The City of Collegedale, Tenn., has become the state’s first city to offer government benefits to municipal employees in same-sex marriages. Reasons such as fairness, equality and mutual respect were cited by City Commissioner Katie Lamb, Adventist church member and former dean of nursing at Southern Adventist University.

“We will continue to support and continue to make clear to the public where we stand, but I don’t think we as a church are interested in singling out anyone and not showing them love,” said Orlan Johnson, NAD’s Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director. 

The International ASI Convention held August 7-10 in Orlando, Fla., was well attended this year with 2,900 people at the Sabbath services. The 2013 ministry projects offering of $1,285,000 exceeded their goal by nearly $100,000, and will support 38 selected projects. ASI secretary-treasurer Ramon Chow and office manager Gail Bosarge are both retiring this year. The ASI executive committee recommended Christopher Lee Holland to NADCOM as the new secretary-treasurer. Holland was formerly the senior pastor of the Hagerstown, Md. church. 

This past week, I had the chance to convene the North American Division Officers and Union Presidents (NADOUP) meeting in Orlando, FL. During that time, I heard reports of great things that are happening around our Division that I think you should be aware of.

Atlantic Union: The NETS program graduated 15 students. They were instrumental in door-to-door work in NYC for NY13. In one afternoon they gleaned more than 100 Bible study interests.

Columbia Union is beginning the development of SOULS East for lay training. The great news comes out of Mt. View Conference where they have partnered with the Voice of Prophecy to blanket a third of their state with Discover Bible School enrollment cards. They have 3,000 people who want to study the Bible, and are expecting by the time they finish the rest that they will have as many as 7,000 to 10,000 interests.

Lake Union: The 2014 location for the Big Cities Initiative is Indianapolis. NAD is focusing on resources for them. Shawn Boonstra will conduct the major evangelistic thrust in Indianapolis supported by multiple churches and

August 14, 2013

August Focus: Spiritual Gifts
August 24, End of the Line Emphasis Day (formerly Abuse Prevention Emphasis Day)

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

What’s a “Building Block”?

Social Media — A coherent media strategy with an emphasis on social media

Watch:
“Social Media Block Video” What strategy should the Church take in using social media to reach people?
NAD NewsPoints- Collegedale a first, ASI Convention report, Jackson brags on unions, daily prayer, new Special Days Calendar, divine appointment...

The Adventist community is prepared and ready to start. They've done a significant number of entry events to help interest and bring people to the meetings.

Next week I will share more news from the other union territories. – Dan Jackson

8-Year-Old Preacher: "God’s Got My Back"

Glendale Adventist Medical Center Selected For "Top-Ranked Hospitals For Cardiology & Heart Surgery"

Gordon EMA: Gordon County is doing well

Church boosts community outreach

A daily prayer emphasis in addition to the weekly list for individual conferences is included in the NAD Prayer Calendar. Download it or print out this list for daily reference:

**Sunday:** Pray for church members to have bold compassion for the lost in their communities, and to act with irresistible love.

**Monday:** Pray that God will be evident in our schools and work through each staff member and student to accomplish His life-changing will.

**Tuesday:** Pray for our conference, union, and division leaders that they will receive wisdom, courage, and vision for their tasks.

**Wednesday:** Pray for the medical workers in our hospitals and clinics, that they will lovingly extend Christ’s healing touch.

**Thursday:** Pray for staff and students in our colleges and universities, that they will be part of God’s eternal plan.

**Friday:** Pray for our pastors to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to come to the pulpit with messages fresh from God’s presence.

**Sabbath:** Pray for our church members to experience a hunger for God, and to draw near to Him through consistent prayer and time in His Word.

The newest, recently edited copy of the 2014 NAD Calendar of Special Days has been uploaded to the NAD website Special Days Resources page.

The NAD Family Ministries App is now available for Androids. It has the daily updates from the Family Ministries website, Facebook page, calendar, list of counselors, and more. Get it here.

Upcoming Events:

- Sept. 5, [Prayer Call](#)
- Sept. 11-14, [Virtual Festival of the Laity](#)
- Sept. 19-22, [Retiro de parejas de la Florida](#)
- Sept. 22, [Let's Move Day](#)
- Sept. 22-29, [Let's Move Week](#)
- Sept. 23-26, [Nonprofit Leadership Certification Program-II](#)
- Oct. 1-3, [Language Arts Clinic](#)
- Oct. 3, [Prayer Call](#)
- Oct. 3-16, GC Annual Council and pre-meetings
- Oct. 24-26, [Society of Adventist Communicators Convention](#)
- Nov. 7, [Prayer Call](#)
- Nov. 8-10, [the One project gathering/ Riverside (Spanish only)](#)
- Dec. 5, [Prayer Call](#)

**2014:**

- Jan. 9-12, [NAD Prayer Conference](#)
- Jan. 12-15, [NAD Ministries Convention](#)
- Jan. 24 - Feb. 2, [NAD Health Summit](#)
- Feb. 7-9, [NAD Campus Ministries Convention](#)
- Feb. 10-11, [the One project gathering/ Seattle](#)
"We have a Word of salvation and we are bound to do something about it!"

- Pastor C. D. Brooks, Chaplain for North American Division staff at this morning’s NAD worship and staff meeting.

**REACH North America**

**REACH: Revival and Transformation**
**VISION: All church members of the NAD enjoy a vibrant and joyful relationship with Christ.**

A sermon about a "Divine appointment" had inspired Louise Ernst, so she started praying for her own Divine appointment. One day she heard a Voice say very clearly and persistently, "Go to the gas station and get your gas first." After objecting and hearing the voice more persistently and loudly, she finally went out of her way to go back and get the gas. Since the pump wouldn't take her credit card, she had to go inside to the counter. In a conversation with the station attendant it came out to a waiting customer that she was a Seventh-day Adventist. She left with tears in her eyes because of what happened next. [Read the short story](p. 12)

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**Inter-European Division**

**Watch DVD**
Read Mission Quarterly
Children's Mission Quarterly

**NAD News:**
- Marriage and Family Resources, Special Days in North America, pp. 11-13
- A Message for All - Hispanic Ministries in North America, pp. 14-15
- Serving Immigrant Populations, p. 17
- Reaching the World on our Doorstep, pp. 34-41

**NAD Update:**
- A Message for All - Hispanic Ministries in North America, pp. 14-15
- Serving Immigrant Populations, p. 17
- Reaching the World on our Doorstep, pp. 34-41

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**Daily Prayer Guide**

Aug. 18-24: Please pray for the Southern California Conference and its 128 churches with 43,259 members.

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[http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id=19ef531103&e=3075540be8][8/15/2013 2:02:07 PM]
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists®: 8-13-13 City developed by Adventists approves benefits to same-sex couples

The City of Colledale, Tennessee, which was originally developed by Seventh-day Adventists®, recently became the state’s first city to offer government benefits to municipal employees in same-sex marriages.
Collegedale Municipal Building

[Photo by Courtney Herod]
The move highlights the clash over increasing support for same-sex marriage against conservative groups’ traditional view of marriage, including the Adventist Church’s position against same-sex unions.

Collegedale, a suburb of Chattanooga, was developed as an Adventist community nearly 100 years ago around what is now Southern Adventist University. The city incorporated in 1968 and now has some 8,200 residents, according to the U.S. Census.

City Commissioner Katie Lamb

, an Adventist Church member and former dean of the School of Nursing at Southern Adventist University, said her support for the ruling emphasized treating employees equally, despite her own beliefs against same-sex marriage.

“I just think it’s just a matter of being fair and treating your employees equally no matter what their choice of lifestyle may be. I see that as something different than what my church may condone,” Lamb said.

“I may not condone what they do, but it’s their choice of lifestyle and I respect that, just as I hope they respect choices I make in my life,” she said. “In my mind this is not a religious issue.”

Lamb said the new law, which will be implemented starting in January, would likely apply to one employee, but could affect additional employees in the future.

According to the city commission’s meeting agenda, the vote authorizes the “City of Collegedale to extend spousal and family health insurance coverage to all employees who are able to provide a marriage document” from the state in which they were married.

The state of Tennessee does not recognize same-sex marriage.

The city commission’s ruling comes weeks following a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision that extends federal benefits to same-sex couples. Last week, two more U.S. states – Minnesota and Rhode Island – approved same-sex marriage, bringing the total number of states supporting gay marriage up to 13. Of the 50 U.S. states, 29 have constitutional bans on same-sex marriage.

While the Adventist Church – a worldwide Protestant denomination of 17 million members – has a statement on homosexuality, it does not have a stance on whether governments should offer equal employment benefits to same-sex couples.

“We will continue to support and continue to make clear to the public where we stand, but I don’t think we as a church are interested in singling out anyone and not showing them love,” said Orlan Johnson, Public Affairs and Religious Liberty director for the Adventist Church’s North American Division.

“Society is always evolving and looking for ways to take in consideration new views. At the end of the day for Adventists it’s about being intentionally kind and Christ-like,” Johnson said. “I think you can have differences of opinion as it relates to our fundamental beliefs and other beliefs.”
Convention Wrap-up: Till We Meet Again

The final day of the 2013 ASI International Convention packed in more blessings and more people than many anticipated. More than 2,900 people attended the Sabbath school and worship services, filling the main auditorium nearly to capacity. The afternoon and vespers programs were also well-attended. Attendance numbers didn't include the many leaders and young people participating in the youth programs.

The project offering of approximately $1,285,000 well exceeded the goal of $1,184,000, which will support 38 prayerfully-selected projects this year. Project grant recipients receive half of the designated funds early on, and are required to report progress toward specific goals before receiving the remaining half. ASI relies on both collected offerings and pledged donations to fulfill these yearly project grants. If you've made a pledge, either this year or in the past, you can fulfill that pledge by making an online donation.

Mark Finley, who presented the Sabbath school lesson, and C.D. Brooks, who delivered the sermon, undoubtedly attracted many of the local visitors on Sabbath morning.

Special interest in the afternoon end-time events panel discussion was also evident. Panelists included moderator Don Mackintosh, who was joined by Mark Finley, Andi Hunsaker, Ted Wilson, C.D. Brooks, Ed Reid, and Lewis Walton. Finley succinctly expressed the overriding message that came out of that discussion — that we must focus on Christ's merits and not our own in preparing for what is ahead, and that the Holy Spirit works in and through us, enabling us to fulfill our calling.

Numerous musicians graced the convention programs with their talent, including Christian Berdahl, Ron Woolsey, Advent Brass, Jennifer LaMountain, Neville Peter, Paco Rodriguez, and groups from Ouachita Hills College and Academy. The Sabbath afternoon program closed with a moving choral rendition of the Battle Hymn of the Republic, bringing a hopeful crowd to its feet.

During evening vespers, goodbyes were said to retiring ASI secretary-treasurer Ramon Chow and office manager Gail Bosarge, with Chris Holland being introduced as ASI's new secretary treasurer, rounding out the ranks of the newly-elected or continuing officers.

Also on Sabbath, a new ASI Evangelism smart phone app was rolled out that provides full access to the ASI New Beginnings and Abundant Life evangelism materials, as well as many other support videos and helpful resources—a ll at your fingertips for free and without any need for a DVD player.

The final meeting came to a prayerful end with an a capella performance of "God Be With You," sung by eight young people who formed the group "Redeemed" on the second night of the convention.
The song poignantly expressed the hope in Christ's soon return that seemed to burn brighter than ever in the hearts of this year's convention attendees.

If you attended the convention this year, you likely are aware of the deep spiritual blessings that come when God's people gather together for fellowship and to hear the quiet calling of the Holy Spirit to to be about our Father's business.

If you were unable to attend in person, visit the ASI website to view the convention sessions and seminars online. Audio links are already available, with video links soon to follow.

As always, ASI leaders are tremendously grateful to the many program participants, exhibitors, and volunteers who contributed this year. Each personal sacrifice, large or small, has eternal value. We pray that a renewed sense of vision and purpose will carry you through the challenges of the coming year.

The 2014 ASI International Convention will be held Aug. 5–9 at the Devos Place Convention Center in Grand Rapids, Michigan. We look forward to seeing each of you there! In the meantime, remain steadfast in proclaiming the blessed hope of Christ's soon return!

Read about ASI Convention Sabbath online in the Adventist Review. View convention photos at flickr.com/asiministriesphotos.
8-Year-Old Preacher: ‘God’s Got My Back’

1:00PM EDT 8/9/2013 Shawn A. Akers

In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of heaven."

Most likely, Jesus is very proud of 8-year-old Samuel Green of Jackson, Miss., who at his tender age is bringing the kingdom of heaven to the masses. An active member of Berean Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Jackson, Green has been preaching for more than two years and has been the subject of many newspaper articles and national news broadcast segments, bringing the glory of the Lord through the media.

NBC’s Today hosts Kathie Lee Gifford and Hoda Kotb interviewed Green about the confidence he displays in the pulpit.

“I really don’t get nervous because I know God has my back,” Green said.

Green delivered his first live sermon in Birmingham, Ala., at the age of 6 in May 2011. That’s when his mother, Joann, first realized her son’s gift.

“I was very surprised—my husband and I were very surprised just to hear Samuel preach without any notes or anything,” she told Gifford and Kotb on Today.

Green’s mentor, Beverly Coleman, has worked with Green since he was just over a year old.

“He was brought to me at 13 months. By 18 months, I knew he was gifted academically,” Coleman said on Today.

Green has his own website, samuelmgreen.com, and his own local television show, The Simple Truth, which airs from 11 to 11:30 a.m. on Jackson, Miss., Comcast channel 18.

Green also is a member of the New Heights Seventh-day Adventist church choir.

Green told Gifford and Kotb that he plans to continue to deliver sermons and wants to become a pediatrician.

Samuel M. Green (right) (Samuelmgreen.com)
“I want to grow up to be a preacher and a doctor that takes care of children,” he said.

Contribute to this story

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Glendale Adventist Medical Center Selected For "Top-Ranked Hospitals For Cardiology & Heart Surgery" - MarketWatch

GLENDALE, Calif., Aug. 8, 2013 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Glendale Adventist Medical Center of Glendale, California has been honored with a recognition by allrankings.org in its selection of "Top-Ranked Hospitals For Cardiology & Heart Surgery."

Announcing a special recognition appearing in the March, 2013 issue of allrankings.org published by allrankings.org. Glendale Adventist Medical Center was selected for the following honor:

"Top-Ranked Hospitals For Cardiology & Heart Surgery"

A spokesperson from Glendale Adventist Medical Center commented on the recognition: "This is quite an honor for us. The fact that allrankings.org included Glendale Adventist Medical Center in its selection of "Top-Ranked Hospitals For Cardiology & Heart Surgery," signals that our constant efforts towards business excellence are paying off. We are proud to be included in this recognition."

About Glendale Adventist Medical Center: a short profile by and about the honoree:

Glendale Adventist Medical Center, a non-profit, 515-bed acute care facility in Glendale, CA, has been a part of the greater Los Angeles community for more than 108 years. Throughout the last century, the hospital has stayed on the cutting edge of the latest advancements in health care. Its mission is to share God's love in the community by promoting healing and wellness for the whole person.

Following the publication of Glendale Adventist Medical Center's selection for allrankings.org's Top-Ranked Hospitals For Cardiology & Heart Surgery list, American Registry seconded the honor and added Glendale Adventist Medical Center to the "Registry of Business Excellence(TM)". An exclusive recognition plaque, shown here, has been designed to commemorate this honor.

For more information on Glendale Adventist Medical Center, located in Glendale, California please call 818-409-6604, or visit http://www.glendaleadventist.com/.

This press release was written by American Registry, LLC with contributions from Glendale Adventist Medical Center on behalf of Glendale Adventist Medical Center and was distributed by PR Newswire, a subsidiary of UBM plc.

American Registry, LLC is an independent company that serves businesses and professionals such as Glendale Adventist Medical Center who have been recognized for excellence. American Registry offers news releases, plaques and The Registry(TM), an online listing of over 2 million significant business and professional recognitions. Search The Registry(TM) at http://www.americanregistry.com.

Contact Info: Glendale Adventist Medical Center Phone: 818-409-6604Email Address: gonzala1@ah.org

SOURCE American Registry

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The entrance to the Stone Mill subdivision in the Sonoraville Community six months ago after an EF3 tornado touched down Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

The entrance to the Stone Mill subdivision in the Sonoraville Community six months after an EF3 tornado touched down Wednesday, January 30, 2013.

The upper end EF3 tornado — the strongest to ever hit Ga. in January — that wreaked havoc on Gordon County on January 30 is still fresh in the minds of most, as Tuesday was the six month mark since the storm.

The tornado was part of a 1,000-mile weather system that effected Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Indiana.

The tornado left two dead; one in Tenn. and one in Adairsville, and at least eight injuries were reported in Gordon County.

According to reports filed by Gordon County Emergency Management to Georgia Emergency Management, there were 73 homes completely destroyed, 406 single-family homes and one multi family home affected. There were 90 mobile homes affected in Gordon County. There were also a total of four businesses affected by the tornado.

Even with the amount of damage done in Gordon County, the county did not reach the $13.2 million in uninsured damages that would have made the county eligible for federal money, according to Richard Cooper, director of Gordon County EMA. However, he did say the state provided resources for recovery, just not monetary.

Cooper said at a Boy Scouts Patrons Lunch on April 17 that when GEMA came in to do an assessment the county was weeks ahead of the average pace for most communities. This was due to the tremendous support from the community, volunteers and nonprofit organizations.

“It’s because the way the community came together and worked together,” Cooper said. “We train for this. It shows during a disaster like this that we can pull together and do what we did. We are in real good shape.”

One of the nonprofits that assisted in recovery efforts in Gordon County was the Seventh Day Adventist.

Terry Haight is the disaster response coordinator for Adventist Community Service. The organization is in charge of providing assistance to all of Ga. and Eastern Tenn. when natural disasters strike, and it set up a distribution center at the old Big Lots store in Calhoun during recovery efforts.

Haight said, within the six weeks the distribution center was set up, it went through $298,500 worth of goods. It served 132 families, or 473 individuals. Those individuals made a total of 230 visits to the center.
Haight said the main reason the organization was so effective was due to all the community support and the job Bruce Potts did out in Sonoraville immediately after the storm hit.

“Sonoraville high school had a good distribution operation,” Haight said. “What the Sonoraville School did immediately really helped the community out and it gave us breathing room to get organized.”

Haight said the Church of Christ donated a few truckloads of goods to the distribution center. There was also a large amount of the supplies donated by individuals from this community and also surrounding areas.

The Adventists were not the only agency to help. Red Cross established temporary housing for people who lost their homes. Samaritan’s Purse, a nondenominational Christian humanitarian organization, also provided supplies to families that were in need. There were also individuals and local churches in the community that provided shelter, food and supplies to people effected by the storm.

Cooper said because of the support the community has returned to a sense of normalcy since the tornado.

He believes all the first responders did the best job they could, and all the planning the county has done to prepare for a disaster really helped out.

Cooper said it wasn’t the work of one man or agency that made a difference; it was the cooperation of all of them.

“Our community is outstanding,” Cooper said.

He said the local services get tied up really quickly, so having the city fire and police, along with surrounding counties, lend a hand through a mutual aid agreement, set in place for moments like the tornado, makes everyone’s job easier.

Cooper said, during disasters like this it really gives a chance to reflect and improve. Personally, He would like to improve the communication between agencies, that way everyone is on the same page.

Byron Sutton, deputy fire chief for Gordon County, said since the tornado the department has been working on improving their reactions to the situation. He would like to have a plan for firefighters to be dispatched to the most affected areas.

Overall, Sutton believes everyone did the best job they could, and he said, “I’m proud to be working with all of them.”
Church boosts community outreach

By LAUREL WILSON The Daily News lwilson@bgdailynews.com 783-3240 | Posted: Friday, August 2, 2013 10:33 am

When Pastor Pierre Quinn arrived to lead Cottage Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church about a year ago, he discovered not many people in Bowling Green had heard of the church founded in 1891.

“That was kind of surprising for a church that’s been here so long,” he said. “So I said ‘let’s reconnect.’ So the way you reconnect is family.”

The majority of Cottage Chapel’s 100 members are young adults with families, so Quinn is focusing on family-oriented activities as he slowly expands the church’s programs in an effort to reach out to the community and get the church’s name out there.

“We’re starting off with once a month because we don’t want to overcommit,” he said. “Once we build consistency, we’ll be able to add more programs.”

Last weekend, Cottage Chapel hosted the monthly program for July as a way to bring families together and celebrate the end of the church’s vacation Bible school. The event featured music, food, face painting and a visit from the Adventist Motorcycle Ministry in Louisville.

“We had vacation Bible school but hadn’t really connected with their families,” Quinn said.

He’s planning events each month for the rest of the year, including seminars, a fall festival and a holiday program.

It’s also important to build relationships with people in the community rather than just offer programs, Quinn said. Sometimes in place of worship services on Saturday mornings, he will lead church members around the neighborhood to meet residents and introduce them to Cottage Chapel and their faith.

“It’s easy to come sit (during services), but when you come sit, you’re not really reaching anyone,” he said. “If you’ve offered nothing, if you’ve sacrificed nothing, you can’t expect people to come.”

Tracy Russell of Bowling Green, communications director for Cottage Chapel, is also passionate about creating a connection with the community.

“We like to think of ourselves as a small church with a big heart,” she said. “Community outreach is one of the most important things we do. It’s not so much about folks knowing who we are as it is to help them.”

One way she and other church members reach out is through visiting the elderly, offering words of encouragement and prayer.

“You want to always bring positive things that all things are possible,” Russell said. “That’s what we want people to understand. Some know, and others may have forgot. We want to get out and just kind of
Christina Ngoy of Bowling Green has been really active at Cottage Chapel since childhood and wants to share that experience with others.

“I want that for my kids as well as their friends,” she said.

Ngoy serves as the children’s ministry director at the church and wants to reach out to the community.

“We want them to know the love of Jesus and that there are other people out there like them so that we can be one big happy family,” she said. “We also want them to know we’re here if they need anything.”

— Laurel Wilson covers faith and general assignments for the Daily News. Follow her on Twitter at twitter.com/FaithinBG or visit bgdailynews.com.
My Divine Appointment

BY LOUISE ERNST

Our little church in Central Lake, Michigan, had closed its doors for the winter, so my husband and I went to the Traverse City Church for these months, where I heard a sermon about praying for Divine appointments. I was so inspired, I went right home and began to pray for my own Divine appointments.

I got up one pretty fall day. I mapped out my route to the stores and errands I would run, ending up with buying gas on the way out of town. I heard a Voice say very clearly, “Go to the gas station and get your gas first.”

I answered, “No, I don’t want to go to the station first.”

The Voice said again, more firmly, “Go get your gas first.”

I replied, “I need to get my gas after I finish my chores, so I’m not backtracking.”

The Voice was more persistent, and louder, “Go get your gas now!”

So I turned in to the gas station. I tried to pay at the pump, but it wouldn’t take my credit card. I was so upset that I had to go inside to pay my bill.

Once inside, I went up to the counter. My grandson’s aunt was working as the gas station attendant that day. She asked me if I had seen my grandson’s football game Friday night. I replied, “No, I don’t go to the games on Friday night as it is my Sabbath.”

A nice-looking gentleman, standing next to me, asked, “Are you a Seventh-day Adventist?” He continued, “I have always wanted to study the Bible with them!”

Our little church had just opened the doors again, and so I invited him to attend our Revelation prophecy series. He accepted my invitation, and I was so excited. As I left and got in my car, tears were falling from my eyes because I almost missed my Divine appointment.

The man I met at the gas station has been attending our church. I pray the Holy Spirit will lead him to all Truth.

“Thank you, Jesus, for answering my prayer.”

Louise Ernst is a member of the Central Lake Church in Michigan.

Finding Freedom

BY RACHEL SKAIFE

From the time she was young, Gayle Brunt knew there was a God but wanted something more. Her search for a deeper understanding of God led her in and out of several churches, yet she never stopped caring about Christ. “I wanted to find strength and stability in my Christian life,” said Gayle. “I wanted it to be real in my life.”