

# TIDINGS

Southern 

AUGUST  
2018

## THE SAVING POWER OF PRAYER

GOD'S MISSION

STUDENT  
FILMMAKERS  
TACKLE MISSION

CALHOUN  
MEMBERS  
PRODUCE AUDIO  
DRAMA

TOTAL  
INVOLVEMENT  
LEADS TO  
GROWTH

# Lord, Teach Us to Pray



**Leslie Louis**  
President of the  
Carolina Conference

*Guest Editorial*

Many moons ago as a young freshman at Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), I often enjoyed accompanying my roommate, who worked in the studios of WSMC. Listening to one song in particular by Pat Boone's melodic voice on those wonderful vinyl LPs left a special memory, and lifted my thoughts into the presence of God. Those lyrics spoke to my heart when I felt alone, afraid, or anxious.

My God and I go in the field together;  
We walk and talk as good friends should and do;  
We clasp our hands, our voices ring with laughter;  
My God and I walk through the meadow's hue.

In that beautiful chapter, "The Privilege of Prayer," in the book *Steps to Christ*, God's messenger penned these simple yet eloquent words: "Prayer is the opening of the heart to God as to a friend."

We live in a time when our society virtually worships the wisdom of this world. There is an innate sentiment that we can resolve any problem in our personal lives or in the life of the Church through our own acumen, through the information gleaned from other professionals, or through the collaborative insight from a committee or board. As important as these may be, our dependence on God through prayer is an absolute essential that undergirds Heaven's blessing on each of our lives and on His Church.

Prayer... Thousands of articles, sermons, and books have been written on this simple posture of submission to the celestial power of a loving, gracious, and all powerful heavenly Father. As a dad who craves the attention and affection of my own children, our heavenly Father ardently longs to fellowship and bless each of us as His children. And, He longs to bless His Church. Yes, this church — our Seventh-day Adventist Church — "enfeebled and defective as it may be, is the only object on Earth on which He bestows His supreme regard," *Selected Messages*, Volume II, page 396.

Across North America and the world field, God has guided us as His disciples to embrace and experience the beauty of the Garden of Eden through a renewed emphasis on prayer — where we practice living in the presence of God. It is our privilege to come to that garden alone. It is time for us to walk with Him and talk with Him.

I praise God for our emphasis on prayer ministries, and for all our prayer coordinators who have echoed the words of Luke 11:1, "Lord, teach us to pray." Prayer overflows with power for the Church, and for our personal connection to the One who cherishes us as His own.

I discovered the amazing influence of prayer in my own life in a chapel just outside Newbold College in England. In those quiet morning moments as a student who desperately needed God's direction and blessing, I heard the gentle whisper of God speaking to me through His Word. Ever since that moment, Philippians 4:6,7 has been His extraordinary promise to me. I especially love the simple, reassuring wording of this passage from the New Living Translation:

"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything.  
Tell God what you need, and thank Him for all He has done.  
Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything  
we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds  
as you live in Christ Jesus."

D.L. Moody once said, "Every movement of God can be traced back to a kneeling figure." Until we get to Heaven, we may never know who was protected, encouraged, or saved as a result of our prayers. Lord, teach us to pray! 🙏



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**COVER:** Cindy and Rick Mercer, pastoral couple in the Carolina Conference.





# THE SAVING POWER OF PRAYER

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

*"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God," Philippians 4:6, NIV.*

Cindy Mercer was fed up. She was ready to leave her husband.

His toxic lifestyle of drug abuse, alcoholism, and lasciviousness was tearing their family apart.

"I hated him," said Mercer. "I cried out to God ... I can't continue to live like this!"

But, just when she was about to walk out, she heard a voice say, "If you leave him, you won't have a testimony." Then the voice continued, even louder, "I want to use your husband in the ministry."

"I laughed out loud," recalled Mercer, being honest about her reaction.

She knew it was God talking to her, but she was still unsure about what was going to happen.

"I knew that I was at a pivotal point, not only in our marriage, but for me, individually, as a Christian," she said.

What happened next is an example of the power of prayer and intercessory prayer, particularly in the case of marriages, which prayer leaders say are a main target of the enemy.

"Marriage according to Scripture is designed to show the world what God's love looks like, because He says He is the husband and the Church is His bride," said Melissa Weisner, who conducts seminars on prayer in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference and abroad.

## Prayer Saves

Cindy Mercer decided to stay and go to war. She was going to fight for her marriage. The battle preparation began by falling to her knees. She had an appointment with God at 4 o'clock each morning. She prayed, read her Bible, and wrote in a journal just about everyday.

PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

God led Cindy Mercer to pray for her husband, Rick. God saved him and called him to the Gospel ministry. Now they pastor in the Carolina Conference where God is using them to save others.

At one point, she began fasting three days at a time.

“At first, I was fasting and praying for God to change my husband,” said Mercer, who had been periodically attending a Methodist church. “But, something very dramatic happened during this process. It no longer was about my husband anymore. It was about me and God, and God began to change me. I realized that I had just been playing church. I didn’t take God seriously.”

In addition to her praying, Mercer enlisted the help of one of her co-workers who seemed to be a man of faith. “Dave” was an anesthesiologist at the hospital where Mercer was a nurse in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. She noticed Dave would pray with his patients before administering anesthesia, and that he wrote their names in a prayer book he kept in a pocket on his scrubs. Mercer felt comfortable talking to Dave, so she asked him if he would add her name and her husband’s to his book. Dave, who was Adventist, did that and more. He asked Mercer if it was okay to visit her husband, Rick, at home and offer to give him Bible study. Mercer had introduced Dave to her husband at a company Christmas party, so they were somewhat acquainted. She liked Dave’s idea. By this time, Rick Mercer had been noticing his wife get up early in the morning and pray and study her Bible, and fall asleep with it in her lap at night. He noticed a change in her, a peacefulness that he hadn’t seen before. So when Dave made the 30-mile trip to his house, and asked him if he’d be willing to give him at least one hour a week to study the Bible, Rick said “yes.”

The very next week, Dave and the Mercers began studying each Thursday night.

“Within three to four weeks of studying the Bible, we quit arguing, we weren’t fighting anymore; things were very peaceful in our home,” said Cindy Mercer.

Indeed, the Holy Spirit was working. After about a year of Bible study, prayer, and fasting, the Mercers were baptized into Dave’s Seventh-day Adventist church. Dave, who was an elder, baptized them. About two weeks later, Dave died from injuries he suffered in a car crash, which also claimed the life of his wife.

Cindy Mercer recalled what Dave said about her husband the last time she saw him before the accident: “God’s got great plans for him.”

And, he was right.

About nine months after being baptized, Rick Mercer was ordained an elder. Not long after that, his wife said the Conference leadership noticed he was “on fire for the Lord,” and asked him to become a lay pastor.

But, God didn’t want him to stop there. About two years later, the Oklahoma Conference contacted Rick Mercer about moving to Oklahoma and going into ministry full time. He obliged, and preached there a little more than six years before moving to North Carolina, where he’s now pastor of the Morganton Church. Cindy Mercer is director of women’s ministries for the Carolina Conference.

Wherever they go, the couple is a source of inspiration to people who hear about how prayer not only saved their marriage, but changed them individually.

“When she started praying and fasting for me, everything changed,” said Rick Mercer, pastor. “All of a sudden, her eyes had love and compassion in them. That was the first time in my life that I saw Jesus lived out in somebody.”

“You cannot stomp sin out of your life, but you can crowd it out with Jesus.”

### **Prayer the Lifeline of Churches**

The Mercers are among countless people who have testimonies about

prayer, and how, more specifically, it has brought people to Christ — or back to Him.

“It’s the lifeline for our churches,” said Mary Nelson, a prayer coordinator in the Gulf Coast Church in Biloxi, Mississippi.

She said prayer leaders from around her Conference come together once a week to take prayer requests and share praises. She said there’s one woman who’s not an Adventist who has attended Camp Meeting several years in a row, “and we believe it’s because we’ve been praying for her.”

“Everything that happens I think has to be bathed in prayer; nothing happens without it,” said Nelson, who adheres to the words in Philippians 4:6. “We don’t worry about anything; we pray about everything.”

### **Prayer Brings Happiness to Homes**

Melissa Weisner is a firm believer in that.

She said at one point the tension between her and her husband had gotten so bad, that “the cat and the dog would not share the same space with us.”

“If we were both in the same room together, one went one way and the other went the other way,” said Weisner, who attends Oasis Church in Portland, Tennessee.

She said she prayerfully began looking up Scripture that described what she wanted to see in her husband, and she did the same for herself.

“I needed to live up to what He is calling me to be, and so I started searching Scripture for what a good wife and mother is supposed to be, and I started praying those into my own life.”

Weisner said she finally got a chance to sit down with her husband, and she showed him all the Scriptures she found and the prayers she had also written to





PHOTO BY: MICHAEL HUBBARD

At one time, Melissa and Eric Weisner did not get along; now the saving power of God has brought happiness and love to their home. They teach prayer seminars in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

go with them. She said he was “blown away,” and things “changed dramatically.” Now, she said the two conduct prayer seminars together.

“We have a ministry together,” she said. “My kids feel the presence of God in our home. Now we are mentoring other couples, and we’re watching God work in their lives the way He worked in ours.”

Rosalind McFarland is women’s ministries director at Oasis. She said God may not answer prayers when we want

Him to, but He does so in His own time, and they’re usually right on time.

“Sometimes prayers are answered immediately, sometimes slower,” said McFarland. “And sometimes it’s years and years of talking to God.”

### Persistent Prayer Answered

Mary Patton can relate to the longevity. When she became Adventist, her husband wasn’t much of a churchgoer. But, Patton said she started praying for him,

as did members of her Sabbath School class, who also called her husband and prayed with him over the phone. Her husband began attending church with her, and after about 10 years, he became a member.

“I am a product of collective prayer,” said George Patton, who is a prayer ministry leader along with his wife at First Church in Huntsville, Alabama, in the South Central Conference. “I wasn’t in the Church at all. God does some miracu-



PHOTO BY: GIANNA SNELL

Mary Patton and others prayed 10 years for her husband, George, to be saved. Now they are prayer leaders at the Huntsville First Church in Huntsville, Alabama.

lous and marvelous things.”

George has personally seen God perform miracles in his life, one not too long ago. He needed an additional \$200 for eye surgery, but he and his wife just didn’t have the money. So, they began to pray. Ten days before the surgery, George found out he was due money back for taxes he had overpaid on a tag for a van. The refund amount: \$200.

“Prayer is just so powerful!” said Mary Patton, joyously. 📞

**Lucas L. Johnson II** is a former reporter for *The Associated Press*. He is also author of the book, *Finding the Good*, which was featured on *National Public Radio*.

## DO YOU HAVE SOMEONE YOU WANT TO SEE SAVED?

As we approach the 2019 Year of Pastoral and Lay Evangelism, we invite you to list five names of individuals that you will pray for each day. They may be relatives, friends, neighbors, or even enemies. After you make the list, place it where you can easily refer to it each day during your prayer time. Our intercessory pleadings in their behalf may be the means by which their names may be written in the Book of Life.

When God was looking for someone to intercede on behalf of Jerusalem, he found no one. Thus, we find the sad words in Ezekiel 22:30, “And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.” Friend, I want God to find me standing in the gap? Can God depend on you to stand in the gap for others? Let’s be the *one* that our heavenly Father can count on.

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_

## FIVE INTERCESSORY PRAYER TIPS

1. Pray that God will cause you to weep regarding their lost condition.
2. Pray that God will remove all hindrances to their salvation.
3. Believe for God’s glory in their situation.
4. Thank God in advance for their new life in Christ.
5. Pray for their continued freedom in Christ.

“Let the workers stand alone in God, weeping, praying, laboring for the salvation of their fellow men . . . Learn to exercise faith in presenting your neighbors before the throne of grace and pleading with God to touch their hearts. In this way effectual missionary work may be done. Some may be reached who would not listen to a minister or a colporteur,” *Counsels for the Church*, page 61.



# GOD'S MISSION

BY **MARIEL LOMBARDI**

**M**y parents were baptized without receiving Bible studies. My father read *The Great Controversy*, and was astounded by the salvific Gospel of mercy and forgiveness, and both of them immediately decided to become members of the Church that had such a truthful message. Since I was only one year old, I had the opportunity to witness their growth process and their amazement when discovering new gems in the Bible. They always shared them with my brothers and me, even though we were young. My father decided to become a pastor, and went to the seminary when I was six.

One of the things I recall more vividly is the sense of sacredness they had, and still do at 82 and 91. We would never place something on the Bible. We were not to criticize pastors or anyone in a sacred position. They used the story of David as he refused to kill Saul when he had the opportunity, because he had been anointed, chosen for a sacred mission. When they bought us new clothes, the first time we wore them was always Sabbath. My parents had a special box (I believe they still have the same one) in which they would put the money separated for offerings, or to help people in need. We would never touch that box; that money was sacred. That sense was so profound, that I remember my brother, Henry, as a teenager, when going to a soccer game or any other type of entertainment, would only use the money he received from our grandmother and uncles, never the allowance he got from my parents. He figured that money was sacred, because it came from the tithes. I could go on and on giving so many examples of little things like those.

Then, life happened. I grew up, became busy, stressed, and little by little lost that sense of spiritual wonder. I still



believed the same things, went to the same church, obeyed the same rules; but, those things became part of a routine that I would never abandon, but which did not have the same spirit.

Nevertheless, God never ceases to try to open our spiritual eyes. He does it in different ways. One of the ways he has been using with me is through the work I do at the Southern Union Revolving Fund Department. This is a fund formed by money from church members, who make their savings available to the

Union office to be used in loaning money to churches or schools at a significantly lower rate than what they could get in the secular market. It is a great way to do mission work. The Union pays the investors a higher interest rate than the bank normally pays. It is a win-win situation for both parties. Investors can make partial withdrawals as they need to, or close their accounts whenever they decide to, just by writing a note.

How did God used this to teach me a lesson? Very often, when investors have to withdraw money, they send a note explaining the reason for the withdrawal. Some other times they call and apologize for having the need to take money from their funds, and promise to replace the amount as soon as they can. At first, I wondered why it is that they feel the need to explain or apologize for using their own money, but little by little I began to see my parents in every one of them. They know that everything they have is God's. They feel responsible for the use of it, and are eager to help fulfill God's mission of spreading the wonderful message of mercy and forgiveness.

I am so thankful to be able to witness those people's spirit. When we loan money, and see new churches, mortgage burning ceremonies, people getting baptized, and schools receiving children that will learn about God's love, I thank God for these faithful people that do not care about the business, but the mission, and are blessed. 🙏

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





# STUDENT FILMMAKERS TACKLE MISSION

BY KAYLA EWERT, OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION

What do Adventist students around the world think mission is? That's what Adventist Mission wanted to find out in 2017 when it launched its first-ever student film contest.

Student filmmakers from the United States to the Middle East, from the Philippines to Mexico, sent in their short films, hoping for a chance at the grand prize: an international trip to assist with filming a story for Mission Spotlight!

The "Mission is . . ." film contest launched on April 7, 2017, at the Son-screen film festival in California. Students from all over the world were encouraged to submit 30-second films that expressed what they think mission is, and why it's still important today. The top 10 entries were then selected by a judging panel. These 10 films were posted on the Adventist Mission website, where the public voted for their favorite films. Adventist Mission believes that films showing mission work and how God is changing lives, are important tools for evangelism and building faith. That's why Adventist Mission produces the Mission Spotlight and Mission 360° short films that church members across the world watch each Sabbath.

The Judges' Choice Award is given to the film that was rated highest overall by the judging panel in areas such as creativity, quality, originality, and effective communication of the message. This year's recipient, Madelyn Rogers, is a student at Southern Adventist University in Collegedale, Tennessee. Mission 360° interviewed her about her project.



Madelyn Rogers

## Judges' Choice | Madelyn Rogers

Mission 360°: Where do you attend college?

**Madelyn:** I attend college at Southern Adventist University studying film production.

M360°: What attracted you to filmmaking?

**Madelyn:** I chose to pursue filmmaking because I've always loved to tell stories. I think film is one of the most powerful ways we can communicate and make an impact on others, and I love the endless possibilities it holds.

M360°: What motivated you to enter the contest?

**Madelyn:** I decided to enter at the last minute. I didn't really think I could do it, but finally I realized that if I didn't try, I wouldn't learn anything, and I wanted to learn. I knew learning by experimentation always leaves the

longest impression on me, so I took the dive, pulled together a crew, found an idea, and entered it.

M360°: What does your film mean to you? How did you choose to answer the prompt "Mission is . . .?"

**Madelyn:** My film to me is a mile marker for when I began to take my education into my own hands a little more, and something I can look back on that shows I can work with others to tell a story. I collaborated with one of my crew members on the idea. We expounded a bit on an old one he'd had that he was willing for us to use, and I was excited to find a way to jump outside the lines of what most people expected from a missions video.

M360°: What message do you hope people will take from your film?

**Madelyn:** Through my film, I hope others will be reminded that they don't necessarily have to wait until they have an opportunity to go overseas — they can spread light right at home, maybe even next door. Mission starts with you.

M360°: How has your film or other films you may have seen that were submitted to the contest impacted your perspective of mission?

**Madelyn:** I think overall these films showed me that most people do think of faraway places when they think of mission, which is understandable and also not a bad thing. My perspective wasn't enormously affected coming out of the contest, but I was glad that we were able to approach the idea from the angle of those who perhaps aren't called to go overseas. ①

# FLORIDA HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN AMONG TOP 50

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS

**U**.S. *News & World Report*, the global authority in hospital rankings and consumer advice, ranked Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital for Children's neonatology program No. 42 in the nation in the new 2018-19 Best Children's Hospitals rankings released recently.

The 12th annual Best Children's Hospitals rankings recognize the top 50 pediatric facilities across the U.S. in 10 pediatric specialties: cancer, cardiology and heart surgery, diabetes and endocrinology, gastroenterology and gastrointestinal surgery, neonatology, nephrology, neurology and neurosurgery, orthopedics, and pulmonology and urology.

"Florida Hospital for Children provides the highest quality, most advanced and compassionate care to the children and families we serve, and this first-ever ranking is a recognition of that steadfast commitment," said Daryl Tol, president and CEO of Florida Hospital and the Central Florida Division of Adventist Health System. "Delivering a baby prematurely or having a critically ill child is a very stressful time for parents. Our stellar team of talented nurses, physicians, and volunteers — who care for more than 2,000 babies in our neonatal intensive care unit each year — demonstrate their compassion and unmatched skill every day."

"The *U.S. News* Best Children's Hospitals highlights pediatric centers that deliver state-of-the-art medical care to children with complex conditions," said Ben Harder, chief of health analysis at *U.S. News*. "Children with life-threatening or rare conditions need the level of quality care that these hospitals deliver day after day."

*U.S. News* introduced the Best Children's Hospitals rankings in 2007 to help families of children with rare or life-



Rajan Wadhawan, M.D., chief medical officer at Florida Hospital for Children; Julie Bennett, NICU mom, Brea Weiss, board chair of the Walt Disney Pavilion; Deborah Spielman, vice president of operations at Florida Hospital for Children; and Jocelyn Shaw, chaplain at Florida Hospital for Children



Florida Hospital for Children staff and medical team learn about the ranking.

threatening illnesses find the best medical care available. They are the only comprehensive source of quality-related information on *U.S. News* pediatric hospitals.

The *U.S. News* Best Children's Hospitals rankings rely on clinical data and an annual survey of pediatric specialists. The ranking methodology factors in patient outcomes, such as mortality and infection

rates, as well as available clinical resources and compliance with best practices.

This year's rankings will be published in the *U.S. News & World Report's* "Best Hospitals 2019" guidebook (ISBN 9781931469906), available in stores late September. ①



# ALLAN MACHADO, D.MIN., ELECTED 24TH PRESIDENT FOR FLORIDA CONFERENCE

BY GLADYS M. NEIGEL



PHOTO BY: ERIC BERNHARDT

The new Florida Conference presidential family: Tatiana (left), Elsa, Allan, Erich, and Alan Machado.

Allan Machado, D.Min., was elected by the combined election committee on June 24, 2018, to become the 24th president of the 63,994-member Florida Conference. The following morning he received a standing ovation from Conference staff at the morning worship and staff meeting.

"I am humbled by the opportunity to serve the Lord in this new chapter of my life," says Machado. "I am blessed to be working with a team whose main priority is to serve the Lord."

Machado's main purpose in life is to serve the Lord and His Church. His heart has always been about serving the Lord. His desire is to be a good steward, and a tool

in the hand of God as he endeavors to turn complex problems into healthy solutions.

"Dr. Machado has already evidenced extraordinary abilities as an organizer and capable administrator," says Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union and chair of the combined election committee. "His love for God and passion for Church growth will be a welcomed focus in our vast territory. We certainly embrace him, and will pray for his success as president of Florida Conference."

The Lord has blessed Machado's ministry from the days of holding offices in his local church, to pastoral service, and then leading to administration positions on the conference level of lay ministry co-

ordinator, ministerial field secretary, vice president of Spanish-language ministries, assistant to the president, and executive secretary. He has admirably served as interim president since April 22, 2018, when Mike Cauley resigned this post because of health issues.

The Machado family includes Allan's wife, Elsa; two sons, Alan and Erich; and one daughter, Tatiana. As this family takes over the leadership role in Florida Conference, members are asked to show support in prayers and encouragement. 🙏

**Gladys Neigel** is Southern Tidings contributing editor for Florida Conference content.

# CALHOUN MEMBERS PRODUCE AUDIO DRAMA

BY OMAR MIRANDA

It all began in 2002. I was doing a lot of counseling for a community agency that dealt with families and children in horrible situations.

I wrote a story, “Soul War: The Beginning,” as a way to answer the questions of the kids, teens, and parents whose lives were being destroyed by pain, conflict, divorce, crime, sin, death, and sometimes just straight-up evil. More specifically, this is a project that would be able to answer the questions of those people who are interested in Christianity, but believe the devil’s lies saying God created evil, sin, pain and death, and it’s all His fault.

The story opens with Satan and his generals in God’s throne room in Heaven. They are gloating about Adam and Eve’s recent decision to sin. The story is a dramatic, humorous, but always insightful look into the plan of salvation and the great controversy. It features a lot of Christian, and specifically Seventh-day Adventist, theology and doctrine.

Everybody who read the story absolutely loved it and told me the same thing: “Omar, you should totally turn this into an audio book, a movie, or a graphic novel!” I thought it was a great idea, because, to be honest, I didn’t think a lot of kids and teens were interested in reading 17 pages of writing. But, one thing stood in my way — money!

I began to feverishly pray about it. I felt God wanted me to do the same, so I spent a lot of years, on and off, contacting schools and organizations to see if they would be interested in recording and/or performing this play ... for free! Nothing happened.

Well, days turned into weeks and weeks



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: OMAR MIRANDA

The cast of “Soul War,” a free online audio drama that shares the plan of salvation and the great controversy, includes Mark Piotrosky, Calhoun Church pastor, as narrator; Dennis Starkey as voice of God; Jonathan Montes, associate pastor of the Calhoun Church, as voice of Satan; Omar Miranda as author; Dave Smith; and Chad Mutchler, as voice of Gabriel and music composer. Not pictured is David Brannon, voice of Jesus.

into months ... fast-forward 15 years later.

It was late 2016. I was frustrated and couldn’t stop feeling that I was letting God down. So, without any prior experience, I created a website on my own, posted the story, and reached out to Chad Mutchler, a fellow Calhoun, Georgia, Church member and musician. I asked if he would be willing to write at least one original song for the story. Little did I know that Chad would totally blow me away with his creative mind, his vision, his enthusiasm, and most of all, his connections!

All the glory goes to God, because in one-and-a-half years things came together. Chad and I partnered financially with our local church in Calhoun, and God consistently showed up. Both the illustrator and the composer of the original music score work for some prestigious clients. Through God’s miraculous work and timing, we got their services for a fraction of the cost.

Lastly, the members of our own local church in Calhoun gave us tons of prayers, their voices, acting talents (all voices except one are from our church), and more importantly, their money.

This dramatized audio story entitled “Soul War” (<http://soulwar.org>) is now a reality. It has a totally interactive website. Visitors can listen to the full story, as well as download and personalize evangelistic materials for their local area. They can also search for the closest local Adventist church, interact with additional Bible study resources, and donate toward future stories or episodes.

This is an amazing worldwide evangelistic digital opportunity that has surpassed all of our team’s dreams.

I know that my trust and faith in God has been stretched and strengthened, and I can’t wait to see what miracles God has in store in the future. ❶



# TOTAL INVOLVEMENT

## *Leads to Growth*

BY RAMMY ROBLES-GUERRERO

Church unity is difficult to come by these days, but perhaps the reason we are missing this unity is that we aren't focusing on others the way we should. The Dothan-Enterprise Church began the "Totally Involved" plan on December 16, 2017, which included small groups, Bible studies, community services, and Christian fellowship components to be developed and implemented throughout 2018 in Enterprise, Alabama. The opportunity for community service and church involvement was made readily available, and the people utilized it.

The church organized into four small groups, divided by families, and sprang into their communities with the intention to keep church members motivated by the word of God, and to stimulate their neighbors to be part of the Christian family. They began with the understanding that the responsibility for lost souls is on Christ, and it is He that empowers them to be winsome of their neighbors. As the church was willing, God provided success. The entire church's involvement in helping each other, as well as local families with different needs, is what made the plan successful. Their concern for and focus on others instead of themselves brought a powerful unity to the church family. This focus led to not only meeting community needs, but also providing a family environment and Christian fellowship every Sabbath — and not just at church during worship time, but in their homes as well. Unity within the church was becoming tangible.

Inside the local church, small groups assumed every function of the church: Sabbath School, divine worship, youth service, and more. Each element was directed through a small group. The church also activated its social networks on Facebook and YouTube, to share activities and messages with those who could not attend, and



**Idelina Neris (left), wife of Rammy Robles-Guerrero (right), pastor; Juanita and José Reyes (center); and the Reyes' children, Allison Reyes (left front), Geovany Reyes, and Leslie Moreno**

with those that perhaps weren't that interested in spiritual things at all. The members couldn't make the social impact they needed online by simply scrolling past the church updates or ignoring the live feeds. They needed to actively "like" and share each of those updates, as well as post positive messages about their small groups and activities. By simply taking a few seconds to do this, the reach potential grew exponentially.

After four months the church could see God working in families, young people,

and children, and the number of visitors to the church increased by an astounding 150 percent. Among the visitors was the family of José and Juanita Reyes. The Reyeses saw a post on the Dothan-Enterprise Church's Facebook page, and one Sabbath morning they simply decided to get up, get ready, and visit the church. They soon joined a small group and started having Bible studies, and as a result of the fellowship and spiritual growth, the parents decided to get married and surrender their lives to God through baptism.

Another visitor, Eladio Perez, a retired pastor of a Pentecostal church in Philadelphia, had recently moved to the city of Enterprise; his girlfriend, Leida Delgado, had received an invitation to visit, and together they began attending. After several months of attending the church and learning the Adventist doctrines, they also decided to get married in the Dothan-Enterprise Church, and give their lives to God through baptism.

It is increasingly clear that the Holy Spirit has been moving in this church, and will continue to illuminate the city of Enterprise through His word. Four months after starting the project, the church concluded the first stage with a campaign titled "A New Dawn of Hope for Your Life." From the beginning of the project to the campaign, nine people gave their lives through baptism. Now the church continues with the second stage of this project, with faith and hope in God that it will be a blessing for their Hispanic community, and that the lives of the people they impact can be transformed through His word.

If unity is something you need in your church, consider focusing on reaching out to others, and taking the time to be supportive of your brothers and sisters in Christ. ●

# Volusia County Schools, Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital Announce Historic Partnership



The agreement is the first of its kind between a school district and major health care provider.

During a special meeting, the School Board of Volusia County recently approved a historic agreement with Adventist Health System's Florida Hospital.

In the auditorium of Deltona High School, this partnership established the Florida Hospital Healthy Futures Program of Volusia County Schools. This agreement is the first of its kind between a school district and major health care provider, and will serve as a national model. The agreement includes the following:

- A five-year, \$2 million commitment by Florida Hospital
- Direct involvement in the district's six high school health care academies and nine high school and middle school health programs, including internships
- Coordinated care for student athletes, including a dedicated certified athletic trainer to serve as a school liaison
- Health care services to students at 36 schools with the highest chronic student absenteeism
- Florida Hospital naming rights to all high school and middle school health care academies and programs

With 78 schools, there are more than 63,000 students enrolled in Volusia County Schools.

"These students represent the future,

and it is important that we help set them up for success, and that starts here, today," said David Ottati, CEO Adventist Health System's Central Florida Division - North Region, which includes the Florida Hospitals in Volusia County. "Since the early 1990s, Florida Hospital has been involved with Volusia's Health Science Career Academies, and this partnership is an extension of the hospitals' long-term commitment to their success."

Ottati explained that the partnership strives to address three main challenges impacting local schools, including chronic absenteeism, student athlete health, and career development within the health care industry.

"Last year, almost 17 percent of our students were chronically absent from school. Missing school for any number of reasons, including illness, can be a barrier for our students to learn, earn good grades, and even graduate," said Tom Russell, superintendent of schools. "Our goal is to decrease chronic absenteeism across Volusia County by 10 percent, which could significantly impact our students' education and help position them for success."

At the 36 schools with the highest rate of chronic absenteeism, Florida Hospital will help students with access to Florida Hospital eCare urgent care providers. Via the eCare app, students and their parents can

receive a live and secure tele-health consultation for a range of urgent care issues such as pink eye, coughs/colds/flu, minor injuries, allergies, urinary tract infections, and more.

Florida Hospital will also assist students whose families are underinsured or uninsured and cannot afford care, helping students combat chronic conditions, and ease their journey toward wellness.

In addition, Florida Hospital will develop streamlined and coordinated care for Volusia County Schools' student athletes, including improved concussion protocols.

According to a study in the *Journal of Athletic Training*, there are an estimated 300,000 sport-related traumatic brain injuries — most of which are concussions — each year in the U.S. In addition, sports are second only to motor vehicle crashes as the leading cause of traumatic brain injury for young people, ages 15 to 24 years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that concussions can result in headaches, nausea, and irritability. While most people do not suffer from long-term impacts from a concussion, between 10 and 20 percent may experience additional symptoms, such as depression, headaches, or difficulty concentrating.

"As a parent myself, I understand how nerve-wracking competitive sports can be and the potential for injuries," Ottati said.



“Parents should feel a sense of peace, knowing that if your child does get hurt in practice or a game, they now have a strong health care system standing by, ready to help their family during their time of need.”

Furthermore, Florida Hospital has committed to helping students interested in a career in the health care industry. Florida Hospital will be directly involved in the district’s six high school health care academies and nine high school and middle school health programs.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor

Statistics, health care jobs are expected to have the fastest employment growth during the next 10 years, and Florida will have more than 50,000 job openings for nurses and nursing assistants in the next seven years. Within the health care industry, there is a large need for additional medical assistants, medical secretaries, and health services managers.

“With the help from community partners like Florida Hospital, our goal is to continue to create pathways that allow students to directly connect coursework with industry

certifications and work-based learning opportunities to help prepare them for careers in the health care industry,” said Kelly L. Amy, M.Ed., manager of strategic partnerships for Volusia County Schools.

“Our school board is committed to expanding vocational and college readiness programs, but cannot do it alone,” Russell added. “Florida Hospital has stepped up to the plate. This is an exciting time for students in Volusia County Schools.”

BY LINDSAY CASHIO

## AHS ER Physician Demonstrates Dangers of Hot Cars

An emergency medicine physician at Adventist Health System’s Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center wants to remind adults how dangerous cars can become for children during the hot summer months in Florida.

To demonstrate how quickly vehicles can heat up and explain the onset of heat stroke symptoms in children, Steve Swearingen, M.D., emergency medicine physician at Florida Hospital Memorial Medical Center, sat in a car with engine and A/C turned off and the windows rolled up for 15 minutes.

The purpose of this short demonstration was to highlight how dangerous it can be to leave a child in a car.

“Heatstroke is more common during these summer months, April through September,” Swearingen said. “When body temperature reaches 107 degrees, cells start to die and organs begin to fail. Symptoms of heatstroke in adults and children who are trapped in a hot car include dry and flushed skin, fast heart rate, confusion, hallucinations, seizures, or loss of consciousness. In extreme cases, death can occur.”

Even with cloud coverage and a sprinkle of rain during the demonstration, it was 84 degrees outside, and the parked car’s temperature quickly climbed nearly 20 degrees to just over 102 degrees.



**Steven Swearingen, M.D., stresses the medical dangers that can occur when sitting in a hot car for minutes at a time.**

While in the car, Swearingen’s vital signs were monitored, including heart rate, blood pressure, respiration, and oxygen saturation.

Upon entering the vehicle, his heart rate was 87 beats per minute (BPM), but 15 minutes later it had risen to 105 BPM.

“This is a drastic increase for someone who is sitting still. The average resting heart rate for an adult is between 50 and 100 BPM,” Swearingen said. “Thanks to the clouds! I honestly don’t think I would have made it the full 15 minutes if the sun

had been out. During the dry run earlier this week, with the sun out, the car got to 116 degrees in just 10 minutes.”

In the U.S., 21 states have laws with specific language addressing leaving a child unattended in a vehicle. Four states allow a period of time that a child may be left unattended before it becomes a crime. Under Florida law, a child can be left alone in a vehicle for 15 minutes or less, as long as the car’s engine is turned off.

According to NoHeatStroke.org, there were 42 pediatric vehicular heatstroke deaths in the U.S. in 2017. This year, there have already been 12 deaths reported.

“Children’s thermoregulatory systems don’t work as well as adults, so they can show signs of heat stroke or heat exhaustion three to five times faster,” Swearingen said. “The changes in my vital signs over the course of 10 minutes can happen to a child in just two minutes.”

To help prevent accidents from occurring, Swearingen suggested a few tips to adults.

“Maybe put your purse, your phone or your wallet in the backseat when you drive,” Swearingen said. “These are things you are more likely to remember to take out of the car with you, and you can remember that your child is in the car.”

BY FLORIDA HOSPITAL MEDIA RELATIONS

# ShareHim Goes to Lesotho



PHOTO BY: PASTOR RUBEN CASSABONA

The group of young adults who participated in the 2018 ShareHim trip sponsored by the Carolina Conference



PHOTO BY: PASTOR RUBEN CASSABONA

The group of young adults and the new members who were baptized as a result of the ShareHim meetings



Lesotho, Africa

Carolina Conference President Leslie Louis and a team of nine young adults recently went on a ShareHim evangelism trip to South Africa. The team spent more than a week in the kingdom of Lesotho in a town called Mohale's Hoek.

The area had already been exposed to Adventist teachings, so the series of 11 sermons served as a revival and recommitment for those who live there. The team had an hour of devotion every morning, and held meetings every evening. The nightly messages focused on the book of Jonah, and near the end of the series, the sermons covered baptism. For those who expressed a desire for baptism, the group dedicated a day to providing clarification

and further understanding. Since the church had no baptistry and the river was too cold, the group drove an hour to a church with a baptistry, and 27 individuals were baptized. Several more candidates are preparing for baptism as well. The ShareHim team also ministered to prison inmates for several days, focusing their messages on God's faithfulness.

The trip wasn't all work, though. The team also went zip lining and went on a safari. Past ShareHim trips were mostly composed of older adults, but recently the focus has shifted to involving young adults in evangelism. Louis expressed how amazing it was to connect with the group of young adults. He had been on many mission trips,

including one ShareHim trip, in the past, but never before had a group become so close. The group bonded both socially and spiritually. He expressed how it was "hard to part" from each other when it was time to go their separate ways.

The trip was an amazing success. Site manager Victor Dyman took care of the ShareHim team, making sure they had everything they needed and the trip flowed smoothly. They felt God truly had His hand in this trip, and both the ShareHim team and their new brothers and sisters in Christ in Lesotho were blessed by the experience. 🙏

BY RACHEL BEAVER



# Club Surprises Others With Kindness

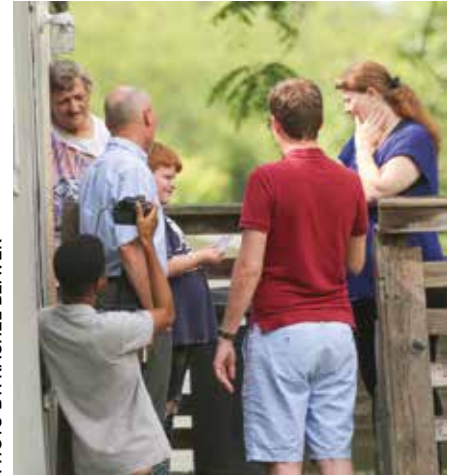
The funds collected during this year's Dollar Club were distributed in the community on Thursday afternoon. Armed with 70 \$10 gift cards and \$800 in cash and Walmart gift cards for groceries, the Carolina Conference Communication team and several members of the Conference pastoral staff set out to bless the community.

Their first stop was a local homeless shelter. As soon as they arrived, they found friends. Various members of the team went table to table talking and laughing with the guests as they gave each person a \$10 gift card to a local food establishment. One especially grateful guest was four months pregnant and struggling to make ends meet.

They then drove to a local grocery outlet and surprised patrons by paying for their groceries. Many of those served by the generosity of the Dollar Club had never heard of the Seventh-day Adventist Church, and some were moved to tears at the kindness of strangers. Two of the ladies were buying flowers for a woman whose husband had recently died



A grateful grocery shopper thanks Carolina Conference seminary student Casey Vaughn.



Pastors Henry Johnson and Tim Sheridan surprise a Waynesville family with \$200 in gift cards.

and were extremely grateful for the unexpected thoughtfulness.

The team then hit the streets of downtown Waynesville and gave out more \$10 restaurant gift cards. The recipients were surprised and thankful and asked questions about the team and their church. People just walking down the street high-

fived the team members. A few passersby even stopped their cars to find out what was going on. Incidentally, the mayor of Waynesville and the "First Dog" also enjoyed the Dollar Club's generosity. 🐾

BY CASEY VAUGHN

# AWA Follows Jesus' Example

Since the birth of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the 1800s, the church has utilized every kind of vehicle to bring the Word of God to those who don't know Him, including airplanes. Adventist World Aviation (AWA) was founded by former General Conference President Bob Folkenberg. In the 1990s he made AWA an independent organization, and it continues to serve the worldwide church today. Now AWA has around 26 aircraft and does mission work on five continents.

Of the 7 billion people on Earth, 2 billion have not heard of Christ. Of those 2 billion, 800 million live beyond geographical barriers. In these areas there are often no roads to reach the interior of the country, and it can take days or even weeks to



reach people on the ground. AWA makes it possible to reach these places quickly. They minister to the people living in these remote areas by delivering food and vaccines, providing medical evacuations, holding health clinics, and building

schools. Their work has greatly decreased the number of women dying in childbirth and has stopped 35 epidemics. They also return the bodies of deceased individuals to their loved ones and assist in giving them a proper burial.

Throughout Jesus' ministry, He took care of people's physical needs first. AWA follows this example by taking care of the needs of the people and earning their trust. By doing this, Christ's love is seen in action, and people are more willing to open their hearts and ears to the truth.

For more information on how to get involved with AWA's mission, visit their website at [www.flyawa.org](http://www.flyawa.org) or email [info@flyawa.org](mailto:info@flyawa.org). 🌐

BY RACHEL BEAVER

# Orlando Spanish Church Baptizes 21 New Members



Some of the 21 new members baptized at Orlando Spanish Church who accepted Jesus as their Savior after Roger Hernandez's evangelistic series

Orlando Spanish Church recently experienced the blessings resulting from the fulfillment of Matthew 28:19: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Following this mandate from the Lord Jesus Christ, the church received blessings from 21 new souls accepting Jesus Christ during a recent evangelistic series, "Todos Tenemos Vida (We All Have Life)," with Roger Hernandez, Southern Union Conference director of ministerial and evangelism.

The church grew not only in number, but also in unity. Oscar Tavera, local pastor, coordinated community reach-out efforts by mobilizing church members in preparation for the campaign. With the support of life groups and church leaders, the congregation was blessed every night by powerful messages, excellent musical performances, and the presence of a large number of guests. Many more attendees requested Bible study as they prepare to join the Adventist Church in a future baptism. 📖

BY GEORGE NINA



Roger Hernandez, campaign speaker (fourth from right); Oscar Tavera, Orlando Spanish Church pastor (third from right); Elvio Ortega, Orlando Spanish Church mission ministry director (fourth from left); and some of the volunteers who helped with the "Todos Tenemos Vida (We All Have Life)" evangelistic meetings held at Orlando, Fla., Spanish Church

# North Lake Church Holds Vow-renewal Ceremony



Husbands and wives of North Lake Church in Leesburg, Fla., recently celebrated their marriages in a vow-renewal ceremony performed in the sanctuary by their pastor, Norman Bassett, pictured right with his wife, Patricia.



# Dimas Rosado Becomes Centenarian

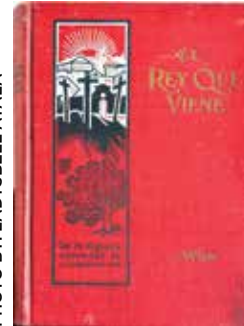
**D**imas Rosado was born March 26, 1918, in Barrio Esperanza, Arecibo, Puerto Rico. His 100th birthday was celebrated with his family, friends, and brethren at Deltona Spanish Church, Deltona, Fla., where he has attended for 31 years.

He is the ninth of 11 siblings born to hard-working farmers, Don Manuel Rosado and Doña Mercedes Ruiz. His parents knew the Adventist message through a book, *El Rey Que Viene* (*The King is Coming*), sold by one of the first colporteurs in Puerto Rico. After many interesting experiences, the family of 13 was baptized. An Adventist church was built on their farm, originally made up mostly of his large family who are considered pioneers of the Adventist movement in the north of Puerto Rico. Today, many souls and churches have been the product of this conversion at the beginning of the 20th century.



Dimas Rosado

PHOTO BY: LADYSBELL AYALA



This book converted an entire family.

school teacher in Puerto Rico again, and social worker in Florida. Rosado always has been a missionary, and has kept God first in his life. Today, his family and friends thank God for his long life.

Rosado studied at the College of the Antilles in Cuba with two of his brothers. There he met Ena Leiva Fernández, who would later become his wife. They married in New York in 1946, and were married for 65 years until she passed in October 2011.

He worked as a farmer in Puerto Rico, taxi driver in New York, elementary

His only son, Melvin Rosado, is married to Zaida Suarez, and they live in Deltona, Fla. He has two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. ❶

BY LADYSBELL AYALA

# Jason O'Rourke Ordained at Mount Olive Church

**J**ason O'Rourke was ordained to the Gospel ministry on May 26, 2018, at the Mount Olive Church in Apopka, Fla. He has served for 10 years as a chaplain within the Neurological Intensive Care Unit and the Emergency Department at Florida Hospital.

After serving in the United States Army for 12 years, he transitioned to ministry by attending and graduating from Oakwood University, Huntsville, Ala., with a B.A. in theology, and Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich., with a master of divinity degree. He is currently working on a doctor of ministry degree with Claremont School of Theology in California.

O'Rourke served during the Ebola crisis, participating in the planning of the Florida Hospital response, and supported families in the wake of the PULSE crisis in Orlando. He has spoken in multiple countries, and has



written a book, *Sex-U-Ology: God, Gender, Marriage, and Intimacy*.

O'Rourke met Melissa Gail at Andrews University, and they were married September 9, 2011. They have two daughters, Abrielle Joy and Myla Grace. The O'Rourke family

is currently moving to the Netherlands Union, where Jason will serve as pastor for the Bethani Church in Almer.

It is O'Rourke's hope for his ministry to positively influence all with whom he comes in contact with the love of Jesus. ❶

# Rogersville Intentional With Children

The Children's Ministries Department of the Rogersville, Tenn., Church, has been very active in getting children involved in learning about God and His love.

Every month on the fourth Sabbath, the children get to go into a classroom with a few teachers, do crafts, sing songs, and ultimately get closer to Him.

The children are learning how God created the animals for people to enjoy and take care of. To illustrate this lesson, the group recently went to a local wildlife park called Bays Mountain in Kingsport, Tenn. There they enjoyed a picnic lunch provided by some of the adults in the church, followed by a walk through the animal habitats.

They learned about the wolves in the park—what they eat, how often they are fed, where the wolves come from, and more.

The church has much more planned for their children, as well as the children in their community. Sharon Borton and Donna Owen have been leading the team of adults recently,



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY LISA SKELTON

The Rogersville, Tenn., Church has a plan to teach the children in their church and community about God. They set aside one Sabbath monthly to do crafts and sing songs, with the goal of getting closer to God and better understanding His love.

along with the aid of other church members — Stephanie and Leroy Morie, Doug and Brandy Jenkins, Curtis and Ruby Hinrichs, Tim and Mae Luttrell, Lauren Freire, and others.

Programs and activities with the children are vital to their growth. Prayers are appreciated for the children (and adults) at Rogersville Church and the surrounding

community as they lead the next generation to God. Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these," Matthew 19:14. ❶

BY LISA SKELTON

# Pillars of Faith Celebrates Guests

The members of the Pillars of Faith Company in Ellenwood, Ga., took time April 28, 2018, to affirm others with a Community Guest Day. They specifically honored Roosevelt Smith, Lithonia chief of police, and Rashad Richey, local radio personality and community worker.

The day was filled with activities, including guest speaker Roseclair Bulgin. A special moment during divine worship included the church elders praying for the honorees. Numerous guests from the community attended the special celebration.

Rickie Holmes, pastor, presented both honorees with plaques and gifts of appreciation. The honorees gave words of appreciation and inspiration.

The event was followed by a delicious vegetarian meal. There was lots of food, fun, fellowship, and good conversations.

Later that day the church members



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY RICKIE HOLMES

Honoree Roosevelt Smith (left), chief of police in Lithonia, Ga., stands with Rickie Holmes, pastor.

went back into the community to pass out tracts and continue to invite the community to attend the Pillars of Faith Church.

Going forward, the church members

plan to make Community Guest Day an annual event. ❶

BY RICKIE HOLMES



# Four Children Baptized on VBS Sabbath at Gainesville Church



PHOTO BY: JORDAN BLYDEN



PHOTO BY: JENNIFER BLYDEN

The Gainesville, Ga., Church is intentional about Vacation Bible School as evangelism. This year, four children decided to be baptized on Vacation Bible School Sabbath to show their love for Jesus, and eight more decided they wanted to be baptized as well.

Manuel, Maria, Jeremiah, and Emma made the decision on their own to follow Jesus.

The Gainesville, Ga., Church, during the week of June 4, 2018, was transformed into the town of Capernaum as they participated in Vacation Bible School (VBS): Sea of Miracles, where children learned about the life and ministry of Jesus.

VBS is one of Gainesville's highlight evangelistic events of the year. This year, led by Kathy Gossett, they registered 27 children and 22 support staff members. Fourteen of the children were not Adventists. Volunteers dressed in era-appropriate tunics, while the children participated in singing songs on the North Shore of Galilee, hearing stories about Jesus and Peter at Simona's House, and using their creativity with crafts at Beit Saida Village. Later, they enjoyed some prayer time up on the mountaintop, and then exerted energy playing games in the Shepherds' Field. All of these modules highlighted the miracles that the disciples experienced with Jesus.

Along with VBS being evangelistic-driven, the event is also made to be mission-driven. Every year they look at how they can support their local community, whether it is collecting shoes for refugee children, giving stuffed animals to the local police and fire departments, or, this

year, collecting donations for the Georgia Mountain Food Bank. Every day the children were challenged to bring at least one nonperishable food item, and at the end of the week, they had collected more than 150 pounds of food. It has shown to be a great means of getting the children thinking about how they can help serve.

The week capped off with a cache of 1,000 water balloons and a hot Georgia afternoon as the children and some adult volunteers watered the grass, but mostly themselves, with a water balloon challenge. Afterwards, homemade ice cream was served while everyone dried out and fellowshiped together as the leaders passed out bags with all the crafts that had been made throughout the week.

All of this is typical for a Gainesville VBS, but one thing happened that helped visualize what Jesus has called His own to do — to be a witness to Christ. Four of the VBS children were baptized during the special VBS Sabbath on June 9, 2018.

With no pressure or prodding from their parents, Manuel, Maria, Jeremiah, and Emma made the decision on their own to follow Jesus, and participated in Bible study prior to VBS. Each child gave their testi-

mony that they wanted to follow the example of Christ, and go out and witness to their friends, family, and anyone else who does not know Jesus. These four children soon found out how much of a witness they were, as about eight hands from other VBS children said they were interested in baptism. Juanfer Monsalve, pastor, is now planning a new baptismal class.

VBS is often thought of as being just fun and games, and an excuse to go crazy with decorations. For the Gainesville Church, it happily amounted to more souls for Christ's Kingdom.

Every year they count on volunteer support and creative minds to transform the weekly worship center into a themed VBS destination that will appeal to the senses and transport guests into a fun-learning environment that they enjoy. Gainesville church members encourage members in churches that do not host a Vacation Bible School to support one in some way — it's fun, there's a lot to be learned, and there is always the possibility of winning souls for Jesus! 🙏

BY JOSH DOBSON

# Linda Anderson Retires after 24 Years of Service

Linda Anderson started work in the Adventist Book Center (ABC) in 1994, while in the Iowa-Missouri Conference. During the nine years she spent there, she learned invaluable lessons from the managers of the store. It was also here that she gained experience in problem solving, as many of the managers were new to their job, and both they and Anderson had to learn together.

Anderson moved to the Gulf States Conference in 2003, and in 2006 became the first female manager of the Gulf States ABC. Anderson treated the position as a mission post, and was wholly devoted to the Conference. This devotion was echoed in her connection to her family, and above all, her relationship with God.

During her time as manager of the Gulf States ABC, Anderson traveled more than 200,000 miles to sell and deliver food and books throughout the Conference. Her passion for meeting people's needs and making a way to provide what each person needed was an excellent example of "Christ's method alone," *The Ministry of Healing*, page 139. Jesus could most certainly be seen in her and her work.

Anderson is quick not to take all of the credit for the success of the ABC and meeting people's needs during her tenure. She thanks her assistant, Jane Haney, for her hard work and long hours that kept the ABC running smoothly while she was there. Anderson announced and celebrated her retirement at the 2018 Gulf States Camp Meeting at Bass Memorial Academy in May. The celebration was appropriately coupled with a special sale at the ABC.

When asked about what she'll do in her retirement, Anderson didn't offer any definite plans, except that she anticipates spending more joyous time with her family, particularly children and grandchildren. "Our children and grandchildren" was the



PHOTO BY: STAN HOBBS

Linda Anderson poses in the Adventist Book Center at Camp Meeting during her retirement celebration.

daily prayer request that Anderson brought to the Conference staff worships, without fail. If for some reason Anderson was unable to attend staff worship, someone almost always added the family prayer request on her behalf, knowing that's what she would say.

Anderson also anticipates that her hobbies of horses, cats, and animal rescue will occupy the rest of her time. She takes God's call to stewardship of His

creation seriously, and it is evident in the care she provides to her animals.

Most importantly to Anderson, and what she would like the world to know, is that Jesus is her best friend, and that He can be everyone's too. "Remember," her office voicemail sounds, "God's crazy about you." 🙏

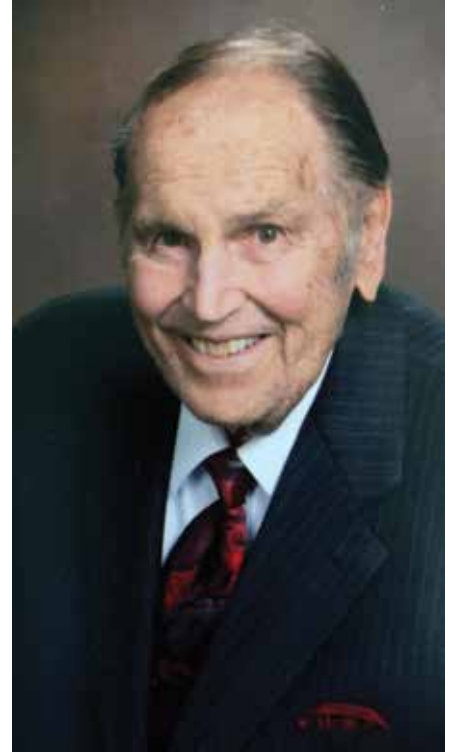
BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER



# Merle Landis Remembered



The boy's dorm at Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn., was named in his honor.



Merle Landis fulfilled his dream of pastoring, and did so for 34 years.

**M**erle Blake Landis, 89, born September 3, 1928, in Canton, Ohio, died November 3, 2017, in Huntsville, Ala. When he was five years old, his mother became an Adventist through evangelistic meetings. As her children grew, she saw to it that they went to church school, and would be able to continue through high school. During his senior year at Mount Vernon Academy (MVA), and feeling the need to support God's work in his family, Landis hitchhiked home for his father's baptism.

He graduated from MVA in 1946, and colporteurd during the summer so he could attend Washington Missionary College (now Washington Adventist University) in Takoma Park, Md. After his second year of college, he married Mildred Arlene Robbins. His father-in-law taught his four sons and three sons-in-law the contracting and bricklaying trade. Landis finished working his way

through college as an employee in this family business.

He finished college in 1953 with a double major in theology and business. After graduation, they moved to Philadelphia, Pa., where he built two churches. In 1954, they transitioned to Oak Park Academy in Nevada, Iowa, where he taught Bible, science, and industrial arts. In the summers, he started working on his master's degree at Potomac University in Washington, D.C., which served as the Adventist seminary at the time, and graduated from Andrews University in 1960. In 1958, they moved to Highland Academy in Portland, Tenn., where he was boy's dean and math teacher. In 1995, the academy named the boy's dorm Landis Hall in his honor. In 1961, he fulfilled his dream of entering the ministry in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. In 1969, they moved to the Wyoming Conference where he pastored and

served as education director. In 1971, they moved to the Missouri Conference where he served as education director, ministerial director, and ABC manager for a little more than three years at each post. In 1981, they moved to the Gulf States Conference where he pastored the Huntsville Central Church for 14 years before retiring in 1995.

He is survived by two daughters, Sherrie Landis and Merlene (Tony) Pitt; four grandchildren, Kelley (Allen) Fowler, Andrew Clark, Thomas (Jennifer) Turk, and Mark Turk; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Mildred; parents Merle Dewey and Orpha Landis; sister Jayne Silva; brother Lowell Landis; and infant grandson John Clark. ①

BY MERLENE PITT

# Frances Davis Celebrates 100th Birthday

Frances Davis is known as a very special woman. Not only is she a faithful member of the Sand Hill, Ky., Church, she is also the church pianist, all made remarkable by her age. She celebrated her 100th birthday on April 29, 2018. On that day nearly 200 friends, neighbors, and former students from the community and church gathered at the Anna Community Hall to celebrate the happy occasion. They enjoyed a photo album of family pictures from her long life, and refreshments were served. Long-time friends shared many memories.

Members of the church and friends worked long hours to make the day memorable for everyone. Several pastors and their wives came to honor Davis



for her faithful years of service to God and His Church. Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, greeted those in attendance.

Special guest Diane Fish represented Holbrook Indian School, Holbrook, Ariz., an institution visited and financially supported by Davis and her late husband, Buford Davis. Fish presented a beautiful piece of Indian pottery to Davis as an expression of the school's gratitude for the Davis' generosity and support.

During the Sand Hill Sabbath services on the following Sabbath, May 5, Davis said that she had one word to describe her birthday: "perfect." ●

BY GLENN HEIL

# Louisville Southside Hispanic Company Granted Church Status

The Louisville Southside Hispanic Company rejoiced on April 28, 2018. On that day, the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference organized them from a company to church status.

Just a year before, the company was told they could no longer rent the building they were using. This was not only discouraging, but also put them in jeopardy of disbanding. As they struggled to find a new place to meet, the Lord presented an opportunity to rent a church building with the option to buy.

Members of the congregation praised God as Steve Haley, president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference; Armando de Leon, Hispanic coordinator; and Walkyr Montilla, pastor, presented the news that the company had been granted church status. The Louisville Southside Hispanic Church was organized with 62 members. ●



Members of the newly organized Louisville Southside Hispanic Church, with Armando DeLeon (front left) and Steve Haley, Conference president

BY WALKYR MONTILLA



# Nelson Silva, D.Min., Ordained at Camp Meeting

During the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference Camp Meeting at Highland Academy on Sabbath, June 2, 2018, Nelson Silva, D.Min., was ordained to the Gospel ministry. Steve Haley, D.Min., president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, welcomed Orlando Vazquez, who gave the ordination devotional message. Vazquez, born in Cuba, fled to the United States in the 1980s after being imprisoned for his faith.

Vazquez spoke of meeting Silva soon after his arrival to Indianapolis, Ind., saying that he could tell from the very beginning that Silva had both talent and commitment to serve the youth. He further noted that Silva and his wife, April, have always demonstrated a partnership in serving God and His Church. In concluding his remarks, Vazquez charged the Silvas to continue to pray daily, inviting Jesus to be the center of their home as He has been throughout their 15-year marriage.

Silva felt called to pastoral ministry early in his life, when chosen by his graduating class to be the senior class pastor at Ricardo Greenidge Adventist Academy in Caracas, Venezuela. In 1999, after coming to the United States, he decided to focus on youth ministry at Andrews University.



Nelson and April Silva

After graduating from Andrews in 2003, he became a bilingual home and school advisor for the public school system in Indianapolis, and also served as a volunteer youth pastor, eventually becoming a salaried pastor in the Hispanic Brownsburg and Chapel West churches.

After completing a master of divinity equivalency at Andrews, Silva enrolled in Fuller Theological Seminary, earning his

doctor of ministry in youth leadership in 2013.

In July of 2016, Haley shared with Silva his unique vision for public campus, education, and Hispanic ministries in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference. On August 1 of that same year, Silva joined the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference as associate youth director. ❶

BY DENISE POPE

# Richardsons Celebrate 60 Years



Bill and Sandra Richardson celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 8, 2018. The Richardsons spent 30 of those years on the faculty and staff at Andrews University. Bill Richardson was chair of the Religion Department for 12 years, and served as dean of the College of Arts and Sciences for eight years. Sandra Richardson served as executive assistant in the Physical Therapy Department. In 2009 they retired to the Jackson, Tenn., area to be near their daughter and son-in-law, Cindy and Roy Schmidt. They

are active in the Jackson Church, where Bill Richardson frequently preaches and teaches. The Richardsons have two more children, daughter Cheri (Ken) Leffler, who live near Landstuhl, Germany; and son Steve (Andrea) Richardson, who live in Jacksonville, Fla. The Richardsons have eight grandchildren. ❶

BY BILL RICHARDSON

# Camp Hawthorne Reboots



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON

New additions to Camp Hawthorne include a floating dock, gazebos overlooking the lake, water tricycles, paddles boats, and more. The recent upgrades to the campground total nearly \$2 million.



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON

With the purchase of five new campus buses, campers can now ride around the campground in comfort and style. Senior members often catch the bus from their cabins to all points on campus.



PHOTO BY: ELEANOR ROBINSON

Camp Hawthorne now features four elevated gazebos overlooking the lake. Campers can gather for a meal or simply to relax and fellowship.

Nowadays, passers-by pull over to take a closer look at the lake that sits in the center of Camp Hawthorne. It's no surprise, though. With the recent upgrades to the lake and to the grounds, it's really hard to miss. Drivers on Highway 20 are almost blinded by the sunbeams bouncing off the sparkling wa-

ters in the lake. And, if that doesn't get their attention, the fountain spouting up into the air in the center of the lake will do it easily.

Gregory Mack, president of Southeastern Conference (SEC), stated, "We will continue to develop our campground so that it is a sought after destination for

ministry events, but also a more enjoyable place for the entire Southeastern family to be refreshed and renewed." Camp Hawthorne has been the primary site of Southeastern ministry events for more than 40 years. Recently, it received a long list of upgrades to ready it for future ministry to the next generations.



In 2017 the campground's main pavilion received nearly \$1 million dollars worth of renovations, and, to date, the upgrades across the campus total nearly \$2 million dollars. Besides the sparkling lake and the new fountain, campers will be pleased to see the return of the beach to the center lake, which is fully equipped with showers and beach chairs. Also, a floating dock has been installed where campers can board one of several paddle boats and water tricycles. There have been extensive upgrades to the cabins, with bathroom upgrades in the near future.

Camp Hawthorne is also high-tech. Fiber optic cable is running throughout the campus, and the buildings are currently being wired for Wi-Fi throughout the en-

tire campground.

The young athletes and thrill seekers will want to visit the brand new 400-foot zip line and obstacle course. Close by, campers can gather for outdoor Vespers around the bonfire. What's great is that these are only partial upgrades, and campers will have to stay tuned for the extensive list of upgrades in store for the near future.

With all of the upgrades, the Southeastern administration is seeking to make Camp Hawthorne a prime destination for ministry and local community events. Recently, the North American Division chose Camp Hawthorne as the host site for the Division Finals of the 2018 season of the Pathfinder Bible Experience. Conference administrators are also

working with local community leaders to ensure they recognize Camp Hawthorne as a destination for community events, and a place where the community can be served. With a recent accreditation designation from the American Camp Association, it is evident that Camp Hawthorne truly is becoming a destination for quality events — large and small.

It is one more place where mission-driven initiatives can be advanced, and people can retreat and recharge. There is no doubt that Camp Hawthorne will continue to be a place where Southeastern will share hope and restore wholeness. ❶

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BY CHRISTOPHER C. THOMPSON

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## Apopka Church Connects with Tech

Elizabeth Byrd lived in Lower Kingswood, UK, and connected to the Mount Olive Church in Apopka, Fla., through the church's live online broadcast every Sabbath. Byrd and her husband, David, experienced much success and failure throughout their lives. Their greatest struggle was her battle with cancer during her early 20s. This struggle led Byrd to seek for answers outside of herself. She was always curious about her husband's odd ways and practices, like not eating pork and not working on Saturday.

Through prayer and study, Byrd became converted to the Seventh-day Adventist message and desired baptism. After learning of the church from a family member, she began tuning in to the Mount Olive online service each week for worship. Even after two years of waiting, she was determined to be baptized.

Finally, Byrd travelled more than 5,000 miles from the UK to the Mount Olive Church, and requested baptism from Carl Ware, pastor. Three days before her baptism, she fell in her driveway and ruptured her maxilla, and dis-



PHOTO BY: DAVID BYRD

**Elizabeth Byrd traveled more than 5,000 miles to be baptized at the Mount Olive Church in Apopka, Fla. Byrd watched Mount Olive's online broadcast for two years before she made the decision to join the church.**

placed her front teeth from their roots. Because she could not take anesthetic medications, the dentist was unable to replace the impacted teeth, and told her there was nothing they could do. However, nothing would deter her from being baptized. Family and friends witnessed

as she became a baptized member of the Mount Olive Church on Sabbath morning, March 17, 2018.

As the family celebrated her newfound joy, Byrd began complaining of feeling tired and exhausted. She went to lay down, and after several hours her husband went to check on her, and noted she was unresponsive and did not recognize him. After being rushed to the hospital, Byrd was admitted for emergency treatment. While the family waited and prayed for the best possible outcome, their worst fears were realized when the doctors told them she had passed away.

Elizabeth Byrd's funeral was held at Mount Olive, surrounded by church and family members. The church family prays for her family and encourages them with these words: "We cannot, Lord, thy purpose see. But all is well done by thee." Byrd's untimely death is yet another reason to anxiously await the soon coming of the Lord. ❶

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BY VENEICÉ H-BARNES

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# ADU Professor Shepherds Young Nursing Graduates Through ABAN Mentorship Program

Education will prepare you with the skills and knowledge to work a trade, but life skills and learning to navigate from a college environment into a post-collegiate career can be harder to develop. That's where mentors with industry experience can become invaluable partners on your journey — mentors like Lynelle Callender, D.N.P., R.N., Adventist University of Health Sciences' (ADU) associate professor and vice chair of online nursing, who was inducted into the Association of Black Seventh-day Adventist Nurses (ABAN) in March of 2018, although she has worked actively as a mentor for some time prior to that.



**Lynelle Callender, D.N.P., R.N., ADU's associate professor and vice chair of online nursing, mentors students as part of the Association for Black Seventh-day Adventist Nurses.**

The 2018 ABAN meeting took place on the campus of Oakwood University (OU) in Huntsville, Ala., during its Alumni Weekend. Callender visited the campus to take part in the meeting, and was invited to speak about ADU's online master of science in nursing (MSN) programs to a group of OU graduating nursing seniors. While speaking to the students at the nurse advisory meeting, Callender offered to mentor the students, and was later contacted by two of the students, Danielle Kemp and Christine Haye.

Callender explained, "It's my way of giving back, witnessing, and sharing God's love, grace, and blessings with young nursing professionals." She's excited for this opportunity to work with students from OU, and stated, "Many OU students had never heard of ADU,

so beginning a new collaborative relationship between the two colleges was monumental."

She communicates with her mentees via email, texts, phone calls, and face to face, as she addresses concerns and questions many graduating students are facing, such as interview preparation, time management, balancing work and life schedules, and decisions about post-graduate education. Through this contact, the two students became interested in ADU and Florida Hospital.

Danielle Kemp described how Callender met her in person at Florida Hospital's Heritage Hire event, and led her on a tour of ADU's campus: "I remember never being interested in pursuing my master's ... what made me reconsider was talking to Dr. Lynelle ... discussing my goals about ... working for Florida

Hospital. If it wasn't for her mentorship and kindness towards me, I would have never pursued this opportunity."

Both graduates have now accepted positions at Florida Hospital, and both plan to enroll in ADU's MSN program in the future with Callender guiding them. The mentorship work that Callender is doing is not only a great service to the nursing community, but builds a bridge between two sister Adventist schools, allowing students to pursue post-graduate education in nursing in a similarly mission-focused environment.

When asked about her experience as a mentee, Christine Haye said it has been a learning experience. She said, "Dr.

Callender's friendly personality and positive attitude allowed me to remain calm and relaxed, improve my confidence, and acquire the necessary skills for transition into the program. I am extremely grateful to have experienced this special time with her and to know that the seed she has planted will one day become a full fruit."

ADU strives to develop skilled professionals who live the healing values of Christ, and Callender recognizes the importance of continuing to mentor students beyond the time they spend in their classrooms. She plans to mentor both students until they become mentors themselves. She concluded, "It's the circle of life — reach one, teach one!" ●

BY LISA MARIE ESSER



# Student Club Places Second in National Competition

Southern Adventist University's Enactus team placed second in their league at the national level this summer. This was their highest placement to date, putting them in the top seven percent of all 444 Enactus teams in the United States.

"The idea is we all win because we're helping people," said Michelle Doucoumes, Enactus sponsor and assistant professor in the School of Business. "Every Enactus project is not just to raise money, but also to improve people's lives."

Thousands of students around the world make up the Enactus network, which aims to engage the next generation of entrepreneurial leaders to better the world. Southern's team paired this mission with their theme of the year — "re-creation" — and focused their projects on God's creative and redemptive power.

The team's five projects included helping a struggling refugee grow his catering business, fundraising for a project that restores



Sharing about their projects to improve the world, Southern's Enactus team placed second at the national level.

eyesight in India, shrinking the food deserts in Chattanooga by educating and equipping local young people, mentoring high school girls in computer programming, and holding an event to inspire and connect students with notable business alumni.

"It is humbling to see how God led every

step of the way," said AJ Sato, '18, Enactus team president this past year. "Each of our members went above and beyond to empower our community, and it has truly been an honor to serve with them this past year." 📌

BY NATALIA PEREZ

# University Receives Grant for Race-Related Projects

This summer, Southern received a \$50,000 grant from Lumina Foundation to fund a multi-pronged project addressing racial justice and equity on campus. Project components include recording and sharing oral histories, inviting nationally recognized speakers to Southern, funding creative student-led programs, and researching the impact of all these efforts on employee and student attitudes.

"Southern has an opportunity to be a model of a large institution that weaves racial reconciliation into its DNA, even though trying to achieve this goal can be challenging," said Kristie Wilder, J.D., dean of the School of Social Work and

co-director of the project.

From a pool of 312 nation-wide applicants, Southern was one of 19 colleges and universities selected to receive funding from Lumina's Fund for Racial Justice and Equity.

"These campuses have shown a willingness to address racial disparities at a systemic level," said Jamie Merisotis, president and CEO of Lumina Foundation. "They recognize that achieving equitable results is about more than promoting diversity — it's about whether the institution fosters a climate in which every student feels welcome, and has the same opportunity to earn a degree or certificate of value, regardless of race or ethnicity."

In these efforts, Wilder and the other co-directors — Stephanie Guster, M.S.W., assistant professor of social work, and Rachel Williams-Smith, Ph.D., dean of the School of Journalism and Communication — have the full support of Southern's administration.

"Each individual student on our diverse campus is infinitely valuable in God's eyes, and we want them to feel that love here — to feel safe, valued, and at home," said David Smith, Ph.D., president of Southern. "This project will be another piece in our ongoing efforts to foster that kind of environment on our campus." 📌

BY SOUTHERN STAFF

# Sandra Oglesby Named 2018 NAACP Mother of the Year



Sandra Oglesby stands with her husband Clarence L. Thomas III, D.Min.

Sandra E. Oglesby, a member of Ephesus Church in Wilmington, N.C., is the winner of the New Hanover County NAACP Mother of the Year Award. She is the first representative from Ephesus to win this great honor.

Each year, the New Hanover County NAACP asks the churches in the county to select an individual to represent their church as the Mother (or Woman) of the Year, and support her in raising monetary

funds. This fundraising project was initiated in 1955 to supplement the local, state, and national NAACP budget. The woman who raises the most funds becomes the county's Mother of the Year.

Oglesby's first assignment as Mother of the Year was representing New Hanover County as she attended the North Carolina Coronation Brunch. The Coronation Brunch was held at HillSong Baptist Church in Chapel Hill, N.C. The Corona-



Sandra Oglesby receives the Mother of the Year Crown from a NAACP representative.

tion Brunch is held to recognize Mother/Woman of the Year recipients from across the state of North Carolina for their service to the NAACP, and their contributions to the community. The brunch is where the announcement of the winner for the state of North Carolina takes place. Oglesby placed in the top five from the state, affording her a prize.

As Mother of the Year, Oglesby will represent the NAACP in local events, including the NAACP Freedom Fund Banquet, MLK Breakfast, and MLK Parade, to name a few. Oglesby hasn't been waiting around for special events to attend, though. Moments after being crowned Mother of the Year, she encouraged the congregation to invest in their health by participating in a University of North Carolina research project on the area's water quality.

Oglesby gives credit to God and thanks to her husband, Clarence L. Thomas III, D.Min., and the rest of her family. She also expressed enormous gratitude for Derrin Davis, pastor, and the Ephesus Church family for helping to make this happen. They all share in this great honor together. 🙏

BY JOHN DAVIS





**AMOS, PHYLLIS J. HARRIS**, 76, born Aug. 17, 1941 in Dexter, ME, to Gerald and Iva Harris, died June 15, 2018 at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center in Sebring, FL, after successfully fighting the effects of muscular dystrophy her entire life and just days after spending a happy, week-long vacation with family at Hilton Head Island, SC. Phyllis passed from complications of pneumonia. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church for 28 years.

After graduating with an Associate Degree in secretarial science from Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD, she began denominational employment as a secretary in the Art Department of Southern Publishing Association in Nashville, TN. She then worked as a secretary in the Sabbath School Department for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference in Goodlettsville, TN. She served as an art assistant position for Yard and Fruit Magazine, and then a secretary position with Troy-Bilt Company.

Phyllis was then employed as the Medical Staff Coordinator at Smyrna Adventist Hospital; led out in a project to obtain accreditation for the Louis Smith Hospital in Lakeland, GA; director of the volunteer gift shop at Manchester, KY; assistant medical staff coordinator at Walker Memorial Hospital at Avon Park, FL; and later as medical staff coordinator at Florida Hospital Heartland Medical Center in Sebring, FL.

Following retirement in Aug. 2003, she used her eye for color, art, design, and her creative talents for many beautiful events of celebration and fundraising. Her love for scrapbooking evolved into a passion for developing amazing, custom, three-dimensional greeting cards for friends, family, and the community, including the Rotary Club, and sold at the Daisy Girl Shop in Avon Park.

She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Tom; two sons: Brent (Mindy) Amos of Knoxville, TN, and Kurt (Jennifer) Amos of Sugar Hill, GA; five grandchildren; and two-great grandchildren.

The homily was given by Pastor Paul R. Boling during a Celebration of Life Service at the Avon Park Church. Many people have been blessed to have known Phyllis Amos, and to have shared life and love with her.

**CAMP, VANN D.**, 81, born April 10, 1936, in Albemarle, NC, died Jan. 30, 2018 in Walla Walla, WA.

Vann graduated from Fletcher Academy, Fletcher, NC, in 1954 and Andrews University (formerly Emmanuel Missionary College) Berrien Springs, MI, in 1958 with a degree in business. While in college, he met and married Sandra Hood, and they had four children: Connie, Tonya, Robert, and Jill. Vann accepted employment in Alaska, and then a position at Cheyenne River Academy in Harvey, ND, for four years. The couple divorced in 1963.

In 1965, Vann accepted the position as business manager for Mt. Sanitarium and Hospital (now Park Ridge Hospital in Fletcher, NC). This was the beginning of his life-long career in health care administration. At Fletcher, Vann met a nursing student, Beverly Kilgore, and they were married Jan. 1, 1967. They lived in Hendersonville for 21 years and were active in the Fletcher Church. In 1972, a son, Gregory, was born to them. During this time, Vann became a member of the American College of Hospital Administrators and the Hospital Financial Management Association, serving as president of the NC chapter for two years.

In 1988, Vann accepted a position with Adventist Health Systems (AHS), Altamonte Springs, FL, as vice president for finance at the corporate office, then later CFO of Adventist Care Centers, and then president of Adventist Care Centers in 1998 until his retirement in 2003. He then continued a part-time position managing South Central, Inc. for AHS until December 2017.

Vann was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL, for 29 years where he served on numerous boards and committees. He and Beverly made the decision in July of 2017 to move to Walla Walla, WA, to be near family.

Vann is survived by his wife of 51 years, Beverly; one son, Gregory of Fayetteville, AR; three daughters: Connie (Ben) Gish of Walla Walla, WA, Tonya (Marty) Wessman of College Place, WA; and Jill (Jeff) Howell of Niles, MI; one brother, Lucas (Barbara) of Hendersonville, NC; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, Horace and Ina, and an infant son, Robert.

A memorial service was held at the Forest Lake Church.





**COLLIER, BILL DEAN**, 79, of Huntsville, AL, born Oct. 15, 1938 in the cotton mill town of Belmont, NC, died March 30, 2018. Following two heart attacks in less than a day, Bill underwent open heart surgery with five bi-passes, but then began experiencing strokes and developed pneumonia. A celebration of Bill's life was held a week later at Highland Church in Portland, TN, where Bill resided for 35 years.

He attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), near Chattanooga, TN. In 1965, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served for two years. After graduating from the Dell School of Medical Technology in Asheville, NC, Bill worked in Adventist hospital laboratories in Florida, Kentucky, and Tennessee. He and his wife, Nan (née Williams), opened their own medical lab in 1976 in Gallatin, TN. LabCorp bought the business 18 years later, and hired Bill to manage the company's Nashville office until 2004, when he pursued certification as a licensed massage therapist. Bill married Dolly (née Frist) in 2013 and moved to Huntsville,

where he joined Attention Medical Supply as a marketing representative. The couple retired four years ago, and enjoyed traveling and spending time with family.

In addition to his wife, Dolly, he is survived by his brother Ronnie (Faye); three sons: Christopher (Barb), Tony (Kathy), and Martin (Crystal); eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; many cousins; nieces; nephews; and step-family members who loved him dearly. Bill was preceded in death by his parents: Adrian "Jack" and Etta Collier; as well as three siblings; and Nan.

Everyone who met Bill was captivated by his cheerful smile and kind manner. Family and friends looked to him for godly advice, and were encouraged by his example to seek a life of joy in Christ. He is sorely missed, but would want all of us to be of good courage for we have the blessed hope of seeing him again.

**DALTON, CLARICE CHRISTINE APLIN**, 87, of Lynn Haven, FL, died June 17, 2017 in Panama City, FL, born Oct. 19, 1929 to Harold and Martha Aplin at Washington Adventist Hospital in Takoma Park, MD. She often remarked that was the same day HMS Richards started the Voice of Prophecy! She attended J. N. Andrews Church School in Takoma Park, then Shenandoah Valley Academy in New Market VA - graduated in 1947. She enrolled in pre-nursing at Washington Missionary College (now WAU), but soon realized God was calling her to be a teacher. She switched to Secondary Education, graduated in 1950. Later she took graduate studies at Wright State University, Dayton, OH. During a College Ingathering campaign, "Participate in '48", Christine was soliciting while being supported by a singing band in a pick-up truck. On the ride back home, she began talking with one of the young men who had been singing. Arriving at her house, he got off the truck to help her down, and the driver drove off. He walked her to the door, asked her for a date, and ran back to the college. Neither ever dated another! They were married June 5, 1950 in the "old" Takoma Park Church by William H. Shephard, president of WMC.



Christine taught both elementary and secondary levels at Adventist schools including Church School and Junior Academy, Dayton, OH; Spring Valley Academy, Centerville, OH; and Church School, Panama City. She often said she taught every grade from 1 through 12! She was very active in her church, variously serving as Sabbath School teacher, church clerk, bulletin secretary, religious liberty leader, Pathfinder director, and other offices. Christine was a Master Guide, particularly enjoying camping, bird watching, astronomy, and gardening. She enjoyed playing softball with her children (especially pitching), playing the organ and piano for church, and writing stories and poetry. She was a published author. For the last 15 years, she was a member of the North Bay Church near Panama City.

Although very busy with teaching and serving her church, she was an excellent homemaker. She baked delicious whole wheat bread, served wholesome, healthful vegetarian meals to her family, and she could really make her sewing machine "hum"!

One of her children posted this, "A great lady, the quintessential teacher, she possessed the patience of a saint, and always showered her students, friends, and family with kindness and love. She will be greatly missed. Her life will be daily celebrated." Surely, she exemplified the words of Proverbs 31!

She is survived by her husband of 67 years, A. Stanley Dalton Sr.; five children: Stan Jr. (Josiane), Mark (Marilee), Dori (Ed) Neufeld, Karyn (Art) Stagg, and John (Carolyn); 12 grandchildren: Emily, Kristin, Mannie, AJ, Chris, Eric, Julie, Mitchell, Didier, Andy, Kristi, Caty; and 13 great-grandchildren: Aidyn, Gwen, Lyla, Evi, Sebbi, Ethan, Dylan, Avery, Tatum, Audrey, Marielle, Leo, and Adam. She is now resting in Collegedale Memorial Park, beside her parents, awaiting Jesus' return. Christine's faith remained strong to the end in the certainty that "Joy comes in the morning."





**DE LOS RIOS, REBECA PUPO BALBOA**, 67, born Nov. 6, 1950 in Holguin, Cuba to Juan Pupo and Josefa Balboa, died May 21, 2018 in Orlando, FL. She grew up in a home full of joy and music. Her favorite hobbies included playing the piano, accordion, painting, reading, cycling, and track and field among other things. But her most precious memories included accompanying her dad, a generous man with a fervent love for the Gospel, as he gave people Bible studies.

At the age of 18, a few months before the departure of her parents from Cuba, Rebeca married Rolando de los Rios, a young minister whom she had known as a child. From that union, their only daughter, Raiza, was born. She quickly became her comfort during those long 11 years away from her family. That time was a training period for Rebeca who became an excellent and dynamic pastor's wife.

In 1980, the family moved to the United States. The family settled in New Jersey where Rolando served as pastor and director of the Spanish-language ministries. Rebeca began to work in a Greek factory, and before the year was over, she had already become the assistant, and then the laboratory director. When

Rolando started working on the television program, 'Ayer, Hoy, Mañana' (Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow), Rebeca joined the team as secretary, a job that took them to the suburbs of Orlando in 1987.

In Florida, Rebeca exercised her longest ministry as a volunteer in the Spanish-language Department of the Florida Conference, where her husband served as vice president. Later, she became director of the Spanish Children's Ministries, Singles and Family Life Ministries, a title that she held until her death. For more than 20 years, she passionately led the children and families of Florida, organizing trainings and conventions for Sabbath School teachers, couples, and singles, while supporting her husband in evangelism.

Rebeca was a lover of her family and friends. Her love for parties, trips, banquets, and functions had the purpose of uniting her loved ones so they could enjoy unforgettable moments. In her final days of illness, her health did not allow her to work, and even while in the hospital, she maintained those qualities that made her unique — her missionary and generous spirit and her love for the Gospel.

She is survived by her husband of 49.5 years, Rolando; one daughter, Raiza (Leonard) Fernandez; two granddaughters: Kasandra and Brianna Fernandez; three sisters: Norma, Juana, and Angela; and a large family of brothers-in-law; sisters-in-law; nieces; nephews; and friends, which include those who are as close as family.

Services were conducted at the Forest City Spanish Church in Orlando. Rebeca was laid to rest at Highland Memory Gardens in Apopka, FL.

**ERWIN, DR. JAMES EDWARD**, 71, of Collegedale, born June 24, 1946 in Greene County, near the town of Erwin, TN, died June 19, 2018, after a 14-year courageous battle with Alzheimer's.

His dream was to be a professional baseball player. A doctor friend offered to pay his way through medical school, but Jim felt called to be a minister. After graduating from Fletcher Academy in North Carolina, in 1964, he attended Southern Missionary College (now Southern Adventist University), where he received his B.A. in theology in 1968.

He volunteered for the U.S. Army, training at Fort Campbell, KY, and at Fort Sam Houston, TX. Jim married Andrea just 13 days before he left for Vietnam, serving as a Combat Medic (1-AO) with the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, K- Troop. Jim returned home one year later and finished his duties at Fort Carson, CO.

Jim completed his Master of Divinity at Andrews University in 1975, and a Doctor of Ministry from Vanderbilt University in 1981. He was working on two other doctorates simultaneously, one in communication from UTK and in leadership at Andrews, when he was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2004.

Jim was employed as a minister with the Georgia-Cumberland Conference for 32 years. He was also an adjunct professor at Southern Adventist University for 10 years, teaching public speaking. Jim also taught Dale Carnegie Courses. He loved watching people grow with confidence. Jim was a member of Toastmasters International, winning numerous awards and served as an officer and Area Governor. As a member of the International Christian Magicians, he did illusions for children's sermons, keeping the wonderment of young and old. Jim was also a member of the National Fellowship of Storytellers, his storytelling was impeccable, always intriguing; everyone loved to hear him speak. He was brilliant and a member of the Mensa International, holding conversations with the most intelligent, and yet turn right around and explain the same thing so a child could understand.

He is survived by his loving, devoted wife of 49 years, Andrea; two daughters: Kristin (Bud) Emmer and Michelle Erwin (Lea Harlan); one granddaughter, Abigail Emmer; two step-grandsons: BJ (Lacey) Emmer and Sean (Amber) Emmer; three step-great-grandsons: Noah, Isaac, and Luke. Jim is also survived by his "daughter," Rebecca (Shawn) Benson and "granddaughters," Ella and Sophia. Jim was preceded in death by his parents: Elmer and Waitsie Erwin; and his sister, Sue Fahrney. A Celebration of Life service was held June 25, 2018, in the funeral home chapel with John Swafford, Clifford Port, Bill Young, and Lyle Petry speaking at the service. Interment at the Chattanooga National Cemetery.





**GABBERT, GALE LOICEN**, 86, a resident of Ooltewah, TN, born in Grant City, MO, on May 8, 1931 to the late Dale and Iris Wood Gabbert, died April 8, 2018 at his home. Gale was a member of the Collegedale, TN, Church. He loved flowers, gardening, real estate, and visiting with friends and family. He worked for 39 years as a pastor and stewardship director for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Maryland, Oregon, Ohio, Virginia, Michigan, Texas, and Georgia. He is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Eula May Lindquist Gabbert; three children: Teresa (Randy) Dorn, Dennis (Rhea) Gabbert, and Brenda (Ted) Theus; six grandchildren: Ashley (Jeff) Lucas, Christina (Jon) Howard, Brandon Dorn, Jacob Gabbert, Andrew (Bethany) Theus, and Caroline Theus; one brother, Delbert (Carol) Gabbert; three sisters: Joyce Smetzer, Sharon (Allen) Foster, and Nelda (Les) Reynolds. In addition to his mother and father, he was preceded in death by his brothers, Keith Gabbert, Berniel Gabbert, Royce Gabbert, and John Gabbert. A celebration of life was held May 13, 2018 at the Collegedale Church with Pastor David Smith officiating.

**HIRSCH, OTTO REINHOLD**, 97, born on Nov. 12, 1920 in Jersey City, NJ, died March 31, 2018 in Madison, TN. He served in the U.S. Army during World War II as a medic and conscientious objector, receiving a Good Conduct Medal and Victory Medal. He later attended Union College, NJ, where he earned his teaching degree. He began teaching in 1950, and taught in the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference for 36 years. After retiring in 1986, he volunteered his time and talents at Indian Creek Camp. He was an expert carpenter and crafts man, as well as a skilled teacher of nature, which he loved. At 93, he officially retired from his duties at the camp, but continued using his talents for missionary purposes. He designed small cedar crosses with a Bible verse on the base, wooden cross puzzles, and other Christian mementos. Since 2006, he made an estimated 7,000 puzzles and more than 30,000 cedar crosses, which have been distributed worldwide through church missions and outreach. Through the years he also shared his musical talents at the school and church. He was a long-time faithful member of the Ridgeway, TN, Church.



He is survived by two sons: Ronald Hirsch, Richard (Alice) Hirsch; one daughter: Linda Martin; one sister: Ruth Kovalski; five grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Virginia Leister Hirsch; two brothers: Arthur and Rudy; three grandchildren: Jamie Hirsch, Adrian Hirsch, and Todd Hirsch.



**IVEY, DONNA BURRELL**, 61, born Oct. 20, 1956, died April 22, 2018 in Meridian, MS. She was a member of the Community Church in Meridian, MS, where she retired as a teacher for the Gulf States Conference. She is survived by two stepsons: Josh and Clay, both of Meridian; and a god-daughter, Celesta of Toomsboro, MS. The service was conducted by Elder Roger W. Burke. Interment was at Forest Lawn Memorial Garden.

**JEFFERSON, THEODORE RONALD**, 82, born Dec. 16, 1935 in Hartford, CT, to parents Charles Jefferson and Williamae Mifflin Jefferson, died July 9, 2018. When he graduated from Weaver High School in Hartford, CT, he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Atlantic Union College (AUC) in 1965, and a Master of Arts Degree in administration and supervision from Atlanta University in 1971. In 1957, Jefferson was baptized into the Seventh-day Adventist Church. From that time forward, he was a dedicated church member serving as a Bible instructor, Sabbath School teacher, elder, and deacon. In 1961, he married Lola Jean Boquer. In May of 2018, they celebrated 57 years of marital bliss. He was a loving husband and a wonderful father to all of his children. He was highly compassionate about his mission as an educator, serving as a leader and advocate of Christian education. His professional career spanned more than 40 years. He was greatly loved by his students, and respected by his colleagues. He is survived by his wife, Lola Jean Jefferson; his sister, Lois Gilder (John); five children; 16 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.







**KNOPPER, MARTIN**, 89, longtime resident of the Collegedale, TN, community, born Oct. 22, 1928 in The Netherlands, died Feb. 11, 2018. As a teenager, he experienced and survived the ravages of World War II, and immigrated to the USA in 1961 with his wife, Antoinette, and their two sons.

For many years, he worked at Loma Linda University as a videographer and media producer. After retiring from LLU, Martin and Antoinette moved to the Collegedale area. He joined his son Fred in the communication department of the Georgia-Cumberland Conference office, as a part time employee.

When in 2004, a tragic plane crash took the lives of several Conference employees, he served as interim communication director. Upon retiring (again) from the Conference office, after a decade of service, he became a volunteer at the Archaeology Museum on the campus of Southern Adventist University.

When the It Is Written media ministry moved to Chattanooga a few years ago, he became a volunteer there as well. Martin was preceded in death by his wife, Antoinette (born in 1928, died in 2009) and his son, Harry Knopper, MD (born in 1957, died in 2007). He is survived by his son, Fred; six grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. A memorial service was held March 24, 2018 at the Collegedale Church.

**LINDQUIST, EDWARD (ED) E.**, 84, born Sept. 20, 1933 in Raunchi, India to missionary parents, died April 9, 2018 in Apopka, FL.

Ed learned to play the violin, because of his mother's love of the instrument. He attended the prestigious Eastman College of Music on a scholarship and became an accomplished musician on violin, viola, and later on the cello.

Because of religious conviction when drafted, he was transferred to Germany and allowed Sabbaths off if he did double duty on Sunday. He became part of the 7th Army Symphony touring Germany and playing classical music for the German public as part of post war public relations and represented the USA during the World's Fair in Brussels, Belgium.

Returning stateside, he became an instructor at Columbia Union College in Takoma Park, MD, now Washington Adventist University, and taught in Maryland and Florida for 10 years. He was also in real estate and construction.

He shared his great love of music with churches of all denominations, and traveled throughout the USA and Asia as a soloist and also with the New Sigmund Romberg Orchestra and Camerata in Los Angeles, CA. He spent 16 years playing cello/violin/viola with the Maitland, FL, Symphony Orchestra.

Ed spent the last 2½ years of his life playing in an ensemble for the Florida Living Retirement Center while helping with their music program. He loved teaching music to his step-grandchildren even as late as one week before his death.

He is survived by his wife of 35 years, Patricia; two sons: Eric and Kevin; one step-son, Michael Stewart; one daughter, Sonja Barrows; two step-daughters: Kimberly Oxentenko and Sharon Strother; two sisters: Eula May Gabbert and Evonne Baasch; seven grandchildren; and two step-grandchildren.

Full military honors and a flag ceremony were held at the Cape Canaveral military Cemetery in Mims, FL. The graveside service was conducted by Pastor James King and assisted by Donald Atalski.



**MALCOLM, DR. ROY ENFORD**, 84, born Dec. 12, 1934 in the parish of St. Elizabeth, Jamaica, to the late Samuel and Reubena Roache Malcolm, and was the eighth of 12 children, died April 29, 2018 in Huntsville, AL.

As he grew, the quiet sparkle in his eyes reflected genius intelligence, sharp wit, and infectious, hilarious humor; his unassuming demeanor masked boundless artistry and creativity, implacable focus and determination, and divinely embedded gifts of leadership, teaching, and musicianship.

These qualities won the hearts of those he encountered, and laid the foundation for a lifetime of success and achievement, while pivotal people, events, and circumstances shaped and/or steered the trajectory of his journey through life. One elementary school teacher in particular, impacted Roy's life in so many ways. There is no doubt that Mr. Percy, educator, was instrumental in influencing young Roy to follow in his footsteps. The stories he told with that quiet

humor that left you holding your sides! He was a bright student, skipped the fifth grade, and entered Kingsway Academy with aplomb.

Roy's musical ability was evident at an early age. Although he had a measure of formal training, the depth of his

giftedness asserted itself in unexpected ways...watching someone at church playing the Hammond organ, then teaching himself to master it...asking a total stranger on the side of the road if he could try his hand at playing the accordion...then mastering it so quickly the astonished man let him take it home...he would make arrangements with him later...amazing! It was that way with each instrument he mastered — piano, organ, violin, guitar, fife, banjo, mandolin, mouth organ, and melodica. The impetus for what would later blossom into choral mastery initiated with the birth of the Echo Quartet during his Academy years.

The Malcolm family's loving commitment to Roy's academic future was unconditional; they were so proud of him and believed there were no limits to his potential. His education would continue; they would provide all the financial assistance they could. Roy worked in the Civil Service Office of Titles after he graduated in 1953 (Carmen Manning McPherson recommended him; his beautiful penmanship made getting the job a cinch!). He also worked as a secondary teacher for the East Jamaica Conference from 1953 to 1955. These jobs helped him save money while preparing to attend Kingsway College in Canada. He worked through college as a colporteur, received a master in theology from Andrews, and, in 1963, accepted a call to be the principal of Bermuda Institute. The things God was able to do through him while there were phenomenal! During this time, he met an extraordinary young woman, Edrene Deshield — someone that would prove to be one of the most important people in his life.

Five years later, during the summer of 1968, Roy's tenure at Oakwood began; he was the new registrar. A major decision had to be made. He and Edrene were encouraged to consider waiting to marry, or doing so before the school year began. Mercy! This definitely mandated fasting and prayer...three days of it! The Lord honored the petitions she put before Him, and gave clear direction. She agreed to marry, they were engaged, and on Sunday, September 15, 1968, Roy and Edrene were married on Oakwood's campus in Carter Hall. Their journey had begun. He earned the doctor of philosophy at Ohio State University in 1974, while still serving at Oakwood. God blessed their home with five beautiful children as he faithfully served five presidents. This campus — this chosen place where angels still stand guard, these grounds that are holy — is where his children grew up, where God blessed what he envisioned, created, introduced and implemented, where he will rest.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Edrene; daughter, Chanél (Dale) Fubler; son, Royce (Kelli); daughter, Charlene (Norman) Carrington; son, Peter; and daughter, Charéa Malcolm; adopted daughters: Victoria Pearman and Laurie Wright-Gaines (John); five grandchildren: Chadéla and Dale Fubler, Bentley Malcolm, and Malcolm and Carter Carrington; two adopted grandsons: Simeon Pearman and John Gaines; three brothers: Frank, Ralph and Cleon; one sister, Evelyn Lopez; one aunt, Mary Malcolm; cousins: Diahn Malcolm-Flair (Mark) and Anne Malcolm; one godson, Lloyd Mallory; best friends, Dr. Lance Shand and Dr. Sherman Cox and their families; special friends/extended family, the Gunn, Pyfrom, Wilson, and Pullins families; a host of nieces; nephews; cousins; generations of endeared Oakwood students; mentees; and friends.



**MENHENNETT, SHIRLEY CRAWFORD**, 69, born April 25, 1949 in Winamac, IN, died May 19, 2018. She moved to Florida when she was 10 years old, and graduated from Forest Lake Academy in 1966.

She was a member of the Collegedale Church, and was employed for more than 30 years at Southern Adventist University, most recently as the Campus Kitchen and Deli manager. Shirley was a caring, generous, and spontaneous person who loved her family, scrapbooking, shopping, Elvis, and trips to the beach. She had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh.

Shirley always shared her strong faith, and served as a mentor for numerous students, friends, and family. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her four children: Vernon Lee Menhennett Jr., Vicki Menhennett, Vincent Menhennett, and Valerie (Paul) Drewry; four grandchildren: Holly Menhennett, Maegan Drewry, Madison Drewry, and Macy Drewry; two brothers: Joe Crawford and Dan (JoAnn) Crawford; three sisters: Betty (Jerry) Reutebuch, Judy (Bob) Alsip, and Bev (Gary) Dotten; several nieces; and nephews. A memorial service was held on June 10, 2018, at the Collegedale Church in the Gospel Chapel with Pastor Cheri Smith officiating. She was preceded in death by her husband, Vernon Lee Menhennett Sr.; and her parents: Forrest and Margaret Crawford.



**NORRELL, ETHEL MARIAN COCHRAN TOLHURST**, 94, of Collegedale, TN, born Feb. 5, 1924 in Boynton, FL, to the late Marion and Leona Cochran, died March 31, 2018 of natural causes. Though she had slowed down physically, she remained mentally alert and full of life. She lived in Concord, NC, before the family moved to her father's hometown of Apalachee, GA, where she attended grade school. She later graduated from high school in Bostwick, GA, in 1939. She attended Madison Business School and became a secretary before attending Southern Junior College (now Southern Adventist University) in Collegedale, where she obtained an associate degree in elementary education in 1943. On the day of her college graduation, Ethel married George Monroe Tolhurst of Atlanta, GA. They lived in Washington, DC, and then Loma Linda and Glendale, CA. While George attended Loma Linda University School of Medicine, Ethel worked for local physicians. After medical school, George interned and completed his residency at Georgia Baptist Hospital in Atlanta, then practiced in Cleveland, GA, where Ethel and George had three sons. From Cleveland, the family moved to Okinawa for five years of medical missionary service, where their daughter was born. They returned to Cleveland, and then later moved to Hickory, NC. Ethel eventually moved back to Apalachee to care for her aging parents. After the deaths of her parents, Ethel moved to Collegedale, and in 2003 married former college classmate Dr. Milton Norrell. Ethel was a devout Seventh-day Adventist and loved and nurtured all who knew her, never speaking ill of anyone. At the time of her death, she was a member of the McDonald Road, TN, Church. In addition to her parents and late husband, George, Ethel was predeceased by her brother, Dr. Frank Cochran; sisters: Helen and Mary Evelyn Cochran; and son, Harold Tolhurst. She is survived by her husband, Dr. Milton Norrell; brother, Arnold Cochran; sons: Dr. Fred Tolhurst (Jane Travis) and Dr. Daniel Tolhurst (Dr. Pat Turner Shaw); daughter, Dr. Judith Tolhurst; granddaughters: Dr. Kate Tolhurst (Dr. Jerome Nichols), Betsy Tolhurst; Suzanne, Tessa, Nicholas, and Marine Captain George McArthur (Nika Amarante); great-granddaughter: Cecilia Monroe Nichols; many beloved nieces; and nephews. Very special to her final years was niece and caregiver, Shea Yeager. A memorial service will be held on June 30, 2018 at the McDonald Road Church. Details will be updated on the Chattanooga Funeral Home website: [dignitymemorial.com](http://dignitymemorial.com).



**ORQUIA, ANITA FERNANDEZ**, 80, died April 30, 2018, at her home surrounded by family and friends. She was a retired Certified Public Accountant for the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventist. She is survived by her loving husband, Bernardo Orquia; two sons: A.J. Orquia, Smyrna, GA, and Michael Orquia, Ooltewah, TN; one daughter, May Lanham, Chickamauga, TN; three brothers: Ephraim Fernandez, Neph Fernandez, and Benjamin Fernandez; three sisters: Fely Marquez, Lucy Fernandez, and Linda Quijano; 10 grandchildren: Aaron Orquia, Nathaniel Orquia, Alexander Orquia, Dylan Lanham, Jessie Orquia, Matthew Orquia, Asia Lanham, Audrey Orquia, Stephen Orquia, and Emmerson Kate Orquia. The family would like to thank Homestead Hospice for their love and care during this time. A Celebration of Life service was held May 28, 2018, at Battlefield Community Seventh-day Adventist Church with Pastor Justin Childers officiating.

**RHODES, DALE V., 82, AND BEVERLY E. VIEAU RHODES**, 84. Dale was born April 26, 1933 in Ferndale, MI, died July 9, 2015 in Miami, FL. Beverly was born Oct. 23, 1933 in Green Bay, WI, died March 5, 2018 in Miami, FL. They met during choir at Emmanuel Missionary College (now Andrews University) in Berrien Springs, MI, and married on June 12, 1955; spending 60 years together. Beverly completed a degree in secretarial science, and Dale completed a theology degree. He would also earn a master of divinity degree from Andrews University in 1971. The couple embarked on 40 years of distinguished service in Adventist education where Dale taught Bible and music while Beverly served in various secretarial and registrar roles. In the early years, they served at several academies in the U.S., including Mountain View Academy, Mountain View, CA; Columbia Academy, Battle Ground, WA; Newbury Park Academy, Newbury Park, CA; Gem State Academy, Caldwell, ID; and Pioneer Valley Academy, New Braintree, MA. In 1979, the couple accepted an international call to service and spent the next 14 years overseas; first in Singapore at Far Eastern Academy, and then in Argentina at River Plate Adventist College. They returned to the states in 1993, where they served two more years at Greater Miami Academy, Miami, FL; and one year at Maplewood Academy, Hutchinson, Minnesota. In retirement, they remained active in church and mission work. Dale developed a reputation for honest, reliable work with a thriving handyman business in his neighborhood. This provided many opportunities to share his love of Jesus. Their trunk was always full of books and tracts to share. Dale is survived by his many nieces and nephews. Beverly is survived by one brother, Rodney Vieau of Yucaipa, CA; and many nieces and nephews. Dale's service was conducted by Pastor Greg Leordean at the Miami Temple Church. Beverly's service was conducted by Pastor Greg Leordean at the Kendall, FL, Church.





**SMITH, DOROTHY L.**, 88, born Jan. 20, 1930 in Bronx, NY, died April 11, 2018 in Orange City, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church for 43 years. She was a nurse at the White Memorial Hospital in Los Angeles, CA, for approximately 10 years, Diabetes Nurse Educator in N. Palm Beach, FL, and finished her career as O.R. nurse for 30 years at Florida Hospital Altamonte, Altamonte Springs, FL.

**WINES, MONETA M.**, a resident of Country Haven Retirement Center, died March 17, 2018 in Ringgold, GA. Neta was the wife of Edward C. Wines who served as administrator for Seventh-day Adventist schools and higher education institutions. She served as "First Lady" for two boarding campuses where her husband served as the principal or president. She is survived by one son, Edward E. (Cherie) Wines of Ooltewah, TN; and two daughters: Muriel Wines (Scott) Phillips of Chattanooga, TN, and Mary Ann Wines (Randy) Graves of Berrien Center, MI; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. A Celebration of Life service was held March 25, 2018 at the Collegedale, TN, Church.



**BABB, KATHARINE**, 70, born Feb. 10, 1948 in Bainbridge, NY, died June 9, 2018 in Altamonte Springs, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL, for 25 years. She spent her working years as a nurse. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Lloyd; one son, Aaron Babb of North Carolina; one daughter, Karlie (Aaron) Mills of Bartow, FL; and three grandchildren. The memorial service was conducted by Alan Jones at Forest Lake Church. Interment was at Afton, NY.

**DENNY, EDWARD CURTIS**, 90, born Feb. 1, 1928 in De Soto, MO, died May 31, 2018. Ed resided in the Knoxville, TN, area from 1954 until 2015, when he moved to Ooltewah, TN. He was a member of the Knoxville First Church, serving in a number of offices including an elder. He retired from Martin Lockheed after working as a physicist at the K-25 and Y-12 plants for more than 30 years. He enjoyed many hobbies, including amateur radio, computers, and magic. (He was an Excalibur member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians and a founder of the Knoxville Ring). He was also a member of the Knoxville Choral Society for more than 30 years. He is survived by three sons and their spouses: Edward Jr. of Knoxville, TN; Stephen and Rosa of Alvarado, TX; and David and Corinne of Olney, MD; grandchildren: Philip and Alysha of Richmond, VA, Michael of Dallas, TX, Katherine and Stephen Aleshire of Mechanicsville, VA, and Kevin, Robin, Jason, and Danielle of Olney, MD;

great-grandsons: Harrison Aleshire of Mechanicsville, and Asa Denny of Richmond. A memorial service was held in Collegedale, TN. He will be buried in Knoxville, TN, next to his late wife of 61 years, Beverly Jean Huffines Denny. He was also preceded in death by his second wife, Elizabeth Clara Roundy.

**HEARD, LARRY E.**, 75, born Nov. 26, 1942 in College Park, GA, died June 2, 2018 in Altamonte Springs, FL. He was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL, for 50+ years where he served as a deacon. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Bonnie; one son, Brian (Amanda) Heard of Memphis, TN; one daughter, Shana (Rick) Hinson of Memphis, TN; and five grandchildren. The service was conducted by Pastor Geoff Patterson at the Forest Lake Church.

**GONZALEZ, SWIFTLEY HARVEY**, 99, born on April 13, 1918 on the island of Jamaica, died Jan. 31, 2018 in Madison, TN. She lived a life devoted to God, her family, her church, and her community. She was a member of the Cross Plains Church in Cross Plains, TN. She is survived by three sons: Joseph (Norma) Gonzalez, Carlo Gonzalez, and Orlando Gonzalez; four grandchildren: Anne-Marie (Russell) Clark, Chris Gonzalez, Tony (October) Gonzalez, and Rachel (Jeff) Terry; eight great-grandchildren: Evan Clark, Daria Clark, Jacob Terry, Nikko Gonzalez, Malia Gonzalez, River Gonzalez, Anabel Clark, and Sophia Gonzalez; and one great-

great-grandson, Ayden Clark. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph; three brothers: Wesley McIntosh, Edson McIntosh, and Allan McIntosh; one sister, Grace Gibbs; and her oldest son, Roger Gonzalez.

**INGRAM, GLENNA E.**, 85, born April 28, 1932 in Hammrick, NC, died Feb. 18, 2018 in Sebring, FL. She was a member of the Avon Park, FL, Church for 20+ years. She is survived by her husband of 60 years, Robert; one son, Joel of Fremont, California; one daughter, Candace of Michigan; and one granddaughter. The memorial service was conducted by Pastor George Brown at the Avon Park Church.

**JONES, DOROTHY**, 76, born June 6, 1941 in Madison, FL, died March 6, 2018 in Madison, FL. She was a member of the Madison, FL, Church. She is survived by her husband, Ferdinand. The service was conducted by Joseph Straub at the Cooks & Cooper Chapel in Madison. Interment was in the Bethlehem Baptist Church Cemetery in Madison.

**MACE, JERRY WAYNE**, 75, born Feb 5, 1943 in Morganton, NC, died May 30, 2018. He was a lifelong member of the Morganton Church, and enjoyed his church family. He had just recently celebrated his 55th wedding anniversary. He had many occupations including farming, auto repair, and caregiver at Windy Hill Family Care Home. He enjoyed gardening, fishing, and car racing.



He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Carolyn; one daughter, Lisa (Leon) Trubey; one son, Jerry “Bo” (Susan) Mace Jr.; two siblings: Frank (Wanda) Mace and Billie Jo Smith; three granddaughters: Jessica (Tyler) Hodges, Jordan Mace, and Madison Trubey; numerous nieces; and nephews.

**MINNIS, ALBERT “AL” L.**, 85, born Dec. 13, 1932 in Newark, NJ, died on May 13, 2018 after an extensive illness. He was a Kentucky Colonel and U.S. Army Veteran. He was a member of the Shelbyville, KY, Church, and was an active elder. Al was an avid Bible reader and scholar. He served in other capacities in his community until his health declined. He played professional baseball on a “Negro League” baseball team for many years. He was a teacher and baseball coach at several schools in the Jefferson County Public School System where he taught for more than 25 years. Al was the director of the Shelbyville Public Works Department until his retirement in 2001. He is survived by his wife of 38 years, Sarah F. Minnis; two sons: Albert “Chip” (Vonda) Minnis, Christopher “Sean” Minnis; eight grandchildren; three great-grandchildren; one brother; a host of sisters-in-law; brothers-in-law; nieces; nephews; cousins; and his extended family, Heidi and Josh Oliver and Darren Wurz. He was preceded in death by his parents: Albert M. and Ruby L. Minnis; one daughter, Maria “Candy”; one son, Mark “Mr. Drysdale” Minnis.

**RASMUSSEN, JOSEPH**, 89, born Aug. 2, 1928 in Denmark, died June 18, 2018 in Hendersonville, NC. He was a member of the Fletcher, NC, Church. Joseph received his Bachelor’s degree from Emmanuel Missionary College, which is now known as Andrews University in Berrien Springs, MI. He then went on to receive his Master’s Degree in economics from the University of Michigan. He was employed by General Telephone and Electric (GTE) and retired as the director of management information systems in 1993, after giving them 38 years of outstanding service. Joseph was able to speak five languages, and was fluent in many of them. He was an elder with the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Syracuse, NY, and then also at Brooklawn Church in Bridgeport, CT. He served for a period of time on the Board of Directors for the Adventist Health System, a chain of hospitals around the USA. He is survived by his loving wife of nine years, Mary Lou Rasmussen of Hendersonville, NC; one son, Eric Rasmussen of Colorado Springs, CO; one daughter, Lisa Fournier and her husband, Mike of Berkley, MA; three step-children: Elin Sonne, Axel Sonne, and Lilian Sonne; numerous nieces; and nephews.

**ROBERTS, FLORENCE**, 82, born Oct. 9, 1935, in Georgetown, Ghana, died May 6, 2018 in

Ocoee, FL. She was a member of the Forest Lake Church, Apopka, FL. She is survived by one son, Nigel Roberts; and one daughter, Maureen Reynolds. The service was conducted by Pastor Steve Sherman at Woodlawn Cemetery.

**SCARBORO, JOHNNY**, 60, born April 2, 1958 in Swainesboro, GA, died April 14, 2018 in Apopka, FL. He was a member of the Florida Living Church in Apopka, FL. He is survived by one daughter, Vanessa (Ryan) Neale of Mims, FL; one brother, Loran Scarboro of Vidalia, GA; and two grandchildren. The service was conducted by Dal Cottrell at the First Baptist Church of Aurlantia. Interment was in Mims, FL.

**SUMPTER, MARY DIANE**, 74, the oldest daughter of Charlie Merkerson and Mary Jeanette (Nelloms) Merkerson, born Jan. 10, 1944, on a crisp day in Atlanta, GA, died June 20, 2018. The Navy officer and housewife loved this sparkling-eyed and glossy-curled bundle of joy. Always a curious learner, Diane, as she was affectionately called by her family, attended William J. Scott Elementary School and maintained honor roll status. She attended L. J. Price High School, where she continued to excel academically to reach the top 10 percent honor status of her class. After graduating high school, Mary received a full scholarship to Spelman College/Grady Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, where she graduated as class salutatorian. Four months after starting a nursing career at Grady Hospital, Mary was offered a head nursing position pending her passing the nursing state board examination. Her exam results were stellar, and Mary became a head nurse at age 20! In 1964, Mary Frances Thompson and her husband, the late Theodore Thompson, invited Mary to ride with them to Camp Meeting in Hawthorne, FL. While at Camp Meeting, Mary met Elder Ward Sumpter, then associate publishing secretary for the South Atlantic Conference. Two years later, on May 1, 1966, Mary and Ward were married at Atlanta Berean Church. The next year, the Sumpters moved to Greensboro, NC, where Ward had accepted an assignment as the publishing director. After a few years, their first child, Shernanda, was born. When Shernanda was four months old, the Sumpters moved again; Ward accepted a pastorate in Tallahassee, FL. While there, their second child, Cedric, was born. A year later, the Sumpters moved to Berrien Springs, MI, where both Mary and Ward attended Andrews University. Later, the Sumpters moved to Loma Linda, CA, where Ward enrolled in Loma Linda University. While there, Elder Robert L. Woodfork informed the Sumpters that they were assigned to the Atlanta Boulevard district in Georgia. During this pastoral assignment, Ward held an evangelistic crusade with Mary actively involved as the Bi-

ble instructor; they were blessed to baptize more than 100 people. In 1976, after another evangelistic crusade, the Sumpters baptized more than 250 precious souls. As a result, a larger building was needed to accommodate the church growth. The Sumpters moved to Tampa, FL, where Mary worked as a public health nurse. After one year, her husband accepted a ministry assignment back in Georgia. Mary accepted a position as school nurse with the Atlanta Public Schools system, where she served for almost 30 years. Mary loved traveling with her husband to help spread the Good News of salvation and eternal life with the one true God. Their missionary journeys included Canada, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, England, Scotland, Norway, Sweden, Belgium, Denmark, Holland, Switzerland, France, Germany, Bosnia, Africa, Vietnam, Japan, Malaysia, and China. In 2007, after years of travel to ensure the spread of the Gospel message, Mary and Ward made their last exciting international trip to Italy and Greece, accompanied by friends: Elder Vanard and Ruth Mendinghall, Elder Willie and Vicky Taylor, and Drs. Delbert and Susan Baker. After the untimely death of her husband in 2013, Mary continued to lead an active life. She traveled to a women’s conference with Eula Winston, and attended events and interesting venues with Jean Peterson (her son-in-law’s mother). In addition to her children, Shernanda (Berry) Peterson and Cedric Sumpter, Mary leaves to cherish her memories, her mother: Mary Nelloms; two sisters: Irish Nelloms and Melaney Nelloms; two grandsons: Brad and Trey; cousins: Wynona (Calvin) Preston and Gail Strickland; a host of extended family members; and friends.

**WITTER, NORMA E.**, of Sequatchie, TN, born Aug. 23, 1944, died June 10, 2017. Norma taught school most of her adult life with the last school being Jasper Adventist Christian School in Jasper, TN. She was active at the Jasper Church, and often sang beautiful songs she had learned while serving with her family as a missionary in Africa. She was also instrumental in beginning weekly fellowship dinners at church, as she saw no reason people should go home and eat by themselves when they ate alone all week. She continued to organize those dinners until just a few weeks prior to her death when she learned she was ill. Those left to cherish her memory are her husband of 49 years, Charles Witter; two sons: David Witter and Eric (Sarah) Witter; two brothers: Kenneth Ake of Dallas, TX, and Jim Ake of Washington State; three grandchildren: Nathan, Mary Beth Ann, and Kevin Witter; a host of friends; and former students. The funeral services were officiated by Pastor Homer Barrett. Interment followed at Laurelbrook Cemetery in Dayton, TN, where she awaits the Lord’s call on that resurrection morning.



**WEEKEND THEME:** Making Patients Whole

SEPTEMBER 27-30

**2018**

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**FRANCES JOHNSON**

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Neurophysiologic Benefits of Worship



**GRACE OH**

Minimally Invasive Glaucoma Procedures, Managing Complications of Trabeculectomy Bleb, Lifestyle Changes for Patient's with Ocular Disease, and Mental & Emotional Health for Medical Professionals



**LAURA PODSCHUN**

Current Concepts in an Evidence-based Approach to Examination & Treatment of Plantar Foot Pain



**SUSAN RICHARDS**

Common Oral Pathologic Conditions: What is this and what do I do about it?



**LILLY TRYON**

Building A Healthy Brain: Emerging Perspectives on Resilience

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## PROPERTY AVAILABLE

**COLLEGEDALE GUESTHOUSE:** 1.5 bedroom fully equipped condo with kitchen and laundry, no steps, huge deck, secluded woodland setting. "What a find!" say guests, "Delightful!" \$70/night for two (2-night minimum). Call 423-236-4688 or 423-716-1298. See pictures at [www.rogerkingrentals.com](http://www.rogerkingrentals.com) [8]

**SUMMIT RIDGE RETIREMENT VILLAGE** - An Adventist community in a rural setting that offers affordable homes or apartments and caring neighbors, with a fellowship you'll enjoy. On-site church, planned activities, and transportation, as needed. Also, Wolfe Living Center offering independent living and nursing home. Website: <http://summitridgevillage.org> or Bill Norman 405-208-1289. ©

**FLORIDA LIVING, INDEPENDENT RETIREMENT LIVING** - celebrating 53 years of service. A small, relaxed, sunny and warm environment for SDA retirees. Affordable, lease only condos, efficiencies and homes. Located near SDA hospitals, medical offices, shopping and entertainment. Vegetarian meals and healthy living style promoted. 407-862-2646, [www.floridalivingretirement.com](http://www.floridalivingretirement.com) [8-3]

**COLLEGEDALE HOME for SALE** - 5 bedroom mostly brick home full basement, 4600+ sq. ft., 5 minutes to SAU, \$425,000. Pikeville Land: 16 acre mountain top land with

breathtaking views for your dream home, \$180,000. Additional 10 acre tract for \$40,000. Both are stunning and a must see. Please visit [www.DixonTeam.com](http://www.DixonTeam.com). Wendy Dixon, ask for a member of the Dixon Team with Keller Williams Realty, Ooltewah: 423-702-2000, direct, 423-664-1800, office. [8]

**SOUTHERN TINY LIVING** proudly presented by Southern Adventist University. The Tiny House features 300 square feet of living space, high ceiling with two lofts, fully equipped kitchen, full-size bathtub and shower, fully furnished. Reduced: now only \$49,500. For more information call 423-236-2537, email: [tprice@southern.edu](mailto:tprice@southern.edu) or visit [www.southerntinyliving.com](http://www.southerntinyliving.com) [8]

**2 BEDROOM CHALET** in Gatlinburg, TN for sale. Own one week each October, peak season. Located one mile from entrance to Smokey Mountain National Park. Sleeps 6, furnished kitchen, two baths, washer/dryer, fireplace, large deck overlooking babbling brook. Call 828-329-3937. [8]

**RURAL, FERTILE LAND** for sale by owner. Strong, year-round springs, mature timber, superb building and garden sites. Easy, paved road access to this 60.91 acre homestead of rolling land near Murphy, NC. To be sold intact, price negotiable. Call 828-837-6779 or 828-557-2254. [8-10]

**1 BED CONDO IN HONOLULU, HAWAII** - In Nu'uauu. Relaxing & affordable, minutes to beaches, Chinatown

& hiking! Clean, comfortable, like new. Sleeps 6 comfortably. Furnished kitchen, washer/dryer and more. Free parking. Visit [www.honcentralsda.org](http://www.honcentralsda.org) or call 808-524-1352. [8-12]

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks **CIRC Lead Programmer/Analyst** in the School of Computing. This position oversees/coordinates work of students/staff engaged in software development/analysis. B.S. in Computer Science or similar and 5 years of programming experience. Graduate education in computer science preferred. To apply and see full description visit: [www.southern.edu/jobs](http://www.southern.edu/jobs) [8]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks teaching faculty to be **Dean of the School of Education and Psychology** (SEP) and responsible for planning, organization, staffing, direction and evaluation of the academic disciplines of the SEP. The SEP Dean is also responsible for continuous development of the SEP's strategic plan. To apply and see full description visit: [www.southern.edu/jobs](http://www.southern.edu/jobs) [8]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** seeks **Vice President for Enrollment Management** to be responsible for meeting the enrollment goals of the university. The vice president oversees the functions of undergraduate and graduate recruitment, admissions, financial aid counseling for prospective students, and the Assist/PFE programs. Full job description: [www.southern.edu/jobs](http://www.southern.edu/jobs) [8]

**ANDREWS UNIVERSITY** seeks **Staff Counselor & Prevention Coordinator**. In consultation with the Director, provide leadership in mental health prevention initiatives for the student population, with the vision of assisting students in achieving more effective



personal, social, educational, and vocational development and adjustment. As member of the Counseling & Testing Center clinical team, provide individual, couple, and group counseling; Available for after-office hours, clinical consultations, and student crisis interventions; Maintain an assigned case load, and provide consultations on issues related to mental health. Report to the Director of Counseling & Testing Center. [https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff\\_salary#job\\_3](https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/staff_salary#job_3) [8]

**UNION COLLEGE** invites applicants for an **Accounting faculty** position. Qualified applicants will have a MBA or Masters in Accounting, a certification and should be a committed member of the SDA Church. A doctorate is preferred. *Find more information at [www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings](http://www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings) or contact Barry Forbes at [barry.forbes@ucollege.edu](mailto:barry.forbes@ucollege.edu)* [8]

**MISSION OPPORTUNITIES** – Laurelbrook Academy is a self supporting institution training missionaries. We have the following positions open: dietary manager, vegetarian cook, CNA's, farm manager, nursing home administrator. We provide many opportunities to go on mission trips with the students and staff to develop your talents for God. *For more information, call 423-664-5343 or email [president@laurelbrook.org](mailto:president@laurelbrook.org)* [8]

**OB-GYN, PEDIATRICIAN, NURSE PRACTITIONER AND PHYSICIAN'S ASSISTANT** needed for Adventist owned/operated Rural Health Clinic on the campus of Weimar Institute at Weimar, California. Competitive pay. *Call Dr. Randall Steffens at 615-604-0142 or email: [ceo@stallanthealth.com](mailto:ceo@stallanthealth.com)* [8, 9]

**LICENSED MASSAGE THERAPIST** needed for the ProHealth Wellness Center at the Hulsey Wellness Center. Flexible schedule, good salary,

friendly environment. New graduates welcomed, no experience required, willing to train. Part time and full time positions available. *Email resume to [dkch7@yahoo.com](mailto:dkch7@yahoo.com) or call us at 706-625-3585.* [8-12]

## MERCHANDISE FOR SALE

**EVANGELISM RESOURCES** — Daniel and Revelation seminar materials, sharing books, and Bible study guides. *Available at [www.BibleProphecyCentral.com](http://www.BibleProphecyCentral.com) or your local ABC.* [8, 9]

## MISCELLANEOUS

**RELOCATING?** Apex Moving & Storage has a national account contract with the General Conference for your moving needs. Take advantage of a volume rated discount. Be assured you are moving with the BEST! *Call Marcy Dante' at 800-766-1902; or visit us at: [www.apexmoving.com/adventist](http://www.apexmoving.com/adventist)* [8-12]

**THE CLERGY MOVE CENTER™** at Stevens Worldwide Van Lines is The Way To Move™ from state to state! Through our national contract with the General Conference, we extend our moving services to all Adventist families. *Contact our dedicated Move Counselors for a no-cost/no-obligation estimate at 800-248-8313. Learn more at [www.stevensworldwide.com/sda](http://www.stevensworldwide.com/sda).* [8-10]

**AUTHORS OF COOKBOOKS, HEALTH BOOKS, CHILDREN'S CHAPTER AND PICTURE BOOKS**, Call 800-367-1844 for your free evaluation. We publish all book formats, distribute to over 39,000 bookstores in 220 countries. *Find our new titles at your local ABC or [www.TeachServices.com](http://www.TeachServices.com), used SDA books at [www.LNFBooks.com](http://www.LNFBooks.com)* [8-4]

**SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY** offers master's degrees in business, computer science, counseling, education, global commu-

nity development, nursing, religion and social work. Flexibility is provided through some online and many on-campus programs. Financial aid may be available. *For more information, call 423-236-2585 or visit [www.southern.edu/graduatestudies](http://www.southern.edu/graduatestudies)* [8-5]

**SINGLE? WIDOWED? DIVORCED?** Meet compatible SDA's from USA ages 18-98. Each provides: birth-day, marital status, race, occupation, interests, goals, year baptized, lots more! Safe, confidential, effective, fun! *For information, application and current catalog, send \$25 to: SDA Pen-Pals, PO Box 734, Blue Ridge, Georgia 30513.* [8]

**ISRAEL TOUR** with Pastor Jim Gilley, 3ABN'S Pastor C.A. Murray and friends. Two trips this fall, November 11 - 19, 2018 \$3,095.00. November 18-27, 2018 \$3,395.00. Includes all tips, taxes, air, and breakfast and dinner buffets daily. From New York, Chicago or Los Angeles, other departure cities available. *Call Jennifer at 602-788-8864.* [8-10]

## CAROLINA

**LE SUMMER RETREAT** - Aug. 9-12. NPR.  
**PATHFINDER/ADVENTURE LEADERSHIP** - Aug. 24-26. NPR.

## FLORIDA

**COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE** - floridaconference.com/events

**A BETTER CHOICE / FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER** - Altamonte Springs: 407-644-4255. High Springs: 386-454-7956. Shop online: [floridaconference.com/abc](http://floridaconference.com/abc) or order by e-mail: [FloridaABC@floridaconference.com](mailto:FloridaABC@floridaconference.com)

**FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOKMOBILE SCHEDULE** - Avoid shipping costs by placing an ABC order to be delivered to a scheduled location. Orders must be made by phone or e-mail before 5:30 p.m. on the Thursday before a scheduled Sunday delivery and before noon on the Monday before a scheduled Tuesday delivery.

Aug. 5. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Aug. 12. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Aug. 19. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port St. Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Aug. 26. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

Sept. 9. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

Sept. 16. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Sept. 23. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Marantha in Miami Gardens.

**CARAVANA DE EVANGELISMO (SPANISH-LANGUAGE EVANGELISM CARAVAN)**

- Aug. 20-30. Theme: Jesus, Your Only Solution. Speaker: Alejandro Bullón. Details: [floridaconference.com/ministries/spanish-language-ministries](http://floridaconference.com/ministries/spanish-language-ministries)

Aug. 20. 8:00 p.m. Islamorada Spanish Company.

Aug. 21. 7:45 p.m. Cocoa Spanish Company.

Aug. 22. 7:45 p.m. Vero Beach Spanish Church.

Aug. 23. 7:45 p.m. Treasure Coast Spanish Church.

Aug. 24. 7:45 p.m. Melbourne Spanish Church.

Aug. 25. 11:00 a.m. Port Saint Lucie Spanish Company.

Aug. 25. 6:00 p.m. Lake Worth Spanish

Church.

Aug. 26. 7:45 p.m. Jupiter Spanish Company.

Aug. 27. 7:45 p.m. Indiantown Spanish Church.

Aug. 28. 7:45 p.m. Northwood Spanish Company.

Aug. 29. 7:45 p.m. Gainesville Spanish Church.

Aug. 30. 7:45 p.m. Marion Oaks Spanish Church, Ocala Spanish Mission Group, and Inverness Spanish Mission Group.

## GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

**MAKEOVER (HISPANIC YOUTH RETREAT)** - Aug. 3-5. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**HEALTH RALLIES WITH PRESENTER EW DEMSPEY.** Learn God's ultimate plan for longevity

Aug. 4. 2-5 p.m. Rome Church, GA.

Aug. 11. 2-5 p.m. Pillars of Faith Mission Group, Ellenwood, GA.

Aug. 18. 2-5 p.m. Hixson Church, TN.

Sept. 8. 2-5 pm. Wimbish Road Church, Macon, GA.

**SOUTHERN DEAF CAMP MEETING** - Aug. 8-12. Theme: The High Price for Freedom with speaker Douglas Silva. For more information, contact Pastor Jeffrey Jordan, 423-244-0544 or [jwjordan@gccsda.com](mailto:jwjordan@gccsda.com). Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**S'MORE CAMP: SINGLE MOMS OF REAL EXCELLENCE** - Aug. 11-12. A family weekend for single moms and their families. Contact Donna Crandall, [dcrandall@gccsda.com](mailto:dcrandall@gccsda.com). Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**HISPANIC MEN'S RETREAT** - Aug. 16-19. Laguna Beach Christian Retreat, Panama City Beach, FL.

**PATHFINDER LEADERSHIP CONVENTION** - Aug. 17-19. Speaker: Ron Whitehead. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**YOUNG ADULT LIAISON TRAINING** - Aug. 17, 18. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

**HOW TO CONDUCT A MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM** - Aug. 18, 3-6 p.m. Atlanta Belvedere Church, Decatur, GA.

**ATLANTA BRAVES FAMILY GAME DAY** - Aug. 19, 1:35 p.m. Everyone is welcome to watch the Atlanta Braves vs. Colorado Rockies at this multigenerational event sponsored by Pathfinders, youth, and young adult departments. After the game enjoy a concert by Christian artist Lauren Daigle. Atlanta, GA.

**LETTING IT GO (GRIEF/LOSS WEEKEND)** - Aug. 24-26. Presenters David and Beverly Sedlacek, this weekend will look different for each person, it could be the death of a spouse, child, parent, or sib-

ling; the loss of a job, income, home, or health; a broken relationship or divorce. No childcare provided. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**ACF: RE.START** - Aug. 24, 7:30 p.m. Atlanta Metro Church, GA.

**WILL CLINIC WITH JEFF WILSON** - Aug. 25. Jasper, TN.

**ADULTING WELL, CONVERSATIONS (YOUNG ADULT RETREAT)** - Aug. 31-Sept. 2. A special weekend to help you grow your adulting skills as you learn to cultivate a balanced, spiritual walk with God. Historic Banning Mills, Whitesburg, GA.

**RETIRED WORKERS' CONVENTION** - Sept. 6-9. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**ADVENTURER MINISTRIES CONVENTION** - Sept. 7-9. Cohutta Springs Conference Center, Crandall, GA.

**MASTER GUIDE CONGRESS** - Sept. 13-16. If you are a master guide, a master guide in training, or you would like to become a master guide, register for the first Master Guide Congress. Master Guides from all over the Southern Union will be there. You don't need to be a master guide to attend. Joint GCC and Southern Union event. Information and registration: <http://southernunion.com/hispanicyouth>. Camp Kulaqua, FL.

**PATHFINDER DRILL INSTRUCTORS WEEKEND** - Sept. 14-16. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA

**PERSONAL MINISTRIES RALLY** - Sept. 15, 2-5 pm. Presenter: EW Dempsey. Cedar Ridge Church, Georgetown, TN

**HISPANIC COUPLES RETREAT** - Sept. 21-23. Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, GA

**NORTHEAST TENNESSEE CAMP MEETING** - Sept. 21-22. Speaker: Doug Jacobs. Theme: "Be the Gospel." Greenville, TN.

**ENGAGE YOUTH LEADERSHIP TRAINING CONVENTION. CONNECTING YOUTH TO JESUS AND HIS CHURCH** - Sept. 21-23. Presenters: Roger Wade and Dave Ferguson, and seminars by Southern Union youth directors. This training is for youth leaders, young adults, pastors, youth 16+, and anyone who want to learn effective leadership skills for youth ministries. Register by Sept. 12. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp, Crandall, GA.

## GULF STATES

**PRAYER SUMMIT** - Aug. 17-19. Shocco Springs, Talladega, AL. [www.gscsda.org/prayer-ministries](http://www.gscsda.org/prayer-ministries).

**DOLLARS & \$ENSE FINANCIAL SEMINAR** - Sept. 22-23. Ft. Walton Beach Church. [www.gscsda.org/dollars](http://www.gscsda.org/dollars).

**CAMP ALAMISCO'S 50TH ANNIVER-**

**SARY EVENT** – Oct. 5-7. [www.campalamisco.org](http://www.campalamisco.org).

## KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

**50+ CAMP** – Aug. 7-12. Indian Creek Camp.  
**PATHFINDERS & ADVENTURERS LEADERSHIP WEEKEND** – Aug. 17-19. Indian Creek Camp.

**MEN'S CONFERENCE** – Sept. 7-9. Indian Creek Camp.

**YOUNG WOMEN'S RETREAT** – Sept. 9. Paradise Ranch.

**HIGHER UP/DEEPER IN BIBLE STUDY** – Sept. 14-15. Indian Creek Camp

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE** – Sept. 18 & Dec. 4. Conference Office.

**WOMEN'S RETREAT** – Sept. 21-23. Indian Creek Camp.

**HIGHLAND ACADEMY BOARD** – Sept. 27 & Nov. 8. Highland Academy.

**HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT I** – Sept. 28-30. Indian Creek Camp.

**HISPANIC WOMEN'S RETREAT II** – Oct. 5-7. Indian Creek Camp.

**ADVENTIST CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP LEADERSHIP RETREAT** – Oct. 12-13. Indian Creek Camp.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** – Oct. 18. Conference Office.

**ADVENTURER CAMPOREE I** – Nov. 2-4. Indian Creek Camp.

**ADVENTURER CAMPOREE II** – Nov. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.

**ELDERS' CERTIFICATION TRAINING** – Nov. 9-11. Indian Creek Camp.

## SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

**FALL CLASSES BEGIN** – Aug. 20. Southern offers a variety of associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit [www.southern.edu](http://www.southern.edu) or call 1.800.SOUTHERN.

**PREVIEWSOUTHERN** – Oct. 18, 19. Students are invited to take a campus tour, discuss majors with professors, sit in on financial aid workshops, and enjoy a fun activity in Chattanooga. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email [visit@southern.edu](mailto:visit@southern.edu).

**HOMECOMING** – Oct. 25-28. Save the date! Highlights of the weekend include a Gym-Masters Reunion, Parade of Nations, and Missions Expo. Honor classes: 1938, '48, '58, '68, '73, '78, '88, '93, '98, '08. Visit [southern.edu/alumni](http://southern.edu/alumni) or call 423-236-2830 for additional details.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LAURELWOOD ADVENTIST ACADEMY – AUG. 3-5.** Members of the Class of 1968

will meet at the Adobe Resort in Yachts, Oregon, for a 50-year class reunion. Call and make your reservations now. Reference Laurelwood Academy's 50th Class Reunion. Questions? Call Jacquie Jenkins Biloff at 605-295-0040 or email at [sky-jaky@gmail.com](mailto:sky-jaky@gmail.com).

**STANDIFER GAP SDA SCHOOL CELEBRATES 70TH ANNIVERSARY – SEPT. 28, 29.** All former students and former staff are invited to attend the celebration in Chattanooga, TN. Festivities will begin on Friday through Saturday evening. Contact: 423-892-6013 or for further details, visit: [sgsdaschool.org](http://sgsdaschool.org).

**PLAINVIEW ADVENTIST ACADEMY, SHEYENNE RIVER ACADEMY, AND DAKOTA ADVENTIST ACADEMY ALUMNI WEEKEND – OCT. 5, 6.** Dakota Adventist Academy, 15905 Sheyenne Circle, Bismarck, ND. Come and renew your friendships. Honor Classes: '44, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '79, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09, and '14. Details: 701-751-6177, x212, or visit our website at [www.dakotaadventistacademy.org](http://www.dakotaadventistacademy.org).

**FLETCHER ACADEMY HOMECOMING WEEKEND – OCT. 5-7.** FA Campus. Join us as we honor the class years ending in 3's and 8's. The Class of 1968 will be marking its 50th Reunion. Special invitation to former Fletcher Academy choir members. Please

update your contact information at [agibbs@fletcheracademy.com](mailto:agibbs@fletcheracademy.com), 828-209-6704. More details at: [www.fletcheracademy.com](http://www.fletcheracademy.com).

**SOCIETY OF ADVENTIST COMMUNICATORS 2018 ANNUAL CONVENTION – OCT. 18-20. SAVE THE DATE** – Celebrating 29 Years of Communication Excellence! "Purpose. Passion. Partnership." This year's convention will be held at the North American Division Headquarters, 9705 Patuxent Woods Dr., Columbia, MD. Join Seventh-day Adventist communication professionals and university students from all around the North American Division for training, networking, and spiritual renewal opportunities. Additional details for hotels and more: [www.adventistcommunicator.org](http://www.adventistcommunicator.org).

**THE OFFICE OF ADVENTIST MISSION** at the General Conference announces the 2018 film contest titled "My Story, My Mission." Students around the world are invited to creatively express, in one minute or less, what mission means in their lives. The contest was officially launched in April at the Sonscreen Film Festival in Columbia, MD. Young filmmakers have four months to create their masterpiece. The winners will be announced in October at the Society of Adventist Communicators Convention. Details: Contact Kayla Ewert at 301-680-6696 or by email [EwertK@gc.adventist.org](mailto:EwertK@gc.adventist.org).

**Correction:** LifeTalk Radio Station regret that the frequency for one of the radio stations was listed incorrectly in the June *Southern Tidings* on page 31. The correct information is: Cape Coral, FL, WLLJ-LP 107.7 FM.

## SUNSET

	AUG 3	AUG 10	AUG 17	AUG 24	AUG 31	SEP 7
ATLANTA, GA	8:36	8:29	8:21	8:13	8:04	7:54
CHARLESTON, SC	8:16	8:09	8:02	7:54	7:45	7:36
CHARLOTTE, NC	8:24	8:17	8:09	8:00	7:51	7:41
COLLEGE DALE, TN	8:42	8:35	8:27	8:18	8:09	7:59
HUNTSVILLE, AL	7:46	7:39	7:31	7:23	7:14	7:04
JACKSON, MS	7:56	7:50	7:42	7:34	7:26	7:17
LOUISVILLE, KY	8:50	8:42	8:33	8:24	8:14	8:03
MEMPHIS, TN	8:01	7:54	7:46	7:37	7:28	7:18
MIAMI, FL	8:05	8:00	7:54	7:48	7:40	7:33
MONTGOMERY, AL	7:41	7:34	7:27	7:19	7:10	7:01
NASHVILLE, TN	7:50	7:42	7:34	7:25	7:16	7:06
ORLANDO, FL	8:14	8:09	8:02	7:55	7:47	7:39
TAMPA, FL	8:18	8:12	8:06	7:59	7:51	7:43
WILMINGTON, NC	8:11	8:04	7:56	7:48	7:39	7:29



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## Ken Thought He Had Prepared

**K**en, a member at the Waynesville, NC church was familiar with estate planning. Not only did he name Carolina Conference as his beneficiary, he encouraged others to do the same.

Ken, like many others, was so certain he had properly executed his will that he didn't review it for needed updates or verification.

When his safe was opened after his passing, his original, unsigned will was in it. However, an unsigned will is like having no will.

► **To ensure your personal affairs are in order, contact your local conference or university Planned Giving and Trust Services Director.**

### Carolina

*Rick Hutchinson (704) 596-3200*

### Florida

*Phil Bond (407) 644-5000*

### Georgia-Cumberland

*Ray Hartwell (706) 629-7951*

### Gulf States

*David Sigamani (334) 272-7493*

### Kentucky-Tennessee

*Silke Hubbard (615) 859-1391*

### Oakwood University

*Lewis Jones (256) 726-7000*

### South Atlantic

*Merkita Mosely (404) 792-0535*

### South Central

*Sonja Crayton (615) 226-6500*

### Southeastern

*Juan Gonzalez (352) 735-3142*

### Southern Adventist University

*Carolyn Liers (423) 236-2818*



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**July 18, 2019**



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— John 10:10



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