

Southwestern Union

# Record

August 2017

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Household Faith  
*Strengthening Family Relationships*

# Strengthening Family Relationships

## Household Faith

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## Editor's Note

No relationship is without discord at times, but do you feel that your relationship with your spouse, children, or parents isn't what you'd like it to be? Could your relationships be stronger? More intimate? More Christ-like?

This month we continue our quarterly theme, Household Faith, and focus on Strengthening Relationships. Join us as we delve into this important aspect of family life. Faith begins in the home, and being intentional now about creating, maintaining, and strengthening the bonds amongst parents, children, extended family, and God is the key to becoming the family God has always intended for you to be.



Jessica L. Lozano

# 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.

# Household Faith

## Building and Strengthening Family Relationships



Larry Moore | President

**How can we strengthen our relationships?** Last month we talked about growing spiritually as a family and I mentioned having worship together. There are many ways and methods that can help strengthen family bonds, but I would say that many could be summed up by simply spending quality time together. Spending time with Jesus in His Word and in prayer is the most important, but it doesn't end there. Husbands and wives must spend time together. Time well spent engaging with each other exclusively will pay rich dividends. Quality time is a demonstration of love.

Thoughtful and caring time spent with our children is also of utmost importance. They will enjoy and remember the special time you spend with them. Children don't need the newest and best clothes or toys. One-on-one time with mom and dad will help them feel special, appreciated, and loved. Talk to your children, show interest, and carefully listen to them. It is never too late to work on your relationship with your kids, no matter how old they are.

**Relationships are fragile.** They must be nurtured in order for them to be successful. If a label were placed on our relationships, especially in our homes, it would probably read, "Handle with care." An intentional mindset must be employed in order to create a safe atmosphere for every individual in the home. A safe place is one where a person feels accepted and valued, and free to express their opinion without fear of ridicule or criticism. It is that place where an individual can feel they are being understood void of fear, rejection, or put-downs.

Where there are children in the home, the same counsel applies. Every individual, young or old, is the cherished possession of God, our Father, and must be treated as such. God Himself is a relational God and He places a high premium on how we relate to each other. The foundation of all relationships is God. God is love. Therefore, love is God (1 John 4:7,8). Further, the Lord describes the characteristics of love that must be demonstrated (1 Corinthians 13). When the principles of love, as outlined in God's Word, are put into action, our relationships will be made strong.



Buford Griffith, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

**What are relationships based on?** A camp counselor once told me about a camper who would always hold the door open behind her a few extra seconds after she had walked through it. At night the camper would pull the covers back a little extra like she was making room for someone else. One day the counselor asked the camper about this and the camper said that she was making room for Jesus wherever she went during the day. This young camper had it right. Our relationship with Jesus should be so close that we would not leave Him out of anything.

This child understood an important concept. She was making room for Jesus as a part of every activity every day. Our relationship with God and our relationship with our family is made stronger not only with quality time, but also quantity of time. In the book, *The Power of a Praying Parent*, Stormie Omartian writes, "How many family relationships are left to chance because no one prays about them? God tells of all the wonderful things that will happen when we pray." The power of God's Word and prayer is the only way to strengthen our families. We should dedicate time every day to pray specifically for individuals in our family.



John Page | Treasurer



# Staying Connected

## Enjoying Family Time After Summer Has Gone

By Record Staff with Ruber and Ketty Leal, Texas Conference Family Ministries Directors

Urie Bronfenbrenner, Ph.D., known for his ecological systems theory of child development, studied the amount of interaction between fathers and their children. The fathers in the study were asked to estimate the amount of time they spent each day with their child. The average answer was 15-20 minutes.

Microphones were attached to the father so that each interaction could be recorded. The results of this study were shocking. The average amount of time spent by these middle-class fathers with their small children was 37 seconds per day! Their direct interaction was limited to 2.7 encounters daily, lasting 10 to 15 seconds each!

Being a parent is a challenging task, and in a society where your identity is defined by how busy you are, it is tempting to cheat our family members from the time they deserve. It often happens unintentionally. A few late work nights turn into a few late work weeks. Driving around from one activity to the next can seem like family time, but that is often accompanied with on-the-go meals and distracted kids on their devices. The reality is that although this may be our regular routine, we need to make sure we are scheduling family time as well.

Many families will have spent many wonderful quality hours and days with each other this summer on vacation or simply at home on school break. But as the summer comes to a close and the business of autumn begins—with school, sports, church activities, etc.—is it possible to refrain from falling out of the habit of spending time together as a family?

What can we do to create more opportunities to make memories and grow as a family? How do we hit the pause button and invest in our closest relationships?

Here are a few ideas to help keep you connected throughout the year:



### Storytime Together

Bringing the day to a close snuggled up is a great way to spend time with your kids. Whether you are reading from a favorite book, making up a story, or sharing the tales of a Bible hero, enjoy this time with each other as it will only last a few years.



### Embrace the Outdoors

Visit area parks as often as you can. If you have a family dog, this will add even more to the fun. Being outside helps disconnect us from technology and the constant interruptions it can have on family time. One idea is to take turns visiting each park in your county.



### Media Fast

Sometimes you just have to turn off the TVs, computers, and devices and work on a puzzle. A weekly break will help reset your creativity and reduce your stress. Take turns letting each child choose the media fast activity (crafts, board games, scrapbooking, etc.) each week.

### Meal Collaboration

Not only is sharing a meal together a great way to chat and bond, but your kitchen will be a lot more lively when you cook together. Younger kids are helpful in mixing ingredients and as refrigerator runners. Have your older kids design the menu and lead out as chefs.



### Muddy Puddles

Although we must be safe to avoid thunderstorms and lightning strikes, splashing around in the rain is another great way to make memories and enjoy some silliness as a family. Let the worries melt away as you embrace the raindrops from above. Splash around barefoot or get some miles on those rainboots. End your rain parade with some warm soup or hot chocolate!



### Library Visits

Public libraries may seem archaic these days, but many have read-aloud programs and special events that are perfect for your kids. Checking out library books may not be as popular anymore, but libraries are still a great resource for young imaginative minds.

### Fortress Construction

Pillow walls and bedsheet roofs never go out of style. If it has been a while since you were involved in the intricacies of fort building, it may be time to gather all the pillows and cushions in the house and transform the living room into a whimsical world where kids rule. Be sure to bring snacks, books, or stuffed animals to populate the fort and entertain your small kings and queens!



### Attend Workshops

Hardware stores, craft stores, and some grocery stores put together family-friendly workshops and classes. From do-it-yourself projects, like building an end table together, to cake decorating and specialty baking, check out online schedules to see what is offered in your community!



### Short Vacations

Family vacations can be short, fun, and economical when they are simple. If you live within driving distance of a beach, or a state or national park, consider taking a long weekend trip. If camping is not your thing, consider visiting a neighboring town as a tourist.

### Give Freely

Another way to strengthen bonds is to volunteer as a family and give freely to others. Animal shelters allow supervised children to play with pets awaiting adoption. Refugee resettlement programs have volunteer opportunities for families to welcome and help new arrivals. Whether you are involved in a church ministry or a community program, make it a point to show your family love by teaching them to love others.

# Intentional Intimacy

## Examining the Bond Between Husband and Wife

Have you ever seen a set of matryoshka, or Russian nesting dolls? Open one of these delicate, intricately painted dolls and you will find another, similarly painted doll, and then another, and another. The matryoshka set with the most dolls ever created contained 51 dolls, the largest of which was 21.25 inches and the smallest measuring .12 inches.

True, intentional intimacy can be a lot like opening a set of matryoshka. If you want to get to the center of who somebody is, it must be an intentional act with the goal of understanding and appreciating that person's mind, heart, and soul.

For many people it can be very difficult to be vulnerable, to open up to another individual. However, relationships are strengthened when we are able to do so, honestly and respectfully sharing with one another. When two people take the mutual risk of sharing their most intimate selves, a special bond is created that is difficult to break.

### Intimacy with God

How can we begin to strengthen our relationships with our spouses if we cannot first be intimate with God? God says that He will give us the desires of our heart. While we can't hide our

deepest thoughts and desires from God, He wants us to be open and vulnerable with Him. When was the last time you opened your heart to God and told Him about your fears and dreams?

### Intimacy as a Mirror

Opening yourself to another allows that person to know the real you—the you that may be hidden beneath layers of deflection. Being intimate means allowing someone to discover your fears, hopes, dreams, motivations, and imperfections. Many avoid intimacy because of fear of being rejected for those fears, hopes, and dreams. However, once someone knows you on that deeper level, that person acts as a mirror to your character. You can't hide the best and worst of who you are from the person you've decided to be intimate with. But the rewards of intimacy are worth the risks.

### The Value of Intimacy

In his book *The Five Love Languages*, Dr. Gary Chapman says, "At the heart of humankind's existence is the desire to be intimate and to be loved by another. Marriage is designed to meet that need for intimacy and love. That is why the ancient biblical writings spoke of the

husband and wife becoming 'one flesh.' That didn't mean that individuals would lose their identity; it meant that they would enter into each other's lives in a deep and intimate way." Intimacy is the fulfillment of the mandate given by God in the Garden of Eden. It was God's first gift to man.

### Steps to Intimacy

The first step to intimacy between two people is the decision to commit to an intimate relationship, knowing that you are both opening yourself up in ways that you may never have before.

The second step to intimacy is communication. Commit to being open, honest, and kind in all communication, with the understanding that each person wants to know you and wants what is best for you. Also, commit to communicating with God about the relationship.

The third step is time. Time means two different things in your quest for intimacy. Intimacy develops over time, so sharing a committed life together builds intimacy. However, spending time together for the sole purpose of building intimacy is the most important aspect of this step. Add an appointment to your weekly calendar that will be time you set aside for this purpose. **R**





# Bridging The Gap

## 7 Tips for Ministering and Loving the Parents in Your Church



You have probably heard the saying, “it takes a village to raise a child,” but consider the idea that it takes a whole church to raise up a child in the footsteps of Jesus. Together with parents, church members, and children’s ministries leaders, we can collaborate to raise a good citizen of this world, and more importantly, a citizen of Heaven.

Many parents know that God has given them the primary role in the spiritual development of their children, but with the constant business of our daily routine and major life changes, they often need additional help and assistance.

Killeen Adventist Junior Academy Assistant Principal and Science Teacher, Karen-Mae Mitchell, shares some ideas on how we as church members and leaders can work together with the parents in our churches to provide an environment and support network to encourage our precious children to know God’s love, sacrifice, and purpose for their lives.

**Pray:** We must arm our parents with the power of prayer and ask God to give them wisdom as they plan family worship experiences that will lead their children into a deeper relationship with Him. Share a list of the families in your church with your church prayer warriors. Both families and prayer warriors will be blessed!

**Learn From Each Other:** Provide opportunities for families to come together in small groups. Rotate leaders with experienced leaders mentoring the younger leaders. This is a great environment for parents and children to get together and learn about the Christian family and fun ideas to grow spiritually.

**Coordinate Proactively:** Correlate family worships with current programs. Children’s Ministries leaders can provide worksheets with follow-up scriptures or discussion questions for parents to use with their children in worship that week, as well as CDs or playlists with songs from Vacation Bible School or Sabbath school to use at home.

**Build Resource Team:** Identify a family worship resources team or coordinator and ask them to share regular tips, resources, and support to the families in your church. Information could be shared on a monthly eNewsletter, blog, or even Facebook group.

**Provide Ongoing Training:** Conduct regular interactive workshops for parents and families. Have skilled pastors, teachers, and counselors present seminars on relevant topics. Older parents and Children’s Ministries leaders can also share great perspectives based on their experiences.

**Support Parental Spiritual Growth:** Help parents maintain a strong connection with their Heavenly Father. Parent’s spiritual growth is key to sowing spiritual seeds in children. Children’s Ministries leaders can work with other church programs and leaders to provide spiritual enrichment for parents, as well as children.

**Be Patient and Love:** Be patient with the families in your church. Let them know that you love them and understand how challenging it is to be a parent. Our ultimate resource is God’s love and grace as we work together to guide these precious children and their families to Jesus.

*Sonia Cano is the Southwestern Union Sabbath School and Children’s Ministries Director. Karen-Mae Mitchell is the Assistant Principal and Science Teacher at Killeen Adventist Junior Academy. Content from this article originally appeared in Kids Ministry Ideas Magazine (October 2010).*

# Prodigal In Our Midst

## When Young People Leave and Our Role in Their Departure



**Picture this:** It's early Monday morning and an agenda filled with meetings and deadlines awaits you. In the rush of the morning routine, you realized that it has happened again. Your teenager has run away. Suddenly, time sits still and the search to locate your teen takes precedence over everything else. To many parents across the United States, this scenario is all too real.

According to the National Runaway Safeline, between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away each year. In some cases, leaving home is a matter of survival, as young people escape abusive or aggressive conditions. Adolescents and young adults tend to find comfort and support in peers, especially if they experience emotional disconnect from family members. Poor communication, negative remarks, lack of empathy, and emotional neglect could be just as damaging to a relationship as abuse can be.

Your kids may not have run away before, but many adolescents in our churches struggle with running away emotionally and spiritually. Spiritual disconnect can occur when rules and expectations become more important than people or relationships. When the children we've raised in our congregations mature, many of them tend to run away from church when they see discrepancies between what we preach and how we treat each other.

In her book *Testimonies to the Church, Vol. 3*, Ellen G. White vividly describes the memorable moment the prodigal son returns home in Luke 15. "He did not array the past course of wrong and sin before his son to make him feel how low he had sunken. The father lifted up his son and kissed him. He took the rebellious son to his chest, and he wrapped his own rich robe about the nearly naked form of his son. He took

him to his heart with such warmth, and evinced such compassion, if the son had ever doubted the goodness and love of his father, he could do so no longer." She continues, "There is too much effort to make them feel where they have erred, and keep reminding them of their error. These who have erred need compassion, they need help, they need sympathy...Above everything else, they need free forgiveness."

Young people come home when they feel compassion. They want to trust that there is a refuge where they can find comfort and rest from the world's demands. Listen and learn from your teen; listen attentively; and then, listen some more. They need the assurance that parents will not only provide food and shelter but also time and attention.

In the arduous race called parenting, ask yourself, Twenty years from now, when your children have grown, how would you like to be remembered as a parent? Take a moment, think about it, and then make every possible effort to become that parent. Teens and young adults are embarking on a marvelous road with countless opportunities. Let's be their supportive guides as they journey towards their destination.

It is a joy to know that our loving Father is attentively looking over the horizon with His arms wide open, awaiting our return! Let's place our eyes on Jesus and His unfailing promise that one glorious day He will wrap His sanctified robe around us, kiss us with evident compassion and softly whisper in our ear, "Welcome home, my run-away child." **R**

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*Carolina Utz is a Marriage and Family Therapist Associate from Fort Worth, Texas. She works with at-risk youth at Tarrant County Juvenile Services and advocates for victims of human trafficking.*



# The Non Parents

## Relating to Aunts, Uncles, and Extended Family



**I am not a mom.** The only babies I've parented are a yellow lab named Kalila, and a black shepherd mix named Shadow. They can be a handful, but there is no comparison between raising fur babies and the awesome task that men and women undertake as parents. I've witnessed both of my brothers become fathers and leaders in their homes, and my sisters-in-law are incredible mothers, patiently loving and learning as their families grow. I have also become increasingly aware of the influence that extended family members have on little ones. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins—whether related by blood or by choice—play a significant role in our lives.

We read about some very important extended family relationships in the Bible. God called Abraham to leave his relatives and set out for a new land in Genesis 12. However, his nephew Lot went with him, traveling and living with his Godly uncle. Two chapters later, it is Abraham who comes to Lot's rescue after he had been captured. In Genesis 19, it is Uncle Abraham who intercedes for Lot's life as Sodom and Gomorrah are destroyed: "But God had listened to Abraham's request and kept Lot safe, removing him from the disaster that engulfed the cities on the plain." In Luke 1, a pair of unlikely cousins are chosen by God to mother and nurture the Savior of the world and the man who would prepare His way. The Bible says the angel assured Mary, telling her "your relative Elizabeth has become pregnant in her old age!" Its widely assumed that Mary and Elizabeth were cousins, but regardless of the technicalities of their relation, it is clear that God used these two women to comfort and encourage each other as they each took on an extraordinary responsibility.

I think it is safe to say that Abraham's faith and Elizabeth's conviction were incredibly instrumental in the lives of Lot and

Mary. They were older and wiser, and because of their own spiritual experiences were able to intercede and encourage their younger relatives on their journey. God has called me, by simple virtue of being an aunt, to be a resource of love, compassion, prayer, and encouragement to my nieces and nephews. In addition to being an extension of God's love to our siblings and their spouses, I believe we are called to assist in the upbringing of their children.

One of the neatest things we have experienced as an extended family is seeing my niece, Mikaela, and my nephew, Diego, learn to pray before meals, a common practice in my home and my mom's home, but less so in each of their homes. Soon, however, these toddlers were requesting that their parents stop and pray before eating. As their language skills develop, three-year-old Mikaela and two-year-old Diego are actually practicing leading out in prayer themselves.

One day Mikaela and Diego will be teenagers and young adults. I pray that when that day comes, I can intercede for them with Abraham-like faith and that I can encourage them with the kindness of Elizabeth's words, "You are blessed because you believed that the Lord would do what He said." (Luke 1:44) My aunts and uncles (some related, some not) have been a blessing in my life. I know who to go to for a laugh, an honest opinion, or an intercessory prayer. My faith walk is not mine alone; it is an instrument that God intends to use for good in the lives of those He has blessed me with. Take inventory of your faith walk and your family, and see where God is calling you. **R**

*Kristina P. Lockhart is the Managing Editor of the Record and Southwestern Union Associate Communication Director.*

# Middle School Matchup

## Students Explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math

By Anne-Marie Jacobs, M.Ed., Killeen Adventist Junior Academy Principal



Nearly 180 excited seventh and eighth grade students gathered at the Killeen Civic Center on April 18, 2017 for the first annual Texas Conference STEM Day. Students chose either a science or math track at the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math Day, hosted by the Killeen Adventist Junior Academy. Those who chose science participated in three out of the six hands-on stations: Engineering, Robotics, Chemistry, Bodies in Motion, Robotic Coding and Programming, and Ft. Hood Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit. Those interested in math competed in the Math Challenge in teams of four to six members. The Math challenge consisted of three rounds: creativity, computation, and the tournament challenge. Each round featured math topics ranging from basic math computation to Algebra 1. The hand-on stations were made possible with the assistance of community members and seventh and eighth grade teachers within the Texas Conference.

It was such an amazing experience to see students so actively engaged and excited about learning.


Students in the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Unit were given a presentation from the Fort Hood 79<sup>th</sup> unit bomb squad before heading out into their different rotations. In Engineering, students participated in a construction design challenge where they built a creative structure with their groups that was judged on stability, motion, and cost.

Bodies in Motion was an exploration of the musculoskeletal system and how the muscles and nerves work together to create movement. The robotics station introduced students to a variety of different types of robots as well as information and tools to develop teams of their own when they return to their schools.

Inside the Chemistry lab, students were able to experiment with chemical reactions and static electricity. During Robotic Coding and Programming, also known as the Sphero Challenge, students developed codes for the mo-

tions of the robots so that they could go through an obstacle course on their own.

During the first round of the math competition, the creativity round, teams had to solve various problems in order to possess the secret code. After all five levels were completed they used their codes to unlock a cryptex for bonus points. During the second round, the computation round, students had exactly ten minutes to solve as many basic math computation problems as quickly and as accurately as possible, without a calculator. In the last round, the tournament challenge, students along with their teams, went head-to-head buzzing in to answer as many mathematical questions as they could within the two-minute rounds.

The first annual STEM Day was a huge success with students relishing the fun educational experience. Both teachers and students left the event with increased enthusiasm about a variety of ways that math and science are applied to real-life situations. 

# Just Listen

## The Art of Successful Relationships

*By Jean Thomas, former Communication Director and Record Editor. She and her husband, Fred, frequently presented on communicating in relationships.*

Getting along with others, whether at home, at work, at school, church, or in the neighborhood is one of the most important elements for successful living. Key to this is the ability to listen to what people are saying, and recognizing that they have something they want to share and wish to be heard. This is a skill that does not always come easily; it has to be developed. Being understood and taken seriously, no matter how trivial or how casual, is the secret to a good relationship. Shrugging off a remark, or treating it as being insignificant, sends a message that what the speaker is saying is not important. Success in any relationship is directly related to how we understand what others are saying and how we convey a sense of caring, even if we do not agree with everything they say.

### PERSONALITIES

There are basically four different personality types in conversation. There are the analytical people who are self-controlled and may be assertive, but also may have ideas that need to be considered. They like facts, and are good organizers and problem solvers. Then there are the drivers who want action—any action is better than no action—and are willing to go it alone. There are expressive people who are creative thinkers, people who can become emotional if they are not heard but who have ideas worth listening to. And finally there are the amiable people. These people value relationships, are supportive, and tend to compromise rather than offend.

So, what is the secret of getting along? How does one relate in a meaningful and constructive way? There is a skill known as story listening—allowing the person to express themselves without interjecting your own thoughts.




### STORIES

There are four basic types of stories: The “I know someone who...” story; the “Last year this time...” anniversary story; the “I’ve explained this problem before...” rehearsal story; and the “Well then I’ll just...” reinvestment story. While you are listening to one of these stories, your counter story will probably surface. You may be eager to interject your thoughts or opinions. However, by interrupting with your counter story you’re sending a message to the other person that you’re not really listening to what they are sharing. If you say, “that reminds me of” and you go on with your story, you’re sending a message that you are not really hearing what they are telling you.

### LISTENING WELL

In conversation, maintain eye contact and affirm that you are hearing. Even if you don’t agree with everything, show that you’re listening. Encourage

the speaker to continue and grant them the privilege of being completely heard. Strange as it may seem, often it is not the first thing they say that is the problem. By listening carefully, a totally different problem may surface that was covered up by the first story. And then a third story may develop after that!

Listening with a minimum of defensiveness, criticism or impatience is important in any relationship. It sends a message to the speaker that you want to hear and want to help or at least that you want to understand what they are saying. Much conflict and sadness can be avoided when there is a willingness to listen constructively. Successful relationships are key to happiness and productivity whether at home, at school, at work or at church. And as God’s representatives here on earth, bringing harmony and understanding provides the opportunity to help, be of service to others, and share God’s love in this sin-sick world. 



# What Matters Most

## The Foundation of Strong Family Relationships



**Sabbaths can be tricky.** As I was getting ready for church a few months ago, my daughter Mia was frantically tearing her room apart looking for her Sabbath School lesson. Being a perfectionist, she needed that lesson to complete her Sabbath morning package (Bible, offering, lesson). But her father, being a perfectionist, as well, needed to get to church on time. Inevitably, our two worlds collided a few moments later.

I'll never forget the still small voice that whispered in my mind—*pray*. So, I took Mia by the hand, we bowed our heads and prayed. Less than a minute

later, she ran out of the room holding her lesson, beaming.

Before you roll your eyes and chalk this up to another “lost and found keys” prayer, stick with me for a bit. Throughout history, God has chosen to reveal Himself through story, and He uses *families* to continue telling the story from one generation to the next (Psalm 78:1-8). That’s why He commands His people, “And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and

when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up” in Deuteronomy 6:6-7(NLT). God reveals Himself through family.

This whole chapter is centered on God. He even commands His people, “And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength” (Deuteronomy. 6:5, NLT). So, while He is commanding, at the heart of all that He is saying, is... Himself. He is establishing a connection, a relationship, if you will.

Relationships matter. In families, relationships are paramount. But the

most important relationship within the family context is not what you may think. It's not the relationship between husband and wife. Neither is it the relationship between parent and child. No. The relationship that matters most, is between God, parent/mentor, and child. So if this is the relationship of most importance, how do we as parents and mentors build up what matters most?

**Number 1:** Share Biblical stories of God's work in this world. If you're going to begin somewhere, begin with God. Let Him share his narrative throughout the history of our experience here on earth. Don't diminish the stories of old; instead breathe new life into them. Make them come alive.

**Number 2:** Share your personal accounts of faith. My daughter Mia consistently asks me to tell her stories at night time. She loves to hear the lessons I've learned from God in my own life.

**Number 3:** Live your faith. Remember, God's story is forever unfolding. The journey continues. Let God tell this narrative through you. Don't forget that every day you live, you are living out an incredible tale.

John the Beloved writes about the continuation of God's story in 1 John 1:3 (VOICE) by saying: "What we saw and heard we pass on to you so that you,


too, will be connected with us intimately and become family. Our family is united by our connection with the Father and His Son Jesus." I love that. I love that it's all about a connection, a relationship, a relationship that is passed down from one person to the next. This relationship is what matters most.

In her book *The Desire of Ages*, Ellen G. White describes it this way: "The lessons that we ourselves learn from Christ we should give to our children, as the young minds can receive them, little by little opening to them the beauty of the principles of heaven." As parents or mentors, we have a responsibility to pass on what God has taught and revealed to us. Through His Word, our past personal experiences, and the life we now live, we will show others what matters most.

Which brings me back to the story above. I am a pastor. Sabbath can become very stressful for me if I allow it. If my focus becomes more about getting to church on time so that I can greet the people, preach the sermon, and do the Bible studies...then I have missed the point.

Standing before me is a child who has the same perfectionist mindset as me. I've been where she is many times before, and it can be so discouraging. I have a choice. I can tell her, "Mia, forget the lesson, we're going to be late. Let's go." Or, I can pause, listen to the still small voice telling me this is a teachable moment, a divine appointment.

The truth is, by pausing, I force myself to stop and remember what matters most. And in the end, it's not about finding a Sabbath School lesson; it's about finding and reconnecting with the One who matters more than anything else.

God...He is what matters most. 

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*Walter Martinez is co-pastor of Adventist Fellowship Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and lives in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma, with his wife, Heather, and two children, Mia and Ethan. He earned his Masters in Divinity from Andrews University and is finishing up his Doctor of Ministry in Family Life Ministry.*

"If my focus becomes more about getting to church on time so that I can greet the people, preach the sermon, and do the Bible studies... then I have missed the point."



# Lunchtime Kindness

## Doing the Right Thing for Others

The school bell rang and it was time for one of my favorite parts of the day: lunchtime! I was extremely hungry and could not wait to start eating the lunch my mom had packed for me. She had packed a turkey sandwich, a juicy green apple, cheese and crackers, and my favorite orange juice.

Suddenly, my best friend Charles, who had a sad look on his face, came and sat next to me. "Where is your lunch?" I asked him. "I forgot it at home," he replied joylessly. "I'm so sorry Charles. Hopefully you remember to bring it tomorrow," I told him. He then asked me if I could give him some of my lunch. I politely told him I couldn't because I was really hungry and I didn't have enough food to give him.

As soon as I uttered those words to him, Charles walked away with a very sad look on his face. After Charles left, I thought to myself, I wish I could give him some of my lunch, but I just don't have enough. I wanted to share with my friend but I didn't.

The next day was an important day as I was going to present one of my school projects. I was really excited to show my classmates what I had built. After presenting my science project, which consisted of volcanoes and lava, it was time for lunch. When I went to look for my lunch inside of my backpack, it wasn't there! Then I realized that I had left it at home that morning on one of the living room tables. I was highly disappointed because I had forgotten my lunch and that meant I wasn't going to eat until after school that day.

While at the cafeteria, noticing that I was sitting alone, Charles came and sat next

to me during lunch. "Where is your lunch?" he asked me. "I forgot it at home," I sadly replied. To my surprise, Charles did not hesitate to give me half of his sandwich, some grapes, and crackers. At that moment, I realized that Charles' kindness and sharing attitude was something that I really admired. I saw how God used Charles' kind heart to teach me a lesson. Although Charles did not have much, he was willing to share with me what he had so that I could eat; something that I failed to do with him the day before.

Sometimes, we don't like to share or help others because we don't like for them to have our things. However, God tells us in the Bible that we have to help and share with the people who are less fortunate than us. That can mean giving food to those who don't have anything to eat, or providing clothes to those who have nothing to wear.

God promises to keep blessing us if we are kind to others. So the next time your friend asks for your help or for anything in particular, do not hesitate to help or share with them what you have. That's how you reflect the love of Jesus to them: through your kindness.

*By Herman Aguilar*







Remember Herman's school project? He built a volcano!  
**Try to find as many volcanoes as you can  
 around the school cafeteria.**

Find Hebrews 10:24 in your Bible.

**Fill in the blanks.**

"Let us be concerned for one \_\_\_\_\_,  
 to help one another to show \_\_\_\_\_  
 and to \_\_\_ good."



# August Events

**1-4**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Teachers' Convention, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

**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, Texas, 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, Okla., EquippedForMinistries.org, 817.295.0476

**25-26**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Spanish Family Camp, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

**25-67**

**Texas Conference:** Glad Reaper, McAllen, Texas, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

**31**

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



# September Events

**1-4**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Youth Rally, Camp Siloam, Siloam Springs, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

**6-7**

**Texico Conference:** Outdoor School, Texico.org, 505.244.1611

**8-10**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Pathfinder Leadership, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

**15-17**

**Texas Conference:** Women's Ministries Retreat, Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

**15-17**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Women's Ministries Retreat, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

**15-17**

**Texas Conference:** AMEN Health Clinic, Dallas First Church, Dallas, Texas, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

**16-17**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Youth Rally, Location TBD, La., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

**29-Oct. 1**

**Texas Conference:** Master Guide Camporee, Lake Whitney Ranch, Clifton, Texas, TexasAdventist.org, 817.790.2255

**29-Oct. 1**

**Arkansas-Louisiana Conference:** Teen Leadership, Camp Yorktown Bay, Mt. Pine, Ark., ArkLaCSDA.org, 318.631.6240

For more events and information, visit [SouthwesternAdventist.org](http://SouthwesternAdventist.org)



# End It Now

## Emphasis Day and Pastors' Summit Aim to End Abuse

**Silver Spring, Md.** » The Seventh-day Adventist Church recognizes that abuse affects children, women, and men within the church and community. In response, the North American Division and Adventist Risk Management created the **enditnow** campaign to help break the cycle of abuse. It aims to mobilize Seventh-day Adventists around the world and invites other community groups to join in to resolve this worldwide issue. Through this campaign, Adventist church members are expected to create a global movement that will be mobilized within their own communities, where each person will actively work to create awareness and share solutions on ways to

end this global problem.

The North American Division's **enditnow** initiative will livestream its bilingual Pastors' Summit on Abuse on September 11- 12, free of charge for registered participants. This event will provide pastors and chaplains the opportunity to learn how to identify abuse, help victims, and work toward abuse prevention from trained counselors and experts.

Topics to be covered in the summit include: Child Abuse, Child-to-Child Bullying, Teen Dating Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, Misapplied Scriptures, and Pastors' Legal Responsibilities Regarding Abuse and Pastoral Care for the Abuser. Pastors and chaplains should

register for the event at [EndItNowNorthAmerica.org](http://EndItNowNorthAmerica.org).

In addition to the Pastors' Summit, the NAD's **enditnow** initiative encourages churches to hold an emphasis day, officially the fourth Sabbath of August (August 26, 2017) but which can be held on any day. Launching a campaign will help your church draw awareness to the issue of abuse, promote collaboration with the community to develop solutions, and help your church become a safe place for everyone.

Find resources for planning an emphasis day at [EndItNowNorthAmerica.org](http://EndItNowNorthAmerica.org) and [EndItNow.org](http://EndItNow.org).

————— *By Jessica Lozano, Editor*



# Oklahoma for Christ

## Union and Conference Workers Prepare for the Harvest

**Burleson, Texas** » Each year the Southwestern Union's administration and many departmental directors participate in public evangelism during the month of September.

The location for this effort is selected on a rotating basis. For 2017, the location is the Oklahoma Conference. Not only will the Union workers be holding

evangelistic meetings, but the Oklahoma Conference administration will also hold evangelistic meetings.

You, too, can participate. What can you do? First: pray for this great evangelistic event! Second: get involved in preparing the territory for the evangelistic meetings by giving Bible studies or participating in small group ministries

using the Southwestern Union's free More Hope DVDs and Bible lessons. Third, attend the evangelistic meetings in your church and invite someone to attend with you. Let's pray for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and for a great harvest!

————— *Eddie Canales,  
Vice President for Evangelism*



# Students' Summer Plans

## Building Knowledge, Increasing Faith, and Providing Service.

**Keene, Texas** » School may have been out for the summer but Southwestern Adventist University students were as busy as ever. Catch up with a few of them and what they were up to this summer.

### Adventures in Film

“Through the month of June, I interned as a production assistant and script supervisor for a documentary series created by Southwestern Adventist University and Hope Channel. This particular project focused on the Dinosaur Research Project that is conducted by Southwestern every summer in Northeastern Wyoming. As a production assistant/script supervisor, I floated around the set and wrote down the significant events that would take place for the main editor, who then followed the timeline and created a sequence. I learned what an important process this is, as it helps the editors follow the director’s vision in post-production.

Additionally, I assisted in recording audio on set and other behind-the-scenes tasks requested by the director or producer. I can’t talk too much about

the significant events (you’ll have to watch the show!) but I can tell you that the 20,000th officially-documented bone was discovered while I was there. It was so exciting! This opportunity was one of the best learning experiences that I have received. The hands-on experience that I got from interning on this particular piece has opened my eyes to how real-life documentary filming is conducted. The professionals on set went out of their way to explain why or how they do things. This experience taught me new things every day and I fell in love with my major more and more each day.”

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**Tanya Soria**, a senior film major, interned with Hope Channel and Southwestern Adventist University onsite at their film production location in Wyoming for a new TV series. More information about this exciting project will be coming soon! You can watch a sneak peek of this production at [swau.edu](http://swau.edu).

### An Opportunity to Travel

“I had the privilege of touring through Europe with Southwestern’s

University Singers, as well working at summer camp at Camp Yorktown Bay. While both are ministries, they are very different. Being able to sing in Europe allowed us to minister to a group of people who may never have heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We were invited to sing for the service of the American Church in Paris on the last Sunday of our tour. The director of music, who had been serving in that church since 1972, said we were one of the most fantastic groups he had ever invited to sing at his church. After the service, church members came up to us, asking us questions about our music, our university, our religion, because we were announced as "Southwestern Adventist University Singers." Our singing attracted them, but it was the testimony of our school and church that was our real ministry.

Coming back from the tour, I prepared to work at Camp Yorktown Bay in Arkansas. I was the assistant program director, ministering to kids of all ages through planning skits, music services, and Christ-focused activities. The





camp's theme this year, Set Free, was powerful and blessed many kids."

**Lindsey Johnson** is a sophomore biology/pre-med major at Southwestern Adventist University. She is also on the Southwestern Acrobatic Team.

## Field School of Evangelism

"Field school has become an incredible experience where we can take everything that we have learned and use it to deepen our devotion to Jesus as we impact the lives around us. It not only prepares us for our future ministry, but it also gives us the opportunity to spread the gospel and grow closer to Christ and each other every day," says Oddie Olazaran. Southwestern's Field School of Evangelism is the only one of its kind, giving senior theology students an opportunity to practice evangelism under the tutelage of Southwestern professors and other experienced pastors and evangelists such as Mark Finley and Richard Halvorsen.

After the mentoring period, the students are put into their own churches, which is a double blessing because the students gain more experience and the churches gain more help to reach their community. The churches are given tools and insight on how to continue to reach their community after the students' have left. Each year these series are hosted in a different city; this year's Field School was focused on Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Oddie Olazaran** is a senior theology student and a student pastor at Younger Generation Church at the Arlington Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Find more such stories on our Facebook or Instagram @southwesternau. Contact Southwestern at 800.433.2240 or enroll@swau.edu to start your experience!

*Previous page: Tanya Soria worked as a production assistant/script supervisor as a crew filmed Arthur Chadwick, Ph.D.'s lecture*

*during the 2017 Dinosaur Research Project.*

*Top left: Tanya Soria assisted professional camera operator Carlos Angella as he prepared to capture a moment at the dig site.*

*Top middle: While traveling across Europe this summer with the University Singers, Lindsey Johnson, a member of the SWAT gymnastics team at Southwestern, also put her acrobatic skill to use. She and Ben Blanchard, another SWAT and University Singers member, were able to visit many cultural sites.*

*Top right: Oddie Olazaran preached at his assigned church during Southwestern Adventist University's Field School of Evangelism program hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico.*

*Bottom: The University Singers before their last performance at the American Church in Paris, France. Speaking of the performance, Lindsey said "our singing attracted them, but it was our testimony of our school and church that was our real ministry."*



# Bound Together

## The Transforming Power of Family Prayer



As a youngster, I remember very well the countless times I passed by my parents' bedroom, and with the door partially open, I would see my father on his knees beside his bed in prayer. Those were mental photos that were indelibly developed into my memory. Though I'm quite sure he never thought of his prayer time as a time to model prayer for his son, on his knees he did that very eloquently without saying a word.

My mother and father both encouraged my brother and me to pray. Since my parents were converts from the Catholic faith, they were familiar with memorized prayers. So when they became members of the Adventist Church, the first prayer they taught us and the first prayer we memorized was the Lord's Prayer—in Ukrainian. A few years later I recall memorizing the Lord's Prayer again, this time in English. As a child, I recall no bite of food was ever taken without all of us first standing up around the table and someone reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Those were special moments. We may have been engaged in laughter, or some serious conversation, or even in heated disagreement, but when it was time to pray, the atmosphere would suddenly change. We knew we were all now going before the Lord and a spirit of reverence and respect would prevail. Whether we were tickled about something or upset with each other, standing or kneeling in prayer (we never sat for prayer) would remind us that in the presence of God we could no longer allow personal feelings of disagreement or resentment to drive a wedge in our relationship with each other. Prayer had a way of binding us together.

At the close of the Sabbath hours, I recall my father expressing thanksgiving for the material blessings of life and asking God to give us physical strength for the new week ahead, but he would always follow that with a request for spiritual strength and power to be able to meet the challenges and temptations of life. It was in those times of family prayer that I began to sense a strengthening of my relationship with my Heavenly Father as well as a greater closeness with all of my family. I don't know that it was ever some strategic plan of my parents to have prayer as the way in which our family would grow together spiritually, yet for me it was a reality that took place. I praise God for the transforming power of family prayer.

*By Stephen Orian, President*





# Outdoor School

## A Week in Nature Teaches Faithfulness

**Camp Yorktown Bay, Ark. »** The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference's outdoor school, themed "Faithful," was an awesome experience for 145 students and adults who spent the week at Camp Yorktown Bay, May 1-5, 2017.

Pastor Michael Cook was our morning speaker. Cook demonstrated that things as unpleasant as pond scum can teach us to remain faithful to God. Ben Roy, Science Zone presenter, was our evening speaker. Roy used various science demonstrations to help the kids understand the universe and our God who created it.

Outdoor school campers (grades 5-7) enjoyed field study classes during the morning. Field study classes included Water Detectives, Nature Repo, Rocky Relations, Croaks, Insects, Turtle Hurdles, Forestry Service, CYB Nature, and Trashy Art.

In the afternoon, campers chose one of six classes. Classes included Archery, Canoeing, Wakeboarding, Model Rockets, Chemistry/Physics, and Painting.

The eighth-grade program was new this year. Renee Otts led out with Dave Kobliska assisting. The group did some activities at the campground, but the rest of the time they packed up and went on day trips. One excursion was to Forked Mountain to study the forest and erosion, water quality tests in a local swimming hole, and a cemetery study at Forked Mountain Cemetery. On Wednesday, rain sent the group to the Mid-America Museum for most of the day. The final day was spent at the Game and Fish Hatchery in Hot Springs. Supper that night was at a Hot Springs restaurant followed by laser tag, go-karts, and mini golf.

The ninth- and tenth-graders from our junior academies provided valuable services during outdoor school. They helped serve each meal and did all the dishes. During the morning, they made sure the bathrooms were clean and water coolers were available. Often they had time to take on small improvement projects at the camp. It wasn't all work for these service campers, though. They enjoyed an hour of tubing after the lunch duties were finished and chose an afternoon class to join. The week culminated with a shirt signing and slide show, which featured the week's happenings. Twenty young people expressed a desire to study in preparation for baptism. That's what outdoor school is all about.

— *By Stephen Burton,*  
*Education Superintendent*



# Unexpected Blessings

## Nashville Church Plant Moves to Mineral Springs

**Mineral Springs, Ark.** » In early April, Gary Manly received a phone call from a pastor of a local church. Due to health concerns of the pastor's father, the church was going to close. The pastor and his wife had seen the Nashville church plant and felt impressed by the Lord to donate everything in their church to it, as well as their space in Mineral Springs.

They felt that the Adventist church would continue the Lord's work in the area until He comes. The pastor's father had been raised as an Adventist, and his grandparents were devout Adven-

tists. The pastor's father also wanted to donate a folder of original letters that he had inherited from his parents containing correspondence with leaders of the church working with Ellen White.

Gary and Jan Manly had been impressed by the Lord to move to the Nashville area to help plant a church about three years ago. The Lord had now opened doors for them to move to Mineral Springs, about seven miles away.

Several members and a majority of the Bible study contacts were also in Mineral Springs. The space that the

pastor had been renting in Mineral Springs would cost 30 percent less and had twice as much room as the facility in Nashville. It seemed that the Lord was leading them to Mineral Springs. The Nashville church plant members moved on faith and decided to move the location to Mineral Springs.

The Nashville church plant had its first Sabbath services on April 29 in Mineral Springs. We look forward to seeing how the Lord will lead our church and what doors He will open.

By Jonathan Baylon



# A Family Baptized

## Slidell Church Hosts Baptisms and Dedication

**Slidell, La.** » On Sabbath, May 20, the DeSilva family (Charles, Erania, Madison, and Jaylor) was baptized at the Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church. Following the death of their six-year-old son, Charles III, Charles DeSilva Jr., said, "Our son's death left us confused, disoriented, and spiraling downward."

They began listening, reading, praying, and searching for peace to learn to cope as a family. They attended several different local churches in their quest for truth. In February, they started attending a series of Bible studies with Cecil Harlin, Slidell pastor. Charles and

Erania felt they were being led to the true church and began to feel at home. Charles had grown up as a Seventh-day Adventist and now wanted to embrace his faith again.

The family finished Bible studies with Harlin and made a decision to be baptized. In addition, they decided to have their youngest son, Chase, dedicated.

The Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church is praying that God will continue to bless the DeSilva family and grant them peace and grace. We welcome them to the Slidell church family.

By Vernella Rogers





# Sabbath Traditions

## Day is Dying in the West



“Day is dying in the west;  
Heaven is touching earth with rest;  
Wait and worship while the night  
Sets the evening lamps alight  
Through all the sky.”

*(Day is Dying in the West, Mary A. Lathbury)*

As the light of day slowly turned into the colors of sunset and finally into the darkness of night on Friday and Sabbath evenings, our family had a tradition. We would gather together for sunset worship and sing the first verse of the hymn “Day Is Dying in the West” to open our family worship. The song became a beloved family tradition and is one of my most vivid childhood memories. The words were like a living faith song for me as I grew in family relationships and, most importantly, a daily relationship with a loving Creator God.

When I was very young, I didn’t fully realize the strengthening power that music and consistent family worship brings to living out one’s faith at home. As I grew older I began to appreciate and love the fact that pausing to worship as a family actually drew us closer together and closer to God. The Psalmist wrote, “Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth” (Psalms 46:10).

In the stillness of those family worship times, I learned the very important lesson of what it means to have a living faith. I gained strength from the knowledge that my parents chose to exalt God in living the message of Joshua in our home and community.

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).

The message for our family was simple, clear, and easy to understand: “Our house will serve the Lord!”

By God’s grace, our family and spiritual relationships gained strength from this eternal investment that is called family worship. I encourage you to invest eternally in your family through worship together. I pray the same blessings on your house as you lovingly serve the Lord.

*By James Bokovoy, Communication Director*





# Food Drive

## Annual Benefit for Norman Adventist Community Services

**Norman »** The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) conducted its 25th annual national food drive on Saturday, May 13. The Stamp Out Hunger® Food Drive, the country's largest single-day food drive, provided residents with an easy way to donate food to those in need in the community.

As they delivered mail, the nation's 175,000 letter carriers collected donations left by residents near their mailboxes. Each year people are encouraged to leave a sturdy bag containing non-perishable foods, such as canned soup, canned vegetables, and other packaged food next to their mailbox before the regular mail delivery.

Every year since participation in this food drive, Norman Seventh-day Adventist Church volunteers have met together Sabbath afternoon to take part in the food drive. Church volunteers assist postal employees and local charities with loading and weighing food from the incoming postal trucks. Once food is weighed, it is distributed among the waiting charities, including ours. Our church volunteers hauled food to the church, and then volunteers spent several hours sorting and boxing it. Receiving this annual infusion of food helps reduce the amount of food that must be purchased by Norman Adventist Community Services (ACS) for the year.

The Norman Adventist Community Services outreach distributes food, cloth-

ing and personal care items to neighbors in need on the 3rd-5th Tuesday of every month, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Individuals may use these services three times per year. Carol Buckmaster, Pastor Stan Buckmaster, Opal Vaughn, and other volunteers also provide sheets, blankets, quilts, pillows, towels, and cleaning supplies to families whose homes have been destroyed by disasters.

Carol Buckmaster, Norman's ACS Director, experiences firsthand the impact this outreach has on our community.

"We assist clients through times of crisis, such as sickness, loss of employment, death in family, and other critical life events. Our clients are very diverse. A few days ago a homeless family of five living in their car came to our pantry and clothes closet. They had been evicted from their apartment after complaining about mold. They had no place to cook, so we let them go through our pantry and select items that had pop-top cans containing fruits, soups and vegetables. There were also packets of whole milk and juices that did not require refrigeration. They also selected laundry soap and personal care items, such as hand sanitizer, wipes, toothbrushes, toothpaste and deodorant. They were very appreciative that we had made their circumstances more livable.

Another lady came in and was separated from her husband who was abusive to her. She was low on money and

didn't know where to turn for assistance. While she was shopping in our pantry, I went to see if she was finding what she needed. She turned and threw herself in my arms, sobbing uncontrollably and stating that she'd never been in a situation to have to ask for assistance. I assured her that there came a time when everyone needs help. I prayed with her and gave her encouragement."

In 2015 and 2016, the Norman ACS served over 5,000 neighbors with food, clothing and personal items. Our primary source of funds is received from church members and three percent of our church's monthly combined budget. Since our fellowship hall is used for a Cleveland County voting precinct, voters notice that we are helping those in need and will come by later and donate.

The Oklahoma State ACS Director, Stan Buckmaster, and our local pastor, Harvey Gil, are supportive of the humanitarian ministry in the community. The ACS ministry is operating out of the small fellowship hall which is shared space. The Norman Church is looking for funding to include another room of equal size dedicated to ACS. The lack of dedicated space creates much more work for the volunteers, some of whom are octogenarians. Please pray for our continued success in serving our neighbors and planting seeds of hope and salvation.



# A Child's Prayer

## Prayer, Friendship, and Bible Study Lead to Baptism

**Oklahoma City** » As a Sabbath School teacher, I know that children often pray for their parents. One of my Sabbath School students, Isaac, is one of those children. We recently celebrated the baptism of Isaac's mother, Yesy James, at the Midwest City Spanish church in Del City. Isaac's grandparents, Moise and Cecilia Dia, had been praying for

James and encouraging her for some time. James had been raised in a different denomination and had believed Sunday to be the true Sabbath. When she visited the Adventist church, she was befriended by Flor Diaz and her husband, who faithfully studied the Bible with her. Flor and her husband, Moise and Cecilia Dia, and little Isaac

all prayed for her to accept Bible truth. When James took this to God in prayer, she was convicted that Saturday is indeed the Sabbath of the Lord and made the decision to be baptized. God loves to hear the prayers of our children and He is faithful to answer.

By Peggy Devinish



# Grandmother Rose

## A Faithful Woman of God

**Broken Arrow** » Pilgrims are often defined as those who travel seeking a new place. Normally we think of pilgrims as those who traveled from England in 1620 to America. They crossed the ocean in ships called schooners. Pilgrims seeking new land in Indian Territory crossed over land in covered wagons, called prairie schooners. People eagerly accepted the government's offer of free homesteads in what is now the state of Oklahoma. These settlers began arriving in Indian Territory on foot, horseback, riding mules, and traveling in their covered wagons. No matter how they arrived in this new place, all were awaiting the gunshot signaling the start of the great land rush of 1889. Unfortunately, many arrived early, crossed over prior to the official starting gunshot and chose the

best spots for themselves. These early starters were later called Sooners.

Rose Trent and her family came after the rush and traveled further to find a good homestead near Hinton, Oklahoma. They had given up much to make this journey into unknown territory. Her father had a Post Office and general store in Kentucky and was also the Baptist preacher. They left with few possessions, but with abundant faith that God was leading them to a heavenly place.

Eventually, their travels took them to a settlement that was appealing to them. They heard the sound of beautiful hymns floating through the air and discovered a Seventh-day Adventist camp meeting. They joined the congregation to listen to a sermon on Sabbath keeping. Rose rode shotgun with her

father while her mother and siblings rode in back of the wagon. As they left the meeting, Mr. Trent turned to his very religious daughter and asked what she thought about keeping the Sabbath on Saturday. She replied she wasn't sure, but was going to find out. One year and many studies later, Rose and her family were baptized into the local Adventist Church. She took the plunge, literally, into the icy river, on January 9, 1890.

Many have probably never heard of the Trent family, but this lineage has produced many church workers and several pastors. Our pastor, Clayton Calvert, knew this courageous pilgrim as Grandmother Rose, a true Oklahoma pioneer and a faithful woman of God.

By Judy Marquette

# Empowering Families

## Taking Back the Power God Has Granted to Families



**E**mpowering another is to make that person stronger and more confident, especially in controlling their life. In this age, families have lost control. This was not the plan for Christian families. Genesis 1:28 says of Adam and Eve, “God blessed them and said to them, ‘Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.’” God granted them authority and put the earth under their power. It’s time to take our power back! There are three necessary components for Christian families to regain the dominion God granted: Boundaries, Individuality, and Forgiveness.

Let’s start with boundaries. Every family needs boundaries. Boundaries provide safety for all family members. Boundaries appear with the first family in Eden—God specifically told Adam and Eve that everything was theirs except the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Boundaries define property; knowledge of evil belonged only to God! Today, it is the responsibility of parents to set boundaries.

Individuality is a great challenge. Christians have often confused unity with uniformity. This causes confusion and the assumption that everyone must act, think, and be alike! Yet, 1 Corinthians 12:6,11 (MSG) states “Each person is given something to do that shows Who God is...He decides who gets what, and when. Our God is so great, He needs all of us to show His glory. Therefore, each person will be unique. Families who respect each member’s individuality, show forth God’s glory in the earth. It allows children to realize their God-given gifts and praise Him for making them who they are.” Furthermore, “That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original” (Galatians 5:26, MSG).

Forgiveness is the fragrance of God’s presence in the home. A Christian home must be a place where forgiveness is as natural as air. When we realize how great God’s sacrifice was for our sins, we can’t deny those we love the same forgiveness. Since none of us are perfect, we must learn to share forgiveness with our families.

When our homes are built upon setting boundaries, respecting individuality, and sharing forgiveness, we will have a home where angels love to dwell. We will have a home that becomes an object lesson.

“The mission of the home extends beyond its own members. The Christian home is to be an object lesson, illustrating the excellence of the true principles of life. Such an illustration will be a power for good in the world. Far more powerful than any sermon that can be preached is the influence of a true home upon human hearts and lives. As the youth go out from such a home, the lessons they have learned are imparted. Nobler principles of life are introduced into other households, and an uplifting influence works in the community” (Ministry of Healing, p. 352).

*By Wilma Kirk Lee, LCSW, Family Ministries Co-Director*





# Finding a Home

## Family's Search for a Church Ends at Baton Rouge Berean

**Baton Rouge, La.** » “I was looking for a church that keeps the Sabbath and actually teaches the true Word, and my search led me to Berean,” was the response of a first-time worshipper, Martisia Netters, at the Baton Rouge Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church. As is his custom, T. Ron Weegar, Berean’s pastor, asked the new worshippers to stand and identify themselves. Thus began our introduction to the Netters, a young family with husband, Bennie, wife, Martisia, and nine-year-old daughter, Brooke. However, this would not be a first and last introduction as the Netters’ faces would become familiar while occupying an up-front pew not only on Sabbath, but during Wednesday night’s “Hour of Praise and Power,” as well. The 30-minute drive from their home in Addis, a West Baton Rouge Parish across the Mississippi River, to Baton Rouge, hasn’t deterred them nor prevented them arriving at church on time.

According to Martisia, or “Tisha” as she is known among friends and family, it was at a car dealership that she became involved in a conversation

about religion. She had grown up in one denomination, and had married into another.

Says Tisha, “The salesman began discussing religion and denominations, and Seventh-day Adventists came up.” The back and forth conversation aroused her curiosity. Upon arriving at home, Tisha went to her computer where she began searching for information about Adventism. The more she searched, the more she felt the need for her family to attend an Adventist church. Without realizing it, her further searching, which she is convinced was directed by the Holy Spirit, led her to the listing for the Berean church.

“My search is over. Berean is where we are going,” admitted an excited Tisha. “The members are so friendly and kind. We love how the church mimics the teachings of the Apostles.” And to the reaction of family and friends to their new church affiliation, she answered, “They ask questions and I just send them Scripture and tell them it’s not what we want; it’s what God wants.”

Presently they are studying with

Berean Bible worker Carolyn Blevens. When asked, “Where do you go upon completion of the Bible lessons?” the reply was “To get baptized and become faithful members of the Berean Church.” Weegar is quick to add that he is as anxious as they for that day.

“The Netters came in full force, tithing, removing jewelry, and reporting that, following one of my sermons that stressed the biblical diet, they went home, threw away all their pork and shellfish.”

“We threw the unclean meats away because since they weren’t good for us, they weren’t good for anybody else,” Tisha chimed in. “What we’re seeing at Berean is the reality of John 10:16 where our Lord tells us He has “other sheep...not of this fold.” “I applaud the Netters’ coming; their willingness to be totally committed. God can save His people who are destined to be saved. He wants us to be involved, but if necessary, will accomplish the work without us,” exclaimed an emphatic Weegar.

————— *By Evelyn M. Edwards*



# Praising in the Rain

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Chaplain/Clinical Psychologist  
Capellana/Psicóloga Clínica



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G. C. Women's Ministries Dir.  
Dir. Min. Mujer Asoc. General



Janet Dokes  
Recording Artist  
Artista Musical



Dr. Ana E. Perez  
Marriage & Family Psychologist  
Psicóloga Matrimonial/Familiar



Pastor Michelle Mota-Larivaux  
Presenting Teen Track  
Presenta para los adolescentes



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# Learning To Love

## Coming Together In Love and Consideration



I have come to comprehend and appreciate the words that we find in 1 Peter 3:7-8: “Husbands, likewise dwell with them (your wife) with understanding, giving honor to the wife as to the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. Finally, all of you (family members) be of one mind, having compassion for one another.” What sound counsel from the Lord! After more than 32 years of marriage, I have systematically learned, inch by inch and incident by incident, the intricate art of living in unison and harmony with my wife, Letty. I can truly testify today that the gracious Lord of heaven strategically placed two awesome women in my life to assist in guiding me to the Kingdom! My mother, Ethel Cleo Craig Johnson, who poured herself and the knowledge of God into me for the first 22 years of my life, and then my beloved “Chiquis,” Letty, who has been a mainstay, life partner, and best friend for me throughout all these years of marriage.

I can vividly recall our first disagreement, or should I say “moment of intense fellowship.” It was September 16, and we had only been dating for about two months. We were standing in the plaza of her hometown, Montemorelos, Mexico. A colorful parade was streaming by down main street for Mexico’s Independence Day. As the flag came by, I made the huge blunder of uttering the following words. “You know, with all due respect, my flag (USA) is so much more attractive than yours!” She was immediately incensed. She turned on a dime and left me standing there alone in the crowd. I ran after her to smooth things over. I still don’t understand how she was walking while I was jogging, and she still reached her house three blocks away before I did. She slammed the door and I stood there on the outside for at least 30 minutes pleading for her to open the door. She never did for the rest of the day. Two weeks later she finally spoke to me again, I learned my lesson, and almost 32 years later we have grown toward God, toward each other, and as a family!

Peter urges husbands to “Dwell with your wives with understanding.” Translation: use your head even when your heart isn’t quite following suit. The truth of the matter is that God has given each man that special woman whom He has chosen to be a life partner and best friend for the journey. Remember the significant words found in Genesis 2:22: “Then the rib which the Lord God had taken from man, He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man.” There was no mistake. Once God joins those two hearts, those two lives, those two destinies He intervenes, ensures the success of the relationship as long as He is kept front and center! Now, we live in the midst of a self-centered society, where folk simply are bent on acquiring what is best for themselves and their interests. In the midst of that dysfunction, God calls His people to live above and beyond the fray of that confusion. The beauty is that He not only calls us to that, but He also facilitates that process by the insertion of His Holy Spirit. Times are uncertain, yet we have One major certainty: that God is good, He is generous, He is gracious, and His people can live within His presence knowing that the victory in Christ has been assured, and by His Spirit we shall overcome.

*By Carlos J. Craig, President*





# Impossible Made Possible

## Nothing is Too Hard for the Lord

**Midlothian** » “Is anything too hard for the Lord?” (Genesis 18:14), was the theme for this year’s Outdoor School for students in fifth and sixth grade at Hoblitzelle Camp and Conference Center in Midlothian. Three hundred students and 100 administrators, teachers, and sponsors representing 21 schools engaged in a variety of spiritual, academic, and fun-filled classes and activities.

Olga Falakiseni, part-time pastor for the Joshua Crossroads Fellowship Company, led the students in morning and evening worship. Her engaging worships helped the students to discover that absolutely nothing is too hard for the

Lord. Falakiseni’s kid-friendly approach plus the worship in songs directed by the music team, provided a venue for students to experience God’s love and make decisions that will continue to impact their lives for eternity.

The teacher-designed curriculum included instruction in Art, Bible, Bird Watching, Canoeing, Cruise Control, Fishing, Miniature Golf, Photography, Rockets, Science, Swimming, and Teamwork. Each class period was two hours in length and students attended three classes per day. The instructors purposefully included spiritual applications in each lesson presentation. Teachers and

sponsors provided recreational activities each evening.

The Texas Conference Office of Education was happy to include some home school students in this year’s Outdoor School. Parents of homeschoolers, as well as parents of students enrolled in an Adventist school, continue to express appreciation for the Outdoor School program and the memories created for their sons and daughters. Outdoor School is a sponsored ministry of the Texas Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and its spiritual and financial support is appreciated.

— *By John Hopps, Education Superintendent*



# Katy School Graduation

## City Mayor Speaks to Graduates After a Successful Year

**Katy** » The Katy Adventist Christian School recently celebrated the graduation of seven students, culminating a vibrant school year filled with academic rigor, physical development, spiritual growth, and lasting friendships. From robotics to soccer to cooking classes, the teachers, staff, and volunteers worked to make the year a success. One goal this year was to connect with community resources to provide students with a well-rounded education. Each classroom capitalized on this experience through

activities such as tours of the library, visits from the fire department, and a trip to the Alamo.

More than fifty students and their families attended the graduation. Elementary classes provided both song and scriptural recitation. Inspiring words of encouragement from City Mayor Charles A. “Chuck” Brawner were a beautiful touch to the evening! Robson Oliveira, pastor, summed up the night in his closing remarks, “What an honor!”

— *By LaKeisha Williams*



# The Lord

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# Marriage is Giving

## True Love Means Expecting Nothing in Return



You may have heard that marriage is a 50-50 proposition. You go halfway, and your spouse goes halfway. But who determines the halfway point if you both disagree? I have found that striking a balance between giving and taking is key. Sometimes people give too much and grow resentful. Other times, people take too much, causing their partner to grow weary. True love, by contrast, means giving without expecting anything in return, giving 100 percent, and going above and beyond what you think is expected of you.

Normally, we think about our own needs. We take care of our own desires. We cater to what pleases us. But since God made us “one flesh” in marriage, we need to learn to constantly consider the needs and desires of our mate. That involves giving of oneself to another human being.

One of the most meaningful sayings of Jesus Christ is *not* found in the Gospels, but in a statement of the Apostle Paul recorded in Acts 20:35: “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

In marriage, it is blessed to give. In most cases, the more we give, the more we get. As we genuinely try to encourage, serve, and give, we will find that our mate will reciprocate. Each will be giving and serving. Each will be pleased and delighted at the warmth and appreciation this virtuous cycle creates. Giving means making a real effort to succeed in the marriage.

How can we increase our spouse’s joy and fulfillment? If the family can afford it and schedules permit, plan occasional weekend “honeymoon” trips to get away from the normal routine. Try to make each other feel appreciated and special.

Small gifts or words of appreciation can make a big difference. An unexpected hug or kiss requires little effort and may be a treasured gift in the eyes of our spouse.

The important thing to understand is that we do not “get” a happy marriage unless we learn to give to have a happy marriage. Giving is compromising in certain situations when we do not both agree, instead of always having to have our way.

There are times we can give and take more, and times when we can give and take less. Healthy marriages recognize these ups and downs of a giving relationship and both partners trust that their spouse will be there for them when they need it.

Let us ask the Lord to allow us to be more affectionate, loving, and respectful in our marriages. Let us ask Him to help us compromise, be more caring and kind, listen more and communicate better. Overall, let us pray for healthy marriages. Our marriages are important; they are a gift from God.

*By Lee-Roy Chacon, President*





# International Sabbath

## Many Cultures Unite to Praise God

**Midland, Texas** » On April 15, members of the Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church came together and hosted a special International Sabbath event. The day-long service, which aimed to highlight the diversity that is found in Christ, featured presentations from countries around the globe.

Native representatives showcased their unique costumes and flags, and the women of the church took a special part in the program by decorating the church with flags from the many different nations and organizing a special fellowship lunch that offered a variety of delicious international dishes.

The special day's different speakers discussed how Adventism was introduced in their individual countries, as well as on the current progress that

the church is making in each of those countries. An important part of the International Sabbath service featured children from the pastor's district of three churches. Many of the children were also dressed in native attire. The children presented what they love about their countries and, more importantly, shared how God has blessed them.

Pastor Abner Razon, who headed this initiative, has been collaborating with a hardworking team from his Midland, Odessa, and Big Spring churches to make this a regular celebration.

The International Sabbath service was truly successful and proved to be a special day as people from many different ethnicities banded together to worship and praise God.

By Carl Mainda

*Top left: Children from the Midland, Odessa, and Big Spring district took part in the Midland Seventh-day Adventist Church's International Day on April 15.*

*Top right: Speakers discussed how Adventism developed in each of their native countries.*

*Bottom left: The church was decorated with international flags to celebrate the diversity of believers.*

*Bottom right: Part of the celebration included dressing in native dress and taking part in a fellowship meal of international dishes.*



# Youth Rush

## Students Share and Learn Through Literature Evangelism

**Texico »** New Mexico and West Texas summers would not be the same if energetic young people were not out knocking on doors. Every year students and leaders hit city streets across the Western U.S. for a 10-week student literature evangelism program called Youth Rush. Youth Rush not only gives students the opportunity to share the gospel through Adventist books and DVDs, but 65 percent of all donations are paid back to the students to help them pay for academy and college. Through training and

daily personal encounters, students also learn skills needed for successful careers.

Students cover a wide area and visit close to 20 cities. This year, the Texico Conference expanded the Youth Rush program by partnering with the Southwestern Union Conference and the Oklahoma Conference. A total of 13 students and two program leaders participated in Oklahoma, and 15 students and four program leaders participated in New Mexico and West Texas. Many of the participating students were students

from Sandia View Academy.

Texico Conference President Lee-Roy Chacon is excited about the expansion of the program and hopes Youth Rush will continue to grow. “We support this effort so that students can receive a Christian education, a life-changing experience, and most importantly, build a relationship with the Lord,” says Chacon. “The opportunities and experiences students gain is priceless, and it wouldn’t be summer without Youth Rush.”

—By *Debbie Márquez, Communication Director*



# Revealing Revelation

## Seven Baptized Following Evangelism Meetings

**Albuquerque, N. Mex. »** From May 12 to June 3, international evangelist Richard Halverson presented Bible truths in a Revelation prophecy seminar at Albuquerque’s Central Seventh-day Adventist church. Halverson held nightly meetings covering topics on end-time events.

As a result, seven people made their decision to follow Christ and were baptized. This event also served as a kick-off to train several Southwestern Adventist University theological students. The university’s Field School of Evangelism, led by Bill Kilgore, D.Min., brought

seven senior theological students to Albuquerque and offered them on-the-job training. Part of the training consisted of attending daily classes taught by Halverson and Kilgore, and visiting the community to invite them to the seminar.

The student preachers were able to see their hard work pay off as they saw the people they visited come through the doors. The prophecy seminar was a success and as we will see in the next *Record* issue, each student took away valuable and unforgettable experiences that will surely shape their future ministries.

—By *Debbie Márquez, Communication Director*





## Classified Ads

### EMPLOYMENT

**Walla Walla University** is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to [Jobs.WallaWalla.edu](http://Jobs.WallaWalla.edu).

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**Dallas First Church is hosting a 2-day, free medical, dental, and optical clinic** in partnership with AMEN ministries on September 15 & 17. We are planning to serve hundreds of people in the center of Dallas, so we are seeking volunteer and financial support. No matter what skills you have, medical or otherwise, we can use your help. For more information or to register, please visit us at [Health4Dallas.org](http://Health4Dallas.org) for more details.



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**10 Days of Prayer returns January 10-20, 2018** with the theme "Our High Priest." Congregations worldwide continue to be blessed by this powerful prayer initiative. For more info and to sign up your church, visit [www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org](http://www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org).

## Announcements

**South Bend Junior Academy** in Indiana is celebrating its 100th year on September 23 and 24! Register online at [www.OurSBJA.com](http://www.OurSBJA.com) or call 574-287-3713. And LIKE us on Facebook: South Bend Junior Academy. Save the date. Don't miss it!

**Sandia View Academy - Spanish American Seminary Alumni Reunion:** October 5-7. Honor Classes every 5 years. 50s

and 60s groups meet for lunch Thursday Noon at Little Anita's in Old Town. Cookout social Thursday evening 5:30 p.m. Golf Tournament Friday morning. Contact Paul Chavez, President, Alumni Association Inc., for details or Jerry Ruybalid '54. Paul: 505.899.4181 or 505.304.3885; Jerry: 505.357.7949. Business meeting Friday 5 p.m. with meal. Saturday: Sabbath School, church, afternoon vespers, Saturday night basketball games.

## Obituaries

**Carter, Laura Mae;** born Oct. 4, 1940; died March 13, 2017; Baton Rouge, La. Church membership: Baton Rouge

Berean. She was preceded in death by parents Emma and Jack Wells, Sr.; sisters, Barbara Davis, Edna Wells, Vennie Jenkins; brother, John Wells. Surviving: son, Gregory Carter; daughter, Patricia Ann Carter; 12 siblings.

**Gillham, Donald W.;** born Jan. 31, 1937, Wayside, Texas; died April 27, 2017, Austin, Texas. Church membership: Tulia. Surviving: daughter, Donna Jones, Austin; daughter, Elana Tasker, Israel; daughter, Heidi Medina, Zephyr Hills, Fla.; daughter, Vicki Gillham, Austin; son, Douglas Gillham, New York City, N.Y.; brother, Stanley Gillham, Claude, Texas; brother, Chaney Gillham, Bowden, N.D.; brother, Benjamin Gillham, Greeley, Colo.; sister, Olla

Gillham, Wayside; sister, Laura Edwards, Wayside; sister, Esther Mesnard, Tulia, Texas.

**Goodnight, Kay;** born Oct. 10, 1951, Claremore, Okla.; died March 23, 2017, Broken Arrow, Okla. Church membership: Wagoner. Surviving: husband, Jerry Goodnight; mother, Gloria Mobley; children, Gerald Hudelson, Jammie Sly, Teinha Hudelson, Alicia Webster.

**Jones, Marlene;** born Oct. 10, 1951, Claremore, Okla. died May 18, 2017; Wagoner, Okla. Church membership: Wagoner. Surviving: husband, Randall Jones; mother, Gloria Mobley; children, Jason Jones, Dana Durasso, Joshua Jones, Dennis Bristol.

**King, Jimmie Dwain;** born January 14, 1931, Perrytown, Texas; died May 15, 2017, Midwest City, Okla. Church membership: Summit Ridge. King was a veteran of the Korean War; he later became a pastor serving in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, and South Dakota. He was preceded in death by his brother, Dale King, and sister, Wanda Ruth. Surviving: wife Esther King, Harrah, Okla.; son, Paul King, Red Oak, Texas; daughter, Pattie Manning, Harrah; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Lynd, Darlene Louise;** born Dec. 24, 1936, Elm Creek, Neb.; died May 16, 2017, Tulsa, Okla. Church membership: Sand Springs. She was

preceded in death by her parents, Elmer and Mary Birth; sister Inez; brothers, Marvin and Glenn. Surviving: daughter Pamela Miller (Danny), Grand Island, Neb.; daughter, Penny McCurley (Dennis), Tulsa; son, Dale Bender (Sue), Houston, Texas; son, Leland Bender, Terilton, Okla.; son, Melvin Bender (Bonnie), Claremore, Okla.; brother, Gean Birth, Independence, Kan.

**Marquette, Rosetta J. Jones;** born Mar. 10, 1938, Collinsville, Okla.; died May 22, 2017, Tulsa, Okla. Church membership: Pryor. She was preceded in death by parents, Logan and Maurine Jones; sisters, Mildred and Norma Jones; son, Kevin; grandson,

Rodney. Surviving: children, Keith, Karen, KeAnn, Kerry, Korey, and Kelly; brother, Marlow Jones.

**Robertson, Frederick L.;** born Sept. 5, 1927, Ponchatoula, La.; died Feb. 11, 2017, Gentry, Ark. Church membership: First Church, Tulsa. He was a veteran of WWII and later a pastor in Oklahoma, Mississippi, and Washington. Surviving: wife, Emilie; son, Buddy Robertson, Shattuck, Okla.; son, Dale Robertson, Jones, Okla.; stepson, Doug Richardson, Monroe, Wash.; seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren.

**Simmons, Juanita Esther;** born May 8, 1929, Guthrie, Okla.; died Oct 31, 2016, Grand Prairie, Texas. Church membership:

Central, Oklahoma City. She was preceded in death by her husband Paul. Surviving: sisters; Betty Haffner, Ramona Greenhaw; sons Curt Simmons, Grand Prairie; Craig Simmons, Rocklin, Calif.; Scott Simmons, Grand Prairie; 10 grandchildren, two great-grandchildren.

**Sweet, Toni Janine;** born Oct. 27, 1954, Lubbock, Texas; died June 11, 2017, Amarillo, Texas. Church membership: Amarillo. Surviving: daughter, Amy Bailey, Amarillo; brother, Rick Hudson, San Antonio, Texas; brother, Alan Hudson, Lubbock; sister, Sue Hart, Austin, Texas; sister-in-law, Cindy Wilbur, Amarillo; two grandchildren.



She  
humbly and  
intentionally  
gave all she had...

*What is my motive for giving?*

**God is moved by a gift given in faith.** We'd love to spend some time together and answer your questions. If you would like help in creating a plan of giving through a Charitable Gift Annuity, Trust Agreement, or Will that will continue to bless the family and the God that you love, contact your local conference Trust Services department using the info below:

Southwestern Union: 817.295.0476

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference: 318.631.6240

Oklahoma Conference: 405.721.6110

Southwest Region Conference: 214.943.4491

Texas Conference: 817.790.2255

Texico Conference: 505.244.1611



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## Adventist Book Center

D2U is a delivery service. If you do not place an order, it will not be on the truck. Each order will be charged a \$5.00 delivery fee. Call 800-333-1844 to Order



### Direct to You Austin/San Antonio/Valley Route ORDER DEADLINE August 17

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, August 21			
		Arrive	Depart
Georgetown, TX	5105 S I-35, Georgetown, TX 78626	10:30 AM	11:00 AM
Austin South	132 Eberhart Ln, Austin, TX 78745	12:15 PM	12:45 PM
San Marcos	1523 Old Ranch Rd 12, San Marcos, TX 78666	2:05 PM	2:35 PM
San Antonio Highland Hills	2526 Gollad Rd, San Antonio, TX 78223	3:15 PM	3:45 PM
Floresville	724 US Hwy 181 S, Floresville, TX 78114	4:30 PM	5:00 PM
Beeville	902 N Polk St, Beeville, TX 78102	6:30 PM	7:00 PM
Tuesday, August 22			
		Arrive	Depart
Corpus Christi	6645 Downing St, Corpus Christi, TX 78414	9:30 AM	10:00 AM
Alice	524 N Johnson St, Alice TX 78332	11:15 AM	11:45 AM
Harlingen	20811 Montezuma Rd, Harlingen, TX 78550	2:30 PM	3:00 PM
Weslaco	1200 S Bridge Ave, Weslaco, TX 78596	3:45 PM	4:15 PM
McAllen Spanish Valley Central	6901 N Ware Rd, McAllen, TX 78504	5:00 PM	5:30 PM
Publicaciones Cristianas	6500 N 10th St, Suite L, McAllen, TX 78504	6:00 PM	6:30 PM
Edinburg	602 W Wisconsin Rd, Edinburg, TX 78539	6:45 PM	7:15 PM
Wednesday, August 23			
		Arrive	Depart
Laredo Spanish North	3919 McPherson Ave, Laredo, TX 78041	11:00 AM	11:30 AM
San Antonio Laurel Heights	703 W Ashby Pl, San Antonio, TX 78212	3:00 PM	3:30 PM
Kerrville	811 Harper Rd, Kerrville, TX 78028	4:45 PM	5:15 PM
Thursday, August 24			
		Arrive	Depart
Temple	1911 W Avenue H, Temple, TX 76504	11:00 AM	11:30 AM

Order Deadline for the Austin/San Antonio/Valley is Thursday, May 11. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

### Direct to You Dallas Route ORDER DEADLINE AUGUST 24

We will remain at each stop for 30 minutes

Monday, August 28			
		Arrive	Depart
Dallas Living Waters	7221 American Way, Dallas, TX 75237	9:00 AM	9:30 AM
Mesquite	300 Paza Dr, Mesquite, TX 75149	10:15 AM	10:45 AM
Garland Faith Community	1702 E Centerville Rd., Garland, TX 75041	11:25 AM	11:55 AM
Richardson	1201 W Belt Line Rd, Richardson, TX 75080	12:55 PM	1:25 PM
Plano Acts Two	2001 Independence Pkwy, Plano, TX 75075	2:25 PM	2:55 PM
Fairview Mosaic	571 Lakeridge Dr, Fairview, TX 75069	3:40 PM	4:10 PM
McKinney Spanish	1805 W White Ave, McKinney, TX 75069	4:40 PM	5:10 PM
Lewisville	1471 W Corporate Dr, Lewisville, TX 75067	6:05 PM	6:35 PM
Irving	1800 N Rogers Rd, Irving, TX 75061	7:15 PM	7:45 PM

Order Deadline for the Houston Route is Thursday, May 25. Call 800-333-1844 to Order.

### UP-COMING 2017 D2U Routes

Houston Route	Sept 4-5
Fort Worth	Sept 11
Louisiana/East Texas	Sept 18-20
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	Oct 2-4
Eastern Oklahoma/NW Arkansas	Oct 16-18
Arkansas/East Texas	Oct 30-Nov 1
Western Oklahoma/N New Mexico	Nov 13-15
Dallas Route	Nov 20
Austin/San Antonio/Valley	Nov 27-30
Forth Worth	Dec 4

ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER | 201 S OLD BETSY RD | KEENE, TX 76059  
817.558.0100 | ABCKEENE.COM | D2U.ABC@TXSDA.ORG

## 2017 BONNERDALE COWBOY CAMP MEETING

SEPTEMBER 29-30



BILL KILGORE, Guest Speaker



FOREVER HIS, Guest Musical Group

Only God Can...

Friday

"Win With a Looser"

Sabbath

"Over-ride Your GPS"

"Give Hope to a Hurting Heart"

"Make a Mark on Your World"

Free Admission

Free meals, starting with supper on Friday @ 5:00 PM. Horseback riding, wagon rides and fun activities for kids.

BONNERDALE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CHURCH  
709 ADVENTIST CHURCH ROAD, BONNERDALE, AR 71933  
Contact Person(s): Carolyn Counts 501-350-2893, Brandon Westgate 501-269-3386

## Submissions

### Back Pages:

To submit family milestones, obituaries, announcements, or address changes, visit [www.swurecord.org](http://www.swurecord.org), or call 817.295.0476.

The *Record* also accepts expanded obituaries. For submission and cost information, contact [record@swuc.org](mailto:record@swuc.org), or call 817.295.0476.

### News and Articles:

Send your local church news and high-resolution photographs to your local conference communication representative listed on page 2.

If you are interested in writing for the *Record*, view our writer's guide at [www.SWURecord.org](http://www.SWURecord.org), or email [record@swuc.org](mailto:record@swuc.org).

### Advertising:

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Your Best Pathway to Health is a humanitarian service of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in partnership for the Phoenix mega clinic with the Arizona Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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## Alumni in Action

*During my four years at Southwestern Adventist University I received many different scholarships that helped me pay off my school bill. It was such an honor to receive these scholarships. One family in particular kept in touch, always letting me know they were praying for me. I got a teaching position at North Dallas Adventist Academy. There was a little boy in my classroom with the same last name and it dawned on me that he might be related to my scholarship donors. Imagine my delight when I discovered I had their grandson in my classroom. What a privilege! Because of their generous support, I am now teaching and giving back to the community to the best of my ability. I can't thank them enough for believing in me.*

*-Ella Nguyen Burgos, 2014 Elementary Ed major, 2017 Masters in Educational Leadership*

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