ADOPT-A- STUDENT MINISTRY

by Katie Verrill

As the new student leader of the Renewal church service, I would like to share with you some of my dreams for our whole church family. Throughout the past 5 years in which I have been a member of this wonderful church, I have had many magnificent encounters with all kinds of people from different generations and walks of life. I have loved each one of these opportunities to further understand and connect to my church family. However, in looking back over these years, I have realized that I have often missed opportunities to connect with the larger majority of my church because I have been so caught up with my own life and my own generation. My mind is constantly drawn to the passages in Paul’s writings that remind the church to be a unified body for the Lord, working together in all of our differences with all of our different talents and gifts. Romans 12:5 sums up our role by saying, “so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.”

Adopt-a-Student Ministry

As we enter into a new school year together, I believe God will lead us in deepening our unity as a church family, by crossing over our generational lines and using them as tools to further His kingdom. The pastoral leadership and I would like our first course of action to begin the first week that our student body comes back to Southern’s campus. During the Renewal church service, we will be welcoming the student body by providing them with gift bags aiming to encourage them spiritually and make them feel at home in our congregation. Within each of these bags, we plan to place cards inviting each student to “be adopted” by a member of our church family. This card will be distributed to a church member who is committed to supporting and building a relationship with one or more students.

LAUGH YOUR WAY TO A BETTER MARRIAGE

Improve your marriage and reduce marital problems with Mark Gungor’s exclusive advice. Mark, one of the most sought-out speakers on love and marriage, explores the underlying dynamics of male/female relationships, combining striking clarity and practical solutions to common relationship woes. Mark’s humor makes his teaching enjoyable, effective and memorable, helping husbands and wives remember these insights and immediately put them to work. You will experience all the facts and side-splitting fun of Mark’s look at life, love and marriage including:

Session 1: The Tale of Two Brains, Part 1: Laugh till you hurt as Mark explains what he calls “the laws of relational physics”—how men and women are wired differently and why.

Session 2: The Tale of Two Brains, Part 2

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OUR YOUTH MINISTRY REDESIGNED WITH ALL STUDENTS IN MIND
by Will Hurtado

Our first historic CAYA Council met on August 5, marking a dramatic shift in how we do ministry at Collegedale. We have been praying, planning, and working for this moment since January, and now thanks to our dedicated leaders—parents of our youth—CAYA Council is a reality!

The Council is based on the idea that we can either wait for superman, or we can through Christ’s grace become a transformation team. The great news is that a transformation team IS what we are becoming!

Our CAYA Council is made up of individuals who work with some great kids. Through CAYA Council, we invest in people more than in programs. We work together, not apart. We catch God’s vision for discipleship, and surprisingly, God begins to fulfill his mission through us.

The CAYA Council prays and works towards connecting ALL kids in its specific grade roster to a SMALL GROUP leader for spiritual growth and ministry. It is composed of the:

• CAYA Council Chair
• CAYA Community leader
• Sabbath School leader
• Pathfinder Unit leader
• CAYA Athletics
• CAMS/CA School Class chaplain – Home & School
• Youth list manager
• Parents/small group leaders/F.R.I.E.N.D.S.
• Local church representatives

The CAYA Council Chair’s ministry role is an important one:

• The Chair for each class is the contact person for the class, the symbolic leader.
• The Chair is not about programming, but about people: They seek to know their student roster and connect them with the right people to move them toward Jesus.
• Chair the monthly CAYA Council, communicating with class leaders facilitating the discussion.

Here is a sobering thought: The amount of effort we put into our kid’s spiritual development equals how much we truly care about our kids.

Our newly formed CAYA Council is the place God has given us to focus on each one of our youth as God’s special treasure entrusted to us. Join our team!

Learn the design!

• Saturday mornings at 10:15 a.m.
• A.W. Spalding downstairs Classroom
• Weekly, starting September 14
• For more info: contact Pastor Tim at timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860

THE GREAT HAYSTACK

What: The Great Haystack
Date: Sabbath, Sept. 7
Time: 12:30-2:00 p.m.
Location: SAU Gymnasium

Purpose: To provide a ministry experience for Collegedale Church members to share a meal with University students, to become acquainted with each other, become friends and welcome the students to the Collegedale faith community. This event is part of the Southern Union and Southern Adventist University’s Commitment Weekend Programming.

The Haystack meal will be provided by the Southern Union Youth Department, and SAU Chaplain’s Office is providing drink. Collegedale Church members are asked to provide dessert (cookies are fine) for their family and 8-10 students. Church members can bring a special dessert or family favorite...it does not have to be elaborate.

If you plan to attend, contact the Church Office at (423) 309-1860.

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In order for this plan to work, though, we need your help! If you would like to see our Church family further develop into the body of Christ, then I invite you or your family to consider adopting one or more of our college student attendees.

By adopting a student you commit to the following:

1. Praying for your student(s) each week.
2. Planning at least two interactions with this student(s) per semester. These interactions could include the following:
   a. A visit to your home to get to know each other
   b. Hosting a Sabbath lunch and time of fellowship
   c. A note of encouragement
   d. A small gift or care package during exam time
   e. Assistance with a class the student may be struggling with
   f. Prayer or Bible study meetings together
   g. Or any other way you are able to further connect to your adopted student.

The most important part of this project is to prayerfully and wholeheartedly enter into these relationships with an open mind to have a loving acceptance of and heartfelt relationship with your student partner.

I have witnessed beautiful community within our church, and have already seen what incredible things God can do through us when we work together. For this reason, I am thrilled to see how God is going to deepen these relationships this year as we take our interconnected work to a whole new level. So, I invite you now to prayerfully join with us in beginning to create a truly unified church family. Students will be invited to sign up for this ministry on Sabbath, Aug. 31, when we distribute the aforementioned welcome gift bags. Members will pick up these returned adopt-a-student cards on the following two Sabbaths, Sept. 7 and 14, during each of the worship services. God bless you as you consider becoming a deeper part of our Collegedale Church family!

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**Haystack continued from page 2**

396-2134 by Friday, Aug. 30, to register your name and the number of family members attending the Great Haystack event. When you come to the meal you will find your assigned table and enjoy the meal, fellowship and dessert with the University students.

**MARRIED PEOPLE’S DATES**

Childcare provided for each date, come enjoy the fun and make one of your best investments ever!

- Sept 8: *Whitewater rafting on the Ocoee 9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.*
- Sept 19: Five minute video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the Church then design your own exclusive date
- Nov 14: Five minute video clip at 6:30 p.m. at the Church then design your own exclusive date

*RSVP at the Church Office and small fee required. For more info, contact Pastor Tim at timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860.*
CHURCH LIBRARIAN NEEDED: Responsible for taking the returned library items, checking them back in and returning them to their designated shelves. In the past this has been a once a week time commitment. Also available after Adoration 2 and during Renewal to have the Library open for people to check out items. Additional responsibilities are cataloging new items and making sure check out cards are attached to each item. Call the Church at 396-2134 if interested.

MEN’S WHITewater RAFTING TRIP—Sunday September 15. Meet at Church at 1:00 p.m. Cost is $20. To RSVP timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860

LADIES, SAVE THE DATES! The Women’s Ministries Prayer Breakfast will be Sunday, Sept. 15, and the Women’s Ministries Fall Bible Studies begin Tuesday (mornings and evening options), Sept. 17, and Sabbath mornings, Sept. 21. Watch for more information.

MEN ARE ENCOURAGED to join the DVD series The Great Adventure! on Sabbath mornings through December 21, from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. in the Academy Library.

THE MINISTRY FAIR is approaching! Save the date of Sabbath, Sept. 7, for Collegedale Church’s Ministry Fair in the Fellowship Hall from 8:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Come and see a showcase of church ministries and volunteer to get involved.

A PARENTING CLASS, He is Too Young to be Baptized: Spiritual Development, will be held Monday, Aug. 26, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Presenters are Mae Watson and Ruth Williams-Morris. Childcare provided.

NEW ENGLAND ADVENTIST HERITAGE TRIP scheduled for September 27-October 7 will take you to the homes of our pioneers where stories of God’s leadership will be told at each site by Adventist historian, Alice Voorheis. Visit Hiram Edson’s cornfield, Ascension Rock at the William Miller Farm, James and Ellen White’s childhood home sites, and many more interesting historical places. Call Tarrie Geiger at 423-802-9617 or e-mail tarriegeiger@gmail.com.

ARE YOU A YOUNG 55+? Bring your fun-loving spirit and play table games. Mentally stimulating, but no physical work-out involved. Meets Wednesdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon in the Senior Center.

IN MEMORY

Joyce Hansen, mother of Bevi Henriquez, passed away July 21.

Bob Dawson, husband of Lorraine, father of April Dawson and Michael Dawson, and stepfather of Don Otis, David Otis, and Bruce Otis, passed away August 7. Services were held August 12.

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