

SOUTHWESTERN UNION

# Record

JULY 2014



## The Blueprint

*Building Education that Works*

FOCUS ON K-12 ADVENTIST EDUCATION





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**"THE BLUEPRINT"**  
*A Film About Adventist Education*



Adventist Education  
**"WHAT IS THE VISION?"**

**Summer Camp Contest Winners 2014**

**C**ongratulations to the winners of this year's *Record* Summer Camp Contest! We would like to thank everyone who took the time to find all of the beautiful birds hiding in the April issue. We enjoyed hearing from each of you and we hope you enjoyed the "bird-watching" experience. Here are the 2014 winners:

- |                           |                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Arkansas-Louisiana</b> | <b>Southwest Region</b> |
| Kaitlin Jackson           | Jacob Carrasquillo      |
| Matthew Lambert           | Gabrielle Jones         |
| <b>Oklahoma</b>           | <b>Texas</b>            |
| Nicole Hendrick           | Michelle Cabrera        |
| Zacariah Morrell          | Samuel Perez            |



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**On the Cover**

A blueprint is defined as "a design or pattern to follow when making something." God's pattern, or blueprint, for education is to produce students who are well-prepared—academically, spiritually, physically, and socially—not only for this life, but for the life to come. Look inside for more info on God's special blueprint for educating His children and for some real-life examples of how the blueprint is being followed—right here in the Southwestern Union.

# Point of View»

BY LARRY MOORE » SOUTHWESTERN UNION CONFERENCE PRESIDENT



## I Didn't Want to Go, But I'm Glad I Did!

"But I don't want to go to church school," I told my parents. We had just become Seventh-day Adventists and I was happy in my public school (Ben Franklin Elementary) in San Antonio. The church school was across town and it cost money (tuition) to go there. Why would I want to switch schools when all my friends were at public school? I reluctantly went to church school. I knew I wouldn't like it. But I did! I liked it a lot. The teachers were great and the kids (students) were friendly. I was sold, though I did miss my public school friends. I have often wondered what happened to them and what would have happened to me if I had stayed in

that public school. I'm so thankful that my parents sacrificed to send me to church school.

After San Antonio Junior Academy, I went on to Southwestern Union College Academy in Keene and then to college there, and then on to Andrews University in Michigan. Where will your children be next year? Please don't take any chances; send them to church school. I can highly recommend it.

*Larry Moore*



## Stepping Stone to Success

**LM:** It's interesting to hear how many students come to be at Southwestern Adventist University. It seems that nearly every student has a story of how God intervened in their life for them to end up at the university.

**WI:** I ended up at Southwestern after bouncing around the country for a while. I'm from Maryland and my first impression of Texas was that it was hot!

Before arriving in Texas, I attended other Adventist universities and was accepted to the Culinary Institute of America. I was going to pursue my dream to be an award-winning chef and was well on my way. Over time, however, issues with keeping the Sabbath kept coming up. The pressure was intense and I compromised more and more. Finally, after many sleepless nights, I knew it was either my dreams of the big city and culinary star-



Wil Iverson, 2008, Physical Education

dom or my faith.

I enrolled at Southwestern to pursue my physical education degree and never looked back. Southwestern immediately became my home. I felt at peace here. I felt a part of something, something I had not felt at any of the other schools I attended. I settled in Texas, married the love of my life, and together we have an awesome son with another child on the way.

Now I'm the dean of the men's residence at Southwestern. What I thought I wanted in the riches and fame was not what I really wanted. I am so glad we serve a God who truly knows what is best for us. I am so glad I made that choice to follow Him. I couldn't see myself anywhere else. I love my life, I love my family, I love my job, and yes, *I even love Texas!*







# CREATION Health

BY LYNELL LAMOUNTAIN » SOUTHERN UNION HEALTH MINISTRIES DIRECTOR

## The Freedom to Start Anew

### HOW FREE DO YOU FEEL?

Maybe you feel weighed down and held back by decisions you have made or things you have said or done. Do you ever wish that you could leave the mistakes of the past behind and start over fresh? Well—you can, *if* you have the right perspective and take the appropriate actions.

It was a cold December evening in 1914. A fire started in the Film building of Thomas Edison’s plant in West Orange, N.J., followed by a violent explosion that reduced 10 buildings to heaps of smoldering rubble by evening’s end.

As flames spread from building to building, Edison’s 24-year-old son, Charles, was terrified because he feared his father was trapped somewhere inside. When he finally found him, his father was gazing calmly into the fire, his face aglow from the orange flames, and his white hair was blowing in the wind.

“My heart ached for him,” said Charles. “He was 67—no longer a young man—and everything was going up in flames. When he saw me, he shouted, ‘Charles, where’s your mother?’ When I told him I didn’t know, he said, ‘Find

The loss was estimated between \$5,000,000 and \$7,000,000. Insurance only covered \$2,000,000. Edison’s response? “Although I am over 67 years old, I will start all over again tomorrow.”

The employees were summoned to work the following day. And this is what Edison told them, “There is great value in disaster. All our mistakes are burned up. Thank God we can start anew.”

You and I need not go through a fire for our mistakes and regrets to be burned up so we can start anew. We need only go through a Savior—our Redeemer and Friend, Jesus Christ, whom we can trust fully.

“Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin. Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may *receive mercy and find grace* to help us in our time of need,” (Hebrews 4:14-16, NIV).

The unlimited grace of Jesus Christ is your pathway to the throne of God, where you find the freedom to start over, to live a life that overflows with love, light, and hope. So let us lift our voices with the Psalmist and proclaim, “But as for me, I trust in You, O Lord; I say, ‘You *are* my God,’” (Psalm 31:14, NIV).

You have been set free—so declare your independence! Leave your past behind so you can have a future—a bright future that has been secured for you by Jesus Christ.

*That’s CREATION Health!*

Lynell LaMountain, Southern Union health ministries director

- C Choice
- R Rest
- E Environment
- A Activity
- T Trust
- I Interpersonal RELATIONSHIPS
- O Outlook
- N Nutrition

[CREATIONhealth.com](http://CREATIONhealth.com)

her. Bring her here. She will never see anything like this as long as she lives.”

## A Mission Trip Changed My Life

**MY NAME IS ANGELA DELGADO AND I AM NOW A SENIOR AT CHISHOLM TRAIL ACADEMY IN KEENE, TEXAS.** This past year I went to Panama on my very first mission trip. I am a new person—my life has changed because of this trip! The work that we did there was so amazing and I am so happy I had the chance to go. I believe that being at a Christian school gave me this wonderful opportunity to minister for the Lord.

My eyes were opened in a whole new way. I saw how differently people live and how they don't take things for granted—the things that we have and the way that we live are not found just anywhere. Seeing the other ways that people live made me realize how truly blessed I am. It touched my heart to see how grateful people were for the simplest things we did for them. When I left Panama, I came home in tears. Of course I was happy to be back and see the family and friends that I had missed, but it was just so hard to leave knowing that there's so much more that needs to be done.

If I was going to a non-Christian school, I don't believe that I would've had the same privilege to go on this mission for the Lord and do what I was called to do. God wanted me there for a reason; He showed me that sharing Him with others changes lives. Not only did it change the lives of the people there, but also my relationship with Him has become more real.

I know God will use me over and over again to do what needs to get done. It means so much to be able to go to a Christian school and have that opportunity to share Him with others and change lives.





# Pass it On...

A Monthly Focus on Evangelism in the Southwest

BY MIKE FURR » SOUTHWESTERN UNION DIRECTOR OF SECONDARY EDUCATION

## The Caring Heart Award

Each year, the Caring Heart Award is given to one student at each senior academy across the North American Division. According to the NAD education department, the purpose of the award is to recognize a secondary student who has demonstrated a personal commitment to making the world a better place and sharing the love of God. They may do this by demonstrating a personal commitment to active service and witnessing activities and programs.

We feel that teaching young people to make service to others a lifelong commitment should be central to our educational goals and mission. If young people are actively involved in service to others then they are more likely to stay in the church as adults.

The Southwestern Union and the NAD partner together to give recognition to each award recipient. Each recipient receives a special plaque, a Bible with their name engraved on it, and a certificate for \$500, which can be used either for a mission trip inside or outside the United States or it can be used for tuition assistance at one of our Adventist schools.

Each academy selects a student and sends that nomination to the union's office of

education for final approval. The criteria used to select the nominee include the following aspects: Full-time junior or senior; strong citizenship; significant and varied participation in witnessing/service activities; overall positive example on campus.

Our congratulations go out to this year's recipients of the Caring Heart Award and we hope and pray that each one of them will continue to serve Jesus by serving others.



**Southwestern Union Conference**

## 2014 Caring Heart Award Recipients

- Ayisha Allen**, Burton Adventist Academy
- Angela Delgado**, Chisholm Trail Academy
- Daniel Gonzalez**, North Dallas Adventist Academy
- Hannah Miraglia**, Ozark Adventist Academy
- Phillip Warfield**, Sandia View Academy
- Sandra Michelle Quintero**, South Texas Christian Academy
- Maxine Cura**, Valley Grande Adventist Academy





## Una Historia de La Gracia de Dios

**S**andra era la hermana mayor y su padre la tenía como responsable de la conducta de su hermana. El padre culpó a Sandra por una desobediencia de su hermana y maltrató físicamente a Sandra hasta quedar casi sin poder caminar. Ambas hermanas fueron echadas de la casa. Sandra dejó la escuela y se fue a vivir con su amigo Héctor. Ella unió sus esfuerzos con Héctor y comenzaron a trabajar ahorrando dinero para comprar un carro y poder construir una casa en Honduras. Meses más tarde ambos visitaron la iglesia Houston Maranatha y con el tiempo nació una tierna relación con Dios.

Un día la hermana Loida invitó a Sandra a que la acompañara a dar estudios bíblicos. Al principio Sandra sólo escuchaba el estudio pues era la etapa tierna de su caminar con Jesús. Al transcurso del tiempo Héctor y Sandra establecían su pequeña familia al recibir la grata sorpresa que esperaban la llegada de su primer bebé. Además de las dificultades que acontecen a las parejas, el embarazo no fue fácil para Sandra, durante esta etapa Héctor conoció a otra mujer y los problemas conyugales aumentaron. Siguió meses de sufrimiento, llantos, y discusiones. Al fin, Sandra pensó en quitarse

la vida como la única solución. Un día tomó la decisión de encontrar la salida que buscaba a su vida. Ella salió rumbo a una carretera muy transitada, caminó y caminó sin lograr su objetivo. Prosiguió hasta un puente, y al calcular su caída al agua, escuchó que alguien la llamaba por su nombre. Era la hermana Aidé. Sandra confió en Aidé todos sus problemas y ella la acogió en su hogar. Después del nacimiento del pequeño Justin, Héctor regresó con su familia.

Hacía un año que no asistían a la iglesia. Las dificultades y problemas matrimoniales volvieron a separarlos cuando Héctor conoció a otra mujer. Sandra, queriendo lo mejor para ella y su hijo, le pidió a Héctor que eligiera la vida que quería seguir y Héctor decidió volver con Sandra y su bebé. Después de su segundo embarazo, surgieron otros problemas en el matrimonio. A pesar de que Héctor se iba de la casa siempre regresaba con su familia. Finalmente llegó el momento de tomar una decisión y ambos decidieron casarse, y después de siete años tumultuosos, se bautizaron por la gracia de Dios. Después del bautismo, Sandra y Héctor se respetan más, reciben consejería matrimonial, sienten paz, y ven cuánto amor, comprensión, paciencia, y apoyo ha crecido en su

hogar. Sus perspectivas de vida cambiaron.

Aunque llegan las pruebas confían que Dios siempre los sostendrá. Diariamente obtienen sabiduría de la palabra de Dios (2 Timoteo 3:15-17), y recuerdan que este mundo no es su hogar y les espera uno maravilloso en el cielo (Juan 14:1-3).

**Kircio C. Mota,**

vicepresidente para el  
Ministerio Hispano de la  
Asociación Regional



De izquierda a derecha:  
Arnold Rodríguez, líder del  
grupo pequeño, Sandra y  
Héctor, Luis Veloza, pastor.

# “THE BLUEPRINT” COMES TO PBS

Martin Doblmeier of Journey Films  
looks at Adventist Education

Ray Tetz

Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, known for his films on faith and religion, is the creative force behind two earlier films on Seventh-day Adventists that are enjoying successful and extended runs on PBS (*The Adventists* and *The Adventists II*). Now he has returned with a third—a film about Adventist education in the United States. The one-hour film is currently being shown on PBS stations across the country, and is available on DVD for viewing at home, church, and school.

Doblmeier became interested in Adventist education as a result of the relationships formed during the making of the earlier films. Repeated suggestions from teachers, parents, and former students led him to believe that his survey of the Adventist faith and practice was not complete without a look at Adventist education.

Responding to their challenge, Doblmeier set out to find some of the most interesting Adventist schools in the country, particularly looking for what makes them effective environments for students in every way—academically, physically, socially, and spiritually. As an independent film producer, he is free to tell the stories he finds in his own distinctive way. Using what he has learned about Seventh-day Adventists over the past several years, Martin’s journey to understanding Adventist education took him to some unique and surprising places.

From a one-room schoolhouse to large 12-grade academies, Doblmeier documents a system where students earn an education that places them in the top percentile academically in all subject areas, and where job skills, faith development, and community in-

volvement are valued and nurtured.

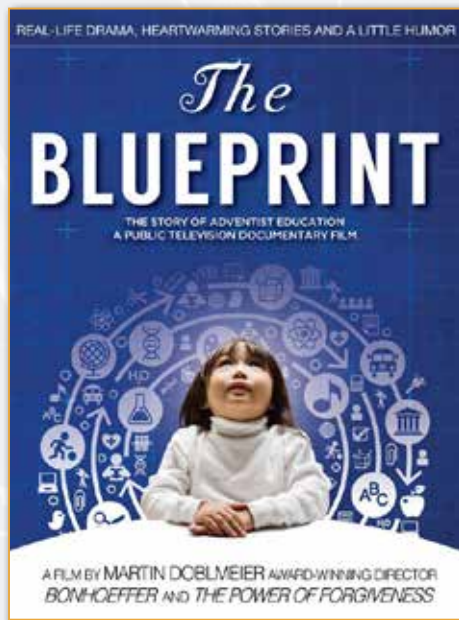
There are real contrasts to be found among the schools visited in the film—from an urban school in Brooklyn where a boy learns self-confidence from a teacher who won’t let him slip through the cracks, to Holbrook Indian School where the scholastic challenges are heightened by cultural and fiscal challenges, to a school struggling to stay open amid difficult financial times.

Featured in the film are the results of a major national research project called “The CognitiveGenesis Study.” In a comprehensive survey of 50,000 students enrolled in Adventist schools, the study found that these students outperformed their peers at the national average in every subject area. The demographics of the Adventist classrooms are comparable to those of public schools, with similar economic, racial, and geographic diversity.

What is the secret to this success? Educators interviewed in the film resolutely point to a long-standing commitment to educating the whole child: mind, body, and spirit. Beyond teaching the “Three R’s,” they also emphasize spiritual and physical development.

The film brings to life the instruction penned by Ellen G. White about the importance of education for young people, “True education means more than the per-

usal of a certain course of study. It means more than a preparation for the life that now is. It has to do with the whole being, and with the whole period of existence possible to man. It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world





and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (*Education*, p. 13).

In speaking about his film, Doblmeier reveals a personal affection for the Adventist students and teachers that he met during the production, as well as a deep understanding of the Adventist Church and its educational mission. In fact, the principal videographer and editor for *The BLUEPRINT* is Nathan DeWild, an Adventist and recent graduate of Southern Adventist University whom Doblmeier



▲ Filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, known for his films on faith and religion, set out to find some of the most interesting Adventist schools in the country, particularly looking for what makes them effective environments for students in every way—academically, physically, socially, and spiritually.



met as a result of the earlier films.

Doblmeier seems to understand the deep value that Adventists place on education. "Education is in the very DNA of Seventh-day Adventists, something of indescribable value that has been handed down from generation to generation. Looking back, how many Adventists formed their deepest and longest-lasting relationships in an Adventist school? Those relationships continue to have great impact on their lives today. There is an undeniable Adventist 'culture,' and education is at the heart of that culture."

*The BLUEPRINT* tells the story of an important part of Adventist ministry at a crossroads. While the scholastic, developmental, and spiritual benefits are clearly documented (and affirmed by research), the costs of operating these schools are a constant concern for school boards and church leaders. The perspective of an independent filmmaker is very helpful for all those who are interested in Adventist education. And the inspiring stories of students from across the United States, in many different settings and of varying ages and social situations, once again confirm the important role that Adventist education can play in preparing young people for lives of productive service and faithful witness.

# Adventist Education

## “WHAT IS THE VISION?”

Randy Gilliam, Ed.D., Southwestern Union vice president for education

It was Friday afternoon, August 24, 2012 when I first met Tong Wang. Tong, who I would be introduced to as Doris, was from Shanghai, China. Doris, an international student through the China Hope Project, would be attending Burton Adventist Academy and living with my son and daughter-in-law for that school year.

Doris became my adopted granddaughter and spent many family Friday evenings at our house throughout that school term. I learned many things about Doris that year—she is a very intelligent young lady. She studied hard for her grades at school, she caught on to English much faster than I caught on to Chinese, and she was the only one in the household who likes ketchup as much as I do.

That is only the beginning of the story, because Doris came back for her senior year after a summer back in China. Due to nightly devotionals in the host home, Bible classes at school, the influence of Adventist students and teachers, and Bible studies with the youth pastor, Doris accepted Jesus as her personal Savior. On Sabbath, May 17, 2014 Doris was baptized as a member of the Arlington (Texas) church. At the same time, another classmate that Doris had invited to her Bible studies was also baptized.

A week later Doris was graduating with honors from Burton Adventist Academy. She has been accepted and plans to attend Southwestern Adventist University this fall. She also has a standing invitation to attend our Friday evening family nights—after all, she is one of my granddaughters. This is just one story that emphasizes my new motto—*Adventist Education is Evangelism at its Finest.*

### A Vision for Education in the Southwest

Proverbs 29:18 states, “Where there is no vision, the people perish.” With this theme in mind, the Southwestern Union Conference office began its implementation of the North American Division **REACH** program. REACH is an acronym which stands for:

**R**evival and transformation: Connecting with God through public and personal worship.



Tong Wang, also known as Doris, was an international student from Shanghai, China for two years at Burton Adventist Academy. She was recently baptized and graduated from Burton with honors. She plans to attend Southwestern Adventist University this fall.





**E**ducation for discipleship: Every child, youth, and adult learning, growing, and becoming more like Christ.

**A**lignment within the church: Connecting effectively within our diverse church family.

**C**ommunity outreach and evangelism: Connecting with our communities—sharing hope and wholeness.

**H**ealthy leadership and management: God’s stewards insisting on personal and church-wide excellence.

With this framework as the impetus, the Southwestern Union Conference Office of Education began to construct five strategic goals to plan for, and carry out, over the next five years. These goals were then discussed and voted by the SWUC Education Advisory Council and adopted by the SWUC Board of Education in session on March 31, 2014.

None of these goals can be achieved by any single union, conference, academy, school, or teacher working alone. The only way to accomplish these goals is by prayerfully dedicating oneself to the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit and everyone doing their part at their own location.

## **Strategic Goal No. 1:** To have 100 percent of our SWUC teachers achieve North American Division certification credentials.

In order to provide a quality product we must first have qualified administrators and teachers. How many would trust a physi-

cian who was *almost* qualified to practice medicine?

As of January 2014, the SWUC certification registrar records showed 90.9 percent of our 318 teachers have current teacher certification. This qualifies as an A- but our strategic goal is to achieve an A+. Our vision is to reach the 100 percent goal.

## **Strategic Goal No. 2:** To increase the number of students enrolled in our schools and to increase the number of schools in the Southwestern Union Conference.

Our opening reports for the fall of 2013 showed that we currently have 69 schools with K-12 enrollment of 3,550 students. Ten

years ago, during the fall of 2003, our total opening enrollment was 3,306. This modest gain is better than a loss.

Most statistics show we have only approximately 30 percent of our school-age church members enrolled in our schools. This means there are many children we would like to have enrolled. Our vision would be to have every student who wants to attend a Seventh-day Adventist school to be able to do so.

### Strategic Goal No. 3: To plan and conduct a Southwestern Union-wide teachers' convention.

This has also been voted, and plans are being made to accomplish this next year. The dates for this important gathering will be August 2-5, 2015.

It is our prayer that these conventions will then continue to be





held at the mid-year point between each North American Division national conference, which are held every six years. The next NAD convention is scheduled for Chicago in 2018.

It is our vision that the union-wide teachers' inservice would provide spiritual, cognitive, and professional development for our educators.

## Strategic Goal No. 4: To increase test scores on our annual Iowa Assessment Standardized Achievement tests for each grade level.

Each of the SWUC composite grade level scores for the 2013 fall testing was at or above the 50-percentile rank. The 50-percentile rank is computed as the average. This means that all of our grade level composite scores were above average. The composite average for grades 3-10 was 57.25-percentile rank. However, not all of our conferences or schools reached the 50-percentile rank for each composite grade level.

Our vision would be for each school to earn an above-average score for each composite subtest at every grade level.

## Strategic Goal No. 5: To continue to explore, implement, and improve technology and distance education in SWUC schools.

In the past decade we have accomplished great strides in upgrading the technology capabilities of our schools. These advancements have been made in the administrative offices as well as in the classrooms. We have come a long way from the early integration of the Radio Shack TRS80 computers, complete with floppy discs, and the "Oregon Trail" software.

However, technological advancements continue to be made and we live in a technological world. We must strive to be on the cutting edge. Electronic textbooks, shared-live distance-education courses, iPads, and electronic notebooks are becoming commonplace in schools. We must continue the vision to remain relevant in this arena.

The Southwestern Union Conference Educational system has established these goals as a worthy vision to strive for in the next five years. However, we know **our number one vision/goal** is to have each student know Christ as their personal Savior—and I believe that Adventist education truly is evangelism at its finest. Ellen White, through inspiration, states the definition of *true education*: "It is the harmonious development of the physical, the mental, and the spiritual powers. It prepares the student for the joy of service in this world and for the higher joy of wider service in the world to come" (*Education*, p. 13).



# 2014 Southwestern Union EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Randy Gilliam, Ed.D

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 (elementary) and academy principals (secondary) for those worthy of this award. The Southwestern Union Conference K-12 Board of Education is responsible for the final approval of the recipients.

In *Education*, Ellen G. White states, in reference to teaching, “This work is the nicest, the most difficult, ever committed to human beings. It requires the most delicate tact, the finest susceptibility, a knowledge of human nature, and a heaven-born faith and patience, willing to work and watch and wait. It is a work than which nothing can be more important” (*Education*, p. 292).

Each of the 2014 Excellence in Teaching Award recipients has exemplified excellence in spiritual credibility, academic preparedness, classroom acumen, professional development, and commitment to the values of Adventist education. Each receives a pecuniary award, a plaque, and a certificate honoring their commitment to excellence.

The 2014 Southwestern Union Excellence in Teaching Award recipients are:

**Damon Gilliam**—Burton Adventist Academy

**Aaron Hall**—Hot Springs SDA School

**Jamie Mitchell**—New Life Christian Academy

**Nidia Moller**—Gulfhaven Adventist Christian School

**Darleen Roché**—Sandia View Elementary

**Bryce Sampsel**—Sandia View Academy

**Victoria Toews**—Ketchum Adventist Academy

Damon Gilliam



Aaron Hall



Darleen Roché



Nidia Moller



Jamie Mitchell



Bryce Sampsel



Victoria Toews





# 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

<b>Beacon Hill Adventist Junior Academy</b>	1446 Red Bridge Road, DeQueen AR 71832
<b>Bentonville SDA School</b>	2522 SE 14th Street, Bentonville AR 72712
<b>Colquitt Christian Academy</b>	3233 Colquitt Road, Shreveport LA 71118
<b>Ewing Adventist Junior Academy</b>	709 Adventist Church Rd., Bonnerdale AR 71933
<b>Greater New Orleans Chr Academy</b>	5220 Irving Street, Metairie LA 70006
<b>Harrison SDA School</b>	4877 Hwy. 392 West, Harrison AR 72601
<b>Hot Springs Adventist School</b>	401 Weston Road, Hot Springs AR 71913
<b>Jones Creek Adventist Academy</b>	4363 Jones Creek Rd, Baton Rouge LA 70817
<b>Little Rock Adventist Academy</b>	8708 Rodney Parham, Little Rock AR 72205
<b>Ozark Adventist School</b>	21150 Dawn Hill East Rd, Gentry AR 72734
<b>Springdale Adventist School</b>	4001 W. Don Tyson Pkwy, Springdale AR 72762
<b>Texarkana SDA School</b>	3100 Pleasant Grove Rd., Texarkana TX 75503
<b>Umpire Christian School</b>	164 School Street, Umpire AR 71971

### Senior Academy

<b>Ozark Adventist Academy</b>	20997 Dawn Hill East Road, Gentry AR 72734
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## Oklahoma Conference

<b>Ardmore Adventist Academy</b>	154 Beavers Academy Rd., Ardmore OK 73401
<b>Bristow Adventist School</b>	P.O. Box 1074, Bristow OK 74010
<b>Heritage Adventist School</b>	20555 S. 4170 Road Unit B, Claremore OK 74017
<b>Ketchum Adventist Academy</b>	35369 S. Hwy 82, Vinita OK 74301
<b>Muskogee SDA Christian Academy</b>	170 N. Country Circle Rd., Muskogee OK 74403
<b>Parkview Adventist Academy</b>	4201 Martin Luther King, Oklahoma City OK 73111
<b>Pioneer Adventist Christian School</b>	P.O. Box 1245, Guymon OK 73942
<b>Tulsa Adventist Academy</b>	900 S. New Haven, Tulsa OK 74112
<b>West Siloam Springs Adventist School</b>	5165 Cedar Drive, Colcord OK 74338

## Southwest Region Conference

<b>Alfred Booker Junior Academy</b>	916 Richmond Drive, Alexandria LA 71302
<b>Applegate Adventist Junior Academy</b>	P.O. Box 729, Round Rock TX 78680
<b>Bethel Adventist School</b>	P.O. Box 660, Texarkana TX 75501
<b>Emmanuel Adventist School</b>	702 N. Cherry St., Hammond LA 70401
<b>Excel Adventist Academy</b>	P.O. Box 2240, Missouri City TX 77489
<b>MLK Christian Academy</b>	4295 Prescott Court, Baton Rouge LA 70805
<b>New Life Christian Academy</b>	P.O. Box 1, Marion AR 72364
<b>New Orleans Adventist Academy</b>	4500 Gawain Drive, New Orleans LA 70127
<b>Shiloh Adventist School</b>	2400 S. Maple St., Little Rock AR 72204
<b>Southwest Adventist Junior Academy</b>	1600 Bonnie View Road, Dallas TX 75203

## Texas Conference

<b>Adventist Christian Academy of Texas</b>	3601 S Loop 336 E, Conroe TX 77301
<b>Burleson Adventist School (Elem.)</b>	1635 Fox Lane, Burleson TX 76028
<b>Burton Adventist Academy</b>	4611 Kelly-Elliott Road, Arlington TX 76017
<b>Cleburne Adventist Christian School</b>	111 Meadowview Drive, Cleburne TX 76033
<b>Coastal Bend Adventist Junior Academy</b>	6645 Downing St., Corpus Christi TX 78414
<b>Cypress Bend Adventist Elementary School</b>	2997 FM 728, Jefferson TX 75657
<b>Dallas Christian Academy</b>	4025 N. Central Expressway, Dallas TX 75204
<b>Fort Worth Adventist Junior Academy</b>	3040 Sycamore School Rd, Ft Worth TX 76133
<b>Garland Christian Adventist School</b>	1702 E. Centerville Road, Garland TX 75041
<b>Gulfhaven Adventist Christian School</b>	10716 Sabo Road, Houston TX 77089
<b>Harlingen Adventist Elementary School</b>	P.O. Box 532785, Harlingen TX 78553
<b>Hill Country Adventist School</b>	611 Harper Road, Kerrville TX 78028
<b>Joshua Adventist Multi-Grade School</b>	1912 Conveyer Rd., Joshua TX 76058
<b>Katy Adventist Christian School</b>	1913 East Avenue, Katy TX 77493
<b>Keene Adventist Elementary School</b>	302 Pecan, Keene TX 76059
<b>Killeen Adventist Junior Academy</b>	3412 Lake Road, Killeen TX 76543
<b>Knowledge Seekers Christian School</b>	1471 W. Corporate Dr., Lewisville TX 75067
<b>Maranatha Adventist School</b>	2526 Goliad Road, San Antonio TX 78223
<b>New Creation Adventist School</b>	800 W. Hwy 6, Waco TX 76712
<b>North Dallas Adventist Academy (Elem.)</b>	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson TX 75081
<b>Pineywoods Adventist Christian School</b>	4629 FM 1638, Nacogdoches TX 75964
<b>San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy</b>	P.O. Box 801, San Marcos TX 78667
<b>Scenic Hills SDA Christian School</b>	11223 Bandera Rd., San Antonio TX 78250
<b>South Texas Christian Academy (Elem.)</b>	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen TX 78504
<b>Stonehill Christian Academy</b>	4301 Kelly Lane, Pflugerville TX 78660
<b>The Oaks Adventist Christian School</b>	11735 Grant Road, Cypress TX 77428
<b>Triangle Adventist Christian School</b>	P.O. Box H, Groves TX 77619
<b>Tyler Adventist School</b>	2931 South S.E. Loop 323, Tyler TX 75701
<b>Valley Grande Adventist Academy (Elem.)</b>	1000 South Bridge St., Weslaco TX 78796
<b>Victoria Adventist Academy</b>	3103 E. Mockingbird Lane, Victoria TX 77904

### Senior Academies

<b>Burton Adventist Academy</b>	4611 Kelly-Elliott Rd., Arlington TX 76017
<b>Chisholm Trail Academy</b>	P.O. Box 717, Keene TX 76059
<b>North Dallas Adventist Academy</b>	302 Centennial Blvd., Richardson TX 75081
<b>South Texas Christian Academy</b>	7001 N. Ware Rd., McAllen TX 78504
<b>Valley Grande Adventist Academy</b>	1000 S. Bridge Street, Weslaco TX 78796

## Texico Conference

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

### Senior Academy

<b>Sandia View Academy</b>	65 Sandia View Lane, Corrales NM 87048
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## Life Principles and Spiritual Values



ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE

I didn't walk six miles to school—down dangerous streets, uphill both directions, and through two feet of snow.

Maybe there were those who did, but that was never a claim—or boast—that I could make. I had to walk to the church school that I attended, but when I arrived at school, that was when exciting things began to happen!

Every morning in the classroom began with a devotional thought and prayer by my teacher. She prayed that God would bless her students and give them a good day of learning. Then we had Bible class. I still remember memorizing two verses every week. By the end of that year, we had some 75 verses memorized. The same thing happened again the next school year.

Every class had a spiritual application. Besides the content of math, language arts, history, and science, we were taught that God was a part of every aspect of nature. He is the Creator and He has a plan for every one of our lives. Life is more than the "here and now." We learned that God loves us and, regardless of our circumstances or the mistakes we may have made, He has a wonderful plan of salvation and we could look forward to a brand new earth when Jesus comes again.

I didn't realize it at the time, but my teachers in that church school were not just teaching me a core curriculum, but they were also teaching me how to study and how to think for myself. They were teaching me life principles and spiritual values. They not only taught by instruc-

tion, but by their life's example. It was during that time that I made a commitment to Jesus through my baptism and then sensed His calling and claim on my life for ministry.

Recent research has proven that our educational system is superior to any other system out there. Today I recognize that I have a real debt to Seventh-day Adventist Christian education. That is one reason I want to see our children today experience the same opportunity of excellence that was given me. No, I didn't walk uphill six miles in the snow to get to school, but it would have been worth it!

**Stephen Orian**, president

## Prophecy Seminar Held at Slidell Church

**SLIDELL, LA.** » The Slidell church held a Revelation of Hope prophecy seminar during March. Speaker/evangelist Tommy Blount provided clear presentations to help the 68 attendees understand the books of Daniel and Revelation as never before. Blount began with the promise that the Bible and the Bible alone would be the textbook, and that Jesus Christ would be uplifted as our only hope in these last days. After coming for ten nights, participants

received a free Bible. The seminar resulted in eight baptisms, five newly-baptized and three rebaptized members.

Sylvia and Rick Glasgow, who were church members but newly married, decided to be rebaptized to signify the start of their new life together with Jesus. Barry Hawkins, a long-time member was rebaptized with his wife, Linda, who was newly baptized after taking Bible studies and attending the seminar. Steven Atkinson

started attending the Slidell church several months ago with a desire to be baptized after being married to his lovely wife, who is from the Philippines and is an Adventist. Danyla Williams, Clint Jones, Jr., and Joshua Murphy recently completed the Junior Sabbath School baptismal class taught by Seema Bethala and Julie Murphy at the church. Four students completing the class had been previously baptized: Jennifer and Amanda Navarro, Cole Deroam, and Adam Navarro. May God continue to bless our young people and our new members in their walk with Christ.

**Vernella Rogers**



Back row, from left: Steven Atkinson, Barry and Linda Hawkins, Rick and Sylvia Glasgow. Front row, from left: Clint Jones, Jr., Danyla Williams, Joshua Murphy, and Tommy Blount, pastor.

**ARK-LA-TEX**  
Camp Meeting  
July 23-26, 2014  
**DRAW US CLOSER**

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# Wellness Secrets: Health Emphasis at the Decatur Church

DECATUR, ARK. » “Every person should have a knowledge of nature’s remedial agencies and how to apply them. It is essential both to understand the principles involved in the treatment of the sick and to have a practical training that will enable one rightly to use this knowledge” (*Counsels on Diet and Foods*, p. 302).

Wellness Secrets offers live-in, lifestyle programs that touch many areas of healthful living. Each program is designed to foster the mental, physical, and spiritual health of participants. Besides the live-in programs that teach how to care for one’s own health, Wellness Secrets hosts herbalism classes and has scheduled several Spiritual Health Weeks during which participants prayerfully study topics of scriptural importance.

During the week of March 9-16, Wellness Secrets’ staff and guests studied the topic of the Holy Spirit. We talked about how to receive the power of the Holy Spirit so we can be effective witnesses for Christ in our homes, churches, and communities. Dominique Brown, a guest who came to the program, said, “If ever we are in need of the Holy Spirit and the merciful hand of the Lord, that time is now. The experience I had during this Spiritual Health Week at Wellness Secrets has touched my very soul. The time I spent there nourished me in every aspect of my being—spiritual, physical, and emotional. I truly was surrounded by fellow servants of the Lord in that place.”

Shaunessey Lester said, “I did not expect to receive such a spiritual and physical blessing from spending my week with Wellness Secrets. Each person on the staff is being used by the Lord to bless all who are willing to stop in and listen. I’ve taken with me applicable ways to sustain a plant-based diet that is delicious and simple, among other blessings. Every day we stud-

ied the Scriptures together, and each Bible study seemed like it couldn’t have topped the last! I was truly blessed by the Wellness Secrets teachers, and what they have shared with me, and now I can share my experience with others.”

Wellness Secrets has a health food store with all kinds of necessary ingredients and hard-to-find items, and during the summer months they operate a small restaurant, as well. Since Wellness Secrets’ classes are ongoing, you can check out their Web site at

[www.wellnesssecrets4u.com](http://www.wellnesssecrets4u.com) for dates and openings.

Franklin Morris and Sylvia Downs



▲ Studying spiritual topics during Spiritual Health Week.

▶ Learning easy ways to eat well at Wellness Secrets.



# Ebenezer Temple Franco-Haitian Company

**GRETNA, LA. »** In July 2013, the New Orleans Marrero church created a new group, which has grown to become a company in its own church in Gretna, with Libny Dubreuze, past president, ministerial secretary, and evangelist of the Senegal and Mauritania Mission, as pastor. Dubreuze and his wife, Sara, are pastoring the first French-language church in the Arkansas-Louisiana Conference's history.

After a sermon in January, 2014, a stranger approached Dubreuze and asked him about his family. Surprised, Dubreuze asked her, "Do you know me?"

"Of course I do," she replied. "I know your mother and your father, who was the



Libny Dubreuze, pastor, baptizes Eva Emanuel.

sister was my friend in primary school." At that time Dubreuze was only two years old!

Now, 50 years later, accompanied by her son, who is in the U.S. Army, and her daughter-in-law and grandchildren, Eva Emanuel made the decision to be baptized—by Dubreuze! The baptismal ceremony took place on April 5, at the end of a two-week evangelism and revival series by Dubreuze. In the Sabbath morning service (which is broadcast live from a local radio station to the Westbank-New Orleans area), Dubreuze spoke in French for all the French-speaking communities (Caribbean and European). His message was focused on Luke 19:1-10, and emphasized that God accepts the sinner with all his faults; however, when the sinner accepts the invitation of Jesus, he cannot remain in his sinful life of the past.

In the afternoon during the baptism, Dubreuze emphasized, in Spanish and French, the need to pursue spiritual goals and make evangelism a priority. "Pray for the Franco-Haitian work in New Orleans and our hope that this will be the beginning of a great evangelism explosion for the glory of our God," says Dubreuze.

**Libny H. Dubreuze**

pastor in the city of Hinche, on the border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti in 1964. My family lived next door to you. Your older



The original Franco-Haitian group with Dubreuze.

## Houma Adventurers Food Drive

**HOUMA, LA. »** Members of the Houma Adventurer Club recently delivered donations to the Terrebonne church's United Good Samaritan Food Bank. These donations were collected during the Houma church's first annual fall food drive.

"For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited Me in" (Matthew 25:35, NIV).

**Tidy Fenton**



Houma church's Adventurer club collected donations for their first annual food drive.

ARKANSAS-LOUISIANA CONFERENCE



# All Held Responsible for Children's Education



The sun had not made its appearance, but its advancing rays lit the surface of the river.

Caught among the cattails and bulrushes on the edge of the bank was a very small boat. Upon closer inspection, an early morning walker would notice a baby inside. Not an ordinary baby—this baby had been condemned to die by the government. But the family put their total trust in God and placed the baby, Moses, in the boat. His sister, Miriam, watched him from a hiding place along the shore. The only thing the family could do was pray. The family's prayers were heard, and in response to their great faith, angels were dispatched to watch over the baby. A second group of angels were dispatched to lead and guide the princess of Egypt. According to scripture, Moses was found by the princess but placed in the care of his parents. Not only were they able to raise Moses for 12 years, but they were also paid to do so!

Twelve years to train your child to withstand all of the temptations the world could throw at them. Twelve years was all that Jochebed had—but 12 years and faith in God was all she needed! Education is to begin in the home. This is the child's first school. Parents are the instructors. The child is to

learn lessons to guide him through life—lessons of respect, obedience, reverence, and self control. If parents do not educate their child to walk with God during this time, Satan will take over and educate their child through the agencies of his choosing. To a great degree the destiny of the child rests in the hands of his mother (see *Child Guidance*, pp. 17-23).

In today's world, it takes more than a family to raise the child—it takes the church family, too. There is a reason God ordained Adventist schools to be His special instrument for training young people to walk on the pathway to heaven. We have been given counsel that we should not place our children's education in the hands of non-Adventists. I must be clear. I, like you, must stand in front of God to answer for what I did with the children entrusted to me. Special counsel has been given to parents about the education of their children, as have churches and even pastors. All are held responsible for providing an Adventist education.

So many times I've heard, "There is just no way we can afford to do this" in regard to Adventist education. In May of 2013, I preached at the Claremore church, and it was refreshing to hear Dennis McGehee,

a member there, tell me that he wanted to start a school. I told him I could get the paperwork together, meet with the board, and perhaps open a new school in the fall of 2014. Dennis replied, "We're starting one this coming fall!" And they did! The Oklahoma Conference has little money to put into different projects such as these, so I had to tell Dennis he would need to dream big to find ways to finance the school. I now know firsthand that God gives visions to young people in these last days. Dennis asked the local church board if the children's offerings could be slated for the church school, if there was one person willing to match what the children picked up. A few weeks into the program, there were four people matching the children's offering. For the month of March, the matched children's offering was \$7,000. God still works in miraculously wondrous ways. Still don't think your church can handle a church school? Give me a chance to share with you how you can. Better yet, have Dennis come and show you how it's done! On our knees let us say, "Father I believe. Help my unbelief."

**Jack Francisco**, education superintendent

## Sallisaw Church Hosts Mother's Day Program

**SALLISAW, OKLA.** » The Sallisaw church honored the women of the church with a special program on Sabbath, May 10. The Mother's Day program included a humorous presentation, "How to Keep Mom Running Smoothly," as well as a prayer of dedication for women of all ages and stages of life. In addition, each woman received a special gift and card.

Heather Quintana, editor of *Vibrant Life* (formerly *Life and Health*), presented the sermon, "Jesus and Women: The Outrageous Story." The message included vignettes from the life of Christ in which He elevated and honored women.

A pastor's wife, Quintana is also the au-



thor of the daily devotional *Momentum* (Review and Herald). She and her husband live in Hagerstown, Maryland.

**Gretchen Dobbs**



◀ The sermon was presented by Heather Quintana, editor of *Vibrant Life* magazine.

▲ Women were called forward for a prayer of blessing and to receive a card and gift.

# Pathfinder Campout at HR Ranch

**CHOCTAW** » The weekend of April 18-20 found about 40 Pathfinders, including the Edmond Eagles, Southern Hills Orions, Moore Mustangs, and the Alva Warriors, attending the HR Ranch campout in Choctaw, Oklahoma. Jason Watts, Moore's Pathfinder director, led the Friday-evening worship. He encouraged the participants to identify each other as they acted like inspiring Bible characters. Later, Jason used a potato to illustrate uniqueness, and how we can use our uniqueness to serve God and others. At bedtime, a warm fire comforted the campers, and the cool weather fulfilled a winter camping honor requirement.

Don Adams, Edmond Pathfinder director, conducted the Sabbath-morning flag raising. He encouraged the Pathfinders to participate and to practice this important skill for drilling and marching ceremonies. Amy Ward, from Edmond, conducted Sabbath School. She sent the Pathfinders on a spiritual scavenger hunt. The groups were intermingled to promote new friendships as they searched for nine envelopes containing messages about the importance of friendship.

Tamra Clark, Southern Hills Pathfinder director, led church service. She and her club led a Bible study about Mary, the



mother of Jesus. They learned that Mary was an inspiring Bible character who also happened to be a young person who was faithful to God. The Pathfinders then collected things in nature to create pictures of the scenes of Mary's life. After a delicious lunch, the Pathfinders worked on three honors: Basic Rescue, Cetaceans, and Streams and Rivers.

Later, the Mustangs and the





Orions carried out the honor of lowering the flag. Gabbie Simpson, Alva Pathfinder director, led the evening worship using a

team-building game that taught communication and leadership. The participants' "tools" were blindfolds, water bottles, and

a lot of shouting. In another evening activity, the Pathfinders were separated into groups and asked to develop their very own community outreach projects.

The night ended with a hayride and flashlight tag. All the activities encouraged inspiration, camaraderie, and teamwork. Our goals are to prepare our young people to be faithful servants of God and to encourage them to use their unique gifts to light up our dark world.

**Gabby Simpson and Susan Castillo**



## You Are a Steward of Your Children



Hannah prayed to the Lord for a son and vowed to return him back.

She said, "He will be yours for his entire lifetime." The Lord remembered Hannah's plea, and in due time she gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel.

Children are like our tithes and offerings. Do you know that nothing on this earth belongs to us? Not even your kids! You are a steward of your kids, just as you are a steward of your paycheck.

Hannah recognized that children are a blessing from God. As good stewards, we have a responsibility to the One who lends us these children.

What constitutes giving our children back to God? Leading them at the family altar in worship to God, teaching them not fairy tales but Bible truths, taking them to Sabbath School, and placing them in Seventh-day Adventist schools.

Do you know that when Jesus returns, He will ask us, "Where is the flock that I have lent you?" Eventually our children will make up their own minds about salvation, but while we make the decisions for our kids, we are to give them the best education possible.

What is the best education possible? E.G. White said, "The best education that can be given to children and youth is that which bears the closest relation to the future, immortal life" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 231).

What the wise sister was saying is that education that prepares our children for heaven is more important than any other type of education. When something belongs to God, He always comes through. If you keep your word, like Hannah, God is always faithful to keep His. Hannah's faith was not in the temple leaders, teachers, or

priests. Hannah's faith was not in the educational system of the Levites. Hannah's faith was certainly not in Eli, whose parenting skills would have disqualified him from teaching at our schools. Hannah's faith was in Jehovah Jireh, the Lord who provided for her. Her faith was in God, not the school.

Today we put too much faith in our schools, and our teachers, and our conferences, when our faith should be in God. Never should our faith be in the schools or the teachers. Our faith should be in God. And God has a way of honoring our faith.

We in the Southwest Region Conference do not want to keep your children forever. We just want you to trust God enough, to lend us your children so He can keep them forever in His kingdom.

**Shakuntala Ramsarran**, superintendent of education

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE

## That All May Worship

**DALLAS »** The mission of the Disabilities Ministries Department of the Southwest Region Conference (SWRC) is in keeping with the instruction given us by Jesus in Matthew 28:19, 20. Our mandate is to go and spread the message of Jesus Christ to the entire world. Disabilities ministries is one of the vehicles to fulfill this assignment. This mission is accomplished by focusing on four goals:

**1. Accessibility.** The church must make sure that barriers are broken down and every member has access to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Provide ramps where needed; 36-inch doors are a must for members and visitors in wheelchairs in order to access the building successfully; and clearly marked parking spaces are helpful.

**2. Accommodation.** The church should provide services, such as transportation to regular church meetings; surveys on the needs of people with disabilities; a wheelchair-accessible

bathroom; accessible water fountains; large-print bulletins; interpreters where needed; and closed captioning video for the deaf and hard of hearing.



**Eunice Bailey**, Southwest Region Conference disabilities ministries coordinator

## Disabilities Ministries

**3. Encouragement.** We encourage participation of members in every aspect of church life, such as volunteer service, church boards, and other committees of the local church. We encourage pastors and members to be sensitive to the needs of people with disabilities.

**4. Education.** Our aim is to train members without disabilities to work together with people with disabilities so that the gospel of Jesus Christ can reach all people.

Almost 650 million people worldwide have some form of disability and nearly 57 million of them live within the United States. The Southwest Region Conference has 126 churches and companies with a membership of 24,860. We have a big job ahead of us. Let's finish the work together so we can go home.

**Eunice Bailey**, disabilities ministries coordinator



# Baton Rouge Berean Church's Fruitful Ministry

**BATON ROUGE, LA. »** For several years it housed a daycare, while at the same time affording a first-day church a location for its Sunday worship. Following Hurricane Katrina, it served as an evacuation and distribution center for survivors. And, of course, it has always been a meeting place for various Berean programs. "It" is the building next door, a two-story red brick structure known as "the annex" that is older than the church. Because of its current tenants, the annex is now an extension of Berean.

According to Gerald Margil, pastor, the association with Berean got under way in 2006 when Margil and his Hispanic congregation worshipped in the temporary buildings adjacent to Berean's school's former location. The current relationship began recently when five Hispanic families approached Margil about leading a new Spanish-speaking congregation—except this time, the Spanish congregation would constitute another of Berean's many ministries. "What has resulted is a Spanish ministry that is headed by Margil. The worship services are held in separate buildings only be-

cause our Spanish-speaking members have specific needs that only a Spanish ministry could accommodate," says Berean's pastor, Robert Davis.

Presently, Berean's Hispanic ministry consists of 36 worshippers, 18 are baptized members and eight are children under age ten. Since occupying the building next door, Margil and his congregation have embarked upon a major restoration undertaking. "And there is more repair work to come," adds Margil. "We have always

enjoyed a respectful, friendly, and fraternal relationship with Robert Davis, who is my friend as well as my pastor. We both love evangelistic work, our main focus. Everything we do is geared toward bringing more souls to Jesus. That is the thrust behind our three evangelistic series planned for this year." Davis adds, "In all facets of church life, our desire is to see Berean grow to such a level that we can give birth to other congregations throughout the Baton Rouge area. A healthy church is a fruitful

church and should be giving birth to new children on a regular basis. Because of Margil's professional training, we are confident that our Spanish ministry will grow to such a level that we will be able to plant new Spanish-speaking congregations throughout Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas. We look forward to his contribution toward this thriving evangelistic ministry." Incidentally, the Berean church and its Spanish ministry both have evangelistic series taking place simultaneously in their respective venues.

**Evelyn M. Edwards**



▲ The Berean church's elders, Margaret Lawrence, Henry Jones, Charles Wilson, Robert Landry, and Spanish member Gerald Margil, pastor, praying next to Robert Davis, Berean's pastor.

▼ Members of Berean's Spanish ministry with Gerald Margil, pastor, in the foreground and Robert Davis, pastor, and Robert Landry and Charles Wilson, elders, in the background.



# The Sanctified Life

**PALESTINE, TEXAS** » The women of the New Life church recently decided to study a book to help them to become better equipped to evangelize in their communities. The book that was prayerfully selected for study was *The Sanctified Life* by Ellen G. White.

A monthly schedule was made at the beginning of the year, assigning each woman one chapter of the book to study and present to the other women at one of the group meetings. Even though some were hesitant, each of the women did an outstanding job as they presented their particular chapter with their lesson study guide. The meetings were held at various locations, including the church, the park, and in homes.

The women's ministries coordinator at New Life, Linda Walker, was diligent in making sure that the meetings were consistent, the speakers committed, and that the women completed the project. It was a "win-win" situation, because the majority of those who participated were blessed by reading the book and completed all of the study guide lessons for *The Sanctified Life*. They received certificates of comple-



Some of the women who completed the book study at New Life church in Palestine, Texas. From left: Shelby Sims, Brenda Latson, Mary Ann Noeldner, Linda Walker, Lorraine Stiggers, Cathy Sweet, Brenda Smith, and Vernescia Fuller.

tion at a special recognition ceremony in which each shared how the book, lessons, and fellowship positively impacted their lives in ministry and would help each con-

tinue to strive to live a sanctified life as it is in Jesus.

**Lorraine Stiggers**

# Dedicating Lives in Service for God

**SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS** » The youth of Ephesus church are on fire for the Lord. Hardden Weech, pastor, is delighted to see so many children participating in the Adventurer program. Named "The Cubs," under the direction of Master Guide Inductee Mary Smith, the club was inducted for service on March 7, 2014. The new Adventurers pledged their lives in service to the master's call. The Cubs have 22 Adventurers, of which there are three Little Lambs, five Eager Beavers, four Busy Bees, four Sunbeams, five Builders, and one Helping Hand. There are five counselors (Aliyah Carmichael,

Audrey Johnson, Ramona Orum, Dreana Liburd and Tamika Brown), who assist Smith with biweekly meetings and out-

reach activities.

The purpose of the program is to support parents and caregivers in leading and encouraging their children in a growing, joyful, loving relationship with Jesus Christ. Their future outreach plans include: visiting nursing homes, visiting the sick and shut-ins, passing out information for health awareness, and much more. Please continue to pray for God's guidance and continued protection for these precious little lives as they continue to learn about Him and allow His will to direct their lives.

**Dee and Ken Smith**



The San Antonio Ephesus church inducted 22 children into its Adventurer program on March 7, 2014.

SOUTHWEST REGION CONFERENCE



# Building Lives for Eternity



It was a Friday afternoon at 2:00 p.m., and school was nearing dismissal. As I pulled up and parked in front of Keene Adventist Elementary School, I thought about the vital impact of Adventist education in the early years of a child's life and formation. I was there to pick up my two grandkids, one in Pre-K and the other in Kindergarten. Initially, I thought about where I would be had I not gone to Adventist schools from first through twelfth grade. Then I thought about what would be of my three children had they not gone through our schools from Kindergarten through twelfth grade. I looked over to the left and observed a group of lower graders frolicking in the playground area. Shrieks of laughter filled the air as they ran back and forth between the swings and their ever-vigilant teacher. Toward the center of the building, there on the walkway, was a group of seventh- and eighth-graders, returning to their classroom after an activity. The innocence and candor of their facial expressions told a story of the quality of education they were receiving there at one of God's schools. It brought to mind the words of Ellen White found in *Education*, "In knowledge of God, all true knowledge

and real development have their source. Wherever we turn, in the physical, the mental, or the spiritual realm; in whatever we behold, apart from the blight of sin, this knowledge is revealed. The mind of man is brought into communion with the mind of God, the finite with the Infinite. The effect of such communion on body and mind and soul is beyond estimate. In this communion is found the highest education. It is God's own method of development" (p. 14).

In our K-12 schools across the Southwestern Union and throughout the world, on a day-by-day basis, the characters of children are being shaped and formed for eternity. It's not just an education to prepare them for high school and college; the stakes go far beyond that. It is an endeavor to insulate and weatherproof our children from the storms of crisis and unbelief that surround them in a world that is swiftly careening toward the end of all things! It's not just about reading, writing, and arithmetic—it is ultimately about establishing the "mind of Christ" in those young, impressionable minds.

We often forget that Adventist schools provide protection and refuge for students who are spiritually immature and vulnerable to the world's unfavorable influences. The Bible-based curriculum nourishes a

child's faith and prayer life. In addition, Christian teachers provide living examples of how children and youth can live their lives in a positive and uplifting fashion in the midst of a corrupt world. Perhaps these can be compared to greenhouses that enable these precious little plants to develop, both in and out of season! In our schools, students are confronted daily with the universal truth that our planet and the universe in its entirety belongs to God.

Finally, in our schools students also learn positive and enriching things from each other. They learn the importance of respecting and caring for one another, thus developing and nurturing lasting and permanent relationships that endure throughout their lifetimes. The book of Proverbs admonishes us as parents, guardians, grandparents, church leaders, and church members to do all that we can to train these precious little ones in the way they should go. God has placed His divine fingerprint on everything that we observe around us. Surely, if we place our children squarely in His hands we shall see His image shaped and formed in them!

Carlos J. Craig, president

## Former Priest Joins Adventist Church

**MISSION** » "Do not attempt to prove Sunday-keeping from the Bible, because it is not there. If you keep Sunday, you will have to reconcile the practice with your own conscience!" A church history professor at the Episcopal Theological Seminary made this shocking statement where Jim Watt studied for his degree in theology in preparation for ordination to the priesthood of the Episcopal church. The statement nagged at him over the years, even as other non-biblical doctrines were being encouraged in church policy. He ministered to his congregations until the late 70s, at which time he took a leave of absence, never to return, though



he was encouraged to do so by his bishop.

A little more than two years ago, a small group had started worshipping in Mission, Texas, and called itself Mission Hope. We invited Jim to attend. He did so and received Bible studies from Encile Brown, pastor. As he had been baptized by immersion in 1955, he was accepted on profession of faith into "the most loving church family," as he calls the Mission Hope congregation, on February 8, 2014.

Ria de Kock

Jim Watt (left), a former Episcopal priest, recently joined the Adventist Church.

# Texas Conference Hosts Burton Academy Seniors at Open House

**ALVARADO** » Burton Adventist Academy's (BAA) senior class recently had the opportunity to attend an open house of the Texas Conference headquarters in Alvarado. The intent of the tour was to offer these young leaders an opportunity to meet our local conference leadership and discover more about the people, purpose, personalities, and operations of our Adventist Church.

From all accounts, the open house was a great success, with many of the conference staff members, as well as the seniors, expressing their positive impressions of the

experience.

"This open house allows young people to catch a glimpse of the working gears of a conference office and to put a face with the staff here," said Sheri Denny, who works with the office of the president. "I believe it will result in future church leaders who better understand the church structure, and the hearts of those who work here. Perhaps it will even inspire some of them to one day work in ministry."

"It was a great opportunity to interact with the young people—these are the ages we serve, and to find out more about what interests them," said Jeanne Sadau, who works with the youth/young adult

ministries department. "I learned that these young people ask great questions—thoughtful and pertinent questions."

BAA seniors also shared about their experience, including Hong Ly, 17, from Vietnam, who said, "Everyone works really hard in order to serve God. God has a great impact on people's lives. All the leaders and staff aren't working for themselves. They work for God, and make themselves second."

"I am very grateful for the opportunity to see how the conference runs and to meet all the leaders and staff. They all showed great love to us," said BAA senior class president Faith Black. "You can tell by talking to them that they have a passion for God, love for people, and a servant's heart."

"They were so nice to us and made me eager to talk to them," noted Taeji Kim, 18, from South Korea. "They were so open-minded that I wanted to share my opinions and thoughts about improving our church."

"I appreciated that Texas Conference shared with us about their jobs," confirmed Anh Vu, 17, from Vietnam, "That helped me a lot in choosing a career!"

Perhaps most importantly, the open house afforded all involved a spiritual affirmation, as well.

Denny captured well the spiritual benefit of the visit: "I was deeply moved to see a group of beautiful girls join hands in my bosses' office and bow their heads to pray for the conference president and the many challenges that he faces in his leadership role. It was encouraging to my heart to see their interest, enthusiasm, and insight— and for

them to care about us! What precious young people we have ... seeing this helps our staff to remember why we are involved in ministry."

Carlos Craig, Texas Conference president, expressed his gratitude. "It was a joy and blessing for us! That was precious and greatly appreciated," he said.

Allan Martin



Burton Adventist Academy's senior class met with Texas Conference leaders at the conference office in Alvarado.





# Using Cutting Edge Technology to Enhance Adventist Education

**SAN MARCOS** » Last fall when Adventist Christian Academy of Texas needed a computer applications teacher and San Marcos Adventist Junior Academy needed a biology teacher, the two schools decided to combine resources and share a teacher for each of the needed classes. How were these schools able to do this despite being more than 170 miles apart? Thanks to a grant through the Texas Conference Education Department, modern technology provided a very creative solution.

A teleconferencing system from I-2-1 Technologies, a camera, a dedicated Internet line, and a very sensitive microphone are being used to bring the two classrooms together. Not only are the students and teacher in both classrooms able to see one another, but they can also communicate with each other as if they are together in

one classroom. For example, when Mr. Miller is teaching biology class at Adventist Christian Academy of Texas, he can see the class in San Marcos on a screen at the back of the classroom. If a student in San Marcos raises their hand to ask a question, Mr. Miller can call on them and hear them just as if they were in the same classroom. The student in San Marcos can see Mr. Miller on the screen in his classroom and hear him respond to his question. The students from each school feel as though they are part of one larger class.

The schools have also made efforts to make sure the students get face time with each other, as well. The two schools went on a joint biology field trip and there are plans for a joint science fair. The teachers also switched schools for a day so they could be face to face with the other half of their class.

Raul Aguilar, associate superintendent of schools for the Texas Conference, feels that this cutting-edge technology will provide tremendous opportunities for the future of our smaller schools. Instead of being isolated in a small class of three or four students, students could have the opportunity to have larger group discussions and work on group projects with students from other schools. Teachers will have the opportunity to teach to their strengths, and students will have the chance to take part in classes that they may not otherwise have the opportunity to experience.

These are just two examples of the many ways that the Texas Conference educators are moving forward to offer innovative technology options to improve the quality of education that we offer our students.

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The faculty of Adventist Christian Academy of Texas utilize the latest in educational technology for maximum effectiveness.

TEXAS CONFERENCE

## Educating for Eternity



I have a passion for Adventist education. Personally, I have been a part of it for 54 years.

With the start of first grade in 1960 until now, I have either been a student, teacher, principal, or superintendent. My family has a strong history in Adventist education. After my parents graduated from Adventist academies, they met at an Adventist college, were married, and had eight children who all attended Adventist schools, beginning in kindergarten or first grade. In fact, altogether, my immediate family represents 156 years of Adventist education! In today's dollars, that would be more than one million dollars that was spent on my parents' and their children's tuitions.

This type of commitment was not just found in my family, but in families throughout the Adventist churches in past years. It seems that there has been a change in priorities among our church families and Adventist education is sinking lower and lower on the list as each year passes. I want our families to take a second look at their life's priorities and what Adventist

education is really about.

There are three reasons that our schools were established: to **teach** children about Christ (Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God); to **equip** children with the skills needed for service and evangelism (Go ye into *all* the world); and to **protect** children from the influences of Satan in our world.

The Cognitive Genesis study has shown that our schools are superior in all school sizes, all subjects, and all locations. However, many Adventist families, because of their perceptions that small schools are inferior, and their loss of focus on the reasons for having our schools, have led them to choose alternate ways to use their money rather than put their children in Adventist schools.

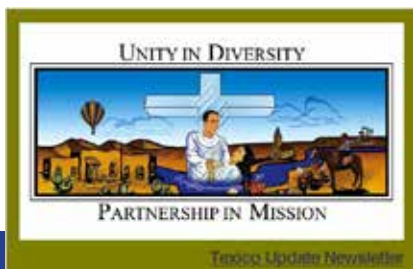
If you look at the last words of the book of Matthew that Jesus spoke to His disciples before leaving this earth, it was a commission of Adventist education. Chapter 28:18-20 says, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost; teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and,

lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world." Teaching them is the education part and the advent part is His second coming at the end of the world. We each need to do our part in going to our neighbors, communities, and the world to conduct Adventist education by sharing with them the wonderful message of Jesus and His return.

It is so much more important that we involve our children in this Adventist education which allows them to have teachers who impart to them the same values and goals as we do in our homes. I agree with the U.S. politicians' recommendation in the slogan, "No child left behind." When we get to heaven, God does not want any of our children to be left behind on this earth. I urge you to do everything you can to give opportunities for children to receive Adventist education and encourage them into a saving relationship with Jesus.

**Derral Reeve**, education superintendent

TEXICO CONFERENCE



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# A Mother's Prayer Answered

**ROSWELL, N. MEX. »** In the summer of 2011 our personal ministry team targeted the housing area of the old Walker Air Base in Roswell. We had men, women, and children from the age of ten through 60 and older on our team. Our mission was to go door to door with a survey that had a series of questions intended to meet the needs of the people in an area of town that many avoid. Two of the questions were, "Would you be interested in a Bible study?" and "Would you be willing to host a Bible study in your home?"

We had more than 300 surveys printed and, surprisingly, people were open to answering the questions. Many times the Holy Spirit would move on the hearts of the people as well as ours and we would have prayer with them. At the end of the day we would turn in all the prayer requests to our prayer warriors and continue in intercessory prayer.

One Sabbath afternoon we left a home with an SUV parked in the driveway. The man in the passenger seat had his window down and asked what we were doing. I gave him a survey and explained. He asked what church we were with and I told him, "Seventh-day Adventist."

He said, "I'm an SDA!" A smile spread over my face thinking maybe he was from the Spanish church. He quickly laughed and said, "Not really. My mom is an SDA. I used to go to church with her but haven't been in a long time." The next words out of my mouth were, "Would you like to host a Bible study in your home?" He looked over at his girlfriend, Lala (Hilaria), and asked, "Do you want to?" Her response was, "Whatever you want, Joel."

Three weeks later my husband, Daniel and I were at their home studying the Bible together. Over the next two years we had Bible study with them every Sunday evening that we could. Joel suffers with severe health problems and sometimes was un-

able to meet. When we first met Joel and Lala, he had just had surgery to remove an abscess the size of a grapefruit from his spine and was in physical therapy. Not long after that, another abscess appeared, quickly growing into the size of a football. He would have to have another surgery. Sadly, the surgeon admitted to hitting a nerve that left him paralyzed from the

wanted to get baptized. You can imagine the joy that filled our hearts. There was one obstacle though; they were not married. Getting married would cut their Social Security benefits. As we were discussing the issue, Joel turned to Lala and said, "Would you marry me?" Her answer was, "Yes! Yes! Yes!" Right then and there they committed to trust in God to provide for



Lala and Joel Coronado make their commitment to Christ with Ken Davis, pastor.

shoulders down. After much prayer and months of therapy, he regained his upper body strength, but was unable to walk. Not long after that his right leg was amputated below the knee due to complications from diabetes and recently was put on dialysis. I can't recall the number of times he's been hospitalized and near death with severe infections. Many times we would say to them, "We'll come back next week," because Joel looked so ill. His response was, "No, come! I'm not gonna let the devil win."

During these past two years, many people have been in and out of their home participating in Bible studies and, by the grace of God, we continue sowing the seed in many types of soil. Joel and Lala are faithful witnesses to everyone who come into their home and rarely do they come to church without bringing visitors.

Last month, they called and said they

their needs. They wanted to be baptized together, so that week they got their marriage license and Ken Davis, pastor, married them in their home among friends and family. That Sabbath, they were baptized! As the church gathered to welcome them, a friend of his mother said, "This is an answer to your mother's prayers." Tears fell from Joel's face because his beloved mother had passed away the previous summer. His only regret is that she didn't get to see this day.

The Holy Spirit reminds us how glorious it will be on resurrection day when this mother sees her prayer was answered. We will rejoice together in our glorified bodies in the presence of our Lord, Savior, and Redeemer, Jesus Christ!

**Debbie Ramirez**

# Junior Deacon Wins Spelling Bee

**LAS CRUCES, N. MEX. »** On Friday, February 21, 2014, the Las Cruces Public School's Spanish Spelling Bee took place at Ocate High School. Out of 48 students from grades four through eight, sixth-grade Lynn Middle School student, Ernesto G. Castillo-Ramirez, won first place. Ernesto correctly spelled the word tunnel (tunel) in Spanish to win and advance to the state spelling bee, which took place at the Albuquerque Hispanic Cultural Center in April. At the state level, Ernesto again did very well, winning third place. He now advances to the National Spanish Spelling Bee.

He serves as a junior deacon in the Las Cruces Spanish church. The church appreciates the coverage and reporting by the Las Cruces Sun-News, and Robin Zielinski, reporter and photographer.

**Hector Quinones**

Ernesto G. Castillo-Ramirez, junior deacon at the Las Cruces Spanish church, won first place at his school spelling bee.



## What a Blessing to Follow Jesus!

**EL PASO, TEXAS »** My name is Elvira Guerra. This is the story of how my husband, George, and I found personal relationships with God. It all started when we



George and Elvira Guerra happily join the El Paso Meraz Spanish church through baptism.

moved into our new apartment. My first thoughts were for Jesus to be the center of our lives, and to reign in our home. But I did not know how to make that happen.

One day my husband was on his way to the store when he met our neighbor, Nelly Lopez. During the course of conversation, she invited us to some evangelistic meetings at her church, the El Paso Meraz Spanish church. My husband did not say anything to me about the meetings until the next day when he asked me if I wanted to go, and I said yes. We were impressed by the friendly treatment we received from all the members. It was as if we had known them for a long time and they made us feel very welcome.

A few days later, Nelly offered to give us Bible studies in our home and we accepted. I noticed that none of the women at the

church wore jewelry. I started thinking about whether I wanted to continue wearing it. I made my decision not to wear it any more, because it is more important to me to do what pleases God.

It was our pleasure to be baptized on May 5, 2014 by Gladstone Simmons, who conducted the evangelistic meetings. We are thankful to him for teaching us many new things, and to God for helping us to take our first steps in our new life with Him.

Now that we have been baptized and because we love Jesus, we have the hope of being saved at the second coming of Christ. We will trust in Christ and work hard to make the gospel known to others. What a blessing it is to follow Jesus!

**Elvira Guerra**



# Expecting the Unexpected:

## Southwestern University Singers Travel to New England

Things don't always turn out as expected. Over this past spring break, just when Texas began to warm up, I got on a plane to frozen New England with the University Singers. On the tour, I learned to expect the unexpected. Each unpredicted moment became an opportunity for blessings.

We performed throughout Vermont, Massachusetts, Montreal, and New York City. Venues ranged from tiny classrooms to cathedrals, such as St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York, and Notre Dame Basilica in Montreal, Canada. The cathedrals, known for echoing acoustics, were our most anticipated singing venues.

The first day, the choir unpacked at Central Vermont Academy and Elementary School, which we would otherwise know as "home." After unloading, we drove four hours to our first performance—Notre Dame Basilica.

Tired from travel, the University Singers had a rough warm up. We marched to the front, and started Olaf Christiansen's "O Light Everlasting." The acoustics were unexpectedly dead. The cathedral was lined with wood, beautifully painted, and utterly sound absorbent. Nevertheless, faces in the audience showed appreciation. Even when a singer is discouraged, God can still use music to comfort and uplift.

Singing throughout the rest of the week took place in schools and churches. The choir worked with several local school

choirs, inviting them to sing with us. Often, people listening were as much a blessing to us as we hope we were to them.

One particular experience really stands out. Our whole choir got on the subway late one night after attending a Broadway show. A woman next to us asked, "What kind of group is this?" Jonathan Wall, our director, answered, "We're a choir from Texas." She responded, "Well then, sing!" We sang *Amazing Grace*.

In the background, a young man tuned in. Eventually speaking up, he said, "I've had the worst day. I'm discouraged, and I got on the train in the middle of the night and this is what I hear—thank you." The man said that he had previously been a Seventh-day Adventist. We invited him to our upcoming concert at St. Patrick's Cathedral. You never know when or where God can use you.

The St. Patrick's Cathedral concert was one of our last. What the choir and our director didn't realize was that the cathedral was being renovated. Rafters were literally everywhere. The sound of hammers and

screwdrivers echoed while people knelt in prayer. Construction site or not, the University Singers were there for a concert. We sang with the help of a few external sound effects. The young man from the subway came to our concert. I hope our songs reminded him of God's love for him. One woman came to the cathedral completely unaware that the University Singers would be there. She was mourning the loss of her husband, and we just so happened to sing the right words at the right time.

The Lord knows what He is doing. Situations that seem imperfect in our eyes can be the perfect venue for God to work in. Rather than be discouraged when things go wrong, look at it as an opportunity for God to share blessings.

**Makala Coleman**, senior journalism major

University Singers perform with the Cedar Brooke Elementary (below) and at the Notre-Dame Basilica of Montreal.



Catherine Wiist



Catherine Wiist

# Manila Evangelism Effort Results in Thousands Baptized

**MANILA** » When I think of Manila, Philippines, I think of a city where approximately 22 million people live, and every one of them needs to know Jesus as their personal Savior. But how does one spread the Word in such a large city? A decided effort was made to work in unity. As we are told in the book Evangelism, “In the spirit and fear of God the laborers should unite as one man, working with strength and with earnest

zeal” (p. ) This is what was done for Manila. The Southern Asia Pacific Division, North Philippine Union Conference, Central Luzon Conference, and South Central Luzon Conference worked closely with the 55 speakers that came from the United States. The guest speakers and local pastors were spread across the different regions of the city to share the good news.

One of the 55 speakers was General Conference president Ted Wilson. In the message he gave to a crowd of 13,000 people on the last Sabbath of the meetings, he said, “God is preparing a people—who are a commandment-keeping people, who are grace-filled people, people who are Bible believing people, people who are testifying of Jesus Christ, and people who are awaiting Christ’s soon coming. This is

what you and I have been called to. This is why we are here in the Cuneta Astrodome today. This is why the baptisms will take place this afternoon. This is why God has called you as part of His last day remnant people.” Yes, God has called each one of us.

It was an amazing site to see 100 pastors waiting in the swimming pool ready to receive the more than 1,000 baptismal candidates. One by one they slipped into the water—young people, old people, deaf people, crippled people—all had one thing in common—their decision to follow Jesus. A song sung by Myrna Burnside from Dallas, Texas, summed up their wishes, “Take me to the water to be baptized.” The mass baptisms took place on two Sabbaths. In addition to these, there were other baptisms happening all across the city. North Philippine Union president, Nephtali Manez says that, to date, there have been over 10,000 baptisms. There must have been a lot of rejoicing in heaven.

As C.A. Murray from 3ABN put it, “This is the most wonderful experience any preacher can have. It’s all about evange-



◀ Alisha Bolcourt from Odessa, Texas was the youngest preacher at 15.

▼ Myrna Burnside, from Dallas, Texas, singing “Take Me to the Water.”







▲ Dan Jackson, NAD president, poses with a group of young people at the baptism during Hope for Manila I Care in the Philippines in May.

► Peter Landless, M.D., Ted Wilson, president of the Adventist world church, and C.A. Murray of 3ABN baptizing candidates during the Hope for Manila I Care evangelistic campaign in the Philippines.



lism! It's just electrifying and at the same time humbling to know that God uses frail human beings to touch other frail human beings to give them a brand new start in Christ Jesus. I'm excited beyond belief!"

We were privileged to have Dan Jackson, North American Division president, and Alex Bryant, North American Division secretary, with us. Jackson said with enthusiasm, "I've been preaching! I've been doing an evangelistic series and 40-50 people were baptized. This is exciting! What a blessing!"

Fifteen-year-old Alisha Bolcourt from Odessa, Texas, was our youngest speaker. Even though she had to miss school, she wanted to participate in this big-city evangelism project. Alisha was a powerful preacher! In her interview at the last bap-

tism she stated: "I can't wait to get to know these people and see them in heaven—that's just the main goal. I can't wait for the Second Coming. When I get back home I'm going to keep on doing this ministry the rest of my life."

Speakers from within the Southwestern Union included Eddie Canales, vice president; Pat Humphrey, communication director; Duane McKey, vice president; Don Adams, Stephen Dennis, Doe Kenyon, Ron Ray, Abner Razon, Rodell Liwanag, Rolando Baysa, Lynnwood Spangler, Hector Qui-

nonnes, Nehemias Baysa, Alisha Bolcourt, Loida Cruz, Elena Kuz, Myrna Burnside, and the Thornton Family. Students from Southwestern Adventist University were led by Jorge Rico. Others included Kent Sharp and Jim Ayers from Adventist World Radio; Benny Moore from ShareHim; and Ray Wahlen from the General Conference. Everyone came with one goal—to share the wonderful news that Jesus is coming back soon.

**Kathy McKey**, prayer ministries coordinator

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**Looking for Authors** who have written a book on self-help for young adults (depression, suicide, eating disorders, dating, etc.). Also accepting children's books, mission stories, biographies,

and inspirational/doctrinal topics. Call TEACH Services at 800.367.1844.

**Andrews University** offers a 6-day Natural Remedies and Hydrotherapy Workshop August 3-8. University faculty and the following speakers will present: Don Miller, Uchee Pines Institute; David DeRose, Weimar Center of Health and Education; Elvin Adams, US Health Works; Norman McNulty, neurologist. For information: [andrews.edu/go/nrhw](http://andrews.edu/go/nrhw); e-mail [fran@andrews.edu](mailto:fran@andrews.edu); call 269.471.3541.

**Diabetes Reversal and Weight Management:** Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, TN. July 20-August 1 & August 24-September 5, 2014. Prevention and recovery from lifestyle disease. Reversal of most Type 2 diabetes and

permanent weight loss. Cost: \$975 (physician fees not included). For more information call 931.724.2443. [www.butlercreek.us](http://www.butlercreek.us).

**Headed to Oshkosh?** If your Pathfinder club needs a place to camp along the way, stop at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska. We will provide a FREE camping space for your club for one night on your trip both ways. To reserve space, call 402.486.2545 or e-mail [guestservices@ucollege.edu](mailto:guestservices@ucollege.edu).

## Announcements

**Let's Move Day** is September 21, 2014. For activity ideas, instructions, promotional materials, press release templates, videos, webinars, and other resources, go to [adventistsinstepforlife.org](http://adventistsinstepforlife.org). Help prevent childhood obesity and make a difference in your community!

**Creating a Vibrant Health Ministry**, a two-day Health Ministry certification training seminar, will be offered at the Equipped for Ministries Convention in Frisco, Texas, August 29 and 30. For more information, call 817-295-0476, ext. 338.

## Obituaries

### BALANSAE, Severino J., Sr.,

born January 8, 1923 in the Philippines, and died on April 14, 2014 in Edinburg, Tex. He was a member of the Edinburg church and a missionary in the Philippines for 33 years. Survivors: son, Severino, Jr.; and daughters, Rosie, Carol, Roselyn, and Jocelyn.

**BOSHELL, Lois**, born May 17, 1923 in Sulphur Springs, Tex., and died January 19, 2014 in Mesquite, Nev. She was the daughter of O.C. and Hazel Calhoun. She and her first husband, Morris H. Allen, were active members of the Jefferson Academy church and supported the academy. In 1988, she married James Boshell, who preceded her in death in 2003. Then she moved west with her daughters, spending two months at

a time with each of them—one living in Ojai, Calif. and the other in Mesquite, Nev. Survivors: brother and sister-in-law, Charles and Mary Calhoun of Comfort, Tex.; daughters and sons-in-law, Joyce and Doug Bruneau and Peggy and Ed Parry; four grandchildren; seven great grandchildren; and two great, great grandchildren.

### BROWN, Joshua Anthony,

born May 31, 1988 in Ocala, Fla., and died on March 26, 2014 in Little Rock, Ark. He was a student of the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, and a veteran of the U.S. Navy. He was a faithful member of the Little Rock church and much loved by family and friends. Survivors: parents, Walter (Tony) and Lorna Brown, of Little Rock; grandmother, Edna Wiles, of Kingston, Jamaica; sister

and brother-in-law, Geraldine and Rodney Bryant of Lancaster, Pa.; brother, Jonathan Brown, of Oklahoma City, Okla.; brother and sister-in-law, Giovanni and Angela Brown of Oklahoma City; brother, Josef Brown of Oklahoma City; sister and brother-in-law, Jewell and Shane Alexander of Wichita Falls, Tex.; sister, Jade Brown of Baltimore, Md.; sister, Jasmine Brown of Fulton, Miss.; brother, Joash Brown of Camp Pendleton, Calif.; sister, Leighanne Brown of Little Rock; brother, Kristopher Brown of Little Rock; brother, Tyler Brown of Little Rock; and several nephews.

### BURTON, Gordon Lawrence,

born March 23, 1931 in Peitermaritzburg S. Afr., and died on March 8, 2014 in Hendersonville, N.C. He was a member of the Arden, N.C. church. He was the child of missionary parents in Africa and spent his life in service to God. He taught school in Newfoundland, Canada, and Forest Lake Academy in Fla., and then served as a pastor in Portales, N. Mex.; Lubbock and Midland, Tex.; and in Ketchum, Bartlesville, Hugo, and Shattuck, Okla. He and his wife spent his last days near his daughter and her family in Fletcher, N.C. Survivors: wife, Virginia Burton; and children Gordon Jay Burton (Consuelo), Lenora Burton (Allan), and Charlene Ingulfsen (Tore).

**CORBETT, Violet**, born February 23, 1947 in Plymouth, Montserrat, B.W.I., and died on March 28, 2014 in New Orleans, La. She was a member of the Bogalusa church. Survivors: daughters, Carolyn and Althea of Atlanta, Ga.; sons, Llewelyn of S.C. and Andy of England;

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14 grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

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**DUNCAN, Tracy Ann**, born June 5, 1980 in Tyler, Tex., and died on April 26, 2014 in Chandler, Tex. She was a member of the Tyler church. Survivors: father, Thurston Lee Duncan, Jr. of Chandler; mother, Cindy McCullars of Kans.; step-mother, Shari; siblings and their spouses, Kim and Rick Cowell, Jack and Brandy Duncan, Justiss and Cross Pike, Amanda and Rick Duncan, Thomas Cooper, and Thurston Lee "Bubba" Duncan II; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

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**FENSKE, Herbert "Happy" Ewald**, born January 20, 1919 in Resiel, Tex., and died on July 30, 2013 in Elgin, Tex. He was a member of the Elgin church. He was raised on a farm and farmed early in life. He started religious work by selling books and Bibles and later worked as a machinist for Texas Nuclear at the University of Texas where he retired in 1984. He loved making wood art, gardening, and raising roosters and chickens. He was preceded in death by his parents, Ewald and Ida Fin Fenske, and his first wife, Freda. Survivors: wife, Kathryn Fenske of Calif.; sister, Elda Federwisch; sons and daughter-in-law, David and Shirley Fenske; Earl Fenske; daughters and sons-in-law, Ruth and Fred Stifflemire, Dorothy and Charles Nicholson; numerous grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren.

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**FREEMAN, Evalyn**, born November 1, 1965 in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, and died on February 12, 2014 in Baton Rouge, La. She was a member

of the Baton Rouge church. Survivors: husband, William (Bill) Freedman of Baton Rouge; daughter, Anastasia Freedman of Baton Rouge; step-daughter, Michonne Freedman of New Orleans, La.; and one grandchild.

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**HAILS, Barbara**, born November 24, 1927 in Glendale, Calif., and died on April 14, 2014 in Salem, Ark. She was a member, treasurer, community center leader, Sabbath School class teacher, and VBS leader at the Mammoth Spring church. She was a school teacher in Flint, Mich., before moving to Mammoth Spring to live with her father. She and her dad attended singles ministries events. She was an intrepid gardener and loved flowers. She was preceded in death by her parents, Harry William and Mae Alice Pate Hails, and brother, Robert Hails. Survivors: sisters, Ruth Kingston of Salem, Ark., and Judy Hails of Fountain Valley, Calif.; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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**HALL, Laurie Ann**, born July 31, 1949 in New Orleans, La., and died on April 6, 2014 in Sun, La. She was a member of the Bogalusa church. She was a weather forecaster in the U.S. Air Force from 1974-1978 and retired in 2009 as a hydrologist with the National Weather Service. Survivors: husband of 38 years, Mark Wayne Hall; daughter, Christine Aparicio; son, Mark Wayne Hill II; and seven grandchildren.

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**HEWES, Warren Clarence**, born August 26, 1923 in Rutland, Vt., and died on March 2, 2014 in Marshall, Tex. He was the son of Clarence and Ella Botsford. He graduated from Brattleboro Business

Institute in 1942, and worked on the family dairy farm until he attended Washington Missionary College in Takoma Park, Md. from 1949-1954, where he earned business and theology bachelor's degrees. Throughout his life he served as a literature evangelist, publishing director, advocate for ADRA, and ordained minister. He and his family answered the call to become missionaries in 1965 and served at the Zambezi Union in Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe), and then later at the East Africa Union in Nairobi, Kenya. They returned to the U.S. in 1988 to retire in Marshall, Tex. In 2009, Warren had an accident in which his riding lawn mower rolled down an embankment, and he never fully recovered from his injuries. Survivors: wife of 62 years, Eleanor; daughters and sons-in-law, Marilyn and Dr. Ed Kemper and Cheryl and David Steingas; five grandchildren; and one great grandson.

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**HURT, Shawn Michael**, born April 14, 1994 in Sikeston Mo., and died on April 12, 2014 in Gentry, Ark. A member of the Gentry church, he was the victim of an auto accident. Survivors: parents, Edward Joseph and Edna Jewell Goshie Hurt of Gentry; fiancée, Audrianna Brown of Siloam Springs, Ark.; seven brothers; and seven sisters.

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**JENSEN, Janet Marie**, born July 20, 1953 in Newhall, Calif., and died on January 28, 2013 in Elgin, Tex. She grew up in Elgin and moved to Austin, where she began her career with the State of Texas until her retirement from the Highway Department in 2013. After retiring from the state, she worked for

Oscar Rodriguez. Survivors: parents, Vernon Harvey and Lillian Elnora Hoehn Jensen; brothers Jim (Yolanda) and Donald Jensen; and several nieces and nephews.

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**LEVRAEA, Mary Witt Canova**, born April 19, 1930, and died on January 7, 2014 in Baton Rouge, La. She was a member of the Baton Rouge church. Survivors: daughter, Brenda Canova; son and daughter-in-law, Jacob and Ellen Canova; step-children, Gayle Tranchina, and Joseph and Margaret Levraea; four grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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**LOVETT, Rodley Clyde**, born August 6, 1937 in Baton Rouge, La., and died on October 17, 2013 in Fort Worth, Tex. He was a member of the Hico church. He served nine years in the U.S. Navy. He served the Lord faithfully as a deacon, elder, and member of the Adventist Church in Aruba; Baton Rouge and Zachary, La.; Islip, N.Y.; and in Conroe, Keene, Joshua, and Hico, Tex. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Lois Carlino and Loretta LeBlanc; and his parents, Sadie and Clyde Lovett. Survivors: wife of 52 years, Janet Lovett; sister and brother-in-law, Susie and Robin Oden; sons and daughters-in-law Kenneth (Mike) and Caroline Lovett, Dan and Mary Lovett, Brandon (Keith) and Melanie Lovett, Jason and Amber Lovett; daughters and sons-in-law, Kathy and Johnny Coker, Aimie Lovett, Alicia and Eddie Wood; 19 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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**LYNN, Ruth Arlene (Robin-son)**, born October 23, 1932

in Vinita, Okla., and died on November 2, 2013 in Victoria, Tex. She was the daughter of Hubert and Margaret Robinson. She was a member of the Pharr English church. She was a lung cancer survivor for eight years prior to her passing away while enroute to Houston for surgery. Before retiring from Drs. Earl Reed and Duane Mock's clinic in San Juan, Tex., she was the girls dean of Forrest Lake Academy in Fla., and Champion Academy in Colo. She was a 1956 graduate of Union College in Lincoln, Neb. Survivors: husband of 44 years, Ned G. Lynn of Alamo, Tex.; sons Terry Dickinson of Lincoln, Neb., and Gary Dickinson of Aubrey, Tex.; step-daughters Juanita Holder of McAllen, Tex., and Debby Fisher of Bristow, Okla.; four granddaughters; and seven step-grandchildren.

**PAENITZ, Connie Elaine**, born May 25, 1947 in Elgin, Tex., and died on March 22, 2014 in Elgin, Tex. She was the daughter of Lloyd and Dorothy Huff. She worked in the Elgin public schools from 1975-2014. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, and teacher to many. Survivors: husband of 47 years, Delbert; sister, JoCarol Snowden (Allen Kemp) of Austin, Tex.; children, Bryan Paenitz of McDade, Shannon Bailey (Jim) of Keene, Tex., Melissa Van Raden (Harold) of Kenai Peninsula, Ala., and Lonney Paenitz of Matagorda; five grandchildren; and one great-granddaughter.

**POTTER, Georgia**, born August 23, 1921 in Hornbeck, La., and died on March 20, 2014 in Shreveport, La. She was a member of the Shreve-

port First church. Survivors: sister-in-law, Beulah May Dowden of Shreveport; and numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

**RABUN, Glenn Irvin**, born July 25, 1934 in Butler, Tex., and died on June 5, 2013 in Elgin, Tex. He was an active member and leader in the Elgin church where he supported the youth programs and enjoyed spending time camping with his grandchildren and church friends. He enjoyed working with his friends and colleagues as an accountant for the Texas Highway Department for 37 years. He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Irvin and Edna Lou Rabun, and son, Kevin. Survivors: wife of 58 years, Emma "Ann"; sisters and brothers-in-law, Vivian and Robert Cooper of Keene, Tex., and Betty and Earl Hold of Elgin, Tex.; sons and daughter-in-law, Keith and Nelda Rabun of Austin, Tex., and Kris Rabun; seven grandchildren; and numerous great-grandchildren.

**TAYLOR, Dorothy Boston**, born December 2, 1922 in Tex., and died on May 7, 2014 in Pine, La. She was a charter member of the Bogalusa church, where she was very active for 47 years. She drove herself to church until her 90th birthday, and drove her daughter around to give away literature. She was preceded in death by her husband, George Taylor, grandson, Darren Morgan, Great-grandchild Austin Morgan, her parents, Theodore and Theresa Boston, sisters, Lily Mae Paris, Elzie Walker, Gladys Mallow, and brothers, Alvin Boston and Clarence Boston. Survivors: son and

daughter-in-law, Pastor John and JoEllen Taylor of Jefferson, Tex.; Joan Taylor of Houston, Tex.; Janet and Glen Miller of Hammond, La.; Joyce and Johnny Gerald of Pine, La.; Laura and Steve Garcia of Pine, La.; 10 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and six great-great grandchildren.

**THIBODEAUX, Robbie Jefferson**, born June 20, 1934 in Houston, Tex., and died on April 15, 2014 in Houston, Tex. after a brief battle with cancer. She was the daughter of Booker T. and Flora Askew Jefferson. At the age of 12, she, along with her mother and sibling became members of the Berean church. She was an active member of the Smyrna church for more than 50 years, where she served as church pianist; deaconess; and personal, health, and women's ministries leader; Sabbath School teacher and superintendent; and a church elder. After earning her degree from Texas Woman's University, she served as a nurse for 40 years, including

as Lone Star Camp nurse. She believed deeply in the value of Christian education and will be remembered as one who encouraged and affirmed the church family towards excellence as servants of the most high God. Survivors: husband, Joseph B. Thibodeaux; sisters Bessie Blake, Ruth McCannaughay, and Muriel Jefferson; brothers William, Larry, and Samuel; children and spouses, Ronald and Laura Thibodeaux, Kenneth and Wanda Thibodeaux, Anthony Thibodeaux, Joseph and Lisa Thibodeaux, Flora and Dennis Dunkins; 14 grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

**WREN, Elsie Harrington**, born June 2, 1934 in Greensburg, La., and died on February 6, 2014 in Baton Rouge, La. She was a member of the Baton Rouge church. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Tommy and Shivonne Wren of Baton Rouge; sister, Marie Foster of Greensburg, La.; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

SABBATH SUNSET CALENDAR						
	Jul 4	Jul 11	Jul 18	Jul 25	Aug 1	Aug 8
Abilene, TX	8:50	8:49	8:46	8:42	8:38	8:32
Albuquerque, NM	8:25	8:23	8:20	8:16	8:10	8:04
Amarillo, TX	9:06	9:04	9:01	8:57	8:51	8:45
Brownsville, TX	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:21	8:17	8:12
Dallas, TX	8:39	8:38	8:35	8:31	8:26	8:20
El Paso, TX	8:15	8:14	8:12	8:08	8:03	7:57
Fort Worth/Keene, TX	8:41	8:40	8:37	8:34	8:29	8:22
Gallup, NM	8:34	8:33	8:30	8:25	8:20	8:13
Galveston/Houston, TX	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:20	8:15	8:10
Gentry, AR	8:39	8:38	8:34	8:30	8:24	8:17
Little Rock, AR	8:26	8:25	8:22	8:18	8:13	8:06
Muskogee, OK	8:41	8:40	8:37	8:32	8:27	8:20
New Orleans, LA	8:05	8:04	8:02	7:59	7:54	7:49
Oklahoma City, OK	8:49	8:48	8:45	8:40	8:35	8:28
Roswell, NM	8:12	8:10	8:08	8:04	7:58	7:52
San Antonio, TX	8:38	8:37	8:35	8:31	8:27	8:22
Shreveport, LA	8:26	8:25	8:23	8:19	8:14	8:08
Tulsa, OK	8:45	8:43	8:40	8:35	8:30	8:23



# On the Record »

BY PAT HUMPHREY » COMMUNICATION DIRECTOR, SOUTHWESTERN UNION



## What Makes the Difference?

**I AM ALWAYS INTRIGUED** when someone who is not of our faith looks with interest and admiration at some unique aspect of Adventism, such as the high value we place on education, or our focus on the healthy development of the *whole person*. Indeed, Adventist education is one subject that has caught the attention of many admirers in the secular and Christian world, including filmmaker Martin Doblmeier, who says that Adventist education is in our DNA—it’s something of “indescribable value” that is at the very heart of Adventist culture. He gets it! Doblmeier has picked up on an important value—education—that is integral to the Adventist faith (though we sometimes take it for granted).

But what makes Adventist education so unique? There are many factors, but I think the CognitiveGenesis study hints at the answer. It’s intriguing to me that when the researchers compared kids in Adventist schools to their public school peers—who were no different from them in terms of geographic, racial, and economic factors—the kids in Adventist schools outperformed their peers in *every* academic area. When I discovered that, I was *amazed*, and immediately my question was—and it’s probably yours too—So, what makes the difference?

I really wanted to know, so I asked an Adventist educator, Carol Schneider, who is principal of the Joshua (Texas) Adventist Multi-grade School, for her opinion. Here’s what she said: “I have no statistics to support what I’m about to say,” she admitted. “But Ellen White tells us (I’m paraphrasing) that there is no true education apart from God. So when God is at the center of our education, He blesses it and He broadens our minds. That’s why Adventist school children outperform their peers.”

I believe the point Carol Schneider was making is embodied in the following

statement by Ellen White, which is the quest of the many dedicated teachers in Adventist classrooms, not only around the Southwestern Union but around the world: “He who co-operates with the divine purpose in imparting to the youth a knowledge of God, and molding the character into harmony with His, does a high and noble work. As he awakens a desire to reach God’s ideal, he presents an education that is as high as heaven and as broad as the universe. . . an education that secures to the successful student his passport from the preparatory school of earth to the higher grade, the school above” (*Education*, p. 19).

That’s it! The high ideals, the higher purpose, and God’s blessings make a measurable and notable difference in Adventist education. Are *your* kids experiencing that difference?

*Pat Humphrey*

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