We are Seventh-day Adventists

Here in the great Southern Union where God has blessed our feeble efforts to touch people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ, we are intentional about sustaining our focus of inviting all of our members to the following: an intimate relationship with Jesus; evangelizing and discipling; and including every man, woman, boy, girl, and ethnicity in the work of introducing people to Jesus.

I’m excited to showcase two pastors, Georges Fleurimond and Ron Hoffecker. One is assigned to a Florida Conference church, and the other to a Southeastern Conference church; both are in Lakeland, Florida. They have creatively embodied our quest to efficiently collaborate in responsible conjoint ministry. Be blessed as you observe. --RCS

We are Seventh-day Adventists. We have one message, one hope in the soon coming of our Savior. Despite differences of culture, ethnicity, and distance, we are one movement, preparing a people for that grand event. Each of us is baptized into a local congregation of the World Church. The fact still remains that whether our church is called Ewing Memorial or Lakeland First, the sign out front says “Seventh-day Adventist.” We may not be identical, but we are, and always will be, identifiable.

We trust that wherever we go, we will find someone who knows someone we know. We trust that, as we step into any Seventh-day Adventist church, we will find those “who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.” There may be differences, but the message is the same. When we go to a church in another conference across town, we can rest assure that we will encounter “this same Jesus.”

The Spirit of Prophecy describes our unity as important enough to dispatch a repeated message, “Again and again the angel has said to me, ‘Press together, press together, be of one mind, of one judgment.’ Christ is the Leader, and you are brethren; follow Him,” Christian Leadership, 11.4. There is a secret to our success apart from marketing, programs, and tactics. “The secret of our success in the work of God will be found in the harmonious working of our people ... We must press together against obstructions and difficulties, shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart,” Christian Service, 75.1.

When the Lakeland First pastor invites the Ewing Memorial pastor to present the evangelistic series in his church, he takes no risk that the Gospel preached will be of another sort. When the Ewing Memorial pastor accepts the invitation, he takes no risk of variation between his message and the deportment of local members. When souls are won, which church they join is of little consequence because, praise God, they are now a part of the remnant! This is no abstract theory. Rather, this is tangible practicality and our testimony. Together, both pastors and church members of the Lakeland First and Ewing Memorial Seventh-day Adventist churches, located in the city of Lakeland, joined hands and worked successfully in concert to deal Satan, our only true adversary, a deadly blow during a month’s-long evangelistic meeting. Lives were changed, the Gospel was preached, and souls were baptized.

The issue of separate conferences is complex, but addressing it starts with these two simple ingredients: trust and heeding the voice of the Lord’s messenger, “press together” in service to others. Do not wait for an invitation; do not wait for opportunities. Make an invitation. Erase lines. Forget differences. Make opportunities. Press together on youth outreach, a food pantry, or anywhere the Lord leads. Christ is the Leader, and we are His people; follow Him.

“Follow Him.” Jesus trusted erring humans. We can trust each other. He led them to unity. He will lead us to unity as we “press together...heart to heart.”

Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.
Southern Union President

Georges Fleurimond  Ron Hoffecker
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Ministry is Better When We’re Connected

BY ROGER HERNANDEZ
“Then make me truly happy by agreeing wholeheartedly with each other, loving one another, and working together with one mind and purpose,” Philippians 2:2 (NLT).

The following has probably never happened to you. You need to make a phone call on your cell phone while the battery is low and running out. It seems that the importance of the call is directly proportional to the bars in your smart phone. In my own experience, the battery has sometimes gotten so low, that the phone shuts itself off temporarily even while connected to a power source. The lesson here is this: phones that are disconnected permanently lose their effectiveness. Same is true in ministry. Church is a spiritual organization, and the secret for success is to stay connected.

The Southern Union held Ministerium 2013 two months ago, January 6-9. It’s a convention for pastors and families from the eight conferences that compose our Union. The theme was ... Connecting To God, To Family, To Each Other!

It took Dennis and Jacquelyn Ross, retired former Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director and associate, along with the conference ministerial directors, three years to prepare for the event for more than 1,600 individuals. As I reflected on the event after its conclusion, one phrase described our objective: Ministry is better when we’re connected.

Here are 10 principles we learned:

Ministry is better when we are united.

Unity multiplies impact. That is one key lesson we wanted leaders to understand. While it’s easier to do it alone, it’s more effective when we involve others. There is a small word, with big power, and that word is: and. It’s one thing to say, “It’s me.” Another thing to say, “It’s me and __________” (fill in the blank). Unity multiplies impact. We need each other. We can grow as we learn from each other. One of the most beautiful moments in the Ministerium was Communion, where there were no conferences, no small or large churches, no titles or degrees, just pastors washing each other’s feet. Ministry works better when, instead of building silos, we build His Kingdom.

In order to finish the Work God has entrusted to us, we need everybody: traditional and contemporary, men and women, youth and adults, first and second generations, accredited colleges and self-supporting ministries, lay members and paid denominational employees. We are one Church. When we attack each other it creates confusion in our youth, discouragement in our members, and delay in our progress.
Ministry is better when we are intentional about growing.

One of the most common questions I ask leaders, when I speak to them, is, “What’s your personal plan for growth?” Ministry can be so overwhelming with the “tyranny of the urgent,” that we fail to intentionally set aside time for growth. We must not confuse activity with progress, or action with achievement. At the Ministerium, we had more than 50 seminars on a variety of topics that sought to inform, inspire, and intentionally grow the pastors and their families in a specific area.

Ministry is better when we strive for excellence.

Excellence honors God and inspires people. Someone has said that good is the enemy of great. One of the greatest dangers in our lives can be summarized in two words: Routine, Average. At the Ministerium, pastors were encouraged to never settle for good, when best is available. Great attention to detail from the organizing group sought to model the principle of excellence. Early in my ministry, I heard this line (I’m not sure where) that has shaped the way I do ministry. “What are you doing, that if God is not completely involved and comes through in a big way, will absolutely and utterly fail?” Many of the things we do, we could do without divine intervention. What have you attempted in the last year that took you out, way out, of your comfort zone? What risks, without being reckless, have you proposed to the people you lead? What innovative, daring, out-of-the-box idea have you implemented? God did not call you to the ministry of beige. When was the last time you came home excited to tell your family about the beige building you saw? Beige. Safe. Familiar. Known. Beige.

Use God’s paintbrush and re-paint with vivid colors. Do whatever it takes to rediscover His passion for your life. You were meant for bold passion — definitely not beige. (I apologize to the beige lovers of the world — all three of you.)

Ministry is better when we have a clear vision that is put into action.

A powerful vision can inspire the Church to be what it was intended to be. Not just a source of biblical information to store in our brains, but a force of transformation to share with our communities. Vision, simply defined, is being able to “see it before you see it.” Before every great invention, before every great accomplishment, before every transformational idea, someone had vision. Someone “saw it, before he saw it.”

What you say is not as important as what you do. Opinionology (a word I coined meaning “to share with others the opinions no one else is asking you for”) is not a spiritual gift.

When I was pastoring a church, we always had a church soccer team to build community and make friends, and I always got to play. As the game got started, so did the crowd. Everyone had an opinion. It was interesting to hear some misguided soul yell, “Take the pastor out, he’s horrible!” At halftime, individuals from the crowd would come into our huddle, and offer unsolicited advice, strategy, and ideas. Not only were they very straightforward about what we should be doing, they became upset if we did not do it the way they prescribed. Isn’t that a lot like the work of the Church? Someone said that church is not a spiritual gift. Someone else may have had a vision. It’s not about “living with no MARGIN.” It’s dangerous. It’s sinful. It’s counterproductive to ministry.

At the Ministerium, pastors were able to get away. Cell phones didn’t work in many of the rooms. (That was a good thing!) It was very rewarding for the planning committee to see pastors and their families walking together on the boardwalk, just enjoying each other. Tuesday afternoon was family afternoon: no required meetings, no...
where you had to be at. Most pastors will tell you that this is an area they struggle with. Getting away is not easy. But, it’s necessary.

Ministry is better when we’re challenged.

The speakers not only inspired us, but also challenged us. One of the most powerful messages was given by Alejandro Bullon, pastor. The title of his presentation was catchy: “Pastors Can Also Be Saved.” He related a story about a young boy that wanted to work in a chocolate factory. The first day of work, his boss told him he had one assignment — to eat chocolate all day. Every 10 minutes the boss would come to check on the boy to make sure he was eating chocolate. After one day, even while working in the chocolate factory, the boy never touched chocolate again. Bullon stated that the “greatest temptation for pastors who work for God, is to neglect personal communion with the God they work for.” We don’t want to end up like the individuals who built the Ark, and then drowned in the flood. We were challenged, stretched, and encouraged at the same time.

Ministry is better when we value diversity.

Among the 1,600 pastors and families, we had a wide diversity — African American, Anglo, Hispanic, Korean, Russian, African, West Indian, and European. It looked a lot like Heaven. It’s interesting to note that when Jesus selected his disciples, He did not choose 12 carpenters from Nazareth. A close look at the personality of the disciples reveals anything else but uniformity. They were different, and that was a good thing: different backgrounds, different social status, different politics, different jobs. They were blue collar and white collar, a Hebrew revolutionary and a Roman sympathizer. One had a questioning mind, one spoke too soon, and one hardly spoke. Some were more interested in position than preaching, and one was constantly taking a piece of the pie for himself.

What message was Jesus trying to send us through the picking of the disciples? A simple one: if Jesus was able to transform and use them, He can do the same with me. Evangelism was their common denominator.

Ministry is better when we are connected to family.

One question was asked many times and in different ways about the pastor’s family: Are we too busy trying to preach impressive sermons about Him, bring healing to many homes for Him, even working to cast out the evil in society in His name, yet our family life is lacking? These three things have been helpful to me in my own journey:

1. Choose the important over the urgent.
2. Choose the best over the good.
3. Choose the permanent over the temporary.

There were programs for the ministerial spouses and children. Ministry is a family affair. So we sought to minister to the whole family.

Ministry is better when we are connected to each other.

God created us for community. God usually gives the vision to the leader first, but not exclusively. A right vision, shared with the right people, at the right time, for the right reason, will accomplish more in less time. Pastors were encouraged to find three individuals:

Mentors: These are wise individuals you can listen to. They have experience and can help you find ways to deal with your present situation.

Friends: These are caring individuals you can learn on. They might not have all the answers, but knowing that they are there for you makes a difference.

Students: These are individuals who can learn from you. Every experience you have had is a lesson that can be shared to encourage, inspire, or warn others.

Ministry is better when we are connected to God.

As a child living in Puerto Rico, a tropical paradise, I loved flying kites. We were almost never short on wind. Once in a while, however, there was a windless day. On those days, if you still wanted to fly a kite, you could, only it was much harder. First, you needed to go to a big field. Then, get a running start. Follow that with run, run, and then run some more. Needless to say, kite flying soon became a bothersome chore, instead of a pleasant endeavor. Same thing happens in church. When you are running around, doing things in your own strengths, eventually you will wonder where did all the “pleasure” of serving the Lord go. Kites fly with almost no effort when there is wind present. Is there wind in your church? In order to fly a kite we need wind. In order to pastor a church, we need to stay “Connected To God, To Family, To Each Other.”

“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near,” Hebrews 10:25.

Roger Hernandez is the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union.

Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism director, and his wife, Kathy, Southern Union ministerial and evangelism special services coordinator, demonstrate the process for a powerful communion service.
Michael Hyatt, former CEO of Thomas Nelson Publishing, says that in order to be successful in today’s world you need two things:

a. A compelling product, and
b. A meaningful platform.

I believe we as Seventh-day Adventists are good at the first one. Our message is powerful. Our beginning was providential. Our emphasis is prophetic. From a handful of disappointed North Americans, we have become a worldwide, multicultural movement that seeks to point people back to Scripture. We can make a compelling argument directly from the Word, and we seek to inspire people to return to a more biblical approach to Christianity.

Yet, more than 50 percent of people in the United States do not know who we are, many others confuse us with Jehovah Witnesses or Mormons, and yet others identify us only by our diet and what we don’t do.

Today, we start a new adventure together. The purpose of this column is to grow together in four areas that can help us become more effective in “platform building.” The word to remember is...

**LEAD:**

**Leadership**

**Evangelism**

**Accountability**

**Diversity**

During the next few months, we will become better acquainted with each other. For now, let us pray and work to build a more meaningful platform. When the platform catches up with the message, watch out!

**LEAD — Leadership**

John Maxwell loves to say, “If you are leading and no one is following, you are only taking a walk.” The first component of LEAD is Leadership. I grew up in a church where leadership wasn’t taught, explained, modeled, mentored, preached, or practiced much. It got a little better in my formal education, but most of the leadership concepts I learned came about in two ways:

1. Personal interest in the subject.
2. Personal mistakes that taught me leadership lessons.

I remember arriving at my first church (some might identify with what I am about to share), and having my first board meeting. I was coming in with all these plans, dreams, and was absolutely sure who the leader was: Me! After all, I was the pastor! That lasted about 30 minutes. My plans and ideas went out the window faster than you can say, “I’m in charge.” I remember feeling very discouraged. I survived, but noticed immediately my very present need to grow in the area of leadership. It took me a while to understand that I am none of these three things:

*I am not the man. In other words, I can’t make ministry be about me, because it isn’t.*

*I am not the Messiah. I am not indispensable. There is only one Messiah and his name is not Roger.*

*I am not the manager. I am not called to just maintain the status quo, to just run programs and keep everyone happy. I was called to lead, not manage.*

Here are some leadership concepts that have been beneficial to me. They are keys to successful leadership:

1. **Relationships.** People follow leader, then the vision. You first connect, then convince.
2. **Innovation.** The enemy of future success is past success. Just because it worked in the past, does not mean it will work the same way in the future.
3. **Connections.** I decided to have three people in my life: a teacher I can learn from, a companion I can share with, a student I can teach. Those were my choices. God brought me a fourth person — an antagonist that will keep me on my knees. (There is one of those everywhere!)
4. **Purpose.** It’s easy to confuse activity with progress. What we do, when we do it, and who we do it with must fit in the overall purpose that God has for our lives. The clearer the purpose, the easier it is to say no and yes to invitations, requests, and...
CREATION Health

**Rest: Trading Pace for Peace**

A new term was recently coined, it’s called “quickaholics” — people who live in a frenzied rush. Who wants that kind of life? Are we trading peace for pace?

**GOD’S PACE, GOD’S PEACE**

God created the Earth in seven days, and still found time to rest.

Rest is about replacing chaos with calm. It is about intentionally taking the time to enjoy life just as God did — He rested to enjoy.

**THREE TYPES OF REST**

Do you enjoy life? If your answer disturbs you, then perhaps you might consider how much rest you are really getting.

The three types of rest we need are physical, mental, and spiritual. We need a good night’s sleep, regular breaks, and annual vacations. We need a weekly day of spiritual rest because today’s pressures create an overall dis-ease with life. Celebrating the seventh-day Sabbath as God did keeps us from becoming a “human-doing.”

Rest refreshes our mind, body, and soul, accompanied by the power of persuasion, the power of prayer, the power of the love of God, **this work will not, cannot, be without fruit,** *Ministry of Healing,* pages 143, 144.

This quote seems to suggest that evangelism and service should go hand in hand. Here are some principles to remember:

1. **A service lifestyle is part of a divine expectation.** It would be helpful to understand that when standing before our Maker, instead of asking us to recite the eschatological timeline, God asks “What did you do about my children that needed help?”

2. **A service lifestyle takes us out of our comfort zone.** It’s more than outreach, it’s reaching out — even to those who don’t look, believe, speak, or act like us. That includes our enemies!

3. **A service lifestyle breaks down barriers.** It’s all about love, and love can indeed “conquer all.” When we express love, we break down pre-conceived concepts about the Church and God.

**Remember, there are 37 recorded miracles of Jesus in the New Testament. There is one written sermon of Jesus — Sermon on the Mount. This goes along with the counsel given: “If less time were given to sermonizing, and more time were spent in personal ministry, greater results would be seen,” *Ministry of Healing,* page 143.**

The take-away from this article is simple: Our **earthly** kindness can have an **eternal** impact.

**Questions:**

1. **What are some creative ways your church is reaching the community?**

2. **If money was no object, what would you do? What project would you start?**

Comments? Questions? Suggestions? I invite you to connect with me:

Twitter: www.twitter.com/leadSU

Facebook: www.facebook.com/leadSU

Blog: www.leadu.blogspot.com

Roger Hernandez is the ministerial and evangelism director for the Southern Union.

—BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN
An orchard of pecan trees stretched out before Raul Ortiz as he shook his head in disbelief. For years, he carried a burden in his heart for a full-power radio station to preach the Gospel. Raul and a group of laymen obtained a license, received the call letters and frequency WGTT 91.5 FM, and were assigned a broadcast area. Next, they needed to find a location, central to the broadcast area, where they could establish their radio station. As Raul stood at the ideal location on Emerald Island Road in Leesburg, Florida, his dream was fading fast as he viewed nothing but countryside and a pecan orchard. There was no building to rent, and he had no money to build.

After some time elapsed, Raul revisited the area and was surprised to find a church built on the site of the pecan orchard. Amazingly, it was home to an Adventist congregation! He was elated and decided to present the possibility of a radio station to North Lake Church members. Members expressed an interest, but they had no available money for the project and no experience operating a radio station or preparing programming. Shawn Lathrom, pastor at the time, then remembered someone he met years before. He contacted Linda De Romanett, owner of the Family First Radio Network in Keene, Texas. She was interested in purchasing the station if the church would provide a place for operation.

Engineers determined that the new station could be permanently located at the church, with a radiated power of 1,600 watts. In the church attic, a room was constructed with adequate electricity and an air conditioner. The station began broadcasting in May 2011 with a 24/7 schedule covering a radius of 24 miles.

Family First Radio Network provides the programming and allows for locally produced programs and advertising. Speakers are largely well-known Adventist evangelists, while a number of time slots feature health presenters.

People are listening and are attending Adventist churches in the area. Several listeners have been baptized, including Sandra and David Yandoh, who joined North Lake Church in December 2012.

Beginning January 1, 2013, North Lake Church hired a Bible instructor to follow up with the growing number of interests and contacts generated through the radio station.

See the February Florida Conference In Mission video at http://www.floridaconference.com/?p=5228 which shares more of the special story of Sandra and David Yandoh’s conversion that progressed through contacts at Florida Hospital Waterman, the WGTT radio ministry, and Bible studies with members of North Lake Church.

Sandra and David Yandoh (right) gave their hearts to the Lord through the ministry of Chaplain Faye Rose (center), director of spiritual care at Florida Hospital Waterman; and through listening to WGTT, which led them to Bible studies with Obed and Coretta Graham (left). The Yandohs were baptized by Rose at North Lake Church on December 15, 2012.
The Higdons have been waking in the wee hours for about 11 years, regardless of weather, and collecting day-old bread and pastries that are then distributed free to senior citizens and churches.

“At the top of the article put ‘C-R-A-Z-Y,’” said Tony Higdon, who turned 75 this month. “And then under that, put ‘blessed.’” “Our formula is simple,” said Susan Higdon, 63. “To be blessed, you have to bless. There is no other way. That is where the contentment and peace is. You can’t buy it or sell it. It only comes from God.”

Matthew Ransdell is volunteer coordinator for Kentucky Harvest in Lexington, Kentucky, a non-profit organization that uses volunteers to pick up surplus food from various businesses and deliver it to people in need and the groups that serve them. The Higdons are two of the organization’s most “seasoned volunteers,” which number 12 to 15, he said.

Those volunteers visit most of the Krogers in town and collect baked goods that are then taken six or seven days a week to the Lexington Senior Citizens Center by the Higdons, and to the Salvation Army, Lexington Rescue Mission, and the men’s and women’s Hope Centers by other volunteers.

“We are 100 percent volunteer,” Ransdell said. “We have no offices, no trucks and no warehouses. We basically have a very, very small operation budget. It is all volunteer-driven, and all volunteer-run. Kentucky Harvest does not reimburse for gas, either.”

The Higdons pick up items from the Pepperidge Farm warehouse in Lexington about 4 a.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Thursdays. They take the bread directly to the senior citizens center on Nicholasville Road, where other volunteers unload it and set up a distribution table. On Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, they also pick up donated bread and pastries from the Krogers at Regency Centre and at Brannon Crossing.

The couple began the volunteer effort about 11 years ago when they were asked by Mary Lou Campbell, now with the State Health Insurance Assistance Program, to help on a rotating basis because Campbell was having to back off from volunteering with the program. After about six months, the couple became the main volunteers during the week, with help on weekends.

“It is a labor of love that we both enjoy,” said Tony, a lay minister at their Seventh-day Adventist church. “When Jesus came to this Earth, He said He came to serve, not to be served. If you stay active, regardless of what it is, you see a result of being in service to whomever. If you can’t love here, you can’t love in Heaven.”

For fun, the Higdons have a pleasure farm in Madison County where they can let go of stress and refocus. They also take a bit of time for themselves by attending “Third Thursday Thing,” a series of monthly educational workshops at Kentucky State University for those interested in agriculture.

“We drop off the bread here and go there,” Susan said. They also volunteer at the Center and take classes with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Kentucky, and are caregivers for someone they know.

And still they have time to collect and deliver bread.

Susan said she is driven to do that. “Waste not, want not,” she said. “I can’t stand the thought of throwing it away. I want to share with those who could use it. If we don’t love and share with each other, what else is there?”

Not much of anything, I guess. Thank the Lord there still is a cadre of folks like the Higdons who live their beliefs.

Merlene Davis is lead columnist for the Lexington Herald.
Florida Hospital Launches Mobile Health Program for Women

Florida Hospital has a new set of wheels to make health care more accessible to women. The Healthy 100 Women’s Mobile Health Coach will bring health services into the community to make preventative screenings more convenient for women.

“We know women are extremely busy and are more likely to put their own health concerns on hold,” said Marla Silliman, senior vice president of Florida Hospital. “Part of our commitment with the Healthy 100 Women’s Mobile Health Coach is to make health care more accessible for every woman by bringing the Coach to women throughout central Florida, to their homes, places of work, worship, etc.”

Community leaders and Florida Hospital employees recently got a sneak peek inside the new mobile Coach to see the screenings that will be offered. These include mammography, ultrasound, DEXA scan, electrocardiogram (EKG), body mass index (BMI), and skin analysis. The Coach will also feature wellness and spa services, including various types of massages.

Hospital officials and physicians also broke ground on the site of the new women’s hospital at Florida Hospital Orlando that will provide comprehensive services for women of all generations. The dedication of the site signals the beginning of construction on the new 12-story patient tower.

The 12-story, 400,000-square-foot hospital will lead the way in a new era of women’s health and offer comprehensive services, including obstetrics, maternal fetal medicine (high risk obstetrics), gynecologic oncology, minimally invasive women’s surgery, neonatal intensive care, digital mammography, women’s cardiovascular, wellness and education, a lactation center, and the High Risk Breast Center. The hospital is expected to open in 2015, and will contain more than 300 patient beds.

—BY SARA CHANNING

Home Care Agencies Rank Among Best Nationwide

Seven Adventist Health System home care agencies have been named to the 2012 HomeCare Elite™, a compilation of the top-performing home health agencies in the United States. Now in its seventh year, the HomeCare Elite identifies the top 25 percent of more than 11,000 agencies, and further highlights the top 100 and 500 agencies overall. Agencies are ranked by an analysis of performance measures. This year those measures include quality of care, quality improvement, patient experience, process measure implementation, and financial management.

OCS HomeCare, a product of National Research Corporation, uses publicly available data from Home Health Compare and the CMS Cost Reports to create the HomeCare Elite List of agencies. The following Adventist Health System agencies were included in this year’s HomeCare Elite:

- Chapel Home Health in Zephyrhills, Florida
- Florida Hospital Home Care Services in Orlando, Florida
- Florida Hospital Memorial Home Health in Ormond Beach, Florida
- Gordon HomeCare in Calhoun, Georgia (also recognized as a top 100 agency)
- Home Care of Metroplex in Killeen, Texas
- Memorial Hospital Home Health Care in Manchester, Kentucky
- Shawnee Mission Home Health Care in Shawnee Mission, Kansas

“It is great to receive this prestigious national recognition affirming our commitment to providing patients with the best possible care while managing the business side effectively,” said La Donna Blom-Antonio, corporate director for home care at Adventist Health System.

—BY MELANIE LAWHORN
Rather than taking a day off on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Adventist University of Health Sciences students had a “day on,” with 45 students, family members, staff, and community members volunteering to serve at two organizations.

The first group went to the Mustard Seed of central Florida, a non-profit that provides food, furniture, and clothing to the economically distressed of central Florida. The volunteers sorted clothes, organized the warehouse, and cleaned outside the facility.

“The most memorable part was seeing the reaction of the staff when we finished cleaning and organizing,” said Khadeeja Sweeney, second-year biomedical sciences student, who decided volunteering was the best way to celebrate her birthday weekend.

While the first group worked behind the scenes at the Mustard Seed, the second group visited patients at the Orlando Health and Rehabilitation Center, a facility that provides care to long-term patients of all ages. Sasha Valente, first-year nursing student, felt a bond with one dementia patient in particular.

“I painted a woman’s nails, and as I spoke to her she held my hand like I was her own daughter,” Sasha said. “I could tell that my visit with her really meant a lot.”

One thing both groups had in common was realizing how much need there is in local communities.

“There are things I take for granted that thousands of people are really grateful for,” said Stephanie Accimeus, first-year biomedical sciences student. “It was a great experience, I was lucky to be part of something so meaningful.”

—BY SARAH CROWDER

When the first academic symposium was held in September 2012, a new tradition began at Adventist University of Health Sciences.

The weekly symposiums bring healthcare professionals and Adventist University faculty, administrators, and students together to discuss scholarly interests, academic specialties, or intellectual and clinical accomplishments.

The symposiums are a venue to learn simply for the sake of learning. Russ Butler, professor in the Department of Health and Biomedical Sciences, said that this environment allows for a stimulating educational experience.

“It instills interdisciplinary thoughts and team scholarship. Students are learning contemporary intellectual interests,” Butler said.

The symposiums also provide information about future professions. At one symposium Rick Stevens, Dr.P.H., area TB coordinator for Florida Department of Health, spoke and encouraged students to go into a field they were passionate about.

“Some of you may be wondering about your future careers,” Stevens said. “I had a passion to protect the public, and I’ve been very fulfilled in my profession.”

So far the weekly meetings have been well-received.

“Sometimes the students are blown away by what they hear,” Butler said. “There are no tests; it’s an environment for them to listen, learn, and interact with faculty, administrators, and professionals in the field.”

—BY SARAH CROWDER

A volunteer organizes toys at the Mustard Seed of central Florida on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 21, 2013.

A volunteer organizes toys at the Mustard Seed of central Florida on the Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service on January 21, 2013.

Rick Stevens, Dr.P.H., area TB coordinator for Florida Department of Health, spoke to Adventist University students and faculty at the symposium on January 23, 2013.

March 2013 • Tidings
Carolina News

Eric Hagan Ordained in Wilkesboro, N.C.

_—BY RON QUICK_

Church Planting Creates Healthy Churches

Mark Patterson lives in Huntersville, N.C., but commuted every Sabbath to University City Church in Charlotte, N.C., a nearly half-hour drive each week.

“Why not plant a church right here in Huntersville?” Patterson thought to himself.

Well, that’s exactly what he did. He approached fellow members of University City Church, and with much prayer and divine guidance, they’ve established the Huntersville Lighthouse Church.

Lighthouse Church.

And one remarkable side note: University City Church’s average yearly attendance is the same today as before members left to plant the new congregation. Instead of losing members, they’ve gained a sister church which now has a membership of nearly 40! As they say...when God is for it, who can be against it?

—BY RON QUICK

Pictured with Eric and Christin Hagan are Rick Russell, Conference treasurer; Leslie Louis, Conference president, and his wife, Carole; Gary Moyer, Conference secretary; Haskell Williams, Conference ministerial director; and Mike Hill, pastor.

Even the icy roads on Sabbath, January 26, 2013, couldn’t stop them. Many traveled the slippery roads to the country church in Wilkesboro, N.C., to witness Eric Hagan, pastor, as he was set aside in the sacred act of ordination to the Gospel ministry.

It was in the summer of 1999 when Hagan’s aunt, Linda, was impressed to share a book entitled, Truth That Matters. Once Hagan read it, he wondered how the previous churches he had attended could have missed so much. Instead of blaming others, he took responsibility and planned to attend the Seventh-day Adventist church in his home town of Pulaski, Tenn. Hagan invited his aunt to join him the following week. He and his aunt were baptized October 9, 1999.

After his baptism, he sensed a call to full-time ministry. He attended both Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University, where he graduated in 2006. Hagan received a call to the Gulf States Conference to be the associate pastor in Panama City, Fla. It was there in Panama City where he met Christin. The couple were married in the summer of 2008. Immediately following their wedding, they received a call to join the Carolina Conference to pastor the Wilkesboro and Lenoir district in North Carolina.

The Hagans have one son, Eastan. Together they are truly a ministry team for the Lord.

—BY RON QUICK

Pictured with Ryan Ashlock (left), University City Church pastor, and Mark Patterson proudly pose with the new Huntersville Church plant.
Asheville North Enters Phase Two of Building Project

Eleven years after celebrating their first worship service in their new facility, Ashe-ville North Church in Asheville, N.C., is beginning a major fundraising campaign toward building phase two of the project: the sanctuary building. Though the church has been debt-free on phase I for three years, continuation of the project has been delayed due to the unstable economy. The time has been well spent in the architectural planning phase, working with Mark Gillis, a Seventh-day Adventist architect in the local Asheville area. The plans he has drawn reflect both a functional and beautiful facility.

Phase two will house a 250-seat sanctuary, a lobby, classrooms, and an activity room in an economical two-level design of approximately 18,000 sq. ft. Additional parking and a covered entry will also be included in this phase.

After approval of the plans by the church board and church membership, efforts have already begun toward making the new facility a reality. The growth will enable continued focus on sharing Christ with the community and growing the existing membership, which is currently more than triple the original charter membership.

Asheville North is involved in on-going evangelistic efforts, health education for the community, and outreach to the nearby university population of UNC Asheville. A new mission this year is monthly participation in the nearby Mt. Pisgah Church’s “Sonrise Community Outreach” project of feeding approximately 120 homeless people a fresh, hot breakfast on Sabbath mornings. The atmosphere is one of Christian music, free literature, opportunity for Bible study, and brotherly love through the personal service of around 30 church volunteers.

Asheville North members know they are where the Lord wants them to be, and that He has a great work for them in north Asheville.

For more information on the expansion project and outreach opportunities, go to www.ashevillesda.com.

—BY FLORIE ROGERS

Sumter Makes Community Services a Priority

The Sumter, S.C., Church recently celebrated three and a half years of service to Sumter and surrounding communities through their community services program. The church’s Lifeline Community Service Center has been operational since February of 2009. They distribute food and clothing to residents of Sumter, Lee, and Clarendon counties.

Samuel Bonham, pastor, is pictured receiving a commendation during their three-year anniversary celebration in May of last year.

At the end of 2012, the community services center had distributed food to more than 1,300 families. This number includes repeat client services for those who come back once each month. They desire to exceed this number in 2013.

—BY ALICE R. JOHNSON

CORRECTION:
Upstate Christian Academy was featured in the February 2013 Southern Tidings as being located in Greenville, N.C.; it is located in Greenville, S.C.
Eliathah Members Experience the Upper Room

“Have you ever wondered why the disciples had such death-defying faith? What gave them the courage to proclaim the Gospel to the ends of the Earth in spite of such overwhelming odds? Why were they so different after Pentecost?” asks Mark Finley in 10 Days In the Upper Room. Captivated and convicted by his study of the Upper Room experience, Noel Rose, pastor, led members of Eliathah Church, Tamarac, Fla., into a life-changing experience prior to the start of a fall revival.

Results of earnest intercession were visible from the opening night of the revival, the Family Enrichment Series, presented by Alanzo Smith, D.Min., Ed.D., director of personal ministries, Sabbath School, men’s ministries, and family counseling at Greater New York Conference, Manhasset, N.Y. As on the day of Pentecost, the church was filled to capacity with record attendance. Even with two morning services, Sabbath celebrations saw overcrowding as a serious challenge.

Smith exposed Satan’s crafty deception on the family as meetings progressed, and attendees continued to experience the abundant presence of the Holy Spirit as men, women, boys, and girls surrendered their lives to Jesus. True Pentecost was realized as 40 precious souls gave their lives to the Lord in baptism on the final Sabbath.

—BY WENDY FORREST AND DAVID THOMAS

Gainesville Pathfinders March in Parade

Marching in the University of Florida Gator Homecoming Parade, down one of the busiest streets of Gainesville, Fla., 35 Pathfinders in their uniforms, with a color guard, decorated float, and drum line, made themselves known in a city recognized mostly for its secular college atmosphere. Young people from Gainesville Spanish Church were joined by those from Southeastern Conference’s Bethel Church to represent Seventh-day Adventists in the annual Friday parade.

It is the second year for Pathfinder involvement in this fall classic that sees thousands of residents lining University Avenue to witness the city’s largest parade of the year.

The club invested hours of planning and decorating into their preparation that led to the privilege of being shown on a local television station.

The Pathfinders of Gainesville continue working hard to further the advancement of God’s truth, and welcome each opportunity to be a beacon of light in their community.

—BY ADRIAN PANETO
Five long-time, active members of Kendall Church in Miami, Fla., celebrated age 90-plus birthdays during 2012.

With thankfulness to God, the lives of these individuals were recently recognized for service in His Work and for the blessing they are to the congregation.

Pearl Bell (no photo available) is known as a strong supporter of her church. Her friendly smile and gentle demeanor helped Kendall Church become recognized as the friendly church.

Hugh Crarey served as an elder and interim pastor during his service of more than 24 years at Kendall Church. He still attends every Sabbath and blesses the services singing hymns of praise with his rich baritone voice.

Ethlyn Gordon holds the distinction of being the oldest member. She has mentored and inspired both young and old. Seeing her on Sabbath mornings gives every age group the inspiration that being 95 is not too old to faithfully serve the Lord.

Marjorie Mundell, along with her husband, Roderick, are charter members of Kendall Church after it grew out of its mother church, Miami Temple, more than 25 years ago.

Before Kendall Church was built, Mundell’s home was the site of many prayer and board meetings.

She strongly supports the work of her church in the community it serves.

Jean Richards has willingly served her church as an officer for more than 20 years. She was employed for many years as a nurse and still gives sound medical advice to her church family.

—BY ALRIE MUNDELL

Kendall Church Members Honored

Hugh Crarey
Ethlyn Gordon
Marjorie Mundell
Jean Richards

119th Annual Florida Camp Meeting

Camp Kulaqua
23400 NW 212 Ave.
High Springs, FL 32643
(386) 454-1351

April 11–14, 2013

Featured Speakers

Dave Smith
Senior Pastor,
Collegedale Seventh-day Adventist Church,
Collegedale, Tennessee

Richard Davidson
Professor of Old Testament Exegesis,
Andrews University,
Berrien Springs, Michigan

http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/

Revealing God’s Heart
Digging Deeply In His Word
Daniel’s Blog: Whose Hand is Your Brain In?

Daniel Harper was a young man who threw himself unreservedly into everything he did — from skateboarding, guitar, schoolwork, and videos, to going after the girl of his dreams. Daniel loved a challenge and didn’t do anything halfway.

Daniel was bold, he was a risk taker, and he was competitive. When Daniel was diagnosed with a malignant glioblastoma brain tumor in the summer of 2007, his approach was pretty much the same: go after it with all the energy and intelligence he had.

The same summer he was diagnosed with brain cancer he proposed to his high school sweetheart, Logan Ehlert. The two met at Georgia-Cumberland Academy. Logan said, “yes,” in spite of Daniel’s uncertain future. They would take on this new challenge together, and they did.

Cancer changed Daniel’s life. While he never lost his passion, enthusiasm, sense of humor, drive, or desire to achieve, Daniel’s focus began to change. His once held desires to achieve big things were radically changed as God transformed and renewed his purpose for living.

Sixteen months before Daniel died, he began sharing on a blog, “Precision Points of a Called Christian.” Daniel was a great writer, and his edgy humor and articulate way of driving home an important spiritual truth caught the attention of many who followed his blog. Daniel shared his thoughts and ideas, but as his walk with Jesus deepened and the intensity of his illness progressed, his writing became a channel for communicating what he was learning about faith, suffering, priorities, relationships, and more.

As his faith deepened, Daniel began to see his cancer in a new light. Just shy of a year before he died he wrote: “If I could go back three-and-a-half years to my first diagnosis/surgery, when the docs said I had about a two percent chance of making it three years, I wouldn’t change anything. I wouldn’t wish it away or somehow undo what has taken place in my life. It has totally changed me, and each step in the journey is a lesson to learn.”

God provided what was needed to bring Daniel’s Blog into existence. The book became a reality December 2012.

Daniel’s voice is only going to become stronger, and the impact of his testimony will grow as people read Daniel’s Blog.

To get a copy of this book, contact Nancy Gerard at Georgia-Cumberland Academy: nagerard@gcasda.org, 706.625-7166, or go online to www.gcasda.org.

Special pricing is available for groups wanting to use the book for outreach.

—BY NANCY GERARD

Daniel Harper lived life with gusto. He didn’t let a thing like cancer change his intensity, but cancer did change his life as his walk with Jesus strengthened. This book shares Daniel’s blog until his death at age 25 in August 2011.

When Daniel Harper was diagnosed with a malignant glioblastoma brain tumor, he started writing a blog on the experience. His quick wit and love for God shine through in a recently released book, Daniel’s Blog, that shares about his experiences. The book is available at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, www.gcasda.org. He is pictured with his wife, Logan.
Duluth Launches Day of Prayer, Blessing

The Duluth, Ga., Church launched its “Day of Prayer and Blessing” on businesses in the Duluth area on December 8, 2012. Each year the Worldwide Church, as part of its missions, asks its members and friends to donate to Hope for Humanity (formerly call Harvest Ingathering). This is a time where individuals participate and actively solicit donations that will be used in building schools, clinics, orphanages, and provide food, equipment, and medicine in poor countries.

Hope for Humanity is the new face of one of the longest and most effective humanitarian ministries in the history of the Church. For more than a century, Seventh-day Adventists have reached out to their communities to share in the support of the compassionate ministry of Jesus.

This year, church members dressed in their various ministry T-shirts or Adventurer and Pathfinder club uniforms, and took to the streets and malls of the busy Duluth shopping corridors of the Pleasant Hill and Satellite Boulevard areas. They asked local small businesses for permission to pray for the success of their business as they left cans for donations.

Hope for Humanity is all about hope. The Church helps build schools and hospitals because they are places where hope will flourish. They work with mothers and children because strong families are built on hope. They teach adults to read and write because of the optimism and confidence in the faces of the women and men. That’s why for more than a century the work of Hope for Humanity has been to reach out with hope to those impoverished by poverty, disaster, or misfortune (www.hope4.com).

One hundred percent of donated funds are used to help someone in need.

—BY SONIA RICHARDS

Members of the Duluth, Ga., Church went out into the community to pray for local businesses, and left donation cans for Hope for Humanity.
F3 Tornado Strikes Adventist Families in Georgia

Several families were impacted when a F3 tornado hit Gordon and Bartow counties in Georgia on January 30, 2013.

The home of Del and Elsa Patton, Calhoun, Ga., Church members, was hit hard.

The tornado caused great damage to the Patton’s home, their son’s home right next door, their car, and their boat. Thankfully, both Del and Elsa are safe and praise God they have a heavenly home waiting for them.

Elsa and Del Patton

Elsa said the church family support has been wonderful, and having the Georgia-Cumberland Academy (GCA) students has been great.

A few miles away, the home of Calhoun Church members Ivan and Barbara Hansen was also struck.

Last Wednesday morning in our house, about 11:20 a.m., the weather radio went off and said a storm was coming by Kingston. It went off again, a neighbor called, and the electricity went off,” Ivan said. “We decided to get to a closet. Two minutes later, the trap door to the attic went up in the air and landed in front of us. I looked up and saw daylight.”

Part of their roof and their entire living room was gone. They knelt and thanked God for their safety.

Ivan said the community has really helped. Their church members have brought them food, the local middle and high school have provided meals, and he especially appreciated GCA sending students to help.

“It is encouraging to see Adventist members’ support,” said Gary Rustad, Calhoun Church pastor.

Mirako Pozo, a sophomore at GCA, is originally from Ecuador, and has never seen anything like the damage from a tornado.

“We got here, and it was really shocking,” Pozo said. “We got into it — picking up wood, throwing wood in the fire, picking up trash and glass. I’m happy I took time out of my day to help someone.”

Hudson Feliciano, a GCA sophomore from Tennessee agreed. “I think it is good we get to come together and help people. You have to be a family in times like this, and this really brings people together to help those in need.”

Even more importantly, it gives students a practical application of a Christ-like response, said Greg Hudson, GCA chaplain.

You learn lots in the classroom, but we want to instill in students a sense of service,” he said.

That sense of service is a thread that runs throughout the Adventist community. Along with the students’ help in cleaning up the destruction, Terry Haight, Georgia-Cumberland Conference Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief (GCC ACS DR) coordinator, was notified of the situation, and the State of Georgia requested help on a government level. ACS DR set up in a warehouse in Calhoun, and began working with the disaster victims and sharing supplies on February 7.

ACS DR is taking donations and needs items like food, cleaning supplies, or work gloves. At a later date, they will need items to help people re-establish their homes.

“Things do appear to happen more and more often,” Haight said. “Two years ago, we had a tornado go through our area in April, the next one was in March, and now here we are in January with tornadoes.”

Items may be dropped off at 647 Highway 53 E., Calhoun, GA 30701. Details: 706-879-2870 or email acsdrgc@gmail.com or acswarehouse1@yahoo.com.

You can find the most recent updates about ACS DR on gccacs.blogspot.com.

— BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER
Praise Tabernacle Members Enjoy Outdoor Family Life Day

Family Life Day had a new twist for the members of Praise Tabernacle Church in Whiteville, N.C. Family Life leaders Jessie and Portia Davidson thought out of the box, and created a Sabbath to “Experience God in Nature.”

Sabbath School was held as usual, but it was unique. Every member met together and families were grouped together. If there was a member who didn’t have a family present, they joined or were adopted into a family for the day. A written Bible quiz was passed out to each family, and time was given to complete the items as a family. The Bible verse answers told of things that were a part of God’s nature. Who would’ve guessed that “spider web” was in the Bible?

After Sabbath School time, the entire congregation, who had come casually dressed for the day, carpooled to Lake Waccamaw National Park — an idyllic area complete with trails, lake access, beautiful foliage, and wonderful weather. Families were given maps of the trails, and time was spent in finding those items that were discussed in the Bible text during Sabbath School. Picnic lunches brought by the families supplied the afternoon meal, and visitors and members alike had plenty to eat as families shared their food.

One particular visitor was so impressed by the congregational closeness and love that he promised to bring his family back. He was one of the nurses who cared for a previous patriarch at Praise Tabernacle, Smith J. Mills Sr., more than 17 years ago during a terminal illness, and was happy to see his surviving widow, Bettye Mills, who greeted him with thankfulness and open arms.

After lunch, the children were excited to get a visit from the Park Ranger who gave a nature lecture on reptiles. Real specimens of an alligator and snakes added to the interest and appeal of the lecture as smiles and tentative touching of the reptiles were done by the children.

Taking advantage of the whole Sabbath — discussions, interactions, trail walking and just sitting in nature — rounded out the Sabbath hours.

Jesse Davidson, family life co-leader, did Vespers after a rousing round of songs by the energetic worshippers. “Side by Side We Stand” was the closing song as the shadows fell over the park, and the memories formed of what a Sabbath in nature combined with church family love can be.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.

Ephesus Church Holds Revelation Seminar

God’s message came alive as Godwin Mitchell Jr., presented the Revelation Seminar message to the members and visitors of Ephesus Church in Winston-Salem, N.C.

Lives were touched, and many souls were saved. Visitors gave testimonies of how the Revelation Seminar enhanced their lives. “The key thing to me now is being obedient to God, regardless of how I was brought up,” said Tonya Pemberton. Pemberton indicated that she had always worshiped on Sunday, but she was enlightened that Saturday, the Sabbath, is the right day. “I have always lived as a Christian and carried myself in a good manner. I was really amazed about the information given,” she stated.

Sisters Lila and Kathy Bailey attended the seminar faithfully, expressing that they “didn’t want to miss out on anything.” At the end of the Revelation Seminar, Kathy Bailey was convinced that she needed to be baptized, and wasted no time getting herself prepared with God and arranging to be baptized. “Now I know the truth, and I really want to do what is right,” said Bailey. She was baptized, and went back to Philadelphia where she resides. She is now a member the South West Church in Philadelphia, Pa.

—BY E. JEAN PITTS
Defuniak Springs Hold Special Communion

When the Defuniak Springs, Fla., Church members scheduled their communion for a Friday evening, they had no idea what a blessing it would be. The first part of the service followed a normal routine, which included a short sermon, followed by the service of humility, and then partaking of the bread and juice. After a heart-touching story centered around the theme, “The Way of the Cross,” the members were asked to stand on paper that had been unrolled and completely covered the center aisle; a long stemmed rose was handed to each participant. When everyone had a rose they were reminded that Jesus was the Rose of Sharon as a passage in Isaiah 53 was read.

Members were then told to drop their roses on the papered floor and stomp on them. One member said, “It was a hard thing to do, and then the connection began to sink in. It was my sin that crushed Jesus. It was my sin that broke Him apart and hung Him on a cross.”

After prayer, members left quietly, and were asked to place their name on slips of paper using red watercolor markers which they tacked on a six-foot cross that stood outside. The next morning the participants noticed that the dew had permeated the paper on the cross, and their names written in red watercolor had begun to run. It looked as if they were written in blood that was dripping. “It was our sins that put Him on the cross, but it was His blood that saved us,” declared many.

“We’ve now decided that this communion service is the best we’ve ever experienced,” explained Martin Fancher, pastor.

—BY MARTIN FANCHER

Auburn-Opelika Members Journey Through Bible Prophecy

Five individuals who made their decisions to follow Christ were baptized on December 8, 2012, at the Auburn-Opelika Metro Church, Opelika, Ala. Beginning October 26, 2012, the members invited the community to go on an eight-week journey through Bible prophecy, under the direction of Paul Kulakov, pastor. The subject for the first night was “What Does the Future Hold,” and the series ended on December 1 with the subject, “The Best is Yet to Come.” Kulakov made a few promises that during the nightly seminars, the Bible would be the only textbook, and everyone would be blessed, challenged, and encouraged as they attended.

The members joined together to help. A health program was conducted by Benson and Victoria Akingbemi. Special music was presented by various members and children’s groups. One member said, “The Holy Spirit was amidst us each evening and we could see God’s blessings in the hearts of those attending.”

Special books The Desire of Ages and Steps to Christ, along with other reading materials, were given each evening, and those who attended 12 nights were given a Bible along with copies of the nightly lessons for each one to take home for further study. Kulakov is continuing further studies with others who attended.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA
New Pastors Dedicated to Pastoral Ministry

Both-Montgomery, Ala., First Church and Columbia, Hattiesburg, and Laurel, Miss., church district have new pastoral couples. On January 12 Samuel and Amber Riemersma were welcomed to the Montgomery Church, and a few weeks later Columbia, Hattiesburg, and Laurel, Miss., churches welcomed Shane and Amy Hochstetler, and baby, Henry. Riemersma and Hochstetler were both ordained in their churches as local elders and dedicated to the special work of pastor by Mel Eisele, president of Gulf States Conference.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Literature Evangelist Shares His Experience

At the end of January, David Sigamani, publishing director for the Gulf States Conference, reported a more than 300 percent increase in literature evangelists’ sales over the previous January. A part of this increase has been the recruitment of several new workers. One of those workers is Stacy Banks, who works in the Birmingham, Ala., area.

In 2003 Banks moved with his family to Alabaster, Ala., as a result of a job transfer. “Never did I imagine this move would be a transitional point that would forever change our lives,” says Banks.

Banks had been studying the Bible and became convinced that Saturday, not Sunday, was the biblical Sabbath. He began looking for a church congregation that worshiped on Saturday. After much searching, Banks found a Seventh-day Adventist church, and with his family he began attending. He says, “I was impressed by the wisdom of the elder who was conducting the Sabbath School study, and how he expounded upon the Scriptures and compared Scripture with Scripture.”

Not long afterward, Banks was aroused by his 100-pound pit-bull/boxer mix, Buddy, barking. Buddy never allowed strangers to enter the Banks’ yard, so Banks was surprised when he opened the door and a young man about 15 years old stood there. Banks exclaimed, “Young man, do you know that my dog may have attacked you for entering our property?” The young man answered, “Oh, I am not afraid.” His calm demeanor and boldness contrasted to his small stature amazed Banks so much. He allowed the young man to show and sell him a set of Bible Story books. “The Lord confirmed His will by sending His faithful messenger shortly after we attended the Adventist church. Those books served as a daily devotional for my family for many years,” he said.

Since becoming a literature evangelist, Banks has heard that people always remember the person who sold them the books. “I know this to be true because I will never forget the countenance of the young man who presented the books to me more than eight years ago. It is now abundantly clear that the Spirit of the Lord was upon this young man, and holy angels were at his side, confounding my faithful guard dog. Never would I have imagined years later that I would be going door-to-door sharing the Gospel and Bible Story books with families. The young man must be around 23 years old today, but I will never forget my first experience with a literature evangelist,” Banks concludes.

—BY REBECCA GRICE
It is funny how God puts you where He wants you to be at just the right time. That's exactly what happened this past Christmas season.

The students from Madison Academy were out serving the community in various locations in and around Nashville. Two of the locations were a men’s homeless shelter and a women’s facility. Somehow there was a mix-up, and the students were told to go to the women’s facility when they were actually scheduled to go to the men’s shelter.

When they arrived at the women’s facility, there was mass confusion; they had brought an extra 10 students that they were not prepared for, and the men’s campus across town was 10 volunteers short. There was not enough time to drive across town and be able to help at the men’s shelter before the lunch rush. So, the students stayed, and they were gracious enough to find jobs for each of them.

A woman in her 20s walked in with tired eyes, tired feet, and a tired soul. She was pushing a double stroller with three children, all under 26 months, jammed into the stroller. She got in line, got two plates, took them back for the twins, Jayden and Jordan, and got them started on their meal. Then she got another plate for herself, and in between bites helped her seven-month-old son, Dillon, eat his finger food and drink his bottle. It was obvious that our collective hearts were going out to this family. The world had worn her down, and we just wanted to be a blessing to her in some way.

I went over and sat down next to her and started talking with her. She told me about her children and a little about her story. Her name is Rochelle, and they lived in the shelter, had no privacy, and could only stay there for a limited time. She told me about her husband, Brian, who lived at the shelter across town, and could only see his family a couple of times a week because he couldn’t afford bus fare every day, and was busy selling papers on the corner to help support his family. He used the money he made to buy diapers and formula for the baby. Her greatest hope was to be able to move into the “projects” across the street from the shelter, so the whole family could be together.

I thought about Christmas, and the fact that they would spend it in a shelter with no money to buy gifts for the children. The students and I got a contact number, we said our goodbyes, and started to hatch our plan. The students got back to school and spread the word about the family. We formed a list of needs and things they might want for Christmas, and sent them out to the students and their families. The response was overwhelming! Presents were piled under the Christmas tree in the chapel. More than $1,000 and gift cards came in. The students decorated the chapel, and set up a table filled with food and goodies. They were going to give this family the greatest Christmas party they had ever experienced.

They came in that night, eyes wide open. The children had never seen anything like it. Wrapping paper was being torn off of gifts with reckless abandon. Dillon was being passed around like a brand new doll in the doting arms of one student to another. Pure joy was echoing out of the chapel that evening! Brian was so overwhelmed by emotion that he broke down in the middle of the celebration. He told me later that he had never experienced such love by strangers in his entire life. He had been to many churches and church-related events, but the love of the Madison Academy students blew everything he had ever experienced away.

I can’t help but think that we are a lot like Brian and Rochelle. We are broken, tired, and hurting. We are constantly looking for a “better way.” Jesus is preparing the greatest celebration for us right now! I can’t wait to experience that love face to face, and be held in my Father’s doting arms.

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON, MADISON ACADEMY CHAPLAIN
Conference Welcomes New Education Superintendent

On January 9, 2013, the mantle was passed from Larry Boughman, Ph.D., who has served the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference for 13 years as education superintendent, to Chris Juhl, Louisville Adventist Academy (LAA) principal. The Education Department is excited to have Juhl as the new superintendent. With his new role, he will also continue to be principal at LAA until the end of this school year.

Besides being a principal, teacher, and coach, Juhl has been an exceptional leader in the Conference. The first school he was assigned to as principal/teacher was a school that was slowly losing students. With his hard work, dedication, recruiting skills, and love for Adventist education, enrollment almost doubled the following year. He started a five-day hot lunch program, music lessons, P.E. uniforms, and an organized athletic program. Again, his ability to grow a school was evident when he became principal at Louisville Jr. Academy. Under his leadership, the school with 35 students went from grades 1-8 to a thriving K-12 school with 80 students. Because of this growth, a building was added for 11th and 12th grades, and the name changed to Louisville Adventist Academy. Juhl also started a sports program at LAA. This program is more than just fun. It is an opportunity for ministry and outreach in the community.

Because he is a gifted writer and loves literature, Juhl has authored literacy units for grades 5 through 8 for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. These literacy units have gained popularity, and are being used as the reading curriculum by a number of conferences throughout the North American Division.

Quality teachers are the heartbeat of great schools. The Alumni Awards Foundation honors excellent Adventist teachers who have brought untiring dedication and talent to their classrooms. Last year, Juhl was one of 10 teachers across North America to be selected to receive the Alumni Awards Foundation Excellence in Teaching Award.

Juhl graduated from Washington Adventist University (formerly CUC) with a B.A. in English and teaching certifications in religion and history. He holds an M.A. in English from East Tennessee State University. He began his teaching career 26 years ago, and has taught everything from kindergarten to college. He has also taught in Georgia-Cumberland, Florida, and Indiana conferences.

He is married to Regan Juhl, who is presently the school secretary at LAA. The Juhls have five children, including twin daughters who attend Highland Academy.

This is an exciting time to be a part of the education team in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, as Juhl takes the leadership role in helping the schools grow and be the best they can be.

—BY PAM WILLIAMS, ASSOCIATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION
South Central News

South Central Team Assist in Hurricane Sandy Recovery

FEMA and the North American Division (NAD) Adventist Community Services (ACS) Disaster Response requested South Central Conference (SCC) Adventist Community Services Disaster Response to deploy to New Jersey a “strike team” for recovery efforts following Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy, the largest Atlantic tropical system on record made landfall on October 29, 2012, along the northeastern seaboard.

SCC assembled the strike team from among the hundreds of trained ACS volunteers within the Conference. There is on-going disaster response training throughout SCC. Federations within the Conference are encouraged to have first-response teams that are able to respond to disasters. FEMA and other courses that will enhance the effectiveness of all teams involvement in disaster recovery are encouraged.

A strike team is a highly specialized team that travels by invitation to areas outside of the Conference to manage goods in warehouses, distribution, and/or collection sites.

The travel invitation came from FEMA and NAD to assist the New Jersey Conference and the state of New Jersey to manage the donated goods that were sent for the survivors.

The SCC strike team arrived in Robbinsville, N.J., on November 30, 2012, to assist in the Hurricane Sandy recovery effort. While on site, the strike team trained other ACS volunteers to continue the management of the facility once their deployment was over, keeping in mind that all disasters begin locally and end locally.

The team consisted of team leader Lillie Buckingham, Betty Lee, Veronica Edwards-Johnson, Willie Bridges, Wayne Blanding, and Pearl McGinnis. This is not the first time a strike team from South Central has received an invitation for deployment to a disaster operation outside of its territory. Teams have been deployed for the 911 attack in New York City, the Iowa flood, and the 2012 Indiana killer tornadoes.

The team returned home prior to the Christmas holiday.

—BY LILLIE BUCKINGHAM AND BARBARA BARNES, ACS CO-DIRECTORS

Bethany Members Hold Community Relations Day

Community Relations Day is an annual event at Bethany Church. It is community connection with family, friends, and community leaders. On October 13, 2012, the theme was “Extending our Walk With Jesus.” As the members grow personally in Jesus, it is with joy to extend this valuable knowledge of His love and the hope of His soon coming to a dying world.

Jeffery L. Watson, pastor, and members invited many to a wonderful day of fellowship. The 2012 Community Services Award recipients were William Abernathy Jr., M.D., (retired); Edward Nettles Sr., pastor (“ Enough is Enough”); Bryant Kelly; and Kevin King (Common Ground Montgomery Ministry). The afternoon concert featured the Alabama Boys, Bethany Gospel Choir, and other special guests.

During the years, Bethany has served as a beacon of light to many in need of spiritual, physical, and mental nurturing. The members sponsor a daycare program and a Christian academy to equip boys and girls for a productive life.

The outreach ministries include a community services center which operates in heeding Christ’s admonition to feed the hungry and clothe the naked. The outreach connections include ministering to inmates behind prison bars, nursing home ministry, evangelistic meetings, and senior adult ministries.

As God’s representatives and co-workers, the members are committed to extending the walk with Jesus and making known “the unsearchable riches of Christ.”

—BY DOROTHY SANDERS
Outreach Church Members Hold First Disability Awareness Day

And God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: …So God created man in his [own] image…And God saw everything that he had made, and, behold, [it was] very good,” Genesis 1:26-28, 31. These words were echoed at the first Disability Awareness Day (D.A.D.) on June 16, 2012, at Outreach Church in Opelika, Ala.

Sabbath School kicked off a series of events facilitated by Nettie Henderson, South Central Conference director of disabilities ministries. Henderson, through the Holy Spirit, was able to connect the lesson, “Let the Church Know,” to report witnessing efforts to the church members with regard to individual successes and challenges. She encouraged utilization of the initiative called “Friends of People with Disabilities,” where everyone would have an opportunity to support, become a friend of, be available for, and celebrate individuals with disabilities and special needs.

The panel of guests included the blind, orthopaedic impaired, visual impaired, those suffering from depression, and other forms of impairment. Each individual shared their personal testimony, and how through God’s mercy and grace they were able to overcome their challenges. They shared pain initiated by individuals who are unaware of the challenges experienced by people with special needs, or simply just insensitive to the needs of others.

Outreach members experienced an awesome character revival as a result of the Disabilities Awareness Day. They pondered, “Do we treat individuals with disabilities as silent members, or do we treat them with dignity and respect?” That is what D.A.D. is all about — teaching others to celebrate and embrace humanity. They came to the conclusion that all are created equal in God’s eyes, everyone has some form of disability, and Christ came to restore loveliness to a world ruined by sin.

Carlena Barker, disabilities ministries coordinator at Outreach Church, states, “With this awareness, Outreach included in its Awareness Sabbath a concert by Mary Grace, an inspirational pianist who has a special need.”

In the words of Antonio Holmes, “I do not see myself as a person with a disability. I just look to the Bible where God said that after He created everything, He looked at it and said, ‘It was good.’” Antonio Holmes was born with an orthopaedic impairment, but the works of God are manifest in him. God has given Holmes the talent of art. He was asked to paint a mural to hang over the baptismal pool at Outreach Church where James Norman is pastor.

—BY CARLENA BARKER
Wintley Phipps Sings During President Obama’s Inauguration Prayer Service

Wintley Phipps, pastor of Palm Bay, Fla., Church, performed during a prayer service at the National Cathedral during the inaugural festivities for President Barack Obama’s second term. Phipps has performed for United States presidents Jimmy Carter, Ronald Reagan, George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, and George W. Bush.

Phipps is also founder and chief executive officer of the Dream Academy, a nonprofit that provides educational assistance for some 18,000 at-risk children in 10 cities across the country. It focuses on the children of prisoners with the goal of “breaking the cycle.”

The 58-year-old ordained minister has produced 22 albums since 1984, and was nominated for Grammy Awards in 1988 and 1989. He has been interviewed on the Oprah Winfrey Show; appeared on Robert Schuller’s television program; and performed for Billy Graham Crusades, at Rosa Parks’ 77th birthday gala at the Kennedy Center, at the Vatican, and at the 1984 and 1988 Democratic National Conventions.

The Dream Academy raised $2.6 million in the most recent year of record, including nearly $900,000 from government grants, a million dollars from individual donations, and more than $600,000 from benefit concerts. Board members include a number of prominent Seventh-day Adventists, such as Admiral Barry Black, chaplain of the United States Senate; Ben Carson, M.D., a medical school faculty member at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Md.; Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala.; and David Williams, Ph.D., a faculty member at Harvard University.

Phipps was born in Trinidad and grew up in Montreal, Canada. He graduated from Oakwood University and completed a seminary degree at Andrews University.

—ADVENTIST NEWS NETWORK STAFF

President Barack Obama, his wife, Michelle, and Vice President Joe Biden applaud after Wintley Phipps’ performance at the National Cathedral.
Brent Waldon Appointed Conference Ministerial Director

On December 9, 2012, the Southeastern Conference Executive Committee appointed Brent Waldon to serve as Conference ministerial director, a post that was left vacant by the sudden death of Milton Sterling on October 11, 2012. Prior to this appointment, Waldon was serving as Conference stewardship and trust director, a post that he was appointed to during the Southeastern Session held May of 2012.

Waldon possesses a bachelor of arts degree in theology from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala.; and a master of ministry degree from the Andersonville Theological Seminary, Andersonville, Ga.

Waldon, who has served as an Adventist minister for more than 30 years, has pastored the following churches in Southeastern: Berean Church, Brunswick, Ga.; Daughter of Zion Church, Delray Beach, Fla.; Ebernezer Church, Dania, Fla.; Lebanon Church, Miami, Fla.; Mahanaim Church, Pahokee, Fla., Maranatha Church, WayCross, Ga.; Mt. Olivet Church, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.; Mt. Pisgah Church, Miami Gardens, Fla.; Mt. Sinai Church, Orlando, Fla.; and Trinity Temple Church, Belle Glade, Fla.

As ministerial director, Waldon will serve as the pastor’s pastor. He will also oversee the ministries of elders, deacons, and deaconesses.

One of his goals is to better equip the pastors of Southeastern to shepherd their flocks in this post-modern era.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

Grace Youth Power Initiative Produces Baptisms

Grace Youth Power (GYP) is a youth group that meets every Friday night at Grace Fellowship Church in Valdosta, Ga. More than 20 young people meet with Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship, and his wife, Kamala, from 7 to 8:30 p.m., simply to talk. Taylor guides the group’s discussion on various topics, but the purpose of the group is simply to provide a confidential and safe environment where the young people can talk about the things of life.

Several Friday nights ago, Johnathan Welch, a GYP member, brought his friend, Joel Anderson, to the group. Anderson enjoyed it so much that he visited Grace Fellowship that Saturday morning, prayer meeting that Wednesday night, and was back at GYP on Friday night.

Anderson kept coming to church, and on December 22, 2012, he became a member of Grace Fellowship Church through baptism. On that same day, Deandre Robinson was also baptized. Robinson has been visiting the church with his girlfriend, Lauren Dobson, for quite some time. Approximately two weeks before his baptism, out of the blue, he called Winston Taylor and asked him, “What must I do to be baptized.” The words from Acts 16 formed the pastor’s response — believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Robinson, having professed his belief in Jesus Christ, was baptized along with Joel Anderson.

—BY ANAKAYE FAGAN
Oakwood University Professor Receives Highest Certification from Human Resource Certification Institute

Prudence LaBeach Pollard, Ph.D., received certification on January 9, 2013, as a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR®) from the HR Certification Institute (HRCI).

Pollard who was previously certified as a Professional in Human Resources (PHR®) is professor of management in the School of Business, and assistant vice president for faculty development and research at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. Her areas of scholarship include leadership, human resource management, evaluation, and research design.

Pollard earned her Ph.D. in evaluation, measurement, and research design from Western Michigan University, and maintains an active research portfolio on executive leadership and on gender issues in compensation.

The HRCI, established in 1976, is an internationally recognized certifying organization for the human resource profession. Today, more than 120,000 HR professionals worldwide proudly maintain the HR Certification Institute’s credentials as a mark of high professional distinction. The HR Certification Institute is a global leader in developing rigorous exams to demonstrate mastery and real-world application of forward-thinking HR practices, policies, and principles.

The SPHR® certification is the highest certification available to HR professionals. The certification exam can be written by HR professionals with demonstrated professional HR experience who design and plan, rather than implements HR policy; focus on the “big picture”; have ultimate accountability in the HR department; typically have six to eight years of progressive and increasingly complicated HR experience; have breadth and depth of knowledge in all HR disciplines; use judgment gained with time and knowledge application; understand the business beyond the HR function; and influence the overall organization.

The three-hour exam covers six areas of human resource management: business management and strategy, workforce planning and employment, human resource development, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations, and risk management.

Pollard has authored a number of scholarly papers and recently published Raising Leaders, which is available in print and eBook format at www.amazon.com, www.adventistbookcenter.com, and through Oakwood University at www.ougiving.com.

Pollard is a 1995 and 2012 graduate of Leadership Huntsville, and is married to Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University.
**VeggieTales Creator Warns Students: Don’t Allow Dreams to Become Idols**

If you like to talk to tomatoes, and a squash can make you smile ... Southern Adventist University’s guest speaker Phil Vischer had a show for you!

The VeggieTales creator, and voice of numerous characters in the series, made a special visit to campus in January for several talks and meetings with students. During the morning convocation, Vischer spoke of how he worked tirelessly to create VeggieTales before losing everything in a bankruptcy court. His company was sold in a public auction, leaving Vischer to wonder why God would take away something He used for good. But once he stepped away from the situation for a while, the answer became clear.

“Dreams, even good dreams, can become idols if they become bigger than God,” Vischer told students. “The work I was doing for God was not as important to Him as the relationship I had with God.”

Later on in the day, Vischer stopped by the School of Visual Art and Design for a question-and-answer session that kept returning to a common theme: how to understand God’s will.

“The more you walk with God, the more the creative ideas coming out of your head will be in line with what God wants,” Vischer said. “Don’t focus on outcomes, focus on obedience.”

VeggieTales creator Phil Vischer spent the day at Southern speaking with students, including a question-and-answer session in the School of Visual Art and Design.

Vischer’s topic for the evening convocation was burdens. After bankruptcy forced him to take a sabbatical from the entertainment industry, Vischer found that he was able to continue doing spiritual work without the enormous strain and burnout previously endured. His new series, What’s in the Bible, is the product of that newfound energy.

After his last presentation, Vischer spent a gracious amount of time talking with the audience, doing the voices of Bob the Tomato and other characters for the “children” in attendance, and emphasizing one of VeggieTales’ biggest messages: “Remember kids, God made you special, and He loves you very much.”

—BY RAQUEL LEVY

**Southern “Intersects” with Community Through Massive Volunteer Effort**

For the last 20 years, the celebration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day at Southern has had an added significance as students and faculty go out into the greater Chattanooga, Tenn., community to give back. Event participation has grown each year, and 2013 was no exception as approximately 1,000 students and faculty volunteered at more than 40 sites on January 21. The University’s Christian Service Program and Student Association partnered with the United Way of Chattanooga’s Center for Nonprofits to coordinate the day’s activities.

Before students left campus to begin volunteering that morning, Savannah Maxwell, community service director for the Student Association, took the stage in Iles P.E. Center and gave a short worship that included a challenge to students and faculty.

“Jesus’ whole ministry was about intersection, and we have an opportunity to intersect with people today,” Savannah said.

This year each student organization was assigned a specific location, and the president of that club was designated as site leader. A variety of institutions were served, ranging from nursing homes to nature centers. Event planners anticipate organizations will make lasting connections with these sites and return on their own to volunteer more in the future.

—BY CHARLES CAMMACK
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INSPIRED BY HIS OWN RADIO PROGRAM,
MAKES AN ESTATE PLAN

Pastor Marshall Kelly is a chaplain, Bible teacher, and his resonant baritone voice is world-renowned. In addition, he carries on a world-wide radio ministry, “Think It Over.” The hour-long program features guests and topics of discussion encouraging listeners to improve their lives mentally, spiritually, and physically.

A regular feature on his radio program is Christian stewardship, especially the areas of wills, trusts, gift annuities, and other estate planning tools. These features made him realize the need to make proper planning. He and his wife, Jean Kelly, have taken legal steps to provide for their family and God’s closing work when they are afforded rest from their earthy labors.

Learn how you can provide for your family and God’s closing work by contacting your local Conference or University Trust Services Department today!

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PEACEFUL COMMUNITY – SDA church 1 mile. Private 3.3 wooded acres, 2 acres fenced. Setback from road, large fenced garden. 3 bed, 2 bath, carport, garage. 1607 sq living + 756 sq basement. As is. Owner price $109, Realtor price $116. Canyon Drive, Altmont TN. 615-624-0150. [3]

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SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks full-time nurse educators in the areas of mental health, community health or pediatrics. Master’s degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have some teaching experience and an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Contact Dr. Lenora Follett at 817-202-6670 or lenora.follett@swau.edu. [3-5]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a Director of Academic Support and Advising. Master’s degree in developmental learning or related field required; doctoral degree preferred. Contact Dr. Amy Rosenthal at 817-202-6212 or arosenthal@swau.edu. [3, 4]

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PHYSICIAN: MD/DO/Naturopath. NP/PA: Opportunity of a lifetime at Wildwood Lifestyle Center! Two physicians and one NP/PA needed to complete our medical team. Will train in lifestyle and natural therapies. Missionary positions available at the only SDA facility of its kind in the USA! E-mail Dr.Zeno@wildwoodhealth.org.  [3, 4]

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BON HERBALS IMMUNE AMMUNITION to boost your immune system. Okay to use with antibiotics. Also use Almost Sunshine vegan vitamin D daily. We carry vegetarian/vegan supplements, including arthritis relief products. Order online or by phone. Bon Herbs, PO Box 1038, Collegedale, TN 37315. 423-238-7467. www.bonherbals.com.  [3]


READ Lasting Relationship with God by Dr. Paul Gavaza and learn to intimately connect with Jesus and become an active participant in the development of your closeness with God. This book is available from your local ABC, Teacher Services at 800-248-8313 or contact us at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.  [3-12]

RELOCATING FROM ONE STATE TO ANOTHER? The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines can help! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 14 years, quality is inherent. Call the Clergy Move Center direct for a no cost or obligation estimate at 800-248-8313 or contact us at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.  [3-12]

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


COUNTRY LIVING FAMILY FUN! SEMINAR – For all ages. Hands-on practical classes; devotionals focus on Reviving the Heart; interesting and spiritually rejuvenating. April 7-14; June 30-July 7 (singles $370; family discounts available). Butler Creek Seminars, Iron City, TN. Contact Charene: 931-724-6706. See daily schedule: www.wildwoodhealthretreat.org.  [3]


THE WILDCREST LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression and many more. Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-0355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.  [3-5]

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners, and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit www.hopesources.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Your friends at Hamblin’s HOPE deliver on-time.  [3-6]

HAVE YOU WRITTEN a children’s book, life testimony, story of God’s love, or your spiritual ideas and would like them published? Contact TEACH SERVICES at 800-367-1844 Ext 3 or email publishing@teachservices.com, for a FREE manuscript review.  [3, 4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master’s degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-333-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatedegrees.  [3-5]

HIGHLAND ACADEMY, HIGHLAND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, HIGHLAND SDA CHURCH, & SIGNATURE HEALTHCARE are located approximately 35 miles north of Nashville away from the busyness of city life. All teachers are certified using cutting edge curriculum. Our national test scores are above the national average. Student employment abound at Signature’s 100 bed nursing home. Our church family is active and welcomes all. Come visit Highland: 615-325-3925.  [3]


Piedmont Community Services Federation – March 9. High Point.

Pathfinder Work Bee/Campout – March 15-17. NPR.


Elders’ Retreat – March 29, 30. NPR.

Church Planting/Growth Rally – April 6. Charlotte University Church.

Adventurer Fun Day – April 7. Nosoca.

Florida


Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
March 23. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.
March 24. Fort Lauderdale, Lauderdalehill. Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Pompano Beach, Jupiter-Tequesta.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics
April 6. Apopka.

New Beginnings Health Revival Week – March 24-31. North Miami Church. Details: tnobrega@bellsouth.net or 786-344-3155.


Georgia-Cumberland

GCA Days – March 15, 16. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.

God in Shoes – March 15. Chattsworth, GA.


“Invitation” LifeGroups Training – March 16. Sharpsburg, GA.

Pathfinder Drill Event – March 17. Lee Univ. Cleveland, TN.

Sustainable Preparedness Seminar – March 18, 19. Johnson City, TN.


Youth Young Adult Festival – March 23. NW GA Trade & Convention Center, Dalton, GA.

Health Rally – March 23. Rogersville, GA.

Atlanta Metro Church 40th Homecoming Anniversary – March 29. The weekend will start Friday evening with a music program by Metro musicians and speaker Jon Green at 6:45 p.m. Sabbath, March 30, the speaker is Ed Wright, GCC president, and Chris Montrose, pastor, will lead a rededication service. Former members and friends are especially invited. Details: Keith Ruybalid, 404-289-6540.


Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries
March 30. Savannah Church, Pooler, GA.
April 6. Algood Church, Cookeville, TN.

South GA Camp Meeting – April 5, 6. Macon, GA.


Gulf States

BMA Board/Board of Education – March 5.

Cross Examination – March 16, 17. Huntsville, AL.

Outdoor School – April 8-11. Camp Alamisco.

Executive Committee-Budget Analysis/Statistics – April 9.

Spring Motorcycle Ride – April 13, 14.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 8, 9.


Louisville Festival of Faith – March 15, 16.


Prayer Conference – April 12-14.

Pastors/Elders’ Retreat – April 19-21.

Board of Education – April 25.

South Central

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Institute – March 6-10. Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL. Details or to register: 615-226-6500, x143.


Southern Adventist University

Symphony Orchestra Concert – March 17. Collegeade Church. Concert is free and open to public. Details: 423-236-2880.

PreviewSouthern – March 21, 22. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. Details: 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Events Calendar

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