Ministry Report from Breath of Life Ministries
by George Johnson Jr., Director, Communication Department

A few nuggets from the recent BOL Executive Committee meeting on March 20

New programming for Breath of Life (BOL) Ministries (at the Oakwood University Church) with Dr. Carlton Byrd will begin April 8. Check http://www.breathoflife.tv/ for station listings.

The BOL Christmas special titled “The Present: Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas” was shown on 170 NBC affiliate stations in the U.S. After December 2012, BOL will own the rights to airing this program.

BOL is very active in social media (Facebook and Twitter) and has recently launched a free mobile app. Search “Breath of Life” in the App Store.

Beginning April 8, BOL will launch a weekly devotional titled “A Breath of Fresh Air.” This initiative will provide systematic spiritual insights for viewers and allow BOL to offer online sales. Sign up on BOL’s website to receive “A Breath of Fresh Air.”

There were nearly 500 baptisms in 2011 as a direct result of BOL’s evangelistic efforts.

BOL will participate in two evangelistic initiatives this Spring and Summer. On April 14-28, the BOL Spring Revival will take place at the Oakwood University Church. Special musical guests will include Grammy Award winning artist, Yolanda Adams, Committed (Season 2 winners of NBCs “The Sing Off”), and the Oakwood University Aeolians. The Summer Revival will take place at the Metropolitan Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hyattsville, Md. This two-week initiative is designed to evangelize the unchurched and community residents of diverse faith groups in the Maryland area.
A new Russian translation of the Bible is planned for publication by 2015. In 2010 Mikhail Kulakov, DPhil, (pictured) became director and editor-in-chief of the Bible Translation Institute, based at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md. Kulakov says that the current Russian translation of the Bible, authorized by the Russian Orthodox Church, was published in 1875. For most Russians today, it is practically unreadable. The Institute is leading in the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language. The New Testament, the Psalms and the Pentateuch are already complete and published, and the institute plans to publish the new translation of the entire Bible by 2015. MORE (Visitor News Bulletin, Mar. 7, Columbia Union)

Because of state budget cuts that affect public schools, private schools in Oregon and Washington are seeing an increase in interest from parents. Parents want their children in smaller classrooms where they believe teachers can more fully meet their children’s needs, and because of bullying issues at some public schools. Watch this KVEW TV video reporting on this story and featuring Hermiston (Ore.) Jr. Academy, Tri-City Jr. Academy (Wash., pictured)

The following are positive stories that appeared this week in the news about Seventh-day Adventists in the North American Division territory.

Southern And Lee Students Spread Anti-Sex Trafficking Message
The Chattanooga
March 19

Hinsdale Hospital invites community to patient pavilion open house
The Doings Clarendon Hills
March 19

Seventh-day Adventist Church holds gardening seminar
Press-Enterprise

Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard putting stamp on school (video)
al.com
March 19

Lions, Tigers and Snakes? And at Church?
Patch.com
March 17

Adventist data network to better connect doctors
Washington Business Journal

Upcoming Events

Invitation to Prayer Call (Teleconference), Apr 5
ACF/NAD Campus Ministry Conference, Apr 6-8
WestPoint 2012, "Connecting with Christ", April 8-11
SONscreen X, Apr 12-14
Gulf States Marriage & Singles Bahamas Cruise, Apr 15-19
Pathfinder Bible Experience, Apr 21
ACS Reach Out Symposium /New Jersey, Apr 21-22
Women Clergy Conference /Michigan, Apr 23-26
7th World Congress for Religious Freedom, Apr 24-26
Central California Conference Hispanic Men's Retreat, Apr 27-29
NAD Camp Meeting Schedule
More upcoming events

NAD Prayer Calendar

Daily Prayer Guide
Mar. 25-31: Illinois Conference, with 96 churches and 13,044 members

March Offerings and Special Days

iGiveSDA App
March 17

Commissioning service, classroom dedication held
Valley Courier
March 15

March 16

Shawnee Mission Medical center names new CEO
Shawnee Dispatch
March 16

March 16

Littleton Adventist looks to genetics to aid in colon cancer fight
Denver Post
March 14

March 15

Spelling in the spotlight
Lodi News-Sentinel
March 15

Win cash for your idea for a film or TV project at the SONscreen Film Festival's first Pitch Fest, to be held Friday, April 13, in front of a live audience. Festival attendees, student filmmakers, and professional filmmakers are eligible to submit their idea for consideration. Up to 10 filmmakers may pitch their idea (film or television) in 5 minutes in front of a panel of judges who will critique their pitch. The winner will receive a cash prize to help with development and/or completion of their project. To be considered, submit a brief synopsis of your idea to Associate Producer Brittnie Sigamoney, via e-mail: atbsigamoney@gmail.com. Pitch spots are limited, so email today!

“Celebrating the Creative Spirit” is the theme for this year’s SONscreen, to be held April 12-14 at the Adventist Media Center in Simi Valley, Ca. Register to attend SONscreen.

The First Annual ACF/NAD Campus Ministry Conference will be held April 13-15 at Columbia University in New York City. This will mark Columbia ACF (Adventist Christian Fellowship) and Church of the Advent Hope's 8th annual conference, but it will be an even bigger event this year as ACF/NAD join and invite students from across the division for the first division-wide annual campus ministry conference. Pastor and professor Zane Yi will be encouraging students to make their faith known on their campuses.

ACF is a ministry sponsored by the NAD Youth and Young Adult department to facilitate networking, mentoring and training, and supply resources for Adventist students attending public colleges, and to assist them in sharing their faith on campus. Register via ACF@NY.

The first Division-wide Ministerial Convention is slated for 2015. Current discussions lean toward a Texas location around the last week of June. Details as far as the time and place will be announced in

Offerings:
- March 24, Local Conference Advance
- March 31, Union Designated
- Offertory Readings

Special Days
March Focus:
Women in the Church

Helpful website(s) and Resources:
- Women's Ministries
- Women's Day of Prayer

Resources and Information

Adventist World
NAD Edition

News: "Adventist Recovery Ministries: A Journey to Life," p. 11-12; Central America Literacy Learning Circles Inspire Southern California Church Members, p. 12, 13
Perspective: “Claiming Alaska” p. 17
NAD Letters: p. 18
Feature: “Christ’s Healing Touch” p. 32
an upcoming edition of *NewsPoints*. Pastors are urged to save the date for this premier event.

**Revival and Transformation**

Dan Jackson, North American Division president opened the Southwestern Union Conference 2012 Ministerial Session with an inspiring message titled, “The Flame that Burns.” His message was a reminder that none can hope to keep the fire of faith alive if they let go of their dependence on God.

More than 400 pastors and their families from around the union met in Fort Worth, January 8-11, where they enjoyed fellowship, inspiration, and training. “Revive Us Again” was the session theme that reflected the first and very important area of the REACH North America initiative. [MORE](Photo by Reggie Johnson)

**Resources**

*Changed - Real Lives Real World*, compiled by Carlos Camacho and Manny Cruz, is an easy and enjoyable read that everyone over 12 and under 25 (and older) should read and share with their friends. It’s written to help readers deal with loss, with issues of their past, readers who may have lost their way, are dealing with sexual issues, abuse, boyfriend/girlfriend issues, or who might be making difficult decisions. *Changed* is by people who have not forgotten where they came from and how messed up life can be. As you relate to the writers and their own pain and brokenness, their joys and disappointments, God can bring the healing and the courage you need to stand for what you believe. [MORE](Read a chapter)

A technology blog started by Chris McConnell, Rocky Mountain Conference IT director, already has 70,000 readers. There are even colleges in other parts of the country using his blog in their classrooms. The blog, DailyTekk, has interesting insights into new products and ideas on how to be more productive using technology. [Click here](to follow his blog. (From Rocky Mt. Conf. News Nuggets)
Viewpoints: The Gospel of Jesus

Dr. Carlton P. Byrd, Speaker/Director, Breath of Life Ministries

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In 2010 Mikhail Kulakov, DPhil, became director and editor-in-chief of the Bible Translation Institute, which is based at Washington Adventist University. While Kulakov is based at the Takoma Park, Md.-campus, he is partnering with the Zaosky Adventist Seminary and Institute in Russia. Recently, the entire Sabbath service at Potomac Conference’s Sligo church in Takoma Park, Md., was devoted to raising awareness of the project. Kulakov preached for both worship services and Elena Rudoy, a Russian soloist, sang at a fundraising concert that evening. Kulakov shares his thoughts on this work below:

Q: Isn’t there already a Russian translation of the Bible?
A: The most recent translation of the complete Bible authorized by the Russian Orthodox Church, the Synodal translation, was published in 1875. For most Russians today, it is practically unreadable. The WAU institute is leading in the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language.

In his address to the 1917 Council of the Russian Orthodox Church, I. Yevseyev, chairman of the Russian Bible Commission, said this translation, “does not follow consistently the original text. A much more serious problem is its literary backwardness. The language of the translation is heavy, outdated…”

Q: What is the Bible being translated from to what?
A: The current project involves the translation of the entire Bible into the Russian language. The Old Testament is being translated from the ancient Hebrew and the New Testament from the biblical Greek.

Q: Who are the participants in this project?
A: The WAU Bible Translation Institute is an exciting initiative in international and inter-denominational scholarly collaboration. Together with the team of biblical scholars from various universities across Russia, the WAU institute is leading in the project of the translation of the Bible into contemporary Russian language.

We value the privilege to enlist the help of many distinguished scholars in Russia and the assistance of the United Bible Societies with the preparation of the electronic text. We are enjoying a very close and profitable collaboration with the leading philologists and Biblical scholars in Russia.

Q: When will this new translation be ready?
A: The New Testament, the Psalms and the Pentateuch have already been completed and published and the institute plans to publish the new translation of the entire Bible by 2015.
Southern And Lee Students Spread Anti-Sex Trafficking Message

Monday, March 19, 2012

Students and professors from Lee University and Southern Adventist University have joined together in a "poster-blitz" to spread Second Life of Chattanooga's anti-sex-trafficking message. Second Life is a non-profit organization dedicated to ending human sex trafficking in Southeast Tennessee by creating awareness that drives action through collaborative relationships.

Caleb Cox, a dorm residential assistant at Lee University, led 25 students, and Kendra Lee, a professor of public relations at Southern Adventist University, led eight students. These two teams placed 100 posters with information about the Tennessee Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at businesses in the Cleveland community as well as hotels surrounding Hamilton Place Mall.

"It excited me to find out that an organization like Second Life exists," said Mr. Cox. "I think this organization has a positive impact on those negatively affected by something like human trafficking."

Kendra Lee's team met a hotel worker who had seen evidence of human slavery but was unaware of what to do, until Second Life volunteers arrived with posters. Now this individual has the tools to make a difference in the lives of those impacted by sex trafficking.

"The weekend I moved to Chattanooga this past summer, I caught the tail-end of a radio program about Second Life Chattanooga. When I heard that Atlanta was ground zero for sex trafficking in the U.S., I was shaken to my core," said Ms. Lee. "Since that weekend, I have been involved with SLC's awareness campaign, specifically canvassing local hotels and offering them information on the Tennessee Anti-Trafficking Hotline. Trafficking is happening in our own neighborhoods. Hotels are obvious targets. This is something small I can do to combat this crime."

Volunteer opportunities with Second Life of Chattanooga are available by contacting the organization via email at contact@secondlifechattanooga.org or by phone at 994-4857.
Internationally Known Animal Behaviorist To Present Lecture At UTC

Dr. Irene Pepperberg, an internationally known animal behaviorist who holds faculty positions at Harvard University and Brandeis University, is coming to The University of Tennessee at Chattanooga to present “Alex and Me: Can African Grey Parrots Understand What They Say?” on Thursday, March 29 at 7:30 p.m. in the Raccoon Mountain Room, UTC University Center. This event ... (click for more)

Colonial Dames XVI Century Awards Scholarship To UTC Student

Colonial Dames XVI Century Prudhomme Fort Chapter has awarded Ashlee Denise Swafford, (the daughter of Scott and Cheryl Swafford) the Mary Florence Taney Scholarship. Miss Swafford is a student at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, maintains a 3.8 GPA, and aspire to become a medical doctor. One of her hobbies is marathon running. The Mary Florence Taney Scholarship ... (click for more)

Public Forum On "Obamacare" Litigation Will Be Wednesday At UTC

The Multidisciplinary Council on Judicial Studies is sponsoring a public forum on Wednesday evening, at UTC on "Obamacare" and the upcoming arguments in the United States Supreme Court. ... (click for more)

VW To Add 800 Jobs At Chattanooga Plant To Build More Passats

Volkswagen officials said they plan to add 800 new jobs at the Chattanooga facility to bring to 1,000 the number of new positions at the plant at the Enterprise South Industrial Park this year. There are currently 2,700 workers at the facility. VW officials said the new jobs are part of a "ramping up" of Passat production due to brisk sales. Governor Bill Haslam came ... (click for more)

Passenger Killed In 2-Vehicle Crash On Highway 153

Two vehicles crashed on Highway 153 on Wednesday afternoon and a passenger in one of the vehicles was killed. The wreck happen about 3:21 p.m. Police said a blue Suzuki was going north on Highway 153 when a southbound white Honda Accord tried to turn onto Grubb Road and collided with the Suzuki. A 17-year-old male passenger in the Honda was killed. The Honda’s ... (click for more)

Arrest Made In "Bad Samaritan" Purse Theft Case

Crime Stoppers: 2009 Murder Of Franklin Bonner

Latest County Jail Booking Reports

Bill To Ease Transfers Between Colleges Heads To Governor

Russell King: Erlanger - The Facts

As a member of Erlanger’s Board of Trustees (and for that matter as a citizen in both Hamilton County and the city of Chattanooga), I am excited about the dialogue which appears to be developing about Erlanger, the only public hospital in Southeast Tennessee. Roy Exum, as always, has some insightful thoughts and today’s article is no exception. I would like to think that my ... (click for more)

Roy Exum: How To Shoot A Bird

When Jimmy Morehead was growing up in Oklahoma back during the Great Depression, times were so tough that, as a kid, he would spend hours hunting the central part of the state to supplement the family dinner table with fresh game. He learned early, just like the rest of us boys, that if you aim directly at a bird in full flight, you’re almost guaranteed to miss it. “No,” he explained ... (click for more)

Smart Meters Confirmed To Pose Threat To Privacy - And Response (4)

School Rezoning Made Simple

Where Are The Gun-Right Activists? - And Response (3)

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Happenings

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Creativity In Schools And Community At Art + Issues Thursday
Rep. Graves Announces Spring/Summer 2012 County Connection Days
Judy Neighbors Has Book Signing April 7
Sergeant First Class Dennis Murray Posthumously Awarded Tennessee Fallen Heroes Medal
All Happenings Articles

Business

Georgia’s Jobless Rate Drops To Near Three-Year Low Amid Continued Job Growth
Death Tax Repeal Moves Out Of House Finance Subcommittee
All Business Articles

Student Scene

UTC Unveils Campus Master Plan
Internationally Known Animal Behaviorist To Present Lecture At UTC
Amazon Donates Kindle Touch Devices To Bachman Academy
All Student Scene Articles

Church

A New Hope At First Baptist
Pancake Breakfast To Benefit Newton Center
All Church Articles

Memories

James Douthat is First Recipient of Historian of the Year Award
TSLA to Host 1940 Census Seminar
All Memories Articles

Real Estate

Chattanooga’s Gang Task Force Meets With Realtors To Find Solutions To Neighborhood Gangs
Warm Weather Heats Up Home Sales
All Real Estate Articles

Living Well

Siskin Released 2010-2011 Evaluation Report
National Kick Butts Day Observed In Tennessee
Obesity Costly In More Ways Than One
All Living Well Articles

Outdoors

U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Announces Endangered Species Recovery Champion Awards
Great Smoky Mountains National Park Is 1 Of 2 National Parks Stricken By Bat-killing Epidemic
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Hinsdale Hospital invites community to patient pavilion open house

Last Modified: Mar 19, 2012 07:52PM

Adventist Hinsdale Hospital’s new $75 million patient pavilion doesn’t officially open until April, but community members are invited to a sneak peek from noon to 5 p.m. March 25 at the hospital’s Friends & Neighbors Open House.

The open house at the hospital, 120 N. Oak St., is free, but advance registration is recommended. That process may be completed by calling (630) 856-7525, or online at https://midwestceii.ahss.org/ceii_web/class/details.asp?class=16879.

Included in the open house are self-guided tours, a cooking demonstration by Jimmy Bannos from Heaven on Seven, an appearance by the Veggie Tales, and a string quartet performance by members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Other family-friendly activities include a “build your own first aid kit” station and the opportunity to win a Big Green Egg smoker and grill.

“Since we started planning this project, there has been a groundswell of support and tremendous amount of excitement from our community,” said Michael Goebel, the hospital’s chief executive officer. “This open house is a unique chance for people to take a behind-the-scenes tour of our new space before it opens to the public.”

Construction of the 100,000 square-foot pavilion began in 2010. The project was designed based on input from neighbors, patients, physicians and hospital staff.

The new patient pavilion includes private patient suites, which have private bathrooms and space for overnight guests; updated nursing units, corridors that separate patient and visitor traffic for privacy, a new lobby and Calandra chapel, updated labor and delivery suites, some with whirlpool tubs to promote relaxation, and a covered driveway on Oak Street to provide easier access to patient services and registration.

Each of the new private patient suites will feature a plasma TV, wireless internet access, rollout beds for family members, and oversized windows. Once the new space opens, the hospital will have 277 beds, reduced from the current licensed bed count of 342.

“The goal of the pavilion is to have everything patients use right here,” said Susan King, executive director of the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation. “We want it to be as easy as possible for everyone who comes here.”

The pavilion is connected to the existing hospital, and each floor is divided into four “neighborhoods” that allow nurses to be a maximum of 50 feet from patients at all times.

“Our new pavilion strengthens the nurse-patient relationship by giving our caregivers easy access to patients at the bedside,” said Shawn Tyrrell, the hospital’s chief nursing officer.

BettySue Netzol, a registered nurse who is the hospital’s director of women’s and children’s services, sees a huge upside to the new patient pavilion.

“We’re stressed when we’re in a different environment; we need peace and quiet for healing,” she said. “The setup here will allow for that much better.”

Copyright © 2012 — Sun-Times Media, LLC
Interest in organic produce and healthy living has become remarkably popular in recent years. As fossil fuels continue to climb, the expense of higher energy and transportation costs will make fruits and vegetables shipped from thousands of miles away less affordable. Local farms can offer fresh fare produce within a day of harvest, which provide more nutrients, as opposed to out of state produce that may take up to a week to arrive, possibly suffering nutrient loss. Buying from local farms is beneficial, but personally growing it has benefits above and beyond. Although urban gardening is rewarding and has many healthy advantages, it can be very difficult.

On March 25 residents are invited to learn gardening techniques and skills to develop a garden of their own from Master Gardener, David Stottlemyer.

Stottlemyer, Master Gardener of 17 years for UC Riverside holds a B.S. in Agriculture and masters degree in biology from Loma Linda University. Stottlemyer will provide information and tips on issues such as where to plant, what to plant, how to plant and how to do it the greenest way. Gardening enthusiasts are typically dampened by concerns of getting started, soil fertility and pest control, but Stottlemyer will make these complicated subjects interesting and practical, while also providing hands-on demonstrations.

The Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church intends to open its community garden in the near future, and is excited to share the value of fresh air, sunshine, exercise and healthy choices with the public.

The free gardening seminar will be held from noon to 6 p.m. at Corona Seventh-day Adventist Church located at 2550 S Main St., in Corona.

Registration and information: 951-735-0069
Commissioning service, classroom dedication held

Posted: Thursday, Mar 15th, 2012
By: JAMES MOON

Special to the Courier

ALAMOSA — About 80 people gathered at the Alamosa Seventh-day Adventist Church this on Saturday, March 3, for a special Commissioning Service to honor Sunshine Christian’s Head Teacher, Patricia Perry.

Perry has been with Sunshine Christian for the past four years and has taught for 17 years in Adventist schools around the country.

In the Adventist Church, teachers who demonstrate an exceptional commitment to helping their students know and love Jesus as a personal friend are commissioned. Commissioning is a simple service in which the church says: “we recognize that God has called you to a teaching ministry.”

Perry’s commissioning included a mini-concert from the Sunshine Christian Student Handbell Choir, some words of encouragement from The Rocky Mountain Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Superintendent, Lonnie Hetterle, and a special season of prayer.

It was a great blessing to be a part of this special time. Perry’s commitment to pray daily for the students at the school makes all the difference.

After a potluck lunch, about 40 people stayed by for the ribbon cutting and dedication of Sunshine Christian’s new modular classroom.

Alamosa Mayor Kathy Rogers commended the parents, staff, and church for their hard work in getting the modular in place, and shared a few words of encouragement with Sunshine students. Hetterle and Assistant Superintendent Diane Harris also participated in the dedication ceremony.

Sunshine Christian would like to extend a special thank you to the City of Alamosa for their support of its expansion. The school and staff are also very grateful to the Alamosa School District RE-11J and BOCES for making it possible to procure a very reasonably priced classroom through public auction. Alamosa’s Superintendent Robert Alejo and his team were incredibly supportive and a pleasure to work with.
"Let's enjoy, relax and have fun," advised Walter Turner, principal of Lodi Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School, on Wednesday morning.

Four other schools were present to compete in the Lodi area regional spelling bee for the Northern California Conference of Seventh-day Adventists: Foothills Adventist Elementary School, Hilltop Christian School, Mission Hills Christian School and Galt Seventh-day Adventist Christian School.

Judging by the white knuckles and solemn faces, the 14 kids waiting nervously on stage did not take the principal's advice to heart.

Master of ceremonies Barry van Iderstein, who works in the education department for the NCCSDA, offered a few tips of his own.

Slow down. Speak clearly. Ask to repeat the word, for the definition, or how to use it in a sentence. Write out the word on the palm of your hand. If there are two possible spellings, such as cord and chord, pick the one you know you can spell.

The row of kids in metal folding chairs nodded dutifully. It was time to begin.

"Let me apologize in advance if you don't like your word. Tough," said van Iderstein. Each round took words from a different category, ranging from crime and punishment to "Watership Down."

Sarah Verdin, of Galt, was the first to go up, and the first to go out. The 13-year-old misspelled coppernose, a species of bluegill fish.

Five students sailed through brooklime, shingles, coalmouse and fishgig with ease.

Brittany Archie stumbled on baldmoney, referring to any plant of the gentian genus.

"It was like my brain went static. I just tried to break it down, but it didn't work," said the 13-year-old.

The bee went on, with long stretches where no one left the stage. Then, in the "Shake a Leg" category, four students left in quick succession.

In the end, Luis Perez, of Galt, Rebecca Webb, of Foothills, and Alexandra Duncan, of Lodi, were left standing after successfully spelling vandalism, arrestee and forgery.

All three had earned a spot at the championship spelling bee, to be held at Rio Lindo Adventist Academy in Healdsburg. They were given the option to keep spelling until only one student remained. Instead, they agreed to call it quits and accept their trophies gratefully.

Wednesday's event was one of five Northern California regional spelling bees for Seventh-day Adventist schools. The top three spellers from each will move on to the championship.

Contact reporter Sara Jane Pohlman at sarap@lodinews.com.
Oakwood University President Leslie Pollard putting stamp on school (video)

By Paul Gattis, The Huntsville Times

The highest enrollment in the 115-year history of Oakwood University is only a snapshot of the changes the school is embracing under new leadership.

With Leslie Pollard entering his second year as president at the school, Oakwood has secured a prestigious contracting certification, and students have been polled about their spiritual outlook at the Seventh-day Adventist school.

"Out of that came data we used to reorganize the spiritual life on campus," Pollard said.

"Ultimately, in a faith-based institution, that's the dimension they're paying for. I mean, you can go anywhere to learn geometry."

Pollard, who took over at Oakwood in January 2011, said the survey found students with a strong faith. But it's important for students to be willing to analyze their faith - just as Pollard said he did when, as a teenager, he listened closely to the lyrics of John Lennon's classic hit "Imagine."

"Imagine there's no Heaven," the song begins. Another verse in the song calls for the listener to imagine there is "no religion, too."

Going beyond the charming melody to consider those words, Pollard concluded he and Lennon didn't agree.

"One day I was listening to the song," Pollard said. "And I thought, 'Do I really believe in God?' What Lennon is arguing is if you didn't believe in God, we would have world peace. Obviously what Lennon was observing was a lot of war driven by religion. It sent me to a period to think, 'What do I really believe? Do I believe that there is a God?'

Under Pollard, though, Oakwood is looking to enhance its presence beyond what the president said has been a "quiet, faith-based university" in the past.

Oakwood last month received ISO 9001 certification - which makes the school a prime candidate to contract with the government.

"The Obama administration has a strong commitment to green energy," Pollard said. "One thing that could be very attractive on the Oakwood campus would be creating an energy farm that would help supplement the Huntsville energy grid. That would enhance the experimental growth and progress of that industry because all this stuff is still new. Solar energy is still very, very new."

"(We would) be able to say to government, we've got 1,200 acres; let's talk."

With 2,000 students now on campus for the first time, a plan to reach 3,000 by 2015 and a new president and administrative staff in place, Pollard is eager for the Oakwood story to be heard.

"I think that's an area we have not excelled," Pollard said. "Right now over next five years, we're constantly working to push out our information. In many ways, we have not always been the best tellers of our story."

Follow me on Twitter @paul_gattis or email me at paul.gattis@htimes.com.
Several exotic animals take the stage at Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first Rumble in the Jungle program.

By Gina Tenorio  |  March 17, 2012

Had young Jacob Langford had the opportunity, he would have jumped on the back of a large alligator that took the stage at the Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“I really liked the fat alligator,” he said. “But I was in the bathroom.”

His sister, Rachel Langford, and friends Juliet, Paris and Amelie Quave -- all elementary school aged children -- joined Jacob for the first Rumble in the Jungle, a program presented by the Center for Biodiversity and Conservation Studies Department of Earth and Biological Sciences at Loma Linda University.

The program was held Saturday night during the regularly scheduled Loma Linda University Church Vespers service.

As far as favorite animals that night, there was no shortage of choices.

“My favorite animal was the cobra,” said Rachel. “It was because of how big it was and how it made people scared. It was just funny to see the people scared.”

“I liked the bird,” said Juliet Quave.

“I liked the cobra and alligator,” said Amelie Quave

“I like the birds and tarantulas,” said Paris Quave.

The children listed off most of the animals that made it to the stage that night. A tiger cub was too agitated to come on stage that night. Its handlers decided for everyone’s safety, including the tiger’s, it was best to let it be.

A black leopard also scheduled to appear did not make it because he went to retrieve the animal from its enclosure at the Forever Wild Exotic Animal Sanctuary in Phelan, it "looked at me like I was crazy," said Dr. William Hayes Ph.D. Professor of Biology.
Bad weather would do that to anyone, he said.

This is the first year they had a program of this kind, said Family Pastor Shawna Campbell, with Loma Linda University Seventh-day Adventist Church. The program is a perfect for the church, she said.

“Kids love animals,” she said. “God created these beautiful animals for us. To know more about these animals and to be able to bring them right here is (an advantage.) We have the opportunity to tap into everything at the university here. The church and the university, we work hand in hand.”

The university’s science department wants to open a lab where they have animals that ideally would welcome field trips, Campbell said.

Their hope is to be able to teach youngsters a love and respect for all creatures, she said.

“Every single one is important,” Campbell said. “Each one has something to contribute to the environment and to our well-being. It’s very important to take care of every single one of them.”
Adventist HealthCare is creating its own health information data network this year, offering to electronically connect affiliated doctors to its hospitals at a deep discount.

Adventist, which owns two hospitals in the Washington region, hopes the electronic data network will help it intertwine its business interests with doctors who don't want to sell their practices, said Dr. Gaurov Dayal, the chief medical officer. The hospital system also offers to subsidize the technology purchases of doctor groups.

Adventist announced in November a five-year goal of hiring 200 doctors, but that represents only a portion of the 2,000 doctors who have admitting ...
Shawnee Mission Medical Center has named a new leader to replace outgoing president and CEO Sam Turner, who retired in December.

Ken Bacon will be hospital’s new president and CEO, as well as regional CEO of the Mid America Region of Adventist Health System, the hospital announced Friday.

Bacon is scheduled to start the Shawnee Mission job the week of April 23. Currently, he is CEO at Littleton Adventist Hospital in Littleton, Colo. Both Shawnee Mission and Littleton are members of Adventist Health System.

"Ken has served with Adventist Health System for more than 20 years," Rich Reiner, Shawnee Mission’s board chairman and Adventist Health System Multi-State Division’s president and CEO, said in a news release. "He has a proven record of growing clinical areas, such as neuroscience, cardiology, oncology and trauma services while placing priority on building physician and community relationships."

From 1991-1996, Bacon worked in finance and managed care at Littleton and other hospitals. In 1997, he joined Central Texas Medical Center as CFO and was promoted to president and CEO the same year. From 2001 to 2006, Bacon opened Parker Adventist Hospital in Denver, overseeing multiple construction projects while serving as the hospital’s president and CEO. He was appointed to the top job in Littleton in 2007.

Bacon and his wife, DeAnna, have three children, Paul, 15, Mark, 11, and Olivia, 2.

"I am humbled everyday by the passionate commitment our teams devote to patient care and to living our mission," Bacon said in the news release. "While it will be hard to say farewell, I’m excited for this new adventure and am looking forward to the new friendships and working relationships at SMMC."

Jack Wagner, who has served as interim CEO since Turner’s retirement, will return to his role as CFO when Bacon arrives.
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Revive Us Again: 2012 Ministerial Session

By Jessica Lozano

Ron Halverson, Sr., was a keynote speaker.

Fort Worth, Texas » The Southwestern Union Conference held its 2012 ministerial session, “Revive Us Again,” January 8-11 in downtown Fort Worth at the Omni Hotel. More than 400 pastors and their families from around the union enjoyed fellowship, inspiration, and training at the session. The session opened with Dan Jackson, North American Division president, who gave an inspiring message titled, “The Flame that Burns,” on remembering that none can hope to keep the fire of faith alive if they let go of their dependence on God.

Other guest speakers included author and historian George R. Knight; senior pastor of Oakwood University church, Carlton Byrd; Elizabeth Talbot, associate speaker for the Voice of Prophecy; retired evangelist Ron Halvorsen, Sr.; part-time associate director of the Biblical Research
Institute, Angel Manuel Rodriguez; North American Division Ministerial director, Ivan Williams; and Jose Rojas, director of volunteer ministries for the NAD.

While the pastors were in breakout sessions, spouses were in their own meetings, discussing the life of the pastoral family and maintaining personal spirituality, among other topics. Parents were thankful for the provided childcare, and children were excited to be able to spend time with other young people as they spent the days doing crafts and visiting fun places around the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, including the Cowboys Stadium and the Fort Worth Zoo.

During the session, the NAD requested that pastors drop by their booth and record a ministry idea on video in order to be entered into a drawing for an iPad. Uzziel Maldonado, pastor of the Hooker, Okla., church, was the happy winner, and said he would give the iPad to his wife.

Many pastors said that they were refreshed by the inspirational tone of the session, and went away blessed and renewed. One pastor commented that it was “like a retreat for pastors and their families…it was beyond a retreat, it was a real treat.”
Are you looking for a book you can actually read from cover to cover? You sat through many sermons and have been given “the talk” more than once and it’s still not happening for you. Have you been looking for a book that gets it? A book that is written not by experts on youth, but by people that have not forgotten where they came from and how messed up life can be. You’ve found the right book. Read it.


*Changed* is a book designed just for you. *Changed* is the kind of book that everyone over 12 and under 25 should read and share with their friends. This is a book that will make you laugh and cry, smile and shake your head, and ultimately make you a real person with a real life but completely *Changed*, inside out! Enjoy it.

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CHANGED 3 IS THE THIRD CHANGED BOOK IN what has now become a series of awesome readings for youth and young adults. It is also part of the North American Division Changed Latino Youth Evangelism initiative for 2012. Chances are you will probably hear more about it through your pastor or friends maybe (or you can go to www.ChangedLatinoYouth.com). However, this book is a little different than the first two in that the stories deal with everyday life temptations, like sex, guilt, dating, family, loss, and decision making among other important issues. Each chapter has been written with you in mind.

As you read this book, you may identify with a story or two or you may know someone who will; you know how it is, many of us are going through “stuff” and that’s just how life is. As a young person living in today’s world, you face stuff, no doubt about that; sometimes you deal with stuff that not even your family or friends know
about, and life just seems so hard. It is in those moments and through them that you can truly experience God.

The stories in this book will point that out. This book is not going to give you all the answers to all your questions, but it will give you hope and will remind you that there is a God, a loving God who desires to change you. Why? Because He loves you unconditionally; He is the One who truly understands you. He created you. He set out to save you. You are His child. You are precious to Him.

So read the book, share the book, talk about the book, but always remember that your life is being changed by the God who doesn’t change but that changes you. Have you been changed?

**Manny Cruz**
Youth and young adults associate director for the North American Division
LET ME JUST TELL YOU THIS AS YOU START READING this book: it all starts right here, *ese* (dude)! Then God changes you in ways you cannot imagine! God can and will mess with you in ways beyond your wildest dreams because you are His, and He loves you unconditionally! Now, hear me out.

A FRESHMAN IN HIGH SCHOOL

I met this dude in high school named Johnny Perez. Johnny was once a tough guy from Farmersville, a small agricultural town in the Central Valley of California. Although his town was very small, they still had a gang problem among their youth. Johnny had just graduated from a Christian high school, Monterey Bay Academy, with the class of 1975, and was working that summer to pay off his school bill.

I had deep respect for Johnny because he was known as “the Lizard,” the gang nickname he had earned on
the streets. This gave Johnny credentials in my book. He had earned his way to being a *veterano*, a title given to gang members who no longer have anything to prove, meaning that they are established.

What was most disarming to me about Johnny was his personality. He had become a gentle, loving guy who reached out to me with complete acceptance and a totally cool Chicano attitude, much like my brother Gerry (Li’l Bosco) had always done for me. I noticed that Johnny took a special interest in me, and he would dedicate some of his time to hang out; he always talked to me as if I were his little brother too. At the end of that summer, Johnny left and went home, while I stayed and started the new school year.

**THE QUIET GUY**

I turned sixteen years old in the spring of that school year and was well into my sophomore year. As a teenager I had heard that young people were getting worse and worse, and indeed there were many stories to justify that opinion in the media and in the community. But I was still one of those “neutral” students on campus and came to be labeled as “the quietest person” in the sophomore class. I was known as a shy kid, but not because it was true; I was simply intimidated by life and didn’t know how I fit in.
On a particularly warm Sunday morning after breakfast, as I was walking back to the dormitory where I lived, I had guitars on my mind, and I wanted to hurry and get to the room. Suddenly, I heard the sounds of thousands of birds. As I looked up into the sky, a beehivelike cloud of noisy migrating blackbirds moved across the campus. I stood for a moment deeply transfixed by the experience. Then I suddenly felt a tap on my shoulder. It was Johnny Perez.

Johnny had come to visit campus for the weekend and had come to look me up to hang out for a while. As we stood together watching the birds, he began to talk about his experience in Christ. Johnny was not sophisticated by traditional definitions, but his life spoke of the sophistication of the Holy Spirit deep in his soul. We talked all morning that day as Johnny testified to what God had done in his life since he had surrendered himself completely to Jesus.

Then the moment came when Johnny turned to me and said, “It starts here, ese.” I listened silently as Johnny then invited me to join him in dedicating my life to Christ. I instinctively reminded him that I was already baptized, and Johnny agreed that my baptism had been an important step. He informed me that I could now move further in the commitment of my life to God.
Johnny added that if I were going to do true ministry and have something real to share, it all needed to start with this most basic of all commitments, a commitment of life itself to God, what inspired writers have referred to as “conversion.” We inched back to the dorm and went to my room.

I will always treasure the memory of that day as we knelt in room 232 on the top south hall of the boys’ dormitory. Johnny and I prayed a prayer, which, in its simplicity, brought out my deepest commitment for life. Jesus became my Lord and Savior that spring day in 1976.

**A HIGHER CALLING**

This testimony is mine; it’s like many other stories that are told as evidence of God’s power to change lives. But I am dumbfounded by what this experience in Christ did for me. Giving my life to Jesus is something that I had heard of for a long time. I had thought that commitment to Christ was merely a commitment of beliefs and behaviors. But I soon discovered that Jesus is the experience of a lifetime that impacts not only our lives but also the lives of others around us. From that day onward, I have learned that to live Jesus is to share Him like never before.

When you give your life to God, something powerful happens. You are hooking up with the God of the
universe! The Lord will begin to use your life to bless others. It’s not what you know that makes this incredible, it’s who you know. The apostle wrote in the Bible, “Christ in me, the hope of glory!” He was telling the truth because your life becomes a message to others. God will take your talents and make them grow. You begin to serve your community as you serve God, and that’s what happened to me.

**MY FIRST SERMON**

The very week after I gave my life to Christ, I was asked to join a student group that took programs to churches on behalf of the school. One day not long after that, as our group was visiting the Selma, California, Seventh-day Adventist Church, our program ended early. The pastor suddenly realized that he had almost half an hour of church service left! After an awkward silence, the pastor, scanning the front pew of nervous students, proceeded to invite me to get up and finish the program! He whispered into my ear, saying, “You guys ended a whole half hour early; you’re going to have to get up and preach!”

I was stunned. My knees shook with an intense fear. I felt sick to my stomach. I hesitated for what seemed like seven seconds, a very long time when you’re afraid! Then I got up to that pulpit and preached about the
final scenes of the cross of Christ. The depictions of our Savior’s suffering in that unprepared sermon visibly wrenched the congregation at times. People obviously felt uncomfortable almost literally watching Jesus die before them through my descriptive language. I had no way of professionally sanitizing into simple words the penalty Christ bore for our sins.

In hindsight, I now realize just how blunt and plain the sermon had been. From that day forward, however, I have continued to intentionally take people past the cross of Jesus in my sermons, no matter what the topic is. This occurred long before I knew that I would someday study for the ministry. At the age of sixteen, I preached my first official sermon. I was sick with the nausea of stage fright for the rest of the day.

CALLED TO SERVE

Only two months later, as the summer approached, I was invited by a literature evangelist named David Lewis to participate in a program called “Community Crusade Against Drugs,” in the city of San Francisco. Although I was only sixteen, my parents gave permission for me to join the team of students far from home. We worked directly on the streets of the city and went door to door, taking a message of drug-free living in the name of Jesus.
That summer was my first shot at bachelor life. My friends tell me I have never been the same since. I saw that there is a large world of people dying anonymously in their sins. But each of these people, living deep in the cities of the world, is a wonderful human being in need of someone to love them. Those inner-city people, who some irreverently refer to as the scum of the earth, are souls for whom Christ willingly gave up His life to save.

This experience profoundly impacted the intensity of my outlook on life and my zeal for the gospel ministry. My time working on Dave’s team in San Francisco pushed me into a Christianity that constantly seeks to make things happen in the community. The Lord also taught me to be faithful in the simple tasks of serving others.

AWESOME DIVINE APPOINTMENTS

One morning the phone rang during breakfast at the Spanish church where I lived with my roommate. The call was from the University of California Medical Center down the peninsula on the other side of San Francisco. A nurse at the other end of the line said that a patient was going to have serious surgery. The patient was a Seventh-day Adventist and was not from the area. She was hoping that an Adventist pastor could visit her before surgery the next day.
I responded that our church’s pastor spoke no English and that she would be better served if the pastor from the English-speaking church were to visit her. After giving the phone number of the San Francisco Tabernacle Church, my roommate and I finished breakfast and prepared for the day’s activities on the streets of the city.

I hurriedly finished reading a favorite book that morning also. The book, titled *A Field Guide to Wilderness Living*, was an inspiring collection of tips for living in the harshest of wilderness conditions. I had loved this book so much that I had it hardbound after buying it. I took the book with me in the car as we drove to the section of San Francisco we were to work in that day.

That night after we dropped off the last student team member, my roommate and I went to a fast-food restaurant on the corner of Market and Seventh Streets. The time was about 11:30 p.m., and we sat quietly at the table.

Suddenly, it hit us both at the same moment: with a sense of certainty we exclaimed that no one had gone to see the woman at the hospital that day! Neither one of us could say how we knew this, but we did. We simply felt sure that the hospital probably did not reach anyone to go see the woman facing serious surgery the next morning.
We quickly picked up our food and ran out to the car. The drive across San Francisco is like no other trip in the world. When climbing the many hills that dominate the landscape, you often have to stop on inclines that feel more like a wall than a street. We finally reached the hospital and parked a block away, for even at that hour, parking was scarce.

The hospital is a huge structure with many departments and patient floors. Yet with confidence, we went directly to the ninth floor. When we emerged from the elevator, we saw a long, dark hallway. Perhaps a hundred feet down, a small light lit the hallway where the nurses’ station was located. Two worried faces peered cautiously in our direction as we walked down the hallway. My roommate’s rubber flip-flops slapped against the bottom of his feet, and our bell-bottom pants matched our shoulder-length hair, forming a silhouette that truly frightened the nurses at that hour of the night.

The nurses wanted to call security, but it was too late; by then we stood before them, smiling and asking for a favor. I stated that we were representing the Seventh-day Adventist Church and had come to visit a patient who was having surgery in a few hours. The nurse reminded us that visiting hours had ended more than four hours earlier. We insisted that our visit was
pastoral and that we had to see the patient. One of the nurses finally said, “Well, I don’t like this, but follow me, and I’ll take you to her.”

We walked down the hall to a room where the nurse opened the door and let us in. We were amazed to find that, indeed, no one had come to see the patient. As we walked into the room, the time was exactly midnight. A night light provided just enough light to see a woman sitting up in bed and in tears. The woman exclaimed, “Don’t tell me you’re Adventists!” We smiled and said that we were. She said, “I had all but given up, and the Lord knew what He was going to do. At the stroke of midnight He has sent me two hippie Adventists to minister to me!”

The moment was the kind I had read about in books, one of those miracle moments in the life of a Christian, as God meets someone’s need through His people. We bonded almost immediately as the patient told us of her journey to that place. She stated that she now knew that she was ready for surgery since God had sent us to her.

After that, she led us in prayer and thanked God for the miracle of ministry. A miracle that shows God cares and that He will not forsake us. We had gone to minister to her, but instead she was ministering to us. I learned that summer the essence of ministry: freely you give and freely you receive.
After prayer the woman said, “My name is Catherine Gearing. Have you read my book, *A Field Guide to Wilderness Living*?” My jaw must have dropped to the floor! This was my favorite book! The book I had just finished reading that very day! We spent the next hour celebrating how God shows His love by bringing His people together. As we drove back across the peninsula that night, I held Catherine’s book in my hands, knowing that we had done God’s will in ministry that day. Catherine Gearing’s surgery went very well the next day.

**UNLEASHED TO SERVE OTHERS**

When I returned to school at the end of that summer, I was a new person. What God did in me in San Francisco was release me from the limitations I myself had set in my life over the years. All of us possess gifts that we have repressed because of the different issues we have lived through. The Lord can break that hold, and we can experience a fuller understanding of just how many blessings God has given us as we use them to bless others in His name.

As soon as the new school year began, my parents surprised me with a new guitar. They had a miraculous few dollars that they used to buy a twelve-string Brazilian instrument. Their rationale was that if I indeed had developed a ministry, they wanted to help me succeed.
That Giannini Craviola guitar played for countless thousands of people around the world in the next fifteen years, always when I preached a sermon.

The day would come only three years later when I became a pastor, and then a couple years later, a youth specialist and evangelist. The time even came a few years after when I would work with the president of the United States.

You never can imagine what changes God can bring to your life, but you can discover them when you surrender your life to Him.

I think back to the day of those swarming blackbirds on my high school campus often and will always cherish that sunny day when I was sixteen. Little did I know that in giving my life to Jesus, a virtual avalanche would be set off; an avalanche of experiences of growth and change in my life. I am grateful to my friend Johnny Perez, who was faithful and stayed insistent with me until I saw the light before me. Johnny brought me to understand the power of a personal God. I changed from the “quiet” student on campus to a student with an attitude, the attitude of Jesus. It starts here, ese . . .
José Vicente Rojas serves as the Director of the Office of Volunteer Ministries for the North American Division. An accomplished musician and recording artist, José is also an author and a passionate preacher of the Word. José holds an Honoris Causa Doctor of Divinity degree from Southwestern Adventist University, as well as Bachelors and Masters degrees in Religion from Loma Linda University. He and his wife, Ruthie, have four children: Veronica, Angelica, Gabriel, and Maria.