

# Record

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2011



*Let it*  
**SHINE!**

CARRYING GOD'S LIGHT TO THE WORLD



## In this Issue...

### DEPARTMENTS

CREATION Health .....	4
Shades of Grace .....	5
Pass It On .....	6
Visión Hispana .....	7

### FEATURES

Mission—A Way of Life .....	8
Caring Enough to Belong .....	10
Light Through the Prism of the Arts .....	12

### NEWS

Arkansas-Louisiana .....	14
Oklahoma .....	18
Southwest Region .....	22
Texas .....	26
Texico .....	30
Southwestern Adventist University .....	34
North American Division .....	35
Southwestern Union .....	37

### ETCETERA

Classified Ads .....	38
Obituaries .....	44
MyFaith .....	46
For the Record .....	47



# Carrying God's Light to the World



8

## MISSION—A WAY OF LIFE

# CARING ENOUGH TO BELONG 10



## Light Through the Prism of the Arts 12

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### On the Cover

Evangelism is a top priority in the Southwestern Union. This past fall, 97 people traveled to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, and Livingstone, Zambia, holding 63 ShareHim meetings. The combined efforts of both teams led to 2,289 baptisms. [Photo of Avery Bokovoy preaching in Zimbabwe by her father, James Bokovoy.]

# President's Perspective»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## Let Your Common Light Shine

*Larry Moore*

**I've always been intrigued** at how a common person can rise above common tasks and impact generations of people in an uncommon way.

I spent two years in the seminary on the campus of Andrews University back in the early 1970s. I have vivid memories of watching the Andrews gymnastics team, the "Gymnics," during their home shows. Their coach was a charismatic Hawaiian fellow by the name of Bob Kalua. His team was wonderfully talented, I'm sure, but it wasn't the amazing floor routines or towering human pyramids for which I remember them.

They stand out in my mind because of Coach Kalua's vision for making Jesus a central part of the gymnastics program. Through sermonettes, skits, and prayers, sanctification was happening there on the mats in the Andrews gymnasium.

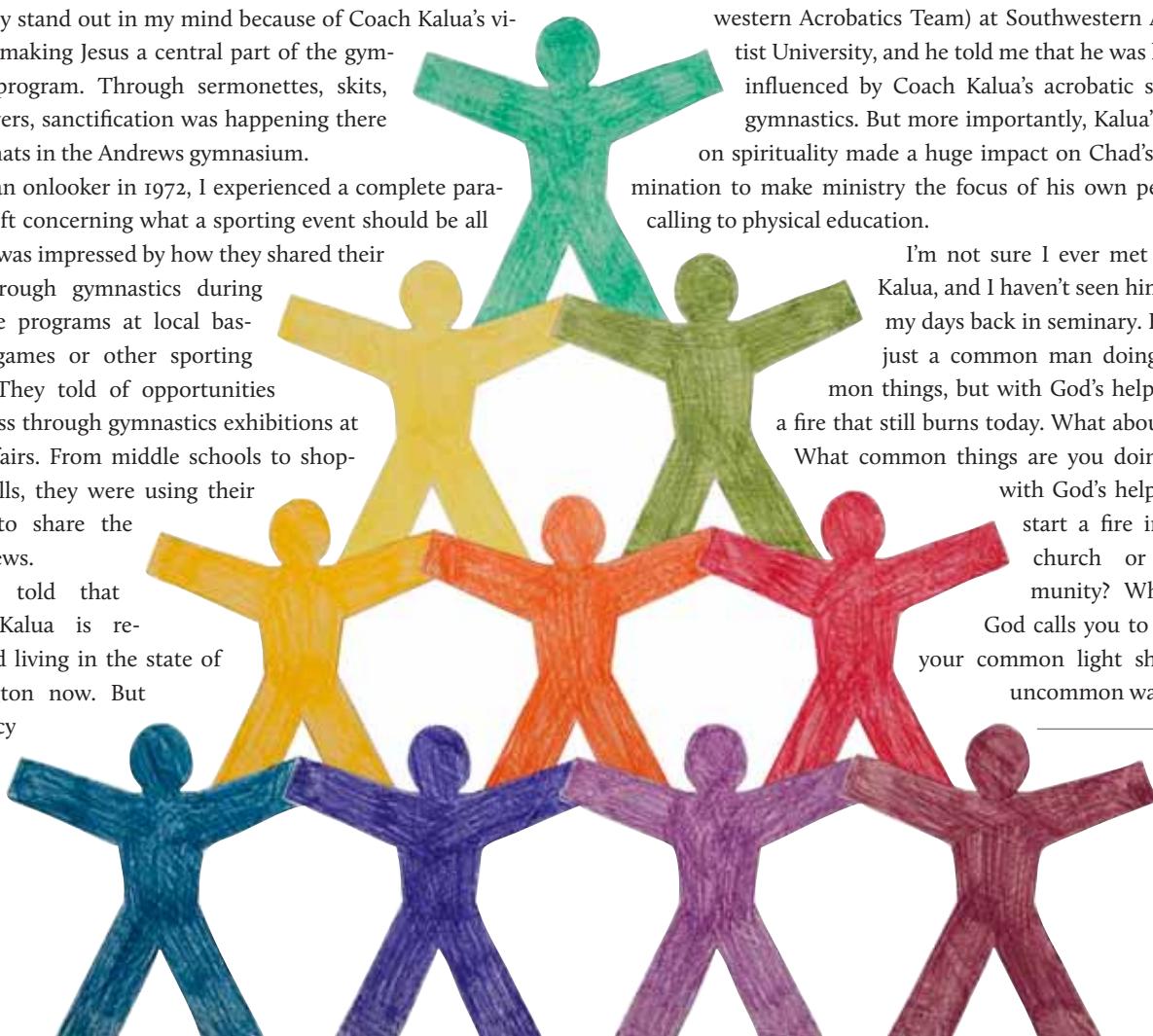
As an onlooker in 1972, I experienced a complete paradigm shift concerning what a sporting event should be all about. I was impressed by how they shared their faith through gymnastics during half-time programs at local basketball games or other sporting events. They told of opportunities to witness through gymnastics exhibitions at county fairs. From middle schools to shopping malls, they were using their talents to share the Good News.

I'm told that Coach Kalua is retired and living in the state of Washington now. But the legacy

of his leadership is still burning brightly on the campuses of Adventist colleges and academies across the entire North American Division. The annual Acrofest games that rotate through four of our Adventist universities each year are a testimony to high spiritual and physical standards that were set by men like Bob Kalua decades ago.

I spoke with Chad Hutchinson, our coach for SWAT (Southwestern Acrobatics Team) at Southwestern Adventist University, and he told me that he was heavily influenced by Coach Kalua's acrobatic style of gymnastics. But more importantly, Kalua's focus on spirituality made a huge impact on Chad's determination to make ministry the focus of his own personal calling to physical education.

I'm not sure I ever met Coach Kalua, and I haven't seen him since my days back in seminary. He was just a common man doing common things, but with God's help, he lit a fire that still burns today. What about you? What common things are you doing that with God's help could start a fire in your church or community? Whatever God calls you to do, let your common light shine in uncommon ways.





# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN

## Making Room for Life: Trading Chaos for Connection

**Randy Frazee's world was turned upside down** during his first trip to the Holy Lands (Pastor Frazee is the senior minister of the Oak Hills Church in San Antonio, Tex., where he serves alongside Max Lucado).

The luxurious, air-conditioned tour bus groaned and weaved through the arid desert as Pastor Frazee's group traveled from one ancient city to the next. Dotting the hillsides were the shabby box tents of the Bedouin shepherds, whom he pitied because of how difficult he *thought* life must be for them.

Just then, their Arab-Christian tour guide started speaking into the microphone at the front of the bus. "Off to your right you will see the mobile residence of the Bedouin shepherd and

his family. Once their livestock has grazed the available vegetation, the family will pick up their humble homes and move to a new place to repeat the cycle." What Randy heard next shocked him. "The average Bedouin," the tour guide continued, "lives to be over one hundred years old."

"What? How can that be?" Randy blurted out, not really intending to voice his astonishment.

Apparently, the Israeli government wondered the same thing and commissioned a study. The assumption was that it was diet, since the Bedouin eat whole foods, no preservatives or candy, and very little meat. But it was not their diet.

The secret? No stress and family dinner. The Bedouin make room for *life*. They start their day at dawn; each family member has a job—some tend sheep, some make clothes, others make meals, etc., and they finish their work by sunset. Their custom is that each family gathers back at the tents for dinner. They build a fire for their festive evening of stories, music, and singing, and they connect for three or four hours as a family.

After hearing that story, Pastor Frazee decided to trade chaos for connection so he could make room in his life for, well, life. (See his book, *Making Room for Life: Trading Chaotic Lifestyles for Connected Relationships*.)



But, how important, *really*, is family dinner to the *modern* family? Research suggests that having regular family dinners significantly lowers the childhood risk of obesity, diabetes, smoking, drinking, drugs, teen pregnancy, delinquency, eating disorders, behavioral problems, and depression. Having family dinners significantly improves eating habits—especially more fruits and vegetables, fewer fried foods, and sodas—values and priorities, grades, decision-making, conversational skills, reading skills, emotional health, self-esteem, and family relationships.

Dr. William Doherty writes, "The big picture is that family meals, and especially dinners, are the single most important activity that parents can do to enhance the life of their children... Mealtime is a strong predictor of childhood well-being. A national study of young children's time (ages 3-12) found that more mealtime at home was the single strongest predictor of better achievement scores and fewer behavioral problems. Mealtime was more powerful than time spent in school, studying, church, playing sports or art activities." (<http://www.barillaus.com/Pages/Expert-Advice-Detail.aspx?AdviceArticleID=2&AdviceAuthor=Dr.-William-Doherty>)

According to Mary Hyman, M.D., in *How Eating At Home Can Save Your Life*, in 2010, 50 percent of meals were eaten away from home and one in five breakfasts were from McDonalds. Families eat together three times a week on average, meals last less than twenty minutes and are spent watching television or texting.

Here's a thought. Since so many families celebrate the holiday season with a special family meal, let's use this wonderful occasion as a springboard for enjoying our loved ones more often than just twice a year. What if this was the year that we chose to make room for life? What if we made it a custom to celebrate what matters most instead of scattering our energies on things that are here today and gone tomorrow? What if we stopped "doing" life and started *living* life?

I invite you to trade chaos for connection and make room for life. Start living life to the fullest...and let it begin with family dinner.

*That's CREATION Health!*

**Lynell LaMountain** writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Fla.

# Shades of Grace

BY MIKE TUCKER » SPEAKER/DIRECTOR, FAITH FOR TODAY



## True Happiness Comes From Giving

**There's a lot about Christmas that we don't like.** Nobody likes the crass commercialism and Christians still find it difficult to stomach Santa Claus. However, there is still something special about this time of year, and most often the best part of Christmas can be seen in the reactions of children. That's why I really like this story.

A little girl was excitedly looking through the Barbie dolls in a toy store with a roll of money clamped tightly in her little hand. When she came upon a Barbie she liked, she would turn and ask her father if she had enough money to buy it. He usually said "yes," but she would keep looking and keep going through their ritual of "Do I have enough?"

As she was looking, a little boy wandered in across the aisle and started sorting through the Pokémon toys. He was dressed in clothes that were obviously rather worn, and wearing a jacket that was probably a couple of sizes too small. He, too, had money in his hand, but it looked to be no more than five dollars or so, at the most.

He was with his father as well, and kept picking up the Pokémon video games. Each time he picked one up and looked at his father, his father shook his head, "no."

The little girl stopped and watched the interchange between the little boy and his father. Rather dejectedly, the boy had given up on the video games and had chosen what looked like a book of stickers instead. The little girl put her Barbie back on the shelf, and ran over to the Pokémon games. She excitedly picked up one that was lying on top of the other toys, and raced toward the checkout, after speaking with her father.

Another customer got in line behind the little girl and her father. Then, much to the little girl's obvious delight, the little boy and his father got in the same line behind the other customer.

After the toy was paid for and bagged, the little girl handed it back to the cashier and whispered something in her ear. The cashier smiled and put the package under the counter.

After the other customer had made her purchase, the little boy came up to the cashier. The cashier rang up his purchases and then said, "Congratulations, you are my hundredth customer today, and you win a prize!" She handed the little boy the Pokémon game as he stared in disbelief. It was, he said, exactly what he had wanted!

The little girl and her father had been standing at the doorway. She smiled the biggest, prettiest grin you have ever seen.

The father asked his daughter why she had done that. "Daddy, didn't Nana and Paw Paw want me to buy something that would make me happy?" He said, "Of course they did, Honey." To which the little girl replied, "Well, I just did!"

We all know that the essence of Christmas has nothing to do with Santa, reindeer, or Christmas trees. While Jesus certainly wasn't born on December 25th, Christmas is supposed to be a celebration of His birth. But the birth of Jesus is actually meaningless without His sacrificial death and resurrection. In his instructions to the church at Corinth, Paul reminded believers of the importance of these two great events. "For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures" 1 Cor. 15:3-4 (NKJV).

Later, Paul concludes in 1 Cor. 15:17-19 (NKJV): "And if Christ is not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins! Then also those who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable."

The death and resurrection of Christ are the two most important events in the history of the universe! Without them we have no salvation and no true understanding of the character of the Father.

But Bethlehem's Babe touches us in ways nothing else can. As we think of Joseph and Mary in the manger, our hearts are warmed and we are moved to respond to this great gift by giving gifts of love to others.

My prayer for you this Christmas is that while you are moved by the story of the Christ Child, you will not forget the Man, Jesus Christ, who died for our sins and rose again. It is the death and resurrection of Christ that gives His birth its special meaning.

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**Mike Tucker** is speaker/director of Faith For Today.



# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY MELINDA PRATER

## Sharing Jesus, Family-Style

**W**hat a tremendous blessing it is to serve the Lord! Our family had an amazing experience meeting and working with the people of Livingstone, Zambia, as we traveled there to conduct ShareHim meetings this fall! We were part of a team of 30 people, mostly from the Joshua, Texas, church, that held meetings at 17 sites around the city of Livingstone. That city will never be the same!

The Dambwa North site, where my daughter Zoey and I were assigned, was about three-fourths of a mile from the Dambwa North Seventh-day Adventist Church. I preached there in an open field in the middle of a busy market and residential area. We were blessed to have very dedicated church members who took extremely good care of us and of our equipment. Everyone was so kind to us; they really did seem like family. From the elders who prayed with us before and after the sermon to the prayer band that kneeled in prayer throughout the entire sermon, I felt the Holy Spirit was in control.

Zoey, who is eight years old, soon learned that "Isha" means uncle in Tonga and she enjoyed getting acquainted with her new Zambian family members. Zoey also visited several other sites, and everyone always noticed when she was not there with me. She had a great time with all the children, running in the fields before the meetings and singing with them too! How amazing it was when I made the call at the end of the first night's sermon to see Zoey stand up! God is so good! On the last Sabbath, Zoey, along with 29 people from Dambwa North, were baptized!

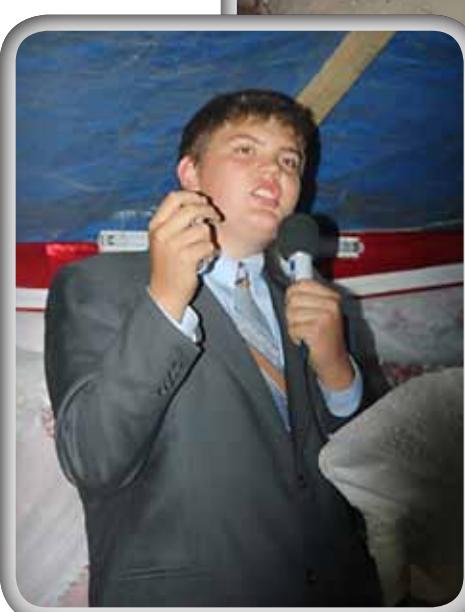
The Dambwa South site, near the Dambwa South church, where Dean, Daisy, and Ronnie were assigned, consisted of three One-day Churches and a building that they had built themselves out of railroad tracks. None of these churches had walls. Each night

Daisy, 13, would tell a children's Bible story to over 200 kids. They all listened very carefully and eagerly answered the questions at the end. Daisy was surprised that many of the kids took notes as she told the story. They were very excited to receive the matchbox cars that friends back home had donated.

Dean, 16, preached to over 450-500 people who sat on tarps spread on the ground. Everyone was very warm and welcoming and ready to learn. Even though the electricity was not always there, the love of God was there. Fifty-six people from Dambwa South gave their hearts to the Lord.

My husband, Ronnie, was our quiet strength. He provided a sense of calm to our family in what, at times, seemed like controlled chaos. At Dambwa South they called him "Big Man." And we would all agree—he kept us safe, he kept us grounded, and he kept us sane. He is certainly our "Big Man," and we could never go on these adventures without him.

We are so thankful for the wonderful opportunity God gave our family to share Jesus with others. Two years ago we traveled to the Philippines to conduct ShareHim meetings, and I guess you might say that we got "hooked" on evangelism. And if God should ever open the door for us to go and preach again, we are ready and willing to walk (maybe even run!) through it. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing others come to Christ, especially when it's your very own daughter!



▲ Dean Prater preached a series of ShareHim sermons at the Dambwa South SDA Church in Livingstone, Zambia. Fearful of preaching at first,



## Dejémosle pues, que Él dirija

**C**uando escuche la voz de Dios que me dijo, “pídele a tú hermano Joaquín, que cante para tu campaña.” Yo pensé, “¿de verdad, cómo puede eso ser?” Pero Él dijo, “hazlo.” “no es parte de las tradiciones de nuestra iglesia permitir a alguien que no es miembro participar.” Yo razoné, pero seguí escuchando, “hazlo.”

Yo he aprendido a obedecer la voz de Dios, por lo tanto llamé a mi hermano quien vive en la República Dominicana. Le pedí a el que cantara durante la campaña que yo presentaría allá. “de ninguna manera” Yo canto pero no es para Dios, sino para el mundo, respondió el. (Mi hermano es un cantante profesional, que vivía la vida que demanda ese tipo de trabajo.) Pero yo le insistí hasta que él me dijo que sí.

Creíamos que la única cosa que mi hermano iba a hacer era cantar durante mis presentaciones, y así lo hizo pero solo la primera noche. ¡Lo más lejos que nosotros teníamos eran los planes de Dios! ¡Era mucho más de lo que nosotros podíamos imaginar! El traductor de mi hijo Daniel solo pudo traducir la primera noche, y mi hermano ofreció traducir para el por el resto de la campaña, y así lo hizo. Consecuentemente Joaquín no solo estaba cantando sino que también estaba predicando mientras traducía. En algunas ocasiones la computadora de mi hijo se trancaba y mi herma-

no tenía que improvisar usando su propio testimonio de lo que Dios había hecho y estaba haciendo en su vida.

Nosotros comenzamos a predicar un viernes y para el miércoles de la siguiente semana mi hermano ¡pidió ser bautizado! Él me dijo, “Hermana, yo no sé lo que está pasando pero yo estoy muy feliz, y yo sé que Dios me ama.” ¡El domingo por la mañana mi hermano fue bautizado en el mar!

Yo no necesito decir mucho más, solo lo que yo aprendí. Yo aprendí que nunca deberíamos poner a Dios dentro de una caja creada por manos humanas llena de nuestras ideas y limitaciones, en un intento de limitarle a hacer su voluntad a nuestra manera. Mejor, deberíamos abrirnos al Espíritu Santo que guie nuestro servicio. Después de todo, el Padre, el Hijo, y el Espíritu Santo conocen la manera única en que cada alma puede ser alcanzada.

Muchas personas entregaron sus vidas a Jesús como resultado de las campañas que se llevaron a cabo en la República Dominicana, ¡y glorificamos el nombre de Dios por ello!

Es mi oración que nosotros le permitamos a Dios que nos use, y que le enseñemos a otros de su gracia que redime. El versículo de la biblia que usamos durante los devocionales fue: Efesios 3:20-21 (MSG)

Dios puede hacer grandes cosas si le dejamos, si le confiamos lo suficiente como para permitirle que trabaje en nuestras vidas y en la vida de esos que necesitamos alcanzar. Dios desea usarnos, y desesperadamente quiere que salgamos de nuestra zona de comodidad. Dejémosle pues, que Él dirija.

**Daisy Quinones**

► Daisy Quinones,  
Joaquín Sanchez, y  
Daniel Quinones.



# MISSION—A WAY OF LIFE

## An Entire Church Gets Involved in Mission

Pat Humphrey

How do you get 30 members and friends of one congregation, including the pastor, to travel far across the ocean to the continent of Africa to preach 17 ShareHim evangelistic meetings? That might sound like a challenging feat for some, but for the Joshua Seventh-day Adventist Church in Joshua, Tex., involvement in mission is simply a way of life. “Our church doesn’t just think this was a trip for only 30 members. This was their trip too, even if they didn’t go with us,” says Kerrie Kimbrow, a Joshua member who coordinated the travel arrangements for the group. “When we got back from Livingstone, Zambia, about 20 church members met us at the airport with banners welcoming us home. The church was very much involved.”

The idea was born about a year ago, when Duane McKey, vice president for evangelism at the Southwestern Union, and his wife, Kathy, who coordinates ShareHim meetings, visited the Joshua church. Ron and Kerrie Kimbrow invited the McKeys to lunch and, according to Kerrie, “that started the ball rolling.” The McKeys were already planning a trip to Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, for the fall of 2011, where about 50 ShareHim meetings would be conducted. So it was decided that a group from the Joshua church would also hold meetings in nearby Livingstone, Zambia.

Soon afterward a mission group was organized and the entire church, it seems, got involved in the planning and fundraising. Families did yard work, held bake sales, sold burritos, sent out



letters, and made appeals at church to help fund the travel expenses for the group. According to Jeff Coleman, the church’s pastor, “We spent \$70,000 getting our people over there [to Zambia]. Some say it is money not well spent. But when you look at the baptisms, you can calculate that we spent \$70 per candidate. When you look at it that way, it’s money well spent.”

The mission team was a diverse one, with its members ranging from ages 8 to 78. “We were blessed to have a lot of young people with us. This was a fantastic opportunity for them to preach,” says Kerrie Kimbrow. “This gives them affirmation for their faith and the experience helps to form their life’s direction.”

Meetings were held at 17 different sites around the city of Livingstone, and on October 15, the final Sabbath of the series, 588 people were baptized. One of the new converts was eight-year-old Zoey Prater, who traveled with her family as part of the mission team. About 400 other people continue to study and will be baptized in the near future. “We’ll never really know until eternity the far-reaching impact of these meetings,” said Jeff Coleman.

Because Bibles are scarce in Zambia and in response to the many requests for them, Charlene West, executive director of evangelism for The Quiet Hour, and leader of the Zambia mission team, came to the rescue. Hearing of the need, Charlene immediately placed a call to The Quiet Hour in the U.S., requesting funds to purchase the much-needed Bibles. Within days, The





Quiet Hour had wired the money to purchase 900 Bibles so that each baptismal candidate could be gifted with a Bible of their very own on the day of baptism. Any Bibles that were left over would be used for ongoing evangelistic outreach.

As one who was part of the team that traveled to Zambia to conduct ShareHim meetings, I can tell you firsthand that the experience is a life-changing one. But aside from the powerful impact it had on my own life, the words of one young lady, for whom I was able to secure a Bible, left an indelible impression on

**Top:** Pat Humphrey speaks through a translator at one of the evangelistic meetings.

**Above left:** The "Happiness Class" met at 4:00 p.m. every day for in-depth Bible study.

**Above right:** Each morning the mission team would meet in order to plan for the day and spend time together in worship and prayer.

my mind. As I handed her the Bible, she said, "This is the most precious gift I've ever received." I think that says it all.

**Pat Humphrey** is associate editor of the *Record*.



**Bottom row:** Nearly 600 people were baptized on the final Sabbath of the series, as hundreds more looked on. Mission team member Zoey Prater (**above**), eight years old, was among those baptized.

To view a video of the Joshua church's ShareHim experience in Zambia, visit [www.swurecord.org/videos](http://www.swurecord.org/videos). You can also scan the QR code to the right in order to view the video.



# CARING ENOUGH TO BELONG

by Chelsea Bond with Conna Bond

**A** few months ago, I started feeling like I don't belong—at church, with my friends, and even sometimes at home. Maybe it's because I'm out of high school but not yet into college. Human nature, it seems, always wants to be "in" to something.

I delayed starting college by one semester to travel with my family to Zimbabwe, Africa, on a ShareHim mission trip. All six of us—my mom, dad, two sisters and brother and I—preached at six different sites in and around the city of Bulawayo.

We arrived on a bus late at night during one of the routine rolling electricity blackouts that are just part of life in Zimbabwe. I have never felt so lost and out of place as I did that night.

I'd been to Africa before. But the first time, I was more afraid than anything else. Afraid to fly. Afraid to go alone without any close friends or family. Afraid of dying from some terrible disease. But I had a wonderful time. God clearly has helped me overcome the obsessive fears I experienced as a child. Fear no longer defines me. And I know it was God who changed me.

Feeling out of place brings with it a whole new spectrum of emotions. Where do I belong? And what does it really mean to belong, anyway? Is it a feeling or a perfect set of circumstances?

The first few days in Africa were spent sightseeing, so I didn't have a lot of time to think. We were frantically running from place to place visiting friends, hunting for wildlife, haggling for cheap souvenirs, and just taking it all in as quickly as possible.

But the wondering hit me again on the bus as we drove up to our hotel, with its humming generators and the lingering smell of fried caterpillars—a smell I never got used to. About 50 of us arrived that night, some by way of Victoria Falls and others through Harare. We each had 16 sermons to preach, and we were already exhausted. We turned on the water to wash our hands and take showers, and the water was brown.

I was completely overwhelmed. I had preached before, but never with a translator, and certainly not 16 sermons in a row—after showers in brown water.

Most of our sites were partially-built One-Day Churches. Some didn't have electricity at all. Most used generators, regardless, because the daily rolling electricity blackouts were unpredictable.

We arrived on Wednesday, met our church elders and drivers on Thursday, and preached our first sermon on Friday night. We were to preach again on Sabbath morning, Sabbath evening, and Sunday night. Many of us were young, including my little brother and sister who were only 13 and 11. For me, getting through that first weekend was like scaling Mt. Kilimanjaro.

On that first Friday night, we all waited with our laptops, projectors, and cords at the front entrance of the hotel lobby as our drivers arrived one by one. It was daunting to leave with strangers. None of us had cell phones that worked. We were completely cut off from each other.

When we arrived back at the hotel that night, we shared our war stories. I had survived, but I certainly didn't feel like I belonged. And I really didn't even want to. I just wanted to get through it and get home.

Every day our lives revolved around the random blackouts. Fortunately, the generators kept the hotel lights on. But when the electricity would suddenly blink on and the generators click off, we'd rush to charge up our laptops and electronics, blow-dry our hair, and boil water for Rooibos tea while we practiced our next sermon.

We were fortunate to have drivers, and they were fortunate to have cars. Some sites were 20 to 30 miles outside the city, and most who attended our meetings came on foot. Many sat on blankets laid out on dirt or cement slabs, and shielded themselves with umbrellas against the hot sun on Sabbath mornings.

Everything was strange. Everything was inconvenient. Getting places. Communicating. Getting equipment to work. Figuring out a routine. Learning to understand the culture. It's so much the same there and so different at the same time. If I squinted, I could almost imagine I was in a mid-sized American city. There were all the trappings of home, but not everyone had them.

The first night was the hardest. My sermon went well, but I had trouble putting my heart into it, knowing I still had 15 more to go. I love to preach, and I love the messages our church has to share. Messages straight from the Bible that are largely overlooked or ignored. But somehow I was having trouble getting past *me*.

I was so relieved when Tuesday came. Tuesday was our day off,

and I finally had time to think. And on Tuesday, I realized something was different. I felt good. I felt hopeful. I actually looked forward to Wednesday and to preaching again to faces and smiles that were already growing familiar.

I sort of felt like I...belonged.

Since I've been home, I've thought a lot about what happened in those first few days. About what changed. And it occurred to me that what changed...was me.

It also occurred to me that belonging has very little to do with circumstances. In fact, it has nothing to do with being in the right place, with the right people, at the right time.

In retrospect, I've decided that belonging is becoming. Becoming the right person. Becoming something you weren't—sometimes because you want to and sometimes because you have to.

When it happens, it's kind of like growing wings. Things may be just as bad as they were before, but suddenly you're soaring above it all and accomplishing things you never thought you could. And you know it isn't you.

And you discover that you're actually happy being right where you are, with the good and the bad, and that you actually belong. You stop wishing you could be somewhere else, doing something else, with someone else.

You realize that one place is really just like any other, no matter where you are, what you're doing, or who you're doing it with. There's good and there's bad.

Belonging isn't about *where* you are. It's about *who* you are. But it's even more than that. It's about having a sense of purpose.

During my first couple of sermons, I was miserable. I didn't want to be there. I just wanted to be done. And then it finally hit me that the information I was sharing really mattered. Not just to them, but to me.

And that's when they started to respond and I started to relax. We began laughing together and sharing inside jokes. I fell in love with their language. Ndebele has clicks and consonants I'd never heard before. I loved hearing my translator take my words and make them his.

I started throwing Ndebele phrases into my sermons, like "Un-kulunkulu muhle" (God is good), and learning familiar songs in their language. They loved it.

In reality, they started to realize that I actually cared about the same time I actually started to care. And I realized that *belonging* also has to do with *caring*. It's being completely and deliberately where you are and caring about what really matters.

I'm really glad to be home again and back in my own bed. But I now belong as much in Africa as I do here. Because I've been there. And I've cared.

Most of us know exactly where our comfort zones are. And we try to stay in them as much as possible. In reality, we often feel like we don't belong, even when we're in them. And that brings me to my final point.

Achieving a sense of belonging isn't accidental. It comes from *choosing* to belong. Sometimes we simply choose not to, and it's always a selfish choice.

You can go through your entire life and never feel as if you belong, but it doesn't have to be that way. In just about every situation you'll find the same problems and frustrations with the same kinds of people. Belonging has nothing to do with the way things are.

Belonging is your choice.



Chelsea Bond shares a sermon through her interpreter while preaching in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

And no one does more to protect that choice than God Himself. He's the One who gives you freedom. The freedom not to be the right person. The freedom not to care. The freedom not to belong.

Your choice is your choice, now and for eternity. Because now and eternity are connected. And choosing to belong here is choosing to belong, period. It's practice for heaven.

**Chelsea Bond** is a recent graduate from Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Tex.

# LIGHT THROUGH THE PRISM OF THE ARTS

Costin and Leah Jordache

**W**hat do you do if you're a mission-minded local church located in the same neighborhood as a dozen art galleries, and a football's throw from a world-class arts district? The answer should be fairly straightforward: host an annual arts festival, celebrating the intersection between art and faith; open your church to the public, inviting community artists to share their work; and invite community art enthusiasts to experience a church that understands how significantly art has contributed to faith, and vice versa.

That's exactly what the Dallas First Church (DFC) did. Located in the shadow of downtown, DFC decided to include a ministry focus with a commitment to serve members of its congregation and its surrounding community. Out of that commitment grew the Celebration of the Arts, an annual weekend that invites DFC members and Dallas residents to engage in a conversation about the relationship between faith and art.

For the past three years DFC members and staff have planned an annual weekend-long experience featuring notable guest speakers, concerts, hands-on workshops and a community art gallery. This year was no exception. The weekend kicked off with a dramatic presentation by Steven Mosely, a Christian

actor who presents the entire gospel message in one act, entitled *The Chosen Garment*.

The keynote address was delivered by Nathan Greene, acclaimed Adventist artist whose work is widely known and appreciated in the Christian world. He challenged attendees to consider the powerful effects of art in communicating the gospel message. He was pleasantly surprised to find a local church putting such an

intentional emphasis on the arts and expressed a desire to see more local churches catch a similar vision.

The weekend continued on Saturday night with a concert featuring special guests Michael Cruz, Priscilla Piedra, and Kristina Cannon, which led into the most extensive event of the weekend: the DFC community art gallery.

Transforming most of the side rooms and both foyers into professional gallery environments, DFC members made room for over 200 pieces of art from a number of genres. Most of the art was submitted by Dallas residents who were not affiliated with DFC. Judges walked from room to room and awarded winners in each category. Upwards of 200 people from all walks of life came to enjoy the art and one another's company. The transformation into a beautiful upscale art gallery was made complete with gourmet hors d'oeuvres.



Nathan Greene teaches an engaging painting workshop.

Even at that, the weekend was far from over. Sunday featured a number of art courses offered to the public in areas such as clay sculpture, digital photography, and painting, taught by the weekend's special guests and other local artists. All of these highlights are the elements that gave substance to the Celebration of the Arts weekend and made it a success.

During the Celebration of the Arts weekend, many who attended had never stepped inside a Seventh-day Adventist church, or any church, for that matter. There were artists who were deeply grateful to a local Seventh-day Adventist church for allowing them to share their passion. One artist even donated ten percent of his weekend sales to DFC.



of Seventh-day Adventists shares and understands the needs and interests of its community and extends an open invitation to have a real relationship with the people in the world around it.

Perhaps artist Nathan Greene said it best. "Art does have the amazing ability to cross denominational and cultural boundaries, leaving us on common ground to celebrate beauty, aesthetics, and the gift of creativity God has shared with all of us."

So why should you be excited about any of this? Perhaps because the Celebration of the Arts offers a model. A model for innovative ministry within our cities and communities that encourages us to truly be the "salt of the earth and the



That weekend new relationships were formed. That weekend children were inspired to develop their artistic skills for the glory of God. And that weekend, with the help of three of the most listened to radio stations in the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, the light was shining bright and the message rang out loud and clear: The Dallas First Church



light of the world"—enhancing the flavor of life within our community and creating an unquenchable thirst for God using a shared community value, in this case, the beauty and creativity of art.

**Costin and Leah Jordache**  
serve as pastors at the Dallas First Church of Seventh-day Adventists.

Steven Mosely performs *The Chosen Garment*.

# The Light That Keeps on Shining



As a young boy growing up, Roger Daggett didn't spend much time at church. He heard people in his church talking about a rapture that made no sense to him, and after reading the Ten Commandments for himself, he questioned why everyone went to church on Sunday, when it seemed so clear that the seventh day of the week was Saturday. Through rationalization, Roger concluded that he didn't need religion or the church. At the age of 17, he joined the Navy and it wasn't long before he was using alcohol and leading a riotous life.

Roger became a paramedic, and some years later in 2007, went to Nome, Alaska, to work as a flight paramedic. Still living a wild life, he was put in jail after being cited

with a DWI while driving a snow mobile. A couple of pilots and a fellow paramedic who worked with Roger were Seventh-day Adventists. One of them, Mike Owens, entered into a "third party agreement" with the local authorities and got Roger out of jail. As a provision of the agreement, the Owens family assumed full responsibility for Roger and took him into their home. It was here that the light of the gospel began to shine into Roger's mind and life. He began studying the Bible, watching videos by Doug Batchelor, and going to church each Sabbath. A radical transformation of heart and lifestyle began to take place as his work associates modeled Jesus before him, and as he found sound Bible answers to those puzzling questions that he had as a young

boy.

In 2010, Roger returned to Jonesboro, Ark., where he had grown up, and he sought out the Seventh-day Adventist Church. It wasn't long before he and Pastor Elroy Tesch were engaged in Bible studies and in December, Roger surrendered his life to Christ through the waters of baptism. Today he is enthusiastic about his newfound faith and walk with the Lord. He is engaged with the youth of his church, encouraging them to study and memorize the Scriptures, and serves as a deacon. The "light" that illuminated his pathway is the same "light" that he now endeavors to shine on the pathway of others.

**Steve Orian**, president

## Lake Charles Community Gets Moving!

**LAKE CHARLES, LA. »** On September 15, the Prien Lake Mall in Lake Charles, La., was the energetic scene of a huge promotion for "Let's Move Day" on September 25. The mall allowed the Lake Charles church to use the common area by the food court from 1:00 to 8:00 p.m. to advertise this exciting Seventh-day Adventist-sponsored day of health and fitness.

Ten days later, our "Let's Move Day" made a big impact in the Lake Charles community. The event took place in downtown Lake Charles at the civic center, and 76 people signed up for the event. Adults did a 5K run, and the children finished a 1K. We awarded first-, second-, and third-place winners in different age categories. Church members were excited to help with this outdoor event, and almost all of our members participated. Each participant received a bag with our church address on it, and brochures and flyers inside promoting the *Forks Over Knives* documentary on healthful eating. Other items in the bags

were an advertisement for an upcoming Hope Seminar, along with



other promotional items offered by our sponsors. T-shirts with the "Let's Move Day" logo were donated by Walmart and given out free to each participant.

We will be at the mall again soon, promoting *Forks Over Knives* and the Hope

*Mall advertising for "Let's Move Day," held on September 25, pays off!*

Seminar. More than 350 flyers have been given out for each of these events. Please pray for God's blessings on these upcoming events.

**Sorin Munteanu**, pastor

# ARK-LA Conference Welcomes New Youth Director

**SHREVEPORT** » Youth today need mercy and forgiveness like never before. The statistics are grim. In the next two hours:

- 960 will self-injure their bodies
- 3960 high school seniors will drink alcohol
- 160 will drop out of school
- 178 will be abused or neglected
- 120 will run away from home
- 480 will get high on prescription drugs
- 97 will be raped
- 120 children will be born to a teen mother
- 720 will contract an STD
- 1 will be shot to death

As I begin my new role as youth director for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, I am constantly filled with thoughts of the desperate and sometimes dangerous plight of our youth. Ellen White was keen on reaching our youth when she said, "The youth need more than casual notice, more than an occasional word of encouragement. They need painstaking, prayerful, careful labor" (*Gospel Workers*, p. 208).

My mission is to create breakthrough encounters in which young people can find God's calling and purpose in their lives. Many of our churches already offer breakthrough opportunities in the church school, Adventurer and Pathfinder clubs,

Adventist Youth organizations, and even Sabbath School. These uplifting events and activities reach a person's heart, leading them to become open to God and break away from the bondage of the past.



Ray and Becky House are eagerly seeking God's leading as Ray begins his new position as youth director for the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference.

We need to double our efforts in creating events with the distinct purpose of exposing youth to God's love, joy, and purpose.

I have seen the amazing results of breakthrough encounters! I wish you could meet three youth that came to Teen Camp at Camp Yorktown Bay this summer. These young people didn't even know the Sev-

enth-day Adventist Church existed. As a church member was getting to know Cindy, a youth from the church, the topic of summer camp came up and she said, "Why don't we invite some of my friends? They don't have anything to do this summer, anyway." The church member working with Cindy took her to visit these friends one Sabbath afternoon to invite them to camp. Three of them were overjoyed when they found that with full sponsorship from the church, they were indeed going to Camp Yorktown Bay. While at camp, they encountered many opportunities to open their hearts to God. By the end of the week, they were so full of love and God's grace that all three of them decided to be baptized!

God is wanting to break through to every young person in these last days. He is urging all of us to make every effort to bring our youth to places where they can encounter God's grace and break free from the bondage of this sin-sick world.

**Ray and Becky House**

## Slidell Church Hosts VBS

**SLIDELL, LA.** » The Slidell Seventh-day Adventist Church hosted "Hometown Nazareth—Where Jesus was a Kid" Vacation Bible School, June 13-17, 2011 at 6 o'clock each evening. Approximately 30 children and numerous helpers attended each night to learn of ancient Nazareth. Each evening was filled with songs, games, crafts, and delicious snacks. Denise Deroam was the VBS leader this year, and had several willing young helpers that made VBS fun, exciting, and successful again this year.

The artwork of Nazareth was fantastically done in a way to make one feel they were really in ancient Nazareth. On Sabbath the children put on a presentation of songs, readings and a slide show of VBS activities they participated in and learned during the week. The service concluded with the presentation of certificates to the children who participated and to those who took time from their schedules to volunteer as helpers. A delicious potluck was enjoyed



An attractive mural depicting life in Nazareth helped set the stage for the Slidell VBS program.

by all after the service.

**Vernella Rogers**

# Conway Church Leads Community in “Let’s Move Day”

**CONWAY, ARK. »** As part of the nationwide response to First Lady Michelle Obama’s “Let’s Move” campaign, the Conway church organized a group to go walking, jogging, running, and cycling on September 25. This “Let’s Move Day” was led by a recent UCA nutrition graduate, Juanita Montelongo. The Conway church’s group of about 20 participants contributed 68 miles of vigorous exercise to the 1,000,000 mile challenge. They started at 9:00 a.m. and traveled the entire length of the Tucker Creek Trail in Conway. The challenge culminated with a potluck-style picnic of healthy fruit, vegetables, and whole grain foods.

Juanita Montelongo eagerly put her knowledge to use by doing something good for the local community. “We need to do as much as we can to help solve the problem of childhood obesity within our generation, so that our kids have a chance to make it to adulthood at a healthy weight,”

she says.

Richard Hall, pastor of the Conway church, was also glad to be a part of an event that highlighted the Adventist focus on health and wellness. “Let’s Move is a good thing for both our church’s ability to connect with the community and to reconnect with some of our members’ needs. The community sees us participate and remembers that we are health advocates. Our members also get to refocus and gain support for the healthy



About 20 joggers, walkers, and cyclists logged 68 miles during Conway’s “Let’s Move Day.”

lifestyle choices they are making,” he says.

**Amie Regester**

## Five New Members Baptized

**ALMA, ARK. »** Pastor Bill Painter had the privilege of baptizing five new believers at the Alma Seventh-day Adventist Church, including Michael and Leta Cruse. The Crusess live next door to the church building, but were unaware of Seventh-day Adventists and what they believe. When the church bought the adjoining building and began a massive remodel, it drew the Crusess’ attention and they visited with the Albert and Joann Mason family, who were

leading out in the construction along with their sons, Troy and David. As the Crusess became aware of how much God loves them, they began attending church and studying their Bibles. They were among the first five to use the church’s new baptistery.

Also baptized were Mike and Terri Morse. Before Mike’s mother passed away, she pleaded with him to consecrate himself to God. He and Terri began looking for a church to attend, but were not able to

find one in which they were comfortable. He had been baptized many years earlier in a Pentecostal church, and Terri had been baptized at age 12 in a Baptist church. They began attending the Alma Seventh-day Adventist

Church because their uncle and aunt attended there, and they found a new and exciting relationship with Christ. They love the quiet and dignified services, the messages that are Bible-centered, and the members who love them so much.

Melanie Rose Liberto was baptized for the second time. She had accepted the end-time message three years ago during a seminar, and had requested to join the remnant church through baptism. But as time passed and she learned to love the Lord, Himself, she wanted to make a heartfelt dedication of her life to her Savior.

Cassie Reynolds was baptized at Camp Yorktown Bay during summer camp this year. The church showed the video of her baptism at camp and she was received into membership along with the others. We are delighted to be part of Cassie’s life and to be able to share the love of Christ with her.

**Marilyn Harris**



Newly baptized members (From left) Melanie Rose Liberto, Pastor Painter, Cassie Reynolds, Leta Cruse, Michael Cruse, Michael Morse, and Terri Morse.

# First Annual Northwest Arkansas Health Expo

**NORTHWEST ARKANSAS** » The first annual Northwest Arkansas Health Expo was an exciting success with 800 to 1,000 attendees, and more than one hundred volunteers launching this ambitious new outreach. In March, the Lord impressed the idea to reach the public in a big way in the area of health on the hearts of Martin Kelly, a Bentonville church member and nurse anesthetist, and Jeff and Nancy Riedesel, vegan and raw food chef/instructors from the Rogers church. Their vision required

and they were encouraged not only to follow up with their doctors, but were directed to other health and spiritual outreach efforts being conducted at area Adventist churches.

The children's area was bright and fun, and focused on teaching kids the eight laws of health through hands-on demonstrations and activities. Each child was given something special to remind them of that particular NEWSTART lesson. Good, healthy habits can be cultivated at an early age, and that is why we wanted to provide learning tools for

children as well as adults.

The health expo didn't stop there! Two additional large rooms were reserved for medical lectures by John Clark, M.D., an orthopedic surgeon dedi-

continued with follow-up programs being conducted by area churches:

## Rogers Church:

- Reboot Your Life Juice Fasting
- "Fresh Ideas from the Kitchen" monthly potluck, focusing on a plant-based diet and lifestyle.
- Full Plate Diet program
- Evangelistic meetings
- Personal and small-group Bible studies

## Bentonville Church:

- Stretch and Flex (exercise and stretching class)

## Fayetteville Church:

- Evangelistic meetings with a "Health Nuggets" feature

## Decatur Church/Wellness Secrets:

- Ongoing lifestyle change classes and health lectures



▲ Attendees of the NWA Health Expo receive counseling from medical and health professionals.

► Vegan and raw food chefs and nutrition instructors demonstrate the steps to prepare a healthful key lime pie.

months of preparation and volunteers gave hundreds of hours, ultimately engaging the cooperation of four Seventh-day Adventist churches—Bentonville, Rogers, Decatur, and Fayetteville. This daring, all-day event became a reality on Sunday, October 2, at the John Q. Hammons Convention Center in Rogers.

This was not a typical health expo; it was really two events in one—one for adults, another for children! The adult area included NEWSTART wellness education, medical screening stations with a range of tests culminating in a health profile for every participant, and physician counseling sessions to evaluate all the health data that was collected. For many this was a wake-up call,

cated to teaching preventive medicine, and a

second room featuring nutrition and natural remedy demonstrations. Dr. Clark taught prevention and potential reversal of today's most prevalent lifestyle diseases, including heart disease, diabetes, and high cholesterol. Three professional chefs, a "Full Plate Diet" instructor, and two medical missionaries teaching "Natural Remedies From the Kitchen" conducted diet, cooking, and natural remedy demonstrations hourly in the second room. God greatly blessed the efforts of many, many volunteers, and attendees have



▲ Participants go through the health screening section at the health expo.

The success of these events has given supporters the enthusiasm to begin planning the Second Annual NWA Health Expo, which will be held in the fall of next year. Jesus invites us to follow His example by ministering to people through the right arm of our message—the health message. Surely the Lord will again bless and help us reach even more people next year through the important ministry of health evangelism.

**Laura Weyer**, Rogers church



# Is Your Light Shining?

I have often heard the desire expressed that our churches be a lighthouse in the community. It seems to me that the only way that this can be true is if the church members are "letting their light shine." Of course, that expression comes to us from the Gospel of Matthew chapter 5, verse 16. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." A couple of things come quickly to mind as I read this passage: Number one, we should let (allow), our light to shine, not make our light shine. I think that we have all experienced a negative witness when someone is trying too hard or the attempt is not genuine.

Number two is that our light shines

through our good works and is meant to glorify not us, but our Father in heaven. Remember also that John tells us that Jesus "was the true light, which gives light to every man coming into the world." Our "good works" are a reflection of His character and His spirit working in our lives. I wonder, have you ever been tempted to be discouraged when you consider your experience at light bearing? Let me share a few lines with you from *Steps to Christ*, beginning on page 81. "We need not go to heathen lands, or even leave the narrow circle of the home, if it is there that our duty lies, in order to work for Christ. We can do this in the home circle, in the church, among those with whom we associate, and those with whom we do business. The greater part

of our Saviour's life on earth was spent in patient toil in the carpenter's shop at Nazareth. Ministering angles attended the Lord of life as He walked side by side with peasants and laborers, unrecognized and unhonored. He was as faithfully fulfilling His mission while working at His humble trade as when He healed the sick or walked upon the storm-tossed waves of Galilee. So, in the humblest duties and lowliest positions of life, we may walk and work with Jesus."

Be encouraged. Read this chapter and remember that, "the humblest and poorest of the disciples of Jesus can be a blessing to others." Let your light shine.

**John Moyer**, president

## Choctaw Church Welcomes the Holleys

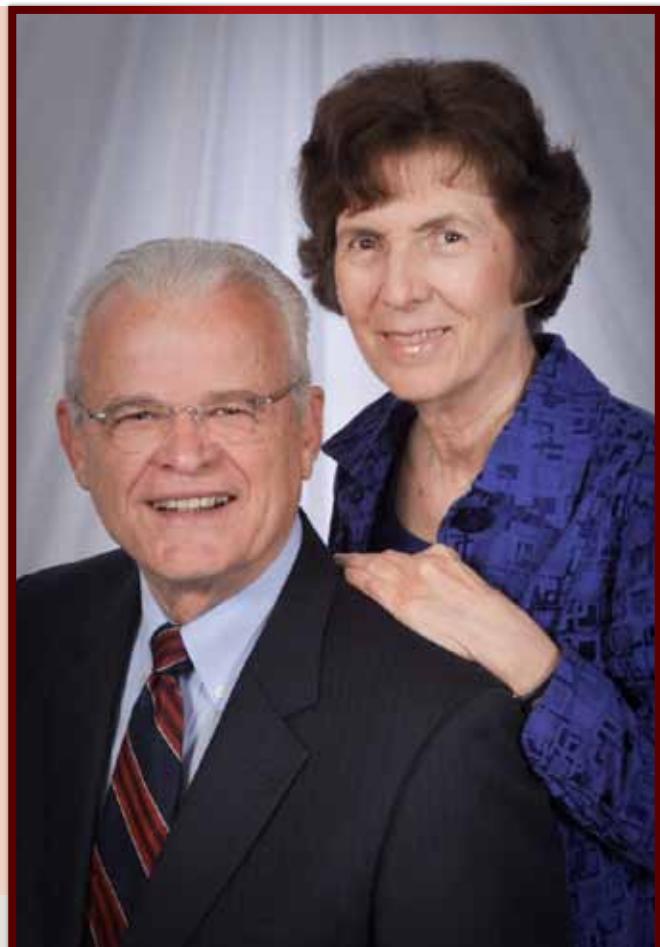
**CHOCTAW** » Choctaw church members are excited to welcome our new pastoral couple, Leighton and Betty Lynne Holley. They began their tenure at Choctaw on October 1, with a special Sabbath service that drew many visitors, followed by a wonderful fellowship meal.

The Holleys have already become a treasured part of the Choctaw church family. As soon as they had settled in, Pastor Holley asked if the church would be willing to host a series of revival meetings, which are currently in progress. They are being held each Friday night, Sabbath morning, and Sabbath evening from October 28 through November 19. Attendance so far has been good, and members are praying for renewed energy and commitment as a result of these meetings.

The future looks bright, and we're glad the Holleys are here to share that future with us!

**Robin Sagel**

Leighton and Betty Lynne Holley are the new pastoral couple at the Choctaw church.



# Members Hike the World's Highest Hill

**OKMULGEE** » On "Let's Move Day," Sunday, September 25, several members and friends of the Okmulgee church met at the Walmart parking lot at Poteau to drive up to the base of Cavanal Hill, the "world's highest hill," which is 1,999 feet above the valley (one foot short of being a bonafide mountain), and hike the four miles (at least) to the top.

It was a very steep hike! Even the hardest of us found it a real challenge. Most of us, ranging in age from the fifties to eighty, and three young men, ages 10 and 11, made it all the way up, and back down, under our own steam. Some hitched a ride part way with one of

the members who was ferrying water and weary hikers up and down the hill.

At the top Pastor Harvey Gil gave a devotional thought and a prayer. We ate the lunches we had brought with us and



Several members and friends of the Okmulgee church hiked up Cavanal Hill, the world's largest hill, on September 25, "Let's Move Day."

headed back down. Everyone was tired, but content, with a sense of accomplishing a worthy effort.

**Gloria Opp**

## Broken Arrow Church Holds Ten-day Revival

**BROKEN ARROW** » The theme "Jesus Loves You" was the message of three well-known evangelists at the Broken Arrow church during a ten-day revival series.

Launching the series was Mike Tucker, speaker/director for the Faith for Today telecast, who richly blessed us with messages of Jesus' love during the first weekend. That Friday evening we were enthralled as we listened to Jennifer La-

Mountain in concert, a featured artist on radio and television.

On three evenings of the following week the services were conducted by Dr. Murrell Tull, who has conducted services in more than 55 countries. He was accompanied by his wife, Ginger, who blessed us with her musical talent. Dr. Tull holds a degree in Narrative Preaching (storytelling), which made his presentation unique.

The second weekend we were indeed blessed with first-person re-enactments of Judas, Peter, and the Centurion, by Richard Stenbakken, director of chaplaincy ministries for the General Conference of Seventh-Day Adventists. His re-enactments, which were enhanced by authentic apparel, gave insight into characters living in New Testament times.

Much work and planning went into this event, from billboard advertising to printed invitations and a huge promotional sign on the Broken Arrow Expressway in front of church. We are thankful for all who participated and made it possible for us to see

the love of Jesus presented in such varied ways. And our thanks go especially to the speakers and singers who took time from their busy schedules to make their presentations to the Broken Arrow church and community.

The international dinner held after the meetings was a grand success as we served and visited with many attendees.

**Judy Marquette**

Richard Stenbakken, dressed in authentic Bible costume, held his audience captive as he portrayed the character of Peter.



# A Love Story

**LAWTON** » "To him who alone doeth great wonders," (Ps. 136:4), God's ways are wonders to behold. This revelation is not a mystery and there are many ways souls can be won to the Lord. This story is a romantic one, the likes of which we have heard before. Little boy meets little girl, becomes enamored with her, and then proceeds to tease her. As we will see, this crush was to be a lasting one as he follows her to college, all the way from the Caribbean to Oklahoma. God was able to use this eventual friendship to draw this young man to Him. I would like to share this story with you.

Back on the island of Nevis in the Caribbean, eleven-year-old Kareem Grant and Julene Williams met in April of 1998 at a kite-making workshop. When Kareem saw Julene, he made up his mind that Julene was the one for him. Every day in school, he would tease, amuse, or walk with her. He would even send messages through his friends to her. He continued to claim Julene as the one for him to all his family and friends and soon that claim became the family joke. This interest continued into junior high, where Kareem discovered that they were in the same class, and they became somewhat friendly. As they became better acquainted, he discovered that Julene was a Seventh-day Adventist and did not attend any events on Saturday. Being raised in a baptist family he questioned why she went on Saturday instead of Sunday, and she replied that the commandments declare that we should keep the Sabbath holy. He was bewildered and asked her why everybody else went to church on Sunday. She was stymied by his question and said that she did not know. Kareem had his eyes set on Julene, and despite these issues, his interest never wavered.

Although life continued for Kareem, the seed was planted. A few years later in 2003, 16-year-old Kareem was invited to a Bap-



Kareem Grant's and Julene Williams' childhood friendship led them to become students at the same college, then to Bible studies, and eventually marriage. The two were married at the Lawton church on August 14.

tist youth camp on the island of St. Kitts. He still continued to question the Sunday issue and asked one of the youth pastors during a Bible study why they kept Sunday instead of Sabbath. The pastor showed him Colossians 2:16, 17 and explained that it did not matter which day is kept and that one had a choice in the matter. However, Kareem was not satisfied with this answer because he did not come to that conclusion from scripture. As a result of no one giving him a satisfactory answer, he decided to ignore the issue and have fun living his life. This question continued to haunt him, but he felt that it could not be such a big issue and attempted to drown out that voice. Over the next few years, he started drinking occasionally and hanging out with his friends in the village. Eventually, his spiritual life suffered, although he tried to compensate by attending

church every Sunday. Though he continued to go, he found the worship service to be somewhat unsettling. He questioned the excessive music, shouting, and dancing that was acceptable within the sanctuary. Moreover, Kareem questioned the pastor's explanations on the state of the

dead and hellfire. He could not accept that a loving God would burn him forever and wondered why someone be-

gins to live again moments after death.

During this time, his interest in Julene grew and he decided to pursue her more seriously. He walked her home and tried doing kind things for her, but his efforts seemed unsuccessful. So he felt discouraged and stopped his pursuit of her. However, on Christmas Eve of 2005, when his friend mentioned an interest in her, he quickly claimed her as his. By the end of December he made up his mind to stop drinking and become a better Christian for the New Year. Unknown to him, Julene was also interested in him and invited him to a Pathfinder crusade the following January of 2006. The first night he attended, the topic was on God's Ten Commandments and His Sabbath. This revelation revived his interests. Julene continued to witness and gave him Amazing Facts study guides. Despite pressure from church family about being unequally yoked, their friendship grew, and they became closer.

He was Baptist, and she was an Adventist. Yet he continued to attend her church just to be close to her. She never wavered in her faith. He would be the one who would have to change. She explained, studied, and did everything she could to enlighten him about the Sabbath and other Bible teachings.

They started dating by the end of the three-week crusade in their last year of high school. They discussed the state of

the dead and hellfire and he was happy to discover that his conviction that a loving and kind God would not burn sinners forever was correct. However, the most difficult doctrine for him to fully commit to was the Sabbath truth. Julene continued to witness to him, and he attended church occasionally. They decided to attend college and came to Lawton, Okla., to attend Cameron University in the fall of 2008. I invited them to attend a small group Friday night ministry I was operating out of dorm rooms and in off-campus housing. They decided to attend. This opened the door for making the Lawton church their home.

Kareem's time in church was always a blessing and at first he would attend church sporadically on Sabbaths as well as Friday night meetings, but as God's spirit worked on him, he started attending regularly. The Friday night meetings became

a testing ground for Kareem. The conviction of the Holy Spirit spurred numerous questions and the doctrines were studied from the Bible in answer to his questions. However, Kareem allowed social events on Friday nights to dictate his attendance and he started to fall back. The entire group continued to witness to him and most importantly, pray for him. Eventually Kareem started attending faithfully and became very involved in Bible study. His attendance and faithful witness in church led him to serve God in whatever capacity was needed. More specifically, he started helping out as a deacon-in-training.

The relationship between Kareem and Julene continued to grow, and Kareem wanted to make their relationship more permanent. However, Julene was adamant that she could only unite with him if he believed in all of God's truth. He yielded

to the Holy Spirit's conviction and finally decided to go all the way with God. He was baptized on November 13, 2010 in the Lawton church. Kareem and Julene graduated from Cameron University in the spring of 2011, and after receiving pre-marital counseling from their pastor, O.J. Jackson, they were married on August 14, 2011. I was so thrilled to be involved in the planning of their wedding.

Kareem's family opposed his decision to become a part of the Adventist Church, but Kareem made up his mind that it was time that he obeyed God completely. God was able to intervene in that relationship so that Kareem gained a true picture of God.

Trecia Alexander

## Choctaw Church Picnic Draws a Crowd

**CHOCTAW** » On Sunday, October 16, the Choctaw church held a fall picnic at a park in nearby Harrah. Many church members and friends came out to enjoy one of the last summery days of the year and to fellowship together. After a lunch of sandwiches with all the trimmings, a number of the members and friends sat and visited, participated in sack races, went for walks, and played several rousing games of volleyball. Everybody had fun together out in God's beautiful nature.

Robin Sage



Members of the Choctaw church had fun playing games, participating in sack races, socializing, and enjoying lunch together during their church picnic in October.



# Let It Shine

One of the most difficult things to accomplish in life is to move from inspiration to reality or, as we describe it, from paper to action. Jesus admonished His followers to, "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your father in heaven" (Matt. 5:16, NKJV). The optimal words in this passage to me are "*let and light*."

My understanding of "*let*" is to allow something to take place. The something in this passage is "*light*," which encompasses "good works." Is it possible that the reason that our light is not shining as bright as it should is because our works are not "good"?

In a recent conversation with a fellow minister, we considered the question of whether we are actually helping new church members in their Christian growth

as we add members to the church. I believe not. As ministers, we have growing numbers who are not Christians. We see a major problem in our churches when the same people are chosen to serve year after year. Christian service is looked upon as a chore and a burden. Many members are unaware of how the search for willing leaders is sometimes a major effort. Some members sit back and criticize and will not lift a finger to serve because they are not given the title of leader. Two things that are needed are fellowship and nurturing opportunities for members. We can give a great, theologically sound sermon on what we must be like, but we don't offer enough opportunities to practice living, loving, and letting our lights shine. The books of James, first and second Peter, and the first, second, and third books of John explain how we are to live with each other here

on earth as we prepare for heaven. God's church is as diverse as any organization on this earth, and we are admonished in John 13:34, 35 (NKJV), "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another."

The best example I can remember of letting your light shine is when I received some advice from one considered to be the town drunk. One day he stopped me and said, "Sam, you have a good head, don't let alcohol mess up your life as it messed mine up! Don't get involved with it!" To this day, I give God thanks for allowing God's light to shine through him. He may not have realized it, but God was using him to shine truth into my life.

Samuel L. Green

## Roger Wade Encourages Youth to Get Involved

**HOUSTON, TEX. »** Youth Day at the Hebron church wasn't at all boring! Our youth day speaker, Roger R. Wade, Southwest Region youth ministries director, spoke on the importance of being involved in church as young people. His sermon entitled "Bored to Death," used the story of Eutychus, who was "sitting in the window" as written in the book of Acts. While encouraging the youth of the church not to sit in to the window of complacency, boredom, and half-hearted religious experience, Pastor Wade also encouraged the parents and leaders of the church to love the youth out of the symbolic window, to love them on their level, and to initiate opportunities and ministries for their Christian growth and development. He also emphasized the importance of prevention, rather than being judgmental and condemning when young people make mistakes.

Every month, the AYS leader, Gabrielle Birl, along with the youth committee, plans and organizes a day where the young people of the church lead the worship service in preparation for their future as leaders of the church. The making of a strong leader begins early in life, and the Hebron church is training up children and youth in the way they should go, so that as they grow old, they will not depart from it.

Naomi Harris

Roger R. Wade, conference youth ministries director, was the speaker on Hebron's Youth Day.



# Singles Converge on Lone Star Camp

**ATHENS, TEX.** » Two came from as far away as California, while another came from as near as Athens, all converging on Lone Star Camp for the singles' 19th annual Labor Day Retreat. The event included four days of activities, including worship and praise, enriching seminars, community outreach, socializing, great cuisine, fun activities, and water activities for 18-year-olds and up who have never been married, are divorced, widowed, or single with children. The theme, "What God Has for Me, Will Be for Me," with its corresponding theme song, "God Has a Plan for Me," resonated throughout the retreat.

Following registration and supper, it was off to the Multipurpose Youth Complex for the first in a series of seminars and programs in that setting. Native son Jeremy Anderson began the proceedings with his seminar and rap session. Beginning at day-break on Sabbath morning and continuing through Monday morning, the more daring among us joined Little Rock's Carolyn Torrence for the prayer walk and testimony. For the duration of the retreat, singles would return to the youth center for a series of seminars interspersed with praise and worship and spotlights on health. Presenters Al and Louise Booker, Dorothy Means, Billy

Wright, and Jeremy Anderson captivated listeners with such topics as "How to Recognize Mr. and Mrs. Right," "Dating Someone With Children," "How to Keep Your Heart Sensitive to God's Word," and "Priorities...God, Family and Dating." Donna Wilson, a dietician at a Houston area hospital, used PowerPoint presentations entitled "Portion Distortions" and "The Other Stomach" (the brain) for our health segments.

As she has done for the past years, Athens native Frankie Sanders organized our community outreach—a school supplies distribution for the children of an affordable housing complex. Immediately following the noon service, singles formed a procession to the West Hylands apartments. There they met with the children, interacted with them while teaching them various crafts, passed out new athletic

shoes and colorful T-shirts, served chilled watermelon wedges, and of course, distributed backpacks full of assorted school supplies. The children's smiles said it all, with some leaving with their new shoes on, while all left with their new school supplies. Back at Lone Star Camp, lunch, supper, vespers, an old-fashioned tractor-drawn hay ride around the grounds, and a myriad of other activities rounded out the day's activities.

Of course, no visit to Lone Star would be complete without a trip to the spacious lake; so, on Sunday, Al Booker, Billy Wright, Winston Stanley, and camp manager Maurice Caines provided skiing lessons, boat rides, canoeing, and jet ski rides. With Labor Day marking the end of the retreat, we crowded in as much as possible on that eventful Sunday, knowing that midday Monday would signal the end of another mix of ministry, camaraderie, and education. Singles continue to be grateful for this annual opportunity "to come apart and 'rest' awhile." We thank youth director Roger Wade and singles' coordinator Vera Ragland for their vision for the singles of Southwest Region.

**Evelyn Edwards**

► Youth director Roger Wade with seminar presenter Dorothy Means.



▲ Children receive school supplies during community outreach.



▲ Tatiana Stubblefield, Chris Arnold, and Vera Ragland make a presentation to seminar presenters Louise and Al Booker.

# Berean Celebrates Education Day

**BATON ROUGE, LA. »** It had all the makings of an officers' or constituency meeting—the conference president, secretary, treasurer, and education superintendent were all in the same place. However, this was not a constituency meeting or an officers' meeting, but rather an education day program with an afternoon town hall meeting to follow. The morning session followed the usual Sabbath service format, except for the recognitions and presentations. Those who did not know her were introduced to education superintendent Shakuntala Ramsarran. She, along with

has given us is our children. Children are our responsibility!" Green said emphatically. Drawing on his own "colorful" past, he added that it didn't take him long to realize the value of a Christian education and how such eventually rescued him. "I am convinced that we have an earthly obligation, coupled with a heavenly directive, to save our Adventist schools," said Green. He then announced the afternoon's town hall meeting, which would provide an opportunity for us to explore ways to do exactly that. "Prioritizing by making an Adventist education first will make a difference," he promised.

Green's worship message titled "A Mysterious Love Affair" directed the congregation to the first three chapters of Hosea and how God could love us in spite of our sin—referring to the prostitute God instructed Hosea to marry. We learned that,

like Gomer, whom Hosea loved and forgave again and again, God reached out to the rebellious Israelites whom He forgave innumerable times. "Thank God for being so forgiving," he said, as the congregation responded with resounding "amens."

The much-anticipated town hall meeting followed the prepared lunch at Berean Academy. Superintendent Ramsarran began the afternoon's proceedings with a general overview, which included identifying Christian education's problems and moving toward a solution. According to conference secretary Terrell McCoy, who fielded most of the questions from the audience, "We must have an understanding as to why God ordained Christian education, and of course, the answer is to save our children." Berean's pastor Robert Davis continued by reminding us that our schools must get back to the biblical blueprint, God's blueprint for our schools. "This blueprint must include a pronounced emphasis on our health message," he continued. Presenters concluded that the challenge is to keep

Berean school and all our schools before their church's respective congregations. Berean Academy is grateful for the way God has led us in the past and is confident of His leading in the future.

**Evelyn Edwards**



Berean's principal, Jerome Pondeexter, recognized former school chair and Adventist education advocate Margaret Lawrence for her commitment to Christian education. Lawrence, who apparently was surprised by the recognition, was visibly moved as she accepted her plaque, which included the words "for more than twenty years of meritorious service."

Newly-elected conference president Samuel Green presented the Sabbath message. However, prior to its presentation, he shared with us pointers on the value of a Christian education in Seventh-day Adventist schools. Years ago, Green taught in the Berean school, and he eventually married Mary Alice, a native of Baton Rouge, strengthening his ties to the area. "The most precious thing God



**Top, left:** From left, Charles Wilson, elder; Robert Davis, pastor; Bernice Johnson, elder; Shakuntala Ramsarran, education superintendent; Margaret Lawrence, elder; Jerome Pondeexter, elder.

◀ Conference president Sam Green addresses town hall meeting attendees.

# First Pathfinders Inducted at Metropolitan SDA church

**HOUSTON, TEX.** » September 17, 2011 marks a memorable occasion at the Metropolitan church. On this Sabbath afternoon Lori Guidry, Capitol Cities Area Pathfinder director, with Jennye Baysa, Metropoli-

tan's Pathfinder director, inducted the first group of eight Pathfinders. The church members were teary-eyed as they witnessed this joyous event. "This really calls for a celebration! We give glory to the Lord,

since He finally helped us organize our first group of Pathfinders! This is a dream come true! This is just the beginning!" says Maria Paguinto, a Pathfinder counselor.

Rolando Baysa, pastor, and Ely Lagazo, elder, were both present to offer their support to Metropolitan's first Pathfinders. Let's continue to pray for them as they share the righteousness of Jesus Christ with their community.



The Metropolitan church in Houston inducted its first group of Pathfinders in September.

## Mount of Blessings Burns Mortgage

**AMARILLO, TEX.** » The Mount of Blessings church, in a historical event, recently burned its mortgage. This was done while remodeling and renovating the church without borrowing any money from the union or the conference. Members volunteered their time and funds in an effort to take care of the Lord's house. Mount of Blessings is debt-free and following the biblical counsel, which tells us that we are to owe no man anything but to love every man.

On this occasion there were several guests and pastors. Pastor Norman Stiggers spoke Friday night on the topic, "Have Faith in God and He Will Bring It to Pass." Pastor James Roberts spoke at the Sunday-morning brunch. He emphasized the fact that we are soldiers in the army and we must be organized, disciplined, and filled with the Holy Spirit. Pastor James Black,

North American Division, Youth and Young Adult Ministries director, was the keynote speaker for Sabbath morning. His message was, "Don't look to the left or the right, just follow what God said for you to do."

The music was excellent, the food was very good, and it was a high day in Zion. Ellen Green, city commissioner, also joined us on Sabbath morning, to represent the City of Amarillo. Billy Wright, former president of the Southwest Region, was

also present for our mortgage burning. Several people were honored, but one family in particular, the Brackens, were recognized for their donation of time, money, effort, and energy in fixing and maintaining the house of God. For example, when the mortgage balance was \$5,000.00 the Brackens donated the entire amount.

Please pray for us as we continue to work for God in Amarillo, Tex.

**R.W. Draggon, pastor**



From left, Elder Johnson, first elder; Norman Stiggers, former pastor; Rodney Draggon, pastor; Ellen Green, city commissioner; Barbara Johnson, treasurer; James Roberts, former pastor; James Black, NAD Youth/Young Adult Ministries director.



# Let Your Light Shine

One of my earliest memories takes place in Hamburg, Germany. Sometime during the Fall season, all the neighborhood kids would gather in the park across the street carrying small paper lanterns. Once everyone had arrived, we paraded ourselves and our little lights throughout the neighborhood, singing as we went. I've since forgotten the reason for the event, but the image has stayed with me. Light, making its way slowly but surely down every street, past every house, carried there by enthusiastic and bright-eyed children.

I've given a lot of thought to this business of light, and letting our light shine—a challenge found in Christ's profound sermon on the mount. And I've come to the

conclusion that we can learn a lot from children.

Our two boys, currently 6 and 3 years old, absolutely love anything that emits light. From blinking toothbrushes, to glow sticks, to laser pointers, to Dad's forehead flashlight; a light-emitting object trumps any other toy or activity. Of course, what has caught my attention is what our boys do with this light. As soon as they discover a new source of light, they immediately run to the darkest corner of the house with it. A closet. Beneath a heavy blanket. A fort made of couch cushions. They know where the light will have its maximum effect.

What a concept! Light taken as quickly as possible to the darkest places where it can have its maximum effect.

However, what children intuitively understand, many of us seemingly fail to grasp. We guard the light, we explore the light, we debate the light, we share the light amongst ourselves. But somehow, the light rarely shines in the darkest places; there, where it can shine the brightest.

It's a challenging concept, which begs the question of all of us: where do we shine *our* light? Give it some thought and then consider the first thing a child does with a flashlight.

We can learn a lot from a child.

**Costin Jordache**, assistant to the president for communication

# Moved by Faith

**KERRVILLE** » From early childhood, Cody Goss loved being in Kerrville, even though he grew up in Arlington. Cody was raised in the Adventist Church, and was baptized at the age of 16, but eventually strayed away from the church. Some years later he relocated to Kerrville with his wife, Kim, and their three children, where he obtained work in the oil fields southwest of San Antonio. However, the daily drive left little time for home life and his family, and especially, no time for church.

When circumstances led Cody and his wife to seek a relationship with God and to search for a church home, they found what they were looking for in the Kerrville church. But when the two of them decided to be baptized (Kim, for the very first time!), Cody was faced with a challenge. His lucrative job in the oil fields required Sabbath work, and now that he was a Sabbathkeeper, how would he support his family? He knew he must make a difficult decision, but it was a struggle.

Then one Sabbath morning the answer came. During a sermon entitled "How to Be Successful in Changing Times," God

seemed to be speaking directly to Cody. The speaker, a layperson by the name of Frank Jeys, encouraged his listeners to have faith in God when Sabbath difficulties arise. "Don't be discouraged, but step out in faith," he said. That was exactly what Cody needed to hear. At that very moment Cody received the assurance that he could trust God. Cody had a lot to consider—he had to leave his oil field job and go into business to provide for his family in order keep the Sabbath. Hearing "trust God" moved him with such conviction that his mind was set and he's never looked back.

Today, Cody Goss has his own pest control business in Kerrville. He stepped out in faith to trust God and is being blessed. The Goss story brings hope to all who wrestle with Sabbath work conflicts, and like Cody, may each one who faces similar circumstances learn



When Cody Goss joined the Adventist Church and faced Sabbath work challenges, he worried about being able to support his family. He decided to trust God and now owns a successful business.

to trust God, no matter what.

**Betty Blair**

# Friday Night Explosion at North Dallas Adventist Academy

We are excited about our *Friday Night Explosion* meetings that take place usually 4-5 times during the school year on Friday evenings, from 7-9 p.m. at North Dallas Adventist Academy. The young people (teens through college age) are the leading participants in this program, which involves a praise band, music dramas and skits, as well as a speaker who has a lasting effect on the minds and hearts of those who attend. Refreshments are served after the program to promote connections among the youth.

Phrases



◀ Luke Spady and Juliana Vieira perform a powerful skit.

▲ The praise band leads out in music and worship.

like, "The music dramas at *Friday Night Explosion* make me cry," "The speaker was hilarious!" and "The music is so awesome," are just a few spoken by

attendees. The next date for the *Explosion* is December 2, from 7-9 p.m. We hope you can join us sometime!

Lois Serns

## The OACS Modern Miracle

**THE OAKS** ▶ In August, more than 225 people joined together to celebrate the first day of school at The Oaks Adventist Christian School (OACS). The celebration was about the many miracles that God has blessed us with over such a short period of time.



Associate superintendent Raul Aguilar and Michelle Battistone, principal, await the ribbon cutting of OACS.

In May, staff members at OACS were not sure where the trailers would be moved. As it turns out, God didn't want us in trailers any longer and provided a campus with all the facilities we need, including a sanctuary, all because He could! The property was purchased, construction was completed, and everything moved in less than 4 months. We now have renovated elementary, middle, and high school facilities, a gymnasium, playground, administrative offices, paved parking, and the

sanctuary. But we have much more than that—we have the assurance that God's blessing is on OACS.

Carlos Craig, Raul Aguilar, Mimi Samaniego, and Michelle Battistone, principal, joined together to cut the ribbon to officially open the new and improved The Oaks Adventist Christian School. We were blessed to have officials from both the Southwestern Union and Texas Conference join us. We had parents and families of our students join in the celebration and more than 10 pastors from churches in the Houston area joined us, as well.

Come by OACS the next time you are in Houston and see a modern miracle!

Michelle Battistone

# 524 Baptized in the Solomon Islands

An evangelistic campaign led by a former Texas pastor resulted in the baptism of 524 people. And an incredible 32,000 people came to the last night of the evangelistic series.

The meetings were held in the South Pacific city of Honiara by a former Texas pastor, John Carter. It was the second-most successful Adventist evangelism series ever run in the South Pacific Division and the largest-ever Adventist baptism in Solomon Islands' history.

General Conference president Ted N.C. Wilson was impressed by the results. "The Holy Spirit is doing something unusual in Honiara," he said. "We praise God for the

large and enthusiastic attendance at the evangelistic meetings being held in Honiara by Pastor John Carter. It's obvious that many are being drawn to the peculiar messages focusing on the Bible and its answers for today's many problems."

The program began on September 9, 2011 with 12,000 present, but attendance kept climbing. It peaked at 32,000 at Sunday night's final meeting (September 18). That meant almost one-third of the city's population were at this meeting to hear Carter explain the Mark of the Beast.

The nation's Prime Minister spoke at the final meeting, saying the program had taken the city of Honiara by storm. One of

those baptized on Sabbath was the (former) president of the third-largest Christian denomination in the Solomon Islands. Pastor Peter Aboufa gave a testimony about the joy of joining the Adventist Church to an audience of about 10,000 just before the baptism.

Phil Ward

John Carter, former pastor in the Texas Conference, held an evangelistic series in the Solomon Islands that resulted in 524 baptisms, the largest Adventist baptism in Solomon Islands history.



# Bowie Church Opens New Building

**BOWIE** » The Bowie church recently dedicated their new church facility with a special Sabbath service, inviting the entire Bowie community. God has blessed with so many miracles, and the church is a testimony to what He is able to accomplish. From the gift of the property to the sacrificial giving by its members, to generous gifts from the community—we have seen answers to prayer at every turn.

Our Sabbath service included thanksgiv-

ings to God for blessing our church family more than we could have imagined. Afterward, roses were given to several people who were paramount in the building of the church facility, including Dorothy and Quentin Williamson, who were instrumental in building the original Bowie church.

Our pastor, Gary Blanchard, presented a challenge to spread our message of Jesus' love and offer a help-

ing hand to the community.

The comments of members and guests alike were of feelings that the the Holy Spirit was present and we were encouraged to be harvesters in the fields that lay all around us, as well as to keep our focus on Jesus.

**Jeanne Sadau**



▲ Members gather for the first church service in their new building.

◀ Pastor Gary Blanchard addresses the congregation with a message of hope and love.

▼ The newly constructed Bowie church building offers a place of worship with modern amenities.



TEXAS CO



# People Who Make a Difference

In December 1956 a little-known former law student and 82 men started a political revolution that was to change the face of the western hemisphere.

Fidel Castro and a few dedicated men overthrew the government of Fulgencio Batista in two years and set up a Communist dictatorship that is a thorn in the flesh to the United States and still a force in the western hemisphere today. Castro and his revolutionaries shook the world they lived in with their beliefs, teachings, and lifestyle.

Two thousand years ago a little-known former carpenter and 12 men started a religious revolution that was to change the face of the eastern hemisphere and later, the world. Jesus of Nazareth and a few dedicated men overturned the religious sacramentalism and moral darkness of the day and established a religious faith that is ingrained in the hearts of over a billion people around the world today. Jesus Christ and a handful of dedicated followers shook the world they lived in with their beliefs, teachings, and lifestyle.

When Jesus came to this earth, the devil had so perverted the thinking of the religious world that the truth as it was revealed by God in the beginning had become revolutionary. Jesus came teaching the beautiful words of truth, but the Jewish leaders rejected Him because they thought

themselves too wise to need instruction. Jesus turned away from the Pharisees and reached out to fishermen, publicans, the woman of Samaria—the common people. Today, who do we reach in our evangelistic endeavors—the rich, the educated, the religious leaders? Generally not. We, too, must be like Jesus and make a difference by sharing end-time truth with those for whom present truth will make a difference.

The Pharisees described Jesus' teaching as new. Rather, it was the revelation from God as taught from the beginning and incorporated into the writings of Moses and the prophets. Just as Jesus' teaching was not new, our doctrine today is not a new one, but simply the revelation from God as taught from the beginning by Moses, the prophets, the apostles and Jesus, Himself.

Like Jesus and His apostles, our teaching, our lifestyle, and our doctrine have become "revolutionary." The devil has so perverted the thinking of the religious world today, that the truth as it was from the beginning has become revolutionary.

In Luke 5:39, Jesus points out the power of false teaching to destroy the desire and appreciation for truth. People today do not know the foundational truths of the Scriptures or even the order of the books of the Bible. We are the only ones who can make a difference. The work of God must advance and quickly! Jesus' disciples turned the world upside down in a short period of

time. (See Acts 17:6.)

Prophecy predicts that God's people will soon do it again. You and I are making a difference. Every time we come to church on Sabbath we testify to God being our Maker; every time we pray we acknowledge God's power in our lives; every time we return tithe and give offerings we acknowledge God's Lordship over our finances; every time we open His Word we acknowledge we want a closer relationship with Him. You and I are making a difference in our world.

Through our faithful financial support of our church outreach ministries, millions all over this world are accepting this message and becoming revolutionaries for Jesus Christ. They are now making a difference because you made a difference. We are now, by the power of the Holy Spirit, beginning to shake this planet with the truth of the gospel and soon, Jesus will come. Filled with God's spirit, ready to proclaim the Good News of His coming kingdom, we are making a difference. To stand with God's people today is revolutionary! May God help us to be like those apostles and turn our cities, our conference, and our world upside down for Jesus. 2012 is coming. Let's make a difference!

**Dr. James L. Stevens**, president

## Who Are the Seventh-day Adventists?

**AMARILLO, TEX.** » Who are the Seventh-day Adventists? This question sounds through the streets, businesses, and homes of a little town named Olton, Tex. Olton, situated about 100 miles southwest of Amarillo, with a population of around 2,000 people and approximately 75 percent Hispanic, was surprised with God's blessings.

As part of a project developed by the Amarillo Spanish district, with my guidance as the church's pastor, and supported by the Texico Conference, the main objective is to cover the dark areas where there is no Ad-

ventist presence, and targeting areas with large Hispanic populations.

About four years ago the Texico Conference asked me to move to the Texas Panhandle area to find a way to accomplish this objective. Since then, we have been working to present Jesus as "the way, the truth and the life," (John 12:6) through much prayer, planning, and great determination, and challenging the enemy, who has been trying to stop the truth of the gospel in these places.

Meet Pablo and Ernesto, two men who

were rescued from the hands of the enemy; men touched by the power of the Holy Spirit. Men taking hold of Christ's hand, willing to pay the price, for they knew that they were in danger of losing their jobs because of the Sabbath, which, unfortunately, did happen. Human logic sees this as something horrible. But as one of them told me, "Pastor we don't have a job, but God allowed this to happen at the right moment. Now we are able to help during the day with the health fair and the crusades at night," to which I replied, "There is no bet-

ter schooling than the one you're attending now, so take advantage of it."

Pablo was baptized days before the crusades and Ernesto the same day that all this started. They became part of a group that was with me for three and a half weeks. We prayed together, sweated together, were up late together, and enjoyed seeing God's hand move around us! We experienced many miracles together, but the most beautiful of all was to see how people embraced the gospel message and how Satan's power weakened to the point that he was unable to hold on to what belonged to God.

Before we started each crusade, we divided ourselves into groups and went to the four corners of the town to pray, and from the depths of our hearts we asked God for the victory over that town.

In Olton, the air conditioner unit broke the same day that we were going to start the crusade and we had to find other ways of cooling the place for a whole week. But God gave us the victory and now there is a group meeting every Tuesday and Saturday at the park until we find a building where we can hold meetings. Baptisms are pending here.

In Hereford, Tex., the light transformer broke and we had no electricity minutes before we started baptizing. The electric company told us that they would have the service back on in one to three hours. We tried different things, but were only able to get enough power from a pickup truck to turn the computer and the projector on. We decided to have the baptism after the sermon so that we could turn off the computer and the projector and use two light bulbs. When the moment arrived for the baptisms, the light came back on and we were able to enjoy the baptisms (9 total), as well as share a meal together.

At the beginning of the crusade in Tucumcari, N.Mex., Pablo's brother was

randomly shot and killed in Juarez, Mexico. This was something hard for us to handle, especially for Pablo, but God gave us strength and as we claimed His promises, we went on with boldness, baptizing 10 people. Then we finished the event by burning witchcraft books that were collected from those who were baptized.

I'm very grateful to God and to the ones that were willing to enter in consecration with me in this interesting adventure and even though the enemy hit hard, no one backed out. The co-operation of the church-

impressive. We have a unique and wonderful message! Nevertheless, it will not make a difference if we do not combine it with the action of love.

Jesus, "the Way, the Truth, and the Life," will not only ask us about His eternal law in our lives, but He will also ask if we attended Him when He presented Himself in the life of the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the sick, and the prisoner.



A health fair in Olton, Tex., brought many people from the community.

A new group of believers was established in Olton, Tex., as a result of efforts by teams from the Amarillo Spanish church.

The Lord Jesus is looking for people like Pablo, Ernesto, and the team that forms itself from this district, and the health fair team to become His hands, His feet, His ears, and His mouth to take the last message to this generation that is about to disappear.

More than \$80,000 was invested in the health fairs.

Free medical services, medicine, counseling, and many pairs of shoes were offered to the community. In addition to this, there was a week-long crusade focusing on the family, offering free literature, CDs, Bibles, and lots of friendship and love. Many homes were impressed, homes that were able to see Jesus through the elected people, people chosen by God for this time. Remember, how can we fail if we apply what we are admonished to do? Catch the vision! Maranatha! (The Lord is coming!)

**José Manuel Rodriguez**, pastor

es was great and the end results speak for themselves!

But the challenge continues. We still have plenty of cities, towns, and many families that need to be rescued from the claws of the enemy. Within this vision, God continues encouraging each one of His children to understand that we are not on this earth for a vacation, and there is much ground that needs to be redeemed before it gets destroyed.

Who are the Seventh-day Adventists? Many books and articles have been written about our doctrines, and indeed the package of truth that God has given us is

# Survival Weekend Draws Students Close to God and One Another

**CORRALES, N.MEX. »** It seems to be a tradition that every year the senior class goes on a Senior Survival trip. Again this year, the senior class was, shall we say, "privileged" with this grand experience. We packed our gear and loaded up Friday morning for a survival-filled weekend. Upon arriving in the Jemez Mountains, we unloaded and got to work on setting up camp. This included cutting up firewood, digging latrines, and preparing fire pits. We also had to build our own shelters out of whatever wood we could find, 30 feet of twine, a 10 by

biscuits, fried potatoes, baked potatoes, corn on the cob, hot dogs, and pancakes, so we fared pretty well. Other activities included rappelling down a 100-foot cliff,

"couldn't" talk. These were good times, indeed.

But that weekend up in the woods wasn't just geared for teaching us seniors how to survive in the woods. We also learned some spiritual survival skills. Throughout the time we were there, we read through the last four chapters of *The Great Controversy*, which talk about the end times and the return of Christ. Through regular worships, singing, and talking, we became closer as a



▲ Jacob Patterson and Richard Arkusinski set up a shelter.

**Top:** Sandia View Academy seniors learned valuable skills during their survival weekend.



▲ Arisbe Jacquez rappels down a 100-foot cliff.

12 sheet of black plastic, and six nails. That was certainly a task, but despite the limited resources, everyone did stay dry. We had to make our own meals from scratch over the fire. The menu included vegetable stew,

bathing in hot springs, and orienteering. Now the orienteering bit was interesting, especially when Arisbe was "comatose" and had to be carried everywhere, Ivette had a "broken" arm, I was "blind", and Justin

class and closer to God with the revelations that we were reading about.

**Michael Gibson**, Senior at Sandia View Academy

# LJA Students Support “Let’s Move Day”

**LUBBOCK, TEX. »** On September 25, several church members, Lubbock Junior Academy students, and teachers walked two miles in support of “Let’s Move Day.” We were fortunate to have a cool morning to walk. Walking has become a weekly Friday event at LJA. We are getting to know our neighborhood and learning to navigate the residential streets.

Most importantly, we are strengthening our muscles and learning that exercise is fun and that we don’t need expensive equipment to help us stay healthy.

Just as the words of the hymn say, “Walk Together Children,” we plan to keep walking until we can finally walk with our Lord in Heaven.

**Susan Zimmermann**, principal

Students and teachers at Lubbock Junior Academy participate in “Let’s Move Day.”



## The Great American Duck Race

**DEMING, N.MEX. »** The Great American Duck Race is always held in Deming during the fourth weekend in August. Live ducks are raced on both wet and dry tracks, and there are duck costume contests, a parade, tortilla tosses, and a mud bogg.

The Deming church operated a booth during the festivities, staffed by a rotating group of dedicated church members. One hundred thirteen duck racers stopped by the booth and registered for a large family Bible and a Nathan Green picture entitled “The Invitation.” Thirteen also expressed interest in our next Depression Recovery Seminar, to be presented at the church in January 2012. It was fun meeting, praying with, and handing out literature to people from the community in this unique setting. We were blessed while sharing our faith with people from all walks of life.

**Kelsey Workman**

The Deming church members gave out free literature at their booth at The Great American Duck Race.

# God Will Provide

## Two Paths to Adventist University Education

### A New Path

Sheena Arocho had a plan. Her major was chosen. She had researched, planned, and applied to the university of her choice. Acceptance letter in hand, Sheena had even paid for most of her first semester. As she prepared to walk out the door to start her new college career, she couldn't shake the feeling that this was not God's plan for her life.

"I knew that if I followed that path I would be well-off and content, but I didn't know if it would make me happy. I knew if I went to that school I would accomplish my goals, but I prayed and I just didn't feel God calling me to be there," explains Sheena. With only two days left until school started, Sheena enrolled in a community college instead.

Unsure where God was now leading her, Sheena decided to put her future back in His hands. "I asked God to make a change in my life that I couldn't ignore, and ever since then God has been blessing me in ways that I could have never imagined."

Surprising circumstances led Southwestern Adventist University's recruitment team to unexpectedly visit Sheena's church one Sabbath. "They were intense," remembers Sheena. "I thought they were providing really good music, and they were different than what I expected. They really had something to share."

One of Sheena's friends was on the recruitment team that year. He came up to Sheena and told her directly, "You're coming to Southwestern." Was this the change she had been praying for? Unsure, she prayed for four things: a free ride to the university, a free place to stay, peace of mind, and assurance from her mother.

Minutes after that prayer, her friend came back and offered her a ride as well as a place to stay with some friends. God had answered half of her prayer in an instant. Later, Sheena's mother encouraged

her to go to Southwestern if she felt God calling her there. So Sheena made her way to Southwestern, where more pieces of the puzzle fell together. Arriving on campus with only her clothes, Sheena soon found a job and a new major she fell in love with. God had completely provided for her needs and set her on a fulfilling career path.

"The turning point in my career choice, after I had come to Southwestern, was talking to one of my teachers about my experiences," she explains. "I realized that if God is calling me to do something, I can't ignore it. I need to lean on God, not myself. Now I'm OK with not knowing exactly what I will do or where I will go. God has a plan, He will provide."

### A Clear Path

Samuel Vega did not have a plan. He knew that he wanted to attend an Adventist university. He knew that God was calling him to share the story of salvation. But he had no idea how to make these newfound dreams a reality.

After moving to the U.S. from El Salvador, Samuel had opportunities to attend church that he hadn't experienced before. As he began to study the Bible more as well, a certain verse struck a chord. The verse, found in Matthew 24:14, proclaims "This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached to all nations as a testimony."

"I took this verse personally," explains Vega. "I decided that telling people about God is my mission. It influenced me to change the course of my life, and gave me the desire to make a difference

in people's lives." The summer after high school, Samuel started a job as a literature evangelist. The blessings he experienced while sharing Christ convinced Samuel that God was calling him to the ministry.

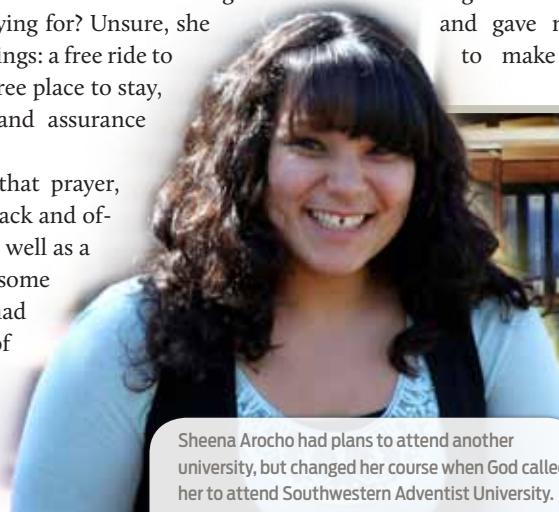
But how would he be able to afford an Adventist education? Samuel was working hard, but it wouldn't be enough to pay for college. Yet he knew God had called him. So Samuel prayed. And kept working. And prayed some more. Now it was time to trust.

The first answer to prayer came when Samuel entered a Southwestern-sponsored talent show, winning first place and receiving a \$750 scholarship. During college days, he won an additional \$1,000 per semester scholarship. Samuel's mother gave him the money she had been saving. Southwestern staff members helped him find additional scholarships.

Samuel is now a freshman theology major at Southwestern. Sitting in the library, books in his lap, he reflects, "When I first saw the university, a knot came into my throat. I just wanted to cry, and I thought, 'I made it. Thank God I made it. I'm finally going to school here.'" A smile slowly spreads across his face. "My experiences were faith-testing, but they molded me into who I am becoming. I will share my testimony a thousand times, because if God has provided for me, He will provide for you."

**Makala Coleman**

God answered Samuel Vega's prayers by providing the financial resources for him to attend Southwestern Adventist University.



Sheena Arocho had plans to attend another university, but changed her course when God called her to attend Southwestern Adventist University.



# Patzer Memorial Church Dedicated

**BULAWAYO, ZIMBABWE** » A special One-Day Church complex was recently dedicated in the city of Bulawayo in Zimbabwe, Africa. It was built in honor of Jere Patzer, the former president of the North Pacific Union, who passed away three years ago.

Patzer was a gifted church administrator, but he never considered himself an evangelist. He often quipped, "God has

build a church. We thought that perhaps we could build a One-Day Church somewhere in South America. But God provided a much-prayed-for piece of land for a church and a school in Bulawayo, just a few minutes from the place Jere had preached that first series of meetings 13 years earlier."

Additional funds flowed in from ASI, Maranatha, Quiet Hour, and other orga-

members at that church actually attended the meetings when Patzer preached that first evangelistic series 13 years ago.

Sue Patzer had the privilege of preaching a ShareHim series at the new facility. With the flood of memories and emotions, many asked Sue how she could be so brave as to preach in the same area her husband had preached so many years earlier. To this, Sue replies, "I have come to find peace in the words of Joseph in Genesis 50. He said to his brothers, 'You meant evil against me; but God meant it for good.' I say that Satan meant Jere's death as evil, but God meant it for good. I would have never felt the need to get up and preach if Jere was still alive. But now God is using me to carry the torch that Jere passed on. Each time I get up to speak, I feel like I'm beating the devil, because God's plan is much greater than the evil Satan had in mind."

So this new church and school in Bulawayo stands as a memorial to a man who overcame his fear of evangelism, and as



▲ Sue Patzer and her son, Troy, welcome guests to the new Patzer Memorial Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

► Workmen put the finishing touches on the Patzer Memorial Church in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

given me many talents, but evangelism isn't one of them." But 13 years ago, with the prodding of his friend and colleague, Duane McKey, he consented to preach a series in Bulawayo. Fifty-thousand people came out for the meetings and more than a thousand were baptized as a result of the efforts at that event. Patzer was so moved by the experience that he committed to participating in yearly evangelistic efforts around the world.

Patzer passed away in November of 2008 after a long battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations to help build a small One-Day Church. But God had bigger plans.

Sue Patzer, Jere's wife, relates, "After Jere died, we started thinking about where to



nizations, as well as many conferences and unions from across the North American Division. Duane McKey says, "The project was much larger than anyone had originally envisioned, but with God, all things are possible."

On Sabbath, October 22, the ribbon was cut, and church members were welcomed into their new church home—a home that Patzer would be proud of. Many of the

a reminder of how God can take Satan's plans for evil and bring about something very good.

**Mark Bond, editor**

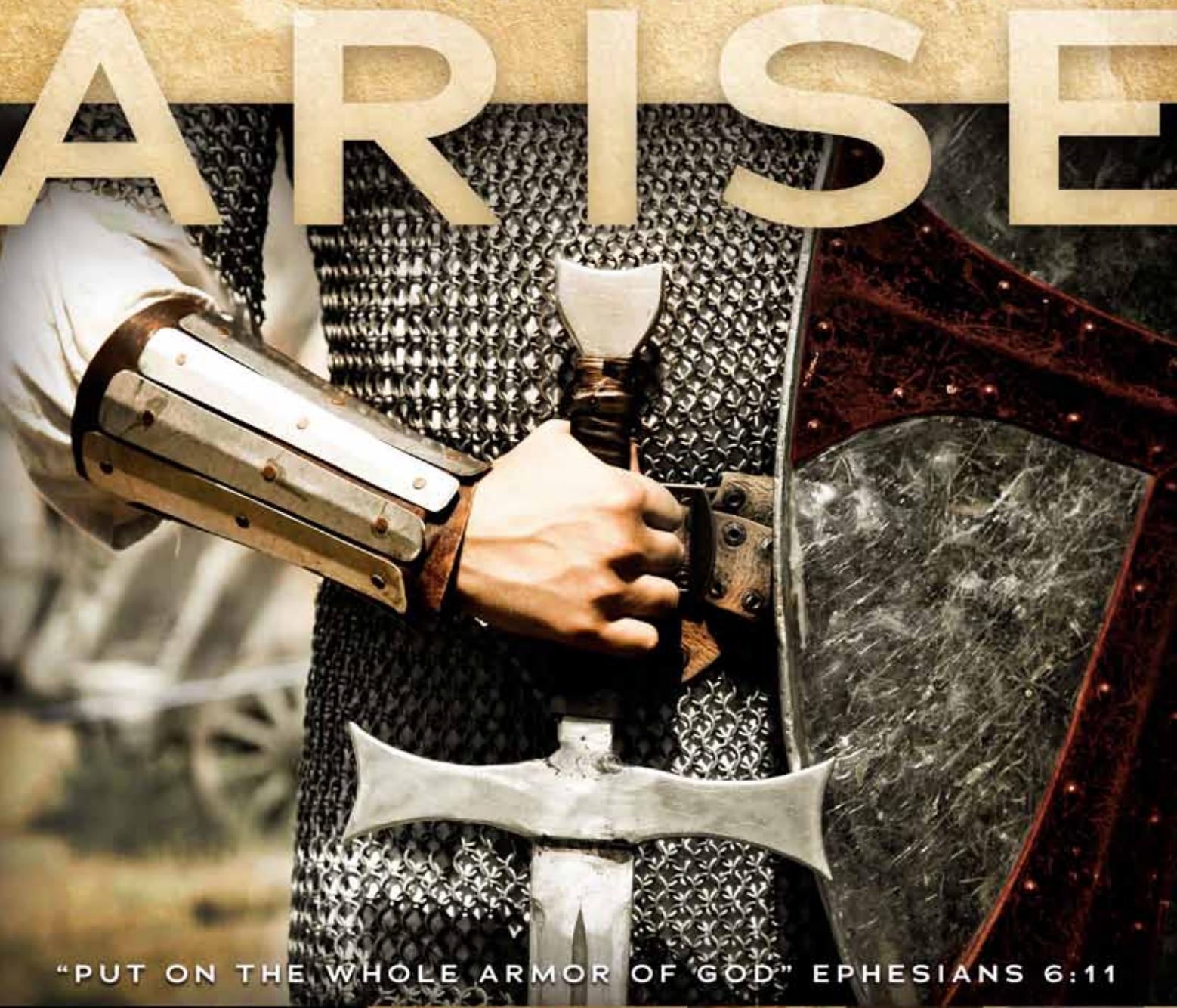
To view a video about the Patzer Memorial, visit <http://bit.ly/patzermemorial>. or scan the QR code to the right.



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# His Light Still Shines

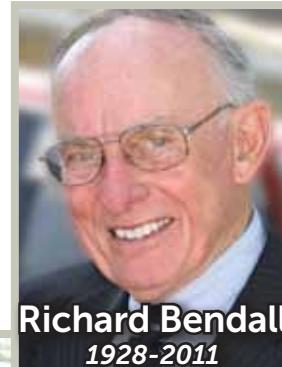
Dr. Richard Bendall was raised on a farm in rural Virginia with his parents and 12 siblings. Hard work and challenges were a part of his life, but from an early age he had a desire to serve his God and his fellow man.

Although he faced many challenges, Richard persisted and believed his objectives would be fulfilled. God provided the opportunities for him to secure a Christian education. While attending boarding academy he became unable to pay his tuition and in danger of being sent home, the treasurer called him into the office and informed him that someone had anonymously paid his bill in full. This was an example to Richard to help other young people overcome challenges and obtain an education. He encouraged others to do the same.

Richard then moved to the Southwestern Union in 1968 and served throughout the union territory in the roles of youth director, principal, education director, editor of the *Record* and vice-president. Two favorite positions, director at Camp Yorktown Bay and principal of Ozark Adventist Academy, allowed him to incorporate his love of young people and desire to help oth-

ers. He also managed the Youth Action Line, a hotline young people could call for help with educational or other needs.

Approaching retirement, in 1992, Richard began his "second



**Richard Bendall**  
1928-2011



clinics. He raised scholarships for hundreds of students at the village school. He believed that, given the opportunity of education, these young people would change their lives as well as their village and country.

Some of these young people are completing university studies and are planning to give back to their church and communities as a result of the help they received.

Several churches have been built, numerous people have

Dr. Bendall tells stories about the scars on his arm to the young children in a small village in Tanzania.

career." His passion for helping others and young people immersed him in mission work. He traveled the world, conducting medical mission seminars and clinics. He founded a non-profit mission organization, World Health Services, and worked tirelessly in many countries.

During the last years of his life he took numerous groups to a small village in Tanzania, Africa, to serve the needs of local people through medical/vision/dental

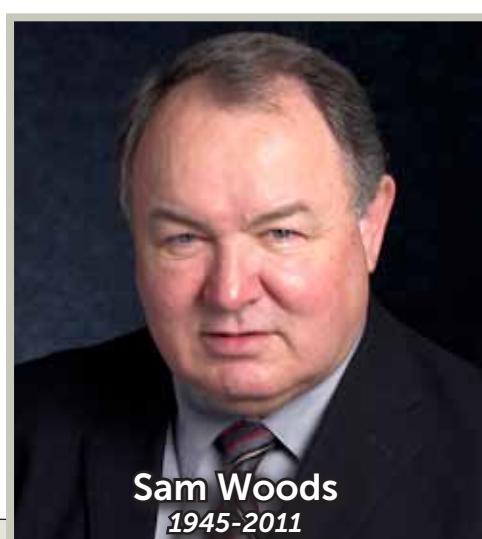
been baptized, and many students have been educated in Tanzania because of the dedication and work Richard began there. Richard lived by the motto "To humbly serve is to truly live." He lived his life serving and shining for his Master. Richard passed away on August 31, 2011 in Fort Worth, Tex., but his light continues to shine around the world.

**Barbie Simons**

## Sam Woods, Beloved Friend and Coworker, Dies

Sam Woods, information technology associate director for the Southwestern Union, died Saturday night, October 8, in a car accident during a rain storm. He was 66 years old and had worked for the Adventist Church for 33 years, including the past 15 years at the Southwestern Union.

Before joining the Southwestern Union, Woods served as an evangelist for the Central Union; as a conference singing evangelist for the Colorado Conference; an assistant pastor in Nebraska; an evangelist in the Michigan Conference; and a pastor and assistant treasurer for



**Sam Woods**  
1945-2011

the Texas Conference. He also served for ten years as data processing director for the Texas Conference before joining the Southwestern Union in 1997 as data processing associate manager and eventually as ITS associate director. He was a beloved member of the Southwestern Union family and is sorely missed by all who knew and loved him.

Sam Woods served the Adventist Church for 33 years, including the past 15 years at the Southwestern Union, before his death on October 8.

## Classified Ads

### REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

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**Bilingual Bible Worker.** The Lamar Colorado SDA church is interested in hiring a Bible Worker who is fluent in Spanish and familiar with Mexican culture. The population of Lamar is about 35% Hispanic, many of whom understand very little English. For information, contact Pastor Dale Fuhrmeister, dales4jesus@yahoo.com, or 719.314.7665.

**Union College** in Lincoln, Nebraska, is receiving applications for filling the office of President. Qualifications required include an earned doctoral degree in a recognized academic discipline. Significant leadership experience in academic circles is greatly desired, and a demonstrated collaborative leadership style will also be expected. Applicants should submit a detailed resume to Thomas Lemon, President, Mid-America Union Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, P. O. Box 6128, Lincoln, NE 68506.

### It Is Written Television

(Simi Valley, California) seeks associate producer for production of English and Spanish broadcast programs. Requirements: Broadcast level production experience, extensive video camera experience, ability to

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**Walla Walla University** seeks applicants for full-time faculty positions in Business, English, and History; and contract faculty in many areas. For more information and application process, please visit <http://jobs.walla.walla.edu>. All positions will remain open until filled.

**Andrews University** is accepting applications for two Assistant or Associate Professors in Biology. Opportunity includes teaching graduate and undergraduate courses as well as advising students and research. PhD is required. Please visit this website for more information and to apply: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi).

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**Andrews University Student Life Division** is seeking an outstanding individual to be the Assistant/Associate Dean. Opportunity includes directing major student events, providing support for student body organizations and shaping the culture of the campus. Minimum of five years experience in higher education and a Masters degree is required. For more information and to apply please visit: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi).

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*For more information and resources go to [www.nadprayerministries.org](http://www.nadprayerministries.org).*

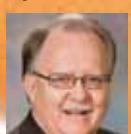
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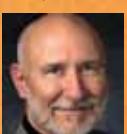
Jonathon Henderson



Pavel Goia



Jim Moon



Gary Burns



Karen Martell



Kelly Veilleux



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**Prayer and worship leaders:**

mit vita and cover letter to Dr. Carrie Wolfe, Chair, Division of Science, cawolfe@aucollege.edu. Deadline is January 31, 2012.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

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- Texas Conference, Lynette Ecord  
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## Obituaries

**BEARDEN, Floyd Wayne**, born November 27, 1945 in Bastrop, La., and died August 25, 2011 in Siloam Springs, Ark. He was a member of the Siloam Springs church. Floyd was in the U.S. Air Force from 1963 to 1980 and served in the Vietnam War. He later worked as a mechanic. He was preceded in death by his brother, Blaise Winn; and daughter, Jodie Roy. Survivors: wife, Marian Allen Bearden; sons and daughter-in-law, James Bearden of Springfield, Mo., John and Shonda Bearden of Siloam Springs; daughter, Julie Shapiro of Siloam Springs; five stepsons and daughters-in-law, Stanley and Jan Allen of Jay, Okla., L. Thomas and Dorothy Allen of Harrison, Arkla., Jeffery Allen of Rogers, Arkla., Randall and Pam Allen of Rocky Face, Ga., Jack and Rhonda Allen of Ashville, N.C.; stepdaughter and son-in-law, Carrie and

Robert Sorbert of Houston, Tex.; 23 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

**BLACKWELL, Fred**, born October 23, 1914 in Oil City, La., and died June 23, 2011 in Marshall, Tex. He was a member of the Longview church. Survivors: sons and daughters-in-law, Douglas Wayne and Gail Blackwell, Dwight Lane and Wanda Blackwell; daughter and son-in-law, Karan Gayle and Jerry Fugler; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

**BLOUNT, Betty Chandler**, born May 2, 1939 in Denham Springs, La., and died September 27, 2011 in Prairieville, La. She was a member of the Gonzales church. Survivors: son, Mike Blount; daughter, Pamela Melker Glenmeyer; brother, Sonny Chandler; four grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**BROOKS, Rosemary Proctor**, born May 27, 1931, and died August 10, 2011 in Houston, Tex. She was a member of the North Houston church. Survivors: daughter, Elizabeth Keener of Houston; son, John Paul Brooks of Port Orford, Ore.; brother, Paul Proctor of Hillsboro, Tex.; sister, Bettye Long of Houston.

**BUCHANAN, George Felix, Sr.**, born April 26, 1932 in Garden City, Mo., and died August 20, 2011 in Weslaco, Tex. He was a member of the North Little Rock church. Survivors: wife, Joyce Buchanan; and son, George Buchanan, Jr., of Jacksonville, Ark.

**CABANSAG, Dr. John Catabay**, born January 6, 1928 in the Philippines, and died September 30, 2011 in Burleson, Tex. He was a member of the Keene church. Survivors: wife, Dr. Remy Cabansag; sons and daughters-in-law, Dr. Roger and Yvonne Cabansag, and James and Sharaya Cabansag.

**COLEGROVE, Nolan Gene**, born February 2, 1932, and died October 11, 2011 in Tyler, Tex. He was a member of the Mineola church, where he served as a deacon and later, as head deacon. He was a tile setter by trade. He was preceded in death by his wife, Lois Colegrove. Survivors: sons and daughter-in-law, Frank and DeAnn Colegrove of Tyler, Eddie Colegrove of Grand Saline, Tex.; daughter and son-in-law, Kay and John Swindell of Grand Saline; five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**DYMENT, Gerald Edward**, born February 29, 1923 in Cleveland, Ohio, and died September 20, 2011 in Springdale, Ark. He was a member of the Huntsville church. As a young man, Jerry enlisted in the U.S. Navy, and later received an

honorable discharge. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sisters. Survivors: son, Daniel Dyment of Fayetteville, Ark.; and brother, William Dyment of Massachusetts.

**GWINN, Junior Earl**, born March 14, 1926 in Virdin, Ill., and died May 10, 2011 in Batesville, Ark. He was a member of the Batesville church, where he served as deacon, elder, head elder, and Sabbath School teacher. He served in the U.S. Navy during WWII for two years and later became a literature evangelist. He also worked as a machine repairman at several factories. Survivors: wife, Doris Gwinn; daughter, Diana Heck; sons, Daniel Gwinn of Colorado Springs, Colo., David Gwinn of Desha, Ark.; 8 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

**HENSLEY, Mary Ellen**, born October 8, 1911 and died September 28, 2011 in Granbury, TX. She was a member of the Granbury church. She is survived by a grandson, Victor Hensley.

**MARTIN, Rosella Cotrell**, born September 18, 1924 in Cedaredge, Colo., and died January 16, 2011 in Keene, Tex. She was a very active in her community and the Keene church, where she was a long-time member. She was preceded in death by her husbands, Herschel O. Cottrell, and Don B. Martin; and two brothers, Floyd and Bill Hamilton. Survivors: son, Rick Cottrell; daughters, Sharon Hazelbaker and Sandra Opeka; stepchildren, David Martin, Gerald Martin, Marsha Bloom and Nancy Rockwell; brothers, Ed, Pat and Dale Marah; sister, Helen Kungel; 12 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

**MCNITT, Larry**, born April 11, 1941, and died May 17, 2011 in Harrah, Okla. He was

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a member of Summit Ridge church. Larry earned a Ph.D. in Statistics and taught at the University of Maryland, Andrews University, and College of Charleston. He and his wife, Margaret retired in North Carolina and later moved to Summit Ridge. They attended the Midwest City church and were very faithful, making a huge contribution to that church. Survivors: wife, Margaret, of Harrah.

**MOODY, Betty Bidwell Kinman Divnick**, born May 31, 1927 in Wentworth, S.Dak., and died July 9, 2011 in Salt Lake City, Utah. She was a member of the Ozark church. Survivors: daughters, Carol Allison of Salt Lake City, Colleen Wolf of Tea, S.Dak., Connie Spiva of Arkoma, Okla.; son, Wayne Kinman of Roseburg, Oreg.; sister, Donna Rae Quinnam of Silver Spring, Md.; 16 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**MORRIS, David Gambrell**, born October 7, 1928 in Vian, Okla., and died September 4, 2011 in Muskogee, Okla. He was a veteran and served during the Korean War. As a teacher he spent over 40 years teaching in schools in Oklahoma, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Idaho—20 of which were in Adventist schools. He was a member of the Muskogee church. He was preceded in death by two brothers, James and Joe Morris. Survivors: wife, Mary Morris of Muskogee; sisters, Lu Boggs of Muskogee, Ruth Young of Phoenix, Ariz., Monta Ann Drew of Salisaw, Okla., Ada June Leaf and her husband Cleo of Vian, Okla.; brother, Wilson Taylor Morris of Boise, Ida.; daughters, Charla Jean Morris of Muskogee, Kathy Weigand of Pleasant Hill, Mo., Patty Schwach of Tulsa, Okla., and Debbie Childress of Owasso, Okla.; son, David L. Morris of Dallas, Tex.; 10

grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**NOONER, Veda**, born August 8, 1926 in Norphlet, Ark., and died August 16, 2011 in Glenwood, Ark. She was a member of the Bonnerdale church, which she joined in 1940. She worked as a nurse in Gentry, Ark., and in the nursing homes she and her husband owned in Maryland and Delaware. She blessed many lives with her music and hospitality talents. Survivors: husband of 60 years, Dennis Noonier; sons, Darrell Noonier of Los Angeles, Ca., Dennis "Denny" Noonier, Jr., of Winston Salem, N.C.; sister, Evea Bainum of Glenwood; and two grandchildren.

**OLA, Benjamin Oluwafemi**, born May 6, 1994, and died August 12, 2011 in Houston, Tex. He was a member of the Houston International church. Survivors: parents, Elder and Dr. (Mrs.) Barnidele Ola of Houston; brother, Caleb Ola; and sisters, Mary and Elizabeth.

**SCOUDEN, Rosie Mae**, born May 23, 1922 in Chester, Ark., and died August 31, 2011 in Fort Smith, Ark. She was a member of the Ozark church. Survivors: daughters, Judy Hottabaugh of Mulberry, Ark., Lavonna Allen of Alma, Ark.; sons, Donnie Scouden of Roland, Okla., J. L. Scouden of Alma, Ronnie Scouden of Alma, Van L. Scouden of Mountainburg, Ark.; 17 grandchildren; 26 great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren.

**SHEPHERD, Ralph S.**, born November 18, 1923 in Mason City, Iowa, and died September 14, 2011. He started out at his father's paint shop in Iowa and continued to be a paint representative his entire life. He enjoyed canoeing, archery, bicycling, target shooting, gun collecting, and

photography. Survivors: wife, Mildred; daughters and son-in-law, Jayma Shepherd, Jane and Bill Turner; son, Stanley Scott Shepherd; three grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

#### **SINGLETON, Willie Mae**

**Griffin**, born March 1, 1922 in Groveton, Tex., and died September 10, 2011 in Arlington, Tex. She was a very active member of the Shreveport South church. She became a registered nurse in 1943 and later retired from Shreveport's LSU Medical Center in 1982. Willie Mae was preceded in death by her parents; and husband of 57 years, Monroe Singleton. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Charlotte and Roger Slagle; son and daughter-in-law, Philip and Donna Singleton; brothers and sister-in-law, Herman and Janice Griffin, Charles Mac Griffin; sister, Mary Ann Hatfield; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

**WAINWRIGHT, Jerry**, born June 13, 1934 in Tulsa, Okla., and died July 12, 2011 in Salem, Ark. He was a member of the Mammoth Spring church, where he served as head deacon. He was in the U.S. Air

Force from 1954 to 1958 and later served as a corrections officer for the Orange County Prison System in Orlando, Fla., until his retirement. Survivors: Kathleen Wainwright; son and daughter-in-law, Larry and Terri Wainwright of Glenwood Springs, Colo.; two grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

#### **WILEY, Weselene Lu Eilen**

**len**, born October 19, 1943 in Enid, Okla., and died August 28, 2011 in De Soto, Tex. She was a member of the Dallas City Temple church. Weselene graduated with a bachelor's degree in music from Phillips University in Enid and a masters degree from the University of Texas-Arlington. She taught school at the Chicago Shiloh Adventist Academy and City Temple Junior Adventist Academy. During her life she served as supervisor at the Department of Human Services, and also worked for Dallas Metrocare, and operated her own business. She loved music, speaking, mentoring youth, empowering seniors, grant writing, program design and training, and HIV/AIDS education and treatment. Survivors: sister, Kathleen Wiley.

## **SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR**

Dec 2	Dec 9	Dec 16	Dec 23	Dec 30	Jan 6
5:33	5:34	5:35	5:38	5:43	5:47
4:55	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:04	5:08
5:35	5:35	5:37	5:40	5:44	5:49
5:38	5:39	5:41	5:44	5:49	5:53
5:21	5:21	5:23	5:26	5:30	5:35
5:02	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:11	5:16
5:23	5:23	5:25	5:28	5:32	5:37
5:02	5:02	5:04	5:07	5:11	5:16
5:22	5:22	5:24	5:27	5:31	5:36
5:03	5:03	5:04	5:07	5:11	5:17
4:58	4:58	4:59	5:02	5:07	5:12
5:08	5:08	5:10	5:12	5:17	5:22
5:00	5:01	5:02	5:05	5:10	5:14
5:17	5:17	5:19	5:22	5:26	5:31
4:50	4:50	4:52	4:55	4:59	5:04
5:35	5:35	5:37	5:40	5:44	5:49
5:10	5:10	5:11	5:14	5:19	5:23
5:10	5:10	5:11	5:14	5:18	5:23

# Me, Preach in Zambia?

**WHEN THE IDEA OF A MISSION TRIP CAME UP, I WAS ALL FOR IT.** Going to Zambia sounded like fun! But then Mom asked if I wanted to preach a whole series of sermons myself, I agreed, but wasn't too sure about it. I had never done anything that big. Mom volunteered to be the support person at my site and to preach whenever I needed her to. I agreed, planning for her to preach at least half the sermons. About five months before our trip, I started practicing the sermons. There were a total of 17, covering topics such as end-time prophecies, the Sabbath, the state of the dead, health, heaven, and many others.

The evening we arrived in Livingstone, Zambia, we met the elders and translator for our site, the Fallsview church. They were very friendly and anxious for the meetings to begin. But I wasn't so sure. Preaching? To more than 200 people? As I prepared for the first sermon, I became afraid. Why had I agreed to preach? But then I thought of all the people there who didn't know God; those who were starving for the truth. Would they not know, just because the speaker was too scared to preach? I asked God to take my fear away. I asked Him to use me, and to bring people to Him through these sermons.

That evening as I arrived at my site, I had a joyful feeling. I was excited, knowing that God *would* use me to share His love. Before the sermon, I greeted the people who came. Each one seemed eager to be there and ready to learn. After the meeting, we walked back to our hotel with kids who were still singing and talking. I was so thankful to have such a great opportunity. As the meetings continued, it was amazing to hear stories of people who quit their job to keep the Sabbath, or those who gave their lives to Christ and are now sharing Jesus with others. Seeing their enthusiasm made me even more excited.

During the meetings, there were many amazing answers to prayer. It was incredible to experience it all up close, and not just read it from a mission report. When practicing to make the first call, I was quite hesitant. Then it became real. I realized that this call could be the turning point in someone's life. That's the whole reason I came to Africa! On the last Sabbath, there was a large baptism. It was very exciting to see 23 people from my site committing their lives to Christ. There are even more who are preparing for baptism. All I can say is, "Thank you, God, for using me to share." The experience has made me more enthusiastic and determined to do this again. I especially look forward to seeing these wonderful new friends from Zambia in heaven someday soon.



▲ Seventeen-year-old Kaili Kimbrow, a first-time preacher, delivered 17 sermons during a ShareHim crusade in Livingstone, Zambia.

► Kaili Kimbrow (right) made lots of new friends in Livingstone, Zambia and impacted many lives, as well.



# For the Record »

BY MARK BOND » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



## Good, Better, Best

**WHEN I WAS YOUNG, I DREAMED OF BEING A WORLD TRAVELER.** While in college, I signed on to play the triangle with my university orchestra, which took me to Hong Kong and the Philippines. That was the extent of my globetrotting until a few years ago when I visited Thailand. Next came China and Nepal. Last month I spent three weeks in Zambia and Zimbabwe, Africa.

Each time, I've experienced the usual spectrum of emotions upon returning to my homeland—thankfulness for the comforts of home and appreciation for clean water and uninterrupted electricity, except during the occasional thunderstorm. But each time I travel, the world shrinks, and I have a greater sense that people are the same everywhere, even though their circumstances are very different. And I'm not entirely sure all my blessings are, well...blessings.

In fact, I'm quite sure that some of them are distractions. Like mosquitoes buzzing in your face when you're sitting on a porch swing on an otherwise perfect evening.

I had fewer distractions in Africa. I was there on a mission, and my purpose was clear. Comforts were few but adequate. People seemed generally happier

there, though they inquired often about how things are in America.

"Fine," I told them, not bothering to try to explain why living in a land where you can sit in your easy chair all evening doing nothing more than pushing the buttons on your remote isn't actually a *better* existence than what they already have.

Because "better" is complicated and sometimes controversial. As I see it, "Better the little that the righteous have than the wealth of many wicked" (Psalm 37:15), and "Better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere" (Psalm 84:10), and "Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred" (Proverbs 15:17).

The Bible has a lot to say about what is good, what is better, and what is best. The older I get and the more I travel, the more I'm inclined to agree with its wis-

dom. As I've traveled around the Southwestern Union over the past three years, I've discovered I'm in good company. Church members in this union seem to have a firm grasp of what is good, better, and best, and we have our collective eyes on what is best.

That's why I find it particularly hard to announce that I've accepted a call to work in communication and family ministries with the Rocky Mountain Conference in Denver, Colo. I'm especially looking forward to getting involved in family ministry, but that doesn't make it any easier to leave.

In Zimbabwe, I learned many words and phrases in Ndebele, one of the local languages. But the one word I refused to learn was "goodbye." Instead, I left my new friends with the words for which the Mizpah gate at Southwestern Adventist University was named. And I leave you with them now: "May the Lord watch between me and thee, while we are absent one from another."

## Record

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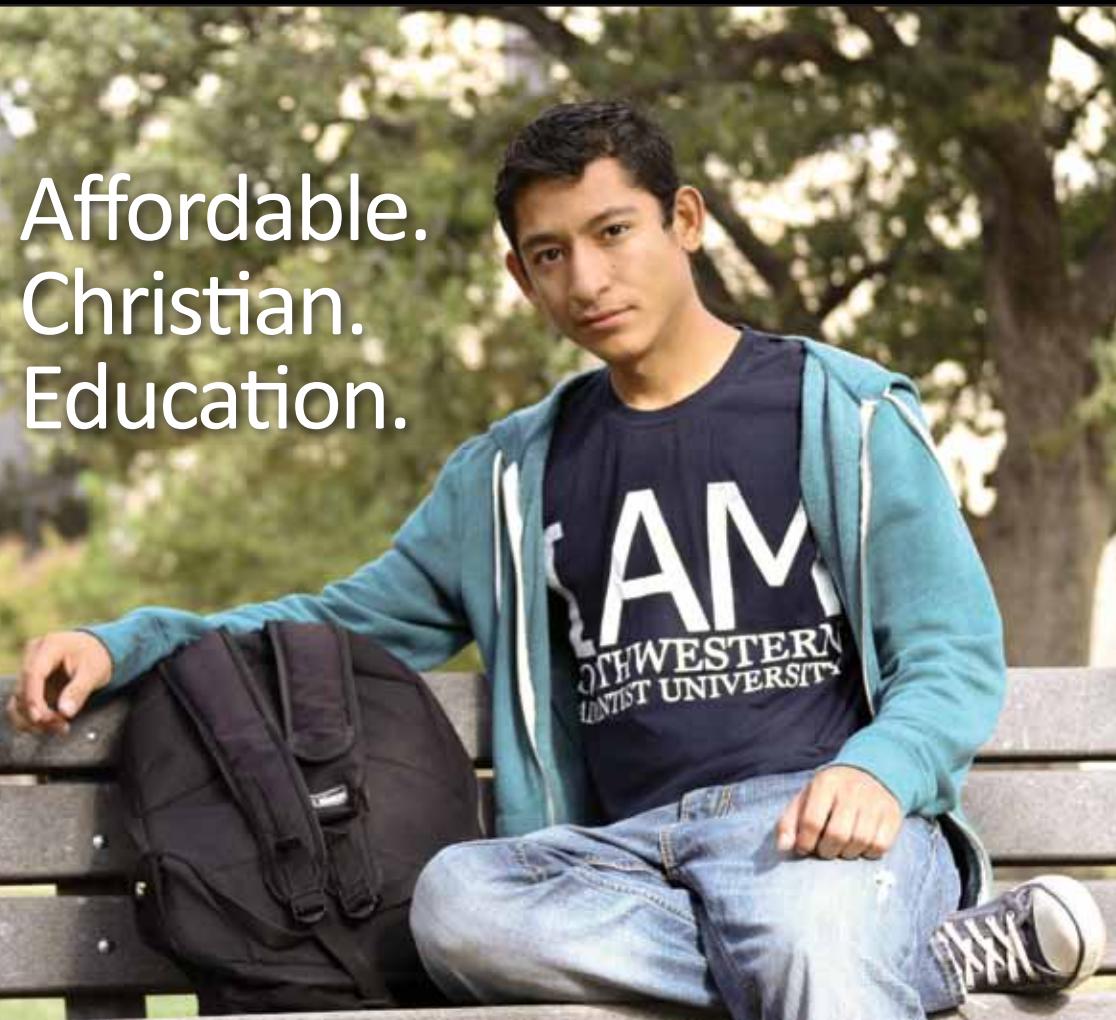
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