TWO VICTORIES IN Historic Charleston

November 2013
In the presence of economic upheaval that dominates national and personal agendas, one cannot help experiencing a strange melancholy sweeping widely in its scope of influence. We feel the urge to succumb to a fearful or pessimistic view of life’s possibilities, fueled by nervousness surrounding financial decisions by our federal government. Much of the mania we see around us threatens to erode our belief in a Supreme Being who is in charge of everything. In a sense, the frightening times in which we live are eroding the God factor in our lives.

However, when we look at the situation from God’s perspective, there is joy because God stood out on nothingness and spoke humanity into existence more than 6,000 years ago. Can you see the excitement of God as He established our first parents in a beautiful home with the autonomy to choose to do His will or their own? Can you feel the eagerness of God to bring relief to the only creation of His that has fallen?

The unknown should not heighten our pessimism or fear. It offers us a new window of opportunity for hope and faith en route to eternity. Because we are facing life during and after a partial government shutdown, we are afforded an even greater platform to put some important things into perspective. We are now one challenge closer to the return of Jesus.

As we look around us, it is obvious that this world cannot continue. Its rising population is outstripping the earth’s food supply. The World Food Council of the United Nations declares that 40,000 children die of hunger-related diseases each year. Somewhere on our planet, four children will die of hunger before you finish reading this editorial. More than 12 million people around the world go to bed hungry every night. Mass starvation appears to be on the horizon because of overpopulation. We are depleting the ozone layer at an enormous clip. Disasters by land and sea signal that Matthew 24 is being fulfilled.

Jesus is coming soon.

The threat of widespread economic ruin is not meant to be a downer. It is a plaintive wail urging men and women to make their calling and election sure – now. The presence of societal ills may prompt some to succumb to fear and paranoia. A skeptical view of life after losing a job or a home tempts us to distrust God's ability to efficiently orchestrate time and eternity. If allowed to germinate and grow, such distrust in God will magnify our fear and drive us further from Him and our fellow men. Under the weight of our skepticism, God's sovereignty, which is designed to protect us and give us assurance, gives way to an endless cycle of insecurity, confusion, and rebellion. It is God’s intention that the promise of “the day of the Lord” be our most consuming preoccupation.

There is a promise in the Scriptures that offers much comfort during these times that try men's souls. It enters the lexicon of our consciousness by way of one familiar with life-sapping anxieties. “He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High,” wrote the psalmist David, “will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God in whom I trust,’ ” Psalm 91:1, 2. What an assurance!

Scarcely does one passage of Scripture outdo another, but in this case I think God may have one-upped David. He gave this assurance to the apostle John as he sat helpless on the island of Patmos: “Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be,” Revelation 22:12, KJV.

No matter what impending disaster looms, don't be afraid. Talk to God.
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Cover Caption: Elizabeth Talbot (left), speaker at Jesus 101 Institute; Wanda Davis, senior staff chaplain of Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida; and Cheryl Retzer, recently retired director of shepherdess and Southern Union women’s ministries advisor; were speakers during the Southern Union Women’s Ministries Conference, September 5-8, 2013.
“Charleston for Christ” started it all. Two awesome and incredible opportunities were planned for North Charleston, South Carolina, during the months of August and September 2013. The plans included an evangelistic meeting, “Charleston for Christ”; and the Second Southern Union Women’s Conference, sponsored by the Southern Union Conference Department of Women’s Ministries in collaboration with the administrators and women’s ministries directors of the various conferences.

Evangelist Nicolle Brisé, women’s ministries director for Southeastern Conference, Mt. Dora, Florida, accepted the challenge to proclaim the “Good News” of the Gospel nightly, August 17-31, 2013, to the residents of Charleston. The first of the two victories occurred during the evangelistic meeting when 32 men, women, boys, and girls accepted Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and became baptized.

Nearly 1,100 women from around the Southern Union and beyond attended the Southern Union Women’s Ministries Conference in Charleston, South Carolina, September 5-8, 2013.

These women were on one of several busloads of women who participated in the God in Shoes Outreach.
members into the family of God. The “Charleston for Christ” evangelistic meeting was the prelude to the second anticipated victory, the Southern Union Women’s Conference of 2013. There was great joy and rejoicing on Friday evening during the women’s conference when the attendees were introduced to the newly baptized members in the spiritual family of the Southern Union.

Following the great evangelistic victory, the stage was set for the second victory to be experienced. The Southern Union Women’s Conference convened September 5-8, 2013, when nearly 1,100 women from across the Great Southern Union and beyond were together four days for a worship experience that included praise, prayers, inspiring music, an indepth study of God’s Word, a community outreach, and, of course, fellowship. The words of the song, “They Came From the East and West … They came from the North and South,” very well describe the attendance.

The theme for the gathering, “One Voice, One Vision, Reaching UP, OUT, ACROSS,” encapsulated the entire Conference. The vertical reach was realized through the messages of the speakers and seminar presenters. The horizontal reach touched the lives of hundreds of women in the city of North Charleston and surrounding cities as more than 230 women and collegiate young women reached out to impact the lives of the women in a positive way. The music, the prayers, the seminars, the messages, and the “God in Shoes” community outreach all worked together in the fulfillment of the theme and goals for the Conference.

After two years of preparation, registration, and anticipation, the planning team, as well as the participants, were all filled with wonder, excitement, and expectation as attendees arrived via large chartered busses, cars, and SUVs and many by air travel. The excitement continued to mount as the women got settled in their hotel suites, went to the registration desk, and received their name tags and conference materials in a beautiful lime green tote bag imprinted with a picture of a Southern magnolia blossom. Sheryal Vandenberghe and her team from Florida handled the registration with expertise as they greeted each lady with a warm welcome.

The exhibit hall was a flurry of activity as exhibitors and the Carolina Adventist Book Center introduced new and different ministry materials, books, and personal items for attendees to purchase.

The opening session of the conference began on a high spiritual note. Laura Smith, director, Southern Union Department of Women’s Ministries, greeted and welcomed attendees to beautiful and historic Charleston, S.C. She introduced the members of the Southern Union Women’s Ministries Executive Planning Committee: Yolanda Smith, advisor to the Department of Women’s Ministries; Bonnie Davidson, assistant advisor; and the eight conference directors of women’s ministries — Debbie Rapp, Carolina; Sheryal Vandenberghe, Florida; Mary Jo Dubs, Georgia-Cumberland; April Hobbs, Gulf States; Gail McKenzie, Kentucky-Tennessee; Sylvia Wilson, South Atlantic; Shirley Scott, South Central; and Nicolle Brise’, Southeastern. She also welcomed and introduced Carla Baker, director of women’s ministries, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists.

The eight flags that represent the states that comprise the territory of the Southern Union Conference of were posted along with the flag of the United States of America and the Christian flag.

The Southern Union Conference administrators, Ron C. Smith, D.Min.,
Ph.D., president; Jim Davidson, executive secretary; and Randy Robinson, treasurer; supported the Women’s Conference by their presence. Each administrator greeted the attendees in his own unique way. Ron Smith also supported the Conference by attending most of the general sessions.

Rhonda Jerome, Mayor Pro-tem, North Charleston, welcomed and greeted attendees warmly on behalf of Mayor Keith Summey. She shared information about her fair city and invited attendees to visit some of the interesting sites.

One highlight of the Conference was when Ron and Yolanda Smith surprised Laura Smith with a beautiful bouquet of 25 long-stemmed roses in recognition of her 25 consecutive years of service to the women within the Southern Union territory. Her service to women of the Adventist Church began in 1988 when she was appointed by the late President Charles E. Dudley as the women’s commissioner for the South Central Conference.

Further connecting the attendees with the Savior were the guest musicians, all who played a vital part in the connection. Musician for the Conference was Gale Murphy, pianist and composer of the Conference theme song, “Making a Difference.” Vocalists for the worship experiences were Jennifer LaMountain, Heather Darnell, Deandra Griffith, Raiza Fernandez, Gissela Kroll, Hannah Walker Darnell, Deadra Griffith, Raiza Fernandez, and guest artist Ashaala Shanee Jenkins.

Guest instrumentalists for the weekend included Judy Bailey, Alicia Crabtree, and Heather Darnell. Coupled with the mesmerizing messages from the speakers, worship was an over-the-top experience.

The message for the opening session was presented by Wanda Davis, senior staff chaplain of Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida, who by her message set the tone for the entire Conference. In her message, “My Name is Victory,” she brought front and center the idea that God is already on our side; we are already victorious. She interspersed the lyrics of the song “My Name is Victory” throughout her message, with audience participation. At the conclusion of her message, the audience was lifted higher by the appeal song which was sung by Deandra Griffith.

Friday morning started with great anticipation, and what a start attendees received as Cheryl Retzer, recently retired director of shepherdess and Southern Union women’s ministries advisor, provided motivation for the start of the day. Afterwards, participants headed in different directions. Some boarded busses to participate in the God in Shoes community outreach led by Mary Jo Dubs, others attended the special Prayer Intensive, and others attended the seminar of their choice.

The seminars, which were repeated during the day and on Sabbath, included the following:

- (English) Enhancing Your Personal Bible Study, by Gail McKenzie
- (Spanish) Enhancing Your Personal Bible Study, by Raiza Fernandez
- Exploring the Leader in You, by Prudence Pollard, Ph.D.
- Facing Life’s Challenges, by Katia Reinert
- Spirituality and Finances, by Doris Gothard
- “Frank Talk” on Men, by Frank Bailey

Hundreds of prayer warriors chose to participate in the Prayer Intensive which was led by Shirley Scott. The topic and focus was “The Power of Crying Out: When Prayer Becomes Mighty.”

Topics and presenters for the various hours:

- The Power of Crying Out to God, by Doris Gothard
- The Power of Crying Out for Others, by Janice Carter
- The Power of Crying Out for Deliverance, by Barbara J. Walker
- The Power of Crying Out for Our Children, by Clementine Collins
- The Power of Crying Out for Healing, by Dorothy Jones

Other dynamic speakers for the next four general sessions included Rebecca Davis, Carla Baker, and Elizabeth Talbot.

Elizabeth Harrison, women’s ministries leader, Bethany Church, Montgomery, Alabama, summarized the powerful messages presented by the speakers: “The overarching message God used His women speakers to communicate was that He takes our baggage, in the way of setbacks, rejection, pain, loss, and abuse, to ultimately equip us for our divine appointment. Using the examples of Esther and Joseph, God’s Word was
made clear through the speakers.
They emphasized that His plans for us are often greater than we can think or imagine, and that the difficulties that we experience work to prepare us for the work He has planned for us to accomplish through the power of HIS Holy Spirit."

New to the Women’s Conference was the addition of the Collegiate D.I.V.A.S (Divinely Inspired Victorious And Serving) young women’s track. The collegiate young women experienced a well-planned program with activities that included an evening reception with the theme “Diamonds Are Forever,” their own special seminar sessions, and the opportunity to participate in the general sessions.

Sixty-two college students from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tennessee, and several other universities within the Southern Union territory came together to worship, study, and fellowship together. The collegiate track afforded opportunities for students to participate in a life-changing community outreach activity; attend seminars designed especially for them; engage in indepth Bible study and group discussions; and enjoy great food, fun, and fellowship. The students were awed by their seminar presenters.

Frank Bailey’s seminar was titled “Frank Talk” on Men. “Healthy Relationships” was a topic explored by Sabrina Etienne. Shelley LeBlanc challenged the students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus. Her topic was “Not Your Parents’ Faith.” And, Prudence Pollard, Ph.D., vice president for faculty development and research, and professor of management in the School of Business at Oakwood University, presented “Exploring the Leader in You.” The collegiate program was coordinated by Sonia Paul, Kimberly Pearson, and Linda Anderson.

The theme for the Saturday evening banquet was “A Southern Flair.” The table decorations of southern magnolia blossoms and decorative bird houses supported the theme. The attendees embraced their Southern heritage by wearing beautiful stylish hats. Gale Murphy electrified the audience with her charisma her humor. A Native American Blanket Ceremony added a special touch to the banquet. Bob Burnette, Southern Union Native American ministries director, and Sheila Burnette, Southern Union Native American ministries coordinator, honored the following women’s ministries directors for their leadership in ministering to Native American women by wrapping each woman in a beautiful, authentic Native American blanket: Mary Jo Dub, Debbie Rapp, Gail McKenzie, and Laura Smith.

They also honored two of the guest musicians for the Conference: Jennifer LaMountain, vocalist, and Merrilynn Braman, flutist. The ceremony ended with authentic Native American musical selections by Merrilynn Braman.

Sabbath evening continued to focus on commitment and worship. A youth group from Brandon Church in Brandon, Florida, adopted the acronym W.H.A.M. (We Have A Mission). W.H.A.M presented the biblical story of Esther for the Sabbath evening Vesper service. The diversity in their approach to drama, the spoken Word, music, and interpretive signing conveyed the message that moved the audience to tears and concluded with a standing ovation. As the Conference drew to a close on Sunday morning, Elizabeth Talbot inspired, encouraged, and challenged attendees through an indepth study of Joseph’s life experiences and the “robes” that he wore. She concluded the sermon with the assurance that the blood of Jesus can and will cover each stage of our spiritual growth and the robes that we are called to wear.

The Conference ended with a powerful anointing ceremony led by Gail McKenzie, in which participants prayed together and anointed each other. The women departed charged and determined to live “One Voice and One Vision — Reaching UP, OUT, ACROSS.”

Thirty-eight new individuals were baptized during a city-wide evangelistic meeting conducted in Charleston, South Carolina, by Nicole Brisé, Southeastern Conference women’s ministries director, prior to the Women’s Ministries Conference.
Eight years ago, Cheeko Cotta, then Florida Conference Pathfinder director, challenged a Pathfinder Administrative Council subcommittee to design a new shoulder patch for the Pathfinder uniform. Little did anyone know to what heights this project would reach.

The Uniform Committee invited all Florida Conference Pathfinder clubs to submit ideas, drawings, and suggestions for the new patch. Within a short time, 34 designs were in hand, and the clear-cut winner was among them.

The original sketch, submitted by long-time Florida Pathfinder Iris Hillmon, was fine-tuned 15 times before God revealed His will for the final draft. In keeping with Florida Pathfinder tradition, the patch would have a caption. Considering 36 written ideas, committee members Eric Stillwell and Melvin Liwag met one evening to make a final decision.

While the two were in prayer, Liwag felt impressed to open his Pathfinder Bible. There in front of him were the words, “To All the World In This Generation.” They would look no further. This phrase on a simple patch would soon witness for the Lord around the world!

Thinking of ways to expand this witnessing project beyond the borders of Florida, Stillwell and Liwag decided to try having the new patch flown aboard a Space Shuttle mission, thus fulfilling the commission caption of “To All the World.” The request was eventually approved by the Johnson Space Center, only to be rescinded several days later due to the religious foundation of the patch.

A letter was then written to each astronaut of the 12 remaining missions, requesting them to carry the patch into orbit. Only negative responses returned. When the last three missions were announced, the likelihood of the patch being included on a Shuttle flight was not positive. But, with God, all things are possible!

On May 29, 2011, Eric Stillwell, Uniform Committee chairperson, was overjoyed to receive an envelope containing the Pathfinder patch and a Certificate of Authenticity from Astronaut Nicole Stott, who carried the patch aboard STS-133 — the final mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery. The certificate read:

This patch was flown for Florida Pathfinders on the final mission of the Space Shuttle Discovery, STS-133. From her first launch, August 30, 1984, until her final landing on March 9, 2011, Discovery has proudly flown over 148 million miles in 39 missions and logged a total of 365 days in orbit, the longest of any spaceship in history.

STS-133 total mission duration: 12 days, 19 hours, 3 minutes, 53 seconds, with 202 orbits around our beautiful planet and a total distance traveled of 5,304,140 miles.

No matter how impossible obstacles seem or how high goals are set, there is nothing God can’t do. Just keep believing in Him. God is out of this world!
In 2008 Leigh Pritchett was a young mother from Leslie, Georgia, who was interested in raising her children for God. A member of the Albany, Georgia, Community Church, she had a heart for homeschooling and started looking for resources that would help her in that mission. New to Facebook, and finding no Facebook group for Adventist homeschoolers, she decided to start one herself. It was a group that began small, but has grown rapidly. There are now more than 1,000 Seventh-day Adventist families — approximately 75 from the Southern Union, and 10 in Georgia-Cumberland Conference — networked in the Facebook group she began and hosts.

“I wanted a group where Adventist home educators could discuss curriculum, share in the daily challenges and joys of homeschooling, and network with like-minded people,” says Pritchett. The SDA Homeschool Families (search for “SDA Homeschool Moms” on Facebook) group has connected families from within the Conference and Southern Union, but also from many countries around the world.

Mothers and fathers from the United States, Australia, France, Canada, Mexico, Mongolia, Kyrgyzstan, and many other countries all network together via the Internet in the common task of homeschooling Adventist children.

Group members demonstrate why homeschooling in the Adventist population continues to grow and thrive.

“Homeschooling can be a lonely world for parents because you haven’t chosen the most traveled and accepted path for your child. Finding the Adventist homeschool group on Facebook has helped me feel like part of a large Adventist family — one so diverse it embraces everything from classical education to school-in-a-box to unschooling. And, for the first time in our homeschooling adventure, I feel genuinely a part of Adventist education,” says Sheila Elwin from Pine Lake, Georgia.

Michelle Matlock, a parent from Owosso, Michigan, believes that through homeschooling she can bless her children with values, morals, and wisdom as they mature in their relationship with Christ. Additionally, Barbara Frohne, a mother from Walla Walla, Washington, hopes to give her children more than just the basics. Her goal is to help them pursue interests in other areas and to take advantage of opportunities for the individualized instruction that homeschooling allows. Many in the group express the belief that, while not for every family, for them home education is the best way to teach their children about God and help them in the formation of godly characters.

Adventist homeschoolers find themselves in a niche group, sometimes feeling separate from other Christian homeschool support groups, and from the parents of children who attend parochial schools. The online forum gives Adventist homeschool parents a place to share ideas and concerns unique to them as home educators.

Christine Kabush of Marsing, Idaho, notes that this group has been the first where she has been able to discuss and find support for homeschooling from non-familial Seventh-day Adventist sources. She says that it has been refreshing to find that her homeschool family is far less alone than they’d thought.

Group member Evelyn Yaeggy from Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, expressed that the social network has helped her to build confidence in herself as her children’s teacher. It has allowed her to take a glance into the homes of others, and it gives her a sense of normalcy when she looks back into her own home.

Wendy Smith from Walla Walla, Washington, says that although group conversation runs the gamut from requests for help to the sharing of enthusiastic projects and ideas, the overall tone is positive.

The members of the group know they are educating their children for now and for eternity. That common purpose is a uniting factor, and it makes a difference when parents are all facing the same direction — even when their feet are planted in different soil.

L. Lehmann is a former homeschooling mom and is a member of SDA Homeschool Families. Look for the page at https://www.facebook.com/groups/sdahomeschoolfamilies/.

Taking the classroom outdoors is made even better when you can experience wildlife up close and personal. Micah Jasionowski, son of Sheila Elwin of Atlanta North Church, Atlanta, Georgia, was surrounded by cownose stingrays at St. Pete Beach in September. He’d read about them online earlier in the day, so he knew not to be alarmed.
Elbert and Ruberta Tyson didn’t realize what they had started when they purchased the book from Mr. Hope.
Changes are being proposed that will modify the way literature evangelists sell and finance the truth-filled books and literature they leave in the homes of hundreds of families each week. These changes will also affect the way these dedicated workers are able to earn a living. What happens to the publishing work will be determined individually by each conference in the Southern Union.

Below, Thelma Elizabeth Long, administrative assistant for the Office of Education and Publishing, shares her family’s story. There are many stories such as this one that could be told. These stories are a reminder of the impact literature evangelists and the books they sell have had on thousands of people and the Adventist Church.

Please remember to keep our literature evangelists and the publishing work in your prayers.

It was a quiet day on the Tyson farm. The only sound besides the gentle swish of Lawrence’s straw broom on the sandy yard was the occasional call of a rooster or the distant mooing of the cows. Nothing exciting happened very often there.

Suddenly a cloud of dust over the road and a faint rumble signaled that someone was approaching. “Bob, Elbert, Jack,” Lawrence shouted. “Somebody’s coming to our house.”

The children dashed off to find mother, daddy, and Aunt Thelma. Soon all of them surrounded Mr. Hope, who opened his briefcase and withdrew a strange-looking book. The page numbers were not consecutive, and it had a funny looking stripe along the back. It didn’t take long to discover that it was a religious book, Our Day in the Light of Prophecy.

Unlike the hustling peddlers who occasionally stopped by, Mr. Hope, whose initials were LE (Literature Evangelist?) quietly closed his prospectus and explained the payment and delivery plan. The sale was made.

The Tyson family was a devout Freewill Baptist family. Their interest in spiritual things led to Bible studies, and in just a few weeks the entire family, including Aunt Thelma, was baptized. But, the story didn’t end there. Lawrence became a literature evangelist, working full-time for 15 years. His personal contacts resulted in 129 baptisms! He was very active in his church, and was a lay preacher until his death.

Bob became a minister, serving as a conference youth leader, education superintendent, academy principal, and district pastor. He served in Gulf States Conference as the education superintendent and youth director in the ‘70s.

Olive met James Fulfer and insisted he be baptized before they were married. They attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University). James became a pastor and Olive a nurse. They served in many areas of the church organization as a pastoral couple. They were also missionaries in Haiti, Trinidad, and Africa.

Jack stayed close to the home place and was very active in the local church serving as the head elder for many years.

Aunt Thelma was a literature evangelist and also served as assistant girls’ dean at Fletcher Academy until she retired.

The total full-time service of that generation of the Tyson family is more than 200 years! The known baptisms from their combined efforts number more than 700! Most of that age group has passed away, but there are children and grandchildren who have taken up the torch of Church work.

Look what one book did. Eternity alone will give the final tally. Brother Hope will have a large number of people walk up to him in Heaven and say, “It was you who invited me here.”

I do not always remember the name of the book Granddaddy Tyson bought that day, but I always remember the literature evangelist’s name. You see, Lawrence was my dad and because of Hope, I am a lifelong Seventh-day Adventist.

A literature evangelist may never know the impact he or she has on the people they meet — but there will be some people one, two, and three generations down that will be in Heaven because God led a literature evangelist to their door.
A Frustrated Drive Home

“It isn’t going to work!”

This summarizes my frustrated meditations on the way home from work on a steamy-hot day in Nashville, Tennessee.

“If we keep doing it the same way, we’re going to get the same results!”

Although it may have sounded like I was ranting at a committee that didn’t see it my way, I was actually upset with myself. There was no one else to blame. There was not a member in sight. All I had was my rear-view mirror, my seat belt, and my steering wheel to make up my audience. Ironically, my venting was due to the settling reality that they would be my only spectators three months from now as well.

As I approached my exit, all I could see in my passenger seat and back seats were fear, doubt, and failure. I was convinced that God had spoken to me in the spring and instructed me to plan a Back 2 School Revival for the youth and young adults of my church. But, after a few informal conversations with my youth, one thing was very clear, they weren’t sure they would be able to attend it.

The temptation, at this point, was to jump on my hobbyhorse and begin prophesying against my students for not prioritizing the important things (my revival in this case), but I couldn’t bring myself to blame them for living in a time when school, varsity sports, gas prices, internships, and the like are valued above protracted evangelistic campaigns. I couldn’t fault them for “keepin’ it real” with me. I appreciated the transparency we shared, and wouldn’t want that to change one iota.

Although I appreciated the honesty, I still had two conflicting messages. The Lord had given me a message that my youth and young adults were now contradicting, and I was hot. Literally, it was about 99 degrees outside, and my Back 2 School Revival was going up in flames!

The Prayer

“I wish I could just go where they are.”

Now my frustration had turned to pouting, which soon turned into a prayer-pity party. I went before Jesus, and was as transparent with Him as my youth had been with me: “This is not going to work! If I’m going to do this for You, You have to let me go where they already are. They won’t come to the church for a revival!”

The answer I received in that
moment was so outlandish that I almost thought my bout with depression had ended with insanity.

“Use the Internet. All of your youth are on the Internet.”

“What?” I responded.

“Go where they are; use the Internet.”

Immediately, my mind began to flood with this very unfamiliar vision of packaging a television show and using the Internet to show it nightly for one week. I began to see marketing campaigns on Facebook and Twitter, video trailers on YouTube, and a revival whose pews are actually URL addresses. It came out of nowhere, but boy did it hit me right between the ears. I was now addicted to this new idea as if I had brainstormed it myself. I was going to meet my youth and young adults where they were; I was going to use the Internet.

I got up from my knees, got back in the car, and drove back to the church completely overwhelmed by the concept God just gave me, thanking Him for the tension that birthed the innovation.

An Internet Revival?
The planning quickly began after receiving this crazy idea from God. We built a set, created a movie trailer for advertising, and even began signing up members to participate in our live studio audience. It felt so strange administrating an idea that I didn’t have any part in creating. It was given to me just as a gift is given to a friend. I didn’t really know how it worked, and I didn’t have a philosophy explaining why it would work. All I had was a hunch, a prayer, a realization that God wanted to do a new thing within our youth ministry that would change the way I looked at sowing seeds of God’s love.

It wasn’t too long into the project that confirmation of God’s favor began to be quite evident. In just one week, our YouTube movie trailer reached 13,000 views! We couldn’t believe it. It would have taken an army to hand out that many fliers throughout the Nashville metropolitan area. And with only three people, in seven days, we had already reached thousands of viewers.

As the views on the trailer went up, Facebook and Twitter interests also grew. Emails began to come in inquiring about the idea and wanting to know how they could share the information with friends.

Our youth started to rally around the effort. They began to share the graphics on Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram. All of them were just amazed that they wouldn’t have to come out every night; instead, they could use their cell phones, laptops, and tablets to tune in. It actually began to come together as if we had been planning this event for six months or more. I was overwhelmed by it all. Only one sentence continued to echo in my memory, explaining what I was experiencing: “Go to the Internet.”

The Results
WrestleMania: Are You Wrestling with God? aired on August 27, 2013, at 7 p.m (CST). It was weird sitting in front of a computer screen during an evangelistic effort where I was the main speaker (for a pastor, a marvel of modern technology). As seven o’clock rolled around, I began to get nervous as if I was preaching! But, my only responsibility that night was to lead the Live-Tweeting Show we had developed for our audience to ask questions or make comments during the broadcast. I still didn’t know how it would pan out; I only had a promise in my back pocket that had been given to me by God Himself. The opening credits began, and what would happen after captivated everyone involved.

Each night of the effort we grew on YouTube, the complete series received 58,000 views! You can imagine how floored I was when my youth media team sent me the results.

“Are you serious?”

That’s all I could say to God. It was my way of saying thank you. It was my way of praising Him for new ideas, and the courage to move forward without previous experience. It was my way of admitting that with man, much is impossible, but with God, all things are possible.

I still can’t believe what God accomplished on a budget of $4,500. But, I do know that with limited funds, limited manpower, and limited experience, God took our five loaves and two fish, and fed tens of thousands of people all around the world. Amen!

Michael Polite is the associate pastor of Riverside Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and the founder of ENERGY Ministries.
Florida Hospital Breaks Ground on Ninth Campus

In a historic moment, Florida Hospital leaders, physicians, and elected officials turned the first dirt on Florida Hospital’s ninth campus, located in Winter Garden.

“We are very excited to be a part of this rapidly growing community of Winter Garden,” said Lars Houmann, Florida Hospital’s president and CEO. “We want to strengthen our presence in this community as a trusted health care partner that brings greater access to care close to home.”

The Winter Garden Health Campus is beginning construction on its first phase, that consists of a 75,000-square-foot building standing three stories tall. The facility will feature a stand-alone emergency department staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week, by emergency room physicians who provide the clinical expertise to all of Florida Hospital’s emergency rooms in Orange, Osceola, and Seminole Counties. The facility will also include an outpatient imaging center and a multispecialty clinic that will host a variety of physician practices to serve the community’s needs.

“We are so pleased that Florida Hospital has chosen Winter Garden as the site for their newest facility,” said Winter Garden Mayor John Rees. “This health campus will bring superior, high-paying jobs to our community, and will make Winter Garden more attractive as a place that others will want to live, work, and play.”

In addition to the groundbreaking, Florida Hospital officials announced the new leader of the Winter Garden Health Campus, Amanda Maggard. Maggard has been a part of the Florida Hospital team for eight years, most recently as the assistant administrator at Winter Park Memorial Hospital, a Florida Hospital.

“I’m excited to be a part of the process from the early stages, as the first shovels go into the ground,” said Maggard, assistant vice president, West Orange development. “We will build a team of healthcare professionals and a facility the community of Winter Garden can be proud of.”

—By Jennifer Roberts

World Renowned Expert on Religion, Health Speaks at Adventist Health System

More than 20 health care leaders, including physicians and executives from Adventist Health System, Florida Hospital, Centra Care, and other community health care partners, attended a presentation/workshop on religion and spirituality in health care at Adventist Health System’s Headquarters in Altamonte Springs, Fla. The session was led by Harold G. Koenig, M.D., an expert in research on religion, health and ethical issues in medicine.

Koenig is the founder of Duke University’s Center for the Study of Religion, Spirituality and Health, and the director of Duke’s Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health. His research on religion, health, and ethical issues in medicine has been featured on more than 50 national and international TV news programs, 100 national and international radio programs, and in hundreds of national and international newspapers or magazines.

Koenig’s research shows that people who are more religious or spiritual have better mental health and adapt more quickly to health problems compared to those who are less religious or spiritual, and that physicians can play an important role in determining spiritual needs in the health care setting.

“Physicians need to address, honor, and respect the spiritual needs that some patients have when they come in to receive care,” was Koenig’s main message. He stated that in his 30-year career, no system has ever been as receptive and open to these ideas as Adventist Health System, whose mission positions them perfectly to take these ideas to the next level.

—By Katie Richardson
How You Can Use CREATION Health

What Is It?
What is CREATION Health? Is it a program, product, philosophy, or a combination of all three?

CREATION Health is a transformational way of living or doing business that is introduced through the mechanism of an eight-part seminar called CREATION Health, and its supplementary tools and resources.

The keyword in the above paragraph is transformational, because CREATION Health is a catalyst for positive change.

God’s Original Plan
God desires for everyone to enjoy abundant life in mind, body, and soul. How? By integrating His original plan for living life to the fullest found embedded in the Creation story: Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal Relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition. These eight principles can transform lives and organizations.

Why CREATION Health?
The purpose of the eight-part CREATION Health philosophy is threefold: 1) To be used by organizations to befriend people and create goodwill by building relational bridges with their communities, 2) Create opportunities for transformation in people’s lives personally, and 3) Be a catalyst of change for churches, schools, and hospitals, etc., transforming them into centers of hope and healing.

The CREATION Health seminar, along with its tools and resources, is the starting place for an organization to initiate a transformation process. But, just because a church has conducted a seminar program does not mean it has “done” CREATION Health. CREATION Health is a transformation journey that includes ministries, events, and programs that foster spiritual growth and life development. But, it all begins with the CREATION Health seminar. You are always welcome to email me with any questions you may have regarding CREATION Health: Lynell. LaMountain@FLHosp.org.

That’s CREATION Health!
—BY Lynell Lamountain

Insurance Policy and Will Keep 90-Year-Old’s Values Alive

Prior to accepting the Adventist message in 2000, Annie Ross was a member of “The Wing of Jordan Gospel Choir” touring throughout the United States and Canada. Following her baptism into the Atlanta Berean Seventh-day Adventist Church by Pastor William Winston, her lifetime of service for the Lord has not stopped. She has served in family life, Sabbath School and personal ministries, and takes an active interest in evangelism and Christian education. That’s why in planning her estate, she made sure the Lord’s Work was included in not just her will, but also her insurance policy.

To learn how you can include the Lord’s Work in your estate planning, contact your local Conference or University Planned Giving and Trust Services Department today!
The Kernersville, N.C., Church celebrated a Homecoming Sabbath on September 7, 2013. The morning began with a special Sabbath School program in the sanctuary, led by Lynn Johnson, superintendent. She read some of the history of Kernersville, sharing memories from the church established on Mountain Street in 1910, and the move in 1950 to Old Winston Road.

To begin the worship service, the congregation sang along with the praise team for several worship songs. Regina Pozzi was the special guest organist, and played several beautiful organ pieces throughout the service.

Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, was the featured guest speaker for the church service. Louis shared a very special children’s story about a time an angel protected him from a deadly cobra when he was a nine-year-old boy growing up in Sri Lanka. Other special guests in attendance included Chad Grundy, Conference undertreasurer, and former pastors Duane Peterson and Fred Rogers. “This is just a small taste of that homecoming we’ll experience in Heaven when we all gather together in the Kingdom when Jesus comes,” Louis stated during his opening remarks.

He went on to share from Daniel 3 about the three Hebrew boys in Babylon who made a commitment to truth and obedience. “We are to stand by the Word of God no matter what,” he challenged the congregation, “and remain faithful through the disappointments and heartaches of this life.”

Church members and guests attended a fellowship meal in the Family Life Center following the special service.

—BY ANDREA ANDREWS

Kernersville Church Members Celebrate Homecoming

Arden Member Wins State Award for Excellence

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC-DPI) has selected Sharon Lewis as recipient of the State Instructional Management Coordinator (IMC) of the Year Award. Lewis was nominated and selected to represent the western regional IMCs at the state level, where she received this award and a standing ovation at the presentation luncheon in Greensboro, N.C.

Instructional management coordinators provide curriculum management and instructional support to career and technical teachers; they organize and implement state-mandated secured assessments, and provide data analysis for local administrators and CTE teachers to use as a tool for improving teacher instruction and student performance. Lewis is well known statewide for her workshops on classroom management and creative teaching ideas. For many years, Lewis was state trainer for all newly hired IMCs. Her philosophy of education is to “train students (and teachers) to be thinkers and not mere reflectors of others.”

Lewis is a member of the Arden, N.C., Church. She currently works with 60 middle school and high school teachers. Arden members congratulate her on this recognition.

—BY CARI HAMMONDS
New Church Comes to Life in Fort Mill, S.C.

A new church plant was launched in Fort Mill, S.C., on Sabbath, August 3, 2013, with more than 150 guests attending. Gary Moyer, Conference secretary, along with Haskell Williams, Conference ministerial director, joined the six-core-family group to celebrate this occasion, and offer remarks and prayers of dedication. In addition, Danny Funderburk, Fort Mill mayor, called in to welcome the new church to town.

The church plant is part of an aggressive initiative by the Carolina Conference to launch 50 church plants by the year 2016. The Fort Mill group accepted the challenge in the summer of 2012, and immediately began to meet twice a week to plan and pray. They elected Jon Fritz to serve as the lay elder, and pursued the University City Church to be their sponsor. For 13 months, they met in each other’s homes every Tuesday, Thursday, and one Sabbath per month, solely for the searching of the Scriptures and for the implementation of God’s leading. Fritz periodically met with Brad Cauley, Conference church-planting director, and with Ryan Ashlock, University City pastor, for coaching, compliance, and guidance. Recognizing that unity must occur before the Gospel can go forth, this group has painstakingly set aside cultural traditions to embrace authentic godly worship, which knows no color nor culture.

Evangelism is the focus of this new church plant. Revival and reformation are key ideals which are deliberately interwoven into every event. Truths are shared through Bible studies with the Fort Mill community, and with the contact names provided by the Revelation Today project by It Is Written. Door to door evangelism is organized with church-wide participation. Wednesday evenings at the church are currently geared toward training families to give in-home Bible studies. Plans are being formulated to share the Gospel through health training and cooking schools.

The Fort Mill Church plant is proud to be co-laborers together with Christ preaching this Gospel of the Kingdom, in all the world for a witness unto all nations, so that the end can come!

Workmans Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Ralph and Dorothy Workman met at Washington Missionary College in 1951, and were married in Norristown, Pa., on October 4, 1953.

Dorothy was an elementary school teacher, and served her local church in many capacities. Ralph is retired from being a pastor and U.S. Army chaplain. He served in Korea, Vietnam, Germany, and various places in the United States, and still works part time as a chaplain at Beystone Health and Rehabilitation, a 50-bed skilled nursing facility in Fletcher, N.C.

They have three grown children, Ralph “Chuck” Workman Jr., Trudy Workman, and Raymond “Ray” Workman, M.D.; and five grandchildren, Emily, Adrienne, Kelsey, Gilman, and Christopher.

They have resided in the same home in Hendersonville, N.C., for the past 33 years, and are active members of the Fletcher, N.C., Church.
Florida News

Small Groups Lead to Baptisms

Avon Park, Fla., Church members have welcomed 14 individuals through baptism since their new pastor, Frank Gonzalez, arrived in January 2013. Twelve of the baptisms occurred as a result of nurturing found in small groups.

Gonzalez, an enthusiastic proponent of small group ministry, first presented this idea to his elders. Twelve small groups are presently in place, with the motivation for each coming from mutual interests such as prophecy, the life of Jesus, or the diet for Christians.

One reason for the pastor’s emphasis on small groups at this time is to encourage members to pray and prepare for an upcoming evangelistic series. Gonzalez, a veteran of evangelism, served as speaker/director of La Voz de la Esperanza (The Voice of Hope) radio and television broadcasts for 16 years prior to joining Avon Park Church as senior pastor.

—BY NAOMI ZALABAK

MagaBook Ministry Celebrates Banner Year

“This summer was our best yet for the MagaBook program,” says Les McCoy, Florida Conference youth publishing director. Highlights include the following:

- 60 student workers
- 13 leaders
- More than 300,000 individuals contacted
- $205,000 donations for scholarships
- $293,000 total donations
- $50,000 matching funds by various academies and universities
- 25,000 books distributed

Students and leaders were headquartered at Jacksonville, Fla., Adventist Academy; Tallahassee, Fla., First Church; Osceola Adventist Christian School in Kissimmee, Fla.; and Sawgrass Adventist School in Plantation, Fla. These hosts went the second mile in extending kindness and support.

Team members encountered many opportunities for witnessing and praying with customers such as first-time canvasser Lauren McCoy. A senior at Walla Walla University in College Place, Wash., McCoy met a woman who was not thrilled at first with a canvasser at the door. The woman, however, warmed up to her and purchased two books, one on health and one on knowing Jesus personally.

And then McCoy and the woman prayed for each other. As McCoy was leaving, the woman said she was suffering from cancer. “I’m so glad you came,” she said. “I really needed your visit right now.”

The Conference is so thankful to God for the experiences that impact both the students and the people they meet.

—BY LES MCCOY
Florida News

Erhards Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage

Barbara and John Erhard

Florida Hospital Orlando. In the past 20 years, he has written 12 booklets of poems and has composed the Sabbath School lesson in rhyme for the past 15 years.

Barbara was secretary for outpatient facilities at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital and for Volunteer Services at Florida Hospital Orlando. She then volunteered part time for 28 years at Forest Lake Church, Apopka, Fla.

The Erhards have five children: Linda (Allen) Snyder of Chattanooga, Tenn.; twins, Susan (Victor) Vosen and Debbie Johnson of Ooltewah, Tenn.; Mark (Lisa) Erhard, M.D., of Minneapolis, Minn., and Paul (Ronda) Erhard of Gallatin, Tenn. They have 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

Erhards Celebrate 65 Years of Marriage

John and Barbara Erhard were married August 22, 1948 in Ferndale, Mich., by Clark Smith, pastor.

John pastored for 20 years in Michigan and Oklahoma. He then became a chaplain for 20 years, serving at Hinsdale Hospital, Ill., and Florida Hospital Orlando.

Florida News

Forest City Spanish Men’s Ministries

Hosts Mega Sabbath 2013

DeVon Franklin (center), a devoted Seventh-day Adventist and Hollywood studio producer, was the keynote speaker during Forest City Spanish Church’s Mega Sabbath. Also pictured are members of the church’s men’s ministries.

Forest City Spanish Church, Altamonte Springs, Fla., celebrated its annual Men’s Ministries Day on September 7. The guest speaker for Mega Sabbath 2013 was DeVon Franklin, vice president of Columbia Tristar Pictures, Hollywood, Calif., who inspired the capacity audience representing 30 Adventist churches and organizations.

Franklin, a studio executive responsible for the production of films such as The Karate Kid, The Pursuit of Happiness, and Jumping the Broom, is also a book author and motivational speaker. Most importantly, he is a devoted Seventh-day Adventist whose testimony of faith is powerful in today’s society.

This worship experience was a celebration of Forest City’s current and future men’s ministries vision: engaging men to find their purpose and challenge themselves to reach out to the community to bring back those who have drifted away from the Church and those who have not had the opportunity to get to know Jesus. Many who were not Adventist visitors expressed interest in attending and discovering more about the Church and the Word of God.

Recognizing a need to reach out in the community and testify of God’s love, this event proved to be an important step in that direction. “We thank God for this opportunity and pray for future plans that will follow our vision and the spreading of the Word of God in all our surroundings,” says Denny Rosendo, Forest City Spanish men’s ministries director.

—By Denny Rosendo
Carlsons Celebrate 65th Anniversary

Dick and Millie Carlson, members of the Collegedale, Tenn., Church, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on August 18, 2013. Nearly 100 young people between the ages of 15 to 30 took to the streets once again in eastern Tennessee and Georgia, to tell others of a coming Savior.

God blessed with a record total of six student programs this summer. One program was very unique. Frontline started a pilot program for elementary (ages 9-15) students in the Standifer Gap area. These children went out three days a week in five teams of two. Their leader, Pamella Knechtel, had organized a program like this before in Michigan. The students helped raise money for the “Worthy Student Fund” at the Standifer Gap school, and had amazing stories including these two:

Story One: “The very first week we went out, two different teams encountered two single moms with three children each (ages six, seven, and eight). Both mothers are living with their parents as each was separated from her spouse. Both lived in homes where physical and mental abuse took place. Both were desperately seeking refuge in the arms of Jesus for them and their children. But, being recently displaced, they had no idea where to begin. Does Jesus answer our faintest cry? Yes! And, He promptly sent out Standifer Gap’s little missionaries.

“Today both families are coming to church. The children love Sabbath School, and are attending G.A.P. Camp (the summer recreation program) five days a week. The moms are beginning Bible studies with members of the church. The one mom who has a job has already asked her boss for Sabbath hours off, and has received permission so that she can worship with us on Sabbath morning. Jesus has His arms securely around these families in the form of the previous Standifer Gap church family.”

–Pamella Knechtel

Story Two: “One of our youngest MagaBook children, Carson, received a $50 donation from a man. But, after a few more minutes of conversation, the man asked for the money back. But, he returned quickly and handed Carson $100 instead. The Holy Spirit had touched the man’s heart, and he realized that he needed to support this ministry more fully than he had planned at first.”

–Pamella Knechtel

—By reneita Samuel

This group of students from Standifer Gap in Chattanooga, Tenn., worked with the Frontline MagaBook Ministry, sharing the Good News of Jesus and His soon return. They were part of a group of nearly 100 (ages 15 to 30) who participated in the summer program.
Hamilton Community Church Holds Second Annual Biker Sabbath

Parking attendants welcomed leather and jean-clad riders, the kitchen bustled with preparations for the barbecue to follow the church service, and motorcycles glistened in their reserved parking spots. Biker’s from all over the country drove to Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., on Sabbath, September 7, 2013.

Dave Ketelsen, pastor, invited friend and colleague Marvin Wray from Napa Valley, Calif., as guest speaker for this, the Second Annual Biker Sabbath.

Hamilton Community Church seeks to love and serve their community liberally and creatively. So, when church member Rebekah Hall decided at her baptism a year ago to invite her friends from the Christian Motorcycle Association, her church family fully embraced the opportunity to love and serve another part of their community. Not only would friends witness her baptism and becoming a new creation in Christ, but a special service, barbecue, and ride were planned for bikers far and wide. The event was so successful that the church decided to make it an annual event.

The church filled with more than 600 bikers, friends, and members. Wray shared the story of the paralytic whose friends brought him to see Jesus for healing. Upon arriving at the house, they could not find any way to get their friend to Jesus. So, they climbed to the rooftop. Breaking the roof, they lowered their friend with ropes in front of Jesus.

Wray emphasized, “Your job, church, is not to change people. Your job is not to indoctrinate people. Your job is to hold the ropes so that they can be in the presence of Jesus, so that He can do whatever He wants to do with them... And, they may not look just like you when He is done.”

Hamilton Community Church members strive to bring others into community with Jesus. Last year they held a baptism, and the individual asked if she could invite her biker friends. The members rallied around the idea, invited all the bikers to the baptism, and had such a great time they decided to make an annual Biker Sabbath.

Hamilton Community wants to continue to hold the ropes in their community, bringing others into the presence of Jesus long enough for Him to transform their lives.

—BY DEBRA KETELSEN

More than 600 members packed the Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., for biker Sabbath, September 7, 2013.
More Than Two Thousand Visit Messiah’s Mansion in Montgomery

From August 24 through September, more than 2,000 individuals visited the Messiah’s Mansion exhibit which was located adjacent to the Montgomery, Ala., First Church. Messiah’s Mansion is a life-size replica of the biblical Hebrew sanctuary. Through guided tours, people are able to see the plan of salvation, and bring it to life with the visual aid of the sanctuary furniture.

To get the Messiah’s Mansion was a joint effort of the Montgomery First Church and Amy Mapp, Conference prayer ministries coordinator. The church had agreed to host the Prayer Summit, and, to go along with the theme of the Summit, Mapp had made arrangements to have a smaller model of the Hebrew Sanctuary set up during the event. When that fell through, Amber Riemersma, the pastor’s wife, suggested the Messiah’s Mansion like the one she had seen while living in the Northwest. When Messiah’s Mansion’s staff were contacted, they had only one date available for the rest of 2013. That date was exactly what was needed for the church and the Prayer Summit. “We could see God’s leading in all of this,” says Samuel Riemersma, pastor of Montgomery Church. He adds, “It has turned out to be such a non-threatening way to introduce people to our church.”

At the end of the tour, each participant was given the opportunity to preregister to attend The Blueprint, which is a series of Bible studies written by Ivor Myers, pastor. Ninety-five people attended the first night of the meetings. Fifty of those had preregistered after taking the Messiah’s Mansion tours.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Gary Swinyar Retires After Forty Years of Service

Gary Swinyar, Gulf States Conference superintendent of education, will retire December 30, 2013. Swinyar began his 40 years of denominational work as an instrumental music teacher after graduating from Southern Adventist University (where he met his wife, Carol, also a music teacher.) Before graduating from college, he worked as the boys’ dean at Little Creek Academy for one year. Swinyar was the band director at Laurelwood Adventist Academy in Oregon (1973-1979) and Forest Lake Academy in Florida (1979-1986.)

He earned his master’s in education administra-
Gladys Wilson Receives Community, State Recognition

Gladys Wilson, 82, a long-time member of the Athens, Ala., Church, was recently honored by the Senate of Alabama with an Outstanding Achievement Resolution for her tireless dedication to life-long learning, service to others, and personal triumph over adversity.

Wilson's life story was featured in the The Athens News Courier a few months ago; and after reading the article, Senator Tammy Irons, from Florence, Ala., was so impressed, she contacted Patrick Harris, Secretary of the Alabama Senate in Montgomery, Ala., who filed the Outstanding Achievement Commendation. Senator Irons then contacted Wilson, and presented her with Alabama Senate Resolution No. 13-358.

This resolution was not a surprise to those who know Wilson. Her caring attitude, generous hospitable spirit, love of service, and Christian spirit are all well known to her neighbors, community, and church friends.

When she was 13 years old, her father abandoned her mom and their four children. This forced her mother to take work outside the home, and Wilson had to quit school in the seventh grade to attend to her three younger siblings. It also meant the end of her carefree childhood.

At age 15, she married “Budgie” (Warren) Wilson. They were married for 66 years until his death last year. Their marriage was a success story — due to their hard work and great sense of humor, but mostly due to God’s love and care for them.

Wilson loved learning. She was self-taught and stayed “in the books.” This love led her to two major changes in her life: accepting the three angels' messages of Revelation, and joining the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the age of 19; and pursuing a GED, which she earned at the age of 28.

When Wilson’s two children, Larry and Linda, came along, she was faced with a new dilemma — that of financing a Christian education. With her GED and unwavering determination to provide her children with opportunities she never had, she was ready to use her degree and God-given gifts to pursue employment.

To equip herself to meet the challenges ahead, she went back to school and became a licensed practical nurse, and also received a beautician license.

Wilson is a fierce personal ministries warrior. She, along with a few other members of Athens Church, offered free weekly blood pressure screenings in the church lobby for many years. She joined her friend, Aleen Mobley, at the Limestone Flea Market handing out free literature, CDs, and videos proclaiming God’s end-time message. When it became necessary for her to stay home and take care of her husband, Budgie, she never stopped giving Bible studies and witnessing to her neighbors and friends.

During all her trials, she has always maintained a “can-do” attitude. Her story is one of triumph and determination. Wilson is the last person to expect such an honor from the State of Alabama, but it is gratifying to know that her example as a Seventh-day Adventist Christian was recognized, even at the highest level of the State.

—By Sandra Price

Gulf States Conference Sells Office Building

The Gulf States Conference office building was officially sold on September 18, 2013. The temporary office is located in Suites A-D at 2776 East Gunter Park Drive, Montgomery, Ala., 36109. The Adventist Book Center will remain in its present location until the move to the new office.

The mailing address will continue to be Gulf States Conference, Attention: (the name of the department) P.O. Box 240249, Montgomery, AL 36124.

To see updates on the move and progress on the construction of the new office building, visit http://www.gscsda.org/article/51/office-move-new-office-building. To contact a staff member via email, please visit http://www.gscsda.org/article/501/contact-us/conference-staff.

—By Rebecca Grice
Reclaiming the experience of summer camp as a child was just what happened at Indian Creek Camp (ICC) during the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference 50+ Camp. It was a taste of the ultimate family reunion because that is what friends become at camp.

The 50+ Camp was started in the late 1980s by Phoz Solhany, and continues to prosper and grow each year with the guidance of Bob and Debbie Wint, who have an excellent staff, including Charles and Helen LeCompte, John and Nora Long, Bob and Rose Wint, and a camp pastor.

All the things that make camp exciting were available: horseback riding, boating, skiing, swimming, horseshoes, crafts, table games, wonderful food, and excellent worships — plus time for humor and friendly conversations. A banquet was held with the special theme of “Down on the Farm,” complete with an outhouse!

When camp was over, everyone went home refreshed with old and new friends. The most rewarding experience was the time spent with friends, sharing a foretaste of Heaven. As Bob Jr. says, “You have to experience it!” So, set aside the date, August 5-10, 2014, and join in at ICC for all the fun!

—BY DEBBIE WINT

Campers enjoy time on the lake.

Donald and Marilyn Kenerson of Ridgetop, Tenn., recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary by renewing their vows at Hilton Head Beach, S.C. They were surrounded by their children and grandchildren. The Kenersons were married in 1963 in Stoneham, Mass. They have seven children and 19 grandchildren.

After their youngest child was born, Marilyn returned to school, obtained her RN, and worked for 26 years as a nurse at Vanderbilt Hospital. She retired this year. Don, with artistic skills, started his own business, Production Art Service. Though officially retired, he still does customized printing projects.

The Kenersons have lived in Ridgetop for 43 years, and have held various church offices at Ridgetop Church, including leaders in Pathfinders, children’s Sabbath School, and Vacation Bible School. Some of their children, with families of their own, still attend Ridgetop Church and contribute their talents to the church programs.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Kenersons Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The Kenerson family on the beach in Hilton Head Beach, S.C.

John Johnston (kneeling), Charles and Helen LeCompte (left), Bob and Debbie Wint, John and Nora Long, David and Ginger Voignier, and Lloyd and Sheila Schomburg

Camp: Not Just for Children
South Louisville Members Recognize the Deerrs’ Faithful Service

Sabbath morning, August 3, 2013, was a special morning at South Louisville Church. Although they were totally unaware of all the planning and work that had gone into preparation, long-time members Paul and Anna Deerr soon discovered that there were several surprises in store for them. Their church family had decided several months in advance that appreciation was in order for this couple who has given so much of their lives in service to the Lord and to the South Louisville church.

The Deerrs first met in 1937 when Paul’s family moved into the neighborhood where Anna’s family lived. When the United States entered World War II, the couple decided to get married because they knew Paul would be drafted. He left for Navy duty in 1942 and served on the USS Bates. The ship was damaged in a Normandy Beach invasion, so he was reassigned to the Pacific crew that was to take back all the islands from Japan. This ship was sunk at Okinawa, but Paul was not hurt and ended his time in the Navy in December of 1945.

Anna’s mother was a Seventh-day Adventist, and she shared her faith with her family through Bible studies. Paul, Anna, and their four children had all become Seventh-day Adventists by 1965. In 1966, the Deerrs joined the newly-formed South Louisville Church, and Anna began working with the Pathfinders while Paul became head deacon — a position he held for 45 years. Since that time, Anna has also served South Louisville Church in both the youth and treasury departments.

Paul is now 91, Anna is 90, and they have been married for 71 years. Though they remain busy and active, they are now turning their work over to the younger members of South Louisville, and will faithfully continue to support the church in every way. Their lives of sacrifice and service are a true inspiration.

During the church service, the Deerrs were recognized for their contributions with a plaque. The joy of the baptism of Sara Mote. Mote’s mom had become a member after a prophecy series given by the Deerrs’ son, Woody. Another of the Deerrs’ sons, Larry, was Mote’s Sabbath School teacher, and had studied with her in preparation for baptism. Brian Hadley, pastor, followed up with a sermon on servant-leadership, and then members and visitors continued the special event with a potluck lunch with more surprises for the Deerrs and for Mote.

How wonderful it is that whether young or old, all can be part of God’s family, and have the privilege of sharing the message of His soon-coming with the world!

—BY CARLY HADLEY

Paul and Anna Deerr

Brian Hadley, pastor, prepares to baptize Sara Mote.
Ephesus Church in Action with Project H.O.M.E.

The Youth Department of Ephesus Church in Columbia, S.C., took the initiative to come up with an outreach mission called Project H.O.M.E. (Helping Others More Everyday), where the whole church band together in a seven-day renovation project for one of its members' homes. Vanessa Bartley, Youth Department 2012 leader, was inspired to come up with Project H.O.M.E. when she attended the 2012 North American Division youth conference, *Just Claim It!* in Greensboro, N.C. “I participated in one of the community [service] initiatives in Greensboro,” says Bartley. “We did a project, like a project makeover, and one of the interviewers asked us there, ‘How will you help bring about this change or this type of experience to your church locally?’” When Bartley came back from the conference, she proposed to the Ephesus youth Department Council to have a similar community service project for a church member, Bertha Isaac.

The Ephesus Youth Department extended Project H.O.M.E. to the rest of the church by asking members and church departments to donate items and money to Project H.O.M.E. Members also donated their time and talents to help renovate Isaac’s home. For seven days, the members worked hard to beautify her home, inside and outside. One of the more important remodeling tasks was to make two trenches outside to prevent Isaac's front yard from flooding.

To remodel her home, the church volunteers sanded and waxed the floors, power-washed the outside of the house, repainted the walls, put up a new mailbox, and installed new kitchen countertops.

After the renovations were completed, the members gathered around Isaac’s newly remodeled home, and it was dedicated by John Pooler III, Ephesus pastor. Isaac was excited to see her house after the renovations, saying, “You guys did a great job. I’m sure proud of you.”

A small presentation about Project H.O.M.E. can be viewed on https://vimeo.com/54910151

—BY TIFFINEY MILES

Berea Church Members Hold Women’s Day

Women wear numerous hats, such as a mother, cook, chauffeur, tutor, nurse, and even a referee, yet it does not stop there. As Christians, women wear many hats in the Church as well. They are ushers, Pathfinder leaders, treasurers, and Sabbath School teachers. There is so much to do, so few who are willing, and so little time left.

Lorraine James Stiggers, (title), of Lancaster, Tex., was the guest speaker for Women’s Day at Berea Church in Sumter, S.C., where Marquis Jackson is the pastor. Stiggers stressed that all should exemplify the character of Christ daily through the Holy Spirit, and Heaven is the goal.

In the afternoon, Stiggers and Melanie Stewart, a member of Berea, conducted a workshop on health entitled N.E.W. S.T.A.R.T. (Nutrition, Exercise, Water, Sunlight, Temperance, Air, Rest, and Trust in Divine Power). Stewart focused on the external portion of the body as she shared ways on how to care for your hair and face, and she demonstrated various massage techniques. Stiggers stated that we are to be transformed by the renewing of our minds to clean the body internally through detoxing and other NEW START principals. She emphasized how important rest is, and that everyone should consume enough water every day.

The members of Berea were very excited about the information they received from both presenters.

—BY DANIELLE DUPREE GREEN
Charlotte Berean Church Designated
Emergency Food Pantry

A series of unfortunate circumstances left Mary* without a home suitable for her four children, so they were placed in foster care. But, the county’s Department of Social Services knew where she could turn for help and referred her to Sherril Morris, head of Charlotte Berean’s Community Services Department. Mary explained her dire situation to Morris — no furniture, no food, no beds, no household items — nothing, and now no children.

“All I want are my kids back,” Mary pleaded. It was more than enough for Morris to spring into action. She pulled together church members who could donate just about everything Mary needed. As a result of Morris’ intervention, Mary’s home was restored and her children were returned to her.

That’s just a fraction of how Berean Community Services is transforming a neighborhood. In early 2013, the church was designated as an emergency food pantry, the only one within a 12-mile radius. It means that Morris and a small group of volunteers distribute bags of groceries and hygiene products every Tuesday morning to approximately 90 families. The food is provided by one of the city’s largest food banks called Second Harvest, which receives much of its food from large grocery chains.

“Each family is allowed to come to the emergency pantry only once a month, so each Tuesday we have different families until they’re able to come again the next month. However, Berean’s Community Services know that once a month isn’t going to meet the great need, so in addition to the emergency pantry distribution, the members, through Second Harvest, fund the distribution of groceries every Wednesday night following Prayer Meeting with no monthly limit, which means a family can come every Wednesday if they choose. That food giveaway reaches close to 100 families each week.

On Mondays and Tuesdays large trucks arrive at Berean from Second Harvest with fresh fruit and produce, canned goods, breads, hot and cold cereals, pasta, soup, even paper plates and cups, along with various hygiene items. Morris and her team sort and bag groceries for Tuesday’s emergency pantry distribution. And then on Wednesday morning, if there is a shortage of items, Morris and her sister, Lisa Crawford, take a trip to the Second Harvest warehouse to purchase what is needed for Wednesday’s food distribution.

The required detailed recordkeeping for the emergency pantry, the unloading of the trucks each week, and the supplemental shopping at Second Harvest Warehouse for additional items is strenuous work for Morris, and actually equals a fulltime job; but, she and her sister faithfully volunteer to do it.

“I love it,” Morris said. “It’s so rewarding to impact lives in such a tangible way. It’s the love of God that enables us to do this. We’ve had some Bible studies and baptisms as a result of the food distribution.”

David Smith, Berean pastor, sees the church’s community services work as an opportunity to present a wholistic ministry.

“Putting food on the table is a way for us to present a wholistic ministry.”

Smith also donates hundreds of pieces of literature that’s distributed with the food. “And our Prayer Meeting attendance has increased from around 30 to 85 because of the food ministry,” he added.

Berean’s community services ministry also extends to two sister churches in the region — Shelby and Gastonia. The community services leader for those churches is able to gather items each week from Berean to help build their food distribution programs.

“But, when we hear back from people like Mary, who was so grateful and even attended Sabbath School a couple of times, that’s what it’s all about. It’s my reward, a reward that comes from the Lord,” said Morris.

Mary is a pseudonym
— By Barbara Hall
Bethlehem Opens Community Services Center

Through its partnership with Feeding America, the center, which has been operating out of the church’s fellowship hall, has been helping hundreds of people in the community for years, and has seen several members of the community get baptized as result of the centers impact.

The center now resides in a converted house across the street from the church that was purchased with the vision of providing a permanent home for the center.

“With the opening of this facility, the church is positioned to make a greater impact in this community,” said Roy C. Parham, Bethlehem Church pastor. “We are ecstatic to see years of praying and planning finally come to fruition.”

The center, which is open on every Tuesday and Friday, has received an award from the community for the work it has done in Clearwater.

David Peay, Southeastern Conference community service director, was the guest speaker for the dedication service, and gave a very inspiring message about the importance of the Community Services Department in the Church.

Among those in attendance that Sabbath were Ella Thompson, president of central Florida Community Services Federation, and Community Services directors from many local churches. Right after the divine worship service, there was a ribbon-cutting ceremony, and those who attended were given a tour of the Community Services Center.

—BY MARY ADAMS

Mt. Sinai Burns Education Complex Mortgage

On Saturday, March 23, 2013, under watchful eyes of a packed church, a flame was lit and a bonfire took place that burned the mortgage of Mt. Sinai education complex, which houses Mt. Sinai Jr. Academy and the Child Development Center. Shouts of joyous praise erupted as the members said goodbye to a monthly expense of more than $8,100.

In April of 2012, Herman Davis, senior pastor of Mt. Sinai, and the Homecoming Committee made a critical faith-based decision to encourage the members to become united in paying off the remaining balance of $125,000 still owed on the education complex’s mortgage, and to raise an additional $125,000 to address physical plant needs.

The faith initiative, known as the “Debt to Deliverance Plan,” was a 40-week campaign that began on June 15, 2012, and ended on March 23, 2013. It was a major undertaking for the members. However, the members knew that victory is God’s specialty for those who are faithful to Him.

“Having cleared the loan, the church is now in a position to concentrate more fully on ministry and on endeavors that bring people to Christ,” said Davis.

During the ceremony, Davis encouraged those members who gave regularly to the mortgage fund to direct their future gifts to the other ministries of the church.

Participating in the service were Hubert J. Morel, Southeastern Conference president; the Homecoming Committee; several former pastors of Mt. Sinai, including retired pastors Sylister J. Jackson and Benjamin P. Browne, and former pastor Patrick E. Vincent, pastor of Mt. Calvary Church in Tampa, Fla.; and Brent Waldon, Southeastern ministerial director.

—BY KATHLEEN WILLIAMS
On September 3, 2013, Elim Junior Academy in St. Petersburg, Fla., recently celebrated Grandparents’ Day. Grandparents’ Day is an annual observance in the United States that honors grandparents and other seniors, and seeks to strengthen relationships between the generations. This year’s Grandparents’ Day was special because the staff and students of Elim honored former kindergarten teacher Beulah McCloud, who turned 99 years young in August.

“We had a very special reason for celebrating it this year,” said Delores Smith, supervisor of Elim Child Development Center.”She is a pillar of the Elim Seventh-day Adventist Church, and is loved by all.”

Smith shared with the student body some highlights of McCloud’s pilgrimage within the church and the community. Students were awed by her agility, strength, and wit.

While the students sung hymns, McCloud sang right along with them. The older students also shared a memory verse they had been working on in both Spanish and English. She enjoyed each of them, and it was such a joy for all in attendance.

Afterwards, Smith honored McCloud with beautiful flowers, praising her for being a virtuous, godly woman who has made an impact on the lives of so many. Carolyn Pressley, a teacher at Elim, read a beautiful poem to her that left her speechless.

“The children will one day be the leaders of the church. Their training will prepare them adequately. By celebrating the birthday of one of our oldest pillars within this church and community, it helps them appreciate the core values and standards being taught daily,” a staff member added.

Elim Junior Academy and Child Development Center believes in educating its children, and engaging them in community service projects that help them focus on building relationships within the community.

—BY LAWANNA MCCOY
First Church Welcomes New Location, Expanding Ministries

With the ceremonial ribbon-snips from the oversized scissors on Sabbath, July 20, 2013, Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union, and Dana Edmond, president of South Central Conference, officially opened First Church, Huntsville, Ala., new facility and burgeoning ministries outreach to the overflowing throng of members and well-wishers.

Ninety minutes after the grand opening, however, fire regulations forced maroon-and-black appalled greeters to disappoint latecomers at each of the church complex’s seven entrances, something they have become experts at in this 36-month regimen.

On July 17, 2010, 36 year old Debleaire K. Snell, First Church senior pastor, began by crowding a 1,170-congregant flock into a 600-seat sanctuary, at its 26,000-square-foot Stringfield Road home. After six months and averaging three baptisms weekly, dual Sabbath services commenced.

“During those unprecedented growing pains — fueled by the Bible workers’ efforts, word-of-mouth curiosity, and membership transfers — head deacon James Patterson spied a proverbial diamond in the ‘hood: a once-spirited and popular West Huntsville Church of Christ, now surrounded by low-income apartments and the relocated Downtown Rescue Mission,” explained Alfonso Greene III, First Church associate pastor. “Its desired exit matched miraculously Snell’s not-so-quiet vision for ministry outreach and thirst for evangelistic challenge.”

“Do you understand what you’re about to face in that neighborhood?” The Huntsville Times religion reporter Kay Campbell challenged Snell and associate pastors Alfonzo Greene III and Alfred Hill. “On the next street over, you have UA-Huntsville campus, with all its unbelieving scientists; next door here is the Mission, where folks feel God has forsaken them; around the corner is the prominent Stake Center for local Mormons as well as the area’s largest Muslim masjid diagonally across from them. Here’s public housing right next door and, surprisingly, one of the city’s youngest neighborhoods, with lots of children. What a challenge!”

“Game on,” responded the 2012 South Central Conference Pastor of the Year.

“Our goal is to be a lighthouse,” Hill summarized. To date, the new lighthouse on 1303 Evangel Drive features the following:

- A 54,000-square-foot facility with a 1,500-seat sanctuary, centered on 12 hilltop acres overlooking the city, Tennessee Valley
- 40 retractable classrooms, 14 bathrooms, three kitchens, children’s church area, and a soon-to-be completed youth center
- A second series of free “Life University” Tuesday evening classes on marriage enrichment, Christian male empowerment, personal finances, health improvement, and advanced Bible study
- A 36-month membership growth of 468 new members (434 by baptism, 33 since July’s move-in), for a current congregation of 1,648

—BY TIM ALLSTON
South Central Announces Constituency Session

Nashville, Tennessee — On September 28 and 29 the South Central Conference launched its strategic planning process at the Gunter Hollow Lodge in Fayetteville, Tennessee. This planning process was designed to cast a vision for the Conference’s mission through 2016 when South Central will convene its fourth quinquennial session. Participating in the planned change process was representation from a cross section of lay members, pastors, and administrators. The director of prayer ministries, Roy Rugless, along with a prayer team, interceded on behalf of the group of 22 participants. Harold Lee, D.Min., executive director of the Bradford-Cleveland-Brooks Leadership Center at Oakwood University, Huntsville, Alabama, was the facilitator for the session. Dana Edmond, Conference president, shared his vision and goals for the remainder of the quinquennium. In conjunction with this effort, the Conference is also putting a new face on its Constitution and Bylaws when it convenes for a Mid-Term Constituency session on January 26, 2014. Regional town hall meetings will precede the constituency session so delegates will have advanced exposure to proposed changes in the constitution and bylaws.

The South Central Conference of Seventh-day Adventist hereby announces its Mid-term Constituency Session:
Sunday, January 26, 2014 at the Birmingham Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Alabama. Time of the Session: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (CST)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS TO BE CONSIDERED:

ARTICLE III –Section 2: a.
Each church shall be entitled to one delegate for the organization and one additional delegate for each 50 members or major fraction thereof. [P. 2, l. 87]

ARTICLE V - Section 1:
There shall be regional Organizing Committees comprised of one delegate from each church and one additional delegate for each full 500 members. These committees shall convene in their various geographical areas of the Conference, as designated by the Conference Executive Committee.

a. The delegated members of each area’s Organizing Committees, shall be registered with the South Central Conference office of Secretariat no later than eight (8) weeks prior to the constituency session.

b. They shall be called into session by the Southern Union Conference President or his designee, no later than seven (7) weeks prior to the Constituency session.

c. The regional Organizing Committees shall meet no later than 45 days prior to the Constituency session.

d. The Organizing Committees shall select the names, from their region, to serve on the nominating committee; and shall submit the names of their representatives to the Conference Secretary at that time. [P.5-6, l. 214 – 226]

Section 2: Nominating Committee:

a. The Nominating Committee shall be chaired by the Southern Union Conference President or his designee, and shall meet at least four weeks (30 days) prior to the regular constituency meeting.

b. The Nominating Committee shall prayerfully consider and nominate names for the office of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Department Directors/Associates, the Executive Committee, the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, Conference Association Board and other elected officials and committees.

c. The Nominating Committee shall allow for an open process where lay persons and pastors may speak with the committee, and provide names of prospective nominees.

d. Two weeks prior to the Constituency meeting, the nominating committee shall publish on the Conference website and in the churches, the names of the nominees selected to various offices and committees. [P. 6, l. 257–276]

Section 4: Voting
Voting shall take place by Voice, Voting Cards, Secret Ballot, or by Electronic Device [P. 7, l. 314, 315]
Oakwood University Begins Academic Year with Anointing Service

Oakwood University Church senior pastor, Carlton Byrd, D.Min., anoints Oakwood nursing professor, Violet Gilbert, during the first 2013 chapel service.

Just as one begins a journey or an exam with prayer, the Oakwood University (OU) community began its new academic year with a prayer service called “First Chapel.”

Since his arrival in 2011, as the chief spiritual officer, Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., Oakwood University president, has elevated the annual University Convocation program into a campus-wide consecration service, engaging all campus groups in this program: University, as well as Oakwood Adventist Academy and Elementary School administrators, faculty, staff, and students.

Oakwood University stands within the tradition proclaimed by its founder, Ellen G. White, according to the printed program. Writing in From a Place called Oakwood, she said, “In regard to this school here in Huntsville, I wish to say that for the past two or three years I have been receiving instruction regarding it...All that is done by those connected with this school, whether they be white or black, is to be done with the realization that this is the Lord’s institution ...” (page 3).

The Home Depot representatives presented the Lord’s institution with a ceremonial $50,000 grand prize check, for winning this year’s “Retool Your School” historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) campus improvement contest, beating all other competing HBCUs, with 340,000 votes.

Pollard gave his annual presidential address entitled, “Standing with the Stone.” Using the anchor passage of Daniel 6:45, he encouraged the attending students to stay strong in their studies, and to never become fragile spiritually.

To further heighten Oakwood’s spiritual call-to-arms, this third First Chapel this year instituted an anointing service. Huntsville area Adventist church pastors stationed throughout the packed OU church sanctuary offered specific prayers, and applied anointing oil to the foreheads of petitioners waiting in long lines.

—BY TIM ALLSTON AND JYREMY REID

Oakwood Elementary School student president Addison Gill, Oakwood Adventist Academy chaplain Cordell Dormer, and Oakwood University freshman representative Jermaine Nelson each present portions of the Scripture reading from Daniel 2:44-49.
Trail Race and Triathlon Keep Students, Community Focused on Health

The fifth annual Southern 6 Trail Race and Kids K took place September 15, 2013, on White Oak Mountain at Southern Adventist University. There were 102 participants, with all proceeds benefitting trail upkeep and the Outdoor Leadership program on campus.

Faculty, staff, and students from Outdoor Leadership organized everything. This included hosting the Kid K event that gave the day a more family-friendly feel and helped the race stand out from others in the area.

“We do all of this as a service to the community,” said Michael Harris, adventure program coordinator for Outdoor Leadership. Winners brought home handmade ceramic mugs, decorated with the Southern 6 logo, which were created by local artist Loren Howard, a Southern graduate. All runners received goodie bags filled with an assortment of gifts from this year’s sponsors.

In addition to the Southern 6 Trail Race, Southern also ran the 30th annual Sunbelt Cohutta Springs Triathlon on October 6 at the Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia. The race included a half-mile swim, 18-mile bike ride, and four-mile run. A total of 253 participants came out.

For Rachel Wilson, junior nursing major, it marked the first time she has competed in a triathlon. She came in 10th for her age group and was thrilled with the experience.

“This definitely broadened my horizons,” Wilson said. “That’s one less thing I have to check off my list.”

—BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

Professors Join NY13 Initiative, Teach at International Field School of Evangelism

At the invitation of the General Conference, five professors from Southern’s School of Religion flew to New York to help train Seventh-day Adventist leaders during the International Field School of Evangelism, June 7-29, 2013. The tutorials were part of the NY13 outreach initiative, a worldwide push to evangelize to people living in major metropolitan areas.

Mark Finley, special advisor to the General Conference (GC) president and leader of the field school, personally recruited professors Greg King, Jud Lake, Carlos Martin, John Nixon, and Michael Hasel to join the initiative when he visited Southern earlier in the year. Finley chose each of the professors based on their areas of expertise and how these specialties relate to evangelism. King, dean for the School of Religion and professor of biblical studies, taught about creation, a topic he views as “an integral part of salvation.”

“It’s the foundational story in the Bible,” King said. “If we don’t believe in the Bible’s very first account, we likely will not have confidence in Scripture as a whole.”

Lake, professor of Adventist studies, used his knowledge of prophetic ministry to teach attendees how to use Ellen White in presentations and defend her against critics. Martin, professor of evangelism, discussed how witnessing principles from Acts can be applied in the 21st Century. Nixon, professor of religion and spirituality, shared methods for best organizing a sermon to keep it Christ-centered. Hasel, professor of archaeology, demonstrated how to use history as a vehicle for drawing secular minds to the Bible.

When the field school was complete, trainees were commissioned to go back to their own divisions and preach in urban centers, starting their own schools of evangelism.

“They already had some knowledge,” Nixon said. “We just helped them sharpen their tools.”

Although many speakers presented at this important event, Martin is confident that the professors from Southern were not chosen by chance.

“We have developed a reputation for being an institution that believes in evangelism,” Martin said. “It’s because we are committed to spreading the Gospel.”

—BY MYRON MADDEN
JUHL, Eleanor, 72, born Jan. 11, 1941 in Columbia, SC, died Aug. 28, 2013 in Calhoun, GA.

For more than 45 years she was a partner with her husband, Gene, in the Literature Evangelism ministries, and sharing the Good News of God’s love.

Her love for young people was apparent through the years of dedication to Church youth, especially the Pathfinder clubs and summer camps. She and Gene worked in the Carolina, Florida, Gulf States, Kansas, Potomac, and Georgia-Cumberland conferences, as well as the Columbia Union. In 1980, she was recognized for her work with the Pathfinder clubs and was honored with the John Hancock award for outstanding service to youth.

In 1990, she started her own collection business, collecting for the Review and Herald, the Pacific Press, and the Southern Union Home Health Education Service. During these 20-plus years, she collected more than $1.5 million, and helped countless people keep the books they purchased. Many times she would read excerpts from *Desire of Ages* and other books, and pray with people to encourage them. She knew that other collection companies would not accept the small monthly amounts that she would take, but this was her mission and service to help people keep the books she so loved.

She always enjoyed Camp Meeting and meeting with the other pastor’s wives. In 1996, she was asked to be the editor of the *Shepherdess* newsletter. The newsletter included articles written by pastors’ wives to encourage each other. She greatly enjoyed creating this newsletter, compiling the information from other pastors’ wives, and putting together her editorial.

She is survived by her husband of 53 years, Eugene Juhl; four children; and nine grandchildren. The family held a private graveside service on Sept. 7, at Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church, where she was a member.

LONG, Albert Mel, 82, born Sept. 2, 1930 in Panama, died Feb. 19, 2013 after several years of declining health at his home. He lived his early childhood on San Andreas Island and in Colombia, South America. He was the youngest of 11 children. His maternal grandparents were the first Seventh-day Adventist home economics teacher who worked for the state of California, and flew frequently on business with Pacific Airlines. They became acquaintances and she eventually gave him a copy of the book *The Great Controversy* which led to his conversion, baptism, and decision to become a pastor.

He came to the United States as a young man and served in the Armed Forces in Germany for three years. He later worked for Pacific Airlines in California where he met a Seventh-day Adventist home economics teacher who worked for the state of California, and flew frequently on business with Pacific Airlines. They became acquaintances and she eventually gave him a copy of the book *The Great Controversy* which led to his conversion, baptism, and decision to become a pastor.

He graduated from Pacific Union College in Angwin, CA, in 1965 with a degree in religion. He was called by Central California Conference to pastor the church in Coalinga. During this time he was introduced to his future wife, Myrna Shultz, a registered nurse. They married on October 16, 1966 in Caldwell, ID. One of their shared dreams was to serve as missionaries abroad.

Six months after their marriage, they were called by the General Conference to mission service in Africa which required learning the French language. In August of 1967 they boarded the SS France in New York for an intensive French-language course in Neuchatel, Switzerland. Ten months later, they left for Rwanda, Africa, where he developed and opened the first two-year ministerial training course in the French language for pastors. Two classes of ministerial students graduated from the course – 1970 and 1972 – before the family left on furlough. During this time in Rwanda, their daughter, Valerie, and son, Kevin, were added to the family.

In 1980, after many years of missionary service in Africa, he was asked to become the pastor of the 650-member Walla Walla City Church in Washington state, and the family returned permanently to the United States. Two and one-half years later, he was asked to be an associate ministerial secretary in the Oregon Conference. Four years after that the family moved to Montgomery, AL, where he served as the executive secretary of the Gulf States Conference.

In 1988, the family moved to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in Calhoun, GA, where he served as executive secretary for more than eight years until his retirement in 1996. During his service at Georgia-Cumberland, he was known as a
SMITH, Ronnie Dean. 73, born July 22, 1939 in Oklahoma City, OK, died July 8, 2013. He was a proud member of the Citizen Band Potawatomi Nation. He graduated in 1958 from Capital City High School in Oklahoma City where his main interest was vocational education, receiving training in offset printing classes.

After high school, he was drafted by the Army and served as a medic in Chinon, France. He was a proud member of the Army Reserve at Ft. Hood, TX, during the Cuban missile crisis. After returning home, he wanted to further his education in the graphic arts industry, so he enrolled in classes at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), while working at the College Press. He continued his education in graphic arts, earning his teaching certificate at the University of Tennessee. He worked for Wilkes Publishing in Portland, TN, and Hinsdale Adventist Hospital in Hinsdale, IL. He taught graphic arts at Sequoyah Vocational Center and Harrison Bay Vocational Center until his retirement in 2001. He returned to Southern Adventist University, serving as an adjunct professor in the visual arts and design, mass communication and journalism programs.

He loved working with students and looked forward to it each year. He was an active, devoted member of the Ooltewah, TN, Church, serving as an elder and Sabbath School teacher. He was preceded in death by his twin brother, Donnie Gean Smith. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Barbara Pace Smith; two sons: Roger (Sherri), and Randy of Apison, TN; one sister, Patsy Smith (Ed) Brownfield of Maud, OK; and one brother, Lynn (Mary Catherine) Smith of Moore, OK.

ALLEN, Virgil D., 73, born Nov. 3, 1939 in Springfield, TN, died Aug. 12, 2013 in Hendersonville, NC. He was the owner/operator of Allen Builders in Hendersonville for 40 years. He was a member of Fletcher, NC, Church. He was preceded in death by five siblings: Stanley Allen, Annie Allen Wade, Jessie Allen Collins, Eugene Allen, and Roberta Allen Nonwood. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Marcia Jones Allen of Hendersonville; one son, Greg D. Allen of Hendersonville; three brothers: Clarence (Lois) Allen of Longwood, FL; Emmett (Carolyn) Allen of Apopka, FL; and Fred (Linda) Allen of Haven, FL; three grandchildren: Heather Bass, Stephanie Allen Coon, and Anthony J. Allen; three great-grandchildren: Alex Coon, Alexis R. Bass, and Peyton Faulk; one brother-in-law and sister-in-law: Richard and Linda Ekkens of Longwood, FL; many nieces; and nephews.

ARNOLD, Mary Waters, died May 28, 2013 in Lexington, SC. She was a member of the Capital City High School where she served as Sabbath School director and Vespers director for several years. A determined businesswoman, she was the first female to own an insurance agency in Augusta, SC, where she spent the majority of her life. She is survived by her husband, Michael C. Arnold; one son, Roger (Diana) Tant; one daughter, Angela (David) Key; stepsons: Patrick Arnold (Becky), and Mickey Arnold; one stepdaughter, Shannon (Russell) Blackston; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

Baker, Frances Nina Riley, 91, born Feb. 5, 1922 in Decatur County, TN, died March 26, 2013 in Ridgetop, TN. She was a nurse technician for several years, a true caregiver, at the state TB hospital in Nashville and also at Madison Hospital. She was a faithful member of the Ridgetop Church for many years. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Sarce Price and Basil Baker; one daughter, Carolyn Baker Chenaault; and one son, Charles Riley. She is survived by two sons: Kenneth (Betty) Price and David (Shirley) Baker; one daughter, Brenda (Jim) Dempsey; one brother, J.D. Riley; one sister, Peggy Button; seven grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and six great-great grandchildren. Pastors Kenneth Price and Jeremiah Smart conducted the funeral service which was held in Greenbrier, TN.

Battaglia, Vivian Elaine, 68, born Dec. 28, 1944 in Miami, FL, died June 22, 2013 at the Sheltering Arms Home in Palmer, TN. She was the daughter of Donald Wayne and Vivian Eloise Weingard Tucker, who preceded her in death. She became a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church after she and her father attended a Revelation Seminar. She had recently become a member of the Dunlap, TN, Church. She is survived by her husband, Austin
E. Battaglia; one sister, Marie Post of Sutherlin, OR; and several nieces and nephews.

BECK, Joe Oliver, 86, born Jan. 21, 1927 in Warren County KY, died June 11, 2013 in Bowling Green, KY. He was a member of Sand Hill Church in Bowling, KY. He served as an elder at Sand Hill for 15 years. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Jane; three sons: Joe Jr., Jeff, and Jack (Kaye); one daughter, Janice (Rob) Lawrence; 14 grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren.

BENGE, Marlene June, 79, died May 28, 2013. She was from Ooltewah, TN, and formerly of Wichita Falls, TX. She is survived by one son, Robert C. (Deborah) Benge, of Ooltewah; one daughter, Sue Benge of Mt. Vernon, OH; two grandsons; and one sister, Judy L. Trotz Poland of Mt. Vernon.

BLACK, John Esmond, 90, born Feb. 3, 1923 in Saluda, SC, died on June 17, 2013 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of Fletcher, NC, Church, and worked as the purchasing manager at Kimberly Clark for most of his life. He is survived by his wife, Mary Louise Breedlove Black of Naples, FL; one daughter, Nena (Daniel) Zeman of Ridgefield, CT; and three grandchildren: Stephanie Zanvetto, Jeremy Zeman, and Jonathan Zeman.

BOTTSFORD, Ronald Charles, 74, born Aug. 25, 1938 in Loma Linda, CA, died Aug. 21, 2013 in Clieburne, TX. The son of missionaries, the late Dr. Elmer and Grace Bottsford, he lived a number of years in South America and learned to speak both Spanish and Portuguese fluently. By the age of 12, he decided to become a minister, and for 40 years he served the Lord in that capacity. After graduating from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), he was called to be a departmental secretary in Brazil. Later his ministry included pastoral assignments in Arizona, Kauai, Montana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas where he served English, Spanish, and Portuguese congregations. He is survived by his wife, Beverly; two daughters: Tina Bottsford and Tammy (Tony) Muse, one sister, Donna (Tom) Wheeler; two grandchildren; one niece and one nephew and their children.

BURNETT, Kathryn, 86, born Dec. 6, 1926 in Wauchula, FL, died June 23, 2013 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of Avon Park Church. She is survived by one son, Robert Burnett of Zolfo Spring, FL; one daughter, Donna Whittington of Sebring, FL; five grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. The service was conducted in Berean, FL, and the interment was in Corinth Cemetery, Berean, FL.

CAIN, Beulah V. Whetstone, 92, born Feb. 1, 1921 in Augusta, GA, died April 20, 2013. She was a member of Columbia, SC, Church. Most of her life she was employed by the Orangeburg Regional Hospital and the State of South Carolina. She was preceded in death by her husband of 52 years, D. J. Cain Sr.; one brother, Jim Whetstone; one grandson, and one great-grandson. She is survived by four daughters: Faye Duane Barrett of Charlotte, NC, Jimmie Marian Story of Hot Springs, SD, Matella Rudd of Bowman, SC, and Melissa Ann Denny of Mesquite, TX; three sons: Dolfo Jefferson Cain of Columbia, SC, Walter Maier Cain of Charlotte, NC, and Albert Ryan Cain of Columbia, SC; 16 grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews.

CHAMBERS, April Caroline, 19, born March 30, 1994, in Chattanooga, TN, died July 11, 2013. She was the daughter of Kelvin and Nancy Chambers, and may have thought she could light up a room, and her warmth and kindness could be felt by everyone who knew her. She loved going to the beach, listening to music, and spending time with family, friends, and her beloved dog, Kiwi. She was a server at Olive Garden and dreamed of one day being a nurse. She will always be remembered as a loving daughter, sister, and friend. She was preceded in death by her father, Kelvin Chambers, and her maternal grandmother, Joyce Coatham. She is survived by her mother, Nancy Chambers; two sisters: Kelsey and Savannah Chambers; her grandfather, W.B. Chambers; grandmother, Merita (Lawrence) Wilson; three aunts: Carolyn Wood, Jeannie (Ken) Fuller, and Laurrie Coatham; cousins: Jennifer (Joe) Franklin and their children Sydney, Jack, and Walker, and Heather (Mark) Urbanski; numerous extended family members; and friends.

CONNER, Linda Lucile, 66, born Oct. 18, 1946 in Marine City, MI, died June 14, 2013 in Nashville, TN. She was a member at Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. She worked as an RN for years in hospital and home health settings, transitioning to administration and mentoring many of the next generation of caregivers. She is survived by her husband, Glen; two sons: Ryan (Kaska) and Bradley (Karin) Hill; and five grandchildren.

DICKERSON, Genevieve, 94, of College Dale, TN, died June 23, 2013 in a local health care facility. A memorial service was held on July 20, 2013, at College Dale, TN, Church.

EARLE, Margaret Evelyn Caldwell, 104, born Sept. 7, 1908 in Newberry, SC, died Sept. 10, 2012. At 15 years of age, she left home as an 11th-grade student to attend academy at Oakwood Junior College. She remained at Oakwood through her academy and college years, graduating in 1927 at age 18. She went on to receive her Bachelor of Science degree in elementary education from Atlantic Union College. She began her teaching career at the age of 19 in Wilson, NC. She went on to hold teaching positions in Georgia and Florida. She served as a Bible instructor during the summer months from 1934 to 1940. She taught at Rochester Junior Academy for nine years from 1963 to 1972, and at the Culver Road School from 1972 to 1975. Her church school teaching and mentoring career spanned more than three decades. On June 14, 1942, she married John Robert Earle, eldest brother of George R. Earle, former president of the Northeastern Conference. While she and Robert never had children of their own, they were widely known throughout the Heritage Conference as fervent Christian education benefactors, donating funds to countless students to pursue their education at Adventist institutions.

Students at Rochester Seventh-day Adventist Junior Academy (RSDAJA) were especially blessed by her, who faithfully taught grades 1-8 there. Her genuine love of people and her love for her Savior formed the basis for her life’s work. Her mission of reaching as many people as possible was evidenced in the unselfish giving of her time, energy, and financial support. People, not things, were most important to her. It meant more to her than preparing people to meet Jesus when He returns. In February 2006, she left Rochester to live with her niece Caddie Evelyn Howell in White Plains, NY, who cared for her until she moved to Laurelbrook Nursing Home in Dayton, TN. Residents and workers at Laurelbrook grew to love her in that brief time. She invested her time, talents, and means in the service of the Lord; and God rewarded her with amazing longevity. Her granddaughter, Lilli Howell, faithfully remained nearby as caregiver during her last years. On Sept. 5, 2011, an official greeting and honor from the Governor of Tennessee was read at Laurelbrook, proclaiming her as the oldest living resident of the state. The city of Dayton also recognized her life during the annual citywide parade, proclaiming her the city’s oldest living resident. Her legacy lives on through her nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, great-grandnieces, great-grandnephews, cousins, a host of other family, and loved ones around the world. A memorial service was held Oct. 14, 2012, with Pastor Calvin Preston and Dr. Neil Reid officiating.

FARIA, Gloria Jewel Harrison, 86, born March 20, 1927 in Columbia, SC, died May 9, 2013. She was a member of Columbia First Church, and worked as a dental assistant most of her life. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward C. Faria; one daughter, Beth Akin; and three brothers. She is survived by her sister, Dawn Trout of West Columbia, SC; two daughters: Bonnie (Don) Hagenlocher of Lexington, NC, and Celeste Maginnis of Columbia; eight grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren.

FARRAR, Henry ‘Hank’, 86, born Oct. 1, 1926 in Patterson, NJ, died March 26, 2013. He was from Roopville, GA. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, serving in Germany as a sergeant in the armored division. He was a mechanical engineer in research and development and worked for Uniroyl for 15 years, helping to design a seat for the Apollo Space Mission. He was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 60 years and was currently attending Heritage Church in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, serving as deacon and elder. He was preceded in death by his son, Paul Farrar; and brother, William Farrar, who with his wife were the first converts as a result of Faith for Today television broadcast. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Loraine Farrar; two sons: Henry ‘Buck’ (Bonnie) Farrar of Douglasville, GA, and Mark E. (Robin Ann) Farrar of Roopville, GA; two daughters: Susan C. (Andres) Robbins of Temple, GA, and Lois L. (Larry) Stilwell of Rock Island, TN; 10 grandchildren: Brian Farrar, Kevin Farrar, Lisa Tate, ‘Nikki’ Kelly Matthews, Michael Robbins, Russell Robbins, Jeffrey
Stilwell, Gregory Stilwell, Laura Arcos, and LeahPlacios: 10 great-grandchildren; three nieces; two nephews; and one sister-in-law, Elizabeth Farrar. A memorial service was held April 13, 2013, by Pastor Sam Ball and Elder Tom Carter. FRAME, Robert R., 96, born Nov. 23, 1915 in Tamworth, New South Wales, Australia, died Nov. 5, 2012 in Hendersonville, NC. He dedicated his life to God and the work of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. His mother became an Adventist when her children were small. When it was time to go to college, his mother wanted him to go to Avondale College. Because the family had no money, he enrolled there under a work-study plan, and at the age of 20, he completed a course in business administration and religion. In 1936 he spent a year as a colporteur, and in 1937 began employment as a clerk in the treasury office of the South Pacific Division in Sydney. He boarded at the home of the Rudge family and became acquainted with Peggie Jean Watson. In 1938 Frame was invited to be secretary-treasurer of the Papua New Guinea Mission based in Port Moresby. Before accepting this position, he wooed Peggie Jean to marry him. They were wed in the Wahroonga Sydney Church No. 8, 1938. After three years in Papua New Guinea, war came to the South Pacific, and all the women were evacuated by government order. Three days later the men were asked to leave the country without the aid of government transportation. Six other missionaries escaped using a small mission boat, and made it to Australia even though they were not experienced sailors. While working in Papua New Guinea, their daughter Judy was born. During the war years, he served as assistant treasurer in the South Pacific Division, and when the war ended he was asked to return to the Papua New Guinea Mission as president. After two years the family returned to Sydney. Frame was elected secretary-treasurer of the newly formed Trans-Tasman Union Conference, covering the eastern states of Australia and New Zealand. He held this position from 1949 to 1954. Then he returned to the Division office as associate division secretary. Their son Peter Robert was added to the family at this time, and he was ordained to the Gospel ministry Feb. 5, 1955. Further responsibility was placed on him at the 1962 General Conference Session in San Francisco when he was elected secretary of the South Pacific Division. After four years, he was elected to be an associate secretary of the General Conference. In 1970, he was elected president of the South Pacific Division. After seven years, it was back to America, and he became president of the newly developed Adventist Media Center. The General Conference was centralizing the radio and television ministries to one campus in Thousand Oaks, CA. As board chairman of each of the five ministries, it was a very uplifting experience for him. Following nine years at the Adventist Media Center, the family retired Dec. 31, 1985, and moved to Hendersonville, NC. They were active members of Arden Church while living in North Carolina. GACKENHEIMER, Virginia Ruth, 96, born Dec. 29, 1916 in Pittsburgh, PA, died Sept. 25, 2013 at her home in Holly Hill, FL. She was preceded in death by her husband George Gackenheimer; her sister, Sally Schmitzer; and brother, Walter Cochran. She was a member of Daytona Beach, FL, Church. She is at rest in the Woodlawn Cemetery in Orlando, FL, next to her husband. She is sadly missed by her two nieces: Audrey Gackenheimer-Henson and Beth Gackenheimer-Hotweger; many friends; and relatives. GAGER, George Nabile, 79, born June 13, 1934 in Tripoli, Lebanon, died June 25, 2013 in Meridian, MS. He was a member of Community Church in Meridian, MS. He served in the Army by doing a six-year tour of duty in San Antonio, TX, at Fort Sam Houston. He worked for 40 years for the Seventh-day Adventist Church as a leader in the Publishing Department and Adventist Book Center. Conferences he served in included Kansas and Gulf States. He is survived by his wife, Martiel Lisbon Gager; one son, Darryl Gager; and one daughter, Tonya Gager (Barry) Owens; four grandchildren; Jessica Gager of Chunky, Sarah Owens, Casey Owens, and Blake Owens; three brothers; one sister; one great-granddaughter; several nieces; and nephews. GARCIA, Caridad B., 83, born Feb. 2, 1930 in Pinar Del Rio, Cuba, died April 27, 2013 in Winter Garden, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. She is survived by her husband, Humberto; two sons: Roy of Casselberry, FL, and Walter of Miami Springs, FL; two daughters: Elina Molero of Davie, FL, and Margarita Garcia of Casselberry, FL; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. The service was conducted by Pastor Emilio Ruiz at the Osceola, FL, Memory Gardens. Interment was at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka. GILL, Verla Marie Greenawalt, 83, born Jan. 17, 1929 in Elkhart, IN, died Dec. 26, 2012 after a long battle with Alzheimer’s. She is survived by her husband, Pat Gill; one brother, Michael (Marcia) Greenawalt; one daughter, Sandra (Ed) Madden of Plymouth, IN; five grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; four great-great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; and nephews. GRANT, Laura Mae (Easler), 83, born Dec. 1, 1929 in Skowhegan, ME, died April 22, 2013 in Hendersonville, NC. She was the secretary to the president of the Northern New England Conference and the president of Colby College. She was a member of the Dexter, ME, Church. She is survived by one brother, Norman Easler of Hendersonville, NC; two daughters: Diane (Brent) Sedgwick of Hendersonville, NC, and Deb (Dennis) Campbell of West Chesterfield, VT; three sons: Lawrence (Loretta) Grant of Fairfax, VA, Allan (Teri) Grant of Avery, CA, and Richard Grant of Takoma Park, MD; nine grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. GRASS, Michael Thomas, 34, born Feb. 13, 1979, died May 4, 2013 in Hendersonville, TN. He was a member of Madison Campus Church in Madison, TN. He is survived by his wife of 14 years, Aimee (Bentley) Grass; one daughter, Alexia; one son, Dylan; his father, Jerry (Vicki) Grass; his mother, Cindy Grass; two brothers: Billy and Daniel; and a host of other family members. Funeral services were conducted on May 8, 2013 at the Hermitage Funeral Home with burial in Hendersonville Memory Gardens. GULLETT, Major Flint C., 66, born Nov. 19, 1946 in Duette, FL, died April 25, 2013. He was the 11th of 12 children born to Asa and Frances Gullett. He attended one of the last one-room elementary schools in Duette before graduating from Palmetto Senior High School in 1965. He earned a B.S. in nursing from Southern Adventist University (formerly Southern Missionary College) in Collegedale, TN, in 1970. He enlisted in the United States Army in 1970 and served for 20 years. He served in the Vietnam War, and was stationed in South Korea and Belgium, as well as numerous states in the U.S., including Texas, South Carolina, and Maryland. He went on to earn his Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist degree from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in 1976 and a Masters of Education from the University of Southern California in 1981. He joined the Howard County General Hospital staff in 1987, first as a hospital employee and member of the operating room staff, and later as a member of the allied health professional staff and Howard County Anesthesia Associates. He was well-loved by his co-workers. He is survived by nine siblings: Evelyn Graves, Daisy Bryant, Mary Muncey, Susanna Faircloth, Paul Gullett, Augustus Gullett, Jane Egert, Frank Gullett, and James Gullett; and 36 nieces and nephews. HALL, Annie Laurie, 90, born April 29, 1923 in High Springs, FL, died June 6, 2013 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church in Apopka. She is survived by one son, Terry Hall of Apopka; one daughter, Deborah McPherson of Apopka; one sister, Martha Barker; many nieces; and nephews. She was predeceased by her husband, Oscar Perry Hall; son-in-law, Stephen McPherson; five sisters; and two brothers. A memorial service was conducted by George Crawford at Forest Lake Church Youth Center. HEAD, Evelyn Singletary, 91, born Nov. 10, 1922 in Cowards, SC, died April 12, 2013. She was a member of Columbia, SC, Church. She was preceded in death by her son, Singletary “Terry” Head; three brothers; three sisters; one grandson; and one great-grandson. She is survived by her sister, Betty Jones of Florence, SC; one daughter, Janice Branhman of West Columbia, SC; one son, Wylie Benjamin Head III of Charleston, SC; 12 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and four great-great-grandchildren. HENDERSON, Jessie G., 70, born Aug. 19, 1943 in Martinsburg, WV, died Aug. 21, 2013 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of Avon Park Church. He was employed in the publishing work for 25 years in the following conferences: Chesapeake, Ohio, Arizona, Arkansas-Louisiana, Indiana, Wisconsin, Carolina, Georgia-Cumberland, and Florida. He is survived by his wife, Judy Henderson; one son, Joel of Collegedale, TN; two daughters: Karina Maquera of Avon Park, FL, and Staci Frolich of Laurel, MD; and six grandchildren.
**Obituaries**

The service was conducted by Steve Woolsey in Marlowe, WV. Interment was in Harmony Cemetery in Marlowe.

**HOLLOWAY, R. J., Sr.,** 76, born Nov. 1, 1936 in Sandy Hook, MS, died Jan. 20, 2012. He was the sixth child of 12 children. He was preceded in death by six siblings: Samuel Holloway, Earl Holloway, Bobby Holloway, Jimmy Holloway, J.W. Holloway, and Betty Jean Holloway. He is survived by his devoted wife of 33 years, Ida; one daughter, Lillie Holloway Graves of Gulfport, MS; four sons: Roy (Lulu) Holloway of Austin, TX, Timothy (Annette) Martin of Sandy Hook, Anthony Whitfield of Biloxi, MS, and Shannon (Shayvonne) Holloway of Foxworth, MS; 10 grandchildren: Toriano (Nelceta) Holloway of Starkville, MS, Raeschelle (Shon) Purcell of Raleigh, NC, Taka (Jeff) Payton of Gulfport, Candice Martin of Dallas, TX, Timothy Martin Jr., Kenny McDuffie, and Patrice Martin all of Sandy Hook, Lulu Lindsay, Lorraine Steen, James Priepo, Yavanesa Holloway all of Texas; 22 great-grandchildren: Aaron and Lindsey Holloway of Gulfport, Andrew, Nara, and Navara Martin of Dallas, Brita Wright and Chanel Fairley of Raleigh, NC, Dominick Dickerson, Malique Holloway, Chris Johnson, TaiShawn Holloway, Jhali Holloway of Gulfport; five siblings: Lizzie Pittman of Sandy Hook, Frances Abrain and Annie M. Holloway of New Brunswick, NJ, Mary J. Holloway of Foxworth, MS, Johnny (Clara Bell) Holloway of New Brunswick; one sister-in-law, Carrie (Glover) Johnson of Milwaukee, WI; four brothers-in-law: Howard (Maxie) Pittman of West Booneville, MI, Henry (Linda) Pittman of Foxworth, Clarence (Jaye) Pittman of Milwaukee, WI, and Willis (Phyllis) Pittman of Brookfield, WI; two aunts: Maude Pittman and Stella Gillard of Sandy Hook; a host of nieces; nephews; other relatives; and friends. Pastor R. Steven Norman III officiated the funeral.

**HOUSE, Harry R. Jr.,** born Jan. 17, 1928 in Port Allegheny, PA, died June 1, 2013 in Clemson, SC. He was an active member of Westminster Church and a member of the Board of the Poplar Springs Church School in Westminster, SC. He was a graduate of Takoma Academy, and Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University), both in Takoma Park, MD. He was a long-time member of Takoma Park Church before retiring to South Carolina in the late 1990s. He was a teacher and guidance counselor in the Prince Georges County School System in Maryland; long-time employee of Adventist Risk Management (ARM), and a retired member of the ARM Board of Directors. He served for more than 20 years as chair of the John Nevins Andrews School Board in Takoma Park, MD. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Washington Adventist University, and vice chairman of the Board of Trustees of Shady Grove Adventist Hospital in Gaithersburg, MD. Beyond his denominational employment, he lent his expertise to executive management throughout his career to several other specialty insurance/risk management programs for the broader business community. He was a key promoter of Christian education throughout his life, and found delight in sponsoring many students in their pursuit of a Christian education. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy H. House of Clemson, SC; one sister, Joanna Crowe of Westminster, SC; and four nieces.

**HUNT, Genella M. Lowder,** 88, born Aug. 21, 1925 in Fletcher, NC, died May 17, 2013 in Chattanooga, TN. She was a member of Collegebade, TN, Church on Southern Adventist University Campus. She graduated from the School of Nursing at the Mountain Sanatorium and Hospital in Fletcher, NC. She married Donald Carlton Hunt on June 14, 1947. They served at Bugema Adventist University and Uganda & Kamagambo College in Kenya from 1959 to 1964. She is survived by her husband, Donald Carlton Hunt of Chattanooga; one daughter, Donna Hunt of Chattanooga; three sons: Donald C. Hunt of Tyler, TX, Thomas C. Hunt of Magalia, CA, and Keith L. Hunt of Wasilla, AK; 11 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

**ILES, Rosemary Richards,** 88, born May 13, 1924 in Gary, IN, died April 29, 2013 in Flat Rock, NC. She attended the Hendersonville, NC, Church. She served as an accountant for the Far Eastern Division in Singapore, and also the Kentucky-Tennessee Book and Bible House in Madison, TN. She married Harold Iles and moved to Glendale, CA, where she was employed by the Southern California Conference in the trust services department. In 1969, she worked for the Greater New York Conference. She and her husband retired to Hendersonville where many years of service were given to the church and community. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold A. Iles; two children: Robert H. Iles and Renee Caldwell; and two brothers: Willie Richards and Even W. Richards. She is survived by her grandchildren: Lowell Iles, Veronica Iles, Chris Caldwell, Tina Caldwell, and Roger Caldwell; three great-grandchildren; and many other family members.

**JOHNSON, Tessa C.,** 99, born Aug. 24, 1913 in Avinger, TX, died July 11, 2013 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. She was employed for two years by the Oklahoma Conference. She worked for two doctors, and as private nurse in Washington, DC, for 12 years prior to entering government service where she was employed for more than 20 years. She served with the Library of Congress as a legal secretary with the Internal Revenue Service, and then at Walter Reed Army Medical Center where she served as a medical secretary, legal secretary, and then in the public affairs office where she helped set up a Faction Line Communication System and established a Historical File of the Center's history. She is survived by her son, Johnny Johnson, Altamonte Springs. The service was conducted by Pastor Barbara McCoy at Baldwin-Fairchild Funeral Home. Interment was at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

**LITTLE, Theresa L.,** 80, born Nov. 3, 1932 in Loma Linda, CA, died July 24, 2013 in Apopka, FL. She is survived by four sons: Joel, Doug, Bryan, and Marc; one daughter, Pam; one sister, Ellen Harding; 10 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The service was conducted in Lebanon, TN.

**LOPEZ, Delpha Weir,** 81, born May 9, 1931 in Loma Linda, CA, died April 24, 2013 in Chattanooga, TN. She was an active member of the McDonald Road Church in McDonald, TN. After graduating from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), Collegebade, TN, she and her husband, Ruben, worked at Highland Academy, Portland, OR; Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, MS; and Forest Lake Academy, Forest City, FL. She then worked at Florida Living Retirement...
MORRIS, Jay, 31, born Dec. 18, 1926 in College Point, WA, died April 21, 2013 in Dunedin, FL. She was a member of New Port Richey, FL, Church for 10 years. She is survived by one daughter, Susan Herberger of Ohio; one brother, Bob Moore of Washington; three sisters: Edith Ashlock of California, Rose Ray of California, and Winona Matheson of Washington; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Norman Deakin.

NEFF, Normagene Cowman, 95, born Aug. 15, 1918 in Dayton, OH, died July 14, 2013 in Fletcher, NC. She and her husband moved to Hendersonville, NC, in 1953 to take advantage of the Christian education offered for their children at Fletcher Academy. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her sister, Louise Burger of Dayton, OH; two daughters: Ruth Ann Bradley and Rose Mary Sikora; one son, Pastor John E. Neff; five grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren.

NORMAN, Hazel E., 88, born Sept. 26, 1925 in Plant City, FL, died May 30, 2013 in Winter Park, FL. She is survived by three sons: James of Orlando, FL, Eddie of Eustis, FL, and Keith of Grand Isle, FL; one daughter, Diane Smith of Austin, TX; three sisters: Elouise Thomas, Inez Thomas, and Carolyn Johnson, all of Plant City, FL; 14 grandchildren; and 10 great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Richard Joyner at the Wells Memorial and Event Center in Plant City. Interment was in the Mt. Enon Cemetery in Plant City.

NOSS, Lillian Cloteen, 88, born March 6, 1925, died May 1, 2013 in Nashville, TN. She was a member of Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN. She was preceded in death by her husband, Raymond L. Noss. She is survived by one daughter, Linda (Larry) Zumstein; two granddaughters: Holly Ferree and Heather Doak; and one sister, Edith Hodapp. Funeral services were conducted May 5, 2013 at Madison Campus Church with burial in Spring Hill Cemetery.

OLSON, Robert Wesley, 92, born Oct. 25, 1920 in Oshawa, Ontario, Canada, died April 15, 2013 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Hendersonville Church. He graduated from Broadview Academy in 1937, and attended college at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University), La Sierra, and Pacific Union College. In 1943 he married Rowena Macaulay. He taught Bible at Golden Gate Academy. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1946. He taught at the College of Medical Evangelists and at Loma Linda until 1955. This was followed by four years at Newbold College in England as president. In 1960 he became the chairman of the Adventist Church in England, and in 1967 he became the chairman of the College of Medical Evangelists.
PECK, Jr., Chester Emory, 78, born July 5, 1934, died March 27, 2013 in Alabaster, AL. He is survived by his wife, Judy Peck, of Verbena, AL; two sisters: Amy Miller of El Paso, TX, and Lynn Meeks of Portsmouth, VA; two daughters: Cathy Oliver of Collegedale, TN, and Joyce McGaugii of Dallas, TX; and eight grandchildren. He was a member of Clanton, AL, Church.

PARKER, Albert Roland, 85, born Sept. 12, 1927 in Bunnell, FL, died Jan. 16, 2013 in Fletcher, NC. He was a member of Fletcher Church. He graduated from Madison, TN, College in 1951 with a RN degree. He served as director of nursing and assistant business manager of Scott Sanitarium at Reeves, GA, and now the location of Georgia-Cumberland Academy. In 1952, he graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) with a degree in religion and Spanish. In 1955, he received his bachelor's degree of divinity from the Adventist Seminary in Washington, DC. He served as principal of Southfield Junior Academy in Detroit, MI. In 1962 he was called to pastor. He was ordained to the Gospel ministry in 1964. In 1979 he moved to Adrian, MI, where he established a Branch Sabbath School in Tecumsey, MI, which grew to become an established church. He retired in 1989, and was preceded in death by his first wife, Genevieve (Hughes); and his sons: Robert Bruce and George Walter. He is survived by his wife, K.B. Myers Parker; one sister, Dorothy Virginia Parker Kepler of Hendersonville, NC; two daughters-in-law: Nancy McDaniel Parker and Rose Marie Parker; four grandchildren: Athea Parker Wood, Deborah Parker, RoseMarie Augsburger, and Cynthia Brooks; five great-grandchildren: Audrey Ada Wood, Celeste, Carolina, Caleb, and Cyrus.

PEARMAN, John W. “Jack”, 85, died May 6, 2013 at the Lourdes Hospital in Paducah, KY. He was a member of Paducah Church in Paducah, KY. He was a retired Navy veteran with 30 years of service. He was preceded in death by his wife, Louise Pearman; and two brothers. He is survived by one son, David McNeill; two daughters: Kathy Liskey and Diane Boss; one sister, Janet Behrens; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held May 12, 2013 with military rites at the Keeling Family Funeral Home. Pastor Dennis Altrogge officiated. Burial followed at the Fooks Cemetery in Marshall County, KY.

PRATT, Floyd H., 86, born March 31, 1926 in Omega, LA, died March 30, 2013 in Young Harris, GA. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Nora; seven daughters: Judith Marke of Orlando, FL; Susan Hess of Riverbend, CA; Pamela Burkhard of New Smyrna Beach, FL; Cheryl Bunce of Seven Lakes, NC; Carol Griffis of York, SC, and Ginger Williams of Valosta, GA; two sons: Jay Pratt of Apopka, FL, and Jonathan Pratt of Young Harris, GA; one sister, Zelda Aldridge of CA; 27 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

PROSSER, Hazel Christeen Barnett, 90, born June 2, 1922 in Alabama, died March 29, 2013 in Madison, TN. She was a member of the Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas Prosser Sr.; one son, Thomas Prosser Jr.; one daughter, Cecil Kay; and one grandson, Don Wayman. She was survived by one son, Raymond Prosser; five daughters: Shirley Johnson, Mary Sue Prosser, Barbara (Wayman) Harshaw, Dorothy deMontigny, and Martha Stokes; one brother, Edgar Barnett; 16 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; and five great-great-grandchildren. Services were held at Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN.

REICHARD, Paul S., 97, born July 18, 1915 in Madison, GA, died Feb. 25, 2013 in Apopka, FL. He was an Adventist for 72 years. Denominational employment included: July 1946 to June 1960, clerk to treasurer at Glendale Sanitarium and Hospital; June 1960-1996, during the planning phrase of Kettering Memorial Hospital, he set up the accounting system and bill paying, making it one of the first hospital computerized accounting systems; and 1982-1995, vice president of finance at Eastern Adventist Health System. After retirement he helped standardize the world organization accounting systems by having computer accounting programs installed and training local workers: 1982-1984, Bangkok, Thailand; 1985, London, England, Eton Hall; 1987, Panang, Penang Adventist Hospital/Hong Kong; and 1988-1995, Hong Kong Adventist Hospital where he helped prepare the yearly audit. He is survived by his wife, Elda Mae; two sons; Gordon of Montros, CO, and Richard of Rapidan, VA; one daughter, Margaret of Apopka; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. The service was conducted by Pastor Jim King at Florida Living Church in Apopka.

RYAN, Aline, 91, born April 4, 1922 in Berrien Springs, MI, died July 21, 2013 in Port St. Lucie, FL. She was a member of Avon Park, FL, Church. She is survived by two sons: Daniel of Stewart, FL, and Charles of Avon Park, FL; five grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. The service was conducted by Pastor Walter Maier at Nelson Funeral Home in Lake Wales, FL. Interment was at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

SATTELMEYER, Peter, 50, born March 2, 1933 in Bukovac, Bosnia, died May 11, 2013 in New Port Richey, FL. He was a member of New Port Richey, FL, Church for 15 years. He is survived by his wife, Theressa; two daughters: Lydia Tate of Holiday, FL, and Linda Bruce; one brother, Dusan Sattelmayr of Stony Creek, Ontario; one sister, Ivanka Rada, Hamilton of Ontario; four grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Nik Sattelmayr at New Port Richey Church.

SHAW, Trudi, died April 5, 2013. She was the wife of Mervyn, mother of Andre’ (Juliet) Van Heerden, Elma (Derek) Heldzinger, Cindy (Herb) Stanley, Craig (Aimee) Shaw, and Tanya (Andre’) Frederick. A memorial service was held April 13, 2013, at Collegedale, TN, Church in the Gospel Chapel.

SHIPMAN, Rena Lee, born Feb. 20, 1910 in Geneva County, AL, died Nov. 10, 2012. She was a deaconess and a member of Bethany Church in Montgomery, AL.

SMITH, Ina Louise Tuttle, 92, born July 15, 1921 in Bennington, VT, died Aug. 25, 2013 at Hendersonville, NC, Health and Rehab. She was a teacher and a member of Mills River, NC, Church. She is survived by her husband, Harry Smith of Etohaw, NC; two sons: Bill Stull...
of Temperenceville, VA, and Roger Stull of Lewisburg, W.VA; two stepdaughters: Brenda Richards of Glendale, CA, and Rhonda Torres of Candler, NC; and four grandchildren.

SMITH, Revannelle Thomas, 93, born May 16, 1919 in Panama City, FL, died Dec. 21, 2012. She was a charter member of the Panama City Church and a faithful and loving member of the Cody Road Church since moving to Mobile in 1956. Throughout her life she was actively involved with her church, holding many offices, teaching classes, playing the piano, and singing in the choir. She was an unabashed Christian who was as beautiful inside as out, and known for her love of God and family. She was a Christian who was as beautiful inside as out, and known for her love of God and family. She was a member of the Smoky Hill Church since moving to Pine Knoll Shores, NC, Margaret Sherry Beal, and Barbara Carol Rhodes, Mobile, AL. She was affectionately known as “Revie” by her six grandchildren: Jennifer S. Smith, Pine Knoll Shores, NC, Thomas Maxwell Smith Jr., Atlantic City, NC, Dr. David Ozment, Caroline (Chris) Naman, Mobile, AL, Donna (Brian) Lackey, Fairhope, AL, Deborah (Carlton) Vollberg, Chattahoochee, TN; and eight great-grandchildren: Jack Lackey, Matthew, Catie, Gracie and Sarah Naman, and Josh, Adam, and Caroline Vollberg. She took great pleasure in extending her family to include Tammy and Kevin Anderson and their children: Noah, Abigail, and Jonah, Saraland, AL.

SOMMERVILLE, Elinor J., 91, born June 23, 1922 in Milwaukee, WI, died Aug. 17, 2013 in Apopka, FL. She was survived by three sons: Richard of Winter Springs, FL, Randy of Menomonee Falls, WI, and Robert of Aurora, IL; one daughter, Loree of Apopka, FL; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A graveside service was conducted by Nick Beaumonte at Pine Lawn Memorial Park in Milwaukee.

SOPER, Beverly J., 79, born Aug. 9, 1933 at Beloit, WI, and died May 2, 2013 at Altamonte Springs, FL. She was member of Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. She was survived by her husband, Marley; one son, Scott of Bristol, TN; one daughter, Sheila Evans of Ooltewah, TN; and three grandchildren.

SPEARS, Kenneth E., 87, born Oct. 16, 1925 in Alto, TX, died Feb. 13, 2013 in Lufkin, TX. Joined the Adventist Church at a Barron Brothers Series in Houston, TX, in 1956. He graduated from Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in 1966. He was an administrator at Southern from 1961 to 1981 as student finance director, business manager, dean of student affairs, and registrar. He is survived by his wife, Mildred Bates Spears; one son, Steve of Denver, CO; two daughters: Susan Loo of La Center, WA, and Karen Lippert of Altamonte Springs, FL; and two brothers: Gary Spears of Lebanon, TN, and Don Spears of Collegedale, TN.

STRUBLE, Ingrid J., 88, born April 5, 1925 in Leipzig, Germany, died April 26, 2013 in Gainesville, FL. She was a member of Gainesville, FL, Church for 20 years. She is survived by two daughters: Lynn Werts of Micanopy, FL, and Carol Prochaska of Ft. Lauderdale, FL. Pastor Daniel Graham conducted the service at Gainesville Church.

SULLIVAN, Carolyn, 87, born Jan. 17, 1926 in Barren County, KY, died July 31, 2013 in Elizabethtown, KY. She was a member of the Glasgow, KY, Church. She is survived by one daughter, Diane Martin; three grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. A graveside service was conducted by Pastor George Brown at Avon Park Church.

TATE, Walter, 87, born June 23, 1925 in Richmond, VA, died March 15, 2013 in Bradenton, FL. He was a member of Avon Park, FL, Church. He was employed by the denomination for 40 years. He served as a literature evangelist. He is survived by his wife, Wanda; one daughter, Cheri Hoff of Charlotteville, WV; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor George Brown at Avon Park Church.

TETER, Gretchen Irene Richardson, 101, born Sept. 16, 1911, died July 1, 2013. She was a member of the Collegedale Church. She is survived by two children: Ken (Betty) Teter and Jayone Allen; four grandchildren: Mark Teter, Brady Teter, Stephen Allen, and Brad Schinderm; and seven great-grandchildren: Lindsay Teter, Nathan Teter, Alec Teter, Katherine Allen, Nicholas Allen, Elizabeth Allen, and Joseph Allen.

TRIM, Kendrick, 84, born June 18, 1928 in New York State, died May 13, 2013 in Bowling Green, KY. He was a member of Sand Hill Church in Bowling, KY. He is survived by his wife, Alice; one son, Stanley; one daughter, Patty Trim; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

VON POHLE, Evelyn A., 101, born Nov. 16, 1911 in Sioux Falls, SD, died July 16, 2013 in New Smyrna Beach, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. She was a denominational employee for 40 years and served in the Inter American Division. She is survived by her daughter, Esther (John) Bailey; five grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her daughter, Sylvia Klein Robbins. The graveside service was conducted by Pastors Bill Crofton and Barbara McCoy.

WELLS, Robert (Bob) Jay, 59, born April 27, 1954 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, died Aug. 13, 2013 in his home. As a young man, he spent time in several supporting ministries including Silver Hills in Alberta, Canada, Oak Haven in Michigan, and Boston Country Life. He was a member of the Dunlap, TN, Church. He was preceded in death by his father, Hume Wells. He is survived by his wife, Beth Wells; one daughter, Scarlet Elizabeth Wells of Dunlap; one son, Virginia Smith of Silver Spring, MD; one sister, Nancy Elizabeth Wells of Sackville, Nova Scotia; one brother, Michael Wells of Darmouth, Nova Scotia; several nieces and nephews; four stepchildren: Whitney Anderson of Dunlap, Karson Anderson of Winston-Salem, NC, Sterling Anderson of Dunlap, and Benjamin (Amanda) Anderson of Highpoint, NC; two step-grandchildren: Abbigail Shell and Benjamin Anderson Jr. Memorial services were conducted by Pastor Bud Schermerhorn.

WENTLAND, Loraine (White), 92, born July 1, 1920 in Tifton, GA, died May 8, 2013. She loved children and spent many years teaching in the Atlanta area, and also served as education superintendent for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. She was a member of Park Avenue Church in Valdosta, GA. She is survived by her son and daughter-in-law, H. Mike and Sally White of Lake Park, GA; eight grandchildren: M. Kirt White, Craig White, Laine and Bobby Chaney, Jr., Helen and Derrick Black, and Donna and Kevin Johns; seven great-grandchildren: Nicole Connell, Kristen and Michael Adkins, Lauryn McDonald, Hunter Black, and Megan Chaney; and three great-great-grandchildren: Hayden and Addison Connell, and Alyssen Adkins. The family held a memorial service May 14, 2013, at Park Avenue Church with Pastor Mike Adams officiating.

WESSLES, Izak Frederick, M.D., 64, born Oct. 2, 1948 in South Africa, died Feb. 27, 2013 at his home in Chattanooga, TN. He had an insatiable thirst for knowledge and was an eager student. He had an innate knack for explaining complex things in simple ways, and his loved teaching. He was the first in his family to attain higher education by attending university and then being enrolled in medical school. He became an ophthalmologist after finding his professional calling in the mission field at Maluti Hospital situated in Lesotho, Africa. Here the miracle of restoring sight became his passion. He married Elaine Blake in 1972 and they had three children: Gunter, Delia, and Rhoda. He and the family permanently immigrated to the United States in 1986, where he became a faculty member at Loma Linda University Medical School, as well as a diligent clinician. In 1995, the family moved to Tennessee, where he worked at Omni Eye, then Nova Med, before starting Allied Eye Associates in 2002. He worked there until he was diagnosed with Lou Gehrig’s disease. He is survived by his wife, Elaine of Chattanooga; his son, Gunter, and his wife, Elena, with their three daughters of Chattanooga; his daughter, Delia Anderson and her husband, Todd, with their son and daughter of Carson City, NV; and his daughter, Rhoda Wessels of Chattanooga; his brother, Chris, and his wife, Hester; and his brother, Jans, and his wife, Suzaan, and their families of Australia. A memorial service was held March 9, 2013, at Collegedale Church. Arrangements were handled by Heritage Funeral Home in Chattanooga.

WHITE, Donna Ann, 59, born March 24, 1954, died April 22, 2013 at her home in Owensboro. She was a lifelong member of the Adventist Church, and had a beautiful singing voice. She will be sadly missed by her husband of 36 years, Joel; one son, Rocky (Shelly); one daughter, Della (Andy) Wall; one stepson, J.D. (Gale) White; two stepdaughters: Brandy (David) McClelland and Sharrin (Harley) Partridge; 16 grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. Funeral services were held April 25, 2013, at Owensboro Church with burial at Owensboro Memory Gardens.
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5 MINUTES TO SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY – Newer home built in 2006, over 3100 square feet w/ finished basement and fenced yard, $299,900. Large plantation style home on 2.7 acres with 4-car garage in McDonald, low taxes, listed at $489,900. 9.1 acres 10 minutes to SAU, mostly level ready to build your dream home! $94,500. To search for all MLS area listings go to www.DixonTeam.com. Wendy Dixon/Crye-Leike Realtors. Phone #: 423-883-0656; ask for Herby. [11]

INVESTMENT: Investment duplex near Collegedale, TN area (15 minutes). One story, all brick, the monthly income is $975/month. Tenant occupied. Great location near Volkswagen and Amazon. Great rental history. $93,000. Contact Vincent Lopez at 423.316.1880, vlopez@realtycenter.com, Prudential Realty Center. [11]


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COZY HOME with 3500+ square feet, 2004 home, 4 bed, 4 bath, 2 kitchens, CH/AC, woodstoves, using year-round springs on 10 partly wooded private acres, DSL; hour north of Nashville. Churches, schools, academies 17 - 35 miles close. 859-333-0866. ©


MOUNTAIN LOT cleared for house near Waynesville, NC. 1.3 acres, creek, septic is in, deed restricted. 352-688-2073. [11]

PEACEFUL COUNTRY LIVING in Mills River, NC near Adventist hospital, churches, and schools. 2000 square feet, 3 bed, 2 bath, large kitchen, CH/CA, 2 driveways to carport and 2-car garage, on 1 beautiful landscaped acre with garden. $178,000. Pictures and more information: asheville.craigslist.org/ reo/4088994824.html, or 828-808-6113. ©

RURAL PROPERTY near Columbia, KY. 120 acres with marketable timber and 20 acres of pasture beside year-round creek. All mineral rights convey, including oil. Very private, very beautiful. Perfect for country living. $208,000. Call 423-432-1001 or email drfred@junco.com [11]

DOUBLE CEMETARY PLOT in Highland Memory Gardens near Forest Lake SDA Church, Apopka, FL. Their current price is $7680, asking $3500. No longer live in Florida. Call 423-396-2473 or 423-598-2458. [11]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE
SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST GUAM CLINIC is embarking on a major expansion and is seeking physicians in Internal Medicine, Family Medicine, General Surgery, Orthopedic Surgery, Cardiology, Rheumatology, Pulmonology, Gastroenterology, OB/GYN, Urology, Pediatrics, ENT, Optometry, and Dermatology. Contact us to learn about our benefits and opportunities by calling 671-646-8881, ext. 116; emailing hr@guamsda.com; or visiting our website at www.adventistclinics.com. [11, 12]

PRO HEALTH is looking for a female licensed Massage Therapist/Physical Therapist at the Hulsey Wellness Center at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, TN and in Calhoun, GA. Working in an excellent environment, flexible schedule, and a good salary. Please call Diego at 706-844-2412. [11-1]

UNION COLLEGE invites applicants for a faculty position teaching Accounting. Qualified applicants will have a CPA and MBA or Masters in Accounting and should be a committed member of the SDA Church. A doctorate is preferred. Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Barry Forbes at barfores@ucollege.edu. [11]

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MISCELLANEOUS

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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. [11, 12]


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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master’s degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, 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 423.236.2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies. [11-5]


EXPANDING INNER CITY MINISTRY – Seeks donated motor home or travel trailer for Medical/Dental/Literature work. Contact McDonald Road Church, www.mcdonaldrad.org or 423-396-3462. [11]

FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING – Nov. 22, 23 at Camp Sawyer, Big Pine Key (mile marker 34). Speaker: Clifford Goldstein. Great music and Children’s program. Bring food for a Sabbath picnic. For info, call 305-743-5268 or email prayingks@aol.com. [11]
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Events Calendar

Carolina


Georgia-Cumberland

Pathfinder Teen Challenge – Nov. 1-3. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

Prayer Ministries Day – Nov. 2. Atlanta North Church. Atlanta, GA.

Atlanta Southside Homecoming – Nov. 8-10. Jonesboro, TN.

Health Rally – Nov. 9. 2-5 p.m. Decatur Church. Decatur, TN. “The Blueprint, the Story of Adventist Education” Nov. 9. 3 p.m. Conyers, GA. Nov. 9. 5:30 p.m. Marietta, GA.

Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response Training (certification offered) – Nov. 9. 10. Murphy Church. Murphy, NC.


Association Board Meeting – Dec. 4. 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Conference Office. Calhoun, GA.

Florida


Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Nov. 23. Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinics

Greater Miami Academy 5th Annual Golf Tournament – March 30. Doral Golf Resort and Spa. Check-in: 12:00 p.m.

Theme: Jump Start the Dream! Entry fee: $185 for either golf or spa participant. Golf package includes green fees, golf cart, Goody Bag, refreshments and award reception buffet dinner. Spa package includes all day spa, treatment (five choices available), Goody Bag, and award reception buffet dinner. Details: http://www.gma.edu/, ctrewilcock@gma.edu, or 305-220-5955 x151.

Executive Committee – Dec. 10.


Highland/Madison Academy Boards – Jan. 23.

Southern Adventist University

PreviewSouthern – Nov. 7. 8. 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. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS


ATLANTA FESTIVAL OF PRAISE: Georgia-Cumberland Conference unites with South Atlantic Conference on Sabbath, December 7, at 5 p.m. to celebrate the biennial Festival of Praise at Springfield Baptist Church, 1877 Iris Drive SE, Conyers, GA. The keynote speaker is Pastor Dan Jackson, president of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America. Among the singing groups to be featured in concert will be Atlanta West End Choir, Atlanta Armenian Choir, Georgia-Cumberland Academy’s Sinfonietta, Korean Choir, Atlanta Adventist Academy’s Adoramus, Atlanta Hispanic Choir, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Concert Choir, Atlanta Caribbean Choir, and more. Save the date and invite a friend. Details: facebook.com/gccsda and twitter.com/gccsda.

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE MASS CHOIR: All singers in choirs, chorales, praise teams, and groups of all sizes are invited to participate in the Georgia-Cumberland/South Atlantic Mass Choir under the direction of Jarrett Roseborough, Minister of Music. The first rehearsal is scheduled to take place at Mountainside Church, 3936 Rainbow Drive, Decatur, GA on Sabbath, Nov. 26, at 5 p.m. Please contact Michele McFarlane-Webb at 706-602-7384 for details.

Gulf States

Complete Calendar online http://www.gsccsda.org

Teen Invitational-Rock Climbing – Nov. 1-3.

Teen Weekend – Nov. 8-10. Camp Alamosco.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Highland/Madison Academy Boards – Nov. 7.

Elders’ Training – Nov. 8-10. Indian Creek Camp.

Adventurer Camporee – Nov. 15-17.

Atlantic Adventist Academy’s Adoramus, Atlanta Hispanic Choir, Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy Concert Choir, Atlanta Caribbean Choir, and more. Save the date and invite a friend. Details: facebook.com/gccsda and twitter.com/gccsda.

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