

SOUTHERN



TIDINGS

"BE STILL
AND KNOW
THAT I AM
GOD"

REACH UP
INVITATION
TO INTIMACY

An Invitation to Intimacy

In our best intentions to enjoy intimacy with God, we have to set aside time. I've discovered this is not easy. Most of us feel that we have too much to do and not enough time. Also, our post-modern materialistic age reinforces the teaching that time is money. Unplanned time leads to failure, while controlled time, governed by our purposes and priorities, is key to success.

However, as Christians, we find the fixation of our era too narrow, too limited, and too secular. For us, the real issue is not "time is money," but "time is holy." If we let the principles and priorities of material success govern us, we will become spiritually impoverished. We need to order our time for spiritual health.

God built time spent with Him into the Ten Commandments — Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, Exodus 20:8. The purpose of this gift of time was to celebrate His creation of the world, His redemption of Israel from slavery in Egypt, and, when adhered to, serve as a sign between Jehovah God and human beings.

In the course of a year, five feasts were celebrated, two of which lasted one week — Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost and the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Tabernacles, the Feast of Trumpets, and the Day of Atonement.

Not only were days and weeks set aside, but years were holy as well. One year in seven, the sabbatical year, was devoted to rest and worship. Two consecutive years, a Sabbath every 49th year followed by the Jubilee year in the 50th year, were holy times when all debts were forgiven and all slaves were set free.

What was the message of these feasts? God creates time, meets us in time, and orders time. Therefore, the use of time is to revolve around Him. By observing those designated days, weeks and years, Israel was to experience the centrality of God. And their celebrations would teach them something essential about God. More than a burden, the days of celebration were reminders of God's saving care. They were opportunities for intimacy with God. Daniel understood the essential issue. Living in pagan Babylon, he prayed three times a day — morning, noon, and evening. He maintained his pattern, even when it got him thrown into the lion's den.

Making room for a regularly scheduled time is almost an act of violence initially. I must seize the time and set it aside. Something else will have to give: an hour of sleep, time texting friends, a television reality show, or casually surfing the World Wide Web. If this seems like too much of a sacrifice, consider that you find time to eat several meals a day. Shouldn't we be able to find time to feed our souls as well? We must seek to have regular, personal time with God. These special times need to be anchored into the routine of our lives. Again, the prophet Daniel used mealtimes of morning, noon, and evening. That may not be realistic for you, but I urge you to find something that is.

Finally, we can cope with changes in our routines if we are determined and convinced in our hearts that meeting with God is important. We can watch for the hour or two, as they come up, to be alone with God. We must not be legalistic and get upset with ourselves when we don't get our usual devotional time. We need to be gracious toward ourselves and determined toward God.



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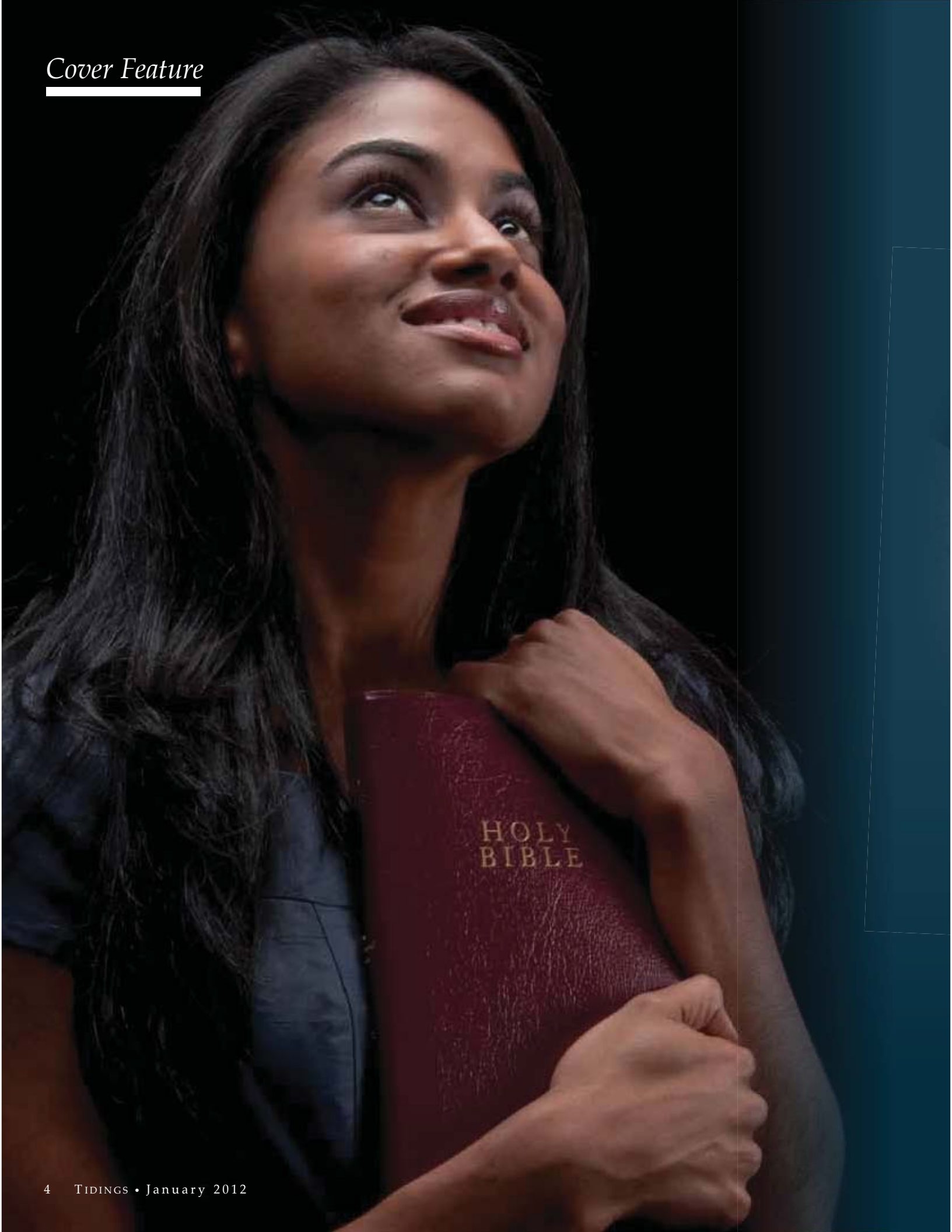
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Cover Feature



A background image showing two hands, palms up, forming a heart shape. The hands are positioned symmetrically, with fingers pointing towards the center. The heart is formed by the negative space between the hands. The overall color scheme is a dark, muted blue.

Falling in *Love* with *Jesus*

By R. Steven Norman III

The only thing better than being in love with your boyfriend, girlfriend, or spouse is being in love with Jesus. Falling in love with Jesus leads to the most intimate relationship we can have.

Our Union and conference leaders recognize the value of intimacy with God, and have invited everyone to enter into an intimate relationship with Him by seeking to know Him through His world, word, works, and ways, coupled with time in prayer and fellowship with Him.

What is Intimacy with God?

An intimate relationship with God involves sensing that God loves you and loving Him in return with your entire being, trusting Him with your entire life, and becoming one with Him.

In Eden, Adam and Eve enjoyed such an intimate relationship with God. Satan saw their intimacy and destroyed it by tempting them to distrust God's love and will. As a result, their sense of intimacy was displaced by self-will, a sense of guilt, and fear.

As soon as God saw the breach between Himself and Adam and Eve, He set about reconciling man to Himself and restoring the relationship by displays of His love, mercy, forgiveness, and grace. Now He invites us to abide in Him, trust, and yield our wills to Him. God takes the initiative, but there are some things that we can do to foster and deepen intimacy with God.

Tips for Becoming Intimate with God

Ask God to Reveal Himself to You

My friend, William Smith, points to Moses as the finest example of how to begin an intimate relationship with God. Moses spoke with God as a friend, but wanted to know God better, so he persistently asked God to reveal more of Himself to him, Exodus 33:11-23. God still answers the prayers of those who seek to know Him.

Focus on God's Love and Character

The best love relationships are based on loving a person for who they are rather than for what they can do for us or give us. A deep love for Jesus loves Him for who He is, yet knows He can and will take care of us. God is love. Reading about and meditating on His love awakens love in our hearts, 1 John 4:16, 19. Study God's names and the aspects of His glory that He

revealed to Moses, Exodus 34:6, 7. Contemplate God's love and character, which transform us into His image, 2 Corinthians 3:18.

Love God with your Entire Being

When love is awakened, seek to love God with your whole heart, all of your soul, strength, and mind. Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend, authors of *What to Do When You Do Not Know What to Do*, indicate that loving God this way influences our values, passions, emotions, love for others, motives, use of our talents, and preferences and opinions, as well as the way we relate to our hurts and sins. God's love clarifies our values; purifies our passions, motives, and love for others; heals our hurts; and leads us to repent of our sins and seek forgiveness.

In Adversity, Recall Who God Is

When we encounter disappointments and trials, we are tempted to focus on what God is doing, why He is allowing it, when He is going to change the situation, and "how long, O God, how long." Jeremiah fixated on these considerations, and his vision of God was distorted until He recalled Who God is. When he recalled God's mercies and compassion, his hope was renewed and he praised God's faithfulness, Lamentations 3:21-23. In adversity fix your mind on Who God is. One way is to play "God is _____," and fill in the blank with everything you know God is — love, kindness, my strength, my help, Jehovah-jireh, my Provider, etc.

Fall in Love with God through His World, Word, Works, and Ways

Kenneth Boa, author of *Conformed to His Image*, suggests falling in love with God through His world, word, works, and ways.

God's World: Allow the world to deepen your love for God by remembering, "The heavens are telling of the glory of God and their

expanse is declaring the work of His hands," Psalm 19:1. See also Psalm 104, 139:13, 14, and 148. Then, take a walk in nature and pray for God to show you visions of Him in His Creation.

God's Word: Lord, "Open my eyes that I may behold wonderful things from Your law," Psalm 119:18. A regular student of the Sabbath School lesson called me and said, "Steven, I am increasing in knowledge, but do not feel that I am growing spiritually. What should I do?" Studying the Sabbath School lesson is good, but it is essential that we do actual study of the Bible beyond the lesson. I recommend need-oriented Bible study that focuses on your personal spiritual questions, and topics that address felt needs. When you study — not just for information, but to experience spiritual formation by seeing Jesus — you will have real spiritual growth.

God's Works: Review God's works in history, prophecy, and His providential leading, and then praise Him in your prayers and testimonies for His awesome works. See Psalm 66:3-5; 77:11-12, 14-15.

God's Ways: God made known his ways to Moses, Psalm 103:7. Journaling is a wonderful way to record the ways of God — His personal care, protection, provision, etc., in your life. Record God's blessings, review them regularly, and tell them to your family and friends so that they can know of God's goodness. See Psalm 145.

The Role of Meditation, Prayer, and Sabbath Dates

There are many other ways to become intimate with God. The practice of biblical meditation is essential — Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2, 4:4, 77:12, 119:15, 148, 143:5. "We should meditate upon the mission of Him who came to save His people from their sins. As we thus contemplate heavenly themes, our faith and love will grow stronger, and our prayers will be more and

more acceptable to God, because they will be more and more mixed with faith and love.... There will be more constant confidence in Jesus, and a daily, living experience in His power to save to the uttermost all that come unto God by Him," *Steps to Christ*, page 88.

Try different methods of praying. One meaningful way is prayer through a scripture, word-by-word or phrase-by-phrase, allowing time to hear God. Praying through the Proverbs is a good way to gain wisdom.

Intimacy requires time. God set aside the Sabbath as a time when we can come to know Him as the One who can and will make us holy, Ezekiel 20:12. Try observing Sabbath as a date with Jesus when you break your personal alabaster jar and pour out your love and gratitude to Him all day.

Love Jesus through Unity of Will and Obedience

Adam and Eve lost their intimacy with God when they chose to follow their own will rather than God's will. Jesus shared the key to intimacy with His disciples. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love, just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love." Daily submission of our wills to God and resistance of the devil will enable us to stand hand-in-hand with Jesus.

Fall in Love with Jesus by Loving your Neighbors

After inviting us to love God with all of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, Jesus tells us to love our neighbors as ourselves. When we fall in love with Jesus, we must love His family also — they are our brothers and sisters. This love

will lead us to see and treat them the way God loves and treats them. Love will also compel us to give ourselves for their salvation as God gave Jesus, the angels, and all Heaven for our salvation.

When you have an intimate relationship with Jesus, you will not need to announce it; people will see your love and take note that you have been with Jesus, and are one of His disciples.

I invite you to seek intimacy with God. After a few days, your heart will be singing, "Falling in love with Jesus was the best thing I ever, ever done. In His arms I feel protected, in His arms never disconnected, in His arms I feel protected, there's no place I'd rather, rather be."

Resources to Improve Your Relationship with Jesus

Reboot Your Spiritual Life

By Matthew Gamble

The process of spiritual growth isn't always an uneventful upward climb. Rather, it stops and starts. There are moments of profound insight, where we truly grow in Christ. The problem is, the story doesn't end there — sometimes we need to reach up by rebooting. In this book, Matthew Gamble shares how to form a habit of Bible study, embrace the ministry God has for you, and more. Book Catalog #417715

Not Alone in the Garden

By Alvin Kibble

Reach up through a deeper prayer life by experiencing *Not Alone in the Garden*. Built around the themes of prayer and meditation, including what prayer is, ways to pray, and what to expect from

prayer, this book outlines some of the strongest and most compelling of the more traditional themes in Christian life. Discover how the simple tools of prayer, meditation, and confession have power to shape our lives, restore our losses, repair our brokenness, and bind up our wounds. Book Catalog #417720

Seeing Red

By Troy Fitzgerald

Seeing Red is designed to help small groups reach up by focusing on the words Christ spoke and allowing those words to shape their lives today. With this study guide, all you need is a red-letter edition Bible and a willingness to respond. Whether you are experienced with small groups or jumping in for the first time, you will find practical tools that will make your small group experience rich and transforming. Book Catalog #625816

Going Green for God Devotional Book

By Lester Collins Jr.

Help your church's young people develop an intimate relationship with the Savior through *Going Green for God*, a 40-day spiritual journey for youth groups. Pastor Lester Collins Jr. offers Bible texts, inspirational thoughts, and helpful tips on how to apply biblical concepts to your life. This devotional book leads youth groups through eight spiritual disciplines: Bible study, prayer, journaling, meditation/silence, creative arts/music/worship, accountability, time, and service.

Book Catalog #602566

DVD Catalog #602565

Resources available at Advent-Source at www.adventsource.org or 800-328-0525.



A Cut Above

BY RAINEY PARK

Florida Hospital College's Master of Occupational Therapy (MOT) students are getting a once-in-a-lifetime experience: the opportunity to study at the Nicholson Center, Florida Hospital Celebration's world-renown robotic and surgical training facility.

Next to a room of accomplished doctors refining their skills on da Vincis, the most advanced robotic surgery platforms to-date, Florida Hospital College students are mastering their own skills, identifying and understanding muscles and nerves in the human body.

"This has been absolutely unreal," says Chris Roche, MOT student. "It's definitely one of the top few experiences of my educational career."

Video cameras and lights give students front-row seats as Kelly Moore, adjunct biology professor, leads them through a dissection of the human body. Though the experience made some students queasy at first — one nearly passed out on day one — the insights they're gaining are invaluable.

"It gives you a new respect for the human body and how complex

it is," says Ashley Walch, MOT student. "You would never know otherwise all the things that are under your skin."

Of equal importance, MOT students are learning to become better healthcare providers. "This has helped me make the connection between information and real life," Roche says. "I'll never forget the stuff I see here versus what I see in color-coded anatomy books."

The 28-member-class is the first group of graduate students to undergo training at the Nicholson Center.

"They're getting a great opportunity," says Gabriel Zavula, lab techni-



Chris Roche (top), Danielle Grandy (above left), and Shane Sapp (above right), are part of the first group of graduate students to receive training at the Nicholson Center. Professor Kelly Moore (above center) leads them in a dissection.

cian at the center, "one that pre-med students don't usually get until their senior year."

More information about the MOT program is available online at fhchs.edu/ot.



Nine Days that Changed My Life

BY MASON SUMNER

“As I looked over the desolation, I couldn’t even think of where to begin helping.”

My name is Mason Sumner. I am 15 years old and live in Nobleton, Florida, with my dad, mom, and twin baby sisters. We were baptized into the Adventist Church in 2006.

My family and I are currently members at an elderly church in Inverness; however, we are searching for a church with younger people. With a youth group, we could help change lives by showing God’s love. Until that happens, I am going to keep doing all I can to positively impact lives, just as mine was forever changed in nine short days during the month of June 2011.

You may recall the headlines in the spring of 2011 when disaster struck Tuscaloosa, Alabama, with no mercy. The after-effects were devastating. Tornadoes destroyed everything, not caring if you were rich or poor, big or small. They came with one purpose: to completely desolate.

Out of that destruction, God put together a plan that sent me on my first humanitarian mission trip with my dad through our family’s 5 Loaves 2 Fish Ministries. I have grown up with a commercial contractor dad who, on the side, loves to give — whether it’s helping a neighbor put on a new roof, or an elderly woman paint her weathered home.

When I saw the path of destruction the Alabama tornadoes left behind, it was hard to comprehend. Those people were left with only fragments of their home, scattered



Mason Sumner

county-wide. As I looked over the desolation, I couldn’t even think of where to begin helping.

During the next nine days, my dad and I worked hard in many different places for multiple organizations while staying in individual tents at a campground. It was eye opening. God showed me how blessed I am and how fortunate my family is.

Our mission trip wasn’t to deliberately preach God’s Word, but to show Christ’s love through our actions. We went in the name of God to be servants of the Lord for others. Wherever we picked up a branch

or pieced a home back together, footprints of God’s love were left behind. As a result of this mission endeavor, I developed a stronger

love for helping people in their time of need.

One memory that stands out above all the rest is the day I was volunteering for Salvation Army. A woman and her son came for help to get back on their feet after they lost everything. Their home was no more, and their belongings could not be located. The fear and pain I saw in their eyes was heartbreaking. I couldn’t help but ask her, “How do you recover from this?” She replied, “God has a plan; He will provide.” Hearing that response from a person who just lost everything was such a powerful witness of faith — that there is still hope on this Earth.

The enormous impact that one person can have on another is incredible. Just imagine that impact if we all came together and worked as one, united in the Body of Christ. It took a disaster for me to realize that, so it is my job to spread God’s love to other people of all ages now,

before another disaster strikes.

The whole Church needs to embrace each other so, when disaster strikes, we can all help change lives by showing God’s love.

Disasters do not care if you are young or old,

and neither should we. We are all God’s children.



This tent in a campground served as Mason’s living quarters during her volunteer time in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.



Students Jayson Rbea (left), Esleie Omana, Artesia Burden, and Mathew Nell enjoy the apps on their iPads, which enhances their study time.

iPads and Adventist Education: A NATURAL FIT

BY PHILIP WILHELM

Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) and Madison Academy are the first two academies in the Southern Union to pilot a 1-1 iPad initiative. The device naturally fits the needs of students and teachers on many different levels. From web browser, to e-textbook, to graphing calculator, to Bible research tool, to student planner — this device does a lot at a price that allows smaller schools to get on board.

What makes this device affordable? Student textbook costs are on the rise — anywhere from \$80 to \$150 for a single title. Publishers are starting to see the necessity of offering their books in a digital format at a reduced price. This provided BMA the green light to move ahead. Most of the e-textbooks available cost around \$60 for a six-year license. Spreading that cost out during six years allows BMA to get textbooks, iPads, and additional apps at about the same cost they have been paying for traditional textbooks. The students have about 75 percent of their textbooks on their iPad, providing them lightweight portability and increased organization. There has not been one lost iPad, which is more than can be said for paper textbooks.

An advantage iPads bring to the classroom beyond e-textbooks is apps. With thousands of apps to choose from, developers are constantly creating content to provide a rich learning experience for students. iPads and education have been a fit from the beginning. Not only do you have a portal to the Internet at every seat, but you have interactive apps for every student.

“I love being able to get extra help online with algebra on my iPad,” says Tinka Ramerez. According to another student, Brandi Batten, “Being able to take quizzes and use study aids in MB Anatomy gives deeper details than a book.” Imagine an interactive, 3D, labeled skeleton with a quiz feature to help anatomy and physiology students learn the bones; a virtual tour of ancient Rome, complete with interactive panoramic views of the ancient city utilizing the iPad’s built-in gyroscopes to guide your movements; an interactive algebra app with embedded videos that go along with the lessons, providing additional on-demand instruction; or a moving, interactive, periodic table describing and encouraging an exploration of the elements. Most of these supplemental apps cost

between \$1 and \$5. The possibilities are endless and affordable. Julian Armstrong sums it up by saying, “They make learning easier.”

How can the iPad influence the student’s spiritual life? Students have access to all of the published writings of Ellen White and the Kings James Bible. Gabby Cintron explains, “The EGW app is really cool! When you’re having devotions you can easily check a word in the Bible to see what Ellen White says, and you can check it in the Strong’s Concordance app.” Jonathan Castro adds, “The Bible app has Spanish and English. I use it for church and school.”

In addition, Remnant Publications has made the audio *Testimonies* available to the students at no cost to them for use on the school’s iPads. Many Adventist musicians have agreed to let their music be placed on the iPads, so the students can have quality, wholesome music to listen to in their dorms.

This is truly a tool that can be used to rightly train the youth more effectively both inside and outside the classroom. Staff and students at BMA have found their iPads to be a natural fit.

CARING FOR KIDS WITH BAGS OF LOVE

BY DONNA STINNETT



Angie Woodring (left), Darlene Ley, Rena Dixon, Margaret Melton, Stella Scott, and Carolyn Dawson, all members of the Henderson, Kentucky, Church, work on making quilts and goody bags at their Bags of Love group meeting.

Two months ago, Angie Woodring, a member of the Henderson, Kentucky, Church, couldn't thread a needle. But now, she can be found each Monday with several other local women, sewing in a vacant Sunday School classroom-turned-workroom as they make child-sized quilts and matching duffle bags for a new non-profit, faith-based mission in Henderson County.

The multi-church community program is called "Bags of Love — It's My Very Own," and the mission is to provide a care package for a child who is being displaced from his or her home to cling to and call their own.

Each Monday, a lot of knowledge is shared around their work table (an old ping pong table) as the women set up their sewing machines and help each other navigate the fine points of making a quilt. It's valuable time spent.

"We talk about our week, have girl-talk, and just enjoy each other's company," said Woodring, whose mother Stella Scott is also in the group. "We've had a lot of fun."

Working with Child Protective Services, the group, which includes four sisters, has already produced several Bags of Love that can be distributed to displaced children.

In addition to the quilts, the bags contain age-appropriate items such as small toys, stuffed animals, baby bottles, baby toys, crayons, coloring books, jigsaw puzzles, journals, pens, personal care needs (toothbrushes, toothpaste, bar soap, baby wash, hairbrushes, combs,

hair ties, shampoo), and other things to take care of basic needs.

The social services agency has told them that on average four to six children are displaced each month, and they think they can meet that demand.

"Many times when authorities are called in, the children need to be taken to a safe location. Usually this happens in the middle of the night. This process is frightening for children," the group's brochure explains.

"The children can take nothing with them. They have now lost their home, their parents, and all their personal belongings, including toys, clothes, etc."

The volunteers never see the recipients, but work hard to make something nice that children can hold on to when they're taken to foster care and are feeling alone and afraid.

"We try to make them bright and soft," said Darlene Ley, who passed along to the group the quilting knowledge she gained a few years ago working with the Piece-makers quilting group at the Henderson County Cooperative Extension.

Ley is the one who heard about the "Bags of Love" project a few years ago. It originated nearby in Christian County in 2005, and has spread worldwide.

Not long before learning about the project, Woodring confided in her mom that she felt like she needed a project.

And then, the idea to co-opt the Bags of Love project came along.

"She just started crying when she heard about it," Scott said. "I really believe God has opened doors for us through this project."

Never mind that Woodring didn't sew. Neither did some of the others, but they've been learning steadily with the help of those who do.

The core group — which also includes Yvonne Mays, Marvelde Schnell, Carolyn Dawson, Rena Dixon, and Margaret Melton — immediately got started, with Woodring serving as a spokesperson in the community as they drum up publicity and support at schools, clubs and organizations, churches, and civic groups.

"That's taken me out of my comfort zone," Woodring said. "But, when you feel strongly about something, you can get out there."

They're taking donations of items to put in the bags as well as cotton fabric and flat sheets for making the quilts, duck cloth, and medium-size buttons for the bags — plus they'd like to have more people to sew with them on Mondays as they work and share the fun.

Their cargo on the return was a 12-foot bolt with 70 yards of quilt batting, enough to make 84 quilts. This bulk purchase saved them a lot of money. "Plus, it was a fun day-trip," Woodring said.

Donna Stinnett is the features editor for The Gleaner in Henderson, Kentucky. Used with permission.

Florida Hospital Fish Memorial Donates Stuffed Dalmatians to Fire Departments

Florida Hospital Fish Memorial, Orange City, Fla., donated 480 stuffed Dalmatian dogs to the Orange City and Deltona Fire Departments for the Recovery Rascal program. The annual program provides donated stuffed animals to the two local fire departments, so they can give them to children at accident scenes throughout the year.

“The stuffed animals have a positive impact on the children. They bring comfort and security to them,” said David Faer, Deltona Fire Department assistant chief for communications, public education, and information.



The Orange City Fire Department (left) and Deltona Fire Department (right) thanked Florida Hospital Fish Memorial CEO Ed Noseworthy (center) for donating 480 stuffed Dalmatians for the Recovery Rascal Program. Firefighters will give the stuffed animals to children at accident scenes throughout the year.

This is the first year Florida Hospital Fish Memorial has given Dalmatian dogs. Historically, the Orange City hospital has given stuffed teddy bears,

but transitioned to the more apropos Dalmatians.

According to Fire Sciences College, Dalmatians were originally trained to be coach dogs and run alongside horse-drawn carriages. This training continued as Dalmatians

were further trained to run in front of the fire cart, clear a path, and guide the horses-drawn fire engine toward the fire. Even after

horse-drawn fire carriages were phased out by motorized fire engines, Dalmatians have remained in the firehouse as guard dogs and mascots.

The Orange City hospital is part of Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital Volusia/Flagler nonprofit hospital system, with a mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. In 2010, Florida Hospital Volusia/Flagler collectively contributed more than \$107 million in benefits to the underprivileged, the community's overall health and wellness and spiritual needs, and capital improvements.

—BY LINDSAY REW

Park Ridge Therapy Dog Retires After 10 Years of Service

In Hendersonville, N.C., one of Park Ridge Health's most valued employees has honorably retired following nearly a full lifetime of service. Therapy dog Montana Wilds, C.G.C., is now enjoying the comforts of home at age 15 after working faith-



Brenda Wilds sits with therapy dog Montana, who has served at the Park Ridge Health Behavioral Unit for more than 10 years.

fully on the Park Ridge Health HOPE Behavioral Health unit for more than 10 years.

Montana has delivered countless smiles and lifted spirits since he started his career at Park Ridge during the Christmas season of 2000.

“He loves people, and

people love him,” says owner Brenda Wilds, who is the supervisor of activity therapy at Park Ridge Health. “He is just a total love-dog.”

Wilds doesn't hesitate to share stories of what she calls “miraculous times” with Montana.

“The first time I brought him, it was Christmas of 2000,” Wilds explains. “We had a very suicidal patient on the women's unit who was under supervision in the hallway.” Thinking the patient was asleep, she walked by with Montana. “The patient

said, ‘Can I see your dog?’ I wondered how this was going to work. But, she patted the mattress, and Montana laid down beside her for 20 minutes.”

Wilds keeps a collection of SHARE cards and thank-you notes written to Montana — the “Christmas dog,” the therapist, the listener.

Last week, Park Ridge Health awarded Montana with a plaque commemorating his decade-long career of loyal service to patients and staff on the HOPE unit.

—BY KIRSTEN HOUMANN

To Win One Million for God

Around the new year people come up with many lofty ambitions: lose weight, study harder, or save money. But, there's a group of students on campus that didn't wait for the new year to launch their resolutions. These young people are on fire for God, and not about to let anything stop them.



MARIO HAYDEN

Young adults from various denominations come together to study the Bible and worship at a new ministry called SALT.

Service and Love Together

Under the leadership of Eric Camarillo, 24-year-old member of the Orlando Filipino Adventist Church, Florida Hospital College students are actively involved in a new ministry aimed at leading young people to Christ.

"As a new Christian, I realized the best way to witness is by first creating a relationship," Camarillo says. "I was thinking, man, I have a lot of Adventist friends, but I don't have a

lot of friends in other denominations."

As Camarillo started attending other churches to get to know the young people, an idea formed in his head. That idea became Service and Love Together (SALT), an effort to unite Christian youth in Central Florida.

"Before I became a Christian, I had a goal to make a million dollars by the time I was 30 and then continue that each year. After I became a Christian, I changed the goal to win

a million people for God in my lifetime," Camarillo says.

Through SALT, he and his friends are achieving that goal. Their first meeting drew more than 150 youth. At the next, the number nearly doubled. The leaders are anticipating close to 500 attendees at the third event.

Rodney Balmes, first-year nursing major and praise team leader, says he's "blown

away" by the attendance. "It allowed me to realize how if you just continue to ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you, He will lead you."

Back to the Bible

The bi-monthly worship service features a message presented by a young person. The goal every time is to lead youth back to their Bibles. Often, visitors from other denominations tell the leaders how amazed they are at the amount of scripture used in the message.

Many sign up to receive Bible studies or learn more about the Adventist Church.

Following each message, the youth are encouraged to sign up for a ministry so they can stay on-fire and use their talents to serve God. The response is overwhelming. One ministry alone recruited 65 volunteers to wake up at 4:30 a.m. and distribute winter clothing to the homeless.

"To be in a place filled with young adults who are passionate about being a change in society and in the Orlando area, that to me was impressive," says Charlene Morrobel, a recent Florida Hospital College graduate.

A Need for Prayer

In the few months since SALT started, the combination of worship, study, and service has strengthened many young Christians and led several non-believers to surrender their lives to Christ.

"It's so exciting," Camarillo says. "I just hope whoever hears about this will keep it in prayer for souls to be won."

—BY RAINEY PARK



To get a taste of what young adults are thinking about and discussing at SALT, watch the youth-made video *At What Cost?* online at on.fhchs.edu/SALT-video.



Carolinas Fertile Ground for God's Work

Even though the world has been overwhelmed with wars, natural disasters, and economic upheaval, the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel has progressed unceasingly, and God has continued to prosper the growth of His Church throughout the world and in the Carolina Conference. Looking back, you cannot help but marvel at God's innumerable blessings to His Church.



dence of God's continued blessing on His Work in the Conference.

The geographical representation of Seventh-day Adventists throughout the Conference also reveals a healthy increase. At the



The work in the Carolina Conference has continued to advance with fervor. The year 2006 began with a membership of 17,424 and ended October of 2011 with 20,620, giving a net membership gain of 3,136. This growth is evi-

close of 2011, there were 142 churches and companies. In addition to this, there are 25 recognized Adventist groups in the Carolina Conference that are hoping and working to one day reach church status.

The Conference is also blessed with great diversity among the churches, companies, and groups. In addition to the many cultures, countries, and people groups represented in the English-speaking churches, there are also Spanish- and Korean-speaking congregations; Cambodian, Hmong, and Karen groups; congregations from Swahili-speaking nations; French-speaking Haitians, etc. More and more of the World Church is joining the Carolinas.

Due to the estimated 30,000 former and inactive Seventh-day Adventists in North and South Carolina, the Conference

has placed an emphasis on reclaiming these precious souls. Many churches have elected Reconnecting leaders and secretaries. Happily, through the efforts of dedicated members and pastors, as well as Conference-sponsored seminars and goals, more missing members are returning to God's family. And the Conference, along with the angels, is rejoicing!

"There is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents," Luke 15:10.

Looking to the past to witness God's continued faithfulness, you cannot help but also look forward to a future bright with promise as the Carolina family continues to walk by His side.

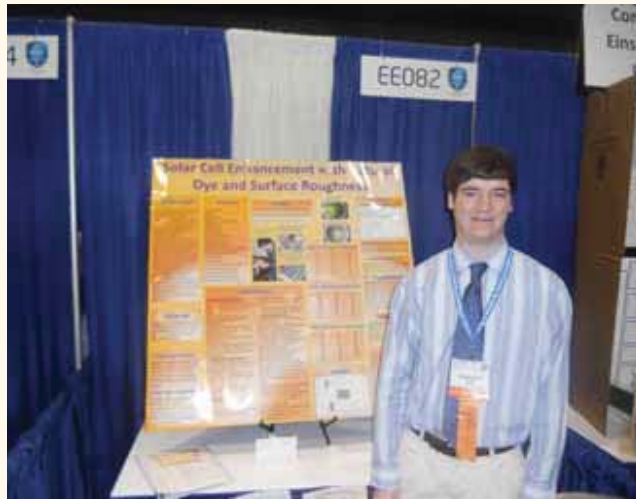
—BY GARY MOYER,
CAROLINA CONFERENCE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Florence Member is Intel Science Fair Finalist

Andrew Woods, a member of Florence First Church, Florence, S.C., was a finalist at the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) competition, held in Los Angeles, Calif., May 8-13. The event featured high school student finalists from the United States and all over the world competing for scholarships and other awards.

Woods previously competed at the Sand Hills Regional Science Fair at Francis Marion University in Florence, March 24, 25, 2011, winning first place in the engineering competition; and was a finalist at the South Carolina Junior Academy of Science competition. He was selected as the overall winner of the Sans Hills Regional Sci-



ence Fair, which made him an Intel ISEF finalist.

Woods' science project focused on improving the efficiency of solar cells by using pokeberry dye as an absorber of solar radiation, and increasing the surface roughness of the solar cell. Pokeberry dye, harvested from pokeberry bushes, can significantly increase the amount of solar energy captured by solar cells. Pokeberry dye is inexpensive since there is an abundant supply and lowers the cost of solar

cells, allowing them to be manufactured and used in third world countries. At the ISEF, Woods was named a finalist for the IEEE Foundation award (the world's largest technical professional society) as

well as the ProCon energy award. ProCon is one of

the largest manufacturers of solar cells.

Woods is a member of the national Beta Club, and vice-president of the National Honor Society at Mayo High School for Math, Science, and Technology, an academic magnet school in Darlington, S.C. He is also a Junior Marshall and academic honors student. He is active at his church, and serves as the assistant communication director and audio-visual operator.

—BY DAN WOODS



Hispanic Young Adults Enjoy Retreat

"Transformed by Him" was the theme of the Hispanic Young Adults Retreat at Nosoca Pines Ranch, September 23-25, 2011. More than 150 young people united in rejoicing with the Lord Jesus. Rubi Pimentel, a regional literature evangelist coordinator for Carolina Conference, was the main speaker. His challenging sermons

touched the hearts of all who attended. When he made an altar call, many came forward to dedicate their lives to Jesus. The Hilton Head Church praise group enhanced the weekend with their excellent music. It was a time full of activities and surprises for all the young members.

—BY MARY ROMERO



Midport Church Launches WEHR-FM Radio Station

A new radio ministry at Midport Church in Port St. Lucie, Fla., launched into reality in two short weeks; however, before broadcasts over WEHR could begin airing, a series of steps had to be completed.

First, the WEHR Radio Station Board had to ascertain a relationship with LifeTalk Radio. Next, a connection had to be established with Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) Radio. Then, the Board had to locate and hire an engineer to work on the physical installation of the fully automated local station. The only three such engineers in St. Lucie County were unavailable for four to six weeks.

Dale Bass, president of the Board, said they prayed for a miracle because they could not wait that long. Two hours later, one engineer called and said a client was not ready, so he could do the installation at Midport Church. The Lord had performed the first in a series of miracles. Two and a half days later, this engineer did the installation and aligned the satellite with 3ABN radio to enable receiving its signals at 100.1 on the FM dial.

A second miracle ensued when the station was



Danny Shelton (left), Three Angels Broadcasting Network (3ABN) founder, sings with Ladye Love and Reggie Smith at Midport Church in Port St. Lucie, Fla. The concert was sponsored by the church's new radio station, WEHR-FM, as a musical gift to the community.

ready to broadcast in a two-week window before their Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license would have been jeopardized.

WEHR presently has a signal which covers a 15-mile radius and reaches a population of 200,000. "This is the first step to a bigger mission — the radio station's web site," said Bass. Listeners will be introduced to the web site where there are five direct links: 3ABN Television, 3ABN Radio, Online Bible study course, church programs, daily programs, schedules, and events.

John Lomacang and his wife, Angela, of 3ABN were present to help facilitate the station's sendoff.

Their participation drew hundreds of members from other churches who, armed with a knowledge of the radio station, were asked to share the news with those they know. These guests watched a special, videotaped message from 3ABN President Jim Gilley and received WEHR 100.1 bumper stickers to distribute in the community.

The church hopes their radio station will plant seeds which will sprout and grow as listeners learn truths of the Bible and, ultimately, give their lives to Christ.

Dennis McOmer, pastor, says, "My desire is that our radio station will reach the community with the Three Angels' Message by

its distinctive content and programs."

The WEHR Board's vision is to make high profile music artists available to the community, drawing those who want to hear good, Christian music. By scheduling quarterly community Sabbaths, followed by evening concerts, they hope to introduce people to Midport's Adventist fellowship.

The first concert of the series was presented by Jennifer LaMountain, the second by Reggie and Ladye Love Smith, and a third will be conducted by The King's Herald Quartet on February 18. On the same date, Lonnie Melashenko will be the morning speaker.

Information on future concerts is available on the Events link of the WEHR website: <http://www.eternalhoperadio.com/>

—BY ANESTA THOMAS



Dale Bass (center), WEHR's president of the Board, gave Three Angels Broadcasting Network representatives John and Angela Lomacang a tour of the radio station during the inauguration event.

South Palm Company Mission Trip Results in 72 Decisions for Christ

Thirteen South Palm Company members departed for a 10-day mission trip to Tacna, Peru, September 22, 2011, which culminated in 72 people giving their hearts to the Lord. In addition to preaching the Word, the Peru mission group,



The Peru mission group from South Palm Company was invited to the office of the Mayor of Municipalidad Distrital Alto de la Alianza for a reception and special recognition.

offered medical services centered on natural cures for common diseases, presented nutrition and other health-promoting interven-

tions, and offered mental health services.

The group, directed by Carl James, South Palm pastor, consisted of Ryan Wiggan, Sheila Claudelle Clarke, Katia Cherisol, Leslie Shaw, Loreta Mangru, Lloyd Mirage, Norma Mirage, Duval Hutchinson, Kizzy Hutchinson, Natalie Wil-

liams, Eric Timothy, and Joseph Charles.

The Mayor of Municipalidad Distrital Alto de la Alianza and the Peru Mission President recognized the group for their efforts. The inspiration behind the Peru mission group trip came from reports of a previous Peru mission trip taken in 2006 by Florida Conference staff.

—BY SHEILA CLAUDELLE CLARKE

Pine Hills Church Baptizes 71

Pine Hills Church, Orlando, Fla., recently witnessed 71 individuals baptized into membership. This rich harvest of souls for the Lord occurred during a family enrichment series of meetings conducted by Alanzo Smith, director for family counseling at Greater New York Con-



Claudette Harding (front row, left), Bible worker; Keith Harding, pastor; Alanzo Smith, evangelist; Claude Edwards, singing evangelist; and Lorenzo Brown, Bible worker, are pictured with the 71 baptized individuals.

ference.

The merge of family life relationship issues with compelling truths of a risen and still relevant Savior

drew people to the meetings. Many young people also attended the special Tuesday youth night presentations on such topics as self esteem, sexuality, music, suicide, depression, and violence.

—BY JOAN DE GANNES

Joneses Celebrate 65th Wedding Anniversary

Elmer Jones and Violet Sickler were married in Bridgeton, N.J., on November 3, 1946. Their first date occurred after Violet's mother twice introduced Violet to Elmer — once by a picture and then in person.

Elmer was a horticulturalist near Trenton, N.J., until they moved to Kettering, Ohio, when Violet was asked to help establish Kettering



Elmer and Violet Jones

Memorial Hospital, now Kettering Medical Center. As the head nurse, she admitted the first patient.

Returning to their farm in New Jersey, Elmer started working in the greenhouses at Rowan University. Violet studied for a master's in public health at Loma Linda University while working as a public health nurse and teaching nursing.

For several years, Violet and Elmer visited Florida as snowbirds. In

1976, they moved to Sarasota, then retired in Avon Park in 1992. Violet's nursing and health education skills gave her opportunities to conduct cooking classes and help more than 1,000 people quit smoking through Stop Smoking clinics. She also served as a church elder, and Elmer served more than 40 years as a deacon.

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK

Samaritan Center Gives 25 Years of Hope

More than 100 people joined the Samaritan Center in celebrating 25 years of Help for Today and Hope for Tomorrow on October 24, 2011. Community leaders joined in the event, including Hamilton County Mayor Jim Coppinger, who shared a few thoughts about how the Samaritan Center has been a blessing for many in eastern Hamilton County.

In 1986, the Samaritan Center opened as Adventist Community Services. The area Seventh-day Adventist churches wanted to work together to have a greater impact, so they opened a thrift store and social services agency.

Initially, one employee and several dedicated volunteers ran the Center. The community poured in its support through donated thrift items and financial gifts to help their neighbors in need.



The Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, Tenn., celebrated 25 years of service in October 2011. Supporters and friends of the Center gathered to rejoice in their success and God's blessings.

In just 10 years, the Center outgrew its original building and moved to an old grocery store in Ooltewah, Tenn. Ten years later, another expansion was needed to meet the community needs and efficiently handle donations.

The Center branched out from simply providing basic "financial first aid," and began incorporating programs like Stock Their Lockers, Christmas Toy Shop, Food Pantry Partners, etc. Always a "green" organization, the Center began recycling even the donations that could

not be sold — increasing revenues and reducing environmental waste.

The Samaritan Center now provides close to 40 jobs, has more than 150 regular volunteers, and provides thousands of shoppers with opportunities to find great deals on many of the items they need or wish for. The Center directly assists 4,000 people every year through its social services, helps tens of thousands more save money in its stores, and keeps 400 tons of used items out of landfills each year!

The 25th year event was not simply a celebration of the Samaritan Center, but a celebration of the community and local church members who donate clothing, furniture, and food; make financial gifts; shop in the thrift stores; and volunteer their time. Because of this generosity, the Center is able to directly assist 4,000 people every year, and help thousands more stretch their budgets in the thrift stores.

The Samaritan Center is the only social services agency in Ooltewah. Last year, more than \$90,000 in food was given to those in need, and it has provided more than \$120,000 to assist tornado survivors and community relief efforts since the April 27, 2011, storms.

—BY CHERYL TORRES

Ashlocks Celebrate 60th Anniversary



Jim and Betty Ashlock celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary with family and friends at the India Mahal Restaurant in Chattanooga, Tenn., July 2011. They met as freshmen at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), Colleg-

edale, Tenn., in 1950, and things took off one year later on their first road trip — a midnight run to Georgia where they were married by the local justice of the peace.

Jim later shipped off to Korea and Betty went to India to meet her new in-laws and give birth. Jim enrolled at Pacific Union College taking education.

His first job was in Sacramento, Calif., where he taught woodworking at Kit Carson Junior High.

While in Sacramento, they accepted a call to India. Work has taken them to Oregon, California, Idaho, and finally back to Collegedale, but it is love of friends and family which has them crisscrossing the U.S.A.

Principal Awarded Golden Apple

Lester Coon Adventist School, Apison, Tenn., principal and teacher Mark Sargeant received the Golden Apple Award, September 2011, from Chattanooga, Tenn., News Station WDEF Channel 12 and Bi-Lo Grocery store.

Sargeant started teaching 37 years ago. During the years, he's taught everything from first to 12th grade in various combinations. "I've been in a one-teacher school and had all eight grades. I have also taught grades two and three, five to eight, grades five and six. I've also taught in high school," he says.

Sargeant not only serves as principal at Lester Coon Adventist School,



Mark Sargeant, principal of Lester Coon Adventist School, Apison, Tenn., pictured with his wife, Myra, recently received the Golden Apple Award.

he's also a full time teacher, managing a classroom of third, fourth, and fifth graders.

Sargeant counts on his older students to peer tutor, like fifth grader Tre' Smith. "When I'm done with my math and social studies, I can go around and help the

other students with their math or social studies," said Smith.

With three different age groups, Sargeant uses encouragement to pull his class together like a team. Playing a game of ball toss, students must build up their classmates, telling

them "good try" when things don't fall their way.

When conflicts arise, Sargeant pulls out a peace rug to help students deal with their disagreements.

"You'd be surprised how many issues get solved right here and we actually bring it up in front of the class, and they can do it in front of everyone," he said.

"Mark Sargeant is respected and loved by his students, coworkers, and parents," says Cynthia Gettys, Conference vice president for education.

Golden Apple Awards are presented weekly. Teachers are nominated by community members.

—WDEF CHANNEL 12 NEWS

Chorale, Bell Festival Blesses Many

The music of more than 250 participants filled the sanctuary of the Dave C. Cress Memorial Youth Worship Center on the campus of Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) on November 11, 2011. The program was the final concert of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Choral and Bells Music Festival.

Bev Amlaner, handbell director at Atlanta North School, and clinician for the handbell portion of the program, said, "Our number one goal is to have students praising God through music and having a good time

doing it."

Holly Greer, choral director at Collegedale Adventist Middle School, the clinician for the choral group, said, "We want to select music that they can take back to their schools and churches so they are able to be a blessing in their local communities after this concert is over."

The students arrived on GCA's campus on Thursday evening so they would be ready for more than five hours of rehearsals on Friday prior to the evening concert.

The group Camerata

from GCA shared two songs with the audience. The 35-member choir is directed by Candace M. Nesmith.

The schools participating in the festival this year were Atlanta North, Augusta, Carman, Coble, Collegedale Adventist Middle, Learning Tree, Greenville, Shoal Creek, Jellico, Standifer Gap, and Savannah.

—BY BRIAN HENNING



Bev Amlaner, handbell director at Atlanta North School, was clinician for the handbell portion of the Choral/Bell Music Festival.

Ministry is Labor of Love and Compassion

Inventory: 24 turkeys for starters, and the food products and ingredients needed to feed 300 people a traditional Thanksgiving meal. The volunteers of Acts of Peace, a community outreach ministry of Montgomery First Church, Montgomery, Ala., had their work cut out for them. It took three days to roast 24 turkeys, bake 43 pies, prepare cornbread dressing, and other food items to fill the plates of the needy. This would be their first major attempt to fill a void in the inner city.

With the assistance of Rick and Deborah Hutchinson, who volunteered the use of the ACTS Disaster trailer, everything was ready on Thanksgiving morning. A neighborhood had been selected, and Acts of Peace had partnered with a community health center in the area that provided staging space, water, and electricity.

More than 35 volunteered; 17 were not Adventists. There was no

doubt that those who came for the meal did not have the traditional meal at home. As they passed through the serving lines, they were encouraged with words of kindness. Some walked and others arrived in cars — blacks, whites, and Hispanics. An old woman pushed her walker, a man with cerebral palsy rode a scooter, parents pushing their children in strollers and carrying their babies asked for extra food.

Many were able to sign up to receive groceries once a month. Some mothers shed tears because they had come there feeling hopeless, but left with hope, and were given a copy of *Bible Answers*.

One of the volunteers, a 20-something professional, choked back tears as she tried to eat. She would later sum up her feelings in an email (excerpted): “As I think back on the food distribution where I served hot dinners today, I



Acts of Peace, an outreach of the Montgomery First Church, served more than 150 people a hot traditional Thanksgiving meal during 2011 Thanksgiving Day.

felt that this Thanksgiving meant more than my usual Thanksgiving holiday. Today, I had the privilege of sharing my Thanksgiving with more than 125 people who needed a hot meal.

I received the honor to see that in life we fret about ‘things’ (work, home, relationships, etc.), when for some the hu-

man essential (food) is lacking for them and their family. Today, I not only had an impact on the people I served, but they had a greater impact on me. They helped me to understand that many are hurting and suffering, but that ‘moving along’ and your outlook makes a big difference. Today, I viewed Christian love at its best, as over 40 people gave a portion of their holiday to give with honor, dignity, and respect to strangers whom some would rather ignore. In addition, I got to see that serving brought an unexplainable joy to my holiday and heart.

It made me more grateful, not for my life, but for the opportunity to serve with others and share with them. With all that said, I hope we all think of what we are thankful for.”

—BY AMY MAPP

Women Enjoy Life-Changing Event

More than 110 women throughout the Conference gathered on October 28-30, 2011, at the 4-H Center near Columbiana, Ala., for an Autumn Renewal Retreat. Several churches sponsored women to attend the retreat. Montgomery First Church sponsored 10 women who were new members. “It was

amazing,” declared one of the women, “I see Jesus in a whole new way.” Another woman who attended for the first time, stated, “I’m hooked, I’ll



Women from Montgomery First Church visit while enjoying a meal.

definitely attend the next retreat.”

The guest speaker was Linda Johnson,

who is a frequent guest on 3ABN. The event was co-

ordinated by April Hobbs, Conference women’s ministries director, and the women’s ministries committee. “It was so rewarding to see the ladies receive such a blessing from the meetings,” says Hobbs.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

One Lost Lamb is Found

Tired and sensing a tinge of heartfelt disappointment, Leslie Louis, Conference executive secretary, quietly slipped into bed. After holding 24 nightly evangelistic meetings at Blue Angels Parkway Church in Pensacola, Fla., he was going to be baptizing just one young woman. Louis explains, "Her name was Sabrina, and I was thankful for one soul, but my heart was sad. How I wished to be a Peter or Paul, or a Kenneth Cox, or a Mark Finley, baptizing hundreds



Sabrina was baptized by Leslie Louis.

for Jesus!" He continues, "During the night I awoke and remembered the story found in Luke 15 of a lost lamb. It was one lamb that was the reason for great rejoicing when it was found. As I lay back down, Heaven's peace filled my heart as I understood — that lost lamb was Sabrina. Jesus had found her, and the Sabbath of October 22, 2011, was going to be a day of rejoicing and celebration." Sabrina had attended

the opening night of the series of meetings. She had heard about the meetings through a brochure she saw while she was visiting at the home of a friend who had received it in the mail. As the end of the series neared, Sabrina indicated that she wanted to be baptized. The truths she had heard brought peace to her heart, and Junior, her 3-year-old son, loved coming to the children's program. There was one problem: she was living with Samuel, the man who was Junior's father. She and Samuel had never been married. Sabrina wanted a wedding, but

knew they couldn't afford one. After confirming their commitment to being married, the members came together with the help of Louis and his wife, Carole, and planned a beautiful wedding ceremony complete with a new suit for the groom and wedding gown for the bride. A glorious sunrise welcomed the Sabbath day for Samuel and Sabrina. The order of service: Sabbath School, a wedding service, a baptismal service, a church service that hosted a prophetic message from the series, and a wedding reception. —BY LESLIE LOUIS AND REBECCA GRICE

Epic Camporee Held at Camp Alamisco

More than 300 Pathfinders and staff gathered at Camp Alamisco on October 13-16 for the annual Conference Pathfinder Camporee. All events were centered on the theme, "Epic Creation." Guest speaker Richard Aguilera shared with the Pathfinders the wonders of God's Creation. For the past two years, Aguilera, who is an architect by trade, has made it his primary goal to teach young people about the issues between Creation and evolution. Savannah and Nelson Hobbs, Pathfinders from

the Montgomery First Master's Brigade Club, enjoyed the presentations. "He made the differences between Creation and evolution so clear," said Savannah. Discovering how dinosaurs fit into the Creation story was Nelson's favorite part. They



Flags flew and Pathfinders marched down Camp Alamisco Road toward the viewing stand.

both agreed that knowing they were lovingly designed by God made them feel special. Clubs from across the Conference began arriving on Thursday afternoon. Friday was filled with drilling and marching, and field events designed to test the Pathfinder's skill. On Sabbath, between Sabbath School and the worship service, with flags and banners flying, each Pathfinder club marched down Alamisco Road past the reviewing stand. After the worship service, two Pathfinders who had responded

earlier to an appeal made by Aguilera were baptized. Lunch for clubs and guests was provided by the Conference youth department. Sabbath afternoon, while still keeping the focus on the Epic Creation theme, the Pathfinders tested their biblical Creation knowledge with a Bible quest game and a scavenger hunt about the Creation week. The Pathfinder Camporee was planned by Bob Kimbro, Pathfinder council chairman, and the Pathfinder Council under the direction of James Mangum, Conference Pathfinder/youth director. —BY REBECCA GRICE

MTSA Vice President Honored

The Nashville Business Journal selected the Middle Tennessee School of Anesthesia program administrator/vice president/dean, Mary Elizabeth “Ikey” DeVasher (‘69/’95) CRNA, Ph.D., APN, as a 2011 Health Care Hero – Mentor Category. The award was presented by Kate Herman, NBJ president and publisher, during an awards luncheon held at the Renaissance Hotel & Convention Center in Nashville, Tenn., August 20, 2011.

Lance Williams, NBJ editor, said, “Whether

cares for the sick, volunteering to help an overburdened hospital staff, researching the latest medical treatments, or managing the day-to-day operations of critical hospital functions, these [awardees] are the people who make a difference in everyday lives.”

DeVasher, a member of Madison Campus Church, Madison, Tenn., was one of 29 recipients in categories including, Behind the Scenes, Community Leader, Company Leader, Development Champion, Health Care

Newcomer, Innovator, Law Champion, Lifetime Achievement, Physician or Nurse, and Mentor (the category in which she was named).

Ken Schwab, MTSA president, reflected on the awards ceremony, saying, “Ikey has truly been a ‘mentor’ to not only students, but other programs



JAMES CLOSSER

Kate Herman (right) presents Mary Elizabeth “Ikey” DeVasher with the award.

throughout the country. I join our board, administrative group, faculty, students, and alumni in congratulating her for this well-deserved recognition.”

—BY JAMES CLOSSER

Pewee Valley Welcomes New Members

The Pewee Valley, Ky., Church completed a five-week series of evangelistic seminars, conducted by Amazing Facts evangelist Emanuel Baek, on October 8, 2011. The plan of Douglas Na’a, pastor, was to



New members: Bill Taylor (left), Cheetab Thomas, Rodney Pearman, Dennis Lee, Beverly Lee, Sharon Pearman, Kevin Escobar, Jeff Shephard, Darrin Shephard, and Mariab Glover. Not pictured: Lawrence Samson.

reach individuals in LaGrange, the largest city in Oldham County, with the ultimate goal of planting a church in that city.

With no rental space available to hold the meetings, it was determined that they would be held in the Pewee Valley Church. This

proved to be beneficial because enthusiasm for the meetings and attendance remained high. Eleven people have already been baptized. Two others are preparing for baptism in the near future, and three more have indicated their desire for more studies.

—BY ROBERT KUPKA

Ridgerunners Collect Food for Needy

Instead of the traditional Trick-or-Treating on Halloween, the Ridgetop Ridgerunners Pathfinder Club collected nearly 1,000 food items from their neighbors in Ridgetop, Tenn.



KIMBERLEY SEXTON

This yearly activity by the club helps the church’s Community Service Center to provide groceries for needy families in the vicinity.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Health Message Still Opens Doors



Front view of the Home For Health Lifestyle Center

About two years ago, the Day family arrived in Stanton, Ky., to direct the Home For Health Lifestyle Center. Steve and Suzanne Day set out to extend the reach of the Three Angels' Message with their background in health. God has blessed by providing a variety of ways to accomplish this. Thursday evenings and Sunday are devoted to the community for health classes, free health screening, and most importantly,

prayer.

Home For Health's ministry includes an email newsletter containing health tips, recipes, updates, and testimonials.

Most importantly, it initiates Bible studies and direct subscribers to ministries that will teach them present truth. An interview with Steve Day on a local radio station about the work at the Center resulted in a weekly spot on the radio station and reaching 21 counties in eastern Kentucky every Friday evening.

Home For Health employs a variety of methods for reaching out to the community. For example, they

are printing and distributing coupons door to door for free massages at the Center. Steve said, "Laying hands on someone by giving them a massage is a loving expression that we hope will gain the confidence of those in the community."

So far, they have distributed 500 free massage coupons in their community in hopes of reaching people who might not otherwise come in contact with the Center.

Adding an agriculture focus to the Lifestyle Center has opened new doors toward reaching individuals by generating a tremendous amount of interest in gardening. Classes, demonstrations, and mini-lectures on how to improve growing methods to achieve

tastier, more nutritious, and healthier produce have been well received. Teaching the benefits of producing and buying local produce awarded Steve a position on the county's agriculture board, and opened



Tiffany, a guest at Home For Health, helps to plant blueberries.

the possibility of hosting field days for the community. The Home For Health staff continues to pray and envision effective ways to reach others.

—BY NANCY ROBINSON

Frankfort Church Organized

Marvin Lowman, Conference executive secretary, officiated at the organization of the Frankfort, Ky., Church on Sabbath, November 12, 2011. The Adventist work in Frankfort began in the early 1900's with literature work, Bible studies, meetings in homes, and Ingathering.

The first public meetings were conducted by Charles Miller and H. K. Jones in the early 1940's. In 1958, Evangelist Harmon Brownlow and Pastor Jack Darnell conducted a successful tent meeting. After

the conclusion of the meetings, a group of 20 members was organized and a



DONETTE LOWMAN

Daniel Sproat, head elder, is among the first to sign on as a charter member of the Frankfort Church.

church was built in 1959.

In 1978, the members decided to sell the church, and purchase 12 acres of land for an educational building, sanctuary, and a community service center. After completion of the first building, it was used for a Christian school and a place of worship. In the mid 1980's, it was decided that it was financially necessary to sell the church property, and the Frankfort members began meeting with the Lawrenceburg Church.

In 1999, after an

evangelistic meeting, a new group was formed and began to meet at the Church of God church on Bender Drive. A year later, the group purchased the Bender Drive property, but in 2005 the group was again disbanded.

In 2006, the Conference asked James Byrd to begin a renewed work in Frankfort as a mission. By 2011, the church had grown to 42 members.

—BY JAMES BYRD

West End Church has “Neighbor to Neighbor” Creed

The “Neighbor to Neighbor” creed at West End Church, Atlanta, Ga., is to spread God’s Word and show the love of Jesus Christ to all in need.

During May 2011, community services, hospitality, prison ministries, Say What! ministries, and the Orion Pathfinders went out in the West End community to pass out tracks, invitations, and surveys for the upcoming Neighbor to Neighbor project to bring about unity. The goal was to get to know the neighbors and for them to know the church members. Many

supporters came out.

The members knocked on doors and encouraged everyone they met, young and old, to come to West End for Sabbath School or Divine Worship, but mostly to come fellowship with the church family. They informed the community of the plans to purchase the Boys and Girls Club, and asked for their suggestions. Transportation was offered to those who



youth set up tables and served lunch to the community. Following the meal, clothes were handed out, health screenings were performed, and love was shown in abundance.

Under the leadership of pastors Calvin B. Preston and R. Norwood, West End has been led on a journey of soul winning for God’s Kingdom. Each one, let’s reach one.

needed it.

Many attended Sabbath School, enjoyed the worship service, and fellowshiped all day on Sabbath, June 4, 2011. After church service, the



Winston Salem Pastor Receives Community Award

The Winston Lake Family YMCA sponsored its 14th Annual Black Achievers Awards in April 2011.

Godwin Mitchell Jr., pastor of the Ephesus Church in Winston-Salem, N.C., was one of the recipients at the awards dinner.

The awards were given to those who had made contributions in the areas of business and industry in the Winston-Salem community.



Gasie and Godwin Mitchell, at the April 2011 awards dinner

Mitchell has been involved in many aspects of the Winston-Salem community since his arrival as pastor in April 2008. He also joyfully serves as the CSO (Chief Spiritual Officer) of Ephesus Junior Academy.

He was honored for serving the High Point/

Lexington, N.C. District, and the Hospice of the Piedmont in High Point, N.C.

Mitchell recently completed the “Back to the Bible Crusade” where 24 individuals were baptized and rededicated at the conclusion of the meeting.

—BY JEAN C. PITTS

New Life Women's Ministries "Sistas" Celebrate Young Women

Under the sponsorship of Sistas, the women's ministries fellowship at New Life Church in Warner Robins, Ga., a three-session weekend of workshops from Friday evening, September 30, until Sunday, October 2, 2011, followed by a formal banquet dedicated to the young women (ages 8-17) of the church and community. The theme for this series of events was "Wonderfully Made – Celebrating our Young Ladies." There were more than 30 participants.

"This weekend was not only a lot of learning, but also a lot of fun," agreed two of the young attendees, Shelby Ashley, AYS member and high school junior, and community participant Valerie Davis. Two members of Sistas, Regina Arthur and Rhonda Spence, both commented that women's ministries is taking the Bible's instruction in Titus 2:3-5 seriously, that "the aged women...may teach the young women...that the Word of God not be blasphemed."

The first workshop, led by Linda Clay, elder, entitled "In Christ or in Crisis," was held on Friday evening. Clay expounded on many of the qualities of true Christian womanhood. She talked about several women from the Bible, including Deborah, Esther,



Ingrid Ennis displays and explains how to set a table with dishes, silverware, and stemware.

Abigail, Tabitha (Dorcas), and Mary, the mother of Jesus. She focused on the various characteristics that made these women noteworthy. She also held a Q&A session utilizing handouts with several scriptural references and thought-provoking questions. The materials included suggestions on how to select friends, some of the challenges that can occur in friendships, and how Jesus can be pleased with our efforts to get along with people who are difficult to relate to.



On Saturday evening, the young women were involved in two workshops. The first was presented by Regina Arthur, who serves New Life as head deaconess and Pathfinder director.

Arthur very skillfully engaged the girls in discussions on the theme "Issues and Answers – Self Identity in the 21st Century." Topics included some of the many aspects of pop culture, maintaining a positive self-image, how technology may hinder the ability to learn about one's self, and even choosing to emulate celebrated worldly women or women celebrated for their Christian example. Arthur dedicated a portion of her presentation to some pros and cons of the social media, from virtually instant communication to obsessions and cyber bullying.

The second workshop, "Spare me the Embarrassment," was hosted by Ingrid Ennis, women's ministries leader, music coordinator, and the wife of Everton A. Ennis, New Life pastor. She presented invaluable information via slides and discussions on mutual respect, posture, and poise in movement; as well as tips on modest and appropriate dress. All of the participants had a chance to demonstrate proper posture and movement as they glided gracefully around the fellowship hall. The other special focus of the night was Ennis' demonstration of

social graces and proper etiquette. During this segment, the young women not only saw slideshow presentations of table settings, but had the opportunity to discuss and use the utensils in preparation for the formal dinner the next day.

The grand finale was held on Sunday afternoon. The young women and many of their mothers arrived in formal dresses and gowns for the event. This was their first opportunity to publicly put into practice the etiquette lessons learned the night before. Menu cards were avail-



able for them to mark their selections, and they were served by volunteer ministry members.

There was a panel of judges to observe the young women as they practiced what they had learned. At the end of the evening, all of them received a gift bag for their participation. Ingrid Ennis presented Frances Arthur, Olivia Spence, and Aaliyah Dixon with gift cards for their exemplary poise and decorum.

—BY WINIFRED A. MYLER

Women Tour Conference Territory

Shirley P. Scott, South Central Conference women's ministries director, in collaboration with Laura Smith, Southern Union women's ministries director, invited Heather-Dawn Small, General Conference women's ministries director as a guest for a 10-day visit throughout South Central, June 17-25, 2011. The itinerary included a historical Conference-wide evangelistic rally during her visit to each of the five states that comprise South Central.

Ellen G. White states: "When Christ sent forth the disciples with the gospel message, faith in God and His word had well-nigh departed from the world. Among the Jewish people, who professed to have knowledge of Jehovah, His word had been set aside for tradition and human speculation. Selfish ambition, love of ostentation, greed of gain, absorbed men's thoughts. As reverence for God departed, so also departed compassion toward men," *Ministry of Healing*, page 142. Sensing a need to give the women of the Conference a global view of evangelism and the vital role of women in that work, Scott seized the opportunity of touring the Conference to share and encourage women to



Heather-Dawn Small, General Conference women's ministries director

enlarge their territory.

Small's visit and the tour originated in Montgomery, Ala., at Bethany Church, where she ministered from Thursday through Sunday. She delivered the sermon for the Women's Emphasis Day, and conducted the General Conference Women's Ministries Leadership Certification, Level I training. Twenty-five women completed the training and received certificates. The weekend concluded on Sunday morning with a leadership prayer breakfast. After the prayer breakfast, the women visited the Lifetime Resolutions Center, a holistic center for women who are in the process of being rehabilitated from drugs, sexual

promiscuity, and other forms of abuse. These women spoke of God's restorative power, and of their passion to see other women set free.

Leaving Montgomery, the tour continued on to Jordan Street Church in Pensacola, Fla.; Berean Church in Jackson, Miss.; Word of Life in Memphis, Tenn.; and Cottage Chapel in Bowling Green, Ky. The members of the tour were blessed to stop in Nashville, Tenn., where they had lunch with Dana Edmond, Conference president, and his wife, Jill, to discuss the success of the

tour. Then, they were on to Huntsville, Ala., to close the tour at First Church on Sabbath. Small delivered two Sabbath morning messages, and presented the global view of women on Sabbath evening.

The evening dialogue was much like the discussions held in all five states: "Making Friends and Planting Seeds." Small admonished the women to take the lead in finding ways to reach the communities as Jesus did. He mingled with people, sympathized with their needs, assisted them, and then said, "Follow Me." If members would follow Jesus' pattern, many churches would be bursting at the seams during evangelistic efforts, and

many would be brought out of darkness into His marvelous light. The Great Commission reiterated was the message of this tour. Women from Adventist churches in the surrounding areas were invited. A delicious dinner was provided by the host church, and everyone enjoyed an hour of great fellowship before beginning the presentation.

One day Jesus is coming back and He will prepare a great banquet table, and all will be surprised who will be at the dinner. The women of South Central are making friends and planting seeds so that many can sit at the welcome table with Jesus.

Special thanks to Dana Edmond for endorsing this first-time event; Clementine Collins and Jessica Belcher for serving as the public relations coordinators as well as members of the tour; and Lionel Scott Sr., driver, who took the group safely from state to state, and for his ministry. Thank you to the pastors, state directors, area and local women's ministries leaders, and women throughout the Conference who supported this evangelism thrust. May God continue to bless you abundantly in your labor of love.

—BY SHIRLEY P. SCOTT

East Cleveland Honors Utility Company for Storm Service

East Cleveland Church, Cleveland, Tenn., recently celebrated its 33rd annual Community Guest Day on October 15, 2011. The members honored Cleveland Utilities and its employees in recognition of their faithful and determined service to the Cleveland community — going beyond the call of duty, and working day and night to restore service to homes and businesses after the tornadoes of April 2011.

The members presented a beautiful plaque to

the employees in recognition of their outstanding service to the community. A delicious vegetarian lunch was served following the divine worship service. Benjamin Brownie, former president of South Central Conference, was the guest speaker.



CHERI ELLIS

Cleveland Utilities Company, Cleveland Tenn., was honored by the East Cleveland Church members. Benjamin Brownie (left), former South Central Conference president; Joseph Milner, pastor; and Charles Logan presented a plaque to honor employees representing Cleveland Utilities: Bart Borden, Steve Mowery, Steve Kiser, and Blake Shelton. Regina Milner, church clerk, presented the utility employees with a set of Conflict of the Ages books to be placed in their break room. Also pictured is Edward Johnson, elder.

50-plus Years Service Recognized

Sidney and Ann Parker shape a “Legacy of Faith and Service” at Emmanuel Church, Mobile, Ala.




Married 53 years, and baptized by the late E. E. Cleveland in 1951, they have been faithful stewards since 1952, and have valued the 10 + 10 tithing concept. Ann served as Community Service Federation president in south Alabama. Both faithfully served Community Services 50-plus years, and still distribute clothing to the church and community.

At 94, Sidney, retired head elder (31 years), visits the sick with Michael Ross, pastor, and still serves on the elders’, ush-

ers’, transportation, and church boards. He served the executive committee in the late 60’s during the late C. E. Dudley’s administration as president at South Central Conference.

In 2007, Parker led out in the \$50,000 church renovation campaign for its 100th anniversary. In 2009, he helped raise more than \$30,000 as capital improvement leader for a new public announcement (PA) system. He has a garden that produces watermelon, corn, tomatoes, and other vegetables to feed the less fortunate — in his spare time, he likes to keep that garden and go fishing.

—BY MICHAEL ROSS



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Lighthouse Members Participate in “Let’s Move” Initiative

The Pathfinders, Adventures, and health ministries department at Lighthouse Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., did their part in the “Let’s Move” initiative by Adventists InStep for Life on Sunday, September 25, 2011.

The “Let’s Move” initiative was launched by First Lady Michelle Obama in February 2010 to help

solve the problem of childhood obesity within this generation, so that children born today will reach adulthood at a healthy weight.

In joining with the effort to reach the one million mile goal in one day, the members organized a community event that took place at Riverland Park in Fort Lauderdale. Repre-

sentatives from the church and the community participated in the event.

They began the day with devotion and then moved right into several types of physical activities. Participants walked, ran, skipped, played ball, and went bike riding, as well as many other types of physical activity in support of promoting a healthier

lifestyle.

“Let’s Move” has evolved into an ongoing event with weekly Sunday morning walks that is expected to continue permanently. Lighthouse is aiming for a healthier church and a healthier community in 2012.



Perrine Women Share Jesus

During the week of September 18-24, 2011, the Perrine Church, Perrine, Fla., hosted its annual Women’s Ministries Week of Prayer. Meetings were held Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday nights, culminating with divine worship on Sabbath. Dynamic sermons were delivered by four mighty women of the congregation who filled many hearts with blessings and promises. Each participant brought a fresh message to teach,

change lives, and inspire the listener.

Valentine Charles opened the week of prayer with the timely inspiring message on TRUST. She emphasized how mountainous some lives have become.

The second speaker, Helen Theophane, focused on the story of the woman at the well. She believed that the woman might have felt ashamed because of her misconduct and wanted to avoid the stares

of the other women who came to draw water early in the morning, so she went later.

Maxine Allen, the third speaker, drew inspiration from the lives of Ruth and Naomi. She illustrated the qualities of Ruth: endurance, friendliness, being a team player, and diligence. Allen extrapolated that, just as Naomi did, God wants all to share their faith with others.

Renee Hodge, principal of Miami Union

Academy, was the keynote speaker on Sabbath. She used the examples of Dorcas, Mary, Martha, and the woman at the well to answer the questions, “Who? Me?” She stated that God has given women a special work to do. They need to become disciples of Christ and share what they know about Jesus. She added that like Mary, women need to take time to develop a personal, intimate relationship with Jesus.

Samara Bowden Records for 3ABN Kids' Time

Samara Bowden, singer and songwriter, sang six songs on a special live broadcast of Three Angels Broadcasting Network's (3ABN) popular Kids' Time program on Sabbath December 3, 2011. Bowden recorded nine songs for the 11th season on April 17, 2011.

"When she sings, she forgets the cameras and just shines for Jesus! I have no doubt that God will use Samara in a powerful way to win souls for His kingdom," said Brenda Walsh, producer and host of Kids' Time.

Bowden began her early musical training at the age of five under the direction of Jacqueline Waldon.

In the last five years, she has performed in Florida, Atlanta, California, Mississippi, Ohio, Illinois, and Western Samoa. She was recently a featured artist at the 2011 Black Adventist Youth Directors Association United Youth Congress in Orlando, Fla., where she debuted two of her original songs entitled "Uh Oh" and "Like I do."

Bowden is an eighth grader at Mt. Olivet SDA



Samara Bowden performs live for 3ABN's Kids' Time on December 3, 2011, during a special live broadcast of Kids' Time.

School in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. She is a bright student who is learning how to

juggle school, friends, and her singing passion.

When asked why she loves to sing, she simply said, "Jesus gave me this talent to sing, so why not use it? Every time I sing, I feel so free and happy." Bowden is currently working on a solo album with producer Claude Matthews III, and vocal coach Tracy Anthony.

—BY TAMARA BOWDEN

Rays of Light Church Holds Gospel Campaign

In keeping with the vision statement of the Southeastern Conference, "An empowered leadership, empowering every member as soul-winning ministers, to finish the work of the Gospel," the Rays of Light Church in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., launched an evangelistic effort which will not soon be forgotten.

The "Footprints of Jesus Gospel Campaign," featuring Glen Samuels, ministerial secretary for the



Jamaica Union, was held from August 13 until September 4, 2011. As a result of the effort, 24 individuals were baptized.

In January 2011, Rays of Light members decided that

this would be the year for evangelism. With no resources in sight, they began planning by faith, knowing that God would reward their efforts.

In preparation for the campaign, a Bible study series was prepared,

"Hope for the Christian Life." The Bible studies were conducted in community members' and former members' homes. More than 300 Bible studies were conducted, and the meetings saw an excess of 150 visitors.

The members used a broad spectrum of methods, including door-to-door evangelism, friendship evangelism, family evangelism, work evangelism, and media evangelism through the use of the local radio station WAVS 1170 AM, which worked with the members to provide weekly advertisement

and promotional spots for the evangelist, church pastor, and their team. Gift evangelism worked by the provision of electronics such as LCD TV, flash drives, home ware, and literature evangelism.

Winston Taylor, pastor, stated, "It rained... but God honored our faithfulness to Him by giving us a packed house that night. That was when we knew for sure that this campaign would be a success."

Oakwood University's Enrollment Milestone Surpassed

Oakwood University's fall 2011 enrollment surpassed the 2,000-student milestone for the first time in its 115-year history.

The one-year four-percent increase highlighted a 25-percent climb in graduate students' enrollment, as well as a 118-percent

surge in Oakwood's LEAP adult degree completion program attendees.

We are "deeply grateful for the blessing of this historic breakthrough. We are both humbled and inspired by registering 2,006 students this term, especially in this challeng-

ing economy," Leslie Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., Oakwood president told *The Huntsville Times*.



Pollard Inaugurated as Oakwood's 11th President

October 16, 2011, saw former Loma Linda University administrator and Oakwood alum Leslie Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., inaugurated as Oakwood's 11th president.

The four-day inaugural weekend featured two higher education forums — one with Huntsville area's senior education leaders, and a Sabbath session with North American Division college/university presidents and representatives — a First Family tribute, vespers, and installation ceremony.

"You're commissioned to see that Oakwood Uni-



Leslie N. Pollard (left), D.Min., Ph.D., Oakwood University president, with his wife, Prudence LaBeach Pollard, Ph.D., PHR, Oakwood University professor of management and assistant vice president for faculty development, leadership, and quality, are pictured with Dan Jackson, North American Division president.

versity remains responsible to local, national, and global needs, while remaining true to the core values of the Seventh-day Adventist Church," Ted N. C. Wilson,

General Conference president, said in a videotaped message. "I believe this is your truest challenge: to ensure that each student who attends Oakwood University stands firm with God and His people through the climactic events of the coming days."

Installation keynoter Michael L. Lomax, Ph.D., president and chief executive officer of the United Negro College Fund, the consortium of America's 39 private historically black colleges and universities (HBCU's), affirmed, "As you already know, Dr. Pollard is the right man at the right

time for Oakwood, for our country, and for the community of HBCU's. We still need HBCU's, because they continue to outperform the rest of higher education in providing college degrees to African-Americans."

An ordained minister, Pollard plans a pastoral approach to campus leadership, expressed in a *Huntsville Times* interview: "I feel someone has to be responsible for keeping this faith-based institution on mission," he offered noting that, at his request, the Trustee Board added "chief spiritual officer" to his official duties.

Oakwood Prospect Featured on "Dr. Phil"

Leslie Pollard, D.Min., Ph.D., Oakwood University president, received a surprise call from Dr. Phil McGraw's Charitable Foundation in August 2011.

Television host "Dr. Phil" had interviewed a 16-year-old who at one time weighed 550 pounds, but has lost 250 pounds.

During the interview, Dr. Phil asked the young man his future plans. "Go to college," he replied. When Dr. Phil asked, "Which college would you like to go to?" the young man replied, "Oakwood."

Having never heard of Oakwood, the foun-

dation president Googled it, visited the website, and



called immediately.

Pollard spent 30 minutes talking to him and his vice-president about Oakwood and Oakwood's God.

They were then invited to visit the campus, and promised to do so as soon as possible.

New Nathan Green Painting Unveiled

World-renowned Seventh-day Adventist artist Nathan Greene recently completed the 2010 class gift and unveiled his large painting in Ackerman Auditorium during Southern Adventist University's Alumni Homecoming Weekend. The work portrays the mission of Christian education — to train students spiritually — and depicts Jesus leading young people from a variety of majors into a life of ministry.

"I think the class of 2010 wanted to leave a message of encouragement to students who are just starting out with their careers," Greene said.

The idea to commission the painting began with Elise Harboldt, 2010's class gift campaign



manager. Harboldt was familiar with Greene's artwork and felt inspired to pitch the idea to the other class officers, who readily agreed. They faced a big challenge to raise the needed funds in the short time before Commencement, but everything came

together in the end.

According to Patrice Hieb, Advancement's annual giving officer, financial contributors included members of the 2010 class, friends and families of students, community members, and alumni.

"[The campaign] was

successful because it was started by students, and Elise really poured her heart into it," Hieb said.

Harboldt wasn't the only student previously familiar with Greene's work. Keishauni George, senior theology major, first met Greene in April when he came to Southern to use current students as models for the Southern painting. But by then she already felt a certain kinship.

"When I gave my life to God, there was a painting by Nathan Greene [in the church], and I remember seeing his works in lesson books as a child," Keishauni said. "To actually meet him was awesome!"

The painting will hang in the lobby of Wright Hall.

—BY INGRID HERNANDEZ

McKee Library Acquires Top Research Journal Collection

Help is on the way for Southern Adventist University students and faculty up to their eyeballs in research. Papers still aren't going to write themselves, but the amount of time spent

searching for quality source material has just been dramatically reduced, all thanks to a massive new collection of searchable online periodicals.

During the years, McK-

ee Library has subscribed to a handful of journals from Springer, a leading publisher of studies in science, technology, medicine, business, transport, and architecture. Administrators wanted to work with them more, but the price was prohibitive; they were paying \$2,500 annually for only three or four titles.

But Springer recently contacted Southern with an offer too good to refuse. For only \$2,500 more per year, McKee Library could offer users the entire Springer Americas Package, more than 1,800 different journals,

substantially increasing their access to research materials. The Library agreed to the proposition with little hesitation.

"If you're doing any research in the sciences, this is where you want to start," said Daniel Maxwell, reference/instruction librarian at McKee Library.

Springer articles are viewable using any device that reads PDF or HTML files. Southern is believed to be the only Seventh-day Adventist institution providing this particular collection.

—BY CHARLES CAMMACK



Frutos del Trabajo en Hardeeville

Arquímedes Reyes y su familia, iniciaron el grupo de Hilton Head, y trabajaron duro hasta verlo organizado como iglesia. Esta congregación, lejos de conformarse con haber llegado a su meta, decidió compartir el mensaje de salvación y expandirse hasta la localidad de Hardeeville,



SC, formando un grupo que, contagiado del celo misionero de la iglesia

madre, creció hasta convertirse también en iglesia. El 10 de setiembre se disfrutó de la ceremonia oficial de inauguración, y aproximadamente sesenta miembros firmaron el libro de apertura.

Dios está bendiciendo a esta congregación. Recientemente adquirieron

un edificio, el cual está siendo remodelado por los miembros. Cabe destacar la labor de los pastores Moisés Sauza, quien participó durante el inicio de esta obra, y Fredy Villamil, actual pastor de la iglesia.

—MARY ROMERO, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Lincolnton Organizado como Compañía

El pasado 17 de setiembre el grupo de Lincolnton fue organizado como compañía. Durante varios años se ha estado trabajado arduamente en el crecimiento de este grupo, el cual se ha visto afectado por el movimiento constante de sus miembros

que deben trasladarse a otras ciudades por motivos laborales. La iglesia de Hickory, liderada por el pastor Germán Morell, ha participado también ayudando en el proceso de crecimiento. Felizmente en la

actualidad la congregación



está formada 50 miembros que se han establecido en forma permanente en el área, y están haciendo un excelente trabajo misionero. Se espera que pronto esta compañía sea organizada como iglesia.

—MARY ROMERO, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Transformados por Él

Más de 150 jóvenes asistieron al retiro organizado en Nosoca Pines en septiembre. El tema del fin de semana fue Transformados por Él. Rubi Pimentel, coordinador

de colportaje de jóvenes de la asociación, fue el orador principal. Sus desafiantes temas tocaron los corazones de todos los presentes. Muchos jóvenes respondieron al llamado

de consagración. El grupo de alabanzas de la iglesia de Hilton Head enriqueció el ambiente con música que elevó la mente de los asistentes a las mansiones celestiales. Fue un fin de

semana edificante, lleno de actividades y sorpresas para todos los participantes.

—MARY ROMERO, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Ven a los Pies de la Cruz

La invitación a ir a los pies de la cruz y contemplar al amante Salvador imbuyó el fin de semana en el que 200 damas de la asociación



se reunieron para encontrarse con el Señor. La oradora principal fue María Felix Denny, directora del ministerio de la mujer de la asociación de Arizona. Presentó temas de interés como los titulados Estima Propia; Yo, la Mejor Esposa; etc. Beatriz Vallejo habló sobre la salud, y el domingo temprano

por la mañana reunió a la mayoría de las asistentes para una clase de ejercicios. Janet Paulino, Silveliza Villamil y Esperanza Flores, presentaron un seminario titulado El Jardín de Dios, en el cual describieron la forma en que las flores deben representar a su Creador. Los devocionales y testimonios fueron inspiradores.

Dos participantes que atravesaron duros desafíos en sus vidas, testificaron de la intervención divina en sus caminos. Se culminó con una ceremonia de consagración en la que las presentes se acercaron al pie de la cruz para dejar todas sus cargas y pesares.

—MARY ROMERO, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Recibiréis Poder

La iglesia de Ebenezer en Miami, llevó a cabo el programa “Diez Días de Poder”, organizado por la comisión de oración liderada por María Elena Cerra, en el horario de 5:00 a.m. a 6:00 a.m.

Todas las mañanas entre 30 y 60 miembros adultos y jóvenes se reunían para elevar sus peticiones a Dios. La mayoría de los asistentes debía recorrer largas distancias para llegar al templo. Abilio Díaz, por

ejemplo, llegaba antes de las 5:00 de la mañana, y como no tiene vehículo, caminaba una hora, 1.8 Km, para estar a tiempo. Al enterarse, el grupo hizo arreglos para que alguien lo recogiese cada mañana. La promesa del Señor en Lucas 24: 49 “He aquí yo enviaré la promesa de mi Padre sobre vosotros; pero quedaos vosotros en la ciudad de Jerusalén, hasta que seáis investidos del poder de lo alto,” inspiraba a la congregación a participar



con entusiasmo de esta actividad.

La iglesia fue altamente bendecida. El testimonio de todos los asistentes fue de

fortalecimiento y renovación espirituales.

—HUMBERTO HORRUITINER,
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Caravana de la Victoria

Los territorios de Kissimmee, y el distrito de Brandon en área de Tampa, vivieron con gozo la celebración de la Caravana de la Victoria. Siguiendo la misma programación, el evento se llevó a cabo en el condado de Broward, al sur de la Florida.

Los pastores Jorge Rojas y Emilio de León unieron fuerzas con Rolando de los Ríos, evangelista de la asociación, para lanzar este proyecto innovador. Durante ocho fines de semana, las ocho congregaciones recibieron la visita de ocho evangelistas con tres mensajes por fin de semana -un total de quince predicadores que incluye los oradores sustitutos.

Las iglesias fueron reavivadas; se incentivó el espíritu de unidad entre los distritos

participantes; los pastores distritales estrecharon lazos y este espíritu fue transmitido a los laicos quienes manifestaron la alegría del trabajo unido. “Cada fin de semana las congregaciones estaban de fiesta — fue el testimonio de uno de los líderes locales — cuando despedíamos al predicador al final del sábado, ya comenzábamos a pensar en las bendiciones que nos traería el próximo!”



El cierre de la Caravana de la Victoria se llevó a cabo el sábado 29 de octubre en el recién reconstruido templo de la iglesia de Hollywood. Desde las 4:30 p.m. los miembros de las ocho congregaciones

llenaron el recinto con espíritu de alabanza y acción de gracias. Testimonios poderosos sobre lo que Dios había hecho en estas semanas, fueron narrados con emoción. La hermana María Vasconcelos,

miembro fundadora de la obra hispana en este condado, recibió un ramo de flores y palabras de gratitud, y el pastor Abel Paulín, vice residente de la asociación, presentó un sermón inspirador.

Treinta y seis personas entraron en las aguas bautismales, y el total de bautismos llegó a setenta, ya que algunos decidieron no esperar hasta esa tarde, y lo hicieron con anterioridad. Si a esto se suman las personas que aceptaron el llamado de bautizarse antes de fin de año y se están preparando para hacerlo, el número llegará a cien.

En mayo del 2012 este evento se llevará a cabo en toda la asociación de la Florida.

—IRMA GÓMEZ, SECRETARIA
DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Haciendo Discípulos

La Iglesia Adventista de North West, continua organizando dos servicios por sábado, debido al gran número de visitas que asisten provenientes de los grupos celulares. El pastor laico Marcos Veras junto a los líderes de dichos grupos, lleva a cabo esta labor con amor y entusiasmo. El trabajo unido, enfocado en el mandato divino “id y



haced discípulos” ha hecho posible que la iglesia siga avanzando. En cada turno, la asistencia llega a los 170.

Los líderes han tomado con responsabilidad las reuniones del grupo master; espacio de tiempo dedicado a recibir orientación, buscar la unción del Espíritu de Dios, recobrar fuerzas para ganar las batallas y hacerle frente a los desafíos que hoy deben enfrentar las iglesias. El pasado mes de

septiembre la reunión fue dirigida por el Pr. Abel Paulín, quien impartió un dinámico seminario sobre la importancia del grupo celular y su multiplicación. A esta reunión asistieron sesenta y cinco personas entre las que se incluye gente nueva que se prepara para la obra que se está llevando a cabo en la iglesia.

—HUMBERTO HORRUITINER,
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Georgia-Cumberland Noticias

Fortaleciendo Hogares

Bajo el lema Fortaleciendo Hogares, la iglesia de Albany, GA, llevó a cabo su primer encuentro de parejas el 24 de septiembre, con una asistencia de treinta matrimonios. Los oradores principales fueron el pastor José Dzul, secretario de la Unión Mexicana Central, y su esposa Cozby Dzul, directora del ministerio de la mujer,



ministerio infantil y coordinadora de SIEMA de

dicha unión. Los temas presentados

fueron recibidos con alto interés. Todos tenían dinámicas prácticas. Hubo momentos de oración y confirmación de pactos.

La actividad fue de bendición para las parejas asistentes, y ya se trabaja en la organización de otro retiro semejante.

—JOSÉ F. CASTILLO, PASTOR
DEL DISTRITO

Retiro de Planificación y Crecimiento para Pastores

Los pastores hispanos de la asociación se reunieron del 29-31 de agosto en las instalaciones del Centro de Convenciones de Cohutta Springs, para

tener el Retiro Anual de Planificación y Crecimiento. Como invitados especiales estuvieron los pastores Nilton García, Coordinador Hispano de la asociación

Gulf States y Carlos Camacho, director de ventas internacionales de Pacific Press.

Los pastores Miguel Tirado y Neftaly Ortiz presentaron otros

seminarios, y se disfrutó un espíritu de fraternidad y camaradería cristianas.

—NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA
DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE
PUBLICACIONES

Evangelismo en Carpa

Durante la semana del 3-10 de septiembre, la congregación de Sandy Springs realizó una campaña de



evangelismo en una carpa que ubicaron en el patio del complejo de departamentos en el que se reúnen regularmente.

Esta campaña presentada por el profesor Mauricio Velásquez, fue coordinada por Luis Peguero, y ambos realizaron un trabajo sobresaliente.

El Espíritu de Dios obró en los vecinos para que en lugar de sentirse

molestos, escucharan los mensajes que eran audibles a una cuadra de distancia.

Como resultado de esta campaña 16 personas fueron bautizadas.

—NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE PUBLICACIONES

Graduación del Seminario Adventista (SAL)

El sábado 8 de octubre, en las instalaciones del Centro de Evangelismo Metropolitano de Atlanta se realizó la primera graduación de SAL (Seminario Adventista Laico), donde 68 personas

recibieron una certificación de parte de la Universidad de Andrews y de manos del Dr. Ricardo Norton, representando dicha institución.

Hubo un desfile de graduación y los

participantes aceptaron el desafío de poner en práctica los conceptos aprendidos.

— NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE PUBLICACIONES



Campaña en Metro Atlanta

La evangelista Adly Campos fue la oradora de la campaña que se llevó a cabo del 3-10 de septiembre en el Centro de Evangelismo Metropolitano de Atlanta. Ella vino acompañada de su esposo José Luis Campos, quien tuvo una notoria participación en el evento.

Para esta actividad se unieron todas las iglesias



del área metropolitana de Atlanta. Ivette Figueroa, encargada del ministerio de damas hispanas de la asociación, coordinó el evento con la

colaboración de las directoras del ministerio afín de cada iglesia. La asistencia alcanzó un promedio de 500 personas por noche, sin incluir niños y jóvenes.

Los pequeños pudieron participar de una campaña organizada para ellos por Karen González y su equipo, y los adolescentes hicieron lo propio con el pastor

Alvin Payne, quien hizo un excelente trabajo. Como resultado, seis jovencitos entregaron sus vidas a Jesús por medio del bautismo.

La campaña de los adultos dio como resultado inmediato veintidós bautismos, y como resultado final, setenta y cinco personas se unieron a las filas de la iglesia.

— NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO DE PUBLICACIONES

Fiesta de Evangelismo

El sábado 20 de agosto culminó la semana conferencias titulada “Jesús Tú Eres Mi Esperanza” en la iglesia de Knoxville, TN. Dicho cierre se

llevó a cabo con una conmovedora ceremonia bautismal. El evangelista invitado, Darinel Figueroa apeló a los corazones de las personas a seguir

a Jesús como la única esperanza de nuestra crisis existencial. Fue una experiencia bendecida para las visitas, y los miembros de iglesia que

asistieron.

— RICARDO URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Retiro de Caballeros



El fin de semana del 30 de septiembre al 2 de octubre se llevó a cabo el retiro anual de caballeros en el Centro de Convenciones de Cohutta Springs, con una asistencia de

150 personas. El lema fue Enfrentando Desafíos. En esta oportunidad el invitado especial fue el Dr. Jorge Mayer, Coordinador Hispano de la Unión del Sur, quien presentó temas de inspiración y crecimiento para los

caballeros presentes. El organizador de este evento fue el Pastor Danilo Cornejo, encargado del ministerio de caballeros hispanos de la asociación.

— JULIO C. DE LA ROSA,
PASTOR DE DISTRITO

Trabajo Bendecido

Los hermanos del distrito que comprende las congregaciones de Gainesville, Cornelia, y North Gwinnet, GA, con gozo aceptaron el desafío de trabajar fervientemente en favor de las almas por medio de los grupos pequeños.

El entusiasmo de los grupos fue transmitiéndose y paulatinamente se fueron sumando miembros de

iglesia al esfuerzo, y como consecuencia, se multiplicó el número de invitados que recibían el mensaje de Cristo como Salvador y Señor. Algunos grupos han llegado a tener cuarenta asistentes, lo que presentó la necesidad de crear nuevos lugares de reunión. En la actualidad hay catorce grupos que se reúnen una vez por



semana.

Como resultado de este esfuerzo misionero ya se han bautizado más de

30 almas para honra y gloria de Dios. Familias enteras tomaron su decisión por Cristo. Estas congregaciones están viviendo en la antesala de lo que será el nuevo pentecostés, cuando miles de almas serán bautizadas en un solo día.

Familias del Reino

El sábado 5 de noviembre, comenzó en la Primera Iglesia Hispana de Atlanta, una semana para las familias que formó parte de la serie de eventos organizados por el ministerio de hogar y familia de la iglesia para este año.

La semana tuvo un enfoque muy diferente al usual. Roberto Amaya, pastor de la asociación de Michigan, basó sus temas en las bienaventuranzas, que constituyen los principios del reino de los cielos, y las presentó como base en la construcción de las relaciones familiares.

Los participantes se propusieron aplicar estos principios desde el primer día de reuniones, y los resultados se hicieron visibles inmediatamente.

Se terminó con un campamento familiar, al que asistieron 100 personas. Al finalizar, los asistentes comentaron el impacto que lo aprendido tuvo en sus hogares. En algunos casos, los hijos pidieron a sus padres que comenzasen con la costumbre del culto familiar. La presencia del Espíritu Santo se hizo notable en este evento.

El día domingo,

como se ha estado haciendo una vez por mes durante este año, el club de matrimonios tuvo su sesión, donde se recogieron más testimonios acerca de la bendición que

esta semana representó para los hogares de la iglesia.

—JOEL BARRIOS,
PASTOR DEL DISTRITO



Año 2012 en la Mira

Los pastores hispanos de la asociación que reúne a los estados del Golfo se congregaron con el objetivo de identificarse como soldados de Cristo para el año 2012. La regla de trabajo es el cuidado de la iglesia, su mantenimiento y crecimiento. Decididos a trabajar para dar lo mejor para sus congregaciones, la comunidad, y sobre todo para Dios, oran para que el número de bautismos sea duplicado respecto al 2011.

Este proyecto ambicioso está coordinado por el pastor Nilton García, y cuenta con el apoyo del nuevo tesorero, Arturo Ledesma. El equipo de pastores abocados a la tarea está compuesto por:

Ezequiel Osorio, Johnny Castro, Huascar Rodríguez, Felipe Andino y el recién adquirido el pastor Guaringa.

Aunque la asociación Gulf States es pequeña, el departamento hispano está teniendo resultados que pueden compararse con los de asociaciones mayores. Dichos logros se deben al trabajo del Espíritu Santo en los corazones de los miembros de iglesia y de los interesados. En el distrito del Golfo, por ejemplo, cada tres meses se organiza una reunión distrital en la que se motiva a los líderes, y se escuchan sus sugerencias para mejorar el trabajo misionero. La última se llevó a cabo

en octubre, y el foco de la misma tuvo que ver con los planes para el 2012. Se entregó el estudio del “Gran Conflicto” a los asistentes para que lo repasen con detenimiento, exhortándolos también a buscar nuevos interesados y duplicar el número de grupos pequeños para fines de enero próximo.

Es inspirador notar que en este distrito la crisis económica ha traído mayor dedicación y entrega a las cosas de Dios. Sin duda, el Señor apoyará los planes de esta asociación y se verán grandes resultados a fines del año próximo.

—FELIPE ANDINO, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO DEL GOLFO



Kentucky-Tennessee Noticias

Día del Niño

La directora del ministerio infantil Tereza Zacarías y su equipo de maestras trabajaron arduamente en la organización de la celebración del Día del Niño Adventista. En la preparación del evento, ellas tomaron tiempo para instruir a un grupo de niños para su bautismo en esa ocasión tan especial. Estos pequeños ofrendaron sus

corazones a Jesús. Fue una hermosa celebración. Cabe destacar la labor a los padres, quienes tuvieron parte importante en la preparación de los niños para el reino de los cielos.

— ALVARO NOGUERA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO



Campaña en Louisville

En el mes de octubre, luego de cuarenta días de oración y preparación, la Primera Iglesia Adventista Hispana de Louisville, Ky, disfrutó de una campaña evangélica. Los temas fueron presentados por el pastor Sergio Monterroso. La asistencia de visitantes fue muy buena, y la experiencia, de edificación espiritual para todos los que participaron. El sábado 22 de octubre, el evento culminó con un emotivo

bautismo en el que dos personas se unieron a la iglesia que proclama que es tiempo de “temer a Dios y darle gloria porque la hora de su juicio ha llegado”.

— SERGIO MONTERROSO, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO DE LOUISVILLE

Primer Aniversario de la Iglesia de Lexington



Gran celebración se llevó a cabo en la iglesia de Lexington KY al cumplir el primer año de la inauguración de su templo. Pastores hispanos de la asociación y administradores entre los

cuales cabe mencionar al presidente Steve Haley y secretario Marvin Lowman, se hicieron presentes y agradecieron a Dios por la bendición de poder contar con un edificio que puede albergar a 350 personas,

pero principalmente por el amor sembrado en el corazón de los miembros que trabajaron juntos para lograr esta meta.

— ALVARO NOGUERA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Nuevo Templo en Somerset

En la ciudad de Somerset KY, se está levantando un nuevo templo para la gloria de Dios. Los miembros de

esta congregación usan su tiempo libre los fines de semana para construir la casa del Señor. Este edificio, originalmente

era un garaje que paulatinamente ha ido transformándose para que cuarenta fieles alaben a Dios cada sábado.

— ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Aumenta la Familia en Memphis

Los grupos pequeños han traído muchas bendiciones, y en la actualidad se ven los resultados del trabajo de una iglesia concentrada



en cumplir con la misión que Jesús entregó antes de subir al cielo. El Espíritu de Dios ha tocado los corazones de muchos asistentes a los grupos

pequeños, quienes han sido bautizados y forman ahora parte de la gran familia de Dios.

— ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

El Sábado, una Bendición

Los miembros de la iglesia de Madison, TN, salieron entusiasmados a repartir invitaciones para la campaña evangélica que se llevó a cabo en abril y estuvo a cargo del pastor Vilches de Perú. Absalón, quien se destaca por su soltura y falta de timidez, entró a una de las tiendas del área y se encontró con Aminta. Sin rodeos la invitó a asistir a la campaña; “allí encontrará la salvación”, le dijo. Aminta quedó sorprendida por estas palabras, y al llegar a su casa llamó al número de teléfono impreso en el volante para recibir

instrucciones de cómo llegar al lugar. Al día siguiente, ella, su esposo e hijos estaban presentes en la reunión, y asistieron todas las noches.

El Espíritu Santo trabajó en el corazón de esta familia, tomaron estudios bíblicos y pronto decidieron entregar sus



vidas a Cristo. Francisco y Aminta no estaban casados, y lo hicieron de inmediato, pero se encontraron con un inconveniente más difícil de resolver: Francisco trabajaba los sábados, y a pesar de haber llevado una carta en la que se pedía la eximición de trabajar en el día santo de Jehová, y se explicaba

el derecho de ejercer los dictados de conciencia libremente, la empresa negó su pedido. Pasaban las semanas, y no se veía solución a este problema. La iglesia comenzó a orar

con fervor, y en Octubre, durante otra campaña que se llevó a cabo en la iglesia, Francisco recibió una llamada en la que no sólo le ofrecían un trabajo de lunes a jueves, sino que la paga sería considerablemente mayor que la que recibía en su antiguo puesto.

Esta experiencia fue una lección de fe para la iglesia, que pudo comprobar que “Bienaventurado es el hombre que ...guarda el día de reposo para no profanarlo...” Isa 56:2

Campaña Jesús es la Esperanza 2011

El Pastor Alejandro Bullón inauguró la campaña "Jesús Esperanza 2011" en la Primera Iglesia Hispana Adventista de Memphis el 29 de octubre. La misma tuvo una asistencia de más de 120 visitas y alrededor de 250 miembros de la iglesia. El evento fue todo un

éxito para honra y gloria de Dios. Fue admirable la forma en que el comité de planificación verificó cada detalle para que la secuencia de actividades se llevara en el orden estipulado, con el único objetivo de atender a todos aquellos interesados en conocer más del



evangelio. Hasta la fecha, son muchas las almas que

se han bautizado como consecuencia del trabajo del Espíritu durante este esfuerzo. La iglesia fue altamente bendecida, y las bendiciones se extendieron a la comunidad.

— XÓCHITL GUERRA,
SECRETARIA DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

South Atlantic Noticias

Unidades de Acción en Carrolton



La semana de Conferencias del 20 al 27 de agosto culminó con un bautismo de ocho almas,

provenientes del trabajo de las unidades de acción. El orador Mauricio Velásquez, cubrió las doctrinas más importantes de la iglesia.

La hermandad de Carrolton se preparó los dos meses previos a la

campana con vigiliyas, ayuno, y la introducción de unidades de acción. Cada unidad tiene un líder, un secretario de ministerio personal, y una secretaria.

La escuela sabática se ha convertido en un centro de evangelismo. Se dedican los primeros 15 minutos a orar por las visitas y los miembros ausentes, y se hacen

planes de evangelismo para la semana siguiente. Luego se estudia la lección en forma práctica, interactiva y dinámica.

El compromiso de los miembros es de traer catorce personas más a los pies de Jesús antes de fin de año.

— EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Se Asigna pastor al Distrito de Carolina del Sur

El sábado 3 de septiembre el presidente de la asociación pastor V.J. Mendinghall, tuvo a su cargo la ceremonia de presentación del primer obrero de tiempo completo asignado al estado de Carolina del Sur, pastor José Reyes.

Reyes tendrá a su cargo nueve congregaciones y junto con los ancianos de cada una de ellas, planeará el creci-

miento del distrito.

Un grupo de mariachi cristiano inspiró la reunión con su música y el grupo de pantomima tuvo un número muy espiritual. Deylis Reyes, hija del nuevo pastor, cantó un himno que elevó las mentes de la congregación

y fue de inspiración y confianza para sus padres

frente a la tarea que han emprendido.

El Pastor Efrain Poloché, coordinador de la obra hispana, y su esposa Xiomara, tuvieron a cargo la presentación de la lección de la escuela sabática

— EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO
HISPANO



Bautismo en Wallace

El pastor Ismael Uribe tuvo el privilegio de bautizar cuatro personas en el grupo hispano de Wallace, NC, el sábado 10 de septiembre. La ceremonia fue preparada por el laico voluntario

Eduardo Saavedra, el anciano, y los líderes de la congregación. El bautisterio usado fue portátil, y servirá hasta que el grupo tenga su propio lugar de culto. Si bien el número de miembros es pequeño,

su deseo de predicar y compartir el evangelio en esta localidad agricultora pujante, son muy grandes.

— EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



South Central Noticias

Maratón Bíblico en Lexington

LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY. Con la participación de diferentes sectores de la comunidad concluyó este fin de semana el Maratón Bíblico 2011. Líderes religiosos, así como creyentes de distintas confesiones cristianas, se reunieron para leer la Santa Biblia sin interrupción, ni comentarios, en un plazo no mayor de 80 horas, según se había propuesto. A ellos se sumaron: estudiantes, profesores de universidades, hombres y mujeres de negocios, agricultores, deportistas, entre otros. Más de 550 lectores desfilaron por los pódiums de lectura, los cuales concluyeron exitosa y felizmente el maratón en 75 horas y 6 minutos, en lugar de 80 horas como se había previsto.

A eso de las 8:15 de la mañana del miércoles 14 de Septiembre se dio inicio a la ceremonia de apertura, en la que Elder Dana C. Edmond, presidente de South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventists con sede en Nashville, TN,

tuvo a su cargo las palabras centrales. En su alocución, el orador animó a los presentes a vivir apegados a la Palabra de Dios. El barítono Ricardo Vásquez y un coro de niños de Lexington Junior Academy tuvieron a su cargo la parte musical. Siendo las 9:16 AM, el Pastor Edgardo Herrera, coordinador hispano de la referida Conferencia, develó el banner que cubría Génesis 1:1, con lo cual se dejaba inaugurado el maratón de la Biblia. A partir de ese momento y hasta el sábado 17, a las 12:22 pm, la lectura iniciada no se detuvo ni por un momento, hasta haber leído el último versículo de Apocalipsis capítulo 22.

Durante el Maratón, con notable entusiasmo, niños, jóvenes y adultos pasaban por la mesa de registro para solicitar su turno de lectura. Una de las personas encargadas de esta comisión les entregaba una pequeña tarjeta conteniendo su número de lector y la porción de lectura asignada. Momentos más tarde,

se veía a esta persona descender del pódium con notable gozo al ser parte de esta hazaña, pero más aún por haber entrado en contacto con el Libro de los libros y apreciar su relevante mensaje para la gente de hoy.

La logística del evento estuvo a cargo del Pr. Samuel Peguero, que dirige varias Iglesias Adventistas hispanas en Kentucky. Junto a Logística, otras 19 comisiones fueron creadas para organizar el Maratón, que fue disfrutado ampliamente por grandes y chicos. La Ing. Neyda Pérez, una voluntaria que viajó desde la Republica Dominicana, estuvo a cargo la comisión de Estadísticas y redes sociales. De acuerdo con su reporte, desde al menos 19 países y 5 continentes, miles de personas se mantenían en contacto con el Maratón Bíblico, vía internet, para recibir información actualizada acerca del avance del proyecto. Se indicó además que algunos videos fueron

posteriormente subidos a la página de internet www.youtube.com, y pueden ser vistos bajo la clave maratón bíblico Lexington, Kentucky.

La ceremonia de clausura fue iniciada cuando las damas leyeron a coro el capítulo 20 de Apocalipsis, seguidas por los caballeros, quienes juntos leyeron el capítulo 21. Inmediatamente toda la concurrencia se unió en un gran coro que leyó el último capítulo de la Sacra Escritura. Las palabras de clausura estuvieron a cargo del Dr. Jorge Mayer, vice-presidente de Southern Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, que dirige más de 255,000 miembros desde Kentucky hasta Florida. Al despedirse del lugar de los hechos, gran emoción había entre los asistentes, al tiempo que algunos expresaban su deseo de que un evento similar pueda ser realizado nuevamente, en un futuro cercano.

— EXTRAÍDO DE UNA
PUBLICACIÓN LOCAL

Bienvenida

Los pastores Hubert J. Morel, Jr. Presidente de la asociación, y Roger Álvarez, director del departamento hispano, extendieron una cordial bienvenida al pastor Arnaldo



R. Cruz Figueroa, de la República Dominicana. Cruz unió su vida en matrimonio con Mercía Ovalles Bonilla. El Señor los ha bendecido con dos preciosas niñas: Laura y Gabriela.

El pastor Figueroa tiene una maestría en Teología y un diploma en Educación. En Puerto Rico sirvió como director de evangelismo y evangelista de la asociación Oeste, y pastor de la primera iglesia adventista de Mayagüez. Fue miembro de la junta ejecutiva de la asociación y profesor de evangelismo de la Universidad Adventista de las Antillas, en Puerto Rico. Creó el canal de televisión

adventista “Paraíso”, y es asesor de programación adventista de televisión para las asociaciones este y oeste de Puerto Rico.

El Pastor Arnaldo R.

Cruz Figueroa cursó el bachillerato de artes en la Universidad Interamericana, donde obtuvo un título de Asociado en Artes de Comunicaciones. Trabajó como coordinador y editor de Color Visión y Canal 7 Cibao en la República Dominicana. Fue el Director de distrito y de Comunicaciones de la asociación dominicana del norte. Tenía cinco iglesias bajo su responsabilidad, cuya membresía fue considerablemente incrementada por su visión de evangelismo.

Estableció una nueva iglesia donde no había presencia adventista. Bajo su liderazgo en el distrito

La Sierra, estableció la primera escuela para guías mayores. Elaboró un plan adoptado por el gobierno para enseñar religión en las escuelas públicas, junto a otros programas que hicieron posible que la iglesia adventista tenga representantes en organizaciones gubernamentales. Bajo su liderazgo, el blanco de bautismos fue alcanzado por primera vez en 22 años en su distrito. En la misión dominicana del norte sirvió como director de distrito, y director de jóvenes y vida familiar. Inauguró dos nuevas congregaciones, cuyas membresías fueron incrementadas en un 150%. Construyó el Centro Educativo Adventista, y organizó el programa de educación y rehabilitación para personas con SIDA. También estableció el retiro anual de matrimonios e implementó un sólido programa de contabilidad para las iglesias de su distrito.

Sirvió de voluntario

como capellán en el hospital de maternidad/ pediátrico “Castillo”. Fue el coordinador de los programas Adolescentes en Riesgo, Embarazo en Adolescentes, y Adolescentes Drogadictos. Sirvió como voluntario en la organización Alcohólicos Anónimos. Es asesor del orfanato Hogar Crea en la República Dominicana. Junto a su esposa, quien es la directora de producción del ministerio “Jesús Es La Victoria”, ofrecen consejería para las familias.

Siendo que se graduó con una Certificación en Educación Musical con énfasis en piano, compone los coros tema de su campaña, y disfruta tocar el piano, la guitarra y la flauta. Su lema en la vida es: “Proclamar el evangelio y preparar a las almas para el regreso de Jesús, mientras las ayuda en sus necesidades materiales.”

—ESMERALDA GUZMÁN
HARRIS, SECRETARIA DEL
DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



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Kentucky-Tennessee: Lin Powell, 615-859-1391
Oakwood University: Fred Pullins, 256-726-8278
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Southern Adventist University: Carolyn Liers, 423-236-2818

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Announcements

Southern Singles Ministries 'Welcome the New Year' Progressive Party – Jan. 14. Collegedale, TN. For time, location, cost: avocadofiddler@gmail.com or 423-243-4001.

Bowman Hills School Concert Band 25th Anniversary – Feb. 26. Cleveland, TN. All former members are invited to participate in a reunion concert. Details: mkorp@gccsda.org.

Union College Homecoming – April 5-8. Alumni, friends, and former faculty are invited to Homecoming 2012. Honor classes are 1942, '52, '57, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, and '02. Special Unionaires reunion — celebrating 25 years under the direction of Dan Lynn. Details: contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503, 3800 South 48th Street, Lincoln, NE 68506 or alumni@ucollege.edu.

Washington Adventist University Alumni Weekend – April 13-15. Honor classes: 1942, '52, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, and '02. Details: www.wau.edu/alumni or call 301-891-4133.

La Sierra Academy Alumni Homecoming – April 27-29. Honor classes 50+, '62, '72, '82, '87, '92, '97, '02. Friday morning benefit golf tournament, evening reception, LSA Library. Sabbath morning alumni roll call and reunions at 9:30 a.m., LSA gym; evening basketball varsity/alumni tournament; LSA Gala Ladies' Tea April 29, 4 p.m. Details: 951 351-1445 x244, email: lsaalumni@lsak12.com web site: www.lsak12.com/alumni.htm

Cohutta Homecoming – June 2. Cohutta, GA (Not Cohutta Springs). Special invitation to all former pastors, members, and friends. Details: www.cohuttaadventistchurch.org or 706-694-8625 or 706-935-4592.

Transforming Lives Through Libraries/Association of Seventh-day Adventist Librarians 2012 Conference – June 19-24. Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (AIAS); Silang, Cavite, Philippines. Librarians and Information Professionals are invited to visit <http://asdal.org> for conference information or contact Christy Scott at Christy.Scott@wallawalla.edu, 509-527-2153.

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ft. and over an acre in Stratford Place. Wooded lot and only 7-10 min to SAU \$287,900. New Southern Living style home-absolutely stunning, on 5 acres with a huge barn, only \$450,000. Call The Wendy Dixon Team with Crye-Leike Realtors: 423-883-0656; Office 423-238-5440. [1]

FOR SALE IN COLLEGEDALE – Beautiful 2009 model double-wide in MHP, 2 miles SAU, 1920 square feet, 4 bedroom, 2 bath, walk-in closet in master, utility room, LR, DR, family room, hardwood floors, fireplace, drywall interior, shed, carport, extra insulation, ceiling fans, \$112,000. 423-615-0280 for information. [1, 2]

COUNTRY HAVEN RETIREMENT CENTER (assisted living) opening soon! Just 15 minutes from SAU. Owned and operated by Adventist family. See if you or your loved one qualifies for the few available places in our loving, extended family. Contact Jonathan Stockil at 304-888-3691 or jrstockil@yahoo.com. [1]

MOUNTAIN PROPERTY FOR SALE – 20 acres of undeveloped wooded, rolling land on top of Monteagle, Tennessee. Great location for country living in a pleasant rural environment. Small SDA church nearby. Property must sell as one tract. Price reduced! Call 978-549-2477. [1]

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WAYNESBORO, TN – Country living, 160 acres, rolling, flat, trees, streams, pure water, ponds. SDA church nearby, low taxes, subdivide? 863-873-3801. [1]

BEAUTIFUL MOUNTAIN LAND for sale as one tract. 60+ acres, west of Murphy, NC. Springs, streams, timber; fertile, rolling not steep land with excellent paved road access. By owner: 828-837-6779 or 828-557-2254. [1]

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks **professor of film** to teach directing, screenwriting, and film theory. M.F.A. in film production preferred. Broad knowledge of field, advanced technical skill, professional production experience, and strong storytelling abilities are requisite. Must be Seventh-day Adventist Church member in good and regular standing. Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, portfolio samples, and at least three references to Randy Craven, Dean, School of Visual Art/Design, Southern Adventist University, P. O. Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315-0370. [1, 2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a **professor for the department of Biology/ Allied Health** to teach upper and lower division classes beginning fall 2012. Prefer someone with a PhD in biology who has a strong interest in origins. Desire Adventist scientist holding a short-term interpretation of creation and committed to involvement with undergraduate student learning and research. Send CV, statement of teaching philosophy, and 3 references to: Keith Snyder, Biology Search Committee Chair, Southern Adventist University, Box 370, Collegedale, TN, 37315; Phone: 423-236-2929; FAX: 423-236-1926; email: kasnyder@southern.edu. [1-3]

ASSISTED LIVING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COLLEGEDALE, TN: Morning Pointe Assisted Living of Greenbriar Cove, is seeking an experienced Executive Director to provide leadership for a 60-unit assisted living community. Conveniently located in Collegedale, TN, near Southern Adventist University and Chattanooga, TN. Qualified applicants should have proven management experience in a senior living environment. For consideration, forward resumes to Pat Caron, Regional Vice President, at pcaron@morningpointe.com. EOE www.morningpointe.com. [1, 2]

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BARCELONA & FRENCH RIVIERA TOUR with Bass Memorial Academy Alumni and Friends, 1-11 March 2012 and **ITALIAN LAKES & MOUNTAINS TOUR** with Southwest Adventist University Alumni and Friends 27 May-6 June 2012. See details at www.starmountaintravel.com. Contact: gerald@starmountaintravel.com. 601-891-0414. [1]

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Events Calendar

Carolina

Ministerial Workers' Meeting – Jan. 8-11. NPR.

MPA Student Week of Prayer – Jan 23-27. MPA.

Elders' Certification Training – Feb. 3-5. NPR. Details: miglesias@carolinasda.com.

Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 10-12. NPR. Details: 704-596-3200 or email jpinder@carolinasda.com.

Hispanic Marriage Retreat – Feb 17-19. NPR.

MPA Mission Trip – March 1-11.

Divorce Recovery – March 2-4. NPR.

Pathfinder Work Bee – March 16-18. NPR.

MPA Week of Prayer – March 19-23. MPA.

Elders' Retreat – March 23, 24. NPR.

Young Adult Retreat – March 30-April 1. NPR.

Florida

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

Florida Pathfinder events – <http://www.floridaconference.com/youth/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

Women's Ministries Retreats – Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Theme: At Jesus' Feet: Discover Hidden Treasure. Details: <http://www.floridaconference.com/women/sheryal.vandenberghe@floridaconference.com>, or 407-644-5000 x134.

Feb. 3-5. English-language.

Feb. 10-12. English-language.

Feb. 17-19. Spanish-language.

Feb. 24-26. French-language.

Florida Adventist Book Center – Winter Park: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/> or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Feb. 4. Jacksonville Southpoint.

Feb. 5. Jacksonville First,

Orange Cove, Palatka, Palm Coast, New Smyrna Beach. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Feb. 11. Tallahassee.

Feb. 12. Lake City, Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, Belleview, Lady Lake, Inverness.

Feb. 18. Sunrise.

Feb. 19. Plantation, Lauderhill, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

Feb. 25. Naples.

Feb. 26. Fort Myers, Fort Myers Shores, Arcadia, Avon Park, Winter Haven.

Forest Lake Academy Alumni Weekend Golf Tournament – March 26. Redtail Golf Club, Sorrento. Details: lebrunc@forestlake.org or 407-772-3729.

Georgia-Cumberland

Health Rally, Romanian Group – Jan. 7.

Adventurer Directors' Council – Jan. 7. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Lodge, Crandall, GA.

Pathfinder Directors' Council – Jan. 8. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Lodge, Crandall, GA.

GCC Constituency Pre-session Meeting (District 1) – Jan. 14. Macon, GA.

Health and Personal Ministries Leadership Training – Jan. 21. Chattanooga First Church, TN.

Disaster Response Training – Jan. 21-23. Greeneville, TN.

NAD Health Summit – Jan. 27-Feb. 5. Orlando, FL.

GCC Constituency Pre-session Meeting (District 4 & 5) – Jan. 28. Chattanooga First Church, TN.

Video Basics Seminar (FREE) – Jan. 29, 10a-12p lighting; 1-4p video and techniques. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Online registration for events available: www.registration.gccsda.com.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online <http://www.gccsda.org>

Religious Liberty Retreat – Jan.6-8. Camp Alamisco.

Ministers' Meeting – Jan. 8-11.

Camp Alamisco.

Pathfinder Council – Jan. 13-15. Camp Alamisco.

Piedmont, AL, Church Building Reopening Celebration – Jan. 14.

Conference Schools' Education Fair – Jan. 29, 30. Bass Memorial Academy.

Teen Invitational Caving – Feb. 3-5.

Executive Committee – Feb. 7.

Gulf States Church Works – Feb. 24, 25. Montgomery, AL.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Conference Association Board Jan. 24. March 13.

Conference Executive Committee Jan. 24. March 13.

Highland and Madison Academy Boards Jan. 26.

Ministers' Meeting/Retreat – Jan. 9-12.

Kentucky-Tennessee Board of Education – Feb. 9.

West Tennessee Festival of Faith – March 3. Memphis, TN.

Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 9, 10. Prestonsburg, KY.

Kentucky-Tennessee Music Festival – March 5-17. Highland Academy.

Southeastern

Youth Convocation – Jan.27-29. Hawthorne, FL.

Southern Adventist

Southern Adventist University Preview Southern – Jan. 19, 20. Potential students and their families are invited to meet our campus family and get a general feel for university life. Accommodations provided. Details: 423-236-2807.

Symphony Concert – Jan. 29. Three highly talented Southern students are featured among other performers during this concerto performance in the Collegedale Church sanctuary. The 4 p.m. event is free and open to the public. Details: 423-236-2164.

Drama Program – Feb. 2. "In the Shadow of Slavery" is a one-man theatrical journey recounting the life of Frederick Douglass. Performances are 11 a.m. (Iles P.E. Center) and 7:30 p.m. (Ackerman Auditorium). The events are free and open to the public. Details: 423-236-2814.

CHURCH BEAUTIFICATION AND IDENTIFICATION MONTH — MARCH 2012

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Sunset

	Dec. 30	Jan. 6	Jan. 13	Jan. 20	Jan. 27	Feb. 3
Atlanta, GA	5:40	5:45	5:52	5:58	6:05	6:12
Charleston, SC	5:24	5:30	5:36	5:42	5:49	5:56
Charlotte, NC	5:22	5:27	5:34	5:41	5:48	5:55
Collegedale, TN	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:05	6:12
Huntsville, AL	4:46	4:52	4:58	5:05	5:12	5:19
Jackson, MS	5:06	5:12	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:37
Louisville, KY	5:33	5:39	5:46	5:54	6:02	6:10
Memphis, TN	4:59	5:04	5:11	5:18	5:25	5:32
Miami, FL	5:41	5:46	5:51	5:57	6:02	6:07
Montgomery, AL	4:51	4:56	5:02	5:09	5:15	5:22
Nashville, TN	4:43	4:49	4:56	5:03	5:10	5:17
Orlando, FL	5:40	5:45	5:51	5:56	6:02	6:08
Wilmington, NC	5:13	5:18	5:25	5:31	5:38	5:45

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