

December 2009

# T SOUTHERN TIDINGS



## Union Staff Reports on Evangelism

# CREATION

The following is a reaffirmation of the Church's understanding of the biblical account of creation. It is a most important subject in these last days. I praise the Lord that the institutions and schools within the Southern Union are in full accordance with this statement of affirmation of creation. Gordon L. Retzer

"Whereas belief in a literal, six-day creation is indissolubly linked with the authority of Scripture, and;

Whereas such belief interlocks with other doctrines of Scripture, including the Sabbath and the Atonement, and;

Whereas Seventh-day Adventists understand our mission, as specified in Revelation 14:6, 7, to include a call to the world to worship God as Creator,

We, the members of the General Conference Executive Committee at the 2004 Annual Council, state the following as our response to the document, An Affirmation of Creation, submitted by the International Faith & Science Conferences:

We strongly endorse the document's affirmation of our historic, biblical position of belief in a literal, recent, six-day Creation.

We urge that the document, accompanied by this response, be disseminated widely throughout the world Seventh-day Adventist Church, using all available communication channels and in the major languages of world membership.

We reaffirm the Seventh-day Adventist understanding of the historicity of Genesis 1-11: that the seven days of the Creation account were literal 24-hour days forming a week identical in time to what we now experience as a week; and that the Flood was global in nature.

We call on all boards and educators at Seventh-day Adventist institutions at all levels to continue upholding and advocating the church's position on origins. We, along with Seventh-day Adventist parents, expect students to receive a thorough, balanced, and scientifically rigorous exposure to and affirmation of our historic belief in a literal, recent six-day creation, even as they are educated to understand and assess competing philosophies of origins that dominate scientific discussion in the contemporary world.

We urge church leaders throughout the world to seek ways to educate members, especially young people attending non-Seventh-day Adventist schools, in the issues involved in the doctrine of creation.

We call on all members of the worldwide Seventh-day Adventist family to proclaim and teach the Church's understanding of the biblical doctrine of Creation, living in its light, rejoicing in our status as sons and daughters of God, and praising our Lord Jesus Christ — our Creator and Redeemer. "

*As a response to the "An Affirmation of Creation—Report,"* this document was accepted and voted by the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist Church Executive Committee at the Annual Council in Silver Spring, Maryland, October 13, 2004.\*\*

\*\* TIDINGS readers may see the full Report by linking to the General Conference website from [www.southernunion.com](http://www.southernunion.com).



**Gordon Retzer**  
*Southern Union  
President*

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# Union Staff Gets Involved in Evangelism

"During this year of evangelism, our entire Southern Union office team has taken very seriously the challenge to be involved in direct evangelism. I praise the Lord that the team has fanned out all over the territory of the Southern Union and held evangelistic meetings. What a team!" stated Gordon Retzer, president, Southern Union Conference.

This article recounts some of the testimonies from our staff who witnessed God working. We thank God for hundreds of baptisms during 2009. We also thank all the pastors and church members who welcomed

us and supported the evangelistic meetings held by the Southern Union staff.

## **Ralph Ringer, Southern Union church growth director**

Four "The Way of Hope from Parables to Salvation" series were held this year in Burnsville, North Carolina; Paducah, Kentucky; Birmingham, Alabama; and Westminster, Maryland, with many decisions for baptism.

Ringer has two more series scheduled at Owenby Chapel in Ider, Alabama; and Southernmost Church, Key West, Florida.

He held a "Revelation of Hope" series in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, with decisions for baptism.

Ringer also held six "ShareHim Boot Camps," training 175 laypersons to hold "ShareHim" evangelistic meetings in the Southern Union during the first five months of 2009.

## **Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union executive secretary**

The first evangelistic series was held at Atlanta Belvedere Church in Decatur, Georgia. Pastors Denton Rhone, D.Min., Shaun Brooks, Conrad Cort, and five Bible workers



*Denton Rhone, D.Min., senior pastor at Atlanta Belvedere Church, examines the baptismal candidates before they are baptized during the meetings conducted by Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union executive secretary.*

were utilized during the three-week meetings. A baptismal service was held every Sabbath.

Meetings at South Hampton Church in Bermuda also went for three weeks. Five churches came together on the western side of Bermuda. Several individuals surrendered their lives to Jesus and were baptized.

Smith preached at Hillcrest Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Oc-

tober 10-31. One Pittsburgh woman hungering for the Word of God rode her bicycle more than six miles in the rain each night to the meetings. When the Mark of the Beast was preached, she, along with many others, made a decision for Christ and was baptized with her son.

"These meetings changed my perspective on my function of church administration," reflects Smith. "Each evangelistic series reinforced in my thinking, the idea that ministry is not harnessing statistics and pushing paper, but touching people's lives with the good news that Jesus saves."



**Gordon Retzer, Southern Union president**

Friday evening, March 27, 2009, Cheryl and I walked up our driveway to begin visiting everyone in our neighborhood. We've been praying for our neighbors, we've walked and jogged in our neighborhood, we've become acquainted with some of our neighbors, we've waved at our neighbors, but I must admit we had not yet visited all our neighbors. We knocked on every door — about 70 homes. We gave each one a special invitation inviting them to a neighborhood Bible study in our home to begin April 17. Once we got started we gained courage, and we knew the outcome was entirely up to God.

Sunday evening, 7 p.m., we heard steps on the front porch, the doorbell rang, and we welcomed our next door neighbors. Hallelujah! Talk about joy! And we praise the Lord they have opened their hearts to the Word of God, and to the truth found only in Scripture. After the study on salvation through faith in Jesus, Patrick and Arlene voiced their desire to accept Christ as their personal Savior.

**Jorge Mayer, Southern Union Hispanic Ministries director**

My wife, Nibia, and I held an evangelistic series July 3-12, 2009, in the Dominican Republic at the Piedra Linda II Church, on the skirts of La Romana City (two hours east of Santo Domingo), which has a membership of 57. The average attendance during the crusade was 110. Many responded to the altar calls, and a baptism was held at the end of the meetings.



*Jorge Mayer, Southern Union Hispanic ministries director, held an evangelistic series in the Dominican Republic.*

**Merkita Williams, Southern Union associate treasurer**

May 23, 2009, was an historic day in Bartow, Florida. The Ebenezer Church, though it is the oldest church in the Southeastern Conference, had not held an evangelistic effort for more than 50 years. The four-member-strong church geared up to see the Lord at work.

Under the leadership of Roland Brise, pastor, and Nicolle Brise, Southeastern Conference women's ministries director, a tent was erected on the church's property. On opening night, more than 50 people came to hear the Word of God. The membership of Ebenezer Church doubled from these meetings.

Another series was held in Riviera Beach, Florida. Mona Vallon was the speaker for the first week of the meeting, which started October 2 and ended October 17; she also served as my French-speaking translator.

The Bethel French Church had several baptisms that final Friday night of the meetings. To God we give all the praise.



*Father and daughter intently follow along in the Bible at the meetings in Greenwood, South Carolina.*

**Fred Rogers, Southern Union Native American ministries director**

In May 2009, the planned evangelistic meeting to reach out to the Mam indigenous (Indian) people in Greenwood, South Carolina, came to fruition. Plans were made with Southern Union Native American ministries to conduct an evangelistic meeting, and plant a church company. Pastor Reyes, pastor of the Saluda, South Carolina, Church, was already meeting with four or five people in one of the homes on Sabbath. The meetings were well attended, with as many as 80 individuals in attendance on the weekends. There were individuals who made their decision to keep the Sabbath and be baptized.

Follow-up meetings were planned, and another meeting is in progress during the writing of this article. Pastor Romanof, pastor of the Greenwood Church, invited this group to meet in his church each Sabbath until they are strong enough to have their own church building. Each Sabbath, there are 20 to 30 individuals worshipping with this new church company.

For some time, Southern Union Native American ministries has also had great interest in opening work



*Nibia Mayer accompanied her husband, Jorge Mayer, to the Dominican Republic, and preached during the series.*



in Cherokee, North Carolina, and planned a Culture Awareness Seminar for October 2009 to evaluate the interest.

On the first night of the seminar, there were 11 individuals in attendance. On the second night, there were 12 in attendance, and on the third night, there were 18 that came to the meeting. What was impressive was the acceptance that was demonstrated from what was presented. In this seminar, the Sabbath is presented and compared to the native belief of Sabbath-keeping that has been recorded as early as 1775. Some of this group openly committed to worshipping on the Sabbath when we opened the worship service.

**Oliver McKinney Jr., Southern Union stewardship and children's ministries director, and ASI Southern Union Chapter executive secretary/treasurer**

The 15-day "Hope for Today and Strength for Tomorrow" revival/reaping meeting was held July 11-29, 2009, in Columbia, South Carolina.

The meetings were held in the Ephesus Church under the direction of Horace Malone, pastor, and associates Darius McCarthy and DaRon Barfield. Several were baptized. One person mentioned that, "I never

thought that God would stop loving me ... you see, I came from an abused family. I was violated by family and friends, and became pregnant at age 13. I felt dirty, lost, and I never knew what true love and caring was about. But, before the father of my baby died, I told him that he was forgiven. The song that was sung that night still rings in my ears, 'Marvelous Grace of Our Loving Lord,' grace that exceeds our sin and our guilt."

**William Smith, Southern Union Family Health Education Service director**

On August 2, 2009, the four-week-long Amazing Facts Bible Conference began in Bridgeport, Alabama. Bible worker Anthony Williams



*William Smith, Southern Union Conference Family Health Education Service director, rejoices with Tieashia Bynum as she is baptized during the Bible School he conducted in Stevenson, Alabama.*

prepared the soil by conducting Bible studies and passing out food bags three weeks prior to the meetings.

The Lord blessed us twice with a free meeting place. Singing evangelist Reginald Oates opened and closed the meetings with inspiring songs. John Jones, pastor, gave motivational health and temperance nuggets nightly, and the big screen was used to cover the Amazing Facts 14-series course in a question-and-answer format. There was an average of 20 people attending nightly, which included 12 visitors.

A baptism service was held August 29, 2009, at the Mount of Olives Church in Stevenson. It is reported that the new members are on fire for the Lord, already using their gifts to edify the Church, and are bringing visitors to weekly services.

**Conrad L. Gill, Southern Union director of education, and Gene Brewer, Southern Union training development specialist**

From August 16 to September 12, 2009, this team co-presented a "ShareHim" evangelistic series at the Diamond Lakes Elementary School in Hephzibah, Georgia, a suburb of Augusta, Georgia. The series was sponsored by the Ebenezer Church, and supported by Augusta First Church.

Opening night featured a gos-



**Peter DeVries, Southern Union Association assistant treasurer**

A teen, three women, and five men volunteered to speak during the meetings and excitedly presented their topics. An appeal was made for baptisms, and individuals responded to prepare for baptism.

The speakers were Tom Carter, Southern Union trust services director; Peter DeVries, Southern Union Association assistant treasurer; Vincent Dale; Hal Peggau, pastor; Philip Douglas; Juanita Douglas; Shelia Archibald; as well as Cecilia Vincent and Gary Tunis who are not pictured.



**Plan Now To Attend This Great Event!**

**Free Community Gospel Program**

**August 16 - September 12, 2009**  
7pm Nightly except Tuesday & Thursday

**Diamond Lakes Elementary**  
4153 Windsor Springs Rd.

**Free**  
Good Gospel Music  
Good Bible Preaching  
Community Awareness

**Features**  
Free Bible Lessons & Gifts  
Health Information & Material  
Nightly Children's Programs

**Larry Ford Concert**  
Opening Night 6pm

**Dr. Gene Brewer**

**Dr. Conrad Gill**

*Southern Union education staff, Conrad L. Gill and Gene Brewer, held evangelistic meetings at the Diamond Lakes Elementary School in Hephzibah, Georgia.*

pel concert by Larry Ford, Gaither recording artist, who tailored his concert to fit the evening message.

On the third Sabbath of the series, individuals took their stand and joined the Ebenezer Church through baptism.

**R. Steven Norman III, Southern Union communication director and *Southern Tidings* editor**

We conducted a Community Bible Class in Evergreen, Alabama. Evergreen is a small town with a population of 1,600, and a Seventh-day Adventist church which meets in a tiny storefront. The pastor, Ronsard Broussard, and four members, served as Bible workers.

We averaged six visitors per night



*R. Steven Norman III held a "Jesus is the Answer Revival" at Your Bible Speaks Church in Evergreen, Alabama.*

**Dennis Ross, Southern Union ministerial director, evangelism coordinator, and global missions director**

"The Dawn of Hope" began on July 11, 2009, on the edge of inner-city Orlando, Florida. There were two tents — one large tent for the adults, and a smaller tent for the young people, ages 5-13. Despite the fierce storms, individuals came from all directions.

Many of the 324 children who came were from the community, and

many community and church children were baptized.

In the adult tent, we were supported by area pastors, vocalists, musicians, technicians, and an awesome community service team who provided the community with free haircuts, school backpacks, a job fair, and a block party.

A young boy and his sister, who attended the meetings with their Adventist grandmother, were instrumental in winning their parents.

At the end of the meeting, numerous individuals were added to the churches, and more baptisms took place in the churches following the meetings.



*Dennis and Jacquelyn Ross call their bearers to follow Christ in baptism during the "Dawn of Hope Revival" in Orlando, Florida.*



*Many raised their hands in response to Dennis Ross' preaching during the "Dawn of Hope Revival" in Orlando, Florida.*





*Ronsard Broussard, pastor of Your Bible Speaks Church in Evergreen, Alabama, baptizes Suzanne Williams.*

when we began on September 26, 2009. Every night the visitors responded to God's appeal. On Sabbath, October 3, we completed the second week with individuals ready for the first baptism.

**Kevin James, Southern Union public affairs and religious liberty associate director**

The dates for our meetings were October 2-17, 2009. Ten individuals came at first, including a couple who had been watching Doug Batchelor on 3ABN (Three Angels Broadcasting Network), and they brought six visitors with them. Others came later, and about 50 people attended the light supper we served before the message one night.

Two teens came with their grandfather, and wanted to be involved with church. They both indicated that they accepted Jesus as their Savior after the evening's meeting.

A chaplain over a small congregation in the area wants to attend church on Sabbath, and shared what he has learned with the people he oversees every Sunday. It appears that some of the individuals will eventually join the ranks of God's command-keeping Church within the next few weeks and months.

It's a privilege to share the love of Christ!

**Bill Beckworth, Southern Union Home Health Education Service director**

Our meetings were from October

9 to November 7, we used the "ShareHim" series. We started in the Winder, Georgia, Community Center with a total of 70 visitors attending at various times, and transferred to Auburn Church for the last week.

Individuals came forward during the November 1 altar call. On Sabbath, Novem-

ber 7, the first baptism was held, and others responded to the call made by the pastor after baptism.

The man who opened the community center for us each evening heard every lecture and has attended the Auburn Church once, and said he will come back.

Some of the church members who were not clear on some of the Adventist doctrinal beliefs benefited from this series as well.

A children's "ShareHim" program paralleled the adult subjects each evening. Some of the children have already expressed interest in being baptized.

**Diane Ruff, Southern Union associate for elementary education director**

Twenty-eight students at the Montgomery, Alabama, Bethany Christian Academy attended a three-week "Truth for Youth" after-school evangelistic meeting. At the conclusion, there were decisions for baptism, and other students shared their parents' support of their decision to become members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Ninety percent of Bethany Christian Academy students are not from Adventist homes. However, more than 50 percent of the student body attended the meetings.

Minnie McCall states that her daughter "Timia had been taught and trained by Adventists since she was five years old. It was no surprise when she announced that she wanted

to keep the Sabbath." McCall was happy to support her daughter's decision, and consented to bring her to church on Sabbath! ☘

**Dennis Millburn, Southern Union undertreasurer and Bobbie Millburn Southern Union circulation manager for the Southern Tidings**

Our first series was March 13-21, 2009, in Panama. Juan, an alcoholic walking on a country road, was asked by a young girl if he would like to attend some meetings at the Vigia Company in rural Panama. He attended, learning new truths about the Lord and the special message that we, as Adventists, hold. Juan was convinced that the messages he heard were true and from the Bible. When an appeal was made, Juan accepted the invitation to give up his alcohol and become a member. He arrived early for the remaining meetings with a beaming smile and a helpful attitude.

On the last day of our meetings, we had the joy of seeing Juan baptized with other individuals. Later, more individuals gave their hearts to the Lord and were baptized.

Our second meeting was from June 5 to 27, at Hendersonville, Tennessee, Church. The Lord blessed with baptisms, and we plan to make this an annual effort.



*Indian women and youth parade in costumes, and shared gifts from the Vigia Company on the last night of the meetings Dennis and Bobbie Millburn conducted in Panama.*



## Partners With God: We Manage, But God Owns

BY MYRON WIDMER

Mention stewardship, and many Christians cringe. They are afraid that someone is going to ask them to give more money.

In reality it is not someone, but Someone, who is doing the asking, and money is the least of what He wants. He asks for *everything* a person has and is. He wants it all dedicated to His cause on Earth.

Somewhere along the line the word “stewardship” got all tangled up with simply money. You’ve heard the comments, and so have I. Whenever the church budget runs low, someone usually pipes up, “Let’s have a stewardship campaign. That’ll raise the funds!”

But, stewardship isn’t about money. It’s about a *relationship*, a trust relationship between the Creator and His creation.

To believe in stewardship is to affirm that God exists. And to affirm God’s existence is to believe in stewardship. They are inextricably tied together, for at the basis of all stewardship is the fact that God exists and that He is Creator (Genesis 1:1), Owner (Psalms 24:1), Sustainer (Hebrews 1:3; Acts 17:28), and Redeemer (Psalms 19:14) of us and the entire Universe.

With this understanding, Adventist Christians see humans as simply stewards, or *managers* for God of all that He entrusts to us while we exist on Earth. That includes our time, talents, physical and mental health, material possessions, and environment.

Culture has done well in conditioning even Christians to equate

success with the acquisition of money, material possessions, power, and prestige — unapologetic self-centeredness at its best! The natural consequence is Christians who begin to paint pictures of God with brushes tainted by selfish agendas. They sometimes view God as “a gigantic cosmic bellhop whose sole duty it is to indulge our desires, spare us inconveniences, and ensure our success in every venture.”

Nothing, however, could be more antithetical, more diametrically opposed to the biblical portrayal of God and of the radically different life He calls His followers to pursue. The world even laughs at the seemingly outrageous call of God for Christians to live a life of giving.

But, what is a paradox to the world, God says makes good sense. He says that when we lose our life in service to God, we will truly find it (Luke 9:24). Paul even asks us to become a sacrifice for God, a *living* sacrifice. “I appeal to you . . . to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship” Romans 12:1.

Does that mean that God doesn’t want us to have any fun, any happiness, or reach our individual potential in life? Of course not! God is intensely interested in our personal growth and happiness. But He suggests that His followers will not pursue personal happiness as their goal. Rather, they will pursue a life of service on His behalf — motivated by the great sacrifice of Christ’s life on the cross. That certainly

doesn’t extinguish happiness, but says that it always comes “as the unexpected surprise of a life lived in service (see Matthew 25:31-46).

Instead of being autonomous selves “doing our own thing,” we are called to be surrendered selves living totally under His Lordship in communities of shared life. And instead of being acquisitive selves striving and competing for our own selfish gain, God calls us to be servant selves who put the needs of others before our own (see Romans 12:10).

As one Christian professor warned: “Nothing is more dangerous than to live out the will of God in today’s contemporary world. It changes your whole . . . lifestyle.” It sure does. And it has completely changed how Seventh-day Adventists view the resources that God entrusts to each of us — we choose to be faithful, responsible stewards for God for all His resources.

Christians are Christ’s ambassadors, and I believe that God has entrusted Seventh-day Adventists with a special end-time message for the world’s inhabitants — the three angels’ message of Revelation 14:12. We are to proclaim the everlasting Gospel that calls *all* people to worship God, to keep His commandments, and to hold the faith.

As this year draws to a close, let us give an account of thy (our) stewardship and answer the question, “How much owest thou unto the Lord” Luke 16:2, 5. We are partners with God. We manage, but God owns. Let’s prove God. ♣



# The Gospel Through Paint

BY JENNIFER MEYER

When Cory Goodwin, a senior animation major at Southern Adventist University, got the idea to paint a three-story wall mural of the Second Coming on a building in Thailand, he didn't realize how much of a witness it would turn out to be.

## A Simple Idea

Not long into his time as a student missionary for the Seventh-day Adventist Language School in Bangkok, Thailand, Goodwin noticed a three-story building on a corner with one blank side. Having had some experience with painting wall murals in high school, he wanted to paint something colorful and uplifting to brighten up the neighborhood.

Alongside fellow Southern student missionary and animation major Robin George, Goodwin found inspiration in a series of paintings done years before by a well-known Thai artist of Bible scenes. The paintings had been commissioned by a Christian missionary, but were controversial at the time and not widely distributed. When Goodwin saw the Thai artist's rendition of the Second Coming, with the verse John 3:16 in the center, he knew he wanted to recreate it on the wall.

## A Chance to Witness

During the following month-and-

a-half, Goodwin worked almost every day on the mural, despite setbacks with heavy rains and often running out of supplies. He soon found that painting the mural gave him many chances to interact with local Thai people who were curious about what he was doing, and would often come by to bring him fruit and water and ask him questions about Jesus and the Bible. Despite the fact that he was working in the middle of a primarily Buddhist neighborhood, he found the people to be very encouraging, giving him many chances to share his beliefs with them.

For Goodwin, working on the mural also gave him a chance to witness through his actions. When the students from the Seventh-day Adventist Language School were on break from classes, they would often go out to see the progress on the mural, and their teacher would explain to them about Jesus and the scene of the Second Coming.

## Being a Missionary

During his experience with the wall mural, Goodwin was able to see the value of coming from a Christian university in preparing him to be a missionary.

"My time at Southern put my focus on Jesus," says Goodwin. "It showed me the importance of art and the connection with God, and how it makes a difference to recognize

where artistic talent comes from. It all comes from God."

Being able to put his artistic skills to work for God was not something Goodwin had expected going into his time as a student missionary, but he has come to believe that God is able to use what you

have to give no matter where you are.

"It's not about what I can do, but it's about what God can do through me," Goodwin says. "God can use you to do whatever, as long as you are willing."

*Jennifer Meyer is a senior public relations major at Southern Adventist University.*



*Painting the mural gave Cory Goodwin a chance to talk with Thai locals about God's love.*

# Go and Do Likewise

BY STEFANIE JOHNSON, YVETTE SALIBA, AND KATIE SHAW

*Painting with precision gives Primrose Center a face-lift.*

In I Corinthians 12, Paul describes a single body which is made up of every individual human being on Earth, moving together toward a common goal.

It is this image that inspired 178 faculty and staff members at Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences (FHCHS) in Orlando, Florida, to spend a day volunteering together in one location — moving as one body to make a difference in their community.



*Dave Greenlaw, Florida Hospital College president, lends a hand.*

The day of service was the capstone to the annual campus pre-week events. The theme of pre-week — “Preparing Us to Serve Humanity” (P.U.S.H.) — provided a time for the faculty and staff to refocus, recharge, and prepare for the coming school year.

Focusing on *Healthcare as Ministry*, P.U.S.H. Week 2009 activities were designed to re-dedicate the College community to the goal of preparing healthcare professionals who are committed to being God’s hands to those they serve. Two days of presentations, interactive-activities, and digging into the Scriptures were capped by the day of service. Primrose Center, a not-for-profit organization, provides therapy, job opportunities, and a variety of daily support services to 400 adults with developmental disabilities.

“At the very core of healthcare is the opportunity to reveal the

character of God by the attitude and actions displayed and performed by the caregiver,” said David Greenlaw, D.Min., president of the College. “Primrose was one of the best collective College family outings we have ever experienced.”



*Taking a break, new friendships were formed and memories made.*

Each person from the College participated in one of nearly 20 activities, from baking cookies to painting walls to playing basketball with the Primrose clients. Everyone worked together that day. The president of the College helped make crafts, the



chair of the department of health and biomedical sciences twirled a woman in a wheelchair in the music room, and the vice president for operations worked with other staff from the College to grill lunch for all of the clients.

Terri Roche, student accounts manager, was one of the leaders in the music room. "I saw one man with a couple of sticks in his hands, and he was making music with those sticks," Roche remembered. "His face was lit up with joy, and he hung onto those sticks the entire time, making sweet music. That simply warmed my heart to see that he felt so happy, so a part of what was going on in that group."

As the day drew to a close, Meg Quinlivan, chief development officer at Primrose, pulled one of the faculty members aside and said, "People come to volunteer here all the time,

but they would much prefer to clean bathrooms or organize files than actually physically interact with our clients. Your group is the first group to actually touch the residents." A letter sent to the College by Primrose staff after the event expressed gratefulness: "You didn't just provide an opportunity for play, you played with us. You didn't bring us cookies, you baked them with us. The individuals felt your love and happiness."

The service event was organized by Tia Hughes, chair of the department of occupational therapy assistant (OTA), and Vicki Case, a program faculty member.

"Every face I encountered had the biggest, brightest smile, commented Beth Quinones, administrative assistant for the department of nursing. I laughed that day ... a lot. I went in hoping to make a difference in somebody's life, but it was I who

left changed. Best day at work, ever!"

At the end of the day, each person was invited to sign a commitment statement, which will hang at Florida Hospital College to remind the campus family of our promise to our God, to each other, and to our students.

"Serving others has nothing to do with being servile," commented Deena Slockett, associate professor for the department of radiologic sciences. "It has to do with being a human being among other human beings. It is nothing heroic. In fact, it's very un-dramatic. Using actions instead of words, and simply loving others as Jesus would: our time at Primrose allowed us to let our guard down, let our true spirits shine, and BE in the moment — nothing more, nothing less." ❖

Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences Commitment: We will live *Healthcare as Ministry* using our hands to do God's work, to **exceed** expectations, to **help** even if the problem is not ours, to **believe** in spite of doubts, and to **serve** with joy. Our **commitment** is more than words, so we will now go *and do likewise*.



*The craft room was a great place for engaging activities and interaction.*



*Many Florida Hospital College volunteers worked together to beautify the grounds.*



*Creating crafts was a highlight of the day.*



*Flat Rock school*

# HE IS TELLING THE TRUTH

BY TOM CARTER

The Douglasville, Georgia, Church celebrated 100-plus years of Adventist history on October 24, 2009. The church service consisted of three members, Tom Carter, Martha Woods, and Natalie Thames, telling of how the church started, and the many events that formed the history of the church.

In 1892, a Seventh-day Adventist evangelist, W. A. McCutcheon with his wife and three-year-old daughter came to Douglasville. They heard that the Vansant family had a building they allowed any church group to use for meetings. McCutcheon asked and was granted permission to use the building. Everything went well until he presented the Sabbath message.

The men of the community, including John Vansant, contrived to drive him out of town with rotten eggs and tomatoes in the middle of his talk. What they had not counted on was 5-foot-2 Lou Vansant (John's

wife) who stood up and said, "You are not going to do it; he is telling the truth." Quickly the men left, including John, who pretended to be asleep when Lou returned home. Lou Vansant was the only one to join the church from the meetings.

Later, four of their 12 children were to become Seventh-day Adventists. Soon a school was started by Irving Vansant for the community on Bright Star Road. The exact date of the start of



*John Vansant*



*Lou Vansant*

the Adventist church is not known, but the Bright Star property was turned over to the church sometime before 1913. In 1913 the church decided that there should be an Adven-





*Current school*



*Douglasville, Georgia, school and church*

tist school. The church was renovated where they partitioned the auditorium into rooms for the school and added a second floor for the church itself.

All went well for the church until the mid-1930's when certain challenges arose resulting in the closing of both the church and the school. The remaining members were left no choice but to go to Atlanta to attend church. In 1963 a granddaughter of Lou Vansant, Sarah Carter, and her pastor-husband, Glenmore Carter, retired in Douglasville with a vision to restart the work of the church in the community. They purchased the First Methodist Church in Douglasville, and organized with 43 charter members.

June 3, 1974, was the groundbreaking for the church in its current location. On October 29, 1979, the church was dedicated free from debt.

The first principal of the current school, Johnny Powell, had taken the students to the State of Georgia's Governor's mansion where they met the then governor and future President, Jimmy Carter.

In 2001 the junior/earliteen class raised money from the church members and their families so that they could go on a mission trip to help build a church for a community in Mexico.

A special Veterans Day Sabbath was held to welcome Congressional Medal of Honor Winner, Desmond T. Doss, and his wife, Francis. They both attended and he shared his testimony.

On December 20, 2008, the cur-

rent pastor, Hal Peggau, and his wife, Cyndra, joined to lead Douglasville. A special dedication service for the pastor and his wife was held, as well as a special dedication for the congregation.

For years the school's gymnasium was used as the fellowship hall. The first Sabbath of every month a fellowship lunch was planned. There was a great need to have the gymnasium repaired, which was completed in April 2009. Then in May a special dedication service was held.

The gym was renamed to "Miles and Ruth Kellogg Auditorium" on October 24, in honor of the hard work the Kellogg family had done through the years. Miles Kellogg was instrumental in the construction of the church, school, and gym.

Under the leadership of Peggau, and with the help of eight other members, an evangelistic series,

"Revelation of Hope" by Mark Finley, was held. The speakers for that series were Hal Peggau, pastor, Peter DeVries, Tom Carter, Cecelia Vincent, Vincent Dale, Shelia Archibald, Gary Tunis, and Philip and Juanita Doug-

las.

We are not to think that the Douglasville Church was founded on anyone's human ingenuity. We are told plainly, "Let not man seek to fasten minds to himself. God is the Founder of His church... To the end of time, Christ is to be first" Letter 39, March 2, 1902, Ellen G. White to Elder E. E. Franke, an evangelist.

The members believe it was Christ who was directing in the founding of the church in Douglasville. It is also Christ who sustained them through the years. They believe it is also true of the three other churches in the Douglasville



*Hal Peggau, pastor, dedication*

area: Heritage Seventh-day Adventist Church, New Jerusalem Seventh-day Adventist Church, and Philadelphia French Seventh-day Adventist Church. ♪

# Georgia-Cumberland Gets Fit

BY REBECCA BROOKS

A number of Georgia-Cumberland Conference employees have been getting their exercise by participating in marathons, triathlons, and community races.



SUBMITTED BY ALBERT HANDAL

*Albert Handal*

Albert Handal, associate pastor for the Calhoun, Ga., Church, recently completed the Louisville Ironman Triathlon. The race is 140.6 miles, including 2.4 miles of swimming, 112 miles of biking, and 26.2 miles running. He finished in 12 hours, 47 minutes, and 48 seconds.

Kevin Becker, associate pastor for the Collegedale, Tenn., Community Church, and Josh Woods, assistant pastor at the Conyers, Ga., Church, both completed the Augusta Half Ironman triathlon. The 70.3-mile race includes a 1.2-mile swim in the Savannah River, a 56-mile bike ride, and a 13.1-mile run.

Woods finished with the time 5:42:20, and Becker finished with 5:57:17.

Paul Hoover and Rick Greve, who are both regional ministerial directors, ran in the Marine Corps Marathon (26.2 miles) in Washington, D.C., on October 25, with 21,000 other participants. Their wives, Patty and Denel, both participated in the Marine Corps Marathon 10k (6 miles).

Paula Elkins, office receptionist at Georgia-Cumberland Conference, placed first in her age division in the 5k Unity Run in Calhoun, on September 29. She also ran the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure 5k in Chattanooga, Tenn., September 27, placing first in her age division. There were 7,500 runners, 500 who were breast cancer survivors. Elkins placed fifth overall in the survivor group.

It takes a lot of work to prepare for events like these. Why do they do it and how do they stay motivated?

Elkins is a four-year cancer survivor. "The healthier I am, the less chance I have for a recurrence," she says. "I also do it because I enjoy exercise and feel great."

"I signed up for this event to give myself a goal," says Becker. "When I was tempted to sleep in or be lazy, I



SUBMITTED BY PAULA ELKINS

*Paula Elkins*



SUBMITTED BY RICK GREVE

*Rick Greve (left) and Paul Hoover*



DAVID L. SMITH

*Kevin Becker*

would force myself to get up or run in the rain."

Woods has been doing triathlons for about five years. "It not only helps you to be physically healthy, but it also helps your mental health. It is a great break from the daily grind."

"I just feel so much more alive, alert, and able to take on the challenges of life," says Greve. "I am thankful for the strength God gives me to participate in physical fitness activities. It adds value to my life."

Hoover has been running for five years. "It is an act of worship as my body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, and I want to live a life of wellness and wholeness as a testimony to Christ in me."

Handal says one of the benefits he enjoys is being able to motivate others through his actions. "Having a healthy body is one of the quickest ways to experience God-given joy and happiness on a regular basis." ❖



# Sharing Christ in Tanzania

BY SANDRA PRICE

From Athens, Alabama, to Tanzania, in central east Africa, ShareHim evangelism is on the move. It all began in the summer of 2008 when Anthony Quintanilla and Rachel Pankey caught the vision for mission service. It was about the same time that Anthony was preparing for baptism in the Athens Church.

Anthony and Rachel had been friends and neighbors for a number of years. In fact, it was through the Pankey family that Anthony had come to know this last-day message. Following a Revelation Seminar, Anthony was baptized in October of 2008. During this same time-frame, he and Rachel became acquainted with Chris Holland from Atlanta.

It was Chris Holland's passion for evangelism and stories of his own missionary crusade experiences that provided the spark that stimulated further action. Anthony and Rachel signed up on the ShareHim website and began receiving emails from David Dobias. With Rachel's nursing experience and Anthony's information technology (IT) experience, Dobias assured them their services were needed. They began saving their money, and for the most part funded their own mission trip. To further their preparation, they attended one of Don Shelton's "ShareHim Boot Camps" in March 2009, and made plans to leave on June 16 — three months later. They learned they were to support Polina Kadatska from Andrews University, who would be the speaker for their group.

Upon arrival, Anthony was immediately put to work uploading 30 computers with shortened preaching notes, a Jesus video, and nightly health talks. Rachel's responsibility

was to deliver health talks each evening. Their greatest challenge proved to be the electricity glitches. But, they learned to improvise and make do with their notes when necessary. Because of the electricity challenges, Anthony's job was more than full time. Rachel not only delivered health talks, but as an RN aided in the dispensary, told children's stories, helped with special music, and participated in a shoe ministry.

They both learned that what might be expected in the U.S. was quite different from Tanzania. Whereas we might expect our largest attendance to be during the meetings' opening nights, in Tanzania they started small, but crowds swelled as the meetings continued. At the end of four weeks, they had approximately 47 baptisms and others still studying.

Since returning to Athens, Anthony and Rachel have continued to witness. Throughout the summer they spoke at churches and shared mission stories during Sabbath School services. Thirteenth Sabbath projects have taken on new meaning. They understand the needs and urge



*The evangelism team stands in the lobby of the Isanga, Tanzania Church: interpreter Patrick Manga (left), Polina Kadatska, interpreter Maotola Lumbe, Rachel Pankey, and Anthony Quintanilla.*

members to support the world work.

They came away with a sense of awe of how rich we as Americans are with so many goods and services at our fingertips. They also saw first hand God's protective power when one of the crusade team members had a heart attack right before they were to leave. God put into place every avenue for saving the victim's life, even in a remote area with sparse resources.

When asked if they would go on another mission trip, they both answered with an unequivocal "yes." They stated, "We need to be mindful there is a lot of work to be done in outside countries. Not everyone has yet heard the Gospel, and we need to keep it on the forefront of our minds that there are people who still need this "blessed hope." ❖

# Praying Men's Summit

BY MICHAEL HARPE

*At the closing ceremony, the prayer requests were set ablaze as prayers went up for them to be answered.*

It was the first. Generally, when men come together, it's for meetings, for sports events, or car shows, etc. But imagine this, men gathering together, and many traveling from great distances, men coming together to pray. Yes! "I know the Lord is coming now," someone said. A little more than 250 men came together for prayer in Odenville, Alabama.

Odenville We had not heard of this place before now; however, we who were there will never forget it. It was at this place "that prayer was want to be made."

The total registered for the Summit was 253, and several men came from the nearby Birmingham area on Sabbath, swelling the numbers to about 300.

Men came to uplift their hearts,

prayers, and praises to God Almighty. Former president Benjamin Browne was present to see the thrust he started during his presidency fulfilled, men coming together to pray. Roy



*Benjamin Browne, former South Central president, greets the men who came for the first Praying Men's Summit.*

Rugless, Conference prayer ministries director, agreed that it was a glorious sight. We were visited by the presence of the Holy Ghost. Real men became vulnerable to the impressions of God's Spirit. Men became broken for Jesus. It was exhilarating, rejuvenating, and life-changing. Men were released from the bondage of the enemy. They left with the tools and armor, to continue the battle, knowing the victory has already been

Tim Allston of Huntsville, Alabama, reflected on the 1,000 Praying Men's Summit: "I was glad to have been one of the 253 South Central Conference men — along with

the continuously-praying circle of eight women, nearby — who allowed God to break us down emotionally and spiritually at the denomination's first-ever 1,000 Praying Men Summit. We're now better equipped to assume our God-ordained priesthood in our homes, workplaces, and churches. We're each tasked with role-modeling a baptism of the Holy Spirit, praying specifically for those attendees who revealed (some for the first time, publicly) closeted shame and abuses; and then, returning next year with two to three other brothers!"

Dana Edmond, Conference president, said this was a good way to begin his ministry as president of South Central, and we have to continue this next year. Many thanked God, applauded the idea, and committed to going home telling the story and bringing back 1,000 men or more next year. The 1,000 Praying Men Summit was God's success for the South Central men. ✨





*Roy Rugless (left), Conference prayer ministries director, prays with Dennis Smith, author and presenter of "Baptism of Holy Spirit" during the Summit.*



*Bernie Anderson (left), author and presenter of "Breaking the Silence," shares an illustration as Roy Rugless assists him.*



*John S. Nixon Sr. (left), D.Min., senior pastor of Collegedale Church, Collegedale, Tennessee, and Sabbath worship speaker; Dana Edmond, South Central Conference president; and Philip Palmer, Conference treasurer, sing during worship.*



*This was a spiritually charged moment when all the men's hearts were focused on one individual's need. All were drawn near in support of a hurting brother. Everyone at that moment offered intercessory prayers for him.*



*More than 250 men worshipped, sang, and prayed together.*



*Smiling men — exhilarated and rejuvenated — were ready to go home and tell the story to bring back 1,000 men or more next year.*



# Where Two or More Are Gathered...

BY KIM BRAZELL

What do a former millionaire mobster and a beautiful, deaf, former Miss America have in common? They love the Lord, and both have been featured speakers at Gordon Hospital's Annual Prayer Breakfast program.

Held each year on the National Day of Prayer, the Prayer Break-

fast is an extension of the ongoing mission of Gordon Hospital to extend the healing ministry of Christ. Gordon Hospital in Calhoun, Georgia, is a member of Adventist Health System, and is the only faith-based hospital located in northwest Georgia.

"When you talk to people who visit or are patients here, we always tell them that something is different at Gordon, but they don't believe it until they experience it," says Pete Weber, president and CEO of Gordon Hospital. "It's not something that you can put your finger on, but it's something that you can definitely feel. We know that it is God's love and presence in everything we do."

One of the big things that the hospital does is the annual Prayer Breakfast program.

The event, which boasts approximately 500 attendees each year, has outgrown all the local church fellowship halls.

"A couple of years ago, we had to change the venue because we



*Former mob boss Don Michael Franzese spoke at the 2008 Prayer Breakfast sponsored by Gordon Hospital. His story riveted the crowd as he told how God lifted him from despair and turned him into a new man.*

were just getting too large," says Weber. "We had resisted moving it outside of a church, but we were bursting at the seams, so we contacted the Sonorville Recreation Center, which is the local county recreation center. They have been wonderful to work with, and it is an ideal location for an event like this."

The event is planned by a committee year-round. The committee reviews comments from previous years, and looks to those comments to make the Prayer Breakfast better and to discover whom the audience might like to see as a future speaker.

The Prayer Breakfast is a large commitment on behalf of the hospital to not only plan, but to offer at no charge.

"It is not an inexpensive event to host, but it is a truly worthwhile one. It is our gift to the community, and I think that the people who come are blessed by the experience, and that is the ultimate gift," says Weber.

During the course of the last seven years, the Prayer Breakfast has featured dynamic speakers such as evangelist David Ring; Miss America Heather Whitestone; and Cheryl McGuiness, wife of American Airlines Flight 11 co-pilot Tom McGuiness, whose plane was the first to hit the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. Also giving testimonies were

Evelyn Husband, whose husband, Rick, was the shuttle commander of Columbia that broke apart on re-entry on February 1, 2003; Al Mead, a gold and silver Paralympic athlete, pastor, and motivational speaker; Christian businesswoman Kathleen Jackson; nationally known Christian singer Wintley Phipps; and most recently, former mob boss Michael Franzese.

"Since the event began, it has evolved and become a time of fellowship, prayer, and spiritual growth," says Weber. "We know that God is with us on that day as we pray and worship Him. We know it to be true because in Matthew 18:20 it states, 'For where two or more are gathered together in My name, there I Am in the midst of them.'"

*Kim Brazell is director of marketing and public relations at Gordon Hospital.*



*When the Space Shuttle Columbia broke apart just minutes before its scheduled return to Earth on February 1, 2003, America lost seven heroes. Evelyn Husband, wife of Columbia's commander Rick Husband, lost much more — the love of her life, the father of her children, the backbone of her family. She captivated the audience with her story of faith and survival after this terrible tragedy.*



## Takoma Regional Upgrades Mammography System

Takoma Regional Hospital, Greeneville, Tenn., recently installed the Fujifilm full-field digital mammography system. This cutting-edge technology will better detect cancer for women with dense breast tissue.

"This new equipment will enable us to see the tissue underneath the breast and will help us save more lives," says Raymond Kohne, M.D., medical director of radiology at Takoma Regional. "We want the best possible images because our patients' lives are in our hands, and this new machine will provide that."

Similar to digital photography, this new system offers the highest resolution currently available. Higher



*Takoma Regional Hospital is committed to providing patients with the best care.*

resolution enables radiologists to see greater detail within soft breast tissue, and this produces a more accurate diagnosis.

A major clinical study funded by the National

Cancer Institute in 2006 showed that digital mammography is more accurate than conventional film-screen mammography for detecting breast cancer in certain groups of women, including women under 50 and pre- and peri-menopausal women.

Digital mammography is a superb tool for "finding those cancers that are hiding," Kohne said. "And if we can catch it early enough, we can get a cure for the patient — not a survival rate."

Patients can expect clearer images on their mammograms.

"And that means less radiation because we will have less repeat mammo-

grams," Kohne said. "We'll be able to get clearer images the first time and won't have to reshoot them."

Kohne said he is very proud to provide digital mammography to this community.

"The standard of care in this town is amazing," he said, noting that he moved here 10 years ago from the Los Angeles area. "You don't have to leave this community for excellent healthcare. In fact, I bring my parents here for their healthcare from 1,000 miles away. And I do that because I believe we have outstanding healthcare right here at home."

—BY TINA CHUDINA

## Transparency Improves Quality of Care

All five Florida Hospital campuses in Volusia and Flagler counties now display current quality of care results on their websites. Infection rates, mortality rates, or what patients are saying about the quality of care they received during a hospital stay are now available for the public to view online.

"Quality is a priority for Florida Hospital, and we want the community to quickly and effectively see how their local hospitals are doing," said Daryl Tol, chief executive officer for Florida Hospital DeLand.

Currently, people can visit third-party websites — for example the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid

Services (CMS), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAPS) — to review hospital data. However, this information can be nine to 12 months old and difficult to find. Now, patients will have easy access to more current data on hospital websites.

"Taking ownership means not only showing success in meeting or exceeding care standards, but also sharing our stories of improvement in each of the facilities," said Desiree Magnant, executive director of integrated

marketing, Florida Hospital.

Transparency such as this is expected to make dramatic improvements in the ever-changing world of healthcare. Florida Hospital is committed to adapt to change and meet the emotional, spiritual, and physical needs of its patients.



*Infection and mortality rates, as well as patient feedback, are available on hospital websites.*

"It's important for patients to have up-to-date quality of care information as they make decisions about their medical care. We want to partner with our community to continue to raise the level of healthcare in our area," said Duane Price, clinical effectiveness director for Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center/Oceanside.

"We all have the right to be informed, especially when making medical decisions. This transparency will help our patients make better healthcare decisions," said Tol.

—BY LEWIS CLARK

## Carolina Women's Retreats Celebrate 20 Years



This year marked the 20th year of women's retreats in the Carolina Conference. And, the women celebrated this milestone with two fantastic events.

The first was the Hispanic Women's Retreat, a wonderful weekend of spiritual rejuvenation

for the 200 women who traveled to Nosoca Pines Ranch in Liberty, S.C. Guest speaker Benny Rodriguez is the women's ministries director of the Venezuelan Union Conference. One woman found so much hope and restoration, she told her group, "I'm not

leaving without being baptized." On Sunday morning she entered the waters of baptism with her new sisters in Christ nearby.

The second retreat was held in early October with the theme "The Bridegroom Cometh," complete with an invitation on Sabbath evening for the Wedding Feast of the Lamb. Well-known speaker Philip Samaan, D.Min., presented a different take on the purpose and destiny from God. This year, there was a teen track and outreach in the community designed especially for girls from ages 13 to 17. After morning manna,

a hearty brunch, and final words from Samaan on Sunday, the women left the gym singing "These are the Days of Elijah." Many walked to the street outside as King Jesus came down the hill and rode in front of them with his white robe on a white horse.

Their prayer is that the women will be drawn closer to Jesus in the coming year.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER AND  
DEBBIE RAPP



BABETTE CRAFTORD

## Carolina Men's Ministries Goes On the Air

Minner Labrador, senior pastor of the Sharon Church in Charlotte, N.C., spent this summer developing his long-time vision for a men's television show. Unprecedented in Adventist media, authors, counselors, and experts discuss issues affecting men in today's society.

Labrador, director of men's ministries for the Carolina Conference and coordinator of men's ministries in the North American Division, serves as creator and host of this television program. Called "Old Man New Man," it is based on the verse in 2 Corinthians

5:17 that "if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come!" He worked with producer and director Kris Allen, also a mis-

sion segment producer for ShareHim and Quiet Hour Ministries.

This television program focuses on how single men, fathers, and husbands can gain personal freedom and achievement in marriage, parenting, finances, sexual integrity, health, and more.

Labrador believes the best way to win men and their families for Christ, is to enter their homes through television and ra-

dio. He stated that "When a man comes to Christ, over 90 percent of the time the whole family follows."

In the Charlotte area the program may be viewed locally every Sunday at midnight on station WAXN 64. National and internationally the program may be viewed on the Hope Channel beginning in January. Hope Channel is carried on Direct TV, channel 368.

You can learn more about this television program by visiting [www.oldmannewman.com](http://www.oldmannewman.com).

—BY JACQUIE PINDER





## Virginia Boone Honored With Building Dedication



A special member of the Asheville, N.C., North Church was honored on the opening day of the Western North Carolina (WNC) Mountain State Fair. On September 11, 2009, a beautiful new building at the WNC Agricultural Center Fairgrounds was dedicated to Virginia C. Boone.

It was fitting that Boone was born in a log cabin. Now her name appears on the huge sign outside the impressive log Mountain Heritage Center. The post

and beam structure, containing vast and much-needed exhibit space for the arts and crafts native to the area and a large commercial kitchen, will also serve as a multi-purpose building.

Boone, now in her late 90's, has hand-braided rugs for more than 60 years. Her rugs have been shown at the North Carolina State Fair as well as the WNC Mountain State Fair in Asheville, and have found homes in all 50 states and several foreign countries. Many pro-

ceeds from her sales have lovingly gone to her home church's building fund. She has used the exposure at the fairs to promote her love of the Lord, and enjoys the opportunity to witness and hand out hundreds of books and literature.

When Tryon, N.C., pastor Arthur Gibbs and his family went in the new building to see the crafts, Boone was there in the foyer showing her hand-made rugs. Gibbs noticed some Adventist literature

near her rugs, and saw that the Discover Bible School interest cards had her personal address on them. Here she was giving out tracts at 94-years-old!

She said, "I have been doing this for years, and never have asked anyone if it's ok, but they don't say anything." Now that her name is on the \$7 million building, it's unlikely anyone will!

Pride and excitement showed on her face as she had the honor of cutting the ribbon at the dedication ceremony attended by many dignitaries and attendees. But, most importantly, her many loving friends, family members, and church members were there to support this special woman.

—BY FLORIE ROGERS

## Arden Church Opens Community Center

The members of the Arden Church had been thinking and praying about building a community life center since they purchased additional property in 1992. On August 23, 2009, they realized their dream, and dedicated their new Arden Community Life Center to Christ by meeting the needs of the community.

In 2003, Jim Hakes, pastor, came to the Arden Church and caught the vision. The church was being blessed with an increase of young families with children, expanding the size

of Sabbath School classes, Pathfinders, and Adventurer Clubs. The need for classroom space, an updated kitchen, and a larger fellowship room was becoming apparent.

The challenge was that there was a mountain on the building site. A miracle came in the form of a local contractor who removed the mountain and did the grading in exchange for the removed dirt. When God's people prayed for God to "move a mountain," He literally did!

Plans were finalized,



*Arden pastor Jim Hakes (second from left) and Conference president Jim Davidson, along with other church officials, dedicate the new center.*

and funds were raised using the campaign theme: "NOT EQUAL GIVING BUT EQUAL SACRIFICE." The church soon hired a contractor, and today they have a finished Community Life Center.

The Arden Church views this experience as a shining reminder of what God can do when His people pray, dream, and faithfully sacrifice in order to advance His cause.

—BY OWEN SPENCER

## Florida Conference Officers Re-elected to Serve



LEE BENNETT

*Re-elected to lead Florida Conference: Mike Cauley (left), president; Carmen Rodriguez, executive secretary; and Duane Rollins, treasurer.*



LAURA YOUNTS

*Members elected for the 2009-2011 Florida Conference Executive Committee met in October for a spiritual retreat with Conference leaders at Camp Kulaqua, High Springs, Fla.*

Mike Cauley, president; Carmen Rodriguez, executive secretary; and Duane Rollins, treasurer, were re-elected September 27 to lead Florida Conference during the 2009-2011 triennium. Delegates voiced their affirming votes at the 69th Regular Constituency Meeting held on the campus of Forest Lake Academy in Apopka, Fla.

"Thank you for the privilege of being able to serve you," responded Cauley to the 768 delegates after they acted on the recommendation of Josie Oates, secretary of the nominating committee. "Florida Conference is a Spirit-empowered Conference of men, women, and young people. God has a powerful anointing of His Spirit to pour out upon His people as we begin this new triennium."

The session's theme, "Creating a Culture For the Commission," provided a backdrop for the Conference's commitment to move its nearly 60,000 members from being folks



LEONARD FERNANDEZ

*Mike Cauley (right), Conference president, interviewed delegates from Northwest Miami Spanish, Eliathab, and St. Augustine churches as examples of 21st-century missionary soul-winners.*



*Darren Ob, a delegate from Lakeland Church, was among many delegates to voice their opinions on agenda items.*

who do just enough to be faithful members to embracing the biblical standard of a disciple of Jesus. Cauley explained, "Being a disciple means being missionaries where we live and work, seeking to



PHOTOS: MARTIN BUTLER

*Judith Hawkins, a Leon County, Fla., judge and Southeastern Conference member, served as parliamentarian.*

reproduce our experience in the lives of others."

Business of the day was intertwined with inspirational thoughts from the devotional assuring God's promise "to be in the midst" by Alex Bryant,

North American Division executive secretary, to the president's closing challenge to "be in tune with the presence of God as we go from this place, watching for movement of the Spirit and listening to how God is guiding us."

Following Conference treasurer Duane Rollins' financial review for the past three years, Gordon Retzer, Southern Union Conference president, responded, "It wasn't that long ago this Conference had to borrow nine million dollars in operating money from the Southern Union Revolving Fund" in addition to registering "nearly zero of the recommended percentage of working capital."

"Today, we praise God that the nine million dollars has been paid, and working capital stands at more than 100 percent. So, I thank the Lord for the treasurer's report, for the leadership of this Conference, for the Executive Committee, and for the faithfulness of God's people!"

—BY MARTIN BUTLER



## South Orlando Church Honors First Responders

South Orlando, Fla., Church held its annual First Responders Appreciation Sabbath on September 12 to honor “heroes who serve in the community to keep us safe.”

Among those invited to attend were firemen and emergency medical technician’s (EMTs) from Orange County Fire-Rescue Station 51, which serves the neighborhoods surrounding South Orlando Church. With the reputation of “one of the busiest” precincts in the nation, it seemed fitting — and almost predictable — that a call during the service took them away to an emergency.

The guest speaker for this special day, set aside as close to September 11



*Rus Aldridge (second from left), chaplain, received South Orlando Church’s 2009 Officer of the Year award during First Responders Appreciation Sabbath. Also pictured are Robin Retzlöff (left), lieutenant; Daniel Forbes, pastor; and Don Aldridge, chaplain.*

as possible, was Robin Retzlöff, lieutenant, from Orange County Fire-Rescue Station 73 in the nearby city of Taft. This Lakeland Church member, honored on a past Appreciation Sabbath, helped present this year’s Officer of the Year

award to Rus Aldridge, chaplain, who serves the Florida Highway Patrol and Orange County Sheriff’s Department.

Assisting in the presentation with Retzlöff were Rus’ brother, Don, who is also a chaplain for the

Orange County Sheriff’s Department, and Daniel Forbes, South Orlando Church pastor. The Aldridge brothers are both retired Florida Conference pastors who now find great joy serving first responders.

Visibly moved as he accepted the award, Rus Aldridge said in all his years of service as a chaplain, he had never received such an outpouring of appreciation. His emotion-filled comments confirmed to South Orlando members the reason they pay tribute to first responders, and those who serve them, for their hard work, dedicated service in the community, and for risking their lives to keep families safe.

—BY DANIEL FORBES

## Vacation Bible School Features Apostle Paul

“Our Visit With Paul and the Underground Church” was the theme of the most recent Vacation Bible School (VBS) program conducted by Midport Church members in Port St. Lucie, Fla.

Entering a dark tunnel that led to an underground church, the 34 children in attendance strolled through a Roman market place and experienced a visit with an imprisoned Apostle Paul who was guarded by a Roman soldier.

When leadership first considered using the program, they didn’t anticipate that a VBS story-line about Rome would be very spiri-

tual. They were pleasantly surprised. One little girl, Eliana, enjoyed the program so much, she told her mother at the close, “I didn’t like VBS because it was too short!”

“This was my sixth or seventh VBS and I found it to be the most inclusive of all ages,” says Barbara Feak, director. “Volunteers and attendees included babies, elementary, and teen-aged young people, parents, and grandparents. Those participating were richly blessed by the experience as we saw God leading the entire program from beginning to end.”

—BY HELGA PEDZY



*The testimony of Apostle Paul (top, portrayed by Dennis McOmber, pastor) inspired thought-provoking moments, and VBS participants enjoyed the sights and sounds in a Roman market place.*

## Nearly 500 Hispanic Youth Meet for Makeover

The theme chosen for this year's Hispanic Youth Makeover was "Total Surrender," and the guest speaker was Homero Salazar, pastor, from the Potomac Conference. In addition to his topics, there were important seminars, songs, praise, and recreational activities for the youth. The retreat is always supported by the pastors of the area, but the young people are the ones who organize and coordinate it. This is an excellent tool to develop leadership skills in youth ministry.

of the Spanish-American Church decided to continue the tradition of inviting other churches from around the Georgia-Cumberland Conference to the retreat. The theme chosen for the 2005 retreat was "Extreme Makeover," and it was decided to make that the name of the event from then on.

Leaders thought there was no better name to call it since it is hoped that each retreat will transform lives and bring people closer to Jesus Christ. The retreat has been held at

the same place for five consecutive years, but increasingly it becomes better. The 2008 event was organized by the Youth Conference Federations. Both

federations of Atlanta (UJAM) and the North Federation (FEJA North) have joined their talents to make this retreat where you can experience moments of spiritual growth in companionship with others in the midst of the beautiful facilities of Cohutta Springs.

Federation leaders feel grateful to God for prospering this initiative from a few into an effort of many. Since 2008, this retreat has generated baptisms. This

year, three young individuals were baptized. Many others accepted Christ and had the opportunity to make a commitment to Christ

to surrender their time, talents, being, and weaknesses that they have not been able to overcome.

The youth recognized Neftaly Ortiz, Georgia-Cumberland Latin American ministries director, and Rob Lang, Georgia-Cumberland youth ministries director, who year after year have supported this activity with their presence and resources for this project. In the past there were individuals and organizations that gave monetary support because they are convinced that investing in youth is an investment with eternal dividends.

Every year at this retreat is when new leaders

for the federations are chosen for the following year. This is done under the direction of Ortiz, along with Miguel A. Tirado and Richard Urdaneta, who are pastors and the current federations' counselors. The new leadership is ready to begin work for 2010, organizing the different events and activities in their respective areas, with "Makeover" being the highlight anticipated by all.

This is a nice opportunity for spiritual renewal, shared together in a healthy environment, and to learn and invite friends who do not know the Savior Jesus Christ.

—BY NANCY CASTILLO



SUBMITTED BY MIGUEL TIRADO

*The musical group "Reach One" performs.*



SUBMITTED BY MIGUEL TIRADO

*Miguel Tirado, pastor of the Hispanic churches in Marietta and Canton, Ga., baptizes Robin Alfredo Velazquez.*

The yearly Hispanic Youth Retreat, Makeover, took place October 23-25, 2009, at Cohutta Springs in Crandall, Ga., with nearly 500 individuals attending. The retreat has been held every year since 2003. It was initiated by a group of young people from the Spanish-American Church in Collegedale, Tenn., under the leadership of Raúl Rivero, a theology student at that time.

In 2005, youth leaders



SUBMITTED BY MIGUEL TIRADO

*The Cohutta gym was packed on Sabbath morning.*



## Help Given to Atlanta Flood Victims



TABOR NUDD

*Pathfinder Brittany Falconer helps load donated school items to aid Atlanta, Ga., flood victims.*

During three days in September, some areas around the northwest side of Atlanta received more than 22 inches of rain. As a result, lakes and creeks began to overflow. Water began covering the streets, making it dangerous to cross the roads. Some tried to cross through the water, but were swept away in their cars. Ten people were killed trying to cross the flooded roads.

Then, as the rain slowed down, the waters began to rise even more. Some waters rose nearly 15 feet and began to flood into neighborhoods and homes. Clarkdale Elementary School, located several miles from Lakeview, Ga., Church, had water only inches from covering the roof of the school.

The Lakeview and Hiram, Ga., churches began hearing of individuals whose homes were under water. Church members divided the names of the church members and began calling others to check on them and see if they had damages to their home. Both churches made lists of people whose homes were affected by the flood.

Lakeview scheduled several Sundays as work



SUBMITTED BY TABOR NUDD

*Some waters rose 15 feet, flooding neighborhoods and homes.*

days to help as many individuals as possible. Nearly 30 gathered to take down drywall; remove installation, carpet, and appliances; and help however they could. Some church members walked up and down the streets offering to pray with families who had been affected.

Hiram began supporting a school supply campaign led by a local news station and School Box stores. All the school supplies donated went to help teachers and students at Clarkdale Elementary School. One Hiram Church member works at Wal-Mart. She told her supervisor what the church was trying to do, and Wal-Mart of Hiram donated hundreds of folders, notebooks, pads of paper, and pencils. The Hiram church members also brought supplies to help the school. They filled several vehicles and delivered them to two local School Box stores. On the following Monday, School Box presented Clarkdale School with the new school supplies.

The clean-up and rebuilding will continue for the next several years. However, many have remained positive during this difficult time. One man whose home was eight feet under water said, "Everything I lost is material possession. At least I have my family. At least we have Jesus."

—BY TABOR NUDD

## Trion, Ga., ACS Reports

The Trion, Ga., Adventist Community Services/Disaster Response Distribution Center assisted those in need during the September floods for two weeks. There were 25 volunteers and some police officers. The volunteers put in a total of 774 hours. Final statistics show that 166 families (584 individuals) were served, some several times.

There were 6,069 items given away, but a lot of these items were in kit form, so the total number of items received by victims was higher. Water, not included in the count, was also distributed since Trion's water was non-drinkable for more than a week.

Fifty percent of the clientele were undocumented. It soon became apparent that because of their status as illegal aliens, FEMA could not help them unless they had children who were born in this country and were citizens. Therefore, the only help they could find was through the ACS/DR Distribution Center.

Trion mayor Benny Perry took the ACS/DR management staff to supper one night to show the town's appreciation. Also attending were police chief Chad Spraggins and officer Steve Fountain and their wives.

Special thanks to those volunteers from the Summerville Church who came and worked.

—BY TERRY HAIGHT

## “A Mission of Faith” is Spanish Camp Meeting Theme

More than 400 individuals gathered at Camp Alamisco for the annual Spanish Family Camp Meeting, September 4-6, 2009. The theme for the weekend was "A Mission of Faith." For the Sabbath worship service, Mel Eisele, Gulf States Conference president, challenged the attendees to fulfill the Divine mandate to preach the Gospel.

Morning, noon, and evening, Jerson Santos, from the Florida Conference, focused on the theme with topics such as one mission of faith, discipleship, and spreading the Gospel. His messages of commitment,

motivation, and training brought inspiration to each one who attended.

One of the highlights of the weekend was the launching of the "Gold 1,000" evangelistic initiative by the Spanish youth. Their goal is to give as many Bible studies as possible, and then invite their contacts to come to the "Gold 1,000" meeting, which is scheduled to take place in Montgomery, Ala., on December 12. Nilton Garica, Spanish coordinator for the Conference, explains, "The final goal is to baptize 1,000 young people for Jesus Christ."

Loida Aispuro led the



*The attendees enjoyed inspirational sermons, beautiful music, and Christian fellowship.*

children's program with the theme: "Crowns and Castles." The children were blessed with Christian praise songs, DVD's, activities, and lessons.

Other activities included two seminars on family life given by Lybna Arroyoa, psychologist and girls' dean

at Bass Memorial Academy; a baptism; a sermon preached by a nine-year-old boy; a wedding ceremony; and a special Saturday night banquet.

—BY NILTON C. GARCIA/  
TANIA MANGUM

## Columbia Church Feeds 200

The Columbia, Miss., Church has a very small congregation, but it is big on helping its community. The members know what Jesus meant when He said, "It is more blessed to give than receive." In October they distributed 200 free plate lunches to the community.

The women's ministries members cooked chili

and baked pound cakes. The meal consisted of chili cheese nachos, potato salad, pimiento cheese sandwich, and pound cake. Each person also received a laminated bookmark Bible study on one of the beliefs of the Church.

Every month the church members have a special outreach project. In Septem-

ber, the women's ministries members prepared enough food to feed the evening shift at the local nursing home. In August, they offered free school supplies, and the adults were treated to snacks.

—BY LYNNE POWELL



*Helping assemble the meals are women's ministries members Wilda Powell (left) and Janice Rhoden with Bill Devine, pastor.*

## Conference Welcomes New IT Director

Brian Halley has assumed the church auditor and new IT director position at the Conference office. Halley began working with computers while in the military. He received an associate's degree in computer science in 1998. He moved to Atlanta in June 1998 and worked for a financial software company as an install-

er, then at IBM as computer support for Lucent Technologies. He next joined the Arthritis Foundation as their email administrator and senior tech support.

In 2001 he began working for the Church as a literature evangelist for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He was hired by the Southern Union in

2002 to resolve issues with the financial software for HHES, and was then given the task of supporting the Union and conferences with all their financial software. He also took care



*Brian and Karen Halley are shown with two of their children, Mikayla and Thomas. Their son Carl Jones is not pictured.*

of sound for all Southern Union-sponsored events and training. He enjoys spending time with his family and playing games. Brian and his wife, Karen, have three children.



## Family Fun Day Held at Panama City Church



*Snorkles and Snickers, from the Shaddai Shriners, clown around with Amanda Schwinn.*



*Elijah Gloudeman enjoyed looking like a ferocious tiger after getting his face painted.*

The family life department of the Panama City, Fla., Church, under the direction of Anita Pembleton, family life director, sponsored its second Community Family Fun Day on September 13, 2009. There was no monetary charge to participate in Fun Day; however, it was suggested that attendees bring a school supply or non-perishable food item

to be used for Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets, which will be given to needy families in the community. There were approximately 175 people in attendance. Ninety percent of the attendees were from the community, and 100 nonperishable items were acquired. Judging from the interaction, involvement, and responses of those attending, Fun Day was an

overwhelming success.

Fun Day served to build an awareness of resources available in the community. The goal of the Fun Day was to enhance family unity and build community awareness. Health professionals were available to provide blood pressure checks and cholesterol screenings. Adventurer Club, Pathfinder Club, Home and Schools, and the

Police Department provided education on drug awareness, and child and Internet safety. Bay County Emergency Management Division discussed hurricane awareness and preparation. Emerald Coast Party Rentals provided a bounce house and the Big Kahuna water slide for water fun.

There were a number of highlights at this event. The most memorable was the prediction of 100 percent chance of rain. As a matter of fact, it had rained all night the night prior and was pouring rain 30 minutes before set-up. God smiled on the Fun Day. It was a beautiful day. He even dried up the water in the parking lot! The ultimate show of His power was ... the rain came back after tear-down. Definitely a faith-building experience for all who worked the event!

—BY ANITA PEMBLETON



*The Panama City Police Department provided education on drug awareness and child and Internet safety.*

CHIP programs were also highlighted. There were a number of games, lots of food, and loads of fun, which encouraged family togetherness and interaction.

Local organizations also joined in the endeavor. The Shaddai Shriners provided a Kid Care ID service, clowns, and a motorized train for the children to ride. Some big kids also took a ride or two. The Panama City

## Students Travel from Madison to Maluti

A new school has been built in Lesotho, a small, third-world country inside of South Africa. The old school was too small and outdated, and the small classrooms were semi-trailers converted into classrooms. A new school was desperately needed. That's where Madison Academy students and others from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference stepped up to the plate.

Last winter a call was put out all across the North American Division for academies, colleges, and churches to get involved in "Mission: Maluti." Mission Maluti is an initiative by the education department of the NAD to raise funds and build an Adventist elementary school in Lesotho.

Madison Academy students along with students and families from Appalachian Adventist Academy in eastern Kentucky, spent

two weeks and nearly \$3,000 each to help build this school. Other volunteers came from Dakota Adventist Academy, Pine Forge Academy, Chisholm Trail Academy, and other areas.

The students and volunteers worked eight hours a day for eight days, and laid more than 10,000 bricks that were made on site. The building, which was just a foundation and steel beams when the group arrived, had all the walls complete and the roof put on by the time the group had finished their work. The only thing left to do was the plumbing



*From left to right: Chris Tastad (Dakota Academy), James Middleton (Madison Academy), Andrew Jamieson in red (MA), Gerrald Walker above and in back (MA), Pam Gatling (MA), Logan Randal (DA), Ashley Woodland (MA), Doug Hayes (Iowa-Missouri Conference), Rebecca O'Hare (DA).*

and other final touches.

Gerrald Walker, a senior at Madison Academy, says, "If you would have told me we could have completed the school when we got there, I would have laughed in your face. But by the grace of God, we completed our project and did more than I could have ever imagined!"

To be in a third world country was eye open-

ing. Most families live in tin shacks or mud huts with thatched roofs. Ashley Woodland, a Madison Academy senior, stated, "This was such a humbling experience. I worry about my iPod and cell phone when I'm at home, but I look around and see that these people have nothing, NOTHING, and are completely happy and satisfied. I wish I could have their simple outlook at life. I've learned so much."

Andrew Jamieson, chaplain and Bible teacher at Madison Academy, says, "Our students' lives will never be the same and their hearts are being molded for service. The lives of the students in Lesotho are now changed because of the work and effort of the volunteers that committed their time, money, and talents to this project."

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON

## Pathfinder Takes Her Staff to Camporee

After months of encouraging the White House, Tenn., Patriots Pathfinders to attend the Courage to Stand International Camporee, only one Pathfinder, Cheyanne Beebe, planned to attend along with five staff. The club had a choice — cancel or go and help by putting on an honor. It was



*Peter Meekma IV (left), Thomas Day, Cynthia Day, Cheyanne Beebe, Shirley Beebe, Julee and Michael Vest*

decided to go and offer the Model Railroading honor.

Michael Vest decided on a 20- by 24-foot L-

shaped layout. Each Pathfinder would put a tent, tree, or their state flag on the track in their union area. The train track took on life as the different decorations went in place.

Several international guests came through the honor. The greatest tree was a coconut tree from Hawaii.

Each participant sang the graduation song, "This Train is bound for glory," as they finished their honor. It was great fun for all.

Beebe spent a great deal of time with a sister club, the Ridgetop Ridgerunners. They did community service projects together, as well as several honors. The members of the staff were grateful for the opportunity to be a part of a great camporee.

—BY THOMAS DAY



## Kentucky Student Witnesses in Poland

When one thinks about mission service, Poland isn't usually the first place that comes to mind, but for Southern Adventist University student Jenna Schleenbaker, Poland is just as much of a mission field as any third-world country.

Upon arriving in the country at the beginning of her term as a student missionary, Schleenbaker was faced with a question: How are we supposed to reach those who aren't looking?

For Schleenbaker, that answer lies in a ministry of true friendship that begins through simple conversation, and Schleenbaker's mission work in Poland certainly provided her with plenty of opportunities for that. She began her average day by caring for young children in a day-



*Jenna Schleenbaker (center) let her life and friendship be a witness to her Polish students.*

care, teaching them English through interaction. In the afternoons, she taught English classes to high school students and adults. She also taught them about her faith through the way she lived her life.

Schleenbaker's students knew she didn't drink, smoke, or go to church on Sunday. Poland is 98 percent Catholic, so many of her students were already Christians. Still, she challenged them to think about why they kept certain traditions and why they believed

what they believed.

"I had one student, Machek, who was an atheist," Schleenbaker shares, "and when I asked him why he was, he said that he was an atheist just because his grandfather was. I told him that wasn't a good enough reason — he also needed to investigate things for himself."

As the year went on, that particular student opened up to Schleenbaker more and more. One day he came to her and said, "I have something to tell you. I drank alcohol for the first time last weekend."

A little stunned, Schleenbaker asked, "Why?" "My friends were doing it."

"How much?" she went on, still not sure what to say.

"I got pretty drunk,

and I was being stupid, and I started feeling sick, and I threw up, and I remembered that you didn't drink, and now I think I know why."

Breakthrough moments like these reminded Schleenbaker why she had come overseas in the first place.

Although she is back at home now in her junior year of her psychology degree at Southern, she still plans to continue the friendships she made with her overseas students through her Facebook and email accounts.

"Witnessing is not about instant gratification," she says. "I want to help people think through why they do what they do. Only by helping them evaluate their own traditions and decisions as a friend can you truly help them make a lasting decision for Christ."

—BY ANGELA BAERG

## Louisville Area Churches Work for Common Goal

The coordinator for Generation of Youth for Christ (GYC), Wes Via, pastor, introduced plans that will involve all Adventist churches in the Louisville, Ky., area. GYC is an organization whose objective has been for young people to come together for worship, dedication, and to look for opportunities to effectively spread the Gospel.

This year their four-day conference will be



*Wes Via, pastor, and his wife Lauren*

in Louisville, beginning December 30.

The focus will be empowering church members for personal evangelism, and training the youth to give Bible studies and preach evangelistic sermons.

To meet the demands and carry the plan through to a successful conclusion, Via, and his wife, Lauren, will remain in Louisville for a year. Visiting experts such as Mark Finley, local

pastors, Bible workers, and others experienced in evangelism will provide Louisville's Adventist community with effective tools for sharing what God has done for them. The plans include special training programs for students at Louisville Adventist Academy, who will be speakers for a reaping program series in March 2010. To learn more about GYC, visit [www.gycweb.org](http://www.gycweb.org).

—BY CLIFTON KELLER

## Atlanta-Berean Church Honored as the 2009 NAD Innovative Church of the Year

The Atlanta-Berean Church has been selected by the North American Division (NAD) Church Resource Center (CRC) as the 2009 NAD Innovative Church of the Year. Carlton Byrd, D.Min., received the award on behalf of the Atlanta-Berean Church at the National Conference on Innovation in Columbus, Ohio, on October 5, 2009.

"Atlanta-Berean was selected by the CRC directors because of its remarkable transformation. Through innovation, the church was transformed from a church that was focused largely on the needs of Adventists, to a community-oriented church, placing the needs of area residents above the needs of Adventist members," according to the observations of Dave Gemmell, associ-

ate director of the NAD Church Resource Center.

Currine Harris, communications leader of Atlanta-Berean, points to numerous community ministries such as the homeless feeding initiative, prison ministries, weekly community food and clothes distribution, Habitat for Humanity, employment assistance fairs which are now a permanent "Jobs For Life" program, and plans for a Senior Housing Center. She also mentions the creative public evangelistic cycle that starts with block parties in a local housing project, tract attacks, and culminates in non-traditional evening evangelistic meetings.

What have been the results of these innovations? Weekly prayer meeting attendance has grown from 30 to more than 300,



On behalf of the Atlanta-Berean Church, Carlton Byrd (center), D.Min., accepts the 2009 NAD Church Resource Center Innovative Church of the Year award from Dave Gemmell, NAD Church Resource Center, and Raj Attiken, Ohio Conference president.



Atlanta-Berean Church delegates to the National Conference on Innovation receive the 2009 NAD Innovative Church of the Year award. James K. Lamb (first row, left) assistant pastor; Carlton Byrd, D.Min., senior pastor; Linwood Stone, associate pastor; Rosie Pearson (second row, left), treasurer; Patricia Harris, accountant; Emma Mackey, administrative assistant; Currine Harris, communication leader; Charles Cunningham (third row, left), personal ministries leader; Dave Gemmell, North American Division (NAD) Church Resource Center; and Ollie Clemons, head elder.

and the Sabbath worship service has grown to more than 2,000. Tithe has also grown from 1.5 million dollars in 2006, and should come close to three million for 2009. Baptisms have doubled from a little more than 100 a year in 2006 to more than 200 a year in 2008, and if current trends continue, Berean should surpass 500 baptisms in 2009.

The National Conference on Innovation is designed to foster a global conversation on innovation and renewal within the Adventist Church, and to create a safe space for innovators to learn, explore, collaborate, and strategize for the future. The event, sponsored by Partners in

Innovation, is held each fall in Columbus Ohio.

Through the Innovative Church of the Year, the NAD Church Resource Center hopes to foster growing healthy congregations in the United States, Canada, and Bermuda. Gemmell says that "most everything we do in Church life started out as an innovation. We need to continue to innovate and update because the world is constantly changing." The NAD Church Resource Center hopes to stimulate and affirm congregations that have successfully taken risks in adapting the eternal truth of the Gospel to constant environmental changes.

—BY DAVE GEMMELL



## Charlotte Berean Junior Academy Hosts Community Expo

A study from the book *Do Hard Things* motivated student at Berean Junior Academy in Charlotte, N.C., in grades 7-9 to go out and witness to people. Many of them had never spoken to a stranger on the street about anything, until now. The students received training on how to approach and converse with people of different temperaments.

Afterwards, students began knocking on doors within the school community and shared with the neighbors information about a local Free Store, owned and operated by Adventist members Robert Forquer and Paul Fisher.

People within the community were surprised to hear about a store where everything was "free." They readily accepted the flier and commended the students for informing people about this place.

The students were so excited about getting to

know the community better, that they unanimously agreed to help prepare a community expo right on the school property. They wanted to educate the community about healthful eating and living, and show support for those who suffered breast cancer or fire loss.

The expo featured free healthy vegan food samples prepared by members of Northeast and Berean churches. Free door prizes, which included stress balls, bags, chip clips, and lip balm, were distributed along with clothing and books from The Free Store. Information about the local Adventist churches were also available for attendees. Free blood pressure and diabetes screenings were conducted by Blondene Robinson and Ruth Wiehn, registered nurses at local hospitals, and Robert Bishop, retired veteran. A diabetic machine and supplies were donated

to the school by James McKeiver. A representative from the County Health Department attended along with firemen from Fire Station #18 who supplied information on fire prevention.

Sammie Johnson, along with his wife and Derrick Miller, manned a smoking cessation booth; a representative from McCrorey YMCA handed out free trial memberships; a Sam's Club manager arrived with healthy samples and free membership cards; and Ursula Pizarro coordinated a breast cancer vigil where balloons were released with the name of a breast cancer victim attached to them. The students were especially grateful for Avis Bing, who helped the students plan and prepare for the event.

One woman arrived about 20 minutes before the event began. She sat on the edge of the sidewalk, waiting for everyone to

settle. Leah Davis, seventh grade student, walked over to the woman and began talking with her. Davis encouraged her in the Lord. The woman began to cry because she was not accustomed to people being nice to her. The other students began to make her feel welcomed. They welcomed every person who attended with arms of love, embracing them with kindness, helpfulness, and encouragement. People were so amazed to see young people in action with such positive, Christian attitudes.

— BY LAWANNA MCCOY



ANDREA JONES

*People from the community visit one of the tents that were set up during the expo.*

## GAAA Hosts Adventist College Fair

Representatives from 12 Adventist colleges and universities came to Greater Atlanta Adventist Academy (GAAA) to share information about their respective schools. Groups of junior and senior students gathered information from the visiting recruiters as they contemplated where they will matriculate for their post high school

education.

The college fair is an annual event designed to inform students of the various programs offered at Adventist colleges and universities around the world.

The schools that were represented were Andrews University, Atlantic Union College, Avondale College, Florida Hospital College of

Health Sciences, La Sierra University, Oakwood University, Pacific Union College, Southern Adventist University, Union College, Walla Walla University, and Washington Adventist University.

Students from Atlanta Adventist Academy (AAA) shared in the event and will host the fair in 2010.

—BY JAMES K. LAMB



*Students from GAAA and AAA receive information from one of the college recruiters.*

## Elder Silas McClamb — 1909-2009

Elder McClamb, 99, was born November 6, 1909 in Durham County, N.C.; he was the fourth of 14 children. He died April 28, 2009.

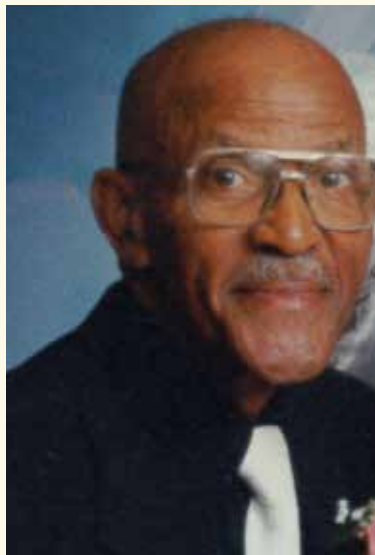
He joined the Adventist Church in 1934. He began his publishing ministry as a literature evangelist with the late Elder E.S. Sumpter. They shared a bicycle for transportation and remained friends throughout their lifetime.

On January 31, 1935 he married Gladys McMillan. After 67 years of marriage, she preceded him in death on August 22, 2002.

His first assignment as a leader in the publishing

ministry was with the South Atlantic Conference. He served as associate publishing director from 1945 to 1951. He served as director from 1951 to 1966. He was ordained in 1952. He assisted Elder E.E. Cleveland in his first major evangelistic effort in the Northeastern Conference. He was the first man of color to serve on the General Conference Publishing Committee.

In 1982, he and his wife, Gladys, retired to Melrose, Fla. Elder McClamb has touched many lives during his years of service to the Church. For



relaxation, he enjoyed golf. Brothers, Michael and John Simpkins of August, Ga., provided Masters Golf

Tournament tickets for him three consecutive years. He was thrilled to witness Tiger Woods at his best.

He is survived by two daughters: Cammie Evans of Baltimore, Md., and Montrose Jeffries of Philadelphia, Penn.; one son, Reese McMillan (Delores) of Bronx, N.Y.; one brother, Joe McClamb of Durham; grandchildren; great grandchildren; a host of nieces; nephews; relatives; and friends.

Many thanks to Priscilla Simpkins of Melrose, for many years of loyal care giving to the McClamb.

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## Daughter of Zion Crusade in Ghana Nets 177

Juliett Tracey, women's ministries leader at Daughter of Zion Church in Delray Beach, Fla., led a team of eight laymen from Florida to Ghana, West Africa, on July 7, 2009, as part of the ShareHim crusade.

Team members consisted of speakers Clive Fowler, Denise James, Mckelly Medard, Juliett Tracey; various support team members, including Bible workers Una Bolton and Vilma Tracey; physician Cygethia Kankam; and children's ministries organizers Dominique Johnson and Helen Wright.

The Ghanaian crusade took place from July 10 to 25. The crusade began with an orientation on July 9 at the South Ghana Conference of Seventh-day Adventist in Ghana's capital, Accra, under

For days leading up to the group's arrival, the crusade sites had experienced heavy rain storms. Upon hearing this, Tracey sent out a "SOS" email to her women's ministries department and church members back home, soliciting an urgent need for prayer for the Lord to hold back the rain.

The crusade's first praise report: there was no rain for 14 days! On the final baptismal day of the crusade, a light drizzle blessed the land for less than an hour.

Each speaker was assigned to a site in Accra. The speakers and their team members conducted nightly services and two services on Sabbaths.

At other sites, the first night of the crusade proved

day Adventist Church School.

An average of 250 individuals attended the nightly meetings. The children were always the first to arrive, approximately 150 each night. The program included a health lecture and a quiz of the topic discussed the previous night, accompanied with prizes to the winners.

After the first week of meetings, the organizers added a health clinic spearheaded by Kankam. The community's interest in this facet of the crusade was so great, there were more patients than seats. The health clinic was available one hour prior to the start of the nightly meeting.

As was expected, the enemy attempted to rear his ugly head on the crusade. After the second night of meetings, one of the speakers lost his voice.

On the night when the topic was the Sabbath, one speaker felt continual stabbing in his side while delivering the sermon, but when he turned around, no one was there. On the night when the subject matter concerned the true Church, one speaker's left hand shook uncontrollably throughout the entire first half of the sermon.

On the third night, one of the prayer warriors began to sweat profusely from head to toe. Before fainting, the prayer warrior only had enough strength to utter the words, "pray for me," to her prayer part-

ner. Immediately the male team members and one female team member escorted the ill prayer warrior into an adjacent building to pray for the member's recovery. The ill team member quickly recovered. These events caused the then-recovered team member to recall a dream she shared with the speaker a few weeks earlier.

In her dream, she saw a man praying for a woman who was emerged in water. In the dream, a nearby woman expressed her fear, but was urged by the woman, "do not be afraid, the Lord is with you." The prayer warrior now knows she was the woman emerged in water. Through the dream, the Lord revealed that He would be with her through her cold sweat, and would have men on standby to pray for her.

Local religious leaders of other faiths attended the meetings as well, some to spy to see if their members were attending. When the nightly appeal was made, the organizers dimmed the lights to protect the identities of those responding to Christ's call. One visiting church leader asked the local church leader to invite the speaker to his region and share the message with his congregation.

As the team members performed community outreach, many of the residents asked for a home visit from the speakers. During one such visit,



*Pastors baptize three individuals on July 25. A total of 177 individuals were baptized at the completion of the crusade.*

the direction of pastors Emmanuel D. Poakwa, personal ministries director for the Conference, and Greg Jones, ShareHim organizer.

Upon arrival, the group convened with laymen missionaries from other states and one pastor from Europe.

to be a technological challenge.

Most of the sites were located outdoors in the midst of the community. The Ni Boi Town Achimota site was situated in an open courtyard on the grounds of the Ni Boi Town Seventh-



one speaker encountered a group of older men playing checkers. After complimenting the winner, the speaker handed the players a *Steps to Christ* and invited them to the night's service. As the service began, however, the speaker didn't see any of the players. The message was entitled, "How to Start Life Over – Baptism." When delivering the appeal, the winner of the game responded to the call and gave his life to the Lord. The speaker praised the Lord for His marvelous works. During another night's ap-



*Members of the 2009 ShareHim Ghana Crusade*

peal, one of the speakers was impressed by the Holy Spirit to walk past the seats, outside the courtyard, and into the street. There, she pled the blood of Jesus, and called anyone within the

sound of her voice to repentance. No one responded to the appeal. Making her way back to the front of the stage, she prayed for those who responded within the courtyard. During the prayer,

she felt something brush past her left shoulder. After the prayer, the speaker saw a young man she had not seen in the meetings, and through the interpreter, inquired where he was during the service. The young man said he was in the street listening to the service and heard God calling for him.

At the conclusion of the 2009 ShareHim Ghana crusade, 177 individuals were baptized, and 98 students enrolled in Bible studies in preparation for the next baptism.

—BY JULIETT TRACEY

## Trio Seeks to Evangelize with Music

For three young adults in their early 20's, the members of Naturally Blessed have come a long way in a short time.

The trio, which formed five years ago, held their first album release on November 21 at the newly renovated Tabernacle Church in Miami, Fla.

Jonathan Dalberiste, Cristelle Louisne, and Addly Philossaint, who have been friends since childhood, found a common bond during a time of change for these Tabernacle members and their church.

"Pastor [Lloyd Burrows] was about to leave in 2004, and there wasn't much for us to do," Philossaint said. "We grew up in church always singing, and then singing wasn't there anymore. We [Dalberiste and Philossaint] were in a guys' group. When Jonathan came back [from

collegel], we decided to get Cristelle and start singing."

Their inspiration was Anointed, a gospel trio that also featured two men and one woman. After their first song together, "Precious Jesus," they knew they had made the right decision.

But they needed a name. "Cristelle came up with the name," said Dalberiste. "We all have this natural ability, so why not say we were Naturally Blessed ... vocally?"

Dalberiste plays the tuba and his mother used to sing in a group. Louisne has been singing solos since she was a little girl, and Philossaint, who plays the drums, comes from a musical family. Each of his siblings play an instrument as well.

Naturally Blessed's reputation grew quickly, and as they continued to sing throughout Florida, they started to think bigger,

and an idea for an album was born. Now all they had to do was write the music.

Their process? "Come out with the chorus," Louisne said. "The chorus is the foundation.

Once we get the chorus, everyone gets their own input by writing their own verse."

Next comes the melody and the basic structure of the song. Then they sought help from well-regarded south Florida musicians Herve "Dada" Alce and Richard Toussaint. "We tell them what we want, and they add the flavor," said Dalberiste.

Now that the dream is a reality, their expectations don't include fame and fortune, but they want to make a spiritual impact.



"We want them to be touched by God. We don't want to have ABC lyrics. There are a lot of artists, and their music is tight, but the message is weak. We want to feed meat, not milk," said Dalberiste.

Louisne added, "Once we sang at Northwest Dade Church. There was a lady who came up and said how touched she was."

And isn't that the goal of gospel music?

—BY JOHN DEVINE

## Back to the Future in God's Hands

"Back to the Future in God's Hands": This was the theme of Patmos Chapel Church's 56th Anniversary celebration weekend that took place in Winter Park, Fla., on the weekend of September 26, 2009. Samuel M. Dade Jr. is the pastor. With the many changing events and circumstances Patmos Chapel had undergone, it was only fitting to choose a theme that encapsulated the many hopes and promises Patmos members felt. As the church celebrated this special occasion, many Patmos members expressed sentiments that getting back to the basics of God's plan will make the church's future an assured success in reaching and winning more individuals than ever imagined for the Kingdom. Also, by being a shining light and beacon in the community through service and assistance, Patmos will point

more individuals to Christ, not just in words but in deeds.

That community outreach was never more evident as Patmos presented its first Community Service Award. This award was presented to the mayor of Winter Park, The Honorable Kenneth W. Bradley. The irony was that when candidates were selected for the Community Service Award, names were only chosen based on deeds and service, not denomination or social status. After choosing Bradley, it was discovered that he was a Seventh-day Adventist serving his first term in office. He is also the CEO of Winter Park Memorial Hospital in Florida. He is a graduate of Southern Adventist University (formerly Southern College) located



*Samuel M. Dade Jr. (right), pastor, presents the first Community Service Award to The Honorable Ken Bradley (left). Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union Conference executive secretary, was in attendance for the 56th Anniversary celebration.*

end was a real blessing. Joseph Grider from Houston, Tex., was the divine worship speaker, and Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., executive secretary of Southern Union Conference, was in attendance.

The weekend featured a Friday evening youth program, Sabbath evening community praise concert, and climaxed on Sunday with an International Food Festival held at the Winter Park Civic Center.

The anniversary committee members included Thaddeus Jackson, elder; Daniel Smith, chairperson; Rebecca Smith; Glenn Harrington; Stacey Montanez; Yvonne McFarlane, elder; Thomas McPhee; Shawn Smith, elder; Ivan Allston; Micki Bedward; Michael Hudgens; and Barbara Jones.

—BY DANIEL SMITH

in Collegedale, Tenn. One of Bradley's official duties that surprised even Patmos members during the anniversary celebration, was when he presented an official proclamation to Patmos, making September 26, 2009 an official "Patmos Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church Anniversary Day" in the city of Winter Park.

The anniversary week-



*The Honorable Ken Bradley (center), mayor of Winter Park and CEO of Winter Park Memorial Hospital, presents the official proclamation, proclaiming September 26, 2009 "Patmos Chapel Seventh-day Adventist Church Day" in the city of Winter Park, Fla. Daniel Smith (left), Patmos Chapel communication director, and Samuel M. Dade Jr., pastor of Patmos Chapel, stands with him.*



*Joseph Grider, Ph.D., delivers the 56th Anniversary message to the more than 1,100 in attendance at Patmos Chapel Church.*



## Nathan Greene Exhibit Opens on Campus

An exhibit of Nathan Greene's art opened on October 14 to a crowd of enthusiastic students and community members. At the opening program, Greene gave encouragement to aspiring artists from Southern's School of Visual Art and Design as he spoke about his own career path.

Greene had not intended to become an artist, but had grown up with a strong interest in medicine. A turning point came, however, when Greene was 17 and spent a day with well-known artist Harry Anderson, who

was famous for several of his depictions of Jesus in modern settings. After talking with Anderson, Greene says he felt God's spirit surrounding him.

Believing in the importance of following his calling, Greene closed his talk with encouragement to students to seek God's guidance in their own lives.

"God has a plan for your lives, just as He had one for mine," Greene said. "I believe if you keep your heart open, He will keep leading you in the direction you should go."

The Nathan Greene



Community members enjoy Nathan Greene's painting, "The Lord God Made Them All," at the opening of his art exhibit.

exhibit is featured in the art gallery on the second floor of Brock Hall and

will be open through January 7.

—BY JENNIFER MEYER

## Yefim Bronfman Performs at Inaugural All-Steinway Concert

Southern Adventist University celebrated its distinction as the world's 100th All-Steinway School with a concert featuring Grammy Award-winning pianist Yefim Bronfman on November 8 and 9.

Bronfman is world-renowned and widely regarded as one of the most talented performers today. He won a Grammy in 1997 for his recording

of the three Bartók Piano Concertos with Esa-Pekka Salonen and the Los Angeles Philharmonic. His commanding technique has earned him critical acclaim and enthusiastic audiences worldwide.

As a designated Steinway artist, Bronfman prefers to use only Steinway pianos. Similarly, by becoming an All-Steinway School,

Southern will teach and perform exclusively using Steinway pianos. To earn this distinction, Southern purchased 30 Steinway pianos. Southern joins the likes of schools such as Yale School of Music and The Juilliard School, and has become the only All-Steinway School in the region.

—BY BRITTANY RUSSELL



Grammy award-winning pianist Yefim Bronfman helped Southern celebrate its new distinction as an All-Steinway School.

## Guinness Record Holder for Memory Shares Knowledge With Students

Dave Farrow, who holds the record for memorizing the order of 59 decks of randomly shuffled cards, recently shared tips for how to

improve memory skills and study habits with Southern Adventist University students at a morning convocation and evening program.

Farrow also shared how, as a teenager, he was diagnosed with ADHD and dyslexia, and experienced a lot of discouragement.

"All of us are given

different gifts, different talents, and abilities," he told students, "and all we have to do is find a way to unleash them."

—BY JENNIFER MEYER

# Adventist Communicators Celebrate a Year of Excellence



*SAC 2009 attendees and presenters*

Collaboration. Creativity. Inspiration. This year's Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC) Convention delivered all of this and more. Newport Beach, Calif., proved to be an inspiring backdrop for the 20th annual convention. A total of 140 communicators from across the country joined together to exchange ideas, celebrate successes,

and brainstorm strategies for improvement.

After mingling with welcomed newcomers and longstanding veterans at the open reception, attendees gathered for the Thursday night program. The Communications Showcase featured exciting new projects, highlighting the Voice of Prophecy and the Hope Channel. The business

meeting covered numerous agenda items, including the nomination and voting of new board members and SAC president. Steve Vistaunet, assistant to the president for the North Pacific Union Conference, will be replacing Celeste Ryan Blyden, assistant to the Columbia Union Conference president and *Visitor* editor, who enthusiastically

served as SAC president for the past two years.

The evening closed with the SONscreen film screening, highlighting young adults who effectively use film and video to encourage social consciousness, inspire action, and celebrate creative entertainment.

Keynote speaker Ryan Bell, pastor of the Hol-





TIM PUTT

*Celeste Blyden, SAC president, presented the Lifetime Achievement Award to Daniel "Don" A. Roth.*



TIM PUTT

*Shelley Freesland (left), Adventist World Radio communication director, received the Award of Excellence for the Adventist World Radio 2008 Offering Campaign from Celeste Blyden, SAC president.*

lywood, Calif., Church, and young adults from his congregation blessed Friday morning attendees by sharing their inspirational — and artistic — approach to ministry. The morning address opened minds to the importance of artists, filmmakers, writers, and actors serving the Lord.

The remainder of the day was spent in breakout sessions addressing the diverse needs faced by communicators. Award-winning filmmaker Martin Doblmeier closed the evening with a moving presentation of his film *The Power of Forgiveness*. Clips of his upcoming film *The Adventists* was also shown. The production focuses on Seventh-day Adventists' unique approach to the interconnected relationship between faith and science, and is scheduled for release December 2009.

Blessings continued pouring Sabbath morning with a touching testimonial from Christian Jordan, asso-

ciate pastor of the Campus Hill Church in Loma Linda, Calif. Campus Hill senior pastor, Hyveth Williams, D.Min., presented the morning's sermon. Her prolific rendering reinvigorated and charged the congregation as she urged worshippers to serve and praise the Lord "excellently."

The evening's award banquet and farewell was drenched in humor by the program's guest emcee, Jimmy Phillips, and included the surprising performance of The Three Waiters. However, the heart of the evening was focused on celebrating efforts of high-reaching and high-

achieving individuals and teams. Roland Scalliet from Southern Adventist University won the Student Award; Jessica Lozano from Southwestern Adventist University won the Young Professional Award; the 2008 Offering Campaign for Adventist World Radio was awarded the Award of Excellence; the Southeastern California Conference website redesign was awarded the Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award; Daniel "Don" A. Roth received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Communicators left rejuvenated, inspired, and revving to fulfill this year's theme: "Ride the Wave of Communication Excellence." Save next year's convention dates and location: October 14-16, 2010, in Rochester, N.Y. For more information about SAC, visit [adventistcommunicator.org](http://adventistcommunicator.org).

—BY JULIE ZAIBACK



TIM PUTT

*The Reger Smith Jr. Cutting Edge Award was awarded to the Southeastern California Conference (SECC) for website redesign: Garrett Caldwell (left), General Conference public relations director; Gerald Penick, SECC president; Enno Mueller, SECC assistant communication director; Jocelyn Fay, SECC assistant to the president for communication; and Celeste Blyden, SAC president.*



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**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is seeking a new **Provost**. The Provost reports to the President of the University and is responsible for all the academic programs, educational services, quality/program review, student success, teaching & learning resources, faculty development, outcome assessment, university accreditation and providing Christian leadership to the seventh most diverse campus in the nation. The preferred candidate should hold an earned doctoral degree and have experience in mobilizing and leading a complex academic structure to demonstrated levels of achievement. The successful candidate will have significant academic/management experience in institutions of higher learning. This candidate will also possess academic vision, problem solving skills, collaborative style, strong interpersonal skills, and an ability to champion positive change. Andrews University encourages applicants with diverse backgrounds to apply at: [http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi). [12]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** has a unique job opportunity for an **Aviation Airframe & Powerplant Instructor**. Duties include teaching/developing curricula, materials, projects and instructional aids for an FAA approved Part 147, Aircraft Maintenance Technician Program. Interested candidates apply at: [http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp\\_jobs\\_faculty.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/hr/emp_jobs_faculty.cgi). [12, 1]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** is seeking a **Graduate Dean for the School of Graduate Studies and Research**. An earned doctoral degree is required. For more information and to apply please go to: [http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp\\_jobs\\_salaried.cgi](http://www.andrews.edu/HR/emp_jobs_salaried.cgi). [12, 1]

**INDIANA ACADEMY** seeks **missionary taskforce assistant girl's dean** for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years. She must have a passion for sharing Jesus with others, respectfully enforce rules, and supervise young ladies in the dorm. Contact Kara Kerbs, head girl's dean, at [ia4god@yahoo.com](mailto:ia4god@yahoo.com) or 317-984-3575. [12]

**WORKING OR RETIRED LADY** to share expenses living with active senior lady in Nashville, TN. Call 615-672-2309 or 615-473-8485. [12]

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**ADVENTIST SATELLITE SYSTEMS** – For installation in the Atlanta area, call Kaz Sanocki, 404-791-3093. [12]

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**INSPIRATIONAL BOOK:** *From a Nobody to the Daughter of the King* by Juanita

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**CEMETERY LOTS FOR SALE** – A six-grave lot at Valhalla Cemetery, south of Birmingham on Bessemer Highway. Choice location and easy to find. Originally \$4800 (over ten years ago). Will sell for \$4500. (Today's price: over \$9000). Contact Pastor Wm. Webb in Florida: 727-372-7088. [12, 1]

## MISCELLANEOUS

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**EIGHT NATURAL REMEDIES** with James Johnson, M.D. Phone/fax 615-523-2136. Email [education@jjohnsonmd.com](mailto:education@jjohnsonmd.com). Have a blessed Christmas and happy New Year. [12]

**NEWSTART LIFESTYLE PROGRAM** at Weimar Institute of Health & Education: Our 18-day NEWSTART Lifestyle Program reduces the risk of and reverses obesity, high cholesterol, hypertension, diabetes, neuropathy, heart disease, fibromyalgia, stress & other degenerative diseases. For more information, call 800-525-9192 now! Read testimonies on our website: [www.newstart.com](http://www.newstart.com). [12, 1]

**MEDICAL MISSIONARY TRAINING** – Wildwood Health Retreat: Intensive 2-week course focusing on natural remedies, nutrition, sanctuary, last day events, and beginning your own health ministry. Dates: Jan. 18-31, 2010. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Cost: \$425 (includes room, vegan meals, and materials). For more information: Lew Keith 931-724-6706. Email: [lykeith@gmail.com](mailto:lykeith@gmail.com). [12]

**HUSBAND & WIVES SEMINAR** – Wildwood Health Retreat: A 1-week Bible-based seminar focusing on strengthening relationships between husbands and wives. Site: Wildwood Health Retreat, Iron City, TN. Dates: Feb. 8-14, 2010. Cost: \$199 per person (includes private room and bath, vegan meals, all materials). For more information: Lew Keith 931-724-6706. Email: [lykeith@gmail.com](mailto:lykeith@gmail.com). [12]

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**VISIT EUROPE!** Adventist group travel or individual arrangements: discounted hotels, car rentals, trains, cruises. 601-891-0414 or [starmountaintravel.com](http://starmountaintravel.com). [12]

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# Events Calendar

## Florida

**Complete calendar online** – <http://www.floridaconference.com/calendar.html>

**Florida Pathfinder events** – <http://www.floridapathfinders.com/> or call 407-644-5000 x127.

**Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information.** Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more. <http://www.asamcf.org/>, [djmiller4000@gmail.com](mailto:djmiller4000@gmail.com), or 386-789-3235.

**North Florida Oakwood University Alumni Chapter** – membership information and event listings for Oakwood alumni in Florida. Details: <http://www.oakwoodalumni.org/>, [oakwoodalumni@gmail.com](mailto:oakwoodalumni@gmail.com), 888-719-7776, or 904-616-1896.

**Florida Hospital DeLand Support Groups** – Florida Hospital DeLand offers a variety of support groups. Details available under the "Support Groups" link in the "Patients and Visitors" box at <http://www.fhdeland.org/>.

**Singles' Ministries Annual New Year's Retreat** – Dec. 30-Jan. 3. Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details: <http://www.asamcf.org/>, [djmiller4000@gmail.com](mailto:djmiller4000@gmail.com), 386-789-3235, [rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com](mailto:rhoda.burrill@floridaconference.com), or 407-644-5000 x136.

**116th Annual Florida Conference Camp Meeting** – March 4-7. New venue: Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>

**Campestre Hispano (Spanish-language Camp Meeting)** – April 15-18. New venue: Camp Kulaqua, High Springs. Details online: <http://www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/>

## Georgia-Cumberland

**Complete calendar online** – [www.gccsda.com](http://www.gccsda.com)

**Homeland Lay Evangelism Training** – Dec. 4-6. Columbus, GA.

**Pathfinder Teen Leadership Training** – Dec. 4-6. Cohutta Springs.

**Prayer Ministries** – Dec. 5. **GCC/SAC Evangelism Rally** – Dec. 5. Atlanta Berean Church. **Stenbakken Christmas Program** – Dec. 5. Alpharetta, GA.

**Roy & Amy Pauley** – Dec. 12. Atlanta Metro Church at 11 a.m./Stone Mountain Church at 5 p.m. Atlanta, GA. Details: 404-289-1748.

**The King's Heralds** – Dec. 12. Atlanta Romanian Church at 11 a.m./Mt. Olive Church at 5 p.m. Atlanta, GA. Dec. 19. Marietta Church at 11 a.m./Atlanta Boulevard Church at 5:30 p.m. Details: 404-289-1748.

**Handel's Messiah Sing-Along** – Dec. 20. Chattanooga First Church.

**Elementary Band Festival Deadline** – Jan. 11.

**Winter Ministers' Meeting** – Jan. 17-19. Cohutta Springs.

**Young in Ministry** – Jan. 19-20. Cohutta Springs.

**Children / Family Ministries Convention** – Jan. 29-31. Cohutta Springs.

**Health Summit** – Jan. 29-Feb. 7. Maitland, FL.

## Gulf States

**Complete Calendar online** – <http://www.gscsda.org>.

**Elders' and Deacons' Meeting** – Dec. 4-6. Camp Alamisco.

**Conference Executive Committee** – Dec. 8. Montgomery, AL.

**Literature Evangelists Retreat** – Jan. 1-3.

**Pathfinder Council** – Jan. 8-10. Camp Alamisco.

**Teen Caving Invitational** – Jan. 22-24.

## Kentucky-Tennessee

**Conference Association Board** Dec. 1. Jan. 26.

**Conference Executive Committee** Dec. 1. Jan. 26.

**Pastors' Meeting** – Jan. 4-7.

**West Tennessee Festival of Faith** – March 6. Memphis, TN.

**Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting** – March 12, 13. Prestonsburg, KY.

**Prayer Conference** – March 19-21. Indian Creek Camp.

**Highland Academy Alumni Weekend** – April 2-4. Honoring classes: 1960, 1985, and 2000; as well as the classes of '45, '55, '65, '70, '75, '80, '90, '95, and '05.

## Southern Adventist University

**Christmas on the Promenade** – Dec. 1.

**School of Music Christmas Concert** – Dec. 12.

**Semester Exams** – Dec. 13-16.

**Christmas Break** – Dec. 17-Jan. 4.

**Online Registration** – Open for new/transfer students continues through Jan. 8.

## Announcements

**Adventist Attorneys and Law Students:** Membership in the Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys is open to all Seventh-day Adventist Attorneys and Law Students. For membership enrollment and additional information, please contact: Southern Society of Adventist Attorneys, PO Box 849, Decatur GA 30031-0849.

**Invitation to Teach in Thailand:** Missionary teachers needed to serve God in the wonderful country of Thailand. Details: [kpergerson@yahoo.com](mailto:kpergerson@yahoo.com).

**Uchee Pines New Lifestyle Center Dedication/40th Anniversary** – Jan. 21-24.

Seale, AL. To RSVP please contact Tari Jenkins at 334-855-4781. Details: [ucleepines.org](http://ucleepines.org)

**Third Annual Adventist Health System CEO Reunion** – Jan. 29, 30. Avon Park, FL. Details, contact: Bill Sager, 863-452-2593, email: [wcsager@tnni.net](mailto:wcsager@tnni.net); or Tom Amos, 863-452-1979, email: [dtamos@gmail.com](mailto:dtamos@gmail.com); or Jim Culpepper, 615-415-1925.

**Union College Homecoming** – April 1-4. Honor classes are 1940, 1950, 1955, 1960, 1970, 1980, 1985, 1990, and 2000. Details: Contact the alumni office at 402-486-2503 or [alumni@ucollege.edu](mailto:alumni@ucollege.edu).



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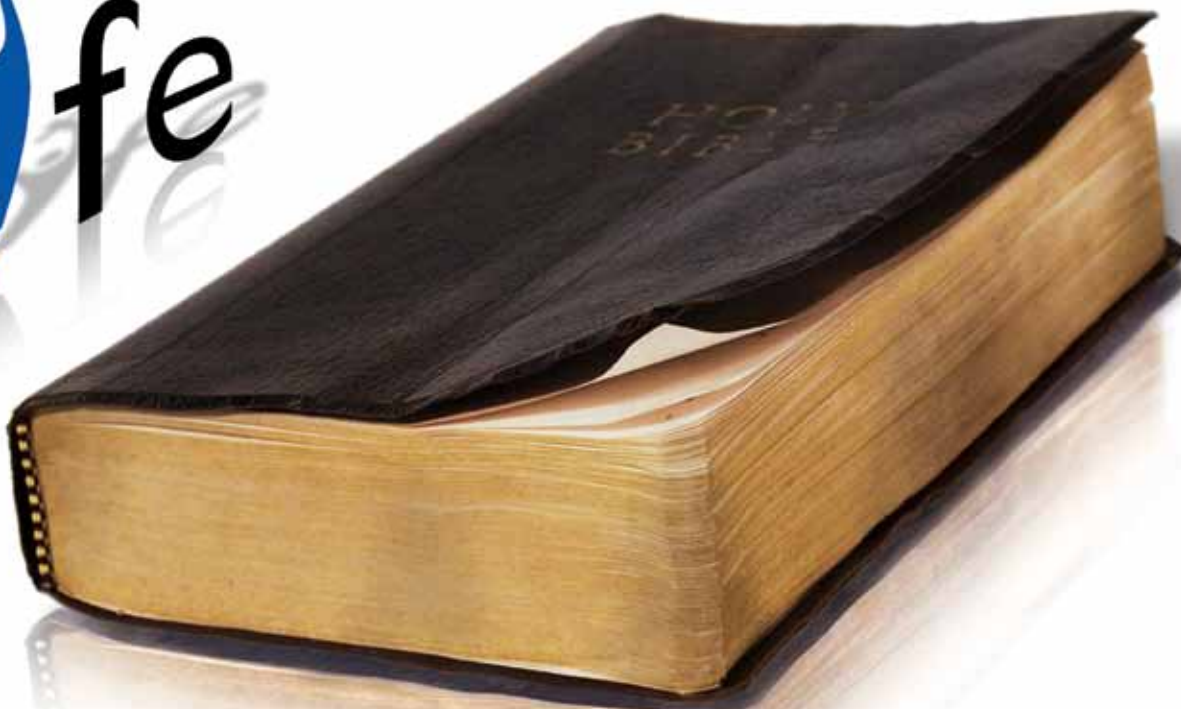
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## Sunset

	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25	Jan. 1	Jan. 8
Atlanta, GA	5:29	5:30	5:32	5:36	5:40	5:45
Charleston, SC	5:13	5:14	5:17	5:20	5:24	5:30
Charlotte, NC	5:11	5:12	5:14	5:17	5:22	5:27
Collegedale, TN	5:28	5:29	5:31	5:35	5:39	5:45
Huntsville, AL	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:42	4:46	4:52
Jackson, MS	4:55	4:56	4:59	5:02	5:06	5:12
Louisville, KY	5:23	5:23	5:25	5:29	5:33	5:39
Memphis, TN	4:48	4:49	4:51	4:54	4:59	5:04
Miami, FL	5:30	5:31	5:34	5:37	5:41	5:46
Montgomery, AL	4:40	4:41	4:43	4:47	4:51	4:56
Nashville, TN	4:32	4:33	4:35	4:39	4:43	4:49
Orlando, FL	5:29	5:30	5:32	5:36	5:40	5:45
Wilmington, NC	5:02	5:03	5:05	5:08	5:13	5:18



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Aug. 22 - Sep. 19

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