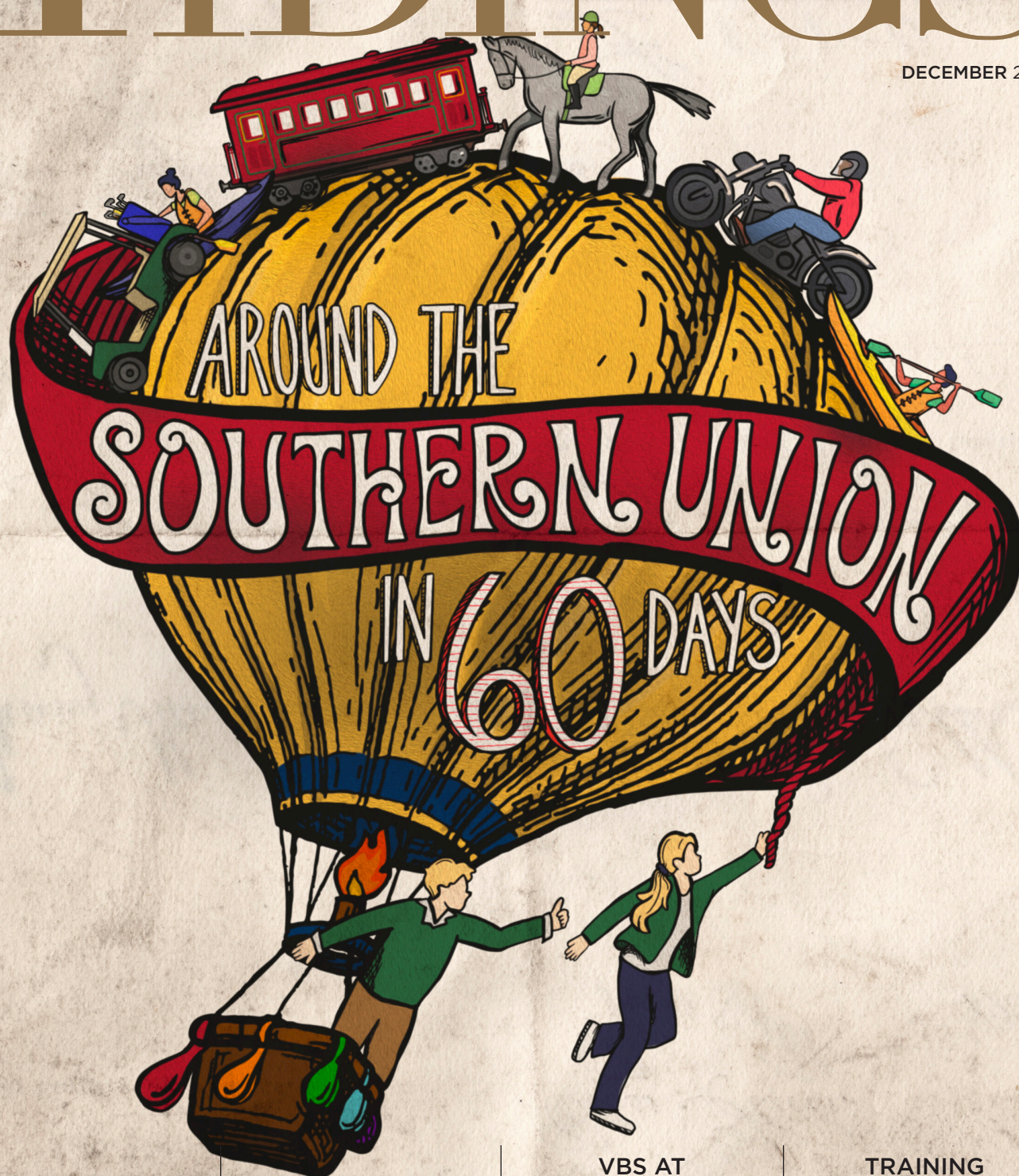


TIDINGS

Southern



DECEMBER 2023



ATLANTA
UNITES FOR
EVANGELISM

EXPLORING THE
WONDERS
OF NATURE

VBS AT
CHATTANOOGA
FIRST CHURCH
TAKES TO THE
SKIES

TRAINING
EVENT UNLOCKS
THE POWER
OF DIGITAL
EVANGELISM

Reliance on the Son of Man



Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.
President of the Southern
Union Conference

“That ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon the Earth to forgive sins, ... I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house,” Luke 5:24.

Jesus forgave sins. This startling and irrefutable fact provided the core of His earthly ministry. Startling, because no one had ever done that before. One could seek God’s forgiveness. The prophets could give the basis of forgiveness and define sharply what needed forgiveness. The one who forgave with finality ranked higher than a prophet and was doing what only God Himself could do.

Irrefutable, because of the results of that forgiveness. When human thought ties sin and punishment together as cause and effect, the forgiveness of sin must remove the punishment. The palsied man suffered for his sins, it was believed. Jesus forgave his sins. And, He also caused the palsy to leave the man. The Jews were right in saying that only God could do this.

Jesus called Himself the Son of man. That troubled the Jews. As man’s representative, the Son of man would receive the Kingdom from God. They believed that from their study of Daniel 7. But, nothing in all their study and surmising had led them to consider that the Son of man would walk among them while the Gentiles still ruled Israel. They failed totally to grasp the link between the “Son of man” and the “Kingdom of Heaven.”

Jesus, under authority from the Ancient of Days, was inaugurating the Kingdom. Into that Kingdom, He was calling all who would seek and accept His forgiveness. Now, as the prophet Daniel had predicted, He was showing divine favor for those who sought it.

The same kind of thinking that the Jews had may cut us off from the blessings of the Kingdom of grace. The Son of man operates within the kingdom of grace to forgive. This remains His prime function. Preparation for the Kingdom begins and continues through the forgiving Son. The Jews measured human righteousness against the yardstick of obedience. Christ would have us measure it against His sinlessness.

The scribes were right in deciding that punishment results from sin. What they did not see was that all punishment is reversible through the powers of the Son of man. He heals the sinner today and for eternity.

There is a faith and trust in the merits of Jesus that we will especially need in the last days. Faith in our personal abilities to comply will not do. It must be a faith in Jesus that can endure. It must be a trust in the Savior that does not seem to act like the God we read about in Scripture. This faith will be in a Savior so preoccupied with getting things ready for us to go home and getting Himself ready to come get us, that He will not have time for the usual prayer answering. We will just have to hold on to God’s unchanging hand.

“When we trust God fully, when we rely upon the merits of Jesus as a sin-pardoning Savior, we shall receive all the help that we can desire,” *Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 351. In the Southern Union, join me in the journey of unswerving reliance on the Son of man. -RCS ①

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COVER DESIGN: O'LVIA WOODARD



AROUND THE **SOUTHERN UNION** IN 60 DAYS

BY GREGORY TAYLOR

One of the tasks of the Southern Union Conference's youth and young adult director is to travel throughout the Union to show support for children, youth, and young adults at the local conferences' Camp Meetings, summer camps, and other youth events. In the Southern Union, we are blessed to have eight conferences. This past summer, my wife, Kim, and I took off on a grand adventure to see them all in 60 days. In our travels, we were continually reminded of just how blessed we are to be a part of an amazing group of individuals who love Jesus, love young people, and want to give all that they can to make that connection between Jesus and our youth a reality.

We began our tour at the end of May by traveling to Camp Kulaqua for Florida Conference's celebration, Red Zone, led by Pedro Perez, club ministries director, and Stephen Stewart, associate director, along with their amazing team. This event served thousands of Adventurers and Pathfinders who came together to work on honors, worship, recreate, and camp together. We were

so impressed to see every inch of camp utilized by the Florida team to accommodate three separate tracks for the participants. A highlight on Sabbath was a special baptism in the spring.

We raced back from Florida to participate in the Pathfinder Fair and Adventurer Fun Day held during Kentucky-Tennessee's Camp Meeting. Edward



Camp Kulaqua

Marton, Mariya Marton, Nelson Silva, and the youth director team planned out a day full of activities. Pathfinders were involved in a parade, drill down, pine car derby, and many other activities throughout the day, and also provided lunch to the rest of the Camp Meeting participants through their food booths that raised

funds for their clubs. Meanwhile, Adventurer Fun Day provided a petting zoo, miniature train, inflatables, and much more for the Adventurer-aged children.

Our next stop took us to the beautiful Lake Junaluska for the Carolina Conference Camp Meeting to visit Cris Carazine, young adult director; Hector Gonzalez, youth and club ministries director; and Kathy Russell, children's ministries director. The programming for the youth and young adults provided great trips such as white-water rafting, as well as meaningful spirit-filled worship services, and fun camaraderie with the pastors leading out.



Carolina Conference Camp Meeting

We next headed to Southern Adventist University for a brief stop to visit Don Keele, young adult director; Fernando Verduzco, club ministries director; Jonathan Montes, youth and summer camp director; and their teams for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Camp Meeting. It was evident that great planning, detail, and effort were put into the multiple youth and young adult programs, including Camp Cohutta Springs staff leading music in multiple divisions.

Oakwood University was our next stop. Bryant Stewart, pastor and youth director, and Gabriel Agramonte, associate director, provided amazing activities for the youth at the South Central Conference Camp Meeting. We were blessed by the inspired preaching and meaningful worship services, as well as the Pathfinder parade led by a local fire engine and Bryant Stewart on his motorcycle.



South Central Camp Meeting

From Oakwood, we made our way to Camp Alamisco to visit Gulf States youth director team Michel and Elizabeth Rodriguez and their incredible summer camp staff. We were in awe of the beauty of the campgrounds. The worship area sits with a stunning view of the lake with three crosses attached to the stage. The camp staff performed skits to introduce the departments and get the young people excited for the week. There was truly a fun rapport amongst



Camp Alamisco

the staff as they embraced the opportunity to minister to their campers.

We next headed to Orangeburg, South Carolina, to River Oaks Camp, the South Atlantic Conference campground, to attend their Camp Meeting in support of John Newlove, pastor and youth director, and Darryl Howard, children's ministries director. Here we were able to participate in a bonfire, communion service, anointing service, Pathfinder parade, and a beautiful ordination service. Throughout the week, classes and activities had been offered for the youth, and an interactive Vacation Bible School program was provided for the children. It was truly a blessing to see the Spirit being poured out during our time there.



South Atlantic Camp Meeting

Next, we were on our way to Georgia to visit Jonathan and Alana Montes and their camp staff at Camp Cohutta. After a tour of the facility and activities, we were able to see an epic game

of capture the flag, followed by an incredibly planned and organized evening program complete with sound, lights, and camper participation. "Jesus Gems" were given out during this program. Staff were tasked with looking for campers who showed the love of Jesus throughout the day. They would then take time to affirm these campers. Perhaps the highlight of our time (other than time on the ski boat) came at the end of the evening as the staff spent time praying with and encouraging one another.

After Camp Cohutta Springs, it was time again to make our way back to Camp Kulaqua for the summer camp program. We had heard about the complexity of ministry that happens at Camp Kulaqua. More than 300 campers are present per week. Camp runs three almost completely separate yet simultaneous tracks for the different ages, including mealtimes, flag lowering, and activities. Camp Kulaqua truly functions like clockwork to maximize the number of campers that can attend camp. Theresa Stride, summer camp and programming director, and Phil Younts, executive director, have done an incredible job of planning, organizing, and leading to provide for an impactful, intricate flow to their summer camp experience. A highlight of our stop came on Thursday evening when teen campers were given an opportunity to share publicly things that they were surrendering to God.



Gregory and Kim Taylor take a selfie at Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Only a little over an hour from Camp Kulaqua is the beautiful Camp Hawthorne. Lindsay Syeh, young adult director, and Shea Crockett, youth director, did a marvelous job of coordinating meaningful worship services that involved and engaged the youth and young adults at the Southeastern Conference Camp Meeting. One of the most powerful moments happened upon our arrival. Throughout the week, the team had worked to create a safe environment to talk, share, and challenge one another. The guys and girls were in separate rooms and were engaged in meaningful and applicable discussions about being a Christian in this day and age. It was inspirational to hear the youth asking vulnerable questions of the pastors, and the pastors having real conversations with them.



Southeastern Camp Meeting

After a great weekend in Florida, we packed up and headed to Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty Hill, South Carolina, to visit Rick and Helen Faber, camp directors, and their summer camp staff. We immediately noticed the organization and buy-in of the camp staff, who truly embraced their jobs in the ministry. On the first night, Uncle Rick (as Rick Faber is affectionately called) took a moment to address the campers and let them know the purpose of being at camp was for them to meet Jesus. Another highlight from Noso-



Nosoca Pines Ranch

ca was the cabin worships. Directly following a spirited flag raising event, camp counselors and campers found a nearby spot to quietly have worship together. It was truly beautiful to see the devotional time embedded directly into the camp program.

We then made our way to visit Bryant Stewart and Kimberly Mann, South Central Conference youth leadership team, at Camp Thunderbird in Chattanooga, Tennessee. My wife and I loved participating in the memorized calls and chants which helped create a beautiful camp culture. During the morning worship service, the Holy Spirit spoke loudly to the campers and staff, and there were many in tears as they surrendered their burdens to God during the prayer time. This led to multiple baptisms at the end of the week.



Camp Thunderbird



Florida College Retreat

It was then time to return to Camp Kulaqua to support Juan Rodriguez, youth director, and Andrew Nugent, associate director, at their college retreat. Though we had been to Camp Kulaqua a few times throughout the summer, each event had its own vibe and personality. This college retreat was offered free of charge, and hundreds attended. Heather Thompson Day, pastor, spoke powerfully on the importance of community. The weekend was filled with powerful worship, social games, and creative activities.

We again made the hour drive to Camp Hawthorne, but this time to visit them during their summer camp program led by Shea Crockett, youth director, and Lexi Madrid, pastor. Campers here participated in some unique classes such as tips and tricks for photo editing using their phone, as well as script writing, baking, sports, and our personal favorite, dune buggy rides. It was exciting to hear the passion and dedication of the camp staff as we got to know them throughout our time there.

After a brief stop at home, we made our way to our final destination of the

summer, Indian Creek Camp (ICC). As Kim and I had previously served in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, we were thrilled to return to ICC and visit Edward and Mariya Marton, youth and camp directors, at our old stomping grounds. Indian Creek Camp is unique in that it not only provides three weeks of youth camp, but four weeks of family camp. We visited on a Sabbath during family camp and ended our time together with a baptism of one of the campers who had made a decision for Christ the previous summer.

As a result of the summer camp season in the Southern Union, more than 5,000 campers were reached, and more than 500 young adult summer camp staff shared the joy of following Jesus with them. More than 100 campers were baptized at our camps this summer, and nearly 300 made decisions to go home and pursue baptism at their local church with their pastors. This doesn't include the many that requested Bible studies and/or are already baptized but were challenged to renew their dedication to their relationship with Jesus.

Kim and I are already looking for-

ward to next summer's adventures. And, as many of you might know, only a few weeks following the summer camp season, approximately 55,000 Pathfinders and volunteers will be making their way to the new International Pathfinder Camporee location, in Gillette, Wyoming, August 5-11, 2024 (camporee.org). This provides much anticipated excitement for our youth and those working with them. We look forward to watching the way the Spirit moves during such a monumental event.

I am so grateful to be a part of a Church that is willing to invest so much time, effort, and funds into its youth. Kim and I have been overwhelmed to see the incredible programs, camps, and activities that are made for the sole purpose of connecting our young people with Jesus Christ. We feel so blessed to be able to work among such gifted youth professionals who have answered God's call to minister, equip, and empower our youth. 🙏

Gregory Taylor is the youth and young adult ministries director for the Southern Union Conference.

ATLANTA UNITES FOR EVANGELISM

BY CHRISTINA NORRIS

Against a backdrop of a world in darkness and turmoil, 28 churches in the Atlanta, Georgia, area united with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and Southern Union to cast light and hope into their communities.

Atlanta is more than the home to the world's busiest airport, one of the largest aquariums, and the host city of the 1996 Olympics. The greater Atlanta area is also the largest city in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, according to Neil Reid, D.Min., Georgia-Cumberland central region ministerial director.

"Atlanta is the heart of our Conference," said Reid.

In October 2022, Richie Halversen, Southern Union church growth and revitalization director, began conversations with Neil Reid; Victor Maddox, Georgia-Cumberland vice president for pastoral ministries and evangelism; and Richard Piñero, D.Min., Georgia-Cumberland Southern Region ministerial director, about hosting a city-wide evangelistic series. They were excited by the idea, especially as a city-wide evangelistic series had not taken place in some time. Weekly virtual planning meetings followed as the team worked out logistics, including where the series would be hosted.

After much thought, the Atlanta Belvedere Church in Decatur, Georgia, was selected as the main campus for the series. The church was chosen partially due to its location and its streaming production capabilities. The members, including Samuel Bulgin, D.Min., senior pastor, and Donnieval Walker, D.Min., associate pastor, helped plan the main evangelistic

series. "We were overjoyed — more than delighted to host this meeting," said Walker.

With a main campus church selected, on February 25, 2023, the series was launched. Halversen delivered a sermon casting a vision for the series. He preached on the newness of God and being an ambassador for Christ, and encouraged the members to participate in the upcoming evangelistic series activities.

Equipping Believers

Leading up to the city-wide meetings were monthly training sessions held at different churches in the Atlanta area. Practitioners were brought in to speak on various topics to help encourage and train the members on practical ways to reach their communities.

Pete Maldonado, former associate pastor for the Conyers, Georgia, Church, believes the preparation work was one of the most important parts of the series, stating it helped lay the groundwork for the series' success. "The preparation is a key point," stressed Maldonado.

Over time, Halversen observed changing training needs for evangelistic series, and adjusted his budget for greater success. "Before COVID, I would spend 60% of my evangelism budget on advertising, and maybe 40% on equipping the members. Now it's flipped. In fact, it's 70% on equipping the members, 30% on the advertising," explained Halversen.

Collaborating Congregations

In late August, many churches came together for a special collaborative effort

in Piedmont Park, a park located about one mile from downtown Atlanta. The event, Atlanta Family Fun Fest, featured activities for everyone, with free massages, cooking demonstrations, food samples, games, prizes, and more.

The Fayette Church in Fayetteville, Georgia, was among the participating churches. Christopher Harvey, Fayette Church senior pastor, said the church was heavily involved in the Atlanta Family Fun Fest because the members wanted to "be able to develop a stronger bond and connection with our community."

Reid reported a strong turnout with more than 1,000 church members and guests participating in the fest.



PHOTO BY: CAMERON REEL

People participate in activities at the Atlanta Family Fun Fest.

Evangelizing Unbelievers

In September, the Harmony Church in Austell, Georgia, virtually hosted "Un-

chained,” where Halversen shared his story of addiction, hope, and healing. Harvey said many people could relate to the “Unchained” series as most members know someone or are themselves addicted to something.

As a result of “Unchained” and the other initiatives leading up to the main evangelistic series, some people were eager to be baptized.

“We couldn’t wait for the [main evangelistic] series to start, so I had to baptize a good chunk of saints One month before the series started, we baptized 12 people,” said Harvey.

With the groundwork laid, it was finally time for the main evangelistic series, “Darkness Will Not Overcome,” to begin. In-person meetings took place at the Atlanta Belvedere Church, and the message was streamed to the other participating churches.

Every night, the meetings featured praise and worship from different local churches, special music, prizes, and a presentation by Halversen. Some congregations customized the streaming in their churches by providing their own praise music and prizes, but still tuned in to hear Halversen’s messages.

Both in-person and off-site attendees said Halversen’s relevant message and presentation style were captivating.

“I enjoyed how dynamic his preaching



Richie Halversen, director of church growth and revitalization for the Southern Union, was the speaker for opening night and throughout the October 6-21, 2023, evangelistic series at Atlanta Belvedere Church.

style was. And, I enjoyed how he was so willing to share his life experiences with us,” said Irisene Douce, Atlanta Belvedere Church member and *Southern Tidings* managing editor.

Halversen said the series is presented in a way that is practical and gives hope to everyone, and works in an urban setting. “We touched on all the doctrines, but we do it in a very relevant way that meets people where they are,” explained Halversen.

Maldonado, who helped at a satellite location, affirmed Halversen’s messages

were powerful. “I thought the [messages] were very relevant to a lot of what people are going through. Personally, I enjoy them. Each message was phenomenal,” said Maldonado.

Impact and Outcomes

As a direct result of the “Darkness Will Not Overcome” series, thousands viewed Halversen’s messages online, 167 Bible study interests have been recorded to date, and 60 people have been baptized.

For some pastors, the success of the series extends beyond numbers; they are also thankful for what was learned and accomplished along the way. Harvey, in particular, saw the series as a success because of the collaboration which took place from the numerous area churches and various ethnic backgrounds.

“I believe the program was a success on the basis that we were united around this evangelistic series,” said Harvey.

Halversen believes God blessed the series in a tremendous way. He said he is not only thankful for the baptisms and Bible study interests, but also is encouraged by the reports he’s heard from several churches about membership involvement.

“What I’ve heard from the pastors is that revival is breaking out. Members that have not been to church since COVID [and] members who haven’t been to church in years — [I’ve heard] that they were a part of this series,” shared Halversen.

Reid said he feels the series was successful and hopes the Georgia-Cumberland Conference and Southern Union continue to invest in city evangelism. Reid said he hopes this series shows that evangelism is not dead, that it is still relevant in the Church today, and that it is the main responsibility of the Church.

Any church interested in having Halversen come should contact their local conference’s ministerial director, or email Halversen directly at rhalversen@southernunion.com. ①



The Atlanta Belvedere praise team included Robert McLean (left), Stacy Reynolds, Roseclaire Bulgin, Joyce McClain, and Tony Douce.

Christina Norris is the associate communication director for the Southern Union Conference.

EXPLORING THE WONDERS OF NATURE:

Science Educators Unite to Delve Into a Biblical Understanding of Earth's History

BY EMERAUDE VICTORIN TOBIAS

Just before the North American Division Educators' Convention, August 7-10, 2023, in Phoenix, Arizona, a group of more than 40 passionate science teachers embarked on a journey to explore various geological landmarks.

The field trip, led by Geoscience Research Institute (GRI) scientists, offered participants a firsthand experience to enhance their appreciation and comprehension of geology and the history of the Earth, with the goal of enabling the teachers to integrate faith and science more effectively in their classrooms. They visited the Petrified Forest National Park, the Grand Canyon, Sunset Crater Volcano National Monument, and more.

At the Petrified Forest National Park, teachers observed the remains of trees that had turned to stone, revealing the wonders of natural transformation. Here they discussed the process of fossilization, how long it takes for wood to petrify, and how fossils paint a picture of past animal interactions and their environment. Walking among these fossilized tree logs provided an opportunity to discuss processes and sediment transport rates.

The trip through the breathtaking Grand Canyon offered a setting for discussions surrounding the origins debate and the geologic record. As the educators gazed



Angela Sookia Ronalds



The science educators took a field trip, August 4-7, 2023, to explore various geological landmarks before the North American Division's Educators' Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

into the vast chasm, they could not help but be humbled by the scale and complexity of the Earth's geological history.

They were presented with the unique opportunity to study the intricate rock formations that could be viewed through the lens of catastrophism or gradualism. Catastrophism is an approach to earth history that suggests that in the past the Earth experienced a geological process or event of uncommon scale such as a flood. Gradualism or uniformitarianism is where it is thought that the geologic record formed gradually and not by sudden impulse, such as a "big bang."

They also observed footprints and other fossils embedded in the rock while hiking down into the Canyon on the South Kaibab Trail.

After experiencing the wonders of nature and absorbing the information presented, the educators engaged in in-depth discussions and workshops by Ronny Nalin, Geological Research Institute director, along with senior scientists Ben Clausen, Tim Standish, and

Raul Esperante. They explored ways to effectively blend faith and science in their classroom teachings and were reminded to respect science while remaining faithful to God and the Bible.

"I feel more confident explaining the topic of origins with my students," said Angela Sookia Ronalds, math and science 7-12 teacher at Hoover Christian School in Hoover, Alabama. "After studying the geological features with the GRI team, I feel more prepared to point them to our Creator who made all things."

Armed with fresh perspectives and a commitment to nurturing their students' spiritual and scientific growth, the participants seek to ignite a transformative spark in the education community. They are prepared to enrich the lives of their students by fostering a deeper appreciation for the natural world and its Creator. With the lessons learned from this adventure, these educators are poised to guide the next generation on a path of holistic un-

derstanding, where faith and science complement each other in the quest for growth in knowledge and wisdom.

The mission of the Geoscience Research Institute of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists is to explore the natural world, seeking to develop and share an understanding of nature consistent with the biblical teaching as expressed in the Church's statement of fundamental belief on creation. GRI resources available for educators include books, articles, posters, a valuable collection of websites, PowerPoints, photos, and videos. These resources can be used to plan and supplement lessons for various natural science subjects. For more information on our resources, please visit the website at www.grisda.org and subscribe to our newsletter. ①

Emeraude Victorin Tobias is the director of marketing for the Faith and Science Council of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

VBS AT CHATTANOOGA FIRST CHURCH TAKES TO THE SKIES

BY JUDITH NEMBARD

The 2023 Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Chattanooga First Church was an unforgettable flight to a destination that everyone on board was eager to reach. The VBS program, a simulation that competed with reality, got underway on Monday, July 24, 2023, when Adventure Airlines Flight 316 was preparing to take off for its final destination, Heaven.

As the 6 p.m. boarding time approached, the eager passengers, with parents in tow, entered the check-in area where the Departure Board posted flight arrival and departure times. They filed past the waiting area where a few travelers watched a sleek airplane glide by the window. All the props and decorations were impressively realistic.

The 4- to 10-year-old passengers made their way through the cordoned-off line to the Ticket Agents' desk, where four pleasant and efficient agents waited to serve them. "We're the first point of contact, so we try to be hospitable and friendly so they'll want to travel with us again," said Lorna Durrant, one of the agents.

With all their documents in good order, the passengers received their boarding pass. Then it was on to the next stop, Security, where TSA rep Pat Pearson checked their documents before giving them clearance. Once cleared, they entered the wide-bodied aircraft (aka the church sanctuary), now outfitted with a

cockpit and other trappings of a flight getting ready for takeoff. The helpful flight attendants on board were easily recognizable in their uniforms topped off with a distinctive scarf.

Getting the flight prepared for takeoff, Melissa Bradshaw ("Miss Melissa"), chief flight attendant, in her crisp uni-

form and authentic flight attendant hat, gave the pre-flight "welcome aboard" and vital instructions. She offered a prayer for the passengers and crew. When everything was n ready, the voice of the captain came across the intercom: "Prepare for take-off!" The voice sounded just like John Bradshaw's.

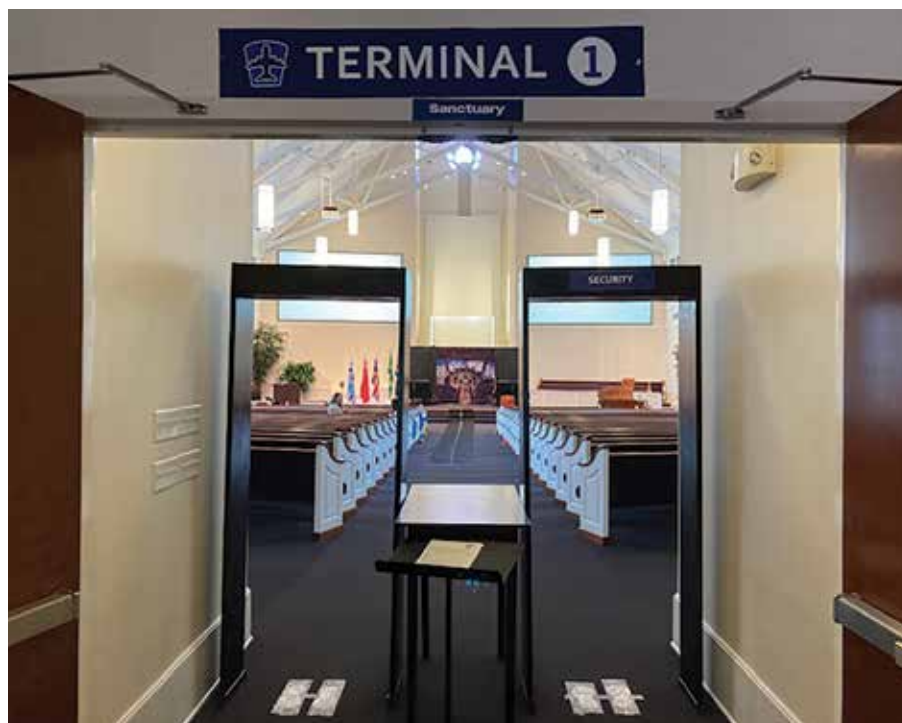


PHOTO BY: MELISSA BRADSHAW

Chattanooga First Church's sanctuary doubled as an airport terminal for this year's flight-themed Vacation Bible School. Children checked in for flight 316 at a ticket counter, were cared for by flight attendants, and experienced stopovers around the world, all while learning Bible verses.

A delightful part of the flight occurred prior to takeoff when passengers and crew burst into song led by Miss Melissa. It was their theme song that would cheer them on the way to their destination. “J-E-S-U-S is my P-I-L-O-T” is the catchy first line of the song. The next line tells why they are so eager to go on the trip. “He lived and died so I could be with Him eternally.” And, it ends by inviting everyone to “pack your bags and come with me on Flight 316.” Not satisfied with just one song, the passengers sang a new Scripture song: “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on Thee,” Isaiah 46:3. They learned it quickly and sang it with enthusiasm, the way they would other Scripture songs during the long flight.

Adventure Airlines Flight 316 had stopovers in a number of intriguing places, among them New Zealand, England, Brazil, and Africa. At each stop, clearly presented on the in-flight big screen, they picked up a lot of knowledge and appreciation for God’s wonderful and diverse world.

Regular VBS activities were neatly folded into the simulated flight. Zone leaders, each wearing a different color T-shirt, led the children to the four different activity groups: snacks, crafts, games, and Bible. Each evening, all the children had a chance to rotate into each of the groups with their zone leader. Young flight attendants in their recognizable uniforms rolled carts of goodies four times during the evening to serve snacks to each group. This was a pleasurable duty for Arlete, one of the flight attendants, who said with a smile, “I enjoy serving the passengers.”

Rusty Williams, senior pastor, was a visible presence at VBS, to which he gave strong support. The program’s air travel theme reminded him of a popular phrase from the past.

“When I was growing up, there was a bumper sticker that said, ‘Jesus Is



Lorna Durrant (left), Melissa Bradshaw, and Brenda Belles served as ticket agents helping to assist children checking in to Flight 316 Vacation Bible School (VBS) at Chattanooga First Church. The VBS, developed by Bradshaw, is designed to reflect Adventist beliefs in its activities and curriculum.

My Co-Pilot” he recalled. “It sounded great, but as you look closer, if we are the pilot, we are not releasing control of our lives to Him. I am so happy that times have changed, and we are teaching our kids to completely rely upon Jesus. It was so good to hear the kids singing ‘J-E-S-U-S is my P-I-L-O-T.’” He added, “When you are experiencing the turbulence of life, it is good to know that Jesus is at the controls.”

The five-day VBS program, an innovative, spiritual learning experience for 4- to 10-year-olds, developed by Melissa Bradshaw of It Is Written, is designed to be part of a series of VBS materials she is working on to provide Adventist churches with programs that reflect Adventist beliefs instead of having to borrow from other sources.

Adventure Airlines Flight 316 was a memorable experience for the 57 youngsters who participated in VBS at Chattanooga First Church. One of the youngest passengers, Jaxton, couldn’t

settle on just one thing that he liked best about VBS. When he was asked to tell, he said, “Everything!” with gusto and repeated his one-word answer. He spoke for most of the children. One parent who had three children in the program said she was very pleased that “it stresses Bible verses.”

The aura of an airplane trip permeated the VBS atmosphere right from the start, and, along with everyone involved, Miss Melissa, chief flight attendant, hopes that the excitement and joy it created will motivate the children “to look forward to going to God’s vacation place on a trip that will last forever.”

Judith Nembhard is a member of the Chattanooga First Church.

TRAINING EVENT UNLOCKS THE POWER OF DIGITAL EVANGELISM

BY CHRISTINA NORRIS

The Gulf States Conference hosted their annual Adventist Digital Evangelism Training (ADET) at the Conference office at the end of September. The training, which had more than 120 attendees, featured guest speakers, hands-on activities, food, fellowship, and giveaways.

This is the second annual ADET hosted by the Conference. The training is organized by Daniel Claudet, Gulf States

Conference communication director, with the support of the Conference. Claudet said events like these are extremely important for digital evangelism.

“I hosted ADET because it offers an opportunity to connect, learn, and equip communication leaders from our local churches,” said Claudet.

To accomplish his goal of equipping communicators at a local church level, Claudet arranged a packed two-day

event which covered relevant topics.

The event opened with a worship that included singing and a message from Gulf States Conference President Brian Danese. He emphasized the importance of communicators’ work. He affirmed each attendee that they were called to ministry and were a mouthpiece for the Church — a digital disciple.

Justin Khoe was the first keynote speaker. Khoe discussed his online jour-



The 2024 ADET attendees and speakers pose for a group photo to conclude the weekend.

ney, how he realized the potential positive impact of online ministry years ago, and he's since used it to bring thousands to Christ. In the afternoon, Khoe gave a demonstration on how people could simplify Gospel content creation to make quality content in a short amount of time.

Many in attendance rose their hands when they were asked if they helped with their church's livestreaming. To help church members better understand livestreaming, Kirk Nugent, Oakwood University Church media pastor, presented. In the afternoon, during a breakout session, Nugent conducted a live audit where he reviewed existing livestreams from churches represented at the training.

Pablo Fernandez, associate professor for media production at Southern Adventist University, gave a short presentation on how to create visually interesting and well produced videos. Using the principles taught by Khoe and Fernandez, the attendees were tasked with breaking up into groups to create short form videos that were shared on social media.

The participants were able to choose from different seminars which covered topics like design, social media in Spanish, writing, and livestreaming. After the seminars ended, to conclude Sabbath's training, the attendees gathered in the main meeting room to ask questions to a panel of the event's presenters.



Keynote speaker Justin Khoe presents on using social media for spreading the Gospel.

Sunday again opened with worship followed by short presentations about the Southern Union communication department and the Conference's Digital Church.

Khoe delivered his final presentation. He focused on his digital missionary academy — a program he created to help grow online ministry. At the end of his presentation, Khoe gave away a scholarship for his course to one person in attendance.

The Gulf States Conference also sponsored four scholarships for Khoe's course which were randomly selected during the main giveaway portion of the event. Other giveaways included three

sets of wireless microphones and three scholarships to next year's event.

The event featured another seminar session which focused on creating short form content, audio, and livestreaming. Certain seminars were held again in the afternoon for those who missed them due to other sessions.

Following a time for lunch and fellowship, attendees gathered in the main meeting room one final time. Thanks was offered to the speakers, the Conference, and Claudet. A prayer was offered for the speakers and all attendees, asking that they may utilize their online ministries to advance God's work. The meeting concluded with a group photo and high spirits.

"This was my first time attending this important event. It was a very pleasant experience," said attendee Cristina Rodríguez.

Claudet plans to host another ADET next year in Montgomery, Alabama from September 14-15. Topics he hopes to cover include crisis management, content creation, church tech, church websites, online evangelism, and online reputation. For updates on next year's event, visit www.adet-gsc.org. 📍



In his worship talk, Brian Danese, Gulf States Conference president, affirmed attendees that their online ministry work is important.

Christina Norris is the associate communication director for the Southern Union Conference.

A Wave and a Smile: NEW CHURCH MEMBER SHARES THE POWER OF FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Despite being raised as a Christian, Lisa Perez drifted away from her faith during her young adult years. As time passed, however, she felt a longing to rekindle her relationship with God and attend church once again. It was during this period that she crossed paths with Linda Dickinson, a member of the Murfreesboro, Tennessee, Church — a church conveniently located right in front of Perez’s home.

Dickinson, who is also the head teacher at the Murfreesboro Elementary School, would consistently greet Perez with a warm wave and a friendly smile as she made her way to church. Whenever an opportunity arose, she also extended invitations to Perez for church events like health seminars and Christmas programs.

“I had to go through the [church] parking lot to get to my house’s driveway,” said Perez, “and each time I would pull in, [Dickinson] would wave at me and would always say something kind and encouraging.”

Little by little, Perez started attending more church events but was hesitant to start Bible studies because of her busy schedule as a business owner and massage therapist. However, Dickinson did not give up, and she, along with other Murfreesboro Church members, continued praying for their new friend.



Lisa Perez shares how the power of friendship evangelism led her to the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

“At some point, I felt a compelling nudge from the Holy Spirit, like an inner calling,” said Perez. “I began to realize that I might truly benefit from one of those Bible studies that [Dickinson] had been mentioning for all these years.”

Dickinson felt a sense of delight when she received the call from Perez enquiring about the Bible studies. Eagerly, she shared the Voice of Prophecy’s Discover Bible Guides. Dickinson’s excitement grew even more as she witnessed Perez’s own enthusiasm.

“I would give her two or three books at a time, and it just seemed like she couldn’t put them down,” said Dickinson. “She would finish those three books in a

night and would constantly text the pastor with questions and clarifications.”

During this period, Perez had been attending the Murfreesboro Church in the mornings, and then going to work on Saturday afternoons. However, after reading the study guide on the truth about the Sabbath, she made the decision to honor the Sabbath as a day of rest and chose not to work on it any longer.

Shortly after, Perez moved to Rainsville, Alabama, to help take care of her mother. It was at the Rainsville Church where she was baptized. Looking back, Perez still fondly remembers her friends at Murfreesboro and advocates for the importance of friendship evangelism.

“I always tell [the church members at Murfreesboro] that it is because of their friendship, their prayers, and their persistence that I am where I am today,” said Perez. “The Holy Spirit worked through them to guide me back to my faith and helped me grow in ways I never thought possible.”

Perez is now the health ministries leader at her local church, and she says she uses her massage therapy business as a way to make friends and tell people about Jesus. ❶

Paola Mora Zepeda is the media ministries director for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

'GLOW NIGHT OF WORSHIP' SHARES GOD IN DOWNTOWN CHATTANOOGA

BY ALEXIS DEWEY

This isn't about feeling the music; it's about feeling God," said Erika Peralta, freshman computer science major, during Glow Night of Worship, a musical worship event held at Coolidge Park in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Friday evening, October 20, 2023.

This was the second Glow Night of Worship planned by Engage Worship, which is Southern Adventist University's traveling praise and worship ministry, bringing the foundational worship and social experiences of Southern to local church communities throughout the Southern Union. At this event, all four student-led Engage Worship bands performed together, worshipping God through song; and students spoke, sharing valuable spiritual insights.

"Sometimes we're so busy doing all the things around Jesus, we forget to encounter Jesus," said Peralta, as she spoke on the topic of listening to God and working with God, not just for Him.

The group gave out glow sticks and threw sweatshirts and teddy bears out to the crowd, creating a fun and inviting atmosphere. Students, prospective students, parents, and the community, were all invited to attend, and many passersby stopped to join the group in worship.

"We're just worshipping the most amazing God who loves the universe,"



PHOTO BY: MILA BALES

Engage Worship leaders share the love of God through music during Glow Night of Worship in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

Karl Camacho, junior theology major, shared during his worship talk. "We are here tonight to dwell in His presence." Camacho spoke about God's love for His people and how God fully knows us and yet fully loves us. He expressed how he has experienced God's love and that God's love is available to everyone.

At the conclusion of the event, people gathered around and talked about their experiences. Judah Hernandez, a friend of a student, mentioned that he was "very, very blessed." Another attendee shared that he could see how much the bands wanted to share the word of God.

"It feels like an outreach in a really special way because it lets our community know we exist, and we're showing Jesus' love through the University," said Julia Lang, an Engage Worship band leader and sophomore psychology major.

Carlos Torres, another band leader and junior marketing major, said, "It was worship in its purest form, and it was super special because everyone was here for the same reason." 🎵

Alexis Dewey is a junior mass communication major at Southern Adventist University.

Carolina Conference Holds Annual Pathfinder Leadership Training

In a gathering of 392 individuals from 24 Adventurer clubs, 46 Pathfinder clubs, and three Master Guide clubs, the Nosoca Pines Ranch played host to the annual Leadership Training Weekend, August 25-27, 2023. Leaders converged from various locales to bolster their knowledge and skills, all in service of guiding their respective local clubs within the Carolina Conference.

This event united seasoned leaders with newcomers, fostering mentorship relationships, and providing opportunities to attend insightful breakout sessions. Participants engaged in honing their expertise and pursued certifications in categories such as basic staff leadership, director leadership, counselor leadership, Adventurer basic staff leadership, Master Guide leadership, and even training for TLT (Teen Leadership Training) facilitators.

Adding to the event's significance, Gregory and Kim Taylor, newly appointed Southern Union youth directors, graced the gathering with their



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

presence, and led inspiring devotional sessions. Their inclusion allowed for shared meals and worship experiences, and their dedication to this ministry did not go unnoticed.

The Carolina Conference has seen remarkable growth in its Adventurer, Pathfinder, and Master Guide ministries, surpassing pre-COVID club numbers. The dedicated leaders, driven by



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

their passion to guide youth on a path closer to Jesus, eagerly marked the weekend on their calendars. They came seeking training, certification, and renewed inspiration as they looked ahead to the upcoming club year.

In a heartening display of solidarity, several Conference pastors joined the event to support their leaders and par-

ticipate in the training sessions. Their presence underscored the importance of the mission.

Overall, the weekend proved to be a valuable occasion for mingling, growth, fellowship, and learning, all in pursuit of becoming more effective and prepared leaders. The call remains steadfast — to lead youth to the feet

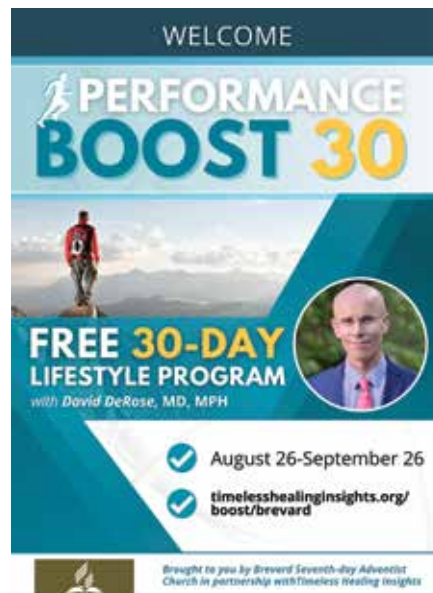
of Jesus — and the Adventurers, Pathfinders, TLTs, and Master Guide leaders have risen to the occasion. The Conference family deeply appreciates their dedication and efforts, and prays for continued blessings. ①

BY HECTOR GONZALEZ

Brevard Church Hosts ‘Performance Boost 30’ Journey to Better Health

The Brevard, N.C., Church collaborated with David DeRose, M.D., of Timeless Healing Insights to host “Performance Boost 30,” inspired by his book *The Methuselah Factor*, a reference to healthy blood fluidity. Thirty-four individuals enrolled to receive daily email links from Timeless Healing Insights, leading them to six- to seven-minute videos presenting fresh health tips and challenges from DeRose. The start date was synchronized to ensure that everyone received the video link on the same day.

With the assistance of Hongjae Kim, M.D., a member of Fairview Church and an internal medicine hospitalist at AdventHealth, Hendersonville, alongside other local medical professionals,



the church provided pre-screening and post-screening checks for triglycerides, glucose, cholesterol, blood pressure, and BMI. Every Tuesday evening from August 29 to September 26, 2023, participants were invited to partake in plant-based suppers, featuring local speakers who addressed the upcoming week’s topics. This provided an opportunity for camaraderie and support.

During the concluding supper meeting, DeRose joined the group via Zoom, offering a challenge to sustain the lifestyle recommendations they had embraced and put into practice during the 30-day period. He also fielded questions from those in attendance. Notably, 12 of the participants were not Seventh-day Adventists and had attended cooking classes at the church for the past two to three years, further enriching these interpersonal bonds.

The church intends to collaborate with Rethinking Evangelism to ensure that the valuable resources from Timeless Healing Insights remain accessible for continuous outreach efforts.

For additional details on how your church can partner with Timeless Healing Insights, please visit TimelessHealingInsights.org/community. ①

BY KATHY BRANNAN



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Zomi Language Students Graduate KidZone Bible Lessons

A special day was held for the Zomi* Church on Sabbath afternoon, August 26, 2023. Twelve of their youth received diplomas after 14 weeks of study with *Voice of Prophecy's* KidZone Bible lessons. The class was composed of six boys and six girls. All 12 of the students decided to make Jesus their Lord and Savior. Verna M. Travis was their teacher. Zomi Church adopted Travis as grandma and, on graduation day, presented her with a special Certificate of Appreciation plaque.

This summer when Mang Lian, pastor, came for a week of spiritual emphasis, nine members of the class wanted to publicly state their love for Jesus and were baptized. The other four members of the class

are planning on baptism in the near future.

Zomi started as a small group of 10 to 15 people meeting in the family homes of different Myanmar members. In 2011, they decided to begin worshiping on Sabbath afternoon. Not only did they study the Scriptures and praise God, but they would have a fellowship dinner, then take time to renew old friendships and get acquainted with the new families who had come from Myanmar to settle in the Orlando, Fla., area.

The group continued to grow. Eventually, they asked Andy McDonald, pastor of WholeLife Church in the College Park section of Orlando, if they could meet on Sabbath afternoon at the WholeLife Church. With the affirma-

tive answer and the blessing of God, the congregation has continued to grow. Current membership is about 35, and Sabbath attendance is approximately 70 people including children.

Cin Go Kap is the current church elder. Thang Kim Khai is the lay pastor of the Zomi group, and his wife, Niang Tawi, is helping with the youth. The Zomi group meets each Sabbath afternoon at WholeLife Church where Ken Wetmore is the senior pastor. 📞

**Zomi is a language group on Myanmar.*

BY VERNA M. TRAVIS



Zomi students graduate from KidZone Bible Lessons. Front row: Dim Lun (left), Niang Biak Lun, Niang Suan Huai, Cing Sian Zun, Mang Sian Hoih Kim, Ciin Kim Cing, and Mung Kim Lai. Second row: Khup S. Muang (left), Thang Muan, Khup Za Mung, Dal Lian Kim, and Lian Hawm Sang.

Lake Worth Church Gives Back to Community

Lake Worth Spanish Church in Lake Worth, Fla., likes to give back to the community. Every year in December, the church chooses a day to celebrate the Christmas season by holding a Christmas festival and inviting the community.

The schedule of activities for the day includes something for the entire family to enjoy:

- **Gifts** for the younger children include toys in all sizes and shapes. Gifts are age appropriate for those older.
- **Face Painting** — Visitors get to choose their favorite character or animal, and the teenagers of the congregation use their artistic skills in creating this painting on the faces of their guests. At first the guests may be a little apprehensive, but love seeing the finished product.
- **Snacks** — If adults cannot find an activity to get involved in, there are



Teen members painted faces with favorite animals or characters.

always the snack tables with snacks of all kinds, including some home-made holiday season goodies.

More than 50 families from the community came with their children last year.



A family enjoys Christmas celebration together at Lake Worth Spanish Church.

Many had a first contact with the church as they saw all the activities for them in a friendly and safe environment. Testimonies were heard from single mothers without a gift for their children, and how God answered their prayer through this event for their families.

Two families decided to register their children in the Adventurer's Club. One family is studying the Bible with one of the members. "Our main goal is for the community to know that we are here for them and that Jesus is the best Christmas gift we could ever have," said Rolando Morgado, Lake Worth pastor.

This celebration has become a part of the Lake Worth calendar each year to celebrate with the community. They are preparing for this year's celebration, and want to share this successful witnessing idea as other churches lay plans for this holiday and holiday seasons to come. ①



Gifts were available for all ages.

BY ROLANDO MORGADO

Conferences Collaborate for Training

A momentous occasion occurred as the Collegedale community gathered to celebrate the groundbreaking for the construction of Collegedale Academy's (CA) new elementary school building. The event, held at the future school site, was filled with enthusiasm and anticipation for the new facility which will ensure that CA continues to remain strong, innovative, and successful in the years to come.

The ceremony began with music from the CA jazz band, followed by a warm welcome from Rick Stern, campaign chair. Brent Baldwin, CA's head of school, delivered an overview of the construction project, detailing the key features that will enhance the learning environment. Among the notable improvements are enhanced safety measures, a full-service kitchen and lunchroom, state-of-the-art STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) labs, and streamlined traffic flow for the convenience of students and parents alike.

Another highlight of the ceremony came with Gary Rustad's heartfelt prayer



Collegedale Academy principals Barbara Hunt (left), middle school; Brent Baldwin, high school and head of school; and Missy Weddle, elementary school help break ground for the new elementary building. The Collegedale community celebrated this momentous occasion on September 13, 2023.

of dedication and blessing for the construction project. The Georgia-Cumberland Conference president's words resonated with those present and underscored the spiritual mission of the school.

To close the ceremony, elementary students took center stage and led the gathering in singing the hymn "He Leadeth Me."

"Each month we teach the elementary

students a traditional hymn that we sing together in the hallway," explained Tabor Nudd, CA chaplain, "and this month's hallway hymn seemed especially appropriate to share for the groundbreaking as God is the leader in this project."

Speaking at the event, Representative Greg Vital expressed his excitement about the positive impact the school would have on Collegedale. "We commend the groundbreaking of Collegedale Academy's new elementary school building, extending our best wishes for every future success," he stated as he presented the school with a certificate of proclamation from the State of Tennessee.

The new elementary school is a testimony of CA's continued dedication to their mission of educating, equipping, and inspiring students to be critical thinkers who serve others and reflect Christ's character. More information and updates about the project is available at www.collegedaleacademy.com/inspire.

BY PAMELA DAVENPORT

Communication Departments Provide Collaborative Virtual Training

Throughout 2023, the Georgia-Cumberland and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences partnered with Southern Adventist University's School of Journalism and Communication to create free virtual trainings for communications and audio/visual church leaders.

Both conferences already provide in-person trainings, but presentations during Southern Union's year-end communication meetings in 2022, sparked an idea.

"I have visited multiple churches to of-

fer seminars on a variety of topics," said Paola Mora Zepeda, media ministries director for Kentucky-Tennessee. "While I enjoy doing these seminars, I thought having a video on our online platforms would reach more people, and people could access it at their own time."

Nathan Zinner, communication director for Georgia-Cumberland, had also been asking God to lead in the creation of additional training to help churches and members in the Conference. "During our

year-end meetings, God's plans started to be evident," said Zinner.

"Nathan approached me and said Georgia-Cumberland was thinking of doing [virtual trainings], and asked if I'd be interested in collaborating for this project," said Zepeda. "I thought it'd be a great opportunity as it meant we could have a wider range of expertise [and] greater reach, and share the workload."

Just as the pre-production phase was beginning, Pablo Fernandez, journalism

professor at Southern Adventist University, reached out to Zinner looking for an opportunity where his students could gain real-world experience for a class project. The joint collaboration was an easy decision.

"I've benefitted immensely from mentors providing opportunities for me," said Zinner, "so when this collaboration presented itself, combined with being able to provide a training series better than we were planning, it was easy to see God working."

The pre-recorded presentations were scripted, recorded, and edited by Fernandez's class with input from Georgia-Cumberland and Kentucky-Tennessee. Once the videos were done and the day of the trainings arrived, conference communication teams hosted and moderated the live stream, as well as answered attendees' questions on the topic. Trainings covered

social media, public relations, graphic design, and live-streaming.

Fernandez also submitted one of the training videos to the Society of Adventist Communicators, where it received a "Best in Class" Award.

"For me, every production that I work on always has a learning experience," said Kenneth Salmon, senior media production major. "This one helped me understand the difference between professional work and work for fun. It was a learning experience, but overall this entire project was an amazing thing to be a part of."

To watch the trainings, go to youtube.com/georgiacumberlandconference and click on the communication resources playlist. 📺

BY RACHEL BEAVER



PHOTO BY: NATHAN ZINNER

Victor O'Dala (left), Southern Adventist University student, claps on set with Cameron Reel, communication intern at Georgia-Cumberland Conference. Students from the School of Journalism and Communications "Media Management & Ministry" class produced four trainings in collaboration with the Georgia-Cumberland and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences communication teams.

God Answers Prayer for Youth Ministry

God has answered Sarah's prayers for a youth ministry in Bristol," exclaims Matt Hallum, pastor of the Bristol, Tenn. Church. Several years ago, this wasn't the case, and it would have been hard to imagine the vibrant youth group now at Bristol.

When Sarah and Paull Dixon first went to the church, there were just a few youth attending church. But they wanted more, and prayed about it. They needed to build from the ground up, making every young person feel important and needed in the church.

In December 2019, the Dixons attended a youth training weekend. They came back with ideas and \$500 from a drawing to start a youth ministry. Dixon prayed constantly for a teacher. Shortly after, Brooklyn Arant, an energetic young college student, walked into the church with the dream of teaching a class for young adults. Dixon offered her mentorship and encouragement on Sabbath afternoons when she was available.

"Sarah was full of light and energy, and helped me believe that the young adults



Brooklyn Arant (left), and Sarah Dixon, regularly get together Sabbath afternoons for food and mentorship. Under Dixon's mentorship, Arant has started and leads a young adult group at the Bristol, Tenn., Church.

were not forgotten," said Arant. Dixon introduced her to "A Reason to Believe," a great resource to stimulate discussions about values, goals, ministry, and beliefs.

When Hallum became the pastor of the Bristol Church, he shared a vision of involvement and evangelism. Every Sabbath, young people became involved in the worship service. The church began to grow. Arant continued as the co-leader of the youth for two years, along with

Hallum continuing to mentor her. Week after week they prayed for someone to come.

Now they have a small group of students on a regular basis. "My greatest satisfaction is seeing God's hand in all this," said Arant. Micah Hallum, one of the youth, and Dixon worked together for many weeks creating a three-dimensional wooden sign with the word "Impact," the name chosen for the youth ministry.

Late this summer the youth joined with the adults in speaking for an evangelistic series of nine sermons — Thursday through Saturday night. The theme was "To Know Thee in '23." It is amazing how God answers prayer! 📺

BY PAULL DIXON

CORRECTION: The GCC news article in the November Southern Tidings, "Jasper Members Share 'Love in a Box,'" listed the church in Jasper, Ga.; the church is actually in Jasper, Tenn.

Successful Retreat Marks Major Stride in Revamping Men's Ministries

In an effort to strengthen and centralize men's ministries for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, lay men and pastors stepped up to plan the first Conference-wide men's retreat in years. From October 27 to 29, more than 50 men came together at Indian Creek Camp (ICC) for the retreat, "Men Under Construction."

For years, many local churches have had their own lay-led men's ministries, but since COVID-19 there had been no Conference-wide events for men. However, an impromptu men's retreat occurred this past March 31 to April 2, 2023, attracting 35 attendees. Marty Miller, president for the Ooltewah-based ministry, Blueprint for Men, was the guest speaker.

"When the elder's retreat was cancelled this year, that opened up a weekend at ICC," said Marius Serban, pastor for the Middletown district. "[Miller] was supposed to be a guest speaker at the Centerville Church, but we asked him if he could come to ICC instead."

At the impromptu retreat, Serban saw the necessity to provide spiritual support for men and stepped forward, volunteering to lead as the men's ministries coordinator for the Conference. According to Serban, the goal is not only to strengthen the faith of individual men, but to provide them with the tools and inspiration needed to take on leadership roles within their churches and communities.

"I think it's important to have strong men in our Conference," said Serban. "What I mean by this is that we need to have good men in our churches and communities, and to have strong fathers and husbands who will be loving leaders."

The "Men Under Construction" retreat, in line with the Blueprint for Men's strategy, focused on personal growth, development, and embracing God's plans.

"I enjoyed the frankness and the hon-



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Retreat participants pose following the Sabbath morning discussions. From October 27 to 29, 2023, more than 50 Conference men came together to Indian Creek Camp for the retreat, "Men Under Construction."



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Marty Miller leads the discussion during the Conference Men's Retreat. Miller is the president for the Ooltewah-based ministry, Blueprint for Men, and was the guest speaker for the weekend.



PHOTO BY: PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Brent Ruckle listens to the presenters. The retreat focused on personal growth, development, and embracing God's plans.

esty of those who led out," said Johnny Miller, London, Ky., Church member. "It was a warm and very inviting [event]."

With the success of the retreat, the Conference's men's ministry aims to establish annual, if not bi-annual, men's retreats. Serban adds that they also want to provide continuous pastoral support as well as professional counseling to help men navigate the challenges of their spiritual journeys and personal lives. One of the main long-term goals is to ensure that every church, regard-

less of its size, has a thriving men's ministry that positively impacts the lives of its members.

"We want a program where men can get together, network together, pray together, and support each other," said Serban. "The goal is that no men will be left behind. Every man has the opportunity to be empowered in their faith and become a pillar of strength for those around them." ❶

BY PAOLA MORA ZEPEDA

Woodbury Church Hosts Successful NEWSTART Health Expo for Murfreesboro City Employees

Members of the Woodbury, Tenn., Church conducted a NEWSTART Health Expo on Friday, September 29, 2023. This event marked the third of its kind organized by the church in the current year. The September 29 event was exclusively for Murfreesboro City employees.

Visitors to the booth gained valuable insights into the eight NEWSTART Health principles, which include nutrition, exercise, water, sunshine, temperance, air, rest, and trust in God. Following their introduction to these principles, attendees were encouraged to take part in a personal health assessment, encompassing checks for blood pressure, lung capacity, exercise heart rate, glucose screenings, and health age.

A dedicated team of 19 volunteers played a crucial role in making this event a success. Celine Kropf, responsible for administering weight and BMI assessments, expressed her appreciation for being part of the fair.

"I believe this might have been the best expo yet," said Kropf. "I found the location highly favorable!"

Kathleen Sterling, who conducted approximately 100 blood pressure screenings, identified numerous individuals with hypertension.

"Perhaps [this experience] was providential," said Sterling. "A few individuals had dangerously high blood pressure and were strongly advised to seek urgent care. At least three people promptly followed that advice. I pray they are well and have received appropriate treatment."

The booth attracted more than 125 visitors, with five individuals expressing interest in Bible studies. There was also a



Perry Loudon and Roberta Chavez pose after a long day of work at the health expo. A total of 19 people from the Woodbury Church volunteered to help out with the booth.

request to assist the Murfreesboro Water Department in continuing NEWSTART Health education for their employees.

Volunteers also distributed free wa-

ter bottles and more than 50 water containers for drinking. Additionally, two lucky attendees received a health and fitness basket, while another enjoyed a 30-minute massage from Body Renew Massage Therapy.

Becki Loudon noted the significant teamwork that went into organizing the event and shared her most noteworthy encounter.

"My most notable encounter was with a woman of my age and height who recently underwent surgery and gained weight due to her inability to exercise," said Loudon. "I exchanged contact information with her, and we plan to go for walks together, supporting each other in our journeys toward health and fitness."

If you are interested in arranging a NEWSTART Health Expo for your group, please reach out to Perry Loudon at perryloudon@gmail.com.

BY PERRY LOUDON



Woodbury volunteer interacts with health expo attendee. Exclusively organized for city employees, the church was invited to present at this event by the city of Murfreesboro.



Woodbury volunteers share about nutrition with booth visitor. Following the introduction to NEWSTART principles, attendees were encouraged to take part in a personal health assessment.

Grief Mentoring Training Makes a Difference in Grief Support

Grief is real and experienced by church members and community residents. Numerous deaths occurred before, during, and following the COVID epidemic. The loss of family members, friends, co-workers, and church member left many sitting in the seat of grief. Supporting a grieving person can be difficult, leaving you at a loss for words. Few organizations offer training to help lay people learn grief support skills and how to cope with grief. For these reasons, on August 21, 2023, training for grief support mentoring, presented by Carol Campbell-Norris, Ed.D., was held at Southeastern Conference office.

The grief mentoring training was informative, interactive, lively, and inspiring. This one-of-a-kind training gave insight into how to provide meaningful support — what to say and what not to say, and how to go through the grief process. The training session opened with a moving devotional thought by Jennifer Sankey, Ph.D., health and disability ministries director for Southeastern Conference. This was followed by a mix-and-mingle activity that energized the attendees, allowing them to make new friends, network, and initiate internal support for one another.

Campbell-Norris kept the attendees engaged and energized. Throughout the

training, the attendees laughed and had solemn moments. Many attendees stated they benefited from the training. Some committed to being grief mentors and starting a grief support group as a ministry in their churches and communities, indicating the training goals were met. Individuals were equipped to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ by providing support to grieving individuals. ①

BY JENNIFER R. SANKEY, PH.D.



Carol Campbell-Norris, Ed.D., presented Grief Support Mentoring training for the Southeastern Conference.

North Orlando Holds Two-Week Evangelistic Meeting

The North Orlando, Fla., Church recently enjoyed two weeks of an exciting, Spirit-filled, evangelistic series. The effort began on Sabbath, July 1, 2023, and concluded on Sabbath, July 15. Aptly titled, “REDO — Embracing the Power of Restoration,” the powerful series uncovered the life-changing joy of having a renewed, restorative relationship with Christ. Online and in-person participants were presented with dynamic sermons by Carl B. Ming, pastor/evangelist. Attendees were also treated to the soul-stirring music of Carey Sayles, international singing evangelist. Nightly programs featured empowerment presentations focusing on physical and mental health, finance, and relationship management. The topics were covered by the Health Ministries, Stewardship, and Family Life departments.

In preparation for the event, Gregory

Carrol, D.Min., North Orlando’s senior pastor, pointed out to the members that the REDO evangelistic series would be run on the power of prayer, so before and during each night’s program, North Orlando’s prayer warriors interceded for the success of the effort.

In order to energize the youth of the congregation, Bible quizzes were given at the start of each program using the Kahoot! online game forum. The games were played with enthusiasm as participants competed for top points and prizes. In the end, youth as well as adults enjoyed and benefited from the quizzes. Additionally, to ensure that every group of the church was served during the two weeks, Vacation Bible School was held for the youngest members of the congregation.

Each night, after being fed with spiritual food, North Orlando’s hospitality

team fed attendees with physical food at the end of the service. A delicious fare of soup, sandwiches, and fruit was served.

One of the highlights of the effort was the baptism of 12 persons who decided to take their stand for Christ. Many others also re-dedicated their lives to the Lord during that time.

On the final evening, the revival culminated with an exciting concert featuring Carey Sayles and other groups. Everyone left feeling renewed and certainly blessed. It was indeed a REDO! 📞

BY GRACE MILLER



Carl B. Ming, pastor/evangelist, prepares to baptize Antwon Bell.



Gregory Carrol, D.Min., North Orlando’s senior pastor, baptized Delroy Rowe Jr.

Alumna Champions Science, Gives Back in Impactful Ways

Khandi Stewart-Cooper has a giant heart, a jam-packed schedule, and an ambitious vision. Her motivation: creating opportunities for youth to excel in science and technology.

At age 36, she is a new principal at Carolina Adventist Academy in Whiteville, N.C. She serves as assistant director of Adventist Robotics for the North American Division and the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, and is the Science Fair coordinator for her South Atlantic Conference school district. She owns her own business, Stewart Robotics, LLC, aimed at helping schools, churches, and organizations develop high-quality robotics and S.T.E.M. (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) education programs.

Stewart-Cooper was first drawn to science and medicine 21 years ago when her father was diagnosed with and eventually succumbed to lung cancer. After seeing the exceptional care he received, she was inspired to begin volunteering in health care. When she graduated from Poinciana High School, she set her sights on AdventHealth University (AHU). Stewart-Cooper, who attended AHU through a Bright Futures scholarship, became the first generation in her family to graduate from college.

“I needed a lot of support, being a first-generation college student,” said Stewart-Cooper, who earned her bachelor’s degree in health sciences in 2009. “Sometimes it was just knowing something simple, like how to study, little nuances like that. For some of my colleagues, that was second nature because their parents and grandparents had gone through that and could pass that on.”

Stewart-Cooper fell in love with science at AHU and began her teaching

career following graduation, earning a master’s degree in education, and currently studying for a doctoral degree in educational leadership, both from Concordia University.

She recently committed to contributing \$25,000 to be used toward student scholarships at AHU. Stewart-Cooper is the youngest donor to establish and endow a scholarship fund at AHU.

“When you have, you need to give back because there is such a need,” said Stewart-Cooper. “So many want to have an education but cannot afford it. I want others to have that joy they are missing in their lives. This is for the other Khandi Coopers out there.”

BY JENNIFER AUDETTE



PHOTO BY: SCOTT AUDETTE

Khandi Stewart-Cooper is the youngest donor to establish and endow a scholarship fund at AdventHealth University.

Southern Adventist University Breaks Ground for Ruth McKee School of Business

Community members joined Southern Adventist University's Board of Trustees, students, employees, alumni, and donors to break ground for the new Ruth McKee School of Business facility on September 29, 2023, in Collegedale, Tenn.

Located just off University Drive in front of Mabel Wood Hall, the site is the first thing visitors see when arriving on Southern's property.

"This location sets the tone for the professional, quality education that all enrolled students receive," said Ellen Hostetler, vice president for advancement. "With 50,000 square feet, the new building will provide nearly five times the current space for this academic area, and is set to be completed by 2025."

"Lives are going to be changed," said board member Jim Davidson, executive secretary for the Southern Union Conference, who welcomed the audience and opened the service with prayer. "That ripple effect will go on and on for eternity."

Flanked by a backhoe, forklift, bulldozer, and excavator, Davidson joined Ken Shaw, Ed.D., Southern's president, and Stephanie Sheehan, Ph.D., dean of the School of Business, in lifting up golden shovels of dirt to mark the beginning of construction.

"For students, this ceremony is the symbol of opportunities that lie ahead," said Roman Johnson, senior management major. "[It is] space to gain knowledge, cultivate creativity, and prepare ourselves for the competitive business world."

With a 10% increase in enrollment over the past five years, the School of Business — the second-largest academic discipline on campus — welcomed



PHOTO BY: PRESTON WATERS

Jim Davidson (left); Ken Shaw, Ed.D.; and Stephanie Sheehan, Ph.D., joined by the board of trustees, dig into the dirt during the groundbreaking ceremony at Southern Adventist University.

its largest class of 133 new students this fall. Currently, there are more than 450 business and applied technology majors within 16 graduate and undergraduate degree programs.

"The new name for the School of Business honors the co-founder of McKee Foods, best known for Little Debbie snacks, who embodied integrity, wisdom, acumen, and beneficence — the same qualities we strive to instill in each of our graduates," said Sheehan. "We are equipping the next generation of top-tier business leaders and fostering an environment for Christian business principles to be experienced and practiced."

Southern alum Brittany McKee East explained how her great-grandmother was "ahead of the times" as a well-rounded female entrepreneur with a powerful voice and a legacy that lives on through

the family and the company, as well as the university.

The four-story structure will house a spacious auditorium, an innovation lab, and an investment lab with computers for analyzing real-time financial market data — all to enhance cross-departmental innovation, entrepreneurship opportunities, and networking between the community and students.

More than 80% of the campaign goal of \$20 million, which also includes a program endowment, has been raised through donations and commitments. Ground preparation is under way, with construction soon to follow. See southern.edu/go-business for ongoing developments. ❶

BY ALEXIS DEWEY, JUNIOR MASS
COMMUNICATION MAJOR

SHOW THEM THE WAY

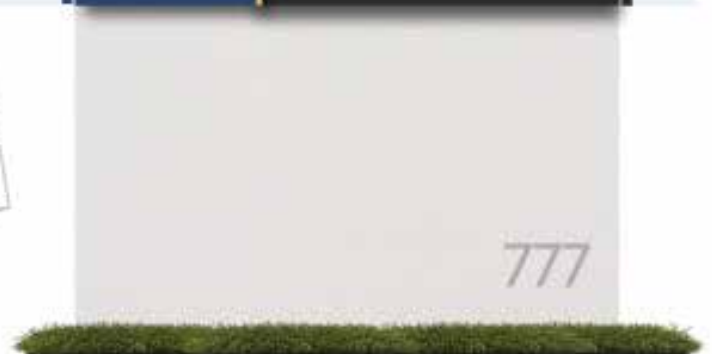
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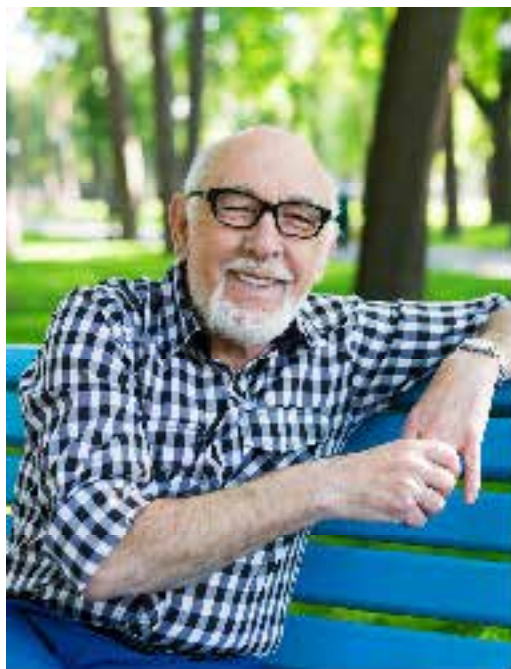


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Name: _____
old address: _____
new address: _____
phone number: _____



IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

Roy knew he would have to take the required distribution from his IRA when he turned 70 ½. He really didn't need the extra income and was concerned about the impact it would have on his income tax rate and Medicare premium. He called his Conference's Trust Department director who told him he could "roll over" that distribution to the Church to pay his tithe or to support his favorite ministry. Doing so meant that he never actually received the money and therefore did not have to deal with the potential negative consequences. It was a blessing to him and his local church.

Call the Planned Giving and Trust Services office of your Conference or favorite University and ask them about how an IRA roll over works today.

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Rick Hutchinson
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Georgia-Cumberland
Roy Hartwell
(706) 829-7951

Kentucky-Tennessee
Silke Hubbard
(615) 859-1391

South Atlantic
Merkita Mosely
(404) 792-0535

Southeastern
Juan Gonzalez
(362) 735-3142

Florida
Phil Bond
(407) 644-6000

Gulf States
David Sigamani
(334) 272-7493

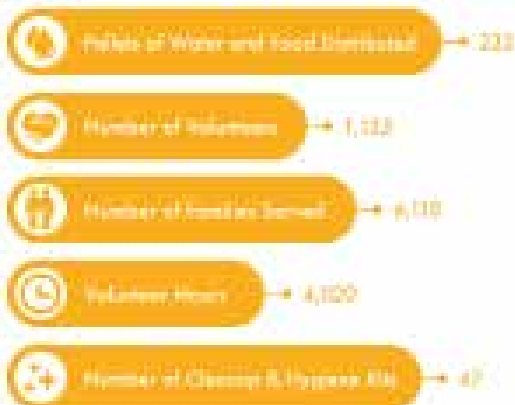
Oakwood University
Miriam W. Battles
(256) 726-7508

South Central
Sonja Crayton
(815) 226-6600

Southern Adventist University
Kimberly Bobenhausen
(423)-238-2832

Southern Union Conference 2023 BY THE NUMBERS

South Central Conference ACS



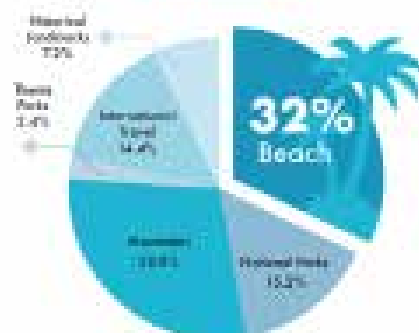
There are More Than 45 Countries
Represented in the
Kentucky-Tennessee Conference

43,000+
SAU
Alumni
[And Growing!]

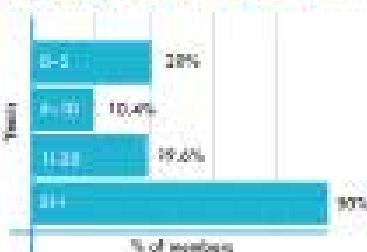
Live Broadcasts

98 YTD

What is your favorite
vacation destination?
(250 Responses)



How many years living in the
Carolina Conference? (351 Responses)



Southern Adventist University

=\$19,000,000

Financial Aid Awarded Each year

South Central Conference

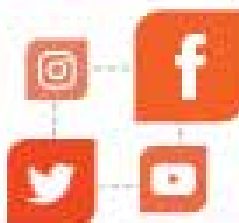


During Summer, our
KYT Camp Staff Slept:



247
Baptisms
in GSC (Year-to-Date)

Southern Social
Media Platforms Utilized



100%

alumni
receive
primary
graduate
workload in
graduate
schools within
one year



Rated as
America's
BEST

graduate
educational
program with
a 30-year
history of
training
admits



100%

pass rate
for state
professional
certification
in grade care
within one
year in 2021

Where did our teachers study?



45+
Adventist
churches
located
within a
20 mile
radius
of the
university

GSC
12,937
Members

GCC Summer Camp



FHES/Publishing Department has raised

\$92,000



How Many Languages Do You Speak?



CAR (250 Responses)

1,200

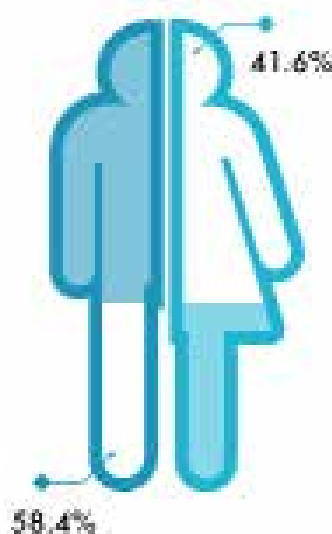
plants represented
by campus arboretum



3,464

flowering annuals planted
on campus last year

Gender of Carolina Conference (250 Responses)



South Central Conference

\$24,000,000

Total Take (Year Ending 2023)

Gulf States Employees

107 Full Time Employees
22 Office Staff

their Favorite Local Eatery is

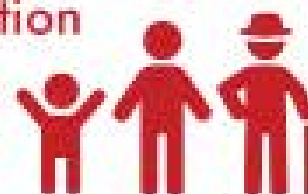
San Marcos Mexican Restaurant



Ranked
#8 in TN
for whom an
education among
private
bachelor's degree
granting
institutions

SCC
28,879
Members

277 from Alpha
476 from Gen Z
141 from Gen X
131 from Millennials
55 from boomers
8 from the silent
generation



Gulf States Conference

\$7,466,544

Take Year to Date



This year alone (As of July 31)
our Facebook & Instagram have reached

152,073 Accounts

States Most Represented in Carolina Conference (250 Responses)

1. North Carolina 21%
2. Maryland 7%
3. South Carolina 6%
4. New York 5%
5. Michigan 4%

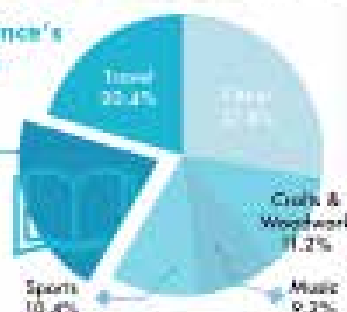


Graduates

50 Kindergarten
61 Eighth Grade
26 High School

Carolina Conference's Favorite Hobbies (250 Responses)

21.2%
Reading & Writing



KYT

GSC

SCC

SAU

CAR

GCC

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(1) Have your pastor or local church elder write "Approved" and his signature on the sheet of paper containing the advertisement, (2) write your name and address on the same sheet, (3) specify how many times the ad is to run, (4) send the approved ad to your conference office 6 weeks in advance of the publication date and (5) don't forget to enclose payment in full for each month the ad is to run. Make checks payable to SOUTHERN UNION.

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FLORIDA LIVING RETIREMENT COMMUNITY, an independent living style, is owned by the Florida Conference of SDA. The FLRC church is on property and the largest SDA in the Conference is within walking distance. AdventHealth Medical facilities are close by. We enjoy the beaches and sunshine in large portions. Start your new life with us. 407-862-2646. [C]

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NORTH TAMPA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY seeks substitute teachers for grades K-12th. Applicants must model Christ-like behavior, attitudes, and enjoy working with students. A background check will be required. Contact Smyrna Jackson, smyrna.jackson@northtampaca.com or 813-991-0801. [12-2]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Associate Vice President for Academic Administration and Dean of Graduate and Professional Studies. Candidate should have a PhD with a minimum of five years of successful full-time graduate teaching experience at the higher education level. Applicant will assume a leadership role in all aspects of graduate education and provide academic, administrative, and strategic direction to Graduate Studies, Online Campus, and the Adult Degree Completion (ADC) Program. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Engineer teaching faculty member for School of Engineering and Physics in the areas of mechanical, electrical, and computer engineering. The ideal candidate will be proficient in developing and teaching undergraduate engineering courses, including both lecture and laboratory components. Master's degree in mechanical, electrical, or computer engineering or related area required. Doctorate preferred. Prior higher education teaching experience and/or relevant industry experience preferred. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time faculty in the area of Counseling for School of Education/Psychology. A doctoral degree in counselor education from a CACREP-accredited program is required. Doctoral degrees in clinical or counseling psychology from APA-accredited program could be considered if applicant has been employed as full-time faculty member in a counselor education program for a minimum of one full academic year before July 1, 2013. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time program director to launch a new Doctor of Physical Therapy degree program. The ideal candidate will be proficient in managing the CAPTE accreditation process, new program development, and teaching graduate physical therapy courses as well as clinical practice. In addition, the successful candidate will be committed to mentoring advisees, nurturing student learning both in and out of the classroom, and disciplining students in Jesus Christ. For a full job description and desired qualifications please visit www.southern.edu/jobs. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time teaching faculty member for the Department of Biology/Allied Health, beginning fall 2024. PhD in Biology who will teach upper and lower division courses and labs. Candidate should be committed to involvement with undergraduate students in the classroom as well as guiding independent student research projects. Additionally, candidate should be a practicing Seventh-day Adventist believing the Biblical record of the creation of life on earth in six literal days. For more details, visit southern.edu/jobs. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks a full-time Payroll Manager in the Human Resources department. This position is directly responsible for processing accurate and timely payroll for various employment types and across all payroll cycles, ensuring compliance with tax regulations, denominational policies, and best practices while collaborating with our dedicated HR and Accounting teams. Open immediately; this is an exempt position with comprehensive denominational benefits and a supportive and dynamic work environment. See www.southern.edu/jobs. [12]

southern.edu/hr for the job description and application instructions. [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY seeks qualified candidates for the following staff Hourly positions— S.A.L.T. Outreach Coordinator for School of Religion, Alarm Technician, Landscape Supervisor, Head Cashier/ Interdepartmental Invoicing - Accounting Services, Part-Time Cashier - Village Market. For more information please visit Southern.edu/jobs. [12]

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln NE seeks applicants for Director of Student Financial Services. The director is responsible for maintaining compliance with institutional, federal, and state regulations and administering and managing a highly personalized financial aid process. Excellent benefits package and tuition assistance for dependents provided. See full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment. [12]

UNION COLLEGE, Lincoln NE seeks applicants for Vice President for Enrollment Management. The individual is responsible for meeting the enrollment goals of the college and for strategically managing financial aid monies to achieve the college's enrollment goals and overall financial goals. Oversee the functions of recruitment, admissions, student finance, and the visit experience. Excellent benefits package and tuition assistance for dependents provided. See full job description and instructions for application at ucollege.edu/employment. [12]

MISCELLANEOUS

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SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, nursing religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on campus programs. Financial aid is available. For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies. [C]

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NEED CHRISTIAN/SDA PSYCHIATRIST AND PSYCHOLOGIST - Can anybody refer me to Christian/SDA Psychiatrist AND Psychologist for 30 y/o with Schizophrenia with FL Medicaid and Medicare? (407) 925-5481. If no answer, leave a message [12]

SOUTHERN UNION/CONFERENCE JOB OPPORTUNITIES



SUNSET

	DEC 8	DEC 15	DEC 22	DEC 29	JAN 5	JAN 12
ATLANTA, GA	5:30	5:31	5:34	5:39	5:44	5:50
CHARLESTON, SC	5:14	5:16	5:19	5:23	5:28	5:34
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:12	5:13	5:16	5:20	5:26	5:32
COLLEGE DALE, TN	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:38	5:43	5:49
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:45	4:50	4:56
JACKSON, MS	4:57	4:58	5:01	5:05	5:10	5:16
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:24	5:25	5:28	5:32	5:38	5:44
MEMPHIS, TN	4:49	4:50	4:53	4:57	5:03	5:09
MIAMI, FL	5:31	5:33	5:36	5:40	5:45	5:50
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:41	4:42	4:45	4:50	4:55	5:00
NASHVILLE, TN	4:33	4:35	4:38	4:42	4:47	4:54
ORLANDO, FL	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:39	5:44	5:49
TAMPA, FL	5:35	5:37	5:40	5:44	5:49	5:54
WILMINGTON, NC	5:03	5:04	5:07	5:11	5:17	5:23

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[a awr.org/apps](http://awr.org/apps)

CAROLINA

Carolina Conference Music Festival - Feb. 29-March 1.

MPA Academy Days - March 22-24.

MPA Alumni Weekend - April 19, 20.

FLORIDA

Children's Expo - Dec. 2. 2-5 p.m. "Come to Life - Bible Walkthrough." Free for the whole family. Experience Bible stories come to life with an interactive Bible Museum. Florida Conference Office, Altamonte Springs, FL. Register now: floridaconference.com/Bible-Expo.

Florida Keys Camp Meeting - Feb. 2-4. First Camp Meeting of the 2024 season, to be held at Camp Sawyer, mile marker 34, on the oceanside. Speaker: Mark Finley, Jennifer LaMountain, and the Family and Friends Septet will provide special music. For reservations, housing, or more information, please contact Lynn at 734-796-3733.

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

Love & Logic Parent Training - Jan. 19, 20. Gem Theater, Calhoun, GA.

Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training - Jan. 19-21. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Communication Training - Jan. 21. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.

Pathfinder Bible Experience, Regional Level - Jan. 27.

Oasis High School Retreat - Feb. 2-4. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

"Surrender" Prayer Conference - Feb. 2-4. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

Adventurer Bible Experience, Regional Level - Feb. 3.

Pathfinder Bible Experience, Conference Level - Feb. 17.

Pathfinder Teen Event - Feb. 23-25. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Regenerate Youth and Young Adult Festival - March 2. Church at Liberty Square, Cartersville, GA.

Hispanic Women's Retreat - March 8-10. Cohutta Springs Conference Center.

Adventurer Family Fun Weekend -

March 22-24. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp.

Please check our website for the latest information, www.gccsda.com.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

Classes Begin - Jan. 8. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Organ Recital: Patrick Rice - Jan. 14. Organist Patrick Rice will perform at 7:30 p.m. in Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists on campus. A native of Chattanooga, Rice studied organ at Southern and abroad and now serves as an assistant in the School of Music as well as organist at the local First Presbyterian Church. To learn more, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

American Spiritual Ensemble - Jan. 20. Southern welcomes the captivating voices of American Spiritual Ensemble in a virtual experience that incorporates text from Eileen Guenther's book *In Their Own Words: Slave Life and the Power of Spirituals*. Enjoy powerful music and spoken words offering hope and reconciliation at 7:30 p.m. in Collegedale Church of Seventh-day Adventists on campus. Call 423-236-2814 for more information about this free event.

Paintings Exhibit Opening - Jan. 25. The School of Visual Art and Design at Southern Adventist University announces a gallery exhibit featuring works from painters Heath Montgomery and Donald Keefe, also an associate professor. Opening at 6 p.m. in the John C. Williams Art Gallery of Brock Hall, the exhibit is free and open to the public through Feb. 23. For more information, visit southern.edu/art-gallery or call 423-236-2646.

Organ Recital: Nathan Laube - Jan. 28. The School of Music will host Nathan Laube, one of the world's elite organ performers and pedagogues, at 7:30 p.m. at the Collegedale, TN, Church on campus. An organ faculty member at the State University of Music and Performing Arts in Stuttgart, Germany, Laube also serves as an international consultant in organ studies at the United Kingdom's Royal Birmingham Conservatoire. To learn more, visit southern.edu/musicevents or call 423-236-2880.

IGNITE Live with Riley Clemmons - Feb. 3. The School of Journalism and Communication presents IGNITE Live, a talk-show with special guest and Christian recording artist Riley Clemmons at 8 p.m. in Iles P.E. Center on campus. Ticket pricing and other event details are available at southern.edu/IGNITE or by calling 423-236-2330.

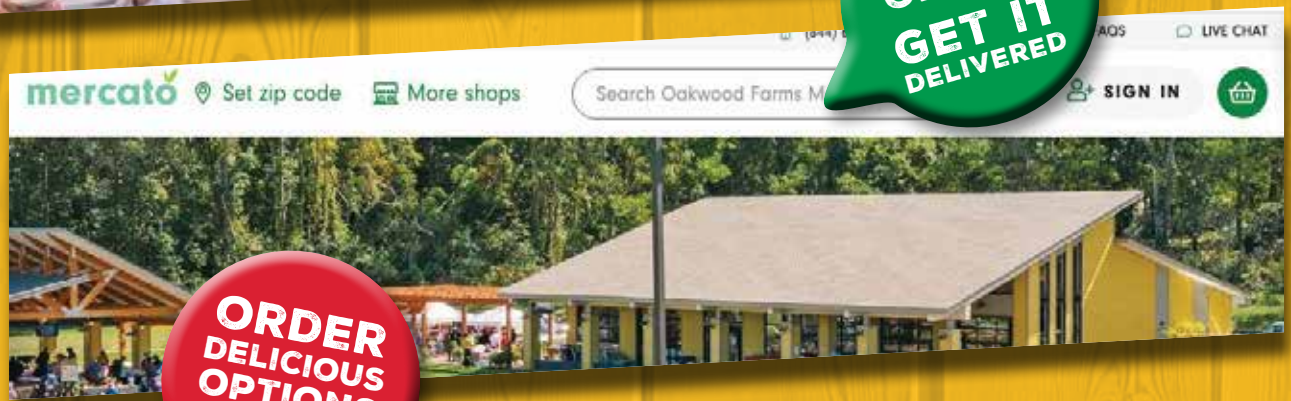
Legal Notice for Special Meeting of the Members of Florida Living Nursing Center, Inc. December 10, 2023

Notice is hereby given that a Special Meeting of the Members of Florida Living Nursing Center, Inc., will be held on Sunday, December 10, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. (during the regular meeting of the Executive Committee of the Florida Conference of Seventh-day Adventists) in the Conference Boardroom at 351 S. SR 434, Altamonte Springs, Florida 32714. This Meeting of the Members is called for the purpose of distributing the assets and winding up the business of the Corporation and for transacting of such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

Allan Machado, President

Elisa Rahming, Secretary

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Academic Scholarships
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awarded over four years
for students from most
Southern Union states

Leadership Scholarships
\$4,000 or \$6,000

awarded over four years
for students who held a
leadership role in school
or church during their
senior years of high school

Lightbearer Scholarship
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awarded over four years
for students who graduated
from a non-Adventist high
school or homeschool after
attending for at least two years



For complete details about scholarships and other financial aid at Southern, call 1.800.SOUTHERN or visit southern.edu/scholarships.