This is Luther. He's a dog, and he lives about a mile and half from my parents' house. Luther frequently sees us pass his house on our runs and comes to join us, running miles and miles. (He's even kept us company during some hill repeats.) And when we pass back by his house on the way home, he never stays—he always follows us all the way back to my parents' and enjoys a ride in the car back to his home, usually standing on the center console and licking my dad on the way.

I like Luther. I like most dogs. But I really like Luther. One reason is because Luther defies stereotypes. I don't know what mix of mutt he is, but my best guess is that he's a pitbull/lab mix. He's also an intact male. Neither his DNA nor the fact that he isn't neutered set him up to be a promising canine friend. But in reality, Luther has become an extended family member, and he's a very sweet, well-behaved boy. He's even friendly to our own dogs when he comes to run and they're with us.
There are many stereotypes about Christians, too—some of which are less than complimentary. Unfortunately, the majority of those negative stereotypes came to be because enough people had enough bad encounters with proclaimed Christians.

While stereotypes can make a generalization about a group, they certainly don't set the standard, and they don't have to apply to the individual—just ask Luther. I dare you to defy stereotypes.

People think Christians are judgmental—so be merciful.
People think Christians are preachy—so be interested in the person.
People think Christians think they are perfect—so be humble.
People think Christians are weird—so be engaging.
People think Christians are close-minded—so be open to possibilities.
People think Christians are hypocrites—so be like Jesus.

Upcoming Events

May 22-25 » Collegedale Camp Meeting » Southern Adventist University
May 27 » Memorial Day (GCC office closed)

June 1 @ 2:00p » Personal Ministries Rally » Cleveland Church, GA
June 2 @ 8:00a » Food Allergies Walk for Awareness » Stone Mountain Park
June 2-9 » Junior I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 2-9 » Golf I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 2-9 » Paintball I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 2-9 » Rock Climbing Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 2-21 » Fit for Life I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 6-8 » Olde Time Camp Meeting » Meister Memorial Church, TN
June 7-9 » Hispanic Camp Meeting » Georgia-Cumberland Academy, GA
June 8 @ 2:00p » Health Rally » Battlefield Community Church, GA
June 8-16 » Messiah's Mansion Old Testament Sanctuary Tour » Dalton Church, GA
June 9-16 » Junior II Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 9-16 » Mountain Bike Trip » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 9-16 » Paintball II Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 9-16 » Skateboard Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 9-16 » S.I.T. Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 9-23 » Pathfinder Mission Challenge » Pine Ridge, SD
June 9-23 » God in Shoes Mission Trip » Pine Ridge, SD
June 16-21 » Adventure Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 16-23 » Paintball III Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 16-23 » RAD Horse Trip » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 16-23 » Paintball III Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 16-23 » Wakeboard I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 16-23 » C.I.T. Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 22 @ 2:00p » Health Rally » Ringgold Church, GA
June 23-30 » Tween/Pathfinder Honors Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 23-30 » Ultimate RAD Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 23-July 14 » Fit for Life II Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 30-July 7 » Teen I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 30-July 7 » Rock Solid I Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 30-July 7 » Basketball Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 30-July 7 » Rock Solid Basketball Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 30-July 7 » Whitewater/Kayak Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp
June 30-July 7 » Gym-Masters Camp » Cohutta Springs Youth Camp

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

Collegedale Camp Meeting
May 22-25, 2013
Southern Adventist University
Collegedale, TN

This year’s featured speakers will be Brad Thorp, president of the Hope Channel Network, and Dana Edmond, president of the South Central Conference.

Seminars will be offered on health, financial planning, lay evangelism, parenting, women’s ministries, and astronomy!

Other highlights include Adventist Book Center sales, Village Market sales, and much more.

DOWNLOADS:
Camp Meeting program

Olde Time Camp Meeting
June 6-8, 2013
Meister Memorial Church
Deer Lodge, TN

FORGIVEN—Jesus often spoke these words to people He met while on this earth. Worship in the ancient tabernacle centered on forgiveness of sin. A humble and contrite heart was the motivation that made it possible for the sinner to be forgiven.

Learn—again or for the first time—the ABC’s of our Christian faith.

Guest speaker is Chet Damron

DOWNLOADS:
Poster

Copy&Paste

GCA Alumni Supper: GCA alumni and former staff are invited to supper on Sabbath evening, May 25, at 5:30 p.m. in the White Oak Room of Thatcher South (on the campus of Southern Adventist University). Catch up with friends, enjoy good food, and hear about the
good things going on at your school!

**Vivian Hazekamp Brunch:** Vivian Hazekamp has demonstrated excellence in her teaching and a tender love for her students during the past 10 years at Learning Tree Elementary School. She will be retiring at the end of this school year. To recognize her 29 years of service in Adventist education, with a total of 39 years in teaching, we are planning a brunch in her honor. Each of you is invited to join us on Sunday morning, **June 2**, at 10:30 a.m. here at Learning Tree School in Dalton, Ga. Call 706-278-2736 for more information. Come prepared to share a favorite memory or words of appreciation. We hope to see many of you there, but if you cannot attend, please send a card or other memory to:

Learning Tree School  
300 South Tibbs Rd.  
Dalton, GA 30720

**GAP Camp:** Standifer Gap Seventh-day Adventist School will be having a summer day camp for only $75 a week! Gap Camp will be held from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday–Friday from **June 3 to Aug. 2** for ages 4–12. Before and after care is available. Pay the first week’s tuition to hold your place. Limited spots available. The registration form and more info are available at [sgdaschool.org/article/10/gap-camp](http://sgdaschool.org/article/10/gap-camp) or contact the school at 423-892-6013 or Glen Wolters at 423-310-0652 or wolterseg@gmail.com.

**Messiah’s Mansion:** The Dalton Church will be hosting Messiah’s Mansion Old Testament Sanctuary tours **June 8-16** and a sanctuary-themed VBS program for adults and children June 10-14. Visit their [website](http://sgdaschool.org/article/10/gap-camp) for more info.

**MAC Camp:** The Marietta Adventist Church is excited to announce the launch of MAC Camp, and Christian summer day camp, operating on the grounds of the Marietta Adventist Church and Carmen Adventist School. The camp will be held **June 10 to July 26**, Monday–Friday, from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. MAC Camp is designed to introduce young people to Jesus, give them new life experiences, and provide a structured environment for parents who need full-time child care. It’s a full experience with many of the same activities found in a traditional residential summer camp. In addition, MAC Camp will be providing daily academic instruction for kids to help bridge the gap between grades. For more information, visit our website at [macdaycamp.org](http://macdaycamp.org).

**Wildwood Natural Remedies Seminar:** This seminar will be held **July 14-21** at the Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital in Wildwood, GA. The theme is "Natural Remedies" and will focus on the basics about what they are, as well as their implementation. Topics will include: Natural remedy myths; Depression; Chronic pain; GMO; Nutrition; and much more! There will be a daily hands-on cooking class. In the afternoons, there will be 12 hours of practical training in hydrotherapy, massage, and food preservation. There will also be a 3-hour track on herbs and poultices. Early bird registration is $384 until June 10. For more information or to register, call 800-844-1099, ext. 1042 or 423-521-5058.

**Wildwood Regaining Eden Seminar:** This seminar will be held **July 31 to Aug. 4** at the Wildwood Lifestyle Center and Hospital in Wildwood, GA. The theme is "By Beholding," and is based on the premise that whatever you behold will eventually transform you, whether positively or negatively. Topics will include: What is abuse?; Depression; Overcoming anger and bitterness; Sustaining your emotional health; Fascinations; How food affects recovery; and much more! There will also be a daily 3-hour cooking class and a Q&A session. Early bird registration is $270 and ends June 10. For more information or to register, call 800-844-1099.
Festival of the Laity FREE Virtual Conference: Get equipped for effective ministry with no registration, travel, or hotel expenses! The North American Division Adult Ministries Department is offering FREE online training for Sabbath School, Personal Ministries, and Prison Ministries leaders through the Virtual Festival of the Laity, held Sept. 11-14, 2013. Attend from the comfort of your home, church, or office—all you need is a computer with internet access. All of your church’s leaders can benefit these live broadcasts presented by globally respected facilitators. Visit www.festivalofthelaity.com to sign up.

2015 GC Session Music Audition: The North American Division Music Committee for the 2015 General Conference Session (July 2-11 in San Antonio, Tex.) is now accepting applications from musicians/groups desiring to perform at the 2015 General Conference Session. Applications can be downloaded at the 2015 General Conference website at www.gcsession.org. Click the “Music Application Packet” tab and follow all directions. Applications will be processed through December 31, 2013.

Other Announcements

Summer Housing at Advent House (UTK)
If you'll be studying at UTK during the summer, we have a room available for rent at Advent House. Please contact Michaela Lawrence Jeffery, Advent House director, for more information. 865-522-3193 or mlawrence@gccsda.com

Bible Research—Online Bible Studies: BibleResearch.info is a website dedicated to providing free online video Bible studies for those seeking answers to their spiritual questions. If you would like to advertise this powerful resource on your personal, business, or church website, email Brian at brianyoung@gccsda.com to receive a web banner.

Recent News

Victory Through Jesus

AdventSource Celebrates Grand Opening

Museum Displays Artifacts from Time of King David

The Simple (but Profound) Truth