The One Project in Seattle, Wash., Feb. 10-11, drew more than 700 Adventist pastors, students, teachers and other interested people. The project, an affiliated effort of Adventist collegiate chaplains and pastors, seeks to revive urgency among church leaders and members to focus on the centrality of Jesus in spiritual life. During the meetings, participants listened to short presentations and videos, shared their own dreams for the church and also joined in small group discussions. The gathering will be held in Riverside, Calif., this fall, San Diego in February 2015, and again in Seattle in 2016. Read more at The One Project online. (From North Pacific Union Gleaner Weekly, Feb. 13, 2014.)

Oakwood University senior elementary education major Kenesha Bennett competed in the Jeopardy! College Championship and the Ford Black College Quiz, televised February 12. "I've always wanted to be on Jeopardy!, like always, always!" says Kenesha. After much prayer Kenesha was granted the opportunity to compete with other students on the show and win money for school. Dr. Rennae Elliott, chair of the Communication Department, who accompanied Kenesha to California, said that "you would be proud of the way Kenesha represented Oakwood, and more importantly, the way she represented God." Watch a video clip. MORE

Special Days

February Focus: Family Life
Feb 1-22, Black History Month
Feb 16-22, Family Togetherness Week
Feb 22, Family Togetherness Sabbath

March Focus: Women in the Church
Mar 1, Women's Day of Prayer
Mar 2-8, Adventist Youth Week of Prayer
Mar 15, Disabilities Awareness Sabbath

Helpful Special Day Websites and Resources

Offerings
Mar 8, Adventist World Radio
Sample Offertory Readings

Upcoming Events:
Feb. 22-26, Asian/Pacific Pastors’ Convention
Mar. 16-23, Adventist Community Services Convention (cruise)
Mar. 20-22, SONscreen Film Festival
Mar 28-30, Children's Leadership Conference

http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057dab6f2&id=65a7c07762se=3075540be8[2/24/2014 2:29:47 PM]
February 28 for the best rate. Full Adventurer Basic Staff Training and Hispanic Workshop Tracks (Basic and Advanced) will be available. Other workshops include Kids’ Health Expo, Creative Prayer Ministry, Children’s Ministries basics, and much more. Several of the workshops will be great for kids who would like to learn more about ministry. If you or someone you know loves teaching kids about Jesus and need ideas, inspiration or encouragement, then this event is for you! MORE

Martin Luther called stewardship “a lofty Christian work.” You have the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of the reformers from a steward’s perspective. September 3-10, join the director of the NAD Stewardship Department in Germany to study stewardship in the reformation. Every day there will be new insights on how the reformers thought about stewardship. Dr. Hartlapp from Friedensau Adventist University will lecture on various topics. You are invited to travel with Don and Marti Schneider to see the Ishtar Gate (moved to Berlin), Wartburg Castle where Luther translated the New Testament and much more. Spend a Sabbath in the refuge of the Waldenses. Download a bulletin insert. Sign up, MORE, or email/call MargaretBotting@gmail.com (916-792-1815).

Resources for the Women’s Day of Prayer, March 1, are available online. The theme will be “He Lifts Up My Head.” The resources are designed so that women can create a special Sabbath service including a sermon, children’s story, suggested order of service, and special ideas for enhancing the program based on God’s second book: nature.

The 2014 NAD Camp Meeting Schedule is online on the NAD website. Watch your union magazines for camp meeting updates in your own union. If you are traveling, check the NAD list. Some camp meeting dates may change as late as a few weeks before the camp meeting, so if a date is in question, contact or use the conference links to check the dates given on their websites and for more information on speakers, lodging, etc.

Did you know that God has given us guidelines for living well? Fundamental Beliefs #22 from My Way to Jesus

Just “Click” to share your beliefs: The Fundamental Beliefs videos and other updates are shared on the My Way to Jesus Facebook page and from there onto the NAD Facebook page. Both updates link back to www.MyWaytoJesus.com, NAD’s

May 1-4, Summit on Abuse
June 2-6, Nonprofit Leadership Certification-I Program
June 24-27, PSI Conference on Philanthropy
Aug. 6-9, ASI International Convention
Sept. 8-10, Risk Management Conference
Sept 19-21, Atlantic Union/NAD Adventist Single Adult Ministries Convention
Sept 22-25, Nonprofit Leadership Certification-II Program
Sept 25-28, NAD Women’s Convention
Oct. 16-18, Society of Adventist Communicators 25th Anniversary Convention

NAD News: Hoosier Adventists Rebrand Hearts and Congregations, pp. 11-13
NAD Update: Young Adult Life, pp. 14-15
NAD Perspective: "Hope," by Dan Jackson, p. 17
NAD Letters: p. 18
NAD Feature: Facing the Challenge of Abuse in the Church, pp. 32-39

http://us2.campaign-archive2.com/?u=84ac041b8b705798057db6f2&id=65a7c07762&e=3075540be8[2/24/2014 2:29:47 PM]
The Saviour mingled with men as one who desired their good. He showed His sympathy for them, ministered to their needs, and won their confidence. Then He bade them, 'Follow me.' (Christian Service 119.3) Read how a few churches are doing in the Florida Conference:

The **Lighthouse Community Mission Group** in Orlando targets the unchurched and the urban community. They have adopted 300 families living in an extended-stay hotel, and, three times a week, they are involved in mentoring the children and helping wherever needed.

**Meals Packed With Love project** in the Orlando area had 190 church members and friends who, in 50 minutes, prepared 30,000 healthy meals, each with ingredients to serve a family of six. Later they prepared 60,000 meals! They raised $7,500 and $16,200 respectively to pay for the meals.

Additional projects in Florida included **Hispanics in Action for Community Education and Rehabilitation**, **Jacksonville Outreach Center “StandUp For Kids**, a **Biker Sabbath at the South Orlando Church**, **Ministry to the Elderly and Homeless. 1,000 Cupcakes**, and **Bags of Love**. [MORE]
NAD NewsPoints - OU on Jeopardy!, Summit on Abuse, Child Leadership Conf., Fla. Urban Missions, more

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'Jeopardy!' contestant Kenesha Bennett: 5 things to know about Oakwood University student vying for College Championship

Kenesha Bennett Jeopardy Oakwood

Oakwood University student and College Championship contestant Kenesha Bennett with "Jeopardy!" Alex Trebek. (Courtesy of Jeopardy Productions, Inc.)

HUNTSVILLE, Alabama -- Oakwood University senior Kenesha Bennett believes her elementary education major may have given her an advantage while competing on the "Jeopardy!" College Championship.

"Because the subject matter of an elementary teacher – whatever they teach - is broad and not too specific to just one thing, as high school is, I do have a broad range of knowledge," Bennett, 25, says.

The latest "Jeopardy!" College Championship will begin airing 6 p.m. Feb. 10 on Huntsville ABC affiliate WAAY channel 31. Bennett's makes her debut on the "Jeopardy!" to be broadcast 6 p.m. Feb. 12.

The two-week tournament highlights 15 students vying for $100,000 and an automatic berth in the next "Jeopardy!" Tournament of Champions. Others competing besides Bennett include students from University of Chicago, Harvard University, Ohio State University, Duke University and Vanderbilt University.

On a recent afternoon, Bennett called from the Oakwood campus for this interview.

Buzzer beater

When asked how she'd rate her skills with the "Jeopardy!" buzzer, on a scale of one to 10, Bennett replies, "Seven."

Nerves, what nerves?

Bennett says she wasn't really nervous about competing on the "Jeopardy!" College Championship. "My hand was shaking but thoughts were nervous thoughts – it was probably adrenaline that was causing my hands to shake. Anxiousness."

The process

"In order to get on 'Jeopardy!' you have to take an online quiz, and I took that in March of last year," Bennett says of the quiz show's application process. "And then they emailed me and told me I had an audition, and that was in Nashville in May. And then they said about two months or a month before the show is taped, you'll find out. So in November around Thanksgiving I got a phone call but my phone was off, so they emailed me and I called them back and that's how I found out I was on 'Jeopardy!' and it was a complete surprise."

Mom knows best

The first person Bennett told that she'd be appearing on "Jeopardy!" a show she's watched for "years and years"? "My mother. She had been telling me I was going to be on 'Jeopardy!' since I applied."

TV magic

"On TV, the studio audience area looks much larger than it is," Bennett says of the "Jeopardy!" set. "And all the contestants are raised based on the height of the tallest person. I was shorter and they raised us up so it would look equal on camera and I thought that was cool."
Bringing It Back to the One

In 2010, five Seventh-day Adventist pastors got together in Denver, Colorado for rest, honest conversation and revitalization. The group of pastors sought to be better husbands, fathers and leaders by refocusing their spiritual lives during a retreat. What started as a small group of pastors has now become an international phenomenon within the Seventh-day Adventist church -- The One Project.

Centered on the "one," this gathering -- not conference, they're really serious about that -- is all about Jesus. Their mission statement: Jesus. All. Or as said on stage, "Jesus... full-stop. All... full-stop." This is a revival for those of us who want to get back to the root of it all. It's incredibly simple yet revolutionary in a church that is stereotypically legalistic and historically fundamentalist. A born-and-raised Seventh-day Adventist, I found it almost too good to be true. In my experience, I've seen much more focused on the law than on the One.

The 2014 USA One Project Gathering had over 700 current, and former, Seventh-day Adventists meet for two days in Seattle. I was one of those in attendance. Growing up in the Seventh-day Adventist church, I've been attending bible camps, theology conferences and camp meetings my entire life. This is by far the best event I've been a part of, in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. One of the reasons this gathering was so monumental was in its shift in focus from legalism, to present truth.

Present truth, a concept that began at the very birth of the Seventh-day Adventist church, is a belief that the Holy Spirit will continue to reveal truths to us throughout our time here on earth. Present Truth is a belief that we have not yet discovered everything that there is to be discovered in scripture. It's a belief that started from the beginning and a belief my church leadership has seemingly forgotten. Said Timothy Gillespie, one of the founders of the One Project:

One of the unique things that makes us Seventh-day Adventist is present truth, and that should make us the most inquisitive theologians. Present Truth: a perpetuating relocating theology.

We've become afraid of having questions and asking questions. We've become afraid of doubt and, in its essence; we've become afraid of Present Truth.

As topics like homosexuality (or really same-sex sex) and women's ordination are making strides in other denominations, the Seventh-day Adventist church has barely acknowledged these topics. They refuse to see that these two topics, among others, are causing many SDA's, especially those in my generation, to wonder why we seem so far behind other Christian denominations. Our fundamentalist, literal creation-believing (no, Ken Ham does not speak for me), conservative, biblical literalist beliefs have painted the church as pompously "all-knowing," and somewhat elitist, making the church afraid to ask questions.

Doubt is not an admission of unbelief; they are a statement of our innate need for more. Questioning beliefs is a healthy, natural process. It is only by questioning that we will continue to grow in our faith. When we settle, we become complacent and we lose out on the opportunity to have a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, who is both the message and the messenger. As Christians, if we use present truth as the foundation for our beliefs, we should continue to grow -- not change. This is not a process that ends, but a journey in which we take steps forward into the dark with faith that Jesus is at the beginning and end of it all.

David Ferguson, the Senior Pastor at One Place, a worship service co-founded by One Project co-chair Japhet De Oliveira located at Andrews University, said this about One Place a few Sabbaths ago:

You're safe here to ask. You're safe here to ask those disturbing questions. You're safe here to say you don't believe the same things we do. Even if you don't believe in a God or that God loves you, just know and understand that someone in this congregation loves you. I love you.

A bold statement made in grace. One that creates a safe space for those wrestling with their beliefs, and even pastors who wrestle with
beliefs in God, to be there; to be present and honest in a safe space.

Our theological conversations should not be lead with matters of the law. While the law helps us discern sin, it cannot be our focus. There must be a balance and as history shows us, we've continually tipped the scales in favor of legalism and condemnation. While that is not a true representation of those of us still in the pews, it seems the loudest, misogynistic, anti-science, homophobic voices get the microphone in the church. How would the scales tip if our base wasn't a list of "do's and don'ts" but our base was Jesus? If our base was present truth? Where would our emphasis be then?

Would we spend less time keeping sinners out of the church and spend more on bringing them in? At what point will we be able to say that we have truly done all we can "to the least of these?"

Throughout the gathering, attendees were given a chance to share publicly their dream for the church. Here is mine: My dream for the church is that it learn to love and accept those who are fundamentally different than us. My dream is for the church to finally show love, compassion and acceptance of LGBT people. Not just in words, but in action. That we can allow for balanced, honest dialogues to take place without fear. My dream is that we understood our savior was coming not to condemn us but to save us. My dream is that we can accompany each other on the Christian journey, allowing the Holy Spirit to do its job, while completing good works in reflection of God's character. My dream for the church would be to bring it back to the One.
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014, YOUNTVILLE, CA - Pacific Union College Social Work Club organized a Valentine's Day distribution for residents of the Veterans Home of California in Yountville. PUC students, along with a few local high schoolers, gathered on Friday afternoon to hand out handmade valentines, balloons, gift bags and homemade cookies. A total of 1,010 bags were assembled, 1,025 cards made and 1,025 cookies baked by Beverly McCray of American Canyon. Lisa James/Register

February 14, 2014 8:26 pm

Valentine's Day for Vets

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2014, YOUNTVILLE, CA - Pacific Union College senior Erica McCray, center, greets Veterans Home of California at Yountville resident James O’Connell, left, as she and other students from Pacific Union College arrive at the Veterans Home on Friday afternoon. PUC students, including members of the Social Work Club and a few local high school students, handed out handmade valentines, balloons, gift bags and homemade cookies to residents. A total of 1,010 bags were assembled, 1,025 cards made and 1,025 cookies baked by Beverly McCray of American Canyon. Lisa James/Register
VA Disability Benefits

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Join North American Division Stewardship Ministries Director, John Mathews, on a Reformation Tour. The tour will focus on Reformation Stewardship. Every day there will be insights on reformation stewardship as understood by Luther, Calvin, Zwingli and others.

Who is Invited:
Conference Stewardship Directors
Local Church Stewardship Directors
Anyone interested in stewardship.

Places of Interest:
Pergamon Museum: Ishtar Gate of Daniel's time
Wittenberg: Town Church where Luther Preached
Castle Church: Site of 95 Theses
Friedensau Adventist University
Wartburg Castle: Where Luther translated the New Testament, and much more…

Depart US/Canada: September 2, 2014
Arrive in Berlin (TXL): September 3, 2014
Depart From Munich (MUC): September 10, 2014

Register at: www.Plusline.org click on Event Registration, scroll down and click on Stewardship Ministries Reformation Tour, click Register Now
Questions: Margaret Botting Cell (916) 792-1815 or at margaretbotting@gmail.com

Tour Cost: $900 Covers ground transportation, museums, lodging, and two meals per day.
Airfare Cost: Round trip airfare is at your expense.
Single Occupancy Lodging: Extra $200
Registration Cutoff Date: June 3, 2014
Group limit: 44

Extended Tour: Want to stay longer? Join an extended tour to the Waldenses region of Italy, starting on Wednesday Sept. 10 ending Sunday Sept. 14. Fly home from Milan, Italy on Sunday. Details, margaretbotting@gmail.com.
DID YOU KNOW GOD HAS GIVEN US GUIDELINES FOR LIVING WELL?

We are called to be a godly people who think, feel, and act in harmony with the principles of heaven. For the Spirit to recreate in us the character of our Lord we involve ourselves only in those things which will produce Christlike purity, health, and joy in our lives. This means that our amusement and entertainment should meet the highest standards of Christian taste and beauty. While recognizing cultural differences, our dress is to be simple, modest, and neat, befitting those whose true beauty does not consist of outward adornment but in the imperishable ornament of a gentle and quiet spirit. It also means that because our bodies are the temples of the Holy Spirit, we are to care for them intelligently. Along with adequate exercise and rest, we are to adopt the most healthful diet possible and abstain from the unclean foods identified in the Scriptures. Since alcoholic beverages, tobacco, and the irresponsible use of drugs and narcotics are harmful to our bodies, we are to abstain from them as well. Instead, we are to engage in whatever brings our thoughts and bodies into the discipline of Christ, who desires our wholesomeness, joy, and goodness.

ROMANS 12:1, 2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

1 JOHN 2:6

6 Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

EPHESIANS 5:1-21

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. 3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. 4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. 6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. 7 Therefore do not be partners with them. 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord. 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. 13 But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. 14 This is why it is said: “Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” 15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

PHILIPPIANS 4:8

8 Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.

2 CORINTHIANS 10:5
2 CORINTHIANS 6:14-7:1

14 Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness? 15 What harmony is there between Christ and Belial? Or what does a believer have in common with an unbeliever? 16 What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: “I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people.” 17 Therefore, “Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you.” And, “I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty.” 7 Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

1 PETER 3:1-4

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 2 when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. 3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. 4 Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight.

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

31 So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

LEVITICUS 11:1-47

The Lord said to Moses and Aaron, 2 “Say to the Israelites: ‘Of all the animals that live on land, these are the ones you may eat: 3 You may eat any animal that has a divided hoof and that chews the cud. 4 “There are some that only chew the cud or only have a divided hoof, but you must not eat them. The camel, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is ceremonially unclean for you. 5 The hyrax, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you. 6 The rabbit, though it chews the cud, does not have a divided hoof; it is unclean for you. 7 And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. 8 You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses; they are unclean for you. 9 “Of all the creatures living in the water of the seas and the streams you may eat any that have fins and scales. 10 But all creatures in the seas or streams that do not have fins and scales—whether among all the swarming things or among all the other living creatures in the water—you are to regard as unclean. 11 And since you are to regard them as unclean, you must not eat their meat; you must regard their carcasses as unclean. 12 Anything living in the water that does not have fins and scales is to be regarded as unclean by you. 13 “These are the birds you are to regard as unclean and not eat because they are unclean: the eagle,[a] the vulture, the black vulture, 14 the red kite, any kind of black kite, 15 any kind of raven, 16 the horned owl, the screech owl, the gull, any kind of hawk, 17 the little owl, the cormorant, the great owl, 18 the white owl, the desert owl, the osprey, 19 the stork, any kind of heron, the hoopoe and the bat. 20 “All flying insects that walk on all fours are to be regarded as unclean by you. 21 There are, however, some flying insects that walk on all fours that you may eat: those that have jointed legs for hopping on the ground. 22 Of these you may eat any kind of locust, katydid, cricket or grasshopper. 23 But all other flying insects that have four legs you are to regard as unclean. 24 “You will make yourselves unclean by these; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening. 25 Whoever picks up one of their carcasses must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. 26 “Every animal that does not have a divided hoof or that does not chew the cud is unclean for you; whoever touches the
carcass of any of them will be unclean. 27 Of all the animals that walk on all fours, those that walk on their paws are unclean for you; whoever touches their carcasses will be unclean till evening. 28 Anyone who picks up their carcasses must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. These animals are unclean for you. 29 “Of the animals that move along the ground, these are unclean for you: the weasel, the rat, any kind of great lizard, 30 the gecko, the monitor lizard, the wall lizard, the skink and the chameleon. 31 Of all those that move along the ground, these are unclean for you. Whoever touches them when they are dead will be unclean till evening. 32 When one of them dies and falls on something, that article, whatever its use, will be unclean, whether it is made of wood, cloth, hide or sackcloth. Put it in water; it will be unclean till evening, and then it will be clean. 33 If one of them falls into a clay pot, everything in it will be unclean, and you must break the pot. 34 Any food you are allowed to eat that has come into contact with water from any such pot is unclean, and any liquid that is drunk from such a pot is unclean. 35 Anything that one of their carcasses falls on becomes unclean; an oven or cooking pot must be broken up. They are unclean, and you are to regard them as unclean. 36 A spring, however, or a cistern for collecting water remains clean, but anyone who touches one of these carcasses is unclean. 37 If a carcass falls on any seeds that are to be planted, they remain clean. 38 But if water has been put on the seed and a carcass falls on it, it is unclean for you. 39 “If an animal that you are allowed to eat dies, anyone who touches its carcass will be unclean till evening. 40 Anyone who eats some of its carcass must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. Anyone who picks up the carcass must wash their clothes, and they will be unclean till evening. 41 “Every creature that moves along the ground is to be regarded as unclean; it is not to be eaten. 42 You are not to eat any creature that moves along the ground, whether it moves on its belly or walks on all fours or on many feet; it is unclean. 43 Do not defile yourselves by any of these creatures. Do not make yourselves unclean by means of them or be made unclean by them. 44 I am the Lord your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy. Do not make yourselves unclean by any creature that moves along the ground. 45 I am the Lord, who brought you up out of Egypt to be your God; therefore be holy, because I am holy. 46 “These are the regulations concerning animals, birds, every living thing that moves about in the water and every creature that moves along the ground. 47 You must distinguish between the unclean and the clean, between living creatures that may be eaten and those that may not be eaten.”

3 JOHN 2

2 Dear friend, I pray that you may enjoy good health and that all may go well with you, even as your soul is getting along well.
Urban Missionaries With a Passion To Impact Lives In Florida

What if a church translated Proverbs 18:24, “A man who has friends must himself be friendly…” into “a church that has friends must itself be friendly?”

When the Adventist Church becomes involved, members of the community begin to notice. Former prejudices are broken down and people become receptive to the gospel message.

Creativity abounds in outreach methods that members throughout Florida Conference are using to minister in their communities:

Friendship Without an Agenda
The Lighthouse Community Mission Group in Orlando targets the unchurched and the urban community. They have adopted 300 families living in an extended-stay hotel, and, three times a week, they are involved in mentoring the children and helping wherever needed.

One Sabbath a month, mission group members visit the homeless at Lake Eola in downtown Orlando to talk, listen, pray, and give a book to each person before handing them a lunch. Members have found that being friendly matters as much to the homeless as does the food they receive.

These new friendships often bring questions about the Lighthouse ministry and have led to Bible studies, church attendance, and baptisms.

Hispanics in Action for Community Education and Rehabilitation (H.A.C.E.R.)
Founded by individuals from West Palm Beach Spanish Church, this organization meets needs of people in the community in addition to their spiritual needs.

Besides reaching more than 300 families a month through a food pantry, H.A.C.E.R. provides biannual health fairs with a variety of free exams, vaccinations, tests, and ultrasounds. In order to help low-income families cope with the need for affordable housing, H.A.C.E.R. purchased and renovated a four-unit complex in Palm Beach County and named it Nehemiah House.

Jacksonville Outreach Center
Several years ago, Jacksonville Mandarin Church Pastor Juan Rodriguez became co-executive director of StandUp For Kids, a community program that rescues homeless young people. Soon, Mandarin Church young adults joined in searching for needy young people living on the streets.

In addition, leaders at Mandarin wanted to help the adult homeless community, so they opened an outreach center to house The Way, which is the church’s ministry for adults. It also headquarters the Jacksonville branch of the Atlanta-based nonprofit, StandUp For Kids.

One day while middle school students from Jacksonville Adventist Academy were involved in street ministry with Pastor Jonathan Peinado from Jacksonville First Church, they asked a man sitting on a bench eating his lunch if there was anything he would like to have them pray about. The man had just found out his wife had cancer, and he needed prayer at that moment. The young people believe God led them to this man just as He has led the volunteers to many other homeless individuals.

Biker Sabbath
“A real game changer in our service to the community came when we invited motorcyclists from the community and Central Florida,” says Dan Forbes, pastor of South Orlando Church. The church filled to capacity, and special provisions were made to accommodate the motorcycles that arrived in the parking lot. Gift bags were presented to each guest.

After the worship service, bikers joined members for a fellowship luncheon and a charity ride that raised $425 to benefit Harbor House in its efforts to end domestic violence.

**Meals Packed With Love Feed Children in Orlando Area**

In 2012, Forest Lake Church, Apopka, held the first of two Pack the Forest events to prepare meals for hungry families. In 50 minutes time, 190 members and friends packed 30,000 healthy meals, each with ingredients to serve a family of six. The bulk of the meals went to middle school students in Orlando to share with their families on the weekends. Needed funding of $7,500 was raised from small donations of children emptying their piggy banks to a larger anonymous gift of $1,000.

A second Pack the Forest event in November 2013 saw 300 volunteers pack 60,000 meals after $16,200 was raised in donations. The meals were given to Community Food and Outreach Center for distribution to families throughout Central Florida.

**Health Fairs**

Fort Lauderdale Church’s Healthy Lifestyle – Longer Life partnering event on the Stranahan High School campus is an example of health events held throughout Florida. Attendees take advantage of free medical screenings and handouts from local providers.

**Ministry To the Elderly and Homeless**

On the first and last Sabbath of each month, a team of Margate members and Pathfinders visit an assisted living center for ministry to the elderly through praise, prayer, and the spoken Word. Their reward has come when tearful residents have extended their arms for hugs.

Margate Church members also feed more than 230 homeless men and women on the second Wednesday of each month.

**1,000 Cupcakes**

“Let’s have our own *Cupcake Wars* and take 1,000 cupcakes to migrant workers,” suggested 13-year-old Allison Rogers from Brandon Church. Four mother/daughter teams met at the church to bake, fill, and frost cupcakes for a meal hosted at a community health services event sponsored by Good Samaritan Mission in Wimauma. Church teens also provided a puppet ministry while children and parents waited for free dental cleaning, immunizations, eye exams, back-to-school supplies, and tickets for food furnished by the Mission.

**Bags of Love**

Florida Living residents in Apopka assembled 15 Bags of Love for children removed from their homes because of abuse or a parent or guardian in trouble with the law. The children are given a bag as they are taken to a safe place by the County Child Protective Services.

Each bag carries the inscription, “It’s My Very Own.” Inside is a handmade quilt, pillow with case, towel and washcloth, a small bag with age-appropriate personal toiletry items, toys, puzzles, coloring books with crayons, story books, and stuffed animals.

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*Florida Conference’s Vision:* To be a 21st-century missionary movement, effectively reaching people of all ages and cultures.

*One of our five Values embodies this Vision:* We are committed to the empowerment of every member to serve as a
Forest Lake Church in Apopka hosted two Feeding Children Everywhere events in the gymnasium at Forest Lake Academy. A combined total of 90,000 meals were packaged for hungry children and their families in Greater Orlando. (Photo: Delwin Finch)

Robin Davis, left, and Schenelle Morrison gave food samples to health fair guests. (Photo: Jeffrey Thompson)

Margate Church volunteers team up with LifeNet4Families in feeding the homeless. (Photo: Julia Tedim)
Putting the finishing touches on cupcakes bound for Good Samaritan Mission.
(Photograph by Allen Rogers)

Florida Living residents donated all the items used to fill Bags of Love, including hand-made quilts, pillows with cases, towels and washcloths, an assortment of personal toiletry items, toys, story books, and stuffed animals. (Photo: Stephen Yost)