

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Record

JULY 2013



*Life-changing
Education*

ACADEMY STUDENTS EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF SERVICE



In this Issue...

DEPARTMENTS

CREATION Health 4
 MyFaith 5
 Pass It On 6
 Visión Hispana 7

FEATURES

Adventist Education in the Southwestern Union 8
 Life-changing Education 10
 Excellence in Teaching 14
 Live the Mission 14
 Adventist Schools in the Southwest . . . 15

NEWS

Arkansas-Louisiana 16
 Oklahoma 19
 Southwest Region 22
 Texas 25
 Texico 28
 Southwestern Adventist University . . . 31
 Southwestern Union 32
 North American Division 33

ETCETERA

Classified Ads 34
 Announcements 37
 Milestones 37
 Obituaries 37
 On the Record 39



Summer Camp Contest Winners 2013

Congratulations to the winners of this year's *Record* Summer Camp Contest! We would like to thank the hundreds of kids (and some adults) who took the time to find the hidden bunnies in the April issue and send us your entries. We enjoyed hearing from each and every one of you. Here are the winners:

Arkansas-Louisiana	Southwest Region	Texico
Emily Turner	Nicole Price	Amalia Mullen
Nathaniel Griffiths	Desi Gomez	Cyrus Swenson
Oklahoma	Texas	
Taylor Frazier/Wigley	Emily Tzul	
Madison Dietrich	Roberto Torrez	



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On the Cover

While on a mission trip to Vallecito, Peru, Chisholm Trail Academy students helped build a church from the foundation up. McKenzie Davidson, a student at Chisholm Trail Academy, helps with plastering the walls. Adventist schools have a heart for service. They teach that education is about more than schoolwork—it's about changing lives. [Photo by Tyke Connell]

Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



God Provides—To the Dollar!

We had just finished building a new church in Lake Charles, Louisiana. The members had seen many providential blessings in the building program and were anxious to see the blessings continue. There had not been a church school there for many years but everyone felt the need for a school in order to train our boys and girls and to attract new members to the church. Prayers began to ascend for God's direction. We had seven (the perfect number) sign up for school. We hired a teacher through the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. She arrived with big plans and I began to wonder if we could pay her the required amount each month.

Yes, pastors do experience moments of doubt. To make matters worse, one of the seven potential students dropped out before school even started and the other six would need help to pay tuition. We never gave up praying, and I learned a valuable lesson that would serve me well throughout my ministry. God provided the exact amount of money each month—to the dollar—to operate His school.

The other church in the district, DeRidder, decided to build a new church and start a school and was also blessed remarkably.

I've seen this "bless to the dollar" answer to prayer in other places like Little Rock, Phoenix Paradise Valley, Tucson Desert Valley, Keene, and Burleson, to name a few. I've seen God bless churches when they put Christian education first. Our schools are not perfect, but are used by God to train His children for the kingdom. May God bless your family and your church as you provide education for the next generation.

Larry Moore



Stepping Stone to Success

Larry: Discovering Jesus through caring professors, true friendships, and mentoring is a large part of the Southwestern experience. I'm pleased to introduce you to **Justin Woods (JW), '03**, and **Eric Crews (EC), '00**. Here are their Southwestern experiences:

JW: I grew up in Keene, but hadn't planned on attending Southwestern. I had my sights set on a particular Texas state school with a reputation for a strong program in my chosen field. That is, until a beloved high school teacher took it upon himself to ensure I knew what Southwestern was all about. He personally introduced me to faculty members whose subsequent guidance through my four years at Southwestern have shaped the person I am now. At Southwestern, I was given opportunities and responsibilities, not because I was necessarily qualified to take them on, but because my mentors went out of their way to see potential for greater things in me. As a result of their guidance, I have been all over the world, have seen and done things otherwise far out of my reach, and have discovered my life's calling. However, as thrilling as these things are, they are nothing compared to the fact that at



Justin Woods
Class of '03



Eric Crews
Class of '00

Southwestern, I discovered Jesus. And not merely the theology of Jesus, but the *person* of Jesus, as revealed in the lives of my most beloved mentors and closest peers. For this, above all else, I am grateful.

EC: After graduating from academy and not knowing where to attend college, I began classes at a local community college. It was my first experience with a public school. Even though the academic learning was good, I felt something was missing. It finally hit me, God was missing from my college education. After visiting Southwestern, I realized it was where I needed to be. My experience at Southwestern was excellent. I made good friends and learned from excellent teachers. In class, I knew I was taught by a teacher who cared about my well-being. At the end of my studies I earned my degree in computer science. Because of connections made while attending Southwestern, there was a job lined up in the Dallas-Fort Worth area before I even took my finals. And even to this day, when I see professors, they greet me and ask how I am doing. They still truly care about me and my walk with God.





CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN » SENIOR MANAGER OF MISSION DEVELOPMENT, FLORIDA HOSPITAL

Kids Making A Difference With CREATION Health

My Kid Is A CREATION Health Kid!

My five-year-old son never liked to sing—until now. Don't get me wrong. He enjoyed listening to music, especially if it was one of his mother's songs or "Uncle" Rudy's (Rudy Micelli), but Jennifer and I never had success getting him to sing unless it was "Happy Birthday" and he believed he

was getting a present. *Then* he would break into song loudly for all to hear, "Happy birthday to ME, happy birthday to ME!"—but that is a separate issue altogether.

Well, everything changed a few weeks ago when Jennifer and I played the CREATION Health Kids CD in our car. It's a fun little album with catchy songs sung by kids. There is a song for each of the eight CREATION Health principles. My son's favorite is the Environment song. It's sung by a pirate-sounding singer who asks the kids, "What do you do when there's the mud on your shoe?" and the kids, including my son, shout: "Cleean it up!"

One day out of the blue, my son started singing, "I'm a CREATION kid!" and sang

bits and pieces of his favorite songs from the album. Jennifer and I love hearing him sing.

Kids Enjoy CREATION Health

Kids really get into CREATION Health. Something about its message resonates with them. The following are a few things I've observed in my work with CREATION Health schools.

Kids Love Rest

Kids dig Rest. For instance, in one school, the kids realized they weren't getting enough rest. So they put their families on a sleep schedule to make sure everyone was getting enough sleep! By the way, how much sleep do we need? The National Sleep Foundation recommends:

- Infants 3-11 months: 14-15 hours
- Toddlers 1-3 years: 12-14 hours
- Preschoolers 3-5 years: 11-13 hours
- Children 5-12 years: 9-11 hours
- Adolescents 13-20 years: 8.5-9.25 hours
- Adults 21+ :7-8 hours

Kids Love Environment

Another thing kids love is Environment. One of the first things we observe students doing, upon receiving permission and guidelines, is organize their classrooms and get rid of clutter. They paint walls, buy plants, and look for ways to create a learning environment that reflects God's plan.

Kids Love Choice

As you might imagine, kids love Choice, too. Educators are cautious (parents are, too) because age-appropriate boundaries must be maintained. But, we find that kids make great choices—all they need is some guidance and mentoring.

When kids are given a measure of control and allowed to make choices, new levels of ownership are demonstrated. In one school, as a result of CREATION Health, enrollment doubled, students were more engaged, and test scores improved.

Kids Love Sharing

Kids love sharing CREATION Health. Over this past year, a number of schools have conducted CREATION Health-themed Weeks of Prayer for the adults in their churches and communities. The students show the CREATION Health videos and use five or six PowerPoint slides for their lectures. One school averaged 60-plus people in nightly attendance. It was so well received that the church launched a CREATION Health small-group ministry.

You may visit www.CREATIONHealth.com/kids for more information on CREATION Health resources for kids. And you may e-mail me at Lynell.LaMountain@FLHosp.org to discuss what it means to become a CREATION Health school.

In a future column, I will share tips on how you can introduce CREATION Health to your children at home. But for now, I thought you would enjoy hearing the wonderful things that happen in schools where students embrace God's original plan for living to the fullest.

That's CREATION Health!

Lynell LaMountain writes from Florida Hospital in Orlando, Florida.

C Choice

R Rest

E Environment

A Activity

T Trust

I Interpersonal
RELATIONSHIPS

O Outlook

N Nutrition

I Watched God Do Incredible Things

FOR TEN DAYS I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO GO TO PERU ON A MISSION TRIP. With about 50 other people, I traveled to a small village in Peru called Vallecito to finish the construction of a church that was built from the ground up by Chisholm Trail Academy students. Our goal was to have the church completely sanded, plastered, and painted by the time we left.

Over the course of the trip God taught me a lot of things. I think the most important thing was to have faith. When we first arrived in Peru the weather was very hot. However, after one of our leaders—Pastor Geraldo—asked God for better weather, the weather became overcast. God even sent us a breeze. I saw that God really does answer our prayers! We just have to ask.

Another thing I learned in Peru was thankfulness. The people from the local church were extremely giving and generous to us

from the moment we arrived. It was amazing to see how little they had, and yet how much happier they were than a lot of people back home. I learned that I take a lot of things for granted. Now, after the trip, I view things like clean water and good plumbing as having much more value.

I think the best part of going to Peru was that I got to see the church being fully used for the first time. Because of the Adventist Church's ministry in Vallecito, three people decided to be bap-

I learned that I take a lot of things for granted. Now, after the trip, I view things like clean water and good plumbing as having much more value.



Nathan Miranda was blessed to not only be a part of completing a church building in Peru but also to see three people baptized during his recent mission trip.

tized. It was amazing to see how happy all of the church members were as we celebrated the Sabbath. I could tell that they really understood why the Sabbath is such a special day. I think that here at our home churches we should have some more excitement about getting to keep the Sabbath.

I saw God do many incredible things in Peru. This mission trip was really a life-changing experience. If you have never been on a mission trip, I highly recommend it. It is a great way to see God working up close and personal. I am very thankful that CTA sponsors mission trips for its students to go on. I got to experience and see how awesome our God really is.

Nathan Miranda is a student at Chisholm Trail Academy in Keene, Texas.



Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY MIKE DALE » OZARK ADVENTIST ACADEMY PRINCIPAL

God Will Provide How Prayer Has Brought Many Blessings to Ozark Academy

Too often we forget that prayer is the key to meeting every challenge. I believe that many people don't really expect much to happen when they pray, because they forget the most important aspect of prayer—the faith that something great will take place. Believing in faith that God will answer when we pray uplifts our spirit so that we have the power to keep going through the struggles.

Five years ago, God gave me a chance to test my faith through prayer when I accepted the position of principal at Ozark Adventist Academy. At the time there were many debts that needed to be paid off, many obstacles that needed to be overcome, and many important items that needed to be purchased, but we had no money to purchase them. On my first day of work I had no head dean, I had no business manager, we had lost a secretary in the office, and we were short a teacher—and school had just started! It was time to call in the Calvary, so to speak. I never prayed so hard in my life as I did over the next few weeks.

Through that experience I learned that my problems could only be solved through earnest prayer. You won't have an experience like this until you realize, as I did, that we must completely depend on God to solve all our problems. The following is just a sample of some of the wonderful blessings we received after God took over OAA.

SPIRITUAL LIFE

Over the past four years, God has blessed the spiritual life at OAA. We held our first student-led youth prayer conference and over the past two years 58 students have been baptized. Our students have preached in the Philippines, in Zimbabwe, and in Belize, resulting in hundreds of baptisms. Later this year, in conjunction with ShareHim, the Quiet Hour, and the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference, our students will present evangelistic meetings in Kenya, Africa.

ACADEMICS

On an academic level, we are very proud of what our students have accomplished. Half of OAA students scored in the top 25 percent of college-bound students in the nation on the ACT test. Twenty-five percent of our students scored in the top 10 percent of college-bound students in the U.S. and five students scored in the top two percent in the nation. The governor of Arkansas recognized OAA for academic excellence and we were rated number

five in the state. We recently completed our dual accreditation and were told that we rated in the top three percent of the schools they evaluated. And last year, 100 percent of our graduates attended college.

TECHNOLOGY

The technological advances at Ozark are almost too numerous to mention. New additions include 70 updated computers, a new server and new switches at a cost of \$21,000. We have installed three new smart boards, four new projectors, two new Apple computers, an updated security system in the boy's dorm, a surveillance system in the cafeteria, and a surveillance system in the administration building.

CAMPUS FACILITIES

We have a new van, a new shuttle, and have made a number of upgrades to the physical plant, such as new heating and air conditioning systems in various areas around the campus. We have a new baseball field, new basketball courts, we are in the second phase of completing new tennis courts, and have completed our new prayer garden. We are also looking into establishing a new industry for the school.

We praise God that all of the blessings listed above have been paid for by donors and sponsors and we do not owe money on any of these improvements. To God be the glory!



The new prayer garden at Ozark Adventist Academy will provide students with many opportunities to spend time with God in a serene setting.

Visión Hispana

UN BREVE NOTICIERO MENSUAL DEL SUROESTE

Dios Proveerá y Te Educará

Mi nombre es Samuel Vega y estudio teología en Southwestern Adventist University, SWAU, en Keene, Texas. Lo digo con orgullo celestial y gran alegría en mi corazón. Es todavía difícil de creer que estoy tan cerca de la fecha de mi graduación, y gracias a Dios de ser el primero en toda mi familia de obtener un título universitario.

Nací y crecí en El Salvador, Centro América, hasta los 14 años y medio, en el 2005 emigré a los Estados Unidos junto con mis otros cuatro hermanos para reunirnos con nuestros padres en Dallas, TX. Me gradué en una escuela pública en el 2009 con un alto promedio de calificaciones y un fuego en mi corazón por servir al Señor; aunque el corazón y la mente dispuesta estaban allí, la falta de fondos me impedían continuar mi educación. Realmente mis padres no podían hacer mucho para ayudarme porque estaban en una situación financiera difícil.

Desde el verano del 2007 había estado trabajando como colportor, así que asistí a un colegio comunitario tomando una o dos clases por semestre para ayudar a mis padres un poco con lo que ganaba por dos años después de graduarme. A lo largo de

todo esto, seguí escuchando la voz de Dios diciéndome: “pide, busca y toca.” En el verano del 2011 decidí dar un salto de fe. Aproximadamente dos meses antes del comienzo del semestre del otoño fui a SWAU y empecé a llenar todo el papeleo necesario para inscribirme, y con la asesoría de Duane Valencia (Asesor de cuentas de estudiantes) pude terminar todo en pocas semanas. La cuestión pendiente era las finanzas: ¿Cómo podría pagar una educación privada?

Duane me dio diferentes aplicaciones para llenar en busca de apoyo financiero y uno de esos apoyos fue la ayuda del departamento hispano de la Unión del Suroeste. Un día antes de iniciar las clases revisé mi cuenta estudiantil. Tenía menos de \$800 en mi

bolsillo y para mi sorpresa el balance a pagar era ¡sólo \$745.60! Este milagro del Señor trajo lágrimas de alegría, porque esto no era mas que la voz de Dios diciendo: “Aquí es donde quiero.”

Yo sé que Dios ha utilizado al departamento hispano de la Unión del Suroeste para bendecirme a mí y a muchos otros estudiantes en más de una ocasión. De

hecho, cada uno de los cuatro semestres que he asistido a SWAU Dios los ha utilizado para ayudarme a seguir cumpliendo el llamado que me dio. Sólo puedo alabar a Dios por esta ayuda. Mientras

escribo estas palabras desde la biblioteca de SWAU, soy capaz de decir: ¡Gracias por ayudarme a estar hoy aquí!

Sinceramente,



▲ Samuel tomó parte en una semana de oración en la universidad.

◀ Samuel es uno de los integrantes del coro de la universidad, aquí esta en la ciudad de Washington, D.C.



Samuel Vega

ADVENTIST EDUCATION IN THE SOUTHWESTERN UNION

Randy Gilliam, Ed.D

The Seventh-day Adventist Church operates the largest Protestant school system in the world. Our goal is to prepare our children for God's heavenly kingdom and for productive service here on this earth. The Southwestern Union Conference (SWUC) is pleased to be a part of this worldwide effort. Here is an overview of the Adventist educational system in the Southwestern Union.

SWUC Office of Education

The union education team is comprised of five individuals. Randy Gilliam, Ed.D., is the director of education. Mike Furr, M.Ed., is the associate director, with an emphasis in secondary education. Carolyn Early, M.S., oversees the Early Childhood Education and Care program, which is comprised of the Pre-Kindergarten and Child Day Care Centers. Betty Trevino, M.A., functions as the union's registrar and handles teacher certification and credentialing. Marcella Bayless is invaluable as the department's administrative secretary.



Randy Gilliam

The Southwestern Union Department of Education has adopted the following mission statement: To assist the conferences of the Southwestern Union in providing a Christ-centered educational program of excellence.



Schools

Records for the 2012-2013 school year show a total of 70 schools within our union. Seven of these schools operate senior academy programs and one, Ozark Adventist Academy, accommodates boarding students. Our schools have an active service and witnessing component, with many mission trips planned throughout the school year.

Teachers

We have 325 dedicated Christian teachers. Of this group 90.3 percent hold a valid teaching credential. This is an increase of 6.5 percent over 2011-2012. Our goal is that all of our teachers become certified.

Students

God has blessed with the enrollment of students in our schools. The opening reports for the 2012-2013 school year showed an increase in enrollment for each of our conferences over the previous school year. A total of 3,655 students were enrolled, which is the highest enrollment in the past decade. This is at a time when enrollments are declining and schools are



closing across the North American Division.

The primary objective of our schools is to help our students to know Jesus Christ as a personal Savior. The number of students baptized in the 2011-2012 school year totals 189.

Academics

In addition to introducing students to Jesus Christ, our schools exist to prepare them for service here in this world. To validate this goal we use the results of the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills, a standardized test for student cognitive growth. The SWUC composite scores earned for each grade level are above the national average.

Here is a brief report from each of our conferences:

Arkansas-Louisiana

God is blessing Adventist education in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference. Umpire Christian School, a new school for 2012-2013, opened with 11 students, which was almost double their prospective enrollment. Enrollment in our 13 elementary schools and one boarding academy is up across the conference, with four schools showing increases of eight to 12 students. Achievement test scores remain strong across the grade levels. Springdale Adventist School implemented a master plan to minister to the Marshallese in their area. They have built a greenhouse to provide worthy student funds to assist Marshallese parents with school tuition. Ozark Adventist Academy is providing opportunities for students to become spiritual leaders through community outreach and ShareHim evangelistic meetings. Our teachers care about their students and view teaching as not just a job, but a ministry. Our goal is to lead students to Jesus and help them to do their best in whatever God leads them to do.— *Stephen Burton*



Stephen Burton



Jack Francisco

Oklahoma

In the past three years, two new schools have opened. Enrollment is rising. More teachers are being hired to meet the demand of growing enrollment. Following God's command to educate our children, the Muskogee church is opening a new school next year. Ellen White states, "It is high time for Sabbath-keepers to separate their children from worldly associations and place

them under the very best teachers, who will make the Bible the foundation of all study" (*Testimonies*, vol. 2, p. 464).— *Jack Francisco*

Southwest Region

Our goal is to adhere to the biblical mandate in Isaiah 54:13, which states, "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord." The primary goal of Adventist education is the salvation of our children, with the ultimate



Shakuntala Ramsarran

objective of leading our students to accept Jesus Christ. Enrollment has increased for three consecutive years. The "Education Action Plan" was implemented, which emphasizes increasing enrollment with students from within the church. In-service training was provided for conference leaders, departmental directors, and local church educational secretaries throughout the Southwest Region.—*Shakuntala Ramsarran*

Texas

Adventist education is thriving in the Texas Conference. We have seen steady growth in enrollment over the past five years, topping 2,500 for the second straight year. Along with our five senior academies we have three junior academies offering grades 11 and 12 through a partnership with Chisholm Trail Academy. These junior academies are in the process of becoming full senior academies within the next several years. Our students are growing academically and spiritually as evidenced by test scores and student participation in mission outreach activities. Credit goes to our dedicated teaching and administrative staff for embracing our mission to provide the best academic and spiritual education possible.—*William Reinke* (along with *Raul Aguilar*, *Carol Bradley*, and *John Hopps*, associates.)



Bill Reinke



Derral Reeve

Texico

This year a new school, Adventist Academy of Santa Fe, was opened in the Texico Conference. It had been in the planning stages for two years and under the leadership of board chair Allen Steel. The rigorous process of getting approval from the city came to completion and the school opened with thirteen students. Currently, there are six additional churches looking into the possibility of opening new schools. The Texico Conference has more than doubled in membership in the past 15 years, so many of the newest members have not been aware of the benefits of Adventist education. As the parents are introduced to the quality of Adventist education, they are becoming eager to start schools for the salvation of our children.—*Derral Reeve*

The Lord has blessed the educational system of the Southwestern Union Conference. These accomplishments have been a result of dedicated teachers, pastors, and parents working together. We have much to be thankful for as we survey the progress that has been made. However, we must not rest on our past successes, but continue to move forward by striving for higher attainments until Christ's appearing when we will hear, "Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter thou into the gates of thanksgiving" (Matthew 25:21).

LIFE-CHANGING EDUCATION

Adventist Academy Students Experience the Joy of Service

Mike Furr, Southwestern Union associate education director

One of our ideals for Seventh-day Adventist education is that all of our students will learn to serve others. Matthew 25:40 says that, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.” By doing service for Jesus, it’s as if we are doing it for Jesus Himself! We want our students to find the joy and happiness of serving others. We think that if they can find some meaningful, enjoyable service project now, that they will continue this practice throughout their life. If all of our schools and churches will provide opportunities for service, it will help keep our children and young adults in our church, instead of seeing them walk out the back door and never returning.

Most of our academies provide some type of mission trip opportunities for their students. Following are quotes from young people who have recently been involved in mission service telling how the experience has affected them personally. If you would like to be involved in a similar experience, you can get a mission project started at your church or school or talk to one of our academies. Or you could help to financially sponsor a student to go on a mission trip. Let’s all get involved in helping to spread the gospel—at home and abroad.—*Mike Furr*



Chisholm Trail Academy

A group of Chisholm Trail Academy students traveled to Peru to complete the construction of a church that was started three years ago. The following quote tells how the experience impacted Jordan Cherne. (See MyFaith on page 5 for the story of Nathan Miranda’s experience in Peru.)

“The mission trip has taught me to take a good look around and be grateful for all the privileges I have here and to not take those for granted.”—*Jordan Cherne*

◀ Chisholm Trail Academy student McKenzie Davidson prepared the outer walls of the church in Peru that the mission group helped to complete.

▼ Students from Chisholm Trail Academy worked to put the finishing touches on a church building in Peru.



South Texas Christian Academy

South Texas Christian Academy students traveled to Belize to help finish constructing a church in Belize. It was a life-changing experience for these students. Here's what a few of them had to say:

"Now that I see the need in different parts of the world, I realize that I want to do more with my life, something that would make more of an impact while serving the Lord. This mission trip to Belize has inspired me to become a missionary doctor."— *Iliana Villalobos*

"My mission trip experience helped improve my faith in God a great deal and helped me understand that everything happens for a reason and that good can come out of it. This was my very first mission trip, and I can say it will definitely *not* be my last."— *Arielle Douglas*

► South Texas Christian Academy students helped to complete a church in Belize.

▼ The children of Belize won the hearts of South Texas Christian Academy students, who traveled there to do mission work.

"I thought I went to build a church and to maybe touch people's lives, but instead, a kid touched *my* life."— *Sebastian Palma*

"As the mission trip came to an end I realized that I want to continue going on mission trips. Not only do these experiences help others and bring people to Christ, they strengthen your walk with God."— *Roxana Gamez*





◀ Savannah Ivins, Ozark Adventist Academy senior, with the son of her drivers. She felt like part of the family when they picked her up each night to drive her to her meeting site.

▼ Maggie Nelson, Ozark Adventist Academy sophomore, fell in love with the children from Queen Elizabeth's orphanage in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

Bottom: Kaitlin Freeman, Ozark Adventist Academy freshman, preached a full evangelistic series in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. Each preacher worked with a translator throughout the series.



Ozark Adventist Academy

Zimbabwe was the destination for Ozark Adventist Academy students who participated there in a ShareHim evangelistic campaign. The experience helped change others' lives as well as their own.

"Going on a mission trip can change you completely; it can open your eyes and prepare your heart for Jesus."—*Lizzy Gaeto*

"Each day, I prayed for the Lord to give me strength and courage. And every night, in every sermon, God did not fail to provide. The Lord can work wonders in anyone, and I am one of many examples."—*Eileen Alvarado*

"It is an amazing feeling to see people come to God, and know that you had a part in it, to see people change their life for Christ."—*Carolyn Ernst*

"God opened my eyes to the truth that I needed a total transformation and a closer walk with Him. He taught me important virtues like patience, love, respect, and leadership. Now I have a burning desire to share my experience and hopefully, win more souls for God's kingdom."—*Marquan Buchanan*

"This mission trip was a life-changing experience for me because I got to see firsthand how the Lord could work through my life. Before I went to Africa I didn't think God could work through someone as insignificant as me, but I found that wasn't true. I thank God for giving me this extraordinary experience!"—*Savannah Ivins*

"I was very nervous about going on mission trip. Leaving the country to go someplace you know nothing about is terrifying. Once we got to Africa I was shocked by the culture and immediately fell in love with everyone and everything that is Africa. . . .

They were very shocked when I finally told them that I was only 16 years old; they told me I was very young and so I replied that you are never too young to serve the Lord!"—*Courtney Fast*

Sandia View Academy

Fifteen Sandia View Academy students traveled to New York City to assist with relief efforts following Hurricane Sandy. A few of them share their experience:

"I really enjoyed helping the survivors of Hurricane Sandy. When we delivered, people were extremely appreciative. I really felt that we were the light of the world like Jesus says to be."—*Chandler Tarbox*

"It is different seeing it on TV than when you are there seeing it right in front of you. You see that there is a disaster and you can become the solution."—*Baylee Garcia*



“...It helps show the families that people still care.”— *Janelle Lira*

“I feel honored to provide services to [the families]. I hope that in some way it will impact their lives...for Jesus.”— *Gabby Martinez*

“It felt good being able to help other people and seeing them happy...it was huge for them.”— *Samantha Estrada*



▲ Students from Sandia View Academy helped in the relief efforts for Hurricane Sandy Victims in New York City.

► Eliasib Parra, Ozark Adventist Academy freshman, preached a full evangelistic series in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe. He was very excited that another 14-year-old made a decision to be baptized.

▼ The Ozark Adventist Academy group had worship each morning in Zimbabwe.



EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING

2013 Southwestern Union Excellence in Teaching Award Recipients

“There is no nobler work that we can do, no greater benefit that we can confer upon society, than to give to our children a proper education, impressing upon them, by precept and example, the important principle that purity of life and sincerity of purpose will best qualify them to act their part in the world” (*Counsels on Education*, p.168).

To that end, we must provide quality educators for the fulfillment of this task. Each year the Southwestern Union Conference recognizes excellence among its teaching staff. This is accomplished at both the elementary and secondary levels. Nominations are submitted by conference superintendents of schools and by academy principals. The Southwestern Union Conference K-12 Board of Education is responsible for the final approval of the recipients.

Each will receive a pecuniary award, a plaque, and a certificate honoring their commitment to excellence. We congratulate these teachers for their achievement and thank them for their dedication to the teaching ministry. The 2013 Southwestern Union Excellence in Teaching Award winners are pictured and listed to the right.

**Randy Gilliam, Southwestern Union
education director**



Kim Gillen
Crestview Christian
Academy



Debera Hall
Chisholm Trail
Academy



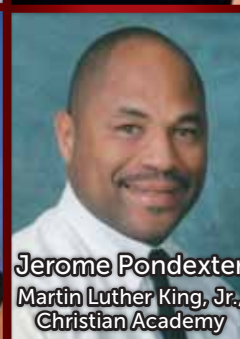
Olga Hamilton
Bentonville SDA
School



Matthew Hargett
Tulsa Adventist School



Janna Marshall
Burluson Adventist
School



Jerome Pondexter
Martin Luther King, Jr.,
Christian Academy



Karon Watt
Scenic Hills SDA
School

LIVE THE MISSION

Carolyn Early, Southwestern Union early childhood education director

“Live The Mission” was the brainchild of Davenia Lea, the newly-appointed North American Division (NAD) Early Childhood Education and Care director, to help inspire and encourage early childhood education and care centers and classrooms. Teachers across the NAD were to submit an article outlining how they would use a \$1,000 grant to improve their own school’s ECEC program. There were three grants for \$1,000 to be awarded. Those who were to select the top three recipients of Live the Mission were to consider our NAD ECEC Mission and the proposed project’s ability to fulfill that mission, as well as the need.

The Southwestern Union is proud to announce that Bentonville SDA School in Arkansas was chosen to receive one of the three \$1,000 grants. They wrote about their Pre-K library expansion plans.

An honorable mention grant for three other schools in the amount of \$250 was also awarded. The Southwestern Union is

proud to announce that one of the three \$250 grants was awarded to Ozark Adventist Elementary School for their article about Pre-K program expansion.

We are delighted that two of our schools were blessed to receive these grants and thank the teachers for taking the time to apply. We hope that these awards will inspire other groups to help our ECEC classrooms grow successfully.



ADVENTIST SCHOOLS IN THE SOUTHWEST

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, in all of its church schools, admits students of any race to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded or made available to students at its schools, and makes no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnic background, country of origin, or gender in the administration of education policies, applications for admission, scholarship or loan programs, and extracurricular programs.

A complete list of all academies, elementary schools, and junior academies is included on this page.

Arkansas-Louisiana Conference

Beacon Hill Adventist Junior Academy	1446 Red Bridge Rd., DeQueen AR 71832
Bentonville Adventist School	P.O. Box 298, Bentonville AR 72712
Colquitt Christian Academy	3233 Colquitt Rd., Shreveport LA 71118
Ewing Adventist Junior Academy	709 Adventist Church Rd., Bonnerdale AR 71933
Greater New Orleans Christian Academy	5220 Irving St., Metairie LA 70006
Harrison SDA School	4877 Hwy. 392 W., Harrison AR 72601
Hot Springs Adventist School	401 Weston Rd., Hot Springs AR 71913
Jones Creek Adventist Academy	4363 Jones Creek Rd., Baton Rouge LA 70817
Little Rock Adventist Academy	8708 Rodney Parham, Little Rock AR 72205
Ozark Adventist School	21150 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry AR 72734
Springdale Adventist School	4001 W. Don Tyson Pkwy., Springdale AR 72762
Texarkana SDA School	3100 Pleasant Grove Rd., Texarkana TX 75503
Umpire Christian School	164 School St., Umpire AR 71971

Senior Academy:

Ozark Adventist Academy	20997 Dawn Hill East Rd., Gentry AR 72734
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Oklahoma Conference

Ardmore Adventist Academy	154 Beavers Academy Rd., Ardmore OK 73401
Bristow Adventist School	P.O. Box 1074, Bristow OK 74010
Ketchum Adventist Academy	35369 S. Hwy 82, Vinita OK 74301
Parkview Adventist School	4201 Martin Luther King, Oklahoma City OK 73111
Pioneer Adventist Christian School	P.O. Box 1245, Guymon OK 73942
Tulsa Adventist Academy	900 S. New Haven, Tulsa OK 74112
West Siloam Springs Adventist School	5165 Cedar Dr., Colcord OK 74338

Southwest Region Conference

Alfred Booker Junior Academy	P.O. Box 6408, Alexandria LA 71301
Applegate Adventist Junior Academy	P.O. Box 729, Round Rock TX 78680
Bethel Adventist School	P.O. Box 660, Texarkana TX 75501
Emmanuel Adventist School	702 N. Cherry St., Hammond LA 70401
Excel Adventist Academy	P.O. Box 2240, Missouri City TX 77459
Martin Luther King Junior Christian Academy	4295 Prescott Ct., Baton Rouge LA 70805
New Life Christian Academy	P.O. Box 1, Marion AR 72364
New Orleans Adventist Academy	4500 Gawain Dr., New Orleans LA 70127
Shiloh Adventist School	2400 S. Maple St., Little Rock AR 72204
S.W. Adventist Junior Academy	1600 Bonnie View Rd., Dallas TX 75203

Texas Conference

Adventist Christian Academy of Texas	3601 S. Loop 336 E., Conroe TX 77301
Burleson Adventist School	1635 Fox Lane, Burleson TX 76028
Burton Adventist Elementary School	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington TX 76017
Cleburne Adventist Christian School	111 Meadowview Dr., Cleburne TX 76033
Coastal Bend Adventist Junior Academy	6645 Downing St., Corpus Christi TX 78414
Cypress Bend Adventist School	2997 FM 728, Jefferson TX 75657
Dallas Christian Academy	4025 N. Central Expressway, Dallas TX 75204
DeSoto Adventist Christian School	235 N. Cockrell Hill Rd., DeSoto TX 75115
Ft. Worth Adventist Junior Academy	3040 Sycamore School Rd., Ft Worth TX 76133
Garland Christian Adventist School	1702 E. Centerville Rd., Garland TX 75041
Gulphaven Adventist School	10716 Sabo Rd., Houston TX 77089
Harlingen Adventist Elementary School	P.O. Box 532785, Harlingen TX 78553
Hill Country Adventist Christian School	611 Harper Rd., Kerrville TX 78028
Joshua Adventist Multi-Grade School	P.O. Box 329, Joshua TX 76058
Katy Adventist Christian School	1913 East Avenue, Katy TX 77493
Keene Adventist Elementary	302 Pecan, Keene TX 76059
Killeen Adventist Junior Academy	3412 Lake Rd., Killeen TX 76543
Knowledge Seekers Christian School	1471 W. Corporate Dr., Lewisville TX 75067
Maranatha Adventist School	2526 Goliad Rd., San Antonio TX 78223
New Creation Adventist School	800 W. Hwy 6, Waco TX 76712
North Dallas Adventist Academy	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson TX 75081
Pineywoods Adventist Christian School	4629 FM 1638, Nacogdoches TX 75964
San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy	P.O. Box 801, San Marcos TX 78667
Scenic Hills Adventist Christian School	11223 Bandera Hwy, San Antonio TX 78250
South Texas Christian Academy	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen TX 78504
Stonehill Christian Academy	4301 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville TX 78660
The Oaks Adventist Christian School	11735 Grant Rd., Cypress TX 77428
Triangle Adventist Christian School	P.O. Drawer H, Groves TX 77619
Tyler Adventist School	2931 S. S.E. Loop 323, Tyler TX 75701
Valley Grande Adventist Academy	1000 S. Bridge St., Weslaco TX 78596

Senior Academies:

Burton Adventist Academy	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington TX 76017
Chisholm Trail Academy	P.O. Box 717, Keene TX 76059
North Dallas Adventist Academy	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson TX 75081
South Texas Christian Academy	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen TX 78504
Valley Grande Adventist Academy	1000 S. Bridge Street, Weslaco TX 78596

Texico Conference

Adventist Academy of Santa Fe	P.O. Box 28327, Santa Fe NM 87592
Crestview Christian Academy	6000 Ouray NW, Albuquerque NM 87120
El Paso Adventist Junior Academy	3510 George Dieter Dr., El Paso TX 79936
Lubbock Junior Academy	P.O. Box 6277, Lubbock TX 79493
Sandia View Elementary	24 Academy Dr., Corrales NM 87048

Senior Academy:

Sandia View Academy	65 Sandia View Ln., Corrales NM 87048
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A Radically Different Philosophical Approach To Education



Micki and I were reflecting one day about the experience of our sons' education. We talked about the different teachers they'd had over the years in elementary school and academy, and it was quickly noted how every one of them, regardless of the grade or subject, brought a spiritual dimension to our sons' educational process. That was something we expected. After all, they were in Seventh-day Adventist schools. However, Micki quickly reminded me of some of the "extra" things that came with that spiritual emphasis. Those were not special assignments, projects, or events that were necessarily required of a particular class or grade level. The extra things happen because of a far-reaching and radically different philosophical approach to education that is in distinct contrast to the educational phi-

losophies of the world.

I was quite surprised and amazed a couple of months ago when I heard a presentation made by Larry Blackmer, North American Division vice president for education. He quoted a leading national educator as saying that the system of Seventh-day Adventist education excels far and beyond any educational system in the United States, public or private. When noted educators from outside our system make statements like that, then it is not just what we think about our educational process, but what is observed and noted outside our ranks that must be recognized. What God told Israel of old is just as applicable today for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We must be the "head and not the tail." Yet our successes in education are not because we are more brilliant than others, but because

of the God-given blueprint that "education and redemption are one."

That is the reason I feel our Adventist educational process excels far and beyond any educational system. It is the philosophic underpinnings of the plan of salvation that leads our teachers to promote human dignity and respect, service for others, and life principles, values, and morals that reflect the life and teachings of our Savior, Jesus Christ. He who was the greatest educator that ever lived not only focused on the here and now, but upon the eternal principles of His heavenly kingdom. All of that then makes a profound difference in the basics of language arts, math, and science.

Steve Orian, president

Deridder Baptism: Obedience Through Faith

DERIDDER, LA. » Three willing souls went under the water and came back up again to become new persons in Christ on April 13 in the Deridder church! First, a brother and sister, Mark Ajani and Nykobi Haywood,



who have always been eager to learn more about Jesus, both in Sabbath School as well as at Vacation Bible School. Jacques Laguerre was also baptized, and he is very determined to serve Jesus. He was excited, happy, and ready to be baptized. After his baptism, Jacques gave his powerful testimony to the church. Baptism is an outward sign of our acceptance of Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. When you turn your life over to Jesus and become baptized, then the old life is left behind you. You die to self in the water and rise in Christ, a new life of service to begin.

Nelderine Newhouse



▲ Nykobi Haywood was baptized by Sorin Munteanu, pastor.

▶ Mark Ajani was baptized by Sorin Munteanu, pastor.

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

Lest We Forget

WEST HELENA, ARK. » On March 30, members and friends of the West Helena church met to honor four of their precious pilgrims who had made a real difference in West Helena. J.C. Lunsford, Monte Jones, Adele Bromberger, and Pastor Clarence Hoag were remembered.

The little West Helena church started out with Sabbath keepers meeting in homes such as that of Dollie and J.C. Lunsford. Gracious Dollie and knowledgeable J.C. opened their home to families in the area who were looking for a better life with Jesus Christ as their guide and needed a home church. These pioneers worked and prayed as they kept the Sabbath light alive in the West Helena area.

Monte Jones came to West Helena right out of the military service, and worked 50 years delivering butane for a local company. He and his wife, Millie, sacrificed and worked to make sure that there was a church building where the members could meet. God sends people with a vision—and then works through them to help others catch the vision of what God wants to do in their area.

Adele Bromberger came with her music

and her love for flowers. Praises rang out in the little West Helena church when Adele played the piano. It was a joyful sound and her bouquets and love of flowers brought joy to everyone's heart. From spring to fall there are still beautiful flowers at the church!



▲ A special tribute was made to the pioneers of the West Helena church. Standing: Betty Latimer Hoag. Seated: Jerry Kenyon, pastor, and Carolyn McCray, an original member of West Helena church.

◀ Pictures of the pioneers from left: J.C. Lunsford, Monte Jones, Adele Bromberger, and Clarence Hoag, pastor.

Clarence Hoag was a pastor who came with a dream of a radio station so that the gospel could go to the community at any time, day or night. Through many friends' gifts and much prayer KIHW (Keeping In His Word) is a reality every day. Hoag would be proud of the people who are studying God's Word because of a dream

that God gave him.

I would like to refashion a quote from a famous speech by John F. Kennedy and encourage you to ask, "not what your church can do for you, but ask what you can do for your church." Such dedication is growing churches worldwide, even in West Helena.

Betty Latimer Hoag

Benton Jesus Warriors Raise Money for Oshkosh

BENTON, ARK. » The Benton Jesus Warriors Pathfinder Club met one beautiful morning, Sunday, February 24, to help clean the yard of a member's home. The young people worked for several hours raking leaves and getting all the debris from the winter storms out of her yard. Thankfully, the weather was perfect for burning leaves and limbs. Some of the wet leaves were bagged for pick-up. It was a happy and rewarding job that earned the



club some much-needed cash Oshkosh, the Pathfinder camporee to be held in 2014.

Francis Caple

Benton Jesus Warriors rake leaves to raise money for Oshkosh.

Canvassers in Lake Charles See Prison!

LAKE CHARLES, LA. » During the last few weeks of March, seven students from Ouachita Hills College moved to the Lake Charles area to canvass the surrounding area and blanket the town with Adventist literature. Sorin Munteanu, pastor, had recently moved to the district and was eager to get things moving. The students stayed in the Lake Charles church and came to the pastor's home each evening for showers and to have a sharing time with the Munteanu family. They were enjoying knocking on doors and visiting with the people, but Satan was not happy and began to stir up trouble. The sheriff's office received a few irate calls from someone in the community and by Sunday evening, March 31, all seven students had been arrested for soliciting and were being detained in the county jail.

Margaret Jackson, communication director at the church, contacted the mayor, Randy Roach, and shortly after his intervention, Munteanu and Jackson went to the sheriff's office and had all the students released. It was found that they had been arrested twice in the same day and charged with misdemeanors for soliciting! Wade Smith, an elder in the Lake Charles church, immediately began working on providing a bail bond for their release in the eventuality that they be charged and sent to prison.

We thank God that didn't happen!

Munteanu spent Sunday night trying to understand what happened. Reading the local laws and researching the history of such cases, he realized that the sheriff's department had committed a serious violation by arresting our students— as there is a parish ordinance, and federal laws that allow canvassing door-to-door—this activity itself is not considered soliciting.

Monday morning, Munteanu visited with the district attorney's office and presented the situation and the documents showing the legality of the student's situation and asking for clarification. He was assured that the students' canvassing activities are legal under state and federal law. Also, the decision of the sheriff's department to arrest the students twice was condemned and he was directed to go back and talk to the administration of the sheriff's department. Munteanu was given a letter asking that all charges against the students be dismissed. After speaking with sheriff's department head, Tony Mancuso, the sheriff's department agreed to dismiss all charges and acknowledged making a mistake by arresting the students.

On Thursday, a follow-up meeting with the mayor was scheduled. Munteanu, Jackson, and the seven students attended. Sur-

prisingly, the mayor began with an inspiring devotional from Joshua 1:9, "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee wheresoever thou goest." We took the opportunity to thank him for his intervention on our behalf and presented him with a set of books as a gift. In the meantime, Munteanu was asked by the local authorities to keep in touch with the local police department and sheriff's office to prevent any further situations from arising. Even after the meeting with the mayor, the students had several encounters with police officers, but each one ended on a good note after they called their office and were told to leave the students alone.

We praise God for the opportunity to witness to local government and we are glad that our constitutional rights were recognized! In spite of these difficulties, we consider the canvassing event a success. The Lake Charles church was left with more than a hundred interests for Bible studies and healthy cooking seminars. Also, the Deridder church has more than 30 interests. We praise God for the opportunities we had and for the ones that are still open to us to witness.

Sorin Munteanu, pastor



◀ Lake Charles canvassing group from Ouachita Hills College.

▼ Canvassing group with Munteanu and his two boys, who also went canvassing.



I Believe in Adventist Education



I strongly believe in Adventist Education. In my experience, you can't beat a classroom with a dedicated Christian teacher and an Adventist mission.

I remember meeting new friends when starting kindergarten at Tulsa Adventist Academy. We were a small class, and I'm still close with some classmates. It was the beginning of an education that has brought me to where I am now.

Children receive massive amounts of information in any school system. The question becomes, What is the value of that information? For me, along with the peer pressure, social pressure, academic pressure, and the need to fit in as a teen, I was also filled with stories from the Bible,

memory verses, discussions on biblical truth, and ways to apply what I'd learned to the real world.

I can't say that I met Jesus while I was at school, but I can definitely say that I was given all the information to recognize Him when the time came. That information would become a strong and lasting belief in the doctrines that we hold dear as Seventh-day Adventists.

Yes, I rebelled, complained, and pushed against what I felt I was being forced to learn. But I believe the Holy Spirit was present. When the time was right, I was truly introduced to my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Then, all the things I had learned in Adventist education came together and my world was changed.

I don't believe anyone is born a true

believer in Jesus. Even His disciples took convincing and training. I'm sure that Peter didn't quite understand everything that he learned from Christ until he was able to apply it to his later ministry.

Nothing is perfect, but I believe that as a whole our education system is above and beyond all other forms of education. My wife is now an Adventist teacher, and my 8-year-old daughter is enrolled in Adventist education. My intent is to keep her there all the way through. I have faith that God is caring for my family, and I will take every step possible to make sure my children learn about Jesus Christ. That way when they meet Christ for themselves they'll know Him at a glance.

Richard Castillo, communication director

Bristow Students Reach Out to Merino Benison Mission in Philippines

BRISTOW » The students at Bristow Adventist School (BAS) recently reached out to the Merino Benison Mission, a Filipino organization that was started by some friends of the BAS principal, Jennifer Castillo. The mission felt a need to help out

people in their country by giving clothing, food, or other necessities, while at the same time fulfilling their spiritual needs. For two weeks, BAS students raised funds to donate to this cause. On the night of the BAS Christmas program, another offering

was taken. In total, the students and their families and friends raised \$200.

Last December, the mission used the donated funds

to provide slippers (flip flops) for local families. The slipper giveaway took place in Gupot, Manukan, Zamboanga del Norte, where approximately 300 people were given slippers. The missionaries sent pictures from the event to Jennifer Castillo, who then shared the photos with the students. Each student received a picture of other children who were blessed because of the hearts that opened at BAS. One woman at the mission said that they were filled with joy because of everyone's dedication to help. Many Filipinos were overjoyed as

they put on their new slippers. The students at BAS took this opportunity to help, and it impacted lives all the way across the world! The students hope to help the mission again soon.

Jennifer Castillo



Bristow Adventist School students raised funds to provide slippers (flip flops) for children and families of the local community near Merino Benison Mission in the Philippines.



Oklahoma Conference Holds 68th Constituency Session

At the 68th regular Constituency Session of the Oklahoma Conference, held on Sunday, April 21 at the First Tulsa church, 326 delegates met to elect officers for the 2013-2016 quadrennial term. John Moyer was re-elected as president; Karen Senecal was re-elected as treasurer and was also elected to serve in the role of executive secretary. Newly elected as communication director is Richard Castillo, and re-elected departmental directors include Jack Francisco, education; Leighton Holley, evangelism coordinator and ministerial director; and Apple (Jung-Wook) Park, youth ministries director.

Trevor Thompson has served the Oklahoma Conference as executive secretary since 2004, and has been employed by the Seventh-day Adventist Church for 55 years. He retired at the end of April. Thompson and his wife, Jean, were honored for their dedicated service as John Moyer, president, read a poem on friendship by Edgar A. Guest and presented the couple with a lovely Thomas Kincaid painting entitled "A Walk By Faith." Thompson's parting words were centered on 2 Corinthians 13:11 and he closed by saying, "We want to see Jesus come soon. If we don't meet again here, we

know the meeting place."

Six new churches were accepted into the sisterhood of churches: the Broken Arrow Spanish church, the Emmanuel Spanish church of Sallisaw, the Independence Spanish church, the Midwest City Spanish church, the Oklahoma City Northwest Spanish church, and the Oklahoma City International church.

The conference president's report gave an overview of the work of evangelism, education, prayer ministries, youth ministries, community services, and other ministries around the Oklahoma Conference during the past quadrennial term. "People in leadership get a lot of credit for the work that other people do," Moyer said, acknowledging that the work that has been accomplished is not because of his own efforts but largely because of the efforts of the many dedicated pastors, teachers, and lay people. "We are not bragging," Moyer said, concluding his report. "We are praising God. With God, all things are possible, and the best is yet to come." Moyer also delivered

the morning's devotional message, which emphasized the importance of finishing the work in preparation for Christ's soon return.

The treasurer's report included a presentation about how tithe dollars are used in the Oklahoma Conference, and Senecal commended the smaller churches for their faithful contributions. Michael Merrifield of the General Conference Auditing Service gave the auditor's report and said that the conference had received "the best and cleanest report that an organization can receive."

Larry Moore, president of the Southwestern Union, presided over the business session. The delegates sang "We Have This Hope" to conclude the meeting and in the closing prayer, Thompson asked God to help His church to be faithful until Jesus comes.

Pat Humphrey, *Record* editor

► From left, Trevor Thompson, retiring Oklahoma Conference executive secretary and his wife, Jean; John Moyer, Oklahoma Conference president; Karen Senecal, Oklahoma Conference secretary/treasurer.

▼ Southwestern Union Conference officers, Oklahoma Conference officers, departmental directors, and their family members.



James Bokovoy



James Bokovoy

Bristow Church Holds Investiture

BRISTOW » The Bristow church strongly supports its youth through its church school and Adventurer and Pathfinder Clubs. Each leader and assistant plays a pivotal role in the lives of our young people.

In mid-May, church members enjoyed watching the Bristow Bears Adventurers and Bristow Stars Pathfinders sing, recite scripture, and receive their honors during

an investiture service.

Andrew Fisher, Pathfinder leader, and his assistants, Gilbert Perez, Jeff Ailey, and Elisa Fisher, took the Pathfinders on many outings during the year, but the highlight was a camping trip to Crystal Falls in Arkansas. Ten-year-old Sarah, the daughter of frequent church visitors, joined the trip and was delighted by her first Pathfinder experience. She was soaked by the waterfall and bruised from slipping along the trail, but squealed with joy and wanted to go again.

Besides camping trips, the Pathfinders also attended Camporee, learned how to make silk-screened T-shirts, practiced cake-decorating skills, mastered digital photography skills, and learned about stars. There was also a pinewood derby, which was made even more exciting by the addition of a camera attached to one of the cars.

The 11 Adventurers, Eager Beavers, and Little Lambs had a busy year also. They enjoyed earning their artist honor, taking a field trip to Gilcrease Museum, and many trips to sing at the local nursing home under the leadership of Laura Weber and her assistants, Junnell Frazier and Shirley Towler. Three of the Adventurers are looking forward to joining the Pathfinder club in August.



The Bristow church recently held an investiture service, during which Pathfinders sang, recited scripture, and received their honors.

Caroline A. Fisher



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Take Care of Your Lambs



SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

The story is told of a man who was vacationing with a Scottish shepherd. One day, he noticed that the shepherd was uncommonly quiet, and asked him why. The shepherd replied, "I lost 65 of my best lambs last night. The wolves got in."

The man then asked the shepherd, "How many of the older sheep were killed?"

The shepherd looked at him in surprise, and asked, "Don't you know that a wolf never takes an old sheep when he can get a lamb?"

The famous preacher Charles Spurgeon challenged, "Take care of your lambs or where will you get your sheep from?"

You will agree that if the young are to

survive, they must be protected. Otherwise, they will become extinct. Today in our society, animal lovers create refuges to protect animals. But what about our children?

The Adventist Church has established educational institutions for our children so that they may be protected from the wolves. Where is your child? Is your child within the protective hedges, safe from the grasp of the wolves?

Every parent is a shepherd, responsible for his or her flock. Every pastor is a shepherd with a flock. Every teacher is a shepherd, responsible for a flock of students. Every church member is a shepherd, and to every one the Good Shepherd says, "Take

care of your lambs, or where will you get your sheep from?"

Ponder this: "Our efforts to teach and nurture children are an investment in the future—theirs and ours" (*Transforming Children Into Spiritual Champions*, p. 47). Then, notice this powerful statement from Patrick Johnstone: "If children's work is neglected, you lose the next generation. Ignore children and sacrifice the future" (*Rainbows of Hope*, August 2004).

Shakuntala Ramsarran, superintendent of education

The Lord Moved at Hispanic Family Camp

ATHENS, TEX. » As the second week of May approached, excitement mounted among congregations of Hispanic churches in the Southwest Region in anticipation of Hispanic Family Camp. Jorge Mayer delivered a compelling message titled "El hogar que yo Soñe" (The Home I Desired). His message gave the congregation many examples of successful families from the Bible who could be emulated. Jose Antonio Pagan reinforced the youth's identity as children of God with his message titled "Somos" (We are). These compelling messages motivated some to come to the baptismal waters. Two visitors even entered the waters immediately without changing

into baptismal robes!

Another great aspect of this year's Family Camp came on Sabbath afternoon, when well-prepared orators spoke to each component of the family (men, women, youth, and children) to guide them all in how to



Karen Perey

▲ Youth praying during the Jose Antonio Pagan's message, "Somos" (We are).

◀ A married couple, ecstatic about their baptism.

Far left: Members of the congregation meditating on the special selection by Carlos Cortez, Jr.



Luis Castro



Luis Castro

keep their families functioning as the entity God had in mind from the very beginning.

The seminars segued into the final portion of the camp, when the invited singer, Carlos Cortez, Jr., along with other

local artists, led the congregation in praise to the God who made everything possible that weekend. As the camp came to an end, phone numbers were exchanged as new acquaintances promised to keep in touch so that the unity felt in the camp would continue throughout the year until the next Hispanic Family Camp or until Christ's return.

Luis Castro

Fondren SW Hosts Women's Ministries Event

MISSOURI CITY, TEX. » The Fondren SW church was host to the women's ministries Teach Convention 2013 in mid-April. English- and Spanish-speaking women from Baytown, Austin, Dallas, and Houston came together for a weekend of refueling and refreshing in the Holy Spirit. The convention opened up with a season of praise and worship led by the convention music coordinator, Tanisha Pride, and singer, Margarita Barylchesnko, followed by a soul-stirring message from Beverly Robinson, of Winston-Salem, N.C.

On Sabbath morning, worship and workshops continued consecutively, depending on language preference, until everyone dined together for lunch. The keynote speaker for both Spanish and English worship sessions was Elizabeth Talbot,

Jesus 101 Biblical Institute speaker and director. After lunch, the women attended another workshop.

The workshop presenters included Estrella Lain; Susie Hill; Rose Carr, Southwest Region Conference's women's ministries director; Loida Mota; and Nancy Martinez. The workshop sessions included: "The Bleeding Heart," "The Challenge of Marriage," "Es Mejor Creer" ("It's Better to Believe") and "I'm Single and Loving It."

During the closing convocation, the church family and convention attendees were blessed with music by Danielle Montgomery, as well as Daughters of Abraham, and a monologue from Renee Hankins. Talbot, who translated the message herself as she preached, presented the closing message, titled "God With Us." What

an anointing God has placed on those who are faithful to serve Him.

The convention closed with the congregation lifting their voices in singing "When We all Get to Heaven," in English and Spanish, with power and energy. The Hispanic women's ministries coordinator, Besaida Castro, and Cheryl Harris, English women's ministries coordinator, give all the glory, honor, and praise to the King for the great things He has done.

Cheryl Harris

Top left: The women's ministries coordinators, Besaida Castro and Cheryl Harris, praised God for the great things He has done.

Top middle: Women's ministries leadership of the Southwest Region Conference hosted the recent Teach Convention at the Fondren SW church.

◀ Beverly Robinson, from Winston-Salem, N.C. preached a soul-stirring message.

▼ Elizabeth Talbot, at center, was prayed for before she gave her keynote address.



A Church on the Move

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. » The Shiloh church is located in Little Rock's inner city, an area that is wrought with crime, poverty, and drugs. Sounds of police cars and ambulance sirens, gunshots, along with boarded houses are commonplace. This has left many people feeling hopeless. It is a true mission field. Although there is much despair, Shiloh has been identified by city officials as the "flagship" church in the area because of its untiring involvement in community service.

Two pivotal community service events were the 2011 and 2012 block parties. Both events had approximately 27 booths, including community and church vendors, with 350-400 attendees. In addition, The Neighborhood Association held monthly meetings at the church last year.

To complement Shiloh's long-standing reputation, James Roberts, pastor, has devised a plan to have a stronger spiritual presence in 2013 through evangelism, in order to penetrate the hearts and minds of those who do not know this precious message. Shiloh will host Creation Health seminars and cooking classes, a prophecy seminar, as well as sermons focused on teaching the fundamental beliefs of our faith, such as stewardship and the sanctuary. He also wants church members to strive for spiritual excellence by studying their Bibles and, in turn, teaching others

about the risen Savior.

Church members have taken the call to use their creative outreach techniques to help in the success of the evangelistic plan. Local elder Alfred Hampton heads a small group that delivers gifts and literature to neighborhood homes every third Sabbath. They give gifts such as pens, lotion, bath soaps, etc. Approximately 75-100 people are served. Deacon Ronnie M. Woolfolk holds a Bible school at his home twice a month and is involved in Hampton's outreach project. He gives gifts to St. Francis House, a residential facility that houses homeless veterans. Deacon Woolfolk says gifts "make them aware of our presence in the community."

James Davies leads a small group called United for the Master. Once a month, the group distributes laundry bags that contain various laundry items, Adventist books, and health magazines. They have gone to laundromats, college/university campuses, a domestic violence center, and a barber shop. At least 700 people have been served by their ministry in the past year. Davies says their ministry has "brought us closer as a group and has been a blessing."

Debra Brown has a book ministry through which she buys Christian books and donates them to people in need. She also heads a free telephone prayer group called Fruit of the Sprit Network

(805.399.1000 Code 397543#). The group meets on Sundays at 7 a.m. The purpose of the group is to "encourage, fellowship, share devotions, and witness." Also, Vouncil Harris uses her passion for children to tell children's stories on Sabbath. She also is a professional storyteller who speaks at such places as public schools, churches, and community events. Her desire is to "talk to people about Christ and our church."

Shiloh is busy taking the end-time message to the streets by using clever ways to make people knowledgeable about Christ's return. They have gone beyond being the brick church whose members worship on Saturday to slowly becoming friends of the community. Shiloh prays that these relationships will strengthen and lead many to believe in the truth in addition to intensifying their own walk with the Redeemer. Pray that the fruits our labor may continue to grow.

Jennifer Chery

The Shiloh church has been very active with recent block parties, outreach, community involvement, cooking classes, sharing of literature and gifts, and much more.



Is Adventist Education Really Worth It?



As parents, we are faced with many questions that relate to our kids. One of the most important that we deal with is, where they will attend school. As Seventh-day Adventists, this is an especially acute question because we not only want our kids to be prepared for success in this life, we want them saved as a part of Christ's kingdom when He returns.

While growing up, my parents faced this question on a yearly basis. Our family did not have a great deal of income, and it was tough just to get the rent paid and food on the table some years. With three of us in school at times, it did not make financial sense to put out the extra money required for an Adventist education. Also, our little school had its share of problems. There was a fair amount of teacher turnover, and some of the teachers we ended up with were not of the highest caliber. I also remember thinking that if I went to public school, I could play sports.

In spite of all the reasons not to, my mother saw to it that each of us stayed in a Seventh-day Adventist school. However, there were some years that we needed help

to make that happen. My father was not a practicing Adventist, and he had a gambling problem. At times, the deficits on our school bill mounted to an unacceptable level. Just when it looked like there was no alternative but to withdraw, my mother's prayers would be answered. Either we would receive an unexpected source of income, or a church member would step up and make sure we could stay in church school.

The reason I share this is because there are many families out there with similar situations. Parents, please prayerfully consider your options when it comes to where your child attends school. Our schools are not perfect; our teachers are not perfect; we do not have all the bells and whistles that the public or private schools down the street may have. What we do have, I believe, is God's blessing. It is His plan to have His children being taught every day from His Word.

Fellow church members, is there a family that is struggling to get their children in an Adventist school? You may not even know who they are, but your pastor or principal will know. You may not even have a church school nearby, but there is a child who could receive an Adventist education because

you care enough to help. If you sense God touching your heart to help feed His lambs, please contact your pastor, principal, or me directly. I receive calls every year from parents who are willing to sacrifice what they can, but need some extra help in meeting all the costs of registration fees and tuition. You can make the difference in that child's life by making a contribution to a scholarship fund.

Because of the prayers of my mother and the assistance from church members who remain anonymous to me to this day, my siblings and I were able to receive the benefits of an Adventist education. My goal now is to make Adventist education available to as many of our students as possible and that the education received will be what the Lord desires our students to have. Will you unite with me in prayerfully considering the best way to reach that goal?

When we do what the Lord asks us to do, then we can claim His promises. "And your sons (and daughters) will be taught by the Lord, and great will be your children's peace" (Isaiah 54:12).

Bill Reinke, Texas Conference education superintendent

Northwest Houston Church Honors Guests, Welcomes New Pastor

SPRING » Early in January, the Northwest Houston church welcomed its new pastor, as well as guests from the community, on its special community guest day. The day began with a healthy breakfast, which was followed by Sabbath School, and then a spiritual feast took place.

Community guests included representatives from the U.S. Post Office, Kroger, Houston Northwest Medial Center, Nexus Disposal, and the Harris County Sheriff's Department. These guests were recognized with a plaque honoring their dedication and service to the community.

The day was extremely special because the guest speaker was Richard M. White, the church's new pastor. Wirmin Alcantara, human resource director at the Texas

Conference, presented him to the congregation. White spoke on service and the importance of ministry, as well as embracing the community.

White is from the Michigan area. He and his wife, Hope, RN, MSN, have worked in ministry for 22 years. They have four children: Krystel, Rolanzo, Royel, and Raeanne.

The day culminated with a wide variety of vegan dishes and warm fellowship that made everyone feel at home.

Shareen Williams



Richard M. White (far left) is the new pastor of the Northwest Houston church.

The Ark-La-Tex Camp Meeting will be held on one day only, Saturday, July 27, 2013. For more information, call 903.665.3973.

ACS DR Response in West, Texas

WEST » In April, the Texas Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) deployed following the West, Texas, fertilizer plant explosion. ACS DR and the Hillsboro Outlet Mall, in cooperation with Hill County Emergency Management, operated a receiving center for disaster relief supplies. Personal care items, diapers, paper products, first aid supplies, school supplies, food, clothing, pet food, and other items were collected, sorted, and sent to a staging area for use by the survivors.

An example of the generosity of those who gave donations is a mother and her young son who brought some items for the survivors, including a Toy Story sleeping

bag. When the mother was asked if the boy had outgrown it, she replied that, no, it was one of his favorite things, but he wanted to share it with a child who had lost everything in the explosion.

The mobile distribution unit, a semi-

truck filled with pre-packaged outfits of clothing, personal care kits, and blankets, was deployed to West to serve the survivors. Other agencies were also at the same location, offering various services. As the goods from the ACS DR truck were shared, some

told of miraculous experiences surviving the blast. Friends saw each other for the first time since the explosion, hugged each other, shared experiences, talked about those who had lost their lives, and inquired about friends and relatives.

A group of students from Southwestern Adventist University enthusiastically volunteered to assist at the receiving area in Hillsboro, as well as to help with the mobile distribution unit in West.



Sherry Watts hands out prepackaged goods to survivors of the West, Texas, fertilizer plant explosion.

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WILHE AND WILMA LEE	BUREB AND CARMEN GLETTIE	RIBBE AND KETTY LIAJ	MINNER AND EVELYN LAMRADOR

First Annual “His Way of Hope”

HOUSTON » In mid-March, the women of the United African church hosted their first annual evangelism series entitled “His Way of Hope.” Three weeks before the meetings started, the women’s ministries department printed flyers and handouts for each member to distribute to their family, friends, and people in the surrounding community. Each member was challenged to bring at least one person to the meetings each night. The announcements were sent to local gospel radio stations to get the word out about these meetings. A few days before the meeting, some were wondering what the turn-out would be. To our surprise, church members, friends, family, and some visi-

tors showed up each night.

More than 65 people, including children, attended each night. The largest number attending in one night was 110. The Word

of God captivated people, and the Scriptures revealed much to those who really didn’t understand such in-depth meaning of certain verses in the Bible.

Finally, the most amazing blessing that happened to our church is that seven people came down to the altar to dedicate their lives to Christ. Four of the seven were baptized, and the other three individuals are currently taking Bible studies and waiting to be baptized. All praises to our Lord and King for pouring out His Holy Spirit upon all who obeyed His voice and attended each night.



The women of the United African church in Houston recently held an evangelism series titled “His Way of Hope.”

Edith Ugboaja

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TEXAS CONFERENCE

Are You Ready for Jesus to Come?



After Jesus' temptation in the wilderness, and His victory over the devil, the Bible tells us He returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. He came to

His hometown synagogue at Nazareth on the Sabbath day, and took a seat among His friends and family.

From the beginning of His ministry He had been absent from Nazareth, but the people had heard about the things He had been doing. His presence among them excited their interest and expectations. He had known everyone there since His infancy. He saw His mother, brothers, sisters, and fellow church members. All eyes turned upon Jesus as He entered the synagogue on that Sabbath day. The Messiah had come, and He took His place among the worshippers.

When a rabbi was present at the synagogue, he was expected to deliver the sermon and read from the prophets. Jesus was requested to take part in the service and they "delivered unto Him a roll of the prophet Isaiah." Explaining the words He had read, He spoke of the Messiah as a reliever of the oppressed, a liberator of captives, a healer of the afflicted, restoring sight to the blind, and revealing to the world the light of truth.

His impressive manner and the wonderful words thrilled the hearers with a power they had never felt before. The tide of divine influence broke down every barrier, and like Moses, they beheld the Invisible. As the Holy Spirit moved upon their hearts, they responded with fervent praises to the Lord. Jesus the teacher was a living expositor of the prophecies concerning Himself. Jesus the Messiah had come to teach them.

Before long, we will send our children back to school. Who will teach them? Teachers who pray before class? Teachers who read and explain the Scriptures? Teachers who prepare their students for the coming of the Lord? The choice is yours. Why not place your children where they can experience the life-changing power of the gospel? Through the Holy Spirit, Jesus comes every day into the classrooms of our Seventh-day Adventist schools. That coming of the Holy Spirit, with the teaching of God's Word, prepares students, and parents, for the greatest event in human history: the literal, visible, audible, miraculous Second Coming in the clouds of heaven. Are you and your children ready for Jesus to come?

James L. Stevens, president

TEXICO CONFERENCE

Texico Conference Welcomes Derrick Williamson

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » The Texico Conference welcomes Derrick Williamson as literature ministries director, and we are happy to have him join our departmental staff team. He is originally from Indiana, but comes to us most recently from Souls West (Seventh-day Adventist Outreach Leadership School) in Prescott, Arizona, where he has been assistant director for the past three years. Derrick is passionate about literature ministries, as God used this method to bring about his conversion. He has also seen countless lives changed in the same way.

He states, "My father was a full-time colporteur for many years of my childhood. I made the bold statement that I'd never become a literature evangelist, but God had other things in mind and I'm certainly glad, because He guided me in a different direction than where I was going. My involvement with literature evangelism has significantly impacted my life and has been a great blessing in the following ways.

"First, financially. Youth Rush (a summer literature ministries program for students to share the gospel by books, DVDs and

personal contact) helped me pay my way through college without government aid or help from my family. Two years after graduating, I was debt-free by continuing my involvement with literature evangelism.

"Second, professionally. Important skills are learned from the training and experiences gained through literature evangelism. They have prepared me for success in my career. I remember only a little from my formal education, but the skills I have learned through canvassing I use every day.

"Third, spiritually. It was through Youth Rush that my faith finally made sense and landed upon a solid foundation. My relationship with God moved from an intellectual acknowledgment to a deep and personal relationship. The value of this benefit? Priceless!

"This summer marks 12 years that I've been involved with Youth Rush and student literature evangelism."

Derrick is currently coordinating the 10-week Texico Youth Rush program, which began on June 2 and ends August 8.

In the fall, he looks forward to launching GLOW (Giving Light to our World)

throughout the conference, which is a fun, creative, and non-threatening way for every member to share the gospel through a small piece of compelling literature. He will also be coordinating Bible workers in various churches throughout our territory.

We appreciate Derrick joining the Texico team to use the gifts that God has given him in helping to reach the lost for Christ throughout West Texas and New Mexico.

Sue Hinkle

Derrick Williamson joins the Texico Conference as literature ministries director.



Reaching Out to the Community, One Screening at a Time

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » The Albuquerque North Valley Spanish church's annual health fair offered hearing tests, vision tests, and more at this year's fair. Approximately 135 people, including 35 visitors, took part in the community affair.

"We had a great turnout!" said Gloria Lira, director of health and temperance at North Valley. "Attendees were surprised by

the number of services that were available to them and were pleased by the quality of the information that was given."

An ear, nose, and throat specialist, an optometrist, a pediatrician and several other health care workers conducted the screening. Highlights of the event included a cooking class and a health age assessment.

"We are thrilled that we can make these services available to the community on a yearly basis," said Lira. "We hope this will encourage them to keep coming back to our church."

Debbie Marquez-Covarrubias



▲ Sharon Silva volunteered to perform eye screenings at the health fair.

► Participants sampled healthy food options during the nutrition class, held by Liliana Graf.

Top right: Gloria Lira, health ministry director for the North Valley church, helped with screenings by checking blood pressure.

The Albuquerque Three Angels Church Celebrate Baptisms

ALBUQUERQUE, N. MEX. » There are many occasions that call for a celebration, such as weddings, birthdays, or anniversaries. But to a church, the celebration that brings the greatest joy, even in heaven, is when a new believer has decided to give his or her life to the Lord through baptism (Luke 15:7).

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, the Albuquerque Three Angels church laid the groundwork for this celebration by planning, praying, and fasting, as well as by hosting a prophecy seminar, which began on February 28. The seven-week seminar culminated on the weekend of April 13, 2013 when the church's pastor, Manuel Rodriguez, had the honor of saying, "I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and of the Holy Spirit" to Francisco Sandijo, who was the first new believer who asked

to be baptized, sealing his life with the Lord.

Rodriguez then had the special privilege of repeating those solemn words 14 more times as newlywed couples, singles, older married couples, sisters, and also a father and his daughter, all took their place in the baptismal waters, displaying their decision to dedicate and re-dedicate their lives to the Lord, "This is a time to celebrate!" said Rodriguez.

After the ceremony, everyone enjoyed a Mexican-themed banquet, and a special

"Welcome to the Family" cake that the church had prepared to honor the special event.

"Praise God for the decisions that were made today," said evangelist and pastor Mike Sady.

Margaret Vasquez

► With a warm smile, Priscilla joyfully witnesses her husband, Richard Gutierrez, seconds before he is baptized by Rodriguez.

▼ Manuel Rodriguez, pastor, (center) with newlywed couple, Franklin and Carla Rosales, just minutes after their baptism.





Positive Notes

Finishing the school year on such a positive note can't help but build excitement and anticipation for the coming year at Southwestern. The summer is in full swing, the recruiters are on the road, students are participating in internships or summer camp or taking summer classes, and teachers are preparing their syllabi. As we prepare for another fulfilling school year, we ask that you join us in prayer as our students continue to make life-changing decisions regarding their future. To learn more (and share!) about how students prepare for their future at Southwestern, scan the QR code or go to our YouTube channel (SouthwesternAU) and watch "Southwestern Frames | Michael."



Dr. Steve Jones, history professor, received the Educator of the Year award. The award recipient is chosen by the Student Association for classroom performance, spiritual leadership, contributions to their discipline, and relationships with students and colleague. In recommending Jones, students described him as "engaging, enthusiastic, creative, passionate, awesome, and cool."



The first annual CABL Run: Splash of Color was a colorful success with over 30 participants, some from as far as Dallas.



Students attend the Rachel Lampa concert, the first outdoor concert after the Ivanette Hopps Campus Center dedication which took place over Homecoming Weekend.



Senator Ted Cruz addressed the graduates for Commencement before receiving an honorary doctorate in humane letters from Southwestern's Board of Trustees.

Affordable Christian Education

How much does it cost to attend Southwestern?

This sample student meets the following criteria:

- Has a GPA of 3.6 and an ACT composite of 25.
- Has completed the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- The Expected Family Contribution (from the completed FAFSA) is calculated to be zero

SAMPLE COST SHEET FOR ON-CAMPUS STUDENT

Cost:	Tuition/Residence Hall/Cafeteria/Fees	25,860
	Books-estimate	1,000
	Total Estimated Cost:	\$26,860
	ESTIMATED RESOURCES	
Gift Aid:	Pell Grant	5,645
	Supplemental Education Opportunity Grant	1,500
	Freshman Merit Award based on GPA/Test Scores	6,000
	3-Way Donation: church/other	1,000
	Southwestern 3-Way match	1,000
	Total Gift Aid:	15,145
Loans:	Federal Direct Loan	3,500
	Federal Unsubsidized Direct Loan	2,000
	Total Loans:	5,500
Family:	Summer job - student	1,500
	On-campus job - student	2,100
	8 monthly payments of \$327 or a parent plus loan	2,615
	Total out of pocket expense for parent and student	\$6,215



A large group of staff and students spent a day in West, Texas helping ACS provide food and supplies to those in need.

Adventist Community Services Disaster Relief Responds to Oklahoma Tornado

On May 20, 2013 an F5 tornado tore through Moore, Oklahoma. The tornado, with winds topping 200 miles per hour, killed 24 people—including seven children who were sheltered in an elementary school. Hundreds more were injured, and thousands of homes and livelihoods were destroyed.

Volunteers from Adventist Community Services Disaster Response (ACS DR) were on the ground almost immediately, sharing supplies and hope with those affected by the tornado. The volunteers traveled to churches and schools to pick up the needed

items. They visited the Midwest City, Oklahoma City Central Spanish, Tulsa Adventist Fellowship, Tulsa Adventist Academy, Muskogee, Berean, and Bristow churches.

The volunteers then gave their supplies to the Hope Adventist Fellowship in Moore, which ran a distribution center from its fellowship hall beginning the day after the Moore tornado.

From the distribution center, teams of volunteers load provisions into trucks and delivered them to affected areas. Many people there had lost any means of transportation, so the only way for them to receive supplies was to have supplies dropped off.

“Teams returned tired, but telling their experiences from out in the field,” said Sherry Watts, Texas Conference ACS DR assistant director. “The volunteers have had many wonderful opportunities to share God’s love and compassion in the area.”

ACS DR was able to reach so many peo-

ple that the State of Oklahoma asked Stan Buckmaster, Oklahoma Conference ACS DR director, to manage a multi-agency warehouse, with the purpose of serving the five county areas affected by the disasters.

The North American Division ACS DR purchased more than 5,000 five-gallon buckets to be made into flood and cleanup buckets. The buckets were taken to the Texas ACS Disaster Response Depot in Keene and filled with various cleaning supplies, then sent to the Moore distribution center.

ACS DR is continuing to raise funds to purchase cleaning supplies for this project. For the latest news or information on how to donate, visit www.communityservices.org.

Makala Coleman, Southwestern Union communication intern

SOUTHWESTERN UNION



Richard Castillo



Richard Castillo



Richard Castillo



Richard Castillo

► Stan Buckmaster, Oklahoma Conference ACS DR director, was asked to manage a multi-agency warehouse to serve the five counties affected by the May 20 tornado.

By Design

The New Seventh-day Adventist Science Series for Grades 1-8

The North American Division Office of Education has partnered with Kendall Hunt Publishing Company to develop a new science curriculum for our Adventist schools. The new series is now ready for use in classrooms. It is a faith-based, inquiry program, based on national science standards. It is presented in the context of the Seventh-day Adventist worldview.

Throughout the texts there are spotlights of “Faith Connections,” and “Scripture Spotlights,” with actual Bible texts and references, inquiry-based labs, and many other key features. The Creation story and the biblical flood story are referenced

several times to help explain different scientific questions. This series of textbooks



was designed with the intention of making it clearly evident to the reader, as he or she thumbs through the pages of these books, that this is a Christian series. This new series is a professionally-produced, top-of-the-line product, something that church members can all be proud of. If you would like to learn more about this new series, go to the following website: www.adventist-educationbydesign.com/.

Mike Furr, Southwestern Union associate education director

AdventSource Celebrates Grand Opening

LINCOLN, NEB. » AdventSource employees, board members, and friends gathered on April 17 to celebrate the grand opening of AdventSource’s new building located on the campus of Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. The program was followed with tours of the new facility.

As the official ministry resource distribution center for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, AdventSource serves local churches by providing ministry-focused books, DVDs, seminars and curricula, apparel, Pathfinder and Adventurer Club uniforms and supplies, webinars, event registration, and more.

The process leading to AdventSource’s move began in early 2012 when Union College determined that AdventSource’s space was needed for additional classrooms. On April 9, 2012 AdventSource’s board of directors voted to move forward with plans for constructing a new building.

Because AdventSource provides a significant amount of student labor and other services for Union College, the college wanted

to keep AdventSource nearby. Union College offered AdventSource the option of a long-term land lease to allow for the construction of a new facility at Prescott Avenue and 51st Street.

“Union College continues to be blessed by an organization that does much to mentor college students and provide student labor opportunities for them,” said Gary Bollinger, Union College vice president for finance. “We are very blessed in having such a wonderful relationship with AdventSource and we are just delighted that they are in a new facility that will better serve their mission.”

Ground was broken for AdventSource’s new building on May 31, 2012 while construction began in June and was completed in December. The warehouse was moved by December 28 and AdventSource was open for business in the new facility on January 2. Throughout the entire move, all orders continued to go out on a regular basis.

The new 17,300 square foot building houses all of AdventSource’s departments including the call center, graphic arts, meeting

planning, accounting, IT, resource development, and website support, along with operations and warehouse space. The new building also contains some additional space for future growth.

“We’re excited about our new space,” said Judy Glass, AdventSource treasurer. “It’s designed to fit us and the flow of our work. We are very excited about the future and the possibilities available to us in this new space.”

NAD President Dan Jackson said, “We appreciate this partnership and we will appreciate it long into the future. It is a mutual blessing.”

If you would like to learn more about the many services AdventSource provides to churches across the North American Division, visit www.adventsource.org or call 402.486.8800.

Cassie Martsching

The exterior of AdventSource’s new facility.



NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION

Classified Ads

REAL ESTATE/HOUSING

Summit Ridge Retirement Village is an Adventist community in a rural setting, but close to Oklahoma City medical facilities and shopping. Made up of mostly individual homes, the village has fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, independent living, nursing home, and transportation as needed. Web site: <http://www.summitridgevillage.org>, or call Bill Norman at 405.208.1289.

Apartment for Sale - River Plate University Argentina. Ideal for students. One block from the University and walking distance to all services. Third floor apartment in a new building with 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, kitchen/living room, and covered garage. Price: US\$55,000. For information, call 713.480.1571, or e-mail: esthergerber50@hotmail.com.

Reduced to sell - 4-bedroom, 2-bath, brick home in Keene, Tex. Located about 4 blocks from the university and 3 blocks from the academy. 2,643 sq. ft., excellent storage, good condition. 16x13 ft. Gunite, in-ground pool in a 1,456 sq. ft. attached room. A bargain at \$133,000. Contact owners at 817.933.7303, or 817.558.9970.

For Sale: Six acres adjacent to Ozark Adventist Academy. Short gravel driveway from main Highway 59. Mostly open pasture, some wooded areas. Ideal for country living. 6 acres for \$60,000. Call 479.359.1258, or 479.957.6764.

Mountain Retreat - Escape the heat and enjoy the pristine surroundings of northern New Mexico forests. Creek-side rental available. Fishing, hiking, mountain biking, sight-seeing, or just relaxing. Close to Taos and Pecos Wilderness Area. Reasonable rates. Pastor's discount. Call 505.718.6148 for

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MISCELLANEOUS

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Relocating from one state to another? The move counselors at Stevens Van Lines Clergy Move Center can help! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. Quality is inherent. Call us direct for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800.248.8313 or learn more about us at www.stevensworldwide.com/sda.

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Demand is high for managers of skilled nursing facilities and senior care centers. Southern Adventist University's degree in long term care administration is available on campus or online. Enjoy being a leader in the business of caring. Call 1.800.SOUTHERN or e-mail ltca@southern.edu for information.

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Pathfinder and Adventurer club name crest at <http://www.pathfinderclubnames.com>. For more information, call 269.208.5853 or e-mail us at pathfinderclubnames@gmail.com.

Worship with us at Yellowstone National Park every Sabbath from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Services at 10 a.m. in employee recreation hall connected to Old Faithful Lodge.

Southern Adventist University offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion, and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585, or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies.

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Announcements

Jefferson Christian Academy: We are preparing for the 100th Anniversary Celebration of Jefferson Christian Academy in Jefferson, Tex. If you were a faculty or student, please send your contact information to Jefferson Academy Alumni, P. O. Box 187, Jefferson, TX 75657 or jeffersonacademyalumni@gmail.com.

Oak Park Academy will hold its alumni homecoming weekend September 27-28, 2013, in Nevada, Iowa. The honor classes of 1963 (50 years) and 1973 (40 years) will lead out in the Friday-evening vespers and Sabbath-morning worship services. Michael Porter ('71) will speak for Friday evening, Ron Karr ('63) will speak for the 11 a.m. worship service, and Teresa Hoover ('73) will speak for Sabbath evening vespers. Jaime Jorge, an internationally-known violin virtuoso will present a concert on Sabbath afternoon. For information, contact Michael Porter at mporteratp@gmail.com, or 202.746.0744.

The Lafayette, Louisiana, church is looking for the following missing members: Nelson Chavez, Nila Chavez, Mildred David, Barbara Granger, Shirley LeBlanc, Amy Matt, Kimberly Munda, Darrell D. Richard, Rosaura Richard, Bea A. Roberson, Carol J. Roberson, Donna Scott, Steven Scott, Ray Stanford, Elena Volkova, and Sharon Watson. If you have contact information for any of these people, please leave a message on the Lafayette church phone: 337.984.2879, or e-mail the information to pmvincent2000@gmail.com.

Correction: Ark-La-Tex Camp Meeting will be held one day only, Saturday, July 27, 2013 at Jefferson Christian Academy.

Milestones

ANNIVERSARY

Evelyn and Roy Skinner recently celebrated their **50th** wedding anniversary. They have two sons, one daughter,



seven grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. They are member of the Garland

Faith Community church in Garland, Tex.

WEDDING

On February 14, 2013, **Donna Turk Sherrill** was married to **Frank Lewis**. They first met at Dallas Junior Academy when his family moved from Tennessee to Dallas, Texas. One of the first photos of them



was in a church group that was working on a missionary project in the 1950s. The two met again in 1989 at an academy reunion, each with their spouse. Donna's husband died in 2011, and when Frank's wife died in 2012, Donna sent Frank a sympathy card. Frank felt impressed to reply to her note, although it took him several weeks before he actually mailed it. They began to write back and forth on Facebook. Donna made a trip to Idaho to visit friends and meet Frank. In February, Frank came to Jefferson and on February 14, they were married in Texarkana, Ark., proving it's never too late for new beginnings.

Obituaries

AYERS, Betty Jo Calvert, born March 30, 1924 in Springfield, Mo., and died April 5, 2013 in Broken Arrow, Okla. She was a member of the First church in Tulsa where she shared her talent for playing the piano. Betty retired as a service quality analyst from Bank of Oklahoma in 2003. She was preceded in death by her husband, Richard.

BENNETT, Luther G., born September 30, 1927 in Hot Springs, Ark., and died April 21, 2013 in Arkadelphia, Ark. He was a member of the Arkadelphia church. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Boyd and Carolyn Bennett of Bismarck, Ark.; daughter and son-in-law, Patrice and Steve Lindstrom of Weldon, Ill.; three grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

BROOKS, Ann Louise Harrison, born on December 5, 1923 and died April 13, 2013 in Jefferson, Tex. Ann attended the Jefferson church. Survivors: daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and David Troyer; two grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

CARNER, Helen Pauline Mason, born February 2, 1921 in Atchley, Okla., and died April 4, 2013 in Lincoln, Neb. Pauline loved music and gave piano and voice lessons for many years. Survivors: sons, Vern and Virgil Carner; two grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

COHN, Lee Oscar, Jr., born November 24, 1962 in Independence, La., and died on February 20, 2013 in Baton Rouge, La. Oscar was a member of the Berean church in Baton Rouge. Survivors: parents, Lee and Lucy Moore Cohn, Sr., of Baton Rouge, La.; daughter, Takitha Perkins of Baton Rouge; brother, Patrick Cohn,

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of El Paso, Tex.; sister, Carmelita Cohn of Baton Rouge; two grandchildren, and numerous other relatives and friends.

DAVIS, Carolyn Smith, born December 7, 1951 in New Orleans, La., and died on February 5, 2013 in Clinton, La. Carolyn was member of Baton Rouge Berean church for 35 years. She served as Sabbath school superintendent, assistant treasurer, school board member, and community services member. Survivors: husband, James Earl Davis; son, John James Davis; mother, Mattie Spurlock Smith; three sisters, Naomi Smart, Jean Clark, and Sandra Smart, all of Clinton; brother, Raymond Smith, of Baton Rouge, La.; brother, Marshall Smith, Jr., of Ethel, La.; brother, Ronnie Smith, of Zachary, La.; five uncles, five aunts, and numerous nieces and nephews.

DAVIS, Sally Augusta Wallace, born August 8, 1912 and died December 25, 2012 in Bonnerdale, Ark. She had celebrated her 100th birthday on August 8, 2012. She lived most of her life in Hillsboro and Temple, Tex. She was preceded in death by her husband, Loyal Everett Davis, and son, Billy Van Davis. Survivors: two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

HAYES, Elizabeth (Betty), born July 12, 1919 and died January 2, 2013. She was a member of the Springtown, Ark., church.

LE Blanc, Dexter (Decky) Joseph, Sr., born August 4, 1946 and died January 7, 2013 in Lacombe, La. Dexter was called to be a pastor in 1976. He graduated from Southwestern Adventist University in 1982. He preached in the south Louisiana area for the past 16 years. His sister, Collette, preceded him in death.

Survivors: his wife of 40 years, Carmen Le Blanc; sons and daughters-in-law: Anthony and Suzanne; Dexter, Jr. and Heidrun; Vincent and Marcella; and Tom Paul and Renee; son, Troy; daughter and son-in-law, Shandell and Steve; brothers, Keith, Jay, and Britton; sisters, Paulette, Coleen, Belinda, and Hope; and 21 grandchildren.

LEMKE, Wayne, born April 1, 1942 in Guadalupe County, Tex., and died on December 12, 2012 in Luling, Tex. He was a member of the Sequin church. Survivors: sister, Cathie Lemke Brian, and husband, David, of Grand Junction, Colo.; sister, Joan Ortner, of Burleson, Tex.; nephew, Derek Ortner, and wife, Angie, of Parker, Colo.; great-nephew, Grayson Ortner, of Parker, Colo. A memorial service was held at Tres Hewell Mortuary Chapel in Seguin on February 16, 2013, and interment was held at Lone Oak Cemetary.

LONG, Bettye Lou Proctor, born August 2, 1929 in La Porte, Tex., and died April 20, 2013 in New Braunfels, Tex. Bettye was a Sabbath-school teacher and treasurer at the North Houston church. Survivors: daughter, Janie Cutbirth, of Canyon Lake, Tex.; son, Charles Long, of Houston; three grandsons, and five great-grandchildren.

MCCARTY, Eustace L. "Mac," Jr., born May 11, 1929 in Mooreland, Okla. Eustace was born in Mooreland, Okla., and died November 7, 2012, at the M. D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas. He joined the U. S. Army Air Corps in July 1946 and did basic training at SAC Field, San Antonio, Texas. He was stationed at several other bases across the U.S. and overseas, and retired in 1968 after 21 years of service. After retirement, he worked in the oil fields, at Trade Mart, Woolco, Hennessey ISD, Wal-

Mart, K-Mart, and the city of Hennessey, and also raised cattle and farmed for 10 years. Eustace married Faye Etta Perigo in 1958. Following her death in 1980, he married Judy Ann Bedwell Grothe in 1981. He joined the Okeene church and served as an elder for several years. Survivors: wife, Judy; seven children: Cindy Evans, Todd McCarty, Chris Grothe, Melanie McCarty, Shelly Alvarado, James McCarty and Debra Beck; 14 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren.

MCCOY, Mary Mull, born December 7, 1912 and died April 21, 2013 in Little Rock, Ark. Mary was a member of the Shiloh church. Survivors: three sisters, Mable Woods, Catherine Walker, and Barbara Hamilton, of Little Rock, Ark.; and a host of relatives and friends.

NORTHCUTT, Phyliss Jean, born May 6, 1934 and died April 18, 2013 in Benton, Ark. Phyliss attended the Little Rock church with her family. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Johnny and Dale Whitehead; daughter and son-in-law, Sherry and Bobby Stricklin, of Benton; daughter, Debbie Edwards, of Benton; daughter,

Brenda Dissinger, of Mulberry, Ark.; eight grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

OTT, Patricia Ann, born December 13, 1942 in Globe, Ariz. and died March 11, 2013 in Bentonville, Ark. Ann was a member of the Sulpher Springs church. Survivors: son, Ernest L. Ott, of Rogers, Ark.; daughter, Angela Hetherington, of Noel, Mo.; sister, Carolyn Newton, of Gentry, Ark.; sister, Nancy Brumbaugh of Jay, Okla.; sister, Joy Stephenson of Surprise, Ariz.; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

TEFERTILLER, Marie Willis, born December 24, 1934 in Davis, Okla., and died October 9, 2012 in Weatherford, Tex. Marie was like a mother to her church family in Weatherford. Her husband, Homer, preceded her in death. Survivors: brother, Jerry Willis, of Burleson, Tex.; brother, Billy Willis, of Crowley, Tex.; daughter and son in-law, Debra and John Davis, of Weatherford; daughter and son-in-law, Claudia and Mark Yoder, of Azle, Tex.; five grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Jul 5	Jul 12	Jul 19	Jul 26	Aug 2	Aug 9
Abilene, TX	8:50	8:48	8:46	8:41	8:37	8:31
Albuquerque, NM	8:25	8:23	8:19	8:14	8:10	8:02
Amarillo, TX	9:05	9:04	9:00	8:56	8:50	8:44
Brownsville, TX	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:20	8:16	8:11
Dallas, TX	8:39	8:37	8:34	8:30	8:25	8:19
El Paso, TX	8:15	8:14	8:11	8:07	8:02	7:56
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:41	8:40	8:37	8:32	8:28	8:21
Gallup, NM	8:34	8:32	8:29	8:24	8:19	8:12
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:26	8:25	8:22	8:19	8:14	8:08
Gentry, AR	8:39	8:37	8:34	8:29	8:23	8:16
Little Rock, AR	8:26	8:24	8:21	8:16	8:11	8:05
Muskogee, OK	8:41	8:39	8:36	8:31	8:26	8:19
New Orleans, LA	8:05	8:04	8:01	7:58	7:53	7:47
Oklahoma City, OK	8:49	8:47	8:44	8:39	8:34	8:27
Roswell, NM	8:11	8:10	8:07	8:02	7:58	7:51
San Antonio, TX	8:38	8:37	8:34	8:30	8:26	8:20
Shreveport, LA	8:26	8:25	8:22	8:17	8:13	8:07
Tulsa, OK	8:45	8:43	8:39	8:34	8:29	8:22

On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



Something Better

AS I THINK ABOUT THE WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE TODAY, and all the atrocities that we hear about in the daily news, the following statement rings remarkably true: “In planning for the education of their children outside the home, parents should realize that it is no longer safe to send them to the public school, and should endeavor to send them to schools where they will obtain an education based on a Scriptural foundation. Upon every Christian parent there rests the solemn obligation of giving to his children an education that will lead them to gain a knowledge of the Lord and to become partakers of the divine nature through obedience to God’s will and way” (*Child Guidance*, p. 304). If that statement was true more than 100 years ago, how much more relevant it is today!

In another passage in the same book, Ellen White poses some thoughtful questions about public education that would be wise for Adventist parents to consider: “Do our children receive from the teachers in the public schools ideas that are in harmony with the Word of God? Is sin presented as an offence against God? Is obedience to all the commandments of God taught as the beginning of

all wisdom?” (*Child Guidance*, p. 305). As you prayerfully ponder these questions, if you cannot honestly answer them in the affirmative, then it’s time to consider Adventist education.



The prophet also tells us that the watchword of education is “something better” (*Education*, p. 296). I firmly believe that, if you’ve selected a school for your child that is anything other than an Adventist school— whether it’s an “exemplary” public school, a Christian school operated by another denomination, or the very “best” private school—there is something better. And that “something better” is a Seventh-day Adventist school where the Bible is the foundation of all education and where your children will be “taught of the Lord” (Isaiah 54:13). As you consider the educational options for your children this fall, I hope you’ll choose *something better!*

Pat Humphrey

Record

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Articles for the Record will be edited for length and content. Because space is limited, stories and articles are selected on the basis of interest and relevance to those around the Southwestern Union.

i am growing spiritually

I grew up in Houston and got into the wrong crowd. My life was a disaster. My mom prayed for me constantly. And one day God finally got through to me. I went to a prayer meeting at my mom's SDA church. I gave my life to Christ. It wasn't easy but I was finally able to break away from all bad influences.

I then had to decide what to do with my life. My mom wanted me to come to Southwestern but I didn't think we could afford it. I prayed and applied to Southwestern. I was eligible for financial aid including the First-in-Family Scholarship, a scholarship funded by the annual golf tournament.

I promised God I would do my best to be His servant and help others follow Him. My teachers are very supportive. They answer all my questions and encourage me. **Southwestern is the best place for me to be to grow in my spiritual walk and learn how to share God with others.**

*Nelson, Sophomore
Theology Major*

