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. MORE

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. MORE

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 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 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 51 nationalities attending and are translating into Spanish, French, Swahili, Arabic, Laotian, Nepalese 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 in the News

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
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.

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**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 clients ask for prayer, 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

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NAD NewsPoints, Corrected - Dr. Frank Jobe dies, Munoz joins NAD, Columbia Union first, Sonscreen 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
Tabitha Martinez is now associate treasurer.

Cindy Tutsch will serve as a consultant for the upcoming Columbia Union school of evangelism.

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.
The 2014 SONscreen Film Festival is proud to announce its selections for this year's 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 year's 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 year's 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.
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.

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She finds happiness doing things for others

By Cathy Spaulding

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."
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.”

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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

« Previous Story | More Glendale News | Breaking News from Glendale, California | GlendaleNewsPress.com | Next Story »
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.

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."

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about Tim Omarzu...

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, ...
Clean up Kit

- 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
- 24-Bag Roll of Heavy-duty Trash Bags (33-45 gallon bags removed from box)
- Insect Repellant Spray: One 6-14 oz. can (aerosols must have protective caps)
- Air Freshener: One 8 or 9 oz. can (aerosols must have protective caps)

These cleaning supplies enable survivors to begin the overwhelming job of cleanup
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 THESALONIANS 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
call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up
together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore
courage one another with these words.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-54

51 Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— 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. For
the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. 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 THESALONIANS 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. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel
of our Lord Jesus. They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and
from the glory of his might 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 THESALONIANS 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. 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.” So he who was seated on the cloud swung his sickle over the earth, and the earth was harvested. Another angel came out of the temple in heaven, and he too had a sharp sickle. 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.” The angel swung his sickle on the earth, gathered its grapes and threw them into the great winepress of God's wrath. 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. 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. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of
God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. 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. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. 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, 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.” 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. 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. 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. “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.” 2 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?” 3 Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. 4 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many. 5 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. 6 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. 7 All these are the beginning of birth pains. 8 “Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. 9 At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. 10 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, 11 but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. 12 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. 13 “So when you see standing in the holy place 'the abomination that causes desolation,' spoken of through the prophet Daniel—let the reader understand— 14 then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. 15 Let no one on the housetop go down to take anything out of the house. 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 your flight will not take place in winter or on the Sabbath. 19 For then there will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now—and never to be equaled again. 20 “If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect those days will be shortened. 21 At that time if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or, 'There he is!' do not believe it. 22 For false messiahs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. 23 See, I have told you ahead of time. 24 “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. 25 For as lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. 26 Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather. 27 “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.’ 28 “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. 29 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. 30 “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. 31 Even so, when you see all these things, you know that it is near, right at the door. 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 “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, 35 but only the Father. 36 As it was in the days of Noah, so it will be at the coming of the Son of Man. 37 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; 38 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. 39 Two men will be in the field; one will be taken and the other left. 40 Two women will be grinding with a hand mill; one will be taken and the other left. 41 “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. 42 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. 43 So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him. 44 “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? 45 It will be good for that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. 46 Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 47 But suppose that servant is wicked and says to himself, 'My master is staying away a long time,' 48 and he then begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. 49 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. 50 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—not 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 messias 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 about 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. Then you will bear testimony to me. But make up your mind not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. For I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to resist or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents, brothers and sisters, relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. Everyone will hate you because of me. But not a hair of your head will perish. Stand firm, and you will win life.

“When you see Jerusalem being surrounded by armies, you will know that its desolation is near. 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. For this is the time of punishment in fulfillment of all that has been written. 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. 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.”

“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. People will faint from terror, apprehensive of what is coming on the world, for the heavenly bodies will be shaken. At that time they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.”

He told them this parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees. When they sprout leaves, you can see for yourselves and know that summer is near. Even so, when you see these things happening, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will certainly not pass away until all these things have happened. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away. “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. For it will come on all those who live on the face of the whole earth. 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.”

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, 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. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—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, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.
“And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father,” Philippians 2:11.

The earliest creed of the Christian church contains four words only: “Jesus Christ is Lord!” The idea that Jesus was Lord was not reached at the end of a long theological discussion. To the disciples it was a given fact. The early Christians used the title Lord in referring to Jesus because they were convinced that in Him God had spoken in a unique way, that in some manner He had provided for their complete salvation from sin through Jesus. In the Resurrection, God had exalted Jesus. So when they said, “Jesus is Lord,” they meant that He is sovereign Master of life, as well as Head of the Christian community. This simple creed embraces time and eternity, and sums up all that we know or need to know about Jesus. In Jesus, a new power entered the world, a power people had never seen before.

For example:

- They saw the demonstration of self-sacrificing love.
- They saw in human form the beauty of holiness.
- They saw the union of suffering and love at the cross for their redemption.
- They found their sins forgiven as they lived in His presence.
- They felt an intimate closeness to God such as they had never before experienced.

It is no wonder they cried out, “Jesus Christ is Lord!”

To say that Jesus Christ is Lord implies something very tender and personal. This creed may remain a creed, just words in a book. Until it becomes personal, it has no actual value. The very word, “Lord,” means someone to be obeyed. Jesus said once to His disciples, “Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46). When we see what deep meaning the word has, and what it should mean to us, we feel ashamed at the glib way we have used it. Jesus gave stern warning at this point when He said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven,” Matthew 7:21.

To say that Jesus Christ is Lord is to make Him absolute Lord and Master of our lives, to follow Him in obedience, to serve Him in sacrifice by taking the crosses of the world’s terror and sorrow in darkness, to bring release to people who are captive to anything that keeps them from being their best. This is what it means to say Jesus Christ is Lord!

Will you claim Him as Lord in your life this holiday season?
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Revolutionary generosity demands that we change our perspective. We must gain a fresh vision of the nature of generosity. How does real generosity act, look, and feel in the context of our current reality?
When thinking of generosity, many people look at the size of the gift or the nobility of the cause. But, Jesus looks beyond the outward appearance and measures generosity by a radically new standard: the condition of the giver’s heart. “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” Matthew 6:21. Stewardship is a matter of the heart, a matter of the soul. This goes deeper than the value of a dollar. It is a spiritual matter.

Giving, then, is more than an obligation for followers of Christ; it is an exciting opportunity to lay up treasure which will last for eternity. “It is more blessed to give than to receive,” Acts 20:35. Today, God has positioned His people with unprecedented wealth and opportunity to glorify Him by emulating His generosity.

A church group was getting kicked out of a park because of their interaction with the homeless. The police officer said, “You can’t feed the homeless here; you need a permit!” The pastor replied, “We are not feeding the homeless, we are eating with them.” This is the true heart of generosity, how it looks, acts, and feels.

Often, generosity is about something we do for an individual or group, as opposed to something we do with them. In doing so, we perpetuate our sense of separation. Revolutionary generosity means being interactive Christians. We must move beyond social programs, of which we are so proud, and move toward a hands-on, socially engaged lifestyle.

Many seem to lean toward the easy way out, or the path of least resistance. For example, think of how much easier it is to care for the homeless by sending a check to the local shelter instead of planning to eat with them. And, think of how much easier it is to direct people to a few verses in the Bible in response to life’s tough questions instead of working it out with them; or how much easier is it to complain about the inequality in the world as opposed to being involved in bringing equality to the world.
What would Jesus do? What did He do? If Jesus wanted to simply do something for us, He could have done it from Heaven. Instead, He chose to do it with us. He became flesh and dwelt among us. He stepped into first century Palestine’s culture. He invited people into His life, and allowed Himself to be invited into theirs.

They were not the right people with which to be generous; they were what people of society considered the “unlikeables” and treated as untouchable. These were people that many would select “unlike” from their Facebook friend page. These people had nothing with which to repay Jesus. They were sick, blind, and lame, physically and spiritually, but these are the ones who Jesus kept putting at the head of the banquet tables. Are you ready for that?

Revolutionary generosity is spiritual and practical. It is an interactive stewardship principle. Imagine a revolt against the generated norm of what is thought of stewardship, that it’s about money only: An enemy hath muddied the truth. Generosity is at the heart of stewardship. So let’s start a revolution, a complete revolution of generosity in the people of God to become faithful stewards. “…Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful,” I Corinthians 4:1, 2.

How generosity looks, acts, and feels may be gleaned in the way we manage God’s goods. There are at least four examples of how we may do this:

1 **TIME:** We must manage time for Christ, and balance time for daily endeavors. Time with Jesus comes first, the devotional life and personal commitment (a) to God, Matthew 22:37, 38; and (b) to each other, Matthew 22:39, 40. Out of the daily devotional life comes strength to make it through the day. How is this done? Designate quiet time for the Creator — early morning is favorable; choose a passage from the Bible to read; meditate on it; then, in your prayer of needs, acknowledge and thank God for Who He is, pause, and allow Him response time (prayer is dialogue not just a monologue); then acquiesce to when He chooses to respond, via voice, another human, or circumstance. Some have stated that keeping a prayer journal is an inspiring, powerful look back at how God answers, and is a testimony to inspire others. Think of it this way: Before we can have financial peace, we must first have personal peace — seek ye first the kingdom of Heaven.

2 **TEMPLE:** Proper management of the body temple — mind, body, and soul via healthy living — is essential. Follow a daily health plan for the improvement of life. A good steward will practice consistently the eight laws of health: Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Tem-
perance, Air, Rest — the Sabbath is included in this, and Trust in divine power. Our bodies are His temples, and He expects us to manage and care for them to His glory.

3 TALENTS: “The special gifts of the Spirit are not the only talents represented in the parable [Matthew 25]. It includes all gifts and endowments, whether original or acquired, natural or spiritual. All are to be employed in Christ’s service. In becoming His disciples, we surrender ourselves to Him with all that we are and have. These gifts He returns to us purified and ennobled, to be used for His glory in blessing our fellow men,” Christ Object Lessons, 328.2.

4 TREASURE: Managing material possessions to His Glory — money, property, investments, estate planning, and caring for the environment — is to truly treasure them. Stewards will return tithe, the whole tenth, for the world work, and give a liberal offering to support the local church’s mission to the community. A good steward will also learn and practice debt-free living. Getting out of debt is essential to being free from financial enslavement.

In the parable of the talents, the Bible says, “After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them,” Matthew 25:19. As we remember, two of the three were found faithful and invested the master’s talents, “Well done” was pronounced on them. We remember what was said about the unfaithful one. This idea of settling accounts is similar to the activity relating to the investigative judgment of our day. In other words, God simply ask his stewards, managers of His goods, an obvious question: How did you do with My stuff? I left you in charge of it. Your life, employment, children, money, everything is in your care. Have you managed to My glory, or yours? Good stewards know that they have an advocate with the father, Jesus the righteous Judge, and are wearing the Judge’s robe of righteousness. The robe covers because we give our cares to Him daily. We then are not anxious about the judgment, because we know the Judge.

Generosity stewardship is applicable to everyone of all ages. “Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, [so let him give]; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver,” II Corinthians 9:7. Time, temple, talents, and treasure are to be given, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loveth a cheerful giver.

Let’s become radical for Jesus, revolt from past selfish practices, and start a revolution — a complete Revolution of Generosity!

Michael A. Harpe is South Central Conference director of the Departments of Stewardship, Trust Services, and ASI

1. Thomas Nees. The Outlook (bi-monthly newsletter), September-October 2007.
2. www.generousgiving.org/faq
3. Ibid.
4-10. Thomas Nees. The Outlook (bi-monthly newsletter), September-October 2007.
Don and Julie Huneycutt stood on the steps of the Henderson County Courthouse on a bright fall morning surrounded by the sheriff and the district court judge to share their testimony.

Despite the setting and the cast of characters, the Huneycutt’s greatest trial did not take place in a courtroom.

“Three years ago we lost our daughter, Anna, to a prescription drug overdose,” said Julie Huneycutt. “She was only 20 years old.”

The Huneycutts, along with other local officials, took part in a press conference to announce the formation of an innovative community-wide initiative designed to address the dangers of prescription drug abuse in Western North Carolina.

“We are humbled to partner with Henderson County leaders in addressing the issue of prescription drug abuse in our county,” said Julie Huneycutt. “One life lost is one too many, and we believe with awareness and education we can make a difference that will improve the future of our entire community.”

**Hope for the Future**

Park Ridge Health in Hendersonville has joined with families like the Huneycutts along with area health care providers, non-profits, churches, and government agencies to create Hope Rx, a community-wide initiative developed to help reduce the increasing rate of prescription drug abuse in Henderson County and prevent overdose deaths in the community.

“Park Ridge Health is committed to sharing healing, health, and hope with our community,” said Jimm Bunch, CEO of Park Ridge Health.

“Hope Rx is a natural extension of that mission.”

Hope Rx was a direct result of the recent community health needs assessment conducted in partnership with the Henderson County Department of Public Health. The community overwhelmingly identified prescription drug abuse as a top
health concern in the county. As assistant to the president at Park Ridge Health, I have never experienced an issue that touches so many lives in so many ways. I have heard so many heartbreaking stories of parents who have lost children and families who were destroyed by prescription drug abuse.

Hope Rx was designed to unite community leaders, parents, educators, students, health care providers, first responders, law enforcement, the judicial system, civic organizations, and faith groups throughout Henderson County to collaboratively raise awareness of prescription drug abuse and address the problem in the community.

The group has diverse members ranging from hospitals and public health to schools, community colleges, and universities. Even the local chamber of commerce recognizes that prescription drug abuse is more than just a health issue — it impacts the local economy and workforce development.

**Staggering Statistics**

Recent statistics show that the number of deaths from prescription drug overdose involving opioid analgesics and benzodiazepines has increased more rapidly nationwide than deaths involving any other type of drug.

Survey data has shown that more young people in the region are experimenting with prescription medicine than alcohol or tobacco. Our sheriff has described prescription pain killers as a loaded gun in the medicine cabinet.

“Parents, now is the time for us to address the problem of prescription drugs in our community,” said Don Huneycutt. “Your social status, economic status, faith — none of these make your child exempt from the influences of prescription drugs.”

Working through the Henderson County Partnership for Health, Park Ridge Health helped develop a steering committee of key leaders and create four impact committees — education, providers, law enforcement, and treatment — designed to focus on specific facets of prescription drug abuse in the region.

Local schools have been tremendous supporters of Hope Rx and are committed to educating students about the dangers of prescription drug abuse. Physicians and dentists have also been extremely receptive to the concept.

**A Multi-Faceted Solution**

Since hospital emergency rooms and urgent cares are a common access point for drug seekers, they are a main focus for Hope Rx. The provider committee is working diligently with area hospital leaders to develop effective solutions to protect patient safety and the public.

One of these is the creation of a uniform Emergency Department policy for how certain types of pain medication are prescribed. The goal is to present a unified front to the community and send a clear, consistent message to individuals who would seek to abuse the system.

Diversion is another serious concern, with children and family members too often acquiring medication from parents or grandparents to use or resell. In this area, the committees’ goal is to help the community protect its medication and dispose of unneeded prescription drugs in the appropriate way. Toward this end, Park Ridge Health offers disposal drop boxes and strong education programs to help keep these drugs out of the wrong hands.

Area churches are also sharing the message of Hope Rx through sermons, classes and support programs for individuals and families impacted by prescription drug abuse. The response from local pastors has been extremely encouraging, and we are grateful that churches are represented on the committees. Like Park Ridge Health, these churches recognize that faith is a key part of health and they are seeking to share the healing ministry of Christ with the community.

Hope Rx is planning a series of community conversations over the next year to engage the public and empower volunteers from the community.

“I sincerely believe that Hope Rx will save lives in our community,” said Jimm Bunch. “I am proud that Park Ridge Health is a leader in this initiative and feels strongly that addressing addiction and mental health needs is a critical part of Christian health care.”

Graham Fields is assistant to the president at Park Ridge Health.
The Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention convened this year at the Sheraton Hotel in Salt Lake City, Utah, October 24-26.

“Communicating Christ in the Chaos,” the theme of this year’s Society of Adventist Communicators Convention, addressed the chaos of our communication culture.

Chris Oberg, La Sierra University Church senior pastor, brought clarity to this challenge during the church service on Sabbath, October 26, and called communicators to sharpen the story in today’s cultural context.

“Let me be clear: The Gospel does not need sharpening. It is clear,” Oberg said. “We need to sharpen the telling of the story. We need to be residents of our communities and united in sharing the Gospel.”

The Society entered a new chapter of its development and growth by welcoming the Inter-American Division (IAD) chapter. “Our vision is to expand from a regional to a vigorous international organization,” says George Johnson Jr., SAC executive director and North American Division communication director. “The addition of an international chapter helps us meet our organizational goal to expand.”

The Society voted to accept the IAD chapter on Friday, October 25, during a lunchtime business session. The following morning, IAD hosted breakfast and introduced Society members to their ministry region. In all, IAD brought nine representatives this year.

“We are very happy that SAC has welcomed us as an Inter-American chapter,” said Libna Stevens, IAD chapter liaison. “We attended for years and found inspiration, and wished we could take this home.”

Benjamin García, IAD chapter president, spoke through translation. “By establishing this chapter in Inter-America, the vision of SAC is becoming a reality,” he said. “We have a lot of professionals who were waiting for something like this. Now we can begin to fulfill the dream.”

Two more chapters are preparing to launch in the European Union Division and South American Division.

SAC is structured to include media tours, professional development classes, keynote presentations, networking time, and social activities.

The three-day convention allowed Adventist communicators to talk about faith-based communication...
with leaders from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). This interfaith interaction included tours of the Humanitarian Center, Welfare Square, LDS Conference Center, and Temple Square; attendance at a Mormon Tabernacle Choir rehearsal session; and four workshop sessions led by Mormon communicators on advertising, public affairs, multimedia marketing, and media relations.

Additional workshops on crisis communication, social media, communication education, graphic arts, broadcast media, fundraising, and community relations rounded out the training topics for Adventist communicators.

**Media Productions**

Adventist communicators previewed three media productions during the convention. Martin Doblmeier, filmmaker and friend of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, presented a viewing session of The Adventists 2. This documentary for PBS highlights the medical missionary work of the Adventist church in Haiti, the Amazon, Malawi, China, Peru, and the Dominican Republic.

The first documentary, The Adventists, began airing on PBS four years ago. The two-part series is now often featured back-to-back. Recently, The Adventists was accepted to the PBS world network for international viewing.

“It’s been a humbling year to document this story,” said Doblmeier. “The stories we tell as communicators have impact and transform lives.”

Doblmeier is working on a third and final documentary about Adventists. The final documentary is called “Blueprint: the story of Adventist Christian Education.” This documentary was just accepted by PBS and will be coming to public television in 2014.

Another production team, led by Jason Satterland and Garrett Caldwell, showed trailers, clips, and experiences from producing The Record Keeper. This multi-part web series tells the story of the great controversy through a steam-punk filter to reach a new audience with an age-old story.

Satterland and Caldwell placed their presentation in the context of being faithful to God. They discussed three threats to faithfulness: fear, pride, and disbelief.

“Producing The Record Keeper from beginning to end has been a spiritual journey,” said Caldwell. “We saw God leading us from the beginning. We desire to reach people [with the message of the Great Controversy] who otherwise would not be interested.” The Record Keeper is scheduled to be debuted in February 2014.

**E lecting Leaders**

The Society of Adventist Communicators transitioned to a new group of leaders during the Salt Lake convention. Kimberly Maran, outgoing SAC president and Adventist Review assistant editor, welcomed Kevin Krueger as the new president. Krueger is the general manager of WGTS radio station at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, Maryland.

Additional leaders joining the team are Tamara Fisher, general vice president; Brian Weed, vice president for web and membership services; and Heidi Baumgartner, vice president for communication.

Representatives are elected in alternating years to give continuity. New representatives this year are Victoria Miller, broadcast/radio representative; Costin Jordache, broadcast/television representative; Beth Michaels, print media representative; and Jimmy Phillips, social media representative. Suzanne Ocsai was appointed as assistant to the vice president of communication.

Three creative and passionate student representatives are
also joining the team (versus the traditional two student reps). Steven Foster from Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska; Carlton Hanks from Walla Walla University in College Place, Washington; and David Rumsey from Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee, will be contributing their creative ideas to the board.

Dan Jackson, North American Division president, was a speaker and a hero at SAC this year. He went over and above the call of duty. The ministry project for SAC was to donate 200 stuffed animals to the Huntsman Cancer Hospital to commemorate Annual Cancer Awareness Month, which were donated by the NAD Women’s Ministries Department (NADWM), and were dressed in T-shirts with the NADWM logo on them. Another 200 animals were stuffed and given to the University of Utah Hospital maternity ward for parents of new babies. These were donated by the NAD Family Ministries Department (NADFM), and their T-shirts included the logo and website for NADFM’s newest ministry, “Help, I’m a Parent!” SAC thanks Jackson for his shining example to others in stuffing a near-record number of 10 animals for these donations. Alvin Kibble, NAD vice president representing the NAD Building Block of Social Media, was also attending and helped by stuffing several animals while he and Jackson helped to encourage other “stuffers” by entertaining them with stories and duets. Larry Unterseher, president of the Nevada-Utah Conference, where the convention was located, won the “stuffing championship” by stuffing 20 animals, and his wife stuffed an additional 10.

Follow the Society of Adventist Communicators on Facebook and Twitter (@AdventistComm); visit the newly redesigned website www.adventistcommunicator.org.

The next convention of the Society of Adventist Communicators is planned for October 16-18, 2014, in Jacksonville, Florida. The 2014 convention will mark the 25th anniversary of the society.

Heidi Martella Baumgartner is SAC vice president for communication and communication director at Washington Conference in Federal Way, Washington.

Suzanne Ocsai, SAC assistant to the vice president for communication, contributed to this report.

Southern Union 2013 SAC Award Recipients

In 2005, the board of the Society of Adventist Communicators developed a way for professional recognition awards to be given out annually at the Society’s convention.

The Society of Adventist Communicators Convention features awards for “best in class” projects and recognition for communication leaders. The “best in class” projects are eligible for the Society’s Award of Excellence.

“Each year at our convention, awards are given out recognizing excellence in the field of communication,” says George Johnson Jr., SAC executive director.

Nominations for awards are received by a specific date and then reviewed by a committee of communication professionals.

The Lifetime Achievement award is designed for a professional who has worked in communication for at least 25 years, and has made a substantial contribution to the field.

Ron Quick, Carolina Conference communication director, received the Lifetime Achievement Award for his decades of dedicated, mission-driven service as an army medical photographer, newspaperman, literature evangelist, and Church communication leader. Many an inspiring story

Tammy Fisher (center), Georgia-Cumberland Conference communication director, received the Print Award.
Rebecca Anderson (center), Southern Adventist University student, received the Student Award.
would not have been told without his dedication and hard work.

“Quickly speaking: Thank You!” Quick said as he accepted the award amid a standing ovation. Quick plans to retire in July 2014.

Southern Adventist University student Rebecca Anderson received the Student Award, designed to recognize students who have demonstrated excellence not only in the classroom, but on the job as well. Anderson is a proactive student who pursued two internships in religious and corporate communication. She plans to work in corporate communication for the Volkswagen plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**PROJECT AWARDS**

Adventist communicators submit projects from the last year for award consideration. “Best in class” projects are eligible for the Society’s Award of Excellence.

Oakwood University received the Award of Excellence for their social media campaign to Retool Your School, a grant competition funded by Home Depot. The judges were very pleased with Oakwood’s ability to generate media coverage, attention, and social media support among its constituents who united for a common cause.

**CATEGORY: NEW MEDIA**

**CLASS: BLOG/STUDENT BLOG**

In the category of new media in the class of blog/student blog, judges looked at the following criteria: significance of content/subject, engaging titles, frequency of postings, use of images and graphics, quality of writing, and responses to comments.

**Best in Class**

Kendraspondence blog from Southern Adventist University

Kendra Stanton Lee, assistant professor of journalism

**CLASS: NEW MEDIA**

In the category of new media in the class of use of social media, judges looked at the following criteria: demonstrates creative use of Facebook, Twitter, Barcodes, Foursquare, and/or YouTube, etc., for marketing/promotional purposes (must use two or more social media tools).

**Best in Class**

Oakwood University and its
Home Depot Retool Your School Campaign

Kisha Norris, executive director of advancement and development; Lucy Cort, proposal writer; Debbe Millet, coordinator; Tim Allston, director of public relations

**CATEGORY: PRINT**
**CLASS: NEWSLETTER (PRINT)**

In the category of print in the class of newsletter (print), judges looked at the following criteria: Regularly published, judged on quality, design, logo, creativity, timeliness, well-organized content, audience appeal, effectively represents organization and conveys organizational messages.

**Best in Class**

Communique newsletter from Georgia-Cumberland Conference

Tamara Wolcott Fisher, managing editor; Britni Brannon, editor and designer

**CATEGORY: MARKETING/ PUBLIC RELATIONS**
**CLASS: EXHIBIT OR DISPLAY**

In the category of marketing/public relations in the class of exhibit or display, judges looked at the following criteria: design, creativity, information, audience appeal, effectively conveys organizational message, logo and contact info included.

**Best in Class**

Communications Wall by Adventist Health System

Kristopher Haughton, graphic designer

**CLASS: BROCHURE OR PRINTED PROMOTIONAL PACKAGE/KIT**

In the category of marketing/public relations in the class of brochure or printed promotional package/kit, judges looked at the following criteria: design, creativity, content, information, audience appeal, effectively conveys organizational message, results.

**Honorable Mention**

Positioning for Vibrant Mission from Florida Conference

A. Lee Bennet Jr., associate communication director and desktop publisher

**CLASS: MEDIA PITCHING**

In the category of marketing/public relations in the class of media pitching campaign, judges looked at the following criteria: an intentional media pitch that led to coverage (submit the pitch letter or press release and the printed public newspaper article or a video clip of the television or radio story it yielded).

**Best in Class**

Oakwood University aims to win the Home Depot Contest

Tim Allston, public relations director

**Honorable Mention**

Oakwood University wins the Home Depot Contest

Tim Allston, director of public relations

**CATEGORY: DESIGN**
**CLASS: MAGAZINE COVER DESIGN**

In the category of design in the class of magazine cover design, judges looked at the following criteria: creativity, innovation, originality and use of color, photography, illustration, typography and other elements to tie it together and appeal to target audience, flag design in relation to chosen cover design.

**Best in Class**

Oakwood Magazine cover for Spring 2013

Kisha Norris, publisher; Jerry Ross, art director/designer

**CLASS: OVERALL MAGAZINE DESIGN**

In the category of design in the class of magazine design overall, judges looked at the following criteria: creativity, logo, innovation, originality, audience appeal, use of color, photography, typography and other elements to draw readers and visually enhance and complement the content.

**Best in Class**

Oakwood Magazine

Kisha Norris, publisher; Tim Allston, executive editor; Debbe Millet, assistant editor; Jerry Ross, art director/designer

Suzanne Ocsai (center), Southern Adventist University student, accepted Jason Bryner’s Website Award.

Kevin Edgerton (center), Adventist Health System corporate communications director, accepted Kristopher Haughton’s Exhibit/Display Award.
A CALL FOR WORLDWIDE PRAYER
JANUARY 8-18, 2014

Church members around the world are invited to participate in the upcoming 10 Days of Prayer, January 8-18. The theme is “The Lord’s Prayer” taken from Matthew 6:9-13 and Luke 11:1-4. Congregations of all sizes, small groups, and individuals are encouraged to sign up for the upcoming 10 Days of Prayer 2014, by going to www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org. There, one can download guidelines for leaders, daily theme sheets, promotional materials, an e-book (Praying for Rain), and post requests or praises on Community Comments. The prayer guidelines enable the leader to easily walk a group through an hour of praying. The guidelines also contain a section of prayer requests that reflect personal and corporate needs of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist Church. How exciting to be uniting together as a Church in praying for these requests and to see God work and pour out the Holy Spirit in even greater measure!

The 10 Days of Prayer is a time for individuals to saturate every aspect of their lives in prayer as they start the New Year. It will help fit them to proclaim God’s last-day message of love and truth to the world (Revelation 14:6-12). If a person or group is unable to meet during the designated days, choose an alternate 10 days and still participate in the blessing.

“Why should the sons and daughters of God be reluctant to pray, when prayer is the key in the hand of faith to unlock heaven’s storehouse, where are treasured the boundless resources of Omnipotence? Without unceasing prayer and diligent watching we are in danger of growing careless and of deviating from the right path,” Steps to Christ, pp. 94, 95.

For the 10 Days of Prayer in 2013, thousands of individuals from 138 countries and territories participated and experienced the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Church elders, pastors, and lay leaders led out in prayer groups held in homes, schools, churches, online forums, and teleconferences. Below is a sampling of their testimonies:

As we gathered every day in this 10 days we experienced the visitation of the Holy Spirit like the Apostolic days. There was genuine repentance and brokenness as members gave up their grievances and forgave one another. It was really a time of refreshing for us here.

Ikenna Joseph
Nigeria

Thank You so much! We are already seeing the results and power of united prayer in our church members and youth. God is so Good!

William Wolfgramm
New Zealand

This 10 days of prayer was a joyful one for my family especially for my daughter (who studies overseas) whose prayer request during the 10 days was answered. I am so thankful for the opportunity to be part of this 10 days of prayer. Thank God and all the praise glory to His holy name! Amen!

Carole Ephraim
Vanuatu

During the 10-days of prayer, we prayed for my wife’s father, Petraq. He was a heavy smoker (for almost 50 years), but after we prayed he got strength to quit and in March or April, he quit smoking totally! He was tempted a few times, but didn’t fall back. He was so sick from smoking and coughed heavily, but now he is like a happy and healthy man!

Jan Johansson
Gothenburg, Sweden

Hope Channel and the General Conference Ministerial Association will once again partner to produce nightly live broadcasts of the program, Let’s Pray. Each day a different guest speaker will join Let’s Pray co-hosts Kandus Thorp and Pastor David Franklin to present the devotional thought on the theme for the day and participate in praying for requests that come in on the program.

God wants to pour out His Spirit on us now, just as He did for His disciples during Pentecost. Won’t you join the World Church in praying for that blessing during January 8-18? Sign up today at www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org, invite friends to the Facebook event at 10DaysofPrayer2014, and follow it on Twitter at #10DaysofPrayer2014.

—BY JACKIE O. SMITH
SILVER SPRING, MD.
Carolina News

Fletcher Academy Celebrates Alumni Weekend

Fletcher Academy’s campus was a-buzz with a flurry of activity as alumni began returning to the place they once called home. Smiling faces and warm words filled the rotunda of the Leila Patterson Center on Friday evening, October 4, 2013, as current students and alumni greeted the returning family.

The theme for this year’s weekend was “Picture This.” As visitors and students mingled in the rotunda, images from Fletcher’s past and present were displayed on the screen. Starting with just a handful of students in worn black and white photos, Fletcher Academy has grown to a flourishing school which now educates 187 of the Church’s youth.

Visitors enjoyed a welcome dinner before settling in for the Friday evening Vespers program. Sam Lenore (’88) spoke for the occasion, reminiscing about his Fletcher days. He reminded all, young and old, of the great blessing that Fletcher Academy is and has always been.

Fletcher Academy students were also able to participate in the festivities. On Friday evening the drama team presented a skit on the importance of letting God take control. The music department performed before the sermon on Sabbath morning. Choir, bells, piano, harp, and strings joined harmoniously for a powerful rendition of “You Raise Me Up.” They struck chords in music, and in the hearts of the audience.

The worship speaker was John Neff (’63), who began by remembering Fletcher attendees who passed away. He then encouraged attendees to recognize the blessing Fletcher Academy has been, and to hold on to that spirit through the last days.

Alumni spent the afternoon enjoying the beautiful campus and visiting Fletcher’s Heritage Room. Here, Fletcher Academy houses more than 100 years of history in the form of letters, photographs, and other materials dating back to the school’s beginning in 1910.

After sundown, students and alumni joined forces for the annual football, basketball, and softball games. Though the alumni defeated the current students in each sport, everyone had a lot of fun.

This year’s alumni weekend was a time of friendship, memories, and family. Students, staff, and alumni look forward to the biggest reunion of all on the great sea of glass in Heaven.

—BY COURTNEY GENTRY AND JESSICA STOUT

Three New Members Baptized in Moncks Corner

Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis recently held evangelistic meetings in the Moncks Corner Church in South Carolina. As a result there were three individuals baptized. Pictured with Louis are Marija Baliei, Rita Young, Shamane Ravenell, and Bill Underwood, church pastor. The meetings were held September 8 through October 4, 2013.

—BY RON QUICK
Old Fashioned Camp Meeting Inspires Many

The “Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting” has been a source of encouragement, conviction, inspiration, and for many, a place of salvation. In the early days, Camp Meeting was a moving, evangelistic event. Wherever there was an area ripe for harvest, there was a call for a Camp Meeting. Hickory, Statesville, Lenoir, and High Point were some of the first Camp Meetings in North Carolina. The first Camp Meeting in South Carolina was near Spartanburg in 1905. At every Camp Meeting there would be a call and recruitment for colporteurs. Many church members in the Carolinas had their first contact with Adventism through the books and tracts of the colporteur.

J.C. Noggle, who was a member of the Hickory Church, shared his experience in a video report of traveling from Hickory to attend a Camp Meeting in Charlotte, N.C. Noggle recalled going to Camp Meeting, in 1921, in a covered wagon. It took two days, with a stopover in Lincolnton, to make the 58-mile journey.

Today, there’s still the encouragement and inspiration; the difference today is the convenience of speedy travel. Now many more people are able to come receive the blessings of Camp Meeting. In the Carolina Conference there are three Camp Meetings. The Conference-wide Camp Meeting is held in a beautiful mountain location in western North Carolina called Lake Junaluska. This spiritual event lasts for an entire week. There are also two one-day Camp Meetings: Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting, held near the coast in Greenville, N.C.; and Lowcountry Camp Meeting in Summerville, S.C., near Charleston.

Across the Carolinas, several Adventist churches have built family life centers or community centers in order to reach out to those in their community. This is the case with both the Greenville and the Summerville churches. They opened their hearts and doors to receive their brothers and sisters in Christ from around the Carolina Conference for a special Sabbath of fellowship and praise. At each church, members volunteered to be a part of the service in some way, whether it was singing or Scripture reading, or just greeting and sharing a smile. This spirit of comraderie in worship is one thing that has not changed since the early days.

Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union president, was the presenter this year at the Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting, September 28, 2013. At the Lowcountry Camp Meeting on October 5, the featured presenter was Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial/evangelism director.

Not only have these churches ministered to their neighbors with these wonderful buildings, but they have also provided a wonderful place to hold an Old-Fashioned Camp Meeting.

—BY RON QUICK
Gardening for God is an “Entering Wedge”

Lloyd Babb, master gardener and member at Forest Lake Church, Apopka, Fla., hosted a Fall Gardening class at the church, featuring Tom MacCubbin, fellow master gardener, who appears locally on media and writes a newspaper column for Orlando Sentinel.

Babb hosted and/or taught 12 lessons on various aspects of gardening during the past year. He calls this mission outreach “Gardening For God.”

“We are told in Spirit of Prophecy that the health message is the ‘entering wedge,’” says Babb. “However, I have found that gardening can also be the ‘entering wedge’ to talk to others, as many people today are looking for ways to grow their own vegetables for several reasons:”

- Striking flowers can be found in the midst of the vegetable patch.
- **Vegetable gardening is healthier.** Gardening provides the benefits of exercise and fresh air, and vegetables supply the grower with nutritious produce loaded with vitamins and nutrients.
- **Edible gardens are picture perfect.** Gardens can be designed to offer just as much beauty, color, variety, and interest to your landscape as any ornamental-only garden. Heirloom vegetables have been treasured and passed down for centuries, and many come with fascinating histories.
- **Growing veggies can be profitable.** Organic foods continue to rise in price, so a backyard vegetable factory may become a real money-maker. A simple garden can incorporate all manner of vegetation from fruits and vegetables, to herbs and flowers. Let word slip out that gourmet treats are growing in your backyard, and your popularity is almost guaranteed.
- **Growing vegetables fosters creativity.** You’ll be amazed at your ability to come up with new ideas for preparing loads of fresh produce.
- **Cultivating independence.** It is nice to know that your own two hands can put food on the table, reduce your dependency on the supermarket, and provide gourmet produce for your family’s enjoyment.

“Let men and women work in field and orchard and garden. This will bring health and strength to nerve and muscle. If those who are sick will give nerves and muscles and sinews proper exercise in the open air, their health will be renewed,” Medical Ministry, page 296.4

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

King’s Heralds Announce New Member from Florida

The King’s Heralds, the oldest active gospel quartet, has announced the addition of a new member. Hailing from Deland, Fla., Jared Otto joins the group as their new lead singer.

Otto is 25 years old and single. Prior to coming to the Heralds, he was an IT professional for the State of Florida Health Department. Otto replaces Joel Borg, who came off the road to spend more time with his family.

The Herald’s tenor, Don Scroggs, stated, “We are proud to welcome Jared to our ministry team. He adds some youth and vitality to the group. The King’s Heralds is the first full-time group he has been with. He is very committed to the Lord and is excited about this opportunity to be in full-time music ministry.”

Otto commented, “This is certainly different than working with computers, but these guys are great men who love the Lord and make traveling a real adventure.”

—BY AG PUBLICITY, NASHVILLE, TENN.
Five Florida Conference Workers Ordained in 2013

SIDNEY CHAMPAGNE — July 20

Born in Haiti, Champagne traveled in 1977 to Bronx, N.Y., and then to Port Saint Lucie, Fla., where he helped plant a church. He helped found an association to educate young adults in the Haitian community and began a weekly religious radio program called Bethel. He has a tender heart for the salvation of souls and always seeks for ways to share the love of God with others.

MATTHEW CHRISTO — August 3

Born in Trinidad, Christo’s dying grandfather advised him to read the Bible. From his reading, he discovered the Sabbath before he heard of an Adventist. He knew at an early age he was called to preach the Gospel. He has been a pastor in Trinidad and Wisconsin, and a teacher in Illinois and Michigan. For many years, he was a counseling psychologist and family life educator. Christo is passionate about preaching, nurturing members, and encouraging them to be ready for Jesus’ return.

RON HOFFECKER — August 24

Patty and Ron — Lakeland Church

Bible studies with a literature evangelist led Hoffecker to the Savior, and he entered the literature work. He has served in mission service and classroom ministry; and as a youth leader, a church planter, and a lay pastor. The mantra for his ministry is found in 1 Peter 4:11 (NIV): “If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen.”

ANDREW-CRAIG NUGENT — February 2

Melissa, Andrew-Craig, Joshua-Ray, and Nathaniel-James

Cooper City and Margate Churches

A native of Kingston, Jamaica, Nugent grew up in St. Petersburg, Fla. He preached his first sermon on Josiah for Children’s Day while he was a preteen. He began college studying in the field of science when he sensed a calling to the ministry. Through the influence of a teacher, his parents, and several tests, the Lord showed him that the ministry was God’s will.

His favorite Bible text is Proverbs 16:9 (NKJV): “A man’s heart plans his way, but the Lord directs his steps.”

BENJAMIN SHURTLIFF — July 27

Benjamin, Trianda, and Gage

Port Charlotte Church

God’s call to ministry became readily apparent shortly after Shurtleff graduated from academy and began working as a student literature evangelist in the summer while attending college. He began to realize that God had a plan for him to share the Gospel in a dedicated manner as his life’s work, which he thought might be the full-time literature ministry. However, after another summer of canvassing, he began to realize that God was calling him to study pastoral ministry.

He felt God’s hand leading the way through his education.

Pastors in Transition

Glenn Aguirre — New Port Richey
Harold Altamirano — Coral Springs
Daniel Amich — Fort Lauderdale Spanish/Tamarac Spanish/Dania Spanish Co. district
Fricks Naar Annacius — Philadelphia French Co.
Vicmael Arroyo — Forest City Spanish
Abdiel del Toro — West Palm Beach Spanish
Abraham Guerrero — Poinciana Spanish/South Orlando Spanish/Haines City Spanish Co. district
Paul Kim — Orlando Central Korean
Orlando Lopez Sr. — Westchester Spanish
Philip Mompremier — Elim/Bethesda Corkscrew Co. district
Abdias Montelus — West Palm Beach French Co./Sarepta Spanish Mission Group district
Scott Moore — Lady Lake/Leesburg district
Monte Robison — Ocala/Dunnellon district
Bernardo Rodriguez — Miami Spanish/Bradmore Spanish district
Freddy Rodriguez — Westchester Spanish assoc.
Jorge Rojas — Melbourne Spanish/Vero Beach Spanish district
Fred Saint-Fleur — Salem Co./Jerusalem Co. district
Benjamin Shurtleff — Miami Springs
Jefferson Tavares — Brazilian Temple
Valtricts Binns — Ambassador

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Carrollton Members Hold Sabbath Services in Knox Park

On a frosty October morning, members and friends of Carrollton, Ga., Church converged on Knox Park in the heart of Carrollton, taking church to the community.

Carrollton Church is located in the country outside of town — out of sight equals out of mind. The church family, excited about what God has been doing in their small church, decided they would gather at the park.

Chad, a former restaurant owner, willingly accepted the challenge of feeding a hundred people. A praise and worship band, Let Your Light Shine, from Peachtree City, Ga., Church, agreed to lead the music. William Bohannon, Carrollton member, volunteered to share his testimony about walking away from a secular music recording label, and letting God lead him into Christian music.

The local chapter of Adventist Christian Fellowship, on the campus of the University of West Georgia, shared about their weekly Bible study and social gatherings. Loaves and Fishes, Carrollton Church’s food bank, prepared bags of food for those who came. The church’s young people joined in the program, sharing the Scripture reading from John 3.

With the grill cooking, music filling the air, children doing crafts, people came from the neighborhoods around. About 50 guests and visitors joined in worshiping God.

—BY NATE ELIAS

Men of Valor Not Done or Gone

The theme for this year’s Men’s Retreat, “Men of Valor: We Are Not Done or Gone,” really inspired. Men responded positively, with about 75 attending the event held at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp in Crandall, Ga. The featured presenter was Jorge Torres, chaplain in the United States Army since 2004.

“Men’s Retreat is an opportunity for men to meet with other men in an environment where they enjoy outdoor activities, and spend time discussing how they can become better spiritual leaders in their home, church, and community,” said Jerry Fore, Georgia-Cumberland Conference general vice president and Men’s Retreat coordinator.

Luis Alonso, a member from Pikeville, Tenn., said he attended to “find a better way of doing things.” He enjoyed the presenters and sharing with the other men who attended, and advises others, “If you haven’t tried it, you might find the answers that you have been looking for that you don’t find anywhere else.”

Other presenters and topics include “Leadership,” with Gary Rustad, Calhoun, Ga., Church pastor; “Health,” by Jeffrey Gates, Southern Adventist University associate professor; and “Addiction,” with David Wendt, pastor of Laurelbrook Academy, Dayton Ogden Road, and Pikeville churches in Tennessee.

“The retreat saw growth this year,” Fore said, “There were many new men this year that came as a result of personal invitations of their friends, and because the theme and speaker captured their attention.”

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER
Unity and Miracles in the Sanctuary

Do you believe in modern day miracles? You’ve probably read and even pondered Psalm 77:13: “Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary,” and like me, you know that the Sanctuary message is an important one. But, I will testify that I was in awe and amazement when the Messiah’s Mansion came to Chattanooga, Tenn.

Behind the scenes of Messiah’s Mansion, God performed one miracle after another. I caught a glimpse of the depth of His love and the urgency of His longing for us to come into perfect unity, to be of one accord so He can pour out His Spirit.

Messiah’s Mansion was in Chattanooga for 10 days, and a little more than 7,700 people toured it. One of the most beautiful things to witness was the unified effort of four Adventist church pastors: Dale Tunnel of Chattanooga First; Mickey Mallory of Sandifer Gap; Dave Ketelsen of Hamilton Community, and Michael Pettengill of Ooltewah. Each pastor led his congregation in praying and working together. And all “…moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers (CET 176.3).”

This all came about when the Lord impressed Tunnel, more than a year ago, to bring Messiah’s Mansion to Chattanooga. This began an amazing series of miracles — the first being the timing. Tunnel had no idea that the Sabbath School quarterly would providentially be the study of “The Sanctuary,” and that it would begin the very day Messiah’s Mansion was scheduled to begin, September 28, 2013.

Next miracle: I was asked a few months prior to the actual tour dates to head the media and public relations committee. When we had the media/PR committee meeting, I was elated to learn that from this committee of five we had a graphics design professional, a web-design specialist, a communication director, a media expert, and writer. In a matter of days the website was designed, the Facebook page was up, a phone line designated, the printed materials designed, and the press release drafted.

A price quote was given for one billboard with a four-week display at $2,500. The owner of one company, on learning what we wanted the billboard for, said he would give us a non-profit rate. For 11 digital billboards, each running consecutively for eight weeks, he quoted a price of $5,500 total. God intervened.

The Lord also arranged for Messiah’s Mansion to be in Chattanooga at the exact same time that a region-wide Ministerial Fair for pastors of all denominations was going to be held.

Another miracle:

The number one rated radio station in Chattanooga happens to be a Christian station, and they hosted a Pastor’s Appreciation Breakfast, yes, during Messiah’s Mansion. God opened the door, and brochures were placed in every single gift bag the radio station gave.

Beyond the miracles was the calls received from people both near and far, who are being led to study the Sanctuary.

The excitement among the majority of attendees was nothing short of amazing. Some of the more memorable attendees included a family who drove more than five hours to tour the Sanctuary, a group of Muslims, a group of Mennonites, a special group for the deaf signing throughout the tour, and a group of Messianic Jews.

More miracles: I received a call from the I-75 Welcome Center. I couldn’t believe it. They said people had been coming into the Welcome Center from off the freeway asking about this “Messiah’s Mansion.”

This wasn’t all. A call came from an International Christian Television Network, called Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). Their local affiliate actually came out with their television host and taped a special “Tabernacle” segment for their “Praise the Lord” program.

The Times Free Press wrote a two-page feature story with pictures in their Life section of the paper. As a result, many more people came.

The highlight was the 30-plus-hour prayer vigil that the churches held. Truly, unity is the miracle that binds the hearts of God’s people together in Christian love, and we experienced both unity and miracles in the Sanctuary.

—BY MELISSA SUMMERS
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

Karen Boss helps pack the boxes with food which will go to more than 50 families.

Lee Sammons brings in boxes of food from the Destin Harvest delivery truck.
Stan Hobbs Invited to be Conference Superintendent of Education

Gulf States welcomes Stan Hobbs as the new superintendent of education for the Conference. Hobbs was born on June 27, 1963, in Dothan, Ala., the firstborn child of Carl and Eva Hobbs. His family home was on what once had been his grandfather Thrower’s 80-acre farm in rural Geneva County. He became a baptized member of the Dothan Church at the age of 12. Having attended Slocomb, Ala., elementary, middle, and high school, he transferred to Bass Memorial Academy for his junior and senior year, where he graduated with honors in 1981.

Hobbs enrolled at Southern Adventist University in the fall of 1981. Four years later he graduated with honors, obtaining a B.A. degree in both history and religion while also completing his teacher certification. Upon graduation in 1985, he began full-time employment in the residence life program at Southern, serving as assistant dean of men for one year, associate dean of men for seven years, and head dean of men for three years. During this time, Hobbs also served as a contract teacher for Southern Adventist University’s Department of History. After 11 years of residence life and part-time teaching at Southern, Hobbs spent four years in teaching and administration at Bass Memorial Academy before accepting a call to Atlanta Adventist Academy where he has served as principal, vice principal, and history, government, geography, and economics teacher for the past 13 1/2 years.

In 2008, Hobbs was awarded the North American Division Excellence in Teaching award. He has been married to his best friend, Barbara, since 1985, and is the father of two children, Caitlin, 22, and Colton, 14.

Mapp Resigns as Prayer Ministries Coordinator

For the more than 120 attendees, the Gulf States Conference Fall Prayer Summit, held August 30–September 1 at Montgomery, Ala., First Church was a spiritual blessing, but also a time of sadness. During the Summit, Amy Mapp, Conference prayer ministries coordinator, announced she was resigning at the end of September.

Mapp has served, on a volunteer basis, as the prayer ministries coordinator since 2005. Thanks to her organization skills and vision for prayer ministries, the Conference now has a prayer ministries executive team which consists of co-leaders Mapp and Larry Owens, pastor of the Tuscaloosa, Ala., district. There are also five district coordinators and more than 40 prayer coordinators. The ministry has two daily “virtual worship” teleconferences, and a Sunday morning conference call for prayer coordinators. The team sponsors two prayer conferences each year.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Barbara (left), Stan, Caitlin, and Colton Hobbs

Amy Mapp has served as Gulf States Conference prayer ministries coordinator for the past eight years.

Department of History. After 11 years of residence life and part-time teaching at Southern, Hobbs spent four years in teaching and administration at Bass Memorial Academy before accepting a call to Atlanta Adventist Academy where he has served as principal, vice principal, and history, government, geography, and economics teacher for the past 13 1/2 years.

In 2008, Hobbs was awarded the North American Division Excellence in Teaching award. He has been married to his best friend, Barbara, since 1985, and is the father of two children, Caitlin, 22, and Colton, 14.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Barbara (left), Stan, Caitlin, and Colton Hobbs

Amy Mapp has served as Gulf States Conference prayer ministries coordinator for the past eight years.
Bowling Green Centenarian Celebrated

Members of the Bowling Green, Ky., Church joined family and friends of Marguerite D. Johnson Carter in celebration of her 100th birthday which occurred on August 1, on Saturday night, August 3, 2013. Carter’s son and daughter-in-law, Lee and Marilyn Carter, coordinated the event and provided a beautifully decorated setting for the occasion.

The celebration began with a Vespers program. Pictures and narrative joined to tell the inspiring story of her life which began in Elm Creek, Neb.

The Vespers was followed by a potluck dinner in the gym where everyone had opportunity to reminisce with Carter as they enjoyed salads, sandwiches, pizza, and, of course, birthday cake.

Carter, known affectionately as Margy, served as a teacher and a minister's wife in her younger years. Just a few years ago, she was still helping at the local community services center.

The Bowling Green Church family is blessed that she is still able to attend services.

—BY TERESA CARMICHAEL

Bowling Green Members Benefit During Health Emphasis Month

Though it wasn’t officially named as such, September 2013 was a month of health emphasis for members of the Bowling Green, Ky., Church. Two special events contributed to this emphasis.

On Wednesday night, September 18, Chef Mark Anthony presented his “Free Dinner and a Message.” He prepared a meal present were then served the meal they had watched him prepare. The presentation was well-attended, and guests expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to learn of a more healthful diet.

Just a few days later, on Sunday, September 22, the church held its first Let’s Move Day. Anne Afton, health ministries leader, coordinated this special event.

Everyone registered upon arrival, and free blood pressure screening was provided. After registering, participants were free to complete the various activities.

Activities in the gym included basketball shooting, jumping rope, hula hooping, leg raises, jumping jacks, band stretches, and cornhole throwing. Outside, there was a one-mile walk; a short-timed run; a chip golf exercise; and for the children, an inflatable bounce house/slide.

Those who completed all of the activities were rewarded with a stress ball in the shape of a heart. A number of door prizes were also given. Lunch was served to conclude the event, and everyone left feeling motivated to move!

Living healthfully is important. It’s important for members of the church family. It’s important for our neighbors. Plans are to build upon these events in the future as they strengthen connections in the community.

—BY TERESA CARMICHAEL
Ridgetop Members Minister at Robertson County Fair

A larger-than-life image of Daniel 2 and free bottled water were interest-catchers for the booth Ridgetop, Tenn., Church secured at the Robertson County Fair. Another attraction was the drawing for a study Bible and a set of children’s Bible Story books. Several people indicated on the sign-up sheet they had an interest in Bible studies and Christian education, as well as other choices. Follow-up on these interests has already begun. A rack with free literature and DVDs was on display, and many people selected or requested them.

—By Helen Kelly

Decherd First Church Pastor Honored

A joint Sabbath potluck between the Decherd Church of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and Decherd First Church of the South Central Conference was the perfect cover for a surprise pastoral blessing for Theodore Brown Sr., Ph.D., pastor of Decherd First Church. Orchestrated by Annette Martinez, the church asked Nelson Mercado, pastor of the Decherd, Tullahoma, and Murfreesboro district to conduct the service. But the event grew even larger as Steve Haley, Kentucky-Tennessee president, and his wife, Melinda, were visiting the Decherd Church family that Sabbath. Members of both congregations shared personal tributes of how they had seen the Holy Spirit working through Brown. Then gathering around, they laid hands on him and prayed that God would continue to bless his ministry in profound ways.

Brown is an associate professor of management in the School of Business at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. In addition to his academic responsibilities, he pastors Decherd First and Fayetteville First churches in Tennessee.

—By Jay Prall

London Church Hosts Prayer Seminar

London, Ky., Church hosted a unique prayer seminar on September 21, 2013. The speaker, Melodious Echo Mason, of Arkansas is a program director for ARME Bible Camps, a co-author of Revived by God’s Word and Praying for Rain!, and a prayer warrior.

Mason is very passionate about prayer, and shared both her personal testimony and outstanding examples of the power of prayer she has witnessed in thousands of people who come to the ARME Bible Camps. The seminar was not only informational and inspirational, but also included practical components.

Mason led the church members in sessions of united prayer and intercessory prayer. Many individuals felt that praying together in this manner not only opened their hearts to God, but also to each other and it made them feel more like God’s family.

London members were happy to have guests from Richmond, Somerset, Manchester, and Williamsburg churches take part in the prayer seminar and enjoy the fellowship. Among the guests was a pastor from another denomination who found the training so inspirational that he preached on the power of prayer the next day at his church!

The London members pray that the tools received during this seminar will bring them closer to God individually and as a church body.

—By Yelena Verenchuk
Praise Tabernacle Members Participate in "Unity in the Community"

One of the largest block parties for Jesus was held in Whiteville, N.C., on October 19, 2013. “Unity in the Community” was held in an underserved area of the Whiteville community. An estimated 700 people enjoyed the Sabbath afternoon event that involved several churches in the area, including Praise Tabernacle Seventh-day Adventist Church, Northwood Assembly Church of Christ, and several area Baptist churches. Community resource groups such as the Dream Center, which offers an after school program for underprivileged children, also got involved.

Bo Shaw, yearly organizer who is a Christian businessman, admitted, “I can always depend on the Seventh-day Adventists. They cared and came when others were calling to cancel because of the rain.”

Yes, the weather forecast had called for rain; however, during the early morning session of prayer and preparation at the Praise Tabernacle Church, all of the members had prayed for God to stop the rain, and He answered mightily!

Darryl Howard, pastor of Praise Tabernacle, was emcee, and free groceries, devotional books, and family story CDs were given out. Leon Verrett, head elder and host of Morning Praise, a radio program sponsored by Praise Tabernacle which airs each Sabbath morning, was able to greet those longtime listeners and inform others of the program.

Community services, led by Doris St. Juste, gave out approximately 627 pieces of clothing, including shoes, men’s suits, dresses, and children’s clothing. Women’s ministries was right there to offer crisis phone numbers to women in need. The personal ministries table overflowed with literature, and sign-ups for free groceries was next door. Signet Healthcare, one of two Adventist-run medical practices in Whiteville, provided free services, including blood pressure screening; onsite medical counseling on health issues; and a variety of health pamphlets dealing with stress, tips to quit smoking, hypertension, benefits of water and exercise, and much more.

The advice was well received, and Praise Tabernacle even offered a vegetarian option to the fish and chicken served by other groups. Multiple varieties of vegetarian chili over rice and a fruit bowl was the option. “That was the best chili, and I tried all of them!” said an attendee. “And it didn’t have a bit of meat in it,” explained Charlene Berry, a volunteer from Praise Tabernacle. “What?” was the surprised response. “You get to live seven minutes longer,” was the reply, and with that both laughed and a new friendship began.

Praise Tabernacle’s Pathfinder Drum Corps opened the ceremonies, and was flawless in their execution. Several singing groups followed with praises to God, including Praise Tabernacle’s praise team who sang a special number with Russell and Kim Honeycutt. Honeycutt is the pastor of Northwood Assembly Church, and has been a longtime friend to members of the Praise Tabernacle family. Other area churches such as House of Prayer and Deliverance presented gospel songs and praise performances.

The Pathfinder Puppet Ministry delighted the youth who attended, and many were seen smiling and laughing as the moral stories and rousing songs were presented in a creative way. Praise Tabernacle’s family life leaders prayed with families and signed them up to receive free Christian story CDs and teenage devotional books. Crafts were done at their booth, which also was shared by Carolina Adventist Academy. Karen Taylor, principal, had a colorful display that attracted many to ask about the school, and school-age children were registered, and interest contacts were made, especially in light of next year’s School of Choice program beginning in North Carolina. This program would assist those parents who want their children in an alternate form of education besides public school, but cannot otherwise afford Christian education.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.
Ebenezer Members Committed to Christian Education

“It would be foolish for us to teach that Jesus is coming soon and then send our children to institutions for 40 hours per week that teach them that’s not true.” This quote by John T. Boston II, pastor of Ebenezer Church, Milledgeville, Ga., sums up a radical Christian education initiative in Milledgeville, Ga. Since July 2013, this small church of just a little over 20 members has been working toward a goal that many small congregations dream about: 100 percent of their students in a Christian school. Currently, 13 boys and girls are enrolled at the nearest Seventh-day Adventist Academy. This number represents more than half the active membership of the church.

The nearest Adventist academy is 40 miles away from Milledgeville in Macon, Ga. The distance didn’t stop them. “Every day we see another miracle as our young people get to school,” said Valorie Dixon, a grandmother of one of the students. This project was born in the heart of Boston, a 16-year product of Christian education.

“My father would help paint the school to offset our registration while my sister and I were enrolled at the Ft. Lauderdale District School. It took us two hours, two trains, and a bus to get to school every day while I attended Miami Union Academy in Florida,” says Boston. “When I went on to graduate from Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, I remember a mother selling her car to cover the tuition costs for her children to attend. This is all reasonable sacrifice of initiative? “Prayer, faith, sacrifice, and hard work,” said Sharion Havior.

The finance committee chairperson, LaJune May, and Boston met with each parent to determine how much they could individually raise and contribute. After that number was identified, Boston went into fundraising mode, and in the first five weeks raised more than $15,000 for the students via Facebook requests, friends, colleagues in ministry, GoFundMe, and a wide host of supporters across the country.

This church has already begun to inspire others with their passion for Christian education, and the families of those enrolled are ecstatic about the impact Robyn Young, principal of Bethany Christian Academy, and her staff has had on them.

Young indicated that she has never seen a church take on the responsibility of making Christian education available for all of their students like this. Every month, Ebenezer Church writes a single check for the tuition of the students from their church funds. This unprecedented approach has already yielded beautiful results in the church working as a community for the salvation of their future. Malcolm May is the only father among all of the children the group that is a present, active member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. He expressed his heart this way: “We want our children to be saved, and we believe God has given us a direction we should follow, and we are doing the best we can to get there.”

This is the same small church that hosted an evangelistic meeting in June 2013 with more than 3,000 in attendance on opening night. “When the Lord returns, we will be accountable for two things — evangelism and the education of His children,” said Boston.
Rolling Fork Church Members Conduct Revelation Seminar

Rolling Fork, Miss., Church members conducted a Revelation Seminar on September 22, 2013. Dorothy Leasy, medical missionary and Bible worker, assisted, and it was sponsored by a generous donor. Yazoo City/Rolling Fork’s pastor, Billie Thompson, held a successful five-week campaign.

In organizing the event, they decided to use a community-based location rather than an established church building. The meetings were held on Sunday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings from September 22 through October 27. The seminar concluded with a graduation, a banquet, and baptism. As a result of this campaign, the Lord added 10 new members to the Rising Star Church in Rolling Fork. Five became members through baptism, and the other five by profession of faith.

Thompson requests that all believers remember to pray for these individuals as the Lord continues to grow His Church in this part of His vineyard.

—BY WATSON CHILALA

Revelation Seminar graduates with Billie Thompson, pastor (left): Danny Lane, Chalashaia Webb, Viola Duckworth, Michael Lovette, Earline Watson, Teressio Haymon, Lillie Bell Barnes, Rossie Richards (Rising Star Church member), Leon Webb, Ulcus King, and Otarious Haymon.
Thrilling Stories: Churches Changing Lives

Palm Coast, Florida
If you ever travel through Palm Coast, Fla., on your way to Daytona Beach, you may wish to visit Robert Hayes, pastor. His church partnered with Florida Hospital Flagler to teach CREATION Health classes for the community. More than 70 people attended a recent seminar. Local government officials regularly consult with Pastor Hayes about county health initiatives.

Fort Walton Beach, Florida
Since January 2012, Martin Fancher, elder, has taught CREATION Health to three Sheriff Departments in his area. One sheriff has pledged to take CREATION Health to the 200,000 citizens of his county! And another sheriff has made CREATION Health a requirement in the department’s new employee orientation process.

Common Themes
People appreciate how positive and balanced CREATION Health is, and how simple and easy it is to implement. They are losing weight, reducing medications, restoring relationships, and reconnecting with God.

People Need You
As we prepare for 2014, let us show people how to add more life to their years and more years to their life. Let’s extend the healing ministry of Christ, and help people live life to the fullest now and forevermore. That’s CREATION Health!—BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

Returning God’s Loan

Bill & Beverly Wilson were busy before retirement, but it’s even harder to find them home in retirement. Both are always on the lookout for someone to pat on the shoulder or pray with. Their overriding goal is to make a difference in others. “That’s what brings us real happiness,” Bill confesses.

And that’s why when they recently updated their estate plan, they designated a generous portion to global and local church outreach ministries.

“Everything we have,” says Beverly, “is on loan from God. We want to be found faithful when God reviews the talents He has loaned us.”

Contact your local Planned Giving and Trust Services representative today to learn how a portion of your estate plan can be returned to God’s Work.
There is a saying in Christian circles, “Only What You Do for Christ Will Last.” That was the resounding theme of the inaugural Pastors and Chaplains Appreciation Dinner, held at the corporate headquarters of Adventist Health System in Altamonte Springs, Fla., on August 25, 2013.

The event, which was hosted by the Oakwood University Alumni Association Greater Orlando Chapter, honored 14 pastors and chaplains from the Central Florida area for their service.

The concept of honoring the pastors and chaplains originated from Eric Moore, M.D., who stated that he always had a concern on his heart that Seventh-day Adventist pastors needed to have a time of recognition and appreciation.

“This would be a time for individuals to reflect on their achievements and give them an opportunity to enjoy themselves in fellowship and be honored and appreciated for the many works that they do that go unseen and/or taken for granted,” said Moore.

After formulating an executive planning committee that explored the feasibility of actually facilitating an event like this, the Oakwood Alumni Association-Greater Orlando Chapter president, Daniel Smith, believed that the association — with the assistance of sponsors — could bring Moore’s vision to life.

“We live in a time when Adventist believers can and should come together across conferences, cultures, and school affiliations to step out and acknowledge our clergy who sacrifice so much and ask for so little in return,” said Smith.

When the concept was presented to Roscoe Howard, D.Min., vice president of mission and ministries at Adventist Health System, he was excited and eager to assist in any way that he could. Howard formulated the name of the event, “Selfless Service for the Savior.”

When asked what was the inspiration behind the naming of the event, he stated, “As a pastor, we are always in the service of the Savior, ministering to the spiritual and emotional needs of the masses, sometimes at the expense of your own mental health and spiritual needs. The life of a pastor is lonely, but also one of the most rewarding professions to be called to. So, it is a great joy and blessing when individuals or organization come together to honor our parishioners and chaplains without being prompted or reminded.”

Attendees were blessed by the music of Christian recording artist Jennifer LaMountain, Christian saxophonist Courtney Fadlin, and the tropical sound of a steel drum played by John Smith. Conrad Duncan, Florida Conference community services director, delivered the opening prayer.

The mistress of ceremonies was Monica May, radio personality and community affairs director at Star 94.5 FM, a local radio station in central Florida. She also made listeners aware of Oakwood University and their many accomplishments on the air on her radio program.

Jeff Williamson, spokesperson for the Orange County Sheriff and Oakwood University Alumnus, was the keynote speaker. A special welcome was given by Ivan Williams, D.Min., North American Division ministerial director, and Ivan Allston, OUAA national vice president.

Several special service awards went to James Coffin, executive director of the Interfaith Council of central Florida; Russell Bates, retired pastor; Sherry Grace, spiritual ambassador at Florida Hospital; and Hubert J. Morel Jr., Southeastern Conference president.

Other award recipients included the following Florida pastors: Lewis W. Edwards, D.Min., Mt. Zion Church in Kissimmee; Samuel M. Dade Jr., Patmos Chapel Church in Winter Park; Herman L. Davis Sr., Mt. Sinai in Orlando; Isaac Ibarra Gordon, Genesis Church in Orlando; Andy McDonald, Florida Hospital Church in Orlando; Tony A. Taylor, North Orlando Church; and Carl E. Ware, Mt. Olive Church in Apopka.

Chaplains who were chosen by their peers included Donna Burske, Winter Park Memorial Hospital; and Ivan Omona, Florida Hospital Kissimmee.

Omona broke down in tears at being selected by his peers for such an award. He stated that he never thought that anyone would recognize something that he is passionate to do for Christ.
Stranger Gives Check to Bethlehem Church for Kind Deed

Jada Cuffy, 17, one of the youngest Adventist Youth Society leaders in the Southeastern Conference, and Gena Small were walking back to Bethlehem Church in Clearwater, Fla., from a local convenience store with some ICEEs®, a frozen carbonated beverage, for church members that were working on a special church project.

As they were walking they met a man from the community. He asked, half-jokingly, “May I have one?” “Sure,” the young women replied. The man from the community was pleasantly surprised when they actually came back to bring one to him.

Jada and Gena had all but forgotten about their deed of kindness. About two weeks later, Roy C. Parham, Bethlehem pastor, and Jackie Filex, Bethlehem’s administrative assistant, were in the office of the church when the man from the community showed up looking for the two young women who had been so kind to him.

He had a gift that he wanted to present to them. Not knowing the names of the two young women, he described them to Parham and Filex. Reluctant to give him any information about them, even though they had a very good idea who they were, they invited him to church on the following Sabbath.

The next Sabbath, the man who asked not to be identified, showed up during Sabbath lunch and presented the two young women with a check in the amount of $500 to be used as the church needed. It just so happened that the previous week at a business meeting, Jada Cuffy requested $500 for an upcoming AYS-sponsored Youth Day. The church could not give them all the money they requested, so because of the donation, they were able to give them the full amount of the check for the AYS department. It pays to be kind!

—BY MARY ADAMS

Pastor’s Wife Conducts Crusade, Baptizes Six

From September 28 to October 2, Brenda Owusu, D.P.N., wife of Michael Owusu, D.Min., pastor of Perrine Church in Miami, Fla., conducted an evangelistic crusade at Perrine. On the first night of the crusade, she introduced herself as “a nobody whom God has shown favor on to help somebody to be saved.” Owusu is one of seven ministerial spouses who conducted an evangelistic campaign in their areas based on the North American Ministerial Spouses’ Evangelistic Institutions.

Owusu preached the Word nightly to congregations using the Bible as the guide book. She focused on the increasing worsening conditions happening daily in the world. She pointed out how Satan has wrecked the world with lies and deceit, but Jesus is preparing a whole new world when all pain and suffering will be eradicated. Those who are ready and waiting for His return will be given new bodies. Satan will be no more, and many will live forever with our Savior.

Owusu showed hope through preaching on the following topics: “Why All the Suffering,” “Disease and Violence,” “A Better Day is Coming,” “The Indestructible Symbol of Hope,” and “Point of No Return.” Each night people came to join in the inspiring music and feasted on the spirit-filled presentations.

On the final day of the crusade, six individuals were baptized by Michael Owusu.

—BY MILICENT TAYLOR
At the first Adventist University of Health Sciences Colloquium on September 16, 2013, Carl Wilkens shared his experience as a humanitarian aid worker in Rwanda during the 1990s with students, University employees, and community members.

When other aid workers fled the country, Wilkens refused to leave, and became the only American to stay in Rwanda during the genocide. By staying he was able to deliver food, water, and medicine to groups of orphans trapped around the city, and his actions saved hundreds of lives.

Hearing Wilkens’ story was touching and even eye-opening for students. “It gave me a new perspective on that whole situation,” said Kevin Creft, freshman pre-professional studies major. “You see stuff like that on the news, but to hear about it from someone who was there is different. It makes it personal.”

Wilkens has a book and documentary titled I'm Not Leaving, and travels the world to speak about his experience. Wilken tells his story, not to highlight the terrible things that happened, but to share the stories of sacrifice and courage in the face of genocide.

“It’s not what you’ve lost that defines you, it’s what you do with what you have,” Wilkens said. “That’s what you see again and again in Rwanda.”

The University Colloquium is an interdisciplinary program designed to engage University students, faculty, staff, and community members in conversation. Each year, the University selects a theme and identifies two books to act as catalysts for conversation. The theme for this year’s colloquium is “Moral Courage.”

The next University Colloquium speaker is Eva Fogelman, the author of Conscience and Courage. For more information regarding the authors, books, and dates for each presentation you can visit www.adu.edu/academics/university-colloquium. Each event will be held at the Florida Hospital Church and is open to the public.

—BY SARAH CROWDER
Oakwood University to Construct $4M Media Center

Oakwood University officials broke ground for one of its “game changers,” an 11,700-square-foot, $4 million Media Center on October 7, 2013, as part of its $9.3 million capital campaign, according to Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University.

“Oakwood University Media Center will be a game changer for us. We will produce our own products — our own talk shows, our own dreams, our own dramas, our own editorials, and religious newscasts — and market them on our own terms, in our own voice,” Pollard declared in his annual presidential address at the University’s First Chapel/Opening Convocation program, August 22, 2013, to the entire Oakwood campus, perhaps the state of Alabama’s only K-18 community.

“The Media Center will be set between Ford Hall and the newly renovated Cunningham Hall, on the campus mall,” states Kisha R. Norris, Oakwood executive director of advancement and development. “Not only will it be a learning environment for our communication students, but we plan to begin telling ‘our Oakwood story’ by forming Oakwood University Broadcasting Network (OUBN),” she continued.

“The Oakwood story of God-ordained ministry is something that needs to be spread to the corners of the Earth. We believe that this is the first step in blanketing the Gospel message to places that others cannot reach. This nine-month construction project should have this facility ready for use for the 2014-2015 academic year,” she concluded.

For more information about donations and naming opportunities, visit ttp://www.oakwood.edu/zPublic/advancement/building-on-the-past-brochure.pdf#

—BY TIM ALLSTON

Oakwood University Takes an “Agape Day” to Serve Local Non-Profits

With reference to the recent federal government shutdown, The Huntsville Times contrasted, “This [Agape Day] was a shutdown that did some good.”

On Wednesday, October 2, 2013, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Oakwood students put down their textbooks, faculty walk away from grading papers, and administrators and staff shut down their computers to go into the Huntsville community to embody the school’s motto: Enter to Learn, Depart to Serve.

“The University shuts down all classes once every two years, for this ‘Agape Day’ of service,” explained spokesman Tim Allston, Oakwood public relations director.

Roughly 2,000 Oakwood volunteers reached out to some 27 local schools, thrift stores, community centers, parks, shelters, and other non-profits; performed cleaning and small paint jobs; planted fruits and vegetables; and fed the hungry — as well as conducted computer research for the International Services Council.

—BY BRIANA FIGEROUX
Southern Adventist University recently announced a big change in the way financial aid is being awarded to students. Beginning in the fall of 2014, freshmen scholarships will be renewable at 100 percent for up to four years. The new policy is intended to help future students and their parents better plan the financial aspects of coming to Southern.

There is a strong parallel between the fact that more and more Adventist youth are not attending the church’s colleges and universities, and that an increasing number of these same youth are leaving the denomination and rejecting Christ altogether. Southern is taking a significant step toward remedying that.

“Our new scholarship policy allows a student and their family to be able to embrace Adventist education instead of feeling like their only option is the cheaper community college, even though they know there are many long-term downsides to that choice,” said Marc Grundy, vice president for enrollment services. “I strongly believe the most transformative time for students is their freshmen and sophomore years in college. That is when they absolutely need to be in a safe, Christ-focused environment, and surrounded by like-minded believers.”

The renewable scholarships make investing in a traditional Adventist education from Southern more affordable than ever, even when compared with public colleges and universities. Students who maintain a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA will be eligible for renewal, which is established at the end of each fall semester for the following school year. The news is already having an impact on parent and student interest.

“Carlos Lopez, one of the finance counselors at Southern Adventist University, gives advice to a student about maximizing loans, scholarships, and other forms of tuition assistance.

I learned about this important step during Southern’s financial seminar and open house on our campus this year,” said Rick Anderson, principal at Mount Pisgah Academy in North Carolina. “I was excited, and the parents were, too. You could literally hear the buzz in the room! More and more families are considering Southern because of these renewable scholarships.”

The monies required to fund this bold new outreach are coming from institutional funds, help from donors, and expected future revenue from the additional influx of students choosing Southern specifically because of this policy change and the peace of mind it affords. But, future students won’t be the only ones benefiting from the university’s careful and prayerful financial work.

“We are planning to increase the level of need-based funds that we award to non-freshmen students starting next year since they committed to Southern before this policy was in place,” Grundy said.

In the midst of the current national dialog about historically high student debt, Southern administrators have a desire to make Adventist education available to everyone. Although the university already budgets more than $10 million annually for financial aid, and $5 million annually for student jobs on campus, something more needed to be done. So along with the renewable scholarships, Southern also recently voted that the tuition increase for 2014-2015 would be held to 2.4 percent, a figure below that of expected inflation and the smallest increase in more than 25 years.

“We’re doing everything within our power to keep Southern affordable, while maintaining the high quality experience our constituents have come to expect,” said Tom Verrill, senior vice president for financial administration.

A history of steady enrollment growth points to the fact that students and parents have long regarded Southern as a valuable spiritual and academic investment. The new scholarship policy makes that decision to commit to Adventist education all the easier.

“Southern has always been the first choice for the vast majority of our students at Mount Pisgah Academy,” Anderson said. “The renewable scholarships have reinforced in the minds of our staff and students that Southern is dedicated to providing an Adventist education for everyone.”

For more information, visit southern.edu/scholarships.

—BY LUCAS PATTERSON
Florida Hospital Employee Appointed to President’s Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition

Florida Hospital is proud to announce retired Lieutenant General Mark Hertling has been appointed to the President’s Council on Fitness, Sports & Nutrition. Lieutenant General Hertling will join 17 other members who are dedicated to encouraging Americans of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to lead healthy, active lives.

Lieutenant General Hertling currently serves as the senior vice president of Global Strategy, Physician Leadership and Healthy 100 initiatives at Florida Hospital in Orlando. He retired from the U.S. Army after more than 37 years of exceptional service. During part of that time he served as the Deputy Commanding General for Initial Military Training, where he was responsible for the training of more than 160,000 officers and enlisted soldiers each year. He also revamped the Army’s basic training program and implemented a modernized physical fitness and nutrition program to address the needs of current recruits. He has received the Distinguished Service Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Purple Heart.

—BY SARA CHANNING

Researchers Examine the Link Between Vitamin D and Diabetes

The Florida Hospital-Sanford Burnham Translational Research Institute for Metabolism and Diabetes (TRI) is taking part in the first definitive, large-scale clinical trial to investigate if a vitamin D supplement helps prevent or delay type 2 diabetes in adults 30 or older who have prediabetes. Funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the D2d study is taking place at 20 sites across the United States.

“Vitamin D use has risen sharply in the U.S. in the last 15 years, since it has been suggested as a remedy for a variety of conditions, including prevention of type 2 diabetes,” said Myrlene Staten, M.D., the study’s project officer at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases, part of NIH. “But we need rigorous testing to determine if vitamin D will help prevent diabetes. That’s what D2d will do.”

Researchers at the TRI are recruiting about 2,500 volunteers with prediabetes — blood glucose levels that are higher than normal, but not high enough to be called diabetes — to take part in the study. Half of the participants will receive a daily dose of 4,000 International Units of vitamin D, an amount greater than the typical adult intake of 600-800 IUs a day, but within limits deemed appropriate for clinical research by the Institute of Medicine. The other half will receive a placebo, a pill that has no drug effect. Participants will have check-ups for the study twice a year, and will receive regular health care through their own health care providers.

The study will be double-blinded, so neither participants nor the study’s clinical staff will know who is receiving vitamin D and who is receiving placebo. It will continue until enough people have developed type 2 diabetes to be able to make a scientifically valid comparison between diabetes development in the two groups, likely about four years.

Based on observations from earlier studies, researchers speculate that vitamin D could reduce the diabetes risk by 25 percent. The study will also examine if sex, age, or race affect the potential of vitamin D to reduce diabetes risk.

“An estimated 79 million Americans have prediabetes, and nearly 26 million more have diabetes,” said NIDDK Director Griffin P. Rodgers, M.D. “With D2d, we seek evidence for an affordable and accessible way to help prevent or delay type 2 diabetes.”

—BY SARA CHANNING
How to Submit Your Advertising
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50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of Adventists in Mesa, Arizona the weekend of March 1, 2014 hosted by Mesa Palms SDA Church. Former members, pastors, friends invited to celebrate with us. King Herald’s concert Sabbath afternoon at 5pm. Information on special hotel rates, call 480-985-3140; Facebook: Mesa Palms SDA Church; Website: mesapalmschurch.com. [12]
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Events Calendar

Georgia-Cumberland

Family Ministries Council – Dec. 3. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
Association Board Meeting – Dec. 4, 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
Finance Committee Meeting – Dec. 4, 12-4:30 p.m. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Festival of Praise – Dec. 7, 5-8 p.m. Springfield Baptist Church, 1877 Iris Drive SE, Conyers, GA.

South Atlantic Conference on Adventist Education – Dec. 9-11. Calhoun, GA.

Tour of the University – Dec. 10. Calhoun, GA.

Florida

Complete calendar online – http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar/

Singles’ Ministries events and mailing list information.


Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinic – Jan. 18. Orlando Spanish Church.

Greater Miami Academy 5th Annual Golf Tournament – March 30. Doral Golf Resort and Spa. Check-in: 12:00 p.m. Theme: Jump Start the Dream! Entry fee: $185 for either golf or spa participant. Golf package includes green fees, golf cart, goodie bag, refreshments and award recognition buffet dinner. Spa package includes all day spa, treatment (five choices available), goodie bag, and award recognition buffet dinner. Details: http://www.gma.edu, ctrevilcock@gma.edu, or 305-220-5955 x151.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Executive Committee – Dec. 10.
Ministers’ Meetings – Jan. 6-9.
Highland/Madison Academy Boards – Jan. 23.
Board of Education – Feb. 20.

Southern Adventist University

Christmas Concert – Dec. 13. The School of Music’s Concert. Collegedale Church. Features the Southern Choral Ensembles and Southern Symphony Orchestra. Watch the event live online at southern.edu/streaming beginning at 7:30 p.m. Details: 423-236-2814.

Preview Southern – Feb. 17. Interested students can explore campus, talk with professors, learn about scholarship opportunities, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Southern provides meals and accommodations for students and their immediate family. Call 1-800-SOUTHERN to schedule a visit.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ATLANTA FESTIVAL OF PRAISE: Georgia-Cumberland Conference unites with South Atlantic Conference on Sabbath, December 7, 5-8 p.m., to celebrate the biennial Festival of Praise at Springfield Baptist Church, 1877 Iris Drive SE, Conyers, GA. The keynote speaker is Pastor Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Featured performers: Atlanta West End Choir, Atlanta Romanian Choir, Georgia-Cumberland Academy’s Sinfonietta, Korean Choir, Atlanta Adventist Academy’s Adoramus, Atlanta Hispanic Choir, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Concert Choir, Atlanta Caribbean Choir, and more. Save the date and invite a friend. Details: facebook.com/gcsdsda and twitter.com/gcsdsda.

MIDDLETOWN CHURCH 25th ANNIVERSARY – Feb. 15. Middletown Church, Louisville, KY. Details: www.friendlychurch.com or call 502-244-6997.

RAMAH SDA JUNIOR ACADEMY REUNION (formerly Ramah Parochial School) Celebrating 100 years of Christian Education – April 30-May 4. Savannah, GA. Students (present/former), teachers, principals, pastors, and staff are invited to the celebration. Join us on Facebook for updates and news regarding the reunion: facebook.com/amahacademyalumniassociation; email: ramah100years@hotmail.com.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND – May 2, 3. Honor classes: 1954, ’64, ’74, ’84, ’94, and ’04. Friday evening reception, LSA Library; Sabbath morning alumni services; afternoon potluck; campus tours; and class reunions. Details: 951-351-1445 x 244; JNelson@lsak12.com; LSA web site: www.lsk12.com.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online http://www.gcsdsda.org
Elders’/Deacons’ Retreat – Dec. 6-8. Camp Alamisco
Executive Committee – Dec. 9. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Bass Memorial Academy.
Bass Memorial Academy Board of Education – Dec. 11. 1:30-3:30 p.m.

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