ASI Southern Union
Intentional Ministry in Action
The evangelistic impact of those who minister through the mission of Adventist Health System will only truly be measured when, in Heaven, we hear and see the people who have been attracted to Christ and the Seventh-day Adventist Church through loving health care contact. Today, many of those who need a hospital are very sick, and often are in life and death struggles. To think that the Church continues to provide healing and spiritual wholeness to about five million individuals each year through the impressive outreach of the Adventist Health System makes me glad to be a Seventh-day Adventist. It is not by chance that about 45,000 employees come to work every day to “extend the healing ministry of Christ.” Because of intentional orientation of every employee, they understand the history of Adventist health care, and they are committed to providing whole-person intervention and relief.

And beyond the day-to-day ministry to patients and their families, leadership in the organization is intentional about the “extras” that would set a Christian Adventist health care program apart from others. Let me list just a few of these “extras”:

- Mission trips every year to help struggling clinics and hospitals in Rwanda, Cambodia, Haiti, Peru, Mexico, Belize, Ethiopia, Nepal, Ghana, Ecuador, Honduras, and many other countries.
- Thousands of dollars in cash and equipment donated every year to overseas projects.
- Smoking cessation, nutrition, wellness, and healthy-diet classes.
- Mobile health clinics to underserved areas of the community.
- Prenatal clinics, teen pregnancy education and counseling, and abortion prevention classes.
- Childhood obesity education programs.
- Children’s bereavement day camp.
- Health care centers operated for the poor.
- Flu and other inoculations to thousands who are underserved.
- Fitness program for local prison staff.
- Ministry to active military and Soldier’s Hospitality House.
- Weeks of prayer sponsored in every hospital.

And the list could go on and on. I affirm and commend Adventist Health System leaders for being intense and intentional about mission. Praise God for the stories we will hear when Jesus comes and says to our health care colleagues — “Well done!”
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Cover Caption: Children like these are able to hear about Jesus on solar-powered radios supplied to their villages by Cross to Crown Ministries.
Imagine sitting in the shop where Paul worked as a tentmaker and listening as he interacted with customers. It would have been fascinating to watch him build relationships and hear the life-changing story of how he met Jesus on the road to Damascus. When Jesus commanded, “Go ye into all the world,” He meant for His disciples to go where the people were and to talk with them in their everyday settings. Members of Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries — better known as ASI — take that calling seriously.

While ASI’s roots are planted deep in the Southern Union, the organization has increasingly become international in scope and influence. Originally formed in 1947 as the Association of Seventh-day Adventist Self-Supporting Institutions by workers and leaders in education and healthcare, ASI eventually began drawing members from other fields. In 1979, it changed its name to Adventist-laymen’s Services and Industries to better reflect a membership that also embraces Adventist business owners, professionals, and entrepreneurs. ASI’s broad vision for outreach is encompassed in the motto, “Sharing Christ in the Marketplace.”

James Rafferty is a co-director for Light Bearers Ministry. He has 25 years of experience in a full-time ministry. Rafferty’s distinct vision for ministry is making Christ the central focus of every discourse, including prophecy. He is convinced that Jesus Christ is the answer, God’s Word is the power, and Holy Spirit-prayer is the key. He and his wife, Risë, have two children, Jeiel, 17, and Kierra, 12.
Today, eight of the nine unions in the North American Division have ASI chapters. These chapters support local ASI members through regional meetings and outreach events. International chapters have also been established throughout Europe, Inter-America, South America, and Africa, creating a worldwide synergy that culminates each year during the first week of August at the annual ASI International Convention — this year in Orlando, Florida.

The ASI-Southern Union Chapter, with its 250-plus members, is continually expanding its membership, projects, and activities, according to Cal Thrash, chapter president. “With the influx of people from across the nation to the South,” he says, “we are seeing an increase in attendance at our meetings and in overall membership. Recently we had to move our spring meeting from Cohutta Springs to the Dalton Georgia Trade and Convention Center.”

This kind of growth makes for a vibrant organization, but it also creates needs that must be addressed. “We don’t want to move away from ASI’s core idea of sharing Christ in the marketplace,” says Thrash, “but we must also focus on outreach, recruitment, and mentoring new ASI members. We want to take a direct interest in them and make the ASI experience real for them. It is important to get them involved in ministry and help them know what types of support and resources ASI can provide.”

For instance, ASI-Southern Union is planning to reach out to Spanish- and Korean-speaking business owners. Reaching church members in these groups will provide them with vision and resources for ministry within their sphere of influence.

Cross to Crown International

Mike and Diana Halvorsen are the founders of Cross to Crown International, a radio ministry that takes the Gospel to the Miskito Indians of Nicaragua. The roots of the ministry go back to the early 1970’s when Southern Adventist University sent a ministry group to establish a mission among the Indians. When civil war broke out in Nicaragua, the work closed down, but the mission to the Miskito people was not forgotten. In 1997, the Halvorsens accompanied a...
group of people who returned to rebuild, clean, and clear the overgrown mission property.

The illiteracy rate among the Miskito people, particularly women, is extremely high. It occurred to the Halvorsens that radio ministry would be an effective way to reach the Indians. “God gave us a vision to accomplish something we knew nothing about,” says Diana, “and He provided resources through ASI to make this ministry a reality.”

Today, Cross to Crown releases broadcasts in the Miskito language over a 100-mile radius in the Nicaraguan jungle. The ministry provides villagers with solar powered radios, which they listen to eagerly.

“ASI is not any one person,” says Diana. “It is a network of people who want to spread the Gospel and see Jesus come. ASI and its individual members have made this ministry a reality through their monetary and physical presence.” (Visit the Cross to Crown International website at http://crosstocrowncci.com.)

**Haiti Helpers**

Brenda and Michael Cooper discovered they have a heart for the people of Haiti.

“Some friends invited us to join them on a short-term mission trip to Haiti,” recalls Brenda. “We were hooked and wanted to continue working there. Since 2002, I’ve made 24 trips to work in Haiti. It seems as though God has a work for us to do in the city of Jacmel.”

The Coopers founded Haiti Helpers, an organization that provides mobile medical clinics, evangelism, children’s programs, gardening seminars and supplies, health education, roof projects for widows, feeding programs, and more.

“There is no real medical outreach in Jacmel,” says Brenda. “We work with the local Adventist churches to provide health clinics and evangelism programs. Local workers are trained to carry on when we aren’t in the region. Haiti is the land of unlimited possibilities. God is asking us to fulfill the Great Commission. ASI helps support ministries like ours with encouragement, training and, at times, financial gifts. We are excited about our relationship with ASI and the ministry that we can do together to tell others about Jesus.” (Visit the Haiti Helpers website at http://haitihelpers.org/)

**Goodwin Construction**

“If you want to be successful in your business, successful in your spiritual life, successful in your home, and successful in ministry,” says Frank Goodwin, owner of Goodwin Construction, “ASI will help you.”

Goodwin has real-time experience in sharing Christ in his marketplace. Recently, he considered investing in a housing project in Chattanooga, Tennessee. After hearing about the project plans, Goodwin followed his normal habit of praying for wisdom before committing funds and resources. “There was a real sense that I shouldn’t invest in this,” says Goodwin. “Instead, I purchased property a couple of blocks away and began another housing project.”

*Haiti Helpers work in the poorest nation in the western hemisphere. Medical work, distributing seeds, evangelistic outreach, as well as construction of this church, are just a few of the projects that the ministry provides to villagers.*
During each step of the process, Goodwin worked with a realtor. “We would have conversations about how I prayed about business decisions,” he shares. “She told me how she believed that life events are tied up in the concept of karma — either good or bad. I began praying that God would open a way to show her that He is in control.”

The building projects progressed for both groups, and eventually the houses were listed for sale. It wasn’t long before all of Goodwin’s newly built properties had sold. “The other group was not able to sell any of their properties,” says Goodwin. “All of the investors now have their funds tied up, and I am free to continue with other projects.” As a result of this interaction, Goodwin’s realtor has expressed interest in also praying over potential future projects.

Goodwin originally joined ASI because he was impressed by his parents’ experience as ASI members. “Every human has a basic human need in their heart that they’re longing to have filled,” said Goodwin. “Only Jesus can do that. Sharing Christ with others is what I need to be about. ASI encourages me through the networking and keeps me on track.”

**Passing the Torch**

Young people attending ASI-member educational institutions within the Southern Union are also absorbing the ASI vision for mission. “At Laurelbrook Academy, we focus on a whole life education, as well as on a good work ethic,” explains Ron Oxentenko, Laurelbrook’s president. “Our students and staff are trained and encouraged to become missionaries in whatever they are doing.”

Students at Laurelbrook, located in Dayton, Tennessee, are trained in agriculture and medical missionary work, in addition to their secondary academic training. In every aspect of instruction, the students learn how to share Christ as they live their everyday lives. “Through outreach and mission trips, we inspire and model for the students how to serve and share Jesus with others,” says Oxentenko. Young people are mentored by ASI members and leaders while attending ASI Southern Union’s spring meetings.

“Students are not formed from cookie cutters,” says Debbie Baker, president of Heritage Academy in Monterey, Tennessee, “Helping them find a ministry that best suits them helps promote longevity in their commitment to ministry and to the Church.”
Harbert Hills Academy students learn that business and ministry do mix. They are mentored to represent Christ in their daily work.

Working in disaster response has become a school-wide outreach focus at Heritage Academy. Every school year, students spend two weeks responding to a disaster somewhere in the United States. Four staff members have been trained to lead Community Early Response Teams. They also train the students in first aid and CPR.

“Being able to network with other ministries is an important part of ASI,” says Baker. “Our aviation program is a direct result of cross-ministry outreach between ASI members. The students hear a lot about how ASI was instrumental in beginning the partnership between Adventist World Aviation and Heritage Academy. As our students are exposed to various ASI-member ministries, lasting bonds develop that lead to additional ministry and outreach opportunities.”

Educating students in practical skills as well as academics helps students learn self-reliance in a good way, reveals Steve Dickman, president of Harbert Hills Academy in Savannah, Tennessee. “Our students learn about combining business and ministry, as well as how to rightly represent Christ in their daily work,” says Dickman. “By following this model, we are preparing the next generation to carry out ASI’s mission to share Christ in the marketplace. We encourage students to include these ideals in their lives and to keep their connection with the Lord strong.”

Through hands-on participation, students gain a lasting desire to minister to others. The three academies attract diverse student populations, with many students coming from other countries. This ultimately serves to expand ASI’s vision for mission, with young people leading the way.

Making an Impact

The history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church overflows with examples of laypeople sharing Bible truths with others. The church recognizes that Christians are called to intentional ministry in their day-to-day lives. ASI members realize that ministry is not a solitary venture, and that it requires adaptation and creativity. Together, they enthusiastically support the mission of the Adventist Church as they share the Gospel through their unique ministries and in their places of business.

Specifically, ASI-Southern Union has been instrumental in projects such as the New Beginnings DVD evangelism training project, which has a tremendous impact worldwide. Many members are pioneers in health ministries that reach around the globe. It is an exciting time to be a layperson with a vision for ministry in the Southern Union, with local ASI members forging new paths for anyone and everyone to follow.

Deena Bartel-Wagner, owner/editor, Verbal Oxygen Creative Services

This year, the ASI Southern Union Fall Conference will be held November 5 and 6, on the campus of Fletcher Adventist Academy in Fletcher, North Carolina. The conference theme is “Hopeful to the End.” Scheduled speakers include James Rafferty, Steven Grabiner, and Kelly Mowerr. Register online at www.asisouthernunion.org or call Carol Hollie-Tsede at 404-299-1832, ext. 449, for details.

All organizational and associate members of ASI are laypersons committed to the worldwide mission of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. For more information about ASI or ASI membership, visit www.asisouthernunion.org or www.asiministries.com.
Jim Davidson, Carolina Conference president, introduces John Nixon, D.Min.

Alicia Patterson, member of the Marietta Church, Marietta, Georgia, represented Ellen G. White. She holds the Holy Bible aloft during the dramatic Follow the Bible presentation leading up to a resolution to study and live the Bible.

Fred Rogers, Southern Union Native American ministries director, with Carmen Urrutia of Peru.
Chor-Kiat Sim, chaplain of Washington Adventist Hospital, Potomac Conference, helps Abigail Jenkins, Boston, Massachusetts, to take the Health Age Assessment.

Vanard Mendinghall (left), South Atlantic Conference president, and Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland Conference president, announced that more than 900 individuals were baptized during the Good News Atlanta evangelistic outreach leading up to the 59th General Conference Session.

Rothacker Smith, World War II veteran and ex-POW, attended the Session.

Ella Simmons, Ed.D., vice president of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in Silver Spring, Maryland, calls the 59th General Conference Session to order. This may be the first time that a woman has chaired during a General Conference Session.

Gordon Retzer, president of the Southern Union Conference, and his wife, Cheryl, welcomed the delegates to the 59th General Conference Session. The Southern Union Conference is located in Decatur, a suburb of Atlanta, Georgia.

Richard Means Jr. and Kristine Barker of Southern Adventist University, and Tobia Powell of Oakwood University, are part of the team of students who worked in the information booths during the Session.

John Nixon, D.Min., former senior pastor of the Collegedale Church, Collegedale, Tennessee, professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University, delivers a devotional message during the opening meeting on Thursday, June 24, 2010, at the Georgia Dome.
Sponsored by Wildwood College of Health and Evangelism, Rafael Grando performed free massages for Session attendees in the exhibit area.

Mark Finley, vice president of the World Church, presents Gordon Retzer, president of the Southern Union Conference, to share his testimonies of praise and answered prayers during the 7:00 p.m. session of spiritual emphasis at the Georgia Dome.

Lynell LaMountain, CREATION Health representative, and his wife, Jennifer LaMountain, Morning Song Music singer/songwriter, walk around the exhibit hall with their son, Garrison.

Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference, and his wife, Yolanda, listen intently during the last Sabbath morning service on July 3, 2010, at the Georgia Dome.

Dana Edmond, president of the South Central Conference, reads the Scripture during the opening Session on Thursday, June 24, 2010.

Crystal Steeves (right), editor, Canadian Adventist Messenger, and Rosann Martin, admire the giant Bible that went around the world for the General Conference initiative Follow the Bible.

Mary Jo Dubs (right), Georgia-Cumberland Conference women’s ministries director, shares with a visitor to the North American Division women’s ministries booth.

Hands of Praise from Mount of Olives Church, Brooklyn, New York (Northeastern Conference) performs during the Sabbath morning praise time.
Yvonne Alexis, a nurse from New York City, writes about her experience at the General Conference Session. She writes, “This is my first GC experience. I feel physically tired, because I have been here since Wednesday, June 23, but I have been spiritually uplifted by this experience. I am committed to go back to New York to minister to my Chinese, Russian, Philipino, and Indian neighbors and colleagues, which I have been hesitant to witness to because of language and cultural differences.”

More photos, as well as video clips, can be viewed at www.southernunion.com.
Oakwood University Bids 10th President Goodbye

BY MICHELE SOLOMON

Oakwood University (OU) bid its 10th president, Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., a tearful goodbye at a special farewell program held Saturday, July 31, 2010, at Oakwood University Church in Huntsville, Alabama. The program, emceed by Timothy McDonald, D.Ed., Oakwood vice president for advancement and development, took place in the church sanctuary. It began at 7:45 p.m., and was followed by a reception at Oakwood University’s Student Dining Hall, in Oakwood’s main administrative facility, Blake Center.

The Bakers received numerous awards, gift certificates, and commendations, including the Key to the City from Huntsville Mayor Tommy Battle, and a special resolution presented by City Councilman Richard Showers. A large number of Oakwood administrators, faculty, staff, students, and Board members; Huntsville education, business, and government representatives; family members; and well-wishers from the community at large joined Oakwood’s first couple as they made their departure.

Baker, who has served as president of Oakwood University for the past 14 years, was nominated by a 246-member nominating committee at the 59th General
Conference Session of Seventh-day Adventists, held at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta, Georgia, June 23 through July 3, 2010. As the governing body of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the General Conference appoints nine general vice presidents to serve the global Church, each overseeing an assigned national and international region. Baker’s new appointment took place on Sunday, June 27, 2010.

During the reception, Oakwood’s outgoing president passed the baton to Mervyn Warren, Ph.D., with an official sounding of the gong. Warren had been voted interim president in Atlanta on July 2 during the final week of the General Conference Session. Warren has served as the University’s provost and senior vice president during Baker’s administration. During the past four decades, he has held numerous administrative positions at OU, including chairman of religion and theology, general vice president for instruction and student services, and assistant to the president. A graduate of Oakwood, he has also served as professor in the religion and theology department. He is married to Barbara (née Moseley), a retired member of the Oakwood faculty. Their three adult children, Mervyn, Karis, and Shana, are products of Christian education at Oakwood, from elementary school through college.

An 18-member search committee has been formed, and has already begun the challenging task of reviewing the long list of candidates hoping to serve as Oakwood University’s 11th president. The OU search committee, chaired by the vice chair of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees, Doris Gothard, is composed of a representative group of members drawn from the University’s Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and students. Its goal during this interim period is to decide on the names of three ranked candidates that will be presented to Oakwood’s Board of Trustees for consideration by year’s end.

Baker will assume his new position at the General Conference, headquartered in Silver Spring, Maryland, within the next couple of months, where he will serve the 16.3 million-member global Church. Under his administration, Baker facilitated progress in various areas, including peak enrollment, maintaining a strong financial base for the institution, completing numerous major facilities on campus, and leading out in record fundraising. During his administrative watch, Oakwood achieved university status and began offering graduate degrees (in 2008). Baker credits success to providence; his wife; an excellent team of administrators, faculty, and staff; the Board of Trustees; and to the gracious support of alumni and friends.

Susan Baker, DPTSc, a licensed physical therapist and an associate professor and director of the allied health program in the Chemistry Department at Oakwood since 2002, will also be leaving the community.

Taking the microphone at the farewell program that Saturday night, several community representatives spoke from the heart as they congratulated the Bakers and wished them well. Leslie Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., vice president for community partnerships and diversity at Loma Linda University, characterized Oakwood’s 10th first couple in 10 well-chosen words, “Dynamism, vision, charisma, focus, passion — that’s Delbert Baker. Charm, intelligence, aplomb, beauty, wisdom, and did I say intelligence? That’s Susan Baker.” Huntsville’s City Councilman Richard Showers added, “I feel at home whenever I’m on the campus of Oakwood University…. We’re blessed that you passed this way.”

Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., is named one of nine general vice presidents of the General Conference on June 27, 2010, during the 59th General Conference Session held in Atlanta, Georgia.

Baker delivered his final Sabbath sermon as Oakwood president earlier that morning at the Oakwood University Church, the title of which was “The Last Lecture.” The sermon centered around three essential points: keep focused on purpose, be about improvement, and stay connected to community. He pulled his key text of Scripture from Mark 13:31-37. To view the sermon online in its entirety, visit the Oakwood University Church media archive at http://www.oucsda.org/article.php?id=80.

Michele Solomon is director of public relations at Oakwood University.
I felt almost unworthy of God’s love due to things I had done earlier in my life. Then, my husband, Tom, and I began attending Daytona Beach, Fla., Church and started Bible studies with Pastor Bill Barrett.

Pastor Bill would share stories of his days as an iron worker before he became a Christian. He would tell us with a smile, “In those days, you would meet outside in the parking lot to settle a dispute.” Somehow, I could not imagine this man — who could not speak of Jesus’ sacrifice for us without tears in his eyes — ever being unkind, using bad language, or not trying to please God.

Thanks to Pastor Bill and the personal stories he told, I believed I would meet outside in the parking lot to settle a dispute.” Somehow, I could not imagine this man — who could not speak of Jesus’ sacrifice for us without tears in his eyes — ever being unkind, using bad language, or not trying to please God.

As an oncology nurse in our community hospital, I will never forget the day I walked in and saw the name William Barrett on my patient rounding list. My heart dropped, and I knew his lymphoma had returned. He seemed glad that I was his nurse. I was able to help him through the process of expediting procedures, and provide comfort and reassurance as I administered his first chemotherapy. I tried to be strong for him, and held back my tears until the end of the day when I looked at Pastor Bill with the IV fluids and his chemotherapy still infusing. He just hugged me and told me I was already part of his Church family, even though I wasn’t baptized yet. It was a special moment I will always remember.

At the hospital, Bill touched the hearts of everyone with whom he came into contact, even though most did not know he was a pastor.

In spite of his pain, he continued to make people laugh, and he found gentle ways to talk about the love of God. One of his most special traits, I think, was that he accepted people where they were.

The chemotherapy proved effective, and the cancer went into remission. A bone marrow transplant went well, but then in November, right before Thanksgiving, Bill started having pain again. A repeat CAT scan showed cancer had returned. Even though Bill was given only months to live, he never doubted that God had a plan, and that the Lord would find a way to use this experience for the good of someone else.

I knew if I waited for spring, he would not be here to baptize me. When I asked Pastor Bill if he thought he would be able to baptize me, his first response with a smile was, “not in the ocean.” Just three days before my baptism, he could not even sit up, but God saw fit for him to be there for one of the most beautiful moments in my life, other than the day I was married and the day my son, Thomas, now seven, was born. My baptism was December 12, 2009. Fifteen days later, Pastor Bill passed away. Even to the end, his faithfulness to God was still winning souls for Christ.

I think of Bill when I read Psalm 23, “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.”
Arriving in the fall of 2009, Steve and Suzanne Day are new additions to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. Originally from Washington State, they have moved 2,300 miles from home to spread the Three Angels’ Messages to a dark county.

The Days are operating Home for Health Lifestyle Center in Stanton, Kentucky. The ministry is dedicated to helping educate people on how to overcome sickness through natural means and lifestyle modification.

Since their arrival, they have seen the Lord’s hand move in mighty ways. For example, a local newspaper did an article on the ministry that was later picked up by dozens of papers across the state. Then, a meeting had been arranged for Steve to address the ministers in Powell County that resulted in invitations to speak in multiple non-Adventist churches. They also have seen a wonderful outpouring of support and interest by the local community.

Steve and Suzanne finished their medical missionary training in 2001, and have been anxious to find the ideal place to conduct a health ministry. Steve said, “This opportunity came up after much prayer, yet abruptly, as if out-of-the-blue. We know the Lord set this up, and have seen wonderful results working with some of the most difficult illnesses.”

In the first couple of years in this field, about three-fourths of those with whom the Days have worked with had mid-to-late-stage cancer, yet they have seen tremendous results by reliance on God and His simple, natural remedies.

The ministry is not just for those with cancer or who are in ill health — it is for anyone who would like to achieve optimal health. It is for those who are simply “stressed out” or who need respite and rejuvenation. All are welcome.

Besides the health aspect of the ministry, the Days also have incorporated agriculture into their ministry. They focus on growing the highest quality foods for their guests, and also teach anyone with an interest how to grow the most nutritious foods themselves. More information is available online at www.HomeforHealth.net.
After three years of producing the *Making Waves* television program in partnership with Adventist World Radio (AWR), Terry Cantrell, who graduated from Southern Adventist University in 1985, was recently recognized with two Telly Awards: a silver Film/Video Telly in the Religious/Spiritual category and a bronze People’s Telly in the TV Programs/Segments category.

Yet, while he appreciates the recognition of excellence from broadcast and industry professionals, what he is most grateful for is the ability to witness and share compelling stories of people worldwide whose lives have been touched by Christ.

“We all have a story to tell,” says Terry. “Christ has a plan for each of us. It is my privilege to tell the world the story of His children.”

**Ruben and the Lions Den**

One such story, the one that won him the Tellys, is the story of Ruben, a lay minister in Kenya whose life was forever changed with a face-to-face encounter with a man-eating lion.

Though raised an Adventist, Ruben had left Christianity behind and was working as a long-haul truck driver. One day, as he and his partner were passing through Tsavo, an area known for man-eating lions, their truck broke down. After calling in for help, they turned on the radio to pass the time. The men half listened as a preacher shared the Word and made an appeal.

Then a large male lion approached the truck and looked in. Ruben urged his partner to put on the bright red vest the company had provided in case of an encounter with lions. “If we’re going to die, we’re going to die.” The preacher’s words flashed through Ruben’s mind. He knew he needed God’s protection.

Ruben then watched as the lion leapt onto the hood of the truck and crashed through the window, grabbing his partner and taking him outside. Then Ruben listened as the screams of his partner vanished into deathly silence.

As the lion backed up and prepared to jump on the hood again, Ruben said his first prayer in years: “God, please forgive my sins!” The lion pounced on the hood and then continued up to the roof of the truck cab where he settled down for the night, remaining there until Ruben was rescued in the morning.

Today, Ruben has devoted his life to serving the God who saved him that night.

**Following Christ’s Example**

Terry says that as he’s producing, directing, writing, and filming stories like this, he remembers the lessons he learned while a student at Southern, particularly that the most important thing in communicating is to use Christ’s method — story telling.

“There are so many amazing miracles happening around the world, and to talk to these people and witness their experiences firsthand is humbling,” says Terry. “Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that because of my education at Southern that I’d be able to witness such miracles in more than 25 countries.”
Southern’s Presence Highly Visible at GC Session

Southern’s exhibit at the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga., was the very first one that visitors saw as they entered the exhibit hall.

Visitors to the exhibit could take with them an inspirational book written by Southern students, brochures addressing some of the complex questions about origins, and information sheets for every academic department on campus. A popular highlight of the exhibit was an interactive wall depicting how reaching to Jesus provides the light to break any thorns that surround us.

However, getting to know Southern didn’t have to end at the exhibit. Twenty Southern students were placed throughout the convention center to help those with questions about the session, and visitors interested in taking a look at the campus signed up for a free bus trip to Collegedale and a tour around Southern’s campus.

“I really enjoyed the free trip to come see the campus,” says Herma Cole, a GC attendee and campus visitor. “When we signed up for the visit, we were put on stand by, and before we knew it, there was another Southern bus available to accommodate us.”

—BY MANUELA ASAFTEI

Professors Share Creation Perspective at “Yes, Creation!” Seminars

Lee Spencer, Ph.D., associate professor of biology, and Greg King, Ph.D., dean of the School of Religion, were among the theologians and scientists who made presentations at the “Yes, Creation!” seminars during GC Session.

Spencer gave two presentations relating to his study of dinosaurs. In his first presentation, Spencer shared why he believes that dinosaurs were God-created and likely (at least some) were on the ark.

Spencer’s second lecture was an overview of two research projects he has been involved in. For more than 10 years, Spencer has worked with the Dinosaur Project, excavating at least 25,000 dinosaur bones in northeastern Wyoming. Using high-tech global positioning system and global information system technology, Spencer and other scientists have been able to create an image of where the bones were placed in the ground before being excavated.

Last summer, Spencer went to the arctic in hopes of retrieving ancient plant DNA. The samples he gathered on this expedition are still being examined, and more details will be available once the study is complete.

King’s lecture focused on 10 reasons why he believes that creation really does matter, even today.

“I didn’t realize how pervasive the creation is through the whole Bible until I started studying it,” King said. He went on to share that Jesus took a position on creation and that creation is closely related to the plan of salvation.

—BY LORI FUTCHER

Southern Hosts New Faith and Science Website

Internet surfers wondering where Southern Adventist University stands on the subject of creation will have their questions answered at Southern’s new faith and science website.

The new website includes:

• a preview of the on-campus Origins Exhibit under construction
• information on classes at Southern that deal specifically with creation and evolution
• overview of Southern’s interdisciplinary faith-science discussion group
• highlights from Origins Weekends
• a behind-the-scenes look at Southern’s GC Session booths, including PDF’s of the origins papers distributed there
• images of student art inspired by creation
• PDF’s of Columns magazine issues highlighting creation on campus
• links to resources for creation research and information
• denominational information relating to creation
• School of Religion statement affirming creation

Check it out at www.southern.edu/faithandscience.

—BY LORI FUTCHER
IMPACT Atlanta Changes Lives in the City and Beyond

"IMPACT Atlanta changed my life! I will never be the same after this experience," gushed seminarian Lavina Seawright, 28, from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich. "It adults like myself that were passionate about kingdom work!"

The Salvation Army homeless shelter, Hosea Feed the Homeless, and working with the Sweeney family to clean bathrooms or kitchens and tend the community garden of a low-income housing project, were among the array of service opportunities.

"Through iATL I've found that the most powerful way to share Him is through personal and relational evangelism," noted theology major, Shane Harper from Auckland, New Zealand. "That is, actually mixing with people and connecting with them. Through our actions/service we may be the only Jesus they get to meet. It was a humbling honor to simply plant the seed and trust the Holy Spirit to do the rest."

Kingston continued, "The best part of that experience was that I learned that true ministry is all about letting people share in your life story, and not serving them from a safe distance as we often see."

iATL delegates partnered with Atlanta churches and local agencies to serve the heart of the city, but also joined with organizations like the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) to serve worldwide humanitarian causes.

"The most inspiring aspect to me was the blessing that we got from serving others," noted hydrogeologist Geoffrey Marshall, 30, from Kingston, Jamaica. "The significance of choosing to help someone and the visible impact it makes was really powerful."

"Community service was one of the best iATL experiences I had," shared musician Camille Rivera Meced, 31, from San Juan, Puerto Rico. "Being able to serve a young mother who was ill gave me a sense of worth."

Held concurrent with the 59th General Conference Session of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, iATL’s hallmark is certainly community service. However, young adult leadership and discipleship experience were also emphasized through morning training session where delegates actively engaged the great commission and great commandment in intensive workshops and experiential learning. Laurence Burn, pastor, Adventist Frontier Missions, and Yami Bazan, pastor, LaSierra University, led delegates in training for the Discipleship Adventure.

The most impacting moment for me was the Discipleship Adventure studies that we did," offered nursing student Jeremy Barnes, 26, from Alvarado, Tex. "It taught me to open up Scripture in a way that was new and exciting."

"The discipleship training increased my knowledge of many Bible parables that demonstrated the extent to which we should respond to the call to serve," offered Deslyne Roberts of Bromley, Kent, United Kingdom. "I believe that this, amongst other aspects of iATL, was profoundly inspiring."
“The Discipleship Adventure increased tenfold my understanding of the relationship God seeks to have with me,” observed Meki Bracken, attorney, 28, from Chevy Chase, Md. “I am personally liberated from my misconceptions and well-equipped to make disciples.”

“iATL was a watershed moment in all aspects of my life,” exclaimed Marshall.

“iATL was a life-changing experience!” testified industrial psychology student Jermaine Johnson, 25, from Johannesburg, South Africa. “I appreciated receiving training, but further being able to practically apply what we learned.”

Tim Elmore, Ph.D., director of Growing Leaders, based in Atlanta, mentored the iATL delegates in habits and attitudes of leadership. The Habitudes morning sessions used powerful images and stories to ingrain valuable skills and perspectives in this new generation of leaders.

“The leadership sessions with Tim Elmore were so enlightening,” raved Seawright. “I got practical information on how to [as a leader] deal with people and how to care for myself … I feel 100 percent more confident than when I came.”

Nathan Teye Odonkor, pastor, from Accra, Ghana, lauded, “iATL was overwhelming, it was practical, not just theoretical; what an experience with the Lord!”

“I was challenged and encouraged in the discipleship and leadership training that was presented,” offered Janelle Cuthbert, 30, of Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. “My soul was refreshed.”

Following mornings of training and afternoons of community service, iATL delegates, as well as many other young adults in attendance at the General Conference Session, would gather at encounters café, a casual, relaxed setting to refresh and relate with God and each other. Worship, socializing, music, refreshments, and intentional exploration of Ephesians 2 were among the meaningful features each night.

David Helbley, a 29-year-old missionary from Almaty, Kazakhstan, shared,
“The most inspiring aspect of iATL for me was being challenged to search the Scriptures again for myself — listening, looking, and expecting God to speak through the experience.”

“I had an extremely powerful experience,” shared Barnes. “I feel like I truly met God for the first time.”

At encounters café, Eddie Hypolite, pastor from South England Conference, UK; Sam Leonor, chaplain from La Sierra University, Riverside Calif.; Chris Bullock, pastor from fusion church, Atlanta; and Matthew Gamble, Ph.D., from the Centre for Postmodern and Secular Studies, offered scriptural teaching, stories, and smiles to café patrons. Notable artists Nick Zork, Chris Picco, Elia King, Maria Long, Karla Dechavez, Fida Mwero, Destiny Drama Company, amanecer — as well as delegates — added their talents to each evening’s blend of worship and inspiration.

“I experienced evidence of the Holy Spirit at work in my life and in the lives of the presenters and other participants,” commented Bracken. “There was no fluff; every activity was authentic.”

“To see young people working for the same cause, uniting cultures, languages, ideas to give back the fame to His name. . . Sharing with Atlanta that Jesus, our Lord, loves all . . . iATL was primarily to transform and change . . . to “impact” these young adults, empowering them to make a difference in their home communities and local churches. As these young adults shared in the training, serving, and worship experiences, it became more and more vivid that the relational bonds they were making with God, and each other, were powerfully and influentially attaining that goal.

“I was expecting to be bored, but iATL was the exact opposite of what I thought,” confessed mathematics major Trisha Isheia Carter, 20, from Landover, Md. “It afforded connections with people that are hard to find anywhere. iATL was a life-changing revelation.”

“We were able to share our testimonies of when God became real to us and encourage each other to continue to serve Him in our individual churches and lives,” shared Cuthbert, reflecting on moving conversations she had with iATL peers.

“Oh, the experience has only just begun,” purposed Harper, “I plan to duplicate and perpetuate it — firstly in my home church, then conference, and any other opportunities that arise from there. My heart and passion for young people has increased tenfold. I can’t (and have no right to) hold on to any of the learning for myself. I have every intention to pass it on!”

—BY A. ALLAN MARTIN

Manny Cruz (black shirt) and Milton Coronado (purple shirt) sprayed on the finishing touches to an “End It Now” graffiti mural in Centennial Olympic Park — drawing attention to a petition-signing campaign held in the park by Adventist young adults. End It Now [www.enditnow.org] is an awareness campaign of the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), calling for the end of violence against women and girls worldwide.
Bert Fish Medical Center Joins Florida Hospital Family

Bert Fish Medical Center, located in New Smyrna Beach, Fla., has joined Adventist Health System. This 112-bed community hospital has served the local community since 1954. Building on the hospital’s long history with the community, Adventist Health System is committed to providing the residents of New Smyrna Beach with compassionate, Christ-centered care.

“We’re committed to the Southeast Volusia community and believe this will be a great partnership,” said Michael Schultz, president and CEO, Adventist Health System Florida Region. “Our priority is to enhance the continuum of care available to residents, and will continue to collaborate with the board, focusing our energies on the areas of greatest impact.”

Areas of expected focus include the facility’s cancer center, various capital improvement projects, and an analysis of specific health care services still needed within the community.

The agreement provides several benefits to Bert Fish Medical Center and Southeast Volusia county residents by reducing taxes for residents and infusing the facility with funds for capital and service improvements, as well as loan repayment. Additionally, Florida Hospital is a nonprofit organization deeply committed to the communities it serves, dedicated to both disease education and prevention, and providing care for those in financial need.

“Our organization follows through on our commitments,” said Daryl Tol, Volusia/Flagler Market CEO.

Apple Technology Gives New Voice to Stroke Patients

Peninsula Rehab Center (PRC) at Florida Hospital Oceanside, Ormond Beach, Fla., is the first in the area to use a combination of Apple technology and Proloquo2Go™ to give speech-impaired patients the ability to “speak out loud.”

The technology is geared for patients suffering from stroke who are diagnosed with different degrees of speech impairment. Using an Apple iPhone, the new iPad and an iPod touch, in addition to the new Proloquo2Go communication solution, patients with speech disabilities simply select a series of commands using characters in the device, and the technology serves as a talking word processor.

Proloquo2Go includes natural-sounding languages in not only English, but Italian, French, Polish, and dozens of other selections, making the program a multilingual system for patients from different cultures.

Users have the ability to use two different methods to communicate what they want audibly spoken, including a cartoon-style graph displaying simple but important commands like “I need to go to the bathroom” or “I am in pain,” or they have the option to use two different styles of keyboards to text their thoughts.

By simply double clicking on the line of thought they have created, the device vocally communicates the message using Text-to-Speech.

“PRC is committed to continue researching and providing the newest technology available, giving patients fresh and exciting options to help with their disabilities,” said Charlie Brown, speech therapist.

The Proloquo2Go software was donated by the manufacturing company, and has designated PRC as an Resource Center to serve as a teaching and rehabilitation tool for patients who do not have the access to the technology in other parts of the state.

—BY STEPHANIE GIBSON
Kernersville Church Celebrates 100th Year

On Sabbath, July 31, 2010, the Kernersville Church had a special service to celebrate their 100th anniversary. Guest speaker C.D. Brooks, speaker/director emeritus for Breath of Life Ministries, spoke for the 11:00 a.m. service.

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In 1889, when colpor-
teur W.L. Killen sold Bible Readings for the Home Circle to three families who lived in Stokes County, Killen probably never imagined that his sale would lead to the planting of a new church. In 1904, one of these families, the Slates, moved to Kernersville, N.C., and started a printing business. They, along with the Hahn family, began to meet in their homes on Sabbath. As new believers joined the group and more space was needed, a room above the Slate’s print shop became their new meeting place.

On July 30, 1910, the group was formally organized as the Kernersville Seventh-day Adventist Church by G.H. Wells, president of the North Carolina Conference. Just two years later, the worshipers had the privilege of holding their Sabbath service in their own church for the first time. It was located on Graves Street and is considered one of Kernersville’s historical sites.

The church continued to grow, and in 1945 they purchased property on West Mountain Street. The new building served the congregation well for 21 years, but just as expected, the Kernersville Church outgrew this building as well. In 1976, the current property at Old Winston and Hopkins Road was purchased. The first service was held at this new church in November 1977.

The growth didn’t stop there, however. The church decided to add on a new educational building and family life center. The groundbreaking ceremony took place on January 11, 2004, and the work was completed that November.

Today, the Kernersville Church continues to be a light in its community, teaching the Truth, sharing His love, and preparing a people to meet their Savior. They started with 13 members 100 years ago, and today there are more than 500! Kernersville has certainly been blessed.

—BY ALYSSA BRANTLEY

Pastors and former pastors left to right: Robert Taylor, pastored 1990-1993; C.D. Brooks, Breath of Life Ministries speaker/director emeritus; Scott Young, current associate pastor; Marlene Schmidt, widow of pastor Ronald G. Schmidt, 1985-1990; Donavan Davis, current pastor; Fred Rogers, 1994-2000; Michael Brackett (received his call to the ministry in Kernersville); Duane Peterson, pastored four years in the late 60’s/early 70’s.
Light in Huntersville Shines

A new group started this past summer in the Huntersville, N.C., area. The Lighthouse Adventist Fellowship meets every Sabbath at the Vineyard Church in Huntersville for Bible study, worship service, and potluck dinner.

The idea for this church plant began when Mark Patterson, an elder of the University City Church, and several others were impressed with the need for a church in the Huntersville area, as there was no Adventist presence within 25 miles. Plans began more than a year ago, and on May 15, 2010, the Lighthouse Fellowship held its first worship service. The name “Lighthouse” was chosen to symbolize their motto, “shining light in our community.”

The church is an active and vibrant group of between 30 and 40, with many young families. A major focus of theirs is small group ministry. Every Wednesday night members meet for the “Doing Life Together” series. On Friday nights, young adults meet to study the book of Acts. In addition to more traditional methods, they are using some new and innovative approaches to outreach. On July 11, church members passed out quarters to people doing their laundry — no strings attached. The goal was to share God’s love with a smile and look for ways to bless and encourage those with whom they came in contact. This fall, Lighthouse Fellowship will hold their first evangelistic campaign from September 10 to October 2.

—BY MELISSA COUSER

Little Creek Becomes Company

The Little Creek Adventist Fellowship officially became the Little Creek Company on Sabbath, July 24, 2010. Gary Moyer, Conference executive secretary, presided over the organization ceremony where nearly 60 people, including John and Sara Massy and Dan Jerard, pastor, (pictured), signed the new company charter and became official members of the Little Creek Adventist Company.

The Little Creek Fellowship started in September of 2006. Several members from the Raleigh Church and other area churches recognized a need for a new church in the Clayton area, which is closer to where many of the members live.

Currently, the group meets in the Elizabeth United Methodist Church in Smithfield, N.C., and has 55 to 60 regular attendees. But plans are under way to build a new facility on a 10-acre site that was recently donated to the church. Phase one of the construction will include a new fellowship hall and rooms for Sabbath School classes. Phase two will be the addition of a permanent sanctuary.

—BY MELISSA COUSER

 Married 61 Years and Still in Love

Doris Lyberg and Earl Mayer wed nearly 61 years ago, on September 11, 1949, at the Madison, Wisc., Adventist Church. They are blessed with four children: Linda Hartman, Kathy Skilton, Ken Mayer, and Jeff Mayer. The couple also has 10 grandchildren and one great-grandson.

The Mayers moved from Milton, Wisc., to Greenville, S.C., in 1978. Before retirement, Earl was a machine designer, and Doris worked as a secretary and homemaker. For nearly 10 years during the 1980’s, the Mayer family hosted weddings in their southern colonial-style home. The Mayers renewed their wedding vows at their home for their 35th anniversary.

Active members of the Greenville South Church, Doris, 79, plays the organ, and Earl, 82, serves on the elders’ advisory team. They thank the Lord for being together nearly 61 years, and in service to their God and family.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER
Newly Ordained Pastors Are Church Planters

Timothy Jemly comes from a pastoral family, and became a missionary to Majuro in the Marshall Islands following his freshman year at Walla Walla University, Walla Walla, Wash. Upon returning to the University, he served as task force youth pastor at Walla Walla City Church. At the same time, he helped start and grow the nearby Good Neighbor Church.

After graduation, he became the youth pastor of the Rockwood Church in Portland, Ore., where he and his wife, Amber, were married. They spent a year in Ecuador as missionaries, and then Timothy enrolled at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., to work on a master’s degree, while he helped plant the new Calvary Road Community Church in Niles, Mich.

With a master’s degree in youth ministries, he took a position as boys’ dean and Bible teacher at Pine Tree Academy in Freeport, Maine. While there, Timothy sensed God calling him to a church planting ministry, and was contacted by Florida Conference to restart a church in Key West, Fla. During the four years the Jemlys have been in the Florida Keys, they’ve seen God do incredible things, and can’t wait to see what the future holds.

Anthony James Smith was raised in a Christian home with two brothers near Chattanooga, Tenn., and worked in his father’s construction business.

While completing a bachelor’s of theology degree at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn., he met Lianro Wagener from South Africa. In 2003, they said, “I do” and, as a witness to their belief in Christian equality, became Mr. and Mrs. WagenerSmith. Then, the couple moved to Michigan to study at Andrews University in Berrien Springs where Anthony completed the master of divinity degree, and Lianro completed an education specialist degree in school psychology.

Since June 2006, Anthony has pastored Florida’s North Port and Punta Gorda churches, worked with Port Charlotte Church, and is now a church planter with Compass Communities Company in North Port. In September 2009, as this new church was being born, Anthony and Lianro’s son Levi was born.

Anthony’s dream is to glorify God by using his heart and mind to serve people of all backgrounds. He desires to help shape mission-focused communities that are preparing people to meet Jesus.

Kenneth and Goldie Bogar Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

Kenneth and Goldie Bogar met in high school and, as Kenneth says, “we’ve been going together ever since.”

During grade school, Goldie lived in Manistique, Mich., where her best friend, Pauline Wehner, was a Seventh-day Adventist. After eighth grade, Goldie’s parents moved to Rapid River, Mich., and into a house next to Riverside Adventist Church. On her own, Goldie began attending services and became friends with Kenneth Bogar and his family.

Kenneth and Goldie were baptized at the same time during their teen years, dated, fell in love, and were married in Riverside Church on July 7, 1945. In 1952, they moved from the Upper Peninsula to Berrien Springs, Mich., near Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) to provide a Christian education for their three children: Larry, Bonnie, and Donald.

Employment would later take Kenneth and Goldie to Hinsdale Hospital in Illinois, and Reed City Hospital in Michigan.

In 1987, the Bogars retired from hospital work and moved to Florida. The couple are members at Avon Park, Fla., Church, and live in Frostproof, Fla. They have six grandchildren, and 13 great-grandchildren, which includes a set of quadruplets.

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK
Songs Hide God’s Word in Your Heart

For the past 20 years, Bodil Morris has been writing Scripture songs. Her journey as a songwriter began when her two boys were young. Instead of teaching them nursery rhymes, she wanted to hide God’s Word in their hearts. She believed the promise of Jesus that the Holy Spirit would bring those words to their remembrance in a time of need.

Singing Scripture songs has become an important part of the mid-week prayer service at Morris’ home church in Apopka, Fla. And, at Forest Lake Church, each Wednesday evening’s House of Prayer includes singing Scripture songs, such as the theme song, Psalm 9:1, 2: “I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart.” All lyrics for the Scripture songs are taken word for word from the New King James version of the Bible. Those who sing them testify that it’s a wonderful way to worship God, and an easy way to hide His Word in their hearts.

Recently, teachers at Adventist elementary schools started using Morris’ Scripture songs for student choirs and Scripture memorization assignments. In one classroom, a second-grader complained that he didn’t like to memorize Bible texts. After listening to one of the TRILOGY Scripture Songs CD’s, he chose the longest passage for his Scripture memory assignment. As a result, he was able to repeat the entire parable of the Ten Virgins by learning the Scripture song.

What began as a ministry specifically for Morris’ two children, is now impacting lives around the globe. TRILOGY Scripture Songs are played on more than 200 Christian radio stations throughout the United States, and are shared on the Hope Channel worldwide.

Morris and some of her friends will present a TRILOGY Scripture Songs concert on October 9, 2010, at 6:00 p.m., at Forest Lake Church. All who attend will enjoy beautiful vocal harmonies, and learn more about hiding God’s Word in their hearts. For more information: 407-869-0680.

—BY DEREK MORRIS, D.MIN.

Free Breakfast and Yard Sale Draw Crowd to Health Fair

A free breakfast, health exhibits, and a yard sale drew people into the Quest for Radiant Health Fair at the Punta Gorda, Fla., Church.

The fair started with a hearty welcome at registration followed by a nutritious breakfast. Pathfinder Club members directed guests to the various activities throughout the day.

Healthcare professionals on site included an occupational therapist, dental hygienist, registered nurses, and several certified nursing assistants. Free blood pressure checks and blood sugar tests were offered.

—BY SUSAN STUTO

Barbara Stephenson, RN, administered blood sugar tests.

Verien Haynes, CNA, checked guests’ blood pressure.
Kelley Named Superior Court Judge

Hats off to Stephen Kelley, former district attorney for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit, who was sworn in as a judge for the Superior Court of Brunswick Judicial Circuit on June 29, 2010, by Georgia Governor Sunny Perdue, at the State Capitol in Atlanta, Ga.

His position creates a fifth judgeship for the Brunswick circuit, which should alleviate the buildup of cases and overcrowding in local jails. The circuit covers Camden, Wayne, Glynn, Jeff Davis, and Appling counties.

Kelley is a member of the Brunswick, Ga., Church, where he serves as an elder. He has served as a prosecutor for more than 20 years, with 10 years as a district attorney. Kelley says his job is a mission. A career prosecutor, Kelley has practiced law in Georgia since 1986.

“The justice system needs good Christian people, and politics needs good Christian people,” says Kelley. “In my particular job we are dealing with crime victims. People a lot of times have lost a loved one through a drunk driver, other homicide, or murder. We deal with abused children. There are hundreds of abused children that come through our system every year. It is a ministry.”

Kelley was named 2009 District Attorney of the Year for the District Attorney’s Association of Georgia last July. He was also named chairman of the Prosecuting Attorney’s Council of Georgia.

Elected as the district attorney in Brunswick in 1996, he took office in 1997. “It is a challenge sometimes to be a Christian and be in the judicial system, but it’s not incompatible,” says Kelley.

Being a Christian and being in my position is really more of a joy than anything else, and has taught me to treat everyone with respect.”

“I’ve actually used Ellen White in my closing arguments sometimes,” adds Kelley. “Many a jury has heard ‘The greatest want of the world is that men and women will not be bought or sold.’ ”

Kelley is married to his wife, Dianna, and they have three children. Other awards Kelley has received include the Eagle Award for Prosecution from the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council of Georgia in 2007. He is also a former president of the District Attorney’s Association of Georgia [2005-06]. In this position he was influential in creating the Victim Assistance Program for the Brunswick Judicial Circuit.

Former Inmate Worships at 59th General Conference

Joel Haskell has never set foot in the Camden, Ga., Church building, but he is a member. Haskell used to be an inmate at D. Ray James Prison where Dean Read, pastor, has done a weekly ministry since October 2007.

Haskell was one of the first men to join the group as they began studying from Steps to Christ and, later, the books of Daniel and John. He came under conviction from the Holy Spirit that the Adventist message is firmly grounded on Bible truth, and he joined the Camden Church in January 2009. While in prison, he firmly committed himself to serving Jesus Christ, began keeping the Sabbath, and stopped smoking. Haskell was also personally responsible for bringing several others to the Bible study to hear the presentations.

Read says Haskell was his greatest supporter.

On Sabbath, the day before Father’s Day, he was released from custody and took a bus to Atlanta, Ga., to meet family. Later, Read arranged to meet him at the 59th General Conference session.

“The highlight of the week for Read was being able to sit next to Joel during the Sabbath morning church service in the Georgia Dome. It was Haskell’s very first time to attend a Seventh-day Adventist Church service on the Sabbath day, and worship with fellow Seventh-day Adventists. What a high Sabbath.”

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Dean Read (left) and Joel Haskell attended the 59th General Conference Session in Atlanta, Ga.
Restart 2010: On Earth for Heaven

The youth of the Duluth, Ga., Church hosted their second year of the Restart evangelistic series beginning May 30, 2010. As in 2009, the Restart 2010 program included an opening song service and 45-minute small group discussions, followed by the nightly sermon. Each night of the 14-day series, the youth in attendance would meet together in their assigned groups and discuss the night’s topic.

“Because so many youth of the youth in attendance are from the church, our goal was to design this year’s Restart as a continuation of 2009, and also as the next phase of our spiritual journey,” said Bradford Goodridge, youth leader and one of the speakers for Restart 2010. The youth knew what it meant to have a restart on Earth, but if Christ meant anything, they were to be devoted in their restart for Heaven. The idea led to the next phase of the Restart message — commitment. The theme “Restart 2010: On Earth. For Heaven.” was born.

The 2010 series was based on Titus 2:11-14, and the parables on the Kingdom of Heaven in Matthew 13. The series opened its first few nights discussing mankind’s state of being east of God’s original plan, the need of realizing Satan’s role in this world, and defining Jesus’ role as a personal Savior. During the course of the 15 sermons, six speakers took turns sharing the messages of commitment. The sons of Adam, Abraham, the parables of Matthew 13, and an understanding of the heavenly sanctuary were the topics of study. Joel Thompson joined Bradford and Dale Bushell in creating and finalizing the topics.

“I got to experience what the youth should be doing in the church. I’ve learned to love and crave studying the Bible once again,” shared speaker Jerdie Ale. Much of Restart 2010 was run by the youth. It proved that the youth can shine for Jesus. And, no night proved this more than the June 12 finale concert organized by Restart crew member Joy Chikwekwe.

The Restart finale brought in one of the largest crowds the series has ever had. A number of performing acts not local to Duluth Church included church groups from Knoxville, Tenn., First, Douglasville, Ga.; Atlanta North; and Emmanuel, Lithonia, Ga.

Restart included youth members from several local churches, as well as many volunteers who returned from college and boarding school. The message of Restart isn’t just what the youth can do, but what Christ is looking to do in everyone.

—BY BRADFORD GOODRIDGE

Fillmans Celebrate 60 Years

Donald Wilton Fillman married Dolly Darbo on June 7, 1950. On the day of the wedding, the bride ran out of gas in her black Studebaker Land Cruiser, and had to walk 1.5 miles in the hot sun wearing white sandals, pink dress, and curlers. They got started late that day, but ended happy with six children, 16 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren. Don, a dentist, has been blessed by helping others.
Fifty-six Navajo children attended a Vacation Bible School (VBS) taught by Gulf States Conference teens who were a part of the annual Conference teen mission trip. Thirty-eight excited youth and staff gathered at the Birmingham First Church in Hoover, Ala., on Saturday night, July 10, 2010. The journey started after communion and prayers, asking for the Lord’s blessing. Their destination was Monument Valley, Utah.

The first stop was Great Plains Academy (formerly Enterprise Academy) in Kansas where the group spent the night. Sadly, they would be the last ones to stay there since the Academy closed this year, and the buildings are for sale.

After a delay because of mechanical trouble on the bus, and several sightseeing stops, the group arrived at Monument Valley late Wednesday night.

On Sabbath afternoon, VBS invitations were given out, and visitations began. On Monday morning at 9:00 a.m., Bob Hill, transportation director, and Sandra Corbin, nurse, craft leader, and girl’s director, ran the route picking up the Navajo children.

The teens were involved in all areas of the VBS, from teaching the lessons, acting and planning the skits, to helping with the crafts and music. The lessons were acted out by the skit team in costumes to fit each story. The theme was the Rainforest. The Navajo children listened intently as staff member Beatrice Hill told the continuing story of Julius, the green parrot who came from the rainforest. The four layers of the rainforest were discussed with a PowerPoint presentation of some of the animals, and the terrain of each layer during the opening exercises. The Ten Commandments were the main lesson focus, and health classes were taught to each class every day.

Another feature of the mission trip was the work projects. The projects included stripping bark from poles, putting up fences and fence posts, painting the Monument Valley Native School, fixing equipment, repairing numerous school doors, and other items needed for the new school year. Numerous repairs were done to the church as well.

Victor and Pam Vaughn were the pastoral couple for the trip. Victor is the pastor of St. Elmo and Fairhope, Ala., and Pascagoula, Miss., district. The Vaughns ministered to the youth, staff, and Navajo children morning and evening. A call was given to the youth and staff on Thursday night with a response of 21 rededications. The Navajo children responded positively when Vaughn gave an invitation for them to follow Jesus on Friday morning during VBS.

The VBS was directed by Kelly Riley, with Mitiila Suarez assisting. Rick Riley was the trip director. Joseph Rinshagen was music and boys’ director. Ben Lowery assisted Rinshagen with the boys. Bob Southard was projects coordinator. Theresa Southard worked with VBS, crafts, and kitchen. Wayne and Jeanne Sudduth kept the group fed, while Pam Vaughn and other female staff kept the clothes clean. The group arrived back on Monday morning, July 26. All were blessed and were a blessing to the native people.

—BY REBECCA GRICE AND BEA HILL
Law School Graduate Marches Alone

As a child Tamika Miller aspired to be a fashion designer, often designing and making clothing for her Barbie dolls. However, at the age of six, she told her parents that she was going to be an attorney. And apparently she set sails in her young mind dressed in full graduation regalia, and marched the length of a chapel aisle on the campus of her law school in Montgomery, Ala., to receive her Juris doctorate degree.

She marched alone. The rest of her class had graduated the previous Sabbath. After becoming an Adventist in 2007, Miller believed that the Sabbath was holy, sanctified, and set apart, and that to attend graduation would be against God’s clear and convincing Word, a conflict with her moral conscience, and a witness to her classmates. Miller decided that she would not march with her class or contact her dean requesting a separate ceremony. She later followed the leading of the Holy Spirit to request a separate ceremony and the request was honored. So, in the company of her family, friends, and church members, she marched alone, but not without the pomp and circumstance her classmates received. Every detail was as carefully attended to as if 200 students were graduating. Her dean and a favored professor delivered stirring commencement remarks.

Mel Eisele, Conference president, was in the middle of Camp Meeting at Bass, but drove the nine-hour round trip to attend Miller’s graduation. He stated that he wanted to be there because he wanted to show his support for her accomplishment and faithfulness.

To anyone who might be struggling to stand for principle today, Miller shares this advice: “Seek first the kingdom of God and He will add all these things unto you. Standing on principle is not easy or something you can do without God’s guidance. We are incapable of following God’s Word without Him.

“Pray without ceasing and read God’s Word. Allow the Word of God to reveal to you that which you should do and stand upon that.

“In your decision to stand on principle, do not waiver no matter what other people may say. Remember that if no one else is watching, God knows, and He is the only One you have to answer to in the end.

“Understand that your stand on principle is a witnessing tool to others, and that until you get to Heaven, you may never know how your stand influenced someone else’s life.

“Know that God is with you and that He will give you the strength you need to endure all the nay-sayers.

“As my father always tells me, ‘Trust in God, for He will never lead you astray.’”

—BY AMY MAPP

Youth Remind Members of Blessings of Freedom

The children of the Bonifay, Fla., Church, put on a special program for the church members on July 3, 2010, to celebrate the patriotic 4th of July week-end. Through a skit that was directed by Keith and Sharon Ward, Cyndi Jackson, and Kimberly Chapman, the children told the story of our country’s birth. Wearing patriotic attire, they reminded the church members of the freedoms we have, especially to worship God. They finished the program by singing "Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory."

—BY JOEL WESTBERG
Kentucky-Tennessee News

New Chapel Opened at Indian Creek Camp

A ribbon-cutting ceremony marked the grand opening of the new chapel at Indian Creek Camp (ICC) on May 15, 2010.

Indian Creek Camp is located at Center Hill Lake, in middle Tenn. All year long, ICC is open for retreats, summer camp, ministry groups, and some private organizations.

The grand opening celebrated the completion of the new chapel that seats up to 400 people in a theater-style arrangement, which more than doubles that of the former chapel. The building can also be divided for smaller groups using folding partitions, and is equipped with new state-of-the-art audio-visual technology.

“We’ve needed a new building because the old [A-frame chapel] wasn’t adequate enough for the large numbers of people coming to camp,” said Doug Hillard, Conference treasurer.

After the ribbon-cutting, the Madison Campus Pathfinder Drum Corps led the crowd of 200 into the new facility. The Highland Academy Choir sang, and then Steve Haley, Conference president; Richard Hallock, former Conference president; Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary; Douglas Hilliard, Conference treasurer; and Wendy Eberhardt, Conference youth director gave short speeches and thanked those who assisted in the completion of the chapel.

Construction of the new chapel began November 1, 2009, and thanks to the hard work from the architects, builders, construction team, decorating committee, and church members, the facility was finally completed. The new chapel is the final phase of reconstruction of ICC, which began in 1999.

Although the planning committee was authorized to borrow up to $200,000 for the project, because of the generosity of the church members, it has been completed without the need to borrow any money.

—BY RACHEL ALLEN
COMMUNICATION INTERN

Baby Shower Held for Teen Mothers

Woodbury Adventist Community Services (ACS), women’s ministries, and Bags of Love assisted the Cannon County Community Advisory Board (CAB) in holding a baby shower for teen mothers on Sunday June 27, 2010.

Fifteen young teens from Cannon County attended the shower, and were given supplies, information, and support to help them succeed during this difficult time in their young lives. Each teen mother (or mother-to-be) was assigned an experienced sponsor/mentor mother who will stay in contact with them to give advice, comfort, and guidance. The teen mothers also received a bag of goodies from the women’s ministries department for themselves, and a bag for the baby from Bags of Love. Mothers who did not have a car seat received one, and the others received diapers from the ACS and other organizations. They all appreciated the shower very much, and had a wonderful time.

This was a team effort for the community. Other organizations involved were the Woodbury Lions Club, Jenny Grady, director of the River Park Hospital OB, DCS, DHS, Ameri-Choice, Cannon Community Church, SAVE (domestic violence), Millennium Hair Solon, Hot-Spot Tanning, and Briar Rose Flowers.

CAB is a state mandated organization in each county that is made up of groups, churches, and individuals who identify community needs and ways to address those needs. Woodbury ACS and Bags of Love have been part of the Cannon County CAB for the past year.

—BY PERRY F. LOUDEN JR.
Sand Hill Celebrates Centennial

Past and present members with family and friends celebrated the 100-year presence of the Sand Hill congregation in Warren County, Ky., on May 15, 2010. To accommodate the expected attendance, a tent was pitched under the large shade trees next to the church building.

The tent was reminiscent of a tent meeting held by F.D. Starr, pastor, in 1897 on a farm owned by Reuben and Cynthia Beck, which resulted in seven people being baptized and becoming charter members: John Sullivan and Hester Grimes, Reuben and Cynthia Beck, and John G. Lewis. Many of the current members trace their spiritual roots back to these first members.

During those early years, this group met in one another’s homes. Later they met in an old school house. It was a happy day when land was secured for a church home. Sullivan and his brother, John, had a saw mill, and cut timber and hand-planed the lumber for the church, which was built in 1910. A room was later added for a church school. A new brick church was built in the early 70’s and dedicated May 12, 1973.

Participating in the 100-year celebration were three of Sand Hill’s pastors: Gerald Fillman, Paul Cannon, and John Estrada. Cannon delivered the sermon. Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary; local elder Glenn Heil; and current and former members took part in the services.

Descendents of the charter members and their extended families participated. While the membership has fluctuated during the years, the current attendance ranges between 40 and 50.

—BY JOHN ESTRADA

South Fulton Funds Mission Project

Early in December 2009, a small group of members at South Fulton Church remained after the service and held a planning session to brainstorm fresh ideas and set new goals. One of the goals set was to support the mission of the World Church by raising funds for a One-day Church.

The group set a completion date of June 2010. Local elder Steve Gardner and his wife, Jeanette, who were asked to oversee this project, made a fundraising chart and a model of a One-day Church for loose offerings.

By the end of December, members were elated to find that they had received more than one third of the necessary funds. Off to a good start, they still had nearly $1,000 to raise. At the end of February 2010, they were surprised to discover they had reached their goal of $1,500. In three months of what is generally the most financially stressed time of the year, the small congregation dug deep into their own pockets to reach out to their brothers and sisters around the world.

This was a reminder that no task is too great for God.

—BY CONNIE AND HANNAH CORRIGAN

Andersons Celebrate 60 Years

Paul and Elizabeth Anderson celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 4, 2010. Married in Nashville, Tenn., in 1950, the Andersons have served the Seventh-day Adventist Church for nearly 50 years.

Paul began his ministry as a pastor in the Gulf States Conference in 1963, and was ordained in that conference in June 1967. He also served the Kentucky-Tennessee, Georgia-Cumberland, Iowa, and Carolina conferences. In 1990, the Andersons went on a mission trip to Africa.

At the time of his retirement in 1994, he was serving as the ministerial secretary of the Carolina Conference. Following retirement, the Andersons returned to Tennessee in 1995 where they are members of the Hendersonville Church, and still active in the work of the Church.

—BY MARVIN LOWMAN
Raleigh Pathfinders Help Stop Hunger

The Gethsemane Cougars Pathfinder Club of Raleigh, N.C., grew this year in numbers and in spirit. Pathfinders were active in the community and were also able to reach around the world with their efforts. Opening the year with an international camporee was only the beginning.

Members of the club helped package food for the Stop Hunger Now Program. The ingredients and overhead expenses for packaging the food through the meal-packaging program cost 25 cents per serving. Stop Hunger Now provided the ingredients, and the Pathfinders, along with students from North Carolina State University and various other organizations were able to package thousands of meals in a two-day period. The packaged food was dehydrated, fortified, rice-soy meals containing more than 20 vitamins and minerals especially formulated for the undernourished. The meals were vacuum-sealed in bags, allowing them to be stored in Stop Hunger Now’s warehouses for as long as five years.

As every year, the Pathfinders participated in the Martin Luther King march through downtown Raleigh. The group battled the cold wind and marched a mile from the State Capital Building to the Memorial Auditorium. Thousands of people of all backgrounds marched with them, many asking who they were, and they answered, “We are Pathfinders.”

Their efforts were awarded at the end when Carquest, an auto parts store, donated $1,500. The funds will be used to purchase QHZFDPSLQJHTXLSPHQW for future camporees, and WRVHQGVWDII7/7©VWRIXWXUH youth trainings.

Cougars are always involved in many activities from campouts to ski trips, and the Adopt-A-Highway Program. And, in an effort to help keep family and church members stay up-to-date with the Pathfinder ministries, the Gethsemane Cougars established a Facebook site.

—BY TYRONE FISHER

Atlanta-Berean School Competes in Robotics League

The Berean students proudly display their first place awards.

Berean Christian Junior Academy (BCJA) middle school students are praising God on their "Journey to Excellence." Two years ago, Jnocka Small, the mathematics and science teacher for grades six through eight, took a group of students to observe the Southern Union Regional Challenge at Southern Adventist University. This is an annual tournament sponsored by the Adventist Robotics League (ARL). The students returned motivated and determined to build a team for BCJA. BCJA’s robotics team began the following August with the support of BCJA administration, Atlanta Berean Church, committed parents, and generous donors. The students immediately named the team Electro Forces, and designed T-shirts to be worn for field trips and robotics tournaments.

The Electro Forces participated in the Southern Union Regional Challenge in 2009 and 2010. The team was awarded first place in the teamwork category each year. In addition, the Electro Forces received a certificate for their research presentation on the human digestive system, and a special certificate as the most caring team.

The Electro Forces have also gone on several education field trips. One amazing trip was a tour of the Mercedes Benz production facility in Vance, Ala. The facility builds the M-Class, R-Class, and GL-Class sport utility vehicles. The students were able to see robots install windshields and other parts of the vehicles.

Small is very excited about the Electro Forces. He states, “ARL allows students to further explore math and science concepts taught in the classroom. It also introduces students to careers in science and engineering.”
Ephesus Church Holds 40-Day Fast

Ephesus Church in Wilmington, N.C., realized that many are presently experiencing financial difficulties and spiritual distraction. So, the members decided to enter a season of 40 days of fasting and prayer to receive direction from God.

Thelma Boyer explained she was not going to participate because she enjoyed cooking as well as eating. Also, the call to increase giving to the 10+10 program was not in her plans because she felt she was already giving enough to the church. “I did the selective food fast; it would be over.”

However, one Friday during the 40 days, the Holy Spirit spoke to her and said, “I want you to come aside and fast.” The next morning she did just that. She was also impressed to give the 10+10. Then she was directed to give a large sum of money to a person in need. At first she was reluctant because of her own financial need, but God convinced her that she would not miss it. “I did as He directed because I trusted Him, and three days later I received a check in the mail for four times the amount I had given.”

Krystal Hicks also shared her testimony with the congregation. She had been unemployed for some time and was not eligible for any compensation through the unemployment office. However, later she discovered that she was eligible and for more than she initially would receive. “Later on, during the fast, I got a call stating that there was a job available in Raleigh, N.C. I’m taking the job! God is good!”

Those who participated ate fruits, vegetables, grains, and nuts. Some fasted until noon; others were able to fast all day with their physician’s approval. The idea for the 40-day fast was initiated by Xylia Sparks-Davis.

God continues to work for His people during these times. Whatever your situation is, continue to pray — God has a plan for your life.

—BY JOHN DAVIS

Sumter Member Celebrates 110th Birthday

The children of Earline Spann Rose McCoy gave her a 110th birthday celebration at National Health Care in Sumter, S.C., on July 25, 2010, with family, friends, and church family. Her children recognized her as “a virtuous woman indeed.”

McCoy is loved by her family, friends, and church family. She is known for love of Jesus Christ, her family, and her church. She has displayed many gifts and talents and has demonstrated her unselfish willingness to assist others.

She has raised 11 children: Sadie, Ethel, Birdie Maude, Corine, Junitus, John, Mary Ruth, Gladys, Irvine, Samuel, and Franklin. Today she is the matriarch of six generations, from her five living children down to her great-great-grandchildren.

Special tributes were given by Mark Sanford, governor of South Carolina; Joseph T. McElvien, Jr., mayor of Sumter; and Willard Scott, on the Today Show, NBC News, which aired on August 5, 2010, at 8:30 am.

She attributes her longevity to “hard work, trusting in God, and loving everybody.” She is a member of Berea Church in Sumter, S.C., and a resident at National Health Care. She enjoys listening to spiritual music, and visits from family and friends.

—BY NANCY W. KENNEDY
South Central Employs First Female Pastors

Dana C. Edmond, South Central president, stated in a letter to the Conference workers, and an online news article on South Central’s website, that he was, “grateful to announce the first females added to our pastoral staff in the history of our Conference, Lola Renee Moore, Oakwood University Church assistant pastor, and Josian Frampton, Ephesus Church, Birmingham, Ala., assistant pastor.”

On July 17, 2010, Moore, pastor, was introduced, installed, and added with Jonathan Smith, pastor, to the pastoral team at Oakwood University Church where Craig Newborn, Ph.D., serves as senior pastor.

Moore is a native of New Jersey. She felt the call of God upon her life at an early age, and served faithfully in several departments of her church, including the youth council, and as a choir member and director. She decided to formalize her work for the Lord by the pursuit of undergraduate study in music and theology at La Sierra University in Riverside, Calif. She received a bachelor of arts in religious studies with a minor in biblical languages in 2004. During her matriculation, she demonstrated leadership and a love for ministry as the Black Student Association religious vice president and president, as well as university worship director.

She continued her studies at Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, Berrien Springs, Mich., where she earned the master of divinity in May 2009. Further preparing for God’s work, she recently added to her list of qualifications Ecclesiastical Endorsement as Chaplain by the North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

Moore has ministered in several capacities, including chaplain at Florida Hospital South, Orlando, Fla., and for Alive Hospice and St. Thomas Hospital, both located in Nashville, Tenn. In January 2010, she was blessed to begin her work in pastoral ministry at Riverside Chapel Church, where Furman Fordham serves as pastor. She was a significant addition appointed by the local church, and served as pastor for evangelism and discipleship.

A gifted singer, preacher, and God-directed leader, Moore has ministered across the United States and internationally. As Oakwood University Church’s first female, Conference-hired assistant pastor, her responsibilities will include associate for worship and youth ministries.

Josian “Josie” Frampton will later be introduced, installed, and added to the Ephesus Church in Birmingham, Ala., as its first assistant pastor. She was born on the island of Dominica, West Indies. At birth she had a crippled limb, which Frampton says, “was destined to confine me to a life of restraints and hardships, but God intervened and healed my deformity by answering a simple prayer. Through His providential workings He led my paths here to the United States a few years ago as a student. I believe it is also His divine will which miraculously led my paths to pastoral ministry after the tragic deaths of my two uncles in February 2007. My pre-ministry background involves academic accomplishments in business management and education. Above all, my greatest ambitions have been my community outreach ministry endeavors, which have allowed me the opportunity to engage in prison, hospital, and street ministries in my local communities.”

Frampton shares that she has known many hardships, disappointments, pains, and discomforts, but God has continually extended His mercy. As she looks over her life, she stands amazed at what God has done. His grace has unquestionably carried her through many dangers, toils, and snares. “All my earthly accomplishments,” says Frampton, “are a direct result of His care for my life. I have the assurance, however, that no matter what happens in my life, God will work it out for my good. My heart is grateful for the blessing He has bestowed in allowing me the opportunity to represent Him within the South Central Conference.”

Though unaware of the details of the future, she is
The Lord told Habakkuk that if the vision tarry, “Wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry,” because it will be fulfilled in this monumental decision made through the leaders of South Central.

Edmond says, “We take this historic step, not to be politically correct, but for the following reasons: We believe that it is the Conference administration’s responsibility to get the very best people that we can find to work in the South Central Conference, regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, etc.; we believe that the more diversified our staff is, the more people we can reach with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

“I recognize that this represents a major change in how ministry is done in the South Central Conference. Often, change is difficult. I recognize that this particular change represents a seismic shift that not everyone may be prepared to accept immediately. I can personally relate to that; once upon a time, I was not prepared to accept this kind of change.

“But, I believe that at the end of the day, the people of this Conference will give to these ladies the same opportunity that it gave to me and all of our other male pastors: the opportunity to prove the call of God upon their lives.

“These ladies are gifted, spiritual young people, whom I believe will be an asset and a blessing to the mission of the South Central Conference, which is, to paraphrase that old AYS aim, ‘The Advent message to all our Conference in this generation.’

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

A Dream is Realized

Seay was accepted into Vanderbilt University’s Ph.D. in religion program, focusing on theological studies with minor emphasis in African American religious history and theological ethics. While successfully negotiating course work, language, qualifying exams, proposals, writing, and finally defending the dissertation, Seay assumed a number of Conference assignments. During this time, he was given four different interim pastoral assignments, developed the college for ministry, and served as ministerial and family ministries director. He was also asked to serve on South Central’s administrative committee during a challenging time. With each new assignment, the dream of completing the Ph.D. was a vision tarrying.

It was through the prayers of his family and a countless host of others that he found the resources to press on. His wife, Tara, and children, George, April, and Hammond, were especially understanding and supportive of the long stretches when he was not available. Released from his Conference departmental responsibilities, he was assigned to serve the South Nashville Church family. Their support provided the opportunity to complete his dissertation. He successfully defended his dissertation entitled, “Theologian of Synthesis: Martin Luther King Jr.’s Use of the Dialectical Method in His Critical Thinking on Theology, History, and Ethics,” October 10, 2008 — 13 years after beginning the journey.

August 1, 2010, marks the completed realization of the vision of Joseph McCoy. Seay officially becomes a member of the Oakwood University’s religion faculty as the first African American with a Ph.D. in religion with specialization in theology. He joins a very small group of African American Adventists with Ph.D./Th.D.’s in religion. His accomplishment represents the continued tradition of South Central’s innovative spirit that serves as a leader in the African American Adventist community.

—BY GEORGE RUSSELL SEAY JR., PH.D.
Graduates Refuse to Attend Graduation Ceremony on Sabbath

Whoever said teens don’t stand up for their faith and beliefs these days? Kudos to three members of the Mt. Zion Church, Kissimmee, Fla., who took a bold stand for their faith in God.

Shane Clarke (Osceola County School for the Arts), Shenelle Frederick (Osceola High School), and Courtney Hunt (Osceola County School for the Arts), chose not to graduate with their class of 2010 because it was being held on Sabbath.

When Pauletta DaSilva, a high school teacher and the education director at Mt. Zion, heard about the unselfish and courageous stand these individuals made, she took it upon herself to organize a commencement service that was like none other for these graduates.

Although their graduations were not held on Sabbath, three additional high school graduates, Adrien Francois, Deland James, and Monique Norris, also members of Mt. Zion, chose to walk down the graduation aisle in support of their friends.

The commencement service was held on Sunday, May 30, 2010, at the Mt. Zion Community Center Complex.

With “Pomp and Circumstance,” the Pathfinder color guards led the procession as proud parents, families, friends, and church members witnessed this auspicious event. From beginning to end, the program was “outstanding!”

One highlight of the ceremony was the precious memories section where a multimedia presentation of each of the six graduates was presented.

The commencement address was given by Kevin Bryan, pastor of Bethel Church, Gainesville, Fla.

Bryan challenged the graduates to become all that God would have them to be, and to pursue a higher education.

Maxwell Berkel, pastor of Mt. Zion, proudly gave the prayer of dedication and words of encouragement to the graduates.

The junior-senior dean of Osceola High School, Charlene Lackey, and the principal of Osceola County School for the Arts, Jeanette Rivers, were also participants during the commencement program.

Lackey and Rivers presented the three graduates with their high school diplomas — thus making the graduation official.

—BY BRENDA HUNT AND PAULETTA DASILVA

Shane Clarke (left), Adrien Francois, Shenelle Frederick, Deland James, and Courtney Hunt celebrate their graduation from high school during a special service at Mt. Zion Church, Kissimmee, Fla.

Lorenzo Grant Dies at 76

Lorenzo Grant, D.Min., 76, former church administrator, pastor, and professor, died July 6, 2010, at his home in Sebring, Fla.

In 1965 Grant received a bachelor in theology from Washington Adventist University (formerly Columbia Union College).

In 1975 he received a master’s degree in religious education from Howard University. In 1976 he received a doctorate degree in ministry from Howard University.

Grant served as a professor of ethics and philosophy at Southern Adventist University (formerly Southern College of Seventh-day Adventists), director of trust services for the Allegheny East Conference, and director of African-American ministries for the Southern California Conference.

Grant also pastored churches in the Allegheny East and Southern California conferences.

He is survived by his wife, Grayce Nelson Grant, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; and six children: Penny Loren, Grayce Grant Wood, John Patterson, Meredith Grant, Michael Marshall, and Angela Grant.

A memorial service was held July 25 at the Ridge Area Church, Avon Park, Fla.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY
More Than 780 Attend Maranatha’s Community Fair

Nearly 800 people attended Maranatha Church’s first Community Fair, held on May 23, 2010, at the North Florida Fairgrounds in Tallahassee, Fla.

According to event organizers, the fair was an opportunity for Maranatha to build relationships with the southside community. “This is something we plan to do each year,” said James James, chairman of the event’s planning committee. “Our hope is that this will be the start of an enduring relationship.”

The fair featured health care screenings, a clothing giveaway, and live performances by local Christian artists.

In addition, there were several activities where the children could participate, including a bounce house, water slide, and face painting.

Four iPods were given away at the fair, as well as a Nintendo Wii console grand prize. The fair was family-oriented, and served the young and the old.

Community businesses supported the event with needed donations that helped serve the community.

The event was a major success, and members of Maranatha have begun to meet and evaluate how to make the next event more successful next year.

A lot of work and planning was put into making the event successful, but it could not have been successful without the community’s support.

The North Florida Fairgrounds was the perfect location. Maranatha thanked the North Florida Fairgrounds staff for making the event a joyous occasion.

Organizers said that they have a lot to offer to the community, and they need the southside to know and take advantage of the various ministries that are in place to assist them.

Maranatha enjoyed ministering to the community and is looking forward to next year’s event.

—BY PHILLIPPA JAMES

Maxine Gainous (left), Joycelyn Hall, and Theresa Hall give away food items to event attendees during Maranatha’s community fair.

At the community fair health screening booth, Faith Blocker, R.N. (right), checks a resident’s blood pressure.
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Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, Southern Adventist University

THEME | The Battle over the Bible: Archaeology, History, and Faith

October 14
3:00 - 8:00 p.m. Registration & Visit Exhibits
7:00 - 10:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Physicians
7:00 - 10:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Dentists
7:00 - 11:00 p.m. 4 hours / CE / Optometrists

October 15
7:00 - 12:00 p.m. Golf Tournament (must register)
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Physicians
2:00 - 5:00 p.m. 3 hours / CE / Dentists
7:30 p.m. Children’s meeting (ages 1-5)
7:30 p.m. Keynote Presentation/ Michael Hasel, Ph.D.

October 16
9:00 a.m. Sabbath School
9:00 a.m. Children/Youth Sabbath School & Church Services
Beginners, Kindergarten, Primary, Juniors, Youth
10:45 a.m. Worship Service – Michael Hasel, Ph.D.
1:00 - 6:00 p.m. Family Time in the beautiful Smoky Mountains
3:30 Special Presentation – Michael Hasel, Ph.D.
6:15 p.m. Vespers – Michael Hasel, Ph.D.
7:15 p.m. NASDAD Banquet
Adventist Book Center & Exhibits will be open following vespers

A Golf Tournament will be held at Bent Creek Golf Course in Gatlinburg, TN Friday October 15th at 7:30 am. A drawing for participants will be held after Thursday’s continuing education for prizes and dinners to local Gatlinburg businesses. Advanced registration is required by September 1st.

Registration forms for the Golf Tournament are available on-line at: www.southernunion.com/medical-dental
MEDICAL + DENTAL REGISTRATION

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- Dental* Thurs., 7-10 p.m., Fri., 2-5 p.m. $100
- Medical* Thurs., 7-10 p.m., Fri., 2-5 p.m. $100
- Optometry** Thurs., 7-11 p.m. $100

Registration fee is non-refundable

*6 credit hours of continuing education for both physicians/ dentists.
**4 credit hours of continuing education for optometry.

Will you be attending Sabbath services?  ■ Yes  ■ No
*If yes, please list names and ages of children attending if under 18:

Special Sabbath school and church services will be provided for all children and youth. Child care will be provided Friday evening for ages 1-5.

Please mail registration and check to: Southern Union Conference, Medical/Dental Retreat. PO Box 849, Decatur, GA 30031 Fax 404-299-9726

Please fill out and return by mail or fax no later than October 1, 2010. Additional information at www.southernunion.com/medical-dental

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SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE is a place where you can live independently in your own home. Lawn mowing and maintenance provided. Church and nursing home on grounds. Make friends with Adventist neighbors, and enjoy the low cost of living in the Oklahoma countryside. Call Bill Norman, 405-454-6538. Website: www.summit-ridge-village.org. ©
area and utility room, 2 bedroom, 2 baths, den. Furniture optional. Winter mountain view, garden area, well water with hand pump, new wood-burning stove. Storage area, yard-work, and trash removal provided. Deposit and references. 828-863-2149.  [9]

BRYANT, AL – 1620 square foot, 2 bed, 2 bath rancher, western cedar siding on 24 acres. 40x72 tri-level shed, 36’ equipment shed, small spring-fed pond. Also, 36 acres, 15 acres mostly level field, remainder mature woods. Year-round creek. Both have utilities, paved road frontage, 4 miles to SDA church and k-9 academy. 30 miles to Chattanooga. Call 256-548-0630.  [9, 10]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Lauralbrook Adademy Needs YOU: Positions open are Director of Nursing, RNs, LPNs, CNAs, Cooks, Greenhouse/Garden Manager, and Construction Staff. Housing and stipend provided. Located in the beautiful mountains of Dayton, TN and only 60 miles from SAU. Contact Roger Westfall at 423-775-0771; or email maudie.westfall@gmail.com. [9-1]

Physician Opportunities in North Georgia: Gordon Hospital is seeking Board Certified/Board Eligible Internal Medicine physicians. Live within a beautiful southern community which offers a gorgeous Adventist hospital (www.gordonhospital.com), brand new Adventist elementary school (www.cobleschool.com), and first class Adventist high school (www.gcsada.org). Southern Adventist University within a 45 minute drive (www.southern.edu). Contact bonnie.shadx@ahss.org, 800-264-8642. [9-12]

Beautiful Adventist Hospital located in North Georgia is seeking Board Certified/Board Eligible OB/GYN. Join a highly respected, busy private practice. Excellent income guarantee. Excellent benefits. Outstanding Adventist schools within community. Southern University within a 45-minute drive. For more information contact bonnie.shadx@ahss.org, or call 800-264-8642. www.gordonhospital.com. [9-12]

Adventist Health System needs registered nurses and physical therapists. Do you want to be a part of “Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ”? Email David Gordon at david.gordon@ahss.org or call 407-975-3792! [9-12]

Jellico Community Hospital in beautiful Jellico, TN is looking for physicians in the following specialties: Orthopedic, Cardiology, Pediatrics, OB/GYN or FP/OB. The hospital is also hiring nurses in Med Surg, OB, ICU and Surgery. For more information please contact: Jason Dunkel at 423-784-1187 or jason.dunkel@ahss.org. [9-7]

Port Charlotte Florida needs a BC/BE Family Physician/Internist. I need a dedicated, Christian physician to join my practice of 20 plus years, and eventually take over. There are no other Adventist family physicians here. It is truly a mission field. Outstanding church family and school within 10 minutes of office. 2 hospitals within 5 minutes of office. Everything is negotiable and workable if you are ready to take that leap of faith. I will work with you as long as needed. Located between Sarasota and Naples, FL. Vacations are within an hour away. Contact Dr. Vollberg at 941-661-7293, cartlonvollbergmd@embarqmail.com. [9]

Southern Adventist University’s School of Religion seeks professor for winter semester 2011. A Ph.D. or D. Min., developed skills in evangelism, and ministerial training required. Candidate must manifest contagious love for Jesus, strong commitment to authority of Scripture, and deep passion for SDA message and mission. Ability to engage students in the classroom is essential. Send résumé, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references as e-mail attachments to Greg King, Religion Search Committee Chair, e-mail: gking@southern.edu; phone: 423-236-2975; fax: 423-236-1976. [9]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY’S Dining Services is looking for an experienced Prep Cook. Must be a quick learner, efficient worker, and able to multi-task. Interested candidates may apply at: http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_hourly.cgi. [9]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY is in need of a qualified HVAC technician. Duties will include maintaining, repairing, and installing H.V.A.C. and refrigeration equipment on the University campus. Refrigeration Recovery license required. Interested candidates please apply at: http://www.andrews.edu/hr/admin/jobs_view.cgi. [9]

MERCHANDISE FOR SALE


Adventist Satellite Systems – For sales & installation in the Atlanta area, call Kaz Sanocki, 404-791-3093. [9]

Reinforce Scripture Memorization with the A Reason For® handwriting and spelling homeschool curricula. The verses in each handwriting lesson correlate with the theme story in each spelling lesson. Now available at your local Adventist Book Center, online at www.adventistbookcenter.com, or by calling 1-800-765-6955. [9]

SAVE $6.00 September 1-30, 2010! ABC Deal of the Month: The Indomitable Gertrude Green, by Max Hammonds. Regularly $24.99, Sale $18.99. She was stubborn, willful, and tenacious—just right for what God had in mind. Available at your ABC, at www.AdventistBookCenter.com, or by calling 1-800-765-6955. [9]

Don’t Wait Until You Are Sick! Immune Ammunition helps your immune system fight virus, bacteria, fungus, and inflammation. We also carry vegan Vitamin D & vegan nutritional supplements. Order Now. 423-238-7467. www.bonherbal.com. Bon Herbs and Wonderful Things, Inc. PO Box 1038, Collegedale, TN 37315. [9,10]

Evelyn Watson Adams CD’s at reduced rates: He Loves Me—USD $10. Great is His Love for Me—USD $10. Visit www.evelynwatsonadams.com and order online. PO Box 1745, Jackson, MS 39215-1745. Call 601-260-8798. [9,10]

Born to Win Souls – a moving life story of Pastor W. C. Scales, Sr, is part of the Scales Legacy Package which also includes a collection of his inspirational poetry and music. To order or learn more, contact Real Truth Associates. Phone: 205-276-1906, online: www.realthuthassociates.com. [9-2]

Miscellaneous

Single and Over 40? Stay home and meet new friends in USA, only interracial group for Adventist singles over 40. For information, send new friends in USA, only interracial group for Adventist singles over 40. For information, send request to SDA church and k-9 academy. 30 miles to Chattanooga. Call 256-548-0630. [9-10]


ARE YOU MOVING SOON? Before you rent a U-Haul and do it yourself, check our price and save yourself the hassle. Plan now and reserve a time slot. Fast, direct, and economical. Contact Gary Erhard, Erhard Furniture, 610 South Mechanic Street, Berrien Springs, MI; 49103; 269-471-7366 or 248-890-5700, evenings 8-11 p.m. [9]

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante’ at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist. [9-2]

RV’s! Adventist owned and operated RV dealership has been helping SDA’s for over 30 years. Huge inventory of new and used trailers and motorhomes. Jayco, Newmar and Hurricane. Courtesy airport pickup and on-site hookups. Call toll-free 1-888-933-9300. Lee’s RV, Oklahoma City. www.leesrv.com or e-mail Lee Litchfield at Lee@leesrv.com. [9]


WILDWOOD HEALTH EVANGELISM MINI-CAMP – Rigorous 21-day seminar focusing on the practical skills of the health evangelist: Bible Prophecy; Sanctuary; Leadership; Higher Education Heaven’s Way; Marriage For Ministry; Last Day Events; Practical Christianity; evangelistic health lectures – How To Put Them Together; Simple Remedies; Hydro & Massage; Nutrition. October 3-24, 2010. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: $760 per person. (Includes room, vegan meals, materials). Contact: Lew Keith 931-724-6706. www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org, email: lykeith@gmail.com. [9]


PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners, and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit www.hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin’s HOPE deliver on-time. [9-12]

AdventistEvangelism.com – your #1 source for seminar handbills and brochures. If you are considering a community outreach series in your area we can help you design, print, and mail your invitations. Call Color Press toll free at 1-800-222-2145 and ask for Janet or Lorraine. [9-1]

McMILLAN FAMILY REUNION – looking for all SDA family members to participate in the up-coming family reunion July 21st – 24th, 2011 in historic Savannah, Georgia. Original reunion site, Orangeburg, SC. Please contact L. Brown at 912-352-9413 or e-mail jaap27@bellsouth.net. [9]

Announcements

Southern Union Prayer Ministries met in March to establish and implement goals with the conferences. These are the goals: Southern Union churches to become houses of prayer for all people; Unity through communication and prayer partnering among all churches; Encourage more prayer rallies, prayer days, weeks of prayer, in every church; Plan and implement children’s prayer conference; Encourage families to establish family altars; and Encourage families to establish time and place for personal prayer.

College View Academy/Union College Academy Alumni Weekend 2010. Oct. 8-10, in Lincoln, NE. Details: Ryan Lindbeck (Class of ’99), 402-483-1181 x15, or e-mail: rlindbeck@collegeviewacademy.org.


Southern Singles Fall Retreat – Oct. 15-17 at Sterchi Lodge. Details: Email avocadofiddler@gmail.com or call 423-784-9484.


Events Calendar

Carolina
Pathfinder Leadership Convention – Aug. 27-29.
Nosoca.
Journey Toward Intimacy – Sept. 10-12. Highland Lake Inn, Flat Rock, NC.
Grant Writing Seminar – Sept. 21, 22.

Florida
Complete calendar online – http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html
Florida Pathfinder events – http://www.floridapathfinders.org/ or call 407-644-5000 x127.
Singles’ Ministries events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. http://www.floridaconference.com/family/, djmiller4000@gmail.com, or 407-703-3050.
North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: http://www.oakwoodalumni.org/, oakwoodalumni@gmail.com, 888-719-7776, or 904-616-1896.
Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups. Details available under the “Support Groups” link in the “Patients and Visitors” box at http://www.fhdeland.org/
Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
Oct. 2. Port Charlotte.
Oct. 3. North Port, Venice
Nokomis, Sarasota, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Brandon, Tampa First.
Oct. 10. Clearwater, New Port Richey, Spring Hill, Brooksville,
East Pasco in Zephyrhills.
Oct. 17. Jacksonville First, Orange Cove, St. Augustine, Palatka, Palm Coast. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)
Oct. 23. Tallahassee.
TROILOGY Scripture Songs Concert – Oct. 9. Forest Lake Church, Apopka, 6:00 p.m. See article on page 27 in this TIDINGS. Details: 407-869-0680.
Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars
Georgia-Cumberland
Complete calendar online – http://www.gcscda.org
“Change Your Habits, Change Your Brain...Change Your Life” by Dane & Vicki Griffin – Sept. 10, 11. Colleagdele, TN.
Adventist Rider Retreat – Sept. 16-19. Fortiana Village, NC.
Greeneville, TN.
KID University – Sept. 26-29.
Collegedale, TN.
Evangelistic Meetings – Oct. 1, 2. Jackson County, GA.
Young Adult Ministries Convention – Oct. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
Commemorating Our Name – Oct. 1, 2. www.150sda.org.
Southern Union Medical/Dental Retreat – Oct. 14-17. Gatlinburg, TN.
Pathfinder Fellowship Events – Oct. 15-17.
Hispanic Net 2010 with Adly Campos – Oct. 16-23.
Hispanic Youth Rally – Oct. 22, 23. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.
Gulf States
Complete Calendar online http://www.gcscda.org
Women’s Ministries “Hope for Hurting Hearts” – Sept. 9-11.
Camp Alamosco.
Guest speaker, Annie Perez, who is presently facilitator of “Hope for Hurting Hearts” and “Reviving the Heart” which are retreats for sexual abuse and domestic violence survivors. Registration begins with a call to Janice Shipbaugh, women’s ministries director, 850-271-8226.
Kentucky-Tennessee
Conference Executive Committee Sept. 28. Nov. 30.
Women’s Retreats – www.kyndisciplingwomen.com
Hispanic – Sept. 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.
I – Sept. 24-26. Indian Creek Camp.
II – Oct. 1-3. Indian Creek Camp.
LE Fall Campout – Oct. 15-17.
Bailey’s Point.
Indian Creek Camp.
Highland Academy Youth Rally – Nov. 12, 13. Highland Academy.

South Atlantic
Local Elders’/Head Deacons’ Retreat – Sept. 24-26.
Orangeburg, SC. Details: 404-792-0535.
Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church 100th Centennial Celebration – March 11, 12, 2011. Columbia, SC. Details: 803-786-2800.
Southern Adventist University Outdoor Education Intensives – Sept. 5-16.
Plano Recital: Peter Cooper and Friends – Sept. 7.
Dave Cress Memorial Golf Tournament – Sept. 10.
ViewSouthern – Sept. 20-22.
Ministerial Candidate Recognition – Sept. 24, 25.
InTents meetings – Sept. 27-October 1.
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