Native American Ministries
What Does it Mean to be Part of the Remnant?

Being a part of the Remnant Church . . .

- does not guarantee salvation.
- does not somehow grant sainthood to its members.
- does not make remnant members better than members of other churches.
- does not mean those who are not part of the remnant are lost.
- does not give members an exclusive right to God’s blessings.
- does not keep members from temptation.
- does not guarantee freedom from sickness or disease.
- does not entitle members to more money, better homes, nicer cars.
- does not make it the largest and most popular church.

So, what does it mean to be part of the Remnant? Remnant means “remaining ones,” and, throughout the Bible there is the concept of the remnant being those who remain faithful as the last link in the generation of those who align with God and His character. Revelation 12:17 identifies people who live just before Jesus returns who “keep the commandments of God,” which includes worshipping on the seventh day, and “have the testimony of Jesus,” which is the Spirit of prophecy — the prophetic gift. I believe the Seventh-day Adventist Church is this remnant of Revelation.

Back to the question: What does it mean to be part of the remnant?

“A study of the idea of the remnant in the Old Testament reveals a few interesting characteristics. Perhaps the most important one is that, all through the Bible, the remnant were those who were living with more light than others. Noah had the light about the coming flood. Abraham had the light about the true God. The nation of Israel was worshipping the Lord in the sanctuary, while their pagan neighbors were sacrificing children on their altars or bowing down to statues of cats and bulls and other animals. In short, the idea of the remnant had more to do with a revelation of truth and of God’s character than with the holiness of those who had that knowledge. . . . Being part of the remnant means only that you have great light, and with that light comes important responsibilities” Sabbath School Quarterly, First Quarter, 2009, p. 52.

More light can keep us out of danger. More light can keep us from deception. More light means we are motivated to share with others who have not seen the light. This doesn’t make us arrogant or exclusive. I don’t know about you, but when I’m in a problem — it may be the threat of physical danger or some vexing personal issue — I love it when someone says, “I know the way out, I can help you.” That doesn’t sound haughty to me; it’s a relief.

Do we not have more light than many around us? We share because we love them. We want people to join the remnant so they can enjoy more light. They don’t join to be saved. Everyone is saved only one way — through Jesus Christ. I heard a preacher once declare, “We can’t save anyone, but we can tell everyone.” Think of how much light you enjoy that others may be eager to enjoy.
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REACHING OUT TO INDIAN COUNTRY

“How do Seventh-day Adventists fit into this picture?”

By Fred Rogers
Why would we need a ministry for Native Americans in the Southern Union? The answers to this question are very interesting and even intriguing.

Religion among Native Americans has experienced some remarkable changes over the years. For example, many early visitors that came to this country were surprised by the many similarities between Native Americans and the biblical Israelites. Numerous explorers/writers such as George Catlin, Emmett Star, James Adair, and others have given witness to the Indian-Israelite likeness.

How did the Indians resemble the Israelites? It has been documented, as early as 1775, many Indians observed the Sabbath, counted time by sevens, practiced the distinction between clean and unclean meats, had towns of refuge, taught the second coming of Jesus (the Peacemaker), believed the number seven to be a sacred number, practiced the strictest honesty, were compassionate and sympathetic to the white settler, and had numerous other similarities.

This is where one of the more intriguing historical accounts of Indian and white settler relationships occurs. If the Indians resembled the children of Israel, why did the white settlers determine to destroy the Indians? Another unsettling point is the white settlers believed they were doing God’s will by destroying the Indian. An example of this is found on a tombstone located in New York State. The inscription on the stone reads, “In memory of Lynn S. Love in whose hands the Lord delivered 98 Indians. He had hoped to make it 100 by year’s end, but he fell asleep in the arms of Jesus.” If they resembled the children of Israel, why would these sentiments flow so freely? The answer to this question would need an entire article devoted to that subject alone.

Needless to say, the Native population became quite suspicious of Christianity and questioned their motives. After the Indians were conquered and decimated, they were moved onto reservations. The Indian children were forced to attend government schools where they were stripped of their culture, language, and Indian identity. Slowly the Indians were changed from their likeness of the Israelite to that of the white settler Christianity.

Now to answer our original question: Why have a ministry for Native Americans? About 30 to 40 years ago, Native Americans across the land became interested in returning to their ancestral roots. After examining what the early so-called Christians did to their Indian ancestors, it is not difficult to see why Christianity would be rejected as an option. Although many Native People still hold to their Christian faith, an ever-growing number seek their ancient religion and call themselves traditionalist. This usually translates
into a mystical form of religion racing off in many different directions. They are not aware of the many similarities their ancestors held with the children of Israel.

How do Seventh-day Adventists fit into this picture? We as a Church hold and teach those Bible truths that their ancestors believed and taught. We are the people who can truly invite them to come home. Work within the Southern Union has touched a number of Indian tribes, including the Catawba, Waccamaw, Tuscarora, Lumbee, Cherokee, Creek, Choctaw, Miccosukee, Seminole, and others. People from these tribes have participated in our health programs, youth camps, or culture seminars, or have partnered with us in providing clothing to needy tribes.

Southern Union Native Americans Ministries opened a free health clinic in Robeson County, North Carolina. Indian Health Care (IHC) serves all Indians in the area, but primarily serves the Lumbee Indian Tribe. The Lumbee Tribe is the largest tribe east of the Mississippi River, but is not a federally recognized tribe, and so does not receive federal money for health care. IHC clinic currently serves about 1,500 patients that do not have insurance and cannot afford to go to a doctor. Amazing things happen at IHC. In the past month, two patients came to the clinic and the doctor discovered abnormalities in their blood work. He was very concerned that each of these patients was facing serious health problems. The clinic was able to get these patients appointments at the University of North Carolina Medical School at Chapel Hill. As suspected, one patient had liver cancer, which was removed successfully, and the other patient had life-threatening gallbladder problems, which were corrected. The gallbladder patient was also found to have major problems with stints that had been placed in her arteries years before, and the medical school has committed to correcting this problem too. Just last

Evangelistic meetings are held in the clinic waiting room.
week, both patients were at the clinic. It warmed my heart for both patients to tell their story, and thank the clinic staff for saving their lives. They did not have money to go to a doctor to be informed about their medical problem, and would not have received the needed surgeries. There are many more stories like these.

Native Americans Ministries decided to plant a church in connection with the clinic. The church meets in the waiting room of the clinic each Sabbath. When the church first opened, we would have three or sometimes four people in attendance. Today, there are 30 to 45 people attending the Sabbath service. This little congregation has become a very missionary-minded church. The church has a Pathfinder Club, conducts a nursing home ministry, conducts evangelistic meetings in the waiting room, has an evangelistic meeting every Thursday night for prayer meeting, and sponsors a weekly half-hour radio broadcast. The church leader, Scottie Deal, leads out in these programs and is the speaker of the radio program. Six people have joined the church as a result of the radio program. A number of radio listeners have visited the church service. This church has been a miracle church from the beginning.

In September, the church decided to move on faith and buy land to build a new church/clinic building. As we discussed this idea, we wondered if this was faith or something else that moved us. Our concern was could we pay for this land with such a small congregation. God was about to rebuke and bless us. We purchased four acres and closed the sale in September, with a debt of $56,000. The church worked hard, and by January had paid the principle down to $40,000. Deal had been invited to speak to a group of people about what God was doing with this little congregation in Lumberton, North Carolina. He shared with them all of the things we were doing to reach out to the people. He shared how the clinic was saving lives, and he shared how the congregation had moved on faith to purchase land. He told them how the Lord was blessing, and how we had the principle paid down to $40,000. The next week the church received a check for $40,000. The donor told Deal that they had been praying that very week for the Lord to show them which ministry they should give $40,000. They said their pray had been answered when they heard what he had to say. Praise God, and He is not finished with this little church yet.

Please pray for God’s ministry in Lumberton. A goliath step has been taken by a little David church, and we realize we need God’s help and guidance. It is a struggle to keep everything going. The clinic is funded by grants and donations, and we fear often that we will have to close, but God has kept the doors open for five years. Moreover, God is not finished yet. Fred L. Rogers is director of Native American Ministries for the Southern Union.
Florida Conference Strategy for Evangelism in 2009

Florida Conference faces the challenge of bringing the Gospel to the unchurched in a state where 86 percent of the population does not attend services on any given weekend. To meet this need, the Evangelism Department endeavors to equip disciples to lead growing churches where people can be brought to Jesus by:

1. Making each member a disciple,
2. Making each church a discipleship center for evangelism and training, and
3. Developing an evangelism strategy involving all local church departments in outreach.

To Jesus in 2009, Baptisms resulting from Discoveries '08 with speaker Mark Finley are still taking place. More than 500 small groups in Hispanic households were established to function as downlink sites for an evangelistic decision series by Florida Conference evangelist Rolando de los Ríos. A total of 800 people have been baptized to date as a result of 100 evangelistic efforts held by lay evangelists, pastors, and Conference personnel in conjunction with the two satellite meetings.

For 2009, Florida Conference has asked each pastor to commit to holding one or two series of reaping meetings. In addition, 100 lay evangelists are being equipped to hold reaping meetings, and 1,000 members will be trained to lead small groups. Various ministries such as youth, children, women, publishing, and education will take on new projects as they integrate their focus on outreach. These initiatives will provide a nucleus during the year of evangelism, and also act as support help for three Conference evangelism teams in reaping efforts across Florida Conference.

A regional SEEDS Conference will be held the weekend of April 17-19 at Forest Lake Church, Apopka. “Be a 21st Century Missionary, Restoring the Forgotten Ways,” is the theme of the Conference. The goal is to revitalize existing churches, plant new churches, and prepare missionaries to present the Good News of salvation in their own neighborhoods. Church members throughout North America are encouraged to attend this Conference. Visit www.nadei.org for additional information.

—By Gerson Santos

Discoveries '08 speaker Mark Finley presented the series live on the Hope Channel from Forest Lake Church, Apopka, while 40-plus satellite meetings were held simultaneously in Central Florida.

Rolando de los Ríos, Florida Conference evangelist, teamed with lay members and pastors for La Red 2008, November 1-8, from the Miami Central Spanish Church, which aired on Hope TV Network’s Esperanza channel and on Three Angels Broadcasting Network’s 3ABN Latino.
Simple Church—a new training ground for 21st-century missionaries

Thaylia, 12, was baptized on January 24, 2009. Her story actually began a year ago when Thaylia and her three siblings were living in a foster home.

Benoit and Michelle, the foster parents, wanted to adopt these four children who were placed in their care. Michelle, however, felt impressed that she was not to adopt the children, but lead the entire family — including the children’s biological parents — to Jesus.

These modern day missionaries invited the parents, Shawn and Neva, to join their family in worship on Sabbaths in a home church environment called Simple Church¹. Neva and Shawn’s lives were changed, and their children were returned to them. After they joined the church in baptism, they were able to lead their daughter, Thaylia, to the Lord.

Shawn and Neva are now in training to become Simple Church planters. They have already witnessed to their family, resulting in four of their family members and friends attending Simple Church each week.

The first missionaries in this story, Michelle and Benoit, have completed their training for church planting and are in the process of starting a home church. They have a new set of foster children, and Rachel*, the children’s mother, is now attending Simple Church and preparing for baptism.

From the first house church established on June 7, 2008, there are now two additional churches being planted. The average combined attendance on Sabbath morning is 60 people, with approximately 36 percent of adults being unchurched. Church planting teams lead the way as 21st-century missionaries in each Simple Church, witnessing to the unchurched in their families and communities.

For more information on starting a Simple Church in your home, visit www.SimpleChurchInfo.com —by Milton Adams


* Pseudonym

Simple Church participants gather each Sabbath for brunch, fellowship, worship, and lunch. Having completed Simple Church training, two house church planting teams, consisting of four adults per team, will multiply into new homes and open doors to reach more unchurched people.
It was a cool winter afternoon at Camp Kulaqua, where small groups of academy students could be seen scattered on the grassy fields surrounding the cafeteria. By the excitement around camp, visitors could have thought these students had come to Kulaqua to enjoy camp life — driving go-carts, racing down hills on BMX bikes, or going water-skiing. Rather, this record-setting group of 414 students from 10 Southern Union academies had come to the annual Southern Union Academy Prayer Conference.

“I’ve been coming ever since my freshman year, and I think that’s actually [when] I felt I became a Christian — during my freshman year at Prayer Conference,” said Chris Hudson, now a senior at Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA). “This is really the biggest get together of the Southern Union academies, and I think that is really healthy. They asked me to be a leader this year; it’s something I’ve never done before. I’ve never led a group in anything, and it was the best experience ever.”

During last year’s Prayer Conference, Maurice Fider, from Atlanta Adventist Academy, told his chaplain, “I want to come back next year and be a leader.”

The annual Prayer Conference held at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida, and organized by the Southern Union Youth Ministries Department, invited the students to an atmosphere of prayer and the power of small groups. This year’s conference was held January 21-24.

Student group leaders arrived one day early to receive training on leading small groups of 12 to 18 students, through discussions and activities designed to lead each student to a closer relationship with God. Each small group typically included at least one student from each academy.

One activity several groups enjoyed provided the opportunity for students to acknowledge a particular sin they wanted God to help them overcome. Each student in the group wrote the sin they were struggling with on a piece of paper, then placed the paper into a fire, symbolizing God’s cleansing power.

Students also enjoyed the discussions that arose in their small groups. Particular topics of interest included faith, music, and Ellen White. The group discussions “made me really comfortable talking about God,” said Christina Shin, from GCA.
“Everyone had a different opinion. I was really proud of my group because they didn’t bash each other because they had a different opinion,” said Kati Helton, from Collegedale Academy (CA). Rather, Helton said students had an open mind and realized they had not thought about the topics in that way before.

Kassandra Valcin, from Fletcher Academy, said she enjoyed her group’s discussion on “prayer and how it is important to me and to all of us.”

Whether it was experiencing the power of prayer or gaining a deeper relationship with God, Brad Walz, from Walker Memorial Academy (WMA), summed up his experience by saying, “Everything lives through death. We can’t live in Christ unless we die to self.”

The small group discussions and activities culminated in a Friday evening communion service, serving as a reminder to the students of how God wants to live in each of their lives. Each student chose a friend and, in the quite and peacefulness of a darkened room, washed each other’s feet, many spending time in prayer with each other as they waited for their fellow classmates from across the Southern Union to join them at the cross. Candles had been placed on the floor in the shape of a cross, where students sat for the Lord’s Supper.

Following this time of reflection, students gathered in their small groups and participated in the “Order of the Towel.” During this service, each student received a towel to represent their spiritual commitment to being a servant of God through servant leadership. Allan Williamson, Southern Union director of youth ministries, said, “Students will begin each day with the question, ‘How can I use this towel at my school to ‘be Jesus’ to my peers?’”

Williamson said the Order of the Towel has had a long-term impact, and has been very powerful in the students’ lives. “I have met students who have personally shown me their towels from conferences up to 10 years ago, and they have shared with me the impact on their lives from their commitment to servant leadership during the Order of the Towel service.

“When the groups ended, we had a pretty strong bond,” said Riana Melendez, from WMA. In fact, as students were giving farewells to newly made friends, many could be heard exchanging phone numbers and Facebook® contact information.

On the final day of the conference, as students were contemplating what they had learned and experienced during the past few days, Roscille Phillips, from Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy, said she was leaving with “a more loving character…and being more inviting of God into my life.”

Others were leaving with experiences different from what they were expecting. Raisa Navallo, a one-year transfer student from Bolivia, attending Forest Lake Academy, came partly to make new Adventist friends. She left realizing “we really need to show Jesus more in our lives in every little thing we do, and to not be ashamed about it.”

Academy students from around the Southern Union not only look forward to this event, many often return to their school campuses and inspire others to experience the power of prayer.

“I want to have a mini Prayer Conference…[where] you have your small groups, which I think is the biggest part of Prayer Conference,” said Lucas Tanaka, from Mount Pisgah Academy.

After returning from Prayer Conference, Sarah Scott, from Collegedale Academy, started a Friday evening prayer group. Each Friday, a group of about 10 students comes to her house to enjoy snacks, singing, and sharing with each other about how God has led in their lives the past week. They then spend time praying for their classmates, their school, and strength to do God’s will in their lives.

Breck Lang, another student from CA, said the Prayer Conference “put into perspective [that] we hold on to all these things that we think have worth, and we just want to stay comfortable where we are with these things we have. But, if we can just learn to let go and to get out of our comfort zone, then we’ll be able to grow, and our relationship with God will be so much better.”

Lang also says, “I realized that [in] leadership, you don’t have to know everything, you just have to be willing. And God will work through you, God will speak through you, and that is all that matters. You just have to be willing.”

**TIPS ON STARTING A PRAYER GROUP**

- Select and train a group leader.
- Keep groups small, allowing you to have better communication and interaction.
- Plan creative group activities.
- Select pertinent and current topics for discussion.
- Pray – for each other, your school, and your Church.
“Eat Right” is an important message that impacts all the stages of life. Proper nutrition, combined with physical activity, will promote good health and a long life. The dietetic interns at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama, help promote healthful nutrition and physical activities in support of the American Dietetic Association’s 2009 March National Nutrition Month’s theme, “Eat Right.” It can be applied in a variety of periods from pregnancy, the early years of a child’s life, and right through the senior years.
Throughout pregnancy, proper nutrition is very important. Eating a well-balanced diet, along with taking prenatal vitamins during breastfeeding, will ensure that you and your baby get the proper nutrients to stay healthy. Just 300 additional calories a day, through a variety of sources, will provide adequate nutrition for the appropriate development of your baby. It is vital to include a variety of whole grains, fruits, vegetables, dairy, and protein in your diet. During pregnancy it is also very important to drink eight glasses of water each day to rid the body of toxins; help with milk production; and prevent dehydration, constipation, and clogged milk ducts. In addition, it is imperative that mothers-to-be check with their doctor before taking any medications.

It takes four to six weeks after delivery to revert a mother’s reproductive organs to a non-pregnant state. During this period, a woman can experience fatigue, postpartum depression symptoms, and pain in various parts of her body. To encourage a mother to return to her natural weight, her diet should include nutrient-dense foods, such as whole grains, fruits, and vegetables. Moderate calories and physical exercise should also be encouraged.

Breastfeeding offers special bonding time, while the breast milk passes on protective antibodies to the baby. Breastfed babies have fewer complications from diarrhea, ear infections, and bacterial meningitis, according to new research. Not only are babies protected during their crucial first years, but it also provides some protection to mothers against ovarian and breast cancers, as well as osteoporosis later in life.

Infants should not be given cow’s milk until after their first year. Replacing formula with cow’s milk, which is deficient in Vitamins C, E, and copper, will not provide your baby with adequate nutrition and can lead to anemia. In addition, the excessive protein in cow’s milk can overload your baby’s kidneys, is harder to digest, and often causes intestinal blood loss, diarrhea, or vomiting.

A child’s appetite diminishes around one year of age, which is consistent with slowing growth, and it is not uncommon for them to become picky eaters at this time. Thereafter, they may demand more foods during periods of rapid growth to sustain a strong growth cycle and develop acceptance of more foods as they become familiar. It is important to limit fruit juice to four to six ounces per day.

During the formative years, nutrition plays an important role, and toddlers between three and five years of age are able to experiment with various tastes and textures of table food. To encourage a healthful lifestyle and decrease childhood obesity rates, a well-balanced diet incorporating a variety of fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, along with regular physical activities, will ensure proper growth and development.

Children five to 12 years old should be enjoying a variety of foods that include whole grains, fresh fruits, and dark colored vegetables. Their calcium should come from dairy products such as milk, yogurt, or cheese, yet be limited in fat. Protein is essential for their growth and can come from sources such as nuts and legumes.

Energy and nutrient needs peak during adolescence; therefore, it is important that teens eat a variety of nutrient-dense foods throughout the day. Since at least 40 percent of bone mass is formed during adolescence, parents should encourage teens to drink good sources of calcium and avoid soft drinks, which lower calcium intake and promote weight gain.

Tackling the new responsibilities of adulthood can take up most of one’s time and energy and lead to a sedentary lifestyle compared to the school age years. Young women of childbearing age may experience changes during which body fat increases and the need for essential nutrients such as folate, iron, and calcium increase, due to pregnancies.

For adults to prevent or delay diseases and be happier, it is key that they eat right, drink enough water, and exercise most days of the week. Consuming eight to 10 eight-ounce glasses of water each day can prevent dehydration, pacify hunger, and help rid the body of excess blood sugar and ammonia.

The elderly typically have lower energy needs due to a decreased metabolic rate and decreased physically activity. Eating from the five food groups will provide variety and is essential for weight control, maintaining a healthy condition, and preventing diseases. The elderly population is more susceptible to dehydration, due to a lack of thirst sensation, and it is very important for them to drink fluids, especially water. Taking multiple medications is common among the elderly population and should be monitored closely as it can cause side effects and compromise their nutritional status.

It is critical for children to make physical activity a part of their daily lifestyle. Being overweight increases their risks of cardiovascular disease.
and diabetes, among others. Physical activity is also vital for the support of bone mineralization and growth.

Children ages two to three years should get thirty minutes of exercise a day on five or more days of the week. The exercises can be performed in a home setting, a day care, or outdoors at the park and should include vigorous activities such as running, jumping rope, or playing tag.

During early childhood, children tend to develop fundamental motor skills and basic movement patterns through physical activity and are not ready for organized sports. Activities should be of moderate intensity for at least 30 minutes and include walking, running, and simple games.

Adolescents should consult their health care provider before beginning any exercise routine and enlist a qualified exercise instructor. Any exercise routine designed for adolescents should work all muscle groups through a full range of motion to achieve an overall balance and provide a healthy foundation to build upon, leading into adulthood.

It is also very important for adults to get exercise on a daily basis. Adults within the middle years should be encouraged to start with 30 minutes each day of moderate to vigorous activity. Not only does exercise help reduce the risk of chronic disease, but it helps with weight maintenance, increased muscle strength, coordination, balance, and improves bone health. Bone mass peaks at the age of 30, and then slowly declines after that, which can lead to osteoporosis. Adults are advised to incorporate some form of weight-bearing exercise into daily exercise routines, which will help prevent or slow bone loss.

Physical activity is important for people of all ages. Older adults are encouraged to stay active. Staying active can help you maintain and improve your strength to better remain independent, have more energy to do the things you want to do, improve your balance, prevent or delay diseases such as: heart disease, diabetes, and cancer. Activity can also lift your mood and decrease the rate of depression.

A good night’s sleep can lower blood pressure and stress hormones, which are a natural result of today’s fast-paced lifestyle. Too much stress causes excess wear and tear on your body, and increases the aging and degeneration of organs, cells, and other body parts. Sleep helps to reduce the levels of stress and inflammation in your body. High levels of inflammatory markers are linked to heart attacks, heart disease, and strokes. Sleep can also lower cholesterol levels.

When you eat right at any stage of your life, your body is better able to perform. It is crucial to your well being to maintain nutrition, exercise, and allow your body plenty of rest. The rewards of staying healthy will impact your entire life!

Marta Sovyanbad, Ph.D., RD, LDN, is the director of the dietetic internship program and associate professor in nutrition and dietetics in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama.

La-Tonya Dukes dedicated her dietetics career goal to the minority pediatrics population.

Oakwood University 2008-2009 dietetic interns take a breath outside of the Family and Consumer Science facility located at the Cooper Complex, with Marta Sovyanbadi (right), program director.

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For Henry and Arlene Stubbs, members of the Clemson, South Carolina, Church, it was an experience where the provision and presence of God really manifested itself. When the Stubbs and their supporters embarked on the Cuban project in September of 2008, despite the challenges, they were absolutely sure God was in the midst of the turmoil.

As they drove 1,000 miles across the land ravaged by Hurricane Ike, they saw areas so hard hit by the hurricane, the residents would be out of power for quite some time. However, the church members’ lives were spared in the storm, and thankfully, the power of God was still drawing people to attend the series of meetings they had planned. And yes, three more individuals, including Cubello, an aged crippled man who had to be carried into the waters of baptism, joined the family of God.

God’s power continued to prevail, even though 70 members of the Central Conference in Cuba lost part or all of their roofs. Although the Cuban government would not step in to replace the roofs, they made replacement roofs available for 50 American dollars. Amazingly, God’s people stepped in. When $5,500 in hurricane relief donations came from Carolina Conference members, it was exactly the amount needed to replace all 70 roofs.

The Stubbs and their merry missionary group rejoiced and worshiped God as sheets, blankets, and other supplies poured in to provide relief. Upon returning home, the Stubbs marveled at what God had accomplished during the short time they were in Cuba. The doors opened and God provided the following:

- Permission to import into Cuba a container of 30,000 to 50,000 Bibles.
- An agreement with the union president to present the One Day Church specifications to the Cuban Office of Religious Affairs to help solve the tremendous need for additional churches.
- Counseling and support for Jorge Luis Fontaine, who is starting a small home lifestyle center near Campaquey.
- A plan to launch the first one-month medical missionary training school in Cuba in March or April of this year.
- The initial plans to work with local conference and union officials to create an NGO (non-government organization) for a lifestyle center. The center is to be located on a portion of property in Sancti Spiritus being donated for a summer camp and meeting grounds.

God’s presence had clearly been with this couple as they worked in the Cuban project. Once again, God had delivered and provided beyond anything they would have thought to even ask for. What a privilege for the Carolina Conference to be involved.

Thanks, Henry and Arlene, for spearheading this triumphant venture for God.

If you would like more information about the Cuban project, please email vjmjacko@charter.net.
The clay roads had stained her small, 10-year-old bare feet with a distinctive red color. In a sling on her back, she carried her baby brother as she led her blind grandmother to a medical screening held at a church in Mozambique, Africa.

All day long, people sat on the hard clay ground with little or no food or water, waiting patiently to see a doctor on this last day of screenings. At the same time, a Vacation Bible School and a puppet show were held for the children.

After the puppet show, a volunteer approached the young girl to try to talk with her — a difficult task considering she spoke Portuguese. Soon, the volunteer noticed that the baby brother hadn’t moved or made a sound during their conversation.

The baby was taken to one of the doctors who immediately noticed he was unresponsive, severely dehydrated, and in poor condition. He quickly ordered an electrolyte solution for the baby who took almost a liter of solution before he opened his eyes and began responding. The young girl was then taught how to prepare the solution at home, and her brother’s life was spared.

On this Prints of Hope mission trip to Mozambique, Africa, 700 people and children received medical attention, and 100 children learned about Jesus through the Vacation Bible School. Two churches were constructed, and 1,600 children received a gift of a new outfit and shoes through the Prints of Hope Dress a Child outreach program that provides clothing for children in need.

The 2009 Prints of Hope mission destination is Paraguay, South America, with a plan to dress 5,000 children. More information about this Miami-based Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries (ASI) organization is available at printsofhope.org.

Prints of Hope Ministry Facts
• Founded in 2000 by CEO Abdiel Sosa
• Worked in nine countries
• 400+ volunteers
• 9,000+ people have received medical attention
• Thousands have accepted Jesus
• Thousands clothed through the Dress a Child program
• Nationally: health education classes, expos, and seminars, help for homeless and orphans, and previous assistance with hurricane disaster relief
Twenty students spent their Christmas break selling books in Miami. The students were from Southern Adventist University, Antillean Adventist University, and Greater Miami Adventist Academy. The students stayed in the Lauderhills Church and in a house owned by the Florida Conference in Miami. In the four weeks they were there, they sold more than 2,500 books. The students visited businesses and homes each morning at 10 a.m., working until 7:30 in the evenings. Many students came to the program not knowing each other, but left as close friends.

The last Sabbath before returning to school, the students conducted the entire morning worship at Miami Springs Church. The theme they chose for worship was “Stepping Out of Your Comfort Zone for Jesus.” There were many testimonies shared. One was from a Miami Springs member who told how students visited him seven years ago and invited him to church. He said he would not be there today if it was not for the student colporteur ministry. One of the students, Iriann Irizarry, shared a beautiful testimony of her experience during the Miami program. Here is a portion of what she said:

“My responsibility to warn the people, and share God’s love and to not be afraid of their words or be dismayed by them in any way.

“From that moment on, honestly, I was still a little scared, but now everything was different because I had the complete certainty that what I was doing was exactly what other witnesses and prophets had done before. I thought: ‘If the task wasn’t easy then … why would it be easy now that the world has gotten worst?’ I understood that the Lord was being good to me. He was going to be with me every step of the way, allowing me to have Divine appointments that I would never forget.

“Personally, I’d say that this work is definitely a challenging one. One has to struggle every day, not only with people, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places,” Ephesians 6:1. More than everything, one has to struggle with one’s self. Canvassing is not about earning money or selling books. It’s about making an important decision every morning. It’s about choosing to follow the Suffering Servant’s footsteps. It’s about perfection of character. It’s about letting God use you. It’s about being bold and courageous, not only when you want to, but when the will of God requires it. It’s about saving souls that otherwise are bound to perish and at the same time, saving our own. As we all agreed in this winter program in Miami, canvassing is one of the many ways by which we can step out of our comfort zone, into the real of the unknown, where Jesus is…”  

Iriann Irizarry

There will be many opportunities for young people to join this great canvassing movement. The summer is fast approaching. It is time to step out of our “comfort zone” for Jesus!”

Les McCoy is youth publishing director at Florida Conference.
Exceeding Expectations

BY JAMES CLOSSER

Commencement exercises for the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia (MTSA) Class of 2008 were held December 4, 2008, at the Madison Campus Church. Sixty-eight graduates received diplomas, hoods, and alumni pins. Special recognitions and awards were also presented.

MTSA founder Bernard V. Bowen, CRNA, M.S., M.A., Dsc (honoris causa), led the procession of MTSA administration, board, faculty, and graduates while carrying the MTSA mace. Laurence “Larry” E. Lancaster, Ed.D., ACNP, elected by the class, gave the commencement address.

Each year MTSA graduates well exceed requirements of the Council on Certification of Nurse Anesthetists (CCNA), regarding the number of cases and procedures for clinical experiences in order for the candidate to be eligible to take the certification examination. The following statistics, which highlight the achievements of this class and some of its specific graduates, were shared during the graduation ceremony by Mary Elizabeth “Ikey” DeVasher (’69/’94), Ph.D., CRNA, APN, MTSA, vice-president/dean.

• The CCNA requires each graduate to have administered anesthesia to 30 pediatric patients. This class performed an average of 156 anesthetics for pediatric patients. The graduate with the highest number was Jennifer Boyle, SRNA, with 302 pediatric cases.

• The CCNA requires each graduate to have provided anesthesia for 30 obstetrical patients. The average number of anesthetics in this category was 92. The student with the highest number of obstetrical patients was Arjana Ray, SRNA, with 224 cases.

• The CCNA requires a total of 25 regional anesthetics be performed by each graduate. These 25 can be from a combination of all categories of regional anesthesia, including epidural and spinal anesthesia. One of these categories alone (epidural anesthesia) this class performed an average of 75 epidurals. The graduate performing the highest number was Jeremy Donegan, SRNA. He placed 133 epidural anesthetics. This class performed an average of 34 spinal anesthetics. The graduate performing the most was Kim Altaffer, SRNA, with 86 spinals.

• The CCNA requires graduates perform a minimum of five fiberoptic intubations. This class performed a minimum of five fiberoptic intubations in the Simulation Skills Center, and an average of 11 fiberoptic intubations for surgical patients. The graduate with the most fiberoptic intubations was Dawn Price, SRNA, with 39.

There were four awards presented by MTSA faculty.

• The Andy Limone Memorial Award was presented to Adam Hogue, SRNA, by Amy, C. Gideon, B.S., M.S., MTSA LRC and information support director.

• The Team Spirit Award, sponsored by Baxter Pharmaceuticals, was presented to Bonnie Titre, SRNA, by Robin R. Taylor, M.D., MTSA faculty member and medical director.

• The Bernard V. Bowen Award was presented to Jesse James, SRNA, by John A. Shields, CRNA, MS, APN, MTSA faculty member and trustee.

• The Agatha Hodgins Award was presented to Julie York, SRNA, by Bernard D. Devasher, M.S., CRNA, M.S., APN, MTSA faculty member.

Closing remarks at the ceremony were shared in the form of a challenge by Mike Morel (’80), CRNA, M.S., APN, MTSA alumni association president.

Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia provides a Christian, Seventh-day Adventist learning environment that fosters the pursuit of truth, excellence in anesthesia practice, and a life of service. It ranks as one of the largest of more than 100 accredited schools of nurse anesthesia education in the United States. For more information, visit www.mtsa.edu.

middle tennessee school of anesthesia class of 2008
Free Health Fair in Fletcher Receives Strong Community Support

Park Ridge Hospital and the Arden Church hosted the fifth annual Arden Community Health Fair in Fletcher, N.C. The health fair drew community participation from more than 300 western North Carolina residents, representing more than 29 zip codes.

Utilizing medical professionals from Park Ridge Hospital, the health fair offered numerous free, no-appointment-necessary screenings, including bone density, foot screenings, lipid and glucose, skin cancer, oral cancer, blood pressure, hearing, and vision. A prayer area was also made available for spiritual needs. Additionally, a number of local vendors offered free food samples, massages, and health activities for the entire family.

“We are so pleased to be able to help sponsor such a vital community event,” said DeWayne Butcher, M.D., retired Park Ridge Hospital emergency room physician and chief coordinator of the health fair. “Many community members are without health insurance to cover these life-saving screenings, and by offering them for free we can help them evaluate their health risks. In fact, after we evaluated our screening numbers, more than 21 percent of those who received screenings discovered that they were at risk for specific health issues.”

“The blood drive was a wonderful success,” said Kristi Brown, Red Cross senior recruitment director. “We had 35 total units of productive donors, which means that as many as 93 people will receive life-saving blood donations.”

—BY JENNIFER PEREZ

New Surgical Suite Offers Advanced Technology, Treatment at Florida Hospital Altamonte

Florida Hospital Altamonte has unveiled their new, state-of-the-art surgical suite. This 30,000-square-foot surgical suite includes six operating rooms designed for the latest surgical innovations such as minimally invasive and robotic surgery.

Florida Hospital Altamonte’s fully integrated multi-media operating rooms provide a platform for live surgical broadcasts for training and educational purposes.

This provides international connectivity and enables live consultation with other medical experts within the Florida Hospital system and around the world.

“The new surgical suite provides a location in Seminole County where patients can come for the best surgical care,” said Dan Magnusson, director of surgical services at Florida Hospital Altamonte. “Because the facility has experienced surgeons, enhanced technology, and the most sophisticated surgical techniques, patients can be assured that they will receive the best treatment and technology available.”

—BY JENNIFER PEREZ
Big Things Planned for The Great Controversy

Jack Henderson used to sell The Great Controversy as a literature evangelist. Now he wants to give it away ... to everybody! On January 12, Henderson, who is a member of the Hendersonville, N.C., Church, announced his “Great Controversy Project” on 3ABN’s Today Show. He plans to send Ellen White’s book to every home in the country.

Recently, Hendersonville Church members distributed The Great Controversy to everyone in the county. Charles Ferguson, Hendersonville pastor, stated, “Nothing has electrified our church as this has.” Conferences across the North American Division have caught the vision, too. Michigan, Northern New England, and Carolina are just some of the conferences on board with this ambitious program. Donors are calling with small and large gifts to support the project. Already, money has been raised to send several hundred thousand copies.

The staff at Review and Herald Publishing Association (which prints the books for Henderson and mails them out) has been overwhelmed by calls. “The calls have been coming in at such a rate that, as we deal with one call, three others have had to leave a message,” says Howard Scoggins, an administrator at Review and Herald. “The fire has spread to Australia, Canada, and England.”

A physician called who had worked her way through school selling The Great Controversy. She wanted to send the book to everyone in her zip code. Another caller wanted to blanket the area around his Utah home because this was the book that had brought him into the Church.

Employees at Review and Herald are so enthused that some have pledged as much as two or three weeks’ salary to support the project, according to Scoggins.

For every dollar given, another home will receive a copy of The Great Controversy. Books are being delivered in gated communities, apartment complexes, prisons, dorm rooms, mansions, and farm houses. Everywhere that there is a mailbox, books are being delivered.

Henderson likes to quote a letter written in 1905 by Ellen White, where she said, “I am more anxious to see a wide circulation for this book than for any others that I have written; for in The Great Controversy, the last message of warning to the world is given more distinctly than in any of my other books.”

“Seeing people respond from all over the world tells me that people want to see this work finished,” says Henderson.

Those who want to support this project can make a donation by calling 877-721-4300 or visit www.ReviewandHerald.com. For information on how to blanket your zip code or rural route, call 800-600-7197.
Visitors Journey to Bethlehem — By Way of Kernersville

During the Christmas season it’s common to see a nativity scene used to decorate a church or home. But how often does one get to “travel back in time” to actually be there when the baby Jesus was born?

If you had been at the Kernersville, N.C., Church on the first two weekends in December, you would have been able to make such a journey.

Thousands of guests from the community flocked to the church to take their “Walk Through Bethlehem.” As part of Caesar’s decree, each guest was returning to the ancient city to pay taxes and be counted for the royal census. As they wandered through the streets, vendors and merchants bid them to sample their wares.

As it was bitter cold and all were tired, the travelers were taken to the inn, but just as Joseph and Mary had found, there were no more rooms to be had. The innkeeper directed the group to take shelter in the stable.

There, surrounded by animals and tucked in a manger, was the baby Jesus. His mother shared how they came to be in that humble home, and how the Lord had guided them. The news had spread about the miraculous birth. As the travelers left the stable, they ran into the three wise men from the east coming to pay tributes to the new King.

The travelers were propelled through time once again, and found themselves at the foot of the cross, and then in the empty tomb where angels confirmed that Jesus was indeed alive. He had conquered death once and for all! Each guest was given the opportunity to become immersed in the experience, and feel as though they were actually witnessing God’s plan in action.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

Lily Daniel gets a kiss from a baby donkey as she poses for a picture with Don Davis (right), Kernersville pastor, and Herman Cox.

Progress Continues on Arden Community Center

God continues to bless the Arden, N.C., Church in the building of its new community center.

To make room for the new building, it was necessary to remove a mountain of 23,000 cubic yards of dirt. The estimated cost to move the dirt was more than $100,000. The members had been advertising for months, when one day a contractor offered to move the entire amount of dirt at no cost to the church!

The next step was to raise the money for the building project. God again blessed and soon it was time to sign a construction contract. At the end of September, supplies and equipment started arriving. Using steel construction has made the project progress quickly.

The economy may be in trouble, but God is not cutting back on blessing His work. Follow the building progress at www.ardenadventist.org.

—BY OWEN SPENCER
Camp Kulaqua Gala Raises Funds for Campers

Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Fla., held its fourth annual Gala on November 3, 2008. The evening’s theme was “Autumn Dreams: Making Children’s Dreams Come True.”

Serving as a benefit to raise money for the Worthy Camper Fund, the Gala was produced by the camp staff, and most of the food, decorations, and silent auction items were donated by local businesses.

Gourmet dining set the tone for the semi-formal evening with live music, a silent auction, and carriage ride tours of the campus. The benefit brought in more than $11,000 to use for camp scholarships in the summer of 2009. Gala committee members felt they should step out in faith to hold the Gala in spite of the economy, and they were pleased with the community’s willingness to pitch in and help once again.

Forty-eight children were able to attend summer camp last year as a result of the 2007 Autumn Dreams Gala. The gifts to these campers were especially meaningful to families who experienced the loss of a paycheck and needed help.

The fifth annual Gala is scheduled for November 2, 2009. For information, visit www.campkulaqua.com.

—BY STEFI AFFRON

Phil Younts, camp ministries administrative director, welcomes and thanks guests for supporting Camp Kulaqua and reminds them to check on their silent auction bids throughout the evening.

Misty Edge Carriage supports the Gala every year with free rides. Camp Kulaqua employee Dean Davis serves as tour guide, describing the various amenities the camp offers to guests.

Umatilla Members Host Grand Opening for New Church

The grand opening for the 125-member Umatilla, Fla., Church was held on November 30, 2008. Started as a mission group on October 6, 2001, the church became a company on April 13, 2002, and an organized church on March 15, 2003. Jim Appel serves as pastor.

—BY GERI BOWER

The Umatilla Church choir and youth orchestra, under the direction of Ray Ducay, combined to provide music.
Florida News

Clearwater Centenarian Reflects on God’s Leading

A 100th birthday celebration for Evelyn Gray, October 12, 2008, was hosted by her daughter, Marianne Mattox, in Clearwater, Fla.

The centenarian’s story began in Waynesboro, Va., where she lived as a child. Gray remembers horses and buggies, yet quickly adds that the Model T Ford was invented the same year she was born.

She married Walter Gray, an electrical engineer, and they lived in Pittsburgh, Pa. One day a tract was dropped off at their door advertising evangelistic meetings conducted by Andrew Fearing, pastor. Gray put the tract on the mantel, but days later decided she wasn’t interested and took it to the basement to burn in the furnace with the other garbage. When she started back up the stairs, she saw that the pamphlet had fallen on the floor. As she picked it up, she felt impressed to attend the first meeting, where she was amazed to find people who really understood the Bible. A few months later, she joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church even though her Lutheran minister spoke against the Sabbath.

Gray loved to travel, and she worked on major mission projects in such places as South America and the Caribbean Islands. In 1946 she spoke at the General Conference Session held in Washington, D.C. Then, as a church elder in Buffalo, N.Y., she attended the 1980 General Conference in Dallas, Tex., where she was one of the first women delegates to represent the New York Conference.

After moving to Florida in 1992, she taught Sabbath School in the Clearwater Church. She now resides in Freedom Square Nursing home where she witnesses for Christ to the employees and patients. She faithfully studies her Bible as she learned to do as a child with her mother. She can regale you with tales of the 1900’s as easily as she can portray current events in relationship to the soon coming of Jesus.

—by Joy Hunter

Punta Gorda Conducts Health Emphasis Weekend

“The Quest for Radiant Health” was the theme of a health emphasis weekend, December 5-7, 2008, at the Punta Gorda, Fla., Church, under the direction of Kollis Fairweather, health ministries leader.

The weekend program began Friday evening with Justino Silvestre, M.D., a local oncologist, presenting current data in his talk about preventing cancer.

Saturday morning continued with “How to Prevent the Spread of Infection,” by Melanie Hall, R.N. Rudolph Peters, a pastor in northern California, delivered the Sabbath sermon, “Imaging God,” in which he spoke about the creation of man and the wholeness that Jesus came to restore in him.

Following a luncheon, Anton Dameff, M.D., spoke on “The Creation Concept” of healthful living; and a panel consisting of four physicians, a dietitian, a registered physical therapist, a respiratory therapist, a nurse, and an ordained minister addressed the topic, “The Quest for Radiant Health.”

At the health fair on Sunday, physicians, dentists, a dental hygienist, nurses, and dietitians were available to answer questions. The health fair provided blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, body mass index checks, smoking cessation information, breadmaking, samples of non-meat dishes, and an introduction to the NEWSTART Lifestyle program from Weimar Center of Health and Education.

—by Susan Stuto

Evelyn Gray reminisces during her 100th birthday party.

Evelyn Gray

Thalia Penrose-Jones, R.N., checks Odaine Huggins’ blood pressure.

Robert GasPeredWin FairWea ther
Pathfinder Leaders Honored for Service

In recognition of three outstanding Pathfinder leaders, each of their churches recently held special services in their honor.

In Peachtree City, Ga., a program was held December 10, 2008, in honor of Bob Bird, known as “Big Bird,” and his wife, Margie, who is known as “Mama Bird.” They have served as local Pathfinder directors at the Atlanta Southside Church in Jonesboro, Ga., as well as Conference Pathfinder coordinators. They have done the task of organizing the layout of camping areas for Union and International Camporees, and assisted in various other ways. Bob’s health is now declining due to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). At the recognition program, 80 people attended, 19 of whom where former Southside Pathfinders. Lucille Mann was recognized at the Lakeland, Ga., Church on January 24, 2009. She has served as a local Pathfinder director and a Conference coordinator. During the recognition program, Pathfinders read personal letters; and Dale Walker, Lakeland Adventist School teacher, read a poem, then presented flowers and a large thank you card from the students. Mann’s health is declining due to cancer. Also on January 24, the Gainsville, Ga., Church organized a recognition program for Jerry Abernathy and his wife, Marcia, who serve on the Pathfinder staff for the Gainsville club.

“It is amazing to take time to honor these three individuals,” says John Swafford, Conference Pathfinder director. “Through the years, each served as key players in the growth of the Georgia-Cumberland Pathfinder program. Bob Bird and Lucille Mann served (and continue to serve in the capacity they can manage at this time) as area coordinators during major portions of the past two decades. Each of them, with Jerry Abernathy, have served as dedicated club directors who always went the extra mile to accomplish what was needed. What a blessing their witness has been to countless young people! Eternity will tell the story much better than what we can do as we seek to honor them. It has been my privilege and continues to be to count each of these awesome leaders as friend!”

—by John Swafford and Rebecca Brooks

Hixson Church Ministers to Chattanooga Homeless

The Hixson, Tenn., Church hosted its third annual Christmas Dinner Program for the homeless of Chattanooga, Tenn. Last year they served 75 people; this year they served more than 140 people — almost double the amount from last year.

The event was held in downtown Chattanooga at the Olivet Baptist Church. They wanted the guests to feel important, so they rented the fellowship hall and held a very nicely decorated banquet. There were approximately 30 people helping with the event.

The group distributed large decorative bags full of various items, including hand-made scarves and hats the women at the Hixson Church made, soft fleece blankets, tooth brushes, tooth paste, soap, shampoo, socks, fruit, nuts, juice, water, candy canes with Bible verses, and more. As the guests enjoyed their meal, the group presented a Christmas program called “The Nativity.”

The Hixson Church plans to do this program for the homeless of Chattanooga every year. If anyone would like to join the group this year, please call Sylvia Knoch at 423-847-1795.

—by Sylvia Knoch

Volunteers prepare dessert for the homeless who attended the Christmas program.
Inez Wren Students Win National Video Contest

Eric Hickman and Nathan Chung, ninth grade students at Inez Wrenn Adventist School in Crossville, Tenn., recently entered and won a national video contest named G5. The contest was sponsored by Insightmagazine.org with 23,000 monthly visits, and was open to anyone who wanted to enter. The prize was an ipod or $300 cash. The contest required the video to address one of the Fruits of the Spirit as listed in Galatians 5:22. The students titled their video “Patience is a Virtue.”

Featuring the universal problem of sibling rivalry as their plot, the students did their own camera work as well as editing after they filmed Chung and his younger brother in several scenes involving difficulty between two brothers, as well as a nightmare scene referencing Abraham Lincoln.

Kim Peckham, director of web development for the Review and Herald Publishing Association in Hagerstown, Md., stated that the judges were impressed with the way the boys zeroed in — in a clear and practical way — on the application of patience, dramatizing it in a way that students could identify with. As well as being placed on the sponsoring website, their video was placed on a sister site, guidemagazine.org and has already received more than 900 views.

Hickman and Chung expressed appreciation to their parents and teacher for critiquing their video, and offering them encouragement and support. Inez Wrenn Adventist School congratulates the students on their accomplishment.

—by Virginia Coyle

Marietta Opens AAA Campus

Atlanta Adventist Academy (AAA) has reason to celebrate and praise God. This year, January 5, the latest metro AAA campus opened in Marietta with 10 students.

Miracles have made this secondary Adventist education possible. Three years ago, there was a huge vision for AAA to make education available for students in Atlanta and the entire Conference, and yet allow them to live at home. The multi-campus school idea was born. This concept had never been attempted with any other Adventist Academy.

The theme for this project was summed up by the following quote from author Bruce Wilkinson: “We are expected to attempt something large enough that failure is guaranteed ... unless God steps in .... You do not become great; you become dependent on the strong hand of God.”

The AAA Marietta campus had many challenges due to permits and building codes, but God prevailed. The Marietta campus has a brand new building with six state-of-the-art classrooms and offices. Completing this campus after three years of anticipation made AAA realize once again that nothing is impossible with God.

Today there are three AAA Atlanta metro sites — Duluth, Peachtree City, and Marietta — and five partner campuses throughout the Conference. All sites are connected via the latest technology, which aids in teaching 130 AAA students who are educated in a 21st Century classroom.

“We are thankful to God for the opportunity to be innovative in ministering to His youth! With financial assistance, multi-campuses, and a work program, it is possible for students to attend AAA if they desire a quality Adventist high school,” says David Denton, AAA principal.

For more information, call 404-699-1400 or email lforsey@aaa.edu.

—by La Ronda Forsey
BMA Holds Mission Emphasis Weekend

Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) held its annual Mission Emphasis weekend on January 16 and 17. This year the featured guests were Tim Holbrook, former director of Frontier Missions in Asia, and his wife, Dawn. Friday night and Sabbath morning, Tim told the students inspiring stories from his extensive mission service ministering to the primitive peoples in the Philippines. He urged the students to become involved in missions now and to consider being a student missionary during college.

Dawn Holbrook concluded the inspirational talks during Sabbath evening Vespers by sharing her stories of mission service and challenging the students to “go where God calls you to go.”

In coordination with the weekend’s theme, BMA also hosted an international food fair for Sabbath lunch. Church members and faculty brought an array of ethnic and exotic dishes to share with students and visitors.

Following lunch, participants assembled care packages for student missionaries from Southern Adventist University who are currently serving overseas. The packages were filled with goodies that would survive the arduous journey, and things that would help the student missionary in their place of service. Packets of macaroni and cheese, colored pencils, stickers, stationary, dried fruit, hair barrettes, and even some packets of Taco Bell sauce. In addition, each package contained handwritten letters of encouragement from BMA students. After each package was closed, a group of students and church members prayed for God’s blessing to follow the package.

—BY KIM TWOMLEY

Member Receives Belated Birthday Present

During the past six months, transportation problems have kept Alan Lisenba house-bound. Being confined to a wheelchair, Lisenba was unsure how he could attend church. North Bay Church Sabbath School members began praying for a solution. One of their members recalled seeing an ad for a specialized van in a local newspaper. Sorting through her old papers, the ad was found and a call made to the owner — the van was still available. After understanding the church’s need, the owner reduced the price to $13,000. A campaign was mounted and members of the North Bay Church, in Southport, Fla., and community members raised the money within 13 days!

On November 10, 2008, one day after Lisenba’s birthday, he and his mother, Kay, received the beautiful Ford conversion van. The church was blessed to be a part of this gift as Lisenba is such an inspiration to each member. He is delighted that he no longer has to be confined to his house and is looking forward to attending and participating in church, encouraging patients at the hospital, and volunteering at the local rescue mission.
Conference Holds Marriage Enrichment Weekend

Twelve couples from the Gulf States Conference came together at Shocco Springs in Talladega, Ala., October 24-26, 2008, for the Conference’s second annual Marriage Enrichment Weekend, with keynote speaker Philip Samaan, D.Min., Southern Adventist University religion professor, accompanied by his talented wife, Sherilyn.

The couples, with marriages ranging from two-and-a-half to 41 years, experienced the compelling, heart-felt presentations of Samaan, detailing the power of a strong relationship with Christ to enhance the quality of married life. Samaan affirmed that breathing, eating, and exercising are every bit as essential for spiritual health as for physical health.

Sherilyn Samaan played the piano and the harp, which brought vital, refreshing moments with music that exerted a soothing, healing power.

At the end of the enrichment sessions, several participants commented on what they found to be particularly valuable: “No doubt a good marriage relationship begins with a good relationship with Jesus.” “I have learned new ways of using prayer to strengthen our marriage,” someone else added. “Dr. Samaan’s presentations,” said another, “reminded me that our Father has a hundred ways of helping us in our relationships, and we know so little.”

A couple married a little more than two years said that the weekend put them in a position to learn from the experiences of older couples. Their coming helped them to realize some things they need to work on in their marriage. “Many more people need to attend these sessions rather than wait until a crisis develops in their marriage,” several others added.

Perhaps the most telling comment came from Anita Pembleton, seminar director, “Watching couples once apart come together in unity as the weekend progresses is pure joy.”

The enrichment seminar is a blessing that needs multiplying, so another one is planned for October this year.

—BY NATHAN MOORE

Churches Hold First Evangelistic Meetings

The Tupelo, Miss., Church held the first evangelistic meeting in the Conference for the new year on January 15. Johnny Mosquera, Conference evangelist, conducted the meetings with the help of Ray Elsberry, pastor.

A week later evangelistic meetings began in Oxford, Miss., under the leadership of Ezequiel Osorio, Hispanic pastor for the northern Alabama and Mississippi district. At the same time, across the Conference at the Roebuck Church in Birmingham, Ala., evangelistic meetings began with Ric Swaningson, Wisconsin Conference evangelist, and Mike Cruzon, Roebuck pastor.

All the pastors involved in the meetings have reported a good turnout of visitors and members.

These meetings are the beginning of more than 50 planned Conference evangelistic meetings this year in conjunction with the Year of Pastoral and Lay Evangelism. Not only will the planned meetings be held by the pastor, but by dedicated lay people as well. The Conference’s baptism goal is 1,500 individuals — a threefold increase over previous years.

—BY REBECCA GRICE
Members and friends filled the Hendersonville, Tenn., Church to celebrate the burning of the church’s mortgage on Sabbath, January 17, 2009.

The celebration began on Friday evening, January 16, with an Agape Feast and Communion Service led by John van Zyl, Conference ministerial director.

During the worship service the following morning, Donald Bethea gave the history of the church, and Richard Hallock, Conference president, congratulated the congregation on its accomplishment. Jerry Rimer, pastor, delivered the message, and Douglas Hilliard, Conference treasurer, assisted in burning the mortgage.

Following a fellowship dinner, a program of music was interspersed with testimonies remembering how God had led the church since its beginning.

The church had its beginnings in 1979 when a small group of Adventists from several churches in the area decided to plant a church in Hendersonville. They started meeting first in members’ homes and later in the First Presbyterian Church in Hendersonville. The building program began in the summer of 1986 with the first phase of construction—a chapel, classrooms, pastor’s office, kitchen, and restrooms. The first services were held in January 1987. In 1989, a second phase—a hallway and additional classrooms were completed. The congregation continued to grow.

In July 1995, construction began on the sanctuary, which seats 350. On May 3, 1997, a 17-year dream became a reality when the sanctuary was completed and the first services were held. Members see the satisfaction of the mortgage as a new beginning. The time, energy, and resources previously expended to pay off the debt can now be directed to further spreading the Present Truth in the community.

—by Marvin Lowman

When Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary, and his wife, Donette, began running four years ago, they just wanted to stay fit. They were partially inspired by their two grown children, who ran their first marathon in 2005 at Walt Disney World. Their daughter, Tamara Ritterskamp, and son, Brian, are also triathletes. But, Mom and Dad never dreamed of running a marathon—26.2 miles—themselves.

Following the Walt Disney World Marathon in January 2008, the Lowmans decided to run in the 2009 Disney Marathon as a family. Since parents, daughter, and son live in different cities, each had to train separately, but they tried to follow similar training schedules. Training was done in all seasons of the year—heat, cold, rain, and wind.

“God has been gracious enough to tell us how to care for our bodies,” says Marvin Lowman, “and training for a marathon has made us a lot more conscious about our health in general. Good nutrition, proper rest, and physical exercise have paid great dividends in our quality of life.”

Walt Disney World markets itself as the place “Where Dreams Come True.” The dream came true on January 11, when the four crossed the finish line together. Mom and Dad may never run another marathon, but the experience had a spiritual lesson. All are in a race, and the Apostle Paul admonishes to “run with endurance the race that is set before us” Hebrews 12:1.

—by Donette Lowman
Ridgetop School Throws Party

“Do all the backpacks have enough toys? Is each marked for a boy or girl? Can we fit all of them in the cars? Are the snacks and crafts ready to go? Do you know how to get there?” These were a few of the questions heard while preparing to leave.

Animated Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School students and their teachers celebrated Christmas in a very special way by sharing with children in the Head Start program at Bradford Elementary School in Springfield, Tenn. The students’ families and friends filled more than 50 backpacks with gifts and treats given to the excited children.

The students also brought refreshments and crafts to share with the youngsters in three classrooms.

School principal, Kathy Trumper, made the arrangements for the visit, and the Home and School Association assisted in the project. The Head Start supervisor and teachers expressed their appreciation for making Christmas so special for the 3- and 4-year olds.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Angel Kisses Given International Recognition

The Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC) invited the teen Sabbath School class from the Louisville First Church to present their Angel Kisses program at the GYC’s annual conference in December. The conference attracted more than 5,000 participants from 41 countries to San Jose, Calif.

At first, teen Sabbath School leaders Heidi Ruckle, David Voignier, and Cheryl Keplinger thought it would be impossible to raise the $9,000 needed in order to participate. With encouragement from Andrea Mading, the pastor’s wife, the class decided to make the effort necessary. Miraculously, the funds were raised in less than one month.

At the conference, outreach projects by groups from all over the world were presented along with inspirational talks by speakers such as Mark Finley and Shawn Boonstra. It was exciting and inspirational to see so many youth and learn of their activities. Most of the projects were created by colleges and other larger groups. Angel Kisses was pleased to present an effective outreach program which could be done by a group of teenagers or a small church.

The Teen Class will continue its Angel Kisses program, which provides baby blankets, love, and support for needy mothers and children in the Louisville area. So far, nearly 100 baby blankets have been made by the class.

Cheryl Keplinger, who works in the hospital where the blankets are distributed, says, “The mothers are surprised and grateful when they receive the blankets for their new babies.” She also has quite a few stories about how Angel Kisses changes lives and added, “The University of Louisville’s marketing staff is so impressed with Angel Kisses, they featured the project in their January newsletter.”

The success of the teens’ Angel Kisses program has inspired a younger Sabbath School division at Louisville First to make fleece-filled dolls to accompany the blankets.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER
Atlanta Area Chorale Performs During Inauguration

It was with unbridled anticipation that the Atlanta, Ga., chorale, New Creation, traveled to Washington, D.C., on Friday, January 16, to participate in the Inauguration events of the 44th President of the United States.

Their first engagement took place early Sabbath morning at the People’s Inaugural Gala Prayer Breakfast. The event featured such speakers H. Beecher Hicks Jr. and Walter Fauntroy, pastor. Gospel recording artists Myrna Summers and Stephen Hurd performed, and to add a bit of youthful praise, the Howard University Gospel Choir sang. New Creation opened the service with “Holy Is Thy Name,” and used as a pastoral benediction an original piece written by Patricia Tyson of Chicago, Ill., entitled, “Change We Can Believe In.”

At 12 noon, the group was invited to an Inaugural luncheon at the Grand Hilton honoring First Lady Michelle Obama, on the occasion of her birthday. Once again, the chorale began the celebration, this time with a celebratory rendition of “Daniel Saw De Stone,” which was punctuated by what is fast becoming the 21st Century anthem of hope, “There Is A Balm In Gilead.” In attendance were honorees such as Congresswoman Donna Edwards, Gloria Steinem, and many more.

The group did not want to visit Washington, D.C., without an opportunity to sing at one of the local Adventist churches. To close the Sabbath, they sang at Metropolitan Church and were inspired by their youth program.

On Sunday, January 18, their appointment was at the National Presbyterian Church. There they participated in both the 9:15 and 11 a.m. worship services. It was a worship experience that will long be remembered as they sang the great hymn, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”

Their final stop was at the historic Lincoln Theatre, where the chorale opened for Grammy award winning artist Richard Smallwood & Vision. They opened the gala concert in stellar form, bringing the audience to its feet with the timeless Negro spiritual, “You Must Have That True Religion,” featuring spinto soprano Lianna Wimberly.

Years earlier, at the 2004 democratic presidential campaign rally in Daytona Beach, Fla., the chorale also had an opportunity to sing. After the performance, a U.S. Senate hopeful from Illinois, Barack Obama, who was campaigning on behalf of John Kerry, spoke at the rally. It is believed that because of the chorale’s memorable performance during that event, the invitation was extended to them for the 2009 Inaugural events.

—BY TONY THOMPSON

Children Launch Balloons for New Year

With a balloon, a message, and a smile, young people from Zion Temple Church in Greenwood, S.C., met Wednesday, December 31, 2008, to start the New Year with a positive note to uplift spirits.

The church’s Adventist Youth Society (AYS) met to collect and release 25 colorful balloons, each with a message — Jesus is our only hope. Jesus loves you. Jesus is coming soon. Will you be ready? — and the church address and phone number inside.

“This is our way of closing out 2008 and bringing in 2009,” said Arlene Morgan, organizer. Although the church periodically has community activities, this is the first year church members have engaged in a New Year’s celebration, complete with the balloons launch, games, a meal, and prayer. The celebration was open to church members, as well as church and community children.

A poster for the event asked parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles to bring children and their friends.

“This is not the first year we’ve done something specifically for New Year, but it is the first year we’ve had the children involved,” said Cheryl Simmons, chaplain. “We’re looking to where we can have a moms’ night out and a respite for parents, where we would watch the children, have games and activities for a couple hours, so the parents can shop or whatever they need to do for a short period of time.”

While adults looked toward the activities of 2009, children at the celebrations seemed more fascinated by the moment at hand and the chance to spread a positive message through simple balloons.

Simmons added, “We’re praying the balloons released will be effective, and whoever finds the balloons will receive a blessing and respond to the invitation to accept Christ.”

—BY JENNIFER COLTON
South Atlantic Conducts Commissioning Ceremony

South Atlantic conducted its second Commissioning Service in the chapel of the Conference office in Atlanta, Ga., on Sabbath, January 10, 2009.

Deandra Johnson-Griffeth and Cheryl Simmons, who are also employed as hospital chaplains, were the two women to receive their commission.

Vanard J. Mendinghall, Conference president, and William L. Winston, Conference executive secretary, presided over the ceremony. Pennie Lister-Smith, Ed.D., Conference vice-president for education, gave the address for the ceremony. Smith was the first female in South Atlantic to be commissioned.

After Mendinghall gave the charge, Griffeth’s brother, Wendell Johnson, sang a musical charge, “Go Light Your World.”

Griffeth graduated from Oakwood University, formerly Oakwood College, with a bachelor of arts degree in religion, and an associate in nursing. She graduated from the Inter-denominational Theological Center with a master of divinity and a master of arts in church music. She is presently employed as a staff chaplain at the University Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Cheryl Simmons, after working for a number of years as a registered respiratory therapist, received a bachelor’s degree in theology and a master’s in clinical ministry. She has completed the chaplain’s residency program at Palmetto Health Baptist and Richland Hospitals. Presently, she is completing the requirements to become a board certified chaplain.

―by JAMES K. LAMB

DAJA Receives “School of Excellence” Check

Decatur Adventist Junior Academy (DAJA), located in Stone Mountain, Ga., is the first South Atlantic school to achieve the Adventist EDGE status. DAJA students proudly display a replica of the $18,000 check the school received as a part of the award from the Southern Union Conference.
Sisters Preach First Sermon

Alexis and Shelbe Johnson do everything together. They live in the same house. They go to the same school. They were baptized together, and they are both faithful members of the Lighthouse Church Sparks Adventurer Club in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

The sisters, ages 10 and 7, went one step further and preached their first sermon together during the church’s annual Children’s Day program.

“We believe preaching together will give you a double dose of God’s word,” said Shelbe, the youngest of the two, in her opening remarks before the congregation. “You get two for the price of one!”

In their sermon Alexis and Shelbe elaborated on the day’s theme and they examined the biblical significance of light from Creation to the New Earth, and explained the true meaning of Matthew 5:14-16, which instructs Christians to let their lights shine before men.

“Imagine what the world would be like without light,” Alexis told the congregation. “It would be dark. It would be gloomy.” That’s why it’s so important for men and women to let their lights shine, Alexis and Shelbe went on to explain.

After the sermon, Shelbe described the moment as one she would never forget. “It was fun and a great experience,” she said. All who attended would agree.

Other children who participated in the morning service included: Dania Dunkley, call to worship; Kindyanah Nicholas, opening song; Everett Scott, scripture reading; Twila Rhoden, intercessory prayer; Michelle Amos, introduction of speaker and benediction; Anthony Hanlan, closing song; Jovian Foster, children’s story; Coriann Gentles, welcome; Cheyanne Bent, church clerk; and D’nishia Gumbs, Sabbath School superintendent.

Mt. Calvary Hosts 3ABN Live Broadcast

The Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa, Fla., recently hosted the Three Angels’ Broadcast Network’s (3ABN) live broadcast of the Sabbath in Africa study group seminar series. It is estimated that the two-day broadcast was viewed by more than 500,000 individuals worldwide.


The broadcast aired seven seminars that focused on “The Story Less Told” — of the globalization of Adventism, the explosive growth of African Christianity, and how these intersect with biblical prophecy.

The Sabbath in Africa study group was launched by Bradford in 1991 with the purpose of “investigating and documenting historical and contemporary expressions of Sabbath consciousness on the African continent.”

Members of the group include Harold Lee, D.Min., Oakwood University Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Institute director; Douglas Morgan, Ph.D., professor of history at Columbia Union College; Seth Bardu, M.A., Columbia Union Conference treasurer; Emory Tolbert, Ph.D., professor of history at Howard University; Kofi Owusu Mensa, Ph.D., author, Saturday & Adventism in Ghana; Keith Burton, Ph.D., author, The Blessing of Africa; Bertram Melbourne, Ph.D., Howard University Divinity School professor; Joan Francis, D.A., Columbia Union College Department of History and Political Studies chair; Ganoune Diop, Ph.D., Adventist World Headquarters Global Missions Study Center director; Russell Staples, Ph.D., Andrews University missiology professor emeritus; Dwight Bradford, FAA programs manager, Technology Services Corporation; and Lois Peters, L.H.D. president/CEO, International Healthcare Consultants.

For 11 years, Bradford served as president of the North American Division. For more information about the Sabbath in Africa study group, visit www.africanchristianity.org. Check the 3ABN program schedule at www.3abntv.org for possible rebroadcasts.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY
Emmanuel Church Gives Commissioner *Desire of Ages*

Every year Southern Union and the North American Division church members invite civic leaders to their churches to thank them for their tireless service to their communities. While it is customary to honor these individuals by giving them an award of some sort, Clarence Richardson, pastor of Emmanuel Church, and his team, Anne Richardson, Loraine Griffith, and Thelma Percy, had a desire to impact the lives of those visitors in a different way.

Richardson decided to give each honored guest a plaque and a copy of the *Desire of Ages*. Richardson, who worked in the publishing industry for more than 24 years, served as publishing director for Northeastern Conference, marketing representative for *Message* magazine at Review & Herald Publishing Association, and Southeastern Conference publishing director, knows the power that Adventist literature has to win individuals for the kingdom. “It is not enough to just invite people to our Church. We must make sure we take advantage of every opportunity to expose them to the Gospel,” stated Richardson.

Ellen White spoke of exposing such individuals to the Adventist message: “The Gospel is to be proclaimed in our cities. Men of learning and influence are to hear the message.”

Honored individuals include Willie Bright, Deland, Fla., City Commissioner; Joyce Cusack, Florida State Representative, District 27; and Cynthia Tolbert, attorney and professor. Each visitor received copies of the Ten Commandments.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

New Leadership at Mt. Sinai Junior Academy

When the doors of Mt. Sinai Junior Academy in Orlando, Fla., opened on August 11, 2008, the students were greeted by a new principal.

Toni Denise Drummond was invited by Mt. Sinai school board and the Southeastern Conference board of education to take the position for the 2008-2009 school year.

Drummond succeeds Brenda Cowan, who was the principal for six years. Cowan has accepted the position of principal at Alcy Junior Academy in Memphis, Tenn.

In addition to her leadership at Mt. Sinai Junior Academy, Cowan will be remembered for her creative adventures during the Conference-wide outdoor education each year.

Realizing that she is stepping into “gigantic shoes,” Drummond is not daunted. She assured the teachers, “I am confident that, if we all work in one accord with the single goal of educating children for God’s Kingdom, He will give us all the strength that we stand in need of.”

When asked to administer the school program for the new school year, Drummond reflected on her years of educational preparation at Oakwood University where she received a B.S. in education, and an M.A. from Nova Southeastern University in administration. Despite this preparation, Drummond realizes that the wisdom to lead Mt. Sinai into the spiritual, scholastic, and technological realm where it needs to be can only come from the Author of education, God.

Mt. Sinai Junior Academy installed Lily James, Ph.D., as the new school board chair. James is also depending on God as she leads the operation of the school within the guidelines and policies adopted by the Conference.

James is not new to this post. She served as chair before the school moved into the current building, and therefore knows the challenges faced by this appointment.

With more than 30 years of leadership roles in the Church and in the field of education, James accepts the challenges in stride.

The goal of Drummond, James, and the staff at Mt. Sinai Junior Academy is that the students receive a true education.

For more information, visit www.msjacademy.org.

—BY BETTY NUGENT
Southern Benefits from Sabbath Blessings

“I used to be angry that I had to work on Sabbath,” says David Brannon, an anesthesiologist at Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Ga.

But one day all that changed as he was reading *The Desire of Ages*, chapter 21. There, Ellen White recounts one Sabbath morning when Jesus was on a mission. Jesus was walking the streets of Jerusalem alone in prayer. As he drew near the pool of Bethesda, the plight of every hurting soul tore at His heart, but one man in particular caught His attention. “Rise, take up your bed, and walk,” Jesus told him. This man grasped hold in faith to the line of hope Jesus stretched out, and in one beautiful moment his life was changed forever.

Brannon began to see what God wanted him to do. “I came under conviction that I shouldn’t profit from taking care of people on the Sabbath,” he said.

Now he gives his Sabbath earnings to people around him who are in need. Brannon finds it exciting to view each patient he sees on Sabbath as a way of God providing in advance for His children.

Brannon’s giving extends to Southern Adventist University’s Southern Fund and the Jeff Evans Memorial Scholarship. The Southern Fund helps keep tuition low by supplementing campus funding to the areas that need it most, while the Jeff Evans Memorial Scholarship aids incoming freshmen from the Southern Union.

“God is in control, and He is working in ways that we have no idea of,” says Brannon. “He is providing for the needs of the people around us.”

—BY RACHEL FEHL

Orchestra Performs at 3ABN

The Southern Adventist University Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Laurie Redmer Minner, associate professor, recently recorded its first-ever performance for Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN).

“I’ve always wanted to perform at 3ABN,” says Minner. “The recording gives those we’ve not performed for the chance to hear the orchestra play.”

The orchestra recorded several pieces including “Sinfonia” and “Rejoice Greatly, O Daughter of Zion” from “Messiah” by Georg Frideric Handel, “Meditation on Brother James’s Air” by Harold Darke, and “Nimrod” by Edward Elgar.

For more information on how you can obtain a copy of the recording, call Laurie Minner at 423-236-2164. Proceeds go to help fund the orchestra.

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI

WSMC Hosts Holiday Read With Me

WSMC, Southern Adventist University’s classical radio station, hosted a special holiday version of its Read With Me program for long-term patients and “Miracle Children” from T.C. Thompson Children’s Hospital on Monday, December 15, 2008. Miracle Children are those who have overcome tremendous odds and are chosen by T.C. Thompson to represent the hospital for a year.

Erlanger Hospital CEO Jim Brexler read to the children during the program, which was aired live on WSMC and via webstreaming.

Southern’s School of Journalism and Communication provided the television studio, production crew, and live streaming equipment to enable this event to be seen by more than 100 viewers over the Internet.

Hamilton County Mayor Claude Ramsey and City of Chattanooga Mayor Ron Littlefield were present for the festivities. In celebration of the event, Ramsey made an official proclamation declaring December 14, 2008, “Read With Me Day” in Chattanooga and Hamilton County.

“I’m so amazed at how that many moving parts came together,” says David Brooks, station manager for WSMC. “The whole thing worked out just great.”

—BY LORI FUTCHER
Fifty-eight-year-old Ken Mathews, M.D., an occupational medicine physician, used to label himself an “armchair archaeologist,” always looking for things in history and archaeology that confirm the biblical account.

This December, after walking down the aisle with a bachelor’s in archaeology, the label “real archaeologist” is a better fit for this two-time graduate of Southern Adventist University.

His son, Tim, also walked down the aisle with a bachelor’s in history and a minor in Spanish.

“It felt pretty cool to graduate with my dad,” Tim says. “I mean, who gets to do that?”

Overcoming Hurdles

Ken first met Michael Hasel, Ph.D., professor and director of Southern’s Institute of Archaeology, during an alumni weekend. They became friends, and Ken’s interest in archaeology soon led him to become a member of the Institute of Archaeology Advisory Board.

His interest didn’t stop there. Ken realized that with his religion degree and two years of Greek, he had the basic requirements for an archaeology degree. One challenge was the fact that he lived three hours away from Southern’s campus. To tackle this challenge, Hasel found a way to video the classes, and download them to Ken’s home.

“I watched the classes, took the quizzes, wrote the exams, and completed the papers one class, one semester, at a time,” Ken says. “Dr. Hasel did a wonderful job explaining everything for the camera as well as the students.”

Ken plans on being an active archeologist and venturing out on several digs to Israel within the next few years.

“God’s Word in scripture is true and very real to me,” says Ken, “and I rejoice to see it confirmed every time something of biblical value is unearthed in Israel.”

Another Calling

Meanwhile, Ken’s expansive library of historical books helped develop his son’s love of history from an early age. When the time came to choose a major, history seemed like the right fit.

Besides majoring in history, Tim had always wanted to learn Spanish. For his sophomore year, he went to River Plate Adventist University in Argentina where he learned a different culture and language that contributed to his education.

“My dad definitely influenced my interest in history,” Tim says. “Although he wanted me to pursue it further, he encouraged me to go in whatever direction I wanted for my career.”

Although a history lover, Tim feels that his future calling is in the dentistry field and plans to attend Loma Linda School of Dentistry in the fall of 2009.

“Tim demonstrated a breadth of thinking early on in his time at Southern — even though he was planning on being a healthcare professional,” says Lisa Diller, associate history professor. “He saw his education as so much more than job preparation. Having a father/son duo demonstrating the importance of being lifelong learners is a real gift to the other students.”

Manuela Asaftei is a junior public relations major at Southern Adventist University.
ALLISON, Harvey C., 82, born Oct. 9, 1926, died Nov. 1, 2008 at Orange City, FL. He was a member of the Debarry-Orange City Church in Orange City. He was employed by Mount Vernon Academy from 1967-1993 where he was affectionately known as Uncle Harvey. He is survived by his wife of 32 years, Rossale; one daughter, Marlene Higgins of Collegedale, TN; two brothers: Don and Dennis; two sisters: Ethel Woodin and Sue Hutto; and three grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Dorothea, and one daughter, Sandra Montiel.

AUSTIN, Rachel Rene, 37, born March 3, 1971 in Madison, TN, died Jan. 4, 2009 in Goodlettsville, TN. She was a member of the Ridgetop Church. She is survived by her husband, James Austin; mother and step-father, Brenda and Jim Dempsey; father, Cyrus Robinson; grandmothers: Frances Baker and Lottie Sneed; two sisters: Sherri Knight and Cassandra Cassidy; as well as many other relatives.

BIDWELL, Myrtle Irene, died Dec. 27, 2008. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. She is survived by her family, friends, and church family. She spent many hours as a leader with the young people and other departments, and never refused to take an active part whenever she was invited to serve. She is survived by his wife, Jackie; three children: Terri Church, Maureen Weier, and Ricky Henderson; six grandchildren; great-grandchildren; four sisters: Lorraine Seigler, Janet Evans, Linda Vickery, and Gloria Plaat; and one brother, Gweenen Henderson.

BILL, Charles “Chuck”, 39, born Feb. 3, 1969, died Oct. 17, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Tammy Elias Hill; three children: Seth, Sarah and Madison; his mother, Bonnie Cathowrhe, two sisters: Anita Childs and Lynn Tyler. He was preceded in death by his father and one sister. He was a registered nurse and a member of the Morganston, NC Church.

HOBB, Linda Ruth Johns, 64, born June 1, 1944 in Houston County, AL, died Jan. 17, 2006 in Dothan, AL. She was a member of the Dothan Church. She is survived by her husband, Jerry Hobbs; one daughter, Melissa Previo and her husband Toby; two sons: Dan Johns and wife Sherre, and Tim Johns and wife Katie; three stepchildren: Cynthia Maholte, Rhonda Smith, and Jason Hobbs; seven grandchildren: Bobby White, Mathew Johns, Kaitin Johns, Tyler Johns, Trey Johns, and Corey and Nathan Previo.

JOHNSON, JoAnns, formerly JoAnn Chilton, 68, born Oct. 31, 1940 in Mt. Vernon, OH, died Nov. 25, 2008. She was a retired registered nurse in the Chattanooga, TN, area. She loved the Lord Jesus with all her heart and was a dedicated Christian. She is survived by her husband of 44 years and 11 months, Stan Johnson; two children: David Johnson Jr. and Lisa Ann Johnson; and one sister, Bonnie McColpin.

JOINER, Elder James Laurence, 76, born Sept. 14, 1932, died Oct. 5, 2008 in a local health care center. He was a native of Knoxville, TN. He lived in the Collegedale, TN, area since his retirement in 1994, and was a member of the Collegedale Church. He was an ordained minister, and had worked in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 37½ years. He graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1953. A veteran of the US Army, he was a White Coat at Walter Reed from 1954 until 1956. He authored These Were the Courageous, editor of several Church magazines, and was formerly a missionary to the Philippines. His first wife, Mable Mitchell Joiner, and one daughter, Sharon Harris, preceded him in death. He is survived by his wife, Beverly Sauder Joiner; daughter, Rebecca Timon, Laurel, MD; two step-daughters: Jeslyn Teixeira Burgonye of Collegedale, and Dee De Teixeira Boyce of Ooltewah, TN; two step-sons: E. Scott Teixeira of Pittsville, MD, and L. Andrew Teixeira of Brampton, Ontario, Canada; three grandchildren: James Timon, Noal Harris, and Mitchell Harris; and eight step-grandchildren.

JONES, Mary P., 88, born Sept. 10, 1919 in Arlington, VA, died Sept. 3, 2008 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for eight years. She is survived by one daughter, Janice Cohen of Apopka.
JOYNER, LaDonna King, 49, born Feb. 16, 1959 in California, died July 11, 1998 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Community Church in Meridian. She was survived by one son, James King.

KEENAN, Helen, died Oct. 18, 2008. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church.

KELLY, Ellen G., 103, born in Cedar Lake MI, died Aug. 5, 2008. She was under Hospice care at the Health Center at Standifer Place since April 2008. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church for 40 years, active as a deaconess, a member of the Adventist Retired Workers Club, and 55-Plus Club. At the age of four, she traveled with her family in a covered wagon, first to Missouri, then Arkansas, and a few years later back to Michigan, where she later taught elementary school. In 1929, she married Richard O. Kelly. They moved frequently between Michigan, Illinois, Georgia, and Tennessee for the next 20 years, especially during the “war years” when Richard was “drafted to defense work.” Longer stays in Mount Vernon, Ohio, and Berrien Springs, MI, preceded their retirement near Collegedale in 1969. In spite of serious health problems much of her life, Ellen was an active homemaker, gardener, and seamstress, continuing these in her daughter’s home where she lived after Richard’s death in 1985. She is survived by her daughter and son-in-law: Bille and Paul Burdick of Ooltewah, TN; two grandsons: Rich Burdick of Montrose, CO, and Gary Burdick of Berrien Springs, MI, and their families; seven great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

KING, Evelyn, 89, born Nov. 7, 1918, died Sept. 17, 2009. Evelyn Lusk died Aug. 2008 in Loma Linda, CA. For many years, she was a member of the Community Church in Meridian. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. She is survived by her mother, Loretta Largo; one brother, Geary (Skip) Culpepper; and two daughters: Holly and Teisha McCall of Port Charlotte, FL.

NOSWORTHY, Roberta, 95, born Dec. 20, 1912, died Oct. 12, 2008. She is survived by her daughter, Pauline N. Pierson of Collegedale, TN; son, John R. Nosworthy of California; and three grandchildren: Dennis R. Pierson, Robbie Pierson Anderson, and Lara Nosworthy.

OPRA, Thomas, 69, born Oct. 26, 1938 in Missouri, died April 22, 2008 in Detroit, MI. He was a member of the St. Augustine, FL, Church for five years. He is survived by one son, Allen of Detroit; and one daughter, Tracy of Georgia.

PATTHEY, JoAnn, 83, born April 18, 1945 in St. Augustine, FL, died May 6, 2008 in St. Augustine, FL. She was a member of the St. Augustine, FL, Church for 50 years. She is survived by her husband, Clyde; two daughters: Tonya Ladwig of Jackson, MI, and Nancy Yeoman of St. Augustine, FL; one sister, Frances Augustine of St. Augustine, FL; and four grandchildren.

PAYNE, Lola F., 88, born April 17, 1920, died Oct. 8, 2008 in a local health care center. A longtime resident of Chattanooga, TN, and Collegedale, she was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka. She was a foster parent for more than 40 years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Gerald G. Payne. She is survived by two daughters: Christine Payne and Carol Bodnar of Collegedale; two sons: Charles Payne of College agedale, and Gerald E. Payne of Cartageh, TN; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

PHILLIPS, James Richard Jr., born May 16, 1919 in Philadelphia, PA, died Feb. 24, 2008 in Mobile, AL. He was a member of the Cody Road Church in Mobile, AL. He is survived by his wife, Rachel Phillips; one daughter, Allen of Detroit; and one brother, Alon Phillips, Allen Phillips, and James “Ricky” Phillips.

PYKE, Ted, died Oct. 9, 2008. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church.

RAGSDALE, Robert Glenn, 63, born June 18, 1945 in San Jose, CA, died Nov. 22, 2008 in Huntsville, AL. He was survived by his wife, Patricia Elaine; two daughters: Susan Hess and her husband Chad, and Karen Ragsdale; one son, David Ragsdale and his wife Teisha; two brothers: James Ragsdale and his wife Dolly; three grandchildren; and two nieces.

RAWLINGS, Beverly Fay (Babe), 91, born Nov. 25, 1916, died Aug. 27, 2008 in Mendon, MI. She was a member of the Meridian Community Church. She is survived by one brother, Gary (Skip) Culpepper.

RICH, Annie Lee, 88, born May 19, 1919 in Catawba County, NC, died Jan. 4, 2008. She was a member of the Margonant, NC, Church.

ROBERTSON, Walt, 77, born June 4, 1931 in Chattanooga, TN, died July 7, 2008 in Chickamauga, GA. He was a deacon of the Ringgold, GA church. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Jo of Chickamauga; his mother, Alice Robertson of Franklin, TN; three sons: Leon Lusk of Chickamauga, Jermaine Strickland of Ringgold, and Mike Warren of Chattanooga; one daughter, Melina Watts of Nashville, TN; two sisters: Helen Warren of Winchester, TN, and Louise Brown of Fort Oglethorpe, GA; 10 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. He was a veteran of the Korean War.

SANDFORD-MARCH, Issac, 88, born Jan. 24, 1920 in Trinidad-Tobago, died June 23, 2008 in Ocala, FL. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores, FL, Church for 10 years. She was a missionary nurse in Guyana for four years. She is survived by two sisters: Esther James-McPherson and Mabel James-Rodriguez; brother-in-law, Steve Rodriguez; 10 nephews: James David, Keith James, Henry March 2009 • Tidings 37
James, Wayne James, Stanford James, Renford Job, Standford Job, Charles McPherson, Orville McPherson, and Inglefield Reid; four nieces: Olive Cole, Olga Darymple, Judith James, and Winfred James; and one cousin, James Rob.

SAPPINGTON, Willie (Billie) Mae, 83, born Dec. 29, 1924 in Baragia, GA, died Oct. 3, 2008. Internment was at Green Lawn Cemetery. She was survived by two daughters: Charlene McLeod and Marlene Sappington; and son-in-law Tim McLeod. She was a member of the Atlanta North Church in Georgia.

SCHMID, Margaret D. F., 91, born Aug. 2, 1916 in Pittsburgh, PA, died April 19, 2008 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for 13 years.

SLADE, Sue, 94, died Nov. 3, 2008 in Chattanooga, TN. A native of McMinn County, TN, resident of Etowah, TN, for 22 years, and resident of Collegedale for the past 26 years. She was a volunteer at Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, and was the Director of Admissions at Putnam Memorial Hospital in Palatka, FL. She was survived by one daughter, Ava Peak of Collegedale; one son and daughter-in-law, Gary and Charlene Sunderland of Pensacola, FL; five grandchildren: Charlene Ponder, Dan Peak, Leilani Hagerman, Melissa Conti, and Ava Caldwell; eight great-grandchildren; Alan and Steven Hagerman, Natalie and Reisa Conti, Eric and Lauren Caldwell, and Hannah and Timothy Peak; one brother and sister-in-law: Jack and Jean McLain of Etowah; three half-sisters: Jo Franklin, Wanda Arrington and Darlene Randolph; several nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by two sisters: Ozelia Pliner and Ava Robinson; and one brother, Glenn McDaniel.

SMITH, Bobbie Jean, 69, born Sept. 10, 1938 in Cooper, AL, died Dec. 9, 2007 in Pikeville, TN. She was a member of the Pikeville Church. She is survived by her husband, Perry; two sons; and three daughters.

SPERRY, Juanita Cook, 84, born Oct. 11, 1923 in Shidler, OK, died Aug. 8, 2008 in Irving, TX. She was raised in Boulder, CO, graduated from Enterprise Academy in Kansas, and spent many years as a cradle roll and Pathfinder leader in Memphis, TN. A member of the Arlington, TX, Church, she was laid to rest in Colleyville, TX. She is survived by one daughter; two sisters-in-law; nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her son.

TEAGUE, Charles Eugene, 78, born May 8, 1930 in Chattanooga, TN, died May 27, 2008. He was a member of the Chattanooga First and then the Rossville Church since 1976. He is survived by his wife, Jerry; and one son, Mike, both of Rossville, GA.

TILLMAN, Fulton Edward, 100, died Dec. 15, 2008. He was a member of the Greenview, TN, Church. He is survived by one son, Dr. James Tillman of Americus, GA; two daughters and one son-in-law: Ann and David Fogg of Huntsville, AL, and Jeanne Tillman Hamilton of Knoxville, TN.

TRIMMIER, Lois M., 89, died Aug. 26, 2008 in Columbus, GA. Lois was born and reared in Atlanta, GA. In 1937, she married Mark A. Palmour Jr., and they had four children. When her children were grown, she worked as a dean of women at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. After her husband’s death, she moved to Orlando, FL, where she was dean of nurses at Florida Hospital. She met Edward Trimmer and they were married in 1971. They were active in Central and Kress Memorial churches until they moved to Hendersonville, NC, in 1997. Ed died in 1999. She recently moved to Columbus, GA, to reside with her son. She is survived by four children: Frank M. Palmour, Candy P. McDaniel, Margaret P. Clarke, and Mark A. Palmour III; four grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; one sister, Elsie Merriam; and one sister-in-law, Lee Trimmer.

WALTERS, Debra Marcia Snell, 52, born Feb. 26, 1957 in Ozark, AL, died Nov. 28, 2008 in Dothan, AL. She was a member of the Dothan Church. She was preceded in death by one son, Clay Alsammani, and her parents, Francis and Rupert Snell. She is survived by her husband, Harry Walters; four sons: Nikolas Walters, Ead Alsammani, Nathaniel Snell, Daniel Snell and his wife Melissa; one brother, Ronald Snell and his wife Beverly; two sisters: Janie Nelson and Sandy Kendall and her husband Rusty; two grandchildren; Rachel and Jacob Snell; four nieces; five nephews; and numerous other family members.

WEISS, Theodore H., 98, born Nov. 17, 1909 in Lehigh, KS, died Nov. 14, 2008 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for one and one half years. His denominational service included: five years teaching church school in Canada; dean of boys, math and Bible teacher at Enterprise Academy plus pastoral work in Abilene and Enterprise, KS in 1947; pastored four churches in Hastings, NE, district 1950-1951; home missionary secretary in the Nebraska Conference 1951-1955; home missionary, religious liberty, and Sabbath School secretary for East Pennsylvania Conference and then Pennsylvania Conference 1954-1968; and Sabbath School secretary, lay activities, religious liberty, and community service for the Alabama/ Mississippi Conference 1968-1973. He is survived by his wife, Alice; two sons: Frank Tochtisman of Clinton, MA, and Fried Tochtisman of Biglantine, NJ; one brother, Albert Weiss of Lincoln, NE; 10 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. He was predeceased by one son, Clinton, and one daughter Avelier Mahi.

WEISBERG, Ruth A., 88, born Aug. 19, 1919 in Drexel, MA, died Aug. 6, 2008 in Dunellen, FL. She was a member of the Dunellen Company for two years. She is survived by two sons: Jim of Port Charlotte, FL; and John of DeLand, FL; one daughter, Martha Tyndall of Dunellen; 10 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

WELLS, Madelene Wallstrom, 87, born March 2, 1921, in Susquehanna, PA, died Sept. 11, 2008. She was the wife of the late who preceded her in death on. She was a member of the Mills River Church and a volunteer at Park Ridge Hospital. She is survived by one son, Albert Wallstrom and his wife, Ann; one daughter, Shirley Wallstrom; one sister, Gwenstyn Grant; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her first husband in 1972. Albert C. Wallstrom, and her second husband, John Wells, on Feb. 15, 2008.

WOLFE, Robert W., 95, born Aug. 13, 1913, died Sept. 8, 2008. He was a true patriarch at the Mills River Church. He is survived by his loving wife of 73 years, Beulah E. Hollebeek Wolfe; two sons: Roger A. Wolfe and Larry E. Wolfe; one daughter, Kathleen D. Pinnick; 12 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

WYSONG, Wilmer, 85, died May 15, 2008. His wife Sara Sinclair Wysong died May 23, 2008. He was preceded in death by his wife Geneva in 1989, and daughter Janine and her husband Keith Stentzel. He is survived by his two children: Dennis (Carol) Wysong and Carol (Mike) Hardin. Wilmer and Sara were married Oct. 12, 1950, and had the joy of spending their final years together.

WYSONG, Sara Sinclair, 82, died May 23, 2008. Her husband Wilmer Wysong died May 15, 2008. They both died at home after lengthy illnesses. Sara was preceded in death by her first husband Allen in 1989. She is survived by one sister, Edna Sinclair; and her three children: Allen (Debbie) Sinclair, Steve (Linda) Sinclair, and Karla Mobley. She grew up in Five Forks, GA, and joined the Barwick, GA Church when she was a child.
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UNION COLLEGE seeks Clinical Director for Master in Physician Assistant Studies Program. Responsibilities include organizing, monitoring and evaluating clinical experiences plus limited classroom teaching. Masters, NCCPA certification, and 3 years clinical practice required; teaching experience desirable. Contact Mike Huckabee, PhD, PA-C, Program Director, at 402-486-2527 or email paprog@ucollege.edu. [3]

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**Announcements**

**Carol Zarska at Wilmington SDA Church** – March 13, 14. Zarska will present the sanctuary as applied to relationships with God and one another. The church is located at 2833 Market Street in Wilmington, NC.

**Los Angeles Academy 85th Anniversary/ Celebration** – March 13-15. All former students and faculty of Lynwood Academy, Los Angeles Union, and Los Angeles Academy are invited to attend and become LAA Alumni Charter Members. Details: 323-321-2585 or email laaahomecoming@aol.com

**Atlanta Metro SDA Church Homecoming Sabbath** – March 21. All are invited to hear former pastor, Dr. Greg King, speak; music by Mary King; lunch will be served; and an afternoon music program. Details: 404-289-1748.


**Oakwood University Alumni Weekend** – April 9-12. On the campus of Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL. Details: www.oakwoodualumni.org or 256-726-7039.


**Ramah SDA Junior Academy Alumni Reunion** – April 24-26. (Formerly, Ramah Parochial School located in Savannah, GA) Would like to hear from its former teachers, students, and former pastors of the West Broad SDA Church to participate in its annual alumni reunion commemorating 95 years of service. Walter Pearson, speaker. Please contact Alumni President Marian Peloto at 912-236-1480 or register online at Ramahsda.tripod.com.


**Lake Nelson SDA School 50th Anniversary** – May 16. Former students, teachers, principals, board members, and pastors are encouraged to attend. Details: 732-981-0626, or emaragoto@lakenelsonsdaschool.org or www. lakenelsonsdaschool.org

**“Ye Olde” Cedar Lake/Great Lakes Academy Reunion** – June 11-14. Alumni and schoolmates of 1959 and earlier from Great Lakes Adventist Academy (formerly GLA). Honor classes: 1929, 1939, 1949, 1959. For further information, contact the GLAA Alumni Office at 989-427-5818 or email glaa@lakenelsonsdaschool.org or www.greatlakesadventist.edu


**Wichita Adventist Christian Academy 50th Reunion** – Sept. 18-20. Details: 316-267-9472 or waca50th@yahoo.com

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Read testimonies on our website: www.newstart.com. [3-1]
## Events Calendar

### Carolina

#### Lay Bible Workers’ Meeting
- March 6-8. NPI.

#### Pathfinder Workers’ Bee
- March 20-22. NPI.

#### ShareHim Festival
- April 8-11. NPI.

#### Adventure Fun Day
- April 10-12. NPI.

#### Outdoor Education
- April 14-18. NPI.

#### Hispanic Camp Meeting
- April 17-19. NPI.

#### Pathfinder Council
- April 24-26. NPI.

#### Elders’ Retreat
- April 24-26. NPI.

### Florida

#### Complete calendar online
- [http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html](http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html)

#### Florida Pathfinder Events
- [http://www.floridapathfinders.com](http://www.floridapathfinders.com) or call 407-644-5000 x127.

#### Singles’ Ministries Events and mailing list information
- Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. [http://www.asamcf.org](http://www.asamcf.org)/djmiller4000@embarrgmail.com or 386-789-3235.

#### Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars

#### Florida Adventist Book Center
- Shop online: [http://www.floridaconference.com/abc](http://www.floridaconference.com/abc) or by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

#### Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
- March 28. West Palm Beach.
- March 29. Midport Road in Port St. Lucie, Ft. Pierce.
- Cocoa, Titusville. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, Palm Bay)
- April 4. Maranatha in Miami.
- April 5. Ft. Lauderdale, Lauderdale.
- Pompano Beach, Jupiter.

#### Walking For Jesus Walk-a-thon
- March 29. North Miami Church.
- Details: 954-261-5575 or 305-681-6431.

#### Just Do Something Youth Conference

### Florida Keys Camp Meeting
- April 3, 4. Camp Sawyer Boy Scout Camp, Big Pine Key.
- Details: 305-743-5268.

### Vacation Bible School and Sabbath School Training

#### Workshops
- Web: [http://www.floridaconference.com/chilmin](http://www.floridaconference.com/chilmin)

#### April 5. Spanish-language.
- Carol City Spanish Church.
- Details: rebecca.delosrios@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x138, or 321-439-1321.

#### April 12. Spanish-language.
- Winter Park Spanish Church.
- Details: rebecca.delosrios@floridaconference.com, 407-644-5000 x138, or 321-439-1321.

#### April 18. English-language.
- Miami Temple Church. 3:00-8:00 p.m.
- Details: ruburnill@clfrr.com, 407-644-5000 x136, or 321-303-7699.

#### Florida Spring Bike Tour
- April 12-15. Details: tracyandbeth@gmail.com or 352-586-7621.

#### Florida Prison Ministries

#### Programs
- Details: fbartonst@yahoo.com, 352-728-1229, or 352-408-1844.

#### April 18. Pompano Beach Church.

#### April 25. University Church in Orlando.

### Georgia-Cumberland

#### Complete calendar online
- [www.gcsda.org](http://www.gcsda.org)

#### Lay Evangelism Rally
- March 7. Maryville, TN.

#### Un Nuevo día – Reunion de damas
- March 13, 14. Atlanta, GA.

#### Hispanic Women & Teen Girls’ Retreat
- March 13, 14. Atlanta, GA.

#### GCA Academy Days
- March 13, 14. Calhoun, GA.

#### Adventurer Family Fun Day
- March 15. Cohutta Springs.

#### Robotics Southern Union Challenge
- March 15. Southern Adventist University.

#### ITBS and WRAP Testing in Schools
- March 16-19.

#### Elementary Band Festival
- March 20. Bowman Hills School, Cleveland, TN.

#### South Georgia Camp Meeting
- March 20, 21. Norman Park, GA.

#### Women’s I & Teen Girls’ Retreat

#### Atlanta Adventist Academy Alumni Weekend
- March 21. Atlanta, GA.

#### Conference-wide Gardening Workshop
- March 22. Collegedale Community Church.

### Pathfinder Precision Drill Event
- March 22. Lee University, Cleveland, TN.

### Women’s II & Collegiate Retreat
- March 27-29. Cohutta Springs.

### Prayer Ministries Day

### Youth Festival
- March 28. Dalton, GA.

#### Lay Evangelism/Prison Ministries Rally
- March 28. Habersham, GA.

#### ASI
- April 2-4. Dalton, GA.

#### NAD/SU Children’s Ministries Convention
- April 3-5. Cohutta Springs.

### Health Rally
- April 4. Lawrenceville, GA.

### Gulf States

#### Complete Calendar online
- [http://www.gscsda.org](http://www.gscsda.org)

#### Education Mission Trip
- Feb. 26-March 5.

#### Teen Invitational Back Packing
- March 6-8.

#### Women’s Ministries Spring Retreat
- March 13-15. 4H Center, Columbiana, AL.

#### Training the Trainer – Depression Recovery Program
- March 15. 16, Community Church, Meridian, MS.

#### Disaster Relief Training
- March 20-22. Brookhaven, MS, Church.

#### Bass Alumni Weekend
- March 27-29. Speaker: Jerry Gilkeson. Honor classes: 64, 69, 74, 79, 84, 89, 94, 99, 04. Golf Tournament, Friday morning. If interested, contact Allan Kea, Allankea1@aol.com
- Details: njbirch@aol.com

#### Mississippi Investiture
- April 4. College Drive Church.

#### Executive Committee
- April 7. Conference Office.

### Kentucky-Tennessee

#### Conference Association Board

#### Conference Executive Committee

#### Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting
- March 6, 7. Prestonsburg, KY.

#### West Tennessee Festival of Faith
- March 14. Memphis, TN.

#### Soul Impact Prayer Conference
- April 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.

#### Pastors-Elders Conference
- April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.

#### Literature Evangelist Spring Campout

#### Camp Meeting-English

#### Camp Meeting-Spanish
- June 5, 6. Highland Academy.

### Southern Adventist University

#### Spring Break
- Feb. 27-March 8.

#### Adventist Robotics League
- Southern Challenge – March 15.

#### Symphony Orchestra Concert
- March 22.

#### PreviewSouthern
- March 26-28.

#### I Cantori Tour
- March 27-29.

#### Gym-Masters Home Show
- March 28.

#### Gym-Masters Home Show Matinee
- March 29.

#### Wind Symphony Concert
- March 29,
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