"The only things we can keep are the things we freely give to God." —C.S. Lewis

Upcoming Events

Feb 12 @ 7:30pm » "Sanctuaries and Cult at Khirbet Qeiyafa" » Southern Adventist University
Feb 15-18 » Outreach Witnessing Sabbath & Sunday Fun Day » Gatlinburg, TN
Feb 15-17 » The Two Witnesses (Prayer Conference) » Cohutta Springs | poster
Feb 16-17 » Bible Worker Training » Atlanta Metro Church
Feb 16 » LifeGroup Training » Sharpsburg, GA
Feb 17 @ 6pm » Couples’ Dinner » Cohutta Springs Conference Center | flyer
Feb 18 » Presidents’ Day » GCC office close
Feb 21 @ 9am » Visitation Day » Atlanta Adventist Academy | website
Feb 22-23 » Marriage Savers Training » Collegetale Church
Feb 22-23 » Clifford Goldstein » Columbus First Church
Feb 23 @ 9:15am » Sabbath Conference » Dunlap, TN | poster | website
Feb 23 » Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries » Collegeedale Community Church
Feb 24 @ 9am » Technology Workshop » GCA Church | flyer
Feb 24 » Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries » GCC office

March 1-3 » CONNECT: ACF Leadership Conference » Cohutta Springs
March 2 » Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries » Tifton Church
March 15-16 » GCA Days » Georgia-Cumberland Academy | website
March 15 » God in Shoes Outreach » Chatsworth, GA
March 15-17 » Women's & Teen Girls' Spring Retreat » Cohutta Springs Conference Center brochure | poster
March 16 » LifeGroup Training » Sharpsburg, GA

REGISTER FOR EVENTS ONLINE AT WWW.REGISTRATION.GCCSDA.COM
*Please note that some of these events may have registration deadlines that have already passed.

God's Greatest Random Act of Kindness:

God's Greatest Random Act of Kindness: Love—Women’s & Teen Girls’ Spring Retreat is March 15-17. "Love and kindness are never wasted. They always make a difference." (Barbara De Angelis)
Join us for a spirit-filled weekend that will help you make a difference! Register by Feb. 14 for the early bird rate. Register online at registration.gccsda.com.
Questions? Call Donna Crandall at 800-567-1844, ext. 342.

DOWNLOADS:
Brochure
Poster

Youth & Young Adult Festival is March 23 in Dalton, GA. This event will feature guest speaker Jonathan Henderson, young people from around the conference at the afternoon Expression Session, and a concert with Bebo Norman in the evening. It is sure to be a blessed day.

Visit registration.gccsda.com to register online or to download a form from the document center. Online registration available through March 21, meal order deadline is March 12. For more information, contact Alyse at 800-567-1844, ext. 346 or alyse@gccsda.com.

DOWNLOADS:
AAA Visitation Day: Atlanta Adventist Academy's Visitation Day is Thursday, Feb. 21! Join us at our Duluth campus for tours, musical performances, games, lunch and prizes! 9am-2:15pm. Parents are invited to attend. Please RSVP to Alysa Darmody at adarmody@aaa.edu.

Sabbath Conference: This free Sabbath Conference is being provided for all Sabbath-keepers and anyone interested in becoming better acquainted with the reasons for keeping the Bible Sabbath. The conference will provide support for Sabbath-keeping that is personal, biblical, historical and prophetic. The conference will take place Feb. 23, beginning at 9:15am, at the Sequatchie County High School in Dunlap, Tenn. Download the poster to learn more.

Technology Workshop: This exclusive computer workshop is for pastors and/or technical people involved in church work. Learn computer best practices—how to set up a wireless network, stream video (including audio), and set up secure guest access. Bring your thoughts and questions. This is an interactive workshop. The workshop will be held Feb. 24, from 9am-12:30pm, at the Georgia-Cumberland Academy Church.

CONNECT 2013: What Is Your Story? Start planning for it: March 1-3 at Cohutta Springs (NEW LOCATION). It is a time of fellowship, worship and discipleship. Our speaker will be Angelo Grasso, the Adventist Chaplain at Harvard University. He will look at Engaging the Other (belief, lifestyle, culture...), Understanding Ourselves (stories we tell ourselves and others about ourselves vs. reality), and Knowing God (the Great Controversy—true and false narratives about God’s character). See www.acfgcc.org/connect2013/ for more information.

GCA Academy Days: This two-day event is for students in grades 8-11 who are interested in experiencing academy life at a boarding school. Academy Days will be held March 15-16, 2013, in Calhoun, Ga. Online registration is available at www.gcasda.org. For more details and information, call Brigett Pangkey at 706-728-4760.

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Updates
Want to know what's going on with ACS DR? Visit their blog at gccacs.blogspot.com

Eden's Pathway Spring G.E.M.S. (Gospel Evangelist Medical School) Training
This training will be held March 10-31, 2013. To learn more, download the information sheet.

A Message from Tim Cross about Marriage Savers
It is time we pull together to start saving marriages! Mike McManus of Marriage Savers has a time proven strategy to effectively do just that—save marriages! Mike’s work and strategies have effectively dropped the divorce rate in entire cities by as much as 70%. Take a moment to watch this CBN news report that documents this

Marriage Savers 'Divorce-Proofing' Couples
CBN News Feb 2010
Mike has worked with more than 220 cities with an average success rate of dropping divorce in those cities by 17.5%. His primary strategy is to get the churches to ban together with the common goal of saving marriages using his practical, proven methods.

I am deeply convicted we need this in our church and community so I am bringing Mike and his wife Harriet to Collegedale to provide training for our church’s marriage mentor volunteers Friday, Feb. 22, from 6 p.m.-10 p.m. and Saturday, Feb. 23, from 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Our church will most likely spend more than $4,000 to do this, but I believe it is money well spent, as healthy Christian marriages are the foundation of families, church families, and communities!

I would love for as many other churches to join us in this initiative as possible! The more churches that join, the more effective we as a community become at saving marriages! So here is what I am willing to offer, Mike charges a small additional fee for each additional church he trains at a training event, I am willing for you and your church’s volunteers to join this training event and only pay the small additional fee. Our church will pay for everything else. Bottom line is I believe we can be much stronger working together to address this issue! Please contact me if you want to join this training event! timcross@southern.edu x 423-309-1860

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Recent News

**Tornado Strikes Adventist Families in Georgia**

**Hoover Accepts Presidential Call to UCC**

**Murphy Church and School Give "Thank You" to Public Servants**

**Students Honor Pastor with Indoor Marathon**

**Nigerian Church of Atlanta Becomes 163rd Church**

**Bowman Hills Students Honor Veterans**

**Student Participates in Pageant for Twelve Years**

**Hamilton Community Shares the True Meaning of Christmas**

**Sandy Erickson Race Raises $35,000 for Students**

**Conference Welcomes Greater Atlanta Church**

**Chattanooga First Hosts Health Expo**

**Women Find Renewal at Fall Retreat**

**Senior Survival Transforms Collegedale Academy**

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Facebook  Twitter  Website  visit our online calendar
This free Sabbath Conference is being provided for all Sabbath-keepers and anyone interested in becoming better acquainted with the reasons for keeping the Bible Sabbath. The conference will provide support for Sabbath-keeping that is personal, Biblical, historical and prophetic. In view of the blessing God’s Sabbath has been to His children in past testing times, it is important for Sabbath-keepers to press together in these last days.

“The Emmanuel Quartet” and “In Spirit” singing groups will provide uplifting music.

Free lunch provided, please RSVP to rsvp@dunlapsabbathconference.org by February 18th.

**Topics:**

- **The Origin and Historical Roots of the Sabbath**
  Michael Hasel, Ph.D. is an archaeologist and Egyptologist, a Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Archaeology, he has served on eight different excavations in the Middle East.

- **Grace and Sanctification revealed in the Sabbath**
  Shelley Quinn is the program development manager at Three Angels Broadcasting Network television. She is a popular author and dynamic Bible teacher.

- **The Seven Sabbath Miracles of Jesus**
  Jo Ann Davidson, Ph.D. shares, “As result of living in Israel and making friends with some Jewish families, my heart was opened to a new, deeper appreciation for the gift of the Sabbath. The Jewish people have been developing the delicate art of Sabbath keeping for a long time, and their joy of and love for the Sabbath was contagious. I came to realize that the Sabbath is a day for miracles, and comes to us each week as a gift from our Creator.”

- **The Sabbath in Prophecy and End Time Events**
  Jack Blanco, Ph.D. is best known as authoring The Clear Word, a devotional paraphrase of the Scriptures. He has served as pastor, teacher and missionary.

For more information visit www.dunlapsabbathconference.org, or call 423 949–6707
January 6, 2013

Dear Friends,

We are pleased to announce our Spring G.E.M.S. (Gospel Evangelist Medical School) training March 10 - 31, 2013. We are told in the pin of inspiration "no line is to be drawn between the genuine medical missionary work and the gospel ministry. **These two must blend.** They are not to stand apart as separate lines of work. They are to be joined in an inseparable union, even as the hand is joined to the body. *The medical missionary work is to be to the work of the church as the right arm to the body.*" 8T, p. 77.

Our vision is to train students to go throughout the world. Many do not realize that there is a close connection between:

1. Cleansing, and 1. Mentally
2. Nourishing and 2. Physically
3. Healing and 3. Spiritually

Cleansing, nourishing and healing must work hand-in-hand. We want students to know how to open and operate their own "homelike sanitarium".

“What is a sanitarium? It is a place of healing; a place in which reforms are to be wrought out; a place in which young men and women are to receive an education in the use of the facilities that God has given for the benefit of suffering humanity. God has placed us in the world to bless one another, and we desire the sanitarium here to give the students in the school a representation of the highest kind of medical missionary work.” {Nebraska Reporter, February 28, 1905 par. 9}

There is limited available housing, so do not wait to register! There will be a 22-Day Residential Program and certification is issued upon successful completion of residential program at Eden’s Pathway Lifestyle Center. The cost is $3,500.00 plus $300.00 for student supplies, i.e.; books and basic hydrotherapy supplies.

While attending the 22-day intensive program enjoy the beauty and relaxing atmosphere of the Cherokee National Forest located in Reliance, Tennessee. You will be learning while you engage in the complete 10-day cleansing, detoxification, and regeneration program with additional education in the following:

- **Seek and Save** *(Luke 19:10)*
- **Caring From the Heart**
- **Live Food & Juicing**
- **Herbal Medicine and Practical Application**
- **Massage Essentials**
- **Hydrotherapy**
- **Raw Food Instructions** *(Gen. 1:29)*
· Health Evangelism
· Gardening and Food storing
· Discipleship *(Matthew 28:19,20)*
· Intro Anatomy & Physiology

Graduates may apply for an internship at the end of their training.

**The registration fee is $100.00, *(please e-mail for an application)*.**

We see in this new training to teach the importance of natural remedies and trusting in God for complete and proper healing. We are looking forward to hearing from you.

Maranatha,

Ben & Lisa Brown  
**Eden's Pathway LifeStyle Center**  
Directors & Founders  
190 Bristow Lane  
Reliance, TN 37369  
Lifestyle Center: *(423) 338-4144*  
C: *(423) 371-2032*  
edenspathway@yahoo.com  
www.edenspathwayhome.com

"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth." 3 John 2
Marriage Savers 'Divorce-Proofing' Couples

CBN News / Feb 11, 2010

KANSAS CITY, Kan. -- In a time when many Americans accept that a 50 percent divorce rate is inevitable, some communities have found ways to nearly "divorce-proof" the marriages in their area.

One example is the Kansas City metro area. While the divorce rate in Kansas City, Mo. was going up between 1995 and 2005, just across the border in smaller Kansas City, Kan., the divorce rate was plunging.

Clergy on the Kansas side believe they know what made the difference. Pastor Jeff Meyers of Christ Lutheran Church in a Kansas City suburb was distressed with the devastating effects he was seeing as a result of marriages falling apart.

"If it fails, it's the pebble in the pond, the waves reverberate out and go on for generations," he told CBN News.

Research shows children of divorce still feel the pain of the breakup well into their adult life:

• Their chances of having their own marriages dissolve are doubled.
• Children of divorce are three times as likely to get kicked out of school or become unwed pregnant teens as are those children in intact families.
• Their chances of being physically abused are 14 times higher.
• Their chances of living in poverty five times higher.

Where's the Church?

Since some 80 percent of couples get married in a church, Meyers realized pastors might have more power to strengthen marriages than most consider.

"I thought, 'Where's the church?' This is our issue. This is the thing we should be dealing with," Meyers said.

That's when Meyers began interacting with Mike and Harriet McManus of Marriage Savers. The Maryland couple pushes all sorts of methods for strengthening marriage, including getting as many religious leaders

in an area as possible to band together and sign a Community Marriage Policy. With that, they pledge not to marry anyone in their houses of worship unless that couple takes a pre-marital inventory and holds pre-marriage sessions with a pastor or marriage mentors.

Meyers teamed up with Pastor Leroy Sullivan of the inner-city Bread of Life Church. The two came from different worlds, but felt the same urgency about dealing with the divorce crisis, and the failure of most churches to do so.

"We're so busy talking about 'Let's go to heaven,' we never teach people how to live on earth," Sullivan said.

"And it's important for pastors and churches to get into their minds how critical it is to invest in each and every union," Meyers added.

**Divorce Rate Plunges 70 Percent**

Meyers and Sullivan spent months recruiting dozens of other pastors in the Kansas City, Kan. area in 1996 to sign a Community Marriage Policy. And over the next 10 years, the town saw an amazing 70 percent plunge in the divorce rate -- from 650 in 1995, to just 196 in 2005.

Both pastors feel a particularly strong method of strengthening marriages has been the use of marriage mentors -- especially when it comes to working with couples who want to marry.

Dave and Rhonda DeFreece are members of Meyers' Lutheran church and have mentored couples for 14 years.

"You're using your years of experience coupled with some training in listening skills and communication skills," Dave said.

"The preparation process, lots of times, brings out areas that maybe they've never discussed before or thought about," Rhonda said.

McManus recruited Patti and Victor Llewellyn to be mentors in Maryland. They agree it's especially important for couples considering marriage to get some mentoring.

Patti said mentors can help them answer crucial questions, like, "Will you have the communication tools to give and take and find out how you're going to work together?"

"How do we expect them to just pop into a healthy, interacting great marriage? It's not going to happen. It takes help," Victor added.

These "marriage coaches" can help couples work their way through a premarital inventory, which can predict with 80 percent accuracy which couples will likely divorce. That can lead incompatible couples to give up on getting married before it's too late.

"I know we've had two couples decide not to marry," Patti mentioned.

**How to Cut the Divorce Rate in Half**

Pastors in more than 220 communities have signed Community Marriage Policies. But McManus feels it's now time to start pushing secular authorities as well to do something to strengthen marriages. He's championing a couple of potent ideas in his new book "How to Cut America's Divorce Rate in Half."

The U.S. rate is triple that of France and Britain, and McManus thinks one big reason is because of the waiting periods for a divorce in those nations.

"You have to wait five years in one country and six years in the other to get the divorce. You know what happens in five years? A lot of reconciliation," he explained.

Meyers pointed out research that shows if those in a failing marriage would simply wait it out for five years, they'd likely see a big turnaround.
"Sixty-six percent of those couples will report a stronger, happier, wholesome marriage if they will just do that," he said.

Some researchers say 86 percent of couples who decide to stall a divorce for five years end up with happier, enduring marriages after those five years.

McManus would like to see all state legislatures institute waiting periods of at least two years before they'll grant a divorce.

**No More No-Fault**

He's also pushing to get rid of no-fault divorce for couples who have juvenile children and no history of adultery or abuse. His book documents that America went from having 639,000 divorces in 1969, the year of the first no-fault law, to more than a million by 1975. And the divorce rate has stayed that high since.

"What's called no-fault divorce is really unilateral divorce," McManus said.

He wants states to replace no-fault divorce with mutual consent divorce where both spouses have a say in dissolving a union.

"Here are two reforms, each one of which in many states could cut the divorce rate in half," he said confidently.

**Divorce Costs All Taxpayers**

The states could also save a huge amount of taxpayer dollars. Taxpayers cough up $112 billion a year to pay the huge costs of families fragmenting, according to the Institute for American Values. McManus thinks the total might actually be closer to $200 billion a year.

While only one percent of married women are in poverty, 24 percent of divorced women are.

McManus said of most of that 24 percent: "They're eligible for Medicaid and food stamps and earned income tax credit and subsidies for housing and day care and all that."

"That's what costs so much," he explained. "If you could cut the divorce rate, you'd be doing a great fiscal favor for taxpayers."

"It's a devastating thing. Divorce is within our communities, families, the lives of our children personally to societally," Meyers said.

Which is why those in the Marriage Savers movement feel so fiercely about it.

"I really believe that what we're doing is making eternal benefits for couples down the road," Maryland mentor Llewellyn said.

"Marriage really is the best solution for all the problems we have in society today," Sullivan said.

Sullivan has only had a couple of divorces in his church since his fellow pastors banded together in 1996.

As for Meyers' church, "I've had roughly a hundred weddings I've performed since then," he said. "I've had no divorces."

"If we have a culture promoting marriage, and if our churches begin to capture the vision that they can be marriage savers, I think we could drive down this divorce rate nationally in half," McManus said.

*Originally published February 11, 2010.*


 Learn More about Community Marriage Policies at communitymarriagepolicy.org

[http://www.marriagesavers.org](http://www.marriagesavers.org)

Contact us via Email
Marriage Savers, Inc.
9311 Harrington Dr.
Potomac, MD 20854
(301) 469-5873

The Smart Marriages Impact Award was given to: Mike and Harriet McManus "In appreciation for your Community Marriage Policies, Marriage Savers Congregations, and Mentor Couple Programs that have shown the way to strengthen marriages -"