COMMUNITY MAKES A DIFFERENCE
REFLECTIONS FROM ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP
[find the story on page 10]
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COVER PHOTO » Tennessee Tech University Adventist Christian Fellowship students and Michael Boyd pose in front of Virgin Falls in Sparta, Tenn. Photo by Skeeter Medlock.
MARRIAGE RETREAT

October 31 through November 2, 2014
Callaway Gardens
Pine Mountain, Georgia

with
Jorge + Evelyn Torres
Back by popular demand

and musician Chad Mutchler

LEARN MORE + REGISTER ONLINE
gccsda.com/events/marriageretreat14
A Detroit building manager discovered a vacated apartment filled with trash. Every room was covered in a four-foot layer of filth. The fire department estimated it to be a seven-year collection of garbage. The surprising twist was that this had been a model tenant who dressed nicely, never caused trouble, and paid the rent on time. Yet for some reason, she chose to keep her garbage instead of throwing it away. Granted, taking out the trash is not pleasant. It doesn’t look or smell good. The task can soil our hands or clothes. It’s just not fun! So we tend to put it off—perhaps waiting for someone else to do it.

Is it possible that we do the same thing with the hurts and injustices of life? Perhaps someone has done you wrong—really wrong. Perhaps the facts prove that you were right, but no one is listening. Unresolved anger is a cancer that turns to bitterness. The more we focus on the hurt, the more damage we do—but not to the other person, to ourselves. In nursing a grudge, we drink our own poison, all the while expecting the other person to die. How curious.

What is the solution? Choosing to forgive. Yes, you can forgive that person even if he/she never admits the wrong, never apologizes, never makes it right. In doing so, you take the only step that can free you from that experience. “The weak can never forgive,” said Mahatma Gandhi. “Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.” (All Men are Brothers: Autobiographical Reflections)

Joseph had every reason to be angry with his brothers and seek revenge when they came to Egypt needing food. Yet at some point in time, Joseph made the choice to forgive a group of men who had done everything they could to ruin his life. Long before they faced each other in Egypt, he had settled the issue. He had found healing and hope. In fact, Joseph had found freedom, even in bondage, because he chose to forgive.

“Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you” (Eph. 4:31-32, RSV).

There it is. Healing begins with forgiveness. First, we accept God’s forgiveness. Then we extend that forgiveness to others. Isn’t it time to take out the trash?

Ed Wright is president of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference
STEWARDSHIP

SPORTSMANSHIP

In the small Michigan town where I grew up, sports—football, basketball, and baseball—were a high priority for students, parents, and the community. Being the best team in our league was very important and carried with it certain bragging rights.

Inevitably, there would be a controversial call, making a judgment on where the ball was placed, whether a player was offside, or his foot was on the line, or if the ball was caught out-of-bounds. The spectators often cheered or booed the referee.

As soon as football season ended, everyone’s focus shifted to the basketball court, and practice began in earnest with dribbling, passing, running, and shooting hoops for the upcoming season. The same teams went head-to-head in competition on the court, and crowds would once again gather to root for their favorite team and often their own kids.

The baseball season was equally competitive and intense. Unavoidably, the aggressive nature of the game was played out in the bleachers. Shouts could be heard from the stands—“kill the ump!”—when a controversial call was made from behind home plate.

In these various venues, sportsmanship is often in short supply by participants on the field or court or in the crowd of spectators. A recent example of superb sportsmanship was modeled not on a football field, basketball court, or baseball diamond, but on a golf course. Blayne Barber was playing in the first stage of the PGA’s rigorous Q-School when he thought he may have brushed a leaf in the bunker of the 13th hole at Callaway Gardens in Georgia. He took a one-stroke penalty but later learned he should have taken a two-stroke penalty. A few days later, he called and disqualified himself from the tournament. “I just feel peace about it,” Barber said.

“Every athlete exercises self-control in all things” (I Cor. 9:25, ESV).

Mitch Hazekamp is director of the Stewardship/Trust Services Department

FINANCIAL REPORT

The figures below provide an overview of conference finances as of June 30, 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>
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<tr>
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<th>Gain/Loss</th>
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Jo Dubs is director of Women’s and Family Ministries. She brings a lot of energy and passion to the office and is always excited about ways to bless others!

What do you enjoy most about your job?
There are a lot of aspects to my job I like—creating and visioning; leadership development; interacting with people; and listening to the needs of others and partnering with God in coming up with a creative method of meeting those needs. I also love doing something that hasn’t been done before or answering a need that hasn’t been addressed. I have a passion to empower, equip, and encourage people to reach their God-given potential, and I believe that God wants to use them to tell others about Him. It also energizes me to help people see something in themselves that they perhaps haven’t seen before—those “aha” moments when they see how God is leading in their lives—and then encourage them to step forward in faith.

What is your vision for Women’s and Family Ministries?
Women’s Ministries: My vision is to create an environment for women and teen girls to grow spiritually, develop their God-given talents, and believe that God has a special purpose for them. Women’s Ministries provides three retreats a year (one for teens) and a women’s leadership development weekend. We also support a growing God in Shoes ministry, one that is literally taking off at the church level, averaging 11 events a year and putting a new face on women’s ministries.

Family Ministries: I strive to affirm, educate, and restore God’s ideal in family relationships by addressing issues prevalent in today’s families and by creating a safe environment for that to happen in our churches. Family Ministries trainings and seminars are offered across the conference, and we host a vibrant, growing marriage retreat each fall.

How long have you worked at the conference? What did you do prior?
I’ve worked here for 11 years. I’ve also worked in nursing, in public health as a family development specialist, as a Bible worker, and I’m a pastor’s wife.

Tell us about your family, hobbies, and interests.
I live with my amazing husband, Ted, who is the pastor of the Adairsville and Canton (Ga.) churches. We have two grown sons: Tyler, a physician, and his wife, Brenda, and their children, Sophie and Dallas; and Nate and his wife, Kristina, who are at Andrews University, where he is pursuing his Master of Divinity degree, and she is working on her master’s in youth ministry.

I see life as an adventure and love being with my family. I enjoy interacting with people, landscaping, singing, cooking, refinishing antiques, hiking, and traveling.
Save the Date

S’MORE CAMP
(Single Moms of Real Excellence)

October 24-26, 2014
Cohutta Springs (camp side)
Crandall, Ga

Free family weekend for single moms and their kids

For more information, contact Donna Crandall
800-567-1844 ext. 342 or dcrandall@gccsda.com

Sponsored by Georgia-Cumberland Conference Family Ministries
In the recent article “Engaging Adventist Millennials: A Church that Embraces Relationships,” Clint Jenkins, Ph.D., vice president of research for Barna Group, and A. Allan Martin, Ph.D., teaching pastor of Younger Generation Church in Arlington, Texas, conclude that Adventist young people seek positive relationships (Ministry, May 2014). The finding comes after the North American Division commissioned a study from the Barna Group, a Christian Research Firm based in Ventura, Calif., on how churches can better engage millennials. A consistent thread is that positive relationships between generations is vitally important to youth and young adults staying engaged with church.

“For some time, our conference Executive Committee has wrestled with the increasing disengagement of our youth and young adults,” said Ed Wright, conference president. “Eventually we became convicted that our greatest need was not for more programming, social opportunities, or conference-level ministry for that age group, as important as any of that might be. Instead, we are seeking more effective ways of helping local churches to value, know by name, engage, retain, and disciple their own youth and young adults.”

**Nationwide, we are losing two-thirds of our 18- to 28-year-olds from the church! This is simply not acceptable.**

To accomplish this purpose, the conference recently created a new position for an associate youth director for young adults and hired Don Keele, Jr.

For the past 15 years, Keele has been pastor of the Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) Church in Calhoun, Ga., where the students are heavily involved—serving on the church board, leading praise music, offering church prayer, reading scripture, and preaching.

Several years ago while Keele was taking a conference-sponsored leadership course with Nick Howard, he was asked to imagine his ideal job. He prayed about the challenge and felt impressed with young adult ministry. He even created a job description and outline that closely resembled the job he recently accepted.

continued on page 28 [see KEELE]
Youth and Young Adult Festival is an annual event, perhaps the biggest each year (outside of camp), where more than a thousand youth and young adults converge for a day filled with powerful messages, engaging music, and much-needed fellowship—all directed in worship to Jesus.

This year’s event, held March 22, brought Sam Leonor, chaplain of La Sierra University, back to Cartersville, Ga., for his third time.

Year after year, the highlight continues to be the afternoon “Expression Session,” which invites youth and young adults from around the conference to use their talents—be it music or drama—to share their passion and love for their Heavenly Father.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy student Marii Medina said: “This is my first year [at Youth Festival]. It’s cool to see other kids your age from different schools in the conference.”
It’s such a blessing to hear directly from our students. I’d like to share with you some reflections from the past year written by Adventist Christian Fellowship student leaders. Leading your peers is never easy, so it’s refreshing to hear how these students have seen God at work in their lives. Much of this work is directly related to their peers, along with the presence of local pastors, faculty advisors, and other church members.

A special thank you to everyone who makes up the ACF family in this conference. The community you’ve fostered has made a huge and positive difference in hundreds of lives and thousands more to come!

—Michaela Lawrence Jeffery, Adventist Christian Fellowship director

GABRIELLE CLIFFORD // Tennessee Tech University
This past April, the TTU ACF group, along with local church members and friends, were privileged to take Michael Boyd on an excursion to Virgin Falls State Natural Area in Sparta, Tenn. Mike is a local church member who has attended every ACF meeting and is always there to support, pray, and inspire us to help others. He never thinks of himself. Taking Mike back to Virgin Falls was such a blessing to me. To see the look of curiosity, adventure, and happiness on his face that day is a feeling I cannot describe.
Getting to the falls is not an easy task; the area is definitely not wheelchair accessible, or so it would seem. Through a series of ATVs, a zipline, a custom-built carry system, and a wheelchair, Mike was able to roll up to Virgin Falls for the first time in 20 years. Being able to give back to someone who has been an inspiration to you and the people around him is a priceless feeling. I, along with everyone involved in this event, was truly blessed. This was just a small token of our gratitude for him and his friendship. Our group has grown spiritually from his involvement. His life radiates with Christlike love, and you can’t help but smile when around him.
JASON JEONG // Emory University
We conclude yet another exhilarating year at this chapter of ACF! We learned a lot—such as the value of leadership, virtue of unity, and importance of disappointment. Last year was a period of growth. This year, however, I felt as though God was teaching us perseverance and true servant-leadership. Every day I empathize with Paul when he remarked, “Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints” (Eph. 3:8, KJV). This year, I truly learned what I lacked and how much I need Christ to lead me through.

ANDREW CLARK // University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Our chapter engaged in multiple, in-depth, theological discussions and shared what it means to be a Christian in today’s culture. Also, as a chapter, we grew closer together and grew in our relationships with God during the past school year.

DEREK BOWE, JR. // University of West Georgia
The year, UWG’s ACF chapter started off strong. We advertised the group to other students on campus and experienced an increased number of attendees. We had weekly Bible studies on campus, many of which were attended by Nate Elias, pastor of the Carrollton Seventh-day Adventist Church. The UWG chapter helped the Carrollton Church with its annual Church in the Park, as well.

As a group, we went on several trips: visiting the ACF chapter at the University of Georgia one Sabbath; enjoying Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park another time with our advisor, Tom Peterson, Ed.D.; and traveling to other churches in the Atlanta area, including the Berean and West End Seventh-day Adventist churches.

Dr. Peterson presented a workshop on being loving to one another, and we attended social events at his home throughout the year.

Our leaders attended the ACF leadership retreat at Cohutta Springs and returned the following semester for the CONNECT Conference. Although the spring semester did not fare as well, in terms of group membership, we still enjoyed each other’s company during Bible studies and church services at the Carrollton Church. As we look toward the 2014-2015 academic year, it is our hope that God continues to bless our group while revitalizing us.

JANICE CLARKE // Georgia State University
This year we were able to connect college students who do not attend GSU to the ACF network, and new members also joined our GSU chapter.
SOOHAN CHUNG // Georgia Tech
It has been a blessing having fellow students, such as Erica Shin and Chris Pubillones, step up and lead. Leaders like these have been very pivotal in planning and keeping our group going, despite everyone’s busy schedules. It has been a huge, huge blessing simply to be a part of ACF and the Georgia Tech chapter. I enjoy the different backgrounds of others and their life stories, as well as their testimonies. It’s reassuring that I am not alone—especially in my daily struggles and temptations. We are all in this together!

KRISTA WILLIAMS // University of Georgia
Now that I am graduating and have had a chance to reflect, my four years here at UGA would not have been the same without ACF. The people I have met in this group have become my family, and I am so glad to have built lifelong relationships with them as well as with José Nieves, Athens Church pastor, and Will Smith, UGA faculty advisor. Thank you for your work to help these groups exist on our campuses, because even if the numbers are small, they make a huge impact and difference in people’s lives. I will be eternally grateful, and I know God brought this group into my life to make me a better person.
LATIN-AMERICAN MINISTRIES CELEBRATES MESSY DAY
by Waleska Gonzalez, administrative assistant | photo by Miguel Tirado, Latin-American Ministries director

What do you get when you combine a giant beach volleyball, stilts, obstacle races, and a super-sized tic-tac-toe? Hispanic Messy Day!

On June 8, Latin-American Ministries celebrated Messy Day, where hundreds of people from churches all around the conference gathered on the campus of Georgia-Cumberland Academy to have fun and share Jesus’ love with their friends and families.

The biblical adage that “Unless you turn and become like children...” became a reality throughout the day. Each person joined a team, which could be made up of men or women, boys or girls, old or young. The only restriction was that every team had to participate in all the events, which were arranged in a circuit. Depending on their group’s performance, teams earned at least one golden coin at each station. The more challenging the event, the more coins they received. Each group deposited their coins in their “bank” at the reception table, hoping to collect the most coins and win one of the prizes, such as free lodging and/or meals at either Hispanic Camp Meeting or Hispanic Youth Festival-Makeover 2014.

Amidst all the activity, the Pathfinder clubs offered refreshing and tasty goodies to the thirsty and hungry teams. Clubs offered things like frappes and snow cones, Venezuelan arepas, Mexican tamales, quesadillas, and many other delicious dishes from different Hispanic cultures. Proceeds went to funding the clubs’ trip to the upcoming Oshkosh International Pathfinder Camporee in August.

In the end, three teams were declared winners. The Perez team, a family from the Dunwoody Hispanic Church, came in third. The Falcons, a mixed team from Rome, Ga., took second. And first place went to The Sharks, a young team from the Augusta Hispanic Church.

Everyone went home feeling not so much tired as satisfied that it really had been a Messy Day!
PRONTO VENDRÁ

CAMPESTRE HISPANO 2014

LUGAR
Cohutta Springs
Crandall, Ga

FECHA
del 22 al 24 de agosto de 2014

MÁS INFORMACIÓN

Porque aún un poquito, y el que ha de venir vendrá, y no tardará.
Hebreos 10:37
On May 4, 2014, women and a few men from the Augusta (Ga.) First Church arrived at the Hope House of Augusta, a residential treatment facility for women suffering with addictions, mental health issues, and homelessness. Hope House is a learning-based facility that not only helps women become substance-free, but also teaches them how to become self-sufficient and care for their families when they move back into society.

The women could not believe that someone would come and do this for them.

The Augusta church members arrived early, decorating the plain, white walls with bright, spring colors and setting up the stations for the God in Shoes Spa Day they would be hosting for the Hope House residents. Several members prepared an exceptional Christ-based program for the children.

Before the event got started, everyone gathered to have a word of prayer, thanking the Lord for the ladies they would connect with that day and asking that the experience would be special for each one of them.

The women of Hope House were so excited to receive the pampering, along with a gift bag and a new pair of shoes. They also exhibited a longing to talk with others who cared for them and shared with them the love of Jesus. Throughout the day, the God in Shoes participants ministered to 35 women and 25 children. And not only had they served them, they’d also formed relationships.

Karen Saltzman, director of Hope House, said she felt like she had made new friends and expressed how special and loved the ladies felt. The women could not believe that someone would come and do this for them. Saltzman also said the group was a testament to the teachings of Jesus.

What an awesome God! He blessed the residents, children, and volunteers alike. ■
Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA), in partnership with the Southern Union and the Georgia-Cumberland Conference (GCC) IT departments, is establishing an IT helpdesk call center beginning Aug. 1. GCA’s computer helpdesk is already an established part of their services, but now conference pastors and teachers will be able to utilize it as their official place to obtain telephone assistance and online guided instruction in technology.

“Partnering with GCA’s computer helpdesk will increase our support resources by a large factor,” said Andrew LaPierre, GCC IT director. “We normally wouldn’t have the manpower to help our pastors and teachers with all of the technical questions they may have. Our department is definitely still there to support them, especially with services provided by the conference, but they can feel free to call GCA with any general technology question that is not conference specific. I hope they’ll take advantage of this generous offer.”

Ernest Staats, GCA IT director, said the blessings and benefits from the partnership is two-fold.

**Partnering with GCA’s computer helpdesk will increase our support resources by a large factor.**

“The goal of this is to serve our conference teachers and pastors while mentoring some young people who will hopefully grow into resources for our church,” Staats said. “I have even spent some time chatting with the IT directors from other schools to make sure we can be a help and not an obstacle.”

The GCA computer help desk will be available from August to May, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Services offered include:

- most common computer questions and issues

continued on page 28 [see GCA HELPDESK]
More than 40 years ago, physician Charles Wilkens and his wife, Bonnie, moved to Jellico, Tenn., to help Adventist Health System reopen the small hospital in that community. In tow were their four young children and their dreams of supporting God’s kingdom in rural Appalachia. Their children also developed the medical-missionary spirit: Their sons went on to become physicians, and their daughter became a nurse who focused upon wellness education. All moved back to Jellico about 10 years ago to partner with their parents in continuing the mission work.

The weekend of May 9-11, 2014, was a high point for the Wilkens family and the Jellico Church family. On Friday night, three young men—Anthony Villegas, Eric Wilkens, and John Boone—made the choice to give their lives to Christ through baptism. Two of the candidates, Eric and John, are the Wilkens’ grandsons. The boys chose to be baptized in a river that flows through the Wilkens’ farm because Jesus was baptized in a river, and they wanted to follow His example; because they feel closer to the Lord in nature, and they thought it would be a good location to publicly show their desire for closeness with Him; and because they wanted to be on the farm surrounded by their families. On Sunday, the Wilkens’ granddaughter, Kelsey, married Nick Ewing in a garden ceremony in the Wilkens’ backyard, the same spot where the Wilkens’ only daughter had been married 22 years earlier.

Surrounded by family from all over the country and friends from church and the community, Charles Wilkens commented that the very first wedding was in a garden, and the very first Christian baptism was in a river. He is a man who lives to emulate His Lord and Savior, and his joy over seeing his grandchildren modeling their lives after scripture was evident to everyone present.
DID YOU KNOW...

- Over the past three decades, childhood obesity rates in America have tripled.
- Nearly one in three children in America is overweight or obese.
- Our children make up the first generation in history to grow up less healthy than their parents.

LET’S MOVE DAY

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014
To learn more about how to get involved, visit www.adventistsinstepforlife.org

Recent Advances in Lifestyle Medicine for the Treatment of Heart Disease, Diabetes & Cancer

SEPT 6, 2014 // 3:00-5:00 pm
STONE MOUNTAIN, GA
Stone Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church
1350 Silver Hill Road, Stone Mountain, GA

with JEFF GATES, PH.D.
Dr. Gates earned his doctorate in public health (clinical preventive care) and a master’s degree in nutrition from Loma Linda University.

FREE EVENT!
No pre-registration required
Juanfer Monsalve, pastor of the Ooltewah (Tenn.) Hispanic Company and Collegedale (Tenn.) Impact Mission Group, was ordained Sabbath, May 10, 2014. Family, church, and conference members alike gathered together to witness the blessing of a young man officially accepting a life devoted to Christ.

“The people who gathered to support and take part in this ordination service made it very evident that Pastor Juanfer’s call to and passion for ministry is truly one ordained of God,” said Victor Maddox, vice president for Pastoral Ministries and Evangelism.

The service was held in the Ooltewah United Methodist Church, which the Ooltewah Hispanic Company rents every Sabbath.

Both of Monsalve’s churches have about 70-80 regular members each. Impact is a multicultural young adult church and focuses on serving their community, living their faith, loving people, and teaching others to get involved.

“When someone comes to our church or Sabbath school, we try to get them involved right from the beginning,” Monsalve said.

He said they hope to step out of the Collegedale/Ooltewah area to ensure they reach those who are unfamiliar with Christ’s message and that outreach is a huge focus. As such, the members make regular visits to area nursing homes and work with other ministries, having chosen to not create additional ministries but to help the ones already established in their community. During the school year, they offer free tutoring to elementary students on Wednesday evenings and provide English as a Second Language classes.

Monsalve has been a pastor for about four years since graduating with his bachelor’s degree in theology from Southern Adventist University and his Master of Divinity degree from Andrews University. While he does not have any local relatives, he said he truly believes his church is his family.

Maddox said, “There is no doubt in my mind that Pastor Juanfer’s desire is to strengthen the kingdom by sincerely serving God and serving His people.”
More than 1,800 Adventurers and family members from 42 clubs gathered at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp for the annual Adventurer Family Fun Day on March 30, 2014.

The all-day event started with worship in the gym and a skit at the camp’s amphitheater. In both places, children learned more about “life in the heavenly kingdom,” the theme for this year’s Fun Day. After lunch, the games began. Set up much like a festival or fair, kids rotated through activity stations, each hosted by a different club. Stations included a sack race, obstacle course, face painting, bubble station, tug of war, balloon popping, sand bag toss, canoeing, and much more!

Though planned with the children in mind, the day provides an opportunity for families to spend quality time together in an otherwise busy and segmented culture.

Winsome Carr, from the Conyers Church, brought her two sons, ages 6 and 9, “so that they can get to meet other children and to enjoy the day and just to spend time with them.”

An event like Adventurer Family Fun Day is important for many reasons, said Janet Diercks. Her children were in Adventurers when they were young, and she now volunteers with the Cherokee Church’s club in Woodstock, Ga.

“This is just a tremendous opportunity to get together with other clubs, meet other children, meet other parents, and really just have some good, healthy fun.”

Kids enjoy a sack race and getting their faces painted as part of the many activities at Adventurer Family Fun Day.
COLLEGEDALE CAMP MEETING IN REVIEW
photos by Jeremy Arnall, Dustin Johnson, and Britni News

1. Elizabeth Talbot spoke Wednesday and Thursday.
2. Ted N.C. Wilson spoke Friday and Sabbath morning for the worship service.
3. Roger Hernandez was guest speaker Saturday night.
5. Senior youth helped the local community with a service project.
6. Audiences enjoyed a Wedgwood Trio concert Sabbath afternoon.
7. John Mathews discussed stewardship in his workshop.
8. Senior youth led praise music for their peers.

9. Josh Woods was speaker for the young adults.

10. Guests enjoyed meeting authors Alla Czerkasij and Natalie Czerkasij Lewellen, who wrote “Deliverance.”

11. Children had fun playing games during part of their evening meetings.

12. Stewardship Jack posed for photos with his fans.

13. The Village Market was packed during the Saturday night sale.

14. The Science Zone’s Ben Roy impressed juniors with fun and creative experiments.

15. Jonathan Montes was senior youth guest speaker.
DAVID RYDER: McKEE ENGINEER TURNED ORDAINED PASTOR
by Dustin Johnson, communication intern | photos by Dustin Johnson

David Ryder serves as the pastor for the Bristol and Kingsport (Tenn.) churches, but he hasn’t always been in the ministry. His original degree was in engineering from the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga. As an engineer, he worked for McKee Foods, where he soon began hearing about Adventist Christians. The teachings were different from the way he believed, so he looked into it and, after careful study, realized that he had been raised with the wrong beliefs.

“When I learned the truth about the Sabbath, it was like a key that unlocked the door of my mind to accept other important truths from the Word of God,” Ryder said.

Ryder soon felt led to attend Southern Adventist University to continue his search for the truth and get a degree in theology to be an evangelist. Years later, his local church pastor retired, and he became the pastor there until he was relocated to his current position in northern Tennessee.

The ordination was held June 21, 2014, in the Wheeler United Methodist Church in Blountville, Tenn., to accommodate both of Ryder’s church families in one place.

“To confirm God’s call through ordination is an important role of the church,” said Ed Wright, conference president. “To see David and Stacey also affirmed and honored by their churches made the event even more joyful.”

Ryder said the day was “a blessing that I will never forget. I truly am blessed and want to encourage all to keep looking to Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith, and stay connected and involved in His end-time church!”
“Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines and prepare your minds for the Word of God!”

A cool breeze swept over the few hundred people who attended this year’s Olde Time Camp Meeting. This year’s guest speaker was John Earnhardt—and yes, he’s related to Dale Earnhardt; his cousin, actually. Properly themed “A Race to Victory Lane,” Earnhardt’s presentations included stories of his childhood growing up with Dale and the tremendous story of his transformation from fighting addictions in the racing culture he grew up in to being a chaplain at four of the most famous race tracks in the nation.

The event was held June 5-8 at Meister Memorial Church in Deer Lodge, Tenn. What makes this camp meeting like those of years gone by is that families sleep in tents instead of returning home or to a hotel. This atmosphere of togetherness adds a unique feel to the weekend for those who attend.

The weekend was packed with seminars about being victorious in various aspects of life, like health and addictions. Other events included a jam session with everything from harmonicas and recorders to accordions and violins; a concert by Herman and Sonnie Harp; and, of course, engaging messages from Earnhardt.

“I was most excited this year to see it morph into an evangelistic effort, which created a healthy environment for both seekers and established members,” said Sierra Wendt, who has attended with her family for many years. “Earnhardt was able to reach a wide variety of people with his testimony.”

Photos by Dustin Johnson.
“We want to open the dialog to bring restoration and healing for those who have experienced abuse or are feeling enslaved by their addiction, but also to create an environment within our churches and within our families [for] dialog [about] what God desires for us in fulfilling the desires of our heart even more than our carnal nature can explain. It is critical to our children, our youth, and our families. Our families are being torn apart by sexual immorality. Secular society is inundating our kids, and we’re not saying anything. This has to be a loud, strong voice that we have a biblical perspective—that God’s grace is transforming, is freedom, and is life abundant.”

—Alex Harter
Associate Pastor
Collegedale Community Church

BERNIE ANDERSON // In 2003 God brought about a powerful transformation in Bernie’s life by breaking a long-time struggle with pornography. Prompted by a desire to help others and to call attention to porn’s impact on the church, Bernie now openly shares his story of how God has given him new life.

MIKE CARDUCCI // From an early age, Mike struggled with sexual addiction, culminating in an active homosexual lifestyle. Today, Mike joyfully celebrates the transformation Jesus has made in his life and gladly shares this good news.

RON WOOLSEY // Ron is passionate about helping those struggling with same-sex attraction to experience the same transformation and joy he has. Ron’s life journey from a homosexual lifestyle to becoming a father and grandfather is one that can provide hope to others.

HEATHER THOMPSON DAY // While in elementary school, Heather’s classmates created an “I Hate Heather Club.” Now as author and speaker, Heather enjoys sharing how the love of Jesus has helped her grow through the incredible challenges of feeling insecure, like she didn’t fit in, like she wasn’t pretty enough, and like she was always being criticized. With great passion, Heather enjoys sharing the practical difference Jesus can make in a person’s life.

SUE MOORE // Sue is a certified sexual addiction specialist who has authored the Life Recovery Model, a resource designed to help people who are stuck and isolated in an addiction. Having struggled with various addictions herself, Sue understands how addictions can chain a person. But the good news according to Sue is that there is NO addiction too big for Jesus to handle.

For more information, contact Tim Cross at timcross@southern.edu
“As leaders in the community and our churches, we need to be bold enough to bring it forward and not hide from it and to bring awareness to families that these are issues within the church, not just things we hear about out in the ‘world.’”

—Dave Smith
Pastor
Collegedale Church

“Our hope is that each person who attends these meetings will come away with a clarity on how to use their sexual nature and how to deal with the abuse and to experience healing.”

—Mickey Mallory
Pastor
Standifer Gap Church

**IMPACT**
Mon 9/29—7pm—Bernie
Tues 9/30—7pm—Sue
Wed 10/1—7pm—Heather
Thurs 10/2—7pm—Mike

**STANDIFER GAP**
Mon 9/29—7pm—John
Tues 9/30—7pm—Mike
Wed 10/1—7pm—Ron
Thurs 10/2—7pm—Heather
Fri 10/3—7pm—Sue

**APISON**
Sat 9/27—11:30am—Heather (for women)
2pm—Bernie (for men)
Sat 10/4—Ron

*Panel discussion with Heather, Ron, Sue, John, Greg, Tom, and Jerry

**COLLEGEVILLE**
Sat 9/27—Bernie
Mon 9/29—7pm—Sue
Wed 10/1—7pm—Mike
Fri 10/3—7pm—Heather
Sat 10/4—3:30pm—Panel*

**COLLEGEVILLE COMMUNITY**
Sat 9/27—Jerry
Mon 9/29—7pm—Mike
Tues 9/30—7pm—Heather
Wed 10/1—7pm—Bernie
Thurs 10/2—7pm—Sue
Fri 10/3—7pm—Ron
Sat 10/4—Jerry

JOHN NIXON // John served as a pastor for 34 years before joining the faculty of Southern Adventist University as a religion professor. He is an effective communicator whom God uses powerfully to challenge people to live pure lives.

TOM OSBORN // Tom shares his story of survival from sexual addiction, shines a light into the world of homosexuality, and showcases his personal friendship with Jesus. Tom’s recovery and transformation are based on the belief that Jesus uses each person’s unique life experiences to craft an intimate friendship with Himself.

GREG WILLIAMS // Greg is a Christian psychologist living in the Collegedale area who has presented multiple times on strategies for a pure life. In his 20 years as a counselor, God has used Greg to be a blessing to many in multiple ways.

JERRY ARNOLD // Jerry serves as the senior pastor of the Collegedale Community Church. In preparing for a recent sermon series on homosexuality and same-sex marriage, Jerry has done significant, relevant research.
“Nationwide, we are losing two-thirds of our 18- to 28-year-olds from the church!” said Rob Lang, Youth Ministries director. “This is simply not acceptable, and the conference has prayerfully decided to do something about it.”

According to Keele, there are three ages when youth typically leave the church: at 16 when they can drive; 18 when they leave academy; and 23 when they graduate from college. Barna research shows that 59 percent of young adults leave.

“We don’t want any kids to fall through the cracks,” Keele said. “Adults have to make room for kids. We wrongly assume we stop our work if they take on the role, but really our roles just readjust or reassign. We become their mentors and train. Most youth don’t feel needed or that they matter.”

Keele plans to change this. His role will include working closely with churches that seek change, churches that want young adults to lead. He’ll work with all three conference academies and local church youth directors. And this summer, he’ll be creating resources to help people connect.

“"This new position is intended to support and resource your church leadership team in this critically important ministry,"” Wright said.

Keele plans to use social media, develop a young adult conference, and work with LifeGroups, a young adult ministry already in place. He’ll also team up with Adventist Christian Fellowship, a ministry that fosters Adventist student-groups on public college and university campuses. Keele said his goal is to revive, refresh, and recapture the lost demographic of young adults.

“It will require a culture change,” Lang said. “But it’s great to have an experienced pastor like Don joining the department to lead the charge. We believe that with a conference-wide team effort, we can retain two-thirds of our young adults instead of our current one-third retention rate! This will be a significant outcome for the church and the fulfillment of our mission.”

Keele begins his new role Sept. 1.

The equipment helps students see the screen where the user is located, making assistance much more efficient.

“We are very excited to play a part in this new ministry opportunity. I hope that this can serve as a model for our other conferences and academies,” said Richard Stephenson, Southern Union IT director. “Thank you, Andrew and Ernest, for working together and finding opportunities for our young people to be engaged in meaningful ministry.”

In support of this effort, the Southern Union purchased and is hosting the Bomgar remote support appliance for GCA to use.

Phone: 706-625-7158
Website: http://chd.gcasda.org
Bok choy, a Chinese cabbage, is sweet and tender, especially the baby variety. It's low in calories but packed with phytonutrients and cancer-fighting antioxidants. High in vitamins A and K, it helps with bone strength, which can assist in delaying osteoporosis. Fresh bok choy is also an excellent source of vitamin C and contains B-complex vitamins. Yeah, baby!

PREP TIME: 5 minutes
COOK TIME: 20 minutes
TOTAL TIME: 25 minutes
SERVES: 6-8

INGREDIENTS
5-8 baby bok choy
6 Tbsp coconut oil
6 cloves garlic, peeled and sliced
8-10 Tbsp walnuts, roughly chopped
½ tsp freshly ground black pepper
2 tsp lemon juice
1 tsp sea salt (if using balsamic vinegar)
1-3 tsp tamari, soy sauce, or balsamic vinegar

DIRECTIONS
1. Preheat oven to 400° F. Rinse the bok choy in cold water to remove any grit or bugs. Slice off the dark green leaves, and then slice the white stalks in half lengthwise. Place the stalks in a baking dish. Roughly chop the leaves and set aside.

2. In a medium saucepan over medium-low heat, melt the coconut oil. Add the garlic slices and heat until the garlic starts to turn brown. Quickly remove the garlic with a slotted spoon, then discard the garlic and turn off the heat. Using a pastry brush or a spoon, divide half of the garlic oil over the baby bok choy stalks in the roasting pan, saving the remaining oil in the saucepan. Season with ground black pepper, lemon juice, and sea salt if using balsamic vinegar. If using soy sauce, don’t add additional salt.

3. Roast the baby bok choy stems for 20 minutes. Once they have been roasting for 15 minutes, heat the pan of remaining garlic oil to medium high, then add in the walnuts and sauté, being careful not to burn them (about 2-3 minutes). Add in the reserved leaves and either the tamari, soy sauce, or balsamic vinegar, then remove from heat. Stir gently until the leaves start to wilt. Remove the stalks from the oven and divide onto plates. Top the stalks with the sautéed leaves and walnut mixture. Serve hot.
Olivier LeMaitre, executive director of Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga., was named the 2013 Murray County Business Man of the Year at the Murray Chamber of Commerce event, held April 29, 2014.

Each year the chamber president of Murray County, Ga., sends out a survey to all of the chamber members asking them to select the business man of the year, business woman of the year, and company of the year.

LeMaitre has been a chamber member since 2007 and served as chair of the 15-member board in 2012 and as immediate past chair in 2013. His duties have included giving presentations and speeches and attending ribbon cuttings and other similar events.

“Our panel of out-of-county judges chose Olivier from the other nominees based on the huge improvements that Cohutta Springs has undergone under his stewardship,” said Dinah Rowe, Murray County Chamber president. “Olivier is also known to be willing to ‘go the extra mile’ whenever it is needed. He has spoken with other industry prospects concerning the value of locating to Murray County. ...He is truly a great asset to business in Murray County and Georgia!”

Cohutta Springs Conference Center is very involved locally, inviting the 35,000 residents of Murray County to a Community Fun Day each year. LeMaitre said the event is “our gift to the community.” They have also offered Valentine’s Day banquets and Easter egg hunts in an effort to be more involved.

“Olivier has led Cohutta Springs in a way that serves the community and businesses,” said Jerry Fore, general vice president for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. “He is involved with community projects that strengthen a collaborative relationship with those in Murray County.”

Survey responses were overwhelmingly positive; many were thankful to have the trailer park removed from Highway 411, while others shared how they appreciated the way Cohutta has become more business-friendly with high-speed Internet, more television channels, an expanded dining hall, and the professional staff.

“It feels nice for Cohutta to receive this affirmation,” LeMaitre said. “It is exciting to see the Adventist Church recognized for running a business correctly. I am also very proud of the Cohutta staff. I am just the face, and the staff are getting this reward by becoming more professional and maintaining the natural beauty. The conference provides the means and empowers the vision of growing Cohutta Springs into a first-class conference center.”

LeMaitre earned a bachelor’s degree in finance and administration at Le Havre University in Normandy, France. He has served at Cohutta for seven years.
CONFERENCE EVENTS

JULY
18 LEAD Evangelism Training
19 Will Clinic
20 Will Clinic
21 Will Clinic
22 Will Clinic
23 Will Clinic
24 Will Clinic
25 Will Clinic
25-27 Hispanic Single Couples’ Retreat
26 Stewardship Sabbath
26 Stewardship Sabbath
27 Will Clinic

Knoxville Adventist School, TN
Calhoun Church, GA
Cartersville Church, GA
Adairsville Church, GA
Rossville Church, GA
Lookout Mountain Church, Rising Fawn, GA
Blairsville Church, GA
Chatsworth Church, GA
Mountain Resort, Ellijay, GA
Newport Church, TN
Smoky Mountain Church, Sevierville, TN
Dalton Church, GA

AUGUST
2 Prayer Ministry Day
6-10 Deaf Fellowship Camp Meeting
11-16 International Pathfinder Camporee
22-23 LifeGroup Training Retreat
22-24 Hispanic Camp Meeting (see page 15)
23 End It Now

Jellico Church, TN
Cohutta Springs Conference Center
Oshkosh, WI
Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
Cohutta Springs Conference Center
Atlanta Metropolitan Church, GA

SEPTEMBER
5-7 Adventurer Ministries Convention
6 Lifestyle Medicine Seminar (see page 19)
12-14 Pathfinder Drill Instructor Training
12-14 Hispanic Women’s Retreat
13 Personal Ministries Rally
17-20 Southern Union Academy Leadership Conference
19-21 Pathfinder Leadership Convention

Cohutta Springs (camp side)
Stone Mountain Church, GA
Cohutta Springs (camp side)
Cohutta Springs Conference Center
Cookeville Algood Church, TN
Camp Kulaqua, FL
Cohutta Springs Conference Center

OFFERING SCHEDULE

AUGUST
02 Local Church Budget
09 Oakwood/Andrews/Loma Linda Universities
16 Local Church Budget
23 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministries
30 Cohutta Springs

SEPTEMBER
06 Local Church Budget
13 Fall Mission Appeal
20 Local Church Budget
27 Georgia-Cumberland Conference Ministries
Attention lay youth workers, youth pastors, and chaplains: Gather together with youth directors Rob Lang and Don Keele for inspiration, vision, and encouragement for the important calling of reaching and retaining our youth for Jesus. Steve Case—author, speaker, and experienced youth worker—will be our guest speaker. For more information, contact Alyse at 706-602-7346 or alyse@gccsda.com.