E-COMMUNIQUE

e-newsletter of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference

I care not much for a man's religion whose dog and cat are not the better for it.

-Abraham Lincoln

Upcoming Events

March 22 » Hispanic Women's Retreat » Cohutta Springs Conference Center | poster | flyer
March 23 » Youth/Young Adult Festival » Dalton, GA | flyer
March 23 » Mark Anthony at worship service » Newport Church
March 23 » Health Rally » Rogersville Church
flyer
March 23 @ 7pm » "The Hour of the Cross" » Ebenezer East Ridge Hispanic Church
March 23-30 @ 7:31pm » "Undefeated" Evangelistic Outreach » Hamilton Community Church
poster
March 24 @ 3pm » Seder Meal » Johnson City Church
March 24 @ 3pm » Mark Anthony Cooking Class » Newport Church
March 29 @ 6pm » AGAPE Feast/Communion » Buford Family Church
March 29 @ 6pm » AGAPE/Passover Feast/Communion » Chattanooga First Church
March 29 @ 6:30pm » AGAPE Feast/Communion » Knoxville First Church
March 29 @ 7pm » Agagpe Supper » Cohutta Church
March 29-31 » Adventurer Family Weekend » Cohutta Springs
March 30 @ 10:45am » "Death & Resurrection of Jesus" » Conyers Church
March 30 @ 11am & 4pm » "Bow the Knee" Easter drama » Calhoun Church
March 30 @ 11am » "He is Risen: A New Hope" » Knoxville First Church
March 30 @ 6pm & 8pm » "De Belen al Calvario" » First Atlanta Hispanic Church
March 30 » Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries » Savannah Church
March 30 » "Christ's Method Alone" with Dr. Philip Samaan » Brunswick Church
March 31 @ 7:30am » Sunrise Service » Collegedale Community Church
March 31 @ 7pm » "De Belen al Calvario" » First Atlanta Hispanic Church

April 5-6 » South Georgia Camp Meeting » Macon Wimbish Road School Auditorium
        poster
April 5 » Day of Prayer and Fasting
April 5-7 » GCA Alumni Weekend » Georgia-Cumberland Academy | find out more
April 6 » Leadership Training-Health & Personal Ministries » Algood Church (Cookeville, TN)
April 6-13 » Spring Evangelism » Chattanooga Hispanic Church
April 11-13 » ASI Southern Union Spring Conference » Dalton, GA
        website
April 13 @ 9:30am » Community Guest Day (with Lonnie Melashenko) » Sweetwater Church
April 13-14 » Weekend of Wellness » Camden Church
April 13-14 » Family Ministries Training » Georgia-Cumberland Conference office
        bulletin inserts/registration form
April 15-19 » Spring Week of Prayer » Collegedale Academy
April 19-21 » Pathfinder Camporee » Cohutta Springs
April 20 @ 2pm » Health Rally » Standifer Gap Church
April 26-27 » Cohutta Springs Foundation Retreat » Cohutta Springs
April 27 @ 2pm » Health Rally » Bristol Church
        flyer

May 4 » Prayer Ministries Day » Conyers Church

REGISTER FOR EVENTS ONLINE AT WWW.REGISTRATION.GCCSDA.COM
*Please note that some of these events may have registration deadlines that have already passed.
Youth & Young Adult Festival
This year's event will be March 23 in Dalton, Ga., and 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:
Flyer

Family Ministries Training
Give us 24 hours of your time to equip you for effective family ministry in your church!

This event will be held April 13 at 2pm to April 14 at 2pm at the Georgia-Cumberland Conference office. The weekend includes 5 of the 10 seminars needed to obtain the Basic Family Ministries Certification. (The 5 remaining seminars will be offered Oct. 19-20, 2013.)

This event is FREE! Register by April 11.

DOWNLOADS:
Bulletin Inserts & Registration Form

Copy&Paste

Mark Anthony, Celebrity Chef: Mark Anthony, celebrity chef, will speak for the worship hour in the Newport Church on Sabbath, March 23, and conduct a cooking class for the public on Sunday, March 24, at 3:00 pm in the church fellowship hall.

Seder Meal: The Johnson City Church will be hosting a traditional, Jewish Passover meal on March 24 at 3pm. Reservations are required. Please call Cathy Pollard at 423-480-9525.

"Christ's Method Alone": The Brunswick Church will be hosting Dr. Philip Samaan on March 30. He will present "Christ's Method Alone." The Brunswick Berean and Camden churches will be joining for worship and for two afternoon meetings. Mrs. Samaan will also give a mini-harp concert.

Bow the Knee: The Calhoun Church will perform "Bow the Knee," and Easter drama on March 30 at 11am and 4pm. The 11am performance is in lieu of the usual weekly Sabbath service.
Refreshments will be served for attendees following the 4 p.m. service only. Free-admittance, gift to the community to celebrate the Easter season.

**Sunrise Service:** The Collegedale Community Church will host their Sunrise Service on **March 31** from 7:30am to noon. It will include a worship service, large breakfast, Bible character vignettes with a petting zoo, a "Triumphal Entry" parade for the children, and games.

**ASI Spring Conference:** Come join ASI members and non-members as they attend the annual 2013 Spring Conference this year being held **April 11-13** at the Northwest Georgia Trade and Convention Center in Dalton, Ga. Keynote speakers, Randy Skeete, Chester Clark III, and Stephanie Sheehan will discuss this year's theme "For Such A Time..." Early bird registration ends March 15; regular registration ends March 31. Register online at [asisouthernunion.org](http://asisouthernunion.org).

**Community Guest Day:** Join the Sweetwater Church (Austell, Ga.) for their Community Guest Day Celebration Sabbath on **April 13**. Keynote speaker will be Lonnie Melashenko, former speaker/director for the Voice of Prophecy. Services begin at 9:30 am. Lunch is for everyone. For details contact Tessa at 770-906-6058.

**Weekend of Wellness:** The Camden Church (Kingsland, Ga.) will host Sanare Life for a "Weekend of Wellness" on Sabbath, **April 13**, and will have a breakfast/cooking school on Sunday, **April 14**.

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**Other Announcements**

**About Walter McGill and the Creation Church**
George Johnson Jr., NAD communication director, sent out an email saying:

"In the past few weeks, many of our local churches across the Division have been receiving phone calls and/or emails from supporters of Walter McGill and the Creation Church in Tennessee. As you may recall, Mr. McGill was jailed because of sanctions ordered by the court regarding trademark infringement. Unfortunately, Mr. McGill and his supporters are not sharing the whole story as they rally support for their cause in utilizing the Seventh-day Adventist Church's name.

In consultation with our Office of General Counsel, we have decided to share the enclosed updated news release with you that contain complete information about this situation."

[Read the official letter](http://us2.campaign-archive1.com/?u=e24b1f9c713d7b291a54065e6&id=6019041964&c=62ae754e09[3/19/2013 10:09:13 AM])

**Special Needs Buddies**
Hamilton Community Church in Chattanooga, Tenn., is seeking Special Needs Buddies to help twice a month with a child with Autism to attend Sabbath School and Church. They will receive training until they are comfortable. If this is something any of your students are interested in, please let us know. Contact Debra Ketelsen, Hamilton Community Church G.L.U.E. Team Leader, at 423-485-1011.

**Southern Adventist University Begins Vegetarian Culinary Arts Program**
Southern Adventist University is currently enrolling students for its new Vegetarian Culinary Arts
program, set to begin in fall 2013. The program begins as a one-year certificate track, but the university plans to include associate's and bachelor's degree options by 2014.

Southern is the only Adventist school in North America offering culinary arts, and one of only a few colleges or universities in all the country providing training focused on the preparation of vegetarian and vegan foods. The bulk of the curriculum will consist of instruction in professional cooking. Some of the other courses being taught include Food Safety and Sanitation; Introduction to Food Purchasing, Preparation, and Presentation; International Ethnic Cuisines; and Introduction to Marketing for Culinary Professionals.

A new, full-time faculty member has been hired as the director and lead professor. There will also be several adjunct professors teaching classes, as well as guest speakers for class demonstrations.

To view a complete list of courses and requirements, visit southern.edu/culinary.

Adventist Community Services Disaster Response Updates

ACS South Georgia was recently featured in their local news! Check it out at gccacs.blogspot.com

RecentNews

Calhoun Church to Perform "Bow the Knee"

A Light in Colombia

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info@gccsda.com

manage your subscription (add, edit, or remove)
March 18, 2013
Re: Walter McGill and the Creation “Seventh-day Adventist Church”

Note: Many church members have been receiving phone calls and emails requesting support of Mr. Walter McGill and the Creation Church. There have also been various news reports that have addressed the trademark infringement claims between Mr. McGill and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. If you have received phone calls, emails or any other form of communication concerning Mr. McGill or the Creation Church, please do not forward the emails or respond to the calls. Many of the communications do not contain complete information as to what has happened concerning the events surrounding the trademark infringement claims.

The following news release from the Seventh-day Adventist Church serves as an accurate account of the relationship between Mr. McGill and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. We are sharing this with you so that you are aware of the relationship between Mr. McGill/Creation Church and the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Please make sure that your local churches are also aware of this issue by sending the pastor, church clerk, and communication leaders this document.

According to church records, Walter McGill was a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church but left in the early 1990s citing reasons of doctrinal differences. He has never been a pastor of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

After leaving the Seventh-day Adventist Church, McGill began a new ministry – utilizing the name “Seventh-day Adventist.” Prior to filing a claim in 2006, the Seventh-day Adventist Church attempted on multiple occasions to reach out to McGill asking him to cease and desist the usage of the name “Seventh-day Adventist.” These attempts were made because McGill’s ministry was not a part of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

After numerous attempts to resolve this matter amicably, the Seventh-day Adventist Church filed suit against McGill to stop using the name “Seventh-day Adventist.” As a part of the court process, the Court ordered mediation but McGill did not appear at any of the court ordered mediations. The Court warned McGill that his lack of participation in the mediations could result in sanctions. McGill continued to disregard and disobey the requests of the Court. During this time, McGill also ignored the District Court’s orders by placing and re-placing signage on his church’s property containing the name “Seventh-day Adventist” as well as operating Web sites bearing the name “Seventh-day Adventist.” It was at that point McGill was found in contempt of violating the District Court’s orders.

(more)
It is not now nor has it been the intention of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to shut down McGill’s ministry or for him to have been jailed. Decisions for Mr. McGill to be imprisoned were the result of actions taken by the court because he did not comply with the court’s ruling.

We believe that Mr. McGill has the right to exercise his religious beliefs and operate a ministry, however to falsely identify himself with an organization of which he is not a part, is not acceptable. This false association confuses the public, media and at times members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The Seventh-day Adventist Church has defined processes and procedures for establishing and maintaining congregations.

The doors of the Seventh-day Adventist Church are always open to the community and to anyone who wishes to worship in one of our more than 6,200 congregations in North America.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church is a Bible-believing Protestant denomination. Its members base their faith, hope and future in Jesus Christ. “Seventh-day” indicates our adherence to the biblical Sabbath, while “Adventists” means we anticipate the promised return of Christ and identifies our faith community and distinct value system. The Church has more than 17 million members worldwide and 1.2 million members in North America.

Note: If you have any questions, please call George Johnson, communication director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North America, at (240) 338-2219 or Garrett Caldwell, public relations director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church, at (240) 401-7279.
Georgia-Cumberland Conference – Calhoun Church to Perform "Bow the Knee"

3/13/13

CALHOUN, GA—A 50-member cast will perform “Bow the Knee, a musical Easter drama,” on Saturday, March 30, at 11 am and 4 pm at the Calhoun Seventh-day Adventist Church (1411 Rome Road). The free-admittance production is being offered as a gift to the community to celebrate the Easter season.

This musical drama, written by Chris Machen and Richard Kingsmore (both well-known in the musical production community), will relive the story of Jesus Christ’s resurrection through the eyes of a Roman centurion. The two main characters will be performed by Eric Kirkham as Jesus and Paco Rodriguez as the Roman centurion. Other solo parts are slated for Dr. Loren King as Marcus, a Roman soldier; Travis Epperson and Joshua Brackenridge as Eli and Benjamin, servants of Anthony; Raye Fowler as the adulterous woman; Steve Dyrda as Pilate; and Dick Miller as the high priest. Other musical soloists featured will be: Tamara King, Chad Mutchler, and Nancy Sharp.

The overall director of the production is Julie Harris, who is also the church’s choral director. Madison Harris is the drama director.

The 11 am performance is in lieu of the usual weekly Sabbath service. Refreshments will be served for attendees following the 4 pm service only. During this time, the attendees can meet with the cast members and the directors for a get-acquainted session.

Written by Betty Kossick
Photo contributed

More News

Georgia-Cumberland Conference Mission for Spiritual Life
Intimacy with God is nourished by prayer, study and application of the Word, public and private worship, and faithful stewardship that strengthen a personal commitment to
serving Jesus as Savior and Lord.
A Light in Colombia

3/12/13

COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA—I had been feeling the pull on my heart to be a missionary. Short and fitting for my schedule, the option that caught my attention most was going with the Evangelistic Resource Center to preach. I had actually signed up for the short, two-and-a-half-week trip to Colombia the previous year but hadn’t gone due to fear and circumstance. This time I was determined to go only if God made it clear I should. Clarity granted, I finally signed up, anxious but excited. The thought of preaching God’s Word for 19 sermons straight promised to grow me in my personal walk with Christ.

Preaching with an interpreter was challenging from the start. But not only did it allow me to practice my Spanish, it provided opportunities for God to work in a powerful way. The first time I met my translator, an English teacher, she was weak with fear. Never having translated before, she questioned her English ability. We became anxious as the first sermon approached. Practicing a sermon once through would take us around two hours. During the sermons themselves, however, the Spirit increased her understanding of my English immensely. We shared many smiles up front during times we knew it was only by God’s grace she understood a specific phrase or idea. As the sermons passed, we connected more, and the Spirit spoke through both of us. She quickly became my Colombian “mother,” praying with me and taking care of me each day before the meeting. She and I are both convinced God brought us together intentionally—for in our combined weakness and anxiety, God was our steadfast strength and power.

The journey in Colombia was not only for those hearing the words preached; it was for those of us who were preaching, as well. Only God knew how much I needed an experience like the one I had in Colombia after a terribly dark and difficult semester. His truth, when immersed in it, literally renewed me from the inside out. Promises I had heard over and over shone on me in a new way. Every day was totally about God and loving others as He does. The worries from my world gradually lost their hold on my emotions because as we preached about God’s love and power, I finally came to trust Him myself. I learned that when decisions threaten to overwhelm us, we need only remember:
There is one decision that matters more than any other and that is choosing to accept Jesus Christ. Once that decision is made and the personal walk begins, all other things truly will fall into place.

Returning to my home and church, I have had story upon story to share about God’s power and glory. My perspective of and passion for the Gospel have been forever enhanced, and my walk with Jesus has become so much more steadfast. I praise Him every day for allowing me to be used in His work. The best lesson I learned in Colombia was that every single thing I do is to bring glory to His name in the hope that more people may believe and be saved. Nothing I did won the baptisms at our church in Colombia because nothing we do can add to or take away from what God is doing (Ecc. 3:14). I just let Him speak through me, trusted His spirit to “make the seeds grow,” and watched as so many made decisions for Christ (1 Cor. 3:6–7).

I returned to Southern Adventist University with new perspective and restored joy in the salvation of Jesus Christ. I encourage everyone I know and love and meet to go and let God preach through them, whether it be in another country or right here in their own backyard. Nothing is more powerful than the light of Christ. “Your sun will never set again, and your moon will wane no more; the Lord will be your everlasting light and your days of sorrow will end” (Isa. 60:20).

Written by Caitlin Hobbs
Photos contributed

This student earned a Student Evangelist Scholarship through the GCC Education Department. To qualify, students must attend academy or college and preach a 16– to 18–night evangelistic series.

More News

Georgia–Cumberland Conference Mission for Christian Education
Seek to make quality Christian education available and affordable to all children and youth entrusted to our conference family.