BLESSED IS THE MAN...
The religious community — and the nation, for that matter — has been shaken by allegations of ethical impropriety by religious leaders. Multiple faiths’ church leadership have allegedly concealed sex-abuse episodes quietly festering in the shadows of church life. Some ministerial icons in the Christian community have betrayed the trust of many because of their foibles that have been revealed. Religious organizations with lives apparently characterized by effective ministry are being scrutinized by law enforcement agencies determined to put an end to the victimization of minors by their spiritual leaders.

Faced with a constant stream of new allegations and cover-ups, devout Christians and people from other religious traditions look to the major faith groups of the world for change. Many believers are wondering what level of authority and autonomy should be ascribed to religious leaders as they preside over the vulnerabilities of people in need of spiritual support and guidance in life.

One of the Bible statements that has historically established a basis of authority for the appointed or elected church leader is found in Acts 5:29: “We ought to obey God rather than men,” (KJV). The implication appears to be clear and succinct. To understand and revere God is the prerogative and latitude of the religious leader. This latitude or authority to officiate in ministry is personal to a great degree. The mission of Jesus as Savior of the world generally serves as a model upon which ministerial authority is based.

This includes self-sacrificing service to others. Church members and leaders usually acknowledge the personal surrender of one’s ministerial career in loving compliance to God. The level of trust that the typical church member has for his/her leader is monumental. Therein lies the need to proportionately synthesize character and authority.

In the ministry of pastoral nurture, counseling, confessionals, and other religious rites, a code of ethics overseen by a responsible entity is what the faithful need from their church. The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and the American Psychological Association have established codes of ethics supervised by the corresponding associations affiliated with service to people.

I feel compelled to summon Bible-believing Christians to a deeper and more intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. Just as surely as we live, move, and have our being in this social media age, sex-crazed society, and the faith-based group of our affiliation, we will encounter and sometimes have to endure the disclosed corrupt inner lives of leaders, even in the Christian church. The great news is that I have tried Jesus as my leader. He hasn’t failed me yet. We get to know Him best by consistently seeking him through an active prayer life and the study of how He guides us in the presence of life’s great disappointments. Assurance of God’s direction in our lives comes alive when we see how God protected those who sought Him even when the religious leaders of their day failed them. I counsel you as a faithful servant of your church to try God as your leader.
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They came from north and south. They came from east and west. They came to be blessed anew with every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. They came to be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. The Southern Union Conference’s first Men’s Prayer Summit was held on October 3-4, 2014, at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, Georgia. It was a weekend that will remain in the hearts and minds of those in attendance, encouraging each man to be an even greater blessing to his family, church, and community.

The theme “Blessed is the Man” was selected because it represents the experience and life that God wants all men to have. God sent His only begotten Son, so that everybody would receive spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus. According to Numbers 23:23, the blessings of God are irreversible, for Balaam said, “Behold, I have received commandment to bless, and He hath blessed and I cannot reverse it.”

The Prayer Summit began with opening prayer at 7:30 p.m., and nearly three-fourths of those who registered had already arrived from various territories in the Union, and were seated and waiting with great anticipation for the blessings God had in store for them.

The keynote speaker on Friday evening was Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union Conference. He directed the men to Mark 5 and elaborated on Jairus the ruler. As a ruler, he was accustomed to having his way and even attempted to direct Jesus on how to heal his daughter. In Mark 5:23 he said, “I pray thee, come and lay Thy hand on her, that she may be healed, and she shall live.” But, before they could reach Jairus’ home, his daughter had died. Jairus had a healing in mind; Jesus had a resurrection in mind. Jairus wanted her to be relieved of her malady; Jesus wanted her to be completely whole. Jairus wanted to see the possible; Jesus wanted him to see the impossible. Smith sought to help the men understand that when the blessed man of God seeks the Father’s face in prayer, he must be open to God’s leading instead of
The pinnacle part of the Summit was prayer. After every general session, the men gathered in small groups to pray and uplift each other.

The Sabbath morning service began at 7 a.m. and, after a full day of worship, prayer, and teaching, ended at 9 p.m. The weekend included five general sessions and three periods for seminars and breakout sessions. The general session speakers were Ron Smith; Barry C. Black, D.Min., Ph.D., United States Senate Chaplain; Mike Tucker, Faith for Today Ministries speaker/director; Joseph Evans, M.D., urologist; Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial director; Charles Burken, Oregon Conference director of member ministries and evangelism; and Jason O’Rourke, Florida Hospital chaplain. The seminars were specifically steered to areas of concern for men of all ages.

The Sabbath featured speaker, Barry Black, used various illustrations and Scripture references to discourage plugging into the wrong power outlets/sources like sin, unbelief, and prayerlessness; encouraged the men to connect to a strong devotional life and an accountability partner/brother; and prompted them to give help to those who need a helping hand. In other words, “Instead of allowing the blessing to stop with us, we ought to reach out and bless others.” Jesus said, “If you have done it unto the least of these, you have done it unto me.” Black ended the Sabbath with a challenge: “Watch and be ready for we know not the day nor the hour that Jesus will come.”

In most of the conferences in the Southern Union, there is a men’s ministries director. The director’s purpose is to assist men in their walk with Christ, and to help build bonds that will strengthen those who are weak, and to offer a helping hand during difficult times in their lives. Solomon puts it best: “Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up,” Ecclesiastes 4:9, 10.

First Covington, Georgia, Church, David M. Jones, pastor, had the largest number of men who attended the Summit.
Prayer Summit, and Charleston, South Carolina, Church had the second largest number of men. Rod Battle of the Maranatha Church in Atlanta, Georgia, invited and paid for his three brothers to experience the Prayer Summit. If we all looked out for our brothers like Battle or the Samaritan in Luke 10 did, the pain and bondage that many are involved in would be eliminated by the grace of God.

As a man of God, I pray that you accept the challenge to lift up a brother who has fallen. Go search for a brother who is lost. Pull him out of the pit of despair and reconnect/reconcile him to Jesus Christ, Who will remove his sin and give him His righteousness.

“The greatest want of the world is the want of men — men who will not be bought or sold, men who in their inmost souls are true and honest, men who do not fear to call sin by its right name, men whose conscience is as true to duty as the needle to the pole, men who will stand for the right though the heavens fall, Education, 57.3. “But, such a character is not the result of accident; it is not due to special favors or endowments of Providence. A noble character is the result of self-discipline, of the subjection of the lower to the higher nature — the surrender of self for the service of love to God and man,” Education, 57.4. 

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Four presenters during the Summit, Chuck Burkeen (left), Mike Tucker, Jason O’Rourke, and Joseph Evans, M.D., had a candid conversation with the men during a question-and-answer panel discussion.

Willie Brown and his friend, Woody, bring laughs to the men after the Sabbath.

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David A. Long is the director of stewardship, personal ministries, Sabbath School, prayer ministries, and prison ministries for the Southern Union Conference in Norcross, Georgia.

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JANUARY 7-17, 2015

JOIN US IN 10 DAYS OF PRAYER

www.TenDaysofPrayer.org
Mr. Zhang* lived comfortably by Chinese standards. He had a virtuous wife, lovely children, and the admiration of family and friends. However, Mr. Zhang felt empty and depressed. Wealth, a harmonious family, and status within the community didn’t satisfy his needs.

His journey was recently revealed by a Florida Conference-sponsored indigenous pioneer missionary in China who ministered to Mr. Zhang and shared this testimony: “Occasionally, Mr. Zhang came to our church and health center for Chinese herb therapy. He believed this therapy might help release him of his burdens. I served him, and he shared his story with me during the therapy. I always encouraged him to return for more therapy since I could see he truly trusted me.

“One day, I shared Mr. Zhang’s situation with another pioneer missionary with whom I am still working. We decided to ask some of our Adventist brothers and sisters to join us in reaching out to Mr. Zhang the next time he returned for therapy.

“A few days later, Mr. Zhang came again. He made many new friends this time as we laughed and enjoyed each other’s company. We also told him the reason we have happiness and peace is because we have Jesus. As we spoke of Jesus, Christianity, and our church, Mr. Zhang did not resist. We even invited him to attend our church the next Sabbath, and he came.

“Soon it became evident that God was making a difference in Mr. Zhang’s life. We began to see God shining through him. Even his family and colleagues came to us and spoke of the tremendous change they saw in him. He had become a bright person. He found a new way to live because God was now his hope. He praised God for everything. Mr. Zhang was physically, mentally, and spiritually healed!

“Can a human change the markings on a leopard? I cannot. Can man create a new heart and a new mind? I cannot. But, God can! And, that’s exactly what He did in Mr. Zhang!”

Florida Conference members, friends, Sabbath School classes, and churches are working toward the goal of supporting 130 pioneer missionaries in China. With only 20 sponsorships yet to be filled, thrilling reports already reveal that 1,200 individuals have been baptized.

“It’s unbelievable, when compared to our standard of living, that it only takes $1,500 to help fund a Bible worker/church planter in China for an entire year,” says Phil Bond, Florida Conference director of development and planned giving. “That’s an amazingly low cost to help support a faithful worker with the high calling of bringing souls to Jesus!”

Video clips and more information about Florida Conference’s Mission to the Cities/China projects are available at floridaconference.com/missiontothecities.

*Name changed to protect Mr. Zhang’s identity.

Lives are being changed and faces are lighting up with new hope in China because caring individuals in Florida are sponsoring pioneer missionaries who are sharing Jesus.
A United Effort

As a literature evangelist in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, I rarely know the outcome of my visits. But once in a while, with a twinkle in His eye, God reveals the results to me in wonderful and tangible ways.

Richard Killman, a soft-spoken single man living in a simple apartment in Burkesville, Kentucky, sent in a tear-off card from a display book requesting more information about the Bible Reference Library, also known as the Conflict of the Ages series.

When I visited him in April 2012, he shared with me that he really enjoyed studying the Bible, and wanted books that would help him to understand more of the Word. I recommended the Bible Reference Library, and told him how clearly and thoroughly they illuminate God’s Word. I explained that the author only had a third-grade education, but God had really used her in writing these books. He purchased them and we visited for a short while. I offered prayer and gave him a free book, Steps to Christ, before I left.

Soon Killman received the books he purchased and began to pore over them, reading and studying. I lost contact with him after he moved, but God has been moving and things were changing in his life. He married a dear woman who loves to sing gospel music, and they began to study the Bible together. As they studied, they became convinced of the validity of the Sabbath and other doctrinal beliefs. In October 2013, they attended an evangelistic series conducted by Fred Calkins, pastor of the Burkesville Church. They attended every meeting and continued to study with Calkins and Don Stair, head elder, over the next six months.

In August 2014, I was given the honor of preaching at the Burkesville Church. As I looked around the church, I noticed a familiar name. Yes, it was Richard Killman! I asked Stair about Killman and he told me that Richard and Linda had been baptized and were going to be given their certificates of baptism by Calkins the next Sabbath. My wife, Susan, and I made plans to be at Burkesville the following Sabbath to see Richard and Linda.

It was a joyful reunion for Killman and me as we looked back on that visit in 2012 when he said yes to the Holy Spirit and purchased the Bible Reference Library. However, he has suffered a setback recently with his vision. After a biopsy and surgery in July, he has experienced vision loss and blurriness.

Because of this vision loss he is unable to read the Bible and Spirit of Prophecy; but, Christian Record Service for the Blind provides all the books he loves on digital audio cartridges, and we have signed him up for the Bible Reference Library so he can once again enjoy and gain inspiration from the volumes read aloud to him.

A complete circle of evangelism has occurred, and, like Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 3:6, “I have planted, Apollos watered; but God gave the increase.”

We see how evangelism effectively works as each one does his part and works together. The result is united effort through divine power, and all the glory goes to God!

Now Richard and Linda bring Linda’s mom and sister to church, as well as Linda’s daughter who has requested baptism. Never underestimate the power of literature in these last days to win souls. Literature can preach 24/7 and reach searching souls like no person could do. Make literature distribution a priority in your personal ministry to those around you each day and see how God will bless. His Word never returns to Him void, but accomplishes the purpose for which it was sent.
As I began my first homework as director of the Sabbath School Department, I was amazed by the work that went into establishing Sabbath School. Did you know that Sabbath School was started as an evangelistic tool? Sabbath School is the place where it all happens: Bible study, fellowship, outreach, and global mission. That's the way the pioneers designed it, and like the saying goes: “It will work, if we work it.”

With much prayer and planning, the Sabbath School Department took to the road, training Sabbath School leaders. The goal was to assist them in sharpening their skills and improve their ability to lead the class in such a way that members and visitors want to engage. Students want to engage in discussions that are relevant to everyday living, energizing, and all-inspiring, and which massage the thought processes to a more-than-surface level. They want Sabbath School discussions where the rubber meets the road…on their street.

The first workshop was held at Mt. Calvary Church in Huntsville, Alabama, on September 20, 2014. The participants were leaders from the churches in north Alabama. Of the 17 churches, 11 churches were represented, with a total of 40 engaging participants.

Focusing on the theme of the lesson study rather than covering the lesson (which rarely happens), the trainer and coach, Curtis Hall, emphasized a thematic approach as he employed the use of questions to pull the student into the discussion. Hall developed a love of Sabbath School from his father, Isaiah Hall. As the current Sabbath School superintendent at Berean Church in Atlanta, Georgia, Hall also has written the book, Hit the Mark. His former pastor, Carlton Byrd, D.Min., says that Hall “has modeled an innovative approach to Sabbath School presentations that has elevated the Sabbath School experience to a new level of creativity, spurred interest, and improved attendance.”

The training began with live demonstrations of how to use the thematic approach to engage the students in relevant, meaningful, and on-point discussion of the lesson and its practical application in their lives. He used the art of asking questions to draw them into the discussion.

After lunch, the 40 participants learned the importance of personal, material, and classroom preparation. They also learned different personality types and strategies for dealing with distractions that can keep the discussion from moving forward, and how to make the discussion interactive. Bottom line: Leaders were challenged to think outside the box.

Participants learned methods designed to bring alive the text and create a desire for the student to think about what is being said or done as it relates to the lesson, what it looks like in practical terms, and how they can apply it to their life. These methods allow the teacher and students to go deep into the lesson and take a serious look at how these truths play out in their everyday experience.

Turning the attention to outreach, the participants were put in teams and given $15K to invest in a community project. Each team worked to come up with a plan. Strategies included assessment of community, transportation, satellite venues throughout the city, and, as always, giveaways. Hall challenged participants to be creative, innovative, and go beyond the norm.

Special thanks to Gwen Jones for the work of connecting with the pastors and superintendents; and to my secretary, Candice Brand, for her extraordinary ability to pull everything together while managing other responsibilities. Thanks to Rupert Bushner, pastor, and James Lewis, associate pastor, for the hospitality of hosting the first training session; and Esther Nurse, superintendent, for pulling it all together. Finally, thanks to God Almighty for the opportunity to serve and grow as we work together to move members from membership to discipleship.
Takoma Regional Hospital’s CREATION Health Nature Trail Promotes Exercise, Relaxation

Takoma Regional Hospital’s CREATION Health nature trail officially opened to the public in May 2014. Since then, the footpath has been busy with hikers, Takoma employees on their breaks, and even an exercise class.

Located just blocks from downtown Green-ville, Tenn., the trail is a picturesque retreat among the mountains. Signs are placed along the trail explaining CREATION Health’s eight principles of overall wellness: Choice, Rest, Environment, Activity, Trust in God, Interpersonal relationships, Outlook, and Nutrition.

“The nature trail is a hidden jewel that I want to encourage people to use,” Amanda Kilday said. Kilday, co-owner of A Simple Studio, encouraged participants in her yoga class to hike the CREATION Health trail together before meeting up for the class held in a grassy area nearby.

“It simply makes you feel good to get outside and connect with the outdoors. It helps you connect with God and the grand design. I don’t think you can be in nature and not feel better afterward,” Kilday said.

Ron Fields, a physical education teacher at Hal Henard Elementary School, agreed. “I want to captivate my students’ interest in the great outdoors. I was really excited when Takoma opened the trail so I could take my class hiking,” he said. “The trail is very similar to what you would find in the mountains.”

Fields said he uses the trail as part of the curriculum’s outdoor unit that helps students focus on alternative ways to exercise, such as hiking. “I also stop at each of the CREATION Health signs and talk about the concepts as they relate to making the body healthier,” he said.

“It’s a gorgeous trail,” said Bob Kamieneski, Takoma’s wellness director. “And, it’s been getting a lot of good use since it opened. The trail is just one way Takoma is promoting healthy lifestyles in the community.”

—BY TINA CHUDINA

Adventist Health System Employees Exceed Donation Goal for Ethiopian Mission Project

For many years, Florida Hospital has had a close relationship of service with the Kalala Learning Village and Summit Clinic in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In October, a team of volunteers was scheduled to travel to the region to serve students and provide healthcare for the surrounding community. A dentist was part of the group to care for the many who likely have never received any form of dental care.

Inspired by this opportunity, a team of employees at the hospital set out to collect toothbrushes to send along with the group. They engaged fellow employees, physicians, neighbors, and friends under the banner of Spreading Love to Ethiopia to gather donations of toothbrushes and toothpaste.

A goal of 1,000 items was established for the initiative, and the donations started to come in — not only from the local hospital campuses, but from other Adventist Health System locations as well. Employees from hospitals, physician groups, urgent care centers, and administrative offices all began sending in their contributions for the cause.

With so much generosity, the original goal was quickly surpassed, and the final tally surpassed 17,000 toothbrushes and 5,500 tubes of toothpaste.

Dominic Witherspoon, a new Florida Hospital employee in engineering, volunteered to help organize and transport the donations, and was touched by the experience. “I simply came to work today. Now I’m impacting people in Ethiopia,” he said. “It’s just incredible — I can’t believe I get to be a part of this.”

Because of the tremendous level of support, what began as a small toothbrush drive for Ethiopia will not only impact efforts in that country, but also in mission communities in Peru, Haiti, Jamaica, and Florida.

—BY ANTHONY VERA CRUZ
Adventist University Celebrates Dedications

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) hosted an event that marked the next step in the growth of the institution on Wednesday, September 3, 2014. David Greenlaw, D.Min., ADU president, invited the current and three most recent presidents of Florida Hospital to assist in the ribbon cutting of the event. Lars Houmann, Florida Hospital president, Tom Werner, former Adventist Health System president, Don Jernigan, Adventist Health System president, and Mardian Blair, former Adventist Health System president.

Bill Crofton, ADU chaplain, provided a prayer of dedication for the Graduate Building. Adventist University dedicated an outdoor sculpture garden called The Garden of Miracles. The Garden of Miracles is composed of seven works of glass art that depict healing miracles performed by Jesus. Each one stands 14 feet high, and has a small path leading to it with a seating area for quiet contemplation and reflection. The stylized depiction of each miracle is engraved along the pathways leading to the individual depictions.

“Without vision we wander around, sometimes aimlessly. This Graduate Building stands as another witness that the vision is alive. It will prepare them not just for a job, but for a career in healing ministry.”

In addition of the dedication of the Graduate Building, Adventist University dedicated an outdoor sculpture garden called The Garden of Miracles. The Garden of Miracles is composed of seven works of glass art that depict healing miracles performed by Jesus. Each one stands 14 feet high, and has a small path leading to it with a seating area for quiet contemplation and reflection. The stylized depiction of each miracle is engraved along the pathways leading to the individual depictions.

“At night is when the seven depictions truly come alive. Each one is lighted in a manner that the vibrancy of the colors is impressive. Visitors are welcome to visit The Garden of Miracles.

—BY ERIC CADIENTE

The Garden of Miracles glass statuaries feature stylized depictions of seven miracles performed by Jesus.
For one church, what many might have considered a setback has turned out to be a blessing. The Hardeeville, N.C., Spanish congregation looks forward to the grand opening of their new church building, something that just a few years ago seemed like an impossible dream.

The previous church building was located in a strip mall beside a liquor store and two bars; although this was not the most ideal setting, the group was happy to have a place to worship and was set to reopen their doors on Christmas Eve after remodeling part of the building. Unfortunately, their joy was cut short on the morning of December 21, 2011, when flames engulfed the strip mall and destroyed the church, along with four surrounding businesses.

Investigators later ruled the fire as arson, and the church members were left to question the senselessness of the crime. All was not lost, however. The Hardeeville congregants knew God would help them through this difficult time, and continued to meet wherever they could — first renting a Sunday-keeping church, and then moving to a small conference room at the local Super 8 Motel where they have stayed for the better part of three years.

With services growing cramped, church members started looking for a way to rebuild, but none of them had the means to raise the necessary funds. Miraculously, Maranatha Volunteers International heard about the group’s plight and decided to help them build a church as part of the organization’s new North American initiative.

Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president, visited the building site this past July, and voiced his admiration for the tremendous effort put forth by volunteers, both young and old.

He also joined in by working on constructing the church platform. Among the other workers were Kate Goodwin, 84, of Greenville, S.C., and her sister, Faye McColpin, 87, of Tennessee (pictured). These women did not let their age slow them down, and together they helped put down roofing materials.

In just two weeks, Maranatha volunteers completed the entire framework, siding, and roof for the building, along with the wooden framework for the stage and baptistery. Although the inside likely won’t be finished until the end of the year, it is amazing to see what God can do in such a short amount of time, and Hardeeville Spanish Church members are eagerly looking forward to once again having their own space in which to worship and praise God.

—BY AIMEE GARVER
Search for Truth Ends at Lumber River Church

To say Alceon Jones, retired teacher in Pembroke, N.C., loves the truth is an understatement. The saying, “The truth will set you free,” was written just for her.

During the years, Jones’ thirst for truth led her to read thousands of books and magazines.

One magazine in particular piqued her interest, the Philadelphia Trumpet, produced by the Philadelphia Church of God.

“[That is where I found out about] the United States and Britain in prophecy. It also introduced me to the idea of Saturday as the true Sabbath,” Jones said.

But Jones didn’t know any Sabbath-keeping churches in her area, and she was deeply involved in her Baptist church in Pembroke, where she had been attending since before she knew her own name. Early in 2014, however, Jones grew fed up with the lukewarm teachings of her Sunday school class, and started researching seventh-day worship on the Internet.

Around the same time, Jones’ daughter visited the Lumber River Adventist Church’s newly completed community service center.

When she mentioned that her mother loved to read, Scottie Deal, pastor, gave her the book Revelation’s Predictions for a New Millennium by Mark Finley and a copy of The Great Controversy.

When Jones read the books, her fire was rekindled. After years of searching, her questions finally had answers.

“That was the first time I had seen the meaning of the number 666 and Revelation 13:11,” Jones said.

Jones found Deal’s phone number in the back of the book and called him the next day.

“She said ‘you gave my daughter a book and I’ve been reading that book, and it has changed my life’,” Deal said.

Deal visited Jones and extended an invitation to the Lumber River Church, where she has attended Wednesday night and Saturday morning services ever since.

For several weeks Jones attended church on both Saturday and Sunday — partly because she had to drive her 84-year-old mother to the Baptist church, and partly to finish her obligations as a Vacation Bible School leader. She kept reading and learning until she was able to say goodbye. She stood up in the middle of her Sunday school class and explained to them why she had to leave.

“The devil tried to get me to just sneak out and not tell them what I was doing, but I said ‘no, I’ve got to tell ’em,’” Jones explained. “I told ’em I’m tired of straddling the bridge. There’s not one verse in that Bible that says Sunday is the Sabbath.”

Although she attended the Baptist church for more than 40 years, none of the other church members have spoken to her since her exit.

Jones is doing all in her power to spread the truth she knows to others. She is in the process of ordering 100 copies of the book The National Sunday Law to give away to anyone she meets that is “serious about truth.”

Although she hasn’t been baptized yet, Jones is very much an active part of the Lumber River Church, and plans to officially join the congregation soon.

“She is the first to actually be joining our church through the community center,” Deal said.

—BY AIMEE GARVER
Jewish Meetings Continue Winning Souls

Evangelism doesn’t end when a series of meetings comes to a close. In 2011, Jeff Zaremsky held a series of meetings for the Florida Conference Messianic congregations in St. Petersburg and New Port Richey. Since that time, many who attended have become members. One woman recently joined the Beth-El Shalom congregation in St. Petersburg — some three and one half years after the series of meetings ended.

Zaremsky’s sermon series, Surviving and Thriving in These Last Days, was unique in many ways:

The series began at a Jewish holiday season when there is an increase in visitor attendance.

Two locations simultaneously hosted meetings. One location met on Tuesday and Friday, and the other met Wednesday and Saturday.

After each meeting, a question-and-answer period sparked so much interest, Zaremsky extended the series to 31 meetings.

Everyone who started attending the meetings continued to the end.

“We presented the topics in a Jewish-friendly manner with a very biblical foundation,” says Zaremsky. “We uplifted the Messiah in every meeting as the center and foundation of everything. We also presented a mixture of logic/emotion and truth/application in every meeting.”

Sermon DVDs recorded by volunteers are still winning souls for the Lord in the local congregations. DVDs are also sent to friends in other parts of the country. More information is available at www.JewishHeritage.net.

— BY GLADYS NEIGEL

Margate Church Hosts Youth Evangelism Series

Margate Church presented a youth evangelism series entitled Last Call for Alcohol. This three-week emphasis focused on the troubled times and the effect they have on teenagers.

Andre Campbell, associate pastor of Palm Bay Church, spoke on issues relating to drugs, music, peer pressure, and real world dramas that cloud the minds of youth today. “Many of us live our lives in the past, looking through the rear view mirror,” says Campbell. “We should stop focusing on the sin and look toward the Savior.”

Each evening’s program included inspirational music, gifts, health lectures, counseling, and special prayer. At the end of the series, Andrew Nugent, Margate pastor, baptized three individuals.

The evangelism services concluded with the surprising meaning of the word, alcohol, as an acronym: All Listening Christians Open your Hearts to the Offer of Life.

—BY JULIA TEDIM
Camp Kulaqua Opens Three Woodland Lodges

With approval from the Conference Executive Committee and Association Board, and under the direction of the Camp Kulaqua Advisory Board, three Woodland Lodges with 360 additional guest accommodations are completed. These lodges are the first project of Phase I in Camp Kulaqua’s master campus plan. Phase I also includes an expansion to the cafeteria and building a new welcome center.

Many thanks to the Camp Advisory Board for the creation and completion of the new Woodland Lodges! They are already blessing church families and adults who are looking for lodge-style accommodations. Now more people can come and enjoy God’s creation!

—BY PHIL YOUNTS

The Woodland Lodges (Live Oak, Dogwood, and Cypress) each have 20 rooms that accommodate six guests for a total capacity of 360.

Weatheralls Celebrate 60th Anniversary

Don, an education major from Oklahoma, and Ardycie, a nursing student from Colorado, met while working in the bakery at Union College in Lincoln, Nebr. They married on July 28, 1954.

Upon graduation from college in 1956, Platte Valley Academy in Shelton, Nebr., invited Don to teach Bible, history, and physical education. After eight years, he took a call to be principal of Enterprise Academy in Enterprise, Kans. Meanwhile, Ardycie started a successful flannel graph company for children’s Sabbath Schools across North America.

Don continued his career in education: principal at Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn.; principal at Kahili Adventist School in Kula, Hawaii; six years as superintendent of education at Florida Conference; and 23 years in the Southern Union Conference and North American Division education departments.

Throughout this time, Ardycie was the consummate mother, cook, and hostess for the many Sabbath lunches and guests who frequented their home. She also traveled with Don, typing thousands of manuscripts for manuals, curriculum guides, and textbooks written by teachers during summer workshops chaired by Don.

Artyce and Don Weatherall

Her favorite period of time was when she was the librarian at Forest Lake Education Center in Apopka, Fla.

In 2006, after 50 years of denominational service, the Weatheralls moved to Florida Living Retirement Community in Apopka. They are the parents of three daughters, Cynthia Buckingham, Kristy Williams, and Lori (Ted) Asbury. They have four grandchildren, Jaelyn and Justin Williams and Bailey and Rylee Asbury.

—BY KRISTY WILLIAMS
Conyers’ Food Pantry Offers Hope to Many

Comments about the Conyers, Ga., Church’s Hope Pantry from users include “... wonderful for the community” to “... tremendous blessing to myself and my family as I have been out of work for a year” to “... wonderful service. I will tell others.”

The Hope Food Pantry was established in 2008, and is a partner agency of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. The Pantry’s first director was Catina Nooks, who served 2008-2011. It is open each Wednesday from 4 to 6 p.m., and the first and third Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. Susan Fleming serves as the current director with co-director Juanita Sterling.

The Pantry has as many as 20 faithful volunteers ranging in age from eight years to “70-something.” Jimmy Martin, Harold Adams, and Chris Myrick faithfully transport food donations of perishable and non-perishable items from Wal-Mart, the church’s charitable donor. Perishable items (i.e., fruits, vegetables, bread, pastries) are distributed to clients on Wednesdays, while perishable and non-perishables (i.e., pasta, canned goods, frozen and snack foods, condiments, and drinks) are distributed first and third Sundays. To obtain service by the Hope Pantry, patrons must present authorized identification for proof of Rockdale County residency, and give family makeup.

Volunteers, who include a church elder, serve client needs in ways other than food distribution. If they find that a person has need for prayer, they are more than willing to pray with them. If clients do not have a church home, they invite them to Conyers, and will even pick them up if they don’t have transportation. Occasionally, users will agree to participate in a Bible study and will join the church. One Hope Pantry volunteer was diagnosed with cancer, and initially was emotionally distraught. When he began to volunteer, he improved, and has expressed a desire to begin Bible studies.

The Hope Pantry is truly a product of the “hope” of a faithful team of Christian followers who, to the best of their abilities, serve God by serving others. The Pantry opened in 2008 with service twice a month to 20-30 families served, and has since grown to serve 1,100-plus individuals of all ages and many ethnicities, with a distribution of more than 35,000 pounds of food in the month of August 2014.

—BY BEVERLY GAINES

Bowman Hills Church has “Messy Ministry”

For three Saturday nights in August, families from the Bowman Hills church and community in Cleveland Tenn., bonded as they ate, did crafts, and participated in recreational activities together.

“Messy Church is a friendship ministry,” explains Pam Lassiter, who spearheaded the program at Bowman Hills. “It’s a type of VBS for families — and really for everyone.”

Messy Church differs from the traditional VBS model in two ways — it involves the whole family, and it is ongoing. This provides opportunities for friendships to develop and be nourished. Between 80 and 110 people attended each night, with an ever-increasing number of visitors each week.

“One of the families asked that we please contact her and let her know when the next one will be,” says Lassiter, conveying that the mother was thrilled to see her children, who are usually shy, blossom in Messy Church.

The three weeks of Messy Church in August led to a September prophecy series. Once the prophecy series is over, plans are to start having Messy Church monthly.

—BY LORI FUTCHER
God Attends to Student’s Special Needs

Proud members of the Grandview Church celebrated the miraculous achievements of one of their own, Deondre Joshua Tyler, August 23, 2014.

For 22 years, this exceptional young man has garnished the affection and admiration from all who have been afforded the opportunity to meet him. To know Deondre is to love him.

It all began February 29, 1992, when Barbara Tyler, an expectant young mother and wife, was hastily admitted to the hospital two weeks prior to her scheduled due date. Tyler learned that while her precious baby boy was still in her uterus, he was suffering from meconium aspiration. He had ingested meconium, his first stool, and it was in his lungs. As a result, he labored with hypoxia, a deficiency in the amount of oxygen needed to reach his tissues and brain. Consequently, due to the inhalation of the contaminated fluids and the lack of oxygen, doctors immediately rushed to perform an emergency C-section.

Deondre was born with respiratory complications, reflux difficulties, and a severe intellectual disability. The profoundness of this cognitive disability created limitations in both his mental functioning and adaptive behavior, which covered many everyday social and practical skills. As an infant, he endured multiple life-saving surgeries, including a tracheotomy which he received within the first few minutes of his birth. Due to the severity of his acid reflux, Deondre was unable to orally secure nourishment. Thus, a gastrostomy tube was inserted through his abdomen to directly deliver nutrition into his stomach.

As days turned into weeks, Tyler routinely visited Deondre in the hospital. During this time, the health of her beloved husband, Ondre, had begun to progressively decline. Moreover, she had a little 2 1/2-year-old daughter who urgently needed her mommy. Tyler was now faced with the overwhelming task of providing care for an ailing husband, a sickly newborn, and a precocious toddler named Ondrenae. During her darkest hour, Barbara confidently clung to God’s promises and gently rested her dependence on Him. After three enduring months, the day arrived for Deondre to come home. Excitedly, Tyler hurried to the hospital to retrieve her son. Before leaving, doctors strongly encouraged her to place Deondre in a home for medically challenged children. They explained that he would forever live his life as a vegetable, and that there was no hope of recovery. Despite the medical diagnosis, Tyler knew that God had ordained her son’s life long before He placed him in her womb, and that He had a good plan in store for him.

In the fall of 1993, her husband died. Silently, this young widow pleaded with God for the courage to lay her cherished companion to rest. She begged for the strength to endure the tumultuous task of independently raising her two fatherless children.

In that culminating moment, a mutual sense of accomplishment was shared between mother, daughter, and son.

—BY TANGIE RAHMING

Deondre Tyler, born with special needs, recently graduated with his general education diploma from Chapel Hill High School in Austell, Ga., beating the odds.
Montgomery First Ministry Feeds Hundreds

Members Amy and Bernell Mapp of First Church in Montgomery, Ala., started the Acts of Peace ministry which operates four mobile pantries each year. Amy Mapp serves as the director and organizes each mobile pantry at $250 each.

On Friday, September 19, 2014, 41 Acts of Peace volunteers arrived early at First Church. Their task was to prepare for and help pass out food for a mobile food pantry. Cars began arriving at 8 a.m. In a little more than an hour, 373 individuals had been served. This represented 182 children under the age of 18. To make sure the clients are eligible, the ministry preregisters them with forms supplied by the local food bank.

Since the ministry began using auto calls to mobilize a large number of individuals on short notice, First Church is first on the food bank’s list to be offered overstocked inventory from their warehouse or if another mobile pantry is cancelled. This year alone the ministry has received more than $150,000 in free food.

Food is set on pallets and the pallets are divided into stations in the parking lot of the church. Each station contains different kinds of food products. Two volunteers work at each station in order to service the two lines of cars which stop to receive food. Samuel Riemersma, pastor, visits each car and hands out tracts, offer prayer, or as happened this time, gave a Bible study to a former Adventist.

Nelson Hobbs and Kayla Halley are ready for the next customer.

Savannah Hobbs loads food into the trunk of a waiting client’s car.

There is a beehive of activity as the volunteers work together to serve the clients.

Half of the volunteers were church members, with seven from other area Adventist churches. The other half were clients Acts of Peace serves. This gives members an opportunity to witness to those they are working with as retired minister Tui Pitman did. He found himself explaining to his working partner why he attends church on Saturday.

The largest food pantry to date was in June when more than 700 individuals in 200 families were served. You may see how a food pantry works by viewing a video of the event on YouTube that Riemersma created: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMYNtwwRDO.

—BY REBECCA GRICE
Youth Helps to Organize “Let’s Move Day” Event

Laurel, Miss., Church has a lot of talented members who are willing to give of their time and talent to serve and reach out to others for Jesus. Ten-year-old Emily Valentine is one of those members (she celebrated her 11th birthday last month).

Emily asked Pernell and Brenda Sullivan if they were planning to have the Let’s Move Day event this year like they had in 2012. If so, she wanted to help organize the event. They told her yes, with church board approval. But, the next board meeting was a couple of weeks away. She was so excited and moved quickly to locate a place to conduct the event, and began to gather supplies for the big day. She and her family located Gardiner Park in Laurel. They contacted the local city major’s office, and reserved the park for September 28, 2014. Because her family was going to be away on vacation on the national Let’s Move Day on September 21, 2014, the date was moved to accommodate her presence for all.

Forecasters anticipated 80 percent rain and thunderstorms for that day. Church members prayed for good weather and clear skies. The Lord blessed and granted a beautiful day with a crisp, cool morning for walking and exercising.

The activities that Emily planned include a two-mile walk, sack racing, jump roping, hula hooping, and a bat-mitten-carry relay racing. It was a load of fun, and everyone loved it. There were 23 participants and some members from Laurel Bethel Spanish Church. Emily is already looking forward to next year’s event, and other projects for community outreach to combat childhood obesity.

—BY PERNELL SULLIVAN

Laurel, Miss., members David and Melanie Valentine (back row, left), Charlene and Randy Schueler, Pernell Sullivan, Guitermina Cano (front row, right), Emily Valentine, Prisila Cano, and Joseph Downing used their talents during their Let’s Move Day event this past September.

Emily Valentine
Milton Church Members Celebrate Baptisms

Margie Resz

Margie Resz’s husband was raised an Adventist. After returning from military service they were both baptized in 1978, and raised their children in the Church. After her husband’s death and her children left home, Margie drifted away from the Church. Something was missing in her life and she knew that she needed to return to the Church. She began attending Milton Church and requested baptism. She began studying the Amazing Facts Bible Studies at her sister-in-law Barbara McDaniel’s home with church members Elvin Lovins and Victoria Robinson. She was baptized by Todd Casey, pastor, on December 28, 2013.

Virginia Overstreet’s mother- and father-in-law were Adventists. Virginia attended the Pensacola and Andalusia churches periodically beginning in 1974. She was raised in the Pentecostal faith. She began watching the Hope Channel and sent for the Amazing Facts Bible Guides. She studied with Inez Watson from Milton Church, and was baptized on February 15, 2014, along with two others.

Mary Caler was raised in the Adventist church, and recommitted her life to the Savior through baptism on February 15, 2014. Her parents, Bob and Arlene Kimbro, and her daughter, Heather Caler, are an inspiration to her.

Ramona Matchett said she has always been an Adventist in her heart. One day after her husband’s death, she was driving down Berryhill Road and passed the Adventist church. She said there was nothing stopping her from going there, so the next Sabbath she went and has been going ever since. She was baptized February 15, 2014, with Mary Caler and Virginia Overstreet.

Charles McNew, 93, attended the Revelation Seminar in Milton presented by Leslie Louis in 2010. He began attending Milton Church at that time, and brought his friend Barbara with him each week. Charles and Barbara, lifelong Baptists, were married on September 21, 2013. They wanted to learn more about the Adventist church members James and Mary Nowlin and Elvin Lovins. They were baptized at Milton Church on May 10, 2014.

Savannah Lambert and Victor Robinson were baptized during summer camp at Camp Alamisco this past June.

—BY PAT WITT
Mt. Calvary Conducts Mental Health First Aid Seminar

Fourteen individuals from Mt. Calvary Church in Huntsville, Ala., attended a Mental Health First Aid training program, Sabbath, September 6, 2014, and Sunday, September 7, Grace Arnold, facilitator, currently serves as the Oakwood University counselor, providing social, emotional, and mental health counseling to the student body.

This course lasted eight hours, and taught the participants how to help someone who has developed a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The program teaches the warning signs of specific illnesses like depression, mood disorders, anxiety disorders, psychosis, and substance-use disorders. It also teaches about recovery and resiliency — the belief that individuals experiencing these challenges can overcome them and can get better.

Throughout the course of the program, Arnold reinforced a five-step action plan. The five-step action plan uses the acronym ALGEE: Assess for risk of suicide or harm; Listen nonjudgmentally; Give reassurance and information; Encourage appropriate help; Encourage self-help and other support strategies.

The plan plays an important part in supporting someone developing signs and symptoms of a mental illness or an emotional crisis. Arnold emphasized to the first-aiders that they were not professional counselors; they cannot diagnose, provide counseling, or therapy. They were being prepared to interact with a person in crisis, and to connect the person with the appropriate help. She also emphasized that they should approach the person as a friend helping a friend.

Highlights of the program were the various role-playing activities, but the one which seemed to resonate with the participants was interviewing a person with multiple personalities. Cheritha Finley stated that she really enjoyed taking the class because it educated her “on the risk factors and warning signs of mental illness.” She said that she would recommend this class to anyone who has direct contact with the public. In fact, her comments seemed to be the consensus of all the participants. A certificate was awarded at the completion of the program.

This program is a part of an ongoing effort of Mt. Calvary Health Ministries Department, under the leadership of Joy Cavins, to equip members in promoting a healthy community.

—BY JULIET ROCK

“Enditnow” Emphasis Day Held

District Day was the venue for Domestic Violence Awareness in Admasville, Ala., on Sabbath, August 30, 2014. Clifton J. McMillan Sr., pastor, and his team sponsored a day of domestic violence education with emphasis on women, children, and people with disabilities. The morning’s message, “Breaking the Silence About Domestic Violence,” was skillfully designed by the pastor to impact the hearts of all listeners including children. “We live in a broken world, and in a broken world there are broken people. We are made in God’s image, and anyone who tries to tear down that image is an enemy.

We have to teach our children the difference between ‘good touch’ and ‘bad touch.’ We must break the silence about domestic violence by sharing our stories to help others and Enditnow,” said McMillan.

The guest speaker for the day was Annetta W. Nunn, former police chief for the city of Birmingham, Ala., who served as the 33rd chief of police, and was the first African American woman to hold that title. She currently serves as the domestic violence educator for Birmingham’s Municipal Court. She held the audience in awe as she shared stories of domestic violence, as well as her expert counsel. Participants asked questions and made comments about how valuable the education was to them.

“Domestic violence for people with disabilities is three to four times greater than it is for those without a disability. Why? Because cognitive, psychiatric, speech, hearing, vision, and physical disabilities make individuals an easy prey for some perpetrators. Marginalization of people with disabilities also put them at high risk,” said Nettie Henderson, Conference director of disabilities ministries. She ventured to encourage the members to continue learning about this topic during Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Adventist Youth hours to deepen the impression that domestic violence is not of God, and, therefore, it is not acceptable. Enditnow petitions by the Seventh-day Adventist Church were received by a significant number of individuals from diverse walks of life to take to their neighborhoods, schools, and places of employment for signatures to support the Seventh-day Adventists’ campaign to say “No” to domestic violence, and to do everything possible with God’s help to Enditnow.

—BY BETTYE MOORE AND NETTIE HENDERSON
Otto Hirsch Retires at 93

Otto Hirsch began teaching in 1950 in the Florida Conference. In 1951, he moved to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference where he spent the remainder of his 36-year teaching career. After Indian Creek Camp (ICC) began, Hirsch spent his summers working there.

Since his retirement in 1986, he has volunteered his time and talents to the ministry at ICC every summer. He is an expert carpenter and craftsman, and, together with his maintenance skills and love for teaching nature, has, without compensation, tirelessly given back to the youth and camp that he loves. At the age of 93, he recently decided to officially retire from his duties at ICC.

Hirsch continues to use his skills for missionary purposes. He designs small cedar crosses with a Bible verse on their base, wooden puzzles, and other Christian mementos. Since 2006, he has made and given away an estimated 7,000 puzzles which make a cross when put together, and more than 3,800 cedar crosses.

Hirsch is a member at the Ridgetop, Tenn., Church. He has touched so many lives through the years, and is loved by young and old. He will be greatly missed at ICC.

—BY DENISE POPE

Minesinger Receives Blue Ribbon at State Fair

Cal Minesinger of Greenbrier, Tenn., displays his observation beehive, which earned first place at the Tennessee State Fair in the Adult Education category. He has only been in the bee business for two years and says his sister, Esther Sutton, started his interested in bees when he moved here from California two years ago. They bought two hives the first year, but lost both of them to cold weather and hive moths. This year they invested in three hives which are doing very well.

Minesinger belongs to the Robertson County Beekeepers and the Nashville Area Beekeepers Association where he became interested in the educational aspects of beekeeping and has made a diligent study of his hobby. The observation hive he bought for teaching others about bees was so poorly constructed, he decided to build his own, and several people encouraged him to enter it into the State Fair where he was awarded the blue ribbon.

An active member of Ridgetop Church, Minesinger says a few years ago he hit rock bottom. But, through the working of the Holy Spirit and his sister’s efforts, he accepted Jesus as his personal Savior and now testifies, “Everything I do is because Jesus loves me. I try to keep Him as my companion, by my side in everything I do.”

—BY HELEN KELLY
Women’s Retreat Presents “Ultimate Praise”

The women of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference were blessed at this year’s annual fall retreats at Indian Creek Camp to have their very own Gail McKenzie as speaker. McKenzie has shared her inspirational messages for women’s retreats and engagements across the United States. After a year’s long battle with an aggressive breast cancer, it was time to bring her message home. With miraculous results on each step of her journey, the theme “Ultimate Praise” was a natural choice. Approximately 350 women came out in support of McKenzie, and to hear her motivating presentations.

There were many additional highlights of the retreat. Professional recording artist Naomi Striemer gave a concert which included her amazing story. Marilyn Carter led a team from the Bowling Green, Ky., Church in a Sabbath afternoon program called “Fragrances of Praise.” Melissa Weisner led a session called “How to Start a Prayer Ministry in Your Church.” On Friday afternoon, early arrivals were able to enjoy various hands-on classes, boat rides, or a relaxing massage. Lounging in the Spa Room or the Fireplace Room was a favorite pastime throughout the weekend, along with shopping at Nourish Christian Marketplace.

The women are always in awe of the transformation of the camp by decorators Kimberly King and Jennifer Vollmer. With the use of black and white with pops of color and numerous musical instruments, the stage was set for “Ultimate Praise.” McKenzie used classic movie titles to highlight each session. Beginning with “Pride and Prejudice,” “Singing in the Rain,” and “Dances with Wolves,” she ended with the power of God’s “Love Story” shown from Genesis to Revelation. Several women renewed their relationship with God during the Sunday morning altar call, and one woman gave her heart to Jesus and wants to begin Bible studies.

—BY DEBORAH JONES
Seventh-day Adventists have a rich, timely message filled with truth, hope, and love. The challenge has been to spread this message in the quickest, most effective way. It can sometimes be discouraging when you put forth much effort but are met with rejections. Colporteurs, Bible instructors, and medical missionaries are by far the most effective evangelists, but, let’s face it, the average church members are not doing the work of door-to-door evangelism. While there are many reasons for this, it may mostly be because many are afraid of rejection. However, what if the neighbors wanted or even expected the members to come to their doors?

New Life Church members in Lake City, S.C., began thinking about the needs of its community, and how they could become welcomed guests in their neighbors’ homes. They observed that only friends and the mailman were allowed at their neighbors’ front porch. The reason was simple: neither the friend nor the mailman asked for anything in return from the resident, but both provided something that the neighbors wanted. As the members thought about this, they were impressed that the only thing they could really offer without strings being attached, and that everyone needs, is prayer.

Big red yard signs were posted throughout the neighborhood which read, “Keep Calm and Pray On.” After a week, the slogan became a familiar part of their day, and so did the Adventists who came to their doors wearing matching red shirts. The doors practically flung open for the members, and the testimonies rolled off their lips about how the prayers blessed their day. They were strangers that became welcomed guest, who became friends, who became family. And when “family” invites you to their church’s yearly Victory Day (Vday), well, you come.

Instead of advertising for an upcoming evangelistic meeting, they advertised vigorously for just one day called “Victory 60” (the number symbolizes how many guests they prayed would come). After two mass mailings, Bible work, and big prizes, the church was packed. All the stops were pulled out, and they used the excitement to invite the community to the evangelism series. A week later, the opening night attendance for the Parables of Hope evangelistic series was also packed. Using the parables of Jesus to present the Adventist doctrines, bathed in post-modern applications, increased attendance each of the 10 nights. An appeal was made on the second night, and the remaining nights were used to teach truth. The Holy Spirit moved, and 12 individuals were baptized in the first baptism.

Since then, the Spirit of God continues to move and many want to join the Adventist Church, as new believers invite their family members to church events and Sabbath worship. Family members ask to join often. The membership has doubled, small groups are thriving, members are mentoring new believers, and the church ministries are growing. The members see God moving in a mighty way!

—BY JOSHUA NELSON
Voices of Hope Choir Returns to Berean

It all began last year March, when Churchpond Ministries invited the prison’s chaplain, Kimmie McNeese, to participate in Churchpond’s Celebration of Evangelism through the technology program at Berean. During the program, Churchpond presented McNeese with Mother’s Day cards signed by mothers from area churches, and a Roku streaming player preloaded with Adventist content. Two months later, the women’s choir joined the Berean congregation to sing for its divine worship service. Under the direction of Susan Bishop, chaplain, the women’s choir shared several powerful selections with the church members, and left during a standing ovation.

In January of this year, Urick LaDonis, Churchpond founder and president, contacted Bishop and was disappointed to learn that the Voices of Hope Choir would not be able to return to Berean on Easter Sabbath. But God always has something better in mind. “We are available on September 27,” Bishop noted, and so the date was set. Little did LaDonis or Bishop know that September 27, was communion Sabbath at Berean.

And so, Voices of Hope returned on September 27. This time, in addition to blessing the congregation with their music, they were able to partake in communion — their first communion service in a Seventh-day Adventist church.

We can only imagine the seeds God is planting through this partnership. Thank you for your continued prayers and support, which makes this ministry possible.

Praise Tabernacle Conducts Unique Daniel and Revelation Seminar

What if lay elders conducted a Daniel and Revelation Seminar? What if there were vegan and vegetarian cooking demonstrations and health screenings? What if boxes of free groceries and household items were given away? What if there was a separate children’s program throughout the seminar? What if if the Pathfinders and Carolina Adventist Academy (CAA) participated as well? These were ideas that all came into fruition under the leadership of Darryl Howard, pastor of Praise Tabernacle Church in Whiteville, N.C. The seminar and all of its activities were geared toward community outreach, and many in Columbus County were ministered to during the month of July 2014.

Richard Berry, local elder, was the main speaker for the first two weeks of the seminar, and then elders Karen Taylor, Samuel McLeary, and Leon Verrett, and deacon Stephen Mills spoke the last two weeks. Howard spoke on the weekend Sabbaths to tie the topics together.

The Wednesday night cooking demonstrations were well attended. Guests were fed not only on those Wednesdays, but every night of the seminar. They were also supplied recipes that they could try at home. Free vegetarian cookbooks were given to those who wanted them as well. Promotion of healthy living is particularly needed in this southern town whose county is rated as one of the unhealthiest in the nation. During the seminar, free groceries and household items were given out each night, and families were blessed with both physical and spiritual food.

The children’s program SMILE (See Me In Love Everlasting) was a hit, with 35 to 40 children attending, and it kept Vida McLeary and her teenage helpers busy throughout the four-week seminar. The children performed during the seminar, singing songs that were new to many of the community children, and they learned how Jesus loves them forever. Clothes were available from the Community Services Department, and CAA offered information about its quality Christian education. The Pathfinders were represented nightly as well.

The seminar culminated with a baptism and graduation of the participants who completed all the lessons and handouts. Several are still studying toward baptism. Truly the seed was sown once again in Whiteville. Only God knows the true harvest that will come.

—BY CHARLOTTE VERRETT, M.D.
Southeastern News

Ceasar Robinson, Southeastern Youth Director, Dies at 57

A powerful evangelist, exceptional seminar facilitator, and noted family counselor who served the Church and his communities with distinction, Ceasar A. Robinson was often heard shouting “Word” from the pulpit whenever he spoke to young people. On September 3, 2014, Robinson passed away.

He was the fifth of eight children born to the late Joseph and Johnnie Mae Robinson, on February 10, 1957, in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

As a child, he had no idea that God had a special purpose for his young life. One day, Jesus called him, and he accepted that call at the tender age of 19. Robinson received a B.S. degree in religion and communication from Oakwood University in 1983.

He began his professional career as a probation officer, and later as a family counselor for the state of Florida. He also worked with last-chance juvenile delinquents at the Eckerd Youth Development Center, in Okeechobee, Fla., where he had the highest rehabilitation success rate of all the counselors. Robinson later served on Governor Jeb Bush’s Gang Task Force.

After working in corporate America for 13 years, the Southeastern Conference hired Robinson in 1996 to pastor the First University Church in Tampa, Fla., a church he helped to establish on the campus of the University of South Florida.

During his pastoral career, Robinson pastored seven Florida churches in Southeastern. Between 1997 and 1999, he pastored Mt. Sinai Church in Sarasota, and Mt. Gilead Church in Bradenton. While there, he was instrumental in purchasing and remodeling a nightclub that would become Mt. Gilead’s worship center.

From 1999 to 2004, he was the pastor of Ewing Memorial Church in Lakeland, and Emmanuel Church in Plant City. During his pastorate in Lakeland, he facilitated the establishment of Boys 2 Men/Sister Act 2, an after-school program for at-risk and disadvantaged youth ages 11-17. From May 2001 to October 2004, he served as executive director of Boys 2 Men/Sister Act 2 and was instrumental in writing and obtaining four grants from the city of Lakeland to partially fund the program. Additionally, he spearheaded the liquidation of the mortgages in both cities.

From 2004 to 2008, he pastored Maranatha Church in Tallahassee, and Mt. Olive Church in Quincy. Under his leadership, the Quincy congregation purchased a new worship facility. Again, he spearheaded the mortgage liquidation, this time at Tallahassee Church.

His passion and legacy were to ensure that God’s temples were dedicated “debt-free.” He took personally the admonition to have no debt on God’s buildings. Robinson was a dynamic servant/leader with a proven record of outstanding achievement.

In 2008, Robinson was appointed to serve as director of youth and Pathfinder ministries for Southeastern Conference, a post he held at the time of his death.

Choosing to serve the Lord as long as there was breath in his body, Robinson’s last official task as youth director and for the youth he loved so dearly, was to attend the 2014 North American Division Forever Faithful International Pathfinder Camporee in Oshkosh, Wisc.

Robinson is survived by his devoted wife of 26 years, Deborah; sons, Corban and Cushan; two sisters, Joyce Orr and Angela (Craig) Sanders; five brothers, Joseph (Carolyn) Robinson Jr., Alvin (Catheline) Robinson, Alfred Robinson, Rodney Robinson, and Charles Robinson; his mother-in-law, Earline Brown; two sisters-in-law, Patrice Sanders and Teresa (Kenneth) Kronheim; one brother-in-law, Charles Brown; and a host of aunts, uncles; nieces; nephews; cousins; and friends.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY
Linetta Wint Celebrates 100th Birthday

Linetta Wint, the matriarch of Kissimmee, Fla., Church, and family recently celebrated her 100th birthday. Wint was born on June 19, 1914, in the District of Resource in the Parish of Manchester, on the island of Jamaica. She is the mother of five biological children, one stepson, one adopted daughter, 20 grandchildren, 35 great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren, one living sister, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was baptized at Resource Seventh-day Adventist Church in 1948, and remains a faithful member to this day. During her active years, she served the Church in various capacities, including Dorcas leader, choir member, and deaconess. She is also known to be the “mother” of her community because of her willingness to help everyone who is in need.

On June 22, 2014, she was honored on her 100th birthday with a grand celebration at the Kissimmee Civic Center. The celebration was organized by her children, grandchildren, and Poinciana Church. She later returned to her homeland Jamaica, escorted by two of her children, and was warmly welcomed with another gala celebration planned by her stepson, nieces, nephews, and loving cousins.

The celebration continued on her way back home to Florida by Caribbean Airlines with first class seating, fruits, and flowers.

Wint has been faithful and true to God, and can testify to the fact that hard work and love for God and mankind are keys to longevity and a happy life.

Her favorite song is “Blessed Assurance.” She is enjoying her golden years living with her three retired daughters and son in Florida, and is looking forward to be with her family in the new Earth.

—BY DYNESDAL WINT

Miami Union Academy Launches 1:1 iPad Initiative

The 2014-15 school year began with a lot of excitement for the high school students at Miami Union Academy (MUA) in North Miami, Fla. Aside from new friends, new teachers, and new experiences, the students were eager to participate in the launch of the new one-to-one iPad adoption program.

For the last six years, the high school department operated a digital classroom program, using a one-to-one laptop program. While this venture brought many academic advantages, it was decided to expand the project to embrace the iPad, thereby exposing the students to an entirely new technological experience. Every student in MUA’s high school division was issued an iPad.

“MUA also integrates technology into our extracurricular programs. MUA remains committed to providing its students with the best education possible, equipping them with the knowledge and tools they will need both now and in the future,” said Renée Hodge, principal. “Not only is the iPad a formidable tool in advancing learning, it also makes the classroom experience more dynamic and engaging for our students.”

The teachers eagerly participated in training and preparation, and are enjoying the teaching experience that comes with this platform. These devices enhance the students’ learning and overall educational experience, and prepare them for college and beyond. Some of the core objectives to this program are to replace textbooks and other printed materials; provide an organized note-taking platform; provide an online research tool; provide a platform to facilitate individual and group work; provide access to a learning management system for managing homework, class assignments, quizzes, and tests; provide a platform for video or audio copies of lectures; and provide a platform to access academic resources in order to build digital literacy skills in students.

“The iPad program has enhanced my educational experience,” said Samara Bowden, a junior at MUA. “Using apps like Notability® for writing notes helps my mind process the information better, especially in subjects like math and English.”

The quest to offer a quality Christian education is paramount at MUA. This new venture is one step in helping the students prepare to be competent members of society, giving them the tools to spread God’s message and build His kingdom.

—BY SHELLEY GARNER
Oakwood University Reestablishes Industries, Purchases Franchise Business

According to the 2012-2017 Oakwood University Strategic Plan, the Division of Financial Administration will secure the fiscal health of the University by the creation of non-tuition revenue by managing internal financial resources in harmony with the strategic mission of the institution, and by decreasing dependence on governmental sources of income through the recovery of industries appropriate for the 21st century. This priority, proposed by Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., Oakwood University president, in his first University address on January 25, 2011, challenged the financial reality of Oakwood’s budget — a budget dependent on 60 percent tuition and fees.

Oakwood University hosted the grand opening of its franchise business, Edible Arrangements®, on September 29, 2014. Why did Oakwood’s administration decide to purchase an Edible Arrangements® franchise? George Johnson sits with Leslie Pollard to find out why Oakwood decided to reestablished industries.

George Johnson: What type of industries did Oakwood operate long ago?

President Leslie Pollard: Oakwood operated a number of industries across the years. We had a laundry that serviced the Huntsville community and the Redstone Arsenal, and a dairy with cows that produced milk. Oakwood also operated a bakery and participated in horseshoeing and other industries.

When we think about it, Mrs. Ellen G. White believed that education should address the head, the heart and the hand. The part of that triad that we have lost is the “hand” element — the skill-development responsibility of Christian education. By recovering industries, we can teach students those other kinds of skills. Maybe all of those skills will not be manual, but they can have other skills in the marketplace. School of Business students can apprentice to understand how to operate in a society where business daily takes place.

Johnson: Why has the administration decided to seek out other sources of income so that the University decreases its dependence on tuition and governmental sources of income?

Pollard: The first reason is that a part of our calling is to build in a base of industry that strengthens the ability of our institution to be self-reliant. When you look at our $50 million budget, about 60 percent of that budget actually comes from student tuition and fees. The rest comes from other sources of income: subsidies from churches, institutions, some investment income, etc. But, it is clear that the lion share of the budget is based upon student tuition and fees.

The other reason is because Mrs. Ellen G. White always envisioned that our schools would provide a

At the ribbon-cutting celebration, Pammie Jimmar of the Huntsville Chamber of Commerce, praised Oakwood leadership for their business mindset and for the work that the University is doing with students.
base of industry through which they could also generate self-support in helping students matriculate through the institution. Her original vision was to help students work their way through school. Now back in the day when Mrs. White established this, the notion of four years as the normative time for graduation almost didn’t exist. But still, I know some institutions around the world who are working the Spirit of Prophecy model, and students are graduating within five to six years. Based on the Department of Education standards, four to six years is an acceptable window to graduate with a bachelor’s degree.

Another reason we are doing industry recovery is because of the changing face of the HBCU landscape. We face a number of factors today that make operating HBCUs particularly challenging. Title III funding has been cut across the board. Federal restrictions have been placed on student loans, meaning that the credit thresholds are now higher, thus parents need to be more credit-worthy to qualify for student loans.

Johnson:
Why did Oakwood decide to purchase an Edible Arrangements® franchise?
Pollard: As we looked at the mission of Oakwood, we needed to find a business opportunity that was mission congruent. In doing our research, we found that the Edible Arrangements® Company actually works comfortably with our beliefs and teachings about health. Edible Arrangements® provides fresh fruit bouquets purchased by customers and delivered to people they care for.

Edible Arrangements® is one of most effective and growing franchises in America. We have all the data that shows their rank and rating. In our owning a franchise, we will also use the vast marketing apparatus of the owners of Edible Arrangements®. There is a system already in place that helps to market the business.

Johnson: How will the newly-generated income help Oakwood University?
Pollard: The new revenue will be used to grow and support the educational mission of Oakwood University. This includes scholarships for students’ matriculation and innovative academic program development. We also have opportunities for student employment.

Johnson: Can anyone place an order from any part of the country at your Edible location?
Pollard: Yes, by all means. Anyone can place an order by calling 256-881-7575. One of our associates will be glad to help place an order. The best thing about placing an order at our location is that you will be helping students with scholarships in the process. Our motto for our store is “Show love, support students!”

—BY GEORGE JOHNSON JR.
Southern Adventist University has resources just for you!

JOIN US ON CAMPUS

Archaeology Lecture, November 17
Jon Seligman, head of the Excavation, Surveys, and Research Department at Israel Antiquities Authority, will discuss what life was like on the outskirts of Jerusalem during the Byzantine Period at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

Bluegrass Concert, November 23
WSMC, Southern’s radio station, has been airing its Cowboy Jubilee program for several years. Each fall there is a free concert by the show’s creator held on campus (complete with biscuits and homemade preserves afterward). This year’s performance takes place from 5-8 p.m. in Ackerman Auditorium. For more information, visit southern.edu/wsmc.

Origins Exhibit
This museum-quality display area offers an understanding of origins from a creationist worldview. Consider the intricacy of the cell, the relationship between the Geologic Column and biblical flood, and the significance of beauty in nature. For more information, visit southern.edu/faithandscience.

JOIN US ONLINE

Southern’s weekly vespers programs, held in the Collegedale Church sanctuary, are broadcast live each Friday evening at 8 p.m. To view online, visit southern.edu/streaming.

WE’LL COME TO YOU

We have abundant resources representing numerous areas of expertise. Let Southern help when planning for guest speakers, workshops, music, and drama programs at your church or school. southern.edu/resourceguide

Visit Us
Southern welcomes visitors all year long, and we invite you to come and experience our beautiful campus for yourself. If you know of someone looking to attend a Christian university, prospective students have several options for a scheduled visit to Southern. For more information, go online to southern.edu/visit.
Guest Speakers Address Sexual Purity During Weeklong Event

Beginning September 29, 2014, students participating in Southern’s “Fall at the Wall” event gathered at the campus’ outdoor amphitheater for some serious conversations. During the next five nights, guest speakers in the series “Journey: Navigating Faith and Sexuality” tackled the sensitive topic using biblical truths and personal testimonies.

The daily presentations provided an opportunity for campus leaders to model the wholistic nature of God’s love for all His children to students. While introducing one night’s talk, Brennon Kirstein, campus chaplain, summarized the University’s goal for the meetings in this way: “Loving you well involves both compassion for your sexual struggle and a responsibility to share Christ’s desire for your life.”

Topics covered during the week included pornography, sexual addiction, homosexuality, dating, and the ideal marriage. In a new twist this year, local churches and academies cycled through similar topics, but on alternate nights to Southern’s schedule. This format allowed students who found one message particularly compelling the option of visiting a nearby church to hear it again, and to seek out the presenter for further instruction and encouragement. The Apison Church, Collegedale Church, Collegedale Community Church, Standifer Gap Church, and Collegedale Academy all participated in this unique model of outreach that was of benefit to all involved.

“I spoke with local pastors about this series, and we decided to take a stand together, and hopefully give strength and clarity to students and church members for whom the issue of sexual purity may be a gray matter,” Kirstein said.

At Collegedale Community Church, approximately 60 participants attended each night. Leaders also recorded the services and made them available online. Alex Harter, children’s pastor at Collegedale Community Church, expressed excitement in being able to help provide a message of hope and inspiration: that God can create a new heart in His children.

“I felt like there were a lot of immediately positive results from the message of victory in Jesus, and yet we hope there will be lasting effects as well.” Harter said. “Many people told me they were glad we were having such open dialogue on this important topic.”

Garrison Hayes, assistant chaplain at Southern, championed the need for including student voices during the series, and found social media to be one of the most productive ways to make that happen. Twitter, Facebook, and Yik-Yak (an app that utilizes GPS to allow users into a location-based forum anonymously) were the primary tools for Hayes and Campus Ministries student leaders fielding and responding to questions.

“Students have told us that in the past they felt like they were being talked at instead of talked with, so we made it a point to invite questions from them in real time utilizing this technology,” Hayes said. “What they had to say was of great benefit to the discussion.”

—BY ELIZABETH CAMPS

Southern Earns “Top Tier” Rank for 13th Year

Southern is pleased to announce a Top Tier ranking from U.S. News & World Report’s “Best Colleges” guide for the 13th consecutive year. In addition to the University’s overall honor, its School of Nursing graduate program — which offers Southern’s first doctoral degree — earned additional recognition.

Nearly 1,600 institutions are evaluated annually by U.S. News & World Report before results are compiled and released. The magazine’s collection of objective data is used by students and parents to make informed decisions about where to invest in an education. The guide divides colleges and universities into categories based on both geography and the curriculum they offer. Southern earned its honors in the “Regional Colleges” category, which includes schools that focus on undergraduate education but grant fewer than half their degrees in liberal arts disciplines.

A large crowd of students gathered at the Goliath Wall outdoor amphitheater on campus each night to hear speakers in Southern’s weeklong discussion regarding sexual purity.
BROWN, Wilbert Augustus, 100, born on the lovely island of Jamaica, West Indies, to Annie Brown Ferron on May 1, 1915, died July 20, 2014. He was raised by his grandparents, Robert and Elizabeth the rural parish of Clarendon. Both his parents and his grandparents were farmers by trade. He attended school through the 8th grade. He left school to help and support his grandparents. He learned at an early age to work in the soil, and to work hard at it. His crops included yams, potatoes, and sugar cane. The harvest from the crops was sold in the market for a profit.

As a young boy, he had a heart for spiritual things. He loved to talk God and read about His Word. He was an active, faithful member of the Church of God of the Quietness. He served this church in many capacities including lay pastor. He attended a revival on the island that was conducted by the Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the end of the revival he accepted the teachings, and was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church where he remained faithful since his baptism.

He came to the United States at the age of 36, and traveled around the country as a migrant worker. In 1953, at a Camp Meeting in Hawthorne, FL, he met a woman who would later become his wife. Her name was Annie Mae Solomon and she worked in the camp store dipping ice cream cones. He waited his turn in line repeatedly to buy ice cream, so that he could talk with her while she dipped ice cream. He bought more than 40 ice cream cones that day, and the investment paid off. On Jan. 15, 1954, he married Annie Mae, who he affectionately called “Miss Ann.” To this union, three children were born: Patricia Ruth, Edna Anita, and Tony.

In 1959, he became a U.S. Citizen. He worked hard to protect and provide for his family, regularly working three jobs simultaneously. He worked at Dr. P. Phillips Hospital, Orlando, in maintenance, and Florida Hospital, Orlando, as an environment technician. He retired from this position after more than 26 years of service. He then worked at Orange Memorial Hospital (now Orlando Regional Health Center), Orlando, in the same capacity as Florida Hospital. He retired from this position after 13 years of service. He enjoyed talking with people and charming them with his loveable spirit, infectious smile, and irresistible Jamaican accent.

Although he did not complete his formal education, he continued to educate himself in the areas of world events and Bible history. He was always “ready to give an answer to any man that asked a reason for the hope that was within him.” He loved his family, his church, his neighborhood, and his Savior, Jesus Christ. He was a faithful member of Mt. Sinai Church for more than 60 years. His service included working in the treasury department, serving as deacon and head deacon, teaching Sabbath School, serving as local elder, and holding the title of Ingathering King, undefeated.

God blessed him to celebrate his 100th birthday on May 15, 2014, he joined the centurion rank. He was a faithful, beloved husband, father, grandfather, godfather, church member, and a servant of God. He will be sorely missed. He is survived by his loving, devoted wife, Annie Mae Brown; three children: Patricia Ruth (Howard) Walker of Ocoee, FL; Edna Anita (Antis) Sidney of Taft, TN; and Tony (Kyra) Brown of Apopka, FL; five grandchildren: Jeremiah Bradford Sidney, Jonathan Ray Sidney, Jordan Brook Sidney, Chase Cameron Brown, and Jaxon Ridgeway; two goddaughters: Karen (Anthony) Winston, and Stephanie (Westley) Knight; and a host of extended family and friends in the United States and Jamaica, West Indies.

HERZEL, Edward Frederick, 98, born May 1, 1915 in Kalmazoo, MI, died Feb. 6, 2014 in Hendersonville, NC. He grew up in the Kalmazoo Church where he later served as Sabbath School teacher for the teens and missionary leader. After graduating from high school, he worked at several jobs until he felt the Lord calling him to be a pastor.

In 1937, he took the train to Washington, DC, and enrolled as a ministerial student in Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University). He worked at various industries on campus, and drove a taxi in Washington to pay his school bills. While handing out literature one Sabbath afternoon, he met Mary Lee Doggett. They both agreed it was an answer to prayer and were soon married.

He graduated in 1942 and accepted a call to minister in Ohio. His first district included five churches, quite a challenge for a young pastor and wife with two little children. He pastored several districts and held numerous evangelistic meetings during his 12 years in Ohio before moving to New Jersey. While pastoring in New Jersey, he with Elder Jack Blanco and Conference President Eckenroth held meetings in Morristown, NJ, which led to the organization of a new church there. Later, he and Elder Alva Appel led out in the establishment of the Waldwick School.

Some years later, he asked to be transferred to Michigan to be near his aging parents. After his mother died, he wanted to move to a warmer climate for retirement, so he accepted a call to North Carolina where he pastored the Morganton Church before retiring there. While in North Carolina, he used his disaster training to set up distribution centers in several communities after hurricanes and flooding. In retirement, he served as an interim pastor wherever the conference asked him to serve.

After 24 years in Morganton, he and Mary Lee moved to Fletcher Park Inn. Always active, Ed was the AV technician for Fletcher Park Inn, and he joined the volunteers at Park Ridge Hospital where he worked two mornings a week until Mary Lee needed him at home. He fell at a retiree’s retreat and never fully recovered from the fall or the grief of losing his wife of almost 75 years. He died with the assurance of meeting Jesus and his beloved wife again.

He was preceded in death by his siblings, and one daughter, Barbara Nieminsky. He is survived by three children: Fred (Edith) Herzel; Judy (George) Halleron; and Dan (Meredith) Herzel; eight grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held at the Leila Patterson Center in Hendersonville, NC.

KENYON, Eleanor “Ginger” Larcom, 85, of Ooltewah, TN, died June 24, 2014. She was a member of Collegedale Church. She was a retired elementary school teacher and departmental director of children and family life ministries in the Carolina Conference.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Ella Larcom; and her brother, Milton Larcom. She is survived by her loving, devoted husband of 64 years, Elder Donald E. Kenyon II; two sons: Donald E. Kenyon III and Robert W. Kenyon, both of Chattanooga, TN; two grandchildren: Robert W. Kenyon Jr. of Chattanooga, TN, and Victoria Kenyon of Loma Linda, CA; one great-grandchild, Gage Robert Kenyon; three sisters: Peggy Bryant of Hobbs, NM, Arlene Hadgins of Redclay, TN, and Joyce Stringer of Richmond, VA.

A memorial service was held July 11, 2014, in the Heritage Funeral Home Chapel with Pastors Dave and Cherie Smith officiating.
RHODES, Pamela Ann, 64, born May 30, 1950 in Lubbock, TX, died June 10, 2014, with her loving husband and family by her side. She was the daughter of Blake and June Chanslor. She was a naturally gifted vocalist, teacher, and author. When she was three years old, her older brother, Carol, a talented musician, noticed that she had musical ability and started to teach her songs. By the age of five, she began singing in church. Her brother was both an organist and pianist for the Albuquerque, NM, Church during his teenage years, and often featured her in the services.

When H.M.S. Richards Jr., and later Kenneth Cox served as pastors of her church, they became acquainted with her musical gifts, and featured her frequently in church and for evangelistic meetings. Following high school, she attended and graduated from La Sierra University with a degree in child development. While working on her degree, she continued singing and traveling with the Chamberlain Singers. In 1972 at a Camp Meeting in Albuquerque, NM, a musician by the name of Jimmy Rhodes needed a vocalist to sing a few songs, as he was to give a Sabbath concert. He had never met Pam, but his mother had noticed her, struck up a conversation, and discovered that she could sing! Encouraged by his mother, Jimmy approached Pam, introduced himself, and asked her to join him in concert. After performing a few numbers together at that Albuquerque Camp Meeting in 1972, the rest was history.

On June 10, 1973, they were married in Palm Springs, CA. Two years after having their first son, they relocated from Pasadena, CA, to Cleveland, TN.

She completed her M.A. degree in education in 1988 from Loma Linda University, and spent several years teaching first and second grade at Bowman Hills SDA School in Cleveland, TN. After teaching for 11 years, she decided to retire and take on her music ministry full time. A very gifted and well-known vocalist, she has recorded three solo CDs: “You’re Walking Down Sunshine Lane,” “On the Wings of a Dove,” and “I’ve Got a Reason to Live.” Additionally, she and Jimmy have produced three CDs: “Calvary Means Heaven to Me,” “I’m Almost Home,” and “Redeemed,” and two DVDs: “Friendship With Jesus” and “Purely Music.” “Friendship With Jesus,” a live concert, won an Angel Award in 2004. “Purely Music” produced by Safe Television, was a 2008 winner of a Telly Award, selected from more than 350,000 entrants that year. She can also be heard and seen on Three Angels Broadcasting Network, Safe Television, and the Hope Channel.

Most recently, she completed her book, Windows of Faith, a compilation of uplifting stories from her childhood, experiences from teaching grade school, being married to a musically talented husband, and life lessons from her own children and family members. Her devoted husband, children, and grandchildren were the joy of her life. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Jimmy Rhodes; three children: Deborah Vollberg, Jimmy Rhodes, and Roni Oswalt; two brothers: Carol and Ron Chanslor; and five grandchildren: Caroline, Adam, and Josh Vollberg, and Blake and Olivia Oswald. She will be deeply missed as a wife, mother, teacher, musician, author, philanthropist, and dear friend.

BOGAR, Kenneth, 91, born July 12, 1922 in Rapid River, MI, died May 5, 2014 in Ooltewah, TN. He was a member of Avon Park, FL, Church. He is survived by two sons: Larry of Nashville, TN, and Donald of Ocala, FL; one daughter, Bonnie Hicks of Noblesville, IN; six grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren. The service was conducted in Chattanooga, TN.

BRENNEISE, Lloyd, 70, born May 1, 1943 to Jonathan and Olga Rueb Brenneise in Eureka, SD, died Dec. 25, 2013 in Lutz, FL. He grew up on his parents’ farm near Leola, SD, and Lodi, CA. He graduated from Lodi Academy, Union College, and Northern State University in Aberdeen, SD, with a Music degree. He married Charlotte Heatherly at Union, and they married on June 7, 1964. He taught school in the Adventist school system for more than 33 years. This ministry took the family to various schools throughout the U.S. His students have fondly remembered him as “a gently soul” and “an amazing teacher.” He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Charlotte; one daughter, Lori Jabakji; three granddaughters; and two sisters: Clarice Murphy and Lois Rogers.

CAMPBELL, Ray, 85, born April 9, 1928 in Powder Mills, KY, died March 17, 2014 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was employed as the communications director for Adventist Hinsdale Hospital, IL, from 1965 to 1995. He is survived by his wife, June; two sons: Larry (Donna) of Nashville, TN, and Jerry (Sherry) of Deltona, FL; one daughter, Linda (Steve) Patrick of Apopka, FL; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

CARRIGAN, Genevieve, 83, born July 27, 1930, died Feb. 12, 2014 in Port Richey, FL. She was a member of the New Port Richey Church for 27 years. She is survived by her husband, Spencer; one son, Kenneth Carrigan of Virginia; one daughter, Kimberly Wicker of Elfers, FL; and two grandchildren. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Glenn Aguirre.

CLARK, Lorraine V., 90, born March 21, 1924 in Hinsdale, IL, died July 5, 2014 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL, for six years. She is survived by her husband of nine years, Harold (Hal); two daughters: Delores Foil Gilliland of Niles, MI, and Cheryl Foll Simpson of Loma Linda, CA; one brother, Daniel (Carolyn) Lewis of Eustis, FL; one sister, Gwen (Harold) Howard of Apopka; two grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted at Florida Living Church by Pastor James King. Interment was at Highland Memory Gardens Cemetery in Apopka.

HAERICH, Donna Jean, 72, born May 26, 1941
in Dayton, TN, died Feb. 9, 2014 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Fredric Haerich; one son, Dr. Paul (Amy) Haerich of Loma Linda, CA; one daughter, Nicole (Jim) Varbough of Altamonte Springs; and two grandchildren. A memorial service was conducted by Pastor Barbara McCoy at Forest Lake Church.

HERZEL, Mary Lee Doggett, 86, born June 9, 1927 in Mecklenburg County, VA, died March 22, 2013 at home in Hendersonville, NC, with her family by her side. She was preceded in death by her husband, Edward Herzel. She was a member of Highland Church in Chattanooga, TN. She served the Church for 24 years. She was a member of the Adventist Community Services, was a children's camp counselor, church treasurer, and substitute teacher, and adult teacher. She is survived by her husband, Robert; two sons: David (Freida) Rogers, and Bobby (Stephanie) Green; two daughters: Robin (Rob) Richmond and Lisa (Jeff) Rice; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

JENSEN, Bobbe, 86, born Nov. 3, 1927, died June 3, 2014. She is survived by her son, Gary Dale Jensen; two daughters: Claudia Jensen Guthrie and Bobbe Darlynne Jensen; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. A memorial service was held June 6, 2014 at Chattanooga Funeral Home Memorial Gardens, Lithonia, GA.

JENNINGS, Sue Summerour Magoon, 73, born Feb. 17, 1941 in Richardsville, KY, died April 6, 2014 in Bowling Green, KY. She was a member of the Sand Hill Church, Bowling Green, KY. She served her church in many capacities including Sabbath School superintendent, kindergarten teacher, primary teacher, and adult teacher. She is survived by her husband, Robert; two sons: David (Freida) Rogers, and Bobby (Stephanie) Green; two daughters: Robin (Rob) Richmond and Lisa (Jeff) Rice; nine grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

JONES, Yessine, 104, born March 5, 1909, died Oct. 7, 2013 in New Port Richey, FL. She was a member of New Port Richey Church for 39 years. She is survived by her husband, Aristarco; one son, Richard; and one step-son, Robert Cotta of Altamonte Springs, FL; two stepdaughters: Tonya (Edward) Hicks; sister-in-law, Pauline (Antoinette) (Edward) Hicks; sister-in-law, Pauline (Garnett) Weir; and brother-in-law, Stephen (Mavis) Robinson. She was predeceased by her son, Cedric Osborn. The service was conducted by Pastor R. Steven Norman III, and interment was in Hillandale Memorial Gardens, Lithonia, GA.
Ardith Greer, a retired United States Navy employee and former member of Gulf States Conference, was a small woman with a big heart. A lady friend described her: “What an amazing woman she was. Interesting and interested, always upbeat, a survivor, caring, and a woman of true faith.”

Loving her Church as a faithful Christian, she remembered the Gulf Coast SDA Church and its ministries in her estate plan. As a clerical worker herself, she started about 35 years before her death to update her documents, making sure her desires would be carried out.

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**HOMES FOR SALE IN THE COLLEGEDALE AREA:** New listing in Ooltewah! Huge 3,100 square foot 4 bedroom home plus an office, workshop, and workout room for only $272,000! Check out www.6895Neville.com for virtual tour. Also, immaculate home in Ooltewah with 4 bedrooms and 3.5 bathrooms and 2 master suites for $279,900! Check out the virtual tour at www.6479refuge.com. Also, like new 3 bedroom charmer in Ooltewah with mountain views for $158,500, check out www.7532passport.com. *Coming Soon* 3 bedroom plus office townhouse in Ooltewah for $169,900 with spa! Call or email me at JDelpingyou@gmail.com with questions about properties in the SAU area. Jon`D Avanzo, Davanzo Real Estate. 423-834-4545. [11]

**LAND FOR SALE IN THE COLLEGEDALE AREA:** 30 wooded acres that can be subdivided, reduced to $250,000, check out www.NeuchatelEstates.com. *Also,* 121 acres near Collegedale that has both pasture and wooded areas that can be divided into 5 acre parcels or more! Davanzo Real Estate, ask for Jon Davanzo: 423-834-4545 or Lyle Spiva: 423-421-3456. We specialize in land! [11]

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**FLORIDA HOME FOR SALE:** 4 bed, 2 bath, split plan, double-car garage, 3 miles from Forest Lake Academy in Altamonte Springs. Central heat & air, gas range, double pane windows. Quiet dishwasher, fridge with ice maker, security lights, wired for ADT. Fenced yard with 5 citrus trees, 3 grape vines, blueberries, macadamia nut tree, tropical plants. Storage shed. Call Ken Bryant, 407-312-4866, email kbbhd328@aol.com. [11]

**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT.** Southwestern Adventist University is seeking qualified applicant (Ph.D. preferred). Primary emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. Successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to Schwarz.mimesnard@ucollege.edu. [11]

**UNION COLLEGE seeks a Testament Faculty Member.** Qualified person should have a doctorage degree (Ph.D or Th.D.) in the area of New Testament studies and textual criticism, preferably from a non-Adventist university. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.adventures.edu/admis/jobs/show/faculty/job_5. [11]

**UNION COLLEGE seeks a professor specializing in an area of non-European history, to teach general and upper division courses effective fall 2015.** Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes, b2forbes@ucollege.edu. [11]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a Seminary New Testament Faculty Member.** Qualified person should have a doctorage degree (Ph.D or Th.D.) in the area of New Testament studies and textual criticism, preferably from a non-Adventist university. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.adventures.edu/admis/jobs/show/faculty/job_5. [11]

**ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full-time Staff Auditor, CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, evaluate internal control systems, procedures, and best practices, applications of GAAP, GASAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. For more information, go to www.adra.org. [11-1]

**ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II.** Responsibilities include review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, prepare reports to government agencies. Record questioned cost, review GIK documentation, and compile budgets for cost centers. For more information, go to www.adra.org. [11-1]

**ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) INTERNATIONAL in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full-time Senior Program Manager, Finance Manager.** Responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. For more information, go to www.adra.org. [11-1]

**ADVENTIST DEVELOPMENT AND RELIEF AGENCY (ADRA) SUDAN in Sudan, is seeking a full-time Finance Director.** Responsibilities include preparation of all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review of financial statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintenance of accounting records. For more information, go to www.adra.org. [11-12]

**SERVE GOD AS A WEB DEVELOPER from home!** K3 Integrations creates interactive websites for Adventist ministries. We are seeking programmers who want to make a difference in the world. We focus on Ruby on Rails but we are willing to train the right candidate. More info: http://bit.ly/K3-I. [11]
CONVENIENT ON-CAMPUS GUEST LODGING
at Southern Adventist University. Lovely 2 bed/1 bath apartments, some equipped with kitchens. Available year round. Call 423-236-7000 or email guestlodging@southern.edu. [11]

PROFESSIONAL OFFICE SHARING SPACE:
SDA CPA (sole practitioner for 7 years, 30 years experience) in metro Atlanta area of West Cobb County, seeking additional CPA to share office space with possibility of developing partnership. Are you thinking of growing your own practice or desire to relocate? I can be reached by email at jodeecpa@comcast.net or office phone 770-514-9827. [11]

DISCOVER HOW A CELL PHONE can become a powerful tool to spread out the truth in the Bible. Multiple links help to diversity the search. Just visit www.bibleprophecy.tel and tell it to the world while it can be done. [11]

SKY: March 7-14, 2015. Park Plaza, Park City, UT. 2 condos, each with 1 king bed, 2 bath; 1 queen, 1 twin sleep sofas, indoor pool, free shuttle. $750/week each or $1400/both. Call: 423-667-8286. [11]
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Florida Adventist Bookmobile

http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/ or toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC

MOVING?

Need to change your address for Southern Tidings?
Mail the label from the back of your last Southern Tidings, or fill-in the information below and mail it to: Southern Tidings, Address Change, P.O. Box 923868, Norcross, GA 30010-3868
Name: __________________________
Old Address: ______________________
New Address: _____________________
Phone Number: __________________
Home Church: ____________________

Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule

Resumes in early 2015.

Family Reunion Series Concert - Nov. 15. Forest Lake Church. 5 p.m. Free concert by Family Reunion Series musicians Larry Ford, Gale Murphy, Moses Brown, and Jennifer LaMountain. A love offering will be received and Family Reunion Music Collection products available after the concert. Details: 407-869-0680.

Blaze Fest: Life on Fire Ministries Training – Nov. 21-23. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Preacher training levels 1 & 2 for ages 14+: CREATION Health, small groups, discipleship, Bible study, music worship, crisis care, film ministry, health ministry, etc.

Cost: $99. Details: robert.hines@floridaconference.com or 407-644-5000, x2422.

Judaism and Christianity — Repairing the Breach — Dec. 11-13. Beth Tehillah Vetkiva (House of Praise and Hope Company), 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Alexander “Sasha” Bokinov. Details: bethtehillah@gmail.com or 786-514-7062.

Georgia-Cumberland


Souls of the Season – Nov. 16, 4-6 p.m. Fundraising event presented by Georgia-Cumberland Academy Instrumental Musical Department. Music and dinner, tickets $34 each. Calhoun, GA.

Will Clinic with Jeff Wilson – Nov. 22, 23. Ogden Road Church, Dayton, TN.

Southern on the Promenade — Dec. 2. Features Greater Collegeade School System musical groups. Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN.

Association Board of Directors — Dec. 3. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Bethlehem Live – Dec. 5, 6, 6–8 p.m. Drive through live nativity scene set at the time of Jesus’ birth. Calhoun, GA.

Health Rally – Dec. 6. Waycross, GA.


One Bethlehem Night – Dec. 20, 21. A live musical on the scene set at the inn that had no room for a baby. Ticket free, required due to space. Collegade Community Church, Ooltewah, TN. Most events require pre-registration at registration.gcssda.com.

Gulf States

Epic Camp Alamisco


Kentucky-Tennessee

Adventurer Camporee – Nov. 6. Indian Creek Camp.

Highland Academy Board – Nov. 6. Highland Academy.


Southern Adventist University

Symphony Orchestra Concert – Nov. 9. This free performance takes place at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary of Collegedale Church. View online by visiting southern.edu/streaming.

Class Registration – Nov. 17. Online registration is open for new or transfer students. For details, visit southern.edu/apply.

Archaeology Lecture – Nov. 17. Jon Seligman, director of excavations, surveys, and research at Israel Antiquities Authority, will discuss the second Temple period during a free lecture at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. For details, call 423-236-2030.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

VIBRANT HEALTH MINISTRY – Nov. 7-9. Learn how to lead, encourage, and relieve human suffering by sharing the Seventh-day Adventist health lifestyle with your church and community. Southern Union Health Ministries invites you to attend a Union-wide health ministries training with North American Division Health Ministries at the new Southern Union Office in Norcross, GA. The program will begin at 7 p.m., on Friday night and conclude at 4 p.m., on Sunday. Details: Call AdventSource at 800-328-0525 or www.adventsource.org and click on the “EVENTS” tab at the top of the page. Registration deadline is Oct. 31.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI REUNION – April 24, 25. Friday evening reception, 7 p.m.; Sabbath worship, 10 a.m.; registration 9:30 a.m. on campus. Class reunions TBA. Honor classes 1955, ’65, ’75, ’85, ’90, ’95, ’05. Details: www.isak12.com, JNelson@isak12.com, or call 951-351-1445 x244.
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