Whose House Comes First?
A Passion for Him

At this time of year a Christian’s mind is directed to the birth of Jesus. Rather than debating the pagan origin of the Christmas season, perhaps our time would be better spent focusing our thoughts on the uniqueness of Jesus. This uniqueness generated a powerful passion in His followers, a passion that made them willing to be persecuted and killed rather than forsake Him, a passion that sent them to the most remote areas of Earth to tell His story.

More than 350 Old Testament prophecies, given centuries before the event, promised a totally unique Person would be born in Bethlehem. Let’s review a few of these prophecies.

Isaiah lived more than 700 years before Jesus. Under special inspiration, He promised, “For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. And the government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever-expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David. The passionate commitment of the LORD Almighty will guarantee this,” Isaiah 9:6, 7 NLT. In chapter 53, he shares the uniqueness of the Person given the royal titles in chapter 9: “But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed. All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God’s paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all,” Isaiah 53:5-6 NLT.

The New Testament writers expanded and amplified this theme. They believed without a doubt that Jesus was the fulfillment of all these prophecies. Matthew writes, “…He will be called Immanuel (meaning, God is with us),” Matthew 1:23b NLT. John wrote, “In the beginning the Word already existed. He was with God, and He was God,” John 1:1 NLT. In verse 14a, he continues, “So the Word became human and lived here on Earth among us.” Thomas declared, “My Lord and my God,” John 20:28 NLT. These early believers were flabbergasted that we humans could be “…restored to friendship with God by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies,” Romans 5:10 NLT. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “For God made Christ, Who never sinned, to be the offering for our sin, so that we could be made right with God through Christ,” 2 Corinthians 5:21 NLT.

The idea of a Deity coming to this Earth and being the Sacrifice for mankind is totally unique to the thinking of the great philosophers and writers of history. No one had ever imagined that concept. Believing that Jesus fulfilled the prophecies of the Old Testament, that He was the Sacrifice sent from God, that He was Who He claimed to be, has given believers throughout history a passion for Him the gates of hell could not stop.
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It is easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of everyday living. We become so involved with our jobs, marriage, and paying bills that now-and-again we need a reality check to help get things back into perspective. I came across an article entitled, “Whose House Comes First?” that did just that for me. What a serious question. Who is first in our lives? Do we have room for God in our busy schedules?

Imagine this... You haven’t been home in a number of years. When you return, you find your land overgrown, filled with weeds, and occupied by pest. Still you are happy for the opportunity to rebuild your home. In the midst of your rebuilding you hear the Lord of host saying: “Is it time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin? Consider your ways! You have sown much, and you bring in little; you eat, but do not have enough; you drink, but you are not filled with drink; you clothe yourselves, but no one is warm; you earn wages to put into a bag with holes,” Haggai 1: 4-6, NKJV.

You ask yourself, why is God so cruel? Does He not know that your home has been in ruins for years? Does He not see the long hours you labor in attempt to recover and restore your assets? How does He expect you to be of any help to anyone else if your own place is not in order?

You hear God’s voice again saying: “You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Therefore the heavens above you withhold the dew, and the earth withholds its fruit. For I called a...
drought on the land and the mountains… and on all the labor of your hands,” Haggai 1:9-11, NKJV.

You wonder if this could be the reason for your unexplained expenses and reduced income. Is this why you can't seem to make ends meet? Emergencies, sickness, loss, and taxes… “Someone” has definitely been “blowing” on your income.

I, too, have been in a situation much like this one. I was so involved in my personal ventures and didn't see the benefits of my labor. But have no fear, for the Lord says, “be strong, all you people of the land. For I Am with you… from this day on I will bless you,” Haggai 2: 4-19, NJKV.

God’s message through Haggai brought revival and new hope to the Jewish remnant. With renewed strength they bent every effort to rebuild the Temple, and within a remarkably short time, the Lord’s House was finished.

Nothing has changed. God’s requirements are still the same today. His promised blessings will come when we learn to put His House and His Work first.

Today, there is an urgent need for new or refurbished church buildings that bring praise and honor to God. There are churches that have stopped growing due to crowded facilities. There are churches that are burdened with debt, and little effort is being made to decrease it. This was never God’s plan!

Ellen White tells us in Counsels on Stewardship, “It is a dishonor to God for our churches to be burdened with debt…. If the money that is needed to build could first be accumulated by strenuous efforts, and the church dedicated free from debt, how much better would it be.” We must remember that all of our possessions belong not to us, but God. Our talents, skills, opportunities, strength, and means belong to Him, and we must give account for them, pages 22, 259, 261.

Let us prove the Lord, for He says, “bring ye all tithes and offering into the storehouse, that there may be meat in Mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.” He invites us to do so, “that there may be meat to supply the demands of souls hungering for the bread of life,” Counsels on Stewardship, p. 89. This word is our assurance.

The message is clear. There is a close correlation between personal prosperity and personal commitment to God. As the year comes to a close, let the New Year find us with God’s treasuries replenished. We must never forget that God’s House comes first.

Oliver J. McKinney is Southern Union stewardship director. Whitney Jordan is Southern Union communication department intern.
As a pre-nursing student, freshman Jonika Freeman understands how important grades and test scores are when it comes time to apply to the School of Nursing at Southern Adventist University. She is aiming to apply to the program the fall semester of her sophomore year, along with many other hopeful pre-nursing students. What will make their situation different, though, is with the opening of a new nursing building, Florida Hospital Hall, the nursing program is accepting more students than it has in the past.

“It’s intimidating because I know there’s probably tons of nursing students with high GPAs,” says Freeman. “With so many people, there’s going to be a lot of competition. It makes me feel better knowing there’s a better chance for me to get in because of the extra space.”

When choosing a school for her nursing education, Freeman explains there were two factors that made Southern stand out. First, word of mouth. She often spoke to people who praised the nursing program at Southern. Second, student success. The passing rate on the NCLEX-RN exam and the nurse practitioner certification exams is extremely high at Southern. The cherry on top, as she puts it, was Florida Hospital Hall.

“I feel like I can get a better education [in the new building],” says Freeman. “Just like you need to change textbooks in order to keep up with the latest information, it’s also good to change tools and the environment to be up to date.”

**From Herin Hall to Florida Hospital Hall**

With the nation facing a nursing shortage that’s expected to worsen as the baby boomer generation ages, Florida Hospital has partnered with Southern to add a building more than twice the size of the old nursing building. This new building will significantly reduce space issues for current students.

“We have already increased enrollment into the program in anticipation of the new building,” says
Linda Marlowe, progressions coordinator for the School of Nursing, “We’re absolutely delighted to get into the building.”

The three-story 33,000-square-foot facility differs greatly from Herin Hall, Southern’s old home for the School of Nursing. The limited amount of classroom space in Herin Hall had forced nursing classes to spread out among various parts of campus for years. Plans of simply renovating Herin began in the late 1990s and continued until 2006 when the Board of Trustees voted for Southern to build an entire new building for nursing.

“The original plan was renovation,” says Christopher Carey, vice president of advancement, “but as we looked out our need and demands, a new vision was crystalized.”

**Impacting Nursing Education**

Ground was broken for Florida Hospital Hall on December 2, 2007. Three years later, the School of Nursing expects to move into the new building in time for the winter 2010 semester.

“We are very excited, very anxious to be all under one roof,” says Barbara James, D.S.N., dean of the School of Nursing. “We’re so scattered out and have been for a number of years.”

This roof will cover a state-of-the-art learning center, complete with all the technology and tools needed to prepare nurses for a life of service. Florida Hospital Hall will have six classrooms ranging from 24-seat rooms to a 96-seat amphitheater. Two seminar rooms, along with a skills lab and assessment/massage lab, will also serve as classrooms.

Students will also benefit from the building’s new learning resource center. The learning resource center is an important meeting place for nursing students; not only are classes occasionally held there, but it’s also used for research, testing, and review. Florida Hospital Hall’s learning resource center will be composed of two computer labs; one will be a testing lab with 36 computers, and the other will have 31 computers primarily used for homework and practice tests.

**Simulation and Real Life Experiences**

Junior nursing major Sara Hernandez says the most exciting thing about the new nursing building will be having a larger learning resource center and simulation lab in the same place.

Once a semester, Hernandez walks into a lab for a hands-on four-hour simulation with five other nursing students and two professors. With the two professors assessing and controlling the simulation dummies by computer, and the rest of the students watching, Hernandez and her partner proceed to study their “patient’s” report and perform a physical assessment. Once they perform the assessment and check vital signs, they come up with a diagnosis and administer the proper medication. The subsequent measures taken are determined by how the dummy reacts to the medication.

Simulations are certainly an exciting and valuable part of Hernandez’s nursing education. A little more space for the lab would allow for a more comfortable, efficient environment. “It’s intimidating enough with two professors and the other students watching you,” says Hernandez. “The space [we have now] makes it even more difficult with everyone crammed watching.”

In Florida Hospital Hall, the simulators will range from the most basic to the most advanced nursing course. The two simulation rooms, plus a third space prepared for an extra station, will allow the nursing program to have simulators not only for the associate’s degree program, but also for the bachelor’s and master’s curriculums for the first time.

**A Collaboration Focused on the Future**

Together, all these programs and resources are part of a common goal between partners Florida Hospital and Southern’s School of Nursing: to provide students with the opportunities necessary for an easy transition from the classroom to the workplace.

Florida Hospital has had a long-standing partnership with Southern...
Adventist University, a connection that allows nursing students to learn about the medical field from the start.

“The relationship between the nursing faculty at Southern and Florida Hospital leadership,” says Lars Houmann, Florida Hospital president/CEO, “builds bridges for recruitment and career development specific to Florida Hospital’s needs and Southern’s ability to prepare nurses to meet those needs.” Gordon Bietz, D.Min., University president, serves on the Florida Hospital board, and was able to discuss possible ways of strengthening the nursing program with Houmann and the rest of the team. In the end, the group worked together to develop a relationship where Florida Hospital would help with the funding of the nursing building, and Southern would help with the training of nurses for careers of service.

From a Building to the World

There is no doubt the much-anticipated nursing building has been the focus of every nursing student and faculty member walking down the K.R. Davis Promenade. Molly Gibb, junior nursing major, is especially glad she had the opportunity to be here while it happened.

“Florida Hospital Hall is beautiful! It’s gorgeous and it makes me proudful about the field I’ve chosen,” says Gibb. “A specific place for everything will encapsulate the grandeur of the nursing program.”

Yet with all the buzz surrounding cool new gadgets and spacious classrooms, the School of Nursing has not lost focus on the mission of its program.

“A number of graduates are serving around the world as permanent missionaries. They report that having a nursing degree and knowledge of how to meet people’s healthcare needs allows them to subsequently evangelize,” says James. “We also see a mission field in our own local community and have students involved in many aspects of health-related services.”

In relation to this mission, students in the new building will lift their eyes to behold a world-field light fixture hanging from the ceiling, a grand symbol for the purpose of Southern’s nurses: to go out into all parts of the world to serve.

Ingrid Hernandez is a junior public relations and business administration major at Southern Adventist University.

Alumni learn about the features of the new nursing building while standing in one of its classrooms.

Ideal for the Campus Atmosphere

Florida Hospital Hall is a unique building in several ways. Inside, it has figures of branches and leaves swirling on the carpeting. It has warmer colors, walls of earthy green envelop the setting. It has wall embellishments made of stone, an organic look ushered into the indoors. Fred Turner, Southern’s corporate architect, designed the building with a contemporary feel.

“I remember walking down a hallway when I first entered Herin Hall and thinking it was boring,” says Turner. “When someone walks down a hallway of Florida Hospital Hall, I want them to see variety just as you would see in nature.”

And variety is exactly what they will be seeing. Aside from the organic elements found throughout the building, the actual structure itself seems to embrace its natural surroundings. Not only does it curve along with campus’ K.R. Davis Promenade, but the many windows also invite the warm sunshine and Tennessee greenery inside.

Despite being placed near the two oldest buildings on campus, the latest addition to Southern’s campus fits right in with its brick composition, chimney structure, and towering white columns. It was a clear goal from the beginning — Florida Hospital Hall was meant to uphold the traditional look of Southern while being a modern addition.
Atlanta Adventist Academy Principal La Ronda Forsey received a voicemail from the U.S. Department of Education in September. The first reaction was of concern about why anyone would call from there, but it ended up being a good phone call. The Office of Non-Public Education was selecting two schools to make a presentation on “Innovative Education for Private Schools.” On September 22, Forsey had the opportunity to share what has been happening at Atlanta Adventist Academy (AAA) during the last five years.

This was more than an opportunity to share what is happening at AAA — it was a chance to promote Adventist education to a prestigious audience that is interested in making sure that private schools can continue to be a part of the American school system. Many of the participants were members of CAPE (Council for American Private Schools); the role of this coalition group is to serve private elementary and secondary schools.

A testimony of how God’s plan was shared with people of many different faiths, Forsey recalls, “This was a high pressure speaking engagement, but was glad to have the opportunity — a chance of a lifetime.” AAA has come a long way — it was only five years ago that Atlanta Adventist Academy was struggling over whether to close its doors when enrollment plummeted due to lengthened commute times through Atlanta’s growing metroplex. Instead of accepting defeat, administration decided to try something new — a multi-campus network of live classrooms. Three metro-Atlanta campuses allow parents to keep their child close to home three days a week, and all three campuses come to one location the other two days by bus for more social interaction and group-oriented activities such as music, art, science labs, etc. All three campuses have a handful of live teachers and a group of classrooms logged in live from around the south. These three campuses, along with five rural partner campuses around the southeast, are all visually and audibly linked live, as if in the same classroom. Teachers can see their students, answer their questions, and even do interactive activities across campuses, without losing a beat.

This system allows for lowered commute times in a large city and for students to have another choice when it comes to their education. Students more than 45 minutes from an Adventist day academy traditionally have had to choose between boarding school and public school. While boarding schools are a valuable and appropriate choice for some students, some parents and students have stronger reasons for keeping their students at home longer than others, but don’t wish to sacrifice the atmosphere and excellence that comes with Adventist education.

The AAA staff continues to seek God’s guidance in being innovative in a way that will sustain AAA, and continue to prepare students for Adventist Christian leadership. There is one quote by Bruce Wilkinson that is a part of the AAA transition from six years ago: “We are expected to attempt something large enough that failure is guaranteed ... unless God steps in ... you do not become great; you become dependent on the strong hand of God.”

God has blessed our church with an amazing educational system that is recognized throughout the world.

Watch a video about Atlanta Adventist Academy and its use of technology by visiting http://vimeo.com/16028051.
Bert Fish Medical Center Helps Children “Bear” Hospital Visit

Hospitals can be scary places for young children, so Bonnie Bullock, Bert Fish Medical Center (BFMC) Parish nurse coordinator, decided to do something about it.

After a group of friends at Bullock’s church knitted teddy bears for a mission trip to Guatemala, Bullock thought that the bears could also help children in Southeast Volusia County. She recruited approximately 20 BFMC employees, volunteers, and community residents to knit or crochet more than 100 bears to give to children in the hospital’s emergency room.

“First of all, you are not feeling good. You’re sick, or you wouldn’t be in the emergency department,” Bullock said. “So we are hoping that a friendly, smiling teddy bear will go ahead and make that experience a pleasurable one.”

One local volunteer, Geneva Wetzel, has made almost 50 of the bears.

“I’m enjoying doing it and it is for a good cause. I hope the children enjoy it too,” said the New Smyrna Beach grandmother and great-grandmother of 12. “I hope it lights up their eyes a little bit and makes them feel a little bit better. I know they are sick when they come in here, so I hope it helps them.”

The bears were given out during the month of October.

“We want to create a healing environment so that people don’t feel institutionalized,” said Lisa Reese, BFMC director of ethics and compliance. “Patient-centered care is a healthcare evolution and everyone’s moving to it, but I think that we had a head start on it at Bert Fish.”

—BY LINDSAY REW

Florida Hospital Heartland Helps Local Children’s Museum Teach Kids About Health

Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center’s mission is to extend the healing ministry of Christ — especially to kids. The Children’s Museum of the Highlands has partnered with Florida Hospital to update an interactive educational area featuring hands-on healthcare tools.

“By teaching children about their bodies and how to care for them, we are empowering the next generation and helping them lead healthier lives,” said Florida Hospital performance improvement manager and Children’s Museum board member Meredith Lutz.

Florida Hospital donated scrub outfits, lab coats, latex gloves, surgical masks, x-ray films, and more items to the Children’s Museum to pair with their existing x-ray light box, patient table, and wheelchair for a fun interactive experience. A particular highlight of the area is the assorted x-ray films showing a snake and a teddy bear, and the wheelchair skills test. The hospital is also sponsoring a Stethoscope Drive to complete the area so kids can listen to their heartbeats and practice counting.

—BY TIFFANY BENDER
Employee Serves God by Giving Pedicures to Bikers

Faculty and staff at Southern Adventist University strive to teach students about service by setting a personal example. One such example is Becky Djernes, Southern’s interior design coordinator, who serves bikers through the Christian Motorcycle Association (CMA).

At a biker bash, CMA was there to provide show- ers, coffee, and other things that bikers would like to have. The CMA’s purpose is to not be preachy but to serve others like Christ did, hoping that by serving bikers physically, the bikers would be open spiritually.

All day the bikers walked in sandals through dusty and dirty roads. Their feet were very soiled.

“It hit me that the bikers’ feet were exactly the type of feet Jesus was washing as he knelt before his disciples,” says Djernes. “Christ washed their feet not just to clean their feet but to refresh them.”

On the first evening, only one person came to get a pedicure, but the next morning before Djernes even had time to eat breakfast, a line was forming.

“Not only did God touch my life, but it affected others,” says Djernes. “We have no idea who we are touching. It was the most spiritual experience of my entire life — spending 13 hours washing the feet of hardcore bikers.”

—BY CARRIE FRANCISCO

World-Famous Artist Showcases Biblical Illustrations at Southern

Barry Moser, a world-renowned printmaker, book illustrator, and native Chattanoogan, showcased more than 100 Old and New Testament illustrations from his Pennroyal Caxton Bible to students, faculty, and community members for two consecutive evenings on September 22 and 23.

Old Testament illustrations such as “The Raping of Tamar,” “Jonah and the Whale,” and “Esther” were unveiled at the John C. Williams Art Gallery, while “Simeon,” “The Dove,” and other New Testament illustrations were revealed in the McKee Library the following night to complete the Barry Moser exhibit.

“I absolutely love it,” says Kristopher Haughton, a senior graphic design major. “It’s great to see an artist approach the Bible by illustrating the things that people don’t always want to think about.”

—BY JOHN SHOEMAKER

Alum Wins Emmy

With an Emmy on her résumé, Maranatha Hay is one successful Southern Adventist University graduate.

Hay, ’08, recently won an award for her documentary, *Surgeons of Hope*, at the 36th annual Pacific Southwest Emmy Awards in San Diego. *Surgeons of Hope* is an emotional short documentary that she wrote, directed, and edited. The film follows the stories of two children in Nicaragua undergoing heart surgeries.

The video was produced for Loma Linda University by its public relations team. Hay took a position as a video public relations specialist at Loma Linda after graduating from Southern with a degree in broadcast journalism. Her job allows her to do what she loves most — telling stories.

Hay credits Southern for preparing her to pursue a career in documentary making.

“At Southern, I learned how to learn,” explains Hay. “I admired my professors, and I wanted to emulate them professionally.”

—BY JAROD KEITH
Oakwood University Names Its 11th President

Following several hours of prayerful deliberation on Monday afternoon, November 1, the Oakwood University Board of Trustees voted Leslie N. Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., the 11th president of Oakwood University. The Board had been in closed-door sessions all day preparing to make the final decision on who would be Oakwood’s next CEO.

Mervyn Warren, Ph.D., was voted interim president at the end of the General Conference session, and has served in that capacity since August.

During the past couple of months, the presidential search committee has worked diligently with the Myers McRae Executive Search and Consulting firm to meticulously review all 24 confirmed applications that were under consideration since the search team officially began its work.

The committee was composed of representatives from Oakwood’s Board of Trustees, administration, faculty, staff, and students. It hosted four separate campus forums in the week preceding the Board’s fall session, to allow faculty, staff, students, administrators, alumni, and members of the local community to pose their questions and concerns directly to the final three candidates, and become more engaged in the selection process.

The Board met with the final three candidates that Monday afternoon on Oakwood’s campus, as part of its regularly scheduled fall meeting. Ted Wilson, president of the General Conference and interim chair of the Oakwood University Board of Trustees, made the official announcement at approximately 5:30 p.m. (CST), as the Board concluded its fall session.

Pollard was one of three final candidates for the presidential seat, vacated in July when former president Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., resigned the position to serve as one of nine general vice presidents of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Pollard assumes his new position as president of Oakwood University on January 3, 2011.

The two other finalists who were under consideration for the presidential post were Gina Spivey Brown, Ph.D., and Bertram L. Melbourne, Ph.D. Brown, the only female finalist, serves as dean of the School of Health Professions, Science, and Wellness at Washington Adventist University. Melbourne is professor of biblical language and literature at Howard University School of Divinity.

Asked to comment on the overall presidential search process, Board chair Ted Wilson had this to say: “We had three very fine candidates who were shared by the search committee with the Board. We prayed earnestly prior to the vote... and asked for the Holy Spirit’s guidance.” Vice chair Doris Gothard added, “We worked very, very hard to find a gifted and qualified candidate, and we found one — one of the best — Dr. Leslie Pollard...It is a good time for Oakwood University. It’s a wonderful experience when an institution can have one of its own come home, and so we welcome him.”

Pollard’s commitment to excellence is seen in his drive for education. He earned a B.A. degree from Oakwood University and a M.Div. degree from the Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He earned the D.Min.
degree in preaching and worship from Claremont School of Theology. Seeking higher-level fiscal and administrative development, Pollard earned an M.B.A. in organizational management from the La Sierra University School of Business. Concluding his academic pursuits, he graduated from Andrews University with a Ph.D. in new testament language and literature, with a specialization in apocalyptic literature.

Pollard’s 32 years of leadership reflect local, national, and international service. He has served as senior pastor, a youth pastor, a university chaplain, a healthcare program administrator, and an educational administrator at Loma Linda University. As a clergyman, Pollard pastored the Oakwood University Church (formerly Oakwood College Church) from 1994 to 1997, and has functioned as an evangelist, professor, ministerial educator, and leadership development facilitator to the General Conference family. He regularly leads denominational and non-denominational leadership and mission conferences all over the world.

Pollard’s orientation to fiscal leadership emerges from his experience as senior pastor of major congregations, from administering university budgets and grants, and from his graduate business education. Pollard views chief-executive leadership as a team-based collaboration between executive team members. For him, servant leadership accomplishes both the mission-related and financial goals of the organization, through the careful placement of committed people, the diligent monitoring of organizational processes, and the implementation of data-driven initiatives and strategies. Leadership development of his colleagues is an active passion, and Pollard’s commitment to racial, cultural, and gender inclusiveness has been internationally received and affirmed.

Pollard, 54, remains a productive writer, speaker, and engaged scholar on the subjects of leadership, cultural competence, and mission. He is editor and contributing author to the volume on leadership and cultural competence entitled, *Embracing Diversity: How to Understand and Reach People of All Cultures*. Since its publication, *Embracing Diversity* has been translated into Spanish, German, and French, and has become a global text for transcultural leadership education. Pollard also writes regularly for the *Adventist Review* and *Ministry* magazines. He is a member of the editorial board of the *Journal of Applied Christian Leadership* of Andrews University. In addition, Pollard has published numerous articles and authored several book chapters on the subjects of leadership, cultural competence, and mission.

Pollard has been married to the former Prudence LaBeach for 31 years. Prudence holds a master of public health degree, and a Ph.D. in evaluation, measurement, and research design from Western Michigan University. Additionally, the Pollards have received numerous acknowledgments across their 32 years of denominational service.

They were honored in April 2009 with the Oakwood Alumni Association’s Certificate of Merit and are both lifetime members of the Oakwood University National Alumni Association. They are the parents of two daughters, who are both graduates of Oakwood University.

The Oakwood University Presidential Search Committee Brochure and video clips of the recently-held campus forums are posted on the Oakwood University website, www.oakwood.edu. Presidential inauguration events will be announced at a later date.

—BY MICHELE SOLOMON
Sharon Uses “Team Evangelism” to Share Him

ShareHim pioneered the concept of providing lay church members with sermons, laptops, and projectors, and giving them the opportunity to preach the gospel. As a result of this ShareHim initiative during the past 10 years, thousands of people have been baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

At the Charlotte, N.C., Sharon Church, Minner Labrador (above left), lead pastor, decided to use the ShareHim materials and training, but with a different slant that he called “Team Evangelism.” Labrador does not believe in “spectator” evangelism, where members sit in a pew while an evangelist preaches to them. He believes in the priesthood of all believers!

He chose 13 members, from many different backgrounds and levels of speaking expertise, to present the fall evangelism series at Sharon Church.

The 13-member team helped each other organize and practice-preach their sermons. They diligently prayed for each other and for those who were being called by the Holy Spirit to attend. Each speaker attracted a special audience of their families, friends, and neighbors.

The attendance was excellent. A frequent comment was, “The meetings were never boring! They were always fresh and interesting with a different speaker each session.” And the Sharon Church praise team kept the music lively, making it even more inviting for guests to attend each meeting.

Every speaker, whether experienced or a “newbie,” as well as each musician, felt the thrill and camaraderie of being part of something so important. They were a team that was passionate about preaching the Gospel to the whole world to hasten the Second Coming of Jesus.

Those who made their decisions for Christ were baptized on October 30. There is no way to describe the thrill of winning souls to the Kingdom of God!

ShareHim makes it easy, but it takes a willing heart to make it happen. If you would like to get involved in evangelism, visit www.sharehim.org to start your journey for Christ.

—BY ELLIE GREEN

2010 Pathfinder Camporee

The Carolina Pathfinders had an awesome campout at Camp Durant in Carthage, N.C., on September 23-25. Nearly 800 Pathfinders and staff from around the Conference were in attendance.

The young people enjoyed fun activities on Friday and a peaceful Sabbath afternoon completing honors. Throughout the weekend guest speaker Kevin Pires shared how to be “Faithful and True,” teaching the youth that serving God is not only good, it’s also fun!

—BY CHANA LOSOLLA
Women’s Retreat is “Refined”

The Fayetteville, N.C., Spanish Church had their first women’s retreat at the beautiful Ocean Isle Beach in Wilmington, N.C., during the last weekend of September. The theme was “Refined,” and their time together was full of blessings, praise, fellowship, and intimate moments with God. Their guest speaker was Christian psychologist Yasmin Padilla.

Zaida Mendoza, Fayetteville women’s ministries director, shared that the group wanted to have a special time with their sisters, and show them how God can transform their lives: All they need to do is come to Him just as they are. The house they rented, to their surprise, had the name “INTENSIVE CARE.” And that is just what they received. Mendoza said, “We came with a critical need of spiritual healing, and I believe this weekend we received just that. We felt the Lord healing, and we left Refined!”

—BY EREÑIA G. RIVERA

Church Works Returns to Carolina

The Carolina Conference once again hosted Church Works, this time in several area follow-up meetings in late October. What is Church Works? It is a program designed by the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), based at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., to promote a climate of evangelism within churches.

Guest speakers Ron Clouzet, director of NADEI, and Eduard Schmidt, associate director of NADEI, and Rod and Donna Willey presented messages to motivate and inspire strategic planning techniques.

Earlier this year Church Works was initiated in the Carolinas with a weekend event. At this follow-up meeting, teams from around the Conference were invited to stand and give a review of what has since been accomplished in their churches. They shared their successes and challenges with the presenters who gave them feedback and suggestions.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

A 70th Anniversary Milestone

Eddie and Eloise Reifsnyder of the Hendersonville, N.C., Church celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 8, 2010. They were married in Takoma Park, Md. Throughout their 50 years before retirement, they served in many different conferences. A special celebration was held on October 3, to commemorate their anniversary, as well as their 90th birthdays! It was truly a milestone event.

The couple have two sons, Ed Reifsnyder of Colorado, and Steve Reifsnyder of Georgia; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

The Reifsnyders reside in Pisgah Estates in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains in Candler, N.C.

—BY PAM REIFSNYDER
North Port Church Burns Mortgage

More than 240 attendees watched as Michael Reid, pastor, and Mike Cauley, Florida Conference president, kindled the fire for the September 25 mortgage-burning ceremony at the North Port, Fla., Church.

Cauley was the guest speaker for the worship service. Obed Graham, former Conference president, and Ray West, former North Port pastor, also participated in the day’s events.

This was the second time North Port has conducted a mortgage burning ceremony. The first occurred in 1995 when the mortgage on the original chapel was burned. When the membership outgrew that facility, they built the current church on the same campus and began worshiping there in 1998.

On Sunday morning, five new members were baptized by Reid in the Gulf of Mexico, bringing the current membership to more than 130.

—BY CYNTHIA JAMES

Back2School Event Reaches Community

First Church members of West Palm Beach, Fla., sponsored a Back2School community outreach in August under the direction of community services leader Margarette Monice. The church was urged to “Envision, Ignite, and Pray” for success of the program.

Volunteers distributed 425 backpacks, gave 214 haircuts, and served hundreds of meals. Volunteer medical personnel administered 325 school physicals.

Several church members offered encouragement and prayer while handing out free copies of Steps to Christ and Bibles in English, French, and Spanish. Prayer warriors listened, encouraged, and shared the love of God with all who came.

First Church members are committed to continue this yearly event to help families.

—BY NIEVES JENKINS

Tallahassee Spanish Members Dedicate Facility

Tallahassee, Fla., Spanish Company members dedicated a new church facility June 5, 2010. Purchasing a former commercial building, the congregation created a beautiful sanctuary and made additional improvements, including a new kitchen.

Beginning with a small group approximately 12 years ago, the company now has a membership of more than 85. Ruben Duany is the pastor.
Jacksonville Mandarin Church Christmas Concerts Attract Community Visitors

Not a typical Christmas program, the concerts held at Jacksonville Mandarin, Fla., Church are a plethora of sound, lights, technology, music, and vignettes that bring stories to life.

Last year’s concert, “Reflections,” was widely received in the community, and more than 100 nonAdventists attended the program. The participants, who perform as polished professionals, are church members who give their time to create this special gift for the holiday season.

The theme for this year’s program is “Hearts of Christmas.” Juan Rodriguez, pastor, explains, “We will hear from the Christmas story’s traditional main characters as they share their feelings surrounding the birth of Jesus.”

All are invited to this year’s “Hearts of Christmas” program, December 11, 7:00 p.m., at 10911 Old St. Augustine Road, Jacksonville. More information is available from the church: 904-268-7476.

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Jacksonville Mandarin Church is transformed into a Christmas concert spectacle of lighting and sound by the audio/visual team.

Vacation Bible School Portrays Forgiving Spirit of Joseph

The decorations, sounds, and smells were reminiscent of ancient Egypt as the heartfelt story of Joseph was relived for 169 Vacation Bible School (VBS) children. First Church of West Palm Beach, Fla., transformed its complex around the theme, “From Prison to Palace.” Sandra Ramharack Burks, VBS director, and her volunteers created an experience for all the children who witnessed the faith and forgiving spirit of Joseph. Nearly every church member took part, whether donating time, money, or food. Others contributed by teaching or acting.

Horace Deleon portrayed Joseph with storytelling enthusiasm that touched the audience. Adults from churches in the area with no children in VBS even came to enjoy the stories of Joseph’s life.

Sorrento Spanish Members Present “A Night in Bethlehem”

To celebrate the yuletide season, Sorrento, Fla., Spanish Company annually sponsors “A Night in Bethlehem.” Dressed in authentic costumes, the congregation participates in vignettes on the grounds and at the many booths, depicting life in the time of Jesus.

Approximately 70 people from the community attended last year, and each family had a picture taken as a reminder of the occasion. This year’s event is December 5, from 4-7 p.m., at 30028 Orange Avenue, Sorrento, Fla.

—BY CLIFFORD SUTHERLAND
University of Georgia Hosts Campus Weekend

At the University of Georgia, the Adventist Christian Fellowship/Adventist Students for Christ held their first on-campus church service of the year, September 10, 11. Parents/Alumni Campus Weekend marked the beginning of campus worship meetings, which are held during the school year. The guest speaker for the weekend was Michaela Lawrence-Jeffery, Advent House chaplain/Adventist Christian Fellowship (ACF) director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

Lawrence-Jeffery spoke on “Serving the Benevolent King in a Community of Believers.” Her sermon focused on the importance of forgiveness in relationships within the body of Christ, the mutual nurture of community members within the body, and the responsibilities believers have toward each other. The worship services were held in the John W. Rooker Hall of the East Campus Village residence community on the University campus. Alumni members, Tina O’Connor, and immediate-past president of ACF/ASC Fiyinoluwa Fawole were in attendance, as well as students from Athens Technical College, Georgia Perimeter College, and the Medical College of Georgia.

A particular highlight of the Campus Weekend was the presentation of a memorial plaque in honor of Matthew Nam, recently deceased former president for ACF/ASC, who was killed in a Cleveland, Tenn., car accident in early April 2010. Nam also served at the University of Tennessee-Knoxville at Advent House with Lawrence-Jeffery at the time of his death. Nam’s parents were present to accept the plaque given in love by the student organization, which he led for two years. The plaque reads, “Matthew Nam, posthumously. For dedicated and visionary leadership. Adventist Students for Christ, University of Georgia, September 2010.” The plaque was presented by Gary Rustad, group chaplain ACF/ASC; Valarie Blyden, University sponsor; and Michaela Lawrence-Jeffery.

ACF/ASC is a student group of Adventists on the campus of the University of Georgia. They are a student movement whose desire is to spread the Gospel through outreach and teaching of God’s love to all they encounter. The main focus of ASC is to reach out to the surrounding university and community. AFC/ASC continually reaches out to their community by providing services that it needs — such as tutoring, feeding the homeless, and committing their time to help out fellow students.

For more information on AFC/ASC, contact them at ascuga@gmail.com.

—BY VALARIE BLYDEN

Hispanic Health Fair Aids Many

Almost 300 people attended the health fair “New Dimensions” in Collegedale, Tenn., where participants could make medical appointments and receive dental revisions.

Organized by Metro-Chattanooga Community Health Care, an organization of volunteers which brings together staff working in the area of health and other volunteers from religious and educational organizations like the Hispanic Seventh-day Adventist churches of the area, the fair offered attendees valuable information regarding the age of their health through a computer program which, after entering the information, gave out the results and recommendations for good health habits.

Besides the medical consultations, doctors gave talks on techniques on how to stop smoking, prevention of diabetes, and other important issues that affect the Hispanic community. Some of the participating institutions were Blue Cross, Project Hug/CSS, Blood Assurance, Southside Community Health Centers, the Dodson Avenue TB clinic, and the Department of Transportation.

—BY DANILO CORNEJO
Mission Experiences Ignite Doctor Dreams

The moment he saw her, Leroy Abrahams knew she was going to die.

Leroy, a member of the Fayetteville, Ga., Church, was a student missionary with Layman Ministries in the Philippines visiting a hospital near the village where he was working. The wards were segregated between rich and poor, with the poor not receiving medical care or even bed- ding. The woman he saw was on the poor side.

“She was only 30, but you could tell she was about to die from ovarian cancer,” he remembers. “I felt so helpless seeing her there wasting away for lack of treatment. I could see the despair in her eyes.”

A few days later she passed away, but that hospital didn’t even bother to remove poor patients who had died. As a result, Leroy and his fellow missionaries purchased some plastic, wrapped her up, and took her to be buried.

“I remember riding in the back of the truck with the woman’s body and her husband,” Leroy recalls. “I couldn’t speak his language, but I could sense his hopelessness that went beyond grief. When we got to the village, I helped her husband and the missions director carry her to her grave. Her children recognized her body from afar and started to scream. That moment convicted my heart that I had to do something with my life to help break this cycle of prevent- able pain.”

Overseas, he had seen people who didn’t realize that defecating in their yards and near their water sources could foster disease. He had seen young children eat unclean foods that resulted in swollen bellies filled with worms.

“A lot of people over there die from diseases that could have been prevented with medication and sometimes simply with health education,” Leroy shares. “That’s what inspired me to pursue medicine. The Gospel is more than just telling people about Jesus — it is also helping them with their physical needs.”

Leroy had always had a strong interest in medicine, but after his time in the Philippines, he was a man on a mission to become a mission doctor. Leroy had graduated high school through Home Study International shortly before going to the Philippines, and when he returned home, he enrolled as a biology major at Southern Adventist University.

Leroy is currently a junior biology major at Southern and hopes to attend Loma Linda University for medical school. Throughout his time in college, he has been deeply involved with local community outreach.

This year, Leroy is taking his community involvement to a new level by taking on the position of community service director at Southern, where he will be getting the whole campus even more involved in ministry through campus-wide volunteering outreaches, and also encouraging them to get involved on an individual level in their free time.

Leroy is still counting down the days until he becomes a doctor and can head back into the foreign mission field where he feels his true calling lies. Until then, however, he will continue to offer himself up as God’s instrument wherever he is.

“Being involved with these ministries has allowed me to keep focused on my purpose for attending Southern, and also on my goals as a Christian,” Leroy says. “These experiences have strengthened my faith and have allowed me to realize that you can be a missionary anywhere.”

—By Angela Baerg

Bergmans Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Dick and Lucille Bergman celebrated 60 years of marriage on September 24, 2010.

They were married in Warren, Penn. Dick served for 26 years with Loma Linda Foods, and eight years with Harris Pine Mills. Lucille served as a secretary in the Georgia-Cumberland and Illinois conferences, and retired from the Southern Union Conference office.

Dick and Lucille have three children: David Bergman, Sandy Worthen, and Shari McQuistan. They have seven grandchildren and four great-grandchil- dren. They love their Ringgold, Ga., church home.
On a bright, autumn weekend, 18 Pathfinder clubs and more than 300 Pathfinders attended the Conference Pathfinder camporee held at Camp Alamisco, October 7-10, 2010. James Mangum, Conference Pathfinder and youth director, was the main speaker throughout the weekend. The theme was, “iChrist: A Decade of Service.” Mangum’s devotions and sermons were centered around the theme, using titles such as iTunes and iGoogle, to encourage the Pathfinders to spend time being connected to Jesus through prayer and Bible study where, unlike Goggle, they will find the real answers to life.

On Friday morning all the clubs demonstrated their skills in basic drill.

Fancy drill demonstrations included two groups from the El Shaddai club of the Maranatha Spanish Church in Meridian, Miss.; and a group each from the Pensacola Gators of the University Parkway Church and the Madison Hawks of the Madison, Ala., Church. The precision and creativity while marching the fancy drill were judged, and Madison Hawks won the first prize.

Next, clubs participated in skill building field events that included iRescue, which required each team to assemble a gurney, carry a victim, and navigate a course in the shortest amount of time without the gurney falling apart. iHop required a team to start a fire, mix pancake batter, cook the pancakes, run a relay by flipping the pancake over a rope and then eating the pancake. iGuiding the blind tested the canoeing and directional skills of each team.

Sabbath School was provided by the Panama City, Fla., Son Seekers. The Pathfinders’ parade started from the lodge and finished in front of the gym. Each club marched with pride representing their church.

Innovative Bible games, one in which teams sent clues by text messages, followed a tasty lunch provided by Jason and Stephanie Dorris, Camp Alamisco ranger and his wife.

On Saturday night the awards ceremony was followed by a talent show.

Hours of hard work and preparation went into the planning and production of a very uplifting and successful camporee. Because of club leaders and directors, TLTs, parents, the Pathfinder council, volunteers, and Conference leadership, hundreds of Pathfinders throughout the Conference have tucked in the corner of their hearts a warm memory of Camporee 2010.

—BY TANIA MANGUM/REBECCA GRICE
Evangelism is Testimony of God’s Leading

As a result of an evangelistic series of meetings held in the Panama City, Fla., Church, 13 new members had been baptized and become members by the end of September. “Each person who makes the decision to follow Christ has a testimony of God’s leading and the power of prayer,” says Johnny Mosquera, Conference evangelist. He shares the following stories.

Phillip has been attending the Panama City Church for 20-plus years with his wife, who is a member. Many times he had attended seminars and had a good grasp of the Bible beliefs, but would not make a decision to become part of God’s family. John Riggs, pastor of the church, and Mosquera visited with him one evening, and when Mosquera gave him the invitation, he told him he was waiting for the Holy Spirit to tell him when to join God’s church.

Mosquera’s prayer that week became, "Holy Spirit, I don’t know what Phillip wants to hear from You, or wants You to show him, but You know. So please speak to him or show him what he wants to see, so he will come into Your church." Riggs, his wife, and Mosquera prayed without ceasing for Phillip. Two days later Phillip called the pastor and said he was going to be baptized, and now he is a part of the family of God.

Carolyn, a wonderful Pentecostal woman, attended all the meetings and had questions about speaking in tongues. As the pastors visited during the last week of the series, she made her decision.

Connie, a Roman Catholic, knew two Adventists who had befriended her for the past year. When she came to the meetings she said her eyes were opened to the Bible, and she was in the group baptized on the last Sabbath. She is planning to go to the Philippines and do a ShareHim Campaign in March at her village. She is already witnessing to friends and family here and in the Philippines. She does all the cooking for the big family get-togethers in the Philippines, and has already given them the lecture on health — no more pork!

“There are at least five others in the Panama City Church that we hope will make decisions,” says Mosquera.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Bible Study Leads Woman to Olive Branch Church

Sheila Whaley recently attended a Seventh-day Adventist Church for the first time because, in her words, "The Holy Spirit got a hold of me and wouldn’t let me quit reading the Bible."

“She found the Sabbath, who the ‘beast’ power is, and the ‘state of the dead,’ all on her own. She works at night for a local television station, and reads the Bible all day, with very little sleep for more than a month. Then she found us and began attending church,” says Chuck Woods, pastor of the Olive Branch, Miss., Church. During her first visit to Olive Branch, Whaley asked if she could speak to the pastor privately.

“When we retired to my office, she began to give me a Bible study on the ‘Mark of the Beast,’” Woods explains. There were only a few things Woods had to cover with Whaley before her baptism. Since then, she continues to be a faithful church member and is still radiating God’s love. Her husband hasn’t yet joined her in her new faith, but her two pre-teen children have been coming to church, and her daughter seems likely to follow her mother in baptism soon.

—BY REBECCA GRICE
Kentucky-Tennessee News

“Bags of Love” Prepared for Robertson County

The White House, Tenn., Church offers “Bags of Love” as a community outreach service project. This project began in White House Church in 2008 by Omelia Isabell. It is a ministry to children ages 2-17 through the Robertson County Department of Children’s Services (DCS) as they come through their department for help or to be placed in emergency foster care.

When children must be removed from their home for their welfare, they are taken to DCS to be placed in a temporary care center. These children often do not have any of their personal belongings with them. Mary Gardner at DCS keeps Bags of Love on hand, which are provided by White House Church.

Each bag includes a quilt or throw, a soft teddy bear or other stuffed toy, a game, puzzle or toy, notebook, pen, pencil, coloring book, crayons, and personal care items. The children are always excited to receive something to keep that is theirs to treasure for a long time. In the first eight months of 2010, Gardner has given out 22 Bags of Love. A letter to the child is placed in each Bag of Love letting them know where it came from.

Members of White House plan to continue this service to the community as long as resources are available. Many churches that have started a Bags of Love program have discovered that many individuals and groups in their community are more than willing to donate both time and money to this project. For more information about starting a Bags of Love program in your church, visit www.itsmyveryown.org.

—BY OMELIA ISABELL

Members Witness at Fair

“Pathways to Peace” was the theme for this year’s booth sponsored by the Ridgetop, Tenn., Church, at the Robertson County Fair. From the large banner with the peace lily painted by church member Linda Raines, to the lap quilt made by the church’s quilting ministries, the theme was reiterated.

As a result of fair contacts, Bonnie Armantrout, personal ministries leader, reported that information gathered from visitors at the booth has been passed along to various church ministries leaders for follow-up. Church members have visited dozens of homes with Doug Batchelor’s new sharing book, Who Do You Think You Are? and a letter from Jeremiah Smart, pastor, and an invitation to church and/or Bible studies. In this way, an effort was made for some further interaction with all fair contacts.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Mile of Pennies Raised

Mary Gardner (left) and Omelia Isabell display one of the quilts that goes into the Bags of Love.

The Cross Plains Church is a small church located north of Nashville, Tenn., but the congregation has a big heart toward God’s Work. Investment has always been a yearly project for church members to pursue.

This year the Sabbath School superintendent conceived the idea of raising “a mile of pennies” for investment in one year. At 16 pennies per foot, and 5,280 feet per mile, it would take 84,480 pennies, side-by-side, to make one mile.

Every Sabbath the treasurer reported on the number of pennies collected. After nine months, the congregation had surpassed the one mile mark. It has inspired them so much they have decided to “go the second mile.”

—BY THELMA PITTS
Lobelville Church Presents Full Plate Diet

The Lobelville Church conducted a Full Plate Diet (FPD) class in October with 10 community participants and seven church members. Each session included high-fiber, high-water food samples. Simplicity is the secret of the FPD’s success; there are no menus to follow and no measuring or weighing of food.

Participants came to the one month follow-up with these reports: “I’ve gone down one pant size,” “I’ve lost 12 pounds,” and “My diabetic A-1C went down two points!” (Her doctor took her off two of her medications.)

The participants were feeling better, sleeping better, and have increased energy levels. All want to continue with more follow-up sessions. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is winning the confidence of the community in Perry County, Tenn.

—BY LESLIE CAZA

Madison Campus has iPhone App

The first day that the Madison Campus Church iPhone app first appeared in the iTunes store was May 19, 2010. With a $2,000 investment, folks around the world can now connect with the church family in Madison directly from their iPhone, iPod Touch, or iPad.

Madison Campus Church is the first local Adventist congregation to have an iPhone app. It has expanded the church’s sphere of influence into the personal, digital world where folks aren’t tethered to the computer at home or work. But, would it matter, would anyone respond?

When the church placed the app on iTunes, its live Internet stream was being viewed by about 50 viewers each week, with more coming to watch the archived service later. During the first three months the application has been available, there were 581 downloads from the iTunes store. In fact, recent reports demonstrate a steady growth of downloads that this app has enjoyed.

Because Apple sells their products world-wide, iTunes is available to people in every country around the globe. As you might expect, the bulk of downloads for this app come from major English-speaking countries. However, there have been downloads in many corners of the world where, until now, the only impact was through mission offerings. Think of folks in places like Korea, Mexico, Brazil, and Singapore with the possibility of connecting to your church service by simply pulling out their phone. Think of the impact your church could have with the music, children’s time, and especially the spoken Word presented by the pastors.

As this Church began more than a century ago, James White had a burning desire to share this message. He purchased a used printing press and printed a few tracts. Ellen White wrote how she saw them “like the leaves of autumn” before Christ returned. Could she see the impact a single congregation could have on the world?

—BY DAN DAVIS
A national study revealed that in the United States, 70 percent of youth leave their church by the time they are 22 years old, and it is estimated that 80 percent of those who grew up in a Christian church will be “disengaged” by the time they are 29 years old.

Though the numbers are slightly better in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, the fact remains that the Christian church is losing too many of its young people. But, the Alice Slater Youth Federation (ASYF) is addressing this issue.

The Alice Slater Youth Federation is a ministry with big agendas and even bigger dreams. In 1956, the Youth Federation of South Carolina was named in honor of Alice P. Slater for her diligent service to the Church and young people.

The purpose of the ASYF is to spread the love of Jesus Christ through leadership training, community outreach, and evangelism programs throughout South Carolina. The federation is passionate about ministry and has committed to a ministry model that is inspiring, creative, and innovative.

Karen E. Thrower can attest to ASYF developing and teaching youth leadership skills. Thrower started with ASYF when she was just 15 years old. Twenty-two years later, she is now the president, and has been for the past four years.

On March 26, 2010, with the support of Calvin Watkins, South Atlantic Conference community service director, the South Carolina Pathfinder Clubs, and AYS departments throughout the state, the ASYF deviated from the traditional afternoon workshops and hit the streets of Orangeburg, S.C., knocking on doors and distributing nearly 400 bags of food to some of the most economically depressed neighborhoods.

Typically, youth federations are funded by annual dues received from the local churches, and the generous offerings at the federation convocations. Because the monetary contributions are not sufficient to fund year-round activities, it was necessary to seek external funding.

A special communion service was held for children ages 5-12 to learn the significance of communion.

A special committee consisting of Karen Thrower, Iris Wilson, Lakeshia and Keshalla Oston, Marquis Jackson, and Joyce Thrower was appointed to research and write a grant to implement their initiatives.

Writing and receiving a grant is challenging enough; however, to receive a grant that will allow you to provide ministry activities throughout the year is unprecedented for a federation.

On April 26, 2010, ASYF was notified that they were the recipient of The Worship Renewal Grant awarded by the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, Grand Rapids, Mich. Grant recipients for 2010 represent congregations and schools from 15 denominations in 16 states and one Canadian province. The Worship Renewal Grants Program is generously supported by Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. The ASYF was the first Seventh-day Adventist organization to apply for and receive a grant from the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship.

The purpose of the grant is to encourage youth and adults to share the experience of God’s love by studying, praying, and communicating openly with one another, tearing down generational barriers that segregate
spiritual relationships.

The calendar of workshops is ambitious. Joyce Thrower introduced the team to author Dennis Smith’s book, *40 Days of Prayer and Devotion*. The first in a series of workshops on the book was presented in Columbia, S.C., on June 5, 2010, by Daryl Anderson, pastor of the Florence/Darlington district; and additional workshops were held in Hemingway, Charleston, Florence, and Darlington, S.C. James Artis facilitated a workshop in Aiken, S.C., and Ronnie Williams held workshops in Greenwood and Anderson, S.C.

Pastors and their congregations embraced the 40 Days of Prayer, and from June 20 through July 31, 2010, the entire state studied, fasted, and prayed together for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They utilized the ASYF’s “United Through Prayer” telephone ministry, which meets every Thursday night for 30 minutes at 9:00 p.m., to support one another and share testimonies of how God answered their prayers during the 40 days. Author Dennis Smith conducted the prayer call on Thursday, June 24, 2010, and during the remaining weeks, pastors from across the country led out in the devotionals.

Brook Williams, who has participated in federation activities for three years, stated, “Honestly, I love it.” Even though the workshop is over and the 40 days are up, Williams and her prayer partner contact each other at least once per week for prayer. “We make it our duty to still pray.” Williams went from praying in the morning and at night before bed, to praying without ceasing. “Now it’s a habit…my prayers have gotten stronger,” she declares.

On October 9, 2010, in Orangeburg, ASYF concluded the first half of their grant calendar with an Intergenerational Convocation entitled, “Holy Spirit Rain on Me.” John E. Parker, pastor of Maranatha Church in Montgomery, Ala., was the divine worship speaker, and T. A. McNealy, pastor of Northside Church in Miami, Fla., conducted the evening’s Intergenerational Communion Service where 475 individuals were served. Fifty children, ages 5-12, received their own communion service led by Harold Thomas, pastor of the Christ is the Answer Church in Orangeburg, S.C., who was assisted by his wife, Juliette Thomas, and Learie Luke, ASYF children’s ministries leader. During the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper, the children were able to see their peers in leadership roles. They received a full explanation of the significance of the death of Christ, the joy of forgiveness, and the solemnity of the entire communion service.

A total of 10 workshops have been conducted throughout the state, including the “Teach Me to Pray” workshop presented by Yvonne Footman. The Alice Slater Youth Federation thanks their Conference president, Vanard J. Mendinghall, for his support, and Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., executive secretary of the Southern Union Conference, for his generous contribution.

The ASYF has a presence on Facebook where more information about present and upcoming ministries can be obtained.

—BY JUANITA GREEN
Take 6 Concert Benefits Domestic Violence Ministry

In recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness Month and to promote its domestic violence ministry, Mt. Pisgah Church, Miami Gardens, Fla., hosted a benefit concert that featured multiple Grammy Award winning gospel A cappella group, Take 6, on October 30, 2010.

In an effort to bring more awareness to this long-standing issue, Carmen Hope-Thomas and Sandra Brown decided to start a ministry that both educates and assists women caught in a domestic violence situation.

According to the National Centers for Injury Prevention and Control, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.

Prevention and Control, an estimated 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault by an intimate partner each year.

The Adventist church is not immune to domestic violence, in fact it is a major issue in the Church. “Incidences of abuse follow trends documented in non-Adventist populations,” said a spokesperson for ‘enditnow,’ the Seventh-day Adventist Church’s global initiative to end domestic violence.

The mission and goal of the domestic violence program is to provide support and referrals to those who are and have been victims of domestic violence.

More than 450 people attended the concert, which was opened by Mt. Pisgah’s praise team — The Levities.

“I have been familiar with their ministry, and so it was just expected. It was a thrilling experience to see them live, and also to interact with the group,” said Kelvin Trocard.

—BY JONDRA GRIER

Keith Dennis Retires After 47 Years of Service

After 47 years in ministry, Keith A. Dennis has retired. Dennis, a native of Jamaica, accepted the message in 1952 at a meeting at the North Street Church in Kingston, Jamaica.

He attended the Kings Way High School, and later spent six years at West Indies Training College in Mandeville, Jamaica.

Dennis earned a bachelor’s degree in theology from Andrews University, and a master’s degree in school administration and ancient history from City University of New York.

Dennis began his career in the Lake Region Conference as principal and teacher of the Capitol Avenue Seventh-day Adventist School in Indianapolis, Ind.

Afterward he accepted a call to the Northeastern Conference where he served as principal and teacher of the R.T. Hudson Elementary School in Bronx, N.Y.

He also pastored the Mt. Vernon and Hartford churches. In 1971, Dennis was named Pastor of the Year.

He later accepted a call from the South Atlantic Conference to pastor the Daughter of Zion Church in Delray Beach, Fla., Trinity Temple in Belle- Glade, Fla., and a small company in Deerfield Beach, Fla.

Keith Dennis, pictured with his wife, Mavis, served Southeastern as a departmental director and pastor for 47 years.

After his tenure in the Conference office, he pastored the West Palm Beach, Rivera Beach, Loxahatchee Grove, and First churches.

In 1995, Dennis was assigned to the Lighthouse and Rays of Light churches in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., as well as Deerfield Beach Church. Deerfield was his last and longest pastorate.

During his tenure at Deerfield, he and the members built a 500-seat sanctuary.

Dennis is married to Mavis Gabay, a registered nurse, who has led out in family and health ministries in most of the churches he pastored. They have five adult children, Wayne, David, Dawn, Dean, and Luke, and many grandchildren.

—BY XAVIER PIERRE JR.
Southeastern News

Southeastern Places First in Bible Bowl Competition

The senior youth Bible bowl team from First Church, Port St. Lucie, Fla., won first place in the 29th Annual Black Adventist Youth Directors Bible Bowl Championship Games, on October 22-24, 2010, in Ontario, Toronto, Canada.

Other teams representing Southeastern in this year’s competition were from Shiloh Church, Ocala, Fla., competing in the junior and adult category; and Patmos Chapel Church, Winter Park, Fla., competing in the senior youth category.

Each team qualified for the event by winning its category at the Southeastern Conference Bible Championship at Mt. Sinai Church, Orlando, Fla., on June 12, 2010.

Joining Port St. Lucie on the winners’ platform were the teams from Shiloh, which placed third in the junior youth category, and Patmos Chapel, placing third in the young adult category. This was the first time since the inception of the game that the Bible Bowl Championship was hosted in another country.

Also competing in this year’s competition were teams from Greater New York, Northeastern, Southwest Region, South Atlantic, Allegheny East, Central States, and South Central conferences.

“It has been more than eight years since Southeastern has come in first at the National Championship Games.

“Each team performed exceptionally well, and made both their churches and Southeastern very proud,” said Ceasar Robinson, Southeastern’s youth director.

For more information about the BAYDA Bible Bowl, contact any local youth leader or the Southeastern youth department.

—BY SHERRIE BARTON-SMITH

Southeastern Creates HR Department, Appoints Director

Several months ago the Southeastern executive committee voted to establish a human resources department.

After an exhaustive search process, the executive committee appointed Nicola McClymont to serve as Southeastern’s first human resources director.

McClymont comes to Southeastern from Florida Hospital, Apopka/Altamonte, where she served as human resource generalist for four-and-a-half years. She was responsible for meeting all the HR needs.

Prior to working at Florida Hospital, McClymont served as Northern Caribbean University’s associate director of career services, work studies, and student aid department.

She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and a master’s degree in business administration from Northern Caribbean University, Mandeville, Jamaica. She also holds a certificate in human resources from Everest University.

The creation of the department was the vision of Hubert Morel, president of Southeastern.

“The creation of this department will ensure that Southeastern will be able to meet the complex needs of a diverse workforce,” said Morel.

Southeastern employs 240 pastors, teachers, support staff, and auxiliary workers.

“I am excited to be here,” said McClymont.

“This is where God wants me to be.” Her goal is to strengthen the ministries of Southeastern, provide support and guidance to the workers, and build a high level of confidence with its constituents.

The department will deal with issues related to employees such as compensation, hiring, performance management, safety, wellness, benefits, employee motivation, and training.

Established in 1981, Southeastern has a diverse membership of 39,790. It operates 137 churches, 15 schools, two administrative complexes, and two campgrounds.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY
Obituaries

ALVES, Clayton Valencia, 76, born Jan. 4, 1934 in Atlantic City, NJ, died May 25, 2010. He grew up in Stratford, CT, with his four siblings. He attended Pine Forge [Institute] Academy in Pennsylvania; Atlantic Union College in Massachusetts; and Oakwood [College] University in Alabama, and graduated in 1962. While at Oakwood he met Elizabeth Walker, and they were married in August 1962. They moved to Nashville, TN, and he accepted a job at Riverside Hospital. After a few years, he accepted a job with the Internal Revenue Service and relocated to Birmingham, AL. He was a member of Ephesus Church in Birmingham, and served as an elder. During the 1970’s, he and his other laymen spread the Gospel outside of the Birmingham city limits, and were instrumental in establishing and building Hillsview Church in Birmingham. He provided Bible studies to anyone interested. He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Elizabeth; two children: Valerie and Clayton (LaSandra); six grandchildren: Brandon; Brandi, Samuel, Catherine, Caitlin, and Caylah; two sisters: Delores and Mary (Thomas); one brother-in-law, Charles; one sister-in-law, Iris; many nieces; nephews; and godchildren.

BARRETT, JR., William (Bill) E., 56, born Nov. 26, 1953 in Toledo, OH, died Dec. 27, 2009 in Daytona Beach, FL. He was a member and pastor of the Daytona Beach, FL, Church. He served the denomination for 25½ years: 1984-1986 - assistant pastor, Winter Springs, FL, Church; 1986-1988 - pastor, Lake Wales and Lakeview, FL, Churches. 1988-2009 - pastor, Daytona Beach, FL, Church. He is survived by his wife, Gayle; one daughter, Johanna (Kevin) Wright of Apokka, FL; one nephew, Jonathan Duers of Orlando, FL; and two grandchildren.

BEATY, Samuel P., 90, born July 5, 1920 in Richland, FL, died Aug. 28, 2010 in Zephyrhills, FL. He was a member of the East Pasco Church in Zephyrhills, FL, for 68 years. He is survived by his son, Bud Beatty of Melbourne, Australia; daughter, Nancy Massey, Axson, GA, and Jane Anderson, Ackworth, GA; four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. His wife, Delores, predeceased him. The service was conducted by Pastor Art Stagg at the East Pasco Church.

BELL, Raymond Eugene (Ray), 61, born 1948 in the Pensacola, FL, area, died May 2, 2010 in Pensacola, FL. He was a member of the University Parkway Church in Pensacola, FL. He loved working with the youth of the church and was a Pathfinder leader at Milton Church and then in the University Parkway Church for more than 26 years. He is survived by his wife, Peggy Joe; one son, Raymond Eugene Bell Jr.; six grandchildren; one brother; and three sisters.

BROWNLOW, Harmon C., 80, born Dec. 11, 1928 in Winston-Salem, NC, died Nov. 16, 2009 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL, for 30 years. His 43 years of denominational service included: 1953-1957 - intern, Carolina Conference; 1957-1961 - pastor and evangelist, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference; 1961-1964 - evangelist, Georgia-Cumberland Conference; 1964-1972 - evangelist and secretary of evangelism, Southeastern California Conference; 1972-1985 - evangelist, Florida Conference; 1985-1994 - Union evangelist, Mid-America Union. After retirement, he held meetings in Florida, Carolina, and Moldova; and started new churches in Boone, NC, and Kischnn, Moldova. He and his wife established a ministerial scholarship fund at Southern Adventist University to train young men and women for ministry. He is survived by his wife, Margaret; two sons: Joe (Heather) of Longwood, FL, and John (Reene) of Apopka, FL; one daughter, Jeanie Boyd of Marietta, GA; two sisters: Willie Reavis of Winston Salem, NC, and Ruth Kilby of Ashboro, NC; and six grandchildren. The service was conducted at the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL, by Pastor Joel Tompkins. Interment was in Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

CANTARUTTI, Warren, 78, born Jan. 4, 1932 in Davidson County, TN, died June 20, 2010 in Greenbrier, TN. He is survived by his wife, Mary Jo Cantarutti; two sons: Alton (Ann) Cantarutti and Ralph (Sheila) Cantarutti; one daughter, Monica Cantarutti; two sisters; five grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren. He served in the U.S. Army (1952-1954) during the Korean War and Standby Reserve (1954-1962). He was employed at the Southern Publishing Association in Nashville for 16 years. He was a faithful member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. Pastor Jeremiah Smart officiated at the funeral. Interment was at Middle Tennessee Veterans Cemetery.

CARLTON, Wayne D., 48, born Oct. 28, 1961 in Ft. Lauderdale, FL, died April 17, 2010 in Ooltewah, TN. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. He is survived by one brother, Byron of Chattanooga, TN; and one sister, Patricia Sullivan of Apison, TN. The service was conducted in Ooltewah, TN, by Pastor Bantler. Interment was in Ooltewah.

CLARK, James D., Sr., 91, born Oct. 26, 1919 in Hattiesburg, MS, died May 9, 2010 in Hattiesburg. He was a member of the Hattiesburg Church. He is survived by two daughters: Willie Neil Mahler and Ann Harrington; two sons: James D. “Sonny” Clark Jr. and Rodney Clark Sr.; two sisters: Frances Carroll and Dorothy Mae Watts; one brother, Turner S. Clark; 13 grandchildren; 22 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.

COMPTON, Benjamin David, 60, born March 21, 1949 to Glenn and Violet Compton in Sacramento, CA, died Dec. 7, 2009 in Snellville, GA, after a five-year battle with cancer. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Margie; two sons: Andy and Corey; two daughters-in-law: Angela and Amy; three grandchildren; one brother, Tim; and one sister, Susan Patterson. He worked for the Southern Union Home Health Education Service in the shipping department for 29 years, and later after cancer surgery, as receptionist for five years. He felt called to the work, and prayed over each package of truth-filled literature that was shipped to the customers, asking the Lord to touch the people who read the printed pages. During his struggle with cancer, he never became discouraged. Anyone he spoke with was told, “This is not my battle, but the Lord’s, and no matter what the outcome, I will one day be healed and God will be the victor over all.”

COOK, Doris, 75, born Feb. 4, 1935 in Hahira, GA, died July 1, 2010. She was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She was food service manager for Fletcher Hospital and Park Ridge Hospital for 33 years. She is survived by her mother, Esther Coward; one son, James; three sisters; one brother; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

COOK, Joyce, died May 30, 2010 in Louisville, KY. She was a member of the Louisville First Church. She is survived by her husband, Chuck Cook; and one daughter, Joya Lyn Adkins.

COOK, LaRue Llewellyn, 90, born Jan. 23, 1920 in Bolivar, NY, died Sept. 19, 2010 in Columbus, MS. He was a member of the Columbus Church. Cook was a retired, ordained minister of the church. He was a pastor in Pennsylvania and Michigan; a missionary in Panama and Costa Rica; an assistant principal of Takoma Academy in Takoma Park, MD; Principal of Greater New York Academy, NYC; Battle Creek Academy (MI), South Lancaster Academy (MA) and Penfield Junior High School (MI). He spent the last years working in the trust services department at the Michigan Conference in Lansing, MI, full to parttime after retiring. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Erma Jane (Ellis); three children: Nancy-Jane (Dr. Jacob Skiwski, a pediatrician), Diane (Ed Sturges, retired), and Timothy (Linda Bennison); five grandchildren: Sara-Jane Skiwski, Jason Skiwski, Janeen Bernal, Sabrina Skiwski McDow, and Erin Cook Simmons; and seven great-grandchildren.

COOK, Roger Allen, 53, born April 20, 1957, died May 14, 2010 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He is survived by his parents: Russell and Doris Cook; one brother, James; one niece, Patricia; two nephews: Charles and Russell; and five great-nieces.

COOK, Russell H., 81, born Oct. 7, 1928 in Kansas City, MO, died June 22, 2010 in Fletcher, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He is survived by his wife, Doris; one son, James; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

CRESS, Dorothy May Aycock Strong Luce, 80, of Ooltewah, TN, died August 5, 2010 in a local healthcare facility. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church.

DAVIES, Sara, 82, born Feb. 21, 1928 in Gainesville, FL, died June 5, 2010 in Gainesville. She was a member of the Gainesville Church for nine years. She is survived by two sons: Clifford Barnhart of Gainesville, and Richard Barnhart of Jacksonville, FL; four daughters: Sharon Taylor of Atlanta, GA, Merry Jane Spear of Mercer, PA, and the Collegedale, TN, Church.
Margie Hogan of Gainesville, and Patricia Barber Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, MI, she studied biology at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Oakwood University) in Huntsville, AL. She was a member of the Kress Memorial Church by Pastor Eric Doran. Interment was at the Glen Haven Memorial Cemetery.

FULFER, James G., 88, born Dec. 6, 1921 in Akron, OH, died Feb. 8, 2010 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He was a Seventh-day Adventist pastor, and before that a dental technician in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He attended Washington Missionary College, Southern Junior College, and received a master’s of divinity from Andrews University. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, Olive Tyson Fulfer; one sister, Mildred Fulfer; one son, Bob Fulfer; two daughters: Nancy Merz and Ellen Story; six grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; a host of nieces; and nephews.

GAERTNER, Nell Lucile, 96, born May 27, 1914 in Ridgeway, SC, died June 22, 2010 in Houston, TX. She was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. She was a registered nurse at Hinsdale Hospital in Illinois and Fletcher Hospital in North Carolina. She is survived by her brother, Fletcher Wilson; two daughters: Frances S. Graham and Linda Thompson; four grandchildren; Stephanie Casanova, Christopher Gillin, Kristina Mueller, and Rick Hume; seven great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews.

GAYLE, Sibyl, 73, born March 28, 1939 in Garden Valley, CA, died April 23, 2010 in Kenneth City, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church by his wife, Edith Fulfer. He had two sons: James and John of California; two daughters: Janice of California, and Jennifer of Oregon; one brother, John of Lake Tahoe, NV; one sister, Kathryn Lynch of Fresno, CA; and four grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Paul Boling at the Avon Park Church.

GRIFFIN, Loretta, 56, born Jan. 16, 1954, died Feb. 10, 2010 in Dothan, AL. She was baptized at an early age at Epheus Church in Meridian, MS. After leaving Meridian, she became a member of Seabrook Church in Lanham, MD, where she was employed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. At her demise, she was a member of the Dothan, AL, First Church. She is survived by two sons: Stephen A. (Monique) Griffin and Shaun E. Griffin.

HARTMAN, Richard D., 73, born March 28, 1936 in Endicott, NY, died Jan. 21, 2010 in St. Petersburg, FL. He was a member of the St. Petersburg First Church for 12 years. He was an active member of Banner Elk church in Lanham, MD, where he was employed with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. At her demise, she was a member of the Dothan, FL, Church by Pastor Ken Norton. Interment was in St. Augustine, FL.

HAUGE, G. Cromwell, Jr. (Sherman), 83, born June 15, 1926 in Newport, KY, died Feb. 15, 2010. She was a member of the Murray Church. She served as the Western Kentucky Christian Records Field Representative from 1973 to 1979, and again from 1989 to 1991. She is survived by two sons: Louis Hauge of Murray, KY, and Blake W. Hauge of Chattanooga, TN; and two grandchildren.

HAWKINS, Collier Grant, 83, born Nov. 27, 1927 in Red Boiling Springs, TN, died Aug. 16, 2010 in Red Boiling Springs. He is survived by his wife, Nadine Dunaway Hawkins; one step-daughter, Kathy Dunaway Law; two step-sons: Dan (Candice) and David Dunaway; two nieces: Carolyn Martin Lawson and Martha Lynn Brown; three nephews: Charles Neil, Thomas Clarence Martin, and Ray Daniel Brown, Jr.; four step-grandchildren; and one step-great-granddaughter. He was an active member of the Lighthouse Company in Lafayette, TN. Elder Tom Brit officiated the funeral with burial at the Whitely Cemetery in Red Boiling Springs.

HENDERSON, Willie Inez Scarbrough, 55, born April 5, 1955 in Meridian, MS, died May 31, 2010. She was a member of Epheus Church in Meridian. She is survived by one daughter, April Hunter; two grandchildren: Akira and De’Aundre Hunter; her mother, Nora Scarbrough; five sisters: Rosetta Scarbrough Riser of Fairfield, CA, Carolyn Dawson of Sacramento, CA, Sheila Young Philip in Westbridge, VA, Barbara Hunter of Marion, MS, and Zenith Turner of Fairfield; three brothers: Thomas Scarbrough of Las Cruz, NM, Cecil Scarbrough Jr., of Meridian, and Chris Scarbrough of Bailey, MS; two brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; four uncles; six aunts; 15 nieces; nine nephews; a host of great-nieces; great-nephews; cousins; and friends.

HODGES, Rosa Ellen (Horney), 97, born Dec. 18, 1912 in Banner Elk, Avery County, NC, died Sept., 2010 in Hendersonville, NC. She became a Seventh-day Adventist soon after marrying her husband, Lester Hodges, and joined the Banner Elk Church. She had only a sixth-grade education, but served as treasurer of her church for many years. She was a farmer’s wife, and worked on the farm while raising her three children. She was the fourth of 10 children, and outlived all her siblings. She was preceded in death by her husband, Lester Hodges, and her son, Floyd. She is survived by her daughter, Margaret Tate; son, Lester Hodges Jr.; 10 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren, and seven great-great-grandchildren.

HOLLAND, Guy Sherman, Jr. (Sherman), 93, born July 8, 1917 in Pensacola, FL, died Sept. 3, 2010. He was a charter member of...
one sister, Betty Anderson (Ernest); three by his wife, Helen; one daughter, Linda of family. In 1972, he graduated from Carver High School in Memphis, TN. After the death of his grandmother, he decided to change his life around, and get right with God. He was first introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church in a tent revival held in Memphis, TN. After being introduced to the Seventh-day Adventist Church, he decided to go to Walla Walla College in Walla Walla, Washington, in 1977 to obtain a degree in Theology, and in 1986 he graduated from Oakland University (formerly Oakwood College) in Huntsville, AL, with a degree in Theology. He never stopped striving to do his best, so in 1999 he pursued a master’s degree in counseling at Mississippi State University. In 1985, he married Juanita Maxwell, and to this union three children were born: Ashley, Michael, and Amber. He began his pastoral ministry in 1987 at Campbellsville, KY. Upon arriving in this district, church services were being held in a garage. After the property was purchased, they reconstructed the garage into a church. In 1990, he was transferred to the Kingsport and Gray district. In 1991, he was transferred to Memphis, TN, where he became the associate pastor of Longview Heights Church. The next year, he was transferred to the Greenwood, FL, and Panama City, FL, district. In 1996, he was transferred to the Meridian and Sylvarena, MS, district, where he remained for 10 years. During this time, he was ordained on June 13, 1998. In 2006, he was transferred to the Amory and Tupelo, MS, district. While in the Amory-Tupelo district, he married Patricia Reese on Jan. 30, 2008. Though married only two years, they enjoyed a deep, special love. He is survived by his wife, Patricia Reese- Holland of Satillo, MS; two daughters: Ashley Holland of Keene, TX, and Amber Holland of Memphis, TN; one son, Michael Holland II of Satillo, MS; one grandson, Kaydan Holland of Memphis; two siblings: Michele (Earnest) Tunstall of Saint Charles, MO, and Beverly Stanton of Byhalia, MS; two brothers: Holland of Memphis, and Rodney Holland of Arlington, VA; an adoptive godparent, Benjamin (Louise) Grissom of Enid, MS; sister-in-law, Sheryl Holland of Atlanta, GA; a cousin who was raised as his brother, Keith (Rhonda) Holland of Memphis; his mother-in-law, Florence Reese of Tupelo, MS; five brothers-in-law: Robert Buckingham and William Reese, both of Chicago, IL, R. E. Gilleylen, Felix Gilleylen, and Charles Reese all of Tupelo; three sisters-in-law: Flora Dean, Maxine (Robert) Bell, and Mary Gray, all of Tupelo; eight aunts; five uncles; a host of nieces; nephews; relatives; and friends. He was preceded in death by his brother, Larry Holland; his father, Louis Holland; his brother, Benjamin Holland; and mother, Ora Lee Holland.

IVEY, James Delbert, 88, born Dec. 21, 1921 in Quitman, MS, died May 13, 2010 in Meridian, MS. He was a member of the Meridian Community Church. He is survived by two daughters: Elizabeth Ivey and Mo White; one son, James S. Ivey; and one daughter-in-law, Donna Ivey.

JOHNSON, Donald E., 82, born Sept. 30 1927 in Dayton, OH, died April 24, 2010 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Hospital Church, Orlando, FL, for 18 years. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Mary Ann; one son, Eddie Johnson (Amanda) of Ringgold, GA; twin daughters: Valeri Knight (Stanley) of Charlotte, NC, and Vicki McDonald (Andy) of Orlando, FL; and seven grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Andy McDonald and Pastor Stanley Knight at Florida Hospital Church. The interment was in Highland Memorial Gardens, Apopka.

JUSTESEN, Jerome P., 73, born June 6, 1937 in Thunder Bay, Ontario, Canada, died Aug. 4, 2010 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park Church. His 40 years of denominational employment included: 1963-1965 as a pastor in Fresno, CA; 1965-1973 as teacher at Brazil Adventist College; 1973-1990 as a pastor in Greater New York Conference; and 1990-2003 as a pastor in the Carolina Conference. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn; two sons: Peter of Takoma Park, MD, and Joe of Facism, NY; and two granddaughters. The service was conducted by David Burke at Avon Park Church. Interment was at Bougainvilla Gardens in Avon Park.

KIGHT, Janet G., 67, born May 4, 1943 in Oregon, died July 22, 2010 in Gainesville, FL. She was a member of the Gainesville Church for 25 years. She is survived by her husband, George; three sons: Bruce, Clayton, and Scott James; three daughters: Theresa Martone, Janice Brown, and Darci Jo James; one brother, Daryl Burham; two sisters: Linda Michaels and Karen Dunning; 20 grandchildren; and 17 great-grandchildren. The service was conducted at the Morning Funeral Home in Melrose, FL, by Henry McKinney. Interment was in Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

LARA, Luz M., 68, born Sept. 3, 1941 in Bonao, Dominican Republic, died March 24, 2010 in Moca, Dominican Republic. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Spanish Church for two years. She is survived by her husband, Maximo; two sons: Maximo Jr. of Silver Springs, MD, and George of Chicago, IL; one daughter, Melba of Chicago, IL; one brother, Danilo Gomez of Moca, Dominican Republic; and four sisters: Melba Christian of Avon Park, Emma Hernandez of Moca, Dominican Republic, Regina Lopez of Avon Park, and Olga Perez de Moca, Dominican Republic. The interment was conducted by M. Dinorah Rivera at Moca, Dominican Republic. Interment was in Moca, Dominican Republic.

LAWHORN, Marie L., 87, born in St. Augustine, FL, died May 28, 2010 in St. Augustine. She was a member of the St. Augustine Church for 14 years. The service was conducted by Pastor Robert Hayes.

MCCONNELL, Eleanor, died April 15, 2010 in Huntsville, AL. She was a member of the Huntsville Central Church. She is survived by her mother, Ramie McConnell; one brother, Steve McConnell; and one sister-in-law, Vicky McConnell.

MCFARLANE, Janalene Walker, 86, born March 22, 1924 in the Piney community, Oakdale, TN, died June 15, 2010. “Jane” was the youngest girl of seven girls, and three boys. She was left motherless at the age of five when her mother died from burns suffered from lighting a fire. She attended Oakdale School, and after graduation she worked in the Five & Dime store in Harriman, TN. She and her sister Helen studied the Bible and were baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church by Pastor McKee of Knoxville, TN. Later she moved to Hinsdale, IL, with her sister Helen. Jane entered the nursing program and became a licensed practical nurse. While working at Hinsdale Adventist Hospital, she met Leslie McFarlane and they married. After several years, Jane and Leslie moved to Takoma Park, MD, where she worked in the recovery room at Washington Adventist Hospital. She retired from nursing in 1989, and in 1991 moved back to Harriman. She was a caring and generous person. She loved natural beauty, especially flowers and watching the birds that came to her bird feeders. She had a God-given art talent and, though she never took art lessons, she had a list of 400 paintings. Many were sold and many were given away. The money from the paintings was given for the church building fund. Her greatest loyalty was to the Lord and her Church. That is where she found peace and her hope of eternal life. She wanted others to know her Savior and all that He has for them. She is survived by her sister, Bonnie Cline of Placecld, FL; nieces; nephews; her church family; and many friends. She was a member of the Roane Community Church in Harriman.

MEDANICH, N. S. “Tolly”, 76, born Sept.1933 in Valley Station, KY, died March 5, 2010 in LaGrange, KY. He was an excellent tool and die maker. He was educated at Oak Grove Trade School in Louisville, KY. He worked many years at Reynolds Metals Company and at Tompkins and Stauble Company in Louisville. Tolly was very artistic in both metals and woods. He could look at an automobile part and make a replica of it. During the years, he produced many pieces of beautiful and useful furniture. He loved nature and being in nature’s surroundings. He spent
Obituaries

his retirement years on a several acres estate in Oldham County, KY. He was a member of the Pewon Valley Conference. He is survived by his wife, Phyllis Wheeler Medanich; two sons: David and Daniel; two granddaughters: Jessica and Stephanie; one grandson, Matthew; one brother, Jerry; and one great-granddaughter, Mayia.

MERCER, Clive A., 88, born July 14, 1921 in Mackenzie County, ND, died May 31, 2010 in Fletcher, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He was a teacher and taught at Sunnydale Academy, in Missouri, and Valley Grande Academy in Texas. He was also a Navy veteran of World War II. After WWII, he received a degree in education from Union College in Nebraska. Later he received his electrical engineer’s license and worked in maintenance, and as an assistant plant manager at several hospitals and schools. He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Magdelene; three sons: Chet Mercer, Tim Mercer, and Walter Mercer; one daughter, Lore Seal; seven grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; nieces; and nephews.

MOORE, Gary W., 55, born Nov. 27, 1954 in Anderson, IN, died Sept. 16, 2010 in Punta Gorda, FL. He was a member for 27 years of the Port Charlotte, FL, Church. He is survived by three sons: Brian of Rock Spring, GA, Bradley of Takoma Park, MD, and Kevin of North Port, FL; and one sister, Barbara Logan of Summerfield, FL. The service was conducted by William Wilson in Port Charlotte, FL.

MYERS, Florence E., 100, born Dec. 3, 1919 in Taunton, MA, died Sept. 21, 2010 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka for 13 years. She is survived by two daughters: Eleanor Walmsley of Boonsboro, MD, and generosity. She is survived by two sons: Anthony (Ruth) and Lawrence (Donna); three daughters: Joan (Don) Knoll, Cabrina (Larry) Palme, Anita (John) Cleaver; 16 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Anthony. The service was conducted at the Heritage Funeral Home in Crandall, GA, a wonderful outreach ministry for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He is survived by his wife, M. Joy; one son, Peter of Ormond Beach, FL; one daughter, Vennita Joy Roe of Waynesville, NC; three sisters: Monica Norman of Zephyrhills, FL, and Neina Logan of Vista, CA; and five grandchildren. The service was at Daytona Beach Church and conducted by Dr. Douglas Jacobs. Interment was in the Volusia Memorial Park and Funeral Home in Ormond Beach.

PATTERSON, Louise M., 92, born Nov. 9, 1917 in Fort Meade, FL, died Sept. 7, 2010 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, for one year. She is survived by one son, Clarence Manz of Orlando, FL; one daughter, Joyce Buchanan of Orlando; two sisters: Marie Stuart of Malplant, FL, and Francis Glatter of Malabar, FL; three grandchildren; and one other relative.

PEEK, Eugene Peyton, 102, born Nov. 25, 1907 in Ellis County of northwest Oklahoma, died Feb. 6, 2010 in Crossville, TN. In 1951, he and wife, Louise, moved to Little Creek School near Knoxville, TN, to give their three children a Christian education. Eugene served as the school’s purchasing agent and gave hydrotherapy treatments to the patients in the sanitarium. He is remembered as one who shared his faith with everyone and was always willing to help someone in need. His wife Winnie, and son Norman, preceded him in death. He is survived by his daughter, Mary (Bob); son, Leon (Eun-Hee); five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one daughter-in-law, Ava.

PEEK, Winnie Briggs, 95, born in the Tiger Town community of northeast Texas on Nov. 24, 1914, died Jan. 24, 2010 in Crossville, TN. For 30-plus years she was the cook for the Little Creek School. When the school closed she and her husband, Eugene, moved to Heritage Academy where she helped cook well into her 90’s. She is remembered by Little Creek students around the world for her tasty meals, bread, granola, and delicious sweet rolls. Her son, Norman, preceded her in death. She is survived by her husband, Eugene; daughter, Mary (Bob); son, Leon (Eun-Hee); five grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one daughter-in-law, Ava.

POLOGRUTO, Jennie, 92, born June 24, 1918 in Genoa, Italy, died June 8, 2010 in Centreville, DE. She was a member of the Dunellen, FL, Company for 11 years. Active in church work and volunteering, she was loved, respected and well known for her kindness, charity, and generosity. She is survived by two sons: Anthony (Ruth) and Lawrence (Donna); three daughters: Joan (Don) Knoll, Cabrina (Larry) Palme, Anita (John) Cleaver; 16 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, Anthony. The service was conducted at the Danka-Hinski Funeral Home in Lindenwold, NJ. Interment at the Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Lindenwold, NJ.

PRESTON, Winton Russell, 81, born Dec. 29, 1928, died Jan. 10, 2010 at his home in Ooltewah, TN. A native of New England, he attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN, where he later managed the College Press for a few years. He was a member of the Collegeville Church, where he served as head deacon. He, his wife, and daughter moved to Cleveland, TN, where he established Preston Printing Company, with the later development of plants in Knoxville, TN, and Manchester, GA. Seeing the need for a new, larger church in Cleveland, he was one of the founders of the Bowman Hills Church and Elementary School. He always enjoyed being a member of this wonderful Church family. As chairman of the advisory board, he and his wife were privileged and blessed to serve with Faith For Today television ministry for several years. With much enthusiasm, he later became involved in developing the new Cohutta Springs Conference Center and Youth Camp in Crandall, GA, a wonderful outreach ministry for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Lourene S. Preston; one grandson, Brook Preston, and his wife, Jessica; one sister, Beverly Fletcher, and her husband, Dr. Weldon Fletcher; one brother, Forrest Preston, and his wife, Kathleen; several nieces; and nephews. His daughter, Wynene L. Preston, preceded him in death. The service was conducted at the Heritage Funeral Home in Chattanooga, TN, by Pastor Dwight Herod of the Bowman Hills Church. Interment was at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Cleveland.

ROBISON, George, 99, born Dec. 11, 1911 in North Carolina, died Feb. 26, 2010 in Brownsville, TN. He was a member of the Dyersburg Church. He is survived by one daughter, Nancy Sutherland of Brownsville; three grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

ROE, Cyril E., 85, born Nov. 17, 1924 in Ripley, England, died April 7, 2010 in Ormond Beach, FL. He was a member of the Daytona Beach, FL, Church, and a member of the Adventist Church for 70 years. His denominational employment included principal, Napa Junior Academy 1957; principal, Las Vegas Junior Academy; Education Department, Spicer College, India, 1965-1972; principal, Deer Park Elementary School; Education Department and Physics, Southern Adventist University, 1976-1992 full time and part time from 1992-2002. He is survived by his wife, M. Joy; one son, Peter of Ormond Beach, FL; one daughter, Vennita Joy Roe of Waynesville, NC; three sisters: Monica Norman of Zephyrhills, FL, and Neina Logan of Vista, CA; and five grandchildren. The service was at Daytona Beach Church and conducted by Dr. Douglas Jacobs. Interment was in the Volusia Memorial Park and Funeral Home in Ormond Beach.

SCOTT, Edgar, 79, born July 23, 1931 in Elva, IL, died Aug. 28, 2010 in Sebring, FL. He was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. He was employed by the Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park for 30 years, as an X-ray technician. He is survived by his wife, Geneva; one son, David of Wayland, FL; one daughter, Elaine Mandzuk of Daytona Beach, FL; one brother, Kenneth Scott of Kimberling City, MO; one sister, Mary Gavanns of Hendersonville, NC; five grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. The service was conducted by Pastor Paul Boling at Avon Park Church.

SCOTT, Helen, 86, born Sept. 29, 1923 in Anduera, AL, died May 27, 2010 in Denver, CO. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church. She is survived by one son, George of Bosie, ID; one daughter, Mary of Denver, CO; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The service and interment were in Denver.
SIRCAR, Suchitna “Sue”, 83, born Sept. 14, 1946 in Pakistan, died April 2, 2010 in Nashville, TN. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church. She was survived by two daughters: Crystal and Nicole Sircar.

SLATE, Sarah, 88, born May 25, 1921 in Gaston County, died Dec. 16, 2009 in Lexington, NC. She earned her bachelor’s degree in English from Atlantic Union College in 1945, and her master’s degree in French from Kansas State Teachers College in 1967. She was the teacher of commercial subjects at Glendale Union Academy from 1947 to 1949. Registrar and teacher of commercial subjects at San Pasquel Academy in California from 1949 to 1950. Registrar at Southwestern Junior College from 1957 to 1958. She taught French and Spanish in North Carolina from 1959 to 1984 at Draper Junior High School, Morehead Senior High School, and Ruffin High School. Her last teaching position was at Lexington Senior High School until she retired in 1984. Assistant registrar at Atlantic Union College from 1995 to 1997. She was a member of the Mocksville, NC, Church. She is survived by her nephews, Dr. Francis (Daphne) Slate of Mocksville, NC; one niece, Glenda (Michael) Brenner of Washington, DC; several cousins; great nieces; and nephews. Interment was at Rose Cemetery.

SMITH, Mariana P., 89, born July 12, 1920 in Cuba, died Aug. 29, 2009, Sumterville, FL. She was a member of the Silver Springs Shores Church, Ocala, FL, for 22 years. She traveled to Africa for six months as a volunteer nurse. She served as family life, singles leader, and investment leader for many years. She is survived by two brothers: Enrique Lindo in Panama, and Jovian (Martina) Lindo in New York; sister-in-law, Carolina Lindo, Wildwood, FL; four sisters: Rosa Maria de Salazar of Panama, Lena Jean Maria Lindo, Evaldine Lindo, Raquel Brooks of Wildwood, FL; two nephews: William and Rueben of Wildwood. The service was conducted at the Silver Springs Shores Church by Pastor Reynold Maxwell and Elder Leroy Adams. Interment was in Wildwood.

SOUTHALL, Jeanette, 85, died Dec. 21, 2009. She was a resident of Lakehaven Nursing Home in Valdosta, GA, and a member of the Valdosta Church. She is survived by her husband, Joseph Frank Southall Jr.; one daughter, Barbara (John) Hodges of Tifton, GA; two sons: Eugene (Faye) Warren of Fernandina Beach, FL, and Herbert Warren of Valdosta.

SOUTHALL, Joseph Frank Jr., 87, died Feb. 6, 2010 at South Georgia Medical Center. He was a founding member of the Valdosta, GA, Church, and served in several different church offices for many years. He was preceded in death by his wife, Jeanette Southall; and his first wife, Mary Kitty Southall. He is survived by one daughter and son-in-law: Diana and George Walker of Clarksville, W.VA; two sons and daughters-in-law: David and Jan Southall, Beavardam, VA; Donny and Catherine Southall, Valdosta, GA; step-sons and daughters-in-law: Eugene and Faye Warren, and Herbert Warren; and step-daughter and son-in-law: Barbara and John Hodges.

STANAWAY, Helen Alice, 96, born Aug. 8, 1913 in Belvid, MI, died June 26, 2010, with family by her side at Alive Hospice. She was a former resident of Collegedale, TN, and was retired from the state of Michigan as secretary to the Governor. Her interests included porcelain painting. She was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 56 years, and was a member of the Collegedale Church at the time of her death. She was preceded in death by her husband of 60 years, Samuel E. Stanaway; and three brothers: Lawrence, Gordon, and George Danford. She is survived by her son, Melvin, and his wife, Belva Stanaway, Franklin, GA; one daughter, Karen, and her husband, Pastor Robert Fancher, Copperhill, TN; six grandchildren: Amy Stanaway Johnson, Goodlettesville, TN; Mary Stanaway Knauff, Crossville, TN; Ian Stanaway, Sequatchie, TN, Pastor Martin Fancher, Ft. Walton Beach, FL, Edward Fancher, Chattanooga, TN, and Vanessa Fancher Williams, Duluth, GA; 11 great-grandchildren; former daughter-in-law, Barbara Stanaway, Goodlettesville, TN; and one sister-in-law, Betty Danford, Diamondale, MI. Graveside services were held at the Collegedale Memorial Park with her two grandsons officiating, Pastor Martin Fancher and Pastor Rusty Williams.

STEFFENS, Juanita Lucile Coon, 80, born Feb. 25, 1930 in Trinidad, British West Indies to missionary parents, died Sept. 5, 2010 surrounded by family. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN Church. She was a nurse and worked many years in nursing homes and volunteered with the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, TN, and with animal rescue. She is survived by her husband, Charles Steffens; one daughter, Rita Lucile Steffens Baez; one son, Dr. Randall Lee Steffens Sr.; one brother, Glenn Adelbert Coon II; six grandchildren: Christina Lucile Baez and Steffenie Baez Marshall, Randall Lee II, Robbie, Shayla, and Brandon Steffens. She was preceded in death by her mother Ethel Lucile Numbers Coon and her father Glenn Adelbert Coon.

STEFFENS, Ardell G., 87, born Oct. 26, 1922 in Missouri, died May 12, 2010 in Portland, TN. She worked for the denomination many years at White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, CA; Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, TX; and other entities. She is survived by one sister, Chris Jensen of Grand Junction, CO; several nieces; and nephews.

SWOBODA, Erika Maria, 70, of Chattanooga, died Sept. 18, 2010. She was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church.

TAYLOR, Noble, 83, born July 15, 1926 in Madison, TN, died May 18, 2010 in Portland, TN. She was a member of the Cross Plains Church. She worked as a RN at Pewee Valley Hospital and Madison Hospital. She is survived by two sons: Eddie (Vanessa) Russell and Wayne Taylor, both of Cross Plains; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three great-great grandchildren.

TURNER, Cora Mae Swann, 66, born Oct. 17, 1943 in Marion, AL, died May 6, 2010. She was a member of Ephesus Church in Birmingham, AL, where she held several offices. She owned and operated Cora’s Day Care for more than 30 years. She is survived by three daughters: Valerie Reed, Adrian Jenkins, and Melanie Turner; sons-in-law: five brothers; two sisters; one aunt; two mothers-in-law; two brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; one granddaughter; one grandson; a host of nephews; nieces; cousins; and friends.

TYSON, Robert Aaron, 90, born Feb. 25, 1919 in Greenville, NC, died Dec. 23, 2009 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. He served as a pastor in Virginia and New Jersey, a missionary volunteer (youth) and education secretary for New Jersey, Chesapeake, Nebraska, Pennsylvania, and Gulf States conferences; a Bible teacher at Blue Mountain Academy; principal at Pisgah Academy; and a pastor in New York before retiring to the family farm in North Carolina. He lived there for 21 years, still serving various congregations as a retired minister. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Elsie Tyson; one sister, Olive Fuller; one brother, Jesse Tyson; many nieces; and nephews.

UNDERWOOD, Josephine, 89, died Jan. 9, 2010. A native of Moultrie, GA, she was a resident of Ocala, FL, for many years before moving to the Chattanooga, TN, area in 1952. She was the wife of the late E.B. Underwood, and preceded in death by four brothers. She is survived by two daughters: Bertha Jo (David) Knecht of Chattanooga, and Ernestine (Steve) Poenitz of Indianapolis, IN; one son, J.B. (Anne) Underwood of Ooltewah, TN; four step-sons: Harold (Mary) Underwood of Marietta, GA; David (Joelia) Underwood of Eastman, GA; Raymond Underwood of Moore, SC; and Ralph Underwood of Dayton, TN; 11 grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one sister, Betty Lou (Jim) Ashlock of Collegedale; several nieces; and nephews. She had dual membership with McDonald Road and Collegedale churches.
O b i t u a r i e s

VANCE, Sonny, 68, born Jan. 7, 1942 in Buchanan County, VA, died April 16, 2010 in Greenbrier, TN. He was a long-time member of the Ridgetop Church. An Army veteran, he was assistant director of linen services at St. Vincents Hospital in Little Rock, AR, and laundry manager at Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio and Madison Academy in Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Ross Vance; his mother, Ora Matney Vance; four daughters: Cathy (Billy) Martin, Mary (Thomas Bailey) Vance, Erin (Chris) Zanchi, Stephanie (Greg) Garrison; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; four brothers; and three sisters. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Jeremiah Smart at Ridgetop Church. Interment was conducted by Pastor Jeremiah Smart at Ridgetop Church. Interment was at Elizabethtown Memorial Gardens.

VANCE, Sonny, 68, born Jan. 7, 1942 in Buchanan County, VA, died April 16, 2010 in Greenbrier, TN. He was a long-time member of the Ridgetop Church. An Army veteran, he was assistant director of linen services at St. Vincents Hospital in Little Rock, AR, and laundry manager at Mt. Vernon Academy in Ohio and Madison Academy in Tennessee. He is survived by his wife, Sharon Ross Vance; his mother, Ora Matney Vance; four daughters: Cathy (Billy) Martin, Mary (Thomas Bailey) Vance, Erin (Chris) Zanchi, Stephanie (Greg) Garrison; eight grandchildren; one great-granddaughter; four brothers; and three sisters. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Jeremiah Smart at Ridgetop Church. Interment was conducted by Pastor Jeremiah Smart at Ridgetop Church. Interment was at Elizabethtown Memorial Gardens.

WASH, Mollie, 93, born Jan. 6, 1917 in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, died July 31, 2010 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church for four years. He is survived by one sister, Esther Tessler Breslaw of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The service was held at Florida Living Church in Apopka by Pastor Horace Walsh. Interment was at Forest Hill in Palm City, FL.

WEBBER, Linna, 76, born Aug. 27, 1933 in Port Maria, St. Mary, Jamaica, WI, died Dec. 31, 2009 in Port Charlotte, FL. She was a member of the Port Charlotte, FL Church for 23 years. She is survived by three brothers: Enos Martin, Hepburn Martin, and Luther (Herbert Jr.) Martin; and five sisters: Esther Clunie, Dorrell Foster, Marva Martin, Jackie Martin, and Helen Martin. The service was conducted by Pastor William Wilson in Port Charlotte, FL. Interment was at Englewood, FL.

WEEDMAN, Marvin "Mickey" Eugene, 73, born April 22, 1937 in Little Rock, AR, died May 15, 2010 in Collegedale, TN. He was a member of the Standifer Gap Church, Chattanooga, TN. He is survived by his wife of 51 years, Betty; two sons: Kirk and Victor; and one daughter-in-law, Cathy. His memorial service was conducted by Betty Weedman, Pastor Bob Mix, and the Advent Quartet. Interment was at Standifer Gap Church Cemetery.

WALLBERG, Raymond E., 78, died Nov. 2009 in Panama City, FL. He was a member of the North Bay Church in Lynn Haven, FL. The highlight of his career was spent in higher education administration as director of planned giving at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, and later as senior vice president and general counsel at Luther College in Decorah, IA. Throughout his career he was active in the communities where he lived, serving on school boards, hospital boards, United Way, and many Church organizations. He is survived by his wife, Joyce Stanford Wahlberg; two brothers: Wallace (Betty), and Rodney (Mary Ann); four sons: Randy (Sylvia), Brad (Rhonda), Tom (Beth), and John (Lisa); and one daughter, Kathy (Robert) Fuqua. He is also survived by two step-children: Brian (Karen) Small, and Tamara (Steve) Grice; 11 grandchildren; and step-grandchildren.

WALTERS, Bernice, 92, born Feb. 13, 1918, died March 25, 2010. She was a member of the McDonald Road, TN, Church.

WASH, Evadena, 92, born Oct. 28, 1917 in Ashbrook, KY, died June 15, 2010. She was a member of the Elizabethtown Church in Elizabethtown, KY, where she held many offices. She was a cook for Louisville Junior Academy. She is survived by two sons: Wilton (Gloria) Wash of Minnesota, and Ronald (Sally) Wash of Florida; four daughters: Barbara Wilder of Florida, Jean (Hodges) Furman, Zephyrhills; one sister, Esther Tessler Breslaw of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. The service was held at Florida Living Church in Apopka by Pastor Horace Walsh. Interment was at Forest Hill in Palm City, FL.

WEBBER, Linna, 76, born Aug. 27, 1933 in Port Maria, St. Mary, Jamaica, WI, died Dec. 31, 2009 in Port Charlotte, FL. She was a member of the Port Charlotte, FL Church for 23 years. She is survived by three brothers: Enos Martin, Hepburn Martin, and Luther (Herbert Jr.) Martin; and five sisters: Esther Clunie, Dorrell Foster, Marva Martin, Jackie Martin, and Helen Martin. The service was conducted by Pastor William Wilson in Port Charlotte, FL. Interment was at Englewood, FL.

WHITE, Charles L., died Nov. 13, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Mardel; two children: Floyd (Charlotte) White and LaDonna (Gary) Gryte; and three grandchildren. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church.

WILLIAMS, Gerald D., 84, born Nov. 15, 1925 in Eaton, CO, died Jan. 23, 2010 in Orlando, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. His denominational employment included the Inter-American Division from 1950-1961 and Washington Sanitarium and Hospital, Takoma Park, MD from 1961-1966. He is survived by two sons: Dennis of Mt. Dora, FL, and Dale of Apopka; three brothers: Gordon of Crawford, NE, Ivan of Gresham, OR, and Royce of Newbury Park, CA; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. The service was conducted at the Forest Lake Church by Pastor Barbara McCoy. Interment was at Pearce, AZ.

WILLIAMS, Michael Levon, 57, born Dec. 8, 1952, died May 5, 2010. He was a member of Your Bible Speak Church in Evergreen, AL. He is survived by his wife, Suzan A. Williams; five sisters: Patricia, Mary, Deloris, Clarissa, Betty, and Mary Ann; six brothers: Leroy, Edward, Willie, Jimmie, James, and Lawrence; aunts; uncles; cousins; and in-laws.

YOO, David Myung Soo, 51, born Sept. 12, 1958, died Feb. 23, 2010. He was a resident of Duluth, GA, and a member of Collegedale, TN, Church.
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Collegedale Area Home for sale in Bradley County, only 12 minutes to SAU on 5 level cleared acres with barn. New construction. Southern Living style home and floor plan. Gorgeous! Call Wendy Dixon Crye-Leike Realtors, 423-238-5440 or 423-883-0654. [12]

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# Events Calendar

## Carolina
Noscoca.

Women’s Ministries Mini-Retreat – Jan. 21, 22.
Noscoca.

Teachers’ Convention – Feb. 4-8.
Lay-Pastoral Assistant & Elders’ Certification Program #4 – Feb. 4-6.
Noscoca. Pre-registration is required: 704-596-3200.

Noscoca.

## Florida


Singles’ Ministries events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. http://www.floridaconference.com/childrenandfamily/djmiller4000@gmail.com, or 407-709-3050.

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 are available under the “Support Groups” link in the “Patients and Visitors” box at http://www.fhdeland.org/

Planned Giving Clinics and Seminars
Jan. 15. Venice.
Ambassador Church
Evangelism Series – Jan. 7-29.
Ambassador Church, Lauderdale Lakes. Televised on 3ABN.
Details: evangelismproject_amsda@ecgcgroup.net or 954-733-0607.

## Georgia-Cumberland
Complete calendar online – www.gccsda.com

Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training – Dec. 3-5.
Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

Prayer Ministries – Dec. 4.
Thomasville, GA, Church.

Collegedale Academy Opus Evensong – Dec. 4, 5:00 p.m.
Collegedale, TN, Church.

Collegedale Academy Band Christmas Concert – Dec. 8, 7:00 p.m.
Collegedale Academy, TN.

GCA Festival of Carols – Dec. 11.
Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA. Live web stream at www.gcasda.org.
Church 11:10 am

Collegedale Academy Choir and Orchestra Christmas Concert – Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m.
Collegedale, TN, Church.

Live Nativity – Dec. 17, 7:00 p.m.
Oglethorpe, GA, Church.

Conference-wide.

Handel’s Messiah Community Sing-Along – Dec. 19, 3:00 p.m.
Chattanooga First Church, TN.

Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.

Sound System Basics – Jan. 30, 1-4 p.m.
Georgia-Cumberland Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

## Gulf States
Complete Calendar online – http://www.gscsda.org

Elders’ and Deacons’ Meeting – Dec. 3-5.
Camp Alamisco.

Executive Committee – Dec. 7.
Conference Office.

Camp Alamisco.

Pastors’ Meeting – Jan. 16-19.
Camp Alamisco.


## Kentucky-Tennesse
Small Church Pastoral Training Conference – Dec. 3-5.
Camp Alamisco.

Kentucky-Tennessees Music Festival – March 17-19.
Highland Academy.

Family Prayer Conference – April 8, 9.
Indian Creek Camp.

Pastors-Elders Conference – April 15-17.
Indian Creek Camp.

Camp Meeting (Anglo) – May 27-June 4.
Highland Academy.

Camp Meeting (Spanish) – June 10, 11.
Highland Academy.

## Southeastern
Youth Convocation – Jan. 21-23.
Lakeland, FL.

Doubletree Hotel, Orlando, FL.

## Southern Adventist University
Kirsten Wolcott Memorial 5K Run – Dec. 3.


Wind Symphony Christmas Concert – Dec. 4.


School of Music: Christmas Concert – Dec. 11.

Winter Commencement – Dec. 15.


## 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.

Valley Grande Adventist Academy Alumni Association – April 1-3.
All former faculty, staff, and students for honor classes ending in 6 or 1 (2006, 2001, etc.) are invited to our annual Alumni Weekend.
Details: www.vgaa.org or contact Suzanna Facundo: sfacundo@hotmail.com.

Union College Homecoming – April 7-10.

Details: facebook: Oakwood Reunion; Email: ouclassof1981@gmx.com.
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