

Record

March | April 2020

- 4 Discovering True Identity
- 6 New School New Perspective
- 8 Young Couple Finds Purpose
- 12 The Daring Escape



He Calls Me By Name

Recognizing the Handiwork of the Creator

The Handiwork of the Creator

He Calls Me By Name

Record

March | April 2020
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Features	{	4	What is Your True Identity?
		8	Purpose Beyond Our Own
Columns	{	3	On the Record
		6	Education: New School, New Perspective
		11	Equipping: Evidence God Calls You
		12	Little Readers: The Daring Escape
News	{	13	Southwestern Happenings
		14	Southwestern Union
		18	Southwestern Adventist University
		20	Arkansas-Louisiana Conference
		25	Oklahoma Conference
		30	Southwest Region Conference
		35	Texas Conference
Back Pages	{	40	Texico Conference
		45	Classified Ads
		46	Announcements
		49	Obituaries

Editor's Note

The essence of our being is rooted in the Lord. God has created each one of us uniquely. Before we were even born, He knew us. Who we are, our identity, is the craftsmanship of the Lord God Almighty. It seems hard, but we often forget this wonderful truth as we get wrapped up in our personal plans and projects. We are pulled in different directions by our ambition, obligations and even guilt, but the truth is our individual identity is firmly anchored in the Lord.

How do we manifest this identity to our families, coworkers, church members and strangers? What is the fruit of this truth? The Bible tells us He calls us by name (John 10:30). Not only does He know us intimately, He calls us to Him by our name.

We hope this issue encourages you and helps you discover a little bit more about God's love for you and His plans for your life. How great it is to be reminded that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. He calls us by name. Let's answer His call, every time.



Jessica L. Lozano

The Record is an official publication of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

EDITOR

Jessica L. Lozano, jlozano@swuc.org

MANAGING EDITOR

Kristina Pascual Busch, kpascual@swuc.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN

Reggie Johnson, rjohnson@swuc.org

CIRCULATION

Tammy G. Prieto, tprieto@swuc.org

ADVERTISING

Bradley Ecord, becord@swuc.org

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA

Frances Alcorn, news@arklac.org

OKLAHOMA

Daniel Ortega, news@okla-adventist.org

SOUTHWEST REGION

Leslie Soupet, news@swrgc.org

TEXAS

Kenn Dixon, news@txsda.org

TEXICO

Debby Márquez, news@texico.org

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Timothy Kosaka, tim@swau.edu

Southwestern Union Conference

P.O. Box 4000
Burleson, TX, 76097
Phone: 817.295.0476
Email: Record@swuc.org

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.

He Calls Me By Name

Recognizing the Handiwork of the Creator



Larry Moore | President

Have you ever gotten a phone call from a solicitor? If you have a phone, I'm sure you have. When it seemed that our land line was crowded with phone solicitors, we got rid of our land line and went to cell phones. Soon our cell phones were full of solicitors. I couldn't believe it. I was hoping that getting new phones would solve the problem. It didn't! It only got worse.

A friend suggested that I follow his method to save time and energy. He said don't answer the phone if you don't recognize the number or name of the caller. I tried it and this pesky situation improved. Those who need to talk will usually leave us a message. It's not a perfect scenario but it is better than answering every sales call.

God loves us all and wants to speak to us. But we need to recognize His voice. I'm anxious to hear from Him. The scriptures say that Jesus calls us by name. John 10:3 describes it this way, "The gatekeeper opens the gate for Him, and the sheep listen to His voice. He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out." What are you doing with the information He shares with us? With so many voices, good or bad, trying to get through to us, we need to know and recognize our Savior's voice. He will show us the right path. We need only listen and follow Him.

The knowledge of God's interest in each one of us is a comfort and encouragement. Acts 17:28 states, "For in Him we live, and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also His offspring.'" As our Creator, He knows us individually. Before we were formed in our mother's womb, He had a purpose for our lives. God is relational and His desire for us is to have a personal relationship with Him. Isaiah 43:1 declares that He knows our name and claims us as His own.

The Creator has provided every means for us to enjoy purposeful lives on this earth with all its challenges. Amid the challenges, the knowledge of God's promise of protection, guidance and power to live by the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit gives us encouragement and hope of something more than this world has to offer. God's ultimate purpose for us is to live with Him eternally. No matter our vocation or station in life, no matter our background or earthly name we are called by, He has promised success in achieving the purpose for which we were created.

Revelation 3:12 assures us of a place with God eternally and He will write on us His new name. Let us celebrate and rejoice in worshipping a God who knows us, calls us His own and will one day place us in His heavenly Temple with His new name upon us.



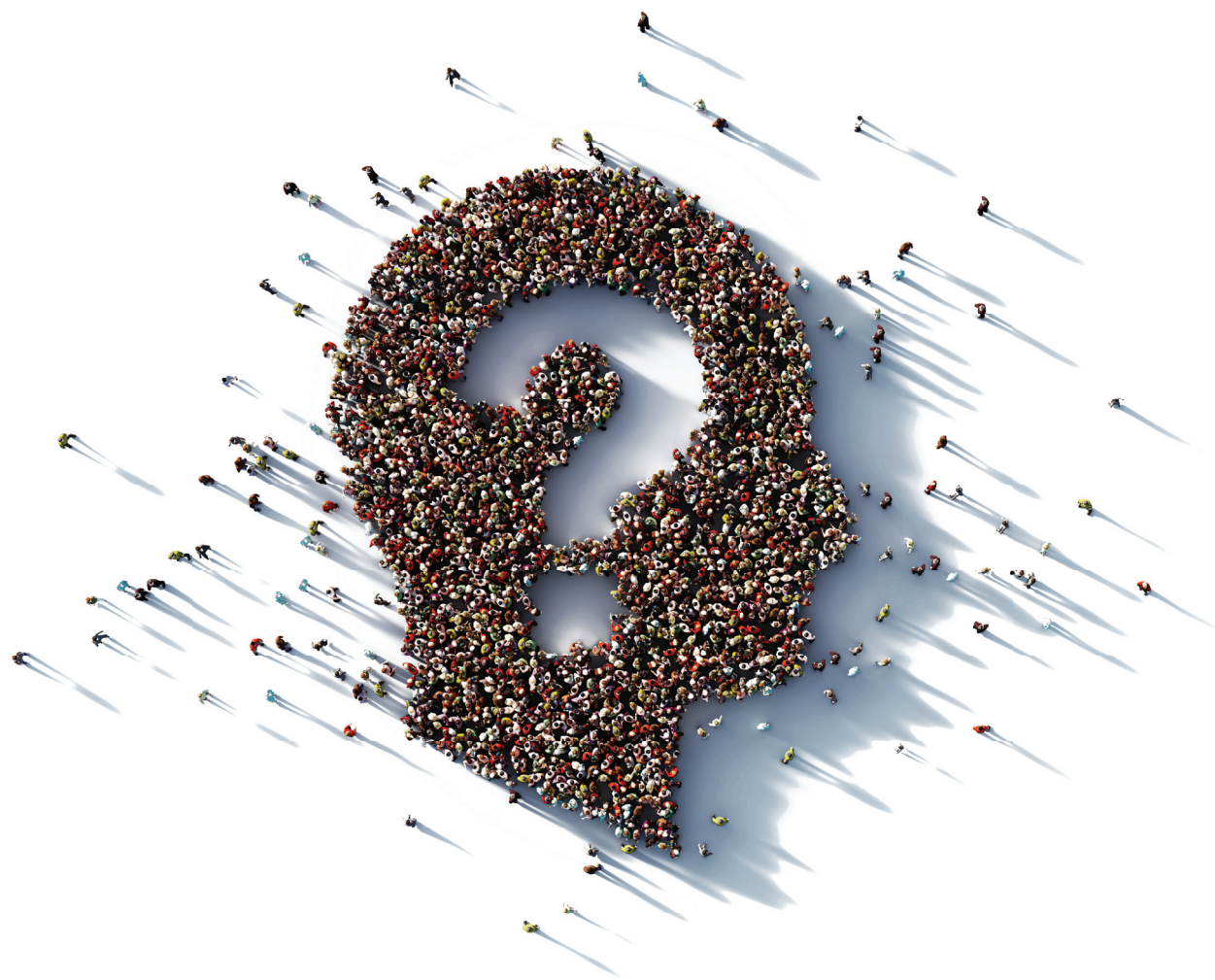
Buford Griffith, Jr.
Executive Secretary

What is our identity? This world, and these times particularly, are quite troubled. People are trying to splinter our society and separate us based on gender, ethnicity, politics etc. We also see attempts to splinter our Church. As people today search to figure out their identity, God continues to call us to follow Him. He tells us that He has chosen us. John 15:16-17 says, "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. This is my command: Love each other." God doesn't want us to compromise on His standards, but He calls us to look for ways to show God's love.

We need to remember that those around us are God's children. Luke 6:27-30 (MSG) says, "To you who are ready for the truth, I say this: Love your enemies. Let them bring out the best in you, not the worst. When someone gives you a hard time, respond with the energies of prayer for that person. If someone slaps you in the face, stand there and take it. If someone grabs your shirt, gift wrap your best coat and make a present of it. If someone takes unfair advantage of you, use the occasion to practice the servant life... Live generously." Remember since we are called by God that people associate our actions with Jesus. Let's let Jesus shine through our lives.



John Page | Treasurer



What is Your True Identity?

Paul was a man possessed of an identity. He said, “I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault” Phillipians 3:5-6 (NLT).

When I was a child I was content to be the son of two really great people. That was my identity, and I was proud of my parents and family. As I grew into independence, I wanted a more personal, unique identity. I became a musician and a calligrapher and attached weight and meaning to these identities. In fact, when I had my instrument in a musical setting or my pens and some paper, I could do things that most of my peers

“ Slowly, as I served God more and more faithfully, I found my other identifiers still satisfying but less central to whom I was becoming. I still play my instrument, I’m still a pastor, I am still married to my spectacular mate, but my core identity, the only one I would bother mentioning if asked is that I am a follower of Jesus. ”

could not. This brought me satisfaction and pride. Later, I began to feel that, while these were fine accomplishments, they were insufficient bases for a real identity.

Many people have identities they consider very important or even sacred: Daughters of the American Revolution, Freemasons, peace officers, prisoners of war, members of royal families, gangs, fraternities, sororities, etc. The identities people have made foremost for themselves are varied and sometimes surprising. Many of us can think of someone we have known who has become consumed by an identity that we may consider surprising or even ill-advised.

Today, I suppose I still have a list of identifiers that I could cling to as identities: husband of a spectacular mate, father of three girls, pastor, Keene resident. These identifiers, while good and impressive, all fall short of the magnitude of an identity. If we are honest, even race or political affiliation seem less than adequate foundations to build our identities and lives upon.

Identity Crisis

Paul was the point of the Hebrew spear. Two thousand years in the making, he was the culmination of training, ancestry and zeal among the Jewish population. The best and the brightest. The top of the heap! If anyone was entitled to trumpet their identity, it was Paul. That was, until one day along a particular road.

Acts 9:3-6 (NLT) says, “As he was approaching Damascus on this mission, a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?’”

‘Who are you, lord?’ Saul asked. And the voice replied, ‘I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting! Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’”

For me, my Damascus moment came as I realized that everything I was about was so very temporary, so perishable. I began to look at my identity from a long-term perspective and found all my identifiers wanting. Nothing lasting or eternal. It was at this time that I

noticed that the God I had worshipped since childhood was actually a living, miracle-working, personal Savior. And I thought, what better identity could one have than servant of the living God?

Paradigm Shift

After that moment, I began to pursue serving the God I had kept near, but not too near. Slowly, as I served God more and more faithfully, I found my other identifiers still satisfying but less central to whom I was becoming. I still play my instrument, I’m still a pastor, I am still married to my spectacular mate, but my core identity, the only one I would bother mentioning if asked is that I am a follower of Jesus.

So what is our identity? Does politics or ancestry define you? Are you the daughter of, father to, or neighbor of someone famous or important? Or have you been bought and paid for by the Creator?

Paul recounted his credentials as a possible identity in Philippians 3:5-6 as follows: circumcised at eight days old, pure-blooded citizen of Israel, a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew, a member of the Pharisees, zealous, obeying the law without fault.

But then the text continues and he compares this identity to the identity he found in Jesus. “I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ and become one with him.” Philippians 3:7-9 (NLT).

Identities, by their nature, divide and compare and segregate. There is one identity that leads to unity: the one, eternal identity in Christ. **R**

By James Winegardner. Winegardner is the senior pastor of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. He lives in Keene, Texas with his wife, Mary Ellen, and their daughters Megan, Emma and Lily.



New School, New Perspective

Students Share Their First Adventist Education Experience at Sandia View Academy

Chandra Castañeda is the principal of Sandia View Academy (SVA) in Corrales, New Mexico. She recently sat down with two students who are new to Adventist education. Britney Malaque is a senior and serves as class secretary. She moved to New Mexico from Cebu City, Philippines in July 2019. SVA is her first American school as well as her first Seventh-day Adventist school. Edwin Lozano is 14 years old and is a freshman. This is Edwin's first year in a private, Christian-based school. Now in their second semesters, Britney and Edwin share about their experience. **R**



HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT SANDIA VIEW ACADEMY?

Britney: I heard about SVA after a Texico Conference Asian Convocation celebration at the Heights Church in Albuquerque last summer. After I sang for the church program, I was introduced to you!

Edwin: A friend of my mom's knew a student who graduated from SVA last year. She said the student was really happy with the school and she told us about SVA.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE STARTING AT A NEW SCHOOL?

Britney: I felt nervous because this was a very different environment. I came from a school that had a lot of students. I'm not really used to the family tightness that Sandia View Academy offers and I was also nervous about fitting in.

Edwin: I was nervous because it was an Adventist academy. I didn't know how it was going to be—I knew it was going to be different, but I didn't know how exactly.

HOW WAS YOUR FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL?

Britney: I first met students just outside the school building. There were some girls there, and they were very welcoming. They immediately took me into the friend group. Then I met some of the rest of the students at the cafeteria. I guess that it's been going smoothly ever since then.

HOW DOES SANDIA VIEW ACADEMY DIFFER FROM THE OTHER SCHOOLS?

Edwin: Well, in the other schools they don't teach about God. They don't pray and they would rather not talk about religious stuff. The teachers here help the students deal with problems. They ask about our problems and the students talk about their problems with each other as well. The teachers in the other schools didn't really ask about your personal life.

Britney: Those schools weren't very spiritual. There was little to no room for my spiritual growth. But when I came here to SVA, my spiritual growth has accelerated. I felt that I could breathe because I didn't have to go to any programs or activities on Saturdays, like I used to at my old non-Adventist schools.



HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE GROWING IN YOUR SPIRITUAL LIFE?

Britney: When I was younger, my main goal at school was to fit in—even if that meant I had to sacrifice going to church, my beliefs or the food that I ate. But now I'm in a place where I feel free to practice my beliefs. I don't really care if I fit in with the majority any more, as long as I feel that God is in it and that the Holy Spirit is with me.

WHAT DID YOU KNOW ABOUT JESUS BEFORE COMING TO SVA?

Edwin: I know that His mom was Mary and that He died. He prayed a lot, like 40 days and nights. He didn't sleep, He didn't eat. He just prayed. I learned here that Jesus is not just someone in the Bible, but someone you can have a relationship with.

HOW ARE THE ACADEMICS THE SAME OR DIFFERENT?

Edwin: Well, the teachers here focus more on the students because there are less students than in the other schools. There, there are like 30 or more kids in one classroom. So, if one has a problem, they don't ask the teacher. Here at SVA, there are less students, so if they ask something, the teacher has more time to help them.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO OTHER STUDENTS AND TEACHERS?

Britney: To the teachers, please realize that the school is a student's second home. Like God, you're there to guide us, patiently like Jesus did. Look at us as balls of clay that can be molded into images that would benefit God and benefit society as a whole.

Edwin: To new students, just do your best at the beginning. It might feel kind of weird because you're not used to an Adventist school, but later on you're going to get used to it. You are going to see results. You could get a better relationship with God and your family—your parents. You could have mental strength, a better mental state.



Purpose

Beyond Our Own

Abby was terrified. The blue lines indicating positive results on the pregnancy test blurred as she began sobbing uncontrollably. She was 19 years old, unmarried, and estranged from her parents. She felt completely and utterly alone.

Despite the assurance from her boyfriend, Daniel, that everything would be okay, they decided without a second thought that they couldn't return to church.

"It was like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden," Abby says. "We were naked—our sins were laid bare for everyone to see—and we were ashamed, so we hid."

New to the First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa and new to Adventism, both Abby and Daniel had grown up in very different environments with very different perspectives on church and God.

Daniel's single-parent, pop-culture-focused home made no mention of God, and his only exposure was the occasional opportunity to hop on a bus from a local church on Sunday morning, get a free hot dog, and attend Sunday School before being bussed back home. Abby's strict upbringing meant church every Sunday, and intense judgment toward anyone who didn't live a "good" life.

Daniel had begun attending Tulsa First Church a few months prior, after noticing a billboard advertising a prophecy seminar. He'd attended the seminar, been hooked from the first night, taken Bible studies and had been baptized.



When he'd met Abby, Daniel urged her to attend another seminar series the church was hosting. She was hesitant.

"My relationship with God was one of animosity on my part and my perceived ambivalence on his," she explains. "After high school I'd decided I wanted nothing to do with a god who would punish me eternally for a few mistakes, so I'd turned my back on him."

Finally, Abby agreed to go. Some nights were harder than others, as she began to learn who God really was. She eventually came to understand that he wasn't, in fact, ambivalent toward her, but precisely the opposite.

"After a lifetime of only associating God with negativity, I was discovering that He—and every part of His story—is all about love," she says.

When the seminar ended, Abby was baptized, and Daniel recommitted himself alongside her. "We felt like we'd just managed to find the truth of God's love and grace, only to be

eliminated from receiving it because of our situation," Abby explains.

Though they decided to honor God by committing to be abstinent until they could marry, both still felt they could not return to church.

Ben Burkhardt, a Bible worker from Oregon serving at the time in Tulsa First Church, had been studying the Bible and seminar material with Abby and Daniel from the beginning. When he noticed their absence from church, he called, then drove to Daniel's apartment. When Daniel admitted their situation, Burkhardt smiled. "God still loves you," he said. "He doesn't want to lose you, and neither do we. Please, come back to church."

They prayed together and Burkhardt left, encouraging Daniel to come back to church with Abby. On a Sabbath morning not long after Burkhardt's visit, they did just that. "The church was overwhelmingly supportive," Abby says. "No

one looked at us sideways, no one made us feel ashamed; they welcomed us back with literal open arms. There was no feeling of judgment at all, just a pure, unadulterated expression of God's love."

In December 2015, Daniel and Abby were married in the Tulsa First Church. Half of the attendees were church members. "They became our family," Daniel says. "We thought we had no one, but they—and God—were there all along, waiting."

Abby and Daniel now have two daughters, ages four years and seven months, and they remain very active in the church. Between the two of them they have filled multiple roles: Sabbath School leader, treasurer, Pathfinder director, ministry leader, deacon, and elder.

"I want my daughters to see that working for God is not burdensome," Daniel says. "I want them to grow up knowing what we didn't: that joy and wholeness come from service to others and to God."


Because of her own experience, Abby has accepted the call to minister to women walking a similar path. Together with the women's ministry of the Oklahoma Conference, she has helped to coordinate weekend retreats, Bible studies, and group therapy.

"It's Bible-based professional healing ministry," Abby explains. "I never want anyone to feel as lost and alone as I did, and I want them to know that there is hope, there is help, and there is healing in Christ."

Their involvement in the church is just one part of their everyday lives. Abby is finishing up her final semester earning her degree in finance and accounting through the University of Tulsa, and Daniel is an auxiliary piper for a natural gas company.

"We serve in roles that support us in our goals," Abby explains. She chose to teach Cradle Roll because she had a child in the class. Pathfinders meets outside of work hours and fits into Daniel's schedule, and is an opportunity for him to connect with other parents. They both find it encouraging to be around parents supporting each other.

"Our everyday lives revolve around our relationship with God and our call to serve him by serving others," says Daniel. "Before I met Christ, I had no motivation to do anything for anyone but myself. Looking to the cross and seeing what Christ did for me despite my sinful human nature changed my perspective, and now it's God first, family second, and others third."

Their definition of "family" has also changed: It has extended to include Tulsa First Church. "They are genuinely our family and an important part of who we are," Abby says with feeling. "God knew what He was doing. He gave us a purpose beyond our own, and our lives will never be the same." 



By Becky St. Clair. St. Clair is a freelance writer and lives in the Napa Valley area of California with her husband, Jason, and their three children, Kayla, Lizzy and Gabe.

EVIDENCE

God is Calling You

He **MADE** you
& **FORMED** you.
He chose
YOU.

- Isaiah 44:2

I
have
redeemed you.
I have *summoned you*
by name.

YOU ARE MINE.

- Isaiah 43:1

YOU MAKE KNOWN TO ME
THE PATH OF

Life

- PSALM 16:11

You are a chosen people,
God's special possession,
that *you* may declare
the praises of Him
who called *you* out of
darkness into his
wonderful light.

- 1 Peter 2:9

You make known
to me the
path of *Life.*

- Psalm 16:11

He *CALLS*
HIS own SHEEP
by name
AND
leads
THEM OUT.

- JOHN 10:3

WHOEVER IS UNITED WITH THE LORD
IS ONE WITH HIM IN *SPiRiT.*

1 CORINTHIANS 6:17

I am
fearfully and
wonderfully made.
Your works are
wonderful.

- Psalm 136:14

GOD CHOSE YOU AS
firstfruits.
HE CALLED YOU
TO THIS THROUGH



OUR GOSPEL,
THAT YOU MIGHT
share
IN THE GLORY
OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.

- 2 THESSALONIANS 2:13-14

I have loved you with an
EVERLASTING LOVE.
I have drawn you with
UNFAILING KINDNESS.
- Jeremiah 31:3

God has called you
into fellowship
with his Son,
Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:9

The Daring Escape

Kalila and Shadow are two furry friends. They like to lie in the sun and take long naps in the yard. Kalila barks deeply whenever she hears anyone in the street. She wants to let her family know there are strangers outside and they should be on alert. Shadow likes to throw her head back and let out loud and long howls when she hears a siren. Sometimes she even likes to hop on top of her dog house to howl with more precision. These two gals are happy pals.

Every morning Kalila and Shadow's mom and dad let them out to go potty and stretch their legs after a long cozy night's sleep. They know that after a few minutes outside, mom or dad will come to the door and let them inside for a special treat, their morning biscuit! Afterwards mom and dad go to work and the pups wait for their family to come home and play with them in the afternoon. This is their routine, every morning and every night. They know it by heart!

One morning, after a nice run around the yard, the back door swung open and Kalila and Shadow came barreling into the house as they do every day. It was doggy biscuit time! However, as they came around the corner on their way to their doggy nooks, they found a tempting surprise. The front door was wide open! It only took them a second to decide running freely down the neighborhood would be a much better choice than doggy biscuits that day. With the front door accidentally left open, Kalila and Shadow made a mad dash on a daring adventure.

They bolted down the street, sniffing new smells and darting back and forth between each neighbor's yard. So much excitement and no leash to hold them back. Down one sidewalk they went! Then another! They leapt over flower beds and inhaled the fresh morning air. After a few blocks they came across a wide open field with no pesky cars or mailboxes to impede their course. They picked up

speed—this long path would not be wasted! The soft earth under their paws carried them forward and the wind stroked their fur. As they delightfully and carelessly ran, their keen sense of hearing alerted them to a familiar sound... "Kaliiiiiiiiiaaaaaa! Shaaaaadooooooooow!"

Mom was at the other end of the field calling out for her pups. They knew that voice! They knew those names! They knew who was calling them home! Quickly Kalila and Shadow ran back up the field, right into mom's arms and then into the family car! Exploring was fun, but mom and dad's love is way better than any adventure. When they got home, the tired pups snuggled up in their beds with their doggy biscuits in tow and settled down to dream about their morning journey.

Isaiah 43:1 says, "I have summoned you by name; you are mine," and John 10:3 tells us, "He calls His own sheep by name and leads them out." Jesus knows your name and says that you belong to Him. Jesus loves you so much, He wants to keep you close to His heart. No matter what situation you find yourself in, listen for Jesus's voice, because He is always right there ready to take you in His arms and walk with you.

By Kristina P. Busch



March Events

6-8

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: Leadership and Officer Training
Baton Rouge, La.
FAlcorn@arklac.org

8

Oklahoma Conference: Ministry Training and Town Hall Meeting, McAlester
Seventh-day Adventist Church, OKAdventist.org

13-15

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: English Couples Retreat
Camp Yorktown Bay
DLCastellanos@arklac.org

22

Oklahoma Conference: Ministry Training and Town Hall Meeting
Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa
OKAdventist.org

27-28

Southwest Region Conference: University of the Saints Training
Oklahoma City
MySouthwestRegion.org

29

Oklahoma Conference: Ministry Training and Town Hall Meeting, Lawton
Seventh-day Adventist Church, OKAdventist.org

April Events

1-5

Restoration International: Family Retreat, Wewoka Woods
Adventist Center
RIOonline.org/NFR

3-4

Southwest Region Conference: University of the Saints Training
North Louisiana
MySouthwestRegion.org

12

Oklahoma Conference: Ministry Training and Town Hall Meeting, Okeene
Seventh-day Adventist Church, OKAdventist.org

10-12

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Youth Federation Rally, Hammond
Conference Center, DCraig@arklac.org

10-12

Oklahoma Conference: Adventurer Family Camp
Wewoka Woods
Adventist Center
YOrtega@okla-adventist.org

16-18

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Camp Meeting
Hammond Conference Center, FAlcorn@arklac.org

17-19

Oklahoma Conference: Native Ministry Training
Wewoka Woods
Adventist Center
JimL@nativeministries.org

17-18

Southwest Region Conference: University of the Saints Training, Arkansas
MySouthwestRegion.org

17-19

Southwest Region Conference: Men's Ministries Summit
Lone Star Camp
MySouthwestRegion.org

23-25

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: South Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting, Hammond
Conference Center
DLCastellanos@arklac.org

24-25

Southwest Region Conference: University of the Saints Training
North Texas
MySouthwestRegion.org

24-26

Oklahoma Conference: Pathfinder Spring Camporee
Wewoka Woods
Adventist Center
YOrtega@okla-adventist.org



For more events and information, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org.

Faith and Finances

Encouraging a Lifestyle of Good Stewardship

BURLESON, TEX. — What does living a lifestyle of good stewardship mean, and how does it connect to faith and finances? Join the Southwestern Union for four stewardship symposiums in 2020 to answer these questions for yourself. “Attendees will gain a biblical view of financial stewardship, discuss and receive practical ideas to help them get their finances in order and be equipped to help others with practical application in the local church,” says Elton DeMoraes, Southwestern Union’s

vice president for church ministries and stewardship director.

The first symposium takes place on March 7 in New Orleans at the New Orleans First Seventh-day Adventist Church with DeMoraes presenting alongside Gio Marin, pastor and licensed financial analyst from the Texas Conference, and Oswaldo Hernandez, stewardship director for the Southwest Region Conference.

Discussions on faith and finances will take place across the Southwestern

Union territory, with events scheduled May 1-2 in Dallas; Sept. 19 in Oklahoma City; and Oct. 17 in Albuquerque. For more details on each event, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Stewardship.

“We hope that this will be a starting point to learn about a lifestyle of good stewardship. These symposiums are designed for all who are ready to make a difference in the Kingdom of God by becoming informed on what the Bible teaches about finance,” says DeMoraes.

Encouraging a Lifestyle of Good Stewardship

A Symposium on Faith and Finances

March 7, 2020 | NEW ORLEANS
May 1 - 2, 2020 | DALLAS

SouthwesternAdventist.org/Stewardship

Resilient Families

Family Ministries Grows in the Southwestern Union

BURLESON, TEX. — Buford and Carmen Griffith Strong and healthy marriages; forgiveness and healing at home; communicating with purpose and kindness—these are a handful of the topics that are presented during Resilient Families, a program provided by the Southwestern Union’s family ministries department under the direction of Buford and Carmen Griffith.

In Feb. 2020, Resilient Families weekends were presented by the Griffiths in Albuquerque and in Lake Charles, La. “Strengthening families is a vital step in

strengthening our churches and communities. Learning to communicate with intention and kindness, and learning to forgive and start to heal are some of the important topics we teach,” says Buford Griffith, Jr., Southwestern Union executive secretary and family ministries director.

To find out how to strengthen marriages and families in your community by hosting a Resilient Families weekend, contact the Family Ministries Department at 817.295.0476.

RESILIENT Families

A weekend for strengthening marriages & homes.

Cruise Connected

Union Retreat Gathers Young Adults at Yucatan Peninsula

BURLESON, TEX. — On Dec. 13, 2019, 76 individuals, mostly young adults and some families, boarded Royal Caribbean's cruise ship "Enchantment of the Seas" in Galveston, Tex. The group embarked on the Southwestern Union's "Cruise Connected," a five-day young adult spiritual retreat bound for ports Costa Maya and Cozumel in Mexico.

Southwestern Union Young Adult Director Helvis Moody had been organizing the trip for more than a year. The retreat was intended to be a time for young adults and others to connect with each other and with God away from their hectic lives and schedules. The program for the five days included Friday evening and Sabbath worship sessions,

with messages presented by guest speaker Jason Ridley, youth director for the Allegheny West Conference.

A variety of seminars and presentations covering practical topics such as finances, leadership and connecting with the local churches, including a special presentation by licensed art therapist, Aislinn Ridley, "The Blessing of Art Therapy," were available at various times in the schedule.

While visiting the ports, one day in Cozumel and one day in Costa Maya, retreat attendees enjoyed a variety of excursions and adventures.

They included snorkeling, hiking, sailing, swimming, exploring caves, visiting historic ruins, eating authentic Mexican food and more. During

these adventures, the young adults had opportunities to make new friends and strengthen old friendships.

According to Moody, the goal of young adult retreats is to encourage them to stay connected with each other, with their local church, and ultimately with God.

Moody is already working with conference youth and young adult directors for the next Southwestern Union young adult trip, which is tentatively scheduled to be a ski trip. Follow the Southwestern Union Youth and Young Adult Facebook page for all upcoming events for youth and young adults.

By Daniel Ortega

Oklahoma Conference Communication,
Youth and Young Adult Director



Equipping More Than 800

Dallas Hosts Equipped for Ministries Training Day

BURLESON, TEX. – More than 800 individuals representing more than 40 churches came to North Dallas on Feb. 8, 2020, for an epic ministries training event. With sessions presented in English and Spanish, attendees could choose from more than 20 different training seminars, as well as attend a general session on church security.

“I was thrilled to see so many members wanting to be trained for ministries. Their enthusiasm and attendance at this event tells me that the spark, the call to minister to their communities in specific ways, is already there, and that people are just hungry for the tools to start and continue successful ministries for Christ. That’s what Equipped for Ministries is all about!” said Elton DeMoraes,

Southwestern Union vice president for church ministries.

The event was held within the Canyon Creek Seventh-day Adventist Church and North Dallas Adventist Academy facilities, where attendees had the opportunity to be trained by ministries leaders and experts from the Southwestern Union, Texas Conference, and the Southwest Region Conference.

Attendees had the opportunity to learn best practices and proven methods for specific ministries. They received and gained access to ministries resources, as well as insight into how the church can function as a center of hope in any community.

Session topics included Adventist screening verification, children’s

ministries, community services, deacon and deaconess ministries, elders’ training, family ministries, men’s ministries, mental health ministries, personal ministries, prayer ministries, reclaiming and retention, Sabbath School ministries, small group ministries, stewardship, treasury, women’s ministries, youth ministries and young adult ministries.

Equipped for Ministries is a program developed by the Southwestern Union intended to provide members with the tools needed to minister to their communities.

The next Equipped for Ministries event will be held in Northwest Arkansas on August 14-15. For more detail on this and other upcoming events, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Training.



Indianapolis 2020

Southwestern Union Delegates to Attend GC Session

BURLESON, TEX. – The 61st General Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., June 24 - July 4, 2020, at the Lucas Oil Stadium, with 18 delegates from the Southwestern Union. Each of the five conferences and the union will send three voting delegates. Of the more than 2,600 total delegates at the session, 202 will come from the North American Division.

According to the General Conference, the GC Session is the forum for electing world church officers and voting changes to the church's constitution. Delegates also hear reports from the 13 administrative regions of the church. The North American Division will present its report to the delegates on June 27 at 7:00 p.m.

Voting delegates for the session represent world regions both by church population and the self-sustainability of administrative regions. The church's constitution states that at least 50 percent of delegates shall be laypersons, pastors, teachers and nonadministrative employees of both genders and representing a range of age groups and nationalities. The Southwestern Union has met these requirements with its delegate selection.

"The Southwestern Union and the conferences within our territory take the honor and responsibility of choosing and sending delegates to the General Session very seriously.

"We pray that each delegate from our territory, and from every territory,

takes this opportunity to humbly commit themselves and submit themselves to the role to which they have been called, electing church officials and doing the work of the church alongside their brothers and sisters from around the world," says Southwestern Union Executive Secretary Buford Griffith, Jr.

Information including history, attendance, transportation, hotels, meals, daily schedules and programs can be found at Session.Adventist.org. Events and activities leading up to GC session are available on the website as well.



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Conference



Changing One Life at a Time

Alumni Recognized for Contribution to Community



KEENE, TEX. — Dr. Eric Payne, Destiny Silva and Emily Laughlin have traveled different career paths, but all three are using a common base of knowledge, faith and service from Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) to impact the world, one life at a time.

Dr. Eric Payne has participated in 20 medical mission trips to operate on children with cleft palates and cleft lips who are unable to find a surgeon for a surgical repair. He credits his professors at SWAU for encouraging him to serve others.

Within the past year, Payne (top, pictured centered) was named a member on the Board of Directors for two charity organizations, the Christus Healthcare Foundation serving the Houston community and the LEAP Global Missions in January. In addition,

he was an honored speaker as an expert regarding nonsurgical ear molding procedures in Beijing and Chengdu, China.

Destiny Silva, a marketing specialist at Dunaway Associates, was also recognized for her generous volunteer work. Last summer, she was named member of the year by the Fort Worth chapter of the Society for Marketing Professional Services (SMPS) after serving as the Education Director from 2018-2019.

As a marketing specialist, Silva (bottom, pictured centered) has made it her mission to educate others, including SWAU students, about the lesser-known opportunities for marketing professionals across the United States. As Education Director for SMPS Fort Worth, one of Silva's goals was to plan educational events that inspire and empower SMPS

members. But Silva didn't stop there. A current member of SWAU's Business Advisory Board, Silva partnered with the university to plan an educational lunch, during which she talked to business students about marketing overall and her niche more specifically.

Emily Laughlin (top right) also has a heart for others. She was recently honored with the DAISY award, a nationwide accolade given to nurses who have truly cared for patients and shown leadership abilities. A staff nurse for Texas Health Huguley, Laughlin says she was just doing her job when she prayed and kept vigil by a dying man's bedside for 10 hours.

Laughlin shares that she could tell the patient was faith-oriented, even though he could not express it. "He was very

sweet and positive. I was with him for ten hours out of my twelve-hour shift. During the last hours he went into a coma. We know that patients in a coma can still hear, so I took the Bible near his bedside and opened it. I don't remember what chapter of the Bible I turned to, I just knew that what I read was fitting to what was going on with this patient." Laughlin said she was honored

to receive the DAISY award, but her encounter with this particular patient is just one of many instances where she has prayed with her patients. It is moments like these where Laughlin is thankful for SWAU's focus on faith and witnessing.

Payne, Silva and Laughlin represent just a handful of SWAU alumni's many accomplishments, but perhaps Laughlin's words best sum up the purpose of

education at SWAU: "I am touched by the circumstances of the different patients and people I work with. It's not getting the award that's the highlight; it's being able to have those unforgettable experiences with people. The ability to help them, the opportunity to pray with them. It's truly remarkable to be part of someone's life like that."

By Lindsey Gendke

University Highlights

Scholarships and New Programs Focus on Student Experience

Announcing a new Southwestern Union Freshman Scholarship! The \$5,000 scholarship will be awarded to freshmen living within the Southwestern Union (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Texas or Oklahoma) who commit to SWAU for fall 2020 and spring 2021 by April 1.

"We understand that tuition costs and expenses are key factors to consider in selecting colleges and universities," shared Ken Shaw, president. "In collaboration with the Southwestern Union, we are excited to offer this \$5,000 scholarship to help make Christian higher education affordable." Learn more about this scholarship at SWAU.edu/5000.

Nursing Guarantee: SWAU now offers guaranteed nursing program admission

to individuals who simply enroll as a full-time freshman, declare nursing as a major, successfully complete all nursing prerequisite courses, maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and achieve proficient level or above on the TEAS nursing admission test.

"Nursing majors usually begin nursing courses in the second semester of their sophomore year, meaning that students are often anxious during the first year and a half, not knowing if they will be accepted into a nursing program after working hard to complete their prerequisites," shared Kerrie Kimbrow, Advent Health endowed chair of the department of nursing. "At SWAU, we want our pre-nursing students to be assured of a place in our program. They can then focus on success." Learn more at

SWAU.edu/NursingGuarantee.

New Programs: SWAU is pleased to introduce two new academic programs: Cybersecurity and Criminal Justice. Both will be offered as online programs.

"In an effort to provide relevant career opportunities for our students, we feel these two programs will offer our students degrees that will ensure a variety of employment opportunities," shared Donna Berkner, interim vice president for academic administration. "The faculty for these programs have intentionally embedded internships into the curriculum to provide for real hands-on learning experiences." Learn more at SWAU.edu/NewPrograms.

— By Tim Kosaka, Marketing and PR Director

\$5,000

freshman scholarship

- Must be a resident of TX, AR, LA, NM, OK
- Applied on top of any merit award you may receive

Learn more: swau.edu/5000

I Know I Belong

Fearfully and Wonderfully Made Creation of God



“Are you J.O.’s boy?” I was often asked that question. In that little town it meant something special and significant. I remember I was only four or five years old at the time and my grandmother took me to a men’s clothing store. This store was known for its quality shirts and suits. Those men who worked there were excellent tailors and their reputation for excellence was known far and wide.

Those men knew not only my grandmother for many years, but also had known my great-grandfather for years as well. In fact, granddad had done all his shopping at this store. So, when I walked through the door, there was this question with a lot of smiles. I remember how those men treated me with kindness and great respect. I hadn’t earned it, but my granddad and my family had. They talked all the while about different stories they knew of my family and included me in as if I had known them for 40 years. What a privilege and what a lesson learned! Even if I was only purchasing a white dress shirt, they made me feel like I was the king of the place.

I have reminisced about that experience often over the years and have come to the conclusion that if folk in a clothing store can know your name, treat you like a king and make you feel you belong, then how much more should we practice those same principles in the church with everyone who walks through our doors and make them feel they belong too!

You and I belong to something far more important than a community. We belong to the family of God. David wrote a long time ago, “For You formed my inward parts; You wove me in my mother’s womb. I will give thanks to You, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; wonderful are Your works, and my soul knows it very well. My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the depths of the earth; Your eyes have seen my unformed substance; and in Your book were all written the days that were ordained for me, when as yet there was not one of them.” Psalm 139:13-16 (NASB).

We are brothers and sisters in Christ. We have been created and bought for God. Therefore, remember this: I know I belong and so do you!

By Richard C. Dye, Sr. President



Five Loaves and Two Fish 2020

Over A Million Pounds of Food Distributed in Six Months

CLARKSVILLE, ARK. – In our small town of Clarksville, Ark., the Clarksville Seventh-day Adventist Church Food Pantry has grown beyond any expectations of the volunteers, the community or even The River Valley Food Bank. Only the Lord knew how big it would become and it shows no sign of slowing down. The windows of Heaven opened with an amazing bounty for us to distribute and we have many opportunities to pray with and minister to individuals that need a little compassion or just an ear to listen.

The food pantry has given us a chance to meet community leaders and legislators that are excited about what we are doing both for the community and the Lord. Seventh-day Adventists is on the lips of our community. We have become a place where people's needs

are met, a relationship with them is built and ministering can begin.

On Wednesdays, we prepare a meal for all who come to prayer meeting. Our ranks are bolstered every week by our pantry clients who realize there is more than physical food for them at our church. Many new attendees come to us through the pantry. I am one of them. Many were searching or broken, like myself. The fellowship and understanding felt with us has opened the door for them to see Salvation is possible.

My faith is renewed every time I work at our food pantry. Once, we wanted to distribute ice cream for an event and two and a half pallets arrived just in time. When the holidays rolled around, our freezers were filled with turkeys. When the stocks start to get low, the next

truck we get overfills! Week after week we see His awe-inspiring blessings!

By December 2019 we had given out over one million pounds of food in six months. From Dec. 1 to the end of 2019, we gave out another 21 Food Bank Truck-fulls plus five gooseneck trailers; a total of 312,000 pounds of food just in December. On a pantry day we have between 30 to 40 volunteers every week. God is so good!

We know where the blessings come from and we have realized we get an even bigger blessing by serving and inspiring others through the love of Jesus Christ our Lord and the architect of compassion.

By Joel Newman



Reaching Within

Young Adult Focus in Arkansas-Louisiana Conference



SHREVEPORT, LA. – One afternoon, our administrative assistant and I sat down and combed through the eAdventist database looking for young adults ages 18-35 within our conference. We were very encouraged to see that even in our small conference there were thousands of young adults. Out of the over 13,000 members in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, nearly a third or 4000 of them are young adults. The problem, however, is that as I travel to different churches around our conference, what I see in churches doesn't reflect those

numbers. Where are these young adults? This year we will have a heavy emphasis on young adults within our conference. We have established a mentorship program within our Summer Camp where our veteran staff is responsible for intentionally mentoring younger staff members. We have recently added a new week of Summer Camp geared specifically for young adults to help them connect with each other and God. We have also started a school for Master Guides in southern Louisiana with the purpose of encouraging and equipping our

young adults so that they can develop leadership skills while assisting their local Pathfinder or Adventurer Clubs. We sent care packages to some of our young adults that are away at college, letting them know we are praying for them. These may be small initiatives, but we understand what God can do with a small initiative. He can take it and feed a multitude of young adults. We want to know our young adults. Each one is special. Each one is important!

————— *By David Craig*
Youth and Young Adult Director

Opening the Doors

Searcy Welcomes Homeless to Church Potlucks

SEARCY, ARK. – On Nov. 2, 2019, the Searcy Seventh-day Adventist Church welcomed 12 homeless men and women from the Searcy community for worship, fellowship and lunch.

The Searcy community has a homeless camp of about 30 individuals. Several of the local churches in that area have organized a van to pick up people that would like to come to church and eat a hot meal afterward.

On the first Sabbath of each month, the Searcy church hosts those who would like to participate in the program.

In December we had ten guests and we look forward to hosting our new friends each month.

Our members, including our young people, have joined our efforts and help serve potluck.

We pray that God will lead us in this endeavor, as well as bless our new friends and provide for their physical and spiritual needs.

————— *By Richard Hall, Pastor*



Saving for a Good Cause

Zachary Children Help Community Fire Department



ZACHARY, ARK. – Children’s Sabbath School was quite exciting at the Zachary Seventh-day Adventist Church this September. During the quarter, the children saved money for a mission project close to home. They invited the Zachary Fire Department to a potluck lunch where they donated over \$200! The firemen were very appreciative! They brought firetrucks, talked about fire safety and told the children their offering would go to help those who had burned out and were in need.

By Cheryl Livingston

Two Languages, One Message

Texarkana Clubs Win First Place in Christmas Parade

TEXARKANA, ARK. – The Adventurers and Pathfinders from both English and Spanish clubs participated in the 2019 Main Street Texarkana Christmas Parade, attended by an estimated 15,000 people. The clubs won first place in the non-commercial category. The parade theme was “Two Cities in Two States, Twice As Nice.” The theme for the Pathfinder/Adventurer float was “Two Clubs, Two Languages, One Message!”

The Adventurers did the live nativity scene on the float with Shmyra Pathfinder Teens as the angels

announcing the birth of our Savior. The Pathfinders had put together 400 bags to hand out during the parade; each contained a Glow Track, “A Love Letter from Jesus” in both English and Spanish, a candy cane and a letter sharing the candy cane meaning.

As the Texarkana Pathfinder leader and area coordinator, I felt the most exciting part was having people ask about the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs and fellowshipping with other entrants. Our young people witnessed to them and we want our city to know

we are here, we care and that Jesus is coming soon – so please prepare!

The Spanish Pathfinders built and designed the nativity and handmade a lot of the costumes. Both clubs worked together to decorate the float and put it all together.

The bond between our clubs and youth has strengthened and the float was the medium that facilitated this outcome. I want to thank our churches and our pastor for their prayers and overwhelming support.

By Stacy Sowers



Oshkosh Baptisms

Five Friends Make a Stand for Christ



JACKSONVILLE, ARK. — Six months before the International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wis. five girls from the Sherwood Kittyhawk Pathfinder Club chose to take a public stand with their relationship with Christ. They worked with Richard Hall, pastor of the Conway and Searcy Seventh-day Adventist Churches, and were baptized at the camporee on Aug. 16. They were ecstatic to all be together in this momentous milestone in their lives. We know that they really are Chosen to be His daughters!

By Annie Hollenbeck

90 Years of Adventism in April

Operation Welcome Home in Monroe and Jonesboro

WEST MONROE, LA. — The Westlakes Seventh-day Adventist Church in West Monroe and the Jonesboro Seventh-day Adventist Church in Jonesboro, La. are joining forces to celebrate 90 years of Adventism on April 4, 2020.

We are thankful for God's leading and blessings over these many years. Our congregation is very appreciative of those that came before us and worked so hard in the past to establish our Adventist presence in this area of Louisiana. We would like to invite any that have been a part of or had any

connection to our congregation over these past 90 years to please come and help us celebrate this momentous anniversary.

Our celebration begins Sabbath morning with Arkansas-Louisiana Conference President, Rick Dye. Special music will be provided by world-renowned singer Steve Darmody, who was raised in this area. In the morning, we will also share some highlights of the history of our church.

Lunch will be provided free of cost, but a ticket is required.

Plan to join us as we remember our past and renew old friendships. Contact Orië Hatten to reserve a lunch ticket or get additional information at 318.366.6750 or OriëHatten@aol.com.

We would like to extend a special welcome to Rex and Kathy Shores (pictured), our new pastor and his wife! We are blessed to have them as a part of our church family!



Who Are We?

Discovering Our True Identities



“Who am I?” is a question we try to answer as we grow from infants to adults. We were first identified by the name given by our parents. Later, we learned that we are sons or daughters of our parents. Still later we may have identified as a brother or sister. In my case, I was James, son of Dorothy and Henry Shires, brother to four siblings.

Our identity expanded when we learned about extended families: aunts, uncles and cousins. As we grew, we were identified by our personal traits; academically inclined, athletic or perhaps musical. When we started school, we gravitated towards those like us and we were identified as a part of a certain group. Eventually those identities were not enough.

I didn’t grow up as a Christian with the biblical world view. I found my identity as an athletic person. I enjoyed being active in sports and outdoor activities. I ran, swam, hiked, backpacked and went to the gym. I enjoyed the ocean and mountains in California. I participated in sports in high school and college. That was, to a great extent, my identity. I wanted to be a high school teacher and coach. On the way to that destination, however, I found that I wasn’t fulfilled. Something was missing. I didn’t know my true identity. As I began to ask the big questions of life, questions such as who I was, why I was here, where I was going and what was the meaning of life, I had no answers. The identity I had developed from childhood didn’t answer those questions. I began a search that took me through psychology, philosophy, Buddhism and various other teachings. But nothing satisfied until I began to read the Bible and learned my true identity.

In the Bible, I discovered what I had been searching for. I found that I was a child of God, created in His image. I had more than an earthly father, I had a heavenly Father. I found that, just as no one else has fingerprints or DNA exactly like mine, that I was one of a kind and known to God as one of His children. He had a personal interest in me. I learned that I was unique and had been personally formed in my mother’s womb by my Heavenly Father. I learned that my true identity was found in a personal God who cared for me and called me by my name. We read in Revelation that when we get to heaven, God will give us a new name. The one that He gave us when He created us and gave us life. I believe it is to show us how special we are to Him and that we will then begin to grow in our God-given identity.

But we don’t have to wait until then to enjoy our true identity. Who we are is grounded in being a child of God. Our worth is found in Him and nothing and no one can take that away from us. What a God we belong to!

By James Shires, President



School Shoe Drive

Students Step Up by Collecting Shoes For Others



CLAREMORE, OKLA. – In September, the Claremore Seventh-day Adventist Church began a “Shoe Drive” for the Funds2Orgs Group, which seeks opportunities for people in developing countries to provide a way for them to increase commerce and business to provide needed goods in these communities as well as provide a path out of poverty.

The shoes collected are sold inexpensively by small business owners in communities in need of proper footwear. Patti Darbyshire, the director of our drive, challenged the students of

Heritage Adventist School to join in the campaign. She challenged our students to collect eight bags of shoes with each bag containing 25 pairs of shoes, boots or cleats. The students went to work to spread the word to family, friends and neighbors. As of this writing, the students have reached seven bags of shoes! That’s 175 pairs of shoes!

What an awesome missionary project our students have been a part of! Thank you students for helping people around the world!

By Cheri Robinson

Ministry Behind Bars

Countless Lives Changed in Over 27 Years

TAFT, OKLA. – In early 1992, Tom Sullivan and I were invited by our pastor to join him in ministering to the women at Eddie Warrior Correctional Center (EWCC) in Taft, Okla. I had just become a new Christian and didn’t know much about the Bible, but I had a gift in music. I would start class every week with music and we would teach the wonderful truths of the Bible. Within a few years we were able to start ministering at the Jess Dunn Correctional Center (JDCC) in Taft.

Over the years we have had the opportunity to minister to thousands of men and women and had the chance to work with many volunteers.

At the time of this writing, our volunteers are Tom Sullivan, Judy Paden, my wife, Judi, and myself. Judy is a blessing to our group as she was baptized at EWCC about 18 years ago. Since she has been released, she has earned a degree in psychology and has been going to EWCC as a volunteer. We currently have 130 to 150 in attendance

at EWCC and 10 to 14 at JDCC each week. With the social media tools, I can keep in touch with the men and women that are released and many are still serving God today. Recently, Gilbert Greene was traveling through Northwest Arkansas and stopped to worship with a local church. A woman there asked where they were from and if they knew me. When they said yes, she said we saved her life as she was a former inmate. Prison ministry does work!

By Jack Stout



Colombia Evangelism Trip

Young Adults Hold Evangelism Meetings Abroad

OKLAHOMA CITY – The Oklahoma Conference youth department partnered with ShareHim ministries to send 10 Oklahoma young adults to Cali, Colombia to hold evangelism meetings during Thanksgiving 2019. This was a courageous decision as most of them had little to no experience preaching. Each young adult was assigned to their own church where they preached 10 sermons over an eight day period. Congregations varied in size from 10 to 70 members in attendance. All the sermons were provided by ShareHim and local translators were assigned for those who did not speak English.

Each day after breakfast, the team came together for worship to review the previous night and for discussion of that night’s topic. Additionally, Rudy

Alvir, ShareHim representative, gave feedback and encouragement to those he had visited the night before. After the team meeting, everyone would spend personal time reviewing and practicing their sermon for that evening. Everyone was picked up early in the evening from the hotel to head to their local church to preach that night. Each church family was responsible for providing dinner to the preacher every evening, which varied from eating at their homes to taking them to local eateries. In the latter part of the week, many of the youth had the opportunity to do home visitations with the church pastor to meet potential baptismal candidates. At the end of the week, the team rejoiced as the meetings concluded with 10 baptisms and 12 commitments for baptisms for the near future.

When the trip was over and the journey back home began, many of the young adults shared how this trip had impacted their lives. One said, “[The experience] shaped me into a better individual and gave me a larger perspective over the integrity of God’s work.” Another said, “Preaching this week brought me closer to Jesus and I want to share Him more every day.” Yet another stated, “I grew in my relationship with God by learning more about Him and seeing His work in each of our lives.” May the Lord continue to fuel this new spark in their lives and open doors for continuing to share the gospel message anywhere.

By Daniel Ortega
Communication and Young Adult Director



Summer Camp Success

Wewoka Woods Adventist Center Achieves Accreditation

WEWOKA, OKLA. – The Oklahoma Conference is excited to announce that Wewoka Woods Adventist Center has been accredited by the American Camp Association® (ACA), a national organization with more than 12,000 individual members and 3,100 member camps.

We are very pleased and grateful to have achieved this accreditation, and we would like to especially thank our amazing summer camp staff, our assistant ranger and our youth ministries department team members for all of the hard

work and countless hours that they put in to make it possible.

Above all, we praise God for His leading and provision in making this a reality! The Oklahoma Conference's goal is to provide not only fun and Christ-centered programming, but also to provide a place that strives to keep campers, of all ages, healthy and safe.

Having ACA accreditation will help in educating the camp leadership team in the administration of key aspects of camp operation and provide guidelines

for needed procedures, policies and practices to make this possible.

As an additional bonus, having ACA accreditation allows for the camp to obtain a discounted premium on the camp's insurance.

We look forward to seeing how God will continue to grow and develop our campgrounds and programming. We look forward to having you and your kids out there this summer.

————— *By Daniel Ortega*
Communication and Young Adult Director



Celebrating A Milestone

Remembering the Blessings Over the Years

VINITA, OKLA. – Doris Hallett, known and loved by so many, was greatly honored as she turned 100 years of age. Surrounded by a loving church family, her own children and lots of friends, Doris was assured that her life had blessed many as they came and expressed their appreciation to her.

When just a youth, Doris gave her heart to Jesus and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She worked her way through Southwestern Adventist Junior College and received her education degree.

She taught church school for several years and she started the first church school in Vinita. Doris will tell you that her primary object in teaching was to lead children to Jesus.

Doris recently moved into a nursing home and has made it a mission to share Christ with her fellow residents and help when she can. When she is able, she attends church on Sabbath at the Vinita Seventh-day Adventist Church where she is still a member.

————— *By Kay Mayes*



Native Ministries Training

Reaching Every Nation, Tribe, Tongue and People

OKLAHOMA CITY – Oklahoma has the highest percentage of Native Americans per capita of any state, meaning there are potentially hundreds of Native Americans our church can witness to in a 25-mile radius of any Oklahoma church. The Oklahoma Conference has an active Native Ministries (NM) department that runs a summer camp for Native Americans, conducts health-care events across the country, and publishes *American Indian Living*, a healthy lifestyle magazine which is distributed to every United States senator and federally recognized tribe. The NM officers recently started church member training and camp meeting events to reach our Native friends in meaningful ways. The first event is on April 17-19 at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center.

Previous training events have featured Seminole Nation Assistant Chief Lewis Johnson and healthy lifestyle tracks pertinent to Native families, diabetes in particular. Perhaps most importantly, the centuries-old concept of “spiritual learning circles” was presented at the last event. The key to establishing lasting, meaningful relationships with people is meeting regularly to share and listen, to talk and learn from another’s experience. This is a method of creating relationships that is familiar to most Native people but not a part of mainstream Western thought. A learning circle happens when a small group of people (6-8) literally circle up and listen to each other’s story. Each person in the circle speaks without anyone interrupting. This circle of learning is so vital to

Native communities it is actually part of core training in many tribal healthcare environments.

The April training event will feature outreach and ministry methods by speakers entrenched in Native Ministries. The weekend will begin with registration on Friday, April 17 at 4:30 p.m., supper at 6 p.m. and the first meeting at 7 p.m. Vegetarian meals are provided from Friday evening through Sunday morning breakfast. Accommodations are in camp cabins (male/female).

Register for the Native Ministries training by April 10, 2020 by calling NM Director Jim Landelius at 918.706.8733 or emailing him at JimL@NativeMinistries.org.

By *Caroline Fisher*

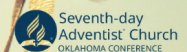


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Our Divine DNA

Created, Redeemed and Prepared



Nothing can compare to the boundless love of God towards His children. It is a plan of the enemy to make us think that we can sink so low that God cannot reach us, become so lost that God cannot find us or so wretched that God cannot save us. However, the enemy's tactic to discourage and deceive cannot hold up for too long in the psyche of the true believer. At some point in the struggle, he or she will, through the aid of the Holy Spirit, be able to recall the wonderful words of reassurance written aforetime for our admonition.

As we focus on the fact that we have this divine identity, read what Isaiah 43:1, 2 says, "But now, this is what the Lord says, He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: 'Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze.'"

Here, the prophet first establishes the fact that we were created by God. How intentional God is about us, for no one happens in this world as a surprise to Him! That is why before you got here, there was a hospital for you to be born in, a medical staff to ensure your safe delivery, a bed for you to sleep, food for you to eat, teachers at school waiting on your first day and all the way up to today, you did not have to invent anything for your survival.

Second, the same God that creates us also redeems us. Many of us would not waste time with an old car that keeps breaking down if we could afford to purchase a brand-new car. God still has His creative powers to create another, but instead of that, our God says, "I will redeem you." This means to buy back or pay off and also to restore to the original condition, before the mishap took place. God does not restore us and put us on parole or probation. He puts us back in the position we were before.

Lastly, our journey in this life will take us through some difficult regions—waters, rivers and at times, fire. It's the ultimate test that is designed to demonstrate our divine DNA. Every car manufacturer puts their model through rigorous testing to determine its worth and warranties. The manufacturers may test on dusty roads, hilly terrain, slippery slopes and deep valleys. The good news is that our worth and warranties are not determined by what we have gone through but rather what we can go through. That's what being in the image of God means—not only can we go through it, but He is with us. We can thus go forward today with the assurance that God's plan enfolds us, His power protects us and His presence watches over us.

By Carl Ming, Youth and Young Adult Director



Breaking Chains in New Orleans

Ephesus Church Conducts Evangelistic Meetings

NEW ORLEANS – The Breaking Chains Community Conference took New Orleans by storm. Calvin Watkins, Sr., Southwest Region Conference president, preached the message for 10 nights. Music was provided by LoLo Harris of Atlanta, Ga. and Hezekiah Brinson. Along with the preaching and music, the Bible workers and members prayed for and with the new members.

In preparation for the meetings, the Bible workers hit the streets two weeks prior to opening night. They met people, prayed with them, gave Bible studies and invited them to church. They also attempted to meet their needs. One example of this is when they met a couple who wanted to be married. The Bible workers did what they could to make this happen.

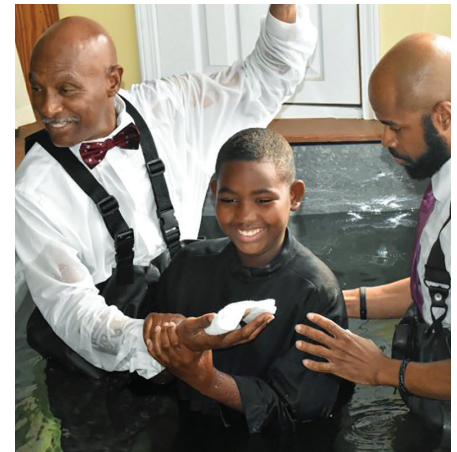
On opening night the attendance was over 200. Vacation Bible School was offered to children ages 3-11. Watkins delivered a powerful message. The next day, each person was contacted and invited to attend the next night. The Bible workers attempted to develop relationships through what they called “Friendship Ministry.” By making these types of contacts and building relationships, the attendance remained at 200 and more each night.

As the people listened night after night, they began to make decisions about being baptized. On Sabbath morning, Nov. 23, 38 people were baptized and one person joined on Profession of Faith. This number included the couple who wanted to get married. Harold Goodloe, pastor

of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, married them during church service and then baptized them. Baptism did not stop there. Five more people were baptized that Sabbath evening and two more were baptized the following Sabbath.

Programs have been implemented to ensure that new member transitions into Adventism and the Ephesus church family is a pleasurable experience. Programs such as Spiritual Partners and Adam’s Mother’s Birthday Party have all proven to be effective. Winning souls for the Kingdom is the mission of Ephesus church!

By *Patrice F. Haywood*



Friends and Family Day

A Surprise Recognition of Church Charter Members



BATON ROUGE, LA. – For weeks it was promoted as just a “Friends and Family Day,” and that is all that some unsuspecting guests and members of the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church expected.

Thus it was not until at the beckoning of their pastor, Joseph Footman, that deacons began bringing out elaborately covered chairs, lining them up front. Then he announced, “I firmly believe in the adage that we should give a person his/her flowers while they can smell them. With Proverbs 16:31 in mind, as I call their names, please escort Faith church charter members, Sister Geraldine Bell, Brother and Sister Roosevelt and Mildred Dunn and Samuel and Josephine Holmes.” Family members and friends privy to the surprise recognition escorted and stood behind the honorees as Footman and staff presented each with a personalized plaque followed by floral arrangements, testimonies and congratulatory messages.

The obviously grateful cast—all in their 80s—could hardly contain their jubilation as they posed for pictures and made their way through a standing, applauding audience as they returned to their respective pews.

Guest speaker Helvius Thompson, emeritus pastor, followed with the message, “But A Short Time.” With Revelation 12:10-12 as his scriptural focus, Thompson shared the cosmic conflict between good and evil. “No longer can Satan remind us of our past because we now have a future. Even though Satan is no longer a problem in Heaven, he *is* for the inhabitants of Earth,” said Thompson.

Using the analogy of the two minutes’ final warning play in football, he reassured us that we will overcome the devil by the Word of Christ through His blood. “God’s message to Satan is the message to us; but unlike football, our time will be one for eternity; no devil,

no wicked people, no death.” After Thompson’s timely message and with the honorees leading the processional, the congregation made our way to the dining area where we celebrated with a wonderfully prepared, scrumptious meal. The Faith church thanks God for its honorees and the blessing they are to His ministry.

— Article and photos by Evelyn M. Edwards

Honorees were surrounded by family and friends on a beautiful Sabbath morning as the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its charter members. From left to right: Joseph Footman, Samuel Holmes, Josephine Holmes, Geraldine Bell, Mildred Dunn, and Helvius Thompson.

Bethel Prepares to Save Lives

Students Certified in First Aid and CPR

TEXARKANA, TEX. – As children’s advocate and principal/teacher it is very important to make sure that I am prepared for any type of medical emergency that may occur at school.

With that in mind, I decided to renew both my First Aid and CPR Certificate. To my surprise, we were also taught how to use Automated External Defibrillator (AED) equipment, which was very exciting! After completing my certification, a thought came to my mind, “How about certification for my students!”

After communicating with several organizations, I contacted the Texarkana LifeNet Emergency Medical Service, and to my surprise and excitement they stated that they would be more than happy to come to our school

and teach students CPR and how to use the AED equipment.

LifeNet arrived at the school one morning, and from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., each student of Bethel Adventist Church School was instructed on how to administer CPR. LifeNet has a unique method of showing the students how to apply pressure to the chest: music!

Yes, they record music and tell the students to rock to the music as they apply compressions, which allow the students to push down with a rhythm. Both of the EMTs repeated to the students “Let’s save this person’s life!” My eager students pushed with excitement with the thought in mind, “I’m saving a life!”

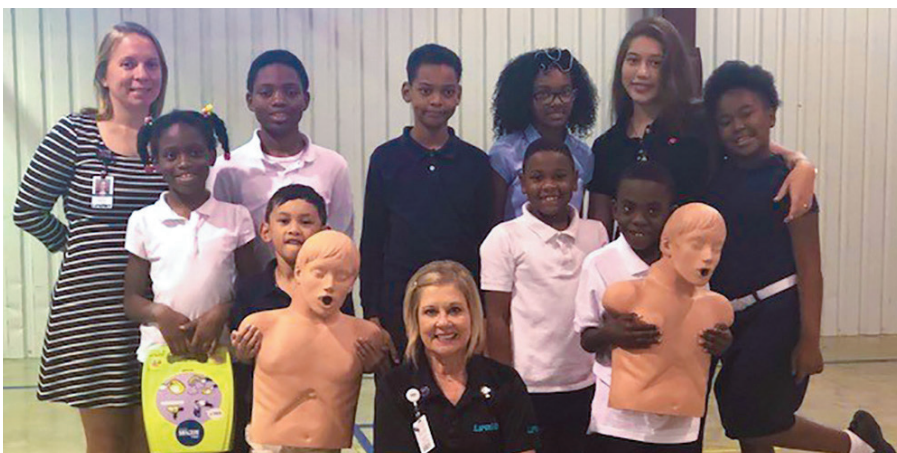
The students were taught where to place each AED pad and how to operate the machine, which to their amazement

gave them step-by-step instructions and told them when to clear to prevent being shocked from the equipment.

After the training, each student received a card to remember how to perform CPR and how to use the AED equipment.

Mr. Clemons, the school’s security officer and teacher assistant, and I were so excited seeing our students performing CPR and using the AED equipment that we took pictures like proud parents and celebrated our children’s accomplishments!

————— *By Sandra Clemons, Principal*



Let's Go Get Them

Westbank Celebrates Community Services Work

NEW ORLEANS – Matthew 25:40 says: “The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it for me.” On Sabbath, Dec. 14, the Community Services Center at Westbank United Seventh-day Adventist Church was the host of an invigorating Sabbath program in which the members of the community services of all Southeast Louisiana were in attendance.

The theme was “Let’s Go Get Them.” Allen Mitchell, minister and chaplain at the Children’s Hospital in New Orleans, was the guest speaker for the worship service. He said, “It is time for God’s children to come together and help those in need. Jesus can straighten you up. So don’t quit, Jesus will set you up.”

During the service, special songs and carols were rendered by Hezekiah Brinson, minister of music at Ninevah Baptist Church, along with the Royal Ambassadors Ensemble under the direction of Kenneth Collins.

The Adventist Community Services (ACS) leader revisited the work done by the members to the community. The department helped the Westbank community in diverse capacities such as giving material aid, food, clothing and other supplies for the poor; hurricane preparedness; feeding the homeless and Thanksgiving baskets.

The center has obtained official notice from the State of Louisiana to be a registered Medicaid Application center and many people have already

completed applications to receive Medicaid.

The community services department director Irene Williams understands the importance of having the center open for the outreach activities. She is very committed to helping the community.

During the service, three individuals were recognized for their contribution to the community and for their service to Westbank church: Jennifer Cherenfant, an outstanding educator in Jefferson Parish in Louisiana; Louise Jacob, an employee for the State of Louisiana and Shirley Wilson, a bank loan officer.

It was a great day and a blessed day to celebrate at Westbank United Adventist church in New Orleans, La.

By Mathieu Cherenfant



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- S. Louisiana: Feb. 28-March 1
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- N. Louisiana: April 3-5
- Arkansas: April 17-19
- N. Texas: April 24-26
- Houston: May 8-10
- W. Tex. & N.M.: May 15-16
- Austin: June 5-7

God's Calling

Standing Together for the Principles of God's Holy Sacrifice



As we look to what God is calling us to do, I direct your attention to 1 Corinthians 1: 9-10 (NKJV): “God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Now I plead (beg) with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.”

Paul points out quite emphatically that we strive earnestly to speak the same thing. That's an intriguing thought. What exactly is that same thing? In the *Benson Bible Commentary*, it says we are called to avoid majoring in the minors. Where there is not unity of sentiment, still let there be unity of affection. We should always remember there will be unity in heaven. The closer we approach Christ here on earth, the more tightly knit we become to one another and the more we breathe in the atmosphere of heaven!

Satan has always endeavored to stir up strife among the followers of Christ. It is one of his principal devices against the gospel. It is apparent that there are vicious floods of division and intolerance evident in the world around us today! Why should we as a church contribute to the “Babylon” that surrounds us?

Yet even as we enter the second decade of the 21st Century, so far removed from the Dark Middle Ages, the Inquisition, the Trail of Tears and the strains of the Civil Rights battles of this nation, it burdens me to know that, as a church, we are still challenged with racial divisions, gender dismissiveness, young adult exclusion and academic cliques that not only stir the pots of division, but weaken us as a royal priesthood of believers.

Could this be the year when we finally, at least as a church, stand perfectly joined together for the holy principles for which the God of heaven has sacrificed so much? We tend to think of Calvary as the one great divine sacrifice for humanity, but He is crucified afresh daily by the divisions that He witnesses!

It is high time that we prepare to cross over the river of divide into the promised land of unity amongst ourselves, so that we can dwell in His presence eternally!

By Carlos J. Craig, President



A Church of Hope

Mission Hope Church Provides for Community Needs

MISSION, TEX. – The Mission Hope food pantry opened its doors on April 11, 2017. The goal of this outreach ministry by the Mission Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mission, Tex., is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of individuals in the surrounding community. According to *The Ministry of Healing*, Christ “ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them ‘Follow Me.’”

The food pantry takes place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of every month. We have grown from serving

36 people to an average of 180 families each time. The pantry begins at 6 p.m., but individuals are lining up at the doors and waiting from 7 a.m.

In order to utilize the time wisely for those waiting, the church opens the gym to have cooking demonstrations and lectures on healthy living. At 6 p.m., after the cooking experience is completed, individuals are asked to wait in the church to be called and served. As they wait, they listen to messages in English and Spanish about lifestyle, church doctrine and Bible stories.

From this ministry, we have generated ongoing Bible studies and have individuals who visit the church regularly.

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

We pray that this program will continue to allow us to win souls for Christ. We hope to serve and be an answer to their prayers.

— By *Encile Brown and Nahum Israel Mendez, Pastor*



Pizza Party

Denton First Church Brightens the Day for the Homeless

PILOT POINT, TEX. – On the first Sunday of each month, the Denton First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pilot Point, Tex., serves the homeless dinner at Quakertown Park in Denton, Tex.

Wayne Aleshire from Bridging Hope Ministries organizes this “pizza party” along with other groups who sponsor the drinks and desserts.

The Denton First church is blessed to be a part of this program and we have enjoyed sharing care packages as well.

One of our members, Carol Thomasen (pictured), goes the extra

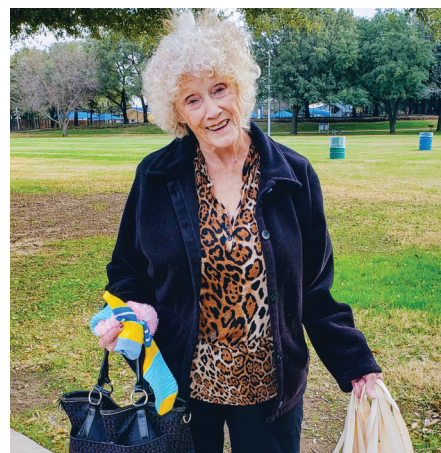
mile and brings a gift for each one, such as a jacket, a cap or whatever she can purchase for them.

For Christmas this year, Thomasen, with the help of her son and daughter-in-law, distributed a bag of goodies.

Thomasen says, “This brings me so much joy when I see these people and can see a smile on their faces when they receive them.”

These are the stories we love to hear! It is a blessing to be of service to those less fortunate than ourselves.

— By *Derek Lazarus, Pastor*



Flyers Work

A Young Man Learns of Series from Promotional Flyer

WALLER, TEX. — George Murkin is a 14-year-old first generation Seventh-day Adventist in southeast Texas.

In September of 2019, he noticed a prophecy flyer in the mail and was interested in learning more about the Bible. He asked his mom to take him to the seminars, and so his journey began!

Murkin completed the entire seminar and continued follow-up Bible studies. On Dec. 21, 2019, he was baptized and became an official member of the Waller Seventh-day Adventist Church. Murkin's mom faithfully drops him off

at church every Sabbath. Her son's conversion is the first she's ever heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Since attending our church, he has joined Pathfinders and is an active participant in Sabbath School and children's programs. He is such a blessing to us and we are happy to welcome him with open arms into the Waller church family!

We are excited to see what else God has in store for George and are so glad to be on this journey with him!

————— *By Ruben Caro, Pastor*



A New Beginning

Church Members Bless Families Physically and Spiritually

DALLAS — “CSOM” is the acronym for the Community Services Outreach Ministry of Living Waters Worship Center of Seventh-day Adventists in Dallas, Tex. This ministry strives to truly live out the admonition of Isaiah 58:7, “Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter—when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood?”

Every Sunday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., church members are at Living Waters serving their community

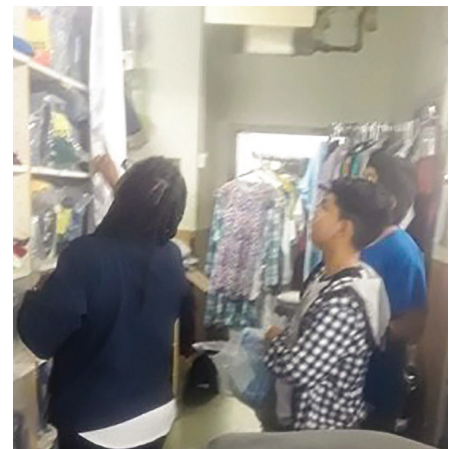
by giving away clothes, shoes, coats, diapers, blankets and snack bags, as well as ministering to those who are less fortunate. On the third Sunday of every month there is a big clothing distribution.

On Nov. 17, 2019, CSOM incorporated a new addition: free hot dogs, chips and water, calling it an “Explosive Sunday Giveaway.” This event and the new meal addition took them to another level. The aroma of hot dogs and onions drew many more people to their location.

The ministry blesses many people with their “Gift of Hope” care packages. These packages contain toiletries, hand sanitizer, deodorant, socks, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, mouthwash and more.

The small group of dedicated CSOM members believe they have been called by God to the ministry of serving others. Their mission is to offer the Word of God and to assist families in developing a new beginning—spiritually, physically and emotionally.

————— *By Tommie Martin*



Are You Listening?

Listening Lets Us Step Into the Shoes of This Generation

ARLINGTON, TEX. – Want to reach out to unchurched millennials? Begin by listening to the young adults in your church, or at least the ones on your church record books.

How can we reach out to young adults we don't know if we don't even converse with the young adults we do know or at least know of?

Generally, young strangers aren't interested in you talking to them, especially about church or religion, without some type of relational context. However, if you take the time to build relationships, to really listen and to be authentic, you

will discover millennials are very open to that. Listening lets us step into the shoes of this generation.

Fuller Youth Institute's book, *Growing Young*, reports that one of the main commitments young adults find attractive is: Empathize with Today's Young People.

Our church members assume that secular, postmodern young adults are "somewhere out there," outside of our church circles. However, the truth is that our young people live and breathe in the current cultural milieu. Listening to our own is a great first step to building relationships with future generations.

Empathize with Today's Young People: This means "feeling with young people" as they grapple with existential questions of identity, belonging and purpose; as they experience "systemic abandonment" due to divorce and the self-absorbed adults around them; and as they act out a desire for connection through social media.

Leadership begins with listening. In ministering alongside young adults for nearly four decades, I have found this to be profoundly true.

————— *By A. Allan Martin, Pastor*

Food Security

Keene Church Members Are Blessing Families with Food

KEENE, TEX. – Food insecurity (not having enough food) is one of the biggest issues for many families in the Keene area. Without meals provided through public schools, many children would not be able to eat. This is changing through an initiative launched by the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church called LIFT.

LIFT, an acronym for Love, Inspire and Fill, Together, began in November of 2018 with a community food pantry open once a month for the community

to take home 20-40 pounds of food. Throughout this past year, the LIFT food pantry has grown and doubled in size with more than 1,000 individuals receiving food each month and more than 100 volunteers serving.

LIFT has also expanded its ministry into the public schools by providing "Blessing Bags" to students at three schools in the Keene Independent School District.

The Keene church family donates kid-friendly food packed in Blessing

Bags that are delivered each week. The food is confidentially given to students that have signed up for the program. Currently, more than 65 bags are prepared and delivered.

We are excited to find new ways to show the love of Christ through the simple act of being there for our community and ministering to their physical needs. This is opening doors that have never been opened before for us to love, connect and share with our community.

————— *By Rick Weaver, Pastor*



Thirsty For Truth

Young People Are Searching the Bible for Answers

BROWNSVILLE, TEX. – I was at the door greeting people following the worship service at the Brownsville Seventh-day Adventist Church in Brownsville, Tex., a few months ago when a young man asked, “Are you the pastor?” After confirming I was, Ivan Guajardo (left) asked permission to attend our worship. “Of course!” I replied. What he didn’t know was that we had been praying as a church for more young people to start attending.

Seeing that he was alone, I asked if someone invited him. “No, sir,” he

replied. “I was just reading my Bible and found out about the Sabbath and wanted to start keeping it.”

We started studying the Bible together and before his baptism, he faced some challenges. First, a great opposition from his parents, who set up a debate between the local Catholic priest and I, in an attempt to prove that their theology was the truth. After a few hours of friendly and respectful debate, Guajardo looked to me and said, “Pastor, I’m more confident now that the Seventh-day Adventist Church has the truth.”

Since Ivan’s baptism, he has invited everyone he knows to learn about the truth. One of his managers, Adalberto Mendez (right), was baptized last month and is also active in bringing others to study the Bible, among them his best friend, Jonas Vergara. Both of them are very determined to become pastors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

It is incredible to see how God is actively calling people of all ages and different walks of life to hear His call, “Come out of her my people.”

————— *By Marlon Wallace, Pastor*



A Year in Review

Mesquite Church Reflects on 2019 Transitions

MESQUITE, TEX. – Some significant things happened in 2019 for the Mesquite Seventh-day Adventist Church in Mesquite, Tex.

In the area of ministry, we focused on discipleship in preparation for “Reach Dallas 2019,” an evangelistic series throughout Dallas in October of 2019.

We praise the Lord for 11 baptisms and professions of faith and one re-baptism during 2019.

Two of those baptisms were during our inaugural Sabbath in our “new to us” facility on July 27, 2019.

It was a privilege to have Carlos J. Craig, Texas Conference president, with us that Sabbath to dedicate the church building and pray for the current and future members.

We are blessed to have more than four times more space than before, conveniently located across from a park with a lake near downtown Mesquite. The new facility includes a gymnasium which provides a wonderful opportunity to minister to young people.

Another blessing during 2019 was that our previous building is able to be

used by the Mesquite Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church to bless their growing congregation.

Please pray for us. It is our desire to put people first as we take care of the Lord’s business. We pray that we will be faithful to His mission as we expand and develop our new facility that we know He has given us.

————— *By Will Klinkke, Pastor*

Summoned by Name

Finding Our Identities in God's Authority and Protection



“**B**ut now, this is what the Lord says—He who created you, Jacob, He who formed you, Israel: ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine.’” Isaiah 43:1.

Near the end of their exile in Babylon, the children of Israel had done some soul-searching. Although they questioned God's motives, Isaiah began his ministry by bringing them words of comfort. Isaiah begins chapter 40 with the promise of a return to Jerusalem. After an extensive rebuke in chapter 42, Isaiah shifts his tone back to hope in Isaiah 43:1, which begins with the word “But” as he continues to reassure the children of Israel that God has promised them a better future. These words of compassion extend to each one of us today. We do not deserve God's love and mercy. However, when we ask for forgiveness, the past is forgotten. Our history of disobedience disappears and an opportunity to start a new life in Christ begins. Why? Because God knows us. Isaiah reminds us that God summons us by name and that we are His children.

In the Bible, names were important. A person's name revealed the person's character and identity. God changed Abram's name to Abraham, “for I have made you a father of many nations” (Genesis 17:5). He changed Jacob's name to Israel, “because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome” (Genesis 32:28). In turn, Israel's name became the name of the nation. The bestowing of a name was synonymous to conferring a new identity - acknowledging a new character. Naming someone was also an act of authority, denoting possession, responsibility and protection. God calling Israel by name reminded them that they had been embraced into His family and that they belonged there.

I am encouraged and love to know that God knows each of us by our name. He knew our name even before we were born. “He who created you, Jacob, and He who formed you, Israel,” also prompts us to know that He created the heavens and the earth, He created the nation of Israel with a call to Abram and He created us in His image. That is wonderful news, the God of the universe longs to call us personally. He ultimately yearns to form a deeper relationship with us and help us find our identity in Him.



By Lee-Roy Chacon, President

Remembered Lessons

God's Love Shines Through Generations

DALHART, TEX. – On Nov. 30, 2019, extended family members Bill, Lynnae, B.J., Ashley and Bryan Ballew were baptized at the Dalhart Seventh-day Adventist Church. The church was blessed to witness their declaration of love for Jesus. These five individuals' baptisms and their commitment to Jesus were not a result of an evangelistic series or community outreach but rather from remembering what their parents and grandparents had taught them years before.

Bill grew up spending lots of quality time with his paternal grandparents and learned about Jesus at a young age. His father, Russell Ballew, Dalhart church's head elder, also taught his family about God's love. As Bill grew older he drifted from God, but the Holy Spirit often reminded him of what his grandfather

taught him on the days he worked with him on his farm. Over the years, as his grandparents grew older, Bill and his wife, Lynnae, took care of them. At their passing, Bill and Lynnae were deeply impacted and realized the need of God in their lives and marriage.

"Losing someone so close to you is really hard," said Bill. "But I was reminded of my grandparents' example. They led a Christian life and depended on God."

Bill's son, B.J., B.J.'s wife Ashley, and their cousin, Bryan, were also profoundly affected by the loss.

B.J. and Ashley had experienced difficult phases in their lives, but now as parents of two little girls, they realized they wanted to put their kids in God's hands and dedicate their lives to Him.

"We want the best for our daugh-

ters," said B.J. "We realized that our great-grandparents felt the same way. They loved us. That's why they prayed for us and taught us about God's love."

The Ballews' testimony is a beautiful tribute to the power of prayer and a reminder that God continues to work in the hearts of those who stray from God's path. Intercessory prayer is powerful and, as members of the Dalhart church, we know that the Ballews' did not make their decision for Christ out of sheer coincidence or a random epiphany. No, their family had faith in the promise of God and He answered their fervent prayers. Parents, grandparents and great-grandparents never give up on their children and neither does God!

————— *By Isai Ramirez, Pastor*



Jesus Cares For Veterans

Advent Life Church Tends to the Needs of 300 Veterans



SANTA FE, N.M. – The Advent Life Seventh-day Adventist Church in Santa Fe has been intentionally involved in caring for the needs of homeless Veterans and civilians in the community of Santa Fe for almost a decade. Apart from actively being engaged in the local homeless shelter known as “Pete’s Place,” every year the church hosts an event called the “Annual Veteran Stand-Down” around the time of Veterans Day. In military terms, a stand-down takes place when combat units need time for rest and recovery from battle. But today the expression gains an added meaning: giving rest and recovery for Veterans who are battling a completely different war. A war against mental illness, poverty, homelessness and hunger. Events like this take place around the country, and

Phil Chavez, an elder at Advent Life church and combat Veteran, implemented the program in Santa Fe in connection with the local Veterans Center.

The vision of the church in doing this work is found in Jesus’ teaching on the Sabbath as laid out in John 5. While the religious leaders of the time were worried about “keeping” the Sabbath by going up to the temple/synagogue to worship, Jesus, on the Sabbath, was found in the midst of a multitude of people with multiple physical needs near a pool called Bethesda. And it was there that Jesus not only healed a paralytic on the Sabbath but taught us a profound lesson about what the true meaning of the Sabbath is: finding rest from labor and extending that rest to others. Jesus was less worried about Sabbath “keep-

ing” and much more worried about Sabbath “living,” that is, restoring the Sabbath rest into a principle for life (as Exodus 20 already anticipated this by emphasizing the importance of bringing rest to everyone around us, from foreigner to cattle). So, the Advent Life church strongly believes that the Sabbath is not only a day to find rest from labor, but a day to give rest to those who are weary and heavy laden within our community, as Jesus taught us.

With this vision, the Advent Life church hosted the annual Stand-Down once again and attended to the needs of over 340 homeless individuals who came through its doors on Sabbath, Nov. 9, 2019. Different organizations were present in our building to give support to the event and additional

care for the homeless. Among these organizations were Goodwill Industries (for job opportunities), Pacific Dental/Modern Dentistry (for dental care), Medical care (from Dr. Robert Gardner, former Army Combat medic), the Red Cross (for basic hygiene kits), Listening Horse Therapeutic Riding (for therapeutic horse rides), Guadalupe Credit Union/Lithia Chrysler/Dodge (for financial assistance), and the local Vet Center professionals (counselors, case agents, etc). In addition to these groups, the event would not have been possible

without the help of a vast number of volunteers from the Advent Life church as well as from the other local Adventist churches. Volunteers provided car rides to and from the church, food, clothes, sleeping bags, haircuts, spa treatments and massages and even showers. On Veterans day, the church also hosted an Award ceremony for the Veterans in our community.

The Advent Life church understands that the best way to prepare for the soon coming of Jesus is to live like Jesus lived: anticipating the reality of the future

kingdom and experiencing it in the present. Bringing food to the hungry, rest to the weary and attending to the needs of those around us for the single reason that in the future kingdom there will be no hunger, no weariness and no physical need. And realizing that whenever we do these things to the least among us, we have done it to Jesus Himself (Matthew 25:40). Yes, Jesus is coming soon! But Jesus also comes to us daily and can be found in the face of those in need in Santa Fe and in every city in the world.

By *Tiago Arrais, Pastor*

Meals for Families

Rio Ranch Youth Ministry Involves Members of all Ages

ALBUQUERQUE – This past December, the Adventist Youth (AY) Ministry of the Rio Rancho Seventh-day Adventist Church partnered with the Ronald McDonald House in downtown Albuquerque to prepare meals for families staying in their quarters.

The mission of Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) is to create and support programs that directly improve the well-being of sick children and their families.

As part of their mission, the RMHC provides rooms for families so that they can feel at home while actively being involved in their children’s care. The RMHC also regularly enlists the help of volunteers to provide home-cooked meals for its guests. To support

this cause, the Rio Rancho Church’s AY Ministry was happy to collaborate with RMHC and in turn do something special for the community during the holiday season.

While planning their efforts, the Rio Rancho AY ministry was very intentional in choosing who would participate on the outreach team.

“We decided that we wanted to include members of all ages to participate in this project, so we made sure there was a good mix of people involved,” said Ismael Renteria, AY leader.

“It was inspiring to see teenagers (Gen Z), Young Adults (Millennials), Gen X and Baby Boomers in the same kitchen, cooking and prepping food for the RMHC families.”

One of the ways the Rio Ranch church strives to put the gospel into action is to do community service, but it also aspires to be an intergenerational congregation. This outing was a good example of their effort to include more members of the congregation, and the AY Ministry wants to continue participating in this outreach project.

Their goal is to keep the momentum going, and they plan to continue cooking for the local Ronald McDonald House in 2020.

Overall, the best part of doing this outreach project was not only to see the smiles and contentment on the faces of the RMHC families but also to see them on the faces of the Rio Rancho team.

By *Michael Razon, Pastor*



A Changed Life

Embracing God's Love and Freedom From Addiction

ALBUQUERQUE – “The last time I went to the casino, I won \$2,000. I was going to use it for a deposit towards a car I wanted. I wanted to double that amount, but instead I lost everything. At that point, I thought about taking my life because I felt it was not worth living.”

These are the words of Daniel González, one of La Roca Seventh-day Adventist Church's newest members. I first learned about Daniel during La Roca's Wednesday night prayer services. His mother, Carmen Gonzalez, would faithfully pray for him to return to church. I later learned that Daniel had led a rough life.

Although his parents tried to instill in him good behavior and a love and respect for God, life on the streets of Albuquerque was more appealing.

By the age of 19, Daniel was an avid gambler, drug addict and alcoholic. He was married and had two young girls, but the life of addiction took a toll on his family and it was not long before his marriage ended.

Shortly after his divorce, his sister died of cancer. These challenging events led him to fall deeper into alcoholism and drug addiction.

One night, he dreamed that he was in a casket and he could see his mother, brothers and daughters crying. He knew he needed to do something to change.

“I cried out to God that night,” said

Daniel. “I told Him that I needed help and wanted to change but I needed Him to send someone with a Bible that could lead me to Him.”

It didn't take long before that prayer was answered. One day, members of the La Roca church, Isaac and Ruth Flores, came knocking on Daniel's door, and they came with Bible in hand. They began studying the Bible with Daniel.

Daniel continued to struggle with his addictions, and there were some days that he was hungover during their study, but Isaac and Ruth continued to pray for Daniel, asking God to help him. It wasn't long before Daniel decided to be baptized and began attending church.

“I felt happy because my life was improving and I was no longer using drugs or alcohol,” said Daniel. “However, I couldn't stop gambling. I would sneak off to the casinos and would lose my entire savings and paychecks.”

Over time, the guilt of his gambling addiction became overwhelming. Daniel felt like he was unworthy to come to church, and he stopped attending.

On the night that he lost \$2,000, he began to feel like his life was not worth living, and thoughts of taking his own life raced through through his mind. However, he was reminded that the God who helped him stop using drugs and alcohol could also help him stop gambling.

That very night, he knelt before God and he recalled the songs of faith and hope he sang in church. His favorite scripture also came to his mind, “The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing.” Psalm 23:1.

On Nov. 16-23, 2019, the La Roca church held an evangelistic series with Luis Prieto, pastor of Tulsa Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tulsa, Okla. The series theme, “A Time for Decision,” was providential for Daniel.

He made a decision and came night after night and also brought friends and family with him. On Nov. 23, 2019, Daniel decided to once again accept Christ as his Savior. He left the pain and suffering brought on by his addictions in the baptismal water.

Although Daniel's decision was enough to cause joy in the church, La Roca members were also thrilled that Daniel's children, Valerie and Matthew, were also baptized.

“I realized that God never abandoned me despite all the wrong decisions I made,” said Daniel. “My advice to people is that if you are close to God, never turn away. But if you are far from God, seek Him. God is good and always gives us a new opportunity.”

————— *By Saul Flores, Pastor*



Classified Ads

EMPLOYMENT

Southern Adventist University's School of Visual Art and Design seeks full-time professor of film production to teach cinematography, lighting, sound design, documentary directing and producing. For full description and qualifications please visit: Southern.edu/jobs

Southern Adventist University is seeking qualified candidates for the following positions: Teaching Faculty – English and Teaching Faculty – Physics and Engineering. For full description and qualifications please visit: Southern.edu/jobs

Pacific Union College is seeking a full time Men's/Women's Soccer Coach. Major duties include management of all operations for soccer intercollegiate teams, provision of leadership and direction to support student-athlete success, familiarity with NAIA governing rules. Must also have willingness to travel for competitions and recruiting, and work with NAIA and California Pacific Conference. Bachelor's degree required; Master's degree preferred. For more information or to apply, please call Human Resources at 707.965.6231 or visit our website at PUC.edu/campus-services/human-resources/current-job-postings/head-soccer-coach,-mens-and-womens

Union College seeks committed SDA candidate for tenure track faculty position

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Southern Adventist University seeks a full-time faculty member for the School of Computing. The ideal candidate will have an earned doctorate in computer science, information technology, information systems or a related area. Qualified candidate would teach graduate and undergraduate courses, develop course materials, advise students academically, serve on university committees and perform other duties expected of full-time faculty. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit: Southern.edu/jobs

A 65-acre Fruit Farm in Lyons, N.Y. is seeking immediately a couple or small family to grow with us. Must be experienced in the daily growth of fruit and vegetable production. Ability to drive

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The successful candidate will champion the cross-cultural perspective of anthropology in the general education program of the university, in our graduate program in community and international development and to students and fellow faculty in a multi-disciplinary department offering programs and courses in psychology, sociology, geography, criminal justice, emergency preparedness, anthropology and community and international development. Areas of instruction and advising will include general anthropology, development anthropology, research methods and community and international development. Candidates with Ph.D. in cultural anthropology (preferred) or a related field are especially encouraged to apply. Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_3

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 or Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

MISCELLANEOUS

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Andrews University Department of Sustainable Agriculture Degrees. Feed the world with Agribusiness. Beautify the world with Environmental Landscape Design. Care for the creatures that share our world with Animal Science. Change the world with International Agriculture Development. See our new Agriculture Education Center at Andrews.edu/agriculture. Email: Agriculture@andrews.edu; 269.471.6006.

Back Pages

Come to peaceful Ouachita Healthy Living in Amity, Ark. to get a jumpstart for a healthier you. Attend the next 1-week live-in session April 19-26. Information: call 318.426.1843 or go to OhHealth.org.

Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend, Apr. 10-11 at Enterprise SDA Church, Enterprise, Kan. Honor Classes - Graduating Years ending with 5's and 0's. For more information email: Ea.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or check school website: Ea-gpa-alumni.com

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Historical country church overlooking lake in southern Oklahoma needs retired ministers, laymen and laywomen and Bible workers to visit door-to-door in small communities and rural area before upcoming

meetings. Church will pay camp fees for travel trailer on lake and/or other housing available. Please call 580.228.4168.

Atlanta Adventist Academy offers excellent Adventist education locally (Atlanta, Ga.) as well as virtually through our live online program for homeschoolers and distance campuses. To enroll your student, become a partner campus or receive more information, call 404.699.1400 or visit Aaa.edu/admissions.

1970 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Mich. Honor classes: 1940, 1950, 1960, 1970. Details will be sent by mail. You may contact GLAA Alumni office at 989.427.5181 or visit GLAA.net.

Lubbock Seventh-day Adventist Church is having their Centennial Celebration inviting everyone to attend. All previous pastors and members. Taking place at the church on April 4, 2020. Speaker will be Sean Robinson. For more information: 806.793.8614 or email: LubbockAdventist@sbcglobal.net.

Announcements

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will be June 5-7, 2020 for alumni and schoolmates of



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awr.org/rebels

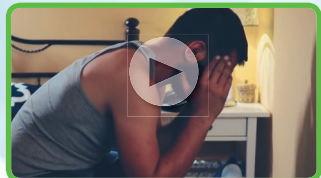
Why have rebels in the Philippines been laying down their machine guns and picking up Bibles? Watch to find out!



Taking a Bold Stand

awr.org/wisam

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SPEAKER:

JOHN MATHEWS

Retired Stewardship Director
North American Division



FACILITATOR:

ELTON DEMORAES

Vice President for Ministries
Southwestern Union

SCHEDULE

FRIDAY

6:00 pm: Ownership and Post-modern Culture

SABBATH

9:00 am: My Role in The World

11:00 am: Pain, Pleasure and Power of Giving

1:00 pm: Debt Free, Gods Way and Children

SouthwesternAdventist.org/Stewardship



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Obituaries

Aguila, Ermelinda, born Feb. 12, 1933, San Antonio, Tex.; died Jan. 11, 2020, Cypress, Tex. Church membership: Waller Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, Benjamin Aguila; daughter, Mary Moore; son, Ben Aguila and two grandchildren.

Albertson, Theodore Clark "Ted", born May 12, 1927, Oakland, Calif.; died Oct. 7, 2019, Amarillo, Tex. Church membership: Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by his wife Majery G. Albertson; and his second wife, Angel Albertson; sons, Richard Allen and Jimmy Dean; brother, Grant and grandson Nathan. He was a United States Navy Veteran who was assigned to the USS Yorktown. Survivors: sons, Theodore W. Albertson (Pam), Amarillo, Tex.; David Albertson (Susan), Phoenix, Ariz.; daughter, Diana Lynn of Phoenix, Ariz.; five grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and five step-children.

Carr, Delores Jean, born April 18, 1930, Garden City, Kan.; died Dec. 13, 2019, Hot Springs, Ark. Church membership: Bonnerdale Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her parents, Roy Mohr and Hulda Meyer; husband, William Carr; grandson, Brian Carr; sister, Rosalind Bumby; and brother Virgil Mohr. Survivors: sons, Gregory Carr (Cheryl) of Ooltewah, Tenn.; Steven Carr (Priscilla) of Hot Springs, Ark.; and Rick Carr of Valencia, Calif.; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Hoehn, Kenneth, born Jan. 6, 1939, Sanger, Tex.; died May 19, 2019, Greeley, Colo. Survivors: wife, Patricia; daughters, Rene' Hoehn, Janell Ford and Amy Cunningham; son, Kenneth, Jr.; sisters, Mary Ann Homer and Joyce Shedell; brother, John Hoehn and seven grandchildren.

Hutton, Charlotte Ann, born Nov. 3, 1945, Nowata, Okla.; died Nov. 8, 2019, Nowata, Okla. Church membership: Nowata Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her parents and two siblings. Survivors: husband, Don Hutton; one daughter; one son; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren.

Laue, Emily Agnes Stumpf, born Sept. 1, 1922, New Orleans, La.; died Nov. 20, 2019, Portland, Ore. Church membership: Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: son, Doug Laue of Estacada, Ore.; grandson, Collyer Burbach of Wichita, Kan. and two great-granddaughters.

McKee, Norma Jean Jeffers, of Crossett, Ark.; died Aug. 29, 2019. Church membership: Monticello Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Nies, Martin "Marty" Bruce, born Oct. 26, 1948, Stafford, Kan.; died, Dec. 8, 2019, Eureka Springs, Ark. Church membership: Berryville Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, where he served during the Vietnam War. Survivors: wife, Janet Nies, Eureka Springs, Ark.; sisters, Gloria Sutherland (Duke) of Goodlettsville, Tenn. and

Carolyn Lee Hobbs Early, 78, was born Sept. 9, 1941, in Omaha, Neb., and died Nov. 17, 2019, at her home in Keene, Texas.

The oldest of four children by Clem and Mary Hobbs, Carolyn loved music and began playing the piano at the age of two and performed on the radio at age eight.

Carolyn began her teaching career at the age of 19, with only a one-year teaching certificate. While she taught school, Carolyn attended classes at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., where she obtained her degree in Elementary Education. She was hired at Cheney Public School in Lincoln, where she taught grades two to five and served as principal.

Ten years later, Carolyn moved with her husband to Arlington, Texas, where she taught third and fourth grades at Burton Adventist Academy. After three short years, Carolyn moved to Conroe, Texas, to re-establish a one-room, eight-grade school. Throughout the next 28 years, she served as principal and teacher at what is now Conroe Adventist Academy.

Education was her passion and she loved teaching about Jesus and His plan of salvation. She shared about our hope in the second coming and she and her students wanted to pick a meeting place in heaven. They chose the Gate of Benjamin.

As each class graduated, she challenged them to meet her at the gate. We look forward to meeting her there as well.

Carolyn is survived by her daughter, Danielle Bunkley and husband, James III, of Keene; brother, Clem Hobbs and wife, Phyllis, of Keene; sisters, Sherry Littrell of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, and Sally Page and husband, Steve Kenrick, of Saratoga, California; three nieces, four nephews, great nieces and nephews; and many special students who are also part of her family.

Carolyn's family established the Carolyn Early Scholarship Fund at Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas, to honor her life as an educator. Each year the valedictorians of Conroe Adventist Academy and Burton Adventist Academy will receive a scholarship to Southwestern Adventist University.





Homer Jurl Kirk was born on Nov. 3, 1935 in Blackwell, Texas, to Jurl and Vallie Donnell Kirk. He passed away on July 3, 2019 at Methodist Mansfield Medical Center Hospital with his family by his side.

As Homer grew up his family moved to Marietta, Okla., where he attended Thackerville High School. After graduating he attended electronics school in Dallas. During this time, he was introduced to Annie Belz and, after dating for four years, Homer received the call to serve his country, so he proposed to the love of his life, they married in three weeks on June 21, 1958, and they recently celebrated 61 years of marriage. After marrying they went to Colorado Springs, Colo., where Homer was stationed for five months and then transferred to Ft. Huchuca, Ariz. for 1.5 years.

On Jan. 1, 1960 they welcomed their first child, Kathy. Homer was discharged from the Army on July 5, 1960, but then he was called back to serve his country again during the Berlin Crisis and finally discharged again in 1964. Homer and Annie welcomed their second child, Greg, on Dec. 20, 1963. Homer worked for 28 years as a printer for

Braniff Airlines where he enjoyed many years of wonderful family vacations. After Braniff closed its doors, Homer went to work for Lomes and Nettleton and then American Airlines where he retired. Homer had many hobbies which included: traveling, camping, fishing, water sports, hunting with his camera, gardening, and working with his hands.

After retirement he remained very active in his church, served as a deacon and greeter, and was the longest attending member of the Grand Prairie Seventh-day Adventist Church. Homer will be remembered for his strong work ethic, family values, wonderful story telling and kind heart. He was a loving husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, devoted son and brother, and a faithful friend. He will be forever missed.

Homer was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Winston Glen; and his son, Greg Jurl Kirk. Those left to treasure his memory are his wife, Annie; daughter, Kathy Mutchler and husband Scott; grandson, Shawn Mutchler and wife Bethany; granddaughter, Courtney Mutchler; great-grandchild, Thomas Gregory Mutchler; one brother Jesse Kirk and wife Joyce; one sister LaDaria Riggs and husband Bill; many nieces and nephews; and a host of family and friends.

Pallbearers: Chris Kirk, Kirk Riggs, David Belz Jr., Rick Belz, Gary Argo, Philip Belz, Mike Belz, Ronnie Belz. Honorary Pallbearers: Jeremy Riggs, Jeff Belz, Kenneth Argo, Steve Bishop, Darrell Belz.

Bonnie Schroeder (Dave) of Laramie, Wyo.; three nieces and a nephew.

Ratliff, Caroline Poenitz, born Aug. 21, 1943, Seguin, Tex.; died Oct. 2, 2019, Arlington, Tex. Church membership: Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: husband, John Ratliff; brother, Floyd Poenitz (Dr. Jeffrey Williams); sister-in-law, Luetta Clark; brother-in-law, Robert Ratliff; uncle, Nobert Brietzke (Mary Lee Brietzke) and aunts Ruby Doege Brietzke, Lillian Lange Brietzke and nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Ray, Elizabeth LaVon Stephens, born Jan. 19, 1932, Fred, Tex.;

died Sept. 2, 2019, Keene, Tex. Survivors: husband, John Ray; daughters, Sharon Hatten, Sheila Ray, Carmen Shantz and son, Joe Lee Ray; seven grandchildren; brothers, Benny Stephens, Ronnie Stephens, Don Stephens and Mitchell Stephens; sister, Merelyne Collum and Beverly Sorenson.

Schwareb, Laila, born Dec. 5, 1939, Amman, Jordan; died, Nov. 4, 2019, Oklahoma City, Okla. Church membership: Oklahoma Central Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her husband, Atif Schwareb. Survivors: her three children: sons, John Schwareb and

Nidal Schwareb; daughter, JoAnn Schwareb.

Whitson, William Asa "Bill", born Dec. 18, 1930, North Little Rock, Ark.; died, Nov. 7, 2019.

Correction: The following obituary is a correction from the January | February 2020 issue.

Klopfenstein, Clarence, born Aug. 5, 1926; died Oct. 21, 2019, Siloam Springs, Ark. Preceded in death by wife, Helen and one daughter, Jeanne El Tayyeb. Survivors: two sons, Marquis Klopfenstein of

Kennewick, Wash. and David Klopfenstein of Eureka, Calif.; and one daughter, Barbara "Sue" Klopfenstein of Siloam Springs, Ark.; nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Submissions

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

The *Record* also accepts expanded obituaries. For submission and cost information, contact Record@swuc.org or call 817.295.0476.

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