


December 2015

TSOUTHERN IDINGS



20
years

WOMEN'S
MINISTRIES
1995-2015



A Ministry for Every Woman



The Church, a Center for Healing

You may have noticed that Jesus often talked with people surrounding their personal issues, and He frequently met with small groups. Chief among these was the little band of disciples whom he prepared to “take over” after His ascension into Heaven. It was during one of these times with the disciples that Jesus first mentioned the Church.

In the years that followed, it was this Church of Jesus Christ that continued His ministry of teaching, evangelizing, ministering, and counseling. These activities were not seen as the special responsibility of “superstar” Church leaders; they were done by ordinary believers working, sharing, and caring, both for each other and for the nonbelievers outside the body. Just a cursory reading of the book of Acts crystalizes the fact that the Church was not only an evangelizing teaching, discipling center — it was also a healing center.

Healing communities are groups of people characterized by intense commitment to the group and by a common interest in healing, counseling, behavioral, or spiritual maladies. Within recent years, mental health professionals have come to see the value of therapeutic groups in which group members help each other by providing support, challenge, guidance, and encouragement that might not be possible otherwise. Of course such groups can be harmful, especially when they become uncontrolled encounters that seek to criticize and embarrass the participants, instead of building them up or challenging them to openness and more effective behavior. If conducted by a sensitive Christian, however, group sessions can be very effective therapeutic experiences for all people involved.

Such therapeutic groups need not be limited to the counseled meeting with each other and with a trained counselor. Families, Bible study groups, trusted friends, professional colleagues, employee groups, and other small bands of people often provide the help that is needed, both in times of crisis and as individuals face the daily challenges of living. In all of society, however, the Church has the greatest potential for being a therapeutic-healing community. Local bodies of believers can bring a sense of belonging to members, support to those who feel weak, healing to troubled individuals, and guidance as people make decisions and move toward maturity.

It is sad that many contemporary churches seem to be little more than listless groups of rigid people who never admit to having needs or problems, who attend uninspiring services out of habit, and who leave most of the work to an overburdened pastor. Such a picture may be overstated, but for many people the local church is largely meaningless, not very helpful, and far from the dynamic growth-producing fellowship that Christ intended it to be.

Why was the Church begun? Surely the answer lies in Jesus’ final words to His followers before He went back to Heaven: “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I will be with you always, to the very end of the age.”

The true Church has always been headed by Jesus Christ, who showed us how to evangelize and teach, who by His life and instruction pointed us to the practical as well as the theoretical aspects of Christianity, and who summarized His teaching in two laws: love God and love others.

All of this is meant to take place within the confines of a group of believers, each of whom has been granted the gifts and abilities needed to build up the Church. May God grant the resourcefulness to your local church to be an effective center for healing.



Ron C. Smith,
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*President of the
Southern Union
Conference*

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Contents

FEATURES



Women's Ministries: 20
Years of Ministering
to the Heart

4



United in Mission

8



Prayers Answered
in the Restroom

12



God Keeps
His Promises

13



Music Minister Conducts
Chattanooga Benefit

14



Pre-Kindergarten Program
Helps School Thrive

15

NEWS

16 Carolina
18 Florida
20 Georgia-Cumberland
22 Gulf States
24 Kentucky-Tennessee
26 South Atlantic
28 South Central
30 Oakwood University
31 Southern Adventist University

32 Obituaries
36 Classified Advertising
38 Announcements
39 Events Calendar



Women's Ministries: 20 Years of Ministering to the Heart

BY ALVA JAMES-JOHNSON

Southern Union dynamic women's ministries leadership team: Nicolle Brisé (seated, right), Southeastern; Mary Jo Dubs, Georgia-Cumberland; Laura Smith, Southern Union; Yolanda Smith, Southern Union advisor; Debbie Rapp (standing, right), Carolina; Shirley Scott, South Central; April Hobbs, Gulf States; Gail McKenzie, Kentucky-Tennessee; and Sylvia Wilson, South Atlantic. Not shown: Sheryal Vandenberghe, Florida; and Bonnie Davidson, Southern Union assistant advisor.

As women's ministries director for the Southeastern Conference in Mt. Dora, Florida, Nicolle Brisé asked God to give her a project that would win souls for Christ. Her prayer led to a "One Vision One Mission" evangelism campaign that yielded 600 baptisms.

"We gave out 150,000 *Steps to Christ* to churches in Miami and surrounding areas," said Brisé, who launched the project about a year ago. "We also gave them 150,000 surveys and 150,000 applications for Bible studies, and the churches distributed them in their neighborhoods."

The churches, under the guidance of the Southeastern Women's

Ministries Department, also held evangelistic meetings and participated in an anti-domestic violence rally, along with other community-oriented events. The campaign culminated in mid-October 2015, when nearly 4,000 members of the Southeastern Conference met in Miami to celebrate God's harvest during the first nine months of the year.

"I do believe that the mission of every department of the church is to win souls," said Brisé, "and that's what women's ministries is all about."

Twenty years have passed since delegates voted to grant women's ministries full departmental status at the 1995 General Conference Ses-

sion held in Utrecht, Netherlands; and, evangelism projects such as the one launched in Miami reveal how much female-focused initiatives have evolved within the past two decades.

"When women's ministries started, the idea was women helping women inside the Church," said Laura Smith, women's ministries director for the Southern Union. "And so, there were the women's retreats, women's teas, and women's prayer groups. It was more of an internal ministry."

"However, in more recent years we have seen that it's important to reach beyond ourselves to the larger community," Smith explained.

“And in doing so, we’ve nurtured, empowered, and equipped women for outreach.”

The denomination’s Women’s Ministries Department grew out of an effort that began in 1983 when the North American Division Women’s Commission was founded under the Office of Human Relations. In 1984 The Southern Union appointed Norwida Marshall, Ph.D., to serve as its first women’s commissioner, followed by Rosa Banks, Ed.D., and Ramona Perez Greek, Ph.D., according to Smith. In 1998 the Union held a town hall meeting in Collegedale, Tennessee, which drew women commissioners from the Union’s eight conferences.

“They were charged with the responsibility to dialogue and discuss answers to two pressing issues,” said Smith. “How can the Church better serve women, and how can women better serve the Church?” As a result, the commissioners returned to their conferences inspired to organize a committee of women in each local conference to begin planning ways to foster unity and spiritual growth for all women.”

Southern Union Christian Women’s Retreats began in 1989, and Evie VandeVere was elected to serve as the Union’s first women’s ministries director in 1990. She held the position until 1997, under the slogan, “The Spirit of God Hovers over Women’s Ministries.”

In 1995, the year women’s ministries became an official department within the denomination, the Church celebrated “The Year of the Adventist Woman,” focusing on women in ministry, women in abusive situations, and those in need of literacy.



Norwida Marshall, Ph.D.



Ramona Perez Greek, Ph.D.



Rosa Banks, Ed.D.



Evie VandeVere

From there, Union-wide activities began to increase.

In the Southern Union, VandeVere’s leadership was followed by Ann Pendleton, who served from 1997 to 2003; and then Laura Smith, who has served from 2003 to present. Smith’s focus has been “A Ministry for Every Woman.”

“The department has been intentional about encouraging women to utilize their gifts, natural abilities, and talents to share the love of Jesus with women in the Church and with women in the larger community,” Smith



Ann Pendleton



Laura Smith

said. “Women have been encouraged and challenged to ‘Reach Up,’ ‘Reach Out,’ and ‘Reach In.’ The Reach Up is a personal vertical reach to God through worship, prayer, the study of His Word, and meditation. The Reach Out is a horizontal reach to share the saving love of Jesus Christ with those around us through modeling Christian lifestyles, friendships, and public evangelism. The Reach In is an inward reach to support and strengthen women members through discipleship, nurture, and fellowship.”

Smith said women are uniquely designed by God to touch people’s lives in tangible ways. “Women by nature are nurturers and they have a sensitivity, and they share common

interests, common needs,” she explained. “And because of that, they are better able to minister. Sister (Ellen G.) White references that we can come close to the hearts of women and the family, and do a work that the men cannot do.”

She added, “And when the women in the families are ministered to, then the whole family is ministered to. If mommy isn’t happy, then nobody is happy — so we make the woman of the home the focus of ministry.”

One way women’s ministries has served women in the community is through ENDITNOW, which is a denomination-wide campaign against abuse and violence in all of its forms. Smith points out that one

out of six women in American is a victim of an attempted or completed rape in her lifetime, and five women a week are murdered by a male partner or family member.

To respond to such sobering statistics, conferences in the Southern Union have held training sessions for first responders, victims, pastors, and administrators. Women’s ministries directors and leaders have organized rallies with participation from more than 1,400 men, women, and children who have marched to “Break the Silence” and create an awareness about abuse.

“Each conference in the Union sponsors from one to four area or conference spiritual retreats annually,” Smith said. Every five years, the Union, in collaboration with the eight conference directors, plans and organizes a Union-wide convention or event to affirm and encourage women in their faith journey. Attendance at Union-wide events has exceeded 3,500 people.

“The women’s ministries conference directors are a dynamic group of women who bring vitality and creativity to their mission,” Smith said. “They also aim to mentor and groom younger women for ministry.” In 2015, the South Central Conference conducted Academy 31 for young women ages 13 to 17, where they learned principles of virtue, self-worth, public speaking, building relationships, and Christian service.

The South Atlantic Conference initiated SHE, a ministry designed especially for young adult women ages 25-45. A separate retreat was held for them during the 2015 Women’s Retreat in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Other initiatives focus on catering to people in need. Mary Jo Dubs, women’s ministries director for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference in Calhoun, Georgia, launched a program called God in Shoes, which started as an effort to collect shoes for impoverished women living in the Appalachian Mountains. It is now a nationwide effort adopted by women’s ministries across the denomination to serve people in



homeless shelters, senior centers, and other facilities.

Georgia-Cumberland also conducts a camp called S'More (Single Moms of Real Excellence), which provides single mothers and their children with a free weekend retreat sponsored by the ministry.

"I often like to think of women's ministries as following the example that Jesus gave in ministry," Smith said. "We have to connect with people. We have to minister to their needs, and then we can help point them to Jesus Christ and to Kingdom building. The Holy Spirit continues

to hover over women's ministries in the Southern Union; it's a ministry for every woman." ❖

Alva James-Johnson is a reporter and columnist at the Ledger-Enquirer in Columbus, Georgia. For more of her writing, visit www.facebook.com/AlvaJamesJohnsonLedger.





Nilton García (right), Gulf States Conference Hispanic ministries director, stands with the baptized members from Tampa Grace Hispanic Church in Tampa, Florida.

"The owner of a large mill once found his superintendent in a wheel-pit making some simple repairs, while a half-dozen workmen in that line were standing by idly looking on. The proprietor, after learning the facts to be sure that no injustice was done, called the foreman to his office and handed him his discharge with full pay. In surprise the foreman asked for an explanation. It was given in these words: 'I employed you to keep six men at work. I found the six idle, and you doing the work of but one. Your work could have been done just as well by any one of the six. I cannot afford to pay the wages of seven for you to teach the six how to be idle,'" *Gospel Workers*, 197.3-198.1.

"In some respects the pastor occupies a position similar to that of the foreman of a gang of laboring men or the captain of a ship's crew. They are expected to see that the men over whom they are set, do the work assigned to them correctly and promptly, and only in case of emergency

are they to execute in detail," *Gospel Workers*, 197.2.

"In laboring where there are already some in the faith, the minister should at first seek not so much to convert unbelievers, as to train the church members for acceptable cooperation Greater success will attend his efforts," *Gospel Workers*, 196.2.

So much wisdom is in these inspired words! They clearly describe the heavenly vision of the work God has called the Church to do. It has eternal consequences not only for those people brought into the flock, but also for those who work on the endeavor. The Apostle Paul, talking about Jesus' second coming, said, "Therefore my beloved brethren be ye steadfast unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord," 1 Corinthians 15: 5. There is no readiness without labor. Labor comes from the true loving relation between the believer and Jesus Christ, that is the result of a deep study of the Word and a constant attitude of prayer.

This is the vision that the Southern Union Conference Hispanic Ministries Department is trying to instill in its pastors and church members. It is the reason why, during the first part of the year, they organized a mega training session with the attendance of nearly 3,000 lay people. They not only participated in seminars and workshops, but also received materials to help in the work to be done in the different areas of the territory, led by the local pastors. The eight conferences engaged with great enthusiasm. Church members and local pastors worked hard in unity to see great results.

In Tampa, Florida, for an example, 17 churches from the Florida and Southeastern conferences took part in the training at the beginning of the year, and then worked in the preparation of the soil, and participated in the reaping crusade held in September. The experience was marvelous. The Hispanic coordinators from the eight conferences, and Jorge Mayer and

Roger Hernández from the Southern Union, with pastors from the Florida Conference and other territories, presented the Gospel along with the many trained church members.

Nilton Garcia, Gulf States Conference Hispanic ministries coordinator, shared his experience: "Initially, we had to face many challenges we did not expect. From the human point of view, it didn't look like there were going to be any baptisms in the congregation we had been assigned to. Nevertheless, we knew this was not our campaign but the Lord's, so we placed ourselves in His hands and let Him work His miracle. I preached two Bible-study like sermons each night. With my wife and two daughters, I gave Bible studies, made house calls during the day and in the evening after the meetings. Every morning at 4:30, we had devotion and prayed with the local members, and guests asked for the guidance and outpouring of the Holy Spirit. To increase and establish a good attendance, Sarita, my wife, and our daughters sent text messages and made phone calls inviting people to the meetings. The Holy Spirit was manifested in a special way. Over 30 people gave their hearts to the Lord Jesus through baptism by the end of that week."

Church Members' Testimonies

"What I enjoyed the most during this campaign, was the energy put into the decision-making process. On the first day, pastor García and his wife started visiting those people that had shown interest in the Lord in the past, but had never made a decision. The Holy Spirit was clearly present during the whole week, touching the hearts of people like Luis Enrique. His conversion was a real miracle. Knowing his story and seeing him going into the baptismal waters was really inspiring. Thirty-two people found the Truth, and were freed from the enemy's chains. Gathering every morning to pray was a real blessing to me personally. It was wonderful to be able to listen to God's voice first thing in the morning. The devotionals were of great impact to our lives. We were united in one

Spirit, and felt the love for the souls. It is our prayer the path initiated that week will be the one we walk for the rest of our lives," said Domilco Heredia.

"I personally witnessed several miracles during that week. The first one took place in my spiritual life. At the beginning of the campaign, I had no idea of the impact it was going to have. I was renewed, and had an amazing encounter with the Lord. I also watched closely the works of the Holy Spirit helping people as they struggled with their own problems that seemed to prevent them from making a decision, but came out victorious. I saw others requesting

about Jesus through Bible studies. In the Southeastern Conference the number of people who gave their lives to Jesus since the beginning of this initiative was 185, and 17 continue to study the Bible.

"Let church-members during the week act their part faithfully, and on the Sabbath tell their experiences. The meeting will then be as meat in due season, bringing to all present new life and fresh vigor. When God's people see the great need of working as Christ worked for the conversion of sinners, the testimonies borne by them in the Sabbath services will be filled with power. With joy they will bear witness to the preciousness of the experience



Roger Alvarez, Southeastern Conference Hispanic ministries director, led the dedication prayer for the baptism of a family at Brandon Spanish Church in Florida. Local pastor, Cecilio Perez, baptizes the candidates.

Bible studies to get baptized in the near future. It was interesting to notice that the Holy Spirit does not limit His work to adults only. A little girl who attended all the meetings drew a picture of her family standing together while she held her father with one hand, and with the other, the pastor's hand as he baptized her. She is getting ready for baptism now. My faith was highly strengthened by this experience of laboring in the winning of souls," said Dinorah Heredia.

The total baptisms at Florida Conference since the beginning of the year, including the September reaping crusade, were 254. In addition, 202 responded to the call of knowing more

they have gained in working for others," *Gospel Workers*, 199:4.

In the Kentucky-Tennessee, South Central, and Gulf States conferences, the campaign had a different approach. Evangelist Alejandro Bullón held a reaping crusade in the city of Memphis in August. It was available via the Internet to many different locations thanks to the help of the Southern Union Information Systems and Communication departments. They worked hard to make everything run impeccably. The members in this area had prepared the soil since the beginning of the year, and the reaping was a little more than 170 souls giving their hearts to the Christ in that week. The membership increase in the par-

ticipating churches represented a 48 percent increase during that period.

The Gulf States territory had a unique way of working through the whole process. Nilton Garcia, at the beginning of the year, requested that all the pastors and key members of the Gulf States territory be permitted to participate in the presentation of the plan. The team had a clear understanding that nothing can be done without God's help, so prayer was key in the whole process.

On the first Sunday of each month, a phone line was set up to have a prayer conference call led by Jorge Mayer. On the second Sunday, García was the leader, and on the third and fourth Sundays, the local pastors led the calls. Every Sabbath morning, members would get together at their churches to continue praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The members were highly motivated to give Bible studies and visit people to share the Gospel of salvation. The materials distributed during the training session at the beginning of the year were very important tools in this stage of the plan. To reinforce the work, Gulf States invited 12 seminary students from the Dominican Republic. Every Sunday after the prayer session, the students would gather with the local pastors and church members to motivate, share experiences, and review objectives. The number of Bible studies given during this effort was more than 750, and resulted in 256 baptisms in the Gulf States territory.

In the Carolina, Georgia Cumberland, and South Atlantic conferences, 120 new believers were added to the Church since the beginning of the year.

In addition to the training, the Internet campaign in Memphis, Tennessee, and the reaping crusade in Tampa, 21 Hispanic pastors from the Southern Union territory and four Hispanic coordinators participated in a one-week reaping crusade in Argentina. Their work was remarkable. During the day and in the evenings after the campaign, they gave Bible studies and made house calls. They went by public transportation or taxi to wherever there was a soul who needed to hear the Good News of salvation; if there were no vehicles available to drive them,



Miguel Tirado, Georgia-Cumberland Conference Hispanic ministries director, baptizes one of seven in the bay because Palmetto Spanish Church portable pool did not work.

they would walk. The president of the Austral Union highlighted his admiration for the commitment to evangelism the pastors showed. He expressed his desire of having more of them back next year, if possible, to inspire church members and pastors in that territory. The Southern Union Hispanic Ministries Department is proud of the ministers and coordinators who participated in this initiative.

"I have read of a man who, journeying on a winter's day through deep drifts of snow, became benumbed by the cold, which was almost imperceptibly freezing his vital powers. He was nearly chilled to death, and was about to give up the struggle for life, when he heard the moans of a fellow-traveler, who was also perishing with cold. His sympathy was aroused, and he determined to rescue him. He chafed the ice-cold limbs of the unfortunate man, and

after considerable effort raised him to his feet. As the sufferer could not stand, he bore him in sympathizing arms through the very drifts he had thought he could never get through alone.

"When he had carried his fellow-traveler to a place of safety, the truth flashed home to him that in saving his neighbor he had also saved himself. His earnest efforts to help another had quickened the blood that was freezing in his own veins, and sent a healthy warmth to the extremities of his body.

"The lesson that in helping others we ourselves receive help, must be urged upon young believers continually, by precept and example, that in their Christian experience they may gain the best results," *Gospel Workers*, 198,199. ♪

Mariel Lombardi is the SURF customer service and accounts manager at the Southern Union in Norcross, Georgia.



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Prayers Answered in the Restroom

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI

Armando Estrada graduated in the spring of 2015. The scholarship and grant checks stopped coming, replaced by the bills for years of student loans. It was time to get a job, and he applied himself diligently. He sent more than 100 resumes, but received little more than advertisements for staffing agencies as replies. Armando's specific job requirements seemed to limit his search — he requested Sabbaths off, time to devote to the Army which had partially paid for his studies, time to continue his education, and a salary according to his needs.

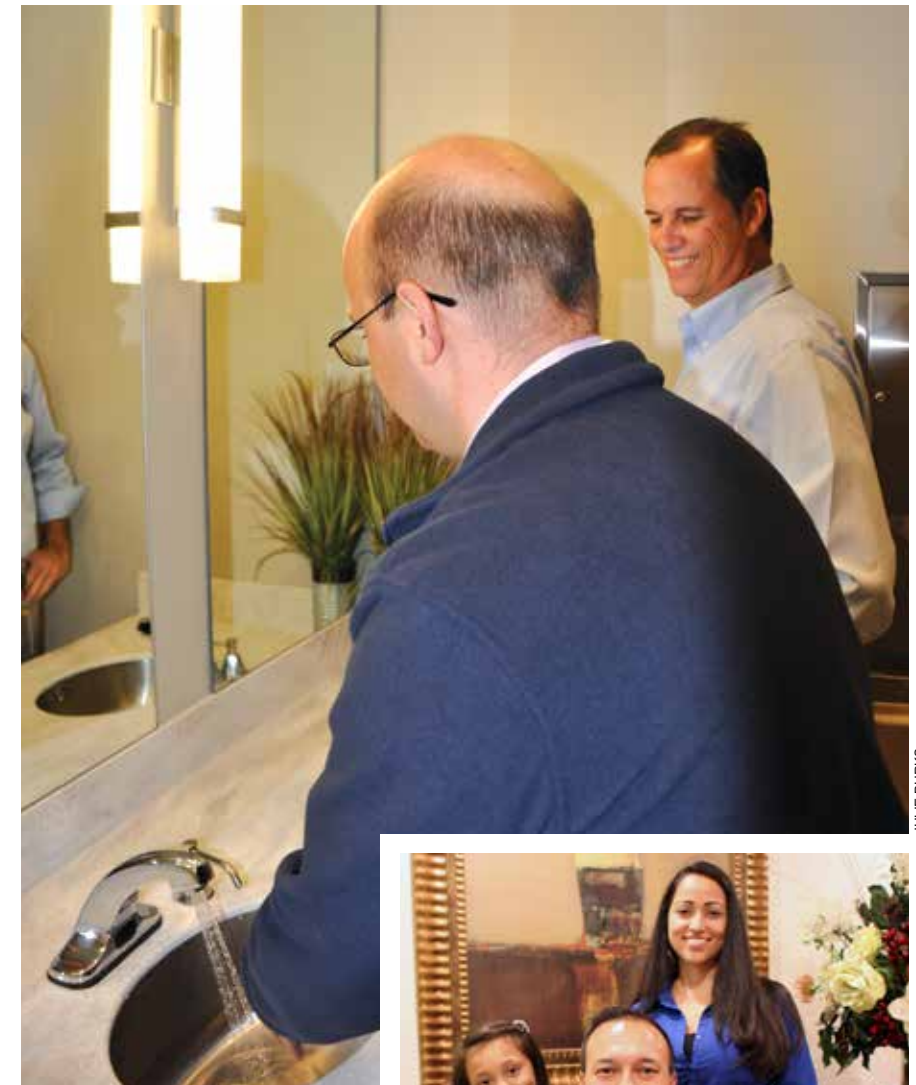
It was August, and he'd had no success. He needed to provide for his family, and a job which did not seem to exist. His dream of starting a career seemed more like a struggle.

One Sabbath, as Armando sat in Atlanta's First Hispanic Church with his wife, he heard a testimony on how God had helped a fellow church member with his financial problems after he decided to place his trust in Him. Moved by the story, Armando prayed silently, "Lord, please find me a job. I will lower my standards and accept whatever you give me, and I promise that my first paycheck will be for You."

Once at home, he felt it had been unfair to make a promise that involved his salary without asking his wife first, since his money was his wife's, too, so he decided to tell her.

She listened to him calmly, and replied, "I prayed almost the same prayer, but I asked God to give you a job with all the requirements you need." What a comfort those words were to him. She had always been supportive.

Because they live far from the church, Armando and his wife do not usually attend the evening events, but that Sabbath



JULIE BURKS

they decided to do so. After the program was over, Armando went to the restroom where he found Merlin Mejia, a friend he had not seen in four years. They started to catch up, and Armando told him about his recent graduation and his search for a job.

"What did you do for the Army?" his friend asked. Armando told him, and to his surprise, Merlin said, "That is exactly what my company is looking for. Even more, my boss asked me to find someone from my church, because he wants someone he can rely on."

Armando could not believe his ears. Without delay, he presented his resume. He immediately was called for an interview, and got the job.

"It was in the restroom, far from my computer or the 100 resumes, where I found a job," said Armando. I could see clearly that it was God and only God. He



OLGA GONZALEZ

Armando Estrada with his wife and children

did not give me just any job, He got me everything I needed."

Armando and his wife happily gave the first paycheck to the church. The Lord does not need their money, He just needed Armando's trust. The promise Armando and his wife made was a token of it. Once God has His children's trust, He never disappoints them. ✨

Mariel Lombardi is the SURF customer service and accounts manager at the Southern Union.



GIANNA SNELL



God Keeps His Promises

BY STEVEN CAZA


“Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse ... and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it,” Malachi 3:10.

What an amazing offer — the privilege of giving 10 percent to receive more blessings than can be contained. The members are seeing it. The Raleigh Church in Memphis, Tennessee, has been giving and is thriving. Service is up, tithe is up, offerings are up, and joy is up. God is keeping His promise.

I am blessed to pastor a large-hearted church. Without the heart, the entire tithes and offerings amount to mere monetary increases; however, heart plus financial support to fund outreach and in-reach

make for excellence. Our members use their spiritual gifts in Pathfinders, prison ministries, CARE groups, community services, prayer line, monthly health classes, Discover Bible School, social events, women’s shelter ministries, women’s mid-week Bible study, 3ABN downlink, and an excellent Sabbath School for young and mature.

God has given strength, guidance, and His Spirit. Prisoners are hearing the Gospel and completing correspondence Bible studies; seekers are joining the CARE groups; members are praying, studying and sharing; 3ABN viewers are walking in and staying. The Memphis shelter is asking for more of Raleigh Church’s services. Members are stepping forward to serve their Savior. We are so blessed, words cannot

express it. Jesus is in our midst, and that is the sweetest blessing! 

Steven Caza is the pastor of Raleigh Church in Memphis, Tennessee.





Harry Connick Jr. (left, on piano), with Richard Hickam conducting, performs at a benefit concert for the four Marines and a Navy sailor killed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, this past July. The event raised more than \$400,000.

Music Minister Conducts Chattanooga Benefit

BY TAMI CINQUEMANI

A young man opened fire on two military installations in Chattanooga, Tennessee, on July 16, 2015. Four Marines and a Navy sailor were killed, and a Marine recruiter and a police officer were wounded. This tragic event touched the lives of many, most intensely the victims and their families.

In an effort to honor the victims and support the families, the community of Chattanooga organized a benefit concert at Coolidge Park on Wednesday, September 16, 2015. Actor and former Chattanooga resident Samuel L. Jackson served as the emcee for this event that raised more than \$400,000.

Andy Berke, Chattanooga mayor, asked Harry Connick Jr. to attend and sing the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father Strong to Save." When Connick agreed, he wanted a new arrangement composed that would include himself (vocals and piano), his nine-piece band, strings, and chorus. This arrangement would require the direction of a skilled orchestra leader.

Those on the organizing team for the event were familiar with the East Tennessee Symphony Orchestra (ETSO), and reached out to its director and current Florida Hospital Church minister of music, Richard Hickam.

According to Hickam, "Being from Chattanooga and observing the tragedy from a distance, when I was offered a tangible way to assist the families, it was an easy personal decision. My wife, Darlene, and my senior pastor, Andy McDonald, also thought that this was a rare opportunity and gave me the go-ahead." Hickam previously spent 10 years serving as the band and orchestra director for Collegedale Academy.

Hickam received the score for the hymn a few days before the benefit took place. With the help of ETSO concert master Rhonda Burnham, a string section was assembled (Connick travels with a big band, not typically strings), and the intense preparation began.

Roughly 80,000 people attended some portion of the event that cel-



Richard Hickam talks with Samuel L. Jackson, event emcee and actor.

brated the pride and patriotism of the community of Chattanooga. When asked how he saw this experience as an extension of his full-time ministry, Hickam said, "1 Peter 4:10 commends us to 'use whatever gift you have received to serve others.' The funds raised and the sentiment of community unity behind these families shows that God can always make something good come out of a tragedy." ❖



Pre-Kindergarten Program Helps School Thrive

BY REBECCA GRICE

Kindergarten children proudly hold their self-portraits. Their teacher, Melissa Aldridge, stands with them.

Eagerness might be the best way to describe the 18 pre-K and kindergarten students who attend the Adventist Christian Academy (ACA) in Panama City, Florida. Some students look up and smile when they see me, the woman with the camera, enter their classroom. As I walk quietly by their tables, they enthusiastically show me what they are working on. It doesn't take long to conclude that these four- and five-year-olds love their school.

The student's eagerness to learn is surpassed only by that of teacher Melissa Aldridge's zeal to teach them. Aldridge, who had 20 years of experience teaching in public school before she began teaching at ACA two years ago, says, "I love teaching here! In public school I felt my hands were tied—I could tell my students about the Golden Rule, but I couldn't tell them about Jesus. Now I can share Jesus with my students every day."

Two thirds of the children who attend the pre-kindergarten class are from the community, and are not members of the Adventist church. They attend as a result of Florida's Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) program. Most of the pre-K students continue to attend through kindergarten. Now parents, with their students, choose to continue sending their children to ACA. As a result, the school is seeing an increase in enrollment in

their 1st through 8th grade classes.

A few years ago the school was struggling and enrollment was declining. Kenneth Swaine, chairman of the School Board, says, "That's when we decided to rededicate the school as a ministry vehicle to reach the community. Once the school was committed to ministry, the Lord starting blessing us." Now the school has become a major part of evangelism and outreach for the church. The children hear Bible stories and learn about Jesus. They go home and tell their parents what they have learned, and the parents become interested in learning more. In addition, the school plans events throughout the year for the parents to attend. At these events the parents meet the pastor and have an opportunity to sign up for Bible studies. As a result, four adults have been baptized and several others have requested baptism. Two of the individuals baptized were Ken and Melissa Aldridge. Melissa is now the pre-K and kindergarten teacher. She became interested in the church after she enrolled her son in the pre-K program at ACA.

It has taken hard work, prayer, and dedication to attain the success the school is experiencing. Eighteen children are enrolled in the pre-K and kindergarten program, and there's a waiting list. Sandra Pinkard, ACA principal and teacher for 5th through 8th grades, saw the possibility of



Cristine Surginer, teacher's aid, helps a student.

becoming a part of the VPK program when Maquel Shurtleff, teacher for 1st through 4th grades, mentioned it to her. One of the requirements for the school to become a VPK facility was the administrator must be a certified child care center director, which meant that Pinkard would need to take 45 hours of classwork. In spite of all her other responsibilities, she accepted the challenge and plunged ahead; God had given a vision of what the school could become, and nothing would stop her.

Swaine declares, "This is a miracle. Good things are happening for our school and church because of our school evangelism program." Evidence of this occurred October 29, 2015, when the school held an open house and spaghetti supper: of 90 people who attended, 70 were not church members. Larry Owens, Panama City Church pastor, gave a devotional. ☯

Carolina Conference Participates in South Carolina Disaster Relief Response



South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley (standing, center) thanked the Adventist Community Services team from the Carolinas who were in her state on October 20, 2015, to distribute supplies to those affected by local flooding.

In early October of 2015, many areas in central South Carolina suffered devastating historic flooding.

The Carolina Conference Adventist Disaster Response (ADR) Department swung into action.

They established a warehouse in Lugoff, S.C., to begin stockpiling donations from organizations

across the Carolinas. The state government supplies the warehouse and equipment, and they also work with FEMA and other organizations to acquire the goods needed. They then channel the donations to the ADR warehouse, where Carolina volunteers sort and organize the items. From there, organizations



Nikki Haley, South Carolina governor, and Leslie Louis, Carolina Conference president

who are vetted by the state, such as the Red Cross and area churches, come to the warehouse for items to distribute.

“At first it’s all about immediate needs — blankets, water, diapers, cleaning supplies, and things like that,” said Phil Rosburg, director of disaster response for the Carolina

and organizers of the relief effort, including members of the ADR team and two members of the Carolina Conference administrative team, President Leslie Louis and Undertreasurer Chad Grundy. Haley expressed her appreciation for the hard work they had already done, and what they were committed to doing in the future. “This means a lot to me,” she said, “that you would give so much of your time to help our state recover.”

They still need your donations. Visit the Conference website to donate,



Conference. “After a few weeks we’ll start seeing construction materials come through for the rebuilding process. As the needs change, we’ll be here to help.”

On October 20, South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley met with volunteers

or visit www.sccmd.org to view a list of items that are still needed.

“Whatever you do unto the least of these, you have done it unto me,” Matthew 25:40.

—BY COURTNEY HEROD

Camp Meetings Convene in Eastern Carolina



BECKY CARPENTER

Pavel Goia

Two Camp Meeting Sabbaths sponsored by the Carolina Conference were held in October. Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting was held on October 17, in Greenville, N.C., and the following weekend, October 24, Low Country Camp Meeting took place in Summerville, S.C.

The focus of these

events centered around the theme for this year, "On Our Knees." With events happening in the world — natural disasters, terrorism, war, political tension and much more — the need to be constantly in prayer with the Protector and Savior is even more urgent.

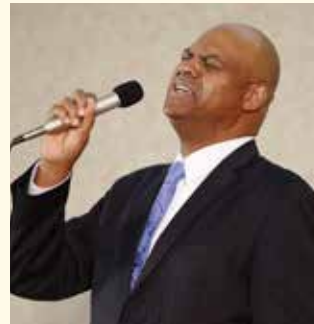
At Greenville, the featured speaker was Ivan Williams, D.Min., North American Division ministerial association director. His presentation centered around spiritual leadership.

Pavel Goia, pastor of the Lexington, K.Y., Church, spoke at Summerville. He painted a beautiful picture of the blessing and power that comes from a true,



CAPOLE LOUIS

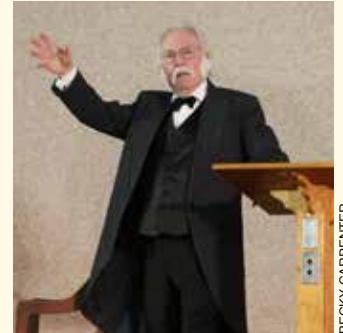
Ivan and Katbleen Williams



BECKY CARPENTER

Michael Harris

real connection with Christ. Knowing Him is far different from knowing about Him.



BECKY CARPENTER

Richard Garey

Inspiration through music was brought by recording artist Michael Harris.

A special afternoon treat came in the form of Joseph Bates, portrayed by Richard Garey. His insight into the mindset and mission of our early church members, inspired viewers to continue with a single-minded effort to advance the Gospel.

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

Two Women's Retreats Overcome Rainy Weather



BECKY CARPENTER

The promise of sisterly love, spiritual renewal, and physical rest was enough to motivate nearly 1,000 women from all around the Carolina Conference to slough through rainy, fall weather to attend two women's retreats this past October at Nosoca Pines

Ranch in Liberty Hill, S.C.

Even the promise of torrential rain didn't hold them back from attending the Hispanic retreat held October 2-4. That same week, flooding in nearby counties crippled transportation and decimated homes and businesses, but the women were determined to hear the messages prepared for them. Evelyn Omana and Katherine Hernandez were featured as the weekend speakers: Omana reminded the women that they have to sit daily at Jesus' feet, and Hernandez shared how to deal with stress accord-

ing to the Bible. Other activities and topics included "Oils of the Bible," "How to Speak in Public," "Exercise," and a contest of swimsuits from the 20s and 30s.

When it was time for the English retreat the following weekend, October 9-11, the umbrellas still lined the walkways, but inside it was a flower garden full of Son-shine. The women were treated to several amusing and spiritually-fulfilling presentations by Jan Yakush. She



BECKY CARPENTER

not only share the Word of God, she taught it.

Said one attendee, "These ladies want to be trained and equipped to meet every challenge, and they know the only way to do that is by connecting to the Lord and each other. This retreat gives us the chance to do just that!"

—BY BECKY CARPENTER

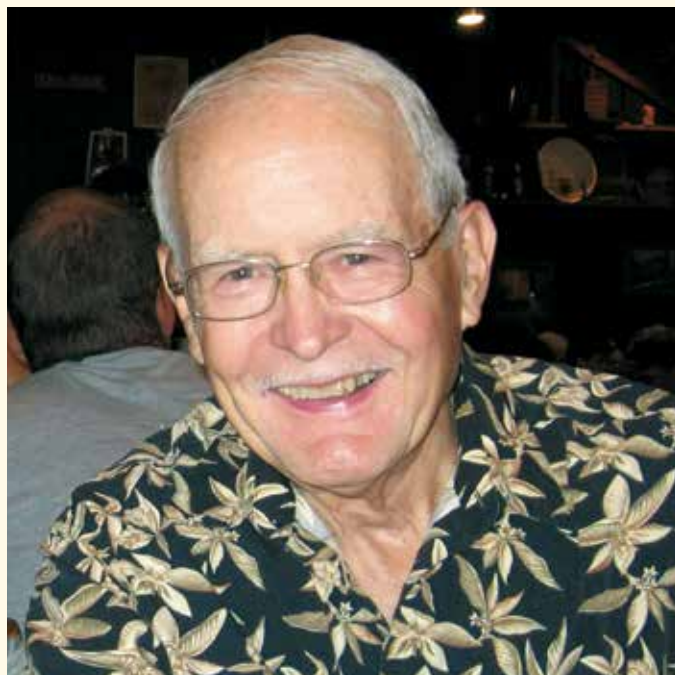
Communicators Reflect on a Godly Man

Pardon us for allowing our feelings to show through as we take a moment of reflection for a colleague ...

One of our Florida Conference communication team members has written his last article, sent his last e-mail, and shared his last story. Herbert Warren Pritchard passed away August 28, 2015.

From an administrative career with the denomination to his personal appearance, he was meticulous in every detail. He would take this same attribute and put it to good use when he began to write as the communication director for Ocala Church. His first byline appeared in *Southern Tidings* in April 1999, and his last article for the September 2015 issue was in production at the time of his unexpected death.

A wordsmith by skill, Herb's writings reflected his love for young people



BETTY KOSSICK

Herbert Warren Pritchard, 1928-2015, represented Ocala Church as a communicator for 16 years.

and their involvement in ministry. His last article in *Florida Focus*, entitled "Ocala Youth Catch the Vision to Serve," merited a place on the back cover of the Spring 2015 issue's Generation Change feature.

Reflections from some of the people who knew him best:

- "Kindness, developed through a true Christian spirit, is what we remember most about Herb." *John Kossick* (a friend from boyhood) and his wife, Betty.
- "His gentleness was so reflective of another great man, Jesus! No wonder he was always smiling when I saw him." *Doreen Negley*, friend
- "He would always have the right Scripture when you were feeling down or discouraged, and remind you to give thanks in times of gladness." *Brandon Clarke*, grandson
- "Herb always made sure his family was loved, that they knew of God, and that he

would always be there for them. He was a true patriarch of the family." *Stacy Wetmore*, granddaughter. Herb's writings live on through the archives of *Florida Focus* and *Southern Tidings*. His Christian example lives on through the numerous people, young and old, he encouraged throughout the years. A more detailed story of his life is given on the obituary page.

—BY GLADYS NEIGEL



LEE BENNETT

Herb Pritchard (left) assists with a photography segment during Florida Conference's Communication Training Workshop in 2006.



BETTY KOSSICK

Herb and his wife, Judy

Winter Haven Clubs Hold Induction Ceremony



Earleen Recass (left), Winter Haven Cherubs director; Lisa Gary, volunteer Adventurer ministries coordinator; and some of the inductees and parents

On a special Sabbath in September, an induction ceremony for the Cher-

ubs Adventurer Club and Warriors Pathfinder Club took place in the Winter

Haven, Fla., Church. This ceremony united inductees into fellowship with Florida Conference Pathfinders, as well as the worldwide Pathfinder organization.

Lisa Gary, volunteer Adventurer ministries coordinator, and her husband, Brad, represented the Florida Conference Pathfinder organization. During the ceremony, inductees and their parents filled the front of the church as Gary

offered a prayer of dedication.

Coordinated by Earleen Recass, Cherubs director, the candlelight ceremony added to the solemnity and sense of commitment. After this special service, other parents wanted to get involved and talked with staff members about enrolling their children.

—BY GLESSIE RECASS

Pathfinders Compete in Bible Experience

In 2015, 12 Florida Conference Pathfinder Bible Experience (PBE) teams advanced to the Division level as part of a 128-team field competing in Keene, Tex. All 12 Florida teams scored a 1st-place finish: Altamonte Springs Knights, Bethesda Eagles French, Eliathah Envoys, Ft. Lauderdale Spanish Astros,

Hialeah Springs Spanish, Lehigh Royal Knights, Maranatha Torchbearers, Miami Central Spanish Team A, Miami Central Spanish Team B, Miami Springs



Truth Seekers, Plantation Messengers, and Westchester Spanish. As a result of the intensive Bible study required for teams to excel, the words they read will

stay with them for the rest of their lives. The unique methods used in helping Pathfinders become more intimate with their Savior is exceptional and fun. One coach voiced that studying the Bible with her children made her family grow closer.

—BY MYRLIN BROOKS

Florida-funded Pioneer Teams Report from China

Florida Conference members are partnering with Chinese Union Mission's Project Panda in support of 36 indigenous two-person church-planting teams. These pioneer teams share the love of Jesus in unreached areas of China.

According to recent reports, one of the teams welcomed more than 60 non-Christians to health seminars. Three families from the church invited their parents to participate.



After attending the health programs and accepting Bible truth, two of the parents gave up their fortune-telling practices. They changed their diet and living habits, and decided to observe the Sabbath.

Another team reported they are sharing Jesus through social services. "We held health fairs on 30 different occasions in the streets. A total of 613 people were served. While waiting for health checkups, we spoke to people about Jesus as church members spread gospel tracts around our service area. Some gave us their contact information, and we continue to visit

them, especially those near our house church."

Thank you, Florida Conference members, for your financial and prayerful support of pioneer teams who are sharing Christ in China. Please pray that seeds which are sown by these teams will bring about a great harvest.

For updates about the Chinese church-planting teams, contact Project Panda staff at kgrowth.org.

—BY AUDREY FOLKENBERG

Atlanta Belvedere Church Celebrates 50 Years

When architect Don Kirkman of the Southern Union, and local church member and builder J. P. Lewis embarked on the project to construct the new sanctuary for the Atlanta Belvedere Church, they probably didn't envision that their work was causative to a major movement for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the greater Atlanta area.

With doors open for service on October 2, 1965, this new church on Covington Highway in Decatur, Ga., formerly the Kirkwood Church, became fertile grounds for God's mighty work in the surrounding area. Congregations officially planted by Atlanta Belvedere include the Stone Mountain and Conyers churches. However, many other congregations in the metro area have been sprouted by former members of Atlanta Belvedere, as a result of their resolute commitment to spread the Gospel of Christ.

Atlanta Belvedere celebrated its 50th anniversary on the weekend of October 2-3, 2015, and the theme for the weekend could not be more fitting: "From the Streets of Atlanta to the Streets of Gold." After all, the mission of the church has always been "To lead its neighbors into

a powerful relationship with Christ," with the hope of one day moving from the streets of Atlanta to the streets of gold.

The weekend started with a solemn and prayerful communion service on Friday evening, October 2, followed by a glorious day-long Sabbath service featuring joyous music and presentations by current and former members. The mid-day service culminated with an unforgettable sermon on the subject of "Grace," by Harold Cunningham, Georgia-Cumberland Conference ministerial director for the southern region. After enjoying a wonderful Sabbath feast in the Becker

Gym, attendees returned to the sanctuary for a splendid AY program and Vespers, which wrapped up a wonderful weekend of recommitment, reconnection, and celebration.

Senior pastors who have served the Atlanta Belvedere Church are D. G. Anderson, Perry Green, W. J. (Bill) Henson, Noel Shanko, David Dobias, Albert M. Ellis, Bill Chambers, Dale Wolfe, Denton Rhone, D.Min., Ph.D., Shaun Brooks, and current pastor Samuel Bulgin, D.Min. Five former pastors were in attendance for the weekend celebration; Chambers was unable to attend, and Ellis sent a heartwarming greet-

ing to the members via a recorded video message.

Bulgin remarked that "The Atlanta Belvedere Church was founded on and is shaped by the great faith of its people. We've come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. To those who know how we have made it through 50 years, the evidence is clear — this was accomplished by God and God alone." Though a grand weekend celebration indeed, the members look forward with great anticipation to the ultimate celebration with the One who gave His life as a ransom for all.

—BY ANDRE JONES AND
IRISENE DOUCE



Former Atlanta Belvedere Church pastors and current pastor and members at the 50th anniversary celebration: Noel and Pat Shanko (left); David and Cynthia Dobias; Dale and Jonita Wolfe; current pastor Samuel Bulgin, D.Min., and his wife, Roseclaire; Shaun and Stacy Ann Brooks; Denton Rhone, D.Min., Ph.D.; Irisene Douce; Joyce Dawson; Edson and Arletta Patrice (far right); and Leon and Marcia Smith (back row). Each pastor received a silver platter as a token of appreciation for their years of service to Atlanta Belvedere.

CARL HENRY

South Georgia Pathfinders Pack Activities into Joint Event

A planned “lock-in” drew 30 Pathfinders and 20 staff from two clubs in Georgia, Augusta and Valdosta, as they joined the Macon Club at the Wimbish School on Sabbath, September 26, 2015. The clubs participated in training, honors, drills, and an Induction Service.

The afternoon started with sack lunches and a quick drive to the Ocmulgee National Monument Indian Mounds on the Macon Plateau. The Pathfinders had the opportunity to watch an informational video, stroll through the museum, and then walk to several Indian mounds, even going inside of one. One staff member had a pedometer on her phone and reported she walked 2.3 miles that after-



BRENDA LIPSCOMB

Pathfinders from Augusta, Valdosta, and Macon, Ga., gathered together for training, honors, drills, and an Induction Service at the Wimbish Road School in Macon. They are pictured working on the Native American Lore honor.

noon. Some of the children walked even farther.

After being at the mounds for a couple hours, the group returned to the Macon school to work on completing the requirements for the Native American Lore honor, taught by Matt Ellis. After a spaghetti supper, the

Macon and Augusta Clubs participated in a candle-light Induction Service led by Ginnie Sanders, south Georgia Pathfinder coordinator, witnessed by the Valdosta club and other family members. This was followed by a drill-down led by Dan Williams, playtime in

the gym, and making bead crafts to complete the Native American Lore honor.

The next morning was started with worship by John Strickland, pastor of the Wimbish Road Church in Macon. After a breakfast of pancakes, the Pathfinders had an opportunity to earn two honors, Basic and Standard First Aid, taught by Kathy Bullmer; and Paper Mache or Pottery, taught by Medina Gooden.

Honors were followed by another drill-down led by Josh Warren. Can't have Pathfinders without a drill-down! A lunch of haystacks ended their time together. All south Georgia Pathfinders are looking forward to the next joint activity.

—BY BRENDA LIPSCOMB

Mildred and Charles Case Celebrate 60th Anniversary



SUBMITTED BY CHARLES CASE

Mildred and Charles Case were married in Loma Linda, Calif., on May 29, 1955. Chuck was a minister, and Millie was finishing her R.N. degree. In April 1956, they went to Brazil to serve as missionaries. In

December 1959, they moved to Iquitos, Peru. After one year, Chuck was named president of the Upper Amazon Mission, where an aviation program was established with the construction of 26 jungle air strips. In 1965, the Cases moved to Lima, Peru, where Chuck setup and organized the Adventist Welfare Society (SAWS), later known as Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA). The Cases returned to the United States in 1967, and Chuck was appointed director of public relations for Loma Linda

University (LLU), and Millie taught a nurse aide program for San Bernardino schools. Chuck received a master's in education at LLU.

They served in several conferences and unions, including Kansas, Southern New England, and the Lake Union. Chuck completed an Ed.D., and Millie completed her master's degree, both at Boston University.

Chuck was elected president of the Southern New England Conference, and Millie returned to Atlantic Union College to teach nurs-

ing. The Cases retired and moved to Fairfield Glade near Crossville, Tenn., and have been happily retired since May of 1997.

The Cases served God around the globe and celebrated 60 years together on May 29, 2015. A celebration was held with friends and relatives on May 31, at the home of David and Tammy Kellogg in Crossville.

The Cases have two adult children, three adult grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

—BY CHARLES CASE

Shoals Church Hosts “Ol’Timey Bluegrass Gospel Jam”



Attendees joined in by playing their instruments or singing.

More than 200 visitors gathered at the Shoals, Ala., Church on Sabbath afternoon, July 25, 2015, to attend an Ol’Timey Bluegrass Gospel Jam. For several years Shoals Church had searched for new ways to reach their community. Then, two years ago, at the completion of their new fellowship hall, someone suggested that the church host an event during the annual W.C. Handy Music Festival. The festival is a week-long event named in honor of William Christopher Handy, the “Father of the Blues,” who was born in 1873 in Florence, Ala. Each year hundreds of people from across the United States travel to Florence to attend this award-winning music festival, which showcases more than 200 events throughout northwest Alabama.

The idea of being a part of the Music Festival was intriguing, but there were questions: Who would perform? And, could they really make it happen?

The music and health committees went to work. As soon as they received approval from the church board, they began planning an open-to-community acoustic gospel bluegrass jam.

Carolyn Sutton and other members of the music committee searched for groups and performers. Then it was confirmed, Lidabell and the Slackers Bluegrass Band from Chattanooga Tenn., and the north Georgia area would host the event, and also give a sacred concert at the 11 o’clock worship service.

Several visitors came to the sacred concert and stayed for the fellowship

lunch. One of the visitors has recently joined Shoals Church. Shari Beaver and Robbie Rausch, the driving forces of the health committee, wanted to make sure the refreshments represented the health doctrine upheld by the church, and yet maintained a “Blues” theme. After a year of planning, the menu included blueberry/oatmeal bars, apples, blueberry muffins, organic homemade blueberry ice-cream, and water to drink.

The concert began early and the crowd started to grow. One man walked in and told a church member, “I feel as if I’ve just come home. This was the music I grew up with.” Another couple stated, “We drive down and attend the W.C. Handy Festival every year and usually leave on Saturday, but we decided to

stop by and see what this event was all about. We’re glad we stayed. It was such a blessing. We hope to see you guys again next year.”

Other attendees joined in by playing their instruments or singing their favorite hymns. For many church members, it brought back fond memories of Camp Meeting. The Lord blessed the event with a gross attendance of approximately 250 to 300. This included some who had never heard of Seventh-day Adventists, and others who had misconceptions about the denomination. Many members agreed the event was a success and a stepping stone to reach the local communities, and to build bridges with other denominations.

—BY MISTY VALENTINE

Alabama Members Participate in “Dog Days” as an Outreach Ministry



More than 200 individuals received health screenings.

“Dog Days” is a big event in north Alabama — especially during Labor Day weekend. It is advertised well in advance, and attendees come from miles around to participate in this flea market experience. Located a few miles north of Ardmore on the Tennessee-Alabama line, the flea market grounds are situated on a few acres right off Interstate 65, making it accessible to numerous communities in the north Alabama area.

Greg Carey, personal ministries leader of the Athens, Ala., Church, realized this was the perfect oppor-

tunity for outreach ministry. Through much prayer and planning, a team of volunteers from the Athens, Trinity, Oakwood University Spanish, and Stateline churches united in planning a program that would offer hope to the hundreds of people who would attend. The first steps in the planning process was to contact the owner/event coordinator to obtain a booth for offering free health screenings in the form of blood pressures, blood sugar checks, and health consultations, as well as distributing literature that would promote wellness to

all recipients. The literature and consultations would address such problems as diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, strokes, and other related diseases.

God was working to make the effort a success. When contacted, the owner responded very enthusiastically. He not only offered a free booth and free parking passes for the team, but he gave the group a prominent corner booth at the entrance of the event which was a location no one could miss. Local merchants provided the team with free cases of water for distribution. This turned out to be a very welcome relief from the extreme heat of the day.

Another blessing was the opportunity many had to talk to Adventist health professionals who volunteered their services. In addition, other bilingual volunteers provided invaluable service to those who needed this assistance.

More than 200 individuals received health screen-

ings, and many others came by the booth requesting literature, water, and other handouts. Another benefit came in the form of the many contacts made that provided a positive message of what Adventism is all about. By partnering with other Adventist churches, merchants, and community leaders, all involved had a wonderful opportunity for witnessing and building community friendships. One outcome of “Dog Days” came from the owner/coordinator who expressed his appreciation for the work that was done, and invited the team to return for other events and offered the same free access to the facilities.

At the end of the weekend, there was no doubt that God had blessed the event; and to all the volunteers, it was apparent that the Lord still uses the health message to open doors and teach others of His love.

—BY SANDRA PRICE

Andalusia Church Highlights Adventurer and Pathfinder Programs at County Fair

For the third consecutive year, the Andalusia, Ala., Church hosted a booth in the Exhibit Hall at the Covington County Fair. Response this year was greater than ever. Fresh grapes and bottled water were given out each day, and this provided an opportunity for conversations about good choices and healthy diets. The first

14 flats of water were donated by Motion Industries. A total of 25 flats of water and an estimated 40-50 pounds of grapes were provided to grateful fair goers.

The theme and focus of the booth this year was to highlight the Pathfinders and Adventurers programs. Seven children were signed up, and a small-framed picture was

given to each of them. Other children received small handouts including balloons, pencils, stencils, and bouncy balls. A variety of literature was available for interested readers, including the *Desire of Ages* and the booklet *Your Friends*,



Seven children signed up for either the Adventurer or Pathfinder Club.

the Seventh-day Adventists.

—BY LINDA GATES

Memphis-Raleigh Church Brings Hope



Pictured is the CARE Group in the Samuel family home.

The Memphis-Raleigh Church in Memphis, Tenn., is a training center for the FAST discipleship program and the Gateway Church's CARE group program in an effort to equip members to run small group Bible studies.

The CARE group is an effective tool for introducing friends and family to the Bible in a non-threatening way; and, it is a tool to be taken up or put aside as needed. Seekers are the essential element which determines the existence of the group. "No seekers, no CARE group" keeps the

group inviting others to join. Course terms are short and specific making invitations easy. Because the topics are non-doctrinal, the CARE group can welcome a new seeker at any time. As the group shares a simple meal together each week, they become friends, and seekers begin to ask questions about deeper biblical themes. Personal Bible studies are offered outside of the CARE group to dig deeper into Bible truths. The average CARE group will have a baptism every 12 to 18 months. The Memphis-Raleigh/Covington district currently

has four active CARE groups with 13 seekers, nine of which are involved in doctrinal studies.

The Memphis-Raleigh women's ministries has a regular Bible study and children's program at the Salvation Army Women's Shelter in Memphis. As a recognized ministry at the shelter, they were invited to participate in a Back-to-School Health Fair.

A team of health professionals took blood pressures and counseled individuals about their personal lifestyle habits. The Health/Age analysis program was used to determine their needs; and, literature on lifestyle was offered to encourage efforts toward physical health.

Children had the opportunity to enter a drawing for story and Bible story books, but, better yet was the blanket under the tree where they could sit and watch a Bible story told with colorful felts.

A selection of GLOW tracts was made available, as well as the first lesson from



the "Come Alive" Bible studies. The shelter expressed interest in having the Seventh-day Adventists offer other programs to the women and children who reside there.

—BY LESLIE CAZA

Fair Booth Receives Award

The Ridgeway, Tenn., Church won a 3rd-place award at the Robertson County Fair Commercial Building exhibits, where businesses and organizations have booths. The booth featured the CREATION Health display, along with a variety of literature, and drawings for a Bible and two sets of books for children. Church members who manned the booth each evening also gave out bottles of water.

—BY HELEN KELLY



Fair booth wins 3rd-place award.

DON KENDERSON

Wood Family Shares “Jesus for Asia”



Natalie Wood, dressed in a beautiful silk sari, told the children's story.

The Louisville, Ky., First Church welcomed Jon and Natalie Wood and their daughter to celebrate a

Sabbath service. Jon Wood is founder and director of “Jesus for Asia,” a nonprofit ministry to the billions of

people in India and South East Asia. He presented a long nylon rope with red tape wrapped around three inches at the end to prevent fraying. He used it to illustrate the life individuals choose to live. The red portion, life on Earth, is only a very small part of God's plan. The rest of the long rope represented the life lived out in eternity.

Too often focus is on the red part and not on what lies ahead. Heavenly rewards of joy and peace are exchanged for earthy



Jon Wood shared how to prepare for and survive the end times.

pursuits of pleasure and monetary gain.

—BY CLIFTON KELLER AND
LIANNE MCCONNELL

Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School is on the Move



Cleaning the highway are RAES teacher Crystal Carney, Olivia Nelson, Caroline Carney, Natalie Berger, Gabriel Brown, and Breanna Hawk.

Ridgetop Adventist Elementary School (RAES)

strives to be a predominant part of their community. Last month they hosted a free pancake breakfast that was open to the community. Students cleaned the main highway running through Ridgetop, Tenn., on November 1, 2015, and they plan to make goody baskets for the local fire and police

departments.

Also on November 1,

RAES students attended a presentation by Ben Carson, M.D. This was a historical event since Carson is currently running for the President of the United States. Carson talked about his time in Sabbath School and the importance of youth in society. When he discovered the students were from an Adventist elementary school, he was very proud. He told the students to keep up the

good work. The students are currently reading Carson's book, *Gifted Hands*; he was the topic in a recent Bible lesson; and they are reading parts from his book, *A More Perfect Union*.

—BY CRYSTAL CARNEY



A photo was taken after Ben Carson's presentation: Bonnie Armantrout (left), Breanna Hawk, Ben Carson, M.D., Crystal Carney, Caroline Carney, Gabriel Brown, and Natalie Berger.

Berean Chariots Adventurers Visit the Tennessee Aquarium



KARINA BONDSAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

The Berean Chariots Adventurers, parents, and Adventurer leaders visit the Tennessee Aquarium.

The Atlanta, Ga., Berean Chariots Adventurer Club boarded two chartered buses and embarked on their road trip to Chattanooga, Tenn., last February. They did not let the rainy day discourage them. Why? Because they were about to visit one of the southeast's best kept secrets, the Tennessee Aquarium. Housed in two buildings, the aquarium is one of the largest in the country.

The following words are engraved in a plaque when you enter the Tennessee Aquarium: "River Journey sets the stage for a fascinating adventure tracing the path of freshwater from the mountains to the sea. You'll meet feisty otters, colorful trout, alligators, giant catfish,

tons of turtles and more freshwater animals from this global biodiversity hotspot. Become immersed in saltwater habitats as you explore our second building, Ocean Journey. You'll be surrounded by playful penguins, touchable stingrays, beautiful butterflies, and a spectacular coral reef with big sharks and schools of fish."

After taking some time to explore the buildings, the Adventurers had lunch. Then they went to the IMAX theatre to view a 45-minute film on lemurs. What a fascinating

experience! They were able to gain insight into one of God's marvelous creatures on a six-story screen in 3D.

After an exciting, wonderful visit, the Adventurers

ant, the sounds of laughter were heart-warming, and the memories were priceless.

Genesis 1:20-23 says, "And God said, Let the waters bring forth abun-



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

boarded the buses to head back to Atlanta. The smiles on their faces were radi-

dantly the moving creator that hath life, and fowl that may fly above the earth



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the earth. And the evening and the morning were the fifth day.”



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

in the open firmament of heaven. And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good.

Not only did the group have an awesome time, but it was a fabulous opportunity to view, touch, and experience God’s creatures firsthand.

—BY SAMUEL F. CORT JR.,
M.D.



SAMUEL F. CORT JR., M.D.

Oakwood University Church Honors Civil Rights Icon Congressman John Robert Lewis

“As a little boy, I wanted to be a minister. I wanted to preach the Gospel,” says Congressman John Robert Lewis. “So from time to time, I would gather all of our chickens together in the chicken yard ... I would start preaching. When I looked back, some of those chickens would bow their heads, some of those chickens would shake their heads. If it hadn’t been for the Lord Jesus Christ, I wouldn’t be standing here; I thought I was

going to die on that bridge [on March 7, 1965 in Selma, Ala.] God kept me here to help out a little more.”

Lewis is a man who continues to serve as a minister for social justice. On October 31, 2015, the Oakwood University Church supported the Oakwood University Ellen G. White Research Center’s inaugural Ellen G. White Symposium on Social Justice by honoring Lewis. Jonathan Thompson, D.Min., director of the center, organized the Symposium.

Under the leadership of Carlton Byrd, D.Min.,



Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Oakwood University Church senior pastor, presents U.S. Congressional Representative John Lewis with the Social Justice Award.

senior pastor of Oakwood University Church, they symbolically joined Lewis in his walk for social justice. The church presented the congressman with the Social Justice Award. The award is given to individuals who have contributed to improving the quality of life for all people. Members of the Huntsville community joined the celebration. Will Culver, president of Huntsville’s city council, spoke on behalf of Mayor Thomas M. Battle. The city council made the honorable Lewis an honorary citizen of Huntsville. Leslie Pollard, Ph.D., D.Min., president of Oakwood Uni-

versity, expressed his “deepest appreciation.” “Lewis reminds all that ‘non-violent resistance, ultimately, is the way to overcome evil,’” said Pollard.

Lewis has served nobly as a public servant. He is one of the longest serving members of the United States Congress; presently, he represents the 5th Congressional District of Georgia.

Lewis, author of the autobiography *Walking with the Wind*, says he continues to serve humanity for the same reason he returns to Selma for symbolic marches of the

Selma to Montgomery March. “[I] come to Selma to be renewed; [I] come to be reminded that we must do the work that justice and equality calls us to do.” Indeed, Lewis, the “gentle giant” from Alabama is doing “the work” to create the “beloved community.”

—BY RAMONA HYMAN

“Set Your House in Order” is Theme for Men’s Conference



MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

DJ McKenzie. DA GUYS, who presented themselves as Chicago Teams Sports Fanatics, helped bring about a relaxing atmosphere for the attendees, and set the pace for how the weekend would be.

Kevin Shearer, a former U.S. Marine and now pastor in Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, was the featured weekend speaker. During his presentations, Shearer shared his personal testimony as to how

On Center Hill Lake, nestled in the hills of middle Tennessee in a small town called Liberty, Tenn., men from South Central and Kentucky-Tennessee conferences joined together at Indian Creek Camp for a spiritual blessing. Black, white, and Latino all joined in solidarity to grow together, bond together, and strengthen one another in the battle men face every day.

“Set Your House in Order,” was the weekend theme. As the Sabbath approached, the men began to settle in their cabins and introduce themselves to their cabin mates. On Friday evening, they began their journey together with a comedy routine by DA GUYS — Heath Bryant and

the miraculous power of God moved in his life while serving in the War on Terror. He shared the struggles he faced, and the spiritual rollercoaster ride he was on, and then how he answered God’s calling for his life. This testimony was designed to show all (as they allow God to move in their place, and not try to move themselves) that strongholds will be torn down, and men will be able to get their house in order.

As the journey continued, they learned of one attendee who had driven quite a distance and eventually made it to the men’s conference, but decided he was going to leave upon arrival. After the leaders prayed with him and implored him to stay the night and then leave in the



MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

Kevin Shearer, Kentucky-Tennessee Conference pastor, led out in the discussion.



DA GUYS, Heath Bryant and DJ McKenzie, perform during the men’s conference.

morning, he stayed and then ended up staying the entire weekend.

The weekend was filled with music, spiritual lessons, and instructions in righteousness. There were various activities for the bonding of men, such as basketball, boat rides, and a Saturday night featured film.

With ethnically divided conferences and different

racers coming together, it was comforting to know that men of all kinds are struggling with the same issues, issues that transcend race, culture, creed, or economical status — that these differently hued men can go to the same God to receive the same healing and strength.

—BY MARVIN L. ALLISON SR.

OU is in the Business of Transforming Lives

Oakwood's "God First!" mission commitment is stronger than it has ever been. One illustration of the transformational mission of Oakwood is the testimony of young Detroit scholar Tavonne Dillon. He has one word to describe his experience at Oakwood: "Amazing!"

Oakwood graduate Toson Antwan Knight, '12, brought Dillon to Oakwood for registration in August 2015, and started him on the path to a whole new way of living. Knight, a former Oakwood United Student Movement president, works for Mayor Mike Duggan in Detroit, Mich. His first acquaintance with Dillon wasn't a pleasant one as he had called the police on him and a few other young guys in the neighborhood. Feeling bad and realizing this wasn't

going to change the young men, Knight decided to speak to them. He eventually connected with Dillon, becoming his mentor.

Becoming a mentor to Dillon came just at the right time. This past summer he experienced an altercation with suspected gang members. Someone pulled out a gun and shot at him twice. Knight talked to him, sharing stories of his friends who had similar experiences and didn't live through them. Knight told him the best thing to do was to leave Detroit. He helped him to apply at Oakwood. He has declared social work as his major. It is a field that appears, he says, to be one way he can do for others what his mentor has done for him. "I want to help more kids get off the streets, get through high school, and go to col-

lege," he says.

On November 13, 2015, Dillon's mother, sister, and nine of his friends from Detroit traveled to Huntsville, Ala., to watch Dillon and 13 other students be baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. At the end of the baptism, one of the student leaders exclaimed to the congregation that the Holy Spirit was speaking to him about more desiring baptism. At that moment, Dillon's sister and his nine friends marched forward and were baptized with more than 20 other individuals.

Ellen White says this: "After a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit, our joy in the Lord and our efficiency in His service would be greatly increased



ANTHONY CHORNES II

Tavonne Dillon expresses happiness after his baptism.

by recounting His goodness and His wonderful works in behalf of His children. These exercises drive back the power of Satan. They expel the spirit of murmuring and complaint, and the tempter loses ground," *Christ's Object Lessons*, p. 299.

Oakwood Wins \$50K Home Depot Grant in National Competition

Oakwood University won a Tier 1 grant of \$50,000 in May 2015, in The Home Depot's Retool Your School competition. Representatives of the competition were on Oakwood's campus last month for a tour, as well as to help install exercise equipment purchased from the winning grant.

According to Home Depot officials, the judges liked Oakwood's grant proposal for a two-mile-

long circuit with outdoor exercise stations emphasizing the benefits of physical activity. The stations are a part of the Healthy Campus 2020 initiative that officially launched this past August on Oakwood's campus. The competition rules also encouraged participating schools to utilize social media to help with voting numbers.

The Retool Your School competition is not new for Oakwood. In 2013

Oakwood won the Tier 1 grant of \$50,000, which allowed the University to construct an outdoor pavilion by its Unity Pond. In 2014 Oakwood won the Campus Pride Grant, which allowed the University to enhance the Unity Pond area with an additional pavilion, as well as additional benches and tables around the campus.

"We thank everyone that voted, tweeted, and posted images on Face-

book that allowed us to win this grant," said George Johnson Jr., integrated marketing and public relations director of Oakwood University. "Truly, the network that Oakwood has developed helped us to win, and we wouldn't have been able to do this alone with just the amount of people we have here on our campus," he said.

SouthEast Bank Contributes \$28,000 in Scholarships

How to pay for college can be a heavy topic around the dinner table of families with students nearing high school graduation, and for many others who have already made the leap of faith to attend but still have doubts about the dollars and cents of it all. But, watching a local business commit money toward making education more affordable brings great relief to parents and students alike, who witness this investment and approach higher education with renewed faith in its ability to open doors toward a brighter future.

SouthEast Bank, which was founded in 2002 and includes 11 locations in Tennessee, began partnering with Southern Adventist University in 2011; it has increased its level of scholarship funding every year since. During an October luncheon held at one of the bank's branches close to campus, four Southern students were awarded scholarships of \$7,000 each: freshman Jesse Darwin, sophomore Joelle Kanyana, junior Caitlyn Bartlett, and senior Keightee Weeks.

The scholarships, which have additional criteria beyond grades, are generally given to students majoring in business, finance, or ac-

counting. When the partnership began four years ago, bank administrators saw

is not lost on the Southern students who receive these scholarships. Observing

tunities! I get to partake in them, and give back alongside them. My ability to be close to a city like this is another verification that Southern is where I should be right now."

Students also see a generous community spirit in the leadership modeled by professors and administrators on campus. The School of Business organizes service-learning projects such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program, where students offer free tax return preparation for low-income residents and seniors.

Ongoing gifts

of this size from a local business, especially one without Seventh-day Adventist affiliation, say a lot about Southern's strong relationships with area organizations and leaders. Linda White, senior vice president for SouthEast Bank, is a member of the School of Business Advisory Board at Southern, but beyond that the financial partnership is entirely organic.

"Their investment in Southern provides affirmation that we produce high-quality graduates that SouthEast Bank would like to stay in our community," said Mark Hyder, JD, dean for Southern's School of Business.

—BY LUCAS PATTERSON



Southern's School of Business had four students receive scholarships from SouthEast Bank for 2015-2016: Joelle Kanyana (seated, left), Jesse Darwin, Keightee Weeks, and Caitlyn Bartlett. "We would like to express our appreciation to the SouthEast Bank for the generous contribution of \$28,000 to these outstanding students," said Mark Hyder, JD, School of Business dean.

clearly how the program would make a difference in the lives of students and envisioned it freeing them up to experience college more fully, with less time spent working and worrying about finances. Testimonies show that to be accurate.

"I was prepared to work a lot on campus and take out student loans, but because of this scholarship I have not needed to borrow any money since I started at Southern," Bartlett said. "You can imagine the reaction at my house when I found out about it. My family and I cried and thanked the Lord for His blessings!"

And, the example this bank has put forth of investing in its community

firsthand the benefits of corporate philanthropy has inspired them to give back to others, both now and after graduation.

"Because of SouthEast Bank, I won't have loans to pay off after graduation," Bartlett said. "God has given me so much, I will use what He has given me to help others."

For Kanyana, this scholarship pushes her to be not just a good student at Southern, but also a good member of the community. "Chattanoogaans are generous people; many of its recent projects have been from private grants rather than government money," Kanyana said. "As a result, the city is ripe with oppor-

Obituaries



PRITCHARD, Herbert W., 86, born Nov. 14, 1928 in Akron, OH, died Aug. 28, 2015 in Ocala, FL. He graduated from Mount Vernon Academy and Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) with a degree

in business and theology. While in college, he married Judy Sykes, the love of his life.

His denominational work spanned more than 40 years with his first position being assistant manager of the Michigan Adventist Book Center (ABC), and pastor of the St. Johns Church. After becoming ABC manager at Texico and Oklahoma conferences, he returned to Texico Conference as treasurer. He then served as treasurer of the Minnesota and Chesapeake conferences. After a short stint at the General Conference Insurance Services, he became treasurer of Michigan Conference.

His last position before retirement was as treasurer for the Lake Union Conference. During this period, he became involved with the beginning of Adventist Historic Properties, Inc. (AHM), and served as the treasurer of that organization for 13 years. Even in retirement, he was a firm supporter of this organization. He and Judy also sponsored a church in Zimbabwe.

Herb was the all-around Christian gentleman and encourager. He liked to use humor in his friendly discourses with friends. While he loved to share his witticisms, he totally enjoyed hearing them repeated by others.

In retirement, the Pritchards moved to Ocala in 1997, and he soon became the communication director for the church and wrote articles for Southern Tidings and Florida Focus. The Ocala Church became his family, but one special member, Mike Golden, became a big help to Herb in later years around the house, and became like an adopted son.

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Judy; two daughters: Penny (Richard) Clarke and Nancy Wetmore; two brothers: Ollin Segarra and Lee Pritchard; one sister, Barbara Stone; and three grandchildren.

The memorial service was conducted by Pastor Monte Robison at the Ocala Church.



ROY, Margaret S., 94, born June 13, 1921 in Paterson, NJ, died Sept. 7, 2015 in Bradenton, FL.

After graduating from North Plainfield Academy in New Jersey, she attended Madison College in Tennessee. She then moved

to Washington, DC, where she became secretary to the director of the Youth Department at the Potomac Conference in Staunton, VA, for three years.

She returned to school at Union College in Lincoln, NE, and met Norman J. Roy, and they were married on Aug. 31, 1947. They moved to Sheyenne River Academy in Harvey, ND, and she became secretary to the principal and taught the overflow classes in English II, shorthand, and typing.

In 1953, they moved to Lodi Academy and she was asked to be secretary to the principal. And then in 1957, they joined the faculty of Atlantic Union College in South Lancaster, MA. She was the secretary to the college president in 1960, and served in this capacity under five presidents. In 1973, the Roys accepted a call to Andrews University, and she served as secretary to several presidents until her retirement in 1987.

Through the years, she was active in various ministries

of the Church, including treasurer, clerk, and leader of several children's departments. She was ordained an elder in the Berrien Springs Village Church.

In 1994, they moved to Hendersonville, NC, where she continued to live after Norman's death in 1998. She was active as a volunteer at Park Ridge Hospital for many years. In July 2014, she moved to her daughter's home in Parrish, FL. She continued to be active in the Palmetto Church until her death.

She is survived by two daughters and sons-in-law, Sherryl and Colin Rampton of Parrish, FL, and Sandra and Dale Schmid of Freeport, IL; and four grandchildren.



THURMON, Roy B., 100, born Nov. 4, 1914 in Obion County, TN, died Oct. 10, 2015 at his home in Dyersburg, TN. He was a member of the Dyersburg Church.

He began his pastoral

ministry on Feb. 11, 1947 in the Florida Conference, and spent more than four years serving there. In June of 1951, the Thurmon family joined the Alabama-Mississippi Conference where they remained for more than three years.

The Arkansas-Louisiana Conference was the next assignment followed by the Texas Conference, and then the Georgia-Cumberland Conference. He also served in the Greater New York Conference before moving to the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Pastor Thurmon retired in 1977 while serving the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He is survived by one daughter, Camille (Jim) Gilley; one brother, Parks Thurmon; eight grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Venice Thurmon; one son, James E. Thurmon; his parents: James and Ira Wilson Thurmon; five sisters: Regina Marshall, Ruth Hailey, Jewel Pigg, Angela Seaton, and Wilma Whybrew; and four brothers: Melvin Thurmon, Earl Thurmon, Hurtle Thurmon, and J. E. Thurmon.

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Advertisements

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY is hiring an **Associate Director for Building Systems Management** with the primary responsibility for overseeing all energy management, campus access, heating/air, high voltage, and other utilities, while assisting the Director with budget planning and management. Qualifications: Two year college/trade school degree (preferably in business), a minimum of 5 years of facilities management with 5 years trade experience in construction: electricity, HVAC, plumbing, and low voltage. Must be a Seventh-day Adventist Church member in regular standing, able to work independently and be proficient with computer systems and complex building systems software. Submit a resume and application to sarahshelburne@southern.edu or mail to Southern Adventist University, PO Box 370, Collegedale, TN 37315. To request a resume, contact 423-236-2279. [12]

SOUTHWESTERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY'S Business Department seeks **finance faculty** to begin spring or fall term, 2016. Successful candidate will possess proficiency in previous teaching experience. Candidate should hold earned doctorate in finance or related field. Master's candidate with minimum of 18 graduate hours in finance considered. Instruction in multiple areas, preferred. Send cover letter and CV to Dr. Aaron Moses at mosesa@swau.edu. [12]

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks **Public Relations Manager**. Candidate should possess a degree/experience in journalism/communications or English. Knowledge and experience of magazine/journal writing, publication and management. For information visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings> [12]

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE seeks **Manager for College Market**. Candidate should possess a degree/experience in business/management or related field. Knowledge and experience of merchandising, logistics, and financials. For information visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings> [12]

PACIFIC UNION COLLEGE is a great place to work! Vacancies in hourly positions include **Human Resources Officer; Office Manager; Cashier; Preschool Teacher; Flight Instructor; Recycling; Driver**. For information visit <http://www.puc.edu/faculty-staff/current-job-postings> [12]

UNION COLLEGE seeks a Seventh-day Adventist masters prepared PA faculty member. The ideal candidate will have clinical experience in family practice and emergency medicine. Prior teaching experience is desired but not necessary. Start date June 1, 2016. Send CV and references to Jodi Chewakin, jochewak@ucollege.edu [12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **faculty in School Psychology**. Responsibilities: Oversee all aspects of the EdS School Psychology program as Program Coordinator, as well as performing various duties described in the full position description. Qualifications: Doctorate in School Psychology, Educ Psychology, or a related field; state or national (NCSP) certification as a school psychologist; minimum 3-years working in the field as a school psychologist; as well as sufficient teaching experience at the graduate

levels and be actively engaged in research, student advising and supervising student projects. For more information and to apply visit: http://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_4 [12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Faculty-Teaching Learning Curriculum**. Assistant - Full Professor to teach, advise and direct student projects. Expertise in teaching reading, and/or special education and/or science is desired. A minimum of three years K-12 US/Canada teaching experience required Position may require teaching in any /or all semesters including summers. Person chosen for this position is expected to be involved in research as well as teaching and supervision of student teachers or graduate internships. A wide variety of responsibilities are expected including accreditation and assessment as required by the university and outside accrediting bodies. For more information and to apply visit <https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/735> [12]

COUNTRY LIFE Natural Food Store and Vegan Restaurant currently has staff positions available in the health food store and restaurant. Experience preferred. Join a health ministry that has been serving Columbus, GA for 46 years. For more information, call 706-323-9144, or go to ucheepines.org for application. [12-2]

DEACUTUR, IL SDA CHURCH looking for a Bible worker. Please contact Pastor John Lewis at jelewis727@gmail.com for details. One-year contract, full or part-time. Need resume and references. [12]

PLANT SERVICES DIRECTOR: Shenandoah Valley Academy, New Market, VA, is seeking a person to be the **Director of Plant Services**. This person will be responsible for the maintenance of our campus facilities, grounds, and an active transportation department. The Director must have strengths in organization and project management, and enjoy being around teenagers. The successful candidate will have a trade knowledge of HVAC, electrical, mechanics, plumbing, and vehicle repairs. SVA uses local contractors to assist Plant Services personnel when necessary. Standard denominational salary and benefits are available. Please send resumes to Principal Dale Twomley: dale.twomley@sva-va.com. [12]

ADVENTIST HEALTH SYSTEM is seeking a **Summer Associate** to work in their Corporate Legal department for at least six weeks in 2016. Candidate must be in top 25% of class. Interest/experience in healthcare industry preferred, but not required. Duties include legal research and other projects, totaling 40 hours per week. Pay is \$20 - \$25 per hour; reasonable relocation expenses will be reimbursed. Please send transcript and resume to Manuela.asaftei@ahss.org [12]

MISCELLANEOUS

AdventistSingles.org FREE 14-DAY TRIAL! Join thousands of Adventist singles online. Free chat, search, profiles, match notifications! Adventist owners since 1993. Visit www.elliottdylan.com for the Undercover Angels series of novels for Christian teens that build on Biblical principles and encourage integrity. Great Sabbath reading and gifts! [12]

RELOCATING? Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: www.apexmoving.com/adventist [12]

APPLEWHITE MOVERS is an Adventist owned company that has established great relationships with the southern conferences. We pack, we load, we can move you out of state, and we can move you next door. Call Applewhite Movers or email us at 256-430-1198 or applewhitemovers@gmail.com [12, 1]

LIFESTYLE DISEASE: Prevention & Treatment - A live-in program focusing on a comprehensive approach to prevention and reversal of lifestyle diseases. This aggressive lifestyle change program includes: a nutrient rich plant-based anti-cancer diet; personalized fitness program; simple, effective hydrotherapy treatments; daily presentations of current research on natural healing; and achieving optimal mental health. Cost: 14-days: \$2600, 28-days: \$4800. Butler Creek Health Education Center, Iron City, TN. Register online or call: 931-213-1329. www.butlercreekhealth.org [12]

THE WILDWOOD LIFESTYLE CENTER can help you naturally treat and reverse diseases such as diabetes, heart disease, hypertension, obesity, arthritis, fibromyalgia, lupus, multiple sclerosis, chronic fatigue, cancer, depression, and many more. Invest in your health, call 1-800-634-9355 for more information or visit www.wildwoodhealth.com [12-5]

PLANNING AN EVANGELISTIC SERIES OR HEALTH SEMINAR? Have questions? Need affordable, professionally prepared handbills, brochures, signs, banners and mailing services? Call free, 800-274-0016 and ask for HOPE Customer Service or visit www.hopesource.com. You deserve the best with confidence and peace of mind. Hamblin's HOPE delivers on time! [12]

AUTHORS of cookbooks, health books, children's chapter and picture books, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. Find our new titles at your local ABC or www.TeachServices.com, used SDA books at www.LNFBBooks.com [12-4]

GUIDE MAGAZINE wants to reach readers ages 10-14 with your true, character-building story. Visit guidemagazine.org/writersguidelines to learn more. Call 1-800-447-7377 to subscribe. [12, 1]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global community development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. For more information, call 423.236.2585 or visit www.southern.edu/graduatestudies [12-5]

CONVENIENT ON-CAMPUS GUEST LODGING at Southern Adventist University. Lovely 2 bed, 1 bath apartments, some equipped with kitchens. Available year round. Call 423-236-7000 or email guestlodging@southern.edu [12]

GREAT MEETING SPACE FOR CONFERENCING at Southern Adventist University. Detailed, thorough one-stop-planning for successful events. Call 423-236-2555 or visit www.southern.edu/conferenceservices. [12]

FLEA MARKET EVANGELISM provides a great opportunity to spread the printed page like the leaves of autumn. This is an easy way to place our truth-filled books in the hands of interested people who come to our booths. "It is in working to spread the good news of salvation that we are brought near to the Saviour," Desire of Ages, p. 340. We invite you to join us in this ministry and will supply about 700 SOP books to help you get started. These start up books are free but we ask that you pay the shipping charges. Call or e-mail for a free DVD. please contact us at MarketEvangelismPromotion.com, 747 Ridgevale Ln, Dayton, TN 37321, 423 775 2308, dlgraham@gmail.com [12]

SOUTHERN Adventure in Europe 2016 Tour led by Bill Wohlers, Ph.D. in history, leader of 22 student tours. Hosted May 29-June 10 by the Southern Adventist University Alumni Association. Visit Belgium, France, Germany, and Switzerland. Information is available at southern.edu/alumni; alumni@southern.edu; 423-236-2830. [12, 1]

InVerse FOCUS: Phone Counseling – Christian counselors are available to help you process and cope with problems. Call 404-556-4799, visit www.inversefocus.com [12, 1]

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEN DAYS OF PRAYER – Jan. 6-16. Join in the 10 days of prayer event and visit www.TenDaysOfPrayer.org for more details.

BATTLEFIELD HOLLYWOOD – Feb. 5, 6. Dalton Church will be sponsoring "Battlefield Hollywood" at the Salem Baptist Church in Dalton, GA. Former Hollywood insider Scott Mayer will reveal different ways Satan uses the entertainment industry to infiltrate the mind. All are welcome to this free event, but parental discretion is advised. Details available at BattlefieldHollywoodDalton.com.

KEYS CAMP MEETING – Feb. 19-21. Speaker: Dr. Subodh Pandit. Theme: "Evidence Behind Truth." Sponsored by Key Largo and Marathon churches, and WHNJ.org (95.7 FM). Contact Laura Saladino at Lcsaladino7@gmail.com for details and accommodations. Boy Scout Camp Sawyer, 33990 Overseas Highway, MM 34, Scout Key, FL 33043. Free to all!

MCDONALD ROAD PATHFINDERS REUNION – Feb. 27. Everyone who has been involved in McDonald Road Pathfinders is welcomed to attend the Sabbath church service and lunch. Details: Pam Tuttle, 423-432-6014.

STEVE GREEN CONCERT – April 9. Dalton Church will host Steve Green in concert on Sabbath evening at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome to this free event. Please join us as we close the Sabbath with worship to God in musical praise.

LA SIERRA ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEEND – April 22, 23. LSA Campus. Please update your mailing address and contact info at JNelson@lsak12.com, 951-351-1445, x244.

Honor classes: 1956, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, '06 and pre-50 classes. Details: www.lsak12.com.

BROADVIEW ACADEMY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION/BVA ALUMNI WEEEND – April 30 and May 1. North Aurora Church, North Aurora, IL. All alumni are encouraged to attend. Mark your calendars. Honor classes: 1946, '56, '66, '76, '86, '91, '96, and 2006. There will be Friday night Vespers, Sabbath School, Church, lunch, and an afternoon music program. For communication purposes, WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESSES. Send it to Ed Gutierrez, edjulie1@att.net; or call 630-232-9034. Checkout the BVA website for details.



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The Right Plans in Place

When Micah and Shannon Armantrout contacted me to get their Last Will and Testaments and Living Wills and Power of Attorney documents done, they admitted that it had taken a little time and effort to face the reality that they may indeed one day need these documents. Once they met with us at the Trust Services office, they were impressed how fast and easy the process was and how quickly they received the documents back to get them signed and notarized.

It was important to the Armantrouts to know that they now had in place guardians and trustees for their small children. "Even though we are young, you never know what might happen," said Shannon.

Just as the Armantrouts have taken the opportunity of making sure there are plans in place for their family, we would encourage you to make the right plans for your family, because as the young couple shared: "It's a huge relief to know that everything is taken care of."

To put plans in place for your family, contact your local Conference or University Planned Giving and Trust Services Department today!

Carolina <i>Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200</i>	Kentucky-Tennessee <i>Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391</i>	
Florida <i>Phil Bond (407) 644-5000</i>	Oakwood University <i>Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000</i>	South Central <i>Michael Harpe (615) 226-6500</i>
Georgia-Cumberland <i>Mitch Hazekamp (706) 629-7951</i>	South Atlantic <i>Lawrence Hamilton (404) 792-0535</i>	Southeastern <i>(352) 735-3142</i>
Gulf States <i>David Sigamani (334) 272-7493</i>	Southern Adventist University <i>Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818</i>	


SUSDAGift.org

Events Calendar

Carolina

MPA Christmas Concert & Program – Dec. 11-12. MPA.
LE Year End Convention – Jan. 1-3. Gatlinburg, TN.
Evangelism Impact – Jan. 8-10. Crown Reef Resort Hotel, Myrtle Beach, SC. Please go to the Carolina Conference website to register.
Men's Ministry Certification – Jan. 15-17. Charlotte Spanish Church.
Generous Living Rally – Jan. 30. Charlotte Sharon Church.
Generous Living Summit – Jan. 31. – NPR.
Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 12-14. NPR.
MPA Student Mission Trip – Feb. 25- March 15. South African Share Him/ building project.
Hispanic Romance at the Ranch – Feb. 26-28. NPR.
Mother/Daughter & Father/Son Weekend – Feb. 26-28. MPA.

Florida

Complete calendar online – www.floridaconference.com/calendar/
Youth/Pathfinder/Adventurer Events – Visit us online or call 407-644-5000 x2421.
www.floridaconference.com/iy/youth/
www.floridaconference.com/iy/pathfinders/events/
www.floridaconference.com/iy/adventurers/events/
Singles' Ministries events and mailing list information. Spiritual study groups, fellowship dinners, outings, and more.
www.floridaconference.com/iy/childrenandfamily/events/,
esalzmann@cfl.rr.com, 407-521-4751 or 407-721-3036.
A Better Choice / Florida Adventist Book Center – Altamonte Springs: national toll-free number, 877-55-FLABC (877-553-5222). Miami: 305-805-9900. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: www.floridaconference.com/abc/ or order by email: FloridaABC@floridaconference.com
Florida Adventist Bookmobile Schedule (Resumes in spring)
Women's Ministries Retreats – Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Total Praise. Online registration: www.campkulaqua.com/
Feb. 12-14. English-language. Guest speaker: Wanda Davis.

Feb. 19-21. English-language. Guest speaker: Seth Pierce.
Feb. 16-18. Spanish-language. Guest speaker: Sara Bullón.
Men's Ministries Convention – March 18-20. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Race to Win. Featured speakers: Everett Brown, Mike Cauley, Claudio Consuegra, John Earnhardt, Noel Rose. Online registration: www.campkulaqua.com/
122nd Annual Florida Camp Meeting – April 7-10. Camp Kulaqua, 23400 NW 212 Ave., High Springs. Theme: Restore the Vision, Restore the Mission. Featured speaker: John Bradshaw. Details and online registration for meals and accommodations: www.floridaconference.com/campmeeting/

Georgia-Cumberland

Camerata Festival of Carols and GCA Christmas Concert – Dec. 12. Georgia-Cumberland Academy, Calhoun, GA.
God in Shoes – Dec. 20. Atlanta Belvedere, Decatur, GA.
Conference Office Closed for Holidays. Dec. 23-Jan. 4.
10 Days of Prayer – Jan. 6-16.
Adventurer/Pathfinder Directors' Retreat – Jan. 8, 9. Directors register online at pathfinders.gccsda.com and adventurers.gccsda.com. Deadline: Dec. 22. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
Adventurer/Pathfinder Council – Jan. 10. Registration deadline: Dec. 22. Directors register online at pathfinders.gccsda.com and adventurers.gccsda.com. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
Winter Ministers' Meetings – Jan. 10-13.
Pathfinder Junior Event – Jan. 15-17. Registration deadline: Dec. 22. Directors register online at pathfinders.gccsda.com. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.
Prayer Ministries Day – Jan. 16. Auburn Church, Auburn, GA.
Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday – Jan. 18. Conference office closed.
Board of Education – Jan. 21. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
Master Guides Winter Camp – Jan. 22-24.
Pathfinder Bible Experience (regionals) – Jan. 30. Southern

Region Peachtree City, Northern Region Knoxville Grace.
Registration deadline: Jan. 11. Directors register online at pathfinders.gccsda.com.
FREE Communication Training – Jan. 31. 10 a.m. to noon - Audio Training; 1-3 p.m. - Visual Training. Nathan Zinner, associate director of communication for the Southern Union, will be the instructor. Register at registration.gccsda.com. Conference Office, Calhoun, GA.
Some events require pre-registration; details at registration.gccsda.com.

Gulf States

Elders'/Deacons' Retreat – Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. Dec. 6, at 12 p.m. Camp Alamisco.
CHIP Training – Dec 12, 13. Bass Memorial Academy, 6433 US-11, Lumberton, MS 39455. If you are interested in the Complete Health Improvement Program (CHIP). This is a great opportunity to come and get the training for you and your churches as well. Lodging and meals will be provided, but you will need to bring your own linen. The guest speaker will be Diane Lundington, certified CHIP consultant. For more information on how CHIP can bless your community through your church, visit: www.adventistchip.org.
Lodging: For room reservations, please contact Sherri Keith at 601-436-0399. To REGISTER: Please call Sasha at the Gulf States Office: 334-272-7493 or Email: sclevenger@gccsda.org. Payment: Send payments to: Gulf States Conference, c/o CHIP 10633 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, AL 36117.
Prices: \$250/to become a certified leader. \$50/person for non-certifying guest. \$150 for GSC members.

Executive Committee – Dec. 14.
Literature Evangelist Convention – Dec. 31–Jan. 3. 410 Pine Mountain Road, Pigeon Forge, TN 37863.
Pathfinder Council – Jan. 8-10.
Education Fair – Jan. 24, 25. Bass Memorial Academy.

Kentucky-Tennessee

Highland Academy Board – Jan. 21. March 17. Highland Academy.
Conference Executive Committee Meetings – Dec. 8. Jan. 26. March 22. Conference Office.
Ministers' Meetings – Jan. 11-14. Indian Creek Camp.
Evangelism Boot Camp – Jan. 22-24. Indian Creek Camp.
CREATION Health Workshop – Feb. 9. Conference Office.
Hispanic Pastors'/Elders' Retreat – March 4-6. Indian Creek Camp.
Eastern Kentucky Camp Meeting – March 11, 12. Prestonsburg, Ky.
Music Festival – March 17-19. Highland Academy.
Memphis Festival of Faith – March 25, 26. Memphis First Church.

Southern Adventist University

Christmas Concert – Dec. 12. The School of Music's free Christmas concert takes place in the Collegedale Church at 4 p.m. Watch the event live online at southern.edu/streaming.
Winter Semester Begins – Jan. 11. Southern offers a variety of bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For details, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

Sunset						
	Dec. 4	Dec. 11	Dec. 18	Dec. 25	Jan. 1	Jan. 8
Atlanta, GA	5:29	5:29	5:32	5:35	5:40	5:45
Charleston, SC	5:13	5:14	5:16	5:20	5:24	5:30
Charlotte, NC	5:11	5:11	5:14	5:17	5:22	5:28
Collegedale, TN	5:29	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:40	5:46
Huntsville, AL	4:35	4:36	4:38	4:41	4:46	4:52
Jackson, MS	4:55	4:56	4:58	5:02	5:06	5:12
Louisville, KY	5:23	5:23	5:25	5:28	5:33	5:39
Memphis, TN	4:48	4:48	4:51	4:54	4:59	5:05
Miami, FL	5:29	5:31	5:33	5:37	5:41	5:46
Montgomery, AL	4:40	4:40	4:43	4:46	4:51	4:56
Nashville, TN	4:32	4:33	4:35	4:38	4:43	4:49
Orlando, FL	5:28	5:30	5:32	5:35	5:40	5:45
Wilmington, NC	5:02	5:02	5:05	5:08	5:13	5:18

REACHING OUT TOUCHING HEARTS HEALING LIVES

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Florida Hospital DeLand
Florida Hospital East Orlando
Florida Hospital Fish Memorial
Florida Hospital Flagler

Florida Hospital Heartland
Medical Center

Florida Hospital Heartland
Medical Center Lake Placid

Florida Hospital Kissimmee

Florida Hospital Memorial
Medical Center

Florida Hospital North Pinellas

Florida Hospital Oceanside

Florida Hospital Orlando

Florida Hospital Pepin Heart Institute

Florida Hospital Tampa

Florida Hospital Waterman

Florida Hospital Wauchula

Florida Hospital Wesley Chapel

Florida Hospital Zephyrhills

Gordon Hospital

Jellico Community Hospital

Manchester Memorial Hospital

Murray Medical Center

Park Ridge Health

Takoma Regional Hospital

Winter Park Memorial Hospital
(A Florida Hospital)



AdventistHealthSystem.com