduate studies at Ohio State. Currently, she serves the Southwestern Union as director of women's ministries and ministerial spouses.

The award that was presented contains figures known as "Inukshuk." The Inukshuk figures hold great symbolism in our NAD territory of Canada.

They were stone man-like figures, traditionally used by the Inuits and con-

structed along the Canadian shores with the purpose of pointing the wayward traveler back home. If lost, one would only need to look along the shoreline for this familiar figure and follow it in the way it was pointing. The path always led back home.

Buford and Carmen Griffith have dedicated their life's ministry to strengthening families. Just as the Inukshuk point wayward travelers back home, the ministry provided by them as a husband and wife team have consistently pointed countless families towards their heavenly home.

Therefore, it is with great pleasure that we honor and congratulate them for being the recipients of the 2019 North American Division Family Ministries Distinguished Service Award.

————— *By Pamela Consuegra*  
*North American Division*  
*Family Ministries Associate Director*



# Vetting Volunteers

## Protecting Children Through Adventist Screening Verification



**COLUMBIA, MD.** – As of June 18, 2019, Verified Volunteers, in its effort to remain consistent with the organization’s branding, is now operating under the name Sterling Volunteers. The name chosen for all the North American Division (NAD) background screening and training needs is Adventist Screening Verification.

“It is a common practice for a company to change its name as needed,” explained Ernest Hernandez, director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries (OVM), regarding the name change from the organization that partners with the NAD, “but that can be confusing for some so we have determined that it is now a great opportunity for the church to select a parent name that can remain in our publications and website landing pages on a permanent basis.”

The web-based platform features a

training and screening system for both employees and volunteers across all conferences in the division. Those over 18 who are voted to serve in volunteer roles within our churches or organizations within the NAD, or those who are employed by the church and working with children and youth, are asked to complete a criminal background check (FB 20) and child protection training through Sterling Volunteers by way of Adventist Screening Verification. This should be completed every three years.

“As we see in the Bible, particularly in Matthew 18:1-6, Jesus placed a high value on the protection of children,” said Hernandez. “Child protection is, therefore, an essential element in all church-sponsored children’s activities.”

The *Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual* states, “Church should be a safe place to bring our children. Everyone involved in

work with children who are minors must meet all Church and legal standards and requirements”.

OVM works with thousands of short and long-term volunteers and mission workers each year and has taken the lead on facilitating the name update. But they are quick to reiterate that this Adventist Screening Verification is for all adult division volunteers and workers who engage with minors. “As followers of Christ in Seventh-day Adventist organizations in the North American Division, we believe it is our responsibility to nurture and protect the vulnerable within our communities, including our children and youth,” OVM shared.

For more information, visit [NADAdventist.org/ASV](http://NADAdventist.org/ASV)

By North American Division  
Office of Communication



# Equipped For Ministries

## More Than 300 Members Trained and Inspired in Tulsa

**TULSA** – More than 300 members from the Tulsa area attended the June 21-22 ministries leadership training presented by the Southwestern Union, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference and Southwest Region Conference at the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa.

The weekend began on Friday evening with warm welcomes from Stephen Brooks, executive secretary of the Southwest Region Conference; Apple Park, executive secretary of the Oklahoma Conference; and Elton DeMoraes, vice president of the Southwestern Union. A devotional session on leadership presented by Southwestern Union President Larry Moore set the stage for the rest of the weekend. On Sabbath morning, union and conference leaders visited area churches, present-

ing messages for the worship service and enjoying fellowship with members. On Sabbath afternoon, the Tulsa First church was again filled with members eager to learn and grow their ministries as training sessions on and for preaching, elders, deacons and deaconesses, men’s ministries, women’s ministries, family ministries, children’s ministries, treasury, community services, stewardship, evangelism and more were presented in English, Spanish and Zomi.

Michael Smith was inspired by the collaboration and spirit of the event, saying “We got a taste of heaven at the Equipped for Ministries training! There were a number of nations represented, different languages, peoples, churches, but all were united under the blood-stained banner of Christ. I believe the Lord used

this event to create synergy, and, frankly speaking, answer Jesus’ prayer. He said, ‘My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father; just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me.’ (John 17:20-21.) This event was a catalyst in us working together. It was the most beautiful experience to see our brothers and sisters from the Oklahoma Conference and Southwest Regional Conference collaborating, praying, eating, uniting, singing, worshipping God and learning together.”

More Equipped for Ministries training events are planned for 2020 in the Southwestern Union territory. For details, visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org/Training](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Training).





# Hands-on Evangelism

## Student Pastors Impact Dallas-Fort Worth



**KEENE, TEX.** — From June 2 to June 15, 15 theology students from Southwestern Adventist University conducted 15 different evangelistic seminars in English and Spanish churches across the Dallas-Fort Worth area. As a result, 45 decisions for baptism were made by community members, and student evangelists were reporting personal revivals among members in every church. As for themselves, the pastors-in-training said they walked away feeling inspired and empowered to take the next step in their own spiritual journeys.

The meetings were the culmination of the university's annual five-week Field School of Evangelism, a required class for upper division theology majors. This summer, students apprenticed under David Machado for three weeks in the classroom, as well as in the Hurst Seventh-day Adventist Church, where Machado conducted his own series of evangelistic meetings from May 10 through June 1. Machado's meetings resulted in 40 baptisms, for a total of 85 baptisms.

Buster Swoopes, who taught the class with Machado, said, "Field school teaches students to continue to do public evangelism well into ministry and equips them to be able to do so."

This year, students were equipped by the Southwestern Union and the Texas Conference, as they were provided projectors, suit allowances, books, giveaways

and flyers for the meetings. Southwestern Adventist University hosted the students in the dorm and the Union covered gas and stipends for meals.

Students also received plenty of hands-on experience in ministry. Alexis Mireles, a senior theology student, said, "Field school taught me how to take care of a congregation, how to visit and work with them and everything that follows. It's helped me understand how ministry really works. I've learned that visitation is more important than preaching."

Swoopes said that while visitation was not required, all students were encouraged to knock on doors and some students had tremendous results.

For instance, recent graduate Miguel Simo gleaned 12 candidates for baptism from "cold knocking," said Swoopes. "He was running the Dallas meeting and almost every day he knocked on doors and personally invited the 12 that were baptized to attend the meetings. Often, he came back to class sweaty and tired, but he never missed a day of class. He worked really hard."

Recent graduate Samson Sembeba, who ran the Alvarado Seventh-day Adventist Church meetings and who has accepted a pastoral position in Oklahoma, shared, "Doing field school forced me to really study the Bible. I feel like going through this experience has been a revival for me, where I am now

confident in the Bible; the Bible is so clear and it makes me want to stand and proclaim it with everything in my bones. Field school changed my life."

Alexis Mireles, who conducted a seminar in the Crowley Spanish church, said the experience has changed how he views his calling. "Before this field school, I was planning to go as a missionary to somewhere remote, like the Amazon, but I realized that there are people right here in the United States that don't know Jesus. I'll go wherever God calls, but now I also feel He can bring me people that need to hear the truth right where I am."

This year marked the 10th anniversary of the field school, which began under the leadership of Bill Kilgore. Each year the field school visits a different conference in the Southwestern Union. Next year, the field school will take place in the Southwest Region Conference. The field school is a unique component of Southwestern Adventist University's religion program, setting it apart from its sister schools and providing excellent career preparation for future pastors, missionaries and evangelists. For more information about Southwestern Adventist University's theology program, visit [SWAU.edu](http://SWAU.edu).

By Lindsey Gendke

# A New Journey

## Radio Station Moves to a New Home

**KEENE, TEX.** — After months of fundraising, remodeling and moving piece by piece, Southwestern Adventist University's radio station, 88.3 The Journey (KJRN), traveled to a new and improved facility on May 23, courtesy of Texas Health Huguley Hospital and other donors. Now broadcasting from the westside of campus, station employees are closer to the heart of Keene and better equipped to carry out their mission to support listeners in the walk of life.

The new building, formerly a doctor's office, features a new recording studio that allows three announcers to record content at one time instead of two. Mike Agee, general manager and communication department chair said, "We're loving our new space and we're very thankful for Texas Health Huguley Hospital and our other donors who enabled us to move in."

The new location is more visible and more welcoming to the community. Giselle Lopez, a DJ and morning show producer who recently graduated from Southwestern Adventist University with a degree in advertising and public

relations, said, "Before the move, the station's location was hidden away on the back side of campus and you wouldn't really see the listeners. Now, lots of listeners come and express their appreciation and we can show our appreciation back."

Serving listeners, in fact, has been the primary goal of KJRN under Agee's leadership. "What we do here is never about our radio station; it's always about our listeners, what they need, what our community needs. It's not about us; it's about them and about Him. We hope everything we do reflects positively on the God we serve," Agee said.

Agee's philosophy of putting listeners first comes from his faith, then a 40-year career in radio, in which he has worked for both commercial and listener-supported stations. In that time, Agee has learned if a radio station "works hard in the community, provides service and demonstrates commitment, the audience will respond."

Fully self-funded for seven years and counting, KJRN saw an especially

touching response from listeners during its recent fundraising events, Shareathon and Gideon's Army, the latter of which raised \$42,000 for the remodel of the new building. During those events, "Listeners came to volunteer, bring food or just hang out," Lopez said.

Agee shared that employees are still "finishing pieces, still unloading boxes, still plugging in equipment," but once they are settled, KJRN's next initiative is to "build fundraising to a point where we can fund another full-time position, so we can keep growing and doing more in the community." Agee hopes to make this goal a reality within the next 18 months.

Currently, the station employs about 10 students, along with a full-time program director, part-time office manager and part-time general manager. KJRN reaches approximately 50 to 60 thousand listeners each week. For more information, to request prayer or if you would like to partner with KJRN, visit [883TheJourney.org](http://883TheJourney.org).

By Lindsey Gendke





# Light Lights!

## A Simple Strategy with Powerful Results



I remember one of my professors and mentors who admonished our class with this simple statement: “Light lights, don’t curse the darkness!” He often repeated the phrase when we were discussing challenging things in the church or the world around us. It is a line that I have never forgotten and I have used in my walk with Jesus. It is a simple reminder to not “camp out on the negatives,” but instead, to be positive and point men and women to Jesus.

I put this principle to work very early in my ministry. My first pastoral assignment was rather unique; I was asked to accept an assignment that most didn’t want to take. I was asked to pastor a church that nobody wanted. I was told how horrible the members were. The conference president painted a stark picture of a group of people who were cranky, opinionated and ornery. When I arrived that fall, I was the fourth pastor to come to the church within a space of one year!

I remember asking my dad, a seasoned and experienced pastor, for his counsel. He simply said, “Kill them with kindness.”

And that is what my wife, LaVonne, and I did. Every chance, every opportunity we found, we were positive and encouraging. This little group of 15 or so individuals were our project for Jesus. We visited them, loved them and listened to them. We responded with grace and uplifted Jesus the best way we knew how as young people.

Part of our strategy was to add flavor to life by sharing that whatever the members wanted to do for Jesus *was* possible. We would help! Another part of the strategy was to make ministry fun. We got together and roasted marshmallows and veggie hot dogs. We made weekends special by camping out together as a church. Sometimes we worked on a project at the church. On one occasion, we braved a blizzard to make it to a member’s home on a Saturday night for a church social. Another time, I crawled under a member’s combine and helped him fix his machinery for the upcoming harvest.

What developed was a bond and a friendship that has lasted more than 35 years. Together we built up the church and we praised God with great joy. We built each other up, and as we did, people in the community witnessed the change. Many were ready to find out more and become a part of the family!

Over a period of four years, our church family grew from 15 to 73. There was nothing fancy, no “magic bullet” that caused this change. We simply gave our lives to the Lord and to the church members. And God took care of all the rest!

Jesus understood it well when He delivered His message on the hillside centuries ago: , “You are the salt of the earth...you are the light of the world...in the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.” (Matthew 5:13, 14, 16 NLT.) May you find ways to “light lights and don’t curse the darkness.”

*By Richard C. Dye, Sr., President*





# Gentry Day Camp

## Kids Connect to New Friends and Jesus

**GENTRY, ARK.** – For the past eight years, including this summer, the Gentry Seventh-day Adventist Church has run a free six-week summer day camp program for kids ages eight to 14. The days were filled with activities, Bible lessons, games and special features.

On Mondays, the focus was on team building. From bridge building to games such as “Junk Scramble,” campers developed friendships and practiced teamwork. Tuesdays usually found special guests at the church, including a representative from the Arkansas Game

and Fish Commission who taught the campers fun facts from nature: Did you know that Arkansas black bears eat around a pound of bugs every day? Other special guests included members of the Gentry Fire Department, Air Evac Lifeteam and NorthWest Health Emergency Services. Wednesdays were community service days, and the campers collected trash at the Gentry Park and sang songs to residents of local nursing homes. Thursday was swim day and was a hit with many of the campers. The church bussed the kids to a private

pool where they had a blast jumping off the diving board, racing across the pool and enjoying the water together.

Approximately 20 percent of the campers in the program were not from Seventh-day Adventist homes. Time was set aside each day to study “My Place with Jesus” Bible study guides. Werner Gil and Ross Harris from the Gentry church guided the campers through the Bible lessons. So far, two campers have been baptized and 10 more have decided to prepare for baptism.

By Debbie Upson



# Sharing Jesus

## Youth Ministry is Alive in Heber Springs

**HEBER SPRINGS, ARK.** – The Heber Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church’s youth ministry leader, Angie Attaway, makes it her mission to reach out to the children of all ages in her local church. Her enthusiasm and desire to make Jesus and His church real to the children is contagious! The children and youth are thriving under her godly care as she spends time with the children and shows them Jesus in different ways, including on nature hikes on Sabbath afternoon.

By Judith Newton



# God of All

## A Beautiful Reminder at Northwest Arkansas Camp Meeting



**GENTRY, ARK.** – The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference 2019 Northwest Arkansas camp meeting, held May 28 to June 1, was like none other. Even before it began, two important contributors made selfless decisions that blessed the program. Although her father-in-law died unexpectedly just before camp meeting, Shawna Mason, cafeteria manager at Ozark Adventist Academy, made the decision to stay on campus to supervise meals. Paulet Howard, one of the scheduled speakers, also had a difficult decision to make with his wife, Kathy, in the hospital awaiting

a kidney transplant. Howard decided to come, and on opening evening, following the powerful testimony of James Black of the North American Division, Black invited pastors to surround Howard as they implored God's special blessing of healing on his wife.

Wednesday morning meetings went well until a storm hit right as Alex Rodriguez of the Voice of Prophecy began his session. The electricity went off and suddenly everything was pitch black. Although he tried to continue, it was just too noisy with the raging storm. Small

groups gathered throughout the church sanctuary praying for God's mercy over the camp meeting and the campers in the valley below the church.

We serve a mighty God. By 2:30 p.m., the electricity was back on. Several trees were down, but there was no damage to the facilities. The campers were spared and there was no flooding in the valley. The service that night ended with a beautiful photograph from member Josh Ray, which served as a reminder of God's promises.

By Joyce Marter

# Burning the Mortgage

## Church is Dedicated to God's Service in Special Ceremony

**OZARK, ARK.** – The Ozark Seventh-day Adventist Church is finished and paid for but had not had a dedication service. With the arrival of pastor Burnham Rand, a special program was planned during a visit from Arkansas-Louisiana President Richard Dye, who was scheduled to preach at the Ozark church on June 28-29. The Sabbath sermon included a special note-burning ceremony. We are happy for the special dedication and pray that the Lord will continue to bless and guide the members of His church in Ozark.





# A Powerful Partnership

## Bentonville Pathfinders Launch Year-long Mission Project

**SULPHUR SPRINGS, ARK.** – The Bentonville Beavers Pathfinder Club chose to spend their annual mission trip this summer in nearby Sulphur Springs, Ark., and have made a year-long commitment to partner with the Sulphur Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church to specifically focus on children’s ministries and outreach. Twice a month on Sabbath afternoon for the next year, the Pathfinders will help facilitate a free “kid’s day” for neighborhood children. They will provide Bible stories, crafts, games, snacks, and friendship to community children. Their goal is to help the church become visible in the community and to provide consistent activities for community children.

The Pathfinders’ week-long stay in Sulphur Springs this summer included

extensive community service projects in the town’s park. The Pathfinders rebuilt and repainted the town’s historic gazebo; completed several landscaping projects; refurbished and repaired the volleyball pit and tennis courts; rebuilt and painted the 16 horseshoe pits; mulched and weeded the children’s play area and sandbox, and repainted part of a community building. They also repainted, reorganized and redecorated some rooms at the Sulphur Springs Church so they could be used for children’s ministries, and performed other repair work at the church.

The Pathfinders also hosted a week-long Vacation Bible School during the evenings. The Pathfinders led out in all aspects of the program. They presented Bible lessons, taught memory verses,

assisted kids with crafts and explained how to play games. The gentle and kind manner in which they interacted with the kids helped to build relationships with each child.

God’s blessings were abundant throughout the project, from a free place to stay for the Pathfinders, to tremendous generosity and donations to the cause. This mission trip was a rare opportunity because when the week was over, the mission project wasn’t over! Pathfinders will be back twice a month and be able to continue to interact with the children they met and ministered to at VBS. Pathfinders also plan to continue community service and church repair projects. When we partner with each other and God, great things can happen!

By Audra Kohltfarber





# Cherry Blossom Tea

## Women Enjoy Fellowship at Fifth Annual Event

**TEXARKANA, ARK.** – The Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Church’s women’s ministries leader, Brenda Litchfield, along with social committee leader, Sherry Smith and presenter Kathy Davis, recently led out in the church’s fifth annual fellowship tea. The event provides a time

of fun and relaxation for the group after their busy year of community service to the local women’s shelter. Each year the group delivers much-needed items for the shelter. This year, they also collected items to send to children in the Philippines.

Women’s ministries in Texarkana

provides a vital service to our local church and to the community. They do not limit their events to just church members; they encourage the church to invite friends, family and neighbors to all functions.

By Lorretta Johnson



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA  
**TEEN PRAYER CONFERENCE**  
2019

**KEEPING JESUS**  
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479 790 8356 OR  
[PRAYERPOWERLAB@GMAIL.COM](mailto:PRAYERPOWERLAB@GMAIL.COM)

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**CAMP YORKTOWN BAY**  
**TEENS IN GRADES 7<sup>TH</sup>-12<sup>TH</sup> ARE INVITED!**  
COST: \$65 INCLUDES LODGING, MEALS, AND A T-SHIRT  
GUEST SPEAKER: PASTOR KEITH GRAY



# Each One Reach One

## Interceding as the Salt of the Earth



Two thousand years ago, Jesus sat down on the grass surrounded by a lush green hillside with His disciples. With multitudes around Him, He spoke words of blessing to the crowd. The words He spoke that day have not lost their significance, relevance, meaning or purpose. Often called the Sermon on the Mount or the Beatitudes, we'll focus on His assertion in Matthew 5, "You are the salt of the earth."

During the first century, salt had a dual purpose in the Middle East. Because of the lack of refrigeration, salt was used to preserve food; salt was used then, as now, as a flavor enhancer. In Ellen G. White's *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings*, we read, "Salt is valued for its preservative properties; and when God calls His children salt, He would teach them that His purpose in making them the subjects of His grace is that they may become agents in saving others."

I really love the way Joseph Kidder, professor of Christian Ministry at Andrews University, expresses the real life application about salt! He says, "The absolutely most effective way of reaching people for the Gospel is through personal influence. So what does God do? He takes full time ministers and disguises them as teachers, police officers, construction workers and nurses. He gives them the necessary gifts, passions, credentials, and then He assigns them to schools, police departments, construction sites and clinics everywhere. Like salt from a saltshaker, God scatters His full time ministers everywhere to suit His flavor."

"You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot." Matthew 5:13. Whatever your occupation, age or calling; whether a student, retired, man or woman; God has called you to make personal contact with those around you.

White's *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessings* continues, "Salt must be mingled with the substance to which it is added; it must penetrate and infuse in order to preserve. So it is through personal contact and association that men are reached by the saving power of the gospel. They are not saved in masses, but as individuals. Personal influence is a power. We must come close to those whom we desire to benefit."

As "salty Christians" we can learn some very important lessons from the Dead Sea, an inland lake at the end of the Jordan Valley with no outlets for water it receives. The fact that the sea has no outlet means its salt content is approximately five times the concentration of the ocean. The salt content also causes a condition in which no form of marine life can live. As the salt of the earth, our churches can become a "Dead Sea": if there's no outlet, there's no outreach.

Jesus spoke words of blessings. Today you can make your own blessing list of your circle of influence for whom God would have you intercede on a regular basis. Pray for your relatives, coworkers, classmates, neighbors, enemies, etc. Each one can reach one, so be the salt of the earth as you intercede for those around you!

By Michael Smith, Ministerial Director





# Students Mobilize to Help Ozark and Parkview Help with Clean Up Efforts in Tulsa

**TULSA, OKLA.** – Torrential rains in the month of June flooded many areas in Oklahoma. Tulsa and the surrounding areas were particularly hard hit.

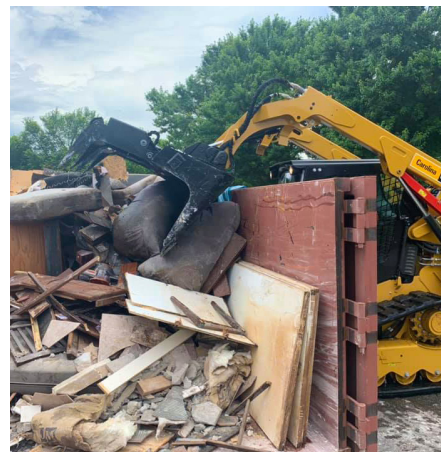
James Bokovoy, district pastor and Native Ministries assistant director, started working with local authorities as the flood waters started receding. Many people were removing soaked furniture and drywall in preparation for rebuilding. One neighborhood he worked in

had great need, but few volunteers. He phoned the Native Ministries Director, Jim Landelius, and asked if it would be possible to mobilize a team to help out.

A small team consisting of students from Ozark Adventist Academy in Northwest Arkansas and Parkview Adventist Academy in Oklahoma City, along with the two pastors, met and worked for several hours removing drywall. During one break the family

poured out their thanks. There was so much work to do and each day no one came to help. “We had almost given up hope anyone was coming,” one family member said. It was hard, hot work, but the team enjoyed themselves immensely and are ready should disaster strike again.

— *By Jim Landelius*  
*Native Ministries Director*





# Ardmore Garden

## Academy Students Build, Plant, Study and Learn

**ARDMORE, OKLA.** – This past spring, students at Ardmore Adventist Academy were given the opportunity to work together and build a garden.

In early March, a form was built so that students could take aluminum hoops and bend them into shape for the garden. Students had to cooperate to balance the forces needed to bend the hoops properly.

Another day the students learned how to hoe the garden. The students worked together as a team to lay down tarping to control weeds on a portion of the

garden yet to be planted. Students also got both science and character/spiritual lessons along with these activities as they spent time obtaining core samples to analyze the soil for our garden project. Students filled trays with soil and they planted hundreds of plants during their lunch hour. We have also done some rather complicated math problems related to the numbers of plants planted, plugs per tray, trays per row, etc. It has been a very educational endeavor.

By Mary Burton



# Durant Spanish Organized

## Members and Guests Celebrate Anticipated Milestone

**DURANT, OKLA.** – On Saturday, June 29, 2019, the official organizing of the Durant Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church took place in Durant, Okla. More than 17 years after God's work in this city began and through the difficulties both legal and economic, the Spanish Seventh-day Adventist congregation of Durant has been officially organized as a church.

The officers of the Oklahoma Conference, together with the church pastor, Moises Kindelan, were pleased to officiate this ceremony of dedication

during divine worship service. More than 70 people shared with us the great joy and wonderful blessing of this unforgettable moment

The divine worship message was presented by Oklahoma Conference President James Shires who reminded us what God's purpose is for our families and as a church; we undoubtedly recognize that God has directed and helped us so far. Shires had a few words in which he emphasized the importance of sacred scripture in changing lives. It ended with words of recognition to the

group's initiators and to all the families who, with their efforts and dedication, made it possible for that group to be officially appointed as a church.

As members of the church, we want to highlight the text found in 1 Kings 9:3: "I have heard the prayer and plea you have made before me; I have consecrated this temple, which you have built, by putting my Name there forever. My eyes and my heart will always be there."

Article and photos by Jessica Vazquez



# Week of Prayer

## Tulsa Academy Students Connect With Pastors

**TULSA, OKLA.** – Tulsa Adventist Academy (TAA) held a Week of Prayer in April. Nathan Shires spoke to grades PreK—6, while Kevin Bruce and Stephen Carlile spoke to our high school students.

Shires covered several spiritual concepts such as sin and salvation, obedience, the fruit of the Spirit, witnessing and God’s plan for students’ lives. He shared about being a pastor’s son and his path in and out of Christianity, a story that kept the students’ attention because they realized he has experienced similar temptations as them.

With teacher Heather Martinez, students in grades 5-6 practiced the three circles method of sharing that Shires taught them, a way to guide a conversation to sharing Jesus with another person. At the end of the week, Shires’ altar call produced seven students interested in Bible studies.

Bruce and Carlile spent the week with grades 7-12, exploring “Enemies of the Heart” and how to stay godly when these enemies attack. During the worships, students were able to use their cell phones to anonymously text the

pastors about their personal experiences with these enemies. Messages were read aloud but kept anonymous, keeping the messages pertinent and transparent for the students. The pastors addressed the students’ messages with scripture and their own experiences of how God helped them through similar situations, even sharing their personal journey from “frenemies” to “besties.” TAA is grateful and appreciates how each pastor showed our students how to proclaim, disciple and live with Christ.

By Caroline A. Fisher



# Year-end Celebrations

## Claremore Students and Families Rejoice with Baptisms

**CLAREMORE, OKLA.** – As the bittersweet end of another school year comes to a close, there are whoops and hollers of “Yay, awesome, fantastic, praise the Lord!” This year at Claremore Heritage Adventist School, the whoops, hollers and “Praise the Lord” refrains were not for the close of school, but because five students had chosen to give their hearts to Jesus and be baptized!

It all started back in February, when several of our girls asked about baptism. I told them we needed to visit with our pastor, Nathan Shires, about this

subject. It wasn’t long before he had gathered together those who wanted to take a baptismal class. After six weeks of Bible study, decisions were made to be baptized.

On May 14, 2019, during our end of the year program, the spiritual highlight was when our five young people buried their old lives and began a new life in Jesus! What a blessing and wonderful experience this was! Thank you to all who support Christian education.

By Cheri Robinson





# Abundant Life Organized

## Guests Join from the East Coast to East Africa

**EDMOND, OKLA.** – On May 11, 2019, the Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Company organized into the Abundant Life Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition to local members and Conference officials, there were visitors from Texas, California and as far away as Kenya to join the celebration.

Abundant Life church began in 2006 and Matthew Deboruah has been pastoring the diverse congregation for the last two years. He is encouraged by its active membership and emphasis on ministering to youth and young adults.



# From Tulsa to Portland

## Young People Join Ten-week Youth Rush Summer Program

**TULSA, OKLA.** – Anna Judith, Itzury and Paulina, three young ladies from the Tulsa area, made a commitment to dedicate their summer and join 15 other young adults for the Youth Rush in Portland, Ore.

What is Youth Rush? Youth Rush may be more widely known as literature evangelism, Magabooks, canvassing or colporteur. Youth Rush is putting a new face on one of our churches most long-standing ministries. Now a youth-led, student-oriented ministry, Youth Rush offers students the opportunity to

share their faith while earning money for their education.

In this ten-week summer program students ages, 16-25 work together, worship together, grow together and have fun together. Highly-trained team leaders offer training and supervision.

Students participate in all the aspects of the program, including music, food preparation, inventory or other duties as needed. Most importantly, participants are invigorated spiritually as they experience the joy of service and the blessing that comes from literature evangelism.

Both parents and church leaders look forward to these young ladies' testimonies and stories of how this ministry has impacted not just the lives of those whom they connected with, but their very own.

By Samuel Ruiz



# Light of the World

## Being A Reflection of the Source



One spring night I awoke to the sounds of severe weather, the howling winds and the shaking cracks of thunder. I reached for the lamp on the nightstand. It was not working. My electricity was off. After grabbing my cell phone for light, I made my way to the breaker box. My attempts were fruitless and it became evident that my cell phone would be my only light until its power was depleted, or my electricity was returned.

I thought to myself, how difficult it would be living in a dark world without light. What if I had to live in constant darkness without light? What if we had to negotiate our way through this world amidst spiritual darkness without the benefit of light?

The Bible says in Isaiah 60:2, “See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the Lord rises upon you and His glory appears over you.” Jesus says, “This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil.” John 3:19. In other words, the people of this world live in gross darkness and love gross darkness. What could counteract this degenerate dark condition? The only remedy for darkness is the light.

Jesus said, “You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.” Matthew 5:14-16.) Jesus’ statement here is not suggestive, but emphatic. As Christians, we are the light of the world. And as light, we must shine.

Jesus made another interesting statement about light: “When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” John 8:12. Jesus said that He was the light of the world, but He also said that *we* are the light of the world. As Christians, we reflect the light of Jesus. Christians are not the source of light, but merely reflectors of the source, Jesus.

Andrew Brandon, who worked in the jewelry industry for several years (international and domestic) stated: “Diamonds don’t actually produce any light of their own, what you see is simply the diamond’s inherent ability to catch and refract light. Many retailers that offer diamonds produce reports that measure the scintillation, sparkle, brilliance, fire and so on; this is just measuring how efficiently the diamond reflects light.”

The most exquisite diamond in the world would be dull in the shade. We are God’s diamonds, but we need the light to shine. To reflect the light, we must live where the light can reach us. Live in the sunshine of Jesus. Live in the sunshine of Jesus through prayer, through Bible study, through church attendance and you will shine.

I pray that God will shine into my life so that I will reflect His goodness. Shine through me, Lord, I want to be a diamond. Is that your prayer, too?

*By Stephen Brooks, Executive Secretary*





# All In The Family

## Southwest Region Celebrates Camp Meeting

**ATHENS, TEX.** – We are so excited to share about the amazing and Spirit-filled encounter we had at our Southwest Region Conference camp meeting at Lone Star Camp this past June 7-15. The 10 days were bedecked with life-changing encounters, one right after the other. The fellowship, the faith and the fun was more than we bargained for.

The praise and worship befitted that of an angelic tabernacle ensemble that refreshed our souls and ushered us into the presence of God. We had several choirs from different places that rendered an oratory of praise on both Sabbath afternoons under the direction of Buford Griffith III, Southwest Region Conference Education superintendent, who brought in the big names and also the up and coming.

The spoken word came to us from the throne room of God through anointed servants in the personhood of Emile Peeler, Debleaire Snell and, at the youth pavilion, Laurent Grosvenor and Morgan Medlock.

The God of heaven was having His way in the youth ministry under the leadership of Tyrone Douglas, who is the Southwest Region Conference youth director. Douglas, along with his Southwest Region Conference associate youth directors, Vanston Archbold and Carl Ming teamed up and worked with and for the young people. Lives were changed and souls were saved, so much so that on the last Sabbath we had 13 souls baptized at the youth pavilion.

As if that wasn't enough for us, Calvin Watkins, our illustrious Southwest Re-

gion Conference president, made sure that all who were present were well fed by providing watermelon and our version of the "Feeding of the 5,000 Fish-Fry" on the last day of camp meeting.

May God continue to bless and keep us as we look forward to our next camp meeting. Until then: May the love of God enfold you; may the power of God protect you; and may the presence of God watch over you. Wherever you are, God will be, and all will be well.

By Carl Ming  
Associate Youth Director



# Camp Meeting Ordination

## Making History in the Southwest Region Conference

**ATHENS, TEX.** – History was made on Sabbath, June 15, 2019, at the Southwest Region Conference camp meeting held at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex. During the evening ordination service, Michelle Mota, associate pastor of the Fondren Seventh-day Adventist Church in Houston, Tex., was commissioned as the first female pastor in the 73-year history of the Conference.

Prior to her assignment at Fondren, Mota successfully pastored the New Life and Real Truth Seventh-day Adventist

churches in Houston, Tex. and the Smyrna Spanish Company in Navasota, Tex.

Three other accomplished pastors were also ordained to the gospel ministry at that service: Etser Edouard from the El Paso and Las Cruces district; Joseph Footman from the Baton Rouge Faith and Lafayette district; and Laurent Grosvenor from the Austin district.

Carlos Craig, Texas Conference president, delivered a powerful message to the interns and Elton DeMoraes, Southwestern Union vice president,

prayed an inspiring prayer of consecration. Southwest Region Conference President Calvin Watkins and Executive Secretary Stephen Brooks then presented the pastors with a charge, certificates, credentials and gifts accordingly. All conference ministers and their families posed for a photograph (below) at the conclusion of the service to mark this sacred and historic occasion.

By *Eddie Polite*  
Ministerial Director



### Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

**Notice is hereby given** that the Twenty-Fifth Constituency & Fourth Quadrennial Session of the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene September 21 - 22, 2019, at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church in Keene, Texas.

Registration for the session is scheduled to begin at 7:45 p.m. Saturday night, September 21, 2019. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental personnel for the ensuing quadrennial term, and to transact such business as may properly come before the session.

Each church is entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) additional delegate for each forty-five (45) members or major fraction thereof and who holds membership in the local church or company, which accredits them.

Calvin L. Watkins, Sr., President | Stephen E. Brooks, Jr., Secretary | Philip G. Palmer, Treasurer

### Southwest Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

**Notice is hereby given** that the Twenty-Fifth Constituency & Fourth Quadrennial Session of the Southwest Region Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will convene September 21 - 22, 2019, at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church in Keene, Texas.

Registration for the session is scheduled to begin at 7:45 p.m. Saturday night, September 21, 2019. The purpose of the session is to elect officers and departmental personnel for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider revisions to the constitution and bylaws, and to transact such business as may properly come before the session.

Delegates to the Southwest Region Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Fourth Quadrennial Session are also delegates to the Southwest Region Conference Association.

Calvin L. Watkins, Sr., President | Stephen E. Brooks, Jr., Secretary



# Believe in Christian Education

## Berean's Kindergarten and Eighth-grade Graduation

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** – Held three days apart, our Martin Luther King, Jr. Academy recently held its kindergarten and eighth-grade graduations.

The kindergarten theme “Under Construction: Building on a Solid Foundation” dominated the gymnasium/auditorium which had been transformed into a construction site replete with yellow and black signs. Even the aisle for the graduates’ processional was converted into a street.

The pre-K 3 and pre-K 4 students, in nursery rhyme costumes and construction worker attire respectively, awed the audience with their recitation of nursery rhymes and their portrayals of different professions. The graduates’ drill included rhyme time, a demonstration of the four R’s, social studies, months of the

year, along with several songs. Kindergarten lead teacher, Deloris Newman, and Sibyl Jordan, principal, awarded diplomas to a valedictorian, two salutatorians, three honors students and the five remaining graduates.

The six-member eighth grade class featured Jalyn Jordan (pictured left) and Semaj Sadler (pictured right) who had attended the school for eight years. Like the kindergarteners, the students’ recitation of the MLK creed was a part of the ceremony.

Joseph Footman, pastor of the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church, challenged the graduates with his message “Stand.” Utilizing Daniel 3:16-18 of the three Hebrew youth’s experiences, he cautioned the graduates to “Remember your training; stand up and do not bow

to pressures that come your way. Social interactions will cause you to take a stand. But remember, you can succeed no matter where you go to school. Those who stand will walk in the fire and not be consumed. God wants to use you; stand for Jesus.”

Following this message, Sibyl Jordan and Mack Jordan invited parents to meet their respective graduates at the altar where T. Ron Weegar, pastor, prayed for them. Diplomas followed with recognition of Jalyn Jordan as valedictorian and Semaj Sadler as salutatorian. Berean is quick to glorify God as He continues to bless its education program.

— By Evelyn Edwards



# Rightly Trained for the Work

## South Louisiana ACS Federation

**LOUISIANA** – The South Louisiana Adventist Community Services (ACS) Federation has undergone some changes in its administration while continuing to receive the support of Durandel Ford, Sr., Southwest Region Conference community services director.

There have been vast challenges in our area due to seasonal weather disasters and the growing needs of our neighboring communities. Our churches are also having to meet the needs of people who were previously serviced by social programs that no longer exist. The challenges have been met through our growing development of partnerships. We have learned to network and work diligently with other agencies, organizations and churches.

In an effort to continue to serve the populace, we have learned that we can better meet the people's needs by working together with others. We do not have all the resources, funds and know how. Subsequently, through our relationships with various agencies, we have been better able to assist with disasters, fill our pantries and serve our people in the Lord's name.

The South Louisiana ACS Federation has stressed becoming and staying rightly trained for the work. We are stressing the ACS code of ethics and professionalism, as well as consistency.

Our ACS Federation has two churches who have been certified as disaster shelters: Westbank United Seventh-day Adventist Church of New Orleans, La., pastored by David Hinds; and Smyrna Seventh-day Adventist Church of Alexandria, La., pastored by Christopher Manuel. Both churches were certified by the American Red Cross: Westbank, 10 years ago and Smyrna, two years ago. To God be the glory!

Many of our ACS Federations, local church community services departments, pantries and centers operate in unison with other agencies like American Red Cross, Colistics Pharmacy, AETNA, Tulane University School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine, Louisiana State University Public Health Services, Urban League, Algiers Mainstreet, United Churches of Algiers, Boys and Girls Club, Girl Trek, Bike Easy, Algiers Federation of Churches, New Orleans Neighborhood Engage-

ment, Louisiana Governor's Youth Leadership Program, New Orleans Police Department Fourth District, Garden of Eden and Bridging the Gap.

South Louisiana ACS Federation has planned its inaugural Adventist Community Services Retreat for the weekend of Sept. 13-15, 2019 at Woodworth, La. It will be a weekend of spiritual renewal as well as fun-filled learning. Topics of interest include: Partnering, by Royliene Johnson, South Louisiana ACS Federation president; The Active Gun Shooter, by Durandel Ford, Sr., Southwest Region Conference community services director; ACS 101, by Irene H. Williams, M.S.W., Southwest Region Conference ACS coordinator; Disaster Services Update, by W. Derrick Lea, North American Division ACS associate director; Prayer Walking and Talking, by Carrie and Stephanie Cyprian; Meeting and Greeting, and Caring for the Caretaker, by Lucinda Keller, L.P.N.

By Irene Williams  
ACS Coordinator





# In His Honor

## Living Each Day According To God's Game Plan



Perhaps it's more and more significant as I age, but the passage found in Psalm 118:24 is more meaningful today than ever before: "This is the day that the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it," (NKJV). Each and every day that we are gifted life by the God of heaven, we must think in terms of legacy, but, more importantly, in terms of a living testament. Our attitude, our demeanor, our countenance and our words are staples in a working document that declares a message either for or against the goodness and the grace of God.

Many years ago, I came across a piece written by 14-year-old Jason Lehman published in a Dear Abby column dated Feb. 14, 1989. It read, "It was spring, but it was summer I wanted. The warm days, and the great outdoors. It was summer, but it was fall I wanted. The colorful leaves, and the cool, dry air. It was fall, but it was winter I wanted. The beautiful snow, and the joy of the holiday season. It was winter, but it was spring I wanted. The warmth and the blossoming of nature. I was a child, but it was adulthood I wanted. The freedom and respect. I was 20, but it was 30 I wanted. To be mature, and sophisticated. I was middle-aged, but it was 20 I wanted. The youth and the free spirit. I was retired, but it was middle-age I wanted. The presence of mind without limitations. My life was over, and I never got what I wanted."

Christ counseled us so wisely in Matthew 6:34, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Truthfully, this *is* the day that the Lord has made. Each day He creates with a purpose, with a plan. We either become part of that plan, or we mitigate against it. The world complains that there are far too many long-faced Christians. Translation, too many Christians are dissatisfied with God's plan for their lives. We are too quick to Monday-morning quarterback God's game plan. We think we know better than He does, thus we frown. Today, you have been given a grand opportunity to live, breathe and function on a highly positive level for the Master. Go on God's errands today and then marvel at the way He directs your paths.

*By Carlos J. Craig, President*



# Lake Whitney Ranch

## Texas Conference Quadrennial Constituency Session Report

CLIFTON, TEX. — Due to the lateness of the hour, the Lake Whitney Ranch report was not presented at the Texas Conference Quadrennial Constituency Session but referred to the mid-term session in 2021. This article highlights the progress being made at the ranch from that report.

Previously, three beautiful lodges were completed. During the summer months, bunk beds are brought to the lodges for summer camp.

In the spring of 2018, a Lake Whitney Ranch Operating and Building Committee was formed to discuss future plans for the property. It was helpful to learn a master plan was created, so we did not have to start from scratch.

Knowing the immediate need for an enclosed meeting space, a temporary event center was purchased providing

an occupancy of 200. This allowed summer campers a place to meet for general sessions out of the sun.

Following the purchase of new wakeboards and ski boats in 2018, the opportunity to have a five-slip boat house along the waterfront was granted. A floating boat house was created this summer providing a place for four boats and a sailboat. As the water level changes on Lake Whitney, the boat house rises and lowers.

Other improvements include outdoor LED lighting and electrical upgrades, along with road, fencing, gate and irrigation improvements.

Road signs were installed making it easier to find where to go while providing emergency personnel the information they need in case of an emergency.

A sign outside the property will be installed making it easier to find the ranch. An entrance sign will also be created providing a pleasing welcome to the ranch while signifying its connection to the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Other projects on the list include five summer camp cabins, a multi-purpose building with a kitchen and two bath houses. These projects total about \$5 million and will be completed as funds allow. The Revolving Fund policy allows us to borrow 65% of project costs, but we must have \$1.75 million in hand to complete all of these projects.

Donations for Lake Whitney Ranch may be given by marking a tithe envelope or online at [TexasAdventist.org](http://TexasAdventist.org).

————— *By Randall B. Terry, Treasurer*





# Annual Norse Service

## Celebrating Texas Conference History At First Church

**CLIFTON, TEX.** – For more than 35 years, people have been gathering at the first Seventh-day Adventist Church in Texas, the Norse Church, to celebrate its history.

Scheduled for the second Sabbath in October, attendees enjoy a gathering that includes a worship service, beautiful music, potluck lunch and chuck wagon chefs preparing fresh cobbler on site. Horses are even available for those wanting to ride to the service. Riders meet in Keene at 6 a.m. to head to a ranch near the church. The trail ride lasts about 30 minutes.

The Norse church in Clifton is about a 90-minute drive from Keene. From Keene, find state Hwy 174 in Cleburne and take it south through Meridian. Turn right through town to Hwy 6. Turn left on Hwy 6 for about eight miles toward Clifton. Turn right on FM 2136 and travel about three miles, then turn left on CR 4155 and drive about one mile. The church is located on the left.

If you would like more information, please call 817.517.4650 or email [mary.yddo@gmail.com](mailto:mary.yddo@gmail.com).

By Yldo Ortiz



# Tenth Annual Mission Trip

## Houston International Church Returns To Bumper Harvest

**HOUSTON** – On June 13, 2019, a team of 30 members strong (pictured below) departed to Nairobi, Kenya, to engage in a 12-day medical missionary trip funded by the Houston International Seventh-day Adventist Church. Over the course of four days, the clinic was able to process more than 2,000 people. Collaboration with the local health officials from Makueni and Machakos counties helped make those numbers possible. They provided personnel to assist in registration, treatment and follow up. Our extensive pharmaceutical

donations benefitted from the help of additional county pharmacists. Clementine Karemera, a dentist from the Houston area (pictured right) provided much-needed dental services.

While the mornings were dedicated to medical services and visitation, the evenings focused on evangelism seminars, which comprised of Bible study, spiritual movies, preaching, health nuggets and children’s ministries. The meetings yielded a harvest of 145 souls for baptism with many more interests, estimated at 200, for follow up. It was

such a joy to witness our new brothers and sisters in Christ seal their decision for eternal life on our last Sabbath in Kenya. The mood was so joyous that the whole experience was like a foretaste of heaven.

Our 12 days in Kenya only scratched the surface of the rich harvest there. As we preached and extracted teeth, checked blood sugars and made paper crowns for children, we felt the value of bringing a practical gospel to God’s people in need.

By Monet Morgan and Stephen Mbola



# Orchestra Ministry

## Dallas Brazilian Church Members Witness Through Music

**IRVING, TEX.** — When Josilene Ferrari left Brazil in 2004 and came to Irving, Tex., she brought a bachelor's degree and certification in music. Her intention was to attend UT Arlington and earn a master's degree in music, which she did, but God had grander plans for her.

The church that Ferrari joined, the Dallas Brazilian Seventh-day Adventist Church, featured a small band of young people each Sabbath who would play special music on violins, flutes, saxophones and trumpets, led by Leilane Seifert. When Seifert heard of Ferrari's

background in music, she invited her to help out.

Over the years, those few individuals have turned into a full orchestra that has witnessed through music not only in Irving, but throughout the United States.

Today, the orchestra includes those original instruments, as well as cellos, French horn, trombone, bassoon, acoustic guitar, electric and standup bass and percussion. Performers participate regardless of their musical experience, thanks to personalized arrangements by Ferrari. There is a broad mix of

abilities, with some members having played in college, while others are still beginners. Last year's orchestra featured 35 musicians.

Since 2004, the orchestra has performed in New York, Boston, Tennessee, Arkansas, Houston and Oklahoma.

In addition, Ferrari makes it a point to perform at community events in Irving. "Each Christmas, Irving holds an event where we perform, which gives us an opportunity to talk about our church to the community. Music opens doors."

By Glen Robinson



# Target East Texas

## Praying For God's Blessings Before Meetings Even Began

**MARSHALL, TEX.** — Months before the evangelism focus Target East Texas began, Marshall Seventh-day Adventist Church members made a prayer list of those they wanted to see come to the evangelistic meetings and continued to pray the Lord would impress them to be baptized. By God's grace, a number of them attended the meetings and three of them were baptized. Ashten More and his mom, Jennifer, were two of those baptized.

Church member Rick Nash invited Ashten who then invited his mom. During the meetings, Ashten shared one

amazing story of faith. One day as he was coming back from work and heading home to pick up his mom for the meetings, it started to rain really hard and his truck suddenly started to smoke badly under the hood.

Tempted to complain about what was happening, he realized that it was Satan trying to stop him from going to the meetings. When his mom saw him coming up the driveway and saw the smoke coming from the hood, she thought, "We're not going to the meeting today." What Jennifer did not realize was that

Ashten made a resolution in faith before he got home.

"We're going to the meeting," he told her. He sounded so convicted, she simply said, "Okay, if you say so."

Ashten knew that God was more powerful than the smoke of a car or the bad weather. He knew the Lord would protect them. They are now members of the Marshall church and feel that God has been guiding them to this point in their lives, and know now there is nothing impossible for the Lord.

By Ernesto Ilingworth



# World Changing

## Lake Whitney Ranch Summer Camp Makes a Difference

**CLIFTON, TEX.** – Ever since I was a camper myself, I wanted to work at camp, and this summer I finally got the chance at Lake Whitney Ranch Summer Camp.

I was so excited, so ready to work with these kids and show them the God I know and love. However, the moment I saw all the smiling faces of the first group of kids, I knew God had me there for the kids to be teaching me and not the other way around.

Watching all the campers meet new people and make new friends was life-changing. God works through each and every one of these kids, starting with the cubs and going all the way to the young adults.

I strongly believe that the best part of camp is the spiritual aspect. Hearing the campers belting out our theme song,

watching them read their Bible, write in their prayer journals, seeing them take each other over to the side and pray for each other reminded me so much of God's love. It reminded me that even when you may be going through a rough time, God is right beside you.

No matter where I looked, God was everywhere. But most importantly, watching the campers stand up, tears on their faces, publicly giving their lives to God through baptism—it moved me.

Our motto this summer was, “We are world changers and we are creating world changers.” Seeing these wonderful kids standing up and giving their lives to Christ backed our motto in every way. These campers are becoming world changers by telling their stories and shining in Jesus.

“This year 47 people were baptized at Lake Whitney Ranch Summer Camp,” Paulo Tenorio, Texas Conference youth director shared. “Others made decisions for Christ, but chose to be baptized at their home church with family and friends. It was an incredible experience for both campers and staff this summer as we felt God's presence with us throughout all our activities. We praise God for His love and protection.”

Someone told me during the summer that this ministry is life changing. Campers come from all different walks of life, and yet they're all here for the same reason. They're here because God wants them here.

If I had two words to sum up my time at camp, it would be “World Changing.”

By Lexi Bradwell



# Out of the Saltshaker

## Moving Beyond Comfort Zones to Really Impact Others



Near the beginning of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus shared a very important truth with His disciples and everyone who was listening to Him teach that day. Just after He laid out the "blessing statements," also known as the "beatitudes" in Matthew 5, He transitioned to some very important concepts found in verse 13: "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything, except to be thrown out and trampled underfoot."

Salt is generally known for several qualities: seasoning, purifying and preserving. While we know of the benefits of salt for curing food and even for cleansing bacteria from wounds, its seasoning properties are likely the most common.

How many of us have reached for a salt shaker and, after applying the salt, take another bite and discovered that our food tasted the same as before. The salt that we just applied seemed to make no difference in enhancing the flavor. In humid climates the salt seems to stick together and even to taste like it has been watered down and is unsatisfying.

No matter how we may consider using salt, one very basic fact is indisputable: it must come into contact with whatever you wish to impact for there to be any benefit from its saltiness. While it remains by itself it is just a collection of grains of salt with other grains of salt and it provides no benefit.

This is precisely why Jesus told His followers that we are the "salt of the earth" because He intended for the savor of His love to transform us so that His love would flow out of us to bless, heal and lead others to salvation in Him. It is really the process by which He intended us to share the blessings of His transforming love with everyone around us. When our lives are flavored with the savor of the indwelling Christ, we will be moved to engage in the one-to-one blessing of reaching out to others in His name.

A number of years ago I came across a book entitled *Out of the Saltshaker* by Rebecca Pippert. The author went to great lengths to educate the reader on the benefits and properties of salt. She then described many of the followers of Jesus as salt that perpetually hung around other salt and just got all clumped up. She then drew the conclusion that if we, as Christians, remained cloistered together in our safe places rather than going into the world and applying the love of Jesus in another person's life, then we were just like salt that remained in the saltshaker.

In Ellen G. White's book, *Thoughts from the Mount of Blessing*, she says, "When love fills the heart, it will flow out to others, not because of favors received from them, but because love is the principle of action. Love modifies the character, governs the impulses, subdues enmity and ennobles the affections. This love is as broad as the universe and is in harmony with that of the angel workers. Cherished in the heart, it sweetens the entire life and sheds its blessing upon all around us. It is this, and only this, that can make us the salt of the earth."

By Phil Robertson, Executive Secretary/Treasurer





# God Intended it for Good

## Seeing God’s Blessings Through the Struggles

**HOBBS, N.M.** – We have received many blessings in southern New Mexico. The members of the Hobbs Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church have been sowing the seed of the gospel and so far, we have seen many lives changed.

One instance in particular in which the hand of God was, and still is, being seen at work is in the lives of the Suárez-Rico family. Although evil has tried to overcome this precious family, it has not succeeded.

In 2018, Yahir, the youngest son of the family was diagnosed with brain cancer. As the medical bills began to pile up and the debt grew, so did the family's faith. God blessed the Suárez-Rico family in many ways, including financially, and they began to see that He was in control. At the end of 2018, the

entire family—Lizeth, Obed, Jason and Yahir—gave their lives to God through baptism. Surprisingly, Lizeth's father, Eduardo Rico, who attended our church for many years without becoming a member, entered the baptismal waters the same day.

I am happy to report that Yahir has been recovering quickly. Doctors are amazed at how he has reacted to chemotherapy treatments. Yahir's faith, strength and courage have inspired and encouraged us all. In fact, some of the young people from the Hobbs Spanish church have admitted that as they see Yahir fight cancer, they are not taking things for granted and they are learning to depend more on God. God has also used this tragedy to unite the church. It has sparked a new sense of closeness, ac-

ceptance and motivation for evangelism. The members have also gone above and beyond to support the Suárez-Rico family. In addition to praying fervently, on many occasions, members have visited Yahir in Albuquerque where he receives his treatment.

We are thrilled that a church that once had low attendance is now a vibrant multicultural church that has 125 people attending regularly. Praise God! We have seen Genesis 15:20 before our eyes; what Satan intended for evil, God intended for good! This tragedy was a catalyst for unity and now Yahir's greatest desire is to regain his physical strength so that he can share his testimony and continue to tell others that Jesus is coming soon!

By Jonathan González



# All Things Are Possible

## Albuquerque Teen Receives U.S. Presidential Scholar Award

**ALBUQUERQUE** – In May 2019, the U.S. Secretary of Education announced the 55th class of U.S. Presidential Scholars, recognizing 161 high school seniors for their accomplishments in academics, the arts, career and technical education fields. Among those to receive this award was a member of the Albuquerque Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, Abigail (Abby) Pribisova.

Early in her senior year, Pribisova was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. Through the school year she underwent many difficult treatments but she main-

tained a positive outlook and relied on her faith in God. Pribisova not only beat the cancer but at the end of the school year was inducted into this year's U.S. Presidential Scholars class.

"I think everybody deals with cancer in different ways. My way was I just wanted to act like everything was normal. I didn't want to talk about it; I just wanted to keep on trucking," said Pribisova during a local news interview.

Pribisova stayed active in the church's youth praise team, Pathfinders and focusing on academics. In June 2019, she

was honored for her accomplishments and traveled to Washington D.C. "It was great to see different parts of D.C., visit the White House and meet so many amazing people," she said.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars honor is given to students who demonstrate outstanding academic achievement, leadership and service. Pribisova has done them all and also been a great inspiration to the members of her church, showing them that with God and a positive attitude, all things are possible.

By Janet Van Why



# Hands and Feet of Jesus

## Amarillo Spanish Church Kids Visit Children's Hospital

**AMARILLO, TEX.** – The children of Amarillo Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church recently visited the Northwest Texas Children's Hospital to deliver "busy bags" to patients. With generous donations from members and friends, the "busy bags" were filled with coloring books, crayons, colored pencils, word search books, puzzles, stuffed animals and socks, as well as a Bible tract. The Amarillo Spanish church children handed out a total of 105 bags and had the opportunity to personally visit with a child staying at the hospital. Their

hope was that the "busy bags" would be a blessing for each child who received one. Additionally, they delivered snack baskets to the nurses to show appreciation for all that they do in caring for the children. The children's ministry plans to continue to donate to the Northwest Texas Children's Hospital and to the Ronald McDonald House in Amarillo. The goal is to instill in the Amarillo Spanish church children a passion to serve others and be the hands and feet of Jesus in the Amarillo community.

By Sandra Zubia





# Gathering of Nations

## Texico Participates in Largest North American Pow-Wow

**ALBUQUERQUE** – Every year on the last weekend of April, Native American tribes from every corner of North America and Canada converge on Albuquerque, N.M., to participate in the Gathering of Nations, which is the largest Pow-Wow event in North America.

Tribes include Cherokee, Choctaw, Comanche, Oneida, Dakota, Hopi, Iroquois, Pawnee, Shawnee, Navajo, Acoma and a host of others. Indian dances, a Miss Indian World pageant and an Indian Traders Market are just some of the attractions that take place over the three-day event.

This year, volunteers from several Texico Conference churches were thrilled to host a booth at the event. The church volunteers offered to pray with attendees and also shared Adventist literature including Ellen G. White’s *Steps to Christ* in Navajo; White’s book *The Desire of Ages*; and GLOW tracts.

They also shared health information to thousands of attendees at the event. Texico Conference Health Ministries Coordinator, Robert Gardner, handed out over 100 health-related DVDs. He and a member of the Rio Rancho Seventh-day Adventist Church designed and provided an attractive banner for the booth.

Overall, volunteers received lots of interest from individuals who wanted free family Bibles, Bible studies or were interested in attending a health presentation. Those individuals were enrolled in the Voice of Prophecy’s “Native New Day” Bible Study program.

The church volunteers noted a genuine spiritual interest in the visitors who came to the booth and were happy when an individual picked up some literature, then returned shortly after to ask for more to share with friends. We praise God that Jesus Christ was lifted up and

His imminent return for the final “Gathering of Nations” was emphasized. Please pray for the Native American people of North America—may they continue to find and embrace Jesus!

The Texico Conference would like to thank volunteers Raymond and Angie Nez (of Navajo heritage) from the Gallup Seventh-day Adventist Church and several volunteers from the Rio Rancho church; the Los Ranchos Company; and the Albuquerque Heights Seventh-day Adventist Church.

We also thank the volunteers from the Corrales Seventh-day Adventist Church who provided housing for several out-of-town members of the team.

By Jep Choate



# New Leaders

## Texico Welcomes Women's Ministries Co-directors

**CORRALES, N.M.** – The Texico Conference is pleased and excited to welcome Tracie Metherell (left) and Nancy Monge (right) as new women's ministries co-directors. Metherell is a Christian counselor with more than 16 years of experience and

many Texico members know Monge from her dedicated work at the Texico Conference headquarters. Metherell and Monge will be working together to plan conference-wide women's ministry meetings and will help support local

church women's ministry directors throughout the Texico Conference. Their enthusiasm and leadership promises to bring excitement and support to all women's activities.

– *By Debby Márquez, Communication Director*



### TEXICO CONFERENCE WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT



October 25-27, 2019

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Speaker/Writer/  
Author/Professor  
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**June Price**  
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## Classified Ads

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**Stallant Health Rural Health Clinic** in Weimar, Calif. is accepting applications for a Nurse Practitioner or a Physician Assistant, as well as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker. Please contact Marva at [Marva@StallantHealth.com](mailto:Marva@StallantHealth.com) for further information.

**Union College seeks Clinical Director** for Master in Physician Assistant Studies Program. Responsibilities include organizing, monitoring and evaluating clinical experiences plus limited classroom teaching. Masters, NCCPA certification and three years clinical practice required; teaching experience desirable. Contact Megan Heidtbrink: [Megan.Heidtbrink@Ucollege.edu](mailto:Megan.Heidtbrink@Ucollege.edu).

**Southern Adventist University** is seeking a candidate for Certification Officer and

Teaching Materials Center Director. For a complete job description and list of required qualifications visit [Southern.edu/jobs](http://Southern.edu/jobs).

**Fletcher Academy, Inc. seeks experienced Director of Information Technology**, responsible for all IT functions enterprise-wide. At least a Bachelor's in relevant field, plus technical and leadership experience required. Must be comfortable leading a team from a highly visible position, a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in good standing and enjoy working with young people in a boarding academy setting. Send cover letter and resume to Gary Carlson, CEO at [GCarlson@FletcherAcademy.com](mailto:GCarlson@FletcherAcademy.com).

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**Elmshaven: Part Time Live-in Docent/Caretaker Team:** give guided tours and lightly maintain

and care for the former home of Ellen G. White in St. Helena, Calif. Requires strong knowledge and understanding of the life and writings of Mrs. White and the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; teamwork, detail oriented, physically active. On site housing and utilities provided. Contact: Stephen Mayer at [Stephen.Mayer@AdventistFaith.com](mailto:Stephen.Mayer@AdventistFaith.com) or 805.413.7218.

### REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

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

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**Dallas First Church is hosting a 2-day, free medical clinic in partnership with AMEN ministries** on Oct. 25 and 27. We are planning to serve hundreds of people in the center of Dallas, so we are seeking volunteer and financial support. No matter what skills you have, medical or otherwise, we can use your help. See the announcement in this magazine or visit us at [Health4Dallas.org](http://Health4Dallas.org) for more details.

**Experience Adventist Heritage Village**, Battle Creek, Mich. and 3ABN tour Oct. 6-11, 2019. Details on the web: [AdventToursUS.com](http://AdventToursUS.com).

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**Messiah's Mansion School of the Sanctuary** will be hosting another Sanctuary and Prophecy Retreat Weekend seminar Nov. 7-10, 2019 in Harrah, Ok. Take a break and join us as we use the sanctuary to unlock the prophetic history of Christ and His church as given in the seven annual feasts of the Jewish calendar. For more information and to register visit [MessiahsMansion.com](http://MessiahsMansion.com). Phone: 405.454.3590 Email: [MessiahsMansion@hotmail.com](mailto:MessiahsMansion@hotmail.com).

**Farmers & Gardeners (AdAgrA's) 6th annual Adventist Agriculture Association conference** (Jan. 14-18) High Springs, Fla. Since 2013 AdAgrA encourages, supports and mentors those who wish to follow God's agriculture plan. Great

information and inspiration for how and why Adventists need to be in the garden. Registration and info: [AdventistAg.org](http://AdventistAg.org).

## Obituaries

**Anderson, David Huey**, died Feb. 10, 2019. Church membership: Shreveport First Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by wife, Margaret Anderson, and parents Ettie and Stacy Anderson. Survivors: sons, Kevin Anderson, Houston, Tex., and Keith Anderson, Shreveport, La.; three grandchildren.

**Aguilar, Donald**, died on June 7, 2019. Church membership: New Orleans Seventh-day

Adventist Church. Survivors: wife, Rosalina Gomez Aguilar; daughters, Bertha "Cecilia" Ortiz (David) and Ingrid Marlene Aguilar; two grandchildren.

**Albertson, Angel Marie Bonanata Pasquarille**, born May 9, 1933, Binghamton, N.Y.; died June 5, 2019, Amarillo, Tex. Church membership: Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by parents, Charles and Anna Mae Pasquarille; first husband, John J. Bonanata Jr.; brothers, Arthur and Anthony; sisters, Helen, Evelyn and Rose; an infant son; two of Theodore's sons, Richard and Jimmy Albertson; one grandson. Survivors: husband, Theodore Albertson; sister,



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# Society of Adventist Communicators

The 30th annual convention of the Society of Adventist Communicators will take place on **October 17-19, 2019**, in the Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town in **Albuquerque, New Mexico.**

**REGISTER TODAY!**

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Vera Gross; sister, Jeanie Pasquarille; brother, Charles Pasquarille; brother, Jerry Pasquarille; daughter, Mary Anne Bonanata; daughter, Juanita Krause (Greg); daughter, Cathy Dodds; daughter, Alicia Davis; son, Jay Pasquarille; 16 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Chapman, Marty**, born Dec. 2, 1948, Orange County, Calif.; died May 19, 2019, Jefferson, Tex. Church membership: Jefferson Academy Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: wife, Melissa Connell Chapman; son, Tony Chapman (Wendy); daughter, Sonya Chapman, and son, Dustin Chapman.

**Boyce-Cabe, Peggy Moseley**, born Dec. 2, 1931, Uvalde, Tex.; died June 10, 2019, Little Rock, Ark. Church membership: Little Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: daughter, Pattie (Melvin) Boyce, Chestnut Mound, Tenn.; grandson, Keith (Trish) Boyce, Greenville, Tenn.; granddaughter, Allyson Laural Boyce, Greenville, Tenn. and her sister-in-law, Edna Mae Moseley.

**Clark, Eliece Maxine**, born Aug. 7, 1917, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; died May 9, 2019, Alpena, Ark. Church membership: Harrison Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: daughter, Carol Woodall, Alpena, Ark.

**Vigil, Larry (Lauro) Romero**, born Oct. 12, 1922, San Antonio, N.M.; died June 23, 2019, Albuquerque, N.M. Church membership: Rio Grande Spanish Seventh-

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## Mission: Pohnpei

~ October 5, 2019 ~

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**Jimmie Lucille McCurry (Hardin)**, age 92, passed away on March 20, 2019 in Dallas, Texas. Jimmie Lou was born and raised in Dallas to James Franklin and Lucille Iva (Johnston) Hardin and knew the city and its history well. She graduated from Adamson High School at the age of 16 in 1943. In 1944 she married S.D. McCurry from Bettie, Texas. They were married for 53 years and had three children.



A member of the Dallas First Seventh-day Adventist Church, Jimmie Lou was a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist who loved her church and held various offices throughout her years there, from Pathfinders to Junior Class leader. For 35 years she served as the church clerk and was the secretary to seven pastors and assistant treasurer until the age of 84. Jimmie Lou was also a lover of books, crossword puzzles and Jeopardy. Visiting with friends and family via the telephone was a pastime she enjoyed and was well known for. Jimmie Lou loved to watch 3-ABN, the Loma Linda Channel and listening to Dwight Nelson's sermons. Her family will always remember her for her great memory and sense of humor, delicious meals, love for family and love for her home that she lived in for 64 years until her death.

In the last years of her life, Jimmie Lou was blessed to experience a wonderful friendship and love with a dear friend, James Calloway, whom she enjoyed sitting next to at church each Sabbath, sharing long conversations with and doing special projects for others.

Jimmie Lou was preceded in death by her parents; loving husband S.D. McCurry; and dear son Michael David McCurry.

She is survived by her brother, Marcus Wayne Hardin, and his wife, Charlene, of Midlothian, Tex.; daughter, Sylvia Don Shipman, and her husband, Stan, of Springtown, Tex.; daughter, Patricia Lynn Perez and her husband, Gilbert, from Bristow, Okla.; daughters-in-law; Walu McCurry and Kristen McCurry; seven grandchildren L Milea Menchkoff, Cameron Ray, Gilbert Perez II, London Reber, Jennifer Perez-Braden, Elizabeth McCurry, Lydia Neighbors and 13 great- grandchildren.

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day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by wife, Lucy Romero Vigil; second wife, Dylia Zarate Vigil; two sons, Clyde Larry Vigil and Donald Frederick Vigil; brothers, Jacobo, Esquipula, Lorenzo, Flavio, Andres and Juan; sister Josie and his four step-brothers, Isabel, Elijo, Pablo and Adan Padilla. Survivors: sisters, Flora Millfelt and Beatrice Chavez; two daughters, Molly Vigil Evans (Jerry) and Grace Vigil Walker (Mel Salazar); daughter-in-law, Janet Vigil Alcott (Colin); two granddaughters and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Jackson, Alvin, Sr.**, died on April 28, 2019. Church membership: Lake Charles Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by parents, Willis and Elta

McCoy Jackson; sisters, Mary Kirk, Mable Williams, Hilda Wright and Alice Jones; brothers, Calvin Jackson, Willis Jackson, Hillary Jackson and Gant Jackson and granddaughter, Alberta Naomi Mariah Lee. Survivors: wife, Margaret Manuel Jackson and children: Alvin (Meredith) Jackson of Macon, Ga.; Herbert (Brenda) Jackson of Atlanta, Ga.; Anthony Jackson of Houston, Tex.; Marion (Dedrick Bailey of Alabama; Pamela (Brian) Beal of Las Vegas, Nev.; Patricia (Joseph A.) Delpit of Baker, La.; Helena (Juan C., Sr.) Camacho of El Paso, Tex.; Adrian (Telita) Jackson of Boy's Ranch, Tex. and Jaquay (Jonathan) Gray of Port Allen, La.; siblings, Abraham Jackson, James Jackson and Betty Lou

Jackson; 15 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**McMullan, Juanita Florence**, born October 13, 1944 and died June 6, 2019, in Benton, Ark. Church membership: Decatur Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivor: husband, Robert McMullan.

**Rivera, Miosotis**, born Sept. 7, 1976, Ponce, Puerto Rico; died June 13, 2019, Baton Rouge, La. Church membership: Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: mother, Iris Colon, of Puerto Rico; sons, Kim Nakir Sanchez Rivera, of Ponce; Christian Alexis Benitez, of Lafayette, La. and Akilis Duane Rivera, of Baton Rouge, La.; sisters, Nairobi Almodovar and Temeshi Almodovar, of Baton Rouge, La.

## Submissions

**Back Pages:** To submit family milestones, obituaries, announcements or address changes, visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Communication) or call 817.295.0476.

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

**News and Articles:** Send your local church news and high-resolution 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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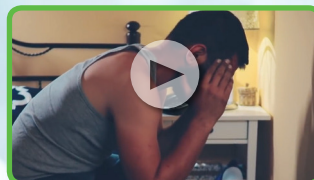
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## NSO Sabbath

Save the Date: Nov. 9, 2019

Join the Southwestern Union and the National Service Organization of Seventh-day Adventists in honoring our military service members, police officers, firefighters and community servants.

For more information, call Helvis C. Moody at 817.295.0476 or visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org)

## 3rd Annual Public Campus Ministries Retreat

Oct. 18-19, 2019

Texas Tech University  
Lubbock, Texas

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

# Sabbath Sunset Calendar

## September-October 2019



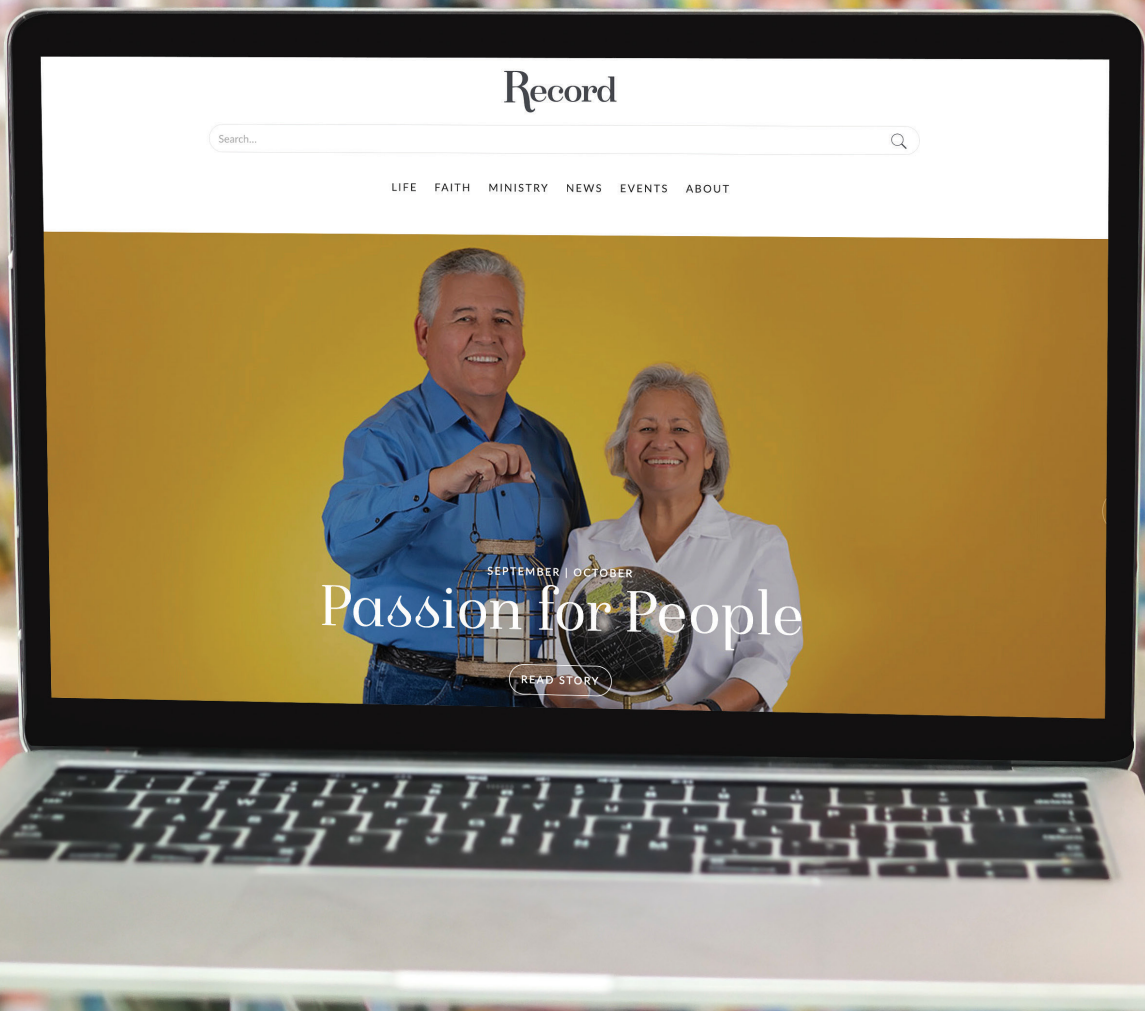
	9/6	9/13	9/20	9/27	10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25	11/1
Abilene	7:59	7:49	7:40	7:30	7:21	7:12	7:04	6:56	6:49
Albuquerque	7:28	7:18	7:08	6:58	6:48	6:38	6:29	6:21	6:13
Amarillo	8:09	7:59	7:49	7:39	7:29	7:19	7:10	7:01	6:54
Brownsville	7:45	7:38	7:30	7:22	7:15	7:07	7:00	6:54	6:49
Dallas	7:47	7:38	7:28	7:19	7:09	7:00	6:52	6:44	6:37
El Paso	7:25	7:16	7:07	6:57	6:48	6:40	6:31	6:24	6:17
Fort Worth	7:49	7:40	7:30	7:21	7:12	7:03	6:54	6:46	6:39
Gallup	7:37	7:27	7:16	7:06	6:56	6:46	6:37	6:29	6:21
Gentry	7:40	7:30	7:20	7:09	6:59	6:49	6:39	6:31	6:23
Houston	7:39	7:31	7:22	7:13	7:05	6:57	6:49	6:42	6:36
Little Rock	7:31	7:21	7:11	7:01	6:51	6:41	6:32	6:24	6:17
Muskogee	7:43	7:33	7:23	7:13	7:02	6:53	6:43	6:35	6:27
New Orleans	7:18	7:10	7:01	6:52	6:43	6:35	6:28	6:20	6:14
Oklahoma City	7:52	7:42	7:32	7:21	7:11	7:02	6:52	6:44	6:36
Roswell	7:18	7:09	6:59	6:50	6:40	6:31	6:22	6:14	6:07
San Antonio	7:52	7:43	7:34	7:26	7:17	7:09	7:02	6:55	6:49
Shreveport	7:35	7:26	7:16	7:07	6:58	6:49	6:40	6:33	6:26
Tulsa	7:46	7:36	7:25	7:15	7:05	6:55	6:45	6:37	6:29

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



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