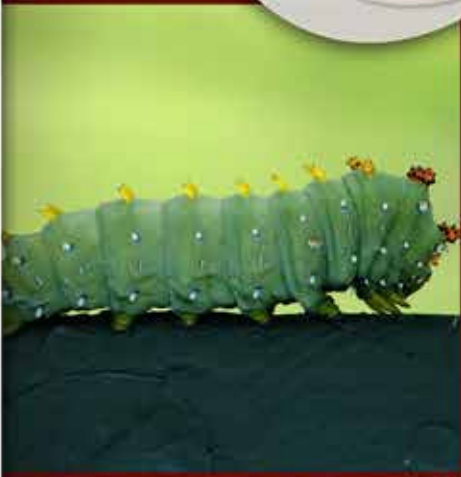


SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

APRIL 2015



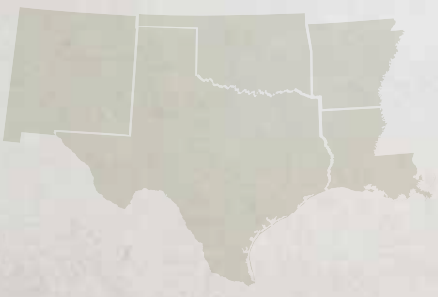
Hidden Critters Contest

see p. 14

You could win a FREE week at camp!



ANNUAL SUMMER CAMP AND CAMP MEETING ISSUE



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On the Cover

God has created so many amazing and delightful insects and “creepy crawlies” from which we can learn amazing lessons about ourselves and about God! Find all of the hidden insects in this special summer camp issue and you will have the chance to win a free week at summer camp! See the details on page 14.





Point of View»



BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT

Let's Make It Happen!

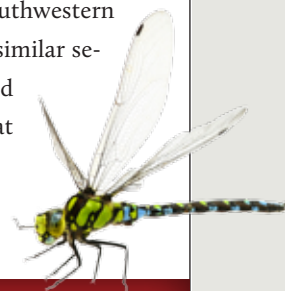
When I was a boy my family and I attended an evangelistic series by Joe Crews in the city of San Antonio, Texas. At the end of that series my parents and I along with 45 other people were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Over the years the city of San Antonio's population has grown exponentially, but unfortunately, the church's growth in my hometown has not kept pace.

I can't tell you how excited I am about the flurry of evangelistic activity that is taking place right now in San Antonio in preparation for the upcoming GC Session. This is unprecedented in Adventist history in terms of evangelistic outreach prior to a GC Session. In fact, church leaders from both the General Conference and the North American Division are saying they have never witnessed such a coordinated pre-session outreach effort in the host city where the GC Session is being held.

Jose Rojas, Carlton Byrd, Mark Finley, and Alejandro Bullón are each having evangelistic meetings, from which five or six new churches will be planted in San Antonio. Then, for the first time ever, a baptism will be held on the first Friday night of the upcoming session, representing a portion of those who have given their hearts to Jesus as a result of each of the meetings. Representatives from the Texas Conference and the Southwest Region Conference, through a well-coordinated effort, have been blanketing the city of San Antonio through a highly visible public relations effort

known as the More campaign. Also, 165 Homes of Hope have been established in which lay members are reaching out and touching the lives of their friends and neighbors with a message of hope through small group evangelism.

For months you've been hearing through the *Record* and other publications about Your Best Pathway to Health, in which more than 6,000 people will be treated with free medical care in San Antonio. Following that event on April 8-10, which will likely be taking place as you read this article, participants will be invited to return to one of the designated Adventist church sites around the city, where they will be provided with their lab test results by a medical provider and then invited to one of four different seminars (Diabetes Undone, Depression Recovery, Creation Health, and Natural Lifestyle Cooking) that are scheduled to begin immediately following the clinic outreach. With the momentum that's happening right now in San Antonio, I'm convinced that the city will never be the same. Just imagine what could happen if every city and town in the Southwestern Union and around the world were to initiate a similar series of activities! Jesus would come and we could go home! Won't you do your part to make that happen?



Leading up to San Antonio

Already ongoing	San Antonio canvassing initiative (June 2014–August 2015)
April 8–10	San Antonio Medical Mission “Your Best Pathway to Health” at the Alamodome
April 11–12	ASI Rally with Mark Finley and Ted Wilson
April 11–15	Training for Natural Lifestyle Cooking School by Teenie Finley Follow up with Bible workers and small group leaders by Mark Finley
April–May	Local churches to hold seminars, cooking schools, etc., as follow up to “Your Best Pathway to Health”
May 7–12	Follow up with all lay workers including lay Bible instructors, small group leaders, health ministry workers, etc.
May–June	Evangelism Reaping Events: Carlton Byrd, May 15–20; Mark Finley, June 6–27; Alejandro Bullón, June 20–27



To Your Health

BY PAT HUMPHREY » SOUTHWESTERN UNION HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

Childhood Obesity: A Challenge and an Opportunity

I'm not a fan of secular television, and rarely spend time watching it. But one day during an out-of-town trip I flipped on the TV in my hotel room, only to be caught by surprise as I watched a gigantic toddler waddle across the stage on a talk show to join several other obese children and their parents. I was astounded as I heard mothers and fathers describing the amount and types of food their children would consume on a daily basis and the number of meals they ate—portions that might make Goliath's daily fare seem dainty! Most shocking of all was the comment of one of the mothers being interviewed: "I just give her anything she wants. I feel like I'd be depriving her if I didn't."

Perhaps your response to these scenarios goes something like this: "Well, those are extreme cases. Very few children are *that* obese. And it's rare for a parent to overindulge a child so excessively." If that's what you're thinking, you're probably right. But on the other side of the coin is an alarming trend in the U.S., one that many health experts are calling an epidemic: childhood obesity.

The most recent National Health and Nutrition Examination Surveys (2011-2012) indicate that about 17 percent of children ages 2-19 years are obese. An additional 15 percent are considered overweight. Obesity is defined as an excessive accumulation of body fat, more than 25 percent in boys, and 32 percent in girls. Experts say that the prevalence of overweight kids today is caused by such factors as spending too much time in front of the TV or computer screen, lack of regular physical activity, eating too many high-calorie foods, and over-exposure to media advertising of high-calorie foods. One study conducted by the National Institutes of Health found that the rate of obesity was highest among children who watch the most TV.

The lifestyles of today's kids don't come without a price. According to many experts, Type 2 diabetes is on the rise in children. The cause? Overweight and obesity, fueled by the factors listed above. Other consequences of excessive weight in children include being at a 70 percent greater risk of becoming an overweight adult and a greater chance of developing heart disease and high blood pressure, not only as an adult, but even before the age of 20. Overweight children often suffer with sleep apnea (interrupted breathing while sleeping), which can lead to problems with learning and memory. But probably the most devastating consequences of all include the social costs of being overweight. Children with weight problems are more likely to be teased, often experience a sense of isolation and loneliness, and may develop a negative body image that can lead to low self-esteem.

You might be wondering what all this has to do with Seventh-day Adventists in the Southwestern Union Conference. After all, Adventists are among the healthiest people in the world, aren't they? Yes, but it is also true that every problem that affects society affects the church as well. The reality is that there is always room for improvement when it comes to healthy living.

WHAT PARENTS CAN DO:

- Limit children's television viewing time.
- Get the family involved in physical activities such as biking

or basketball.

- Insure that children spend time outdoors every day.
- Involve children in meal planning and grocery shopping while teaching them to make healthy choices.
- Monitor portion sizes.
- Limit eating at fast-food restaurants.
- Avoid fats, sugars, and junk food.
- Become involved in parent-teacher associations to advocate for healthy food choices and physical education programs in schools.
- Set a positive example of healthy habits.

WHAT CHURCHES CAN DO:

- Only your creativity will limit the possibilities of what you can do to help kids and parents in your community. These are just a few ideas:
- Sponsor a Hearts 'N Parks or similar program in your community. This program, sponsored by NIH's Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute includes activities to encourage nutritious eating habits and regular physical activity.
- Hold a health fair and plan fun, educational, and recreational activities for the entire family.
- Sponsor a creative walking program centered on a theme, such as Hiking Across (your town or state).

Getting back to the television program I mentioned earlier, fortunately, the story didn't end there. Somehow, quite by accident, or perhaps through God's providence, I happened to catch the follow-up interview of that very same group of parents and overweight children who had been featured earlier on that talk show. (I hadn't watched the program since my hotel stay!) One year later these children were on the road to a healthier life. Their parents had become more educated about the dangers of overeating and being overweight; they had begun to implement positive dietary and lifestyle changes; and the children were approaching a more healthy weight. Most still had a way to go, but they were making progress. And that's what counts.

As a people, we've been blessed with a wealth of knowledge on healthy living. Won't you do your part to help others experience the abundant life God wants for all of us?

For more ideas on how you and your congregation can help combat childhood obesity, or for a list of online resources, contact your local conference or union health ministries director.

Always Faithful, Always Good

LOOKING BACK AT MY LIFE, I've realized that God used one special ministry to romance me and completely capture my heart: summer camp. My summer camp journey began when I was ten years old at Nameless Valley Ranch. I completely fell in love with everything about NVR—from making new friends and exchanging bracelets we made in the crafts building, to looking up to my sweet counselors who would braid my crazy hair and be “Jesus to me.” However, my favorite memory would have to be evening worships when we would gather and watch the camp play, *The Journey*. I felt new feelings and questions grow inside of me, specifically about this love that Essiah (the character that represented Jesus) was so full of. By the end of the week, *The Journey* had taught me that I am chosen, loved, and pursued by a relentless God. I decided that I was ready to start my life-long adventure with Jesus. So that Saturday afternoon, I stood in the camp pool and was baptized in front of all my friends and family.

I believe God placed a desire in me to work as a counselor and be on the “other side” of the camp experience. I personally knew the impact that a God-fearing counselor could make and the blessing of having friends who encouraged me to dig deeper in my friendship with Christ. So when it came time to move from NVR to Lake Whitney Ranch, I prayed that God would reserve a spot for me on the LWR staff. Of course, God already had this and so much more taken care of. During my first year of working as a full-time counselor, I was cast in *The Journey*. I was completely humbled to be a part of the very production that sparked my walk with the Lord. In the play, I was a little girl named Lilon. She was full of joy and love for her parents, even though they were constantly fighting and ignored her. Portraying such a perfect little character had a tremendous impact on my spiritual life; it made me realize how I had forgotten the importance of love and innocence. However, it was even more humbling to see God work in a broken person like myself to speak to campers. Girls and boys would come to me and tell me how they were going to be like Lilon and choose joy, something I am still learning how to do.

As summer came to an end, I realized that God's hand has been over all the past years of camp. He allowed all these precious memories to unfold in my life, and centered them around a very special place: summer camp.

Camp is the place where my faith started to bloom, where I came home to Him, and where He has worked in unimaginable ways. Even in the darkest times, He has always been there to carry me out of the woods and into His light. I am amazed and humbled by how deeply He cares for me. He's revealed Himself through campers, counselors, and nature, and He will continue using camp to show more teens like me that a faithful God loves them.



Dalilah Negrete is a student at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY ARMANDO MIRANDA JR. » ASSOCIATE YOUTH DIRECTOR, TEXAS CONFERENCE

Summer Camp, A Ministry That Impacts Lives

Summer 2003—It was my first summer camp, fresh from teaching theology, and I was entering a world I will never forget. Arriving at the camp, I found an alternate reality to pastoral ministry. A world where, for a month and a half, playing, water skiing, swimming, horseback riding, canoeing, and other outdoor activities were as important as the evening programs. A world where physical activities mix with companionship and spiritual messages shared by the pastors about God, where, in only one week, God works through counselors and directors to present Jesus and to impact and transform the lives of youth.

I met a young girl in the second week of summer camp. This was a girl with a smile that inspired happiness. No matter the situation, she was always smiling. I remember when talking with her, she said that it was her second time at camp and that she loved it. At the end of that week, we said goodbye and she left. I still remember her smile and her positive attitude on life and Jesus, not common in a young girl less than ten years old.

May 2011—I was invited to be the preacher at an academy graduation. Upon my arrival, the coordinators informed me that the graduation would also include graduates from public schools. These were young people who had decided to keep the Sabbath and would not be participating in the graduation at their public schools. As I observed the graduates, a young lady with a warm smile caught my attention and she came to greet me. She asked me if I remembered her, and I was not sure if I did. She then reminded me that she had been at the 2003 summer camp and that she remembered me. That's when I realized I knew her smile! She was the same young girl at my first summer camp! And there she was, eight years later, graduating and being faithful to God at that stage in her young life. I was happy to see her that smile that I had



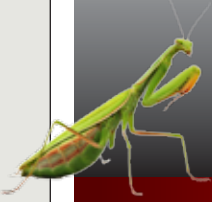
never forgotten, and was proud of her for being a testimony for the Lord's Sabbath.

I cannot claim that it was I who kept her in the way of the Lord, but I can say that summer camps are one of the ministries where children and youngsters can explore their faith and where, for many of them, their faith



will be solidified for the future. Camaraderie, living testimonies, and the guidance of counselors, directors, and pastors unite with one common goal—*bringing Jesus to life*. This does not replace the importance of spiritual influence at home or the church, but, after seeing many young lives impacted and transformed, I personally have seen how summer camp is a tremendously positive influence. It is a place where faith is awakened or solidified—I have no doubt that God calls us to continue this ministry.

Seeing into the future, the camps have a purpose: to provide an environment where children and young people can feel safe and where they can hear the voice of God through nature and spiritual and social activities led by people who desire nothing more than to bring God into their lives—a place where they can walk with Jesus!



Visión Hispana

UN BREVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE



Calendario de Verano 2015

Campamentos de Verano

Arkansas-Louisiana

Camp Yorktown Bay

Camp	Edades	Fecha
Cub Camp	7-9	Junio 14-21
Junior Camp	10-12	Junio 21-28
Pathfinder Camp	10-16	Junio 28-Julio 5
Adventurer Camp	Grades 1-4	Junio 28-Julio 5
Family Camp	(todas Edades)*	Junio 28-Julio 5
Blind Camp	(todas Edades)**	Julio 5-12
Tween Camp	12-15	Julio 12-19
Teen Camp	13-17	Julio 19-26

Oklahoma

Wewoka Woods

Camp	Edades	Fecha
Native American Camp	7-17	May 31 – Junio 5
Adventure Camp	7-10	Junio 7 – Junio 1
Junior Camp	10-12	Junio 14 – Junio 21
Tween Camp	12-14	Junio 21 – Junio 28
Teen Camp	14-16	Junio 28 – Julio 5
Blind Camp	(todas Edades)**	Julio 5 – Julio 12

Texas

Lake Whitney Ranch

Camp	Edades	Fecha
Junior Camp	10-12	Junio 14-21
Tween Camp	12-14	Junio 21-28
Cub Camp	7-9	Junio 28- Julio 5
Camp in San Antonio	(todas Edades)	Julio 5-11
Day Teen Camp	14-17	Julio 12-19

Southwest Region Conference

No Tendrán Campamento debido a la Sesión General

*Llame al 318-631-6240 por media semana.

**Llame a Christian Record

Campamentos 2015

Asociación Arkansas-Louisiana

Abril 24-25

Campamento familiar del Sur – Hammond, LA

Donde: South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S Coburn Rd. Hammond, LA 70403

Oradora: Elizabeth Talbot, Directora del Instituto Bíblico Jesús101

Llame a: Dalia Castellanos 318-631-6240 Ext 109

Junio 12-13

Campamento familiar del NW – Gentry, AR

Donde: Ozark Adventist Academy, 20997 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry, AR 72734

Orador: Jorge Rampogna, Pastor de Brasil, Nuevo Tiempo Radio

Llame a: Dalia Castellanos 318-631-6240 Ext 109

Asociación de Oklahoma

Mayo 29-31

Oklahoma Campamento Familiar - Wewoka, OK

Lugar: Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, OK

Orador: Jorge Reid, Evangelista Internacional

Llame a: Ciro Castillo 405.301.5855

Asociación Regional

No Tendrán Campamento debido a la Sesión General

Asociación de Texas

No Tendrán Campamento Hispano debido a la Sesión General

Asociación de Texico

No Tendrán Campamento debido a la Sesión General

10 AMAZING CREATURES

Indiana Melendez, intern, Southwestern Union Communication Department

There are about 950,000 different species of insects in the world. It's amazing to think about how God created each and every single one of them, whether big and fuzzy, or squishy and small. Some crawl. Some fly. Some live alone, while others live in grand colonies. Whatever the case, each of these creatures are amazingly built and formed with different characteristics to perform specific duties, either for their own survival or for the greater good of their colonies. Through these insects and their amazing abilities, we can learn valuable lessons from our Creator.

Jumping Grasshoppers

Grasshoppers are medium to large insects ranging from 1-7 cm long. Named after their excellent leaping skills, grasshoppers can catapult themselves over large areas using their strong and springy back legs. If humans could jump the way grasshoppers did, we'd easily leap the length of a football field or more! Grasshoppers are usually green, gray, or brown in color to match their surroundings. Some, however, have bright hints of color on their backs. Usually these are males who want to attract females. Some species eat toxins that give them their color to keep predators away. They're bright colors warn predators that they taste bad. Their predators may think they taste bad, but some people don't. People around the world have been eating grasshoppers and locusts for centuries. Even John the Baptist ate locusts and honey in the wilderness!



Amazing Ants

There are over 12,000 different species of ants in the world, and scientists believe there are about 1.5 million ants for every human being on the planet! And while they may be tiny, ants just might be able to outsmart, outwit and outlast humans. Their complex and team-based societies allow them to survive and thrive in conditions that would be unbearable to human beings. Ants are extremely hard-



working creatures. They work all summer gathering food for their colony before the cold of winter comes. A single ant can lift and carry an item 50 times its own body weight! Although small and seemingly insignificant we can learn a great lesson from the ants. The Bible mentions these diligent creatures to show us how to work and be prepared for the future. "Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8).

The Sneaky Praying Mantis

The praying mantis gets its name from its front legs, which are bent and held together in an angle that resembles the position of prayer. But don't be fooled by this insect's angelic look—as accomplished hunters, these sneaky and carnivorous bugs use their green or brown bodies to camouflage themselves from their prey. When they are ready to attack, they use their impressive reflexes to snatch their prey with a move so quick, it is unseen by the human eye. They also have triangular heads that can rotate a complete 180 degrees, something no other insect is able to do, and they are able to scan their surroundings with big eyes on the sides of their heads and three little eyes in between. Although praying mantis might not really be praying, their posture does remind us of our very own need for connection and union with God through prayer.



Jeremy, Staff

Summer Camp Quotes

Working at summer camp has brought me into something so much bigger than myself. It's so much more than just a summer job. Camp is a safe haven, a retreat, a bridge to meet Jesus on, and as campers and staff alike, we walk that bridge together, and we become family.

Sebastian, Staff *Summer Camp Quotes*

Summer camp is where I fell in love with Jesus, where I fell in love with youth ministry, and what strengthened my call to become a pastor. I have not only witnessed the ministry of camp transform my own life, but also the lives of the campers and other staff members.

Transforming Caterpillars

Caterpillars are very interesting insects. They are born extremely small, eat lots of food, grow very rapidly, weave themselves into a cocoon, and then break free as either a butterfly or moth. Isn't it amazing that a long, fat, squishy little crawler can transform into a beautiful, dainty flying insect? It's just another way that God shows us His power and creativity. Caterpillars differ in size, color and appearance depending on their species. Some caterpillars are very brightly colored, while other caterpillars are quite dull-looking in comparison. Some are very hairy, while others are very smooth and squishy-looking. The main aim of the appearance of the caterpillar is to intimidate its predators and to make it look the least appealing as possible. Usually the most colorful caterpillars are actually poisonous. Caterpillars have eight pairs of legs to crawl around and six pairs of eyes to guide them and avoid predators.



amazing that a long, fat, squishy little crawler can transform into a beautiful, dainty flying insect? It's just another way that God shows us His power and creativity. Caterpillars differ in

breathe. These gills also help them shoot out water to propel them through the water quickly. Once old enough, they crawl out of the water and eventually begin to grow wings and develop into adult dragonflies.

The Mighty Weevil

A weevil (also called a snout beetle) is a tiny beetle that is usually only 0.25 inches long. They have long, strong snouts, which they use for finding food, eating, and making holes to lay their eggs in. These insects are vegetarians and are often damaging to crops. They use their snouts to drill holes into fruits, plants, nuts, and seeds to lay their eggs, and once big enough, the young weevils eat their way out. Weevils' snouts are incredibly strong. Imagine a teeny, tiny, quarter-inch-sized insect drilling a hole into an acorn! Talk about small and mighty! There are many different kinds of weevils, and depending on the different types of foods they eat, their snouts vary in size. Many weevils have no wings, but the ones that do are excellent fliers. Although most are brown or gray, a few are brightly colored.



Extraordinary Dragonflies

God created dragonflies to be masters of flight. Dragonflies can move straight up or down, fly backwards, stop and hover, and make extremely sharp turns, at full speed or in slow motion. They are able to do this because each of their four wings move independently and in all directions. This flexibility enables them to put on an aerial show like no other insect. They navigate with big round eyes on the sides of their heads, with vision extraordinarily good, compared to other insects. Dragonflies have six spindly legs and long thin bodies. Some of them are brightly colored with blue, red, yellow, or green bodies. Dragonflies live around freshwater, where they can lay their eggs. When hatched, the baby dragonflies swim inside the water with gills in the abdomen to help them



Helpful Ladybugs

Many people are fond of ladybugs because of their fun colors and polka-dot-like patterns. But farmers are fond of them because they help protect crops from plant-eating pests like aphids. Ladybugs are dome-shaped beetles with short legs and antennae. Like the grasshopper and caterpillar, their distinctive spots and attractive colors are meant to make them unappealing to predators. Ladybugs can secrete a fluid from joints in their legs, which gives them a foul taste. A threatened ladybug may both play dead and secrete the unappetizing substance to protect itself.



Nicole, Camper *Summer Camp Quotes*

There has never been any other place where I have actually felt accepted, loved, comforted and safe. Summer camp is my second home and I grow closer to God every time I go.

Valerie, Camper *Summer Camp Quotes*

I can't even really explain in words how much I love camp. The connection I feel with God there is just unexplainable. I started going when I was 7-years-old, and I hope I can keep going as a counselor until I'm too old to walk!

Mysterious Millipedes

Millipedes are long critters that serve as decomposers along forest floors all over the world. Although their name suggests otherwise, millipedes don't really have 1,000 feet. Most millipedes actually have less than 100. The record holder for most legs has 750 feet. What differentiates them from centipedes is that they have two pairs of legs per body segment, while centipedes only have one pair. When they hatch they only have three pairs of legs. Millipedes are made of hard plates called tergites and have soft underbellies. Millipedes are rather slow creatures and can't outrun predators. Instead, when millipedes feel threatened, they coil their bodies into a spiral so that only their tergites are exposed and serve as protection. Millipedes are fairly docile creatures that cannot bite, sting, or pinch. But they do have chemical toxins they can release to repel predators.



Stinging Wasps

We often categorize wasps as angry, flying creatures that buzz around us, warning us with their bright colors and sharp stings, and this idea is often not misplaced. Wasps are the most feared insect of most animals and humans, and most creatures avoid these critters completely. But not all wasps are stinging insects. Most wasps are actually solitary and non-threatening. There are two types of wasps: social and solitary. Social wasps consist of colony-builders, like yellow-jackets and hornets. These are the ones to avoid. Social wasps use their stings for defense of their colony, while solitary wasps use their stings only to hunt. Wasps are distinguishable from bees by their long pointed abdomens. They come in all sorts of colors like the most-recognizable yellow and brown, to brighter metallic blues and bright red. The brighter their color, the more likely they are in the stinging category. Unlike bees that secrete a waxy



substance to construct their nests, wasps create their nests from wood fibers scraped with their hard mandibles and chewed into a pulp. Like the ant, wasps work hard to care for and protect their colonies.

Slimy Snails

We might think of snails as slow, boring, and sluggish creatures, but snails are actually quite interesting. Snails are invertebrates, which means they have no internal skeletal structure. Snails are also very diverse creatures. There are many types of snails, including land snails, sea snails, and freshwater snails. They range greatly in size. While some of them are only a few inches long and often weigh only a few ounces, some snails reach almost 12 inches, like the Giant African Land Snail. Their shells are quite amazing in that they are made of calcium carbonate, which allows them to grow as big as the snail grows. Sea and freshwater snails can both easily crawl and swim for movement, but land snails must secrete mucus as a lubricant to facilitate motion and reduce the friction against the ground. Because of this, snails move at an incredibly slow rate. Adult snails only move about one millimeter each second! The snail moves so slowly that, if it weren't for the trail of slime they leave, it would be difficult to notice their progress. But, if you watch a snail long enough, you can see the progress it has made. Just like the snail, we should always keep moving. Although the road may seem long and rough, we can persevere with God on our side.



Each of these insects is very different from each other, yet all serve to show the same thing: God's amazing work as an intelligent designer and Creator. When we think about the grand universe we are in and how small we are compared to it, it's comforting to know that God, being so big and mighty, took the time to create us into living, breathing beings. That alone boggles my mind a bit. It's even more amazing to think about how much detail He put into creating these tiny little critters, and not just one or two of them, but 950,000 different species! All unique in color, size, shape, and function. Wow! Our God is quite amazing! The next time you go outside and sit under a tree, lay in green grasses, or wade your feet in water, look for these little critters and witness just how amazingly detailed God has been in creating insects, animals, and nature all around us. Everything points to Him and is a great reminder of His love for us.

Indiana Melendez, intern, Southwestern Union
Communication Department



Thinking of Summer Camp?

Jeff Villegas, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference youth director

As a parent, you may be thinking about sending your child to summer camp this year. Perhaps there are several questions you have as to why you should let your child attend camp. Let me answer some of those questions and give you peace of mind.

For many years, summer camps across the country have had the privilege of sharing the love of Christ with campers of all ages. As a result, many have made life-changing decisions to follow Jesus and are still connected to the church today. Depending on which camp your child attends, there are also **many fun activities** that are offered each day, such as sports, horsemanship, swimming, wakeboarding, rock climbing, water skiing, and maybe even an obstacle course. **Camp staff** are well trained in all of these areas, which helps to provide a safe environment. Each candidate is very carefully considered for a staff position, and we, as directors, take pride in the staff we hire. Their enthusiasm and passion for camp ministry affects our campers in a very positive way. They are very approachable and do the

Camps are fully equipped with **cabins or lodges** where your child can comfortably stay. Girls and boys stay in separate housing units with one or more counselors supervising. Each cabin has its own **bathrooms and showers**.

Aside from having beautiful, lake front properties or tall shady trees, amazing scenery, and fun, adventurous activities, summer camp offers the opportunity for your child to grow in the knowl-



very best to make our campers feel at home. When we ask the returning campers why they choose to come back, many of them respond by saying they had a good time, thanks to their counselor.

A typical day at camp begins around 7:30 a.m. with the raising of the flag. Immediately following, the campers head off to the **cafeteria** to enjoy a hearty breakfast. Before going to their activities, the campers along with the staff, gather for a morning **worship**, which can consist of camp praise songs, a skit, and a devotional thought from the guest pastor. In between the daily activities, the campers have a **rest period** and a free period in which they can rest and **fellowship with other campers**. Activities continue for the rest of the afternoon until supper. The day ends with worship.

edge of God and to forge life-long relationships with other young people their age. As you make summer plans for your child this year, I hope and pray you will give the staff of summer camps around the Southwestern Union an opportunity to minister to your loved one.

God bless you! For more information about summer camp please visit your local conference's summer camp Web site. For Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: arklacyouth.org. For Texas Conference: youngtexasadventist.org. For Oklahoma Conference: oklahomaadventist.org. For Southwest Region Conference: lonestarcamp.org.

Pebble, Staff Summer Camp Quotes

My favorite part of camp, the thing that continues to pull me back every year, although the hard work seems unbearable at times, is the campers that come to camp. I truly do believe God handpicks every single child that steps into camp.

2015 Summer Camp Schedules

Arkansas-Louisiana

Camp	Ages	Date
Camp Yorktown Bay		<i>Mountain Pine, Ark.</i>
Cub Camp	7-9	June 14-21
Junior Camp	10-12	June 21-28
Pathfinder Camp	10-16	June 28-July 5
Adventurer Camp	Grades 1-4	June 28-July 5
Family Camp	(all ages)*	June 28-July 5
Blind Camp	(all ages)**	July 5-12
Tween Camp	12-15	July 12-19
Teen Camp	13-17	July 19-26



Oklahoma

Camp	Ages	Date
Wewoka Woods		<i>Wewoka, Okla.</i>
Native American Camp	7-17	May 31 – June 5
Adventure Camp	7-10	June 7 – June 1
Junior Camp	10-12	June 14 – June 21
Tween Camp	12-14	June 21 – June 28
Teen Camp	14-16	June 28 – July 5
Blind Camp	(all ages)**	July 5 – July 12

*Call 318-631-6240 for a partial week.

**Call Christian Record

Josh, Camper *Summer Camp Quotes*

Before I went to camp I always thought church and "God" were kind of lame. Once I went to summer camp, though, that all changed. I saw that there were so many young people like me on fire for God, and I wanted a part of that! My counselors were awesome, the other campers were awesome... the entire camp was awesome! I realized that there was so much more than me and my little "lame" church.

Southwest Region Conference

No Summer Camp Due to General Conference Session

Texas

Camp	Ages	Date
Lake Whitney Ranch		<i>Whitney, Tex.</i>
Junior Camp	10-12	June 14-21
Tween Camp	12-14	June 21-28
Cub Camp	7-9	June 28- July 5
Camp in San Antonio	(all ages)	July 5-11
Day Teen Camp	14-17	July 12-19

Noah, Camper *Summer Camp Quotes*

I always pretended I knew God...but I didn't really know Him. I thought of Him as this far away God, that just sits there and let's the world keep going round. But when I went to summer camp, I saw a new side of Him. I saw a God that sits by my side even after I have pushed Him away and didn't want to get to know Him. I saw a God that loves me.



2015 Camp Meeting Schedule

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

April 17-18

South Louisiana Camp Meeting – Hammond, LA

Where: South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S Coburn Rd. Hammond, LA 70403
Speaker: John Lomacang, Pastor of Thompsonville, IL SDA Church, 3ABN
Contact Person: Chris Simpson 318-631-6240 Ext 207

April 24-25

South Louisiana Spanish Camp Meeting – Hammond, LA

Where: South Louisiana Convention Center, 44364 S Coburn Rd. Hammond, LA 70403
Speaker: Elizabeth Talbot, Speaker/Director for the Jesus101, Biblical Institute
Contact Person: Dalia Castellanos 318-631-6240 Ext 109

June 2-6

Ozark Family Camp Meeting – Gentry AR

Where: Ozark Adventist Academy, 20997 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry, AR 72734
Weekend Speaker: Peter Neri, Pastor of Paradise SDA Church, Las Vegas, NV
Weekday Speaker: Pavel Goia, Pastor of Lexington SDA Church, Lexington, KY
Contact Person: Gentry Church Secretary 479-736-8808

June 12-13

NW Arkansas Spanish Camp Meeting – Gentry, AR

Where: Ozark Adventist Academy, 20997 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry, AR 72734
Speaker: Jorge Rampogna, Pastor in Brazil, Nuevo Tiempo Radio
Contact Person: Dalia Castellanos 318-631-6240 Ext 109

October 1-3

Springtown Fall Round-up – Gentry, AR

Where: Springtown SDA Church, 12444 Fairmont Rd, Gentry, AR 72734
Speaker: Dick Stenbakken, Biblically & Historically

Accurate First-Person Presentations
Contact: www.springtownchurch.org

October 16-18

Bonnerdale Cowboy Camp Meeting – Bonnerdale, AR

Where: Bonnerdale SDA Church, 709 Adventist Church Rd, Bonnerdale, AR 71933
Speaker: Brandon Westgate, Pastor of Bonnerdale SDA Church
Contact Person: Sylvia Weatherford 870-356-3093

Oklahoma Conference

July 17–25

Oklahoma Camp Meeting - Wewoka, OK

Where: Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, OK
Contact information: ???

Southwest Region Conference

No Camp Meeting Due to General Conference Session

Texas Conference

July 22-25

Ark-La-Tex Camp Meeting – Jefferson, TX

Where: Jefferson Christian Academy, 3060 FM 728, Jefferson, TX 75657
Speaker: Karl Tsatalbasidis, evening speaker; Gerry Wagoner, worship service speaker; Alden Ho, early morning speaker.
Contact Person: Robin Tullock, 903-665-3973

Texico Conference

No Camp Meeting Due to General Conference Session



COWBOY AND BIKER RALLY

October 2-4, 2015

Helvis Moody, young adult and youth director, Southwestern Union

Cowboy camp is where horse lovers, bikers, and old-fashioned cowboys and cowgirls come together and fellowship in the beauty of holiness. The Cowboy and Biker Rally is an opportunity to be a part of something special, unique, and totally out-of-the-box—an opportunity to evangelize those who may seem unreachable. The Southwestern Union would like to invite both horse lovers and motorcycle lovers to Lone Star Camp in Athens, Tex., on October 2-4, 2015. Larry Moore, Southwestern Union president, will be the speaker. Activities planned include worship, seminars, a concert, hay rides, trail rides, a motorcycle show, a car show, and more.

Organizations such as CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association)

have helped Cowboy Camp in the past to host a car and bike show in Baton Rouge, La., which helped to raise funds for student scholarships. A car and bike show was also hosted in Houston, which raised funds for Christian education while also serving as a witness. One of our Houston churches was able to provide for the needs of a friend they met at a car show when his home burned down and his family lost everything. Providing safe, Christian fun in order to reach others is one way to evangelize. So many non-believers attend Daytona Bike Week, Myrtle Beach Bike Week, Trail-rides, Hot Rod, Low Rider and Import Shows, and these events are excellent ways to spread the gospel. Even if we reach only one person through this type of evangelistic outreach, our work is not in vain.

Throughout the union, there are car clubs and motorcycle clubs, such as 3 AM, that are reaching people for Christ.

For the purpose of reaching souls all bikers, car clubs, and horse clubs are invited to Lone Star Camp. And even if you are not in a club, you are invited as well! Tentative activities for the weekend are as follows: For more information in the near future go to www.southwesternunion.org/youth. Follow more of our activities at our Facebook page: Southwestern Union Young Adult/Youth Ministries.



Win a FREE week at camp

Annual Southwestern Union Record Summer Camp Contest

When you're in the great outdoors, no matter where you go, it seems like you're bound to run into one of those creepy, crawly critters. Summer camp is a great example of a place where you'll see caterpillars, butterflies, ants, and ladybugs. In this issue of the *Record*, we're bringing the feel of the great outdoors to you, as you'll find creepy, crawly, critters hidden throughout this issue. Can you find them all? How many did we hide? Did you remember to count the bugs in the images on pages 8-9? The fun starts now! Begin with the insects on the cover and keep counting until you find them all. Then submit your answer to the question "How many bugs are in the April 2015

Record?" along with your name, age, gender, phone number and/or e-mail address (please indicate contact preference in case you are a winner!), and the name and location of the local church you attend, and you could win a FREE week

at summer camp (age restrictions apply; transportation to and from camp is not provided). One boy and one girl from each local conference will be randomly selected out of all the correct entries to receive a free week at summer camp. All entries must be received by May 15. Submit your entry online at www.swurecord.org/summercamp or e-mail your entry to summercampcontest@swuc.org. You may also mail your entry to Summer

Camp Contest, Southwestern Union Record, P.O. Box 4000, Burleson, TX 76097. Winners will be notified individually before camp starts and will be announced in the July issue of the *Record*.



Are You Ready?

Ozark Family Campmeeting June 2-6, 2015

Weekend Speaker



Elder Peter Neri currently serves as the Senior Pastor of the Paradise SDA Church in Las Vegas, NV. He and his wife Jennie have served the Adventist church for 52 years in pastoral ministry, as Ministerial Secretary for the Indiana Conference and also as a member of the NAD Prayer Ministries team.

Week-day Speaker



Elder Pavel Goia currently serves as the Senior Pastor of the Lexington, KY Seventh-day Adventist Church. He is a member of the Ministerial Advisory Committee for the NAD and is a doctoral candidate at Andrews University. He is the author of the book, "One Miracle After Another", in which he tells of God's marvelous leading in his life.

Seminars



Dr. Phillip Samaan is a professor of Religion at Southern Adventist University. He has authored several books and articles as well as serving as chief editor of the Sabbath School lessons. He served as director of the MA and Doctor of Ministry programs at Andrews University.



Mark Anthony is an excellent chef who appears regularly on 3ABN and a wonderful motivational speaker in great demand. He will be adding a new seminar to our Camp Meeting called "Last Call" designed to prepare the Church to receive the "eleventh hour" people as they flock into the church.

Weekend Featured Musical Guests



Dr. Nerida McKibben is a New Zealand-born ObGyn who is passionate about encouraging people to achieve their greatest health potential by modifying their lifestyle. She is the host of Hope Channel's daily health show "Go Healthy for Good".



Forever His is a Christian singing group dedicated to spreading the gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, song, and praise. The ladies began their ministry in March 2001 in Burleson, Texas.

For children/youth information, please visit gentryadventist.org.

21090 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry, AR 72734 | (479)-736-8808

Camp Meeting History



From my earliest memories, camp meetings have been a wonderful time of fellowship, spiritual emphasis, great preaching, and great music.

Spiritual instruction, insights, and inspiration came through in every department. Whether I was in the Primary Department or with the adults, there was always something special that seemed to be designed just for me.

Camp meetings got their start in frontier America, influenced largely with the traditions and practices of the Presbyterian Church from Scotland. As settlers came into the new territories of the United States, there were no established churches awaiting them and there were very few ordained ministers. To meet the spiritual needs of these frontier settlers, itinerant preachers began holding religious services made up of preaching, prayer, the singing

of hymns, and the communion service. Word was spread about of the upcoming meetings, and people would come, longing for a spiritual experience or just out of curiosity. Because of the challenges of transportation and with either no adequate accommodations, or more so the case being that few could afford to use them if there were any, families would make provisions and camped out for the duration of the meetings either at or near the revival site.

It was at such camp meetings during the early 1800's that Millerite preachers would make the rounds and share the message of a soon coming Savior. Many would turn their hearts to God and experience a whole new life, in addition to the hope of the second coming. It is interesting to note that Israel of old had their camp meetings as well. Not just once, but three times a year they were instructed to gather to celebrate the goodness of God and recount His

many acts of salvation in their behalf.

Camp meetings have a great history—Old Testament times, the early days of America, and even my childhood days! Sadly for some, camp meetings have become a thing of the past, evidenced by their lack of attendance. But the relevance of camp meeting is not antiquated. As a people looking forward to the return of Jesus, we should be all the more utilizing every opportunity for spiritual growth and renewal. Most of us don't need to "camp" any more with all the available modern conveniences and accommodations, but many still find that part of it enjoyable. The focal point, just as it has always been, is the preaching of the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit to bring about a transformation of mind and heart. All of us are in need of that—and that isn't history.

Steven Oran, president

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Pathfinder Bible Bowl

SHREVEPORT, LA. » On February 28, 2015, the Shreveport South church hosted the top six Pathfinder Clubs for the final play-off in the Conference-wide Bible Bowl.

New Orleans Marrero, under the direction of Rodil Capobres, was the largest with five teams participating. The Shreveport Tornados and the Bonnerdale Braves

had two teams each vying for points. The Springdale Lions, Mountain Home Eagles, and the Harrison Crusaders each had a team eager to participate. Out of the 12 teams that participated, eight came out with first-place trophies. Two took second place, and another two ended in third place.

Quizmaster Scott Begley, pastor of the Shreveport South church, was impressed with the quick answers and confidence of the young people in knowing the Bible. The Arkansas-Louisiana Bible Bowl has been studying the Fundamental Beliefs of the Adventist Church, and each year the young people have covered six studies in depth.

Sylvia Downs



The Shreveport Tornados Pathfinder Club's boys and girls teams both came out with a first-place trophy.

International Food Fair at Bonnerdale SDA Church

BONNERDALE, ARK. » Where would you go to experience the culture and cuisine, taste the food and drink, check out the music, dress, and sights and sounds of thirteen countries and states, all within three hours? To the Bonnerdale International Food Fair!

The Bonnerdale Seventh-day Adventist church hosts an International Food Fair each fall. Some of the foods included coconut water from the Philippines; Jamaica (pronounced ha-my-ca), a drink made from flowers; a cactus salad from Mexico; potato chopcha (a kind of noodle) from Korea; and Ecuadorian, El Salvadorian, Italian, Cajun, and other American foods.

Above all—there were friends and family and people we hadn't seen in months and those we had not met before but had the opportunity to get acquainted with and hope to see again. During the evening and the next day there were cries of "Oh, I ate too much," but all agreed it was almost impossible to sample all the different cuisine and not overeat. Everyone enjoyed the time spent together.

June Bates



Top: Fun in the Philippines
Above left: Italy has great food
 ▲ Trying the food from El Salvador
 ◀ Enjoying fun, food, and fellowship!



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Heber Springs Church Celebrates Love

HEBER SPRINGS, LA. » Love was in the air in February as the Heber Springs church celebrated a "Sweethearts Supper" and honored John and Rachel Smith, whose anniversary was February 2.

After a great meal, questionnaires were handed out, and then the answers were shared with the group. The questionnaires included questions about how the couples met, how long they dated, where they were married, where they went on their honeymoon, and how long they had been married. We all learned a lot about our fellow believers. Donna and Len Argotti won the category for the longest marriage with 61 years.

We were reminded that the love of Christ not only greatly en-



hances marital love, but tells us of His love for the church and the need to share that love with others. That is why we intend to make Him known in Heber Springs.

Linda Welch

◀ Len and Donna Argotti have celebrated 61 years together.

Below left: Young and old both appreciate love.

▼ Couples, families, neighbors, and friends enjoyed the "Sweethearts Supper."



Houma Church Fishers Adventurer Club

HOUMA, LA. » Throughout the month of December, the Houma church Fishers Adventurer Club solicited donations from church members. Items donated included socks, towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion, powder, combs, brushes, puzzles, and other miscellaneous items.

On January 11, 2015, a total of 86 packages were delivered to a representative of The Haven in Houma, La. The Haven provides shelter, counseling, and other support to survivors of domestic and sexual violence. Our club and church are blessed to have been able to contribute to such a worthy cause.

"And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart" (Galatians 6:9).

Tidy Fenton



Houma Adventurer "fishers," making up baskets for The Haven.

Camp Yorktown Bay Celebrates 50 years

Through the direct providence of God, it has been 50 years since Camp Yorktown Bay admitted its first camper. Things have changed—but God is still in control at Camp Yorktown Bay. We will be hosting our 50th Anniversary on June 4-7, 2015. Activities will be available all day Friday, and Camp Yorktown Bay is where God spends vacations every summer, so we will look for Him on Sabbath! We also look forward to seeing you! Make your reservation now and remember to mark your calendar! Previous Camp Directors and staff from years past are especially invited to sign up to attend. Please sign up online at www.campyorktownbay.com and **register for the fun weekend.**

Wewoka Woods Summer Camp 2015

When young people are “plugged into Jesus” and “receive His power,” then, and only then, do they “experience the power” that God wants to so freely bestow upon them. As we experience the events of the day, it is certain that time is limited. God wants us to evangelize His children in order to prepare their hearts for His Second Coming.

Summer camp is one of the best evangelistic tools for many ages. Staff, campers, and parents alike see and experience God’s mercy and love through the experience of camp.

The beautiful setting of Wewoka Woods Adventist Center is a safe place from the chaotic thoughts and activities of the cities we may live in. The horses, the nature center, and the classes about God’s nature, Word, and love, are all tools for God to reveal Himself to campers.

It is an amazing and divine experience to see a child come to camp with no peace or sense of direction, and then to watch the changes in their eyes, their actions, and their spirits. There are no words to describe the visible change.

“Jesus said, ‘Let the little children come

to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these;” (Matthew 19:14).

Let us pray for all the children that have a desire to attend summer camp. Perhaps your child is one of them. The evil one has many reasons for your child not to attend. Please step out in faith and watch God work.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me. A fantastic staff is waiting to lead your child to the cross of Jesus.

Apple Park, youth director

Broken Arrow Student Commits His Life to Christ

BROKEN ARROW » Aaron Negrillo, eldest son of Ulysses and Jocelyn Negrillo, was recently baptized at the Broken Arrow church during a visit home from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn.

Although he had spoken to Broken Arrow’s pastor, Clayton Calvert, several times about baptism, Aaron said he never felt pressured, but was told he would know when it was the right time for his baptism.

During a vesper program at Southern titled “Be Still,” Aaron realized that there would be tumultuous times in life, and only Jesus could calm the rough seas. He wanted Jesus in the boat with him, and he knew the time was right for his baptism and wanted Calvert to baptize him.

We are so thankful for our youth and pray that Aaron continues his safe journey with Jesus at the helm.

Judy Marquette



Aaron Negrillo is a student at Southern Adventist University and was baptized by Clayton Calvert, pastor of the Broken Arrow church.

Grandmother Rose and the 1889 Land Rush

OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

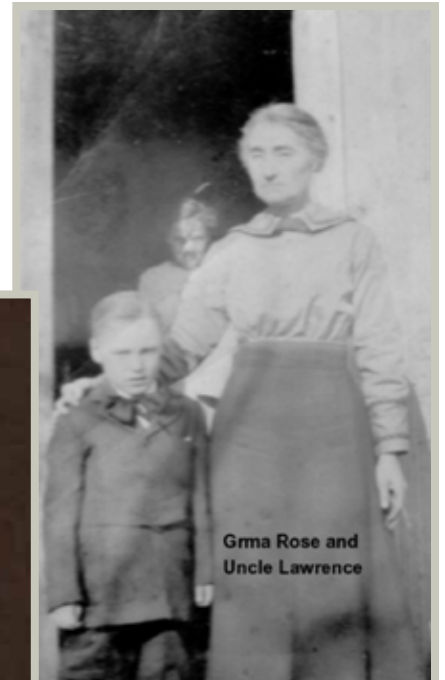
BROKEN ARROW » In 1889, the government held the Oklahoma Land Rush, in which the land had been divided into 160 acre plots, and the areas designated as towns were separated out. On April 22, 1889, men on horseback, wagons, on foot, and even on bicycle, rushed to claim the land. Each homesteader had to claim the land, register it, live on the land and improve it; then, in five years, they received its title. The Land Rush led to the establishment of the Oklahoma Territory, and ultimately to the establishment of the forty-sixth state of the Union, Oklahoma, in 1907.

The following story tells of a girl named Rose Trent, and how she is connected to our current church here in Oklahoma. Rose was a young girl when her parents saddled up the horses, and hitched them to their covered wagon laden with most of their worldly possessions. The family had decided to try to take advantage of the government land that was being offered. Rose's father left his General Store and Post Office job and their family in Kentucky, but they believed that God was leading them in His path.

As they were traveling along, they overheard people singing hymns. They decided to stop for a while and join the worshippers. Rose's father was also a Baptist minister, so one can imagine that, after miles upon miles of traveling, getting down from the wagon and joining fellow God-fearing believers would offer a welcome change.

They ended up staying for the evening meeting, and surprisingly, the sermon was

on the Sabbath. Yes, their adventure had led them straight to a Seventh-day Adventist meeting. After the meeting, they continued their journey with Rose sitting on the buckboard beside her father. He turned to her and asked, "Well Rose, what do you think about keeping a Saturday Sabbath?" Rose being the most religious of the children, looked at her father and said,



Grma Rose and Uncle Lawrence

Rose Trent came to Oklahoma with her family in 1889. She is an ancestor of Clayton Calvert, pastor of the Broken Arrow church.

was baptized in cold river water into the Seventh-day Adventist church in Hinton.

You have probably never heard of the Trent family, but the lineage produced many practicing Sabbath keepers and several pastors. You may be familiar with one of the pastors. You see, Rose was known as Grandmother Rose to the Clayton Calvert, the lay pastor of the Broken Arrow church. He is not quite old enough to remember the land rush, but he remembers stories about it, as do a number of the older members of the Broken Arrow church.

I would like to think that God led the Trent family across the country from Kentucky to Oklahoma in search of not only a homestead, but in search of truth. Thanks to Grandmother Rose, that truth still lives here in our congregation.

Judy Marquette



"I don't know, but I am going to find out."

To make a long story short, the Trent family secured their land somewhere near Hinton, Oklahoma.

Rose, true to her word, had been studying about the Sabbath for over a year and was convicted that

Saturday was the true day of worship as outlined in the commandments of God. On a cold winter day, January 9, 1890, Rose

Tulsa Adventist Academy Youth Lead Worship

TULSA » Recently, Tulsa Adventist Academy youth blessed the Tulsa church by praising the Lord with songs and a delightful skit. The sermon was given by Jackson Whitaker, who spoke on the blessings of Christian education. It was a great day for



fellowshipping with members from area churches. Most of all it was wonderful to see our young people praising God.

Harrah Couple Find Love In Their Golden Years!

HARRAH » Harold Bohr, 91, and Alice Thompson, 85, were recently married at Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Oklahoma. The wedding on December 14th, 2014, has proven once again that the love bug's bite can be deep, no matter how old you are. Harold and Alice have started a new and somewhat unexpected journey as husband and wife.

Nearly 100 family members and another 100 friends were present to witness the ceremony. The bride and groom each have four children, and their family trees have blossomed over the decades. In addition to siblings and lots of nieces and nephews, they have 19 grandchildren and nearly 30 great-grandchildren. Elder Bohr and Alice Thompson were married for 63 and 65 years, respectively, before their respective mates, both loved and cherished, passed away and now sleep in Jesus.

They remain proud of those unions and know exactly why each lasted so long!

"It's called l-o-v-e," Bohr said, spelling out the word. "The simple truth is that she married a very good man and I was married to a very special woman."

Neither of the new lovebirds thought he or she would ever marry again, but God had other plans. Alice moved next door to Harold in March of 2013. She quickly became very close to the family and worked daily as a trained reflexologist bringing new life and health to his otherwise nearly useless legs and feet. The rest is history!

Harold had given 42 years of service to the Lord as a missionary to Venezuela, Ar-

gentina, and Colombia, was a conference president and college professor. He also raised funds and completed a long-time dream of establishing what has become a hub of activity and a vibrant university with a student body of more than 2,000 students. After returning to the states, he settled in Amarillo, Texas, where he built a Spanish-speaking church along with pastoring the English-speaking church. From there he moved to Summit Ridge, and his wife passed away there in 2008. Until just the last few years Harold was very active in the church, leading prayer meeting, visitation, and even preaching from time to time. At 91 he still does what he can and in November preached on Sabbath for the folks there at Summit Ridge.

Alice shares in many of the services, singing special music and also carries on a ministry in music at the nursing home on a weekly basis. Harold and Alice both agree that their devotion to Jesus has helped them lead long and productive lives.

Harold and Alice say that love is exciting, no matter your age! When God is in it, and they both agree that He is such an integral part of all they do, then everyday is a bit of "heaven on earth."

Harold Bohr, 91, and Alice Thompson, 85, were recently married at the Harrah, Okla., church.



Lone Star Camp



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

Summer camp in the Southwest Region Conference has experienced steady growth over the last two years. This growth can be attributed to the dynamic and visionary leadership of Helvis Moody, who served as the youth director until October 2014. The camp's vision is to serve as an evangelistic center where young people both church and unchurched can come and have an encounter with God while enjoying many recreational activities. Lone Star summer camp provides the opportunity for the attendees to engage in dynamic

worship services, archery, arts and crafts, basketball, volleyball, horseback riding, and water front activities.

The camp's rustic setting provides the perfect opportunity to teach lessons about Jesus through nature. Some of the young campers have the opportunity to pet a horse for the first time in their lives. Not only are they taught not to fear these beautiful animals created by our heavenly Father but also that God has given them dominion as stewards over His creation.

There are multiple blessings associated with summer camp—it is staffed with

young adults who attend our Adventist universities. These young adults not only gain meaningful experience in leadership but also receive scholarships towards their education.

It is my desire to see the number of campers continue to increase at Lone Star summer camp as we emphasize the symmetrical growth found in Luke 2:52. Here the Bible instructs us that as a youth Jesus grew in wisdom, in physical stature, spiritually, and socially.

Tyrone Douglas, youth director

Musical In Motion at Forest Hill

FOREST HILL, TEX. » On January 10, 2015, the youth of Forest Hill church presented a “musical in motion.” The program was composed of not only Forest Hill youth, but youth from other local churches, Grace Temple and Southern Worship Center. The program told the story of a girl, Michelle Jackson, played by Forest Hill's Xhori Duncan, who is at the pivotal age of 17 and at a spiritual crossroad. The musical was a storyline comprised of several songs that made a cohesive story of a young person being given the opportunity to give her life to God. The young lady was given several opportunities, but at a party she was fatally wounded.

Many attendees of the program identified with Michelle's character in some way. The reality is that many of us could have had the same plight, but God saved us from ourselves and has called us to be greater. The goal was not to glorify the party scene, nor to encourage the use of guns—rather, it was to highlight for our young people that God is calling them.

Vivian Walker



Youth performed a “musical in motion” at the Forest Hill church.

Forest Hill Celebrates Black History

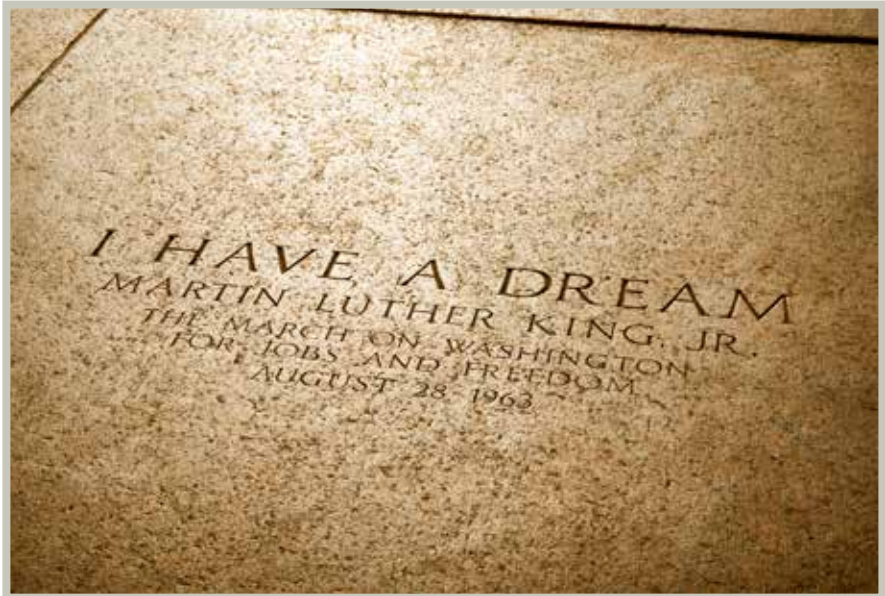
FOREST HILL, TEX. » To kick off Black History Month, the youth of the Forest Hill church hosted David Anthony Johnson, a renowned musical artist and Martin Luther King Orator. The youth completed all of the morning roles for divine worship service, from the call to worship to the benediction. Johnson brought the message entitled, "The Slave Syndrome" based on John 8:31-34. Johnson was also the featured artist for the AY program that evening. It was an evening of Black history. He sang, provided comic relief, and orated Martin Luther King, Jr. speeches. One of which he described as King's own eulogy, which was a sermon King preached two months prior to his assassination. The evening served as a reminder of the importance of teaching our children Black history and the struggles endured for America to become united.

The slaves gained emancipation in 1863, civil rights were won in 1964, but one day we will yell from heaven, "Free at last, free

at last, thank God Almighty, we are free at last!" Free from sin, free from death, free from the perils of this world, free from the enemy's attack. We will be free. John 8:36

states, "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Vivian Walker



Deja que Dios sea Dios

Retiro Espiritual para Damas
10 al 12 de abril, 2015 | Lone Star Camp, 6829 FM 317, Athens, TX 75752



Sara Bullón
Unión Sudamericana



Carmen Griffith
Unión del Sureste



Diana Jaworski
Creative Box Ministries

\$95 p/persona antes del 16 de marzo
\$125 p/persona a partir del 17 de marzo

Envía tu hoja de inscripción con pago a:
Southwest Region Conference
Retiro de Damas
P. O. Box 226289
Dallas, TX 75222

O paga con tarjeta de crédito o débito en
<http://mysouthwestregion.org/ministries/womens-ministries>

Para más información
<http://mysouthwestregion.org/ministries/womens-ministries>
bcastro@swrgc.org o lsoupet@swrgc.org
214-943-4491, ext. 213

New Setting for Baton Rouge Berean's Wednesday Night Prayer Meetings

BATON ROUGE, LA. » The average church's Wednesday night prayer meeting consists of Bible study, prayer (of course), and a message from the pastor or his designee. However, Berean recently broke with this tradition by implementing a new Wednesday night format in a new venue. According to Berean's Wellness and Community Support Center director Lyn Hakeem, the concept, which would become known as "Wellness Wednesdays," was due largely to a casual conversation she had with Robert Davis. Both agreed that the Wednesday night prayer meetings might benefit from a different approach while maintaining the basic tenets of our faith.

"It was ironic that the pastor and I were thinking along the same line," said Ha-

keem. Wednesday night might feel more comfortable reporting to a more relaxed atmosphere. As well, the center would allow for activities that normally could not be performed inside the worship center," Hakeem added.

Thus has resulted a Wednesday night hour and a half rotating session that addresses healthy families, finances, the body, spirit, and communities. A recent session with an audience of youth and adults featured 32-year-old college-graduate A.V. Mitchell, who has his own clothing line, is a Christian rapper, and is a youth

to more than liquor, food, and clothing stores," he said. Referencing each idea with scripture, he shared four ways to change a community. First, he said, don't conform to this world—be a pacesetter. Second, be transformed by the renewing of your



A.V. Mitchell was a guest speaker at the Baton Rouge Berean church's reinvented Wednesday night prayer meetings.



keem. "This was the affirmation that we both needed," she continued.

The idea behind this new concept is the addressing of not only the spiritual facet, but the total person with a program encompassing the emotional, occupational, financial, social, physical, and environmental needs of the church and the community—all in a different setting.

"Those of the community who would not normally venture into the church on

leader at a local Baptist church.

Mitchell's presentation began with involving his audience in the definition of what constitutes a healthy community. The responses concluded with "Healthy people make for a healthy community. The components of such a community include having as their focus programs that will transform minds. There are too many limited options for our youth. Our neighborhoods have to expose our kids

mind. Third, know that the tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat its fruit. Fourth, a good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, meaning the soul is the storehouse of the body. With these ideas, he said, it is possible to transform a community.

"Changing who we are will change our communities," he said.

After sharing two of his raps with us, his closing advice was that anyone has the potential to accomplish whatever he or she wants as evident in his own miraculous transformation.

We thank Davis and Hakeem for their vision as we applaud this community resource and look forward to more Wednesday nights.

Evelyn M. Edwards

A Place Where Young Lives Are Impacted



It was the summer of 2001 and my first as camp director at Nameless Valley Ranch.

To be honest, I was terrified. The thought of being responsible for more than 400 kids ranging from ages six through 16 for an entire month was daunting, to say the least. Add to that the task of shaping a team of college-aged counselors who would be charged with the mission of impacting young hearts and minds with the love of Christ in a short stint of 126 hours, and all I could think was, only by the grace of God will we get through this!

But you know, something miraculous takes place each summer across the North American Division in summer camp programs. As that staff week began, around 40 staff members began to pull out equipment from storage areas, and to clean, mend, and organize things to be used over the next four weeks. There were also cabins to be cleaned and disinfected. Skits needed to be prepared with the awareness that lives would be spiritually touched for eternity. Praise teams were organized and activities were carefully planned. Then came that first

Sunday when the campers began to arrive.

As I recall, we emphasized three major objectives for summer camp in this order: (1) Safety, (2) Spirituality, and (3) Have Fun. The very setting, surrounded by nature and secluded from the noise and distractions of the city, provided an environment so conducive to spiritual awareness and sensitivity that it could not be taken for granted. If you didn't know, summer camp is probably the only evangelism tool we have where the listeners both pay to come and are a captive audience!

The morning and evening worships were primetime evangelism events. The daily schedule with art, crafts, aquatics, horsemanship, sports, and nature nuggets all combined to draw kids closer to their Savior and His handiwork! I quickly acquired a deep respect for the counselors who literally were present with the campers around the clock. They slept in the same cabins, got them up, dressed, and to "line call" every morning (on time)! They ate all three daily meals at the table with them, and kept them in line and on task. They would work at the activity stations and remained vigilant for the safety and wellbeing of the

children. When people talk about dedication and commitment to excellence, it is exemplified at summer camp!

I found myself intrigued by the interaction of the campers. The friendships that developed as the week wore on inspired me. They learned to share common space and how to respect personal space. The trust and admiration that campers began to feel for their counselors was something to behold, as well. Fourteen years removed from that first summer camp experience in Texas, I am privileged to observe reunions, from time to time, take place between former campers and their counselors. Those counselors, now physicians, nurses, pastors, teachers, architects, and engineers, and the campers now graduating from college with degrees of their own! It is truly amazing to see the chain of the Lord's influence upon young hearts, as they become adults and productive church members, as well as influential citizens within the communities in which they reside. When thinking back, I praise God, knowing there's much more to come!

Carlos Craig, president

Pineywoods Adventist Christian School Makes News!

NACOGDOCHES » Local TV station KTRE 9 ran a story on January 23, 2015, about school choice and how it could potentially affect East Texas private schools. Sharon Clark, principal at Pineywoods Adventist Christian School (PACS) and David Bryant, the headmaster at Regents Academy, another private Christian school in Nacogdoches, each shared their perspective on school choice and how it might impact their schools.

Sharon Clark, who taught in Florida in 2002 when the state adopted the corporate scholarship program, believes that school choice can have a positive impact on Seventh-day Adventist schools in Texas.

Students at PACS received a bright yellow muffler with the words "National

School Choice Week" embroidered on it and a sticker. The principal explained to the students that school choice could help parents send their child to whichever school they believe would provide the educational environment they feel is best for that child. Regardless of the vote by the legislature, school choice will always be important to parents who desire a Christ-centered education for their child.

Help the children in your area attend the local Seventh-day Adventist school by



giving freely of your time, money, talents, and especially your prayers. Without the help of individuals who care, our schools would not be able to continue to fulfill the mission of providing a solid Adventist Christian education to our children.

Sharon Clark

60th Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Edwin and Ria (van Schalkwyk) de Kock were married in South Africa 60 years ago, the day after Christmas. Surrounding them were their parents, other relatives, and a few friends, as well as a "borrowed" best man, since Bloemfontein was not really their hometown, but her parents had moved there a year before.

On December 27, 2014, they celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Edinburg, Texas, where Ria is the Senior Ministry leader. The fellowship hall was packed by a large number of friends from the church and community, their son Carl and his wife Shelley, as well as dear folks from Oklahoma, 800 miles away. It was a joyful potluck affair. Everyone contributed to the food and fun.

In 1996, Edwin and Ria ended up in the Rio Grande Valley because they could find no employment in California. They had watched a video claiming that McAllen, Texas was a good place to retire with low-cost accommodations and food, and cheaper doctors and medicines in Mexi-

co. At first, both taught as adjuncts at the Community College and at the University of Texas-Pan American. After four years of hard work as an adjunct, Edwin succumbed to congestive heart failure early in 2001, just as his first book on prophecy was at the printers. Since he could no longer teach, he became a full-time author of books on Historicist prophecy. So far he has published four highly significant, esteemed, and well-researched books in this field. A fifth one, entitled *A More Sure Word of Prophecy*, will be published soon. His website is propheticum.com.

He celebrated his 85th birthday on March 9, and he hopes to soon hold his collected, original, and highly acclaimed Esperanto poems published in New York City by the Esperanto World.

Ria had to become the breadwinner and when she was 68, graduated from UTPA with an MA in English as a Second Language. She taught English Composition and Rhetoric there until she was 78 and was greatly beloved.

Edwin and Ria praise the Lord for keeping them alive and together these many years. Their two sons and their families also reside in the United States.



TEXAS CONFERENCE OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists will convene at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church (114 S Fairview St), Keene, Texas, on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the constitution and to transact such business as may properly come before the Conference.

The meeting is called for Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Each church is entitled to two regular delegates without regard to membership plus one regular delegate for each 60 members.

Carlos Craig, President

Gary Brady, Secretary

Edwin Romero, Treasurer

TEXAS CONFERENCE ASSOCIATION OF SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will be held at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church (114 S Fairview St), Keene, Texas, on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, to consider changes in the constitution and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Association.

The meeting is called for Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Delegates to the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Texas Conference Association.

Carlos Craig, President

Roger Mekelburg, Secretary

VALLEY EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION

Notice is hereby given that the Quadrennial Session of the Texas Conference Valley Educational Foundation will be held at the Keene Seventh-day Adventist Church (114 S Fairview St), Keene, Texas, on Sunday, April 26, 2015. The purpose of this meeting is to elect officers and directors for the ensuing quadrennial term, and to transact such other business as may properly come before the Foundation.

The meeting is called for Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Delegates of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists are also delegates to the Valley Educational Foundation.

Carlos Craig, President

Scott Stewart, Secretary/Treasurer

Personal Ministries Makes a Difference in Grandview

GRANDVIEW, TEX. » Once in a while that thought crosses your mind, *What can I do in service to God in a way that would make a difference?* Perhaps you just don't feel that you're cut out for Bible studies or you may feel uncomfortable pursuing prison ministries. Maybe you'd like to be a missionary and travel to faraway countries, but that's just not possible either. So what can you do?

"Every son and daughter of God is called to be a missionary; we are called to the service of God and our fellow men" (*The Ministry of Healing*, p. 395).

When we share God's love with others, we not only bring them closer to Him, but we are also drawn closer to them in heart and spirit. This is what personal ministries is all about.

Rich and Ronda Schram of the Grandview church are shining examples of this. Rich has become so involved in personal ministries that he's been placed in charge of his church's personal ministries programs. He and Ronda have been involved with the church's food bank, which opens up the door for other opportunities to serve, as well. Rich owns and operates his own body shop, where he restores classic

cars. So when a lady came in to the food bank with a bumper dragging, he fixed it free of charge for her. Not only has he done numerous repairs for folks who could not have otherwise afforded them, such as a brake job, or a broken car door, but he has

proceeds benefit the Grandview Area Food Bank. This year the NTARC raised \$3,503 for the Grandview Area Food Bank.

Consider your own personal interest and talents. Perhaps you might minister by sharing *your* talents with others. This doesn't mean you have to start your own club or group, but you could. Maybe you can become a part of an existing group in your community through which you share Christ's love with others. It could be as simple as baking a loaf of bread or cookies for a neighbor, or perhaps being a volunteer in service to others. The options are endless—you just have to look and see what is waiting for you.

You, too, can make a difference by being a missionary in your own local community or being

involved with your own personal ministry.

Jhan Beaupre



The Adventist Rodders Club held a car show to sponsor the Grandview Area Food Bank, a ministry of the Grandview church.

also become involved with numerous community projects to help out those in the local area with other needs.

Another major accomplishment of the Schrams was the formation of the North Texas Adventist Rodders Club (NTARC). It's much like a Christian's bikers club, but with classic cars. The Schrams have helped organize car shows for the past four years and the

Retirement Program for Pastor Joe McWilliam

Pastor Joe McWilliam has been serving both Kerrville and Fredericksburg churches for approximately two years. He plans to move back to Northeast Texas as he and his wife, Pat, look forward to being with their families and grandchildren. He was presented with a retirement ceremony in Kerrville, held by the Texas Conference leaders on Sabbath, December 20, 2014. As a pastor of both churches, he has worked side by side in caring for the church property and its members with numerous committee and planning meetings.

Betty Blair

NDA 30th ANNIVERSARY ALUMNI WEEKEND

3 1984 2014

All alumni, former students, staff and friends of NDA (formerly Richardson Adventist School) are invited to attend our 30th Anniversary Weekend on May 1–3. Visit NDAAcademy.org/30th for more information.



NORTH DALLAS ADVENTIST ACADEMY

Camp Meetings—Part of the Seventh-day Adventist Experience



TEXICO CONFERENCE

As I was growing up, camp meetings were part of our Christian experience. I remember going to Corrales, N. Mex., from northern New Mexico for camp meeting. Many years, our family would get up at 3:00 or 4:00 a.m. and drive about three hours to be the first ones at the early morning devotional. We would stay all day and leave after all the activities concluded, getting home around 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. Mom would “pack” us in the car in our pajamas and would wake us up near an Alamo (poplar or cottonwood) tree in Corrales where we would have our breakfast. Then she would change me into a Montgomery Ward catalog suit and tie to be the first ones in worship.

There were other times when we would pitch a tent on the hot sands of Corrales where we would live and sleep for days.

Camp meetings have been an integral part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church since its inception. They can be traced back to the Millerite movement. It is esti-

ated that the Millerites held more than 130 camp meetings prior to the autumn of 1844 with an estimated combined attendance of over half-a-million people (*A Brief History of Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 18-19).

Camp meetings, led by itinerant preachers, were a central feature of the Great Awakening and ideally suited for the unsettled frontier life with few established churches, limited communication, social gatherings, and ministers. The preaching at these gatherings are credited for moral reform, religious practice of society, revival, and the rapid growth of church membership.

Its purpose and organization is designed to further the kingdom of God, educate church members, create fellowship and unity, reach others for the Lord, and help those in attendance to develop a personal relationship with Him.

Ellen White said, “Every camp meeting may be a love feast from the beginning to the end because God’s presence is with His

people” (*Loma Linda Messages*, p. 537).

The Texico Conference camp meetings have been filled with seminars and sermons that teach Biblical principles, healthier lifestyles, and practical Christian living, as well as inspiring music, an active children’s program, and a lively youth and now young adult program.

As you may already know, we will not have our 2015 Texico convocation/camp meeting since the General Conference Session in San Antonio, Texas, will take place near our usual meeting time, but we greatly anticipate coming together again for the 2016 camp meeting.

I invite everyone to plan ahead for 2016. I can almost guarantee that when you attend, you will be hooked and will want to meet together with the Texico family every year and enjoy the spiritual feast.

Lee-Roy Chacon, president

Look Upon Jesus

ESPAÑOLA, N. MEX. » “Look Upon Jesus” was the theme for a special Week of Prayer presented by Edna Maestas at the Española Valley Bilingual church in Española on January 3-10, 2015.

Maestas, a member of the Rancho Viejo church in Santa Fe, traveled throughout

the week to present beautiful biblical messages based on John 14:6. Members and visitors were blessed and inspired to begin a new year with a recommitment to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. Edna’s husband, Michael, and their son, Rick, who was home on break from Southwestern Adventist University, were also a great blessing with

their gift of music. Other members of the Española church shared their gifts of music throughout the week as well.

Thank you to Ruben Rodriguez, pastor, and Beatrice Valdez, Española women’s ministries director, who organized committees within the local church to help make the week of prayer a success. A special thanks to Maestas and her family for sharing their gifts and drawing people to

the Lord as He has called each of us to do!

Diahann Cordova,
Communications



Far left: Michael and Rick Maestas honoring God with their gift of music.

◀ The Maestas family (Michael, Edna and Rick).

Master Guides Learn Winter Camping Survival

LOS ALAMOS, N. MEX. » About 20 brave souls gathered in the Jemez Mountains on January 16-18 to take part in the annual Master Guide winter camp out. During the weekend there were classes and activities for those attending to earn three honors: Winter Camping, Camp Craft, and Stars.

Derral Reeve, Texico Conference Club

sent a morning service using the chapter from *The Great Controversy* entitled "Time of Trouble" as the basis for his talk.

The days were sunny and warm (in the



Top right: Two campers in the completed snow igloo.

Above left: Learning how to make a fire using a bow and drill.

▲ Melting water from snow and preparing meals over a fire.

◀ Mike Thomas leading a winter camping honor class at the Jemez Mountains campsite.

stars and planets was superb. We were able to identify six of the planets in the night sky.

It was the first time sleeping in the snow for more than half of those attending, but everyone

Ministries Director, and several Master Guides presented the activities and classes. The spiritual activities are an important part of the camp out. Pastor Reeve pre-

40s) while the nights were cold (down to five degrees) which made for good times around the fire and sleeping in the shelters. The nights were clear and the view of the

agreed that the experience was well worth it and they would like to do it again.

Derral Reeve, club director

Grants Church Float Wins First Place in Parade

TEXICO CONFERENCE

GRANTS, N. MEX. » Listening to Kindergarten Sabbath School children enthusiastically sing “This Little Light of Mine” is a heart-warming and inspiring experience that brings smiles to the entire congregation. However, these are not the typical emotions felt when a group of adults meet to brainstorm about how they can let their “light shine” in their community, especially when the church membership is small, funding is limited, and the community is practically unaware of their existence. This was exactly the dilemma faced by the Grants church members in northwestern New Mexico as they brainstormed for unique and effective ways to witness to the 10,000 residents of Grants in late 2013.

As a result of much prayer, the Holy Spirit impressed the group to enter a float in the upcoming Christmas parade. That year, the Grants MainStreet Holiday Light

Parade contained a float from only one area church, the Grants SDA church, featuring a Christ-centered Christmas float among the other secular floats. As church members walked along with the float and handed out tracts to bystanders they wondered if they were making an impact in the community. The answer to that question came one year later when once again church members decided to enter a float in the Christmas light parade. Surprisingly, on December 13, 2014, of the 16 floats in the parade, several were from area churches and featured religious themes.

The weather that evening was very cold with rain and snow showers

soaking everyone, but SDA church members once again walked the entire parade route with the church float. Smiles and cheery greetings met them as they handed literature to the hundreds of people lining the streets. The float, “Jesus, Light of the World,” featured a stable with nativity figures, a life-sized angel blowing a trumpet, and a wooden cross draped with a simple maroon cloth and crown of thorns. Unexpectedly, a few days later a photo of the SDA float was featured in the Cibola Beacon newspaper as winner of the best float in the 18th Annual Grants MainStreet Light Parade.

Certainly without a doubt, the Grants church members can say, “This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine!”

Marion Weidemann



Grants, N. Mex., church float in the local MainStreet Holiday Light Parade.



Faces Around Southwestern

“God has a good sense of humor,” says Karina Lima, a junior English and art major at Southwestern Adventist University. “My parents are in New York and I wanted to attend a university closer to home. So I applied to four different universities. I included Southwestern as one of them because my grandma had always wanted me to go to an Adventist university. I waited, but I wasn’t getting any acceptance letters back from the universities. I prayed and told God that the first university to send me a letter I would see as the one He wanted me to attend. Sure enough, it was Southwestern.”

Lima knows that she has made the right choice in coming to Southwestern, because her spiritual life has gotten stronger every day, thanks to the people around her.

“Southwestern has changed me,” says Lima. “In my teen years I was

baptized and thought that I knew God, but I truly didn’t know Him until I arrived here. My friends always keep me motivated to search for God and know Him better. Even my bosses that I work for here have been a positive influence. Seeing that makes me want to get to know God even more.”

This semester, Lima is serving as social vice president for the Student Association, which puts a lot of responsibility on her.

“When I’m planning an event, I have to think of others rather than myself,” says Lima. “We try to do events that are both fun and spiritual. Finding balance in our events is a difficult task.”

“Southwestern is a big family,” says Lima. “It really is a different environment. You can be walking to class and if people see that you’re sad or feeling down, they’ll stop and ask you if you’re doing okay and even pray for you. I knew this girl who didn’t believe in God, but she took one religion class and got baptized. That says a lot about the type of school we are, where God is the main focus and positivity and happiness dominate the atmosphere.”

Daniel Perez didn’t think he could attend Southwestern Adventist University because he felt he couldn’t afford the tuition. Four years later, he’s set to graduate from Southwestern as a theology major and the 2015 senior class president, a position that has taught him lessons in humility and responsibility.

“I always wanted to attend Southwestern,” says Perez. “But I didn’t have the funds to cover the tuition. I got a call from a recruiter encouraging me to attend the University. We talked about financial aid.



Daniel Perez

Imaculada Alfredo

Karina Lima

I prayed that if this was His will, I would go and become a pastor, and well, God opened doors and here I am. Every time I’ve needed something, He was there with an answer.”

In addition to his responsibilities as class president, Perez works as a tutor in the ESL program and has a job with the custodial department. He finds that balancing his working hours with his schoolwork is a crucial aspect in his life.

“Finding balance has been harder since being elected class president,” says Perez. “But I have to remind myself that God comes first, classes come second, and everything else will fall into place. Also I keep a ‘Wall of Responsibility’ in my room. I use thumbtacks or sticky notes and map out everything that is due. This is the easiest way for me to remember all I have to do, and not forget anything.”

After graduation, Daniel Perez wants to become a youth pastor or leader and serve youth who are struggling in life. Currently he serves as student pastor at the Alvarado Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“I’ve always had the burden to work with youth,” says Perez. “I know God will use me wherever he needs me, and wherever that is I will always do my best for His glory, not mine.”

Imaculada Alfredo is an English as a Second Language (ESL) student at Southwestern and she describes her first semester experience with one word: “scary.” She was scared of the fact that she knew no one in the classroom and she couldn’t understand what the teacher was saying.

Learning a new language is a perfect mix of happiness and frustration. You’re happy because you are learning to communicate, able to create new relationships with people from all over the world, and you discover how magical language can be.

“But sometimes I get frustrated because all I want to do is write in

English and I simply can’t,” says Alfredo.

Is the struggle worth it? Definitely yes! “I’ve gained so much independence. Before I was afraid to go out alone, but now I can even order a Subway sandwich,” Alfredo says.

The way the ESL program is structured provided another benefit. Every Monday through Thursday, Alfredo looks forward to the 10 a.m. worship service in Evans Hall.

“This program has given me opportunities to become closer to Christ and I thank Him for that,” says Alfredo, smiling. She enjoys listening to devotions by Monica Kowarsch, director of ESL, and has had the opportunity to pray in front of her classmates. Learning English may be hard at times, but she enjoys discovering every little word and conjugating verbs she never knew existed.

“Coming to Southwestern to learn English was the best choice I could have made.”

Angela Manguiera, junior communication major, and **Saul Flores**, junior communication major

Outreach Training in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO, TEX. » On February 5-8, in San Antonio, Texas, pastors and lay people from all over San Antonio and surrounding areas met for an outreach training in preparation for the upcoming evangelistic thrust that will occur before, after, and during the Your Best Pathway to Health community health clinic and events leading up to the GC Session.

The four-day weekend consisted of workshops, trainings, and motivating messages that focused specifically on preparing pastors and lay people for the outreach opportunities to come. After the Your Best Pathway to Health commu-



nity health clinic, follow-up trainings and seminars for health clinic patients and community members will be held in churches across San Antonio and surrounding areas. The outreach trainings will include Natural Lifestyle Cooking classes, and seminars for Creation Health, Diabetes Undone, and Depression Recovery.



Dr. Lela Lewis, founder of the Pathway to Health project, and coordinator of last

year's clinic in San Francisco, spoke at the weekend's events, sharing what this grand

Top: Don Macintosh of Weimar College

Above left: Dr. Lela and Dr. Chris Lewis

▲ Teenie Finley

◀ Mark Finley sharing a message on Sabbath

health ministry was all about, and the importance of it. Mark Finley and his wife, Teenie, who will be teaching the cooking classes, also attended to share valuable information about how to conduct Bible studies and effectively implement the outreach plans.

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Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural setting but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village

has fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home and transportation as needed. Web site: <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

15+/- acres with pond outside of Cleburne, TX: 3/3/2 Austin stone home on property with 2 master suites, sunroom, foam insulation, 2x6 outer walls. Home is in the building process. Agent related to seller. Call Calahan Real Estate Professionals at 817.645.9308 for more information.

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For more information call 405.482.7235.

EMPLOYMENT

The Communication Department at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time professor in Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu.

The Nursing Department at Southwestern Adventist University seeks educator to serve as Chair for Nursing Department beginning Fall 2015. Doctoral degree required with three years of university/college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter

and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu.

Share God's redeeming love while teaching Bible and conversational English at Korean Language Institute. For more information, e-mail us at koreanmission.ok@gmail.com, or call 405.761.0655.

The Business Department Southwestern Adventist University seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master's degree required; Ph.D. preferred, with emphasis in Finance, Marketing or Accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses, and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu.

Adventist Book Center - April 2015 - Direct to You (D2U) Schedule

Monday, April 6

Gainesville - 3411 N Weaver St, Gainesville - 10:00am to 10:30am
Ardmore - 828 Locust St, Ardmore, OK 73401 - 11:20am to 11:50am
Arbuckle View - 5500 Hwy 7W, Davis, OK 73030 - 12:30pm to 1:00pm
Pauls Valley - 2930 W Grant Ave, Pauls Valley, OK 73075 - 2:05pm to 2:35pm
Hope Adv. Fellowship - 9309 S I-35 Service Rd, Moore, OK 73160 - 3:35pm to 4:05pm
Southern Hills (OKC) - 1201 W I-240 Service Rd, OKC, OK 73139 - 4:25pm to 4:55pm
OK Conference - 4735 NW 63rd St, OKC, OK 73132 - 5:35pm to 6:05pm
Edmond - 13812 Scott St, Edmond, OK 73013 - 6:45pm to 7:15pm
Enid - 1501 W Purdue Ave, Enid, OK 73703 - 8:55pm to 9:25pm

Tuesday, April 7

Stillwater - 3823 W 19th Ave, Stillwater, OK 74074 - 9:25am to 9:55am
Bristow - 401 E 6th Ave, Bristow, OK 74010 - 11:20am to 11:50am
Sapulpa - 201 S Linden St, Sapulpa, OK 74066 - 12:30pm to 1:00pm
Adventist Fellowship - 15303 E 21st St S, Tulsa, OK 74134 - 2:10pm to 2:40pm
Bartlesville - 4811 Nowata Rd, Bartlesville, OK 74006 - 3:45pm to 4:15pm
Ketchum - 35369 S Hwy 82, Vinita, OK 74301 - 5:30pm to 6:00pm
Claremore - 20555 S 4170 Rd, Claremore, OK 74017 - 6:50pm to 7:20pm
West Siloam Springs SPN - 57570 S 690 Rd, Colcord, OK 74338 - 8:35pm to 9:05pm

Wednesday, April 8

Decatur - 790 E Roller Ave, Decatur AR 72722 - 8:35am to 9:05am
Bentonville - 2520 SE 14th St, Bentonville AR 72712 - 10:00am to 10:30am
Springdale - 4001 W Don Tyson Pkwy, Springdale AR 72762 - 10:40am to 11:10am
Huntsville - 1357 W Main St, Huntsville AR 72740 - 12:00pm to 12:30pm
Harrison - 4877 Highway 392 W, Harrison AR 72601 - 2:05pm to 2:35pm
Clinton - 4877 Highway 392 W, Harrison AR 72601 - 3:50pm to 4:20pm
Conway - 1265 Robins St, Conway AR 72034 - 5:20pm to 5:50pm
Russellville - 1265 Robins St, Conway AR 72034 - 6:50pm to 7:20pm
Clarksville - 2514 W Main St, Clarksville AR 72830 - 7:55pm to 8:25pm

Thursday, April 9

Ozark - 1601 Helberg Ln, Ozark AR 72949 - 8:35am to 9:05am
Fort Smith - 4321 Jenny Lind Rd, Fort Smith AR 72901 - 10:00am to 10:30am
Sallisaw - 2080 W Lenington Rd, Sallisaw OK 74955 - 11:20am to 11:50am
Muskogee - 170 N Country Club Rd, Muskogee OK 74403 - 12:45pm to 1:15pm
McAlester - 620 Delaware Ave, McAlester, OK 74501 - 3:10pm - 3:40pm
Durant - 225 Sunnymeadow Dr, Durant OK 74701 - 5:05pm to 5:35pm
Dennison - 3409 S Eisenhower Pkwy, Denison TX 75020 - 6:15pm to 6:45pm

Monday, April 20

Greenville - 1211 Commerce Dr, Greenville TX 75401 - 9:45am to 10:15am
Sulphur Springs - 409 Houston St, Sulphur Springs TX 75482 - 11:00am to 11:30am
Mount Pleasant - 302 Lakewood Dr, Mt Pleasant TX 75455 - 12:20pm to 12:50pm
Paris - 1564 US Highway 271 S, Paris TX 75462 - 2:20pm to 2:50pm
Hugo - E Kirk Rd, Hugo OK 74743 - 3:35pm to 4:05pm
De Queen - 1452 Red Bridge Rd, De Queen AR 71832 - 5:45pm to 6:15pm
Glenwood - 210 S 3rd St, Glenwood AR 71943 - 7:50pm to 8:20pm

Tuesday, April 21

Hot Springs - 401 Weston Rd, Hot Springs AR 71913 - 8:25am to 8:55am
Benton - 2615 Lincoln Rd, Benton AR 72019 - 9:45am to 10:15am
Little Rock - 8700 N Rodney Parham Rd, Little Rock, AR 72205 - 10:50am to 11:20am
Searcy - 2703 W Beebe Capps Expy, Searcy AR 72143 - 12:30pm to 1:00pm
Batesville - 30 Gap Rd, Batesville AR 72501 - 2:40pm to 3:10pm
Williford (Spring River) - 1618A Highway 63, Williford AR 72482 - 4:30pm to 5:00pm
Jonesboro - 2317 W Washington Ave, Jonesboro AR 72401 - 6:15pm to 6:45pm
New Life - 1093 Highway 77, Marion AR 72364 - 8:00pm to 8:30pm

Wednesday, April 22

Forrest City - 1350 Newcastle Rd, Forrest City AR - 8:45am to 9:15am
Shiloh Adventist School - 2400 Maple St, Little Rock AR 72204 - 10:45am to 11:15am
Pine Bluff Northside - 5603 Holsey St, Pine Bluff AR 71602 - 12:05pm to 12:35pm
Camden - 121 Agee Ave NW, Camden AR 71701 - 2:35pm to 3:05pm
Magnolia - 2015 Ellis St, Magnolia AR 71753 - 3:50pm to 4:20pm
Texarkana - 3100 Pleasant Grove Rd, Texarkana TX 75503 - 5:35pm to 6:05pm
Shreveport (Conf. Office) - 7025 Greenwood Rd, Shreveport LA 71119 - 7:30pm to 8:00pm

Thursday, April 23

Jefferson Academy - 3000 FM 728, Jefferson TX 75657 - 9:10am to 9:40am
Longview - 2800 Airline Rd, Longview TX 75605 - 10:35am to 11:05am
Mineola - 1904 Old Tyler Hwy, Mineola TX 75773 - 12:05pm to 12:35pm
Terrell -



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is seeking a full-time carpentry foreperson to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet making, and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects

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Radio Station Manager Needed:

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Union College

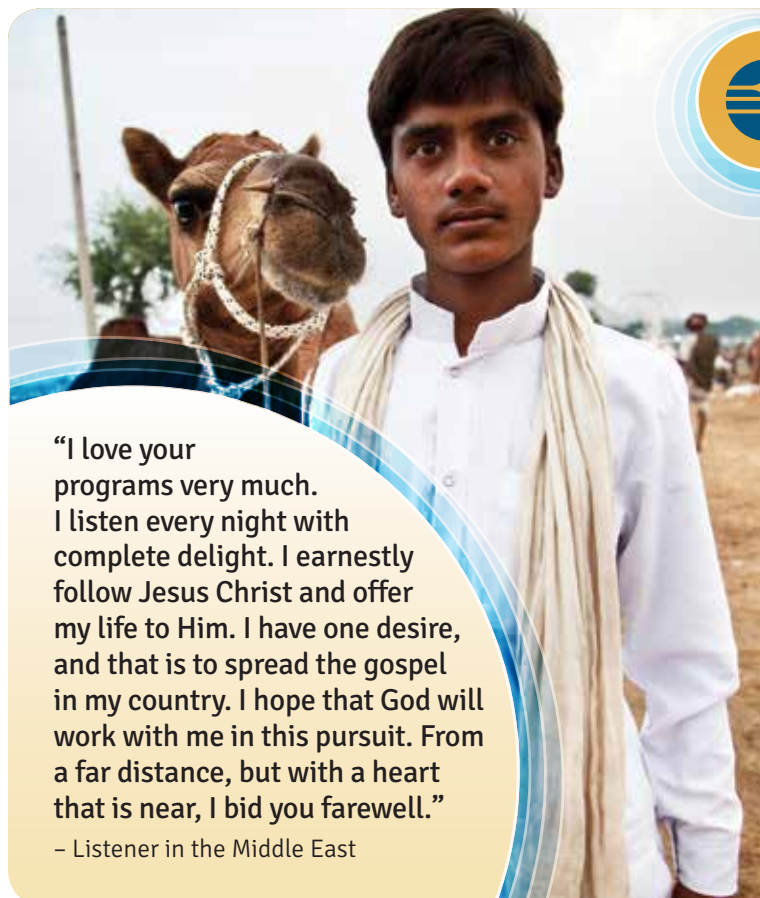
seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certificate to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. E-mail letter of interest and CV to Dr. Denise White, Chair of

Human Development, at de-white@ucollege.edu. Effective summer 2015.

Union College seeks professor specializing in emerging media. A minimum of five years experience in public relations or integrated marketing communication is essential, as is commitment to staying current with constant changes in practice. Doctorate preferred; master's required. E-mail cover letter and CV to Michelle Velázquez Mesnard at mimesnar@ucollege.edu.

Do you know an SDA professional working abroad?

Adventist Frontier Missions is piloting a program to train and coach "tentmakers." We are networking expatriate workers and providing them with mission training and home church resources. If



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The Kinesiology Department at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master's degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have some teaching experience. Submit CV and cover letter to Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at vnaukkar@swau.edu.

The General Conference/Office of General Counsel is accepting resumes for a f/t attorney. Required: good standing/member of a U.S. state bar, licensed to practice in the US, and a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in regular standing. Maryland bar membership is preferred. Preference for an attorney with experience in Intellectual Property, Media law, and other transactional law. Location: Silver Spring, Maryland. A wide range of benefits included. Submit resume to Karnik Doukmetzian, General Counsel, at karnikd@gc.adventist.org.

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Relocating from one state to another? The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines Clergy Move Center can help! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Quality is inherent. Call us directly for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800.248.8313, or learn more about us at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.

Adventist Rodders Club GC Meet-N-Greet: Members and those interested in joining/starting a local chapter join us for refreshments and car talk Sunday, July 5, 2015, 10 am – 1 pm at Roosevelt Park, 331 Roosevelt Ave., San Antonio, TX. For information, e-mail nomadder55@gmail.com. Bring your specialty car.

6-day Natural Remedies & Hydrotherapy Workshop: August 2-7, 2015 at Andrews University. Details: www.andrews.edu/go/nrhw, fran@andrews.edu, or 269.471.3541.

Don't Miss Medical Missionary Training at Wellness Secrets Lifestyle Center in Decatur, AR, May 10-15, 2015. Special emphasis in Hydrotherapy Theory with hands-on lab and Introduc-

tion to Herbalism I Theory with hands-on lab. Other classes: Common Diseases and Natural Treatments, Community Health Evangelism, and more. More information at www.wellnessSecrets4u.com, or 479.752.8555.

Butler Creek Health Education Center: Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, and Overcoming Depression. May 10-22, 2015 and June 14-26, 2015. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease amidst the beauty of nature. Cost: \$975. Register online at www.butlercreekhealth.org, or call: 931.213.1329.

Announcements

"Ye Olde" Cedar Lake Academy Reunion will take place June 5-7, 2015 for alumni and classmates of 1965 and earlier at Great Lakes Adventist Academy, Cedar Lake, Michigan. Honor classes: 1935, 1945, 1955, 1965. Details will be forthcoming by postal service. For further information you may contact GLAA Alumni Office at 989.427.5181 or visit <http://www.glaa.net>.

Honoring George Knight: Please join Andrews University for the presentation of a festschrift to George Knight in honor of his distinguished teaching, research, editorial and publishing career. The recently released book, *Adventist Maverick: A Celebration of George Knight's Contribution to Adventist Thought*, is a collection of writings by colleagues and students who have come to highly respect Knight and his scholarship. The event will take place on Tuesday,

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April 21, at 11:30 a.m. in the Seminary Chapel at Andrews University and will feature tributes by the editors and a response from Knight. A reception will follow in the Seminary Commons. All are welcome.

Jefferson Academy Homecoming Weekend, April 17-19, 2015. Don Schneider will be the Sabbath speaker. Contact us at: jefferson-academyalumni@gmail.com. Come join your friends and former classmates for fun, food, and fellowship. Potluck under the pines following church. Honor classes: '65; '75; '85; '95; '05.

Jefferson Christian Academy will be hosting Academy Days on April 10-12, 2015. All 7th through 11th graders are invited to come spend time at JCA. Register online to be entered into a drawing for a mini iPad at

jeffersonchristianacademy.org/academydays, or call 903.665.3973. Come join us and experience JCA at 3060 FM 728, Jefferson, TX, 75657.

Laurelbrook School, Dayton, TN Homecoming April 2-5, 2015. Honor Classes are 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000, 2005, 2010 and new grads 2015. A fun-filled weekend of events is being planned. Theme for weekend is "The Time is Now." For more information, contact the school, alumni officers or e-mail Phillip Walton at alumni@laurelbrook.org.

Marietta, Texas, New Hope Church Homecoming: May 9, 2015 with Carlos Craig, Texas Conference President, as speaker.

NAD Church Study: The North American Division is seeking feedback from

church members on how it can improve its ministry with regard to mission, education, and church structure. A special Web site has been created for this purpose. Please visit <http://www.nad-churchstudy.org/purpose> to add your viewpoint to the conversation.

North Dallas Adventist Academy: All alumni, former students, staff, and friends of North Dallas Adventist Academy (previously Richardson Adventist School) are invited to come celebrate 30 Years of Adventist Education May 1-3, 2015, at the school's first Alumni Weekend. Help us honor the school's first teacher and principal Doris Sorenson. Get more information or register online at ndaacademy.org/30th.

Oklahoma Academy Days: Announcing Academy Days at Oklahoma Academy! If

you are a student who is serious about your walk with the Lord and His mission for your life, Oklahoma Academy may be just right for you. Come April 17-19, 2015 for our Academy Days weekend and find out. Call 405.454.6211 to make your reservations today! Also visit www.oklahomaacademy.org.

Save The Date! Greater New York Academy 95th Anniversary is October 9-11, 2015. Honoring classes ending in 0 and 5. Friday night: Vespers and Welcome Table. Sabbath: Church Service, Lunch, "Music and Memories." Sunday: Breakfast and Basketball. Send your name and contact info to alumni@gnyacademy.org, or friend us on Facebook at Greater NYA, or write to Greater NY Academy, 41-32 58th St., Woodside, NY 11377.

Obituaries

FOSS, Phyllis Louise

Jackson, born January 10, 1917 in Crookston, Minn., and died February 28, 2015 in Anchorage, Alaska. She was a member of the Summit Ridge church in Harrah, Okla. She worked for several years at the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Takoma Park, Md. Her husband, Kermit I. Foss, preceded her in death. Survivors: daughters, Carol Baker, of Palmer, Alaska, and Marilyn Levy, of Anchorage; son, Paul Foss, of Frederick, Md.; 18 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews

FREEL, Stanley Jay, born August 17, 1956, in Elkhart, Ind., and died on February 16, 2015, in Amarillo, Tex. He was a member of the Amarillo English church. He was a co-owner of Art Kraft Plastering Systems, LLC. He enjoyed watching the Cowboys' football, fishing, gardening, and NASCAR's Dale Jr., grandson Shane's baseball, and granddaughter Chloe's ballet. He was a devoted husband, son, father, brother, and papa. His devoted dog, Lexey was always by his side. Survivors: wife, Cheryl Freel; mother, Thelma Freel; daughters, Jennifer Freel and Misty Kirkland; sons, Shawn Carlisle and Michael Freel; brother, Michael Freel; sister, Patricia Freel; three nieces, and one nephew.

HARMON, David Ralph, born May 5, 1937, in Panhandle, Tex., and died November 18, 2014, in Amarillo, Tex. He was a longtime member of the Amarillo, Tex., church, serving many years there as head elder and Sabbath School teacher. As he gave in life, he gave in death by

donating his body to Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center. He also went on several "Share Him" mission trips. Survivors: wife, Barbara Harmon, of Amarillo; daughter, Teresa Bittle, of Amarillo; son, David Roy Harmon, of Amarillo; sister, Georgia Newman, of Garland, Tex.

HUGHES, Leroy, born January 8, 1933, in Tennessee and died February 3, 2015, in Lodi, Calif. He was a previous member of the Joshua, Texas, church. Leroy served at Southwestern ColorGraphics in Keene, Tex., for more than 40 years mentoring many students from Southwestern Adventist University during that time. For 31 of those years, he was layout and design artist for the Southwestern Union Record. Survivors: Joan, wife of 62 years; daughters Debbie Clausen (Ben) of Yucaipa, Calif.; Judy Hanson (Richard) of Woodbridge, Calif.; Susan Gilbert (Dan) of Nampa, Idaho; Jeanine Griffith of San Antonio, Tex; and five grandchildren.

MATTHEWS, M. Oneita, born October 1, 1924, in Locust Grove, Okla., and died January 15, 2015 in Tigard, Ore. She was a member of the Vinita, Okla., church. After graduating from Welch High School, she moved to Madison, Tenn., at the age of 17. She later moved to California after retiring in 1989 from the Rocky Mountain Conference of the Seventh-day Adventist. The church was of utmost important to her. One of her mission projects was making pretty baby blankets for newborn babies. She served as the treasurer for many years at the Vinita church, and served in other roles, as well. Survivors: Elizabeth Tate, of Vinita, and

numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

STOCKTON, Frederick L., born January 24, 1951, in Fort Smith, Ark., and died October 2, 2014, in Fort Worth, Texas. He was a member of the Alvarado church. Survivors: wife, Judy; sons, Samuel and Josh; sister, Sandra; brother, Keith; and four grandchildren.

VAN Buren, Dudley O., born October 14, 1920, in Monticello, Ind., and died January 9, 2015 in Keene, Tex. He was a member of the Conroe, Tex., church. Dudley "D. O." built churches, wrote poetry, wrote songs, pastored many churches, and gave hundreds of Bible studies. He also counseled troubled youth with criminal problems while he was their defense attorney and went so far as to bring them into his home for Bible studies while waiting for their case to be heard. Somewhat remarkably, each of his children and grandchildren continued to remain in close contact with him over

the years including seeking spiritual guidance from him. Survivors: wife, Emma; son, Stephen; daughter and son-in-law, Gayle and Bruce Oliver; 11 grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren.

WOOD Terry Eugene "Woody," born October 23, 1952, in Cushing, Okla., and died February 9, 2015. He was a long-time member of the Choctaw, Okla., church. Woody married Vicki Terry on October 20, 1972. In 1975 their family grew to include twins, Kristi and Brian. Woody was a builder and contractor in Midwest City and Choctaw and built and remodeled many homes in the area. Survivors: wife, Vicki; son, Brian; daughter and son-in-law, Kristi and Remone Russell; four grandchildren, and many other family members and friends.



SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR

	Apr 3	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24	May 1	May 8
Abilene, TX	7:59	8:04	8:09	8:14	8:19	8:24
Albuquerque, NM	7:29	7:34	7:40	7:45	7:51	7:57
Amarillo, TX	8:09	8:15	8:21	8:26	8:32	8:38
Brownsville, TX	7:47	7:50	7:54	7:57	8:01	8:04
Dallas, TX	7:48	7:53	7:58	8:03	8:08	8:13
El Paso, TX	7:26	7:31	7:35	7:40	7:45	7:50
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10	8:15
Gallup, NM	7:37	7:43	7:49	7:54	8:00	8:06
Galveston/Houston, TX	7:41	7:45	7:49	7:53	7:58	8:02
Gentry, AR	7:41	7:47	7:53	7:59	8:05	8:11
Little Rock, AR	7:31	7:37	7:42	7:48	7:53	7:59
Muskogee, OK	7:44	7:50	7:55	8:01	8:07	8:13
New Orleans, LA	7:19	7:24	7:28	7:32	7:37	7:41
Oklahoma City, OK	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:15	8:21
Roswell, NM	7:19	7:24	7:29	7:35	7:40	7:45
San Antonio, TX	7:53	7:57	8:01	8:05	8:10	8:14
Shreveport, LA	7:36	7:40	7:45	7:50	7:55	8:01
Tulsa, OK	7:46	7:52	7:58	8:04	8:10	8:16

2015 Sunset Calendars are now available at www.SouthwesternAdventist.org/sunset



On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Still a Ways to Go

EACH YEAR THE APRIL ISSUE OF THE RECORD is dedicated to camp meetings and summer camps around our union. But every five years, a massive global “camp meeting” takes place—the General Conference Session—and this time it’s happening right in our own territory! Let me share a bit of history regarding the GC Session.

More than 150 years ago, in the spring of 1848 in Rocky Hill, Connecticut, the first “general meeting” of Sabbatarian Adventists was held. Twelve years later, in the fall of 1860 at a “general” conference held in Battle Creek, Michigan, a group of 18 people, including James and Ellen White, met and selected the name Seventh-day Adventist and legally incorporated the SDA Publishing Association. The first official General Conference Session was held on May 20, 1863 in Battle Creek, Michigan, with 20 delegates attending. There were 3,500 Seventh-day Adventists living in North America at the time. The 1888 General Conference Session had 91 delegates who met in Minneapolis, Minnesota. By 1901 the church was no longer a fledgling organization. Two hundred thirty-eight

delegates attended the General Conference Session held in April of 1901, representing a church comprised of 75,000 members. And the church has been growing ever since.

So let’s fast forward to July 2015. The Seventh-day Adventist Church membership worldwide has swelled to 18.1 million people. At the General Conference Session in San Antonio, a number equal to or exceeding the total membership of the church in 1901 is expected to fill the Alamodome on Sabbath. Over 2,000 delegates will represent the church divisions around the world. From a church growth perspective, that’s absolutely phenomenal. Such massive expansion in size represents the work of the Holy Spirit moving upon men and women, boys and girls, to fulfill the commission of carrying the gospel to

the world. And that’s a *good* thing.

While we can rejoice at how God has blessed the growth of His church, a statement I found on page 633 of *The Great Controversy* was quite sobering: “By giving the gospel to the world it is in our power to hasten our Lord’s return. We are not only to look for but to hasten the coming of the day of God. 2 Peter 3:12, margin. Had the church of Christ done her appointed work as the Lord ordained, the whole world would before this have been warned, and the Lord Jesus would have come to our earth in power and great glory.” The reality is, we’ve made great progress, but there’s much more to do!

As excited as I am about the upcoming GC Session in San Antonio, there’s another “camp meeting” that I’m looking forward to even more—that great “camp meeting” that takes place when we all unite in heaven. Hope to see you there!

Pat Humphrey

Record

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