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**Boys and girls, ages 7-18, can come to camp. Cohutta Springs’ rules for acceptance and participation are the same for everyone, without regard to race, color, creed or national origin. Many campers have enjoyed Cohutta Springs since it was chartered in 1980.**

Cohutta Springs Youth Camp is located on 800 acres of North Georgia mountains in Crandall, Ga. A crystal clear mountain stream feeds the tranquil water of the 50-acre lake.

### Cohutta Springs Youth Camp

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Age Range</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 1-8</td>
<td>Junior I</td>
<td>(ages 10-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 8-15</td>
<td>Junior II</td>
<td>(ages 10-12)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 15-20</td>
<td>Adventure Camp</td>
<td>(ages 7-9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 22-29</td>
<td>Tween</td>
<td>(ages 12-13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29-July 6</td>
<td>Teen I</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29-July 6</td>
<td>Rock Solid I</td>
<td>(ages 16-18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 6-13</td>
<td>Teen II</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 6-13</td>
<td>Rock Solid II</td>
<td>(ages 16-18)</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 15-20</td>
<td>Family Camp</td>
<td>(all ages)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-8</td>
<td>Golf Camp I</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-8</td>
<td>Paintball Camp I</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-8</td>
<td>Rock Climbing Camp</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-20</td>
<td>Fit for Life I</td>
<td>(ages 10-13)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8-15</td>
<td>Mountain Bike Trip</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8-15</td>
<td>Paintball Camp II</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 8-15</td>
<td>Staff In Training (SIT) Camp</td>
<td>(ages 15+)</td>
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<td>June 15-22</td>
<td>Paintball Camp III</td>
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<td>June 15-22</td>
<td>RAD Horse Trip</td>
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<td>June 15-22</td>
<td>Wakeboard Camp I</td>
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<td>June 15-22</td>
<td>Counselor In Training (CIT) Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 22-29</td>
<td>Ultimate RAD Camp</td>
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<td>June 22-July 13</td>
<td>Fit for Life II</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29-July 6</td>
<td>Basketball Camp</td>
<td>(ages 13-17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 29-July 6</td>
<td>Rock Solid Basketball Camp</td>
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<td>June 29-July 6</td>
<td>Whitewater/Kayak Camp</td>
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<td>June 29-July 6</td>
<td>Gym-Masters Camp</td>
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<td>June 30-July 4</td>
<td>Gym-Masters Day Camp</td>
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<td>July 6-13</td>
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<td>Soccer Camp</td>
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<td>July 13-20</td>
<td>Surf Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 1-July 13</td>
<td>Wrangler In Training (WIT) Camp</td>
<td>(ages 15+)</td>
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**CS-YC.COM**
When checking out a school for your children, it’s easy to be focused on gleaming science labs, well-stocked art studios, and highly maintained sports facilities. Most parents rank curriculum, extracurriculars, faculty, administration, philosophy, technology, and location as high on their priority list. But what is really important?

The Center for Research on K-12 Adventist Education (CRAE) has discovered that balance is a key ingredient to developing successful students. Amazingly, 97.5 percent of Adventist students in academies graduate and 88.6 percent progress successfully on to higher education. Balance is emphasized in Adventist schools by focusing on the importance of spiritual, mental, and physical development. Adventist curriculum honors a balanced course of study including the major core areas, Bible study, and training in healthy lifestyle and physical vitality. Of equal significance is the balanced support of the home, church, and school. CRAE research also shows that strong relationships with a balance of parents, teachers, pastors, and church members contribute to mature faith, denominational loyalty, and remaining an Adventist. Astonishingly, 81 percent of all researched students said that “attending an Adventist school is the most important thing that helped them develop their religious faith.”

Such balance is so critical to successful education that the Georgia-Cumberland Conference provides funding for teachers to take spiritual renewal days, pursue academic study, and seek a healthier lifestyle. Balance is essential to the fulfillment of our calling.

Ellen White devoted an entire chapter (38) to this topic in her book *Mind, Character and Personality*.

Pursue balance and then enjoy the Adventist advantage.

Kevin Kossick is vice president of education
"Therefore let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator" (I Peter 4:19).

If you had time, and money wasn’t an issue, what would you choose to do? Some might take a vacation on the beach, go camping in a national forest, play golf at Hilton Head, travel to an exotic or faraway destination, go on a cruise, or spend time enjoying a favorite hobby. One of my favorite pastimes is working outside in the yard, the woods, or the garden. Certainly I enjoy vacations and time spent with family and loved ones, but I also get great satisfaction out of a skillfully manicured lawn, a smartly cleaned driveway, an efficiently organized garden, or painstakingly cut, trimmed, and neatly picked up wooded area.

Sometimes you can do something you enjoy while doing good for others. For example, you can work in a soup kitchen, sort clothing at a thrift store, visit and pray with patients in nursing homes, or volunteer at the local hospital. I can assist widows, single parents, or older citizens with the kind of outdoor needs that are some of my favorite activities. Doing good for others is certainly a part of our Christian duty. It keeps us walking in the steps of Jesus.

John Wesley wrote about helping others and expressed his sentiments about doing good: “Do all the good you can, By all the means you can, In all the ways you can, In all the places you can, At all the times you can, To all the people you can, As long as ever you can.”

Ellen G. White pointed out the need to separate from worldly motivation. “The unselfish labor of Christians in the past should be to us an object lesson and an inspiration. The members of God’s church are to be zealous of good works, separating from worldly ambition and walking in the footsteps of Him who went about doing good” (EGW AA 110).

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” (Galatians 6:9)

 Mitch Hazekamp is director of the Stewardship/Trust Services Department

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The figures below provide an overview of conference finances as of Jan. 31, 2014. 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>
<th></th>
<th>2014 (4 weeks)</th>
<th>2013 (4 weeks)</th>
<th>Gain/Loss</th>
<th>%</th>
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<td>Tithe</td>
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<td>$2,320,237</td>
<td>$100,557</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conf. Ministries</td>
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<td>$34,627</td>
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<td>Local Church Giving</td>
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<td>$2,055,487</td>
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<td>3.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>World Church Giving</td>
<td>$56,744</td>
<td>$52,690</td>
<td>$4,054</td>
<td>7.69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
It was a fantastic blizzard! No, I don’t mean the 2014 Georgia whiteout that forced us to close the conference office for several days. I’m thinking back to our September 2013 trip from Boise, Idaho, that took us through Utah, Wyoming, Nebraska, Missouri, and Tennessee. The snow flurries a few miles before Lincoln, Neb., were pushing 55 miles per hour, and we were pulling a light trailer. I let my wife sleep, oblivious to my white-knuckled adventure.

Barely five months after arriving at the conference, it feels as if we are still moving and the snow is still falling. The pace at Georgia-Cumberland may not instill white-knuckled excitement, but it’s certainly rapid. I’m not exactly counting, but so far I’ve been to one camp meeting, four retreats, two conventions, three training events, four ministers’ meetings, two executive committees, 10 or 12 subcommittee meetings, one Festival of Praise, at least 10 different churches, one funeral, and about 20 ADCOM meetings.

Besides terribly missing our daughter, son-in-law, and granddaughter, we miss the home church we attended for 27 years. But we are discovering a truth that resonates from the pages of the Bible: Church is family. Adventist people are family—be it in Boise, Calhoun, or Augusta. And although we may not be able to serve Sabbath after Sabbath in one local church, we have the unique privilege of discovering new cousins, brothers, sisters, uncles, and aunts in Christ every weekend.

What a blessing to realize the value of a church family! What a wonderful opportunity to make new friends and encounter new companions on this journey of faith!

Miguel Valdivia is vice president of administration
Tell us about your role at the conference.
I’m the director of Adult Ministries, Health Ministries, Personal Ministries, Prison Ministries, Pioneer Outreach—which includes programs like 3 Point Play Ministry and the brand new RISE (Reaping In Sports Evangelism)—and Bible Research.

How long have you worked here and what did you do prior to that?
I’ve worked for the conference for 20 years. Before that, I spent 22 years as a teacher and coach in north Georgia public schools.

Tell us about your passions and interests.
Anything new excites me, especially if it involves evangelism. At one point, I helped in the formation of the Chattanooga Evangelism Council. My No. 1 goal is to spread the gospel using different avenues.

You mentioned Bible Research. What is that exactly?
Bible Research is a correspondence/Internet ministry. Basically, we have a website where people can watch Bible study videos and/or they can sign up for written Bible studies through the mail. I’d encourage you to check it out for yourself—it’s just www.bibleresearch.info. I’m very passionate about Bible study. I gave my first Bible study when I was 14, and I’ve been doing it ever since.

You’re also a huge sports fanatic, right?
Yes! I’ve always been involved with sports in some way. I graduated from Andrews University with a degree in health physical education. I’ve also founded many sports programs throughout my years, including the Collegedale Adventist Youth in Action (CAYA) in 1994. And I look forward each summer to our 3 Point Play basketball camps where I can blend teaching kids about the game and teaching them about Jesus.

Outside of work, what occupies your time?
I love my family, which includes my wife, Beth Ray—we’ve been married 49 years—our three children and son-in-law—Ernie, Erik, and Ember and Rafael Souchet—and one grandchild, Alia. Besides spending time with them, I enjoy golfing, exercising, running, hiking in the woods, and taking karate.
More than 100 students and 28 sponsors convened at Cohutta Springs Jan. 31-Feb. 2 for this year’s High School Retreat, a time when the Youth Ministries Department sets its focus specifically on Adventist youth who are not in Adventist schools.

“This retreat is a blessing that brings us back together.”

“It’s sad to say that we can get busy with all these different other groups,” said William Hurtado, Collegedale Church youth pastor. “This makes us think, Wait a second, I haven’t visited and talked to my public school kids. Now we’re calling them saying ‘Hey, how’s it going? Our annual retreat is coming up, can you come?’ So this retreat is a blessing that brings us back together.”

The weekend’s featured speaker, Ken Norton, said he doesn’t want the spirit of High School Retreat to end when the students go home. “I want them to go away from this weekend loving God more, excited about His Word, and ready to study it with other people. My life personally was changed in a small group, and that’s the dream—to learn the excitement of doing it here. And when they get back, they’ll start with each other and invite friends from school to get into the Word.”

Shelbe Johnson, from Columbus, Ga., said those who didn’t come “are missing out on a great experience. There’s a lot of good Christian people around who can help you with your walk with God.”

There’s good news for those who couldn’t make it this year. The retreat is an annual event, so next year, encourage youth from your church to attend this spiritually powerful weekend.
GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND CONFERENCE | COMMUNIQUÉ

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MARKSCHULTZ
AND
SELAH

WITH
Compassion International

circ

YOUTH & YOUNG ADULT FESTIVAL

03.22.14
CARTERSVILLE, GA

AN EVENT FOR YOUTH BY YOUTH!

Guest Speaker
SAM LEONOR

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Students in grades 3-8 recently participated in the newly created Iowa Assessment (IA) exam, formerly known as ITBS (Iowa Test of Basic Skills). This test is given nationally to monitor the growth and achievement of today’s students. It evaluates students in several major areas, including reading, writing expression, mathematics, science, social studies, vocabulary, language, spelling, capitalization, punctuation, and computation. The good news is that Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) students scored at or above grade level on every test. An accomplishment worth celebrating!

Fourth and seventh grade students also took the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT), which assesses students’ abilities in reasoning and problem solving using verbal, quantitative, and nonverbal (spatial) symbols. These test results provide teachers and parents with an appraisal of general abstract reasoning with regard to specific areas of reasoning linked to school success and learned reasoning. In addition to the results from the Iowa Assessment, CogAT assists teachers in adapting instruction to meet the needs and abilities of their students. Again, GCC students scored at or above grade level in both test results.

The longer students are in the Seventh-day Adventist education system, the higher above grade level they score.

Both of these tests add further support to findings in a 2011 Cognitive Genesis report that showed the longer students are in the Seventh-day Adventist education system, the higher above grade level they score. Success is good and should be celebrated, but it is not enough, and one must continue to
evaluate the quality of the entire education program. Although the GCC math scores are much higher than in most school districts, the scores in the test area called “basic computation” are currently and have historically been lower than we would like to see, which remains a challenge in the GCC Education System. The North American Division adopted a new math series to improve overall math scores, but it will take time to see improvement.

Much of today’s math requires solid reading skills (which are very strong) as well as math reasoning, which includes number sense operations, algebra patterns and connections, data analysis, probability, statistics, geometry, measurement, essential competencies, conceptual understanding, and extended reasoning. There is only one small section of the test that assesses computation for each grade level. Math is much more than just computation.

To improve overall math computation and math reasoning scores, the Office of Education initiated the use of a program called IXL Math Practice for all K-8 classrooms three years ago. This program allows students access at home to practice on areas correlating to the present skills being taught in the classroom. Last year, the Office of Education conducted a study to determine the effectiveness of the program based on the ITBS scores. The study found that schools consistently using the IXL program for mastery of skills had higher
computation as well as total battery math scores. It was decided to continue the use of this program. The Office of Education continues to support teachers in the implementation of the newly adopted math program with various math mentors and professional learning community opportunities, as well as sending a few educators to Union College for summer training. The training will continue for a second session this summer, and the Office of Education has asked Southern Adventist University to design support courses for teachers. It takes a community of committed educators and supportive administrators to improve education.

Since this is the first year Iowa Assessment has been given, it can only be used as a baseline reference, and staff cannot truly compare scores from past years. The format, skills tested, and reporting process are all new, so this will also be a learning experience. Last year, the Office of Education facilitated regional training sessions for principals to teach the use of the data provided by these valuable tests. That training will continue this year on a more individual basis. The Office of Education will be diligent in encouraging schools to adopt and use best practices in the classroom while supporting them as they use this data to guide instruction and create more differentiated learning for each child.

The next time you see a teacher, please take the opportunity to thank them for the job they so faithfully perform and pray with them for the road ahead. Please give students a pat on the back for a job well done. While testing is vital to maintain high academic standards, the ultimate goal is to educate for eternity and bring children to the foot of the cross. As such, the Office of Education has adopted as its mission statement: “Leading children to Christ through loving, learning, and living.” And this is why Adventist education truly exists.
The following graphs show GCC student scores for the Iowa Assessment test taken in October 2013.

The number shown for each test denotes the grade level and month of the year of mastery. For example: 3.4 means 3rd grade, 4th month or 9.3 means 9th grade, 3rd month.

(For the combined bottom graph, the orange line represents 5th grade and the blue/green line represents 8th grade.)
About 130 new Adventists attended this year’s Welcome to the Family Retreat, a weekend designed specifically for those who have joined the church during the previous year. The event was held at Cohutta Springs Conference Center on Jan. 17-19.

Presenters throughout the retreat included Gordon Bietz, president of Southern Adventist University, who led the Sabbath School lesson study, and Greg Harper, conference ministerial director for the southern region, who spoke for the worship service Sabbath morning. The retreat also featured a ministry expo where conference directors met with new members to share ways for them to get involved in their local churches.

While most attendees were new to the Adventist faith, some were returning members, having previously left the church. Newlyweds Kenneth and Sharon Buckingham from Calhoun, Ga., are an example. Sharon is new to Adventism while Kenneth grew up in the Adventist faith.

“We met on the Internet and started dating,” Sharon said. “I was in the Baptist church at the time. When we first got married we were going to church both Saturday and Sunday.”

While praying about it, Sharon started searching online and felt convicted that to grow their ministry as a couple and to continue to grow as a Christian, she needed to join the Adventist church. Kenneth was raised an Adventist but had gone through difficult times, including a divorce. He believes God led him to Sharon.

Another attendee was Charlotte Wilson-Thompson from the Conyers (Ga.) Church. Her journey started when she married an Adventist. But things did not work out, and the couple divorced. Still, her ex-husband would take their four-year-old twins to Sabbath School on his weekends with them.

“I just felt like I was missing out,” she said. “I wanted to make sure the children were getting the same teachings at my home as they were getting at his. I didn’t want to confuse them.”

A fellow member from the Conyers Church, Rickie Holmes grew up with an Adventist grandmother. As an adult, he joined the military and attended the Baptist church. The Baptists sent him to seminary, and he became an army chaplain. He also spent time serving as a pastor for the United Methodist Church and as a bishop for a nondenominational church.

“All the time, I was trying to observe the Adventist church rules and laws. Finally, my brother and sister stayed on me, and I came under conviction.

continued on page 28 [see NEW MEMBER]
Carman Adventist School in Marietta, Ga., sponsored a weekend of preaching and special music on Jan. 24-25. Bill Levin, Marietta Church pastor, worked with 15 students during the month of January, preparing them to deliver sermons from the *ShareHim* series.

During the weekend, students led out four services, and every grade had a part to play and participated by performing musically, collecting offering, greeting, or preaching.

“It doesn’t seem that being a greeter for the church services was a very big job, or that it is anything special, but I thank God for letting me be there,” said Gwyn Parker, an eighth-grader. “It was wonderful to greet all of the beautiful and amazing people who walked through the door to hear a sermon from His children. I thought it was fun to sing, greet, and watch my friends preach! I loved it and I thank you, Lord, for everyone who was there.”

Sermons were delivered as a joint effort between several students. Friday evening’s presenters were Olivia Paxton, a fifth-grader, and sixth-graders Neveah Mattocks and Caitryn Chemwor. For first service on Sabbath, eighth-graders Ricky Butala and Matthew Melton and sixth-grader Conner Wood preached about Jesus, “The Anointed One.”

“Everyone did a good job. I saw God working through everyone who helped greet, play bells, sing, take up offering, and especially in those who preached,” Butala said. “Personally, I felt like God used me to get to some of the people when I preached.”

Second service’s message, “How to Start Over,” was delivered by seventh-graders Victoria Silva, Aleyra Gonzalez, Luana Torres, and Uccitly Caballero, who shared that no matter what, Jesus can help us start over.

In the afternoon, Alex Arriaga and Aaron Parker, both fifth-graders, teamed up to preach the first of two sermons. Following them were seventh-graders Shelby Sloan, Danielle Holland, and Karinna Bohorquez.

Holland said, “I think it was a good opportunity for us to both represent the school in a positive way and to teach people the Word of God.”
Music students from around the conference converged on the campus of Georgia-Cumberland Academy Jan. 23-24 for the 2014 Elementary Band and Strings Festival. The event packed in intensive, concentrated practicing to prepare students for their vespers performance on Friday evening. All their hard work paid off when friends and family filled the pews to listen.

“It was pretty cool that we got to learn a piece just this morning and then perform it. It was stressful, but we did OK,” said Will Cantrell, a sixth-grade trumpet player from Ooltewah (Tenn.) Adventist School (OAKS).

For Larysa Merchant, a seventh grader at OAKS who plays bass clarinet, the best part was “playing with all my friends and being here to perform for everybody.”

“It’s a common sentiment among the students, and it’s exactly why the festival is organized.

“[We hold this event] to collaborate the schools and the kids and get them excited to see that other schools are doing the same thing,” said Gregory Lindquist, band instructor for the Greater Collegedale School System and this year’s band clinician. “The kids have fun and they energize each other and see that music is a worthwhile thing... and it gets them excited about praising God through their talents.”

Chip Everts, strings teacher at Forest Lake Education Center in Orlando, Fla., and festival strings clinician, agreed. “They make new friends and new connections. Music is a universal language we can all share in together.”

As a clinician, Everts found joy in “seeing [the students] rise to the occasion for the performance. It’s always a challenge to think what we can do in one day. The peak is always right at the concert time, and they really rose to the occasion.”
KNOW FISHING
Rediscovering the passion to reach the ones God misses the most

Collegedale Camp Meeting 2014 || May 21-24
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

ROGER HERNANDEZ

Roger Hernandez currently serves as the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union. He has served in ministry for more than 20 years. Some of his passions include church plants, small groups, youth ministries, and evangelism.

Hernandez is a motivational speaker and has presented at the division, union, and conference levels. He has also presented for camp meetings, leadership conventions and evangelistic crusades, and was a speaker at SEEDS, the church-planting conference run by the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI) in Berrien Springs, Mich. Born in Cuba, Roger is fully bilingual. He is also the author of five books. His most recent is titled Epic Failure.

Hernandez and his wife, Kathy, are the parents to four children: Yessenia, Deisy, Vanessa, and Jonathan.

ELIZABETH TALBOT

Elizabeth Talbot is the speaker/director for the Jesus 101 Biblical Institute, a teaching/training media ministry of the North American Division. She spent several years working in radio and television under the auspices of Voice of Prophecy and Faith for Today and now travels throughout the U.S. and internationally as a lecturer and revival/motivational speaker. She is regularly featured on Hope Channel and Esperanza TV and has authored many books, including John: God Became Flesh, and Surprised by Love.

Talbot was born in Argentina to Adventist missionaries. Since childhood, her parents instilled in her the love of Jesus. While working on her first master’s, she volunteered as a part-time youth pastor. She was then invited by the Adventist church to become a full-time pastor, which she gladly accepted as a call from God. She became a young adult/young families pastor and evangelist while earning her master’s in biblical studies and subsequent Ph.D. Eventually she became a senior pastor for several years and an adjunct biblical studies professor.

Talbot’s main identity is her passion about the good news of Jesus Christ. “It’s like fire in my bones,” she says.

SPEAKING SCHEDULE

Wednesday evening ............Elizabeth Talbot
Thursday evening .............Elizabeth Talbot
Friday evening ...............Roger Hernandez
Sabbath morning.............Roger Hernandez
Sabbath evening.............Roger Hernandez
CREATION
The intense interest in origins has always captivated people around the world! In light of the recent debate between Bill Nye “The Science Guy” and Ken Ham, the president/CEO and founder of Answers in Genesis and the Creation Museum, there has been a resurgence in interest regarding this fundamental biblical teaching. Stan Hudson will amaze you with his easy-to-understand presentations and give you a grasp of what is taking place in the current debate. You will come away from this seminar blessed and inspired as he talks about and displays various interesting artifacts and fossils.

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Calif., Stan Hudson was captured by Hollywood’s positive images of science. Having been introduced to rockhounding in his youth, he enrolled as a geology major at the University of California at Riverside. After experiencing some disappointments and challenges to his world view, he became a Christian and enrolled at Loma Linda University as a theology major, completing a bachelor’s degree. He went on to earn a Master of Divinity from Andrews Theological Seminary and a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary. He is co-host of nationally syndicated LifeTalk Radio’s Sink the Beagle, a lighthearted look at the subject of creationism and evolutionism. Hudson lectures widely to groups, both secular and religious. He also currently pastors in the university towns of Moscow, Idaho, and Pullman, Wash.

THE GAY PUZZLE
Michael Carducci and Ron Woolsey will lead a discussion on “The Gay Puzzle” and how to relate as Christians to homosexuals in a loving, compassionate, and redemptive way. They will also be dispelling some of the myths surrounding the issue of homosexuality, especially as they relate to Christianity and to Seventh-day Adventist theology.

Michael Carducci is one of the co-directors of Coming Out Ministries, along with two other men who have come out of the gay lifestyle through an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Carducci is also the director of EXCEED Ministries. Overcoming homosexuality, pornography, and sexual addiction, he speaks internationally to men and women of all ages of the spiritual ruin of Internet pornography and sexual defilement. Carducci pulls from his own life experience and the Scriptures as they led him to identify what sin is and how God would address the answer for overcoming victory through the power of Jesus Christ.

Ron Woolsey is an alumnus of Southern Adventist University and has worked for the past 22 years in the Arkansas/Louisiana Conference. He has been married for 21 years and is the father of five and grandfather of five. He is also a recording artist and concert musician, radio evangelist, and international motivational speaker. Woolsey will be sharing his own amazing journey from gay to ex-gay through the transforming power of God and His Word. Woolsey believes and teaches that nothing is impossible with God, for He is mighty to save—the whosoever, from whatsoever, even to the uttermost.
HEALTH 1

Join Mark Sandoval to explore current research related to health and wellness, look at results from the Adventist Health Studies, learn where we obtained health principles, examine how confident we can be in God’s message to our church, and learn about simple, natural remedies and treatments that you can safely use at home to treat a number of common ailments. Also, hear stories of healing and conversion and discover how the healing process in the body opens the way for the healing of the soul. Finally, see how to pull principles and practices together to orchestrate a realistic plan that you can use in effectively reaching those with whom you come into contact.

Mark Sandoval, M.D., graduated from Loma Linda University and subsequently did specialty training in emergency medicine at Synergy Medical Education Alliance in Saginaw, Mich. He was then certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine and practiced emergency and urgent care medicine in Michigan. He and his family moved to the island of Trinidad to pursue mission work at the Community Hospital of Seventh-day Adventists, where he was director of emergency medicine and family practice. In Trinidad, he was involved in church and community health education, developing health literature and radio and TV health programming. Since April 2012, he has been on staff at Uchee Pines Institute in Seale, Ala., practicing lifestyle medicine.

HEALTH 2

Adventist Health Study-2 (AHS-2) is one of the largest long-term epidemiological studies in North America investigating the relationship of diet and lifestyle with cancers and other chronic diseases. Recent findings from AHS-2 and also the Religion and Health sub-study will be presented. Some 96,000 Seventh-day Adventists from the USA and Canada—including 3,510 members from the Georgia-Cumberland Conference—are enrolled in the on-going study, which commenced in 2002. Loma Linda University researchers continue to discover vital links between lifestyle and health.

Terry Butler has been a co-investigator with the Adventist Health Study-2 since 2002. He is an Australian and previously served as Union and Division health ministries director for the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Butler is a co-developer of the Quit Now! stop smoking program. He has a Doctor of Public Health degree in epidemiology from the University of California, Los Angeles.
**SOCIAL MEDIA**

Social media can be a great tool for boosting your ministry’s online presence. It can also go a long way in promoting dialog, fostering community, and deepening the level of engagement within your ministry. This workshop will explain how you can use social media to expand your ministry’s reach, as well as address online, mobile, and social media safety issues. Additionally, you will learn about some great apps—from time-saving apps to ones that can be used to enhance your ministry.

Ernest Staats currently serves as IT director for Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Calhoun, Ga. He holds a master’s in information assurance along with Bachelor of Science and Associate in Science degrees in business and information systems. He has performed technical network administration for government and faith-based institutions, information security consulting for schools, medical institutions and small businesses, along with giving presentations internationally in security and networking.

**STEWARDSHIP**

Are you a successful steward or a sloppy steward? What makes the difference? And what is the influence of postmodern culture on giving? These subjects and others will be examined in this series on stewardship. How to raise awareness of this vital topic will also be discussed.

John Mathews is an ordained minister who as a boy dreamed of becoming a country music singer. His ministry has included serving in Florida, Alabama, Iowa, Missouri, Tennessee, and Nebraska. He has conducted family finance seminars as a departmental director in the Kansas-Nebraska Conference and the Southwestern Union Conference. John holds a Doctor of Ministry degree from Andrews University and maintains a number of stewardship certifications. His passion is teaching stewardship principles, especially as they relate to the spirituality of money management in postmodern culture.

**DON’T MISS...**

**THEOLOGY OF ORDINATION REPORT**

Join Gordon Bietz, D. Min., for this special Sabbath School presentation on women’s ordination. Bietz serves as chair of the North American Division’s biblical research committee to study the theology of ordination.

Learn more at nadordination.com
“Simply Prayer — Touching the Heart of God” was the theme for this year’s Prayer Conference held Feb. 14-16.

Graham and Sarah Wallis of Lawrenceville, Ga., took advantage of the romantic date and married Feb. 14 in a private family ceremony at Cohutta. They then spent the weekend at the conference as a gift from Sarah’s parents.

“Everything important to us was here: family and saying vows,” Graham said. “We’ve really enjoyed Cohutta (his first time there), hearing about God, praying, and the tranquility.”

His new bride agreed. “It’s never a bad idea to just get more into prayer and get comfortable being with God,” she said.

About 230 people attended the conference, which was held at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

“Something that we are noticing is the increasing number of neighbors, work colleagues, and friends that the members of our church are bringing to the Prayer Conference,” said, Mark Piotrowski, Prayer Ministries coordinator. “A couple told me they felt it was a great and ‘safe place’ to introduce these individuals to our church!”

Chon Chon Burhanas, from the New England Church, near Wildwood, Ga., brought 17 people with her.

“It is exciting each year,” Burhanas said. “I remember the first time when there was only two of us. Then two and four and five attended. It’s so good that people love it and keep coming back.”

This year’s presenter was Lee Venden, a pastor and educator with more than 30 years of experience and who currently works as a revivalist for the Upper Columbia Conference in Washington. Music for the conference was given by a ladies’ quartet called Beloved.

“Prayer Conference brought me to a deeper understanding of what my prayer life should be about: learning how to communicate with God,” said Jimmy Giddens, of Savannah, Ga. “It is not just me talking to Him all the time. By God talking to me in so many ways through people and nature, I can have a closer relationship with Him.”
With about one billion people on Facebook, the Communication Department thought it might be a good idea to offer a workshop on how to use social media as a ministry.

Guest presenter Ernest Staats, IT director at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, shared how he and his staff use Hootsuite, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, and other forms of social media while working for Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Calhoun, Ga.

“Workshops like the one we just held are a great example of sharing ways we are using social media to reach people, often in ways we had not thought of before,” Staats said.

As a parent and educator with two children, Staats seeks to equip families and ministries to better understand and adapt to the ever-changing world of technology. He believes that social media is one of the most under-used ministry tools at our disposal.

Darwin White, from the Standifer Gap Church in Tenn., is an avid supporter of social media and gave a brief testimonial during the workshop. White has used Facebook for some time and decided to share Jesus each day. Through this simple approach, he has seen people come back to the church and has seen others be baptized.

“People even check on me if I am not sending out my daily message,” said White, who shares the love of Jesus by posting quotes from the Bible and Ellen White.

About 30 people—ages 10 to 70—attended the training at the conference office on Sunday, Feb. 9.

For those interested, Staats has created a web page with resources (www.networkpaladin.org/#!faith-based-/c14u7). He will also be presenting another social media seminar at Collegedale Camp Meeting, May 21-24 in Collegedale, Tenn.

“If used with wisdom and a desire to make a lasting impact,” he said, “social media ministry can lead people to Jesus by promoting dialog, fostering community, and deepening the level of engagement with those we want to minister to.”

Ernest Staats leads out the social media workshop and teaches attendees about using social media to have a positive, spiritual impact.
THE LEGACY

Ellen White as a person and a prophet

South Georgia Camp Meeting

Coming April 4-5, 2014

Savannah Seventh-day Adventist Church

WITH GUEST SPEAKER JUD LAKE

scan with your smartphone to learn more
or visit gccsda.com/events/37027
About 225 children’s ministry leaders—from VBS coordinators to Sabbath school teachers—gathered for the annual Children’s Ministries Convention. The weekend, held Feb. 7-9 at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center, aims to equip leaders with the inspiration, knowledge, tools, and resources they need to make an impact on the kids in their home churches and local communities.

This year’s theme was “Our Eyes are on You [Jesus]” and featured J.N. Mike Faison as the keynote speaker.

“[A weekend like this] empowers the children’s ministries leaders to build and to dream for the future of the children and their families. It’s also important to help the church to recognize the high value God puts on kids,” said Faison, a creative children’s ministries presenter from Savannah, Ga.

“God will empower you to achieve the dream of having a vibrant children’s ministry that reaches out to the children of the church and the community. It is evangelism at its best.”

Supplementing Faison’s presentations were workshop sessions where attendees could choose from more than 30 topics, including using nature to teach children about God, using drama effectively, working with budgets and church boards, helping kids cope with grief, addressing safety issues, inspiring healthy kids, and building faith in children. One of the headlining workshops was the introduction of this year’s Vacation Bible School material. Put out by the North American Division, Investigation Station: Galactic Quest is only the second VBS program designed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The program encourages kids to investigate God’s Word and “points kids to God as the Creator with a plan for their lives.”

“It’s very exciting and inspiring,” said Misty Stein about Galactic Quest. “We’ve decided to go ahead with that one. We were undecided before coming, but we’re decided now.”

continued on page 28 [see CHILDREN’S MIN]
In January 1964, the Georgia-Cumberland Conference launched what would be perhaps one of the most successful fundraising campaigns in its history. By early March, the goal of raising 2 million pennies for the construction of the music building at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) appeared a sure thing. On March 15, the campaign ended with 3,000 people gathering on the GCA campus, amidst ongoing construction, for a celebration.

Cars, trucks, and buses, loaded with people and their pennies, arrived in Calhoun, Ga., amidst an atmosphere of unbridled excitement. As campus parking filled, some left their cars along the roadside more than a mile beyond campus. People emerged from vehicles carrying jars, suitcases, wheelbarrows, milk jugs, and bags. Men dressed in fatigues even carried pennies on a stretcher.

An enormous tent, erected for the celebration, housed a large wood-and-plexiglass bin built to receive the pennies.

“Each church, school, and Pathfinder club [presented] their pennies and [told] how they raised them,” recalls Paula Cummings Wade, daughter of Elder Des Cummings and GCA alumna. “Everyone was clapping, cheering, and laughing as the bin filled. There were songs and prayers of thanksgiving.”

Seeing those pennies pour into the large container is a vivid memory to Barry Martin, class of 1969. “I had been saving my allowance so I could reach the goal of 1,000 pennies each child was asked to raise. The contagious excitement and the sense of everyone coming together for this goal is something I will never forget!”

Jane Travis Tolhurst, class of 1966, recalls a hang-up. “The mountain of copper in that bin represented a massive shortage of pennies in the state of Georgia!”

The penny collection created headaches for Georgia bankers as the coins disappeared from circulation during the campaign.
Looking back from a perspective of 50 years, it’s obvious that the Penny Campaign succeeded beyond the money raised. What were some of those successes?

**Unity.** Dennis Steele, a college student at the time of the campaign, said that collecting pennies was a brilliant way to raise funds. “It was a unifying event—it brought young and old together, it brought the conference together. It was the penny—everyone could do a penny.”

**Commitment.** Gerald Anderson, class of 1967, recalls, “For me, one of the biggest benefits of the Penny Campaign was seeing how committed the church leaders were to Christian education, as well as to the importance of involving young people in the mission of the church.”

**Ownership.** About 2,000 kids participated in fundraising, forming the backbone of the Penny Campaign. Those young people felt a keen sense of ownership in this new school. Paula Wade remembers, “After the Penny Campaign, everyone felt invested and bonded to GCA.”

**Generosity.** Carlton Martin, 85, a father of two boys who graduated from GCA, sees the importance of the campaign from another perspective. “The Penny Campaign encouraged benevolence and allowed many families to contribute to the construction of the school that might not have been able to otherwise. It added energy to the building project and opened up people’s hearts and pocketbooks.”

When the celebration ended and the coins were counted, 3,391,861 pennies, weighing nearly 12 tons, had been raised for GCA. The Two-Million Penny Campaign goal exceeded expectations by 69 percent, unifying conference constituents in their desire to see the dream for a boarding academy come true.

The famed Penny Campaign reminds us to dream big, but even by so doing, our largest visions can’t keep pace with God’s bigger plans!
Stein is the 2014 VBS coordinator for her home church in Johnson City, Tenn. She's also a K-2 teacher.

“"I come [to the Children’s Ministries Convention] for inspiration, for enlightenment, for a new perspective on what I should do and how I should do it, how to motivate my kids, how to motivate my church members, and how to get around red tape,” she said. “I come to collaborate.”

Diane Myers, from the Rock Springs (Ga.) Church helps out in her church with both the little ones and teens. She came to the convention with some friends who help lead VBS with her.

“I knew it would be really good,” Myers said. “We got some really good ideas from the men who have put the VBS program together and have really enjoyed hearing the speaker. It’s all been great.”

Another attendee was Tabitha Newsome, from the Newport (Tenn.) Church. She serves as the kindergarten teacher and it was her first time at the Children’s Ministries Convention.

“It’s more than I expected,” Newsome said. “I’ve learned a lot of things that I didn’t even know I would be introduced to. It’s very enlightening and it’s very inspiring, and it’s making me want to go back and do so many things. I’m really looking forward to how the Lord can use me in this ministry. I appreciate the way [the theme] was magnified from the Word of God. Like I said, it was unexpected. I don’t really know what I expected, but my heart was warmed and opened when I really felt the call. A lot of times, we’re asking the Lord what He wants us to do as we try to lead Him into what we want Him to do, but I realized it’s not about me, but about Him. So it kind of refocused my attention on Him so that I can do my work in this ministry.”

Newsome also said the convention impacted her personally as much as it benefited her ministry.

“It has brought the Lord alive again in a truly new and living way to my mind,” she said. “It’s been a very beautiful experience.”

But the conviction only grew, and Holmes said he felt like he had finally come home sitting in the pew of his Adventist church. He is now taking courses at Southern Adventist University with the intention of becoming an Adventist pastor.

I decided I would go back to the Seventh-day Adventist church to punch that ticket and thought, Now that I have done that, maybe the conviction will leave.”
BANANA OATMEAL PEANUT BUTTER COOKIES
Recipe from “My Beef with Meat” by Rip Esselstyn | engine2diet.com/recipes/favorites/

INGREDIENTS
3 ripe bananas, mashed
¾ cup natural chunky peanut butter
2 cups old fashioned oats
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup non-dairy chocolate chips or raisins

1 tablespoon vanilla
3 tablespoons maple syrup
½ cup whole wheat flour
¼ teaspoon salt (optional)

DIRECTIONS
1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees and prepare a cookie sheet with parchment paper.

2. Mix bananas, vanilla, peanut butter, and maple syrup into a creamy consistency in a large bowl.

3. In another bowl, combine oats, flour, baking powder, and salt.

4. Add dry ingredients to wet ingredients and stir until they are well combined; the batter should be slightly sticky.

5. Fold in the chocolate chips or raisins.

6. Place rounded, heaping tablespoon-sized balls of the batter onto an ungreased baking sheet and bake for 15-18 minutes.

7. Enjoy while they are still warm!

Serves: 15  |  Prep time: 10 minutes | Cook time: 15 minutes
PLUG IN TO THE SOURCE
CAMP MEETING 2014

April 4-5 South Georgia Camp Meeting Savannah, Ga
May 17-18 Korean Camp Meeting Crandall, Ga
May 21-24 Collegedale Camp Meeting Collegedale, Tn
June 5-7 Olde Time Camp Meeting Deer Lodge, Tn
August 6-10 Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting Crandall, Ga
August 22-24 Hispanic Camp Meeting Crandall, Ga
October 3-4 Northeast Tennessee Camp Meeting Greeneville, Tn

to learn more, visit gccsda.com/campmeeting
CONFERECE EVENTS

MARCH
14-15 Georgia-Cumberland Academy Days Calhoun, Ga
14-16 Women’s Spring Retreat Cohutta Springs Conference Center
14-16 Teen Girls’ Spring Retreat Cohutta Springs Conference Center
16 Pathfinder Drill Event Lee University, Cleveland, Tn
20-21 Preview Southern Southern Adventist University
22 Youth and Young Adult Festival The Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, Ga
22 Leadership Training—Health & Personal Ministries Kingsport Church, Tn
22 Prayer Ministry Day Knoxville First Church, Tn
29 Health Rally Rossville Church, Ga
30 Adventurer Family Fun Day Cohutta Springs (camp side)

APRIL
1 Colledale Academy Day Collegedale, Tn
4 Day of Prayer and Fasting Savannah, Ga
4-5 South Georgia Camp Meeting Cohutta Springs Conference Center
4-6 Hispanic Children’s Ministries Convention Crossville Church, Tn
5 Leadership Training—Health & Personal Ministries Conference Office
11-13 Women’s Leadership Training Newton County Church, Ga
12 Personal Ministries Rally Benton Church, Tn
19 Health Rally
24-27 GCC Pathfinder Camporee LaFollette Church, Tn
26 Health Rally

MAY
3 Prayer Ministry Day Stone Mountain Church, Ga
10 Personal Ministries Rally Jellico Church, Tn
16-17 Korean Camp Meeting Cohutta Springs Conference Center
16-18 AAA, CA, and GCA Graduation Weekend Auburn Church, Ga
17 Health Rally Southern Adventist University
21-24 Colledale Camp Meeting Monterey, Tn
23-25 Heritage Academy Graduation Weekend Dayton, Tn
30-June 1 Laurelbrook Academy Graduation Weekend Ogden Road Church, Tn
31 Health Rally

OFFERING SCHEDULE

APRIL
05 Local Church Budget
12 Christian Record Services
19 Local Church Budget
26 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministries

MAY
03 Local Church Budget
10 Disaster & Famine Relief
17 Local Church Budget
24 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministries
31 North American Division Evangelism
NOW FISHING
Rediscovering the passion to reach the ones God misses the most

Collegedale Camp Meeting 2014 || May 21-24

Find more on pages 17-21