

Record

January | February 2022

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Renewed Vision
Celebrating 120 Years of Ministry

**Celebrating 120
Years of Ministry**
Renewed Vision

Record

January | February 2022
Vol. 121, No. 01

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Editor's Note

The beginning of a new year brings the opportunity to reflect on the previous year, on endings and beginnings, on opportunities and challenges. We have the opportunity to start a new year with resolutions, promises to spend more time in prayer, more time with God, more time on the treadmill, more time with our family. Our goals for the new year may be personal or they may include the entire family. Whatever they may be, we should be encouraged to let God guide and lead us with His renewed vision so that we can also be renewed through Him.

In this issue of the Record, we reflect on the past while focusing on the future. We celebrate 120 years of the *Record* as a ministry, and we look to the future of it and all ministries as channels of sharing our faith and testimony. It is my prayer that we may be renewed and refreshed in 2022 with His vision.

Jessica L. Lozano

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Our Mission:

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



Seeking God's Wisdom in 2022

The definition of "vision" is rather intriguing. One source identifies it this way: "The ability to think about or plan the future with imagination or wisdom." I like that description because it underscores the vastly different tactics we take in formulating the plans for our lives. Imagination or wisdom? Some live moment to moment, driven by the whims of their random thoughts. Others look to the Master Designer, the Creator of Life, for their wisdom and direction.

As our thoughts turn to a new year, I point you to Colossians 3:10: "And have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator." How is one renewed in knowledge? It is not just any knowledge that the apostle Paul speaks of here. It is "knowledge according to the image of Him Who created us."

Jeremiah 10:10 tells us, "But the Lord is the true God, He is the living God and the everlasting King." Therefore, we look to Him for both our outlook and our game plan for 2022. We are convicted with the assurance that He is in control! We commit ourselves to striving for excellence, not only spiritually, but in our daily activities.

Colossians 3:10 stresses the putting on of a "new man." That's a complete overhaul!

If we all were to submit to the Holy Spirit in 2022 and grant Him comprehensive permission to work freely in our hearts and minds, what great and fortuitous advances would we see? Our default response of being too busy to lean on the Holy Spirit brings to mind Deuteronomy 28:13: "The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom."

We see the signs of fulfillment all around us. The end of all things is approaching like a runaway freight train! How, then, should we live? This year we celebrate 120 years of the Record magazine as a ministry in this Union. I have walked in many churches all across this Union only to see copy after copy sitting there on the rack. We will be laboring to embrace more ways to use this instrument as a soul-reaching tool in your hands! Time is of the essence. Recently, a few from the office had the privilege of visiting some of the hard-

est hit areas in southern Louisiana. The devastation is great and the heartache is even greater. People need the Lord and His assuring presence more than ever before. Time after time we heard the comment, "Dealing with COVID and a hurricane is more than we can handle!" What a truth! The fields are ripe for the harvest! People are desperately searching for an answer in the midst of the chaos and conflict in this world! Are we equipped and prepared to offer it to them? Pray hard and work diligently, for the night is approaching when we won't be able to.

Carlos J. Craig, President



120 Years of Ministry

Remembering Our Past,
Moving Forward for the Future

Southwestern Union Record.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE S. W. U. CONFERENCE

VOL. I.

KEENE, TEXAS, MONDAY, MAY 26, 1902.

NO. 1.

OUR PRESENT EDITION.

THE RECORD starts out with an edition of eighteen hundred copies. Our object is to send numbers of the paper to every available person within the Southwestern Union Conference district as samples, for the purpose of showing, to some extent, the object and the mission of this paper. Our office is at present crowded with job work, thus giving us a lively beginning; but we have faith to believe that with so important a message that God has given us, this "beginning" is but "a seed," when compared to the work that will grow up in this part of God's vineyard.

Academy Board Meeting.

This meeting was held at Keene, May 14-19. It was a meeting of special interest and importance. In addition to the local Board at Keene, there were present Eld. W. A. McCutchen, President of the Texas Conference, Eld. G. F. Haffner, President of the Oklahoma Conference, and Eld. A. E. Field, President of the Arkansas Conference. The choosing of a man to stand at the head in the place occupied by Professor Lewis was an important matter. After much thought and prayer, Alvin Covert was chosen. His father, Elder William Covert, is a well-known man among our people. A German department was opened in the school with Prof. Kunze at the head. We feel that this department will be an important one in the school. Professor Buxton and Prof. J. L. Jones were selected as teachers for the coming year. The Model Church School department was continued with Sister Flora H. Williams at the head, as heretofore. This department we hope to see greatly enlarged the coming year. Prof. J. B. Fitch will teach Spanish. This department also we hope to see greatly increased, as this is the proper school to fit teachers and laborers for the Mexican field—a door that now stands wide open to be entered in a substantial manner. Prof. T. French will conduct the Commercial Department. A teacher will also be furnished from the Sanitarium to re-

present that line of work. Should the school be enlarged in attendance as we hope to see it, other instructors will be chosen later. Prof. H. E. Giddings declined the position formerly held by him in the Academy, on account of poor health. He will go in a few days to his home in Woodward County, Oklahoma, to spend the summer. May the Lord add his blessing to him during his stay there.

A large number of students go from the school to enter the work—some in the ministry, some as teachers, some to sell books, and others expect to enter the medical work as the way opens. The question was asked in the Sabbath meeting, "How many are there in the school who intend to give themselves entirely to the Lord and his work as the way opens," and nearly the whole school stood on their feet. We were impressed as we listened to the essays and speeches of the graduates, every one tending to one thought, namely, full consecration to the Lord.

This school is one of the most important things in this Conference to aid with our prayers and means. We cannot rest till it is free from debt and filled with students preparing to enter the work of the Lord. Now is the time for those living in cotton growing districts to take orders for Object Lessons to be delivered later. Take all the orders you can. Do not let the opportunity pass.

The printing press and things pertaining to it were turned over to the management of the Union Conference. Steps were taken to improve the campus, and remove the store and other buildings from the grounds to adjoining lots. The store will be enlarged to meet the growing trade. Brother Woodruff having resigned as foreman of the farm, Brother Creager was selected to take his place. Eugene Couch was retained as steward.

In connection with this meeting matters pertaining to the Union Conference were considered. We are glad to report there was unity of sentiment and unity of action that made us feel encouraged and happy. We truly felt that the Lord was with us, and we all go forward with courage in the work, believing the Lord will add his blessing the coming year. Let all join in earnest prayer for the prosperity of Zion.

Address all business communications to T. T. Stevenson, Business Manager, Keene, Texas.

G. G. R.

An Earnest Appeal.

We are sending this issue of the RECORD to all the isolated Sabbath keepers throughout the Union Conference. We do this, first, to let all know what we are doing in the Conference. Second, to ask all to subscribe for the RECORD at once for the year. This paper will be sent to all the paid-up subscribers of the *Oklahoma Gleaner* for the unexpired time, and also to the subscribers of the Arkansas paper. While it will be sent to them at a loss we will leave it to the subscribers whether they will pay the difference or not. It will take two thousand subscribers to pay the actual cost of the paper. This number we can hardly expect. You can see at once that we expect it to do much good or we would not publish it. We feel we must make it a live paper, filled with the spirit of the message it represents. Its success will depend on the united action of all in, first, contributing to its columns articles of interest; second, in working for its circulation. Let all put forth an effort to get all the subscribers possible. It should go to every family in the Union Conference.

We will make the following proposition: We will wait three months on those who have not the ready cash if they will order at once. Here is an opportunity to show your interest in helping forward the work in our Conference. This offer will continue no longer than the time your attention is called to it; so do not delay. Order through your librarian, or you can send direct to your State Tract Society if you wish. We earnestly appeal to you to help us in starting the work in this Conference. Do not delay.

ALVIN COVERT, son of Elder William Covert, of Wisconsin, is the chosen Principal for the Keene Industrial School the coming year. He comes recommended by the highest authority, both in the denomination and the world, as a teacher of teachers and scholars. So we look for a good school the coming year. Now is the time to begin to plan. Now is the time to begin to plan to attend the Academy. We expect the largest attendance ever had in Keene.

On May 26, 1902, the newly-formed Southwestern Union published its first edition of the *Southwestern Union Record*, a

weekly journal and the official organ of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Southwest.

This inaugural edition was eight pages of handset type, which was mailed to 1,800 households across the five states of the territory. The paper merged the Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas conference newsletters, as well as the Keene Industrial Educator, into a single edition with the purpose of sharing news with Adventist members who would find hope in reading a robust collection of news, testimonies and activities of fellow members from across the territory.

The managing editor of this new publication, G. G. Rupert, wrote, "The printed page should fall like autumn leaves. There is no line of work so encouraging as this. It brings the truth directly to the people."

From the beginning, the publication relied on members to share what was happening within their local communities with their broader Adventist family, and they did this through testimonies and news of

Project Ten: Trusting in His Promises

By Stephen Brooks, Executive Secretary



Project Ten is part of the Southwestern Union's five-year strategic plan. The goal is for our territory to experience 10 percent growth annually through baptisms and professions of faith, as well as reclaiming former members while becoming more intentional about retaining our new brothers and sisters. During the five years prior to COVID-19, we experienced an average annual baptism and profession of faith growth of approximately 3.5 percent. Though 10 percent baptism and profession of faith growth is almost three times greater than our average, partnering with God makes this goal attainable.

How might we achieve this goal? The answer has been clearly stated by Jesus the Christ, "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (NIV). Though Christ was commissioning the twelve as His witnesses more than 2,000 years ago, He was also speaking to us in extension.


In *Letters and Manuscripts, Manuscript 24, Volume 18* (1903), Ellen G. White wrote, "To us also the commission is given. We are bidden to go forth as Christ's messengers, to teach, instruct, and persuade men and women, to urge upon their attention the Word of life. And to us also the assurance of Christ's abiding presence is given ... God gave His Son up to shame and reproach and to an ignominious death that man might have eternal life. In view of this, why are we not working more earnestly to save sinners? Why are we so indifferent, so careless? Where is our faith, where our works?"

As we accept this high honor and responsibility, we will see major increases in the number of laborers partnering with God for the salvation of all. As a result, more individuals will be given the opportunity to accept Jesus Christ. We may not be certain of any individual's response to hearing the gospel, but we are certain that Christ is with us when we share it. He said, "...surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What a blessed assurance that no matter what we are faced with in the

service of our God, He will never leave us to face it alone. While we are inviting those for whom we labor to accept Jesus and His way, through the agency of the Holy Spirit, God is encouraging and empowering the soul to give his or her heart to Him.

I remember giving a series of Bible study lessons to a woman when I was 16 or 17 years old. It was probably my first time giving studies on my own. After we went through the final study in that series of lessons, I made the appeal, and to my amazement, she said yes! Later, she followed through and was baptized! It was clear to me that Jesus kept His promise. He said that He would be with me, and He surely was. He had been in each lesson study, clearing up anything that I was not clear on, straightening up anything that I was not straight on. I can testify that, through His Holy Spirit, He was there!

May we commit ourselves to Christ and allow Him to convert us afresh to the mission. Together under Christ we will accomplish our goal of 10 percent, even exceeding it far beyond what we could think or even imagine. 

New Year's Resolutions for the Whole Family

The new year is the perfect time to reflect on the ups and downs of the last 12 months. As you set your personal goals for the year ahead, consider looping in your children. Even little resolutions can make a big impact on your child's — and your entire family's — life.

Here are some benefits of making New Year's resolutions with your kids:

1. Boosting Family Togetherness

Resolutions can be good for children and families because they foster teamwork and support. Families come together and encourage one another, inspiring healthier habits for the whole family.

2. Understanding Time and Resource Management

Creating and following through with resolutions helps children learn how to plan. Break goals into smaller steps and provide resources to help your kids meet their goals, or alter their schedules should difficulties arise.

3. Learning Accountability

Setting a goal naturally encourages a level of accountability and responsibility. Helping your child with their goal makes you reflect on your goals, too, and motivates you to model positive behaviors for them.

4. Boosting Mastery and Self-Confidence

Increased self-confidence can be a wonderful result of achieving goals attached to New Year's resolutions for kids. Make sure their goals are small, realistic and accomplishable at first. When they're successful, it bolsters their confidence and makes them feel they can set bigger goals.

How to Guide Children in Their New Year's Resolutions



Decide on goals as a family and let your kids originate their own ideas from self-reflection so they can commit to them. Your role is to guide and fine-tune each child's ideas to be reasonable and realistic. Make a family resolution plan and work together to set family goals as well as each child's personal goals.

If ideas come up, seek help from the appropriate expert, such as your child's pediatrician, or get a specialized referral if necessary. It's always a good idea to discuss your child's health goals with their pediatrician or family medicine physician because this person knows your child and can offer guidance and support on a clinical and personal level.

"The healthiest families I've seen are the families that do activities together," said Shiv Patel, MD, Texas Health Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South sports medicine orthopedic surgeon. "Health literacy and health outcomes start from childhood on. If you have a foundation and knowledge since your childhood, you're set up for success when you get older."

Goal-Setting Tips

Start with short-term, attainable goals and stick to two to four goals at one time. Schedule routine check-in periods to reinforce accountability and make sure to recognize accomplishments, no matter how small.

To Reward or Not Reward

When it comes to resolutions or health goals, success alone should be the motivating factor to foster in kids. Self-accomplishment and verbal praise should be enough. It's an important lesson to learn that not everything comes with monetary or tangible rewards.

Partnering to Help Families Achieve Health Goals

While the start of the year is a perfect time for self-reflection and goal setting, healthy goals can be set at any point in the year as long as the entire family is on board, ready and willing to make the commitment together. [®]

The original version of this article is posted on [AdventHealth.com](https://www.adventhealth.com).

Hold Onto *His Promises*

*103-year-old Alice Capps Hudgins
Shares Lessons From a Life Lived for Christ*



The Bible sits open on her lap and she holds a magnifying glass over the page, but Alice Capps Hudgins doesn't need to read the words. She knows them by heart. Her voice is quiet, but the words are clear and her conviction unwavering as she recites Psalm 103 from memory. She begins, "Praise the Lord, my soul; all my inmost being, praise His holy name. Praise the Lord, my soul, and forget not all His benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases..." As she concludes her recitation of the

22 verses, she shares that Psalm 103 is one of her favorite Bible chapters, and one she has had memorized nearly all of her life.

Born Alice Meleen on Jan. 15, 1919, she was raised in an Adventist missionary family in Bangalore, India. Alice turns 103 in 2022, and is one of the oldest Seventh-day Adventist members in the Southwestern Union. While she lived in India for her first 18 years of life and was homeschooled by her mother and tutors, she and her sisters also attended the missionary

children's boarding school, Vincent Hills School, in India before she went on to the Seminaire Adventiste in Collonges, France, Union Springs Academy in New York and Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts. In the late 1940s she came to Texas to become a school teacher. While there, she met Sam Capps. They married in 1950 and had four children, David, Irene, Sammie and Julie.

Over the course of 57 years, Alice and Sam raised their children in the Keene, Tex. area, while Alice was a

school teacher and they were active in mission work and with church community. Alice also enjoyed traveling the world and learning about various cultures.

When Sam passed away at the age of 84 in 2006, they were members of the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. Alice later married a fellow retired school teacher, James Hudgins, who passed away in December of 2020.

Alice dedicated her life to Christian education through her work in Adventist schools and she even wrote a children's book with Bible stories illustrated with children's drawings. Her book, *The Secret in the Acorn: A Kid's View of Fundamental Biblical Teachings*, can be found at the Adventist Book Center.


Much has changed in the Southwestern Union, in the Adventist Church, in the United States and around the globe in Alice's lifetime, but her hope remains in the promises

she finds in the Bible and in the Spirit of Prophecy. She says she has hope for the young people of the church as they struggle with difficult questions in life, but encourages them to turn to the Bible and God for strength and wisdom.

Each morning, Alice sits with her caregiver, Amy, and a small Bichon Frise, Skippy, and they read the Bible together. They sit on a porch swing on the patio in her backyard and talk about God's goodness and promises as they watch Skippy explore flowers and trees.

"I look forward to heaven. To being with my family again. To seeing God," she says. Alice shares another favorite passage, this time from Ellen G. White's *Steps to Christ*: "It was possible for Adam, before the fall, to form a righteous character by obedience to God's law. But he failed to do this, and because of his sin our natures are fallen and we cannot make ourselves righteous. Since we

are sinful, unholy, we cannot perfectly obey the holy law. We have no righteousness of our own with which to meet the claims of the law of God. But Christ has made a way of escape for us. He lived on earth amid trials and temptations such as we have to meet. He lived a sinless life. He died for us, and now He offers to take our sins and give us His righteousness. If you give yourself to Him, and accept Him as your Savior, then, sinful as your life may have been, for His sake you are accounted righteous. Christ's character stands in place of your character, and you are accepted before God just as if you had not sinned."

"If anyone needs encouragement, I would tell them to read *Steps to Christ* and their Bibles. Read Psalm 103," she says. "Remember that through Him, we can be accepted as though we have never sinned." 



Children: Our Most Precious Gifts



The Children’s Ministries Department of the Southwestern Union supports the five conferences and their children’s ministries departments, children’s ministries departments in our churches and parents and caregivers who are looking for spiritually-enriching resources for their children. This year marks the seventh annual children’s ministries leadership training retreat, an event intended to provide fellowship, training, information, and resources to the volunteers who take on the vital responsibility of children’s ministries. This year’s training retreat will take place in person, at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Texas.

“Children are our most precious gifts,” says Sonia Canó, children’s ministries director for the Southwestern Union. “It is our job to protect, encourage and train them with loving guidance so that they will have a wonderful example of who God is and how much He loves them.

In children’s ministries, we provide tools and training to create that environment in our churches and in our homes.”

Canó also works to empower volunteers in children’s ministries so that they feel confident about making space for children’s ministries within their own churches. “Some of our churches haven’t yet embraced having our children as a part of our worship together. It’s important for children to be valued and to be a part of our services,” she says.

One way to accomplish this is through a children’s Sabbath day, says Canó. “While we have an official Children’s Sabbath Day in the fall of each year, I would encourage our pastors and church leaders to think about how our children can participate in each service, or on a more regular basis.”

Understanding the importance of protecting our children, providing volunteer training on how to spot

predators, and providing volunteer screening tools are additional ways that children’s ministries support local leaders.

“Adventist Screening Verification is a tool that can be found on our website and should be utilized for anyone looking to volunteer. It’s a great first step in protecting our children,” says Canó.

Canó and her team of conference coordinators also provide training on various aspects of children’s ministries throughout the year as requested by conferences and churches, including training on the topics of Vacation Bible School, Sabbath School, Children’s Safety, and more. She also trains on the North American Division Children’s Ministries Certification Tracks at the annual retreat and at area trainings. For more information and upcoming events, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Children or email Sonia at scano@swuc.org. [®]

Making the Impossible, Possible

By Kisha R. Norris, Texas Conference Vice President for Education



When Sarah heard about a Seventh-day Adventist school in her area, she was determined to go. Completing the online application that day, she was excited to receive an acceptance letter via email. With school starting in less than two weeks, the school business manager saw that finances would be a challenge for Sarah's family. Thankfully, anonymous donors were willing to make up the difference that the church, school and family were not able to pay.

The expression "it takes a village" certainly applies to Adventist education. Between the church, home and school, we have to work together to raise a generation prepared for success in this life as well as eternity.

It is an indescribable feeling to visit the campuses and see students develop personal relationships with Jesus. From pastors giving Bible

studies to teachers exemplifying Christ-like behavior, the spiritual focus is second to none.

Miracle stories are heartwarming, and there are many of them. Unfortunately, there are also heartbreaking stories of families who desire to have their children in a Seventh-day Adventist school but don't think it is financially possible.

Growing up in a single parent home, I know about tough times. I also know that with God, the impossible is possible. My mom had a strong faith and was determined to enroll me in the local Adventist school. Her commitment and dedication were a testament to me that my Adventist education was of high importance, and the sacrifice to make it a reality was a key component to our family life and future.

Now, as the Texas Conference Vice President for Education, I see first-


hand the challenges our schools face. Lack of finances is certainly among the chief concerns.

When Kenn Dixon, Texas Conference vice president for Communication and Public Relations, mentioned having a cycling tour to raise awareness and funds for Adventist education, I was all in. I had worked with him on previous cycling tours but I knew that the need and goal, \$1.5 million, was even greater for this one.

Virtual options provided the opportunity for anyone to walk, ride or cycle in their own area to raise funds. Reaching the goal would provide scholarships for families needing a little extra financial support.

Sadly, my mother is unable to see the fruits of her determination, but the stars are growing on her crown through each life touched by her story. She wanted the best for every student who passed through the doors of her classroom. It is my honor to continue her legacy and care for our future generations by doing whatever I can to make Adventist education a reality for all who want to experience it.

Maybe you have a student in your church or neighborhood who could benefit from a Christian education at one of our schools. Reach out to the principal to see if your local "village" could make an eternal difference for a child.

The Texas Conference's journey continues with the next Determined Cycling Tour, scheduled for April 3-9, 2022. Experienced cyclists are welcome to join the 400-mile ride from San Antonio to Arlington, Tex. For more information, visit TexasAdventist.org/determined or email Determined@txsda.org. Together we can be determined to make an eternal difference for our young people. 

Wherever *He Leads*

Buford and Carmen Griffith Retire

For the past 42 years, Buford and Carmen Griffith have served the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Buford as a pastor, ministry leader and administrator; Carmen through her work as an elementary teacher and ministry leader; and together as partners in family ministries. Now, the Griffiths have officially retired but know God still has work for them. "You never know where God will take you next," Buford says. "And though we may be retired, we know there is still work to be done."

Buford, who goes by Buddy, was born in Tanner, Ala., and raised in Louisville, Ky., as a second generation Adventist. He attended Oakwood College in Huntsville, Ala., in order to become a registered medical technologist, and it was at Oakwood where he met Carmen.

A native of Puerto Rico, Carmen was a talented musician who was studying elementary education.

As a part of the medical technologist program, Buford would spend his senior year at Kettering for training. Carmen and Buford married in 1970, and, after graduating, he continued to work at Kettering for eight years before being called full-time to the ministry. Buford became a pastor for the Allegheny West Conference, serving the several churches and districts before he was called to the Southwestern Union as a





departmental director in 1998.

While Buford worked at Kettering and later for the Allgheny West Conference, Carmen became a school teacher for the Ohio Conference, working for many years at Spring Valley Academy teaching fourth and fifth grade. Fifty years later, she says she still keeps in touch with as many students as she can. It was in Ohio and at Kettering that their son and daughter were born.

When Buford was called to the Southwestern Union, Carmen began teaching for Mansfield ISD, and also took on a part-time position in

2006 with women's ministries, family ministries and the ministerial spouses at the Union. After retiring from teaching in 2013, she continued her role in these three departments. In 2020, the Griffiths were honored by the North American Division's Family Ministries Department for their years of dedicated services, specifically in the area of family ministries.

Though Buford and Carmen have now officially retired, a second time for Carmen, they have both committed to continuing to minister in the arena of family ministries as they are called by various churches and conferences.

They have even begun to use virtual methods to provide ministering opportunities. Buford also provides counseling for families and couples, and remains a board member for Texas Health Mansfield, an AdventHealth hospital, in Mansfield, Tex.

In their retirement, they look forward to spending time with their children and grandchildren, and continuing to follow God's guidance in their lives, and they are grateful for His providence through their lives. [®]

The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists Nondiscrimination Policy Statement For Adventist Schools

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

A complete list of all academies and elementary/junior academies is listed below:

Southwestern Union Conference 2021-2022

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Bentonville SDA School.....2522 SE 14th Street, Bentonville AR 72712
 Colquitt Christian Academy..... 3233 Colquitt Road, Shreveport LA 71118
 Ewing Adventist Jr. Acad.709 Adventist Church Rd., Bonnerdale AR 71933
 Greater New Orleans Chr Acad.....5220 Irving St., Metairie, LA 70006
 Harrison SDA School.....4877 Hwy. 392 West, Harrison AR 72601
 Hot Springs Adventist School.....401 Weston Road, Hot Springs AR 71913
 Jones Creek Adventist Academy4363 Jones Creek Rd, Baton Rouge LA 70816
 Little Rock Adventist Academy8708 Rodney Parham, Little Rock AR 72205
 Ozark Adventist School..... 21150 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry AR 72734

Academy

Ozark Adventist Academy20997 Dawn Hill East Road, Gentry, AR 72734

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

Ardmore Adventist Academy 154 Beavers Academy Rd., Ardmore OK 73401
 Bristow Adventist School P.O. Box 1074, Bristow OK 74010
 Heritage Adventist School.....20555 S. 4170 Rd. Unit B, Claremore, OK 74017
 Ketchum Adventist Academy 35369 S. Hwy 82, Vinita OK 74301
 Muskogee SDA Christian Acad..... 170 N. Country Circle Rd., Muskogee OK 74403
 Parkview Adventist Academy 4201 Martin Luther King, Oklahoma City OK 73111
 Pioneer Adventist Chr Sch P.O. Box 1245, Guymon OK 73942
 Tulsa Adventist Academy900 S. New Haven, Tulsa OK 74112

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Applegate Adventist Jr. AcademyP.O. Box 729, Round Rock TX 78680
 Bethel Adventist School.....P.O. Box 660. Texarkana TX 75501
 Emmanuel Adventist School702 N. Cherry St., Hammond LA 70401
 Excel Adventist Academy P.O. Box 2240, Missouri City TX 77489
 Martin Luther King, Jr. Chr Acad..... 4295 Prescott Court, Baton Rouge LA 70805
 New Orleans Adventist Academy4500 Gawain Drive, New Orleans LA 70127
 Shiloh Excel Christian School.....2400 S Maple St., Little Rock AR 72204
 S.W. Adventist Jr. Academy 1600 Bonnie View Road, Dallas TX 75203

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Advent Ridge Academy..... 1523 Old Ranch Road 12, San Marcos TX 78667
 Burleson Adventist School..... 1635 Fox Lane, Burleson TX 76028
 Burton Adv. Elem. School4611 Kelly-Elliott Road, Arlington TX 76017
 Cleburne Adv Christian School.....111 Meadowview Drive, Cleburne TX 76033

TEXAS CONFERENCE (CONTINUED)

Coggin Memorial School.....6645 Downing St., Corpus Christi TX 78414
 Conroe Adventist Academy..... 3601 S Loop 336 E, Conroe TX 77301
 Cypress Bend Adventist School.....2997 FM 728, Jefferson TX 75657
 Dallas Christian Academy.....4025 N. Central Expressway, Dallas TX 75204
 Ft. Worth Adv Jr. Academy..... 3040 Sycamore School Rd, Ft Worth TX 76133
 Garland Chr Adventist School1702 E. Centerville Road, Garland TX 75041
 Houston Adventist Elem. School..... 11735 Grant Road, Cypress, TX 77429-2973
 Joshua Adventist Multi-Grade.....1912 Conveyer Road, Joshua TX 76058
 Katy Adventist Christian School..... 1913 East Avenue, Katy TX 77493
 Keene Adventist Elementary School.....302 Pecan, Keene TX 76059
 Killeen Adv Jr. Academy..... 3412 Lake Road, Killeen TX 76543
 Knowledge Seekers Chr School.....1471 W Corporate Dr, Lewisville TX 75067
 Laredo Adventist Christian School.....3108 Columbia Drive, Laredo TX 78046
 North Dallas Adventist Elem School 2800 Custer Pkwy, Richardson TX 75080
 Scenic Hills SDA School..... 11223 Bandera Road, San Antonio TX 78250
 South Texas Christian Academy7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen TX 78504
 Stonehill Christian Academy4301 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville TX 78660
 Tyler SDA School.....2931 South S.E. Loop 323, Tyler TX 75701

Academies

Burton Adventist Academy..... 4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington TX 76017
 Chisholm Trail AcademyP.O. Box 717, Keene TX 76059
 Houston Adventist Academy 11735 Grant Rd., Cypress TX 77429
 North Dallas Adventist Academy 2800 Custer Pkwy, Richardson TX 75080
 South Texas Christian Academy7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen TX 78504

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Abilene Jr. Academy 2542 E. Overland Trail, Abilene TX 79601
 Adventist Academy of Santa Fe P.O. Box 28327, Santa Fe NM 87592
 Crestview SDA Academy6000 Ouray NW, Albuquerque NM 87120
 El Paso Adventist Jr. Academy 3510 George Dieter Dr., El Paso TX 79936
 Lubbock Junior AcademyP.O. Box 6277, Lubbock TX 79493
 Sandia View Christian School......024 Academy Dr., Corrales NM 87048
 Sandia View Academy.....65 Sandia View Lane, Corrales NM 87048



January Events

14-16

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
FUSE: Public Campus Ministries Retreat
Lake Whitney Ranch
MMauk@swuc.org

17

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
Office Closed
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

February Events

19

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE
Conference Level PBE Event
DCraig@arklac.org

21

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
Office Closed
President's Day

26

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE
Pathfinder Conference Level Bible Bowl
Shreveport, La.
DCraig@arklac.org

27

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
A Night at the Meyerson
SWAU.edu

March Events

2-5

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE
Ozark Academy Music Festival
Ozark Adventist Academy
Information@ozarkacademy.org

4-5

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
Fanning the Flames of Evangelism/
Avivando la Llama del Evangelismo
Embassy Suites Hilton, Oklahoma City
SBrooks@swuc.org

6-12

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
More Compassion Mission Trip
South Louisiana
MMauk@swuc.org

11-13

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE
OAA Alumni and OAA Gala
Ozark Adventist Academy
Information@ozarkacademy.org

11-13

SOUTHWESTERN UNION
Children's Ministries Training Retreat
Athens, Tex.
SCano@swuc.org

24-26

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE
Adventurer Family Campout
Camp Yorktown Bay
MarshaSalzman@yahoo.com

Nearly 4,000 Pathfinders Attend Union Camporee

BURLESON, TEX. — Nearly 4,000 Pathfinders and volunteers from across the Southwestern Union were in attendance for the Union-wide Pathfinder Camporee, “It’s My Time” at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex., on Oct. 29-31, 2021. The “It’s My Time” theme was based on Matthew 5:14-16, in reference to letting our lights shine, and the speakers throughout the weekend encouraged the Pathfinders to recognize that the time to shine for Jesus is now.

Pathfinders arrived to the camp on Thursday afternoon in time to set up camp and mingle before heading to the opening session at the main pavilion to hear from the guest presenter, Nicardo Delaheye and youth presenter Abraham Hutahaeen, as well as enjoy a skit from the Tyler Trailblazers and hear music from the DFW Tamaraw Fil-Am Club.

Friday was filled with activities and honors, from horseback riding and

blacksmithing to braiding and Bible trivia. The Friday evening session with Delaheye and youth speaker Alex UC, along with a skit by the Little Rock Central Club, was inspirational for the young Pathfinders.

Sabbath dawned bright and early as thousands of Pathfinders marched across the campground to the main pavilion for Sabbath worship.

In the afternoon, two separate groups were baptized in the Lone Star Camp pool, with 29 young people making the decision to follow Christ.

Sabbath evening’s social activities allowed the Pathfinders to wind down from a weekend full of activities and enjoy fellowship with other Pathfinder Clubs. After a devotional together on Sunday morning, Pathfinders packed up and headed home. The Southwestern Union is already planning its next Union-wide camporee for 2026!





Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Conference Announced

BURLESON, TEX. – The Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department, led by Southwestern Union Executive Secretary, Evangelism Director and Religious Liberty Director Stephen Brooks, invites our conference leaders, members and church lay leaders to attend a Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Conference to be held April 1-3, 2022 in Albuquerque, N.M.

According to Brooks, anyone interested in understanding the work

of public affairs and religious liberty and those who are interested in the foundational steps to creating a vibrant ministry in their community are especially invited to attend and learn how this ministry can be an important outreach tool in their communities.

For more information or to register, contact the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department at 817.295.0476, or visit SouthwesternAdventist.org.



Fanning the Flames of Evangelism

BURLESON, TEX. – You won't want to miss Fanning the Flames of Evangelism, a bilingual evangelism rally, witnessing, and training event coming to Oklahoma City on March 4-5, 2022!

The Southwestern Union's Evangelism Department is thrilled to present a lineup of presenters and seminars that will touch nearly every

ministry in your church that will provide inspiration and leave you empowered to move forward in ministry.

Presenters will include leaders from the Southwestern Union, Oklahoma Conference and Southwest Region Conference, and will include topics such as personal evangelism and witnessing, children's, family, women's

and men's ministries and their role in evangelism, and much more.

Register for Fanning the Flames of Evangelism now at SouthwesternAdventist.org/Evangelism. For more information, please visit the website or contact the Evangelism Department at NGreenidge@swuc.org.

FANNING THE FLAMES OF EVANGELISM

PRESENTED BY THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION

EVANGELISM, PERSONAL MINISTRIES, AND WITNESSING RALLY & TRAINING

MARCH 4-5, 2022

EMBASSY SUITES BY HILTON
1815 SOUTH MERIDIAN, OKLAHOMA CITY

James Shires	Tyrone Boyd	Robin Lopez	Tony Anobile	Sonia Canó	Stephen Brooks	Osvaldo Rigacci	Carlos Craig	Helvis Moody

More Compassion Youth Mission Trip to South Louisiana

BURLESON, TEX. – Each year, the Southwestern Union’s Young Adult and Youth Department collaborates with our conferences for an internal mission trip to an area within our territory that is in need. In 2022, the More Compassion Mission Trip will be taken on March 6-12 in the South Louisiana area to assist in much needed cleanup, construction and other activities after Hurricane Ida in the Fall of 2021.

According to Helvis Moody, young adult and youth director, there is much need in the area, but space will be limited due to housing limitations and restrictions.

Visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth for more information or contact the Young Adult and Youth Department at MMauk@swuc.org. Registration opens soon!

7th Annual Children’s Ministries Training Retreat is March 11-13

BURLESON, TEX. – Children’s ministries leaders—are you new in your position of leading out in children’s ministries at your church, or stuck in a rut of doing the same old thing?

The Southwestern Union’s Children’s Ministries Training Retreat on March

11-13 will inspire you and energize your ministry!

At this retreat in beautiful Athens, Tex., you will fellowship with other children’s ministries leaders while exploring children’s spiritual styles and gaining new ideas. You’ll even get

to be a kid again during our Vacation Bible School training!

A comfortable cabin is waiting for you and your team at Lone Star Camp. Regular registration ends on February 13—visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/Children to register today.

SWAU Receives Second HSI Grant from U.S. Department of Education

KEENE, TEX. – Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU) was recently awarded a \$4 million Hispanic-Serving Institution Title III F STEM Grant from the U.S. Department of Education, provided by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), for their STEM Excellence project proposal.

“The funds provided by this grant provide a great opportunity for SWAU to raise our emphasis on STEM careers and create a network of support for students who are at risk,” explains Donna Berkner, vice president for academic administration at SWAU.

According to the project’s abstract, the STEM Excellence project “addresses identified needs of Hispanic students, as well as low-income and high-need students in biology and other STEM disciplines, enabling them to complete a college degree and shorten their time to completion of that degree.” The proposal also includes a unique element for a STEM project—mental health support for students.

“The ramifications of a global pandemic include mental and emotional challenges students previously may not have experienced,” explains

Austen Powell, Pathways to Success project director. “The U.S. Department of Education saw an increasing need for mental health services at colleges and universities, which is why this element was included as part of the proposal.”

To address mental health needs on the SWAU campus, part of the grant money awarded will go toward establishing a full-time counselor position as well as purchasing software to allow students to seamlessly check-in and schedule appointments. The university also intends to provide mental health training for all faculty and staff.

Another designated portion of the grant award will be used to remodel and enhance biology labs at the university. One hundred percent of the lab project will be funded by the grant, and plans to begin the project are underway.

“This grant will allow us to develop and equip a dedicated student research lab and to redesign STEM learning spaces to make them more collaborative and student-focused,” comments Erin Maloney, professor of biology. “We’re thrilled to be able to expand our biological science programs and undergraduate research to

give our students more opportunities to engage with STEM in ways that are most inspiring to them.”

The university has plans to hire two additional biology faculty and is working on updating its curriculum which will include a math course specifically created to intersect with the biology program. Through this grant, SWAU has also developed a transfer student program to provide peer mentors called Course Navigators to advise new students on which courses to take, tutor upper-division courses and simply provide any needed support.

Incoming students make the Department of Biological Sciences the fourth-largest program for the 2021-2022 school year. This new grant from the U.S. Department of Education will provide current and future classes with the ability to learn in a cutting-edge environment, led by highly qualified professors.

“This grant has opened doors for our students to succeed in marvelous ways and allows us to increase the excellence of our programs so when they graduate, our students will have the tools they need to succeed,” says Powell.

By Becky St. Clair



What It Means to Be a Knight

KEENE, TEX. – For Kari Lively, a SWAU online student with plans to obtain her Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Southwestern Adventist University’s (SWAU) online program gave her a unique perspective on what it means to “Be A Knight.”

SWAU provides a Christ-centered education that inspires knowledge, faith and service on campus and on-line. For Lively, SWAU’s online program has helped her gain confidence in herself not only at school, but at home and in her community as well.

What does it mean to Be a Knight?

To me, it means learning and being confident in who I am while I am learning and balancing school and everyday life.

What led you to pursue your Bachelor of Science in Nursing?

I started in 2017, but then my mother got sick, so my nursing education got pushed to the back burner. I was a single mom working full-time, so I had a bunch of other stuff to deal with. Soon, I was ready to switch positions

which required more from my degree. I was driving by one day when I saw the electronic sign out front advertising online classes, so I looked into it and thought it might be perfect for me. I knew I wanted to go back to school so I could finish my BS. When I found out about SWAUonline, I looked into it more, and it was perfect. I was able to afford it, and the program allowed me to have the flexibility I needed while juggling being a wife, mom, full-time employee and student.

What is the learning experience like at SWAUonline and why does it appeal to you?

The learning experience has been great and the faculty and staff have been incredibly helpful. I was nervous going back to school since I had been out for quite some time, but everyone has been so kind and understanding with not only homework, but life at home.

How has SWAU changed your relationship with Christ, even as an online student?

I’ve had the opportunity to read Ellen G. White writings as part of our curriculum for Michael Campbell, PhD, classes. My professors, Terri Gibson and Mrs. Mayfield, have also been amazing. My mother was sick and recently passed away, and both of these individuals exhibited grace and continue to check on me.

What would you say to someone who is interested in the SWAUonline program?

Just do it and start. It’s a good, solid program; it may take a bit to learn and get used to, but it’s doable. It’s a good atmosphere, and the teachers cater to each individual student, truly wanting to help us succeed.

Being a Knight has helped Kari Lively succeed in every aspect of her life. She enjoys being able to grow in knowledge, faith and service, knowing SWAU is there for her. Learn more about SWAU’s online program at SWAU.edu/Online.

*By Kaitlyn Briones,
Public Relations Manager*





Keep Your Eye On One Thing!

I remember my first driving experience at the ripe old age of five. I was behind the wheel of a 1939 John Deere B tractor. I loved that old tractor. It was awesome. To my young ears, the sound of a two-cylinder John Deere was like music from a symphony. I remember often riding with my dad on that tractor—oh, what joy!

One day, he said, I could drive. He showed me all the important items on the tractor, where the brakes were, the handheld clutch, the gear shift, throttle and, of course, the steering wheel. Off we went! What a thrill it was to drive that old machine.

There is one lesson my dad taught me on that tractor that I have never forgotten. He said that if you want a straight row, pick out a point at the end of the field and keep your eye on it. Drive right to that point. Don't look to the right or left; keep your eye fixed on that point and you'll always be centered up. And it worked!

I have learned in life that dad's counsel applies to spiritual things as well. As we near the soon return of Jesus, it is of utmost importance to keep our eyes fixed on one thing—Jesus! Nothing is more important.

There is the ever-present temptation to engage in church politics and try to label folk as either liberal or conservative. There is the constant arguing on social media and websites about who is right theologically in the church. But don't fall into this trap. It only takes your eyes off Christ.

As we begin a new year, I strongly encourage you to take a break from all that is around you and solely focus on the Master. Ask the Holy Spirit to make Jesus real as you open His Word and study for yourself. Soak in the beauty of His love, His character, His life. Test everything you hear and see by His Word, such as, "To the law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this word, it is because there

is no light in them." Isaiah 8:20 (KJV). The apostle Paul follows it up well in Hebrews 12:2 (NASB), "fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...".

May your 2022 be full of joy and abundance, not looking to the right or left, but fixed and centered on Jesus.

By Richard C. Dye, Sr., President



Vacation Bible School in Texarkana

TEXARKANA, TEX. – What could be better at creating wonderful, happy memories of church life in a child’s mind than Vacation Bible School (VBS)? This year, the children of Texarkana experienced all the wonders of “Rocky Railway: Jesus’ Power Pulls Us Through.” Stacy Sowers, VBS leader, shared that they averaged 24 children each evening from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. The goal was to teach the children how to trust Jesus in every situation.

The children joined the passengers on the Rocky Railway each night and had a new, immersive experience with different Bible stories. They got to meet with Ananias, they sailed on a ship with prisoner Paul, and they learned through it all that they are stronger when they stay connected to Jesus. The kids watched videos of other young ones their age making a difference in the part of the world where they live, starting with one single act of kindness.

At the “Imagination Station,” the little Train Riders were able to build or create items that helped them to remember and share the daily Bible lesson. One of the favorite activities was heading to the fellowship hall

where they sat at tables resembling train engines to enjoy the nightly snack.

Each evening began and ended with the children gathering together in the sanctuary where that day’s Bible focus was presented in a marked and meaningful way, keeping with the railway theme. They all sang together and learned the most important lesson—how Jesus can pull us through anything, like the engine pulls the train cars.

The highlight of the week was when the children saw “Jesus” come down from the cross, connecting the railroad tracks to show them that He is the only way to stay on the right track to Heaven.

Like any good leader, Stacy is fully aware that the week-long program could not have become a reality without the support of her many VBS partners. She wants to express a heartfelt “thank you” to all who helped her each evening, as well as the entire church family who supported her in many and various ways.

By Loretta Johnson



How Powerful is the Word of God?

SHREVEPORT, LA. – With the beginning of a new year, I encourage you to join me in reading the Bible! This new year will pose more challenges and more opportunities than ever before. I am convinced that the devil will throw more at us than we even anticipate. However, there is no reason to be discouraged. God will see us through! His Word will be our shield and defense!

In addition to reading His Word, let’s memorize His Word. One of my mentors, H.M.S. Richards, Sr., used to commit whole chapters to memory. What a great and wholesome resource!

You ask how powerful is the Word of God? Let me remind you that it was with Scripture that Jesus overcame the devil’s three temptations in the wilderness. It was with Scripture that David prevailed as a man after God’s own heart.

Even the reluctant prophet Jonah recorded the most incredible evangelistic campaign in the great and wicked city of Nineveh. Never has a whole city repented like it did in his day. What a remarkable record for us in the last moments of the earth’s history!

As we see the day approaching, let’s be armed with the Word of God!

May we seize every opportunity to lift up Jesus. Let us live, work and lift up Jesus!

By Richard C. Dye, Sr., President



Finding Hope in the Midst of Despair

SHREVEPORT, LA. – Days of uncertainty followed the widespread devastation caused by Hurricane Ida which was compounded by several other tropical storms that hit the southern coast of Louisiana last fall. As God’s people, we are called to be living examples of God’s love and to provide a source of hope for so many experiencing seemingly hopeless situations. Lavidia Whitson, Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACSDR) director for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, was on the ground assessing the damage and the needs in each situation.

The everyday basics we need to live are hard to obtain when electricity, water, cell phones and gasoline are limited or no longer available. One of the main problems is that so many trees and electric lines are down and folks bringing help cannot get to the sites. A group of loggers from Northwest Arkansas who clear trees for a living was one of the first groups to offer assistance. They removed trees from, on and around 40 homes. They were self-contained and helped clear the way for other volunteers. Gas was in short supply and lines at gas

stations were long; often, gas was not available at all. Volunteers who came to help had to be able to get back home.

Before a group can go door to door to distribute supplies or offer assistance, they must have permission from the local parish governments. Adventist Community Services has been working with the different parishes for a long time and can usually get permission for work they want to do. Rules and requirements are changing, though, so individuals cannot just show up and start working on someone’s property without permission or a directing agency. It takes time to get things in place when responding to disasters. During the first two months, we have gone to 10 different locations with mobile units and have served over 750 families.

These disasters consist of more than the initial crisis that is portrayed by the news; the challenges are usually ongoing for a long while. Many of these people whose homes were damaged in the initial storm are still struggling to repair and replace the damage they sustained.

We have requested an ADRA grant

to help the Houma Indian Nation. Three-quarters of the tribe of 17,000 lost their homes. The Houma Indian Nation covers six parishes in Southern Louisiana. Each week we need more items to add to kits—cleaning supplies, personal care items and linen sandbags. We are using donated sandbags to hold the linens and personal care items since it is easier to hand out a bag than individual items.

The Lord has provided us two reasonably-priced rental vehicles, a Dodge Caravan and a small Penski van, for deliveries. We have also been blessed by Massachusetts ACS who sent 12 pallets of food items. We made over 600 food boxes in order to feed our volunteers. Church World Services provided lightweight blankets, personal care kits, school kits and wool blankets. The shrimpers and fishermen who work on the ocean asked for the heavier wool blankets because “They’re warm.” God is good, and God’s people are joining together to be His hands and feet. Thank you for the help you have given.

By Lavidia Whitson



Women’s Ministry to Philippine Street Children

TEXARKANA, TEX. – For the past four years, the women’s ministries department at the Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Church has partnered with Samaritan’s Purse at a local Baptist church for Operation Christmas Child. However, shipping costs have increased so much that they are more than the value of the contents of the box. After discussing this issue with our women’s group, we came up with a new plan. Ollie, Shanee Capobres’ husband from the Philippines, contacted the church there and arranged distribution of the gifts to children in the Philippines who live on the street. The church was able to make a video of the children

receiving the gifts so the people at the Texarkana church could see where the gifts went.

Kathy Farmer, current women's ministries and her group will continue with the Street Children’s Ministry which includes clothes, shoes, toys and school supplies. COVID has caused the need to adjust the way our ministries function, but the women's ministries department has stepped up to the task. By God's grace, we are able to continue the ministry to Randy Sam’s homeless shelter and to the battered women’s shelter in the Texarkana area.

By Loretta Johnson



Van Buren Central and North Spanish in Action

VAN BUREN, ARK. – On Sept. 25, 2021, David Craig presented a District Youth Sabbath for the Van Buren Central and Van Buren North Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Churches.

On Oct. 8, 2021, all the Adventurers and Pathfinders from the two churches gathered for a special Induction Ceremony. We are happy to have the Van Buren Adventurer and

Pathfinder Clubs registered in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference circles still abound all around us every day despite what seems like chaos in our communities.



Teen Prayer Conference Resumes

MOUNTAIN PINE, ARK. – The Arkansas-Louisiana Prayer Ministries team, under the direction of Lanette Bieber, held the Annual Teen Prayer Conference at Camp Yorktown Bay (CYB) on Oct. 22-24, 2021.

It was the first time getting our young people together since COVID-19 hit; the conference was enthusiastically attended by 107

young people and their sponsors. The weather was perfect spending time outside in nature, and it was wonderful to be back at Camp Yorktown Bay for the Sabbath activities.

The theme was “Choices” and the five speakers shared about the direction their lives had taken as a result of choices they had made at different times in their lives. The young

people divided up into groups and rotated through different activities designed to give them experience with trusting in God even when you can't see the end from the beginning.

The music was outstanding—Jefferson Christian Academy led out in the song services and closed the conference with a mini concert.

By Sylvia Downs





Jesus' Plans and Ours

In John 17:4, Jesus made an interesting statement. Speaking to His Father He said, "I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do." It is clear from this statement and many others like it that Jesus' work, or plans, were given to Him by His Father, and He followed the plans that were given to Him. Of course, we know that it was a mutual plan to save as many people as possible on our lost and dying planet. These words were said before His crucifixion and resurrection and they were referring to His calling, training and sending out the disciples to take the gospel to the world.

His plans, which He received from the Father and the Father committed to Him were to teach, preach and commission people to tell the world of God's love and plan of salvation. It also included the good news of His second coming and a new heaven and new earth. Recently, because of what has happened in our world in the last 18 months and the conditions of our nation and world, I am strongly impressed that the coming of Jesus is very near. Along with that, I have been

as strongly impressed that we all as Seventh-day Adventists need to tell the world of that and share the love and gospel of Christ with as many as possible. Now is our time to fulfill the mission given to us at the founding of our movement. We are called to tell the world that there is hope and help in Jesus alone. Our world will not get better, but worse and the only solution is a rescue from above, and that rescue is near and now is the time to prepare.

In thinking about planning for the New Year, that is the vision the Lord has given me and I have shared it with our pastors and executive committee. When I did so, I found that we are all on the same page and as I visit churches and talk to church boards and church members, we all feel the same way.

The question that may be asked is what is God's plan for me individually and how do I finish the work that God wants me to do? Good question. I believe there is help for all of us in this statement in *Desire of Ages*, "The Son of God was surrendered to the Father's will and dependent on His power. So utterly was Christ emptied of self that

He made no plans for Himself. He accepted God's plans for Him, and day by day the Father unfolded His plans. So are we to depend on God, that our lives may be a simple outworking of His will."

I see in this statement the result of a close relationship, asking God for His will and plans to be revealed to us and a surrender to those plans, along with a dependence on God for His power to do so. I believe that is the best vision for a great new year, unfolded day by day.

By James Shires, President



“Let It Rain” Oklahoma Conference Native American Camp Meeting

WEWOKA, OKLA.— A calm, quiet evening. A warm fire in the lodge overlooking a peaceful lake. It was the perfect setting for the Oklahoma Conference’s Native American Camp Meeting which took place Oct. 22-23. The weekend’s theme, “Let It Rain,” was introduced by Jim Landelius, Native Ministries Assistant Director and Sabbath began with Jennifer LaMountain’s luminous vocals.

Landelius led Friday evening’s program, describing a city on a hill that cannot be hid, (Matthew 5:13-16) and telling the story from Mark 5:1 about Jesus restoring a demon-possessed man. Jesus asked the healed man to stay in his village to share the Good News with others, and many of the man’s friends “marveled.” Native Elders are vital to Native communities and several speakers hold that status, lending expertise to the presentations. Native Elder Robert Burnette (Onandaga), Native Ministries Director, closed the meeting with a group prayer time where guests who felt led could share short prayers.

Sabbath morning started with North

Carolina pastor and Native Elder Scotty Deal (Tuscarora) playing “Amazing Grace” on a native flute. Burnette shared “How to Teach A Vibrant Sabbath School,” stressing the importance of meeting people’s needs by understanding what they might know rather than assuming they have a spiritual background—many have never read a Bible or any spiritual books. He suggested posting scriptures around our homes so that we will see the words of God before us, and they will become part of our thoughts and vocabulary.

Guests were blessed with a short concert by Jennifer LaMountain between Sabbath School and the worship message by Oklahoma Conference President James Shires. Sabbath afternoon topics included church growth and how to present the plant-based lifestyle program “Diabetes Undone” to communities. Native Elder Fred Rogers spoke about Adventist and Jewish beliefs in Indian culture; Landelius shared how to present lessons on interpersonal relationships from CREATION Health. These health

issues are relevant to Native Americans who tend to suffer from diabetes and suicide at a high rate.

Closing the conference, Deal sang “You Raise Me Up” and shared a message about knowing our true worth, titled “The Gospel in a Dime.” Deal spoke openly about his crooked path to God, including his “success” as a drug dealer, how God miraculously saved his life five times, and how he finally relented to God’s call in a nightclub 24 years ago. With his voice trembling, Deal emphasized that no matter how lost we are, Jesus is desperate to save us. He shared how he and his wife were shopping at a home improvement store when they encountered a former friend. The friend didn’t recognize Deal at first without his long hair and old attitude, but 10 minutes later, they were praying by the appliances. Afterward, the friend revealed that he was at the store in order to put off going home where he intended to end his life. In fact, he had loaded his shotgun earlier that day.

By Caroline Fisher



Women's Ministries Fall Retreat

NORMAN, OKLA. – On Oct. 10, 2021, the Oklahoma Conference Women's Ministries Department hosted a fall retreat at the Embassy Suites in Norman, Okla. The theme was "Guard Your Heart and Grow in Jesus Christ." There were women in attendance from across the entire state and also from our wonderful neighboring state, Texas.

While the long lines subsided, registration badges were passed out, and the women walked into a beautiful ballroom. Each table was decorated with a small gift, resources and a beautiful centerpiece. The theme color was blue; a wonderful variety of beautiful women could be seen wearing beautiful shades of blue.

After a few announcements, a beautiful poem and the welcome by Karol Mosbey, a rousing roll call of the churches present was given by Ella Suttle. The program began with an invitation from Josiah Mullins for sisters to worship together. The women sang hymns of worship, followed by the platform speaker, Cynthia Mercer. She taught about the

importance of guarding your heart and the steps to take to do so. It was a phenomenal unpacking of scripture focusing on the importance of sisters supporting and helping each other while guarding their heart.

After a delicious lunch consisting of pasta, grilled vegetables and sandwiches, the second part of the program began. Ninett Campos, Hispanic Ministries and Women's Ministries leader, and Damaris Prieto led the women in making a beautiful craft jar containing Bible promises. While the craft was a blessing for the women present, there was also an emphasis to utilize it as an evangelistic tool to share with family, friends and other women.

The women were blessed with another awesome hymn by Josiah Mullins as well as an informative and transformational presentation about growing in Jesus by Cynthia Mercer. During both sessions, we had a wonderful ministry for the tween and teen girls led by three collegiate young women—Kiara Kincaid, Jimena Velazquez and Ariana Kincaid.

In addition, there was a talented

team of women who translated the messages into Spanish.

The final thought was presented by Karol Mosebey, who spoke the blessings from Deuteronomy 7:12-15 over the women. The retreat closed with prayer and a last hymn from Mullins, "It Is Well With My Soul."

God blessed the retreat immensely with His presence and His purpose. He kept the inclement weather from disrupting the retreat. Praise God! The retreat was an anointed and uplifting day of focusing on Jesus Christ, fellowship and fun activities for evangelism. Thank you Oklahoma Conference for your support of the women's ministries department. A special thank you to Carlene and Damaris Prieto for assisting and blessing the women in a profound way. Thank you to the team of volunteers; your service was excellent. A heartfelt thanks and blessing to every woman and girl who attended. May God continue to keep, guide, bless and transform you and your family all the days of your lives, in Jesus, name.

By Karol Mosbey



Tulsa Adventist Fellowship Dedicates Studio

TULSA, OKLA.— On Sept. 18, 2021, the Adventist Fellowship Podcast Studio in Tulsa, Okla. was officially dedicated and opened. The studio contains state-of-the-art video and audio production equipment for podcasts, video and all online production. The table, chairs, sound-proofing material, microphones and many other components were donated by Terry Gobbo, a faithful member of Adventist Fellowship. The studio was dedicated on behalf of her mother, Barbara Harper. Terry exemplifies a commitment to seeing the gospel shared locally and globally. She stated that sharing the gospel was her mother’s heartbeat, and she would be blessed to see such an awesome endeavor completed in her honor. We thank God for members like Terry Gobbo and her family who are proactive and committed to ensuring that our church, Adventist Fellowship, has current equipment for sharing the gospel.

In addition, our Conference Executive Secretary Apple Park was invited to tour the studio. He was pleased and excited to see the

awesome space and the technology being used for the gospel. Nic Coutet, Adventist Fellowship’s senior pastor, spoke about the extent that this studio will impact the community, the church and the world. Adventist Fellowship Project Manager Jackson Whitacre shared the importance of the vision for the studio. Kevin Mather prayed for the studio and the Harper-Gobbo family. There were many leaders and church family in attendance.

We want to thank the Gobbo family

and all of the volunteers who assisted in—building the studio, installing equipment, and more.

We are excited to witness the production of upcoming podcasts from our youth, young adults, pastors, women’s ministry and a plethora of other ministries. We praise God for this opportunity and privilege to lift up the name of Jesus with excellence through modern technology.

By Karol Mosbey



Ardmore Church Hosts Trinity Symposium

ARDMORE, OKLA.— “Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” 1 John 4:8. Have you ever deeply pondered this verse? The verse does not read that God displays love or that God demonstrates love but that God is love. A declaration of *being*. What a concept! Do you believe the Bible to be true? Was there ever a time when God was not love?

Where do we see the greatest demonstration of love? The family unit, as God has originally intended, places love on full display. True, love can exist between a young couple, but it is expanded exponentially when a child becomes the product of that loving relationship. Therefore, love is

perfected between three parties made in the image of God. This was one of many incredible insights covered in the recent Godhead/Trinity Symposium held in Ardmore.

Distinguished doctors Frank Hasel, Jiri Moskala, Denis Kaiser and Clinton Wahlen from the Biblical Research Institute graciously accepted an invitation from our local Oklahoma Conference officers to present on the topic of the Godhead, or Trinity, as one of the foundational Seventh-day Adventist Church biblical beliefs. They covered key evidence from the Old and New Testaments concerning the personal attributes of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Hasel gave an incredible Sabbath sermon on the necessity of humility—one of the Godhead’s chief attributes. It was a blessing to hear from such humble men who have been placed in positions of leadership within our greater church structure—pray for these men and their work!

If you missed this symposium in person, you will want to watch the presentations that were filmed and posted on the Ardmore Seventh-day Adventist YouTube channel: www.youtube.com/c/ArdmoreSDAChurch.

By Brock Mayer

Spanish Evangelism Baptizes New Members

TULSA, OKLA. – Preaching is about proclaiming God's truths to the world, and it should never be taken lightly. In the past few months, our Spanish churches have undertaken the ministry of preaching with enthusiasm, dedication, decisiveness and with the power of the Holy Spirit, trusting that we would see modern miracles and lives transformed by the power of God's word. In eight churches and eight groups in our conference, evangelistic campaigns resulted in the revival of churches and 30 new baptisms for the glory of our God.

In the Tulsa Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, twins Abrielle and Maelie Poueriet were baptized on Sept. 25, 2021. For health reasons, Maelie was isolated for several months without being able to go to church, but her prayers were answered in that she was able to attend church in order

to be baptized.

At the Oklahoma Capitol Hill Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, four girls from the Pathfinder Club made their decision for the Lord. One of them was Sarai, who had been burdened by illness. Sarai and her family along with the church cried out to God for a miracle to restore her health, and God listened to those requests.

When the building project began for the baptistry in the Independence Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, many members donated their time and effort. When the time came to work on the concrete, Margarito showed up with 16 of his co-workers as volunteers. Five months later, Margarito entered that baptistry that he helped build for baptism.

Juan and Guadalupe Amador were faithful members of another

denomination for 25 years, but when they were invited to an evangelism series, they learned more about the word of God and were impressed with the message. They made the decision to be baptized in the Lawton Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. We praise God for our new members who have been added to God's family.

*By Luis Prieto
Hispanic Ministries Coordinator*



Children's Emphasis Sabbath

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. – Oct. 2 was the North American Division designated Children's Emphasis Sabbath. Churches from around the Oklahoma Conference prepared a special program where the children led some or all of the Worship Service. Isaac Ortega taught the sermon at Oklahoma City Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, while many of the other children provided all of the other essential portions of the church service. At Edmond Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Jr. Sabbath School class provided a wonderful skit for the children's story, the kindergarten class had special music, and children also led out in the offering call and prayer. Oklahoma City Central Hispanic Church had a special program honoring children. One of the highlights was when mothers dressed in Bible-time costumes brought their children to Jesus to be blessed. They went to the park in the afternoon for a

wonderful time together. What a blessing it was to have our children not only be the focus of the church service, but the ones who were leading out as well.

Now is the time to train our children and young people to lead out in our churches, teaching and mentoring them in the various aspects of our worship services. Proverbs 22:6 tells us to, "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Giving

children the opportunity to participate in the worship service, teaching them how to speak and pray up front, inviting them to share their musical talents, teaching them to learn how to run the PA and allowing them to make mistakes in a safe environment are all part of "training up a child." I challenge you to make your church a place where children are treated as integral, growing members.

By Norma Shepherd





New Year: What Are Your Plans?

A new year is always an opportunity for a “reboot.” I look forward to this time of year to take a step back and evaluate my progress toward my goals and determine what I need to do to stretch into God’s future. When pondering my plans for the new year, I often consider the text, 1 Chronicles 22:18,19, as it provides a practical three-step action plan affording me to set my personal and professional direction at the launch of a new year.

Step one is assessment. What are the trends in my life or ministry? Are things getting better or worse? Where do I need to focus? When David transferred his kingly power to his son, Solomon, he took note of the situation and had a clear understanding of exactly what was going on in Israel. He spoke to the princes of Israel, saying, “Is not the Lord your God with you? and hath He not given you rest on every side? For He hath given the inhabitants of the land into mine hand; and the land is subdued before the Lord, and before His people.” 1 Chronicles 22:18 (KJV).

Step two is to pray and seek guidance. What is God saying to you about your situation? Do you know

what plans God has for you? David went on to say, “Now set your heart and your soul to seek the Lord your God.” 1 Chronicles 22:19a (KJV). This second step is critical. Please allow me to encourage you to memorize the aforementioned brief phrase, “Now set your heart and your soul to see the Lord your God.” When this is part of your planning, when you commit your ways to the Lord, you allow the Lord to establish your plans. While many individuals will encourage you to start with prayer, and that’s quite alright, I find that if I go to God with my mind prepared, my time in prayer is better used. I find I need to do my part for God to use me.

Step three is to execute and implement your plan. David was thinking big. God spoke to him about something incredibly important. David was ready. Earlier in 1 Chronicles 22, we learn how David prepared, even though it would be Solomon who saw the plan completed. David hired masons to cut the stones. He prepared iron and brass for the nails. He bought the cedar wood they would need. He then told his princely leaders, “...arise therefore, and build ye the sanctuary

of the Lord God, to bring the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and the holy vessels of God, into the house that is to be built to the name of the Lord.” 1 Chronicles 22:19b (KJV).

As we seek to plan ministry initiatives for the new year, let’s take this opportunity to assess, pray and execute. Most importantly, let’s remember the words of Proverbs 16:3, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.” – Proverbs 16:3 (NIV).

By Carlton P. Byrd, President



Southwest Region Conference Celebrates 75 Years

DALLAS – Seventy-five years ago, with 27 churches, 1,700 members, 17 workers, four schools and an annual tithe of \$70,773,59, the Southwestern Mission, the forerunner of the Southwest Region Conference, was born. The Southwestern Mission primarily consisted of the Black constituency of the Seventh-day Adventist Church spanning the states of Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Today, the Southwest Region Conference has grown to a membership of nearly 28,000 individuals reflecting English, Spanish, French and African cultures across 100 churches and companies, eight schools, a nearly 300-acre campground known as Lone Star Camp and \$12.5 million dollars in annual tithe giving!

On Oct. 16, 2021, at the spacious 5,000 seat Mansfield Center for the Performing Arts in Mansfield, Tex., over 2,000 worshippers from across the five-state territory came together and praised God for 75 years of the Southwest Region Conference!

Carlton P. Byrd, Conference presi-

dent, preached an inspiring message for the Divine Worship Experience and music ministry was provided by renowned gospel artist, Marvin Sapp, along with the 100-voice Southwest Region Conference Mass Choir and the Southwestern Adventist University Singers. Also, during the Divine Worship Experience, three ladies were honored for their community contributions, namely Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, United States House of Representative – Texas Congressional District #18; Ana Patterson, Southwestern Adventist University president and Penny Johnson, CEO Advent Health – Southwest Region.

The children and youth were not forgotten as a worship experience was planned just for them simultaneous to the adult service. The special feature was “The Power Team” of Dallas, Tex. and the Psalm 3 Mime Ministry from Atlanta, Ga.

For the afternoon, a special pastoral ordination service was held for Timothy Lee, pastor of the Caffin Avenue International and New Orleans

East Churches in New Orleans, La. Tony Anobile, Southwestern Union vice president for ministries, was the speaker with a challenge given by Carlos Craig, Southwestern Union Conference president. Immediately following ordination, a special historical celebration commenced honoring the former living Presidents and Retirees of the Southwest Region Conference.

The day closed with a Parade of Nations representing the diversity of the Southwest Region Conference and Musical Vespers which featured various musical groups. Emphasizing the theme, “The Future Is Now,” the conference’s major four emphases were highlighted throughout the day: 1) Evangelism, 2) Adventist Education, 3) Digital and Media Ministry and 4) Youth and Young Adult Ministry. By God’s grace, the intentionality and implementation of these initiatives will further hasten the coming of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

*Leslie Soupet
Assistant Communication Director*



Affirming the Call to the Gospel Ministry

MANSFIELD, TEX. – On the afternoon of Oct. 16, 2021, a special service was held during the Southwest Region Conference Fall Convocation to ordain Timothy Lee to the gospel ministry.

As friends and members of the Southwest Region Conference witnessed the special service, Tony Anobile, Southwestern Union vice president, delivered an encouraging message reminding Lee to daily know the Shepherd; point people to the Shepherd and fish until Jesus comes. Robert Lister, Southwest Region Conference former president, then offered a prayer of consecration. After being vested with full ecclesiastical authority in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, Timothy Lee received the

charge to the gospel ministry as given by Carlton P. Byrd, Southwest Region Conference president and Carlos Craig, Southwestern Union president, welcomed him to the ministry.

After the Southwest Region Conference Executive Officers presented Lee with the certificate of ordination and credentials, Maggie Moore, Southwest Region associate treasurer, garbed Lee with a beautiful clergy robe. Members of the Conference staff then presented an array of gifts to Lee and Mrs. Lee and Conference first lady, Danielle P. Byrd, along with fellow ministerial spouses, welcomed Mrs. Su’Quanna Lee to the ministry.

Timothy Lee earned a bachelor of

arts degree in church leadership and a master of arts degree in pastoral studies from Oakwood University and graduated from the Wildwood College of Health Evangelism as a medical missionary.

Prior to full-time pastoral ministry, Lee served as a professional Bible worker for five years, including serving with the Breath of Life television ministries evangelistic team.

In 2016, Lee accepted a call to the pastoral ministry in the Southwest Region Conference. He currently pastors the New Orleans East and Caffin Avenue International Seventh-day Adventist Churches in New Orleans, La.

By Leslie Soupet



Tik, Tok: The Time is at Hand

TULSA, OKLA. – The word of God has unequivocally established through many biblical narratives and illustrative stories that God is calling upon young men and women into His service because they're strong. Given this, we are not just convinced that God has a great work for our youth, but we are also convinced that a major part of the last-day work will be done with and by our youth. Ellen G. White said in *Education*, "With such an army of workers as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish, how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world."

In harmony with this, our Southwest Region Conference Oklahoma Youth Federation was held on Oct. 9, 2021 in Tulsa, Okla., where the theme was, "Tik, Tok: The Time is at Hand." Conference President Carlton P. Byrd delivered a powerful word on this theme! The sermon message was

compelling as he reminded us that it's time to get on fire for the Lord because the kingdom of God is at hand! After the morning worship experience, the youth then went to the streets and put ministry into action by distributing much needed household supplies to Tulsa residents in neighboring communities.

We thank God for the leadership of Antonio Thompson, Oklahoma Youth Federation president and the youth

in Oklahoma for allowing the Spirit of God to use them in a mighty way. The future is now in the Southwest Region Conference Youth and Young Adult Ministries' department as we seek to minister effectively to our current society in efforts to hasten Christ's soon return! May we all be reminded that "Tik, Tok: The Time is at Hand!"

By Carl Ming, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director



A Call to Action: Understanding Boundaries and Consent

BATON ROUGE, LA. – To satisfy its monthly Sabbath program, our youth and young adults ministries veered from its usual format, choosing a panel discussion instead. Utilizing April's "Sexual Assault Awareness" month and wearing teal, the emphasis' color, the exchange began with moderator, Roquel McCarter, defining sexual assault as any type of sexual contact without permission including verbal, visual or non-contact. She continued with, "There is a need for Berean's children and others to know there is space here to have a comfortable conversation about sex using age-appropriate language to answer their questions." Panelist, Tyana Burke chimed in with how in the community, taboo surrounding the talk about sex has extended itself into the church; therefore, the church is uncomfortable

with conversations about sex. Being raised in a Haitian culture where touching was encouraged, Manushka Gracia followed with, "If there were six adults in a room, regardless of how I felt, I had to go and kiss each one or be criticized. Children have to be taught to express themselves when they're uncomfortable with adults or anyone else touching them." Citing the book of Solomon and other examples, she stated how the Bible isn't afraid to address the topic of sex and how it should serve as our model. The lone male on the panel, Corey Clinton, added, "We have to teach children the appropriate boundaries and how to navigate themselves around those boundaries while we set the standard and are willing to change our own behavior." Clinton's summation emphasized that, "There's no

problem in seeking therapy to change behavior. Navigate the situation with wisdom; increase the emotional with intelligence." McCarter then opened the floor for audience questions/input and invited us to "Share what you've heard today and keep the conversation going." Our "amen" assured her we would.

By Evelyn Edwards



Fall Evangelism in Houston, 152 Baptized

HOUSTON – Evangelism has often been coined as “the lifeblood of the church.” In fact, the primary function of the church is evangelism. Jesus commissioned us, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:19-20 (KJV).

Heeding Christ’s commission, Houston, Tex. was identified as a city to evangelize within the Southwest Region Conference territory in Fall, 2021 and three major evangelistic campaigns were held in conjunction with Breath of Life Ministries and Adventist World Radio. One English speaking revival was held with Carlton P. Byrd, Southwest Region Conference president and former Breath of Life speaker/director, serving as the speaker, and

two Spanish speaking revivals were held with Eddie Canales, vice president for Adventist World Radio and Marco Huaco, guest revivalist, serving as speakers respectively.

Nightly, the word of God was preached in three different “in person” venues with COVID-19 protocols in place. Additionally, music ministry was shared that inspired attendees including several guest artists, Kurt Carr and the Kurt Carr Singers, Kierra Sheard and Wintley Phipps. Children’s ministries was also a focal point of the revivals as it was important for children to understand the wonderful gift of salvation through Jesus Christ as well. Bible workers daily canvassed Houston neighborhoods soliciting Bible studies, prayer teams were organized and called down the power of God each evening, church members engaged in multiple “Track Attack” initiatives distributing revival flyers across Houston,

and church members also mobilized to assist in various ministry responsibilities throughout the revivals.

On the culminating day of the revivals, Nov. 6, 2021, all of the Southwest Region Conference churches in the Houston area, English and Spanish, came together to the parking lot of the World Harvest Outreach Seventh-day Adventist Church for a grand outdoor baptism as 152 individuals (102 from the English campaign and 50 from the Spanish campaigns) surrendered their lives to the Lord and were baptized! Praise be to God!

Evangelism provides life individually to people and collectively to churches as it points to the Lifegiver, Jesus Christ. Jesus said, “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly!” John 10:10 (KJV).

*By Norman Jones
Communications Director*





New Year, No Worries

It's possible that you, like many other people right now, are planning your goals and resolutions for this year. But do not forget to put them in the hands of God. Proverbs 16:3 says, "Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans." By putting what we do in the hands of God, He gives us the peace of mind that He will do what is needed at the perfect time.

As human beings, we often worry too much about what we will do in our day, especially in the future. But the word of God says, "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes?" Matthew 6:25.

I understand that it is not easy for us not to be worrying about tomorrow. But understand, not worrying doesn't mean not planning.

God asks us to put our lives and cares in His hands, but that doesn't mean you can't plan anything. That's being foolish and irresponsible. Of course, some things are not within our reach, and with that, we need God's action.

If you believe in the Creator God, you must also believe in the Provider God. He also tells us later, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." Matthew 6:33 (KJV).

By focusing more on the matters of the kingdom of heaven, God will provide us with the necessary tools to continue doing what He has told us to do.

Martin Luther once said, "I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all; but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

When we entrust our intentions and activities to the Lord, we are saying, "Not my will, Father, but Yours be done," as Jesus did.

By Elton DeMoraes, President



Praying Together as One

ALVARADO, TEX.— The prayer in John 17 is considered a high-priestly prayer divided into three parts. In John 17:1-5, we find Jesus praying for Himself. "... glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you." John 17:1.

The passages turn in John 17:6-19 to see Jesus praying for His disciples. "I pray for them," John 17:9.

Before the chapter closes, we read in John 17:6-19 about Jesus praying for all believers. "... I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You." John 17:20-21. Notice Jesus' emphasis on oneness.

Following the ascension of Christ, the first activity His followers engaged in was corporate prayer. Luke informs us that the disciples returned to Jerusalem and went immediately to an upper room where they had been staying. Present there were the eleven apostles plus other close friends and relatives of Jesus. Acts 1:14 shares, "They all joined together constantly in prayer."

Strictly speaking, the church had not yet come into existence but practically speaking those comprising the nucleus of the church in Jerusalem were already practicing one of its most important functions, corporate prayer.

With corporate prayer being indispensable to the early church as recorded in Acts, there are also specific aspects of prayer that were seen. The most often learned attribute of corporate prayer is the idea of being "devoted" to the practice.

Embracing this concept, the Texas Conference Prayer Ministries committee chose "J17:21 Together as One [Todos Unidos]" as the theme for this area of ministry. The team, comprised of Elton DeMoraes, Kenn Dixon, Salomon Espinoza, Kisha Norris, Travis Patterson, Paulo Tenorio and I, envision a conference mobilized and motivated to pray together for specific spiritual and strategic objectives consistent with the mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

J17:21 refers to John 17:21 which says, "that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me."

We want others to have no doubt when they see us that we spend devoted time with our Heavenly Father and take time to pray together. "For where two or three gather in My name, there am I with them." Matthew 18:20. Powerful things can happen when we

pray together.

The new Texas Conference Prayer Ministries website, TexasAdventist.org/Prayer, provides resources and opportunities to pray for both local and conference-wide objectives.

We want to organize intercessory prayer teams to continuously pray for our pastors, teachers, families, children and conference staff. If you would like to join the team, please email Prayer@txsda.org.

Lastly, we would like to have a prayer-focused event each year preferably in-person, but it can be virtual like we had this past November. The sessions in English and Spanish can be viewed on the Texas Conference web page listed above.

J17:21 Together as One [Todos Unidos] foresees the Texas Conference as united and ignited by the Holy Spirit, praying passionately, powerfully and perpetually.

We believe that as we fulfill the prayer request of Jesus in John 17:21, the Latter Rain will be experienced in our homes, schools and churches throughout the ten areas of the Texas Conference.

*By Roderic Bishop
Prayer Ministries
Volunteer Coordinator; Pastor*



Roderic Bishop

Two Hearts, One Vision

ALVARADO, TEX. – We are excited to serve the Texas Conference as Women’s Ministries coordinators in our respective languages. With God’s guidance, we pray we can uplift the women in the Texas Conference and equip them to serve in their local churches and communities.

Some activities we will coordinate together. Other areas will be separate.

We shared below some of the ideas on our hearts for the coming year. We hope you will be able to join us for at least one event or activity and invite your family, friends and neighbors to join you.

For the Spanish events, we hope to provide opportunities for women to deepen their faith and experience spiritual growth and renewal through spiritual and social activities.

We will share updates and encouragement on our Facebook page: [Ministerio de la Mujer de Texas](#).

It is so important to mentor our young women, teens and girls to help them find God’s purpose for their lives.

It is our prayer that we will create hundreds of women’s small group fellowships around the Texas Conference providing opportunities to reach each community with God’s loving grace. It would provide a tremendous evangelistic foundation.

It would also be wonderful to build a network among our women to learn gifts and strengths, so when we have activities and projects for the church and community, we have resources to utilize.

In 2022, we pray we will be able to resume our in-person annual retreat in addition to prayer breakfasts and virtual gatherings.

For the English events, follow our Facebook page: [Facebook.com/TexasAdventistWomen](#).

We want to use this platform to feature some of our incredible women along with sharing regular news items and devotionals.

Prayer is so important to



Nilda E. Diep

strengthening us spiritually. As women’s small groups grow around the Texas Conference, we pray some of those groups will be prayer groups focused on praying for the specific needs in each area.

One dream is to record a talk show, tentatively titled “Talk time with T-EA,” designed to discuss issues affecting the Christian home and how we can find spiritual solutions for our families.

We also hope to resume the in-person annual retreat as well as create virtual women’s evangelism endeavors to be viewed online in Texas and around the world.

Another item on our goal list is to offer updated training certifications that will include new ways of dealing with modern-day social issues like social media abuse and school bullying, divorce and using the media in a positive way in our churches and more.

As we learn of the different spiritual gifts, we would like to feature classes whether in-person or online focused



Sandralee Mars

on cooking, carpentry, gardening and country living skills.

Last, but by no means least, we would like to work with Texas Conference Adventist Community Services to assist women and their families displaced by natural disasters or job loss.

“The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these ... sisters of mine, you did for me.’” Matthew 25:40.

If you are the women’s ministries leader in your Texas Conference church, please email us to make sure we have your contact information.

Find more information on the Texas Conference Women’s Ministries website at [TexasAdventist.org](#).

Together, we will make an eternal difference for the women in the Texas Conference and beyond.

By Nilda E. Diep, Spanish Women’s Ministries Volunteer Coordinator and Sandralee Mars, English Women’s Ministries Volunteer Coordinator

Cycling Fundraiser Raises \$100,000

ALVARADO, TEX.— Ten cyclists, two from California, one from Florida and the rest from Texas, rode 800+ miles from McAllen, Tex., to Richardson, Tex., to promote health and raise awareness and funds for a Seventh-day Adventist education endowment. With the goal of raising \$1.5 million, the endowment will provide financial assistance for anyone desiring to attend a Texas Conference school.

Texas Conference President Elton DeMoraes was there on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2021, before 6 a.m. to see the cyclists off and pray for their journey.

This is the fifth time for several embarking on these week-long rides created by Kenn Dixon, Texas Conference vice president for Communication & Public Relations, but it was the first time the fundraising cycling tour was two weeks.

Due to injuries sustained while in active duty serving in Marine Corps Security Forces, Dixon was limited to the exercises he could perform to maintain his physical health. Eventually, cycling became his main option so it was only natural when someone recommended creating a cycling tour.

Dixon joined the Texas Conference in the summer of 2019 around the same time Kisha Norris was elected Texas Conference vice president for Education. The seed was quickly planted for Dixon to create a cycling tour in Texas as Norris had assisted him with previous cycling tours.

“If it helps our young people, I am all in,” Norris stated. “My mother was Determined (the theme for the event) to see that I had an Adventist education, so I am honored to help others.”

Antonio Correa, one of the pastors at the McAllen Spanish Valley Central Seventh-day Adventist Church in McAllen, Tex., joined the ride. He was overwhelmed by the generosity when someone offered to purchase a bike for him and then cover the suggested \$3,000 goal for cyclists to raise to cover expenses and support the Seventh-day Adventist education endowment.

Stopping at schools along the way was a highlight for the cyclists and increased their determination. Besides refueling them with food, the students' excitement and signs energized everyone. Since the cyclists couldn't visit all the schools, they really appreciated the collaboration of schools to come to the nearest school stop location. The stops included (9/11/21) South Texas Christian Academy in McAllen, Tex., (9/14/21) Coggin Memorial School in Corpus Christi, Tex., (9/17/21) Houston Adventist Academy in Cypress, Tex., (9/20/21) Stonehill Christian Academy in Pflugerville, Tex., (9/21/21) Killeen Adventist Junior Academy in Killeen, Tex., (9/23/21) Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Tex. and the grand finale stop (9/24/21) North Dallas Adventist Academy in Richardson, Tex.

Churches also made a tremendous

impact by providing meals for the cyclists and support staff. Besides delicious food, the enthusiasm of the church members was infectious. Thank you to the following Seventh-day Adventist Church members in Texas for taking the time to prepare a meal and visit with the cyclists and support staff: (9/10/21) Edinburg, (9/11/21) McAllen Spanish Valley Central, (9/14/21) Corpus Christi Annaville and Downing Street, (9/15/21) Alice, Beeville and Victoria, (9/19/21) Elgin, (9/21/21) Killeen Spanish, (9/22/21) Waco and (9/23/21) Cleburne First.

Director of Medical Nutrition Therapy and Food Service for the State of Texas Wayne Webb has been the chef for four of the five cycling tours. He was excited to learn the Hurst Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hurst, Tex., allowed their Back to Eden food truck to be used for the cycling tour.

As the cyclists rounded the final corner arriving at North Dallas Adventist Academy in Richardson, Tex., on Sept. 24, 2021, the students, staff and community members cheered their accomplishment. It wasn't easy, but they made it.

All along the route, people gave online to raise the first \$100,000 toward the \$1.5 million Adventist education endowment. Others mailed checks.

Two Texas Conference churches, Edinburg and Weslaco, each contributed \$5,000 bringing to light that if each of the 300+ churches in the Texas Conference gave that amount, we would already reach our goal.

The next cycling tour is scheduled for April 3-9, 2022. Find more information or ways to give at TexasAdventist.org/Determined.

Together, we can make an eternal difference for the young people in the Texas Conference.

*By Tamara Michalenko Terry,
Associate Director
Communication & Public Relations
Photo by Tamara Terry*



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Vision for the New Year: Unity

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.” 1 Corinthians 12:12.

The human body is a complex organism composed of various parts that each have an indispensable function but work together harmoniously as a whole. Though each part is distinct in shape, size and function, they are *all* essential to the human body. No part of the human body works in isolation; each part does its job, day and night, supported and aided by other functioning organs. Diversity is not an accidental attribute of the body; this was a part of God’s divine plan when He created us. We cannot look at our bodies and not marvel at the God who created this phenomenal evidence of His love.

The apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians that the church is also a similar complex living entity made up of many members working together under the guiding power, the head of the body, Jesus Christ. What is encouraging is that, like parts of the body, each of us is different. None of us perform the same function, yet we each possess a distinct, unique gift

that is essential to uniting the church and helping it accomplish its mission in spreading the gospel. Diversity here is also by God’s design and is necessary in the body of Christ. Unity in diversity, and diversity in unity, is the arrangement that produces the best results in the body of Christ. We need to work harmoniously with God’s purpose and objective to accomplish our mission for His honor and glory.

What does the unity of the church look like practically? The question is ever more pressing as we live in an increasingly troubled and divided world. However, unity in the church is about embracing our differences. It involves acknowledging that we are only strong if we work together and not independently. Unity in the church is not guaranteed; as with any successful team, we have to do our part and work arduously at building, connecting and maintaining this unity. Phil Jackson, one of basketball’s most successful coaches, once said, “The strength of the team is each individual member. The strength of each member is the team.” Most importantly, Psalm 133:1 reminds us,

“How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”

As we begin 2022, I want to encourage us to continue to grow in faith and strive towards deeper unity. Our churches are in need of consecrated, “unity-minded” members, not divisive members, who are willing to work together to build God’s kingdom. May 2022 be a time for unity and oneness, not only for our individual churches, but for our conference as a whole.

By Lee-Roy Chacon, President



Sandia View Academy Students Reconnect with Mission Trip Friend

CORRALES, N.M. – When students of Sandia View Academy (SVA) met Manuel Gómez, better known as “Pipo,” during their mission trip to Puerto Rico in 2020, the only thing they knew about him was that he was a great cook. Pipo, a cook at Campamento Yuquibo, not only prepared the students’ meals during their stay, but he also developed a good relationship with them.

Pipo was born and raised in Carolina, Puerto Rico. At 17, he got into an argument with his father and left home. For the next 20 years, Pipo lived on the streets, homeless and a drug addict. His life was transformed when two young men from the local Seventh-day Adventist Church stopped at the bridge where he lived. He asked them for money, and instead they offered him food and a copy of the Spanish Adventist magazine, *El Centinela*.

“God was present that day so I could be saved,” said Gomez.

Today, Pipo’s passion is to preach the good news and to encourage

others to share God’s love the way it was shared with him. He is also zealous about giving back to the homeless community that lives on the streets. Besides cooking at Campamento Yuquibo, Pipo owns a food truck and delivers meals to the homeless every day.

“My passion is to spread the gospel to everyone because I know personally that it is possible to reach people no matter where they are.”

Pipo also has a passion for reaching young people and that is why he was encouraged to visit SVA this past September to see the students he met in 2020.

“We were so happy to see Pipo again,” said Caitlyn Gonzalez, a senior at Sandia View Academy. “He made a big impact on us while we were in Puerto Rico. Not only did his story touch us, but he has a big heart and his energy to preach God’s love is contagious.”

Pipo took advantage of his visit to New Mexico and preached at the North Valley and Santa Fe Airport

Seventh-day Adventist Churches. He gave his testimony in the best way he knows how. Dressed as a homeless man, Pipo walked into the church services discreetly and was welcomed by members. Asking for a special prayer, members soon discovered that he was the invited guest speaker after he shed his shabby attire.

“It is my way to show people where I came from and how far I have come,” said Gómez. “Our duty as missionaries and evangelists is also to support our youth and help them grow. They are essential to the present and future mission of our church.”

Students at SVA hope it is not the last time they see Pipo. They are grateful for the mission trips that allow them to make these meaningful connections. As for Pipo, he continues to leave a lasting impression on everyone he meets and promises to keep sharing God’s love every opportunity he gets.

*By Debby Márquez,
Communication Director*



Beloved El Paso Northeast Member Passes Away

EL PASO, TEX. – With heavy hearts and great sadness, the El Paso Northeast Seventh-day Adventist Church said goodbye to one of its members, Kenneth Blakely. Blakely passed away on Jan. 21, 2021, and the church hosted a small, in-person funeral service in February for close friends and family.

Ken was a faithful family man. He grew up in a Christ-centered home and devoted his life to Christ at an early age. Ken faithfully served our country as a Combat Medic in Vietnam and is simply known as “Doc” to the many whose lives he saved. He was awarded the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and the Purple Heart for actions that he rarely spoke of. Upon returning home, he utilized his skills as a radiologic technician through retirement with the Adventist Healthcare System.

After retiring, Ken and his wife, Rosemary, moved to Las Cruces, N.M., and joined the El Paso Northeast

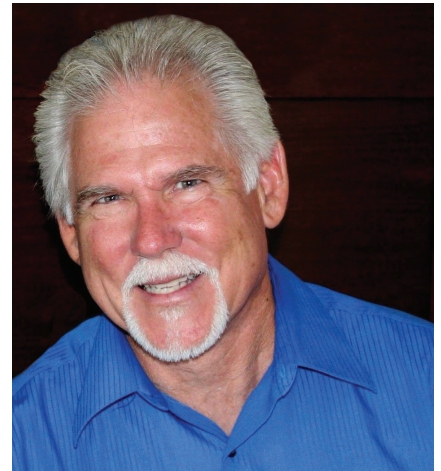
Seventh-day Adventist Church family. An inseparable team, they both loved the Lord and dedicated themselves to the church. Ken served as deacon, elder and co-head elder most recently. When there was a need in the church, Ken willingly stepped up. He was handy and helped fix and paint things around the church. Ken also often led out in Friday night prayer groups while he and his wife were a part of the church’s Facebook ‘Reflect & Revive’ ministry with Eliab Quinones, associate pastor of El Paso Northeast church.

“Ken had so many favorite Bible verses,” said Rosemary. “One of his favorites was Isaiah 41:10, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

Ken’s love for God was evident in the way he lived his life. He is greatly missed. Revelation 21:4 gives us the

beautiful promise that “He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” What a glorious day it will be when we see Ken again and, together, we will live eternally with Jesus.

By Lori Humble



Texico Schools See an Increase in New Students

CORRALES, N.M. – Several Adventist schools serving the Albuquerque area saw an increase in enrollment this academic year. Texico Conference administrators believe new parents and students were motivated to choose the Adventist schools due to their commitment to “in-person” learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We are so blessed that, despite the pandemic, we are seeing some of our schools at full capacity and some have waiting lists,” says Lee-Roy Chacon, Texico Conference president. “We have done our best to keep our school doors open, while trying to avoid many of the educational stresses that come with trying to learn at home.”

Sandia View Academy (SVA) and Sandia View Christian School, both located in Corrales, and Crestview Seventh-day Adventist Academy in Albu-

querque are the three schools that saw an increase in their enrollment. As the only private Adventist academy in the state of New Mexico, SVA was excited to enroll 10 new students this year.

Several parents of the new students mentioned that they heard how the schools successfully handled pandemic learning last year while most schools only offered online instruction. They then looked into the Adventist curriculum and found it inviting.

“There is no question that kids growing up these days don’t have it easy, the pandemic is having its share of effects,” said Chacon. “We see our schools as mission fields. The best thing we can do as administrators and educators is to continue sharing the love of Christ above everything else.”

“The Texico Conference is dedicated to ensuring that students who at-

tend our schools receive a high-quality Christian education. We are grateful to our dedicated teachers and staff for going the extra mile each year,” said Chacon. “We thank the parents who have entrusted us with their children. We hope they have a positive experience and will stay for years to come.”



Roswell Seventh-day Adventist Church Resumes Outreach Efforts

ROSWELL, N.M. – For so many of us, 2020 was a difficult year. The Roswell community also felt the impact of stay-at-home orders, closed businesses and closed church doors. It especially felt the effects of the cancellation of the UFO festival. Every year, more than 15,000 people from all over the world travel to Roswell to celebrate the much-debated 1947 alien incident at the annual UFO festival.

So, when the event resumed on the July 4th weekend in 2021, the Roswell Seventh-day Adventist Church was thrilled for the opportunity to attend the event and do outreach as it has done in the past. Two years ago, the church passed out 1,500 pieces of Adventist literature. This year, they added a lot more pamphlets including the Amazing Facts study guide “Angel Messages from Space.” The title of the study fit right in at the festival, yet its message was dramatically different. Members attending the event

expressed, “God is so good and He reaches people in the most unexpected ways!”

In October, both the English and Spanish churches in Roswell collaborated in another community outreach effort at the Eastern New Mexico State Fair and parade. As the streets filled with parade goers, church members passed out approximately 2,000 hand-held fans with Revelation 14:6-12 printed on the front and informational websites on the back. Along with the fans, they passed out invitations to upcoming prophecy seminars. By God's grace, the churches were also able to secure a booth at the State Fair. Booths were hard to come by this year, but God opened the doors for another opportunity to share His Word.

Members attracted visitors to the booth by offering them water and free giveaways. They also provided colorful bags for both adults and children that contained Adventist literature

in Spanish and English. Giveaway prizes included a bluetooth speaker, a children's Bible and the grand prize, a 50-inch Roku television.

According to Roswell church members, it was a blessing to reconnect with people. They praise God for giving them the opportunity to once again reach the people of Roswell. They will continue to pray for them and ask that their hearts and minds will turn to Him. They will also continue to claim the promise found in Isaiah 55:10-11: “As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” To God be the glory!

By Debbie Ramirez



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Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend, Apr. 1-2 at Enterprise Seventh-day Adventist Church, Enterprise, Kan. Honor Classes-Graduating Years ending with 2s & 7s. For more information email: EA.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com or visit EA-GPA-alumni.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Richardson Seventh-day Adventist Church will be celebrating its 60th Anniversary on Sabbath, April 23, 2022 and we would like to invite all the former bell ringers from Sue Mathieu's Bell Choir to participate in the music on Sabbath, April 23, 2022. All former ringers should be urged to please contact either Jessica Browne, church secretary, at 972.231.3254 or Sue Mathieu, 214.491.7373 if they will be available to participate in both services at 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

50th Anniversary: The Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church in Slidell, La., turns 50 on March 26, 2022. Special anniversary program planned. Special guest speaker, Richard Dye, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference president. Former members, current members and guests are invited to attend. For more information, contact us at 985.641.3577.

Obituaries

Cloud, Flo, born April 28, 1937, Magnolia, Ark.; died Sept. 26, 2021, Texarkana, Ark. Church membership: Magnolia Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: two daughters, Lee Ann White of Apopka, Fla., and Lori Merritt of Texarkana, Ark.; four sons, Danny Cloud of Chidester, Ark., Tommy Cloud and Rusty Cloud of Waldo, Ark., and Jim Cloud of Bussey, Ark. She leaves many grandchildren, great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren.

Hagood, Martha Rachel (Chapline), Church membership: Beacon Hill Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: three sons, Greg Hagood of Texarkana, Ark., Steve Hagood, De Queen, Ark., and Chris Hagood, Big

Springs, Tex.; four daughters, Laura Lynn White, Horatio, Ark., Melissa Walraven, Texarkana, Tex., Laura Ruth Deehan, De Queen, Ark., and Glenda Hagood, Horatio, Ark.; and two brothers, David Chapline, Burleson, Tex., and James Chapline, Keene, Tex.

Jensen, Jonelle, born March 17, 1945, Houston, Tex.; died Sept. 17, 2021, Claremore, Okla. Church membership: First Seventh-day Adventist Church of Tulsa. Survivors: husband, Dan Jensen; sister, Claudette Carter of Goodlettsville, Tenn.; daughters, Elizabeth Tyre, Arlington, Tex., and Jennifer Dohlman, of Tulsa, Okla., and four grandchildren.

Mascarenas, Alfonso J., born Oct. 24, 1924; died Oct. 29, 2021, Dixon, N. M. Church membership: Dixon Spanish

Seventh-day Adventist Church. US Army and WWII veteran. Preceded in death by son, Larry Mascarenas, four brothers and two sisters. Survivors: sister, Dila; sons, Benjamin "Tico" Mascarenas (Frances), Ruben Mascarenas (Linda) and Rodney Mascarenas; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Mascarenas, Mary L., born Nov. 9, 1928; died Oct. 29, 2021; Dixon, N. M. Church membership: Dixon Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by son Larry Mascarenas; one brother and one sister. Survivors: sons, Benjamin "Tico" Mascarenas (Frances), Ruben Mascarenas (Linda) and Rodney Mascarenas; eight grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

Submissions

Back Pages: To submit announcements, milestones, free or paid expanded obituaries or address changes, visit SWURecord.org or email Record@SWUC.org.

Advertising: For cost information and deadlines contact Bradley Ecord at BEcord@swuc.org.

News and Articles: Send local news for your church or school, along with high-resolution photos, to your local conference communication department listed on page 2.

If you are interested in writing for the *Record*, email Record@swuc.org.



Robert Weatherman, a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist and lifelong Southern New Mexico resident, went to rest on Dec. 9, 2021, at the age of 74. Robert was born in Carlsbad, N.M., on Aug. 24, 1947 to James Robert and Myrtle Lee (Mitchell) Weatherman.

Robert is survived by his wife, Ruth Frances (Everett) of Las Cruces, N.M.; daughter, Dawn Ruth (Weatherman) and son-in-law Eric Joseph Weed; and granddaughter Emily Dawn Pope (Weed) of Alamosa, Colo. His siblings include Johnny Weatherman of Burleson, Tex.; Leila Weatherman of Brownsville, Tex.; and the late Thomas Weatherman, Frances Ray (Weatherman) and Mary Lou Weatherman.

Robert was committed to his profession and a devoted father and husband. He graduated from Carlsbad High

School in 1965, from nursing school at Fletcher Mountain Sanitarium and Hospital in 1968, and shortly after graduated from Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia in 1970. Robert married his wife Ruth in 1968. Ruth was the love of his life and they were rarely apart for their 53 years of marriage.

He served as an anesthetist at Gerald Champion for 30 years and carried thousands of patients safely through surgery. His choice of serving others inspired his daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter to pursue careers in the field of nursing. He enjoyed recreating in the deserts of the Tularosa Basin and the mountains surrounding Alamogordo and Las Cruces. He shared his love of nature and music with his family and friends and was active in the support of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and church school. He touched the lives of everyone he came in contact with and will be deeply missed.

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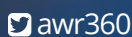
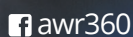
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