

T Southern TIDINGS

JULY 2017

HOW TO MAKE 2017

THE YEAR OF RISK MANAGEMENT



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ESPAÑOL
PG. 34

PASTOR BAPTIZES
MAN WHO LED HIM
TO CHRIST

LEARNING
BY IMMERSION

BCJA: ADVENTIST
EDUCATION THAT
SPARKLES

WHAT ABOUT ANXIETY?



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

In the Bible, “anxiety” is used in two ways, as healthy concern and as fret or worry.

Anxiety in the form of realistic concern is neither condemned nor forbidden. Although Paul could write that he was not anxious (that is, worried) about the possibility of being beaten, cold, hungry, or in danger, he said that he was anxious (that is, concerned) about the welfare of the churches. This sincere care for others put a daily pressure on the apostle and made Timothy “genuinely anxious” (concerned and interested) as well.

Anxiety as fret and worry may have been in the psalmist’s mind when he wrote that “anxiety was great within me,” and that God’s consolation brought joy. In His Sermon on the Mount, Jesus taught that we should not be anxious (worrying) about the future or about life’s basic needs, such as food and clothing. We have a heavenly Father, Jesus said, Who knows what we need, and He will provide. In the New Testament epistles, both Peter and Paul echoed this conclusion. “Do not be anxious about anything,” we read in Philippians. Instead, Christians are to bring their requests to God with an attitude of thanksgiving, expecting to experience the peace of God, which transcends all understanding. We can cast all anxiety upon the Lord because He cares for us.

Anxiety as fret and worry comes when we turn from God, shift the burdens of life onto ourselves, and assume, at least by our attitudes and actions, that we alone are responsible for handling problems. Instead of acknowledging God’s sovereignty and power, or seeking His kingdom and righteousness first, many of us as members, officers, and pastors slip into sinful reliance and preoccupation with our own life pressures.

According to the Bible, there is nothing wrong with honestly facing and trying to deal with identifiable problems of life. To ignore danger is foolish and wrong. But, it is also wrong and unhealthy to be immobilized by excessive worry. Our persisting concerns must be committed in prayer to God, Who can release us from paralyzing fear or anxiety, and free us to deal realistically with the needs and welfare of others and ourselves.

Everyone knows that it isn’t easy to “banish anxiety” or to “not be anxious about anything.” It is difficult for people to “cast their burdens on the Lord,” to trust that God will meet their needs, to wait for His help, and to know when they should take some responsibility for meeting a difficult situation. Anxious people often are impatient people who need help in handling their pressures realistically, and within God’s perfect time schedule.

The Christian church leader or minister can be an example of one who is calm and trusting in God to meet needs. Committed brothers and sisters in Christ can help other church members and other community people see God’s promises, recognize His power and influence in our daily lives, and take action when appropriate. For many of our brothers and sisters, it is also helpful if they can understand the causes and effects of their persisting anxiety. A Christian counselor is often helpful in this.

Finally, whenever we find ourselves in a threatening, challenging, or potentially dangerous situation, most of us ponder the circumstances and try to determine how we might cope. Here is a tried and proven strategy going forward: “In nothing be anxious; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God,” Philippians 4:6, ASV. 📖

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features

4
HOW TO MAKE 2017
THE YEAR OF RISK
MANAGEMENT

8
PASTOR BAPTIZES MAN
WHO LED HIM TO CHRIST

9
LEARNING BY IMMERSION

10
BCJA: ADVENTIST
EDUCATION THAT
SPARKLES

news

- 13 SOUTHERN UNION
- 14 ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM
- 16 CAROLINA
- 18 FLORIDA
- 20 GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND
- 22 GULF STATES
- 24 KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE
- 26 SOUTH ATLANTIC
- 28 SOUTH CENTRAL
- 30 SOUTHEASTERN
- 31 ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES
- 32 OAKWOOD UNIVERSITY
- 33 SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY
- 34 HISPANIC

- 44 CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING
- 46 EVENTS CALENDAR
- 47 ANNOUNCEMENTS

july 2017



HOW TO MAKE 2017

THE YEAR OF RISK MANAGEMENT

BY VILMA REYNOLDS AND ELIZABETH CAMPS

Helping church ministries prioritize risk management is a task Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) accepted at the request of the North American Division (NAD) Risk Management Committee in November 2016. ARM created a set of practical, measurable initiatives called the *2017 NAD Risk Management Initiatives*.

By creating these initiatives, ARM encourages all NAD ministries to not only make their ministry a safer space, but also pave a way towards a safer future, hand in hand with ARM. Since the launch of the *2017 NAD Risk Management Initiatives* in January, Southern Union ministries have made significant progress on these important goals.

Create Risk Management Committees

ARM reports that several conferences within the Southern Union have already created conference-level risk management committees. Creating such a committee is a crucial step in facilitating a culture of safety in each ministry in your confer-

ence. An organization's leadership can address the protection and stewardship of the assets entrusted to them. Implementing a safety committee sets the tone to identify risks, and demonstrates that proactively managing these risks is important to our church's long-term ministry.

If your church or school has not created a risk management committee, now is the time to do so. Key committee members should include leadership, those working with youth, activities coordinators, facility managers, and your safety officer. Your risk management committee should be representative of the various departments in your ministry. Fundamental to the success of this committee and the safety officer is that they are able to bring recommendations to the church board.

Making effective use of a risk management committee allows your organization to prioritize risk management. It allows you to assess your risk, put effective plans in place, and be sure that risk management is a priority across all ministries your organization chooses to pursue.







SIX STEPS FOR RISK MANAGEMENT AT YOUR LOCAL CHURCH

1. Provide education in risk management to your church members. Visit AdventistRisk.org for a wealth of free resources that can be downloaded, printed, viewed, and shared with your leaders.
2. Conduct and review self-inspection reports that highlight preventable risks. Set dates to address highlighted risks, and record actions completed.
3. Remove any 15-passenger vans currently in use, and be sure such vans are not used, rented, or borrowed.
4. Build an emergency plan and perform at least one drill annually as part of that plan. Information on how to conduct various drills is available at AdventistRisk.org. Churches can sign up to participate in Safety Sabbath 2018 at SafetySabbath.com.
5. Investigate accidents and document any incidents. Do you know what types of accidents are happening, including the “near misses”? You can proactively prevent disasters by addressing these risks before someone is injured.
6. Conduct regular repairs on a seasonal schedule to prevent maintenance-related losses. A vast majority of losses that our churches experience are related to a lack of maintenance.

Remove 15-Passenger Vans

The use of 15-passenger vans has been discouraged and, in some places, actively prohibited by the Adventist Church across the NAD for more than 10 years. One of the *2017 NAD Risk Management Initiatives* is a refocus on the removal of all 15-passenger vans from use by NAD ministries by no later than the end of 2017. Tangible steps have been taken to remove Church-owned, rented, or borrowed 15-passenger vans from all use in church ministries.

“For several years, ARM has encouraged church organizations to remove and discontinue operation of this van model,” said David Fournier, ARM vice president and chief client care officer. “Recently, NAD Church Working Policy was updated to clarify that this is not a discretionary choice.”

The Church in North America voted an action into the NAD Working Policy during the 2016 year-end meetings: *“Fifteen-Passenger Van Use — In the interest of safety, denominational organizations shall not purchase, lease, rent or use 15-passenger vans for sponsored activities under any circumstances. Alternatives to 15-passenger vans include: minivans and SUVs, mini-school buses, 15-passenger buses with dual rear wheels,”* (S 60 31 [GC S 60 30-3] Vehicle Insurance).

Using a privately owned 15-passenger van or even renting a 15-passenger van for a church activity does not protect the

Church from allegations of liability. Key deficiencies of 15-passenger vans are the following:

- A high center of gravity that is increased with passenger seating,
- Instability in crosswinds,
- Seating configurations that place excessive weight on one side, and
- Under-inflated tires, resulting in tire failure or blowouts that cause the driver to lose control of the vehicle.

Removing a row of seats from a 15-passenger van does not make it an approved form of transportation. The vehicle is still the same type of van with the same inherent flaws.

ARM reports that this initiative is already in action throughout the Southern Union. ARM challenges you to act today and remove any 15-passenger vans from use within your ministry.

Conduct Risk Assessments

Maintaining a safe building and premises is important to keep members and guests safe. Evaluating risks on a regular basis helps to prevent potential injuries and unnecessary claims. By regularly conducting risk assessments, such as a building self-inspection, your organization will be better able to track safety hazards and to follow-up on whether those risks were addressed. Your ministry’s safety officer is crucial in making sure this specific initiative is carried out. Having the safety officer on your ministry board provides a voice for safety and risk management in the decision-making process of your organization.

Emergency Planning

In March 2017, ARM sponsored the second annual Safety Sabbath event. This event, targeted specifically to churches, invites all churches in the NAD to hold a safety drill during a church service. Safety Sabbath has been designated on the NAD Calendar of Events as the fourth Sabbath in March each year. The event is only one part of the bigger picture that is emergency planning.

Successful preparation for an emergency only comes with practice. It is ARM’s



THE MINISTRY OF ADVENTIST RISK MANAGEMENT, INC.

Adventist Risk Management, Inc. (ARM) is an institution of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and provides risk management and insurance products and services to Adventist Church organizations around the world. We have a long history of serving the Adventist Church going back to 1936. Today, we insure churches, schools, universities, publishing houses, camps, events, and ministries that reach millions of people each day.

goal that every NAD church hold at least one safety drill annually to better prepare for emergencies. This year's Safety Sabbath focused on two safety drills: fire drill and active shooter drill. Various resources were provided to help churches hold their safety drill, including:

- a "how-to" booklet available in English, Spanish, French,
- promotional materials in both print and digital formats,
- guides for parents and Sabbath School teachers,
- and a checklist to keep church leaders on track.

The Southern Union had a strong participation rate in Safety Sabbath 2017. ARM commends each conference and the Southern Union as a whole for their proac-

tive outlook on emergency planning, and encourages a continued focus on emergency planning and holding safety drills.

Camp Safety

Within a summer of fun, there can be inherent risks at camps. That's why this specific risk management initiative cannot be overlooked. ARM believes that it is important for parents and church constituents to know their Adventist camps operate a safe and nurturing environment for their children. ARM is asking all camps to be accredited with the American Camp Association (ACA).

The Camp Safety page on ARM's website provides various worksheets, information sheets, short papers, Solutions articles, and more to help camp leaders make risk management a priority year-round.

The Ministry of Risk Management

At ARM, our ministry is to protect your ministry. The leadership of ARM is committed to serving and protecting the Church, and the *2017 NAD Risk Management Initiatives* provide a practical and measurable way to accomplish this. These five risk management initiatives will create a strong foundation of safety if prioritized in your ministry. Join us in making 2017 the year of risk management within the Southern Union, and start implementing these initiatives in your church, school, and camp ministry today. Get started by visiting AdventistRisk.org/NADInitiatives.

The ministry of risk management is about more than providing insurance solutions. It is about caring for people's well-being by preventing accidents, and being good stewards of Adventist Church assets.

ARM provides timely, real-world solutions for minimizing risks within the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We counsel and recommend appropriate measures to assist in eliminating oversights that can lead to costly accidents.

ARM's ministry is to protect your ministry. 📌

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Elizabeth Camps



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Pastor Baptizes Man

WHO LED HIM TO CHRIST

BY ABRAHAM GUERRERO



PHOTO BY: WENDY REYNOSO

Twelve new Poinciana Spanish Church members, pictured with their pastor and church elders, hold baptismal certificates after their baptism on Sabbath, March 25, 2017.

When Pastor John Chaparro was baptizing Samuel Soto at Poinciana Spanish Church on March 25, 2017, I was holding the microphone. I even offered half of the prayer, but I thought it was best for Sammy to be baptized by the pastor he had led to Christ.

How did it happen?

“I clearly remember it was a Friday afternoon,” Soto told me. “When I approached John to invite him one more time to attend the Adventist Youth meeting that night at our church in Añasco, Puerto Rico, I really didn’t have my hopes too high.

“John didn’t even believe in God,” Soto explained, “so, I didn’t expect much. Even when he said he would go, I was surprised when he actually showed up!”

Chaparro not only attended church that night, he was eventually baptized. Later, he decided to accept God’s call to be a pastor, and many souls have come to Christ as a result of his ministry.

One day, as Chaparro was preaching, he felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to tell his church members how Soto had led him to Christ, and, later that day, he sent Soto a thank you text. In the meantime, Soto had left his faith and stopped attending church. Perhaps Chaparro didn’t imagine how deeply God would use his text message to touch his friend’s heart.

Ultimately, Chaparro had the opportunity to baptize the man who led him to Christ several years prior. I interviewed them both at church, and everyone was excited and praising God for His wonderful work.

Soto and his wife, Stephanie, were the last ones to enter our local church’s baptismal pool on March 25. A total of 12 people gave their hearts to Jesus and were baptized that Sabbath at Poinciana Spanish Church. Each one of them represents the story of a miracle:

- Excited, María stepped into the water along with her husband, Luis.



PHOTO BY: NATALIA SORIANO

Abraham Guerrero (center), Poinciana Spanish Church pastor, interviews Sammy Soto (left), and John Chaparro (right), pastor.

- The Pathfinders marched along the main aisle when Felix was baptized.
- Johanna, who had prayed for years that her husband, Uber, would give his heart to the Lord, saw her dream come true that day.
- Hector and Wanda were baptized along with their teenage children, Michael, Bryan, and Nayrb (Mimi).

The baptism ceremony was unforgettable, and we know it was God who made it all possible. To Him be the glory! 🙏

LEARNING BY IMMERSION

BY ANDREW JAMIESON



Dawsyn Bemis, senior, reads the Bible to local children after church.



Avery Kroll, senior, and Jackson Webb, junior, lay blocks for the Sabbath School building.

It was a very chilly and early March morning, 4:00 a.m. to be exact, when 58 short-term missionaries from Madison Academy came together at the Nashville airport and set off on an adventure to the Dominican Republic. Weary-eyed yet excited, these students, faculty, and parents were ready to use their talents and gifts to make a difference in a small community they had never even stepped foot in. However, as excited and ready as they thought they were, this experience would broaden their understanding of themselves and the people in the community that they were

about to spend the next eight days with.

The goals were simple: build a Sabbath School building and finish the adjacent exterior of the building. Along with that, they planned to hold a Vacation Bible School program for the local children each day, and treat as many patients as possible at the two medical clinic sites. This was all to be done in six work days!

Maranatha Volunteers International had all the building materials and plans ready to go; all that was needed to complete the mission was manpower. Most

of the students on the trip had never laid a block, volunteered at a VBS, or even been to a foreign country. This would be a learning-by-immersion type of experience, which is exactly what happened.

Students were divided into teams and headed out to each site every morning. They rolled up their sleeves, and the adults taught them what they knew at each site, and the students soaked it in and learned quickly. By the end of the first day, these students were building block walls, organizing games for the village children, and assisting in minor surgeries. ☛

Berean Christian Junior Academy:

ADVENTIST EDUCATION THAT SPARKLES

BY CONRAD L. GILL, ED.D.



Five BCJA students kneel in a circle to prayer.

Something very exciting is happening at Berea Christian Junior Academy (BCJA) in Atlanta, Georgia. Students are achieving off the charts — figuratively and literally — and their test scores and activities clearly tell the story. Under the skillful academic leadership of Karohn Young, principal, and Elvis Agard, vice-principal, BCJA students

have been challenged and empowered to “*Be The Dream*,” and they have really responded.

Make no mistake, however; these methodology-savvy, highly skilled administrators and teachers are devoted to the students and “The Dream.” They are the value added ingredients in each classroom that make the difference. They

differentiate instruction seamlessly and are great players on this strong academic and Christocentric team. The future looks extremely promising in their hands.

Berean Christian Junior Academy is a Southern Union Conference Adventist EDGE School Of Excellence. Here is how they exemplify their standing as a School of Excellence by “walking the talk.”

The Atlanta Berean Christian Junior Academy difference is the result of godly administrators and teachers who exemplify confident teamwork, have high academic expectations, skillfully differentiate instruction, and exude confidence and accomplishment.

DEMYSTIFYING MYTHS ABOUT ADVENTIST EDUCATION

MYTH: *Adventist school academic standards are low.*

REALITY: Adventist schools, regardless of size and location, effectively instruct and nurture students academically, and lead students into meaningful relationships with God as evidenced by both Cognitive Genesis and Value Genesis research.

MYTH: *Adventist school curriculum is weak.*

REALITY: Adventist schools offer a well-rounded curriculum that is based on national, state, and Adventist standards. Textbooks are written or approved in accordance with denominational beliefs and practices. Curriculum committees made up of K-16 educators from across North America meet every summer to sequentially write and revise curriculum guides. These national and Adventist standards for elementary and secondary subjects have clear indicators and benchmarks that guide teachers in determining what each student should know and be able to do.

MYTH: *Adventist school multi-grade classrooms result in inferior education.*

REALITY: Student achievement in multi-age, multi-grade classrooms has distinct cognition advantages. Teacher training incorporates brain-based, compatible instructional strategies. Multiple intelligence, cooperative learning, dimensions of learning, models of teaching, subject integration, learning style

identification, comprehensive literacy: The movement in and out of these areas, as well as other strategies/programs with different age groups, fosters opportunities for students to both stretch forward and review with confidence. Resourcefulness is nurtured as students learn and glean information — both intentionally and accidentally — while participating in a non-threatening environment. Inclusive education and differentiated instruction take place naturally in these classrooms. Student learning, comprehension, application, and mastery is reinforced by explanation, experience, repetition, and regular opportunities for students to help and/or teach other students in a seamless, safe, and nurturing environment.

MYTH: *Adventist school facilities are under-equipped and inferior.*

REALITY: Adventist education and education in general has changed significantly over the years. The changes needed to keep pace with society, the requirements of the age we live in, and the technical needs of industry have not taken place fast enough. Not every school has the same facilities, equipment, or financial resources; but, with very few exceptions, every Adventist school does have the basic facilities, equipment, and materials essential for quality education. Inferior schools, historically, are driven more by poor teaching than by inferior facilities and equipment. The Adventist EDGE Comprehensive School Improvement Ini-

tiative and School of Excellence programs are designed to place schools on the continuous path of improvement, which leads to excellence in all categories. Ongoing and meaningful teacher training is the key factor in this process. EDGE, “Educators Delivering Great Education,” summarizes BCJA’S commitment to excellence for every student and stakeholder.

MYTH: *Adventist schools are no different than public schools or other private schools.*

REALITY: Adventist schools are based on an educational “Journey To Excellence” which begins on Earth and leads toward Heaven. Adventist Christian education, according to Deuteronomy 6, is a Divine imperative. At BCJA we feel that preparing ourselves and our children for this earth, and ultimately for Heaven, should summarize our purpose. Ellen G. White, in the book *Counsels to Parents Teachers and Students*, page 401, makes this statement: “The subject of education is one that should interest every Seventh-day Adventist. The Lord says to us, Seventh-day Adventists are not to place themselves under the counsel and instruction of teachers who know not the truth for this time. The molding and fashioning of minds should not be left to women/men who have not comprehended the importance of a preparation for that life which measures with the life of God.” We should all agree that this imperative statement is difficult to ignore!



Karohn Young (left), BCJA principal, stands with her students.



Karohn Young (right), BCJA principal, stands with her eighth grade students.

National Score Comparisons

We have known the following about teachers for decades:

“Teacher expertise accounts for more difference in student performance (40 percent) than any other factor,” *Ferguson* (2001).

“The differences in impact by the most effective teachers, the top one-sixth of teachers, can be nine months or more, essentially a full year of learning,” *Rowen, Correnti, and Miller* (2002).

BCJA students have achieved excellent growth on their Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) nationally normed achievement tests over the last two years:

- English language arts school-wide total increased by 17.3 percentage points.
- Extended English language arts grades 1-3 total increased by 30 percentage points.
- Math total increased by 14.9 percentage points.
- Science total increased by 10.4 percentage points.
- Complete composite total increased by 11.1 percentage points.

All subject areas — including math — are now scoring above the state average! And, about one-third of our students are performing above the 75th percentile in multiple subject areas!

Conference-wide Competition

BCJA students recently participated in the South Atlantic Conference Math and Spelling Competition, held in Orangeburg, South Carolina, for the 19 schools operated

by the Office of Education, and with impressive results:

- 1st Place, Math Jeopardy Competition, grades 3-5
- 1st Place, Math Kahootz Derby Competition, grades 3-5
- 2nd Place, Math Kahootz Derby Competition, grades 3-5
- 2nd Place, Spelling Bee Competition, grades 3-5
- 4th Place, Spelling Bee Competition, grades 3-5
- 1st Place, Math Jeopardy Competition, grades 6-8
- 2nd Place, Math Jeopardy Competition, grades 6-8
- 1st Place, Math Kahootz Derby Competition, grades 6-8
- 2nd Place, Math Kahootz Derby Competition, grades 6-8
- 4th Place, Math Kahootz Derby Competition, grades 6-8

Curriculum and Honors Classes

BCJA’S curriculum is EDGE-y, and currently offers the following classes beyond the standard curriculum:

- **Honors classes** include logic training and fallacies of logic, critical thinking, French, Spanish, computer coding, ALICE programming, language arts (literature, English grammar and usage), spelling, vocabulary, debate, advanced math, high school algebra I, classical vocabulary training (Latin and Greek foundation), engineering, and test taking skills.
- **Fine arts classes** include piano, instrumental, band, foundational bells,

bells, choir, sign language, liturgical movement, acting and improvisation, painting, and puppetry.

- **Additional classes and activities** include girls volleyball and basketball; boys basketball, soccer, and touch football; and step team.
- **After school enrichment opportunities** include swimming, robotics, self-defense, and chess.

Our over-arching goal is for BCJA to be known as a school of excellence with emphases on biblical Christianity, academics, leadership, and physical development. In cooperation with her education team, Karohn Young is intent on preparing students to be self-directed, disciplined, autonomous learners who are adept at thinking critically and communicating effectively, while being moral and compassionate individuals.

Young’s words to her team at the beginning of this school year express this idea well: “We are not only renewing our commitment to create an ever-evolving educational platform that will meet the demands of the 21st century learner, but also integrating spiritual values into each area of life, focusing on character building, health, leadership, critical-thinking, mission, and outreach.”

For more information about Berean Christian Junior Academy, call 404-799-0337, visit our website www.bcjaschool.org, or visit us at www.facebook.com/BCJASchool. ☎

Conrad L. Gill, Ed.D., is the former director of education for the Southern Union Conference.

OU, SAU IT Departments Collaborate



PHOTO BY: ANTHONY CHORNES II

OU and SAU IT departments work together at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Ala.

For the past two years, Oakwood University and Southern Adventist University information technology (IT) departments have met together to share, grow, and learn from one another. This unparalleled interaction between the two departments has been spearheaded by Oakwood University's chief information officer, Kirk Nugent, and Southern Adventist University's associate vice president, Gary Sewell.

The most recent visit between the two universities' IT departments happened on May 2, 2017, and was hosted by Oakwood University. Last year Southern Adventist University hosted the event. Says Nugent, "This visit of our colleagues from Southern Adventist University this past May was the second of its kind during my tenure here at Oakwood — with our network administrators talking to their network administrators, our software developers sharing with their software developers, our technicians speaking with their technicians, all the while every one of us truly enjoying each other's company, stories, experiences, and solutions." Sewell added, "This incredible opportunity to collaborate between our departments goes beyond just us. Southern and Oakwood have been doing DEEP (Diversity Education Exchange Program) Retreats for a number of years. These DEEP Retreats allow the two universities to spend



PHOTO BY: DJUVANE MARTIN

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., motivates and inspires the IT departments.



PHOTO BY: DJUVANE MARTIN

OU and SAU find common solutions for common challenges.

a weekend together, to converse with one another, and to worship together."

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor of the Oakwood University Church and speaker/director for Breath of Life, started the day off with a devotional, which set the tone for the event. The day's schedule of sharing and cooperation was intentionally relaxed, and allowed each team to pair together by job function. A tour of the Oakwood University campus followed, with IT areas of maintenance and management highlighted.

"Every member of my team (literally everyone) said the visit was very beneficial and they want to continue the practice in the following years," said Nugent.

"These meetings have really allowed the collaboration and cooperation to happen naturally," added Sewell. "We all have a common purpose, a similar calling, all focused on the Kingdom of Heaven! We certainly plan to continue these meetings, and we hope to expand the time we are able to spend with one another."

The two schools praise God for assisting them in coming together and reaching the young people for Him! This interaction and cooperation is an example for all — bridging any divide, reaching across, and working together as brothers and sisters in Christ! 🙏

BY RICHARD STEPHENSON

Hundreds Celebrate New Pediatric, Women's Services at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center



Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center's new pediatric unit features a playroom to help children heal. Designed to put children at ease when receiving medical care, the playroom features a racing theme, complete with chairs that look like stacked tires and a tool chest, and interactive games.

Nearly 450 community members joined Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center on May 11, 2017, to celebrate the opening of a new unit to care for pediatric patients.

Located on the hospital's fourth floor, the Center for Women and Children is a \$10 million, 34-bed expansion that increases the number of beds at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center from 293 to 327.

"This new unit allows us to care for kids in a way we couldn't do before. Now we can provide the whole gamut of pediatric care and treat a wider variety of conditions in children — whether it be for respiratory issues such as asthma, or orthopedic issues like broken bones, or even ear, nose, and throat issues," said Becky Vernon, Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center director

of women and children's services.

The 10-bed inpatient pediatric unit is brightly colored and inspired by the spirit of Daytona Beach, featuring designs of ocean waves, palm trees, and dolphins, as well as cars racing on a track, chairs in the shape of tires and tool chests, and blimps.

"When planning and designing this new unit, we wanted to create a fun, vibrant healing environment that would help put children at ease when receiving medical care," said Darlinda Copeland, Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center chief operating officer. "This new unit perfectly reflects our community, incorporating the beach Volusia County is famous for, as well as our rich history of racing. Florida Hospital is the official healthcare partner of Daytona International Speedway, and this theme of racing plays out

throughout our new unit and into the playroom which is essential to kids' healing."

The new unit also offers 24-inpatient beds for women who are either recovering from surgery or giving birth. Located adjacent to the pediatric unit, the design of these rooms is more tranquil than the pediatric unit, with spacious private rooms, soothing green colors, and warm wood accents.

All 34 rooms in the Center for Women and Children are private and created with families in mind. In the pediatric unit, parents can comfortably stay overnight with their child.

"This was a natural progression in expanding our continuum of care," said Vernon. "Our entire fourth floor is already centered completely on women and children. With this new addition, women and children can receive all of their care on one floor —



Nearly 450 community members joined Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center on May 11, 2017, to celebrate the opening of a new unit to care for pediatric patients. Located on the hospital's fourth floor, the Center for Women and Children is a \$10 million, 34-bed expansion that increases the number of beds at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center from 293 to 327.

whether you are preparing to expand your family, having a baby, or have a sick child.”

The fourth floor is home to Women’s Care for pregnant mothers to receive prenatal care, the BirthCare Center to deliver babies,

and a 16-bed Level II neonatal intensive care unit for sick and premature babies.

In addition, pediatricians Shilpa Sulochana, M.D., and Mihir Tolat, M.D., are located on the fourth floor, providing on-going pediatric care.

For children who need specialized care, the fourth floor is also home to Florida Hospital for Children’s team of specialized neonatologists and pediatric specialists, available to provide a wide variety of care for children, including cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, pulmonology, and more.

In addition to the pediatric inpatient unit, the Daytona Beach hospital also unveiled an eight-bed pediatric ER to the community, which further reflects the racing theme.

“It is so exciting to see this project completed,” Copeland said. “You certainly don’t want to see a child in the hospital, but as a parent, if your child needs healthcare, you want them to stay close to home and receive the very best care in an environment that is comforting to both you and your child. When I think of all the families this will help in our community, it is a true blessing to open this new unit.”

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEMORIAL STAFF WRITER

Park Ridge Health Collects Used Bibles for Bible Toolbox Project

Park Ridge Health, based in Hendersonville, N. C., has partnered with the Bible Toolbox Project to collect used Bibles to share with the local community. This is the third consecutive year for Park Ridge Health to host this drive to provide Bibles to Blue Ridge Prison and Jail Ministries.

Blue Ridge Prison and Jail Ministries provides Bibles for inmates in prisons or jails in western North Carolina. Prison and jail chaplains often do not have budgets for Bibles.

“Being able to serve as a collection point for the Bible Toolbox Project aligns directly with Park Ridge Health’s dedication to care for the whole person — body, mind, and spirit,” said Jimm Bunch, Park Ridge Health president and CEO. “The inmates have shared that these Bibles have become a source of peace and hope for them, and that makes this so worthwhile.”

“Our associates look forward to this opportunity each year,” said chaplain Michael Lom-



Inmates find peace and hope from the Bibles donated to them by Park Ridge Health.

bardo, Park Ridge Health director of pastoral services. “The blessing really comes when we see members of the community stopping by to donate their used Bibles to make sure

the Blue Ridge Prison and Jail Ministries can continue to provide this care.”

BY PARK RIDGE HEALTH STAFF WRITER

Carolina Conference Camp Meeting Shares Him



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Leslie Louis, president of the Carolina Conference, honors fallen men and women in all of the branch forces on Memorial Day.



PHOTO BY: HENRY JOHNSON

Henry Johnson, pastor, takes a selfie with the Carolina Camp Meeting youth group.

The Carolina Conference hosted their annual Camp Meeting at Lake Junaluska in North Carolina, May 28-June 3, 2017. The theme for the week was “Sharing Him,” which centered on their mission as believers to spread the Good News. Hundreds of Seventh-day Adventists traveled from around the Conference to enjoy fellowship with friends and to draw closer to God.

The administrative staff of the Conference handpicked talented, spiritual speakers to share the wisdom with which God has blessed them. The evening speakers this year were Don Livesay, president of the Lake Union Conference, and Mike Tucker, speaker/director for Faith for Today. Over the course of the week, these two men brought the Gospel to life during their vibrant presentations.

In addition to the evening meetings, there were multiple daily seminars to attend, with topics ranging from family matters to reaching out to Muslims to understanding Ellen White. The speakers and Confer-

ence staff prayerfully chose these subjects with current issues in mind. Additionally, the children’s meetings focused on sharing Jesus’ love with the next generation of believers. Through crafts, singing, videos, and stories, the young people in the Conference came to know Jesus more each day. Many of the children enjoyed reuniting with friends from previous Camp Meetings as well as creating new friendships.

Throughout the week, several groups are acknowledged and honored during the main evening meetings. On Monday evening, which falls on Memorial Day each year, the veterans were recognized and honored for their willingness to fight for this country. Additionally, senior citizens receive a special tribute on Wednesday evening, which entails identifying both the oldest male and female visitor in attendance. This ceremony is quite special, as it reminds young church members of the commitment their elders have made to serve Christ for their entire lives.

Tying in with this year’s theme, Sharing

Him, the youth attending Camp Meeting decided to give back to the community in two different ways. One group repainted guard rails on the residential side of the lake, while another team journeyed to local neighborhoods where they handed out copies of *The Great Controversy* and other literature. They offered to have prayer for the people they encountered. The youth were an example to the adults of what it truly means to share Him.

This year’s Camp Meeting was a blessing for all who were present, and church members were encouraged to share Jesus with the people they encounter each day. Everyone in attendance left Lake Junaluska on fire for Christ, ready to spread the Good News with those around them. Attendees are already looking forward to next summer when they can reunite with fellow believers once again and continue to learn more about the eternal Savior. 🕊

BY ABIGAIL KING

Music Provides Mission to Thailand

The author had the privilege of sitting down with Chris and Shannon Sorensen and talking with them about their current mission field.

Chris and Shannon Sorensen are currently partnering with Adventist Frontier Missions as church planting missionaries in Khon Kaen, Thailand, but it is how they are reaching out to their community that is fascinating.

Khon Kaen is not what one might picture when first thinking of a mission field, as it is a fairly urban university town. It is one of the current “Centers of Influence” projects coordinated by the General Conference, and supported by its division, union, and conference.

The Sorensens’ unorthodox approach is perhaps one of the more modern and innovative methods of relational evangelism: they work at a private music school. Peace Music Academy is the entering wedge for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Khon Kaen. Chris Sorensen functions as its administrator and ukulele teacher, which he says was definitely not what he envisioned



Chris and Shannon Sorensen

when he dreamed of doing missionary work. Shannon Sorensen leans more toward a whole person approach — she has her hands in just about everything, including homeschooling their two children.

Over the past four years, the mission music school has seen many miracles and accepted many students. Currently, 50 students between the ages of five and 75 attend the school. However, the three full-time music teachers employed by the school are also hired out to various schools in the area, making the impact of Peace Music Academy that much more effective in the community.

Music has a unique way of reaching hearts

and involving families, which has been lacking in many of the English schools, the Sorensens explained, and this further compounds their impact on the community. They regularly welcome student missionaries, and are working to encourage more music majors to take a year off to serve God where they are so desperately needed.

These missionaries are not content with the status quo, though; they have plans for a community center to bolster the Adventist presence in Khon Kaen. When asked what they really want people to know, the Sorensens responded, “This is a great new mission approach that we really hope others can experience themselves, especially young people — adults too, if God is calling. Consider using your musical gifts for ministry. A lot of people think music is a nice ‘side thing,’ but God can do so much more if we allow Him.”

For more information or if you’d like to get involved with their mission, email burningtummies@yahoo.com. 📧

BY CASEY VAUGHN

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Carolina Forms Dollar Club

While attending Dave Ramsey’s 2016 Stewardship Conference, the Carolina Conference Generous Living team viewed a touching video by Pete Wilson, former head pastor of the Crosspoint Church in Middle Tennessee. One of the ministries of this church is called Dollar Club. Once a month they take up a special offering of one dollar per person and go out into the community to do random acts of kindness. They document the experience on video and share it with the church members the following week.

The Generous Living team felt impressed to launch their own version of the Dollar Club during the 2017 Camp Meeting. Since the Conference mission tag line is “Embracing Carolina With the Compassionate Call of Christ,” they wanted to make the local citizens aware that they care about them.

This initiative was met with great enthusi-

asm. For the first three nights of Camp Meeting, a collection was taken for this outreach, and more than \$2,500 was raised. The Dollar Club team then went out into the community of Waynesville, N.C., and purchased gas and groceries for random people. On the second day, working with a local Christian organization, the team took two deserving families on a shopping spree at Walmart.

These two afternoons were documented on film, compiled into a short video, and shared at the Sabbath evening meeting. The response was greater than the Conference staff had expected. After the evening meeting, several attendees expressed excitement about doing this again next year. One woman eagerly shared that she had joined the Dollar Club all three nights.

While one dollar alone may not make a difference — just as one person alone might struggle to do so — when all pool their resources, they

can do great things for Christ and His Kingdom.

Learn more here: https://youtu.be/5Kbfj_eTpU. 📺



After purchasing gas for a random person, Eddie Cornejo, pastor, prays with this biker, his safety as he travels, and his family.

BY COURTNEY HEROD

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Columbia City Company Receives Free Organ

The lay pastor of Columbia City Company shares a personal account.

The fledgling 43-member Columbia City Company in Lake City, Fla., was in desperate need of an organ but lacking funds to buy one. As the lay pastor, I decided to advertise in local newspapers looking for a free organ.

Just prior to submitting the advertisement, I saw an ad for a custom-built, nearly-new Lowrey organ selling for \$7,500. Immediately, two inner voices began to compete. One voice said, "Don't even think about it!" The other voice said, "Call the owner and ask that the organ be donated to the church." This voice was persistent and brought to mind the Bible passage, "Ask, and it shall be given..." Matthew 7:7.



Ruth Williams, member of Columbia City Company in Lake City, Fla., tries out the \$7,500 organ donated to the church.

My mind game was long and intense. Finally, the voice of faith prevailed, and I made the call. Pat Milligan, the owner of the organ,

spent three minutes extolling the virtue and capabilities of the instrument as she pitched her sales talk. Then, after what seemed to be an eternity of silence, I asked her to kindly donate the organ to a church in need.

"Pastor," she said, "this is something I would have to discuss with my husband."

Four days later, Pat called back, and her voice was like music to my ears. "Pastor Worrell, my husband and I would be delighted to give our organ to your church."

Columbia City Company was pleased to welcome the Milligans when they came from Ocala to worship and officially donate the organ. 📍

PHOTO BY: STAN GETLINGER

BY GEORGE WORRELL

Baptism Highlights Winter Haven Pathfinder Sabbath



Winter Haven Pathfinders sing "You Are My All in All" under the direction of Wendy Stewart.

Winter Haven Church celebrated Pathfinder Day on March 25 with a program that included a baptism. Pathfinder Jean Delgado gave his heart to the Lord and was baptized by Bob Beck, pastor.

Under Pathfinder director Nerva Stephenson's

guidance, 16 of God's children from different neighborhoods came together to worship the Lord as they participated in the program preliminaries. The Pathfinders sang "You Are My All in All" under the direction of Wendy Stewart. The sermonette was given



Jean Delgado was baptized during Winter Haven Church Pathfinder Sabbath.

by Raymond Stephenson, Master Guide.

Members and guests were blessed and inspired by the enthusiasm of the Pathfinders throughout the program. 📍

BY GLESSIE RECASS

PHOTO BY: GLESSIE RECASS

PHOTO BY: GLESSIE RECASS

Capacity Crowd Enjoys Vegetarian Taste Fest



PHOTO BY: NANCY ALLEN

Rilla Taylor and Judy McMahon present their contribution of Golden Vegetable Soup and Easy Chili at the Sarasota Vegetarian Taste Fest.

A capacity crowd attended the Annual Vegetarian Taste Fest at Sarasota Church on Sunday, February 26, 2017. In the past 18 years, the community has come to love this sold-out event.

This year, 175 visitors were offered more than 30 vegetarian and vegan dishes to enjoy. More than 75 volunteers were involved in the program, including members of the Pathfinder Club who served as waiters and bus staff.

This community outreach has given the church positive exposure, and allowed people to see the Ad-

ventist Church as one that cares about its community. Proceeds from the Taste Fest are donated to the All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota and Manatee counties. More than \$30,000 has been donated to this cause in the past 18 years.

In conjunction with the tasting event, a NewStart Health Expo was held. Visitors were encouraged to check their health status by participating in eight stations of health and wellness measurements and information. 🍎

BY NANCY ALLEN

Ron and Elaine Brown Celebrate 60 Years of Marriage

Ron and Elaine Brown were married February 23, 1957, at St. Bernadine Catholic Church in Forest Park, Ill. They were blessed with four children: Glen, Denise, Ron Jr., and Diane.

Their move to Hoffman Estates, Ill., brought them to Ron's father's church, Elmhurst Seventh-day Adventist Italian Church, where they found what had been missing in their former church. The pastor instructed the Brown family, and all were baptized in 1976.

Ron and Elaine Brown retired from the gas utility and computer industry, respectively, in 1993. They moved to Spring Hill, Fla., in August 2012 and joined New Port Richey Church. In 2016, they transferred



Ron and Elaine Brown

their membership to Brooksville Church.

Of the children, Ron Jr. died at birth, and Glen died due to an accident in 1977. Diane died in 2010 due to complications from pneumonia.

God has blessed the Browns with five beautiful granddaughters. Their daughter, Denise, with her husband, Dave Rivers, and children, moved to Florida in 2016, which brought the Browns great joy.

Ron Brown sums up their 60 years together by saying, "God has watched over us through the good and the bad times, giving us the ability to forgive, overlook, and love one another." 🍎

BY JOSIE BROWN

Ray Hartwell Named Planned Giving and Trust Services Director



Ray Hartwell, newly named director of trust services and planned giving for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.

PHOTO BY: BRIAN YOUNG

Ray Hartwell was recently named director of the Planned Giving and Trust Services Department at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He comes from serving as president of the Pennsylvania Conference.

Ed Wright, Georgia-Cumberland president, says, “Ray comes with rich ex-

perience in church leadership, a heart for people, and a passion for Christian stewardship. It is an honor and privilege to welcome Ray and Jeanne to the Georgia-Cumberland Conference team.”

Hartwell has a long service record with the Adventist Church. He has served as executive secretary and ministerial director for the Pennsylvania Conference, and pastored churches in South Carolina, Missouri, Tennessee, and Kentucky. He is presently completing the last step of the North American Division Planned Giving and Trust Services Certification. Hartwell recently coined the term “Grateful Living” for his department. He says, “Grateful living recognizes that God has already blessed us, before He calls for His tithe. So, it is a pleasure to return to Him after He has so generously provided for us.

“It is an honor to partner with pastors

and other spiritual leaders in guiding people into faithfulness, and the joy of sharing God’s blessings to grow others in a walk with Christ. Both my wife and I also have several family members in this Conference that it is a joy to live closer to,” said Hartwell.

Hartwell will work with the treasury team and vice president for finance/treasurer, Kurt Allen. Allen says, “In Elder Ray Hartwell we saw a leader with a heart for stewardship and a passion for helping people experience a full and lasting relationship with their God and Creator.”

Hartwell enjoys motorcycle riding, kayaking, reading, gardening, photography, and early morning walks with his wife, Jeanne. He and Jeanne have two adult children. 📍

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Conyers Community Guests Day Appreciates Others

The Conyers, Ga., Church held Community Guests Day on April 29, 2017.

They awarded citations of appreciation to six church members and one organization for serving the local community.

These six individuals represent hundreds of members serving in many community projects at the Conyers Church. Awards included the Community Service Department for distributing more than 375,000 pounds of free food to the community; the Youth Department for feeding hundreds of residents at an extended-stay hotel quarterly; the Men’s Ministries Department for performing home maintenance on Sundays for widows, elderly, and the disabled; the Education Department for running a free General Education Development (GED)

program, which helped 40 people; the deaconesses for cooking hot meals weekly for the elderly and sick; the Bags-Of-Love Department for preparing 1,800 handmade bags with essentials and toys for children removed from their homes; and the Women’s Ministries Department for fundraising and purchasing hundreds of gifts for needy children for Christmas. An award was also presented to the vice president of programming of the Atlanta Community Food Bank for partnering with the Conyers Church.

In addition to gifts, guests were also given free Bible studies and their own private instructor. There were two requests for baptism, and several for Bible studies. 📍

BY SHAWN SHIVES



The Conyers, Ga., Church took time to recognize those who serve their community in April.

Project Shield Aids Women Globally

In Kenya, Africa, sanitary products are too expensive for the average girl. They resort to using rags, leaves, newspapers, pieces of mattress stuffing, and mud.

In Japan, young girls at one time could not hold traditional chef positions because it was believed their system was off balance each month, interfering with tasting foods prepared.

In Nepal, girls are isolated for a week. They are sent to a shed with little protection from the elements, exposing them to life-threatening illnesses and little human contact.

In Malawi, a woman's cycle brings so much shame it becomes a strict secret; parents do not even talk about it.

In Bolivia, girls keep their menstrual pads out of sight, even out of the trash, because traditional belief is if these items are mixed in garbage, it can lead to sickness or cancer. There are also limited private bathrooms.

In parts of India, folklore has some females believing if they are menstruating, any vegetable they handle will spoil. Girls are advised to avoid cooking during their cycle to avoid polluting the food.

In Afghanistan, they believe that taking a shower during the monthly cycle will cause infertility.

In Iran, nearly half of the girls believe they have a disease.

The challenges of costs, taboos, superstitions of monthly feminine cycles still exist. Project Shield is a ministry to help young girls through their feminine cycle with dignity and knowledge to bless their health.

In the fall of 2016, retired pastor Austin Goodwin, from Virginia, visited the Apison, Tenn., Church, and its "Kids in Stitches" (KISM) sewing ministry. He met the 12-member team, asking them to consider sewing personal feminine kits for young girls of Kenya and other nations.

Goodwin's intense desire was for KISM to create kits in carry bags packed with protective shields, menstrual pads, underwear, clothespins, zip lock baggies, and instruction sheets. With proper care, the Project Shield kits last two-plus years at no cost to the young girls.



SUBMITTED BY: PENNY WHITE

Each Project Shield kit consists of carry bags packed with protective shields, menstrual pads, underwear, clothespins, zip lock baggies, and instruction sheets.

The members of KISM initially resisted taking on Project Shield, but God kept pressing this on their hearts. They accepted the challenge and have watched God bless.

In December, Project Shield feminine kit production began in faith with no funding. Prayers soared. Young girls would no longer miss classes for a week each month. They would not resort to being harbored in dark, smelly huts until their cycle passed, or have to search for items to control their cycle.

Disease and death could be greatly reduced. Cultural taboos impacting their emotional and mental health would be minimized, as health education would give them new understanding of their own body processes, with hope for the future. Lives could change.

God convicted KISM that this mission outreach would have the most powerful effect of anything the team could create.

God moves in marvelous ways. Cuba received 217 kits this past March, and Columbia received 100 kits in May. Upcoming shipments are scheduled for Ecuador in June, Nigeria in August, Malawi in October, and Haiti in the last quarter of 2017.



SUBMITTED BY: PENNY WHITE

Women from all over the world benefit from Project Shield. These women are from Cuba, and they received one of the 217 kits sent from the KISM group at the Apison, Tenn., Church.

Mission teams are taking kits to the world. This will continue as KISM has the needed supplies to construct the kits.

By faith God will work miracles to fill these requests. He has already provided with fabric and other needed donations to continue this ministry.

KISM is passionate for His daughters around the world. They move in faith to answer Him. Please join this fabulous journey! Email Penny White at white_penny49@yahoo.com. 📧

BY PENNY WHITE

Bass Memorial Academy Graduates 23



The Class of 2017 is presented to Scott Bowes, BMA principal, prior to receiving their diplomas.

Graduation for seniors at Bass Memorial Academy was held Saturday night, May 24, 2017. Several hundred parents, staff, friends, and other supporters attended the ceremony to recognize the high school achievements of 23 seniors.

This year's graduating class is a very diverse and talented group. A few interesting points about them:

- 15 members of the National Honor Society
- 14 GSC members; the rest from oth-

er conferences and outside North America

- 12 graduates with high honors, representing a GPA of 3.75 or above
- 6 graduates who attended Bass for the first time this year

All 23 graduates plan to continue their education. Future career plans include nursing, allied health, engineering, business, and medicine, plus interests in social work, interior design, and diesel mechanics: truly a diverse class!

More importantly, these seniors were

campus leaders in many capacities, including student association offices, dorm resident advisors, Sabbath School teachers, campus ministries leaders, sports captains, and class officers. The Bass Memorial family is very proud of their accomplishments and pray they will use their God-given talents as they continue in their education and prepare for lives of service to God and others. 📌

BY RAELENE BROWER

Gulf States is Blessed by Camp Meeting



PHOTO BY: R. STEVEN NORMAN III

The crowd is moved by the spirit-filled message of Joseph Kidder, D.Min.



Jim Gilley, pastor, led out in the first Friday service at Bass Memorial Academy.



Mike Tucker shares a message during the Camp Alamisco Convocation.

PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

PHOTO BY: TYLER ROBERTS

What does Camp Meeting mean to you? Is it summertime? Is it inspiring seminars? Is it power-packed sermons? Is it reunions with friends? Sleeping in trailers, campers, or tents under the stars? Is it a 5k run, a water-slide for your children, or an M&M drop? Maybe it's a conference T-shirt you caught one night at the gym, or a new book from the ABC store. No matter who you are or how long you've attended, Camp Meeting is all of these things and so much more.

The theme this year for Gulf States has been, "Will Your Anchor Hold?" The storms of life come at unexpected times for unknown reasons. This question was posed in the Conference: Will your anchor in Jesus hold when the storms come? Are you grounded enough in your relationship with

Jesus to not be tossed about by the winds and waves that are sure to come?

Attendees were blessed to have speakers who gave their personal testimonies of how Jesus was able to anchor their souls in Him for His glory. Convocation in April at Camp Alamisco hosted Mike Tucker as he shared his soul, bearing testimony of how he dealt with the passing of his wife, Gayle Tucker. There was not a dry eye in the auditorium, and the group was blessed by Tucker's sermons. During the main Camp Meeting at Bass Academy, Jim Gilley of 3ABN spoke and encouraged members to not grow weary in their service to the Lord. Gilley gave his personal testimony of how God used the local church school and evangelism crusades in his community as a child to bring him to Jesus. The

final weekend speaker, Joseph Kidder, D.Min., gave a wake-up call on the importance of prayer in the life of a Christian, and also shared his testimony of how God delivered him out of his home town of Mosul in Iraq.

The Camp Meeting group was treated to spirit-filled preaching all week long from local conference pastors, as well as many inspiring and informative seminars from various presenters like Melody Caviness, Mark Sandoval, Larry Sendelbach, and more.

Whether you're 3 or 30, 18 or 80, the question still begs an answer: Is your anchor in Jesus strong? The hope for Camp Meeting 2017 was that everyone was able to say "yes," by the end of the meetings. ●

BY TYLER ROBERTS

Ignacio Silverio Ordained to Gospel Ministry



Steve Haley (left), Conference president; Paulina and Ignacio Silverio; and David Hartman, Conference ministerial director

Ignacio Silverio, affectionately known as Nacho, was ordained into the gospel ministry at the Madison Campus Church on May 13, 2017. Doug Tilstra, a professor at Southern Adventist University and a favorite teacher of Silverio, gave the ordination address. David Hartman, ministerial director, introduced Silverio; his wife, Paulina; and their four boys, David, Samuel, Daniel, and Esteban. Steve Haley, Conference president, offered the ordination prayer and along with his wife, Malinda, welcomed Silverios to the pastoral ministry.

Silverio grew up in Redlands, Calif.,

as a nonbeliever, but got serious about Christ because of a breakup with his girlfriend, now his wife. The breakup was because God was not a priority in Silverio's life. That challenged him to read the Bible for himself. He soon fell in love with the Christ of Scripture and accepted Jesus as his Savior. He testifies, "Jesus is awesome! He makes my life better and He makes me better at life." Originally, the Silverios thought they would serve as overseas missionaries, but God led them to Southern Adventist University where he received a B.A. in theology, and then to Andrews University where he received an

M.Div. For the past four and a half years, they have served at the Madison Campus Church.

At the conclusion of the ordination service, Ken Wetmore, senior pastor at Madison Campus, asked those in the congregation to stand who had been baptized by Silverio or had been influenced by his ministry in some way. By the end of Wetmore's series of questions, everyone was standing. All those present were reminded that their chief purpose in life is to positively influence others for Christ. 🙏

BY DAVID HARTMAN

Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School Making Memories



Students dressed as clowns.



Seventh-grader, Cozette Cassidy's, 3-dimensional titled, Rain, depicts rain drops of broken glass falling from the clouds.

Students at Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School participated in a spring art exhibit. The budding artists are taught by Linda Raines, a local artist. Two of the award-winners are shown.

Several students from Crystal Carney's primary grades brought cheer to the residents at Ridgetop Haven Nursing Home. Dressed in clown costumes, the students performed a skit meant to bring joy, laughter, and inspiration to their audience. The students also made cards for the residents. 📌



First grader, Antonio Mendoza's, creation demonstrates an abstract using circles of the same size.

BY HELEN KELLY

Raleigh Gethsemane Church Conducts Cooking Class

Stacy Fisher, retired registered nurse and health leader at Gethsemane Church in Raleigh, N.C., discussed with her team the goals for 2017, during meetings held the first couple of months of the year. The team decided that more people in the congregation and the community needed access to healthful cooking and eating practices. Several members of the church were asked to host classes throughout the year. Paul Lawrence, and his wife, Tanzania, requested to teach a cooking class during the planning sessions.

After three weeks of planning, on Sunday, March 26, 2017, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m., the Lawrences hosted their first cooking class at Gethsemane. The menu consisted of vegan macaroni and cheese, vegan barbecue ribs, vegan beef patties, vegan nachos and chips, and vegan meat loaf. As a special treat, Paul Lawrence provided the recipe for his extra special barbecue sauce. All expenses for the cooking class were paid by the Lawrences. The church attempted to reimburse them for the cost, but the couple donated all money collect-

ed to Gethsemane Church school where Tanzania Lawrence teaches.

About 13 to 15 attendees participated. Each attendee was asked to pay a \$3 fee for attending. One of the visitors, who was not Adventist, came to the cooking class on behalf of her daughter who is battling obesity. She was able to leave Gethsemane with some new acquaintances, and with a personal testimony that healthy food can be simply and deliciously prepared.

The Lawrences have individual life stories that include a combined weight loss of 70 pounds between the years of 2011 to 2013. Becoming vegetarian first, and then progressing to adopting a vegan lifestyle along with intermittent fasting, has helped them to maintain an ideal weight. Paul Lawrence believes in the quote “food is medicine.” Tanzania Lawrence believes in the text, “...I will put none of these diseases upon thee for I am the Lord that healeth thee,” Exodus 15:26. During an interview, she stated that she believes in the following: “Optimum health is not just doing occasional dieting and exercise, but it is

committing to a lifestyle change. One must be willing to permanently change old habits that do not work or bring about healing.”

Gethsemane Church’s health team is excited about the prospect of the Lawrences teaching cooking classes quarterly in the future, as the first one was well received in the church and community. 📍



Paul and Tanzania Lawrence

BY TAJUANA D. LORDEUS, PA-C

Ebenezer Community Service Center Distributes \$50,000 in Goods to Community

The Adventist Community Service Center at Ebenezer Church in Greenville, N.C., distributed more than \$50,000 worth of goods donated by two local businesses. Through a long-standing partnership with Good 360 (formerly Gifts in Kind International, founded in 1983), Ebenezer has been the recipient of donated goods from Bed, Bath and Beyond, QVC, and other top

retailers. Their most recent acquisition from Advance Auto provided the Adventist Community Service Center with nearly 13,000 items, including approximately 200 batteries worth \$15,000.

The Adventist Community Service Center team, with the help of volunteers from the community, logged more than 100 volunteer hours sorting, de-barcoding, and organizing the donated items for distribution.



Advance Auto provided the Adventist Community Service Center with nearly 13,000 items, including approximately 200 batteries worth \$15,000.



The community lined up to receive goods and services.

During Hurricane Matthew in September 2016, the Adventist Community Service Center accumulated three feet of water, losing everything inside, including shelving and fixtures. They had not been able to distribute goods for six months.

The April 11, 2017, event was a two-fold blessing: the grand re-opening of the Adventist Community Service Center, and again being able to service their community's needs. The event was well attended, and included Alvin Freeman, Adventist Community Service director for the South Atlantic Conference in Decatur, Ga.; Brenda Buie, Eastern North Carolina Adventist Community Service leader in Raleigh, N.C.; and Adventist

Community Service volunteers from Raleigh and Fayetteville, N.C. WITN News was present to cover the event.

Dollie Lucas, Adventist Community Service leader at Ebenezer Church, notes, "It is a blessing to be able to help those in need. Everybody needs help some time. And, in these tough economic times, monies that don't have to be spent on household items can be used for other necessities. When the community comes to Ebenezer, they get more than just the temporal help. They receive tracts, books, CDs, and DVDs that point them to the One who can meet all their needs."

The Adventist Community Service Center served more than 225 households

during their grand reopening celebration. Goods were available to individuals and families in Beaufort, Craven, Edgecombe, Greene, Lenoir, Martin, Pitt, and Wilson counties. Due to time constraints, some 20-plus households have been rescheduled to receive services at a later date.

With the support of its members and PAM (Purpose Adventist Ministries — a campus ministry at East Carolina University), the Adventist Community Services Department provides dinner once a month at their local homeless shelter. Although PAM is a recently organized ministry, the Adventist Community Service Department has provided the evening meal at the local homeless shelter for nearly 25 years.

God's mercies are to be praised. He poured out such bountiful blessings that there was not room enough to receive them.

Keith Woodard, pastor of Ebenezer Church and a great supporter of Adventist Community Services, says, "This is what service is all about, and it's a great way to share God's love with people." ●

BY DOLLIE LUCAS

Mt. Olive Church Members Celebrate Mothers

A mother's heart, a mother's faith, and a mother's steadfast love were fashioned by the angels and sent from God above" is a traditional saying.

The mothers of Mt. Olive Church in Hemingway, S.C., were honored during Sabbath School and divine worship in May. The Sabbath School celebration was carried out by Cevonna Brewington, superintendent, while Devonnie Wright, women's ministries leader, spearheaded the celebration for the divine worship service.

In appreciation for all the women have done, thankfulness was shown through reflective remarks, poems, special music, and gifts during each service. During Sabbath

School, one of the highlights was given through the mission story entitled "A Mother's Prayer," and remembrance of mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, and mothers who are no longer living. In addition, special recognition was given to mothers 80 or older, expressing gratefulness for their spiritual guidance throughout the years. A planter of beautiful petunias was also given.

One of the reasons God created mothers was to give an earthy example of His heavenly love for all. Each stage of motherhood reveals an aspect of His love; therefore, the service ended with a prayer of thankfulness and praise for mothers young and old. ●



Mothers who were honored at Mt. Olive Church in Hemingway, S.C.

BY CYNTHIA BREWINGTON

Prayer Summit Climaxes 40 Days of Prayer



PHOTO BY: MICHAEL HUBBARD

Benjamin Jones Jr., president of the South Central Conference, welcomes the Prayer Summit attendees.

focused on repentance, reformation, and revival. This was directly in tune with the SCC Prayer Ministries mission “to seek the Holy Spirit’s guidance in the coordination and integration of prayer into the lives of God’s people and the life of the Church

Lillian Green, prayer coordinator for the SCC Prayer Cover team, was one of eight warriors responsible for the prayer room located outside the main auditorium. Here attendees could go and request special prayer, intercede for others, or just sit quietly in the presence of God. The prayer room is a continuation of the existing prayer call that happens every Sunday night.

Benjamin Jones Jr., president of the South Central Conference, stated in his welcome that, “We are seeking for more than inspiration; we are praying for transformation. We are asking God to do a new thing in South Central, and let it begin with us!”

The general response of the Summit attendees was that the Holy Spirit rained down abundantly, filling hearts and minds with an overflow of God’s presence. Just like the woman at the well, all felt a conviction to go and share throughout South Central and beyond. All involved agree that all glory and honor and praise go to God for giving an Ephesians 3:20 blessing. 🙏

BY SHIRLEY SCOTT

Forty days prior to the annual South Central Conference (SCC) Prayer Summit, under the direction of the Holy Spirit, Shirley Scott, co-director, led a dedicated team of Conference men and women to pray and fast each day. Prayer warriors asked God to do a new thing in and through His people at the Summit. They prayed for an outpouring of the Holy Spirit. They prayed for healing and restoration of souls that the devil has taken and thrown into life’s trash can. They prayed for each attendee, presenter, musician, and worker. They prayed for the Shocco Springs Conference Center and their staff. They prayed without ceasing, claiming John 15:7.

After 40 days of prayer, on March 24, 2017, nearly 200 prayer warriors, including the Prayer Federation presidents, Prayer Cover team, local prayer coordinators, presenters, psalmists, and musicians, arrived at the Shocco Springs Conference Center in Talladega, Ala., and they came ready to participate. The location was peaceful, surrounded by nature, and perfect weather.

Scott kicked off the Summit on Friday night by explaining the theme, “SATURATE.” Saturate means to fill something (your heart) completely with

something (the love of God) that fills to overflowing — so much so, you must share! She stated, “Our desire is that we become men and women of prayers that move mountains, that we will be the men and women who stand in the gap as stated in Ezekiel 22:30. That means you and I must totally surrender our lives to God. Then, and only then, can we expect an abundant outpouring of the Holy Spirit.”

Each Summit session included the spoken Word by Conference officials, ordained music by the praise team and psalmists, and corporate and individual prayer time that



PHOTO BY: MICHAEL HUBBARD

2017 Prayer Summit attendees

New Hope Baptizes Two in Cumberland River



The true mission of New Hope Church is to win souls for the Kingdom of God.

There was no Seventh-day Adventist presence in the Pleasant View area of Cheatham County in 2008, until a small group came together forming the North Cheatham Mission in Jolton, Tenn.

With much prayer, in August of 2015, God provided a beautiful church on five acres located in the city of Chapmansboro, Tenn. The congregation relocated and changed the name to New Hope Church, and today the beautiful building is the spot where the true mission of Jesus happens — winning souls for the kingdom of God.

As a young congregation, dedicated Christians from other faiths joined the fellowship, and offered significant contributions financially and service support. It was therefore with joy and thanksgiving on March 18, 2017, that Tonia Hampton

and her son, Jonathan Hampton, long-term attendees, made a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ by going into the cold waters of the Cumberland River to be baptized. More than 50 guests witnessed Ronnie Forté, pastor of the South Nashville, Tenn., Church, baptize the Hamptons.

Tonia Hampton, a dedicated Christian and prayer warrior, offers faithful support to this small congregation as does Jonathan, who has been a junior deacon since the age of 12. Their baptism was an answer to prayer, and also a witness of how God is working to guide this small congregation in fulfilling the mission the Lord has ordained. 🙏



Ronnie Forté (left), pastor, baptizes Tonia Hampton and her son, Jonathan Hampton, New Hope long-term attendees, who made a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ by going into the cold waters of the Cumberland River to be baptized.

BY ROSIE PITT

Eleven Baptized During FeJAH Weekend Convocation



Gerly Germain, pastor of Jerusalem Church, preached at the FeJAH Convention.

I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in Heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent,” Luke 15:7.

Approximately 600 Haitian-American people from diverse districts of the Southeastern Conference gathered in Tampa, Fla., for The FeJAH (Federation de la Jeunesse Adventiste Haitienne) West Regional Weekend on Saturday, February 11, 2017.

In one day of preaching by Gerly Germain, Southeastern pastor, 11 people from ages 12 to 55 gave their lives to Christ. Chaplain Alinx Thermidor, FeJAH vice

president and organizer of the program, was lost for words.

Under the stewardship of the FeJAH president, Nadeige Theresaïs, new souls are added to the kingdom with each program. One answer to young people leaving the churches is Christ-centered, mission-focused, relevant ministry. The Southeastern Conference and FeJAH are committed to spreading the three angels message in an authentic way that leads to many such days where Heaven rejoices. 📞

BY JEFFREY M. AGUY

Bethel Gives Food, Clothing, Health Screenings in Gainesville

The atmosphere was joyous with music playing in the background as hundreds of people gathered at the Free Food and Clothes Giveaway to receive food and clothing for the family, along with health screenings, while the children were entertained with arts and crafts, games, and face painting.

Hosted by Women Working With Women, Inc., and Bethel Church, the giveaway was held Saturday, March 18, 2017, at Bethel Church in Gainesville, Fla.

Resident Mirror Mabry was busy loading food bags in her car, and shared, “It’s wonderful for the community to get together to help each other.”

Resident Karen Shepherd said the program is really helping her and her 16-year-old daughter. “Anybody who is on a fixed income, this [program] really helps,” said Shepherd. “This is very well organized and very helpful.”

In the parking lot, a Farm Share semi-truck was being unloaded. “Today, we plan to serve 450 households,” said Joy Mier, coordinator for the Emergency Food Assis-



Food and clothing giveaway, and health screening at Bethel Church in Gainesville, Fla.

tance Program at Farm Share. She said 24 pallets were unloaded with 38 cases of cranberry juice, 19 cases of raisins, green beans, corn, and spinach; 38 cases of orange juice, 15 cases of rice, 23 cases of pasta, 38 cases of pink salmon, 38 cases of peanut butter, 76 cases of milk, 56 cases of grape juice, 113 cases of chicken, 49 cases of orange juice, 120 cases of eggs, and blankets and water.

In addition to food and clothes, there were health screenings by physicians and nurses from Bethel who volunteered their time. The UF College of Dentistry, which

addressed dental concerns, dental hygiene, and proper brushing, and also gave away toothbrushes, discussed how to get dental assistance for free.

“It’s a lovely idea,” said Jennings. “It’s helping a lot of people. I think it should happen more often in this city.”

The giveaway event in partnership with Bethel Church and Women Working With Women, Inc., will take place every quarter at Bethel. 📞

BY IZMANE JEAN-LOUIS

Adventist University of Health Sciences Announces Appointment of Next President



Edwin Hernández, Ph.D., ADU's current provost and next president

Edwin Hernández, Ph.D., has been named the next president of Adventist University of Health Sciences (ADU). He will succeed David Greenlaw, D.Min., the University's founding president, who will retire on July 31, 2017, after 27 years of visionary leadership. Greenlaw has guided ADU's growth and development since before the first walls were even constructed.

"I am humbled and honored to follow in the footsteps of David Greenlaw," said Hernández. "He built an innovative institution with an important mission, and I am committed to building upon that extraordinary legacy."

In the two years since ADU welcomed him as provost, Hernández has solidified his reputation on campus as a caring, ded-

icated educator, and a servant leader who has the credentials, passion for mission, and heart to successfully lead ADU.

"We are advancing a wholistic understanding of higher education, developing the mind, body, and spirit for our students," said Hernández. "In a time when health care workers are in high demand, we have the opportunity to create a unique workforce of highly compassionate and skilled candidates who are passionate about mission, excellence, and leadership."

Hernandez has been a leader and strong advocate of Christian education. An ordained Adventist minister, he is active in the church community. Raised in families committed to education as the answer to serving the world and making a difference, he and his wife, Maggie, have passed the

same values on to their two sons.

Through its connection with Florida Hospital and Adventist Health System, Hernández envisions the University growing its student body, taught by faculty who are exceptional educators, engaged scholars, and leaders in their field.

In his next role as president, Hernández' will focus on people and mission with an emphasis on service, academic excellence, and character building. Deeply rooted in the Adventist higher education tradition and guided by ADU's faith-imbued culture.

After earning his undergraduate bachelor of arts in theology from Loma Linda University, Hernández earned his master of divinity (M.Div.) at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University. A social science research project at Andrews inspired him to earn his master's and doctoral degrees in sociology with a specialty in religion from the University of Notre Dame.

Some of his most notable contributions to the education field include multiple books, numerous articles, serving as vice president of academic affairs at Antillean Adventist University, a program officer at The Pew Charitable Trusts, founding director of the Center for the Study of Latino Religion at the University of Notre Dame, and leading a multi-million-dollar urban education philanthropic initiative on behalf of the Doug & Maria DeVos Foundation.

Hernández was instrumental in creating ADU's new mission motto: "Developing skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ." He believes that students who live these values will effectively fulfill the Florida Hospital and Adventist Health System mission to extend the healing ministry of Christ. ●

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Oakwood University Shares Graduation Statistics



Oakwood University administrators and faculty prepare to greet the Class of 2017 at Commencement.



Hyacinth Burton (right), Ph.D., congratulates Lanetta Phillips, LEAP graduate, during a recognition ceremony on Thursday evening. LEAP is the primary program of Oakwood's Adult & Continuing Education Department.

Oakwood University hosted its 2017 Commencement Exercises, May 12-13, 2017, for 369 of the brightest students who entered to learn four, five, or possibly six years ago, and have now departed to serve. An additional six "guest" graduates participated in the Commencement service on Saturday night, defined as those who chose not to march at their respective institutions because of Sabbath observance and other scheduling concerns.

Statistics shared by Leslie N. Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., M.B.A., president of Oakwood University, about the Class of 2017:

Oldest graduate - 73 years old

Youngest graduate - 20 years old

Specialty Degrees:

Masters - 6

Adult & Continuing Education (LEAP) - 42

Dietetic Interns - 19

Major with highest number of

graduates:

Biology - 31

Organizational Management - 26

Social Work - 24

Graduate Honors:

Summa Cum Laude: 5

Magna Cum Laude: 19

Cum Laude: 55

Honorable Mention: 73

Schools:

Religion and Theology: 20

Arts and Sciences: 114

Education: 46

Nursing & Health Professions: 94

Business: 95

States:

Alabama: 48

Florida and New York: 41

Georgia: 37

California: 29



Howard Weems, Ph.D., offers prayer of dedication at the nurses pinning ceremony.

BY OU STAFF WRITER

WISE Scholarship Provides Financial Assistance for Working Students



Southern students work in a wide range of jobs, and through the WISE program, they can receive dollar-for-dollar matching funds toward their tuition.

Several prominent supporters of Southern Adventist University recently met with school administrators and expressed their desire to assist hardworking students. While many of these donors are alumni who worked their

way through college, they realize that working while attending as a full-time student is becoming less common.

As a result of these conversations, the Work Initiative Scholarship Endowment (WISE) was born. This is an umbrella initiative encompassing multiple scholarship funds. The family of alumni Bill and Myrtle Hulsey established one such scholarship in honor of their commitment to Southern. The late Bill Hulsey, who graduated in 1955, served on the Board of Trustees and was a long-term supporter of the University.

Students accepted into the WISE program will receive dollar-for-dollar matching funds, up to \$3,000, for their job earnings during the regular school year. Donors have expressed that they are not looking for perfect GPAs, but for hardworking students who desire to invest in

Adventist education.

This program aims to promote a real-life experience as students work part-time during college. It will help them to broaden their skills while developing a better résumé. Additionally, this endowment aims to decrease student debt by allowing students to earn more scholarship funds.

“A scholarship like this can prove to be absolutely transformational in the lives of students on our campus,” said Glenn Carter, associate vice president for student finance.

The first donation to the WISE program was received in November of 2016. Since then, the endowment has grown to nearly \$1,500,000. As additional funds are contributed, the hope is that one day all Southern students will have the opportunity to benefit from this program. 📌

BY ABIGAIL KING

New Project Integrates Technology into Small Adventist Grade Schools

With today’s rapid technological advances, it can be challenging for schools to keep up. The North American Division, in collaboration with Southern Adventist University’s Online Campus Department, has developed a new project called “Our Creator’s Space” to integrate technology into small Seventh-day Adventist elementary school classrooms in the Division. The program’s primary goal is to provide science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics (STEAM) resources and lesson plans for multi-grade teachers in schools that don’t have dedicated technology.

“We’re hoping this project will have a positive impact on getting technology into the curriculum of small schools,” said Ryan

Harrell, media and creative design specialist for Online Campus.

The program was founded on the premise that God wants people to create new things. It also supports the idea that science and technology do not have to be separate from religion. The name “Our Creator’s Space” is based on the concept that God is the ultimate Creator, and wants people to follow in His footsteps of creating.

Our Creator’s Space provides a dynamic and ever-growing program that can benefit students, teachers, and their schools. Students benefit from the exposure to STEAM fields, and are encouraged to use problem-solving skills that are applicable in their future careers. Teachers benefit by having access to new technologies, like vir-

tual and augmented reality, co-presentation software, 3-D printing, and robotics, along with instruction on how to use them, learning about new tools and techniques alongside their students.

Consequently, Adventist elementary schools as a whole also benefit as the schools collaborate and foster a sense of community together, ultimately developing new materials and ideas that other teachers can then use.

“By providing this extra layer of support to small schools, we hope that they will be able to create something that gives the glory to our Creator,” Harrell said.

Teachers who would like to utilize these lesson plans can visit ourcreators.space. 📌

BY OKSANA WETMORE

Festival de Laicos 2017



Parte de los asistentes al evento de Charlotte



Vista parcial de la asistencia en Charlotte



Vista parcial de los asistentes en Mt. Olive



Saint Paul

La Unión del Sur organiza periódicamente un festival de laicos con el propósito de motivar, entrenar, y equipar a los laicos para la tarea de compartir el mensaje de salvación. Este año la dinámica fue diferente. Se organizaron 5 festivales locales en las asociaciones que lo solicitaron. Los mismos se llevaron a cabo durante 2 fines de semana, uno en abril y el otro en mayo.

En Charlotte, por ejemplo, más de 150 delegados procedentes de Georgia, Carolina del Norte y Carolina del Sur, de la asociación South Atlantic, asistieron a los seminarios que presentó Arnaldo Cruz, pastor de la iglesia Los Peregrinos, en Miami. El pastor Poloche junto a los pastores Uribe y Quintiana hicieron un excelente trabajo organizando a las iglesias,

y asegurándose de que todo funcione en forma coordinada.

La asociación de las Carolinas reunió a sus delegados en Hendersonville, Hickory, Rockingham, Mt. Olive, y St. Pauls, en Carolina del Norte. Los pastores Sauza, Morell, Rivera, Villamil y Sandoval se encargaron de cada grupo. Un total de 1130 personas asistieron a los seminarios de entrenamiento y se gozaron con los mensajes impartidos por los pastores Rubén Ramos y José Espósito de la asociación Potomac. Un gran número de asistentes se comprometieron firmemente a trabajar en diferentes proyectos de ganancia de almas.

La ciudad de Nashville, Tennessee, fue el lugar de encuentro para la asociación Kentucky-Tennessee, donde el pastor

Armando de León y su equipo atendieron con diligencia a los 450 delegados que se hicieron presentes. El pastor Robert Amaya impartió los seminarios y fue inspirador escuchar algunos de los testimonios allí compartidos.

En Huntsville, Alabama, el grupo de pastores y delegados de South Central se congregó también para recibir instrucción e inspiración para el trabajo misionero. Roger Hernández, director del departamento ministerial de la Unión, fue el encargado de las presentaciones.

En todos estos lugares, el Espíritu de Dios se hizo presente para motivar a los presentes a orar y estrechar su relación con Dios a fin de poder dar “testimonio a todas las naciones.”

MARIEL LOMBARDI

La Voz de la Esperanza Celebra su 75 Aniversario en Atlanta



Braulio Pérez Marcio



Como una luz en medio de las sombras causadas por la segunda guerra mundial, el programa La Voz de la Profecía, más tarde conocido como La Voz de la Esperanza, surgió en 1942 en Glendale, California. Su misión principal fue llevar el evangelio de salvación a la población del mundo de habla hispana por medio de la radio. El Dr. Braulio Pérez Marcio, fundador, director, y locutor por más de 30 años, nació en España en 1904 y se crió y educó en Argentina. Luego de graduarse enseñó en América Central. En 1942, mientras se desempeñaba en La Habana, Cuba, como pastor y evangelista, fue invitado a conducir este programa de radio que pronto llegó a ser conocido internacionalmente.

A lo largo de su ministerio, dirigió campañas de evangelización en todos los países hispanoamericanos, así como entre la población hispana de los Estados Unidos. Su erudición, sensibilidad como escritor y poeta, y su profundo entendimiento de la lengua y cultura hispanas, lo convirtieron en una personalidad muy influyente entre la audiencia latina. Fue un instrumento del Señor

que exaltó la bendita esperanza de Su regreso.

En 1971, cuando la salud de Pérez Marcio estaba disminuyendo, Milton Peverini tomó su lugar durante 24 años, hasta que Frank González se hizo cargo. En la actualidad, y desde 2013, Omar Grieve, de Argentina, y su esposa Nesy Pittau, de Brasil, fueron quienes tomaron el liderazgo. El evangelista Ángel Rodríguez Medina se unió a ellos en el 2014. Todo el personal del ministerio se identifica con la profunda visión de los Grieves de usar los recursos del ministerio para proclamar el mensaje de salvación y exaltar a Jesucristo como la única fuente de esperanza y salvación. Gracias al inestimable apoyo de innumerables personas, y a través del poder de Dios, siembran un mensaje cristiano de seguridad, paz y amor.

En el 2017, 75 años después de sus comienzos, a los efectos de celebrar un camino lleno de bendiciones, La Voz organizó una caravana de evangelismo que se lanzó en Cuba en marzo pasado. Durante 7 años el programa había dejado de ser transmitido en ese país, y hay muchas razones para celebrar ahora que está en el aire nuevamente. Se

realizaron cincuenta campañas simultáneas. Se visitaron diecisiete ciudades, graduando a veintidós mil estudiantes y bautizando aproximadamente mil ochocientas almas para la gloria de Dios.

La celebración del aniversario de este año se llevará también a cabo con eventos especiales en los territorios de las nueve uniones de la División Norteamericana, concluyendo con la cumbre del aniversario que se celebrará el 9 de septiembre en la Iglesia Adventista de Loma Linda, California. Antes de ese gran evento, la caravana pasará por Portland, Chicago, Garland, Ashton, Atlanta, Nueva York, San Pablo y San José.

El ministerio hispano de la Unión del Sur está ansioso de participar en esta celebración cuando el 22 de julio, la caravana de La Voz de la Esperanza esté en Jonesboro, Georgia. Las iglesias de la zona se están preparando para el evento. ¡No hay duda de que Dios estará bendiciendo cada paso del proceso que hará posible llevar a cabo este gran proyecto! 📌

MARIEL LOMBARDI

Seminario Espiritual

En medio de una atmósfera altamente espiritual, el pastor Braulio Concepción, presidente de la asociación de Chiriquí, Panamá, dirigió un seminario que tenía el propósito de elevar la espiritualidad de la congregación. El

mismo se llevó a cabo en Charlotte, en Carolina del Norte. Más de 20 iglesias y compañías se unieron a esta bendecida experiencia espiritual. 📌

MARY ROMERO, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO



Pastor Concepción durante una de sus presentaciones

Distrito de Fayetteville



Ceremonia de despedida de los hermanos que se reunirán en la nueva filial de Lumberton



Bautismo en Fayetteville

Sanford, Campaña “A los pies del Salvador”

En estos últimos días de la historia el Espíritu Santo está trabajando en el corazón de los miembros de iglesia, quienes están respondiendo a este llamado. Es por ello que la iglesia de Sanford y Fayetteville llevaron a cabo campañas en las instalaciones de sus respectivas iglesias en la semana del 8-15 de abril.

En **Sanford** el lema fue “A los pies del Salvador”. El orador fue el Hno. José Gómez, quien compartió las maravillosas historias que ilustran diferentes formas de llegar sin temor a los pies del Salvador. El mensaje fue claro. Miembros y visitantes se mostraron gozosos por saber que el Señor regaló la salvación y la dicha de vivir con Él por la eternidad. Cabe destacar la participación de todos los miembros de iglesia quienes bajo el liderazgo de su director misionero, Carlos González, hicieron posible este evento, y continúan con la tarea de seguimiento de quienes se

preparan para el bautismo.

En **Fayetteville**, la directora misionera Marilyn Nater realizó una valiosa tarea de liderazgo en la preparación de este evento, y tuvo la incondicional colaboración de la hermandad que respondió al llamado del Espíritu Santo de compartir su fe con otros. El lema fue “Al Rescate de la Humanidad.” Siete miembros laicos presentaron los temas.

Ambas campañas tuvieron la alegría de presenciar un bautismo, y ver que muchas personas quieren prepararse para profundizar más en el conocimiento de Dios a los fines de bautizarse próximamente.

Las 2 congregaciones trabajan arduamente en el seguimiento de estas almas que desean prepararse para el Reino de Dios.

Nace Nueva Filial en Lumberton

La ciudad de Lumberton en Carolina del Norte, es un territorio desafiante, pero fértil para el evangelismo. Sin embargo, allí no había ninguna congregación adventista.

Por esta razón la iglesia St. Pauls envió a un grupo de hermanos liderado por José Moreno a fin de explorar y trabajar el terreno. El equipo fue consolidándose, y se han organizado para comenzar un arduo trabajo de siembra, entre los contactos que han establecido desde que comenzaron la tarea de reconocimiento de la zona. El sábado 8 de abril la iglesia St. Pauls despidió oficialmente a estos miembros que comenzaron a reunirse en un local que alquilaron con este propósito.

Sin lugar a dudas la presencia de estos misioneros laicos será altamente bendecida por el Señor, y serán de bendición para aquellos que estén buscando a Dios en este terreno fértil. Es la oración de la iglesia Saint Pauls y de los miembros de la nueva filial, que el Señor santifique sus vidas para poder cumplir con fidelidad la tarea a la que se han abocado. 🙏

ELÍAS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Chatworth, Una Iglesia Bendecida



Membrecía de la flamante iglesia de Chatworth

Un grupo de laicos altamente motivados en la ganancia de almas se reunió por primera vez el domingo 3 de febrero del 2002 en la iglesia americana de Chatsworth, Georgia, dirigida entonces por el joven pastor Chris Bullock. Luego de 10 meses, de forma milagrosa el Señor proveyó un salón para alquilar en una zona céntrica del pueblo de Chatsworth.

El lunes 16 de diciembre del 2002 se comenzó a limpiar y restaurar el pequeño edificio encontrado, y se le puso un letrero para comenzar las reuniones el sábado 21 de diciembre. Varios miembros de iglesia donaron trabajo, materiales, etc., para hacer del salón un lugar que invite a la reverencia y adoración. Por motivos de espacio, para las actividades de jóvenes se unían a la iglesia de Dalton.

En el 2004 el trabajo misionero de la iglesia comenzó a dar frutos. El grupo comenzó a crecer. Familias enteras, e individuos deseosos de encontrar la Verdad, se unieron a la congregación bajo la influencia del Espíritu Santo. Líderes de otras congregaciones pidieron su traslado al grupo, aportando su experiencia y guía espirituales. Se trabajó arduamente y en julio del 2007 organizaron el nuevo grupo

misión de Ellijay, con 12 personas listas a brillar para Jesús en ese lugar.

En el 2008, bajo el liderazgo del pastor Mendizábal se buscó un lugar más amplio para alquilar o comprar, pero los esfuerzos fueron infructuosos. Mientras tanto, se recibieron donaciones de bancas, se compró el equipo de audio visual, y la iglesia continuaba su obra.

En el 2013 el pastor Samuel García fue asignado al distrito y en Junio del 2014 se encontró un edificio que había estado a la venta durante dos años, con un costo inicial de más de medio millón de dólares. El lugar había sido reposeído por el banco y se le había puesto un precio de \$220,000 dólares. Con la bendición de Dios, tres meses luego de comenzar las negociaciones, se firmó la compra por la cantidad de \$155.000.00. Dios es grande y bueno, alabado sea su nombre.

La congregación se mudó a las nuevas instalaciones en diciembre del 2014. No obstante, allí no terminó el trabajo. El edificio necesitaba remodelaciones, y en el 2015 se juntó la suma de 8,400 dólares, con la que se comenzó la primera etapa de remodelación. Para la segunda etapa el blanco era coleccionar 25,000 dólares y la hermandad hizo promesas de donaciones

para lograr el objetivo. Por la gracia de Dios, se juntaron \$40,000. Muchos miembros que no tenían dinero entregaron automóviles, y otros bienes. Una familia donó el bautisterio, otra familia donó un piano, muchos miembros donaron horas de trabajo, etc., y la obra edilicia de la iglesia quedó terminada. Todo esto se logró sin haber interrumpido el trabajo misionero, ya que durante este período otras almas se unieron a la familia de Chatsworth por medio del bautismo.

“No hay palabras que puedan describir el profundo agradecimiento al Dios del universo, porque a través de estos catorce años sostuvo a esta congregación con su mano poderosa, y permitió que tenga la alegría de haber sido organizada como iglesia” dice el pastor Samuel García. “A través de estos años, muchos han escuchado el mensaje de salvación; otros se han ido llevando consigo la preciosa semilla sembrada en sus corazones. No cabe duda, que los resultados finales se verán en el cielo, aquel día glorioso cuando Jesús venga por sus hijos.”

NELLY GARCÍA, ESPOSA DEL PASTOR DE LA IGLESIA, QUE ACABA DE JUBILARSE

Semana de Evangelismo “Jesús es mi Pasión”.

Aprovechando el ambiente de reflexión espiritual que generan los días de la semana santa, el distrito de Mableton lanzó una serie especial de conferencias con el propósito de levantar a Jesús a través de mensajes cristo céntricos. El objetivo fue encender en el corazón de las personas la pasión de venir a cristocéntricos Jesús. No se puede amar al Señor Jesucristo hasta no comprender lo que hizo por nosotros. El pastor Richard Urdaneta, laicos y líderes de la iglesia local de Canton, presentaron los mensajes en las iglesias del distrito.

Esta dinámica participativa motivó el desarrollo de los dones y la vocación de discipulado en los miembros de la iglesia local que participaron como evangelistas.

Como resultado de esta experiencia espiritual nueve personas decidieron ofrendar sus vidas a Cristo a través del santo bautismo.

Cabe destacar el excelente trabajo de Claudia Colorado de Mableton y Denisse Cabrera de Canton. Junto a su equipo de evangelismo infantil, llevaron a cabo un extraordinario programa de conferencias para niños paralelas a la de los adultos. Esto generó alto entusiasmo en los niños

quienes se sintieron incluidos en la ministración espiritual que se ofreció en la iglesia. 📍



Pastor Urdaneta (bautisterio) con candidatos de bautismo

RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Instituto de Entrenamiento Laico F.I.E.L

El Instituto de Educación para Laicos F.I.E.L, establecido hace 4 años gracias a la visión del pastor Rolando de los Ríos, continúa creciendo. Este año para gloria de Dios cuenta con 1145 alumnos divididos en 11 sedes.

Este instituto tiene como objetivos:

- Capacitar a las fuerzas laicas de la iglesia para que junto a los pastores, ayuden eficientemente en la proclamación del mensaje de salvación preparando un pueblo para la segunda venida de Jesús.
- Ser un canal por donde se transmita una filosofía religiosa sana para la vida de las iglesias.
- Generar en los laicos un fuerte compromiso con el Evangelio para ser un muro de contención contra cualquier movimiento que distorsione el mismo.

En la convención de discipulado del departamento hispano que se realiza en diciembre de cada año, se plantean los objetivos a lograr el año entrante para toda la asociación, que a su vez serán el eje del material de estudio de FIEL. El lema para el 2017 es “Discípulos Transformados,



Doctor Barrios en una clase en la sede de Apopka

Iglesias Transformadas.” En sintonía con este lema, la clase principal de este año está basada en el libro “Transformación Espiritual” del doctor Allan Machado. Este libro tiene como objetivo mostrar cómo se puede llevar a cabo una transformación en la vida, a través de una experiencia práctica relacional con Dios, que transformará por consiguiente la vida eclesial. La segunda clase es de hermenéutica aplicada, y se está estudiando la epístola de Gálatas.

El número de alumnos sobrepasa las expectativas, y eso produce una gran satisfacción a la directiva del instituto y de la asociación de La Florida. No obstante, la bendición mayor es ver el entusiasmo de cada alumno, y el gozo que muestran por tener la oportunidad de conocer más de Dios e involucrarse en la misión. 📍

HENRY BARRIOS, DIRECTOR DE F.I.E.L Y ASOCIADO DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO

Retiro Espiritual del Distrito de Auburn, Opelika y Dothan

El sábado 25 de febrero se llevó a cabo un retiro espiritual en el nuevo distrito, Auburn –Opelika y Dothan. El título del retiro fue “Jesús Dame Uno Más” y el predicador invitado fue el pastor Nilton García.

Este maravilloso encuentro se realizó en la ciudad de Opelika, Alabama, donde más de 100 personas se dieron cita para participar de estos días de acercamiento a Dios. Durante el mismo cada miembro presente se comprometió a traer un alma más para Jesús. En la tarde se presentó el programa “Jesús dame un talento más” donde los adultos, jóvenes, y niños, dedicaron sus talentos al Señor a través de cantos, arte, poesía, y drama.

Alabado sea el nombre de Dios, ya que en



Asistentes al retiro

este retiro el Señor tocó el corazón de una persona, quien decidió entregar su vida a Él, y fue bautizada el sábado 4 de marzo.

El Espíritu Santo está haciendo grandes obras en este renaciente distrito donde se respira una atmósfera de armonía y

entusiasmo por el evangelismo, teniendo como principal motivo de oración, “Jesús dame una iglesia más”. ☛

NILTON GARCÍA, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Semana de Énfasis Espiritual en Memphis



Pastor Silva presentando algunos de los candidatos de bautismo

El pastor Nelson Silva tuvo a cargo una semana para los jóvenes en la iglesia de Memphis, Tennessee. Los mensajes fueron pertinentes a las necesidades espirituales de la juventud actual. El Señor usó a este orador, y muchos miembros de la juventud de la iglesia tomaron decisiones positivas de cambio en

sus vidas. Tres jóvenes fueron bautizados. Junto con otros interesados que también se unieron a la iglesia en esta oportunidad, 11 nuevos miembros se unieron a la familia de dios. ☛

PASTOR ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Seminario de Predicación

El departamento Hispano de la Asociación Kentucky-Tennessee se siente agradecido a Dios por la asistencia de más de 200 personas al seminario “Predica Bien” a cargo del pastor Roger Hernández, director Ministerial de la Unión. Allí se impartió

instrucción acerca de los métodos más eficaces para predicar con poder la Palabra de Dios y lograr que cada sermón lleve el sello de la sangre de Cristo Jesús. ☛

ARMANDO DE LEÓN, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Pastor Roger Hernández presentando el seminario Predica Bien

Sábado Joven



Pastor Quintiana oficiando el bautismo

El 11 de abril más de 350 delegados jóvenes de las iglesias de Marietta Central, Roswell, Doraville, Chamblee, Carrollton y Douglasville estuvieron presentes en la iglesia de Carrollton, Georgia, en un evento organizado para la juventud. Allí se llevó a cabo un bautismo que estuvo a cargo del pastor Quintiana. Al término de la ceremonia el pastor Poloche hizo un llamado

a entregarse a Cristo que tuvo una respuesta de 7 personas. Estudiantes de la universidad de Oakwood, en Huntsville, Alabama, estuvieron a cargo de la música, y el pastor Belisario, también de Oakwood, presentó los seminarios y predicaciones. 📌

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Bautismos

Durham

Después de las conferencias que el pastor Guildemar Domínguez presentara del 11 al 18 de marzo en la iglesia Inmanuel de Durhan, Carolina del Norte, dos personas se unieron a la iglesia. La ceremonia bautismal fue oficiada por el pastor Poloche. Al finalizar, el pastor hizo un llamado de entrega al que respondieron 9 personas, que comenzaron a prepararse para el próximo bautismo.

Varios miembros de la iglesia estuvieron cada noche apoyando el evento evangelístico, y trabajando para que todo funcionase en forma ordenada.

Bautismo Dublin

El sábado 6 de Mayo hubo fiesta en la congregación de Dublin, Georgia, por el bautismo de una pareja que decidió entregarse a Jesucristo y comenzar a ser ejemplo en su vecindario a fin de ganar a otros para integrar la familia de Dios que espera su pronto regreso. Cuando el pastor Poloche culminó la ceremonia con el llamado a prepararse para el bautismo, 7 personas respondieron prontamente.

Esta congregación está creciendo a pasos agigantados y se espera que con la ayuda de Dios a fin de año sea organizada como iglesia.



Pastor Poloche bautizando a la pareja misionera

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Entrenamiento Laico

El pastor Roger Hernández, director ministerial de la Unión del Sur, fue el instructor en el seminario que recibieron 150 personas en la ciudad de Durham, Carolina del Norte, el domingo 19 de marzo. Cada participante recibió un libro de texto a manera de ayuda en la capacitación para preparar sermones que sean cortos, interesantes, y cristocéntricos. El precio del seminario fue de 10 dólares por

persona, e incluyó el almuerzo. Los delegados de las iglesias presentes vinieron de las asociaciones de las Carolinas y South Atlantic. Kathy Hernández, coordinadora de los departamentos ministerial y de evangelismo de la Unión, tuvo a cargo la organización del evento. 📌

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Pastor Roger Hernández presentando el seminario Predica Bien

Retiro de Parejas



Grupo de asistentes al retiro

Cincuenta y nueve parejas asistieron al retiro que tuvo lugar del 24-26 de febrero. Los instructores fueron el pastor Ruber Leal y su esposa, quienes vinieron desde Texas donde dirigen el departamento de familia y a la vez pastorean una iglesia de más de 200 miembros. 📌

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Nuevo Club de Conquistadores en Douglasville

El sábado 13 de mayo se celebró la ceremonia de apertura del nuevo club de conquistadores en Douglasville, Georgia. Allison Cervantes, una joven dinámica de la iglesia, animó a 8 niños a que se inscribieran en esta actividad, y la dirige con entusiasmo.

Ramiro Salcedo, líder de jóvenes de la

iglesia del Este, tuvo a su cargo la ceremonia y junto con un grupo de conquistadores de su iglesia, brindaron el apoyo e instrucción necesarios para el comienzo del nuevo grupo de jovencitos uniformados. 📍

EFRAÍN POLOCHE, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Flamante grupo de Conquistadores

Feria de Salud



Preparándose para recibir un masaje

El domingo 4 de abril la iglesia Los Peregrinos, en Hialeah, Florida, llevó a cabo una feria de salud en la que numerosas personas de la comunidad recibieron atención médica gratuita. 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Movimiento Misionero en West Palm Beach

En la ciudad de West Palm Beach, la iglesia Immanuel y el grupo Renacer están haciendo un trabajo minucioso, yendo casa por casa y calle por calle para llevar evangelio y de a poco inundar las ciudades aledañas con el fuego de la Palabra. El lema que tienen es “ Alcanzar

a mis vecinos en el territorio de West Palm Beach con un mensaje cristocéntrico de amor y compasión”. 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Pastor Froilan a pesar de su padecimiento, en silla de ruedas se prepara con su grupo misionero para salir a trabajar por las almas

Reunión de Familias Pastorales

María Parker, directora del programa Esposas de Pastores, apoyada por el pastor Roger Álvarez, organizó un encuentro para pastores y sus familias. La misma tiene el objeto de unir el equipo de trabajo promoviendo un espíritu familiar y de camaradería cristiana. 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DE DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Familias pastorales disfrutando de un agradable día de primavera

Celebración de Pascua en la Iglesia Los Peregrinos

El Sábado 15 de abril, a manera de clausura de la celebración de Semana Santa, se llevó a cabo una puesta en escena que ilustró el costo de nuestra redención, en la iglesia Los Peregrinos. La misma estuvo dirigida por Arnaldo Cruz, pastor de dicha congregación. El templo

estuvo lleno de miembros de iglesia y amigos de la comunidad, que disfrutaron de un programa ameno y altamente espiritual. 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN



Vista de la congregación y el escenario

Reunión de Directores del Departamento Hispano



En primera plana, se lo ve al pastor M. Tirado, disfrutando del paseo por el lago Mount Dora

El pasado abril, el departamento hispano de la asociación tuvo el agrado de recibir a los directores afines de todas las asociaciones de la Unión del Sur. Jorge Mayer, director de este ministerio a nivel Unión, fue quien organizó y presidió el

evento que se llevó a cabo en las oficinas de la asociación Southeastern en Mount Dora, Florida. También se disfrutó de un agradable paseo por el lago Mount Dora. 📍

ROGER ÁLVAREZ, DIRECTOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Beca WISE Provee Asistencia Financiera a Estudiantes que Trabajan

Un buen número de empresarios prominentes se reunieron recientemente con los administradores de la universidad y expresaron su deseo de ayudar a los estudiantes que trabajan para solventar sus estudios. Muchos de ellos fueron también alumnos que trabajaron durante su paso por la universidad, y han notado que en la actualidad no es común encontrar este tipo de casos.

Como resultado de esta reunión, nació WISE, que es una fundación que otorga becas para este tipo de estudiantes. Bajo esta iniciativa existen múltiples fondos para becas, como la de los familia de los e ex-alumnos Bill y Myrtle Hulsey, y los del ya fallecido Bill Hulsey, que se graduó en 1955, y fue parte de la Junta Directiva.

Uno de los objetivos de WISE es promover que los estudiantes ganen experiencia, que será de utilidad al momento de presentar su currículo vitae, y al mismo tiempo disminuyan su deuda estudiantil.

Quienes sean aceptados en el programa WISE recibirán fondos denominados dolar-por-dolar. Esto significa que la beca les dará un dólar por cada dólar que ellos ganen, hasta 3,000 dólares. Los donantes expresaron que no están buscando estudiantes con calificaciones perfectas, sino a aquellos que trabajen para invertir en la educación adventista.

“Una beca como esta puede transformar las vidas de los estudiantes de nuestra universidad,” dijo Glenn Carter, vice-presidente asociado del

departamento de finanzas estudiantiles.

La primera donación para el programa WISE fue recibida en noviembre de 2016. Desde ese entonces, la fundación ha alcanzado 1,500,000 de dólares. A medida que se aportan fondos adicionales, se espera que muchos estudiantes puedan beneficiarse con este programa. 📍

ABIGAIL KING, EDITORA



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COLLEGEDALE REAL ESTATE - Mulberry Park condo with community pool and clubhouse, no maintenance, \$240,000. Chestnut Cove home 4066 sq ft, finished basement, \$400,000. Chattanooga lake view condo, \$225,000. New listings every week: www.DixonTeam.com. Wendy Dixon, Dixon Team Keller Williams, 423-602-7653. [7]

COUNTRY LIVING! Brand new home Dunlap TN. Near beautiful church/school. End of road privacy with open 3/2 floor plan, hardwood floors, custom cabinets, upgraded appliances. Garden area, stream, hardwoods. Close access walking trails, pond with beach and dock. Asking \$195,000. Call for pictures, 301-992-7472 [7, 8]

COLLEGEDALE COMMUNITY LIVING - Retired and wanting to downsize? Family owned and operated, Grindstone Estates is a sizeable but quiet mobile-home "land-lease" community located in Collegedale, TN, 1.3 miles from the SAU campus. Tucked away at the foot of Grindstone Mountain, these privately-owned homes are easily accessible to desired services. We still have space for your home! Phone 423-396-2886. [7-11]

LOTS FOR SALE Cumberland Plateau, Dunlap TN. 2,000' elevation, springs, level to rolling topography, end of hardtop country road, hardwoods with trails and pond with beach and dock. Great gardening. \$3,000/acre and up. 10 miles to town and church/school. Call for pictures and plat. 301-992-7472. [7, 8]

CONSIDERING A MOVE TO NASHVILLE, TN? Contact Paul Koulakou, broker with Rivergate Realtors: 615-482-4860 / koul@realtracs.com. Financing available through Christopher Armantrout NMLS#1210804 of Lending Hand Mortgage, LLC (NMLS# 152227) 615-671-9178 / Christopher@Ask-Christopher.com (Advertisement is not a commitment to lend.) [7-9]

AS GOD'S COMMANDMENT-KEEPING PEOPLE, we must leave the cities. (Ev77) Check this opportunity! Deer Lodge, TN, 3 bed, 2 bath double-wide for rent. \$450/month. Woodstove, garden space, church and school 2 miles. Great for retired couple or family. Employment not abundant. Call 931-863-5865 or flundberg@twlakes.net [7, 8]

FURNISHED STUDIO FOR RENT near FL Hospital Altamonte. Nice and quiet neighborhood. \$700/month includes utilities. \$600 security deposit. Also, furnished bedroom in a house in Casselberry, FL for \$400/month. Call or text for photos and more information: 407-620-3847. [7]

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

SOUTHERN'S SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND PSYCHOLOGY seeks full time professor to teach **graduate outdoor education** courses. Responsible for: engaging in activities of department including research; providing leadership to graduate assistant; providing academic advising; and serving on university committees. Qualifications: earned doctoral degree in leadership, education, or other; familiarity with online programming, and willingness to obtain pertinent outdoor certifications. Send cover letter, CV, statement of philosophy as it relates to outdoor education, and three references: Dr. John McCoy, Dean - School of Education

and Psychology, Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315 or via email: jmccoy@southern.edu [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks part-time professor for **History and Political Studies** Department (starting June 1, 2017) to teach American history, develop courses, advise/mentor students, engage in service activities, and sustain a research and professional growth agenda. Must be able to teach courses in Atlantic history, topics in African history, and African-American and or Latin American pop culture; with a combination of expertise and strong knowledge in at least one of the two regional/cultural areas. PhD in History preferred. Send letter of application, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and three references to Dr. Mark Peach, peach@southern.edu and Dr. Robert Young, ryoung@southern.edu, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Chemistry Department seeks full-time faculty member. Responsibilities: teach courses for non-majors, chemistry for nursing and allied health, and lower division general and/or organic chemistry labs. Must be able to: develop and teach undergraduate courses in chemistry and provide effective academic advising for chemistry majors. Master's degree in Chemistry required (Ph.D. is preferred) with demonstrated knowledge of and experience in applying best practices for teaching chemistry at the undergraduate level, and a commitment to teaching from a Biblical foundation. Send cover letter, curriculum vitae, statement of teaching philosophy, and contact information for at least three references to: Dr. Brent Hamstra, bhamstra@southern.edu [7]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeking experienced IT professional for **Systems Analyst** position. Responsibilities include, but not limited to: managing escalated support tickets, tracking backlog items related to software defects and enhancements, and capturing new IT business requirements, documenting and implementing IT projects, providing end user training, and quality assurance testing. Qualifications: bachelor degree in IT/related field with relevant work experience, or equivalent in education and work experience. Knowledge of JitBit, agile software development concepts, T-SQL, MS SQL Reporting Services; and familiarity with Ellucian products preferred. Send resumes to sarahshelburne@southern.edu [7]

SOUTHERN'S RECORDS AND ADVISEMENT DEPARTMENT seeks full time **Data Analyst** to provide technical expertise in business process technology and develop solutions to increase

operational efficiencies. Responsibilities: design and develop reporting applications; develop and maintain intranet web server for reporting applications; design/program ad-hoc reports; assist staff with online catalog system; provide helpdesk support to records and advisement staff; and serve as liaison between the IT department and Records & Advisement. Qualifications: bachelor's degree in computer science and 3 years experience in related field. Proficient with Apache, SQL, HTML, and Java Script; and Ellucian Colleague desired. Send resume to sarahshelburne@southern.edu or Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. [7]

WALLA WALLA UNIVERSITY is hiring! To see the list of available positions, go to jobs.wallawalla.edu [7-12]

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and who is able to plan and direct food preparation and culinary activities. This is a full-time position, providing benefits and housing. Contact us at 706-820-1493 or apply online at www.wildwoodhealth.org [7, 8]

WANTED: Part-time **administrative assistant** for the Director of the E.A. Sutherland Education Association. Experience in education preferred but not required. Strong computer and communication skills a must. Office is located in Collegedale, TN. Please send resume to wandasarr@easea.org [7-10]

MISCELLANEOUS

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist [7-12]

THE CLERGY MOVE CENTER™ at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is the way to move from one state to another! With special pricing for all Adventist families, and recommended by the General Conference for over 15 years, quality is inherent. Contact a Move Counselor for an estimate: 800-248-8313, sda@stevensworldwide.com, www.stevensworldwide.com/sda [7, 8]

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, and many more. Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.com [7-5]

AUTHORS of cookbooks, health books, children's chapter and picture books, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our new titles at your local ABC or www.TeachServices.com, used SDA books at www.LNFBooks.com [7-4]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [7-5]

SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED? Meet compatible SDA companions ages 18 to 98

the old-fashioned way - by pen and paper. No computer needed! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! For more information, application, and pen-pal catalog, send \$25 to: SDA Pen-Pal'S, P.O. Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513. [7, 8]

NESTLED AMONG TREES & WOODLANDS in the mountaintops of East Tennessee, Laurelbrook Academy has been providing its students with quality Adventist education for 65 years. We are located about an hour north of Chattanooga, TN and Southern Adventist University. We offer a unique combination of fully accredited academics, top notch vocational training with unparalleled missionary experiences for our students, patterned after the Madison School program. Please call us at 423-775-3336 to find out more information on our affordable tuition programs, tailored to meet your family's needs. We look forward to hearing from you! Visit us at www.laurelbrook.org [7-10]

ISRAEL TOUR with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABN's Pastor C.A. Murray, and friends. Two trips this fall: November 12-20, \$2995; November 19-27, \$2,995. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles, other departure cities available. Call Jennifer at 602-788-8864. [7-9]

LOOKING FOR A NEW CAREER OR MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY? Come to the Black Hills and in 6 months graduate from the only Adventist massage therapy program to be eligible for state licensure. Find us on Facebook or www.bhhec.org/school-of-massage. Call 605-255-4101 today, and learn more about this life changing experience! [7]

ATTENTION, BOOK AUTHORS! Former Pacific Press chief editor; published author of more than 30 books teams with award-winning SDA writing educator to make your words shine! Meticulous editing, page layouts, cover designs, and ghostwriting. We've helped hundreds of authors realize their dreams of printed books and ebooks. Introductory 20 percent discount. Call Page One Sentence Doctors at 702-372-4939, or online at www.pageonesentencedoctors.com [7]

ONE DAY TRIP TO NASHVILLE & NEW ENGLAND HERITAGE TOUR: Nashville trip visits pioneer sites starting with Edson White's first stop on the Morning Star for his Southern mission work. August 21, 2017. *New England Pioneer tour* visits 15 states & 18+ sites including White Estates, Edson, Miller, Bates & Smith homes. Beautiful fall colors included. October 4-13, 2017. *Heritage Tours*, 423-802-9617, tarriegeiger@gmail.com [7]

CAROLINA

HISPANIC MASTER GUIDE TRAINING CAMPOUT - July 28-30. NPR.

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY - Aug. 18-20. NPR.

PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER LEADERSHIP - Aug. 25-27. NPR.

HISPANIC CAMP MEETING - Sept. 8-10. Orangeburg, SC.

FALL MARRIAGE RETREAT - Sept. 22-24. Gatlinburg, TN

ELDERS' CERTIFICATION #2 VISITATION - Sept. 22, 23. Kernersville, NC.

MEN'S ENGLISH/HISPANIC RETREAT - Sept. 29-Oct. 1. NPR.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events

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: floridaconference.com/abc or order by e-mail: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com

FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a location as scheduled below. Orders must be made by phone or email before 5:30 p.m. on the Thursday before a scheduled Sunday delivery.

July 23. Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

July 30. Pompano Beach, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

Aug. 13. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

Aug. 20. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Aug. 27. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Sept. 10. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Sept. 17. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acrews, Naples.

Sept. 24. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Boynton Beach, Margate. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Oct. 1. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

Oct. 8. Pompano Beach, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise, Plantation. (Southeastern Conference: Mt. Olivet.)

THIRD ANNUAL SONSCREEN | IGNITE FILM WORKSHOP - July 29-30. Florida Conference, 351 S. State Road 434, Altamonte Springs. Learn to use film and media industry skills for ministry. Featured speaker: Terry Benedict, producer of Hacksaw Ridge, producer and director of The Conscientious Objector, and founder/CEO of The Shae Foundation. Details and registration: floridaconference.com/sonscreenignite

SINGLE PARENT RETREAT - Aug. 4-6. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Programming for parents and children. Details: floridaconference.com/events/single-parent-retreat-0

17TH ANNUAL BACK TO SCHOOL YOUTH RALLY - Aug. 18-20. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Cost: \$10, includes three meals. Housing at Camp Kulaqua additional. Questions: 407-644-5000 x2425. Registration for event and food: contacta.cc/2qhyeEQ. Registration for housing: campkulaqua.com or 386-454-1351.

CAMP KULAQUA FAMILY CAMP 2017 - Sept. 1-4. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Rates vary based on accommodation choice. campkulaqua.com/kulaqua-s-summer-camp/year-round-programs/family-camp

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

COHUTTA SPRINGS YOUTH CAMPS CRANDALL, GA

July 2-9. Teen Camp I (ages 13-17), Rock Solid Teen I (ages 16-18), Basketball Camp (ages 13-17), Whitewater/Kayak Camp (ages 13-17), Gym Masters Camp (ages 13-17), and Gym Masters Day Camp July 3-7 (ages 7-17). Register online at www.cs-yc.com.

July 9-16. Teen Camp II (ages 13-17), Rock Solid Teen II (ages 16-18), Golf Camp (ages 13-17), and Wakeboard Camp II (ages 13-17). Register online at www.cs-yc.com.

July 18-23. Family Camp (all ages). Register online at www.cs-yc.com.

MONGOLIAN PATHFINDER CAMPOREE - July 9-20. Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

HEALTH RALLIES WITH EW DEMPSEY

July 15. 2-5 p.m. Calhoun, GA, Church.

Aug. 5. 2-5 p.m. Johnson City, TN, Church.

WILL CLINICS WITH JEFF WILSON

July 15-16. Dayton Ogden Road Church, Dayton, TN.

Aug. 19-20. Livingston, TN, Church.

PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLIES WITH EW DEMPSEY

July 22. 2-5 p.m. Battlefield Community Church, Ringgold, GA.

July 29. 2-5 p.m. Graysville, TN, Church.

Aug. 12. 2-5 p.m. Blairsville, GA, Church.

PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP CONVENTION - Aug. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

SOUTHERN DEAF FELLOWSHIP CAMP MEETING - Aug. 9-13. Speaker: Douglas Silva. Contact Pastor Jeffrey Jordan, jwordan@gccsda.com or 423-244-0544. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

LETTING IT GO, DEALING WITH GRIEF AND LOSS - Aug. 25-27, Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

MEN'S FALL RALLY: CHAINSAWS & BUTTER KNIVES - Aug. 26. 3:30 p.m. Collegedale, TN, Community Church.

"RE: START," AN ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (ACF) GATHERING - Friday evening, Aug. 25. Find out more information at www.acfgcc.org/restart. Atlanta, GA, Metro Church.

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

GULF STATES

YOUTH MISSION TRIP - July 15-30.

TREASURER TRAINING - July 23.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

CONSTITUENCY NOMINATING COMMITTEE - July 30. Madison Campus Church.

PASTORS' RETREAT - July 30-Aug. 2. Indian Creek Camp.

50+ CAMP - Aug. 8-13. Indian Creek Camp. **PATHFINDER/ADVENTURER LEADERSHIP WEEKEND** - Aug. 25-27. Indian Creek Camp.

CONFERENCE CONSTITUENCY MEETING - Sept. 10. Madison Campus Church.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SUMMER SALT INTENSIVE - July 12-16. Designed for busy people looking for intense evangelism training in a short period of time, Summer SALT covers the basics of personal and public evangelism, the evangelism cycle, and tools for outreach in your local church and community. Families are welcome for this one-week intensive, coordinat-

ed in partnership with It Is Written. For more information, visit southern.edu/salt.

SMARTSTART BEGINS - July 24. New students at Southern can earn three credit hours for free during the summer (a savings of more than \$1,950). To learn more, visit southern.edu/smartstart.

FALL CLASSES BEGIN - Aug. 21. Southern offers a variety of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit www.southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUSTELL GRANDVIEW CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY - July 15, 16. Address: 750 Lansky Werber Road, SW, Austell, GA 30168. Sabbath speaker: Pastor Richard McNeil. Past members, friends, and families please join us for a memorable celebration and fellowship lunch, followed by sports day on the 16th. 50 years of Reaching the community with the warmth and Love of Christ. Details: email churchbusiness1844@gmail.com or call 770-941-2295.

IT IS WRITTEN GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY - July 10. Collegedale, TN. Call 800-479-9056 for more information.

UCHEE PINES ALUMNI REUNION AND RETREAT - Sept. 17-23. Visit ucleepines.org for details, or call 877-UCHEEPINES.

FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND - Oct. 6-8. FA Campus. Please update your contact information at agibbs@fletcheracademy.com, 828-209-6704. This weekend will honor the class years ending in 2's and 7's. The Class of 1967 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy gymnasts and Acroknights. Details at www.fletcheracademy.com.

CHATTANOOGA FIRST CHURCH CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 6, 7. At the church at 7450 Standifer Gap Road, Chattanooga, TN. The celebration includes: Nostalgic Friday evening Vespers with It Is Written associate speaker, Eric Flickinger; Sabbath School program with an interactive lesson study by Pastor Fred Fuller; inspirational worship service with a message by Pastor Roy Caughron; fellowship luncheon; and a special Sabbath afternoon program. Past students from the old church school, come and reconnect with classmates. For-

mer members and friends, please join us for a memorable celebration of 100 years in service to God and the community. For further information call 423-400-6485.

SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY/PLAINVIEW ACADEMY/DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND - Oct. 6, 7. Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor classes: '43, '48, '53, '58, '63, '68, '78, '88, '93, '98, '03, '08, '13. For more information, call 701-751-6177, ext. 212, or visit our website at: www.dakotaadventistacademy.org or www.dakotaadventistacademy.org/

ROSSVILLE (FORMALLY WALLACEVILLE) CHURCH 50TH ANNIVERSARY - Oct. 7. This will be a homecoming celebration. John Strickland will be the speaker. Sabbath School begins at 9:30 a.m., with the worship service at 11:30 a.m., and a fellowship luncheon to follow. There will also be a program of music and reminiscing in the afternoon. For additional information, call 706-866-8214. Church address: 2524 North Highway 341, Rossville, GA 30741.

TAKOMA PARK, MD, CHURCH FIRST HOMECOMING CELEBRATION - Oct. 7. Come to reunite/reconnect in the historical worship center. Former members/new friends are cordially invited to join in the first celebration. Events will include Mark Finley, guest speaker; a historical tour;

and a mass choir concert. Register today at <https://tpchomecoming2017.eventbrite.com>.

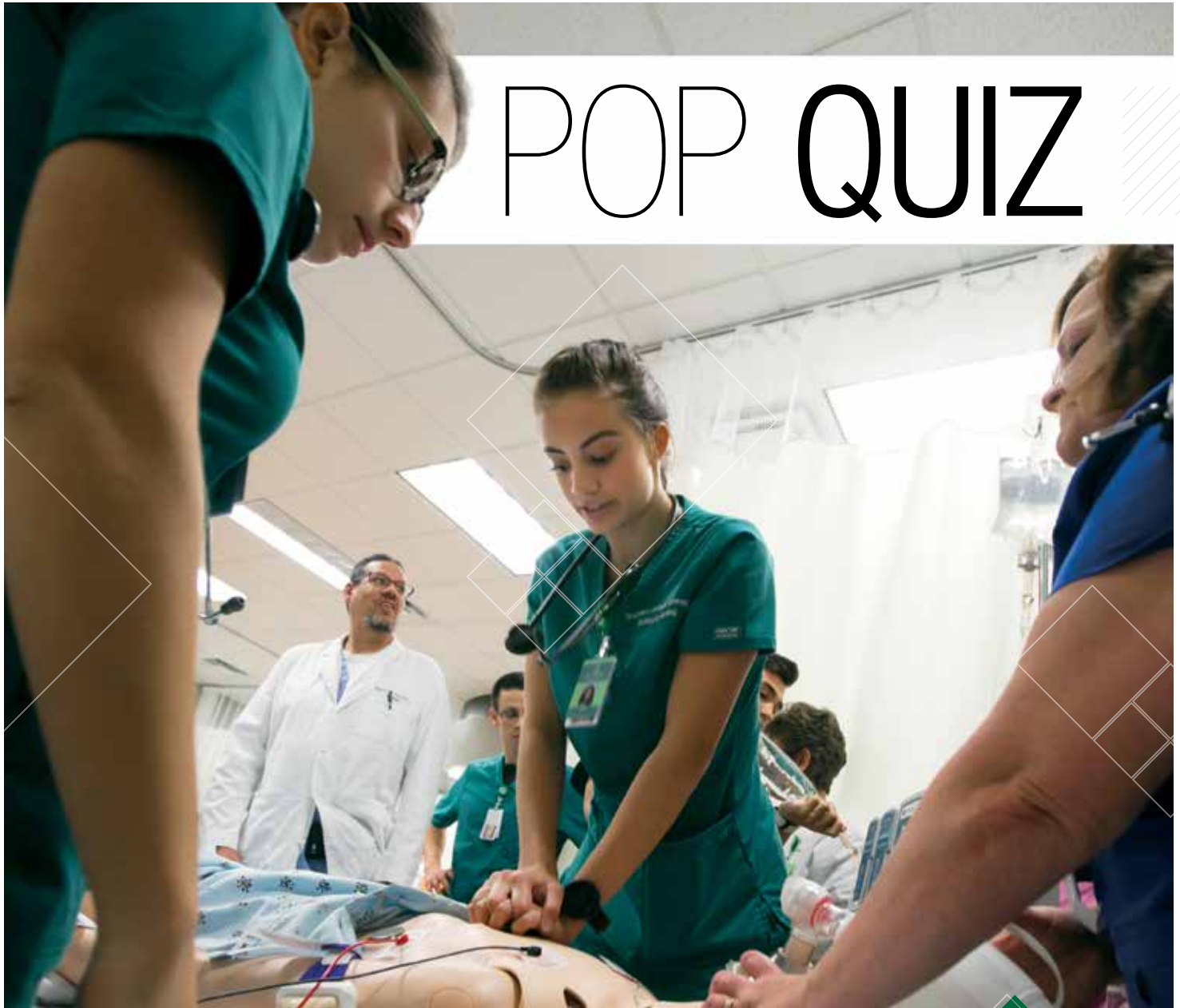
GYC 2017 - ARISE: Dec. 27-31. Join thousands of young people from around the world at GYC Phoenix. Visit www.gycweb.org for details and registration.

Third Annual
Sonscreen | Ignite
 Film Workshop
July 29–30, 2017
 Featured Presenter:
Terry Benedict
 Producer of *Hacksaw Ridge*
 & Producer/Director of
The Conscientious Objector
 Registration: \$45
 includes three meals
floridaconference.com/sonscreenignite

 FLORIDA CONFERENCE of SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTISTS
 351 S. State Road 434 • Altamonte Springs, FL 32714

	SUNSET					
	JUL 7	JUL 14	JUL 21	JUL 28	AUG 4	AUG 11
ATLANTA, GA	8:51	8:49	8:46	8:41	8:35	8:28
CHARLESTON, SC	8:31	8:29	8:26	8:21	8:15	8:09
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:41	8:39	8:35	8:30	8:24	8:16
COLLEGEDALE, TN	8:58	8:59	8:52	8:47	8:41	8:34
HUNTSVILLE, AL	8:03	8:00	7:57	7:52	7:46	7:38
JACKSON, MS	8:11	8:09	8:05	8:01	7:55	7:49
LOUISVILLE, KY	9:09	9:06	9:02	8:56	8:49	8:41
MEMPHIS, TN	8:18	8:15	8:11	8:06	8:00	7:53
MIAMI, FL	8:16	8:15	8:12	8:09	8:05	7:59
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:55	7:53	7:50	7:46	7:40	7:33
NASHVILLE, TN	8:07	8:05	8:01	7:56	7:49	7:42
ORLANDO, FL	8:27	8:25	8:22	8:19	8:14	8:08
TAMPA, FL	8:29	8:28	8:26	8:22	8:17	8:11
WILMINGTON, NC	8:27	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:10	8:03

POP QUIZ



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