La Sierra University (LSU) is mourning the passing of LSU alum and sports medicine legend Dr. Frank Jobe, who died March 6 at the age of 88. Jobe was the creator of the famed "Tommy John" surgery which prolonged or saved the careers of countless baseball players at all levels and changed baseball forever. He graduated from LSU in 1949 with a BA, and then studied medicine at Loma Linda’s College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University School of Medicine. LSU honored him as Alumnus of the Year in April, 2013.

Julio Muñoz has accepted the position as the new Associate Director for the Office of Communication as of March 30, as voted by the NAD Executive Committee. He replaces Dan Weber who became the director when George Johnson transitioned to a new position at Oakwood University. Julio will oversee public relations and marketing and assist with media production as a producer, writer and on-camera talent. He recently served as the Manager Client Care for Adventist Risk Management. From 2007 - 2012 he was Bureau Chief for Marketing and Development at ADRA.

Columbia Union has named their first female vice-president. Celeste Ryan Blyden was promoted from editor of the Visitor magazine and assistant to the president for communication to be vice president for strategic communication and public relations. Other promotions include Rubén Ramos, from assistant to the president for Multicultural Ministries to vice president for Multicultural Ministries; Beth Michaels, from managing editor of the Visitor to editor in chief and associate director of communication; and Tabitha Martinez, from assistant treasurer to associate treasurer;

In addition, the union voted to have Cindy Tutsch, DMin, recently retired from her post as associate director at the Ellen G. White Estate to serve as a consultant to help launch their planned evangelistic school for young adults in the Columbia Union.

The SONscreen Film Festival has announced its selections for consideration for this year's SONscreen awards. This year there were more than 50 entries to the festival to be held March 20-22 on the campus of Southern Adventist University. Some of the categories are Dramatic Short; Documentary Short; Animation; and My Church, My Mission. See the list and schedule.

Eight million Adventist youth worldwide, including NAD youth, will "exit March 12, 2014"
the church and enter the world” on Global Youth Day, Sabbath, March 15. They plan to “live the sermon” by joining in acts of kindness, donating blood, serving at shelters, and much more.

Please inform your youth that they can publish directly to the Global Youth Day website which will show exactly where they are on a world map, or via the iOS App, or Android App. They can also upload photos and videos to the Global Youth Day Facebook page and can use the Smartphone App to contribute.

Hope Channel Broadcast for NAD time slots for young people to tell their stories are listed on the NAD website. Watch live stream. MORE

"The Paradise Valley Church is one of the most unusual Seventh-day Adventist Churches that I have had the privilege of being in. The whole focus of the church is upon the needs of men, women, and children who have come to the shores of America in need." - Dan Jackson

Watch a video about the Paradise Valley Church (PVC) in the San Diego, Calif. area, and its Refugee Assimilation Project (RAP). PVC has over 50 nationalities attending and are translating into Spanish, French, Swahili, Arabic, Laotian, Napalese on Sabbath mornings as a result of their RAP food program which now serves about 500 people a week. San Diego is the "refugee capitol of America," with 90 thousand lonely refugees who have left their families behind. PVC Pastor Will James says that, "They don't know anyone when they arrive, and they need someone to love and care about them. The church has become that loving, caring, compassionate society that they crave."

[Photo: Dan and Donna Jackson- left center back; Paradise Valley Church Pastor Will James right center back; posing with some church members]

Adventist Medical Center Named America’s 100 Best Hospitals For Critical Care And Spine Surgery

She finds happiness doing things for others

Glendale Adventist honored for low death rate

The man whose seemingly threatening words threw college into an uproar won’t do time

NAD News: Belfair Builds New Church Facility, Young People Participate in Skid Row Service Event, Witnessing Works with Fund-raising, pp. 11-13


NAD Perspective: “The Master Wheelwright,” by John Mathews, p. 17

NAD Letters: p. 18

NAD Feature: Give Blind Individuals a Chance, pp. 35-39
Add to Your Bucket List — We are facing a new season of tornadoes and hurricanes in many local communities. Melting heavy snows may also cause homes to be filled with mud and flood water. Adventist Community Services (ACS) allocated $250,000 to purchase empty five-gallon buckets for the specific purpose of distributing cleaning supplies to survivors affected by disasters. You can help fill them with cleaning supplies, either by donating to ACS ($50 will fill a bucket with supplies) or by holding a group effort with your church, youth group, or community, to fill them with needed supplies.

Put it on your bucket list to complete their bucket list! Get the Bucket List or Donate. Contact your local conference ACS Disaster Response director to get the buckets FREE and to arrange their delivery.

Southern Union Conference is moving to Norcross, Ga. Their new mailing address, beginning March 24, will be P. O. Box 923868, Norcross, GA 30010; Street address: 302 Research Dr., Norcross, GA 30092

GIGI, a new magazine for young women and teen girls is now downloadable, free from the NAD Women's Ministries website. Begun by five sisters (5 Sisters Ministry) in Australia who wanted to use their teaching, health training, style and design talents for God, it shows in an attractive and appealing design and wording, how young women can “sparkle” to the glory of God through their lifestyles, decisions, appearance and attitudes. The Spring 2014 issue includes a personal experience as written by an ADRA worker, some female straight talk, topics such as anorexia, self-esteem, health, easy healthy recipes, skin health, bath salt recipes, wardrobe suggestions and ideas, love and dating, and so much more. It also includes an opportunity to request prayer. You will want to recommend it to your female youth.

Did you know Jesus is coming back to this earth? Fundamental Beliefs #25 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 "seeker site." The site offers options such as sending a prayer request, enrolling in the Discover Bible Course, watching a

beliefs video, and provides a connection to Adventist Information Ministry where people can chat with someone about spiritual issues or things that are troubling them. “Like” the above-mentioned Facebook pages and then share the updates with your friends.

You can share the Beliefs videos on your own website: Just go to www.vimeo.com/channels/didyouknow for the entire video series and click on the “Share” button in the upper right corner of a specific video for the embed code, or to share on social media or email it to a friend.

REACH North America

REACH: Community Outreach and Evangelism
Expanding church partly due to food distribution program

A food distribution program at the 47-member Crestview, Fla. Church is such a success that because of its growth and the growth of the Sabbath school and surrounding community, the church is planning to build a new church. Every Monday, Crestview serves as a distribution center for Destin Harvest, an area food bank. The church volunteers sort and pack the food, such as bread, dessert, fruit, vegetables, boxed goods and specialty items into about 50 boxes, and by 3:00 p.m., the door is opened for waiting clients. Some ask for prayer, or for clothes or pet food, which are also supplied. The church also delivers boxes to shut-ins. Read about special individual experiences and MORE: Southern Tidings, Dec. 2013, p. 22
NAD NewsPoints - Dr. Frank Jobe dies, Munoz joins NAD, Columbia Union first, Somscreen Festival, bucket list, new magazine, and more
La Sierra mourns passing of alum, sports medicine great Dr. Frank Jobe

It is with sadness that the La Sierra University community received the news of the passing of one of its beloved alums, Dr. Frank Jobe.

Dr. Frank Jobe (center) received the La Sierra Alumnus of the Year Award in April 2013, surrounded by his family.

Dr. Frank Jobe

Dr. Jobe passed away on March 6 at the age of 88, a legend in the annals of sports medicine as the creator of the famed 'Tommy John' surgery for baseball pitchers. His groundbreaking achievement prolonged or saved the careers of countless baseball players at all levels and changed baseball forever.

On April 19, 2013, La Sierra University honored Jobe as its Alumnus of the Year during an Alumni weekend banquet held at the university's Glory of God's Grace sculpture plaza. A couple of months later in July, he received one of the highest honors a civilian can get from the professional sports world - a special recognition from the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y. during Hall of Fame Weekend 2013.

La Sierra University Magazine featured Dr. Jobe, his storied career and Hall of Fame award with a cover story for the Summer 2013 edition.

Jobe changed the game of baseball on Sept. 25, 1974, when he performed the first ever ulnar collateral ligament reconstruction surgery on the left elbow of a Los Angeles Dodger pitcher Tommy John. The procedure, now known as the "Tommy John" surgery, involved grafting a tendon from John's forearm into his elbow to replace the ligament. John recovered and took his baseball career to new heights. Before Jobe operated on John, the pitcher had won 124 games in the big leagues. After the surgery, he won 164 games, and was able to play until age 46.

Since that groundbreaking achievement, Jobe performed more than 1,000 Tommy John surgeries on pitchers of varying level and ability. He later developed another revolutionary procedure, a shoulder reconstruction surgery that was first used to save the career of Dodger great Orel Hershiser.

Jobe graduated from La Sierra in 1949 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He then studied medicine at Loma Linda's College of Medical Evangelists, now Loma Linda University School of Medicine. In 1965, along with sports medicine physician Robert Kerlan, he founded the Kerlan-Jobe Orthopaedic Clinic which currently operates out of locations in Los Angeles, Beverly Hills, Pasadena, Anaheim, and Santa Monica.

During his acceptance speech for the Alumni of the Year Award, Jobe attributed his success in life to others, beginning with his wife, Beverly, who created a "stable home environment so I could do things without worrying about anything," he said. He also cited the life lessons he learned from La Sierra's faculty during his college tenure.

"Those life lessons are probably more important than any book learning," Jobe said. "They showed me how to live, how to be nice to people, how to take care of people. La Sierra has such a treasure in its faculty. I hope it's never lost."

The Jobe family has a long-standing connection with La Sierra University. Dr. Jobe's son, Meredith Jobe, grandson, Kevin, and daughter-in-law, Melanie Jobe, are all alumni of La Sierra. Meredith currently is a member of the university Board of Trustees, and Melanie is director of our Center for Student Academic Success (C-SAS). Our prayers are with the Jobe family during this difficult time.

For additional coverage of the life of Frank Jobe, visit the following news media links:

Los Angeles Times:
www.latimes.com/obituaries/la-me-frank-jobe-20140307,0,7968857.story

New York Times:
NBC News:
Columbia Union Names First Woman Vice President, Promotes Three Others at Spring Meetings

columbiaunionvisitor.com/springmeetings14/

March 6, 2014 · by Taashi Rowe · in Columbia Union News

The former Visitor editor’s portfolio will expand to include strategic communication and public relations.

Story by Taashi Rowe

Today four Columbia Union staff members received promotions at the Columbia Union Conference Executive Committee spring meetings. Among them was the union’s first woman vice president. Celeste Ryan Blyden was promoted from assistant to the president for communication to vice president for strategic communication and public relations. Rubén Ramos, who served as assistant to the president for Multicultural Ministries since 2007, was promoted to vice president for Multicultural Ministries.

Beth Michaels, who has spent eight years at the Visitor magazine, the last two as managing editor, will now serve as editor in chief and the union’s associate director of communication. Tabitha Martinez, who has served as the union’s assistant treasurer since 2006, was promoted to associate treasurer.

“We appreciate the contributions you all have made to the mission of the church here in the Columbia Union. We applaud your dedication and service,” said Dave Weigley, union president.

He then turned to Blyden and said the union committee unanimously voted to elevate her to vice president. “It was one of those decisions where you could catch and feel the electricity in the room. It was time to do this. This is the right thing to do. It is the first time, to my knowledge, that the Columbia Union has had a woman vice president,” he said as the room exploded with a standing ovation.

Blyden has spent 12 years as editor of the award-winning Visitor magazine and has 25 years of communication experience. She has served the church as a journalist, editor, public information officer, marketing coordinator, media relations manager, corporate communication director, social media strategist and television producer. In addition to her new duties, she will continue to lead the communication department and serve as publisher of the Visitor. During her tenure, Blyden and her team grew the Visitor brand to include a weekly email newsletter, videos, websites, the popular annual calendar, social media and other platforms.

Ramos, a champion for soul-winning and church planting, was born in Argentina and grew up in the home of missionaries. He holds a degree in education and theology from River Plate University in Argentina, has experience as a literature evangelist, and pastored several Hispanic churches in the Potomac Conference before serving as the Hispanic Ministries director there for 11 years.

Prior to joining the union, Michaels worked for several non-profit organizations around the Washington, D.C., area, leading and assisting in...
their communication and marketing departments. She also spent five years at ADRA International helping and then leading their news and public relations efforts.

“Like me, Beth is a daughter of the Columbia Union and a graduate of Washington Adventist University. She also shares my passion to connect, inspire and engage members through the Visitor and our other communication platforms,” Blyden said. “We’re all thankful for her commitment to the ministry of communication in the Columbia Union.”

Martinez has also served three years as an assistant staff auditor for the General Conference Auditing Service. She holds a bachelor of business administration from Southwestern Adventist University in Texas and will finish her MBA from Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Md., in May. “Over the years, Tabitha has served as a dedicated and faithful member of our team,” said Seth Bardu, Columbia Union treasurer. “As an associate treasurer, she will be presented with even more opportunities to serve her church.”

**New Consultant Helps With Evangelistic School**

Earlier in the week, the Columbia Union Presidents’ Council voted to have Cindy Tutsch, DMin, join the office team for a part-time, one-year appointment. Tutsch, who recently retired from her post as associate director at the Ellen G. White Estate in Silver Spring, Md., will help in the efforts to launch an evangelistic school for young adults in the Columbia Union. “Cindy has served as a pastor and conference youth director. She understands young people and has started a number of evangelistic initiatives with young adults,” said Frank Bondurant, vice president for Ministries Development. “She will serve as a consultant to our study committee as we lay the foundation and discuss core values, a mission statement and outcomes for this school.”

Tutsch started working with the Columbia Union team this week.
North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists® : 3-12-14 2014
SONscreen Film Festival Entries for Showing

3-12-14 2014 SONscreen Film Festival Entries for Showing

The 2014 SONscreen Film Festival is proud to announce its selections for this years festival to be held March 20-22 on the campus of Southern Adventist University. This year there were more than 50 entries to the festival and the following films have been chosen to be shown this year. The final awards will be given as chosen from these films:

In the category of Dramatic Short, the films chosen are: Heaven, by Edgar Momplaisir
That Which Falls Apart, by Leighton Silverstro
George Barnes’ Wake, by Emily Mastrapa
The Waiting Room, by Raphael Jimenez
The Hideout, by Matthew Distro

In the category of Documentary Short the films are:

The Back of My Life, by Pieter Damsteegt
Stigma, by Dillan Forsey
Landlocked, by Chris Stiles
Meeting God, by Nick Lindsey
Moore Gnar, by Michael Feldbush
Bicycles, Ice Cream and Passion, by Carl Canwell
Walk in My Shoes, by Leif Ramsey

The films in the Animation category are:

Sideshow, by Rebecca Johnson
Disconnected, by Jason Dull
A Rude Awakening, by Richard Aldridge

This years High School films are:

Love Loudly, by Summer Medina
Gonna Get Up, by Joey Aguilar
Veteran Suicide Prevention, by Austin Greer

In the special category of My Church, My Mission the film chosen to be shown is:

Extreme Servolution, by M. Dauncey

And in the Professional category, where the films are not considered in competition, the film shown this year is:

Westside for Jesus, by Issac James

Tickets for the 2014 SONscreen Film Festival can be purchased through AdventSource.

Here is the schedule for this years film festival, held on the campus of Southern Adventist University, March 20-22.

Thursday March 20
3:00 - 5:30 pm    Registration - Lynn Wood Chapel

5:30 - 6:30 pm    Opening Reception - School of Visual Art and Design, Brock Hall

7:00 - 8:30 pm    Keynote Presentation - Dave Christiano, Director and Producer of Christian Films

8:30 - 10:30 pm   Film Submission Viewing Block A - Lynn Wood Chapel

Friday March 21

9:30 - 11:30      Lighting Workshop - David George - Ledford Hall Studio          Audio/Sound Design Workshop - Brett Perry - Brock 2119
                   Directing Workshop - Dave Christiano - TBD       Steadicam - Bryan Fowler - Lynn Wood Chapel
                   Documentary Cinematography - Nathan DeWild - Brock 2305    Directing and VFX - Zach Gray - Brock 2124

12:00 - 1:30      Lunch - Lynn Wood Chapel

2:00 - 4:00        Lighting Workshop - David George - Ledford Hall Studio          Working with a Composer - Brett Perry - Brock 2119
                   Steadicam - Bryan Fowler - Lynn Wood Chapel       Documentary Cinematography - Nathan DeWild - Brock 2305
                   Directing and VFX - Zach Gray - Brock 2124

4:30 - 6:30        Dinner on your own

7:00 - 8:00        Documentary on Carl Wilkins and the Rwanda Genocide - Lynn Wood Chapel

8:00 - 10:00       Film Submission Viewing Block B - Lynn Wood Chapel

Sabbath March 22

9:30 - 10:30       How can the Church can use Dramatic Storytelling - Dan Weber

10:30 - 12:00      Worship Service - The Lamb Wins

12:30 - 1:30       Lunch - Presidential Board Room - Student Center

2:00 - 3:00        Special Screening of "The Blueprint", a documentary by Martin Doblemeier (preview a trailer here) - Lynn Wood Chapel

3:00 - 5:00        Film Submission Viewing Block C - Lynn Wood Chapel

6:00 - 7:00        Closing Reception - Lynn Wood Chapel

7:00 - 9:00        Award Ceremony - Lynn Wood Chapel

Please note that this schedule is subject to change at any time. All times are Eastern Daylight Savings Time.
Eight million Adventist youth worldwide, including NAD youth, will "exit the church and enter the world" on Global Youth Day, Sabbath, March 15. They plan to "live the sermon" by joining in acts of kindness, donating blood, serving at shelters, and much more.

Please inform your youth that they can publish directly to the Global Youth Day website which will show exactly where they are on a world map, or via the iOS App, or Android App. They can also upload photos and videos to the Global Youth Day Facebook page and can use the Smartphone App to contribute.

Hope Channel Broadcast for NAD time slots for young people to tell their stories are listed below. Watch live stream.

Jose Cortez (3-4:00 pm - Eastern time)
- Atlantic Union
- Columbia Union
- Lake Union
- SDA Church in Canada

Pedro Perez (4-5:00 pm - Eastern time)
- Southern Union
- Southwestern Union
- Mid-America Union
- Pacific Union
- North Pacific Union

George Johnson (7-8:00 pm - Eastern time)
- Oakwood University ONLY
Adventist Medical Center Named America's 100 Best Hospitals For Critical Care And Spine Surgery

Study of Patient Outcomes in Approximately 4,500 Hospitals Finds Adventist Medical Center Among the Best Nationally

PR Newswire

PORTLAND, Ore., March 7, 2014

PORTLAND, Ore., March 7, 2014 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- Adventist Medical Center has been recognized by Healthgrades as one of America's 100 Best hospitals for treating Critical Care and Spine Surgery patients. Healthgrades, a leading online resource that helps consumers search, compare and connect with physicians and hospitals, evaluated nearly 4,500 hospitals nationwide and identified the 100 best hospitals.

"We are constantly challenging ourselves to deliver the highest quality care in a safe, timely, effective and efficient patient-centered environment," says Tom Russell, President and CEO of Adventist Medical Center. Better outcomes are the result of coordinated care between patients, physicians, nurses, therapists, and the entire caregiving team. Treating Critical Care and Spine Surgery patients requires a highly skilled team. "Because our mission calls us to excellence in relationships which translates into better patient care, our staff has adopted a practice of treating every patient as if they were part of their own family," continues Russell. "This focus helps reduce infection and complication rates, resulting in better patient outcomes"

The hospital's extraordinary achievement is part of findings released in

American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2014: Healthgrades Report to the Nation, which demonstrates how clinical performance differs dramatically between hospitals and the impact on health outcomes. For example, from 2010-2012, if all hospitals, performed similarly to hospitals receiving 5-stars as a group, on average 234,252 lives could potentially have been saved and 157,418 complications could potentially have been avoided. A 5-star rating indicates that Adventist Medical Center's clinical outcomes are better than expected when treating the condition or conducting the procedure being evaluated.

For its analysis, Healthgrades evaluated approximately 40 million Medicare-patient records for nearly 4,500 short-term acute care hospitals nationwide, assessing hospital performance relative to each of 31 common conditions and procedures

More information on the

American Hospital Quality Outcomes 2014: Healthgrades Report to the Nation, including the complete methodology, can be found at www.healthgrades.com/quality.

About Adventist Health Adventist Medical Center (AMC), located in southeast Portland, is a nonprofit, 302-bed acute care facility, offering a full range of inpatient, outpatient and emergency services throughout the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area is the flagship of Adventist Health services in the Portland area. Adventist Health-Portland, is staffed by more than 2,000 employees and includes 37 primary care and specialty clinics in the metro area.

Adventist Health-Portland is part of Adventist Health, a faith-based, not-for-profit integrated health care delivery system serving communities in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington. Our workforce of 28,700 includes more than 21,000 employees; 4,500 medical staff physicians; and 3,000 volunteers. Founded on Seventh-day Adventist health values, Adventist Health provides compassionate care in 19 hospitals, more than 150 clinics (hospital-based, rural health and physician clinics), 14 home care agencies, six hospice agencies and four joint-venture retirement centers. We invite you to visit our website at www.adventisthealthnw.com for more information.

Media Contacts:
Judy Leach, Director
Adventist Health
(503) 251-6162
leachjl@ah.org
Mary Juarez finds all sorts of ways to pursue her two passions in Muskogee.

She could bake cookies for a Oklahoma Home and Community Education bake sale. She could help a person find food and clothing at the Muskogee Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Service Center. She could learn healthy ways to cook the herbs and vegetables she grows in her garden.

“I like to do things for others and I like to learn,” she said. “I feel a satisfaction of doing things for the community.”

Juarez, 74, is the director of the Community Service Center, which opened in September at 1316 S. York St.

She also is the president of the Muskogee County Oklahoma Home and Community Education organization, a program through the Oklahoma State University Extension dedicated to continuing education on home and community life.

“I just love to learn,” she said. “My mother taught me how to sew on a machine with a foot treadle.”

Juarez said she has learned quilting, baking, painting and Swedish weaving.

“I say I do things that take a lot of work,” she said. “When you’re through, it’s a beautiful thing you can give to someone.”

Meet Mary Juarez

AGE: 74.

HOMETOWN: San Antonio.

CAREER: Director of Muskogee Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Service Center.

EDUCATION: Edison High School, San Antonio.

FAMILY: Husband, Rudy Juarez.

CHURCH: Muskogee Seventh-day Adventist Church.

HOBBIES: Quilting, Swedish weaving, crochet, sewing, crafts, cooking, gardening.

Volunteering to help others

Mary Juarez said she at first resisted the call to be the director of the Muskogee Seventh-day Adventist Church Community Center.

“I knew there was a need,” she said. “They were looking for someone, and I fought it and fought it. I didn’t want to do it. But I felt the urge, like the Holy Spirit saying ‘Hey.’ So I went forward and did it.”

The community center opened Sept. 10 at York and Hancock streets. Many items had come from the center the congregation operated at its church. But many more items were needed.

“We didn’t have anything here,” she said. “We started from scratch. We didn’t have all this. We didn’t have clothes racks. God has been good to us. He has provided everything we need — clothes racks, volunteers.”

Since then, the center has grown “by word of mouth,” Juarez said.

“People are happy. They like the facility here, and they tell somebody else,” she said. “We have more than plenty to offer and people just come in and get what they need. This winter, when it was so cold, we had coats. Two men came in. They had light jackets on. They put on
the heavy coats. They were so happy and thankful. Things like that make you know it’s worthwhile what you are doing.”

Juarez said she feels a lot of joy watching people look through the center.

“It’s a very happy, satisfying feeling,” she said. “When they leave here, they are smiling. We know that we made the people happy. Or little children would leave here with a toy or a pretty dress we had helped them look for. We’d say, ‘Do you like this dress,’ and they would say, ‘Oh, yes.’”

An ongoing desire to learn

Juarez can pursue her passions through the Oklahoma Home and Community Education organization.

She said she started going to meetings of the Muskogee County OHCE group about six to eight years ago, after a friend’s encouragement.

“A neighbor had been a member for years and years,” she said. “I went to one meeting after another and I just joined. Two years later, they made me county president.”

OHCE members learn something new at each monthly meeting, Juarez said.

“We make things and learn all the time,” she said. “At each meeting we have a lesson. It could be on slow cooking. We had a class on herbs and spices. We even had classes on using cell phones.”

Members find plenty to learn, she said.

“We teach each other and invite more people who want to learn,” she said. “We have workshops where the public can come.”

The organization also stresses community service, she said.

“Three times a year, we collect school supplies. We select a school and collect supplies,” she said. “We also work with the Blue Star Mothers, making Christmas decorations to send to service people overseas.”

Blue Star Mothers is an organization of mothers with children serving or who had served in the military.

Juarez said club members also made “hugs and kisses,” cooling scarves that service people can wear around their necks.

“We sent hundreds of them,” she said, adding that the Muskogee OHCE has about 27 members.

Eating for good health

Fruits and vegetables play an important part in the Juarez’ lives.

Juarez said she and her husband used to be vegetarians. However, she said her husband kept gaining weight. They went to the Lifestyle Center of America near Ardmore, where her husband was told he was diabetic.

Concerned that she, too, could get diabetes, Juarez changed her diet as well, and the couple went to a stricter diet.

“We became vegan,” she said. “We don’t eat any animal products — no meat, no dairy. So that cuts out a bunch of stuff. But we don’t go hungry.”

She said people at the center taught them vegan cooking.

“We really loved it,” she said. “You mostly have to cook your own food at home from scratch. Things aren’t going to taste like red meat, cheese or milk, so you just make substitutions. You use corn starch instead of eggs. You also can make a gel out of flax as an egg substitute.”

Juarez said she and her husband saw a change in their health.
“We buy a lot of fresh things,” she said. “My husband and I do not take any medication at all, and we’re both in our 70s. Instead of buying medicine we’re buying good food and nuts.”

The couple also grows much of their food, she said. They have a garden at their home and a community garden plot near Spaulding Park.

“We’ve grown red potatoes, tomatoes of course, onions, lettuce,” she said. “Last year we had a good crop of eggplant, okra and spinach. And basil, I had a huge plant that just gave and gave and gave. Our sage and marjoram, they also kept growing.”

Q&A

HOW DID YOU BECOME AN OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE?

“My husband was asked to come pastor in Oklahoma. We came and stayed. When he retired five years ago, we decided to make our home here.”

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT MUSKOGEE?

“I like the weather, really. I wanted to live in a place with four distinct seasons. And it’s quiet here, just big enough to be nice. People are nice and friendly.”

WHAT WOULD MAKE MUSKOGEE A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE?

“It would make it prettier if people fixed up their houses. There are some parts of town that really need it. If homeowners took pride and fixed their homes up, it would really make the town beautiful.”

WHAT DO YOU DO FOR A LIVING IN MUSKOGEE?

Husband is retired pastor.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

“After supper, I like for it to be my own time. That’s when I work on my crafts and hobbies. I read. It’s my own time.”

WHAT OKIE FROM MUSKOGEE DO YOU ADMIRE?

“I guess it would be my husband. My husband is a very caring man. It seems like he can do just about anything. He is a handyman. He’s a perfectionist. If he’s going to do something, he’s going to make it nice.”

WHAT IS THE MOST MEMORABLE THING TO HAPPEN TO YOU IN MUSKOGEE?

“Opening up the center from not knowing what to do at first. I just opened it and it just started happening. It took a lot of work, but it was well worth it.”

HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP MUSKOGEE IN 25 WORDS OR FEWER?

“I would just say Muskogee is a really nice town to live in, peaceful and friendly.”
Glendale Adventist honored for low death rate

The doctors and nurses of Glendale Adventist Medical Center were honored by local officials this week for their work in achieving the nation’s fifth lowest hospital mortality rate.

The rankings, compiled by the trade publication Modern Healthcare, compared monthly data from 2009 to 2012 that focused on people hospitalized for heart attacks, heart failure and pneumonia.

Adventist’s annual mortality rate was 9.03 patients per 1,000, while the national average was 12.89, according to the report.

New York University’s Langone Medical Center had the lowest rate with 8.2.

Dr. Simon Keushkerian, the hospital’s chief of staff, summed up what this meant at a reception Wednesday.

“To be ranked fifth, that means there were hundreds of more lives saved in this hospital, which means there were thousands of more families spared from the devastation of losing their loved ones,” he said.

Hospital CEO Kevin Roberts said the high skill of Glendale Adventist’s 700 doctors and 1,100 nurses are at the core of carrying out practices that save lives.

“Anytime a hospital administrator can plant a stake in the ground to show that their hospital is producing those kinds of outcomes … what this recognition shows is that we’re heading in the right direction,” said Roberts, who is also a licensed nurse. “We’re doing the right thing and it produces wonderful things for the community.”
Glendale Mayor Dave Weaver and former Assemblyman Anthony Portantino as well as representatives from the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors and State Sen. Carol Liu (D-La Cañada Flintridge) presented Keushkerian with letters of recognition.

After he handed out a commendation from the city, Weaver said he was born at the hospital and celebrated many life milestones there.

“I’ve been through three generations of maternity wards,” he said. “One day I’ll be back and I’m confident that you’ll take care of me.”

Follow Arin Mikailian on Twitter: @ArinMikailian.

ALSO:

Glendale prepares to sell vintage arcade machines

Hearing details Glendale man's violent death

Operation Firefly: Downtown Glendale bicyclists receive lights

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The man whose seemingly threatening words threw college into an uproar won't do time

Kisha Caldwell got something she wasn't expecting Thursday morning.

An apology.

Caldwell, Chattanooga State Community College's director of enrollment services, came ready to testify at James Gaines' preliminary hearing. He faced a possible three-year prison sentence after making statements that resulted in a two-hour lockdown the afternoon of Jan. 23 at Southern Adventist University.

Frustrated that he couldn't get a transcript he needed from Southern to get into Chattanooga State on the final day to register for spring classes, Gaines told Caldwell that morning that he might have to "strap a bomb on me" and "put a gun to their head," to get it, according to the affidavit for Gaines' arrest. He also said, "I'm sorry. I'm just kidding."

Gaines won't do any time. He'll continue counseling he already has begun and perform eight hours of community service. He also had to issue a letter of apology under an agreement with the Hamilton County District Attorney's Office. Gaines will appear at a hearing in 90 days to make sure he has satisfied the requirements.

"I feel terribly that I put Ms. Caldwell in a position where she thought that my statements could be a threat," says the apology letter that Gaines' attorney, Lee Davis, handed to General Sessions Court Judge David Bales, who read it aloud.

"[She] was incredibly helpful throughout the entire process of helping me continue my education," the letter reads. "I deeply regret that my choice of words put her into an uncomfortable situation."

"I followed protocol"

Caldwell said afterward that she was happy to get the apology. She didn't regret reporting Gaines' comments to Chattanooga State police Chief Stephanie Hill, which set events in motion that resulted in the lockdown at Southern.

"Protocol. I followed protocol," Caldwell said. "I did what every person should do, and that was to make sure that I have the best interests at heart."

While the district attorney's office didn't pursue false-reports charges against Gaines, it could have, according to a memorandum signed by Executive Assistant District Attorney Neal Pinkston.

"Whether the person making such comments was joking or not is irrelevant," Pinkston's memo states, though he added that "[Gaines'] comments, while inappropriate, do not appear a sustained intent to violate the law."

- James Gaines, center, walks away from the bench after appearing in Judge David Bales courtroom Thursday morning for a preliminary hearing. The judge accepted an agreement for counseling and community service stemming from an incident when statements he made caused the lockdown of Southern Adventist University. At left is Executive Assistant District Attorney Neal Pinkston, while defense attorney Lee Davis is seen at right.

   Photo by John Rawlston.

   enlarge photo

Gaines' supporters gathered 1,125 signatures on the website ipetitions.com asking the DA's office to drop the charges.

In 2009, Gaines dropped out of Southern Adventist University, several courses shy of a degree. His father had just gotten lymphoma. Gaines, who grew up going to Adventist schools in Nashville, got a job and began saving for the day he could return to school.
He became a personal trainer at a local YMCA and works in a program there that helps cancer patients and survivors rehabilitate. Aside from a speeding ticket, his record is clean.

"No joking matter"

Two college safety experts said campus isn't the place for jokes about shooting and bombing.

"Would you joke like that going through TSA at the airport?" asked Gary Margolis, former chief of police at the University of Vermont and co-founder of the consulting firm Margolis Healy Solutions for Safe Campuses. "In this day and age, you don't joke about things like that."

Anne C. Gross of the National Association of College and University Business Officers co-authored the National Campus Safety and Security Project Survey in 2008, the year after Virginia Tech gunman Seung-Hui Cho killed 32 people and wounded 17.

Told of Caldwell's decision to report Gaines' statements, Gross said, "Imagine the heat she would have gotten if [she hadn't reported him and] he had been someone who really meant harm."

Gross couldn't put an exact number on campus lockdowns that occur around the country.

"It's not uncommon," she said. "You hear maybe monthly about some incident in a school that triggers a lockdown."

While incidents such as the Virginia Tech massacre gave campus shootings a high profile, killings on campuses are rare, Gross said.

"There's 3,700 colleges and universities around the country, and the shootings are pretty spread out," she said. "In general, college campuses are pretty safe places to be."

*Contact staff writer Tim Omarzu at tomarzu@timesfreepress.com or 423-757-6651.*

Tim Omarzu covers Catoosa and Walker counties for the Times Free Press. Omarzu is a longtime journalist who has worked as a reporter and editor at daily and weekly newspapers in Michigan, Nevada and California. Stories he's covered include crime in blighted parts of metro Detroit and Reno, Nev.; environmental activists tree-sitting in California's Sierra Nevada foothills; attempts by the Michigan Militia to take over a township's government in northern Michigan. A native of Michigan, ...
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- 1 5-gallon Bucket with Re-sealable Lid
- Bleach: Two 1-quart or One 82 oz. Bottle (DO NOT include bleach if you are shipping)
- 5 Scouring Pads
- 7 Pack of Sponges (assorted sizes)
- 1 Scrub Brush
- 8 Cleaning Towels (reusable wipes)
- Liquid Laundry Detergent: Two 25 oz. or One 50 oz. bottle
- Household Cleaner: One 12-16 oz. bottle
- Disinfectant Dishwashing Soap: One 16-28 oz. bottle
- Clothes Line: Two 50 ft. or One 100 ft.
- 50 Clothes Pins
- 5 Dust Masks
- 2 Pair latex or non-latex gloves
- 1 Pair Work Gloves
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These cleaning supplies enable survivors to begin the overwhelming job of cleanup
DID YOU KNOW JESUS IS COMING BACK TO THIS EARTH?

The second coming of Christ is the blessed hope of the church, the grand climax of the gospel. The Savior’s coming will be literal, personal, visible, and worldwide. When He returns, the righteous dead will be resurrected, and together with the righteous living will be glorified and taken to heaven, but the unrighteous will die. The almost complete fulfillment of most lines of prophecy, together with the present condition of the world, indicates that Christ's coming is imminent. The time of that event has not been revealed, and we are therefore exhorted to be ready at all times.

TITUS 2:13

13 while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ,

HEBREWS 9:28

28 so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

JOHN 14:1-3

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me. 2 My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

ACTS 1:9-11

9 After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight. 10 They were looking intently up into the sky as he was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. 11 “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”

MATTHEW 24:14

14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.

REVELATION 1:7

7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.

MATTHEW 24:43, 44

43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet
1 Corinthians 15:51-54

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—\(^1\) in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.\(^2\) For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality.\(^3\) When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: “Death has been swallowed up in victory.”

2 Thessalonians 1:7-10

7 and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels.\(^4\) He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.\(^5\) They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might\(^6\) on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

2 Thessalonians 2:8

8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

Revelation 14:14-20

14 I looked, and there before me was a white cloud, and seated on the cloud was one like a son of man with a crown of gold on his head and a sharp sickle in his hand.\(^7\) Then another angel came out of the temple and called in a loud voice to him who was sitting on the cloud, “Take your sickle and reap, because the time to reap has come, for the harvest of the earth is ripe.”\(^8\) So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested.\(^9\) Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle.\(^10\) Still another angel, who had charge of the fire, came from the altar and called in a loud voice to him who had the sharp sickle, “Take your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of grapes from the earth's vine, because its grapes are ripe.”\(^11\) The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath.\(^12\) They were trampled in the winepress outside the city, and blood flowed out of the press, rising as high as the horses' bridles for a distance of 1,600 stadia.

Revelation 19:11-21

11 I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war.\(^13\) His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself.\(^14\) He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.\(^15\) The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.\(^16\) Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.\(^17\) On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.\(^18\) And I saw an angel standing in the sun, who cried in a loud voice to all the birds flying in midair, “Come, gather together for the great supper of God,\(^19\) so that you may eat the flesh of kings, generals, and the mighty, of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, great and small.”\(^20\) Then I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies gathered together to wage war against the rider on the horse and his army.\(^21\) But the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who had performed the signs on its behalf. With these signs he had deluded those who had received the mark of the beast and worshiped its image. The two of them were thrown alive into the fiery lake of burning sulfur.\(^22\) The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the
Matthew 24

Jesus left the temple and was walking away when his disciples came up to him to call his attention to its buildings. 2 “Do you see all these things?” he asked. “Truly I tell you, not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” 4 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 8 All these are the beginning of birth pains. 9 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 10 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, 11 and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 13 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. 15 “So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 16 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 17 Let no one on the husetop go down to take anything out of the house. 18 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 19 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 20 Pray that your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 21 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. 22 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 23 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 24 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 25 See, I have told you ahead of time. 26 “So if anyone tells you, 'There he is, out in the wilderness;' do not go out; or, 'Here he is, in the inner rooms,' do not believe it. 27 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 28 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. 29 “Immediately after the distress of those days ‘the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.’ 30 “Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other. 32 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 33 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. 34 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 36 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son,[16] but only the Father. 37 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 38 For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark; 39 and they knew nothing about what would happen until the flood came and took them all away. That is how it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 40 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 41 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 42 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 43 But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. 44 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. 45 “Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of the servants in his household to give them their food at the proper time? 46 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 47 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 48 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 49 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 50 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. 51 He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.
MARK 13

As Jesus was leaving the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!” 2 “Do you see all these great buildings?” replied Jesus. “Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down.” 3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John and Andrew asked him privately, 4 “Tell us, when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are all about to be fulfilled?” 5 Jesus said to them: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 6 Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many. 7 When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. 8 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be earthquakes in various places, and famines. These are the beginning of birth pains. 9 ‘You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them. 10 And the gospel must first be preached to all nations. 11 Whenever you are arrested and brought to trial, do not worry beforehand about what to say. Just say whatever is given you at the time, for it is not you speaking, but the Holy Spirit. 12 “Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child. Children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. 13 Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 14 “When you see 'the abomination that causes desolation' standing where it does not belong—let the reader understand—then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the housetop go down or enter the house to take anything out. 16 Let no one in the field go back to get their cloak. 17 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! 18 Pray that this will not take place in winter, 19 because those will be days of distress unequaled from the beginning, when God created the world, until now—and never to be equaled again. 20 “If the Lord had not cut short those days, no one would survive. But for the sake of the elect, whom he has chosen, he has shortened them. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'Look, there he is!' do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 So be on your guard; I have told you everything ahead of time. 24 “But in those days, following that distress, “the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; 25 the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' 26 “At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And he will send his angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of the heavens. 28 “Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near. 29 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that it is near, right at the door. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 32 “But after that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 “Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'”

LUKE 21

As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. 2 He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. 3 “Truly I tell you,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. 4 All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.” 5 Some of his disciples were remarking about how the temple was adorned with beautiful stones and with gifts dedicated to God. But Jesus said, 6 “As for what you see here, the time will come when not one stone will be left on another; every one of them will be thrown down.” 7 “Teacher,” they asked, “when will these things happen? And what will be the sign that they are about to take place?” 8 He replied: “Watch out that you are not deceived. For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and, 'The time is near.' Do not follow them. 9 When you hear of wars and uprisings, do not be frightened. These things must happen first, but the end will not come right away.” 10 Then he said to them: “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. 11 There will be great earthquakes, famines and pestilences in various places, and fearful events and great signs from heaven. 12 “But before all this, they will seize you and persecute you. They will hand you
over to synagogues and put you in prison, and you will be brought before kings and governors, and all on account of my name. 13 And so you will bear testimony to me. 14 But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. 15 For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. 16 You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. 17 Everyone will hate you because of me. 18 But not a hair of your head will perish. 19 Stand firm, and you will win life.

20 “When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 21 Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those in the city get out, and let those in the country not enter the city. 22 For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 23 How dreadful it will be in those days for pregnant women and nursing mothers! There will be great distress in the land and wrath against this people. 24 They will fall by the sword and will be taken as prisoners to all the nations. Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled. 25 “There will be signs in the sun, moon and stars. On the earth, nations will be in anguish and perplexity at the roaring and tossing of the sea. 26 People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. 27 At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. 28 When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” 29 He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. 30 When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. 31 Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. 32 “Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. 33 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. 34 “Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. 35 For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 36 Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.” 37 Each day Jesus was teaching at the temple, and each evening he went out to spend the night on the hill called the Mount of Olives, 38 and all the people came early in the morning to hear him at the temple.

2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. 2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, 4 treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-6

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.
Food Program Brings Happiness to Surrounding Area

Every Monday afternoon at 1:30, the Crestview, Fla., Church opens its doors for a food distribution program. Destin Harvest, an area food bank, receives donations from local grocery stores and delivers them to various churches and non-profit organizations in Okaloosa County. Crestview Church is one of the recipients.

Two team members receive boxes of food. At least two other members are inside the church at the tables, ready to organize and repack the food. It usually takes only 10-15 minutes to unload. Food is sorted and packed into cardboard boxes so that by 3 p.m. the back door is opened for the waiting clients. After a personal greeting, each person signs the registry and receives a food box containing breads, dessert, fruit, veggies, boxed goods, and specialty items. Often there are other requests such as prayer or clothing needs. One woman asks for dog or cat food which is supplied.

Recently one of the helpers took two loaves of bread to neighbors who had not spoken to her for 30 years. The woman opened the door and accepted the bread. Later the helper returned with a large box of food. The woman fell to her knees and wept, saying that she had been praying to God for food to feed her five grandchildren.

One gentleman comes to pick up his box and takes 15 minutes to visit with the workers. Children come with parents and receive memory verse cards, as well as special toys that have been donated; their faces light up with happiness when they receive toys. One little boy kept saying, “For me, for me,” as he bounced back and forth in the aisle.

A veteran comes in his wheelchair and loads his food in his backpacks hanging on the back of his electric wheelchair. In spite of being an amputee, he is very independent. Desserts are carefully held in his lap as he leaves.

About 50 boxes are distributed each week. By 4 p.m. the people have been served, and clean-up is completed. It’s time to deliver boxes to church members who are shut-ins. Each worker has several boxes to deliver in various outreach areas. Everyone leaves with a joyful spirit and a song in their heart.

The program is such a success that Destin Harvest is planning on expanding. They have asked Crestview Church to be a drop-off point so they can be a holding center for the towns of Mossy Head and Crestview. The church will receive a refrigerator and freezer for this purpose, but the 47-member church has limited space to put these units in its current building. Because of this fact, and the growth of the Sabbath School and the Crestview community, they have plans to build a new church.

Crestview Church is asking God to touch the hearts of those who would like to contribute and help with this project. If you are interested in helping or in receiving more information, you may contact Crestview Church Building Fund, c/o Lottie Alford, P.O. Box 365, Crestview, FL 32536. Phone: 850-652-3631.

—BY KAREN BOSS