

Southwestern Union

Record

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Record

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Our Mission:

The Mission of the Southwestern Union is to Equip and Inspire the Southwestern Union Territory with the Distinctive Adventist Message of Hope and Wholeness.

Editor's Note

Do you believe that your home could be a little piece of heaven on earth? Can you create a space where everyone belongs, has value, and is shown love? Where children are taught to love God and each other both from the Bible and from the actions of their parents? Can such a space exist? When fathers and mothers are intentional about modeling the heavenly Father for their children, they are shown a glimpse of heaven.

This month we begin a new quarterly theme, Household Faith, in which we discuss what it means to be a faithful family. We learn that God created and loves families, and we discover how to strengthen and grow our relationships with God and with each other.



Jessica L. Lozano

Cover photo by Patricia Henriquez

Household Faith

Making Your Home a Little Heaven on Earth



Larry Moore | President

God has placed us in community in order to grow spiritually. Of course, we can grow on our own—with God’s help—but He has designed us to encourage one another. The logical place to start is with family, but sometimes that is the hardest. Maybe it’s because we know each other so well or maybe we are reluctant to share our inmost thoughts with those we love. Whatever the reason, we need to encourage and be encouraged by family. Besides the encouragement we give or receive, there are other benefits; for instance, communication between spouses is vital to a happy marriage, and worship can aid in the marital process. As we become aware of each other’s spiritual challenges, we learn how to pray for the other and how to encourage each other.

Family worship is of utmost importance for children. As we model worship together, the children will quickly pick up the importance and joy of family time. Give them time to talk and listen to their burdens; lead them to Jesus. Matthew 19:14 reminds us that Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” Our children are likely to pick up the good habits they see at home and carry them over to their own home when they are grown, thus creating a ripple effect that will bless generations.

Meaningful relationships require two essentials: time and communication. Our time with God is vital and necessary. Jesus in His earthly ministry gave us an example of the value of spending time with God in prayer and the study of His Word. We are enriched as God speaks to us from His Word, and we are privileged to speak to God through the avenue of prayer. To grow spiritually as an individual and as a family is mandated by this daily connection with God, along with contemplation of how to apply what is studied.

An often-neglected activity in the home circle is family worship. It is a time set aside for the family, regardless of the family makeup, to pause and reflect on God’s goodness during the past hours of the day the family has been apart. When families come together daily to experience this encounter with God, a bond is solidified with both the Almighty and with each other. I believe that if families would invest time with God and with each other in daily family worship, many of the problems that surface in the home arena would be resolved. We have the heavenly resources of the triune God, and angels who are available and eager to assist us in our spiritual growth. Our families will be made strong as we make our God-connection the priority in our lives.



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Family life can be very busy. Driving to practices and school events fills our schedules, and taking care of chores around the house can be distracting. However, there is a serious battle taking place in our homes today across America. Ephesians 6:12 tells us, “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms.”

Family is at the core of who we are as people. When our families are attacked by hurt, challenges, illnesses, financial struggles, or things that threaten to tear us apart, it is precisely the time to draw closer to each other. It is a time that God can use to strengthen the family unit. It is also the time that our church families need to step up and be spiritual warriors with the family. Joshua’s proclamation is a great reminder to keep us focused. In Joshua 24:15, he challenged the Israelites saying, “Choose yourselves this day whom you will serve.” Joshua then affirmed, “As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” When battles come upon our doorsteps, I encourage you to embrace the opportunity to grow spiritually as a family.

El Milagro de Mateo **Mateo's Miracle**



Patricia Henríquez

Ⓜ Our lives were completely changed on November 21, 2013. On that cold and rainy Thursday, we received the much-anticipated and exciting news: our son had been born! The baby we had prayed for and so desired had arrived. Just 48 hours later, our precious little newborn with tiny hands, soft skin, and big eyes was in our arms. We felt so much love the instant we held him. Words cannot describe how we felt in that solemn and blessed moment. Our hearts were overjoyed at this precious miracle. We wanted to give him a special name, with a special meaning deserving of this love story. We named him, Mateo, gift of God.

My husband and I prayed for a child for nine years. With faith, we petitioned the Lord for the privilege of parenthood. We yearned for that opportunity and the divine responsibility of raising a family. As we lifted our hearts and prayers, we really had no idea what God's plans were for us. The Lord was silent for nine years. But we never lost hope, we weren't anxious, nor did we feel empty because we weren't parents.

His answer came in an incomprehensible and marvelous manner. Before we even began working with an adoption agency, we were given the opportunity to adopt a baby! The biological family was looking to place him with a Seventh-day Adventist couple, and we were connected through a mutual friend. They chose us before the adoption process even began.

Ⓜ Nuestras vidas cambiaron completamente el 21 de noviembre 2013. Aquel jueves frío y lluvioso recibimos la noticia más esperada, había nacido nuestro hijo. Había llegado el niño tan deseado por el cual orábamos. Sólo 48 horas más tarde, el precioso bebito con pequeñitas manos, piel suave, y hermosos ojos grandes estaba en nuestros brazos. ¡Cuanto amor sentimos por él desde el primer instante que lo cargamos y lo abrazamos! No hay palabras para describir ese momento de dicha tan solemne y bendecido. Nuestros corazones se enternecieron ante el precioso milagrito. Buscamos un nombre para él con un significado especial para sumar esta gran historia de amor. Lo nombramos, Mateo: "Regalo de Dios".

Por nueve años mi esposo y yo, oramos por un hijo. Con mucha fe le pedíamos al Señor el privilegio de ser padres. Nos ilusionaba mucho el poder realizar tan sublime tarea encomendada a la familia. Mientras elevábamos las oraciones al cielo realmente no teníamos idea cuáles eran los planes del Señor para nosotros. Pasaron nueve años mientras el Señor estuvo en silencio. Pero nunca nos sentimos angustiados, ansiosos, o vacíos por el hecho de no ser padres.

La respuesta llegó de una manera maravillosa e incomprensible. Antes de comunicarnos con alguna agencia de adopción, se nos dio la oportunidad de adoptar a un bebé. La familia biológica buscaba un matrimonio Adventista con nuestras ca-

While we had prayed and waited, without any clear response, our omniscient Father was impressing and guiding the individuals that would make our miracle a reality.

God answered our prayer for a family. We strive to be good parents, steering Mateo away from evil and towards Jesus and eternal life. This miracle renewed our faith in God, proving that the Lord hears and responds to our prayers. Through the years and the silence, He taught us to be patient and wait on Him.

Mateo is a sweet child full of energy. He loves swimming, soccer, biking, camping with our church's Pathfinder club, and any outdoor activity. He loves to help his dad, his hero, around the house. He also likes books, especially those with animals and insects, and he loves to go to the zoo, carefully observing its inhabitants. We take advantage of these moments to teach him about God's nature and creation.

We begin each day with family worship. Mateo loves music and singing along with us, something he's had a knack for since he was younger. We read Bible stories together and each time is a new opportunity to keep him focused and reverent. We are constantly looking for new ideas that will get his attention and keep him interested. It's fascinating to see him memorize verses from his Sabbath school lesson, as well as recite back the Bible story for that particular week. In the evenings, when the three of us are gathered, we love listening to Mateo tell his dad the story he learned that day. As we finish worship in the evening, we kneel together to pray. He always asks to pray. We teach him to give thanks for the blessings our Father gives us every day and we ask for His blessings and guidance for our family. It is moving to hear his sweet little voice repeating after us.

We've been asked if we are going to tell Mateo about his adoption and the answer is a resounding yes! Mateo is a special child because of his beautiful adoption story. It is our family's most wonderful testimony. It's a testimony filled with God's immense love, a love that we pray Mateo will always know and trust.

We hope our testimony inspires others to trust in our Creator's great power. Trust in the wonderful promises in His Word, know that they are real and true. Trust that He fulfills them and answers the prayers of His children.

Julia, Delfino, and Mateo Hernandez live in Fort Worth, Texas, and are members of the Fort Worth Salim Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church.



Patricia Henríquez

racterística y nos conectó un amigo mutuo. Nos eligieron aún antes de entrar al proceso de adopción. Mientras orábamos y esperábamos pacientes, sin tener ninguna respuesta, nuestro buen Padre fue impresionando y guiando aquellas personas que usaría para realizar este gran milagro.

Dios contestó nuestra oración, nuestra plegaria por una familia. Como padres, nos prepararnos cada día mejor para guardarlo del mal y guiarlo a Jesús y a la vida eterna. Este milagro renovó nuestra fe en Dios al comprobar que Él nos escucha y responde siempre a nuestras oraciones. Nos enseñó a ser pacientes y esperar en Él.

Mateo es un niño dulce lleno energía. Le encanta la natación, el fútbol, andar en bicicleta, acampar con el club de Conquistadores de nuestra iglesia y todas las actividades al aire libre. Le gusta ayudar a su papá, su mayor héroe, con las tareas de la casa. También le gustan los libros, especialmente de animales e insectos. Le encanta visitar al zoológico y observa con mucha atención a los animales. Siempre aprovechamos estos momentos para enseñarle sobre la naturaleza y la creación de Dios.

Nuestra primera actividad del día es el culto familiar. Disfruta mucho de la música y desde muy pequeño aprende con facilidad los cantos que le enseñamos. Como mamá, es un desafío mantenerlo atento y reverente cuando le cuento las historias de la Biblia. Siempre buscamos ideas diferentes para llamar su atención y que le sean interesante. Es sorprendente verlo aprender cortos versículos de la lección de escuela sabática y repetir las historias que aprende cada semana. Por las noches, junto a mi esposo, nos emociona verlo contarle a su papi la historia aprendida. Terminamos el culto arrodillados en oración. Él siempre pide orar. Le enseñamos a agradecer por las bendiciones diarias y le pedimos al Señor guiar y bendecir nuestra familia. Nos enternece mucho escucharlo repetir las oraciones con su suave vozecita.

Nos han preguntado si le contaremos a Mateo sobre su adopción, ¡y nuestra respuesta es SÍ! Mateo es un niño especial por su bella historia de adopción. Es el testimonio más

hermoso que tenemos como familia. Un testimonio sumergido en el inmenso amor de Dios, el cual ayudará a Mateo a confiar siempre y vivir una vida cumpliendo Su voluntad.

Deseamos que nuestro testimonio anime a muchas personas a confiar en el gran poder de nuestro Creador. Confiar en las hermosas promesas que Él tiene para nosotros en su Palabra y saber que son reales y verdaderas. Confiar que Él las cumple y contesta las oraciones de sus hijos.

Julia, Delfino y Mateo viven en Fort Worth, Texas y son miembros de la Iglesia Adventista del Séptimo Día Hispana de Salim.

Meaningful Memories

Cherish the Summer with Those You Love



I have three sons. Each has a totally different personality and different interests. One enjoys a day spent in front of the TV, another bores easily and complains that there is nothing to do, and my third child plays outside all day. When I was a kid, most children were outside, exploring and socializing. Most of my childhood memories include adventures with my brother, building forts, and exploring on our bikes. If we are honest, we all want our kids to be outdoors playing in the pool, building tree houses, riding bikes, and just being kids.

However, the reality is we live in a world that is extremely fast paced. Most parents are running from when they wake up until they go to bed, trying to find balance between work, finances, household duties, and everything that is involved with raising their children

including homework, music lessons, and sports. Some days can seem like an endless to do list. But when I stop and consider their future, what I really want is for my sons to grow up making memories that will help build their characters, living experiences that they will cherish for the rest of their lives.

My wife and I want to ensure our children feel they are loved every day. We are invested in their lives, from being those loud, supportive parents on the sidelines at all their sporting events, to doing a family activity together every Saturday night. I have found that traditions are what shapes who our family is today. In order to do this we often have to reevaluate our priorities and re-prioritize to make sure we are accomplishing our goals.

You can start to change the pace around your home by committing to

a few simple things like saying “I love you” more, going for walks, playing with your kids and their toys, or just sitting down and talking. This summer, take a step back and think about the memories from your childhood. Which ones mean the most to you? Grab a calendar and make a plan to recreate those activities with your family. I challenge every family to purposefully create memories that will become traditions passed on from generation to generation. Summer is the perfect time to slow down, go out in nature, and build memories that will last a lifetime. **R**

Chad Hutchinson has an M.S. in education and is an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology at Southwestern Adventist University. He lives in Cleburne, Texas, with his wife, Kim, and their three sons, Jaden, Jarrett, and Jaxon.

Kids in the Kitchen

Coming Together for Family-friendly Meals

By Jessica Lozano, Southwestern Union Conference Communication Director and Record Editor

A generation ago, families ate most daily meals together. Now, life seems to go by too quickly, and there is seemingly not enough time to sit down for an unhurried meal with family. Family dinner is a time to build relationships, a time to talk and listen—and it's also a time to eat! Making meals together can also be a part of family-building time. Make these simple, kid-friendly recipes, and enjoy family time—tonight!



Fun and Fast Fajitas

Ingredients:

- 8-12 Flour tortillas
- 1 Onion
- 1 Green pepper
- 1 Red pepper
- Beef- or chicken-style veggie-meat strips
- Fajita seasoning
- Extra virgin olive oil
- Salsa
- Avocados

Instructions:

Cut vegetables length-wise and sauté together in a frying pan with fajita seasoning (to taste) and olive oil. Add veggie-meat until thoroughly cooked. Heat tortillas and serve with salsa and sliced avocados. Serves 4.



Easy Pizza Boats

Ingredients:

- 1-2 loaves French bread
- 1-2 cups pizza sauce
- Cheese
- Pizza toppings

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 F. Slice French bread lengthwise and then cut in half. Spread pizza sauce across the bread, then sprinkle with cheese. Top with your favorite pizza toppings, such as olives, tomatoes, onions, or peppers, and seasonings, such as Italian seasoning or basil. Place on a baking sheet and bake for ten minutes or until cheese is bubbly. Serves 4.



Veggie Buffalo Kabobs

Ingredients:

- 1 package Veggie "chicken" nuggets
- 2 cups Pepper Jack cheese cubes
- 2-3 Celery stalks
- 2-3 Carrots
- 2 cups Cherry tomatoes
- 2 Cucumbers
- Ranch dressing
- Buffalo sauce

Instructions:

Slice the vegetables in 1/2 inch pieces and cut the heated veggie nuggets in half. Carefully thread the veggies, cheese, and nuggets on to the wood skewers alternating between ingredients. For extra spicy kabobs use spicy nuggets! Drizzle with ranch dressing or buffalo sauce. Makes 12 skewers.

A Father's Love

An Earthly and Heavenly Perspective



When I met Mike, he looked like a Hollywood movie star. He was young, elegant, had a million-dollar smile, and plenty of personality to back it up. But as I got to know him better, I learned that he had a dark past with many painful experiences. He had been in and out of prison due to drug abuse and other illegal activities to support his habit. As Mike shared more with me, attempting to find peace with his Heavenly Father, the conversation turned to his earthly father. It was during this intimate conversation about his father that some painful memories surfaced.

He grew up with several siblings in a very conservative Seventh-day Adventist home, but being the oldest wasn't easy, and the bar of expectations was set painfully high. In high school, if his report card showed all As, but one C, his dad only noticed the C. He was never good enough for his dad and, though he tried, it was a hopeless case.

The tensions between father and son increased, and as a young man he decided to leave home for good. His dad was offended that Mike left, and because of his hurt feelings, he never went after or called his son. Mike told me that he

called home several times, but only his mom would answer the phone. His dad refused to talk to him.

He sat in my pastoral office, crying as he recounted the details that were eating away at him and destroying his self-esteem. He asked me, "How do I know that the heavenly Father you talk about will accept me and take me back? My Dad never did." I reassured him that when he calls the Heavenly Father, He will run to the phone. I was unsure of the effect of my words; the wounds were too deep and had sat unattended for too long.

Malachi ends the writings of the Old Testament with a dire warning. The prophet tells us that before the coming of the Lord, the hearts of the fathers would be turned to the children and the hearts of the children to their fathers, “lest I come and strike the land with a curse” (Malachi 4:6, NKJV). That curse is seen and felt by countless boys and girls. Their daddy has either abandoned them or abandoned the important role of being a loving and present father. Statistics reveal that when fathers are absent, crime, teen pregnancy, drug abuse, and suicide increase up to four times more than the national average of those who have fathers present and active in their lives.

Every child wants to know that their daddy loves them and believes in them. Without these affirmations, these beautiful children become wounded adults who often perpetuate their own wounds. Fathers play an important role in the self-esteem, security, and faith of the children. As fathers, there is a spiritual and moral level of protection that our families need. Embracing Godly leadership at home allows us to bless and pray for our children and their mother. Having children see their father pray for and praise their mother and other members of the family is an example of eternal value.

When we read about the prodigal son, we place great emphasis on him, his state of mind, and his return home. But I believe that Jesus’ emphasis was on the father’s love and the father’s reception and love for his son. Yes, the son returned; yes, the son was received; but how was he received? Jesus tells us that the father ran to the child. I believe the Father not only receives us, He pursues us! He doesn’t pursue us to tell us how bad we are, or how much we embarrassed Him and ourselves, but instead He pursues us to love us and reestablish the father-child connection. After the prodigal’s father established this connection, he did something important, but easy to overlook. Jesus tells us that the father called for the best robe, put a ring on his son’s finger, sandals on his



When loving fathers make amends with their wayward children, there is a great shift in the spiritual realm that affects the life of the child and ripples from the family unit to the whole world with blessings.


feet, killed a fatted calf, and then began a celebration.

The return of the son is significant, but the response of the father is even more significant. This enormous celebration shows the enormity of the father’s love. The father didn’t allow the son to go down the road of guilt and shame. The father didn’t remind him of all the money he had lost. The father had compassion on his son and he gave gifts to his son.

The gifts are significant because they represent a full restoration that included all the father’s wealth, without reservation. The father’s love was extravagant; it is the key to this classic story. When loving fathers make amends with their wayward children, there is a great shift in the spiritual realm that affects the life of the child and ripples from the family unit to the whole world with blessings.

Mike made his decision for the Heavenly Father and was baptized into His family. He continued to struggle with

both his earthly father and his personal battles for the rest of his life. I continued to remind him that his Heavenly Father’s love was uncompromising and that the Son’s sacrifice was all encompassing. If you face challenges with your earthly father, I urge you to accept this truth and know that God loves you immensely and He longs to draw you near to Him. He loves you so much, He paid the ultimate sacrifice in order to guarantee that for you.

As you raise your children, know that every child has the deep desire to be approved, loved, and affirmed by their earthly dad. As you educate your little ones at home and lead them in the footsteps of Jesus, ask yourself how well you are doing. Is that what your kids would say, dad? 

Minner Labrador, D.Min., is the Southwestern Union Conference Vice President for Ministries and the Director of Men’s Ministries, Ministerial, and Stewardship.

Beyond the Classroom

A Legacy of Adventist Education

By Randy Gilliam, Ed.D., Southwestern Union Conference Vice President for Education



I fell in love with Adventist Education in 1957 when I started first grade at Parkview Junior Academy in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. That romance led me to Lake Nelson Junior Academy in New Jersey, Vienna Junior Academy in Virginia, Riverside Elementary in California, Ozark Adventist Academy in Arkansas, and Southwestern Adventist University in Texas.

My attendance at these Adventist schools has had a mighty impact on my life. Having caring teachers that pray with and for you makes a difference. Attending and participating in programs such as Week of Prayer, chapel, baptismal classes, daily devotionals, and other service projects further entrenched me in my walk with Christ.

At each school I found a committed teacher, ready to assist and impact my educational process. They invested a part of themselves in their students, taking a personal interest in my successes and failures. I received high quality academics and this foundation prepared me for advancement throughout my education and into my career.


Socially I was immersed with fellow students who shared like values. I felt included and those friendships strengthened my relationship with Christ and my church. It is important to have peers who have the type of influence that grounds you in God.

At Southwestern Adventist University I met Dana Young, the lovely lady who became my wife. This summer we cele-

brated our 46th anniversary. God blessed us with three sons, and each one of them graduated from Adventist schools.

When it came time to choose a career, I remembered Principal James Nick saying, “Three good reasons to be a teacher are June, July, and August.” As a young man I thought that meant I only needed to work nine months of the year, vacationing and enjoying life each summer. In my 44th year of service in Adventist education, I have yet to have one of those summers! I have zero regrets with my career and firmly believe that Adventist education is a calling from God.

My career began at Parkview Adventist Academy where I served as teacher and administrator for 12 years. Afterwards, we moved to Texas where I was at Burton Adventist Academy for 13 years. I was then privileged to spend over 13 years at Southwestern Adventist University as professor and later chair of the Education & Psychology Department. This is my sixth year as Vice-President of Education for the Southwestern Union Conference. Each experience brought tremendous blessings.

Adventist education has been a part of my life for 60 years, as a student, teacher, principal, professor, and administrator. It has influenced my spiritual life, family, and career. A word of gratitude to Mrs. Lutz, Miss Hanselman, Mrs. Ashbaugh, Principal Dudley, Miss Yingling, Principal Scheideman, Principal Nick, Dean Fulbright, Elder Swinyar, Elder McClean, Dr. Pinterich, and Dr. Beyer for their caring guidance and mentoring. The fact that I still remember these dedicated teachers and administrators by name, after all of these years, affirms their influence in making me the person that I have become. 

Relevant Moments

Family Worship in a Modern Society

By Glen Robinson, Ph.D., Southwestern Adventist University Professor of Communication

You start off each week with good intentions. No one can argue that. But the usual obligations—work, school, soccer practice or piano lessons, late night meetings—always seem to get in the way. By the time the weekend rolls around, you realize your family has gotten through another week hardly seeing each other, much less spending time together in nightly family worship. It's frustrating, and sometimes you feel like you're rolling a boulder up a hill that never ends.

God never intended family worship to be just another obligation. In fact, He wants us to look forward to it, both because it gives us an opportunity to take a breather and get away from the world to be with Him, and because we are doing it together as a family. But how do you fit it in with today's insane weekly schedules? Here are a few suggestions:

Tie it to other events.

It's a lot easier to remember to do family worship if it is connected to other things you do together as a family. If you're dealing with smaller children, you might schedule it just before bedtime or bathtime. For older kids, it might work to tie it to family dinner. Don't eat dinner together? Maybe it's time to start! It doesn't matter if the meal is in the kitchen, the dining room or the living room, as long as the family does it together and other distractions—such as games, phones, and TVs—are turned off. Make your worship before or after the event, or even during, if you find that works.



Learn to listen. You may be the oldest member of the family, but that doesn't mean your way is the only way of doing things. Learn to listen to the viewpoint on worship from your spouse and your children, especially the littlest ones. In addition, all of you should learn the value of listening to God. Too often we see prayer as way of presenting a laundry list of wants and needs to God, then leaving without waiting for His response. Take time as a family and see if you can discover God's response for you. You might be surprised at what you discover.



Be creative. Be flexible and keep an open mind. It's important for children to have structure in their lives, but too much inflexibility can lead to friction. If reading from the Bible doesn't work for your worship time, try something different; maybe try acting out, retelling, or drawing some of the stories that you would have been reading. Keep in mind that not every child learns the same way, and variety is important for including other children. And remember that young minds have a short attention span, so keep your worships relatively brief and direct.



Focus on the purpose.

The intent of family worship is to come together as a unit to worship God. Make it a priority to involve everyone in a positive way. If one person continually gets up front and lectures, eventually the rest will tend to switch them off. But if each person, including kids, is responsible for leading out at some point, they are more likely to participate. This also allows you to have a fresh view on how to worship God. Worshipping God comes in many shapes and sizes, don't be quick to discount the ideas or efforts of one of your family members.



No Place Like *Home*

A Sanctuary Amidst Uncertainty

Dorothy is alone in a strange world. During her quest to return home she meets the Tin Man, Scarecrow, and Cowardly Lion in search of Land of Oz. In this story, they reach the great Wizard of Oz in the quest to discover happiness and fulfillment. It is at the end, after having endured different trials, that Dorothy discovers that all she had to do was to click her heels together and repeat the words, “there’s no place like home, there’s no place like home!” and she suddenly finds herself back in the safety of her home surrounded by her loved ones. That phrase in the legendary movie *The Wizard of Oz*, has become iconic.

What is home?

Dorothy’s words ring with a sound of truism—there is no place like home! However, those words beg a question: “What truly is a home?” Surely, it’s more than just a house or place to live. Society at-large gives witness that every house is not a home. All around us we see family disruption, breakup, and unhappiness. In my experience as a pastor and family counselor, I’ve heard both adults and children make the statement that “they would rather be anywhere but at home” because of the unrest and unhappiness that exists in their home. Surely, this is not what God had in mind for homes and families.

God’s perspective of what makes a home is far removed from what we see in homes and families today. The makeup of the family is widely diverse, to say the least, but every family, regardless of its makeup, can experience the happiness and peace that God intends when we make our “homes” God-inclusive. Ecclesiastes 12:13 declares, “Now all has been heard;

here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the duty of all mankind.” An appropriate fear of God, reverencing and devoting one’s life to the Creator, will be the soil out of which positive influences of your family will grow and the basic reason your home will become a safe place for every member of the family to thrive and achieve their highest potential. God-fearing families will be blessed beyond measure. These families:

- Will be prosperous in the most important ways (Psalm 112:1-3).
- Experience God’s goodness (Psalm 31:19).
- Are special objects of God’s protection (Psalm 31:20).
- Have children to whom God shows compassion (Psalm 103:11-18).
- Will be praying people whose prayers will be heard (Psalm 145:19).
- Are considerate and kind (Psalm 112:4, 5).
- Are characterized by integrity and faithfulness (Job 2:3).
- Are noted for constructive speech (Malachi 3:16).
- Persevere in doing what is right (2 Corinthians 7:1).
- Are patient, hopeful, and genuine (Psalm 147:11).
- Delight in worshipping God (Revelation 14:7).
- Love the Scripture and order their lives according to God’s commands (Ecclesiastes 12:13; Psalm 112:1).

God makes a promise to families who will turn to Him. “They will be my people, and I will be their God. I will give them singleness of heart and action, so that they will always fear me and that all will then go well for them and for their children after them. I will make an everlasting covenant with

“Every family, regardless of its makeup, can experience the happiness and peace that God intends when we make our homes God-inclusive.”



them: I will never stop doing good to them, and I will inspire them to fear me, so that they will never turn away from me” (Jeremiah 32:38-40). God will make families intentional. He will give them singleness of heart and action.

Safeguarding

The enemy is a great detractor. He attempts to keep families so busy and occupied with many things that cause families not to spend time with God and with each other. We often hear, “I don’t have time...” But honestly, this is a very weak excuse because we do make time to do things we deem important, regardless of what they might be. Every one of us must become seriously intentional in making our homes our number one priority as it relates to our connection with God and those who make up our homes. Nothing else is more important.


There are two things that make for healthy relationships—time and communication. Those two things apply to every relationship, whether on a horizontal or vertical plane. A healthy family begins with your relationship with God. Bring your family together daily for prayer, resolving not to leave home, even for the simplest errands, without praying. Make it a habit. Or better yet, make it a family tradition. Every member of the family, young and old will come to know that God is in the center of each life in your home. Let it be known by all who dwell in your home that it is true that they can “do all this through Him who gives me strength” (Philippians 4:13). Making the time to have your family learn how to lean on God for everything is the most valuable endeavor for your family’s happiness and satisfaction. That intentional effort

opens the door for open communication, the other ingredient for healthy family relationships.

Families that purposely engage in open talk with each other are drawn closer together. Parents, create a safe environment for your children to talk to you about any and everything that impacts their lives. Without argument, the greatest gift parents can give to their children is the gift of listening. Listening is for the purpose of understanding what’s going on in their world.

Growing

In *The Wizard of Oz*, Dorothy was told to click her heels together and repeat, “There’s no place like home.” Christian families don’t have to click their heels together. They can simply come together as a family and talk to God and each other. Families should be creative in developing activities that bring them closer to each other, and they don’t have to be big or extraordinary activities. Discover that just being together and learning to enjoy each other as family is the greatest reward.

If your family has not been intentional in its efforts of creating a safe home environment, why not ask for God’s intervention today? It may be uncomfortable at first, but for the sake of your family’s peace and happiness, persevere and watch the transformation. God desires great and beautiful things for your family. As you grow together, I believe you will be able to declare, “there’s no place like home!” 

Buford Griffith, Jr., has an M.A. in Biblical Counseling and is the Southwestern Union Conference Executive Secretary and Director of Family Ministries.

Let It Go

Putting Anger in its Place

It was a beautiful Spring day, but I was mad. It was getting late in the day, and my mom still hadn't picked me up from school. Two of my classmates were tossing a softball to each other about five yards away from where I was waiting when Randy, a big guy, overthrew the softball and nearly struck my shoulder.

"What do you think you're doing?" I yelled. "Watch where you're throwing unless you want to be punched!"

"Sorry for almost hitting you, Jason. You don't have to yell, it was an"

"I'll yell all I want!" I cut him off. "Don't do it again!"

Luckily, Randy had a gentle heart and didn't thrash me when I exploded at him. I had let my anger get the better of me once again.

I had attended Christian schools since Kindergarten, so it was hard to listen when my teachers taught verses from the Bible about people who got angry easily. Still, I couldn't change. My mom always told me to adjust that attitude of mine before she adjusted it for me. But I didn't know how to adjust my attitude. I didn't know why I always snapped at people when they weren't doing anything wrong. And I didn't think anyone could help me. No one understood the beast inside me that attacked innocent people – or so I thought.

I'll never forget the day that turned my life around. It was late Fall, the trees were bare, and the air was dry. After putting on my newest suit for church, I walked out to the kitchen to get some food.

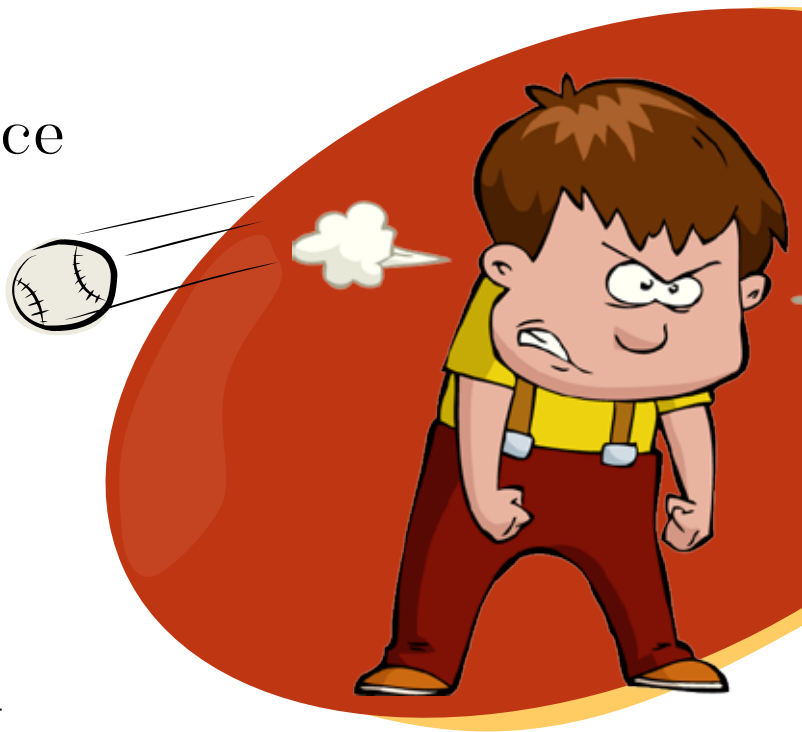
"C'mon, let's go," my stepdad said.

"Go where?" I asked.

"To church. We are going to be late if we don't leave now. You can eat in the car. Now let's go," he said firmly.

I went off. "I will not eat in the car; I'll eat right here!"

I never expected his reply. "Jason," he said, "we're getting professional help for your attitude. Here, read this," and he handed me what looked like an ordinary Bible.



"This is just a Bible," I mumbled.

"Get your breakfast to go and then just read it," he commanded.

I reluctantly went along, grabbed some breakfast, and later that day found myself reading that Bible. For the next year, I read it whenever I could. I read during lunch, between classes, before bed. I finally finished it the next Fall, and decided to be baptized. But without realizing it, my tantrums had decreased. I'd become a calmer person, and found it easier to make friends and be around others.

Today, I know how to manage anger and worry so it doesn't get the best of me. And it's all thanks to that Fall day when my stepdad handed me a not-so-ordinary Bible. It changed my life. Maybe someday I'll be able to hand my "ordinary" Bible to someone else, and maybe it will change his or her life as it has mine. Incredibly, anger management, once my greatest weakness, has become my greatest strength.

By Jason Busch, Texas Conference Communication Director

JAMES 1:19-20

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry, because human anger does not produce the righteousness that God desires.

How special is YOUR Bible?

Draw a picture of it here.

PROVERBS 29:11

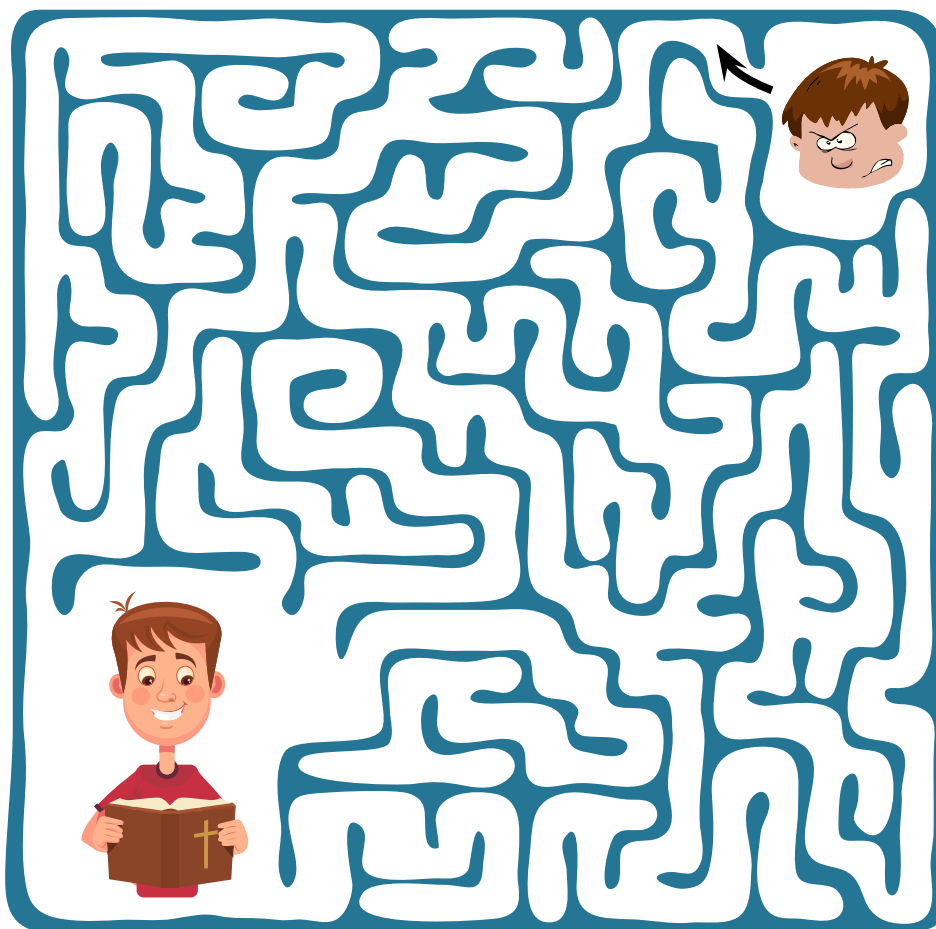
FOOLS GIVE FULL VENT
TO THEIR **RAGE**, BUT THE

WISE BRING CALM

IN THE **END**.

Jason controlled his anger by reading the Bible.
Help him go from angry to calm and in control.

How are you feeling today? Circle the faces.



July Events

2-9

Arkansas-Louisiana

Conference: Tween Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, Hot Springs, Ark.

ArkLaCSDA.org,
318.631.6240

2-9

Texas Conference: Teen Camp, Lake Whitney Ranch, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

2-9

Oklahoma Conference: Teen Camp, Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla. OklahomaAdventist.org, 405.721.6110,

4

Independence Day Conference and Union Offices Closed

9-16

Texas Conference: Family Camp, Lake Whitney Ranch, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

9-16

Arkansas Louisiana

Conference: Teen Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, Hot Springs, Ark.

ArkLaCSDA.org,
318.631.6240

14-22

Oklahoma Conference: Oklahoma Camp Meeting, Wewoka Woods Adventist Center, Wewoka, Okla. OklahomaAdventist.org, 405.721.6110

17-30

Texas Conference: Day Camp in the Valley, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

31 - August 16

Oklahoma Conference: Youth Mission Trip, OklahomaAdventist.org, 405.721.6110



August Events

2-5

ASI National Convention, George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston, Texas, ASIMinistries.org.

2-22

Texas Conference: Youth Mission Trip, Africa, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

17-18

Texico Conference: Texico Marriage Retreat, El Paso, Texico.org, 555.244.1611

21

Southwestern Adventist University: Classes Begin, Keene, Texas, SWAU.edu, 800.433.2240

25 - 26

Southwestern Union, Equipped for Ministries Training, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, EquippedForMinistries.org, 817.295.0476

25 - 26

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference Spanish Family Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, Hot Springs, Ark. ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

31

Southwestern Adventist University: Convocation, Keene, Texas, SWAU.edu, 800.433.2240



For more events and information, visit SouthwesternAdventist.org

Save the Date!

Southwestern Union Women's Ministries Convention

Frisco, Texas » Save the date, August 10-12, 2018, for the Southwestern Union's Women's Ministries convention at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Frisco, Texas. This bilingual convention, themed "In His Likeness/*En Su Semejanza*," will be a spiritual retreat and opportunity to fellowship with hundreds of women from across the Southwestern Union. Seminars, workshops, outreach activities, and more are being planned for this special faith-building weekend. Gorgeous2God, an NAD ministry geared toward teen girls, will be presenting programming for ages 13-19.

Guest speakers will include Elizabeth Talbot, PH.D., speaker/director of the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute; Dan Jackson, president of the North American Division; Sara Bullón, women's ministries event speaker; and many more.

Registration opens October 1. More information will be available at SouthwesternAdventist.org/Women.

— *By Carmen Fuentes-Griffith, Southwestern Union Women's Ministries Director*



Asian-Pacific Convocation

Spiritually-uplifting Weekend Planned for August

Athens, Texas » A first-of-its-kind Union-wide Asian-Pacific Convocation will take place August 18-20 at Lone Star Camp in Athens, Texas. Asian-Pacific ministries in the Southwestern Union Conference are simply ministries to those individuals with origins in the Far East, Southeast Asia, Indian subcontinent, and Pacific Islands (e.g. China, Japan, Korea, the Philippine Islands, Samoa, etc.) Larry Moore, Southwestern Union president will be the Friday-even-

ing keynote speaker. Vic Arreola, III, D.Div., Director of the North American Division's Asian Pacific Ministries Department, will be the speaker for the Sabbath worship hour.

On Saturday evening, festivities will highlight the different cultural heritage of each language group of the Asian-Pacific membership the Union. They will portray their cultural roots through a variety of ways, including native costumes, native dance, and other ways

to communicate each language group's cultural heritage.

A pastors/spouses convocation, themed "Sharing the Vision" will be conducted on Sunday following the convocation. For more information, contact Rolando Baysa, Southwestern Union Asian-Pacific Ministries Coordinator, at rbaysa@swrgc.org.

— *By Rolando Baysa, Southwestern Union Asian-Pacific Ministries Coordinator*

Institute for Christian Film

New Program Teaches Production From Start to Finish



Keene, Texas » Southwestern Adventist University's Department of Communication is happy to announce that student film "100% Match" by Shane Miosi, won Honorable Mention in the Best Comedy Short category at the 2017 Sonscreen Film Festival in California. It was also nominated for Best Original Screenplay. A short film produced by the Film Production class, "The Prepper," was also nominated in three categories at Sonscreen. The categories were Best Comedy Short, Best Sound Design, and Best Cinematography.

Eight students involved with the projects were able to attend the event with Southwestern communication professor and mentor Kyle Portbury. "The Prepper" previously won for Best Student Comedy Short at the Lionshead Film Festival in Dallas. "100% Match" was also "Officially Selected" for the Rock Port International Film Festival, in Corpus Cristi, Texas.

"Congratulations to the communica-

tions majors involved with 'The Prepper' and '100% Match'" says Portbury. "It is truly an honor to work with such talented students."

The Communication Department established the Institute for Christian Film at Southwestern in 2016. The program encourages writers to submit scripts for development. The scripts go through an acceptance phase with potential for fundraising and development by the skilled faculty and students in the Communication Department.

Professor Kyle Portbury has many awards for his own work, including the prestigious Award of Excellence from The Best Shorts Film Competition. The award was given for Portbury's exciting historical drama, "Tell the World" which tells the true story of the beginnings of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. "Tell the World" features exceptional visuals and storytelling through standout performances in the key roles of Ellen White and William

Miller. He was also nominated by the Australian Directors Guild for the online series release for Outstanding Direction in an online drama.

Another of his works, "Beyond the Search" previously won 14 international awards including the prestigious CINE Golden Eagle. Portbury also won Best Documentary for "A Mountain Within" at the Mountain Film Festival in California, among others.

Two of Portbury's films, "Beyond Heroes" and "Tell the World, Episode 4" were also recently nominated for awards at the 2017 International Christian Film Festival in Florida. "Beyond Heroes" was nominated for Best Documentary and Best Director. "Tell the World, Episode 4" was nominated for Best Short Film/TV Episode and Best Short Screenplay. This festival saw the submissions of 503 films, the majority of which did not receive nominations. For more information, visit swau.edu/film.

By Darcy Force, Director of Marketing/PR

God Still Answers Prayers

Growing the Fire Science Department

Keene, Texas » The Fire Science program at Southwestern Adventist university just got a boost up the ladder. Equipping the program, launched in 2014, has been challenging. When the needs exceeded the available resources, Southwestern faculty and staff prayed for a solution.

First on the list was a fire truck. While the university did find a used truck for \$15,000, and received a donation toward the purchase, the cost still put the truck out of range. In addition, the truck didn't come equipped. That's when Brent Batla, a Southwestern alumnus who works for the Burleson Fire Department, heard about the search. The Burleson Fire Department had just purchased a brand-new truck and was looking to sell its used one. They offered the truck to the university, complete with equipment, for \$10,000. The program

also needed an ambulance. Careflight, a local medical transport company, heard of the need and donated two used ambulances to the university. One of the ambulances, even though inoperable, can be refurbished as a simulation lab for the fire science and EMT students.

The community support didn't stop there! Fire Science Program Director Chad Hutchinson, who is also a volunteer for a local fire department, shared with his fellow firefighters about the growing program. One colleague, who is also an employee at the Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport, brought the program's needs to the attention of airport officials. The result was a donation of 10 bags full of EMT equipment, each worth approximately \$1,500.

"It is so wonderful when our local fire departments get involved to support

our program," says Hutchinson. "That is affirmation for our program, and the graduates we're producing. We currently have Fire Science graduates testing for positions in Flower Mound, Cleburne, and Dallas. These fire departments will put our graduates through paramedic school, so this is an incredible opportunity for them."

In addition to offering the Fire Science degree, the program has expanded to offer EMT certification to local high school students. This spring, 15 high school students from Chisholm Trail Academy and Keene ISD participated in the EMT program, alongside eight Southwestern students.

For more information about the program, visit swau.edu/firescience or contact Chad Hutchinson at 817.202.6528, or hutchinsonc@swau.edu.



Caressa Rogers Photography



Caressa Rogers Photography



Following Jesus

A Transformed Family Illustrates the 144,000!



Jacob had four wives who among them gave birth to 12 sons: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Dan, Naphtali, Issachar, Zebulon, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin. Jacob also had at least one daughter, Dinah, who is mentioned by name. Beginning with jealousy and envy among the wives and Jacob's unabashed favoritism towards Joseph, betrayal, deceit, and dishonesty were also shamelessly exhibited by the brothers. Their history reveals murder, incest, lying, and stealing. It is not a pretty picture of family harmony, unity, and loving care for one another.

What is important to note is that in spite of their failures, fiascoes, and flops, God worked among them and through them to accomplish His purposes. While being far from perfect, the biblical record indicates that a spiritual maturity eventually was manifested among the brothers. In Revelation 7, it is the family of Jacob that God chooses to illustrate as those who will receive the seal of God and ultimately be standing among the redeemed when Jesus comes again. It almost seems inconceivable that a family with so many issues, problems, and vices would be used to exemplify a portrait of the redeemed. Yet it is the family of Jacob that makes up the 144,000 that are seen standing before Jesus and the throne of God, singing their unique song of victory and praise to God!

It is most intriguing that this most dysfunctional family in all of scripture ends up as the poster board family of "Who's Who Among the Redeemed"! It is said that God has a sense of humor, so perhaps this is one of those examples. Or just maybe it is a most profound way that God illustrates how even the worst of families can be transformed through His saving power and grace. The family of Jacob, pictured as the 144,000, is described in Revelation 14 as people of purity, people who follow Jesus wherever He goes, and people who are without deceit.

The story of Jacob's family stands as a clear message of encouragement to every family that struggles with the wiles and attacks of the devil. If God could take Jacob's family with all their foibles and transform them into a people of honesty and faithfulness, then surely He can do the same for every family today.

Steven J. Orian, President



Celebrating Diversity

New Orleans First Church Hosts International Day

New Orleans, La. » The New Orleans First Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted its first annual International Worship and Fellowship Day on February 25, 2017. Church members and friends came to support this special Sabbath event with a fellowship meal while they celebrated the diversity in God's church.

This year's celebration was a huge success. Ten countries from around the globe were represented with church members who came dressed in their country's colors. Many brought their favorite native dishes to share.

During the worship service, representatives from some of the countries were chosen to participate in their native tongue. Elias Kurall, from Brazil, led out with a beautiful prayer; our pastor, Glenn Farinola, from the U.S., gave the children's story; and Mikylla and Meze-shabell Maghirang, from the Philippines, presented the scripture reading.

Angel Quintanilla, a member of the New Orleans Kenner Spanish Seventh-day Adventist Church, presented the message in Spanish, entitled "Choose Today Whom You Will Serve."

A translator was present for those who did not speak Spanish.

Following the worship service, everyone gathered in the Fellowship Hall for the abundant feast of favorite native dishes that were brought to share.

The event was such a blessing to all who attended and participated. Everyone was full of joy and love. International Day was a representation of God's kingdom. Although we all are different, we all have a common denominator: the love of God in our hearts.

By Arion Broussard



Honoring the Past

Slidell Church Celebrates 45th Anniversary

Slidell, La. » On March 25, the Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated its 45th anniversary as a church. Several former members and guests were in attendance. We began with Sabbath School followed by morning worship service, with special music by the church choir and a congregational group photo in the pulpit of the church.

The worship service was followed with a fellowship lunch of salads, vegetarian soups and sandwiches, and a collection of desserts. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and food. In the afternoon,

we gathered in the sanctuary for a short program that included a reading of the Slidell church history by the church clerk, Evelyn Teal.

Denis Deroam and Bobby Teal then shared a video showing how our church started and the growth and changes through the years. Bobby and Evelyn Teal are two of the church's original members and helped with the building of the church with other members. It was a very enjoyable day.

By Vernella Rogers



Safe Television Day

Arkansas Station Honored for Honoring Wholesome Values

Springdale, Ark. » Safe TV® was recently recognized once again for providing Safe Television for all Ages® when Arkansas Governor Asa Hutchinson proclaimed May 8, 2017 as “Safe Television Day” for the state of Arkansas. As multimedia outlets continue to dominate the lives of most Americans, it is to the benefit of our society to promote responsible, wholesome, family-friendly television viewing habits.

Part of the proclamation reads, “The Kaiser Family Foundation has found

that 59 percent of young people’s TV viewing consists of live TV on a TV set, and 41 percent is on DVDs, mobile devices, or online. According to the Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA), increased and unregulated television content may affect daily routines such as eating and communication patterns, and may decrease time spent on other activities.”

Safe TV® is a broadcast station with global headquarters in Springdale, Arkansas. Established in 1995, Safe TV®

continues to “reach the secular world for Christ” with programming that uplifts God, family, and country.

We invite you to support TV stations that offer high-quality, wholesome, and educational programming that does not promote violence, immorality, or profanity. Safe TV® can be seen at www.safety.org, on ROQU TV, Amazon Fire TV, and Google TV as well as on Android and Apple smart phones apps.

By Carlos Pardeiro



Bentonville Beavers

Pathfinders Earn Christian Drama Honor

Bentonville, Ark. » An audience of nearly 100 recently enjoyed a production of “Yours, Mine, and Ours.” The Pathfinders and staff of the Bentonville Beavers Pathfinder Club practiced for nearly two months in preparation for the play. Each Pathfinder member was assigned a part in the play and assisted with all aspects of its production. In addition, they also assisted in preparing and serving a meal during the intermission.

Pathfinders encouraged church members to use the performance as an opportunity for friendship evangelism

and to invite non-Adventist friends and family. As a result, nearly half the people that attended were not church members. The ticket sales for the performance totaled more than \$1,600 and the Pathfinders had the opportunity to serve church members and introduce people from the community to the local Adventist church family. The production also helped Pathfinders learn public speaking and event planning skills. And, of course, they all also earned their Christian Drama honor.

By Audra Kohltfarber



I Believe in Prayer

The Key in the Hand of Faith



I am a Seventh-day Adventist Christian because someone prayed for me. I am a pastor because people prayed for me. And I was recently elected to be the president of Oklahoma because people prayed for me, and for God's leading in Oklahoma. Of course, I was praying during those times as well. I believe in answered prayer and in the power of prayer. I have seen evidence of that all during my Christian experience. I believe the words in *Steps to Christ* are true: "Prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven's storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence." Prayer was the source of power and wisdom for Jesus, and it can be, and should be the same for us today, living in the last hours of earth's history.

I don't know all the people who prayed for me to become a Christian, but I found out after I had joined the church that relatives, former neighbors and friends, and work mates had prayed for me to become a Christian. I also found out that the pastor who baptized me had prayed for me to become a pastor. There is a story behind all of these experiences, but I share them to show how much prayer has shaped my life, and it continues to do so. My wife and I have even heard God speak to us in prayer separately when He shared the same message about which academy to send our children to.

We have also found that God answered our prayers for our children and for each other as we prioritized time alone with God, as well as daily family worship. It seems that prayer has held and cemented our family together and has been the foundation of our ministry to the churches. Everything seemed to spring naturally out of the prayer time. It affected our relationship with each person we met throughout the day and each situation that arose.

I am often reminded about Daniel's prayer life as being the secret of his successful life and ministry in Babylon. We remember that he wouldn't let anything interfere with it, even a death decree. He saw it as his lifeline to heaven and the source of his strength, as Jesus also did. A favorite verse of many is Philippians 4:6, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, let your requests be made known to God." In other words, take it to the Lord in prayer. He will get the victory.

A few other thoughts have encouraged me as well: "Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved...The greatest victories to the church of Christ or to the individual are not those gained by talent or education, by wealth, or the favor of men. They are those victories that are gained in the audience chamber with God," (*Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 203). God is as ready and willing to listen to the prayers of all of His children today as in times past, and answer them for His glory and for our good. Let us pray, then.

By James Shires, President

Friendship Banquet

Women's Ministries Hosts Successful Evening

Tulsa » On March 5, 120 women gathered at Tulsa Adventist Fellowship for a friendship banquet. The women's ministries department had worked hard to arrange a special night to have a talk on the importance of friendship.

The evening started with a wonderful dinner prepared and served by men from Adventist Fellowship. Several

women had secretly selected 30 young women in the church and had given them cards, scriptures of encouragement, and small gifts for the past five months. As their "secret sisters" were revealed, Michelle Carlile and Kylie Speyer sang a beautiful song about friendship. The speaker for the evening was Laurie Pittman, who spoke on the

value of friendship. Pittman encouraged our women to become better acquainted in the coming months. Pittman told the women the best and most important friendship we can have is with Jesus Christ! Our women's ministries friendship banquet was a true blessing for everyone who attended.

— *By Joyce Carlile*



Choctaw Youth Sabbath

Children and Youth Conduct "Heavenly" Church Service

Choctaw » The youth of the Choctaw church recently presented the Sabbath worship service. Choctaw is blessed to have many musically talented young people, so much of the service consisted

of both instrumental and vocal music.

Eric White and Greg Childress read Bible verses and Ellen White quotes relating to heaven, and the musical selections all highlighted heavenly themes.

The congregation left church on this special Sabbath with a celestial blessing, and a renewed enthusiasm for Jesus' soon coming!

— *By Robin Sagel*



WEWOKA WOODS



ADVENTIST CENTER

JULY 14 – JULY 22
2017

An inspiring speaker presenting every day!



Every Morning
7:00 am

**DR. BUFORD
GRIFFITH, JR.**
*Southwestern Union
Conference
Executive Secretary*



July 21st | 7:00 pm
July 22nd | 11:15 am

**DR. RANDY
ROBERTS**
*Loma Linda University
Church Senior Pastor*



July 21st | 4:15 pm
July 22nd | 9:00 am

**DR. MINNER
LABRADOR**
*Southwestern Union
Conference
Vice President*



July 19th - 21st
11:15 am

**DR. JOHNNHYUNSOK
DOH**
*E.G.W. Research Center
Director, Sahmyook S.D.A.
University, Korea*



July 14th | 7:00 pm
July 15th | 11:15 am

**DR. ELIZABETH
TALBOT**
*Director of Jesus101
Biblical Institute*



July 16th | 2:30 pm
July 17th | 11:15 am

DR. SUNG KWON
*North American
Division Adventist
Community
Services Director*



July 19th - 21st
2:30 pm

DR. BILL KILGORE
*Vice President for
Spiritual Development
for Southwestern
Adventist University*



July 16th
4:15 pm & 7:00 pm
July 17th
4:15 pm & 7:00 pm

DR. ROLAND HILL
*Pastor in the Allegheny
East Conference*



July 18th
4:15 pm & 7:00 pm
July 19th | 4:15 pm
July 20th | 4:15 pm
DR. NEAL NEDLEY
*Award winning
physician, President of
Weimar Institute*

special guest musicians:



*Vonda
Beerman*
**JULY 15TH
4:15 PM**

*The Kings
Heralds*
**JULY 22ND
4:15 PM**



Remember the Sabbath

The Sabbath Draws the Family Closer Together



As a young child growing up in an Adventist home in Dayton, Ohio, I have fond memories of our family opening and closing the Sabbath together, something that Adventists have done for a century. I don't know of any other denomination or group of people who were more committed to this than we were as a people. Perhaps not too many people are doing it anymore because of the fast-paced world and society in which we live now. Years ago, an hour before the sun would set, the dishes had to be washed, clothes had to be pressed, and all of your secular activities completed. We knew that before that sun went down, we had to have everything in order to welcome in God's Holy Sabbath. I will admit that it was always a rush, and sometimes we crossed over into that sacred hour time-line before the sun was to set. It became a matter of practice and habit; something that we did without giving it much thought because we did it as a regular part of our weekly cycle.

Looking back on it, it was more than just singing songs, quoting Bible texts, and reading a paragraph from the Spirit of Prophecy. It became our family time. There was no TV to watch and certainly no computers; it was just the family and Sabbath chatter. Those moments were precious because not only did they draw us closer as a family, it gave us time to reflect on the week and to be reminded that we were a little different than those who did not keep the Sabbath. We knew we were peculiar because the majority of our friends were out on the town, in the shopping malls, or at sporting events, while we were singing hymns. Little did I know that every opening and closing of Sabbath experience was instilling in me a desire to get to know God on a personal level. It was in that quiet hour before the sunset that I grew closer to God and came to understand that a part of forming a relationship with God is setting time aside just for Him alone.

Although many have forsaken that unique Adventist tradition, I want to challenge you and your family to gather around as our parents did with us, as we did with our children when they were young, and as they now do with their children. By introducing them to God right before the sun sets, we show them that it is necessary to know God by strengthening the family through family worship and fellowship. The only way to have a relationship with God is by setting dedicated time to commune with the Creator. The more you talk to Him in those private settings the better He is able to communicate with you. And my testimony is that it helped not only strengthen my relationship with my siblings and my parents, but it helped to grow my relationship with God.

By Calvin L. Watkins, Sr., President



Cooking Classes

Bethel Church Presents “Let’s Get Started”

Texarkana, Texas » On April 9, 2017, Connie Edwards, leader of the Health and Temperance Department at Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Church, coordinated a healthy food preparation class. The day marked the first of six power-packed sessions about changing how we cook and making healthy food preparation choices. Ann Turner, the keynote speaker, delivered profound and thought-provoking information which filled the audience with practical, inspiring ideas.

Turner encouraged us to initiate baby steps to eating healthier. Taking baby steps is a step-by-step process in making changes to our diet a small step at a time. When implementing these steps consistently, we gradually transform our unhealthy habits to healthy ones. Take sugar for example. Let’s say you wanted to bake a cake. Instead of using white sugar, use raw honey, raw agave nectar, or raw cane sugar. Replacing bad food with healthy food that you enjoy makes the changes much easier. Also, this applies to those who desire to become a vegetarian. To wean off the meat, eat a meal a day without the meat; instead, substitute it with beans, peas, nuts, seeds, or veggie burgers.

Regular meals should be colorful and balanced, consisting of non-starchy vegetables, fruits, proteins, unsweetened dairy products, whole grains, such as brown rice, oatmeal, whole-wheat

bread, and pastas. Eating a variety will enhance nutrient intake and health advantages. The more health conscious we are, the healthier we are. After all, God provided all the natural foods for the nourishment of our bodies, so if we follow His diet, our bodies will be strong and disease-free.

She presented a compelling reason for becoming label readers. Our focus should only be on foods that will nourish our bodies, so what do we buy? How do we find the best foods that fit our budget and lifestyle while “keeping it real”? First, when reading the ingredients list, the fewer the ingredients, the better! For example, a can of beans that contains water, beans, and sea salt, as the only three ingredients, that’s real to us! However, if you find a bottle of barbecue sauce with 10 ingredients, half of which you can’t pronounce anyway, the sauce probably isn’t very “real.”

Second, avoid products that are processed. Food additives—preservatives, flavorings, colors, MSG, artificial sweeteners, synthetic trans fats, and high-fructose corn syrup—are incorporated in foods. We should steer away from these unsafe ingredients. By eating less of these foods, we will get more nutrient bang for our buck. As a result, a healthy diet keeps us physically and mentally fit.

Third, pots, pans, and other tools used in cooking often do more than just hold the food. Eliminate all aluminum

cookware and nonstick surfaces, for both are known to leach metals into the food we cook. Regardless of how unprocessed our foods are, if a second thought isn’t given to what is used to prepare the meals, we defeat our purpose. Invest in stainless steel cookware. There are many different advantages why many people prefer them over other types of cookware: they are highly durable, easy to clean, glossy, versatile, and will not seep any metals into the food. To maintain healthy eating, we must be very selective in creating a healthy kitchen.

Turner also demonstrated cooking healthy food with fried gluten and ranch dressing recipes. The seasoned wheat gluten was crunchy with a soft texture, and the dressing had a balanced flavor, with the agave nectar and soy mayonnaise flavors both coming through nicely. When the participants taste tested both, they craved more. These nutritious items were undeniably delicious!

Linnie Green concluded the class with a vegan strawberry cream pie recipe demonstration. She used simple and healthy ingredients. The crust made with crushed pecans and dried unsweetened shredded coconut provided a bit of a crunch, which was mouthwatering with the raw honey-sweetened pie filling. Everyone was very impressed by this yummy dessert.

By Veronica McCullough



Baton Rouge Berean Youth Celebrate Black History

Baton Rouge, La.» The flyer with the message “Learn, Laugh and Live, a Celebration of African-American Lives” said it all. It was augmented by the invitations to various other churches and the announcement that had a two-week run in the local paper. The “it” was Berean’s recent youth day commemorating a month of Black history awareness. According to T. Ron Weegar, pastor, “The third Sabbath in every other month will be devoted to a Youth and Young Adult program. Our young people are just that important.” Thus began Berean’s year of youth involvement. Our newly-elected youth team, Eric and Patrice Hall, assisted by Marque and Roquel McCarter, was at the helm. The Halls tapped Leotis Richardson, III, a dentist from Conway, Arkansas. He was no stranger to the Halls or to Weegar, who, in 2002, had pastored the Richardsons in Harri-man, Tennessee.

Our youth, many in African-American dress, demonstrated their God-inspired leadership abilities with the 11:00 a.m. service. From the poster at the church’s entrance depicting various historical Black history contributors and their contributions, to the display strategically placed on a table in front of the platform with the red, black, and green African-American flag joining the American flag and the Pathfinder one on the platform, there was no ignoring the Black history presence.

Richardson set the tenor for his message by stating that he wasn’t sure of what he had agreed to, “preaching in Weegar’s pulpit.” He continued by saying he had gone to his wife for comfort but discovered that she was “just as scared as I was,” eliciting laughter from the audience. He then thanked the young people for the prayers and music which had helped establish the tone for his sermon. “My message is clear. God is calling young people to be an army of youth presenting the last day gospel to all; as adults, we have a mission to empower our youth to take that message.” He followed with an analogy between a spider’s speed in encasing a moth in its web until the victim is no longer recognizable and Satan’s holding our youth so spellbound that they don’t recognize they’re in his grip. “Before we realize it, not only do we not recognize our youth, but they don’t recognize themselves.” Richardson’s fascination with the spider would appear later in his message when he would recount a bee’s encounter with the insect and the bee’s disastrous end. “Jesus is still calling to our youth, ‘Come to me’ as evident in Mark 10:13-16 when he rebuked the disciples and bade them to allow the children to come to him.” Richardson reminded the adults not to allow our unkind characters or painting a “picture of doom and gloom” to prevent our youth from coming to Christ.

“Allow youth to come to Jesus as they are. Make provisions for them. Aren’t they worth our investment in evangelism?” was his admonition to us. He then reminded us of the investment the world is willing to make for our youth. “The youth are the object of Satan’s affections,” he cautioned. “Parents, your children are a gift from God, but that gift demands mutual respect.” His parting words to the youth included, “God calls you to be a beacon on a hill, His messenger in this last day. Talk to God and don’t forget Him in whatever you do.”

Weegar then mounted the platform, delighted with Richardson’s message as he added his own admonition to the congregation, “‘Invest in our youth’ is the message we should take away,” he said.

The evening program once again saw our youth and young adults in action. Music, poetry, biblical knowledge competition, a tribute to some familiar and unfamiliar contributors to the Black history movement coupled with special “thanks” not only to the Richardsons, but also to other family and friends from near and far brought a fitting conclusion to a day well spent. Berean applauds the leadership of the Halls for this program as they passed the mantle of our Adventist Youth ministry to the McCarters.

By Evelyn M. Edwards



Faith and Family

Families Testify to God's Goodness



Galatians 2:20 says, "I have been crucified with Christ, it is no longer I who lives, but Christ Who lives in me. And the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me!" The very fabric of our great country, the United States of America, was shaped and fashioned in large part by the strength of marriage and family. I believe that God has blessed this nation greatly because of the traditional Christian and family values that we have held dear for so long. But in today's society, the family is under siege. We see those columns of support straining under the extreme pressures of secularism, pride, and greed. In fact, the most challenging place to live out and exemplify our faith is at home. So often we overlook, neglect, and even end up hurting those who are the closest to us.

In the book of Malachi, God tells us just how important marriage and the family unit is to Him. Malachi 2:16 reads, "I hate divorce says the Lord God of Israel!" The context in this passage is that God's own people, Israel, had become extremely casual in their view of the marriage vow. The Lord went on to state in no uncertain terms that even their offerings and sacrifices were no longer acceptable to Him because they had stopped holding His commandments in high regard.

In the home, couples and families are afforded the opportunity to exemplify the character of God, His patience, and His profound selflessness. I believe that the greatest underutilized evangelistic tool is our families. Could there possibly exist stronger evidence for what the power and presence of God can do within the family than an irrepressible expression of that in our lives? Faith in God leads to a knowledge of who God is, which produces a character fit for heaven and a blessing here on earth. Some of the heavenly traits that are seen are unselfish love, patience, tolerance, service, overlooking faults, loving the unlovable, and seeking the good of others.

We readily recall that the Roman Empire was destroyed in part because marriage and faith became despised. When faith is extracted from society, marriage and family values disappear not long afterward! The message being taught by movies, music, television, books, and DVDs proclaims a gospel of self-serving, self-gratification and self-exaltation.

The world's most popular golfer, Tiger Woods, was brought down to irrelevance due to engaging in affairs with multiple women. While he was happily married, his golf success soared. When he cheapened the sanctity of marriage, he found his reputation in a freefall. The principles of heaven are taught and practiced in marriage and in the home life, and we become better people when we follow God's plan.

By Carlos J. Craig, President



Divine Appointment

Denison-Sherman Church Hosts Free Medical Clinic

Denison » The Denison-Sherman Seventh-day Adventist Church united with Adventist Medical Evangelism Network (AMEN) and held a free dental/medical/vision weekend on April 28-30. We opened our doors to the community for dental services (cleanings/extractions/fillings), vision services (exams with free single vision glasses), and medical (basic medical exams). We served 138 people over the weekend. The clinic was open on Friday and Sunday, with health seminars on Saturday.

During the event, our lifestyle team offered more than 500 prayers and our chaplaincy team counseled many

people, but the most amazing thing to watch was the way God put the right volunteer in the right places.

One of those divine appointments took a lot of set up on God's part. God brought in a couple from Idaho to serve as volunteers. One of those was Denise, a dental assistant. They arrived a day early and went out to breakfast at a local IHOP. When they had finished their meal and were checking out, they noticed that the manager/cashier seemed to be in a little pain. It was discovered that the manager had many bad teeth and they were causing him discomfort.

"I invited him to the AMEN clinic,"

said Denise. "He told us he is raising his three children by himself and everything he has is going to them."

We definitely intend to do everything we can to provide this free clinic to our community each year. God used us to bless so many and to unite our church in a way that others could see how much we love each other as a church family.

Galatians 6:10 guided us as we worked: "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

By Jan Johnson



Sports Fundraiser

More than 400 Attend to Support Adventist Education

Fort Worth » Fort Worth Adventist Jr. Academy hosted a unique fundraising event. They held their second annual Dallas/Fort Worth Area Church Sports Tournament and Spring Festival, on the school's campus. To support the school, Adventist churches came from all over the Metroplex to participate in soccer, basketball, and volleyball tournaments. While the tournaments were taking place, others enjoyed food and games.

There were plenty of activities for families, such as an obstacle course, train

rides, and games with prizes. This event also provided a witnessing opportunity as many non-Adventists were invited to participate and enjoy the day. Neighborhood kids noticed the event and came to see for themselves what was taking place at the school's campus. Over 400 people from about 20 Adventist churches came to support this fundraising event. Many enjoyed the opportunity to fellowship with area churches and look forward to this annual event.

By David Craig



Houston Camp Meeting

More Than 8,000 Attend Revived Camp Meeting

Houston » For the first time in 12 years, camp meeting was held in the Houston area. In combination with the Texas Conference and its Soul-Winning Festival, the culmination of two weeks of evangelistic meetings in area churches, the day attracted more than 8,000 attendees looking for inspiring messages and

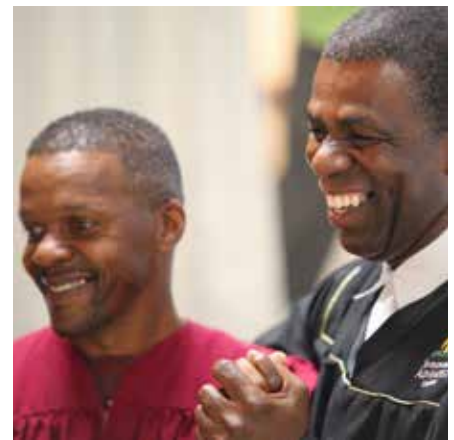
music from a range of local artists.

Doug Batchelor, president of Amazing Facts, was the featured speaker and regaled guests with stories of the redemptive love of Jesus Christ.

The afternoon Soul-Winning Festival was filled with gripping music, baptisms, and missional testimonies before

eventually drawing to a close. Though only taking place on one humid day in mid-April, guests resoundingly voiced approval in hosting another camp meeting next year. It promises to be an even grander event.

————— *By Jason Busch, Texas Conference Communication Director*



Agriculture Program

Students Learn Stewardship Through Farming

Jefferson » Jefferson Christian Academy (JCA) is a Seventh-day Adventist, self-supporting boarding academy managed by the Jefferson Academy Church and community, located in the beautiful Piney Woods of northeast Texas.

The academy's agriculture program uses a gardening area that consists of three greenhouses, one screenhouse, two long hoop houses, and an 8,000-square foot outdoor garden where the students and staff are learning and working together to produce the best tasting, healthiest food possible.

Growing delicious, nutrient-rich plants starts with the soil. The academy is following a high-brix garden program, which enables us to grow higher yields of nutrient dense produce. We are utilizing a combination of organic additions,

custom mineral broadcasts, nutrient drenches, foliar sprays, and sea solids to develop and maintain the energy and life in the soil. We use no harmful pesticides or chemicals, and are striving to use only natural means to control pests and weeds so those who consume the produce can enjoy it worry free.

The academy's "Community Supported Agriculture" program is geared to help our students learn social responsibility and stewardship of local land. It keeps food dollars in the local community, as it eliminates the middleman and encourages direct cooperation and communication between the consumer and the grower.

This program puts the "farmer's face on the food" and increases awareness of how, where, and by whom our food

is grown. With community support we can concentrate our students' efforts on doing the best job they can to produce quality food instead of marketing.

JCA has planned its harvests to include lettuces, greens, tomatoes, hot and sweet peppers, cucumbers, green beans, onions, summer squashes, winter squashes, purple hull peas, cabbages, carrots, beets, sweet corn, melons, radishes, okra, and more. We are still planting, and we are already harvesting many wonderful vegetables. If you would like to join the JCA "Community Supported Agriculture" program, please contact us at: Jefferson Christian Academy, 3060 FM 728, Jefferson, TX 75657. 903.665.3973.

————— *By Vickie Esau*

Family Prayer

Prayer Makes All the Difference



We have all heard this saying, “The family that prays together, stays together.” In our modern society, family members do not even have time to eat together, much less pray together.

With the divorce rate at 50 percent for couples, it is affecting Christian homes in a drastic way. According to the Barna Group, Christians divorce rates vary from 21 to 34 percent depending on the denomination and religious beliefs. Other studies are indicating that divorce rates may be somewhere between 10 and 20 percent. It might even be less than 10 percent.

Phil McGraw (“Dr. Phil”) writes in his bestselling book, *Relationship Rescue*, “An interesting statistic shared by David McLaughlin in his wonderful series entitled “The Role of the Man in the Family” reflects that the divorce rate in America is at a minimum one out of two marriages. But the reported divorce rate among couples that pray together is about one in ten thousand. Pretty impressive statistic, even if you reduce it a thousandfold.” It’s a fact: praying together works.

What are the real statistical numbers? No one knows for sure. But one thing is certain: when a couple practices their faith, attends church on a regular basis, studies the Bible and prays together, they can almost double the odds of avoiding divorce. Having Christ in the center of our marriages makes a huge difference in maintaining a stable marriage.

Prayer breathes life and gives a new heartbeat in the center of the Christian home. When the family prays together, each member is given the opportunity to learn what it means not only to be intimate with God but to have a personal relationship with the Lord.

What happens when our prayers are answered? We experience God in a personal way. We view God’s love from a totally different perspective and our daily lives are changed in a radical way. Our trust level increases and we are not afraid to tell others what God has done and how our faith grew. We trust the Lord more. That is why it is important to introduce our children to the joy and excitement of answered prayer. When we have family devotionals and prayer, we pass our Christian convictions to the next generation. Our children need to see our genuine faith in action; how faith has acted in our personal lives. Having our prayers answered will lead to important and deeply meaningful discussions about spiritual discussions.

More importantly, prayer has the effect of deepening the interpersonal relationship in family. Prayer is all about personal intimacy—with God and each other.

When we pray with the family, we share our experiences one with the other. We are teaching our children that prayer is talking to God as a friend and our prayers don’t have to be long, formal, and fancy. Prayers should be short, spontaneous, from the heart, and conversational. Children will learn that relationships with God and with each family member are essential for character development. Let us lift our heart in prayer to unite us to God and one another. As our relationship with God develops, may our love for Him and one another also grow.

By Lee-Roy Chacon, President



Hope for Santa Fe

Spanish District's Series Brings People to Jesus

Santa Fe, N. Mex. » The Santa Fe Spanish district (Airport and Marcy Park Churches) held a week-long series of reaping meetings called “Una Esperanza Para Santa Fe” (Hope for Santa Fe) with guest speaker Ernest Castillo, North American Division Vice-President for Multilingual Ministries.

Castillo shared enthusiastic spiritual messages that engaged and encouraged our guests to attend without missing a night. On Wednesday night, Castillo made an altar call to pray for those who

needed physical and spiritual healing. The next evening, he made another appeal, and 10 people decided to follow Jesus through baptism. Three more made their decision for baptism on Friday. We praise the Lord for the leading of the Holy Spirit in these lives!

Castillo gave a special gift to individuals who attended every night. Many visitors shared that they had been greatly blessed to learn about the Bible and that they didn't want the meetings to end.

A great celebration took place on Sab-

bath, both at the church and in heaven, for the 13 people who took their stand for Jesus through baptism. Leonard Cummings, district pastor, made another appeal that afternoon and seven more people stood up indicating their desire to prepare for baptism. Praise the Lord for those precious decisions!

The week was not only one of hope, but of spiritual revival. “Take delight in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart” (Psalms 37:4).

————— *By Edith Cummings*



Sharing the Good News

Working with Our Native American Family

Gallup, N. Mex. » Angie Holtsoi-Nez, a member of the All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Church, is also the director of the Gallup, New Mexico, First Nation Community Health Source Agency. In this role, Holtsoi-Nez helps coordinate health and social services for poverty-stricken indigenous families who are spread out over hundreds of miles.

On April 13, she invited Robert Gardner, M.D., and his health assistant and wife, Kimone Gardner, of the Rio Rancho Church, to give a specially-designed health talk to a group of 15 visitors.

The presentation “The 8 Counsels of Health” for Native Americans was a hit! There was a colorful display of health literature, DVDs, posters, and medical models. The individuals who attended the talk were excited and appreciative.

Keep this part of God's family in prayer as we seek to share with them the Good News from the Book of Heaven (the Bible) and the Book of Nature (God's health laws).

————— *By Robert Gardner, M.D.*



Women's Retreat

Amarillo Women's Ministries Hosts Special Weekend

Amarillo, Texas » Darla Sutton, the women's ministries leader of the Amarillo Seventh-day Adventist Church, coordinated a women's retreat primarily for the Texas panhandle region on April 8-9. There were 52 women who registered for the first session on Sabbath. There were women from the Amarillo, Big Springs, Dalhart, Hereford, and Clovis churches. We were blessed by all our speakers during this wonderful weekend and on Sunday, enjoyed a nutritional breakfast burrito meal prepared

and served by the men.

On Sabbath morning, Roxanne Smyth, Texico Conference women's ministries director, gave a beautiful message titled, "Remember Lot's Wife." Sutton shared her testimony and inspiration for choosing the theme: "Finding: Joy, Peace and Trust in Our Chaotic World." On Sabbath evening and Sunday morning, Tracie Metherell, a pastoral counselor, shared inspirational talks and gave building blocks to help us continue finding joy, peace and trust in

our chaotic world. One of these building blocks that can be utilized is goal setting, especially for our careers and hobbies. Tracie concluded her remarks by assuring us that our values (the structure of our lives) must be well defined and consistently lived out. Also, she reminded us that Jesus is by our side and with our hand in His hand, our journey and walk with Him will be victorious. The whole weekend was a blessing for all the women who attended.

By Darla Sutton



Gallery Show

Students Display Art for the Community

Santa Fe, N. Mex. » On Wednesday, May 10, 2017, the Adventist Academy of Santa Fe had its very first art show at ARTSmart New Mexico. We were able to rent out a professional art gallery to display the students' art. Parents and members of the community were excited to witness this rare opportunity. The upper grades, grades 5-9, featured art inspired by Gustav Klimt, Andy Warhol, Vincent Van Gogh, and various modern artists. The lower grades, grades K-4, featured their original ideas using tempera paint on canvases and a tree made with leaves they made with tissue paper.

The leaves were done to impersonate children's author Eric Carle's style of art. The students worked hard to be able to participate in their art show.

It was great to see the parents' and students' faces light up as they saw the space. The students were bustling with excitement and the parents, along with the teachers, were proud. Miss Hernandez, the lower grade teacher, and Melissa Chacon, head teacher, were pleased with the number of people that showed up to support our young people.

By Melissa Chacon



Classified Ads

EMPLOYMENT

Walla Walla University is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to Jobs.WallaWalla.edu.

Weimar Institute is seeking master's prepared nurses for the 2017-2018 school year to teach psychiatric/mental health nursing, mother and infant nursing, pediatric nursing, community nursing, and medical-surgical nursing. Also need BS prepared nurses in adjunct positions to teach clinicals in all of these areas. Resumes to WINursing@Weimar.edu.

Professor (Assistant/Associate/Full), Loma Linda University School of Religion is seeking a New Testament professor who will excel in teaching graduate and undergraduate students, services, research, and denominational leadership. PhD or equivalent. Please e-mail a cover letter, CV, and three letters of recommendation to Dr. David Larson (DLarson@LLU.edu).

PUC is seeking full time positions in our Nursing Department. Looking for Professors in the areas of Adult Clinical Focus, Adult Clinical Focus-Leadership/Preceptorship, and Obstetric or Children Clinical Focus. Preference is for Master's degree in Nursing, Current California RN License, and a minimum of 1 year teaching experience desired. For more information or to apply, please call 707.965.6231, or visit PUC.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings.

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!! AMEN free clinic, Ukiah, California, Oct. 17-20. Need Dentist, Dental hygienist, Dental assistants, Physicians, Ophthalmologist/Optometrists, Registration, Hospitality, Communication, and general help. Find out more at UkiahSDA.com and click on AMEN medical clinic or call 707.695.0423.

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Announcements

South Bend Junior Academy in Indiana is celebrating its 100th year on September 23 - 24! Register online at www.OurSBJA.com or call 574.287.3713. And, LIKE us on Facebook: South Bend Junior Academy. Save the date! Don't miss it!

Asian-Pacific Convocation August 18-20, Lone Star Camp, Athens, Texas: Join Pastor Rolando Baysa, D.Min., for the Southwestern Union's Asian-Pacific Convocation. This event consists of power-packed preaching, multi-cultural fellowship, worship

opportunities for adults, youth, and children, seminars for pastors and spouses, and a cultural heritage program. Email rhomher@gmail.com for more information. Hotel group rate available at Holiday Inn: 832.755.2665. Information on Lone Star Camp: www.LoneStarCamp.org.

Obituaries

Cook, Ernest (Ernie) Wilbern; born Feb. 26, 1934, Waurika, Okla.; died April 21, 2017, Melbourne, Fla. Preceded in death by parents, Morea and Elmer Cook, and siblings, Elva Rucker, Ethel Corcoran, Delmer Cook, Nina Lapp,

Ora Lee Deal, Sonny Cook. Surviving: wife, Gloria, of Melbourne, Fla.; daughter, Lydia Seiden and husband, Dwayne, of Gentry, Ark.; son, Steve Cook, of West Fork, Ark.; daughter, Lisa Watkins and husband, Jody, of Gentry, Ark.; son, Edward Cook and wife, Michelle, of Stilwell, Okla.; daughter, Glenda Royal, of Lincoln, Ark.; daughter, Brenda Chrusciaki and husband, Everton, of Burleson, Texas; brother, Delbert Cook, of San Antonio, Texas; sister, Marjorie Yeates, of Keene, Texas; sister, Flora Smith, of Story, Ark.; 13 grandchildren; 17 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandson.

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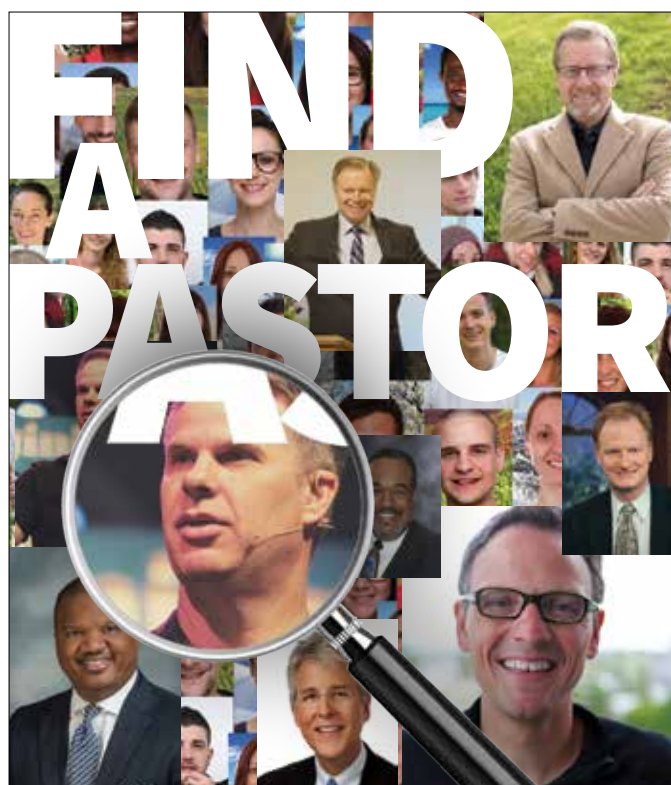
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Sabbath Sunset Calendar July-September 2017

	7/7	7/14	7/21	7/28	8/4	8/11	8/18	8/25	9/1	9/8	9/15	9/22	9/29
Abilene	8:50	8:48	8:45	8:40	8:35	8:28	8:21	8:13	8:04	7:55	7:46	7:37	7:27
Albuquerque	8:24	8:22	8:18	8:13	8:07	8:00	7:52	7:44	7:34	7:24	7:14	7:04	6:54
Amarillo	9:05	9:03	8:59	8:54	8:48	8:41	8:33	8:24	8:15	8:05	7:55	7:45	7:35
Brownsville	8:26	8:24	8:22	8:19	8:15	8:10	8:04	7:57	7:50	7:43	7:35	7:27	7:19
Dallas	8:39	8:37	8:34	8:29	8:24	8:17	8:10	8:01	7:53	7:44	7:34	7:25	7:15
El Paso	8:15	8:13	8:10	8:06	8:01	7:54	7:47	7:39	7:31	7:22	7:13	7:03	6:54
Fort Worth	8:41	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:26	8:19	8:12	8:04	7:55	7:46	7:36	7:27	7:18
Gallup	8:34	8:31	8:28	8:23	8:17	8:09	8:01	7:53	7:43	7:33	7:23	7:13	7:03
Gentry	8:39	8:36	8:33	8:27	8:21	8:14	8:05	7:56	7:47	7:37	7:26	7:16	7:05
Houston	8:26	8:24	8:21	8:18	8:13	8:07	8:00	7:53	7:45	7:36	7:28	7:19	7:10
Little Rock	8:26	8:24	8:20	8:16	8:10	8:03	7:55	7:46	7:37	7:27	7:17	7:07	6:57
Muskogee	8:41	8:38	8:35	8:30	8:24	8:16	8:08	7:59	7:50	7:40	7:30	7:19	7:09
New Orleans	8:05	8:03	8:01	7:57	7:52	7:46	7:39	7:32	7:24	7:15	7:06	6:48	6:49
Oklahoma City	8:49	8:46	8:43	8:38	8:32	8:24	8:16	8:08	7:58	7:48	7:38	7:28	7:18
Roswell	8:11	8:09	8:06	8:01	7:56	7:49	7:41	7:33	7:24	7:15	7:05	6:56	6:46
San Antonio	8:38	8:36	8:33	8:29	8:25	8:19	8:12	8:05	7:57	7:49	7:40	7:31	7:23
Shreveport	8:26	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:11	8:05	7:57	7:49	7:40	7:31	7:22	7:13	7:03
Tulsa	8:44	8:42	8:38	8:33	8:27	8:19	8:11	8:02	7:52	7:42	7:32	7:22	7:11

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Back Pages

Copsey, Marjorie Grace Bascom; born March 10, 1929, Lincoln, Neb.; died Feb. 26, 2017, Lenexa, Kansas. Surviving: brother, Maurice T. Bascome and wife, Dottie, of Dayton, M.D.; sister, Gwendolyn M. Glaser and husband, Ted, of Carrington, N.D.; brother-in-law David R. Copsey and wife, Nell, of DeRidder, La.; sister-in-law, LeNora Copsey of Conway, N.H.; daughter, Marjorie Gail Smith and husband, Chris, of Shawnee, Kansas; son, Mark J. Copsey and wife, Elisabeth, of Walla Walla, Wash.; two grandchildren; two great-grandsons.

Groom, Alda Adel Spencer; born Sept. 24, 1921, Bristow, Okla.; died March 9, 2011, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Groom, Donald Keith; born Dec. 1, 1920, Slick, Okla.; died June 22, 2016, Oklahoma City, Okla.

Henwood, Georgia Lynn; born April 4, 1958, Killeen, Texas; died Jan. 1, 2017. Preceded in death by father and step-father, Gene Owen. Surviving: husband, James Doyle Henwood, of Elgin, Texas; mother, Mary Owen, of Temple, Texas; son, Jake Henwood of Elgin, Texas; step-daughter, Jeanna Swena, of Chehalis, Wash.; step-sons, Zachary Henwood and Adam Henwood, and step-daughter Shana Henwood, of Austin, Texas; sister, Connie Higginbotham, and husband Don; sister, Dixie Frazier, and husband, Bruce, of Belton, Texas; sister, Kathy Lemmons, and husband, Bernie; Mary Lee Farrell and, husband,

Ronnie; brother, Buck Curry and wife, Robin, of Temple, Texas; six grandchildren.

Sawyer, Ross W., Jr.; born June 30, 1944, Wilmington, Del.; died March 3, 2017, Ozark, Ark.

Tucker, Minnie Lou Martin; born April 27, 1927, Jefferson, Texas; died Dec. 27, 2016, Jefferson, Texas. Surviving: daughter, Jo Ellen Tonn; grandchildren, Michael Tonn and wife, Damarys and Jamin Tonn.

Tucker, Warren; born Nov. 9, 1923, Wewoka, Okla.; died Dec. 14, 2016, Jefferson, Texas. Surviving: wife, Minnie Lou Tucker; daughter, Jo Ellen Tonn; brother, Alfred Tucker and wife, Shirley; two grandchildren.

Tullock, Melba Culpepper; born May 6, 1935, Paducah, Ky.; died May 9, 2017, Marshall, Texas. Surviving: son, Robert Tullock and wife, Robin; son, Mike Tullock and wife, Janie; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Voss, William; born Nov. 1, 1921, Homestead, Okla.; died April 7, 2017, Landrum, S.C. Surviving: wife, Fay Voss; daughters, Linda Herman and Shirley Rumsey; six grandchildren; 15 great-grandchildren.

Wright, Sharon Paden; born July 1, 1946, Charleston, W.V.; died March 18, 2017, Decatur, Tenn. Surviving: brother, Ken Paden and wife, Ann; niece, Jennifer Paden.

Carolyn Clark passed away Sunday, May 14, 2017 in Keller, TX. She was born May 7, 1943 in San Antonio to Delbert Louis and Frankie Leona Pettis Kasiska. She married James Allen Clark on December 22, 1963 in Grand Prairie and her husband preceded her in death on October 1, 1998. Mrs. Clark was a LVN for more than 15 years. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. Survivors include her beloved sons, William Clark of Crowley; Kevin Clark and wife Julie of Keller; and Paul Clark and wife Carolina of Saginaw; six grandchildren; three sisters, Geneva Wilkerson; Nancy Boaz and husband Larry; and Linda Mackrell; numerous nieces, nephews, in-laws and friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and a granddaughter, Ashtyn Clark. Memorials in Carolyn's memory may be made to Seventh-day Adventist Texas Conference, P.O. Box 800, Alvarado, TX 76009.

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