Healthy, happy, and whole families! Some families make it look easy, but for most, maintaining a healthy family life is hard work! Family ministries helps families by equipping them with the tools they need to change, grow, and bond together to be families for Christ!
I was fortunate to be blessed with a good family. A perfect family? No, but my parents always seemed to be able to work things out. They were both busy working outside the home, but always found time for my brothers and me. We worked together in the family business giving us time to be together, even though it was not a *Leave it to Beaver* type of home. For those of you to young to know, *Leave it to Beaver* was a 1950s TV show about a “perfect” family dealing with two boys growing up and facing the little annoyances and challenges of life. Things were much simpler then compared to now. I have noticed that a few things carry over and help make families a safe and happy place even today.

First, a family has to be committed. When parents exhibit a strong commitment to each other, children feel more secure. Growth in the family’s spiritual life enhances commitment to one another. Spending time together reading the Bible and praying provides a foundation for spiritual growth. Sometimes, no matter how dedicated we are, life gets messy. But, if your commitment is strong, you can survive the stress.

Second, communication is so important for parents and children. We ate supper together almost every night at our house. We talked about the day’s activities. I know that it is hard in today’s world to sit down to a meal with each other, but do it as often as you can. It’s so important. Teaching children to express themselves and listen to others is part of the parenting process.

Third, sincere appreciation serves as affirmation and can reduce behavior issues in children. Take time to notice the small things that you can compliment each other on. This works for spouses and children. We all like to know we are loved and appreciated. My parents were quick to encourage us. Children in today’s world need all the encouragement they can get.

Fourth, I will simply mention humor. The Bible says a merry heart is good like medicine (Proverbs 17:22). Laughter relieves stress. Children laugh more often than adults. They seem to come programmed that way by the Creator. I love teasing my children and grandchildren. My granddaughter, Heidi, said, as she and her parents pulled in my driveway, “Grandpa’s home! He’s silly!” I accept her judgment.

Be blessed!
Finding God (or God Finding You)

I have a couple of serious questions for you:

1. Do you believe that God wants what is best for you?
2. Do you believe that He is on your side?

If you’ve been through difficult situations or lived through a tragic loss, then you might wonder whether God wants what is best for you (or if He even cares, for that matter).

If there is one thing we know it’s this: life isn’t fair. We rub shoulders with darkness every day. People and families bear the stripes, bruises, and wounds of random acts of evil. Life is tough. And sometimes we weep more than we smile. Why?

Ephesians 6:12 states, “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (NKJV). A great controversy of epic proportions is taking place and we’re stuck in the middle.

But when all appears lost and we’re ready to give up and let go, our loving Father holds us tightly within His arms and whispers, “It’s going to be OK—a better day is coming.”

Evil doesn’t have full reign. The “roaring lion seeking whom he may devour” is kept on a short leash and is revealing its true colors. God’s character is being vindicated. And people can make a clear choice about whom they will follow.

I realize that this theological explanation doesn’t satisfy the questions of hurting people. And I further realize that it doesn’t take away their pain. But the Bible says that God picks up the pieces that are left in the wake of evil’s random rampages to make something good rise from the ashes of loss and defeat. (Romans 8:28).

It all boils down to a matter of trust. No matter how deep the pain or strong the tears, we choose to trust God because He’s the only one who can make things right again; He is the Creator, not the destroyer.

As I write this, I, too, ponder these two questions against the backdrop of my own personal disappointments, battles lost, and painful moments.

And I am reminded I am God’s child (and so are you—let that amazing truth sink in for a minute!).

You belong to Him! First He created you, then He redeemed you, and now He restores you. Any way you look at it, God wants you to be a part of His life.

His desire for you today is found in 3 John 1:2: “Beloved, I pray that you may prosper in all things and be in health, just as your soul prospers” (NKJV).

God longs for you to enjoy a life of happiness, health, and hope—He wants you to prosper in all things, both in this life and in the life to come. He forgives you, restores you and, by His grace, transforms you! And He asks you to share this experience with someone else.

I’m becoming increasingly more convicted that it’s not so much about us finding God during our darkest moments—it’s about God finding us—and find us He does.

From Genesis to Revelation, every page of God’s Holy Word is written with the tears and blood of a loving Heavenly Father who does whatever it takes to get His family back, even if it costs Him everything.

God is on your side and He wants what is best for you. This is why I invite you to trust Him fully today.

That’s CREATION Health!

Lynell LaMountain, Southern Union health ministries director
What Family Means to Me

WHAT FAMILY MEANS TO ME is playing with my brother and my cousins and bonding with my whole family. My cousin, Tito, and I play with a soccer ball in the backyard. My brother and I play wrestle. Family also means BBQs with family. My uncle can make good BBQ. When we eat, we are coming together and bonding. When I go and get together with my family on Sabbath, it makes me really happy that I can see my family and enjoy the bonding time together. My family has a great time! We laugh, we cry, we pray, we eat—the love between us is amazing, and we enjoy our time together!

For me, the best times to get together with my family are at Christmastime, Thanksgiving, and for birthdays, but most importantly, for Sabbath dinners. When we come together for Sabbath dinners, we talk about how our week was and any crazy thing that may have happened during the week.

When my family comes to my birthday, it’s the best time ever. On Thanksgiving, it’s also the best time ever, because we talk, laugh, eat, laugh, and eat again. We just bond and get closer. On Christmas, as they say, “It’s the most wonderful time of the year.” With family, we are giving to each other, as well as receiving strength and a true sense of belonging to something special. Without family, I would feel empty.

My family has taught me that it is the most important to be a part of God’s family. God is the One who makes families special. When I studied the Bible with my grandpa, he showed me that at Creation it was God who made Adam and Eve, who were the first family. Things in the first family did not always go right, just as they don’t always go right in families today, but God keeps the family together.

My family gives me security and my faith in God is stronger because of the love I have in my family. They are always there for me and I want to always be there for them. I thank Jesus for my family every day. I love my family, and I know my family loves me!

Ruben Griffith is 11 years old and lives in Mansfield, Texas. He is a member of the Arlington church.
Greetings from Kuwait! I’m here as brigade chaplain, 36th Combat Aviation Brigade, Texas Army National Guard. I'm near the end of this year long adventure that began with three months of training before we left Fort Hood for Kuwait in April. Before we got on the plane, we were all hugged by a little lady who has embraced every soldier deploying from Fort Hood since 2001, earning the nickname, “the hug lady.” Elizabeth Laird is a Seventh-day Adventist who has made this her way to witness to the love and compassion of Jesus.

We are at Camp Buehring, in the northwest part of Kuwait, south of the Iraq border. It was still spring when we arrived, and somewhat cool, but it quickly warmed up. The desert landscape is barren and the climate harsh—summer temperatures get as high as 126 degrees Fahrenheit, accompanied by “shamal” winds blowing choking dust. Yet the camels that graze in the desert around our camp always seem to be smiling contentedly.

As brigade chaplain, I’m responsible for religious support for about 1100 soldiers. This includes supervising three subordinate chaplains and their chaplain assistants, leading my own religious services, and advising the commander on religious and moral issues. I do crisis intervention, visiting soldiers in the hospital and sometimes bringing them unexpected news in the form of a Red Cross Message from home. I’ve done a lot of teaching, including training over 90 soldiers in suicide intervention.

I’ve been serving as senior pastor for the contemporary Protestant service, which is attended by around 70 service members each week. In addition, I started Adventist services at both Camp Buehring and at Camp Arifjan (about 90 minutes away). One of the soldiers I met at Arifjan was Master Sergeant Betheny Jones, an Army Reservist from Killeen, Texas daughter of Adventist pastor, Cordell Reiner. Another Adventist, Chaplain (Major) Richard James of the Potomac Conference, came to Arifjan so I was able to focus on the service at Buehring.

I was helped at Buehring by an Adventist chaplain assistant from Fort Carson, Colorado Springs, Colorado, Sergeant Joshua Barney, a onetime youth pastor in northern California who plans on entering the seminary when he leaves the Army next year. Sometimes we’d have three soldiers, sometimes ten, but these were always special times. I even met a couple of Adventist soldiers from Houston, Texas, Walter Oduk and Jerry Smith.

There have been reports in the news suggesting religious freedom is restricted in the military. That hasn’t been my experience. My job as a chaplain is to ensure that all soldiers are able to exercise their First Amendment rights. We have Adventist, General Protestant, Roman Catholic, Latter Day Saint, Jewish and Muslim services each week (even a Pagan group). Chaplains are trusted advisors to their commanders, and their counsel is sought after. We do our work faithfully, and have the freedom to do so.

Keep us in your prayers as we make the journey home, and pray for our other service personnel, especially our chaplains, including Lane Campbell, formerly chaplain at Southwestern Adventist University, and young adult ministry director of the Texas Conference, who is now an Air Force chaplain deployed to Bahrain.

Chaplain (Major) William Cork, assistant director of Adventist Chaplaincy Ministries, is serving as field representative for the Southwestern and Mid-America unions. This letter to home was written from Kuwait last November, where Cork was serving at the time with the Texas National Guard.
Cualidades en el Hogar Cristiano

Como pastor, he tenido la oportunidad de observar y trabajar con muchas familias. Ya que la familia es la piedra angular de la iglesia, no es de extrañar que la familia está bajo ataque en la sociedad actual. Satanás se deleita en la interrupción de la vida de tantas personas. Esposos y esposas son grandemente perjudicados al igual que los niños y esto hace que la iglesia también sea perjudicada por estos ataques. Es posible que tú hayas experimentado estos asaltos a los que me refiero o que puedes conocer a alguien que está pasando por este tipo de situación. Mucho se ha escrito en los últimos años sobre la forma de hacer frente a la discordia marital. Podemos decir que mucho de este tipo de literatura tiene buena información. Me gustaría mencionar dos puntos indispensables en la vida conyugal. Ambos puntos son básicos para cualquier relación, y si se practican ayudarán a evitar la angustia y el sufrimiento en las familias que las lleva a disolver su unión. Por esta razón es urgente que reconozcamos la importancia de lo que consideramos es lo más básico en las relaciones interpersonales, el trato que nos damos los unos a los otros.

El enfoque en este artículo es la relación matrimonial. Pensando desde un punto de vista preventivo, ¿no sería mejor practicar buenos hábitos en lugar de tratar de salvar las relaciones dañadas y rotas? El primer punto indispensable para prevenir el daño en la relación marital es la cortesía. La Biblia dice: “Amaos los unos a los otros.” En el libro El Hogar Adventista, Elena de White dice: “el cultivo de una cortesía uniforme, la voluntad de hacer por los demás como nos gustaría que lo hagan por nosotros, eliminaría la mitad de los males de la vida.” Toma un minuto para meditar en esta declaración. Siguiendo esta regla de oro, la mitad de nuestros problemas de relación interpersonal pudieran ser eliminados. ¿Puedes ver el valor de vivir como Jesús en nuestros hogares todos los días? ¿Tendría un efecto en nuestros hijos, y qué acerca de sus futuros hogares? La bondad universal debe ser la ley en el hogar. Ningún lenguaje grosero o palabras amargas deben ser dichas. Tu cortesía y autocontrol tendrán mayor influencia en los caracteres de tus hijos.

El segundo punto que me gustaría destacar es la amabilidad y está estrechamente relacionado con la cortesía. Igualmente encontramos en El Hogar Adventista la siguiente cita, “Amabilidad y paciencia mutua harán del hogar un paraíso y atraerán a los santos ángeles al círculo familiar.” Desafortunadamente lo contrario también es cierto, la falta de cortesía y amabilidad impulsan a los ángeles fuera del hogar. No hace ninguna diferencia si vives en una casa de lujo o un cuartito humilde, la amabilidad hará que tu hogar sea un pequeño cielo en la tierra. Cuando era niño me acuerdo de una familia en nuestra iglesia. El padre era un hombre bastante severo que no sonreía mucho. La madre era una señora muy agradable, pero era apagada por la personalidad de su esposo. Sus hijos asistían a la escuela de iglesia y cada sábado iban a la iglesia. Tenían el culto familiar en el hogar y eran muy cuidadosos con su dieta. Pero había un espíritu en ese hogar que parecía excluir la presencia de Jesús. No estoy seguro de que fuesen conscientes de ello. Tenían tres hijos y tan pronto como llegaron a la edad adulta dos de ellos se fueron de la iglesia. La hija que se quedó en la iglesia encontró un esposo feliz. Creo que esa es la razón que la motivó a quedarse con Jesús y en la iglesia. Hago un llamamiento a los esposos, esposas y padres para mantener estos dos puntos en sus corazones y hogares. Vamos a hacer un ministerio de misericordia a todos, empezando por aquellos que están viviendo en nuestras casas. Me parece que la hermana White dice que si fuéramos amables y corteses habría 100 personas que aceptarían la verdad donde ahora sólo una la acepta. ¡Que pensamiento! Qué Dios nos ayude a ser como Cristo en nuestras relaciones con los demás, empezando por los miembros de nuestro hogar.
STRENGTHENING THE FAMILY:

AVOIDING DIVORCE AT ALL COSTS
God established the family at Creation when He said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18, KJV). And from the rib of the man God made the woman and brought her unto the man. Marriage was instituted at Creation, forming the foundation for the family.

“Marriage is not just another lifestyle choice; it’s a spiritual endeavor and a relational design emanating from the creative brilliance of God,” writes Dennis Rainey, in his book *Ministering to Twenty-First Century Families*. God is relational, and He is honored and glorified by extolling how He designed marriages to work.

“Throughout the Bible marriage is employed as the most sublime metaphor for the relationship between man and God....A good Christian marriage, indeed, is more than a religious metaphor; it is a first, tangible, visible, and most glorious fruit of the Kingdom of God. A wedding was not only the occasion for the first miracle of Jesus; it was, after Creation itself, God’s own first miracle: ‘He brought the woman to the man’” (Mike Mason, *The Mystery of Marriage*).

What has happened to God’s beautiful creation of marriage, the foundation of family? In too many instances the husband has one idea of what a marriage should be like, and the wife has another. This disconnect of ideas has and is causing great difficulty in marital relationships and creates a formula for family disharmony. Clearly, the problem is not with God or His design for this most sacred institution, “For I am the Lord, I change not” (Malachi 3:6). The center of the problem is disconnection with God. God’s design is for mankind’s happiness in every area of His being. However, if the trends of society become the ruling force for the home, disruption and brokenness result. When God has His rightful place in the marriage and the family, happiness can be created. Therefore, our goal must be to make our marriages and homes God-centered and God-connected.

The enemy of us all employs many varied means to bring destruction to the family. We must realize that God has not abandoned us, and He equips us with the defenses to repel any and all of Satan’s attacks and attempts to destroy what God has instituted. He is able to maintain and sustain our family relationships.

The call is to bring God back into the family circle. Seek His guidance and wisdom for your family. Never give up on making your home God-centered and God-anchored through daily family prayer and devotion. Also, be intentional regarding your interaction with each other in the midst of a highly technological age that tends to separate us more than bring us together as a family unit.

Family ministries experts, Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, are the directors of the Family Ministries Department of the North American Division of Seventh-Day Adventists. In the following article, they offer some valuable counsel for marriage and family togetherness and happiness.

---

**Fun Holiday Activities for Families**

Reggie Johnson, assistant director, communication, Southwestern Union

1. Take the family to a pumpkin farm or Christmas tree farm that offers fun activities and attractions as well as pumpkins or Christmas trees. Let the kids pick out pie pumpkins or this year’s Christmas tree at such a location. Many of these locations offer such activities as petting zoos, hay rides, playgrounds, farm animals, and more. Find out if you have a pumpkin or Christmas tree farm near you and turn the task of picking out a pumpkin or Christmas Tree into a family outing!

2. Create a family recipe book of your family’s favorite holiday recipes. Or, to mix things up a bit, get the whole family together and look through new cookbooks and food magazines to find a collection of new holiday recipes that you’d like to try for the first time this year. Cut out the recipes and put them in a folder and then put in notes about which ones were your favorites so that you can use them next year. Keep adding to this folder year after year. Don’t forget to get the whole family involved in the cooking and baking—at least for those who are old enough to lend a hand in the kitchen!

3. Get involved in a community service project as a family (i.e., soup kitchen, food distribution, community service warehouse, adopt-a-family programs, or visit a home for senior citizens). This is one of the best ways to instill a sense of thankfulness in the whole family and to help you all remember the reasons behind the holidays.

4. Unplug your family on the holiday! On Thanksgiving Day (and/or Christmas Day, try making it a family policy that the television, computer, and mobile devices stay turned off all day!) This will encourage the whole family to spend time together in the real world, rather than escaping to the virtual world.

5. Get the whole family involved in decorating for the holidays. Be sure to make lots of your own homemade decorations with craft projects that you do together with the kids. Don’t be afraid to let their “artistic expression” get in the way of a “perfectly coordinated look.” Spending time together and letting the kids express themselves through decorative crafts is a more noble goal than impressing the neighbors with your professional-looking interior decorating!
Drs. Claudio and Pamela Consuegra, directors of family ministries, North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists

In one of his most memorable songs, the late Jim Croce wrote:

“If I could save time in a bottle,
The first thing that I’d like to do,
Is to save every day till eternity passes away,
Just to spend them with you.”
Time, that fleeting thing that runs through our lives faster than sand through our hands, how we wish we could indeed save it in a bottle! And yet, each day teaches us that once the minutes tick away we can’t take them back.

We’re often asked for the key to building a sense of family togetherness and how couples can avoid divorce. We share with people that there are several ingredients that can help. As Christians, we must depend on God daily to help keep those bonds strong. We must maintain individual, couple, and family devotional time, Bible study, and prayer. We also remind families of the importance of healthy communication, that is, that they need to learn the skills of speaking assertively and listening attentively. We teach them conflict resolution skills by reminding them that what matters most is not the absence of conflict but rather that we handle conflict in a positive and constructive way.

All of these elements of strong families have one thing in common: time. It requires time to talk and to listen. It requires time to study the Bible and to pray. It requires time to resolve conflict. Time is an essential element of healthy relationships. When we begin a relationship with someone we find attractive or interesting, we need time to get to know each other, to know about each other’s family, what we each like and dislike, before making a lifetime commitment to be married to them.

As a family, we need to be intentional about spending quality time together. That’s why we need to set aside time each day to have dinner together, as research reveals it is particularly beneficial for the emotional well-being of children. We need time to disconnect from the electronic world in order to reconnect at the emotional level. Turn off all of the electronic gadgets that rob you of valuable time together with your spouse and children. Stop spending time on Facebook and spend face to face time with your family, talk more than you text, and spend more time holding your loved ones than you spend holding your cell phone. We need time to build memories, which are those time capsules, the way we bottle time up for future remembrance. That’s why taking time to celebrate birthdays, holidays, and special events is so important. That’s why weekly rituals or traditions, like sundown Sabbath worship, and church attendance, and Sabbath afternoon activities as a family are memorable. Time spent as a family in mission-oriented activities, such as cleaning a disabled person’s yard, helping an elderly person, or taking a short-term mission trip, is time that bonds the family together.

Togetherness Is Most Essential (T.I.M.E.). Many things threaten to distract us and rob us of our time with God and with our loved ones. Do an inventory of how you spend your time. It is in our power to ensure we don’t allow anything or anyone to deplete the precious amount of time we have together as a couple or as a family.
W
d
ile browsing the Internet one evening, I saw something regarding singleness that caught my eye. The statement was, “I’m Single Because God is Busy Writing the Best Love Story for Me. “Isn’t that a great phrase? Too many people, married or single, have the impression that being single is God’s way of depriving or punishing a person.

The Bible is such a practical book given to us by a wise, relational God. The apostle Paul states that we should “Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:18, ESV). In another text of scripture the apostle counsels us by saying, “Not that I speak of want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:11, 13, emphasis supplied).

There it is! Learning to be content with life. One of the biggest challenges in life is to be content in our various stages of life. It has been said that happiness is not having what you want. It is wanting what you have! God’s desire for each person is to be content in Christ, whatever circumstances we find ourselves in.

When it comes to issues pertaining to singleness, marriage, divorce, and remarriage, the question is not, “What will make me happiest?” but “What will make God happiest?”

Singleness, like marriage, is a gift. The apostle Paul states, “each man has his own gift from God, one in this manner [singleness], and another in that [marriage]” (1 Corinthians 7:7, NASB).

In society today, we discover a problem. Singles want to be married and some married people want to be single. The core of the problem is a lack of contentment—failing to value God’s gifts and timing. Married people must understand and be committed to their marriages, while singles must understand that they cannot operate and behave like married people.

Singleness is a gift and with the gift of singleness is the gift of abstinence.

A single person is faced with the subtle and not-so-subtle pressures of those around them and the church arena tends to exert the most pressure as many Christians ascribe singleness as “unfinished business.” You may have heard the comments:

“Aren’t you married yet?”

“What’s a nice girl or guy like you doing unmarried?”

“What you
need is a good wife or husband.”

“I’m praying that God will lead you to a good man or woman.”

The big one: “If you would commit your life to Christ, God will give you a marriage partner.” Christ never said that!

Christ’s message is that He will lead you to a life of meaning and purpose and fulfillment. God is a relational God, and He has created us to be relational beings. The question often asked in response to the statement just made is: “Doesn’t that suggest that God intends for every person to be coupled in a marriage relationship?” Not necessarily so. We relate to others in many ways and not necessarily in an intimate, marital relationship.

God is interested in our happiness and securing the best in our interaction with others. Satan is not interested in our happiness but in our destruction. He broadcasts certain lies about being single in an effort to thwart a person’s faith and confidence in God:

Lie No. 1: God is not powerful enough to find you a husband or wife. Remember that God is more powerful than our social situations, our looks, our personalities, and our insecurities.

Lie No. 2: You’re single because God does not love you. If you can’t see God’s love on the cross, why do you think you will see it in a man/woman—especially sinful mankind?

Lie No. 3: Because no one has married you, you have no value. You were created in the image of God. Your value is not determined by mankind, but by God!

Lie No. 4: Getting married will fix all your problems. Marriage is not the best solution for every person.

Lie No. 5: It’s better to marry a non-Christian than stay single for life.

Follow the counsel of scripture, “Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? (2 Corinthians 6:14, NKJV).” Sounds old fashioned and out of touch? It is safe to trust God and follow His counsel for your life.

Cultivate contentment in singleness. Contentment is all about a shift in perspective—a daily decision to trust God in all circumstances and to see Him at work in every chapter of your life. Instead of focusing on what you lack, remember and acknowledge all that you have.

• Cultivate a heart of gratitude (1 Thessalonians 5:18).
• Invest in your family and friend relationships.
• Pursue your God-given dreams. Don’t put your ambitions and passions on hold until you find someone. Rather, dedicate your time and energy to fulfilling God’s call on your life. He will bless you with someone along the way, if that is what is going to be best for your life. Place your dependence on God for fulfillment.

• Maintain high standards. There’s no perfect person who will meet every one of your expectations, but you shouldn’t compromise your core standards.

• Keep up spiritual practices. Regardless of your relationship status, things like prayer, time in the Word, will keep your spiritual life healthy.
• Encourage and serve others. God has given you tasks and responsibilities to serve and provide lasting hope to those in need. You have a unique purpose and contribution to make to the world.

A final word is to surrender control of your life to God. Practice patience—God is shaping you and maturing you into the man or woman He has called you to be. He understands you better than anyone else. Enjoy being single, satisfied, and determined to be saved by the grace of God. Give God the pen, and let Him write your life story. It is going to be amazing!

Legacy: something transmitted by or received from an ancestor or predecessor or from the past. The desire for a legacy is something that each person has. For many people, legacy translates into material things. However, the reality is that each family develops a legacy and it is not always financial. Truth, commitment, loyalty, faith, and excellence are all a part of family legacy.

Notice Proverbs 13:22 states that moral stability and goodness are the inheritance of a good man. How does this come about and how does a family have a legacy? First and foremost, families need to learn their legacy is not taught, but caught! Adults cannot say one thing and live another. Children will live what they see—not what they hear.

There are at least three legacies which families can provide for future generations. They are:

Legacy of Truth—The expectation of a Christian is that his/her word is believable. When promises are made and not kept; when words are stated, but actions contradict, the legacy will be one of falsehood. “And now here’s what I want you to do: Tell the truth, the whole truth, when you speak” (Zechariah 8:16, MSG).

Legacy of Wisdom—We as Christians should be wisdom in the flesh. We are the people of wisdom, but we can only get it from God. Our legacy should be that we are exemplary in wisdom. When we are unable to make thoughtful decisions and act upon impulse, we are a part of folly. It’s not just wise living—it’s a biblical imperative. “Getting wisdom is the wisest thing you can do! And whatever else you do, develop good judgment” (Proverbs 4:7, NLT).

Legacy of Depth—The deep life considers the origins and results of things; it considers the ramifications of individual actions. It is concerned with the heartbroken and downtrodden, and in that
concern intercedes in prayer for those less fortunate. It is concerned about deep truth and ignores the flashing lights of the world. Proverbs 20:5 (AMP) reminds us: “Counsel in the heart of man is like water in a deep well, but a man of understanding draws it out.”

Walking daily with Christ is the only way to insure a legacy for our children that will outlast time and carry us into eternity.

“I could have no greater joy than to hear that my children are following the truth” (3 John 1:4, NLT).

What is Family Ministries?

W. S. Lee, Southwest Region Conference family ministries director

“Father of orphans, champion of widows, is God in His holy house. God makes homes for the homeless…” (Psalm 68:5,6, MSG).

This scripture embodies the marching orders for family ministries. According to the latest U.S. Census Bureau information, families and living arrangements in the United States have changed over time, just as they have developed distinct regional trends because of factors such as local labor markets and migration patterns. As a result, it is difficult to talk about a single kind of family or one predominant living arrangement in the United States. This simply means there is no longer one type of family in our churches and communities. Yet, “family ministries” is not well known in our church. The fact that it is often referred to as family life or family life ministries indicates that people are unsure what it’s about.

Well, about the name—it’s family ministries: a ministry of the church which facilitates church families to live out their beliefs in their everyday relationships, as well as, a ministry to offer families in the community hope that Christ cares about what happens in their homes. The goal of family ministries is to enrich the family life of every family it touches.

Since sin has run rampant in the lives of everyone, families are the first place where brokenness is manifested. God, in His Wisdom and Provision, lets us know in Psalms, there is a place where brokenness can be addressed with safety. It’s in the home.

For those who have no one, “God makes homes for the homeless.” One translation states, “God sets the lonely in families,” or “the desolate in a homeland” (NIV). The Word of the Lord is clear, Christian families are where all have a place.

The goal of family ministries, from the General Conference down to the local church level, is to assist families in their lives here and for eternity.
When the phone rings, it is always a delight to hear the sweet little voice of one of my grandchildren, "Hi, Papa! I love you! I’m glad we are a family!" To me, that’s precious—that’s family! Family is about relationships. Relationships are about love, trust, kindness, patience, understanding, and forgiveness. Those are the ingredients that allow individually-minded people who are firm in their convictions and focus to have enough bend that they can embrace with grace and affirmation those that are otherwise convicted.

It is sometimes so amazing that people who come from the same family tree can be so different in their thought patterns, likes and dislikes, that you would think they don’t even speak the same language. Despite our differences and peculiarities, it is still family that compels us to find common ground, to level the playing field, and to find ways in which we can support each other and work together harmoniously. As families we seek to fulfill common goals and at the same time bring affirmation and recognition to everyone’s worth. Appreciation of the family compels us to make it work. We bask in the warmth and well-being that overwhelms our spirit.

The fact of the matter is, all that might be said about kinfolk family can just as readily be said about relationships that have no blood ties. The Bible speaks of friendships that are closer than that of brothers (Proverbs 18:24). Even though a group of people may have no common ancestry, common beliefs, values, and goals will bond them together in such a way that their objectives are realized. That’s why Micki and I would always speak of our church members as “family.” When mutual love and respect directs our interpersonal relationships with trust, kindness, patience, understanding, and forgiveness, this group of unrelated individuals experience and become all that constitutes family.

God created the human family to experience bonds of love and affection that will serve to encourage and strengthen each other in preparation for His eternal Kingdom. The very same can be said of the church family. We share a mutual responsibility for each other to support, affirm, and encourage each other towards the soon coming of Jesus. There can be no room for destructive criticism, backbiting, or gossip. Perhaps what we need is to become more like little children, and say to each other, like my grandchildren say to me, “Hi friend, I love you. I’m glad we are a family!”

Stephen Orian, president

Slidell Church Celebrates with Octogenarians

SLIDELL, LA. » The Slidell church members recently celebrated milestone birthdays with Grace Singh (80) and Elsie Gelbke (90), in the conference room of the local LaQuinta Inn. The birthday girls were happy with the large group of family and friends taking time to celebrate with them, and everyone had a great time. In this world of sickness and sorrow, it is a blessing to get to celebrate milestone birthdays with our members. In addition, another church member, Wallace Britton, will celebrate 93 years of life on his birthday later this month. The Bible says, “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Psalms 90:10, KJV). We thank God for all of our members as they age gracefully.

Vernella Rogers
True Revival at Shreveport First

SHREVEPORT, LA. » Hope sprang to life at Shreveport First Seventh-day Adventist Church on Sabbath, August 2, 2014, when Dan Jarrard, pastor of Message of Hope Ministries, delivered the Sabbath message, which was the beginning of his six-part revival crusade. Many members returned on Saturday evening and subsequent evenings through August 6, eager and anticipating his powerful messages. Jarrard began preaching at the age of 15, and his Pentecostal background, coupled with studies in Baptist schools, brought to the pulpit a rich blend of intellect and emotion.

Jarrard’s testimony of finding the Adventist church and re-committing his life to the Lord at a Keene, Texas, camp meeting is fascinating. Jarrard stated, “After becoming a Christian at age 15, I developed a tremendous passion to help people. It has been my privilege to do so through various methods and means; including one-on-one, public seminars, radio, television, and print.”

One of the ministries that Message of Hope is focused on is conducting revivals and seminars that are dedicated to extending invitations for surrender so that we as individuals, families, and churches might experience revival and reformation. Jarrard’s powerful and inspiring messages night after night truly brought revival to our hearts. David Farmer, pastor of Shreveport church, has already extended an invitation for Jarrard’s return to Shreveport with hearty approval from the members. Contact information can be found at www.danjarrard.com.

Dorothy Snowball

District Youth Meeting: Batesville, Mt. View, Heber Springs

BATESVILLE, ARK. » August 23 was a high Sabbath for the youth in the Batesville, Mountain View, and Heber Springs district. Jeff Villegas, Arkansas-Louisiana Conference youth director, was the main speaker, highlighting the mission of our young people in sharing their faith and finishing the work. Pastor Jeff challenged the young people to be involved in the church, to finish the work of preaching the gospel so Jesus can come soon.

Following the morning sermon, the church provided a delicious potluck lunch. In preparation for upcoming evangelistic meetings, the young people went two by two into the neighborhood and distributed invitations to visit the Batesville church to hear the distinctive end-time truth.

For the evening vespers, Villegas led out in a discussion of the reasons for and the need of prayer in our lives. The young people participated with enthusiasm by sharing and asking questions. Pizza, watermelon, and table games finished out the enjoyable evening.

Laurie DeWitt
“Qualified!” Day Camp at Gentry Church

**GENTRY, ARK.** The Gentry church has completed its third year of free summer camp for kids ages 7-14 held during June and July, Monday through Thursday each week.

The theme for this year was “Qualified! God does not call the qualified, but qualifies the called.” The theme was illustrated in the lives of famous Bible characters, such as Moses, Esther, Mary, and Samuel, which were highlighted in the daily devotionals.

Approximately 30-40 students, both from the church and the community, came from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. to have worship, play games, do crafts, and serve the community. Each day focused on a specific task.

On Mondays, a team-building activity was done in connection with the worship theme. Tuesdays were craft day, with the purpose of showing God’s love to others in a tangible gift. On Wednesdays, the students participated in a community service project such as painting the fence at the Total Life community building, sorting and organizing clothing and supplies for the needy, singing at the nursing home, visiting shut-ins, and cleaning and beautifying the yards of both the church and elderly member’s homes. Then on Thursday, the kids had a fun day, swimming in a private pool, and playing dodgeball in the youth center.

_Melissa Hansen_

---

**Working for Baptisms**

**ALGIERS, LA.** June 6, 2014, was the first lay evangelistic meeting for the Spanish-speaking community in Algiers/Gretna, a part of New Orleans Parish on the West Bank of the Mississippi River. The surrounding 15th Ward area, one of 17 Wards of New Orleans, is also known as Algiers. This meeting was in the district of the Seventh-day Adventist Ebenezer Temple in Gretna, La.

The establishment of a church plant in this area of growth has been the desire of some members who immigrated from other states and cities with the vision, “A church plant in your city and neighborhood.”

This new church plant began with 14-17 members who used small group meetings with PowerPoint, and digital evangelistic approaches under the leadership of Jose Mongoin, who is an educated and dynamic lay leader from Mexico. He began with presentations of “La Fe de Jesus” Bible studies and lessons to prepare people for baptism.

The revival speaker chosen for this lay evangelistic meeting was Libny H. Dubreuze, Jr., a new theology major at Union College in Lincoln, Neb., who spoke in Spanish. Dubreuze recently graduated from Dakota Adventist Academy, in Bismarck, N.D. Dubreuze, who enjoys sharing his faith with others and soul winning, preached his first Bible Seminar in Entre Rios, Argentina, when he was 10 years old. His sermons for these meetings were about God’s love and mercy—and how we should exhibit that same love and mercy in our interaction with others. “We need to place God’s love in our hearts, and make a decision to serve Him”, said Dubreuze.

We pray for this new church plant in New Orleans 15th Ward. We pray for the people who are studying the truth, for the people who are sharing this truth, and for the young people who are willing to play their part in this world’s last day events. Two young people have been baptized and five others are waiting to be baptized soon for the glory of the Lord!

.Libny H. Dubreuze, Sr.

---

_Najeeb L.H. Dubreuze, age 15, baptized by L.H.Dubreuze, Sr._
Family ministries is something I hold near and dear. As I understand the Bible, when God created the human race, He created it around the families. The two outstanding gifts of God at Creation are encapsulated in the Sabbath and the family unit. Satan’s focus is on these two blessings as he attacks God through His human family.

The family unit, in order to be a family, must be connected across the lifespan. Every stage of life has its contributions to make to the health of the family. Mutual love, acceptance, and respect are needed from and for each and every stage.

From what we hear and see all around us, it would be easy to dwell on how the family is being undermined and even destroyed. The pro-active question: How are we as Seventh-day Adventists ministering to families as units? Is it possible to strengthen families by separating their individual elements?

At this point I ask you to consider two principles which I believe are crucial to strengthening our families.

First, make every ministry as family-inclusive as possible. When planning a church social, ask the question: What can we do to make this fun and fulfilling for every generation? The worship hour question might be: Is there provision for the spiritual development of every age group? Granted, not every ministry can or should be cross-generational. However, if it can be, shouldn’t it be? Is it not important for children to learn from the modeling of those who have walked the path before them?

The second principle is, if possible, even more important. Should we think of ministry as something directed toward us, or something God does through us to others? As followers of Christ are we not called to get a blessing by being a blessing?

There is nothing that will strengthen a family more than ministering together as a unit. I remember looking forward to Friday evening family activities of a spiritual nature. I remember our family visiting shut-ins on Sabbath afternoons. I remember going with my father as he gave Bible studies.

I am a Christian and a pastor today in large part because of the personal and church family ministries I enjoyed throughout my life.

Larry Priest, pastor

Bristow Church Hosts “Names of God” Seminar

BRISTOW — The Knowing God Ministries’ team presented the second in their series of three “Names of God” seminars on Friday, July 25 and Sabbath, July 26, at the Bristow church. Blessed last year by this free ministry, the church leapt at the opportunity to have the team return and present the titles and meanings for four additional names of God. Each presentation reminded the listeners of God’s loving character through the names He has given Himself—a demonstration of what He is willing to do for each of us. Our congregation appreciated the free seminar as well as the free study materials, which included 16 CDs, a hardback notebook, and other items. In turn, we provided a delicious potluck dinner and an attentive audience.

Virginia Echols-Harrison
**Five Babies Dedicated at Broken Arrow Church**

**Broken Arrow** Five couples recently came forward with their children to participate in a baby dedication. Clayton Calvert, pastor, spoke with them regarding their responsibilities as Christian parents before calling the elders forward to pray with each family. It was a moving service as the congregation also accepted the responsibilities of assisting these young parents in any way possible. It is obvious that our members took this responsibility to heart as we see the young ones being held and talked to by many people at each service.

---

**Sand Springs Vacation Bible School**

**Sand Springs** The Sand Springs church recently held a Vacation Bible School for the Sand Springs community. Twenty-four youth attended. In their nature class studies they learned about hummingbird eggs, hornet nests, nature’s greatest earthmovers, and many other interesting topics. There were games, arts, crafts, and a tasty meal each day for the participants. The VBS theme was “Wilderness Escape.” Participants relived the deliverance from Egyptian captivity, learned about angels’ food (Psalm 78:25 “…did eat angels’ food”) in the desert, the parting of the Red Sea, and other exciting experiences during Israel’s wilderness journey to the Promised Land. Participants in the program for crafts learned how to make money bags, money, miniature carts, visors, and participated in outdoor games. Adults and youth alike enjoyed taking part in the VBS programs and activities. Sandra Bokovoy and Ann Hottal planned and led out in the VBS. They grew up in the Sand Springs church and had always wanted to have one at the church. They were thrilled with the participation in the VBS program by youth and adults alike.

---

*From left: Nathan, Chrystal, and Christopher Davis; Jonah, Sophie and Ephraim Garrett; Darren, Mylene and Daniel Shaw; Jose, Rose, and Nancy Hernandez; Matt, Charlie, Cayde, and Cruise Evans.*

*Top left: Marilyn Naud’s nature class.*

*Top right: Ladybug chocolate strawberries.*

*Bottom left and right: Ann Hottal and Jake Knight.*

*Extreme right: Marilyn Naud and Nell Wilson.*
More than 50 men gathered at Wewoka Woods Adventist Center for the first men’s ministries retreat in the Oklahoma Conference on September 6-7.

The theme for the retreat was “Encouraged, Enabled, Equipped, and Empowered.” Garry Sutton, pastor, challenged and encouraged the men to follow after the footsteps of the Apostle Paul, and to live a life not conformed to this world but transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Rick Dye, executive secretary and men’s ministries director for the Oklahoma Conference, challenged the men to “soar like eagles,” and be men of vision and action in their churches and communities for the cause of Christ.

These warriors for Christ not only feasted on the Word of God, but also enjoyed a Sabbath afternoon concert, recreation, time to fellowship, great food, and other activities. Before the retreat was over, these men selected a group of seven to assist in the work of men’s ministries in the Oklahoma Conference, and picked a name that will identify their ministry, A-MEN. This spiritual weekend concluded with the men dedicating their lives to glorify God and to build up the church. What a powerful weekend it was, and what great things to look forward to in the future!

Rick Dye, men’s ministries director/executive secretary
There are certain things in our universe that God has ordained, and family systems are one of them. We see this in everything in our universe. We see it in the planetary system, the plant and animal kingdoms, and especially in the human family, because in all of God’s creation, the only thing created in His image is mankind.

In all of His created systems, there are necessary dependencies, mutual supports, and essential functions that exist, without which nothing as we know it would exist. In my reading some time ago, I came across a phenomenal process that takes place in our forest system. In all forest systems, we have trees of different heights and varieties growing. Some have great heights that cover the forest and others are very short and low in stature. Scientific evidence shows that taller trees that get and absorb necessary nutriments from the sun share these essential growth elements with the smaller shrubs and vegetation that they canopy over through their root systems.

If mankind is the crowning act of God’s creation, then surely the human family has first priority because we are created in the image of divinity. The human family, as dysfunctional as it may be, is still the “apple of His eye.” The earthly family is designed by God to support and maintain Godly values, and develop character for His Kingdom.

But, as you know, sin has distorted God’s essential will for the family unit. Satan, the originator of sin, attacks with a vengeance the family system because its origin is of God.

Every day we see and hear all kinds of distortions of family systems. Some are from misguided proponents pushing for acceptance, socially and legally, of relationships that defy nature and morals, all under the guise of love. Do not be deceived, we must nurture, support, and maintain God’s ideal of family life.

Samuel L. Green, president
YAMS: Connecting This Generation to Christ

BATON ROUGE, LA. Yams! The image that comes to mind is that of the fleshy root vegetable. Recently, however, that image is changing as more and more churches realize the composition and contributions of this segment of their churches. They are the YAMS, Young Adults Ministry in Service and have as their aim, “Connecting this generation to Christ.” Recently, the Baton Rouge Berean church observed the first of many proposed YAMS Sabbaths.

Presently the make-up of the group includes young married couples, young single adults, and even a few elementary school children. YAMS leaders Robert Davis, Walter Campbell, and Paula Adams felt it was time for the group to branch out. Recalling advice from an earlier visit by Kenn Dixon, pastor of the Casalita church in Garland, Texas, the group decided to embark on another mission—that of campus ministry.

On the designated Sabbath, wearing their T-shirts and denim bottoms, instead of heading to worship at Berean, the group convened at the designated spot on Southern University’s campus, where an unexpected reception surprised them.

In anticipation of the new semester and the campus’ highly competitive football program, “Spirit Day” was being held at the university, and it appeared that the whole campus had gathered in one location. The band was marching and fans cheered for the football players. The setting afforded an ideal opportunity for the group to pass out handbills announcing the church’s upcoming prayer conference, along with bottles of water. Some even accepted prayer.

Because it was youth church Sabbath, that evening the group returned to the church. Carl Ming, pastor of the New Orleans Caffin Avenue church was the featured speaker. Ming began his hour of encouragement by reminding us that, “One of the best things we can do for ourselves is to tell on ourselves to God.” He spoke of Paul’s dilemma as he acknowledged being torn between doing the right he knew to do and the wrong he desired to do (Romans 7:15-20). Ming directed the congregation to Romans 8, where we are assured that regardless of our wretched past, confession to God obliterates the sin, covering it by the blood of Jesus. Without hesitation, a large segment of the audience accepted Ming’s appeal in the form of an invitation and found their way to the altar.

Evelyn Edwards
CREATION Health Cooking at Tenth Street Church

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA. » On July 13, 2014, Oklahoma City’s Tenth Street church’s health ministries department held its CREATION Health vegetarian cooking class. The health ministries members, made up of doctors, nurses, clinical specialist, frontline healthcare staff, and health-minded individuals, were fully involved as they all contributed to bringing the health reform message to the church. At the Tenth Street church, all ministries are challenged to have synergy with each other, and all church events will have a contributory effect toward each other. This cooking class was uniquely formatted to strive for that goal.

One thing that made this class special is that the Tenth Street health ministries team incorporated mini-presentations of the CREATION Health message, which was previously presented as a nine-week seminar three months earlier by ministry leader Carvason Griffith, M.D. Each mini-presentation was no longer than five minutes, but was all directly related to the foods being prepared. July’s cooking class was also unique because international dishes were prepared. These dishes were reminiscent of the cultures and countries presented by the women’s ministries department during the International Day of Prayer held in May 2014.

The health ministries department members presented health education and the explanation of the CREATION Health acronym at the beginning of the class, as well as during the transition periods from one course to the next. As the fellowship hall began to fill with the aromas of garlic, onions, mushrooms, and curry masala, the 30 attendees were able to have many of their questions answered.

The four-course meal was presented from start to finish by church members specifically chosen for either their professional culinary training or their proven skills at making vegetarian meals. Alexis Snead presented samosas stuffed with curried potatoes and chick peas as the appetizers. Amanda Buchannan presented stuffed mushrooms for the protein source of the entrée, while Rosetta Atkins presented vegetable and brown rice stir-fry as the supporting side dish. Rita Wright presented both fruit and vegetable smoothies using berries, avocados, flax seeds, almond milk, and bananas to create different combinations for the dessert course.

The prepared meal was supplemented with pineapple-, peach-, and mint-flavored water as well as an olive oil coleslaw.

As the cooking class came to an end and the attendees excitedly waited for their meals, the winner of the church’s “Biggest Loser” competition, Carol Berryhill, told the members and visitors how she continues to maintain her weight loss and healthy lifestyle. The event started and ended with prayer and as individuals left, the comments heard were, “I’m going to go home and try that,” “I really enjoyed myself and look forward to the next class,” and “Wow, it’s actually easy to live the CREATION Health lifestyle.”

Kennetia Brooks
We have recently read and heard of a number of cases of child abuse. Professional football star Adrian Peterson of the Minnesota Vikings, a native of Texas, was front and center in the news for striking his six-year-old son with a tree branch that left noticeable welts on the little boy’s thighs. The debate in the aftermath has raged—were his actions simply parental guidance under the biblical direction “spare not the rod” or were they an uncontrolled reaction to the child’s bad behavior?

The presence of CPS and other government agencies that are both present and active in today’s society certainly afford the opportunity to scrutinize the behavior of parents. When I was a child, no such agencies existed, much less functioned anything like today! My dad would pointedly tell me: “If you get a spanking at school, you can surely see, hear, and touch), then we also should have that profound love, respect, and honor for our earthly parents who we can see, hear, and touch.

The second point is that, as parents, we are instructed and admonished to not “provoke” our children. There is a parental love that encourages and inspires children to do the right thing, and when they fail to do so, disciplines out of love and concern rather than anger and frustration. We learn that type of parental love from God. If we as parents know God in the way that is our distinct privilege to know Him, then His attributes and demeanor will inevitably rub off onto us simply by our close association with the divine teacher.

Countless parents make the mistake of corporally disciplining their children, not because they have done something fundamentally wrong, but rather out of anger and frustration because the kids have embarrassed them in front of others or because they have become an annoyance when mom and dad were wanting some peace and quiet. The reason why we discipline as parents is fundamentally different. Notice the principle behind the Lord disciplining us as His children. “For whom the Lord loves, He chastens, and scourges every son He receives” (Hebrews 12:6, emphasis supplied).

It is so assuring and comforting to know that when the Lord allows me to go through adversity and pain, it is simply because of His profound love for me, and because He is preparing me to meet Him face to face! As the people of God, living in the midst of a world that marches to a different tune, we should ever and constantly bear in mind the great principles of truth found in God’s word that elevate us to a standard and conduct that is not of this world.

We should wear the badge of honor, that we are indeed all God’s children. The greatest testimony to the goodness of God and relevancy of the gospel is a well-ordered and disciplined family, which is a monument and advocate to the glory of God and the beauty of heaven. Finally, there in that same chapter, Hebrews, 12:14 it says, “Pursue peace with everyone, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord.” Peace and holiness, attributes of God, staples of heavenly citizenship, a formula for happiness and contentment in our family circles. May we live today, in these perilous times, like citizens of heaven who are simply passing through on our way to a better place, exhibiting here and now the attributes of the heavenly kingdom!

_Huntville Church Honors Members_  

Huntsville resident and local businesswoman, Sally Faulkner and her late husband, Oliver Faulkner, were honored by their church family on July 26, 2014 for their many years of service and dedication to their church, their church family, and to their community. Sally and Oliver were instrumental in raising up the Huntsville Seventh-day Adventist Church, located at 7660 Hwy. 75 South, after moving to Huntsville in 1967 from Henderson, Texas. They were determined to help provide a place of worship for those who worship on the biblical Sabbath and they poured many years of resources, time, and service into that goal. Now, a beautiful church edifice and church grounds testify of their dedication to that project. Sally continues to carry on in her quest to serve the Lord and others in her many generous actions toward the church, its members, and the community.

Head elder Michael Smith and church members surprised Sally by presenting her with a beautiful plaque and a floral tribute as many of her family members, friends, and fellow church members looked on. A fellowship luncheon followed the presentation, and Sally’s family gathered around her, making it a truly special occasion for her.  

_Sally Faulkner, center, with friends and family at the Huntsville church, where she and her late husband, Oliver Faulkner, were honored for their service to the church and community._

Barbara Johnson
Carolyn L. Early Honored by Adventist Christian Academy of Texas

CONROE  » Sabbath, May 24, was an exciting day for the church. Not only was the senior class of 2014 graduating from Adventist Christian Academy of Texas, but a special service was also held in the afternoon to rename the main school building. The building is now called the Carolyn L. Early Education Center.

Early began her teaching career at the young age of 19. She loved teaching from the start. Many of her students remember her making an appointment to meet with them in heaven. She would talk with them before they would go their separate ways at the end of the school year, and tell them that if they were not able to meet again on this earth, that they would choose a place to meet in heaven. The students chose to meet at the gate of Benjamin because Benjamin was the youngest of Jacob’s sons, and it seemed appropriate for the youth.

Early’s experience with Adventist Christian Academy of Texas began during the 1982-1983 school year. At that time, the school was a one-teacher school with eight students, and it was known as Conroe Adventist School. After a few years, the school grew to 28 students and a full-time teacher’s aide was added to the staff. The school and church began praying for another teacher, and soon they had two full-time teachers. School was held in the Sabbath School classrooms in the church.

As the school and church continued to grow, the members began to dream of a larger school facility. The church purchased five acres of land, and the sellers donated another five acres for a building site. When the continued growth of the school required that a third teacher be hired, the new school was ready. In 1997, Conroe Adventist Junior Academy began offering Kindergarten through tenth grade.

Over the next several years, the school continued to grow. A Pre-Kindergarten building was added to the campus, and a new library was stocked with materials. Grades 11 and 12 were added for the 2007-2008 school year, and that spring saw the first senior graduate from Adventist Christian Academy of Texas—the school’s new name.

Early spent 27 of her 50 years in education helping to build up Christian education in Conroe, Texas working as a principal and teacher. She retired in 2009. The church and school continue to educate students for eternity. They currently have more than 100 students and eight teachers. They are looking forward to the ultimate school reunion at the gate of Benjamin.

Karen Reinke
Arlington Southern Worship Center’s New Home

ARLINGTON › Arlington Southern Worship Center began as an idea placed by the Holy Spirit in the mind of Spencer Anderson. In 2006, Anderson was a member of the Forest Hill church in Fort Worth. Anderson and his wife, Debra, as well as his daughters and other faithful members embarked on a venture to plant a church. The charter members were Clarence and Glenda Robinson, Pauline Whitfield, Lawrence and Renae Powell, Ezell (deceased) and Ethel Woolridge, Donald (deceased) and Lawanda Lumbard, Donald Lumbard, Jr., Britney Lumbard, Patricia James, Carmen Gilmore, Nicole Gilmore, Kenny and Heather Jenkins, Ella Anderson, and Michael McBeth (deceased).

In the time that has passed, many more names have been added to the church role, numbering 110 members. The church was officially organized on Sabbath, October 25, 2008.

It was a beautiful and much-anticipated ribbon-cutting on December 21, 2013 for Arlington Southern Worship Center. After Sabbath School and before the worship service, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony to signify the official beginning in the brand new church home in Arlington.

Guests poured in from everywhere and nearly every chair was filled. There were smiles everywhere. The praise team praised the Lord in song, and Carlos Craig, Texas Conference president, gave a rousing message that stirred many souls.

Many members of the congregation were hearing him for the first time, and were blessed with a powerful message. Three people came forward for church membership. Lunch was served after the worship service, and many guests stayed to fellowship and eat.

Jeanette Wade

Burleson’s Family Fireworks Fest

BURLESON › “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden…” (Matthew 5:14). The Burleson church literally sits on a hill, perhaps the highest point in town. This fact has made the church and adjoining Southwestern Union property a favorite spot for local residents to watch the city’s Fourth of July fireworks. In turn, this has created a great opportunity for the Burleson church to connect with and serve its community.

Five years ago, church member Sheri Denny and her young daughter joined the crowd on the church property awaiting the fireworks display when the lack of restroom facilities became an issue. “It occurred to me that there were probably several parents present that would have been grateful for the use of the church’s restroom,” recounts Sheri. That thought grew and developed into what is now the annual Family Fireworks Fest; an event that allows the Burleson church to mingle with its neighbors and live out its mission statement of “love in action.”

Typically, free bounce houses, bottled ice water, face painting, fishing, train rides, and T-shirt giveaways (and of course restroom facilities!) make the hours before dark fun for all ages. “This year gave us a unique opportunity to witness,” says head elder Dennis Mathews. “With the Fourth of July falling on Friday, we modified our routine and activities somewhat. Instead of selling concessions, as in previous years, popcorn and candy were given away for free, along with bottled water. Regular activities transitioned to a patriotic concert and then a Christian concert by local musician, Maria Long, as the Sabbath began. Some of the regular attendees of the Family Fireworks Fest asked about the change in routine and this gave our church members a wonderful opportunity to share our belief in Sabbath observance.”

Who knows what seeds might be planted and nourished as we extend the hand of friendship and a bottle of cold water on a hot July day.

Liz Simons

The festivities at the Burleson church’s Family Fireworks Fest included live music, rides, face painting, and free popcorn and water.
Having saved His crowning act of creation for the last day, God placed in the Garden of Eden a man and a woman, both created in His image, as the genesis of the human family. From that amazing beginning, He intended them to be the model of relationship and faithfulness to all who would follow in future generations.

It was God who instituted the family and He designed it to be the basic unit of society and structure for Earth’s human population. It is within the family that we most fully understand the values of honor, character, security, provision, and love.

But the early pages of our history turn only once before we see the devastating effects of the one who works to break apart what God has created. Yet God has always had a plan to bring us back into reconciliation and wholeness. Isn’t it just amazing that when the promised Messiah came to earth, He was born within the context of a family?

Throughout His ministry, Jesus shared messages for, and about, all the components of the family—husbands and wives, fathers and mothers and children, especially the children. His heart was moved with compassion for all, and to their brokenness He brought hope and healing.

Even now, we are still weathering the challenges that often overwhelm our families. Current economic conditions along with the withering schedules of work, school, and extra-curricular activities place most of us in survival mode. Our time and energy are often invested in just getting by.

Concepts such as mutual respect, commitment, and honor seem significantly diminished in our world. Healthy relationships that are founded on mutual respect, unconditional love, and commitment have become the exception rather than the norm. Our culture has programmed the younger generations with an expectation of certain rights rather than privileges earned through obedience and maturity.

In 1975, the Southwestern Union was united behind what our leaders were calling “Heart Turning Year.” The basis for this annual ministry theme was something they called the “Elijah Message” as found in Malachi. In these prophetic verses God tells His people that there will come a day when our lives here will end in a transition to His promised eternity.

“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction” (Malachi 4:5, 6).

This message sounds like what is needed in our day—reconciliation of our families back to God’s original design. That message is really the basis for our continuing ministries to the various parts of today’s family, both within the church and within our communities. We need to understand as never before the importance of the gospel of Jesus Christ to everyone. Each of us needs the peace He offers. The result of His work in our families will inevitably lead to the happiness that He longs for us to experience every day as a member of His forever family.

Lee-Roy Chacon, President
Phil Robertson, Exec. Secretary/Treasurer

Texico Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists

Notice is hereby given that the Texico Conference Association of Seventh-day Adventists will hold its regular annual meeting at the Lubbock Seventh-day Adventist Church, 5302 Elgin Avenue, Lubbock, Texas on December 7, 2014. This meeting is called to begin at 10:00 AM.

The purpose of this meeting is to receive reports and conduct all other business that may properly come before the members. Delegates who attended the December 15, 2013 Texico Conference Constituency Session are delegates to this Association meeting.

Phil Robertson, treasurer/executive secretary
Miracles in the Solomon Islands

The summer of 2014 was one I will never forget. I had the privilege of leading a team of 17 people to the Solomon Islands to conduct a ShareHim mission trip where we conducted 12 evangelistic meetings in and around the capital city of Honiara. The city had seen great devastation a few months before we arrived, as the worst flooding in their memory occurred. We were anxious to share hope with the people there, especially during this difficult time.

Besides holding evangelistic meetings, our team had the wonderful opportunity to work with ADRA (Adventist Development and Relief Agency), sorting donations of clothing, blankets, towels, etc., and packing them in bags for distribution. The following day we had the blessing of going to some of the areas in need and delivering the bags to people who were in great need.

For me, one of the greatest blessings of going on a mission trip, besides the people who give their lives to Christ as a result of our meetings, is how it affects the people who go. This trip was no exception. Our group members, ranging in age from 13 to 82, saw God working miracles in and through us, which was such a great building experience.

Dawune, our youngest team member, said, “This trip changed my life because I see how important it is to believe in God. It also changed how I think about things, and I started respecting the things God gave me.”

We saw that we are never too old to work for God. Maxine Williams, age 82, was one of our first-time evangelists. In her own words, she called this experience “A dream come true. It has given me a totally different outlook on spreading the gospel. I look forward to making a return visit as soon as possible and I’m praying that it is soon.”

Team member Brianna had a life-altering experience. She relates what happened: “I was depressed and had no interest in finding a way out. I thought to myself, how dare I go to the Solomon Islands to speak to these people about a God that I don’t even know exists. I felt like such a hypocrite, and I wanted nothing more than to turn around and go back to a life of apathy. Little did I know that God, like always, had something incredible in store.

“Being in a different environment immediately redirected my focus. I began to realize that working and partying was getting me nowhere in life. At age 22, I was having a ‘midlife crisis.’ I grabbed my notebook and began to write. Before I knew it the words became a prayer and that prayer became a plea. As the pen moved, I wrote to God and begged Him to break my heart. I told Him that I had been in a state of nothingness, that life didn’t matter anymore, and if He did exist and wanted me here, He was going to have to take over and get me out of my own way.

“It’s difficult to explain the immediate and complete shift in my mentality. I asked and God made Himself real to me. The sense of security, elation, and peace that came over me was unbelievable. There’s nothing that compares to searching for God and in my most vulnerable state, finding Him, the Creator of the universe, waiting with open arms and immeasurable love specifically for me.

“I realized that God had brought me on this mission trip, not only for me to touch lives through Him, but for Him to save mine.”

This is why I love mission work (at home and abroad), because, as we share Christ with others, it not only brings them to Christ, but it changes us personally as God draws us closer to Him. It’s a win-win situation!
Small Town Evangelism

TULIA, TEX. » From May 14-31, the Tulia Seventh-day Adventist Church held a reaping meeting using material from Seminars Unlimited. The meetings were conducted by our pastor, Leroy Green, for five consecutive evenings each week, with Friday and Sabbath evenings off. The attendance was very encouraging and inspiring with some evenings having more than 70 individuals in attendance.

When the series of meetings concluded, seven individuals from the Tulia community took their stand and became members of God’s remnant church. We had five baptisms and two individuals joined the church by profession of faith. Pastor Green is currently studying with nine other community members who indicated an interest in joining the church. We are very thankful to each of these dear people who have decided to accept Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord.

Kyle, one of the men who were baptized, has a very interesting story about how he connected with someone from our church. On Friday mornings, a local businessman in Tulia invites community members to meet at his office to discuss spiritual issues. One of our church members (Charles Mernard) has been attending this community meeting for quite some time. One particular Friday morning, Kyle was invited to the meetings by this businessman. Just before the meetings started the businessman went around the room introducing each man in attendance. One by one each person was introduced without any mention of their church affiliation, but when he introduced Charles, he took the liberty to mention that, “He is from the Seventh-day Adventist Church.” Kyle immediately turned toward Charles and asked the simple question, “What is the Seventh-day Adventist Church?” Charles responded by holding his Bible high above his head as he boldly proclaimed, “We are a church that believes everything this book teaches, including the seventh-day Sabbath.” To the amazement of all who were listening, Kyle simply responded, “Anybody who reads the Bible knows that Saturday is the Sabbath.”

There was a somewhat awkward silence, then the group moved on with their morning meeting. At the conclusion of the meeting Charles and Kyle talked briefly and Kyle was invited to attend our church worship service the following Sabbath. He accepted the invitation and has not missed a Sabbath since. Kyle embraced the truth he heard during the recent Revelation Seminar, and he was baptized at the conclusion of the meetings. No one knows for sure why Charles was the only one introduced with his church affiliation attached to his name, but, whatever the reasons, God used that introduction to connect the two men together.

On a side note, since the businessman invited Kyle to the Friday meetings, Kyle in like fashion invited him to his baptism, which he attended.

What a mighty God we serve! Just as He is moving with no hesitation in the small town of Tulia, He wants to do the same in your church. The best days for the Tulia Seventh-day Adventist Church are yet to come.

Leroy Green

Kyle was baptized by Leroy Green after the Tulia church meetings.
“Education is the one gift you can give someone that will last a lifetime,” says Janice Hall, founder of the Raymond G. “Dick” Hall Jr. Scholarship.

Dick was an alumnus of Southwestern Adventist University. As a student of math and biology, he kept very busy on campus. Involved with music and the church, education became more than classwork. It became his passion.

“I remember my husband talking about the wonderful religion classes at Southwestern,” says Janice. “He and other students would preach, and he enjoyed going out with the mission band. He felt at home.”

Dick continued his education at Union College, then Loma Linda University. Afterwards, he became a teacher. Teaching students to love education became his life goal. For 43 years, Dick made a difference in the lives of countless young people as a teacher.

Shortly after celebrating 53 years of marriage with Janice, Dick passed away. Janice wanted to continue to help students as Dick had. So, she created a scholarship in Dick’s honor. It’s given to outstanding math students at Southwestern each year.

“Education can be expensive, and my husband spent his entire career teaching,” says Janice. “Hopefully, this scholarship will continue to help people for the next 20 years or more.”

Zuri Cortes is a recipient of the award. And that’s a funny story, because originally Zuri never saw herself as a teacher. She knew she loved math but struggled with deciding what to do with a math degree.

Zuri signed up for pre-calculus “just for fun” and it quickly became her favorite class. Her teacher recognized talent and encouraged her, sharing a book about different careers with a math degree.

It turns out there is more to math than teaching. One job mentioned in the book is called actuarial science. The job applies math and statistics to assess levels of risk in different industries. Zuri was looking into actuarial science when she received a homework assignment that changed everything. She had to teach a math lesson in class. Much to her surprise, Zuri loved every minute.

“I actually had so much fun that I thought, ‘this might not be so bad,’” says Zuri. The idea hesitantly grew from a backup plan, to Zuri’s first choice career choice. Also, Zuri loves the mission field. Teaching and mission-work easily fit together.

“Teachers are not there just to give information, but to change lives,” said Zuri. “This is especially true with Adventist education. A teacher can change the life of a student forever. I want to do that.”

Due to cost, many students don’t believe higher education is an option, but willingness to work can make it possible. Zuri studies and works hard. She serves as a student volunteer on the advisory board of the Association of Adventist Mathematicians, and was president of the Math and Science Club the last two years. She is a math tutor, piano teacher, and violin teacher. She plays in the orchestra and string quartet, and sings with the University Singers. She is also in the Honors Program.

All these things combined with good grades made Zuri an easy choice for the Raymond G. “Dick” Hall Jr. Scholarship. As a future teacher, Zuri will continue to inspire students to love education, just as Dick did. Thanks to scholarships, she can be the person who makes all the difference in another’s life.

To find out more about Zuri’s story or about scholarships, visit swau.edu/make-a-gift.

Makala Coleman, senior journalism major

After welcoming another large freshmen class, the second largest since 1999, Southwestern is excited to report that enrollment is up by 36 FFTE’s (Financial Full-time Equivalents).
Let’s Move Day Burleson 2014

More than 300 children and adults from the greater Burleson area participated in Let’s Move Day Burleson on Sunday, September 21 at Texas Health Resources Huguley Hospital Fort Worth South. The fun walk/run and children’s health expo were sponsored by the Southwestern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Let’s Move Day is an initiative of the Seventh-day Adventist church to promote health awareness and combat childhood obesity. The goal for the day is to have participants nationwide walk or run one million miles in one day. Burleson participants logged 148.5 miles.

Embe Madhiri, a Keene resident, volunteered at the Children’s Health Expo while her son, Ryan, went through the eight stations at the expo where he learned about the importance of drinking water, getting enough sleep, and the role exercise plays in overall health and reducing the risk of obesity and diabetes. All children who participated in the expo were screened for diabetes. “I am thrilled that both my son and I got to be a part of this community event. Besides having fun, he learned a lot of information about health that he will take with him,” said Madhiri.

After participating in the health expo children were given prizes and enjoyed a bounce house and large inflatable slide.

Janet Yates, diabetes educator for Texas Health Huguley, was excited to see so many children learn about taking care of their health through exercise and healthy food choices. “Promoting small, simple changes in physical activity and food choices can make all the difference in preventing childhood obesity and diabetes,” said Yates.

Participants were challenged to walk the mile-long track around the hospital at least once. More than 60 students from Southwestern Adventist University in Keene volunteered to help with the expo or manage the six stations around the track with different activities, such as pull-up or push-up contests, which further challenged participants.

April Meza, a Burleson resident, also helped with the expo and had her two children participate. “My kids had a lot of fun walking and running around the track and loved the stations where they got to compete against each other. It was a perfect opportunity for us to be active as a family.”

To view more pictures and a video of the event, visit Southwestern Union’s Facebook page.

Former Texico Conference and Chile Union President Don Sullivan Passes Away

Don K. Sullivan, of Port Orchard, Wash., passed away August 19, 2014 just a few weeks before his 84th birthday. Before retirement, Don gave 46 years of service to the church, many as a conference worker in the Southwestern Union.

Sullivan was born on October 10, 1930 in Omaha, Neb., and attended Platte Valley Academy and Union College. On September 3, 1950, he married his academy sweetheart, Dorothy Lair. Upon graduation from Union, he began his ministry for the Adventist church in New Mexico. The years which followed were exciting for the Sullivan family. In 1958 they answered the call of the South American Division and he served in Bolivia, Peru, and finally in Chile where he became the first president of the newly-organized Chile Union in 1966. During their 1963-64 furlough, Sullivan completed a master of education degree at Andrews University.

After 11 years with the South American Division, the family returned to their homeland. He then was a departmental secretary for the Texas Conference, the treasurer of the Texico Conference, and then spent 11 years as president of the Texico Conference. In 1988 he was called to be treasurer of the Southern California Conference, retiring in 1999. A month after retirement, Don became a volunteer pastor for four years of the Kona Church on the island of Hawaii. While there, Don celebrated two milestones: 50 years in the ministry of his beloved church and 50 years of marriage. Don is survived by Dorothy, his wife of 64 years; four children: son, David Kent Sullivan; son, Kim Alan Sullivan; daughter, Jolene DeVries; and son, Mark Sullivan; 15 grandchildren, and one great-granddaughter.
Southwestern Union Welcomes Young Adult/Youth Director

The Southwestern Union welcomes Helvis C. Moody as director of Young Adult/Youth Ministries. He comes to this newly-created position from the Southwest Region Conference, where he served for the past two years as youth and young adult director. From 1999 until 2012, Moody pastored in three districts in the Southwest Region Conference: Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Slidell, Louisiana; and Houston, Texas.

Helvis Moody has a passion for young adults and says that his greatest desire is to see young adults become active in their churches and to ensure that every church has a young adult ministry. His hope is that “the young adults in these last days will have a deeper relationship with Jesus Christ, their Savior.”

Moody is a graduate of Oakwood College (now Oakwood University) and Andrews Theological Seminary. He is married to April Watkins Moody. His favorite text is “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” (Philippians 4:13).

“We are so thankful for the passion and energy that Helvis Moody brings to this position,” said Larry Moore, Southwestern Union Conference president. “Young adults are vital to the life of the church and we’re looking forward to great things to come in the area of youth and young adult ministry. The Seventh-day Adventist Church was started by young people, and there is no doubt they will play an important role in finishing the work.”

Adventist Church Responds to Ebola Crisis

As of press time (October 10, 2014) according to the Centers for Disease Control, there have been more than 8,000 cases of Ebola, primarily in West Africa, and more than 4,000 deaths from the disease. The Seventh-day Adventist Church is responding to this crisis with deep concern and compassion, and world church president Ted N.C. Wilson is urging church members around the globe to “pray for our brothers and sisters in West Africa and for the entire population in that region of the world as they face this virtually unprecedented tragedy. Let us pray that God will put a halt to the spread of this virulent virus.”

A worldwide day of prayer for those impacted by Ebola was observed in Adventist churches on October 11, and as the disease continues to spread, church members are asked to continue their vigilant prayer efforts for the halt of this disease.

In addition, the General Conference Health Ministries Department, in a bulletin issued August 7, 2014, listed several recommendations and precautions that it is asking church members in the affected countries to observe. On August 4, the General Conference Travel Department issued a travel warning, advising that church members avoid nonessential travel to the West African nations of Guinea, Liberia, and Sierra Leone. You can find the Center for Disease Control’s Level 3 travel warning here: http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/ebola-outbound-infographic.

Etcetera...

**REAL ESTATE/HOUSING**

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

Buy, Sell, or Property Management in Keene, Johnson County, Texas. Gillin Realty, LLC is a full service Real Estate Company handling all your Real Estate needs. If you would like to buy, sell, or lease a home contact Gillin Realty, LLC, Samantha Gillin, Broker, or Alex Federowski, Realtor. www.gillinrealty.com. 817.556.3141.

**EMPLOYMENT**

Dental Office located in Hagerstown, MD, seeking full-time dentist. Cutting-edge technology, including paperless charting, digital x-rays, VaTech 3D scanner, and CEREC. View Web site at robinwooddentalcenter.com. Very competitive compensation and benefits. Contact Dawn, dthomas@robinwooddental.net, or call 240.313.9659.

Biology Department, Southwestern Adventist University, is seeking a qualified applicant (Ph.D. preferred). Primary emphasis in paleontology and zoology; ability to teach introductory geology, microbiology and/or bioinformatics desirable. The successful candidate will be supportive of literal creationism. Send cover letter and CV to schwarz.arthur@swau.edu. Position open until filled.

Union College seeks committed SDA candidate for tenure track position in voice/choral music beginning June 2015. Responsibilities include overseeing the voice program, directing vocal groups, advising, teaching undergraduate courses and voice lessons. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Bruce Forbes, b2forbes@ucollege.edu.

Union College seeks a professor specializing in an area of non-European history, to teach general and upper division courses effective Fall 2015. Doctorate or near-doctorate required for tenure-track appointment. Send CV and references to Michelle Velazquez Mesnard, Humanities Division Chair, at mimesnard@ucollege.edu.

Serve God as a web developer from home! K3 Integrations creates interactive websites for Adventist ministries. We are seeking programmers who want to make a difference in the world. We focus on Ruby on Rails but we are willing to train the right candidate. More info: http://bit.ly/K3-i.

Black Hills Health and Education Center currently has the following openings: MD, RN, Massage Therapist, Executive Secretary, and Farmer. For more information, contact Dick Nunez at dick.n@bhhec.org or 605.255.4101.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, MD, is seeking a full-time Staff Auditor, CPA required. Responsibilities include preparation of reports, evaluate internal control systems, procedures, and best practices, applications of GAAP, GAAS, and donor compliance rules and regulations. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Senior Accountant II. Responsibilities include review reconciliations, wire transfer requests, grant loans/advances, and prepare reports to government agencies. Record questioned cost, review GIK documentation, and compile budgets for cost centers. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) International in Silver Spring, Md., is seeking a full-time Senior Program Finance Manager. Responsibilities include providing day-to-day support to implementing field offices on financial management processes, compliance, policies and adherence to donor regulations. Field experience preferred. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) Sudan in Sudan, is seeking a full-time Finance Director. Responsibilities include preparation of all financial reports, process disbursement of funds, review of financial...
statements, bank and journal vouchers, project budgets, and maintenance of accounting records. For more information, go to www.adra.org.

**Adventist Aviation Services PNG** is seeking a Maintenance Director. As a church-run and church-funded Aviation program in Goroka PNG, we have a fleet of two modern P750XL turbine aircraft. Required criteria: six plus years of experience, experience in a part 145 facility, an aircraft maintenance license, turbine engine experience, managerial experience. For enquiries e-mail Nathan at mm@aas.org.pg.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**Authors of cookbooks, health books, children’s chapter and picture books,** call 800.367.1844 for your FREE evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our NEW titles at your local ABC or www.TEACHServices.com. USED SDA books at www.LNFBooks.com.

**Attention: Hymns Alive Owners:** Remastered. NEW HYMNS ALIVE on 24 CD’s. Short introductions, shorter chord to end stanzas, and more. Call for UPGRADE price. Every hymn in the SDA Hymnal, Organ, Piano accompaniment music. $259.00 & $16 ShH. 1800.354.9667 www.35hymns.com.


**The Wildwood Lifestyle Center** can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, osteoporosis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, substance abuse, stress, anxiety, depression and many more. Invest in your health and call 1.800.634.9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.org/lifestyle.

**Paula Montgomery’s children’s series:** *Canyon Girl, Valley Girl, Hood River Girl, In Grandma’s Footsteps and Coyotes in the Wind, Down the River Road, A Summer to Grow On, When November Comes,* available at your Adventist Book Center. New for teens and older: *Spider Preacher Man-From Motorcycle Gangs to God.*

**Bon Herbals:** Stock up while you can on Vegan supplements and Immune Ammunition, to help fight all infections. There may be an interruption of availability with the impending move. To receive FREE Bon Herbals Newsletter with more information, send e-mail to bonnie@bonherbals.com and ask. Order online: www.bonherbals.com. Phone: 423.238.7467.

**2015 Great Controversy Tour:** July 17 to 30, with Dr. Gerard Damsteegt of Andrews University. See prophecies

---

**AWR travels where missionaries cannot go**

“I love your programs very much. I listen every night with complete delight. I earnestly follow Jesus Christ and offer my life to Him. I have one desire, and that is to spread the gospel in my country. I hope that God will work with me in this pursuit. From a far distance, but with a heart that is near, I bid you farewell.”

– Listener in the Middle East

**Shortwave • AM/FM • Podcasts • On Demand**

12501 Old Columbia Pike
Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 USA
800-337-4297 | awr.org

@awrweb facebook.com/awrweb

---

[Note: The image contains a paragraph that is not legible.]
of Daniel and Revelation come alive! Visit Rome, Italy, and Reformation sites in the Waldensian Valleys, Switzerland, Germany, and France. A most exciting experience! Call 269.815.8624, or e-mail gctours@mac.com.

Move with an award-winning agency: Apex Moving & Storage partners with the General Conference to provide quality moves at a discounted rate. Call us for all your relocation needs! Adventist beliefs uncompromised. Contact Marcy Danté at 800.766.1902, for a free estimate. Visit us at www.apexmoving.com/adventist.

Butler Creek Health Education Center Lifestyle Management: Diabetes Reversal, Permanent Weight Loss, Overcoming Depression.


Re: Evangelism – 3 days of inspiration, training, and relaxation for evangelists, pastors, lay evangelists, and conference administrators. Southern Union Evangelism Council 2014. Presenters include Ron Clouzet, Ron Smith, and Roger Hernandez. December 1-4, Daytona Beach, Fla. Free registration: www.southernunion.com/evangelism. For more information, contact Dick Nunez at dick.n@bhhec.org or 605.255.4101.

Black Hills Health and Education Center is pleased to announce the re-opening of our Massage School, starting January 19 (a 5.5-month, 600-credit program). We are also offering our Christ-centered CRS weight management and 19-day medical programs. For more information, contact Dick Nunez at dick.n@bhhec.org or 605.255.4101.

Announcements

La Sierra Academy Alumni Reunion 2015: April 24, 25. Friday evening reception at 7 p.m., Sabbath worship at 10:00 a.m., registration at 9:30 a.m. on campus. Class reunions TBA. Honor classes ’55, ’65, ’75, ’85, ’90, ’95, ’05. Info: www.lsak12.com, e-mail: JNelson@lsak12.com, or call 951.351.1445 ext. 244.

DASUS Hosts 10th Anniversary Dominica Day: The Dominica Association of Seventh-day Adventists in the U.S. (DASUS) will commemorate its tenth anniversary and the 36th Anniversary of Dominica’s Independence with a Dominica Day Church Service on Saturday, November 8, 2014 at the Bethany Seventh-day Adventist Church, 962 Prospect Avenue, Westbury, New York. For more information about Dominica Day please contact DASUS at DASUSmail@gmail.com or log on to http://dasus.webs.com.

System Includes All New Receiver

High Definition and DVR

Connect to any TV • Record your favorite shows*

Complete Satellite System
Includes 36 in. Satellite Dish

Only $199

Plus shipping

No Monthly Fees
No Subscriptions
No Credit Checks
FREE Install Kit

*optional USB memory required for recording

19 Adventist Channels

Plus more than 60 other FREE Christian Channels and News Channels

866-552-6882
Glorystar • 8801 Washington Blvd, Suite 101 • Roseville, CA 95678

www.adventistsat.com

The #1 choice for Adventist satellite programming for more than 10 Years!!

Official Distribution Partner for all Adventist Broadcasters

Bulk orders get discount!
HICKMAN, Maxine Louella Wright Cameron, born August 20, 1940, in Oakland, Calif., and died September 17, 2014 in Sapulpa, Okla. Maxine graduated from Mountain View Academy in Mountain View, Calif., in 1959. She attended Southern Missionary College and Andrews University before obtaining her Registered Nurse and her certification as a nurse-midwife from Watford Training School for Nurses in London, England, in 1967 and 1972. Maxine was a gifted organist and pianist and shared her talent in Seventh-day Adventist churches wherever she lived. She married George Hickman in 1978 in Los Altos, Calif., and moved to Austin, Tex., and then to Bastrop, Tex. The two helped start the Bastrop church. She continued working as a midwife and labor and delivery nurse in Austin and the metro area until retiring to Marshall, Ark., in 2001. In 2004, Maxine suffered an anoxic brain injury and a consequent persistently vegetative state. Her family and friends remember her sweet spirit and hospitality. Survivors: husband, George Hickman, of Bristow, Okla.; daughter, Caroline, of Bristow; sister, Emily Rae Sauerbry of Bastrop, Tex.; sister-in-law, Judy Goodwin, of Idaho; two nephews, two great-nieces, and many friends.


MITZELFELT, Barbara “Barb” Jeanne, born August 8, 1936 in Davenport, Iowa and died June 8, 2014 in Edgewood, New Mexico. On October 27, 1955, Barbara was married to Gene Gerds in Davenport. They attended Union College in Nebraska and Andrews University in Michigan. During their marriage they were very active in the Seventh-day Adventist Church where they were involved in ministry, serving in churches in Kansas, Colorado and Ohio. On April 1, 1969, Barb, Gene, and their daughter, Lori, were involved in an auto accident that took Gene’s life. Barb and Stanley Rudisaile were married in Farmington, N. Mex Mexico on December 30, 1969. Barb worked with Stanley in his dental practice and took care
of their children. On October 1, 1974, Stanley passed away in a tragic airplane crash leaving Barbara a widow with six children. On November 28, 1976, Barb was married to Richard Mitzelfelt in Farmington, N. Mex. This union created a home with nine lively children and later grandchildren and great grandchildren keeping Barb and Richard very busy for the next 37 years. Barbara’s profession as a medical transcriptionist provided her an opportunity to be part of a team with skilled coworkers and caring physicians. Barb served as an elder at the Albuquerque Central church. Among the things she enjoyed were sharing her faith, camping, going to the mountains, cheering on the Denver Broncos, traveling, ministering to the sick and elderly, and being able to see her kids and grandchildren.

She longed for the soon coming of her Lord and Savior. She was preceded in death by her father, Arnold Groth, and her son Monte Mitzelfelt. Survivors: husband, Richard Mitzelfelt; mother, Dorothy Elliott; sister, Karen Ford, and her husband, Bryce; daughters, Darla Smith and her husband, Danny, Lynne Antoun and her husband, Ben; sons, Ty Rudisaiile and his wife, Jennifer, Lee Rudisaiile and his wife, Laura; daughter, Lori Humble, and her husband Bryan; son, Joe Rudisaiile; daughter, Mary Coleman and her husband Jody; son, Daren Rudisaiile and his wife, Chandra; 17 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; numerous nieces and nephews.

NEDLEY, Donna L., born February 1, 1947 in Brownville, Pa., and died May 14, 2014 in Norman, Okla. She was a member of the Ardmore SDA church. She had been employed by Sunshine Industries. Survivors: brothers, Neil Nedley and Wayne Nedley; sisters, Janice Crawford and Diane Brock; nine nephews, and one niece.

PERRY, Rachel Coleen Ellis, born January 10, 1918, in Vian, Okla., and died July 10, 2014 in Sallisaw, Okla. She married Nolan Irby Perry on December 23, 1939. Rachel was a social worker for the Sequoyah County Welfare Department. She also taught school at Sallisaw SDA Church School, and Belfonte and Marble City schools. Rachel was a member of the SDA church for more than 60 years and served as the church treasurer for many years. Her husband, Nolan, preceded her in death. Survivors: daughter, Wanda Smith, of Keene, Tex.; and daughter and son-in-law, Doris and Kent Trotter, of Vian.

PHILLIPS, Erma Jean Wells, born April 9, 1929 in Washington, Okla., and died March 8, 2014 in Ardmore, Okla. She was a member of the Ardmore church. She was an LPN and had earned several bachelor’s degrees. She was an author, artist, seamstress, gardener, a person of great faith, and she loved children and would use her skills to bless their lives. She was preceded in death by her husband, Harold, and daughter, Brenda. Survivors: son and daughter-in-law, Rodney and Teddy Jo; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

ROSALES, Erasmo, born September 5, 1929, in Escobares, Tex., and died June 19, 2014, in McAllen, Tex. He was a member of the Pharr church. Survivors: brother, Ruben Salinas; sons, Roal, Leo, and Rudy; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

SMITH, Charles Lester Smith, born July 29, 1949 in Dover, Ohio and died September 27, 2014 in Elgin, Tex. He liked hunting, collecting steins, and was a member of the Elgin church. Survivors: sister, Saundra Serl, and her husband, Wray; brother, Arthur R. Smith, and his wife, Alba; brother, Vernon N. Smith and his wife, Kathy; and several nieces and nephews.

STOWE, Donald R., born November 2, 1929, in Hobart, Okla., and died June 29, 2014 in Fort Worth, Tex. He was a member of the Keene church. He was a retired conference worker and had also worked for more than 30 years at Huguley Hospital in Fort Worth. Survivors: wife, Marjorie (Yates) Stowe, of Keene, Tex.; brother, William Stowe, of El Paso, Tex.; son and daughter-in-law, Jonathan and Lori (Cranford) Stowe, of Bealton, Va.; son and daughter-in-law, Nathan and Jann (Lewis) Stowe, of Battle Ground, Wash.; six grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

THACKER, Merle Estelle Stinson, born September 29, 1917 in Douglass, Tex., and died September 30, 2014, in Keene, Tex. She was a member of the Keene church. She was preceded in death by her husband, Roy, and son Charles. Survivors: daughter, Beverly Ulrich, and her husband Jerry; two grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

WE’VE ALL HEARD THE EXPRESSION: “The family that prays together stays together.” I’ve also heard it expressed this way: “The family that plays together stays together.” I believe there is profound truth in both statements.

As we approach the holiday season, most of us look forward to spending quality time with family and friends. For many of us, our most treasured holiday memories center around special family gatherings filled with fun, laughter, and rich holiday fare. We sometimes even travel great distances to enjoy the company of those we love but don’t often get to see.

But for others, thoughts of the holidays don’t evoke such pleasant feelings. Many people, especially the elderly, dread this time of year because it brings painful memories of losing a loved one. For others, the holidays conjure up feelings of loneliness because they either have no immediate family or they live too far away to connect with relatives. According to a Canadian study conducted in 1999 on patients who sought emergency psychiatric services during the Christmas season, the most common complaints were feelings of loneliness and “being without a family.” Unfortunately, such feelings can lead to depression.

How ironic that people can feel depressed during what is supposed to be one of the happiest seasons of the year!

With these thoughts in mind, I’d like to coin a third expression, though it may not sound as eloquent or witty as the first two mentioned above. It goes like this: “The family that serves together stays together.” What am I getting at? Well, while I hope that you and your family will spend time praying together and playing together during the upcoming holidays, I hope you’ll also consider taking some time to bring some joy to those who could benefit from the blessings of social interaction.

As you mentally scan the faces of people in your congregation or community, I’m sure that some elderly person, single parent, or young person who has lost a parent comes to mind. They would be delighted to spend time at your family table or accompany you on some special outing. Perhaps there’s a “grandparent” you could adopt at a local nursing home. Or how about providing Christmas gifts for children of people who are incarcerated and unable to provide for their families? The possibilities for service are endless.

This holiday season, I challenge you to expand the notion of family to bless and remember those who are part of an even larger family—the family of God. You and your family will be blessed, as well.
Thank you for your support! Thank you for making Christian higher education a reality for these students.

To experience what scholarships have done for our students and to make a gift online, please visit swau.edu/give.

Upcoming Events

Nov 20 - Student Recital
Dec 4 - Student Recital
Dec 7 - Orchestra Concert
Dec 12 - Choral Concert
Dec 13 - Wind Symphony Concert
Dec 14 - Cleburne Christmas Concert

For more information please visit swau.edu/news-events or call 800-433-2240