Ophelia M. Barizo, a science teacher at Highland View Academy (HVA) in Hagerstown, Md., is one of only 27 educators who have been awarded the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship for 2013-2014. She will be taking a sabbatical from HVA to serve the fellowship at the National Science Foundation's Directorate for Engineering, and the Office of Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation (EFRI).

"Adventist Education has always strived not only for the highest quality spiritual development for our students, but also for quality academics," said Larry Blackmer, vice president for Education in NAD. "Ophelia Barizo has excelled and we want to share our blessings and congratulations." MORE

April Fool's! The story of the pope praising Adventists and carrying the red book by "his favorite author," Ellen White, is not true. Please do not forward it or share it on social media. Here's the real AP story.

Why does the promise of Christ's return matter?

Teach-Love-Care: A story of the chaplaincy

7-year-old mesmerizes from the pulpit

Puppet Ministry Certification workshops will be conducted April 13-14, at the Kids' Ministry Center at the Review and Herald in Hagerstown, Md. Workshops include information about starting a puppet ministry, working with various puppet types, puppet manipulations, black light puppets, costuming, backgrounds and props, skit writing, beginning ventriloquism and more. One special puppet class will be a hands-on class to make a professional moving-mouth puppet. MORE

The Breath of Life (BOL) annual spring revival will present "Revelation Now!" at 7:00 p.m. nightly, April 6-20, at the Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Ala. The event will be streamed live at www.oucsda.org. Elder Carlton Byrd, BOL speaker/director will lead out with Bible-based preaching. Great music will include guests Lamar Campbell, April 6; Marvin Sapp, April 7; and Committed, April 12. MORE

April 3, 2013

Special Days:

April Focus: Stewardship

April 6, Missionary Magazines (Signs, Message, El Centinela, Priorities)

April 13, Stewardship Sabbath

April 20, Literature Evangelism Sabbath

April 27, Education Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources: Find a full list on the NAD website

Apr. 4, Prayer Call

Apr. 4-6, SONscreen Film Festival

Apr. 6-20, Revelation Now! Breath of Life 2013 Spring Revival

Apr. 4-11, Pre-Spring Meetings, Silver Spring, Md.

Apr. 6-13, AYM Week of Youth Evangelism #2 (NEC, SNEC, NJC)

Apr. 6-20, Breath of Life Spring Revival

April 12-15, Spring Meeting, Battle Creek, Mich.

April 12-14, Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry

April 13-14, Puppet Ministry Certification

Apr. 20, NAD Pathfinder Bible
New Adventist degree programs - Southern Adventist University will offer a Social Workers master's. MORE
The Andrews University's School of Architecture, Art and Design offers three new degree programs: Interior Design, Construction Management and Documentary Film. It is the only Adventist educational institution offering a four-year degree in building construction management or any programs focused on interior design. MORE

What's one of the best things about summer?
Have you forgotten? It's summer camp, of course! Check out the wide variety of options, activities, times and habitats of our Adventist summer camp sites at the NAD Camp Ministries website.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is "summer camp" for small children and a great help for parents who are looking for a childcare break. Parents of small children often choose a church based on the kind of children's ministries they have, and VBS is a wonderful "get acquainted" tool for community outreach and evangelism. This year, investigate the new Investigation Station VBS program. Available in English and Spanish at AdventSource (800-328-0525) or through your local Adventist Book Center (800-765-6955).

2013 marks the 150th year of the Seventh-day Adventist® Church which began in the North American Division. This might be a great time to "get in touch with your roots." Adventist Heritage Ministry (AHM) is here to help you do just that. Find them on the Internet. Read and subscribe to the AHM Bulletin. Volunteer to help with a project to improve an AHM property. Like them on Facebook.

"Everything Wants Praise"
Pastor Rebecca Davis, assistant pastor Atlanta, Ga., Berean SDA Church

NAD NewsPoints- Albert Einstein Award to SDA, Pope story untrue, Puppet Ministry, new degrees, and more

Pastor Will James wanted to start a refugee assistance program, and as a result the Paradise Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church in National City, Calif., has found their calling through the Refugee Assimilation Program. It helps refugees find new hope, healing, a sense of community, and more. They give away over 8,000 pounds of food a week to the community and run an ESL (English as a Second Language) class for refugees Monday through Friday in the church Fellowship Hall. They have a thrift store operating with volunteers to help support their ministries. Watch the video.
Triangle Coalition Announces 2013–2014 Einstein Fellowships

April 4, 2013

Twenty-seven distinguished STEM educators selected to serve next school–year at four federal agencies

ARLINGTON, Va. (March 26, 2013) – The Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education today announced 27 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educators who have been selected for the 2013–2014 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program. Selected educators will serve in Washington, D.C. for 11 months beginning September 1, 2013 at sponsoring federal agencies which include the Department of Energy (DOE), National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), and the National Science Foundation (NSF). Einstein Fellows provide practical classroom insight in guiding education programs and policies, especially those related to STEM education.

Founded in 1990, the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program is a paid fellowship for K–12 science, technology, engineering, and mathematics educators with demonstrated excellence in teaching. Fellowships aim to increase understanding, communication, and cooperation between the legislative and executive branches of the government and the STEM education community. The Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Act, authorized by Congress in 1994, gave DOE federal responsibility for the program. The Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education administers the Program for the DOE Office of Science in partnership with the other participating federal agencies.

The 2013–2014 Einstein Fellows were selected through a rigorous application and interview process from a competitive, nationwide pool of nearly 200 applicants. Of the 27 fellows in the 2013–2014 cohort, five are returning fellows invited to serve for a second year in their sponsoring agencies. Triangle Coalition is pleased to announce the names of the 22 newly selected Einstein Fellows as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

- **Anne Artz**, a teacher at The Preuss School UCSD in La Jolla, Calif., will serve as a Congressional Fellow sponsored by the Department of Energy’s Office of Science with program support from Brian O'Donnell.

- **Michelle Basile**, a teacher at St. Patrick’s Episcopal Day School in Washington, D.C., will...
serve as a Congressional Fellow sponsored by the Department of Energy’s Office of Science with program support from Brian O’Donnell.

- **James Forester**, a teacher at the Salem High School in Salem, Va., will serve as a Congressional Fellow sponsored by the Department of Energy’s Office of Science with program support from Brian O’Donnell.

- **Zovig Minassian**, a teacher at Herbert Hoover High School in Glendale, Calif., will serve at the Department of Energy’s Office of Science under the guidance of Patricia Dehmer.

- **Joshua Sneideman**, a teacher at Tarbut V Torah in Irvine, Calif., will serve at the Department of Energy’s Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the guidance of Michelle Fox.

- **Shawn Tiegs**, a teacher at Nezperce Joint School District in Nezperce, Idaho, will serve as a Congressional Fellow sponsored by the Department of Energy’s Office of Science with program support from Brian O’Donnell.

### NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

- **Jennifer Kennedy**, a teacher at Athens Middle School in Athens, Ala., will serve at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Aeronautics Research Mission Directorate (ARMD) under the guidance of Tony Springer.

- **Melinda Higgins**, a teacher at The Harpeth Hall School in Nashville, Tenn., will serve at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration’s (NASA) Office of Education (OE) & Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) under the guidance of Robert Gabrys.

### NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION

- **Ophelia Barizo**, a teacher at the Highland View Academy in Hagerstown, Md., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Engineering (ENG), Emerging Frontiers in Research Innovation Division (EFRI) under the guidance of Rosemarie Wesson.

- **Elaine Blomeyer**, a teacher at South Gate High School in South Gate, Calif. will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), Human Resources Development Division (HRD) under the guidance of Marilyn Suiter.

- **Barbara Buckner**, a teacher at Bradley Central High School in Cleveland, Tenn., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human
Resources (EHR), Office of the Assistant Director (OAD) under the guidance of Joan Ferrini-Mundy.

- **Kaye Ebelt**, a teacher at Target Range School in Missoula, Mont., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Engineering (ENG), Civil, Mechanical and Manufacturing Innovation Division (CMMI) under the guidance of George Hazelrigg.

- **Steve Griffin**, a teacher at Woodlawn High School in Baton Rouge, La., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Engineering (ENG), Industrial Innovation and Partnerships Division (IIP) under the guidance of Sonya Williams.

- **Natalie Harr**, a teacher at Crestwood Primary School in Mantua, Ohio, will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Computer & Information Science & Engineering Directorate (CISE), Information and Intelligent Systems Division (IIS) under the guidance of Janet Kolodner.

- **Kathryn Hoppe**, a teacher at Monroe 2–Orleans BOCES in Spencerport, N.Y., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Engineering (ENG), Division of Engineering Education and Centers (EEC) under the guidance of Mary Poats.

- **Jennie Lyons**, a teacher at Hackley School in Tarrytown, N.Y., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Computer & Information Science & Engineering Directorate (CISE), Computer and Network Systems Division (CNS) under the guidance of Jan Cuny.

- **Stephen Portz**, a teacher at Space Coast Junior/Senior High School in Cocoa, Fla., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Computer & Information Science & Engineering Directorate (CISE), Cyber Physical Systems Division (CPS) under the guidance of Keith Marzullo.

- **Rebecca Sansom**, a teacher at Bingham High School in South Jordan, Utah, will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), Division of Undergraduate Education (DUE) under the guidance of Joan Prival.

- **Florentia Spires**, a teacher at Howard University Middle School in Washington, D.C., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Computer & Information Science & Engineering Directorate (CISE), Computer and Network Systems Division (CNS) under the guidance of Jan Cuny.

- **Sheryl Sotelo**, a teacher at McNeil Canyon Elementary in Homer, Alaska, will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), Human Resources Development Division (HRD) under the guidance of Marilyn Suiter.
• **David Thesenga**, a teacher at Lake Forest Country Day School in Lake Forest, Ill., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Geosciences Directorate (GEO) under the guidance of Jill Karsten.

• **James Town**, a teacher at West Sacramento College Prep Charter School in West Sacramento, Calif., will serve at the National Science Foundation’s Directorate for Education and Human Resources (EHR), Division of Research on Learning (DRL) under the guidance of Janice Earle.

### About the Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education

Triangle Coalition for Science and Technology Education is a 501c (3) nonprofit organization that works in partnership with its members to lead the nation in advocating for improved STEM education. Headquartered in the Washington, D.C. metro area, the Triangle Coalition is uniquely comprised of member organizations that represent the diverse voices of businesses, education alliances, nonprofit organizations, and STEM societies from across the U.S. Through a combination of advocacy, communications, and programmatic efforts, Triangle Coalition works diligently to advance STEM education for all students.

Triangle Coalition administers the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship Program on behalf of the Department of Energy, in partnership with other participating federal agencies and the Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education. The federally authorized Einstein Fellowship Program provides a unique professional development opportunity for educators to inform national policy and improve communication between the K-12 STEM education community and national leaders. Fellows spend eleven months working in a federal agency or in a U.S. Congressional office, bringing extensive knowledge and classroom experience to education programs and policy efforts. To learn more about the Triangle Coalition and the Einstein Fellowship Program, visit [www.trianglecoalition.org](http://www.trianglecoalition.org).

### Contact

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VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis will spend Monday's Vatican holiday praying at the tomb of Peter, the church's first pontiff, during a visit to the excavated necropolis under St. Peter's Basilica.

A Vatican statement called the visit private, but promised to release photos and video later in the day. The basilica was built over the location where early Christians would gather in secret, at a time of persecution in ancient Rome, to pray at an unmarked tomb believed to be that of Peter, the apostle Jesus chose to lead his church.

In past years, popes often spent the day after Easter, known in Italy as "little Easter," at Castel Gandolfo, the Vatican palace in the Alban Hills, a short drive from Rome. But that oasis of sprawling gardens and strolling paths in the quaint hill town is occupied by the predecessor of Francis, Benedict XVI, who spent the last hours of his papacy there before becoming the first pope in 600 years to retire. Benedict is staying in Castel Gandolfo until a monastery at the Vatican in Rome can be readied for him.

Many Italians spend "little Easter" by having a picnic lunch in the countryside or in city parks, and Francis told Romans and tourists who gathered in St. Peter's Square on Monday at noon to see him to "have a good lunch." Francis said he was praying that Easter would inspire the faithful so that "hatred gives way to love, lies to truth," and that it would especially comfort those in "most need of trust and hope."

He spoke to them from the studio window of the apartment in the Apostolic Palace overlooking the square. Benedict and popes before him lived there, but so far Francis, who stresses simplicity, has declined to move into the quarters. Instead, he has continued to stay in a hotel on Vatican City's grounds, the same residence where as Buenos Aires archbishop he stayed with fellow cardinals to elect Benedict's successor.

They chose him, Jorge Bergoglio, the first pontiff from South America.

St. Peter's mission was to continue to preach the message of Jesus and reach more souls. Francis, as a Jesuit, is steeped in the evangelizing mission of the church, and the necropolis tour brings him back to the origins of the church in its simplest years.

Peter himself was among the Christian martyrs during Nero's reign. He is believed to have been crucified, head down, on the Vatican hill.

Constantine, the first Christian emperor, had an early basilica built on the slopes of the Vatican Hill, burying the pagan and Christian cemetery — necropolis means 'city of the dead' — that surrounded Peter's burial site. The current basilica, named after St. Peter, was constructed over the earlier basilica that was deemed unsafe and demolished in the late 15th century. The Baroque master architect Bernini designed the bronze canopy over the central altar over the spot of Peter's burial site. The current basilica was planned as an awe-inspiring monument that would project the image of a powerful church.

Under popes of the last century, extensive excavations were carried out of the sprawling necropolis. In 1965, archaeologists said they had found the bones of Peter in an area near an ancient Greek inscription saying "Peter is here."

Part of a nearby necropolis came to light in 2003 during construction of a parking lot.

A few years ago, the Vatican unveiled the largest and most luxurious of the pagan tombs under St. Peter's Basilica, that of a family of former slaves. Guided tours of the necropolis, upon appointment, have been one of the most sought-after attractions for tourists to the Vatican.
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Christus, a statue of Jesus Christ on display at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints' Temple Square on Thursday, March 7, 2013 in Salt Lake City.

Second Coming » Nearly half of Christians expect it in next 40 years, poll says, but ministers advise living like it could happen anytime.

By Peggy Fletcher Stack

First Published Mar 29 2013 07:49 am • Last Updated Apr 01 2013 12:14 pm

On Easter morning, Jesus stepped out of his tomb, so the Bible says, and then lingered among his friends and followers for 40 days. When he eventually ascended into heaven, the man they considered the Son of God assured them he would come back someday.

So those devoted first-century fishermen, fathers, mothers and tax collectors watched, wondered and waited, convinced Jesus would show up by the side of a lake, walking along a road or descending from the sky.
At a glance

“When he comes again’
I wonder, when he comes again,
Will herald angels sing?
Will earth be white with drifted snow,
Or will the world know spring?
I wonder if one star will shine
Far brighter than the rest;
Will daylight stay the whole night through?
Will songbirds leave their nests?
I’m sure he’ll call his little ones
Together ’round his knee,
Because he said in days gone by,
“Suffer them to come to me.”


Bible predicts Second Coming

“For the Son of Man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.”

Matthew 16:27

“And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he [Jesus] went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel;

“Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus,
which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”

Acts 1:10-11

It’s been 2,000 years and Christians are still counting on that promised return.

The so-called Second Coming is part of Christian scripture, theology and tradition. It has been celebrated in song (think "Battle Hymn of the Republic"), poetry and art of every era. It either inspires or terrifies many believers.

Jesus said no one will know when he is coming but that hasn’t stopped people from trying to read the "signs of the times" for clues. Wars, weird weather, natural disasters, diseases, conflicts, violence have prompted false predictions throughout history — most notably in the 19th and 20th centuries. The consequences of such ill-founded assumptions are real and often painful.

Tens of thousands of Americans were persuaded by Baptist preacher William Miller that Christ would return Oct. 22, 1844, which didn’t happen. Many went away dejected, but others regrouped and formed the Seventh-day Adventist Church to preach about the coming Christ — with no specific date in mind.

A century and a half later, Christian radio host Harold Camping attracted a following with his insistence that the world would end May 21, 2011, and then Oct. 21, 2011. Some people gave up jobs, abandoned homes and made no plans for continued existence after those dates and found themselves bitter, lost and embarrassed.

Even still, nearly half of American Christians expect Jesus to return in the next 40 years, according to a 2010 poll by the Pew Research Center. About 27 percent say "definitely," while 20 percent say "probably."

But what if he once again fails to appear? What good is all this anxiousness and anticipation?

story continues below

story continues below

• Paul Rolly: Mia Love already gets serious about 2014 and Jim Matheson
  Published Apr 4, 2013 01:39:02PM
Living in the now • Having a kind of deadline, even if it’s always in the future, gives an urgency to daily life, says the Rev. Matthew Gilbert of downtown Salt Lake City’s Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church.

"It’s about preparing for eternity," says Gilbert, whose Orthodox Church will celebrate Easter on May 5. "We have to be spiritually ready in every moment."

The message of the Second Coming is to take life seriously, he says, not to procrastinate but to live faithfully in every moment.

The Rev. France Davis of Salt Lake City’s Calvary Baptist Church agrees.

"We need to be ready at all times," says the soft-spoken pastor. "We need to be living the golden rule, show love to one another, treat our neighbors the way we want to be treated."

There is no need to fear the end times, Davis says, "unless you are not ready."

The Rev. Mike Imperiale of Salt Lake City’s First Presbyterian Church strives to keep his congregation focused on redemption, rather than judgment and anxiety.

"One of my roles is to help people not get wrapped up in the signs of the times," he says. "Those have been around for a long time."

Imperiale doesn’t spend much energy imagining Christ floating among the clouds, but he does believe that the Savior will come back in a literal, physical way.

"How that works in terms of physics, I have no clue," the pastor says. "But the Bible gives us enough description to have hope."

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See more about comments here.
ZABUL PROVINCE, AFGHANISTAN – Military chaplains come from all walks of life. First and foremost a chaplain is a soldier. It takes a special person to be a soldier, it also takes a special type of minister to be a chaplain. Chaplains are not only ministers but also counselors, colleagues and friends.

There are similarities between chaplains and civilian ministers because many chaplains attempt to make church services in a deployed environment mirror those of a garrison or even a civilian service. However, the unique role as a chaplain is accompanied by very unique distinctions.

“As a civilian minister, I was very church oriented, always surrounded by Christians. There wasn’t much chance to go out and meet people of other beliefs,” said U.S. Army chaplain Capt. Soojin Chang, a Southern Baptist chaplain for the 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade, 2nd Infantry Division. “But in the Army, I don’t have to go out and search for these people. They come to me and we discuss about our belief. There is a mutual respect with each other.”

Though the role of a chaplain most resembles that of a pastor, chaplains can serve God in other ways. Many ministers feel led to work in missions.

“There are a lot of hurting people within the Army, and there are a lot of people that, if you go to them and you just care for them, they will open up and they will want to know more about faith, want to know more about God. Maybe they have had questions, but they would never step foot in a chapel. But because you are going to them where they work, they say ‘Hey, I've got a question about this,’” said Capt. Joseph Mason, a Christian chaplain with 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, Task Force 2–1 Cavalry.

“I see the Army as a mission field, not in the sense of going out to convert people – that isn’t our job – but through honesty and genuine relationships,” said Mason. “People asking honest questions and seeking god in an honest manner; I see there is a very missional aspect to the chaplaincy. “

Every job has aspects that are more gratifying than others.

“The greatest thing about being a chaplain is that you are planting the seeds of God’s mercy, compassion and love,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jerome Fehn, a Catholic priest and the
base chaplain for Camp LSA (Life Support Area), Kuwait. "Just like in the parable of the sower, I never know how the seeds are going to fall and it's important to know that my job is not necessarily to bear the fruit that may come a generation or two after; but my job is to plant the seed of God's word, love and compassion in the hearts and souls of as many people as I can."

“The toughest part of my job is my family, because they have to suffer long periods of separations just like I do,” Chang said.

There are many tangible rewards to being in the military. The reward of being a chaplain is, however, not tangible.

“Having been with the soldiers, walking the walk with them, just being among them, and experiencing the same food, the same conditions, the same frustrations, the same worries, the same concerns; just being able to know you are with them, and you are one of them and their mission and their work. Being there when they are happy, being there when they are sad. All of these things are the most fulfilling part about being a chaplain,” said U.S. Army Capt. Arles Curtis Sutherland, Seventh-day Adventist Chaplain for 1st Battalion, 41st Field Artillery Regiment, 1st Armor Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, Combined Task Force Raider.
7-year-old mesmerizes from the pulpit


April 4, 2013

Samuel M. Green is a 7-year-old preacher. (Video by LaReeca Rucker/The Clarion-Ledger)

7-year-old Samuel Green has preached at more than 50 churches and community events and has his own public access TV show.
Blessed with a sharp mind and an infectious personality, Samuel Green, 7, of Jackson, Miss. has been sharing the message of the Bible from the pulpit since age 5. He has preached at more than 50 churches since May 2011. (Photo: Joe Ellis, The (Jackson, Miss.) Clarion-Ledger)

**Story Highlights**

- Samuel read a book about the creation at age 3
- Mother says he memorizes his 15-minute 'inspirational message'
- He says he wants to be a doctor

JACKSON, Miss. -- He stands in the pulpit at Birmingham's Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church, sporting a pin-striped vest and tie. Nearby, a woman weeps and waves her hands.

The 5-year-old called his first sermon "Double for Your Trouble." It's about Job, a man who continued to have faith in God despite his trials and eventually was given more than he lost as a reward for his devotion.

"Job had nothing," says Samuel Martholomew Green, speaking confidently to the congregation as their voices reaffirm his message.

"He lost his land. He lost his animals. He lost his sons and daughters. But do you know what Job did? Job fell to his knees and began worshiping to God, saying, 'The Lord has given, and the Lord has taken away. Blessed be the name of the Lord.' After all these bad things happened to Job, still he praised God."

Now 7, Samuel has since preached at more than 50 churches and community events. The Jackson youngster has his own public access television show, "Samuel M. Green Presents the Simple Truth." And he recently began taping six shows called "Tiny Tots for Jesus" for Three Angels Broadcasting Network, a Christian media ministry based in West Frankfort, Ill.

Justin Patterson, 24, the youth leader of Bolton's Brownsville Missionary Baptist Church, first saw the little preacher on YouTube. Then he decided to go see him in person.

"I couldn't believe someone so small had so much to say and give to the world," he says.

Samuel is the middle name of the little preacher's father, Louis S. Green III. But the boy's mother, Joann Green, named him after Samuel in the Bible.

Green, 52, a Medicare coordinator, and her husband, a retired surgical assistant, did not...
expect to have another child. Her eldest son, Cedric Walker, was 21 when Samuel was born. She often said if she had another baby, she would pattern his life after the biblical Samuel. She read scripture to him when she tucked him in and when he woke.

His grandmother began teaching him songs and nursery rhymes at 12 months. By age 3, he could read, and during children's story time at church, he confidently read a book about the creation.

Joann Green says Samuel's comfort level speaking in front of people definitely did not come from her or her husband.

"I am not a public speaker, and my husband is very bashful. He did not grow up around pastors. We are just a very spiritual family," Green says. "This is very unique, and sometimes, we are just amazed at some of the things Samuel says. We know without a shadow of a doubt that it is strictly from God."

Samuel remembers reading that creation story. "The real meaning of the creation story is that we should try to be like who we are and not like someone else because God made us, just like Adam and Eve. He made us exactly the way he wants us to be."

Samuel is a good kid, his mom says, but he isn't perfect.

"He gets in trouble for not following direction as he is told," Green says. "He'll get in trouble for not staying focused at school. He will sort of daydream. And sometimes he gets in trouble for leaving his toys around, not picking up and putting things away as he should."

Samuel skipped kindergarten and entered first grade at age 5 because he was so well prepared, his mother says. Math, reading and spelling are his favorite subjects.

A love of language comes in handy when reading the Bible and pondering spiritual messages.

"It's in my mind, and my teachers transport it onto paper, and I learn it from there," says the third-grader at College Drive Seventh-Day Adventist Christian School in Pearl.

"But the words, exactly on the paper, are what I said," he adds, pausing. "Well, sometimes it's hers," he says, referring to Beverly Curry-Coleman, his after-school teacher and the woman who helps him prepare his lengthy sermons. "Sometimes it's mine. But I don't want to take all the credit away from her."

Curry-Coleman says it usually takes Samuel about three days to memorize a 15-minute
"I do not refer to them as sermons," she says. "I write inspirational messages for Samuel, and I began doing this as a request from his mother. Whenever Samuel is asked to speak, I allow him to tell me what story in the Bible he wants to share with the congregation. Once the story has been selected, I write the message. Samuel, then, reads it and decides what changes he wants to make.

"If he wants to add anything, he will just do that when he is giving the message. Then there are times we do not write at all; we just discuss what he will present. However, all of his introductions he does before he begins his messages, I write them for him."

Thomas Kersen, an assistant professor of sociology at Jackson State University, said he would question the ability of someone so young to grasp the complex conceptual framework and history of what is being preached.

He cites psychologist James Fowler on religious cognitive development: "Quite often, these children are mimicking family and religious leaders and have little abstract understanding of what they are saying or what the rituals they are engaging in signify."

Curry-Coleman worries little about what others think.

"Do I feel a child can effectively lead or head a congregation, be a pastor over a church? No, I do not, because being a pastor is a very demanding job," she says. "But I also believe that God calls who he wants no matter what their age is."

"I have seen pastors actually be speechless once he is done," Curry-Coleman says. "They know he is not putting on an act or trying to imitate another preacher he has seen on TV or at church. I have witnessed little children who just wanted to shake his hand after he finishes his messages."

"Parents say they made sure they came so their children can see how wonderful he is and hope he will be able to inspire their child or grandchildren. After service, they stand around just to get a picture or his autograph."

Samuel, who enjoys playing sports, going to Jackson State sporting events and eating at Chuck E. Cheese's, doesn't watch TV evangelists. And, he adds, his parents have never forced him to preach. "It was my choice. I decided that I wanted to go up there and preach and be a youth inspirational speaker, because that's what I am."

Stanley Smith, one of Samuel's mentors and pastor of Crossroads Missionary Baptist Church,
says Samuel is extremely intelligent. "Do I see the makings of a preacher? Only God knows. However, I do see him as a spiritual motivational speaker."

Phyllis Robinson, producer of "On Location TV Talk Show" on Comcast Cable Network, met Samuel after watching him appear on a TV morning show. She contacted his mother to request an interview.

"They were briefed on what our conversation would be minutes before the actual taping," Robinson says. "He responded to questions as if we had been over them in advance."

She offered him a show.

"I watched on his YouTube page some of his sermons, and not only was amazed about his relationship with God and being able to express it so well -- his delivery is really above average for a child his age, and he expresses no fear," Robinson says.

Samuel says there's another goal he wants to accomplish: He wants to be a doctor, "but not just a doctor -- a doctor who takes care of children."

And, as for sermons, his outlook is simple.

"Now you might be thinking, what can a little 7-year-old boy tell me about God and his word? Well, God has been using little children to deliver his word for a long time, and one of those children happened to be named Samuel."

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Apr 04, 2013
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 3–20–13 Southern Adventist University Announces Accreditation For Master Of Social Work Program


April 4, 2013

3–20–13 Southern Adventist University Announces Accreditation For Master Of Social Work Program

Southern Adventist University announced full accreditation, an entire year ahead of schedule, for its Master of Social Work program. Faculty, staff, and community members are honoring the occasion on Thursday, during a come-and-go reception in the Wright Hall lobby from 6:15–7:15 p.m. The celebration will continue with a presentation in Thatcher Chapel from journalist and human rights advocate Benjamin Skinner at 7:30 p.m.

The Master of Social Work (MSW) degree was first offered at Southern in Fall 2010 and more than 50 students have already graduated from the program. According to Rene Drumm, dean of the School of Social Work, accreditation has been in the works since the degree’s inception.

“Because the process started when we began, any student who has already graduated can say they went through an accredited program,” Dr. Drumm said. “This is important because it is extremely difficult for those who do not attend an accredited program to get certain licensing or teaching jobs.”

The path to accreditation is traditionally a four–year process, but Southern was able to complete it in three. The Council on Social Work Education adjusted the time requirements after successful site visits and a thorough review of the program’s self–study documents. Throughout the accreditation MSW students remained confident in the quality of their instruction and had little doubt about the outcome.

“I am learning so much more than I did as an undergraduate,” said Zaire Burgess–Robinson, a master’s student. “This is a solid program. I’m definitely getting my money’s worth.”

Southern’s MSW is taught in a hybrid environment. Students come to campus every other week and spend the rest of their class time participating online or working in the community, a distinction that sets the university apart from other schools.
“We have a high level of hands-on learning opportunities for students,” Dr. Drumm said. “Many social work programs will require only that students read a book and pass the test on a subject. Our students actually go out in the field and prove they can do it!”
Beginning in the 2012-13 academic year, the School of Architecture will become the School of Architecture, Art & Design. Three new degree programs, Interior Design, Construction Management and Documentary Film, will be added to the school’s offerings.

According to Carey Carscallen, dean of the School of Architecture, Art & Design, no other Seventh-day Adventist educational institution offers a four-year degree in building construction management or any programs focused on interior design.

"The church needs workers who understand its beliefs of simplicity, creativity, building and designing for the glory of God. Like other secular universities with construction management and interior design programs, our students will gain understanding of everything related to the profession. However, unlike others, they will also have the opportunity to participate in community service, outreach, mission work and even the opportunity to study abroad," says Carscallen.

The construction management degree will prepare students to plan, direct and coordinate a variety of projects, from residential to commercial, and everything from roads and bridges to schools and hospitals. Students pursuing the construction management degree will be required to have a minor in business administration.

Interior design students will learn to apply creative and technical solutions within a structure to create functional and aesthetically pleasing interior spaces.

"We will endeavor to teach our students the value of simplicity and creativity in design; how to compliment the architecture of any given project; and to utilize good judgment and frugality in regard to appropriateness of material selection," says Paula Dronen, assistant dean of the School of Architecture, Art & Design.

The new Department of Visual Art & Design in the School of Architecture, Art & Design is also introducing a new degree in Documentary Film. This program will be ideally suited for those interested in storytelling. It will combine the foundation of documentary theory, film history, storyboarding, editing, compositing and sound creation, all while providing the students with a conceptual framework to use their skills to serve others.

Rhonda Root, chair of the Department of Visual Art & Design, says, "Our department is always seeking to stay up-to-date with advancements in the fine arts. We want to provide our students with the highest quality fine art education and career preparation possible."

The Department of Visual Art & Design will continue to offer students a number of other degree options: a BA in Fine Art and Art History; a BFA in Fine Art, Illustration, Graphic Design, Pre-Art Therapy and Art Direction/Advertising; a BS in Visual Art Education; a BFA in Commercial Photography and Fine Art Photography.

The addition of these three new areas of study not only strengthen the academic offerings of the new School of Architecture, Art & Design, but also bring expanded opportunities for service to Andrews University students.

"These programs offer new opportunities to bring construction management, interior design and documentary film skills to our mission outreach," says Carscallen.