The School of Religion faculty at Southern Adventist University, more than five years ago, voted unanimously to adopt the following position on the doctrine of creation. As you can see it is fully biblical and consistent with the Spirit of Prophecy. I thought our readers and supporters of Southern would be interested in this detailed statement.

Affirmations

According to Scripture:

1. We affirm the primacy of Scripture in all areas of inquiry, whether science or other disciplines, because it is the inspired Word of God (Isaiah 40:8; 2 Peter 1:19-21; 2 Timothy 3:16).

2. We affirm that Genesis 1-11 is a historical, literal, and reliable account since the description found therein is reaffirmed throughout the Old Testament (Exodus 20:11; Nehemiah 9:6; Job 26:7, 13; Psalms 8:3; 33:6; 96:5; 102:25; 104:24, 30; 115:15; 121:2; 124:8; 134:3; 136:5; 146:6; 148:4, 5; Proverbs 3:19; 8:22-30; Ecclesiastes 12:1; Isaiah 57:16; 40:12, 26-28; 42:7; 43:7; 44:24; 45:11-18; 51:13, 16; Jeremiah 51:15; Zechariah 12:1); also, every New Testament writer, and Jesus Himself, explicitly or implicitly affirms the historicity of Genesis 1-11 (Matthew 19:4, 5; 24:37-39; Mark 10:6; Luke 3:38; 17:26, 27; John 1:3; Romans 5:12; Acts 17:24-26; 1 Corinthians 6:16; 11:8, 9, 12, 15:45-48; 2 Corinthians 11:3; Colossians 1:16; Ephesians 5:31; 1 Timothy 2:13, 14; Hebrews 11:3, 7; 1 Peter 3:20; 2 Peter 2:5; 3:5, 6; James 3:9; 1 John 3:12; Jude 11, 14; Revelation 14:7).

3. We affirm that by His Word, God created all things out of nothing (ex nihilo) (Genesis 1:3; Psalm 33:6, 9; John 1:3; Hebrews 11:3).

4. We affirm the supernatural creation of a perfect and good world in six, consecutive, contiguous, literal, 24-hour days (Genesis 1; Exodus 20:11), and that creation was complete at the end of creation week (Genesis 2:1, 2).

5. We affirm that the six-day creation of life on Earth took place recently, a few thousand years ago (Genesis 5, 11; 1 Chronicles 1:1-27).

6. We affirm that all things were created by God, both in the heavens and the Earth, visible and invisible (Colossians 1:16).

7. We affirm that death was the result of sin (Romans 6:23), and that therefore there was no death before sin (Genesis 2:16, 17), and there will no longer be death in the new Heaven and the new Earth (Revelation 21:4).

8. We affirm that death came into the world by the first man, Adam (Genesis 3:6; Romans 5:14; 1 Corinthians 15:22), and that after introducing evil into the world there was a tremendous increase of wickedness (Genesis 6:1-4).

9. We affirm that a subsequent catastrophic, global flood was sent by God as a judgment against wickedness (Genesis 6:5-7) “so that all the high mountains everywhere under the heavens were covered” (Genesis 7:20, 21), and that this flood destroyed all flesh except that which was preserved on the Ark (Genesis 7:1-3; 2 Peter 2:5-7).

10. We affirm the gift of the Spirit of Prophecy as manifested in the ministry of Ellen G. White to this remnant movement and her specific reaffirmation of the biblical doctrine of creation as taught by the Scriptures: specifically, a literal six-day creation; God’s rest on the seventh day; a universal, global flood; and her reaffirmation of a short chronology of “about 6,000 years.”

11. We affirm that, when properly understood, Scripture and nature are harmonious in their witness to the creation and flood.

12. We affirm the interlocking nature of the doctrine of creation with these doctrines: Scripture, nature and character of God, nature of man, Great Controversy, atonement, remnant and mission, unity of the Church, gift of prophecy, law of God, Sabbath, stewardship, Christian behavior, marriage, Second Coming, death and resurrection, and the new Earth.

Denials

1. We deny that the creation story is parable, saga, metaphor, myth, or any other literary category insofar as they are construed as mutually exclusive to a literal and historical account.

2. We deny any other theory of origins involving millions of years for the development of life, and the evolution of humans from non-human primates as taught in natural evolution, theistic evolution, and progressive creation.

3. We deny the view that a literal and historical account of Genesis 1-11 is not essential to the belief system of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

4. We deny that death was part of God’s original creation or that it will be part of God’s new creation.

5. We deny that the biblical flood was only local or that the covering of the high mountains only involved water in a solid state.

6. We deny that Ellen G. White is to be understood only devotionally in the area of origins.
Volunteer Youth Leaders: Heroes of the Church

Oven-Baked Prayer

Blessed to Serve

Not Ashamed
Growing up as a youth, I had the privilege of being a member of a small and caring Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was a church of about 100 members. There were four members of our youth group — three boys and one girl. Yes, that is a very small youth group, but it didn’t discourage my church from providing ministries and activities for us. Many times we would share MV (Missionary Volunteer) meetings, (now called AY, Adventist Youth) with other churches in the area. That gave us a larger group of youth, and a greater opportunity for Christian fellowship and to meet other Adventist youth. Our church also had a Pathfinder club, which taught us various outdoor skills and the love of camping. They also encouraged us to attend summer camp, for they knew that ministry is powerful around a campfire setting, singing Christian songs and listening to Bible stories.

You may be asking, how did your small church sponsor all these activities and ministries for you? The answer is simple. My church had dedicated volunteer youth and Pathfinder leaders. They are the real heroes of our churches. These volunteer leaders took time from their families and their busy job schedules to make sure that we were ministered to.

I remember one of our volunteer leaders named Helen. She was a school teacher and helped with our MV meetings. Occasionally she would ask me to be the speaker for MV meeting. I prepared diligently for my presentation and did my best. Sometimes I felt that my sermon was good, and sometimes I just wasn’t sure. But, Helen would always compliment me and tell me that the Lord blessed my sermon.

You see, Helen was an “encourager” as a youth volunteer leader. She made us feel that we were an important part of the church. I never forgot that, and it made a tremendous difference in my life.

Recently, I was attending a youth ministry event and came across an enthusiastic youth group from one of our churches. The youth leader was the sister of one of my best friends who has served as a conference youth director. She was overflowing with enthusiasm as she
shared with me how she loved being a volunteer youth leader. It was obvious that the youth appreciated her leadership.

Our churches in the Southern Union Conference have great “encouragers” and enthusiastic volunteer youth, Pathfinder, Adventurer, and Sabbath School leaders who make a wonderful and powerful impact upon the youth in our churches. They are the heroes of youth ministry. They faithfully work with the pastor, youth pastor, and the conference youth director to help guide our youth, young adults, Pathfinders, Adventurers, and Sabbath School children. They love our youth, and you can tell because our youth love them back.

I am glad that our Church is a caring Church. We have dedicated youth who love their Church and are proud of their Church, and will stand up for their beliefs and standards. They want to share their faith and want to help others to be ready for the second coming of Jesus. As Church members, let us continue to encourage our youth and tell them that we are proud of their decision to serve Jesus, and that the Church needs their talents, abilities, and commitment.

After all, Ellen G. White wrote this memorable statement in her book, *Messages to Young People*, page 196: “With such an army as our youth, rightly trained, might furnish how soon the message of a crucified, risen, and soon-coming Savior might be carried to the whole world. How soon might the end come — the end of suffering and sorrow, and sin.”

Encouragers and volunteer youth leaders, thank you for your leadership, and be of good courage — you are making a difference in the lives of our youth.

*Allan R. Williamson is director of youth ministries at the Southern Union Conference.*
Where would you be today had no one prayed for you? What would be different in your life if the people who have interceded for you never had? Surely only in the Kingdom one day will we be able to fully appreciate the role that intercessors played in our lives. Our prayer life is a strong indicator of our spiritual condition. It is through the work of the Holy Spirit that we realize how much we need our Lord Jesus Christ in our personal lives, in our families, and in our church. If ever there was a time for us to rise up to God’s call to intercession, then now is the time.

In Isaiah’s day, the people of God found themselves in a terrible condition. They were being overrun by rogue nations, the moral fabric of society was coming apart, and divine judgments were to come swiftly to God’s people. The only remedy was divine intervention. But even here spiritual degeneracy had reached a new level, because it seemed that no one cared enough to intervene through prayer and supplication. God’s heart was broken. Another version puts the above verse in the following way: “The LORD saw . . . He saw that there was no man, and was outraged that no one intervened; so His arm brought Him victory and His own integrity upheld Him.”

Often we think that if we pray short quick prayers we will receive quick and abundant answers from God. Yes, Elijah on Mt. Carmel prayed a prayer of 40 words and the fire fell from Heaven. But, what about the Lord Jesus in the garden of Gethsemane as He prayed at least one hour and possibly longer in agonizing prayer for the whole world? He even asked Peter, James, and John whether they could watch one hour but, sadly, they fell asleep.

Oh, that we had men and women today like Daniel Nash or John “Praying” Hyde! People who would give themselves in the ministry of intercessory prayer for the Gospel of Christ, for the salvation of souls around us. What we need is not “microwave” praying but “oven-baked” praying. These are the kind of people who go to the “oven” of the prayer closet realizing that it is going to take time alone with God, agonizing for the souls of men.

Ellen White made a call that has resonated ever since its inception throughout our world Church family: “A chain of earnest, praying believers should encircle the world. Let all pray in humility. A few neighbors may meet together to pray for the Holy Spirit,” Review and Herald, January 3, 1907. Since this call was made, there have been several attempts to communicate to our world Church the vision of an uninterrupted, coordinated, and unified concert of prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit around the globe. At the 1990 General Conference Session in Indianapolis, Indiana, commitment cards were passed out to all delegates that called upon all of God’s remnant around the globe to unite in prayer at 6:15 a.m. (or 15 past another hour, joining others in time zones around the globe) for the outpouring of God’s Spirit in the latter rain. The call was specific: for the outpouring of God’s Spirit on the individual believer, their family, their church family (including pastors and leaders), and leadership of our Church and across global mission.

Can you imagine what the result would be if we all took this call seriously and petitioned Heaven to bathe our Church in the power of His Spirit? Indeed, is this not our greatest need? As we are witnessing incredible events and movements in our day, as we seek to bring this everlasting Gospel to all in our Union and around the globe, may His Spirit re-energize and invigorate our personal witness and that of our local church, so that this work will come to a glorious climax. I invite you to join the early morning Prayer Watch wherever you are, and as you petition Him with earnestness and sincerity, you will see amazing things happen around you.

Mark W. Piotrowski is pastor of the Savannah First Church, Savannah, Georgia, and prayer ministries coordinator for the Georgia-Cumberland Conference.
When Doris Stewart began the first leg of her flight, which would eventually land in Haiti on February 11, 2010, her heart was already there. A month earlier a devastating earthquake had jolted the country. As media around the world spread the news of the tragic event, Stewart, a retired licensed practical nurse, and a member of the St. Elmo Church near Mobile, Alabama, had more than a causal interest. She explains, “As I heard the reports, my heart ached. Those people had become my family — both my brothers and sisters in the Church, and those I wanted to reach.”

Until 2001, Stewart had never been outside of the country. Then her niece, Brenda Cooper, who lives in the Georgia-Cumberland Conference, asked her to go on an outreach trip with her and her husband, Michael, to Haiti, Stewart decided to try it. She says, “I thought I could see what it’s like, and I would be going with someone I knew.” She adds, “Once you go, you become hooked. The people needed so much, and yet they were so loving and kind.” After that initial trip, Cooper organized a group called “Haiti Helpers” and Stewart has gone back three other times with them.

On this fifth trip, Stewart knew it would be different. The people, who had so little, had now suffered an even bigger loss. The group’s destination was Jacmel, Haiti, which is located on the other side of an 8,000-foot-high mountain from Port-au-Prince. Jacmel had been cutoff from Port-au-Prince when the road leading to the capitol city was destroyed during the quake. The mission group included 13 team members from the United States and six from Haiti. There were four medical doctors, six nurses, two respiratory therapists, a paramedic, and a photographer/interpreter. One of the doctors spoke French and another Creole.

The group set up a free medical clinic in several different areas and gave health talks followed by evangelistic meetings in the evenings. They gave away vegetable seeds, dried beans, and rice. Stewart’s main responsibility was to conduct a Vacation Bible School for the children. “I have always worked with the children,” she says. As many as 80 to 85 children came each day. Using Bible felts, she presented the story of creation, how sin entered the world, Jesus as a child, His crucifixion, resurrection, and Heaven. “I definitely wanted to do the lesson on Heaven. I wanted the children to have something better to look forward to than what they have,” she adds. The children eagerly listened to the stories. The bright colored felts illustrating each story kept them spellbound.

After the stories, the children enjoyed craft and snack time. Stewart knew that for some of the children the snacks they received would be all the food they would get for that day.

Voodoo is still practiced on the island. Although the Adventist members do not practice it, they are much aware of it. Stewart says, “We have heard many stories of the works of the devil, but praise God, He is stronger.”

When asked how these trips have impacted her life, she quickly replies, “I notice when people ask me how I am, I tell them ‘I’m blessed, I’ve been to Haiti!’ We are all so blessed to live here.” She continues, “The people of Haiti are having their rainy season now which is bad anytime, but especially while living in tents. The water is running through the tents. The children are sleeping on the ground. We have heard that when the water starts to get into the children’s ears, they get up. Mothers are sleeping sitting up, holding their infants to keep them out of the water. Please pray for Haiti and our members there. They love the Lord. He is all they have.”

A crown is placed on a child’s head. “I wanted them to know that there was something better,” says Doris Stewart.
Baseball player refused to play on Sabbath.

Brandon Kroeger is known by his classmates at Summertown High as “the kid who can’t play ball on Friday nights.”

Seventeen-year-old Brandon Kroeger is not ashamed to share his convictions about the seventh-day Sabbath.

The assistant coach from Martin Methodist College heard about Brandon’s pitching ability and offered him a scholarship. Brandon explained about his Sabbath convictions, and the assistant coach responded, “I know about that; just come and we’ll see where it goes from there.”

While visiting the college campus in Pulaski, Tennessee, the coach asked, “Tell me what’s the deal?” Brandon responded, “From sundown Friday to sundown Saturday, I give that time to God. The rest of the time I can be there.” The Coach was so impressed that he said, “We play a lot of games during the week and it could work out for you to pitch for us then.”

“I know it is a very slim possibility to one day make the Major League,” Brandon says, “but I am prepared to give it up or to go as far as God wants me to go with baseball.”

At 14, Brandon’s Babe Ruth League won the State Championship and went on to the regionals in South Carolina. “I had to miss one game that was on Sabbath,” he says, “but last year I never had to miss any of the finals when the Summertown Eagles won at the Class A State Championship.” The score was tied in the bottom of the eighth inning. His team had two outs as Brandon came to bat. The bases were loaded and with two strikes, he hit a single to right field giving the Eagles a 3-2 victory at Middle Tennessee State on May 21, 2009.

“Because I know everyone watches me,” Brandon says, “I don’t go to any games or school functions on Sabbath. Sometimes it’s hard to be teased, but it’s worth it. No matter where the game is, when it comes close to sundown, everyone knows I will leave. One time I left when there were two outs and I was up to bat. But God comes first.”

Brandon attends the Lawrenceburg, Tennessee, Church with his parents, Matt and Shelly Kroeger. He credits his love of Jesus and the Sabbath to his parents and church family. “We have family worship every day,” he says, “but the most special is Friday night worship. Sabbath for me is when God helps me refocus. It re-energizes me for the whole week. Both of my parents help keep that spiritual base strong for me.”
Takoma Regional Hospital Honors Employees for Exemplifying Mission

Takoma Regional Hospital, Greenville, Tenn., honored employees with the first-ever “Crystal Dove Award,” recognizing them for personifying the hospital’s mission to be “an extension of the healing ministry of Christ.”

During the annual “Services Awards Banquet,” Daniel Wolcott, Takoma Regional’s president and CEO, announced that Mary Ann Monk, a licensed practical nurse in the endoscopy lab, and Garth Eddy, a cardiac sonographer in imaging services, were both winners of this new award.

“I asked Mary Ann how she integrates her faith into her work,” says Wolcott, “and she said, ‘This is my mission field. God put me here for a reason — to encourage people, patients, and co-workers.’”

Monk’s co-workers praised her for her tireless enthusiasm and encouragement for others, noting that she throws special parties each month for their birthdays or other holidays.

Monk, who also was honored for 15 years of service at Takoma, simply explained, “Everyone should have a special day — everyone deserves something special.”

Garth Eddy was recognized for his deep compassion for his patients.

“Garth’s compassion comes from his own difficult experiences,” Wolcott said. “He shares some of his own story with his patients and tells them that he knows what they’re going through.”

He was noted for taking the time recently to fix a patient’s crutches, even though he had to search around the hospital for a screwdriver. And, Eddy even recently took time off from work to accompany a frightened patient to a cancer center.

Wolcott noted that both Monk and Eddy “reflect our mission, live out our vision, and embody our values.”

“Our mission, our vision, our values are lived out one associate and one patient at a time,” explains Wolcott. “Because our mission states that we exist to extend the healing ministry of Christ, our work is sacred.”

—BY TINA CHUDINA

Florida Hospital Awarded Governor’s Sterling Award

The Florida Sterling Council awarded Florida Hospital Orlando, Orlando, Fla., the Governor’s Sterling Award for 2010. Florida Hospital Orlando is one of three organizations in the state to receive this honor.

“I am honored to recognize this year’s Sterling Award recipients,” said Governor Crist. “This year’s winners have demonstrated their commitment to improving health care in Florida. The process of competing for the award alone encourages organizations to pursue excellence and improve service.”

For 18 years, the Governor’s Sterling Award has recognized businesses in Florida that have successfully achieved performance excellence within their management and operations.

—BY ROBYN EDGERTON
Graduate Student Donates Kidney to Daughter

Zoila Leon walked down the aisle to receive her diploma with one less kidney than she had when she first came to Southern more than 30 years ago.

In 2008, while attending Southern, Leon gave her kidney to her daughter, 26-year-old Cristina, who has struggled with chronic kidney issues since she was a teenager.

Cristina had been on dialysis for three years after losing function in both kidneys. She also suffered many complications, including a stroke. It was during this time that Leon turned to her classmates and professors for support through prayer and kind words.

“The prayers and support of the students and staff really helped us get through our trials,” says Leon. “I’ve developed some wonderful friendships along the way.”

The transplant was scheduled during the same week that Leon was required to take her final exams at Southern. But she had faith that God would provide a way so that she wouldn’t have to choose between her daughter’s health and an important step in her career. Her faith in God was returned with a blessing: her professors allowed her to take her finals early.

“I think God helped us get well,” Leon told reporters at her graduation, “and got us through this because there are things He wants us to do.”

—BY JAROD KEITH

Class Gift Reflects Graduates’ Passion for Service

During graduation commencement on May 2, world-renowned artist Nathan Greene surprised the audience when he took the stage to help announce and sign the contract for the senior class gift.

The gift is to commission Greene to paint a picture that will be a visual representation of Southern’s mission of preparing students for service in every profession throughout their lives. The painting will show Jesus sending students, in different professional outfits, into the world to serve others.

“My hope for our class is that we will be inspired to give our lives and careers in service for God,” says Elise Harboldt, class campaign manager. “I want each graduate to realize that with God on their side, they can accomplish the impossible.”

The 334 undergraduate and 26 graduate students who walked down the aisle and received their diplomas will soon enter the work force with the service-minded knowledge they received at Southern. Twelve of these graduates will even be taking their talents to other countries, where they will serve as missionaries.

—BY BRITTANY RUSSELL

Artists Focus on Creation and the Creator

The beauty of God and His creation were the inspiration for a recent joint art gallery show for senior art education majors Julie Hambridge and Rebecca Wong in the John C. Williams Gallery of Art.

While taking Painting III, both students began to develop pieces for the exhibit, and their separate themes were born. Hambridge, choosing the theme of “Creation,” produced a series highlighting each day of the creation week. Wong, choosing the theme “One Thing I Seek,” inspired by Psalm 27:4, painted pieces based on favorite scripture passages.

“When I first read Psalm 27:4, it struck me like lightning,” says Wong. “Here I was seeking beautiful things to draw and paint and inspire my art, and there God was — the most beautiful expression to the existence of humanity — just waiting for me to seek Him.”

Wong showcased her new realization of God’s beauty through portraits of children and nature. Together with Hambridge’s pieces, the joint spiritual emphasis impacted those who attended the opening.

“For an artist in this day and age to take a stand in biblical teachings and let it direct their art to bring out the deeper meaning of scripture,” says Alan Parker, professor of religion, “I think that’s powerful.”

—BY SUZANNE OCSAI
Who would have known that the 11-year-old drug dealer selling his stash by the stop sign would, 13 years later, hold a tent revival in the very same location? Scotty Deal, co-leader and Bible worker of the Lumber River Adventist Church, held tent revival meetings, May 7-14, 2010, in Pembroke, N.C. From drug dealer to evangelist, Deal has an amazing story.

Deal grew up in a religious family. However, the path he chose for himself was definitely unreligious. Very early in life, Deal was introduced to marijuana, and by age 11 he was both taking and selling drugs. Eventually his poor decisions could not be tolerated any longer, and Deal’s father asked him to leave home. Roaming the streets, Deal spent his days gambling, using and selling drugs, and playing pool.

One night when he was 20 years old and high on drugs, God spoke to him. Recalling this night, he said, “He [God] said to me, ‘Tonight: it’s now or never.’” So right then he made his decision: He would choose Christ. From then on, his life began to change. He started going to a Baptist church and eventually began preaching. A Seventh-day Adventist co-worker noticed him studying the Bible and introduced him to the Adventist Church. In 2000, Deal began taking Bible studies and was baptized in August of 2002.

Years later, he had the inspiration to host a tent revival — not just anywhere, but in his hometown, and at the very spot where he used to sell drugs. “Since He delivered me from this place, I felt strongly that this was the place where God would have me to do my first evangelistic tent effort,” said Deal. The Lord greatly blessed this endeavor. Each night there was an average of 80 people — not including church members — coming to the meetings. Even some of Deal’s former drug dealing “buddies” have attended and turned their lives over to Christ.

Also amazing is the fact that many local non-Adventist churches closed and even canceled their Wednesday night meetings to come to the tent revival. Some churches even used their own busses to transport their members to the meetings! What a work God is doing in this small town out in the country where much drug and gang action still takes place.

There are currently 25 people attending the follow-up Bible studies who are making their decisions for the Lord. Not only have the visitors been blessed listening to the drug-dealer-turned-evangelist, but the members are also “fired up” seeing the power of God working, giving them a desire to witness to others as well.

—BY ALYSSA BRANTLEY
Members Reconnect with Church Works

The Carolina Conference is continuing the excitement of evangelism. Recently, churches sent delegates to the Blue Ridge Assembly in Black Mountain, N.C., for Church Works.

What is Church Works? It is an intense, Spirit-filled workshop intended to foster a climate of evangelism within churches. The concept of “Every Member is a Minister” was the pervading idea. Each presentation and workshop throughout the weekend was designed to inspire, equip, and train members with innovative ways to draw people to Christ.

This program was first implemented by the North American Division Evangelism Institute (NADEI), which is based at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich. The Carolina Conference partnered with NADEI to sponsor the Church Works program for its members. It was a life-changing event for many of the delegates.

“To be honest, I wasn’t sure I even wanted to go,” said one attendee. “But, after hearing the new thoughts and ideas, I am recharged and re-inspired to share my faith.”

One man, a recently reclaimed Adventist, said, “Church Works restored my faith in the Adventist Church as an innovative and forward-thinking organization, ready to do what it takes to win souls.”

Don Schneider, NAD president, joined Church Works by teleconference to encourage everyone to continue reflecting God’s love in different ways to every person they meet. Guest speakers Ron Clouzet, NADEI director, and Eduard Schmidt, NADEI associate director, presented messages to motivate and inspire strategic planning techniques.

The pastors, along with six to eight members from each district, were given specific geographical assignments for their churches to minister to during the next 10 years. Delegates will meet again in various regions of the Conference this fall to review what has been accomplished.

—BY JACQUIE PINDER

Couple Side by Side for 50 Years

Mack and Virginia Caswell were married in Clearwater, Fla., on April 1, 1960.

They moved to Freeport, Grand Bahama, in 1965 because Mack had an offer for work. While there, two Seventh-day Adventist gentlemen invited them home for Bible studies. Both were convinced that this was what they were meant to find and become Christians.

In 1971, they moved to Uchee Pines Institute in Seale, Ala., to become part of the staff.

In 1980, they received a call from Living Springs Retreat in Putnam Valley, N.Y., to help spread the Gospel to New York City. On December 12, 1981, tragedy struck their family. Mack II and Christopher were skating on the local pond and fell through the ice. Both drowned before they could be rescued. Some would have lost their faith, but Mack and Virginia found renewed strength in the promise of a reunion with their sons one day.

Mack and Virginia moved again in 1983 when they received a call from Ken Coonley, then pastor of the Winter Springs Church in Uchee Pines Institute. They moved to Winter Springs, Fla., to help spread the Gospel to New York City.

In 1980, they received a call from the Adventist Church to help spread the Gospel to New York City. On December 12, 1981, tragedy struck their family. Mack II and Christopher were skating on the local pond and fell through the ice. Both drowned before they could be rescued. Some would have lost their faith, but Mack and Virginia found renewed strength in the promise of a reunion with their sons one day.

Mack and Virginia moved again in 1983 when they received a call from Ken Coonley, then pastor of the Winter Springs Church in Longwood, Fla. Mack was asked to oversee the building of a fellowship hall.

Today, the couple resides in Salem, S.C., near two of their daughters, Lisa and Tammy. They continue to spread the Gospel and God’s love to those around them and wherever they go. Fifty years together — 45 of them spent in the service of God: They are faithfully waiting for that day when the Lord returns.

—BY TAMMY CASWELL SHAFER
Media Reports Activities of Church Young People

Miami Springs Church Health Fair Attracts Children

Jacksonville Southpoint Church Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs participated in the 2010 Martin Luther King Parade, where their sharp uniforms were noted among spectators along the route.

Participating in parades and other community events is part of an ongoing goal for the Jacksonville Southpoint Church Pathfinder and Adventurer clubs in order to raise awareness of the Adventist Church and its mission. As a result, their clubs were featured twice on local media in less than a year.

The first coverage occurred after the Adventurers visited ActionNews~Fox 30/CBS47 studios where Mike Buresh, chief meteorologist, conducted two weather awards for them. As a way to express their thanks, a certificate of appreciation was presented to Buresh. The following day on the evening news, he spoke of the Adventurers’ visit and showed, on air, the certificate he received.

The second awareness opportunity came when the clubs participated in the 2010 Martin Luther King Parade, an event broadcast live on FirstCoastNews digital channel 25.2 and also online at www.firstcoastnews.com.

Parents and members lined the streets and wore shirts promoting various church activities such as Walk for Health, a program offered by the health ministries department. In addition, Pathfinders and Adventurers distributed candy to the children on the parade route, and handed out more than 2,000 flyers introducing the community to various ministries offered by Jacksonville Southpoint.

Members believe if people see them involved in community events, they will be more receptive when evangelistic outreach programs are offered.

—BY GENIVIEVE TAYLOR

Miami Springs Church Health Fair Attracts Children

Thirty children were among the 150 individuals who benefited from the Miami Springs Church’s Health Fair.

Miami Springs Church members gave full support to their first Health Fair which drew more than 150 individuals, including 30 children. News of the event was highlighted in the Miami Springs Gazette. Special mention was given to an entire section of the fair dedicated to children’s health, such as germ and injury prevention, as well as children’s exercises.

The Miami Springs Church was intentional about making the fair an outreach to benefit the community. They also saw it as a way to let others learn about the Adventist health message. Outdoor exhibits surrounding the church included a dental booth, short aerobic exercise sessions, healthful food, blood pressure tests, and free literature on such topics as unexpected pregnancy and keeping an injury-free body.

The church members anticipate that with their help and God’s blessing, their city will be on its way to better health.

—BY MELISSA ANDERSON

Melissa Anderson, 14, attends the Miami Springs Church with her parents, David and Isabel, who mentor their Greater Miami Adventist Academy sophomore in her passion for writing. Recently, Melissa entered a writing competition and won a $2,000 scholarship for the coming school year. Her dream is to work for an Adventist publishing house.
Florida Education Team Earns Three Top Awards

Enthusiasm is building in Florida Conference as two schools received the Southern Union Adventist EDGE (Educators Delivering GREAT Education) School of Excellence award. Beryl Wisdom Adventist School (BWAS) in Orlando and Forest Lake Education Center (FLEC) in Longwood are now among the 10 schools in the Southern Union that have earned the right to fly the official EDGE flag.

In February, an evaluation team from Southern Union Conference visited the schools. After reviewing activities and speaking with students, parents, teachers, and board members, they confirmed both schools aligned with the acronym, GREAT: God-centered, Results-oriented, Environment that nurtures, Aligned with Adventist and national standards, Team effort.

“I’m thrilled that others recognize the exceptional program and team that we have at FLEC,” remarked Janet Ledesma, principal, after hearing the good news that her school had received EDGE status. “While the journey is arduous, the fruits of our labors directly benefit our students.”

Across town at BWAS, Val Dixon, principal, jumped up and down with excitement as the announcement came that BWAS had exceeded the 90 percent score needed to receive EDGE status. The evaluation team commended both schools for their thorough work in all areas of GREAT, noting their spiritual atmosphere; data-driven planning; child-friendly practices; high academic standards; and strong collaboration between home, school, and church.

BWAS received its award during a high-spirited, student-led worship service at Pine Hills Church. An official proclamation from Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer established April 24 as “Beryl Wisdom Adventist School Day in the City of Orlando.”

“It is such an incredible blessing to see our school receiving public recognition in our community, along with this Union-wide honor,” said Dixon. “God has truly led us all the way.”

Along with the high honors given to these two schools, one teacher received nationwide recognition. During the May 4 Florida Conference principals’ meeting, Tammy Overstreet was presented the Teacher of Excellence Award from the Alumni Awards Foundation, joining the prestigious ranks of only eight teachers per year in the country who receive the medal and cash award.

“I am humbled to receive such an honor,” said Tammy, who has taught in Jacksonville and Kissimmee and recently accepted a position at Forest Lake Education Center. “I give credit and thanks to the Florida Conference education team for providing me with so many opportunities to grow and learn.”

Tammy is the third Florida Conference teacher in as many years to receive the award, with Rusty Litten (retired from Orlando Junior Academy) and Chip Davis (Avon Park) preceding her. To qualify for the Teacher of Excellence Award, one must meet 10 standards, including high quality spiritual and academic standards; consistent love for Jesus Christ and students; innovative, creative and effective teaching methods; in-depth knowledge of subject matter and teaching methods; and collaboration with colleagues.

—BY SANDRA DORAN AND LYNNET REINER
Baptists to Build Adventist Church in Tennessee

Representatives from the Conference joined the McMinnville, Tenn., Church leadership along with Baptist pastor DeWayne Howard, from the Bridges of Hope Fellowship, April 26, 2010, for a church groundbreaking ceremony.

Carolyn Williams, a church elder, shared that the McMinnville Church has attempted to build a new church since the early 1960’s. God led the church to a near unanimous vote to build a new church next to the 1-12 grade church school. In the spirit of unity, the building committee and decorating committee have purposed to look to the interests of others (Philippians 2:4). The lowest building cost the church had entertained in the past totaled $800,000, Williams reflected. Now with the worst economy in recent history, the new church building project has become the most affordable, with a gift valued at $200,000 in volunteer labor.

The Mid-GA Builders for Christ Baptist volunteers will help build within eight days new McMinnville facility, as well as help finish the Baptist Church, Bridges of Hope Fellowship. With only a cement slab poured in advance, the 60 Baptist volunteers will start building on June 11, and nearly finish the new stick-built church by June 18.

The McMinnville Church expresses gratitude to God for leading in unity, and to the Baptist volunteers for bringing what would have been impossible — a new church. —BY HARLEY P. ROTH

Duluth School Earns Kroger Grand Prize

During the past few years, the Home and School Association of Duluth Adventist Christian School (DACS) has participated in the Kroger Earning for Learning program. The school receives a percent of money from groceries purchased by people who sign up and earmark DACS as the recipient.

This year, Kroger changed their system and came up with something different. The new program requires the school to enter a contest. Kroger advertised that they would be giving away several $1,000 prizes, and one grand prize of $2,500.

For this year’s contest, the school had to show how it was active in “Mind, Body, and Community.” There were no guidelines about the entry format; the advice was just “be creative.” The school decided to make a scrapbook, hoping that Kroger planned to give all entrants something for just entering. Using photographs taken during the school year by David Forsey, principal, the scrapbook highlighted ways the school was active in “Mind, Body, and Community.”

God blessed and DACS was awarded the grand prize of $2,500! The money will go towards new carpeting for the school.

—BY DAVID FORSEY

Lisa Beck, Kroger regional director (center), presented the Kroger $2,500 award to Marina Falls, co-leader for Duluth Adventist Christian School Home, and David Forsey, Duluth Adventist Christian School principal.
Thirteen-year-old is Musical Winner

Darby Jones, 13-year-old freshman at Georgia-Cumberland Academy, was the recent winner of the Berry College Concerto Competition held in Rome, Ga.

Darby Jones, daughter of Steven Jones and Cheryl Reinhardt-Jones, M.D., makes beautiful music. In fact, her musical talents had her performing recently with the Oak Hill Symphony Orchestra as the high school winner of the Berry College Concerto Competition. Jones’ April 20, 2010, performance was a brilliant rendition of the Allegro aperto with cadenza from W. A. Mozart’s Violin Concerto in A Major.

To be a member of this group involves two rounds of auditions with competitions and rehearsals lasting almost an entire year. This year approximately 700 young people auditioned for 30 places in the orchestra. Jones recently explained how it happened that she ended up in the orchestra. “I got involved two years ago when I first tried out for it, but didn’t make it past the second round of auditions. This year, however, I practiced harder and went all the way. It was an amazing experience!”

Jones has a few years to go, but her sights are ultimately set on being a music performance major at Southern Adventist University, and then perhaps going on to The Juilliard School. In the short term, Jones would like to pick up a recording contract in Nashville and pursue her first love — vocal performance. Cheryl, Darby’s mom, is hopeful that her daughter “will have a strong enough G.P.A. and enough hours of musical practice that any life work will be an option for her. Whatever she chooses to do, I hope that she loves God and devotes her work completely to Him.”

When Jones isn’t practicing music or doing homework, she loves hanging out with her Georgia-Cumberland Academy friends and playing basketball. After all, when you’re 13 and just finishing your ninth grade year of high school, there are more things to life than work!

Jones has already come a long way in the pursuit of her musical goals, and her parents, teachers, and friends are proud of her achievements and happy for her successes.

—BY NANCY GERARD

Kossicks Celebrate 60th Anniversary

John Kossick married Betty Kasper on April 23, 1950, at First Church in Akron, Ohio. In 1976, John started a career with Adventist Hospital System as an electrician/foreman, working at Kettering Medical Center (KMC), White Memorial Medical Center, Shawnee Mission Medical Center, then returning to KMC and retiring from there. Betty continues as a freelance writer/journalist.

After John’s retirement, the couple lived in Cadillac and Battle Creek, Mich., Zephyrhills and Ocala, Fla., and recently settled in Canton, Ga. They are members of the Cherokee Church in Woodstock, Ga., where John is an adult Sabbath School teacher, and Betty serves in a communication capacity.

The Kossicks are the parents of a daughter and son; they have five grown grandchildren, and four great-grandsons. Their motto is “...as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord,” Joshua 24:15.
Stateline Church Holds Health Expo, Training

On the first weekend of May, 75 people from nine different churches attended a two-day training and health expo program at the Stateline Church in Ardmore, Ala. The event was coordinated by Todd Lawson, lay pastor; Robert Johnson, Amazing Wellness Health team leader; and team members. The invited guest was Charles H. Cleveland, M.Div., M.P.H., Health Education Resources (HER).

During Sabbath School a health mission report was given. Cleveland’s message for the Sabbath worship service was “Using Both Hands.”

Afternoon training included instructions on how to attract the community with a health expo, the keys to follow-up programs, and tools for soul-winning through expos.

On Sunday, the training moved to the Ardmore, Tenn., Community Center where the attendees received hands-on training as they learned about the equipment, and how to set up a health expo.

This workshop also taught participants how to use the health expo as a natural bridge to spiritual meetings, and the simple steps of how to organize an expo in their community. Participants were given opportunity to practice using the various screening equipment that makes an expo appealing to the public.

After the training, 25 visitors from the community attended the expo.

The first health expo was held in November 2009. Now, the Amazing Wellness Health team has started follow-up cooking classes led by Marvella Burton. They plan a food canning and drying class in June. Stepfast classes will start in July. A depression recovery seminar and other classes will follow.

—By Earline Phillips

Big Cove Christian Academy Students Visit Space Shuttle Crew

Big Cove Christian Academy (BCCA) grades four through nine attended the Space Shuttle STS-130 mission review at the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., on March 31, 2010. Other attendees included public school students, Space Camp students, and Marshall Space Flight Center employees. The STS-130 mission carried the Cupola, the last major piece to the International Space Station, now orbiting the Earth.

The Cupola is the windowed segment that allows the astronauts to view the space station exterior, the Earth, and outer space with greater ease. Four of the six crew members present were Commander George Zamka, Colonel USMC; Pilot Terry Virts, Colonel USAF; and two mission specialists. After introductions, the crew showed a movie depicting their lift off, orbit activities, and landing. The crew then took questions from the audience. One BCCA student asked the crew some particulars on living in outer space. After the program, each student received an autographed picture of the crew. The trip was more significant since the Space Shuttle is being retired by NASA 3 missions after STS-130.

The Big Cove teachers attending were Rachel Wiegand, principal, and Castwell Fider. The trip was arranged by Jim Bishop, a retired NASA engineer.

—By Jim Bishop
Community Turns Out to Dedicate Ball Field

Singing the tuneful “Take Me Out to the Ball Game,” Pensacola Junior Academy students, parents, and community guests set the tone for the outdoor dedication of Rickles Field on April 30, 2010. In the 12 years since it was first constructed, the ball field has seen much use by the students and several community ball teams, but had not been officially dedicated. After brief remarks by special guests, including Gulf States President Mel Eisele, and Escambia County (Florida) Commission Chairman Grover Robinson IV, the students were ready to “play ball!”

The field is named in honor of Julius Thomas (Tommy) Rickles, who died in a car accident in 1997. Tommy, an alumnus of Bass Memorial Academy and a decorated Viet Nam War veteran, was the brother of community member Bert Rickles, who oversaw the field construction. “In his will Tommy had requested that I donate a portion of his estate to a charity of my choice,” Bert noted. When visiting his wife, Mary, a teacher at the school, Bert saw the students playing in the parking lot. He felt a burden to help provide them with an alternative outdoor play site. Using his brother’s bequest as seed money, he started raising funds and getting volunteers to work on it. In addition to donations from Gulf States Conference, the school, church, and Kiddie Korral Child Care Center, numerous individuals donated funds to make the dream of a place to play a reality. After countless hours of site preparation and about $37,000 in costs, the field was ready for the children, who delight in playing baseball, softball, kickball, soccer, and other sports.

Eisele praised the efforts of those who helped make the ball field a place for the spiritual and physical nurture of the young people. “The church and school involvement with the community is a big plus.” Commissioner Grover Robinson expressed his appreciation and admiration of the “can do” attitude and community spirit exemplified by the shared use of this recreational asset. A collection of All Star teams from the community regularly use the field for practice.

After remarks by the guest speakers, center field became a beehive of activity, with older children playing softball, and the younger ones taking part in T-Ball. Everyone enjoyed traditional baseball fare of vegetarian hot dogs, Gatorade, and peanuts.

Mother’s Day Gift Given to Hattiesburg, Miss.

For Mother’s Day, May 9, 2010, 14 students, along with local Adventist medical personnel and Bass Memorial Academy faculty, gifted Hattiesburg, Miss., with a six-hour health fair on Wal-Mart’s parking lot. To accomplish this, Lidia Seda and Amy Williamson visited Bass for three days to train students to give massages, operate a computerized health appraisal program, conduct stress tests, and other activities to make contacts. The students are now able to assist local churches as they conduct health fairs.

Funding for the Hattiesburg health fair was sponsored by Bass Memorial Academy Church and the Gulf States Conference. Additional support from the Huntsville Central Church and Florida Hospital made the event possible to remind the community, “Good Health is a Way of Life.”

—BY CLIFF KELLER
Kentucky-Tennessee News

Centenarian Laid to Rest

Edith Landaas Henderson, long-time member of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., Church, died April 26, 2010, at the age of 102. Her husband Carl died in April of 2006, also at the age of 102.

Edith was born June 25, 1907, in Bergen, Norway, where she lived until the age of nine when her family immigrated to America. Edith was raised a Lutheran, but was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church at the age of 20. She met Carl Henderson in Seattle, where they were married in December of 1929.

While living in Walla Walla, Wash., Edith showed her natural gift of hospitality as her sons brought classmates and best friend, Jesus. She will be remembered for her infectious smile, which some have defined as a sparkle with a hint of mischievousness. Hard working is an understatement for this Norwegian mother.

Because of their parents’ commitment and sacrifice, all three sons, Norman, Gordon, and Clyde, received a Seventh-day Adventist Christian education, and have positively influenced the lives of thousands across the country and around the world.

At the request of Norman, Carl and Edith moved from Walla Walla to Lawrenceburg — they were surprised to discover that many years before he had a family, Carl had taken a year off from attending school in Madison, Tenn., to become the first teacher in Lawrenceburg’s fledgling church school, held in a house.

Norman was wondering how and when to tell his mother, who loved her independence, she was too old to drive. When Edith turned 95, Norman disconnected her car’s battery cables. “It was easier,” he says, “than asking her to give up her keys.”

Edith, a lover of flowers, was still cultivating, planting, and weeding while in her 90’s. She was also aware of her own youthful looks and remarkably wrinkle-free skin. As a result, she found amusement in frequently asking, “How old do you think I am?” Even at 102 some commented that she looked 65.

On May 1, a very stormy, rainy Sabbath afternoon, but bright with hope, Edith was laid to rest at Lawrenceburg County Memorial Gardens in Lawrenceburg beside her dear husband of 76 years.

—BY LLOYD SCHOMBURG

Decherd Members Witness at Dogwood Festival

Members of the Decherd, Tenn., Church participated in the sixth annual Winchester Dogwood Festival. Church members rented booth space near the city square where they could share God’s love in a practical way.

While there, they offered free family and friends photographs for the festival attendees. Throughout each day, groups of smiling faces came through the booth to have their picture taken. While they waited the few seconds for their photo to print, it provided an opportune time for questions to be asked and answered. The biggest question participants had was, “Is it really free? What’s the catch?” Church members were happy to respond, “Yes, it really is free! Just like God’s love.” Once people found it really was free, they lined up to have their picture taken. Some commented that it was the only family picture they had. Nearly 800 photos were taken and printed. Each group was able to take their photo home as a memento of the festival, and a reminder that God’s love truly is free.

—BY JON WEIGLEY
Madison Academy is About Mission

Twenty-nine Madison Academy’s students, staff, and parents spent their spring break in Albania working with ADRA. Albania is a small country on the Adriatic Sea just north of Greece.

The primary objective was to renovate four medical clinics. These medical clinics are satellite clinics to the main ADRA clinic in the capital city of Tirana. These clinics serve the farmers, shepherds, and others living in the rural areas that would otherwise not have access to medical treatment. Most of the time and energy was spent painting these clinics (inside and out), performing minor repairs and digging a ditch around the outside of each clinic in order to build a wall to enclose each clinic.

The second objective was to share the love of Christ with the people of Albania. On Sabbath morning for the worship service, the students led out in a few songs, and Kurtis Kenerson, a senior, gave the sermon with help from a translator. On Sabbath afternoon the students visited one of the orphanages in the city.

One evening, the group went to a park in the middle of Tirana to sing songs of praise and share the love of God with anyone who would listen. The students were taunted and mocked — even spat at by some. This country is so secular that the idea of living out your beliefs is thought of as weak, and is a foreign concept to most people. In spite of all the resentment that the students experienced, they conducted themselves admirably.

Albania is one of the poorest countries in Europe, and within the last 20 years broke from the communist regime. It is 90 percent Muslim and has less than 100 Seventh-day Adventists in a country with approximately four million citizens. Although most of the people align themselves with one religion, this country is extremely secular. Less than 10 percent of the population actually attends a religious service on a regular basis.

After leaving Albania, the group traveled to Athens, Greece, and experienced some of the history, culture, and food that it has to offer. This was an amazing trip filled with hard work, challenges, but most importantly blessings that will be remembered for life.

—BY ANDREW JAMIESON

School Recognized for Green Initiative

For the past three years, Lawrence County, Tenn., has awarded the Bill Egly Seventh-day Adventist Church School in Lawrenceburg $50 for participating in and promoting recycling. All three teachers encouraged students and church members to bring items for recycling to the school where the county picks them up each week. Pictured left to right are Diane Joy, Jonathon Nicholaides, and Tim Joy.

—BY LLOYD SCHOMBURG
Harold D. Singleton, First South Atlantic President, Dies

Elder Harold Douglas Singleton was born in Brunswick, Ga., on December 10, 1908. At an early age, the Lord guided his family to a home located diagonally across the street from a Seventh-day Adventist church in Jacksonville, Fla.

Singleton’s mother, Annie Mae Singleton, was impressed with what she saw and heard during the crusade the church held in 1917. She was baptized that same year by G. E. Peters. Harold’s father, Joseph, was baptized at a later time. Thus began the rich Seventh-day Adventist legacy of the Singleton family.

The untimely death of Harold’s mother in 1924 was difficult for this 15-year-old youngster. Without adequate funds for a Christian education, he nevertheless enrolled in the high school division of Oakwood Junior College. Guided by the Lord, Isaac Palmer, the local elder of Ephesus Church, Jacksonville, and patriarch of the Palmer family, organized the church members to help sponsor Harold. Upon his arrival on campus, he was assigned to the carpentry shop and worked there throughout his stay at Oakwood.

In 1925, while young Harold was a student at Oakwood, W. L. H. Baker, a faculty member, baptized him in Indian Creek. Harold graduated from Oakwood in the spring of 1928 with an interest in history. After much prayer and under the influence of J. A. Tucker, president of Oakwood, Harold decided to accept a call to the Gospel ministry. He and Harvey Kibble were the first two African-American young men accepted into the new General Conference internship program for ministers in the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

Harold began his denominational career in what was then the Cumberland Conference, and for the next two years he pastored the Eighth Street Church in Chattanooga, Tenn. With the assistance of Anna Knight, he was able to attend Union College for one year to work on his bachelor’s degree. He then accepted a call to the Florida Conference where he labored for seven years. He fulfilled his Gospel mission by raising up congregations through pastoring and building churches debt free.

While laboring in Florida, during the summer of 1935, Singleton was ordained into the Gospel ministry by F. L. Peterson at the camp meeting in Orlando, Fla. While pastoring in Miami, Fla., Singleton met and married the love of his life, Mary Louise Miller of Atlanta, Ga. They were married June 6, 1938, in Orlando.

In 1940, Singleton answered a call to the Carolina Conference where he pastored several churches, and was the “state man” for three years. As the state man, Singleton was the black pastor who promoted the Carolina Conference president’s program among the black churches in the state. His next call was to the Southern Union Conference, Decatur, Ga., where he served for three years as secretary of the Negro department.

When the South Atlantic Conference was organized in 1945, in Atlanta, he was elected as its first president. At the time this Conference was organized, it had a membership of 3,523. There were 32 churches and companies. The Conference immediately began growing in membership and prominence. In fact, the Conference grew so that by 1981 it was split into two conferences: South Atlantic and Southeastern. During his administration the Hawthorne, Fla., campground was secured.

In 1954, he succeeded the late L. H. Bland as president of the Northeastern Conference, St. Albans, N.Y. Singleton remained there until 1962. The Victory Lake campground was secured in Hyde Park, N.Y., during his administration.

During the 1962 General Conference session held in San Francisco, Calif., Singleton was elected secretary of the North American Regional Department of the General Conference. There he succeeded F. L. Peterson who was elected as vice-president of the General Conference. In addition to his duties as secretary of the department, in 1966, Singleton, at the Detroit General Conference Session, was elected as an associate secretary of the General Conference. He served faithfully and well until his retirement in 1975.

Singleton devoted more than 46 years of service to the denomination, and left an enriching experience that is still being felt by the Church many years after his retirement.

After retirement from the General Conference, Singleton pastored several Washington-area churches in the Allegheny East Conference.

Singleton died February 6, 2010, at a care facility in Maryland. He was 101 years old.

He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Mary Louise Miller Singleton of Atlanta; their six children; and many other relatives.
Carlton Byrd Selected as Breath of Life Speaker

Carlton Byrd, D.Min., has been selected by the Adventist Media Center Board of the General Conference to serve as the associate speaker/director for the Breath of Life Television Ministries. He joins a great line of speakers for Breath of Life, including Charles D. Brooks and current speaker/director Walter L. Pearson Jr. In addition to this new assignment, Byrd will continue to serve as the senior pastor of the 4,000-member Atlanta-Berean Church, Atlanta, Ga.

Byrd holds a bachelor of arts degree in theology and a bachelor of science degree in business management. He has earned two graduate degrees, a master of business administration, and a master of divinity, along with earning the doctor of ministry degree. Presently, he serves as an adjunct professor at Oakwood University in the Religion and Theology Department for the master of arts degree in pastoral studies.

In his 16 years of pastoral leadership, Byrd has served as a pastor in the states of Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee, Texas, and Georgia. A pastoral evangelist by nature, Byrd believes that spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the hub of every ministry in the Church. As an internationally renowned speaker and evangelist, he has baptized more than 2,500 individuals — 1,300 of which have been baptized into Atlanta-Berean Church, since his installation as senior pastor in August 2006.

Byrd has been instrumental in launching a television ministry at Atlanta-Berean Church that currently airs weekly on two Atlanta television stations, and has served as a guest minister on the Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN). He was also selected by the North American Division to be the featured speaker for its Net 2009 evangelistic series that was aired on the Hope Church Channel.

Byrd is married to the former Danielle Mounter, and they are the parents of two girls, Christyn and Caileigh.

—By JAMES K. LAMB

Zion Temple Members Clean Up Community

Not even a little rain could stop some local church members, youth, and adults from cleaning up around the neighborhood — their selflessness was contagious.

About 20 members from the Zion Temple Church in Greenwood, S.C., spent the morning scouring Oakwood Condominiums and other places near their church for discarded trash.

“We’re doing this because we want to let the kids know how important it is to serve the community,” said Adventist Youth Society leader Ella Brown, a 20-year member of Zion Temple Church.

It felt pretty good, according to six-year-old Kimerion Coleman, assigned to seek out and pick up bottles with a 30-inch arm-and-claw. “I’m just trying to pick up as much trash as I can,” he said, “I like to help people.”

So does nine-year-old A.J. Davis, who was not with the church but lived nearby. Between swipes at leaves with a rake, he said a family member told him about the clean-up and he wanted to do his part. “I’m going to keep raking until I get every leaf up,” he said, panting a bit. Even the rain — starting and stopping several times throughout the morning — couldn’t slow him down.

Taurus Gilliam, 15, noted some of the trash gathered in about a dozen white kitchen garbage bags would be recycled. “It’s a good activity, and it gives me something to do over spring break.”

Pamela Anderson, Zion Temple community service leader for the 75-member church, said the clean-up spoke to the overall mission to “make a difference” in the community. “We’re providing a service to people,” she said. “Not only that, we’re also trying to beautify the area. It’s good to be part of anything that helps make a difference.”

An Oakwood resident, Ronnie Davis, said he didn’t know why more of his neighbors weren’t joining the effort like he was. “These are God-fearing people. This isn’t something they have to do; this is something they want to do,” he said of the church members.
South Central News

**Historic Presidents’ Reception**

Dana C. Edmond, South Central Conference president, launched a historical first. Presidents and their wives, past and present, who reside within the South Central territory, were invited to a special presidents’ reception on Tuesday, November 3, 2009. This event was held at the president’s dining room, Business and Technology Building, Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala. There were a total of 23 participants.

Edmond stated that more than 500 years of ministerial experience was represented in the room. It was turned into a didactic right of passage experience when Edmond consulted with so many years of wisdom. These men shared useful and helpful tips from a presidential pool of knowledge and their personal experiences as Church leaders.

There was a sense of awe and respect when viewing the scene. Gathered there were people, ordinary men and women, who had been called to greatness. Present were individuals who shaped this Church significantly. They serve God, and still serve, His people, and the Church, locally and from areas around the world.

Pictured are Dana C. Edmond, South Central president, and his wife, Jill; Benjamin Browne, former South Central president, and his wife, Janice; Joseph McCoy, Regional Conference Retirement Plan executive director and former South Central president, and his wife, Judith; Charles Bradford, former North American Division president, and his wife, Ethel; Delbert Baker, Oakwood University president, and his wife, Susan; Willie Lewis, former Allegheny West president, and his wife, Barbara; Harold Lee, Bradford Cleveland Brooks Institute director and former Co- lumbia Union president, and his wife, Barbara; James Lewis, Regional Conference Ministries director and former Allegheny West president, and his wife, Sharon; Luther R. Palmer, former Lake Region and Allegheny East president, and his wife, Katherine; William C. Jones, former Southwest Region president; George Earle, former Northeastern Conference president, and his wife, Vera; Albert and Nancy Dudley, representing the late Charles Dudley, former South Central president, and his wife, Eta.

—BY MICHAEL HARPE

**Mississippi FOCUS Recognized During Oakwood University Commencement**

During the 2010 Oakwood University commencement exercises held in Huntsville, Ala., Danny Chandler received the Philanthropic Award recommended by the University administration, and presented by Delbert W. Baker, Ph.D., Oakwood University president.

Since 2007, Oakwood University has given this award to individuals who have demonstrated a commitment to supporting the institution through gifts, fundraising, and other intangible ways.

Chandler, a 1984 graduate of Oakwood University, and his wife, Reta, founded Mississippi Friends of Oakwood College United Supporters (Mississippi FOCUS) in 1996. Mississippi FOCUS is a $50,000 program designed to provide scholarships for students from Mississippi who attend Oakwood University.

Chandler stated, “This is a tremendous honor. For us, it is a ministry. I wish I had a forum to thank each and every donor who believe and support us. We did not earn this recognition alone. Our commitment is to do what we can to assist our future leaders. Education remains a good investment. We believe Oakwood is still God’s school for training our youth for service to man, and preparation for eternity. We appreciate this recognition by the Oakwood University administration.”

A former member of the South Central Conference executive committee, Chan- dler currently serves on the SCC Constitution and Bylaws Committee. The Chandlers are members of Salem Church in Columbus, Miss.
Silver Creek Adventist School is First Carolina Conference Adventist EDGE “School of Excellence”

Please accept my sincere apology for the omission of Silver Creek Adventist School from the list of Southern Union Adventist EDGE “Schools of Excellence” published in the May 2010 Southern Tidings feature article. Seven Schools of Excellence were mentioned, but only six listed. The Southern Union Conference Office of Education commends Silver Creek Adventist School, its stakeholders, and the Carolina Conference for your commitment to EXCELLENCE!

—BY CONRAD L. GILL

The thought of Summer Vacation...

From family picnics to family reunions, summer is a wonderful time to spend with family.

Reminiscing with parents and grandparents about fond family moments and silly childhood escapades is sure to bring a smile to your face.

But have you thought about using this time to ask your parents and grandparents about updating their estate plan?

Trust services representatives from your local conference and Adventist Universities are ready to help ensure your summer get-togethers are filled with fond memories for years to come.

Carolina: Ken Ford, 704-596-3200
Florida: Jose LeGrand, 407-644-5000
Georgia-Cumberland: Mitch Hazekamp, 706-629-7951
Gulf States: Tui Pitman, 334-272-7493
Kentucky-Tennessee: Lin Powell, 615-859-1391
Oakwood University: Fred Pullins, 256-726-8278

Southeastern: David Long, 352-735-3142
South Atlantic: Lawrence Hamilton, 404-792-0535
Southeastern: Michael Harpe, 615-226-6500
Southern Adventist University: Carolyn Liers, 423-236-2818
This year the Daughter of Zion Church, Delray Beach, Fla., not only had one, two, or three college graduates, it had a total of eight, with four of them receiving degrees from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala.

Many times in the African-American community, it becomes a rarity to have young black men graduate from college. The odds of becoming a high school or even a college graduate are slim. Only 43 percent of African-Americans who enter college graduate. For black men that number is 36 percent. The eight graduates beat the odds.

One of the graduates, Denzel M. Gent, almost didn’t beat the odds. After he lost his mother to breast cancer during his junior year at Miami Union Academy (MUA), North Miami Beach, Fla., he wanted to give up on his education. “When I thought back on the many sacrifices that my mother made, and of God’s grace and mercy my mother so often spoke of, I decided to persevere,” Gent said.

Four years ago Gent graduated from MUA as the valedictorian, and received a full scholarship to Oakwood University. While preparing to graduate from Oakwood this year, Gent was awarded a full scholarship to the prestigious Carnegie Mellon Institute in Pittsburgh, Pa. God has truly blessed Denzel and the young men and women of Daughter of Zion who graduated this year.

Ja’Neil Carrington, Terry Caesar, Marlon Boucard, and Denzel Gent all received their bachelor’s during the commencement ceremonies held at Oakwood University on May 7, 2010.

Theodore Caesar, Jean Alexandre, Esther Noel, and Oriana Riley graduated and received their degrees from other institutions this year as well.

Daughter of Zion Church has a group of remarkable young men and women, who against all odds have achieved great academic accomplishments.

—BY EDNA FRANCOIS

Mt. Zion Ordains 13 for Ministry

The Mt. Zion Church, Kissimmee, Fla., held the largest ordination service in its history on March 20, 2010. A total of 13 individuals were dedicated to God’s service — four elders and six deacons.

The elders ordained were Edna Francois, Brenda Hunt, Wayne Morgan, and Pierre Hunt.

Among the deacons ordained, two of whom were 18-year-old young men, were Ean Watson, Carol Walter Bryan, Larry Louis, Hicksford Francis, Clinton Henry, Adrien Francois, and Deland James.

Emil Peeler, D.Min., director of church growth and discipleship for Southeastern California Conference, delivered the ordination message. Peeler admonished the ordainees to use their gifts in ways that would please God, and would be of help to humanity. He shared with them the experience of Uzziah, king of Judah. Uzziah, at the age of 16, did that which “was right” in the sight of the Lord.

Assisting Maxwell Berkel, Mt. Zion pastor, to officiate the ordination service, were Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union Conference executive secretary; Kevin Bryant, pastor of the Bethel Church, Gainesville, Fla.; and associate pastors Harold Cameron, George Greaves, and Mahatahis Patrick.

—BY EDNA FRANCOIS

The Mt. Zion Church ordained 13 individuals on March 20, 2010. They are pictured above with their families: Edna Francois (seated, left), Brenda Hunt, Wayne Morgan, Pierre Hunt, Ean Watson, Larry Louis, Carol Walter Bryan, Clinton Henry, Japheth Mokua, Asplid Percintihe, Hicksford Francis, Deland James; Maxwell Berkel (standing, left), Mt. Zion pastor; Adrien Francois; Emil Peeler, D.Min., Southeastern California Conference church growth director (second from right); Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., Southern Union Conference executive secretary.
Conference Superintendent of Education Dies


Elisa was born in Pago Pago, American Samoa, on June 22, 1945, to Papu and Fa’a‘uliulitoaletuimanu’a Siofele. The third of nine children and the oldest daughter, she attended elementary and high school in American Samoa and Suva, Fiji.

She received a bachelor’s in mathematics from Union College, Lincoln, Neb., and a master’s in educational administration from Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif.

Young served as the fifth superintendent of education for Southeastern from 2004 to 2010.

“Southeastern education thrived under her able leadership,” said Hubert Morel Jr., Southeastern Conference president. “She took it to a higher level.”

During her tenure as superintendent, Southeastern attained a 100 percent teacher certification status for the first time in its 31-year history.

For four consecutive years Southeastern was the only conference of the eight conferences that comprise the Southern Union Conference, to hold this distinction.

Young achieved this by implementing the SEC Teacher Institute, a partnership between Southeastern and the Oakwood University School of Education, Huntsville, Ala., which was held at Southeastern.

Prior to the implementation of the institute, in-service teachers seeking to maintain certification would spend the summer at Oakwood University or Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn.

The process was an inefficient one. Many courses needed for certification were offered on a two- to four-year rotation.

By evaluating the teachers transcripts, Young was able to design a course schedule based on the certification needs of the teachers.

Under her leadership, Southeastern was the only conference in the Southern Union that did not experience a decline in student enrollment during the recession. In fact, student enrollment increased, and she increased the number of schools in Southeastern by three.

In 2005, she created a resource instructor position to develop innovative educational programs, provide educational support, and enhance science and math education in Southeastern.

One such program was the annual Southeastern Conference-wide Science Fair Competition.

Young understood the importance of providing opportunities for students to experience and embrace science and math, and not shy away from pursuing careers in these areas.

Believing that all children should be taught of the Lord, she instituted the Southern Union early childhood program. Prior to this time, education in Southeastern focused on K-12 education.

While many churches within Southeastern had early childhood education programs in place, her move to implement early childhood education in Southeastern meant that these programs would have to follow the guidelines of the Southern Union, which included the use of a Christian-based curriculum.

“During the past four-year period, Elisa has been the most consistent and one of the best superintendents in the Southern Union,” said Conrad Gill, superintendent of education for the Southern Union.

Prior to serving as superintendent of education, Young served as a missionary in Africa; a teacher and principal at the Mt. Calvary SDA School, Tampa, Fla.; a principal at Miami Union Academy, North Miami, Fla., a principal and early childhood center director at Elim SDA School, St. Petersburg, Fla.; and associate superintendent for the Southeastern Conference.

She was an advocate for Adventist education. One could often hear her say, “Adventist education does not cost, it pays.”

She not only promoted Adventist education, she lived it. Each of her four daughters are products of Adventist education. Tonya is a medical doctor, Trina is an educator, Teresa is a physical therapist, and Dora is an attorney.

She is survived by her beloved husband, Theus Young, pastor; four daughters: Tonya Young-Henley, M.D., and her husband, Robert Jr.; Trina Bowden and her husband Reme-lus; Teresa Young, and Elisa “Dora” Young, J.D.; five grandchildren: Samara Bowden, Robert Henley III, Taimane’ Henley, Brenden Henley, Remelus Bowden II; two sisters: Chief Lei-lii Lockhart and Dorcas Togafau; six brothers: Filipupu Siofele, Chief Faumina Siofele, Pastor Willie Siofele, Pastor Joe Siofele, Pastor Freddie Afereti, and Pastor Sato Siofele; scores of aunts; uncles; cousins; nieces; and nephews who will miss her greatly.

—BY ROBERT HENLEY

Elisa Siofele Young served as superintendent of education for Southeastern Conference from 2004 to 2010.
Cruzadas de Evangelismo en el Distrito de Greenville

Como plan evangélico para este año, el distrito comprendido por las iglesias de Greenville, Mt.Olive, Dudley y Wilson, llevará a cabo esfuerzos de 30 días a cargo del pastor Sandoval, que culminarán con una campaña general a cargo del pastor Alejandro Bullón en noviembre. La iglesia de Greenville ya comenzó esta serie de eventos, y todos los departamentos están altamente comprometidos en el esfuerzo. En la foto se aprecian sólo las visitas que asistieron a diario, y ya están estudiando el curso "La Fe de Jesús" con Nehemías Herrera, primer anciano. Cada miembro de iglesia llevó volantes, y 5 Cds titulados “El Poder de la Oración” para distribuir entre vecinos, amigos, compañeros de trabajo y familiares.

El blanco de bautismo del distrito para este año es de 150.

—ELIÁS SANDOVAL, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Iglesia Celular en Ruskin

El sábado 15 de mayo, la iglesia celular de Ruskin, al sur de Tampa, se incorporó al distrito de New Port Richey pasando a ser la quinta congregación del mismo. En la primera reunión se contó con la presencia de tres visitas. Aproximadamente el cincuenta por ciento de los 31 miembros son líderes.

En la actualidad el grupo se reúne en la casa de la familia Morales, y se está buscando un lugar en donde congregarse en forma permanente.

—AZAEL PITTI, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Semana de la Pasión

La campaña distrital de Knoxville, TN, titulada “Prueba a Jesús” tuvo lugar durante la semana del 27 de marzo al tres de abril. Un promedio de 60 visitas se dieron cita cada noche para recibir el mensaje de amor y gracia. Los grupos pequeños llevaron sus contactos misioneros, y salieron en parejas a entregar volantes en distintos sectores de la ciudad.

Como resultado del trabajo y esfuerzo de laicos y pastores, catorce personas entregaron sus corazones a Cristo. Los grupos pequeños continúan funcionando todo el año para preparar la semilla que se cosecha en el evangelismo público de las iglesias. Dios siempre corona los esfuerzos de estos hermanos dispuestos a consagrar su tiempo y dones en la tarea de ganar almas para su reino.

—RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO
Semana de Evangelismo en Grupos Pequeños.

Con un total de 20 centros de predicación, el distrito de Knoxville, TN, lanzó la semana de evangelismo laico, “Tu eres la pasión de Cristo”. Los miembros de las iglesias se reunieron para compartir la Palabra en sus hogares, y un buen número de visitas participaron de los beneficios de estos programas.

Esta actividad, además de llevar luz a otras personas, confirmó a los hermanos en su fe y misión, y trajo como consecuencia un importante reavivamiento. “La presentación de Cristo en la familia, en el hogar, o en pequeñas reuniones en casas particulares, gana más almas para Jesús que los sermones predicados al aire libre, a la muchedumbre agitada, o en salones y capillas.” (O. E. Pág. 201).

—RICHARD URDANETA, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

North Gwinnett

En la iglesia de North Gwinnett, GA, se llevó a cabo una semana de evangelismo a cargo del pastor David Penno, coordinador de evangelismo de la asociación. La misma culminó con una ceremonia bautismal oficiada por el pastor Julio De la Rosa.

—NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Prueba con Jesús

Durante la semana del 27 de marzo al 2 de abril, las asociaciones Georgia Cumberland y South Atlantic participaron de una campaña a cargo del pastor Jorge Rojas de la división norteamericana, titulada “Prueba con Jesús.”

El evento se llevó a cabo en dos turnos debido a la alta concurrencia. Se tuvieron reuniones paralelas destinadas para los niños, y 60 personas fueron bautizadas.

—NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Concurso Bíblico

La Federación de Jóvenes organizó un concurso que culminó en el campestre que se llevó a cabo en la academia GCA. En la foto podemos verlos mientras competían en la iglesia de Dunwoody.

—NANCY ORTIZ, SECRETARIA DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Kentucky-Tennessee Noticias

Conquistadores

La iglesia de Memphís celebró con alegría la inauguración del club de conquistadores. Además de enseñar a los pequeños destrezas e integración social, el objetivo se concentra en encaminar sus pasos hacia el reino de los cielos.

—ARMANDO DE LEÓN, COORDINADOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN
Jesús es Todo

Armando de León, coordinador del departamento hispano de la asociación La iglesia de Louisville, KY, organizó la campaña “Jesús es Todo” que se llevó a cabo los durante la semana de Pascua. El predicador fue el pastor Alberto Lache, secretario de la delegación del oeste de Cuba. Motivada por el Espíritu Santo, la iglesia hizo un hermoso trabajo y el resultado se tradujo en muchas personas que tomaron decisiones de salvación. Siete ya han sido bautizadas. En la foto el pastor Sergio Monterroso está dando la bienvenida a los nuevos miembros de la iglesia. La congregación, compuesta mayormente por hermanos mexicanos y cubanos, cuenta ahora con una variedad importante de nacionalidades, todas unidas bajo la bandera celestial.

Evangelismo en Carrolton

La iglesia de Carrolton llevó a cabo una campaña evangélica del 6 al 13 de marzo, en la que 8 personas fueron bautizadas. Entre ellas había una pareja que se unió en matrimonio previo a la ceremonia bautismal. El orador invitado fue el pastor Joel Armenta quien combinó el don del canto con su predicación, y fue utilizado por el Espíritu para tocar los corazones de los asistentes.

—EFRÁIN POLOCHE, COORDINADOR DEL DEPARTAMENTO HISPANO DE LA ASOCIACIÓN

Campaña en East Bend

Del 17 al 24 de abril, la naciente congregación de East Bend, NC, organizó su primera semana de evangelismo, la cual fue dirigida por Hernán A. Zuñiga. Como resultado de este esfuerzo, 11 jovencitos sellaron su pacto de fe y entrega al Señor por medio del bautismo. La ceremonia fue oficiada por el pastor Juan Reyes y seis almas aceptaron la invitación de estudiar la Biblia y prepararse para un futuro bautismo.

—ERNAN ZUÑIGA, MIEMBRO DE LA CONGREGACIÓN DE EAST BEND

Una luz de esperanza en Wilson

La iglesia de Wilson, NC, llevó a cabo su primera campaña evangélica titulada “Jesús, Una Luz de Esperanza”, del 3 al 10 de Abril. El orador fue el pastor Ismael Uribe. Dos parejas se unieron en matrimonio al finalizar la semana, y entregaron sus vidas a Cristo. En total, 5 personas descendieron a las aguas bautismales. Fue inspirador ver la dedicación y el trabajo de los diáconos y diaconisas durante la semana. Otra de las bendiciones con que se contó fue la presencia del grupo Oasis que vino desde Nueva York para alabar a Dios con su música.

—ISMAEL URIBE, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO
Certificación de Maestros en Carolina

Con la participación y asistencia de casi 80 maestros, se dio inicio al programa de certificación para maestros en el distrito este del estado de Carolina del Norte.

Este primer encuentro se realizó en la iglesia de Smithfield, NC, con el lema “Inversión para el futuro”. Las clases estuvieron a cargo de los esposos Uribe.

Durante el evento se invitó a los presentes a comprometerse con este programa puesto en marcha por la División Norteamericana y que tiene el apoyo de la asociación South Atlantic.

Se contó con participación del cuarteto musical de la iglesia de Raleigh, NC.

—ISMAEL URIBE, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO

Club de Laicos Portadores de Luz

El 17 de abril comenzó el primer encuentro de los laicos del distrito este de Carolina del Norte, en la iglesia de Durham. El teólogo y profesor David Ubiera, dictó clases de homilética, y el pastor Efraín Poloche tuvo a cargo un mensaje de invitación a formar parte del grupo de rescate de aquellas personas que aún no han conocido el mensaje de salvación.

El sábado de tarde se formaron grupos que salieron a repartir la revista “El Centinela” en los diferentes lugares de la ciudad en los en que están ubicadas las comunidades hispanas. Se llevó a cabo la ordenación de 2 ancianos y 5 diáconos. Estas actividades fueron amenizadas por la música presentada por el grupo Alfa y Omega.

El Club de Laicos Portadores de Luz fue organizado por el pastor Ismael Uribe, Eduardo Saavedra y Mauricio Velázquez con el propósito de preparar a los feligreses en la tarea de evangelismo. Esto se hace por medio de tres talleres intensivos en las áreas de predicación, métodos para dar estudios bíblicos, y campañas evangélicas. Al finalizar la primera actividad, los participantes reciben un maletín provisto por el departamento hispano de la asociación, que cuenta con el material necesario para el trabajo de ganar almas para Cristo.

—ISMAEL URIBE, PASTOR DEL DISTRITO
ELECTRIVE, James David “Jim”, Sr., 83, of Hendersonville, NC, died April 3, 2010, at Park Ridge Hospital. He served as principal and as a teacher at Asheville Pisgah Church School for 10 years, and later worked as a realtor with Arden Century 21 Real Estate. He was an active member of the Arden Church. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Dolly Erskine; two children: Jim Erskine Jr. of Weaverville, NC, and Pam (Raymond) Livingston of Hendersonville; three grandchildren; Kristopher Erskine, Tony Livingston, and Holly Clark; three great-grandchildren; and one brother, Everett Erskine of California.

HAMILTON, Elaine, 58, born Feb. 4, 1948, died March 25, 2006 in Louis Smith Memorial Hospital. She was survived by her two children: Thomas Hamilton and Kit Hamilton; and one grandson, Ethan Hamilton. She was an active member of the Lakeland, GA, Church. She loved children and would be found working either in Sabbath School, VBS, or the Lakeland Adventist School. She is greatly missed by her friends and family. She was a member of the Lakeland/Valdosta, GA, Church.

HUMPHREY, Margaret (Margo) J., 87, born Chicago, IL, died Feb. 1, 2010 in Apopka, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church in Apopka.

JACOME, Helen C., 83, born May 13, 1926 in Cincinnati, OH, died Feb. 13, 2010 in Port Orange, FL. She was a member of the Daytona Beach, FL, Church. She used her musical talent as an organist, in choirs, and in singing groups. Her husband, Gabriel, preceded her.

JAMESON, Margaret (Madge), 99, born April 4, 1910 in Armagh, Ireland, died Nov. 6, 2009 in Collegedale, TN. She was a member of the Florida Living Church, Apopka, FL. She was survived by one son, John Donnelly Lee of California; one granddaughter, Suzie Shell; one granddaughter, Ashley Shell. She was preceded in death by her son, William Louis Hunter V. He enjoyed playing his harmonica, his musical saw. He loved his Father in Heaven.

JACOME, Helen C., 83, born May 13, 1926 in Cincinnati, OH, died Feb. 13, 2010 in Port Orange, FL. She was a member of the Daytona Beach, FL, Church. She used her musical talent as an organist, in choirs, and in singing groups. Her husband, Gabriel, preceded her.

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Obituaries

LLOYD, Elder Rufus H., 87, born April 15, 1923 in London, KY, died April 19, 2010 at Portland, TN, Nursing Home. He began in denominational employment as a literature evangelist in Florida and Georgia-Cumberland conferences. He was also an evangelist in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. He is survived by his wife, Linda Porter Lloyd; two sons: Ronald (Artene) Lloyd of Alaska, and Daniel (Shenna) Lloyd of Mobile, AL; one stepson, Bill (Robin) Leyva of Tucson, AZ; three daughters: Claudia Ann (Kenneth) Face of Cocoa, FL; Glenda E. Shearer of Orlando, FL; Krista (Jerry) Jones of Chelsea, MI; one sister-in-law; two nieces; and one nephew. Intermment was at the Forest Lake Cemetery in Collegedale, TN.

NCOSO, Donnie, 65, born Oct. 1, 1944 in Macclenny, FL, died Dec. 6, 2009 in Orlando, FL. He was a member of the Kress Memorial Church, Winter Park, FL, for 40 years. He was employed by Florida Hospital for 10 years. She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Walter; one daughter, Stephanie Groho, Rome, PA; three brothers: David Hodges, Stark, FL, and Warren Hodges, Macclenny, and Ida Hodges; and three sisters: Linda Mann and Louise Griffin of Macclenny, and Janie Wiggins of Sanderson, FL. The service was conducted at the Kress Memorial Church in Winter Park by Pastor Eric Doran. Intermment was at Woodlawn Memorial Park.

MILLER, Endi, 80, born March 14, 1929 in Ingham County, MI, died July 27, 2009 in Jackson, MI. He was a member of the Utlima, MI, Church. He is survived by his wife, Eula; two daughters: Frances of Battle Creek, MI, and Darleen of Jackson, MI; five grandchildren; and one stepson, Richard Reynolds of Jackson, MI. The service was conducted at the Utlima Church in Battle Creek, MI by Pastor Gary Lumbert. Intermment was at the Utlima Cemetery.

MILLS, Donald C., 77, born March 6, 1933 in New York, NY, died Dec. 28, 2009 in Duncan, SC. He was a member of the Woodruff, SC, Church. Retired from Mount Pisgah Academy, where he was head of the maintenance department in 2003, Meyer spent 25 years as a janitor working for Union Springs Academy and Mount Pisgah Academy. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Harriet Porter Meyer, four daughters: Terry Ford of Newport, NY; Tammy Thompson of Alamosa, CO; Gay Meyer of Duncan, SC; and Tracy Meyer of Boston, MA; five grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; and four brothers: Warren of Merrick, NY; Walter of Lindenhurst, NY; Richard and Dennis of Indianapolis, IN; and Howard of Long Island, NY. He is predeceased by his brother Robert and Bert. The service was conducted at the Utlima Church in Battle Creek, MI by Pastor Gary Lumbert. Intermment was at the Utlima Cemetery.
MOORE, Kenneth, 85, born April 13, 1924 in Parrish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, died Jan. 31, 2010. He was a member of the Port Charlotte, FL, Church for six years. He is survived by his wife, Mary; two sons, Glen White; and two grandchildren. The service was held in Port Charlotte by Pastor Charlie Davis. GEORGE, Doris, 79, born May 29, 1931 in Kentucky, died Nov. 28, 2009 in Madison, TN. She was a devoted Christian and member of McDonald Road Annual Conference, and a charter member of the Kress Memorial Church, Missionary Union and served as deaconess and children’s Sabbath School teacher; she strongly believed in Christian education.

MORGAN, Mary Elizabeth, 86, born Nov. 22, 1923 in Everett, MA, died Jan. 18, 2010 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of Avon Park Church. She served for 11 years as a physical therapist assistant at Parkview Hospital, Brunswick, ME. She is survived by two sons: Herbert of New Auburn, ME, and Christopher of Gaffney, SC; one daughter, Jean Elizabeth Vina of Columbia, NC; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. A grave side service was held in New Auburn, ME.

MORROW, Franklyn Ames Sr., 74, born Oct. 8, 1936 in Jones County, MS, died Jan. 27, 2010 in Forrest County, MS. He was a member of the Hattiesburg, MS, Church. He is survived by his wife, Sarah Morgan; one daughter, Renee Morrow; one sister, Rose Michna; one brother, Archie “Bob” Clark; four grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

NELSON, Sr., Dale Everett, 70, born Dec. 14, 1938 in Mobile, AL, died Aug. 19, 2009 in Mobile, AL. He graduated from Laurelbrook Academy and attended Madison College. He lived in Burlington, WA, for the past 30 years, and was involved with the local Adventist Church. He is survived by three children: Charlene Nelson of St. Lucia, Dale Nelson Jr. of Great Falls, and Andrea Nelson of Portland, OR; four grandchildren; Hayley Nelson, Torand Nelson, Alexander Estuk, and Anthony Estuk; two brothers: David Nelson of Great Falls and Clifford Nelson of Gaine FL; and one sister, Rachel Thompson Winsiegel of hauling, UT.

NUNESSER, Mildred, 92, born Nov. 4, 1917, died Dec. 13, 2009 in Avon Park, FL. She was a member of the Sebring, FL, Church for 22 years. She is survived by her son, James Nungeiser of Avon Park FL; one brother, William Farver of Arizona; and three grandchildren.

OTTO, Arnold C., 90, born July 21, 1919 in Detroit, MI, died July 16, 2009 in Shelbyville, TN. He was a member of the First Church in Shelbyville for 13 years. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, Grace Otto of Shelbyville; one son, Timothy Otto of Shelbyville; one sister, Janet Kline of Orlando, FL; two grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; four nieces; and three nephews. He graduated from Andrews University in 1951, and was a teacher and principle for more than 30 years in the Southern Union. At the time of his retirement in 1981, he was pastor of the Lake Elementary School and the Lake Seminole County. He is preceded in death by his sister, Arla Perry; and brother, Hazen Otto.

PANCOAST, Dorothy (Dottie) Sue, 68, born Oct. 31, 1941 in Tuscaloosa, AL, died Aug. 28, 2009 in Mobile, AL. She was a member of the Cady Road Church in Mobile. She is survived by two sons: Scott Pancoast and Michael Pancoast.

PASCUAL, Felix H., 85, born Dec. 16, 1924 in the Philippine Islands, died March 2, 2010 in Port Charlotte, FL. He was a member of the Port Charlotte Church for 10 years. In addition to his family medical practice, he served as a company physician for General Motors for many years, and later served as a state prison physician. He is survived by his wife, Rosina; three daughters: Laura (Ed) Danock, Port Charlotte, Holly Pascual, Tampa, FL, and Melinda (David) Monos, Cleveland, OH; and two grandchildren. The service was conducted at the Port Charlotte Church by Pastor Norman Gofton, assisted by Lee Huff.

PENNER, Alice Ella, 89, born June 29, 1920 in Fremont, NB, died April 4, 2010 in Collegegedale, TN. She grew up in Iowa and attended college in Madison, TN, and Washington, DC. She married Bernard Penner in 1947. The couple spent seven years in church-related mission service at Montevideo, Uruguay. Alice worked as an elementary school teacher in Iowa, Maryland, and Georgia. She was an active church member and also enjoyed bird watching, acrylic painting, and RV travel. She is survived by her husband of 63 years, Bernard Penner of Collegegde; three children: Robert of Seattle, OR; Kenneth Penner of Seattle, WA, and Jeanne Penner Meyer of Oteaweh, TN; and four grandchildren; Kristen Meyer; Hannah of Winter Springs, FL; Kimberly Penner Jones of Chattaw, WA, Charles Penner of Linia Linda, CA, and Heidi Penner of Denver, CO. Memorial services were held April 16 at Collegegde Church.

POLLA ID, Claudia, 82, died May 20, 2010 after a lengthy illness. She is survived by her husband of 40 years, Wayne Pollard of Valdosta, GA; two sisters: Carla Pollard and Marit Bailey of Cleburne, TX; three brothers: Cary (Linda) Hill III, Little Rock, AR, Roger (Beverly) Hill, and Johnnie (Jackie) Ellis Jr. of Ft. Worth, TX. She was a member of the LakeValdost/GA, Church. Pritchett, Eldr, born Aug. 22, 1914, died Dec. 18, 2009. He was a member of the South Columbia Church. He served in the U.S. Army. He helped organize the Clayton Fire Department, and was the treasurer and volunteer fireman for five years. He is survived by his wife, Neelma Craft Pritchett; one sister, Alberta Bonner of Camden, AL; two brothers: Danny (Betty) Pritchett of Burlington, WA, and Arthur Pritchett of Conroe, TX; a host of relatives; and friends.

Reiswig, Elia Lucille (Kelly), 91, born Aug. 8, 1918 in Boone County, east of Lebanon, IN, died Nov. 20, 2009 in Yakima, WA. She is survived by one sister, Edith Kelly Rogers of Kentucky; five children: Kay Reiswig Prunty of Montague, CA; Richard V. Reiswig Jr. of Fairfield, CA, Rita Reiswig Holton of Callahan, FL, Brian K. Reiswig of Yakoma, WA, and Ron Reiswig of Fairford, CA; 12 grandchildren; and 18 great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Jacksonville, FL, Church from 1954-1982, and served as deaconess and children’s Sabbath School teacher; she strongly believed in Christian education.

Rhodes, Alvin Henry, 87, born Feb. 22, 1922, died Dec. 21, 2009 in Flat Rock, NC. Alvin was a World War II Navy veteran and served on the aircraft carrier USS Intrepid in the Pacific Theater, and also took part in the Philippine Liberation. He was a faithful member of the Mills River, NC, Church. He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Mary; one son, Brian; one daughter, Deborah Barto; two granddaughters: Taylor Barto and Tiffany Matthews; and two great-grandchildren. She was a member of the Jacksonville, FL, Church from 1954-1982, and served as deaconess and children’s Sabbath School teacher; she strongly believed in Christian education.

Roadman, John W., 79, born April 21, 1933 in Church Hill, TN, died May 6, 2010 in Winter Park, FL. He was a charter minister of the Kress Memorial Church, Winter Park, FL. He is survived by his daughter, Sandra Roadman of Avon Park, FL; and two grandchildren. The service was held at the Wood Lawn Cemetery Chapel, Gofha, FL, by Pastor Eric Doran. Interment was at the Wood Lawn Cemetery, Gofha, FL.

Rouse, Merle H., 81, died Jan. 18, 2010. He is survived by the Union College in Lincoln, NE, and has served in church for 40 years in the roles of education and pastoring. Before retiring in 1993 he was the pastor of the First Church in Lincoln, NE, and served in church for 40 years in the roles of education and pastoring. He is survived by his wife, Margaret Thomas Rouse; three children: Stan M. Rouse of Syracuse, NY, Byron D. Rouse of Longandon, NH, and Gary Rouse of Wintage, NC; three siblings; Wilma Gromer of Ft. Bragg, CA, Dorothy Huengerdt of Apopka, FL, and Raymond Rouse of Avon Park, FL; eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; several nieces; and nephews.

Sales, Karoly, 73, born Nov. 20, 1936 in oriente, Cuba, died Jan. 1, 2010. She was a devoted Christian and member of McDonald Road Annual Conference, and a charter member of the Kress Memorial Church, Missionary Union and served as deaconess and children’s Sabbath School teacher; she strongly believed in Christian education.

Schwartz, Micah Jared, 27, born March 27, 1982 in Henderson County, NC, died Dec. 21, 2009 in Morganton, NC. He was a member of the Morganton Church. He enjoyed biking, gardening, and spending time with other people. He is survived by his parents: Dennis Wayne Schwartz and Kim Eileen Kephart Schwartz of Morganton; one brother, Joseph D. Schwartz of Morganton; two sisters: Kerah R. (Ryan) Higgins of Hendersonville, NC, and Rebekah Schwartz of Morganton; maternal grandparents: Rose and Denise Kephart of Winburne, PA; paternal grandparents: Barbara Romenesco and Robert Schwartz of Appleton, WI; one uncle, Bill (Donnie) Hudson of Morganton; four cousins: Lily, Samuel, Martha, and Grace Hudson; several other relatives; and friends.

Seaward, Frances, 92, born July 29, 1917, died Oct. 1, 2009 in Madison, TN. She was a member of the Madison, TN, Campus Church. She is survived by three sons: Jonathan, James, and Nathan.

Simmons, Robert, 70, born Feb. 29, 1940, died March 27, 2010. He was a member of the Brayton Church in Graysville, TN. He is survived by his wife, Ardith; one son, James; two daughters: Regina and Regisseur Beauregard of Graysville; one brother, Lawton Simmons of Pikeville, TN; and five grandchildren.

Si ms, Herschel Boville, 96, died Dec. 30, 2009. He was a resident of Collegegde since 1966. Herschel was a devoted Christian and member of McDonald Road Church. He was a very loving and caring person to his family and friends. He was preceded in death by his loving wife, Eloise (Stephens) Boville, to whom he was married for more than 50 years; and their children.
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