MIRACLE POWER
OVERCOMING THE IMPOSSIBLE TO BROADCAST HIS LOVE
[find the story on page 10]
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**COVER PHOTO** 
« The existing radio tower for the Algood (Tenn.) Church’s low-power station, WJNU. | Photo by Ellie Langford

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SHAREHIM HOMELAND LAY EVANGELISM TRAINING
TEACHING HOW TO BE AN EFFECTIVE LAY EVANGELISTIC SPEAKER

WITH RALPH RINGER
Southern Union director of Church Growth & Evangelism Training

LOCATION
Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office
Calhoun, GA

SCHEDULE
Friday, Nov. 1, 6:30pm to 9:00pm
Sabbath, Nov. 2, 9:00am to 9:00pm

COST
$20 (includes catered lunch and supper on Sabbath)

REGISTRATION
Pre-registration is required. RSVP by October 15.

CONTACT
To register or for more information, call 800-567-1844 (x 348).

COMING NOVEMBER 1-2 TO CALHOUN, GA
The Georgia-Cumberland Conference is deeply wounded in the loss of two of its respected and valued pastors in less than two weeks of each other.

Mike Adams, pastor of the Park Avenue Church (Valdosta, Ga.), passed away July 29 after a protracted battle with cancer. In his “first life” as a civil engineer with the Georgia Department of Transportation, Mike built bridges for commerce and convenience. In his second career as a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, Mike built bridges of understanding, forgiveness, and commitment between lost friends and the Savior he had come to know. Deeply loved among congregations in South Georgia, Mike is missed most deeply by his wife, Tammie, five children, three grandchildren, and extended family.

Just two weeks earlier, Jeff Brown, pastor of the Apison (Tenn.) Church, died unexpectedly on July 17 while leading a ShareHim evangelistic outreach in Panama. The group of teen speakers and adult sponsors from the Apison Church were returning from a half-day outing, having hiked to a local waterfall. On the way back, the group stopped to rest and share a few snacks. Pastor Brown was in his element, mentoring young people in evangelism and now enjoying the natural beauty of Central America. He commented, "Isn't this beautiful!" then suddenly collapsed. The group immediately started CPR and sent for help, continuing for more than an hour until the rescue team arrived. He never regained consciousness. We lift up in prayer Jeff’s wife, Joy, their two adult children, son-in-law, and extended family.

The Devil may have hoped to paralyze families and congregations with grief, delusion, and bitterness at these tragic losses. But I have seen in both settings a quiet, Spirit-inspired confidence that has instead renewed a dependence on God, a commitment to mission, and a rock-solid hope even in the face of tragedy. Our hearts go out to each family and each congregation. And one day soon, at the trumpet call of God, both Mike and Jeff will awake, take one look around, and say in unison, “Isn’t this beautiful!”

On that day, we will see God’s loving hand “bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair” (Isaiah 61:3). Even so, come quickly, Lord Jesus.

Ed Wright is president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference
Trudy Morgan-Cole tells the story of her son, Jared, who fussed about his chores and demanded financial remuneration. After he picked up his room, Jared gathered up his dirty clothes from the floor and set the table for supper.

“I do so much work around here!” he complained. “I think I should get paid for it!”

“Well, you do get an allowance every week.”

“Yeah, but that’s just to buy stuff I need,” Jared said. “I should get paid for the jobs I do. Like a dollar for cleaning my room and fifty cents for setting the table. It’s not fair to make me work for nothing.”

The next morning when Jared came down for breakfast, there was the usual cereal, toast, and juice. Next to his food was a slip of paper with $6.50 written on it. It was a bill for the meal his mother had prepared. “It’s not fair to make me work for nothing,” she pointed out.

continued on page 27 [see STEWARDSHIP]

Mitch Hazekamp is director of the Stewardship/Trust Services Department

FINANCIAL REPORT

The figures below provide an overview of conference finances as of July 31, 2013. Every member who is cooperating with God in the faithful stewardship of tithes and offerings makes our ministry and outreach possible. Thank you for your faithfulness!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>2013 (30 weeks)</th>
<th>2012 (30 weeks)</th>
<th>Gain/Loss</th>
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<td>$567,532</td>
<td>-$37,420</td>
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© Mauricio Jordan De Souza Coelho | Dreamstime.com
On Aug. 4, more than 200 educators from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference gathered at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center to participate in the annual teacher’s convention.

Sunday featured recreation and renewal for employees and their families, a special in-service for new teachers, and a principals’ meeting to focus on such topics as school safety and leadership.

Monday’s keynote speaker was Lesley Scearce from On Point, an organization based out of Chattanooga, Tenn., that partners with schools and communities to cultivate strength in youth and guide them on a path to thrive. Her message was of equal value for both elementary and secondary educators. Later that day, several Georgia-Cumberland departments reported on progress that has taken place in their ministries, and a team from the mentor-driven math committee conducted mathematics training.

Tuesday included employee service recognition and a teacher commissioning service conducted by Debra Fryson, Southern Union education director, and Jonathan Sumner, GCC associate superintendent. It was a touching event that reminded educators of their calling to the teaching ministry.

Kevin Kossick, vice president for education, and Kim Thompson, GCC associate superintendent, cast the new Education Department vision: Leading Children to Christ Through Loving, Learning and Living. This aligns the department closely with the Ministerial Department, while placing emphasis on the discipling and evangelistic purposes of Adventist education.

The afternoon continued with Barry Benton, an attorney from Calhoun, Ga., sharing his expertise in the area of emotional quotients and the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator. Various teachers then demonstrated their knowledge of how to best utilize iPad technology in the classroom during a general assembly.

The Office of Education’s mission of “growing disciples through shared leadership” was evident through individuals who made significant contributions to the success of the convention: Carmen Alvarez, Debbie Anderson, Martin Cunningham, Sharon Garner, Stephanie Heath-Nash, Rebekah Helbley, Cindy Ladi, Beth Stone, and Shelly Turkenkopf.

Please remember the Georgia-Cumberland education ministry in your prayers as the new school year begins.
The Gainesville (Ga.) Church held their summer Vacation Bible School July 15-19. Kathy Gossett, VBS director, and 15 volunteers worked together to bring about a fun time. The theme was “Investigation Station,” a program that encouraged kids to become junior investigators, searching for the truth on topics such as creation week, the Sabbath, and the flood.

“I couldn’t have done it without the excellent support of our staff, ranging from youth to adults,” Gossett said. “They were a great group to work with.”

Thanks to the financial and prayerful support of the church members, the event was a success—total attendance was 29, with 21 of those being community children. One attendee’s mom said her son had been waiting all summer for it.

“Our goal this year was to build up our children’s program,” said Tabor Nudd, Gainesville Church pastor.

A follow-up program continues each Tuesday evening at 7:00, intentionally coinciding with prayer meeting. Thus far, somewhere between 11 and 14 children have returned for the Tuesday evening program. Additionally, attendance at prayer meeting has risen. The church’s goal is to offer something for all ages on Tuesday nights.

“Child evangelism is an important aspect in the mission field of our church,” Gossett said. “Through God’s help, the Gainesville Church looks forward to another successful program in 2014.”
The Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) is happy to welcome Miguel Valdivia, Ph.D., to the team as he takes the role of vice president of administration/executive secretary, previously filled by Paul Hoover, who accepted a call to be president of the Upper Columbia Conference in April.

Valdivia is transferring to the conference from his position as international publications editor at Pacific Press Publishing Association in Idaho, where he’s worked for the past 27 years. Previously, he has served as both a youth and senior pastor in Puerto Rico. When the search began for a new vice president of administration, a friend of Valdivia’s from the Southern Union encouraged him to send in his résumé. He was only acquainted with Ed Wright, GCC president, but sent in his résumé anyway. After an interview and much prayer and deliberation, Valdivia was offered the position.

“I consider serving at GCC a very spiritual call...this is a continuation of ministry for me,” Valdivia said. “It seems to my wife and me that God is leading us in this direction, and we want to see where He takes us.”

Born in Cuba, Valdivia lived there until he was 12 years old, when his parents moved to the United States. After residing in New Jersey for several years, they relocated to Florida, where his parents have lived since. Valdivia attended undergraduate school at Antillian College in Puerto Rico and soon went on to receive his master’s degree in religion from Andrews University. He then later received his Ph.D. in education from the University of Idaho.

Valdivia is married to Olga Noriega, and they have three grown children and two grandchildren. Their daughter, Cindy, lives in Idaho with her husband, Jason, and daughter, Averi; their son Alan lives in Georgia with his daughter, Tessa; and their youngest son, Brian, is finishing law school in New York. While Valdivia and his wife will certainly miss their family in Idaho, they also look forward to living closer to family in Georgia and Florida.

In their spare time, Valdivia and his wife enjoy reading, walking, and fishing on occasion. Having recently bought a camper, they are excited to get back into their old hobby of camping. Some of the things they look forward to upon moving to Georgia are the milder winters, making new friends, and visiting various churches. Although change always has its challenges, the Valdivias hold a positive outlook on this new chapter in their lives.

“Although it’ll be a transition,” Valdivia said, “it’s going to be good for us, an adventure.”

Miguel & Olga Valdivia
CHARTING OUR COURSE
FAMILY MINISTRIES TRAINING FOR 2013 AND BEYOND

NOV // 1-2
Georgia-Cumberland Conference office
Calhoun, GA

BE INSPIRED to share God’s vision for healthy, happy families
MOTIVATE your church to family-focused ministry outreach
LEARN to be an effective family ministries leader; earn basic family ministries certification
NETWORK with other local church family ministries leaders

This event is FREE! Register online at registration.gccsda.com
Call 800-567-1844 (x 342) for more information
A Chinese proverb states, “A journey of a thousand miles begins with one step.” As I ponder this journey that God has called us to, this journey to a radio ministry serving the Cumberland Plateau of north-central Tennessee and south-central Kentucky, it is hard to identify that “one step.”

In 2000, a friend suggested that my wife and I check out ASI (Adventist Laymen’s Services and Industries), an organization made up of individuals who come from various walks of life and represent a broad range of talent and interest. At one particular ASI meeting, there was much talk of using radio waves to share the love of Jesus and Bible truth. Excited, I went home and shared the information and challenge with my home church. Many in the Algood (Tenn.) Church were interested. We were between pastors at the time but decided to moved forward. Phil Follet of LifeTalk Radio came and met with us. We continued to talk and dream, but the cost and size of a full power station was daunting, and the idea fizzled.

Excitement was stirred again when news came that the FCC was opening a window of opportunity to apply for licenses for low power stations. Applications were encouraged. With a total cost estimated to be $25,000 to $30,000, it seemed more manageable. Some startup money became available, and we applied. The Lord blessed abundantly and on Sept. 15, 2002, the FCC gave us our call sign, WJNU-LP (“Jesus N’ You.”) We began broadcasting in the fall of September 2003.

More ASI meetings came and went. Excitement was stirred once again when the word was spread that the FCC was going to open a window for new applications for medium power non-profit FM stations. Our little group was interested, but life was busy, and after the initial thought, the idea sort of drifted away.

Then one day, as I was leaving church, one of our members said, “Some friends of ours really enjoy WJNU, but the signal is too weak to be reliable. You really need to apply for that higher power station.”

It struck me like a voice from the Lord. But life was busy and the project overwhelming. What do we know about running a medium power radio station—really? And it takes so much money. We don’t have that kind of money! And…I had all kinds of reasons for not pursuing this impossible dream.

Months flew by, and we found ourselves at another ASI meeting. A little firebrand of a woman whose heart is in radio ministry spotted me and called out, “Hey, have you filed your application for a station yet?”

by Ken Colburn
photos by Ellie Langford
Of course not! And I really don’t want to either! ran through my head, but it seemed there was no escape. Convinced of God’s prompting, I took it to our WJNU radio board. Believing it to be God’s will, they unanimously said, “Let’s do it!”

We obtained a lawyer with FCC expertise, an Adventist gentleman named Don Martin. Next, an engineering firm was hired to explore the possibilities in our area. Two possibilities—one in Livingston and one in Cookeville—were discovered. Several thousand dollars were raised and applications for both areas were entered. Of course, our applications competed with others’ applications. The FCC used a point system, and whichever applicant scored highest for a given geographical area would be awarded the license. The report of the points came back. Livingston’s score looked great, while Cookeville’s looked bleak. But confidently, we thought, Hey, that’s OK. We threw our hat in the ring and by God’s grace we’ll get one!

So we sat back, confident that our license would be granted. We waited and waited. About three years passed before the bad news came. Don e-mailed and said that for some unknown reason, the FCC had grouped the applications by entire regions, which caused more applications to be lumped together. Our region of north-central Tennessee included an application as far away as Oak Ridge, and they were likely to get the license. If so, that would automatically exclude all other applicants in the region—unless we could buy out all the other applicants overlapping our proposed coverage area. With no competition, we would be approved!

We estimated that it would cost $15,000 to $20,000 to buy them out. We told Don that...
to us it looked impossible; we were done. His response was, “I can’t believe you’re letting this go! The plum is there, ripe and ready for picking! There surely is a way to do this. Let me see what I can do.”

Soon Don informed us that there were three other applicants that had to be bought out to create a clear no competition zone, and it could be far less expensive than we’d estimated. The board met, reconsidered, and chose to push forward.

To realize how the Lord orchestrated the coordination of these two projects, bringing them together at just the right time, fills me with amazement.

The cost of the buy-outs was about $6,000. Providentially, donations came in adequate for the task. After the buy-outs were successfully accomplished and the environmental study completed, the FCC granted us a license for a medium powered non-profit FM station—WOCG-FM (W-Worshipping O-Our C-Creator G-God).

But the story doesn’t end there. Negotiations with the landowners of the site originally chosen for the radio tower became complicated, necessitating the search for a new site. One day as we were driving up a rutted mountain road to explore our possibilities, we passed a pick-up truck headed down the mountain. After passing, he stopped as if he wanted to speak to us. We backed down to where he was, and after initial pleasantries, we confirmed that we were the ones searching for a potential tower site for a new radio station.

“I’ve got property on this mountaintop,” he said. “Why don’t you check it out?”

We did check it out, and today there is a signed lease agreement safely tucked in the file assuring us of the right to build and maintain a radio tower on that mountaintop!

Meanwhile, a parallel miracle was occurring in Livingston, Tenn., a small town with a population of about 5,000. For many years, God had put it in the hearts of various individuals to plan for a church plant there, as a Seventh-day Adventist church has never been in that county. After two evangelistic campaigns, the spark flickered into a flame, and in the spring of 2009, a mission group began meeting in the waiting room of Oasis Medical Center. Livingston Fellowship members Jerry and Jeannette Colson had also purchased a small piece of property immediately adjacent to it for the purpose of donating it for our new church. Resources being limited, no one knew when this aspect of the dream would be realized.

The mission group grew, and three years later, in the spring of 2012, Livingston Fellowship was organized into a company with a membership of more than 50 people. Miracles of God’s grace in the lives of people caused the group to grow; it was clear a church building was desperately needed. God poured out blessings, and construction began on the first Adventist church structure in Overton County in November 2012.

What does this have to do with radio? Simply this: One of the rooms of this structure is designed to be a radio studio. It will house the office of WOCG-FM.

The clock started ticking on Sept. 1, 2011, when the FCC granted a construction permit to build the station. The permit to build will be valid for only three years. This means WOCG must be on the air by Sept. 1, 2014. To realize how the Lord orchestrated the coordination of these two projects, bringing
them together at just the right time, fills me with amazement. All I can say is, “Praise God! To Him be all the glory!”

The tower is yet to be constructed, and the studio is yet to be put in place, but as we look back on how God has led to this point, the words often come to mind, “What hath God wrought?” It is the answer to this question that gives us courage to persevere. It’s awesome to see how God worked His miracles in the face of our inadequacies. He is so good, so utterly gracious.

Please pray for God’s will to be done. It’s obvious this is His project! He will not let us escape it! When I look to myself or the board, I tremble. We do not have adequate resources (about $85,000 is yet needed to complete construction), manpower (a full-time and part-time experienced station manager is a necessity required by the FCC besides other workers), or all the knowledge needed. But He has called us to this task. He knows our needs, and He has all resources and all power.

It is God’s will that the good news of Jesus’ love be broadcast far and wide in this region. He has provided a Bible worker to follow up on the interests that develop and a church home in which they can be nurtured and loved. It is His will that someone tell the truth about His love made manifest through His Son. It is His will that someone teach the whole truth about His 10 Commandments. It is His will to let His children know He is coming soon just like He said He would to take us home to be with Him forever! May His will be done.

Is God calling you to join this journey? Do you have resources or talents that He is asking you to share? If God is laying it on your heart to participate in an active way by sharing resources or talents, please contact us at 931-498-3570, kensandycolb@twlakes.net, or Cookeville Christian Broadcasting, 189 Robinson Hill Lane, Cookeville, TN 38506.
“The Conyers Church has just completed one of the most exciting ‘evangelistic events’ we have ever experienced,” said John Strickland, pastor of the Conyers (Ga.) Church. “We had more than 175 visitors who attended our church for the first time and have never been in an Adventist church.”

This outreach happened because of a basketball camp conducted by 3-Point Play Ministries, a ministry of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Eighty-four students (ages 8-13) attended with many parents observing. Parents were also invited to a special closing ceremony on Sunday.

Yes, the students learned basketball skills, but more importantly, each day they learned about Christ’s saving power. This camp was one of five held this year in various locations. Every place where a camp has been held, Strickland’s words have been echoed.

Students learn about basketball:
Dribbling, passing, shooting, proper defense.

Students learn about Jesus:
Love, grace, power, and help.

Approximately 200 students experienced that this summer. It can happen in your church also!
IN THE U.S., MORE THAN 1 OUT OF 3 CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS ARE OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE.

Let’s Move! Day
Sunday, September 22, 2013

Whether you host a 5k run/walk, join a community event, or organize other activities, consider how your group can involve as many people as possible in physical activity. Invite your community to join your church, school, or hospital as we move together and promote a healthier lifestyle!

Help bring attention to the problem of childhood obesity
Teach the importance of exercise
Provide activities that show exercise can be fun

Register and find resources and information at AdventistsInStepforLife.org
A different approach was taken for the 2013 women’s leadership event, which was held August 2-4 at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office in Calhoun, Ga.

The theme was “The Soul of Leadership” and four presenters covered a range of topics including “When Leaders Lose Their Souls” with Tammy Fisher, conference communication director; “Living Within Limits” with Shelly Turkenkopf, elementary teacher at A.W. Spalding School in Collegedale, Tenn.; “Spiritual Rhythms in the Life of the Leader” with Kim Thompson, conference regional education director; and “The Loneliness of Leadership” with Jo Dubs, conference women’s ministries director.

“Many of our local church leaders are feeling the pressure and demands of life pulling them in all directions,” Dubs said. “The weekend training gave an opportunity to learn leadership principles following after the life of Moses that will help each of us in our own personal walk with God and thereby strengthen us to serve better in the areas we have been asked to serve. [Principles like] how to pray, how to stay faithful, how to wait, how to lead, and how to let go when it is time.”

Participants were also encouraged to spend time seeking God through journaling and prayer.

“The weekend was inspirational. It was encouraging,” said Karen Tillotson, a member of the Douglasville (Ga.) Church. “It provided a lot of ideas and things for going forward. One of the presentations that I really took with me in my heart was that we have to take the time to come closer to God first. Ask Him for guidance and then everything else will fall into place.”

LaVerne Barnett, from the Adairsville (Ga.) Church, said she wants to see women “get on board and unify.”

“God has something special for us to do,” Barnett said. “Together with our brothers in Christ, we can move forward as we allow the Lord to bless us.”
MARRIED LOVERS’
Mountain Getaway

with speakers
RICK & CINDY MERCER

music by
EASTWIND

OCTOBER 25-27, 2013
GATLINBURG, TENNESSEE
RSVP AT REGISTRATION.GCCSDA.COM
NEW ENGLAND VBS EXPERIENCES MINISTRY IN ACTION
by Jacob Martin | photo contributed

The New England Church (Trenton, Ga.) is a relatively small country church with a membership of about 40 people. In June, the church held their annual Vacation Bible School, planned and organized by 16-year-old Jacob Martin and his mother, Melissa. Instead of having the normal run-of-the-mill VBS, with the usual food, games, songs, crafts, etc., they wanted to make this year’s event more meaningful. Their theme became “Fishin’ for a Mission,” but they needed a mission. Then they remembered reading an article in the Southern Tidings about the refugees from Burma who now lived in Clarkston, Ga. The organization, called Friends of Refugees providing Empowerment and Education (F.R.E.E.), specializes in helping newly arrived refugees begin a new life in the United States.

“Fishin’ for a Mission” began to take on new meaning. Opening night of VBS brought nine excited young attendees. They told the children and their parents about their mission project and gave handouts with information about F.R.E.E. and an example list of the refugees’ needs. By the end of the week, the results were astounding! In total, 31 children attended VBS, and each night brought more and more donations. A total of $1,074 was raised. God truly showered His blessings on the New England Church!

Instead of mailing the donation, the church decided to hand deliver it along with whatever clothing donations they could gather. So on July 28, New England Church members, VBS attendees, and friends (13 of the 28 people were children under the age of 16) loaded up the donations and drove to Clarkston. Two F.R.E.E. volunteers greeted the group and helped them distribute the many boxes of items to the refugees. Seeing the reactions of the refugees filled everyone’s hearts with love, compassion, and hope that this small act of kindness would somehow impact these peoples’ lives for the better.

The experience was so wonderful that the church has decided to continue the F.R.E.E. project and is already planning another trip this fall. It’s amazing what great things can come out of such small beginnings.

For more information on F.R.E.E., go online to freerefugees.org.
Southern Adventist University’s School of Nursing’s graduate program has recently been rated as one of the best nursing degree programs available in the nation by MastersDegreeOnline.org. The website is dedicated to providing higher education information in an easy to use medium and has evaluated Southern’s Master of Science in nursing degree to be one of the top 50 nursing graduate programs in the country for the 2013-2014 academic year.

The methods used by MastersDegreeOnline.org to rank graduate nursing programs are based on a combination of interviews with deans in the field, surveys of students, program reputation, and previous graduate successes.

Southern’s graduate program offers both master’s and doctoral degrees in nursing. Students can also earn a dual Master of Science in nursing/Master of Business Administration degree.

Currently, 195 students are pursuing a graduate nursing degree at Southern.
With a new school year beginning, members of the Auburn (Ga.) Church wanted to help families in their community get ready, so on July 21, the church hosted an Auburn Tigers Back-to-School Event.

The congregation specifically targeted the fifth-grade class and invited local families to come enjoy refreshments, crafts, and recreational opportunities. They also offered information about the Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs and had a prayer team available. Dr. Gene Brewer, member of the Auburn Church and a leading expert on how the human mind functions, spent time with the four fifth-grade teachers explaining how to maximize their students’ natural learning abilities. All in all, the event provided free supplies to approximately 95 students.

Leftover supplies were taken to the school for distribution at their open house. There, church members shared a book on praying for children with the fifth-grade teachers and the school principal, Shawn Williams.

“You folks are a real blessing!” Williams said. “These supplies will help meet a critical need among the students. About 80 percent of our students and families receive some sort of government assistance.”

As the Auburn Tiger Team discussed the event’s results and how to turn it into annual event, they also saw a need for additional support. Plans are being made to restock the school’s food pantry this fall and to continue to support the students and teachers.

Bonnie Alley, Auburn Tiger Team chairperson, reaffirmed a truth stated by Ellen White:

“Christ’s method alone will give true success in reaching the people. The Savior mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He (said), ‘Follow Me.’”

(Ministry of Healing, p. 143) ■
THE GREATEST LOVE
NORTHEAST TENNESSEE CAMP MEETING

OCTOBER 4-5, 2013
THE OAKS RETREAT > GREENEVILLE, TN

ABOUT RON HALVORSEN JR.

Ron Halvorsen, Jr., currently serves as senior pastor of College View Seventh-day Adventist Church in Lincoln, Neb. He has previously pastored in Florida, Washington, Texas, and Montana. Ron is a sought-after speaker for youth and adults at retreats, camp meetings, and weeks of prayer across the nation and in other countries. His hobbies include skiing, camping, hiking, and team sports, all of which he loves to do with his family, which includes his wife, Buffy, and their two children, Ron III, and Stephanie.
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE | RETIRO DE CABALLEROS

SEXUALIDAD Y EL HOMBRE MODERNO

Parque Estatal Unicoi

ALOJAMIENTO
Motel 2 personas por cuarto $200
Motel 3 personas por cuarto $155
Motel 4 personas por cuarto $135

COMUNIDAD
$70

Sábado Solamente:
Incluye materiales y cena del sábado

UNICOI STATE PARK
CARRETERA GA 356 ESTE
HELLEN, GEORGIA

Regístrese online: www.registration.gccsda.com
o llame al Ministerio Hispano de la GCC:
(706) 629-7951 xt. 391
Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) technology director Ernest Staats, along with the help of student worker Eric Claus, was one of the hosts at Nebraska’s 2013 Cyber Security Conference held at Southeast Community College in Lincoln, Neb., on June 4. This is the fifth year Staats has been invited to present at the annual conference.

Staats, one of several cyber security professionals who presented, held a hands-on workshop for the attendees while also presenting on topics such as cyber security vulnerabilities, how hackers work, hacker prevention, and real-life application. Staats provided equipment for the workshops including laptops and software for each attendee to use. Claus co-presented with Staats and also ran live demonstrations while Staats assisted those following along in the audience. During some of the live demonstrations, they pointed out security vulnerabilities in the Nebraska government’s website and fixed them on the spot for the audience to see.

Some of the other presenters included security professionals from IBM and the FBI. About half of those attending included state, school, criminal justice, and business security employees from Nebraska, as well as security employees from Iowa, North and South Dakota, and Colorado. Since Staats’ first year hosting in 2009, the attendance has grown from 15 to 35, and an additional six who were unable to participate in the workshops due to equipment shortage.

“The IT security realm is pretty small, but it’s a hot button on almost everyone’s list,” Staats said. “It’s something that continues to grow and more people are trying to get the resources they can.”

In 2009, Staats got a call from an acquaintance who was helping organize the cyber security conference that year. One of the presenters cancelled last minute, and they needed someone to fill in. Although Staats was an unknown presenter, they were so impressed that they’ve asked him to return every year since. The first year, he simply presented. However, the idea to turn sessions into hands-on labs soon came forward, and the following year it was implemented. Since then, he has had a student worker accompany him to the conferences to help set up equipment, run software, present, and assist with the live demonstrations.

Staats has presented security seminars many times for Adventist conferences, schools, and the North American Division. He also hosted a cyber security conference at GCA for higher-education schools such as Berry College and Kennesaw State University.
CONFERENCE CELEBRATES FOUR CALLS TO MINISTRY
by Brian Young, communication assistant director | photos by Brian Young

At every ordination and commissioning service, candidates participate in a responsive reading that both lays the foundation for his or her call into ministry and also charges him or her to live a life of accountability to God and their fellow man.

The reading begins: “Because God has called you to the Gospel ministry, and because we have recognized that calling and have set you aside by the laying on of hands, you are now invested with full ecclesiastical authority. No higher honor can come to any person. Such honor, however, involves great responsibility.”

Sean Reed was ordained June 15 at the Morristown (Tenn.) Church. At the age of 8, Sean told his pastor he wanted to preach a sermon. The pastor immediately scheduled Sean to preach at both of his churches. Standing on a step-stool so he could see over the pulpit, he preached his first sermon, titled “God is Love.”

“My pastor saying ‘yes,’ giving me the opportunity to be involved in ministry, that’s what really opened the door for me and gave me a sense of where God was calling me,” Sean said.

He graduated in 2011 with his Master of Divinity from Andrews University.

Sean and his wife, Linda, have a two-year-old son named Gavin.

Thomas Hayes was ordained June 29 at the Collegedale Community (Tenn.) Church. Tom has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology and a Master of Art degree in education and worked for 24 years in Christian education as an elementary teacher, boys dean, chaplain, and, most recently, the Bible teacher at Collegedale Academy.

“It’s a great experience for me as I transition now into ministry. For four years now, I’ve been at the Collegedale Community Church, and what a blessing it is to be the church life pastor,” he said.

Tom is married to Glenda, and between them, they have five grown children and several grandchildren.
Alexandria Harter was commissioned June 29 at the Collegedale Community (Tenn.) Church. She worked 10 years at summer camp, which “was one of those really important experiences for me because it’s where I first found the desire to share the love of Jesus,” she said.

After 21 months as a student missionary, Alex added a theology degree to her business degree at now Southern Adventist University. Alex has taught at academies in Georgia, Florida, and California and served as associate pastor at the Azure Hills Church in California.

She and her husband, Kris, have a seven-year-old daughter, Gisela, and a five-year-old son, Niko.

Matthew Smith was ordained July 20 at the Buford Family (Ga.) Church. All his life, people told him he was going to be a pastor. Then the summer between academy and college, Matt worked as a literature evangelist in Atlanta, where he was strengthened in his resolve to become a pastor.

Following his college graduation, he was able to spend three years pastoring at his childhood church in Greeneville, Tenn., before going to seminary. He earned his Master of Divinity from Andrews University in 2012.

He and his wife, Jennifer, have an almost-one-year old son named Caffrey.

The congregation then charges him or her to be a servant; to be a good shepherd; to be a watchman, to teach intelligently, doctrinally, plainly, and practically; and to be faithful. Candidates affirm their commitment to each of these charges with a scriptural reply.

It’s a day of celebration as well as a solemn resolution to go where He leads and to live as He lived—as His servant, extending His love, mercy, and grace to those they encounter. It’s a poignant mark in a pastor’s ministerial journey and one he or she remembers for the rest of his or her life.

Thus far this year, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference has been proud to honor these four pastors. ■
MEN OF VALOR
WE ARE NOT DONE AND GONE

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register at registration.gccsda.com or call 800-567-1844 (x 340) for more info
YOUR LEGACY. HIS FUTURE.

AREA WILL CLINICS are planned for many areas throughout Georgia and Tennessee in 2013. This is a service provided for you from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. The conference will pay for proper, attorney-drafted documents at no cost to members. The provided estate plan includes a will, a medical power of attorney, and financial power of attorney; revocable living trusts are available at a discounted cost.

AREA WILL CLINICS COMING SOON

September 21 (Sabbath)  Macon Wimbish Road Church (Macon, Ga.)
September 22 (Sunday)   Columbus Church (Columbus, Ga.)
September 23 (Monday)   Albany Community Church (Leesburg, Ga.)
September 24 (Tuesday)  Park Avenue Church (Valdosta, Ga.)
September 25 (Wednesday) Waycross Church (Waycross, Ga.)
September 28 (Sabbath)  Camden Church (Kingsland, Ga.)
September 29 (Sunday)   Savannah First Church (Pooler, Ga.)

Clinics are by appointment ONLY. Please contact the conference office to schedule an appointment for a date listed above at a church near you. Call 800-567-1844, ext. 361, and speak with Cherie.

[STEWARDSHIP] continued from page 5

When Jared arrived home after school, he presented his mother with a special project he had completed. She hugged him, reached into her purse, and gave him $3.00. Jared was appalled that his mother would attempt to pay him for his gift. He got the point: The work we do for each other should be a gift of love—something we do freely without asking anything in return.

Jared learned a valuable lesson. Love often trumps the need to be paid for our services. Jared thought he should get paid for his work, but later realized the work his mother did, she did because she loved him. We are admonished by Jesus to love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and our neighbor as ourselves (Matt. 22:37-39). Love for God and our neighbor manifests itself in volunteer service for not only relatives, but for complete strangers because they have a need to be loved.

Imagine the financial value of volunteers around the world who give of their time and labor for the benefit of humankind. It’s estimated that in the United States alone, about 64.5 million people volunteered through an organization at least once last year. Wikipedia states that volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity and is intended to promote good or improve human quality of life. In return, it produces a feeling of self-worth and respect; however, there is no financial gain.

“Love is the basis of godliness. Whatever the profession, no man has pure love to God unless he has unselfish love for his brother... When self is merged in Christ, love springs forth spontaneously. The completeness of Christian character is attained when the impulse to help and bless others springs constantly from within—when the sunshine of heaven fills the heart and is revealed in the countenance” (Ellen G. White, Christ’s Object Lessons, p. 384).
This past May, I traveled to Argentina, to the city of Posadas, Missiones, as a student missionary. The church I was assigned to was in the city of Santa Ines.

Before the meetings began, the local pastor told me this church was known as one of the “dead” churches in the city. He said it had grown stale, and the members were not very active. That first Friday night, there were about 10 people. The next morning, about 25 people were at the worship service. At the end of my message, I made a very special call. I told everyone to invite their non-Christian friends to the meetings and asked anyone willing to invite a friend to stand. Everyone in the church rose to their feet! I initially thought people weren’t taking the call seriously. But that night at the meeting, attendance doubled—there were 50 people! Everyone, including the children, had invited a friend. The pastor later told me that he had never seen the members so alive and on fire for Jesus and outreach.

Santa Ines is located in a very rural area. Very few people have cars or even know how to drive, so most walk. The soil is rich in iron and clay, making it very muddy when it rains. It rained a lot, and I was surprised at how many people came to the meetings despite the mud; some had to walk for 20 minutes through the mud to make it to the church.

For one particular older couple who attended the meetings every night, this
was their first experience with a church teaching beliefs other than Catholicism. Initially, they didn’t seem to respond to the calls; they never filled out any decision cards. I later found out that these two people, like many of the Santa Ines people, were not able to write, and were limited in their ability to read. At the end of the meetings, both of them came to the front in tears. They said the messages were the most beautiful thing they’d ever heard, and now they wanted to be baptized and follow Jesus. Then they gave me a paper on which they had tried their best to write a letter telling how appreciative they were of the messages. I am so excited to see them in heaven one day.

Being involved in international evangelism has given me a clearer picture of our mission here on earth far beyond what an entire year of school classes could ever do. By sharing our beliefs with others, I have come to better understand what I believe and want to spend the rest of my life telling people about Jesus.

This student earned a Student Evangelist Scholarship through the Education Department. To qualify, students must attend a GCC academy or college and preach a 16- to 18-night evangelistic series.
As I write the words “Cohutta Springs Foundation,” I wonder how many even know there is a foundation that supports the ministry of Cohutta Springs. In name, the Cohutta Springs Foundation is new, but the group has been supporting Cohutta Springs for more than 27 years under the name Cohutta Springs Development Associates. In many respects, the development associates are responsible for the conference center’s and youth camps’ very existence, as they were the driving force behind the vision for the design and development of the property.

I hope that even if you didn’t know the foundation existed, you’ve been blessed with the opportunity to spend time experiencing the ministry of Cohutta Springs. If you have not had the opportunity, I urge you to come by for a visit and take in its tranquil peace and majestic, natural beauty.

Cohutta Springs has been fortunate to have the leadership of Olivier LeMaitre and his team, who have worked together to make Cohutta Springs the finest Adventist conference center in the world. I may be a little biased, but there are few places one can go that will compare to Cohutta Springs.

And it keeps getting better with recent improvements like the new dining hall on the camp side, the dining room addition at the conference center, a new prayer garden, and the development of additional hiking trails—just to mention a few. And beyond the physical improvements, the mission orientation and ministry of Cohutta Springs has grown exponentially as Jesus has been shared with thousands of guests—both Adventist and not—through the years.

The foundation supports Cohutta Springs’ ministry by funding projects that grow and expand its ministry. I would like to personally invite you to join me and the rest of the foundation in supporting Cohutta Springs by contributing to the foundation. Your tax-deductible donation will be utilized to grow the Adventist church through the ministry and mission of this magnificent facility.

You can find out more about the Cohutta Springs Foundation at cohuttaspringsfoundation.org or if you prefer, you may contact me directly at 706-217-9379.

Brian McDaniel is president of the Cohutta Springs Foundation
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OFFERING SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER
07 Local Church Budget
14 World Budget/Fall Mission Appeal
21 Local Church Budget
28 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministries

OCTOBER
05 Local Church Budget
12 North American Division/World Budget/
   Voice of Prophecy
19 Local Church Budget
26 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministries
We can develop a culture of accountable, real, transparent leaders who don’t try to be or do something they are not called to do.

**BREAK-OUT SPEAKERS**

Nate Elias  
Alex Harter  
Greg Hudson  
William Hurtado  
Don Keele  
Jonathan Montes  
Ted Struntz

**WITH GUEST SPEAKER ROGER HERNANDEZ**  
southern union ministerial and evangelism director

**SEPT 27-28**  
(cohutta springs youth camp)

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