Pisgah Food Pantry Continues to Provide
Texting in Church

A few years ago I was invited to speak for a technology day service at a church in South Florida. Since it was technology day, I decided to make use of technology. I played a powerful video narrated by Wintley Phipps and encouraged the audience to text their thoughts about the video. As the video played the texts began to come in. One text stood out. It was from an individual that was requesting prayer. The individual was struggling with some issues and expressed a desire to have a closer relationship with God. After the video finished playing we prayed for that individual.

After the service, I was approached by a young lady. “Thank you,” she said. “I was the one who sent you that text you prayed for.”

I know what you are thinking, I should not encourage the use of cell phones during the service. I want you to consider this.

Cell phone ownership is higher among African-Americans and Latinos than among whites (87% vs. 80%) and minority cell phone owners take advantage of a much greater range of their phones’ features compared with white mobile phone users.

Teens are sending enormous quantities of text messages a day. Half of teens send 50 or more text messages a day, or 1,500 texts a month, and one in three send more than 100 texts a day, or more than 3,000 texts a month. Pew Internet Study 2010

Texting in ministry represents a new way to reach today’s wired generation. Consider this statement by Ellen G. White “Means will be devised to reach hearts. Some of the methods used in this work will be different from the methods used in the work in the past; but let no one, because of this, block the way by criticism.”—The Review and Herald, September 30, 1902. Evangelism p. 105

Jesus himself used different methods to reach the people. One of those methods was parable teaching. “Parable teaching was popular, and commanded the respect and attention, not only of the Jews, but of the people of other nations. No more effective method of instruction could He have employed.” Christ Object Lessons p. 20

Like parables, texting is a popular form of communication. Since that time, I have made texting a regular part of my ministry. I have received texts from individual seeking deliverance from drugs, alternative lifestyles and abusive relationships. Those individuals would never approach me in person with those requests.

ROBERT L. HENLEY, JR.
Editor

The following Icons indicate additional on-line content.
More than one thousand women attended the annual Southeastern Conference Women’s Conference, which was held in Jacksonville, Fla. on July 21-24. The spirit filled weekend featured more than 30 workshops equipping women to be better leaders in their churches.

The highlight of the weekend for me was the communion service that I had the privilege to officiate. I was joined by more than 20 women elders that served women during the service. It was truly a blessing.

Many of you are aware of the contributions that Ellen White has made to the development of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition to her, many women have played a prominent role in its development. They include:

- Sarepta Myrenda  
  Established the first Women’s Ministries. First African-American woman missionary.
- Anna Knight  
  Cuban pastor, evangelist, educator and musician.
- Anna Rosa Alvarado  
  First Dorcas Society president; taught in one of the first church schools.
- Lottie Blake  
  First African-American Seventh-day Adventist woman physician. Established the school of nursing at Oakwood College.
- Dr. Eva B. Dykes  
  Musician and educator for over 50 years. First Seventh-day Adventist woman to receive a Ph.D. in the United States, graduating from Radcliffe in 1921. Taught at Walden and Howard Universities and Oakwood College.
- Maria L. Huntley  
  President, Tract and Missionary Society, which later became Church Ministries and Publishing departments and the Adventist Book Centers. Only woman other than Ellen White to address the 1888 General Conference Session.
- Juanita Kretschmar  
  Humanitarian, prayer warrior and speaker. Started New York City Van Ministry and Good News Network.
- Dr. Katherine Lindsey  
  Founder of first nurses’ training school at Battle Creek Sanitarium in 1883.
- Annie Rebekah Smith  
  While the James Whites traveled, she published the Advent Review and Sabbath Herald. Annie was the older sister of Uriah Smith and the same age as Our very own Nicole Brise  
  Southeastern Conference’s women’s ministry director – who has lead the women of Southeastern to conduct 24 crusades and baptized 349 individuals in the past two years.

Earlier this year the Seventh-day Adventist Church celebrated the 100th anniversary of International Women’s Day. According to recent research, 60% of the North American Division’s 1.1 million membership is made up of women. Throughout the Southeastern Conference women continue to make valuable contributions to the conference.

Hubert J. Morel, Jr.  
SEC President
If the success of Mt. Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church's Food Pantry, located in Miami Gardens, Fla., can be measured by comments from one of its original patrons, Willie Burgess, than it can be said this outreach ministry is successful.

Burgess first heard about the pantry in 2004 while shopping in local Wal-Mart store. An anonymous lady overheard a conversation where Burgess said she was having a hard time providing for food for her household - herself, her daughter, and her twin grandsons. The lady told her about a new food pantry at the Mt. Pisgah Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Burgess has been a regular at the pantry since then. She says the items in that forty pound box she gets on Wednesdays when the pantry is open, "Are like gold to me".

Burgess is one of 33 million Americans that are classified as living in food insecure households. Food insecure is defined as the inability for all household members have access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.

In 2010, 14.5% of U.S. households were insecure the highest number since the government began tracking this since 1999.

She is thankful to have the fresh produce, cheese, protein products, bread, and can goods. Now it’s possible to supplement her own food supply, providing her family with balanced meals and nutritious lunches for her twin grandsons.
In addition, Burgess picks up clothing and household items that have been donated to the pantry for distribution. She points out that the clothes are always clean and in good condition.

During the holiday season, the Burgess family enjoys special food boxes that are passed out at the pantry. These boxes are packed with the ingredients for a complete traditional Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

In the seven years Burgess has been coming to the Mt. Pisgah Food Pantry, she has witnessed its’ growth from approximately 30 patrons to 250 individuals who now benefit from this outreach. "The pantry now resembles what her father told her about “bread lines” during the Great Depression," says Burgess.

In 2010, 4.8 percent of all U.S. households - 5.6 million households - accessed emergency food from a food pantry like the Mt. Pisgah Food Pantry one or more times.

Burgess is thankful for the individual attention she is given when on occasion she can’t make it to the pantry. Pantry volunteers have personally delivered a box of food to her house when her one grandson, who is disabled, is late coming home from school.

A proud family oriented woman, Burgess is determined to provide for her family. She says about her time in line at Mt. Pisgah Food Pantry, “That's how I get my therapy.”

### Hunger & Poverty Statistics

Although related, food insecurity and poverty are not the same. Unemployment rather than poverty is a stronger predictor of food insecurity.

#### Poverty

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<th>YEAR</th>
<th>AGE GROUP</th>
<th>MILLIONS</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Families</td>
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<td>11.1%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ages 18-64</td>
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<td>2009</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>Seniors 65 &amp; older</td>
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<td>8.9%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### Food Insecurity and Very Low Food Security

In 2010, 48.8 million Americans lived in food insecure households, 32.6 million adults and 16.2 million children.

In 2010, 14.5% of households (17.2 million households) were food insecure.

In 2010, 5.4% of households (6.4 million households) experienced very low food security.

In 2010, households with children reported food insecurity at a significantly higher rate than those without children, 20.2% compared to 11.7%.

In 2010, households that had higher rates of food insecurity than the national average included households with children (20.2%), especially households with children headed by single women (35.1%) or single men (25.4%), Black non-Hispanic households (25.1%) and Hispanic households (26.2%).

In 2009, 8.0% of seniors living alone (925,000 households) were food insecure.

Food insecurity exists in every county in America, ranging from a low of 5% in Steele County, ND to a high of 38% in Wilcox County, AL.

### Nine states exhibited statistically significant higher household food insecurity rates than the U.S. national average 2008-2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Alabama</td>
<td>17.30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>15.70%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Use of Emergency Food Assistance and Federal Food Assistance Programs

In 2010, 4.8% of all U.S. households (5.6 million households) accessed emergency food from a food pantry one or more times.

In 2010, 59.2% of food-insecure households participated in at least one of the three major Federal food assistance programs – Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly Food Stamp Program), The National School Lunch Program, and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

Data from Hunger in America 2010 report
Six Young Contestants “strut their stuff” for the Annual MUA Pageant

—By Shelley Garner

The 23rd of September, 2011, found the faculty, staff, students, parents and supporters of Miami Union Academy at the Sheraton Ft. Lauderdale Airport Hotel in eager anticipation of the evening’s events. After months of fundraising, practicing, training, and workshops, over 200 people for the South Florida area gathered to witness six young people “strut their stuff” for the Annual MUA Pageant.

The participants committed themselves in April of the previous school year to be a part of this process. From the middle school department, Joelle Angrand and Nia Malone each set the goal to be crowned Jr. Miss MUA, while three high school young ladies vied for the title of Miss MUA: Kenisha Gage, Earlene Gayle, and Valencia Harris.

Despite hesitation to participate from the young men, one rose from the masses for the title of Mr. MUA. Although he faced no competitors, Jevanni Milien still was required to meet a score of at least 50% of the total points possible.

The judges, comprised of community leaders and alumni, evaluated each participant in the areas of public speaking, talent, and modeling. Prizes were awarded for each of those sections those scores were then added to scores for fundraising, and the student vote, to determine the winner.

Each student received a scholarship which equaled 30% of the funds they raised individually to further their Christian education at MUA. The winner for each category received an additional 10% scholarship. In all, this years’ event raised over $25,000.00 for Christian education.

After an evening which included, appetizers and a display of talent, creative oral expression, and elegant poise, the winners were named: Nia Malone, Jr. Miss MUA; Jevanni Milien, Mr. MUA, and Valencia Harris, Ms. MUA.

These young people will have the awesome task of representing the school in public programs as a spokesperson and school leader for the remainder of the school year.

This annual event has a legacy of participants and winners who are now leaders in the churches and community. While the main function of this event is to raise funds for the school’s program, the more lasting impact of this event deals with the training the students receive and the experience they share, developing individual talents, skills and traits that will help these students to assume their roles in society as leaders, trailblazers and role models for the future.
When you put together the scrapbook of your life . . .

shouldn’t this photo be there?

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256.726.7000 www.oakwood.edu
In short, ordination invests ministers with full ecclesiastical authority to act on behalf of the church anywhere in the world field where they may be employed by the church. The Acts of the Apostles, p. 161

Seventh-day Adventists do not believe that ordination is sacramental in the sense of conferring some indelible character or special powers or the ability to formulate right doctrine. It adds no new grace or virtual qualification. The Acts of the Apostles, p. 162

The biblical background of the rite indicates that it was an acknowledged form of designation to an appointed office and a recognition of one's authority in that office. The Acts of the Apostles, p. 162

By this means the church sets it seal upon the work of God performed through its ministers and their lay associates. In ordination, the church publicly invokes God's blessing upon the persons He has chosen and devoted to this special work of ministry. During camp meeting four pastors were ordained.

He also served as a family counselor, with Community Connection, an outpatient Behavioral Counseling Center, in Rockville, Maryland. His pastoral career in the United States began with the Chesapeake Conference in Maryland, where he pastored a district of two churches on the Eastern Shores.

Currently he is the pastor of the Mt. Sinai and Mt. Gil-ead churches in Sarasota and Bradenton, Fla.

He is married to Grace Levy-Clarke, M.D., an ophthalmologist. They have been married for two years. Their union produced two sons, Everis Clarke, Jr., who recently completed his first year at Seton Hall Law School, and Edouard-Hugh Clarke, who will be a junior next year at Forest Lake Academy.

**Orville Brissett,** a native of Bay Shore, New York.

He is a graduate of Hampton University where he received a bachelor of arts degree in religious studies. He currently is finishing requirements for a master of arts degree in pastoral studies at Oakwood University.

Orville served the U.S. Navy as an Operations Specialist on board the USS Estocin and Commander Second Fleet. He also served as the lead enlisted instructor and leading petty officer for the department of professional development at the United States Naval Academy located in Annapolis, Maryland.

Orville served as a pastoral assistant at the Miracle Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church under the leadership of Freddie Russell. After faithful service at Miracle Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church, the Southwest Region Con-
ference called him to serve as the pastor of the Emmanuel Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church.

He is the pastor of the Macedonia and Port Saint Lucie churches. Orville is married to the former Tiffany Smith of Richmond, Virginia. They have been married for 14 years and to this union they have been blessed with three children, Julian (age 13), Kennedi (age 10), and Micah (age 4).

Orville is the founder of Fire on Friday, which is a non-traditional Friday night service, geared towards reaching youth and young adults in the communities that surround the churches. He is also the speaker for the “Speak to My Heart Broadcast” which airs every Sabbath afternoon on WFLM.

Leonard Newton, III,
a native of Boston, Massachusetts, is married to the former Shelly-Ann Walker. From their union, God has blessed them with a daughter Sanaa (age 4), who is a beautiful gift from God. By God’s grace and mercy they are looking with great expectancy for the birth of their second child in July of this year.

Newton is a product of Christian Education. He attended Bethesda Elementary School and later he attended Miami Union Academy. He graduated from Oakwood University in 2002 with a bachelor of art degree in theology. He received a master of science degree in psychology from Walden University in 2008.

He started his ministry in August 2004 at the Ebenezer & All Nations Seventh-day Adventist Churches in Central Florida. During the four and a half years of his tenure at the All Nations Church, God blessed him to build a church, which was completed in 2008.

Newton currently serves as the pastor of the Alpha Agape and Lebanon Seventh-day Adventist Churches in South Florida.

Alex Williams,
a native of Los Angeles, California. He was eleven years old when he heard God’s call to pastoral ministry. Understanding the awesome responsibility placed before him, he chose to go another route instead.

However, the call returned, but with greater power! He decided to accept God’s call and attend Oakwood University, located in Huntsville, Ala., where he received a bachelor of arts degree in theology.

Upon completion of his studies at Oakwood, he was selected to be a featured speaker in a massive evangelistic effort in Malawi, Africa, where 2,000 precious souls were baptized.

Upon returning to the United States, Williams accepted an invitation to pastor the Trinity Temple Seventh-day Adventist Church in Fitzgerald, Ga., as well as the First Seventh-day Adventist Church in Hazlehurst, Ga.

While in Georgia, Williams served as chaplain of the Dorminy Medical Center and vice president of the Ben Hill County Ministerial Association. He also led a very soul-stirring prison ministry.

Currently, he is the pastor of the Salem Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pompano Beach, Fla., and Ebenezer Seventh-day Adventist Church in Dania Beach, Fla.

Williams has been married for nine years to Mithra Hampton of Columbus, Ohio. They have two beautiful children; Joy, (age 7) and AJ (age 4).
Southeastern Hires Educational Technologist Karen Winston
— By Robert L. Henley

The Southeastern Conference Office of education recently added a new member to its staff. Karen Winston, will serve as the educational technologist for the department, a part-time position. Karen received a bachelor of science in management with a concentration in Human Resource Management from the University of Central Florida, located in Orlando, Fla. and a master of arts degree business administration from the Florida Institute of Technology, located in Melbourne, Fla.

She has been married to Anthony Winston, a retired Naval Officer, for more than 25 years. Karen and Anthony have no children. “We are the proud parents of a homeless Labrador mixed dog who adopted us,” says Karen. “When I’m not spoiling him, I keep busy working for the Lord.”

A native of Orlando, Fla., she is a member of the Mt. Sinai Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Orlando, Fla. and currently serves as business manager, hospitality leader, deaconess, choir member, usher, receptionist, women’s ministry member, finance committee member, church board member, Oakwood alumni secretary, President of King’s Daughters Orlando Chapter #1 and assistant treasurer of Eastern Region Federated King’s Daughters.

“My desire is to be the best steward of my God-given time, talent and resources and to work in His vineyard,” states Karen. “I believe in lifting as I climb and only what you do for Christ last!”

Karen replaces Tamara Bowden who accepted a call to serve as the vice-principal and 7th, 8th and 9th grade teacher at Mt. Olivet Junior Academy, located in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

Five Episodes filmed during SEC Camp Meeting
— By Robert L. Henley

During camp meeting 2011 Carlton Byrd, D.Min., and the Breath of Life Ministries filmed a total of five episodes during the first weekend of camp meeting of Southeastern’s Camp Ground, June 17th and 18th, which is located in Hawthorne, Fla.

The episodes will air during the fall of 2011, on the following networks Discovery Channel, Word Network, 3ABN, Hope Channel Blue Mountain Television and Safe TV. For broadcast times and to view previously aired episodes of the Breath of Life Telecast visit the ministries website at http://www.breathoflife.tv.

Breath of Life Ministries is dedicated to sharing the healing Gospel of Jesus Christ in the context of the Three Angels’ Messages of Revelation 14. This is done through the production and distribution of Christ centered quality television and media programs and support materials that are intellectually stimulating, Bible-based, and designed to help people choose a quality of life found only in following Christ.
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The arms reached out and wrapped me close in its embrace. Its soothing warmth enfolded me and physically held me tight. Then I heard the voice. A warm, loving, sweet, tender, whisper in my ears, “Maria, there is no God, would a loving God do this to you”?

“There is no God? Then who have I been worshiping?” I whispered back.

I was confused. I looked around my car. I was alone. Who had just embraced me and where did this voice come from? The presence was physically real and I had felt comforted. I heard the voice. It had spoken to me. It was quiet and soothing. A still small voice. I felt like I was in the presence of God, yet the words were a contradiction.

I didn’t need this confusion. Not now. I had just left my doctor’s office and the news was devastating. They had just discovered another suspicious mass. Discouragement was quickly sucking me in, like quick sand into its vortex. I needed Jesus right now. I needed His healing. I needed His peace, His presence, and most certainly I needed a clear mind so I could think. In the last two years, life had thrown some huge rocks at me and I was weary from ducking them.

Rock one: I was still ducking the pain of being a widow and raising two young girls. Rock two: the loss of my husband’s mother and grandmother shortly after his death. Rock three: I had moved the girls from one country to another and learned in the process that my youngest had the same incurable disease as her father. Rock four: I had just finished battling an aggressive form of thyroid cancer and now rock five: today’s news, less than 2 months after my last cancer treatment, the doctor had told me the cancer had possibly metastasized, needing more surgery. Amidst all of this, I am now hearing voices telling me “There is no God”.

As the red light switched to green, and my foot pressed the gas pedal, I was stuck in my spirit. I was facing the reality that I wasn’t going to make it. I didn’t have the energy to face another surgery, radiation or chemo. I was physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually weary. The fight within in was gone. My children were about to lose their mother. Who would raise them?

The reality of my situation gave credence to the words I had just heard. Would a God really do this to them... to us... to me? Hadn’t we been through enough?

I pulled into my garage and entered my house. I didn’t know what was going on. I started pacing back and forth, trying to make sense of what I had just felt and heard. The chasm between my reality and faith was deep and dark. I was lost in spiritual confusion and the voice that had spoken to me was now quiet.

I couldn’t pray. This was my darkest hour and I couldn’t feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. I didn’t know if God was real. I didn’t know who I had been worshiping and trusting. Did I really have a relationship with God? Where did this confusion come from? I didn’t know what I believed or what to believe any more. I just didn’t know.

Then, something within me, something I cannot explain or describe screamed out, “Lord I don’t know if you are really real, but I am going to choose to believe that you are and that there is a God.” The moment the words left my lips, the darkness that had encased my soul, chaining it to unbelief, was shattered.

Three weeks later, the mass could not be found. As I walked out of the radiologist’s office I prayed a prayer of thanksgiving. I knew in that moment that God had healed me and my experience three weeks earlier had been a battle for my soul. If I had not chosen God that day, I know without a doubt that I would not have been healed and I would have signed my eternal death warrant. That choice that day saved my life.

As children of a sovereign God, we are never victims of our circumstances. He will never leave us or forsake us especially in our darkest moments.

—By Maria Packwood
In its 18th Quinquennial Session on Sunday, September 18, 2011, the Southern Union Conference delegation elected Ron C. Smith, Ph.D. president. Smith will be replacing President Gordon Retzer who has chosen to retire.

“Thank you for trusting us,” says Smith, “and by God’s grace we want to be loyal, faithful, and committed to your charge.”

Reflecting on Smith's election Retzer says, "Ron Smith is a man of God who loves people and the Seventh-day Adventist church. He is a man of integrity and character and a gifted preacher. I have greatly enjoyed working closely with him and have no doubt that God will use him to lead the great Southern Union to new accomplishments through the power of the Holy Spirit."

The Session, chaired by North American Division President Dan Jackson, also elected Jim Davidson, president of the Carolina Conference, to serve as executive secretary, and re-elected Randy Robinson treasurer; Dennis Millburn, undertreasurer; and Carlos Salazar, Association treasurer.

In addition, all departmental directors and associates were returned to office with the exception of those who are planning to retire.

Three positions were referred to the Executive Committee to be filled: Sabbath School, ASI, and Children’s Ministries which were held by the late Oliver J. McKinney; Church Ministries which was held by Allan Williamson; and Ministerial/Evangelism which were held by Dennis Ross. These latter two men have each served the Church for more than 40 years and will be retiring in the near future.

During the past five years, the members, pastors, educators, medical personnel, and literature evangelists have all worked together to present the Gospel to their neighbors, relatives, and friends. A major evangelistic push was made in the Good News Atlanta outreach initiative. During the past five years, more than 47,000 new members were baptized throughout the Union. The Southern Union now has more than 255,000 members who collectively gave just under one billion dollars ($933,724, 874) in tithe during the same period. This growth and faithfulness in stewardship is a demonstration of the power of the Holy Spirit, and the commitment of the Southern Union to keep evangelism its consistent purpose, practice, and priority. We thank God for His bountiful blessings.
The Commissioned Ministry of Teaching Credential is bestowed upon teachers with a life-long commitment to and significant experience in the Seventh-day Adventist system of education. Candidates have taught usually not fewer than six years, with demonstrated proficiency in assigned responsibilities. And candidates have completed and maintained the qualifying denomination teaching certification requirements to practice the profession of instructing children and youth in a Seventh-day Adventist school setting.

These individuals have exhibited a keen sense of Christian responsibility for nurturing and leading souls to Christ, for consistently upholding Christ as the focal point of all curriculum and instruction, and for demonstrating positive interpersonal relationships, thus providing an environment of social, spiritual, and emotional stability. During camp meeting four teachers were commissioned.

Barbara Davis

was born on the beautiful island of Jamaica. The third of six children, she is married to George Davis from St. Thomas, Jamaica and is the mother of two sons, a very proud mother-in-law and grandmother.

Davis attended Miami Dade College where she graduated with an associate of arts degree in Elementary Education. She received a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education with ESOL endorsement and later earned a master of science degree in primary education with gifted endorsement from Barry University in Miami, Fla.

Currently, Davis is pursuing a doctor of education degree with a concentration in educational leadership and management from Barry University.

Davis served as the principal of the Bethel Seventh-day Adventist Elementary School in Florida City, Fla. Currently, she is the associate superintendent of education for the Southeastern Conference.

She is a strong believer in Adventist Education, as a testament to that her two sons attended and graduated from Miami Union Academy in Miami, Fla. Her older son Michael graduated from Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., and her younger son Marlon currently attends Oakwood University and will complete his bachelor’s degree in December of this year.

Davis is the CEO and co-founder of Hand of Hope Ministries International Inc. She enjoys teaching, ministering to the poor and needy, and spending quality time with her family. Each year she, along with her husband, dedicates one week to do missionary work outside of the United States. She invites anyone who wants to be a part of such a rewarding experience to come along with them.

Shelley Garner

Born in the beautiful city of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, Shelley Garner was dedicated to the cause and purpose of God at an early age. Upon graduation from high school, Shelley moved on to Andrews University, where she majored in English and minored in Behavioral Sciences. Because of the way Adventist Christian Education affected her life, Shelley sought to give back to this distinguished institution.
This desire and dedication to the work of God brought her to tropical Miami, Florida where she has served at Miami Union Academy since 1989. During this time, Shelley has taught English in the high school department, provided services as assistant registrar and assistant principal for the high school.

She is married to Carl Garner, and she is the proud mother of Jeremy, Marcus and Bryanne, and her stepson Kyle. As a family, they continue to be committed to seeing God’s work at Miami Union Academy continue to grow and prosper, so that all of her “children” may continue to find God’s will for their lives.

Garner’s deepest desire is that God might show her how to live a life that is pleasing in His sight, and use her to be a beacon to the youth of her community, so that the promise of a home in the earth-made new might be a reality for each of her students.

Sherrie Hodge, a native of England, earned a bachelor of science degree in history and political science and biology from La Sierra University and holds certification for secondary education. She is the daughter of Henry and Janet Hodge and the sibling of Shawn, Sheldon and Sharon.

Sherrie Hodge joined the Ephesus Junior Academy, West Palm Beach, Fla., faculty in 2002 after two years of working in Hillsborough County School District. Since coming to EJA, she has taught 3rd through 9th grade. She has also served as assistant principal and is currently the principal of Ephesus Junior Academy.

Her favorite Bible passages are Proverbs 4:23,25 - Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it - and Proverbs 19:21 - Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the LORD’s purpose that prevail because they are reminders to live a thoughtful life and that ultimately only God’s counsel will stand.

Tiffany McNealy, is an expert in creating a thought provoking and fun filled classroom environment that stimulates and cultivates academic success for every student.

McNealy has a bachelor of arts degree in psychology from Oakwood University and a master of arts degree in business administration with emphasis in non-profit management from Carlos Albizu University.

McNealy has more than 10 years of administrative experience as the director of a homeless program for mentally ill individuals at Henderson Mental Health Center.

McNealy followed the call of God to His vineyard and began her educational career as a Kindergarten teacher at Broward Junior Academy, located in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She later served as an educator and vice-principal at Mt. Olivet SDA School, located in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Currently, Tiffany is the principal of Bethel Seventh-day Adventist School in Florida City, Fla.

McNealy is a strong advocate of Christian education and she wants all of her students to know and understand that with God all things are possible. But most importantly she wants them to know that they are special because He loves them.

McNealy is sustained by the unconditional love and support of her parents Thomas A. McNealy, D.Min., pastor of the Northside Seventh-day Adventist Church, located in Miami, Fla., and Barbara McNealy, a retired elementary school administrator, and her brother Thomas A. McNealy II.
Remembrance: Hale, 84, championed diversity in higher education

—By Mark A. Kellner - Adventist News Network

Frank Hale, Ph.D., 84, the legendary educator and humanist died on July 27 of pancreatic cancer. Hale was the first black dean at the Ohio State Graduate School, located in Columbus, Ohio and the first non-clergy to serve as president of Oakwood University, located in Huntsville, Ala.

Hale, who died yesterday at age 84, was also the first black dean at the Ohio State Graduate School and the first non-clergy to serve as president of Oakwood University, an historically black college directly affiliated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s world headquarters and located in Huntsville, Alabama.

"He brought to leadership a broader base for Christian education, not simply religion, but also religion and pure education," said Mervyn Warren, Oakwood provost, professor of religion and former interim president.

Hale taught a class each year he served as Oakwood president, and he established the school’s department of public relations. Under his tenure, Oakwood joined the United Negro College Fund. He served as president from 1966 to 1971, before accepting the position at Ohio State as associate dean of the graduate school, chair of the fellowship committee and professor of communication.

As the fellowship committee chair, Hale helped grant nearly $15 million to some 1,200 minority graduate students. He also initiated a minority scholars program for high school graduating seniors.

Hale served as a professor at Oakwood from 1951 to 1959 and chaired the department of English at Central State University from 1959 to 1966. He lectured at more than 300 colleges and universities. He later received honorary doctoral degrees from Wilberforce University, Shaw University, University of Nebraska, Capital University, La Sierra and Andrews University.

The first two of his three retirement attempts were unsuccessful. Hale served as executive assistant for the president at Kenyon College from 1989 to 1992 and as distinguished university representative and consultant in the office of the president at Ohio State from 1999-2005.

"We have lost one of the true giants of the Ohio State community," Ohio State President E. Gordon Gee said in a statement yesterday.

"Dr. Frank Hale was a scholar, teacher, researcher, administrator, a civil rights pioneer. More than that, he was a force to be reckoned with who opened the doors of opportunity to underserved students through sheer force of his intellect and determination," Gee said.

Hale was inducted in the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame in October.

He is survived by his wife Mignon Scott-Hale, a retired school teacher. His first wife, Ruth, preceded him in death in 2001.
THE Present
Unwrapping the Gift of Christmas

Filmed LIVE at the Atlanta Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church

Special guest artists
Grammy-award winning
TAKE 6

Vocalist
Jennifer LaMountain

Violinist
Jaime Jorge

Featuring
Dr. Carlton P. Byrd
Speaker/Director of the Breath of Life Telecast

COMING IN DECEMBER on most NBC stations.
For a list of stations and airdates, go to www.breathoflife.tv or call 805-955-7681 after November 1.
The Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is proud to announce that Oakwood Alumnus Michael G. Knight was installed as National President during the 2011 Annual Medical Education Conference (AMEC) in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Knight will serve as the lead programmatic coordinator and official spokesperson of the SNMA, overseeing 14 national committees with projects and initiatives to be implemented by more than 250 medical school and undergraduate chapters across the United States and the Caribbean.

"I am honored to serve the SNMA as the 2011-12 National President," says Knight. "During the year, our leadership team will continue to propel the SNMA to unprecedented heights. We aim to envision our organizational future, engage our membership and empower our communities like never before."

Knight, originally from New York City, attended Oakwood University (Huntsville, Alabama), where he graduated with a B.S. in Biomedical Sciences. In July 2007, he matriculated at the Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine of Case Western Reserve University located in Cleveland, Ohio, where he is currently a fourth-year medical student.

"Throughout Michael's career at the Lerner College of Medicine, he has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in academic endeavors and in leadership. I am confident that his experience leading the SNMA will prepare him to serve as a physician leader and to help promote a pipeline of physician leaders for the future," says James A. Young, M.D., executive dean of Cleveland Clinic Lerner College of Medicine.

Knight has been instrumental in addressing the needs of Cleveland's underserved populations, through the organization of various programs, including the "Journey to the Medical Profession" and "Passport to Manhood" youth mentoring initiatives.

Knight also leads national SNMA efforts focused on increasing the pipeline of underrepresented minority physicians, increasing cultural competency in medical education, and increasing HIV/AIDS awareness in minority communities with the "Greater Than AIDS" initiative. As an aspiring academician and future clinician, Knight hopes to encourage data-driven results, not only to treat chronic diseases, but also to advance community-based participatory research and eliminate racial and ethnic healthcare disparities.

About SNMA: Founded in 1964 by medical students from Howard University School of Medicine and Meharry Medical College, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA) is the nation's oldest and largest, independent, student-run organization focused on the needs and concerns of medical students of color.

Organized with chapters across the nation, the SNMA membership includes over 6,000 medical students, pre-medical students and physicians. The SNMA is dedicated to increasing the number of African-American, Latino, and other students of color entering and completing medical school, and to assist in the eradication of racial and ethnic health disparities. SNMA community service and mentoring programs provide science appreciation, healthcare education, mentoring, and academic enrichment to elementary, junior high school, high school and college students interested in pursuing health careers.
**Calendar of Events**

**COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 4-14</td>
<td>Operation Global Rain (Prayer Movement)</td>
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<td>Jan 7</td>
<td>Day of Fasting &amp; Prayer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 15-18</td>
<td>NAD Adventist Ministries Convention (Innisbrook, FL)</td>
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<td>Jan 21-28</td>
<td>NAD Religious Liberty Week (Offering — Jan. 28)</td>
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<td>Jan 27-29</td>
<td>Women's Ministries Leadership Retreat (Mt. Dora / Conference Office)</td>
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<td>Jan 27-29</td>
<td>Youth Convocation (Camp Hawthorne)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 27 - Feb. 5</td>
<td>NAD &amp; IAD Health Summit (Lake Mary / Marriott Hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 1-5</td>
<td>NAD &amp; IAD Health Summit (Lake Mary / Marriott Hotel — Started from Jan. 27)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 3-5</td>
<td>Women's Ministries Spanish Leadership Retreat (Miami)</td>
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<td>Feb 9-12</td>
<td>SEC Marriage Convention Cruise</td>
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<td>Feb 10-11</td>
<td>Sabbath Sch. Superintendents' &amp; Teachers' Workshop (South FL)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11</td>
<td>Christian Marriage Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 11-18</td>
<td>Christian Home &amp; Marriage Week (Christian Parenting Day — Feb. 18)</td>
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<td>Feb 17-19</td>
<td>Pathfinder Director's Retreat</td>
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<td>Feb 18</td>
<td>NAD Health Ministries Sabbath</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 25</td>
<td>Conference Spelling Bee (Miami Union Academy)</td>
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<td>March 3</td>
<td>Bible Bowl Kickoff (Orlando)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 3</td>
<td>Women's Ministries International Day of Prayer (NAD)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 8-11</td>
<td>Master Guide Retreat (Camp Hawthorne)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 17</td>
<td>Elders', Deacons' &amp; Deaconess' Retreat</td>
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<td>March 15</td>
<td>SEC Building Committee Meeting (Mt. Dora / Conference Office)</td>
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<td>March 18</td>
<td>SEC Executive Committee Meeting (Mt. Dora / Conference Office)</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 23-24</td>
<td>Sabbath Sch. Superintendents' &amp; Teachers' Workshop (South GA)</td>
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**Sketches Interactive**

**CONTENT ONLINE**

To stay in touch with current news and events,
Sign up for eSketches @
www.secsda.org/sketches

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**NewsOnline**

- A-Jamaican Adventists march in support of EnditNow
- Prime minister of Bahamas praises Adventist contributions to society
- North American Adventists reaffirm commissioned ministers as conference, mission presidents
- CT editor: Clear, transparent communication is ‘lifeblood’ of organization
- Church leaders, members feel ‘strain’ of turbulent economy, but giving remains faithful
- Perrine Honors Its Youth
- Ten Youth take stand after Amazing Facts Bible Study
- Communication at core of effective governance, church financial officers say Voted document stresses
- Dr. Ron C. Smith Elected President of the Southern Union
- South Atlantic elects William Winston president
- Diop is Adventist Church’s new UN liaison
- In U.S., principal at Tennessee Adventist school found dead; student, 17, in custody
- Regional Conference Presidents pull invitation to Bishop T.D. Jakes
- Adventist Health Study-2 awarded $5.5 million from National Institutes of Health

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**SketchCast**

- Ordination 2011 profiles
- Women Ministry 2011 testimonies

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**iTV**

- South Florida Youth Federation
- MC Strachan Federation
- Camp Meeting 2011
- SEC Women Ministries 2011

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**Get Social with Southeastern**

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SOUTHEASTERN CONFERENCE
YOUTH CONVOCATION 2012
EMPOWERED 2 IGNITE

JANUARY 27-29, 2012
SEC Campground, Main Pavilion
1771 Highway 20 East, Hawthorne, FL 32640

Friday Night Praise & Rap Session Service
Charlotte Grant
Ruben Joseph

Sabbath Speaker
Wintley Phipps

Saturday Night Concert
James Fortune & Fiya
Committed
Wintley Phipps