

Record

July | August 2022

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- 6** Transcending Differences
- 7** The Heart is More Important
- 8** Over 90 Years of Ministry
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Unity and Diversity
in the Body of Christ

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Vol. 121, No. 04

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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.

Editor's Note

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 reminds us that we can and should be united in Christ through our differences and uniqueness. We are meant to be different, have different gifts and talents, fulfill different goals and purposes as a part of fulfilling our ultimate purpose. Verse 12 says, "Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ." Our individual roles, working together, reflect Christ Himself!

How can we be understanding, accepting and most importantly supportive of the other parts of the body of Christ that differ from ours? Think about all the different members that make up just one local church, now think about all the local churches, each with their own styles and flavors, that make up one conference, and conferences that make up one union, then one division and finally our World Church. How can we create environments that acknowledge and celebrate our diversities, our avenues for reaching others? How can we work together to unify our mission for Christ? We explore these questions and others in this issue. I am thankful for you today, in all of your individual uniqueness, as the Lord works to fulfill His mission in you and through you.



Kristina P. Busch



Unity & Diversity in the Body of Christ

The theme for this issue is “Unity and Diversity in the Body of Christ.” The first reality that I would like to highlight is that from the get-go we are reminded that we are part of the same body. And (not but), as members of the same body, we serve different functions.

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (CEV), “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.” (CEV)

I like the way this version helps us understand a beautiful truth: We don’t all do things the same way. That is wonderful! Some of us don’t like that; we want everything done the same way, at the same time, etc., but that is not reality. As a former young adult director, I remember young adults asking to be a part of a worship committee, to help plan a beautiful, meaningful worship experience. Did they pick all my favorite hymns, no. Did they play every song using only the organ, no. But they were engaged, involved, and invested in the life of the Church. Praise God!

Another reality—I am a great deacon but not such a great greeter. My dad drilled into me two important things: never have debt and NEVER be late. As a greeter, I am not the best person for the job. Imagine having me greet people at church and after chastening them because they were late, telling them to have a “Happy Sabbath!”? However, I’ll be the first one at church every week, make sure all the lights are on, doors are unlocked and every pew has a hymnal and Bible in every rack. My wife, on the other hand, is the most loving person I know—she makes everyone feel special and loved. She’s a perfect greeter. Praise God for the diversity in our Church. We need it.

Paul went on to say, in 1 Corinthians 24-26 (CEV), “God put our bodies together in such a way that even the parts that seem the least important are valuable. He did this to make all parts of the body work together smoothly, with each part caring about the others. If one part of our body hurts, we hurt all over. If one part of our body is honored, the whole body will be happy.” I love that! We are all equal, necessary and valuable—children, youth, young adults, adults and seniors. We need

each other, with our individual gifts and talents, to come together, united as one body, but diverse in how we use our gifts for the building up of God’s Church.

Ola Joseph is credited with saying, “Diversity is not about how we differ. Diversity is about embracing one another’s uniqueness.” Southwestern Union family, let’s embrace and celebrate one another’s uniquenesses. Let’s continue to work together with greater passion to complete the mission Jesus gave us so He can come back, and we can go home! [®]

*By Tony Anobile
Vice President for Church Ministries*



Sharing Hope and the Love of Jesus in Ukraine

God said to go. Driven by Matthew 28:19-20, a group of Adventist believers traveled to Europe to bring hope and share the love of Jesus.

The Gideon Rescue Company (GRC) is a disaster evangelism ministry based in Ardmore, Oklahoma. God has blessed us with medical skills, rescue skills, search and rescue K-9s, rescue boats, vehicles, planes, cranes and so much more. But the greatest blessing we have been given is our message as Seventh-day Adventist Christians living at the end of the age. Our only tactical advantage is in our name as a people: a people who keep the commandments of Jesus Christ and believe this same Jesus is coming soon!

When war broke out between Russia and Ukraine, many of us never thought God would call us to the literal front lines of a conflict zone. We quickly realized the principles we have been learning in natural disaster response apply equally to the man-made disaster scene of war.

In 2019, GRC was interviewed on 3ABN Today regarding disaster response and evangelism. There we were asked what we needed as a ministry and we prayerfully responded: 1 million GLOW tracts (pocket-size tracts on various subjects with messages of hope and future in Jesus). With over



ten years of disaster response, we have recognized the desperate need of truth-filled literature in the wake of a natural disaster. God did not immediately grant our request for 1 million GLOW tracts.

A few days after war broke out in Ukraine, a small group of GRC team members made a choice to be bold in Christ for the sake of vulnerable souls in Europe. A number of individuals from different backgrounds joined together with one mission in their hearts: The refugees that are fleeing Ukraine need to know the love of Christ and that He is coming soon!

Knowing that this was very much out

of our comfort zone or experience, we pleaded the Lord would give us definite confirmation that He would send us into an active war zone. It was a struggle for each of us as we did not want to err on the side of presumption. Yet, we could not avoid the clear burden that was placed on our hearts to go. God had provided His answer in His Word. He even assured us with His personal promise: "I will be with you."

We purchased flights to Poland in faith. We were met by individuals from all over Europe that were on fire for Christ. Their prayer was to help bring hope in Christ in a time of tragedy. The Seventh-day Adventist Church



in Rzeszow, Poland was very loving and played the perfect host as our team sought God’s will before entering Ukraine. God soon opened the doors for our team to travel into Lviv, Ukraine to spread the Word of God. We were positioned at the train station in Lviv that became a hub for 50,000 souls fleeing west for safety. When we arrived in Lviv, the local Seventh-day Adventist Church graciously shared Bibles, Steps to Christ, The Great Controversy, The Desire of Ages and GLOW tracts on a variety of different

topics from their own stockpiles. The receptivity rate at the train station was nearly 100 percent.

However, we soon faced a dilemma. After a full day of placing hope in the hands of hurting people, we ran out of literature. We all looked around at an ocean of people, seeing the hurt and anguish in their eyes, and we felt their hopelessness. We fell on our knees and again pleaded with God for His help. Matthew 7:7 says, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to

you.” That very same day, we received a phone call from the United States. An anonymous donor had contacted GLOW and paid for one million GLOW tracts to be printed in the Ukrainian language right there in Poland! Needless to say, God answers prayers—even from 2019!

God was able to use many hands and many platforms to distribute the first one million GLOW tracts across Ukraine and beyond into Europe where countless are seeking refuge. We may never know the impact of one small paper tract this side of Heaven—but in the spirit of 1 Corinthians 3:6-9 we know that one plants and another waters, but in the end God gains a harvest!

God continued to give us platforms to reach people not only at the train station but in the city of Lviv. A Great Controversy was given to the mayor of the city, and our team was invited to a Civil Defense Training Academy to teach tourniquet application and basic first aid on the battlefield. Each class had approximately 30 students and at the end of the class we were able to share the reason why God would send a team from the far reaches of the earth to let each of them know that God loves and cares for the people of Ukraine. With tears in their eyes they readily accepted the literature that God had provided in their own language.

Today, the mission continues in Ukraine as we currently have three team members on the ground at the time of this publication. Pray for the church in Ukraine! Pray for God’s Word to go forth with power! **R**

By Greg Simpson and Brock Mayer. Simpson is a certified flight paramedic and a team leader in the Gideon Rescue Company. Mayer is a certified flight paramedic, registered nurse and logistics coordinator for the Gideon Rescue Company.

Transcending Culture, Location and School Size

By Renee Whiting, Southwestern Union Associate Director of Education

Unity through diversity at first glance appears to be an oxymoron, juxtaposed against a landscape crying out for similarity. As we near the final moments of Earth's history, unified diversity will prove to be the cord of solidarity that will bind all persons together regardless of age, ethnicity or location. In 1908, Zangwill described America as a "melting pot," but by the 1960s Crèvecoeur altered the metaphor to reflect a "salad bowl." The melting pot celebrated unity, with the intentional melding of our differences for the sake of the new culture. While the salad bowl, which also celebrated unity, highlighted the importance of maintaining each person's individual uniqueness. It illuminated the fact that our differences actually made us richer, and set the stage for a well-rounded, culturally rich learning environment.


One could ask, how does all of this apply to not just education, but specifically to an Adventist education? Adventist education is both a ministry and a movement. It is the living embodiment of the salad bowl, which fosters the development of the 7C's missional directives, which are inclusive of: A Connection to God and Others, Citizenship, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication and Character. With that foundation, both students and teachers learn to embrace and appreciate their world through a multifocal perspective, which mirrors how God sees and interacts with each of us. This commingling is a mere replica of what will be experienced in our heavenly classroom. It will be the illumination of the different



God-ordained journeys that were meticulously interwoven to enable us to meet, unified at the feet of Jesus.

As a third-generation Adventist, a preacher's kid, a teacher's kid and an educator myself, I can personally attest to the fact that my life has only been enhanced by the unified diversity of the Adventist movement. While I was fortified by the differences that enriched my experience, the consistency of Adventist education remained a welcomed constant no matter where I was residing. It has been my privilege over the years to partner with and learn from a diverse group of educators that broadened my professional practice and enriched my personal life. Despite the new faces, languages and cultural experiences, the unifying cord was always the same: an unwavering, loving, nurturing

dedication to providing academic excellence for each child. Even though that was a primary goal, it was second only to the ministry of ensuring that each student was introduced to Christ and the benefits of cultivating a lasting relationship with Him.

Whether teaching slope-intercept form in Algebra I or letter of the week during kindergarten circle time, the ultimate goal was always the same. It was the promise of introducing each child to Jesus. It is and will always be the one unifying theme that will transcend culture, size or location of any school. It is the guaranteed equitable unification of a God-centered nurturing educational experience through a myriad of differences. It is the globally diverse unified distinctive imprint of an Adventist education. 

The Heart is More Important

By Osvaldo L. Rigacci, Southwestern Union Vice President for Multicultural Ministries

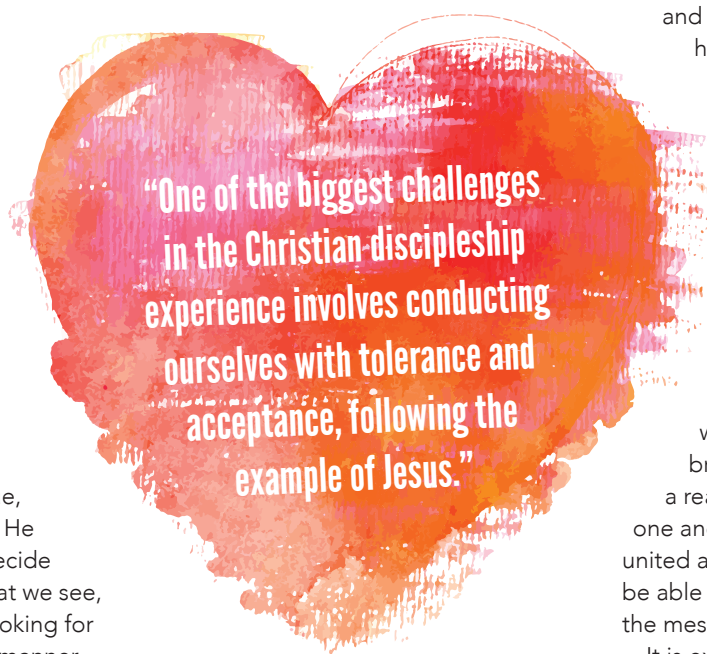
1 Samuel 16:7 says, “The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.” How much time do we need to become resolved to not get carried away by appearances, preconceptions or prejudices? Not stop at the differences, weaknesses, shortcomings and defects, but rather position ourselves at the foot of the cross and see our neighbor as we are—simply in need of Christ.

How much time does the Holy Spirit need to work in us before we recognize that we are a family in Christ and that we are united by the bond of His blood, His forgiveness and His righteousness? It is true, we cannot look at the heart as He looks at it. However, we can decide not to act based simply on what we see, but become accustomed to looking for the best in others in a healthy manner. Ultimately relying on Him, and trusting His direction, plans and will for His Church.

Ephesians 2:13 says, “But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.” Another question for us to consider: are we really brought near to one another by the blood of Christ? Frankly, I think the answer is no. We are close to those we choose and want to be close to, but not to others, largely due to our differences, preconceptions and prejudices.

Let us recognize that our cultural differences go beyond our race, ethnicity or country of birth. In reality, there are more differences within us as

individuals, whether due to education, social position, religion, personality, political or sports affiliation, past experiences, our upbringing and other factors that affect our conduct and behavior.

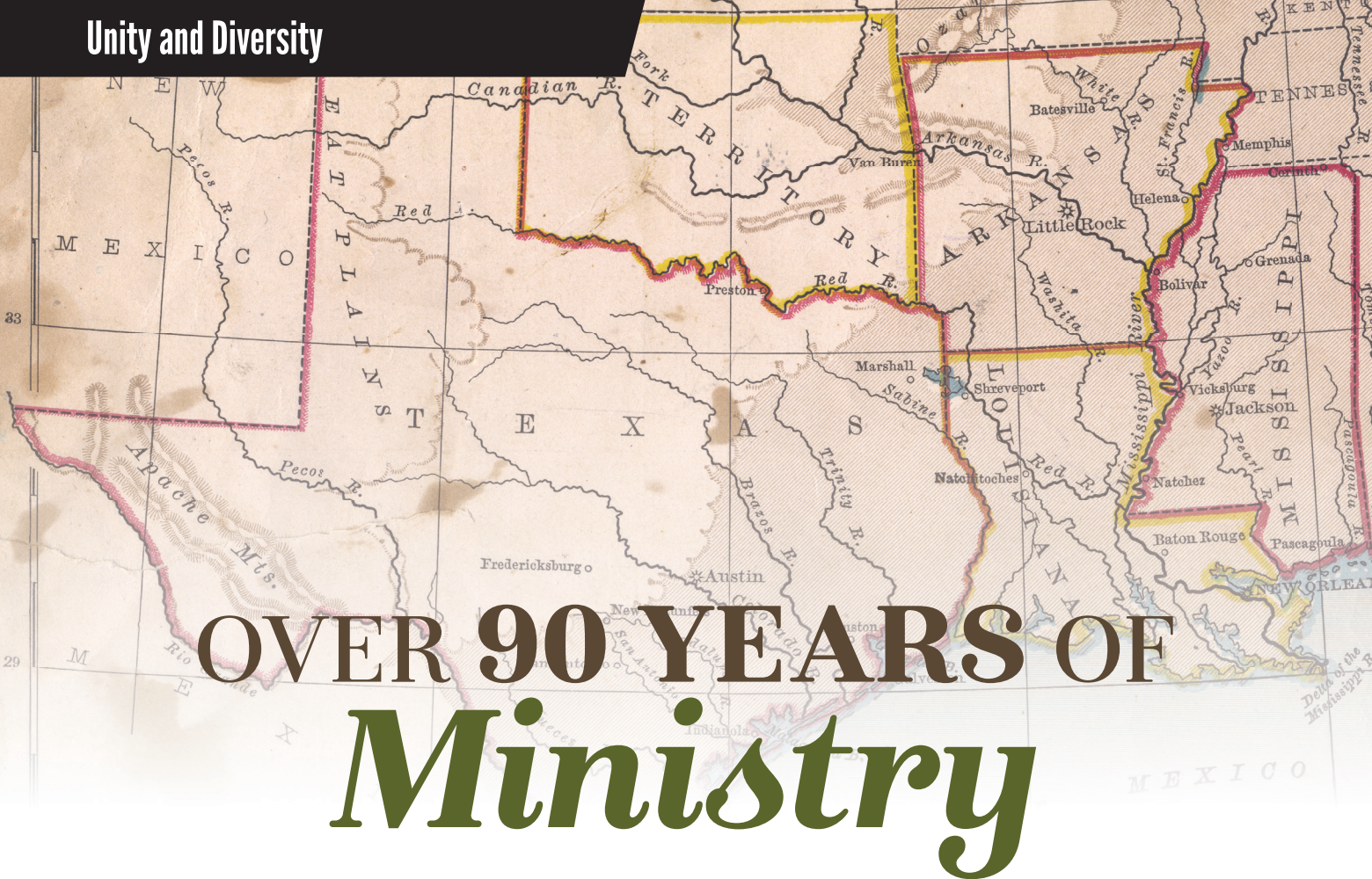


We have a hard time accepting the sinner, as he is, and at the same time rejecting sin. One of the biggest challenges in the Christian discipleship experience involves conducting ourselves with tolerance and acceptance, following the example of Jesus. This does not refer to compromising biblical principles and doctrines, but rather to our effort to recognize and respect our cultural differences. It is also important that these differences also enrich us and increase the impact of our ministries to reach more people for the kingdom of God.

Another of our greatest challenges today is also bringing about a generational rapprochement. Cultural differences also exist from one generation to the next. This has resulted in young people in many of our congregations feeling ignored and alienated. We have had a hard time giving youth trust, responsibility and authority in the leadership roles of our churches. Most of the time it is due to intolerance and lack of acceptance towards what may be a different personal preference or tradition.

For this reason, we have committed ourselves in the Southwestern Union to the Growing Together initiative, which we hope will help us break down barriers and produce a real connection to Jesus and to one another. Being close to Jesus and united among ourselves, we will finally be able to impact our communities with the message of salvation.

It is extremely important to understand that individual people have much more in common than their differences. We all have the need for love and affection, the need to belong, the need to participate and contribute. When we learn to look at others like Jesus does we will see fewer differences. We can draw closer and rejoice in our peculiarities, abilities, talents, and above all, in the gifts that the Spirit has granted, so that we may unite in the expansion of the kingdom of God and the culmination of the mission. [®]



OVER 90 YEARS OF *Ministry*

from the Ozarks to the Gulf Coast

What was ministry like a century ago? Could people living on small, isolated farms in rocky, rugged terrain be reached with the Adventist message using the same methods as those living in a large, thriving port city? Would a conference from the Southern Union rejoice at merging with a conference from the Southwestern Union? What would it mean if the conference headquarters moved over 200 miles farther from the main center of ministry? What about divorcing a portion of a conference membership? The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference faced these and other challenges during its early turbulent years.

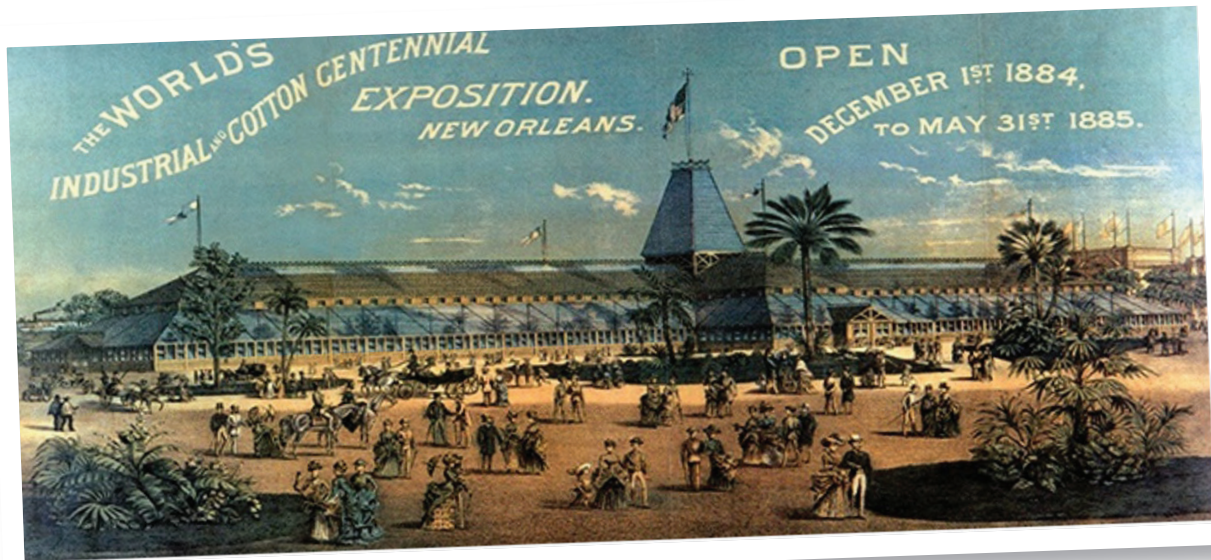
The Seventh-day Adventist Church was organized in 1863 but had virtually no presence in Arkansas until 1877, or in Louisiana until about 1880. Civil War battles had been fought

in both Arkansas and Louisiana, devastating homes, families and crops. Reconstruction was slow, and most of the residents were poverty-stricken. The Seventh-day Sabbath was an entirely new idea in the South, and much speculation surrounded it. Most Southerners were suspicious of strangers coming with what they called “new teachings,” especially if these were brought by Northerners. Many people were concerned that these were impostors, false prophets or, worst of all, their souls were asleep.¹

Adventist workers from other states began trickling into Arkansas and encountered these and other challenges. Arkansas was rugged territory and travel was often along rough trails. Canvassers loaded a tent, bedroll, some provisions and as many books as they could carry, planning

to be away from home for several weeks at a time. They traveled by foot, horseback or wagon through rain, heat, mosquitoes or even snow. Bridges were almost nonexistent, so they waded many a creek or river. Throughout much of winter and spring, these waterways became impassable until the floodwaters receded. Canvassers sometimes had to walk miles out of their way to get to their destination. Evangelists faced the same travel challenges.

Evangelistic meetings usually lasted several weeks, with the evangelist and his wife living in a tent. Crowds at times were small but could often number in the hundreds. In these early days there were no churches yet, so of course all the work of visiting and encouraging, in addition to the meetings, fell on the evangelist and his wife.



In May 1888, an organizational meeting was held in Springdale, Arkansas, for the purpose of establishing a state conference.² The Arkansas Conference was officially organized by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists on May 21, 1888, with ten churches, 226 members, one ordained minister and two licensed ministers.³ In 1902, Arkansas, along with Texas, and the then-known Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory became part of the newly organized Southwestern Union Conference.

In contrast to the rural beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist church in Arkansas, the early efforts in Louisiana centered mainly in the city of New Orleans. New Orleans was a port city with ships coming from all over the world, making it an ideal location to send workers and tracts to many other countries. Taking advantage of the World's Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition that was to be held in New Orleans from 1884 to 1885, and seeing the opportunity to contact many people with the Gospel, the General Conference sent Texas Conference President Robert M. Kilgore to open a city mission in New Orleans.⁴

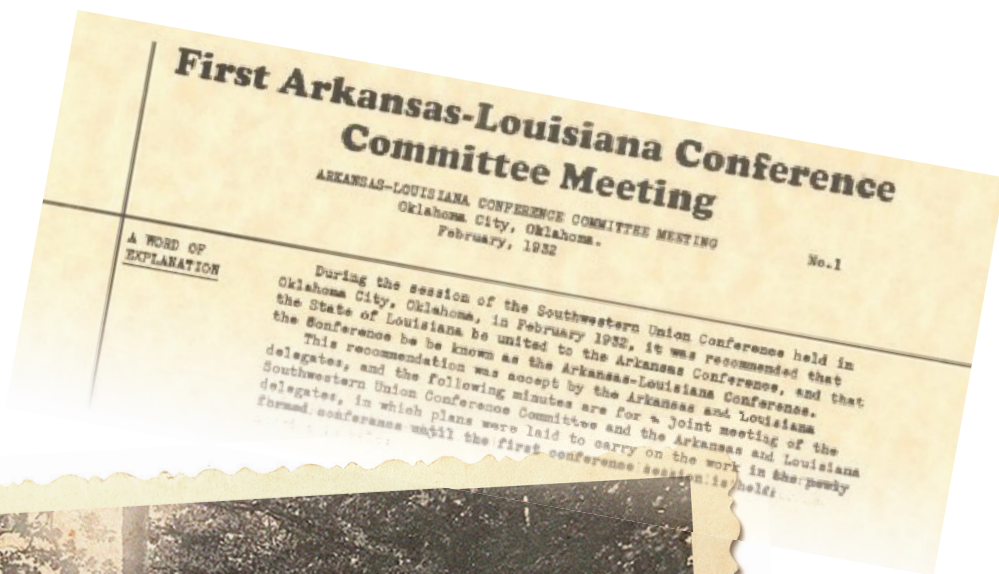
By 1887, there were two churches in Louisiana, neither of them very strong, with only two colporteurs for the entire state. By the end of 1889 there were three successful companies, which were the direct result of canvassing.⁵ The Louisiana Conference was organized on August 1, 1901, with six churches, including one African American church in New Orleans, one company, 178 total members and two ordained ministers. The Louisiana Conference became part of the Southern Union Conference.

When the Great Depression hit in the 1930s, the church's work suffered from severe reductions in tithe and other income. The 1931 Fall Council of the General Conference Committee suggested extensive administrative and territorial changes in several unions across the United States. These changes reduced the number of union conferences in North America from twelve to eight and the number of local conferences from 58 to 48.⁶

On February 23, 1932, Louisiana, with its members and churches, was transferred to the Southwestern Union Conference to join with Arkansas.⁷ Leaders from the Southern Union visited about 85 percent of the Louisiana members, explaining

the change to them. Although the members said they were willing to accept it, the change was still very difficult for them.⁸ In the new Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, there were now 33 churches, with 2,078 members, nine ordained ministers, three licensed ministers, 18 teachers and 11 colporteurs.⁹ When the Southwestern Mission (now the Southwest Region Conference) was organized on January 1, 1947, 13 African American churches and 829 members were subtracted from the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. The conference president referred to this separation as "divorce proceedings," feeling keenly the loss of the cordial relationship that had been maintained.¹⁰


When the new Arkansas-Louisiana Conference was organized in 1932, Louisiana had been part of the Louisiana-Mississippi Conference since 1920, with headquarters in Jackson, Mississippi. Headquarters for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference were in Little Rock, Arkansas, so members in southern Louisiana were far removed from their new conference headquarters. Finally, in 1959, land was purchased in Shreveport, Louisiana, for a more central location. It is 350



Camp Meeting, Van Buren, Arkansas

miles from the Gentry district and 320 miles from the New Orleans district. By this time, membership had grown to over 3400, with 44 churches and four companies.¹¹

The 90 years since the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference was organized have been years of steady growth, even through difficult times. In 2022, we are showing 13,246 members, with 94 churches, 13 companies, 8 groups and 10 schools. These are cared for by 72 pastors and 34 teachers. Our membership growth, along with tithe and offerings, have held steady even

through the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2019, a new conference logo was introduced with the theme “One Family in Jesus,” indicating our conference goal to work together as a family to spread God’s love. Our beginnings were diverse, but we strive to live in unity with each other and with our Savior as we continue to serve Him. 

By Rebecca Burton. Burton recently retired, having served the Arkansas-Louisiana Education Department for several years. She is considered an avid researcher and historian for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.

[1] Cook, J. H. (1877, May 10). Review and Herald, p. 150. [2] Butler, G. I. (1888, April 10). Ibid., p. 240. [3] (1888). Transcription of Minutes of General Conference Sessions, pp. 370, 371. [4] Haskell, S. N. (1884, Dec. 16). Review and Herald, p. 793. [5] Eldridge, C. (1890, Feb. 1). The Home Missionary, p. 39. [6] (1932, Mar. 2). Southwestern Union Record, pp. 1-4, 9, 12, 14-20. [7] Ruf, A. F. (1932, Feb. 24). Ibid., p. 2. [8] (1932, April 7). Review and Herald, p. 17. [9] (1933). Yearbook of the Seventh-day Adventist Denomination. Washington, D.C.: Review and Herald Publishing Association. [10] Wells, Frank D. (1947, Feb. 12). Southwestern Union Record, p. 5. [11] Evans, I. M. (1959, Feb. 18). Ibid., p. 18.

Photos: Page 9 top: The 1884 World’s Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition in New Orleans. prJLC_FAIR_001710, The World’s Industrial and Cotton Centennial Exposition. New Orleans. Open December 1st 1884, to May 31st 1885, The Huntington Library, San Marino, California; Page 9 bottom: Minutes of the first Executive Committee meeting of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Archives; Page 10: Camp meeting in Van Buren, Arkansas, ca. 1903; courtesy of Ruth E. Pope.



Unity Not Uniformity

Diversity is a word that we use so much these days. We recognize and celebrate our uniqueness. The beauty of the Church is that we are indeed a diverse community of faith. But when you look at how the Church started, it started with a very diverse group of men that Jesus called to follow Him. In these 12, there was a diversity of economic status, political beliefs, marital status, and personalities and the list goes on and on. It would be interesting to be a fly on the wall to overhear the discussions that the Disciples had, either amid a busy day of ministry or in the quietness before retiring for the evening. They didn't always get along, so much so that, moments before they walked into the Upper Room on that last Thursday night to celebrate Passover, they were arguing about who was to be the greatest. But what is fascinating is that it is this diverse group of leaders that would help to take the Gospel to the ends of the Earth.

As I look around at the men and women that have been called into full-

time ministry, I see that same diversity that the Disciples had millennia ago. In my quarter of a century of ministry experience, especially now in my role at the Texas Conference, I have ministered alongside some men and women who are very much like me, but also men and women who differ from me. One could ask, how can such a diversity of pastors work effectively together to expand the Kingdom? The answer lies in unity. Unity is not uniformity. Inherently in the idea of diversity is the understanding that there will not be uniformity. Each of us is called to minister in the beauty of who God created us to be. What unites us as pastors is the recognition and celebration of our diversity, which is the sum of our experiences, our personality and our gifts. It is our place in ministry, along with the overarching passion and understanding that "The church is God's appointed agency for the salvation of men. It was organized for service, and its mission is to carry the gospel to the world," as Ellen G. White stated in *The Acts of the Apostles*.

It is exciting to see, across the Southwestern Union, as well across the North American Division, pastors working across conference lines to better reach their communities with the Gospel, building on their diversity of skills, passions and experience. While in the past the lines between conferences were separating, today they are opportunities for collaboration and resource sharing. I have seen pastors of completely different backgrounds and skills working together in a geographic area to be the hands and feet of Jesus and sharing the good news of Christ's soon coming. I firmly believe that continuing to celebrate and leverage the diversity of our pastoral workers will lead to seeing our communities of faith make great strides in impacting our cities, towns and villages for the Kingdom. **R**

By Tom Grove. Grove is the associate director for ministry and evangelism at the Texas Conference.

Adventist Allografts

By Dr. Randall R. Phillips, Health Ministries Coordinator
for the Southwestern Union and Texas Conference

Many of us are well-acquainted with the metaphor that Paul employs in 1 Corinthians 12:12-31 of the diverse body parts being grafted together into a unified, fully functional whole body, the body of Christ. Most would also readily identify the active agent for this “grafting into one process” as the Holy Spirit, which the text clearly details. It is our Father’s intention and desire that every member should seamlessly join with the others to complete His design of a perfectly integrated church body. Each piece is uniquely fitted to contribute just what is needed so that while there is indeed diversity by necessity, there ultimately is unity in function by design.

Bringing disparate parts (individuals) together into one body and keeping them there without problems and complications can be challenging. This is as true for the church as it is in medicine. Without careful preparation and effort, various members of the body can work against each other, causing rejection and failure. In surgical grafting/transplantation, we employ medication (immunosuppressants) to suppress the rejection of each individual graft by the body’s immune system. This allows for healing and full integration of the parts to effectively work together for the good of the whole body.

Our Father utilizes the same approach to prevent similar problems in the body of His Church ... and your church. The Holy Spirit is, once again, the active agent. He alone can provide the only thing that can ensure that rejection, discord and problems between the various individual parts (people) will not succeed in causing failure in the unified body. He can



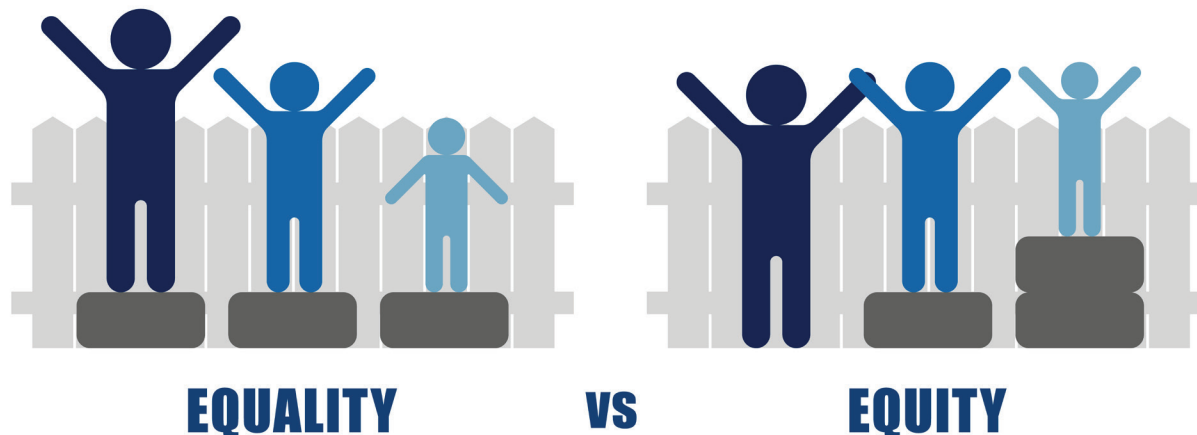
provide full dosing of the love of Jesus. It seems to be a universal truth that, in our church bodies and affiliated organizations, sooner rather than later, “rejection” issues occur. Some members take issue with other members over something—anything—and localized irritation and inflammation builds that, if not treated quickly and correctly, can lead to toxic consequences that spread and threaten the spiritual life not only of the individuals involved, but also the entire body can suffer irreversible loss.

The solution is stated simply by Jesus in John 15:12, “Love each other as I have loved you.” Simply stated ... but the daily application is the challenge. To love as Jesus loves is the only spiritual “immunosuppressant” to the

rejection issue among the individual parts of the body of Christ. The application requires only one thing on our part, but it is the only thing that inspiration tells us we can do, and that is to daily, unreservedly submit our will to Him. To die, as Paul said, to self. Implicit in that is a daily rebirth through the Holy Spirit, which allows us to begin to love like Christ. Loving others as Jesus does is where everything must start; for without this, everything else, no matter how well-intentioned and how strenuously we try, the effort will always fall short and fail. [®]

Closing the Health Equity Gap

By Elizabeth Camps, AdventHealth Stakeholder Communications Senior Specialist



Merriam-Webster defines “equitable” as “having or exhibiting equity; dealing fairly and equally with all concerned.” Unfortunately, we know that equity is lacking in many areas today, especially in health. This work is not just for physicians and policymakers. The good news is we can all play a part in closing the health equity gap. Not sure where to start? Here are five ways you can help in your local community and make a difference today:

Volunteer Your Services

Making a difference in our local communities can be as simple as volunteering to help. Do you speak a second language? Offer to help translate information or directions. Does a neighbor need to see a doctor but can’t drive? Offer to give them a ride.

Host Tech Workshops

As technology continues to evolve, health institutions are taking advantage of technological advancements to improve processes. Forms, appointment confirmations and even test results are often shared through digital platforms. This can pose a

problem for those who are not so tech-savvy. Host a workshop at your local church to teach tech basics to those who may not feel comfortable navigating digital platforms on their own.

Recommend a Health Fair Event

When was the last time your local church hosted a health fair? These events are an excellent way to make information and simple checks more accessible to your local community. At the next church board meeting, recommend hosting a health fair.

Start a Food Pantry

Health equity is about more than just being able to see your primary care physician and getting your blood pressure checked. It’s also about having access to healthy and nutritious food. Consider starting a food pantry at your local church, with fruits, vegetables, water and whole grains to distribute and make available for your local community.

Create a Space for Proactive Discussions

Providing information and education on prevalent health issues is another crucial element of health equity. Do

you have a physician in your church congregation? Can you connect with a physician at your local hospital? Invite them to your church to talk about prevalent health issues in your community.

Doing Our Part

In a recent “Finding Hope” panel discussion, Alric Simmonds, M.D., chief health equity officer for AdventHealth; David Sinclair, M.D., chief medical officer for AdventHealth Altamonte Springs; and Reverend Gabriel Salguero, Ph.D., pastor at the Gathering Place, addressed how medical and faith communities can work together to close the health equity gap.

“We have got to get to a place where our health system also goes into that space and utilizes that to provide education and perhaps social services, clinical care, end-of-life decision-making care, in a place where the congregants, the believers, the faithful are already primed and open to those kinds of lessons,” said Dr. Simmonds. “We cannot be a safe and high reliable health care system, no health care system can, as long as health inequities exist.” [®]

July Events

1-3

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

Spanish Camp Meeting
Wewoka Woods Adventist Center,
Wewoka, Okla.
DPrieto@okla-adventist.org

3-10

**ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA
CONFERENCE**

Teen Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay,
Mountain Pine, Ark.
DCraig@arklac.org

4

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Union and Conference offices
closed.

8-16

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

English Camp Meeting
Wewoka Woods Adventist Center,
Wewoka, Okla.
OKAdventist.org/campmeeting

9

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Elders' Encounter: Local Church
Elders' Training, San Antonio
Scenic Hills Seventh-day Adventist
Church, TexasAdventist.org

10-17

**ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA
CONFERENCE**

Family Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay,
Mountain Pine, Ark.
DCraig@arklac.org

16

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Elders' Encounter: Local Church
Elders' Training, Austin South
Seventh-day Adventist Church
TexasAdventist.org

22-23

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Prayer Conference, hosted by
Texico Conference, Amarillo
Seventh-day Adventist Church,
MMauk@swuc.org

23

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Elders' Encounter: Local Church
Elders' Training, Arlington
Seventh-day Adventist Church
TexasAdventist.org

24

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Elders' Encounter: Local Church
Elders' Training, Tyler Spanish
Seventh-day Adventist Church
TexasAdventist.org

29-30

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Creciendo Juntos: Growing
Together Summit in Spanish
Southwestern Adventist University
MMauk@swuc.org

30

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Elders' Encounter: Local Church
Elders' Training
Houston Spanish Spring Branch
Seventh-day Adventist Church
TexasAdventist.org

5-6

TEXAS CONFERENCE

24-Hour Prayer Vigil
Virtual Meeting
TexasAdventist.org

6

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Biker Ministries
Baton Rouge Seventh-day
Adventist Church
MMauk@swuc.org

13-14

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Empower: Club Ministry and AY
Leaders, Brazos County Expo,
Bryan, Tex.
TXYouth.org

20

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Next Level: Equipping Church
Leaders for Service,
Virtual Meeting
TexasAdventist.org

28

TEXAS CONFERENCE

Local Church Treasurer Training
South Texas Christian Academy,
McAllen, Tex., TexasAdventist.org

August Events

1-3

**ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA
CONFERENCE**

Teachers' Convention
Ozark Adventist Academy,
Gentry, Ark., SBurton@arklac.org



61st General Conference Session Held in St. Louis

ST. LOUIS, MO. – The 61st General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church was held in St. Louis on June 6-11, 2022. Delegates came together in person and via Zoom for the first hybrid General Conference (GC) session to discuss and vote on agenda items which included electing GC officers, officers for the 13 divisions and changes to the GC Constitution and Bylaws and the Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual.

The delegates elected the three incumbent GC officers: Ted N.C. Wilson, president; Erton C. Köhler, secretary; Paul H. Douglas, treasurer. Additionally, the delegates elected incumbent North American Division President G. Alexander Bryant. The business sessions were held Monday through Thursday, reports from the divisions were presented on Friday and GC President Ted Wilson shared the Sabbath message on Saturday.

Eighteen delegates attended from the Southwestern Union (middle left) and six Texas Conference pastors served as translators (bottom left). Musical group Contagious Faith (bottom right) participated on Sabbath and Southwestern Union officers (middle right) shared personal remarks on Facebook.com/SouthwesternUnion.

Official reports of the 61st GC Session are available at Adventist.news and AdventistReview.org.



Photo by Tor Tjeransen



Photo by Tor Tjeransen

Kristina Busch Named New Director of Communications

BURLESON, TEX. – Kristina Busch has been named director of communications for the Southwestern Union. The position was previously held by Jessica Lozano who accepted another position in February. As communication director, Busch will also serve as *Record* editor.

The Southwestern Union Communication Department oversees the production of the *Record* suite including the printed and digital magazines, as well as the website SWURecord.org. The department is also responsible for the Southwestern Union public relations and crisis management, in addition to social media, website, video production and photography for the ministries of the Union.

Southwestern Union Executive Secretary shared, “We are thankful to God for Kristina’s unique preparedness for her new role as the director of communications. Having served as associate

director and associate editor for the *Record* for quite some time, she has demonstrated a commitment to excellence, willingness to serve and has always made herself available to all five local conferences of the Southwestern Union territory.”

Busch has served as associate director in the communication department for six years. She had previously served in the Texas Conference communication department for 11 years, most recently as Assistant to the President for Communication.

Busch has a bachelor’s of science in communication broadcasting from Southwestern Adventist University and a master’s degree in business administration with a marketing emphasis.

“I’m humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead the communication department of the Southwestern Union. I look forward to taking our



department a step further to creatively and effectively further the goals of the Southwestern Union, but most importantly the goals of Heaven,” shared Busch. She and her husband, Jason, have an infant daughter named Amelia.

Renee Whiting Joins Southwestern Union Office of Education

BURLESON, TEX. – The Southwestern Union Office of Education welcomes Renee Whiting as associate director of education serving as educational coach for the department. Beginning July 1, her responsibilities will include the coordination of professional learning communities across the Southwestern Union to sustain the implementation of continuous school improvement and standards-based learning.

Southwestern Union Education Superintendent Carol Campbell shared, “Renee is assuming the position of coach for the schools in the Southwestern Union. She will work closely with educators to fulfill our goals. We believe that this action will serve to take our schools to the next level as we strive to create sustainable cultures of excellence in teaching and learning.”

Whiting most recently served as associate superintendent of education

for the Texas Conference. She has worked in education for more than 20 years and has taught kindergarten through twelfth grades.

Throughout her career, she has served as a principal, school counselor and associate superintendent. Whiting has a bachelor’s degree in elementary education and a master’s degree in school counseling.

Whiting shares, “I am excited and honored to have the privilege of joining the Southwestern Union educational team. I look forward to learning from two of the most prolific minds in Adventist education, as well as partnering with them in the continued development and implementation of Adventist instructional strategies.”

Whiting is a product of Adventist education having attended both Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University. Her father was a pastor



and her mother is a retired Adventist Educator. Whiting is the mother of three daughters, Brittany, ReJena’ and Alexis, and has three grandchildren.

*By Kristina P. Busch
Communication Director*

Growing Together is CRECIENDO JUNTOS

BURLESON, TEX. - One of our greatest concerns and challenges is retaining young people and integrating them in church leadership. We yearn to have them involved in growing the kingdom of God and fulfilling our mission. Through the Young Adult and Youth Department, the Southwestern Union has launched the Growing Together initiative, in English, in our territory with the help of the North American Division.

CRECIENDO JUNTOS is the Spanish-language Growing Together initiative of the Southwest Union. Together with our five Conferences and Southwestern Adventist University, the Union seeks to foster the growth and development of our young people along with the adult leaders in our churches. At the same time, we seek to

train the leadership of our congregations so that they can employ their full potential to impact their communities. We encourage you to participate in this necessary and wonderful initiative!

Forming and developing our young people, together with their adult mentors, in the different areas of leadership in our Spanish-speaking congregations will help to contextualize our needs and the scope of our mission. This allows adults to establish bonds of friendship and mentorship with younger generations, especially second and third generation Hispanics.

CRECIENDO JUNTOS is a two-year program during which Spanish churches are trained and instructed to give opportunity, responsibility and authority to as many young people as possible. Opportunities for integra-

tion and participation take place in a familiar environment with understanding, sincere communication, acceptance and camaraderie. This allows for healthy intergenerational growth and, at the same time, facilitates the expansion of the kingdom of God.

We need the leadership of the participating congregation to commit to investing effort and time to see this initiative through as a new direction and generating force of youth leaders integrated in all areas of church ministry so that we may reach more young people who constitute our vanguard until the return of Jesus. For more information visit CreciendoJuntos.org or the Young Adult and Youth Department at MMauk@swuc.org.

*By Osvaldo Rigacci
VP for Multicultural Ministries*

CRECIENDO JUNTOS

JULIO 29-30
SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST
UNIVERSITY

Cumbre de Líderes y Jóvenes

Únete a esta iniciativa de cooperación. Como líderes e iglesia debemos constantemente desarrollar nuestro potencial para engrandecer el Reino de Dios aquí y para la eternidad. Durante el fin de semana descubriremos cómo crecer juntos como líderes, como iglesia y como pueblo de Dios.

¡INSCRÍBETE YA!

CreciendoJuntos.org



 Iglesia Adventista
del Séptimo Día
UNIÓN DEL SUROESTE

Union Pathfinders Shine at NAD PBE

EUGENE, ORE. – The North American Division (NAD) hosted its annual Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) in Eugene, Ore., on the weekend of April 22-23, 2022. A total of 91 teams participated, 61 in person and 30 online. Teams traveled from as far away as the British Union to engage in this national event. Fifty-five teams took first place, 27 teams took second place and nine teams took third place.

The Southwestern Union sent 15 teams to the PBE, of which 12 placed first and three placed second. First place: Arbuckle View, Warriors; Central del Valle, Maranatha; DFW Fil-Am, Tamaraw-Team A; DFW Fil-Am, Tamaraw-Team B; Edinburg, Edinburg Castles-Team B; Houston International, His Hikers-Ruth; Keene Rocketeers-Apollo; Keene Rocketeers-Aries; Keene Rocketeers-Atlas; Richardson, Thunder-Mighty Thunder; Santa Anna Mountain Lions; Tyler Trailblazers. Second place: Keene Rocketeers-Artemis; Keene Spanish, Soul Savers; McKinney Morning Stars-Team A.

The dedication of the Pathfinders and their coaches is amazing, consid-

ering the amount of study and memorization that takes place in the Word of God. The books for this event were Ruth and 1 Kings. Congratulations to all 15 teams because we are all winners in Jesus Christ.

As with any event, it wouldn't be as memorable without additional excitement. One of our teams from the Edinburg Seventh-day Adventist Church from the Texas Conference, got stranded in Seattle, Wash. Different people worked hard to assist them to arrive at their final destination. Walla Walla University Recruiter Tiffany Nelson tried to give us contacts to schools who might have buses, Washington Conference Youth Director David Salazar was making calls and even Beth Querol, from as far away as Tyler, Tex., offered transportation to go pick them up. But we serve an awesome God who had it already worked out.

In the words of their team leader, Leah Par, "Edinburg Castles had an incredible experience this weekend. It wasn't just a Pathfinder Bible Experience, but a life changing experience. On Friday, a diverted flight left us

waiting inside the airplane for almost three hours before it was canceled. The rebooked flight was for Sunday, but we had to be at the PBE on Sabbath morning. Renting vehicles and driving the four hours from Seattle, Wash. to Eugene, Ore., put us at the hotel at 4 a.m., which gave us less than four hours to sleep as the PBE started at 8 a.m. Unbeknownst to us, during this challenge, we had a large Pathfinder family in the NAD and around the world praying for us. The enormous support of pastors Gene Clapp and Helvis Moody will never be forgotten. The prayers of the PBE family will always be remembered."

As I reflect on the overall experiences, I want to say thank you to all those who made sacrifices that made this possible, the volunteers and others. As we study the Word of God, may we share it with others because indeed it is good news!

*By Helvis C. Moody
Young Adult and Youth Director
Photos by Vanston Archbold*



Prayer Conference in Amarillo in July

BURLESON, TEX. – The Southwestern Union Conference Prayer Ministries Department is excited to announce that we have teamed up with the Texico Conference to conduct a Prayer Conference at the Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church in Amarillo, Tex. on July 22-23, 2022.

The theme for the Prayer Conference is “A Generation Searching for God.” Now is the time for us to seek God! Our generation has an incredible opportunity to draw near to the Lord in prayer these days.

Isaiah 55:6 says, “Seek the Lord while He may be found; call on Him while He is near.” We are living in critical times, so we invite you to come worship and pray with us.

The weekend will see many guests including the prayer coordinators of

the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, Oklahoma Conference, Southwest Region Conference, Texas Conference, Texico Conference and leaders of the Southwestern Union who are looking forward to praying with you and sharing wonderful words of life pertaining to the power of prayer.

A special prayer time will be held for youth and young adults on Friday evening, while a special prayer time will be held for children on Saturday morning.

The prayer conference will have presentations in both English and Spanish languages, with plans to accommodate the hearing impaired. General sessions will include preaching, singing, breakout seminars on prayer and outreach prayer initiatives.

We believe that God is going to do amazing things at this Prayer Confer-

ence. We solicit your prayers and we hope to see you there.

The prayer conference is free, but registration is requested. Visit SouthwesternAdventist.org/prayer to register. For more information call the Southwestern Union office at 817.295.0476.

*By Helvis C. Moody
Prayer Ministries Director*

**Generation Searching
for God**
PRAYER CONFERENCE

FRIDAY - SATURDAY
July 22-23, 2022

THREE SESSIONS:
POWERFUL LESSONS ON PRAYER
MULTIPLE PRAYERS
MULTICULTURAL PRAYERS

Register at SouthwesternAdventist.org/prayer
Hosted By : Texico Conference of Seventh-day Adventists

Seventh-day
Adventist Church
SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Breaking Down the Silos



KEENE, TEX.— In the business world there is a common word that makes organizations cringe. It is the word “silo.” What image comes to mind when you hear the word silo? The image that comes to my mind is of an organization whose various departments and teams do not work together, which increases operational costs and sabotages efficiency. On the subject of the silo mentality, Patrick Lencioni states, “Silos—and the turf wars they enable—devastate organizations. They waste resources, kill productivity and jeopardize the achievement of goals.” How true.

In Adventist education, our students, our customers, expect their school to meet their needs in a seamless and effective way. They expect a fulfilling experience as they connect with and interact with our brand. For us to deliver the knowledge, faith and service they seek, our internal teams must work together while still playing our unique roles to give our students their desired experience. But we should not stop there. We also need to

collaborate with our external teams—local churches, the Texas Conference and the Southwestern Union—so, as our young people follow their life’s journey, it continues to point to God’s plan for their life. God’s desire, our desire and the desire of the Seventh-day Adventist Church is to see young people fulfilling God’s purpose for them. It truly does take collaboration for that to happen—the home, the church and the school need to work in “silo-less” fashion to achieve this purpose.

Paul mentions the antidote to this silo mentality as unity in 1 Corinthians 12:12, “Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body.” In his letter to the Romans, Paul writes similar advice, “For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” Romans 12:4-5. We certainly do not all have the same function, but we need to ask the Lord to show us the part He has called us to play in His

plan. He has given each one of us a special task. We need to understand and accept the role God is calling us to play and how we may collaborate with others to fulfill His will.

We recently experienced an excellent example of collaboration. As the 2021-2022 school year came to a close, our students had the privilege of being sent off into their professional stage of life, not only by Southwestern Adventist University, but also by our partners and event sponsors in ministry: Texas Conference Young Adult Director Justin Yang, Southwestern Union Young Adult and Youth Director Helvis Moody and pastors Michael Gibson from Elevate at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church and Allan Martin/Oddie Olazaran from Younger Generation Church at the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church. Just imagine what else we could accomplish if we all worked in a “silo-less” community!

*By Tony Reyes
VP for University Advancement
Photo by Justin Yang*

Musicians Unite for Ukraine

ARLINGTON, TEX. – As war in Ukraine has become more devastating, Southwestern Adventist University's (SWAU) music department reached out to the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to inquire about a partnership to make a difference in Ukraine. SWAU's music department offered what it does best, producing beautiful music, as an idea to fundraise for the extensive relief operations going on in the war-torn area. Michael Kruger, ADRA president, was most grateful for the collaborative idea. To maximize this fundraising effort, the music department organized a united concert featuring SWAU's University Singers and Donne Cantanti, the Southwestern Chamber Orchestra and The Chisholm Trail Academy Honors Choir.

On April 23, 2022, SWAU's music department presented "For Ukraine," an Adventist Development and Relief Agency International Benefit Concert, in Arlington, Tex. About 80 student musicians came together for the purpose of using their talents to raise funds to help those suffering in Ukraine and several hundred people attended the performance.

"The concert was a way to raise awareness for people to see and hear more about what ADRA is doing and

to be inspired to help," explained Jonathan E. L. Wall, director of the University Singers and Donne Cantanti. "It was a concert sharing hope to those in desperate need." This theme of hope inspired every musician, and the audience felt their compassion through each piece, especially "Shche ne vmerla Ukrayina," Ukraine's national anthem, or, translated, "Ukraine's Glory Hasn't Perished."

At the concert, SWAU President Ana Patterson shared, "Knowledge, faith and service is our tagline at Southwestern Adventist University. As an institution, we welcome opportunities to engage in service. One of those opportunities came through this wonderful concert which benefitted ADRA's humanitarian efforts in Ukraine. We were honored to be part of this altruistic initiative and proud of our students, faculty, and staff who shared their valuable time and talents to help others."

Between musical features, three powerful videos aired from ADRA that showed the grateful people of Ukraine receiving food, shelter and lifesaving supplies from ADRA workers laboring day and night within the country and surrounding areas. Michael Kruger, ADRA International president, sent his sincere thanks from Turkey by video,

where he was meeting with ADRA country directors, reviewing their humanitarian strategy for ongoing operations for Ukraine.

"We are grateful to each of you for coming out tonight to support this historic humanitarian cause. I regret I could not be in attendance," said Michael Kruger. "As the Global humanitarian Agency of the Adventist Church, ADRA reaffirms its commitment to serve, protect and stand for the people of Ukraine and all communities impacted by this unending crisis. I want to personally thank each singer and musician performing tonight for giving your time and talents. We appreciate the generosity and applaud you for putting your passion to purpose to support ADRA International's humanitarian relief operations in Ukraine. We can't thank you enough for trusting ADRA to bring love and compassion to the people of Ukraine. Please continue to pray for the millions of victims impacted by this monumental crisis and for the safety of thousands of ADRA workers and volunteers leading this crucial mission. Southwestern University, our sincerest gratitude once again for your generous partnership. We are, and will forever, remain grateful."

By Michelle Bergmann





Growing the Kingdom: 90 Years & Counting

Ninety years ago, at the worst part of the Depression, the General Conference reorganized the work in North America. Financial challenges necessitated a change from twelve unions to eight and 58 conferences to 48. In the Southwestern Union, the result of those changes was the creation of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference on Feb. 23, 1932.

This new conference began with 39 churches, 2,078 members, nine ordained ministers, three licensed ministers, 18 teachers and 11 colporteurs. Not long after the merger, H. C. Hartwell penned the words to "The Song of the Builders." In that rally song, she penned these words: "We'll sing a song of unity, of churches far and near. From Arkansas unto the Gulf we sound a note of cheer... We'll teach and preach and visit more, and train our children, too. As we build, God's Spirit will attend every book and page of truth we send."

And God has richly blessed during these past 90 years. In spite of the challenges, sometimes even hardship, the gospel of Jesus has been pro-

claimed and men, women and children have made decisions for Jesus and become part of the family. Our church schools and Ozark Adventist Academy continue to educate and train our children for not only living today but living for eternity.

Today, our conference has 13,210 members, 114 churches, companies and groups. Our members are faithful. They are actively engaged in sharing the soon return of Jesus! New churches are being planted. Training and mentoring are continuing to take place. New members are being nurtured. They are becoming genuine disciples of Jesus. There is an energy and enthusiasm to share the good news.

During this special year, the conference made special medallions to commemorate the progress in our field. As I was handing a medallion to one individual, they exclaimed they were delighted to be able to celebrate the 90 years. Then they proceeded to share that they probably wouldn't be alive to celebrate 100 years. I responded that I didn't want to celebrate 100 years either: I was praying earnestly for

Jesus to come sooner than that!

Hartwell says in her last stanza: "We know what Israel ought to do; the times we understand. We're wide-awake and active, too; a strong aggressive band. Progress, progress, we will see this year; working with a vision broad and clear. Every member building, praying, too, as well, we'll succeed, you may be sure, results will tell." Our mission is to go, grow and multiply! Jesus is coming soon!

By Richard C. Dye, Sr., President



Pathfinder Camporee: On Track With Jesus

MOUNTAIN PINE, ARK. – On Friday, April 22, 2022, 23 registered Pathfinder clubs started rolling into Camp Yorktown Bay (CYB) with trailers, tents and lots of excited Pathfinders. This was the first Arkansas-Louisiana Conference (ARK-LA) Pathfinder Camporee in over four years. We ended up with 289 Pathfinders and staff over the weekend. Tents were quickly set up and cook tents dotted the ball field and camping areas. As an alternate “Pathfinder Song” by Stan Schirmer says, “Running up the highway, following the Son; we are the future, a promise just begun. We are the next generation, tomorrow’s in our hands; in a world of problems, we’re going to make a stand.”

David Craig, ARKLA Conference youth and young adult director, was our speaker, with stories about the path: “Don’t Stop on the Path,” “Stay

on the Path,” “Keep Going,” “Don’t Panic When You See the Finish Line” and “There Is Help If You Crash on the Path.” Jefferson Christian Academy gave us rousing song services and taught us Schirmer’s Pathfinder song: “Jesus is my friend, He’s a true companion. We are God’s explorers, Rangers for the Lord. Voyagers together, working side by side. No matter what the problem, God is going to be my guide.”

Sabbath morning consisted of a scavenger hunt called “Picture the Bible Stories.” Twenty-two items were listed to use in pictures depicting Bible stories. Teams were judged on originality, creativity, completing the list and using the whole team. There was a wide variety of winners in this activity. This was the first time in many years that the Bible Bowl was com-

bined with a camporee. We had 13 teams registered for the Bible Bowl with four first-place rankings. Hot Springs Pathfinders came in at the very top! Three new Pathfinder area coordinators and one Adventurer area coordinator were invested for ARKLA.

Saturday night was a highlight, with 102 cars registered for the Pine Car Derby! It was a fun time as teams and clubs raced their cars with the best of them. Medallions and trophies were handed out at Sunday morning worship. Again, Schirmer’s lyrics, “We are Pathfinders! Tomorrow’s in our hands. In a world of problems, we’re going to make a stand. We are the Pathfinders! Believe us when we say, we are heading in the right direction, ‘cause Jesus leads the way.”

*By Sylvia Downs
Pathfinder Administrative Assistant*



Amity Lifestyle Health Event

AMITY, ARK. — John Kelly, M.D., M.P.H., L.M. specialist, founding president of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, and his wife, Sally, have a very special ministry. They travel the globe, presenting instructional lifestyle health programs tailored to the particular site. They recently provided 12 hours of helpful instruction spread over five days at the Amity Seventh-day Adventist Church. Area churches, as well as the community, were invited, resulting in a delightful social mix. Every session began with tasty, healthy food samples prepared by Sally, who provided and talked about the recipes. The content of Dr.

Kelly's talks included up-to-date data on how lifestyle factors affect specific conditions: diabetes, now known to be reversible; heart disease; high blood pressure and more. The participants learned some simple but very effective hydrotherapies as well as ways to use charcoal effectively. Many took advantage of a very low-cost blood panel drawn before the beginning of the program, which correlated with a filled-out health appraisal, and were provided helpful counsel going forward. As time permits, the Kellys make themselves available to any church or other entity.

By Dr. Carlos Irizarry



In God's Time at Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church

MOUNTAIN VIEW, ARK. — As a new member of the Mountain View Seventh-day Adventist Church, Geraldine Huff has a history of strong Christian influence that stretches across 400 years. One branch of her family immigrated to colonial Virginia in 1700 as French Huguenot refugees. Having previously fled to Switzerland, they made their way to London where four ships left for the New World. They were instrumental in evangelism and church planting among the colonies. Through another branch, her great-grandmother's family were from the Roman Catholic Church in Germany. Great-grandmother Frances rejected the teaching of that church and eventually married a protestant minister.

These ancestors, as well as her father and maternal great-grandfather, who were both pastors, were instrumental in developing her Christian faith. Geraldine was active in the church that she attended from an early age. Baptized at 16, she lived her faith, always active in music ministry, choir and special music. Singing was an act of worship helping her to express her faith. Her church was like a family to her for more than six decades—and

yet changes were on the horizon.

She married Chuck, a Seventh-day Adventist, and through the years the common bond of faith in Christ as their Savior and Redeemer kept Geraldine and Chuck from having any religious disagreements. More than 30 years went by, with each attending their individual churches based on their convictions of belief. Occasionally they would attend church together for special events, but both knew that a family is blessed in unity of church attendance. Geraldine chose not to dissuade Chuck from his beliefs and, as time rolled by, she noticed a gentle, consistent change in his life. She was happy to see that his church association was strengthening him in many ways. She felt that Chuck needed to know that the changes in his life were not solely the result of her influence, but of his connection to God and to the people in his church.

She always had questions about the Sabbath. The word "remember" gave her much to ponder. She wondered if there was a deeper meaning to the word than she had formerly believed. At the time when the questions were getting stronger, the Mountain View

church held a series of meetings called "Chronicles of Prophecy" with an Amazing Facts Ministry evangelist, Dakota Day. Geraldine had a great desire to learn more and faithfully attended, watching the live feed from home or attending the meetings held in a public setting when she could. Many questions were answered along with the fact that "resting in the Lord" is the emphasis that we must "remember." When the meetings closed, she did not feel ready for church membership but began attending church on a regular basis and completed the Discover Bible Studies on her own.

After much prayer and study, God let her know that it was time to take the step of church membership. During the first part of 2022, that became a reality. Life now? ... She says, "I'm hungrier for the Word." Faithfully experiencing morning and evening worship, Geraldine says that she just wants to study more. "I came to this experience with Jesus in my heart and knowledge for living life in Him, but now I have a hunger to learn more. I'm ever growing and ever loving my Lord."

By Ruth Doss

Evangelism in Texarkana

TEXARKANA, TEX. – Amazing Facts evangelist Jordan Moore and David Farmer began a series thoroughly relating the prophecies of Daniel, Sabbath, Sanctuary and God’s judgment to the message of the Three Angels.

The simplicity and clarity of the presentation and the presence of the Holy Spirit led to three baptisms and one profession of faith. Several others still attend and continue to study. Praise God!

David Hudson, impressed by the Holy Spirit, began attending Sabbath School, church and an afternoon study group for some time before the meetings. He said, “I felt impressed [that] this is where I should come.” Chryssann Butler and Prima Resecker have attended and studied with Brenda Litchfield for quite some time and Moore’s presentations solidified what they had learned and led them into a greater understanding. Vickey Kelley received

a flier in the mail and, with some of her already existing background, she chose to attend.

During the meetings, each evening and each Sabbath morning, Children’s Ministry leader Stacy Sowers led a special children’s church for the younger children. There are other individuals still attending and sincerely studying. Each one of these people uplift us and bring joy to our congregation.

By Loretta Johnson



Appreciation In Retirement

SHREVEPORT, LA. – Stephen and Rebecca Burton, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference (ARKLA) education superintendent and administrative assistant of education, respectively, will begin their retirement on Aug. 1, 2022, culminating in a total of 40 years of service to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Steve began as interim Ranger at Camp Yorktown Bay (CYB) on Oct. 1, 1979. This lasted eight months, during which time he met his future wife, Rebecca Gunter, who worked at CYB as summer staff. He graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in May 1983, with a degree in Elementary Education. By April 1, 1983, Steve was employed by the Texas Conference, where he worked on the conference construction crew for three months until school opened. Both he and Rebecca taught in the Texas Conference for two years. On July 1, 1985, Steve was asked to come to the Arkansas-Louisiana

Conference, where he taught in Mena, Ark. at a church school for eight years. In July, 1993, he and Rebecca moved to the Ozark Adventist School, where they taught together for 17 years.

On July 1, 2010, the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference asked Steve to become education superintendent, where he and Rebecca have worked for the last 12 years and 1 month. Their retirement is being facilitated by time being spent to transition in the new education superintendent and his wife, Tim and Angeliqua Kripps. When asked what he would consider the highlight of his years teaching and being superintendent of schools, Steve was quick to mention that Outdoor School was his favorite part. He has been the director of Outdoor School for over 20 years. Steve and Rebecca will be very much missed in the office and in the field.

The Burtons want to express their thanks for all the well-wishes and gifts of appreciation for their service as superintendent and administrative assistant for the education department of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. "We will always treasure the friendships and memories we have made over the years."

By Sylvia Downs
Communication Admin. Assistant



Celebrating Pathfinder Sabbath in Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE, LA. – The Baton Rouge Red Stick Pathfinder Club celebrated with their church family on Sabbath, April 30, 2022, during the 11 a.m. service. A brief history and presentation of the World Church Pathfinder Club was given during Sabbath School. During the worship service, the Pathfinders and youth led out in the service. Club director Sandra Varela provided the

welcome, but the talents of the young people were utilized during the praise time, Pathfinder pledges, invocation, offering, children's story, ministry of prayer, scripture reading and special music.

"At a Point of Crossroads" was the title of the message given by Fletcher Broussard, a high school senior, pointing out the crossroads that our young

people stand at today. What is your church doing with evangelism for our youth? If your church does not have an active Pathfinder club, your evangelism program is greatly lacking. How will you answer the Lord when He asks "Where is the flock I gave you?"

By Frances Taylor





Search Me, O God

Once, in Heaven, there was singing, praising and worshiping, with harmony and unity flowing throughout Creation. When one individual took his focus away from God, indulging his jealousies and desires, disharmony—a concept no one ever knew existed—became a reality. This caused others to doubt, criticize and lose sight of the focal point, so much so that one-third of the created beings left Heaven, never to sing, praise or worship their Creator again. God must have grieved.

So, it is with man today. Our world contains a wonderful diversity of peoples, talents, cultures and languages. Yet, the desire to meet our own needs can become to us more important than others, unity or even God. Families are divided, races are divided and different cultures are not accepted, all because we have lost our focus: God.

The good news is that it doesn't have to be that way, for the God of Heaven made way for us to reconnect and abide totally in Christ. We can do nothing of ourselves for salvation, but abiding in Christ must not be that simple, since there is no unity among His believers, or at least very little. When we separate ourselves from the power

of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we are left empty, and we lose the power to connect and unify in God.

We know the God we serve can finish the work on His own but desires His children to do it instead. But we run into a dilemma—we can do nothing of ourselves, even to go to Him with a broken and contrite heart. We need His Spirit desperately. I remember the “five foolish virgins” thinking they had been walking with full surrender and full of the Holy Spirit, only to find themselves empty. I don't want that for you or for me.

God calls us to unity. That can only be accomplished through the indwelling of the Spirit of God in each of us. It is only through His power that we can become partakers of the union of Christ. God has to move us to do His will; we cannot even do that by ourselves. We must pray! We must allow God to work His Spirit in and through us. Then will unity prevail on Earth. In

The Adventist Home, Ellen G. White says, “The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the

church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a super-human effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.”

Embrace Psalms 139:23-24, “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” Then as individuals, families and churches, we can experience unity in Christ.

*By Apple Park
Executive Secretary*



Is It Possible to Unite in Diversity?



OKLAHOMA CITY – From Mexico to Chile, we Spanish speakers are distributed across almost 20 countries, with the heritage that the Spanish motherland, Spain, left us with our language. We have representatives of all these nationalities in the United States and we form one of the most diverse groups in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Although our language is the same, we have vast differences in the meanings of the same words. Although we call ourselves Hispanic or Latino, our typical dishes are as different as our nationalist sentiments and cultural roots. Each of the Latin American countries is divided into regions, and each region features a competition of distinct foods, politics and native languages that so richly differentiate us from one another.

Belonging to a Hispanic church in the United States is its own world. It is an environment where diversity is constant and where the challenges are greater, because each one of us think that "ours" is what is best. How can

we unite all these forces? How do we achieve Jesus' purpose for us? "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me, and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me." John 17:21. One of the simplest ways in which the Holy Spirit can unite us through the mission.

At the Oklahoma Conference, we launched the "Mission of the 70" project. "After these things the Lord appointed other 70 also and sent them two and two before his face into every city and place, wither he himself." Luke 10:1 (KJV). We asked lay people to donate a week of work, to be sent as volunteers two-by-two throughout our conference territory to preach, visit and find people to study the Bible with; by the grace of God, many are involved. In the month of March, we completed the first training with the participation of our administrators from the Southwestern Union. In the month of April, we gave local training and distributed the field missionaries,

with the participation of our dedicated pastors. In the month of May, we began to preach for four weeks in the different churches and areas with high Hispanic populations.

From now on our topic of conversation will no longer be tortillas, pupusas, baleadas, arepas, tamales or empanadas. Our topic will be to bring hope and encouragement to families, announce that the kingdom of Heaven has drawn near and help prepare our Hispanic families to meet the King.

"So, in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26, 28.

By the grace of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit, all the diversity that we Hispanics have we will convert it into unity, preaching, the mission and hope.

*Luis Prieto
Spanish Ministries Coordinator*

Helping Refugees Thrust Into Our Arms

OKLAHOMA CITY— Two men teared up as they told us about leaving their mothers and grandmothers behind in Afghanistan. We had just picked up a family of 10 at the airport and taken them to the hotel room. Before we left, the father hugged grandma Sharon, held her hand and kissed it respectfully as he would his own mother's hand respectfully. Another family introduced grandma Melanie to their mother and grandmother in Afghanistan via video call, to which they embraced her as family. The children of another family asked Dave and Chen if they would be their grandparents since theirs are deceased.

"The heart of a man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." Proverbs 16:9 (ESV). God has been working in new ways in Oklahoma. God has brought Afghans (1,000 to Oklahoma City and 850 to Tulsa), "to our very doors and thrust them, as it were, into our arms," as Ellen G. White says in *Evangelism*.

Since the first welcome on Oct. 27, 2021, the Oklahoma City group of Adventist volunteers has grown to about 40 and has welcomed over 425 Afghans at the airport. In God's providence, the Afghan refugees were initially placed in hotels for up to four months, which has allowed us to get to know the community at large.

Our WhatsApp group is the hub to post volunteer opportunities for medical appointments, shopping, teaching conversational English, setting up housing, assisting in acquiring driver's licenses and, most importantly, establishing friendships. Requests for help come in throughout the week.

For many of us, it was a new experience meeting Afghans and learning about Islam and also that Muslims believe in Jesus the Messiah, His virgin birth, His second coming, the judgment and charity. Our lifestyle of not eating unclean meat, not drinking alcohol or smoking has enabled us to bond with the community.

About 30 Afghans who speak English have been volunteering side by side as translators. This close friendship has bonded us spiritually.

Our Muslim friends believe in the Gospels, the book of Psalms and the Pentateuch. The Quran tells about Christians that strive to follow the straight path and are considered brothers in faith.

In one visit with a family, an Afghan mother asked if we could help with getting her a sewing machine. This started a ministry with over 25 sewing machines donated and over \$3,500 of material given to the women.

Pray that we will continue to be available to bless and be blessed by our Afghan brothers and sisters who have gone through horrific experiences and have been "thrust into our arms."

*By Ira Farley, Esther Farley
and Kelly O'Connor*

*Faces blurred to protect the families of
the refugees still in Afghanistan.*





Free Oriental Medicine Clinic Brings Community Together

TULSA, OKLA. – The Tulsa Community Service Center (TCSC) took the initiative to hold a free Oriental Medicine Clinic on March 20, 2022. We were blessed with amazing volunteer students from Tulsa Community College, all non-members, who helped us to clean up and sanitize our TCSC facility. During the event, we were blessed with about 15 volunteers from our supporting churches: Adventist Fellowship, First Tulsa, Spanish and Korean

Seventh-day Adventist Churches. They helped with managing the parking lot, registering patients, taking patients' vitals and blood sugar levels, guiding patients to meet with their recommended doctors, counseling and praying with them. Others helped prepare and serve traditional Korean and Latin dishes and desserts during the lunch break. We were especially blessed with four talented doctors, Dong-rae Park, Seok-ju Oh, Chris Jeong and Yung-rok

Choi, who helped with full body massaging, chiropractor service, acupressure and acupuncture treatments.

In all, about 40 patients were served and blessed through this effort and it's truly amazing how the Lord came through and supplied all we needed at the right time. Efforts are being made to follow up with some patients who are non-members for possible interest in Bible studies. To God be the glory!

By Stephen Adewunmi

Native Women’s Ministry Hosts Mental Health Training

WEWOKA, OKLA.— Native Women’s Ministry is a new addition to Native Ministries in the Oklahoma Conference. We hosted our first event on March 21-23, at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center. It was a power-packed weekend, featuring Jennifer Jill Schwirzer, who presented a “train the trainer” workshop for her anxiety and depression relief program.

On Sabbath we were blessed to have young Jasmine Martinez come from the Coalgate Seventh-day Adventist Church in her beautiful, ribbon dress to sign “The Lord’s Prayer” in the Choctaw language. We were challenged with the fact that if this little girl can get up and do what the Lord has called her to do, so can we adults.

Jasmine was followed by Fred Rogers blessing us with an enlightening Sabbath sermon, titled “Were Native Americans Stressed?”

Throughout the weekend, a prayer room was open where people could take their burdens to the Lord privately, write them down and physically nail them to the cross. This was a powerful experience for all who participated.

Sunday morning, the Oklahoma Conference President James Shires presented a challenge to the audience to prayerfully consider what the Lord has called them to do and to pursue it. Suggestions were made for ministries such as adult literacy, Bible studies, abuse seminars, recovery classes and several more, emphasizing that there

is a ministry for everyone. The session ended with a call to ministry, and 75 people came forward to be anointed for ministry!

By Deborah Warden



Burmese/Zomi Churches Growing Across Oklahoma

OKLAHOMA CITY— Since the 1970s, refugees from the country of Myanmar have increasingly been settling in Oklahoma. As their communities have strengthened, so has the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church serving them. There are currently three churches in Oklahoma serving the Burmese people: Guymon Seventh-day Adventist Church, Zomi Seventh-day Adventist Church and Myanmar Adventist Fellowship in Tulsa. All three

churches are vibrant, growing communities.

In December 2021, Jerry Mung, a student from Andrews University pursuing his masters of divinity degree, conducted an evangelistic series at Myanmar Adventist Fellowship. As a result, nine teens gave their lives to Jesus. On April 2, 2022, Apple Park, Oklahoma Conference executive secretary, baptized them, sealing their decision for Christ.

On the far side of the state, in the panhandle of Oklahoma, the Guymon church serves the Zomi population through community service. They offer to help anyone who is in need. One member shared with Mang Lian, “We are happy helping and when we see their smiles that gives us peace.”

Please pray for our churches serving the Burmese and Zomi people in Oklahoma.

By Mang Lian and Wes Via





The Blessings of Family

It's a joy to be a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church family! Our family consists of a diverse group of individuals representing different nations, cultures and ethnicities with the common goal of sharing the love of Jesus Christ in the blessed hope of His soon return! As family members, we're called to commit to a local church where we can use our varying spiritual gifts to love and serve each other and build up Christ's body, the Church.

As the body of Christ, the church constitutes the means by which Christ functions within the world. Hence, the church isn't merely a group of religious people gathered together to enjoy certain mutually desired functions. Rather, it is a group of people who belong to the same Lord, who are filled with the same Spirit, who are given gifts by that same Spirit and who are intended to function together to change the world by the life of Christ.

In 1 Corinthians 12:12-31, Paul reminds us of this and employs the analogy of the human body juxtaposed with the body of Christ, to help

us better understand how the church is designed to function. Each family member, each part of the body, has a distinct gift bestowed by God through the power of the Holy Spirit to edify the whole. Hence, the diversity of gifts from the different members are needed to improve the entire body and build the church.

We often confuse unity with uniformity because it's much easier to engage people who are like ourselves than it is to embrace diversity, inclusive of color, culture and class. Yet, because the body should be a foretaste of Heaven's population, Paul challenges the Church to acknowledge and accept the varied gifts of the Spirit. Diversity within the church is not a problem to be avoided, but a gift of God's grace and a sign of God's Spirit at work.

In this family, there are no insignificant members. Every member is needed to accomplish and fulfill the work that Christ has commissioned us to do. "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all

rejoice together." 1 Corinthians 12:26 (RSV). It's similar to playing a team sport. The concept is simple: If we win, I win. Team chemistry, however, is disrupted when members feel like they have nothing to contribute because they aren't the top performer on the team. Yet when each individual team member is valued and makes their contribution, the entire team benefits and wins! I'm glad to be a part of the team and this family! How about you?

By Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., President



Applegate Adventist Christian School

ROUND ROCK, TEX.— We are Applegate Adventist Christian School, where we believe in the philosophy of Christ, adopted by Ellen G. White, where each child is considered special, where each child receives individualized personal attention, where each child’s academic curriculum is tailor-made to their learning ability and where home, school and church work as one cohesive unit contributing to the success of the child. As a small church school, our history for the past 20 years factually substantiates that this Christocentric approach to education works.

Two years ago, our school changed forever. An unknown visitor drove into the church parking lot awaiting a realtor to view local homes in the area. Looking from the school window, I suspiciously went to investigate and asked if I could be of assistance. The stranger stated, “I am just waiting for my realtor to show me the area.” After a brief inquiry and dropping my guard, I proceeded to invite the stranger into my class while I work at my desk to pass the time. Respectfully, the strang-

er declined and continued to wait for the realtor in the car.

One year later, the unknown visitor reemerged, this time seated in the rear of the sanctuary. With all the good qualities this newly discovered member brings to the Round Rock Seventh-day Adventist Church, we later discovered that this individual—who chooses to remain anonymous—is a person of enormous wealth, and contributes monetarily to meaningful projects. Their donations alone, to the Round Rock church, has been a minimum of \$1.3 million to structural improvements to church facilities and \$300,000 to church school renovations, new furniture and a minimum of \$50,000 to the school’s curriculum. With much curiosity, the anonymous donor was asked, “Why donate so much to the Round Rock Church and school?” The donor’s reply: “The Lord told me to; you all are active in both church and community, and I like this teacher’s approach to Adventist Christian education—it works.”

With all that was given, one request

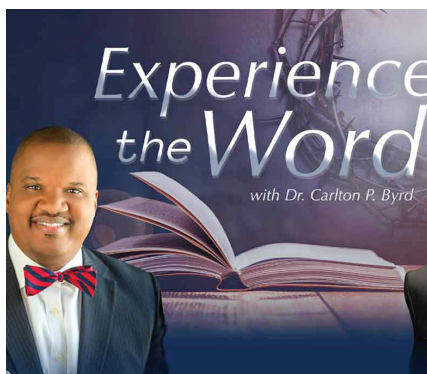
was made by the anonymous member: “Make sure to take the tithe off the top and give God His portion; that way, the blessings will continue and God’s program will be blessed.” Lesson learned: “Remember to welcome strangers into your homes. Some people have done this and have welcomed angels without knowing it.” Hebrews 13:2 (ICB).

*By Ingrid Stanley
Principal*



Experience the Word

DALLAS— On Sabbath, March 5, 2022, the Southwest Region Conference launched a pilot program called “Experience the Word” with Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., Southwest Region Conference president, and former



speaker/director of Breath of Life television ministries on the conference’s Facebook page and YouTube channel. This program consists of inspirational music, enlightening and informative interviews with various public figures and a dynamic and relevant biblical message from Byrd.

Media ministry is one of the four focuses of the Southwest Region Conference. We are committed to providing our constituents and beyond quality religious and spiritually uplifting programs using digital media platforms. “Experience the Word” is the first offering as we seek to build an internet ministry called “Southwest+.” We look forward to releasing more content, such as children’s program-

ming, a news program, family ministries programming and more.

The Southwest Region Conference has a mobile app called “Southwest+” available on Apple and Android devices along with Roku devices where programs can be viewed.

“Experience the Word” with Byrd can now be viewed on Friday evenings at 8 p.m. CST on our mobile app, Facebook page and YouTube channel. Make sure you download our mobile app, like our Facebook page, and subscribe to our YouTube channel so you won’t miss “Experience the Word” with Carlton P. Byrd.

*By Jason C. North, Sr.
Executive Secretary,
Vice President for Administration*

Adventist Robotics Competition Held Lone Star Camp

ATHENS, TEX. – On March 19-20, 2022, the Southwest Region Conference hosted its first Adventist Robotics Competition at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex. Six teams competed for the opportunity to advance to the National Adventist Robotics Competition held in Orlando, Fla., on May 1, 2022. There were five teams from the Southwestern Union and one team from the Southern Union. The teams from our Union were: Excel Adventist Academy Eagles, New

Orleans Adventist Academy Warriors, Southwest Adventist Jr. Academy Red Rovers, Ozark Adventist School Skyhawks and North Dallas Adventist Academy. The Southern Union team was the E. E. Rogers Adventist School.

Ozark Adventist School Skyhawks took the Overall Champion Trophy and Robot Performance Award, Excel Adventist Academy won the Robot Design Award, New Orleans Adventist Academy was first runner-up in the

Robot Performance Award, Southwest Adventist Junior Academy won the Core Values Award and North Dallas Adventist Academy won the Innovation Project Award.

Ozark, Excel and North Dallas advanced to represent the Southwestern Union at the National Adventist Robotics competition in Orlando, Fla. on May 1, 2022. Great job, teams!





Lone Star Camp Improvements and Upgrades

ATHENS, TEX. – Lone Star Camp is a year-round ministry in the Piney Woods of East Texas with a passion for evangelism and 2022 is lining up to be a banner year for Lone Star Camp. Recently, we welcomed the Southwestern Union’s Children’s Ministry training event and the North America Division First Lego League Robotics Competition. We’re excited and pushing forward to our first Camp Meeting in two years here at the Southwest Region Conference!

This year we witnessed the completion of an outdoor amphitheater with outdoor lighting and sound. Capable of holding 300 persons, the amphitheater stair steps down from the cafeteria and overlooks Jones Lake. We have

increased warehousing with a new metal storage building and dedicated storage for our youth department. In an effort to boost our activities, a new archery center is planned for this year’s summer camps, with the concrete pad already poured.

As technology changes, we have increased our Wi-Fi bandwidth and streaming capabilities to one gig in all meeting facilities. We are upgrading our audiovisual equipment in the Adult Pavilion and Gymnasium with new sound systems and video walls. This allows us to provide all meeting spaces with designated sound systems and video interfaces.

Care is being taken to highlight the beauty of the campgrounds with

area illumination and tree uplighting, along with landscaping projects at the entrance and welcome center. Under construction now, with completion anticipated this fall, is our first mini-lodge. The mini-lodge is a two-story design, with a central meeting space and full kitchen available upstairs, along with an additional meeting or living space. It will also feature eight hotel-style rooms able to accommodate six to eight individuals.

Lone Star Camp has been blessed to continue its growth each year, and we look forward to seeing what good things God has planned for our future.

*By Robert Allen
Camp Manager*

Message in a Mural

HOUSTON – Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church is located in the heart of Houston in the historic third ward community. Third ward is known for Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church, once pastored by the great William A. Lawson. Texas Southern University and the University of Houston are also located in this historic community. The community is home to several restaurants, including those with vegetarian options.

Among the mentioned amenities and more, the third ward is also the home of many murals. Riding around the neighborhood, one will see a variety of murals that tell some kind of story. Moved by the Holy Spirit, the Berean church decided to place a mural on one of the storage containers located on the property. The mural concept was designed by church member Shatoya Kelley.

The mural also serves to remind us that God is still in the prayer-answering



business. It is the first phase of the prayer and herb garden for the Berean church. Robert Norwood, pastor of the Berean church, and the prayer garden committee prayed that God would send them an artist that would capture the vision. God did, by sending the muralist known as Premo, shown in the photo standing with Norwood.

If a picture tells a thousand words, this mural should remind the members of our beloved Adventist church as well as those who pass by that we have

hope in Jesus' soon return. We expect that those who may not understand, that the three rays of light represent the Three Angels' Message will stop by, take a picture with the mural and ask what the meaning of the mural is. Then we can offer them a Bible study of the hope we have in Jesus.

"Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you." Jeremiah 29:12.

*By Robert Norwood
Pastor*

Three Hours Late—God is Always on Time

GARLAND, TEX. – God places you where you're needed, if you let Him. We were Eastbound on Interstate 30 just outside Texarkana, Tex. The drive that day was uneventful, but that would soon change. Our departure that morning was three hours late. Or so I thought. But it was actually right on time because God places you where you're needed if you let Him. Somewhere between Hope, Ark., and a hopeless roadside ditch, God knew we'd be needed last Christmas Eve, around 3:15 p.m. Remember, Holy Scripture declares, "Before you call me, I will answer." And there he lay—an unresponsive man on the side of the road, having been thrown from his motorcycle. Gas was still leaking from the tank. The man's eyes were fixed. He was not speaking. He was unresponsive. I parked on the shoulder while my wife Maxine sprinted across the interstate.

"Call 911!" she exclaimed. I could see her lips moving. She was calling on Jesus, the Creator of all life, the Author and Finisher of our faith. For you see, it's in Him that we live and move and have our being. As the emergency operator picked up, she asked what mile marker we were located. "Ma'am, I do not know," I replied. My daughter Paschall noticed the name of a nearby building. I shared the information with the operator, who confirmed that help was on the way. Traffic backed up for miles. But through the hum of diesel engines I heard my wife say, "Sir don't move! I need you to remain still." Huh? There is life? Oh yes, my friends, there's life! You see, God places you where you're needed if you let Him. You see, while I was on the phone with the emergency operator, Maxine was dialed in to the Emergency Operator! I thought we were losing

crucial time during the 15 minute wait, but the Emergency Operator is on record restoring life to a dead man some four days later, named Lazarus! By the time the paramedics arrived, a once unresponsive, eyes-fixated man was speaking. "What happened?" he exclaimed through the pain. "Sir, what happened was that you were visited by God and prayed over by someone who knows Him to restore what is lost to the enemy." Friends, I'll never doubt Him! I know too much about Him. Although our journey started three hours late that day, it started right on time, because God places you where you're needed if you let Him! Give Him a shout more often than you do in 2022! Some of His power He wants to give to you!

By Maurice Theriot



Each One Unique, Together Unstoppable

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 12:4-6 (NLT), "There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us."

There's a word that's used three times in that verse – "different." There are different spiritual gifts; there are different ways of serving; there are different types of work to do.

We're all called to serve God; we're just called to serve God in different ways. Don't try to copy anybody else. Don't try to be like anybody else. You're unique. If you read a biography and think, "I wish I could pray like that," don't. Because God didn't make you to be that person. God made you to be you.

Knowing your spiritual gifts answers questions like, "What's God's will for my life? What does God want me to do with my life? What kind of job, what kind of career should I have? What

should be my ministry? What should be my mission in the world?" Spiritual gifts explain where you're supposed to be headed. They shape your work.

Your gifts also show your worth. They show how valuable you are because God put some valuable gifts in your life. You have value because of what God says about you, not because of what other people say about you. He says, "You're My masterpiece. I've put some gifts in you, some heart, abilities, personality and experiences, and I want you to use it." It shows your worth.

Every part of the body is needed. We're all needed. Romans 12:5 (TLB) says "...We are all parts of it [the body], and it takes every one of us to make it complete..." Likewise, John 15:8 (AMPC), "...When you bear (produce) much fruit, My Father is honored and glorified..."

When you use your gifts correctly, God gets the glory. When you don't use them, God doesn't. And you certainly can't please God with gifts you

don't have. God doesn't expect you to be talented or gifted at everything. He wants you to use what He's given you.

What if everybody said, "I know my gift, and I'm using my gift?" Can you imagine what kind of power and impact we would have on this world? I believe it would be unstoppable.

*By Elton DeMoraes, D.Min.
President*



Waco Church Honors Loved Ones

WACO, TEX. — It is sad to hear stories from family and friends who were not allowed to have or attend memorial services for their loved ones because of COVID-19 or other reasons. It's difficult for some to process closure when that occurs.

The Waco Seventh-day Adventist Church opened its doors on the evening of March 26, 2022, to anyone wanting to participate in a memorial service honoring their loved ones who passed away.

Several brought photos of their loved ones to share with those in attendance. One of the visitors, bottom right, started playing the piano, providing beautiful background music.

Waco church member Steve Mallery welcomed those present and started the service with prayer. Donna Reinke, Claire Boca and Jenny Henriquez, bottom left, also Waco church members, encouraged those in attendance to join them in singing a few meaningful hymns accompanied by our visiting pianist.

District pastor Vanoy Fitch, top right, shared thoughtful words about death, dying and living again when Jesus comes. Waco church member Manuel Henriquez, top left, shared some of his experiences from his work as a hospice chaplain in the Waco area.

At the conclusion of the service, paper hearts with embedded flower

seeds were given to all who wanted one to plant and nurture in memory and honor of their deceased loved ones.

Henriquez offered to facilitate a Grief Recovery Seminar for those interested in attending. The program assists those experiencing significant loss (death of family or friends, job loss, health challenges, failed marriage or any event that has taken someone or something of value).

The Lord blessed those who came together and encouraged each other in their grieving process. Hopefully, they left feeling a little more hopeful.

By Joan Bowen



Richardson Church Celebrates 60th Anniversary



RICHARDSON, TEX. – On Sabbath, April 23, 2022, the Richardson Seventh-day Adventist Church, celebrated its 60th anniversary of God’s amazing leading from 1962 to 2022, and to highlight what He has done with this congregation.

Sue Mathieu, bottom left, has faithfully served the Richardson church through music ministry for the past 35 years. She led a reunion handbell choir during the celebration service.

The 60th anniversary church choir, under the direction of Elphis Stirewalt, and accompanied by Jackie Tucker, sang “How Great Thou Art” followed by Linda Hanson singing, “Bless This House.” Hanson was accompanied by Mathieu.

Paul Voelker, bottom right, mayor of Richardson, addressed the congregation and recognized the importance of having houses of worship, like the Richardson church, support their community.

Charter member Nikki Clark Allen, top left, shared the church beginnings. She, along with 46 other members from the Dallas Central Seventh-day Adventist Church, founded the Richardson church on April 28, 1962. John Petchkurow shared highlights from the 1970s, followed by Don and Jody Beck, who presented the history from the 1980s.

Leo Mathieu gave an overview of the 1990s, followed by Euree Estell, who remembered the church choir in the 2000s. Elsa Landazabal reviewed the 2010s, and Marlene Spady represented North Dallas Adventist Academy in Richardson, Tex. The school began in 1984 as Richardson Adventist School.

Newly elected Texas Conference English evangelist and former Richardson church pastor Byron Corbett recognized 18 pastors in attendance, top right, both past and current. He conveyed the church’s gratitude for their leadership during the church’s

growth. “Having the privilege to serve this congregation and its wonderful people for the past six-and-a-half years and be part of what God is doing here has been the highlight of my ministry,” Corbett shared. “I believe God has great things in store for the Richardson church as it continues to prepare the world for Jesus’ soon return.”

Since 2000, Richardson church members have planted 13 churches. One of those churches planted four more churches.

The Lord has mightily blessed this congregation of more than 1,000 members with a vision to tell the world about Jesus through church plants in several suburbs nearby. As they continue to share, the church is now looking to plant a church in the Sachse/Wylie/Murphy area this year. If completed, their total church plants would be 14 churches in 22 years.

*By Sharon Petchkurow
Photos by Brenda Wilson*

Pathfinders See God’s Leading During Camporee

CLIFTON, TEX. – Focus 2020, the theme for the 2022 Texas Conference Pathfinder Camporee at Lake Whitney Ranch (LWR) in Clifton, Tex., was unforgettable!

Having served in Pathfinder ministry now for 18 years in the Dallas area, my wife Kemunto and I, members of the Mesquite Seventh-day Adventist Church, are currently Pathfinder area coordinators for the Dallas East Texas South area, so we know it is only through God’s provisions and guidance that this camporee came to fruition. There were so many tribal stories of struggle, trials and frustrations in the lead up, that it is abundantly clear that God was in control.

The Texas Conference Pathfinder Camporee, in some regards, marked a psychological end to the pandemic, yet the pandemic was still a factor for organizers to contend with. With a close to three-year hiatus, it was clear by the turnout there was a yearning and thirst for an in-person camporee. The main programs were also shared virtually on the “Young Texas Adventist” Facebook page and “Texas-Adventist” Facebook and YouTube channels.

The camporee began Thursday, April 14, 2022, with beautiful weather. To see all the kids arrive and be so eager to run and meet their friends was heartwarming. The fact that there were more than 3,200 Pathfinders, volunteers and staff tells a story of who we

are. Many of the kids were unrecognizable because they had grown so much. In fact, a couple of clubs were directed by leaders that were Pathfinders themselves at the last camporee. Surely, God is in control. This was one miracle-laden camporee.

The drum corps, in exhilarating fashion, was the opening act on the first night of the camporee, much to the delight of the Pathfinders. The music, the energy and the day’s reviews on the two new LED large screens, albeit awesome, were no match for the message of the evening. Wow! What an amazing speaker God sent to us in Texas. To see our kids hanging on every word from the keynote speaker Rome Uliia, lead pastor at the Auburn Adventist Academy Church in Auburn, Wash., made all the stress of camp prep and a hard day’s work worth it. God still has the attention of our youth and we give Him honor and glory.

The heartbeat of camporee is Friday’s events. It is indeed a miracle of the highest magnitude to report that despite being lean in volunteers and having a record turnout of Pathfinders, most events did not have significant lines or wait times. God again took what we had and multiplied it. Again, the weather was amazing. In Texas, we prepare for winter and summer on the same weekend, but for the first time we got mainly spring.

Sabbath was ushered in at Friday’s tent meeting in record form. We were

treated to the special music from the Dallas East Texas South joint choir, setting the mood for the worship service. The daily recaps and highlights, as always, were big hits. It was hard to imagine that our guest speaker, Uliia, could have an even more powerful message than the night before, but he did it again. God used him in such a real, genuine and down to earth way, connecting with the kids in a personal way and drawing them into God’s Word through his personal story. The miracles kept coming as Uliia made an altar call. It was emotionally overwhelming to see the kids run forward and accept Jesus Christ as their personal Savior. The Spirit continued to move Sabbath morning, with two of 35 Pathfinders who accepted the call Friday night being baptized. By Sabbath’s end, an additional 33 Pathfinders were baptized at the pond.

As we concluded our camporee, we were greatly encouraged by generous monetary gifts towards completion of new modern bathroom/shower houses for future camporees. The new nurse’s station (also generously donated), a new TXYouth museum and a security building will forever transform Lake Whitney Ranch. May God bless all who have given their time and resources to the Pathfinder ministry. Find more information about the improvements at LakeWhitneyRanch.org.

Article and photos by James Ayonga



Bathrooms and Showers in Progress at Lake Whitney Ranch



CLIFTON, TEX. – For years, there have been discussions about the need for bathroom/shower houses in the open area at Lake Whitney Ranch (LWR) in Clifton, Tex. This year, those installations are finally coming to fruition.

“The infrastructure was the first hurdle the LWR Operating Committee (LWROC) had to overcome,” Randy Terry, Texas Conference treasurer and LWROC chair, shared. “We couldn’t build bathroom or shower houses without the necessary sewer lines. We applaud LWR Director Hector Perez’s determination to find a company willing to get through the hard ground and rock to lay the lines.”

While obtaining several contractor bids for the construction of the bathroom/shower houses to present to the LWROC, Texas Conference finance and executive committees, Perez soon learned it was more cost-effective for the contractor to build four buildings at the same time, providing 48 sinks, toilets and showers. That is more than the portable showers currently rented for large event weekends.

“The contractor chosen said he could have them built in six months,” Perez shared. “Knowing COVID-19 has caused some delays in materials, we are hopeful they will be ready for the April 2023 Pathfinder Camporee.”

The cost for all four bathroom/shower houses, which will include family areas, is estimated at \$2.5 million. Terry

shared that there is currently \$1 million available for this project. To complete the project in a timely manner, before costs increase even more, \$1.5 million will be borrowed, if necessary, from the Southwestern Union Revolving Fund.

Texas Conference Youth & Club Ministries Director Paulo Tenorio challenged Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs during their weekend events to start fundraising to help quickly pay off the bathroom/shower houses. “I didn’t specify a required amount to raise,” Tenorio said. “I know they have lots of things they are raising funds for, but I also know they are an important part of this legacy at LWR.”

During the Pathfinder Camporee, a check was presented to LWR for \$19,070 from the trust of Jo Frazier-Meyer. In “A Tribute to Nanaw,” the family described her as having a “passion for missions, serving the Lord, studying her Bible, without getting bored.” She created the trust in 1991 to remember various ministries within the Texas Conference. “This distribution was just the first partial distribution of the trust,” Lynette Ecord, Texas Conference Planned Giving & Trust Services director, shared.

Texas Conference President Elton DeMoraes mentioned it during the April episode of TEXTalk (YouTube.com/TexasAdventist) when he talked about the importance of legacy giving

through Texas Conference Planned Giving & Trust Services. Because someone remembered the conference and LWR in their giving, he said, they were able to present that check on their behalf. That’s legacy giving.

Su Nam Song, Texas Conference Pathfinder medical coordinator, cut the ribbon during the dedication of the nurse’s station on Pathfinder camporee Sabbath. Donors and volunteers alike worked to complete the nurse’s station, providing a cool, clean and private place to treat those needing assistance during LWR large events.

Perez and his wife Anabel, LWR manager, are excited about the progress made so far at LWR. At the time of this writing, in addition to the bathroom/shower house project, they are renovating a house on the property to provide much-needed lodging. “We couldn’t do it without our incredible volunteers who give of their time to make LWR great,” Perez was quick to add.

Visit LakeWhitneyRanch.org or email LWR@txsda.org if you would like more information, want to schedule a visit, tour or make a donation. If you would like to inquire about legacy giving email trust@txsda.org.

Tamara Michalenko Terry
Associate Director
Communication & Public Relations



Celebrating Similarities

Hardly a day passes without us noticing the increasing intensity of rancor and disagreement that seems to fill every possible space in our news, communities, governments, conversations and even our churches and families. The time for holding differing opinions, while maintaining reasonable and cordial relationships with others, has passed. In our digital world, the level of disagreement and judgmental commentary is more profound and common than at any time that I can remember. Yet we understand that as long as humans have inhabited this earth, there have been serious disagreements, even conflicts, between people. We have been created with the individual power of choice and unfortunately we tend to exercise this power from a place of self-interest.

Jesus has some very specific counsel for those of us who choose to follow Him. His life and ministry modeled peaceful interactions with others while continually focusing on extending His heart and hands to meet the needs of others. In Matthew 5:9 He said, "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God." Being peacemakers doesn't come naturally to us. However, being willing to forgo

personal benefit for the good of others and to reduce the potential for conflict is the pathway of peacemakers.

Throughout the teachings of Jesus and the Apostles' letters we find the call to choose lives of self-denial rather than self-interest. And since we are all individually unique, we sometimes place a greater value on our perspectives, our opinions and our benefit rather than seeking to honor others, which is the foundational principle of love.

As members within the Church we should desire to find ways to be in agreement and unity as we live, work and minister together. In Romans 12:10, Paul encouraged us to "Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves." This approach to relationships doesn't come naturally and is really only possible through the transforming power of the love of God.

The Apostles who first stepped into the instructions that Jesus gave in the Great Commission were careful to proceed just as they were instructed. And the result of their commitment to remaining together and being in prayer was an amazing demonstration of the Holy Spirit being poured out upon

them all, and they were united "one in heart and mind." The secret component of that type of unity is clearly the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit.

Even though we, as members, represent various ethnicities, many different educational backgrounds and experiences, along with various personality types, unity is a vital component for the success of our mission. Are we willing to go all-in for the sake of the Gospel, to completely submit our personal agendas to the Lord and then live and minister in His name and for His glory?

*By Phil Robertson
Executive Secretary/Treasurer*



Fill My Cup Lord: Women with a Purpose

ALBUQUERQUE – Earlier this year, over 50 female members and friends of the Albuquerque Central Seventh-day Adventist Church gathered together for the first time in two years for a ladies’ fellowship in Christ. Some ladies dressed up in hats and dresses and others came in jeans and t-shirts, each feeling welcomed just as they were. The purpose was to foster fellowship and connection among the women of the church and to plan for a wonderful year.

Before the event, spring-themed handmade invitations were mailed

out to members and the event was posted on the church website and church Facebook account. Many ladies brought friends. Several delicious treats were prepared by talented cooks who attended. One member, Rachel, went above and beyond in purchasing over 50 tea cups and several cute teapots at thrift stores along with lots of delicious tea that was a blessing. Another member, Marilyn, purchased and arranged beautiful fresh spring flowers to accent all the tables. A short devotional by Janet Van Why with the message “The Body of

Christ” emphasized the divine creation of each person present, with an individual purpose and strength given to them by God, and the need for various individual member parts, no matter how seemingly small, to make up the whole in God’s plan and purpose. Door prizes were given away and lots of food was left over to be taken home to be enjoyed by family members. In all, it was a beautiful, joyful and spiritual event that blessed those who could attend.

By Janet Van Why



Week of Evangelism: La Voz de la Esperanza



ODESSA, TEX. – COVID-19 interrupted the plans for our week of evangelism with *La Voz de la Esperanza* in 2020. Therefore, we were delighted to learn that Omar and Nesy Grieve would be able to come in February 2022. Amid the Delta and Omicron variants and continuing questions about our public meetings it did not stop God's plan.

Meanwhile, the Odessa Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church was having small groups and regular meetings, encouraging each other about God's love. Church members were having a prayer vigil a week prior to the evangelistic event, asking God for the conversion and success of the meetings. God was about to answer.

Omar Grieve preached with love and power and his wife, Nesy, provided interesting health presentations. Invitations were given every night of the meeting for people to respond to Jesus and to be baptized. Those who attended were blessed by several

guest musicians from the Odessa and Midland Spanish churches. We were very pleased that Junior Marchena, a professional singer, was able to be with us for a good portion of the meetings.

Malka was the first to come to the altar and the first to be baptized. She said, "The Lord has been good to me during hard moments, now I have to respond to His love." In addition to Malka, there was a man who used to drive by the church on his way to work. He told us that he had left the Adventist Church decades ago but when he would go by the church, he would say to himself, "If I ever return to the church this is going to be my home church." He and his wife became part of the Odessa Spanish church during the meetings.

There were others who were baptized, including young people who expressed the desire to be baptized in recent months. The members were

very grateful for God's blessings through these meetings as 13 people were added to the church. The meetings concluded in a celebration with a concert by Junior Marchena on the last Sabbath with more than 170 in attendance. Praise God!

One young woman said after the meeting, "It was the most spiritual week of evangelism that I have attended in my life. I enjoyed everything about these meetings." It was indeed a great week. It was wonderful to see young people welcoming the newly baptized members. I am proud of the unity and faithful work that my churches demonstrate, every person was involved. Our unity has increased because of these meetings and all I can say is that God's work in Odessa inspires us to be even more committed to bring the good news of His soon coming to the world.

*By Jorge Poveda
Pastor*

Transforming Families: North Valley Church Celebrates Baptisms

ALBUQUERQUE – On April 16, nine people entered the baptismal waters during a special service held at the Albuquerque North Valley Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church. Among those baptized were five adolescents. The baptisms completed a week-long seminar focusing on transforming families that was given by Adly Campos. Campos is an international lay evangelist and family counselor. Adly and her husband, Jose Campos, former director of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Publishing Department, currently lead the independent ministry “Family Well-Being International.”

During the week, Campos focused on topics pertaining to issues that affect families. She stressed getting back to the basics and prioritizing Jesus in the home to create a harmonious environment. She also made

herself available for private counseling sessions for interested families. Campos did an altar call every night and, on one of the nights, the five young people made their decision to get baptized.

Ayden Covarrubias, 12, was one of the young men who answered the call. “What moved me was that she said we don’t have to live perfect lives,” said Covarrubias. “Jesus loves us unconditionally and I want Him to direct my life especially during my teen years.”

The Albuquerque North Valley Spanish church rejoiced during the service and was thrilled to welcome the young and adult new members alike.

“This week was exactly what we had hoped and prayed for,” said Saul Flores, pastor. “We saw a revival in our church families. Not only were Adly Campos’ topics about ‘Transforming

Families’ important, but the counseling sessions were where souls were won and decisions for eternal life were made.”

Families, single mothers and fathers, couples, grandparents and future parents were greatly blessed throughout the week. Now, the church is looking forward to supporting the new members' spiritual journey that lies ahead and plans to provide in-depth Bible studies for those who are interested.

“We saw the Holy Spirit manifest itself immensely. Nine precious souls gave their lives to Jesus, all for God’s honor, glory and praise!” said Flores. “Albuquerque North Valley Spanish church understands that strong families equal a strong church. Families are the center of society, of the church and of our nation. It is crucial that we take care of our families!”



Praying in the Last Days



VALENCIA, N.M. — Women’s Day of Prayer was held this year on March 5. Women from the Valencia Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church took this day to celebrate what God has done for women in our church and around the world. Along with their families, they gathered to take part in this year’s theme “Praying in the Last Days.”

Church members were encouraged to have an intimate moment of prayer in our prayer room. The prayer room allowed each participant to complete activities such as writing our sins in sand and erasing them, just as God erases our sins when we repent and ask for His divine forgiveness. Other activities included writing worship phrases to lift the name of God, writing intercessory prayer requests and making a prayer chain representing our church united in prayer. The calm music, dim lights and sweet smell made each prayer experience one that could be felt with all of our senses and one that lifted us to the throne of God as we poured our hearts out to Him, who is eager to hear our plea.

Women of all ages were able to participate and lead in the morning Sabbath School program and second service, where our speaker shared God’s message about what it means to pray in the final days. Just as Joshua was attentive to God’s plan for his people and trusted His plan for victory over the city of Jericho, we too are called to trust and obey in prayer for our final battle, which God has already won for us. During the divine service, church members participated in filling our prayer garden with flowers that carried the desires of each heart. This represents how our prayers are lifted to Heaven and reach our Father with such a sweet fragrance.

After service, we fellowshiped by having lunch together and participated in an afternoon seminar given by a licensed therapist, specializing in family relationships with an emphasis in domestic violence. We learned and remembered that as children of God we were made to be loved, made to love others and made to have love for ourselves as well. We learned that self-

care is essential for our mental health and overall well-being as women of faith. We finished our seminar by learning about essential oils and their calming and healing effects on our bodies when used properly. Each lady was able to make their own essential-oil roller ball with their favorite combination of fragrances to take home as a reminder of taking time to breathe in goodness and healing at times when life becomes overwhelming.

Sabbath ended with an outdoor petition burning moment where all prayer requests were burned while we sang hymns of praise to God for all that He has already answered and all that He will answer in due time. We shared prayer requests for the week and together ended this special day, praising God and asking Him for His never-ending presence in our life so that we may hear His voice every day until our final and most glorious day when He returns for us to take us home with Him for eternity.

By Aracely Robles

Classified Ads

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in putting their talents and skills to work in a mission-oriented setting. Must be an SDA church member in good standing. For additional information on current openings go to TinyURL.com/gcjobpostings or contact gchr@gc.adventist.org.

REAL ESTATE

Summit Ridge Retirement Village, an Adventist community in a rural setting, offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with a fellowship you will enjoy.



Lilianne Tolar Moore of Keene, Tex. went to sleep in Jesus on May 30, 2020. She was born to Matthew Tolar and Eleanor Frances Bostalich Tolar in Rock Springs, Wyo. She was preceded in death by her brother, Matthew Tolar.

L. Franklin Moore, age 93, of Keene,

Tex., went to sleep in Jesus on Feb. 15, 2022. He was born to Willard Franklin Moore and Hilda Maria (Martinez) Moore in Panama City, Panama on Aug. 7, 1928. He is survived by his sisters, Jennie (Moore) Perez, Lena (Moore) Escandon and brother, Samuel Chester Moore. They are survived by their daughters, Judy (Moore) Toms, Connie (Moore) Szalay and Laurie (Moore) Truitt; eight grandchildren, 14 great grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

After teaching himself English Frank took the opportunity of a lifetime and left Panama at the age of 14, to attend Southwestern Junior College in Keene, Tex., where he received an associate's degree in theology. He later finished his B. A. degree in religion at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., where he met his future bride, Lilianne Tolar. Lilianne attended Union College after graduating

from Campion Academy in Loveland, Colo. in 1950. Frank and Lilianne were married on Aug. 17, 1952, in Rock Springs, Wyo., and embarked on the adventure of their lives.

They served the Adventist Church in Mexico, Colombia, the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico before returning to serve in the United States. Frank served as business manager and later principal of Sandia View Academy in Albuquerque, N.M. During this time, Lilianne attended the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque, N.M., where she received her B.A. degree in Spanish and a minor in library science. After moving to Keene, Tex., in 1977, Frank served the Texas Conference as treasurer for nine years and then was called to New Jersey to serve as the conference treasurer there. Texas called him back as vice president to oversee the Spanish work and he was then asked to serve as the conference treasurer again until he retired in 1997 after 47 years of service. In retirement they both volunteered in their community and in their Church. Frank and Lilianne had uncompromising moral courage and integrity. They were well loved and respected and will be missed.



Back Pages

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ANNOUNCEMENT

Birthday blessings to Inez W. Henry who turned 100 on June 9! Formerly a member of the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church in New Orleans, Henry is a member



of the Oakwood University Seventh-day Adventist Church in Huntsville, Ala. Wishing her a wonderful birthday and blessings from above!

OBITUARIES

Castania, Alvin Lee, died Jan. 11, 2022. He was a U.S. Air Force Veteran. Church membership: Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church. Survivors: wife, Cecilia Landry Castania; daughter, and faithful caregiver, Beryl Castania of Cleburne, Tex., and a host of



Clayton Wayne Calvert, Sr. of Broken Arrow, Okla., peacefully passed away on March 13, 2022 at the age of 80, with his children holding his hand. He was born on June 26, 1941, in Tulsa, Okla., to Daniel Leroy and Florence Lilly (Hill) Calvert and grew up in Tulsa. Clayton graduated from Southwestern High School in

1959. He married and started his family—his greatest accomplishment! Clayton began working as a draftsman which parlayed into a career as a purchasing agent for many large equipment manufacturing companies. He retired after over 40 years in that industry, then followed his true calling and became the pastor at the Broken Arrow Seventh-day Adventist Church—a church that he envisioned and helped build. Clayton spent his lifetime in church leadership. He had many interests and hobbies. Clayton had horses, cattle and enjoyed farming. He enjoyed waterskiing, fast cars and watching his grandchildren and great-grandchildren swim at his

house. Clayton also loved Braum's ice cream and Cheez It crackers! His family remembers him as a devoted, loving, stubborn, perfectionist and a faithful friend. Clayton will be missed by all who loved him.

Clayton was preceded in death by his parents, Daniel Leroy and Florence Lilly (Hill) Calvert; wife, Barbara Calvert; brother, Dale Calvert; and daughter, Carrie Sue Calvert. He is lovingly survived by his children Clayton W. Calvert, Jr. (Francine) of Broken Arrow; Kelley Calvert (Lori) of Broken Arrow; and Dani Carr (Chad) of Burleson, Tex.; grandchildren, Stephanie Soeder (Daniel); Amber Risk (Jeremy); Chelsea Snyder (Michael); Chryssa Matthews (Marcus); Justin Calvert, Courtney Calvert, Bobby Calvert (Ashley); Charlie Evans (Matt); Chase Hughes (Victoria); Kendall Carr and Shea Carr; sister, Corinne "Sissy" Ferguson (Jim); and 15 great-grandchildren.





Eddie Cecil Kelley was born on July 2, 1925 and after living a long, hard life passed from life to death on April 30, 2022. He is survived by his wife Mary Lou Kelley, and his two sons, Daniel and Stephen. Eddie was a member of the Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church in Harrah, Okla. He was a great believer in Adventist

education. Both he and Mary Lou were dedicated to Adventist education and their sons spent their entire early years in Adventist schools. It's partly because of this dedication that the website, BibleTimeLines.com exists. With over a million visitors to the site, it is evident that they Kelleys dedication and hard work has affected many more people than just their two boys.

Eddie was not always a perfect person (of course none of us are), but he was certainly a praying man. It was his deep desire that everyone he met learn of God's great love for us.

Eddie suffered numerous head injuries. As a child he fell out of a water tower and he was later hit in the head with an ax accidentally. These head injuries and the many more he received over the years made him a very hard man to deal with at times. But Eddie loved and trusted his friend, Jesus. He remained a faithful prayer warrior throughout his 96 years. Because of our belief in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we expect to see Eddie Cecil Kelley again.



family, loved ones and church family.

Harrison, Theresa, born April 26, 1929, Perry, Okla.; died Mar 26, 2022, Harrah, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her parents, John H. and Dorothy I. (Cockrell) Harrison; and former spouses. Survivors: sister, LaSina Harrison Rilea (Lester)

of Apopka, Fla.; and niece, Cheri (Rilea) and Gregory Iverson of Florida.

Miller, Eugene "Gene", Jr., died March 21, 2021, Baton Rouge, La. Church membership: Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Lubertha Gant Miller. Survivors: daughter, Jennifer Spears (James) and a

multitude of friends and family.

Phinney, Audrey F., born, Denham Springs, La.; died Jan. 25, 2022. She is preceded in death by her husband, Wilton Tyler and second husband of 29 years, Bill Phinney. Survivors: daughter, Janice T. May, and a host of siblings and loving family members.

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.



Manuel Muñiz, 69, of Saragosa, Tex., entered into rest on March 26, 2022. He was born Oct. 23, 1952 to Luiz and Isabel Muñiz in Pecos, Tex., and was the third child of 11 children. He was a faithful member of the Saragosa Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Manuel loved to read his Bible and grow closer to God.

He worked side by side with his family as migrant farm workers. They traveled to Presidio, Saragosa, Morton and Muleshoe to pick the fields throughout the seasons. Saragosa was always his home. Manuel enjoyed walking, riding his bike and cruising around in his Jeep. He had a

beautiful mind and was gifted with talents of playing guitar and singing. He was affectionately known as "Gigot", as he was kind hearted to all.

Manuel was preceded in death by his father, Luiz T. Muñiz; and sister, Anna Paredes. He is survived by his caring mother, Isabel Muñiz; siblings, Ramon Muñiz, Ayda Nuñez (Raymundo), Adelaida Burciaga (Arturo), Jose Luiz Muñiz (Herminia), America Baeza (Faustino), Martin Muñiz (Delia), Amavilia Muñiz, Jesusita Mondragon (Victor), Alicia Dominguez (Joe Carrasco) and Betsy Dominguez (Omar); as well as many nieces and nephews that adored him.

Special thanks to the Saragosa Seventh-day Adventist Church, Hernan Tarin and Parks Methodist Home.



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