

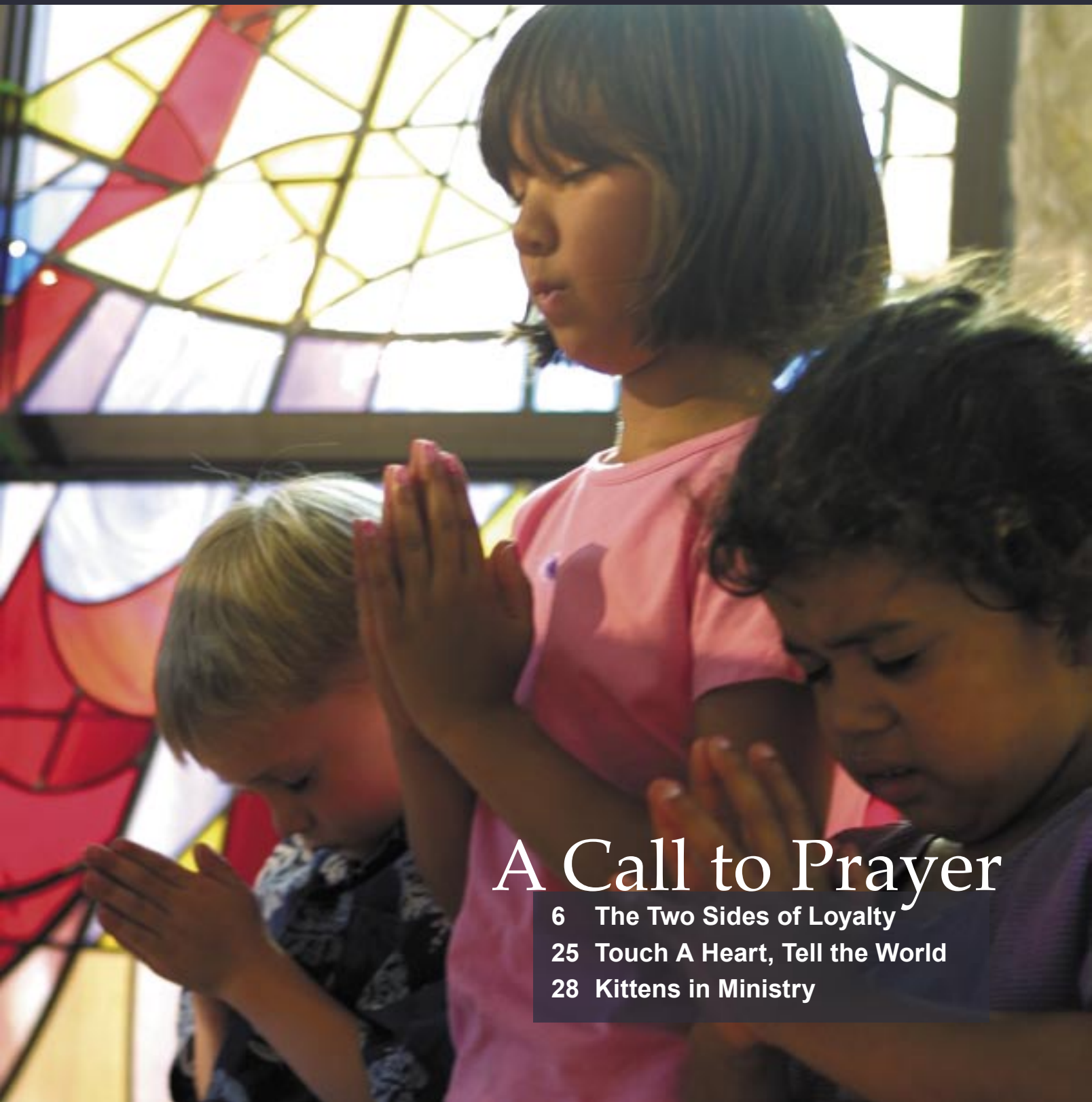
January 2006



T SOUTHERN

TIDINGS

Spreading Tidings of the Southern Union Adventist Family



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A Call to *Prayer*

I'm inviting our Southern Union family to become involved in a united prayer focus. A few months ago, our conference presidents, in one of our planning meetings suggested we have five concurrent prayer conferences in various places in our Union. The idea is that conference leaders would work together in planning the prayer conferences, and members from the churches in these conferences would come together for prayer, fellowship, and inspiration. For example: South Central and Gulf States or Kentucky-Tennessee members would meet together, Florida and Southeastern members would meet together, etc. It's a great idea. God has promised Holy Spirit, end-time power, when we unite in prayer and witness.

These five prayer conferences take place March 31-April 2, 2006. Details on each of these prayer events is in this issue of the *Tidings*. And then we thought, what if we invite every church and school campus to plan and enjoy a Day of Prayer April 1, 2006. That means that while the five prayer conferences are in session, our 1,000 churches throughout the Southern Union will be uniting in prayer focus on that one Sabbath.

What shall we pray about? Each conference and each church or school will have specific plans, formats, and emphases. Then I'm inviting the entire Southern Union family, either at your church or school on Sabbath April 1, or at the five prayer conferences, to focus on two areas:

Our Children and Youth

We could pray for each by name in churches all over our Union. It will be powerful. There is victory in intercessory prayer.

Atlanta 2010

This initiative, recognizing that the General Conference Session will meet in Atlanta in 2010, focuses our witness efforts for the next five years on the four-million plus people in greater Atlanta. I am thrilled that the South Atlantic Conference and the Georgia-Cumberland Conference leaders have established a coordinating task force that is working and praying together to implement the goal of touching every resident in greater Atlanta with the gospel of Jesus, and letting every resident know that Jesus is coming soon. This will take many forms and will require many lay volunteers. Jesus said in Luke 10:2 that the "harvest truly is great but the laborers are few; therefore, pray the Lord of the harvest that He will send forth laborers into His harvest."

Let's pray for Spirit-anointed lay witnesses who will invite thousands in Atlanta to the Savior. Let's pray for the spirit of Christ to fill lay evangelists. What is this attitude? **"The spirit of Christ is a missionary spirit. The very first impulse of the renewed heart is to bring others also to the Savior."** *Great Controversy* pg. 70.

My cousin, Dwight Nelson, pastor of the Pioneer Memorial church in Berrien Springs, Michigan, has a personal and church motto I like—"Forward on Our Knees." The Call to Prayer is focused on outreach and on inviting people, especially our children and youth, to know Jesus. We come together at more than 1,000 prayer altars to seek the face of God asking Him to send us to someone who needs hope.



Gordon Retzer
*Southern Union
President*

Thank you for participating in the Southern Union Call to Prayer.

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A Call to Prayer

If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." II Chronicles 7:14.

Prayer is powerful. Prayer makes a difference. Prayer changes things. Prayer provides God with an opportunity. "It is part of God's plan to do in answer to a prayer of faith what He would not do if we did not thus pray." *Great Controversy* pg.525

When people pray, something happens. Prayer groups have unusual power through the Almighty. Two or three people earnestly praying make a difference. God hears. God answers. God moves. God touches lives.

The officers of the Southern Union and its local conferences have issued a call for prayer. There will be Union-wide prayer conferences in five locations March 31 to April 2, 2006 for all eight conferences in the Southern Union. The program could begin about 7:00 p.m. Friday, March 31 and conclude about noon on Sunday, April 2. The specific time will be determined at each prayer conference site.

The conferences in each location are responsible for the program for the weekend. The participants

on the program will reflect the territory. The ministerial secretaries/associates, and prayer coordinators from the participating conferences continue meeting to pray and plan for the weekend.

"Earnest prayer will be at the center of the entire weekend," says Florida Conference Prayer Coordinator Steve Adessa.

"Prayer should be the foundation of everything we do in the church," added Southeastern Conference Prayer Coordinator Nicolle Brise. "Through prayer, we can receive the same power the first Church did and experience great success for God in whatever we do."

A unique aspect of these prayer conferences is the blending of the

conferences across geographical and cultural barriers in planning, implementing, and celebrating over answered prayers.

"This is a first for Georgia-Cumberland and South Atlantic in terms of coming together in a spiritual setting. We're able to move beyond dialogue into the action of working together. This prayer conference also marks the spiritual beginning of our collaborative efforts for the Atlanta 2010 evangelistic initiative."

A Call to Prayer is the brainchild of church leaders in the Southern Union who are anxious to create spiritual growth, identify specific prayer needs, and remove barriers which tend to separate members spiritually, physically, and emotionally.

"From our point of view, we see this as an opportunity to seek revival for our conference," says Marvin Lowman, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference's executive secretary. "Secularism and materialism have so infiltrated the church of today that, for the most part, we are paralyzed. Most of our members don't seem to



have the time or the interest to be involved in ministry. They are content to let the pastor do it and think that because they 'pay' their tithe in support of the pastor, they have done their part. However, God's work can/will never be finished by the pastors alone. Something must awaken us from our lethargy and Laodicean condition. History reveals many revivals that have taken place among God's people. But there has never been a revival movement that was not preceded by earnest prayer. March will provide the opportunity for a core group of our membership to plead and agonize before God for such revival and the outpouring of God's Spirit. We will be urging others of our membership from the churches on Sabbath, to join with those attending the prayer conference to devote themselves to prayer for the same purpose. God will finish His work and 'cut it short in righteousness' with or without us. It would be a terrible shame to see God's Spirit being poured out all around us and not be a part of it ourselves."

A Day of Prayer is designated for Sabbath, April 1, 2006 across the Southern Union in all of its congregations. As delegates, conference leaders, and Union officials meet at the various prayer conference locations across the territory, prayers will be ascending to the throne of grace from all 1,000 congregations of the Union. Each conference and church will determine items of interest on its prayer list.

"If the one in danger perseveres, and in his helplessness casts himself upon the merits of the blood of Christ, our Savior listens to the earnest prayer of faith, and sends a reinforcement of those angels that excel in strength to deliver him. Satan cannot endure to have his powerful rival appealed to, for he fears and trembles before His strength and majesty. At the sound of fervent prayer, Satan's whole host trembles." *Testimonies*, Vol. 1, pg. 346.

Prayer changes the destiny of nations. It alerts the course of history. It transforms the way things

happen. It transforms the human heart.

Prayer ascends from housing projects. It reaches palatial estates. Illness cannot confine it. Adversity cannot chain it. Poverty does not hinder it.

You do not need money to pray. You do not need an educational degree to pray. You do not need to know how to read to pray. All you have to do to pray, is pray.

Watch what God does. You will be amazed at the results. You will sense your heart being drawn to Him in new, intimate ways. You will sense anew that He is faithful and still answers the prayers of His people.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." Jeremiah 33: 3.



Prayer Conference Schedule March 31-April 2, 2006

Carolina/South Atlantic

Nosoca Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC
828-667-2535

Speakers: Philip Samaan

Prayer Objectives: Pastors have been asked to develop a prayer emphasis for each local church. Churches are encouraged to contact sister churches in their area and host prayer vigils that weekend.

Theme: In Everything...Pray

Miscellaneous Information:

Two delegates from each church in the Carolinas. Delegates responsible for transportation. Every meeting will be simultaneously translated into Spanish. Special times allotted for small groups. Personal and corporate prayer will be sprinkled throughout the weekend. Each evening there will be a prayer vigil.

Sabbath afternoon will feature an inspirational concert of prayer. Training in how to establish an effective prayer ministry in the local church will be offered Sunday morning.

Georgia-Cumberland/ South Atlantic

Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA
706-695-9093

Speakers: Joe Kidder

Prayer Objectives: Unity

Theme: Spiritual Oneness

Kentucky-Tennessee/ South Central

Indian Creek, Liberty, TN

615-548-4411

Speakers: La Clare Litchfield and Ken Mulzac

Prayer Objectives: Unity for a finished work

Theme: Upper Room Revival

Gulf States/South Central

Camp Alamisco, Dadeville, AL
256-825-9482

Speakers: To Be Announced

Prayer Objectives: To Be Announced

Florida/Southeastern

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs FL
386-454-1351

Speakers: Emphasis placed on prayer warriors.

Prayer Objectives: Complete transformation so that delegates and workers will leave as different people than when they arrived.

Miscellaneous Information:

Number of delegates will be determined by the size of congregation, and will register directly with Camp Kulaqua. A 24-hour prayer room will be set up where attendees will volunteer to pray in one-hour segments. Prayers from this vigil will ascend from the beginning to the end of the conferences and be accompanied by the prayers of members in the home churches.

The Two Sides of Loyalty

BY NATHANIEL G. HIGGS, PH.D.



It was Jesus, the Herodians, and the Pharisees. They were pressing Him for an opinion in which there appeared to be no politically correct answer. The Herodians were nationalists who favored the House of Herod. The Pharisees were a religious sect who opposed Herod as well as Caesar. The Pharisees believed that to pay tribute to Caesar was against the laws of God. The Herodians were not opposed to paying taxes. The two groups hated one another. But they despised Jesus more than they hated each other so these contenders became allies in a mutual plot against a common enemy. They purposed to ask Jesus for His opinion, as whether one should pay taxes or not.

These adversarial agitators

wanted Jesus to commit Himself. Should He approve the payment of tribute to Rome, they would use it as evidence that He was against the law of God and thus obfuscate His claim as the Messiah. Should Jesus forbid the payment of taxes, He would be arrested by the Roman authority as a traitor and revolutionist. The question was rigged for exploitation and defection. The categorical answer either way would have been used to His defeat. It was Jesus, the loser, they thought. Too strong was His popularity for an open arrest at that time, so they planned to entrap Him in a political conundrum, then expose Him to the hostilities of the Roman government.

With mockery, flattery, and subtlety dripping from their lips, they

approached Jesus and said, “Good Teacher, we know that you are a sincere teacher who teaches the way of truth without respecting one person above another. We know that you make good decisions. Help us to do the right thing. Now tell us, should we pay taxes to Caesar, or should we not?”

Although what they said about Jesus was true, their genuine intent was to set Jesus up for defeat. Jesus read their pretentious thoughts and said, “Why tempt ye me? Why are you doing this to me? Give me a coin.” One detractor reached into his pocket and handed Jesus a denarius, a coin issued by the Roman government. Jesus looked at the coin and declared, “Since the name and image of Caesar are stamped

upon the coin, it belongs to Caesar. Since we are living under the protection of the Roman power, then you have an obligation to support that power. But the authority of Caesar has its limitation. There is a province in which no earthly authority may intrude. Just as you see the inscription of Caesar upon this coin, pay him his tribute, but also render unto God the things that belong to God." Jesus clearly set the parameters between church and state, between patriotism and piety, between secular and spiritual. Give what is due to each.

The founding fathers of our nation, many of them God-fearing citizens, took care to construct a constitution in which religious references were not mentioned. Many of the founders believed in God, but wanted Caesar and God to remain separate. They wanted a government that would grant them the freedom of conscience. The Creator of the universe endowed each human with a conscience. Government was never determined to be the priest of intervention between God and conscience. The Bible teaches Christians to respect civil leaders and governmental structures because they are ordained by God. For this reason Seventh-day Adventists believe in participating in political elections. Adventists serve the military in noncombatant roles. When given the opportunity to serve in governmental leadership, they serve with integrity and honor, as did Joseph and Daniel.

As we recall the history of crusades, the Inquisition, the jailing of Baptist preachers for preaching without a state-issued license, and the execution by hanging of Quakers for beliefs that were not mainstream, we get a glimpse in retrospect of what happens when government and religion are united. Roger Williams was convicted of having "dangerous opinions" and escaped extradition to England by fleeing to the wilderness in the winter. Obadiah Holmes received 35 lashes in a public whipping for conducting "an illegal worship" service

in Boston. Abner Chase had hay and rye confiscated from his Massachusetts farm because he refused to join the official state church. Whenever church and state are united, the freedom of conscience is diminished.

God recognized, that apart from a theocracy, in the administration of civil governments, it is not good to combine the priesthood with the kingship (church and state). Jesus alone is both high priest and king. In Hebrews Chapter 4, Paul acclaim His priesthood. In Revelation Chapter 17, John verifies His lordship and kingship. Jesus alone is worthy to be both priest and king, after the order of Melchizedek.

In the ancient kingdom of Babylon, Nebuchadnezzar was high priest and king. It was from this premise of combined authority that Nebuchadnezzar could legislate and enforce the worship of the golden image on the plain of Dura.

The 13 chapter of 1 Samuel tells of a king who would be priest, in other words, a union of church and state. After Saul was anointed king of Israel, he was instructed to go to Gilgal and wait there for the man of God. Saul, the king, waited in Gilgal for seven days. During this time his scouts brought word that the Philistines had increased their military stronghold only 12 miles away in Mishmash. Saul feared for the security of the nation and even his own life. So when Samuel, the priest, did not arrive to offer the supplication and sacrifice at the hour of Saul's expectancy, the king decided to perform the role of the priest by offering the sacrifice, in disobedience to the command of the Lord. This was an act of uniting church and state, combining kingship with priesthood. He was the king who would be priest.

Saul ordered the offering to be brought before him. Dressed in his military attire, he offered it before the Lord. No sooner than he had finished, did Samuel arrive and asked the disconcerting question, "What hast thou done?" Instead of recognizing his error, Saul made

excuses. "I forced myself there, and offered a burnt offering." Samuel's rebuke was clear and immediate. Samuel said, "Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee."

The same folly exists today when we attempt to combine the civil government with church affairs. Some Christians often argue and rationalize that this is a Christian nation that must legislate Christianity. Still true are the words, "Thou hast done foolishly." Some Christians believe that government-funded churches through faith-based initiatives will unify the goals of God and country. Still true are the words, "Thou hast done foolishly." Some Christians believe that posting the Ten Commandments in classrooms and court houses while proclaiming the invalidity of the fourth commandment, will invigorate morality and eliminate delinquency. Still true are the words, "Thou hast done foolishly." Whenever we attempt to place civil government into the role of priest and king, the words of the prophet ring true: "Thou hast done foolishly."

Finally, there are some who would have had Jesus to say, "Render unto Caesar the things of Caesar and God, and Caesar will determine God's due." This variant suggests a mediatory role of government in religious affairs. But Jesus did not say that. He clearly distinguished the separation of the two kingdoms of loyalty— church and state, patriotism and piety. Whenever there is a conflict between the statutes of Caesar and the law of God, then "we ought to obey God rather than men." This principle of separation of church and state is so important to religious freedom that the writers of all three synoptic gospels included this didactic event for the readers of the Christian church. Let us be grateful for the principles of American democracy that provides for the separation of these two institutions.

Spartanburg Members Share “Locks of Love”

The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 11:15, “If a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her...”

Joy Tirado, a member of the Spartanburg, N.C., church, noticed that one of her colleagues at work would show up with her hair cut off short about every 18 months. After a while Joy decided to ask her why. She was told of “Locks of Love,” a non-profit organization out of Lake Worth, Fla., that helps children with long term hair loss due to medical conditions.

Joy thought, “What a wonderful way to help others.” She decided that this was something she could do, too, and began recruiting friends from church to join her in this gift of love. Soon she had four others: Tracy Krout, Vicki Connor, Arjean Barretto, and Naika Maldonado-Bryant, who were happy to join her in getting this unique hair cut.

So the wait began for their hair to grow. At least 10 inches of hair is needed to create a prosthetic for a child who has lost her own hair.

The time finally arrived for the five friends to make their donations. Scheduling an appointment at the hair salon/spa, the ladies made a special day of it, getting massages,

facials, pedicures, and the all-important haircut.

Their hope is that the new prosthetics will be a real morale booster. There will soon be five children with full heads of hair—kids who might otherwise be low on self-esteem due to their medical condition, wearing caps or scarves to hide their lack of hair.

They also hope that



their example will inspire other women to “go thou and do likewise,” thus multiplying the blessing to other recipients as well as to the donors.

For more information on this important program, log on to locksoflove.org.

—BY KENNETH R. WYNN

Greensboro Church Honors Firefighters



The Greensboro, N.C., church recently honored the firemen from two stations in its area due to an emergency call.

The fire fighters joined the church family for a meal after the morning service. Gary Moyer, pastor, thanked them for their efforts in the community, reminding them they were serving God by “doing unto the least of these.” He also mentioned that the Adventist Church felt an affinity with fire fighters, being known for their stop-smoking programs. “We do our part to prevent smoke inhalation too,” the pastor joked. The children were then invited outside to explore one of the fire engines.

Each station was presented with a plaque and a package with *Steps to Christ* and other sharing books included. The fire fighters were also invited to use the church facilities anytime they had a need.

—BY MARTIN COBLE



Anne Smith (stylist, left), Vicki Connor, Joy Tirado, Tracy Krout, Naika Maldonado, and Arjean Barretto show their locks.

Carolina Pathfinders Ride for Hurricane Relief



For the past seven years, the Carolina Conference Pathfinder Council has sponsored a teen event called "Bike for Life." This group of Pathfinder teens and other youth from all over the Carolina Conference get together for a two-week-long bicycle trip.

This past summer they decided to stay in the Carolinas, raising money for the Carolina local branch of ADRA, with the ride's slogan being "Riding for a Purpose."

The trip started at the Concord church and traveled to Hickory, Morganton, and Lincolnton, with the journey ending at the University City church near Charlotte, N.C. Along the way they stayed at different Adventist churches,

schools, and the home of one of the riders.

Sabbath morning many of the riders took part in the church service at the University City church. They conducted the children's story, performed special music, and spoke for personal ministries.

At that time Phil Rosburg, director of disaster relief, was presented with a \$1,000 check, the total sum of money the bikers had raised. Rosburg was surprised and overjoyed by this presentation. The funds have since been used for the

Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

Next year the "Bike for Life" team is planning a historical trip to either Virginia or Pennsylvania. If any teen Pathfinder or young adult

is interested, please contact the Pathfinder department of the Carolina Conference or your local Pathfinder leader for further information.

—BY AIME ARROYO



During the service at the University City church, Phil Rosburg, director of disaster relief for the Conference, was presented with a \$1,000 check, the total sum of money the bikers had raised.

Hurricane-damaged Churches Reopen

Four churches in Florida Conference were heavily damaged during the 2004 hurricane season. Hurricane Charley, a category four storm, struck the Punta Gorda and Arcadia churches on August 13. The Melbourne English and Spanish churches were both battered by Hurricane Jeanne on September 25.

The Arcadia and Melbourne Spanish churches received the most severe damage. Adventist Community Team Services (ACTS) and Adventist Community Services (ACS) volunteers gutted the interiors of both churches, which saved the congregations thousands of dollars on insurance deductibles. One year later, these churches remain in the rebuilding process.

Last summer, the Melbourne English and Punta Gorda congregations held reopening ceremonies to mark the completion of restoration on their churches.

Punta Gorda church

Sabbath, June 25, was set aside to celebrate the completion of the Punta Gorda church sanctuary after it was severely damaged in the wake of Hurricane Charley.

The sanctuary and foyer of the church have been newly decorated in earth tones to reflect the multi-cultural ethnicity of this 120-member church family. A large canvas of Jesus' baptism, commissioned by local artist, Liz Hutchinson, was unveiled



DENNIS HAYNES

The Melbourne English church reopened July 23 after repairing damage that included replacing the entire north wall of the sanctuary (pictured right).

by E.J. Stevenson, pastor, as the "crowning touch" to the restoration project.

New windows, roofing, flooring, drywall, paint, and baseboards were required in the rehabilitation process, as well as re-upholstered pews and repairs to the electrical system and plumbing. Various members and subcontractors assisted William Froelich, head elder, and James Wright, head elder-elect, in working long hours to complete the renovation. Al Berry, head deacon, led out in the landscaping repairs.

Melbourne English church

Hurricane Jeanne did extensive interior damage to the main sanctuary, pews, sound system, and organ speakers of the Melbourne English church.

The roof, north interior walls, electrical system, carpeting, and air conditioning had to be replaced.

While reconstruction work of the sanctuary was in process, members met for 10 months in the nearby Central Baptist church of Melbourne.

A rededication service on July 23 in the repaired facility was attended by Florida Conference representatives Mike Cauley, president, and Ken Burrill, vice president for administration/ministerial.

Music was provided by Wintley Phipps, pastor of Southeastern Conference's Palm Bay church.



LEE BENNETT



WILLIAM FROELICH, JR.

The Punta Gorda church's baptistry gained a large mural of Jesus' baptism during its restoration.

"Ever since our congregation moved back into the new sanctuary, church services have been full every Sabbath," reports Wayne Gosling, Melbourne pastor.

—BY CAROL FROELICH,
WAYNE GOSLING



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Rojas Speaks to Inspire Youth and Unite All Ages



Jose Rojas provided melodic messages on his guitar.

Few speakers can effectively touch the hearts of all age groups. However, Jose Rojas seemed to accomplish that daunting feat as everyone from eight-year-olds to adults with grown grandchildren were riveted by his message during three Sabbath presentations in early November, at the Peachtree City church in Sharpsburg, Ga.

Rojas' message to the nearly 300 attendees addressed the importance of equipping younger church members with a valid vision for the present and the future.

"He pointed out how our youth are not the future of the Church; they are the Church of today," exclaimed Peachtree City church pastor Dave Ketelsen. "Let's stop thinking of how they'll be used in the future, and let them use their gifts and talents now."

This insight was especially well received by Emily Ouellette, a 15-year-old church member, who said she took away several key points from the experience.

"I heard that God calls

young people to do great things, and that it's not all up to the select older members."

Ouellette said she hopes that her church will provide additional activities that can involve the youth in more ways than just asking them to show up. "I would like to help in as many ways as I can," she said.

The young people also appreciated how Rojas delivered his message. "He talked to us in a way that I could understand," said Cassie Hales, 10. "He taught me that God was a powerful God. I also thought he was a great singer and played his guitar very well."

In addition to the melodic messages that Rojas provided on his guitar, the presentations included music led by Paco Rodriguez.

The whole package was something that Cassie and her family enjoyed thoroughly. In fact, Cassie's eight-year-old brother, Alex, insisted on sitting in the front row Friday evening and Sabbath afternoon without getting restless.

"I thought he was funny, and he reminded me that God can do anything," said Alex. "I am glad he came to our church. I hope I can hang out with him and Jesus in heaven someday."

Although Rojas' message was directed primarily at the youth, it was deeply appreciated by the adults as well. For instance, Gisela

Knaute, who has been a baptized Seventh-day Adventist for 63 years, felt moved by his words. "It helped me see that there is still a lot of work to do for God," she said. "I hope and pray that the older people work together with the young and encourage them to go forward."

Even though Ketelsen has known Rojas since their days together in high school and college, it has taken 13 years to get Rojas to speak at one of Ketelsen's churches.

"Jose will not come just to have a 'youth rally,'" he said. "There has to be a purpose for his coming, because he's on a five-year waiting list and averages 31 invitations each day on his website. I asked Jose to come for the purpose

of training, equipping, and mobilizing our youth in reaching out to their communities, along with adults."

Rojas serves as the director of volunteer ministries and the director of the office of young adult ministries for the North American Division. He has a bachelor's and a master's degree in religion from Loma Linda University, and is an accomplished musician and recording artist. As a father of four, he has a special place in his heart for the youth, and also serves on the national organization founded by General Colin Powell called The Alliance for Youth.

Wherever his ministry takes him, Rojas leaves a lasting impression.

—MELORA GRATAN

Wilkinson's 65th Wedding Anniversary

Gerald and Maria Satterlee Wilkinson celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on August 25, 2005. They are both graduates of Andrews University and are currently retired in Chattanooga, Tenn. Gerald served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 35 years in various printing operations, including Southern Publishing Association, and retired from The College Press in Collegedale, Tenn. Marian taught elementary school

in several locations. They have three children, seven grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren.



Marian and Gerald Wilkinson

\$2.1 Million Church for Teens Opens

On Saturday, November 5, the Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) church unveiled the David C. Cress Memorial Youth Worship Center, named after the late president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.



The David C. Cress Memorial Youth Worship Center opens at Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

The GCA church is a place where teens make up the majority of the attendees and help in almost every aspect of the operation. The church's stated goal is to capture the hearts and minds of young people and develop them into fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.

The church had been meeting in a small chapel on the Georgia-Cumberland Academy campus. The new worship center cost roughly \$2.1 million dollars and can seat more than 500 people. Teens contributed to the design of the new facility by helping choose everything from the color of paint to the pews and sound system.

GCA pastor Don Keele, Jr., said he doubts any church has given teens as much input into how the church was built as his has, and points out that more than \$80,000 was spent on

video, audio, and lighting.

"Today's youth have been raised in an audio/visual world. It is part of their culture and identity. If we are going to reach our goal of capturing their hearts and minds, we have to speak their language," said Keele.

This new worship center has been the dream of church members and Conference officials for many years. The church has been in production since August of 2004.

At the opening service Friday evening, Dave Cress' two brothers, Jim and John, both Adventist pastors, spoke about their brother for whom the worship center is named. Before Dave's death, one of the last things he talked about was the construction of the youth worship center. It had been brought up in a meeting that same day.

Suzie Shanko, Geor-

gia-Cumberland Academy class of 1978 alumnus, came from Atlanta to attend the opening service. "I sat there and thought what a great opportunity that the current students have to have this kind of facility to come in and worship in and meet God," said Shanko.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy junior Eric Johnston agrees that it's a great opportunity. "A lot of people have made sacrifices, and I'm really thankful for all they have done," said Johnston.

It is the hope of the GCA church family that the new David C. Cress Youth Worship Center will serve the community of Calhoun, Ga., its youth in particular, for years to come.

—RYAN PRIEST, KEN WETMORE

Wild Expectations Marriage Conference

Anticipation of a great weekend was in the air as couples began arriving at Cohutta Springs to attend the Wild Expectations Marriage Conference, sponsored by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Family Ministries department.

"The theme, Wild Expectations, found its origin and fulfillment in what Jesus offers 'exceedingly abundantly,'" said Lynn Ortel, one of the speakers for the weekend.

Richard Neil and Lynn

and Mike Ortel teamed up in presenting important topics for couples, including communicating, forgiving, developing a grace-filled marriage, and learning to meet each other's emotional needs.

Friday evening began with a skit entitled "Unrealistic Expectations," and depicted a couple who were expecting the weekend retreat to "fix their spouse."

The weekend gave opportunities to explore scripture and put into practice

what God's expectations are in a marriage relationship.

"The speakers were fabulous, and everything was so well planned that it made for a fantastically enjoyable weekend," explained Diedri White, a member of the McDonald Road church, in regards to the time spent during the weekend with her husband. "We benefited both spiritually and emotionally as a couple, and this was,

by far, the best marriage seminar we have ever attended."

—MARYJO DUBS



A couple prays together during the Wild Expectations Marriage Conference.

Young Teens Witness with Billboards



The "Mission Huntsville" project began with a junior/earliteen Sabbath school class in the spring of 2005, when the young people at Central church in Huntsville, Ala., were asked what advertising (jingles, commercials, and billboards) caught their attention...what elements of advertising "attracts" people, and what would attract them to Christ. The discussion led to an exercise in which the class members were to think of something they thought would attract people to Jesus.

"In less than five minutes, these young people had some amazing stuff," explains one of their teachers. That's when the idea to create their own billboards took root. During several weeks, everyone in the class had the opportunity to come up with one or more ideas or slogans, and then sketch posters or small drawings.

The class needed to raise the money to fund a billboard, so for three weeks in June and July, the 10 to 14-year-olds held a car wash at the

church on Wednesdays. For \$10 a car, church members could get their cars washed while they attended prayer meetings. Several times rain was predicted but bypassed the church, and one time severe thunderstorms were miraculously held off until the last car was washed.

After three weeks there was enough money to fund two billboards for one month each—the Lord was abundantly blessing in the junior class' efforts to be missionaries at home. There were many excellent ideas, but only two billboards could go up initially, so the posters were displayed at church for two weeks for the congregation to "vote" on.

The class also contacted the Voice of Prophecy

and got permission to put the VOP phone number and web site on the billboards, so that those who would be impressed could be led to the Discover Bible lessons. The class knew the Lord already had the right advertising locations picked out, and trusted Him to help them make the right choices and touch the right hearts.

As this article is written, the billboards have just gone up (November 15) in the Huntsville/Madison county area. The church is continuing to keep these "Mission Huntsville" billboards in prayer, and is asking God to help the young people of Central church lead the way as workers in His field.

—BY RICK NORSEKOV



The junior/earliteen class used its talents to design the billboards above.

His Work Goes On



When Harold Turner, pastor, passed away August 28, he left behind a large number of church congregations in the Gulf States Conference that had been blessed by his ministry.

As Harold and Clarice, his wife, spent time working with dozens of churches, they wove a place in the hearts of many with their warm smiles, beautiful music, and Harold's enthusiastic, revival style, preaching.

Harold's emphasis was not only on preaching, but also on teaching church leaders the art of visiting and of reclaiming former members.

Harold accomplished this by taking the church members with him as he made his visits. Now his work goes on in the Conference, as those he taught continue to reach out to the lost.

Harold, with Clarice, had served in the ministry for 55 years as a pastor and evangelist, until 2004 when he had to retire because of his health.

Oldest Member in Gulf States Conference Dies

Clarence Stewart, a member of the Brookhaven, Miss., church, who recently celebrated his 104th birthday in September, died November 3, 2005.

Clarence was one of the first Seventh-day Adventists in the Natchez, Miss., area.

He remembered, when he was a boy, the riverboat called the Morning Star steaming down the river from Vicksburg to Natchez with James Edson White and Dr. Singletary on

board preaching the Three Angels' Message. It was through this contact that Clarence and his family became members of the Church.

Clarence was a connection to the past, and was alive when Ellen White was still serving the Church. Born in 1901, he was a teenager when White passed away. The things Clarence saw in his lifetime are amazing. He witnessed the move from horse and buggy to automobiles, and saw the first flights,

electricity, light bulbs, telephones, and radios; not to mention computers, cell phones, space flight, the landing on the moon, and two world wars. His experience nearly spanned all the modern era.

Though 104 years old, Clarence was still of sound mind and quick wit. When David Clevenger, the local pastor, and his wife, visited Clarence just before he died, Clarence sang one of his favorite songs, "Jesus is Coming Again." When he finished singing he

said, "Pastor, I have been watching for the Lord for a long time, and just because I haven't seen him come in my lifetime doesn't mean He isn't coming."

Clarence leaves behind numerous loved ones, including his daughter, Edna Earl Manley, of Meridian; two grandsons: Hugh V. Leggett, Jr., and wife Rosemary, of Brookhaven, and Joseph "Pat" Swain of Meridian; five great grandchildren; numerous other relatives; and friends.

Churches Witness at Two Fairs



At the Cullman fair booth, Marvin Ermsbar checks the blood pressure of a fair attendee.

Montgomery First and Cullman, Ala., churches have found that a good way to witness to others is by having a booth at the fair.

"Take Charge of Your Health" was the focus of the Cullman church booth at the Cullman County Fair. Many different kinds of people attend the fair, and

the church booth offered literature that would appeal to a variety of interests.

The personal contacts were inspiring. The visits ranged from those looking for better health, to visiting Adventists from California who were invited and came to church, to a family displaced by Hurricane Katrina. This family was given a *Spirit of Prophecy* and *Happiness Digest* set of books. The family was thrilled since all of their books had been destroyed.

"A People of Hope," was the theme for the Montgomery First's booth at the Alabama National Fair. The theme words preceded by the Seventh-day Adventist Church logo stood out on the lighted backdrop.

An acronym for HOPE explained the purpose of the Adventist Church.

Health screening was offered, along with health books and pamphlets, plus Bible prophecy literature.

The "Every Eye Shall See Him" video from Life

Talk Radio ran continuously in the background. On Children's Day, two puppet shows presented by Michelle Church caught the attention of the young folks.

A drawing was held each day. The *Final Events of Bible Prophecy* video, along with a variety of books, was given away.

Many who stopped by



Heidi McDearmon and Joan Beck are ready to greet visitors who stop by the Montgomery First church fair booth.

for the health screening or to take a peek at the literature or watch the video expressed a desire for more information.

Both churches have developed plans for following up on the interest gleaned from the fair contacts.

—BY PAM RAWLS,
REBECCA GRICE

Winchester Church Sees God at Work

Winchester church members have an intense desire to spread the word of Jesus' soon coming. During the summer and fall, approximately 10 members from the Stanton, Ky., area met weekly to pray and plan how they might bring the gospel to the small towns of Stanton, Clay City, Mt. Sterling, and Jeffersonville.

They agreed to rent

booths at the Stanton Corn Festival and the Powell County Fair. They gave away hundreds of copies of the Amazing Facts DVD "The Final Events of Bible Prophecy." They also gave away bottled water and hundreds of copies of various church and health-related literature and books.

At the Corn Festival, many books and literature

were given away during the first few hours, they had to call the church for more literature and practically emptied the church's reading/literature room.

One of the biggest attractions was a drawing for a free set of *The Bible Story* books. More than 500 people signed cards for the drawing, and half of those indicated they wanted to participate in one or more activities such as healthful cooking class, Bible prophecy seminar, stop-smoking seminar, Bible study group, and Bible study by mail.

Winchester church member and lay minister Phillip Sizemore is just completing a 15-session evangelistic series entitled "Final Events of Bible Prophecy" in Stanton. The winner of *The Bible Story* set, drawn at the opening session of the Prophecy meetings, was Orene Boyd. She and several friends have attended almost every meeting of the crusade.

Bible study coordinator



Orene Boyd

Nancy Robinson has mailed out the first *Amazing Facts* Bible studies to those interested in taking studies by mail. Other activities are being planned for the next few weeks.

Winchester church members believe that God is opening doors in this area for His light to shine through, and they are eagerly waiting to see how God continues to lead.

—BY NANCY ROBINSON



Winchester Fair Exhibit

"Two More Days" Presented in Nashville

"Two More Days," a dramatic presentation recalling the excitement

and glorious expectation of Jesus' expected return in 1844, was presented by members of the Nashville First church, under the direction of Margie Johns on Sabbath, October 22.

Set in the community and church of Washington, N.H., in 1844, "Two More Days" related the

story of Samuel Snow's appearance at a Millerite camp meeting in Exeter, N.H. His message was that the Lord was expected to return on Tuesday, October 22. The drama revealed how the excitement of the wonderful prospect of Christ's coming turned into challenging days of ridicule.

Although some believers suffered persecution and violence, in a hundred towns and villages throughout New England, Millerite believers prepared for the Second Coming on October

22, 1844.

"Our church was stirred by this wonderful portrayal of the dedication and commitment of believers like the Farnsworths, Huntleys, Rachel Oaks, and her daughter Delight. Many persons in attendance said they were blessed and challenged by the faithfulness of the Millerites and the prospects of the return of Jesus in our day," said Jerry Rimer, pastor of Nashville First.

—BY JERRY RIMER



The Farnsworths receive the date of Christ's return from their friends, the Huntleys. Karl Rogers (left), Carmelita Arthur, Judy Rimer, Avery Davis, and Christon Arthur portray them.

Ridgetop Member Survives Blast



Roy Shouppe stands in front of the house where the water heater exploded.

"I heard a noise and went to the back bedroom to look out the window. I turned and took about three steps. That's when it blew up," said Roy Shouppe. Just moments before he had been standing in the kitchen just over

where the water heater was down in the basement.

The Morris house was part of a matured trust with the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. The Conference had hired Shouppe, a member of the Ridgetop, Tenn., church, to make repairs on the home in Madison in preparation for putting it on the market.

On November 16, while Shouppe was working in the home, the water heater exploded, sending it like a missile upward through the floor, the ceiling, and the roof, across the backyard, and landing nearly 100 feet away

from the house. It was an older type water heater that did not have a pressure relief valve. Apparently, a malfunctioning thermostat caused a build-up of pressure, resulting in the explosion.

The explosion blew out all the windows in the house, and Shouppe was thrown to the floor. Doors and window casings were damaged. The foundation was severely damaged, blowing out the wall in one end of the basement. The center wall supporting the roof buckled. Almost all of the brick veneer around the outside of the house was blown off as well. The damage was so

extensive that the insurance company declared the house a total loss and the city required its completed removal.

Fortunately, Shouppe was not seriously hurt. He believes that God spared his life. "I guess my guardian angel was working overtime," he said. Had he not left the kitchen when he did, he may have been killed. His tool box, which had been right beside him, was impaled in the roof. Shouppe never did figure what the noise was that caused him to walk to the back bedroom, but he is convinced that it was God's way of taking him out of harm's way.

Shelbyville Shares the Gospel

The Shelbyville, Ky., church spent the month of October sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ through a series of evangelistic meetings featuring speaker Johnny Mosquera.

Despite several setbacks and unfortunate events, attendance averaged 40 per meeting, and

25 percent of those were visitors. At the end of the meetings, two people joined the Shelbyville church by profession of faith, and there were two rebaptisms. There is also continued follow-up with several interests.

More than 50 visitors had the gospel seed planted by the powerful messages Mosquera shared. A group of children also had the gospel presented to them through a well-prepared children's program.

— BY RICH TELLER



Shelbyville members

Louisville First Emphasizes Evangelism

For the second year, the Louisville First church sponsored a mission trip to a foreign country followed by a local evangelistic campaign. This year Oliver Nicholas, Clarence Jennette, Joel Willett, Steve Hamilton, along with Bob Lawson, pastor, presented four sermons each week for four weeks with average attendance of nearly 40.

The meetings were held in the church's auditorium with single topics covered on Wednesday and Friday evenings. On Sabbath evening two topics were covered. Dianne Williams also gave presenta-

tions on the basics of good financial management. Vernon Taylor, Steve Mattingly, Charles Moran, and Mike Sommersell assisted by making the programs run smoothly. Their efforts resulted in the addition of five new members.

— BY CLIFTON KELLER



Clarence Jennette, first elder, welcomed Tammy Braden, Mary Richardson, Allison Burchard, and Samantha and Stephanie Herbst.

Myrtle Grove Begins Festival Ministry

The Myrtle Grove church often refers to itself as “The small church with a big heart.”

In an effort to reach out to people in the area, the church created the festival ministry team. The team’s mission is to place literature into the hands of the people who attend the various annual Wilmington, N.C., street festivals.

The concept was first tested during the weekend of October 1-2, Wilmington’s Riverfest. This is a local celebration of life and culture along the Cape Fear

River, located in the historic downtown Wilmington area. Members of the team set up a distribution booth and took turns manning it at two-hour intervals. *Steps to Christ*, pamphlets such as “Tired of Being Tired,” “Little Tips to Lose Lots of Weight,” “Stop Smoking,” and *Listen* magazines were distributed. In order to entice people to come over to the booth, the team distributed free bottles of cold water. Colorful pencils with the name of the church printed on them were given to children ac-



Members of the Myrtle Grove Festival Ministry team

companying any adult who visited the booth. At the end of the second day, 412 pieces of literature and 178

bottles of water had been distributed.

—BY MARK WADE

West End Goes Afar

The prison ministries team at the West End church in Atlanta, Ga., got its start when an appeal was made after a prison ministry workshop in 1989. Two brothers in Christ answered the call, Harold Davis and Johnny Howard, and since that time the team has grown tremendously.

The team travels hundreds of miles each month to spread the gospel and bring encouraging words, testimonies, songs, and of course the Word of the Living God. They also distribute tracts, *Message Magazine*, and *Steps to Christ*. Some of the places visited are the Pulaski Women’s State Prison, Johnson State Prison, Phillips, Macon, Milledgeville, and Alto State prisons with more to be added in the future. There are also three transitional

centers in the Atlanta area where they visit Rockdale Dekalb, Jimmy Helms, and Gainesville Diversion Center; and one Drug and Alcohol Center, Dekalb Crisis Center. Recently, Johnny Howard started Bible studies on Friday nights at the Federal Penitentiary.

There is also an active correspondence program between the inmates and church members.

After a call for help came from the Pulaski State Women’s Prison, Harold Davis, prison ministries leader, and Calvin Watkins, personal ministries director for the Conference, decided to make this a joint effort for all the personal minis-



Pictured are the members of the West End Prison Ministries team.

tries leaders in the Conference. Now many more churches have joined forces in spreading not only God’s Word but supplying the needs of the women who are incarcerated.

Just recently, 1,253 bars of soap, 100 toothbrushes, 180 tubes of toothpaste, 100 bottles of mouthwash, 200 bottles of body pow-

der, 100 sticks of deodorant, 105 bottles of shampoo, 1,000 tracts, and 600 *Message Magazines* were distributed.

The church appreciates individuals who have a love and concern for those who are incarcerated.

—BY HAROLD DAVIS

Ephesus Church Celebrates Mortgage Burning



Marie Thomas and Veronica Ware burn a copy of the mortgage while Larry Johnson (left) looks on and Linwood Stone gives remarks.

Sabbath, October 1, 2005, members, special guests, family, friends and visitors from sister churches joined in celebrating the burning of the mortgage of the Ephesus church in Reidsville, N.C. Not only was there great rejoicing that the \$84,000 mortgage signed December, 1994, was paid in March, 2005, but this small congregation was very thankful that God also had blessed them to payoff a \$6,000 loan from the Southern Union Revolving Fund that was made earlier this year.

The mortgage burning committee was composed of Oria Long, chairperson; James Cummings; Mary Graves; Wilbert McCollum; Juanita Settle; and Veronica Ware, who planned a program worthy of the occasion.

Former pastors of Ephesus filled most of the speaking assignments, beginning with Daryl Anderson, pastor, of Goldsboro, N.C., for Friday night

vespers, and Richard Long, Sr., of Greensboro, N.C., who taught the Sabbath school lesson, which was most appropriately titled, "The Church at Ephesus."

A special first-person mission story by Eleanor Halterman revealed the caring experience she and her husband, Wilbur, a dialysis patient at

Avante Nursing & Rehabilitation Center, experienced with the Ephesus church, causing them to unite with this little flock.

Founding pastor, Alex Todd, delivered a stirring message for divine worship. The members were encouraged to move forward in faith, to keep living the theme for the celebration, "We've Come This Far by Faith."

The congregation was led in a litany of thanksgiving and dedication, followed by Linwood Stone, Conference treasurer, calling Marie Thomas and Veronica Ware, the leading officers of Ephesus-Reidsville, to set fire to copies of the church mortgage, placed in a beautiful urn loaned by Immanuel Temple. Exclamations of praise broke out in response to this symbol of the church's freedom from all debt, and a solemn prayer was offered by Long rededicating the church building, the members, and those who joined with them in

this deeply moving ceremony.

The members of Ephesus-Reidsville were encouraged by the support of the Southern Union officials, the South Atlantic

Conference officers, staff, and churches. Letters were sent to every church and those who responded helped in large measure to take Ephesus-Reidsville over their goal of \$5,000.

The church also participated in a "Walk for Life" Red Cross fundraiser to assist with relief efforts for the Katrina victims. The participants gathered at Reidsville High School, and mostly were composed of seniors and young children from the Ephesus church.

One of the five seniors, Wilbur Halterman, was brought over by the van from Avante Nursing & Rehabilitation Center. He traveled the complete 3.3 miles in his wheelchair. His wife, Eleanor, walked the route. Marjorie Barton, 82, was not



Henry Wilson (left), Fannie Wilson, Louise Peele, Judyann Fletcher-Cummings, and James Cummings were a part of the joyous celebration.

able to walk very far, but turned in \$50 in sponsor donations of the remaining 17 walkers, of whom 10 were children from ages two through 16.

"Walk for Life" was the idea of the health ministries department at Ephesus, under the leadership of Murial Nesmith. This came as a result of a health weekend, featuring David L. Moore, M.D., who also serves as the Conference's health ministries director. The theme was "God's Plan for Health."

—BY MARIE THOMAS



"Walk for Life" participants pose with Red Cross representative Teresa Harmon (seated left).

Witnessing in the Workplace: We're Being Watched

On the first day of class, in addition to presenting the guidelines for the course, I always introduce myself. This year was no different. In sharing who I am with my



Virginia Tech University accounting students, I mentioned that I have two young adult children. In one class, when I noted that my daughter had interned with KPMG (one of the four largest accounting firms in the world) this past summer, a student raised his hand and asked, "Is her name Summer?" Imagine my amazement.

If I had heard this question when I was on the faculty at Howard University, I still would have been surprised, but not to the same extent. I quickly deduced that the student,

Keith, must have interned at KPMG as well, and his additional comments confirmed my assumption.

After class, Keith shared some observations about Summer. First, he noted that she was among the few interns who didn't go to "happy hour." (He indicated that he didn't go either.) He also told me that she was the only

intern coming from a Christian college. Typically, KPMG recruits students from "select" schools—major public or prestigious private universities. Without question, Summer's being in the group was an anomaly. She was a management major (not an accounting or information systems major), from a *religious* school that had College (and not University) as part of its name.

From Keith's comments, I learned that the interns weren't sure exactly how to relate to someone from a "Christian school." Unbeknownst to Summer, her peers scrutinized her because she was so "different." He sensed that she wasn't intimidated

by being different, though, and concluded that she held her own well.

What a way to start my semester. As a parent committed to Christian education in the face of more "prestigious" alternatives, it is extremely satisfying to get such positive feedback from an outside observer. Certainly, God is still calling us to be a peculiar people—regardless of our age.

Summer, 20, will be completing the degree requirements for a B.S. in management at Oakwood College this fall. She is considering an attractive offer for permanent employment made to her by KPMG.

—BY LYNETTE WOOD

Adventist Lifestyle Can Reduce Stress Among Teachers

When college instructors initially take on the role of being a professor, many underestimate the amount of time, energy, and commitment required to be an effective educator. Some individuals actually envy faculty for their teaching contracts, which allow them to work nine months of the calendar year. However, it is difficult for non-educators to truly appreciate the work involved in being an effective, competent educator, unless they understand the depth and breadth encompassed in their role.

Some educators can become overwhelmed with the degree of responsibility required of them. If left unchecked, this beleaguered feeling can lead to burnout.

The development of a unique study sought to scientifically measure the effect of the NEWSTART (nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest, and trust in divine power) health principles advocated by the Seventh-day Adventist Church in reducing faculty stress. One hundred twenty-four faculty members

from Andrews University, Oakwood College, and Southern Adventist University participated in this landmark study. The results indicated that faculty members who regularly practiced NEWSTART had significantly less stress in two areas.

"Reward and Recognition" dealt with the disparity between external expectations (e.g. teaching and service) and recognition given to faculty.

"Time Constraints" dealt with the number of tasks or activities that faculty members must incor-

porate within their professional lives; for example, meetings, clerical work, telephone calls, and visitor interruptions.

In a world filled with increasing challenges that require knowledgeable, competent faculty to responsibly address these needs, it is good to know that God's health plan can make a positive difference in the lives of faculty within our institutions.

—BY GEORGE ASHLEY, PH.D.

Presentation Given on “Extinct” Woodpecker

Southern Adventist University alumni and students were able to learn about the rediscovery of the ivory-billed woodpecker, presumed extinct since 1944, as part of alumni weekend and of the biology department’s E.O. Grundset lecture series.

When the speaker for the evening, Bobby Harrison, associate professor at Oakwood College, and father of two Southern

students, first learned about the bird, he did not believe it was truly extinct and pursued every lead for 33 years.

Years of searching finally paid off on February 27, 2004, when he and Tim Gallagher, editor of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s *Living Bird* magazine, pursued a lead from Gene Sparling, who said he spotted the bird on Cache River National Wildlife Refuge.

As they searched, the ivory-billed woodpecker flew less than 70 feet in front of them.

“Every time I see the bird, it’s like the first time,” said Harrison, who described for the audience two different sightings of the bird. “It’s an incredible experience.”

The sighting prompted the creation of an ornithology team by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

that secretly investigated the existence of the bird.

Since then a total of at least four different birds are believed to have been spotted in the area. Harrison and others were interviewed about their experience on CBS’s *60 Minutes*.

For more information about this bird, visit www.ivorybill.org.

—NATALIA LOPEZ-THISMON

Academy Students Visit Southern

More than 500 academy students played games, attended performances, and were oriented to college life during this year’s ViewSouthern, September 25-27.

Students spent two days learning about Southern Adventist University through different activities and programming that current Southern students already enjoy.

“The response this year from the academies was tremendous,” says Marc Grundy, associate vice

president for marketing and enrollment services. “This [year] was our best partici-

pation for ViewSouthern ever.”

“The teachers seem to



Academy students line up for dinner during their visit to Southern.

be friendly and care about the students,” commented Lemuel Recinos, a Georgia-Cumberland Academy senior who enjoyed ViewSouthern and is planning to attend Southern next school year.

The events were designed to encourage Southern Union academy seniors to consider a college career at Southern and provide them with a foretaste of college living.

—SEAN REED

Art, Biology to be Studied in Indonesia

A collaboration between Southern Adventist University’s biology department and school of visual art and design will provide students with a new summer study tour opportunity. During a four-week trip to Indonesia, students

will be able to earn six credit hours for a combined course including two classes: tropical biology and design principles.

Students will snorkel and dive to explore the habitat of marine life, paying careful attention

to the displays of color, form, and design. Hiking and caving excursions will allow students to discover the biological aspect of the ecosystem, while also becoming aware of its inherent balance and design.

Biology professors will

teach the biology side of the course, and art professors will teach the design principles portion. Students who go on the trip will be required to take both classes.

—SEAN REED

Southern Emphasizes Missions

Southern Adventist University encouraged others to serve, and highlighted the experience of returned student missionaries during the annual student missions emphasis weekend, held November 4 and 5.

A highlight of the weekend was a student missions expo in the student center where students,

staff, and community members “visited” more than 30 countries. Returned student missionaries and taskforce workers, some wearing native garb, decorated colorful booths with souvenirs, flags, and photos from their mission experiences.

“I liked having all of the information about different countries in the same place,” says Liz Davies, a

senior character animation and graphic design major. “Talking to people who have gone [as student missionaries] before also kind of eases your mind.”

Each year, Southern sends about 100 students to serve in various countries around the world.

—KELLI GAUTHIER



Professor Researching Chemotopology

Southern Adventist University physics professor Ray Hefferlin, along with Guillermo Restrepo, a chemistry professor at the University of Pamplona in Colombia, is at the forefront in researching the rarely investigated field of chemotopology.

Hefferlin describes chemotopology as the study of

patterns in the relationships between chemicals. Discovering these patterns enables Hefferlin and Restrepo to organize molecules according to the repetition of similar properties, much the way atoms are organized on the widely used periodic table.

“The periodic table is only atoms,” says Hefferlin.

“Our research is enabling us to extend the periodic table to include molecules. We’ve completed adding two-atom molecules and are now extending the table to include three-atom molecules.”

The more atoms in a molecule, the more involved the process of determining periodic properties. “It’s like studying

a marriage between three people,” says Restrepo. “It’s very complicated.”

Very few people are doing research in chemotopology, and Hefferlin and Restrepo said they appreciate the opportunity to do joint research. They plan to jointly publish papers on their research in the future.

—SEAN REED

Students “Meet the Firms”

Students investigated internship opportunities, practiced interview skills, and networked with potential employers during the biannual Meet the Firms career fair on November 3.

The event is co-sponsored by the schools of journalism and communication, nursing, business and management, and computing.

“Because of the size of this career fair, compared to those at larger universities, there is more opportunity

for interaction between the businesses and the students,” says Janita Herod, one of the event coordinators.

“I think Meet the Firms is a rare and worthwhile opportunity that Southern has provided for us, because the jobs come to us,” says Alex Spearman, a junior media productions major. “It takes a big burden off our shoulders.”

Students weren’t the only ones who benefited from Meet the Firms. More

than 30 participating businesses were enthusiastic about the opportunity to recruit interns and employees.

Southern has presented Meet the Firms every semester since winter, 2001. Meet the Firms will take place again on February 23.

To find out how your company can participate in the February event, contact Janita Herod at 423-236-2330 or jherod@southern.edu. For more information,

visit meetthefirms.southern.edu.

—KELLI GAUTHIER



Meet the Firms connects students and employers.

Students and Family Share Light through Vespers

Fun, fellowship, faith, and...food. Each Friday night, more than 100 students from Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) and the central Florida area gather to praise God during Son-Set Caf_, a non-traditional

A former restaurateur, Acosta and a group of students prepare a meal of finger foods and snacks. Student musicians and community bands accompany praise songs each week, and speakers from all walks of life and a variety of denominations challenge the students to see the world in a new way.

When Acosta took over the vespers program nearly a year and a half ago, only a small handful of students attended the program. Through the relationships Acosta developed with students during his ministry on campus, he encouraged them to attend the Friday night experience. Acosta also

has students approach him with questions about the Adventist faith.

Pooja Pendharkar was one of those students. She enrolled at FHCHS in the fall of 2003, never guessing that this decision would cause her family ties to be tested. A native

of India, Pooja's life was steeped in Hinduism from an early age. When she moved to the United States with her family in 1998, she explored different religions but couldn't seem to find her niche, so continued to practice Hinduism.

Pooja first learned about FHCHS from a family friend employed by Florida Hospital. She had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, but was interested in the medical field and in studying at a faith-based Christian institution. She began working with SonSet Caf_ a year ago and realized that Christ filled the void that Hinduism could not.

"I began studying the Bible with Reynold so I could learn more about God," said Pooja. "I had a lot of specific questions and instead of trying to give me his version, he would point me to the Bible. Finding answers on my own made a huge difference to me."

Pooja was baptized on July 23, 2005, at

the Forest Lake church. Because of that decision, her parents have stopped paying for her education at FHCHS. However, through the College Grace Fund—designated money to help students in financial need—Pooja was able to register for classes and continue her education.

Acosta and Pooja recently told her story during the Florida Hospital College Sabbath at the Florida Hospital church and were blessed with an anonymous gift of \$3500. "This really showed me that God does care about me and that He's there for me," Pooja said with a smile. Her parents have even begun to accept her new faith, little by little. Pooja knows that regardless of her earthly parents, her Heavenly Father cares for her no matter what circumstances she faces.

—BY KATIE SHAW



Chaplains Stan Dobias (left) and Reynold Acosta celebrate with Pooja after her baptism at the Forest Lake church.

vespers service. The informal program, organized by Reynold Acosta, assistant College chaplain, is a place where all students feel welcome. "We try to make it a neat place for young people to hang out on a Friday night," Acosta remarked.

September 17-24, 2006 Alaskan Inside Passage

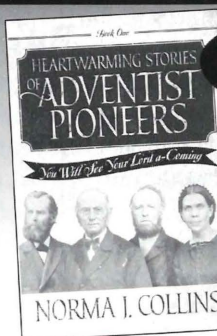
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Adventist Health System and HCA's TriStar Health System Reach Agreement on New Ownership for Tennessee Christian Medical Center

Adventist Health System (AHS) and HCA's TriStar Health System have agreed that TriStar will acquire AHS-owned Tennessee Christian Medical Center, subject to regulatory approval.

The agreement includes a provision that all qualified employees who wish to remain with the medical center under the new ownership can do so. Tennessee Christian has more than 1,000 employees at its Madison campus and more than 300 employees at its Portland campus.

The 311-bed medical center, like many hospitals located in competitive markets across the country, has struggled to attract enough patients to be financially healthy, said Robert R. Henderschedt, chairman of the Tennessee Christian Board of Directors and senior vice president with AHS.

"Tennessee Christian has many strengths and has served this community for many years," Henderschedt noted. "While we regret having to take this action, it became clear that the most responsible deci-

sion was to sell this asset to a new owner that has the critical mass and financial leverage in this market to be successful." TriStar operates 12 hospitals in the region.

Following the customary regulatory review, the closing of the transaction and transfer of ownership would take place by the end of January 2006.

Tennessee Christian CEO Jimm Bunch commented that AHS is "working closely with our local Seventh-day Adventist church to make sure this transition is handled with

the compassion that is central to our values and our faith."

The pending transaction will have no effect on any scheduled patient appointments or surgeries, or community health events and classes. Bunch added. "The public should assume that the facility is operating as usual," he said. Any patient with a question may call 615-860-6600.

—BY KEVIN EDGERTON

R.R. Bietz 1906-2005

On November 6, 2005, R.R. Bietz, at the age of 99, passed away peacefully at his home in Vancouver, Wash. "RR," Reinhold Reinhardt, was born the fourth of nine children, on June 12, 1906, to Daniel and Christina Bietz in Bowden, N.D.

He attended the local church school, Sheyenne River Academy and Union College, graduating in 1931. He and Martha Reisinger, his schoolmate from elementary school through academy, were married in 1931, after her graduation from Glendale Sanitarium School of nursing. She passed away in 1973.

In 1974, He married Vivienne Craig and lived in Walla Walla, Wash., until her passing in 1990. After moving to Portland, Ore., he married Pee Zee Abernathy in 1990. They lived together in Vancouver, Wash., for 15 years until his passing on November 6.

R.R. Bietz's leadership spanned 59 years from 1931, when he was a pastor-

evangelist in Bismarck, N.D., until 1990 when he retired. His early ministry was in youth departmental leadership in Colorado and Michigan until 1943, when he became the president of the Texico Conference. He also served as president in the Southern New England, Southern California, and Pacific Union conferences. In 1968, he

was elected as a general vice president of the General Conference. He retired in 1974 from that position and continued to serve as the director of the Christian Leadership Seminars, traveling worldwide as an educator in Adventist Administration.

Bietz is survived by his wife Pee Zee; two sons: Duane S. Bietz and his wife Eunice of Portland, Ore., Gordon Bietz and his wife Cynthia of Collegedale, Tenn.; four grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.



Touch a Heart, Tell the World

BY DEBBIE RAPP

"Ladies, you know that you add the relational aspect to evangelism that is so needed in these last days." At the close of last year's departmental meetings for the Southern Union, Gordon Retzer, president, attended the graduation gathering on November 18, and encouraged the women's ministries directors of the Union with these words. It was Retzer who inspired the ladies with their future intentional plans of continuing to spread the gospel to expand their thinking from "Tell and Touch" to "Touch a Heart, Tell the World." He said, "This clearly represents what the women of the church really do.... how greatly we recognize your part in all of this."

As the leaders received their certificates for the Level II training they had received that week, Laura Smith, Southern Union director, and Cheryl Retzer, Southern Union women's advisor, were on hand with congratulations for a "job well done" for the leaders who had come for the week ready to get down to business. Smith and Retzer had packed a week full of training so that our Union could be the first to receive the first two levels of leadership training in the North American Division. To focus on the week of "Unwrapping the Gifts of Leadership," they had invited the world women's ministries leader, Heather-Dawn Small.

The newly elected director walked the leaders through an array of subjects in order to be certified at Leadership Level II. She covered in a very professional, yet down-to-earth style, these various topics: How to Hold Effective Seminars, the Philosophy of Women's Ministries,

Principles of Counseling, and Women of the Old Testament. Along with Small's ever present words of wisdom, Nicolle Brise, director for Southeastern Conference, reported 916 baptisms, both here and in Africa in 2005; instructed the directors in the areas of budget and finance, small group ministries and reclaiming members. Both ladies empowered and challenged the leaders to spend continued fervent Bible study time, getting to know the Word and the Master, so that they are able to become women of substance.

As a matter of statistical record, in the World Church, the women



Women's ministries leaders are thanked by Ward Sumpter, executive secretary (back row, left), and Gordon Retzer, president.

around the globe were responsible for 498,000 baptisms in 2005. Small reported this statistic during the week, pointing out that we in the NAD have our work cut out for us. From the looks of it, the conferences in the Southern Union are carrying forth through women's ministries, both at home and abroad, a testimony for Jesus touching and reaching out to claiming souls for His Kingdom. The Lord has abundantly blessed through the Union from the following report. Collectively, women in this union are

stepping out and conducting public evangelistic meetings. A total of 114 training sessions were held in the various conferences.

Evangelistic outreach and reclamation endeavors during 2005 resulted in the following: 1,143 persons baptized into the Church membership (this number includes baptisms in Africa in the Philippines). In the area of former members, 37 were reclaimed. Spiritual retreats numbered 238, with 47 evangelistic/outreach meetings being conducted. A total of 5,819 other meetings were held including prayer breakfasts, seminars, Bible studies, small groups, and special projects. Statistics show that 55,497 Adventist women attended the various events and 11,672 non-members attended.

Perhaps the comments from Ward Sumpter, Southern Union executive secretary, sums up the events. Sumpter has been at the Union, observing the growth of women's ministries from its inception in 1990. When responding to the question of what he thought of our leaders being certified in women's ministries, as he attended the consecration service as well, he said with great conviction, "This gives validity to the program as set forth by the World Church... this means that women's ministries is being recognized as a vital part of the mainstream of the Church. We apologize for being late in recognizing the potential of our women, who comprise 72 percent of our membership and is the largest segment of the Church. And we thank the ladies for their dedication and their impact on the growth of our Church."

President/CEO Werner Announces Retirement

Thomas L. Werner, who has served as president and CEO of Adventist Health System (AHS) since 1999, has announced his plans to retire, effective January 1, 2007. Werner turned 60, December 8.

Werner has more than 37 years of service to Seventh-day Adventist institutional work. He served as president and chief executive officer of Florida Hospital and the Florida Hospital Division from 1984-1999, and executive vice president of AHS. Werner also previously served as president of Walla Walla Hospital in Walla Walla, Wash., and administrator of Tillamook General Hospital

in Tillamook, Oreg. His denominational career started in 1968 as a business professor at Union College in Lincoln, Neb.

During his tenure at AHS, Werner has been instrumental in solidifying the financial growth and stability of the corporation, while remaining committed to the healthcare work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

While addressing employees of Adventist



Health System, Werner said, "Because of your hard work, AHS has enjoyed significant success over the past six years, and the opportunity to retire when things are going well is most attractive. It will be rewarding to be able to stand on the sidelines and cheer your future successes."

The board of directors will elect a new president at the full board meeting on February 23, 2006. Werner expressed his com-

mitment to serve as CEO until such time as the new CEO is ready to assume the responsibility.

Speaking to members of the executive board during their quarterly meeting, board chairman Walter Wright said, "I want to thank Tom for his leadership and also for his unwavering faithfulness to the principles of the Church." In commenting about Werner's successor, Wright said, "Adventist Health System is blessed to have many capable and dedicated leaders, and the future of the organization is secure."

Emory Creates Healing Environment

During the past few months, staff and patients who have visited Emory-Adventist Hospital's campus would have to agree there have been some dramatic changes taking place.

One of the goals of Emory-Adventist Hospital at Smyrna is to provide excellent healthcare, utilizing the principles of whole-person health. Whole-person health includes providing a calming atmosphere for each patient in which all of his needs are met, whether it is physical, spiritual, or emotional. Research shows that healing takes place by not only treating the body, but reaching the mind and the spirit as well.

Sharon Croyle, Foundation coordinator for EAH, reveals the motivation behind the Foundation's support of the renovations.

"The Foundation board members supported the idea of 'Holistic Health,' and wanted each room to reflect this concept. It was top priority that the patient rooms and other revamped areas offer an environment of healing for guests, in addition to providing visual beauty."

Although there have been many challenges to this massive project (one of which is coordinating remodeling projects to be minimally disruptive to patients and staff), the benefits of the project have

been recognizably great. Many people have expressed their gratitude for the improvements, from the artwork hung in the corridors, to the hardwood-type floors and lighting fixtures in the patients rooms.

"When we set out to design the new rooms, it was our goal to have people feel like they were staying in the comfort of a hotel rather than an average hospital room," says Peggy Seckler, vice president of business development. "In the Medical Arts Building, we wanted the remodeling project to reflect our mission statement, so the



phrase "Hope... Health... Healing" was mounted on the lobby wall of the Medical Arts Building. It is the first thing patients and their families see when they walk through the door, and it does an effective job of setting a positive tone for their visit."

—BY SUSIE DUBOSQUE



"The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few."

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Kittens In Ministry

BY LISA FREEMAN



Ten years ago, I joined Care Feline Rescue, a volunteer group in Orlando, Florida. This non-profit organization offers assistance for people helping stray, feral, and abandoned cats. Working with Orange County Animal Services, we have had more than 12,000 cats spayed, neutered, vaccinated, and tested for diseases since October 1995.

When I started to serve the community in this way, I never dreamed of the doors God would open for me to share His love. First, I began using

God's kittens in ministry at church. I often provide foster care for newborn or special need kittens, so I thought, "If the Lord keeps sending them to me, I'll keep putting them to work for Him."

Kittens have helped me teach children about creation versus evolution. They've

helped me illustrate how much God—who notices even the smallest sparrow (and kitten)—loves us. A partially blind kitten has taught lessons about disabilities ministries.

I also take bottle-fed newborns to work with me where fellow employees will come to my department on breaks to see "the babies."

One day, Deborah was watching the kittens sleep when I walked up beside her. "Isn't God amazing? All those veins, lungs, a tiny heart, and a nervous system tucked into a three-ounce kitten," I said.

"He sure is," she replied.

With the door of friendship opened, Deborah felt comfortable asking me questions about health issues and vegetarianism. She stopped smoking and began to make changes in her diet. I could see the Holy Spirit working on her. Deborah was ultimately diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and died. However, I hope to see her again some day in Heaven.

Kittens were also the link that brought another great friend into my life who thought of me as his daughter. Chuck was a legally blind, homeless gentleman who lived in a shed at the car wash where a large feral colony was located. He watched over my kittens and called me anytime new kittens showed up or a cat was injured.

Like most homeless people, Chuck began to drink. I helped him get into a detox program and had his dog, Boo Boo, boarded while he was there. For five years, Chuck and I had many conversations about God. I could never convince him, however, that God didn't care what kind of clothes he wore to church. He refused my offers for new clothes, yet, accepted the blankets and food I'd bring for him and Boo Boo.

When Chuck died this past May, one feral colony

of kittens and I lost a caring friend.

Then, there was my friend Susan who adopted a young female cat after it tested positive for feline leukemia. The kitten died last year on Christmas eve. Susan was very upset, and we talked throughout Christmas day as I tried to help get her through this rough time. When she told me how angry she was with God for allowing this little cat to die, I reminded her that "God is hurting too."

I told Susan, "He created her and never wants any of His creatures to die. It's because of sin that disease and death are here. God sent His Son so we can have the hope of being with Him in a world made new with no death or sadness." As we visited, Susan kept saying, "Wow! I didn't know that."

I have to admit, I've encountered a lot of sadness because of my love for animals, yet, I've experienced many more happy endings. As long as God keeps sending kittens my way, I will continue to share His truth with those who bring them.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE FREEMAN FAMILY

Lisa Freeman, a south Orlando church member, has shown love to hundreds of foster kittens through the years. One of her favorites, Tater Tot (inset), stole her heart, then died when he was less than five months old.



Lisa and Everitte Freeman's adopted children (a niece and two nephews). Denver (right), Montana, and Chris help care for the foster kittens that mom and, sometimes, dad bring home.

One Century — One Calling

BY DIANA HARDIN

It seems difficult to imagine what Madison, Tennessee must have looked like 100 years ago. Charged by their own convictions, educators Edward Sutherland and Percy Magan resigned their positions at the college in Battle Creek, Michigan to establish a work in the South. So it was that Ellen White, Sutherland, Magan, and a few others ended up on the Cumberland River near Nashville,



Percy T. Magan

Tennessee on her son Edson's river steamer, the *Morning Star*, in the Spring of 1904.

On the first day of their journey, there was a breakdown of the boat's machinery, and Edson anchored at Neely's Bend and Larkin Springs in Madison, Tennessee. W. O. Palmer took Mrs. White up on the bank of the river and pointed out to her an adjoining plantation. Sutherland and Magan had already disregarded this property as a suitable location for their school, based upon its limestone rock, its location, its size, and its cost of \$12,700.00.

White persisted, and with uncertain hearts, the men decided they could not proceed in the Lord's work unless they accepted his will. Mrs. White agreed to serve on their board to help them. It was the only time she agreed to become a member of the Board of Trustees of any institution, and she remained on the board of Madison Sanitarium and Hospital

and Madison College until 1914.

In 1906 a church company was organized in the Old Plantation House parlor of the Madison Institution. Percy T. Magan served as the first pastor. By 1941 the church held the largest membership in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. In 1971 the church moved into its present sanctuary on Larkin Springs Road.

In 1908 Mrs. White stated that if the Madison plan were properly expanded and faithfully carried out, "we as a people would be a spectacle to the world, to angels, and to men." The Lord led in his establishment of the work in Madison, and from this hill, a light was shining.

The Madison *project* today also includes Madison Campus Elementary School, Madison Academy, Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia, and Tennessee Christian Medical Center. Today, with a membership of 1400, the members of the Madison Campus church (MCC) mimic the desire of its founders one hundred years ago, to proclaim, reclaim, and sustain the ministry in this community. Such was the goal in opening MCC's new family life wing in the summer of 2005.

On Sabbath, March 11, 2006, exactly 100 years to the day, MCC will hold a weekend Centennial Celebration of Praise and Thanksgiving. Weekend festivities are scheduled to include keynote speakers, current senior pastor, Lynn Schlisner, and James

Nix of the Ellen G. White Estate. Also scheduled are the children of Madison Campus Elementary dramatizing the history of the Madison project, music and worship, food, fellowship, and a display of records and archives from the original Madison fellowship.

From God's simple farm to God's gracious design, from the *Morning Star* to a beacon on the hill, God's work will not be halted. The founders of the Madison project stepped out by faith on the word of the Lord. Not by sight could they see in this worn-out, impoverished farm the promise of that magnificent institution-to-be, with its schools, sanitarium and industries, outschools that were to come from it, and its influence around the world.

More information about Madison Campus Church's Centennial Celebration, as well as a list of pastors for the past 100 years and archival documents can be found at www.madisoncampus.org.



Old Plantation House



It's All About Service

BY FRED A. PULLINS

Oakwood College's President, Dr. Delbert Baker, was visibly pleased as morning clouds yielded to a sunny temperate Sabbath afternoon that became the backdrop for the dedication ceremony of The Cross, the Christ, and Simon of Cyrene Monument. This memorial to service now stands in the center of Centennial Plaza. October 22, 2005 had been long awaited and culminated almost seven years of selecting the symbol, designing, and sculpturing the magnificent larger-than-life-size bronze artwork to grace the eastern quadrangle of the campus.

Charles D. Brooks, pastor, was the featured Sabbath morning speaker who profoundly encouraged the more than 2000 in the congregation to be crossbearers for Christ and one another. After the worship service,

several hundred worshipers walked from the church to Centennial Plaza where Attorney Wilbur Colom and his wife, the principal donors for the sculpture; Alan Collins, the artist; board of trustee members; church and college personnel unveiled and dedicated the sculpture as a witnessing tool for God's service until He returns in the clouds of glory. Its beauty, exquisite life-like detail, and realistic rendering of the roughly-hewn beams of the cross inspired a momentary silence followed by unprompted sighs of amazement and a crescendo of spontaneous applause.

The scale of the monument is impressive, standing approximately 10 feet in height and set atop a rough stone stage two feet high, 18 feet long, and eight feet wide.

Four sidewalks, representing the four-points on the compass, serve as paths leading to the foot of the cross. States Baker, "It is a witnessing tool that graphically illustrates the biblical story of Simon of Cyrene's life-changing encounter with Christ as he helped Him bear the cross to Calvary." Simon was a black man from northern Africa. Consequently, this historical fact makes the sculpture and the episode it commemorates of increased significance on a Historically Black College campus.

Alan Collins, a renowned sculptor who has served as professor of art at several Adventist universities, was commissioned to create the work. Collins' sculptures are also featured on

Andrews, La Sierra and Loma Linda University campuses. The sheer beauty and inspirational impact of all his creations testify that he is innately talented and heavenly gifted to make stone and metal

speak in such thunderous inaudible tones to the reality, relevance and reliability of the Holy Scriptures.

Joshua was instructed by God to erect a monument of stones to commemorate the Israelites' crossing of the Jordan. This pile of stones was to serve as a visual reminder to the nation and its posterity of God's omnipotent power and miraculous deliverance. In the same vein, The Christ, the Cross, and Simon of Cyrene Monument is to remind its admirers of the College's mission – "... to prepare leaders in service to God and humanity." Hopefully, when future generations of young people ask about the meaning of the monument, the answers they receive will serve as motivation to dedicate their lives in selfless Christian service.



Monument unveiling: James Hamer (back, left), physical plant director; Don Schneider, president of the North American Division; Alan Collins, sculptor; Delbert Baker, president; and Attorney Wilbur Colom.



Delbert Baker, president of Oakwood College, opens the dedication service. He is accompanied by Carlos Cole (far left), director of Oakwood grounds department; Mervyn Warren, provost; Attorney and Mrs. Wilbur Colom, principal donors to the project; Alan Collins, sculptor; and James Hamer, physical plant director.



RHONDA BURNHAM

This past summer, Robbie purchased a new race bike and began training again while on a family vacation in Minnesota.

Comeback Kid Rides Again

BY MARTIN BUTLER

Last April, Robbie Burnham completed minor adjustments to the gears on his 10-speed bike, put on a helmet, and pedaled into the family's Apopka, Florida, neighborhood for a test run. As he rounded a corner, a van drifted into his lane and hit him head-on.

Robbie's shoulder caught the front of the van before he flew up over the hood and shattered the windshield with his head. The helmet spared him of serious head injuries, however, a gouge in his left shoulder "looked like a shark bite" says his mother, Rhonda. Three surgeries followed to insert a steel pin in his collarbone, reattach ligaments, reconstruct muscles, and begin skin grafts.

His parents, Tim and Rhonda Burnham, agreed, "the Lord protected him," and Robbie explained, "a friend of mine had a skateboarding accident and his head injury scared me into

always wearing a helmet—even on a test run around the block. It saved my life."

Three weeks after the accident, with his left arm in a sling, the junior Forest Lake Academy (FLA) String Ensemble cello player mentored young musicians at the Florida Conference Elementary School Festival of the Arts and played in the orchestra with them.

"I don't know how he did it," says Forest Lake Principal John Wheaton. "It was sheer determination, but he kept going." Four weeks later, Robbie placed a skin graft surgery on hold "so he could play with his graduating friends in their final concert of the school year," says his mom, the string ensemble's conductor.

His summer schedule included work, a chemistry class, physical therapy on his shoulder, purchasing and test riding a new bike, and serious cello practice. In September, Robbie visited Southern Adventist University with some of his senior classmates where he auditioned for—and won—a music scholarship for the 2006-2007 school year.

"Obviously, music is a big part of Robbie's life," says Principal Wheaton, "however, he is very well balanced. He's focus driven, whether it's in mountain climbing, endurance bicycle racing, or

studying. He is a member of the National Honor Society, on the Principal's Scholars list, a hard student worker in the FLA administrative offices, and a nice, all-around, outstanding senior."

In November, Robbie rode the Horrible Hundred Race, a 100-mile bicycle endurance event in Clermont, Florida, that attracts participants from throughout the southeast. On the final ascent of the hilly course, he passed a known triathlon rider by the side of the road who muttered, "I can't take it anymore. I'm done. I called my wife, and I'm going home."

Robbie completed the race with a strong finish. If only his opponents had known about the personal mountains this young man had climbed in the past five months, there may have been a 2005 Comeback Kid award presented that day.



LINSEY WEIGLEY

Robbie Burnham won the Judges' Grand Prize and first place in the classical music division at the Forest Lake Academy talent show, November 12. The senior cello player was accompanied by his mother, Rhonda, who is conductor of the school's string ensemble.



CHIP EVERTS

Three weeks after his accident, Robbie mentored young musicians at the Florida Conference Elementary School Festival of the Arts and played in the orchestra with them.

Obituaries

ADAMS, Ann (Weeks), 58, died July 30, 2004 in Dyersburg, TN. For several years, Ann was an active leader in the Dyersburg church as chairperson of the activities committee, and church pianist and organist. She was also an assistant teacher in the Dyer County Schools.

ALLEN, John Thomas, Sr., 84, born Oct. 19, 1920 in Tuscaloosa, AL, died Oct. 29, 2004 in Bay Minette, AL. He was a member of the Fairhope church.

ARDUINO, Lino, M.D., 90, born Dec. 18, 1914, died Feb. 13, 2005. He was a member of the Deltona, FL, church.

BAGLEY, Florence, 94, born May 15, 1910, died Feb. 5, 2005. She was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

BAILEY, Shirley Ann, 58, died Mar. 8, 2005. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

BECK, Roberta, 94, born April 22, 1910 in Warren County, KY, died April 20, 2005 in Bowling Green, KY. She was a member of the Sand Hill church.

BENNETT, Norman Norton, 93, born Sept. 25, 1910 in Rose Mount, St. Mary, Jamaica; died Sept. 2, 2004 in Ocala, FL. He was a member of the Silver Springs Shores church in Ocala.

BLALOCK, James Perry, 80, born Feb. 6, 1925 died Feb. 17, 2005. He was a member of the Wimbish Road church in Macon, GA.

BOOTHBY, Marion, 87, born Aug. 27, 1917, died March 4, 2005. She was a member of the Mt. Dora, FL, church. She was nurse at Hinsdale Hospital in Illinois, and Florida Hospital.

BROTHERS, Tracey, 27, born Oct. 13, 1977, died July 5, 2005. She was a member of the Port Charlotte, FL, church.

BRYANT, Arthur, 85, born March 15, 1919 in Hill Top, KY, died Jan. 23, 2005 in Stearns, KY. He was a member of the Stearns church.

CAVALERI, Patricia Lynn, 52, born Dec. 14, 1952 in Detroit, MI, died April 28, 2005 in Henderson, KY. She was a member of the Henderson church.

CHENEY, Ken, 82, born July 2, 1922, died Nov. 7, 2004 in Leeds, AL. He was a member of the Birmingham Roebuck church. Company, Dunnellon, FL.

CUNNINGHAM, Robert L., 86, born in 1919, died Oct. 28, 2004 in Big Bend, WV. Head copy editor of the Review for 35 years.

DAVIS, Martin R., 79, born Sept. 21, 1925 in Southerland, IA, died Jan. 6, 2005 in Woodbury, TN. He was a member of the Woodbury church. He worked 42 years at Southern Publishing and Review and Herald as Bindery Foreman, and retired from the Review & Herald in 1987.

DAVIS, Mary Lou, died Oct. 17, 2004. She was a member of the Birmingham Roebuck church.

DUCKETT, Margery, 96, born Dec. 21, 1914 in Warren County, died April 29, 2004 at the Colonial Manor Nursing Home in Bowling Green, KY. She was a member of the Sand Hill church.

DUCKWORTH, Virginia, 87, born July 17, 1917, died Feb. 5, 2005. She was a member of the Wimbish Road church in Macon, GA.

ECCLES, Elfreda, 87, born Oct. 19, 1917 in Jamaica, died Oct. 29, 2004 in Winter Park, FL. She was a member of the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park.

EDGECOMBE, Rita, 66, born Oct. 30, 1937, died Sept. 26, 2004. She was a member of the Deltona, FL, church.

FANCHER, Edith K, 89, born April 29, 1915 died Feb. 7, 2005. She was a member of the Wimbish Road church in Macon, GA.

FOOTE, Robert, 65, born Sept. 9, 1939, died Feb. 3, 2005. He was a member of the Daytona Beach, FL, church.

GACKENHEIMER, Bernice Marie, 96, born March 11, 1909, died May 11, 2005. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

GAULD, Reginald, 79, born Dec. 23, 1924 in Barbados, West Indies, died Aug. 8, 2004 in Nashville TN. He was a member of the Nashville First church.

GILSTRAP, Mary, 83, born June 25, 1922 in the Jackson County, FL, died April 7, 2005 in Jackson County, Florida. She was a faithful member of the Nashville First church.

GOODACRE, William, 87, born March 26, 1917, died Nov. 22, 2004. He was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

GORLEY, Melvin, 86, born May 25, 1919 in Cason County, died June 3, 2005 at the University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center in Lexington. He was a member of the Grove church in Kings Mountain, KY.

GRAY, Lyle, 90, born Aug. 1, 1914 in Greenfield

WI, died Dec. 24, 2004 in Dayton, TN. He served his country in the Army during WWII and was a church schoolteacher. He was a member of the Floral Crest church.

GRAY, Rose, 67, born April 15, 1937, died Jan. 21, 2005. She was a member of the Deltona, FL, church.

GREBEY, Mildred E., 88, born April 14, 1917, died May 17, 2005. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 61 years.

GUNTER, Oliver Lee, Sr., 84, born Aug. 4, 1920, died Oct. 14, 2004. He was a member of the Albany, GA, church where he served on the church board, was an elder, health minister, and taught Sabbath school.

HARDEN, Russell, 69, May 17, 1935, died March 7, 2005. He was a member of the Dunnellon, FL, company.

HARRIS, Ernest, 74, born April 29, 1930, died Dec. 8, 2004. He was a member of the Walker Memorial church in Avon Park, FL.

HAYES, John E., 73, born June 13, 1931 in Kingston Springs, TN, died Feb. 27, 2005 in Nashville, TN. He was a member of the Nashville First church.

HENDERSON, Anna Jones, 98, born March 8, 1907, died May 23, 2005. She was a member of the Lawrenceburg, TN, church and taught at the Lawrenceburg church school for many years.

HERRERA, Dick, 54, born Feb. 27, 1951 in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, died June 11, 2005 in Nashville, TN. He was a member of the Nashville Hispanic church.

JEMISON, Hedwig Nagele, 92, died April 5, 2005. She was a member of the Greeneville, TN, church. She retired from the E.G. White Estate in Berrien Springs, MI, where she served as associate director. She also worked at the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs.

JONES, Alex, 54, born Nov. 30, 1950, died May 3, 2005. He was a member of the Gainesville, FL, church.

KATHKA, Eunice, 88, born Dec. 29, 1915 in Oberlin, KS, died July 19, 2004 in Mt. Juliet, TN. She was a longtime member of the Nashville First church.

KEELE, Arlie William, 88, born Jan. 28, 1917, died April 30, 2005. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church. He worked as a building superintendent at Southern Adventist University for 25 years.

Obituaries

KOVALSKI, Elizabeth, 81, born Jan. 13, 1924, died March 2, 2005. She was a member of the Deltona, FL, church.

KRALL, Fred, 79, born May 17, 1925, died Dec. 4, 2004. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church. He volunteered with ADRA and Maranatha Volunteers International for more than 13 years.

LESTER, Kelsie, 84, born April 7, 1920 in Belcher, KY, died Jan. 8, 2005 in Pikeville, KY. She was a member of the Belcher church.

LINDSEY, Harriet Elizabeth, 85, born Jan. 21, 1920, died Feb. 11, 2005 in Natchez, MS. She was member of the Conference church.

LLOYD, Alice Allen Hill, 68, died April 28, 2005. She was a member of the Greeneville, TN, church.

LUTTMAN, Leonard Virgil, 78, born Jan. 10, 1927, died Jan. 26, 2005. He was a member of the Pikeville, TN, church.

METCALFE, Robert, 84, born Feb. 21, 1921, died July 5, 2005. He was a member of the East Pasco church, Zephyrhills, FL.

MILLER, Josephine, 85, born 1919, died Jan. 18, 2005. She was a member of the St. Petersburg, FL, church.

MILLS, Lena Mae C., 89, born Feb. 15, 1916 in Falcon, TN, died March 19, 2005 in Byhalia, MS. She was a member of the Memphis First church for 55 years.

MORGAN, Gloria, 58, born April 23, 1946, died March 15, 2005. She was a member of the Palmetto, FL, church.

MUTSCHLER, Paula, 95, born 1909, died Dec. 14, 2004. She was a member of the Forest Lake church in Apopka, FL.

NEW, Esther B., 83, born Dec. 21, 1921 in Hill Top, KY, died March 21, 2005 in Stearns, KY. She was a member of the Stearns church.

NEWLON, James G., 84, born Oct. 6, 1921 died March 10, 2005. He was a member of the Cherokee church in Woodstock, GA.

OSWALT, William, 71, born June 28, 1933, died Oct. 28, 2004 in Northport, AL. He was a member of the Tuscaloosa Skyland church.

PEREZ, Pearl, 88, born March 29, 1916, died Nov. 28, 2004. She was a member of the Forest Lake church in Apopka, FL.

PHARO, Joseph Anderson, 35, born April 2,

1969, died Jan. 5, 2005. He was a member of the Brazilian College Park church in Maryland.

PINEIRO, Efrain, 79, born May 29, 1925, died Dec. 7, 2004. He was a member of the Forest Lake church in Apopka, FL. He was employed by Madison College in Tennessee, and from 1968 until his retirement, he was employed by Adventist Health System.

RICKETTS, Katherine, 78, born Jan. 31, 1926, died Dec. 22, 2004. She was a homemaker and mother to two girls and eight boys.

ROACH, Cherie Ann Proffitt, 44, born April 28, 1960, died Aug. 12, 2005. She was a member of the First Lithonia, GA, church.

ROYALTY, Harold, 79, born Dec. 4, 1925, died Jan. 4, 2005. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, church.

SANFORD, Mary, 82, born April 12, 1922 in Jacksonville, FL, died Oct. 22, 2004 in Jacksonville. She was a member of the Jacksonville church.

SATTERFIELD, Clara Hortense, 78, born Oct. 23, 1926, died June 6, 2005. She was a member of the Fannin County, GA, church.

SCHLENKER, Gertrude, 90, born Sept. 21, 1914, died Oct. 2004. She was a member of the St. Petersburg, FL, First church.

SHEPARD, Pearl, 78, born July 30, 1926, died Jan. 25, 2005. She was a member of the St. Petersburg, FL, church.

SOLOMON, Eva, 92, born Nov. 18, 1912, died Jan. 3, 2005 in Opp, AL. She was a member of the Andalusia church.

SPEARS, Brenda Lynette Ross, 57, of Cannonsburg, died Dec. 19, 2004 in St. John's Anderson Hospital in Anderson, IN. In 1973, Brenda joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church, serving in a multitude of capacities, including being responsible for the opening of the Ashland SDA Christian School. She began work at KDMC Pharmacy in 1971 and then as Cardiovascular Technician in 1983. She worked in this department until 1999, after being forced to retire due to her illness known as Lou Gehrig's disease.

SWAIN, Joseph (Joe) Langford, Jr., 84, born June 28, 1920, died Jan. 13, 2005 in Meridian, MS. He was a member of the Meridian First church.

THOMPSON, Audrey Beatrice, 87, born Aug. 9, 1917 in Olive Hill, TN, died in the Crockett Hospital on March 12, 2005. She was a member of the Waynesboro church.

WENNERBERG, Floyd William, 87, born Sept. 1, 1917 in Chicago, IL, died Sept. 17, 2004 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte church.

WERMUTH, Ruth, 83, born April 12, 1921, died Jan. 8, 2005. She was a member of the St. Petersburg, FL, church.

WEST, Mary, 77, born Oct. 28, 1927, died Jan. 15, 2005. She was a member of the Brandon, FL, church.

WEST, Roy Edwin, 72, born March 31, 1933 in Ottumwa, IA, died May 5, 2005 in Indian Mound, TN. He was a member of the Clarksville church.

WOOD, Mildred, 79, born Sept. 22, 1925 in Estill Springs, TN, died May 8, 2005. She was a member of the Bordeaux church since 1956 and worked at the Southern Publishing House for 13 years.

WOODALL, Preston Donald, 85, born Oct. 28, 1919 in Wilmington, DE, died Nov. 10, 2004 in Ft. Payne, AL. He was a member of the Ft. Payne church.

WRIGHT, Geneva, 83, born May 31, 1921 in McCreary County, died April 12, 2005 in Zephyrhills, FL. She was a member of the Stearns church.

ZETKO, Joe, 93, born Feb. 29, 1912 in Frontenac, KS, died June 8, 2005 at Pewee Valley, KY. He was a member of the Pewee Valley church.

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Pathfinder Council --- Jan. 6-8. Nosoca.

Ministerial Worker's Meeting --- Jan. 8-11. Nosoca.

Lay Pastoral Assistant Training --- Jan. 13-15. Nosoca.

Lay Advisory Retreat --- Jan. 20,21. Nosoca.

Lay Evangelism Training --- Feb. 3-5. Nosoca.

Romance at the Ranch --- Feb. 10-12. Nosoca.

Florida

Complete calendar online--
<http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>

Florida Pathfinder Events--
<http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call (407) 644-5000 x127.

Singles' Ministries Events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more.
<http://www.asamcf.org/>, melody.west@ahss.org, or (407) 292-1421.

Women's Ministries' Retreats

Feb. 3-5. Camp Kulaqua. English.

Feb. 10-12. Camp Kulaqua. English.

Feb. 17-19. Camp Kulaqua. Spanish.

Feb. 24-26. Cocoa Beach Doubletree Hotel. English.

Sabbath School and Children's Ministries Workshop--Feb.

4. Naples Church. Details: michelle@crombie.ws or (239) 304-7576.

Florida Adventist Book Center --Winter Park: (800) 765-6955. Miami: (305) 805-9900. High Springs: (386) 454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

Spanish-language Family and Children's Ministries Leaders' Retreat--Feb. 10-12. Pine Lake Retreat, Groveland. Details: (407) 644-5000 x138

Estate Services Clinics and Seminars -- Feb. 18, 19. Daytona Beach.

Orlando Junior Academy 100th Anniversary

Homecoming--Feb. 18, 19, 2006. Orlando Junior Academy..

Details: (407) 898-1251.

Men's Ministries Convention --March 3-5. Camp Kulaqua. Details: (407) 618-0265.

Georgia-Cumberland

Adventurer Director's Council--Jan. 7. Cohutta Springs.

Pathfinder Director's Council--Jan. 8. Cohutta Springs.

Church Ministries Training Workshop--Jan. 14. Albany, Ga.

Pathfinder Teen Bible Camp Spiritual Weekend Jan. 20-22. Cohutta Springs. Jan. 27-29. Locust Springs, Greenville, TN.

Elder's Certification Training--Jan. 27-29. Cohutta Springs.

Cordele Evangelism Rally--Jan. 28. Oglethorpe, Ga.

Radio Summit II--Jan. 29. Cohutta Springs.

Personal Ministries Workshop--Feb. 4. Pine Mountain Valley, Ga.

High School Retreat--Feb. 10-12. Cohutta Springs.

Regional Health Rally--Feb. 11. Center Grove Church.

Boot Camp Training for Family Ministries Leaders--Feb. 11-12. Cohutta Springs.

Pathfinder Bible Bowl--Feb. 18. Carman Adventist School.

GCC Children's Ministries Convention--Feb. 24-26. Cohutta Springs.

Regional Prison Ministries Rally--Feb. 25. Cookeville, Tenn., church.

Evangelistic Meetings Jan. 3-14--Walter Veith. Chattanooga Holiday Inn. Feb. 18-March 18--BJ Boles. Dalton, Ga. www.discoverprophecyseminars.com

Gulf States

Teen Invitational Caving --- Jan. 27-29.

Conference Education Day Fair --- Feb. 5, 6. Camp Alamisco.

NADEI Training Public Evangelism --- Feb. 10-12. Camp Alamisco.

Honors Weekend --- Feb. 17-19. Camp Alamisco.

Elders' Training --- Feb. 17-19.

Camp Alamisco.

NADEI Public Evangelism --- March 3-5. Camp Alamisco.

Extreme Cross Examination --- March 3-5. Huntsville.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board and Executive Committee

Jan. 17. March 15. May 16.

Highland Academy Board Jan. 19. March 16. May 11.

Madison Academy Board Jan. 19. March 11.

Disaster Response Training --- Jan. 13-15. Indian Creek.

Couples' Retreat --- Feb. 10-12. Indian Creek.

Southern Adventist University

Classes begin--Jan. 9.

Student Week of Prayer--Jan. 23-27.

Announcements

Spokane Junior Academy Class of 1957 --- Anticipating a 50-year class reunion at SJA Homecoming in 2007, I would like to get in touch with the students who moved through the grades at SJA with us, whether they graduated in 1957 or not. If you have contact information for any of our classmates, please get it to Nadine Platner Dower at dickandnadine@comcast.net or call: 360-828-7146; or 13000 NW 47th Ave., Vancouver, WA 98685.

1956 Thunderbird Adventist Academy Graduates: We are trying to locate all of the

Thunderbird Adventist Academy Graduates of 1956 for our 50th reunion meeting. Please write to: Eugene Wahlman, 12223 N. 39th Way, Phoenix, AZ 85032; or call 602-867-0264; or email: genenan@mailstation.com

Granger, Washington SDA Church Celebrating 100th Anniversary -- July 28, 29. Yakima Valley Academy and Granger Jr. Academy reunion held in conjunction. Details: www.grangersda.com; Email: pat@grangersda.com; Address: Granger SDA Church, P.O. Box 460, Granger, WA 98932; Phone: 509-854-1132 or 509-837-4092.

Adventist Single Adult Ministries (ASAM) Conference -- March 22. Attend the country's largest training event for Single Adult Ministries leaders at the interdenominational SAM Convention, March 23-25, following the 3rd Annual Adventist SAM Leadership Training Conference March 22. Both will be held in Phoenix, AZ. Featured speakers are Dr. Hyveth Williams and Dr. Dick Stenbakken, NAD ASAM Coordinator. Contact PlusLine at 800-732-7587 or go to <http://plusline.org/events> for registration information. The ASAM website is <http://www.AdventistSingleAdultMinistries.org/> Don Schneider, NAD President, said: "I am looking forward to thousands of lives being touched by Jesus through Adventist Single Adult Ministries. I encourage EVERY pastor, church, and conference to work together to help ASAM affect lives for eternity."

	Dec. 30	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Feb. 3
Atlanta, GA	5:40	5:45	5:52	5:58	6:05	6:12
Charleston, SC	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:56
Charlotte, NC	5:22	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:48	5:55
Collegedale, TN	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:12
Huntsville, AL	4:46	4:52	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:19
Jackson, MS	5:06	5:12	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:37
Louisville, KY	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:10
Memphis, TN	4:59	5:04	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:32
Miami, FL	5:41	5:46	5:51	5:57	6:02	6:07
Montgomery, AL	4:51	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:15	5:22
Nashville, TN	4:43	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17
Orlando, FL	5:40	5:45	5:51	5:56	6:02	6:08
Wilmington, NC	5:13	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:45

Connect with those who Care

Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center Connect with those who Care Throughout the World

For all of their 100-year history, Loma Linda University and Loma Linda University Medical Center have been involved in multiple international health care initiatives, including operating the Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan, and the Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China, both major teaching facilities.

Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Hangzhou, China

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Clinical & Administration Consultant - MD

Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan

Loma Linda's interest in continuing medical education programs internationally encouraged the Afghanistan Ministry of Health to ask if Loma Linda would consider operating the Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital and upgrade the facility to the equivalent of a progressive American community hospital. Thus, a teaching center, named the Loma Linda Center, was constructed at Kabul Medical University in existing space. Now a 200-bed teaching facility, Kabul Medical Institute continues to provide continuing education programs to health care professionals.

Wazir Akbar Kahn Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan has the following opportunity available:

International Nurse Specialist

Loma Linda University Medical Center offers a variety of benefits for its international employees including: housing assistance, travel stipend, and comprehensive health care plans.

For more information about these and other available positions, please visit www.llu.edu/hrm or contact or Human Resources Department at 1-800-722-2770.



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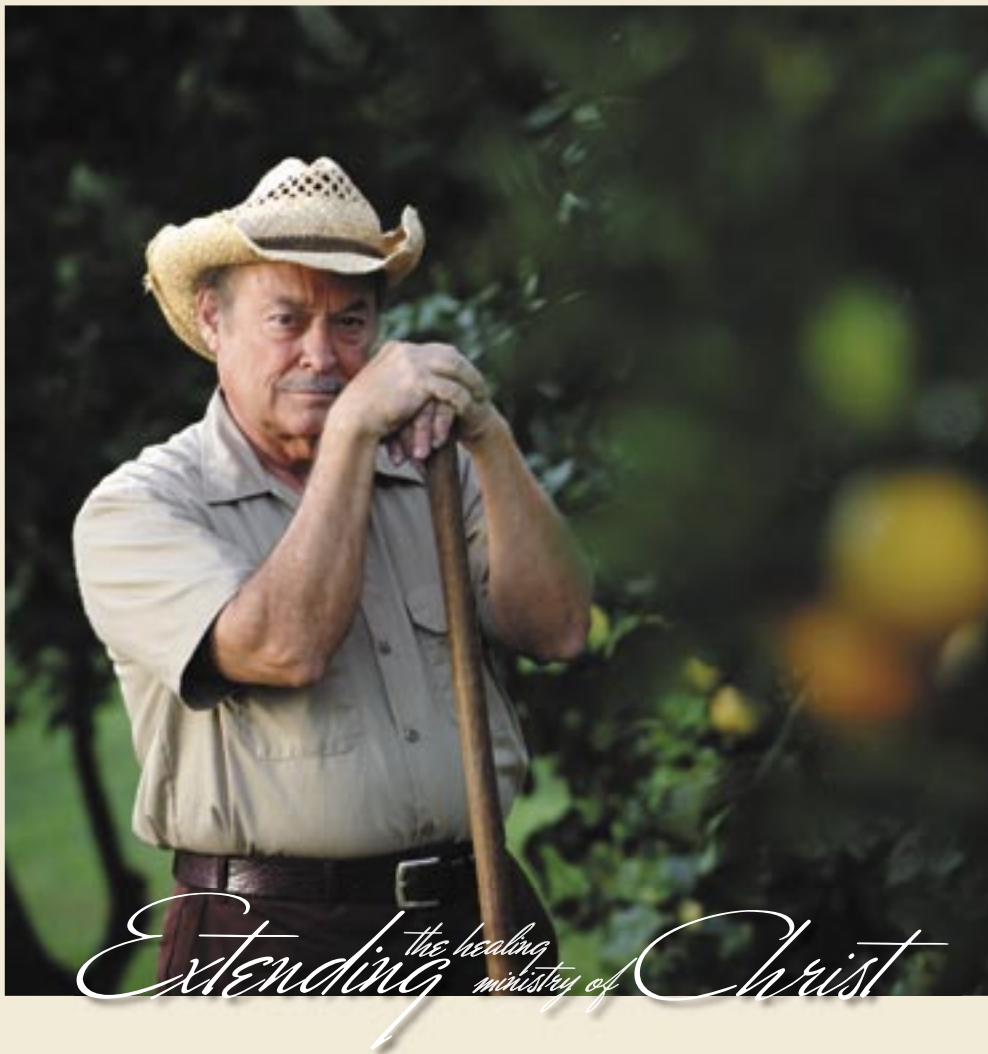
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