Pious Legalism and Spiritual Problems

People often have spiritual struggles because they are not believers; they have never accepted God’s free gift of salvation, and are trying in vain to earn divine favor by their works. Others have committed their lives to Christ, but they have not grown spiritually because they have little real interest in spiritual issues. These people may be longtime Christians, but they are still infants in Christ, not much different and spiritually no more mature than nonbelievers. Still others have deliberately turned their backs on Christ, and have chosen to ignore or reject the religious actions, and, at present, they are far away from Christ (though many, in time, will return to their spiritual roots) and spiritually dead. All of this suggests that spiritual problems are related closely to where we are in terms of a relationship with Jesus Christ.

Have you ever considered what most disturbed Jesus during His time on Earth? It was not pornography, violence, racism, abortion, political corruption, the misuse of church funds, or the other issues that concern us today. Jesus reserved His strongest attacks to condemn sin and to fight what perhaps angered him the most: pious legalism. Both of these can cause spiritual problems.

Throughout the Church’s history, Christians have struggled with three major problems that seem more than any others to undermine or stifle spiritual growth: greed and the abuse of money, lust and the abuse of sex, and pride and the abuse of power.

Spiritual revivals throughout history, and the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience were a direct response to the misuse and abuse of money, sex, and power.

Important as these issues are, however, the biblical meaning of sin involves something more. Sin is any action or attitude that violates or fails to conform to the will of God. We sin by what we think, by what we do or fail to do, and by what we are. Sin is a powerful, pervasive, and penetrating force that can master and enslave us, especially when we fail to repent or admit and confess our faults. Sin is the major cause of spiritual problems, stagnation, and loss of vitality.

When Jesus walked the Earth, the Pharisees were religious purists who believed that spiritual maturity came as a result of observing rules. This view has been common in religious circles for centuries, and is held today by many fundamentalists, evangelicals, Catholics, Protestants, liberals, and others. Often seen in people who sincerely want to please God and maintain a good testimony, this legalistic mentality maintains that there are rules and regulations to determine what a good Christian does not do (drink, attend the theater, watch R-rated movies, dress in certain ways, or shop on Sabbath), and what the good Christian does do (read the Bible daily, witness to someone every week, or attend a specified number of religious services). The psalmist, prophets, Jesus, and Paul all condemned legalistic attitudes (see Psalm 50:8-15; Isaiah 1:11-17; Hosea 6:6; Matthew 23:23-24; Colossians 2:23; Galatians 3:2; 5:1). These can lead to sinful pride, and they contradict the very heart of the biblical message. The theme of the Bible is redemption, and we are saved through faith plus nothing.

What about spiritual growth? Does this come from following rules? Jesus’ condemnation of the Pharisees clearly indicates that the answer is no. True spirituality comes when we walk humbly before God with an attitude of thanksgiving and praise, a deep determination to be obedient, an awareness of our tendencies to sin, and acknowledgement of our need for His continued grace and mercy.

The power and even the desire for holy living must come from God, and not from our determination to follow manmade rules.
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When it comes to working in healthcare, anything can happen at a moment’s notice, and employees must be ready to act. It is within those crucial seconds that the healthcare provider must make the right choices on how to save a patient’s life or risk tragedy.

In most cases, it takes emergency situations or real-life experiences to teach providers how to react during unplanned circumstances. Without adequate practice, healthcare professionals have a higher chance of making mistakes and ultimately putting patients at risk. That is where simulation comes in. Simulation allows healthcare providers and students the ability to perform procedures and observe their impact without compromising the health and safety of human patients.

“Simulation does not have to be perfect. No matter what takes place, students are going to learn, and it allows them to make mistakes, process them — and luckily simulators have a restart button, unlike patients,” explained Lynne Tier, assistant director of simulation at Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) in Orlando, Florida.

Simulators mimic real-life patients and can breathe, blink, sweat, and even code on the table. They provide an unprecedented degree of realism to healthcare students and professionals. Each simulator can be programmed with alterations in the different physiological systems such as respiratory, cardiovascular, or neurological, and can react to treatment similarly to how a human being would in the clinical setting.

Some simulators are called “task trainers,” meaning that they serve a single purpose, like an arm used for IVs or intubation heads to practice inserting breathing tubes. These allow students to perfect commonly done skills before actually performing them on a patient.

ADU understood the importance of simulation at its inception in 1992, and is now equipped with a multi-purpose simulation lab with four hospital rooms, a dedicated obstetric simulation room, program-specific simulation labs, and a simulated operating room, in which all have the best equipment currently available on the market.

ADU designed each simulation area to reflect its affiliated hospital, Florida Hospital, with the same look and equipment used, in order to familiarize students with the clinical environment.

“I always believed in the use of simulation to train our students and supported the growth of our program here at ADU,” said David Greenlaw, D.Min., president of ADU. “Our labs allow students to acquire the full range of skills needed to work in healthcare while learning in a safe, controlled environment.”

Currently, six programs at Adventist University imbed simulation in their course curricula: nursing, occupational therapy, radiography, sonography, nurse anesthesia, and physician assistant. In each pro-

Sonography students use an ultrasound simulator to learn how to perform fetal monitoring scans.
gram, the faculty design simulation for their classes based on course objectives and what is needed in the clinical arena.

“For example, since respiratory illness is the #1 reason for children to be admitted to hospitals in North America, we use a respiratory condition for our pediatric simulation involving our infant simulator,” stated Tier.

ADU’s Nursing Department utilizes the simulation labs throughout the entire program. Students have the unique ability to get hands-on experience in their first term, and spend more than 50 hours in the labs over six trimesters.

“Simulation ensures that nursing students have the opportunity to address nursing interventions needed for treating patient illnesses, conditions, and situations that are not always available to them during scheduled clinical time, yet in a safe environment that promotes learning,” explained Jan Preston, Ph.D., MSN, RN, chair of ADU’s Nursing Department.

One of the most important simulation training sessions created for nursing students is working in a disaster situation. During this experience, all four hospital rooms in ADU’s simulation lab are used simultaneously under the pretense that a tornado has just hit the community. Students must first triage an infant, child, and two adults in the emergency room, all sustaining serious injuries from the tornado.

“This simulation allows our students to experience a state of puzzlement, and gives them the opportunity to react during critical situations. It gives them a chance to boost their confidence, so that when they are facing issues like this in a real-life situation, they will be better prepared,” said Preston.

Tia Hughes, DrOT, MBA, OTR/L, chair of ADU’s Occupational Therapy (OT) Department, agrees that the use of simulation not only helps with confidence, but also with patient safety. “Simulation allows for a nice bridge from classroom scenarios to real-world experience with clients. We integrate it into our curriculum to simulate acute care scenarios for OT students,” stated Hughes.

When it comes to X-rays, ADU’s radiography students cannot practice routinely on human patients, due to the risk of radiation exposure. Instead, simulated clinical procedures are designed to recreate a real-life diagnostic examination in which no X-ray exposure is made. These simulators demonstrate radiographic, cross-sectional, and surface anatomy from facial bones to limbs, and students can practice their positioning techniques in a classroom rather than in a hospital setting.

ADU’s Sonography Department further compliments the simulation labs with its own ultrasound machines and phantoms, where students practice scanning and standard protocols to the point where they feel comfortable before starting clinicals.

“Our students spend a minimum of two hours a week in lab using simulators to not only enhance their scanning skills, but also the speed at which they can accurately scan an individual,” explained Charlotte Henningsen, chair of the Diagnostic Medical Sonography Department at ADU.

The team has various simulators including OB phantoms, tissue phantoms, abdominal simulators, and more. Among the things students learn is how to check for fluid around the heart, aneurysms, tumors, foreign objects in tissue like splinters, and fetal monitoring for gestational age.

One of ADU’s most impressive labs on campus is the simulated operating room. This setting mirrors what would be seen in a top-rated hospital’s surgical suite. It is here that ADU’s nurse anesthesia students spend a great deal of their time practicing the administration of anesthesia on the most sophisticated simulators available.

The room itself is quite impressive, with a simulator on an operating bed with working hospital equipment. Students are immersed in the sounds, sights, and real-life scenarios of an operating room environment.

Nurse anesthesia students also use task trainers to practice various skills and procedures such as intubation, induction sequencing, spinals, epidurals, central lines, and peripheral nerve blocks.

The physician assistant students at Adventist University incorporate the simulation labs into their program to practice diagnosing patients, what supplies and equipment need to be used, and what medical team members need to bring in to further assist patients.
“One of the scenarios we set up for ADU students was a session where a patient was being treated in a hospital room when his friend, sitting in a chair, suddenly collapsed. Our students quickly had to determine how to care for two patients at once, call for help, provide the right care, and act without a moment’s notice,” described Lynne Tier.

There are a number of things that set Adventist University of Health Sciences apart from other institutions using simulation. There is a major initiative to increase the practice of interdisciplinary simulation at the University. This is where two or more departments work together on one simulation, as they would on a real patient.

“We don’t give care in a silo. We do cross disciplinary care of the patient. ADU’s Simulation Planning and Steering Committee developed interdisciplinary simulation for students to better understand each others responsibilities while also learning how to effectively communicate, so that patient outcomes improve,” explained Tier.

Another difference is that simulation at ADU is not just about clinical skills, but is family-centered, used to teach students how to care for patients as a whole person — mind, body, and spirit.

“Since our community is culturally diverse, we use simulation to educate our students on how to respond to different situations. You never know what you could be faced with while on the job, whether it is family dynamics, diversity and ethnicity issues, or how to assign patients from different religions. Our students learn in the classroom before interacting with a human,” said David Greenlaw, D.Min.

Lastly, Adventist University works with Florida Hospital and its physicians in the simulated patient care areas to fine tune what is already being done within the clinical environment.

Rene Ruiz-Nieves, M.D., a neonatologist at Florida Hospital, worked with neonatal nurse practitioners on resuscitation using ADU’s high-fidelity newborn simulator.

Recently, ADU welcomed Kelly Bonus, Florida Hospital cardiovascular occupational therapist, who demonstrated the care that would be provided by an OT for a post-operative cardiac patient in the progressive and intensive care units. She accomplished this lesson by using an actor in the role of the patient, actual and simulated medical equipment, and technology showing the patient’s monitor readings.

“Simulation labs are a necessary training tool for students and medical professionals. It gives them ear-
lier exposure and education on the equipment used in medical facilities, teaches them why specific equipment is used, and provides hands on experience,” said Kelly Bonus.

D. Ashley Hill, M.D., chair of Florida Hospital’s Academic Obstetrics and Gynecology Department, brought his team for multi-professional obstetrics simulation training (M.O.S.T.) where he led a presentation on how to perform the specific maneuvers to treat shoulder dystocia in infants.

The hour-and-a-half-long simulation included a lecture followed by practice of various maneuvers to deliver a baby that is “stuck” and will not deliver without help. In most cases, the person doing the delivery has between four and 10 minutes before the baby starts to suffer from low oxygen levels, which can result in brain damage, injury to the arms and/or shoulders, or death.

“There is no way to practice these maneuvers without medical simulation. Dystocia only occurs in about one in 100 deliveries, and most physicians do not see enough of these to become proficient at doing the maneuvers. I believe that by using simulation, we will see a reduction in injured newborns and help physicians deliver healthy babies,” stated Hill.

By teaming up with community hospitals and physicians, Adventist University of Health Sciences’ simulation labs are helping to increase the overall care of patients across central Florida.

Simulation is the teaching tool of the future, and ADU has been offering it to students for nearly 25 years. The University saw the importance of training students before they worked on real patients, and prepared them for situations that will likely come their way. These high-fidelity simulators may not replace real-world experience, but they add to it by preparing students for the clinical arena.

“Our philosophy at ADU is that any simulation done is better than none, and we truly believe in the benefits of learning and improving skills using this technology,” said Lynne Tier. Since September 2014, more than 200 hours have been spent in Adventist University of Health Sciences’ simulation center. It is the safe way to make mistakes, take chances, and experience emergency situations as a healthcare provider without compromising patient safety and with the comfort of having a restart button.

“We will always encourage our students to make their mistakes now, so they don’t make them later when lives are at risk,” said Greenlaw. “That is the beauty of simulation.”

Meghan Brescher is communications manager-marketing and public relations at Adventist University of Health Sciences in Orlando, Florida.
Florida Institute of Evangelism for Laypeople (FIEL) has completed the first half of its 2015 session with almost 70 percent of the students passing the requirements. FIEL’s purpose is to prepare laity in the serious work of evangelism. The Institute has grown from an initial enrollment of 275 students in 2014 to 616 in 2015.

It is rewarding to see the enthusiasm of FIEL students. Some students travel more than two hours to attend area classes. Florida Conference leaders and ministers teach the classes once a quarter. Online tests covering selected books support classroom presentations about Jesus’ methods of evangelism and hermeneutics. Students also participate in a church campaign as a requirement of practical evangelism.

Adriana Rodriguez is a FIEL student who attends the small Re­nacer congregation, which meets in the library of Winter Park Memorial Hospital (part of the Florida Hospital network). From a pastor’s sermon, she prepared the assigned message, including an appeal for baptism. Preaching on this subject was a challenge for Rodriguez because she was not yet baptized. She organized everything with the corresponding PowerPoint presentation, and, when she concluded the message, a baptism appeal appeared on the screen. The message moved Rodriguez to tears. Her audience thought she was just caught up in the moment. To the audience’s amazement, Rodriguez confessed her confusion when assigned the sermon. “I was not ready to preach it. I did not feel ready for baptism. Yesterday, I decided to delete the appeal and conclude without a call for baptism. Yet, tonight, we have just seen on the screen what I thought I had wiped out. I see this as a sign God wants me, and I will not continue to fight against the Lord’s call for baptism.

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FIEL student Adriana Rodriguez was assigned to preach on the subject of baptism, although she was never baptized. The appeal process of the sermon spoke to her heart, and she chose to give herself to the Savior. Her family joined her in baptism: Jimmy (left), Adriana, and twin daughters Valentina and Luisa.

FIEL class members take part in evangelism classes taught by Florida Conference leaders and ministers. There are 616 students attending classes at six locations throughout Florida.

Now, before you, I choose to give myself to Jesus through baptism.”

In reality, Rodriguez’s memory stick with the presentation was missing. As a computer systems engineer, she resorted to something that was easy for her to do — she searched the Internet for her files and retrieved the presentation. She unknowingly retrieved the original presentation that contained the baptism appeal slide. She now praises God for her mistake, and believes He is able to act on our behalf even when we are wrong.

Rodriguez’s twin daughters, Luisa and Valentina, wanted to join her in baptism. They asked Rolando de los Ríos, FIEL director and Florida Conference Hispanic evangelist, to officiate the baptismal ceremony on January 17, 2015. As Rodriguez and her daughters entered the baptistry, it was a bittersweet moment. Her husband, Jimmy, who had been an Adventist in the past, had not joined them in the baptism decision.

Unknown to his family, Jimmy had spoken before with the pastor about his desire for baptism. So, it was with joy he entered the baptismal waters, embraced his family, and joined them in baptism. Adriana and Jimmy Rodriguez continue as active FIEL students preparing to be evangelists. Their goal is to let everyone they come in contact with know about Jesus.

FIEL students are preparing to preach and serve as Bible teachers at the October 2015 Caravan of Victory Campaign. Each student’s mind is set on winning souls for Christ. Those who concern themselves with the things of the Kingdom have no time to lose. Christ is coming soon! Every FIEL student will proclaim that message until they see Him coming in glory. ♦
When Clay Grice passed away July 8, 2015, in Montgomery, Alabama, he left behind a legacy of service. One of his favorite Bible passages was Romans 10:14, 15, which says, “How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can they preach unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News!’”

For more than 45 years Clay’s mission was seeking those who had not heard. His feet brought the “Good News” to many as he walked the streets, knocked on doors, and shared Adventist Christian literature with unknown numbers of people. His service included working as a literature evangelist (LE), a trainer of other LEs, and a pastor.

On Sabbath afternoon, July 18, the Montgomery First Church filled quickly as family, friends, and those he had worked with and witnessed to gathered for his memorial service. One person commented, “I remember Clay with a smile. He is the one who sold us our Bible Story Books.” Several LE leaders remembered him as one who encouraged and worked with them. Members of the churches where he was a pastor remembered him as one of the best pastors they’d had. One said, “When my mother died, Pastor Grice was there visiting and praying for us. I’ll always remember how much he cared.”

Clay began his work in Montgomery as a student LE, and then he attended Southern Adventist University. While there, he felt God calling him to be a full-time LE. He returned home to begin his work, and to continue his courtship of Rebecca (Becky) Galloway, whom he had met during his summer break as a student. They were married June 3, 1962. Shortly afterward they moved to Gadsden, Alabama, where Clay continued working as a LE. Often, before their sons were born, Becky went with him as he called on people. He and Becky shared many wonderful experiences as they saw how God was leading.

While attending a yearend LE convention in 1965, Clay made a commitment to include a Great Controversy with every set of books. God honored his commitment, and at the end of 1966 he was recognized for having the most LE sales in the Southern Union.

In 1967 he began serving as a district director of publishing in what was then the Alabama/Mississippi Conference. Later, he served in the same position in the Missouri and Colorado conferences.

In 1977 he became the publishing director of the Iowa Conference, and then worked in the same position in the Pennsylvania Conference for seven years. In 1985 he returned home to Gulf States, where he served as publishing director for 15 years before accepting an invitation to be a pastor in the Clanton, Selma, and Sylacauga, Alabama, district. He retired in 2005, but continued serving as a literature evangelist and a pastor when needed.

Clay was born November 7, 1942, in Panama City, Florida. He is survived by his wife of 53 years, Rebecca; two sons and daughters-in-law, Stephen Clay and Tami Grice of Panama City, and Jonathan Mark and Sonya Grice of Alabaster, Alabama; two granddaughters, Kirsten and Kelsey Grice; two grandsons, Dillon and Jacob Grice; and one sister, Betty Strength. He was preceded in death by his father and mother, Rutan and Ellen Grice; his brother, Billy; and two sisters, Francis Snell and Charlotte Yawn. Paul.
The goal: Travel to San Antonio, Texas, with 50 children ages four to 14, to sing before a full arena at the 60th General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists Session. Kids in Tune, the children’s choir at Madison Campus Church in Madison, Tennessee, would be the first musical group to represent the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference at a General Conference Session.

The task required a year of cooperation between choir directors, children, parents, church, and Conference. Funds were raised. Logistics were arranged. The children grew more excited as the date neared for their very first choir trip.

The performance was scheduled for the opening Sabbath evening meeting. In the back hallways of the enormous complex, the children met choirs and program participants from Papua New Guinea, Kenya, Brazil, and many other places. What an experience for the children to see first-hand that people from many countries, speaking many different languages, who looked different from themselves, serve and love the same God, and share their beliefs.

One parent shared, “This world is full of the ‘me first’ mentality. It’s about ‘What’s in it for me?’ This experience provided us with an opportunity to put things in the proper spiritual perspective for our children — that we are here to serve others. If our Lord and Savior came to show us the Father by serving and uplifting others, what possible reason do we have to keep from singing His praises and following His example?”

At last, the time to perform came. The children looked beautiful, acted beautifully, and sang their hearts out for Jesus. As they ended the medley with “How Great is Our God,” they and the thousands of people present at the Alamodome shared in pure, passionate worship as part of one great World Church. At that moment, Heaven seemed a little closer.

Gissela Kroll is the Madison Campus Church children’s choir director.
Seth Shaffer always considered his work with agriculture a kind of ministry, but he didn’t discover just how right he was until a passing chef caught a glimpse of his business card. “Adventist?” the chef asked, stopping his work to face Shaffer. “Isn’t eating healthy a big part of who you guys are?”

Shaffer was stunned. He had been delivering five pounds of garlic to Easy Bistro, a restaurant in Chattanooga, when the question was posed. Shaffer hadn’t said anything about Adventists or the health message. “Yes!” Shaffer said. “That’s a large part of what we do and a large part of our religion.”

The chef responded with a grin. “That’s why y’all are so healthy.”

Wow, Shaffer thought to himself, a smile growing on his face. He might not have felt comfortable going door to door or conducting Bible studies, but sharing his beliefs by starting conversations about farming and agriculture was easy for this 2013 Southern graduate who recently completed a master’s degree in sustainable food systems. With just fresh produce and a business card, he could witness in a completely different light.

That was one of the many gifts Thatcher Farm has delivered to him, the University, and the Chattanooga community.

Seed is Planted

Thatcher Farm, Southern’s seasonal row-crop garden, began in 2012 to help facilitate the “Sustainability Studies” curriculum, a new class within the History and Political Studies Department. The course, part of the global policy and service studies (GPS) program, teaches students how to produce healthy food without harming the environment, allowing future generations to do the same.

While this agricultural technique has several benefits for daily life, the goal is that these students take what they’ve learned and teach it to others, especially on mission trips to third-world countries, which often suffer the most from poor farming practices.

Knowing that it was pointless to instruct students on sustainable farming methods without any actual hands-on experience, the department began using a small plot of land behind a row of campus apartments.

The farm later expanded to include a high tunnel greenhouse, extending the growing season to include cold weather.

Though only a quarter of an acre in size, Thatcher Farm produces a large variety of seasonal crops. In the spring, the land is usually colored with lettuce, kale, arugula, Swiss chard, garlic, tomatoes, peppers, squash, eggplants, cabbage, beets, snap peas, and strawberries. In the fall, radishes, turnips, and carrots are added to that list.

Since taking over the farm, Shaffer has found several outlets for the fruits of his labor. Every week, he sells the produce to a number of local businesses, including some vegan, vegetarian, and locavore restaurants in the trendiest parts of Chattanooga. Shaffer also takes produce to the fresh market every Sunday, along with the harvest from his family’s own 25-acre organic farm. Though most of the food from Thatcher Farm is sold to the community, some of it is circulated on campus, as well; when school is in session, a sizable amount of produce is sold to Southern’s cafeteria.
Many Hands, Light Work

There is plenty of work to do on the small farm. Seedlings need to be planted. Mulch needs to be moved. Weeds need to be pulled. Produce needs to be cleaned. It’s a lot for one man to handle when the class is not in session. Shaffer, periodicals manager for McKee Library on campus, visits the farm daily and volunteers several hours a week investing in its success. But luckily, Shaffer does not have to do it alone. Cassie Matchim, senior GPS major, is one of the two students who started working at Thatcher Farm after taking the sustainability studies class in the fall.

“I’ve found it to be a really good stress reliever,” Matchim said. “Working with my hands and actually seeing the fruits of my labor is rewarding.”

Not long after Matchim and her classmate started tending the farm, two Collegedale Academy students and two community volunteers joined the farm’s support team.

Although Thatcher Farm generates some small amount of revenue, Shaffer said its primary purpose remains education. While the students from the sustainability studies course can certainly attest to this, they aren’t the only ones who have gathered lessons from the farm.

As part of a world geography class, students paired into groups and devised a lesson plan dealing with agriculture. After becoming acquainted with Thatcher Farm themselves, the students took a group of local homeschoolers on a tour and taught them about water, sunlight, soil, and seeds, making sure to highlight relevant spiritual parallels along the way; the connections between a farmer’s work in the soil and a Christian’s work on Earth are many.

“You plant the seeds and that tiny little speck keeps growing,” Shaffer said. “And one day that produce on the vine is ready to harvest. At that point you pick it and say, ‘I had a part in growing this thing that wasn’t here before.’ It’s an amazing feeling!”

Summer produce waits for health-conscious shoppers at the Chattanooga Fresh Market, where Shaffer collects approximately $150 each Sunday that he makes this short trip downtown to sell goods from the campus’ farm.

Napa cabbage, such as this enormous example Shaffer and his team grew, has caught the attention of many local chefs who use it for making kimchi, a traditional Korean dish.
Harry Anderson was already a famous illustrator when he became a Seventh-day Adventist in 1944, and he blessed the Church by doing around 300 paintings for Adventist publications. Next year, 2016, will be the 20th anniversary of his passing — but his art lives on!

In 1945, Harry did his most famous painting of Jesus, called “What Happened to Your Hand?” which was the very first painting that showed Jesus in a modern-day setting. Initially consid-
ered too controversial, the editor decided to publish it when his own daughter looked at it and said, “I wish I could sit on Jesus’ lap.” During the past 70 years, that painting has been a blessing to millions of people, both Seventh-day Adventists and those who are not Seventh-day Adventists.

Lots of Harry’s friends and neighbors posed for him and appeared in his paintings, including his daughter, Kristin, as this 1956 schoolgirl.

After Harry joined the Church, he continued doing commercial art jobs for magazines like *Ladies’ Home Journal*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Good Housekeeping*, and various advertisers — but not alcohol or cigarette ads. Many of these great paintings have never been seen since they were published, but I have spent the past 30 years tracking them down.

In the 1970s, Harry did several classic car paintings for Exxon’s car calendars that were widely appreciated, and he did about 20 paintings for the Mormon Church. Harry insisted that he would only do biblical scenes, no Mormon-specific doctrine, and millions of Mormons have seen and loved his art.

Harry had a stroke in the early 1980s, and he and his family prayed that the Lord would either take him or heal him. I was very glad that the Lord healed Harry Anderson, so he was still alive in June of 1986 when I could visit him and personally meet this very humble and talented man!

Harry passed on his art mantle to the “younger” artists like Nathan Greene and Lars Justinen, both of whom have done much wonderful art for the Church’s books and publications.

To see a comprehensive overview of Harry Anderson’s artworks, visit www.HarryAndersonArt.com.
ADU Becomes the First U.S. Healthcare University to Offer Program in Conductive Education

New program aims to address the growing need for conductors in Florida and across the nation

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) has announced a new bachelor of science program in conductive education (CE), as well as a certificate program in CE for students currently holding bachelor degrees. The program will be the only one offered at a healthcare university, and the only one available in the South.

Courses are planned to start during the fall 2015 trimester. The bachelor of science in conductive education (BSCE) is a four-year program specifically designed for students to gain the skills needed to become a conductor immediately following graduation. Students will receive 1,000 hours of direct client care, and will serve two full terms as a student teacher in The Conductive Education Center of Orlando (CECO).

The certificate program is the only one available in the United States, and can be completed in just five trimesters. Graduates will have the opportunity to become a conductor or work in K-12 education with the special needs population.

“ADU has had a relationship with CECO for a number of years. In Orlando and across the nation, there are a number of children and adults with motor disorders who need specialized education to reach their full potential, and it is inspiring to educate students on how to improve the lives of these individuals by using conductive education,” explains Tia Hughes, chair of the ADU Occupational Therapy Department.

ADU’s CE program has been developed to help fill the need for conductors across the nation and worldwide. The main purpose of conductive education is to maximize the independence of a person with motor disabilities in every way possible — physically, cognitively, and socially.

“Conductive education is a growing field, but there is a need for conductors to lead the programs; without conductors, centers cannot open and patients are left without the care they specifically need,” states Rosene Johnson, executive director of CECO. “ADU’s new CE program will increase that number, and provide a solution for parents of children with special needs here in central Florida and around the world. The program will develop conductors that offer innovative approaches to encourage their child’s success.”

ADU understands the importance of training conductors in an allied health department, and will be the only healthcare institution currently providing a degree in conductive education in the United States.

“It is exciting to be on the ground floor. The concept of conductive education is new to some despite its popularity in Europe, and there is a demand for qualified conductors to serve children with motor disorders,” adds Hughes. “ADU has the ability to develop our own experts that will help expand current centers and future establishments. This means that more children and adults with these conditions will have opportunities that did not exist before.”

The bachelor of science in conductive education and the certificate program have the ability to attract students from across the nation who have a passion for bettering the lives of children with special needs.

—BY MEGHAN BRESCHER
Southern Staff and Student Comfort Mourners After Chattanooga Shooting

After an attack on two military sites in Chattanooga took the lives of five service members on July 16, 2015, representatives from Southern joined hundreds of mourners at a nearby memorial to pay their respects to the fallen heroes — and to help their fellow community members heal.

Liane de Souza, Ph.D., counseling services coordinator, and Reneze Trim, clinical mental health counseling graduate student, are part of Chattanooga’s Critical Incident Stress Management team, a group that assists first responders and civilians in dealing with trauma. Members from the organization spoke with people at the Lee Highway memorial, located 12 miles from campus, to help them grieve and begin down the path to recovery.

“We tried not to be intrusive,” de Souza said. “We simply wanted to start a conversation and ask how they are doing. When you’re faced with a crisis, the quicker you talk about it, the better you can process it.”

Trim had been interning with Sam Bernard, Ph.D., lead clinician for the Preparation Assessment and Response Foundation, a Chattanooga-based firm specializing in Disaster Psychology and Crisis Response. He sang her praises — going so far as to call Trim his “right hand woman” — and was grateful she had learned the skills necessary for helping this community heal.

“Crisis never makes an appointment, so being prepared is critical,” Trim said. “You never know when it’s going to be your community, when it’s going to be close to home.”

De Souza and Trim have been invited to work with a host of organizations to provide crisis intervention for those directly affected by the attack. The women, along with five other Southern students, have since attended debriefings that will prepare them to even better address similar situations going forward.

“When one suffers, all of us do,” de Souza said. “I want to be like Jesus; I want to be His hands, His feet, His mouth — and part of that is just being there for people who need a word of comfort.”

—BY MYRON MADDEN

Finance Majors Accepted into Leadership Program with Adventist Health System

Nine Southern students were among the 33 accepted into the highly selective 2015 Leadership Development Program at Adventist Health System (AHS). These financial management majors spent the summer gaining hands-on experience during internships at the organization’s 44 hospital campuses.

“This program serves as a vehicle to launch them into a health care career,” said Norman Miles, AHS’s director of the Leadership Development Program, in a report released by the organization. “It’s an awesome opportunity for interns to develop a deeper understanding of the nuances within the industry and hone their skill sets.”

AHS reviewed more than 100 applications, looking for exceptional academic performance, community service involvement, and leadership potential. This year, more students were accepted into the Leadership Development Program from Southern than from any other school, a compliment to the University given the program’s competitive selection process.

“It says that AHS has great confidence in our curriculum and the quality of students we are producing,” said Lisa Kuhlman, School of Business and Management graduate studies coordinator. “This is essentially one of their favorite places to interview because of the quality of students coming out of our program.”

During the 12-week internship, students had the opportunity to sit in on meetings with administrators to learn more about how hospitals are managed. Various other projects, such as reconciling accounts and auditing petty cash funds, also provided students with a wealth of practical experience. Several Southern students who completed the leadership program in previous years have gone on to work for AHS, a fact not lost on those who participated this summer.

“One of the most important things I’ve learned is that you can never stop learning,” said Michael Santos, senior financial management major.

—BY MYRON MADDEN
Myrtle Beach Church Installs New Digital Sign

Any visitor to the Myrtle Beach, S.C., Church is bound to notice the new digital sign standing proudly on the front lawn. It replaced the old sign in late April of this year, but, according to Tom Hughes, pastor, this upgrade was a long time coming. “They had already raised about $16,000 by the time I got here,” he explained. “People were thinking ‘Are we ever going to get this sign?’ I said okay, let’s do this.”

Hughes went to the county office and explained that the church wanted a digital sign in order to advertise more clearly to the community. The request was approved with a limit of 40 square feet. The more he thought about it, though, the more Hughes was sure that they needed a larger sign. “I realized how far off the road we were going to be,” he said. “40 square feet more than 100 feet from the center of the road isn’t going to work.”

Lord would send him to the right person, Hughes returned to the county office and spoke to a member of the zoning committee. He provided Hughes with all the paperwork that a church across the street had submitted, and walked him through the application process.

At City Hall, Hughes was one of many people petitioning the variance committee. When he got up to speak, he had a set number of minutes to explain what he wanted and why. The chairman of the committee was especially skeptical about the need for such a large sign. Hughes’ response was straight and to the point. “It doesn’t make sense to waste God’s money on something that isn’t what we need,” he said. “Not only do we need a bigger sign, but you have authorized the church across the street to have one. A precedent has been set.”

When the seven committee members voted on the issue, it was tied at three yes and three no at first. It seemed like an eternity before the last man cast his vote. As Hughes prayed for the Lord to touch that man’s heart, the tie-breaking vote came in as a yes.

Once they had official permission to go forward with the project, the Myrtle Beach Church partnered with the Southern Union and the Robson Sign Company, which Hughes had worked with in a previous district. There was still the issue of cost, however. Including installation fees, the sign came to almost $35,000, more than twice what the church had already raised. Hughes promoted the project to his members, but they weren’t making much headway until someone approached him and offered to match donations up to $8,000.

With the Lord’s blessing all the money came in, and the sign went up just in time to advertise the Southern Union Field School in May of this year. “It’s been a really good experience,” Hughes said. “[The sign] is a really great evangelistic and advertisement tool.”

The Myrtle Beach congregation can now say with conviction that humanly speaking, it was impossible, but all things are possible with God.

— BY AIMEE GARVER
Seeds of God’s Love Grow Fruit in Monroe

Members of the Monroe, N.C., Church rejoiced Sabbath morning, June 20, 2015, as six people surrendered their lives to the Lord through baptism. The joyous occasion came after just one week of meetings presented by Steve Vail, Carolina Conference evangelist. Tom Mills, Monroe church pastor, explained that while Vail normally preaches an eight-week series, he condensed everything into nine nights.

Those who chose to be baptized at the end of the meetings varied in age, background, and ethnicity, but they all had one thing in common — their love for Jesus. Bradley dela Paz and Lindsey Smith, both 12 years old, had been thinking of baptism for some time before the meetings. Among the other baptismal candidates were Christin Williford and Eveling Hernandez. Christin’s husband has been a member of Monroe, and she often attended with him. Following this series of meetings, she finally responded to the Holy Spirit’s urging. Eveling was a graduate of an Adventist college in Central America before immigrating to the United States. She attended Monroe off and on before she, too, answered the Holy Spirit’s call to be baptized.

The Sabbath service boasted two rebaptisms as well. Ashley and Eddie Lucas were former members of the Monroe congregation, but had moved away and drifted out of the church and their marriage. They attended Vail’s evangelistic series, and became impressed to rededicate themselves to the Lord and to each other.

God is working in a mighty way in His last-day Church. No one knows when a seed that they have planted will sprout.

—BY AIMEE GARVER

Nosoca Pines Ranch Hosts Summer Camp

“Summer camp this year has been tremendous,” says Rick Faber, summer camp director at Nosoca Pines Ranch. “We’ve had wonderful staff taking care of the kids and ministering to them.”

The theme for camp this year was “Heading for Home.” Encompassing the secular and spiritual meanings of the word “home,” the theme was carried out through activities like baseball and softball, but also lent itself to the desire as Christians to be head of their heavenly home.

“Camp gives the kids a vision of how Christian-ity can work in their life as they see our staff making decisions to follow Christ,” Faber continued. “Although baptisms don’t actually happen during summer camp, the kids are asked to make decisions or reaffirm their choice to follow Christ. The camp then puts them into contact with a pastor or church near their home where that decision can be carried out through baptism.”

“Our goal as staff is to show Christ to the kids, to build relationships with them so we can share how that same decision to fol-low Christ has worked out for us.”

— BY ESTHER SMITH
The FreeD.O.M. Clinic, operated by United Hands, Inc., opened in Ocala, Fla., for five days, July 20-24, 2015. The Clinic’s mission is to provide free medical, optical, and dental care for the indigent, homeless, and uninsured.

Monte Robison, pastor of Florida Conference's Ocala Church, and Curtis Crider, pastor of Southeastern Conference's Shiloh Church, realized the FreeD.O.M. Clinic would be an opportunity to do as Christ did in His outreach.

These churches were among other Adventist congregations that volunteered:

**Florida Conference**
- Belleview
- Dunnellon
- Marion Oaks
- Ocala
- Silver Springs Shores

**Southeastern Conference**
- Citra
- Hernando
- Shiloh

These churches formed a nucleus of support that included community volunteers from various faith groups. By the grace of God, a miracle opened the doors of a former 30,000-square-foot entertainment complex. A 12,000-square-foot canopy was also made available without cost.

Dental professionals cleaned and extracted teeth, performed root canals, and installed crowns. Audiologists tested hearing. Eye specialists tested vision and wrote prescriptions that each patient used to choose frames and order glasses, which were available for pick up a few weeks later at one of the area Adventist churches.

Healthcare professionals provided general medical care, school physicals, vaccinations, and dietary/nutrition counseling. Haircuts, massages, and registration for future stop-smoking and cooking classes were available.

At the last stop, 10 chaplains offered prayers and gave a free Bible to anyone interested. “I was a chaplain this week and loved it. I was so blessed,” testifies Dot Carey from Belleview Church. “The people were so grateful for provided services.”

“The Lord blessed mightily with many miracles and provisions,” says Ocala Church member Lori Doperalski. “The Holy Spirit moved on the hearts of volunteers and patients alike.” Doperalski was the schedule coordinator for the 800 volunteers.

“My expectations were overwhelmingly exceeded in clients served, community support, and volunteer dedication.” said John Doperalski who provided logistics for paths to each service.

Ann Burnett, director of the FreeD.O.M. Clinic, thanked the volunteers for helping 2,470 patients.

—BY HERB PRITCHARD
Maranatha Honors Woodward for 50 Years of Sabbath School Leadership

Maranatha Fellowship Church in Greenville, S.C., honored retiring Sabbath School superintendent, Lillian Woodward, for her 50 years of service on October 4, 2014. Woodward has been a fixture in the Sabbath School Department since being baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Pine Forge, Penn., by Alfred Jones, pastor, in 1963. Her baptism resulted from Bible studies led by the late Ernest Howard Sr.

Woodward’s proclivity for Sabbath School was immediately recognized. Since giving her heart to the Lord, she has given her time to Sabbath School. The Mount Sinai Church in Trenton, N.J., enlisted her as an assistant Sabbath School superintendent in 1964. Woodward was joined in the celebration by her mother, Pauline Oliver; sister, Willie Mae McClure; son, William Walton Jr. and his family; and lifelong friend, Earlene Greene. “They all traveled from Mt. Sinai Church in Trenton,” Woodward says. “The Sabbath School Department has been my heart. I have enjoyed working for the Lord since joining the Church in Trenton. Everywhere I have lived, I have volunteered my time to Sabbath School. I have served as superintendent in several places from Huntsville, Ala., to Anderson and Greenville, S.C.”

Woodward announced her retirement early this year. Golden anniversaries are truly rare events. It is a blessing when anyone celebrates one. For anyone to remain in one position for 50 years is truly a rare occasion. During her tenure as Sabbath School superintendent, Woodward was a part of almost every new innovation. However, she is most closely associated with World Sabbath School. Woodward was introduced to World Sabbath School, she spent years perfecting this new Sabbath School revolution. She became so identified with World Sabbath School that other churches invited her to teach them how to run a World Sabbath School program.

During the last few years, Woodward emphasized the Sabbath School investment program, and her efforts have proven to be very profitable. During the past three years, the Sabbath School Department raised more than $3,000 annually to build churches in Africa, Asia, and Latin America through Maranatha Ministries. In honor of Woodward’s leadership, this year the church dedicated its latest church to Lillian and Roosevelt Woodward. The dedication marker reads, “Lillian and Roosevelt Woodward: for 50 years of service to the Sabbath School Department of the SDA Church Maranatha Fellowship SDA Church, Greenville, SC 2014.”

As the Sabbath School superintendent, at numerous churches in different cities, Woodward has served under a number of ministers. Her current pastor, Carl Nesmith, was very excited to bring back some of her former pastors to help the church celebrate her years of service. The October 4, celebration was headlined by Vanard J. Mendenhall, former South Atlantic Conference president. Several other former pastors spoke glowingly of Woodward’s work in the Sabbath School Department. Among those were John S. Nixon II, D.Min., Lawrence Hamilton, Phillip M. Florence, and Richard Dawkins, first elder, who presented Woodward with a commemorative plaque.

Just imagine what the Church would be like if every member took a ministry as seriously as Lillian Woodward took Sabbath School! May the Lord richly bless her and her family as she transitions into a well-deserved retirement.

—BY ABEL A. BARTLEY, COMMUNICATION SECRETARY
Decatur ABC Store Gets Makeover

In the early spring of 2015, the Adventist Book Center (ABC) board explored options for ensuring growth for the future of the Decatur ABC at 4003 Memorial Drive, Decatur, Ga. They felt that remodeling the 3,300-square-foot facility and creating a new footprint would continue with that goal, which has been serving the greater Atlanta area since the 1960s.

April 20 started with the sound of hammers and saws as demolition of the first phase of the remodel took place. Floors and ceilings were removed to make way for paint, new flooring, and a new ceiling with energy-efficient lighting. As some of the 2,500 monthly customers would enter the store, you could hear them gasp as they would say, “Please tell me you are not moving!” or “Please tell me you are not closing down!”

“Throughout the years we have seen an increase in our food sales for the Decatur store; we wanted to expand our selection so we would be able to cater to the growing needs in different food areas such as international and gluten-free requests, and be able to carry an expanded product line that we did not have space for in our freezers or on our shelves, but in doing so we did not want to take away from our mission of spreading God’s Word through books,” says Kevin Charles, branch manager.

With new shelving to accommodate the books and food, and a new freezer with 10 doors instead of five, doubling the freezer space, they were able to reach that objective and mission: “Provide the resources that enable each church and its members to share Jesus in their community.”

“With a large percentage of our customers not being affiliated or associated with the Seventh-day Adventist Church,” states Charles, “we have an incredible opportunity to be a witness to them through our health message.”

The response to the remodel has been overwhelming. Customers have to look twice to make sure they have stepped into the right store. The staff believes they have been put in a position that gives each of them a daily opportunity to share God’s wonderful message of truth through the health message and books.

The store is planning a grand reopening sale in September to appreciate customers and their community.

—BY BRUCE JACOBS
FLAG Camp Goes Around the World

Smiles and shouts of joy, children running all around, and stories of Jesus being shared are all characteristics of a new ministry started in Duluth, Ga., called FLAG camp. FLAG stands for “Fun Learning About God,” and is a mini Vacation Bible School type program offered for children. The Duluth Church decided to hold FLAG camp in a low-income area in Clarkston, Ga. How does this reach the world? Well, Clarkston is home to 761 different ethnic groups, coming from 145 different countries. New York Times magazine called Clarkston the most diverse square mile in America.

These refugees immigrate due to wars in their countries and religious persecution from Nepal, Cambodia, Burma, Iran, Bhutan, Sudan, Indonesia, and other places. Duluth Church has begun an outreach program for their children.

Duluth Church, working alongside FREE (Friends of Refugees for Education and Empowerment), goes to Clarkston twice a month on Saturday afternoons to love on these children. They play games, sing songs, do crafts, and tell Bible stories. Once they arrive, the children just start coming out of their apartments. Church members from ages 10 to 60 are a part of this outreach.

There is such great need among the refugees in Clarkston for food, clothes, furniture, and a Christian education. Due to the tireless work of FREE, 30 refugee children from Clarkston have been sponsored to attend Duluth Adventist Christian School. Many more desire an Adventist education, and sponsors are needed.

If your church would like to get involved in this ministry, give donations, or sponsor a child, contact FREE online at www.freerefugees.org or email Carrie Churchwell at cchurchwell@gccsda.com. Help take the Gospel to the whole world!

—BY CARRIE CHURCHWELL

Maryville Church Holds Health Fair, Block Party

The Maryville, Tenn., Church held a block party in June with many fun activities, great food, and a health fair. Lieutenant Tim Ogle from the Blount County Fire Department took time to chat with Jordana and Enoch Runne.

The Maryville, Tenn., Church held their annual health fair and block party on Sunday, June 7, 2015. It was attended by approximately 150 participants and visitors. This huge endeavor went very smoothly because of the detailed planning and team effort of the many volunteers. The health fair was held in the fellowship hall, with stations for blood pressure, nutritional counseling, massage, skin care, blood testing, and others.

Outside under shaded tent canopies were 12 various vendors, including Gold’s Gym, Vita World, Humana, Mary Kay, US Cellular, and Omni Vision. The front lawn was filled with children activities that included face-painting, a cotton candy machine, and several bounce houses.

Entertainment was provided by several musicians. Other fun activities included crafts for the children, cake walks, and eating! Besides the burgers and fruit smoothies prepared by the Pathfinders, there were 11 pots of chili to sample in the chili cook-off. Shirley Valentine’s chili was the winner.

A sheriff was on the premises allowing people to try walking the “white line” while wearing goggles that simulated various levels of intoxication. The heat left many of the outdoor participants feeling wilted by the end of the day, but at least rain was not a problem.

—BY MISTY CASTIGLIA
The following report is brought to you by a participant, in his own words.

The Roebuck Church in Birmingham, Ala., recently conducted a Vacation Bible School (VBS) for the community. My wife, Vickie Shipp, was elected VBS director for Roebuck this year, and as her husband, I was obliged to help her. I have to admit that at first I probably wasn’t all that enthused about it, but as I got involved in helping her to prepare everything for it, I actually started to get more excited.

Vickie and I were blessed to have 16 volunteers from the congregation. The volunteers helped with preparing snacks, teaching crafts, teaching songs, conducting games, teaching Bible lessons, designing and constructing the stage and set props, and preparing the audio-visual presentations, along with other preparations and advertising. Nine additional people helped to support VBS with various things, and some of those individuals contributed financially to the Lord’s cause.

My wife chose a space-themed for VBS, which helped the children learn about God’s creation of the planets and universe. Most importantly, the children learned about God’s love for them and their spiritual purpose as children of God. I have to tell you that the Lord really blessed our efforts. He blessed beyond expectations. Eighteen children attended on the first night! All had such a great time. Various activity “stations” on the starship (Roebuck Church) for the “Investigation Station: Galactic Quest,” were set up. The Bridge was the opening program. In this program, the children learned songs and memory verses. They were given a “star point,” which was an interactive phrase used by the station leader. She would say something like, “God has a plan!” and the children would respond by saying, “No worries!” At this station, they also watched space-themed videos that taught them about God’s salvation plan and the sacrifice He made for His people.

The next station was The Ready Room. There the children learned from interactive Bible stories. One night, they acted out the story of the disciples in the boat with Jesus when He calmed the wind and the raging sea just by saying, “Be still.” Another night, they had a communion supper to learn more about Christ’s sacrifice. And, on the last evening they had a party at this station. They celebrated their friendship with Jesus and His gift of eternal life.

Each night, they went from there to The Simulation Station where they played fun games that reinforced the lessons they had previously learned for that evening about God’s plan for all at the other stations. They learned that their plan is not always God’s plan, and that all should always follow His plan for their lives. They learned to work in cooperation with others in the same way that we are to work in cooperation with God.
The children witnessed interesting science experiments that reinforced what they had learned.

Cosmic Word Scramble was one game they played that reinforced their memory with the verses of the evening. They had to arrange the scrambled words from memory into the verses and their correct order. They had so much fun. They moved on from there to The Mess Hall, where they created their own healthy snacks. They learned more lessons about God as they made their snacks each evening. One evening their snack was Fruitti Solar System, and by using various fruits they learned more about God's creative power. Next, they went to Engineering to do fun crafts, construct rockets, read books on the solar system, and did other craft projects. They left there and went to The Science Lab, where they watched videos about God's creative power as it is revealed in nature. They also got to see some interesting experiments that reinforced what they had learned. I was honored and blessed to be “Mr. Science,” the space lab scientist, and I performed the experiments for the children.

Finally, they went back to The Bridge for final briefing and review of what they had learned for that day. The crew made a large scale with buckets on each side and conducted a "penny war." They divided the children into two teams, and brought pennies each night to place in their team's bucket. The winners won the chance to throw water balloons at the teachers on the last evening, but everyone agreed to let all the children and teachers participate. All had great fun with that, and of course, got wet.

I'm 57 years old, and some of the others are up there in age with me, but it made all of us adults feel like children again. It was great! VBS was conducted for five evenings, for three hours each night. We gained a few children in church attendance, and made some friends as we introduced ourselves to the community while passing out invitations door to door, at the shopping centers, and at the neighborhood parks. Some have even said that they were planning to attend Roebuck Church in the near future.

VBS was indeed a spiritual blessing and success,” and in more ways than just one. In the end, all had a lot of fun while learning valuable lessons —first of which, the VBS team were reminded that the community will never know who we are, what Seventh-day Adventists believe, or that the members care about their salvation, if we don't reach out to them in Christ's love by going to them to share what we know, and invite them into God's Kingdom. The team grew stronger in their witness for Christ. They also learned more about each other as a church family, and grew closer together as bonds of love were strengthened in the Lord's Work. The team is looking forward to working on future projects as they reach out to the community in Christ's unconditional and all-encompassing love.

—BY KIM SHIPP
Brian Danese Elected New Conference Treasurer

In July, Brian Danese accepted an invitation from the Gulf States Conference Executive Committee to serve as treasurer of the Conference. Since September 2014, Danese has served the Conference as the director of the Trust Services and Stewardship departments.

Danese is no stranger to the Conference. He grew up in Pearlington, Miss., and graduated from Bass Memorial Academy. After graduating from Southern Adventist University with an undergraduate degree in accounting, he began working in the accounting department of IPSCO (Insurance Planning and Services Company). Everything seemed to be going according to plan, except for the nagging thought that he was not where he was supposed to be. Through an unexpected series of events, he found himself serving as a pastor in the Forest City district in the Arkansas/Louisiana Conference. After serving there for almost two years, Danese moved to Berrien Springs, Mich., where he attended the seminary at Andrews University. He graduated with a master of divinity degree in December 1995. Following graduation, he served as a pastor in the Shreveport, La., south district for 10 years. Following the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Danese became pastor of the Gulf Coast and Bay St. Louis, Miss., district in February 2006.

When asked what, as treasurer, his vision for the Conference was, he responded, “The first responsibility of treasurer is to see that the Conference operates in a sound financial manner. Previous treasurers have left us in that situation, and I want to continue to ensure we maintain and safeguard the financial security of our Conference. In addition, the resources our faithful members have given to advance the proclamation of our last-day message should be used as effectively as possible. I look forward to working with the Executive Committee and administration as we prayerfully direct them to places that can have a large impact on the Kingdom of God. I know we are all in this together, and my prayer is for us to press together as we serve Jesus in our various callings.”

Along with Danese’s passion for “fishing for men” is also a passion for fishing for fish — particularly sockeye salmon from Bristol Bay, Alaska. He also likes horseback riding, going to the lake (especially if there is a boat involved), and being out in nature.

Danese and his wife, Michelle, have been married for 25 years. They have been blessed with a daughter, Sara, who is 18, and a son, Michel, who is 14.

—BY REBECCA GRICE

Conference Teachers Prepare for New School Year

New teachers to Gulf States Conference were welcomed, and they had an opportunity to meet their colleagues.

Gulf States Conference teachers arrived at Bass Memorial Academy for three days of meetings on August 3, 2015. One goal was to provide opportunities to be inspired. Karl Leukert, pastor of Community Church in Meridian, Miss., reminded everyone that teaching is a ministry, it is holistic, and developing students is a high calling.

Another goal was to provide practical development opportunities. Teachers learned security is their responsibility, and planning now could make a big difference later. From the workshop presenters, the teachers discovered strategies, methods, and practices they can use to improve their craft.

—BY REBECCA GRICE
Auburn-Opelika Metro Church
Holds Energetic VBS

The energetic Vacation Bible School (VBS) children at Auburn-Opelika, Ala., Metro Church had their eyes fixed on the spaceship ready to travel back in time.

As Alexandria and Dane stepped in and fastened their seat belts, the engine revved up, ready for a “Bible Blast to the Past” to discover God’s everlasting love. Off they went to the time when God spoke to Moses at the burning bush and picked him to help free the slaves from Egypt, showing all that God has a plan for His people. God’s love is incredible. On day 2, they traveled back in time with Alex and Dane as they took them back into Joshua 2 when God rescued Rahab, a true friend to His servants. God’s love is faithful. The children today need to know that they can count on God and His love no matter what.

On day 3, they ventured back to meet David and how God strengthened a shepherd boy. The children battled giants, and they need to make an extra effort to reassure them of God’s power and His invincible love. As they stepped out onto the battlefields, they need to claim God’s power, and they will never be alone. Back to Bible times on day 4, they read John 3:16 and Luke 7, the story of the woman weeping at Jesus’ feet, washing His feet with her tears, and learning of God’s love that it is unconditional. He is not ashamed to call you His. God loves you no matter what, just as we are.

As Alex and Dane traveled on their last trip, the children learned in Acts 12 that God’s love is real, His love transforms all from the inside out, and their lives should show daily that they love Him. As Jesus instructed His disciples, “Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not for of such is the kingdom of Heaven.” This is the mission to keep the young children connected to Jesus and His invincible love.

The activities for VBS left the love of God in many hearts. In the mission project, the children raised an additional $235.85 to be added to their ADRA offering to build a water well in the Village of Kwaugoro in Tanzania.

Graduation ended with Cradle Roll singing a song with Doreatha Jones, “Our God is so Big.” Then all gathered in the fellowship hall for greeting the families and enjoying a meal of haystacks.

—BY SAUNDRA KROMMINGA
“Destination Paradise” Brings Children to Ridgetop VBS

With its mix of dramatizations, music, crafts, games, and refreshments, “Destination Paradise” captured the imagination of the 61 children who attended the Ridgetop, Tenn., Church’s Vacation Bible School. Under the dedicated leadership of Don and Marilyn Kenerson, the program attracted a daily average of 48 children.

Forty volunteers, from teenagers to great-grandparents, gave enthusiastic support for this child-evangelism project. Not only did they assist in the various activities, some also worked behind the scenes preparing food, operating the audio-visual equipment, and setting up props.

More than half of the children were guests from the community or other churches, and one attendee had never been inside a church. The children-to-children outreach project this year provided school supplies for the Yap Adventist School. Three large boxes were filled to send to the island, which is part of the Federated States of Micronesia in the Pacific Ocean.

—BY HELEN KELLY

Packing a box for Yap Adventist School are Klara (front) and Kooper (left) Kenerson, Bryce Bell, and Hampton Kenerson.

Action songs are always fun.

Deryl Wilbur Christensen 1930-2015

Deryl Wilbur Christensen was born on November 18, 1930, in Redfield, S.D., to Irvin and Ethel Malone Christensen. He passed away on May 8, 2015, at the age of 84 in Columbia, Mo.

He apprenticed with his dad as an electrician, and taught shop and woodworking at Sunnydale Academy. After moving to Portland, Tenn., he worked at S&S Plastics and then at Wilks Publishing.

Christensen was instrumental in the construction of the Highland Church in Portland, Tenn. Through the years, he would stop by the church several times a week to see if there were any work orders or if anything needed to be done. He also traveled the Conference installing Sky Angel satellite dishes.

He was the coordinator for the Kentucky-Tennessee disaster warehouse in Madison, Tenn., and along with his wife, Violet, worked tirelessly for Adventist Community Services. They were the first to spring into action when a disaster hit the Conference territory. They set up distribution warehouses and coordinated the allocations of food, clothing, and supplies. They faithfully attended and represented the Conference at the meetings for the Tennessee Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Violet; four daughters and sons-in-law, Ruthie (William) Ruston, Rhonda (Terry) Haight, Cheryl (Gary) Patterson, and Carol (Danny) Heath; six grandchildren; four step-grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and 11 step-great-grandchildren.

—BY DENISE POPE
Henderson Members Crochet Prayer Shawls

In July 2014, nine women gathered in the fellowship hall of the Henderson, Ky., Church to begin a new ministry, a ministry that would provide prayer shawls to the sick. The women were ready to knit and crochet prayer shawls. Not all the women knew how to knit or crochet, but they were willing to learn, and those that did know how were willing to teach. With prayer and willing hands and hearts, they moved forward.

Church members donated or purchased the materials needed for the shawls. Once an inventory of prayer shawls was established, they began distribution to members and others who were sick. God has blessed the ministry, which has grown with not just members working on the prayer shawls, but non-members as well.

The prayer shawls are now also being distributed to cancer centers, and many lives are being touched.

—BY MICKIE COOK

Conference Ordains Two Pastors

Wayne Long earned a bachelor of theology at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tenn. The Conference sponsored Long to the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich., where he completed a master of divinity in 2011. After completion of his degrees, Long and his family moved to the Nashville, Tenn., area where he assumed the pastoral duties for the Boulevard Church in Madison, Tenn. Long was ordained on May 16, 2015, at Boulevard Church. He and his wife, Mary, have three children: Skyler, 20; Christian, 18; and Felicia, 12.

Marius Serban graduated from Southern Adventist University with a bachelor of theology in 2000. He received a master of divinity in 2005 from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. He first served in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference before accepting a call to Kentucky-Tennessee in the Middletown/Lawrenceburg, Ky., district. Serban was ordained on May 30, 2015, at the Kentucky-Tennessee Camp Meeting. He and his wife, Dana, have one son, Calvin, 15.

—BY DENISE POPE

Cornell Greavu Retires from Service as Elder

At the age of 98, Cornell Greavu, M.D., retired from the office of elder after 70 years of service. He was honored for his many years of faithful service to the Lord and the Portland, Tenn., Church.

—BY GLORIA OPP

CORRECTION:

In the August 2015 Southern Tidings issue, p. 27, Decherd, Tenn., Church, shown in the picture, is the oldest church facility in the city, having served four non-Adventist denominations prior to its purchase by the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

First Church of Decherd, with its separate campus, is located in the South Central Conference. Together, the churches are ministry partners serving the community.
Persistance in Prayer Saves Struggling Church

David K. Jones, pastor of Ebenezer Church, Moss Point, Miss., realized solely one person, Clara Crockett, saved this struggling church which was on the throes of extinction. Jones decided that Crockett, whom the members affectionately refers to as “Mommy” Crockett, rightfully needed honoring for her faithfulness.

Moss Point members suffered tremendous membership loss, and the doors were about to close. Crockett did not desire to see their church lose its influence in Moss Point, so when the members had drifted off and started attending other fellowships, Crockett was dedicated to the cause of Christ, and drove 50 miles round-trip just to keep the church doors open. For many Sabbaths, she would sit in church alone and do her Sabbath School les-

son and encourage herself. However, Crockett was not by herself; the Holy Spirit, Jesus, and the Father, along with the heavenly hosts, fellowshipped with her. It was during these times that Crockett talked to God. She cried, prayed, and sang for God to give the church a pastor who could re-vive the work, and during those long, lonely months of prayer, God rewarded her faithful dedication.

At the recognition service, a letter of praise was read from Dana Edmond, president of South Central Conference, and then Marilyn Wallace, Gulf Coast area director for South Central women’s ministries, delivered the message — “Standing Out as a Champion.” Wallace awarded Crockett with a medallion and a gift from South Central Women’s Ministries Department.

Barbara Walker, M.S., women’s ministries state director and coordinator of Morning Manna, delivered the closing homily. The thrust of her message admonished all to appreciate others, to always give thanks to those who diligently serve, and to remind that gratitude and appreciation toward those who serve, comes only through God.

After several returning members gave their accolades, it was evident that “Mommy” Crockett is highly loved and appreciated by those who know and value her.

—BY MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.
City of Huntsville, Community Surprise First Church Pastor

The City of Huntsville, Ala., proclaimed it. Its City Council resolved it. Local faith community leaders saluted it. His First Church congregants celebrated it. And, his fellow 30-something pastoral colleagues roasted it — the five-year, First Church pioneering ministry of Debleaire K. Snell, senior pastor — on July 26, 2015.

“This is a first for me, to attend a celebration for a sitting pastor,” explained Dana C. Edmond, South Central Conference president. “Usually when I’m invited to a dinner for a pastor, it’s when he or she is leaving.” His last words were interrupted immediately by loud prolonged “boos” from the 290 Von Braun Center South Hall surprise banquet attendees!

According to the celebration weekend event chair, Ivy Starks, the 38-year-old Snell believed the weekend’s series of announced activities was to commemorate the church’s second anniversary at their Evangel Drive campus, through its “Possessing the Land” fundraising campaign. This initiative successfully paid off the Stringfield Road mortgage, renovated the new 12-acre worship center and grounds, and fulfilled the congregation’s commitment to nearby Oakwood Adventist Academy and Elementary School’s Phase I building program. In thanking the members afterward, the 2012 and 2014 Pastor of the Year remarked, “This was the best-kept church-wide secret ever!”

The City of Huntsville Mayoral Proclamation declaring Saturday, July 25, “Debleaire K. Snell Day,” highlighted several Snell-team milestones:

- Transition from 1,173 members/700-seat sanctuary/26,000-square-foot Stringfield Road location in 2010 to 1,867 members/1,200-seat sanctuary/54,000-square-foot facility
- 633 baptisms in 260 weeks — averaging three baptisms each Sabbath
- SCC’s fastest-growing tithe returners and fastest-growing increase in membership
- Initiator of pioneering “Sunday Surge” worship services

In reflecting on the five-year ministry and its milestones, Alphonso Greene III, associate pastor and co-chair of the celebration weekend, issued his trademark rallying cry: “Here we ‘grow’ again!”

—BY DAWNA SWINTON BAKER, PR DEPARTMENT CHAIR
Summer Mission 2015: Impact
San Antonio, General Conference

The Office of Spiritual Life (OSL) 4HIM Mission team set out from Huntsville on July 1, 2015, with bags packed and blue and gold 4HIM shirts in tow to San Antonio, Tex. The 4HIM national and international teams combined to form one collaborative mission group. While more than 65,000 people were on their way to the General Conference for the Church’s business sessions, sightseeing, and socializing, this group of young adults was headed to Texas for Impact San Antonio for Missions.

For 10 days, college students and young adults focused on local missions that included training in leadership, and daily service opportunities as the hands, feet, and face of Jesus. After a 19-hour drive, students from Oakwood University joined more than 300 young adults from around the world, including Brazilians, Australians, Togans, and South Africans, just to name a few. “It was quite a cultural event,” said Aaron Layne. “A lot of people don’t know that I’m bilingual. It was great to be able to speak to others in English and in Spanish, and have conversations about Jesus!” Ameryc Gabriel Saint-Louis, an international student from Paris, recognized that some people were having a hard time understanding the sermons, and volunteered as an interpreter during the sessions.

Each morning, the 4HIM worship allowed young adults the chance to see and hear other youth ministry leaders and young adult pastors. Themes included “Finding your Passion,” “Keeping Hope Alive,” “Perseverance,” and the “Power of God.” The students were challenged to not just listen to the Word, but also apply it through round table, practical applications, confessing their difficulties, and praying for one another. Some mornings they were challenged to defend their Christian worldview on topics such as relationships, ministering to others, and hearing the Holy Spirit. The students participated in team building activities and ministry training. The topics included how to witness, how to approach people during outreach, how to start a ministry in your area, and ministry models around the various counties that are working successfully.

Things really kicked into high gear during the afternoons. There were 13 ministry projects offered each afternoon, ranging from painting Christ-centered murals on buildings to volunteering at Haven for Hope Homeless Shelter, and working at an AIDS hospice care center. The 4HIM team delivered physical and spiritual care, working alongside young adults from numerous cultures. At their sites, they received training on volunteering and how the organizations were run. The students performed a variety of mission work, including passing out “free hugs” and bottled water, washing down sleeping mats at the homeless shelter, distributing hygiene items and clean clothes and towels to needy community members, organizing backpacks with school supplies, planning games and activities with community children, and teaching parenting mentorship classes on healthy living.

One day the 4HIM team went out as a unit and participated in the “Sabbath Couch” activity, in which a white couch was placed in the middle of a busy area, and people who were passing by were invited to “take a break/rest.” When they sat down, they were asked what they needed a break from, and then the students shared how they take a break on the Sabbath, what the Sabbath is, and how it is observed. The participants of the “Sabbath Couch” were then challenged to take a 24-hour break next weekend, so they could experience the Sabbath and see what it was like to take a rest.

The students also prayed with others, shared testimonies, and passed out tracts about their faith. O’Neal Thomas, a junior, shared how he initially felt about sharing “free hugs.” He said, “It’s like the Holy Spirit just moved inside of me. Personally, I would never have been comfortable just hugging a stranger in the 90-degree heat, but something overtook me, and it was fun. I saw how much other people needed love, and I knew God put me there to give it. It was amazing!”

Prior to this trip, Howard Weems, OSL Leadership chaplain, and Ronald Pollard, chaplain, have been working on the newly launched missions class. This class helps students to understand what it means to be “mission ready.” The students who attended the San Antonio mission trip modeled remarkable volunteerism, patience in the heat, cultural awareness, and a spiritual maturity that really made Oakwood’s 4HIM Missions stand out.

Chelsea Orwa is thankful for the experience. “While in San Antonio, I had a powerful reminder of how graceful and merciful God truly is and how grateful I am,” she said. Indeed, there is nothing like doing mission work to remind us of just how blessed we are.

—BY KIMBERLY MANN, ASSOCIATE CHAPLAIN
**COLEMAN, Lillian Nealey**, 94, born July 7, 1920, died Feb. 12, 2015 at Arden Courts of San Antonio, TX. She and her twin sister, Lillie, were born the fifth and sixth of 12 children to bless the home of John and Sadie (Stringer) Nealey. She attended teacher training at the Sam Houston Normal College in Huntsville, TX. She taught school in the nearby area for more than 40 years. She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Melvin Lohmann; grandchild, Harold; and five great-grandchildren. She is survived by one brother, Kenneth W. Hutchins of Loma Linda, CA; one sister, Audrey Landon of Lomita, CA; and nine siblings.

**HARING, Iris**, 103, born Sept. 20, 1911 in Aberdeen, Jamaica, died June 28, 2015 in Portland, TN. She was a member of the Cross Plains Church, Cross Plains, TN. She was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, William Payson Harring. She is survived by her brother, Adam Laidlaw; and nine siblings.

**HUTCHINS, Donald**, 85, born Feb. 20, 1930 in Hanover, NH, died June 30, 2015 in Andrews, NC. He was preceded in death by his parents, Seth and Lydia Ebbes; his brother, Mervin; and first wife, Carol. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, William Duhaney, and his children: Brenda Murphy Johnson, and Richard Peterson; four grandchildren: Zachary, Marken, Jason (Sacha) Peterson, and Justin (Tammy) Zylberberg; and seven great-grandchildren.

**JANSEN, Marie**, 87, born May 27, 1927, died April 5, 2015. She was a member of Shools Church in Florence, AL. She served as head treasurer for 34 years.

**LAIDLAW (JEWEL), Margaret "Peggy" Frances**, 93, born Aug. 5, 1921 in Kenora, Ontario, Canada, died June 15, 2015 in Hendersonville, TN. She was a member of the Ridgetop, TN, Church. She is survived by her loving husband of 68 years, William Payson Harring. She is survived by her brother, George (Beth) Nealey; her sister, Janie James; son, James III (Karen); daughter, Ruth Coleman (Philip) Marsh; grandchildren: Phillip A. Marsh II, Donna L. Coleman, and Brian L. (Quetta) Marsh; great-grandchildren: Elan, Michael, William, and Kenneth; a host of nieces; nephews; and other relatives.

**MARTZ, Samuel J.,** 95, born Feb. 22, 1920, died July 16, 2015. He was a member of the Madison Campus Church, Madison, TN. He is survived by one daughter, Rita Joan (Henry) McCuffey; one son, Dwight “Marty” (Elizabeth) Martz; two step-children: Brenda Murphy Johnson, and Richard Leroy (Julianne) Murphy; seven grandchildren; seven step-grandchildren; one sister-in-law; many beloved nieces; nephews; and great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Seth and Lydia Martz; his first wife, Ciella Swaim; and second wife, Valda Murphy Martz.

**MOSELEY, William “Bill” E. III,** 68, born April 18, 1947 in Dayton, OH, died April 19, 2015 in Springfield, TN. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He was a member of the Cumberland Heights Church, Cross Plains, TN. He was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He was a member of the Cumberland Heights Church, Cross Plains, TN. He was a member of the Cumberland Heights Church, Cross Plains, TN.
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Adventist Heritage Lecture, October 8
Jud Lake, professor and published author from Southern’s School of Religion, will give a presentation about Ellen G. White at 11 a.m. in the Collegedale Church. 2015 marks the 100th anniversary of her death.

Archaeology Lecture, October 12
Michael Hasel, professor and published author from Southern’s School of Religion, will discuss the Institute of Archaeology’s 2015 summer excavation activities in Lachish, Israel, at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel.
For more information, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

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

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Symphony Orchestra Concert, October 4
Southern’s Symphony Orchestra performs at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church, and the School of Music will broadcast this event online.
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OAK PARK ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND – Sept. 18, 19. All alumni and former faculty and staff are invited to this special reunion weekend. 2015 Honor Classes: 1940, ’45, ’50, ’55, ’60, ’65, ’70, ’75, ’80. Details: 402-312-7368 or allaynemartsching@gmail.com.

LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN, GA, CHURCH HOMECOMING – Sept. 19. All former members of the Church and prior students of the School are invited to the Homecoming Celebration, worship, dinner, and afternoon music program. 5501 Hwy. 157, Rising Fawn, GA 30738. Details, please visit www.lmsda.com.

MINOT, N.D. CHURCH 100th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION – Sept. 19. Address: 17th Avenue SW, Minot, N.D., starting at 9:30 a.m. There will be special speakers, and a concert at 3:30 p.m. Lunch and supper will be provided. Details: Lenore Scheresky at 701-839-7701 or 701-340-3291.

GRAND LEDGE ACADEMY REUNION – Sept. 24-27. We are looking for all charter students, faculty, and alumni from 1959 to 1964 of Grand Ledge Academy, Grand Ledge, MI, to join us at the Adventist Frontier Missions Training Center near Berrien Springs, MI. To be kept informed of plans as they develop send an email to claudiabahnmiller@gmail.com. Join the Facebook group “Grand Ledge Academy – First Years,” and pass the word along.

Announcements continue on page 38…
As a health care professional, Amanda is reminded that life is never certain, and every day is a gift from God. “Earning a degree from Southern Adventist University has given me opportunities to work for others and touch lives. I have always appreciated the financial assistance that I received, and have long wished to give back,” says Amanda.

“When meeting with my financial advisor, he told me about a tax-wise gift option that would help me leave a legacy far beyond what I imagined for both my family and the University. It is so exciting for me to know that an endowment in my name will help students at Southern! After receiving such an amazing gift myself, I can’t wait to share with others who are preparing for a life of service.”

To learn more about how you can leave a legacy of generosity, contact your local conference or university Planned Giving representative today!
Events Calendar

**Carolina**
- Sabbath School Workshop – Sept. 11-13. NPR.
- Carolina Youth Rally – Sept. 18, 19. MPA.
- Men’s Ministries Retreat – Sept. 25-27. NPR.
- Hispanic Women’s Retreat – Oct. 2-4. NPR.
- Women’s Retreat – Oct. 9-11. NPR.


Mt. Pisgah Church 100th Year Celebration – Oct. 23-24. MPA.

**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/adventurers/events/

Singles’ Ministries events and mailing list information.

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esalzmann@cfl.rr.com, 407-521-4751 or 407-721-3036.


**Florida Adventist Bookmobile**
- Oct. 25. Silver Springs Shores, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

**Fifth Annual Let’s Get Moving Kids** – Oct. 4. Crane’s Roost Park, 274 Crane’s Roost Blvd., Altamonte Springs. 7 a.m.-12 p.m. Forest City Spanish Church sponsors this 5K, 3K, and 1.5 mile walk/run for children and families to promote active and healthy lifestyles. Participants receive finisher medals, T-shirts (while supplies last), race bibs, and goodie bags. Health fair includes snacks, face painting, bounce house, and more. Cost: $10 in advance or $12 on event day. Details/registration: http://www.letsgomovingkids.org/

**Planned Giving and Trust Services Clinic**
No. 7. Avon Park.

**Georgia-Cumberland**


**Pathfinder Drill Instructor Weekend** – Sept. 18-20. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.

**Health Rally** – Sept. 19. 2-5 p.m. Hiram, GA.

**Northeast TN Camp Meeting** – Sept. 18-20. The Oaks Retreat, Greeneville, TN.

“Engage” Youth Ministries Leadership Convention – Sept. 25-26. Learn to Engage and retain youth and young adults as part of the Adventist mission. New this year, you can join and earn a youth leadership basic training certificate. There will also be a specialty track for teen leaders (ages 16-18) to learn to work with peers, as well as a pastor’s specialty track for youth pastors, chaplains, and senior pastors. For details and to register, http://www.gcsda.com/events/37509. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**Personal Ministries Rally** – Sept. 26. 2-5 p.m. Augusta, GA.

**Association Board Meeting** – Sept. 30. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

**Day of Prayer and Fasting** – Friday, Oct. 2.

**AAA Golf Tournament** – Oct. 4. Cobblestone Golf Course, Acworth, GA.

**Pathfinder Regional Events** – Oct. 16-18.


**Education Fall Break** – Oct. 16-20.


**Hispanic Camp Meeting** – Oct. 30-31. Cohutta Springs, Crandall, GA.


Most events require pre-registration; details at registration. gcsda.com

**Gulf States**

**Women’s Fall Renewal Retreat** – Oct. 2-4. Springville Camp and Conference Center. If you need to be refreshed and find a booster for your relationship with Jesus, then this is the retreat for you. We are all so busy, and life is just zooming by. This moment in time is a time-out; a pause button on our busy lives, so we can be filled with news of God’s love for us. “Perfectly Loved” will remind and encourage us in the knowledge that God’s love for us is perfect, even though we are not perfect. The featured speaker is Becky Rogers, and she has a testimony that will leave you riveted in your seats, opening your heart to the blessings God has for you, and not wanting to miss a single meeting. The musician is Amanda Harden. You will love to sit and hear her as she sings and plays her guitar in her heartfelt style. She writes some of her songs as well. As you can tell, we are going to have a full weekend, and the Holy Spirit will use this time to enrich our lives and bring us closer to our Redeemer. Please don’t hesitate to register for “Perfectly Loved.” Go to Floridaconference.org or call 1-800-328-0525. Looking forward to seeing you there!

**Kentucky-Tennessee**


**Young Women’s Retreat** – Sept. 11-13. Indian Creek Camp.


**Women’s Retreat I** – Sept. 25-27. Indian Creek Camp.


**Women’s Retreat II** – Oct. 24. Indian Creek Camp.

**Hispanic Women’s Retreat I** – Oct. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.

**Hispanic Women’s Retreat II** – Oct. 16-18. Indian Creek Camp.


**Adventurer Camporee** – Nov. 6-8. Indian Creek Camp.

**Elders’ Certification Training** – Nov. 13-15. Indian Creek Camp.

**Southern Adventist University**

Orchestra Concert – Oct. 4.

Southern’s Symphony Orchestra will provide a free concert at 7:30 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. To watch online, visit southern.edu/streaming.

**Archaeology Lecture** – Oct. 12.

School of Religion Professor Michael Hasel will discuss the Institute of Archaeology’s 2015 summer excavation activities in Lachish, Israel, at 7 p.m. in Lynn Wood Hall Chapel. To learn more, visit southern.edu/archaeology.

**Sunset**

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Motivated by the mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ, Adventist Health System touches the hearts and lives of more than 4.5 million patients each year through the care and commitment of more than 73,000 employees. Adventist Health System serves communities large and small through 45 hospitals and numerous skilled-nursing facilities.