

T Southern TIDINGS

JANUARY 2016

When CIVIL RIGHTS *Fight:*

THE DELICATE
BALANCE BETWEEN
CHURCH AND STATE



JOINER LEAVES
SOUL WINNING
LEGACY

ADU PROVIDES
MEDICAL
SUPPORT FOR
CYSTIC FIBROSIS
FOUNDATION'S
CYCLE FOR LIFE

GOD USES
PEOPLE TO
CHANGE
PEOPLE'S LIVES

VIRTUAL CHURCH
OFFICERS'
MEETING...
A NEW METHOD

SECCIÓN EN
ESPAÑOL

Things We Often Lack



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.
President of the Southern
Union Conference

Physical problems and deterioration both come when there is a lack of food, air, rest, and other physical necessities. In a similar matter, spiritual problems are caused by a lack of those basic ingredients that are needed for Christian health and growth.

Things we often lack in our spiritual pilgrimage are ...

Lack of Understanding

Perhaps it would be distressing if we really knew how much spiritual pain and turmoil comes because people lack clear biblical knowledge and understanding of the Scriptures. Consider, for example, the biblically unsupported ideas that we are saved by good works, that Christian growth depends entirely on ourselves, that God's love depends on our personal actions, that God refuses to forgive acts of sin and disobedience, that financial or family problems come as God's way of punishing us, or that God really doesn't know about or care about our needs and concerns. These and a host of similar misconceptions can create restlessness, uncertainty, spiritual doubt, and apathy.

Lack of Nourishment

Just as a baby never grows without food, so a Christian never develops without continued prayer and reading of the Bible, God's Word. Spiritual problems come to some people because they never spend much time taking in spiritual nourishment. For others, there is so much "giving out" that the giver becomes spiritually depleted and empty. It is a spiritual law that the one who gives out much must also take in much. If one gives out continuously without taking in, he will run dry.

Lack of Giving

People who eat too much become fat and, in time, uncomfortable. A similar condition can occur in our spiritual lives. Overfeeding on sermons, Bible studies, devotional reading, Christian television or radio programs, and weekend retreats can lead to spiritual bloating. Christians are not to be like sponges, soaking up and retaining everything. Instead we are to be vessels used by God to bring instruction and blessing to others. The essence of Christian love is giving and sharing so we don't grow fat.

Lack of Balance

During his three-year ministry, Jesus lived a balanced life. He ministered, interacted with individuals, rested, spent time in prayer and worship, and relaxed with friends. He had a purpose in life, sought God's help in daily living, and took care of himself spiritually, physically, intellectually, and socially.

Many modern people lack this balance. They run themselves ragged, fail to get proper rest or exercise, do not eat a balanced diet, and are so busy — even while doing the Lord's work — that their efficiency and spiritual vitality run down. A balanced life requires planning, discipline, and a realization that no person in the body of Christ is so important that he or she is indispensable.

Lack of Commitment

To be a disciple, Jesus taught, one must be willing to take up a cross and follow Him. True Christian growth must be preceded by a commitment to let Jesus Christ be Lord and controller of one's life. Any holding back interferes with spiritual maturing and contributes to lusterless Christianity. Ordinary people who make simple, spiritual commitments under the Lordship of Jesus Christ make an extraordinary impact on their world. Education, gifts, and abilities do not make the difference. Commitment does.

Lack of the Holy Spirit's Power

The Holy Spirit lives in the life of every believer, but the Spirit can be quenched and pushed aside. When that happens, spiritual lethargy is certain. In contrast, when the Holy Spirit is in control, our lives develop strength, spiritual understanding, unity with others, love, joy, peace, self-control, and the other spiritual fruits, all of which are designed to bring glory to Christ.

Finally, when it comes to getting our needs met and fulfilled, we are admonished by Scripture in Matthew 6:33 to not be anxious for anything, but to seek the kingdom of God first and the righteousness of God, and all things that we need will be provided for us. ①

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january 2016



WHEN CIVIL RIGHTS FIGHT:

The Delicate Balance Between Church and State

BY AMIREH AL-HADDAD

Last year was quite the year for religious liberty issues. It was a sample of how the issues affecting religious freedom for Americans today is far more than just Sabbath accommodation issues. Church members are starting to take notice of how fragile religious liberty really is.

It has certainly made headlines in our society today. From the uproar over Indiana's Religious Freedom Restoration Act; the Supreme Court's ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, granting same-sex marriage as a constitutional right; the battle over religious beliefs in Kentucky as Kim Davis refused to certify same-sex marriage certificates, to the attacks on Paris in November — religious liberty and the rights of individuals to practice their beliefs have been under close scrutiny. Never have I seen a more urgent need for Adventists to present a balanced approach to those issues than now. We need to safeguard the separation of church and state in a voice that echoes

reason and understanding.

It has always been a challenge to defend religious liberty because of the delicate balance that lies within the issues of separation of church and state. Adventists have a proud history of this defense because of our understanding of the Bible. "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake like a dragon," Revelation 13:11. Adventists believe America has long been viewed in prophecy as a beast with two lamb-like horns representing the separation of church and state.

Understanding the importance of those two horns in prophecy has always dictated our attitudes toward the U.S. Constitution and our understanding of a secular government. For more than 200 years we have claimed that the U.S. Constitution should *not* be a tool to control moral behavior. As Adventists we have historically taught, this because of our understanding on end time events

"We need to safeguard the separation of church and state in a voice that echoes reason and understanding."



OFFERING DAY JANUARY 23, 2016

and the issue of forced religious observance.

Conservative Christians now bemoan the fact that the Constitution does not control moral behavior. However, our laws in America focus on the secular and not the sacred. We need to also realize that what the government calls “marriage” in our secular nation is not sacred. Parties may enter into and dissolve the marriage as many times as they like. The government puts no limit on how many times you can enter into a marriage, but it does limit you to one marriage at a time.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church holds quite a different view of what marriage is. True “marriage” is not about a civil contract the government recognizes, but rather it is about a life-long covenant made between one man and one woman in recognition of the sacredness of the institution of marriage that God established (along with the Sabbath) in the garden of Eden. As the Church, it is our duty to maintain the sacredness of the institution of marriage within the confines of our faith and the biblical principles we hold dear. As a united corporate body of believers, no one should fault us for standing firm on Bible principles. The problem is that we do not exist in a vacuum. The common thread that ties the current conflict between the government definition of marriage and that of the church is that of civil rights.

People of faith need protection from laws that violate an individual’s religious beliefs and conscience. In addition, all people within our borders need the protection of the 14th Amendment, so that we can be treated equally. The question is whose right wins when the 1st Amendment comes into conflict with the 14th Amendment?

In reasoning through the issue from a historical perspective, Adventists have always believed in the importance of the separation of church and state. It is the church who benefits most in its protection. Historically, when the church has

People of faith
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fought against issues that threatened church and state separation, it was oddly always against other religious advocates and mostly against other Protestants. This fact should not be lost on Adventists today. Evangelicals are increasingly complaining and unhappy with the separation of church and state. When you complain about the separation of the two, what you really are complaining about is the inability of the church to press its beliefs upon the government (or the people). Every argument that the Adventist Church makes in opposition of same-sex marriage is directly tied to the Bible and God’s directives through that document — not to government. To legally impose those biblical beliefs upon a segment of society that has rejected them would be the equivalent of not only forcing an Adventist to worship on Sunday, but also prohibiting him/her from worshipping on the Sabbath.

As much as the decision by the Supreme Court goes against what we understand, believe, and teach about marriage in the church, taken in context of the U.S. Constitution and the guarantees of that document, no other decision could have been made. While the decision to allow same-sex marriage was right under secular law, the reaction by many Christians was even more worrisome than the court’s decision, especially af-

ter some suggested the 14th Amendment should be revoked. Adventists worry about changes in the Constitution specifically because our religious freedom lies in that document.

“Only in flagrant violation to these safeguards to the nation’s liberty can any religious observance be enforced by civil authority. But the inconsistency of such action is no greater than is presented in the symbol. It is the beast, with lamblike horns — in profession pure, gentle and harmless that speaks like a dragon,” *The Great Controversy*, page 442, ¶2.

The safeguards that Ellen White speaks of in this passage refers to the U.S. Constitution.

Even though the same-sex marriage decision was proper in a secular society, it ended up affecting individual religious rights. Take the case of the now infamous Kentucky County Clerk, Kim Davis. Kim Davis, as the Rowan County Clerk, clearly felt compelled by her religious convictions that issuing the same-sex marriage license in her county violated her religious beliefs, thus claiming the religious rights she has under the first amendment. Did Kim Davis deserve an accommodation for her religious beliefs? Yes, she certainly did. But, the actions Davis took to get that accommodation went beyond what was necessary. Her action, while religiously motivated, was just as extreme as the homosexual reaction. Neither side wanted to see how conflicting civil rights could coexist.

We agree with Kim Davis’ position on marriage. We agree that she needed to be accommodated for her religious beliefs. But, in the end she may have carried her religion too far by refusing to allow even her office staff to certify the marriages of same-sex couples. Our concern is that she ended up trying to enforce her religious beliefs upon her staff. Would we as Adventists stand for the government imposing its religion upon the people or the Church?

Davis treated her position in public of-



fice as her house, and not as the house of the people whom she served. As much as we would like to believe that Davis was engaged in a religious act by certifying the marriage certificates, she was not. There is nothing religious about what a county clerk does or certifies. The office she claims is “hers” cannot deny secular rights to citizens based on the religious beliefs of the county clerk. Herein lies the problem. Both sides had valid issues in regard to the issue of separation of church and state. Davis had a valid issue with her religious accommodation claim. But, both sides were wrong because they decided to fight, rather than discuss reasonable ways for the two issues to coexist and both be accommodated.

There are real concerns for religious liberty in all these issues. There is concern for Adventist who believe in prophecy. There is even concern for the safeguarding of individual religious freedom and the separation of church

and state. We have been entrusted with light that others do not have, and it is because of this that we cannot get distracted or act out of naivety when discerning how prophecy will play out in America. Should we be concerned that people of faith will overstep their place by trying to impose religious laws on the land to bring about moral reform? Yes! We should be just as concerned as we are that immorality will rule the day.

Moral reform can never happen through the passage of laws. Moral reform can only happen when there is a change of heart and mind in the individual. That type of reformation only happens when Christ becomes the central focus of our lives. Maybe the core of the conflict is how God’s love is reflected through our daily lives and interactions with fellow human beings, even those whose morality we may have reason to call into question. It is important to remember that prophecy predicts a day when there will be a push for salvation

by legislation. So, until that time comes, we should work towards winning people over to Christ through free and loving choice — showing them, through our lives, something they want to have in their lives.

I’m reminded of the beast in Revelation 13:11. The horns of that beast are small, and separate like a lamb’s horns because they cannot harm. That is what I believe of the separation of church and state. Furthermore, keeping the two separate should never jeopardize our freedom. And, upholding the rights of both should never jeopardize our society. The Department of Public Affairs and Religious Liberty and *Liberty Magazine* always strive to be the voice of reason in keeping them separate and keeping them safe. ❶

Amireh Al-Haddad is the director of the Public Affairs and Religious Liberty Department at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.

Interested in learning more about religious liberty? Check out this event:

THE COMING STORM: AMERICA IN PROPHECY

*Cobb Galleria Centre, Atlanta, Georgia
Sabbath, March 12, 2016*

- Seating is limited
- Register early
- Registration deadline: February 22, 2016 (\$75 per person)
- Early Bird discount available until February 8, 2016 (\$50 per person)
- To register go to www.southernunion.com/religiousliberty or e-mail ReligiousLiberty@southernunion.com

THE BEST ADVICE:

CONCENTRATE ON THE SPIRITUAL
REALM RATHER THAN THE POLITICAL
REALM WHEN AT CHURCH.

ELECTION YEAR PROHIBITION ON POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS WITHIN CHURCHES

In a campaign year that looks to be as heavily religious as it does political, it is every member's duty to be cautious and protect the Church's tax exempt status.

- Under IRS code all 501(c) (3) organizations (churches) are prohibited in a very strict manner from participating either directly or indirectly with any political campaign on behalf of any candidate or elected public official. This includes any official running in local, state, or federal elections.
- Prohibition goes beyond candidate endorsement. Prohibition includes contributions to campaign funds, as well as public statements of position, either written or verbal.
- Allowing a candidate to use the Church's assets or property (facilities) is also prohibited.
- Church leaders cannot make partisan statements in publications (including websites or social media connected with the church office) or at functions.
- In an election year, always check the IRS rules for specific issues involving candidate appearances in your church.
- The IRS rules detail what is permissible and prohibited.

Voter guides gained popularity in the mid and late 90s. New rules have been issued on voter guides. The best advice is to refrain from passing out voter guides in church or on church property. When in doubt, check the IRS rules and be sure to be in compliance. Voter guides are the trickiest campaign issues to deal with, especially when well-meaning church members distribute them at church. This is not an exhaustive list of prohibition. It is important to remember that when you violate any one of these rules, you risk jeopardizing the Church's tax exempt status. If you have questions, you can always contact the public affairs department or check the IRS website at www.irs.gov.

JOINER LEAVES SOUL WINNING LEGACY

BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

Murray Evans Joiner Sr. was born November 14, 1935, in Huntsville, Alabama, to a Methodist minister and his wife, Elijah and Geneva Barley Joiner.

His first introduction to the Seventh-day Adventist Church was as a young boy through the Vacation Bible School ministry of a neighbor, Mary W. Davis. She invited him to her home on Friday evenings for worship, and gave him *The Voice of Prophecy* Bible studies. He eagerly accepted the teachings and signed to be baptized. However, his father was less than enthused and stopped the baptism.

Joiner attended Alabama A & M University where he majored in biology and chemistry, hoping to become a physician.

While at the University, he spotted the love of his life, Nannie B. Hammonds. He invited her to hear him sing with his group at church, and she too fell in love when she heard him singing “Precious Lord, Take My Hand.” In 1957 they were married in Mississippi.

Back in Huntsville, Murray and Nannie’s lives were forever changed when they attended a tent meeting sponsored by the Huntsville First Church. When he heard the same things he studied as a child, he was baptized the week his first daughter Nanetta was born, and his wife was baptized soon after.

A talented designer, Joiner was hired by the Chrysler Corporation as a detailed draftsman at Redstone Arsenal. His designs of internal components were used in the Saturn Five rocket. But, something had changed Murray Joiner; he was on fire for the Lord! He became a lay minister and, working alongside other pastors, helped start the Alpha Church in Decatur, Alabama. He was thrilled to lead people to

Christ, and knew he had a call on his life to the full-time Gospel ministry.

He applied to enter the Andrews University Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary in Berrien Springs, Michigan, but when he tried to enroll, since he had a degree in biology and not theology, the dean was afraid that he would be at a disadvantage if he started on the graduate level.



Elder Murray E. Joiner Sr.

They recommended that he do coursework at Oakwood before attending Andrews. However, a few days later, the dean called him and said that he was impressed through a dream that he should allow him into the program. They accepted him on probationary status to see if he could handle the coursework. After one semester, the school lifted the probationary status because of his strong academic abilities.

While at Andrews University, Joiner participated in an Evangelism Field Training School with the late E. E. Cleveland. Soon afterward, the South Central Conference hired him and assigned him to pastor in the Greenwood, Mississippi, district.

Eager to do the work of an evangelist, Joiner’s *The Big Bible Tent* evangelistic efforts were soon drawing hundreds to Christ in Yazoo City and Columbus, Mississippi; and Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama.

A champion of Adventist education, Joiner and his wife started schools, sponsored children, raised funds, and supported all of their schools with their time and efforts.

In 1976, South Central called Joiner to serve as personal ministries and Sabbath School director. Ten years later, he received a call to the Southern Union Conference where he served from 1986 until 1990, when he was elected associate personal ministries director in the Church Ministries Department of the General Conference.

In 1993, he accepted a call to pastor in the Lake Region Conference in Detroit, Michigan, and Chicago, Illinois, where he served until he retired in 2001. After he retired, he and his wife returned to Huntsville, where he passed on October 3, 2015.

He is survived by his beloved wife of more than 58 years, Nannie Jordan Hammonds Joiner; their three children, Nanetta Joiner Pressley, Murray E. (Patricia) Joiner Jr., M.D., and Victoria Joiner, Ed.D.; six grandchildren, Joyce Pressley (Michael) Bellamy, D.M.D., Robert “Robbie” Pressley Jr., Jennifer C. Miller, Murray E. Joiner III, Lauren A. Joiner, and David Lee Miller; two great-grandchildren, Mia Lynn Bellamy and Michael L. Bellamy Jr.; four sisters, Verdell Pope, Annie Joyce Brown, Geraldine (Joseph) Thornton, and Victoria (Warren) Crawford; one sister-in-law, Lula (James) Merritt; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, cousins, god-children, and friends. ❶

ADU PROVIDES MEDICAL SUPPORT FOR CYSTIC FIBROSIS FOUNDATION'S

CYCLE FOR LIFE

FACULTY AND STUDENTS STAFFED
FIVE STATIONS ALONG THE ROUTE
TO PROVIDE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE



BY MEGHAN BRESCHER

Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU) had the privilege of partnering with the central Florida chapter of the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation to participate as medical support for the 5th Annual Cycle for Life fundraiser. The event raises awareness of the disease, and gives the community an opportunity to raise funds to support research toward better treatment and a cure for cystic fibrosis (CF).

ADU's Physician Assistant, Nursing, and Occupational Therapy departments staffed five stations along the 32-, 65-, and 100-mile bike routes, providing care to riders in need. The University also supplied 600 bottles of water to decrease the risk of dehydration.

"I believe we offered a sense of reassurance to the participants and the sponsoring organization that any med-

ical mishaps would be dealt with in an expedient manner," explained Mark Payne, D.HSc., chair of ADU's physician assistant program.

ADU students were primarily responsible for identifying participants who appeared to be most at risk for suffering immediate ill effects of dehydration, as well as tending to any minor injuries. They also assisted other event volunteers where needed.

While ADU students volunteered their time at the rest stops, a few ADU faculty members and alumni took to the streets and participated in the bike race.

"As a rider in the 2015 CF Cycle for Life, I was delighted to see fellow ADU faculty and our students at the rest stops, providing support and care for our community," stated Len Archer, Ph.D., vice president for academic administration at ADU.

ADU alumni also participated. Alumnus Andy Shaw showed his support for finding a CF cure by riding the 100-mile bike route. "Research for CF has come a long way, and a cure is closer than ever. Participating in events like the Cycle for Life brings us that much closer to finding a cure," explained Andy.

The event was particularly meaningful to the University because one of its own, Katie Shaw, director of enrollment services, was named honorary chairperson. Katie was diagnosed at just three days old with cystic fibrosis, and has been living with the condition. When she was born, her parents were told that she would probably not live past 18. Now 38, Katie is living a full and healthy life.

"My parents raised me with the knowledge that I could do and be any-



Pictured are Matt Hickman (left), ADU alumni; Len Archer, Ph.D., ADU's vice president for academic administration; ADU's Katie Shaw, who served as honorary chairperson for the Cycle for Life event; and her husband, Andy Shaw, ADU alumni.

thing I wanted to, that CF was not going to stop me from living my life, and I have never felt that it has held me back," stated Shaw. "It was a privilege to be the honorary chair for this year's Cycle for Life. Anything I can do to raise awareness for CF research is something I want to do."

With the help of volunteers, riders, and donors, this year's Cycle for Life raised \$105,000 in funds that will go toward "the continued work in creating a world with more tomorrows for those affected with cystic fibrosis."

"Having ADU support the Cycle for Life felt like the entire University was lifting me up and supporting my daily battle with CF. It was humbling to see so many people give of their time and/or money to ride, raise money, or volunteer that day," said Katie.

As an institution training future



Len Archer, Ph.D., participated in the bike ride and stopped to take a picture with a few ADU students who provided medical support for the event.

healthcare professionals, ADU understands the importance of supporting local organizations dedicated to improving people's lives. It is that same

mission that the University strives to achieve with its focus on healthcare as ministry. 🕊



PHOTO BY: DELWIN FINCH

GOD USES PEOPLE TO CHANGE PEOPLE'S LIVES

BY LES MCCOY

Another excellent summer for 75 students in the Florida student literature evangelist program has been reached. These students made contact with more than 300,000 people in Florida, distributed 40,000 books, and received \$300,000 in donations, of which \$200,000 went to student scholarships. Plus, the students received approximately \$50,000 in matching funds through various Adventist universities.

Of the untold number of answers to prayer and life-changing experiences, one story in particular stands out.

As Andrea Salcedo was working in Miami, she attempted to canvass several people in a barber shop, but no one seemed interested. Finally, one tough-looking man started listening to Salcedo. At the close of her presentation, the man decided to give her a small donation, but made it clear that he did not want the book. After several attempts, she convinced him to take the book.

A few weeks later, while canvassing

in a completely different area, Salcedo was assigned to an industrial complex that included what she thought was an abandoned building. She was nervous, but decided to look inside when something told her to proceed. Sheepishly poking her head through the door, she was taken aback when she saw two men. Being alone and afraid, she quickly sent up a prayer for protection.

Although Salcedo did not recognize the men, one of them recognized her. He was the tough man she met in the barber shop at the beginning of the summer. He began to rejoice at seeing her — even weeping. After much excitement, he told Salcedo that her book had changed his life. The book was *Peace Above the Storm*. You may know it as *Steps to Christ*.

I tell you this story for two reasons: First, all of the students had experiences like this throughout the summer where their books changed someone's life. But, only a few like Salcedo got to meet their



Andrea Salcedo

PHOTO BY: LEE BENNETT

customers again and hear them share their testimonies.

The second reason I tell you this experience is because it's true that the book changed this man's life. These inspired books are vital, but that is only part of the story because the Lord also used Salcedo to change this man's life. Perhaps we could put it this way: God uses people to change people's lives.

Thank you, students, for your courage and commitment to Christ and His Gospel this summer. Also, a special thanks to our hosts, Jacksonville First Church, Sawgrass Adventist School, Plantation Church, New Port Richey Church, and Tallahassee Church, and our extended program at Avon Park Church. Thank you for giving to the Lord and to many. Without you, this mission could not be accomplished. ❶



PHOTO BY: TRULY BLESSED PHOTOGRAPHY

Dorian Melo, pastor, and the production team, prepare to record the Prayer Ministries Training Seminar.

VIRTUAL CHURCH OFFICERS' MEETING... A NEW METHOD

BY AULDWIN T. HUMPHREY

The South Central Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, will conduct its first Virtual Church Officers' Meeting (V-COM) via the Internet from January 30 until February 7, 2016. The week-long event will begin with a church officers' rally that will transpire Sabbath, January 30, at 4:30 p.m. It will be streamed live from First Church in Huntsville, Ala. South Central Conference church officers who reside in the Huntsville area will be invited to attend the live taping. This historical event will begin with a pre-recorded introduction presented by Dana Edmond, Conference president, and the South Central office workers. It will be highlighted by showing the Conference's newly converted video studio in the office chapel.

The week's activities will include 30 pre-recorded workshops and seminars presented by the department directors of South Central. In addition to the department directors' presentations, there will be special features such as intermittent health spots by Curtis and Paula Eakins; an evangelism workshop presented by Carlton Byrd, D.Min.; Edward Harden, pastor, will present a workshop on church-to-church teleconferencing; and Craig Newborn, Ph.D., will present a seminar on "Understanding the Spirit of Prophecy." Each presentation will be pre-recorded and will run for 45 minutes, with an additional 15 minutes of live questions and answers. Questions may be texted, emailed, or posted to Go-to-Meeting.com. A Virtual Viewing Guide may be accessed online at vcom.scc-adventist.org.

The V-COM was envisioned by Dana Edmond. The idea was cost-saving and would provide continuity of training, as the presentations could be archived and used again throughout the year.

It was a vision of faith, but the vision called for a video studio and a team of technicians. As they look back in time and view the gifts and talents of the workers who might provide the technical support for a viable video studio, the Conference officials can see God's hand in this vision coming to pass.

The vision exemplifies that faith is the evidence of the unseen. Three years ago, a small ad hoc committee of South Central staffers was asked to inspect the Conference office, and make recommendations on how they could improve the efficiency and usage of the facility. Touring the building, the group entered the Conference chapel. Upon entering, they were almost simultaneously struck by the thought, "We could turn this room into an evangelistic video studio." However, this was such a "big ticket" item, the thought was not considered. So, the report back to administration was, for the most part, about things like replacing light bulbs with energy saving bulbs. However, God is a miracle worker, and He was not finished with these thoughts.

The pieces of this miracle began to come together two years ago when the Conference hired Jermaine Alexander, a young IT intern. Five years earlier, Edward Harden was hired, and his seminary training came after he pursued a career in engineering. While pastoring in his first district

in Mississippi, he developed a system of connecting his three churches via the Internet, and sharing cross-district worship services. Another South Central pastor, Micah Weech, elected to go to film school so he could produce Christian motion pictures. Still another pastor, Earl Jones Jr., was skilled in photography and production lighting. It was as if God was pulling the personnel pieces together to go virtual long before the vision was realized. However, the big surprise was the discovery that the multi-cultural coordinator, Dorian Melo, pastor, had spent many years, prior to becoming a pastor, in the field of film and video production. His contacts in the industry have made it possible for the Conference to get excellent discounts on high-end video equipment. The Conference officials know that God has many more surprises as they attempt to do His bidding with technology. Looking through the proverbial rear-view mirror, what appeared to be isolated personnel acquisitions and placement of workers, was in fact the piecing together of a mosaic designed by the Master Artist. ①



PHOTO BY: TRULY BLESSED PHOTOGRAPHY

Dorian Melo, South Central pastor, and director of multicultural ministries and VCOM production manager

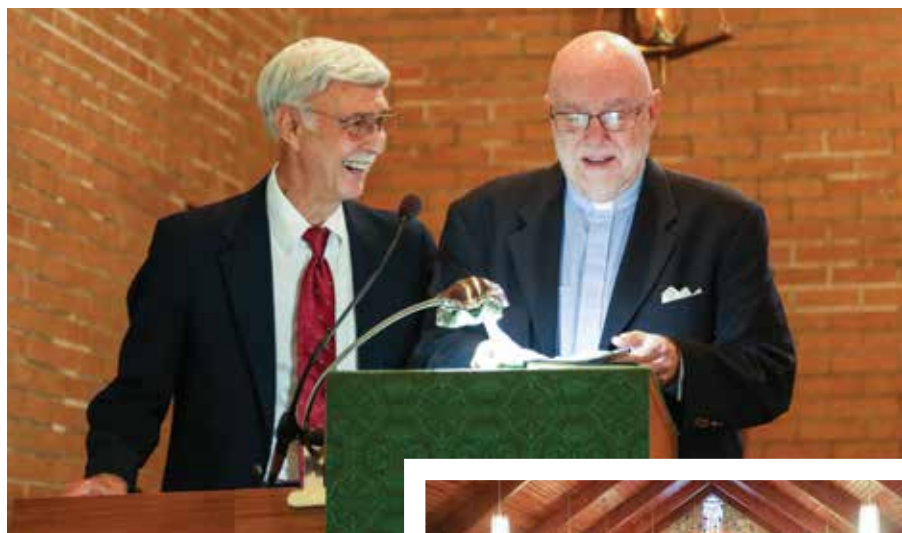
Three Angels Batesboro-Leesville Group Organized as Company

When a door closes, God opens a window.” That may be an old cliché, but for the Batesboro-Leesville Church plant, that was exactly what happened. Once a thriving church, over time the work in that area diminished to the point of disbanding. Now there is once again a church plant growing strong with a lot of support, not only from their “mother church,” but from another, more unusual source.

On Sabbath, November 7, 2015, the Three Angels Batesboro-Leesville group was officially organized into a company. Part of the celebration was an encouraging and admonishing message from Gary Moyer, Carolina Conference vice-president for administration.

During his sermon, Moyer quoted the entertainer Penn Jillette, from the act “Penn and Teller,” a professed atheist. He made a profound statement about evangelizing. Jillette said, “How much do you have to HATE somebody to believe everlasting life is possible and not tell them that?” This statement rings true and highlights one of the reasons behind church planting. This is part of the “Great Commission” outlined in Matthew.

As the service was closing, the minister of the church hosting this new company, Mark Bredholt, Ph.D., asked to speak. Bredholt told a brief story of a church member who had passed away and left a significant amount of money to their con-



Walter Fry (left), pastor, and Mark Bredholt, Ph.D.

gregation, and of how their church board had voted that a certain percentage of the interest from that money would go to help ministries outside their doors. With that being said, Bredholt turned and handed a check for \$2,000 to the new Adventist company to go into their building fund. He also wanted to reassure the company that their host church by no means was ready for them to leave. Bredholt also shared that when he told their bishop about the Adventist group wanting to rent their church, the bishop cried. The bishop said that in a society where churches seem to be closing doors, he was so hap-

py to see a group planting a church.

Experiences like this rarely happen, and how refreshing is it to have such wonderful support, as well as an opportunity to share what the Adventist Church is all about. Never underestimate the miracles of God when He opens the windows of Heaven. ①

BY COURTNEY HEROD

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

“Soar Above” Theme for Ministerial Spouses Retreat

A very special retreat was held just for Carolina ministerial spouses at Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty Hill, S.C., November 6-8, 2015. The entire

weekend was bathed with love and prayer as a dedicated committee prepared for months to make this a weekend to remember. The women are still talking about the

event and sharing their pictures with each other.

You may be wondering exactly what happens at an event where you gather al-

most 40 ministerial spouses ... Well, to sum it up: a huge blessing! Many people are aware that the role of a pastor's wife often goes unnoticed and maybe undervalued, but it is a sacrificial role that comes with multiple rewards and memories like no other. It would be remiss not to say that there are also challenges and struggles that most would never imagine.

The theme for the weekend was "Soar Above," and that is exactly the mindset they took back to their homes, congregations, and community. The inspired Word in Isaiah 40:31 reminds that, "they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. Wonderful seminars and messages prepared and provided by several of the pastors' wives imparted

fresh perspectives and optimistic outlooks, and the challenge to "Soar Above."

The women were treated to not only wonderful meals provided by the Nosoca camp staff, but beautiful and detailoriented place setting arrangements at the dining tables that were changed for every meal. Special treats were left everywhere that made the women smile often. The grand finale provided no less, as the "spa night" proved to be a favorite of many.

The Carolina ministerial spouses would like to extend heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to fearless leader Carole Louis, the planning committee, Nosoca Pines Ranch,



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

and the operational officers at the Carolina Conference who made this awesome weekend possible. In addition, they thank their spouses, children, and church family for their understanding as they enjoyed a much needed retreat that truly helped them to find new meaning as they "Soar Above" in the Carolinas! 🙏

BY CINDY MERCER

Little Creek Church Celebrates Grand Opening

Members of the Little Creek Adventist Fellowship in North Carolina, had a lot to be thankful for this Thanksgiving, as they came together to celebrate the grand opening of their new sanctuary on November 21, 2015. Leslie Louis, Conference president, presented a Sabbath message that emphasized the need to be a loving church, and the entire service was punctuated by musical offerings of praise. Lee Griffin, elder, also shared the background of the Little Creek Church with those in attendance, exclaiming that "it is truly God's story because it's HIS-story."

Nine years ago, the Little Creek Church plant was just an idea in the hearts and minds of a few members of the Raleigh Church. Both the Griffin and Massey families felt called to start an outreach in the Johnston County area, and soon they encountered other people with a similar vision. Once this faithful group received the blessings of both the Raleigh Church and

the Carolina Conference, the Lord showed them a facility to rent, and they eagerly began spreading the Gospel in their new community.

Over the years the church grew, and the Conference granted it company status in 2010. Thanks to a generous donation of land by John and Sarah Massey, the congregation finally had a place to build a permanent home, and Phase 1 of construction began in 2011. The first phase consisted solely of the fellowship hall and Sabbath School classrooms, and the church was able to move into its own building in 2012. Phase 2, which has just been completed, involved the addition of a permanent sanctuary. Dividing the project gave Little Creek time to raise the necessary funds, and it also gave the



PHOTO BY: CONTRIBUTOR



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

Denise Rueda, Ann Marie Bates, Judith Flores

group a place to meet temporarily until the sanctuary was complete.

Griffin remarked that Little Creek Fellowship is "a praying church," and those prayers have been answered in a big way. Now, not only do church members have a truly beautiful place to worship together, but they are helping to spread the Good News of Christ's soon return, both in Johnston County and around the world. 🙏

BY AIMEE GARVER

Palm Springs Church Members Dedicate New Sanctuary



A capacity attendance of members and guests participated in the November 7 Palm Springs grand opening celebration and dedication service.



PHOTO BY: VICTOR RODRIGUEZ

Founding members Dahlia and Rendel Forbes were given the honor of cutting the ribbon at the special Sabbath afternoon program.

A dedication and opening ceremony held recently for Palm Springs Church in Lake Worth, Fla., commemorated a date 14½ years ago as 19 believers met to plan and develop a branch Sabbath School. When growing numbers of attendees stretched this original house church to capacity in 2000, the homeowner opened up his office for worship.

This community of faith began looking for a larger place to worship, and was able to secure a 3.8-acre parcel of land in September 2000. After renovations, an old building on the property became a place of worship.

Two years later on September 21, 2002, the church was officially granted company status, and accepted into Florida Conference's sisterhood of churches. Lester Elliot became the first pastor.

Church growth continued until the company was organized into a congregation of more than 100 members in March 2003. Not only did the church continue to increase its numbers through evangelism and other means, the members also sponsored Victory Church in Port St. Lucie.

Even though ground was broken for a new sanctuary, it was not to be. At one point, the structure used for services on the property was destroyed by fire. Challenges abounded, so the group rented a facility from Faith Presbyterian Church.



PHOTO BY: VICTOR RODRIGUEZ

Carmen Rodriguez, Florida Conference executive secretary, led the Scripture reading from Psalm 24:7-10, which set the tone for Pastor Raulford Baptiste's (second from right) sermon titled, "Who is this King of Glory?"

Members started to build at the fire site, but it became evident that a better plan would be to purchase a finished church edifice than to try to build a new structure. A large donation from two members was the catalyst for other members to give sacrificially, and a new property was selected.

"Patience is certainly a virtue that pays off — everything happens in God's own time," says Theo Roberts, a founding member and later pastor of the growing congregation.

Transformation began again as a building on the new campus was turned into a church home. On November 7, 2015, the fruits of labor of 172 faithful members paid off, and Palm Springs Church was dedicated.

The church family expresses greatest appreciation and thanks to God for providing. They are grateful to Him for using Raul-

ford Baptiste, pastor, and the church building committee to navigate through the difficult times experienced with acquiring this sanctuary. ❶

Palm Springs Church's original name was Emmanuel Church. Its founding members were:

- Dahlia Forbes
- Rendel Forbes
- Linet Hall
- Thelma Henry
- Cassie James
- Herman Martin
- Fredricka McCarthy
- Charles Nairne
- Inez Nairne
- Hurbert Picart
- Hyacinth Picart
- Julia Powell
- Theophilus Roberts
- Elton Shakes
- Joyce Sibble
- Isabel Taylor
- Julie Taylor
- Wentworth Taylor
- Yolande Taylor

BY DAHLIA FORBES

Solid Rock Church of Orlando Impacts Community

Solid Rock Church of Orlando has a culture of meeting needs in the community. In order to reach and impact their neighbors, church members have initiated several programs. Services provided free of charge include the following:

1. GED Class
2. Math Class
3. Spanish Class
4. Basic Computer Class

Additional programs include street feeding and prison ministry.

Their church school, Beryl Wisdom Adventist School, is impacting not only the students, but the parents. Several students and parents have been baptized as a result of the school's influence.

This fall, Solid Rock hosted a series of meetings with Charles Blythe, evan-



Newly baptized members, along with Keith Harding (left), Solid Rock pastor, and Bible instructor, Andrew Harris (fourth from left)



Evangelist Charles Blythe

PHOTO BY: JOHN POLEON

gelist and pastor of Pikesville Church, Baltimore, Md., whose messages touched the hearts of the church and community. As a result of initiatives in the community and the ministry of Blythe, 20 new members were added to the church: 17

baptisms and three professions of faith.

The church continues to work with others in preparation for baptism. ❶

BY KEITH HARDING

Grace Marshall Celebrates 100th Birthday

Grace Marshall was born December 6, 1915, in Lowell, Mass. She joined Lowell Church by baptism at age 14, then graduated from Lowell High School. She started working at New England Sanitarium, Stoneham, Mass., as a nurse's aide. While employed there, she met Clinton Marshall who worked as an orderly. In 1935, they married in Lowell.

Over the years, Grace worked in food service along with her husband for Atlantic Union College, South Lancaster, Mass.; Pioneer Valley Academy, New Braintree, Mass.; Avon Park Hospital, Avon Park, Fla.; Forsyth Memorial Hospital, Tallahassee, Fla.; Blue Mountain Academy, Hamburg, Penn.; and Forest Lake Academy, Apopka, Fla.

The Marshalls moved to Florida in

1970. An automobile accident in 1978 left Clinton a quadriplegic. Grace had to learn to drive a car, pay bills, and write checks while devoting her time to Clinton's care until he died in 2002.

Grace's sister, Fern Smith, joined her at Florida Living Retirement Community, Apopka, Fla., where they lived together, made a lot of memories, and were inseparable. After Fern's death, Grace moved in with her grandson, Randy Ford, and his wife, Angela. She started attending church with them at Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Fla.

"The key to a long life," says Grace, "is eating healthy, walking daily, and going to church." She enjoys listening to hymns and watching programs on 3ABN and the Loma Linda Broadcasting Network.



Grace Marshall

PHOTO BY: LEE BENNETT

Grace has two sons, James and Fred. Her oldest child, Grace Marilyn Ford-Keifer, passed away in 1973. She has nine grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. ❶

BY ANGELA FORD

\$10,000 Investment Nets Multimillion-Dollar Reward

Generous gifts, some ranging into the millions, are being given to organizations in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference this year, and it all started with a \$10,000 investment in 1978.

About 37 years ago, a group got together with an idea to offer low-income housing in the Atlanta area. They asked the Conference office for a start-up investment of \$10,000 and worked with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to obtain government grants. They wanted to build a 10-story high rise with 150 affordable assisted living units for senior citizens. Thus, Smyrna Towers was born. It provides 24-hour emergency maintenance response, a service coordinator, and on-site staff to meet the needs of the residents. The facility was constructed in 1979.

Larry Payne, long-time Smyrna Towers board member and secretary, recalled, "We looked for property near Smyrna hospital on which to build a 10-story building. It was the biggest in the area, and no fire trucks back then would even reach the top story. Smyrna city council member Max Bacon really wanted it, and he decided to try to get the state of Georgia to provide grant money — because they needed a new fire truck, with a hook and ladder. Bacon succeeded, and they built the 10-story Smyrna Towers. It is still the tallest building in that area."

"Dorothy Abbott was the first administrator for Smyrna Towers, serving for 31 years," said Payne. "She ran it well — tight ship, excellent job. Original board members signed on and committed to long terms: Joe Cruise, a physician in Atlanta; Tom Hutchinson, a business man from north Georgia; Dave Magoon, Atlanta businessman; Bruce Bergherm, a physician and board chairman for numerous years; and Eldon Carman, a local dentist. These dedicated individuals all served

basically until they moved or passed away."

"It was a great blessing for the Church, I think," said Dorothy Abbott, Smyrna Towers administrator, 1979-2010. "I had a wonderful experience with the people and the corporation. Some residents were baptized while I was there; that made me feel happy. Good preachers came in and did good work. I worked until I was 78."

For many years Smyrna Towers even provided church services for its residents on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sabbaths, but over the years HUD restricted that, according to Payne. He recalled the baptisms of between five and seven residents.

Terry Leard, who serves as the current chair of the Smyrna Towers board, says he thinks the project's original intent was to provide low-income housing to Adventist senior citizens in the Atlanta area, but today only a few residents are Seventh-day Adventists. Leard said, "The initial \$10,000 was paid back to the Conference 30 years ago. One day I asked the board: 'Why do we own this? Why are we in this affordable housing business? It is a somewhat unusual thing for a church to be involved in. It is a worthwhile cause, but it does not further church work.' Nobody had a reason."

The board members decided to see what Smyrna Towers was worth before making a decision. They received an appraisal of about \$5.6 million in 2013. In the end, they opted to sell and closed with an offer of \$11 million on February 10, 2015. They sold to Housing Preservation, Inc., a company based out of Memphis, Tenn., which owns 17 similar properties.

Now the Smyrna Towers board mem-



PHOTO BY: TERRY LEARD

Terry Leard (left), Smyrna Towers board chair, congratulates Ed Wright, Conference president, and Kurt Allen, Conference vice president for finance.

bers find themselves in a new role: donors. According to Leard, "The requirement of selling one of these government properties is that we can only distribute the proceeds to nonprofit entities. The board determined where to invest the proceeds, donating \$1.7 million dollars to Cohutta Springs Conference Center for the construction of Cohutta Springs Life Center; \$3.5 million to Georgia-Cumberland Academy for a major capital campaign; and creating a \$2 million dollar endowment for Atlanta Adventist Academy. We are now almost out of money, and are looking at smaller projects that would allow people to do what they would not be able to do otherwise."

Leard concluded, "Giving to God's Work is a blessing beyond my ability to describe. This \$10,000 investment turned into an asset of over \$9 million used to further God's Work."

Current Smyrna Towers board members include Leard, chair; Payne, secretary; Steve Fehlenberg, vice president; Ed Wright, Conference president; Kurt Allen, Conference vice president for finance; Bob Deforest; Harold Brown; Ben Wheatley; and Bobbi Sue Wohler. ☛

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Children Raise Almost \$500 for ADRA Gifts

A Sabbath School teacher shares a personal account from her class.

Wonderful things come in compact little packages. The Tellico Plains, Tenn., Kindergarten Sabbath School class consists of three children, Ronnie, Abbi, and Rickie. They are full of love, energy, and the joy of life.

The class started the New Year searching through ADRA's Really Useful Gift catalog for a project they could afford (thinking small). Filled with excitement, the children decided on two chickens for \$40. Next, a stove for \$35. By now ADRA was pretty impressed and sent the children ADRA Hero Awards, and some high quality activity books. They were starting to think big, and wanted to raise \$125 for a beehive. I hesitated because I didn't want them to become discouraged. Stifling my

short-sightedness, I said, "OK, let's go for it!" Who was I to stand in the way of three spirited little youngsters on a mission?

The class decided they could purchase more gifts for a lot more families if they enlisted the help of adults. As they presented their case during church outreach time, they were delighted to see the adults as excited as they were. Miniature beehives were constructed for collecting the offering.

From January to October, the children purchased two chickens (\$40), one stove (\$35), one beehive (\$125), four goats (\$160), a medical kit (\$75), and winter clothing for a refugee child (\$35).

The children are learning a wonderful lesson in generosity. Start a special project in your children's class, and allow them to think BIG and pray! 🙏



PHOTO BY: SHERRY PERSON

Amy Stephens, facilitator of Murphy Adventist Christian High School; Sherry Person, math, English, and publications educator at Murphy Adventist Christian School (MACS); Opal Cornwell, pre-K and K teacher at MACS; and Cheri Jenkins, principal and grades 1-8 teacher at MACS.

BY DEANNA BRASSINGTON

Cornwell, Murphy (MACS) Lauded in Cherokee County

Cherokee Scout readers voted Opal Cornwell "Best Educator," and Murphy Adventist Christian School (MACS) "Honorable Mention" to "Best School" of Cherokee County, N.C. The *Cherokee Scout* has a circulation of more than 9,500 copies, and, along with the school, is based in the foothills of Murphy, N.C. Cornwell was a student of MACS in its first year of service, and has taught there for 22 years.

Amy Stephens, facilitator of the Murphy Adventist Christian High School, has been working alongside Cornwell for 10 years. Stephens realizes the "wonderful blessing" that Cornwell has been to the students. "She has a sincere love and dedication to the Christ-centered education that is taught at MACS," Stephens elaborated. The head teacher of MACS, Cheri Jenkins, praises the "encouraging words and ready smile"

that Cornwell passes on to her students, while teaching in a "creative, hands-on, and professional manner."

One of Cornwell's kindergarten students from last year, who is presently performing at the 2nd grade level, remembers the "fun projects" she experienced in Cornwell's class. A favorite lesson incorporated "dough and feathers" in teaching "science and art." Another student, a 4th grader, eagerly contributed, "Mrs. Cornwell loves everyone, even people she doesn't know, which is why she is the 'Best Educator,' for she 'loves at all times,'" Proverbs 17:17.

It must be so, for Opal Cornwell has been known for her expressions of love: "Love this school and all it stands for; love all the precious children; love my job; love my God most of all." 🙏

BY SHERRY PERSON



PHOTO BY: DEANNA BRASSINGTON

Kindergarten Sabbath School children, Ronni, Abbi, and Rickie have raised almost \$500 providing many items for those in need through the ADRA Gifts Catalog.

Tuscaloosa Church Starts New Ministry on University of Alabama Campus

The Skyland Church in Tuscaloosa, Ala., embarked on a new ministry to the University of Alabama (UA) on August 27, 2015. The campus ministry group “Theodicy” began its efforts to reach students through an event called “Get-On-Board-Day.” More than 15,000 UA students gathered on campus to learn about the different clubs and gatherings happening at the University. Jon Holland, pastor of Skyland Church, says, “It was a blessing to meet students and talk with them about the Theodicy Journey Groups that were beginning on campus.”

According to Holland the word Theodicy is a defense of God’s character, goodness, and omnipotence in view of the existence of evil — this is what the groups’ mission is about. The Theodicy Journey Groups meet on the campus each Wednesday to help address questions by sharing from the Bible the truth of God’s character. The ministry seeks to bring students on a journey to the character of God, to experience the character of God, and to share the character of God.

Taryn Watkins, UA campus ministries director, was excited to meet and share with the students, as she was once in their shoes. A recent graduate of Michigan State University, Watkins was just a “regular” student attending school to get a degree and move on with life, but God had other plans. In the fall semester of 2010, she received a knock on her door from an Adventist student missionary offering free Bible studies. It was at just the right time, as Watkins had been praying to get more involved in studying the Bible. As she studied, she became convinced this was Bible truth. In the spring semester of 2011, she was baptized into the Lansing, Mich., Church. Watkins has a passion for ministering to campus students. After graduating from Michigan State University in 2014, she served as a campus Bible worker for a year before receiving the call to come and work at UA.

Plans are underway to host an apologetics presentation in February 2016,



Taryn Watkins, UA campus ministries director, was excited to meet and share with the students as she was once on their side.

followed by a unique evangelistic series using the Sanctuary as a guide through Bible prophecy. You can learn more about Theodicy by going to their website at theodicyua.com. 📞

BY JON HOLLAND AND REBECCA GRICE

Bass Academy’s Endurance Team Inspires Others to take Charge of Their Health

For the past five years, students and staff from Bass Memorial Academy (BMA) have participated in the Sunbelt Triathlon hosted by Southern Adventist University. A typical triathlon starts with an open water swim, followed by a road bike race, which is immediately followed by a foot race. It is estimated that less than one percent of the nation’s population has ever completed a triathlon. Don’t get this confused with an Olympic decathlon; that

is for professional athletes only. Anyone, regardless of their age or fitness level can, and often does, compete. These races are gaining popularity across the world because of the sense of accomplishment you feel when you cross that finish line is priceless!

More than 30 students and staff either raced or volunteered as a way to support this event, which has become an annual tradition for BMA. Most join a relay team, choosing to just focus on one of the events;

others compete in all three disciplines. Each year, more students catch the bug for fitness. Some see finishing the half-mile swim, 18-mile bike ride, and four-mile run as an important goal to accomplish before marching on graduation weekend. One of the students, Kaleb Halversen, has done the entire race each of the four years he has attended BMA.

How do the students and staff find time to not only participate, but also train for this

event? For the past four years, the school has participated in a morning exercise program that is mandatory for the student body. Staff are also encouraged to participate. These triathletes, better known as the BMA Endurance Team, train intensely for two months from day one of school until the race, which takes place the first Sunday in October. This training resulted in five individual medals, six relay medals, and participants having the satisfaction of knowing they finished what they started!

The Endurance Team hopes they inspire you to take charge of your health as well, one step at a time. For more information, to donate, or to join the team for the next endurance event in January in Mobile, Ala., check out the Bass Endurance Team Facebook page. 📌

BY JASON SHIVES, M.D.



Students and staff from Bass Memorial Academy participated in the Sunbelt Triathlon hosted by Southern Adventist University for the past five years.

Renovated Dothan Church Fellowship Hall Dedicated to Outreach

Recently, the Dothan, Ala., First Church held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their newly renovated fellowship hall. All the existing interior walls were removed to accommodate the growth the church is experiencing. Work began under the administration of former pastor, Eric Bates, and was completed under the current pastor, Bob Ratcliff. Local church leaders played key roles in organizing and completing the majority of the construction. However, it took the support of the whole congregation to complete the work.

The new hall is more than 2,700 square feet, and can easily seat 120 for lunch. The large kitchen has a commercial refrigerator, two stoves, two microwaves, an ice machine, a dishwasher, and large warmer. Ratcliff dedicated the building to the work that God is calling Dothan to do, and Cindi Yohn, prayer coordinator,

offered a prayer of dedication.

Events and ministries the building is being used for include a rapidly growing Hispanic ministries group that uses the building each Sabbath. In June, a Vacation Bible School was held. One-half of the children who attended were not from the Dothan Church. Uchee Pines Institute held the CHAMPION Nutrition Education classes and Cooking School in the building. The MagaBook team spent nine weeks with the Dothan Church family. They canvassed the surrounding area, and led out in the church service in music, testimonies, and Vespers. The team placed more than 5,000 books in the community. Thirty-one bags were stuffed and donated to the Fostering Love Care Kits Campaign. Members participated by donating items to add to bags or taking a bag and filling it with necessities and comfort items.



Church leaders Carl Hobbs (left), David Anderson, Bob Ratcliff, pastor, Jerry Hobbs, Dave Koning, and Bill Thorpe participate in the ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated Dothan, Ala., First Church fellowship hall.

These activities gave members a chance to live out the mission of the Church: “Know Jesus, Reflect His Character, Share His Message.” 📌

BY ROSALIND JAMES

Conference Academies Hold Youth POWER Event

The dog, Baxter, had been killed by a drunk driver nearly a week before.

Baxter had rescued his owner when she fell, and now she was in tears. Due to her disability she couldn't bury her beloved companion.

"Baxter saved my life, and I can't even give him proper burial," she told the young people who had come to her home. The young people were part of the third annual Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Youth POWER Event, and while they had come to the woman's home to install a wheelchair ramp, they quickly rallied to the unexpected need. The youth not only buried Baxter, but also covered the grave with rocks from a nearby stream, found a ceramic fire hydrant to place on top of the grave, and built a wooden cross with Baxter etched on it.

"Honestly, I think the lady was happier about us burying her dog than she was



about us building the wheelchair ramp," said Moises Canas, a senior at Madison Academy. "She cried and thanked us."

Every year in late September, youth from Highland and Madison academies, along with other youth from around the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, travel to Manchester, Ky., as part of the Youth POWER Event. POWER is an acronym for Prayer, Outreach, Witnessing, Excitement, and Revival. During this event, the youth participate in two days of community service projects sponsored by Manchester Memorial Hospital. On Sabbath, they hold a youth rally at Manchester Church.

"Being there and seeing their living

conditions being smaller than what we are used to, gave me a whole new perspective," said Wyatt Cross, Madison Academy sophomore. "They have so many less life options, like college and stuff, than we do. I am going to take more advantage of the options I have."

During this year's event, the young people and their adult sponsors renovated three homes. Renovations included painting, installing gutters, shoring up flooring, installing windows, cleaning debris, installing a wheelchair ramp, and building a porch. ❶

BY KEN WETMORE

Women Give Children Gift of Eternity in Shoeboxes

For many years the Hendersonville, Tenn., Church has been packing shoeboxes for a charity called Operation Christmas Child. Three years ago they decided to start collecting school supplies, toys, clothing, and hygiene items year round.

Previously the church averaged around 30 shoeboxes each year. When they began collecting year round, they were able to fill 77 boxes the first year, 82 the second year, and 132 in 2015.

The boxes are sent to children in poor countries. Many of these children have never received a gift. Along with the box, the children receive a booklet titled "The Greatest Gift," which tells them about



Pictured are the women who packed shoeboxes during the women's ministries meeting for Operation Christmas Child.

God and His gift of Jesus. Through these boxes, many youth learn about a loving, caring God for the first time.

The 2015 packing party was held at the November women's ministries meeting. The women enjoyed dinner together, a

devotional, and then began the work of packing goodies from six tables into the shoeboxes. ❶

BY AMBER BARNES

Ridgetop Adventist Elementary Affirms its Pre-K Program

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it,” Proverbs 22:6. This biblical model for early childhood development is one that Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School (RAES) has made the central focus of its newly introduced pre-K program. RAES, nestled in the rural community of Ridgetop, Tenn., is an Adventist EDGE accredited pre-K- through 8th-grade school.

In today’s society where more parents are working outside the home, there is a demanding need for more programs that bring a balance to both the spiritual and academic needs of children, who are so impressionable during their early childhood years. Research emphasizes the importance of intentional and purposeful education in the early childhood years

(birth to age 7) as a child’s spiritual identity is being developed.

The ultimate goal of the RAES pre-K program is to help children foster a love and friendship with Jesus by providing a balanced curriculum that helps develop the whole child — spiritually, academically, and physically. Children learn through exploratory play and hands-on lessons in a Christ-centered environment. Little characters are modeled and shaped after Him. Jesus says in Matthew 18:4-5, “Therefore, whoever humbles himself like a child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in My name welcomes Me.” 🕊

BY CRYSTAL M. CARNEY, RAES PRE-K/K TEACHER



Student Kenric Andino goes “down on the farm” in the pre-K classroom.

Charles Harris Retires After 21 Years of Service

Charles Harris began his denominational employment in the mission field in 1964 as the business manager for Saigon Adventist Hospital in Vietnam. In July of 1969 he transferred to Youngberg Adventist Hospital in Singapore. He and his wife, Ruth, returned to the United States in 1973, and Harris served as the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference assistant treasurer for 15 months.

In 1974, Harris became a nursing home administrator, where he remained until his retirement in 1993. In 1994 he postponed retirement and accepted the position of part-time local church and school auditor of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

In order to save funds, many times

Harris slept in churches or schools. With tremendous dedication, he traveled hundreds of thousands of miles auditing churches throughout the Conference. When he began, he used pay phones and local maps to find the homes of church treasurers. But in recent times, he has had the convenience of cell phones and GPS. Ruth Harris has served as his GPS operator. The Harrises have a deep love for their church and its members.

After 21 years of faithful service, Charles Harris decided in June of 2015 it was time once more to retire, and spend more time with his wife and family. He will be greatly missed by his friends at the Conference office, and the people he has lovingly served through the years. 🕊



Charles and Ruth Harris were recognized for their years of service during the September Executive Committee Meeting.

BY DOUGLAS HILLIARD, CONFERENCE TREASURER

ADU's Founding President, David Greenlaw, Celebrates 25th Anniversary

David Greenlaw, D.Min., honored for his strong leadership and mission-focused vision.

Adventist University of Health Sciences' (ADU) founding president, David Greenlaw, D.Min., celebrates his 25th anniversary as president for the University. ADU was established in 1992 as a health sciences institution practicing under the mission of "Healthcare as Ministry." Greenlaw was given the responsibility of building the University into an accredited institution that produces world-class healthcare professionals, and he is credited with the success it enjoys today.

"These last 25 years have been my life. I live it night, day, every day of the week. Who I am is here at ADU, and how often do you get to put your stamp on something over such a long period of time," explained Greenlaw.

In just 25 years, the University has grown from an institution offering only four associate degrees to where it is today, with more than 10 programs offering degrees at all levels: associate's, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral. With the need for quality healthcare education increasing nationwide, Greenlaw was among the first university presidents to offer online education with the establishment of ADU Online in 2000. Later, he opened an additional campus site in Denver, Colo.

"I can't imagine anyone else that I know who could have accomplished all that he did in this short period of time," stated Charlotte Henningsen, chair of ADU's Sonography Department.

Under Greenlaw's vision and leadership, ADU continuously developed to meet the needs of students and healthcare organizations. He saw the importance of nurturing



students not just with clinical education, but also with spirituality in a faith-based setting.

Lars Houmann, president and CEO of Florida Hospital, described Greenlaw as a visionary. He stated, "A visionary is not somebody who just dreams; a visionary is someone who has a pretty specific, focused way of seeing the future and getting something there, which Dave clearly has done with ADU."

ADU honored Greenlaw with a 25th anniversary video where his family, friends, and colleagues shared their memories of working with him during the formative years, and building the institution to where it is today. The full-length video can be viewed at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h92hQjlm_qY.

Greenlaw attributes the success of ADU to "good people," the faculty and staff that



he has employed to make a difference in the lives of each and every student. He said, "What a privilege I've had to be able to work this long in one thing, to gather such a wonderful group of people, and to see the work that they produce on a day to day basis. It has been tremendously satisfying for me. Few people get the chance to do that in their life." 📌

BY MEGHAN BRESCHER

Conference Holds First “Best Nurses Retreat”

The South Atlantic Conference (SAC) Health Ministries Department is now busy planning a Best Nurses Retreat for April 29-May 1, 2016, at the River Oaks Convention Center in Orangeburg, S.C. The reason for this exciting plan is rooted back in 2014.

Spring was definitely in the air on March 28, 2014, when 72 nurses arrived at the Mountain Creek Inn in Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain, Ga., to register for the first Best Nurses Retreat, sponsored by South Atlantic’s Health Ministries Department.

Attendees came from the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, representing all of the states in South Atlantic. The keynote speaker was Edna Andrews Rose, Ph.D., M.S.W., R.N., B.C., Department of Neurology clinical nurse consultant of the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, Mich.

The retreat planning began when a group of retired nurses decided to host a weekend to “reach back” to nurses who were still working to offer a relaxing respite. It evolved into a personal ministry, and workshops were planned for physical, emotional, and spiritual growth. The administrators at SAC were given information about this ministry, and David Moore, M.D., director of health ministries, partnered with the nursing committee to sponsor the event.

One nurse commented, “I often invite nurses I work with to church or outreach activities, but this was an opportunity to bring co-workers to a unique event designed just for us.” Many of the attendees were not Adventist.

Zeno Charles-Marcel, M.D., associate director of health ministries for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, conducted the worship service on Sabbath, and spoke on the topic “Who’s



PHOTO BY: ANDREW JACKSON

Pictured are Ann Mason (left), R.N. and Betty Perry, R.N., Abney Chapel, Fayetteville, N.C.; Myrtle Lee, R.N. and Alfreda Walker, R.N., Decatur Church, Decatur, Ga.; Eula Winston, R.N., Berean Church, Atlanta, Ga.; Lavata Carter, R.N., Atlanta; Dorothy Jackson, event planner, LaGrange, N.C.; and Lucy Parlor (seated), R.N., Berean Church.

the Nurse for the Nurse.” He commended the nurses for the wonderful love and care that they give, but challenged them to take better care of themselves. Registered nurses Lavata Carter and Jennifer Johnson led the group in an interactive discussion of “The Healing Power of Forgiveness.” David and Pamela Moore were readily available for support to the group, and offered the film *Forks Over Knives*.

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine,” Proverbs 17:22, was printed on a retreat poster, and Saturday night’s social time was filled with fun, games, and team competition with prizes and lots of hearty laughter. Debbie Wallace, M.D., owner and CEO of True Health Television Network in Atlanta, Ga., conducted a great exercise session on Sunday morning.

Another feature that received positive remarks was the SAC Women’s Ministries Department offering Morning Glory praise and testimony prayer sessions.

Leader Janice Carter stated that she was surprised that more than 50 percent of the attendees came to the early service on Sabbath morning.

The glorious event ended with a nutritious, delicious Sunday brunch, and the nurses asked for another retreat in 2015; however, it was put off until 2016 due to the 2015 General Conference Session in San Antonio, Tex.

Next year’s Best Nurses Retreat is planned for Orangeburg, S.C., because it is a more central location for the tri-state South Atlantic Conference. The theme will be “Nurses: Professionals With a Purpose.” Edna Andrews Rose will return by popular demand, and Iris Miles will be a featured presenter. Information can be obtained from Olivia Morrison at the SAC Department of Health Ministries. ❶

BY SIMONE CAMPBELL

Oakwood Offers New Scholarship Opportunities for Students

Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala., is announcing two new scholarship programs to support students who receive church subsidy, and those who have attended Oakwood in the past and are still in need of completing their degree.

The two new scholarship programs, the Debt Amnesty Program and the Church Subsidy Scholarship, are just a part of the many ways that Oakwood University is assisting students — each one who wants to attend and complete a degree — to find the tools and finances to succeed.

Many students have exited the University for various reasons, and subsequently did not complete their bachelor's degree. Throughout the years, former students have expressed a desire to return and complete their undergraduate degree, but in some cases aged account balances present a formidable obstacle. Oakwood will offer financial amnesty or "debt forgiveness" to former students who have not attended Oakwood in the past five years, and who desire to complete their bachelor's degree at Oakwood. The amnesty program is set to start in the spring of 2016. "When students come to Oakwood University and are unable to complete their degree, we all lose. We want all those who still need to complete their degrees to know that we see you, you are important to us, and above all, we want you to finish," states Tricia Penniecook, M.D., vice president for academic administration.

For the Church Subsidy Scholarship, Oakwood will match up to 30 percent of tuition and matriculation fees ONLY for students receiving 70 percent subsidies from Church-related employers. Thus, students could receive 100 percent free tuition and matriculation fees. Students must have at least one parent

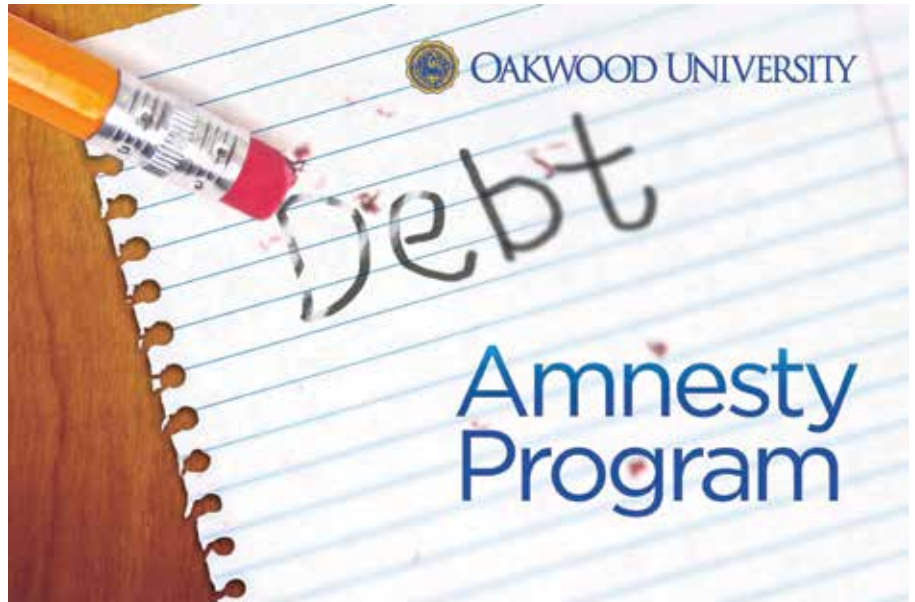


PHOTO BY: RON PRIDE

who receives North American Division (NAD) tuition assistance (per NAD Working Policy) at 70 percent Oakwood University's tuition cost to be eligible. This program is set to begin in the fall of 2016.

"These scholarships represent not just an opportunity for former or future Oakwoodites to earn undergraduate degrees; they also provide our Adventist system employees with greater tuition assistance for their young people who attend or will attend Oakwood," said Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood University. "The best long-term strategy in the midst of this global economic recession is to make yourself more competitive by getting your education," said



PHOTO BY: RON PRIDE

Pollard.

For more information on these scholarships or to apply to attend Oakwood University, please contact Malcolm Taylor, director of admissions and recruitment, at 256-726-7356, or email admissions@oakwood.edu. ①

BY KISHA NORRIS

Emma L. Minnis Jr. Academy Celebrates 100th Anniversary

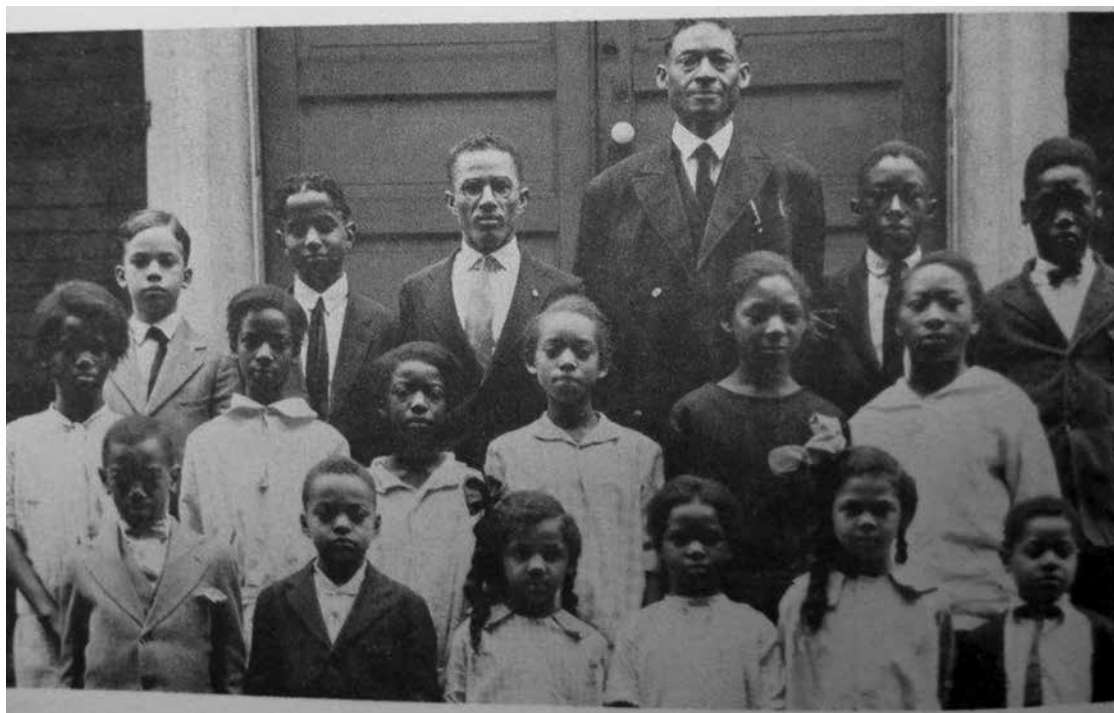
Hundreds of individuals gathered to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the Emma L. Minnis Jr. Academy on Sabbath, October 17, 2015. Current students, alumni, faculty, former faculty, and church members met at Magazine Street Church in Louisville, Ky. The history and legacy of Minnis was recounted by the church archivist, Mary Minor-Rowan, beginning with the opening of the school in 1915 under the leadership of J. H. Laurence, and highlighting the many notable individuals who have attended or served as faculty.

During Sabbath School, a panel of alumni from various decades shared the impact that Emma L. Minnis has had on their lives. The oldest living teacher, Zeola Allston, who began her teaching career at Minnis immediately upon her graduation from Oakwood College in 1949, brought greetings and shared memories of her years at the school, including her first visit from Anna Knight, education superintendent at that time. During the divine worship service, Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church and speaker/director of Breath of Life Television Ministries, delivered a dynamic and inspiring message on the value of Seventh-day Adventist Christian education, and the critical importance of keeping it relevant in the 21st Century.

After a delicious meal and the unveiling

of the beautiful “Donor Recognition Tree,” located in the lobby of the school, the afternoon program featured students who performed musical selections and gave a stirring rendition of an original poem by retired teacher and current volunteer Mary Crawford. It recounted the amazing story

Schools educator and administrator, and great-nephew of Emma Minnis, presented an informative historical spotlight. Proclamations from Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer; Kentucky House of Representatives member Reginal Meeks; Senator Rand Paul; and Barack Obama, President



An early photo of the Louisville School

of Divine intervention when the boiler (located in the basement of the church where the school was also housed) blew up, but only after the unexplained ringing of the church bell signaling a fire drill, and the subsequent safe evacuation of all the students and teachers. The children’s question rang out — “Who rang the bell?” The answer — “An angel rang the bell!”

The day of celebration concluded with an evening gala hosted by local television co-anchor Dawne Gee, and featured gospel artist Shirley Murdock. Bernard Minnis, Ed.D., retired Jefferson County Public

of the United States, were read.

Through the generosity of individuals and groups, more than \$50,000 was raised. The funds will be used to furnish the school with playground equipment, new computers, and interactive boards for each classroom. Emma L. Minnis Jr. Academy is grateful for God’s abundant blessings during its first 100 years, and looks forward to greater things that God has in store for the future. ❶

BY QUEEN ROBINSON

Magazine Street Church Celebrates its Veterans

Magazine Street Church in Louisville, Ky., held its first “Celebrating Our Veterans Day” on November 7, 2015. The event was the culmination of an idea by elders Anthony Frazier and Tiffney Gipson to recognize those in the congregation who had served or were currently serving in the United States military. The result of that idea was a full-day affair. During the morning worship service, 45 military servicemen and women were honored. Service began with the Pathfinder club marching in, led by Private 1st Class Christopher Cash, who currently serves in the United States Marine Corps. Marching in behind the Pathfinders were nearly 40 military veterans.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Janette Theosnis, who is currently in the United States Navy, served on the pulpit during the morning service, along with several other military veterans and Chaplain Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Taylor of the United States Air Force. Taylor was the guest speaker for the event, preaching from the topic “Crossing the Gulf: From Fear to Faith.” During morning worship, four active duty members and 33 retired servicemen and women were recognized individually, honored with a certificate thanking them for their service. An additional eight servicemen were recognized posthumously. The veterans, or those accepting on behalf of a veteran, were pinned with a red carnation.

After church, the veterans were the guests of honor for dinner held in the church’s fellowship hall. Later that evening, Taylor and Colonel Hope Walker led the Adventist Youth Society program. The program was entitled “The Armed Forces and its Effect on Families.” The discussions during this program revealed that there is a lot of work to be done with regard to educating the families of future



Magazine Street Church in Louisville, Ky, honored its veterans with certificates on November 7, 2015.



cadets, and receiving veterans once they return from war or retire from active duty.

“Celebrating Our Veterans Day” was a success, and an excellent opportunity to shine a light on members of the church who serve the United States in the military

— encouraging and defending freedom and liberty in a way that most members could never truly comprehend. 🕊

BY TIFFNEY GIPSON

Origins Resource Materials Available Free Online

Carol Raney, origins educator at Southern Adventist University, has spent the past several months traveling across the Southern Union to meet with teachers, telling them about the free online resources created and made available by her Origins Institute team. The digital materials help both professionals and laypeople alike more easily share information about creation and evolution that is factual, honest with the data, and biblically sound.

Southern's longstanding passion for creation science was recently funneled into a specific three-phase project funded by grants from the Faith and Science Council and private donations: hire professors with origins expertise, open a museum-quality Origins Exhibit in Hickman Science Center on campus, and create the Origins Institute to package this wealth of knowledge into a user-friendly format.

The first two stages have been complete for several years (visit www.southern.edu/faithandscience for information about the

Origins Exhibit), and learning aids are now being made available as videos, articles, and PowerPoint files that cover the scientific process, geologic column, biology, and origins 101. They begin with basic terms and ideas, yet introduce more in-depth topics as well.

Raney recently traveled to the Carolina Conference and met with educators on their inservice day. Brad Durby, principal of Edlemon Adventist School in Spartanburg, S.C., was excited to learn about the availability of these tools to assist with sharing creation science in a fun, simple format that would hold a student's attention.

"We are finding the problem isn't that parents are staunch supporters of evolution," Durby said. "What teachers are facing more and more is spiritual indifference instead. It is important for us to realize that one of the strengths of our school system is that we have an opportunity to permeate our curriculum with Bible-based values. Whether it's science, history, English, or math, we need to find ways to illustrate that



God has His hand in everything!"

According to Raney, additional materials are still in the works, including online game-like activities for children that reinforce concepts learned in the videos.

The Origins Institute is an interdisciplinary effort including Raney, Lee Spencer, Ph.D., Lucinda Hill, M.D., Keith Snyder, Ph.D., Greg King, Ph.D., Rob Montague, Ph.D., and Bob Young, Ph.D. To request a church or school presentation from Raney, email craney@southern.edu. To access the videos, articles, and PowerPoint files, visit www.southern.edu/originsresources. ①

BY SHEANN BRANDON

Health-Related Bible Study Filmed on Campus Farm

Filmmakers visited Southern Adventist University's Thatcher Farm in November to film a segment for a series of Bible studies called "Biblical Prescriptions for Life." The studies are based on research by James Marcum, M.D., a local cardiovascular physician, and T. Colin Campbell, bestselling author of *The China Study*.

Thatcher Farm is a student-led initiative, facilitated by the Global Policy and Service Studies program on campus, which

provides the Chattanooga community and Southern students with fresh produce and hands-on learning opportunities for those interested in studying sustainability. Marcum learned about the farm and Southern's agricultural class from a fellow healthcare professional, and requested to film the segment in a greenhouse there.

A "Biblical Prescriptions for Life" kickoff event is scheduled for January 30 at 2 p.m., in Chattanooga's ICCM Theatre. The program is designed to spread the Gospel

through plant-based nutrition and balanced lifestyles. The event will feature a screening of the documentary "PlantPure Nation," which tells the story of three people working together to propose a pilot program documenting the benefits of a plant-based diet to the Kentucky legislature. The film is currently showing in theaters and was also released in November on DVD. ①

BY DANIELLE ALLEN

UNIDOS EN LA MISIÓN

El propietario de una gran fábrica encontró una vez a su capataz en la fosa de un volante, haciendo algunas reparaciones sencillas, mientras que media docena de obreros de esa sección estaban de pie a un lado, mirando ociosamente. El propietario, después de averiguar los hechos, para tener la seguridad de no ser injusto, llamó al capataz a su oficina y le entregó su cesantía con su salario. Sorprendido, el capataz pidió una explicación. Le fue dada en estas palabras: ‘Lo contraté para mantener a seis hombres ocupados. Encontré a los seis ociosos, y a Vd. haciendo el trabajo de uno solo. Lo que hacía podría haber sido hecho igualmente por cualquiera de los seis. No puedo pagar el salario de siete hombres para que Vd. enseñe a seis de ellos a holgar.’ – {OE 207.3}

“En ciertos respectos el pastor ocupa una posición semejante a la del capataz de una cuadrilla de trabajadores o del capitán de la tripulación de un buque. Se espera que ellos velen porque los hombres que están a su cargo hagan correcta y prontamente el trabajo a ellos asignado, y únicamente en caso de emergencia han de atender a detalles. – {OE 207.2}

¡Cuánta sabiduría en estas palabras inspiradas! Describen claramente la visión celestial de la misión que Dios ha dejado para la iglesia. Tiene consecuencias eternas no solo para quienes son traídos al redil, sino para aquellos que trabajan en esta tarea. El apóstol Pablo, hablando de la segunda venida de Cristo dijo: “Así que, hermanos míos amados, estad firmes y constantes, creciendo en la obra del Señor siempre, sabiendo que vuestro trabajo en el Señor no es en vano.” 1 Corintios 15: 58. No se está listo para la segunda venida, sin trabajar para Cristo. Ese trabajo es consecuencia de una relación amorosa entre el creyente y Jesucristo, que se logra mediante un profundo estudio de la Palabra y una constante actitud de oración.

Esta es la visión que el departamento hispano de la Unión del Sur (Southern Union Conference) trata de inculcar en los pastores y miembros de iglesia. Es la razón por la que en la primera parte del año organizó un mega entrenamiento que contó con una asistencia de 3000 miembros laicos que no

sólo participaron de seminarios y talleres, sino que también recibieron los materiales que ayudarían en esta tarea a realizarse en las distintas áreas del vasto territorio. Este trabajo estaría liderado por los pastores locales. Las 8 asociaciones se involucraron con mucho entusiasmo. Miembros de iglesia y pastores locales trabajaron en unidad, y vieron grandes resultados. En Tampa por ejemplo, 17 iglesias de las asociaciones de la Florida y Southeastern participaron del entrenamiento de principio de año, trabajaron en la preparación del terreno, y en la campaña de cosecha que tuvo lugar en septiembre. La experiencia fue maravillosa. Los coordinadores hispanos de las 8 asociaciones, pastores de la Florida y otros territorios, junto a Jorge Mayer y Roger Hernández de la Unión del Sur, presentaron el Mensaje con la cooperación de muchos laicos entrenados. La experiencia de Nilton García, coordinador del departamento hispano de la asociación de los estados del golfo (Gulf States Conference) es digna de mención.

“Inicialmente tuvimos que enfrentar desafíos que no esperábamos. Desde el punto de vista humano, parecía que no veríamos bautismos en la congregación que nos había sido asignada. No obstante, sabíamos que la campaña no era nuestra sino del Señor, así que nos pusimos en sus manos para dejar que obre un milagro.

Todas las noches presentaba 2 predicaciones. Durante el día, y en la noche luego de las reuniones, junto a mi esposa y dos hijas, dábamos estudios bíblicos y visitábamos personas interesadas. En la mañana, a las 4:30 nos reuníamos con el equipo y algunas visitas para pedir la guía y el derramamiento del Espíritu Santo. A los efectos de mantener y aumentar la asistencia a las reuniones, mi esposa, y mis hijas enviaban mensajes de texto y hacían llamados telefónicos para invitar a las personas. El Espíritu Santo se manifestó trayendo más de 30 personas a Jesús por medio del bautismo esa semana.”

El testimonio de 2 miembros de esta congregación, luego de la terminación de la semana fue:

“Lo que más disfruté durante la campaña,

fue ver la energía que se invierte en el proceso de toma de decisión. Desde el primer día el pastor García y su esposa comenzaron a visitar a aquellas personas que habían demostrado interés en el conocimiento del Señor en el pasado, pero nunca habían hecho nada concreto al respecto. Pude ver claramente la presencia del Espíritu santo durante toda la semana, tocando corazones de gente como Luis Enrique. Su conversión fue un milagro real. El haber conocido su historia, hizo que el hecho de verlo descender en las aguas bautismales sea verdaderamente inspirador. Treinta y dos personas encontraron la Verdad y fueron liberadas de las cadenas del enemigo.

El encontrarnos cada mañana para orar, fue una bendición para mí en forma personal. Es maravilloso escuchar la voz de Dios a primera hora del día. Las meditaciones fueron de gran impacto para quienes participamos. Nos encontrábamos unidos, y se sentía amor en nuestros corazones. Es nuestra oración que el camino iniciado esa semana sea el que transitemos por el resto de nuestras vidas.” Domilco Heredia.

Su esposa Dinorah, también presentó un poderoso testimonio: “Yo misma pude presenciar varios milagros durante esa semana. El primero se llevó a cabo en mi vida espiritual. Al inicio de la campaña no tenía idea del impacto que esta causaría en mí. Fui renovada. Tuve un encuentro sorprendente con el Señor. Pude ver el trabajo del Espíritu Santo de cerca, mientras las personas luchaban contra los problemas que parecían impedir que tomen una decisión. Vi a muchas personas pidiendo recibir estudios bíblicos para ser bautizados en un futuro cercano. También noté que el Espíritu Santo no limita su trabajo a los adultos. Una niña que asistió a todas las reuniones, dibujó a su familia. Ella, con una mano estaba unida a su padre, y con la otra, sostenía la mano del pastor mientras éste la bautizaba. En la actualidad se está preparando para el bautismo.

Mi fe fue altamente fortalecida al trabajar en la ganancia de las almas.”

“Hagan los miembros de la iglesia fielmente su parte durante la semana, y relaten sus experiencias el sábado. La reunión será



Pastor Nilton García y esposa (primera fila, parados, extrema derecha) con candidatos de bautismo en Tampa



Pastor Roger Alvarez presentando un bautismo.



Pastor Manuel Tirado bautizando

entonces como alimento a su debido tiempo, que reportará a todos los presentes nueva vida y renovado vigor. Cuando el pueblo de Dios vea la gran necesidad que tiene de trabajar como Cristo trabajaba por la conversión de los pecadores, los testimonios que dé en los cultos del sábado estarán llenos de poder.” – {OE 210.1}

El total de bautismos desde que comenzó el trabajo a principio de año incluyendo la campaña de cosecha, fue de 254 en la asociación de la Florida. Por otro lado, 202 personas respondieron al llamado de saber más acerca de Jesús por medio del estudio de la Biblia. En la asociación Southeastern, 185 personas dieron sus vidas a Cristo desde el comienzo de esta iniciativa, y 17 continúan estudiando la Biblia.

En las asociaciones Kentucky-Tennessee, South Central, y Gulf States, la campaña tuvo un enfoque diferente. El evangelista Alejandro Bullón dirigió una campaña de cosecha in la ciudad de Memphis en agosto. La misma fue presentada a través de Internet, y transmitida en diferentes lugares gracias a la ayuda de los departamentos tecnológico y de comunicaciones de la Unión del Sur, quienes trabajaron con dedicación para que todo funcione impecablemente.

Los miembros en estas áreas prepararon el terreno desde principio de año, y la cosecha fue de más de 170 almas que entregaron sus vidas a Cristo durante esa semana, lo cual representó un 48% de la membresía existente. El territorio de los estados del golfo, trabajó de una forma particular durante todo el proceso. El pastor García, coordinador del departamento hispano, pidió que se permitiera que todos los pastores y miembros clave de su territorio pudiesen participar de la presentación del plan a principio de año. Había algo que este equipo de trabajo entendía claramente y era el hecho de que nada puede hacerse sin la ayuda de

Dios, por lo tanto, la oración era un elemento clave en este proceso.

Se adquirió un número telefónico especial, por el que el primer domingo de cada mes, se llevaba a cabo una teleconferencia de oración liderada por Jorge Mayer. El segundo domingo, estaba a cargo de Nilton García, y el 3ro y 4to domingo, las mismas eran lideradas por los pastores locales. Cada sábado de mañana, las personas se reunían antes del servicio de culto para orar por el derramamiento del Espíritu Santo. La iglesia estaba entusiasmada dando estudios bíblicos y visitando personas para compartir el Mensaje de Salvación. Los materiales adquiridos a principio de año fueron herramientas importantes en esta etapa del proyecto. Para reforzar el trabajo, la asociación invitó a 12 estudiantes de teología de la República Dominicana. Cada domingo, luego de la sesión de oración los estudiantes, pastores locales y laicos, se reunían para motivar, compartir experiencias, y revisar objetivos. El número de estudios bíblicos que se impartieron durante este esfuerzo fue de más de 750. El resultado, 256 bautismos solamente en el territorio de los estados del golfo.

En las asociaciones de Carolina, Georgia Cumberland, y South Atlantic, cerca de 120 nuevos creyente se unieron a la iglesia desde principio de año.

En adición al entrenamiento y las campañas de cosecha en Memphis y Tampa, 21 pastores hispanos incluyendo 4 coordinadores, participaron de un esfuerzo de cosecha en Argentina. Presentaron una campaña de una semana. Su trabajo fue muy efectivo. Durante el día, y a la noche luego de las reuniones, impartieron estudios bíblicos, y visitaron hogares. Si no había un vehículo disponible para llevarlos, se dirigían a pie, en taxi, o transporte público, a donde fuera que hubiese un alma que necesitara escuchar las buenas nuevas del Mensaje de Salvación

de Cristo. El presidente de la Unión Austral, resaltó su admiración por el compromiso que estos pastores mostraron respecto al trabajo de evangelismo. Expresó su deseo de que si fuera posible, le gustaría que volviesen en el 2016 para inspirar a los obreros y miembros de este territorio. La Unión del Sur está orgullosa de los 21 pastores que participaron en esta iniciativa.

“He leído que en cierta ocasión un hombre, mientras viajaba en un día de invierno por lugares donde la nieve se había amontonado en grandes cantidades, quedó entumecido por el frío, que le estaba quitando imperceptiblemente toda fuerza vital. Estaba casi congelado, y a punto de renunciar a la lucha por la existencia, cuando oyó los gemidos de un compañero de viaje, que también parecía de frío. Su simpatía se despertó, y resolvió salvarlo. Restregó los helados miembros del desdichado, y después de muchos esfuerzos logró ponerlo de pie. Como el recién hallado no podía estarse de pie, lo llevó en brazos, con simpatía, a través de amontonamientos de nieve que él nunca hubiese pensado poder pasar solo.” – {OE 208.3}

Cuando hubo llevado a su compañero de viaje a un lugar de refugio, comprendió repentinamente que al salvar a su prójimo, se había salvado a sí mismo. Sus ardorosos esfuerzos para ayudar a otro habían vivificado la sangre que se estaba helando en sus propias venas, y habían hecho llegar un sano calor a sus extremidades.

La lección de que al ayudar a otros nosotros mismos recibimos ayuda, debe ser presentada de continuo con instancia a los creyentes nuevos, por precepto y ejemplo a fin de que en su experiencia cristiana obtengan los mejores resultados.” – {OE 209.1} ●

MARIEL LOMBARDI

Instituto Fiel. Experiencia de Salvación

El Instituto de Evangelismo Laico de la Florida (FIEL) terminó el año lectivo 2015 de una forma bendecida. Cuatrocientos dieciocho personas se graduaron en ceremonias que se llevaron a cabo en Miami y Orlando, y terminaron en el campamento de Kulaqua. A principios de diciembre, ya se registraban cerca de 200 alumnos matriculados para el 2016, número que sigue aumentando, y se calcula se elevará a más del doble, de acuerdo a las estadísticas de los años anteriores en los que se matricularan cerca de 600 por período lectivo. Es reconfortante ver el entusiasmo de los alumnos quienes, en algunos casos, deben viajar más de dos horas para llegar a recibir sus clases una vez por trimestre.

El 2015 fue bendecido no sólo por el conocimiento académico adquirido, sino por las experiencias de salvación que se vivieron. Todos los alumnos participaron en una campaña en sus iglesias, como requisito de evangelismo práctico. Muchos son los relatos inspiradores que se compartieron luego de las campañas. Cabe destacar la historia de Gloria Adriana Rodríguez. A pesar de estar asistiendo a las clases del instituto, no pertenecía a la iglesia. Estaba participando en el grupo Renacer, un centro de estudios bíblicos que se reúne en la biblioteca de Florida Hospital en Winter Park. Como a otros alumnos, se le había asignado predicar un mensaje previamente preparado por el pastor local, y ella se abocó a la tarea de estudiarlo para su presentación que no era sencilla, ya que esta experiencia era nueva en todo sentido para ella. El mensaje tenía un llamado de bautismo en la conclusión, y esto lo hacía aún más difícil, debido a su situación respecto a la iglesia.

La noche en la que le correspondía presentar el mensaje, Gloria tenía todo cuidadosamente organizado. Su impecable

presentación de Power Point, las palabras que usaría, etc. Al llegar a la conclusión del mensaje, los asistentes fueron impresionados al ver a la predicadora emocionarse hasta las lágrimas cuando apareció en pantalla una frase apelativa al bautismo. Todos pensaron que se había conmovido al poner su corazón en lo que predicaba, pero para asombro de todos dijo: “Quiero confesarles que cuando me asignaron este sermón, yo no estaba preparada para predicarlo pues no me sentía lista para ser bautizada. Ayer, cuando estaba preparando mi presentación de Power Point, decidí borrar la parte que apelaba al bautismo y arreglé el final de tal manera que no se mencionara ese tema. Sin embargo, esta noche acabamos de ver en pantalla precisamente lo que había borrado. Veo en esto una señal de que Dios desea que sea bautizada y no voy a seguir luchando más en contra del llamado del Señor. Ahora mismo, ante ustedes, decido entregarme a Jesús mediante el bautismo.”

¿Qué era lo que había sucedido? Gloria Adriana había grabado su predicación en un “memory stick” pero lo había olvidado en su hogar. Al darse cuenta, como es ingeniera de sistemas de computación, pudo entrar en los archivos de la computadora de su casa por medio de Internet, y sin dificultad encontró su presentación. No obstante, no se percató de que usó la que tenía originalmente, a la que aún no había borrado la parte que se refería al bautismo.

Gloria hoy alaba a Dios por su equivocación. El aprovecha los errores de sus hijos para actuar en su favor. Sus hijas mellizas, Luisa y Valentina, al enterarse



Gloria (centro) con sus hijas Luisa y Valentina

de la decisión de su madre decidieron bautizarse con ella, así que pidieron al pastor Rolando de los Ríos que oficiara la ceremonia. Fue así como el sábado 17 de enero del 2015, Gloria Adriana entró a la



Gloria y su esposo Jimmy

iglesia de Winter Park con sus dos hijas para ser bautizadas. Estaba feliz, pero con un peso en su corazón. Su esposo, quien había sido adventista en el pasado, no estaba dispuesto a acompañarlas y presenciar ese importante evento. No obstante, cuando estaban entrando en las aguas bautismales, Dios les tenía una sorpresa. Una vez que las tres estaban allí, su esposo, quien se había puesto de acuerdo con el pastor, entró a las aguas para fundirse en un emotivo abrazo con su familia. Esa hermosa mañana sabática, los cuatro fueron bautizados.

Jimmy y Gloria siguieron tomando clases en el instituto durante el año 2015. Desean ser evangelistas. Su objetivo es mostrar a Jesús a cuantos se relacionen con ellos. ☛

ROLANDO DE LOS RIOS

Oliver Mastrapa. Cincuenta Años de Servicio

Oliver Mastrapa nació el 25 de Junio de 1943 en la finca Las Arenas propiedad de sus padres en Victoria de las Tunas, Cuba. Fue el hijo menor. Cuando llegó la edad escolar, su madre decidió no enviarlo a la escuela de iglesia en Colonia Mastrapa, donde habían estudiado sus hermanos mayores. Asistió a una escuela local a la que llegaba en un caballo regalado por su padre.

Fue allí donde conoció al doctor Ponds, especializado en Filosofía y Letras, quien venía esporádicamente a inspeccionar la escuela. Para esas visitas, el edificio era pintado, los pisos y pupitres pulidos, y los niños venían con sus uniformes limpios, y almidonados. Ponds era alto, corpulento, bien vestido, y sus zapatos brillaban. Esta imagen, más toda la excitación que el contexto de este evento implicaban, impresionaron a este niño quien se propuso ser un doctor en Filosofía y Letras, como el Dr. Ponds.

Al finalizar el 6th grado tuvo que dejar el hogar de sus padres para quedarse con sus tíos de lunes a viernes mientras cursaba el 7th & 8th grado. Ellos vivían en la cercana ciudad de Victoria de las Tunas, lo que le permitía regresar los fines de semana con su familia.

Tenía apenas 15 años cuando sus padres decidieron enviarlo al Colegio de las Antillas donde estudiaban sus hermanos mayores y primos. Oliver sentía que su sueño de cursar el doctorado en Filosofía y Letras, como el Dr. Ponds, estaba más cerca de hacerse realidad. Fue uno de los pocos jóvenes de su grupo cuyos estudios estaban incorporados al sistema nacional, y por lo tanto tomaba sus exámenes en el instituto Santa Clara. Estaba cursando su segundo año cuando pidió hablar con el vice-director pastor Vicente Rodríguez para solicitar permiso para no cursar la clase de Biblia que le habían asignado, y así poder prepararse para los exámenes en

el Instituto de Santa Clara. Esa clase no formaba parte de los requisitos del sistema de educación nacional. La respuesta fue: “Si deseas estudiar aquí, esta clase es obligatoria, De lo contrario, debes buscar otro colegio.” Mastrapa decidió hacer el esfuerzo, para no tener que abandonar esa escuela.

En el tercer año, mientras tomaba la clase de Historia Denominacional con el Pastor Alfredo Aeschlimann, se le asignó leer 25 páginas del libro Obreros Evangélicos. Al salir de la clase se dirigió a la biblioteca para cumplir con la asignación lo más rápido posible para poder dedicar el resto del período de estudio a prepararse para los próximos exámenes. Estaba leyendo, totalmente ajeno al paso de la hora, cuando escuchó el timbre que indicaba que el período de estudio había terminado. Esa noche, a través

de la lectura de este libro, recibió el llamado de Dios a ser un obrero en su causa. Sintió que sin lugar a dudas, predicar el evangelio de Cristo y alcanzar a los que no conocen de su amor y sacrificio en la cruz, era lo que él quería hacer en su vida.

En 1964 fue nombrado presidente del grupo seminarista. Con sólo 20 años estaba trabajando como pastor asociado, tarea que realizó durante dos años, hasta ser llamado para estar al frente de un distrito que abarcaba 6 iglesias. Se casó en 1971 y en 1976 fue nombrado presidente de la Asociación de Matanzas, cargo que ocupó por dos períodos consecutivos. Luego se desempeñó como presidente de Pinar del Río desde donde salió al extranjero



Oliver y Judith Mastrapa

para trabajar sólo unos meses en Costa Rica. Desde allí partió con rumbo a la Universidad Andrews junto a su familia. En Andrews terminó sus estudios y su maestría en Divinidad.

Luego de trabajar por siete años en Chicago fue trasladado a la Florida donde reside desde 1987, y ha construido tres iglesias, y pastoreado varias congregaciones.

El pastor Mastrapa constituye un ejemplo de deseo sincero de dedicar una vida al servicio del Señor. ❶

JUDITH MASTRAPA

“Probadme Ahora en Esto,” Dice el Señor.

Armando Estrada se graduó en la primavera del 2015. El dinero de becas y préstamos del gobierno dejaron de llegar y fueron reemplazados por las facturas de pago por los años de estudio. Era el momento de entrar en el campo laboral, y Armando se abocó a encontrar un trabajo. Envío más de 100 currículums y recibió decenas de propagandas de agencias de trabajo como respuesta. Los requerimientos muy específicos que había puesto para su trabajo parecían limitar su búsqueda – solicitaba los sábados libres, tiempo para dedicar al ejército que había pagado parte de sus gastos académicos, tiempo para continuar sus estudios, y un salario acorde a sus necesidades.

Agosto había llegado y él no había tenido suerte. Con una familia a la que mantener, y un trabajo que parecía no existir, los sueños de una carrera parecieron más bien una pesadilla.

Armando asiste a la iglesia Primera de Atlanta. Un sábado, mientras estaba sentado en el templo junto a su esposa, escuchó a un miembro de iglesia dando su testimonio acerca de cómo Dios lo había ayudado en un problema financiero específico cuando decidió poner su confianza en Él. Conmovido por la historia, Armando oró en silencio: “Señor, por favor encuéntrame un trabajo. Estoy dispuesto a bajar mis expectativas y aceptar lo que me envíes, y te prometo que mi primer cheque será para ti.”

Una vez en casa, sintió que no era justo hacer una promesa que involucrara su salario sin consultar a su esposa primeramente, ya que ese dinero sería también de ella. Decidió entonces contarle. Ella lo escuchó con tranquilidad y le respondió: “¡Qué curioso! Yo oré una oración casi igual a la tuya. La diferencia fue que yo le pedí a Dios que te concediera un trabajo con todos los requerimientos que tienes, ya que son necesarios, y Él te los puede dar.”

¡Cuán tranquilizadoras y reconfortantes parecieron estas palabras para Armando! Ella siempre lo había apoyado. Esta es una de las bendiciones de una relación que tiene un buen fundamento.

Debido a que viven lejos de la iglesia, Armando y su familia por lo general no asisten a los eventos vespertinos, pero ese sábado decidieron hacerlo. Cuando el programa terminó, Armando se dirigió al baño, y allí se encontró con un amigo a quien no había visto por 4 años. Comenzaron a conversar y a ponerse al día con lo acontecido durante ese período, y Armando le contó acerca de su graduación y búsqueda de trabajo.

“¿A qué te dedicabas en el ejército?” preguntó su amigo. Cuando Armando le contó, para su sorpresa, este hombre le dijo: “Eso es exactamente lo que mi empresa está buscando. Más aún, mi jefe me pidió que encontrara a alguien con mis mismas creencias religiosas, ya que quiere



Familia Estrada

a una persona de confianza.”

Armando no podía creer lo que estaba escuchando. Sin demora, presentó su currículum. Inmediatamente lo llamaron para una entrevista, y obtuvo el trabajo.

“Fue en el baño, lejos de mi computadora y de los cientos de currículums donde encontré un trabajo.” Dijo Armando. Pude ver claramente que fue Dios y sólo Dios. Y Él no me dio un trabajo cualquiera, sino uno que cumplía con todos los requerimientos necesarios.”

Armando y su esposa dieron felices su primer salario a la iglesia. El Señor no necesitaba su dinero. Él solo deseaba la confianza de Armando, y la promesa que él y su esposa hicieron fue una prueba de ello. Una vez que Dios tiene la confianza de sus hijos, Él no los decepciona. ❶

MARIEL LOMBARDI

Mableton. El Espíritu Santo Atrayendo Corazones

Como resultado del proyecto evangelístico 2015 liderado por la Unión del Sur, en el esfuerzo

realizado en octubre, el distrito de Mableton, GA, fue ricamente bendecido con el gozo de ver 36 vidas entregándose

a Cristo por medio del bautismo y el reavivamiento espiritual de la membresía. Durante este movimiento, la oración

intercesora fue un elemento de prioridad, y su efecto se hizo sentir en las respuestas espontáneas que las personas hacían a los llamados durante las predicaciones. Era como una brisa fresca, moviéndose y atrayendo corazones por medio de la Palabra.

No cabe duda que el poder del evangelismo reside en la oración.

Cuando la iglesia de Dios se une a orar por la conversión de las almas, el Espíritu Santo es liberado generosamente por la potestad divina y hace la obra que la iglesia no podría hacer por sus propios medios. ①

RICHARD URDANETA



Bautismos en el distrito de Mableton

Tuve Hambre y me Disteis de Comer

El 26 de noviembre, día de acción de gracias, se realizó un proyecto de alimentación para personas necesitadas. Los miembros de la iglesia de Gethsemani en Raleigh, NC, se encargaron de servir las mesas mientras conversaban amigablemente con los asistentes.

Fue una experiencia para la gloria de Dios. ①

EFRAÍN POLOCHE



Vista del comedor donde llevó a cabo la comida



Miembros de iglesia interactuando con las visitas

Ocupados en la Salvación de Otros

Del 20-27 de octubre la iglesia Inmanuel de Durham, NC, tuvo una semana de evangelismo. El predicador José Burroughs presentó la palabra de Dios cada noche. La visitación a los hogares, oraciones personales, y llamados que hizo el evangelista fueron escuchados por José de la Cruz, Maylin López, Saúl Martínez y Franklin Salazar, quienes tomaron la decisión de bajar a las aguas bautismales el sábado 27 de octubre. La ceremonia fue oficiada por el pastor Poloche.

Los líderes de la iglesia, bajo la dirección del primer anciano Carlos Cruz, están

utilizando el sistema de grupos pequeños en las casas, y a su vez invitan a las familias interesadas a participar de los servicios de la iglesia y recibir el calor de la amistad de los miembros.

Como complemento de estas actividades espirituales, se está ofreciendo clases de inglés en los grupos pequeños, y el interés de la comunidad ha aumentado como respuesta al interés que la iglesia muestra por su vecindario. ①

EFRAÍN POLOCHE



Presentación de los votos bautismales

Campaña Metropolitana

DOUGLASVILLE

La iglesia de Douglasville participó en la gran Cruzada metropolitana organizada por la Unión del Sur y dirigida por el pastor Roger Hernández del 10 al 17 de octubre, que culminó en el North Atlanta Trade Center donde más de 2000 personas se congregaron la última noche del evento.

El líder de la congregación Salomón Gonzalez, y el resto de los miembros apoyaron cada noche la programación con su asistencia.

El predicador y pastor Heber López, estuvo del 10 - 14 de Octubre en el local de reuniones de Douglasville. Damos gracias a Dios por la jovencita que desde temprana edad entregó su vida a su Maestro Jesucristo.

CONYERS

La glesia de Conyers también participó en la gran Cruzada metropolitana que culminó en el Trade Center.



Candidatos de bautismo

El predicador Roberto Alago, fue quien presentó los mensajes del 10 - 14 de octubre en el local de reuniones. Carlos y Carmen Colón dirigieron el programa de cada noche. Al final del esfuerzo 4 personas decidieron bautizarse y entregarle sus vidas a Jesucristo. Antes del bautismo, la pareja que estaba entre los catecúmenos, tuvo la alegría de contraer matrimonio delante de Dios. ①

EFRAÍN POLOCHE



Pareja casándose antes de descender a las aguas bautismales

Princesas en Entrenamiento

Princesas En Entrenamiento” es uno de los departamentos que opera bajo el ministerio de la mujer de la iglesia de Los Peregrinos. Se ha dividido en grupos, uno que abarca muchachas de 13 años en adelante, otro de niñas de entre 6 y 12 años y otro con las más pequeñas. La idea es que desde temprana edad, las mujercitas aprendan a dedicar sus vidas al Señor, sintiéndose especiales, en la forma en la que Él las ve, y teniendo en cuenta los planes que Él tiene para ellas. El mundo se ha convertido en un lugar en el que los parámetros de valor para una mujer están altamente tergiversados, y muchas veces las jovencitas se envuelven

en actividades que a la larga las harán sentirse vacías y sin autoestima.

En una elegante y solemne ceremonia varios padres o figuras paternas trajeron al altar a niñas de entre 6 y 12 años para entregarlas al Señor. Allí pidieron poder para constituirse en guardianes y estar siempre presentes en las vidas de estas pequeñas. Después del hermoso poema “Te entrego a mi hija”, escrito y recitado por Junior Ozuna, uno de los padres, el pastor Arnaldo Cruz, pastor de la iglesia, tuvo una oración especial de bendición por las “Princesitas.” ①

ROGER ÁLVAREZ



Ceremonia de dedicación de las más pequeñas.

Banco SouthEast Dona Dinero para Becas

El pago de la universidad es un tema inevitable y muchas veces difícil de abordar en las familias cuando los hijos se encuentran próximos a graduarse de la escuela secundaria. Para muchos implica un salto de fe, y lo dan no sabiendo cómo harán para afrontar los costos. El ver que un negocio local dona dinero a la escuela para hacer que la educación sea más accesible, representa un alivio para padres y alumnos, quienes pueden planear los estudios superiores con renovada fe, dándose cuenta de pueden abrir puertas hacia un futuro brillante.

El banco SouthEast, que fue fundado en el año 2002 y cuenta con 11 sucursales en Tennessee, se asoció a Southern Adventist University en 2011. Desde entonces ha aumentado su nivel de financiamiento de becas cada año. Durante un almuerzo el pasado octubre, que tuvo lugar en una de las sucursales del banco que se encuentra cerca de la escuela, cuatro estudiantes de Southern recibieron becas de 7,000\$ cada uno. Los afortunados fueron Jesse Darwin, alumno de primer año, la estudiante de segundo año Joelle Kanyana, Caitlyn Bartlett de tercer año, y Keightee Weeks de 4to.

Las becas, que tienen criterios que no se limitan a las calificaciones, son generalmente entregadas a estudiantes que se especializan en el área de negocios, finanzas, o contabilidad. Cuando la afiliación comenzó hace cuatro años, los administradores de los bancos vieron claramente cómo el programa podría marcar una diferencia en las vidas de los estudiantes, y tuvieron la visión de ayudarlos para que la experiencia en la universidad fuese más tranquila, con menos tiempo dedicado al trabajo y las preocupaciones financieras. Muchos testimonios indican que esto es cierto.

“Estaba dispuesto a trabajar en lo que fuera necesario durante mis años en la



Estudiantes que recibieron becas del banco SouthEast para el período 2015-2016: (sentados, de izquierda a derecha) Joelle Kanyana , Jesse Darwin , Keightee Weeks y Caitlyn Bartlett .

escuela, y a tomar préstamos estudiantiles. Gracias a esta beca, no he necesitado pedir prestado dinero desde que empecé en Southern”, dijo Bartlett. “Se pueden imaginar la reacción que esta noticia produjo en mi casa. Mi familia y yo lloramos de alegría y agradecemos a Dios por sus bendiciones.”

Y el ejemplo de este banco ha dado al invertir en su comunidad, no cae en sacos rotos en los estudiantes que reciben las becas. El observar y experimentar los beneficios de la generosidad corporativa les ha inspirado a ser generosos. Bartlett dijo: “Dios me ha bendecido tanto que voy a utilizar lo que Él me ha dado para ayudar a los demás.”

Para Kanyana, esta beca ha representado un estímulo para ser no sólo una buena estudiante, sino también un elemento valioso en la comunidad. “La gente de Chattanooga es generosa; muchos de sus proyectos recientes han sido el resultado de donaciones privadas,” dijo Kanyana. “Como consecuencia, la ciudad está llena de oportunidades, y yo tengo el privilegio de participar. Esta es una de las pruebas de que Southern está bien posicionada.”

Los estudiantes también ven un espíritu

comunitario de colaboración generosa en el liderazgo modelado por profesores y administradores de la universidad. La Facultad de Negocios organiza proyectos de aprendizaje y servicio, como el programa Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (Programa voluntario de asistencia en el impuesto a las ganancias) en el que los estudiantes ofrecen gratuitamente la preparación de impuestos para residentes de bajos ingresos y personas mayores.

El hecho de que Southern reciba donaciones de negocios que no están afiliados a la institución, dice mucho acerca del tipo de relación que esta entidad y la iglesia Adventista tienen con líderes y organizaciones locales. Linda White, vicepresidente del banco SouthEast, es miembro de la Junta Asesora de la Facultad de Negocios de Southern. “La inversión que el banco está haciendo en Southern testifica que producimos graduandos de alta calidad. Ellos quisieran que estos futuros profesionales se quedaran en nuestra comunidad,” dijo Mark Hyder, JD, decano de la Facultad de Negocios de Southern. ●

LUCAS PATERSON



COOPER, JOHN "JOHNNY" FRANK, 79, born July 6, 1936 in Paris, TN, died Sept. 1, 2015 at his home in Calhoun, GA. He was a graduate of Southern Missionary College and worked for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for 43 years.

As a pastor, his greatest legacy was bringing in new converts for Christ, his visitation, and helping to build and remodel churches. In retirement, he was privileged to sing with Covenant of Praise for three years. He loved the Lord with all of his heart and served God with all of his might.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Fay Aleene Cooper; three sons: Rick (Terri) Cooper, Ron (Esther) Cooper, and Don (Diane) Cooper; seven grandchildren; 11 great-grandchildren; three nephews; and two nieces.

A celebration of John's life was held at the Calhoun Church on Sept. 5, 2015, conducted by elders John Swafford, Wendell Stover, Jim Albertson, and Jonathan Montes. Music was provided by Herb Paulson, Nancy Sharp, Jim Morris, Connie Starkey, and John's son, Don.

HALUSKA, JAN CHARLES, 73, born Dec. 17, 1941 in San Francisco, CA, died Sept. 25, 2015.

He was the only child of Charles and Lois Haluska. He was a graduate of San Rafael Military Academy, and served three years in Germany with the United States Army.

He was a founding member of the Desmond Doss American Legion Post 257. His great passion was teaching. After seven years at Georgia-Cumberland Academy in Calhoun, GA, he completed his Ph.D. in English from the University of Tennessee Knoxville, and taught at Southern Adventist University for 33 years, ending his career as department chair before retiring in 2014.

He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Marcia Opstad Haluska; two sons: Aaron (Jessica) and David (Mindy); and three grandsons: Nathan, Joshua, and Seth Haluska. A memorial service was held Oct. 3, 2015 at the Collegedale, TN, Church. Interment was in Collegedale Memorial Park.



STUTLER, DONALD EARL, 91, born Feb. 17, 1924 in Isaacs Creek, WV, died Nov. 2, 2015 at Spartanburg Medical Center. He served in the U.S. Navy and continued his career at the Quantico Marine Base in Quantico, VA.

He attended Washington Missionary College (now Washington University) in Tacoma Park, MD, to study for the ministry. There he met his wife, Ethel Avadene Jones. He completed his M.P.H. degree at Loma Linda University.

He accepted a call to Spartanburg, SC, to pastor the Spartanburg Church. He and his wife retired in 1994, but continued to assist the Carolina Conference in building many churches.

He is survived by his wife Avadene; four daughters: Susan Louise (Emmett) Early of Inman, SC, Constance Jean DeHaan of Richland, WA, Elizabeth Anne Barrett of Spartanburg, SC, and Savannah Carolyn Zelocchi of Santa Monica, CA; one granddaughter, Colette DeHaan; one grandson, Rodney Philip; many great-grandchildren; nieces; nephews; and cousins. He was preceded in death by his son, Donald Phillip Stutler, in April 1969.

WHEELER, MAYNARD ALVIN SR., 88, born April 30, 1927, died Sept. 17, 2015 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of Fletcher Church.

He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He received his bachelor of science degree from Washington Missionary College (now Washington University) in Takoma Park, MD, and his master of divinity degree from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. He served as a pastor in several states.

He is survived by his wife of 58 years, Betty Jane (Moore) Wheeler; one son, Maynard Alvin (Kristi) Wheeler II; three daughters: Robin (Perry) Pratt, Marilee (Bryan) Jeffeaux, and Wendy (Mark) Taylor; one brother, Richard Clinton Wheeler; seven grandchildren: Jamie Pratt, Shawn (Cristy) Pratt, Karly Pratt, Crystal Jeffeaux, Christian Taylor, Victoria Taylor, and Maynard Wheeler III; one great-grandchild, Xander Pratt; and many cousins. The service was held Sept. 27 at Fletcher Church in Fletcher, NC. The graveside service followed immediately at Calvary Episcopal Churchyard (public garden) in Fletcher, NC.



BADGER, SHARON R., 71, born April 2, 1944 in Chicago, IL, died July 17, 2015 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka, FL. She is survived by her husband, Charles; two sons: Charles (Denise) Badger of Orlando, TN; and Kevin (Monica) Badger of Cottontown, TN; one daughter, Sheryl (Shawn) McCart of Cape Coral, FL; and three grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Bill Waters at Baldwin-Fairchild in Altamonte Springs. Interment is at the Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka.

CASE, HAROLD LENNIS JR., 92, born Jan. 30, 1923 in Battle Creek, MI, died March 18, 2015 in Henderson County, NC. He was a member of the Mills River Church. He worked for two years at the old Mountain San in Fletcher as a painter. He formerly had his own painting business in Battle Creek, and later one in Henderson County, NC. Before fully retiring, he completed his last painting job at the age of 83. His greatest love was the Lord and then his family. He is survived by his wife of 42 years, Patricia R. M. Case; four sons: Daniel Case, Gregory Case, David Merrifield, and Jay Merrifield; one sister, Jeanette Griffith; and nine grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents: Harold L. Case Sr. and Alice Kleinfelder Case, and two sisters: Margarette Brown and Marilyn Cantrell.

JOHNSON, ERNA JEANNE CULPEPPER, 83, born April 7, 1931 in Madrid Spain to missionary parents, Elder J.C. and Erna Mae Culpepper, died June 26, 2014 in Hendersonville, NC. At the age of seven in 1938, the family moved to Buenos Aires, Argentina. In 1946, at the age of 15, the family moved to Miami, FL, where her father was head of the Colporteur Department of the Inter-American Division of Seventh-day Adventists. While in Miami she met L.D. Johnson and married him after graduating from Forest Lake Academy in 1948. In 1965, L.D.'s work took them to St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands. They retired to Hendersonville, NC, in 1983. She is survived by her son, James Johnson of Jefferson, TX; one daughter, Linda Montero of Hendersonville; one brother, Carl (Fabiola) Culpepper of Burleson, TX; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; many nieces; and nephews. Her husband preceded her in death in 2009.

LEMON, JOYCE VEAL, 92, born Oct. 30, 1922 in Deep Step, GA, died May 1, 2015

at her home in Greensboro, GA. She was an active member and spiritual leader of the Madison Church. She joined the Macon, GA, Church in 1951, moved to the Marietta Church in 1984, and then to Madison Church in 2002. She was a delegate to the Seventh-day Adventist Youth Congress at the Cow Palace in San Francisco in 1953. Her favorite book was the Bible, and faith in God was first and foremost in her life. She received her nursing degree and worked at Middle Georgia Hospital in Macon until her retirement in 1983. She considered her most important profession to be a grandmother to her six grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She also assisted the Washington Grass Inn with her phenomenal culinary talents. She is survived by her second son, Wiley Slaughter, and his wife, Gloria; several grandchildren; and great-grandchildren, all of whom brought great joy to her later years. She was preceded in death by her husband, Rogers Lemon; and her oldest son, Eugene Slaughter.

SMITH, JANE MORRISON, 98, born May 8, 1917 in Scotland, died June 26, 2015 in Hendersonville, NC. She was a member of the Upward Church. She was a nurse in London, England, prior to WWII, where she met her husband, Harold Smith, a U.S. soldier. She is survived by her husband of 71 years, Harold Foster Smith; four children: Brian (Bonnie) Smith of Lake Wales, FL, Dianne (David) Bremmer of Decatur, TN, Craig (Debbie) Smith of Manchester, KY, and Fonda (Brian) Lynes of Hendersonville, NC; nine grandchildren: John (Valerie) Frey, Barbara (Ronald) Adams, Derrick (Tracy) Bremmer, Darren Bremmer, Dawn Bremmer, Amy (Keven) McQuen, Denise Smith, Eve (Nate) Moretz, and Emily (Steven) Green; six great-grandchildren; numerous nieces; and nephews. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Heather Smith.

SPRUILL, JOHN C., 100, born June 7, 1915, died Oct. 1, 2015. He was the husband of Arleen for 77 years, and father of three sons: John A. (Jan), Steve G. (Nancy), and Tim E. (Karen). His family—including five grandchildren and their spouses and five great grandchildren—look forward to the reunion on that wonderful resurrection day.

TABBERT, VIRGINIA WOOD, 93, born Feb. 5, 1922 in DuQuoin, IL, died July 28, 2015 at her home in Gallatin, TN. She was a member of the Gallatin Church. She is

survived by one son, Darrell Tabbert; three daughters: Judith Syfert, Dawn Tabbert, and Greta Cooper; two half-brothers: Dean Russell and Jim Wood; seven grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents: Earl and Ora Patterson Wood; one brother, Vale Wood; one half-sister, Patricia Shiply; and two grandsons: Shane McClain and Mike Tabbert.

WEARNER, CARLA ANN, 68, of Ooltewah, TN, died May 25, 2015. A memorial service was held June 14, 2015 at the Collegedale, TN, Church.

WERT, WILLIAM, 83, born June 21, 1931 in Harrisburg, PA; died May 6, 2015 in Avon Park, FL. He was a member of Avon Park Church. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; seven sons: Bill Wert Jr., of Harrisburg, PA, John Wert of Avon Park, Donald Wert of Middletown, PA, Andrew Wert of Mt. Wolf, PA, Steve Wert of York, PA, Daniel Yoke of Bartow, John Yoke of Avon Park, Daniel Wert of Manchester, PA; seven daughters: Linda Brown of Canada, Beverly Freet of Chandler, AZ, Robin MacEntyer of Dundeman, PA, Veronda Laughman of Hanover, PA, Annettee Sutton of York, PA, Susan Pierre of Avon Park, and Judith Valentine of Dover, PA; many grandchildren; great-grandchildren; and great-great-grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Ryan Amos at Avon Park Church.

WILSON, NORMAN L., 88, died Aug. 8, 2015 in Macon, GA. The son of the late Lloyd L. and Ivah Garber Wilson, he was born in Holland, MI. He served in the United States Army during WWII, earned a bachelor's degree from Madison College in Madison, TN, and retired from Robbins Air Force Base civil service as an inventory specialist. He had been an active member of the Wimbish Road Church since 1955. He is survived by his wife of nearly 67 years, Donna M. Wilson; four children: Donald Wilson, Linda Fogg, Jerry Wilson, and Marvin Wilson; nine grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and one brother, Edwin Wilson. A memorial service was held at the Wimbish Road Church on Aug. 8, 2015, and internment was held at Rose Hill Cemetery in Berrien Springs, MI. His favorite hymn was "When the Roll is Called Up Yonder," and he now rests in the assurance of Christ's soon return. ❶



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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks professor in **Counseling Education** to teach graduate/undergraduate courses, provide ad-

visement/clinical supervision. Requirements: doctoral degree in counselor education and supervision from a CACREP accredited program or doctorate in clinical/counseling psychology from an APA-accredited program and have work as full-time faculty in a counselor education program for one year before July 1, 2013. Licensed/eligible for licensure in Tennessee and two years' practicing clinical mental health or PK-12 school counseling. Send cover letter and CV (include teaching philosophy, research interest, unofficial university transcripts, three reference letters) to Dr. Ileana Freeman: ileanaf@southern.edu; 423.236.2960. [1]

PROGRAM DIRECTOR FOR PHYSICAL THERAPY ASSISTANT PROGRAM: Southern Adventist University is starting a new program to educate aspiring Physical Therapy Assistants, with the first class to begin in August 2017 and welcomes applicants to submit their resumes for review beginning November 1, 2015. The initial task for the Program Director will be to set up a program and facilities in harmony with the standards set out by Commissions on Accreditation in physical Therapy Education (CAPTE) and seeking accreditation from CAPTE. The Program Director will function both as a leader of the program and professor. Additional responsibilities include: develop curriculum framework and instructional materials, advising of students, evaluation of students and administration of selection process, and compile materials for CAPTE accreditation program. Qualifications: Graduate degree in physical therapy with current TN license or eligibility as a PT or PTA. Minimum 5 years of clinical and teaching experience in a CAPTE accredited program, with experience in administration in a variety of teaching areas (academic, clinical, in-service, continuing ed, community ed). Must be an SDA church member in regular standing. Submit cover letter including statement of teaching philosophy and research interest, curriculum vita, and unofficial transcripts (showing the physical therapy education) to Dr. Volker Henning, Associate VP for Academic Administration. Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370 College Dale, TN 37315. henning@southern.edu, 423-236-2912. [1]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is looking to fill several full-time tenure-track faculty positions in the areas of **Educational Psychology, English Education/Children's Literature, Industrial Design, Nineteenth Century British Literature, Research Services Librarian, Music, Psychology, and Social Work**. For a detailed description of each position and to apply, please visit: <http://jobs.wallawalla.edu> [1, 2]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY school of Business seeks **Dean for the School of Business Administration**. This individual is responsible for the operation of the SBA and will report to the Provost. The candidate must be dedicated to excellence in teaching, research,

and service, and is expected to cultivate strong alumni and external relationships to support and grow the SBA. Candidate must have a terminal qualification in Business or Educational Administration and have administrative/mid-management experience in higher education or in a business setting. The candidate should also have some knowledge of accreditation processes. *For more information and to apply, visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admsvs/jobs/manage/positions/900>* [1]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Academy Principal**. The Principal is Andrews Academy's leader and is responsible for ensuring that the school fulfills its mission and goals. The Principal provides leadership for Andrews Academy by ensuring the continuation of Andrews Academy as an excellent Seventh-day Adventist secondary school and positioning the school for a successful future. He/she administers the school consistent with the policies and procedures adopted by the Operating Board and will be responsible for all faculty and staff of Andrews Academy. *For more information or to apply visit: <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/743>* [1]

LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY seeks professors in ethics and relational areas. Loma Linda University's School of Religion invites applications for full-time, tenure-track positions in its bioethics and relational (chaplaincy, whole-person-care) areas, to begin July 1, 2016. *For more information, please contact religion@llu.edu* [1]

COUNTRY LIFE Natural Food Store and Vegan Restaurant currently has staff positions available in the health food store and restaurant. Experience preferred. Join a health ministry that has been serving Columbus, GA for 46 years. *For more information, call 706-323-9144, or go to uccheepines.org for application.* [1, 2]

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SOUTHERN Adventure in Europe 2016 Tour led by Bill Wohlers, Ph.D. in history, leader of 22 student tours. Hosted May 29-June 10 by the Southern Adventist University Alumni Association. Visit Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland. Information is available at southern.edu/alumni; alumni@southern.edu; 423-236-2830. [1]

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	SUNSET					
	JAN. 1	JAN. 8	JAN. 15	JAN. 22	JAN. 29	FEB. 5
ATLANTA, GA	5:39	5:45	5:51	5:58	6:04	6:11
CHARLESTON, SC	5:24	5:29	5:35	5:42	5:48	5:55
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:21	5:27	5:33	5:40	5:47	5:54
COLLEGE DALE, TN	5:38	5:44	5:50	5:57	6:04	6:12
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:46	4:51	4:58	5:04	5:11	5:18
JACKSON, MS	5:06	5:11	5:17	5:24	5:30	5:37
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:33	5:39	5:45	5:53	6:01	6:09
MEMPHIS, TN	4:58	5:04	5:10	5:17	5:24	5:31
MIAMI, FL	5:41	5:45	5:51	5:56	6:01	6:06
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:50	4:55	5:01	5:08	5:14	5:21
NASHVILLE, TN	4:42	4:48	4:55	5:02	5:09	5:17
ORLANDO, FL	5:39	5:44	5:50	5:56	6:01	6:07
WILMINGTON, NC	5:12	5:18	5:24	5:31	5:37	5:44

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To view the event live, visit southern.edu/streaming.

Southern 6 Trail Race, February 21

This annual 6K run through wooded trails on Southern's campus is combined, for the first time ever during 2016's race, with a 12K mountain biking component.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEN DAYS OF PRAYER - JAN. 6-16. Join in the 10 days of prayer event and visit www.TenDaysofPrayer.org for more details.

BATTLEFIELD HOLLYWOOD - FEB. 5, 6. Dalton Church will be sponsoring "Battlefield Hollywood" at the Salem Baptist Church in Dalton, GA. Former Hollywood insider Scott Mayer will reveal different ways Satan uses the entertainment industry to infiltrate the mind. All are welcome to this free event, but parental discretion is advised. Details available at BattlefieldHollywood-Dalton.com.

KEYS CAMP MEETING - FEB. 19-21. Speaker: Dr. Subodh Pandit. Theme: "Evidence Behind Truth." Sponsored by Key Largo and Marathon churches, and WHNJ.org (95.7 FM). Contact Laura Saladino at Lcsaladino7@gmail.com for details and accommodations. Boy Scout Camp Sawyer, 33990 Overseas Highway, MM 34, Scout Key, FL 33043. Free to all!

MCDONALD ROAD PATHFINDERS REUNION - FEB. 27. Everyone who has been involved in McDonald Road Pathfinders is welcomed to attend the Sabbath church service and lunch. Details: Pam Tuttle, 423-432-6014.

STEVE GREEN CONCERT - APRIL 9. Dalton

Church will host Steve Green in concert on Sabbath evening at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to this free event. Please join us as we close the Sabbath with worship to God in musical praise.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEEND - APRIL 22, 23. LSA Campus. Please update your mailing address and contact info at JNelson@lsak12.com, 951-351-1445, x244. Honor classes: 1956, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '06 and pre-50 classes. Details: www.lsak12.com.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/BVA ALUMNI WEEEND - APRIL 30 AND MAY 1. North Aurora Church, North Aurora, IL. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Honor classes: 1946, '56, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, and 2006. There will be Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School, Church, lunch, and an afternoon music program. For communication purposes, WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES. Send it to Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net; or call 630-232-9034. Check out the BVA website for details.

MADISON COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION wants to include any graduates, attendees, or friends who may not already be on its mailing list to receive the quarterly newsletter and any other communications. Please write to: P.O. Box 1735, Madison, TN 37116, or send your contact information by email to: madisoncollegealumni@gmail.com.

CAROLINA

L.E. YEAR END CONVENTION - JAN. 1-3. Gatlinburg, TN.

EVANGELISM IMPACT - JAN. 8-10. Myrtle Beach, Crown Reef Beach Resort Hotel. Visit www.carolinasda.org for details.

PATHFINDER COUNCIL - JAN. 8-10. NPR. **MEN'S MINISTRIES CERTIFICATION** - JAN. 17. 10 a.m. Charlotte Spanish Church.

GENEROUS LIVING RALLY - JAN. 30. Charlotte Sharon Church.

GENEROUS LIVING SUMMIT - JAN. 31. NPR. **ROMANCE AT THE RANCH** - FEB. 12-14. NPR. **HISPANIC ROMANCE AT THE RANCH** - FEB. 26-28. NPR.

ALIVE YOUTH RALLY - MARCH 18-19. Spartanburg, SC.

PATHFINDER WORK BEE - MARCH 18-20. NPR.

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Phil Bond (407) 644-5000

Georgia-Cumberland

Mitch Hazekamp (706) 629-7951

Gulf States

David Sigamani (334) 272-7493

Kentucky-Tennessee

Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391

Oakwood University

Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000

South Atlantic

Lawrence Hamilton (404) 792-0535

South Central

Michael Harpe (615) 226-6500

Southeastern

(352) 735-3142

Southern Adventist University

Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818



SUSDAGift.org

www.floridaconference.com/iym/adventurers/events/

SINGLES' MINISTRIES EVENTS AND MAILING LIST INFORMATION. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. www.floridaconference.com/iym/childrenandfamily/events/, djmiller4000@gmail.com, or 407-703-3050.

5K/RELAY/KIDS' FUN RUN - FEB. 7. Spring Meadows Church, 5783 N. Ronald Reagan Blvd., Sanford. Check-in: 6:30 a.m. Race: 7:30 a.m. Register by JAN. 24 to be guaranteed a T-shirt. Cost: adults, \$20; 18 and under, \$10; Kids' Fun Run, free. Proceeds benefit Spring Meadows Health Ministries for events and to promote health and wellness in the community. Details: office@springmeadows.org or 407-327-1190. Online registration: www.signmeup.com/111485.

A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER - Altamonte Springs: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: www.floridaconference.com/abc/ or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com.

FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE

FEB. 7. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Pompano Beach, Fort Lauderdale. (Southeastern Conference: Ambassador.)

FEB. 8. Margate, Boynton Beach, Victory in Port St. Lucie. (Southeastern Conference: Ephesus West Palm Beach.)

FEB. 14. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

FEB. 19-21. Florida Keys Camp Meeting in Marathon.

FEB. 21. Key Largo, Homestead.

FEB. 28. Lauderhill, Plantation, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES RETREATS - Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Total Praise. Online registration: www.campkulaqua.com/

FEB. 12-14. English-language. Guest speaker: Wanda Davis.

FEB. 19-21. English-language. Guest speaker: Seth Pierce.

FEB. 16-18. Spanish-language. Guest speaker: Sara Bullón.

FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING - FEB. 19-21. Camp Sawyer at MM34. Theme: Evidence Behind Truth. Speaker: Subodh Pandit. Sponsored by Key Largo and Marathon Churches. Details: lcsaladino7@gmail.com or 423-972-7694.

CATALYST CONNECT CONFERENCE - FEB. 26-27. Inter-American Division office, 8100 SW 117th Ave., Miami. Friday: 6-9 p.m. Sabbath: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Sponsored by Miami Temple Church. This missions and discipleship

conference shares practical training to obey Jesus' command to go and make disciples. Adult and kids tracks available. Sabbath lunch provided. Speakers: Bonita Shields, General Conference Associate Director for Discipleship; Francini Reis, North American Division Children's Ministries Trainer; and Javier Diaz, Florida Conference Pastoral Ministries Field Associate. Cost: \$20. Details and registration: www.catalystconnectconference.com/

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

GEORGIA WILL CLINICS WITH LES SPEER - JAN. 9-Jasper; JAN. 16-Dalton; JAN. 17-Battlefield/Ringgold; JAN. 18-Chatsworth; JAN. 19-Rome; JAN. 23-Calhoun; JAN. 24-Adairsville/Cartersville; JAN. 25-Blairsville; JAN. 26-Fannin County; FEB. 6-Waycross; FEB. 7-Thomasville/Moultrie; FEB. 8-Albany; FEB. 9-Americus; FEB. 10-Olgethorp; and FEB. 13-Fayette.

PATHFINDER JUNIOR EVENT - JAN. 15-17. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

PRAYER MINISTRIES DAY - JAN. 16. Auburn, GA, Church.

MASTER GUIDES' LEADERSHIP CONVENTION - JAN. 16. Register at www.registration.gccsda.com. Conference Office.

HISPANIC WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONVENTION - JAN. 17. Register at www.registration.gccsda.com. Conference Office.

BOARD OF EDUCATION - JAN. 21. Conference Office.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING FOR HEALTH/PERSONAL MINISTRIES LEADERS

JAN. 23. 3-6 p.m. Macon, GA, Church.

FEB. 6. 3-6 p.m. Atlanta North Church, Atlanta, GA.

PATHFINDER BIBLE EXPERIENCE (REGIONALS) - JAN. 30. Southern Region Peachtree City, Northern Region Knoxville Grace. Registration deadline JAN. 11. Directors register online at pathfinders.gccsda.com.

FREE COMMUNICATION TRAINING - JAN. 31. 10 a.m. to noon, Audio Training. 1-3 p.m., Visual Training. Nathan Zinner, associate director of communication for the Southern Union, will be the instructor. Register at registration.gccsda.com. Conference Office.

BAND/STRINGS FESTIVAL - FEB. 4, 5. Grades 5-8 (including home school). To register contact Jim Lewellen, 706-629-4591, x4016. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.

OASIS HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT - FEB. 5-7. For students (grades 9-12) not attending Adventist schools. Cost \$89, save \$10 register by JAN. 17. Register by JAN. 27. Contact Alyse at 706-629-7951, x346, or alyse@gccsda.com. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION - FEB. 5-7. Cohutta Springs Con-

ference Center.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CONVENTION - FEB. 12-14. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

MASTER GUIDES' WINTER CAMP - FEB. 12-15. Cost \$270. Register at www.registration.gccsda.com. Brainerd, MN.

GCA ACROFEST - FEB. 13, 14. Georgia-Cumberland Academy.

PRAYER CONFERENCE - FEB. 19-21. One Miracle After Another: The Pavel Goia Story. Early bird deadline (save \$10), JAN. 25. Final deadline, FEB. 4. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

PATHFINDER TEEN EVENT - FEB. 19-21. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

Some events require pre-registration; details at registration.gccsda.com.

GULF STATES

PATHFINDER COUNCIL - JAN. 8-10.

EDUCATION FAIR - JAN. 24, 25. Bass Memorial Academy.

CAVING TEEN INVITATIONAL - JAN. 29-FEB. 1.

SABBATH SCHOOL TRAINING - FEB. 5-7. Camp Alamisco.

HISPANIC COUPLES RETREAT - FEB. 12-15.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - FEB. 22. 10-11A.M.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

MINISTERS' MEETINGS - JAN. 11-14. Indian Creek Camp.

EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP - JAN. 22-24. Indian Creek Camp.

CONFERENCE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - JAN. 26. MARCH 22. Conference Office.

CREATION HEALTH WORKSHOP - FEB. 9. Conference Office.

HISPANIC PASTORS'/ELDERS' RETREAT - MARCH 4-6. Indian Creek Camp.

EASTERN KENTUCKY CAMP MEETING - MARCH 11, 12. Prestonsburg, KY.

HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD - MARCH 17. Highland Academy.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

CLASSES BEGIN - JAN. 11. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit www.southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

ART EXHIBIT - JAN. 20. Marc Boyson, assistant professor for Southern's School of Visual Art and Design, will have a sculpture showing through FEB. 22 in the John C. Williams Art Gallery of Brock Hall. Details, call 423-236-2732.

CONCERTO CONCERT - JAN. 31. Southern's Symphony Orchestra presents a concerto concert at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church. The event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.



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