Rekindle the Gift
Camp Meeting/Summer Camp Schedules

SECCIÓN EN ESPAÑOL
Jesus’ Admonition for a Finished Work

“And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, ‘all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.’ Amen,” Matthew 28:18-20 (KJV).

It is important for members of the Seventh-day Adventist church to know this: God never has done, nor will He do, for us what we should do but neglect to do in the task of giving the Gospel to the world. He sees that in order to overcome the selfishness that is inherent in our nature, we need to share the burden and the work of giving the Gospel to all who will hear.

On a mountain, not specifically labeled in Scripture, 11 disciples and approximately 500 people assembled as Jesus declared His ultimate authority. He had already exercised a voluntarily limited authority during His earthly ministry. In this moment, however, He referenced the limitless power and authority which has been His before He came to this Earth to assume the limitations of humanity. It is this power that is unleashed for soul winners. The directive, “Go, ye,” as recorded in verses 19 and 20 of Matthew’s gospel, constitutes the great charter of the Christian church. The disciples of Jesus were learners in the school of evangelizing the world; now as apostles, they were sent forth to teach others. They were literally implored to reach citizens of every tribe, nation, tongue, and people.

Christianity was the first religion to assume a truly international character. Pagan religions were largely devoid of missionary zeal and activity. They were primarily national in character and did not set out to make converts of other national groups. The Gospel commission effectively eliminates national boundaries, and people of all nations find themselves members of one great fraternity in which “… there is neither Jew nor Greek, bond or free, there is neither male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus,” Galatians 3:28.

Embracing the Gospel of Jesus Christ involves the action of the intelligence. Only an intelligent Christian can be a real Christian. Without the exercise of the mental faculties to understand the revealed will of God, there can be no real Christianity, no real growth. Without the exercise of teaching and learning the critical truths of the Gospel, there can be no true committed life to Christ. Without genuine love for Christ, the doctrines and forms of religion lose their meaning and value.

It seems quite remarkable that Jesus would promise to be with us, as we quest to execute the Great Gospel Commission, when He was about to ascend to Heaven; but, many are receiving the power from Him to spread the Good News that He's coming back to save people from the sin and blight of this world.

I look forward to rejoicing surrounding the salvation of so many we have labored for in the Southern Union.

“What rejoicing there will be as these redeemed ones meet those who have had a burden in their behalf ... how their hearts will thrill with satisfaction,” Gospel Workers, page 519.
Rekindle the Gift
Campaigns, Crusades, and Caravans!
Publishing Ministries: Calling All Members
Your Loss May Be a Blessing
Run the Race
A Spiritual Celebration

20th Annual Roger Davis Quartet Festival
“Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you,”
2 Timothy 1:6.

Some describe it as the most rewarding experience, a gift from God. It satisfies the emotional needs of curiosity, optimism, benevolence, and love. Words like “blessing,” “awesome,” “commitment,” and “doing God’s will” seem to roll off the tongues of those involved as they describe what may be considered the most rewarding work — witnessing. Others say, “I know I’m doing the right thing,” by simply sharing their lives with others.

Many like Crystal Jenson, 62, wish they had taken the time to discover the gift earlier. As a hairdresser living in Ringgold, Georgia, she is motivated. “After years of straddling the spiritual fence, I finally realized it’s time to make up for lost time — time setting a bad example, time that could have been spent hastening Christ’s return, time using my talents and skills in God’s ministry.” Crystal believes in the personal touch. She mingles with those to whom she is witnessing, and she trains other church members in how to give Bible studies. She juggles 13 to 15 studies at a time. She cautions, however, “not everyone gives Bible studies, but everyone can do something.”

Smith Alfred and Idner Noel are elders of the Haitian Ministerial Association in Southeastern Conference reaching across several Haitian churches and communities. Through evangelistic crusades held in a rented public school gymnasium, they use a broadcast ministry, flyers, and member contacts to market potential visitors, resulting in thousands of baptisms during several years in spite of a history of voodoo practices and Catholicism. Despite the impressive growth among the Haitian churches, they have been faced with reduced attendance among the youth who return from colleges and universities and prefer English-speaking services. The answer is a second service in English. It continues to work by attracting returning students, their friends, and other youth. Their successes reflect a spirit of working together, and hard work overwhelmed by God’s blessings.

Jane and John Sines Sr., D.D.S., have worked as a team in evangelism for more than 65 years. Sponsoring refugee families; public health festivals; medical physicals; planting churches internationally; prison chaplaincy; mentoring men and women who have been incarcerated back into society, even to getting them started in business and in the pulpit launching their
own ministries; anger management; opening their home to former prisoners helping them to get a fresh start; Bible studies; and door to door ministry have all been a part of their outreach.

There is no restriction on age. Archer Livingood, retired pastor and singing evangelist at age 95, is a walking Bible and sermon in a nursing home following a stroke. He is blessed to still have the skills to play the piano and give Bible studies. He was recently asked by the nursing home staff to serve as their “pastor.” In presenting truths to his fellow residents, they and staff are asking questions about the Sabbath, state of the dead, and health.

Young people are venturing out into their circles and finding friends who are receptive. High school senior Angela moved to the area after Adventist church members befriended her and her family during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti. As a member of her high school soccer team, she started Bible studies with Tim Cove, pastor of Statesville and Mocksville churches in North Carolina. When asked by family and friends what caused a change in her life, Angela uses that opportunity to tell about her Friend. As she studied, she would talk with her friends and alcoholic father about what she was learning. At least one of her friends is now taking Bible classes. Her dad started attending studies on his own, and is now witnessing to his estranged wife. Angela was a living faith example in a tough high school. She is now a recent high school graduate.

In Portland, Tennessee, a church of 65 retirees provide gift baskets to nearby students, food baskets for the community as requested by police and other civic groups, on-going prison ministries, writing a newspaper column, two mission projects in New Guinea, $4,800 so far this year for Investment Offering, and 11,000 devotional DVDs distributed in two years to community contacts.

John Baker, pastor of Tennessee’s Jackson and Leach churches, encourages his congregations in creative outreaches to their communities. The members sponsor a vegetarian supper club which averages 24 people; eight to nine are Adventists. In this environment it is easier to discuss the Gospel of Christ and its implications on a personal level. The results have been appreciation of Adventist members, lowered defenses in accepting a casual approach to doctrines, visits to the church for Sabbath services, and baptisms. There are some who embrace the doctrines and will visit, but are not ready to take the baptism step.

Baker says “the one-on-one approach, provides an opportunity, a more personal approach where topics can be discussed intimately.” Baker believes public evangelism has its advantages; however, he finds the personal approach through friendships to be more effective. Baker encourages his members to get more involved in various ministries by seeing the vision of what can be accomplished.

The activities of those in ministry reflect a desire to fulfill Jesus’ commission and methods to his followers: Meet people where they are. Attend to their needs. Share the everlasting Gospel of Jesus.

Great Commission. Jesus considered the Great Commandment, which calls us to love God and love others, as the greatest of all commandments. It is the premise and foundation of every divine law and every God-honoring thought and deed. It is a Commandment with a purpose,” he says. Haley believes when the Great Commandment is practiced and lived out in daily life, its natural outcome will be a continual investment in the Great Commission. “The formula is simple,” reflects Haley, “loving God, through loving others, and in so doing, winning the lost to the Kingdom of God. This is Christ’s plan for transforming and using every disciple, and every member, to live a life of evangelism, by loving others.”

Haley is joined by fellow Conference presidents Hubert Morel, Southeastern Conference, and Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference. Morel thinks the mission of the church is to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His soon return. That is the ultimate objective of why God brought the church into existence. Louis adds, “It’s our prayer
that we will do this again and again ‘til Jesus comes.’ Funds for evangelism and soul-winning ‘will be utilized to evangelize and make disciples in every corner of the Carolinas.’

In the Florida Conference, “We continue to make a priority of reaching people who don’t know Jesus in order to introduce them to the Savior and our message of hope and wholeness,” says Mike Cauley, president of Florida Conference.

“We also are working to reach those who are in other Christian churches who haven’t heard our message of grace and truth.”

Morel says, “We are to be collaborators with God to draw men and women and boys and girls to the knowledge of Jesus Christ and His saving power. Growing the kingdom of God should be the mission of every Seventh-day Adventist member.”

The leaders of Georgia-Cumberland, Gulf States, South Atlantic, and South Central agree. “Everything else that we do is secondary to sharing the Gospel; so when Christ returns, we may be rewarded for having done what He asks us to do.”

This joint emphasis throughout the Southern Union resulted in 8,982 baptisms and professions of faith in 2014, for a total membership of 278,522. However, it’s more than mere numbers. It is a matter of accepting Jesus’ invitation to be co-workers in fulfilling our responsibilities and hastening His long sought return. “We encourage our directors, our pastors, our teachers, and every constituent member to engage in the work of sharing the Gospel and the saving of souls for the Kingdom of God,” says Morel. We should not be “satisfied until all members, new and long-standing, become mature followers of our Lord. Our mission statement in Florida is ‘Growing mature disciples, preparing people for the coming Jesus,’” added Cauley.

Louis hopes to “involve every pastor and every church to catch a vision for soul-winning. We are praying to create a climate of love that will draw men and women, boys and girls to the Savior. What amazing things God longs to see in all our congregations by heeding the counsel of His special messenger for these end times. “It is our desire to invest prayerful energies this year to set faith goals for souls in each of our churches, that we will earnestly and passionately pray that not one single church or company in Carolina will go without having led at least one person to accept Jesus as their Savior and the Lord of his/her life,” says Louis.

The challenge is encouraging all members to get involved in personal ministries. Excuses are numerous: fear, laziness, shyness, and indifference. However, two reasons many give for not taking an active part in ministry is ignorance: business with everyday life and “people already know.”

As Crystal Jenson mingles with her hairdressing clients, she consistently “runs into people who have never heard of Seventh-day Adventists.” One of her clients who have never heard of Adventists has asked for lessons on how to keep the Sabbath. She says people want to hear.

“Only about 13 percent of the people who live in Florida attend a church even once per month,” says Cauley. “So there are more and more people in the population each year who are biblically illiterate and know very little about Jesus. It follows, then, that our approaches must be varied — not only using public evangelism, but also building upon approaches which are based upon life-giving relationships. This means connecting with people through acts of service, a listening ear, and becoming a genuine friend. It’s really only then that we can hope to share the Gospel and the third angel’s message with people today.”

“The lifeblood of the Adventist church is evangelism,” reminds William Winston, president of South Atlantic Conference, “Jesus has empowered and anointed each of us with the Holy Spirit to do this great work. The final events of Earth’s history are rapidly unfolding. Now, more than ever before, we are to fulfill this sacred task of leading people to the Lord.”

At times there is some reluctance on the part of members. Cove says, “People are in survival mode. They are financially exhausted and tired whether rich or poor.” They are tired and busy doing good things. “The devil has done a good job putting us in treadmill mode. The antidote for spiritual lethargy however, is Bible study,” he says. “We do not realize what power we have.”

Jenson responds by agreeing, but adds, “Our members need training … training in how to give studies, how to approach a friend or stranger, how to answer questions. They are afraid of the big question, ‘What if they ask me …?’ They don’t realize all they have to say is they’ll find out and get
Charlotte Verrett, M.D., spent all her life ministering to others, especially children. She is surrounded by students from Carolina Adventist Academy, Whiteville, North Carolina, which she was instrumental in starting. Verrett passed January 24, 2015. There is no debating the faith. Don’t let others sidetrack you, or you will forever be trying to get back on track.” She continues, “Even the negative path in your life is what people are looking to hear about from you in Bible studies. They want to see and hear people who have made mistakes and turned their lives around.”

There is one thing all the participants in this article had in common. They believe time is ending soon and involvement in ministry is pivotal to current events; however, the greatest enthusiasm is to see the look across the table on someone’s face looking at you as he or she begins to understand the plan of salvation, hearing things they never heard before, watching the pieces come together for a clearer picture, and making a choice for Heaven.

Charlotte Verrett, M.D., had no choice. According to her husband, Leon, “Charlotte not only had a ministry, she was involved in ministry from a child,” growing up with her dad, a lay evangelist and aircraft mechanic who conducted tent meetings and expected his children to participate. Her 30-year medical practice exhaled evangelism. Within her church, community, and in her practice she traveled throughout the community to meet the medical needs of its residents. Patients would visit her clinic even when there were no scheduled visits. Walking into the lobby of Signet Health Care in Whiteville, North Carolina, patients were greeted by a mural of Christ’s Second Coming and other sacred sketches. Even the name of the clinic was taken from Haggai’s reference to a signet, a recommendation from her mother. Despite her involvement in evangelistic meetings, free medical exams, personal counseling, literature, clothing, Bible distribution, sacred music, prayer with patients, building an educational facility, practicing medicine, and raising a family, she still found time to teach children’s baptismal classes. Her impact was such, that the mayor recently declared January 30 Charlotte Verrett Day. Verrett passed January 24, 2015. However, her ministries and legacy under God’s power continues.

How about you? What’s your excuse?

How to Find Your Ministry

Here are some suggestions for getting started in finding your unique ministry:
2. Search your heart and mind for what interests you.
3. What does your personality indicate about your preferences?
4. What five responsibilities would you eagerly accept at church if asked?
5. Ask your friends where you seem to fit in the overall scheme of ministry.
6. Take a spiritual gifts assessment.
We believe that God's life flowing into the lives of those who want to witness is the only means of testifying on His behalf. With that challenge in mind, the Southern Union Hispanic Department is emphasizing new evangelistic trios: campaigns, crusades, and caravans.

The first part of the plan will take place April 11, 2015, in Tampa, Florida, where campaigns will be held in 17 different locations simultaneously. The Florida and Southeastern conferences will host these crusades in their churches, and the presenters will include the eight Hispanic coordinators in the Southern Union territory. These meetings will conclude in a big evangelistic gathering which will take place from September 12 to 19.

The city of Memphis, Tennessee, which has the lowest Adventist presence per capita in the Southern Union, will have a reaping crusade from August 22 to 29, with Alejandro Bullón as the guest speaker. In preparation, the four Hispanic churches in Kentucky-Tennessee, South Central, and Gulf States conferences were trained and equipped in February. More than 500 church members attended the training, and committed to bring their friends, neighbors, and co-workers to Christ.

The participation of the lay members is crucial for the fulfillment of this plan. For this reason and in order to be able to get a larger number of participants, training caravans took place in 15 pastoral districts in 10 cities in the Union. The goal was to motivate and equip a selected group of individuals to bring their acquaintances to Christ. With this plan attendance reached 3,000 lay members, 2,000 more than the Festival of the Laity was able to accommodate each year. These committed people prayed for five individuals among their family, friends, co-workers, and others to bring to Jesus. Each person chose a prayer partner. They prayed for each other, and shared testimonies as they made progress in the witnessing process. The Bible says, “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on Earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in Heaven,” Matthew 18:19. “Unceasing prayer is the unbroken union of the soul with God, so that life from God flows into our life,” Steps to Christ, page 98.

Hispanic ministries prepared a new set of materials to distribute to the trained church members, which includes a guide called How to Make Friends and Bring Them to Christ (English translations as well), three sets of Bible studies presented on CDs and DVDs, and a simple health manual based on CREATION Health.

Today it is normal to frequently see people running in the streets, as well as walking or going to the gym. One of the 10 growing industries today is stores that sell vitamins and supplements. People are more conscious of their health. There are many healthy food shops and restaurants; even supermarkets have a healthy food section. The Church has a wonderful health message that makes a good point of interest to make contact with friends and acquaintances.

In the month of August, there will be reaping caravans by Alejandro Bullón, which will take place in the same cities where the training caravans were held. That is where the work done by the Holy Spirit and the committed church members will show results.

The caravans will finish in Memphis during a crusade that will gather Kentucky-Tennessee, South Central, and Gulf States conferences attendees.

As this initiative is carried out, the words of Ellen White sound precious and real: “I saw jets of light shining from cities and villages, and from the high places and the low places of the Earth. God’s Word was obeyed, and as a result there were memorials for Him in every city and village. His truth was proclaimed throughout the world,” Testimonies for the Church, 9:28, 29. “The harvest truly is great. Eternity alone will reveal the results of well-directed efforts put forth now,” Gospel Workers, page 27 (1915); Evangelism, 22.1.
"I was outside the football stadium one Sabbath afternoon amidst a crowd of approximately 40,000 fans who were gathering fast. Many were wearing their team’s colors, ready to cheer their team on to victory, ready for the thrill of the heart-pounding excitement that comes with close scores on the scoreboard. There I was, along with three co-workers, handing out hundreds of truth-filled books to eager hands. ‘Free souvenirs’ is all we had to say. After just a few hours, more than 3,700 people had received the books.

“I had chosen to spend that time helping people to know more about Jesus through the printed page. The entire experience was better than I thought it would be. I actually had fun! After this experience, I continue to enjoy sharing books as a part of my daily activities where I work and live.”

Arthur Ellis Jr., Birmingham, Alabama

Recently across the Southern Union, there have been major events where Seventh-day Adventists have organized to distribute thousands of books filled with the everlasting Gospel. Thousands of precious souls have been reached with the love of Jesus like never before.

Pastors and members are encouraged to participate in one or more of the “Mass Literature Distribution” events to take place in the southeastern states. “Sharing” books can be purchased for about $50 per box of one hundred. If you, and/or your church would like to plan a mass distribution event, contact the Southern Union Publishing Ministries Department by phone at 770-408-1800, x124, or visit www.blastofhope.com for more details and strategies for distribution.

What are you waiting for? God is waiting for you. The angels are waiting for you. People are waiting for you. The books are waiting for you.

NOW IS THE TIME!

2015 Mass Literature Distribution Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue</th>
<th>Estimated Attendance</th>
<th>Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April 7, 2015, Tuesday</td>
<td>Tampa Bay, FLORIDA</td>
<td>NCAA Women’s Basketball Championship</td>
<td>Amalie Arena</td>
<td>20,000 books distributed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>April 18, 2015, Saturday</td>
<td>Louisville, KENTUCKY</td>
<td>Thunder Over Louisville</td>
<td>Churchill Downs</td>
<td>500,000 books distributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 3, 2015, Sunday</td>
<td>Talladega, ALABAMA</td>
<td>Talladega Superspeedway GEICO 500 Event</td>
<td>Talladega Superspeedway</td>
<td>88,000 books distributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>May 16, 2015, Saturday</td>
<td>Charlotte, NORTH CAROLINA</td>
<td>NASCAR Series</td>
<td>Charlotte Motor Speedway</td>
<td>100,000 books distributed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Date: June 18, 2015, Thursday
Location: Atlanta, GEORGIA
Event: Atlanta Braves Game
Venue: Turner Field
Estimated Attendance: 30,000
Goal: 10,000 books distributed

Date: September 12, 2015, Saturday
Location: Memphis, TENNESSEE
Event: College Football Classic
Venue: Liberty Bowl Memorial Stadium
Estimated Attendance: 46,000
Goal: 10,000 books distributed

Date: October 10, 2015, Saturday
Location: Columbia, SOUTH CAROLINA
Event: College Football Gamecocks
Venue: Williams-Brice Stadium
Estimated Attendance: 80,000
Goal: 10,000 books distributed

Date: October 24, 2015, Saturday
Location: Starkville, MISSISSIPPI
Event: College Football Bulldogs
Venue: Davis Wade Stadium at Scott Field
Estimated Attendance: 62,000
Goal: 10,000 books distributed
One of life’s best stewardship lessons for me happened February 28, 2012, when my wife and I lost our motor home and all contents. At the time of the fire, our motor home was our residence in Montgomery, Alabama. My wife and I both worked for Gulf States Conference. Our clothing, shoes, and many personal items were in the motor home. We lost everything that day, but learned a valuable lesson. We found we could get by with much less “stuff.”

In the book Faith and Finance, co-written and edited by Ed Reid of the North American Division Stewardship Department in Silver Spring, Maryland, Reid describes debt as a form of bondage. I believe that “stuff” is bondage also. Like debt, the desire for “stuff” can affect our giving.

One of the principles of stewardship is to buy only what you need — not everything you want. Having less “stuff” means spending less time taking care of that “stuff.” It means being able to spend more time helping others, and having more time to devote to daily devotion and study. Pray before you make any purchase, small or large, and ask God for the wisdom to make sound financial choices.

To be able to give generously of our time and finances, we have to take some personal actions, and use the financial tools God made available to us. Become a cheerful giver to your church and its ministries, develop a willing heart to help others, and practice consulting and accounting to God with all financial decisions.

The famous author, Wayne Dyer, once wrote, “When I chased after money, I never had enough. When I got my life on purpose and focused on giving of myself and everything that arrived into my life, then I became prosperous.” When we become faithful in our tithing and stewardship and when we help others, the rewards are great and eternal. The best partnership is with our heavenly Father.

In the words of Reid, “We do not return tithes and offerings to God because we have too much money. We are faithful to God to express our acknowledgement of His ownership of everything, and our gratitude for experienced grace. We want to honor Him Who is our Provider, Protector, and Sustainer.” Less “stuff,” control of our finances, and fully relying on God to meet our needs allows us to do that.

This feature is in a series of short bi-monthly stories featuring God’s providence in our lives. If you have a 300-word stewardship story about how God has blessed you, and you would like to share it with the Southern Tidings readership, please email it to idouce@southernunion.com.

Rick Hutchinson is the director of planned giving and trust services at the Carolina Conference in Charlotte, North Carolina.
The Georgia-Cumberland Conference is excited to share that they will be supporting Chattanooga’s 7 Bridges Marathon as the presenting sponsor starting this year and beyond.

Ed Wright, Conference president, said, “As Seventh-day Adventists, our unique message of hope and wholeness, combined with our emphasis on a healthy lifestyle, makes this a natural partnership. We are honored to serve our community in this way. The name of our Church describes two of our core beliefs—a commitment to the Bible seventh-day Sabbath, and a belief in Christ’s soon return. Additionally, it is our hope that each of our churches, schools, and other institutions in and around Chattanooga will capitalize on this opportunity to offer health-related entry events, and build additional community relationships.”

The marathon is scheduled for October 18, 2015, in the middle of a major evangelistic initiative of It Is Written, in collaboration with 13 area churches called Impact Chattanooga. More details of this October 9-24 event can be found at impactchatt.webs.com.

The Conference’s goal is to provide an outreach opportunity for the 29 congregations in the Chattanooga area, and to link public awareness with other nearby Seventh-day Adventist organizations: Southern Adventist University, Collegedale Academy, six elementary schools, the Samaritan Center, and Cohutta Springs Conference Center and Youth Camp.

“I am excited about this race,” says E.W. Dempsey, Conference health director. “It is a fulfillment of our goals to have everyone involved in an exercise program.”

Collegedale Academy, under the leadership of teacher Stan Beasley, provided volunteers for all 26 aid stations last year. They did such an outstanding job that both participants and race organizers took notice. In renegotiating involvement for this year, Stan learned of the title sponsorship opportunity and approached the conference.

The Seventh-day Adventist 7 Bridges Marathon is an annual weekend-long event held October 18, with an expo and four different running events: a 26.2-mile marathon, 13.1-mile half-marathon, 5K run, and “Kiddie-K” fun run for children 12 and under. The racecourse showcases many of Chattanooga’s downtown scenic sites, and brings tourists to the community.

Scenic City Multisport race director Ken Radley said, “Our partnership is such a great fit. The Adventists stand out on being mindful of their health: exercise and avoidance of harmful substances lead to clear minds and wise choices.” Scenic City Multisport launched the 7 Bridges Marathon in 2011. The race continues to be Chattanooga’s only full marathon. More than 2,400 runners are expected to compete, and approximately 45 percent have traveled from other states to attend the event.

“Going into our fifth year, we’ve had time to fine-tune the event and all of our racer amenities. Last year we consolidated the start and finish near the Chattanooga Theatre in Coolidge Park and recovery food from Noodles and Co. at the finish, as well as instant results technology for the racers. We’re still working to make this race truly outstanding, and we have some special mobile technology we’re planning to unveil in the coming months,” added Radley.

Participation in the 7 Bridges Marathon over the last four years has tripled, growing from 900 total registered runners in 2010 to 2,500 in 2014. Spectators are also welcome to attend the race, visit the sponsor booths, and cheer on the athletes. The race is Chattanooga’s only full marathon. More than 2,400 runners are expected to compete, and approximately 45 percent have traveled from other states to attend the event.

View the full race schedule at www.sevenbridgesmarathon.com now or visit a registration event to sign up. For up-to-the-minute information, follow the race on Twitter and Facebook.
Every year on the fourth Sabbath in February, a convergence of musical enthusiasts from metro Atlanta, Georgia, and beyond occurs in the sanctuary of New Hope Church in Ellenwood, Georgia. They come, men, women, and children, often donning traditional native African attire. They come from near and far to celebrate an exceptional and extraordinary musical program honoring the legacy of Black History and the providence of God through it all.

The New Hope Church, though largely West Indian, is a blend of several ethnic groups. West Indians share a similar story of oppression in slavery and the bloody road to emancipation as the African-Americans. One key factor, however, that distinguishes the African-American story from the West Indian experience is the element of song — Negro Spirituals. Today, these songs turn the minds heavenward, toward love, not hate; toward peace and brotherhood, not vengeance and division, especially during the course of February, when many are vividly reminded of the struggles and injustices faced as a people. It is for this reason that the Roger Davis Quartet Festival (RDQF) has such great impact, and has continued for two decades now. It is not merely a grand finale to Black History month; it is a source of renewal and rejoicing in God. As these songs and other acapella music are performed year after year with great talent and skill and much diversity, the attendees trace the hand of the heavenly Father in that dark time; they glory in the thought that their forefathers had a refuge in song, in which they found solace and hope.

This great, widely anticipated program was birthed 20 years ago when a man named Roger Davis sought an avenue to express and extend his love for a capella music. He created what was then known as the Quartet Fest in February 1995, and celebrated 12 years of continued success until he sadly passed, April 1, 2007. In his honor, it is now called the Roger Davis Quartet Festival. In addition, Davis is also credited for producing the Choral Festival of Negro Spirituals in the two years prior to his death. Davis was not only a passionate lover of music, but he was also an accomplished musician himself. He proficiently played the piano and organ with expertise, and he successfully taught others this graceful art.

The entire day is known as “Black History Day,” and it is usually dedicated to music for the morning and afternoon services. Black History Day is primarily sponsored by the Music Ministries Department of New Hope Church,
headed by Anthony Tobias, elder, and Lolita McKinnes, assistant, both of whom worked hard to secure commitments for the program. This year the spoken word during the divine hour was delivered by Malcolm Taylor, elder, with awesome power and humor from God’s Word. Linwood C. Stone, pastor of New Hope Church, along with the congregation, had the honor of the distinguished presence of three former presidents of the South Atlantic Conference — Robert L. Woodfork, Ralph B. Hairston, and Ralph P. Peay to whom the members paid tribute. The morning service did not go without great music, though, as New Hope’s own Purposeful Praise Inspirational Choir sang a powerful rendition of “Ride on King Jesus,” and guest artist Dr. Cynthia Winthrop presented two stunning musical reflections.

The evening program is the highlight of the day, the part specifically known as the Roger Davis Quartet Festival. It is a magnificent and artistic display of the diversity and blend of vocals in groups ranging from quartets to sextets and even chorales — more than the name suggests. The RDQF has had the distinguished honor of guest appearances from internationally renowned groups such as the Breath of Life Quartet and the King’s Heralds. Groups from different churches around Georgia come to participate in the Festival. This year’s performers included an elementary-age quartet, the Henry Brothers; a high school seniors’ quartet, Without Further Ado; and adult groups 4Given, 4Harmony, Dedication, Divine Inspiration, Fayetteville Men’s Chorale, Floyd and the Boulevard Four, Four Hope, Men in Christ, Philadelphia Singers, and the yearly Male Mass Choir who sings a few favorites the attendees love to hear. It was a great evening hosted by Harold Carrington and Neale Davis.

Roger Davis’ wife, Patmah Davis, and sons Kevin, Neale, and Julian Davis, though no longer members of New Hope, faithfully return every year to celebrate and support this event.

The members proudly celebrate this legacy with the increasing number of groups that come to participate, and they give honor and thanks to God.
The Great Commission given by Jesus before His ascension was to go into the world baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to teach others to obey the commands that He had given His disciples. That, in a nutshell, is the foundation for church planting, and less than a year ago the Triad Adventist Fellowship in Greensboro, N.C., was formed to spread the Gospel and reach others for Christ.

The Triad Fellowship was organized into a company on February 7, 2015, the next step on their way to being a full-fledged church. Jack Brown, a member, gave the history of the group, and described their purpose best as “let- tuce.” He stated that for years lettuce was only sold by the head, until someone decided to repackage it for easier use/consumption, chopped up, and in ready-to-go bags. The content of each was the same, it tasted the same, and even smelled the same, it just looked different.

This is a lesson in “marketing:” When a package appears to be different, consumers are more apt to pick up the product and buy it. This is a technique that can help spread the Gospel as long as the message does not change, and that is exactly what the Triad Adventist Fellowship Company has done. Gary Moyer, vice president/secretary for the Carolina Conference, admonished this young company to continue in their efforts to reach people for Christ, just as Jesus had done to His disciples in Matthew 28:18-20. Jesus ends in verse 20 with, “And lo I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” This is a reminder that when you are ministering to individuals, you are not alone.

After officially organizing the company at the close of Moyer’s sermon, the members fellowshipped during a meal, and then went out to minister to the homeless. They filled bags (embellished with the Fellowship’s logo on them) with sandwiches, water, hats, gloves, a Bible, and a few other items, and then took the bags downtown where they handed them out to the homeless community. What a great way to wrap up a “high Sabbath,” focused on reaching others!

—BY COURTNEY HEROD
Romance at the Ranch Marriage Retreat Held

A carriage ride, a stroll through the woods hand in hand, inspiring and informative messages, a brisk tour of Lake Wateree on a pontoon boat...these are experiences you could have had on Valentine’s Day if you had been at this year’s Romance at the Ranch. Nearly 60 couples attended this popular event at Nosoca Pines Ranch, February 13-15, 2015.

Alan and Nicole Parker teamed up to present the weekend topics, which included time-tested tips and inspired instructions on maintaining a happy marriage. The Parkers live in Tennessee where Alan is a professor in the School of Religion at Southern Adventist University. He is also the director of the Soul-winning and Leadership Training (SALT) program at Southern.

Nicole recently finished her master’s degree in biblical counseling and is currently working on a second M.A. in pastoral ministry.

The “A Walk in the Park” theme was presented in the décor and menu. After the Saturday night banquet, the couples were treated to the evening entertainment — The Not-so-newlywed Game. The participants were great sports, and it seemed they knew each other pretty well after all!

With the world’s influence doing everything it can to break up homes and marriages, it was refreshing to attend an event that celebrated the God-centered unions He created.

—BY REBECCA CARPENTER

Outdoor Event Brings Members Together

Treasure Coast Adventist churches are developing plans to set aside the last Sabbath in January each year as the 1 Corinthians 12:12 day of worship. Although each church is separate, when brought together, they believe and act as one body — the body of Christ.

At the first annual event held January 31, promoted as SingSpiration in the Park, more than 200 youth and adults from five churches in the Florida and Southeastern conferences met for a Vespers service and bonfire social, organized by Ewan St. James and the Adventist Youth Service (AYS) Committee of Midport Church in Port St. Lucie. Dale and Dianna Bass hosted the event on their Twin Lakes Park property.

Representatives from Florida Conference’s Midport Church, Fort Pierce Church, and Gethsemane Company in Port St. Lucie joined Southeastern Conference’s Port St. Lucie First Church and Macedonia Church in Fort Pierce for this evening of fellowship. All the participants were excited by the prospect of worshipping together, and living out Paul’s admonition that believers are one body with many parts.

“It was a beautiful outdoor service with nature displaying its magnificent sunset colors,” says Dale Bass. “As we watched the changes in the clouds and glorious rays break through, it was easy to believe the angels were worshiping with us.”

Singing and personal testimonies were the highlight for the sundown program, with special music presented by Supreme Gospel, a quartet from Gethsemane Company; United Fellowship Adventist Mass Choir from Port St. Lucie First Church and Macedonia Church; and Aquila Andrew from Fort Pierce Church. Marlon Brown, Kayla Brown, and Edgar Morales from Midport Church led spirited congregational singing of campfire songs.

Immediately following the sundown service, a giant bonfire was lit, producing audible expressions of amazement from church members who then enjoyed friendly competition in sack races, a frisbee toss, and other games.

—BY DALE BASS
Big Bend Area Churches Sponsor Health Day

“I don’t know why we eat bad food when healthy food tastes so good.” This was the thought expressed by a guest during cooking demonstrations at the Day of Healthy Eating and Exercise, held January 11, 2015, at Woodville Community Center, Tallahassee, Fla.

In order to bring about greater awareness of healthy diet and exercise benefits, health and temperance leaders from five Florida Conference and Southeastern Conference churches — Tallahassee First, Crawfordville, Marianna, Fellowship, and Tallahassee Spanish — combined efforts with Bond Community Health Center, Inc., and New Leaf Market to sponsor this healthy living presentation. Cooking classes, health screenings, and homeopathic and natural healing demonstrations provided resources for healthy living and ideas for future evangelism outreach.

A representative from New Leaf Market opened the cooking class by explaining the health benefits of each ingredient as she prepared a delicious, healthy split-pea soup. Samples and recipes were distributed along with New Leaf coupons.

Members from participating churches prepared favorite healthy foods with printed recipes and plenty of samples for guests. These samples included vegan nacho cheese sauce with chips, granola, strawberry pecan cheesecake, and oat burgers.

Bond Community Health Center, Inc., sponsored a health screening table where many guests took advantage of free testing for blood pressure, blood sugar, BMI, and HIV. An herbalist was available at the homeopathic/natural healing table to discuss the benefits of herbal therapy, and to offer free applications of French Green Clay poultices.

At the conclusion of the cooking presentations, sponsors and guests joined together for a walk on the St. Marks Historic Railroad State Trail.

“We would like to make this an annual event,” expressed Ruth Jacobs, health and temperance leader of Crawfordville Church. “Each year we plan to target a new region within the Big Bend area to reach more people.”

—BY LINDA PETERS

Free health screenings were offered as part of a Health Day sponsored by Florida and Southeastern conference churches.

Young Communication Team Members Recognized

The nominating committee at Silver Spring Shores Church in Ocala, Fla., chose to include young adults as part of the communication team. While the theme of wanting to “Use Them Or Lose Them” gave birth to this choice, it soon became apparent, upon observation of their performance in assignments and their technology savvy, that these young people were great assets to the team.

Five of the team members graduated from high school in 2014 and were recognized in a special service. Dressed in caps and gowns, they marched into the sanctuary to the tune of “Onward Christian Soldiers.”

Graduates were interviewed on their achievements, and charged to remain faithful members and represent Christ at college.

A token gift was presented to each one, and a prayer on their behalf pledged that the chain of communication with the church would not be broken.

—BY NORMA HENRY

Chynna Lue, Byron Mutbra Jr., Ishmael Nicholas, Gurswin Quamina, and Leandra Solomon

PHOTOS: ORALEATHA CLARKE

PHOTOS: ORALEATHA CLARKE
Hispanic Children’s Ministries Convention Held at Cohutta Springs

True education could mean many things, but Ellen G. White, in Counsels to Parents, Teachers, and Students, described it this way: “It teaches the love and fear of God, and is a preparation for the faithful discharge of life’s duties.” She also said that it “is the nicest work ever assumed by men and women to deal with youthful minds.”

Children’s ministries teachers need to fulfill the great responsibility that God has put on their hands. During the weekend of January 30 to February 1, 2015, 192 of these volunteers came together at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga., for the Hispanic Children’s Convention to learn, share, and rekindle their passion to teach children the love of Jesus.

For the first time, many received their North American Division Children’s Ministries Certification and pins for Track 1. The seminars and trainings given during the weekend will include more certifications next year.

The most remarkable moment was during the intense preaching of Miguel Tirado, Latin American ministries director, about postmodern children. He called the teachers to be evangelists and teachers of excellence who make the difference one child at a time. Everyone accepted the challenge, and to seal this commitment around 200 teachers were anointed by pastors Jerry Fore, Tirado, and Orlando Gonzalez, along with a group of church elders.

Seminars and training included GraceLink, Vacation Bible School, crafts, music, discipline, children abuse, and many other topics.

Elizabeth Jorge, a first-time from Acworth-Kennesaw says, “This experience not only helped me as teacher, but now I feel I am a better person. I have something to talk about with others, including my family. Now I can be a better mother to my sons.”

Patricia Pérez, also a first-time attendee from the same church, said, “Now I understand why the children’s director insisted I come. This weekend helped us not only in the children’s department, but in any ministry.”

—BY WALESKA GONZALEZ

Children’s Ministries Convention Trains Leaders

In His Steps was the theme for the Children’s Ministries Convention held Valentine’s weekend, February 13-15, 2015, at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Ga.

The guest speaker for the weekend was Ken Rogers, Southern Union youth ministries director. “Young people want to meet Jesus. Part of our job is to motivate them,” said Rogers. “The greatest challenges facing youth today are the lack of leaders, bombarded with media, and peer pressure.”

The entire convention was packed with workshops including GraceLink curriculum, the health status of children, social media, Sabbath celebration, and communication.

There was even a workshop on child evangelism designed to motivate and mobilize, first of all, any adult who is willing to be used by the Lord to lead children into a greater love relationship with Jesus, and then train them to become soul-winners and mighty preachers for Him. The second objective is to provide suggestive tools which can be used to empower the children for service. It was offered by Gloris Shaw, a retired school teacher and children’s evangelism coordinator for Fayette Church in Fayetteville, Ga.

“We had about 150 attending the convention. It is exciting to see God working through these dedicated leaders for our children,” said Fernando Verduzco, Conference children’s ministries director.

—BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER
“Social to Save” is Plan at Loganville Church

For 30 Loganville, Ga, Church members, three score and ten was the pace setter for the Senior Appreciation Sabbath on January 31, 2015.

After thoughts on the spiritual contribution and support of the seniors to the church by LaVerne Chin, Lilla Mitto gave a vocal solo in their honor, followed by a prayer of dedication by head elder Rick Price.

Young people between the ages of six and 12 shared their love by presenting flowers and hugs to all seniors, members, and visitors. After church, flowers (and hugs) were taken to seniors who were not able to attend the services that day.

The Social committee recently decided that its theme for the year is “Social to Save.”

All of these planned programs are designed to nurture its new members recently baptized last fall at an evangelistic meeting, encourage current members, interest the children by providing all events designed to be family and visitor-friendly, and offering multigenerational activities.

The events vary — from a Valentine’s Day talent program involving ages two to 99, to a “Guest Whose Coming to Dinner Sabbath” matching up hosts and guests on an anonymous basis after a volunteer application which lists number of people, allergies, and dietary preferences.

Next will be a 10-year anniversary of the celebration of their church’s official organization as a church plant led by lay members, followed by an International Sabbath where the church will celebrate the various countries represented by its membership, with country dress and favorite ethnic foods at a fellowship lunch.

In the fall the members will be anticipating a centenarian’s birthday party, as well as a Fall Festival and progressive dinner.

It looks to be a busy year for this growing church, and members anticipate that it will continue to grow if they follow the admonition of the Lord: “By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples if you love one to another,” John 13:35.

— BY DENNIS AND BOBBIE MILLBURN
Decatur Church Members Enjoy Jail Ministries

“I was in prison and you came to visit me,” Matthew 25:36 (NIV). The jail ministries team at the Decatur, Ala., Church can say, “Yes, we did.” The jail ministries started out as prison ministries when member Dana Moody read an article in the Southern Tidings asking volunteers to write letters or send cards to women on death row. She replied and was sent the names of three death row inmates in Tutwiler Prison for Women in Wetumpka, Ala. Moody wrote many letters to the three inmates. One woman was able to be returned to society, and Moody has corresponded with her for about 19 years. Moody says she is still blessed by her friendship.

In 2006 Joe Moody (Dana’s husband), was asked by the warden from the Morgan County Correctional Jail to give Bible studies to the male inmates. Joe wanted Dana to go with him and give Bible studies to the female inmates. She was hesitant because she didn’t feel qualified, but the Holy Spirit impressed her to go. Joe brought to her mind, “The Lord doesn’t call the qualified, He qualifies the called.” This was only the beginning.

In August 2014, the Morgan County Alabama Sheriff’s Office began a program called “Step-Down,” to allow qualifying inmates to attend church. This is a new approach in rehabilitation. The Decatur Church is one of four churches in the city that participate in this program. The jail ministries team is now allowed to take the inmates to church. Anna Perez, jail ministries leader at Decatur Church, along with the warden, selects the inmates who are qualified to participate in this program. They started out with three inmates attending, and it has grown to 12. The women are picked up at 9 a.m., and are taken to the church, where they have their own closet of clothes and shoes donated for them. They stay for Sabbath School, the worship service, potluck lunch, and then they visit with their church family. Some of them have family members join them for the services. They stay and watch a religious or faith-based movie with their family before they have to go back to the detention center at 4 p.m. Joe and Dana Moody give Amazing Facts Bible Studies to six of the women. One inmate said, “This is the first time all of my family has been to church.” One young woman said, “Most churches don’t welcome us because of my husband’s tattoos, but y’all don’t look down on him. This is our church home now.” One said she wouldn’t be where she is spiritually if she had not been brought to Decatur Church. She has reconciled with the father of her child, and he has attended Sabbath School with her each week. Recently, he proposed to her at the end of class on Sabbath. One inmate shared with Mary Lou England, jail ministries team member, that she has no family in the area and it has meant everything to her to have this church family that cares. The women feel that this program has helped put their lives back on the right track. They say it’s a blessing to come to church and be a part of the church family. They think the Step-Down program is awesome. The jail ministries team was instrumental in allowing the inmates to attend the “Hope through Prophecy” seminar that Tony Pitt, pastor, presented in November 2014. They were permitted to be released at night to come to the meetings. England says this program is an answer to prayer. The jail ministries team, Mary Lou England, Cheryl Hall, Dana and Joe Moody, Anna Perez, and Mary Clyde Worley, say the women attending each week are a blessing to the Decatur Church members, and they love this ministry.

“Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of My family, you did it to Me,” Matthew 25:40 (NRSV).

—BY PEGGY SMITH

Fort Walton Beach Holds Community Predator Seminar

Fort Walton Beach, Fla., Church held a community predator seminar on February 9, 2015. There were about 75 individuals representing 39 agencies during the four-and-a-half-hour afternoon session, and 35 individuals were at the two-and-a-half-hour evening session, representing 19 agencies, churches, and schools.

Community attendees who really appreciated the seminar sent thank you notes. Cory Jensen-Jewell, with the Center for Behavioral Intervention in Beaverton, Oreg., did a great job as usual — the day before she trained a group of pastors in the Gulf States Conference for them to be able to
Larry Ashley, sheriff at Okaloosa County Sheriff’s Office in Fort Walton Beach, Fla., addresses the group and introduces Cory Jensen-Jewell and the topic that’s relevant for law enforcement and other agencies present.

present Predator Awareness Child Safety Workshops in their churches. Seventeen hours of predator training within 36 hours were a bit intense, but now they are thoroughly prepared to give the seminar.

Larry Ashley, sheriff, spoke briefly at each session, and he endorsed the seminar and stressed the need to learn, as this problem exists everywhere in numerous communities. He specifically challenged the law enforcement officers to be watchful.

Instead of charging for the training, donations were requested for two agencies dealing with victims of predators — Emerald Coast Children’s Advocacy Center and The Judge Ben Gordon Family Visitation Center. A total of $600 was raised to donate to them.

During the writing of this article, Martin Fancher, pastor of Fort Walton Beach Church, received a phone call from an Okaloosa County sheriff investigator thanking him again for hosting the workshop. A few short hours prior to calling him that day a predator was arrested, and due to information learned at the workshop, the investigator was able to get the man to willingly confess his guilt with a 12 year old girl, and admitting that he had started abusing her at age six. In the Public Information Document released to the media, the investigator gave credit (in part) to Fancher and Cory Jensen-Jewell, stating that without the knowledge gained from the workshop, this predator would not be behind bars.

—BY PASTOR MARTIN FANCHER

Central Church Adventurers Support “Meals to Grow”

Central Church, Huntsville, Ala., is making a difference in their community. Mission outreach is the key value exemplified in the club.

For December 2014, the club chose to support Meals to Grow, a program where schools identify children who are considered at high risk of hunger, and each Friday, brown bags of food are discreetly placed in the children’s backpacks. This provides food for them during the weekend, when other resources may not be available. With generously donated items from Central Church members, the club put together 181 bags. They were delivered to University Place Elementary School for them to distribute to the at-risk children.

Never underestimate the power of the Holy Spirit. The irony is this organization actually delivers 180 bags a month, and that’s how many the club put together, plus one extra. It’s amazing what a little brown bag can do. The organizer of the backpack program was very appreciative and spoke highly of the Adventurers.

Service is truly addictive, and everyone was blessed. The club strives to humbly fulfill Matthew 25:35, “For I was an hungry, and you gave me meat: I was thirsty, and you gave me drink: I was a stranger, and you took me in.”

—BY LISA SCHMITT, ADVENTURER DIRECTOR
Gulf States Students to Participate in Physical Genesis Study

Students at nine schools in the Gulf States Conference will participate in the Physical Genesis Study during the months of March and April 2015: Bass Christian Elementary and Bass Memorial Academy, Lumberton, Miss.; Big Cove Christian Academy, Huntsville, Ala.; College Drive SDA Christian School, Pearl, Miss.; Community Christian School, Meridian, Miss.; Emerald Coast Christian School, Fort Walton Beach, Fla.; Floral Crest SDA Junior Academy, Bryant, Ala.; Mobile Junior Academy, Mobile, Ala.; and Pensacola Junior Academy, Pensacola, Fla.

The North American Division has launched its third study in the “Mind Body Spirit Triad” of research studies focusing on students in the North American Division of the Adventist education system. The study, called Physical Genesis, will investigate the health behaviors and fitness levels of children and adolescents and their relationship to health in the context of their school and home environment.

Seventh-day Adventists believe that in addition to its importance in enabling a happy and productive life, good health is a crucial part of excellent education, and that it is important to maintain the proper balance of the Church schools’ physical, spiritual, and mental aspects. This study will help assess the current state of students’ health, and provide a basis for maintaining or improving that balance. For more information, visit http://physicalgenesis.com/.

—BY STAN HOBBS,
EDUCATION SUPERINTENDENT

Southern Union Holds Annual Youth Prayer Conference

Nearly 400 students were active participants in the annual Academy Prayer Conference, January 21-24, 2015, sponsored by the Southern Union Youth Ministries Department. The popular retreat is held at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Fla., and this year’s featured speaker, Ben Lundquist, pastor, shared inspirational messages.

University small group facilitators teamed with academy leaders in creating family groups and activities designed to build teamwork, leadership skills, and personal responsibility. A special Communion service created a memorable anchor point for the students and called for them to entrust their lives to God.

—BY KEN ROGERS
The counseling program at Southern Adventist University is focused on Christ, the Wonderful Counselor.

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Let Us Help You Help Others
MCE Holds Pre-Kindergarten Program

It was nearly Valentine’s Day and the pre-kindergarten students were making cards for people they care about. One student said, “Who’s going to make a card for Jesus?” Several students chimed in with, “I will, I will,” until someone posed a problem. “How are we going to get the card to Jesus when He lives in Heaven?” Silence, you could practically see the wheels spinning in their heads. What were they going to do? Finally a boy’s eyes lit up and he proclaimed, “It’s ok, Jesus will still like the card even if He is in Heaven!”

Pre-K teachers are regularly awed by the problem solving and thought processes of their students. Inspiring and encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and a love for Jesus are a few of the many things a Pre-K teacher does.

Pre-K is a new program at Madison Campus Elementary (MCE), and is a groundbreaker for the community in this area. MCE offers the option for students to be full-time to meet the needs of working parents, or part-time to enrich the education of children with a stay-at-home parent.

Parents are their child’s first and most important teacher. There are many things that can be done at home to build a strong foundation. Providing a rich atmosphere with lots of educational activities, and letting the child learn at their own pace are very important.

Early childhood education is about building learning foundations. The challenge for early childhood educators is to engage the brains of young children for learning success, and empower families to do the same. When the value and importance of this is recognized by parents and educators, children will be best prepared to further God’s purpose.

—BY RACHELLE WETMORE, MCE PRE-K TEACHER

Maranatha Volunteers Receive Blessings Through Service

A group of 46 Maranatha volunteers arrived in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, with plans to share the love of Christ through laying concrete blocks, painting, health fairs, food distribution, and Vacation Bible School (VBS). Ten volunteers came from Canada, one from Trinidad, and 35 from the United States. Six of the volunteers were from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference: George Carpenter, Jon and Terry Harvey, Mike McKenzie, Merri-Lynn Miller, and Denise Pope.

The volunteers met at Villa Roselis, where they stayed from February 12 to 23. Friday was mostly spent planning and organizing, and the volunteers were blessed by worshipping with one of the local congregations on Sabbath.

Sunday morning, tasks were assigned and the work week began. The buses rolled out early each day so the teams could start their work before it was too hot. They persisted through the heat, and a church perimeter wall was built by laying 1,300 concrete blocks. One church was painted inside and outside, and a second church was painted on the outside.

Health fairs were held where basic hygiene was taught, and 165 pairs of eye glasses were handed out. Food was distributed in poorer neighborhoods. The people were very appreciative of the items distributed. The 1,675 pounds of beans and rice were divided into large baggies, and given away in sets. Total items distributed were 560 sets of beans and rice, 48 bottles of oil, and four cases of soap. Two sessions of Vacation Bible School were held each day, with an average of 150 children in attendance. They learned Bible stories, sang songs, colored, and received small gifts to take home each day.

The volunteers left the Dominican Republic thankful for new friends, and for the blessings received through service.

—BY DENISE POPE
Ridgetop Church Members are Envoys for Christ

Remember the Cabbage Patch® dolls? Sharon Vance of the Ridgetop, Tenn., Church does, and as a life-long doll collector she is familiar with practically every brand of doll made. Her collection was started by her parents when she was a child, and it has grown to literally thousands of dolls.

For years Vance has bought, sold, and traded her dolls. The proceeds from doll sales go to Investment. More importantly, she has given her treasures away for other young people to love and enjoy. Never have her gifts been more appreciated than in Poptun, Guatemala.

The Ridgetop Church members have been going to Guatemala for four years. Along with other churches in the Nashville, Tenn., area, they plan to fund, build, and staff a school of nursing.

In addition to the building project, some of the volunteers conduct evangelistic series, others Vacation Bible School (VBS), and still others go out and visit the people in nearby villages, spreading God’s Word and attempting to fill at least some of the needs of the villagers.

Whether VBS or village visits, Vance’s dolls are a delight to the children who receive them. Vance has told her friends about this project, and they have eagerly helped her effort by contributing dolls of their own, as well as sewing clothes for the dolls that need them.

Not everyone can go on mission trips, but like Vance, all can be envoys for Christ, and make lasting gestures of God’s love.

—BY ELIZABETH TORKELSON

Lawrenceburg Church Members Receive Disaster Training from the American Red Cross

March started off with a super day of training by the American Red Cross at the Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Church. The effort was coordinated with the Lawrenceburg Church community services and disaster co-directors Raymond Dewar and Harritte Sutton. Thirteen participants received disaster services and shelter management training by American Red Cross representatives Don Bledsoe, Larry Crowell, and Ron Lanfear.

In an effort to be better prepared in the time of emergency and be good stewards of the facilities God has provided, the Lawrenceburg members desire further training on how to operate a shelter should that need arise. The products to be offered through the Red Cross are outlined as “Hope” and “Assurance,” two Gospel-based ingredients the Lawrenceburg members are equipped to share on many levels as they reach out to touch their community for Christ.

—BY RAYMOND DEWAR

A Guatemalan girl with the doll she received

Lawrenceburg Church members receive disaster training from the local American Red Cross.
Ephesus Academy CDC Starts Off on the Right Foot

Ephesus Academy Child Development Center (CDC) is located at 829 McMillon Avenue in historic Birmingham, Ala. The Child Development Center began operating in 1990 out of a need to provide quality Adventist education at a pre-school level.

Under the leadership of Daphne Henderson, CDC director, the goals are the following: laying the proper foundation at an early age so that the children will have a lasting relationship with Jesus; preparing them for the present world; and, ultimately, preparing souls for Heaven. The motto is “Excellence from the Start.” The center is fully licensed by the State of Alabama, and serves children between the ages of six weeks and five years old. The child-friendly facility spans approximately 4,500 square feet. Staff members are certified professionals who are devoted to providing excellence in education, and are committed to upholding the high standards and ideals of an Adventist Christian education. The daily goal is to share the love of Jesus, and a passion for learning. By combining Christian principles and a faith-based curriculum, the Center meets individual needs by providing an outstanding nurturing environment. Based on the Seventh-day Adventist philosophy, the teachings and activities are designed to provide a practical and hands-on experience for each child.

The school has defined the objective of its child development program to promote the healthy growth and development of each pre-school child, according to his own potential, in 10 essential areas: 1. spiritual development, 2. physical development, 3. social development, 4. cognitive development, 5. psychological development, 6. emotional development, 7. development of motor skills, 8. development of self-help skills, 9. development of creativity, and 10. development of family ties.

Since 1990, approximately 2,000 students have been entrusted to the Center’s care. Ephesus Academy Child Development Center has become an integral part of the Ephesus Academy K-8 program, with many of the pre-K children continuing their education in the elementary and middle school. Many graduates from the facility, who are now adults, enroll their children so they can share the same experience.

It is the Center’s plan to continue God’s Work until He comes. “And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord and great shall be the peace of thy children,” Isaiah 54:13.

—BY DAPHNE HENDERSON
Whenever the temperature in Valdosta, Ga., dips below 41° F, the members of Grace Fellowship Church open the doors of the Fellowship House to provide a warm place to spend the night.

Born from the church’s desire to help its nearby homeless brothers and sisters, the Fellowship House is a response to meeting a community need. There are more than 700 homeless people in Valdosta.

Equipped with 12 cots, the Fellowship Hall is transformed into a homeless shelter from 6 p.m. to 7:30 a.m. during cold nights, providing dinner, a shower, breakfast, and other services as needed, including counseling, employment help, and basic medical screening.

Though originating at the church, the program’s development was facilitated by many. Gregory Mack, executive secretary of the Southeastern Conference, provided the 12 cots which were assembled by the young men of Grace Fellowship. John Manning, D.Min., pastor of the St. Mark Missionary Baptist Church of Valdosta, provided clothing for the individuals.

Board games, movies, and popcorn serve as entertainment for the guests during their stay. Each guest receives a handmade knitted scarf.

Grace’s members sacrifice their time and treasure to donate resources, prepare and serve meals, be physically present at the shelter during opening hours, and provide cleaning services.

Overwhelmed by the generosity of Grace Fellowship, Jimmy Pratt, one of the individuals who spent the night in the Fellowship House, decided to become a member of Grace Fellowship. Pratt now serves as the in-house manager of the Fellowship House.

“This experience has created a new type of bond among us, a new respect for our mission as a church, a new sensitivity to the needs of others, and a new definition of love,” stated Winston Taylor, pastor of Grace Fellowship.

—BY ANAKAYE FAGAN
ADU Establishes Institute for Healthcare as Ministry

Working to define, implement, and research the mission of the University

Working in the healthcare industry is more than just a job; it is a calling. It takes a special kind of person to dedicate their lives to helping others, and to become God’s hands and voice. Those unique individuals are whom Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) seeks to develop into leaders who will practice ADU’s mission: “Healthcare as Ministry.”

The Institute for Healthcare as Ministry was created at ADU to clarify the vision of the University by defining, implementing, and researching what it means to practice healthcare as ministry.

ADU is focusing on the University as a whole, each department working together to live out its mission. It is more than just curriculum; it is creating an environment where students can deepen their relationship with God, and begin to understand why God called them to work in healthcare.

“‘Healthcare as Ministry’ won’t just be words. We must live it,” explains Donald Williams, Ph.D., assistant to the president for mission. “Each person needs to experience our mission in order to care for patients effectively.”

There are two key components at the core of “Healthcare as Ministry.” Students must first view their profession as a calling. God has given them the talents, abilities, and passions necessary to succeed in the healthcare industry. They are on the path of becoming who God wants them to be, and ADU is there to guide them during their journey of self-discovery.

Second, students should view every patient as a child of God. It is imperative that each patient is cared for as a whole person. ADU strives to teach students this fundamental approach not only in the classroom, but also in the surrounding environment.

David Greenlaw, D.Min., president of ADU, believes, “When you find yourself in a healthcare environment, you need to see yourself as a minister — a minister of care whom God has sent forth to perform the skills you have learned in a way that will make a difference in people’s lives.”

With the establishment of the Institute for Healthcare as Ministry, ADU is putting mission at the forefront of everything they do. The University is starting with curriculum, carefully crafting courses around mission, and working with professors and staff to ensure that they are actively practicing what they preach. The goal is to prepare graduates to extend the healing ministry of Christ in the clinical environment.

“We have a broader vision for our mission, of not only impacting ADU, but also influencing the larger healthcare community,” adds Williams. “With our connection to Florida Hospital, it is our goal to train healthcare workers to treat patients as they would a loved one, using their spirituality to provide a healing touch.”

Through research and best-learned practices, ADU envisions this model changing the way healthcare institutions operate, focusing more on whole-person health.

“We will lead and guide students with the classes they take, with the atmosphere in which those classes are taught, and with living out our mission to become ministers of care,” explains Greenlaw.

By living and practicing “Healthcare as Ministry,” Adventist University of Health Sciences students will know how to administer the best possible care, and will effectively become the hands and voice of God.

—BY MEGHAN BRESCHER
White House Honors Historically Black Colleges and Universities as “Champions of Change”

The United States White House recognized faculty and staff members at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) as “Champions of Change” on February 24, 2015. These leaders have worked with students, families, and policymakers to build pathways to graduation at their respective institutions. The event featured a panel discussion moderated by actor and E! News co-host Terrence Jenkins, with remarks from Valerie Jarrett, senior advisor to the President, and Anthony Foxx, U.S. Secretary of Transportation. The Champions of Change program was created as an opportunity for the White House to feature individuals doing extraordinary things to empower and inspire members of their communities.

Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., Oakwood University president, nominated R. Rennae Elliott, Ph.D., as Oakwood’s Champion of Change. "When reviewing the criteria of selfless commitment to student success, willingness to coach and mentor the next generation, and a role model who consistently supports student growth, one name came to mind, Dr. Rennae Elliott, chair of our Communication Department. Dr. Elliott is distinguished for her decade-plus commitment to the Honda All-Stars, as well as her close relationship to her students," said Pollard.

Elliott currently serves as the chairperson and an associate professor of the Communication Department at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala. In addition to classroom teaching and academic advising, Elliott serves as coach of Oakwood’s Honda Campus All Star Challenge (HCASC) team, a post she has held for more than 17 years. Influenced by her mentoring and advising, the team has won two championships, and placed in the top four on five occasions. In 2014, HCASC named her Coach of the Year. Elliott’s committee posts include the University’s Quality Enhancement Plan, Rank and Continuous Appointment, and the Dean’s Council.

Congratulations, Dr. Elliott!

Men’s Conference Seeks to Help Men with Life’s Decisions

Oakwood University’s Office of Spiritual Life hosted its first men’s conference, titled “Male by Birth, Man by Choice,” February 21-22, 2015. The Conference, organized by Ron Pollard, Oakwood senior associate chaplain and campus ministries director, sought to help men to accept their innate calling of moral leadership, and to help equip them with information on making solid decisions in life. This two-day event began with Saturday afternoon workshops at Oakwood, and then a Sunday day-trip to the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky.

Featured speakers of the Conference included Jeremy Anderson, COO of Spirit Reign Communications & Publishing; Shannon Austin, former music producer; Gregory Nelson, senior pastor of Madison Mission Church, Madison, Ala.; John P. Ruffin, counselor; Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Ala.; and Howard Weems, Ph.D., Oakwood senior chaplain and special assistant to the president for spiritual life. The workshops dealt with a variety of issues that afflict men on a daily basis. The excursion to the Muhammad Ali Center allowed the participants to experience the story of a man who embodies conviction, confidence, determination, and training.

“If there was one thing I wanted all these men to take away from this Conference, it’s that they are more than conquerors in Jesus Christ, who died for them,” said Pollard. Pollard plans to have this Conference every year. Next year’s Conference is scheduled to be held at the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta, Ga.

—BY GEORGE JOHNSON JR.
New Technology Degrees Add Entrepreneurial Component

The Technology Department is adding two four-year degrees to its catalog: a bachelor of technology in construction management, and a bachelor of technology in automotive technology. They both currently exist as associate degrees, and the two additional years of study will focus on management and marketing.

“There’s a lot more to running a business than just doing the actual job,” said Mark Hyder, dean for the School of Business and Management. “These expanded degrees give students the complete package.”

Both degrees are hands-on, with a required lab and remodeling projects throughout the year. For the construction degree, students will also get real-world job experience through summer internships working on commercial projects.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics, careers in construction management are on the rise. But beyond the obvious importance of job placement and career stability, Southern’s professors believe there is eternal value in graduating Adventists with these skill sets.

“We need more churches and schools,” said John Youngberg, associate professor in the Technology Department. “It’s one of my missions to build the labor force that keeps the Church growing and in good repair for the next generation.”

Automotive technology is experiencing similar growth, with job demand above average. These new degrees allow students to not only find a job, but also have the skills to run their own business as an entrepreneur.

“We can place every student who graduates from this program,” said Dale Walters, associate professor in the Technology Department. “It’s a profession that isn’t going to go away soon.”

Prospective students, and businesses looking to partner with Southern for qualified interns or leads on future employees, may contact the Technology Department for more information. Please email youngbergj@southern.edu or dwalters@southern.edu.

—BY JULIA BONNEY

Proceeds from Professor’s Book Help Subsidize Student Participation in Archaeological Dig

Giselle Hasel, associate professor in Southern’s School of Visual Art and Design, believes that archaeological digs are a life-changing experience, and wanted more students to explore this option for their summer break. But, cost was an issue. So she took matters into her own hands — and her own pocketbook.

Students in Hasel’s classes are required to buy a booklet she wrote, “Understanding Museums: Art Museum Journal, a Visual Dialogue.” She decided that all profits from the publication should fund a subsidy for worthy students who are unable to afford the full cost of a summer dig in Israel. This is the second year the subsidy has been in operation; this year, Hasel’s project raised more than $1,000.

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Southern Adventist University are co-sponsors of an excavation effort titled The Fourth Expedition to Lachish. The excavation investigates the Iron Age history of the ancient biblical city of Tel Lachish, and includes academic lectures and weekend study tours, along with the main task of field work. Some students tell Hasel they are just not interested in “old stuff,” but she believes there is great benefit in going. During the years, various students have shared with her that the trip has increased their faith and helped validate their beliefs and confidence in the Bible.

In addition to Hasel’s efforts, Southern’s Institute of Archaeology also offers a subsidy for students who fit certain requirements. For more information about the University’s excavation work, visit www.southern.edu/lachish.

“The original version of this article appeared in Southern Accent, the student newspaper at Southern Adventist University.”

—BY BONNIE CHRISTIANSEN
Adventist Health System Employees Awarded for Living the Mission

Eight employees who live Adventist Health System’s mission of Extending the Healing Ministry of Christ on a daily basis were recognized with awards at the organization’s annual Conference on Mission, February 26-28, 2015, in Maitland, Fla. John Brownlow, Brenda Coley, Rudy Cortes, Rob Fulbright, Charles Murray, Betty O’Toole, Lyle Wadsworth, M.D., and Tom Yochum represent various departments and facilities from within the system, including environmental services, human resources, and administration.

Adventist Health System’s Crystal Angel Award was developed to acknowledge individuals for their significant contributions to the advancement of the Adventist healthcare mission. In addition, it recognizes outstanding leadership in specific mission-related achievements, projects, and programs, as well as overall spiritual leadership. This year, Crystal Angels were presented to John Brownlow from Adventist Health System headquarters and Rob Fulbright from Florida Hospital Altamonte.

In acknowledgement of outstanding Christian example, and in recognition of their compassionate and unselfish service to others, two individuals were honored with the Adventist Health System Christian Service Award. The recipients this year were Rudy Cortes from Adventist Bolingbrook Hospital and Charles Murray from Shawnee Mission Health.

Recognizing their generous contributions and the positive impact they have had on improving the quality of life in their local communities, Brenda Coley from Metroplex Adventist Hospital and Lyle Wadsworth, M.D., from Florida Hospital DeLand received the Adventist Health System Community Service Award.

Betty O’Toole was the recipient of a new award, Trustee of the Year, which she received for her service at Adventist Hinsdale Hospital. Tom Yochum also received a Trustee of the Year Award for the contributions he has made as a member of the Florida Hospital board.

“These individuals truly embody the mission of our organization,” said Don Jernigan, president/CEO of Adventist Health System, who presented the awards to the recipients. “It is an honor and a privilege to recognize them for their impact and influence in our hospitals and surrounding communities.”

—BY ANTHONY VERA CRUZ
El departamento hispano de la Unión del Sur (Southern Union Conference) está trabajando en tres iniciativas de evangelismo. La primera tomará lugar en el área de Tampa donde se llevarán a cabo campañas en 17 localidades simultáneamente a partir del 11 de abril. Los anfitriones de estos eventos serán iglesias de las asociaciones locales Southeastern y Florida, y entre los oradores se contará con los coordinadores de las 8 asociaciones que comprenden el territorio de la Unión del Sur. Estas reuniones concluirán en un gran evento de evangelismo a realizarse entre el 12 y el 19 de septiembre.

La segunda iniciativa se llevará a cabo en la ciudad de Memphis, TN. Esta ciudad tiene la menor presencia adventista por cápita de todo el territorio de la unión. Entre el 22 y el 29 de Agosto, Alejandro Bullón presentará una campaña de cosecha organizada por las iglesias de las asociaciones Kentucky Tennessee, South Central y Gulf States. Estas congregaciones participaron de una campaña de entrenamiento y equipamiento durante el mes de febrero. Más de 500 miembros asistieron al evento y se comprometieron a traer amigos, colegas, vecinos y familiares a los pies de Cristo.

Caravana de Evangelismo
La colaboración laica es crucial para el cumplimiento de este plan. Por esta razón y con el objeto de obtener una mayor participación se organizaron caravanas de entrenamiento en 15 distritos pastorales de 10 ciudades del territorio de la unión. La meta fue motivar y equipar a un grupo selecto de laicos para que traigan sus conocidos a Cristo. Con este plan, la asistencia distribuir entre los miembros de iglesia que hayan sido entrenados, el cual incluye una guía llamada Cómo Hacer Amigos Para Cristo, que ha sido traducida al inglés, 3 sets de estudios bíblicos en CDs y DVDs, y un simple manual de salud basado en Creation Health. A menudo no resulta sencillo introducir un tema de conversación espiritual, pero el cuidado de la salud se ha convertido en un tópico muy popular. Un ejemplo simple es el hecho de que hace 20 años, si alguien corría en la calle había más probabilidades de que fuera un ladrón escapando de la policía, que alguien haciendo ejercicio. En la actualidad es normal ver gente corriendo, caminando, o yendo al gimnasio. Otro hecho notable es que una de las diez industrias de mayor crecimiento es la que comercializa vitaminas y suplementos. La gente está más consciente de sus necesidades a nivel de salud. Existen numerosos negocios de venta de comida saludable, restaurantes vegetarianos, orgánicos, e inclusive secciones especiales en los supermercados. La iglesia tiene un maravilloso mensaje pro salud, el cual puede ser un buen punto de contacto.
La tercera iniciativa se llevará a cabo en el mes de agosto por medio de campañas de cosecha a cargo de Alejandro Bullón. Las mismas tomarán lugar en las ciudades en las que se organizaron las caravanas de entrenamiento en el mes de febrero, terminando en Memphis, Tennessee. En este momento es cuando el trabajo del Espíritu Santo y de los miembros comprometidos arrojará sus resultados.

Mientras se trabaja en el desarrollo de estas iniciativas, las palabras de Elena de White suenan melodiosas y más reales:

Veíase a centenares y miles de personas visitando las familias y explicándoles la Palabra de Dios. Los corazones eran convencidos por el poder del Espíritu Santo, y se manifestaba un espíritu de sincera conversión. En todas partes las puertas se abrían de par en par para la proclamación de la verdad. El mundo parecía iluminado por la influencia divina.” Testimonios Selectos, tomo 5, pág. 220,año 1909

—MARIEL LOMBARDI, EDITOR

Academia Cristiana de Fayetteville-NC
Sirviendo con Amor

El sábado 10 de enero la iglesia de Saint Pauls del distrito misionero Fayetteville disfrutó de un programa bendecido. El mismo fue presentado por los maestros de la academia adventista Abney Chapel Lisa Marshall, Pam Harris, Ruth Roberts, Joan Daniels y Curtis Monroe.

Como preámbulo el coro de campanas presentó un recital de adoración inspirador. Lisa Marshall tuvo a su cargo el repaso de la lección de escuela sabática en forma amena, traducida simultáneamente por Alex González. En los momentos previos al culto de adoración más de 10 estudiantes dieron testimonio de lo que la escuela adventista está haciendo por ellos, y de cómo impacta positivamente su vida espiritual. Animaron a los padres presentes a considerar la alternativa de enviar a sus hijos a esta escuela, en la que Cristo es presentado como el centro de la vida cotidiana y de los planes a futuro.

La presentación de la Palabra en el culto divino estuvo a cargo de Curtis Monroe. El mensaje se tituló “Atrévete a ser un Daniel.” En el mismo enfatizó profundas verdades demostrando la importancia de que la juventud renuncie al conformismo y la mediocridad, y tenga el valor de vivir como lo hizo Daniel. Para culminar extendió un llamado a los padres a tomar la decisión de que sus hijos asistan a esta escuela. El coro de campanas cerró el evento interpretando un hermoso himno de consagración.

—ELIAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRIT FAYETEVILLE

Evangelismo de Cosecha en Fayetteville

Con un alto nivel de entusiasmo y expectativa los miembros de las iglesias de Fayetteville, Saint Pauls, Raeford y Sanford, NC, unieron sus esfuerzos y trabajaron minuciosamente en la planificación de un importante evento de evangelismo de cosecha. Por primera vez en la zona, y con más de trescientas sesenta visitas y un total de más de 1500 asistentes, el evangelista Alejandro Bullón tuvo a cargo este evento que tomó lugar los días 12 y 13 de diciembre bajo el lema “La Esperanza es Jesús.” Se vivieron momentos inspiradores en las instalaciones del auditorio Destiny Now de la ciudad de Fayetteville. Decenas de personas que asistieron y escucharon el mensaje de salvación respondieron al llamado de invitación a consagrar sus vidas, y a estudiar y conocer más acerca del inmenso amor del Salvador Jesucristo.

El viernes por la noche, 22 personas se unieron a la iglesia y abrazaron una vida de esperanza en Jesús demostrándolo por medio del bautismo. El sábado de
Guiados por el Espíritu

En la radiante mañana del sábado 29 de noviembre, nada hacía suponer lo que el Espíritu del Señor sería capaz de hacer en la vida de la familia Rodríguez Jones. Guillermo Rodríguez se levantó más temprano que de costumbre, con una urgente necesidad de escuchar un mensaje divino. Impulsado por el Espíritu de Dios, sintió el deseo de visitar la iglesia adventista americana de Fayeteville. Junto a su esposa Summer despertaron a sus hijos Nicolás, Luis, Enrique y Cristian, y se dirigieron al templo.

Sorprendentemente, al otro extremo de la ciudad, en la localidad Hope Mills, el pastor Elías Sandoval también se levantó temprano sintiendo el impulso de asistir a la misma iglesia americana. Junto a su esposa Summer despertaron a sus hijos Nicolás, Luis, Enrique y Cristian, y se dirigieron al templo.

Al encontrarse allí, el Espíritu lo animó a acercarse a esta familia hispana, saludarlos y darles un volante para invitarlos a la cruzada “La Esperanza es Jesús.” Guillermo estaba sediento de Dios. En ese mismo instante abrió su corazón y después de una corta plática pidió al pastor que los visitara. Allí mismo acordaron verse el lunes, dos días después de este encuentro.

El lunes por la tarde el pastor Sandoval llegó hasta el hogar de la familia Rodríguez Jones y luego de una larga conversación en la que tocaron profundos temas espirituales, notaron cómo el encuentro que habían tenido el sábado, lejos de ser casual, había sido totalmente digitado por el Señor. Él, por su gracia lo había planeado desde un principio a fin de llamar a toda esta familia a formar parte de los redimidos que entonarán el cántico de Moisés y del Cordero.

El viernes 12 de diciembre por la noche los esposos Rodríguez Jones relataron la historia de cómo Dios los había guiado en la campaña a cargo del pastor Bullón, y bajaron a las aguas bautismales donde dieron testimonio público de haber aceptado a Cristo como su Salvador para perdón de sus pecados. El pastor Sandoval tuvo el privilegio de oficiar la ceremonia, y juntos se regocijan de pertenecer a la familia de Dios en esta tierra.

—ELIAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO DE FAYETEVILLE

Presentación de Clubes en Raeford

El sábado 24 de enero por la tarde la iglesia de Raeford llevó a cabo un programa de presentación oficial de sus tres clubes: Guías Mayores dirigido por Hermilio Hernández, Conquistadores por Alfredo Gómez, y Aventureros por Araceli Sánchez. Se contó con la presencia del representante de la asociación pastor Isaac Vallejos quien estuvo acompañado por su esposa Beatriz. Raeford cuenta con un número elevado de niños y jóvenes que alineados se preparan para cumplir los desafíos que demandan las actividades propias de los clubes, pero por sobre todo para recibir al Rey de Reyes y Señor de Señores.

—ELIAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO DE FAYETEVILLE
Con una extraordinaria graduación de 185 alumnos culminó el año lectivo 2014 del Instituto de Evangelismo Laico de la Florida (FIEL) en Camp Kulaqua. Al compás de la marcha interpretada en órgano por el pastor y profesor Efraín Duany, los graduandos entraron al salón King Chapel para recibir sus diplomas el sábado 13 de diciembre. Más de 700 laicos provenientes de las iglesias del territorio de la asociación estuvieron presentes en la convención de discipulado y evangelismo, y entusiasmados presenciaron el programa de graduación.

Todos los alumnos vivieron experiencias inspiradoras y tienen historias que contar. En la introducción presentada por el director del instituto pastor Rolando de los Ríos, se relataron algunos de los testimonios que demostraron cómo a pesar de los sacrificios y obstáculos, estos estudiantes siguieron adelante hasta llegar a la meta final. Entre ellos Rosa Vargas, quien no tenía experiencia en el uso de la computadora. Debido a que gran parte de la actividad estudiantil del instituto se hace por medio de recursos disponibles en Internet, Rosa hizo un esfuerzo y adquirió una computadora portátil. Al principio esto fue motivo de estrés para ella, pero terminó el curso con notas sobresalientes. Otro tanto experimentó Iris Chéverez, quien pasa la mayor parte de su tiempo cuidando a su anciano esposo, y cuyo conocimiento de la tecnología es escaso. Esta dedicada mujer de Dios no falló en ningún examen y su promedio fue de 100%, graduándose con honores. “Quiero aprender a predicar pues viajaré a mi país y deseo llevar el evangelio a mi familia,” le dijo al pastor de los Ríos. Los alumnos Josué Liriano, su esposa Mayra, y Freddy Potter, se unieron a su pastor Cecilio Pérez de la iglesia de Brandon en el cometido de abrir obra en Riverview. El resultado fue un vibrante grupo de 40 personas, la mayoría nuevos en la fe. En cuanto a las actividades curriculares, no fue fácil el camino. Los alumnos de FIEL tuvieron que asistir a clases, estudiar los 20 capítulos del libro “El Evangelismo” de Elena G. de White y presentar exámenes de cada uno de ellos. Además participaron de actividades prácticas de evangelismo en sus iglesias. No obstante, el 95% de los que estaban inscriptos se graduó, y con notas extraordinarias; 46 con honores, habiendo alcanzado un promedio del 100%.

El resultado más sobresaliente es que cada alumno salió altamente comprometido con la misión, que se reafirmó la relación entre los laicos y sus pastores, y ha crecido confianza en la inspiración divina del Espíritu de Profecía. Todos están seguros del papel que juegan en la culminación de la proclamación del mensaje en nuestro tiempo.

Estuvieron presentes gozándose en esta victoria y saludando a los graduandos, los pastores Allan Machado, vicepresidente de la Asociación de la Florida y presidente del comité, Abel Paulín, director de Evangelismo, Orlando López, asistente del ministerio hispano, Henry Barrios, asesor académico del instituto, y Daniel Amich, vice director del mismo. Los alumnos recibieron el diploma de manos del director Rolando de los Ríos.
Al terminar la ceremonia, todos tomaron la resolución de promover la matrícula para el año 2015. Cada alumno del 2014 fue invitado a enrolar a un nuevo estudiante. Se espera anotar entre 400 y 500 personas. Durante el fin de semana la mesa de matrícula estuvo muy concurrida. El costo de enrolamiento es de $30.00. Katty Castro y sus ayudantes trabajaron arduamente para atender a todos los que se acercaron para anotarse, ya que la fila era extensa.

Las materias que se enseñarán en el 2015 serán “Métodos de Evangelismo de Jesús” e “Interpretación Bíblica”. Ambas serán presentadas una vez por trimestre. Como suplemento requerido, los alumnos habrán de leer un libro por semestre tomando exámenes de los capítulos vía internet una vez por mes. El libro asignado para el primer semestre es “Él enseñó amor”, de Elena G. de White, en el que se analizan las parábolas del gran Maestro. Cada alumno que se matricule recibe un ejemplar de ese libro como parte del material de clase. Es necesario que todos tengan acceso al internet y una dirección de email.

El primer día de clase todos recibirán una bolsa con lo que necesitará para sus clases, entre los cuales estará el libro asignado para el estudio y exámenes durante el segundo semestre, “Más allá de lo oculto”, del pastor Rolando de los Ríos. Mientras el primer libro tiene énfasis en las enseñanzas de Cristo, éste está enfocado en la interpretación bíblica del libro de Apocalipsis.

Los pastores Henry Barrios, Daniel Amich y Allan Machado están trabajando arduamente en la elaboración de los bosquejos de las clases. El objetivo es que el único día del trimestre en el que se requiere participación en el aula sea aprovechado al máximo. Que las clases sean efectivas no sólo para el aprendizaje, sino que también capacitén a los alumnos para enseñar lo aprendido. La fase práctica se llevará a cabo en las iglesias, bajo la supervisión de los pastores locales durante las campañas de semana santa, y luego de agosto a octubre en la temporada de siembra y cosecha. El trabajo se hará por medio de los grupos celulares, instruyendo en el estudio de la Biblia a quienes estén interesados. Este período culminará con la Caravana de la Victoria en el mes de octubre, cuando los alumnos de FIEL estarán involucrados predicando, o dando estudios bíblicos.

Toda la información acerca de las actividades y eventos relacionados con el Instituto, están al alcance de todos mediante el website: www.RevelacionAdventista.com, en la sección “FIEL”.

—ALLAN MACHADO, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO
Una Vida Transformada

Cuando el evangelio llega al corazón de una persona y es recibido con humildad, la vida toma un curso diferente. Esa fue la experiencia de Leonardo, un joven mexicano de tradición católica que llegó a Estados Unidos para pasar una temporada con su hermana Laura y su esposo Eduardo. Laura y Eduardo son fieles miembros de la iglesia de Marietta. Mientras convivía con ellos, fue invitado en varias ocasiones a asistir a la iglesia, pero de una forma u otra evadía la situación. Luego de varias invitaciones y de mucha resistencia, decidió asistir un sábado. Al llegar al templo fue invitado a unirse a la clase de escuela sabática para visitas. Ese día estudiaron lo que dice la Biblia acerca el estado de los muertos, y el tema lo dejó con muchas inquietudes. Al llegar a casa comentó lo aprendido con Eduardo su cuñado, y ambos entablaron una interesante conversación. Esto abrió las puertas para que Eduardo lo introduzca en el estudio de las hermosas verdades de la Biblia.

Al mismo tiempo diversas circunstancias personales dolorosas comenzaron a golpearlo. Perdió cosas y personas que eran las que hasta ese momento le habían dado sentido a su vida, y se sentía solo y vacío. Mientras se hallaba en ese estado de desesperación, asistió a una de las caravanas de evangelismo a cargo del pastor Alejandro Bullón y el tema presentado la primera noche reflejaba el estado de su vida en ese momento. Sin poder resistir más la evidencia del llamado claro de Dios, se levantó pidiendo la bendición de ser bautizado. Dos semanas después Leonardo Arcos testificó públicamente acerca del nuevo amor de su vida entregándose a Jesús como su Salvador personal por medio del bautismo.

“De modo que si alguno está en Cristo, nueva criatura es; las cosas viejas pasaron; he aquí todas son hechas nuevas”. (2 Corintios 5:17)

—RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Convención Para Guías Mayores

Damos gracias a Dios por los más de 56 jóvenes aspirantes a Guías Mayores, quienes asistieron al evento preparado para ellos el domingo 8 de febrero en el que fueron inspirados por los dirigentes de la asociación a servir al Dios Todopoderoso.

—PASTOR ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO
Clinton Organizado Como Iglesia

El 20 de diciembre la congregación de Clinton, NC, fue organizada oficialmente como iglesia. El presidente W. Winston, y el secretario S. Ruff, estuvieron presentes en la ceremonia. La ocasión estuvo combinada con la inauguración oficial del edificio que se adquirió gracias al esfuerzo y sacrificio de sus miembros.

La obra hispana de la asociación se inició en esta ciudad con la familia Saavedra, quienes se reúnen en la pequeña iglesia afro-americana. Debido al rápido crecimiento del grupo hispano, debieron mudarse a Warsaw, NC, y allí trabajaron para iniciar las congregaciones de Warsaw, Seven Springs y también Mount Olive, que hoy pertenece a la asociación de Las Carolinas. El pastor Ismael Uribe y su esposa Lady, han puesto esfuerzo y dedicación inspirando a los hermanos de Clinton para que sigan prosperando espiritualmente y predicando la Palabra de Dios.

Agradecemos al Señor por multiplicar a su pueblo y ayudar en la adquisición de propiedades para adoración y culto.

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Doraville se Convierte en Iglesia

Con más de 50 miembros y un diezmo anual que sobrepasa los $50.000.00, se organizó oficialmente la compañía de Doraville como iglesia.

El Pr W. Winston, presidente de la asociación, dirigió la ceremonia que consistió en la firma del libro, la ordenación de 2 ancianos, 5 diáconas y 6 diáconos, y la dedicación de la junta directiva de iglesia para el 2015. Las iglesias de Chamblee y Marietta enviaron representantes para ser testigos del emotivo evento.

Los miembros de Doraville iniciaron la obra en el centro de Atlanta con 5 miembros y fueron acogidos por una iglesia Bautista en el año 2000. En el 2001, se reunían en una iglesia Luterana en Doraville, y lo hicieron hasta el 2005 cuando se mudaron a un templo Metodista en Norcross. En la actualidad se reúnen en la iglesia Presbiteriana, hasta que logren conseguir su edificio propio.

La esposa del presidente Winston, Eula, y la esposa del Pr Poloche, Xiomara, estuvieron apoyando el evento como representantes de la asociación.

—EFRAÍN POLOCHE,
DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO
Bautismo en Country Garden

Nueve personas entregaron sus vidas a Cristo demostrándolo públicamente por medio del bautismo, luego de la campaña conducida por el pastor Roger Álvarez en Coutry Garden. La iglesia se regocija con esta ganancia para el reino de Dios.

—ESMERALDA GUZMÁN HARRIS, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Retiro de Parejas en Boca Ratón

Los días 7 y 8 de febrero se llevó a cabo el retiro de parejas de la iglesia de Boca Ratón, liderada por el pastor Josué Parker. El mismo fue de bendición para los que asistieron. La licenciada Aura Consuelo Romero Prieto tuvo a cargo los temas y fue inspirador ver a las parejas tomando la decisión de dejar que Cristo sea el centro de su relación, lo cual no sólo beneficia la relación conyugal, sino también el ambiente en el que crecen los hijos. El hogar debe ser un refugio, un pequeño cielo en la tierra, y estos eventos promueven la creación de esta atmósfera.

—ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Testificando en el Barrio

“Este año tomé la decisión de buscar las familias hispanas de mi vecindario. Comencé con la familia más próxima a mi domicilio, constituida por Ramfis, su esposa Fabiola, Ramfis Jr y Abigail. Los invité a casa, allí oramos y compartimos la Palabra de Dios. Fue un gozo y una bendición poder hacerlo. Confío en que el Espíritu Santo hará que la semilla sembrada germine a su tiempo.”

—ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Noticias de Hialeah West

Conquistadores
La iglesia de Hialeah West llevó a cabo el campamento de conquistadores con una muy buena asistencia. Allí se les enseñó a los jovencitos lecciones de supervivencia bajo condiciones difíciles, y la importancia de confiar en Dios para el cuidado y dirección de sus vidas. Rafael Ortega, pastor de la congregación, está orgulloso del grupo de conquistadores que se preparan para compartir con otros los beneficios de una vida sana, y de tener a Jesús en su corazón.

—ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Rafael Ortega, Hialeah West inauguró un nuevo programa a cargo del ministerio de la mujer que tiene como objetivo alcanzara la población femenina de la comunidad, y desarrollar los talentos y dones de las hermanas de la iglesia.

—ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO
FARMER, William E., 67, born Aug. 4, 1947 in Cincinnati, OH, died Aug. 29, 2014 in Tampa, FL. He was a member of Avon Park, FL, Church. He worked for the denomination for 43 years as a school principal; 10 years at Mount Vernon, OH; two years at Fort Myers; and 29 years at Walker Memorial Academy in Avon Park. He is survived by his wife, Walda; one son, William David of Valrico, FL; two daughters: Mist Dawn Walbrigle of Salt Lake City, UT, and Ashley Pipkins-Smith; and five grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Mark Reams at Avon Park Church. Interment was in Avon Park.

FOSTER, Wayne, 93, born March 23, 1921 in Marble, AR, died Feb. 16, 2015 in Sarasota, FL. He worked as a printer to pay his way through his beloved Pisgah Industrial Institute, Southern Junior College, and Washington Missionary College. He became an ordained minister and administrator. He delighted in young people and devoted his career to youth ministries and education in Alabama-Mississippi, Carolina, Florida, Kentucky-Tennessee, and Potomac conferences. At his retirement, he directed the department of education for Columbia Union Conference. He had long promoted effective schools and the pro-fessional skills and satisfaction of teachers and administrators. He was known for his creative thinking, problem solving, his fairness, and his concern for individual teachers.

As a young visionary, he became the driving force behind the acquisition of property and became the founding director of Florida’s Camp Kulaqua, assisted by his able wife, Reba. “Wayne will be missed,” said Phil Younts, Florida Conference camp ministries administrative director, “but his vision and legacy will live on through Camp Kulaqua and the lives touched for God’s Kingdom.”

He was a member of the Sarasota, FL, Church since 1989, where he served as an elder, choir member, constructed closets and shelves for choir room and library, and made his savory peanut soup for Taste Fest, an event he deemed “a big hit.” Even in later years, he delivered pithy sermons when asked, and in his stirring baritone sang, “Come, Ye Blessed,” accompanied by his wife.

Beyond his life of service, he designed gardens, built houses, composed Christmas letters with enough esoteric words to amuse his far-flung friends, and in his elegant hand solved the daily crossword puzzle. He loved dogs, rocks, the North Carolina Mountains, and his family.

He is survived by his wife and sweetheart of 71 years, Reba Foster; two daughters: Faye Foster and Patricia (Wayne) Eastep; one granddaughter, Layla Ariana Eastep; nieces; nephews; and many friends. A Celebration of Life was conducted at Sarasota Church.

FRY, M. Jane, 73, born Oct. 18, 1941 in Cedar Grove, TN, died Feb. 23, 2015 in Altamonte Springs, FL, after a short illness. She was a very courageous person who always had a smile and hello for everyone even though she dealt with many major health issues throughout the years.

She devoted her life to working for the denomination. She began denominational work as a secretary at the General Conference in Silver Spring, MD, and then at the Chesapeake Conference in Columbia, MD. She was an administrative secretary at Washington Adventist University in Takoma Park, MD, followed by a mission appointment as an administrative secretary in the Far Eastern/Asia-Pacific Division. Returning stateside, she was an administrative secretary at Columbia Union Conference in Columbia, MD, from where she retired in 2007.

She was always a diligent worker and supporter of the Church, so it was only natural that when she retired she continued to find ways to serve the Lord. She was employed part time as an office assistant for Florida Conference in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church for eight years, and volunteered at its Gift and Thrift Store.

Her family was an important part of her life. She is survived by one brother, Gerald (Mac) Fry of Mohrsville, PA; a twin sister, Jean (Mo) Dickson of Zellwood, FL; a niece, Becky Fry of Mohrsville, PA; and missed by numerous co-workers; and friends. Interment is in Friedens Church Cemetery in Shartlesville, PA.

HAAS, Margie B., 93, born July 4, 1921 in Gravette, AR, died Jan. 21, 2015 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for 35 years where she served as Thrift Store co-director for many years.

When her children began school, she followed her husband, Pastor Harold (Gene) Haas, into church ministry. She was the glue that held each office together. She always took new employees under her wing, mentored them, and became a friend.

She served as an administrative secretary to various departments in the offices of the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference in Shreveport, LA; Kansas-Nebraska Conference in Topeka, KS; Southern Western Union Conference in Burleson, TX; and Southern New England Conference in New Market, VA.

Between denominational employments, she was an administrative assistant at Hillcrest Living Center in Wayzata, MN, and Florida Living Retirement in Orlando, FL, as well as secretary for the Family Practice Internship Department at Florida Hospital, Orlando.

She is survived by one son, Eddie (Betty) of Richmond, VA; one daughter, Linda of Altamonte Springs; and one grandson, Scott of Richmond.

HOLLAND, Donald Edward, 87, born Jan. 30, 1927 in Elba, AL, died Dec. 16, 2014 in Winter Park, FL. He was one of five children that included a twin sister, Betty. He was raised in Pensacola, FL, and always said he was born with “sand between his toes,” as he loved the beach. He was a member of Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL, for more than four years.

His mother always wanted one of her children to be a minister and prayed it would be Don. He had other ideas, but through direct answers to prayer, he felt led to the ministry and went back to college. He began his ministry in the Gulf States Conference.

For the next 36 years, he served as a teacher, pastor, conference youth director, union youth director, president of the Iowa Conference, and secretary of the Mid-America Union. When he retired from church ministries, he worked for Walker Memorial Hospital in Avon Park, FL, as vice president for marketing and development, and then as administrator for nursing and retirement centers.

The heart of his ministry was youth. He loved them, and they loved him. He held 80-plus Weeks of Prayer in academies all over the United States. He had a standing agreement with the children to meet him at the southeast corner of Heaven near the Tree of Life.

While youth director, he built and directed Indian Creek Camp in Liberty, TN.

He loved God, his family, laughter, Rook, and golf. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Ann; two sons: Michael (Laurie) Holland of Apopka, and James Holland of Washington, DC; one daughter, Patricia (David) Middag of Apopka; one sister, Betty Anderson of Prescott, AZ; five grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The memorial service was conducted by Pastors Jack Clark, Joel Toprink, Norman Middag, and Noel Shanko at Florida Hospital Church in Orlando, FL. Interment was in Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.
KNITTEL, Dr. Frank A., 87, of Ooltewah, TN, born Sept. 30, 1927 in Bakersfield, CA, died Feb. 18, 2015. He was the son of the late Julius J. and Emma I. Knittel. He held a B.A. degree in English, M.S. degree in school administration, and a Ph.D. in English language and literature. He was a university administrator, professor, pastor, and business owner. He was extremely involved in his community throughout his life, and held memberships in the Kiwanis, Lions, and Rotary Clubs. He was a veteran of the U.S. Army, and a member of the Collegedale, TN, Community Church.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Helen Dean Knittel; one son, Jeff (Crystal) Knittel of Nashville, TN; one daughter, Sherry Knittel Drew of Chattanooga, TN; five grandchildren: Joe, Andrew, Rachel, Jessica, and Jacoby; one sister, Joyce Hardin of Alvord, TX; nieces; and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Vida Dohm. A memorial service was held March 28, 2015 at Collegedale Church.

LOOR SR., John Robert, 87, born Jan. 7, 1928 in Washington, DC, died Jan. 13, 2015 in Hendersonville, NC. He grew up in Washington, and attended John Nevins Andrews and Takoma Academy. He met and married June Howes, newly baptized teenager in the Review and Herald Memorial Church, fondly known as the “Hyattsville Church.” After deciding to return to college, he worked as business manager for the Malin Medical Group in Hyattsville, MD. He graduated from Washington Missionary College in 1953, and accepted a call to the Gospel ministry in the Potomac Conference as a ministerial intern working with Elder John Mitchell. The district was divided, and he was given the Rileyville and Stanley, VA, churches to pastor. From there, he was called back to his roots to pastor the Hyattsville Church, the church he had grown up in, and where he and his wife, June, were baptized and married. He was ordained in 1957. During his time at Hyattsville, he modeled for some pictures for the Review. You can find his picture as Adam and Daniel in the book Your Bible and You, or on the cover of Life and Health (now Vibrant Life). Following his service in the Potomac Conference, he was called to pastor the Dallas Central Church in Dallas, TX. From there, he served as pastor of the Arlington Church in Arlington, CA. From Arlington, he was invited to be the senior pastor of the Collegedale Church at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, TN.

He had a burden for pastors and wanted to help them love the ministry as he did. He transferred to the Michigan Conference and back to the Potomac Conference as ministerial director. Following that, he was elected as president of two conferences: Northern New England and Indiana. He loved ministering to the youth. He spoke for Weeks of Prayer in academies and colleges, including several Youth Congresses which were held in Atlantic City, NJ, followed by Edinburgh, Scotland, and several in South Africa. He retired in Hendersonville, NC. During this time he held meetings, was first elder in the Upward Church for 10 years, and was invited to speak in churches and Camp Meetings. He battled some health issues for the last nine years, but never complained. He was a faithful representative of a life truly surrendered to the will of God. He is survived by his wife of 66 years, June; two children: John Robert Loor Jr., and Jane Pleasants; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren. The memorial service was held Jan. 31, 2015, at Fletcher Church in Hendersonville.

LOWE, Ouida Jeanne McWilliams, 85, born Sept. 20, 1929 in Selma, AL, died Jan. 26, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. She was a member of the Atlanta Belvedere Church in Decatur, GA.

She graduated from Southern Missionary College in Collegedale, TN (now Southern Adventist University), in 1951 and moved to Atlanta where she began a 34-year career working for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. She worked 13 years for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference beginning in the Treasury Department, and then as receptionist and secretary. In 1964, she moved to the Southern Union Conference office and worked 21 years as the receptionist. Although her husband, Wade C. Lowe, was not an Adventist when they married, he joined the Church through the prayerful study and friendship of Elder Noel Shanko. Jeanne and Wade were faithful workers in the Church, holding many church offices, and always supporting the local church school. They enjoyed many years traveling throughout Europe, South America, and North America.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda L. Morris of Conyers, GA. She was predeceased by her husband of 56 years, Wade C. Lowe. The funeral service was held February 1, 2015 at Atlanta Belvedere Church with interment at Georgia National Cemetery in Canton, GA.

NEALL, Pastor Ronald R., 83, born Sept. 15, 1930 in Hinsdale, IL, to the late Virle and Mar-velle Neall, passed to his rest on May 23, 2014 in Amity, AR, after a brief illness. He grew up and attended academy in New York State and graduated from Atlantic Union College. He was happily married to Joan Minchin for 55 years until her death in 2010. “Pastor Ron” faithfully served as an Adventist pastor in Pennsylvania, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, and Tennessee for more than 40 years. He is survived by his brother, Ralph (Bea) Neall; four children and their spouses: Carol (Byron) Reynolds, Kerry (Linda) Neall, Shelly (Kevin) Powell, and Robert (Christine) Neall; 12 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. His funeral was held in Chattanooga, TN, on June 1, 2014, and he is interred at Collegedale Memorial Park.

RUF, Dr. Barbara Butler, 92, born Sept. 4, 1922 in the Boston suburb of Somerville, MA, to the late Fred Butler and Jessie (Muir), died peacefully at home Feb. 18, 2015 in Collegedale, TN.

She balanced the roles of pastor’s wife, English professor, beloved mother, and grandmother. She graduated from Southern Missionary College in 1944 with a B.A. in English. In 1946, she earned a Masters in English at Boston University and later that same year married Rolland Ruf, her partner in life for the next 68 years. She raised three sons, and graciously served as pastor’s wife in multiple parishes from New York City to small towns such as Gainesville, GA, and McMinnville, TN. In the churches she attended, she lead out in children and adult Sabbath Schools and became one of the first women elders ordained in Collegedale.

She earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Tennessee in 1974, and taught for 18 years at Southern Adventist University where she achieved the rank of Professor Emerita of English.

Her retirement years were filled with travel, gardening, and hiking in the Smokies. She volunteered at what is now the Samaritan Center in Ooltewah, TN, the Hunter Museum of Art, and served as manuscript editor of “The Story of Southern College 1892-1992.”

She is survived by her husband, Pastor Rolland M. Ruf of Collegedale; three sons: Rolland (Tina) Ruf Jr. of Reading, PA, Warren (Jane) Ruf of New Haven, CT, and Stephen (Jodi) Ruf of Collegedale; four grandchildren: Adam Ruf of Athens, GA, Rebecca Ruf of Waynesville, NC, Sarah Ruf, of Phoenix, AZ, and Amanda Ruf of Collegedale. A memorial service was held March 13, 2015 at Collegedale Church.
“I love your programs very much. I listen every night with complete delight. I earnestly follow Jesus Christ and offer my life to Him. I have one desire, and that is to spread the gospel in my country. I hope that God will work with me in this pursuit. From a far distance, but with a heart that is near, I bid you farewell.”

– Listener in the Middle East

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Gal 6:8

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Since the beginning of their marriage 62 years ago, Elder Ralph Hairston, former president of the South Atlantic Conference, and his wife, Catherine, vowed they would be faithful stewards to the Lord and return their tithe and offerings, and support Christian education. In so doing, God has honored their faithfulness by educating their five children in Adventist institutions.

To continue their devotion to Christian education and stewardship, they have completed an endowment through their estate plan to assist students in obtaining a Christian education.

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POSITIONS AVAILABLE

THE KINESIOLOGY DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time physical education professor to begin July 1, 2015. Master’s degree required; doctoral degree preferred. Must have teaching experience. Submit CV and cover letter to Mr. Vesa Naukkarinen at vnaukkar@swau.edu. [4]

THE COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT at Southwestern Adventist University seeks full-time professor in Advertising/Public Relations or Radio/TV to begin July 1, 2015. Master’s degree required; doctoral degree desired. Must have teaching experience. Send cover letter and CV to Michael Agee at magee@swau.edu. [4]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks educator to serve as Chair for Nursing Department beginning Fall 2015. Master’s degree required with three years of university/ college teaching experience. Must have an unencumbered Texas nursing license. Send cover letter and current CV to Dr. Amy Rosenthal at arosenthal@swau.edu. [4]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY’S Business Department seeks faculty to begin Fall 2015. Master’s degree required, doctoral degree preferred. Focus areas include financial management, marketing, or accounting. Position includes instruction in multiple areas, undergraduate and graduate courses and providing service to the university and community. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu. [4]

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is seeking a full-time carpentry foreperson to begin immediately. Ideal candidate will possess training and applied experience in construction, general carpentry, concrete work, roof repair, cabinet making, and floor coverings. Candidate must be able to manage multiple projects and work well under pressure. For more information or to apply call 707-865-6231 or visit http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings. [4]

OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY (OU) is seeking a full-time faculty in the Allied Health Department who holds a DPD in physical therapy and current or eligible for PT Licensure in Alabama. Interested persons must submit application, resume, cover letter, teaching philosophy, statement of research interest, three recommendation letters and copy of degree(s)/ transcript(s) to HR. For more information visit http://www.oakwood.edu/campus-services/human-resources or call 256-726-7274. [4-9]

UNION COLLEGE seeks Seventh-day Adventist experienced in K-12 education and eligible for Nebraska teaching certificate to teach curriculum and instruction courses and supervise student teachers. Doctorate strongly preferred. Email letter of interest and C.V. to Dr. Denise White, Chair of Human Development, dwhite@uccollege.edu. Effective summer 2015. [4]
UNION COLLEGE seeks professor specializing in emerging media. Minimum 5 years experience in public relations or integrated marketing communication essential, as is commitment to staying current with constantly changing practices. Doctorate preferred; master’s required. Email cover letter and CV to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard at mimesnar@ucollege.edu. [4]

OUACHITA HILLS COLLEGE is accepting applications for the following positions: Chemistry Instructor, English Instructor, Business Administration Instructor, and Construction Manager. Our website is www.ohc.org. Contact Magda Rodriguez at info@ohc.orc or call 870-342-6210 ext. 223 for more information. [4]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty to serve as Director of the DNP program. This individual will provide the administrative/management direction for this graduate program with a focus in DNP preparation, or DNP preparation or those who are already advanced practice nurses. Qualified person should have a DNP prepared, FNP certified, FNP experience, formal academic teaching experience, experience with accreditation, evidence of scholarship, experience with online teaching. For more information and to apply, visit https://www.andrews.edu/adms/jobs/show/faculty#job_10. [4]

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NEW SCIENTIFIC RESULTS overturn the big bang theory while also scientifically affirming the existence of the literal six-day Genesis creation and seventh-day Sabbath, and God’s nearby Throne. Adventist physicist, Robert Gentry, will present his scientific disproof of the big bang theory, while also showing why this discovery reveals the existence of a nearby Center, which, in fact, is the location of the Eternal Throne of God (cited in Ps. 103: 19 and Rev. 20:11). Presentation is April 14 at the 2015 American Physical Society meeting at the Baltimore Hilton, 401 W. Pratt St., Baltimore, MD 21201. For more information and abstract, go to meetings. aps.org/Meeting/APR15/Session/X2.9. [4]
Events Calendar

Carolina

Adventurer Fun Day – April 5. NFR.
Pathfinder Drum & Drill Competition – April 11. Raleigh Church.
Church-Planting Rally – April 11. Spartanburg Church.
Mt. Pisgah Academy Events
Hispanic Camp Meeting – May 1-3. NFR.
Elders’ Certification – May 8, 9. Kernersville Church. The lesson discussed for this session will be “Personal Evangelism” Session #4.
Homecoming – May 25. Waynesville Church. Leslie Louis will be the speaker.
Camp Meeting – May 24-31. Lake Junaluska. Maggie Valley, NC.

Florida

Complete calendar online – http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar/
Youth/Pathfinder/Adventurer Events – Visit us online or call 407-644-5000 x2421.
http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/youth/
http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/pathfinders/events/
http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/advanturers/events/
Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information.
Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. http://www.floridaconference.com/iym/childrenandfamily/events/
esalzmann@cfl.rr.com, 407-521-4751, or 407-721-3036.
A Better Choice / Florida Adventist Bookmobile
Center – Altamonte Springs: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9000. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: http://www.floridaconference.com/abc/ or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com
Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule
Resumes in the summer.
Guest speaker: Brenda Walsh. Details: pamelagray@cfl.rr.com or 407-637-0730.

Georgia-Cumberland

Singles’ Campout – April 24-26. Cades Cove, TN.
Prayer Ministries Day – April 25. Rossville, GA.
Cohutta Springs Youth Camp – April 30. Last day for early bird deadline.
Adventurer Family Weekend – May 1-3. Theme: “Stand Strong for Jesus.” Registration through local club. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.
Will Workshops and Clinics with Les Speer
May 2. Workshop at 7 p.m., Clinic at 8:30 p.m. Worksheet required before attendance. Stone Mountain, GA, Church.
May 9. 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. Completed worksheet required before attendance. Atlanta, GA, Metropolitan Church.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Prayer Conference – April 10-12. Indian Creek Camp.
Pastors’/Elders’ Retreat – April 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.
Board of Education – April 23. Conference Office.
Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – April 24, 25. Prestonsburg United Methodist Church.
Highland Academy Board – May 7. Highland Academy.
Academy Graduations
May 9. Louisville Adventist Academy.
Hispanic Camp Meeting – June 5-6. Highland Academy.

Southern Adventist University

PreviewSouthern – April 9. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun family event at 6:30 p.m. Registration through www.csu.edu/streaming.

Southern Union

Division Level Pathfinder Bible Experience – April 18. Dallas, TX.

18 hospitals committed to sharing God’s love by providing physical, mental and spiritual healing.

For job opportunities, visit AdventistHealth.org
### Camp Meetings 2015 Schedule

#### CAROLINA
- **Portraits of Camp Meeting** - viewable at www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting
  - **Hispanic** - May 1-3 - Nossa Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC
  - **English** - May 24-30 - Lake Junaluska, Maggie Valley, NC
  - **Spanish** - April 9-12 - Church of God, Cleveland, TN

#### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- **Korean** - May 15-17 - Ciboula Springs, Crandall, GA
  - **English** - May 27-30 - Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, TN
  - **Hispanic** - Oct. 30-Nov. 1 - Ciboula Springs, Crandall, GA

#### FLORIDA
- **Spanish** - April 17-19 - Levántate y Resplandece — Isaías 60:1-3 - Camp Kulaqua, FL

#### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- **Hispanic** - June 5-6 - The Oaks, Greeneville, TN

#### GULF STATES
- **English** - June 22-24 - Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL

#### SOUTH ATLANTIC
- **English** - June 4-11 - River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC

#### SOUTHERN DEAF
- **English** - July 29-Aug. 2 - Lake Junaluska, Maggie Valley, NC

### Summer Camps 2015 Schedule

#### CAROLINA
- **Northeastern Carolina** - Sept. 25, 26 - Arise! Shine! Jesus is Coming - Greenville North Church, Greenville, NC

#### GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- **English** - May 28-June 6 - Soccer Camp (ages 13-17)

#### FLORIDA
- **Spanish** - May 15-21 - Nossa Pines Ranch, Liberty Hill, SC

#### KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- **Hispanic** - June 5-6 - Ciboula Springs, Crandall, GA

#### GULF STATES
- **English** - June 22-24 - Oakwood University, Huntsville, AL

#### SOUTH ATLANTIC
- **English** - June 4-11 - River Oaks Campground, Orangeburg, SC

### Details
- **Summer Camps 2015 Schedule**
- **CAROLINA**
  - **Northeastern Carolina**
  - **GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND**
  - **FLORIDA**
- **KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE**
- **GULF STATES**
- **SOUTH ATLANTIC**
- **SOUTHERN DEAF**
- **SOUTHERN DEAF**

### Additional Information
- **Carolina Conference Campground** - Hawthorne, FL
- **South Carolina** - June 28-July 5
- **Southeastern Conference Campground** - Hawthorne, FL

### Contact Information
- **Northeastern Carolina** - May 25-June 28
- **Spanish** - July 5-12
- **Hispanic** - June 22-24

### Website
- **www.carolinasda.org/camp-meeting**

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**Note:** The content provided is a structured representation of the information available in the image. For a complete and accurate understanding, please refer to the original document.
Did you know that Southern’s scholarships can benefit freshmen for up to **four years** when students maintain a 3.0 GPA?

For complete details about Southern’s scholarships and other financial aid, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit [southern.edu/scholarships](http://southern.edu/scholarships).