

# Record

March | April 2023

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*A Message of Hope*  
*Witnessing at Home and Beyond*



## A Message of Hope

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## Editor's Note

When I had my daughter, Amelia, I sang my little babe the worship song, "The Blessing" based on Numbers 6:24-26, "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace." I became intensely aware of my loved ones' salvation when I became a parent. I want to spend eternity with my Savior, as well as my children, husband, parents, siblings and friends. In this issue, we focus on sharing the Gospel with our families and friends. Can we be more proactive and creative when we share Jesus? What do our words and behavior testify? Let's check in with the Lord and inquire about His plans to use our feet to bring good news to those we love.

*Kristina P. Busch*

Kristina P. Busch

# Record

March | April 2023

Vol. 122, No. 02

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News articles and obituary submissions should be emailed to your local conference contact listed above or Record@swuc.org.

#### OUR MISSION

Equipping, inspiring and sharing hope and wholeness in the Southwestern Union territory.

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The Record is published bimonthly for a total of six issues per year and is an official publication of the Southwestern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

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## No Experience Necessary

What do you think of when you hear the word witness? Does someone in a courtroom come to mind? A witness is someone that has knowledge of an event from personal observation and is there to tell all of what they have seen and heard. Likewise, as Christians, we are called to be witnesses for Christ, sharing a personal testimony in both word and deed about the truth that we have experienced.

In Acts 1:8, Jesus refers to His disciples as witnesses and calls them to go to the ends of the earth with the good news of salvation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit and Jesus's simple model for witnessing, they went forth to bear witness. In the book, *Ministry of Healing*, Ellen G. White counsels that, "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching the people."

Christ's method does not require experience. Rather, basic preparation for witnessing involves a personal encounter with Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and a continuing relationship with Him. Through prayer and Bible study, the believer grows in their relationship with God and in their knowledge of biblical truth to share with others.

Further preparation for witnessing includes knowing the biblical narra-

tive you are a part of in order to share it rightly and truthfully. Biblical truth can be thought of in terms of four key concepts that serve as a framework for your story: Creation—What is God's intention? Fall—How has God's purpose been distorted? Redemption—How does God help us to respond? Re-creation—How can we be restored in the image of God?

Now, think through your own personal testimony of your relationship with Jesus Christ. Your story is one of the most powerful tools for sharing Christ with those around you. It is your first-hand account of all that God has done in your life. Place your story in the context of the biblical narrative—telling others what Jesus has done to save us, with an emphasis on your personal experience and how He has changed your life. An effective testimony could be structured as follows:

1. This is what my life was like before I met Jesus.
2. This is how I met Jesus.
3. These are the differences in my life since I met Jesus.

In 2015, the General Conference launched an initiative called Total Member Involvement, which extends a call for all believers to be witnesses

for Christ. Like the apostles, we are also chosen to be a part of God's plan to reach the world. Witnessing is part of being a disciple of Jesus; it is a response to what Christ has done for you. Each one of us has been commissioned by the Lord to proclaim the good news of His salvation. Believing in and receiving Jesus as our Savior is the only qualification we need.

Isaiah 52:7 reminds us, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" <sup>R</sup>

By Carol Campbell  
Vice President for Education



# Forming Spiritual Friendships



## & Embracing Personal Growth

Norma Jeronimo began teaching the teen Sabbath School class at the Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church in the summer of 2020. A year later, she was invited to attend an early morning prayer group that met by phone. The group had participants from across

the United States and beyond, and was a blessing to Jeronimo. "Most of the group members are moms, like me, and we have a lot to share and pray about," she said.

After a year of attending the prayer group, Jeronimo spoke to a friend who also attends about what a blessing it had been for both of them. Her friend had an idea: Would Jeronimo's teen class be interested in starting their own group, just for them, for prayer and fellowship? Jeronimo brought it up with the teens the next Sabbath. To her surprise, the teens were very interested and took charge of the idea immediately.

They woke up at 5:30 a.m. each morning and called into the group line.

They began with reading together for 15 minutes before sharing testimonies, prayer requests and praying. They first read *Messages to Young People* by Ellen G. White, and have since worked through seven books. They are currently reading *Prophets and Kings*.

The group has about 10 young people on the call, with Eden Briones at 15 as the newest member. Briones is thankful for the blessings and lessons found within the fellowship of the group. A dedicated student, athlete and leader at school, Briones feels strengthened by God's guidance.

"God has shown me countless times that He is the one who does everything. God works in different ways, and this is one way He will work with me. It is all up





“Through prayer and asking God for strength, I’ve been able to take steps to change for the better.”

to me, with the help of God, to continue forward in life,” said Briones.

Jeronimo’s daughter, Chelsee, also a member of the group and a junior in high school, has found spiritual maturity and discipline in waking up early to attend and lead the calls. She says she’s found a sense of her identity in Christ and a best friend in Jesus.

“High expectations have always been a part of me. At school, everyone expects me to be the ‘best’ student. At church, I have always felt as if everyone expects me to lead and guide others. At home, my parents expect me to be the perfect daughter. I have expectations that I feel I have to meet, or in my eyes, I will be deemed worthless and of little value,” she said.

She was hesitant to join the group because of how early they met, but said, “It was possibly one of the best decisions I have ever made. Waking up with God and with my church friends was truly a blessing. I have learned so much of God’s love and grace, and I finally felt as if I wasn’t carrying the huge burden of expectations by myself. In fact, while I was already a good stu-


dent and daughter, my grades are now better, and I feel as if my character is slowly starting to mold into who Jesus wants me to be. While I still have a lot to change in my life, I know that I am not alone for I am a child of God. Now, with full assurance, I can safely say that Jesus is my best friend,” said Chelsee.

Chelsee says that members of the group have formed spiritual bonds and friendships that she hasn’t experienced before and hopes will follow throughout their lives.

Another member of the group, Jazmell Gervacio, appreciates the fellowship as well as the opportunity for deeper reflection and personal growth.

“Being able to be a part of this daily call among the youth of my community has been and continues to be a great blessing. Having other people to read with helps me and is an encouragement to join the call. Everyone is patient, kind and understanding. After each reading, we take time to talk and reflect upon what we’ve read, which has helped me think deeper, see different points of view and understand more. It is not always easy. Sometimes the mes-

sage you read calls you out on things in your life that have become a norm, and changing will not always be easy. However, through prayer and asking God for strength, I’ve been able to take steps to change for the better,” said Gervacio.

Jeronimo has seen the growth in the teens of her Sabbath School class and praises God for His guidance. She invites any who feel called to join the group’s phone call, but also encourages them to start a group in their own community. If any teen is interested in being added to the Hot Springs group’s call, contact Norma Jeronimo at [SeleneJeronimo77@gmail.com](mailto:SeleneJeronimo77@gmail.com). 

*By Jessica Lozano. Lozano is a freelance writer based in Northwest Arkansas. Norma Jeronimo is a member of the Hot Springs Seventh-day Adventist Church in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.*

# Caring Moments

*Create Ripples of Love*



"Any little thing might be the spark that someday brings someone to Jesus," said Brianda Duque. "Inviting someone to church on Sabbath, sharing a small book, just talking to someone about Jesus...I think that can spark something. It did with me!"

Duque grew up in a family that did not regularly attend church. She knew little about Jesus, until one day a teacher invited her to church. That invitation

planted a love for Jesus that would remain with Duque forever, even though it did not grow for many years.

That teacher, Elizabeth Cobos, attended church on Saturdays, which seemed strange to the seven-year-old Duque. Nevertheless, she agreed to attend. "I remember learning that Jesus was my Lord and Savior," said Duque. "And I remember going to church on Saturday, not Sunday."

Sometimes, Duque spent the weekend, or even the entire summer, with Cobos in Georgia. They became like family. Cobos encouraged Duque to open up about her feelings, something that she didn't do much with her biological family. "I kept everything inside and didn't talk at all," said Duque. "I'm sure the teacher noticed that I wasn't opening up when something was wrong. They would encourage me to

talk and I felt better afterwards.”

Cobos’s brother and sister in law became Uncle Franklin and Aunt Kathy to Duque. In all that time, Duque did not learn the name of the church she attended. The Cobos family never forced anything on her. They treated her with love and gave her a space to learn about God.

About three years after that first invitation to church, Duque’s family moved to Oklahoma. At first, Duque visited the Cobos family often. They even invited Duque to live with them for an entire year. After that, though, they slowly lost touch as time passed.

Duque never forgot Cobos, the teacher who was like family. She simply became busy with life. She grew up, met her husband, Roberto, and they had their first child, Ariela. “He and I always talked about going to church,” said Duque, “But we were young and we just didn’t do it.”

Life developed into a comfortable rhythm. A few years after Ariela was born, the young couple had a son, named after his father. Duque worked hard to build a strong relationship with her children, so that they would feel safe opening up to her. She remembered how impactful that had been on her own life.

Then, one day, Ariela started asking big questions about God. She was about six or seven years old, a similar age to when Duque first attended church. Duque didn’t know how to answer the questions. So, they decided it was finally time to attend church.

Immediately, Duque wanted to go to church on Sabbath. Her husband studied the Ten Commandments and also became convinced that they should find a Sabbath church.

“Yes!” She said to Roberto. “But, I don’t know what it’s called.”

“I didn’t have anything from my childhood,” explained Duque. “We moved a lot. It wasn’t a very stable environment. The Cobos family showed me stability and love.”

So, Duque searched for the name Elizabeth Cobos online and found her



***“If you think inviting someone to church doesn’t make a difference, know that it really does.”***




phone number. After over a decade, she called and left a voice message with her old teacher. “It is emotional reconnecting with them,” said Duque. “We are planning a visit to go see them this year. I feel like I’m a kid again when I talk to them.”

Cobos told Duque that she attended a Seventh-day Adventist Church. So, Duque found Hope Adventist Fellowship, a Seventh-day Adventist Church in Moore, Oklahoma, and started attending. Brianda and Roberto were baptized just a few years later.

Now, Ariela is twelve years old. Little “Robbie” is seven, and they have a daughter, Catalina, who is three. In January, Ariela dedicated her life to Jesus through baptism. “I chose to be baptized because I was so grateful for everything that God has done for me in my life,” said Ariela. “To me, getting baptized is like one step to a stronger relationship with Him. When I got baptized, it was the most amazing feeling ever.”

When Elizabeth Cobos invited a young Brianda to attend church, she had no way of knowing the impact that invitation would have for years to come. “It’s all the pieces working together that make a difference,” said Wes Via, pastor of Hope Adventist Fellowship. “From Brianda’s childhood to now.”

“Now, I see the Holy Spirit working in my life,” said Duque. “I had felt the Holy Spirit as a kid but I didn’t recognize it until now. I see God working with my kids, as well. They already have so much faith and trust in our Lord. If you think inviting someone to church doesn’t make a difference, know that it really does.” 

*By Makala James. James is a freelance writer based in North Texas. Brianda Duque and her husband, Roberto and their children Ariela, Roberto and Catalina, attend the Hope Adventist Fellowship Church in Moore, Oklahoma in the Oklahoma Conference.*



# 6 Simple Ways to be a Witness in Your Home

By Saul Flores, Texico Conference Family Ministries Director  
and Saul A. Flores, Record Freelance Writer

My dad is more than my dad. He's the person I admire the most in my life. He's taught me many things, such as how to check my car's oil and how to be a good person. But, the most important thing he's taught me is how to be a witness for my family and share God with others. My dad is the senior pastor for the La Roca and North Valley Spanish Seventh-day Adventist churches. He also serves as the Texico Conference family ministries director. I sat down with him recently to discuss six tips for being a witness for your family.



1

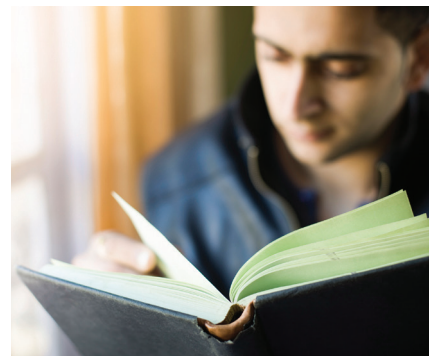
## RESPECT OTHERS.

When you respect God, you can respect anyone. Showing respect demonstrates to your family a good value, and it's something that we have to do daily. Respect for your spouse and yes, respect for your children, even while they are very young. In a family, challenges will arise. Even if a family member is wrong or critical, I have to show that I have to respect them and treat them the best way I can.

2

## HAVE PERSONAL DEVOTION.

Personal devotion with God is vital for your spiritual walk, but it can also be a way to minister to your own family. When you read your Bible and have your devotion, your family will see that you have carved out time to spend time with God and pray to God. They won't have to ask you because they will know how important it is to read the Bible, be in conversation with God, pray and go to church through you.







3

## TEACH BY EXAMPLE.

As a pastor, you can't preach something that you are not actively doing in your own home. But this is also true as any leader or even church member. In Deuteronomy 6, God directs Moses to teach the people of Israel to fear the Lord by keeping His decrees so that they may enjoy a long life. One of the best ways we can show God to our families is to lead by example by having daily prayer, devotion, kindness to others and showing them love.

4

## OFFER FORGIVENESS.

One of the most special Bible teachings is found in Matthew 6:12, when Jesus's disciples asked Him to teach them how to pray, and in His marvelous prayer. Jesus says "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." When you are hurt, it is hard to acknowledge someone's actions as a mistake. This makes it important for us to forgive others just as God has forgiven us. One way for us to be a witness to our families is not only to forgive them, but also ask for forgiveness. In

my experience, I've been challenged to forgive when my heart has been broken. Perhaps that has been your experience as well. In our families, we need to give the person who has wronged us a chance to recognize their own mistake and show them God loves them and forgives them. That's when you can give your spouse, children, friends and maybe even yourself, a second chance to return to God.



5

## DEDICATE QUALITY TIME.



It's about more than just the quantity of time. It's about spending quality time with your family and showing them they are important to you. We can tell our family they are important to us, but if we put them at the end of the list because we are so busy with our jobs or

responsibilities then we are not being honest. I remember when Saul and his sister were young, and how they would light up when they would see me wearing jeans and a t-shirt instead of my suit and tie. They would get excited because this meant that we were going to spend family time together. There are billions of people in this world, but God cares individually about all of us. The best way to show that is by spending quality time with our families.



6

## BE A TRUE FRIEND.

The core of the great commission in Matthew 28 is rooted in Matthew 22:3-40 where Jesus instructs us, as disciples of Christ, to love God with all our hearts and love our neighbors as ourselves. Heaven revealed how it gave everything to us by sending Jesus to die on the cross, so how can I translate that to my family? It's by giving yourself to your family and being a friend to those who are in need. Use the blessings God has given you to pour into your family, to build up the relationships inside and outside your home. <sup>R</sup>

# 5 Ways to Lower Blood Pressure

By AdventHealth

High blood pressure can put you at a higher risk for both heart attack and stroke. Fortunately, you can lower your risk for these conditions with easy, stress-free techniques to improve your blood pressure. Best of all, you don't even have to hit the gym for hours or switch to a strict diet. Here's how:



## ADD MORE MOVEMENT TO YOUR DAY

The American Heart Association recommends every adult participate in 150 minutes of moderate exercise every week for better cardiovascular health. Moderate exercise, like walking or swimming, means getting your heart rate up high enough that you can talk, but not sing while exercising.

And if finding the time in your day to exercise is a challenge (it is for most of us), it may be a relief to know that you don't have to do the 150 minutes all at once; you can break it up into small chunks spread throughout your week.

Sneak in more movement by taking a walk on your lunch break, taking the stairs instead of an elevator, walking instead of driving, when possible, and walking the dog instead of letting them out in the yard. Even these tiny bits of activity can add up to your 150 minutes of physical activity each week if you keep at it.



## EAT LESS SALT

Sodium causes your body to hold onto extra fluid, which increases your blood pressure. By eating less salt, you can maintain the right balance of fluid in your body for a healthy blood pressure.

Some techniques to reduce salt intake include: Avoiding highly pro-

cessed foods, buying reduced-sodium products, reducing the salt in your recipes, replacing salt with herbs and spices and rinsing canned foods that are high in sodium. Your goal should be to take in less than 2400 mg of salt each day.



## EAT MORE FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

Fruits and vegetables have many benefits for your heart health. Many of them, like bananas, avocados and leafy greens, contain potassium. Potassium helps relax blood vessels and also counteracts the effects of salt.

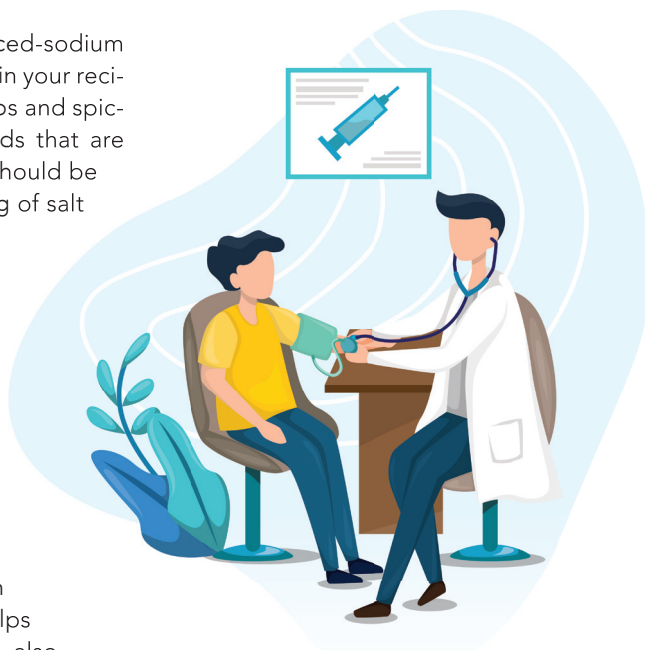
It can be easy to add more fruits and vegetables to your day. You can add vegetables to soups and pastas, eat a serving as an afternoon snack, enjoy salad before lunch or dinner, have a vegetable side dish with dinner or have a fruit with your breakfast. Add one new serving to your day at a time so you don't feel overwhelmed by changes to your diet.



## SLEEP WELL

While sleep doesn't seem like a top-of-mind solution for lowering your blood pressure, it's actually a very important way for your body to refresh itself. People who are sleep-deprived have a higher risk of high blood pressure, obesity and diabetes—all of which affect your heart health.

Learn more about recommendations for sleep for every stage of life, as well as tips for improving your sleep quality at [AdventHealth.com/blog/sleep-tips-every-age](https://AdventHealth.com/blog/sleep-tips-every-age).



## SEE YOUR PHYSICIAN

Your primary care physician can help you monitor your blood pressure and identify which evidence-based strategies for improving heart health are right for you. They can offer guidance on your diet, exercise routine, weight loss goals and sleep quality, as well as connect you with valuable programs like smoking cessation classes, all in an effort to help lower your blood pressure. <sup>®</sup>

*This article originally appeared on the AdventHealth Blog at [AdventHealth.com/blog/5-easy-ways-lower-your-blood-pressure](https://AdventHealth.com/blog/5-easy-ways-lower-your-blood-pressure).*

# Guiding a New Generation of Women

By Lori Fatcher, Record Freelance Writer

When Letty Craig was first introduced to women's ministries, she wasn't interested in becoming involved. "I saw women crying and feeling sorry for each other," she said. "I didn't want to be crying and telling my problems, immersing myself in that state of mind. I wanted something more positive."

But when she began helping out with women's ministries at her local church under the leadership of Sandy Reyes, Texas Conference women's ministries director, Craig saw that things could be different. She learned that women's ministries could help women have fun while learning things that would have a positive impact on their lives.

Now as women's ministries director for the Southwestern Union, Craig wants to create an environment where women can relax, enjoy laughing and be themselves. Her primary goal is to empower women throughout the union to be spiritual guides for the next generation of women. "We want to have royal ladies to guide the next generation to heaven," she said.

One way Craig is doing this is through the upcoming "Brave and Bold" Women's Ministries Retreat, which will be held in San Marcos, May 19-21. In addition to sessions focused on mental and emotional health, there will be separate sessions for teenage girls that will focus on subjects of importance to their generation, such as forming healthy friendships and improving communication with their parents.

It is because of the mistakes she says she made when her own children were growing up that the mission of strengthening mother-daughter bonds and mentoring young women is so important to her. "I wish I could have the relationship I have now with my kids when they were growing up," Craig said, admitting that she didn't




have the knowledge of how to do that. Though she is grateful that her three adult children still attend church, her heart breaks when she sees young people leaving because they experienced more criticism than love. By helping moms know how to have more positive relationships with their children, she hopes to create a cycle of better moms, better families, better churches and better communities.

As women's ministries director, Craig is following in the footsteps of Sarepta Henry, who was called upon by Ellen G. White to begin a "woman ministry" to encourage women to use their gifts to help other women in their church and

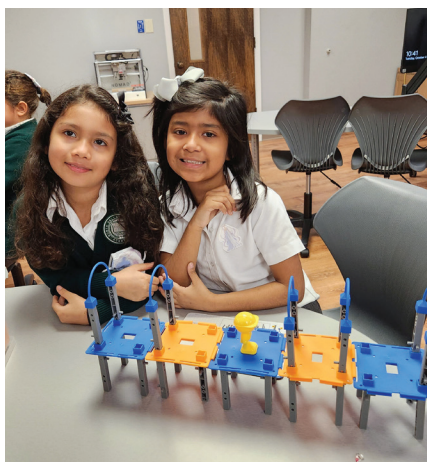
community. Two years after beginning this program, Henry died and the program died with her. One hundred years later, in 1990, women's ministries was revived at the General Conference under the leadership of Rose Otis.

Letty Craig is the wife of Southwestern Union President Carlos Craig. They are parents to Danette, David and Daphne, and have six grandchildren.

We invite you to visit us online at [SouthwesternAdventist.org/women](https://SouthwesternAdventist.org/women) or view the ad on page 21 to learn more or register for the Southwestern Union "Brave and Bold" Women's Ministries Retreat. 

# Cutting Edge Hands-on Learning

By Stephan Gray, North Dallas Adventist Academy Biology Teacher and STEM Lab Facilitator



North Dallas Adventist Academy (NDAA) has recently acquired a state-of-the-art Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) lab through funding from the federal grant of Extra Assistance for Non-Public Schools (EANS) which was enacted to assist private schools like NDAA in the mitigation of learning loss due to COVID-19. The lab is equipped with the latest technology and resources to provide students with hands-on learning experiences in STEM subjects.

The acquisition of the STEM lab is a sea change achievement for NDAA, as it will help to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge for successful careers in STEM fields.

The acquisition of the grant funds was led by Petronella Hunt, NDAA business manager and Renee White, interim head of school (2021). The lab features a wide range of cutting-edge equipment, including 3D printers, CNC router machines and robotics kits. These resources will allow students to explore their interests in STEM and develop their skills in a hands-on environment.


In addition to providing students with access to the latest technology and resources, the STEM lab will also provide opportunities for teachers to further their own education and professional development.

As the STEM Lab facilitator, I enjoy making lessons hands-on, interactive and relevant. I love providing positive reinforcement recognizing their accomplishments. Connecting to real-world applications and careers provides a bridge from the abstract to the reality of interacting in careers and disciplines heretofore unimagined. Feeling proud of student accomplishments is a great reward for any educator. Celebrating their successes, no matter how small,

is a constant affirmation to me that my contribution makes a difference in the lives of my students.

Our aspiration is in accord with this prescient statement, from Ellen G. White's book, *True Education*, "Every human being, created in the image of God, is endowed with a power akin to that of the Creator— individuality, power to think and to do. The ones in whom this power is developed are the ones who bear responsibilities, who are leaders in enterprise, and who influence character. It is the work of true education to develop this power, to train the youth to be thinkers, and not mere reflectors of other men's thought."

The acquisition of the state-of-the-art STEM lab at North Dallas Adventist Academy is a major milestone for the academy. The lab will provide students with hands-on learning experiences, access to the latest technology and resources, and opportunities to explore their interests in STEM.

The lab will also benefit teachers by providing opportunities for professional development. As the STEM Lab facilitator, I am excited to play a role in guiding students to discover their passions and develop their skills in STEM fields. This acquisition is a testament to the commitment of NDAA and EANS to provide students with the best education possible and to shape the future of education. 

# A Team That's All Heart at the Texas Health Huguley Bistro

**FORT WORTH** - At Texas Health Huguley Hospital, each day is guided by the mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. Team members express that they feel blessed to work with people who exude pure generosity and kindness not only to patients but to each other as well.

The Bistro Seventy-Seven team inspires the hospital team members to take advantage of every moment where they can give back to some of their biggest supporters: the community.

Bistro SeventySeven is Texas Health Huguley's café, where visitors and team members can purchase hot beverages, freshly baked pastries or grab-and-go food. The Bistro team recently had a record-breaking year in tips received.

After collecting over \$4,000 in tips, they chose four different charities to donate the earnings to equally: Meals on Wheels North Central Texas, Harvest House, Center for Autism Spec-



trum Disorder (ASD) (pictured with the Bistro team) and One Safe Place.

"This meant a lot to me because my manager let me choose one of the charities we would be donating to," shared Lauren Petty, barista at Bistro Seventy-Seven. "My nephew has autism and is on the spectrum, so it was a magical feeling being able to choose the Center for ASD as one of the recipients. I

feel blessed to work somewhere where I can do things like this and really help make a difference."

The team members at Texas Health Huguley hope that through their dedication and kindness, they can continue to serve their community for years to come.

*By Jasmine Zamora-Garcia  
Creative Copywriter*

# Humble Servants in the Mansfield Community

**MANSFIELD, TEX.** - Texas Health Hospital Mansfield is committed to providing high-quality care to the growing communities it serves. At its core, Texas Health Mansfield, a joint venture with AdventHealth, is committed to going beyond its hospital walls to serve the needs of the community. Before breaking ground on the construction of the 59-bed acute care facility, President and CEO Kenneth Rose prioritized

building lasting relationships with the community. As a result, Texas Health Mansfield has initiated a volunteer program where team members volunteer at local nonprofit organizations each quarter. With nearly 800 hours volunteered since 2020, team members have worked with various local organizations, including the Mansfield Mission Center, Harvesting in Mansfield Center, Mansfield Activities Center Senior Citizen Program, Manna House in Midlothian and the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation.

In December 2022, the hospital partnered again with the local Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. During Mansfield's annual community-wide Hometown Holidays bash, Texas Health Mansfield presented the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation with a financial gift to support their mission to bring joy and hope to children.

Texas Health Mansfield team members joined in on the fun this year, volunteering at a local warehouse sorting thousands of toys. On Thanksgiving weekend, a group of ten team leaders accepted a challenge from another community organization to go out and shop for the children. Texas Health Mansfield's generous donation to the local Marine Toys for Tots Foundation provided approximately 188 toys, bringing holiday cheer to 94 children in the area.

It is an honor to serve Mansfield and the surrounding communities. Each day, team members take care of patients with a servant's heart that mirrors that of the Savior. Rose emphasizes often, "Texas Health Mansfield is God's hospital," and it will continue to live out its mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ.

*By Texas Health Mansfield*



## March

1-4

### ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

OAA Music Festival  
Ozark Adventist Academy, Gentry, Ark.  
RPatterson@ozarkacademy.org

3-4

### SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Growing the Kingdom  
Oklahoma City  
SouthwesternAdventist.org

4

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Oklahoma Town Hall Meeting  
Voice of Hope Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
Oklahoma City  
Secretariat@swrgc.org

4

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries Event:  
Tea Among Friends, Oklahoma Area  
TeaAmongFriends2023.eventbrite.com

4

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Pathfinder Bible Experience  
Houston, TexasAdventist.org

5-11

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Women's Week of Prayer Revival  
Houston, TexasAdventist.org

6-11

### SOUTHWESTERN UNION

More Compassion: El Paso  
SouthwesternAdventist.org

10-12

### SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Children's Ministries Retreat  
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.  
SouthwesternAdventist.org



11

### ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Children's Ministry/VBS Training  
Little Rock Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, JFortner@arklac.org

14

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Tutoriales de Liderazgo  
Virtual Training, TexasAdventist.org

17-19

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Lego Robotics Tournament  
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.  
BGriffith@swrgc.org

18

### ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Personal Ministries Training  
Shreveport First Seventh-day  
Adventist Church  
LMelindez@arklac.org

18-19

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries Event:  
Tea Among Friends  
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.  
TeaAmongFriends2023.eventbrite.com

24-26

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Family Ministries Family Retreat  
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.  
LMassiah@swrgc.org

25

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Southern Louisiana Town Hall  
Meeting, Westbank United Seventh-  
day Adventist Church, New Orleans  
Secretariat@swrgc.org

25

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Men's Ministries ReCharge Event  
Dallas Area, TexasAdventist.org

26

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries Virtual Event:  
Jehovah's Jewels  
JehovahsJewels2023.eventbrite.com

26

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Adventist Community Services  
Level 2 Training, Houston  
TexasAdventist.org

# April

## March 31-April 2

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Men's Ministries Spanish Retreat  
TexasAdventist.org

2

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries Event:  
Tea Among Friends, Houston.  
TeaAmongFriends2023.eventbrite.com

2

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Adventist Community Services  
Level 2 Training  
East Texas, TexasAdventist.org

2-7

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Determined Cycling Tour  
East Texas  
TexasAdventist.org/Determined

5-15

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

10 Days of Prayer  
Virtual Event, TexasAdventist.org

6-9

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Pathfinder Camporee  
Lake Whitney Ranch  
TXYouth.org

11

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Tutoriales de Liderazgo  
Virtual Training, TexasAdventist.org

13-16

### ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Conference Level Master Guide  
Camporee, Camp Yorktown Bay  
DCraig@arklac.org

15

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Men's Ministries ReCharge Event,  
Dallas, TexasAdventist.org

15-16

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries Event:  
Jehovah's Jewels  
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.  
JehovahsJewels2023.eventbrite.com

21-23

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

Adventurer Family Camp  
Lake Whitney Ranch, TXYouth.org

23

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Women's Ministries Event:  
Tea Among Friends  
Round Rock, Tex.  
TeaAmongFriends2023.eventbrite.com

25-29

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

HOUSTON AREA Mission Trip,  
TexasAdventist.org

28-30

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Stronger Together Men's Summit  
Lone Star Camp, Athens, Tex.  
LMassiah@swrgc.org

28-30

### SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Children's Ministry EXPO  
City Temple Seventh-day Adventist  
Church, Dallas, Tex.  
Info@swrgc.org

30

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

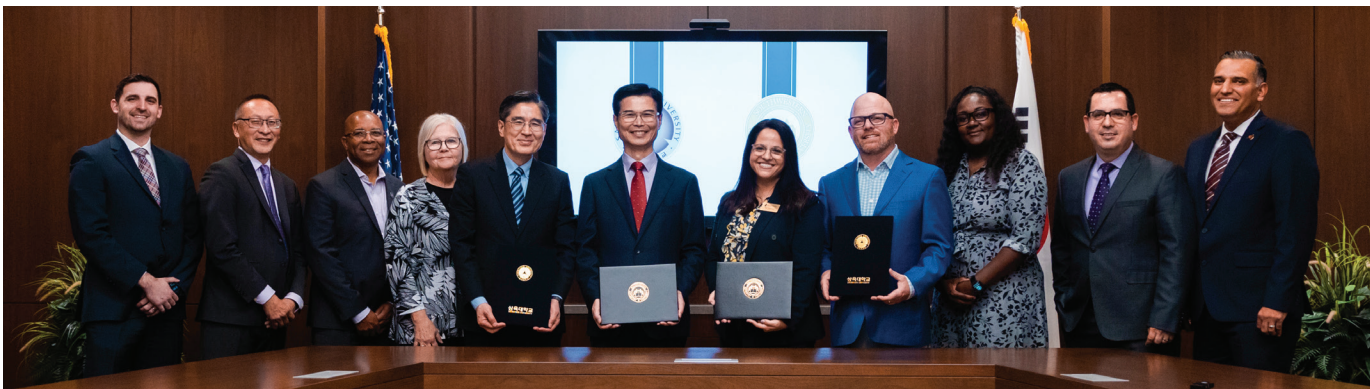
Adventist Community Services  
Level 2 Training, Valley Area  
TexasAdventist.org

30

### TEXAS CONFERENCE

ForeverONE Marriage Gala  
Houston, ForeverOne.org





## Partnering With Sahmyook and River Plate Adventist Universities

**KEENE, TEX.** – In November, Southwestern Adventist University President Ana Patterson signed agreements with Sahmyook University President Il Mok Kim and River Plate Adventist University President Horacio Rizzo. Kim traveled from Seoul, South Korea, and met Patterson on Southwestern Adventist University’s campus for the signing event. Patterson, this year’s guest commencement speaker for River Plate Adventist University, traveled to Libertador San Martin in Argentina, to sign the agreement with Rizzo. The three Universities, accredited by the Seventh-day Adventist Accrediting Association, are collaborating to enrich their educational experiences for students and professors.

“Southwestern Adventist University is honored to partner with Sahmyook University to expand opportunities for international education and research for students and faculty through the exchange agreement. We look forward to pursuing opportunities that enhance the academic experience through col-

laboration,” said Southwestern Adventist University President Patterson.

Thinking academically, strategically and spiritually, Kim, president of Sahmyook University, said that, “the Universities have the same mission and goal. This is the global age, so we need global cooperation so [we] can accomplish academic advancement and spiritual revival together.” Sahmyook University launched last year the International Society for Academic Advancement (ISAA) “to revitalize academic exchanges and cooperative networks among 120 Adventist universities worldwide” according to its website.

Patterson said about her invitation to River Plate Adventist University: “It was my honor to accept the invitation to participate in the graduation ceremony for River Plate Adventist University in Argentina and to sign an agreement that encourages academic collaboration, expands educational opportunities and furthers the relationship between sister institutions. We share a

common mission to provide quality Adventist Education as a form of ministry to serve the world.”

The River Plate Adventist University press release reported: “With this agreement, the academic cooperation will be fomented, contemplating the exchange of teachers and students, sponsoring tasks together in the research field and in service of the Seventh-day Adventist Mission.”

Southwestern Adventist University is grateful for the opportunity to broaden its mission globally for its students and professors to increase in knowledge, faith and service through these partnerships.

*By Michelle Bergmann  
Freelance Writer*



# A Party for Heroes

**KEENE, TEX.** - Paulino Santos, Ed.D., chair of the Department of Kinesiology at Southwestern Adventist University (SWAU), threw a party at the end of his Adaptive Physical Activity class for his students and their participants. Young participants with disabilities from the surrounding churches and the community came to celebrate their accomplishments with their student therapists at the end of an eight-week lab in Santos's Adaptive Physical Activity class.

As they worked together, the participants and SWAU students bonded in a friendship that motivated each participant to do their best for their new friend and for each student to do their best to help their participant reach their goal. At the party, everyone from parents to teachers to guests, got emotional as they clapped and cheered for "our heroes," as Santos called them, for the accomplishments each participant/student-teacher team demonstrated for the group.

During once-a-week sessions for eight weeks, many SWAU students, who are working to become future therapists, physical education teachers and sports medicine professionals, got their first chance to creatively teach and administer therapeutic exercises tailored to their participant's goals.

The SWAU students were tasked to first assess their participant's needs, then develop, design and build their own instrument to aid their participant in one area.

For example, Parker Wells, a senior kinesiology major, created an exercise for his participant, Riley, to improve her grip strength to help her better maneuver her wheelchair. He put a device in a water bottle full of water, and as she squeezed the bottle, the device sank. Her dad said she was better connected to Parker than to her professional therapist. Lizzy Dominguez, a health and fitness major, built a ramp out of plastic pipe and connectors to help her participant, Xahani, improve upper body strength to lift a ball and nudge it down the ramp to knock down plastic bowling pins. These were just a couple of the innovative and effective tools the SWAU students engineered. The participants' response was one hundred percent positive—every student made progress between their beginning and ending assessments.

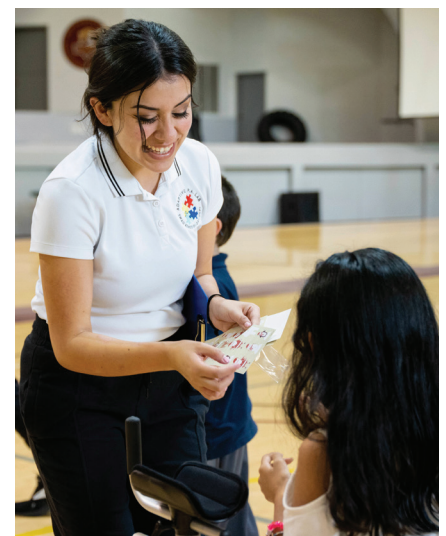
God has blessed Santos's desire to serve more participants through this class. One day, Yasmin Segovia, a sophomore nursing student at SWAU, came to the Leiske-Pultar Gymnasium to attend Coach Chad Hutchinson's required Wellness for Life course.

She saw the SWAU students working with the participants and immediately asked if she could bring her nine-year-old daughter, Olivia. "It's been a great experience to bring my daughter here and see the smile on her face and how happy she has been to interact with Stacy Rose Perea and Paige Hinds and interact with kids her age. I know some other families that may be interested in bringing their children," she said.

At first, it took three students to carry one participant with severe autism, Alexander, by his hands and feet into the gymnasium's secluded racquetball court for therapy. He had such a positive experience and response that he soon walked into class on his own. His mother told Santos, "This is the only time he acts normal, and I believe it's because this is a Christian environment and that God is here."

God is present and is doing great things at Southwestern Adventist University through its faculty, staff and students as they carry out its mission to inspire knowledge, faith and service through Christ-centered education.

*By Michelle Bergmann  
Freelance Writer*



# For Such a Time As This: Southwestern Union Outlines Initiatives



**BURLESON, TEX.** - Roughly a year ago, the leadership team of the Southwestern Union put together a roadmap for the five-year quinquennium 2021-2026. An old adage states: "If you aim for nothing, you'll hit the target every time."

Taking into consideration what we felt were the imminent and most pressing of needs, we prayerfully and carefully scripted a game plan outlining the six major initiatives of ministry for the southwestern territory during this time span.

First, we developed the overarching theme: "One for Six and Six for All". This simply states that each of the five conferences: Arkansas-Louisiana, Oklahoma, Southwest Region, Texas and Texico, along with Southwestern Adventist University, will labor in cohesion with synergy to obtain the highest ideals and results under the almighty leadership of the Lord.

Second, we believe that we are tasked with providing vision at a crucial and pivotal moment in the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. New, fearless and innovative leadership is greatly needed! Our plan is to partner with the North American Divi-

sion and AdventHealth to inspire and develop young leaders throughout the Southwestern Union.

Third, we plan to focus on and develop the "Growing Together" initiative across our territory. "Growing Together" simply involves combining the vigor and energy of youth and young adults with the experience and wisdom of older generations. The time is now to use every faculty and talent for the advancement of the Master's kingdom.

Fourth, we seek to continue the advancement and development of Adventist Education across the Southwestern Union. Our schools are our lifeline and the production line for leadership in the local and corporate Seventh-day Adventist Church and beyond! We must ensure their stability and viability.

Fifth, we are privileged and honored to have embarked on a wonderful working relationship with AdventHealth and we believe we can learn much from their success and partner to reach the communities that surround us with the Gospel message, as well as the healing touch. AdventHealth operates four health care facilities in Texas: AdventHealth Central Texas in Killeen,



AdventHealth Rollins Brook in Lampasas, Texas Health Hospital Mansfield in Mansfield and Texas Health Huguley Hospital in Burleson.

Last but not least, we will embrace evangelism as a culture and not an isolated activity. "Fanning the Flame" is an evangelism initiative and tagline being used in the Southwestern Union. The flame has flickered as far as our efforts to make disciples, but we feel that the world around us is ripe for a harvest. Pray with us as we seek to accomplish these things for the Lord's honor and glory and the advancement of His kingdom on earth.

*By Carlos Craig  
President*



GROWING  
The KINGDOM

MARCH  
3-4



# Join Us!

*¡Presentaciones en Español!*

The Southwestern Union presents inspiring training for:  
Church Board Members | Ministries Leaders  
Elders | Deacons and Deaconesses

**Friday, March 3 | 7:00 pm**

Voice of Hope Seventh-day Adventist Church  
3300 NE 23rd St., Oklahoma City, OK 73121

**Sabbath, March 4 | 4:00 pm**

Edmond Seventh-day Adventist Church  
4701 E Danforth Rd., Edmond, OK 73034

[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org) | 817.295.0476



GROWING  
The KINGDOM

Houston, Texas

SEPTEMBER  
8-9



# SAVE THE DATE!

*¡Presentaciones en Español!*

The Southwestern Union presents inspiring training for:  
Church Board Members | Ministries Leaders  
Elders | Deacons and Deaconesses

## See you in Houston!

[www.SouthwesternAdventist.org](http://www.SouthwesternAdventist.org) | 817.295.0476

MARCH  
10-12 | 2023  
LONE STAR CAMP

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Adventist® Church  
SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# SEEK & FIND

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES TRAINING RETREAT



SCAN ME  
for Registration

EARLY REGISTRATION **\$119**  
DEC 5 - FEB 5

REGULAR REGISTRATION **\$139**  
FEB 6 - MAR 3

LAST DAY TO REGISTER  
MAR 3

**TOPICS TO BE PRESENTED:**

- Children's Mental Health
- **GoFISH** Program where Kids Explore their Spiritual Gifts
- **Fiercely Faithful VBS for 2023**
- Children's Prayer Stations

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6829 FM317 | Athens, TX 75752

# More Compassion EL PASO

March 8-11, 2023

**Activities:**

- Service projects
- Youth and Young Adults worship experience
- And much more



Small things bring **big changes.**

[SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth](https://SouthwesternAdventist.org/Youth)

 Seventh-day  
Adventist® Church  
SOUTHWESTERN UNION

MAY 19-21, 2023

EMBASSY SUITES

1001 E McCarty Lane  
San Marcos, Texas

THIS SOUTHWESTERN UNION  
WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREAT  
TAKES PLACE EVERY FIVE YEARS

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference  
Oklahoma Conference  
Texas Conference  
Texico Conference  
Southwest Region Conference

# Brave & Bold

*Facing my Fears*  
SPIRITUAL WELFARE

*Women's Retreat*

## RETREAT REGISTRATION

**Early Bird Rate: \$140**  
until February 28

**Regular Rate: \$160**  
through March 30

**Late Rate: \$180**  
through April 25

*Registration fee is per person*

## TEENS PROGRAM

This is a great opportunity for our teens to get away and listen to the Lord as He assures them that they are loved, cared for, and valued.



SCAN ME

*for registration*

## HOTEL REGISTRATION

**Rooms: \$154 plus tax per night**  
up to 4 people

**Reservation Deadline: April 25**

**Phone: 512.392.6450**  
Booking and general questions

*Hotel has no obligation to provide room nights beyond this date*





## Ministry at McDonald's

Some years ago, I decided to try something different in my community. I decided that I would go visit the same McDonald's every morning for a month. I wanted to watch people, their habits and their way of life.

I remember finding a table in the corner, where I might be able to watch the entire dining area. It was amazing what I saw on that first day. Most came and went in a minute or two. Others came in, sat down and stayed and visited with others for a long time. Attitudes were all over the map. Some were warm, friendly and others were sullen, grumpy.

After a few days, I decided to focus on the ones who were there for an hour or more. These were the regulars. Every day, you find a group that would come. At one table was a group of ladies. A little farther away was a group of men. Then, another group of mixed company. All varying ages and backgrounds.

One day, after several weeks of watching, one came over to me and

asked my name and what I did for a living. When I told them I was a minister, several began to come over a little at a time to visit.

Over the next several months, I began to see several who would come and sit by me and visit. We would start talking about things going on in the community and then the conversation would switch to talking about the Bible; often they would become a Bible study.

One of those who began coming was a young man who was pretty cocky to begin with but, as time went on, he wanted to know more about Jesus. He would ask all kinds of questions about Jesus and the Bible, and after a while I invited him to evangelistic meetings where he gave his heart to Jesus and was baptized.

Many others from McDonald's would visit the church from time to time. Someone asked me my secret. I would simply answer, it was evangelism by hanging around. A simple way to wit-

ness from my home, so to speak, with a wonderful group of citizens from the community.

The good news is that every one of us can do that. May we always be willing to be used for the cause of Christ, even if it is simply hanging around people.

*By Richard C. Dye, Sr.  
President*



# CYB is the Place to Be

**MOUNTAIN PINE, ARK.** – Every year, the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference youth department holds the most anticipated event of the year: Summer camp. Summer camp is a place where you can share and enjoy different experiences. You do not want to miss this opportunity to live this great experience. Everyone will have the chance to enjoy this amazing camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, from the youngest to the oldest. Young adults, we also have an opportunity for you! Come and be a part of our staff - it will be a rewarding work experience for you. If you are interested in attending camp or interested in joining our staff team, visit [ArkLaYouth.com](http://ArkLaYouth.com) for more information about the life changing experience. We would love to have you, so don't forget to register today!

By David Craig, Youth Director, and  
 Julianna Mercado,  
 Administrative Assistant



**CAMP YORKTOWN BAY**  
 Summer Camp 2023

*Fearless*

PSALM 23

Camp	Price	Date
Cub Camp	\$365	June 11-18
Junior Camp	\$365	June 18-25
Tween Camp	\$365	June 25-July 2
Teen Camp	\$365	July 2-9
Family Camp	*see website*	July 9-16

[HTTPS://WWW.ARKLAYOUTH.COM/SUMMERCAMP](https://www.arklayouth.com/summercamp)

# Baptism in Baton Rouge

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** – In 2018, Winfield (Winn) Morris married Lidiane Aimeida, a lovely young Adventist woman from Brazil. Winn was curious and asked questions about his wife’s faith. He would lovingly drop his wife off each week at the front door of the Baton Rouge Seventh-day Adventist Church, then come back for her once service was done. Occasionally, he would attend the service with Lidiane. In 2021, Winn met Michael Cerda when he became the Baton Rouge church’s pastor, and the two immediately hit it off. Lidiane and many others in our church family had been praying

for Winn, and soon he decided to have Bible studies with his new friend, Cerda. After many weeks of dedicated study on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and after much soul searching and love from his faithful wife, Winn decided to give his heart to Jesus. On Sabbath, June 18, 2022, with his family from Alexandria, La., and Lidiane’s family from Brazil in the audience rejoicing, Winn was baptized by his friend and pastor, Michael Cerda.

*By Tracy Francis*



# Shreveport Adventist Christian School Given a Fresh Start



**SHREVEPORT, LA.** – Shreveport Adventist Christian School continues a tradition of quality Adventist Christian education in Shreveport, La. The school started in 1960 as Shreveport Adventist Junior Academy, which was a school supported by two local Adventist churches. The name changed to Colquitt Christian Academy when the school was relocated to Shreveport South Seventh-day Adventist Church on Colquitt Road. Throughout its history, Colquitt was a thriving school with a steady en-

rollment. However, in recent history, Colquitt has been slowly declining in enrollment until it almost closed at the end of 2021-2022 school year in which it was operating as a one-teacher school.

Recognizing the importance of having Adventist education available in the Shreveport area, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference leadership proposed the idea of the conference operating the school. The executive committee voted on the proposal and at the close of the 2021-2022 school year, the con-

ference took over the operations of the school. The plan is to revive the school and its constituency over the next five school years and return operation of the school to the area churches.

Before school started this year, Colquitt was relocated to the conference office property located on Greenwood Road and the name was changed to Shreveport Adventist Christian School. Because of the move and remodel of the building that used to house the Adventist Book Center and most recently the Shreveport Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, school started a little late. On Sept. 3, 2022, a Teacher/Student Dedication Ceremony was held, and classes started on Sept. 6, 2022. The school is grateful to have been blessed at the last hour with two wonderful teachers in Darrell Ezell and his wife Delecia. We have eight students (one via Zoom from Illinois) in grades K-8 and are delighted to have this school continue to be a light in the Shreveport area.

*By Tim Kripps  
Education Secretary*



## From Christmas to the Cross



**GENTRY, ARK.** – She was probably only three- or four-years-old. As she stood there, with the bright, innocent eyes of a child taking in the scene around her, she saw the costumed beggars, the soldiers towering on horseback above her and the merchants calling out their wares on Bethlehem's streets. The smell of hay, the soldiers' horses and calves munching grass in their tiny enclosure filled the air around the "village." This is how Ozark Adventist Academy's live nativity, "From Christmas to the Cross", began. On Dec. 16-17, 2022, each of the 500 people who walked through the 11 scenes in this re-enactment of some of



the most important scenes from the life of Christ, started in Bethlehem.

For many, the story was not a new one. But, for this little girl with her eyes open wide in wonder, some of it was. She knew the story of there being no room in the inn, and she knew the story of Jesus being born in the manger. And as she walked through each of the scenes, she took in more of the story. She saw the re-enactment of the wise men giving their gifts, the feeding of the five thousand and the blind man who was healed.

But, as she moved past the scene of the plotting priests, she started to see

a part of the story she had not seen before. And as the soldiers talked of crucifying Christ, tears began to slide down her innocent face. And standing under the cross, like the disciples, she didn't yet see the resurrection in the next scene. She hadn't yet heard the song, "My Redeemer Lives", break the silence. It was here on Ozark Adventist Academy's campus she realized the complete story and saw the full picture. It was here she learned that Christ died and rose again.

This is why Judy Feters spent so many hours planning and organizing Ozark Adventist Academy's live nativity. This is why Ozark's students, staff and volunteers stood in the cold dressed in their period costumes and why so many members from Northwest Arkansas churches volunteered to build and install the sets, to bake cookies and drive shuttles to and from the start of the nativity. Because Jesus said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God."

*By Debbie Upson*

## Irene Bowers is Turning 102 Years Old

**SHREVEPORT, LA.** – The late JL (Jack) Bowers pastored the Jonesboro and Texarkana Seventh-day Adventist Churches in the late 1960s with his wife, Irene. Irene continues to serve the church by playing the piano every other week for the worship service. She plays "The Holy City" with zest even at her age. She and her husband were missionaries and she spent many years teaching piano lessons to children. She still lives alone and wants to stay alive to see Jesus come; she has been looking forward to it all her life.

*By Pauline Oden*



# Mountain Home Youth Excels in His Junior Year of High School

**MOUNTAIN HOME, ARK.** - Emmanuel Westra, son of Michael and Rachel Westra, members of the Mountain Home Seventh-day Adventist Church, has had many impressive and exciting experiences during his junior year. He received state-wide recognition by Governor Asa Hutchinson for solving a football game scheduling problem for the 2022-2023 school year.

The Mountain Home High School (MHHS) athletic director, Mitch Huskey, enlisted the help of the MHHS math teacher, Garret Rucker to solve the scheduling problem. Rucker passed the problem on to his students. Westra worked on this challenging solution in his free time while riding the district school bus and then at home during the weekend. On Monday, he turned his solution in to his math teacher who said it was correct. He then created a program so his solution was accepted by Huskey, and then by the Athletic Directors Conference members at the state level.

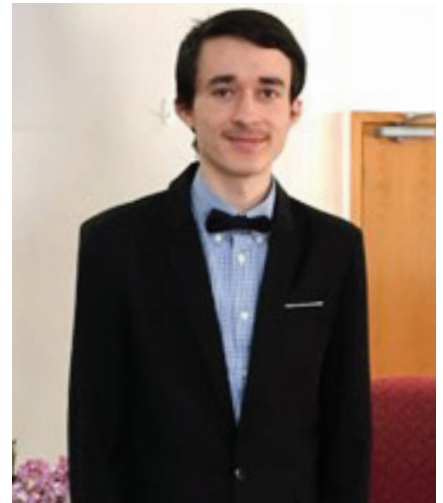
Later in the spring semester of 2022, Westra participated in the governor's state coding competition for Arkansas students. To his surprise, his team advanced to the qualifying finals. Only 16 teams of over 200 participating high school teams qualified. At this point, a personal Sabbath conflict appeared for him as the competition was scheduled for Saturday, April 30. Westra explained his situation to the teacher, but the teacher could not make any scheduling

changes. He was told that if he did not participate, it would limit the team's competition and possibly cost them scholarship funds, as well as a possible state grant.

Westra contacted Johnny Key, the Arkansas director of Education (and former state senator from Mountain Home). Key referred him to Anthony Owen, the State Director of Computer Education who listened to his scheduling problem. After consideration, Owen understood his religious views as he has an Adventist member working in his office. Owen arranged for the MHHS team to compete on Friday. The team could then stay over and attend the awards session without him being present.

Then came an unexpected surprise and blessing. The scheduling for next year's competition (2023) was rescheduled for a Friday so that any Adventist participating would have a chance to participate in the coding competition in the future. Westra stepped out in faith and, having the courage to do so, allowed him to use his math abilities and talents as a chance for God to reveal His power for those who claim His promises based on faith.

His other extracurricular scholastic endeavors included competing nationally in the Future Business Leaders of America National Leadership Conference in Chicago in which his team was recognized for a Gold Champion Chapter Award. Overall, a team of three stu-



dents competed in the team event, the first national placement achievement in 20 years, and placed in the top 10 of their events. Westra competed in the Business Calculations category and placed number six in the event.

In addition to his school activities and recognition, Westra has begun running the live streaming and audio for the church services and recently accepted the responsibility of publishing the church bulletin for the Mountain Home church. Recently he and his family started a youth-based group that gathers monthly. This regular Sabbath event will give young people and others a chance to participate. The Mountain Home church is blessed to have this family in our church family.

*By Cheryl Ozols*

# Slidell Church Holds Mini-Week Revival

**SLIDELL, LA.** - The Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church had an extraordinary week of Evangelism/Revival on Oct. 12-15, 2022. We were blessed by the wonderful and encouraging messages that Leonardo Melendez brought to our church. We could see that God was using him in a mighty way. His theme was entitled, "The Marginalized in the

Scriptures." Each night, members and visitors were blessed with songs of praise and special music by others sharing their gifts of music, before the special message of the night. The messages were: "Hope in a Hopeless World," "Overcoming Fear in the Midst of Uncertainty," "Faith at Stake," concluding with Sabbath worship message, "I Am

Unworthy Becoming Worthy." After a delicious potluck luncheon and fellowship, the members had an extra treat of a mini-training session on leadership. What a blessing we had.

*By Vernella Rogers*



## Christ's Method and Example

Isaiah 52:7 is a beautiful verse that gives insight into sharing or witnessing for God. It says: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation..." I am struck by the emphasis on the words good, peace and glad tidings of good things. I believe witnessing for or sharing Christ should be a message that speaks of God's goodness and the hope He wants to give us in a challenging and difficult world.

My first efforts of sharing with my family and friends didn't go so well. Instead of sharing how God had helped and blessed my life, I focused on trying to change them and straighten them out. There is not much good news in that.

We love our families and friends. We want them to know and love God, and our message, as we do. Often though, we try to do the work that only the Holy Spirit can do to bring conviction

and lead them to Christ. It is more our actions and attitude that will influence them than our words. The words can and should come, but first, it will be the influence of a Christ-like life that will draw them. One writer put it this way, "Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words." The saying that actions speak louder than words is still true. The gospel is first preached in our lives before any words are spoken.

Ellen G. White famously said in her book, *The Ministry of Health and Healing*: "Christ's method alone will give true success in reaching people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs and won their confidence. Then He bade them follow me."

I believe this is the secret of success in witnessing. Jesus said it well, "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35. We have an amazing gos-

pel of good news, and it brings hope for the present and future. But it will be more likely to be heard and received if we have been ministering to and loving our family and friends in practical ways. Christ's method and example are the best way to share and witness to the people we are closest to.

*By James Shires  
President*



## Throw Your Bread Upon the Water

**GUYMON, OKLA.** – Solomon said, “Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days.” Ecclesiastes 11:1 (NKJV). For those churches who record their services and put them online, you may not know how your “casting on the waters” is doing. Here is a story to encourage your churches to keep going or start sharing through this medium.

Mang Lian, pastor of Guymon Seventh-day Adventist Church, was contacted recently by a woman named Cing Khan Nuam. She is from Myanmar and speaks the same language as our Zomi community in Guymon, Okla. During the first COVID-19 lockdown, Cing Khan Nuam was looking for some Adventist services in her language to listen to and she found the Guymon church. She has been enjoying the services ever since, but she didn’t stop there. Cing decided that her family and

friends back in Myanmar should watch, too. She sent money to pay for her family and friends to have internet and shared with them the services that the Guymon church was providing online. Because of her sharing, some of the people she has been sharing with have been baptized. I praise God that the work of sharing has brought His love to those who did not know Him before.

To all churches who share their services online, you may not find out how much of an impact you are making until we get to heaven. May God bless all our ministries to share His love to others.

*By Amy Ward*



## 150 Individual Bible Studies Underway



**OKLAHOMA CITY** – Evangelism can feel like a daunting ministry at times. Many people have the desire to share their faith, but simply don’t feel confident doing so. However, sharing your faith doesn’t have to be complicated; it is simply sharing what God has done in your life and how you have come to understand Him through scripture.

Nevertheless, it is empowering to

feel confident in your ability to study the Bible with another person or share your testimony. Realizing this, the Oklahoma Conference invited Luis Luciano to serve as our Evangelism trainer at the beginning of 2022. Luciano worked with It Is Written Ministries in Minnesota before coming to Oklahoma. He and his wife, Nicole, who now works in the youth ministries department, have been hard at work this year visiting and training churches across the state.

This year Luciano has conducted 61 training events at local churches across the conference and at Parkview Adventist Academy. The training is designed to equip everyone to share their testimony and teach others how to understand the Bible more clearly. But these weekend seminars are not the only training opportunity available to Oklahoma members.

For those who want to go deeper in their journey of giving Bible studies, Luciano offers a 16-week one-on-one

discipleship course. So far, 24 members from across Oklahoma have completed this course and are now leading out in over 150 individual Bible studies and seven small groups.

God desires to work through the members of His church. As we look ahead to 2023, we believe that God is ready to do a new thing in Oklahoma. It is not too late to join up with the Spirit of God.

If you would like to have Luciano come to your church for a training weekend or you would like to receive personalized training for evangelism, reach out to the conference office today.

*By Wes Via  
Communication Director*

# Tulsa Adventist Academy Phonathon

**TULSA, OKLA.** - "Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear." Isaiah 65:24. Tulsa Adventist Academy (TAA) staff and students experienced that truth personally. As students from kindergarten to seniors poured into our lunch room for our annual Phonathon at TAA on Nov. 1, the mood was mixed on whether we could reach our goal of \$40,000.

Our students, however, were excited to call and help their classmates get the financial help they needed. It doesn't hurt that prizes are given to students who get the first donation, the most class participation, and similar incentives (none are based on donation amounts). Thankfully, God's ways don't rely on mere human emotions and expectations.

Our annual phonathons last for one hour on one evening per year and we rely on pledges—scholarships or monthly—and instant donations alike to help students for the following school year. We need \$80,000 annually but usually raise about \$20,000, meaning we sadly turn away some families. This year God showed us that we need to trust Him fully because the miracles started pouring in after the first few phone calls were made.

The miracles began with a leap of faith. School board members, local

pastors, Native Ministries Assistant Director Jim Landelius and many parents sat next to TAA students as they called prior donors, alumni, friends and relatives in hopes of raising \$40,000. Some of our most faithful donors decided to offer a match up to \$10,000. Another local business added several thousand more to its annual scholarship donation through OSFKids.org. And of course, the individuals who were donating other amounts were helping keep the momentum toward reaching our goal of \$40,000 for the evening.

About half-way through the evening, a new student and first-time caller was asked to call the director of the Oklahoma Conference Native Ministries department. She was quite nervous but very enthusiastic as she read her script while I quietly encouraged her along the way. After reading and asking him if he would like to donate, there was a pause as he heard about the \$10,000 match. He then told the student he would donate \$20,000. She repeated the amount to confirm and write it on her intake form while I felt the tears pooling in my eyes. Oklahoma Native Ministries has a history of helping Adventist schools with equipment and funding as needs arise, and between the increased donations from usual donors and this additional gift, our goal

was impressively surpassed!

Overall, our students raised just shy of \$60,000 during the 2022 Phonathon. TAA teachers and staff are so grateful for our brave students who despite their apprehension about calling friends and strangers will summon their courage to help their friends and fellow students. We are also deeply thankful to the Native Ministries department for boosting our student aid fund that will now reach many families who are working at two jobs or have truly unique circumstances. Our dedicated treasurer, Jennifer Dohlman, worked with other staff to keep everything organized during the frenetic hour. Most importantly, many families will bring their students back in August 2023 for another year of Adventist education where they are being prepared for heaven and earth. God truly answered our prayers before we asked Him for the blessings from donors, and to every donor: thank you!

*By Caroline A. Fisher  
TAA Development Director*



# Life Changing Revival at Wewoka Woods



**WEWOKA, OKLA.** - More than 80 men, women and children of all ages from Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Arizona recently experienced a life-changing prayer retreat called "Forward on our Knees" at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center (WWAC).

Laughter, solemn moments, prayer, singing and fantastic fellowship filled the atmosphere at the camp from Nov. 4-6. Guests were welcomed by the awesome staff at WWAC and ate delicious meals throughout the weekend prepared by the amazing kitchen staff under the direction of Chefs Sam and Nick.

Watching everyone come together as one big family praising God and pressing in together for united prayer was "medicine for the soul." One attendee enthusiastically shared, "I can truly feel the presence of the Holy Spirit here this weekend!" Another exclaimed, "I am revived...this has been the best event I've ever attended!"

Gem Castor, prayer ministries director for ASAP in Berrien Springs, Mich., delivered inspiring messages and led dedicated prayer sessions with prayer intercessor Gabriel Bonds throughout the weekend. Rick Mercer, Oklahoma Conference ministerial director, passionately shared about the power of prayer, and Norma Shepherd, Oklahoma Conference children's ministries director, dedicated special time on Sabbath to the younger prayer retreat attendees.

Heart-stirring worship was led and arranged by Gabriel Blotor, Ozark Adventist Academy music director and was accompanied by vocalists Gabriella Blotor and Chris, Chad and Ceanna Mills of Northwest Arkansas. Additional blessings were the special musical selections by Victoria Gerling of Hope Adventist Fellowship Church in Moore, Okla.

There were many weekend highlights, but one that stands out above others was the emphasis that the pres-

ence of God, plus intentional contact, equals transformation. Castor reminded us that His presence has always been pursuing us! What a blessed thought!

The *Review and Herald* quotes, "The greatest blessing that God can give to man is the spirit of earnest prayer. All heaven is open before the man of prayer. The ambassadors of Christ will have power with the people after they have with earnest supplication come before God."

There was a sweet, sweet spirit at the camp. It was palpable. It was powerful. Attendees left refreshed and ready to move forward on their knees.

The 2023 Oklahoma Prayer Retreat will be held at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center on Nov. 3-5. Looking forward to seeing you there!

By Cindy Mercer  
Prayer Ministries Director

# Oklahoma Ordinations

**OKLAHOMA CITY** – Four of Oklahoma’s pastors have been ordained this quarter. Dominick Alipoon, TJ Sands, Nathan Shires and Mang Lian have devoted themselves to the service of their faith and community, and the ordination was a special occasion to recognize the call God has placed on their lives publicly.

Dominick Alipoon is passionate about the beauty of God and has spent his time in Oklahoma helping others see God more clearly. Alipoon was ordained in the Bartlesville Seventh-day Adventist Church on Nov. 19. Bill Kilgore gave the main sermon titled “Getting Dumped On.” The Holy Spirit certainly works among His servants. Alipoon and his family were prayed over and blessed by all who attended.

TJ Sands simply cannot keep quiet about God’s love, and he strives daily to spread the Gospel message of hope, healing and wholeness in the Oklahoma Conference. Sands was ordained in the Edmond Seventh-day Adven-

tist Church on Dec. 10. Southwestern Union President Carlos Craig delivered the main sermon. Sands and his wife, Sarah, were prayed over by the Oklahoma Conference administration and received abundant blessings and encouragement from all those present.

Nathan Shires was ordained on Dec. 3. All three of his churches (Claremore, Broken Arrow and Revelation), were represented at his ordination ceremony, which was held at the Claremore Seventh-day Adventist Church. Southwestern Union Executive Secretary Stephen E. Brooks shared an inspiring sermon, and the Oklahoma Conference President James Shires shared some personal details and gave a pastoral charge to Shires and his wife, Gurpreet. With the laying on of hands, Shires and Gurpreet were prayed over petitioning the blessing of God, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the divine credentials to ordain them for continued success in ministry.

Mang Lian is a humble man with a strong faith. The Guymon Seventh-day Adventist Church was so happy to celebrate their pastor on the day of his ordination. On the evening of Nov. 16, they started off the celebration with a meal followed by a lovely service ordaining Lian and dedicating his family to the work of sharing Jesus with all. John Moyer, who was the conference president that called Lian into the ministry, gave the ordination prayer encouraging Lian to continue the work he had started.

The four men have been an inspiration to those around them, and their ordination is an example of dedication to faith and service. They have devoted their lives to helping others, and they will continue to be shining lights in their homes, churches and local communities.





## When the Spirit Moves

I've been a minister for nearly 30 years. My father was a minister. My father's father was a minister. My godfather is a minister. Therefore, I've been surrounded, enveloped and involved in church ministry my entire life.

My father and his colleagues in ministry would pitch giant tents where they would hold major evangelistic revivals. They'd pitch a tent, set up some chairs, build a stage and preach for weeks upon weeks to invite people to accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

While tent posts were secured with ropes that were tied to iron stakes, terrible thunderstorms would routinely happen. Boisterous winds could potentially blow these posts down causing great harm to the tent itself and individuals underneath the tent.

Those windstorms remind me of another quite different, yet amazingly impactful gust of wind spoken of in Acts chapter two. The disciples had heard Jesus promise the coming of the "Comforter." While many Jews were visiting Jerusalem the Bible says: "When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind,

and it filled the whole house where they were sitting." Acts 2:1-2 (NKJV).

This wasn't your typical windstorm. The Bible says that this was literally the Spirit of God physically moving into the building where the believers were. Their meeting was physically disrupted as the power and the weight of God's presence filled the room. The Holy Spirit wasn't simply making a mess, but the Holy Spirit was making messengers. Those messengers spoke in foreign languages that they had never studied, yet they spoke fluently and others could understand them. Peter stood up and preached so movingly that 3,000 people were baptized in one day!

Peter reminded the people of God's prophecy through Joel, "'And it shall come to pass in the last days,' says God, 'That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh...'" Acts 2:17, Joel 2:28. These words echo what Jesus shared with Nicodemus in John 3:8, "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit." (NKJV). When the Spirit moves, nothing will ever be the same. Your life will be changed forever.

I have seen windstorms do great damage to tents. I have even seen entire tents flattened by windstorms. Nevertheless, I have also seen hundreds and thousands of people listen to the Word of God being preached and the wind of God's Spirit move on their hearts and minds and change their lives forever! In the Southwestern Union, I'm praying for a mighty move of God's Spirit upon the 44 million people who live in this great territory – because when it does, countless lives will never be the same!

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





# Come Adore Him Christmas Special



**DALLAS** – For the past 12 years, Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., Southwest Region Conference president, has been privileged to produce Christmas and Easter holiday specials for the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission to be aired on national television.

This year, the invitation came again giving Southwest Region Conference the opportunity to produce “Come Adore Him.” The Christmas special, which was recorded live at the Inspiring Body of Christ Church in Dallas, Tex., on Nov. 12, 2022, was aired nationally across the United States on ABC Television Affiliates on Dec. 24 and 25, 2022.

Given the opportunity to positive-

ly expose the Seventh-day Adventist Church nationally, and specifically in the Dallas area, the Southwest Region Conference invited the Southwestern Union, Southwestern Adventist University and the Texas Conference to join in collaboration for this initiative.

The program featured Byrd, as speaker and host, who shared preaching vignettes interspersed by the music ministry of award-winning artists, Jonathan McReynolds; Naomi Raine of Maverick City Music; the Southwestern Adventist University Singers and Orchestra; and a 500-voice Children’s Choir composed of elementary students from the Southwest Region and Texas Conference Ad-

ventist schools and directed by Gale Jones Murphy.

We are grateful for the work of producers David Brillhart and Scott Grady, and the many others who gave of their time and talent to make this an epic event! We give God the praise for the opportunity to bless and bring hope to others through music and the spoken word.

*By Leslie Soupet  
Communication Director*

# Healing During the Holiday

**BATON ROUGE, LA.** – For many, the holiday months of November and December can be the most devastating and loneliest. It was this mindset that prompted the Faith Seventh-day Adventist Church’s pastor, Darriel Hoy (pictured center), to host the recent Sabbath afternoon seminars “Surviving the Holidays with Hope and Healing” and “Mourning and Manhood: Black Males and Grief.” The presenters were Allen Mitchell, D.Min., New Orleans Children’s Hospital senior staff chaplain and wife, Jacqueline Mitchell, Chaplain and Bereavement Coordinator of Serenity Hospice, LLC in New Orleans (pictured left and right, respectively).

Jacqueline Mitchell’s “Tips for Making Change” included “advise those in distress to stop comparing their situation with everyone else’s, seek professional help by having critical phone numbers readily available, recognize and utilize the strength in your own faith.” She emphasized, “God sees and cares about what we are experiencing and wants to help us; so there’s no reason to grieve as those who have no hope. And don’t forget the children who need an outlet to express their grief.”

Allen Mitchell began by identifying the emotional upsets Black men face beginning with detachment from fam-



ily. Churches can change this mindset, being careful to avoid incorrect discipline. We were reminded that Jesus experienced trauma as evident in Isaiah 53:5, thus He can identify with our pain. Many men avoid grief through silence, secrecy, action or anger. But everyone [who is] grieving is not depressed. Men learned that crying can be therapeutic. Black males have been taught to suppress grief, a factor in depression. Mitchell’s remedy for helping others overcome depression begins with “building rapport, identifying

the issue, giving the person in pain an opportunity to tell his story and dealing first with one’s own issues before tackling somebody else’s.” His closing remarks included a quote from Allen E. Lipscomb, PsyD, LCSW, the creator and writer of *The BRuH Approach to Therapy: Bonding, Recognition, Understanding and Healing*, “Grief work is hard work, but worth it.” We thank Hoy and her guests for their seminars of healing.

*By Evelyn M. Edwards*

# New Pastoral Hire

**MARSHALL, TEX.** – We congratulate and welcome Daniel Charles to the Southwest Region Conference as the new pastor of the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church in Marshall, Tex. and the Sharon Seventh-day Adventist Church in Tyler, Tex. Charles comes to us from Andrews University after completing his Master’s in Divinity degree. He was installed on Jan. 14, 2023. Let’s keep Charles in prayer as he begins his new ministry assignment.

*By Leslie Soupet, Communication*



# Educator Spotlight: Alwina Peters



**NEW ORLEANS** - Congratulations to Alwina Peters for completing her Master's degree in Educational Leadership from Louisiana State University (LSU) in Shreveport on Sept. 16, 2022. She is a grade 5-8 teacher at New Orleans Adventist Academy in New Orleans, La.

Alwina has been teaching for the past 25 years. It is her desire to make her educational environment one that stimulates each child to grow physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. Her ultimate goal is to see that each of her students has a personal relation-

ship with Christ and thus prepared for success in eternity.

Additionally, Alwina Peters has a B.A. in Zoology and a Master's degree in Microbiology.

*By Leslie Soupet  
Communication Director*

# Not By Bread Alone

**ARLINGTON, TEX.** - One of the leading ministries of the Ebenezer Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in Arlington, Tex., is its food distribution program. Adventist community services director Dorkys Morales, along with volunteers Milagro Salamanca and Elizabeth Orozco, visit the local Panera Bread restaurant, Whole Food Market and Sprouts Farmers Market on a weekly basis to receive food donations that are then provided to the community. Although the food distribution takes place every Monday, the greatest impact happens on the fourth Monday when the Tarrant Area Food Bank truck delivers pallets of food enabling the church to serve 150 families.

Recently, the church began offering a devotional segment prior to the food distribution. While volunteers package and set up the food items on tables and carts, community members have the opportunity to listen to the Word of God presented by Leslie Soupet, assistant pastor. The general theme has been "Foods of the Bible," through which the plan of salvation is creatively presented every week—the tree of Life in Eden (Creation and God's original plan); Cain and Abel's offerings (true and false worship); Noah's Ark (God's Plan of Salvation); Mannah in Israel (the Sabbath); Jesus (Bread of Life); etc.

Occasionally, arrangements are made for guest speakers or musicians

to present the devotional thought or bring a mini-concert. Community members are receptive to the messages and often stay by to ask questions or individual prayers, or to express their appreciation. As a result of sharing the Word of God, several have expressed their desire to study the Bible. Plans are being made to offer a weekly Bible seminar in a group setting this year.

We praise the Lord for receptiveness to the Word of God and for the work the Holy Spirit is doing in the hearts of the listeners.

*By Leslie Soupet  
Pastor*





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## Being Risk Takers

When Jesus prayed to His Father for His followers, He said, "As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world." John 20:21. He was basically saying, in the same way that You gave Me a mission in the world, I give them a mission in the world.

Friends, every follower of Jesus needs a mission that reaches beyond the church and into the world. In His last words, before He left the earth, Jesus gathered His followers together and said, "... you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:8. He was encouraging them, saying, I want you to take My power, My love, My aliveness, the message of My grace, the forgiveness of sins and the way of the cross into the whole earth and we'll change the world.

Throughout the New Testament, we see the first followers living by the Spirit, in tune with the Spirit. They would hear God and respond quickly. The mature believer, the mature Christ-centered disciple, hears God and says, "I want to risk. To be bold. To be fearless with my faith."

One of the keys to sharing your faith

with others is listening to them. Hear their beliefs. Hear their doubts. This allows you to focus your prayers and conversations on meeting them where they are. Ask questions that reveal where they are coming from and you'll be given a peek into their heart.

Many times, we think we must do all the talking. No, that's not correct. It would help if we listen. You see, evangelism takes place because time has been invested and relationships have been formed. I've found that, most typically, people will grow to love us before they grow to love our Savior.

We don't do this on our own. If you say "Yes" to this mission, God promises He will partner with you. He will prompt you. You will see God at work in your life. Say "Yes" to this mission, and you can be His witness in your area of life.

Ellen G. White states in her book, *Christian Service*, "The work of God in this earth can never be finished until the men and women comprising our church membership rally to the work, and unite their efforts with those of ministers and church officers."

Something happens when someone prays, "God, use me." Some consider

it a dangerous prayer, as Jesus really will do it. He really will! It will be an adventure with God. You will experience a sense of being part of an agenda that is bigger than, "How am I doing? How's my life? How's my comfort? How's my portfolio?"

Just think what might happen in our little worlds and this great big world if everyone here in Texas who is a follower of Jesus prayed, "God, use me. I'm available. Use me."

*By Elton Demoraes, D.Min.  
President*



# Cowboy Church Celebrates 20 Years

**JOSHUA, TEX.** – The Joshua Crossroads Fellowship Seventh-day Adventist Church, also known as the Cowboy Church, honored its 20 years on Nov. 5, 2022 with a grand celebration.

Barry Millet, founding pastor (pictured right), was inspired in 2002 by the Springtown, Ark. Cowboy church who had everyone write on a napkin, during a Sabbath morning breakfast, names of friends and relatives who were not attending church. Seeking the wandering who were hurt, thrown out, disfellowshipped or discouraged became their focus to find and love back unconditionally.

When Billy Strayhorn, a Methodist pastor in the area, was approached about renting their church building, he said yes without hesitation. The rent was simply whatever they could afford each week. A year later, after they finished their new Methodist church building, Strayhorn was approached about the new group purchasing the old Methodist church. Millet told him they could afford \$200,000 with \$20,000 down and the rest paid over five years. It was a miracle when it was approved, considering the church was for sale for \$400,000!

Miracle after miracle took place for all that was needed including an organ, baby grand piano and more. That first Sabbath, 58 people attended. A tra-

ditional “haystack” lunch was served and we are still providing lunch every Sabbath.

On Jan. 1, 2003, the group was officially recognized as a company in the Texas Conference. It didn’t take long to reach more than 200 members. When Millet left in 2006, there were more than 250 members. During the 20-year celebration, Millet encouraged those in attendance to continue seeking the wandering who needed to be found and loved.

It was a full day of celebration from 9:30 a.m. to 8:15 p.m. The morning session featured music by recording artist Ysis España and Jack Fanselau, a senior at Southwestern Adventist University. Current pastor, Terry Darnall, shared a few words about God’s amazing grace.

During the worship hour, Millet shared the church history. Kevin Anderson, the current Methodist church pastor, was invited to come so the Methodist church members could be recognized for their help in getting the group started.

Other guests invited to join the celebration included the City of Joshua Mayor Scott Kimble and Texas Conference Executive Secretary David Montoya. Kimble said he was convicted today and inspired the group to continue the ministry to the hurt and disfranchised. Montoya encouraged

the members to continue this recovery ministry.

Gospel quartet, 7 Mile Road (pictured right), from Tulsa, Okla., also joined the celebration. Since they have been performing there for the past 18 years, they are considered honorary members even though their membership is elsewhere.

The afternoon was full of music featuring local musicians and singers: Bobby Rael, Clay Read, Pam Campbell, Janet Tidwell, Bonnie Jordan, Steve Francisco and Celestina Nieves. Gospel Music Hall of Fame Inductee Ralph Green joined the music fest for several songs. Closing the afternoon was a concert by the Pride family. Originally a group of eight, they have traveled around for the past two decades sharing their love for Jesus.

In the evening, Jack Fanselau, Ysis España and 7 Mile Road presented concerts ending with “Side by Side” as the church and its members were rededicated. It was an anniversary celebration that turned into a revival.

God has truly blessed the Cowboy church over the past 20 years and will continue until He comes to take us home.

*By Sophie Millet*





## Anyone Can Do It!

**KILLEEN, TEX.** - I couldn't believe it when I saw the full-page advertisement in the Southwestern Union Record's January/February 2022 issue promoting the Determined Cycling Tour. I called the Texas Conference almost immediately to see if I could still join the tour. I was thrilled when the answer was yes!

Enthusiastic about the adventure, I shared it with others I knew who cycled. When the day finally came, I was so excited.

Then reality hit. I thought I was ready for the tour, but I was not. The shock was a little overwhelming, but it soon changed to determination. They named the ride perfectly as I was 'Determined' to complete the tour. The support from the cyclists was amazing. It felt like the military - they never left anyone behind.

Kenn Dixon, Determined Cycling Tour coordinator, probably didn't realize what a difference he made for me on that ride when he saw that I was struggling and slowed down to ride with me. That really meant a lot.

Usually we would stop at a school, so the students' enthusiasm really

keeps us going. During the middle of the week on the 2022 cycling tour, we were riding to a hotel away from the big city. Planning for no one to be there to greet us, we were surprised to see Texas Conference President Elton DeMoraes there waving a sign to encourage us. We had just seen him a few days previously when he had prayer with us and cheered us on as the ride began. He probably doesn't realize how much that meant to us.

Olga Falakiseni, associate pastor for the Killeen Seventh-day Adventist Church, and her husband, Will, their children and other members spontaneously drove over to surprise us, as well. What a blessing that was, but that was just the beginning.

The true blessing came when I returned from the tour. Four of my best friends, Will Falakiseni, Gary Manly, Hydress McDaniel and Chris Crofton, decided to join me to prepare for the 2023 Determined East Texas Cycling Tour; I couldn't have asked for better friends! There has been so much interest, we started a weekly cycling ride.

Now, there are almost 16 cyclists riding at different times two to three times a week, sometimes 20 miles, sometimes 50 miles. Five of us are preparing to join the tour in April. Others just appreciate the health benefits and fellowship.

This experience has been so rewarding. I am healthier. I am able to witness to others. It has done so much for me and my fellow cyclists. We start and end each ride with prayer. During the ride, we are showing Jesus by our examples. If we can have a bicycle ministry, anyone can do it.

To find out more about the Determined East Texas 2023 Official Cycling Tour and its fundraising events for Adventist Education, visit [TexasAdventist.org/Determined](https://TexasAdventist.org/Determined). You can follow the ride in April on social media on Facebook or Instagram @DeterminedCycling.

Thanks for keeping us in your prayers as "We Cycle for Our Health. We Ride for Their Future."

*By Filipe Coelho*

# Delegates Vote in Quadrennial Constituency Session

**ALVARADO, TEX.** - On Sunday, June 11, 2023, the Texas Conference will conduct another Quadrennial Constituency session. For the first time, it will be livestreamed on social media channels and the Texas Conference website: TexasAdventist.org.

At this session, attendees review the work that was accomplished in the Texas Conference during the past four years which God marvelously made possible, elect persons to carry out certain responsibilities, such as executive officers, vice presidents, department/services directors, members of boards and committees, vote on any recommendations made by the constitution and bylaws committee, and vote on other conference-business related items.

The wonderful thing about constituency sessions is that every church has representation. Church-voted dele-

gates attend and vote on the different items presented in the session agenda.

There are two types of delegates: regular delegates and delegates-at-large. Regular delegates are Texas Conference church members recommended by their church board to the church body and voted at a business meeting. Their job is to represent that church as a delegate. Each church is entitled to one delegate for the church organization and one additional delegate for each sixty members or major fraction thereof. The delegate must have their membership in that local church.

Delegates-at-large are all members of the Texas Conference executive committee, all members of the Southwestern Union executive committee who may be present at any Texas Conference constituency session, all employees holding credentials or licenses issued by the Texas Conference, offi-

cers of the General Conference and North American Division who may be present at any Texas Conference constituency session, all Texas Conference appointed lay pastors, and such other persons recommended by the executive committee and accepted by the delegates in session.

All delegates appointed to represent the members of the Texas Conference at any constituency session must be members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing.

We are grateful to the Lord for the many church members who accepted the call to serve as delegates at our upcoming session. May God grant them safe travels to and from the meeting. Thank you for praying for all our delegates before, during and after the meeting.

*By David Montoya  
Executive Secretary*

## OFFICIAL NOTICES

### TEXAS CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Constituency Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center at 3601 South W.S. Young Drive, Killeen, Tex. 76542 on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 9 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect executive officers, vice presidents, directors and associate directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the Constitution and Bylaws and to transact business that comes before the constituents. Each church shall be entitled to one (1) delegate for the organization and one (1) additional delegate for each sixty (60) members or major fraction thereof and who hold membership in the local church which accredits them. Such delegates shall be voted by the business meeting of their respective local church.

*Elton DeMoraes, President; David Montoya, Executive Secretary; Randall B. Terry, Treasurer*

### TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Constituency Session of the Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Killeen Civic and Conference Center at 3601 South W.S. Young Drive, Killeen, Tex. 76542 on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at 9 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to elect twenty-one (21) persons, including officers [president, who shall be the president of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists (an unincorporated body), one or more vice presidents, one or more secretaries, and one or more treasurers], to act as directors for this Corporation, at least eleven (11) of whom shall be laypersons. All shall hold their offices for the ensuing quadrennial term or until their successors are duly elected and appear to enter upon their duties. Delegates may also consider changes to the Bylaws. Delegates, regular and at-large, duly accredited to the Quadrennial Constituency Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Texas Conference Association Quadrennial Constituency Session.

*Elton DeMoraes, President; Lynette Ecord, Secretary*



J17:21



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## The Swift-Footed Messenger

You have probably heard of the well-known quote from Antigone Sophocles, "No one loves the messenger who brings bad news." There is no doubt that we all prefer to hear good news instead of bad news. However, it seems that bad news tends to travel a lot faster than good news.

Fortunately for us, we do not have to settle for bad news. The Bible is full of good news, and we can find some in Isaiah 52:7. We are told, "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, 'Your God reigns!'" Here, the messenger is bringing the much-anticipated news of deliverance from captivity in Babylon. The prophet is urging the captive Jews to prepare to return to Jerusalem. The beautiful city that the heathen armies defiled and destroyed was now to be rebuilt and become holy once again. It was a message of peace, good tidings and salvation at last.

I am particularly intrigued by how Isaiah gives attention to the messenger's feet. He is running with haste, and it is

an indication that the messenger bears an exciting and hopeful message. The joyful courier is a poetic expression of his welcomed arrival. How agreeable are the tidings which he brings! "Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace!" Nahum 1:15.

In Mark 16:15, Jesus instructs us to, "Go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all creation." Like the swift-footed messenger who was to go quickly without losing time, we too are instructed to be swift and bearers of the Good News. We can simply start by sharing Christ with those we interact with daily. Evangelism is versatile and has many branches, and the opportunity that God gives us with family, friends and community is immense. We can be living testimonies and touch the hearts of those unbelievers who surround us. More importantly we can openly demonstrate that our words are in harmony with our actions.

The swift-footed messenger had a message for the people at that time, and we have the message of hope and redemption for the people of our time.

Peace and salvation were procured and conferred upon us, through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. The price He paid for our salvation was not paid with silver or gold, or corruptible things, but by His own precious blood. As weary and sin burdened individuals, we can find relief through Jesus Christ. The Good News is that the Lord Jesus reigns, and it is time to be swift and share this with those around us. Let the news travel far and wide, Jesus is coming soon!

*By Lee-Roy Chacon  
President*



# North Valley Church Celebrates 35 Years in the Ministry



**ALBUQUERQUE** - For the last three and a half decades, God has blessed the Albuquerque North Valley Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church in big moments and many small victories. Last December, the church set aside a weekend to celebrate 35 years of God's faithful blessings to North Valley church. Founding members, new members and old friends joined the festivities that included a time to reflect and rejoice in all that God has done in, and through, the North Valley church family.

"Throughout the past 35 years, our church has witnessed God's love, grace and mercy through His care and direction," said Saul Flores, North Valley church pastor. "And we understand that the best is still yet to come!"

Albuquerque North Valley's history dates back to 1987. A small group of visionaries stepped out to expand the Adventist mission work among Hispanics in Albuquerque and planted a church in the North Valley neighborhood. At the time, there was only one Spanish church in Albuquerque. Since then, North Valley has been serving the Hispanic community through its many

activities including evangelistic series, feeding the homeless, youth programs and giving Bible studies. Several years ago, North Valley purchased a new church building and now resides on the northeast side of Albuquerque.

The two-day celebration centered on Psalm 115:1, "Not to us, Lord, not to us but to your name be the glory, because of your love and faithfulness." Southwestern Adventist University Professor of Theology Jorge Rico, Ph.D., and former pastor of North Valley, addressed the congregation on Sabbath morning. He congratulated the church and encouraged them to forge ahead.

"I would like to leave you with a challenge," said Rico. "What do you want North Valley to be? Do you want this church to be full simply because it is a historic monument here in Albuquerque? Or do you want this church to be full because it is a church with a ministry that offers life through Jesus Christ? May God continue to bless and direct you. May you continue to have the same push and fervor that I saw while I served here, and have seen while visiting, may it continue until Jesus returns."

Gerardo André, a recently baptized member of North Valley shared his testimony and thanked God and the pioneers of the church.

"Without them none of us would be sitting here this morning," said André. "And without them or the pastors who have served, I wouldn't be here saved. I come from a life of hardships that includes alcohol and partying. However, because of God's grace I am standing here today. God's timing is always perfect, and it is a privilege to belong to this church and to be a part of this 35th celebration. Thank you for welcoming me with open arms."

"It is truly a joy to reflect on God's continued blessings to this very special church family," said Phil Robertson, Texico Conference executive secretary/treasurer. "Your passion for sharing Jesus with everyone is an inspiration to all of us and we praise God for your dedication to its mission. Even in light of the wonderful blessings that you have experienced, I believe that the best days of ministry and growth are still ahead."

*By Debby Marquez  
Communication Director*

# Inspiring Faith and Hope at Odessa Men's Annual Retreat



**ODESSA, TEX.** – Last year, the lakeside retreat took place on Sept. 9-11, 2022, and men from the Odessa church and neighboring church districts, Midland and San Angelo, met again to strengthen their walk with God, and with each other, as brothers in Christ.

Members like David Gonzalez, who has attended the retreat every year since its inception seven years ago, says it is the highlight of his year.

“It is a weekend full of fellowship. I enjoy listening to my brothers tell their life stories and getting to know each other better,” said Gonzalez.

This year, the men gathered with a new sense of gratitude and offered praise to God for allowing Tim Edgmon to be present. In December 2021, Edg-

mon suffered a severe spinal cord injury. He spent the first part of 2022 in the hospital, then in a rehabilitation center, and has been working hard towards a full recovery ever since.

Edgmon’s brother-in-law, Bob Roberts, was the guest speaker at the retreat and the highlight was Edgmon giving his testimony of the night of his fall down a long steep driveway and the journey that ensued.

“It was so slick, the ambulance hiked and crawled up to where I was and dragged the [stretcher], put me on it and slid me back down. You couldn’t get any traction at all,” Edgmon said. “God was looking out for me throughout that whole situation, I promise you!”

Edgmon’s journey of healing has

been a tough one. However, his positive attitude, and reliance on Jesus, continues to inspire his fellow brothers and it is what gets him through the dark moments.

The Odessa Men’s Ministry Retreat has always been special to the men of the church, and it now has an even greater and more meaningful significance to them, and to Tim. They were truly blessed by the 2022 retreat and look forward to spending many more retreats together.

*By Conchetta and Scott Huffman*

# Texico Youth Rally Highlights God’s Transforming Power

**CORRALES, N.M.** – “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart.” Jeremiah 1:5.

From the time I stepped into ministry, this has been my favorite Bible text. Through it, God tells us that no matter who we are, or despite what we think of ourselves, He created a promising future for us that can be filled with courage, confidence and goodness!

On Nov. 11-13, 2022, young people from around the Texico Conference gathered at the El Paso Adventist Academy for the Texico Youth Rally and reflected on this beautiful promise. Approximately 200 young people and chaperones were in attendance and the entire event was led by youth from the El Paso Seventh-day Adventist Central Church. Sophia Villegas led most of the programs and I was happy to work alongside the youth. Itzayana Gonzales led the awesome worship team and Emma Carrillo ran audio/visual. It was exciting to see the willingness and many talents of the young adult leadership in El Paso.

The weekend’s theme was “Transformed,” and Milton Coronado, a pastor and street artist from Chicago, Ill., was the special guest speaker. Coronado grew up in Chicago and his life story illustrates God’s goodness, even when we may not be walking in His path. Coronado shared that when he was young his mother passed away and it had a big effect on his life. As a young adult, Coronado’s father was tragically killed, and God quickly became both his parents. The Lord eventually led him to meet his wife and devote his life to ministry through street art. Coronado now dedicates his art to glorify God. Each of his art pieces communicates a message of the hope of Jesus. His testimony is a demonstration of how God can use your talents and gifts no matter what they are, or where you are.

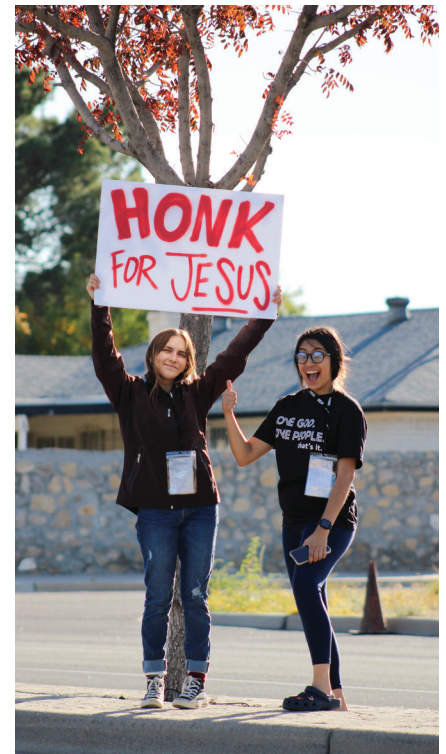
On Sabbath, Coronado led the young people in spray painting a mural on the front of the El Paso Academy building. The youth in attendance also participated in a “Drive-Through Prayer” and “Honking for Jesus” activity on the

main road in front of the school.

There is no doubt in my mind that we are called by God from the day we are born to do a special work. Unfortunately, this world is not easy to navigate, and we get sidetracked, we get derailed, we stumble, we fall into sin and the devil wants us to believe that we are unworthy, ruined forever and stuck in this hopeless life. However, God always has a way to “Transform” us into the amazing creations He has called us to be. No matter where you are or what you are going through, never forget that before you were formed, He knew you!

The Texico Conference is excited to see young people coming alive and working for Jesus in their communities. This year, the Texico Youth Rally will be held at Sandia View Academy, and we do not want any youth to miss it. We invite them to look us up on social media @TexicoYYA for more information.

*By Eric Chavez  
Youth, Young Adults  
and Club Ministries Director*



## Cards for the Kingdom

**ALBUQUERQUE** - One of the greatest blessings we have as shepherds of Christ's flock is seeing the faithfulness of church leaders who seek to contribute to motivate members and share Christ's love through their ministries.

On Nov. 20, 2022, the Women's Ministries team from the Los Ranchos Seventh-day Adventist Company hosted a fun holiday card making class. My wife Yessica, my two children and I, joined approximately 20 women and children for the successful event. Members, Deborah Zapata, her daughter Jolene and granddaughter Jasmine led the class, and taught participants how to design beautiful, personal cards that are to be used as evangelistic tools in reaching others for the Kingdom. Vicky Lores, a member of the Los Ranchos Company, has always had a wonderful card ministry, but now because of the class, more women and children are equipped to share in the personalized card ministry, too.



I have experienced the effectiveness of using cards throughout my ministry. Many thanks to sisters like Miriam Martinez from the Dixon Bilingual Seventh-day Adventist Church who have a passion for card making, and have provided me with encouragement, prayer, get well or missing you cards for my pastoral visits.

As a pastor, it can be challenging to enlist each member in active service for the winning of souls for God. Perhaps that is why I was touched to see the Women's Ministries group motivat-

ing us to use this modest, yet valuable, approach. Sharing Christ's love goes beyond preaching and giving Bible studies. Yes, these aspects of ministry are critical, but let us all remember how versatile sharing the Gospel is. For some members, creating a card and expressing the love of God through their creativity, may be the simplest, yet most powerful, way to fulfill the commandment of evangelism. "Go ye unto all the world."

*By Jerry Pinzon and Roxanne Smyth*

## Texico Conference Welcomes New Educational Superintendent



**CORRALES, N.M.** - On Nov. 1, 2022, the Texico Conference welcomed Sandra Patterson as its newly-elected Superintendent of Education. Sandra has experienced a rich career in educational leadership in her more than years of professional experience in the classroom and in school administration, within both Seventh-day Adventist schools and in public schools.

Superintendent Patterson has most

recently been the chair of the Sandia View Christian School and Sandia View Christian Preschool Boards and has led these schools through a season of growth, both in enrollment and staff. She previously taught at Sandia View Christian School before becoming the assistant principal, and then the principal of Taylor Middle School in Albuquerque. There, Sandra led a staff of 65 in support of the more than 500 students, in which she worked to establish an environment that was developmentally responsive to the unique needs of middle-level learners.

"The belief that all students can, and should, be successful, is at the heart of my passion as an educator and it is what drives my leadership and vision for the schools I serve," said Patterson. "My job is to cultivate and empower teacher leadership and student success."

Patterson is very involved in church leadership and ministry. She believes that service to others is a privilege, and she is a long-time volunteer in community services.

The Texico Conference is excited to welcome Patterson to her new responsibilities, as she provides leadership and support to the Office of Education and Texico's 10 schools. "We look forward to God's great blessings to Patterson as she invests her experience, passion and gifts of leadership into the Ministry of Education of the Texico Conference," said Phil Robertson, Texico Conference executive secretary/treasurer. "We invite you to join us in praying for Patterson and also for every teacher, staff member, student, family member and volunteer in all the schools that represent the educational community of our conference."

## Classified Ads

### EMPLOYMENT

**The Union College Communication Program** is searching for applicants for a Communication Professor. This is a full-time, faculty, exempt position starting June 1, 2023. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at [UCollege.edu/employment](http://UCollege.edu/employment) and contact Bruce Forbes at [Bruce.Forbes@ucollege.edu](mailto:Bruce.Forbes@ucollege.edu) for more information. Benefit package includes tuition subsidy for eligible dependents and other generous benefits.

**Union College, Lincoln, Neb. has the following job opportunities** in our graduate programs. View the full job description and instructions for application at [UCollege.edu/employment](http://UCollege.edu/employment) or contact Debbie Eno at [Debbie.Eno@ucollege.edu](mailto:Debbie.Eno@ucollege.edu) for more information. Occupational Therapy Program; Academic Fieldwork Coordinator. Public Health Graduate Program; Program Director and two half-time faculty positions. Leadership Graduate Program: Program Director and one faculty full-time faculty position.

**Union College, Lincoln, Neb. is searching for applicants** for a History Professor to teach various courses in global non-western history, cultural history, political science and/or ancient classical history in the Politics, History and International Relations Program. This is a full-time, exempt position to start June 1, 2023. Please see the full job description and instructions for application at [UCollege.edu/employment](http://UCollege.edu/employment) and direct any inquiries to Bruce Forbes at [Bruce.Forbes@ucollege.edu](mailto:Bruce.Forbes@ucollege.edu).

### Summer Employment and Internships.

Black Hills Health in South Dakota is accepting applications for Wellness Center Interns wanting to learn Medical Missionary Work. Positions also available for the Forestry Team to do clearing and landscaping. Meals and lodging provided in the stipend packages. Call [605.255.4101](tel:605.255.4101) or email applications to [Info@bhhec.org](mailto:Info@bhhec.org).

**Union College, Lincoln, Neb. is searching for candidates for Athletic Director.** This individual will provide overall leadership to the Warriors Athletic program to provide a positive learning experience for the students and to share the character of Christ within all areas of athletics. Bachelor's degree required, Master's preferred. See the full job description and instructions for application

at [UCollege.edu/employment](http://UCollege.edu/employment). Direct any inquiries to Kim Canine at [Kim.Canine@ucollege.edu](mailto:Kim.Canine@ucollege.edu).

**Andrews University Seeks Faculty-Architecture.** The Assistant or Associate Professor of Architecture holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the School of Architecture & Interior Design. This individual demonstrates competence in design studio education, teaching of assigned lecture courses and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. For more details and to apply, please visit [Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job\\_2](http://Andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_2).

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**Enterprise/Great Plains Academy Alumni Weekend**, Apr. 21-22 at Enterprise SDA Church,

Enterprise, Kan. Honor Classes-Graduating Years ending with 3's and 8's. For more information email: [EA.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com](mailto:EA.gpa.alumni@hotmail.com) or visit [EA-gpa-alumni.com](http://EA-gpa-alumni.com).

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## Announcements

**The Burleson Seventh-day Adventist Church** will celebrate their 50th Anniversary on April 21-23, 2023. Activities include: Friday supper and church history presentation; Sabbath breakfast, lesson study by Pastor Keith Gray, sermon by Pastor Mike Tucker, lunch at Burleson Adventist School, fellowship, church supper, musical concert by Steve Darmody; Sunday morning golf. Info at [817.295.7141](tel:817.295.7141).

## Milestones



Earl and Betty (Rabun) Hold celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 9, 2022. The Holds have been very active in church throughout their lives. Their love for each other and for their Lord is stronger now than the day they were married, and their wish is that their children and grandchildren will have the same love in their homes.

## Obituaries

**Anderson, Helen**, born Sept. 28, 1930, Thorp, Wis.; died Sept. 21, 2022, Belleville, Ill. Preceded in death by

her husband, Marvin B. Anderson; one sister, four half-brothers and one granddaughter. Survivors: one brother; four daughters: Nadine Finley (David), Gwyann Anderson (Richard), Melody Senecal (Beaman) and LaQuita Anderson; eight grandchildren and one great granddaughter.

**Collier, Johnny Ray**, born Feb. 6, 1963, Denver, Colo.; died Dec. 20, 2022, Austin, Tex. Preceded in death by his parents, Jimmie and Susie Collier. Survivors: daughter, Tiffany Wellborn (Ryan) of Ooltewah, Tenn.; son, John Eric Collier (Kaley) of Marshall, Tex.; brothers, James Edward Collier (Mirian) of Marshall, Tex.; Ronnie Collier (Melissa) of Strawberry Plains, Tenn.; Irvin Collier of Marshall, Tex.; numerous nephews, nieces and cousins.

**Furr, Nora Juanita Kelsay**, born July 24, 1929, Perrin, Tex.; died Sept. 19, 2022, Mineral Wells, Tex. Church membership: Mineral Wells Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her parents R. A. and Eva Burnett Kelsay (Billy) and sons, Eddie and Dr. William Conrad. Survivors: daughter, Paula (Blake); grandchildren: Lori Foust, Grant (Jessica) Foust and Joy Foust all of Burleson, Tex.; sisters-in-law: Louise (Ray) Glosup and Beverly (Jack) James of Mineral Wells, Tex. and numerous nieces and nephews.



**Krentz, Phyllis Jeanette Just**, born Aug. 17, 1953, Kingsport, Tenn.; died Dec. 7, 2022, Keene, Tex. Church membership: Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by her parents, Avolt and Margaret Just and her sister, Peggy Ann West (Jim). Survivors: four children: Ginger Deann Krentz (Troy Rowe), Mandy Lynn Hatch (Zach), Cody Jack Krentz (Briane) and Monty Justin Krentz (Melissa); brother and sister: Bo Just (Ruth) and Pearline Sickler (Jim); nine grand-children: Alex Rowe, Bailey Hatch, Lilly Hatch, Jacob Hatch, Sierra Krentz, Asher Krentz, Dylan Krentz, Olivia Krentz and Madison Krentz; nieces and nephews.

**Pflugrad, Ellen (Ginter) Cunningham**, born June 26, 1939, Moscow, Idaho; died Dec. 2, 2022, Kettle Falls, Wash. Church membership: Weslaco Seventh-day Adventist Church. Preceded in death by first husband, Dr. Chester Pflugrad; parents, Ben and Ada Ginter; and thirteen siblings. Survivors: husband, Robert L. Cunningham; sons, Chester (Lori) Pflugrad and David (Kathy) Pflugrad; daughters, Sherri (Dan) Bynum and Debbie (Barry) Stentzel; ten grandchildren; two great grandchildren; three step children with their families; and a brother, Joseph Ginter.



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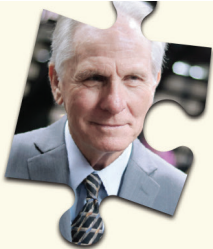
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Liberty, MO



## You do so much to help others feel whole.

**We believe you should feel whole too.**

Team members have told us what they are looking for. So this year, we are introducing new benefits like paid parental leave and redesigned time off so you can enjoy your personal and family life.

It's just one of the ways we're extending our resources to support you physically, mentally and spiritually. Because we want you to feel whole.

Learn more at [JoinAdventHealth.com](https://JoinAdventHealth.com).



**Advent Health**  
feel whole.