

A close-up, high-angle shot of a glass hourglass. The top bulb is filled with a fine, light-colored powder, which is slowly falling through the narrow neck into the bottom bulb. The background is dark and out of focus, showing some architectural lines.

TIDINGS

Southern 

DECEMBER 2018

WHAT TIME IS IT?

RENEWED VISION
OF THE SOCIETY
OF ADVENTIST
COMMUNICATORS
AFFIRMS
PROFESSIONALS
AND STUDENTS

WOMEN
LEADERS
INVITED TO
CONNECT
THROUGH
NEWSLETTER,
LUNCHEON

GOD WORKS
IN MYSTERIOUS
WAYS

PANAMA
CITY CHURCH
MIRACULOUSLY
SURVIVES
HURRICANE
MICHAEL

WE
ARE
FAMILY

Become A Soul Seeker



Gregory Mack

*President of the
Southeastern Conference*

Guest Editorial

I remember as a young teenager when my home church would gear up for evangelism. Every time we as a church would prepare to enter into this spiritual warfare for souls, one could expect our pastor to announce to the church that we were going to have a tent meeting somewhere in the city of Miami. The leaders would all fall in line with this thrust for new souls, and the church as a whole would lend our talents and energy to this spiritual endeavor for souls.

Even though the years have passed since my teenage years, the goal of the Church remains the same. For it is God who has authored the biblical mission of the Church. The Bible states in Matthew 24:16, “And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations and then shall the end come.” This Kingdom-building Church has been heralding this message of redemption for many years. And, its strides of success have come from talented men who through great sacrifice have given their all just to see the advancement of this third angel’s message.

We are now in a new era of Earth’s history when sin is more widespread, and the hearts of men are more bent toward doing wrong than they are to doing right. Trying to reach lost humanity is extremely more difficult than it was in times past. But, we have a purpose which our evil foe cannot stop nor hinder.

God has given us our marching orders and victory is assured. There are men and women who are praying to be freed from the grip of sin. In every city there are people who are longing to be made whole by this process of hope and wholeness.

What would happen if we as a Church would step out of our comfort zones and engage humanity with this elevating Gospel of Christ? How many souls would embrace this message of hope? God has given us a divine imperative — BECOME A SOUL SEEKER!

The Southern Union Conference, in alignment with the North American Division, is challenging us in 2019 to join our sister conferences and work in unity to change the world with the ministry of hope and wholeness. God is waiting for us to unite with the agencies of Heaven and fulfill the mission of the Church. And, by God’s grace, we will.

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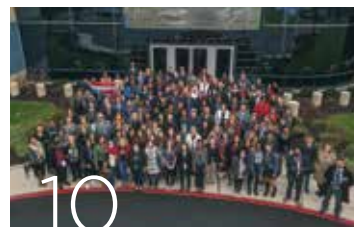
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december 2018



WHAT TIME IS IT?

2019 YEAR OF EVANGELISM

SHARING HOPE AND WHOLENESS

HELP | HOPE | HERE

YEAR OF EVANGELISM



BY R. STEVEN NORMAN III

A toddler at a church I was visiting heard his pastor-father ask, “What time is it?” The young boy shouted at the top of his voice, “Evangelism Time!” In the Southern Union, 2019 is Evangelism Time!

Ron C. Smith, D.Min., Ph.D.



Ron Smith, D.Min., Ph.D., president of the Southern Union says, “The Southern Union Presidents’ Council, in coordination with each entity of our vast territory, is enthusiastically poised to embark on a three-year evangelistic thrust. 2019 is the Year of Lay and Pastoral Evangelism; 2020 will focus on the revitalization of plateauing and declining churches; and 2021 will engage us in a coordinated strategy to reclaim missing members, and retain those that are in the fold of Church fellowship.”

Some have wondered if this is about numbers. It is not. Rather, it is all about committing ourselves to fulfilling the commission to call men and women to Christ. However, we are mindful that “Those who go out weeping, carrying seed to sow, will return with songs of joy, carrying sheaves with them,” Psalm 126:6 NIV.

Roger Hernandez

Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial director and evangelist, reminds us that “Evangelism is divided into three stages: Preparation. Proclamation. Preservation.”

Preparation: How can we be prepared?

One – *Recognize that every believer is ready.*

Using the present tense, Jesus said, “You are my witnesses (Isaiah 43:10). You are salt. . . You are the light of the world,” Matthew 5:13-14.

“Everyone in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will [chooses to] show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Savior grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life,” *Acts of the Apostles*, p. 13.

Does Christ live in your heart? Are you willing to show God’s love to the world? Then you are ready for God’s grace to flow to the world — not because you have a vast knowledge of your Bible or a perfect life. You are ready because you abide in Christ and Christ abides in you to produce fruit as His life flows through you (John 15).

Two – *Equip yourself.*

There are numerous resources available through the Adventist Book Center, AdventSource, Breath of Life, and It Is Written that can equip you for witnessing.

Resources for pastors inclusive of financial appropriations for public evangelism, training materials, and sermons are available as well.

People are excited about the 2019 Year of Lay and Pastoral Evangelism, and are planning and praying for a special manifestation of God’s saving power.



Marshall McKenzie



Marshall McKenzie, church growth director at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, reports that “The Kentucky-Tennessee Conference is committed in every way to the Year of Evangelism 2019. So far, we have commitments for 69 public evangelism meetings and 59 bridging events. Our goal is not only to proclaim the three angels’ messages from the pulpits of our churches to our communities, but alongside each public effort is our effort to help each one of our churches become training centers for Christian workers — training centers that are focused on making more disciples who are ready and willing to expand the work of public evangelism and church growth until Christ returns. As the church growth director, I will help our pastors make each church a training center, but will also hold three evangelistic meetings. We ask for your prayers as we step out in faith in this new year, the Year of Evangelism!”

Joyce Thrower

Joyce Thrower, layperson, Shiloh Church, Charleston, South Carolina:

“To me, evangelism is sharing our love for Jesus Christ daily. As a math interventionist in a public school, witnessing is a challenge. But, because of our rich, strong religious culture in Charleston, South Carolina, students speak freely about church and their beliefs. I gladly use these opportunities to discuss prayer, faith, the love of Jesus, and the need for God’s guidance. Also, as a Lyft driver, I listen to passengers talk, and have the opportunity to pray for them and their family. I am thrilled about God using me in the 2019 Year of Evangelism to grow His Kingdom.”



Matt Smith

Matt Smith, pastor of the Marietta, Georgia, Church:

“We are just minutes from Kennesaw State University. The campus is full of young adults that are quickly transitioning into adulthood. We know how difficult it is to make this transition, so in 2019 we are hosting: Adulting – Helping Young Adults Enter Adulthood. Adulting is a one-week on-campus seminar. The first night, five presenters will give a short, 10-minute TED-style talk. The five talks will be on health, relationships, finance, professionalism, and spirituality. Each night during the week, the presenters will present their topic and be available afterward for questions. We hope to build connections with young adults and come alongside them to help them through this transition. We believe that by partnering with young adults during this tough time in life, we will build long-lasting relationships that continue well-passed graduation.”



Debleaire Snell

Debleaire Snell, senior pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Alabama: “First Church is excited to participate in the 2019 Year of Evangelism. In the spring we will host our eight-week Sunday Morning Surge meetings, where we preach the Adventist doctrines each Sunday morning from 10 to 11 a.m. A pancake brunch follows each meeting. The Sunday Surge Meetings minimize the biases we face as Seventh-day Adventists, and create another stream of unchurched individuals through our church doors.

Our fall evangelistic meeting will be August 24-31, with Roger Hernandez preaching the Good News of Jesus Christ.

A number of creative community-based outreach initiatives are planned in conjunction with our fall evangelism: a Homecoming Celebration for returning citizens, a Pamper Me Day for single moms on Mother’s Day, and our 5K Run for Homelessness in September.

First Church has two additional campuses. Alexander Lampkin, lead pastor for the Abundant Life campus in New Market, will conduct a prophecy revival. We are pouring all of our energy into reaching those in our community who are not in a saved relationship with Jesus Christ.”



“Everyone in whose heart Christ abides, everyone who will show forth His love to the world, is a worker together with God for the blessing of humanity. As he receives from the Saviour grace to impart to others, from his whole being flows forth the tide of spiritual life,” Acts of the Apostles, p. 13.



Allan Machado, D.Min.

Allan Machado, D.Min., president of the Florida Conference, says, “The Conference is continuing a culture of evangelism — a culture of Christ-centered preaching and witnessing that offers hope and wholeness. We are encouraging intentional and organized reaping series at least twice a year, organized by the pastor and local church. These are to involve Easter evangelism, and reaping evangelism in October in every congregation. Everyone is to plan to baptize in fulfillment of the Gospel commission.”



Alejandro Bullón

Alejandro Bullón will preach a one-week reaping crusade the week of April 12-20, 2019. Bullón will speak to a small group, which will be streamed live to each of the 2,800 groups in the Southern Union, and more than 14,000 GPS groups across the North American Division.



Robert Meneses

Robert Meneses, pastor at the Decatur-Cullman, Alabama, District:

“Our 2019 evangelism plans are exciting. In Decatur, during the March spring break, we are going to East Acres and teach kids practical life skills and their parents how to fill out an application or write a resume. Other outreach efforts include a Prophecy and Revelation seminar in April, a Back-to-School outreach just before school starts, a healthy cooking group, a prayer group, and some other plans.

In Cullman we will do SOS (Service On Sabbath) once or twice a month to minister to families who need food, clothes,

etc. In another ministry we call “Super Mondays,” we will teach community classes such as Spanish, how to stop smoking, and healthy cooking. A year-round Bible school will be held in both churches.



Jorge Mayer

Jorge Mayer, Southern Union Hispanic ministries director, and the Hispanic coordinators and lay leaders are doing three things: GPS Small Groups, training 1,000 members to be lay preachers, and eight simultaneous evangelistic caravans.

One – The GPS Small Groups initiative: Members who have accepted the invitation to lead a small group in their home received one of 2,800 sets of materials provided by the North American Division Multilingual Ministries. These leaders with a group of members are already studying in each GPS, with their friends.

Two – One thousand lay preachers will be trained and equipped to present the Good News in their own small groups. They will preach September 28 to October 5, 2019. The final day will be a special day when they will be allowed (in most conferences) to baptize the people they bring to Christ.

Three – Eight simultaneous evangelistic caravans will be held, one in each conference. Each caravan will have its own speaker, who will seek decisions from those who were not baptized through the lay meetings.

Austin Humphreys

Austin Humphreys, pastor of the Washington, North Carolina, Church:

“The Lord blessed our efforts in a marvelous way here in Washington, North Carolina, as we doubled our membership in our fall evangelistic meeting, Keys to Life 2018.

In 2019 we are expecting God for greater!

In April we plan to launch our new computer lab and homework assistance program that will have a lasting effect on the surrounding community. In the fall of 2019, we will have our Fight of Your Life evangelistic meeting. This meeting will specifically target families, and empower them to know that they don’t have to do life by themselves.”



Yaime Cordova

Yaime Cordova, circulation manager for the Southern Tidings:

“They that sow in tears shall reap in joy. He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves [with him],” Psalm 126:5, 6. If we sow seeds, God will give us a bountiful harvest of sheaves.

A couple of years ago Yaime Cordova sat in church disturbed. She saw the attendance at her church declining. Even though she was not the pastor, she felt it was her personal responsibility to help her church grow. She began praying,



“Lord, I want the joy of making friends and seeing them saved! Please lead me to someone.”

Soon someone referred a law enforcement officer to her for some advice. After she advised him on several issues, he noticed her love for God, and asked if she would study the Bible with him. She agreed, and after the studies he was baptized in 2017.

With one person won, she wanted to see her family saved. Again, she asked God for help. God helped her lead her children to Christ, and this gave her the

joy of seeing both of her daughters baptized in 2018. She rejoices that her father has also expressed interest in the Church.

On fire for Jesus, Cordova decided to make saving relationships with her neighbors. On her way home, she saw a neighbor in the parking lot of her apartment complex. Impressed that this was the friend she asked God for, she went over and introduced herself to the woman. During the conversation the woman indicated that her grandson is autistic. Seeing a need she could meet, she quickly offered to help the woman get support for her grandson. In appreciation, the woman asked, “Would you like to have some real Mexican food? Come to my home and I will fix some real Mexican dishes for you.” Cordova agreed to the fellowship, and is now praying for God to help her see her neighbor baptized in 2019.

A Powerful Promise

“He who loves Christ the most will do the greatest amount of good. There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, by putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God. If men will endure the necessary discipline, without complaining or fainting by the way, God will teach them hour by hour, and day by day. He longs to reveal His grace. If His people will

remove the obstructions, He will pour forth the waters of salvation in abundant streams through the human channels. If men in humble life were encouraged to do all the good they could do, if restraining hands were not laid upon them to repress their zeal, there would be a hundred workers for Christ where now there is one,” *Desire of Ages*, p. 250.

God wants to use you to reach your family, friends, and neighbors. The Southern Union invites you to join in the

2019 Year of Lay and Pastoral Evangelism. President Ron Smith, who plans to conduct several evangelistic meetings during 2019, says, “I’m appealing for the engagement of all and the exclusion of none, as we embark upon this great opportunity for the Southern Union. We are urging everybody to call somebody to Jesus in 2019. That’s the Gospel commission: Go, Teach, Preach, and Baptize. We can’t do this without you!” ●

R. Steven Norman III is the Southern Tidings editor and communication director at the Southern Union Conference in Norcross, Georgia.

RENEWED VISION

of the Society of Adventist Communicators Affirms Professionals and Students

THE 29TH ANNUAL SAC CONVENTION FOCUSES ON PURPOSE, PASSION, AND PARTNERSHIP

BY MYLON MEDLEY

We're here to serve with purpose, to have passion in work that we do to spread the Gospel, and to build partnerships with communicators," said Libna Stevens, president of the Society of Adventist Communicators (SAC), about the 29th convention.

Nearly 300 dedicated professionals and eager students attended the annual convention, which was hosted at the headquarters of the North American Division (NAD) in Columbia, Maryland, October 18-20, 2018.

Stevens' statement unpacked the convention's new tagline, "Purpose. Passion. Partnership." The tagline reflects the organization's clarified vision — "to expand and strengthen our global network by developing leaders who pursue excellence in communication."

"We wanted to highlight that we have a purpose to be part of this mission of spreading the Gospel. Whoever we are, whatever responsibilities we have, we need to make sure that our identity is focused on that," continued Stevens, who is also the assistant communication director at the Inter-American Division in Miami, Florida.

"We have to do it with passion because we care. We need to be passionate about God's Church and our role in communicating. In addition, we need to focus on networking because we're all on the same big team."

"I hope by the time we're done, you'll each have 40 new networking relationships established," said Daniel Weber, SAC ex-



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Dan Jackson, president of the NAD, held a Q&A session for the SAC attendees.

ecutive director, and NAD communication director, during announcements.

Ivan Ruiz-Knott, a second-year board member of SAC, who also attended the convention as an exhibitor, spoke on the necessity of networking, especially when it comes to creativity.

"Without a place like SAC, it's [easy] to create in a vacuum and not have a lot of feedback. It's good to have this community," said Ruiz-Knott, principal at Types & Symbols, which showcased its redesigned Conflict of the Ages series by Ellen G. White, co-founder of the Adventist Church.

"With Adventism, there are a lot of close connections. The two degrees of separation from everybody is something we talk about often. But, even though that is the case, you can't always communicate with those people easily," continued Ruiz-Knott. "Having events like this where all of those people

come together is a really great way to re-connect to see what's happening and share what you're doing. Face-to-face communication is always fantastic."

Young Adult Spotlight

The three-day convention featured professional development workshops; a presentation by Adventist Health on its revamped brand identity; a "TechTalk," which highlighted the "must-have" gadgets of the year; a Q&A session with Dan Jackson, president of NAD; tours of local museums, a local television station, and the local NPR affiliate radio station; and an unprecedented keynote presentation for the SAC convention.

"Every year we decide who we want to be our keynote presenter," said Weber to attendees. "We said, 'What if we pick people you may not know about who are doing some really cool things?' We decided to



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Drone shot of the Society Adventist Communicators attendees

feature some younger people who work for the Church, or don't work directly for the Church, to help elevate their platform."

The keynote presenters were Kaleb Eisele, creator of "Humans of Adventism," a social media storytelling, community-building ministry; Erica Jones, assistant director of NAD women's ministries, and director of "Gorgeous2God" ministries, an online safe-space for girls to ask difficult questions about various topics, including sexuality, dating, and suicide; Emily Long, founder and editor-in-chief of the 715 magazine, which provides an avenue of expression for those on unconventional journeys with God; and Justin Khoe, creator of "That Christian Vlogger," a YouTube ministry that helps viewers "experience faith in the first person."

Each speaker was given approximately 20 minutes to discuss their ministry and answer questions. At the end of Khoe's presentation, one audience member raised her hand to say, "Your blog is the reason why I'm still in the Church."

Communicating the Bigger Picture

The Sabbath programming was untraditional, much like the keynote presentation. The Friday evening and Sabbath morning schedules were coordinated by the Columbia Union. The programs featured a total of



Erica Jones, assistant director of NAD women's ministries, and director of "Gorgeous2God" ministries, was one of the keynote speakers.



Kaleb Eisele, creator of "Humans of Adventism," a social media storytelling, community-building ministry, was one of the keynote speakers.

six speakers and two musical performances — the Takoma Academy Camerata, and 9- and 12-year-olds Jana and Gabriella Apola, who played the violin.

Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for strategic communication and public relations for the Columbia Union Conference and editor of the Visitor, tasked the six speakers to share how they communicate God through their ministries. The speakers included Michael Speegle, senior pastor of New Hope Church in Fulton, Maryland; Catherine Nyameino Ontita, director of communication for the East Kenya Union; Tim Madding, senior pastor of Beltsville Church in Beltsville, Maryland; Jarilyn Conner, communication professor for Washington Adventist University; Joseph Khabbaz, youth and young adult pastor of Sligo Church in Takoma Park, Maryland; and Ann Roda, vice president for mission integration and spiritual care of Adventist HealthCare.

"Those of us whom God has given voice — whether it's through an e-newsletter, blog, or if our conferences or unions hired us to do videos, run magazines, whatever avenue — God has given us the opportunity. [I hope] we will use it [to communicate Him]," said Blyden. "We're only here and given this call for such a time as this, and then it will be someone else's turn. So,

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PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Libna Stevens (left), SAC president and assistant communication director of the Inter-American Division in Miami, Florida, and Daniel Weber (right), SAC executive director and NAD communication director, present the Lifetime Achievement Award to Rick Kajiura, director of Adventist Mission at the General Conference, on behalf of Martin Butler.



Martin Butler, retired former communication director at the Florida Conference, is SAC's Lifetime Achievement Award recipient.



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Shane Hochstetler (center), communication director at Gulf States Conference, won the Cutting Edge Award for "Forgiven to Forgive," Gulf States Camp Meeting Campaign. Hochstetler also won awards for Design: Websites - Best in Class - Gulf States Conference Website (www.gscsda.org), and Campaign - Best in Class - "Forgiven to Forgive," Gulf States Conference Camp Meeting.



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEEGT

Debra Anderson (center), assistant to the president for communication at the Potomac Conference, presents Rebecca Carpenter, communication director at the Carolina Conference, and Courtney Herod, associated communication director at the Carolina Conference, the Best in Class Award for Design: Interactive - Carolina Adventist App; and the Spoken Word: Podcast Award - Walking Free: Russian Olympian Interview.

while we have this moment, what are you and I going to do?"

Awards Ceremony

The convention concluded with an awards ceremony that highlighted 31 of the year's best content production by Adventist professionals and students in the following categories: writing, design, video, spoken word, and campaign.

SAC's five top awards were given to the

following:

Student Award – Sheann Brandon, Southern Adventist University alum.

Young Professional Award – Heather Thompson-Day, assistant professor of communication for Andrews University.

Award of Excellence – Walla Walla University Brand Refresh.

Cutting Edge Award – Shane Hochstetler, "Forgiven to Forgive," Gulf States Camp Meeting Campaign. Hochstetler also won awards for Design: Websites - Best

in Class - Gulf States Conference Website (www.gscsda.org), and Campaign - Best in Class – "Forgiven to Forgive" (Gulf States Conference Camp Meeting).

Lifetime Achievement Award – Martin Butler, cofounder of SAC's predecessor, SSAC – the Southern Society of Adventist Communicators.

In addition to the top five awards, the Carolina Conference won Best in Class for Design: Interactive – Carolina Adventist



PHOTO BY: PIETER DAMSTEGT



Stephen Ruf, School of Journalism professor at Southern Adventist University, accepts the Student Award on behalf of Sheann Brandon. Brandon was not present because she graduated in May 2018, and is currently enrolled in Loma Linda University's health management residency training program.

App; and Spoken Word: Podcast – Walking Free: Russian Olympian Interview.

Thirty students from Southern Adventist University and three professors, Stephen Ruf, Pablo Fernandez, and Natalia Lopez-Thismon, attended the SAC Convention. SAU student, faculty, and staff awards included the following.

Writing: News

Best in Class

“The Dennetta Franks Story”

By Alva James-Johnson, assistant professor, SAU School of Journalism/Communication, as published in the Columbus, Georgia, *Ledger-Enquirer*.

Video: Broadcast

Honorable Mention

“Inside the Bible,” as broadcast on Hope Channel

Pablo Fernandez, producer and assistant professor in the School of Journalism/Communication.

Writing: News

Best Student

“Southern’s Response to Harvey”

Natalia Perez, as published in the Southern Accent, September 2017.

Writing: Feature (Longform)

Best in Class

Southern Accent “Race Relations Issue,” as published February 2018

Natalia Perez, editor in chief; Brandon Beneche, managing editor; Tierra Hayes, news editor; Elena Anunciado, layout designer; and Rachel Brouhard, layout designer.

Writing: Feature (Longform)

Best Student

“God Chuckles,” an article published in SAU’s *Columns* magazine by Sheann Brandon and Janell Hullquist, *Columns* editor.

Video: Web

Best Student

:60 TV Commercial for Glaceau’s Smartwater, by Isa Tavares, as produced in Digital Storytelling class, Winter 2018.

Also representing Adventist education at the 2018 convention were 18 students; two professors, Dwayne Cheddar and Kyna Hinson; and one staff member, Thamar Pericles, all from Oakwood University.

“I’ve been blessed,” said Weber during his closing remarks, “having the opportunity to meet all these people, these wonderful communicators, and to hear their stories. It’s been a huge blessing to get to know them a little better, and also see their commitment to God and to the Church.”

The 2019 Society of Adventist Communicators convention will take place next fall in Albuquerque, New Mexico. ①

Mylon Medley is the news writer/news producer at the North American Division in Columbia, Maryland.

Irisene Douce, Southern Tidings managing editor, contributed to this article.

WOMEN LEADERS INVITED TO CONNECT

Through Newsletter, Luncheon

BY MICHELE JOSEPH

The North American Division (NAD) administrative committee voted to adopt and endorse the Adventist Women Leaders (AWL) initiative. What started with a lunch for 15 women gathered in a conference room at the NAD Year-end Meetings in October 2017 has grown to more than 50 subscribers to an email newsletter published twice each month.

“AWL is a community where we can connect, tell our stories, learn from others’ experiences, and find inspiration in our shared journeys,” says Debra Brill, NAD vice president for ministries, who chairs the initiative.

The goal is to create and foster a nurturing and supportive community for women who serve in leadership capacities for the Seventh-day Adventist Church. Women who serve as presidents, vice presidents, directors, associates and assistant directors, administrators, superintendents, and leaders of Adventist ministries are invited to join the community. They will find a group that acknowledges the gifts God has given to each woman, offers leadership development, and fosters a culture of inclusivity and opportunities for growth.

“We are here to say to women in leadership: ‘We see you, we acknowledge your call and accomplishments, we rejoice in how God is working through you, we are here for you, and we are praying for you,’” says Celeste Ryan Blyden, vice president for strategic communication and public relations for the Columbia Union Conference, who spearheaded the initiative.

Blyden saw a need for a leadership community among women based on her own

CONNECTING AND GROWING
ADVENTIST WOMEN LEADERS



Jennifer Stanford, a career coach and consultant, will give the keynote presentation in Albuquerque, New Mexico, January 16, 2019.

FOUR WAYS TO HELP ADVENTIST WOMEN LEADERS GROW

We invite you to join our community to help the movement grow. Here’s what you can do:

- **PRAY** for the Adventist Women Leaders’ ministry and the women leaders serving in a variety of capacities across the North American Division and around the world.
- **HAVE LUNCH** with us on January 16, 2019, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Register today!
- **SUBSCRIBE** to the Adventist Women Leaders’ email newsletter.
- **SHARE** the newsletter and the luncheon invitation with other women presidents, vice presidents, directors, associate directors, and assistants to the president and superintendents in your circles.

experience. She reached out to Brill; Tamyra Horst, communication director, women’s ministries, family, and prayer ministries director for the Pennsylvania Conference; and Ann Roda, vice president of mission integration and spiritual care for the Maryland-based Adventist HealthCare, to form the community’s organizing committee.

As a resource network, AWL offers an email newsletter twice each month. It features profiles of women leaders, spiritual encouragement, and lessons learned. And in each issue, readers are asked to pray for a woman in the network.

AWL is now organizing a Division-wide luncheon on January 16, 2019, at the close of the NAD Ministries Convention in Albuquerque, N.M. Women leaders are invited to get better acquainted, and engage in an interactive learning experience about emotional intelligence.

“The ability to recognize, analyze, and respond to how we think, feel, act, and relate to others accounts for 80 percent of our success,” says Jennifer Stanford, a career coach and consultant, who will give the keynote presentation.

Through assessment activities, roundtable discussions, and reflection time, participants will access tools and learn methods to help foster healthy workplace and personal relationships.

To register for the luncheon, visit [AdventSource.org](https://bit.ly/2NSPrw0) (<https://bit.ly/2NSPrw0>). To sign up for the newsletter, visit [AWL](https://admin_9b8c.gr8.com) (https://admin_9b8c.gr8.com). 📧

Michele Joseph is the managing editor for the *Adventist Women Leaders’ newsletter*.

GOD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI



Lisa Alfaro and her two sons attend the Atlanta First Hispanic Church in Tucker, Georgia.

Lisa Alfaro attends the Atlanta First Hispanic Church in Tucker, Georgia. She and her husband had decided to start a construction company, and needed a truck. The payments on the vehicle were high, and suddenly, for circumstances that were beyond their control, her husband was forced to stop working. Since Lisa could not afford the car payments, she took another loan until her husband could start working again. By the time he could go back to work, they realized the car they were paying for had to be replaced, but they could not afford to buy another one. Someone showed interest in that car, but did not have the money. Because of that, they made a deal: he would make payments on the car, and Lisa and her husband would keep it until he finished paying. The deal looked convenient on both ends, and the Alfaros would be able to work on paying off their car loans.

With all these situations going on in her life, Lisa had been thinking about her relationship with God, and realizing it had been

going downhill for a while. She did not feel comfortable, and decided to pray for a change. Little by little she began to feel stronger, and was very happy about that. Everything seemed to be working.

Finally, their car buyer finished the payments. They had hoped that by then they would have already paid off their loans, but that was not the case. Stress started to build up again. On top of it, Lisa's husband had experienced an accident at work, broken his hand, and had to stop working again. Lisa was upset. Why, she wondered, when she'd decided to mend her spiritual life, would God allow something like this to happen to her? It did not seem fair. Their finances were at risk again. Now, they were not going to be able to pay their loans off, and yet they had to give their car to the buyer and get another car. Where was God in all this?

Since her husband's accident had happened at work, the company filed a claim with workers' compensation insurance. One day when things seemed to be get-

ting worse, Lisa went to pick up the mail, and found an envelope from the insurance company. To her surprise, it came with a check, and the amount was enough to pay off both loans, and have a little extra money to help them go through this situation. At that moment, she clearly saw God's work. The accident seemed like a tragedy, but in reality turned out to be a blessing. They would have not been able to quickly pay off those loans as they had planned, even with her husband working.

God works in mysterious ways. There is always a way out, and sometimes that way is unexpected. Lisa decided to seek the Lord, and He showed Himself through His mercy and care.

"But seek first His Kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well," Matthew 6:33 NIV. 🕊

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

A NOBLE TASK

BY MARIEL LOMBARDI



A baptismal ceremony was held during the Georgia-Cumberland Conference Camp Meeting, where 34 people were baptized.

When the Apostle Paul instructs Timothy on the subject of church elders and deacons, he does not refer to their duties to the Church, but rather highlights the personal qualities that should be sought when electing these leaders (1 Timothy 3). He clearly states that whoever aspires to that position must know that it is a noble task and be trustworthy. Apart from describing him as a role model concerning family and society, he says that he should be apt to teach and worthy of respect. In the context of Paul's writings, a person worthy of trust and respect is a person whose life is hidden in God, and therefore his works are those of the Master.

Jesus' passion and main task was to testify about His Father through His life and teachings. This, then, should be the main task and the passion of those who are leaders in the churches.

The Hispanic Department of the Southern Union Conference, as well as the coun-

terparts in each of the conferences that comprise the Union, has been busy creating this concept in the churches. Through retreats and training seminars especially prepared for the elders, a culture of service and spiritual preparation has spread, so that the elder does not perceive himself merely as the one who makes the announcements to the church on Sabbath, is responsible for the organization of worship services, and visits sick church members. Whoever occupies this noble position must also have the great desire to bring souls to the feet of Christ, and to be a motivation to the congregation in this regard.

With this vision in mind, the Hispanic ministries leaders of each conference spoke to their local administration to present an evangelistic plan that was approved by most of the conferences. Sabbath, October 20, 2018, was designated a day of baptisms for those brought to Jesus Christ as a result of the elders' dedicated work, and they had the privilege to baptize each

individual. Multiple baptisms took place that day — nearly 150. It was a Sabbath of joy and inspiration. The testimonies presented in each event brought many people to tears, and allowed them to witness the joy those elders experienced, as they could clearly see the works of the Spirit in them and the people they worked for.

José Martínez had been arrested due to his illegal status in this country. When his wife, Esther, found out, she desperately begged her friends to pray for his release. She knew it would be almost impossible, and only a miracle could do it. As a child, she had attended an Adventist church with her grandmother, and had even been baptized. Nevertheless, when coming to the United States, adapting to her life in a new country and all the stresses that usually come attached to this situation had driven her far from God. As José waited in prison for a decision on his case, he met an Adventist arrested for the same reason. This man had been a church elder until



José and Esther Martínez are baptized by the elder who continued Bible studies with them after his release from prison.



Isla Morada, pastor at the southern-most congregation in the Southern Union, held a baptismal ceremony in the Atlantic Ocean.

his arrest. They became friends, and soon this man begun to pray for José. He asked the Lord to grant him freedom to be able to be with his wife and his two-year-old daughter. After a few weeks, he offered him Bible studies. José did not show much interest, but still accepted. Little by little, José started to take interest. The passion showed by this man in sharing Jesus' love impressed his burdened soul.

Two months later José's Adventist friend was deported. Before leaving, he gave him his Bible and left the set of Bible lessons they had been studying together, and José continued what they had started. The weeks continued to pass, and after some time, the officer in charge told him that he would be released the following day. With a poor understanding of English, he understood enough that he was going to be released. However, he was not sure if that meant he was going to be able to stay in this country or would have to go back to his. He was afraid to ask. That night he prayed hard. No matter what happened, he wanted to be sure that his wife and daughter were going to be all right. He gathered his belongings and the Bible he had been given, and rested with the assurance of God's care. The next morning, he was taken to the front door where someone spoke assuring words: "You are FREE!" Those words were so clear to him,

and the fact that this had been a miracle was even clearer. When he finally reunited with his wife and daughter, they decided to follow God.

While he was in prison, one of his neighbors had taken care of Esther and his daughter. He happened to be the elder of the Breath of Life Church in the city of Memphis, Tennessee. They agreed to continue studying the Bible with him, and on October 20, this man had the joy of baptizing José and Esther.

This was one of the testimonies of the work of two elders. One of them held God's work deeply in his heart. No matter the situation he was in, he continued to teach about God's love. The other one took care of a mother and her child when they were in need, and then presented the message through Bible studies. The result was salvation for an entire family.

There were multiple baptisms performed by church elders in the Southern Union territory on October 20. Being able to actively participate in the ceremony in which the people they had been working with sealed their pact with God has motivated them to continue this work of love. They all want to bring more people to the Lord next year.

Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit, these elders are planning for 500 baptisms in 2019. ●



South Central Conference baptism



Rogelio Llaurado (right), elder at the Westchester Hispanic Church in Miami, Florida (Florida Conference), baptized five people in 2017, and four this past October.

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

PANAMA CITY CHURCH MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVES HURRICANE MICHAEL

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

The Otts family climbed in their beds on Tuesday evening, October 9, 2018, anticipating a category 2 Hurricane Michael the following day. Not living in a mandatory evacuation zone, they decided to ride it out. They had been through storms before, even heavy ones, and expected this storm to weaken as many of the storms in the past have done. When they woke the next day, Michael had grown significantly and was forecast to increase to almost category 5. Because it was too late to evacuate, they would have to endure everything Michael was bringing to them.

Expecting Michael to make landfall that afternoon, the Otts decided to head toward the Panama City Church and shelter in the steel construction. Collecting the supplies that they could, they waited and prayed while the eye of the storm crawled ashore in nearby Mexico Beach, Florida.

Descriptions of the sounds that were created by Michael as it raged across the Florida Panhandle, Alabama, and Georgia are varied. Among the reports, Kenneth Swaine, elder at the Panama City Church, stated the sound was like “all the demons of hell screaming at the same time.” Richard Otts, church member, felt as if the roof was going to separate from the church building. Otts was quickly convinced that he, along with his father and other family members, were going to die.

The roof did not separate and the walls did not cave in, but some water had made its way underneath the roofing and into the sanctuary, along with several spots in



Early volunteers of the Panama City relief effort: Stephen Wilson (left), Ft. Walton Beach member; Cory Meidell; Kamella Neeley; Jason Neeley; Shark Holder, Gideon Rescue Company volunteers; Kenneth Swaine, local elder; Nori Rac, Ft. Walton Beach member; and Shane Hochstetler, Gulf States Conference communication director.

the hallways. The Otts and Allen Kesler, another church member who stayed at the church during the storm, went to work placing trashcans and plastic totes to collect the dripping water.

After a few hours, the bulk of the storm passed, and those who sheltered in the church emerged to assess the damage. Expecting the surrounding area to have fared as well as the church did, they were sorely mistaken. “It looked like a bomb went off,” said Otts, “Everything that had been worked on and built for years and years was just gone in a single day.” Something miraculous had taken place at their church, though.

The Panama City Church had been pro-

tected. Industrial steel signposts that mark accessible parking spots just feet from the church building were bent and twisted. The church itself, along with potted plants near the church doors, stands unbroken. Similarly, trees that lined the border of the church property were snapped like twigs, but the church steeple is unmovable. God protected this property for a purpose.

Nearby, a nursing home facility that the church held a good relationship with needed to evacuate a portion of their residents quickly. As the church was in such good shape, they were able to accommodate about 40 residents until further help could arrive.

Just days after Michael made its dev-



PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

The Panama City Church stands strong despite Hurricane Michael.



Mature trees snapped like toothpicks under the category 4 hurricane winds.



God's preservation of His Church is evident when compared to the destruction around it.

PHOTO BY: SHANE HOCHSTETTLER

astating trip through the South, countless volunteers from across the country poured into the area to begin relief efforts. Among them were members from the Panama City Church and Gulf States Conference. Each member brought the specific skills and connections that were needed for that difficult time. Among the volunteer help was the Gideon Rescue Company, a small group of dedicated people that orchestrated the delivery of 7,500 pounds of supplies via 15 private planes from across

the country. Nori Rac, a member of the Ft. Walton Beach Church, was able to immediately supply equipment and other vital resources to the relief effort. 2Serve, a volunteer organization led by Jim Ingersoll, arrived just days later with more than 100 volunteers and connections with state and federal organizations to set the church up as an official point of distribution of supplies for the community.

It was no mistake that the Panama City Church had been miraculously preserved;

it was held together by God to be used as a central point of relief to a terrorized city. The names of each person and organization that helped in this desperate time are too lengthy to share; however, you can learn more about what took place and what is happening now at www.gscsda.org/michael. ●

Shane Hochstetler is the communication director at the Gulf States Conference.

EMPOWERING ELDERS

BY MICKEY P. EVANS

The theme was simple, “Empowering Elders.” In the weeks leading up to the event held September 28-29, 2018, Mickey P. Evans, head elder at the Duluth, Georgia, Church and president of Georgia-Cumberland Adventist Elders’ Consortium (GCAEC), invited elders and their pastors to pray that the Holy Spirit would be present in a special way, and that elders would leave inspired, empowered, and more confident than ever before to continue the work God has called them to do in their local churches.

Friday after supper the retreat began with a personality assessment icebreaker, followed by a charge to accept the call to service by Victor Maddox, vice president for pastoral ministries and evangelism. Maddox developed his message from the theme found in 2 Timothy 2:1-4, ESV.

Maddox said, “Elders are gifted by God to lead and serve, to share — through word and through our life (and example) — the Good News about Jesus Christ. The power that enables us to do this comes from a power that is not naturally in us. But rather, it is infused in us by the Holy Spirit.”

Maddox further challenged, “Fan into flame the gift of God which is in you. Remember that which stirred your heart with faith to believe and trust in God, and take up His cause to endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Jesus Christ, and, with it, eternal glory.”

Sabbath began with an early morning prayer service led by Chukwuma Onyeije. Elders shared the burdens on their hearts with one another.

Plenary sessions in the morning and afternoon were led by Steve Keiser, a former vice president at Amazing Facts. He shared practical lessons he’s learned from



SUBMITTED BY: MICKEY EVANS

The first Empowering Elders’ Retreat weekend was held September 28-29, 2018, at Cohutta Springs Conference Center in Crandall, Georgia. The event was coordinated by the Georgia-Cumberland Adventist Elders’ Consortium and the president, Mickey Evans. It offered training and renewal for church elders, who greatly appreciated the event.

more than 20 years of experience as a Bible instructor, “How to Give a Better Bible Study,” parts 1 and 2.

Keiser said, “People are hungry for systematic truth, and are hungry for Bible prophecy. When they see a system of truth that is based completely on the Bible, that makes sense to them, and one thing fits together with the other, it has a powerful appeal.”

Between plenary sessions were breakout sessions. Elders could choose from practical and relevant topics. The sessions were led by the Georgia-Cumberland Conference’s ministerial team, Victor Maddox, Harold Cunningham, Miguel Tirado, and Neil Reid. Other speakers were Justin Lang, Rachel Williams-Smith, Tammy Fisher, Brian Cummings, and Shelbert Gaines.

Although the schedule was full, there was time to enjoy the excellent vegetarian cuisine provided by the Cohutta Springs chef, and the beautiful scenery surrounding

the conference center.

Diane Johnson, in describing her experience, wrote, “The elders’ retreat was an invaluable experience for me Being an elder is a very responsible position, and sometimes that responsibility weighs heavily. It was nice to be around other elders, and to have the support and encouragement of church leaders.

The talks were Christ-centered and practical. I feel that I can immediately apply what we learned. Teaching Bible studies, conflict resolution, the true meaning of unity, and other topics were helpful information. Thank you for caring about us, and for honestly addressing some of our concerns. I would recommend this training to anyone.”

GCAEC will continue to grow by building a fellowship among elders, providing more opportunities for learning, and enhancing the resources already available. ●

WE ARE FAMILY

BY GREG TAYLOR



2018 ICC summer camp staff

We are family.” That is how camp staff begin and end each day at Indian Creek Camp (ICC). As camp staff, we take time each day to remind ourselves of that one central theme. At the beginning of the summer, it can sometimes come across more as a team-building motivation, but as the summer continues, we realize that there is more truth to that statement than we first realized. We rejoice in each other’s victories. We are there to lift each other up during difficult days, and we all celebrate together when we see young people make decisions for Jesus.

This past summer was my eighth summer as a camp director. This summer was a little different for me, however. I went into the summer knowing that my father did not have a lot of time left on Earth. For years he had been battling cancer, and it had recently spread to his liver. As things got worse, I decided that I soon would need to go and be with him.

It was at this time that something happened that I would never forget. Our camp pastor was sick, and so I ended up speaking for our family camp church service. Shortly after the message, as I was about to dis-



Staff and campers enjoyed the family environment.

miss for lunch, one of our family campers walked to the front of the stage. Almost in tears, he asked for the entire camp to circle around my family to pray for God’s peace and comfort during our difficult time.

That is when it hit me. The beauty of camp is not just creating a family environment for our staff, but it is creating a family environment for our campers. Though I was there to serve them, they served me.

Though I had planned to spiritually feed them, they fed me. In all my years of ministry, I have never felt such love, compassion, and support. Once the prayer ended and I wiped a few tears from my eyes, one simple phrase came to my mind: “This is family.” 🙏

Greg Taylor is the youth director at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Breath of Life Tampa Revival Nets 113 BAPTISMS

BY CHRISTOPHER C. THOMPSON, D.MIN.



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON



PHOTO BY: C.C. THOMPSON

Pastors from Southeastern churches throughout the Tampa Bay area collaborated in this campaign. Participants in the baptismal ceremony include Everis Clarke (left); Byron Wells; Curtis Crider; David Peay; Carlton Byrd, D.Min., Breath of Life speaker/director; Robert Moore; Alex Williams; and Jim Davis.

After five weeks of community field work and three weeks of Carlton Byrd, D.Min., preaching, 113 individuals were baptized. These new members will be organized into the 17th BOL Church in Tampa, Florida.

The Southeastern Conference (SEC) and Breath of Life (BOL) Television Ministries recently partnered for a city-wide evangelistic effort in Tampa, Florida, from July 21 to August 8, 2018. Pastors and lay people from churches throughout the Tampa Bay area collaborated to execute this major effort.

Gregory Mack, president of SEC, initiated the effort with an expressed desire to plant a new church in the city of Tampa. Southeastern administrators then reached out to the BOL speaker/director, Carlton P. Byrd, D.Min., to inquire about the potential for partnership. Longtime members and pastors of SEC recounted the first BOL revival in Tampa in 1982, where 88 individuals were baptized through the preaching ministry of the late BOL speaker/director, C.D. Brooks, and the BOL team.

This summer, BOL came full circle. The revival was once again held at the Mt. Calvary Church where Curtis Crider serves as the senior pastor. Crider remarked on the strategic partnership and opportunity, saying, "Mount Calvary offered the largest seating capacity facility, for 1,200; a central location

for a city-wide meeting; easy access to public transportation; and a familiar landmark to the local non-Adventist community."

It was evident from the engagement of local pastors and lay volunteers that this initiative would be no different than BOL's previous Tampa effort. Area pastors met regularly with the Breath of Life team members and Conference administrators for several months leading up to the revival. The pastors developed a task list of assignments for each person to address, and then engaged local lay leaders and church members to fulfill these responsibilities.

In addition to local area pastors and members, the BOL team included Byrd; BOL staff members; and eight Bible instructors who canvassed the area leading up to the revival, and connected with baptismal candidates during the nightly meetings. Among the Bible instructors were theology students who were able to benefit from this unique field school experience. One student, Hastings Newbill, commented, saying, "I learned ... evangelism is the backbone of our Church ... if we don't include evangelism, our churches would collapse."

Byrd reflected on this public evangelistic initiative by saying, "Beginning opening night (July 21, 2018), it was very apparent that the Spirit of God was going to be manifested in a powerful way! Ellen G. White says, 'The secret of success is the union of divine power with human effort. Those who achieve the greatest results are those who rely most implicitly upon the Almighty Arm,'" *Patriarchs and Prophets*, 509.

The end result was worth all of the resources and sacrifices that were invested. After five weeks of Bible instructors engaging in community field work, and three weeks of Byrd preaching, 113 individuals were baptized. Additionally, this new group of church members is being organized into a new Adventist congregation, constituting the 17th Breath of Life Church planted as a result of the BOL ministry.

Southeastern looks forward to continued growth from this new congregation and its members who have recognized the power of the Gospel in their lives. Prayers are solicited to continue to pray for them and the local ministry leadership team as they grow together in Christ. ☛

PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE MAKES THE DIFFERENCE

BY JANELL HULLQUIST

Young adults face numerous decisions and uncertainties as they look to the future, pondering questions such as “What profession should I pursue?” “Will I be able to find a job?” and “If I do, will I LIKE that job?” Southern Adventist University embraces every opportunity to help students process and prepare for a successful career, and connecting students with experiential learning is an important piece of that process.

In fact, the majority of Southern students participate in an internship, practicum, or other on-the-job training by the time they graduate; most academic schools and departments on campus require this type of learning as part of the curriculum.

“Internships provide not only practical, real-world experience of information that is covered in classes, but they also give students a really good idea of the culture of a company,” said Lisa Kuhlman, assistant professor of business at Southern. “Sometimes that’s even more important, because if it’s not a good cultural fit, they’re not going to be happy.”

Twice a year Kuhlman coordinates a networking event called “Meet the Firms” and graduate schools on campus, helping to connect recruiters with students. More than 50 organizations participate in the event, allowing students to make one-on-one connections that frequently turn into internship or job offers.

“It’s nice to have recruiters in one place where you can actually go and see them, shake their hands, and ask them about their companies,” Kuhlman said. “The



Rachel Beaver (right) enjoyed her summer internship in the communication office of the Carolina Conference.

best way for students to market themselves is to network.”

Another key way that students connect with hands-on learning is through their academic departments. For Rachel Beaver, senior public relations major, an email from the School of Journalism and Communication let her know about an opening in the communication office of the Carolina Conference, where she ended up interning this past summer.

“My internship was a life-changing experience,” Beaver said. “I got to see the work that I was doing make a difference. It meant something to my employers, and to those who were impacted in some way by my work. Suddenly, it meant something to me!”

Her newfound purpose made her an asset to the team.

“Rachel was a delight to have in our department. I feel like I learned more from her than she did from me about how to be a willing, dedicated worker with a

servant’s heart,” said Rebecca Carpenter, director of communication for the Carolina Conference. “We have an intern on our team every summer; not only do they get to interact and learn, but building a relationship with them keeps us plugged in with young people, and what they like and hope for the Church to be.”

To better facilitate these connections, Southern launched a new webpage this fall where businesses and organizations can submit internship openings. By entering the pertinent details at southern.edu/internships, the information is automatically distributed to the relevant academic departments, which then connect qualified students with the opportunity.

“Besides helping our graduates obtain gainful employment, internships allow students to have purposeful exploration of their vocation,” said Rick Norskov, M.D., biology professor. “We aim to introduce students to a career through what God is calling them to do in life.”

Sometimes internships help students eliminate a potential career path, while others confirm the direction that God is leading them.

“My internship at the Carolina Conference solidified my career decision, and gave me peace that I was pursuing the right profession,” Beaver said. “Now I can’t imagine doing anything else.”

Janell Hullquist is editorial manager at Southern Adventist University, where she graduated in 2005 with a degree in mass communication.

Puerto Rico Students Find PURPOSE IN ADVERSITY

BY LISA MARIE ESSER

Fifteen months have passed since Hurricane Maria made landfall in Puerto Rico on September 20, 2017, devastating the island. The storm brought widespread power outages, catastrophic damage, and the loss of almost 3,000 lives. It is difficult to find fortune amid tragedy, but husband and wife Sergio Sepulveda and Isabel Andujar, current students at AdventHealth University (AHU) in Orlando, Florida, triumphed over adversity. Sergio, a physical therapy (PT) student, and Isabel, an occupational therapy (OT) student, were ready to begin their second year at The University of Puerto Rico's Medical Sciences campus when the hurricane struck.

October marks one year since they made a difficult journey from their home in Manati, Puerto Rico, to Orlando. They described the atmosphere after the hurricane as "chaotic," with no electricity, running water, phone service, or gasoline. It was nearly impossible to get flights off the island.

Their University re-opened a couple weeks after the storm, so the couple returned to classes. However, they faced over a five-hour commute each time, and classes would cancel midway through the day whenever the University would lose power.

During the same week, a former classmate, now in the U.S., contacted Isabel. He was enrolling in the OT program at AHU and asked Isabel about joining the program. By visiting a local pizza shop with Wi-Fi access, she began communicating with Tia Hughes, Dr.O.T., chair

of AHU's OT Department. Isabel was a good candidate for the program, but she would only go if Sergio could also transfer to AHU's PT program. "We're in this together," she asserted.

Jennifer Collins, P.T., Ed.D., then chair of the PT program at AHU, contacted Sergio next. Whereas Isabel could transition more easily into the OT cohort as it was still in its first trimester, Sergio's PT cohort was in its second trimester, making his integration more challenging. Considering his positive academic record, they would make it work if he could get to campus as soon as possible. The couple had three days to make it to the U.S.

Isabel and Sergio faced a tough decision to leave their home and families in such a short time to go to an unfamiliar country. Their own professors advised them to go to AHU if they had the chance. But, their family warned them of the difficulties they could face in America. "We were overwhelmed," Isabel said.

They could not get a direct flight to Orlando, but they found a connecting flight to Miami and arrived in Orlando hours before they were due at AHU. They enrolled in the first trimester and AHU waived their tuition fees. It would serve as a trial period for them both to see how they would adjust and whether they enjoyed it.

Isabel recalled, "We felt lost and scared when we arrived." Everything was different from how they expected. Lectures were in English, and although the couple

had learned English in school, they felt uncomfortable using it. It was a particularly challenging time for Sergio. He had to catch up on the trimester the rest of his cohort had completed while keeping pace with the current coursework. And, they missed their home. They felt guilty for leaving their loved ones.

But, through all their challenges, Isabel and Sergio quickly experienced moments of gratitude. From the start they felt welcomed and motivated by their new professors and classmates. They recalled several faculty members who came to them in their first weeks, giving them support and praying for their success. Isabel spoke of the surprise she felt during her first class when Hughes began with a devotional. She thanked God for safely bringing Isabel and Sergio to AHU: "You brought them here for a reason. Show them why they are meant to be here."

Isabel recalled the impact of those words and the prayers they both received from other faculty and students. Her and Sergio's other classes were the same – the University's faith-based, open, and diverse environment brought ease to them during their struggles. Teachers would encourage students to relay positive news in class. They heard stories of cancer survivors and babies being born. "It lifts you up," said Isabel, adding, "It's genuine, honest." Sergio said, "It reminds you why you're in the healthcare profession. You want to help bring that positivity into people's lives."

Sergio had to make up for tests and



Isabel Adujar (left) and Sergio Sepulveda pose in front of AdventHealth University's Garden of Miracles.

course content he had missed. But, the faculty worked with him, even arranging 1:1 classes to assist him. Fellow students also helped. Sergio recalled two who offered to let him borrow books and stay late after class to help him study. Classmates and faculty from each department would ask about the other's spouse and offer to pray for them.

The first three months were filled with hardships, yet the couple was starting to thrive. "We were surprised that we were doing even better than we expected," said Isabel. "We decided as a couple this is our opportunity. There is purpose behind this." They had found the reason that Tia Hughes had prayed they would.

In January 2018, after returning home

to visit loved ones, the couple returned to continue their education at AHU. "It was hard at the beginning and it's still hard," Isabel explained, but they appreciate how AHU has supported and cared for them.

Isabel said, "All those things throughout the year – 'filling the cup' – there was always something to be grateful for. It helped so much." Sergio added, "I don't think it would have been the same if it were another university." In just over a year, Sergio and Isabel have faced challenges many would see as insurmountable. Yet, they prospered, overcoming an upheaval in their life to become "better versions of themselves," as they put it.

AHU's mission is to develop skilled

professionals who live the healing values of Christ, and to advance the practice of healthcare as ministry. For Sergio and Isabel, this chance to experience healthcare with a Christian worldview has enabled them to "feel more empathetic" and be confident in their future as healthcare practitioners. Every graduate who leaves AHU should have a broader understanding of what whole-health means and the benefits of whole-person care. 🙏

Lisa Marie Esser is the communication manager at AdventHealth University in Orlando, Florida.

New Video Series Aims to Connect to Young Adults



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

Nicole Stallings, youth and young adult secretary for the Carolina Conference, shares her testimony.

Each person has a story. Everyone has had good times when things were going well, and also times of loss, discouragement and pain. Those stories are valuable, as they not only make people who they are, but when those stories are told, they can make a difference in someone else's life, too.

That's the idea behind "As I Am," a web video series developed by the Carolina Conference Communication Department as part of Project: ReFresh.

"As I Am" is a play on words. The testimonies shared on the show are personal and heartfelt, showing the person as they truly are. But, the stories also portray the quest as Christians to be like Jesus, as I AM.

The goal is to present the viewer with something they can relate to and be inspired by. If a person is struggling and they see someone who has had the same issues, and, through God's help, has made it through and overcome, that can be a tremendous source of comfort and encouragement.

Series one focuses on the Carolina Conference staff and leadership. Interviews range from summer interns to department directors to the Conference president, Leslie Louis. This focus was intentional.

"We wanted to pull back the curtain and show that Church leaders are just ordinary people who have dealt with life's many struggles, and have simply chosen to give themselves to God and work for Him," said Becky Carpenter, Communication Department director. "We hope this will help our younger members relate more to their leaders, when they can see their leaders are just like them."

The new series is on the Carolina Conference Project ReFresh YouTube channel; or, click the YouTube link on the website, theprojectrefresh.org. The Conference asks all to share it with the young members of their family and church family. 📺

BY CAROLINA CONFERENCE
COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



PHOTO BY: CHEVON PETGRAVE

Gary Moyer, vice-president of administration at the Carolina Conference, shares his story of losing his first wife to cystic fibrosis.

Carolina Conference, Southern Union Hold CREATION Health Training

The Health Ministries departments from the Carolina Conference and the Southern Union teamed up this fall and offered two training workshops, one hosted at Foster Church in Asheville, N.C., and the other at the Spartanburg Church in Spartanburg, S.C., on consecutive weekends, August 18-19 and August 25-26, 2018.

Lynell LaMountain, health ministries director at the Southern Union, was the speaker at both churches, and in the afternoon he trained two packed rooms of attendees on how to deliver a CREATION Health seminar series. Individuals traveled from all over the Carolinas to attend the two training sessions.

On Sunday morning, Stephen and Karen Wickham held a separate training and certi-

fication to teach members how to conduct a reversing diabetes class in the local church.

The “CREATION” in CREATION Health is an acronym — **C**hoice, **R**est, **E**nvironment, **A**ctivity, **T**rust, **I**nterpersonal Relationships, **O**utlook, and **N**utrition, and the seminars in the series present what each letter represents. The intent is to help each attendee make decisions which lead them toward a healthier lifestyle. CREATION Health was originated by Florida Hospital, and is now taught all over the Southern Union and beyond. For more information about the CREATION Health program, visit the website at www.creationhealth.org. 📌

BY COURTNEY HEROD



PHOTO BY: COURTNEY HEROD

Lynell LaMountain, shares with attendees how to most effectively use the teaching materials in their own seminar series.

Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting Highlights Shared

It wasn't a packed church. There were still seats dotted here and there around the room, but the rest were filled with eager faces watching and waiting to hear the Word. There was no brightly lit stage with large LED screens and a parade of praise teams, just a heartfelt duet by a father and daughter who blessed everyone in the room with their beautiful songs. There was no TV crew broadcasting the sermon live across the globe. Although the sermon shared that Sabbath could have been a blessing to thousands, it was delivered as if for just one needy soul.

This event was Eastern Carolina Camp Meeting (ECCM), held October 27, 2018, at the Greenville North Church in Winterville, N.C., and featuring Roy Gane, professor of Hebrew Bible and ancient Near Eastern languages in the Old Testament Department, and director of



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER



PHOTO BY: REBECCA CARPENTER

the Ph.D./Th.D. and M.Th. programs at Andrews University Theological Seminary.

Dale and Lisa Pollett presented the music, and Gary Swanson, associate director of Sabbath School and personal ministries departments at the General Conference, shared the morning message during Sabbath School.

The goal of ECCM is to bring the spirit, fellowship, and renewal qualities of a Camp Meeting experience to those on the eastern side of the Conference territory. Next October, a similar convocation will take place in Summerville, S.C., called Low Country Camp Meeting. Please plan to join this spiritually uplifting event. 📌

BY REBECCA CARPENTER

Prison Ministries Booming on Treasure Coast



Prison ministries team members of Midpoint Church in Florida are Bernadette Merisier (sitting); Johnny Morival (left); David Rivera; Skipp Shimek, original leader; Daniel Jean; John Boyd, present leader; and David Broomfield.

When Skipp Shimek invited Frank Barton, prison ministries director of Florida Conference, to conduct a workshop at Fort Pierce Church, his plan was only to serve as a facilitator. He hesitated becoming a volunteer himself because of a 15-year-old DUI conviction. Secondly, he was terrified of giving Bible studies, because he did not know the Bible despite being a third-generation Adventist.

After meeting requirements to become a clergy volunteer, he contacted the prison chaplain at Martin Correctional Institution, Indiantown, Fla. He was stunned to discover that all the time slots were claimed. The chaplain suggested he work with an Adventist member from a



Robert Frederick is prison ministries' first convert in the Treasure Coast area.

church in West Palm Beach who already worked with inmates on work camp.

Shimek quickly learned these inmates were "preached out," and found inmates burning with questions. A "round-robin" format with open discussions led to one-on-one Bible study. Two church sisters, Esther Roach and Janet Aeillo, joined him, and he expanded his ministry to St. Lucie County Jail in Fort Pierce.

At this jail the Holy Spirit convicted the heart of inmate Robert Frederick. After much prayer, Frederick was blessed with a 10-year probation rather than a 25-year prison sentence. He committed his life to God and became the first convert. Today, he is a member of Cocoa Church.

Leaving an active team at Fort Pierce

Church, Shimek moved to Midport Church in Port St. Lucie. After a workshop there by Barton, five members joined Shimek on the prison ministries team: David Broomfield, John Boyd, Johnny Morival, Daniel Jean, and Bernadette Merisier, with David Rivera joining later.

The team goes into Martin Correctional Institution two Sabbaths of the month; and to St. Lucie County Jail six times a month, every Friday and every other Monday. They conduct 75-100 Bible studies each month using the Discover Bible Lessons, and many inmates have embraced the truth. To date, 12 inmates have committed their lives to Christ and been accepted into Midport Church on

profession of faith.

One inmate, leader of the Latin King's gang, was so excited about the Discover Bible Lessons that he shared them on the phone with his mother in Puerto Rico, his brother, and his brother's fiancé. All three are now studying these lessons.

Another inmate, a member of white supremacist gang Aryan Brotherhood, had his gang's bandana tattooed around his head and ending on his back. During one Bible study, he inquired about forgiveness. He then wrote a letter to the State Attorney of Florida in which he confessed to 12 more murders. He prayed he would not be executed despite his crimes, because he wanted to share Jesus

Christ with the other inmates. His life was spared.

Shimek and Boyd extended their ministry to Tomoka Correctional Facility in Daytona Beach and to Charlotte Correctional Institute in Punta Gorda. Through the Holy Spirit, one inmate from each facility was baptized. Another released inmate is attending a church in Fort Lauderdale.

Shimek states, "Discouragement is not an element of our ministry. There are many inmates who are longing for a change in their lives and welcome the opportunity prison ministries affords." 📌

BY H. ANESTA THOMAS

Tim Goff Voted Florida Conference Executive Secretary

Tim Goff, D.Min., was elected as executive secretary on October 2, 2018, by the Florida Conference Executive Committee. "I am confident he is not only Spirit-led, but well-equipped for his new responsibilities," said Allan Machado, Florida Conference president, as he announced the appointment.

While working as a pipe welder at a nuclear plant in Pennsylvania, Goff, and his newlywed wife, Carolyn, felt the call to enter publishing work. After two years, he was encouraged to consider studying for the Gospel ministry. "Since that first invitation to engage in ministry," says Goff, "it has been my commitment to walk in faith through the doors the Lord opens."

He is a graduate of Columbia Union College, Takoma Park, Md., with a B.A. degree in theology. He received his M.Div. with an emphasis on youth and young adults, and a D.Min. focusing on the missional church in western society from Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.

Goff has served as a pastor in Potomac, Chesapeake, and Florida conferences. In 2011 he began serving as pastoral ministries field secretary in Florida, and



Tim and Carolyn Goff

then was appointed vice president for pastoral ministries at the beginning of 2017.

Tim and Carolyn Goff have two children, Arianne and Andrew, who are studying at Southern Adventist University, Collegedale, Tenn.

"I consider it a privilege to be among those who carry the Gospel in their hearts, who are willing to stretch for God's purposes, and who work to prepare a people to meet their Savior," says Goff as he takes up his new responsibilities as executive secretary for Florida Conference. 📌

PHOTO BY: LEE BENNETT

Jonathon Michael Cobb Ordained at Spring Meadows Church

Jonathon M. Cobb was ordained to the Gospel ministry, September 22, 2018, at Spring Meadows Church in Sanford, Fla., where he has served as youth and young adult pastor since 2014, and recently became associate pastor for children's ministries and media arts.

Cobb was born March 16, 1989, in Kettering, Ohio, to Daniel and Beverly Cobb. He was raised with two older siblings, Janelle and Jeremy. Throughout his life, he lived in the greater Miami Valley of Ohio and attended Kettering Church and Spring Valley Academy.

He had a strong and positive pastoral influence on his life starting with his grandfather, Al Brendel. He always kept ministry in mind for where God was calling him in life, even though he made a decision in high school to pursue a path in aeronautical engineering, and attended Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Mich.

During his second year of college, Cobb felt God leading his heart in another di-



rection, and he transitioned into a degree in theology/pastoral leadership. He then completed his M.Div. with a church leadership emphasis at the seminary.

Jon and Kate Cobb were married May 27, 2012. During their tenure at Spring Meadows Church, they have been blessed with

two beautiful children, Isaiah and Evelyn.

When Jon looks back on his life, he wants to be known for serving well the calling God has given him; playing hard with his fellow men; knowing Kate, Isaiah, and Evelyn are proud to call him husband/father; and believing his leadership is God inspired. ❶

John J. King Ordained at Lake Wales Church

John King was ordained to the Gospel ministry, September 29, 2018, at Lake Wales, Fla., Church. He serves as a chaplain at Florida Hospital Celebration Health.

The son of the late Joseph King and Cirliene King, he has three older siblings: Joseph King Jr., Amelia, and Rhoda. King first felt a call to ministry at the age of 13, but did not pursue it until age 33.

He and his wife, Julie, were baptized at Fort Lauderdale Church in April 1998. However, leading up to that time, they both served as missionaries in Japan for two years, teaching English and giving Bible studies. It was one of the most



transformational parts of his spiritual journey, because it taught him to be completely dependent on God to meet all his needs.

He decided to pursue his calling at Southern Adventist University, where he graduated with a B.A. in chaplaincy and a minor in biblical languages, including one unit of clinical pastoral education (CPE). After completing a residency at Florida Hospital, primarily in Florida Hospital for Children, he completed his M.Div. at Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Mich.

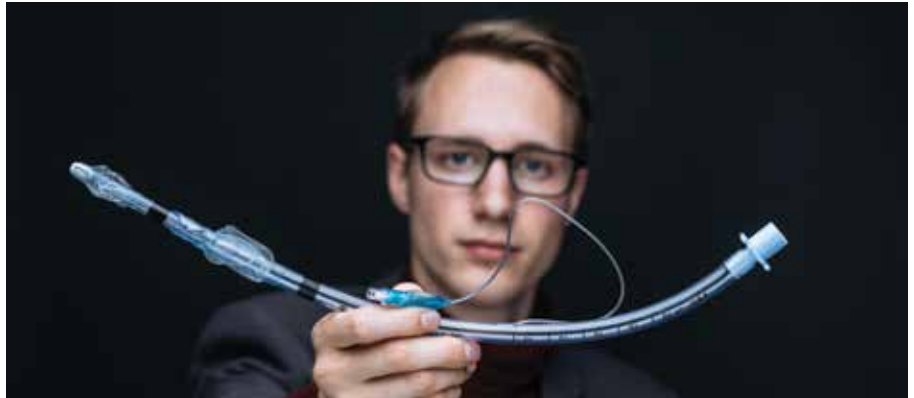
King's strength comes from his faith in God, and the support he has from his family: his wife, "God's special blessing," and his children, Megumi and Abiella, who have taught him much about God's love and grace. ❷

Southern Adventist University Student Recognized for Innovation

This fall, a Southern Adventist University student beat out professional competition to be recognized by Chattanooga's technology community for his invention. Caleb Sutherland, junior business management major, earned a place as one of three finalists for the Chattanooga Technology Council's annual Early Innovator Award.

Sutherland's invention, a lung isolation tube (LIT), is a Class II medical device designed to treat pneumothorax and tension-pneumothorax (a punctured lung, usually caused by a traumatic injury). Sutherland had become a certified emergency medical technician in Alaska at 18, which opened his eyes to the need for such a device. After his discussion this past spring with a paramedic from Washington, who had also noticed the need, the two collaborated to develop the initial idea for a solution.

Before Sutherland's invention, the standard method of treatment for pneumothorax provided temporary relief. Inspired by methods employed in the military, he created a tube, specifically for this condition, that can be inserted and inflated, so the patient is completely stabilized. With the help of two medical advisers, Sutherland patented his device this summer and started a company called LIT Devices. Soon afterward, his lawyer nominated him for the Chattanooga Early Innovator Award.



Caleb Sutherland saw a need and invented this medical device, which will save lives following traumatic lung injuries.

The Chattanooga Technology Council considered about 12 innovations for the award, mostly by larger companies, but the decision was not straightforward.

"We are always comparing apples, oranges, and grapefruits," said Carla Askonas, executive director. "However, the committee definitely found it interesting that Caleb is still a student."

As a finalist, Sutherland was invited to attend the Spirit of Innovation Award luncheon, where he was able to network and connect with other local businesses.

"The nomination itself has brought about so many different opportunities that I wouldn't have had otherwise," Sutherland said. "The

recognition and awareness that being a finalist has brought my company has been incredible."

Although he did not win the award, Sutherland is excited to take the next steps toward marketing his invention. He is in talks with several different investors and manufacturers, as well as innovation officers from Blue Cross Blue Shield Tennessee.

"What I love is innovation — things that are new; things that, in this case, very literally save lives; things that can benefit the world around us," he said. "I cannot wait to continue on this incredible journey!"

BY TRISNEY BOCALA

Reader Inspired to Give

The March 2018 issue of the *Southern Tidings* included a story about Grasi Suarez-Benitez, a retired resident in the Florida Conference whose granddaughter, Annette Heck, is an associate professor of social work at Southern Adventist University. Suarez-Benitez had hand-knit more than 100 hats to be distributed to the homeless during Southern's annual day of service in January.

Reading this story in the *Southern Tidings* so inspired another Florida woman, B.

Hamill, that this year she, too, spent hours hand-knitting hats for Southern's day of service. In the note that accompanied the box of hats, she said, "I enjoyed making them, and hope they will be a blessing to those who receive and wear them."

This thoughtful contribution, along with many others, will help make Southern's upcoming MLK Service Day on January 21, 2019, a success.

BY STAFF WRITER



Annette Heck, associate professor, unpacks hand-knit hats from someone inspired by reading the *Southern Tidings*.

Adairsville Church Members Seek to Inspire Community



PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: JARED THURMON

PHOTO SUBMITTED BY: JARED THURMON

In 2017, the Adairsville, Ga., Church members knew they wanted to reach out in their community, they just weren't sure how. Today they rent a historic building downtown, and offer tutoring and storytime for children. The ministry currently serves 16 children each Wednesday for three hours.

The Adairsville, Ga., Church is excited to see what the future holds as they seek to help others.

The Adairsville, Ga., Church members wanted to inspire community within theirs. As the group began to brainstorm ideas on how to reach out to the community, the question that kept coming up was "How?" In a world where everyone is so busy, where people are more and more hesitant to walk into a church, they needed to find out how to walk into someone's life.

This was the discussion near the end of 2017 as the members of the Adairsville, Ga., Church began to brainstorm ways in which to bless the community.

Jared Thurmon, church elder, talked with leaders around North America, and said the greatest concern he heard over and over was that members' lives seem too busy to get involved in the life of the church.


What began as a discussion soon turned into an action plan. During the course of the next 12 months, the church members rallied around a project called "Inspire."

"We decided to rent a historic building in downtown, and begin offering tutoring and storytime to children in the community. Why? After our initial discussions, we discovered that there was this huge need to enrich the lives of the children," said Tammy Rosenberger, director of the Inspire Community Wellness Center.

The church has seen an amazing response from the community. Sixteen children from the community now attend each week, and eight to ten volunteers spend three hours each Wednesday afternoon reading to and tutoring the students. The Inspire Center has also held

quarterly events for the community.

Frank Sierra, Adairsville pastor, shared about why this is so exciting. "When we read about Christ's method alone, we see it begins with spending time with people. Our outreach is not only blessing the community, but it has really blessed our church members as well. In addition to that, the community has shown amazing support, and eight businesses have come forward as sponsors helping us fund various initiatives."

The Adairsville Church members are excited to see what the future holds. They have plans to double the amount invested in this outreach in 2019. For resources and materials that have helped in this outreach, visit adairsvillesda.com. 

BY JARED THURMON

Marriage Retreat Refreshes Couples at the Sea



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference held its annual marriage retreat, October 26-28, 2018, at St. Simons Island, Ga., to refresh and renew marriages. There were many activities including determining individual temperments (phlegmatic, choleric, sanguine, and melancholic) helping couples better understand one another.



PHOTO BY: TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Stephen and Lydia Kamau, Duluth Church members, brought 15 other couples with them to the 2018 marriage retreat.

The Georgia-Cumberland Conference marriage retreat was held at St. Simons Island, Ga., October 26-28, 2018, with presenters Mike and Gail McKenzie, who both serve at the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference.

Jo Dubs, Conference women's/family life ministries director, says, "Sand, plus beach, plus ocean waves, plus your spouse, equals an almost perfect weekend!" Almost? "Yes ... the outcome of the weekend depends on how well we connect with our spouse throughout the weekend. So, have fun, be playful, and enjoy your time together!"

Eric and Ana Magnuson, Collegedale, Tenn., Church members, accepted that challenge even though they had their car radiator blow up the moment they arrived. Determined to enjoy the weekend, they said, "Mike and Gail shared things that were like a balm to the soul,

and the manner in which it unfolded was very good. We met some other couples that we liked and hope to connect with again. The experience (our first) showed us a whole other facet of the Adventist experience that we had been missing, and didn't know it."

Jeffery and Ashley Lucas, members of the Dalton, Ga., Church, are back for their third marriage retreat, because they notice a difference when they attend. Jeffery Lucas said, "There is good one-on-one time, and you are refreshed. We learn new things each time we attend." His wife remarked that a couple who presented a few years ago really impacted her; she now applies Bible verses to life and prays for her spouse.

Another couple, Stephen and Lydia Kamau, members at the Duluth, Ga., Church, have been coming for years and bringing other couples with them. This

year they brought 15 couples, taking their job as family life directors for their church to heart. Stephen Kamau is the one urging couples to register because he sees the difference marriage retreat makes. Lydia Kamau says if the marriage bond is strong, the family bond is strong, and this transfers to the church. Her husband agrees and says, "Yes, people change. There is always learning and growing at marriage retreat; and, if nothing else, just spending time with your partner and getting away is a reward."

Due to the growing number of attendees at Marriage Retreat, in 2019 the Conference is expanding the retreat time into two retreat weekends, October 25-27 and November 1-3, 2019, at Winshape Retreat in Rome, Ga. ●

BY TAMARA WOLCOTT FISHER

Auburn-Opelika Members Distribute *Ten Commandments Twice Removed* at Annual Clergy Dinner



Attendees of the clergy dinner included a variety of county and city officials.

3 ABN-Live aired an enlightening program on Thursday, September 13, 2018, on an opportunity for Alabama voters on November 6, 2018.

Alabamians will have the opportunity to vote “Yes” or “No” on Amendment 1 — “Alabama Ten Commandments Amendment.” The purpose of 3ABN’s program wasn’t to advise Alabamians on how to vote, but rather to say, “Because God’s Ten Commandment Law is very soon going to be at the forefront of every Alabamian’s mind, let’s get the book *Ten Commandments Twice Removed*, authored by Danny Shelton and Shelly Quinn, into every home in Alabama!” This book teaches about God’s

Commandments, and the importance of keeping them, including the fourth commandment to remember the Sabbath day.

3ABN was asking all viewers to call their studio or to go online and donate money to fund their Ten Commandment Project, which is to mail these books into Alabama’s largest cities, including Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile. They were also offering free books to anyone who could pay the shipping cost.

Members of the Auburn-Opelika Church believed that Lee County’s annual clergy dinner, scheduled for September 25, 2018, would be an excellent opportunity to get this book into the hands

of clergy of all denominations throughout Lee County. This would include county and city officials, the mayors of Auburn and Opelika, chiefs of police, county commissioners, lawyers, judges, police officers, and volunteers. Each participant took home a “goody bag” of various items, a little token of appreciation for all they do throughout the year. This year church members Patricia Hillyer and Briana Sherrer were tasked with filling the bags. Thanks to the help of the 3ABN staff, a shipment of books arrived just in time, and 248 books were distributed to these influential people. ❶

BY BRIANA SHERRER

God Uses Panama City Members in Hurricane Michael Recovery

Following Hurricane Michael and the miraculous survival of the Panama City, Fla., Church, miracles continued to abound in the Panama City and affected areas. Relief efforts started to build rapidly on Sabbath, October 13, 2018, and airplane loads of supplies came into the church through the Gideon Rescue Company. As the crew was working in the hanger supplied free by the airport, a load of supplies aboard a U.S. Coast Guard plane landed nearby. By God's providence and orchestration of timing and social connections, that load of supplies made its way onto a truck and directly to the Panama City Church days before the church was officially set up as a point of distribution.

A couple of days later, operations at the airport were brought to a standstill as government staff prepared for President Donald Trump to arrive and assess the damage. Everyone was ordered inside, airport staff included, except the Adventist volunteers working with relief supplies. While waiting, the volunteers began talking to a secret service agent and befriended him in a short time. They learned that this agent happened to be the personal guard for Vice President Mike Pence. The volunteers were also distributing literature with their relief supplies, and they were able to give three copies of The Great Controversy with hand-written notes to the agent. The agent promised to deliver them to Pence and Trump personally.

Student volunteers from Heritage Academy, Bass Memorial Academy, and Southern Adventist University worked with 2Serve to establish a recovery and distribution effort out of the Panama City Church. For many of these students, this experience will forever change their lives. Students involved with distribution at the church were given the opportunity to pray with people as they came seeking supplies, and students who assisted



A student volunteer takes the opportunity to pray with someone collecting needed supplies.



Volunteers stand ready to meet the needs of the community.

in other areas made connections with National Guardsmen and presented Bible studies during downtime. One of the guard groups made a special effort to prepare a plaque for the students working in their point of distribution, and

specifically requested to be transferred wherever those students would be working next throughout the town. ☛

BY SHANE HOCHSTETLER

Pam Williams Retires

Pam Williams, associate superintendent of education for the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, will retire on December 31, 2018. Williams received her bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Shepherd University, and her master of arts degree in curriculum and instruction from West Virginia University. Her career in education spans more than 43 years, and began in the West Virginia public school system in 1975.

Williams' first adventure in teaching began at Mineral Wells Elementary School in West Virginia, where she taught for 20 years. Thirteen of those years she was a Title I math resource teacher working with remedial math students. She served on numerous K-6 math textbook adoptions for the public school system, and was involved in planning and implementing the first math labs in Wood County, W. Va. Williams was one of 12 math teachers to serve on the Education for Economic Security Act in West Virginia. In 1984, she was named Wood County Title I Teacher of the Year and West Virginia Title I Teacher of the Year. That same year she was selected as the West Virginia's Leaders of Learning representative.



Pam Williams

She has been a presenter of numerous math workshops for public schools, various conferences, and for students at Southern Adventist University, as well as a guest presenter at the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics at both West Virginia and Ohio State math conventions.

Williams and her family moved to Hawaii in 1995. There she taught seven years

at the Windward Adventist School in Kailua, Hawaii. Williams taught all math classes for grades 1-6 for three of those years.

In 2002 she accepted a call from the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference to serve as associate superintendent of education. She came to the Conference with extensive curriculum experience, and was instrumental in implementing Singapore math. She used her experience to help teachers raise math scores. Her duties are many with a wide range of assignments, including supervising and working with the elementary teachers, planning professional development for the yearly teachers' meetings, overseeing curriculum, and serving as the early childhood liaison for the Conference. In addition, she has served on numerous committees in the Southern Union.

The teachers and other Conference employees are sad to see her retire. Her infectious smile and constant dedication to Adventist education will be greatly missed.

Williams looks forward to her retirement. She plans to spend more time with her husband, Phil, and adult daughter, Jessica; travel to exciting places; and play more pickleball. 🏓

BY DENISE POPE

Highland Elementary Participates in "See You at the Pole Day"

The students of Highland Elementary School (HES) gathered around the flagpole to pray on September 26, 2018. Students from grades 5-6 and 7-8 led the younger students in a special worship. Tian Carney, Bailey Darrell, Isabelle Simmons, Madison Schmidt, Sara Cirigliano, Georgia Beckworth, and Corinthia Lopez led song service. Emaline Litchfield read Ephesians 3:14; and

Logan Darrell read the school's theme text, Mark 16:15. Elijah Labrenz, Hannah Rice, and Samantha Anderson led out in the pledge to the American flag, Christian flag, and the Bible. Matthew Pacer, principal, and Roger Schmidt, pastor, each shared a short testimony on how God has answered prayers in their lives.

The students divided into 14 groups,

seventh- and eighth-graders each led a group. They taught the younger students the history behind "See You at the Pole Day," and how to pray a five-finger prayer. Finally, they passed out a bookmark that reminded the students how the five-finger prayer worked so they could continue to pray at home. Roger Schmidt, John Watkins, and Mike McKenzie, all pastors, joined the students. Steve Rose,



Participants at the “See You at the Pole Day” event.

vice-president of the Kentucky-Tennessee Conference, gave a closing prayer. Chantel Litchfield, parent of two students at Highland Elementary, remarked on the school’s Facebook page, “Oh this makes my heart so happy! I love seeing the older students helping the younger. Sometimes they can explain and reach a child better than an adult would ever be able to. Thank you, Highland, for always putting Jesus first with our students! This is why we send our kids to this Christian school!” 🙏

BY MATTHEW PACER

Three Academies Serve During POWER Outreach

Students and sponsors from Madison Academy, Highland Academy, and Spring Valley Academy served in Clay County, Ky., on September 26, 2018, to one of the poorest counties in the country, as part of the 2018 POWER Outreach.

For the past six years, students on the POWER Outreach have partnered with Manchester Memorial Hospital and Manchester Church on projects that benefit the community. This year, students aided in building a new playground for the local school, renovated a youth camp, improved a home for teenage mothers who struggle with drug addictions, and more.

Along with these projects, a group went to the home of a struggling family with an 8-year-old daughter. Not only did the students make their home much more livable, but by the end of the week, the parents made decisions for baptism. They mentioned that seeing young people living out their faith played a big role in their decision.

This trip was not only beneficial to the families that were helped, but also for the students. Many have come home with



Participants of POWER Outreach

memories that they describe as the defining moment in their high school experience. They believe this is because God created all to serve; all were created to have a unified purpose of helping others.

The POWER Outreach has shown

how, when young people from different schools, cultures, and backgrounds come together with a unified purpose, nothing is impossible. 🙏

BY MATTHEW TAYLOR

South Atlantic Celebrates Retirees, Ordinees During Camp Meeting

A new tradition has begun. For the second consecutive year, at the 2018 Camp Meeting, the South Atlantic Conference celebrated retiring pastors during the ordination service, and welcomed new pastors to the ministry. Marc Borieux, Crawford Humphrey, and Bernard Williams Jr. were commended for their combined 120-plus years of ministry.

William L. Winston, South Atlantic Conference president, presented the retirees with a medallion from the General Conference Ministerial Department. The front of the medal reads “Honorably Retired,” and on the back, “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, that he considered me faithful, appointing me to His service,” 1 Timothy 1:12. The congregation walked down memory lane with these men of God, as short videos highlighted their ministries, and “It’s a Good Thing to be Chosen” played in the background.

After the warm applause for the retirees subsided, the focus shifted to the ordinees: Victor Bartley, Ewart Carter, and Austin Humphreys. All were blessed as Roger Hernandez, Southern Union ministerial director, shared the message, “Four Qualities of Brave Leadership.” Winston and the rest of the administrative team prayed, anointed, provided counsel, and presented gifts to the newly ordained pastors and their wives.

The segment honoring those who were laying down the mantle was added to a ceremony formerly reserved for those picking it up, because, as Calvin B. Preston, South Atlantic ministerial director, said, it grew out of a conversation in the Ministerial Advisory Committee in 2017, when were planning that year’s ordination service.

As they were discussing the candidates and the details of the service, the question arose, “What made ordination of new pastors possible?” The consensus was that if it weren’t for the sacrifices of previous generations of pastors, the present opportunities for newcomers wouldn’t exist.

Preston summarizes it this way, “South



PHOTO BY: PASTOR DON KIM

South Atlantic retired pastors, Marc Rico Borieux (left), Yves-Rose Borieux, Crawford Humphrey, and Bernard C. Williams, were honored during the 2018 Camp Meeting.



PHOTO BY: PASTOR DON KIM

The 2018 ordinees include Austin Humphreys (left), Victor Bartley, and Ewart Carter.

Atlantic Conference is not defined by the names of the states it covers, but by the hardworking ministers, whose paychecks didn’t look like ours — men who had four or five churches in their district, and worked with the laity to do evangelism every summer up under a hot tent.”

And, their service doesn’t end after this recognition. Many retired ministers in the

South Atlantic territory serve as interim and part-time pastors, and as departmental leaders at the Conference office. South Atlantic continues to value the predecessors as all embrace a new wave of preachers until Jesus comes. 🕊

BY WILLIAM L. WINSTON AND
CALVIN B. PRESTON

Student LEs Evangelize in 2018 Summer Campaigns



Student literature evangelists canvass in Atlanta, Ga., during the summer of 2018.

During the summer of 2018, South Atlantic Conference partnered with South Central Conference in conducting two student literature evangelism campaigns. One group, based in Gastonia, N.C., was composed of students from Oakwood University. Another group, based in Atlanta, Ga., hailed from Northern Caribbean University (NCU) in Jamaica, West Indies. Thirty-five students distributed approximately 18,000 pieces of literature, collected approximately \$200,000 in donations for their scholarship program, knocked on tens of thousands of doors, prayed with several hundred people in homes and public places, and generated scores of Bible study contacts.

The hospitality of Ewart Carter, pastor, and the Ephesus Church in Gastonia was critical to the success of the campaign there. Carter had been pleading for a literature evangelism team to work his territory, because he understands that you can't reap an evangelistic harvest in your community without sowing Gospel seeds in the homes

and hearts of your neighbors. Under the experienced leadership of Wynique Wright and Eli Tamayo, the students canvassed wherever they found significant foot traffic during business hours, and transitioned to door-to-door outreach in the evenings.

The Atlanta-based group owed its success to international relationships cultivated by Java Mattison, South Central Conference publishing director, along with NCU alumni eager to receive and help the students upon their arrival. Under the strategic and tactful leadership of Shanique White and Ravaine Mullings, the students were granted permission to canvass in front of West Indian restaurants and businesses, where they conversed with customers all day. These missionaries from the West Indies felt right at home in metro Atlanta. Although they distributed a significant number of magabooks, their rapid movers were small donation books like *Happiness Digest* and *Darkness Before Dawn*.

Ellen White advocated literature of all sizes being distributed, specifically recom-



Oakwood University student LE, Seyi Oyefeso, canvasses a family in Gastonia, N.C.

mending small booklets as “little wedges that open the way for larger works,” *Colporteur Ministry*, 139. The conferences are glad for the Gospel going out in various packages to meet people where they are, and even more encouraged about the future of the Church while witnessing young people weathering the elements and adapting to circumstances as they share the Gospel in print with strangers. 📖

BY CARL MCROY

First Black Seventh-day Adventist Medical Facility Receives Historical Marker



Albert Dudley (foreground) and Bennie Thompson (background) unveil the Historical Marker.



Former employees and volunteers of Riverside Hospital, Nashville, Tenn.



Bennie Thompson, chairman of Riverside Historical Society; his wife, Kim Stewart-Thompson; and daughter, Sydney Stewart.

U.S. Congressman Jim Cooper says the history of the Riverside Sanitarium, the first black Seventh-day Adventist medical facility in Nashville, Tenn., should be celebrated.

A special program sponsored by the Riverside Historical Society was held at Riverside Church on September 29, 2018, to unveil a historical marker for the Sanitarium, which would later become the Riverside Sanitarium and Hospital.

Cooper, who represents Tennessee's 5th District, was among community leaders and health care officials who attended the event. He acknowledged being embarrassed that he was not aware of the medical facility's rich history.

"I did not know this history," said Cooper, who spoke at the event. "Oh, my gosh,

this is amazing. This is a history to recognize and to celebrate."

Other speakers at the program before the unveiling of the marker included Womack H. Rucker Jr., the last president of Riverside Hospital; and Peter Edmund Millet, Ph.D., executive vice president at Meharry Medical College.

Also in attendance were relatives of people who worked at the sanitarium and hospital, or who may have received treatment at the facility.

Located on a high, rocky plateau at the bend of the Cumberland River in North Nashville, the Riverside Sanitarium expanded to a hospital in 1927, under the direction of Nellie H. Druillard. The facility, which focused on alternative therapies, served Nashville's African-American res-

idents, and attracted black physicians and nurses from around the country. Among the hospital's physicians was Carl Ashley Dent, M.D., who became the facility's medical director in 1940.

Adventist Health System closed Riverside Hospital in 1983, but the Riverside Historical Society is making sure that its legacy continues.

"So many people made sacrifices," said Bennie Thompson, chairman of the Riverside Historical Society. "This is about the sacrifices that were made, and that going forward, we need to expect more out of each other, and out of the people who come behind us." 📌

BY LUCAS L. JOHNSON II

Word of Life Church Participates in “Mission2Memphis” Free Health Clinic

It was just after midnight on Friday night, and the security volunteers arrived at Word of Life Church to prepare to direct individuals who might start lining up early for the free clinic. To their surprise, many had already begun arriving as early as 7 p.m., so that they could be first in line. This was the second year of partnership with Remote Area Medical (RAM™) Clinic and the Word of Life Church.

RAM™ is the largest provider of mobile medical clinics in the country. Volunteers deliver free medical, dental, and vision care to underserved and uninsured individuals, children, and families. The target areas for this clinic were Frayser and Memphis communities. This was Word of Life's second clinic as an extension of their Mission2Memphis outreach.

Church members joined together for prayer, planning, and promotion prior to the event. Fliers were left in doctors' offices



Fred Batten Jr. (right), pastor of Word of Life Church, stands with volunteer doctor, Franklin Scarlett, M.D.

and other places of business; members went door-to-door; and announcements were broadcast on the gospel radio station, Hallelujah FM, for several weeks prior to the event. Because of the radio announcements, Keisha Walker, administrator of the Office of Community Engagement and Outreach,

along with Joseph Kyles, contacted Word of Life to request to be at the clinic both days to educate the public about available community resources in Memphis.

As patients waited to be seen, they received snacks of fruit, water, and granola bars. Church members prayed with groups or individual patients. Music was provided by Christian Nelson, soloist/musician; Keenan Shotwell, musician; and Dalphnia Murray, soloist. Chaeli St. Bernard, 12, played sacred piano hymn selections.

Once again, there were more than 200 volunteers during the two days. A total of 433 patients received care, while \$142,889 was provided in services. This exceeds the 383 patients and \$114,403 in services provided during the 2017 clinic. To God be the glory! 🙏

BY LINDA ANDERSON

South Central Holds Annual TLT Boot Camp in Tuskegee

The South Central Conference (SCC) Annual Teen Leadership Training (TLT) Boot Camp was held October 26-28, 2018, in Tuskegee, Ala. The TLT program is designed to train and mentor youth in grades 9-12 in service and leadership skills. TLTs, who came from as far away as Memphis, Tenn., and as nearby as Montgomery, Ala., began the weekend with registration, a health check, setting up tents, determining platoons (team building group), and selecting platoon leaders.

After a rousing flag raising, inspiring devotion, invigorating physical activity, and a hearty breakfast on Sabbath morning, the TLTs provided service to the surrounding local community. At the site, gloves were given out, and unwanted items accumulated for years were removed and placed onto a flatbed or into trash bags to be hauled away.

Training was received in spiritual develop-

ment and operations (administrative, outreach, and teaching). To aid in the spiritual development of the TLTs, sessions were provided in Scripture memorization, the origin of Bible versions, and church heritage. Operationally, the TLTs worked as teams for meeting planning for instruction in classwork, teaching of honors, and camp activities. The operational planning sessions allowed the future leaders to experience the dynamics of team planning — giving of themselves and sharing ideas and receiving ideas from others.

The highlight of TLT Boot Camp has been and still is the Sabbath morning worship service. In the recent past, the speakers have been young people whose ages are in close proximity to the attendees. The speaker this year was 20-year-old Benjamin Shepherd, a junior occupational therapy student at Oakwood University in Huntsville,

Ala. Shepherd spoke to the TLTs about the importance of making good choices.

Young people who are up for a challenge, are emerging leaders, and are interested in opportunities for team building and preparation for the future are invited to register for the next TLT Boot Camp, scheduled for October 18-20, 2019. For more information, contact South Central Conference Youth Department at 615-226-6500 x137. 🙏



TLTs and staff pose after community service project.

BY BRENDA COWAN

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seeks **Dean for 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. An earned doctorate in the field of education or psychology is required. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

seeks **Vice President for Unity and Inclusion** to provide leadership for areas of campus life that involve diversity including race, gender, sexual orientation and identity, and international students. The vice president will affirm and nurture a university community and campus climate that values and actively supports equity and diversity. A master's degree or higher is required. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]

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seeks full-time teaching **faculty for the School of Music**. This position will provide curricular oversight to and teach lower- and upper-division courses in area of primary expertise - either music history or music theory. Master's degree in Musicology, Music History, or Music Theory required, doctorate preferred. Full job description: www.southern.edu/jobs [12]

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invites applicants for a **Management teaching faculty** position. Qualified applicants will have a master's degree in a related field and should be a committed member of the SDA Church. A doctorate is preferred. Find more information at www.ucollege.edu/faculty-openings or contact Lisa L. Forbes at Lisa.L.Forbes@ucollege.edu [12]

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ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks Associate/Full **Professor of Public Health, Nutrition & Dietetics**. The Associate/Full Professor of Public Health, Nutrition & Dietetics holds a faculty appointment having academic, service, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Department of Public Health, Nutrition & Wellness, the School of Health Professions and Andrews University. This individual demonstrates competence in didactic education, teaching, research and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_8 [12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Faculty Management/Marketing Professor**. Teach marketing and related courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Have an earned doctorate in marketing and sufficient teaching experience in marketing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Be actively engaged in research, service, student advising, and supervising student projects. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_5 [12]

ANDREWS UNIVERSITY seeks **Faculty - Nursing**. The Assistant/Associate Professor of Nursing holds a faculty appointment and has academic, service, and scholarship responsibilities consistent with the mission and philosophy of the Nursing Department. This individual demonstrates competence in didactic, clinical education, teaching, and curriculum development at the graduate and undergraduate levels. https://www.andrews.edu/admres/jobs/show/faculty#job_6 [12]

MISCELLANEOUS

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

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ITALY: 12 DAYS OF DISCOVERY - Southern Adventist University Alumni Association Tour May 26 - June 7, 2019. Join alumni and friends of Southern on this unique tour of Italy. Explore lakes, mountains, and cities with Dr. Bill Wohlers, Ph.D. history, and leader of 25 previous tours. Current price of \$3,995 includes air fare. Contact: Evonne Crook, alumni@southern.edu, 423-236-2830. [12]

NAD HEALTH SUMMIT 2019 - "Healing of the Nations." Designed to provide training, networking, and inspiration for anyone involved with or interested in health ministries. January 20-26, 2019, Albuquerque, New Mexico. Register at www.nadhealth.org. For more information contact 443-300-8845 or summit@nadhealth.org [12, 1]

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BLACK HILLS SCHOOL OF MASSAGE - Have you ever considered a career/ministry in Massage Therapy? Black Hills School of Massage offers a 6-month, 600-hour scriptural and evidence-based program. Upon completion students are eligible to take the MBLEx examination to qualify for state licensure. Watch our student video at <https://bit.ly/2pZwmyt> and check us out at <https://bit.ly/2Gyo3zG>. Next program begins March 25, 2019. Call 423-710-4873. [12]

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CAROLINA

PATHFINDER WINTER COUNCIL - Jan. 4, 5. NPR.

GENEROUS LIVING SUMMIT - Jan. 19. Raleigh.

FLORIDA

COMPLETE CALENDAR ONLINE - floridaconference.com/events

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FLORIDA ADVENTIST BOOK CENTER EXPRESS DELIVERY 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 noon on the Thursday prior to a scheduled Sunday delivery.

Dec. 9. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

Dec. 16. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

Jan. 13. Daytona Beach, New Smyrna Beach, Titusville, Cocoa, Fort Pierce. (Southeastern Conference: Palm Bay.)

Jan. 20. East Pasco in Zephyrhills, Brooksville, Homosassa, Spring Hill, New Port Richey, Clearwater, St. Petersburg.

Jan. 27. Lady Lake, North Lake, Ocala, Cross City, Perry, Tallahassee.

Feb. 3. Midport, West Palm Beach First, Pompano Beach, Margate, Ambassador in Lauderdale Lakes, Sunrise. (Southeastern Conference: Port Saint Lucie, West Palm Beach Ephesus.)

Feb. 10. Winter Haven, Avon Park, Arcadia, Cape Cora, Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres, Naples.

Feb. 16. Florida Keys Camp Meeting at Big Pine Key.

Feb. 17. Homestead.

Feb. 24. Inverness, Tampa First, Brandon, West Coast Christian Academy in Bradenton, Sarasota, North Port, Port Charlotte.

March 3. Palm Coast, Palatka, St. Augustine, Orange Cove, Jacksonville First, Jacksonville Southpoint. (Southeastern Conference: Jacksonville Ephesus.)

March 10. Kendall, Miami Temple, Miami Springs, Eden in Miami, Maranatha in Miami Gardens.

DELIVERANCE 2019-WOMEN'S CONVENTION - Jan. 4-6. Caribe Royale Resort & Convention Center, 8101 World Center Drive, Orlando. Cost: varies depending on accommodations/commuter and meal choices. Details: floridaconference.com/event/deliverance-2019/

GEORGIA-CUMBERLAND

FESTIVAL OF PRAISE/GCC AND SAC JOINT EVENT - Dec. 8. Speaker: Pastor Henry Wright. Theme: "A Love Undeniable." St. Philips AME Church, 240 Candler Road SE, Atlanta, GA, from 4 to 6 p.m.

HISPANIC ELDERS TRAINING - Dec. 8. Contact Waleska Gonzalez, 706-629-7951, x391, or wgonzalez@gccsda.com for details. Central GA.

10 DAYS OF PRAYER - Jan. 9-19. tendaysofprayer.org/

PATHFINDER TLT CONVENTION - Jan. 18-20. Cohutta Springs Youth Camp. Crandall, GA.

HISPANIC CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES TRAINING - Jan. 19, Central GA; Jan. 26, North GA/TN; and Feb. 2, South GA. Contact Waleska Gozalez at 706-629-7951, x391, or wgonzalez@gccsda.com for details.

MOBILIZE CONFERENCE (HELPING CHURCHES ATTRACT, ENGAGE, AND MOBILIZE YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS FOR THE KINGDOM) - Jan. 26. Register by Jan. 14, for this training and answer two questions: What can be done? What should be done? If you want to change the culture of your church to engage, attract, and mobilize youth and young adults, this training is for you. Training is free, registration required, and lunch is provided. Con-

ference office, Calhoun, GA.

THE MANY HATS OF PR - COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP - Jan. 27, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Presenters: George Johnson Jr., assistant vice president of communications & marketing for Claflin University; and Jamie Domm, digital strategist for the North American Division. Training is free, lunch provide. Please register by Jan. 17. Conference office, Calhoun, GA.

KENTUCKY-TENNESSEE

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - Dec. 4. Conference Office.

EVANGELISM BOOT CAMP - Jan. 11-13. Indian Creek Camp.

MINISTERS' MEETING - Jan. 21-24. Pigeon Forge, TN.

KYTN ACROFEST - Jan. 24-26. Highland Academy.

7 UP CAMPOUT (7TH GRADE AND UP PATHFINDERS) - Feb.15-17. Indian Creek Camp.

HISPANIC PASTORS'/ELDERS' RETREAT - Feb. 22-24. Indian Creek Camp.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES CERTIFICATION - March 1, 2. Highland Academy.

EASTERN KENTUCKY CAMP MEETING - March 8, 9. Prestonsburg, KY.

KYTN MUSIC FESTIVAL - March 14-16. Highland Academy.

LOUISVILLE FESTIVAL OF FAITH - March 22, 23. Pewee Valley, KY.

PASTORS'/ELDERS' RETREAT - March 29-31. Indian Creek Camp.

SOUTHERN ADVENTIST UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF MUSIC CHRISTMAS CONCERT - Dec. 8. This holiday season, the School of Music presents the classic "Amahl and the Night Visitors" at 4 p.m. in the Collegedale Church, with Julie Penner as director and Laurie Redmer Minner as conductor. Admissions is free. The event will also be broadcast at southern.edu/streaming.

CLASSES BEGIN - Jan. 7. Southern offers a variety of degrees, some of which can be earned entirely online. For more information, visit southern.edu or call 1-800-SOUTHERN.

PREVIEW SOUTHERN - Jan. 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, TN. For more information, call 1-800-SOUTHERN or email visit@southern.edu.

CONCERTO CONCERT - Jan. 27. This event begins at 4 p.m. and showcases gifted young instrumentalists from across the region who auditioned and were chosen to present solos alongside the University's full Symphony Orchestra. Held at the Collegedale, TN, Church, the event is free and open to the public. It will also be broadcast live at southern.edu/streaming.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLORIDA KEYS CAMP MEETING - Feb. 15-17. Theme: CHRIST WINS THE MINDS BATTLE! Come join us

for a DOUBLE Camp Meeting with separate presentations in both English and Spanish. (Translation available through earbuds.) Our speakers love to share HOW a changed life can happen, how Christ does win! These young men knew what living nominally in church was like, and they walked away. But God drew them back to Himself, and now they are actively exposing the reality of the enemy.

Speakers: Scotty Mayer and Alex Castillejos.

WHNJ radio Musician Hosts: Michael Harris and Laura Saladino

FREE TO ALL. Located at Camp Sawyer (Boy Scout Camp), Mile Marker 34. Call for more information: English - George Adams at 240-529-3436; Spanish - Saida Gomez at 305-587-7998.

Attendees are asked to bring food for Sabbath lunch and supper potlucks. Wooden chairs are provided; bring your own pillowed comfort. Camp

Sawyer has indoor bathrooms and showers, but does not provide electric/water hookups or dump station.

IT IS WRITTEN ANNOUNCES NEW CHILDREN'S APP

- It Is Written's "My Place With Jesus" is excited to introduce a brand new mobile app designed to help children learn about Jesus and the Bible in a fun and interactive way. Players can customize their character, enjoy fun Bible lessons, hang out in the tree house with friends, earn badges for their backpacks, gather collectibles that unlock fun mini-games, and so much more! Explore a world of fun and learning with My Place With Jesus! Download it now free. Available for both Android and iOS devices. Details: Cassie Matchim Hernandez, Development Assistant, 423-62-5827.

SUNSET

	DEC 7	DEC 14	DEC 21	DEC 28	JAN 4	JAN 11
ATLANTA, GA	5:28	5:30	5:32	5:37	5:42	5:48
CHARLESTON, SC	5:13	5:14	5:17	5:21	5:26	5:32
CHARLOTTE, NC	5:10	5:12	5:15	5:19	5:24	5:30
COLLEGE DALE, TN	5:29	5:30	5:33	5:37	5:42	5:48
HUNTSVILLE, AL	4:35	4:36	4:39	4:43	4:48	4:54
JACKSON, MS	4:55	4:57	4:59	5:03	5:08	5:14
LOUISVILLE, KY	5:22	5:23	5:26	5:30	5:36	5:42
MEMPHIS, TN	4:48	4:49	4:52	4:56	5:01	5:07
MIAMI, FL	5:29	5:31	5:34	5:38	5:43	5:48
MONTGOMERY, AL	4:39	4:41	4:44	4:48	4:53	4:59
NASHVILLE, TN	4:32	4:33	4:36	4:40	4:45	4:51
ORLANDO, FL	5:28	5:30	5:33	5:37	5:42	5:47
TAMPA, FL	5:34	5:36	5:39	5:43	5:47	5:53
WILMINGTON, NC	5:01	5:03	5:06	5:10	5:15	5:21



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