CHATTANOOGA SHOOTING SOFTENS HEARTS

by Janelle Andres

I t was June 17th when I decided to go to a certain strip of businesses. I wasn’t sure exactly where I would start, but there were tons off highway 11 that continue onto Brainerd Road in Chattanooga. I took the first exit off of highway 153 and found a strip of businesses. These businesses included the cellphone carrier Cricket, an Italian restaurant, and a bunch of military recruiting offices. I don’t know why I decided to start there, but every time I passed it I felt like God was telling me, “Start there.”

In Cricket I talked to several of the employees who were interested in cooking classes and financial seminars. I then proceeded to go towards the military offices. There are several offices, each for a different branch of the military. I went into each office to talk to the officers. My ultimate purpose for going into these businesses was to see if people were interested in Bible studies. Although no one was interested in studies, there was interest in other things, such as Bible prophecy seminars. Most of the officers tried to recruit me and a bunch of the recruiters gave me their cards. I in turn, handed them a GLOW (Giving Light to Our World) tract.

After finishing that strip of businesses, I got in my car to drive to the next strip right around the corner, but before I could leave the parking lot, I had an overwhelming conviction that I needed to put GLOW tracts on the cars. I didn’t know why but the thought wouldn’t leave me. I got out and put some tracts on the cars and then proceeded to drive out. But then I saw more cars and the conviction hit me again. As much as I tried to just continue on, I just couldn’t and ended up parking once again and passed out more GLOW tracts.

I didn’t think much about that day until July 16 when I heard about the shooting that took place at the same military recruiting offices I had visited. It had been about a month since I was there, but it felt like it was just yesterday. The faces of all the recruiting officers flashed vividly in my mind as I listened to a news broadcast about the shooting. I wondered if that’s why I felt like God was telling me to pass out those little tracts that would tell others about God.

Three weeks ago tragedy struck in our backyard. Horrific calamities seem to happen all around the world, but no one ever expected a shooting to happen right here in Chattanooga. News crews rushed to the scene of the shooting, broadcasting anchors announced our community’s need for prayer, and suddenly churches opened their doors, bringing in thousands to gather together.

Tragedy has a way to soften people’s hearts to help them see their need for God, which means now is the perfect time to impact Chattanooga. In case you haven’t heard, the Collegedale Church is participating in Impact Chattanooga, a city-wide effort of Adventists coming together to impact our city for Christ in 2015.
ADOPT-A-STUDENT MINISTRY

by Pastor Carole Verrill

Adopt-a-Student is an opportunity for our church family to connect with university students and help them to feel comfortable and welcome in our church. On Sabbath, August 29, and Sabbath, September 5, university students who are interested in participating in this program will be invited to visit a welcome booth in the atrium and fill out information cards.

On September 12 and 19 church members will be encouraged to visit the Adopt-a-Student booth in the atrium to pick up one or more of those student information cards with the intention of adopting the students for this school year.

What are the expectations?
A minimum of two student-member connections per semester – a total of at least 4 per year. Examples of connections include a meal in your home, thinking-of-you card, care package to the dorm, etc.

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS FOR A NEW CHURCH MEDIA MINISTRY

The church is seeking to recruit volunteers for a new media ministry. The vision of this ministry is to record and produce free CDs and DVDs of the church services and make them available immediately after the services for church members and anyone else who wants a recording of any of the services.

If you are interested and want to be involved, please contact the church office at (423) 396-2134 and ask for Wolf Jedamski, the church administrator.

OPTIMIZE YOUR BRAIN

Exciting new video series “Optimize Your Brain” is full of ways to start improving your intellectual and emotional intelligence.

 Authored by Neil Nedley, M.D., it will help to increase your ability to learn, retain, and apply knowledge and improve your creativity, efficiency in studying, earning power, and intellectual success. Perhaps even more importantly, you will learn how to recognize and manage your emotions and how to manage relationships; build empathy, willpower, and motivation; and strengthen your character.

Come to the Community Room at the Samaritan Center on Wednesdays 6:30-8:30 p.m., September 9-October 14. E-mail or call to RSVP and to purchase workbook: timcross@southern.edu or (423) 309-1860.

The shooting, efforts have been made to reach out. Signs have been posted at the memorial sites; books and tracts have been handed out at the Lee Highway memorial site as well as at one of the funerals for the community’s fallen heroes. However, there is still much more that needs to be done. With the soil of the heart softened, it’s time to plant seeds. The harvest is coming.

In less than three months, It Is Written’s Revelation Today meetings will be kicking off October 9-31. To find out how to get involved, like the Impact Chattanooga Facebook page (https://www.facebook.com/impactchatt) and contact Ken Norton at kennorton@southern.edu.

Janelle Andres
It Is Written, Evangelism Department

Don’t forget your pledges and donations to the Arise & Build Community project this summer.

ADVERTISE YOUR CHURCH

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by Pastor Carole Verrill

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IN MEMORY

Ronald Knickerbocker passed away July 9. Survivors include his wife Jeannette Knickerbocker; sons Gary and Steve Knickerbocker; granddaughter Amy (Geoff) White; and step-sisters Joy (Denis) Breetzke and Cynthia (Wayne) Vail. Services were held July 25. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Amazing Facts and/or ADRA.

THE BLESSING

Join us in the Fellowship Hall on Friday, August 14, at 6:30 p.m. for “The Blessing,” a special event for 7th graders and their families as a celebration of following Jesus.

Come to the event to
• speak words of blessing into the life of your 7th grader
• commemorate the moment with a special challenge coin
• learn about our church’s youth ministry

RSVP to the church office at (423) 396-2134 for the free catered meal from Moe’s.

MEN’S RETREAT

SEPTEMBER 18-20

As a part of the It Is Written Impact Chattanooga pre-work, you are invited to join church members from a number of the area SDA churches in an effort to share the love of God in a tangible way.

There will be a number of community projects taking place on that weekend for you to be involved in.

More information will be given at the Season of Service Rally on August 15 at 4:00 p.m. at the Hamilton Community Church. Southern Union Evangelism Director, Roger Hernandez, will be the speaker for the rally.

All those attending will be given the chance to sign up for a community service project and receive a free T-shirt to use on the project they choose.

This year’s Men’s Retreat is being planned with Pastor Frederick Russell, Lead Pastor of the Berean Seventh-day Adventist Congregation in Atlanta, Georgia. Pastor Russell holds degrees in theology and management and helps develop leaders in church, corporate, and governmental settings.

Look for further information about cost and other details coming soon.
**COLLEGEDEAL ADVENTIST MIDDLE SCHOOL (CAMS)** is looking for a Spanish teacher willing to teach beginner Spanish for middle school age students: small classes of 10-12 students, Monday-Thursday 2:15-3:15 p.m. and Friday 12:15-2:00 p.m. If interested, call CAMS for more information at 423-396-3020.

**BOWMAN HILLS SCHOOL** is seeking a part-time 5th and 6th grade teacher for the 2015-2016 school year. Candidates must have a current teaching certificate, be willing to participate in extra school and church activities, and have a passion for reaching the hearts of His children. If interested, email or contact Matt Korp, Principal: mkorp@gccsda.com, 423-476-6014.

**TRANSPORTATION TO THE ATLANTA BRAVES FAMILY GAME DAY** on Sunday, August 16, is still available with limited seating. Church members may ride for free; non-members may join us for $15/person round trip. Please contact the church office to reserve your seat on the bus. The bus will load from the church parking lot at 10:00 a.m.

**ADVENTURERS REGISTRATION** will be 5:00-8:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, outside at the pavilion behind A. W. Spalding. If it is raining, it will be in Spalding’s gym. Adventurers is open to families with children ages four through 4th grade. Bring your children with you as we will have an inflatable bounce house and slide.

**EVER WONDER** how your child’s spiritual needs are changing as they get older? Physical changes are easy to keep track of but what about emotional, social, and cognitive changes? Have you ever noticed a new behavior and wondered “whoa, where did THAT come from?” On August 22 Shelly Turkenkopf will be presenting an afternoon seminar that may provide answers and materials for some of these questions. Join us in the Fellowship Hall at 3:30 p.m. for some laughs and stories as we study the development of our children the way God intended for them to grow. Contact Tim Cross at timcross@southern.edu or call the church office at (423) 396-2134.

**FLEA MARKET AND BAKE SALE:** Come help support McDonald Road Church’s youth mission trip to Belize at the church’s Flea Market and Bake Sale on Sunday, September 13, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., in the family center. Booths are still available. For more information or to donate items, contact Dan or Daryl Ford at 423-505-8104 or 423-505-8116.

**LABELS MAKE CENTS:** Frozen food labels are no longer accepted from Loma Linda, Worthington, Cedar Lake, Vibrant Life, and Morning Star products. The manufacturers will now only accept canned product labels from Loma Linda and Worthington Foods, provided the UPC begins with 28989 or 45561.